



NEWS LETTER

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JANUARY

1934

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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132 Russett Rd., West Roxbury, Mass.

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JANUARY MEETING

The annual meeting was held at the Hotel Statler, Boston, on January 8th. Officers were elected for 1934, as follows:

President Guy C. West
1st V. Pres. Howard D. Farrant
2nd V. Pres. Ted Swanson
3rd V. Pres. James C. Sullivan
Secretary Charles W. Parker
Treasurer Frank H. Wilson
Trustee, 3 years James McCormack
Trustee, 2 years ... Robert A. Mitchell

Entertainment Committee

Homer C. Darling
Alex Ohlson
Ray T. Granger
John Latvis
George Volmer

Golf Committee

Paul Hayden
Emil Masciocchi
Joseph Oldfield
Thomas Galvin
Arthur Anderson

Auditing Committee

Philip Cassidy Paul Wanberg

Plans for the big anniversary program on February 5th were discussed. The club is providing a fine banquet entertainment, and dancing, for the members and their wives and sweethearts. Plan to be present at this outstanding social event of your club. Woodland Golf Club, February 5th, dress informal.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England.

Gentlemen:

I wish to take this opportunity to review greenkeeping in our district during the past year. The general conditions brought about a considerable reduction in the funds available for golf course maintenance. Yet it was the general opinion that golf courses were maintained in as fine a condition as at any time in the past. We must realize, however, that cutting down on our fertilizer programs, the use of old machinery and other such methods cannot be continued indefinitely without affecting the standard of maintenance of our golf courses. It is important that we meet this emergency by new methods and careful management.

The trouble caused by webworm during the past year was an added expense to clubs in our district. We understand this pest is expected to be even more prevalent during the coming season and I strongly recommend preventive treatments rather than waiting until the actual damage is done. This will not only be more economical but also eliminate much serious trouble.

The National and State golf associations have invited the greenkeepers to cooperate with them in the problems of golf course maintenance and it is important that the members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England should be prepared to assume this responsibility.

It is my opinion that we are entering a new era of golf course maintenance. Players are demanding better conditions and less money is being spent by clubs for their golf course maintenance.

The Greenkeepers Club of New England must continue to provide educational programs which will assist its members to meet prevailing conditions.

Our members have shown that they are taking more interest in the club by their increased attendance at our meetings during the past year.

The joint meeting held at the Brae Burn Country Club last February with the Massachusetts Golf Association was, I believe, the most important meeting of its kind ever held in our district and we feel highly satisfied with the results of that meeting.

At our outdoor meetings we were privileged to visit some very fine courses and we appreciate the courtesies extended to us by the officials of these clubs.

At one of our outdoor meetings the ladies were invited to join with us and this proved to be a most popular and enjoyable event. I have no doubt that the ladies will see to it that this meeting is held annually.

We held our second annual Greenkeeper-Professional meeting and it was again a very successful get-together with about one hundred greenkeepers and professionals taking part.

I would like to see an annual Greenkeeper-Chairman meeting, similar to the one held with the professionals, which I believe would be a profitable event to the members of our club.

To the incoming President, I pledge loyal and hearty support and assure him he will have sincere friendliness in his new duties.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve during the past two years as your President and I wish to thank one and all for your splendid cooperation during that time.

I would like, also, to thank the Directors for their splendid support and assistance in the management of the club during the past year.

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous 1934.

Respectfully submitted,
James McCormack, President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. President:—

My second annual report to you finds the activities of the Greenkeepers Club of New England for the year 1933 very similar to previous years.

At our well attended annual meeting last January we had as our guest Mr. Charles H. Cross, president of the M. G. A. Mr. Herbert Jaques president of the U.S.G.A. was prevented by illness from coming. For the February, March and April meetings the entertainment committee set a high standard for speakers. Mr. Henri Haskins, Director of Fertilizer Control for Massachusetts, Prof. L. S. Dickinson reporting on his experimental work which was financed in part by this Club and Dr. Howard Sprague of the New Jersey Experiment Station all attracted large audiences. The entertain-

ment committee should be complimented for having secured these fine speakers for us. Our outdoor meetings were held at the following Clubs: Kernwood, Kittansett, Tatnuck, Belmont Spring, New Bedford, Charles River and Rhode Island Country. For our final meeting of the year 1933 we returned to the Statler Hotel, a lively question box was the feature of this meeting. In February and again in October the Service Section of the M. G. A. sponsored meetings at Brae Burn and Charles River. The Greenkeepers Club co-operated with the Service Section in these meetings which were exceedingly well attended by Greenkeepers and club officials.

