Toll of Turf Diseases in '52 Accents Study, Plans for '53

By O. J. NOER

(Continued from September Issue)

During the bad spells of weather last summer, every type of disease was rampant except dollar spot. It came later when weather moderated.

Pythium was worse than ever and was not controlled satisfactorily by any fungicide. A light application of lime, particularly in the hydrated form, seemed to do more good than anything else.

Brown patch was virulent and remained active despite the use of fungicides. During hot humid weather, when grass is continuously wet, no fungicide gives control for long. Some found it necessary to spray several times per week. Tersan was used mostly because it does not shock the grass and usually checks the disease. A few added a little corrosive sublimate, or other mercurial fungicide. The combination stops brown patch effectively and is safe provided the dosage for corrosive does not exceep 1 oz. per 5,000 to 6,000 sq. ft. or, in other words, not over 1 oz. per green. In larger amounts corrosive stops brown patch, but often kills the grass. At times this year one fungicide, which is ordinarily safe, scorched the grass. Dr. Spencer H. Davis of the New Jersey Agri. Exp. Station proved that type of nitrogen affects the severity of brown patch. Since his findings are available in published form, there is no point in further discussion here.

Melting out due to helminthosporium of one kind or another was blamed for much injury in late spring and early summer. In many instances leaf spot was the primary cause of injury, but in some cases helminthosporium was secondary to something else. The attacks came after the grass had been weakened by too much water, too little or too much nitrogen, a deficiency of potash, etc.

Leaf spot seemed to be bad on heavily matted turf. In these instances the obvious cure is to correct primary faults first. In most instances this automatically takes care of leaf spot. But where helminthosporium is the sole offender, a fungicide is needed. The Acti-dione treated plots at Michigan State were singularly free of leaf spot and other diseases. Some other workers have not been equally successful. The velvet bent at the Rhode Island station where PMAS was used each week for crab grass control had no leaf spot, whereas the adjoining untreated strips were affected by it.

Dollar spot was not troublesome at any time up to mid-August because of the unseasonably hot weather. It is a cooler weather disease. Cadminate, 531, Crag, Calo-Clor, and Calocure gave satisfactory control of dollar spot. Workers at Michigan got good results with Actidione. The PMAS plots at Kingston, Rhode Island, were free of dollar spot.

Nitrogen-Dollar Spot Relation

The nitrogen series of plots at East Lansing, Mich., on Washington bent turf showed progressively less dollar spot starting with the no-nitrogen check and on through rates of 3, 5, 7, and 9 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. As pointed out by Dr. Vaughan at the field day meeting on August 26, the check had considerable dollar spot. The amount on the 3-lbs. nitrogen rate was less but distinct. There were no spots on the 9-lb. nitrogen rate, and only the odd spot on the 5 and 7-lb. plots. This series of plots got no fungicide all season. These results substantiate the findings elsewhere by Dr. Pierre Miller in Southern California and by Holben and Musser at State College, Pa. Dollar spot is abated and more easily controlled by proper nitrogen feeding.

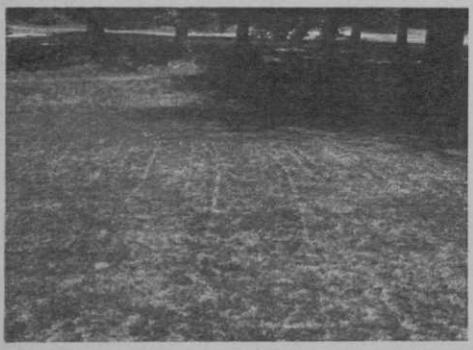
Recovery started in aerified holes on this bad spot. Green was aerified promptly after grass started to go.

Balancing Fertilization

Many greens have received excessive quantities of phosphoric acid, and not enough potash. Over-phosphating has ag-

gravated iron chlorosis sometimes. Too little potash has been responsible in part for soft turf. Potash helps to stiffen plant structures and in that respect helps offset one property of nitrogen. The generous use of nitrogen without enough potash produces a darker green color, somewhat on the order of wilt. Then supplementing the nitrogen with potash lightens the color of the grass. Encouragement of clover by potash can be offset by nitrogen.

