

NEWS LETTER

January, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 1

OUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

"I wish to be simple, honest, frank—natural, clean in mind and body, unaffected, ready to say 'I do not know', if so it be, to meet all men on absolute equality, to face any obstacle and meet every difficulty unabashed and unafraid—to cultivate the hospitable mind and the receptive heart."

Elbert Hubbard.

EMBRYONIC EDITORIALS

We are advised in a circular by the National Association of Audubon Societies not to forget the birds during the Winter months, when it is hard for them to obtain food. Feed them, using chickfeed, etc. for the seed eaters, and suet for the insect eaters. Along this same line, it might be a good idea for you to build or buy this Winter a few bird houses, and have them up for the coming Spring.

Are you planning ahead and do you know what materials you will need this Spring? Get them delivered early. A little planning now may save a lot of worry later.

Don't forget your equipment this Winter! Be sure that everything is in shape to open up the season. Clean, sharpen, spread a little paint! Order and replace all worn and broken parts. Don't forget to order flags, tee brushes and towels, soap, etc. as needed.

Browse around in the back numbers of the Green Section BULLETIN. You will find many things of interest and help which you have forgotten were there.

Send your dues promptly to the Treasurer, and help make his work lighter. He is doing a large amount of work for your club; he deserves your cooperation!

Resolve to write an article concerning your experiences or your method of doing some phase of greenkeeping, and send it to the NEWSLETTER!

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.

January, 1930,

Vol. 2, No. 1

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GREEN-KEEPERS CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

I am indeed sorry that our former president, Mr Wilson, would not continue his good work in the chair, and I hereby wish to extend my personal thanks to him for all the thought and work he has done, and is doing, for our club.

I wish also to thank you, gentlemen, for the trust you have placed in me, in electing me President of the Greenkeepers Club of New England. You have elected one who knows little about parliamentary law, and one who no doubt will make many mistakes; but on the other hand, one who is more than ready to work hard to put the club across. If *interest* in the club itself, *hard work*, and the desire to make the club a success will bring results, then I think we can look forward to a fine year.

There are three lines along which we can well work.

1. To get the members as a whole to take more part in the running of the club. No group of officers, as far as I know, nor do the Board of Directors, wish in any way to dictate to the club. In order to avoid any criticism that the club is run by a few, the members as a whole should be willing to do their share in shaping the policies of the club. You will find your president open to, and anxious for, any suggestions along this line. Above all, the officers are elected to carry out the wishes of the members. So come forward with your help and suggestions.

2. To gain a larger membership, and to find means or methods of making this club more attractive to prospective mem-

bers; e. g., establishing of a benevolent fund, or a better employment service.

3. The matter of Cooperation. Some time ago I suggested to the Board of Directors, that a meeting or meetings be given over to other organizations allied with Golf in this section, (such as the Massachusetts Golf Association, The New England Professional Golfers Association, and the Service Bureau,) at which we might have speakers from these organizations to talk on the question of how the Greenkeepers Club of New England could cooperate with them. By these meetings, I felt that the Greenkeepers Club would show to all its readiness to cooperate in anything that would bring about one of the aims of the club, the betterment of golf and golfing conditions in this section. Let's stand on our feet, by all means, squarely and independently as we always have, but let's show our friendly feeling, our willingness to cooperate in anything, where we can keep our self-respect, that will make things better for golf in New England. We were the first association of greenkeepers to organize in the country solely by and for greenkeepers, and absolutely independent of any individual or group. Why not go a step further and be the first to lead the way in our willingness to cooperate or lend a helping hand? Do you think the club would lose anything in so doing?

Among the plans suggested for the coming year is the holding of a meeting or a special meeting in the Providence district, where we would have a better chance of meeting our new members in that section. Another plan is to hold one outdoor meeting at which each member could invite his green chairman, having someone address us on a subject of mutual interest, lunch, to be followed by a Green Committee Chairman—Greenkeeper tournament. Still another plan is to have a Summer meeting to which we could invite the dealers in golf equipment. These, as I say, are some of the plans so to speak "in the air", but why don't you personally come forward with some plan that you would like to see put through?

