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Haig Ultra

WALTER HAGEN GOLF

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Amputees Offer Consulting Service to Industry

In conjunction with its 10th tournament which will be played at Baltusrol GC, Aug. 14-15, the National Amputee Golf Assn. has mailed its brochure telling of rehabilitation through golf to numerous industries throughout the country. The release by the Assn. calls attention to National Golf Day, funds from which are allotted to the Amputee organization, and offers consulting service which will help both industry and individual amputees.

The brochure, edited by Dale S. Bourisseau, 120 S. Franklin st., Chagrin Falls, O., secy. of the Amputee organization, gives a history of the NAGA tournaments, the first of which was held in 1949, describes the Junior program and gives a rundown on several of the amputee star golfers. Many of these fellows shoot consistently in the 70s and participate in several other sports besides golf.

The current champion is Randy Womack, a pre-dental student at Eastern New Mexico University where he is No. 2 man on the golf team. He dethroned Bob Sandler, a Des Moines, Ia., lawyer, last year after the latter had won three titles in a row.

Members of the National Amputee organization are either minus a leg or arm or both—but their motto is the courageous "Amputees? Sure—Handicapped? No!"

The NAGA "angels" are listed as Jack Ahern, vp of Manufacturers and Traders Trust Co., Buffalo; Ray Britt, pres. of Central States Industrial Supply Co.; and Henry Picard, winner of 40 major U.S. tournaments, including the 1939 PGA

PGA Increases Minimum Purse for Championship to \$50,000

The 42nd PGA Championship, to be played at Firestone CC, Akron, O., July 21-24, will carry a minimum purse of \$50,000. This was announced in mid-April by Harold Sargent, pres.

This is the first time the pro organization has established a minimum purse this large for its Championship event. In 1959, however, \$51,175 in prize money was paid out although the minimum had been set at only \$30,000.

Record breaking advance sales of tickets in and around Akron and unusually heavy sales of program advertising have made the increased guarantee possible. A pre-

Christmas campaign produced unprecedented ticket sales of \$116,000 which since have gone up to more than \$120,000. Advertising sales had reached \$130,000 by mid-April.

Akron's Junior Chamber of Commerce is co-sponsor of the PGA Championship.

The most lucrative Championship prior to the 1959 event was at Llanerch CC in Havertown, Pa. in 1958 when the PGA paid out \$37,400 in prizes although only \$30,000 had been guaranteed.

USGA Booklets Outline New Rating Procedures

Revised procedures for rating courses under the USGA system are outlined in two booklets recently published by the Association.

"The USGA Golf Handicap System for Men," a 48-page booklet, outlines the revised system and explains the method for computing men's handicaps.

"The Conduct of Women's Golf" explains the revised rating system for women, the handicap system, organization of women's committees and tournaments procedures. It is a 62-page booklet.

Earlier USGA editions of these booklets dealt with the same subjects but they were based on a now revised course rating system. Object of revision was to increase national uniformity in ratings.

Basically Unchanged

The USGA handicap system is basically unchanged. However, substance of handicap decisions in the past two years has been included in the system.

The principal change in the rating system is that yardage determines preliminary ratings and such preliminary ratings are in twentieths of a stroke. Heretofore preliminary ratings have been in round numbers.

Yardage rating charts for both men and women have been adopted. Based on these charts, holes of the same length will have the same preliminary ratings no matter where located. Then adjustments in the ratings will be made for significant factors such as hazards, slopes, fairway widths, prevailing wind, width and depth of putting on green and normal condition of the turf.

There are no significant changes in the ultimate rating factors. The main amendment is the introduction of yardage charts as a uniform starting point for course rating.

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Court Defines Driving Range as Intended Line of Flight

By WILLIAM JABINE

Just about everyone who ever has played golf is familiar with the injunction, "Do not drive until players ahead are well out of range." It is so familiar, so much an integral part of the game, that to most golfers its meaning seems perfectly clear.

But an accident that happened at the Tri-City GC of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., raised a question in regard to the precise meaning of the familiar phrase. The Wisconsin supreme court finally was called upon to say just what it means and how much territory it covers.