Clippings from a bent green in Milwaukee removed 1¾ lbs. phosphoric acid and 3¾ lbs. potash during a five and one-half month growing season. These amounts were from 1,000 sq. ft. of green. It is represented by 8½ lbs. 20 per cent superphosphate and 6¼ lbs. 60 per cent grade



Streaks of dead grass in marks made by tee mower. Poa annua was in extreme wilt when tee was mowed on hot sultry day. Drum of power greens mower causes similar damage but harder to observe effect.

muriate of potash. An application of 5-10-5 at 17½ lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. provides 1.75 lbs. of phosphoric acid but only ⅞ of a pound of potash. It takes 75 lbs. of 5-10-5 to furnish 3.75 lbs. of potash, but this amount contains 7½ lbs. phosphoric acid or five times more than is removed in the clippings. This explains why many greens are becoming low-grade phosphate mines. The ratios of phosphoric acid and potash are of the same order in many liquid fertilizers. These ratios should be reversed — that is, 1 phosphoric acid to 2 of potash, rather than 2 phosphoric acid to 1 potash, which is the case in 5-10-5. Those who prefer to use a 1-2-1 ratio to provide needed phosphoric acid should use supplementary muriate or sulphate of potash in spring and fall or each month during the growing season.

Reduced to its simplest terms, the fertilization of bent grass greens is a matter of providing enough phosphoric acid and potash first. Then nitrogen becomes the key to good grass.

In this connection one must realize that nitrogen is the element most easily lost by leaching, so the program must be designed to provide grass with a uniform and continuous supply throughout the growing season. Phosphoric acid and potash resist leaching in anything but sand soil. Both are held by the exchange complex which is the clay and organic matter fraction of the soil. Absence of the exchange complex is one of the reasons why pure sand is not the best medium for growth. Because phosphoric acid and potash resist leaching, they can be applied in spring and fall. Then summertime feeding is a matter of supplying nitrogen only — along with a little potash whenever the grass is a bit soft.

Practices with respect to nitrogen are changing with regard to rates and frequency of application. The change is reflected in more frequent applications at lighter rates.

Fertilizing Time Trend

In the dollar spot belt, that is in the region north of a line through New York and Chicago from 1 to 1½ lbs. actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. each month straight through the growing season is about right. Brown patch is not a problem except in the odd year. The trend is toward fertilizing every couple of weeks rather than once a month. The amount of actual nitrogen used becomes ½ to ¾ lbs. each time.

Farther south in the Washington-Philadelphia to Kansas City region spring and fall rates are more generous because dollar spot is the main disease then. The tendency is to ease up somewhat on the amount of nitrogen applied during July and August when the weather is ideal for brown patch. This is done by reducing the rate, or by making the applications every three weeks instead of twice a month. Some few go even farther and apply a little nitrogen each week.

When the weather was at its worst one superintendent thought his troubles were due to the use of too much nitrogen. Both soluble inorganic and insoluble organic nitrogen had been applied in May. He blamed sudden release of organic nitrogen and reproached himself instead of making a test on small 10 x 10 ft. plots. Color of the Washington bent was bad. The color was a pale rather than an apple green. Actually too little nitrogen and potash were responsible. Heavy rains had leached them from the soil.

Within two weeks after two applications of one-third pound nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. along with a little potash spaced a week apart wilting was less and grass behaved more normally. Even disease was less of a bother. In this instance the increase in poa annua in the past couple of years may have been the result of nitrogen usage.

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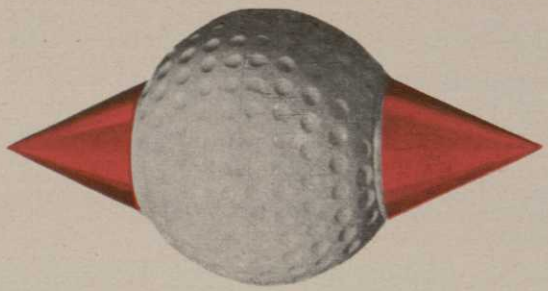

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turned brown in a matter of minutes or hours. It occurred during hot, humid, wet spells for no good reason. The cause seemed obscure and should be investigated by somebody. It may have been due to Hoffer's theory of nitrate reduction in gutated water. He found nitrates present in the early morning moisture on bent greens and thinks reduction to highly toxic nitrites responsible for much brown grass. The presence of toxic decomposition products of decaying dead grass, produced in the presence of excess moisture may have been responsible. Usually they are in the nature of soluble organic acids, but their calcium salts are generally insoluble. By forming insoluble compounds light liming should be beneficial.

