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Standard Length New Jersey Club Goes Under Arcs

By RON STREIBICH

A step toward solving one of golf's major headaches of not enough hours for play and extremely congested courses was made at the end of August with the opening in Sewell, N.J., of the world's first lighted regulation-length golf course. The pioneering lighting installation seems certain to trigger a nationwide trend to golf at night.

Tall Pines GC, 18 miles southeast of downtown Philadelphia, has lighted its existing nine-hole, 3230-yard, par-35 links. The layout is the first regulation-length type to be illuminated. Other floodlighted courses are miniatures, pitch-n-putts and Par-3s which do not offer the full wood shots and long par-4 and -5 holes.

Illuminating the links are 121 General Electric 1000-watt clear and color-improved mercury floodlights. Engineers concede the lighting isn't quite as good as that of daytime, but the white ball reflects light well, making it stand out against the black sky and green grass. The floodlights project 10 "footcandles" on the tees and greens and five "footcandles" on the fairways. Most main downtown streets are lighted to one "footcandle".

Instead of sinking at least \$200,000 into a new nine, Tall Pines owners, Peter



Ten "footcandles" of illumination shine on this golfer as he pounds one out of a Tall Pines trap. This isn't quite the equal of midafternoon lighting, but it comes close to it. (Right) The Pete McEvoy, father and son, own and operate the country's first standard lighted course.



McEvoy and his son, Pete, Jr., decided to spend \$63,000 to light their present nine. They figure to draw a multitude of local people who want to avoid the weekend delays or play during the week, after work and dinner. The course will be open to the 10,000 members of area PGA clubs at night and during the day confined to Tall Pines' 300 members.

"The technical and economic success of Tall Pines should encourage a nationwide string of illuminated courses which will make golf as much a nighttime endeavor as bowling, baseball, tennis, softball, football and all other spectator and participant sports," predicts Larry Dengler, manager of marketing for GE's Outdoor Lighting Dept., Hendersonville, N.C.

GE, a leader in the illumination of driving ranges, Par-3s and other golf facilities, recently introduced to the golf and electrical industries the idea of golf at night on regulation-length courses. This was done after special engineering and marketing teams determined that regulation night golf is technically feasible, economically advantageous and greatly needed.

This May Be The Solution

From the need standpoint, it was observed that during the past five years the already overcrowded game has experienced a 50 per cent rise in number of golfers, to around 5.25 million playing at least 15 rounds per year. During the same period there's been only about a 25 per cent increase in facilities. The obvious solution was to light existing courses and add golfing hours. This, it is reasoned, is

of much more benefit and is less expensive than buying additional land (if available) to construct new courses.

Studies show that any profit-motivated course can recoup its investment for a lighted nine in at least four years and thereafter earn a minimum of \$15,000 more per year. The McEvoy's term this estimate "extremely realistic."

Demonstration of advantages of night golf to course officials has resulted in many owners and operators ordering or planning to order lighting systems for installation in the near future, according to Dengler. The new idea is being considered by clubs of all types and location. Country clubs, privately-owned public courses and municipal layouts are all interested, especially the "munys" which comprise only 15 per cent of the country's courses but handle 40 per cent of the play. Courses in the South find it advantageous because of the many golfing nights per year. Northern operators are interested because their shorter season tempts people to play more golf.

Light Back Nine First

Dengler said some courses will consider illuminating 18 holes, but most will probably initially light the back nine. Private country clubs may first light only the last two or three holes, permitting members to play an hour longer each night.

Tall Pines has one par-5, six par-4 and two par-3 holes. The par-5 is 520 yards, making it the world's longest illuminated
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Vasco Tells How Architectural Change Has Affected Teaching

Handicap records indicate there has been notable progress made in golf instruction in the past several years. An interesting aspect of this development is in women's golf. Women club members take more lessons than men. The women have more time for instruction. Many observers believe that the standard of women's golf at private clubs has improved faster than that of men's in recent years.

Golf instruction is a difficult art. The accomplished instructor is primarily an artist rather than a scientist. He usually is a man whose aptitude has been recognized, encouraged and developed by an earlier artist in golf instruction.

