



NEWSLETTER

February, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 2

"I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday".

—Abraham Lincoln

It is with pleasure that we announce what we hope will be one of the biggest steps forward for greenkeeping in New England that we have ever experienced. This is the formation by the club of an Information Bureau, a committee to help the members of the club solve their greenkeeping problems. The members of this committee will know where to find information if they can not themselves solve the problems presented. It will be a clearing house of greenkeeping information. This committee can only help you if you submit your problems to it. Address problems which trouble you to care of the NEWSLETTER Editor for the present until the Committee is in full working trim. NEWSLETTER will publish some of the questions submitted with their answers from time to time, with no names attached, if the subjects seem to be of general interest. Here is a big opportunity to have your club help you; use it!

The March and April meetings should be of interest to many green chairmen, and it is hoped that many will be present at each meeting. Notice of these meetings is given elsewhere in this issue.

We note with interest and approval the evident desire on the part of several dealers in golf equipment to help greenkeepers with various suggestions in the literature sent out by them from time to time. It is happy cooperation.

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
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

MARSTON BURNETT .. Business Mgr.
330 Waltham St., West Newton, Mass.

February, 1930.

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WHAT DO WE RECEIVE FOR OUR MONEY?

I have heard this remark in our Club and it is mentioned in all clubs, but I do know as Members of the "Greenkeepers Club of New England", we are getting far more than what we pay.

Let us, for instance, check up our outdoor meetings in the summer. There are six, possibly seven, where we inspect the course, have lunch and play golf. The individual pays for his lunch and entrance fee for a golf tournament which goes towards prizes, but who pays for the use of the course? The various clubs have been kind enough to offer their courses, where if we went alone we would pay Green Fees from one to three dollars, which would alone mean six to eighteen dollars in the season saved because we are Members of this club. At our indoor meetings we have interesting speakers, and this last meeting a free lunch. Aren't we all getting something out of these talks? We have had other dinners and entertainments furnished by the club. There is an equipment day where all the latest in Golf course equipment is shown. Doesn't this mean something to us? Then last, but I would say the greatest, the "Newsletter". That alone is worth our dues. Even the member who does not attend the meetings, has his money's worth here, and above all else there is the good fellowship, the changing of ideas, new friends, and to me this means an awful lot. How can the question be asked—What do we receive for our money?

But—at our January meeting, when the subject was taken up to increase the dues, and there seemed to be a lot of favorable comment, the motion was ready to go through when, at the last moment a bomb was exploded and everyone fell, for when the vote came for an

increase in dues there were, I believe, three of us for it. Why it could be turned down I don't know. Personally, I should say that in this day and age it seems hard to get ahead without some money.

Some ask what is the Club doing? They are doing a lot, but with an increase in dues it could do a lot more. Provide more and better entertainment. speakers from a greater distance, and then there is the sad subject of illness and death which in most organizations is taken care of among the club's first ideas. Are we in a position to do a lot more about this matter? Have we money to back up any unforeseen matter combined with these other needs? How can our standard be improved if we do not go ahead?

I hope in another year we may vote for this increase in dues, and I firmly believe what I heard someone say a short time ago—"To take sugar out of the bowl we must put some in."

HOWARD D. FARRANT.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, on Monday, February 3rd.

President Treat appointed the following committees for 1930:

Employment
Shanahan. Chr., Peckham, McBride.
Welfare
Anderson, Chr., O'Grady, Ferme.
Auditing
Volmer, Chr., Latvis.

The speaker for the meeting was Mr. Walter B. Hatch, Associate of Donald Ross, well known golf architect. Mr. Hatch's talk was so interesting and helpful that we are giving you the main parts of it in this NEWSLETTER.

"The greenkeeper is—the most important employee of the club. The property in charge may range in value from \$200,000 to \$500,000, and its upkeep is usually his entire charge. As you realize the matter of satisfying several hundred people is no easy task, and the fact that you are doing it better and better every year, shows conclusively that you are learning as you work. The fact of Greenkeepers' Associations and of special instruction in schools and colleges indicates the desire to learn and the willingness on your part to help your fellow man in your chosen line of

work. The day of secret methods of the care of greens passed with the unknown seed mixture—the successful green keeper is the one who has a large degree of “horse sense”, to apply along with his arsenate of lead. I fully believe that the New England Greenkeepers Club does more for golf in this section than does the Green Section of the last few years.

