



George Worthington lost the use of his right arm in a hunting accident, so tosses balls into a bowl to win a prize during Field Day.

A month following the mammoth nocturnal boxing party Clearview's Field Day unreeled and the results were something resembling a Barnum & Bailey extravaganza. The day was tailor-made, with sun bathing the premises and the show girls on the beach. There was music all over the place, with a band playing in the rear of the 18th green.

There were eats before, between and after rounds. Beer barrels were set up in every bunker on the course and a fellow couldn't be blamed for hooking or slicing one into inviting silica sand—if for no other reason than to whet his parched throat.

There was not only golf, but softball, putting competition, dart throwing, tossing balls into barrels, weight lifting, swimming events, speedboat racing and



At the well-patronized clam bar, F. W. Krippel, chief national bank examiner; William B. Jones, president of Springfield Gardens National Bank and Frank Peterson of the Federal Reserve Bank.

a dozen other attractions to keep everybody happy.

The day was touched off with a dance and dinner, plus an entertainment program that would, as Joe Frisco estimated, "have cost a million dollars to stage." It was ad lib, with Broadway at its best. The day and night were unforgettable.

So pleased was the Clearview committee with the Field Day that Harry Neu expressed the desire to see it perpetuated. The other members agreed to stage a similar party every year.

But when the City of New York, a few years later, decided to purchase the grounds for \$940,000 the powers in control decided it was a lot of money in the midst of a depression and Clearview became a municipal links. The private club membership dispersed, with the majority converging on North Hills Golf Club, a short distance away, in Douglaston.

Neu and Joe Gross were among the group hooking up at North Hills and when summer rolled around the pair discussed their Field Day dilemma with some of the oldsters at Douglaston. It was natural that North Hillites had heard of the unique and novel party staged so successfully at Clearview, so they were receptive to the idea and immediately shaped plans to inherit the idea nurtured by Harry, Joe and the rest at Whitestone.

North Hills members took to the Field Day program like a duck to water. Neu and Gross were somewhat stymied at first, for North Hills, being an inland club, hadn't the facilities for the nautical-minded, but to compensate for the lack of water, the Douglaston club had a far more pretentious clubhouse and larger grounds—if not a superior course.

*(Continued on page 102)*



Ed Froelich points to ace as Jim Slattery, a former North Hills champ, takes aim in throwing darts, one of the many additional pastimes which are a feature of North Hill's Field Day program.

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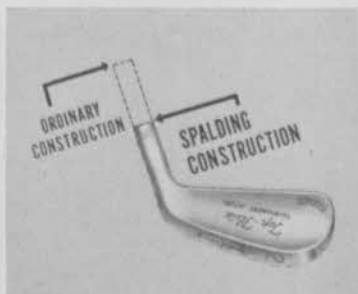
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# "TOP-FLITE" WOODS & IRONS

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# Pat Burke Shows How to Bring Small Club Back

By BOB CORRIGAN



PAT BURKE

Smethport CC, (Pa.)

Smethport, Pa., "Where the Game's the Thing," is an outstanding country club which has made a successful come back. The success occurred chiefly because Pat Burke, well and widely known from his years as pro at the Edgewater Gulf course in Biloxi, Miss., wanted to do it the hard way.

Pat came back from the Philippines after the war with a yearning to take over the management of a broken-down or torpid club, which he could build into a flourishing operation. He heard of the Smethport layout, which was not only torpid but dead,—having given up the ghost with a final 40 members in 1942,—took a good look at the white clubhouse and the snow and weeds around it and decided it was the place for him.

Burke loved the location, among hills practically infested with white-tail deer, famous for hunting and fishing in general, and blessed with a cool summer and a long, golden fall which usually keeps leaves on the trees until late in November. He saw great possibilities in the private hills and meadows of the 160-acre tract which had been the course, and lots of business rolling by on Highway 59 between Smethport and Bradford. He figured that the clubhouse, just off the road, would readily expand to accommodate members and guests from 50 miles around. In fact, he developed a real yen for the place. So Pat signed up with club president Hamlin D. Redfield of the Eldred Bank.

Since then, the working team of President Ham and pro-manager Pat has cooked up most of the many projects which make the club a success. For the pro-manager's part, it has meant a minimum 12-hour day, usually from around noon to around midnight, and every day.

The new beginning was in March of 1946, and before the snow was gone from the area Pat had a host of overlapping chores to get done. He had to find the course under the heavy outcrop of weeds

and grass gone wild. He had to get out and round up members, to stay home and oversee the clubhouse renovation, and to learn all about things like establishing and maintaining greens and fairways which previously, as a pro, he had been able to take for granted. Also, he had to stretch an initial budget of \$3,000 pretty thin to make a start.

In a year's time, the club was welcoming \$3,500 in greens fees alone; but that took some doing.

