

A memo on golf and lower scores

By BOBBY JONES

Golf is a dynamic game — always moving ahead. Tournament players keep setting new records. Week-end golfers are scoring better. And the older player is maintaining his top game longer.

One big reason is that playing equipment is being constantly improved.

As an executive of Spalding, which for over twenty years has been making Jones clubs, I have sat in and helped on a new method of golf club construction that has already figured in some unusual accomplishments by players of all degrees of skill.

Basically what we have worked out at Spalding is a new way to control weight distribution (we call it Synchron-Dyned). This has enabled us to produce: (1) a set of clubs of uniform "feel," (2) a set in which every wood, every iron responds uniformly to the player's habitual swing. Both these factors encourage more accurate striking and result in more effective play.

Robt. J. Jones Jr.

SPALDING

Synchro-Dyned® Golf Clubs

BOBBY JONES WOODS AND IRONS . . . JIMMY THOMSON WOODS

Bent Greens O.K. in South*

By A. G. McKAY

Supt., Greenville (Tenn.) Golf and Country Club

IN TENNESSEE for several years, it has been my privilege to convert Bermuda greens to Bent. We have had wonderful success with our bent grass greens in spite of adverse weather. During 1952, we experienced a total of 19 days within a temperature range of 102 F. to 107 F. Ten of these days were consecutive.

We also experienced some flash storms which, coupled with high temperatures, often means death to bent greens. Yet we had only minor troubles on three greens, while all other greens came through the summer unmarred. I never expected bent grass to come through so long a period of hot, sometimes rainy, days. It was a tough year for bent grass.

Since the greens fared so well in 1952, I am ever so much more optimistic about the future of bent grass putting greens in the South. They should be no baffling problem in Nashville, Atlanta, Chattanooga, or Knoxville. The greens came through 1953 in fine condition.

Experience has taught me that good subsurface drainage is one of the most important factors in keeping bent grass putting greens in the South. Subsurface drainage is vital during excessive rainfall. I use the herringbone system of tile drainage, with drains spaced not more than 15 ft. apart, and a fall of not less than 1½ percent. The tile is placed to a depth of approximately 20 in. from the bottom of the ditch to the surface of the green. Between the tile lines, I taper the subsurface soil or clay from the center to the drainage lines on either side to insure against pockets, and to direct water into the tile system. Over the tile is placed 1½ in. rock, or rough gravel, or cinders. Then in spreading topsoil, I placed my boards on the peaks formed by the subsurface grading. In the area directly over the tile lines there is a depth of topsoil, of from 12 to 14 in., while at the subsurface peaks the depth of topsoil is never less than 8 in.

Built to Withstand Worst

All topsoil is mixed off the green in a cement mixer with a capacity of at least four wheelbarrows full per mix. The prepared soil is then hauled onto the green by

wheelbarrow. This phase of putting green construction is done carefully and exactly.

Greens have to be built to withstand the excessive heat of June, July, August, and September. All my efforts are directed toward seeing us through these trying months. Under our conditions, greens which are drained improperly will suffer. Surface drainage is another very important construction factor. Where it is possible to do so, I try to provide surface drainage in two or three different directions. It is most important to remove surface water off the green as well as from the subsurface areas.

Bent grass putting greens in the South must be checked carefully for signs of wilt during the hot summer months. During the torrid summer of 1952, we had to watch our greens very closely, working most of the time until 6:30 p.m. to hand spray our greens to keep the grass from wilting.

I feel that the practice of hand spraying, which supplements our usual early morning watering, means the difference between life and death of bent grass. A good preventative fungicide program is important, especially in the maintenance of bent grass putting greens in the South. I feel that anything I can do to prevent spore formation is of decided value in combating disease.

Also I apply PMAS weekly for the control of crabgrass and dollar spot, etc., on my greens. By using PMAS all winter, when conditions permit, we have been successful in keeping out *Poa annua*.

Conversion Methods

My methods of construction are not too complicated. First, I remove Bermuda sod from the green with sod cutter. The sod is then hauled to tees or wherever needed on the golf course. Second operation: the topsoil is removed from the green. The depth of soil removed depends on how deep the Bermuda roots have penetrated. I have never found Bermuda roots in the clay, which is the base of most greens in Tennessee.

