
Stop Throwing Stones



STOP THROWING STONES at the chairman of the green committee! He is doing what he believes to be best. It's the rest of you who are to blame. You can't censure a captain who runs his ship onto sandbars if you don't give him a chart to steer by.

Right there lies half the clubs' troubles of today. They have no chart to go by. Let me tell you exactly what I mean by no chart.

A chairman of the green committee has pretty much all the say of what work shall be done on the course each year. He locates the placement of new bunkers, directs the changing of tees, advises as to what shall be done on the care of the putting greens, and does whatever else seems consistent to him for the improvement of the course.

The following year a new chairman is elected, and he starts putting his own ideas in force. Many of them may be directly opposite from those of his predecessor. Bunkers are ripped out and new ones made, new tees are built, and new methods used in the care of greens. All are done under the direction of a man lacking in experience but anxious to try out his own individual ideas.

The club pays for all this.

And this kind of thing goes on year after year, in greater or lesser degree, in every club in this big, glad country of ours.

Sometimes it becomes so serious that factions are formed with all their attendant, unfortunate, disrupting results.

Over in England they do these things better. They have a paid secretary, who continues in office year after year. He handles the course on a definite plan. He is working toward certain well-defined results. There is a continuity of purpose in his work.

Over there, the green committee acts as a board of directors. A policy is outlined and strictly adhered to, just like in any business.

Is there any reason why such a system could not be adopted in America?

Over and over again, it has been the history of clubs in this country that where one man has been in authority, working on lines laid down by a definite plan, the course has improved wonderfully and continues to improve.

It is also a noticeable fact that employees do their work better and at less cost when keeping in touch with such a continued authority.

Why is it that shrewd men, who recognize it is vital in their business to have a well-defined policy and demand adherence to it, sanction the very opposite action when it comes to golf club matters?

Courses should be laid out by an expert, the plan submitted to the green committee and agreed upon. This plan should in turn be thoroughly understood and passed upon by the club as a whole. Then this plan becomes the chart for all future operations of the club.

Individual ideas cannot have sway. One man, or a favored few who contribute largely to the support of any club, cannot dominate things.

The adopted plan must be abided by.

This effectual method applies to the control of old courses quite as much as to ones about to be laid out.

Call in an expert golf architect. What if it does cost real money? It will save the club many dollars in the end, and go a long way toward preserving that unity of feeling so vital for the success and continued pleasure of any golf club.