Let each and every member of this club be ready to help out, take part, and boost this organization. Come forward with your help and suggestions. Let's make the reputation of this club which is good even better. Come on, let's go!

CARLTON E. TREAT.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1929

Fellow Members:

We are approaching the Club's sixth anniversary and it is well to look back over the years and consider what we have accomplished.

The Greenkeepers' Club of New England has the distinction of being the first club of its kind in the United States. I would like to go back to the fall of 1923, and trace its beginning. In that fall Mr. Thomas Fahey, of Winchester, and Mr. Alec Brice, then of Belmont Springs, made a canvass of the greenkeepers of the clubs of Metropolitan Boston, with the view of ascertaining the sentiment regarding the forming of some kind of a greenkeepers' organization. In January of 1924, Mr. C. E. Treat and I returning from the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association at New York, talked the matter over on the train and as a result of this talk Mr. Treat called a meeting at his home on February 5th. At this meeting were present Mr. Shanahan, of Brae Burn, Mr. Holden, of Albemarle, Mr. Marrato, of Oakley, Mr. Fahey, of Winchester, Mr. Brice, of Belmont Springs, Mr. Treat of Woodland, Mr. Sullivan, of Waltham, Mr. Swanson, of Bear Hill and Mr. Wilson, of Charles River. It was decided to hold a get-together dinner at Cottrell's Restaurant in Boston, on Monday, February 25, 1924. This first meeting brought out 41, and The Greenkeepers' Club of New England was formed, a constitution adopted and the following officers elected: Mr. John Shanahan, President, Mr. James Holden, Vice-President, Mr. F. H. Wilson, Secretary, Mr. C. E. Treat, Treasurer, Mr. Valentine Flood, Mr. William McBride and Mr. James Sullivan, Trustees. On April 7, of the first year a very successful meeting and banquet was held to which were invited the greens chairmen. Mr. Sweeney explained the purpose of the club, Mr. Noble spoke on "The Relation of the Chairmen of Green Committees and The Greenkeepers". Mr. A. L. Fowler, of the Boston Transcript addressed the meeting on the subject "The Benefits of the Greenkeepers' Organization". Mr. Valentine Flood, read a paper "How the Green-section and Greenkeeper can help each other" and Dr. Piper from Washington

was the principle speaker of the afternoon.

The first golf tournament held by the Club was at Brae Burn, on June 9, 1924, and prizes were awarded to L. C. Vickery, H. H. Stallwood, J. J. Fitzpatrick, T. W. Swanson and John Riley.

On May, 1925, the Club staged the first out door demonstration of golf course equipment and machinery held in this part of the country.

During the last six years the Club has visited and played golf, on over 25 of the courses of New England. At our winter meetings we have listened to some of the best authorities on golf course maintenance, have had meetings at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, meetings with seed and implement men, and have had many interesting discussions of our problems.

During these six years our membership has doubled. There has been an ever increasing interest in the Club by its members and by greens committee chairmen. These last men have come to realize that this Club exists for their benefits as well as for the welfare of its members. A spirit of friendship and cooperation has sprung up among us which is growing year by year. By our actions and conduct during these years we have won the respect of those with whom we have come in contact, we have raised the standard of and increased our skill in greenkeeping.

During this year just past the Club has published a Newsletter. This paper has received much favorable comment and its success is largely due to the untiring efforts of Mr. West. The matter of group insurance was taken up and it is to be very much regretted that it was impossible to obtain that type of insurance for the Club. Mr. Treat worked very hard for it and we owe him a debt of gratitude. To those greenkeepers and to their clubs who have so hospitably entertained us during this year, I would like to extend the most hearty thanks of our organization.

In conclusion, this Club will prosper just as long as each individual member takes a personal interest in it. Your officers have tried to make each meeting interesting and instructive. Make it a point to attend. I have enjoyed being your President during this past year and thank you for the honor.

