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GOLF

BY VERDANT GREENE

Present indications promise the liveliest year that intercollegiate golf has ever seen, regardless of the expected invasion of British students. The word students is used advisedly in that connection, since a few hair-splitters are going out of their way to absurdly argue that veterans like John L. Low who retain their membership in the Oxford and Cambridge golfing society, just as if they were still undergraduates, have a mind to come over and play for the college title. Since Low, who is captain of the Oxford and Cambridge organization is also chairman of the rules committee and one or two American newspapers fell for the yarn that some members of the rules board contemplated a visit to this side, the approaching season, it was the easier to make such a possibility seem plausible. Official denial has been made, however, of any such intent.

Several weeks ago, word was received that Wesleyan University had taken preliminary steps to get into the (Eastern) Intercollegiate Association and late developments forecast the entry of Amherst and Massachusetts Tech into the fold. Amherst, which has long been more proficient in the sport than is known, outside a limited circle, should prove a decided accession. President Walker of the Intercollegiate body writes that Drake of Iowa may also apply for membership, which it did too late, last year, to comply with requirements. Sometime ago a scheme was hatching for a Western college association in which Drake and the University of Nebraska had taken the initiative. Nothing was said, though, as to the participation of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, without which no organization west of the Mississippi would be representative. If the Occidental circle has gone glimmering it will be just as well for with the limited timber at command it could scarcely have higher standing than a bush baseball league. However, by splitting up the country it can prevent the Eastern Intercollegiate title holder from being a national champion in name, if not reality.

There is widespread regret among New Yorkers, at least, that Atlantic City did not take the first week in May for its spring tournament as was done more than once, instead of insisting upon the third week, certain to be allotted to some club near Gotham. Last season a clash was averted only by the Garden City Golf Club shifting its dates after preliminary announcements were made, but there will be no such avenue of escape this year. Probabilities are, under the circumstances, that Lakewood will ask for the first week in May, since there has not been a really early spring for a decade. For several seasons in pre-war days Lakewood pitched upon the third week in April, which usually brought one day of snow squalls and is earlier than now seems desirable. The Garden City Club, as it is to have the Metropolitan amateur championship in June, will not hold its usual May tournament, which clears three days on that month's slate.

A much earlier date for the first international match now scheduled on September 5th, at the National links, Southampton, is urged by the *London Mail*. It argues with force that a shift to July would be advisable since the Oxford and Cambridge stars would then be able to participate, which otherwise is out of the question. Southampton, really the most exclusive of summer resorts, is in perihelion during July and August, and the longer hours of daylight, too, are especially acceptable, considering the remote location of the course and the difficulties over conveyances. Just why an early September date was chosen is not clear to anybody outside the powers that be. Certainly there are enough courses that are willing to stage the affair if other dates inconvenience the National links one man management.

What may be termed a three-in-one score card scheme, simple yet ingenious, is that of the Huntingdon Valley Club of Philadelphia which prints on the back of its pasteboards the local rules in black type while overlying in red ink is a line diagram of the course. The latter is a feature that strangers appreciate. For a club to have no available outline of its links goes to prove that few visitors are entertained.

Several queries lately received asking for the more important details in establishing small public courses have so much in common they can be answered collectively, in part, at least. Don't attempt laying out many short holes, which require longer to play than the straight-away stretches. Reduce congestion by having not merely one long, relatively easy hole at the start, but three rather than two. As to cost an eighteen hole layout of quality cannot be built anywhere for less than \$10,000, and in many locations twice that amount will be necessary. Maintenance charges will call for \$2,500 to \$10,000 a year, being higher proportionately than the average cost of land and the original reconstruction. However, fees, if not set too high, will within three or four years offset the original cost. On the larger part of the hundred or more municipal courses in this country an annual ticket for about \$6.00, monthly for \$2.00, daily for fifty cents or twenty-five cents a round, with a locker fee of \$5.00 or \$6.00 has been found to take care of nearly all running expenses.

Maintenance may be expected to call for the time of four or five men and two-horse or one-power mowers, throughout the season, extending on the average from mid-April until late in November. In addition, some extra help is necessary in spring to roll the fairgreen and expedite placing the course in order, also when the longer grass on the sides is mowed. Putting greens should be cut twice a week and watered every night in a dry season. Fairgreens need not be mowed oftener than once a week. What with weeding and sand raking in bunkers, along with incidentals, enough labor will be required to bring the total to six men all the time. On the most crowded days it will probably be necessary to require everyone to participate in four-somes.



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