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## Payola Waived; All Funds Go to California Charity

The ticklish pro-amateur charity tournament situation that more or less obligates a pro to send in an entry fee to "save face" regardless of how he feels about participating, was adroitly solved this spring with the playing of a Northern California PGA event at Richmond, Calif. The usual entry fee of from \$25 to \$40 was reduced to only \$15 because everyone involved with the tournament agreed to do away with many of the flourishes that usually are connected with these affairs. However, in addition to entry fees, the



Pat Markovich, Tom Fry, Bob Gutwein and Ted Neist turn over check to Msgr. McKenna.

pros who took part in or supported the tourney donated \$30 worth of merchandise from their shops for amateur prizes.

To keep down the cost of running the tournament and thereby turn more money over to the charitable cause, the pros agreed not to take any prize money and they handled the donation of all prizes. Even the medals that were awarded were donated by the pros. The Richmond club, of which Pat Markovich is pro, waived green fees and at the conclusion of the day, a no-host dinner was held. Coats for committee members and other forms of payola also were done away with.

### \$4,200 to Boys' School

Every cent (\$4,200) of the money taken in was turned over to the Rt. Rev. Clement J. McKenna to be used in badly needed repair work at St. Vincent's Boys School in San Rafael. The success of what has been called "the perfect charity tournament" insures that it will be held next year.

The committee that staged the event was composed of Tom Fry, Sam Mateo Municipal GC, Bob Gutwein, Lake Mer-

ced G&CC, Daly City, and Ted Neist, Sequoyah CC, Oakland. It was assisted by the Northern Calif. GA, the San Francisco Examiner, a golf manufacturer's representative, the Lake Merced club and the Northern Calif. PGA. A strong publicity buildup preceded the tournament and extra effort was made to get all the area pros to support it. Many of these who couldn't get away to play in the charity event sent in their entry fees and also donated merchandise prizes.

## Black River Juggles Markers; Comes Up with Senior Course

The impact of Senior golf is being felt at Black River CC, Pt. Huron, Mich., where the medium length layout now is designated as the "Senior course." There is still the Championship distance as well as the Ladies distance. The three courses are designated by the juggling of the tee markers. On the first hole, for example, the Championship distance is 370 yds., for the Senior it is 358, and for the woman player, 350.

According to the Black River pro, Emil Beck, it is hoped that more play will be switched over to the long course so as to spread the wear and tear over the entire teeing areas. Some new tees have been built for the Senior course but distance of holes, in such cases, has not been excessively reduced.

The idea for the change at Black River came from Fred L. Riggins, pres. of the National Golf Fund and the club's most prominent Senior player. So far as is known, the Michigan club is the first to take this kind of action to recognize the elder golfer.

## Zaharias Memorial Tournament Benefits Cancer Fund

The second statewide Babe Didrikson Zaharias Memorial tournament for the Calif. div. of the American Cancer Society will be played from Aug. 6 through 14th. Lawson Little, who organized the 1959 tourney, is honorary chmn. and active chmn. is Robert A. Roos, Jr., prominent San Francisco amateur. Amateurs who take part will post their scores against professionals who will play exhibition matches on Aug. 14th. Players who beat the pros will get awards. Entry fees of \$1 are being charged. Last year \$15,000 was raised for the Cancer fund by the Zaharias Memorial committee.

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# GRAU'S ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS



If you have questions about turf care, please send them to Fred Grau (right) c/o Golfdom.

## Topdressing — Coarse vs Fine

Recently at a midwestern club four rebuilt greens went bad. Bent disappeared leaving only poa and dandelions. Other greens were in good shape. All had been managed identically. One of the questions I received from the club was: "Are two inches of soil enough?" I requested a detailed description of conditions along with cup cores cut in half from top to bottom for examination. (No chemical tests can be made by this dept.)

When the cores and letter arrived everything became clear. The four rebuilt greens (that went bad) had been very well prepared with plenty of good coarse sand, then topdressed with native soil until 2 ins. had been applied. The local soil is a fine-grained, dark silt loam of excellent quality. The grass on the greens built on native soil were in good condition with roots several inches deep — no trouble, no complaints.

As the grass on the four new greens developed, it needed topdressing. All greens were topdressed with the same material which was the good dark local fine-grained soil. It worked fine on all the greens except the four that were rebuilt on a base of coarse sandy soil. The more these four were topdressed, the worse they got. The cores that were sent showed 2 ins. of the fine-grained soil on top of the coarse sand. Not a single root had reached the sand. In the 2-in. topdressing layer the roots were superficial. Under the same treatment all of the other greens produced good bent turf with good healthy white roots several inches deep.

### Water in Small Pores

It can be easily demonstrated that water is held more firmly by small pores than by large ones. A fine-grained soil resting upon a bed of coarser material (sand) will not permit any soil water to percolate down-

wards until the pores in the fine soil are completely saturated. In a saturated condition there is no air left in the pores. When this situation occurs daily (with each watering) the grass roots become oxygen starved. Soon the only live roots are those near the surface where a little oxygen becomes available as the excess water moves downward. Sooner or later the bent grasses become so weakened that poa moves in without competition. Other weeds invade easily.

The question arises, "Was it wrong to rebuild with coarse sand?" The answer is, No! Had the four rebuilt greens been topdressed with material identical in texture and composition with that in the green, roots would have been deep and good healthy turf could have been maintained under conditions of good drainage and aeration.

