

Greenkeepers Club of New England

NEWSLETTER

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"Co-operation is not a sentiment—it is an economic necessity."

—Charles Steinmetz.

We wonder if the term "Greenkeeper" is not a misnomer, as applied to the present day man-in-charge of a country club golf course and its other outdoor activities! Would not the position better be called "Superintendent" or "Grounds Superintendent?" A prominent sales manager of a large equipment company recently wrote us, "It is not the title, but the man that counts, but it is often true that a dignified title helps a man to increase his prestige and to do a better job in the work he is doing." This indeed is true! Shall we eliminate the name of "Greenkeeper," and substitute some title more expressive of the dignity and quality of the work done?

The recent meetings at the Charles River C. C. and at the Braeburn C. C. demonstrated the value of meeting together and discussing the common problems. We all can find much of help and interest in these meetings.

In this issue advertisements are included for the first time. We hope that you will patronize our advertisers if they sell what you need. They are making a larger and better NEWSLETTER possible!

HELLO!

I have been asked to write up a few notes in regard to our new course, and I am glad to do my bit and help make the *NEWSLETTER* a success!

The Country Club of Brookline has given the following names to their courses; the first nine is known as "the Clyde", taken from the old name of "Clyde Park"; the second is "the Primrose", which is the club color; and the third nine is "the Squirrel", which is the club monogram.

The Clyde course is the first nine holes as they have stood for years, with of course some minor changes. The Primrose, which starts at the old tenth tee, plays the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth of the old course, then four holes of the new layout, then back to the old thirteenth, then using our old fourteenth tee for the ninth with a new green brings us back to the clubhouse again. The Squirrel starts just a few yards away, with practically seven new holes ending with the old seventeenth and eighteenth right by the clubhouse. Of course, on any new course even when it is completed, there are some changes to be made, and eventually most of our new holes will be trapped more severely.

I have been asked if I have formed any new ideas on bringing a new course along. I would answer this by saying that I have not found any new ideas, but I have found out that it is best with our type of grass not to hurry or force it too much. I tried to hurry along two greens in particular, and altho they did respond and showed a marked improvement over the others, the mid-Summer weather played havoc with them; and the slow backward greens which we did not force at the start are the best greens today. These greens of which I write are stolon bent greens.

Our tees and fairways have done well, and altho we have just had a long dry spell, the rain we have had the past week has worked wonders, where at one time in various places you would feel sure that what grass there was could not come back! A year ago our new fairways received seven hundred yards of good top dressing in places where it was needed, along with fertilizer and seed. With the exception of a few places, we now have what I call a good, established turf, from which a good golf shot can be played.

Our rough has had a great deal of attention, and needs much more, such as covering ledge, cutting out underbrush, and blowing out stumps. We have built three thatched shelters in convenient places, and have a well of real good water in a place where a cool drink is appreciated.

I might say in a general summary of the old course and the new that both have been cared for in the same way as far as general maintenance is concerned; greens have been cut, top-dressed, and treated the same; but to compare stolon and seeded greens for all-around conditions, I prefer the seeded greens. I realize my experience with stolon greens has been limited, and perhaps I am a little hasty in saying this, as I have heard it discussed in favor of both, but I am speaking of my experience with the type of grass we have.

HOWARD D. FARRANT.

BRUSHING AT COHASSE

In the past two years, while at this club, I have never been at a loss for spare time work. There has always been plenty of troublesome and unsightly brush to cut.

I have found it unnecessary to continue cutting over the same area, year after year, just to keep down the poison ivy, dogwood, maple, birch, or blueberry bushes. We purchased a ten gallon drum of Herbicide for combatting witchgrass in the sand traps, and as it proved so effective, I decided to at least give it a trial on brush.

Taking an ordinary five gallon sprinkling can, I filled it nearly full of water and stirred in three quarters of a pint of Herbicide and with one of our men going ahead cutting these stump saplings, I proceeded to treat each cluster of stumps, taking care to distribute the liquid well that none might be slighted. Within a week all became a brown and withered mass, and as yet not a green shoot has appeared. This was in August 1928.

During the last Winter and Spring I did considerable brushing in the rough adjoining the sixth fairway, and when

August of this year came, I cut over this area once more, treating it in the same manner. I can see no signs of life in any spot where we have applied this "magic water".

Altho we are making fine progress in this line I as yet have no fears of being unable to find plenty to do!

ERNEST B. LORD.

MEETING AT EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

An interested attendance of some forty or fifty, representing over twenty clubs and several dealers, met at the experimental plots at the Charles River Country Club, on Sunday, September 8, to hear Dr. John Monteith of the U. S. G. A. Green Section and Mr. Wilson of the club explain and discuss the plots.

In an explanatory discussion, Dr. Monteith said that the plots were not given special treatment, the soil was not very good, and that they would do better if treatment was better. The optional plots are for local grasses. There is no best grass for whole country, grasses should probably be adapted to locality; hence aim is to discover what grass does best under local conditions. At present the Virginia bent plot looks best. The fescue plots, which were given highest rating early in year, were attacked by leaf spot in June, and have not rated as well since. In the seeded plots the Rhode Island bents are about the same, regardless of locality from which seed came.

