



Letters to the Editor-

BROWN PATCH

Editor of GOLF ILLUSTRATED:

Some time ago you published a letter from Arthur Laver on causes of Brown Patch. I think you would do well to print it again in your magazine.

STANLEY PIGEON.

North Caldwell, N. J.

The letter referred to follows:

Editor of GOLF ILLUSTRATED:

I have been making a number of experiments that lead me to feel quite confident that brown patch, although generally believed to be fungoid in origin, actually is caused by a native beetle called *cyclocephala*. I have watched this beetle very carefully at night when on the greens. The beetle does not attack foliage or fruit trees, but seems to live entirely on grass roots. Turf which seems most attractive to the beetle is the one which contains bents and sheep's fescue. Creeping bent seems to offer better feeding and more protection during the winter months. The fact that we do not have brown patch except during the months of May, June, July, August and September is because it is only during these months that the *cyclocephala* beetle comes from under the sod.

The first flight of the beetle is probably the strongest, and I believe these beetles swarm during the warm months about every three weeks. The young of the first flight will swarm again later, and so on until the weather is against them. Now the closely cut turf of a putting green makes an ideal mating place if the beetles are undisturbed by watering, but if the water is kept running freely from sprinklers the beetles will not remain.

On examining courses on Long Island, I have found this beetle. The variety seems to be increasing, and—curiously enough—they seem to travel in a northeasterly direction; six of my greens were not attacked the first year or so, but the last two years these greens, which are to the northeast, had the worst brown patch.

It is not unusual for the beetles to leave a green entirely alone, although perhaps it may be alongside one which is badly attacked. This is one of the strange things about the insect, and then again, strong winds will blow it in almost any direction. This may account for certain greens being attacked.

It is possible to pick up thousands of these beetles after dark on a moonlight night. They are as plentiful then as the small white grub is when you lift a layer of turf that is grub-infected. There is no question in my mind but that the brown patch is caused by the swarming of the *cyclocephala* beetles on the turf, and that in swarming they are laying their eggs which develop into white grubs, the grubs in due time developing into beetles, both generations, beetles and grubs, being harmful to turf.

ARTHUR LAVER.

Coldstream Golf Club,
East Hempstead, L. I.

MOTH-EATEN TEES

Editor of GOLF ILLUSTRATED:

Why is it that while much attention is given to the putting green, the driving tees receive little or none in many clubs. I know one club in the Metropolitan district where the best place to drive is away from the tee. The tees at this club are irregular, moth-eating affairs, frequently as mushy as they are bald. Driving tees are entitled to better treatment. Good large tees with the proper kind of hard-service grass, and the frequent changing of the markers will give a player a better chance for a decent start. There is no percentage in working hard indoors to develop a good drive and then skidding all over the tee.

New York, N. Y. H. G. G.

A BIRDIE IN ONE!

Editor GOLF ILLUSTRATED:

You will probably be interested to know that it is possible to make a BIRDIE in one. This I accomplished only after several years of strenuous effort.

October 2nd was a very bright day and I assure you I never felt more confident of making a good drive than I did after addressing my ball on the first tee. A new golf ball started on its deadly flight in front of a perfect full powerful drive and after gaining steadily for 200 yards and having reached an altitude of about 25 feet it came to an abrupt stop against the head of a large crow. So

ing to Mr. Bird, who was in a hospital. Mr. Estep's sprightly and informing report follows: (The "Bowman" in Mr. Bird's name is contracted to "Bo" by his golfing friends.)

Dear Bo:

Last night we had a Board Meeting over to Canoe Brook, and honest Bo, it didn't seem like the old place at all. Charlie Platner didn't even come to the meeting. Of course he wouldn't have any fun at a Board Meeting which you didn't attend.

A motion was made to have the Board send you some flowers, but someone said you already had a bunch, so, of course, there wasn't any use sending you another bunch, espe-

if you had been there, you probably wouldn't have understood what he said. It seems a sprinkler system is a good deal like the United States on account the main question is whether it's "wet" or "dry." First off, I was in favor of a wet system, then the expert explained that it was water in the pipes that made it a wet system so I switched to dry. If we have to pay \$10,000 for a wet system around there and then only get water, I'd rather have a dry system; don't you think so, Mr. Bird?

Ed. Little wasn't in favor of either system on account of messing up the beauty of the club house. He's got some idea about putting a lot of hose around the place so when there was a fire all the head waiters and everybody could run in with a helmet on and put it out. I guess, Bo, you would have to be the fire chief with a red hat and a bugle and everything. Well, anyway, it got so late that we had to quit and wait for a special meeting next week. I and President Early are pretty strong "Dryers" on this sprinkler question.

There were some funny jobs handed out last night. Al. Buckley got a bunch of them. He was delegated to see about buying that strip of land we don't own on the sixth hole. I was against that, in fact, I'm in favor of selling the entire sixth hole instead of buying the damn thing; it's never been good to me. Then Al. was instructed to attend the dinner of the Metropolitan Golf Association to see if he couldn't learn something about keeping greens, etc. He tried to get out of it on account he already knew all about greens but the Board didn't think so. He then got appointed to call on all the women in Summit till he got one to be chairman of the Ladies' Golf Committee. I guess Al. likes that job better than talking about how to grow grass at a stag dinner.

Norman Kennedy got a job too; all he's got to do is to walk up to one of his friends some morning while he's waiting for the 8:05 train and ask him, with a nice pleasant smile on his face, why in hell he don't pay up what he owes the club.

Ed. Little talked out of his turn and got a job of finding out the home addresses of every one of the 900 members.

Then I grit this job of writing you a letter telling you how much the Board missed you.

You know how it is. Bo, some has got sense enough to keep their mouth shut and they don't get any jobs hung onto themselves.

Well, Bo, that's pretty nearly all that happened. Things were pretty slow on account nobody wanted the Board to authorize spending money which had already been spent, so it was pretty hard to get up any arguments and we all hoped you would be on hand at the next meeting full of pep and expenses.

With best wishes from the Board for your speedy recovery,

E. C. ESTEP,

Chairman Committee on funny letters to Board members who are unable to attend the meetings.



ON THE WAY TO PLAY FOREIGN COURSES

S. Rae Hickock, president of the Oak Hill Golf Club of Rochester, N. Y., telling Captain Lexa of the S.S. France that his only regret is that the France did not tow a floating golf course on the cruise

greatly surprised was the crow that it died either with fright or with the hope of compensating me with its carcass for spoiling such a perfectly directed drive.

BILL BROWN.

Concord, N. H.

[The writer is the professional of the Beaver Meadow Golf Club.—EDITOR.]

HERE'S A FUNNY ONE

Peter Bowman Bird, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Canoe Brook Country Club, was unable to attend a Board Meeting on account of illness. E. C. Estep, a member of the Board, sent a report of the meet-

cially with the price of flowers the way it is. You know yourself, Bo, they aren't like silver wedding presents which you can trade in the duplicates; when you get a bunch of flowers, even if you got others just like 'em, you're practically stuck with 'em.

Then somebody thought it better to write a funny letter to you from the Board, and then every member looked at me unanimously. So I got the job.

We had another report on sprinkler systems and there was an expert out from the Sprinkler Company to testify, but he was pretty technical about everything, calling things by their right names and all like that, so even