The third hole at the Tri-City club runs from north to south and is 256 yds. in length. The fourth hole is 132 yds. long, runs from south to north, and its tee is about 100 yds. northwest of the third green and about 30 feet away from the strip of rough separating the fairways of the two holes. This brings it within range of a sliced ball driven from the third tee. Two players who had holed out on the third green were walking toward the fourth tee. When they had nearly reached it a member of a foursome driving from the third tee sliced his drive. When he saw the direction his ball was taking he yelled "Fore." But it was too late and the ball hit one of the players near the fourth tee.

Player Ahead?

In the lawsuit which followed one of the chief points at issue was whether or not two players at or near the fourth tee came within the definition of players ahead who were within driving range. Having just left the third green they were unquestionably ahead of the foursome on the third tee. The fact that one of them was hit seemingly placed them within driving range. That was the contention of the plaintiff. The defendant replied that the rule was not meant to include players on another hole, no matter how close they might be, as they were clearly not within

the area in which the ball was intended to be driven.

The Wisconsin supreme court, in its decision, upheld the defendant's view. It ruled that the rule was framed to cover only the hole that was actually being played and should not be extended to cover territory outside the intended flight of the ball.

Warning Too Late?

There were several other issues in the case. Among them was the question of whether the warning, "Fore," was shouted too late. On this issue the plaintiff called the club pro who testified that it was his custom to call "Fore" before driving from the third tee in order to warn players on the fourth tee. However, as the court observed, his testimony was contradicted by that of several members who had played with him. They testified that they had not heard him utter such a warning on the occasions when they were playing with him. The defendant was absolved of negligence and the territory covered by the old rule was not judicially enlarged. (Rasmussen v. Richards, 95 N. W. 2nd 791.)

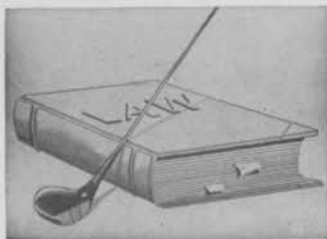
USGA Public Links Tourney Slated for Honolulu

Forty-two qualifying sections have been established for the 35th USGA Amateur Public Links Championship which will be played July 11-16 at the Ala Wai GC, Honolulu. A total of 150 qualifiers will be eligible for the Championship with the field being further reduced to 64 following a 36-hole qualifying round. Six rounds of match play will determine the ultimate winner.

Entries are open to male amateurs who since Jan. 1, 1960, have been bona fide public course players. Exceptions are those who had the privilege of playing courses at educational institutions, Army or industrial courses. Entries must be received by the sectional qualifying chmn. no later than May 19th.

A player in the Championship proper may accept, from funds administered by his sectional qualifying chmn., money for first class round trip travel fare between his home and the Championship site and up to \$10 per day for living expenses for a reasonable length of time.

William A. Wright, 23-year old Seattle Negro golfer, is the defending champion. He and the 1959 runnerup, Frank H. Campbell of Jacksonville, Fla., are exempt from sectional qualifying.



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Growing Traffic Calls for Better Maintenance Routine Planning

By **JAMES E. THOMAS**

Supt., Army Navy Club, Arlington, Va.
President, GCSA

Expanding golf activity continually confronts supts. with the problem of performing their daily maintenance chores with the least possible interference to play. Supts. do not want to cause their members any more inconvenience than necessary. Yet, if a course is to be kept in good playing condition, somewhere in the picture time must be provided for routine maintenance. Much of what is recurring work has to be performed daily during the active growing season. This also happens to be the time of the year when play is heaviest.

Should our courses cease to be groomed to the ultimate of perfection, the pleasure of playing over them no longer affords enjoyment. The upkeep of tees, greens, and fairways is constantly with us; grassy swards have to be mowed, watered, and fertilized or else they soon deteriorate in appearance, quality and playability. The ever growing popularity of the game confronts the behind-the-scenes operator with the question of how to meet the challenge and still keep operations functioning smoothly?

Start With Member Relations

Good public relations in golf club management is more important today than ever before. You may ask the question, what bearing does this have on the maintenance of a course? Without it, the going can be very tough. It definitely has a place in the picture. To the supt. a good member relations program is just as important as having a well groomed course. It can spell either success or failure. A very necessary part of the picture is a close working relationship between the club mgr., professional and the supt.

A job well done should be a supt's goal at all times and should be the first step toward the establishment of a good program for course upkeep. It is one of the tools for the promotion of good relations and gains us respect and recognition from the golfers. This makes the path a bit smoother and easier for us to explain the whys and

wherefores of those necessary little work details which occasionally interfere with a player's round of golf.

