

How Southern Greenkeeper Solves His Problems

By HUGH MOORE

Bowden Golf Club, Macon, Ga.

There was a day when a greenkeeper could be picked from the ranks of farmers, but that day has passed. Greenkeeping has now become a profession. It is no longer guess work or hit and miss methods.

To be successful in greenkeeping you must know what you are doing at all times and under all weather conditions. You cannot use the same methods in maintaining good turf when the sun is shining and the weather is hot as you would use in wet weather and under "muggy" conditions. Nature is your boss and your partner too. There are other controls determining the success of the greenkeeper's efforts.

First:—No matter how much knowledge or other qualifications a greenkeeper may have, he must have good equipment, the proper fertilizers, and watering facilities.

Second:—He must have an understanding green chairman with some knowledge of greenkeeping, who is broadminded and considerate of the trials and tribulations of the greenkeeper. This chairman must uphold his greenkeeper to the limit and keep outsiders, club members and officials, from knocking or criticizing unjustly. He should be the man for the greenkeeper to contact for all his needs and wants. No greenkeeper or other man can be successful taking advice and carrying out the ideas of men who do not know anything of the business.

The majority of greenkeepers have too many bosses to please and too little to work with. The greenkeeper is not a magician. Again I say, he must have the equipment needed and plenty of cooperation to be successful in golf course work. Without these he cannot produce.

Expensive Substitutes

I once had a chairman, a fine man, who knew absolutely nothing about golf course work. In the middle of the summer I ran out of topsoil, one of the most essential things used on bermuda greens if used properly. I notified my chairman and explained to him that we should have this top-soil at once. He suggested that I use soil from a ditch bank that every year produced a crop of weeds of every known vari-

ety. I explained to him that our greens would become infested with weeds and be practically ruined. However, he insisted that I use this soil. Before the season was over we spent \$580 weeding greens and we did not have a decent putting green all summer. I knew, but my chairman didn't, the pitfalls of poor substituting. If a greenkeeper does not know that then he should not be hired for the job. If he cannot produce under favorable conditions then it is time to make a change but he shouldn't have to be held accountable for the errors of officials.

No golf course is good without perfect greens, and so far as the south is concerned good greens can be maintained 12 months of the year. Summer greens in the south usually are bermuda. Winter greens can be rye, with redtop added, or Kentucky bluegrass. I have used both successfully.

To maintain a good bermuda green it must be fertilized at the proper time in the early spring and touched up thru the summer. There are many types of fertilizers that can be used. I, personally, am pleased with the results of Milorganite. This fertilizer is not dangerous. It is somewhat slow but it can be mixed with sulphate of ammonia or a fertilizer such as 4-8-6. This is a good fairway fertilizer also.

Bermuda greens should be topdressed when needed. I find that most greenkeepers topdress too much and too heavy. These greens also require a lot of water, but should not be watered between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. in extremely hot weather. Any other time is all right.

Sharp Greens Mowers Necessary

To maintain a good putting green surface that is true and on which the ball will not jump, a common fault of bermuda greens, you must have a sharp mower. One that will cut and not chew. I find that dull mowers are a common cause of poor condition of bermuda greens in the south, and also in the winter when the rye is in. Anytime that a mower will not cut a piece of paper clean it should not be used on the green. There should be at least one man on the course who knows how to adjust the



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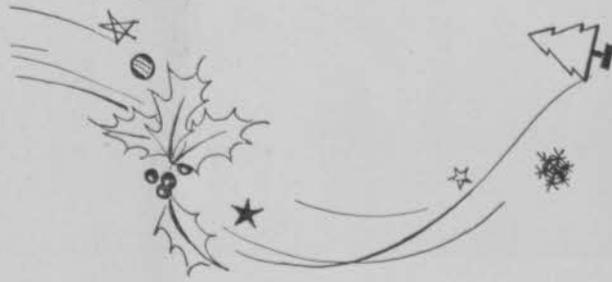
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mowers. The blades should be against the knife so that you will get an even cut the full length of the blade.

Now for winter greens in the south: Any green that is 5000 sq. ft., or more, should not have less than 250 to 300 lbs. of rye seed per green. This can be put in all at one time if your labor is limited, but I would suggest two applications; holding out a little for touching up thru the winter. If you want a green that will putt as good as bent, add red top, the amount to be governed by what you can afford. Perhaps 20 to 30 lbs. per green would be a good estimate. Of course a greenkeeper should know exactly the size of his greens and how much his club can afford to spend. You cannot cut corners and pinch nickels and have the best.

In cutting winter or summer greens I suggest double cutting from different angles. Bermuda should be cut every day except Mondays.