On the fertilizer plots of South German bent, the sludge and poultry manure plots are now passing the complete fertilizer plots; and they rank, after these two, 12-6-4, 6-8-4, sulphate of ammonia. On the fairway plots, the fertilized plots have nearly knitted together, while the unfertilized plots are still full of holes.

Dr. Monteith pointed out that the fertilizer industry is moving away from low grade fertilizers, toward more concentrated ones, so as to save in handling charges.

The experiments with arsenate of lead are made with the idea of anticipating the need of it in this section. These ex-

periments show control of chickweed but not of worms, and the arsenate seems to be attracting ants.

The fairway plots which are watered are much ahead of the unwatered plots, and the best plot is the one with seed mixture of 80% Chewings Fescue and 20% South German bent.

As the fertilizer applications have been cut in half during July and August, and all are based on the same amount of nitrogen, there is not as much difference noticeable in the plots at this time as there was earlier in the year.

The plots have been under the constant care of Mr. George Rommell during this year, and great credit should be given him and Mr. Wilson for the work they have done and are doing for all of us. The work being done on these plots is of interest now, and this interest will grow with the age of the plots. It behooves us all to keep in close touch with these experiments and the conclusions to be obtained from them.

EQUIPMENT SHOW

The Annual Golf Course Equipment Show of the New England Service Bureau, with the Greenkeepers Club of New England cooperating, was held at the Braeburn Country Club, West Newton, Mass., on September 9. Altho the weather was unfavorable, the attendance was large, and the show was both instructive and interesting.

Starting with a demonstration of Toro and Royer compost machines, followed by worm eradication with mowrah meal, corrosive sublimate, and Electric worm eradicator, the morning also brought out demonstrations of Jacobson and Worthington Overgreen power putting green mowers; Ideal, Toro, Red E, 4-Acre, Worthington Overlawn power mowers; and fairway cutting demonstration of Toro outfit, Ideal Power Triplex, Staude with Ideal units, Roseman outfit, Worthington with Pennsylvania units.

Following lunch a two hour discussion of golf course problems was held. After this the outside program presented in order Toro, Ideal, Worthington, and Pennsylvania putting green mowers;

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GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE—CONSTRUCTION

PLAN OF DEMONSTRATION TURF GARDENS

	A	B	C	D	E	
1						Optional.
2	Red fescue. Chewing's fescue.	Washington. Metro-politan.	R. I. bent Wash. grown. Colonial bent.	R. I. bent.	Velvet bent seed.	
3	Annual bluegrass.	Virginia. Columbia.	Seaside bent.	German mixed bent.	Velvet bent stolons.	
4	Sewage sludge.	Poultry manure tankage.	Check.	Sulphate of ammonia.	Compost and sulphate of ammonia.	Fertilizer experiments on putting green grass (seeded German mixed bent).
5	Check.	Nitrate of soda.	Urea.	Phosphate of ammonia.	Check.	
6	Complete fertilizer 6-12-4.	Complete fertilizer 12-6-4.	Check.	Lime and sulphate of ammonia.	Bone meal.	
7	¹ German mixed bent.	German mixed bent.	German mixed bent.	Metro. bent stolons.	Chewing's fescue.	Putting green length. } Cutting experiments
8	¹ Ky. blue and redtop.	Ky. blue and redtop.	Ky. blue, redtop and Ger. mixed bent.	Ky. blue and redtop.	Chewing's fescue and Ger. mixed bent.	
9	Ky. blue, redtop and Chewing's fescue.	Ky. blue and redtop.	Ky. blue, redtop and Ger. mixed bent.	R. I. bent.	Chewing's fescue and Ger. mixed bent.	Trial plots of fairway grasses.
10	Bone meal.	Lime.	Check.	Sulphate of ammonia.	Sewage sludge.	Fertilizer experiments on fairway grasses (Kentucky bluegrass and redtop mixture).
11	Check.	Manure.	Complete fertilizer 6-12-4.	Complete fertilizer 12-6-4.	Check.	

¹ Soil in plots 7A and 8A poisoned with arsenate of lead before seeding.

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the MacAndrew Seeder; Urann Fairway Topdresser; and Toro Greens Topdresser. Altho the day was wet enough for most, a few sprinklers were shown, Lark, Evergreen, new Pelican.

During the day Mrs. E. E. Pattison and Miss J. M. Stanton of the International Seed Service Co., conducted a very interesting exhibit of a seed testing Laboratory. An exhibit of various kinds of pipe was shown by the Byer's Wrought Iron Pipe Co.

Great credit should be given Miss Evelyn C. Nickerson of the Service Bureau and Messrs. Shanahan and Wilson of the Greenkeepers Club for the success of the show in spite of the unfavorable weather. Credit also should be given to all the exhibitors for their efforts to make the day successful. The success of this show was due to the evident cooperation of all the agencies which were concerned in it. Let us have more of such cooperation!