Early in the program Pat managed to get a pro shop opened in the clubhouse, and to put it where everybody could see it; where golfers on their way from locker room to first tee would have to pass through it. Business with golfers, he found, can be just as good in anticipation of use for the things they buy as at the time when they use them. Why not?

## Attends Short Course

He got in on a short course at Penn State College on turf building and maintenance under Dr. Fred Grau of the Agronomy Department, now director of the USGA Green Section. When, with help from the club president and former members, it was possible to locate his greens he had the information to direct the necessary work on them. There was a lot of it, as will be described, and lots of long-distance toll charges were paid out for hurry calls back to Penn State for more dope.

At the same time, Pat was scurrying around to find key men and talk the club up in meetings at such towns as Warren, Port Allegany, Emporium, Kane and Bradford, Pa., and Olean, Limestone, and other New York border towns, including Wellsville, his home place. Annual memberships were pegged at \$24, about the price of a very modest evening at an average night club, and a few were given for skilled jobs and needed equipment around the club. Burke had records of former patrons of his own who were travelers and would remember him; these made a valuable mailing list.

When the season for play opened two years ago the club was ready for players. All the simultaneous requirements had been met, and members were welcomed to a fast but exacting 9-hole course. A membership drive succeeded to a present enrollment of 340.

Pat knew all his members by name, face and place of origin, and he saw to it that all knew each other. He never missed. To make sure, he kept up by continuous study of the membership list and checking his recollections every week.

For the physical plant, a good soil screen had been acquired and repaired, and about 500 tons of formula topsoil were turned out to cover the old greens six inches deep. That piece of machinery was worked by the power take-off of the tractor which pulled the fairway mowers, and pulled them right up over the tees which Pat had graded down to save mowing by hand. Colonial, Seaside and Redtop bent grass surfaced the greens, some of the Redtop being applied as plugs in places where the subsoil tended to push up. From those sod plugs it spread out among the other grasses to mat. By good luck, the fairways came clean without too much weeding or seeding.

The clubhouse was spruced up with new white paint and green trim. A few decorative touches were added inside, and the bar was modernized, stocked,—and set up with a price schedule to match the rates in town. Note the last item particularly: Burke believes the always-present competitive question between club and business establishment is solved only by charging prices in the club to equal or exceed those of the food-and-drink places in town.

"Members know," he says, "that their chits carry a profit which is important and necessary in running the club, and their patronage is repaid by the congenial private surroundings of their own choosing in place of the mixed public attendance in hotel or restaurant. People can relax in the club who can't afford to be seen in a barroom. Therefore, it is folly to allow cut prices for food or drink in the club, which would be the basis for a real grievance on the part of hotel and restaurant men."

#### Uses Student Help

The club was going, and to keep it going Burke had to break in and keep working a crew of schoolboy part-time helpers. The chief of them, Harold Irons of Smethport, in two seasons has become a capable green-keeper, and the mainstay of the barn-workshop which is the club's storage and repair room. When the other boys crack up machinery only superficially, he can put it back in shape. Generally, his supervision keeps serious accidents from happening.

The greens which at first had to be dis-harrowed to make them take the home-made surfacing, as outlined above, and which in some cases had to be drained by hand to stop flooding, in the second season were in prime condition. Even a deer could trot across one without trace,—and it was no novelty to have it happen. Part

of the gratifying effect came from the pro-manager's incentive pay system for the boys, by which one of them was assigned to a given hole and rewarded with a golf club or a \$10 bill for a weed-free green.

It is notable that the drought of 1947 burned no grass at Smethport. Sub-surface water and occasional irrigation from springs on the property kept the matted greens and fairways smooth and live.

Improvements of the second season included a new kitchen and dining room, enclosure of the ample back porch of the clubhouse, and the finishing and furnishing of a guestroom or two upstairs. Pennsylvania law allows overnight accommodation of guests within the clubhouse, but not in guest cabins. Otherwise, there would be some of those.

#### Winter Sports Added

Another improvement of 1947, an innovation, was the preparation on the grounds of a ski run nearly a mile long for the winter, and establishment of a skating rink handy to locker rooms, lounge and bar. Impounded water of the club is released from behind a dam to flood the rink, and the location makes the matter of drainage in the spring no problem.

Altogether, a little over \$20,000 was spent on the physical plant in the two seasons, and the result looks like a good \$100,000. Membership has come in from a radius reaching all the way to the outskirts of Buffalo, N. Y., and hunters wishing to top off their season with a little golf, or travelers passing through Smethport, have been delighted to make use of greens privileges. Driving range and practice green were set just behind the clubhouse, and lessons were held to \$3.00 an hour.