It is my belief that improper construction is why many greens are in bad condition thruout the south. Most clubs are in a hurry to complete the construction job so play can start. In this haste the work is not done properly. I have built quite a few courses myself. I built some of them in a hurry and tried to save money and found out to my sorrow that the job was not done right. I always go back and check a course many times after my work is finished, and in doing so I find mistakes. These mistakes

were made from haste, penny pinching, and trying to follow the other fellow's advice when he did not know what it was all about.

Southern Greens Building

The proper materials must be had to obtain the best results. I will never build another green unless I can build it as it should be built by using the materials that are required for a good green, such as peat moss, porous soil, 4 inches of sifted topsoil, giving it time to settle from rain and artificial watering to see if it has the proper drainage and that there are no water pockets left, and the undulations and rolls are not too severe. I have seen greens that were unfair to the best putting touch in the world. In building a golf course, do it right or don't start. It will save money and give more pleasure to the members at all times.

The most important part in the construction of a green is your drainage.

I like to build greens with a base of 24 inch depth of oyster shells and one foot of cinders with porous soil mixed thru. Clay soil is dangerous unless it is used 5 to 6 feet below as a base. If this foundation can't be used, then tile your greens with a 4 inch tile, laid in oyster shells or cinders, using strips of burlap around your openings.

There are greens in golf courses being built by men today who know absolutely nothing about what they are doing. This

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USGA GREEN SECTION COMMITTEE MEETS AT RIVIERA



Members and guests of USGA Green Section Committee meet at Riviera CC, Los Angeles, Calif., on afternoon preceding USGA Open Championship play. First row: (L to R) James Standish, Jr., chmn.; Fielding Wallace, pres., USGA; Dell Griggs, pres., S. Calif. GA; Robt. T. Jones, representing Golf Architects Assn.; Colin Simpson, Chmn., Green Com., Los Angeles CC and newest member of USGA Green Section Com. Back row: (L to R) Chester Mendenhall, pres., GSA; O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, member; A. R. Emery, Salt Lake City, member; A. L. Brandon, Exec. Sec'y., GSA and member Green Sec. Com.

Schoolboy Tournament Event Great Stimulus For Golf

By JOHN M. BRENNAN



Tom Mullin and his wife, Eleanor, pictured after his team, Bayside High, beat Flushing, coached by his wife in the deciding match for the PSAL title of the New York district.

"This type of tournament does more to encourage youngsters to take up golf than all the pearly words poured into type," declared Richard O'Shaughnessy, textile tycoon and prominent member of the Wheatley Hills Golf club, as the annual Queens Interscholastic championship was unfolding last month for the 15th straight year at the Pomonok Country club in Flushing, Long Island.

President Bill Buchanan of Pomonok, an interested spectator as the kids were splitting the downhill, first fairway with deft tee shots, agreed with O'Shaughnessy's sentiments and suggested that similar tournaments should be encouraged by influential private clubs, which tend to neglect the members of tomorrow, in all parts of the country.

Private Club Aid

"The kids deserve a break from the more fortunate private club members," suggested Buchanan. "A majority of the boys who tee off in this type of tournament play all year on congested municipal and public links and dream of the week they have to play in the Queens Interscholastic on a championship course of a private club. I feel that the vast strides made by Long Island and Met youngsters in junior and later senior circles is attributable to the schoolboy event held every spring in this section."

And Buchanan is so right. A perusal of the Met record books reveals that former scholastic luminaries who have gone on to win sectional crowns number Bill Edwards, current Met junior king; George Stuhr, Jr. of Notre Dame, former New York State junior champion; Johnny Humm, finalist in last year's Long Island amateur; Eddie Butler, Alick Gerard, Jr., son of the National Links of America veteran pro; Jack Gerlin, ex-Met junior king; Augie Boyd, another winner of the Met; Frank Strafaci, five-time winner of the coveted Metropolitan amateur and current Long Island king; Charlie Mayo, Jr., Frank Sieverman, Keenan Morrow, George Stuhler, Karl Karsh, Jack de Sevray and a host of others whose names have made headlines in the wake of their school days.

Newspaper Sponsorship

During recent years this colorful Queens Interscholastic, which has developed into a misnomer inasmuch as boys from all parts of the world's largest city are eligible, has been conducted on an all-match basis. During the early days of the event, there was a tendency on the part of over-eager youngsters to envision sub-par scores, a condition that could only be corrected by the elimination of the medal round.

The tournament got its inception when Barney Dunn, an advertising executive of the old Daily Star which later merged with the Flushing Journal to become the Long Island Star-Journal, sold Bloomingdale's department store the idea of donating several hundred dollars of trophies, merchandise and other equipment for the schoolboy classic that was planned for the Hillcrest public course.