In comparison with clubs of all types, the membership of the Greenkeepers Club was held up remarkably. Seven new members were elected which is approximately the average annual new membership for the past nine years. Five members were dropped from the rolls for various reasons and the Club and individual members suffered a great loss through the death of Elliott Pierce of Kittansett. With a loss of six members and seven new members elected the net gain for the year was one. In a year when clubs have been struggling and using all sorts of methods to keep members, a gain no matter how small is truly a remarkably record.

Your Secretary has tried to carry out his duties to the best of his abilities, he has hoped that notices have reached the members far enough in advance for them to make their plans and where some notices have been brief it has been because committees furnishing special attractions for these meetings have not informed him of the set-up in time for it to go on the notice. Your Secretary believes that educational work in connection with the out door meetings can and should be greatly increased. There are possibilities along these lines which can prove to be of much interest and value to the members and in no way interfere with the tournament features of the outdoor meetings.

In closing my report I want to thank you Mr. President and my brother officers for their co-operation with the Secretary and to call the attention of the members as a whole to the faithful and conscientious work and effort that their officers have expended in the administration of the Greenkeepers Club for the year 1933.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles W. Parker, Secretary.

SOME IDEAS ON GRINDING BY A MANUFACTURER OF MOWERS

In the first place I want to say that it is absolutely necessary for a reel to be cylindrically ground in a perfect manner. Another statement I want to make is that it is physically impossible for any mechanic to have a reel cylindrically ground where the grinder is made only for backing off or bevel grinding, for one blade must be ground at a time. The usual custom of a mechanic in using this type of a grinder is to grind a long bevel on the blades, leaving a thin edge, which wears away a valuable part of the reel blade in one day's use, and a few such grindings on a reel cause it to wear down and become too small in diameter for use in half the time as that of a reel that is properly ground.

We have had a great many putting green reels ruined by the operators in trying to grind them on the bevel grinding machines, as the blade on this reel is thin and made of such high quality of alloy steel that the only process required is cylindrical grinding, and no back-off or bevel on the cutting edge. When we formerly used a high carbon crucible steel in our fairway mowers, the blades were thicker, which was necessary to give them the proper strength. For the past three or four years, since we have been using the special alloy steel, the cutting part of the blade has been reduced in thickness so that it is not necessary to grind them but cylindrically.

MY THEORY ON GRINDING

It is true that most cutting tools are subject to abuse, it is also true that improper grinding or sharpening of such tools causes more damage and abuse, than the work the tool must render. Let us give some consideration to the Greenskeep's tools, his chisels, drills, axe and such tools that need sharpening. You will agree with me, when I say that there is a right and wrong way of grinding these tools, poor cutting results and delays are the results of improper grinding.

During the several years I have been in the grinding business I have heard many discussions regarding the proper

grinding of Fairway Mowers and I would like to express my opinion on this subject.

I cannot agree that all makes of mowers should or can be ground alike and give the same results, as the steel is very much different in one mower than it is in another. In other words I wish to say that it is possible to grind three different makes of mowers with a pitch of about three degrees on both the reel knives and bed knife, put them side by side to work and the life of the cutting edge will be longer on one than the other, although the steel in one is as good as in the other, this is caused by the different actions of the steel. You can take the same three mowers, grind them different pitch allowing a different land or flat face with emery and oil and get about the same results.

Clearance or pitch in my opinion is necessary on both the bed knife and the reel if you are to have a free working unit, also a flat land of a 1/32 of an inch will add to the strength of the cutting edge. In no case should the pitch be so great that the cutting edge is not properly backed up, this will result in rolling or crumbling of the edge, and causing rapid wear on the reel.

Service Manager.

We believe the reel should be ground with a slight bevel as the cutting edge becomes rounded on account of the grit which it encounters, so if there is no clearance to allow the knife to wear down easily the knife will soon become dull. A wide land or contact with the straight blade makes a hard running mower and it is the writer's experience in calling on numerous golf clubs using our equipment that all grind with a slight bevel which also facilitates fitting the reel knife or lapping it to the straight blade when necessary. With the latest grinding equipment, using a variable feed, the reel knives can be ground to fit the straight blade so accurately that no lapping-in is required.

Manufacturer.

We find in our service work that some of the makes of mowers require more bevel than others, and some require no bevel. The quality of steel has great bearing on this.

Many mowers through a season or two of use have been adjusted tighter on one end, the reel has then worn to

a conical shape. This is corrected by grinding the reel on its bearings in the lathe type specially built grinder.

Bed knives are ground on the cutting and front edge leaving the top forward surface higher than the rear. This provides a clearance in its proper relation with the bevel, if any, on the reel grinding. It insures less reel wear and ease of operation.

Hand Greens, Tees and Fairways mowers are all finished with emery and oil reverse action grinding. The grit is selected for the several types of machines. This operation insures a perfect smooth shearing action, it also removes the fine hair edge of the reel blades.

