



NEWS LETTER

*WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE
THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB
GOLF CLUBS AND THE CODE
SEPTEMBER MEETING*

SEPTEMBER

1933

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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WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE

Frank H. Wilson

Charles River Country Club
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

After years of intensive work on fairways, covering a program of topdressing, fertilization and seeding with a mixture of Chewing's fescue and bent which was nullified by periods of severe drought; the Club decided to look into fairway irrigation. In January of this year, the president appointed a committee, and after many plans were discussed and estimates looked over, it was decided to employ Mr. Wendell P. Miller to lay-out an irrigation system for fairways greens and tees; a Miller hoseless, one man, high pressure system.

Mr. Miller's method of approaching the problem was very interesting. A soil analysis was made to determine the type of soil, the amount of organic matter present, the pH, and the available phosphorus. Also, a contour map of the course was made and the steepness of the slopes studied. The amount of rainfall as given by the local Meteorological station was taken into consideration. This is by no means conclusive, as the rain during the summer comes in thunder showers. These storms are much of the "hit and miss" variety and with us have been mostly miss. Frequently, Newton Centre, two miles away, receives a drenching without the course receiving a drop. When they do hit, the rain is of a dashing variety that much of it runs off. The total area of the fairways, greens, tees and other areas to be watered gives an estimate of the amount of water needed.

We then proceeded to the number of fairway valves needed, the number of sprinklers to be used. These sprinklers, "Buckner Super Six", cover the fairways near the pump a circle of a di-

ameter of over 200 feet, and in other places the standard fairway width of 160 feet and with us throw into the rough. Wide areas are covered by laterals. From the above data, the sizes of pipe are worked out taking into consideration total head, friction loss, etc. Arriving at the pump house, the size of the pump and H. P. of the motor to furnish this water was determined.

Having completed all this work, the lines of the pipe were staked out. These go through the centre of each fairway. We started operations on the 28th of June. We employed thirty of the older caddies for the work. Mr. Miller furnished a man, Mr. John S. McCoy, to supervise the laying of the pipe, the building of the pump house and installation of the pump and laying out the system. It is largely due to his efficient work and untiring efforts that we have a fine irrigation system.

We used a champion sod cutter, pulled by a Fordson tractor, to remove the sod. This removes sod a foot wide for the ditch. For six inch pipe, we removed two strips and for smaller pipe one strip. The strips were cut into convenient lengths to handle, and laid back six feet from the ditch. The ditches were dug by hand and varied in depth, "all pipe being pitched to drain," from 2-4 ft.

The pipe used was Universal cast-iron pipe of the bell and spigot type which bolts together. We used six carloads of pipe, over four miles in all. The size of the pipe was six, four, and three inch. Much of the old water system, two and one half, two, and one and one half inch pipe was in good condition and was used for laterals and runs to greens. The new pipe came in six foot lengths and was convenient to handle. It was trucked from the freight cars in a ton and a half Ford dump trucks. The fairways being hard, the pipe was dropped along the ditch without injuring the turf.

Starting at the pump house, the sod was cut, the ditch dug, the pipe laid, the ditch backfilled, the backfill puddled in and tamped and the sod relaid. Two small boys kept the sod watered while it was out and watered it after it was relaid before tamping sod in place. The crew was divided into two men cutting sod, one man cutting it into strips, two men lifting sod, two boys watering; a ditch digging gang, a piping gang, divided as follows: one man washing the bell and spigot ends of the

pipe with a steel brush and kerosene and seeing that the inside was clean, three men laying pipe, "the bell" end was painted with red lead and the bolts put in; two men tightening bolts with ratchet wrenches. After a day of laying pipe, the ends were capped and city pressure turned on through a snap valve to test for leaks. Great care was taken that each length had the proper pitch to drain. A level was used on each length of pipe. Every 120 ft. on fairways near the pump house and 117 ft. and 102 ft. further away, a snap valve is placed. The pipe is bossed on the side and tapped one and one half inches. The valve is put on with a swing joint, a close nipple is screwed into the pipe, an elbow screwed on laying sideways, a street elbow screwed into the elbow looking-up and the distance from the top of the street elbow to the surface of the soil measured, subtract the length of the valve, screw a nipple the proper length into the street elbow and screw the valve on top, bringing the top of the valve slightly below the surface of the soil. By this method, tractor wheels passing over the valve spring it without breaking it off. One man was constantly employed putting in valves. After the pipe was laid and tested, the clean-up gang backfilled the trench, puddled the fill, swept the sides of the ditch and relaid the sod and tamped it down; and last but not least, we had a water boy with a bucket and dipper.