The first tournament attracted a field of 278 players, a turnout that astounded the sponsors. The next year, when the event was conducted at the same course, 301 teed off. A bigger course was needed the following year and Clearview at White-stone was selected. Two years later, Walter Grego's Bayside Links, one of the best-conditioned fee courses in the country, was selected and for five years the locale of the tournament was on the Bayside layout.

The tournament eventually was shifted to Pomonok, where the kids got the thrill



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Scene at Pomonok CC as Coach J. Eugene Thompson of Newton High presents Charles Vasoll of Jamaica High and member of Wheatley Hills GC the trophy emblematic of the Queens Interscholastic crown. Don Cook of Ft. Hamilton High of Brooklyn is at left. Carl Pfuel of Bishop Loughlin High is at the right and next to him is Jerry Nadeau of Ft. Hamilton, the runnerup.

of playing on the same course on which Henry Picard beat Byron Nelson in an extra-hole final for the National PGA championship back in 1939.

Pomonok has been a lavish host through the years. The kids have the run of the clubhouse, as well as the course and everything is done to give the scholastic event major circuit trimmings. The year Picard won the 1939 PGA crown he remained over a day to present George Stuhler with the championship trophy. That, perhaps, was the biggest thrill any of the kids got out of the tournament.

J. Eugene Thompson, coach at Newton High and a member at Pomonok, has been a tremendous help in putting over the tournaments of the past few years which have been jointly sponsored by the Long Island Star-Journal and Long Island Daily Press.

Tournament, Big Stimulus

"There is no doubt that golf would have faded from the Public Schools Athletic League program had it not been for the stimulus offered by the annual Queens Interscholastic event," said Thompson in discussing the scholastic links situation. "We have more teams in this section playing PSAL golf than ever before and it is directly the result of encouragement from the scholastic championship."

The kids, Thompson pointed out, engage in team competition all spring, then are let loose to play on an individual basis in the scholastic event. "It's like a home pro pointing to the national open, qualifying

and getting a chance to show his stuff. There is nothing like this tournament."

Joe Herschel, the indefatigable mentor of the Forest Hills High team, where the sport vies with tennis at the capital of the racquets world, hints the pattern used so successfully in promoting scholastic golf in the most congested and largest city can certainly be used as profitably in other sections of the country.

"The boys like the idea of the papers getting behind them," asserted Herschel. "We have been given the utmost cooperation from the papers and actually have them to thank for the advancement of scholastic golf in this section. A little more in the way of help from the PGA would help us in the drive to make golf a major sport."

Game Grows From Schools Up

Thompson, Herschel pointed out, has done more than any other teacher in building up the PSAL program. It was Thompson who led a successful drive to increase the number of boys on a school team in the PSAL from three to five. He made several other highly constructive suggestions that were given the stamp of approval of the Games Committee of the PSAL. Thompson, too, has conducted his own intra-mural tournaments, both spring and autumn at Forest Park Golf club, in an effort to encourage Newton students to probe the Royal and Ancient sport.

Tom Mullin, former St. John's University ace athlete, was placed in an embar-

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Manager's Job Made Easier By Help From Club Members

By BRUCE HERD

Professional-Manager, Flossmoor CC, Chicago

Editor's note: Bruce Herd, widely-known manager of the Flossmoor (Ill.) CC and member of a family famed in golf, received his early training as a professional with his father at Littlestone in England from 1911 to 1921. He came to South Shore CC (Chicago) in 1922 and remained until 1938. From there he went to Flossmoor as club professional before being made manager. Bruce's father, at Littlestone from 1895 to 1939, was made an honorary member and presented with a nice purse on his retirement.

Take it from me, the business of managing a club and especially that of running the club dining room under present conditions presents headaches. This is especially true for one who was suddenly assigned this added responsibility after enjoying the comparative ease of a nice comfortable job as professional with hardly a care in the world but the golf scores of his members.

During the war our board of directors was confronted with the thankless task of finding a general manager for the club. With little notice the board decided that Herd should take the job and the decision was made over all the objections I could raise. I assumed my new duties with some misgivings. I say some, but it took only a few months for me to realize the full import of my new responsibilities.

Difficult Operating Problems

I had the mistaken impression that every department in the club should run and operate as smoothly as my golf shop had done for many years. But this was not to be. After a battle of several months (remember, we had no meat, no supplies, no help and what we did get was not dependable) with new problems every day and a trip to the hospital with close to a nervous breakdown I was convinced it was impossible.

My only alternative was to make the most of a bad situation which I proceeded to do in the best way possible with the help

at hand. It was a case of waiting for the day when better help would be available and food and supplies would be back to normal.