All of our grinders are equipped with variable feed speed adjustments in order that movement may be adjusted for the size of cut and the quality and thickness of the steel blades. We have

never in the thousands of reels ground seen one where any signs of burning or overheating has taken place.

Service Station.

The Sixth Annual Short Course in Turf Management will be held at the College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, February 19-23 inclusive. As explained by Dr. Howard B. Sprague, who is the leader of this Course, "the guiding thought in arranging this Course is to provide an explanation of the Scientific principles underlying the successful growth and maintenance of a turf on golf courses, parks, lawns and estates". Registration is limited to sixty persons.

Editor: "To be quite candid, I can't make out this drawing at all."

Temperamental One: "Drawing! That isn't drawing, that's writing."

WELCOME

New England

Greenkeepers and Chairmen

to the

Eighth Annual

National Greenkeepers' Golf
Show, Convention and Edu-
cational Conference

to be held at

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CONFERENCE AT MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE

Advance notices relative to the annual Conference held each Spring in connection with the Winter School for Greenkeepers indicate that the Conference this Spring will be enlarged so as to "bring together the leading groups and agencies interested in outdoor recreation in order to give intensive study to technical problems involved and to co-ordinate the work of all agencies for the better conservation, maintenance, improvement, and utilization of natural resources."

The golf part of the program will include the playing as well as the course, and will also devote some time to the club house. The exhibition will be expanded to include equipment for the playing of the game, and also equipment for the maintenance of sports, fields, wood trails, etc.

The dates for the conference are March 15, 16, and 17. Further news of this conference will be included in the February issue of the NEWSLETTER.

Don't forget the second annual Short Course for Greenkeepers at the Rhode Island State College, from Jan. 29—Feb. 2.

AT SACHUEST

The late unpleasantness, popularly called the Depression, forced the exclusive Sachuest Golf Club to open its course to the public. With a manager to report to, five dollars worth of advertising, a good Toro tractor, three worn out units, a Jacobson power greens mower, far from new, one ton of Milorganite, my tractor man and I managed to keep the course in fair condition, pay all bills, and turn over \$500 clear to the owners.

Green fees were fifty cents a day except for one dollar on Saturdays, and Sundays. Collecting of the fees was strictly according to the advertisement "pay as you play", not before. Whenever I happened to be working or playing I met them and held them up, only making sure that they had as much as nine holes of play. The kindly attitude and loyalty of my clientele made me realize that there is certainly a place

for a public type of course, where golf lovers can play for a modest sum, without membership, initiations, or customary social privileges.

Although every effort was made to save time and money, old worn equipment is far from economical; however, my policy is to have the greens come first, fairways next, then rough near the greens, and bunkers last. A real golfer expects trouble in a bunker, that's what they are for), and takes his medicine like a man. Good golfers were invariably generous with their praise of the course, and profoundly impressed with the scenic beauty of the countryside and ocean.

Amateurs and duffers often complained of losing too many balls; it pays well to return them whenever possible to identify the loser; and the rest it pays to sell at a dollar a dozen to all comers.

However we were sufficiently encouraged last season to lease the course for 1934, and new units to go with the tractor are all ready for another season.

R. Wallace Peckham.

President West has appointed the following committees for 1934:

Welfare: James Sullivan, Chr., 47 Hammond Street, Waltham, Mass.; Martin Greene, William Lindsay.

Employment: John Shanahan, Chr., 256 Fuller Street, West Newton, Mass.; William McBride, Michael O'Grady.

Inter-relation, Mass. section: Paul Wanberg, Chr., 8 Curtis Street, Waltham, Mass.; Marston Burnett, Lloyd Stott. **Rhode Island section:** James Lawson, Chr., Watch Hill Road, Westerly, R. I.; Ray Granger, Everett Pyle.

Dues are now payable to the Treasurer, Frank H. Wilson, Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass.

Elected to membership at the January meeting were George Lodge, Ronald Sturtevant, Arthur Fontaine, and Robert MacBey.

Peck—"What's the difference between an orphan, a bald headed man, and a monkey's mother?"

Ham—"I'll bite, what is it?"

Peck—"An orphan is no heir apparent, a bald headed man has no hair apparent, and a monkey's mother is a hairy parent."

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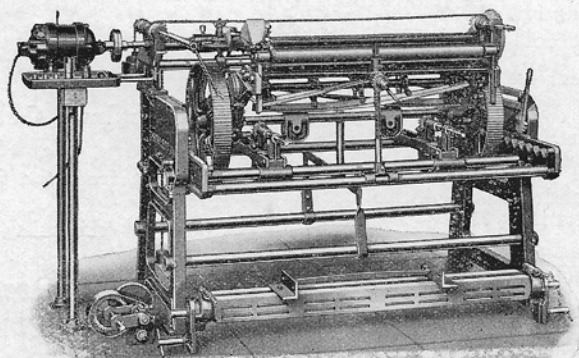
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