When soil has been removed from green, I immediately start screening soil, using two rotary screens of ¼ in. mesh. It takes two days to screen enough soil for one green, approximately 80 yds.

(*1954 GCSA conference address)

While screening is going on, another crew is putting drains and tile in subsurface of green.

When the draining is finished, the screened soil is then mixed with 50 to 60 percent sharp sand. The mixing is done in a cement mixer, then wheeled onto the greens between boards not less than 8 in. deep. A straight edge reaching from board to board is then pulled the length of the boards, making a level surface and assuring you of not less than 8 in. of soil on any part of the green.

The green is then watered to settle the soil. When green is dry enough, it is rolled both ways. After the rolling, peat moss and fertilizer are spread over the green and raked in. I use 5 bales of peat to a green of 5000 sq. ft. Then fertilizer is spread over the green and raked in, using 400 lbs. of Milorganite, 150 lbs. of 5-10-5, 50 lbs. of phosphate, 25 lbs. of potash. This is all raked in together, then the green is watered.

When the green is dry enough, I spray it with a solution of 1½ gals. of PMAS and 1 pint of 2,4-D. The green is then watered again. PMAS and 2,4-D are most important because they keep crabgrass and other weeds out of green until bent grass is established. I have planted stolons a few hours after fertilizer and PMAS have been applied to greens, with excellent results.

This method of building greens has been

most successful. Golfers of the South who thought, and said, that it could not be done, now enjoy putting on good bent greens.

Iowa Holds First Club Operations Clinic

Iowa golf club operating problems were brought before 80 department heads and officials of the state's golf clubs at a clinic held at Sunnyside GC, Waterloo, Ia., April 26.

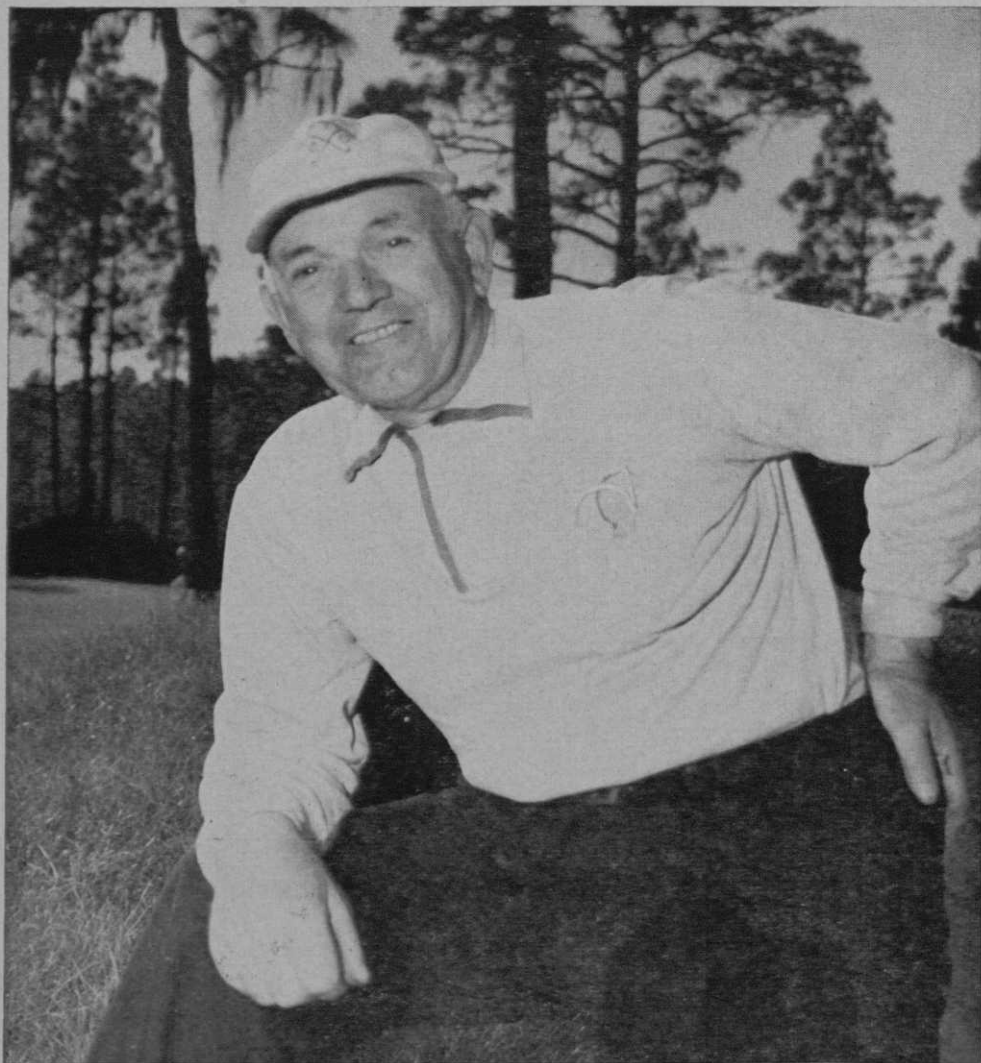
The meeting was patterned after the Northeastern Wisconsin Golf Assn. annual operating clinic. Ray Cary, mgr., Elmwood CC, Marshalltown, Ia., headed the group of managers who originated the conference which brought together Iowa supts. headed by Herb Klontz, pres. of their association; pros headed by Dave Bonella of Ottumwa CC, regional vp of the PGA; and golf club officials headed by Pres. Robt. B. Nelson and Green chmn. Fred Hagy of the home club.

