



*BEFORE—Difficult to maintain bunker complex across the 17th fairway at the Baltusrol Golf Club Lower Course, where the 1967 United States Open Championship will be played.*

*AFTER—With a new arrangement, all turf areas are easily accessible to mowers. It's prettier, too.*



## The Finishing Touch

by DENNIS SNYDER, Superintendent, Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio\*

Like many of the fine clubs built during the early 1920's, Scioto has had its highs and lows in condition and activity. During the late 1950's and early 60's, however, the membership began to realize that Scioto was no longer the golf course it had been. They reached the conclusion that a 40-year period had taken its toll. During the next seven years, a gigantic overhaul was planned and implemented. This was the program:

1. 1959: Fairways were sterilized and seeded to bentgrass.
2. 1962 to 1964: The entire 18 holes were redesigned and rebuilt by a leading architect.

3. Four new tenico tennis courts were built in the Spring of 1965.

4. 1966: Construction was to include two additional swimming pools, a new golf cart storage building for 36 carts, new golf course maintenance facilities, new half-way house restaurant on the golf course as well as a complete overhaul of the main clubhouse, which includes additions to the golf shop and kitchen.

5. Last fall Scioto began to relevel and rebuild all of the tees which settled badly during reconstruction. This will be completed later this year.



This about covers the major changes at Scioto during recent years, but some additional touches were added, which helped give the members a feeling of pride and pleasure to be a Scioto member.

After the major problem of establishing excellent turf on all greens, tees, fairways and rough is accomplished, the housekeeping and decor of the golf course and grounds should be examined.

Three sets of flags add color and interest; regular flags are gold and black for the front nine, and white and black for the back nine. These two color combinations are attached to white and black flag poles. The insides of cups are also a high gloss white like we see on television. On Tuesday and Thursday ladies' days, as well as for women's tournaments, Scioto uses the standard pink flag with black lace and numerals. These are attached to pink and white striped poles and have been praised by Scioto ladies.

Four sets of tee markers are used in order to allow all golfers to play the length of course best suited to their game as well as to spread out daily wear of the tee surface. These are red for ladies, white for seniors and juniors, gold for the regular course and blue for the championship course.

All tee accessories, such as benches, ball washers and waste cans, are painted in a natural color theme of evergreen on metal, and redwood on wooden surfaces. All drinking fountains are made of teakwood, with copper and stainless steel fittings.

Tanbark is used as a border for all ball washers, fountains and heavy wear areas near

tees and greens. Tanbark is also used on about half of the cart roads near greens; it is much more natural looking than asphalt.

Redwood signs at each tee have been designed to give exact information as well as decor for each hole. The information includes hole number, par and yardage, and a cut-to-scale aerial diagram of the hole, complete with all bunkers and hazards in color. The name of each hole is also routed into the wood above each diagram.

Landscaping of the golf course and grounds has been a major off-season project at Scioto. This included the removal of all dead trees and all tree stumps, pruning of all existing trees and shrubs, planting hundreds of new deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. It has also involved plantings of thousands of annuals in the numerous flower beds through the Clubhouse grounds.

Approximately 2,000 to 3,000 lineal feet of natural limestone rock walls are now being installed on either side of the streams and lakes throughout the course. This is accomplished during winter months for beautification as well as erosion control.

In addition to the stone walls, dams have been built to serve as breakwaters every 30 to 50 lineal yards and to add to the beauty of our stream and two lakes. These dams and waterfalls seem to be the only ones in existence in the area and have been the point of much comment from members and guests of Scioto.

\*This paper was prepared for presentation at the Green Section Conference, but Mr. Snyder was unable to attend. He sent this text to the Editor of the Green Section Record.

## Financing the Renovation

by HARRY C. ECKHOFF, Executive Director, National Golf Foundation

Increased costs of construction and the rather severe shortage of mortgage money have slowed golf course development in recent months.

New golf course openings were down 10.6 per cent in 1966. New construction at the moment is down 14 per cent from a year ago. This might be caused by the tight money situation. However, additions to existing courses were up 14 per cent; and 37 per cent of the current construction pertains to additions, indi-

cating that financing is somewhat easier to obtain for established golf courses.

A recent survey by the National Golf Foundation shows that 54 per cent of the courses that responded plan to make golf course improvements in 1967; 40 per cent will expand parking facilities; 34 per cent plan to procure powered golf cars; 24 per cent will improve dining facilities and 23 per cent plan to modernize pro shop facilities.