

Teach Golf Better By Learning What Goes On Inside Pupil

By LES BOLSTAD

Golf Instructor, Univ. of Minnesota

At the end of each quarter of golf I have followed the practices of having the students write their impressions of the golf class, both good and bad. Some of their conclusions have surprised me. It is from these revelations from the minds of the pupils themselves that I have made changes and alterations in my presentation of golf. I know that the learner does the job — not the teacher. He is only a guide in the process. I wanted to find out what went on in the pupils' minds.

One fact had escaped me. Many people stay away from golf because of a lack of confidence. They sense the intricacy of golf and realize it is a game which demands of them a certain social behavior. I suspect, now, that many people take one or two tries at golf and then give it up. They may not live in an environment which enables them to learn golf by trial and error. The game licks them because they have no knowledge of the skill involved. The novice may dub around a couple of times but his interest is not aroused because he doesn't do well enough to ever really get the feel of the game. His confidence sinks because he senses himself to be awkward and inept especially in the presence of more skillful players. He is apt to be ill at ease because he fears he may unwittingly make a social faux pas.

The net result is that he quits — and that is bad for everybody in golf; the manufacturers, the pros, the players.

By far the greatest percentage of those in golf classes are rank beginners. Their papers begin, "As I had never played the game of golf—" A great untapped potential exists. If the proper channels were opened, more golf courses would have to be built to handle the influx.

A frequent comment is, "I didn't realize there was as much to this game as has been brought out in class." Not knowing about golf, the game was a meaningless thing to them and they had little appreciation of the skill and technique involved. To them golf had seemed cow-pasture pool where you hit a ball and chase it — not as a refined game full of meaning.

With only one quarter of class training behind them this trend was reversed. "This course gave me more interest and I found out golf is not such an easy game." —

"My interest in the game certainly has improved since the first time I played. As I find myself able to play better, my interest increases." — "Now that I know more about the game it is more of a challenge to me." — "When later I continue to play golf, I will have a basis from which to work and from which I can improve, I hope." — "Now that I have had this class, I'll enjoy playing and not feel out of place." — "During this session I have been stimulated to an intense interest in the sport. I have purchased a set of clubs and look forward to playing for many years to come." — "In rounds I played concurrent with the classes I got more enjoyment out of the game. I felt I was doing some of the things correctly." — "I am confident that I will improve even more." — "This golf class is my first try at the game. It's the best physical education class I've taken. When I do start playing, I figure what I've learned in this class will give me a great boost."

Etiquette and Rules Neglected

In a golf program you assume that you as a teacher will put proper emphasis on what is expected in etiquette and behavior and the rules which govern the game. When you are associated with a sport over a period of years, I suppose these things get hum-drum. At least that was the way I felt, but the general response from the class jolted me out of that attitude. These people who had never played were overwhelmingly grateful to be told what was expected of them in regard to etiquette and rules.

No matter how much you feel the bulkiness of a group, you shouldn't ignore the individual. He feels acutely ignored if you don't call on him in correction sessions. He "likes the personal instruction given." Group instruction inevitably leads to individual instruction anyhow. If you make a practice of walking up and down behind a line of players who are hitting balls, you soon get the knack of sizing up the situation, making a suggestion, and then walking along to the next golfer.

Let a pupil feel that you have no interest in tackling his own personal swing problem and you lose him.

That's where the correction session comes in handy. Every pupil (let's say

"TERSAN[®] doesn't shock grass, and always keeps me a jump ahead of brown patch"

says **HERB SHAVE**, *Greenkeeper at Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Mich.*

"I don't have to watch for the smoky rings that identify brown patch on greens," declares Mr. Shave. "Tersan' heads off the disease before it starts. It's the best fungicide I've found for preventing brown patch and snow mold. And I don't have to worry about

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This picture story is another in a series of "experience reports" from well-known golf courses, coast to coast.



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Beautiful Oakland Hills will be host to the 1951 P. G. A. Tournament. To keep greens in top shape for championship play, Mr. Shave uses Du Pont "Tersan" every ten days.

NEW, HANDY, 3-POUND PACKAGE of "Tersan" 75 eliminates measuring from bulk—easier to handle, cleaner, more accurate. Two packages cover 9 average greens. The new formulation stays in suspension better to assure even application. New green color blends with turf. Order "Tersan" 75 from your golf supply house today, and be prepared to head off brown patch before it starts.

