

GREENKEEPERS CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER

April, 1943

The March meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England was held Monday, March 1st. at the Hotel Statler in Boston.

The largest group to attend a Winter meeting enjoyed a very interesting and profitable discussion of the Maintenance problems of the coming season.

The labor situation was the first topic of discussion and after a poll of members it was clearly indicated that all golf courses will operate with a serious labor shortage. The only constructive ideas offered were the possibility of using high school boys or older men who would not qualify for defense work. It was also suggested that women might be able to do light maintenance work. This seemed to be an individual problem.

A discussion of minimum maintenance of golf holes closed to play took place. The governing factors are: available man power, finances, and post war plans for these areas. The upkeep of this turf even though reduced must be on a planned program if it is desired to conserve its value for future use as golf turf. Total neglect for only a short period will mean total loss.

Ideas suggested for wartime maintenance followed:

Greens: The times of cutting per week may be reduced. This will be governed by types of grasses and growing conditions. Poling methods may be altered to meet mowing and play requirements. Water requirements of putting green turf are critical and any reduction in watering should be carefully considered. Top-dressing and fertilizing can be kept at a minimum using applications only often enough to maintain a healthy turf. The demands of different types of turf will vary greatly. Disease and insect control must be carried on to a sufficient degree to prevent turf damage. Some members who have treated the turf to prevent disease are convinced that the cost for the season was no greater than if they had made applications only to check disease attacks. Whether the prevention or check method is used, it is expected that there will be ample materials for all. Time spent in moving cups will be governed by amount of play.

Tees: A minimum of fertilizer will be used. Teeing up on short holes should be insisted on. Mow by power where possible.

Fairways: A minimum of fertilizer will be used. Some Clubs are planning no fertilizer program for fairways. Reduce number of mowings per week when possible. Fairway irrigation will be done only when necessary to prevent loss of turf. It was felt that if fairways were narrowed the mowing time saved would be slight and the new rough would be very heavy.

Rough: Rough should be mowed only often enough to prevent the loss of golf balls.

Hazards: The care of traps will be reduced to a minimum or eliminated entirely. It was suggested that preferred lies be given on the sand in the traps. In the interest of saving the loss of golf balls, water hazards such as brooks and ponds will be fenced, drained or the sources of water will be by-passed.

In general, all maintenance operations if possible will be mechanized to save man power.

It will be essential to carry out operations as they become necessary and not because of any previous routine schedule.

Member tolerance will be an important factor in the decision as to what is essential and what can be eliminated.

The April meeting will be held Monday, April 5 at the Hotel Statler in Boston at 6:30 P. M.

The speaker will be James Geehan, advertising manager of the magazine "Horticulture".

He will talk on "Publicity and its Value in the Horticultural Field".

Following is a list of the addresses of some of our members who are in the service:

Lt. F. J. Tuscher, 81st Fighter Squadron, Orlando Air Base, Orlando, Florida.

M. J. Sperandio, U.S.N. Bat. 82 Co. B, Platoon 3 NCTC, Camp Endicott, Davisville, R.I.

PFC Charles O'Keefe, 874 Chemical Co. (AO) Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Tech. Maurice S. Ryan, 11047857 Hdq. Co. 31st AR U. S. Army A.P.O. #257 c/o Postmaster, Los Angeles, California.

A. J. Sperandio F 2/c U.S.S. Terror, M.A. Div. c/o Fleet Post Office New York, N.Y.

Corp. Albert Zikorus, 100th Bomb. group 418 Bomb Squadron, Army Air Base, Kearney, Nebraska.