The quality of a golf course is dependent on three things; its design, the type of construction, and its upkeep.

The design of a course is primarily dependent on the area to be used and the topography of the property. The design of a course can not be copied from some other course and it is rarely that individual greens or holes may be copied with any degree of success. It is often tried, mostly in the copying of noted holes from abroad, but as a rule something is always lacking.

To attempt to say that any one course is the best in New England or any other section, is a mistake that is often made, through local pride or misinformation. It is safer to say that a course is the best that a particular piece of land will permit. There is no hard and fast yardstick for measuring the quality of a course.

The first step in the making of a course is the selection of the land. Too little attention is given to this important detail. The fact that a particular property is for sale cheap means but little. The accessibility is not of too much importance because it can usually be made accessible at a reasonable cost. The fact that it has buildings that lend themselves to club use should not be given too much weight. The finished course is to play golf on, and unless it has soil that will grow a good turf and topography that will permit an interesting layout, it should usually be condemned for use as a golf course.

You greenkeepers are often asked to go over property with a view of its adaptability to make a good golf course. I wish you would pay more and more attention to—soil and the topography. The amount of money it takes to try to produce a turf on soil poorly adapted for such use, must among the clubs of the country be a staggering figure. But consideration must be given the section in which the course is desired—A desired topography is one which is easily rolling. A flat property is probably the most difficult to make into an interesting course.

The design of a course is made up not only of the location and length of the holes but of the details of the individual hole. its tees, traps and greens, the curves of the fairgreen, and many times the water system and the planting of unused areas.

The construction of a course is the interpretation of the design, and no one knows better than the designer of the course what the interpretation should be. For a general contractor, not familiar with the results to be obtained, to try to build a course from the plans of any golf architect has so far led to unsatisfactory results and always will.

The design and construction of greens, tees and bunkers, have a decided bearing on the ease and cost of maintenance. I feel that recently the matter has been stressed almost too much. Admittedly long slopes that permit mowing with a tractor mower are economical to care for. If you eliminate all hand work around greens and the outer slopes of bunkers, you are cutting costs, but you do so at a sacrifice of the character of the course. The uniform design of greens and bunkers to permit this brings in a sameness of appearance and play, and the holes lose individuality and character—I would suggest that only a few of the greens and bunkers be graded as to be able to mow all about them with tractor mower, and that the mowing of the semi-rough about the green be done only half as often. Semi-rough and rough are important hazards in a course. As for tees, where the adjacent topography will permit there is no reason why they should not be built so that the motor mower will do the entire work—large tees are a decided asset both to the greenkeeper and the player. Common sense plays a large part in the design of the green. Its size is influenced by the length of the shot to the green, and the varying difficulty of its surroundings. Not so long ago—contours were carried to the extreme, cup space was difficult to find, and putting was a precarious occupation. So also was the care of the green. The mowing and watering of these ridges and rolls was a difficult operation. The green had to be over-large on account of the strong slopes of the surface—good practice now dictates that the contours of a green shall be gentle and well blended.

There are a great many details entering into the construction of a course that do not show much on the plans.

Drainage is often one of the most important items, but usually it can not be intelligently planned until the work is underway and the various drainage defects of the ground noted.

The preparation of the soil both for fairgreen and green is a study in itself and usually no two courses are alike.

The question of the type of tools and machinery to use in the construction deserves more consideration than is usually given. Too often the conclusion is reached that anyone using less than steam shovels and tractors is antiquated and doing the work at an extravagant cost—in many cases the trend toward large machinery on a small job is overdone.

On construction work, foremen and sub-foremen who are somewhat familiar with golf work are indispensable. It is difficult to make many clubs see this in the proper light. I expect you find many times the same situation in the upkeep of the course. Your foreman is usually a future greenkeeper and worth all you can get for him.