In 1947 a total of 2500 guest players used the course, paying greens fees of \$1.00 apiece, plus tax, on weekdays, and \$1.50, plus tax, on Sundays and holidays. Some came to play once around, and stayed to enjoy the club and the country for a week or more. All furnished highly valuable word-of-mouth advertising.

For August, 1947, a bi-State southpaw championship was arranged, intended by Pat to bring out competitors from New York and Pennsylvania. It turned out that of the 30 entrants a good many came from Ohio, too, so that Jim Henretta of Kane, Pa., who took the honors with a 77, really found himself a tri-State champion left-hander.

The Smethport Country Club is purely co-operative, owned by the members, and makes profits for no individual. It provides a living for Pat Burke and his help, and affords recreation and training at almost no cost to all age groups within a large area. It is a community asset.



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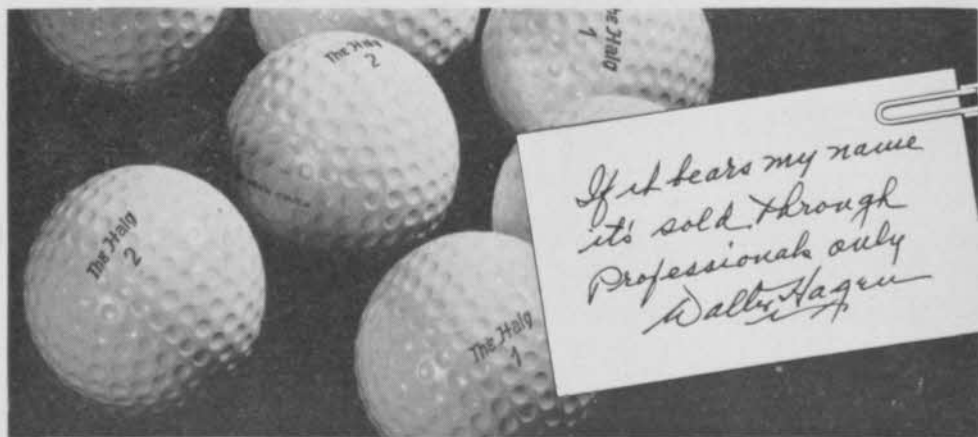


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# Planting and Care of New Stolon Bent Greens

By FRANKLIN HAMMOND

Stolons are overground stems of the plant which produce many joints and from each of the joints small plants may start or "break" when they are properly handled. We are able to make use of this habit of growth in producing new areas of grass by cutting these stolons at the proper time, transferring them to a prepared piece of land, and giving them the correct treatment. Not all grasses produce stolons.

The stolon method of producing sod of velvet bent is desirable for two reasons in particular. It produces a tough sod in a short time which may be used in its original location the current season and may be lifted the following season to a new location. This method also produces a pure stand of velvet sod to start with. Weeds and other grass do not have time to become established before the area is completely covered by the stolon growth.

The time to plant stolons in New England is after September first. Before this date stolons are in the early stages of development and a very large quantity would be required to cover the nursery, which would be expensive.

The stolons themselves vary greatly depending upon a number of factors in their production. They will range from short runners with many joints close together to long dry stems with few joints. The first type is, of course, most desirable because they will insure a more even distribution of new plants. If the growth is forced in the fall there is a slight tendency to make the stolons soft. If this type of stolon is used it must be handled with care. They must be planted not later than the next day after cutting. Watering will need to be very carefully handled. A hot sun right after planting could easily destroy them unless very careful use of water is made. Both the grower and user should watch for this condition of stock. Both can be responsible for it. The grower would like to harvest his crop as soon as possible and the user wants to start his plants growing as early as he can in order to take advantage of the long fall season. Stolons with long dry stems and few joints are not so desirable. More bulk in stolon material is required. If the stock is purchased by the bushel this type is costly. The dry hard stems produce shoots less readily. More water is required to make them "break" at the joints.

I have seen spring stolons on old velvet bent nurseries which have not been cut down the previous fall. Whether or not this is true every year I am not sure. I have seen these spring stolons several seasons but have never had the time to experiment with them.

If this spring development can be maintained every year the picture of turf production would be quite different. It may be possible that one could produce sod which could be lifted during the current season. In many ways this would be an advantage which would more than offset the expense of the stolon method of growing turf.

Good drainage is of great importance to stolon produced sod. Excessive amounts of water are required in some of the phases of its production. It is essential that all surplus water be removed as soon as it has performed its function. If loam is used in making the stolon bed it should be of a light sandy type rather than on the clay side for the same reason (drainage).

When buying stolons it would be well for the purchaser to see the stock before buying if possible. They are sold by the bushel or sometime by the thousand square feet of green laid down. The last mentioned method is the fairest way of marketing both for the grower and the buyer. If so purchased it is not so important for the buyer to see the stock beforehand.

