



NEWS LETTER

*SOME NOTES ON THE NEW PROVIDENCE
MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE*

JULY MEETING

REPORT OF TREASURER

JULY

1932

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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Wyantenuck G. C., Great Barrington, Mass.

July, 1932

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In these days of dry weather, when golf courses are already brown and fairways hard, greenkeepers have little time to write articles for even club papers. Oftentimes we feel that we should leave a page blank in the NEWSLETTER, and dedicate it to the good intentions of those who promise faithfully to send us articles, and then fail to do so; but, we do not waste space this way, for we know from experience just how hard it is to find time during this season to sit down and write. We do hope, though, that all members will try to find a little time and send in their little helps to make this NEWSLETTER interesting. Every little article is a boost for YOUR club, every experience of yours written for YOUR club paper may help a fellow greenkeeper.

And while we are asking for articles, we would like to extend an invitation to our green committee chairmen friends to send in their ideas. Several have promised us articles, and we certainly shall be pleased to receive the contributions from any who are interested in greenkeeping and course maintenance.

The Directors, at their last meeting, felt that it would be of interest and help to our readers to have a series of articles on the Maintenance of Fairways. We are asking everyone who has any ideas on fairway maintenance write them for the NEWSLETTER. Do you cut at the same height throughout the season, or do you change it? If so, when, and why? How many times a week during good growing weather? How many times do you fill divots? Do you use seed in the compost or loam you use for filling divots? Do you fertilize regularly? Are you watering any portions of your fairways? Do you topdress any portions- Any other suggestions? ETC. ETC.

After we saw the ledge upon which Tom Murray is trying to grow fairways at Tedesco, we thought we would stick to our sand and gravel, even though we don't like it!

The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association is a lively organization, meeting the third Monday of the month. All of the officers are members of the New England Greenkeepers Club, and are active boosters of the parent club. We hope that the September meeting may be a joint meeting at some club near Providence. These joint meetings have been held the past two years, and have proven very enjoyable, with very large attendance. The many members in the Providence district deserve a "break", and would appreciate a shorter drive to one meeting!

We hope that the hard-working chairman of the Golf Committee, Clif Sowerby, will be with us again at the next meeting. We miss kidding Clif about the handicaps!

All applications, accompanied by required initiation fee, should be sent to the Secretary, Charles W. Parker, 47 Bowker Road, Waltham, Mass.

The meeting planned with the professionals on Monday, August 8th, at the Bear Hill Golf Club, has been postponed. Notice of August meeting will be sent by Secretary later.

JULY MEETING

A very pleasant meeting was held at the Tedesco Country Club, Swampscott, Mass., on Monday, July 11th, with over forty present. Lunch was served at the nearby Neighborhood Club. At the business meeting, Albion Wendell of the Locust Valley Golf Club, Attleboro, Mass. was elected an Associate Member.

An eighteen hole medal handicap tournament was held in the afternoon. Results were as follows:

- 1st gross, John Fitzpatrick—86.
- 2nd gross, T. W. Swanson—92.
- 1st net, O. G. Wendell, 101-28-73.
- 2nd net, E. A. Polhamus, 107-30-77.
- 3rd net, Thomas Murray—98-20-78.
- A. R. Wendell—102-24-78.

SOME NOTES ON THE NEW PROVIDENCE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

On Saturday, April 30, 1932, Providence dedicated its new municipal golf course. The whole city was invited to attend the exercises, by Mr. E. K. Thomas, park superintendent, and my greens chairman.

I think half the population accepted. The kids found the greens in good condition for wrestling, and the fairways were ideal for baby carriages. Someone estimated there were 7,000 persons on the course; yet there were no casualties, and although some of the greens were hit hard by French heels, the boys were able to fix everything Sunday morning before the players arrived.

We have averaged better than 200 players a day since opening the course and I think we can average 250 players in mid-season. The fee is 75 cents for 18 holes. We have no season permits, and there are no free passes of any kind.

It took two years to build the course and get it in good condition. The land was very rocky and most of the fairways were in the woods. Before we started on No. 11 fairway, you could walk the whole length of it on the rocks without touching the ground. It looked to me like some devil had paved it, and had put the rocks the long way in the ground. He must have known we wanted to build a golf course here.

When the work got under way, we employed 150 men, two gas shovels, five tractors, twelve teams, a compressor for drilling rocks, and plenty of dynamite. The greens, tees, traps and mounds were shaped up with rocks, then covered with subsoil dug from borrow pits in the rough, and these pits in turn were filled with stone taken from the fairways. We had to dig so many borrow pits that the rough literally has a solid rock foundation.

It is a lot of fun shaping greens and traps out of rocks, and it has to be done on many courses for, although we know it is expensive to build on rocky ground, this cannot always be avoided. On some courses, ledges and rocks are responsible for some of the most beautiful construction in golf course work. If properly handled, their very ruggedness can be used to develop

real character and personality. Pile rocks in a slip-shod manner, cover them over with subsoil just as they are, and you will find in the depressions, between the bold irregularities, some of the most beautiful bunkers. I believe more real beauty is gained on the golf course in this way than through conscious and painstaking effort to mould something that is on a blue-print or in the mind of the builder. Some judgement is, of course, necessary.

