

IT'S YOUR HONOR

Friendly Spirit

TO THE USGA:

Thank you very much for your letter in which you acknowledged receipt of our contribution in the amount of \$500 toward the experimental turf work being done at Tifton, Ga.

I quite agree with your comments that the cooperative spirit which exists between the PGA and the USGA is as it should be, and you have my assurance that it will always be our policy to cooperate in a manner which will further our mutual interest in the game.

It was particularly gratifying to learn that the sum which was sent you will be of some assistance in the work which is being done at Tifton, even though it was not so much as we would have liked it to be and was more or less in the nature of a token contribution in recognition of the great work which you folks are doing.

JOE NOVAK, President
Professional Golfers' Association

Indian Creek's Greens

TO THE USGA:

Your September, 1949, issue contained an article stating that we had successfully grown bentgrass on our greens. We feel it should be understood why we reconverted to Bermudagrass.

Our greens have always been good and ready for play on opening day except during the last two winter seasons when bentgrass was being developed. In those years the Club was scheduled to open in November but the greens were not playable; the full course was not open until mid-January, and it was in good shape for only the latter half of our usual six-months playing period.

Our experience indicates that bentgrass will not recuperate from summer damage caused by both the elements and the removal of Bermudagrass in time to make good greens by our opening date.

Thus we abandoned bent greens because we were not assured of a playable course until the middle of our winter season, plus the high cost. The club had spent between \$70,000 and \$80,000 for green-keeping and maintenance in each of the two bentgrass years, and we still did not have six months of good conditions.

This season our whole course was open

November 1. It was in beautiful condition, with the greens getting better every day. Our green department is costing about \$3,600 a month, or \$43,000 a year, as against nearly \$80,000 before.

We retained two bent greens. They have shown considerable improvement since November but are not in excellent condition. After reading the article in your September, 1949, issue, we regret that many golfers and others interested in the growing of fine turf are under the impression that the bentgrass venture at our Club was a great success. There are many factors to consider before statements should be made about the successful growing of any turf.

We are as interested as anyone in experiments with bent greens in Florida, and we believe our Club has contributed much toward them. Anything further along this line should be carried out by the USGA.

WILLIAM M. ORR, President
Indian Creek Country Club
Miami Beach, Fla.

From a New Professional

TO THE USGA:

A month ago I never believed I would be writing you this letter, but after recent deliberation I have decided to turn professional.

Realizing that the USGA holds an anti-pathology toward anyone who uses the amateur ranks as a springboard to a professional career, I should like it clearly understood that, until last month, at no time did I harbor the thought of turning professional.

My reason for turning is very simple. Due to my opportunity to play in a great number of tournaments, both amateur and open, and because of the unlimited amount of time I was spending on the game, I no longer felt that I could consider myself a true amateur. However, in every other respect I believe my amateur status has been in order. Therefore, as I still desire to continue tournament play, the only logical course open to me is to turn professional.

SKEE RIEGEL
Clearwater, Fla.

Editor's Note: The USGA JOURNAL invites comments on matters relating to the welfare of the game and will publish them as space permits.

