



NEWS LETTER

September, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 9.

"Doubt whom you will, but never yourself."

—Bovee.

"DELAY means LOSS, putting off replacement of obsolete machinery and equipment is like standing at the window and feeding money to the wind." "MODERNIZE and SAVE, do you realize that the savings effected through replacement of obsolete or worn out equipment can be made to pay the bill?" These two quotations from the September issue of "Credit Where Credit is Due" can very easily and profitably be applied to golf course maintenance. How many courses there are that are struggling along with machinery which is so far gone that the operator must take half his time to repair it! How many times do we hear that—"We'll have to make this machine last another year"!

Greenkeepers are often lax in laying their needs before their green committees, but they should not hesitate to inform their committees as to their every need for efficient maintenance. Then a longtime program for replacement can be undertaken, if it is impossible to buy all necessary items during one year. By buying the absolutely necessary replacements yearly, and looking ahead four or five years and figuring as to what will be bought in those years, a club can in a very few years be well-equipped.

Such a program to fully equip a club should also be accompanied by a program of keeping all equipment bought in good shape, with all worn-out parts replaced and all necessary repairs made as soon as needed.

We would like to see all clubs have the equipment they need, and we would like to see a stop made to the practice some clubs seem to have of buying every new idea which is brought out. Much of this is due to green committee chairmen buying without consulting their greenkeepers, and some vice versa. The need for any equipment should govern whether or not it is to be purchased.

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.

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PROGRESS AT MARSHFIELD

A little more than eight years ago an organization known as the Marshfield Country Club, Inc. was perfected for the purpose of operating and maintaining buildings and grounds suitable for playing golf and other games, and to furnish facilities and equipment for the athletic and social activities of a country club, and generally, to do anything necessary to carry out these purposes.

This organization became a reality on September 15, 1921. The capital stock at that time was \$20,000, and had been purchased by residents in and near the Town of Marshfield. The following year the Country Club became a reality, and on August 5, 1922 the golf course was formally opened with ceremonies to feature the occasion. The first ball was driven by the president of the Club, the late Daniel M. Frye of Somerville, Mass., and as a souvenir of the occasion the driver he used, as well as the ball which was driven from No. 1 tee, are now hanging on the walls of the clubhouse.

Since that time the Club has grown steadily and prosperously, until the year 1929 when it reached the zenith of success. In the interim, improvements have been made annually to the property; the grounds have been beautified, a new entrance has been recently completed; and because of the growing interest in golf and the attractiveness of the nine hole course now in use, the Board of Directors became aware of the fact that an additional nine holes were needed.

After a re-survey of the property owned by the corporation, by Architect Wayne E. Stiles, it was discovered that in order to build another nine hole course, in addition to the present nine holes, and yet retain the same sporty layout, that additional land must be

procured. This was done late last Fall, and at present about 125 acres are owned by the corporation.

Immediately, plans and specifications were drawn and work started with the idea of building nine new holes, which will give the Marshfield Country Club, when finished, eighteen of the snappiest, sportiest and prettiest holes for golf in Southeastern Massachusetts. While it is not expected that the construction of the new nine holes will be completed much before Fall, yet stock has been sold in sufficient quantity to nearly pay for the completion of the work.

The progress which has been made by this Club is very unique. The little handful of men who started the project agreed among themselves that they would build only as they could pay for the construction. This policy has been persistently carried out and has resulted in the Club operating on a profitable basis each year; such profits as have been made having been turned back into the property in the way of improvements. Neither the Corporation or the Club is in debt for other than current bills.

The stockholders have always received annual dividends of 6 per cent ever since the Club was inaugurated. It is known that because of the foresight of those interested in its early days, that it has brought to Marshfield many residents which would otherwise have located elsewhere; and with the additional nine holes, making it a regulation 18 hole course, without any question it will still continue to bring a desirable element into this section.

It is the endeavor of those in authority that the same policies will be carried on, namely; to continually improve and beautify the property, as well as increase the social activities of the Town of Marshfield and its environments. The Town of Marshfield is most fortunate in having such a wide-awake organization in its midst.

M. D. Maxwell.

GERMINATION

In supplement to a previous article on Soils and Sub-Soils, we got the Soil prepared for grass seed. I now want to say a few words regarding germination.

When grass seeds are moistened with water the shell begins to absorb mois-

ture and becomes soft. When the moisture reaches the food material within the husk it begins to change gradually and germination starts, provided that the three necessary conditions for growth are fulfilled. The conditions are Warmth, Moisture and Air.

