

Greenkeepers Club of New England

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 1946

The Annual Meeting was held at Steuben's on January 7, 1946. Following the meeting the members present enjoyed a fine dinner and a very good floor show. Vice-President George Rommell presided at the meeting in the absence of our new prexy Homer Darling. Paul Wanberg, our retiring president, was unable to attend because of illness.

The following slate of officers was elected:

President	Homer C. Darling	Entertainment Committee
1st. Vice-President	George Rommell, Jr.	Chairman Samuel S. Mitchell
2nd. Vice-President	Phillip I. Cassidy	Golf Committee
3rd. Vice-President	Harold Mosher	Chairman Arthur Anderson
Secretary	N. J. Sperandio	Auditing Committee
Treasurer	John L. Counsell	Robert Mitchell
Trustee (3 years)	Ralph Thomas	Stephen Hannon

The President's Message

This is an unusual procedure for a new president of the club to make a debut speech 1500 miles away. It may even be considered an insult coming from the balmy sunny south. I apologize for the necessity of doing it this way and for my absence during the winter months. My only Alibi is that the doctor has suggested it. However, I have complete confidence in the vice-presidents you have elected and know that they will carry on successfully. In fact, I have always thought that it would be a good idea to give the vice prexies more work and responsibility to fit them for what is ahead.

May I say sincerely that I consider it a distinct honor to be a president of the Greenkeepers Club of New England. Why? Because this club stands on a firm, solid, and sound foundation. Organized by a group of sincere and farsighted men twenty-two years ago it has already withstood the test of time. It has carried on successfully, ambitiously, and with dignity through the war when many similar clubs were forced to suspend operations. This club is financially sound, rich in traditions and possessed with an excellent reputation which extends even beyond the greenkeeping field of endeavor.

These things could not have been attained had it not been for the character and quality of the individual members of the club. Where could you find a finer group of associates to work and play with? Where could you find a more congenial, helpful and cooperative body of men in any organization? I have thought it over and I have considered other clubs I have had some experience with.

These are the reasons why it is an honor to serve as a president of such an organization. (I may not think so later when I become involved in the details.) It is because of the foregoing facts that the position carries with it definite responsibilities and obligations in upholding and carrying on the high standards already established by my predecessors. Likewise these are some of the reasons why each individual within the club should consider it an honor and privilege to be members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England.

Now what about the future? Where do we go from here?

The war is over. Conditions are now returning to normal. It is high time our club was doing everything possible to get back to a pre-war, ambitious and forward looking schedule. There is no better time to start than right now. So here are some objectives to shoot at.

1. Each member resolve that he will personally help to make the club better, more interesting, and worth while. Put something in and you are more likely to get something out. If you are given a job, do it the best way you know how. Don't lay down if it isn't just what you would like. If you are appointed a chairman of a committee arrange a meeting of the entire committee as soon as possible, organize and decide on a plan of action. See that each member of the committee is made to feel a part of the whole. If you don't know what you are supposed to do, find out.

2. The Directors should meet at first opportunity and get things started in the right direction. Work out some interesting and educational ideas for the year. Pass them on to the club and the entertainment and tournament committees and encourage an early development and action on same. The sooner this is done the quicker the attendance may increase.

3. Back up the State College in putting on a short conference in March now being talked about and ready to go if given a boost. No exhibition is possible this year because the cage cannot be had but this shouldn't prevent an interesting program of talks, and round table discussions. We need it now more than ever to brush away the cobwebs developed during war days.

4. Increase the membership of the club with well qualified reputable greenkeepers. I have always thought that a well chosen membership committee could do a great deal in this direction. Such a committee could make up a select list of all good prospects for the club and then see that somebody goes to work on them.

5. Advertising. Publicity. At the moment I believe we are a little weak on this subject. Consideration should be given to ways and means of elaborating on the Newsletter. Even if we can't attain this year what we used to publish at least we should be moving in that direction. More than that we should make greater effort to get news items in the daily papers not only in Boston but in other cities where our greenkeeper members may have contacts. The Publicity Committee should see to it that a member of our club has a contact in every city near Boston where a paper is published. It seems to me that the more the greenkeepers are kept before the public the more it should help the individual member at his own golf club. Let's not be on the list of forgotten men that we have sometimes boasted of. That's our fault if we have been in that group.

6. Help and cooperate

(Keep shovelling)

A Happy Year to you all and may it be one of the most interesting and remunerative you have ever had.

Sincerely,

Homer C. Darling

The Greenkeepers Club of New England will cooperate with Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson at the recreational conference and exhibition scheduled to be held in March at the Massachusetts State College.

We regret to report the loss of one of our most popular members, William W. Partridge, greenkeeper at the Blue Hill Country Club, who passed away in December, 1945. Bill was a veteran greenkeeper, a friend to everyone and a credit to the profession.

Tony Sperandio is back in circulation after cruising around the Pacific. Tony is just resting at present but he intends to start looking in the near future.

The next meeting will be held at the Hotel Statler February 4, 1946 at 7:00 P.M. Frank Wilson will be the speaker. Frank will talk about experiments with fertilizers and some of his experiences during the past three years.

Jack Counsell