Damage to Green Fringes

The grass fringes went out around the sides and backs of many greens. Loss was understandable where turf was poa annua, or where the creeping bent was shallow rooted because of an excessive surface mat. Loss was by no means universal. Where the grass stayed good, the fringes were wide enough to permit a sweeping turn of the power greens mower. These fringes got fungicide and fertilizer whenever the greens proper were treated. Adjoining banks were given enough water and not allowed to dry out. The bent had been thinned each spring by close cutting and soil compaction had

Poa annua only grass along edge of this green. Was slow to cover this spring. The Poa died later and was replaced by silver crab grass.

been overcome by cultivating with aerifying equipment.

In places where poa annua is the only grass, steps should be taken to introduce permanent grasses. The outline of cut should be modified where necessary to provide enough width to simplify turning each time the green is mowed.

Tees Badly Damaged

The turf on many tees was deplorable or non-existent by mid-summer. Where poa annua was bad, crabgrass, clover, and goosegrass took possession.

Turf on the best tees consisted of bent, Bermuda or Zoysia. The C-115 selection of creeping bent and Cohansy should be good ones for tees. Many of the other creeping bents are satisfactory in the cooler northern sections, provided tees are cut close, and that means close. Turf must be kept tight.

In St. Louis, Kansas City, etc., U-3 Bermuda has done well. In that region the Meyer Zoysia-Merion blue grass combination could be the answer. With Bermuda and Zoysia there is a feeling on the part of some that they should be played during summer only, and cool weather grass tees provided for winter use. The wear during winter when Bermuda and Zoysia are dormant weakens them to the point where they do not survive after a few years. There are some good Merion bluegrass tees. For the present they should be developed by sodding from a nursery, or by keeping seeded tees out of play until good turf is established. Seeding into established tees has not been too satisfactory up to now.

Some of the fairways, and many approaches fared badly this year, especially where poa annua was the principal grass. The watered courses had the worst time, because, in many of their fairways there was little besides the poa annua. The blow was especially bad because poa stayed in perfect condition during the preceding two spring-like summers. Renovation is in order on many courses accompanied by a change in watering practices. These two things seem like the eventual solution. It is too late to do much this year, except formulate the program.

Preparing for Next Year

Now that the year is drawing to a close the problem is one of preparing for next season.

Faulty surface and under-drainage should receive attention first, and should be corrected this fall. While greens are most important, fairways may need attention also.

Some type of cultivating tool should be used to induce deeper rooting and improve soil texture on compacted greens and fairways.

The Krilium type of soil conditioners, including the soluble ones, should be tried on part of one or more greens. It is important to leave an untreated part to serve as a check. Up to now reports are conflicting and there is no evidence about the after-effects or the permanence of the results.

This fall and in early spring better types of bent should be introduced by plugging or by seeding, especially where poa annua is the only grass on parts or all of the green.

Where the soil is acid, lime should be

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used. This applies to greens, tees, and fairways.

The 1952 fertilizer program should be scrutinized and revised, if necessary. In this connection possible need for potash on greens must not be ignored.

On tees the selection of a good grass is of primary importance and on fairways the biggest problems are on the watered courses. Poa annua can be conquered, but it is not simple and cannot be accomplished in a single season.

Now is the time to rid fairways of chickweed. It is best done with sodium arsenite, or arsenic acid. The rate need not exceed 1½ to 2 lbs. per acre, but at least three and preferably four treatments should be made, spaced a week apart. Spraying can extend into November and later in some sections. Besides eliminating the chickweed, the sodium arsenite will take most of the clover.

Early next spring while the ground is honeycombed, bare spots in the sprayed fairways should be spot seeded with bluegrass, or with colonial bent on watered courses. A Cyclone seeder is the easiest way to seed.