FRANK H. WILSON, JR.

REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 1929

Your Recording Secretary reports for the year 1929, as follows:

During the year we have lost one member by death, one has resigned, others have been dropped for non-payment of dues, but new members joining have kept the membership from shrinking. Attendance has been no higher than formerly, averaging about thirty-five.

We have as usual held seven meetings on golf courses, and five at Horticultural Hall. Our outdoor meetings started at the Experimental plots at the Charles River Country Club. The outdoor meetings were well distributed according to our membership. Half of our members are located in the Boston district, nearly a quarter in Southern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and the other quarter or more are scattered. As you may remember, we held one meeting in New Hampshire, two in the Southern part of our territory, and four in or near the Boston district.

Discussion was started at the February meeting to try to make the Greenkeepers Club of New England more valuable to its members. Since that time the NEWSLETTER has been started. Much effort was expended on Group Insurance without results except that the man or men who did it should be in good training to tackle some other worthy cause. Improvement of the educational side of our Summer meetings was proposed, resulting in only a little progress, except that at the last three outdoor meetings a guide was provided for the non-playing members.

At our indoor meetings we had only one prominent speaker. We would suggest that in the future, the Amherst meeting should not be substituted for a regular meeting, as so few attend at Amherst. Allowing one meeting for our annual banquet, there are only four meetings left for speakers or strong educational features.

Our organization has progressed in the past year, but even without any great changes, has not the program for the year as followed in the past been worth while? We have got out of the ruts once a month, and visited seven golf courses. We have used one Winter meeting for election of officers and banquet, and had four meetings for speakers or question box meetings. There has been an Imple-

ment Show, and now there are the Experimental Plots and the NEWSLETTER.

Nevertheless in order not to go backward we must go forward.

ROBERT A. MITCHELL.

COMPOST METHODS

Here at the Winchester Country Club we are fortunate in having a very convenient compost building, built in 1927. It is a stone building, the work being done by my own men. The plans were devised and drawn by one of our members, who is an engineer and gave his services gratis. The building is thirty-three feet wide and fifty-five feet long. It is a two story building, both floors being made of cement, the second floor having a steel reinforcement with two rows of bulkheads, five in a row. The bulkheads are eight feet from the walls. Each bulkhead is two and a half feet wide and five feet long. The bulkheads are thus made so that the rotary screen can be placed conveniently over them. We shortened the four legs of our screens, which are Toro Rotary Screens, so that the screen rotates as closely as possible to the floor; this makes it easy to load by hand. When we screen the loam, the fine material drops through to the lower floor, so that all we have to take care of is the rough material which comes through the end of the machine.

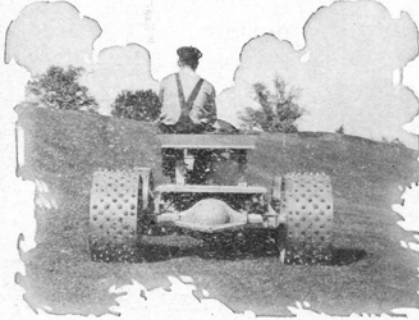
Compost Formula

Outside the doors of the second floor we have about three thousand yards of loam, spread over a half acre of land. We cover this with barnyard manure to the depth of six inches. When this is done we plow it under to a depth of ten inches. Then we cover it over with gritty sand to the depth of three or four inches. Next we disc-harrow and plow several times until it is well mixed. Then when it is good and dry, we scoop it into the building with a drag scoop. It is not advisable to scoop it into the building in wet weather, as the material would not be fit for screening. When we have it piled in, we take advantage of the wet days to screen it.

THOMAS FAHEY.