Construction costs vary widely as there are so many varying items that go to make them up. All communities can not afford what we may call a "standard course", and whatever they may have that will further their interest in golf and give them pleasure is well worth while.

Another reason for widely varying costs is to be found in the type of ground used. It may be without rock and consist of well-drained meadow land. Or it may present problems in drainage, grading and clearing that will bring the cost up to a large figure. For this reason I always maintain that there can be no average cost per hole that any club can take for a working basis on contemplated work.

One of the large items of the finished cost of the course is always the water system. There are so many sources of water to consider in many cases; the spring with the opportunity of a reservoir, the river or stream, the driven well, and the possible city supply to be hooked on to—. The size of pipe through the course can not be guessed at if you are to have good results at the far runs. Loss of pressure due to too small pipes, and its consequent friction, is the ill of a great many courses.

To my mind the most critical time in the life of a golf course is the two years immediately after it is seeded. Your maintenance begins and nothing can be

neglected if your turf is going to be really good. From one third to one half more should be added to the budget for these two years, and if it is I can safely say that the saving in the years to come will much more than make it up. A great many other faults can be and will be put up with by the players if only a good turf is had. I always have had a feeling that there is little known as to just what causes the varying results that may be found on the same course. There are a great many things that I am uncertain about in my own mind. One is whether a seeded green is better than one from stolons, or visa versa, and which is the easier and cheaper to maintain."

TWO SUGGESTIONS

Our ninth green here at Reservation has always been infested with ants, probably because it is located on a sandy knoll. We have tried different insecticides and chemicals, but did not succeed in eliminating the ants. In some cases the preparation killed the grass and apparently fed the ants. In other cases it caused the ants to move over a few inches with the result that we had two ant hills where only one existed before.

Finally, last July, we tried taking them out with the hole cutter, going down to a depth of five or six inches. These holes we filled with plugs from the nursery. By using this strong arm method we have succeeded in eliminating practically all of the ants from that green.

If it is desired to pull out a cup that is frozen in a green, put a gasoline soaked rag in the cup and allow it to burn for two or three minutes. It is then easy to extract it.

JOHN COUNSELL.

NOTICES!

Will all those members who have not sent their green chairman's address to the Editor, kindly do so on the enclosed card? Thank you!

All members knowing of clubs desiring greenkeepers should notify Employment Committee at once. This committee desires to bring together members needing positions and clubs needing greenkeepers.

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BROWN PATCH A-LA-CARTE!

Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, will be the speaker at the next meeting of the club, which will be held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Monday, March 3, at 2 P. M.

Prof. Dickinson will give a resume of his work on Brown-patch during the last three years. The conclusions drawn have been carefully checked by him at the Boyce-Thompson Institute during this past Summer.

When a man tells you that he can forecast Brown-patch within three hours of its arrival, and then gives you control methods which are startling because of their simplicity, your curiosity should be aroused! This talk was delivered to a group of 450 greenkeepers at Louisville and was very favorably received.

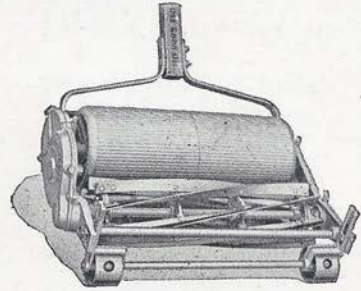
This meeting is open to ALL who are interested. Light lunch will be served at 1 P. M.

MARSTON BURNETT
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THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPERS' CONVENTION AT LOUISVILLE

The 4th Annual National Greenkeepers' Convention, Conference and Golf Show, was held at Louisville, Ky., February 4-7, 1930.

The Golf Show opened at the Armory, February 4, with the best display of golf equipment that has been shown.

The Conference, also held in the Armory, started February 5, at 2 P. M., with an address of welcome by Pres. John Morley, who introduced Prof. Geo. M. McClure of Ohio State University, as chairman of the conference.

