

name applies to one particular strain, not to any bent distributed from the Green Section.

3. A third probability is that the clubs, and even commercial concerns, did not keep their records straight. Indeed in many cases the bents were obtained without any records at all.

The different strains of creeping bent vary greatly in the character of the turf each produces. The quality varies from rather mediocre to that of practical perfection. Very unfortunately some clubs, and indeed some commercial concerns, have planted greens to bents of inferior quality and the results are not unnaturally disappointing.

At the present time there are only three or four of the large number of bents selected by the Green Section which we can recommend as of exceptional quality, and now only these are being sent to clubs for nursery purposes. There may be and doubtless are better bents than those we have tested sufficiently; so everyone interested should feel that there are still excellent opportunities to find one ideal for his locality. Apart from a greenkeeper's own selection, the records of which he would be interested in keeping straight, it would be wisest for him to grow but one of the Green Section bents, as it is difficult to handle nurseries of two or more strains without getting them mixed.

Before the great degrees of difference in the various bent strains were fully realized, the Green Section sent out some varieties to clubs for experimental trial which it has since discarded. These were sent out in the belief that a particular strain might be the ideal for one locality if not for others. This may indeed be a fact, but the evidence now at hand indicates that if a bent is not of very high quality under Washington conditions it is hardly likely to be so elsewhere.

The Green Section hopes that if any club has secured unsatisfactory results due to using a poor strain of bent, it will not be discouraged to go ahead with a good strain.

We earnestly advise each club, and doubtless this would apply to dealers also, to plant their nurseries to only one *pedigreed* strain of bent of proved quality. No other strain should be used by any club except in purely experimental tests in comparison with some other strain of proved quality.

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### Watering Putting Greens

In the October number of THE BULLETIN (page 245) opinions from a number of men were given with regard to the best time of day for watering putting greens. After the October number went to press some additional statements were received which we are glad to present herewith.

"In the old days we were brought up to believe that it was dangerous to water grass in summer until the heat of the day was over. Recently we have come to believe that no such danger exists, and at both Merion and Pine Valley we are inclined to water at such period of the day as best fits in with the other plans for upkeep. Our greenkeeper at Merion seems to feel that with small brown-spot he gets a good result by watering in the early morning, using a rose nozzle, and in this way washing the cobweb or mycelium off of the grass. Theoretically this would seem to

be wrong, as one would think it would simply wash the germs away from one place and spread the disease over the green; but practically he seems to feel that it gives a good result. During the hot summer months, when there is a danger of burning from the use of ammonium sulfate, we find that we can apply the chemical safely in the evening and water it in during the night. I think our general feeling is that we use water whenever it best suits us; but the two objections to watering in the early part of the day are, first, that you lose a lot of moisture from evaporation, and second, that you interfere with the play of the course."—*Alan D. Wilson, Pine Valley Golf Club and Merion Cricket Club.*

"Because of the almost continuous play during our season we have been obliged to water in the late afternoon or at night. Some of the greens are in low land and are naturally moist, but those in the upper part of the course are thoroughly saturated about three times a week during dry weather. Following this method and the advice given by the Green Section, the greens have been in wonderful condition."—*James L. Taylor, Ekwanok Country Club, Manchester, Vt.*

"I should say that putting greens should never be watered in the bright sun. Newly planted greens should be carefully sprinkled so that the seeds are not washed away. I have seen just as good results from soaking a green from 2-inch hose as I have from light sprinkling, because the water gets down into the roots and does not stay on the blades of grass, which tends to forcing—to use a greenhouse term. In general the rule should be to water the greens when they need watering. Sometimes people water greens when they need top-dressing (which we might call food), or fertilizer, whether chemical or otherwise (which we might call a tonic). It is therefore a matter of practical experience with each green. Our experience here at Kittansett would seem to be that the greens which are naturally the wettest from heavy dews give the most trouble from brown-patch. When the dew is light and there is very little rain, we water three nights a week, say two nights from four in the afternoon until seven, and one night a week from four until eleven. That is in times of excessive dryness. We have tried watering in the early morning. I have seen no results to prove that this is better than watering at night. We believe that we get better results from some ammonium sulfate if we do not put on too much water to wash the chemical too deep into the soil. I can not say that our experience would demonstrate that watering prevents brown-patch. I can not make any connection between watering and brown-patch."—*F. C. Hood, Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass.*