Understanding and cooperation between department heads and officials for more efficient operation of the clubs was the theme of each address. Prof. Harvey Lantz of Iowa State College talked on course problems needing particular attention in Iowa, Sy Graham of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission spoke on the trends in course maintenance, and "Plug" Osborne



GREENS DIAGRAM MAKES INSTRUCTIONS CLEAR

Norman Johnson, supt. San Jose CC, Jacksonville, Fla., and pres., Golf Course Supts.' Assn. of America, has in his shop greens diagrams that enable him to plainly explain to workmen exactly what work he wants done of a routine nature on the course. Johnson says these diagrams make certain the jobs are done right and save a lot of his time needed in personal supervision of certain labor performances.



**"I've used Tersan[®] long enough to know
we can count on trouble-free greens"**

—says Robert Duguid, Superintendent, Timuquana Country Club, Jacksonville, Fla.

I WAS superintendent of the Evanston (Ill.) Golf Club for 25 years before coming to Florida and I've leaned heavily on 'Tersan,' F-531, and their honorable ancestors. I have never had cause for the least bit of regret, either! A year and a half ago, when I took over

the Timuquana course, it obviously had not had 'Tersan' Turf Fungicide. In my book, that's about the worst thing that could happen to greens. Despite the fact that this is a year-round course and we can not close the greens for long, we have brought them back quite well!



"We are now redesigning a number of holes, adding traps and changing drainage, but with 'Tersan,' in eight weeks we can put a green back in play with no apologies.

"We use 'Tersan'—with fertilizer and without—every other Monday. We figure 3 pounds of 'Tersan' to every 3 greens, and I can flatly state we never get discoloration."

* * *

If you're not using "Tersan" Turf Fungicide, try it this season. You'll want the handy three-lb. package. If you try it on your worst green, you'll use it on all your greens. The best test of "Tersan's" effectiveness is the one you give it.

If you prefer to use a combination of "Tersan" and a mercurial fungicide, add Special "Semesan" to your sprays. And, Du Pont Soluble Plant Food can also be added to feed grass at the same time. It's packed in 50-lb. bags especially for golf courses.



On all chemicals always follow directions for application. Where warning or caution statements on use of the product are given, read them carefully.



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Order **Tersan**[®] Turf Fungicide

from your golf supply dealer.

Better Things for Better Living...through Chemistry

of the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. told how pros operate in ways that develop more golf play and greater interest and satisfaction at clubs.