### Uniform Column

Then we ask, "Was it wrong to topdress with fine-grained soil?" The answer is "Yes!" "But", you say, "the silt loam topdressing on the other greens worked fine." Yes, because the texture and composition of the topdressing were precisely the same as that already in the other greens. The effect was simply to increase the depth of the uniform column of soil. It is uniformity of texture that helps to promote good drainage and aeration. A layer of any other kind disrupts free movement of water and air.

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dressing had been somewhat coarser than the existing soil? Results would have been good providing the same texture of topdressing was continued. The coarser material with larger pores would permit rapid downward movement of moisture into the finer-textured soil below. The net effect would be to have a dry surface for a greater part of the day. This is good for playing purposes and good for the grass.

The club also asked: "Could the situation be improved by more topdressing, thus increasing the depth of the silt loam soil over the sand?" The answer is a cautious "Yes." But it would take years, and the greens would be poor and hard to maintain until a depth of 8 to 10 ins. was reached. Under usual practices this would take 20 to 30 years.

#### Re-work from Nursery

The solution suggested was this. Start a sod nursery of Penncross creeping bent sufficiently large to re-sod the four bad greens. Use no more than one pound of Penncross seed to 1,000 sq. ft. (many superintendents get perfect stands with one-half pound). Incorporate ample fertility in the seedbed. When the nursery sod is ready to strip and lay, remove the poor sod from the four greens. Completely and thoroughly cultivate the sandy soil to at least a 10 or 12 in. depth, incorporating the surface silt loam soil that had been added as topdressing until the mixture is uniform from top to bottom. Then incorporate adequate fertilizer, finish grading and lay the new sod.

#### Deadline on Greens

**Q:** My question concerns management practices on newly established greens in preparation for first play in July, 1960. The greens in question were stolonized C-1 and C-19 established in the fall of 1959. They were topdressed once last fall and by July 1st will have received three or four topdressings. They have produced very good turf; however, there seems to be too many prostrate runners. Only in isolated areas are the greens showing the stubby upright leaf sprigs required for putting. Cutting height is now around  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. with plans to reduce this gradually to around  $\frac{3}{8}$  or  $\frac{3}{16}$ .

Should the horizontal runners of C-1 and C-19 be lifted by brushing or with the comb teeth on the greensmower so they may be cut off and a vertical leaf blade growth encouraged, or should the desired conditions be sought by further topdressings? We have only about six weeks until our proposed opening date. How long, under the ideal growing conditions now existing in our area, will it take to produce the desired leaf surface area if we begin lifting and cutting off the tips of these runners or stolons?

None of us involved in the management of this new course is familiar with the final establishment practices to follow in new greens. Greens have not been aerified nor have we used any sort of vertical cutting machine on them. (Pennsylvania)

**A:** By all means encourage the dense upright growth by further light topdressings and adequate fertilization. To lift the horizontal runners and remove them would delay the development of dense turf. The runners take root at the nodes and new leaves form to develop density. Topdressing encourages rooting at the nodes. It sounds as though the planting procedure left many bare areas that can be covered only by

(Continued on page 70)



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## Swinging Around Golf

(Continued from page 22)

Chantilly National G&CC, Centreville, Va., opened its 18-holes on June 4th . . . Other openings: Shawnee CC, Milford, Dela., May 30th; Dover (Dela.) AFB, July 4th; Springfield (Va.) CC, July 4th . . . All of these clubs were designed by Ault & Jamison . . . Turf Valley CC, Elliott City, Md., opens new clubhouse.

To start work soon on Eastern Shore Y&CC, Onancock, Va. . . It's going to be 9 holes expandable to 18 . . . 300 members lined up for Hanover CC, Ashland, Va., that will soon go under the bulldozer . . . Jim Reynolds, supt. of Hermitage CC, Richmond, is consultant . . . Briery CC, Keysville, Va., has been under construction since April . . . 9-hole private club in planning stage at Rocky Mount, Va. . . "Digest of 1960 CMAA Conference," can be obtained from Edward Lyon, executive secy. of CMAA, 1028 Connecticut ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., for \$6.00 . . . Indian Meadows CC, private 18, recently went under construction at Westboro, Mass., to plans of Geoffrey Cornish.

Rehobeth Beach (Dela.) CC soon to begin construction of 18-hole course . . .

Murray-Roberts designed and will build the layout and Tom Dawson will serve as pro-supt. . . . Frank Bartolec has 9-hole, Par 3 building in Transfer, Pa. . . . Borland CC, 9-hole, Par 3, near New Wilmington, Pa., opened in May . . . Par 3 and miniature, with lights, going in at Barboursville, W. Va. . . . James Adams is the owner . . . Except to start construction in Aug. on Linden Valley CC, 18-hole course and family recreation center located between Pittsburgh and Washington, Pa.

Planning to build 9-hole semi private course near St. Albans, W. Va. . . . Ground has been broken at Forest Lake CC for private 18 near Great Falls, Va. . . . Pool is expected to be ready here by end of this month . . . Ault and Jamison designed the course . . . Paul Erath is the pro at Laurel Valley CC, Ligonier, Pa., 18-hole private club that opened in May . . . Dick Wilson handled the blueprints.

Jerry Breckenridge graduates from University of Arkansas College of Business Administration to pro job at Fayetteville (Ark.) CC . . . Jerry's father, Ernie, has been pro at Hot Springs CC for many years . . . Jerry was on Razorback golf team . . . Jack Bayard goes to Coshocton (O.) CC as mgr., succeeding William E.