"In my opinion the greens are watered for two reasons: (1) to soften the surface of the green so that balls properly played on them may hold; (2) to furnish proper conditions for the growth of the grass. The time of day for watering to achieve the first purpose is governed by the convenience of the players. As for the second purpose, it should be remembered that nature rains at all hours, and that grass which is burned even decidedly brown recuperates with rain which falls at any time provided it is in sufficient quantity to soak the surface thoroughly. Our watering for turf growth is done either early in the morning or in the late afternoon or at night. We use a rotary spray for the general surface of the green. For some of the mounds on the edges of the green,

where we decide to concentrate the water on the higher spots, an ordinary fountain type spray is used. Unquestionably when watering is done in the day time it will be necessary to use more water as the evaporation will be greater both from the sun and wind than is the case with a night application. We have believed here at the Yahnundasis Golf Club that a first-class thorough soaking was much preferable to more frequent light applications of water. Over a period of years in which I have been in close touch with the green work at the club here, I have not been able to notice any difference in the texture of the turf in relation to watering it at different periods or in different quantities. Believing that it is wise not to let the greens dry out, we have started watering here as early as the first of May, and have watered so that our turf has been kept in a proper growing condition throughout the season. Throughout the summer months, I question whether it is possible, under any normal routine, to overwater greens from the standpoint of the welfare of the grass, but I do believe that it is possible to overwater greens from the standpoint of the play thereon. We here at Utica are in a natural rain belt, so that our water problems are not ordinarily as great as those in some parts of the country where the summer season means long stretches of intensely hot, dry weather."—*Sherrill Sherman, Yahnundasis Golf Club, Utica, N. Y.*

"In the Chicago district most of the golf clubs make a practice of watering 9 greens every morning, starting the sprinkling about 5 or 6 o'clock. This means that on an 18 hole course all of the greens are actually watered every other day during the dry weather. In some instances where the water supply is limited some of the greens are watered during the day quite often. Teeing grounds are sprinkled in the morning, but as yet in our observations we have not noticed any real benefit in late afternoon watering as against sprinkling in the hot sun. The past season has been terribly wet in this district more than two or three times, and this occurred during the spring months, so that it has been impossible to carry on any experiments in watering. We have actually had too much water, and where drainage conditions have been poor the turf has suffered considerably. In fact, on the greens planted vegetatively with certain strains of bent, the grass has become very unhealthy, causing very little growth at times and a thin, yellow or spotted turf. In many instances, the knives of the mowing machines have had to be set up a little, because cutting the grass too closely when wet seemed to cause brown spots in the hot sun.

"Some of the clubs have tried early morning watering, but this interferes with the mowing of the greens. A preferable time for watering seems to be every evening excepting Saturday, when the play is usually late, and then it is not sometimes advisable to have the turf too wet early Sunday morning for a heavy play over the week end. In other words, half of the greens are watered Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and the other half Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. With a few exceptions, under heavy moist soil conditions, it is only necessary to water 6 greens a night, all of the greens being watered twice a week instead of three times. The drainage and soil conditions on putting greens, I think, are more important factors in determining the amount of artificial watering necessary for best results than the time of day the water should be applied; but as mentioned above, the wet season in this district this year has made it impossible to form any

definite conclusions."—*Leonard Macomber, Chicago District Golf Association.*

## Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

QUESTION.—In a foursome in which I was playing, my ball stopped under a bench at one of the tees and was in such a position that it was impossible to play it. The members of my foursome said that I could lift and drop the ball not nearer the hole, as the bench would come under the class of objects which could be considered for upkeep of the course. On reaching the club house I asked several members and received a different opinion. In looking up Rule 11 I am frank to confess I am still in doubt, as it states that a ball can be lifted when touching "box or similar obstruction."

ANSWER.—The situation you describe should be covered by a local rule, and it is the duty of your local committee to frame local rules to meet special contingencies on the golf course. In the absence of a local rule, the ball would have to be played from where it lay.

QUESTION.—According to Rule 15, in match play the player may take a practice swing within a club's length of the ball, but under Rule 34 it says that where no penalty for a breach of rule is stated the penalty shall be the loss of a hole. Then in Rule 15, stroke competition, it states, "The rules of golf, so far as they are not at variance with these special rules, shall apply to the stroke competition." It has always seemed to me that there is an unwritten law that the penalty for playing a practice swing within a club's length of a ball in medal competition is one stroke, and yet I can not find any record of the same.

ANSWER.—The paragraph under Rule 15 is not a Rule of Golf. It is a ruling made by the United States Golf Association to advise players that they may take a practice swing or swings more than a club's length from the ball and displace turf without violating the provisions under Rules 10 and 25. If the provisions under these Rules are not violated, there is no penalty for taking a practice swing within the area designated as a club's length from the ball.

QUESTION.—In a foursome playing match play, a player off the putting green approximately 50 feet from the hole, chipped his ball against the flag stick, which was still in the cup, and holed out. There was no player or caddie near the pin when this stroke was made, nor had either the player's side or the opponent's requested this. The player who chipped the ball into the hole with the flag stick still in it, did this on his third stroke, two strokes lower than his opponent's. The ruling requested is to determine whether or not the side having the low ball won the hole or lost it due to sinking the ball with the flag stick still in the cup. We have received many conflicting opinions on this play.

ANSWER.—Rule 32 covers this point. There is no penalty for a player hitting the pin from any distance in match play, as the opponent's side always has the right to have the flag removed if it so desires.