

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

I ncreased 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.

The survey reveals that 40 per cent will finance their ventures from profits, 26 per cent will increase dues and green fees, 18 per cent hope to secure bank loans and 12 per cent plan to increase existing mortgages. Methods of financing depend on the type of golf courses involved. The avenues of financing vary among the nonprofit member-owned clubs, a privately-owned facility, or a municipal operation.

There are several Federal financing programs available. The Farmers Home Administration of the Department of Agriculture during 1966 made 95 loans totalling \$13,311,070 to nonprofit associations for the construction of recreation facilities—all 95 included golf courses. Loans of this type are available only to nonprofit associations serving rural areas or towns of not more than 5,500 population. The maximum term is 40 years and the interest rate is usually 5 per cent. The maximum loan is \$4 million.

During the past three years the Farmers Home Administration has made 211 loans totalling \$27,979,410 for recreation projects that included golf courses. The loans averaged \$132,600 and ranged from \$8,200 to \$820,000. Some of these were for expansion and renovation programs.

Operators of privately-owned, profit-motive golf courses planning renovation programs may wish to explore the possibility of a Small Business Administration loan. The maximum loan made by this agency is \$350,000 and is usually repayable in monthly installments over a 10-year period bearing interest at 5½ to 6 per cent. The SBA prefers that local financial institutions participate in loans whenever possible. It will make direct loans when financing is not available locally on reasonable terms. The SBA maintains 59 regional offices.

Probably the best loan source for private member-owned country clubs is a local bank. Clubs with realistic membership fees and dues structures find it possible to receive renovation loans. Existing successful facilities planning renovation programs have a much greater chance of securing a local bank loan than a new operation.

Municipal golf projects have many possible

ways of financing new construction or renovation programs. Most existing municipal golf courses have been financed through general obligation bonds, or by general budget allocations. General obligation bonds are based on the municipality's credit and taxing power and issues must be approved by voters.

In recent years some cities and counties have financed many municipal golf courses by issuing revenue bonds which are payable from the net income of the golf course. Since revenue bonds are usually unsecured by collateral other than the golf course itself, they normally carry a higher rate of interest than general obligation bonds. Revenue bond issues, depending upon state statute, may require approval by public referendum.

Cities, counties and states seeking to acquire open space for golf courses and other recreational use may contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C., for a loan or outright benefit grant. This agency has made over 570 grants totalling \$72,000,000 to help communities protect their open spaces for use as parks, recreation, conservation, scenic and historic purposes. The usual policy is to grant matching funds for approved projects. Some states have similar programs in operation.

Two recent government publications of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C., may help planning groups. They are:

**1. Federal Assistance in Outdoor Recreation** which lists all the Federal programs of assistance to outdoor recreation. Such assistance involves credit, cost sharing, technical aid, educational services and research. The pamphlet costs 35 cents.

**2. A Directory of Private Organizations Providing Assistance In Outdoor Recreation**, available for 30 cents, lists organizations that have assistance programs in various outdoor recreation fields.

Adequate financing is of utmost importance. If sufficient financing is not available to complete your job according to accepted standards it might be better to cancel it.