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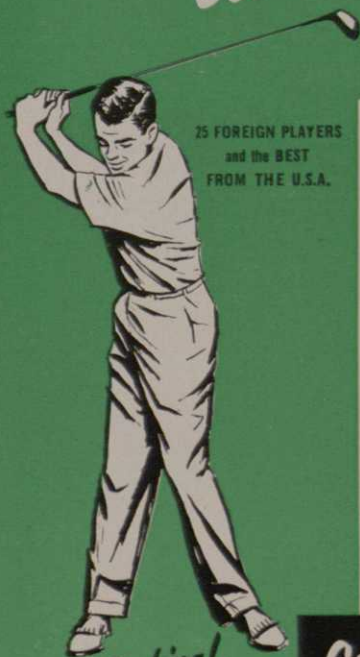
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Father and son at the Country Club of Virginia, where Tom Dawson, Jr. (left), is superintendent. Tom, Sr. (right), was paying visit between winter duties at the Palm Beach (Florida) Country Club and summertime supervision of the Fenway Golf Club, White Plains, N. Y.

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BETTER THINGS FOR BETTER LIVING . . . THROUGH CHEMISTRY

alone, blue grass has come in and is markedly assuming the aggressor's role.

Bents in Iowa

For a good many years Colonial bent has been used in the seed mixtures in Iowa; five to 10 percent. Colonial bent seems to have a place, but very often creeping bent has developed in sizeable areas where soil conditions are suited to creeping bent. I know of one golf course where the original seeding was bluegrass, but today creeping bent dominates the turf. The fairways are flat, partially shaded and probably enjoy the benefits of natural subirrigation.

We have been rather favorably impressed with Highland bent seeded alone in 1952. The plots are well filled and attractive, and do not seem to be injured by dry weather. In bluegrass mixtures, the general effect is satisfactory.

Under Iowa conditions it appears doubtful whether the creeping red fescues add anything to turfgrass that is to be grown in open sunny exposures. In shaded areas the fescues and the bent grasses are regarded as essential as is *Poa trivialis*. On eroded hilly areas, a generous fertilizer program is regarded as essential no matter what the grass cover may be.

At Ames we have a plot of common *Z. japonica*, a broadleafed strain that has withstood the winters for four years. The sod is dense, but the slow starting in the spring and the early "frost-off" are undesirable characteristics. Meyer, Z72 and Z73 will require at least three seasons to fill out these plots. Judged by our experience with the zoysia grasses in our experimental plots, it is our opinion that the zoysias will not be popular. A hardy zoysia that will green up a month earlier, and be less easily frosted off in the fall is needed if zoysia is to succeed in lawns and on fairways and tees in Iowa.

Since 1939 more than 30 strains of bent grasses have been grown in replicated plot tests at Ames. These bent grasses were in part, C1, C7, C15, C17, C19, C27, C32, C50, C51, C52, C114, C115, ten strains from Pennsylvania, and local acquisitions, also Polycross from Pennsylvania.

These plots were stolonized and are mowed at 3/16 in. and maintained as would be a golf green.

Those strains which have been hardy, fine grained, and desirable as close clipped bent grasses include C1 Arlington, C19 Congressional, C27 Collins, C52 Old Orchard.

Of these, Arlington, Congressional and

Old Orchard have been the choice of Superintendents in Iowa for the past five or more years. I know of no one in Iowa who has built a golf course in recent years who selected either Washington or Metropolitan for greens.

Our plots of Polycross bent are too new to comment on, except to state that the color is a dark rich green, the leaves are narrow and show evidence of making a green of fine grained appearance.

Bluegrass will for many years be the most used turf grass throughout the great areas from New England to the Pacific coast in that region commonly defined as the cool season grass area. This area extends far northward into Canada. Merion is becoming better established as a worthwhile grass every year. The evidence is that Merion will not be entirely satisfactory as far south as is Kentucky bluegrass. Seed supplies of Merion are still too limited and too expensive for widespread use. Seed supplies of Merion are, however, increasing every year.

It is recognized that the fescues have a place in building turf under special conditions and for special uses. On the fertile black loams of the middle west it is a question whether the creeping red fescues add anything to turf for the open areas on lawns and fairways. There is no question of their value in shady areas.

In bent grasses, Arlington and Congressional bents are dependable, and mixtures of the two are performing exceedingly well. Old Orchard is the choice of many superintendents and has a wide range of adaptation.