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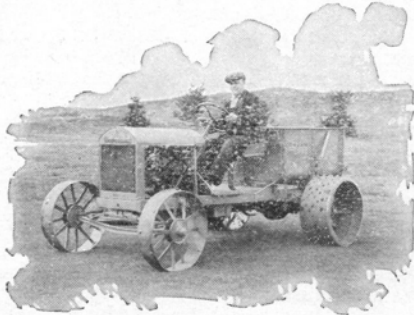
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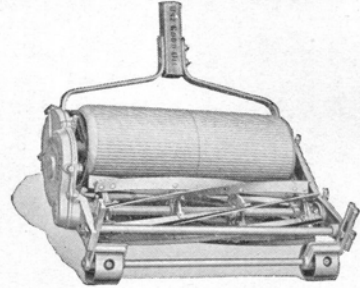
RESOLVE to read and think over the other fellow's experiences, to observe what others are doing and think how these things will help you.

RESOLVE to attend the meetings of your club, to take an active part in the affairs of your club, to help its officers, to make friends with your fellow greenkeepers, to learn the enjoyment of playing the game.

RESOLVE to experiment as much as possible during the year.

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ANNUAL MEETING

Possibly a short resume of the annual meeting held in Boston, on January 6, may be of interest to you if you are among those who were unable to be present. The banquet was held at the Minerva Restaurant, and the business meeting at Horticultural Hall. Following interesting reports of officers and committees, (some are printed in this issue of the NEWSLETTER) much business of importance was transacted.

Two amendments to the by-laws were voted. One makes the Editor and Business Manager of the NEWSLETTER members of the Board of Directors. The other abolishes the office of Financial Secretary, and creates a new office of 3rd Vice President. Dues are now to be paid directly to the Treasurer, Mr. James Sullivan, 47 Hammond Street, Waltham, Mass.

After much discussion relative to raising the dues, it was finally decided to keep the dues the same as before, and to make the Trustees' Fund, to which more was added from balance in Treasury, accessible in cases of need among our members.

OFFICERS FOR 1930

President	Carlton E. Treat
1st V. Pres.	Thomas Fahey
2nd V. Pres.	James McCormack
3rd V. Pres.	Howard Farrant
Secretary	Robert A. Mitchell
Treasurer	James C. Sullivan
Trustee	T. W. Swanson
Trustee	Frank H. Wilson, Jr.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

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M. D. Maxwell	Thomas Galvin
Thomas O'Leary	Frank H. Wilson, Jr.

GOLF COMMITTEE

C. E. Sowerby, Chairman	
P. F. Hayden	Wm. J. McBride
Joseph Oldfield	John Shanahan

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

C. W. Parker, Chairman	
Martin M. Greene	Elliot D. Pierce
Dennis Crowley	Edwin Hansen

SERVICE BUREAU INVESTIGATES COSTS

The answers to a recent questionnaire sent out by the New England Service Bureau, concerning costs of golf course Maintenance, show two things of impor-

tance. Practically all green chairmen have different reports and different information, and evidently desire this. Labor costs on golf courses vary greatly.

These discoveries are not new. Other Service Bureaus have found these facts when they attempted to make a study of costs. Because of the differences in reporting costs by clubs using different cost analysis systems, it is evident that there can be no comparison of costs until one is certain that costs to be compared cover the same items.

Because of many factors which influence costs of golf maintenance, anyone who is studying costs must go very slowly in trying to make comparisons. The New England Service Bureau has now an evident desire to study costs of golf course maintenance in New England. Because such study usually leads to comparison, and because we as greenkeepers are vitally interested in maintenance costs on our courses, we should be interested in any study made of such costs, and in any result of such study. The Service Bureau is to be commended that it is trying to help its member clubs by lowering costs of maintenance. It is to be hoped that this Service Bureau does not follow in the footsteps of another Service Bureau, which also studied costs not long ago, and compared indiscriminately, without any regard to all the factors which influenced costs on the various courses under discussion.

It is unfair to say or publish that any course is costing more than another to maintain, without giving the greenkeeper and green chairman a hearing at least. It is possible that they may desire to spend more money, getting possibly a better degree of maintenance, and it is probable that they may be able to point out some factors which influence costs there which may not be apparent to the "discoverer of costs" who too often skims the surface.