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Better Things for Better Living... through Chemistry

there are 20) gets to hit half a dozen balls before the assembled class. The student is stimulated to do his best. After a student has exhibited his swing the instructor may ask the class for suggestions as to what improvement could be made. Or the instructor might make a constructive criticism followed by a suggested swing change. An attempt at a swing change is made right on the spot.

One learning golfer did think "the individual correction sessions before the assembled class made a good way for improvement whether one was the individual being corrected or a spectator." Another "liked the opportunity of class members to observe each other to see how bad we were." Yet another voiced a frequent response by saying, "I liked the idea of having my swing faults pointed out."

The time element in learning and the effect of directed and supervised practice drew this comment: "Hitting balls three times a week during the class period helped me to coordinate my swing and make it a full and connected movement."

The slice, always a big factor for beginners, drew this remark, "the golf instruction was a great benefit because I learned how to correct my slice by way of the left hand counter-clockwise flip."

"I wish we could have had a little more explanation on when and where to use the different irons," was one lament.

These few revelations from the minds of

golf students in university classes could be multiplied many times over in bringing out to us in pro golf that we have plenty of problems to solve in making it easier and quicker for our pupils to learn. We need to study the learning angle with the same intensity and thoroughness we have been devoting to teaching. The effective golf lesson is an informed partnership.

We have to discover what our students' inward reactions are. I have found that the delayed cadence of the swing with its slight pause at the turning point of the swing seems to be remembered by almost all my pupils at the University of Minnesota. Sometimes pupils will show up at later classes greatly improved. I will ask "how did you do it?" The answer often is "it was that short swing exercise which you recommended. I go through it every day." At the time I presented the exercise I had suspected most of my pupils were disinterested.

But, when I got the answers by questioning the pupils I found that my judgment of their reaction had been wrong. The university golf classes lend themselves to this sort of search for what goes on in the pupils' minds. The same conditions do not prevail in giving private lessons at clubs but I am sure that more attention given to what the pupil is thinking rather than the dominating accent on telling the pupil may be a factor in attaining the results from golf instruction that the pro and each of his pupils earnestly seek.

Golf Grows in School Sports Program

More than 50,000 students in nearly half of the nation's colleges and universities offering a broad sports program now are learning to play golf according to a recent survey made by the National Golf Foundation. Actual figures taken from reports of 475 schools filed with the Foundation show 53,191 students taking golf in phys. ed. classes, playing on intramural teams or competing on the school golf team.

A further tabulation shows the total to be made up of the following groups:

- 24,106 men in phys. ed. classes,
- 16,529 women in phys. ed. classes,
- 15,474 men in intramural golf programs,
- 3,566 women in intramural golf programs,
- 3,233 men on golf teams and
- 183 women on golf teams.

Other reports show:

- 102 colleges and universities now have their own golf course facilities,

2,184 high schools now have golf teams and

1,351 high schools conduct intramural golf tournaments.

The above totals are based on enrollments for the 1950-51 school year. They represent a growth that could best be shown by comparative data taken at some previous time but there are apparently no similar records available. The above survey, rather broad in scope, is the first of its kind to be made and in order to learn what growth, if any, there has been in golf in the school sports program each school was asked to give the year when golf was first introduced to the phys. ed. classes, added to the intramural sports program and the year the school had its first golf team. On the basis of the information submitted less than 25 schools had golf in phys. ed. classes 25 years ago. The remarkable growth has been since World War II. Reports show that 48 per cent of all schools reporting have added golf during the past five years.

New and Improved Chemicals Boon to Turf Maintenance*

By T. C. RYKER

The greenkeeper today may select from a large array of chemicals for control of numerous diseases, insects and weeds affecting turf. And still newer chemicals are being constantly added as extensive research by industry and various research agencies uncover new materials and improved formulations.

If we compare the pest control chemicals we have today with those available ten years ago we find newcomers not only greater in number but very different from the older chemicals. The newer chemicals are in general safer to crop plants, more effective for specific pests, have longer residual action, and are less hazardous to use.

With the chemicals used ten years ago, operators had little to choose from and the cure was often worse than the bite. There were mercurials for diseases, arsenate of lead for insects, and arsenicals for weeds. With the mercurials, severe burning often occurred when recommended dosages were used, particularly during hot weather. Heavy or repeated dosages which were often necessary to control disease induced a build-up in plant injury and the risk of coming up with a sickly yellow turf on tournament day. The arsenical weed killers were equally risky.