Addresses of welcome were given by officials of the city and by the presidents of the three Louisville Country Clubs.

The first speaker was Mr. Lewis Evans, a Greenkeeper of Penn., who spoke on the fraternal side of Greenkeeping.

Prof. L. S. Dickinson of the Mass. Agri. College, gave a most interesting talk on "Seeds and Grasses". He told of simple tests for determining the quality and kind of seed, and by these tests opened up many tricks of the seed trade. Among the points brought out were the following. In general, large seeds produce coarse grasses. Chewing's Fescue is superior to red fescue. Mixtures by weight are no indication of the stand of grass; in a mixture, by weight of 48% Chewing's fescue, 25% redtop, and 15% S. G. Bent it would give a stand of 1 fescue to 4 red top and 4 bent plants. A good grade of bent seed would show awns. Domestic rye is superior to imported. Seed of meadow fescue is often mistaken for rye. When examining seed it is well to keep in mind that weight plays an important part. The best grade of seed is always the cheapest. Five pounds of bent seed per one thousand square feet would give 102 plants per square inch. This talk was finely received and created much favorable comment.

Mr. A. E. Grantham of the V-C Fertilizer Co., spoke on the functions of the three plant food elements. He explained, at considerable length, the way plants make food, and how this food is used. He stated there were 12 essential elements for plant growth, classifying them as necessary, essential, and important. He brought out the fact that phos. acid and potash were as essential as nitrogen, and that early fertilizing was important. His talk was quite technical,

much in detail, but brought out the desirability of a balanced plant food.

The Life and Activities of Soil Bacteria, by James A. Smith of London, Ohio, opened the Thursday session. He gave an interesting talk on the action and the great importance of bacteria in the soil, and the ways and means of increasing this bacteria action. He stated that food, in the right stage, air, water, temperature, and darkness were essential for the best development. He advised the making of compost by the area, or field, method, starting in the late fall, using as much manure as can be obtained, harrow and keep it worked, and harvest in July. Hard soils cannot assimilate, or digest chemical fertilizers. It is necessary to get organic matter into them.

Dr. H. B. Sprague of the New Jersey Experiment Station in his talk, gave a resume of the turf work at the New Jersey station. Results were influenced by the kind of plants, the soil, and the climate. He spoke of the way in which different fertilizers effected the acidity of the soil, the effect of fertilizers on weeds, worms, clover, and poa annua, and the lasting effect of the fertilizers on the quality of the grass. By adding sulphur, the acidity can be rapidly increased, by adding lime, acidity can be decreased rapidly. Lime does not increase weeds or clover *provided* there is enough available nitrogen for the grass in the soil. Potash and phos. acid seem to encourage clover, while poa annua can be controlled by making soils strongly acid, or by withholding phos. acid and potash. Urea encourages poa annua. Arsenate of lead gives complete control of worms there, as well as controlling *some* weeds. This was a very interesting talk and shows the value of the State Experiment Stations in turf work.

Mr. O. J. Noer gave a talk on the "Trend of Greenkeeping." He discussed the methods of greenkeeping in the early days and the changes to those of the present day.

Mr. Wendell P. Miller read an interesting paper on "Drainage and Soils". He brought out the great importance of good drainage for early and late playing conditions, improving soils, and the influence drainage has on all turf growth.

The Friday meeting was opened with an address by Prof. L. S. Dickinson, on "A New Phase in the Control of Brown Patch". He described the 3 stages of Brown-Patch, resting or spore, the

critical and the parasitic. He told of forecasting the attacks of brown-patch by watching the temperature. The critical stage occurs between 64-69 and the parasitic stage at 73. With a sudden drop of temperature to 64-69 followed by an immediate rise, large brown-patch will appear. As the critical stage lasts about 3½ hours, it can be controlled by poling or spraying, brushing or washing before it has a chance to get into the parasitic stage. Watering in the heat of the day may bring on brown-patch or help its development, by causing a sudden drop in the temperature. This is a new slant in the much discussed subject of brown-patch and was very interesting and a noteworthy addition to our information on the subject. This same talk will be given by Prof. Dickinson, at the March meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and we would impress on every one the advisability of attending.