GCSA Holds Two-Day Tourney Zoller, New Champion

Members of the Golf Course Supts. Assn. had two perfect fall days for their 11th annual tournament, Sept. 22 and 23 at the Columbus (Ohio) CC. The golfers teed off Monday afternoon following a fine buffet luncheon provided by the club. Play was divided into four flights with Emil Mashie, Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill., Mike Sopko, Pine Ridge CC, Wickliffe, Ohio, and Paul Schurtz, Ironton (Ohio) CC the favorites in the championship flight and perennial winner Jim McGunigal, Henry Stambaugh GC, Youngstown, Ohio and Charlie Jones, Indianapolis, Ind., favorites in the Senior flight.

Monday morning members and officials were taken on a tour of the experimental plots maintained by O. M. Scott & Sons at Marysville. Tuesday morning was devoted to discussion of challenging turf conditions found this year in various sections of the country with a probable forecast of what the future may have in store. Discussion leaders were Dr. Fred Grau, USGA Green Section and Dr. William Daniels, Purdue Univ. and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. Dr. Grau displayed several plugs of Meyer Zoysia Z-52 and Merion and Z-52 and asked cooperation in making experimental plantings of these newer grasses, particularly Z-52 in all sections of the country.

Prizes were awarded to the tournament winners by GCSA president, Malcolm McLaren, at the banquet following the final round of play. John Zoller, Berwick GC, Columbus, is the new champion, scoring 72-71—143. Runner-up was Paul Schurtz, Ironton (Ohio) CC, the 1951 winner. Mashie and Sopko were other low scorers in the championship flight. McGunigal was the winner in the Senior flight in a "sudden death" playoff after being tied by I. C. "Rocky" Schorr, Bluefield (W. Va.) CC.

Team winners were John Zoller, Paul Schurtz, Jack Kidwell, Beacon Light GC,

Team winners of the recent GCSA tournament representing the Central Ohio GCSA (Columbus area) are: (L to R) Jack Kidwell, Beacon Light GC; John Zoller, Berwick GC; Carlos McCracken, Elk's CC and Paul Schurtz, Ironton CC. In addition to the GCSA Team Award each received an individual prize of an electric clock. Zoller and Schurtz were winner and runner-up of the championship flight.

Columbus, and Carlos McCracken, Elk's CC, Rushton.

Handsome prizes were awarded winners and runners-up and especially designed green flags bearing GCSA initials were awarded the first 18 low gross winners.

Special commendation goes to committee members John Zoller, Jack Kidwell, Herman Groezinger, Clyde Hodson, William Utzinger and Lawrence Huber for their work in staging an outstanding, smooth running tournament.

Joe Dey Made USGA Executive Director

Administration of the United States Golf Assn. has been revised so general supervision of all USGA affairs, including those of the USGA Green Section is now vested in the new office of Executive Director. The title of Executive Sec. has been abolished.

Joseph C. Dey, Jr., who has been Executive Sec. since Dec., 1934, continues as Executive Director. John P. English, who has been Assistant Executive Sec., is the Asst. Executive Director.

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Year-end Maintenance of Playground Equipment

When the golfing season ends in the fall, the time has come for golf courses, located in northern climes, to give that important year-end attention to the swings, slides, Castle Towers and other children's playground apparatus located near the clubhouse.

In recent years, many golf clubs, recognizing the baby sitting problems, have installed tot lots to keep the youngsters busy at healthful and safe outdoor play while Pop and Mom are out on the fairways. Such investments have increased attendance, made the golf course a recreational center for the entire family.

With increasing costs making it difficult for everyone to keep within the budget, proper maintenance of this children's playground equipment has assumed greater importance to these golf clubs. Timely repairing and repainting of equipment will make it last longer, provide a greater measure of safety for the children who all enjoy swinging, sliding, climbing and whirling on play apparatus.

"All equipment should be brought into safe repair to start each season, of course," says Norman R. Miller, vice president of the American Playground Device Company of Anderson, Indiana and Nahma, Michigan. "Equally important, however, it should be maintained in perfect repair throughout the season."

"All playground equipment should be inspected at regular intervals during the season," Mr. Miller continues. "Frequent inspections will focus attention promptly on recurring acts of vandalism, the greatest single threat to recreational equipment."

Wood parts of apparatus should be carefully inspected. Badly worn, splintery or cracked slide siderails, swing seats or see-saw boards definitely are dangerous for the children, and should be repaired or replaced promptly. Swing chains, hooks, all hangers and frame fittings should be checked carefully, too; for badly worn parts or sections of apparatus are doubly hazardous.