Safer for Plants

Many of the present day chemicals are far safer for plants. As an example we might choose one of the newcomers, Thiram, which you know as "Tersan." These organic sulphur products can be applied at several times the recommended dosage without risk of injuring the turf. It is almost possible to say you can't injure turf with Thiram. When there is little or no disease a minimum dosage of this fungicide is effective, thereby permitting an economy. When weather conditions favor an outbreak of disease, or the troublesome greens begin to show infection, the dosage may be stepped up. With this type of fungicide it is possible to use a spray program without risk of causing even slight yellowing of the turf.

Many of the newer insecticides and herbicides are likewise safer than the old. DDT or Chlordane may be used without risk of injuring the turf. Similarly there are fair-

ly broad limits within which 2, 4-D may be safely used to control many of the broad-leaf weeds on the fairways. This is a great step from the days of hazardous arsenicals that tended to kill everything. Actually, one effect of 2, 4-D is to turn grass a darker green, which has mistakenly been looked upon as stimulation. It is, of course, not safe to use 2, 4-D on bent grasses.

In addition to being safer for plants, the new chemicals are more effective but somewhat specific in their action. This is exemplified in the treatment of the two major diseases of turf, brown patch and dollar spot. For these diseases, for which the mercurials have been generally used, Thiram is highly effective for brown patch but is only moderately effective on dollar spot. Where dollar spot is severe, it is desirable to use a different fungicide. The Cadmium fungicides are outstanding in the control of dollar spot, but are ineffective for brown patch and most of the other diseases. A further example of specificity is indicated in the recent report that a new experimental compound controlled Helminthosporium blights for which none of the other fungicides has proven satisfactory.

It was the high effectiveness of 2,4-D (less than one pound per acre), coupled with its specificity for broad-leaf weeds, that revolutionized our concept of weed killers. It is no longer necessary to tolerate the unsightliness of dandelions and plantains in our fairways. We now look for the weed killer that will do for crab grass what 2,4-D did for broad-leaf weeds. This is a big order, but some measure of success has been attained with such contact herbicides as PMAS, Potassium Cyanate and others. The specificity of action in the case of these herbicides is dependent upon differential wetting. Crabgrass with its somewhat fuzzy leaves is more readily wetted than the more waxy turf grasses.

Control for Major Insects

Many of the newer insecticides are highly effective in controlling turf insects. It is no longer necessary to apply 200 to 400 pounds per acre of arsenate of lead to control white grubs. Newer organic insecticides are broadly effective, and recent results indicate that Chlordane and the related compounds Dieldrin and Aldrin may be effective for the control of all the major insect pests of turf.

*Paper presented at NGA Convention, Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Jan. 31, 1951.

We have seen how these newer pesticides differ from older ones in their safety to plants and in their specific action. Now let us consider their longer residual action. Most of the newer fungicides and insecticides are organic compounds that are relatively insoluble in water. This insolubility permits longer activity. They are formulated as wettable powders. The length of their action depends largely on the rate used, weathering conditions, and how rapid is the breakdown of the chemical in the soil. This breakdown may vary from a few weeks, as in the case of Thiram, to a number of years, as is true of DDT. Cadmium fungicides have held back the development of dollar spot for some weeks after applications were stopped. DDT at the rate of 25 pounds per acre is effective in the control of Japanese Beetle for at least five years, due to its residual action.

The last consideration is that of poisonous action. If we go by some of the news items that appear today, we might think we are developing more hazardous pesticides. I doubt that this is so. I think the important fact is that we are becoming more conscious of this important consideration for any pesticide. We have only to look at the old mercurials and arsenicals to know where we stand. Thiram may be irritating, but it certainly can't be classed as a poison. The cadmium fungicides are not even irritating. The greatest criticism in regard to toxicity has been directed toward the newer insecticides, but since these are effective in such small amounts, it is possible to use them safely. With the old weed killing arsenicals, livestock had

it rough. Today, 2,4-D may be used without any thought of toxicity to man, livestock, or fish. The same may be said of "Ammate" Weed Killer which can be used to control brush and poison ivy without fear of killing someone's goat. It would be remiss not to mention maleic hydrazide, a chemical newcomer which shows the peculiar physiological action of suppressing plant growth. It has been suggested that this compound could be used as a substitute for mowing.

To summarize, the newer chemicals that the greenkeeper has today for his war on pests are different weapons from those he had formerly. Today it is possible for him to control diseases, insects and weeds without risk of damaging his green. He has pesticides that are more efficient, while also more specific in their action, exhibit longer residual action, and are less hazardous to use.

