

July 7, 1938.

Mr. J. Harris Warthman, Vice President,  
Philadelphia Country Club,  
Bala, Pa.

Dear Mr. Warthman,

Your job now requires that you should have more than a general idea of the various activities of the Club. This will help you to understand more about the Golf Course.

This was designed by Mr. Flynn and then remodeled under Mr. Clark by a Mr. Maxwell. The changes were made because the greens that were built up by filled dirt began to settle a little which threw the ball to one side. Also to make the course easier for the average player. I do not quite agree with their logic in what was done. They left the long tees and drives and then eased up the approach shots. This is contrary to the theory of golf course design that has been accepted for a number of years, which is to tighten the approach to the green and then for the average player to shorten the drive so he can have as easy a shot with a 200 yard drive as the professional has with a 275 yard drive.

In preparing for the Open, we plan

1. to lengthen some holes a little to make up for the tremendous distance that the professionals now drive and shift the back tee at the 6th hole which Mr. Maxwell changed from a right hand to a left hand hole and on which he should have changed the tee.
2. To put in some five new sand traps. All but one of these were recommended by Mr. Sweetser for the U.S.G.A.
3. To fill in the places in the fairway where there are small hollows where we can not now cut with a mower and the grass is too long, - such as in front of and to the right of the trap in the fairway at the 9th.
4. To make an earnest effort to remove clover patches at the point where our drives land.
5. To raise the left hand side of the 16th green which makes a better hole. For our regular play we will extend the back of the front tee which will make the hole no harder for our regular play and will make it much more interesting.
6. To provide more sand in the bunkers. We have been too economical in this.
7. To narrow the fairways in places where there is no need of tremendous width such as at the right hand side of the 6th fairway.

8. To prepare scale maps of each hole which are used by the newspapers, golf magazines and for publicity purposes. These are required by the U.S.G.A.

9. The Cherry tree to the left of the 18th green is practically dead. It makes the hole and we plan to move another tree to that spot.

We should really move a second tree near the 18th to provide shade for score boards and spectators when we have a tournament on the course.

10. Trim up all bunkers so they are not out of shape as now.

To do all the above with our own labor and perhaps an outside man or two, to pay the draughtsman for the maps and survey, and for the golf architect's fee for consultation, plan preparation and personal supervision of the job, will cost around \$3,000. which amount I request authority to spend.

On receiving such authority we would start work in the latter part of this month or in August. The 18th green would be postponed until after the heavy play in September.

There are two other things I would like to do; (a) There are three or four greens that were rebuilt by Mr. Maxwell. These do not drain because he did not make the proper foundation. If we have a heavy rain, they have large puddles, some of which do not drain for a day or more. I would dislike to have this happen next June, but should we have heavy rain at that time, we could rent a compressed air drill which would remedy the defect for the tournament.

Some time these greens should be plowed up and rebuilt but it is a big job.

Incidentally, we have placed tile drains in some of these but the clay prevents the drainage to the tile.

(b) I would like in some inexpensive manner to push forward the green on the second hole so our members can use the back tee and have a hole more in line with their ability.

I want to assure you that such changes as are above planned are not so that we may provide an extremely difficult course for professional play and be what we would wish to discard for our club members. The whole endeavor is not to make such a lay out but one that provides only for fair and reasonable golf.

There are several more improvements I would much like to make later. Now, we plan to make the course such a fair test of golf that the professionals

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will want to come back because it is a course that requires every golf shot and gives the player a fair chance.

This is a long letter but I have had to cover much ground. If you are still interested, I made a very careful analysis of the play in the qualifying round for the Penna. State Open which shows how each hole was played and the definite need of revising the 16th hole.

There is only one other matter that may cause adverse comment from the U.S.G.A. and perhaps it has come to your mind. The 18th is a fine finishing hole for every one but the gallery. We can change the sequence of holes so that they can start from our regular first tee and use the 9th as the finishing hole should they wish to do so. This will cost almost nothing.

Very truly,

MGC:W

CHAIRMAN GOLF COMMITTEE.