Dave Bonella, who has handled course maintenance and house management as well as the pro dept. during his 45 years at Ottumwa detailed how department and committee heads and club officials could work together to give members largest returns for their membership and dues money. Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM's editor, presented the over-all picture of golf club operation as an exacting, important business.

Mayor Pat Touche of Waterloo, a golf enthusiast, spoke on what businesslike golf operation means to a community.

Golf was played in the afternoon and the clinic participants and wives of some of them enjoyed dinner together in the evening. Mgr. Leo Cafferly of Sunnyside gave the party entertainment and instruction by setting up a long table on which were ingredients of a Caesar salad and asking the diners to mix their own. Results were wonderful to behold.

Pro John Brooks and Supt. Joe Sanders of Sunnyside presented, along with Cafferly, a fine demonstration of cooperation in country club operation.

The Iowa group is planning a fall meeting along the lines of the first session. Many who wanted to attend the first meeting were kept away by urgent spring work at their clubs.

SODIUM ARSENITE

(Continued from page 40)

improved the general appearance of the turf, but at the same time stimulated markedly the growth of pearlwort.

In view of the effectiveness of sodium arsenite when used in combination with a supplemental fertilizer, treatments, employing five different rates of this material, were applied at bi-weekly intervals on a pitching green located at the Rainier G&CC in Seattle. These treatments, initiated in late summer of this year, should give a more comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of this material under actual golf-use conditions.

Another herbicide, namely a sodium salt of 2,4-D, has also shown exceptional promise as a control of pearlwort. In a series of treatments conducted in 1952 at the Tacoma G&CC, this material, when applied in a dry mix with an organic fertilizer, checked completely the growth of pearl-

wort. However, the dry or powder preparations of 2,4-D that were so very effective in these early tests are no longer available on the market. Recently, a small quantity of a similar 2,4-D material was obtained for experimental purposes. A series of test plots which will include the application of this material at several rates will be sent out in 1954.

The information that has been obtained thus far strongly recommends the use of sodium arsenite ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz./1000 sq. ft.) applied in a dry mix with a supplemental fertilizer. The importance of the supplemental fertilizer cannot be over-emphasized. The desirable grasses in a golf green must be strengthened and invigorated to resist any new infestation of pearlwort and to crowd out existing clumps of this weed that have been weakened by the application of the herbicide.

Sodium arsenite, when applied in dry form at regular two-week intervals, has weakened the pearlwort thereby contributing to its gradual disappearance without burning or otherwise disfiguring the green.

Supts. 1956 National Meet at Long Beach, Calif.

Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. of America will hold its 1956 turf conference and equipment and supply exhibition at Long Beach, Calif., Feb. 5-10.

Award of the convention was made to Long Beach at a GCSA Executive Board meeting held late in April at St. Louis, Mo.

REMINDS PLAYERS



Sundown Ranch CC, at Scottsdale, Ariz., has its members cooperating in course care now that it's using unique reminder signs. The above "replace divots" sign shows the club pro's wife, Betty Mackey showing "Fan Fare" cartoonist Walt Ditzen a display of a divot somebody didn't replace.



FEE COURSE SHOP WITH BIG BUSINESS LOOK

Ike S. Cheves, professional at Big Oaks GC, Chicago district semi-public course, refitted the shop to give it the high class look of big stock and the air of being on the inside with golf's pro notables. Neatness of displays and convenience of arrangement put shop visitors in a favorable mood for buying the instant they step into the place. When anyone enters the shop there's a "Special Today" sign on some merchandise right in front of the door. In one of the pictures shown it was a bag cart. That sign always moves merchandise. The shoe corner in Ike's shop is a good example of how to make effective use of small space by neat and handy arrangement. Ike is the keen-looking young man in white in the pictures.





3RD ANNUAL



1954

**Beat Ben Hogan...
and win this medal!**

Ben Hogan will play his round at Baltusrol, where two weeks later he will defend his Open championship against the country's best. But what will he shoot against every golfer in America, on National Golf Day? One bogey could cost a thousand medals. Will you win one of them?