There is no such thing as "best" so far as bent grass strains are concerned. Many local factors of soil, drainage, and management enter the picture and for this reason certain strains may be favored in local areas. For example C15 Toronto and C7 Cohansey are performing exceedingly well in states other than Iowa. Neither have been satisfactory in our test plots. Seeded greens in many locations have been satisfactory. The Polycross contribution of the Pennsylvania station gives new hope that superior seed is going to be available, and thus perhaps simplify and lower the cost of greens establishment.

Better grasses are needed. Grass breeders have a field that is wide open.

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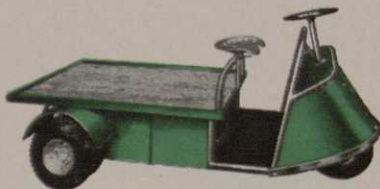
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What Pro Shop Men Should Know About Club Repairing

By **JOE WOLFE**

Asst. Supt., Golf Club Dept., Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

JUDGING from the increasing amount of golf clubs being received by the club manufacturers for minor repair work, changes, and alterations, it appears that club making and club repairing by the professionals is fast becoming a lost art.

There exists probably more than one reason for this: First, we have no definite program or facilities for training the present crop of shop-boys, assistant professionals, and professionals. Second, most shop-boys and assistants desire tournament glamour, and falsely think that in becoming a good player, they automatically line themselves up for a top grade club job.

Naturally, the senior experienced professional knows that this thinking is far from straight and correct. The senior professional knows that playing ability alone, will seldom, if ever, land a first grade club job for the aspiring professional.

Most club manufacturers are overburdened with production problems and are undermanned in skilled help. Consequently, any club or clubs sent in for reconditioning, or for any minor, ordinary repair job must, of a necessity, take anywhere from two to six weeks to be completed.

It is not that each club takes anywhere near that length of time to complete—it simply involves a tremendous amount of packaging, scheduling, typing, and pricing. Certainly, neither the club professional or the manufacturer is going to make or build up friendship with this type of service.

All manufacturers are doing their utmost to remedy the situation, but it appears to be an ideal opportunity for the alert professional to gain the confidence and approval of his members by the simple process of emphasizing and quietly advertising the fact that his shop is capable of making first grade repairs when necessary.

Knowledge and Tools Needed

On the other hand, in defense of the shop-boy and assistant professional, nothing can be more discouraging than trying

to do a competent repair job on golf clubs without the proper tools. Next to this, nothing is more frustrating than endeavoring to do a repair job without the proper knowledge concerning the component parts of a golf club.

We certainly would not expect any mechanic, whether he be automobile, radio, or building mechanic, to make changes or repairs without an adequate and thorough knowledge of their trade. By the same token, we cannot expect the present day shop-boy or assistant professional to be able to do a first-rate repair job when he does not have complete, thorough knowledge of the items and operations that go into modern club making.

The real club-maker is vanishing. Present-day manufacturers, both large and small, are simply assemblers. All of the items that go into the make-up of a club are made at various convenient locations (up to exact specifications, of course), brought together under one roof and assembled. That is modern club making in its simplest phase.

Therefore, any person who gains an intimate familiarity with each part that goes into a golf club, and is reasonably handy or skillful with his hands, can soon become an expert club repairman.

Having this intimate knowledge of the parts and construction of a club, also helps the repairman to more quickly locate or diagnose the reason for the trouble.

As an example: Endeavoring to locate a rattle in a club, the wise shop-boy or assistant professional knows that certain manufacturers use wood plugs at the butt end of the shafts. He also knows that climatic conditions, wet or dry, could cause shrinkage and swelling, helping the plug to work loose and cause the rattle.

He would know that certain other manufacturers do not use wood plugs and therefore would not need to check under the grip on that particular make club. Rather, he would check the head for swelling. Most persimmon heads, no matter how they are treated, will absorb moisture and

swell and shrink, thereby loosening the face and sole plate screws and causing the rattle to be in either one of those spots. The same swelling and shrinking can cause the lead underneath the sole plate to work loose, also causing a rattle.

If, perchance, this particular rattle is caused by the wood plug working loose, then the only recourse is to remove the cap, the grip, and replug the shaft with a snugger, tighter fitting plug, clinch it and put an inch or two of gummed paper around the listing where the cork meets the plug (to give it a smooth taper), and then regrip. In an emergency, of course, it is possible to take a sharp pointed punch, insert it through a grip perforation, and reclinch the plug in two or three places. At best, however, this is both a temporary and dangerous method, often resulting in the cracking of the shaft and complicating the existing trouble.

Plug Repair Procedure

The wise shop-boy should know that the first step in removing a grip in order to replace the wood plug, is to remove the small round insert which is a separate piece of plastic and is merely pressed into the cap, and then unscrew the screw which is fastened to the wood plug. He

should know that if the same screw is replaced, it will soon break loose and cause another rattle. For that reason, he should have on hand the same type of screw, but slightly longer, which will get down deeper and fasten onto fresh wood. In our particular manufacturing method, our standard cap screw is $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 7, and the oversize, or the screw which should be used on cap repairs or cap replacements, is sized at 1 in. x 8.