It is the responsibility of the greenkeeper to learn what these new products are, which ones are most suitable to his purposes, and when to apply them.

Midwest Park Executives at Chicago, March 14-15

The Midwest Institute of Park Executives will hold its Tenth annual educational conference March 14-15 at the Chicago Park District Administration Building, 424 East 14th Boulevard, Chicago, Ill. The sessions will start at 8:30 A.M. and run to 5:00 P.M. on both days.

The registration fee of \$3.00 includes a copy of the entire proceedings.

ANNUAL TURF CONFERENCES

Feb. 12-14—Texas Turf Conference, Texas Turf Association, College Station.

Feb. 26-Mar. 1—20th Annual Turf Conference, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

Mar. 5-8—Annual Turf Conference, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.

Mar. 6, 7—Fourth Annual Turf Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Mar. 21, 22—Fourth Annual Turf Conference, State College of Washington, Pullman.

Mar. 8, 9—Annual Turf Conference (Concluding 10-Weeks Winter School), Univ. of Mass., Amherst.

Mar. 12-14—17th Annual Turf Conference, Iowa Greenkeepers Association, Iowa State College, Ames.

Mar. 7-9—Annual Turf Conference and Short Course, Minnesota Greenkeepers Association.

April 16-17—Annual Turf Conference, Montana-Wyoming Turf Assn., Butte, Mont.

May 10-11—Southern Turf Conference, Tifton, Ga.

June 12—Central Turf Foundation Field Day, Manhattan, Kans. CC.

Oct. 24-26—Central Plains Turf Conference, Kansas State College.

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USGA Annual Report Shows Highest Membership; 1,448

Highlights of USGA annual report released at the association's annual meeting, Jan. 27:

More than 3,700 golfers, clubs and associations have contributed \$68,000 toward \$100,000 needed for paying for Golf House, USGA new headquarters.

Gross gate receipts at 1950 National Open set record, with USGA share being \$29,701. Men's amateur income to USGA of \$12,224 was about \$4,500 under 1949. Women's amateur income to USGA of \$5,121 was about \$2,300 ahead of previous year. Publinx income of \$1,476 up about \$400. Junior boys and girls tournament lost small amounts. "Golden Anniversary" Open prize money increased to \$15,000 with \$4000 first, \$2,500 second and every 72-hole score collecting.

Association excess of income over expense for year was \$8,012. Sum of \$3,000 was appropriated for Walker Cup matches at Birkdale, Eng., June 8 and 9.

USGA membership at new high of 1,448 clubs; gain of 53 in a year.

Play by twos instead of threes in final 36 holes of National Open reduced time of play.

No significant changes in 1951 Rules book, but some slight changes in language.

Changes in rules governing form and make of golf club now permit convexity on vertical as well as horizontal plane of club faces (concavity of club faces on either plane still is prohibited), and clarified prohibition of grips molded to the hands or with furrows.

Green Section's Busiest Year

Green Section had its busiest and most successful year, making excellent use of the net \$34,570 expense. By cooperation with 22 state experimental stations and its own development work at Beltsville, Md., the

Green Section made available to USGA member clubs vast and valuable service. Decentralization program started in 1945 by Dr. Fred Grau, Green Section director, has the Green Section and Grau and his staff extending this field work as far as personnel and time permit.

Turf Research Review for 1951 detailing turf research projects and personnel being completed. Publication of the USGA-sponsored "Turf Management", an authoritative text book by H. B. Musser with an editorial board appointed by USGA was completed in 1950.

Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson assumed full charge of turf research for the Green Section staff and Charles Wilson went on full time office, experimental plots and extension work. Chmn. Richard S. Tufts, in making the report emphasized the Green Section's advice that clubs establish nurseries of improved turf grasses.

Women's committee announced that there will be no sectional qualification for Women's National, but 18 hole qualifying, the low 64 to qualify and a numerical draw for match play pairing.

Handicap committee reported that only about a third of the nation's 150 golf associations replied to a questionnaire concerning a generally satisfactory handicapping system. Of associations using or recommending some handicapping system the USGA system is preferred by two-thirds. The committee suggests uniform course rating throughout the country.

Tax Ruling Noted

The USGA General Counsel expressed the belief that public courses are required to collect a federal admissions tax, according to Supreme court decision in *Wilmette Park District vs. Campbell*, 338 U.S. 411. The USGA General Counsel report added: "On the other hand, it is felt that,

USGA NAMES WALKER CUP TEAM

Personnel of the U.S. 1951 Walker Cup team was announced at the USGA annual meeting. Willie Turnesa had previously been named captain. Other members are: Sam Urzetta, Frank Stranahan, Dick Chapman, Charley Coe, Harold Paddock, Jr., Jimmy McHale, Bill Campbell, Robert W. Knowles, Jr.

