



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1950

**"A man too busy to take care of his health  
is like a mechanic too busy to take care of  
his tools."**

*Spanish Proverb*

"Success is getting what you want; Happiness  
is wanting what you get. Author Unknown

As you pull the cork on this edition of the Newsletter you will find a two in one mixture. It can be used both internally and externally. The latter if you don't like it.

This double dose covers both the Brae Burn, October 2, and the Needham, October 30, meetings. It is still impossible to report the winner of the history making Brae Burn Greenkeeper-Pro tournament. Why? Well, here's the dope for the benefit of those who don't know what took place.

Four teams tied for first place with net 72s. The greenkeepers used half their regular handicap. They were, P. Friel and Wm. McBride, T. Adams and Sam Mitchell, J. Thoren and Ralph Thomas, C. Sheppard and Arthur Anderson. They agreed to play sudden death. Friel-McBride and Adams-Mitchell were eliminated on the first hole. The other two teams halved the first and the second hole. Thoren-Thomas had 5s on the third and Sheppard-Anderson had 6s. The latter claimed a stroke on this hole and a halved hole. Thomas protested. The fourth hole was won by Sheppard-Anderson and they claimed the win. Ralph Thomas submitted a written protest to the Greenkeepers Club. Our tournament committee heard both sides and decided to present the whole matter to the U. S. Golf Assoc. for a decision. This decision will be final.

This is the first time such a situation has developed in our Greenkeeper-Pro tournament. *It should be the last.* With an explanation and decision coming from the U.S.G.A., sufficient information should be available to enable our tournament committee to establish a set procedure covering all contingencies when ties occur.

A total of 35 teams entered this tournament. So seldom does the complete results of this contest get into print, it seems fitting to present them herewith.

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| P. Friel-Wm. McBride .....        | 80-08-72 |
| T. Adams-S. Mitchell .....        | 83-11-72 |
| J. Thoren-R. Thomas .....         | 79-07-72 |
| C. Sheppard-A. Anderson .....     | 81-09-72 |
| J. McReynolds-P. Hayden .....     | 82-09-73 |
| F. Pitts-M. Ryan .....            | 78-05-73 |
| G. Morrison-E. Phinney .....      | 81-04-77 |
| D. Hackney-M. Francis .....       | 84-08-76 |
| B. Trumball-A. Sperandio .....    | 83-06-77 |
| J. Bernardi-S. Braio .....        | 89-11-78 |
| B. Donahue-J. Butler .....        | 88-09-79 |
| H. D. Darling-H. C. Darling ..... | 88-09-79 |
| B. Adams-B. Ash .....             | 88-10-78 |
| S. Wasiuk-N. Sperandio .....      | 84-05-79 |
| V. Obey-G. Tedesco .....          | 83-03-80 |
| J. Igoe—J. Dinardi .....          | 94-13-81 |
| R. Howard-P. Cassidy .....        | 88-06-82 |
| E. Stuart-B. Clark .....          | 84-00-84 |
| R. Lincoln-J. Oldfield .....      | 93-08-85 |
| L. Dunn-S. Hannon .....           | 97-09-88 |
| J. Shean-S. MacDonald .....       | 89-00-89 |

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| J. Holman-H. Mosher .....     | 91-10-81  |
| J. Makara-E. Buecher .....    | 94-14-80  |
| D. McNiece-A. Cody .....      | 85-03-82  |
| T. Lamey-D. Silver .....      | 89-00-89  |
| A. Bird-M. O'Kelly .....      | 90-00-90  |
| F. Ryan-I. Gill .....         | 94-00-94  |
| M. Negoshion-G. Webster ..... | 109-15-94 |

No cards for the remaining 7 teams.

Note that 72 was the low net score. Formerly, it took a net 67-68-or 69 to win. The day was perfect. The course was in A1 shape. The fairways were better than ever. The greens were excellent. Thanks to the conscientious and skillful management by Arthur Anderson. Is old age creeping up on us? Were the the boys tightened up? What's the answer?

