

NEWS Letter

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

JULY 1957

The Golf Shots Heard Around the World

It happened at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass. scene of our July 1, meeting. For the interest of our younger members and to those who have forgotten the historic tournament at The Country Club it might not be amiss to briefly review what happened.

Back in 1913 the American golfers were beginning to have hopes that somehow they might take the English golfers, who up to then, had dominated the golfing world. That year the renowned Harry Vardon, and Ted Ray, (backed by Lord Northcliffe of the *London Times*) made a successful tour of the United States. Presumably, the climax of the tour was their entry in the National Open in Mid-September at The Country Club.

At the end of 54 holes Vardon, Ray, and Quimet were tied for the lead at 225. All of the other American and English golfers, in what had been considered a heavy entry, were out of the running and no man in his right mind could expect the 21 year old—inexperienced amateur, Francis Quimet to stand the enormous pressure of the last round of a major tournament. Ted Ray was the first to finish the fourth round with a 304. Then Harry Vardon tied the 304. The only American golfer left on the course who had a chance was Quimet. To get a 304 Francis had to play the last eight holes in one under even fours. The crowd thought this was impossible but Francis thought differently. On the 13th he figured he would have to play the last six holes in 22 strokes, 2 under par, to gain a tie. His playing strategy didn't quite work out and he found himself on the 17th tee needing a birdie and a par to tie.

Those of you who played the course will remember the 17th hole—dog-leg to the left. Francis played straight out and then his approach to the green was some 20 feet above the pin on this sloping green. When he stood over the ball for his putt the sympathetic audience were biting their nails for fear the nearby street traffic with blaring horns would unnerve the young man but he was unaware of this problem. His putt hit the back of the cup for a birdie and then he got his par on the 18th to tie Vardon and Ray. The rarified and dignified air of The Country Club was filled with a mass cheer and spontaneous outburst the like of which has never been equalled on any course.

On the all important playoff when the three opponents again came to the dog-leg 17th Ray had fallen by the wayside and Quimet was leading Vardon by one stroke. At this point Vardon elected to gamble and play close to or over the corner. He didn't make

it and had to take a five. Quimet again got a birdie here and with his four on the 18th finished the winner by five strokes.

This event was a turning point in American golf. It put the game of golf on the map in this country. Francis Quimet, the local boy, the former caddy, who lived across the street from The Country Club made the shots heard around the world and gave the game a great big boost in this country.

So you see The Country Club is just bulging with tradition and history. One could almost sense this background as one approached the sedate and spacious buildings grouped in the center of the property. John Kealty, the quiet, loyal, conscientious host Superintendent has been a part of this background for over 17 years. In spite of the dry June he had the course in very respectable condition and on the way for the National Amateur in September.

A delicious roast beef luncheon was served in the club house. This in itself was making modern history. In the old days the English custom excluded the help from the C.H. The results of the tournament were:

1st net	R. Mucciarone	90-30-60
2nd	A. Caranci	84-19-66
tie	T. Niblet	75-9-66
3rd	J. Senkarik	75-6-69
tie	T. Murphy	84-15-69
tie	N. Sperandio	86-17-69

Membership Roster

Two memberships voted in: Sam Mitchell, Jr., Sharon C.C., William Dest, Cohasse C.C.

Application for new membership: James J. Grady, Brookline Municipal G.C.

It was voted at this meeting to have the following inserted in the *Newsletter*.

All member Superintendents in a position to help John Kealty during the National Amateur, Sept. 9-14 please contact him as soon as possible.

THE NEXT MEETING — AUGUST 5th

MERRIMAC COUNTRY CLUB

Metheun, Mass.

Go to Metheun and inquire the best way to the club.

Robert Mucciarone, the Supt. has an interesting layout to see and to play.

IMPORTANT. Don't forget your club dues. The dead line approaches.

H. DARLING, *Editor*