It is my personal opinion, and I have made a study of golf course costs for several years, that a search for costs may do some good, if it is complete and fair. What would do much more good would be a campaign to get every course to have and keep a cost analysis system of their own. A comparison of costs from year to year on any course will often do more good than a comparison with costs on another course.

I believe that clubs will do well to support any attempt to lower costs, but should be ready at all times to fight any attempt to compare costs between

courses, unless all factors which influence costs are given equal prominence with the comparison.

All the questionnaires ever sent out, and all the results obtained, will not alter the conditions now prevalent that courses spend far different amounts for maintenance. There might be mentioned the fact that different clubs have differing dues, differing memberships, hence different incomes. Expenditure must be governed by income. Then too, there is the range in courses from the "cow-pasture" variety, to one of championship calibre. Add to these differing factors, such as topography, soil, water supply, kinds of grass, yardage, etc., all influencing costs, and one can readily see that costs will always differ. They will differ from year to year on the same course, and the cost system should show why and where they differ. Be prepared to explain these changes on your own course, and do not forget to watch out for unfair comparisons, and to condemn them!

G. C. W.

IMPORTANT

Send the address of your green committee chairman to the Editor, and we will send him his copy direct.

GREEN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Greens Section of the U. S. G. A. was called to order on January 10, at the Hotel Biltmore, by Mr. H. Y. Barrow.

Mr. Wynant Vanderpool, Chairman of the Green Section, gave a resume of the activities for the past year. In general he brought out that much reorganization of the turf plots at Arlington had been done, the work on diseases other than brown patch is still in progress, and that work is being done in the West on problems which are more peculiar to that section than to the country as a whole. The announcement was made that the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$5,000, to be used for experimental purposes on

golf turf and grasses at the State experiment stations. The hope was expressed that other States would fall in line in a like manner.

Dr. K. F. Kellerman of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. D. A., expressed the belief that his department could and would be brought into closer touch with the work of the Greens Section with mutual benefit. Dr. Kellerman pointed out that of all crops grown to-day, only corn and tobacco have been developed in the United States and that importing the cultural practices along with the crops to widely differing growing conditions, had in the long run been of very little help. Speaking from the extensive experiences of the Department on corn and tobacco, he also pointed out that the cultural practices vary with the climate and with the varieties. In closing he asked for patience on our part. Pressure and speed when applied to experimental work are not conducive to the best and most permanent results, and if first attempts do not work out as well as is hoped, Dr. Kellerman wants us to be assured that the Department will not give up but will continue until the results do warrant definite recommendations.

The Greens Section is to be complimented on securing Prof. F. H. Hillman, of the Seed Laboratories, U. S. D. A. He is well worth hearing, frequently.

Prof. Hillman's talk was somewhat informal and only a few of the high lights can be touched upon. He called to our attention the fact that the name Colonial Bent now applies to the variety which has been called, Rhode Island, New Zealand, P. E. I. Rhode Island and various local names.

Speaking on production and adulteration, the point was made that adulteration was probably done after the seed had left the growers hands. For the most part growers are intensely interested in not only holding the present standard of their seeds, but improving it in every way possible. In P. E. I. and Oregon, field inspection of the seed crop is made and rigid selection practiced. The inspectors are very capable men of the highest integrity. In 1930, this field inspection is to be supplemented by laboratory examination after the crop is harvested.

Prof. Hillman, has visited practically all the Bent producing areas of any importance and seemed to be particu-

larly, if unfavorably, impressed by the large percentage of loss in harvesting. He expressed the opinion that improved methods and machinery should be introduced, particularly so since this loss consists of the best of the seed crop.

Identification of varieties by their seeds, particularly the Bents, is very difficult, requiring not only a high power microscope, but a great deal of experience to recognize the many different characteristics of these minute seeds. The Seed Laboratories of the U. S. D. A. and some State Analysis, as well as a few commercial laboratories, can and are identifying the Bent varieties from seed, but it is not and should not be expected of the Greenkeeper or Green Chairman.