Now after a 28 day lapse of time the curtain rises again at the Needham Golf Club. It was another grand day. Exceptionally balmy for late October. Incidentally, do you ever remember having such a mild fall as we have just experienced?

This meeting was a well attended, jovial gathering. Some of the boys had a little trouble with their game and some trimmed the pine trees plenty. It's a good thing that there are no clipping penalties in golf. Ye editor would have lost beaucoup yardage. Pines discolor new golf balls and the ball washers were conspicuous by their absence. Therefore, the only alternative was the oasis.

"Usually it's easier to keep out of trouble than to get out".

Author Unknown

Editors note: I wonder.

George Webster made an excellent host. Everyone was made to feel at home at the breather before supper and during the excellent meal served right on the button at the stroke of six. A brief business meeting followed. President Mosher announced the names of the nominating committee as follows: Ted Murphy, Bud Hayden, Tony Sperandio, and Geo. Webster. This committee is requested to report the 1951 slate of officers at the December meeting.

John Counsell suggested that at some near future meeting, preferably the annual meeting in January, a question box session be the feature. Written questions of any nature may be submitted, even by mail, and answered by those best qualified. It was also suggested that the dealers again be reminded that they are always invited and welcome at our monthly meetings.

By the way, what happened to the attendance prize idea? For loyalty and effort, prizes should have been awarded to Elmer Fuller, Pat Tameo, and Herb Johnson who attended one meeting in Rhode Island and then rushed to Needham, Mass. to be present at our evening meeting. How many would have shown that interest?



The tournament winners were, The 1950 champion, J. Comback Fingerless Dombeck with a gross 77. Low net, J. Rejuvenated Latvis 88-24-64, 2nd net, A. Handicapper Allen 89-16-73, 3rd net, M. Nufsed O'Grady 90-16-74. Blind Bogey winner, H. Goodguess Farrant. It looks as though the tournament committee will have to raise all the old timers handicaps or? You guessed it.

**APOLOGIES.** The editor inadvertently omitted Ernest Ruby's name in the list of members in good standing recorded in the October Newsletter, S'cuse please.

Monday, December 4, is the date of the next Meeting at the Waltham Field Station. An ideal place for a large gathering. Lunch at 12:30 and a hot business meeting following. Maybe some surprises too. There are indications that the lunch will be on the house . . . so come and get it. What's the meeting allabout? You must have heard. It's in regard to bringing our by-laws up to date. It involves minor and major changes recommended by the directors. It was the editor's original intention to clearly explain all the changes in this issue of the Newsletter but space does not permit going into this much detail. The next best thing is to bring your by-laws to the meeting so that you can follow all the changes being proposed. For those who do not have a set of by-laws perhaps we can dig up enough to go around. Dr. John Schead, noted Entomologist, is the scheduled speaker.

The most important change being proposed is the name of our Club. It is recommended that the new title be the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association. That's quite a departure isn't it? It is something that requires careful, clear and unbiased thinking. To give you ideas on both sides of the question two articles are herewith presented which appeared in the April 1941 Newsletter at the time this question was previously discussed.

"Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep one foot on first."

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME

##### Quote from article

"If you have not been previously informed, your notice of the April meeting will tell you that you are expected and privileged to vote on whether you desire your Club to be known as the "Greenkeepers Club of New England" or the "New England Golf Course Superintendents Association."

You know of course that our organization is credited with being the first of its kind in the United States.

The Greenkeepers Club of New England was founded on February 25th, 1924, and the subsequent history of the Club has brought glory and commendation to its "Greenkeeping" members.

Recently the by-laws of this Club were strengthened to conform to the desire of its members to keep this organization one of Greenkeepers and their recognized assistants with the necessary qualification to join.

The Club members have taken advantage of certain privileges in the by-laws and elected to Honorary membership, men with outstanding contributions to the Greenkeeping profession.

