

# Greenkeepers Club of New England NEWSLETTER

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October, 1929.

Vol. 1, No. 6.

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*"Any fool can find mistakes to criticize,  
But progress in this battling World is won  
By men too busy with constructive work  
to satirize  
Their neighbors' faults while their own  
job's undone."*

—Anon.

Why is this NEWSLETTER kept small? Why not get out a real magazine? These and other similar questions have been asked often of late. The reasons are several; expense, probable lack of material of importance from our own members to fill a larger publication, and above all, we feel that if we enlarge too much we will lose the intimate touch which we are trying to secure now. We would like to feel that as you read your NEWSLETTER you are being interested and helped, and also that you feel as if you are talking over common problems with your friends! This NEWSLETTER is your forum. In it you can discuss any problem of interest to its readers. Will you use it?

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We are glad to welcome to the Greenkeepers Club several new members. We hope that they will use the club to improve themselves, and in so doing help the club. We hope that they, as well as all the older members, will spread the message abroad that there exists here in New England the oldest and largest of the sectional greenkeepers' clubs, designed to help the greenkeepers themselves and hence to improve Greenkeeping. There are many greenkeepers in New England not yet members of the club, whom the club needs, and who need the club. Will you help them? Will you help to improve your club?

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It is not the policy of the Greenkeepers Club to recommend greenkeepers for positions. The club is, however, always glad to bring together clubs desiring greenkeepers and greenkeepers desiring positions. To this end we have an employment committee, and we are also leaving space open in the NEWSLETTER to any members of the club who may desire to advertise for positions at a nominal rate.

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Greens' Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST ..... Editor  
MARSTON BURNETT .. Business Mgr.

The committee on group insurance report very favorable reports, from distant members especially. Such members, often unable to attend many meetings because of the distance, see in this insurance idea and in the NEWSLETTER how the club benefits them. The group insurance as proposed for the club is indeed worthy of consideration. The cost per member is low. No medical examination is necessary. The plan is adopted yearly, so that the club could drop it if it saw fit on any yearly anniversary. We hope that all who have not returned their ballots will do so at once, so that this plan may be carried out, and all members benefit.

### OBSERVATIONS ON GANG AND UNIT SYSTEMS

There can be no set system for use on the golf course day after day, because so many factors can change it. There can be, however, a general system, to be followed most of the time. The unit system, so-called, gives each man a section to care for as far as possible. The gang system divides the course into two sections usually and a gang takes care of each section. Usually the system of handling labor on the golf course resolves itself into a combination of these two systems. The success of the unit system depends on keeping old men from year to year; experience is necessary. Where it is necessary to break in new hands from year to year, the gang system usually works better.

John Shanahan at Braeburn has a gang of three men for each nine holes, three greens each. These green men water in the morning whenever necessary, fix the tees and traps on their holes, cut their greens, and are done by noon. In the afternoon, they cut their tees twice a week, also fill divots in the tees, screen loam, etc. Fourth and fifth men on each section do the rough work. Two tractor men care for all the fairways, and parts of the rough.

Frank Wilson has Charles River divided into units of three holes each, one man per unit. In morning they water, rake traps, change markers, fill divots, mow greens, and are through by noon. In the afternoon they do general work, cut their tees, etc. Two men run tractors, one cutting fairways, the other rough. These men work in the shop in their spare time. One man mows around greens where tractor doesn't reach. A floating crew of two go anywhere on course where rough needs mowing or where section men need help.

At Woodland, Carl Treat has greensmen looking after sections of four holes each. When watering is necessary it is done at 5 A. M., the men taking turns watering, and then take the afternoon off. Greensmen cut greens first, then look after rough, traps, water tees when necessary, etc. Two men cut tees, water, do rough cutting, etc. Another man runs tractor, and another spends half time on tractor, rest in shop. The balance of gang is a floating gang, to do whatever is necessary. One of this floating gang changes the cups whenever needed.

Robert Mitchell has the following to add, "We do not stick to the unit system at Kernwood except for mowing the greens. Not having followed the unit system to any great extent we are not prepared to criticize it. A desire to push along some particular job results in our concentrating our man power on one job. There is an advantage in supervision of men in a group. Some men dislike to work alone and so do better in a gang; others are contented alone and take an interest in keeping their section."

Adapt your system to your course and to your conditions.

DIRECTORS.

### HANDLING MEN ON THE GOLF COURSE

I have been asked to write about the handling of men on the golf course. I think the individual greenskeeper should handle his men the way he thinks best. One reason for this is that there are very few golf courses that carry the same number of men, therefore there can be no fixed rule.

I have twelve men this season. Six men cut the greens in the forenoon. The course is split into two nines, a large putting green goes with what we call the smaller nine. Three men and two mowers take each

side, greens are swept before they are cut. The tractor takes a man, and when he is not cutting grass, there is some other job waiting for him. We have a horse and triplex mower that are used where tractor cannot reach. The horse is also used for hauling sand to traps, topdressing for greens, and some rough cutting. It takes a man on our traps most of the time, they need fixing often as we have a lot of play. The tees are cut three or four times a week; two men cut all the tees in a forenoon. We water quite a lot until ten o'clock when it is needed. All rough hand mowing, mowing around greens, divot filling, turf gardens, and the hundred and one other jobs are taken care of in the afternoon.

MARTIN GREENE.

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Are we wise to use velvet bent or creeping bent or any grass decidedly different to patch our greens?