The tees on the municipal links are all grass; that is all except the very front sections where the players have been teeing up. I notice that most of the golfers here would rather play as far forward on the tee as possible, so the markers are always up in front. We keep the divot holes filled in with a clay loam, and wet this section of the tee every other day. In this way, we are able to keep grass on the back two-thirds of the tees so they will be available for special events. One season's experience, of course, may dictate some other scheme for maintaining our tees. There are any number of patented tee mats which could be used, and I may experiment with some of them but I have a feeling that only a small percentage of the players would utilize a mat.

Most of the greens are built up with a rock foundation, some only slightly and others several feet. Two greens, numbers 13 and 17, are nearly natural. There is a wide range in size; the smallest is 4500 feet, and the largest almost 10,000 feet—average for the 18 greens is 6,400 feet. There has been a tendency to build all greens sloping from rear to front, and several of our greens here are this way. However, the large 12th pitches slightly from the center to either side; the 14th pitches from rear to front and from left to right; the 4th pitches from front to rear and from right to left and although the green is large, it calls for a real golf shot to hold it. All the greens were seeded to South German Bent. So far, I've been able to keep out clover and chickweed, but poa annua is coming in on some.

One of the first things I did was to build a compost pile. We are just starting to use this on the greens and I wouldn't part with it for anything. My only regret is that it isn't forty times as large. This summer I want to start another compost, and it is going to be a big one.

I never sweep my greens after top-dressing, but screen my compost when it is dry, through a six-mesh to the inch screen. There is never anything left to hurt the mowers. I think this is more economical than using a coarse screen and having to sweep off small pebbles. I never could see the logic of putting something on a green that has to be laboriously swept off.

The fairways didn't have much top soil left on them when we get through taking out the rocks, and most of the seed and fertilizer was washed out by a heavy rain and hail storm, but they were all disced and seeded again, lightly, with Chewings Fescue, Red Top and Bent, and are filling in pretty well now. We have had to fertilize heavily to make up for the poor soil. Last fall we put horse manure on the two poorest fairways. They certainly look much better this year. I think that cow manure would be even better but we have to take what we can get, and I appreciate getting any kind. It is way ahead of any commercial fertilizers in my estimation, for it acts as a top-dressing and encourages the grass to fill in. I started to mow the fairways wide with the intention of narrowing them later, but find it advisable to keep them as broad as possible on a public course.

There are 77 sand traps on the course. We found some pure white sand for these and screened all of it that went into the traps adjacent to the greens. All the traps have one or more turf aprons which extend down over the face and serve as walks. The players use these when leaving the bunkers, and it eliminates a good deal of the climbing up over the sand faces, which leaves such enormous footprints. Incidentally, a lot of sand is saved when filling the traps. These walks do not require much trimming because the traffic keeps them well rolled down.

The rough is cleaned so that there is no chance to lose a ball. We are mowing nearly all the rough with three-gang fairway units set to cut about 2 1/2 inches.

It has been a lot of fun getting the course in shape, and it's going to be more fun keeping it in condition for the heavy play we get here. I have a first class service building and am waiting for some of you to come to see it and look over the course.

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Everett J. Pyle.

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 Clinton, John
 Cottelle, Harry B.
 Cross, C. H.
 Crowley, Dennis
 Dickinson, Lawrence S.
 Fahey, Thomas
 Farrant, Howard
 Fitzpatrick, John
 Flood, Valentine
 Fuller, Elmer
 Galvin, Thomas
 Grady, Thomas F.
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 Hansen, Christian
 Hansen, Edwin
 Hay, Lawrence
 Hayden, Paul J.
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 Latvis, John S.
 Lawson, James
 Lindsey, W. S.
 Lord, Ernest B.
 McCormack, James
 Marrato, Louis
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 McDonough, John
 McBrede, William
 McLaughlin, B. A.
 Mitchell, R. A.
 Mosher, Harold A.
 Mullaney, C. B.
 Murray, Thomas
 O'Grady, M. J.
 Ohlsen, Alex
 O'Keefe, C. T.
 O'Leary, Thomas
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 Parker, Charles W.
 Partridge, William W.
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Sowerby, C. E.
 Stott, Lloyd G.
 Sullivan, James
 Swanson, T. W.
 Tameo, Patrick
 Tiramni, Andrew
 Tobin, William
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Signed,
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Goodby,
 Yours truly,
 Antonia Dutra.

since i rite i fine the goddam handle in the box excuse to me.

Anon.

There was quite a parade in Attleboro the first part of the month, fireworks, and much music. The native son, Elmer, had taken unto himself a wife, and all the rest of Attleboro's bachelors, (including Ort Wendell), breathed sighs of relief—the coast was now clear for them, with Elmer tied! Congratulations, Elmer!

Work is progressing on the new nine at Needham, and Phil Cassidy reports that he hopes to have three greens ready to seed by late Summer, and the rest of these holes completed so as to seed next Spring.

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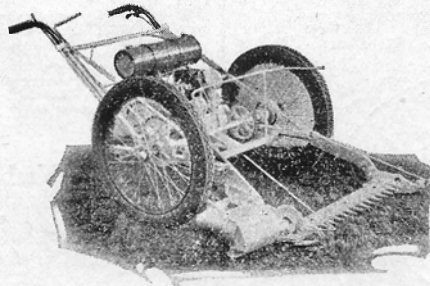
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