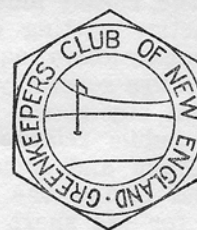


NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY, 1954



The Annual meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England was held Monday, January 18, 1954 at the Waltham Field Station.

There were 47 present at the luncheon including the "Miami Boys".

Charles L. Pierson Treas. of the United States Golf Association was the featured speaker. Mr. Pierson explained the set-up of the new sectional turf agencies of the U.S.G.A. and explained how it was expected to function.

This was a double feature meeting as Prof. L. S. Dickinson was also present. Prof. Dickinson's main objective in attending was to get ideas for the coming Turf Conference at the State University in March.

The main subject suggested for the Conference was the hope that in some manner the Greens Chairmen of the various Clubs could be present so that a method or means could be worked out to give closer cooperation and understanding between the Superintendent and the club members.

At the business meeting Daniel S. Collins, Supt. of the Winchester C. C. was elected a regular member. The following slate of officers was elected for 1954.

Pres., Michael J. O'Grady, New Bedford C. C.; 1st V. Pres., Manuel Francis, Vesper C.C.; 2nd V. Pres., Albert Allen, Kernwood C. C.; 3rd V. Pres., N. J. Sperandio, Concord C. C.; Sec., William Ash, Franklin C. C.; Tres., Samuel S. Mitchell, Ponkapoag Golf Course; Trustee for 3 years, Theodore Swanson, Bear Hill G. C.; Comm. Ch., A. J. Sperandio, Concord C.C.; Sec., William Ash, Framingham C.C.; Golf Comm. Chr., Joseph Butler, Mt. Pleasant C. C.; Auditing Comm., Percy L. Clark, Meadowbrook G. C. and Arthur E. Anderson, Brae Burn C. C.

Retiring Pres. Arthur Cody was presented a gavel suitably engraved commemorating his tenure in office.

Following is a Newsletter report from the Editor now in Florida communing with nature.

It never seemed quite fair to write a Newsletter here in Florida while you fellows up north were facing the blistery, blustery, blankety blank cold weather. But this year since so many of the boys had a taste of the balmy atmosphere at Miami National Turf Conference, and have probably already advertised it, please pardon the writer if he removes his shirts and sits on the porch to scratch a few lines from St. Petersburg Beach.

What a place for a mid-winter turf conference. Maximum temperature 80 degrees, minimum 60 degrees the entire week of the conference. The Miami Chamber of Commerce sure got a break because the following week the folks were shiver-

ing. The conference and show was held in the Miami Municipal Auditorium on the shores of beautiful Biscayne Bay only a stone's throw from the leading hotels and business district.

Our section of New England was well represented, Charlie Allen, A. Anderson, R. Brigham, A. Cody, O. Clapper, J. Dombek, H. Darling, H. Farrant, M. Francis, E. Fuller, Graham, H. Johnson, G. Mitchell, F. Meehan, M. O'Grady, P. O'Leary, N. Sperandio, P. Tameo, and R. Thomas. Not bad, was it? The annual conference misfortune award again went to Narry Sperandio who drove down with his family. His son fell from a tree and broke a leg before the conference started resulting in a hasty return home. Better wait until the conference comes to Boston again, Narry.

The equipment show was as interesting as ever. Of course it had the southern accent—Piles of coconuts for souvenirs, and such like. Of particular interest to us Yankees was a display of southern grasses, weeds, and insects all unfamiliar to us. There were many strains of Bermuda and the courser grasses, St. Augustine, manila, Centipede and Carpet. The Mole Cricket and Rhinoceros beetle looked troublesome too.

One is sure to absorb valuable tips and additional wisdom at the educational conference

A talk on "Make the Weather Work for You," indicated that all greenkeepers would benefit by keeping in close contact with local weather stations, watching the five day and thirty day forecasts and planning the work accordingly. Prof. Frank Goodwin amused everyone with his humorous and inspirational talk "Making Little Things Count". Kill your grass diseases, but spread the contagious diseases, enthusiasm, cheerfulness and friendliness. Patty Berg, in her talk injected this thought, that emphasis on beauty in landscaping around club house, tees and greens, makes a happier, more contented golfer. All the talks were excellent and full of meat but space does not permit further comments except in the following chips and puts.

Water shortages in most cities and towns are getting more critical yearly. Increased population, new homes, etc., is lowering the water table. One - third of many cities' public water supply goes for trees, lawns and other outdoor uses. —Some neglects in early season causes much trouble later — grass on greens should have a definite contrast in color from the fairways. —There are indications that some turf is being retarded with promiscuous use of 2 4 D. Keep records to see what happens. — Presence of leaf spot may indicate other undiscovered troubles.— Power Greens Mowers are being operated too

fast in hot months. — Build tees as large as your greens. Large, closely mowed tees now suggest a few practice putting cups on crowded holes.—Heavy construction equipment compaction may take nature several years to adjust.—Major changes on any course deserves the appointment of a public relations committee for educating, explaining and selling the details to the members and taking the pressure off the Supt. So much for the short puts and misses. Now for the long hooks and slices. All courses seen on the tour or played on in the Miami section appear to be superior to any other part of Florida. The finer textured Bermuda just doesn't prevail around St. Petersburg or north. Perhaps it's the cooler nights on the west coast. The best greens in Florida are inferior to the best in Massachusetts, but the best Bermuda fairways play better than the best Mass. fairways. Note—only one dubs opinion. There is no doubt that the coconut Palm (one of some 60 varieties) grows best in Southeast Florida. The grace and beauty of this particular specie in this section plus the flowering hibiscus and bougainvilleae lining the fairways creates an exotic appearance that thrills the northern golfer and lulls him into a satisfied vacation regardless of cost. But Ye Editor will still take St. Petersburg Beach. Sure, the temperatures are slightly lower but it's more invigorating, the people are more

friendly and costs more reasonable. Speaking of friendliness, the Rhode Island group sure had a friend in Herb Johnson who drove 40 miles from Ft. Lauderdale to meet them at the Miami Airport at 4:00 A.M. Flying reminds me that the Robins have been noted in far greater flocks here than usual throughout the state. Normally, they stay in Georgia and northern Florida indicating that the cold weather you've had and expect to have is below normal.

This about winds up the Florida comments except one final shot to the green. Ye Editor has just a few more days left here in St. Pete. It has been a grand vacation. A month or more in this warm sunshine with complete relaxation is worth a great deal to this winter and his good wife. Yes, a lot more than it has cost. Now I will pass the quill over to Phil Cassidy who will finish the news in the north. Best wishes to all.

H. DARLING

Our sympathy goes out to Narry and Tony Sperandio on the recent loss of their father.

The next meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England will be held Monday, February 8th at the Waltham Field Station. The guest speaker will be Dr. Edward Haerth, of the Bersworth Chemical Co., Framingham, Mass. He will talk on FerroGreens, a new chemical on the market.