The September meeting was held at the Rhode Island Country Club, West Barrington, R. I., on Sept. 3. A good attendance enjoyed a fine round on this fine course. Prizes were won by Clif Sowerby, who showed the way to first gross, and net prizes by Tom Grady and Guy West, tied for first net, and Frank Wilson, third net.

The October meeting, at which the club championship will be played, will be held at the Woodland Golf Club.

Arthur Anderson has left Oak Hill, where he has spent the last nine years, to become assistant to John Shanahan at Braeburn.

Elmer Fuller says that due to burnt fairways this Summer and the resultant no cutting, he has been able to enlarge and lengthen several of his tees. He also states that morning watering has prevented brown-patch, but he has plenty of crab grass! Who hasn't?

We would like news of *YOU!* Let us hear from you! If everybody who reads this would write their season's experience with brown-patch, we would have something of interest! Who will we hear from first? Send your letters to the Editor at 312 Mt. Pleasant Street, Fall River, Mass. Thanks!

SEED NOTES

The 1929 Kentucky Blue crop was very large, hence is 12 to 15 cents per pound cheaper than last year, but seed is slightly inferior to last year.

The Red Top crop was short, about two-thirds yield, hence price is 3 to 4 cents higher, and seed is exceptionally weedy.

The Seed Laboratory of the U. S. D. A. at Washington, D. C., will test without charge five samples per month for every club. Send your seed samples in, and *KNOW WHAT YOU BUY!*

Are you interested in what others think of your *NEWSLETTER*? Here are a few quotations from letters received:

"It is certainly a fine piece of work".

"It is chuck full of good things for the members".

"The contributions are excellent".

"It is a mighty fine bit of work".

"I want to congratulate the Greenkeepers Club of New England for having started this helpful and instructive pamphlet".

Cooperation between the pro and the greenkeeper is very essential. The pro with his usual superior knowledge of how the course plays, is usually able to give many suggestions of help to the greenkeeper, and wise is the greenkeeper who can take these suggestions and appreciate them. Too often does the greenkeeper act as if he thinks the pro is attempting to "boss". Too little does he realize that all good pros are proud of the courses with which they are connected, and desire to have them free from criticism. The best greenkeepers are true diplomats, and can listen with interest to all suggestions and advice and use what is helpful, with thanks for the giver.

WINTER PLAY

Fall preparation of greens to be open for winter play begins here at Wollaston about September the twentieth. At that time the machines are raised a little; and then raised successive weeks until by October fifteenth they are just clipping the tips of the grass sufficient to keep the green putting true. When growth slackens they are cut only every other day.

During the middle of October every green on the course is given a good top dressing of fine, sharp sand and compost mixed half and half. The roots of the grass will have this covering and will not be so badly injured by all the tramping, drying out, and other ills which come with winter play. The compost used in the above mixture is made of twenty per cent stable manure and eighty per cent good loam. The dressing is applied at the rate of three quarters of a cubic yard to an average green of 5000 to 6000 square feet.

Before the ground freezes it is a good plan to cut several holes in different places on the green, fill these holes with newspaper and replace the plugs. Then later during thaws, play can be shifted around the green by simply lifting out the inner cup and putting it into one of the holes pre-

viously made. Thus the green is saved by preventing concentration of play.

The formation of ice is guarded against by proper surface drainage. But in time of thaws followed by quick freezes ice may gather, when this occurs break it up with a wooden mallet as soon as possible and remove.

Snow mold is apt to appear along the edge of snow banks during winter thaws. Southern exposures must be watched closest. The better plan is to remove the banks of snow, but when this is not feasible the active fungus can be checked with little damage by rubbing with the back of a rake. Do this while the ground is still moist. When the ground is dry and cold growth of the fungus need not be feared.

Finally it might be said that greens must be in good condition going into the cold weather if they are to survive heavy play. It has been my personal experience that the bents stand up best under hard usage; and among the bents there is little to choose between the velvet, the creeping, or the Rhode Island. By spring there will be very little turf covering the roots, but with careful treatment the greens can be made to come back; perhaps from two to four weeks later than if they had not been played but they will come back as good as ever.

DENIS CROWLEY.

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WE THANK YOU—

WE FEEL it entirely fitting to devote this entire page of the first advertising issue of the NEWSLETTER to a personal message.

AS FRIENDS we commend your organization on its steady growth, its personnel, on the principles on which it is founded, on the manner in which these are being carried out, and to the open minded spirit of its members and the desire to forge ahead.

YOUR PROBLEMS are many, of these one directly concerns us, and that is to supply you with what we believe to be the best in Machinery—Tools—Chemicals—Fertilizers—Accessories and Supplies. To stand behind every sale made to you, to supply information and service when requested. We fully realize that in so doing we are helping to create a definite position for ourselves in the general scheme, and thereby do we justify our existence.

WE THANK each of you for the Confidence—Moral Support—and Patronage extended to us, appreciating that this is the back-bone of our growth and without which we cannot hope for further expansion in our ability to supply materials and service to you.

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