Some of the Carbon in the food reserve begins to burst with the assistance of the oxygen which the seed absorbs from the air. Warmth and the giving off of charcoal fumes or carbonic acid are the outward results. When the food of the seedling is made liquid it is ready for immediate use and nourished by the stimulating food this inner particle or embryo begins to grow and eventually breaks forth from the shell a perfect little individual, capable and strong and likely to increase in strength.

The amount of moisture required by a seed is very little and when the shell has once become thoroughly saturated very little moisture is then needed to complete the process of germination. The prevalent idea seems to be that you must keep flooding it with water which in my opinion actually drowns or chokes to death any life that may be there. When sowing grass seeds aim at a uniformly damp and porous soil or seed bed. I want to lay stress on this word "porous" because a close sticky wet surface only dries into a hard cake, which is injurious and in certain cases fatal to growing seeds, for oxygen is the chief material absorbed by seeds during growth and the carbonic acid gas which is really the life breath of the seed and is produced by the burning of the food material in the oxygen gas, is very fatal to the growth of the embryo if it is once prevented from escaping by a hard and caked surface of mud.

Lastly, in dealing with grass seeds always remember that a young seedling is fully provided by nature with food, thus do not sow too thickly and not too deep, give it a chance to come through the soil after germination. But first and last, buy a good seed; cheap seed does not pay as you are then only buying chaff. If it is worth trying to sow a plot of ground it is worth doing well and putting in the best seed. Insist on a purity guarantee always, and any good firm will give you this. After the grass has grown to about three inches either cut with a scythe or high wheel mower; said mower must be sharp and set high.

I trust that from these rambling

statements you may derive a little something both helpful and interesting.

Bill Lindsay, Greenskeeper,
Manchester Country Club,
Manchester, N. H.

HUMUS AND PEAT

The use of various forms of humus and peat is being emphasized more and more in golf course maintenance. Many are the forms in which peat and humus are offered commercially. Mostly, however, nowadays, these substances are not advertised as fertilizers, or as containing any of the essential plant food elements in quantity. They are offered as aids to increase the water-holding capacity of a sandy soil, and to lighten a clay soil—to improve the textures of soils generally—and for these purposes they are often efficient.

The use of humus and peat as a base for commercial fertilizers, or as a carrier for certain forms of manure is in many cases to be commended. Several commercial fertilizers are being offered at the present time which contain a certain amount of some form of humus or peat, and doubtless they are better with this filler than they would be with so much sand as filler, as are some other fertilizers.

The fact that oftentimes golf courses have been built because of certain topographical features and with disregard for soil conditions, necessitates in these cases radical work to make sod where needed. Many times soils can be materially benefited by working in humus or peat before seeding. Where turf is established, a topdressing is often helpful.

In most cases, and with most of the commercial forms offered, composting with soil, if it is to be applied to a sandy soil, and with soil and sand, if it is to be applied to a clay soil, is better than using the material alone. There are some substances offered which can be applied directly. Any greenkeeper who desires to try any such material would do well to try a small amount on a section of a fairway, and note results, before buying a large quantity. Then too, he can see by a trial whether it would be better to compost the material before using it.

Fairway topdressing is of especial importance this year because of the dry
(continued on page 6)

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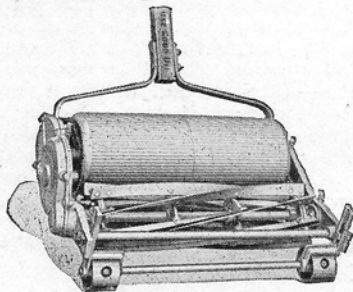
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SEPTEMBER MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England was held at Stoney Brae Country Club, Wollaston, Mass., September 2 with 28 members present. An 18 hole medal handicap tournament was held. Mr. W. B. Anthony won the guest prize.

The winners were as follows:

1st low gross, R. W. Peckham 77.

1st low net, Thomas O'Leary, 91-27-64.

2nd low net, Guy West 86-18-68.

3rd low net, John Riley, 87-18-69.

Best selected net 12

1st, J. J. Fitzpatrick, 46.

2nd, Thomas Fahey, 46.

1st net 9, John Counsell, 32.

2nd net 9, W. S. Lindsay, 33.

Low gross scores: Peckham 77, Fitzpatrick 79, T. Fahey 81, Jas. McCormack 82, Howard Farrant 86, John Riley 87, W. S. Lindsay 85, Guy West 86, Martin Green 88, H. A. Mosher 90, Tom O'Leary 91, John Latvis 96, Paul Hayden 94, H. B. Cottelle 98, P. Tameo 97, John McDonough 99, James Sullivan 93, Ed Hanson 98, Joe Sheriden 95.

