



NEWSLETTER

May, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 5.

"Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings".

—Samuel Johnson.

With this issue NEWSLETTER starts a new year of endeavor. We hope that it fills an important place in your interests, and that you and your club are brought closer together by this intimate medium. You must remember, however, that this NEWSLETTER can not be a true success unless you help. We would appreciate ideas and contributions from our readers, especially from green committee chairmen. How can we better serve you? What more can we do for the good of Golf in New England?

HOW ABOUT IT? Do you patronize our advertisers? Do you send new ideas and methods to NEWSLETTER so that your fellows may benefit from them? What effect did the frost in late April have on your greens? How early did you use sulphate of ammonia this year? Did your fairways burn up in May? What sprinklers are you using, and with what success? Have you visited the experimental plots at the Charles River Country Club this Spring? How much trouble have you had this Spring with *Poa annua*? How about sending in your answers to some of these questions to the Editor? HOW ABOUT IT?

Dig out your clubs and a couple of old balls and come around to the next meeting.

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.

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

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FESCUE GREENS AT PORTLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Seven years ago we built and seeded our last nine greens with 60 or 70% New Zealand Chewings Fescue and the balance re-cleaned redtop. I think too, that we put in a very small amount of bent. It appears to me now that the red top is entirely eliminated. For four years after seeding these greens did not seem to thicken as fast as I would like to have seen them with the result that a light re-seeding was given them during each of these years. Since then, three years, I do not believe that there has been an average of two pounds of seed given each of those greens during these years except for a little "sag" that was in two or three of them that winter-killed, and to hold back the poa annua a little extra seed had to be used. These "sags" were very shallow and since have been practically eliminated by an extra treatment of loam between each regular treatment of top dressing.

These greens are not hard to maintain. I treat only two of them for brown-patch; the others get such slight attacks that only those looking for the disease would know the green was affected at all. The reason that the two are affected is because one of them is denied five to six hours of the sunshine during a day by tall trees, while the other is so closely wooded around that little or no wind-air can get at it. Both conditions, with strong applications of sulphate of ammonia, are, I believe, 90% of the cause of brown-patch.

I differ with those who say that fescue greens will not stand close cutting, for those at the Portland Country Club are cut as closely as a Toro putting green mower will cut them. I only treat them three times a season, and not any

green on this course gets more than twenty-five pounds of sulphate of ammonia per season. Some do not get more than ten pounds per season. The weeding cost of these greens runs from \$30 to \$50 each season. This includes the absolute removal, root and leaf, of dandelions, chickweed, pearlwort, plantain, and practically the elimination of poa annua and every other "foreign" growth. When we finish weeding a green nothing remains but whatever strain of grass that is in the green. Each and every time we weed we always get a little clover, and that is just what I want to see, for it seems to me that when we get greens so acid that they won't take a little clover, then I think we have overdone it. This is why I go so scanty on sulphate of ammonia. My first treatment in the Spring ranges from no sulphate on the heavy greens to ten pounds on the light loamy greens. I vary this amount because generally heavy land has more tendency to be acid, or sour, than light sandy soils, and for this reason I try to balance the treatment so as not to have some greens acid and others alkaline. I also put on a hundred pounds of complete fertilizer to a green, mixed with the sulphate where used. Once in a while I put on two kinds—fifty pounds of each to a green. I do not care much for this practice, because one never finds out which of the two is best. There is so much on the market these days for grass growing that it would take a wiser man than King Solomon to choose the right thing, and my advice to each and every greenkeeper before buying any of it is to try out a sample. "Ours is the best" according to the salesman selling it, but I always tell the salesman that I will let him know if his is the best after I have tried fifty pounds of it.

And to close, I would say, our success depends largely on our own experiments and common sense. Try it.

JOHN S. PARSONS,

Portland (Me.) C. C.

BENEFITS OF DRAINAGE

The benefits of drainage are readily apparent to any intelligent greenkeeper. Some of the most obvious are:

Drainage usually increases the growth

of fine turf, and helps to keep the players' dispositions cheerful with good lies. It makes fairways that are uncertain of lasting thru the Winter more safe for an early start in the Spring. It brings into cultivation lands otherwise worthless.

Drainage improves the physical condition of the soil by making it more granulated, porous, and friable. Thus, stiff soils are more easily handled, roots have a greater feeding area, and the available moisture in the soil is increased. Soils also absorb more rainfall, thereby decreasing erosion and damage by floods.

Drainage warms the soil. The evaporation of moisture by the sun requires heat, which, if the excessive moisture is removed by drainage, is used in warming the soil. This is noticeable in the North, where the planting season is from one to two weeks earlier on drained than on undrained land, and the danger of damage by frost both in the Spring and in the Fall is reduced. The warming of the soil by drainage causes the seed to germinate more readily, thereby giving a better stand of grass and causing plants to grow more promptly.

Drainage aids in the preparation of new fairways. Land can be plowed earlier in the Spring, and is better pulverized. Grass seed can be sown sooner after a rain, and by closing small ditches with tile drains, machinery can be used, and the cost of maintenance decreased.

Drainage improves the health conditions. Perhaps there is no better illustration of this than the number of mosquitoes that were found in parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island when first settled. When the land was drained, most of the breeding places of the mosquitoes were removed and with them the consequent malaria.

JAMES C. SULLIVAN

Waltham Country Club.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS AT AMHERST

The 1930 Greenkeepers' Class is over, but still we hear that question, "What do the boys do with their spare hours?" But how many spare hours roll leisurely by? Not many, I fear. This question is, no doubt, a natural one, because the

hours between four-thirty P. M. and eight A. M. the following morning seem like long, uneventful hours to outsiders or students-to-be.