Johnny Vasco, professional at the Lehigh CC, Allentown, Pa., is a very successful instructor whose schooling came

as an assistant and pupil of two of the old masters of golf teaching: Stewart Maiden and Willie Macfarlane.

Vasco was with Maiden at Rockwood Hall CC, Tarrytown, N.Y., in 1934 and 1935. In 1928 and through the early '30s, Johnny was with Macfarlane at Old Oaks CC, Purchase, N.Y. He says: "The association with these two great teachers has been invaluable to me. I hope that my teaching reflects and extends their ideas. I am sure that my success in getting pupils to understand and respond is due to the guidance I got from these two gifted teachers who taught me how to teach."

In the accompanying article, Vasco compares features of Stewart Maiden's and Willie Macfarlane's teaching and those of today's successful tutors.

By **JOHNNY VASCO**

Professional, Lehigh CC, Allentown, Pa.

Stewart Maiden stressed the correct grip. There is nothing unusual about this. Every successful instructor knows that the grip is the very first fundamental of golf. Maiden took a great deal of care and time to see that a particular grip was the one best suited to the individual. It could be overlapping, interlocking or the so-called natural grip. The important thing was for the player to place his hands on the club in a way that would let him swing so as to get best results.

The next thing Maiden did was to show the pupil what to do with his feet and legs, explaining the necessity of making the feet and legs working properly to get the body into the shot. He made the pupil understand that he couldn't make a full swing unless the body was moving correctly.

Maiden believed that the left arm should be fully extended and firm at the elbow, causing the muscles of that arm

and of the left shoulder to be contracted. If not, he maintained, those of the right shoulder will be. Contracted muscles go to work when action is started and cause the right shoulder to swing around so the player usually has a tough time keeping his head in position. Therefore, Maiden stressed the importance of keeping the left arm firm and as straight as possible, believing it can prevent a lot of trouble.

As for correcting faults in individuals who have been playing the game for varying periods, it was a case of individual treatment for each player. Maiden's idea to correct individual faults was to ask the pupil to execute a certain movement that would automatically correct his fault. But he did not go into any detailed analysis of the fault or its correction. He said "trying to think about a half dozen things at one time will ruin anybody's golf swing. Keep it simple — one thing at a time". Maiden also told me: "You can tell a pupil the same things that I do, but until you gain respect as a teacher, no one will listen to you".

Willie MacFarlane believed that instructions should vary with the physical makeup and temperament of the individual. He

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Vasco

Six Years of Tests Help Turfmen Pin Down Some Secrets of Overseeding

Effectiveness of various grasses and preparation and fertilization methods for Southern turf are examined

By O. J. NOER

When Southern greens were planted with common Bermuda, overseeding was with ryegrass. At a few courses, so-called Italian ryegrass was preferred even though seed was more costly. The preference was based on the supposition that the imported seed produced sturdier turf and was more resistant to disease. Before long, domestic rye (a mixture of annual and perennial types) became the universally used seed. Its price was much lower and performance almost as good as the imported variety.

Heavy seeding rates, up to 100 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft., were necessary to insure a fine textured turf. At light seeding rates, ryegrass is coarse textured. Although ryegrass is a soft succulent grass, especially in the seedling state, the seed germinates quickly and grows rapidly. It has the ability to retain its green color in cold weather.

Many golfers from the North have not been enthusiastic about ryegrass greens. They are slow because of the heavy seeding rate.

The most dependable seeding practice with ryegrass has been to use phosphate and potash generously, about a week before seeding, and to withhold nitrogen until after growth has started, usually about two weeks after seeding. If used before seeding, nitrogen aggravates succulence and invites a damp-off type dis-

ease. Phosphate encourages root formation, and potash reduces succulence.

Ryegrass seed is large (250,000 per pound) so it contains an ample reserve of stored food for germination and initial growth.

Generous Topdressing

Greens are shaved close, seeded and topdressed immediately at a generous rate, usually a couple of yards to the average sized green of 5,000 to 6,000 square feet. A heavy topdressing is needed to cover the coarse Bermuda stems. Large seeded grasses such as rye and fescue, like $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of cover, but this is not the case with the bents which have very small seed. Many seeds do not emerge when buried under a heavy topdressing.