Mr. D. G. Grove of the Davey Tree Co. gave a talk on the "Care of Trees". This was taken up as a story of the tree itself, from seedling to full growth and transplanting, with subsequent care of pruning, spraying etc.

Greenkeeping Problems in Canada, were described by W. J. Sanson, a greenkeeper of Toronto, which showed that many of his problems were similar to ours.

The Activities of the Green Section, were discussed by Dr. Monteith of the Green Section at Washington. His talk was a very able answer to the critics of the Section, and he thoroughly explained the workings of that organization, and brought out the need of greater funds and better cooperation.

We understand that this show and conference was the largest that has been held. The whole tone of the convention was a decided improvement over the one last year. This convention was indeed very valuable, and we feel that through the cooperation of our Green Comm. Chairman, it was a privilege to attend it. We wish that more of the New England golf clubs could have sent their Greenkeepers.

JAMES McCORMACK, Unicorn.
FRANK WILSON, Charles River.
CARLTON TREAT, Woodland.

WAYS TO ECONOMIZE

My course is a modest nine hole course, approximately three thousand yards long, is located on the central ridge of

the Island of Rhode Island, covering the greater part of fifty-six acres, and crossing this hog-back ridge twice east and west.

After I had finished construction, I was allowed to retain three men for eight months each year for upkeep mainly; however, many changes were made, compost prepared, and stolon bent nursery maintained.

Our Club is privately owned, and a year ago two of the four owners met with severe financial losses, so the burden of supporting the club fell on two only, and a drastic cut in the budget became necessary. Asked what I could do to retrench, I agreed to keep the fairways and greens in playing condition, with one man to help me, (incidentally an inexperienced one), he to drive the tractor, I to care for the greens.

To a fair understanding of the situation, a brief statement of equipment on hand is essential. We had a Fordson tractor with dump cart, (4 years old), three new units for the Ideal mower, large rotary screen, two Pennsylvania Super Putting Green Mowers, and three three hundred pound rollers. Here I must explain that the 2800 pound Fordson is altogether too heavy for using on fairways. This Fordson has seen a thousand days service, costs more to repair than it is worth, excellent for construction and transporting compost, but obsolete for use on fairways.

Now one of the most important ways to save time is to watch your course and roll both greens and fairways just as soon as the frost is out, and before the ground settles with Spring rains. Greens can be rolled to perfect condition even with Fordson, followed by the 900 pounds roller to erase tractor marks, if great care is taken to see that they are not too wet, and no short turns are made. I have had my course ready for play the first day of April every year so far, secure a material sum in green fees before any other courses are open on the Island, and hold the course open until December 15.

Another time saver on my course is the fact that two greens can be mowed around up to the putting surface with the units, as they are sufficiently difficult without bunkers. Four more large greens had wide collars between the putting carpet and bunkers which permitted one complete circuit with fairway mowers; however, this is to be avoided as the Fordson left scars from pressure.

I began the season with greens quite free from weeds, and kept them so by only topdressing in April, and escaping the usual monthly treatment by discreetly using a ton of highly nitrogenous fertilizer instead, and postponing topdressing again until late October and November, when early frosts account for many of the weeds. Six of the nine greens are stolon bent greens and can be kept free of weeds with less expense than the other three.

By the last of June, I was teaching several hours some days and could not have handled the greens if the most important time saver of all had not been purchased. With a new Jacobson Power Mower, I was able to mow and roll at the same time, all of my greens and tees in eight hours at the cost of one gallon of gasoline. With my up and down hill course I do not find the heavy carrier practicable. Over reasonably smooth fairways, between greens, it travels on its own corrugated roller as fast as one can comfortably walk, by slightly depressing the handle.

In my budget was a hundred dollars for overtime for the tractor driver, as after heavy rains, some days had to be twelve hours long, and there was always a half day Sundays. The extraordinarily dry season forced me to water evenings with Lark sprinklers to the limit of my water supply.