The site for the pump house was placed near the pond on the fourth hole. We started to dig and at a depth of five feet struck quick sand and a spring which delivered about 400 gallons a minute. As we wished to go down ten feet, we had our work cut out. We hired two motor diaphragm pumps, put down shoring and built a tight box of matched plank 12 x 12 which was jettied down 5 ft. below where we wanted the bottom and started to pump and dig again. The last foot was a slow tedious job, we could not get a solid bottom. We filled fertilizer bags with sand and as fast as we put them in, down they would go, but finally we got a bottom of sand bags, covered them over with a large piece of canvas and pored a truck load of ready mixed concrete, a foot thick on the canvas, spread it out and let the water come up again. We let the concrete set three days, pumped the pit dry and built the forms for the foundation, the two pumps working constantly. The steel reinforce-

ment was wired in, bottom, sides and top. Two 10 inch beams were placed across the top to support pump and motor. These had forms built around them and are completely encased in concrete. We then pored the foundation bottom, sides and floor all at once and let the pit fill with water again. Two days following, we removed the outside forms and the third day started the two diaphragm pumps to pump the pit dry in order to remove the inside forms, but we had too much water coming in and could not lower it a foot. We then proceeded to put a concrete block house on top of the foundation and a roof and installed the pump and motor. The big pump lowered the water in five minutes and we removed the inside forms, cleaned out the pit, put in three bronze screens, one $\frac{1}{4}$ mesh and two $\frac{1}{8}$ mesh to keep out rubbish or any small objects.

The pump is a Sterling vertical centrifugal stage deep well pump with special bronze impellers. It is driven by a thirty horse power United States Motor and has a maximum capacity of 600 gallons per minute. It gives us sufficient pressure to operate eight sprinklers on the first nine and six on the last nine. When we install a booster pump (which is on the job but not installed yet), we can operate eight on the last nine as well. This does not mean sixteen sprinklers at a time as we only use eight.

The working schedule is four fairways a night. We number each valve starting at the tee and going toward the green. The third fairway has six valves, the fifth, seven, the second, ten, and the sixth, eight. The man puts a sprinkler in one and two valves in each of these fairways at eight o'clock; at nine o'clock, he shifts them to three and four; at ten o'clock to five and six; and at eleven o'clock No. 6 fairway will be watered. He will put one sprinkler in No. 7 valve on No. 5 fairway, shift to No. 7 and 8 in the sixth, shift to No. 7 and No. 8 in the second and put the sprinklers from No. 3 fairway in No. finishing at midnight with seven 9 and No. 10 on the second fairway, sprinklers operating. In very dry weather, when we let them run two hours, he worked a correspondingly longer time. We can water the whole course in four nights. At three o'clock in the morning, he puts on the greens' sprinklers, one No. 6 Buckner covering the whole green at one setting. The day

crew takes them off at seven o'clock in the morning.

There are a thousand and one small items which might be put into this already too lengthy article. The digging of a ditch through the centre of each fairway is certainly a wonderful help in mapping out a fairway improvement program.

I have put in one of the most strenuous summers of my life but it was worth it.

THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB

As we think back over the life of our club, nearly ten years now, it is indeed possible that we may feel that we have accomplished much, that we have carved for ourselves a small niche in the Golf wall here in New England. We can point with some pride to our membership, which has increased almost yearly, until it is now over a hundred. We are pleased to think of the many times we have cooperated with other golf agencies, with experiment stations, with individuals working for the good of the game. We relish the thought of friendships made, of good times had together. We remember fine speakers, fine programs held at our Winter meetings, fine courses played and examined at our Summer meetings.

Yes! We are proud of what we have accomplished. But are we now to sit back, to rest on our laurels? Or are we to strive anew to do more to help ourselves and Golf here in New England?

There are at present hundreds of greenkeepers here in New England who are not members of our organization, mostly because they are situated at too great distance from our meeting points. Some of these have their own sectional organizations. There should be an honest effort to tie these sectional organizations to our club, in such a way that the cost to each individual member would be small, but in such a manner that they would be members, even if under a special classification, of the Greenkeepers Club of New England.

Provided that any of these sectional groups cared to join with us, as "Sectional members" shall we say, there should be at least one meeting each year to which all members, regular and sectional could be invited, and at which a strong program could be presented. The

cost to each sectional member should be small; possibly he should have no vote because of this, but he should receive the NEWSLETTER monthly with news of the club, and he should be invited to contribute to its columns.

We are strongly of the opinion that all the sectional organizations, and all greenkeepers outside, provided that they fulfil the other requirements of our organization, should be tied in with us to form a strong organization. We believe that the future of this club is governed to a large extent by whether we rest on our laurels, or go ahead and try to cooperate with our fellows at more distant parts of our section by offering them a part of our organization.

NOTICE

(Sent out by the Mass Golf Assoc.)