The title Superintendent is not necessarily objectionable as it does denote one who is an overseer with power of direction: but taken with the words "Golf Course" it just doesn't jibe as a definition of a Greenkeeper.

You may disagree but the title "Golf Course" in itself lacks the old world glamour which is reminiscent of the connection with "Links" and "Keeper of the Green."

There are many individual cases where the title "Superintendent" or the name "Golf Course" is appropriate without detracting from the fact that the Course is in reality a "Links" and the "Superintendent" really the Greenkeeper.

It is true that at times the title Greenkeeper has been appropriated by men employed under us due probably to a misunderstanding of the meaning of the word as we recognize it, or for the purpose of making an impression.

If this reason is the sole one that inspires the desire to change the name of our Club then the fault should be corrected at its beginning by instructing the men employed by us what their position is: foreman, mechanic, greensman, laborer, etc.

It is only natural that a person with a slight knowledge of the game and its necessary maintenance personnel should, when speaking to or referring to any groundsman, call him a greenkeeper.

For example, when that traffic cop (new on the force) came over to bawl you out, didn't you say, "Did I do something wrong, *Captain?*"

When in doubt, one usually gives a person a high rating in order not to underrate his standing.

I feel it unnecessary to point out the financial cost or the loss of prestige of such a change were it desirable.

On the assumption that we may still progress with the sound background we now have without claiming the title Superintendent, then let us do so, and extend our efforts not in a cry against some imaginary lack of recognition as to the true definition of "Greenkeeper," but in the work of furthering Greenkeeping as members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England."

WRITER'S NAME WITHHELD

#### CHANGE THE NAME

##### "Greenkeepers Club of New England" Why?

"In spite of the fact that the Greenkeepers Club of New England is one of the oldest, if not the oldest club of its kind in the country, notwithstanding the fact that the term Greenkeeper originated with the game of golf and for this reason has much sentiment attached to it, and even in spite of the fact that Greenkeeping is recognized in the golfing world as a profession, I say, "change the name. Give it the new name of New England Golf Course Superintendents Association."

Put "New England" at the beginning of our name where it immediately points out our location and where it is the most natural and easiest way to say it. Substitute "association" for "club" because it seems to be more applicable to an organization of our type. Drop the name "greenkeeper" and in its place substitute "Golf Course Superintendents." Why? Because the name of our organization is not only supposed to describe what we do and who we are to the golf clubs, and the golfing public but to the general public as well.

If we in our profession are going to make progress, if we are going to raise our standards, if we are going to elevate our position and if we are ever going to increase our incomes why don't we do it with a name *everybody understands?*

I say the name greenkeeper is a misnomer in describing our duties and responsibilities. We outgrew the name many, many years ago. It is possible that at the beginning of the history of the profession it was intended to include more than "Keepers of the Greens." I presume the term green then included all green grass on the course and the "Keeper of the Greens" was not confined to the greens as we know them today.

If you look for the definition of greenkeeper in the ordinary dictionary you will be disappointed in not finding it. But if you go to the trouble of locating a large recent unabridged edition of Webster you will find it defined as "a person responsible for the upkeep of a golf course." But I say, even the latest definition of greenkeeper does not do justice to the position. A great deal more is expected of the 1941 greenkeeper than Webster defines. He must not only be an expert and a business manager of the upkeep of a golf course, he must be a specialist in the care and maintenance of skating rinks, tennis courts, swimming pools, toboggan slides, skiing, ski tows and other forms of recreation. Who can say how many other responsibilities will be added to the list in the future.

Even though Webster's unabridged latest dictionary does define a greenkeeper, the general public is still very much in the dark as to what the job is all about and I think always will be until we make it easier for them to understand. They have no idea of the responsibilities, the knowledge and experience required, and the technical skill demanded. I am not so sure that even the golfing public is very familiar with the duties, and there is a question whether they ever will either until a name is applied which is more clearly understood.

