



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 1952

Ye editor is looking out over the golf course which is buried under the heaviest snowfall of the winter. Nature's white magic is beautiful without question the way it transforms the landscape. But there is a certain solemnity about it—the way it *boughs* down the evergreens, heaps its load over the hedges and brings silence over the surroundings. Temporarily it has stopped our special project. How long will this white mantle impede local progress? While pondering this somber question in a pessimistic mood a bright and cheerful verse arrived from Beverly—the one and only contributor to these columns, Jack Counsell. Here's the verse.

March

Winter's retreating beneath the warm March sun,
The grass starts to yawn as the melting snows run,
The sleepy golf course once blanketed with snow,
Slowly stretches full length and threatens to grow.

J.A.C.K.

"It doesn't pay to cry over spilt milk", or "If you don't like New England weather wait a minute." Yes, when you stop to think of it, spring is just around the corner. A few days, a few weeks. Time again for that annual spring cleaning in the upper chamber known as the cranium. Clearing away winter cobwebs, unnecessary rubbish and putting that thinker in good running condition for the golf season ahead.

Our monthly meeting held February 11 at the Waltham Field Station was most congenial and informative. Well attended too. Guy Tedesco, Chet Sawtelle and Lucien Duval held the lucky numbers on the attendance draw. Norman Butterfield, Waltham Field Station Floriculturist gave an interesting talk on KRILIUM, Monsanto Chemical Company's new synthetic chemical. A grayish powder used to improve the tilth of the soil. It is still in the experimental stage and will not be available commercially until 1953. This amazing chemical when added to the soil (1 lb. to 100 sq. ft.) particularly heavy soil, helps percolation, improves drainage, aids aeration, and improves aggregation of soil particles. It may increase water holding and retaining capacity of the soil as high as 15%. It has long lasting action—preventing soil crusting, bettering soil structure and causing less erosion. 1 lb. of Krilium may be equivalent to 100-300 lbs. of organic peat in its action. It costs at present \$2.00 per pound.

A question box session was another feature of this meeting, conducted by Jack Counsell. Here are the high spots in brief—DOES low PH retard growth of *Poa Annua* on greens? Some

feel that it does. Others say no effect based on observation. SHOULD golfers be allowed to use the course in late winter and early spring? What damage? 23 voted there appeared to be damage. 8 could see no damage. 12 reported regular greens in use. WHAT is the ideal height of cut? Greens $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$. Tees $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Fairways $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ s. HOW much nitrogen per 1000 feet of green per season? 7 pounds. Dormant feeding of greens recommended by some if applied in early winter. Endothal recommended by Manuel Francis for control of clover in fairways 1 lb. per acre—2 applications. WHAT is the ideal PH for bent greens? Not less than 6. WHAT is the proper time to start control of dollar spot? May 15 to 30 then every 7-10 days through August. HOW early in the spring should greens be fed? Not until grass is thoroughly rooted and growing.

The following, reported their observation at the National Turf Conference at Columbus. O. Clapper, R. Sawtelle, A. Anderson, and P. Cassidy. A report came to the editor that Mike O'Grady arrived at the conference without hat, coat or teeth. How come Mike? SPEAKING of TURF CONFERENCES—don't forget the annual POW*WOW at Amherst, Thursday and Friday, March 13 and 14. An excellent program has been arranged for both days highlighted by the conference banquet Thursday evening. What say? Let's go.

Raymond Brigham, Rhode Island Country Club was voted a regular member of the Greenkeepers Club of New England at the February Meeting.

NEXT meeting
Where.
Who.
Don't
Lunch

March 3.
Waltham Field Station.
Dr. DeFrance
Miss this one.
At 12:30

By the way fellars, if you can locate an extra ten spot, Jack Counsell, 9 Cliff Street, Beverly, Mass. has his pen already to sign that membership card—and here is what Jack says about you.

The Keeper of the Greens.

The golf course is his hobby where he tries to excel,
For without a good course a club has little to sell,
His work has no glamour he doesn't strut in fine clothes,
But his skill and club value is recognized by those,
Who know some of his problems and they understand,
Why the greenkeeper is called golf's forgotten man.

J.A.C.K.

So long until March 3.

H. Darling, editor.