The quest for a better Bermudagrass for use on greens started in Savannah. Lester Hall made selections of fine textured strains from the greens at the country club. He grew them in a nursery and used the best ones in the greens. Some years later, Fred Hoerger did the same thing in Miami Beach where he was in charge of LaGorce and Bay Shore. Both courses were operated then by Fischer Property Co.

The Bay Shore greens had been planted twice to African Bermuda, obtained from the U.S.G.A. green section in Washington. It did well until subjected to very close mowing. Then it couldn't resist invasion by common Bermuda. Bay Shore was taken over by the Army and used as a drill field during World War II. Greens were allowed to grow. There were marked differences in the Bermudas, ascribed by some as being natural hybrids. Hoerger made selections of what seemed to him



O. J. Noer

like good strains and planted them in a nursery before his untimely death.

The best one was named Gene Tift by local supts. in honor of the man who worked under Hoerger and became supt. at Bay Shore after Hoerger's death. Gene Tift was used at the old Miami CC, Indian Creek, Coral Ridge, in Puerto Rico and in Houston on the greens at Lakewood first, and subsequently, on the greens, tees and fairways at the new Houston CC course. Bair at the Everglades experiment station in Florida tested a number of Bermuda selections. One, Everglades I, from the Everglades Club in Palm Beach, has found favor at a few clubs.

Burton Works With Bermuda

Glen Burton's original mission at the Coastal experiment station in Tifton, Ga., was to develop forage grasses so cotton acreage could be transformed into ranges for the beef cattle industry.

Burton became interested in turfgrass breeding. Some selections, unsuitable as forage, had possibilities for use on lawns, golf courses, athletic fields, etc. His Tifton-328 became known as Tifgreen and is the most popular Bermuda putting green grass in the South. More recently he has released T-419 as Tifway. It is becoming a popular grass for fairways and tees. In the deep South, Tifway holds its color better than most other selections.

The Milwaukee Sewerage Commission established its first overseeding trials six years ago, and now has as many years of test results. The plots included these grasses, used singly and in combination: Seaside, Astoria and Highland bent; Red top; Pennlawn, creeping red and Illahee fescue; Poa trivialis; Common Kentucky and Merion blue along with ryegrass for comparison.

Some Test Observations

Pennlawn bent was used alone the first year, but not after that because of its high cost. By mid-winter it made a heavy dense turf, almost too heavy for play. It could retard recovery of Bermuda in the spring transition period. This has not happened with any of the other grasses or mixtures.

In 1962-63, velvet bent seed from Holland was tried alone on one plot. It developed cover very slowly and does not seem to be a likely candidate for use either alone or in mixtures.

Seaside has been the best of the bent-grasses, followed by Astoria and with Highland last. Astoria and Highland were



Construction crews worked nights to install a watering system on the 18-hole Broadwater Beach Hotel & GC in Biloxi, Miss. Practically all the work was done between dusk and dawn so as not to disrupt play. Entire project, including the digging of two 1,040-foot wells, was completed in 36 days.

somewhat better in 1962-63. The bents germinate quickly but do not come into their own until late winter or early spring.

Redtop has been a poor choice, worse than any of the bents. It succumbs quickly in periods of adversity. Currently, Redtop costs 10 to 20 cents per pound more than Highland bent, Kentucky bluegrass and fescue. It is overrated for use alone or in mixtures.

All fescues germinated quickly and made excellent growth. Pennlawn was the best by a slight margin. When used alone, heavy seeding is necessary — in the range of 30 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. The fescues do not mask poa annua, which is unfortunate where greens are cursed with this volunteer grass.

Outstanding Performer

Poa trivialis has given an outstanding performance every year. It germinates quickly and grows fast. Greens containing it have an apple green color in contrast to the blue green color of Bermuda. Players appreciate the color difference and poa trivialis is similar to poa annua in color and texture. It masks poa annua better than any other cool season grass.

Some think poa trivialis too soft in texture. It is more sturdy than ryegrass and otherwise superior to it. Poa trivialis retains its color, as well or better than ryegrass. Some lots of seed contain shep-

(Continued on page 74)