August 21, 1933

TO OUR MEMBER CLUBS:

We quote below a notice received from the United States Golf Association relative to the National Industrial Recovery Act:

"The United States Golf Association has received a great many requests from golf clubs for advice as to the application of the National Industrial Recovery Act to golf clubs and their employees. It accordingly submitted the question to its general counsel, Mr. Livingston Platt of New York City. The substance of Mr. Platt's opinion, now received, is:

'Section 1 of Title I of the National Industrial Recovery Act is the Declaration of Policy of the Law. It is apparent from this that its provisions are aimed at those engaged in industry, trade and commerce.

A Golf Club that is not operated for profit does not fall within any of these classifications. The compulsory provisions of the Act do not apply because such a Club is not engaged in interstate or foreign commerce. And the voluntary provisions are inapplicable because a Golf Club of such character is not operated commercially or as an industry or trade. There is no possibility of business competition between such Clubs, so there is no need for a protecting Code.'

This Association wishes to make entirely clear its belief that such clubs as

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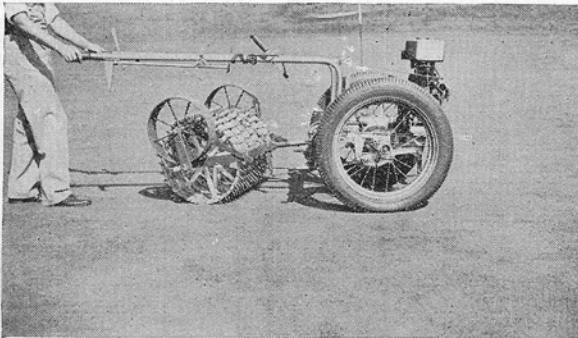
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are in a financial position to do so will aid the recovery movement by signing the voluntary agreement. It is, however, common knowledge that in the case of many golf clubs an increase in operating expenses would result in insolvency and thus cause individuals presently employed to lose their positions. No criticism can possibly attach to to clubs so situated which do not sign the voluntary agreement."

Charles H. Cross,

President.

Henry A. Wentworth,
Secretary-Treasurer.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting was held at the New Bedford Country Club, North Dartmouth, Mass. on September 11th. The annual club championship was played, and won by Emil Masciocchi of Oak Hill Country Club, Fitchburg, Mass. with a gross of 78. Walter Howe of Wellesley was runner-up with a gross of 85. Net prizes were awarded as follows:

Class A:

1st net, T. Swanson87-15-72
2nd net, H. Darling98-22-76
3rd net, R. Peckham90-13-77
4th net, E. Stephenson . .96-18-78

Class B:

1st net, T. Mattus94-28-66
2nd net, J. Sullivan96-26-70
3rd net, C. O'Keefe110-38-72
4th net, C. Treat107-30-77

Special prize for blind bogie, which was 79, was won by M. O'Grady and M. McDonough, tied. Prize for most 4's was won by E. Masciocchi, with 13 4's. A special prize in Class B. was won by J. Latvis, and the high gross was won by M. Braga with 128.

The Greenkeepers Club is deeply indebted to the New Bedford Club for the very fine hospitality extended during the day, and to President Cherry and others who donated prizes. We also were pleased that Mr. Cherry was present, and personally welcomed the club to New Bedford.

The scoring was high on the whole. Mike had the greens on the keen side, and the best putter noted was the new champ, who seemed to sink plenty.

We wonder what Emil did with the pink silk??!

The demonstration of a Buel Perforator hitched to a Worthington Scout attracted an interested crowd before lunch. This hook-up appeared to do the job well, and should be investigated by any club having these two separate pieces of equipment.

The Board of Directors met at the Braeburn Country Club on September 25th. Among the business transacted was the program of the annual greenkeeper-pro tournament to be held at the Charles River Country Club on October 2nd.

Jim McCormack reports that one course in New Hampshire is starting new nurseries of his Unicorn bent, with the goal of all greens in time to be of that strain.

Most of the boys around would like an explanation of the "scald" that was general on most courses over the last week-end in August.

The new hoseless water system for the fairways on the 27 holes at the Country Club, Brookline is now being installed. It is expected that this system will be completed this Fall.

Fall work at Braeburn is to include some new drainage lines, resodding several tees, and rebuilding of the rear of the second green. This latter is now underway.

Ted Swanson has his gang at Bear Hill busy in its spare time taking rocks out of fairways. Ted also says that he may rebuild the fourth green using sod grown in his nursery this past year of the Green Section strain of velvet, No. 14276.

The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association held its September meeting on the 25th at the Montaup Country Club, Portsmouth, R. I.

What are your ideas for the coming Winter months? Send your thoughts to Chairman Mitchell of the Entertainment Committee.

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