Lights on Equipment

How do we perform our work in the face of competition from heavy play? It is simply a matter of where do we go from here? Some of the answers are to equip our machinery, such as mowers, tractors, and trucks, with flood lights and do the work in the evening after play is over. Some of the courses in the East are doing this.

Another idea is to start the day's work in the pre dawn hours. The plan appears to have much merit. Tee and fairway watering could be done in the evening after play is over. This could be followed by the watering of greens and their aprons around 3 or 4 a.m. The next operation could be the raking of sandtraps and the changing of putting green cups. As dawn was breaking, all mowing operations could start. Work interferes somewhat with play. Likewise, golfers slow down workmen, causing them to lose much valuable time. A complement to the success of the plan could be a fixed opening hour for the starting of play. But it would have to be enforced. All of this means that some thought and study must be given to the planning of our work, and the supervision of play. A complete understanding of maintenance knowhow is no longer the prime requisite required for the conditioning of our courses. There are many other component parts in the picture: i.e., too many players and too few available courses. Over-saturation now exists at many courses and the remedy is not an easy one.

Many older clubs throughout the country are burdened with play which is far too heavy for the facilities they started with many years ago. On such courses we find many tees and greens that are too small to stand up under the traffic of heavy play. Here there are too few available locations for the setting of tee markers and the changing of cups. The necessity of using old tee and cup positions over and over, and too soon again after their original placement puts them back

(Continued on page 110)

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GRAU'S ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

Superintendent Recognized

The American Home magazine for April 1960, carried an article, "Want a Lawn Like a Putting Green?" by Theodore A. Weston, garden editor. The course described in it was Williams Country Club, Weirton, W. Va., where Charles (Chuck) Onoretta is the pro-supt. Excellent photographs, accompanying the well-written script, showed the relationship between golf courses and home lawns — their sim-

For the last month, Fred V. Grau has been in the National Orthopedic Hospital in Arlington, Va., where he underwent spinal surgery in mid-April. He expects to be released in time to return to the turf plots around June 1st.

ilarities and their differences. Clear cut explanations of fertilizing, watering and management systems gave readers an idea of a supt's skills and abilities. This well-deserved recognition of a supt. will be of great interest and value to the millions of lawn lovers who would like to have a lawn that looks like a golf course at its best.

Heavy Soil in Greens

Q. Under separate cover I am sending you soil cores from three greens. I would like to have your analysis of these samples. Our greens appear good but they have that rusty look when you look at them from the side. I thought it was thatch because we closed last Nov. 1st and then had a warm month and quite a lot of growth, with no mowing. This spring I have verticut once a week, hoping it would help. I'll appreciate any help you can give me to solve this problem. (Ohio)

A. Upon examination of the soil cores from the three greens, I find, first of all, that the soil is very heavy. It has far too much clay in it, thus holding an excessive amount of water. Apparently the roots are having great difficulty penetrating the soil. There is a considerable amount



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

of thatch and mat on the surface. The No. 4 green had about an inch. This could cause you a great deal of trouble because fertilizer and water and air will have extreme difficulty in getting through this matted layer so that it can benefit the roots below. Right now there really aren't any roots below this matted layer.

You should keep on with light verticutting in order to continue to reduce thatch and mat. In addition, you're going to have to do considerable deep aerating and topdressing with sandy material so that as much as possible works down into the holes. It is going to be quite essential to get as much sand as possible worked into these greens for better aeration and drainage.

Recommends Nitrogen Feeding

In addition, I would suggest that you consider going on a good nitrogen feeding program. The time to make a good application is when the greens are open and at the time you are working sandy material down into the open holes. You will get the maximum material down below the matted layer to encourage deeper rooting.

The rusty look apparently comes from poor nutrition. It could be the beginning of a serious disease problem, a *Helminthosporium-Curvularia* complex. This is rather common when greens are poorly aerated, have heavy clay soil and tend to stay wet. By lengthening the periods between irrigations, you can let the surface of the greens get quite dry, meanwhile keeping good moisture in the sub-surface. This will encourage deeper rooting. There may be a few squawks from the standpoint of hard greens, but these shouldn't be too serious. The sandy material that you work into the aeration holes will help to hold a shot even when the surface is dry.

(Continued on page 106)