Clifton E. Sowerby.

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of N. E. will be held at the Braeburn Country Club, Wednesday, October 8. 8 prizes. Tournament to be played in the morning, lunch later. The two low medallists in the morning will play match play in the afternoon to decide championship. 4 net and 2 gross prizes will be engraved silver trophies. There will also be a special guest prize and a special prize for members over 60 years of age.

Note that date of meeting on card sent by Secretary was wrong.

Meeting is Wednesday the 8th.

Clifton E. Sowerby.

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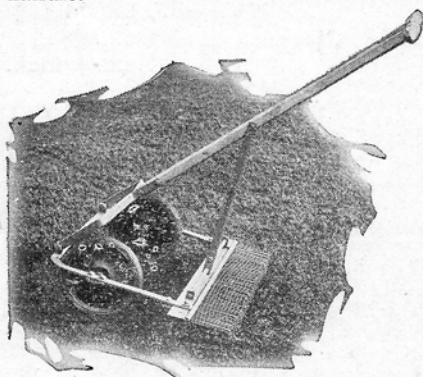
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(continued from page 3)

seasons this year and last, and hence more topdressing will probably be done than normally. Therefore, it is essential that every greenkeeper know what he is using for topdressing. If he has a sufficient supply of compost—which is humus in its best form—he will not need to worry. Those who are forced to buy humus or peat for topdressing should use materials which have proven successful to themselves or other greenkeepers under similar conditions.

The reason why all greenkeepers should be wary of these commercial peats is that the term "peat" has too general a meaning. Some desirable peats are organic, fibrous, and absorbant, others are undesirable, inorganic, non-absorbant. If any greenkeeper can find no other greenkeeper who can recommend a new substance, he should not buy in any quantity until he has satisfied himself by actual experiment.

On many courses, humus and peat of value may be found. Every greenkeeper should know the soil in the out of the way places around his course. Often material to help his compost piles may be found. Many materials which are poor for topdressing alone can be used for compost, and are not expensive if found on club property.

We must remember that there is an evident place for certain forms of humus and peat in golf course maintenance, and we must be careful that the materials that we use are the helpful ones—tried by experiment and proven.

G. C. W.

BUSY AT THE R. I. COUNTRY CLUB

This has been an exceptionally dry season at the Rhode Island Country Club.

The pond at the right of number eight green has dried up completely for the first time in the history of the course. This has given the "gang" and myself a chance to get three hundred yards of humus which has been unknown for a great many years.

We are going to do some construction work this Fall, including the making of ladies' tees at the second, third and fourth holes, and a practice field at the left of the eighteenth hole.

At present, we are seeding and loaming all the bare places on the fairways and about the middle of November we

are going to fertilize each one all over.

The "fifty-cent" Brown Patch made a call on several of the greens this month. This kind is more harmful and harder to control than the large patches.

It is gone, but not forgotten, like a bad friend.

Thomas J. Galvin,
Greenskeeper, Rhode Island
Country Club.

The Greenkeepers Club of Rhode Island met with James Lawson at the Misquamicut Country Club, Watch Hill, R. I., on September 15. Following lunch, a golf tournament was played for prizes donated by Woodworth Bradley of Providence. Low gross was won by Wallace Peckham with a fine 77, low net by Thomas Galvin with a 88-15-73, and special prize for those over 50, by Charles Mullaney. The next meeting of the club will probably be held at the Wanumetonomy Country Club.

Contract Maintenance for golf courses made its debut in New England this month when the firm of Woodworth Bradley took over the Pawtucket Country Club at Pawtucket, R. I.

Herb Moran had an extra hazard at Newport on the afternoon of Sept. 1st when twelve mules from nearby Fort Adams came visiting. Herb hasn't told us how well they played!

Work is now underway at Charles River on straightening the eighteenth hole, placing the tee somewhat to the rear of the seventeenth green, and removing the dog-leg feature of the present eighteenth.

Director Fred Sievers of the Massachusetts Experiment Station and Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson of the Massachusetts Agricultural College were visitors at several eastern Massachusetts clubs during the last month. Among the clubs visited were Kittansett, Fall River, Charles River, Woodland and Braeburn.

The best lawn we have seen this year is the lawn at the residence of Frank Robinson at Oaklawn, R. I. Mr. Robinson is the greenkeeper at the Cranston Country Club, and states that he sowed R. I. bent seed, and tries to use as much fertilizer as is necessary!

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