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green. The green putts true. The turf is dense without nap and is free from ball marks, weeds, disease scars and animal and mechanical injuries. The surface is resilient enough to hold shots without foot marking. The cup is well placed and well cut. The height of cut is such that the player does not have the jitters but putts with confidence. The turf is dark green as color plays a large part in the judgment of the golfer.

Now, having played the course, we quit with the closing thought that much more could be written and that the supt. should remember that in striving for a perfect golf course condition he should prepare it for the player's sake and not for the turf's sake.

* * *

Perfection Beyond Technicalities

Harry Meusel, supt. of the Yale course at New Haven, Conn., in outlining the specifications of a "perfect" course, balances the technical and aesthetic factors in a manner that will get supts. and chairmen thinking. Here are some of his thoughts:

The artistic and good general grooming phases of maintenance are too often neglected. In our observation of golf clubs over many years and in all parts of the country the failure to seize every opportunity to make a pleasing picture of courses and clubhouse grounds is serious, extensive and inexcusable. Particularly at smaller clubs is there neglect in presenting the course and clubhouse grounds in their best dress.

Harry Meusel continues:

A golf course is made and maintained for the golfer. The degree of success can be measured by how much the course gives the golfer what he seeks — consciously and unconsciously. Golf is more than sport alone. The game provides an abundance of aesthetic enjoyment and relaxation from tension. Among its potential contributions are: (1) moderate exercise; (2) fresh air (with sunshine when possible); (3) greenness; (4) Nature made comfortable; and (5) the asset of beauty, wherein I believe lies a clue to perfection.

Perfection goes beyond the technical problems of maintenance. One can hardly consider such a thing as perfect maintenance, considering the many uncertainties of the profession — weather, disease, labor, money. Despite all these uncertainties, good maintenance is possible, and I will go so far as to say that a golf course in perfect condition is often possible. But we cannot expect a course to perfectly satis-

fy a golfer's desires if it is not maintained at its best. Therefore, I shall begin with my specifications for a well maintained course:

Greens are of first importance, because the play centers on the greens. They should be: (1) smooth to the ball; (2) soft to the sole; (3) green to the eye; and (4) capable of holding a shot with no excessive bounce.

The tees are of next importance, as they start the game, often setting the mood. They should be large enough that the golfer does not have a feeling of being restricted in his movements. Good color, low cut, ease of inserting a wooden tee are all requisites for good tees.

Fairways are next to be considered, for they comprise the bulk of the course. They should have a uniform height of cut, and uniform density. A thick turf is most desirable.

Banks and rough should also be uniformly cut. One can hardly call a course in perfect condition, if the rough is 2 in. high on one hole and 2 ft. high on another.

Traps should be soft and well-sanded, raked and with no unplayable lips.

There should be general uniformity throughout the entire course. The greens should be uniform with one another, and likewise, the tees and fairways should be uniform. This uniformity should be carried out even to the roughs.

The appearance of a course is often neglected, though the practical maintenance is duly attended to. A golf course in perfect condition is one with all potentialities realized. These potentialities may exist in views; good grooming techniques; wooded areas; landscaping; and unique tests to the golfer, such as water holes.

If a course doesn't offer views or other scenic beauty, open up and develop these places for the golfer's aesthetic enjoyment. The areas surrounding the greens should be groomed to their best. A green with a tangle of brush, a dead tree, or sparse grass around it will not look like much, regardless of its condition. If there is woodland, underbrush and low branches should be cleared. There should be a flowing uniformity throughout the course, with strong points emphasized and weaknesses improved as much as possible.

The first impression a golfer gets is at the entrance of the golf course. His second impression is often of the clubhouse. All too often these two very important places are sadly neglected — almost entirely over-looked as features of the course. They should be properly landscaped. Land-

scaping also should be used unobtrusively throughout the course.

Two courses in perfect condition will not be equal. Each course has its individual characteristics; and some courses have far greater potential than others. Some courses are limited in area, and some are monotonous in terrain; others provide scenic panorama, or individual character to each hole. A course with low potential might be brought into perfect condition, with no possibility of becoming an outstanding course — yet it will be thoroughly satisfying in itself.

My opinion of a golf course in perfect condition is a course at its individual best. It is carefully and properly maintained, with its individual potentialities fully developed.

* * *

Six Essentials of Perfection

Ford Goodrich, supt. Flint (Mich.) GC, believes in simplifying to the attainable elements of perfection of golf course maintenance. He says the specifications of a course in perfect condition would be:

Freedom from weeds.

Greens uniform in color and texture; cut $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Fairways of good color and thick enough to give the ball a perfect lie.

Roughs cut to 3 in.

Traps clean and well-raked.

All trees and shrubs well trimmed.

* * *

Near Enough to Keep 'Em Happy

Howard H. (Pop) Beckett, widely known and successful supt. of the Capital City Club, Atlanta, Ga., is of the opinion that a hundred golfers would define perfect maintenance a hundred different ways but all of them would be kept happy in Georgia when:

Greens get special care and grooming and are cut $\frac{1}{4}$ in. or $\frac{3}{16}$.