The shop-boy should know that in removing or unwinding the grip, he must be extremely careful so as not to tear the listing to shreds. Being careless in this means costly replacement and a waste of precious time. Building up to size, which when done in a pro shop, with tape, either paper or friction, adds a tremendous amount of weight to the club and certainly destroys the balance of it.

Some grades of clubs have cork underlisting, which will not tear to pieces when the grip is removed, but other grades have a paper listing which sticks to the grip and rips out in various places when the grip is unwound. This condition can be prevented by carefully loosening the grip from the top end of the club and unwinding it by pulling straight down alongside the shaft, and NOT pulling it



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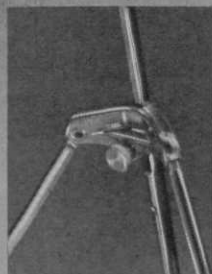
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straight out like a roll of paper.

The ugliest part of a repair job is often the crude method most shop-boys use in fastening the bottom end of the grip with black plastic tape. No matter how careful he is, the job simply does not compare to the manufacturers' grip band. Therefore, when removing the grip, pull straight down slowly until reaching the grip band; hold onto the grip band with the left hand and reverse the pull on the grip, pull up toward the butt end and ease the end of the grip out of the inside of the grip band, leaving the band intact. It will then be a simple matter to regrip, place a dab of glue on the inside of the grip band, and slip it over the end of the grip, giving it a tapered, finished, factory-looking appearance.

If the shop-boy discovers that, due to swelling and shrinking, the sole plate screws or the face insert screws have worked loose and cause a rattle, naturally he will remove the plate and check the lead under the sole plate. In most instances, it will suffice to take a large countersink or large Phillips type screwdriver and strike the lead a sharp blow, spreading it out against the wall of the hole fastening it. Then, when replacing the sole plate screws, he should peg the screw holes with dowel rods before replacing the old screws. If dowel rods are not available, an oversize sole plate screw should be used so that the plate is firmly anchored. In our manufacturing, we use a $\frac{5}{8}$ in. x 7 sole plate screw and when repairing, we are able to use the next larger size— $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 8, thus insuring a tightly fitting, permanent sole plate.

The same method and thinking can be used when a face screw breaks loose. If a dowel rod of the proper size is not available, then simply turn to a larger size screw. In our case, we use a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 4 face screw, and on a repair we are able to switch to a 1 in. x 5.

Removing Face Inserts

Quite often, the fibre face insert is pulled away from the head and is raised above the face proper. The experienced shop-boy knows that he must remove the face insert, clean out the face and remove bits of grass and dried dirt, and then check the face for warping.

Chances are that it is warped and should be sanded or filed flat and level before gluing and returning it to the wood head. If the insert still protrudes above the face, it can be carefully filed down flush with the face proper, being cautious not to remove the bulge and roll

which was originally placed in the club by the manufacturer.

This filing naturally removes some of the face scoring, and the good club man knows that face scoring, both on woods and irons, should be kept prominent and clean because it plays an important part in the ultimate result of a good golf shot. Therefore, to replace the face scoring, all good shops should be equipped with at least one blade of a jeweler's saw, such as used by the manufacturers. With this tool, it is a comparatively simple matter to replace the face scoring on the wood.

Next, he would sand it lightly to remove any rough edges, paint it with clear shellac (NOT orange shellac), and have the club ready for action in a very short time.

Many a fine wood club has been ruined due to the application of a file to the face by an inexperienced man. First of all, it is imperative for the shop-boy to realize that the face of every good wood club has a certain amount of bulge and roll. Each manufacturer endeavors to maintain a predetermined amount of bulge and roll to the face of their wood clubs. In our particular operation, we recommend a $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. bulge, and the same amount of roll.

The horizontal measurement of a face, in factory terminology, is considered the bulge, and the vertical measurement is considered the roll. This simply means that if we were to draw a circle with a



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Fred Slyder, Pres., Chicago Dist. Golf Association, (second from left) presents check in the amount of \$2500 to provide free tea and coffee to service men and women at the USO and \$1000 to send 20 sons of veterans to the American Boys Camp, Coloma, Wis. Money was contributed by Chicago area golfers. Receiving checks are (L to R) Charles Aaron, Pres. of the Chicago USO Club, Stanley Van Dyk, American Boys Camp, and looking on (R) S. T. Jessop, V-P, CDGA.