Because our course has two steep climbs between green and tees, I replaced the wooden settees with stone ones cut on the course. They do not blow over or require painting, look most inviting when one is out of breath, and make a permanent picturesque asset.

In Spring and Fall, or when very dry, I only mow every other day, and use a light roller the other days. Two greens built with 150 to 200 pounds of arsenate of lead in the first three inches are free from earthworms. The others I give 25 pounds each in the Spring topdressing, and five pounds a month thereafter applied with fertilizer or topdressing.

If any of these suggestions help a fellow greenkeeper, I will be glad to know of it.

R. WALLACE PECKHAM.

Keep in mind the dates of the annual show of the Winter School for Greenkeepers at Amherst, Mass., March 15, and 16. The exhibitions and discussions at this show will help and interest you.

GREEN CHAIRMAN ATTENTION!

No one attending the annual meeting of the U. S. G. A. Green Section at the Hotel Biltmore, New York, could have failed to note the emphasis placed on sectional experimental plots. The powers that be seem to be in the mood to abandon any main experimental plant in favor of those which would work under more local conditions.

With this in view, why not turn our attention to an ideally equipped plant in New England, namely the Experimental Station at the Massachusetts Agricultural College? It has been in operation for years, and is manned by a personnel which is competent and unbiased. There are few of us that do not know of the work of Professor Dickinson, and not a great deal of imagination is necessary to realize how much the staff of the Station might do if put to work on golf course problems.

The speaker at the April meeting will be Dr. Fred J. Sievers, Director of the Experiment Station. He fully realizes an opportunity for service and is anxious to meet greenkeepers and their chairmen, to ascertain if there is a demand for such service, for without a demand the Station is not justified in expending its funds.

The meeting will be held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, on Monday, April 7, 1930. A light lunch will be served at 1 P. M., and the meeting will start promptly at 2 o'clock. Let us all turn out with our chairmen if possible, and show that there is immediate demand for this service!

MARSTON BURNETT.

FROM A QUESTION BOX MEETING

A Toro compost screen was increased in capacity by adding two extra buckets to the loading elevator. The screen being on rollers makes changing the location very easy. (Charles River).

A Royer compost machine works well where there are not too many rocks, doesn't work well on sod. Compost heaps are kept harrowed. Now changing to field method, dumping leaves, soil, refuse, etc., on field, plowing and harrowing instead of cutting down piles. Use has been made of old building, storing screened compost for next year. (Kernwood).

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O. J. Noer, writing in *Golfdom*, April, 1929 says:

"It probably will be necessary to overhaul the practice in nitrogen feeding. In the past the color and the amount of growth have been watched to determine the need of nitrogen, but sturdiness actually is more important."

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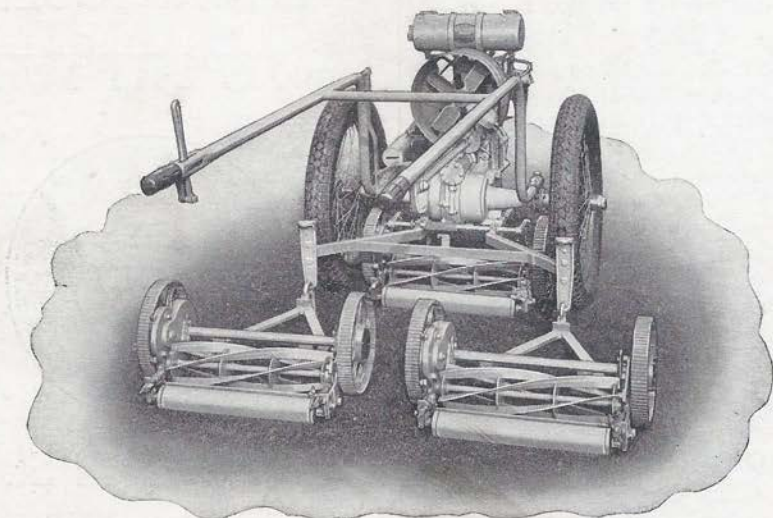


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