A long list of questions was presented to Dr. Hillman dealing with identification of varieties, sources of origin, the meaning of the figures on a seed bag, protection from adulteration, and certification. These questions were introduced to bring out what a Greenkeeper or Greens Chairman should be expected to know along these lines.

In the main all the answers regarding identification of varieties, and sources of origin as determined from samples was too technical, and acquired too close an application over a long period for a Greenkeeper or Green Chairman to be expected to have this knowledge to any great extent.

Prof. Hillman's answers to all the questions regarding protection to purchasers by Federal Laws was the same, "No protection".

The figures on a seed tag are just what they profess to be. That of the sample taken, the stated percentage has germinated by actual test, and that the purity is as stated. These tests are made both by actual count, and also by weight from samples taken from the lot.

Mr. Cornelius S. Lee, Chairman of the Jekyll Id. Golf Club read a paper dealing for the most part with the Porto Rican Mole-cricket which is a serious pest with them. The Fairways at Jekyll Id. are Bermuda and Carpet Grass, with Carpet preferred tho somewhat slower than Bermuda. Bermuda Grass is used on their Greens with Red Top in the dormant period, but in Mr. Lees words this is not, "too satisfactory." According to Mr. Lee, the Mole-cricket is 100% devil. The specific damage is done by burrowing and making holes

over the entire golf course. Carbon bisulphide and arsenate of lead are used with some success, but if this pest is one tenth as bad as Mr. Lee reports we in New England are fortunate indeed.

Dr. T. P. Hinman, of the Druids Hills Golf Club, Atlanta, Ga., spoke on the development of greens on his course from the early sandgreens to the present day practice of having two separate Greens for each hole, one Green of Bermuda Grass and the other a combination of Rye Grass and Poa Annuu. The Bermuda Greens are used until the dormant season for this grass, then play is moved over to the other Green where the Rye grass has been brought along; through December, January and part of February the play is on Rye Grass and then Poa Annuu takes possession of the Green and produces what Dr. Hinman is pleased to call the finest putting surface, bar none.

Mr. Bob White who has had experiences similar to Mr. Lee, spoke of the damage of the mole-cricket at the Myrtle Beach course. This course is on the Carolina coast and conditions are very similar to Jekyll Id., excepting Carpet grass is preferred on the Greens.

Dr. Monteith of the Greens Section showed slides on results obtained from sterilization of samples of loam and compost. In the slides there could be no question that the sterilization had practically eliminated the noxious weeds. Dr. Monteith closed with a few remarks on experiments now being carried out on height of cut for fairways and control of snow mold. Results of these will eventually be published.

In addition to the speakers Mr. Kenneth Welton of the Greens Section had an exhibition of considerable interest.

CHARLES PARKER.

Greenkeeper, thirty-nine years of age, with sixteen years experience, wishes position for coming season. Can report at once. Write W. L., care of Newsletter.

Dr. Basil B. Brook, Horticulturist and Specialist in Turf Maintenance, Golf Courses, Parks, etc., who has charge of the Golf Course on the famous Davis Islands, Tampa, Florida, writes as follows:

"For a considerable time I have been very carefully studying, testing and checking up with COLLOIDAL PHOSFOOD upon the greens. Results have been so remarkably good I am convinced that we have in COLLOIDAL PHOSFOOD, a plant food that green-keepers should be fully acquainted with, as it will fill a gap in his fertilizer program that has always been vacant."

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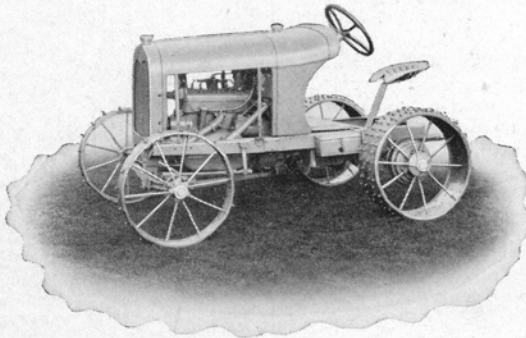
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