Today, help is much better but still on the scarce side. The food situation is the big headache—plenty of it, but what a price! As a result the displaced golf pro is still in the middle, thinking back to the happy days when he could sell somebody a few balls, give a couple of lessons, play a round of golf, go home and have a couple of beers, and feel at peace with the world.

Seriously, Flossmoor weathered the war years very well. We were able to keep maintenance up to a satisfactory degree and in some cases add to the general plant makeup.

Dining room receipts have remained at a fairly high level, equal to that of 1946 even though the number of meals served dropped down during the early months of 1947 because of the bad weather. It was necessary to raise prices in the spring of 1947 to offset increased cost of labor and food supplies. We have made a few slight increases in prices this year but they in no way offset the rise in wages and food costs with which we have had to contend.

Quality Maintained

Quality of food and supplies has been strictly maintained. In this club as in most others I must buy and serve the very tops in everything. It is impossible to attempt any economies in this department. As a result cost of food supplies, notwithstanding the increases made in menu prices has gone up from 49.1% to 66.4% and may go possibly higher. Our only alternatives as I see it is either to raise menu prices further or take a loss in dining room operation. The club will never consider lowering the quality of the food. We have tried to vary the menus but find that the demand is always greater for the substantial dishes which call for the choice cuts and the best of foods.

We are fortunate in having practically all of our prewar kitchen staff on hand. Our biggest problem is keeping regular

waitresses on hand through the season due to the fact our location makes it necessary for us to room and board all of our help. After some difficulty at the beginning of the season this problem has been solved and we now have some semblance of a permanent staff. Extra waitresses, and other extra help, have been fairly plentiful, but, of course, at high wages. We have shortened by a half hour the time for serving dinner but otherwise have not made any changes.

Job Has Compensations

Taking over the general managership of a fine club like Flossmoor at a time when problems seemed interminable has had its compensations which far outshadow the difficulties experienced in the beginning.

In the first place, the club membership is a grand group and as fine as one could wish to work for. They have given me every assistance and the board of directors have always stood back of me 100 per cent. With this kind of support I have been able to accomplish some things that would have been impossible under different circumstances. As club professional I had been on the best of terms with all of the members. This, I am sure, has been one of my greatest assets in assuming my added responsibilities.

Two years ago we were able to show a fair margin of profit. You can imagine how grateful I was when after I suggested that the money be used for the installation of a new refrigeration system and new course equipment they authorized me to go ahead without any questions being asked.

At the end of the 1947 season I wanted to rebuild several of our tees and do some additional landscaping around the water hazards. The labor situation was very tight and wages were high. I suggested that the purchase of a caterpillar tractor would probably pay for itself in a year or so. At the next meeting of the board I was authorized to make such a purchase. It has more than half paid for itself in the short time we have had it.

When one gets that kind of cooperation it certainly makes up for a lot of the heartaches and bad sessions that may have occurred through the seasons.

Planning a Pro Career

Bulletin of the Northern California PGA contains sound advice for the young man who is planning a future as a golf professional and for the professional who engages the young fellow as an assistant.

The bulletin reads:

A. Qualities to be developed.

1. Be neat in his personal appearance and dress.

2. Develop a courteous personality.
3. Study the English language.
4. Take a course in public speaking. A man who uses good grammar has an advantage over a man who is lost for words.
5. If possible, take a course in book-keeping.
6. Practice your golf game in all your spare time.
7. Develop a good looking swing if you are going to be a good golf pro. Club members prefer a pro with a good sound swing over one who has many faults and is a good scorer.
8. When possible give free instructions to junior members of your club. In teaching the youngsters you will develop confidence in your ability as a teacher.
9. Learn the art of teaching. The more teaching you do the better you will be in time.
10. Attend night school and take the following subjects:
 1. Typing
 2. Journalism
 3. Commercial Arithmetic
 4. Salesmanship

B. Duties to your pro.

1. Keep your pro shop clean and tidy. Do all you can to increase his sales.
2. Learn to do minor repair jobs such as weighing clubs, new grips, refacing woods and reshafting.
3. Remember to respect your pro. He is the man who will make you a success. You are his representative. Be loyal to him. If you are not satisfied with your job tell him, not the club members.
4. Treat his members and customers with utmost respect.

Pro relations with his assistant.

1. Teach him restraint in his personal financial problems. In other words, have him live within his income.
2. Listen to his personal problems away from his job. Try to advise him if possible. An assistant who is happy away from his work will be a better man for you.
3. Show him your method of teaching. Also have him watch you while you are giving lessons.
4. Teach him all the methods on buying so that if you are not on the job he can do some buying for you.
5. Pay him a livable salary.
6. Advise him to start an insurance savings plan.
7. Give him time off to play in a major golf tournament at least once a year. Do not include this as part of his vacation, but call it part of his work. Encourage him to attend some PGA meetings.