All wood parts should be refinished regularly. In far too many cases, the only paint the playground equipment ever receives is that applied at the factory, even though this aparatus is subjected to exceptionally hard use and constantly exposed to rain, snow, sleet, wind, hail and dust.

Adds Years of Service

Years of extra service can be added to playground equipment by painting it frequently and regularly. American uses Wax-O-Namel, specially prepared for them by one of the nation's foremost paint manufacturers; but less expensive, outdoor enamel will do very well. It should be kept in mind that the protective paint coating will last longer, look much better if the wood parts are sanded reasonably smooth before they are refinished.

Worn slide chutes present a special problem. Few owners have the tools and equipment necessary to do a thorough, really workmanlike job of slide chute repair or rebuilding. Thus, if the siderails or bedways are badly worn and need to be replaced, it's usually advisable to ship the worn chutes to the factory for a factory-rebuilding job. Frequently, too, if the chutes have been in service for ten

years or longer, it is good economy to replace the worn chutes with new ones of all-steel construction. It's a good idea to send the chute fittings along with the chutes, so that the factory can properly locate them on the new chutes and thus greatly simplify the installation job.

If they are properly galvanized by the hot-dip process, the metal parts of playground equipment will present few problems until they have been in use for about eight years or more. If they were hot-galvanized originally, the pipe members, chains and malleable fittings tend to weather-out smooth and shiny as the years pass. Thus, you will require protective finishing only when signs of rust begin to appear. When that occurs, you need simply clean the metal parts with steel wool or emery paper, then apply two coats of any good grade of outdoor enamel or, if bright colors are not considered essential, with any standard asphalt-base bridge paint.

One sure way to protect equipment while it is in storage and to facilitate its re-installation is to store all the equipment in an orderly, organized manner, so that you will know where to locate the apparatus for each unit.

Another procedure which greatly simplifies installation, maintenance and equipment repair and replacement problems is standardization. An increasing number of school, park and playground systems, motels, resorts, drive-in theatres, orphanages and other institutions are standardizing on equipment of certain approved manufacturers.

In this way, replacement is greatly simplified, even though many years have elapsed since the parts originally were purchased. A desirable interchangeability exists in standard apparatus. There are no orphan units or parts, and finally, familiarity with the units and parts of one manufacturer makes installation, repair and maintenance work much simpler, less costly and much more efficient.

Untidy Front Too Common at Golf Clubs

Probably labor shortage will be offered as an excuse for the most common shortcoming GOLFDOM has observed at golf clubs this year but we doubt that the excuse will stand up.

There's a sloppy appearance of many country clubs as a member or guest comes into the grounds. Especially some of the smaller clubs have an untidy front with paper and other debris scattered around, the drives and parking spaces in bad condition, garbage and empty bottle cases conspicuous, the club entrance needing paint and carpenter work and the landscaping and lawns unkempt.

Women's Western Begins Its 50th Year

The Women's Western Golf Assn. starts its 50th year as an incorporated association at its annual meeting on October 8th at the Racquet Club in Chicago. This is the second time in its history the Association has had a Golden celebration. In 1950 the Golden Championship of the Women's Western Golf Association was played at Exmoor Country Club.

In 1903, after two golf tournaments held by the Western Golf Assn. (a men's group), the women golfers in and around Chicago decided to inaugurate their own association and to conduct the already well known Championship for Women of the Western Golf Assn. In July of that year delegates from 21 clubs assembled at 40 E. Randolph in Chicago and formed the Women's Western Golf Assn. This was one of the first groups of women to incorporate.

At the annual meeting this year Mrs. Lawrence J. O'Toole reported the activities of the WWGA for the year. 308 clubs all over the United States belong to the WWGA with over 3000 names listed in the Year Book with handicaps of 18 and under. Three tournaments were conducted by the Western this summer and were most successful. The WWGA 23rd Open Championship was played at Skokie CC (Chicago dist.) with a field of 126 players (the limit permitted). Betsy Rawls, a young professional, broke into the 12 years of wins by the famous big four (Berg, Zaharias, Suggs, Jameson) to win in a spectacular finish from Betty Jameson on the 36th hole.

The Junior Championship, the 26th, was played at Lake Shore CC (Chicago dist.) with a small but interesting field of girls from the ages of 7 through 17.

