

Philadelphia, September 17th 1935

The President of the P.G.A.

Dear Sir:

Today I examined two rather hilly courses, the first this forenoon at the request of P.G.A. member Fred Schneider. This was the Melrose Country Club at Melrose, Pa. I was accompanied over the course by Schneider and the greenkeeper, an Italian who knows not too much. Later the club manager, J.W. Hartzag joined us, seeking information, which of course he got. Unfortunately he knows but little concerning golf course necessities and the turf needs immediate care. This I impressed on him.

The plan of the Melrose course was seriously broken up when a new county road was cut through not long ago. As the course is built on leased ground, the club was helpless to prevent it and as a consequence the yardage is much below desired lengths. In the revamping of the play the twelfth hole ended at 240 yards and there followed a long walk to the next teeing ground. I pointed out a natural site for a new green, adding over a hundred yards to the hole and shortening the walk to that extent. Suggestions for a remodeled sixteenth green and a rearranged thirteenth were made, and comments of less importance, yet all improving conditions along economical lines.

In the afternoon I visited the Ashbourne Country Club, Sheltonham Township, Pa. at the request of P.G.A. member Dave Cuthbert, who accompanied me over parts of the course until it came time for him to give several golf lessons. However I was accompanied over the entire eighteen holes by the greenkeeper, Joe Tognon, a remarkably competent and resourceful man. In view of the fact that the maintenance budget is small, this course is in fine condition generally. Aside from cutting down the large size of several greens and suggesting the removal of a few misplaced trees, I could see little more that could be done to reduce upkeep. This problem has been most ably handled by Cuthbert and the greenkeeper. However I extended the 510 yard eleventh hole 85 yards to a natural placement for a new green. Owing to the down-hill fairway the present green may be reached easily with two shots, often enough a comparatively short iron for the second. The new green will prevent this and will provide the only true par 5 on the course. I recommended a new, graded teeing ground for the short fourth. There are several stiff climbs, which cannot be remedied, owing to the limited area and a rather cramped plan.

Very truly yours