1952—14,667 golfers beat Ben Hogan's 71 at Northwood



1953—12,310 golfers beat Julius Boros' 70 at Oakmont

NATIONAL GOLF DAY—JUNE 5

More fun than ever this year! Thousands more golfers—good, great or lucky—are set to tee off against Ben Hogan, 1953 winner of the Masters, the U. S. Open and the British Open. Again LIFE Magazine and the PGA are giving you the chance to challenge the champ. He plays 18 holes at Baltusrol, Springfield, N. J.; you match your score, with your handicap, on your home course, against Ben's. (Women get 7 strokes extra.) Only \$1 to enter (caddies 25¢). All proceeds are evenly divided between the USO and National Golf Fund, Inc., for worthy causes connected with golf. LIFE pays all tournament costs. Across the U. S., Canada and wherever else people play golf—all eyes will be on Ben Hogan—and *you* on Saturday, June 5. Watch for the official National Golf Day score sheet at your club and be sure to sign up *early*. You may win an "I Beat Ben Hogan" medal!



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LIFE

Los Angeles Plans Big Public Golf Future*

By WM. JOHNSON

Supt., Los Angeles (Calif.) City Golf Courses

PUBLIC GOLF has a bright and assured future. The public golf courses will lead the advance. This is especially true of those that are governmentally owned and operated as distinguished from those that serve the public but are privately owned. Several factors enter into this consideration: first, governmental property is tax free, and second, land in flood-basins cannot be subdivided.

The cost of building a course and the taxes handicap construction of an adequate number of private golf courses in metropolitan areas. Far-sighted city fathers who have acquired property of sufficient acreage to permit construction of golf facilities will do well to get busy and provide the public with needed courses. No one connected with golf should ever feel apologetic for boosting construction of more golf courses. Public courses are self-supporting and the privately owned golf enterprises contribute substantially to public welfare.

The problem involved in providing golfing facilities includes not only the development of golf courses on low land but also the saving of existing privately owned courses from what appears to be inevitable subdivision. Some of these courses are strictly private and others, though privately owned, permit participation by payment of a greens fee.

One solution of the problem might well be the acquisition of courses whose subdivision is inevitable by city or county and continued operation of the properties for golf. The major problem here is securing sufficient funds at any one time for the capital investment. Acreage in a single course of 18 holes nearly always exceeds 100 acres, and the capital cost, therefore, in metropolitan territories is usually over half a million dollars per course.

Continued operation of improved public golf properties does not present a difficult problem because traditionally public golf has been supplied at a fee which is sufficient not only to pay for the cost of operation, but also to yield a surplus. Many cities

can attest to this experience. The surplus revenue has often been used to develop additional golf courses.

Golf Outside City Limits

The need for additional golf courses in all big cities is unquestioned. This need, however, must be appraised in relation to the whole metropolitan area rather than solely within the municipal boundaries. This is so because much of the open land suitable for golf development is found in unincorporated territory beyond the boundaries of cities. Courses in unincorporated areas may be used by city residents as conveniently as courses within the city. Travel to and from golf courses will more and more be via the freeway or parkway system, which is usually laid out in relation to the whole metropolitan area without regard to municipal boundaries.

Those responsible for planning and directing public park and recreation programs are changing their ideas regarding recreation areas and are planning facilities for all people who can use play areas. Among the adult activities being stressed, golf is at the top of the list.

The number of golfers grows as the population has increased. High-schools and colleges have introduced golf as a student activity. Golfing by President Eisenhower and Vice-President Nixon has added to the popular appeal. Improved freeway transportation and greater leisure have increased the public demand for the opportunity to play golf. The facilities of local government are far too inadequate to meet this demand and privately owned courses also generally are inadequate for the need.

Within the Metropolitan area of Los Angeles, for example, from the boundary of Long Beach on the south, to the north and west boundary of the San Fernando Valley, there are 20 fewer golf courses, public and private, now than there were 25 years ago. The reason for this loss is that private courses have yielded to residential subdivision. When it became more profitable to subdivide acreage in an expanding residential real estate market, many private

(*1954 GCSA conference address)