The 52nd Amateur of the WWGA was played at the Los Angeles CC. This is the only women's championship to have been played for 52 consecutive years. Entries were refused long before the date of the tournament as the quota of 180 was reached early in the summer.

October 8th at the Racquet Club, Chicago, Mrs. John Eliot Warner of Glen View Club becomes the WWGA pres. for its 50th year and will have on her board 46 directors from 17 states.

Women's Western Schedules Open and Junior Events

Women's Western Golf Assn., at its annual meeting, Racquet Club, Chicago, Sept. 8, announces 1953 WWGA Open will be played at Capitol City CC, Atlanta, Ga., June 15-20, and the WWGA Junior at Sunset Ridge CC (Chicago dist.) Aug. 10-14.

Promotion Is Pros' Big Job

By JOHN BUDD
Professional, En-Joie Golf Club
Endicott, N. Y.

Golf professionals cannot expect an uninterrupted succession of 1946-1947-1948, with heavy sales, easy money to be made, and some laxity in service. That was too easy. So 1953 is likely to be the Back to Normal year in our profession.

We cannot hope to sell much new equipment to a slowly expanding group of golfers. We must accelerate the recruiting of new players. We must sidetrack some of our high power sales appeal and get to the business of golf service to every member and to our club program in general to promote more play. We must defend golf's amateurism and build a stronger tournament program in the areas we serve. In 1953 we are going to need more pro service and less sales fanfare.

Most of the golf professionals of my acquaintance, and that covers a bit of ground, have enjoyed fine years of business. The income from pro golf has been higher than the years before the war. Those who know the value of saving a buck here and there need not fear for tomorrow's bacon and eggs. Therefore, when can the time be more opportune for nailing down our business and giving our greatest service year to golf?

The game needs our best efforts. To give a half portion of service is to sell short the very game that has provided us with a livelihood and has brought us so many thrills and so much satisfaction from our work. Now is the very hour for action. The amateur code is sagging at many of its seams. Who knows better about pros and amateurs than we professionals? New players are begging for a start in golf. Who can steer them into the right channels better than we pros? Some club members are failing to get the top service that is in balance with the other features of their fine clubs. Who can give this service better than the pros who serve these members?

Golf is crying for its chance to prove that it is indeed the broadest means of recreation for the American people. Who, better than we pros can promote this potential into a reality that will send our professional to heights never dreamed of before. This is a daily challenge to all of us. 1953 is the year when we should tackle these vital issues.

Sell Golf to More People

How? That is always the big word. The answer — tackle it and get the job done. Get more golfers by selling the game to more people. Provide opportunity to play by having good rental sets always available for the casual player. This player today may be your staunch club member tomorrow. Get more people to hit their first golf ball. Promote new player contests. Organize invitation events where each member brings a non-golfer for hitting balls at your club, putting contests, approaching contests and a few pertinent remarks about the fun of golf from the golf professional. Get them into the fold and lead them into the greatest game they will ever know. Remember the times that elderly members have remarked to us, "Gee, I would give anything, if I HAD STARTED THIS GAME TWENTY YEARS AGO. Look what I have missed." We can help millions of people discover this great game of ours. 1953 can be the year of the great pilgrimage to golf.

In its infancy today, the district golf range clinic will be tomorrow's great rallying point for golf. Here the local district pros can meet the people face to face and hand to hand. What a sales opening for golf! Get them to know the feel of a well hit shot. Explain how easily golf can be tried. Steer away from the old saying, "you must know how to swim — before you enter the water." In the great crusade to get more people to play more golf, get them to hitting balls in any way possible. After the bug has bitten them is time enough to shape their playing technique.

2-Minute Lesson

During the past two years in my group lessons I have tried a 2-minute lesson. This is aimed at the few people who come for a lesson and then drop out. I tell them that if they could never get more than 2 minutes of golf instruction here is what they should know. First; one end of the golf club is HEAVY, second that if right-handed, the left hand holds the upper end of the club with the right-hand below. Keep the hands close together. Place the club behind the ball and stand so you can easily reach the ball. NOW, BY SWINGING THE HEAVY END OF THE GOLF CLUB BACK AND THROUGH, HIT THE BALL. It is surprising how many players can do fairly well with such a brief and simple start.

Native ability and love of the game of