How many of our members have seen that blank expression on a person's face when told that you are a Greenkeeper? Wouldn't the position you hold be so much better understood if you stated that you were a golf course superintendent. How many times have you heard your men working under you telling strangers that they too are greenkeepers? Would they be so inclined to say they were the superintendent?

The man who develops football players, molds the individuals into a smooth working machine, and controls their every action in play, is known and recognized by the public as the football coach, and not the water boy, or the trainer.

The man who has complete charge of the personnel and the operations within a manufacturing plant is recognized as the superintendent, not the foreman, the efficiency expert, or the engineer.

If someone told you he was the janitor of the Empire State Building you might immediately picture him as a sweeper and duster, but if he told you he was the superintendent of the Empire State Building it would immediately convey to you a position of responsibility with attractive remuneration.

So it is, I believe with the man who has complete charge of the personnel and the work on the golf course. I believe the sooner this man is known by the public as the superintendent of the golf course, the sooner the public will understand the responsible position this man holds on the golf course. They know the meaning of superintendent but I doubt if they ever will know the true position of greenkeeper.

I don't believe the sentiment supposed to be attached to the name Greenkeeper means very much any way you look at it. It doesn't elevate his true position, it doesn't increase his prestige and it certainly doesn't seem to increase his remuneration. I think it is time we were looking forward rather than backward. I say change the name of our club to "New England Golf Course Superintendents Association."

HOMER C. DARLING

Excerpts from a letter received from Charles Parker a former member of the Club.

"... I recall writing for the old Newsletter a somewhat impassioned opinion on why I thought the name Greenkeeper should be preserved and that it was up to us to make the name mean something; not desert it because it appeared to be losing any significance. Of course—to be trite—a rose by any other name would smell as sweet but having acquired perspective if nothing

else from being drawn away somewhat from full time greenkeeping, I am of the opinion that perhaps the name has outlived any distinctive usefulness. The Golf Supt. seems to be the word or title coming into vogue and while it can be argued pro and con the Supt. part does connote position. Have noted that repeatedly here in dealing with the general public that greenkeeper means to them anyone working on the golf course whereas Supt. is quite something else again. . ."

Excerpts from a letter received from Phil Cassidy. ". . . I would like to go on record at this time as being in favor of changing the name of the present G. C. of N. E. to the New England Greenkeeping Supt's Assoc. and I am in favor of adjusting the dues so that all regular members would also automatically become members of the N.G.S.A. I am proud to have been a President of the G. C. of N. E. and I feel that now is the time to modernize so that the younger element coming along will be equal in name, as well as ability, with other Nationally associated groups."

Author Unknown

Well, there you have it. These are a few ideas. Now mull them over and come to the December meeting with your ideas. We'll be seeing you.

### THANKSGIVING

It is hoped that this issue of the Newsletter will reach you just before Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23. This noble day, born right here in Massachusetts and teeming with tradition, is worthy of more solemn thought than perhaps it has received in recent years.

Here's an idea. If it is not your habit or custom to offer a prayer when you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner, try it this year. It will make you feel better and bigger. It doesn't have to be in flowery language. Just a plain simple expression of your thoughts. Things that you are thankful for.

What are the things which stir my heart  
To thanks? The things which God has set apart  
For man; His sunlight on the rows of ripening  
grain,  
The fertile soil, so eager for the yield,  
The verdant valley wet with glistening rain,  
The rolling hillside and the furrowed field.

There are so many things which come to bless;  
The family altar and the warming hearth,  
The word of comort, soft as a caress  
When trouble clouds the mind; the good, green  
earth,  
The bounty of the harvest and the worth of  
steadfast friends.

This above all gives me to raise my voice  
In thanks to Thee; for this shall I rejoice,  
More than in any measure of my choice—  
For fellowship of friends.

(Walter Merkel)

H. Darling, Editor