Alternates are: Al Mengert, Harvie Ward, Frank Holscher, Wm. (Dynamite) Goodloe and Dow Finsterwald.

The team will sail for Britain April 29, compete for the Walker Cup at Birkdale May 11 and 12 and stay over to compete in the British Amateur at Royal Porthcawl GC, Cardiff, Wales, May 21-26.



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so long as the fee charged by a golf club is a true 'green fee' and is not a charge for admittance or entry to the golf club area, no admissions tax would be payable."

Junior Championship committee reported that nine competitors in the 1950 National Amateur had played in either one or all three of the USGA Boys' Junior Championships.

The financial report, audited by Price, Waterhouse & Co., presented as part of the Executive Committee and sub-committees showed the USGA to have a surplus, including reserves for championships, of \$91,919. The financial report is an example of what the PGA should do in informing all its members of its operations and financial status.

USGA cut the field for the USGA Amateur by 10 players to 200. Slow play has made it impossible to get 210 field through first day's Amateur play even if the championship was held in the Land of the Midnight Sun.

Nominating committee's ticket as listed in January GOLFDOM was formally elected. It was re-election for James D. Standish, Jr., Country Club of Detroit as pres.; Isaac B. Grainger of Montclair (N.J.) GC and Totton P. Heffelfinger of Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, as vps; Richard S. Tufts of Pinehurst (N.C.) as sec. and John D. Ames of Glen View Club, Golf, Ill., as treas.

Pre-Season Pro Letter That Got Business

Warren Orlick, pro at Monroe (Mich.) G&CC, is one of the most successful advertisers in pro golf for the simple reason that Warren keeps informing his members about what services and playing supplies he has for them.

He doesn't get flowery or press. He tells them what they want to know.

Last year Warren's pre-season letter was especially effective. He sent it out with a prepaid postcard for ordering club-cleaning service.

The Orlick letter, which was printed, follows:

Dear Member,

Welcome to another golf season. From point of memberships sold this winter and golf interest in general this should be a bang-up year at the club.

The season club-cleaning service will again be seven dollars, payable in advance. This service includes cleaning of clubs, storage, minor repairs and issuing of clubs to caddie. Same service for juniors is five dollars, payable in advance.

Extended club-cleaning service for season is eight dollars, payable in advance. This service insures set up to \$150.00 while they are in my custody in addition to

regular service. To the many members having sets valued above \$150.00 I recommend you see your insurance agent for coverage.

My free junior golf program of last year went off so well that I will continue classes this season. Details on time, age, equipment and other information will be mailed to you at a later date.

Every year the golf equipment manufacturers offer something new to save you a few strokes. This season to go along with the highly successful shafts of last year they have designed heads that will minimize hooks and slices. The heads carry more weight toward the toe and behind the hitting area of club without increasing over-all weight of club. I had a preview of all the leading sets on the winter tour in Texas and without fail all the leading players were more than pleased with the new improvements. Without obligation of any kind you may try out any one of three 1950 demonstrator sets I have available. New sets may be tried out before purchase. You may use my extended payment plan and I accept trade-ins toward club purchases.

My stock includes clubs, bags, balls, carry-all grips, sportswear, shoes and accessories to meet any budget.

Take advantage of these points when thinking of equipment and supplies. Here is what I can offer you:—

1. Professional experience to aid you in selecting proper equipment.
2. Extended payments.
3. Trade-ins accepted.
4. Service before and after sale.
5. Modern repair service.

Lessons are by appointment.

Cart rates are as follows: 9 holes and under 25c; 10 holes and over 50c.

The tournament committee has a fine schedule for all classes of golfers this season. Any member not having a game is requested to see me or any member of my staff and you can be sure we will find a golfing partner for you.

May all your drives go straight and all your putts fall in this season.

Tunis Revises "Sport for the Fun of It"

John R. Tunis, one of the top ranking sports writers and authorities, has revised his excellent book, "Sports for the Fun of It," which gives the history, rules and highlights of playing information on 19 popular sports. The book is published by A. S. Barnes Co., 101 Fifth Ave., New York 3 and sells for \$3. It's an entertaining and helpful handbook for the man, woman or youngster who just wants to play for enjoyment and doesn't aspire to a career as a rich and famous pro.