## Use Stolons Without Delay

Stolons should be used as soon as possible after cutting. Not more than three or four days should pass between cutting and planting. If they must be held as long as four days they should be spread out in a dark place and not exposed to very dry air. For shipment they may be packed solidly in boxes or burlap bags (bags preferred). It would be well not to keep them in such packages over 24 hours if it can be avoided. All green vegetative matter is very apt to heat and spoil if close packed for over long periods. The stolon bed should be in readiness before the stock is cut.

## Stolon Planting Method

The steps to be followed in stolon planting are: spreading, rolling, covering and watering.

Spreading is done by hand. A loose bunch of stolons is held under the left arm and small quantities are pulled out and spread over the surface of the ground. Each hand-



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ful is shaken out so it completely covers the entire surface. On any bare spots where there are no stolons there will be no turf for a long time. The spreading operation must not be hurried. It is one of the most important of the four items mentioned above.

The workman should walk forward over the area and scatter stolons in the path ahead of him. He should take as few steps as possible. Nobody should be permitted to walk over the stolon bed after it has been prepared for planting. If the stolons are to grow they must be in firm contact with the soil. A stolon resting on a footprint will not make contact with the soil below. Unless it is partly covered with damp soil it will dry out and may die before a new shoot can develop. Thoroughness in this phase of planting pays handsomely.

Rolling should follow immediately after the spreading. The object of rolling is to press the stolons into the stolon bed and to compact the soil. Stolons should not be covered completely. There will be a large number of green shoots already started on the stolons when they are spread. If these shoots are exposed to the air and sun they will become established quickly. The aim in rolling is to make close contact between the stolons and the soil but not to smother them. Only the base of the green shoot should be imbedded in moist soil. The roller should be light in weight. A 24-inch water roller, half full, is heavy enough. If the nursery is on a grade it may be necessary to have two men on the roller. If one man must dig in with his toes to push the roller he damages the surface and the stolons; therefore it is an advantage to have two men for this operation.

Anybody who must walk over the planted stolon bed should be taught to walk flat footed. Stolons or soil should not be scuffed and there should be no heel or toe marks. The men with the roller should keep their feet behind the roller, walking on the rolled surface only.

To be sure that there are no large areas where the roller has not pressed the stolons into the soil properly men should follow the roller with shovels full of loose loam. It is their job to scatter the loam over the stolons. This pins down any loose stems so that all the stolons are bedded in the soil and firmly set. Scattering is done with a brushing motion of the finger tips. There should be no mounds of earth that bury the stolons deeply. When filling their shovels the men should take care that the loam is loose and light. Small shovelfuls are best. If there is too much loam on the shovel it will drop off in lumps.

Watering is the final operation. The soil must be carefully moistened so that the stolons will not be washed out of the

ground but set in place more firmly. A fine mist like spray is best. Sprinkle the planted area lightly several times, or until the soil is thoroughly wet. Do not permit any wash or run-off.

The stolon bed should be so arranged that all parts may be watered without dragging the hose over any part of it. The ideal layout would allow the entire area to be covered with one setting of the sprinklers. The sprinklers should start at high speed so the water will be broken up into a fine mist. After the ground is thoroughly wet the sprinklers may be slowed to normal speed. If sprinklers are used they should be set after the loam has been spread. There should be enough labor available to handle the hose and sprinklers without disturbing the stolons.

### Watering Now Chief Factor

From this point on water is the chief factor. The surface must be kept thoroughly wet at all times until the new growth has started. The soil must be close to the saturation point without any runoff of surface water. For the first week or two the ground must not dry out the least bit.

Water is needed to keep the stolons soft and green for the first few days. The stolons must develop roots at every joint if possible. Until these roots develop and start into the ground every other consideration is of minor importance.

Along with root development, or perhaps preceding it, green shoots will start from the joints. These green leaves are necessary for root growth. They keep the roots alive even though no soil contact is made for a day or two. It will not be long before the roots enter the ground. Then the new plant is established. If, during this period, there is plenty of moisture close to the surface the roots will pick up a little nourishment, even though they are out of the soil, and aid the young plant in establishing itself.

Keep close watch of the newly planted area. Several inspections a day should be made. When it is certain that the new plants are established let up on the water. The soil should not be allowed to become dry but the amount of water should be reduced gradually each day. Only enough water should be used to keep the new growth green and healthy. Within 10 days the soil should be dry enough to walk over without leaving footprints. Now is the time for rolling to bring the surface to a smooth condition for mowing. The first rolling should be light. Roll again the next day with a water roller of full weight. Roll as much as is necessary to smooth the surface for the mower. Keep it moist.

The first cutting should be with a lawn-mower set for three-quarters of an inch cut and reduced at each mowing until the mower is set at three-eighths of an inch.

(To be Continued)