Those of us who have propagated velvet bent or creeping bent or any grass different from our greens, and used it, have "patch-work" greens. Should we not stick to our original grass for nurseries to supply patching material until we are ready to change over at least a whole green?

Where bents come into a mixed grass green from seed they are not as noticeable as when patched in; they blend with the original grass. Four inch plugs of velvet bent, spattered over a green, soon blend, and merely look like a dappled horse.

This is, of course, a matter of personal opinion, but worth considering before making a "crazy quilt" of our greens.

Have you noticed the fine appearance of greens of one kind of grass, as may be seen at the Unicorn Country Club, the Salem Country Club, and at other courses?

ROBERT A. MITCHELL.

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### PRO GREENSKEEPER!

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To my mind the editorial in the September NEWSLETTER is worthy of deeper thought than may be apparent

from casual reading. While I do not agree with the implication that Superintendent is a better title than Greenkeeper the basic thought behind the editorial is not only sound, but vital, to us and our profession.

How the term Greenkeeper came into use and what it may or may not stand for at the present time is of relatively little importance. However; can anyone think of a title which so concisely and descriptively covers the fundamentals of our profession as keepers-of-the-greens? Innumerable duties and details have been added to our work but first, last, and always, we are keepers-of-the-greens. On the condition of our greens depends all our material success and professional reputation.

Superintendent: Consider for a moment how many and varied are the occupations this title covers. It is about as distinctive as the name Smith in a city directory and certainly no more descriptive.

The title should be Greenskeeper and the "dignity and quality of the work done" must and can come only from within.

After full expression of opinion and due consideration, if the title Greenskeeper merits the approval of the majority, let the New England Greenkeepers Club accept this as the recognized title of our profession and, as an organization, back it up with a code of professional standards, plus legitimate publicity intelligently distributed.

CHARLES W. PARKER.

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### TREES AND SHRUBS ESSENTIAL TO GOLF GROUNDS

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A golf course without trees and shrubs should be compared to potatoes without salt.

Success in tree planting depends on three main factors, proper conditions for growth, timely and intelligent care, and the selection of proper variety. In all sections trees differ greatly in the time when they put out their leaves in the spring and lose them in the fall.

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(Continued on Page 6)



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### Trees and Shrubs Essential To Golf Grounds

(Continued from Page 3)

dominant place to the common plants in the neighborhood.

Trees and shrubs may be planted to add beauty to the landscape and to act as a dividing line where fairways are parallel.

I think it would be desirable where many trees and shrubs are needed to have a tree nursery. It sometimes happens, that the kind of trees desired cannot be procured at reasonable prices and are not always in the best condition when received. In having a nursery it requires some time and attention and labor but it is not difficult. The two main steps necessary are the procuring of seed and caring for the plantation.

Trees chosen with the object of planting should be determined by their adaptability to the climate and soil, and by their resistance to serious diseases or to insect attack. Seeds can be collected from trees in the locality, or purchased.

To grow healthy and vigorous trees, the nursery should be located where the land is reasonably level and well drained on Sandy loam. A nursery should if possible be within reach of your water system, because water is essential for satisfactory results. The soil should be prepared with as much care as for a grass nursery. It should be spaded and plowed to a depth of a foot and all other roots, rocks, and all other trash removed.

CLIFTON E. SOWERBY.

### CHANGES AT THE RHODE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

The average player playing around the course at the Rhode Island Country Club, thinks the layout is stiff enough, and yet, Tom Galvin, acting on advice of Mr. Donald J. Ross, the golf architect, is now busy, and expects to be busy all Winter, on new work designed to improve and stiffen the course. These changes are being made with the idea of making the best possible course on the location. However, the changes being made, and to be made, are not designed to make the course harder for the average player, but are especially designed for tournament play.

The eighth hole is to be lengthened

from 471 yards to nearly 500 yards. Tom has already made a new green for this hole, back a bit from the former site, and raised two feet in the rear to give approach shots a better "hold". The new green required 1600 square feet more sod than the old green. Plans on this hole also call for a new tee for tournament play, and the cutting away of the face of the trap in front of the water hazard so as to show the hazard.

The tenth green has been widened fifteen feet on the left side to give more cupping space. The eleventh green is to be extended about fifteen feet in front as well as in the rear.

The eleventh tee is to be further lengthened, and a new tee for tournament play is to be built on the twelfth.

With all this work laid out it looks like a busy season for Tom and his crew!

The October meeting of the Club was held at the Woodland Golf Club, Auburn-dale, Mass., on October 7. The Club Championship was won by Ted Swanson of the Bear Hill Country Club, Stoneham, with a score of 79, winning from Clif Sowerby by one stroke. Net prizes were won by Howard Farrant, first, and Paul Hayden, second. At a business meeting following lunch nine new members were elected.

The Board of Directors met with Robert Mitchell at the Kernwood Country Club, Salem, on September 23, and with Jim Sullivan at Waltham on October 14.

We noticed that our new member and friend, R. Wallace Peckham of the Sachuest Golf Club played in the Rhode Island State Open on October 21 and 22. This Open, by the way, was a new departure in golf, we believe. It was open to pros. in Rhode Island, and to amateurs handicapped ten or better. It consisted of seventy-two holes medal play, with play on four courses, one round on each. The courses played were Agawam Hunt and Wannemoissett on Monday, and Rhode Island and Metacommet on Tuesday.

We are in receipt of a copy of the October issue of the "Pacific Greenkeeper", a publication recently started by the Greenkeepers' Association of Southern California. We congratulate this Association and the editors upon their able paper!

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