Those contemplating taking the 1931 course will find that there is a dearth of spare time in those "after school hours". Those interested in sports will find fine skating on the campus pond; hockey games are in order as well as basketball. Bowling usually draws a major percentage of the class, and each Saturday afternoon finds a few of the M. A. C. professors and some of the class in a real get-together match—all of which makes those spare hours roll by!

Sunday would seem like an age long day to spend in Amherst, but if weather permits there are various trails one can traverse, and why not a ride to Northampton, Greenfield, etc.?

Professor Dickinson, as most of us know, has an interesting office, in which one can certainly improve in the numerous phases of the greenkeeping game. Prof. Dickinson gladly permits his class to copy or read the various literature he has on his shelves.

What hours could be better spent than to have the gang cluster round the office at night and discuss those problems that are bound to arise? The Prof. is bound to be there some nights when the old arguments get going good, and he'll more than enjoy helping out.

These are only a few of the incidents that will happen in your eleven weeks term next year, and as far as "What becomes of the after school hours, and how are they filled?"—be patient, they are well taken care of.

LLOYD G. STOTT.

MAY MEETING

The May meeting was held at the Albemarle Country Club, West Newton, Mass. on May 12.

At the golf tournament, prizes were won by:

1st low gross, Ted Swanson, Bear Hill, 87.

Best 9, John Graham of Needham, 41.

Best net 9, H. A. Mosher of Riverside, 40.

Largest gross, Charles Parker of Belmont, 123.

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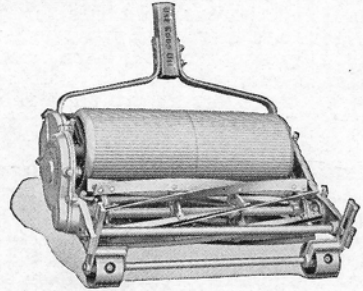
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NOTICE

The next meeting will be held June 2nd at the Unicorn Country Club, Stoneham, of which Jim McCormack is the Greenskeeper.

Dinner will be served at 12 o'clock and those wishing to attend the dinner will kindly notify Mr. McCormack by Saturday, May 31. After the dinner an 18 hole medal handicap tournament will be held. Six prizes. We would like a 100% turnout.

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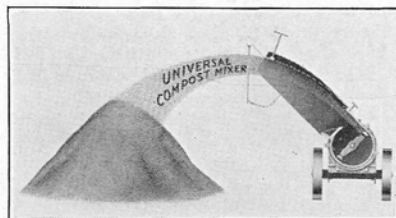
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Second largest gross, E. Lord of South-bridge, 118.

First low net, J. Latvis, Tatnuck Country Club, Worcester, 97, 23 handicap, net 74.

Second low net, N. Burnett, Albemarle, 109, 35 handicap, net 74.

Third low net, Thomas Fahey, 90, 15 handicap, net 75.

Fourth low net, Bill McBride, Nashua, 92, 15 handicap, net 77.

FROM THE WINTER SCHOOL QUESTION BOX

- Q. What about power putting green mowers? Are they successful?
- A. Very successful in the midwest. Better than hand mowers, but a good man is needed with the mower. Mr. Burkhardt of the midwest has used power mowers for three years with good results. He always tries to get American boys for drivers. Power mowers save one man, or \$1100 per summer. He uses the 19 inch mower, and mows 24 greens in three and one-half hours. The drivers do not take care of the machines; he has a special man for that. On his greens hand mowers are used for the first six weeks, until the first of May. Mr. Dickinson vouches for the good condition of his greens. One man in this section spoke very favorably on the triple type mower.
- Q. What do you consider the best time of day to sprinkle greens?
- A. Early morning, before seven. Directly after mowing. At night after nine. All night. In the evening. The sun doesn't dry it up. Early morning, and not too much. When sprayed at night greens are subject to brown patch. If watering is done in the morning there is danger of not putting on enough. A hardpan develops at a depth of two or three inches, and the poisoned soil water makes trouble. This theory is not considered sound by many. Watering depends on the air humidity.
- Q. Should a greenkeeper play golf, and why?
- A. A greenkeeper should be made to play, so he will understand what the players are up against. The greenkeeper should know how to play golf to know the condition of his course.
- Q. At what height should grass blades on a green be cut without being a hindrance to the grass roots?
- A. 3-16 of an inch. The height the golfers demand, regardless of the results. If you take off 3-16 inch each day you will soon reach the dirt. Use common sense in your cutting. It makes a difference whether you have stolons or seeds, and whether they are thinly or thickly planted. 3-16 inch is the minimum.
- Q. How early in the spring may sulphate of ammonia be broadcast alone to be of use to the grass and not cause injury? What quantity per 1000 sq. ft?
- A. Some men apply sulphate of ammonia early in the spring. Cold weather gave the grass a set-back, and it took longer than if it hadn't been treated with sulphate of ammonia. Five pounds per 1000 sq. ft. is plenty, applied frequently, after the middle of April in Eastern Massachusetts.
- Q. Put on dry?
- A. Mix with compost. Sometimes compost alone is better, holding the sulphate of ammonia until May. Apply sulphate of ammonia when the temperature is at 60°. This is between April 10 and May 10, generally, in the Middlewest. Around April 15 in Western Massachusetts, varying with the weather. It makes no difference whether the season is dry or wet, sulphate of ammonia should be applied the last of April or early in May.
-

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