Fringes get cut at 1 in. once or twice a week.

Fairways are cut at 1 in. once or twice a week (depending on weather).

Rough is cut once or twice a month at 3 to 4 in. (governed by weather).

Traps are raked twice a week (depends on amount of play) and all growth and loose impediments are cleaned out and banks are cut at least once a month (also dependent on weather).

Fees are cut twice a week at 1 in. and the banks trimmed once a month (more or less according to weather).

Markers are changed twice a week or



SCARECAT — The supt. of the St. Cloud (France) CC used a collection of odds and ends to rig up 18 scarecats which kept the crows off his greens last summer.

oftener (according to amount of play) and cups are changed often and placed in fair locations.

The whole course should be cleaned in spring and fall; trees trimmed, dead material picked up, shrubs and undergrowth cleaned out and the course put in such condition that the player can find his ball and play his shot.

Perfect condition, adds Beckett, depends on management, labor and equipment. "Unless a club has an elastic budget and management that knows what the most desirable playing conditions are and can move in any emergency to attain and maintain such conditions, perfect playing conditions are entirely a matter of luck."

* * *

Eye Appeal A Prime Factor

Marion Mendenhall, supt. of grounds, Kenwood CC, Cincinnati, O., where weather seldom is especially favorable to maintenance of perfection on a golf course, believes that course condition is primarily appraised by the eyes. Marion remarks:

Webster lists perfect as "without defect or blemish." Because of the number of items involved I don't think there will ever be a perfect golf course. We all remember a few years ago when we saw a well groomed course and thought it was near perfect. But in the same condition today it would not be considered so.

I have come to the conclusion that when we say a course is in perfect condition we mean it appeals to the eye. I believe that eye appeal is far more important than the actual playing qualities of the turf. As an example a green with 57 varieties of bent will never look as nice as a green of one good bent and yet the putting condition could be equal.

Before we can have a course in near

perfect condition I think 5 important items are needed.

1 The course must be designed by an architect who is an artist as well as being a practical man.

2 Weather conditions must be most favorable.

3 The supt. must be an industrious, intelligent man.

4 Budget must be more than adequate.

5 Green chairman must be aggressive, course employees of the highest caliber.

I think the perfect course must have all greens of the same kind of bent and it must be aggressive, fine-leaved and have a pleasing contrasting color with the surrounding turf area. The greens must be so constructed and maintained that they will hold a properly hit ball without being kept saturated. The height of cut and growth should be such that a ball can be stroked firmly for there is nothing so bad as a skiddy green where even the good pro is afraid to touch the ball. With a well fed green I think $\frac{3}{16}$ in. cut is about right.

The perfect tee must be large, level and planted with an aggressive grass (bent or Bermuda). It must receive about the same treatment as the greens and cut at $\frac{1}{4}$ in. high with no nap or sponginess.

Fairways should be cut at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. and be very thick but not nappy. Weather conditions and the budget control the condition of the fairways. With adequate budget over a period of years all fairways could be near perfect.

I think that rough should be thick and cut at a height so that it will give about a half stroke penalty. Weather and soil condition of course would govern the height of cut.

Of course it takes years and a good budget to get a course in near perfect condition for the development of trees and improvement of soil conditions and turf takes time.

I think what we are shooting for is a well landscaped, well groomed turfed area. Eye appeal is what we seek.

* * *

Taylor Boyd, supt., The Camargo Club, Cincinnati, a club nationally famed for its condition, believes that "perfection" in a golf course is when the condition and beauty of the course contribute most to the player's enjoyment. He declares that even tournament golf should be fun.

Says Boyd:

The standard of a well maintained course should be very simple.

The tees should be firm with the grass

cut at $\frac{1}{2}$ in. so that the player has control of a shot. Fluffy, soft tees are bad.

Turf on the fairway should be cut short so that the ball sets up and gives the player a good lie and again has control of the shot.

Traps should be raked smooth and the sand firm — not hard — but not so light and loose that a high shot explodes a crater in the sand.

Greens should be firm and fast — not hard and slick. A player should expect a putt to stop on any slope and not continue to roll of its own momentum.

The rough in close — say 20 yds. — should cost the player a half-stroke. The outer or deep rough should be very severe.

A course should not be tricked up for even a tournament as exacting as a national championship. Such a tourney is to prove who is the best player under the conditions his fellow golfers find normally. In some instances all a tournament proved was who was luckiest or had the most trick shots.

Perfection Is An Art

Gordon Brinkworth, supt., Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, like Mendenhall and Boyd, is one of a family long and well known for successful work in golf course maintenance.

Gordon brings out the point that will be appreciated by superintendents and experienced chairmen: You can't have nearly perfect maintenance unless your budget is ample to take care of every detail. Even then Nature may defeat the effort toward perfection.

Brinkworth comments:

In my opinion a perfectly conditioned golf course is non-existent.

There are many of us who strive for perfection and sometimes feel we are within its reach only to have it snatched out from under us by Mother Nature or some other factor.

A perfect green is often achieved but to put together 18 of them all on one golf course is rarely accomplished, and the greens are the paramount consideration in rating any golf course.

Money determines the standard and calibre of condition, therefore I would have to say that there are several degrees of perfection to consider with the absolute as goal.

Coupled with 18 uncontaminated, uniform greens, should be 18 level, uniformly turfed tees, plus fairways that provide conditions that allow a ball a certain amount

(Continued on page 104)

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SPALDING

SETS THE PACE IN SPORTS

"Classiest Pro Shop" Is Label Attached To Belle Meade

By BILL SHERMAN

SIMPLE beauty and smart fashion have won the title of "one of the classiest pro shops in the country" for the Belle Meade CC shop, Nashville, Tenn. That was the remark of pros who were seeing the shop for the first time last spring when BM was host to the Western Amateur.

"The place is amazing!" That's the verdict today, but before last February, when the new shop opened its doors, the clubhouse at Belle Meade was in a sorry state. When the antiquated facilities fell to the remodeling axe, swung to the tune of \$250,000.00, the result was a new all-attached unit with central air-conditioning, gas heat and ceiling sprinkler system that will quash any fire seconds after the first flame.

Besides the eye-opening pro shop, the new section embraces a completely carpeted locker room containing an oak-chaired men's grill and a steel-racked caddiemaster's shop.

The pro shop is now strictly class. The overall design and layout was accomplished

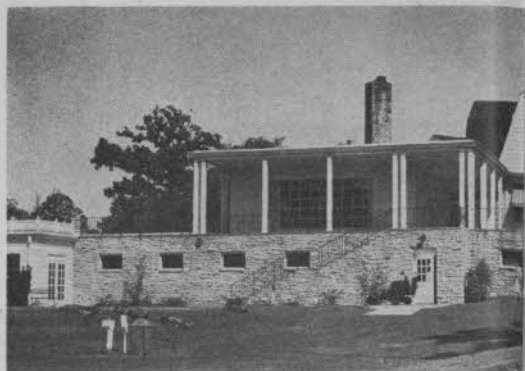


*More Belle Meade pro shop
pictures are on page 50*



through the combined efforts of the General Products Co., suppliers, Brush, Hutchinson and Guinn, architects and Henry Lindner, the pro who was hired by Belle Meade when the club drew up revamping plans.

The shop is 39½ ft. long and 26½ ft. wide. Its connecting doors lead to Lindner's comfortable office (12 x 13 ft.), the caddy shop, first tee and a hallway to the men's and ladies' locker rooms. Walls are panelled with red oak, stained silver gray, which complement the deeper-hued all-oak display racks with magnetized door catches. The soft gray theme holds steady in the wall-to-wall carpeting; contrasting balance is picked up from the liberal use



Belle Meade's new clubhouse addition. Henry Lindner's pro shop (left) faces first tee. Air-conditioned locker rooms and men's grill are connected to the shop (center).

of wrought-iron racks that hold such items as summer straws, ladies' blouses and conservative rep cravats.

Black-and-white pictures of BM's most scenic sites are fitted around the blond TV set and matching lounge chairs. The only glass showcase in the shop hugs the back wall and houses such things as golf balls, tees, gloves and smaller accessories.

Such a background demands top drawer merchandise and there's plenty of it at Belle Meade. Well-lit open club and bag racks are interspersed with ladies' tailored shorts, cashmere blouses and sweaters, alpaca and silks.

14-Year Veteran

Pro-on-the-spot, Henry Lindner, is a hard-working, soft-speaking Southerner whose career goes back to 1942 at Valdosta, Ga. Following four years with Uncle Sam's military forces, Henry returned to his chosen profession, this time at Waycross (Ga.) CC. Before coming to Nashville, he served at such clubs as the East Lake CC (Atlanta), Charlotte (NC) CC, and Augusta (Ga.) CC.

Lindner feels an important factor in smooth shop operation is a close working harmony. It's no problem at Belle Meade.

The assistant pro of 17 months is a serious, industrious ex GI, Chuck House who, Lindner says, has all the ability and pleasing disposition found in "a real outstanding pro."

The Caddiemaster shop is under the careful eye of John Lee Bates, known only to club members as "Pap," whose unofficial tenure dates 'way back to 1918.

As BM's sales volume continues to zoom

(Continued on page 105)

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Belle Meade Pro Shop



Above—Sunlight blends with overhead lamps for cheerful lighting effect. Sportswear and equipment are displayed in open red oak racks. Note unique portable wrought iron display basket (left foreground).

Right—Lounge chairs (left & center) are arranged for TV viewing. Sportswear and shoes are pretty well concentrated in this corner of the room. Door at left opens on first tee.

Below—Area in front of club display is kept open so that golfer will have enough room to try clubs if he wants to check them for weight and balance. Sports shirts and alpaca and knit polo shirts are in rack at right.

