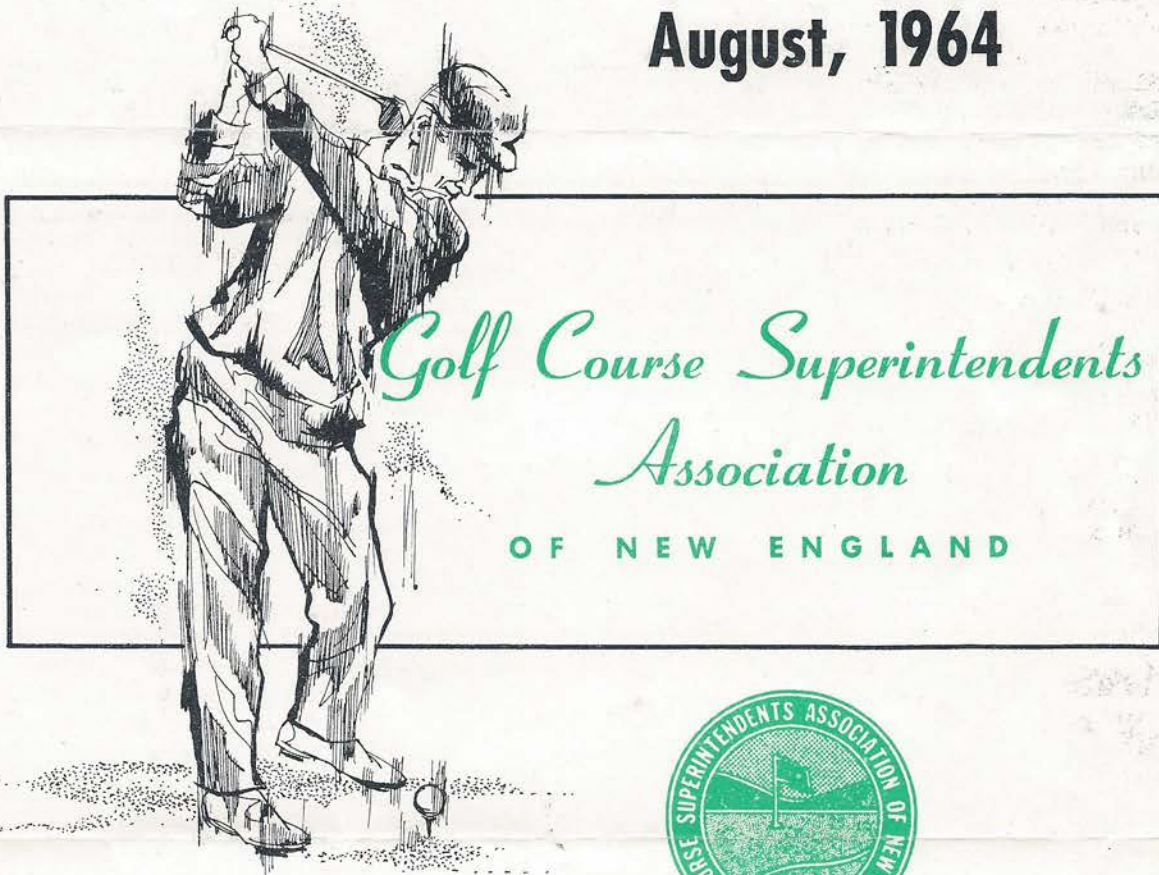


NEWSLETTER



August, 1964



Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND



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Past President—

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July Meeting

The July meeting was held July 13, 1964 at the Manchester C. C., N. H.

It was a beautiful rainy day enjoyed by all, even the golfers.

The Club President and Greens Chairman welcomed us to the golf course and club house facilities.

Seventy-five enjoyed a fine dinner of roast boneless chicken. Those who didn't play golf discussed the weather and mutual problems. It appears that what started out as a bad turf season has continually become worse. Dry cold weather thru May with extremely high winds day and night. Continuous play from early AM until dark, water restrictions and in some cases no water at all and now more and heavier play, hot wet humid weather and something called Fusarium — more to follow on this.

RESULTS OF GOLF TOURNAMENT

First low gross	Mel Wendell	80
First low net	John Almonte	74
2nd low net	Bill Ash	75
3rd low net	Floyd Wiget	77

Host Supt. Ed Buecher Sr.'s daughter Mrs. Lucan Duval sent the following article regards our host Supt.

Edward Buecher, Sr. Golf Course Supt 32 Yrs.

Started working on golf course when Manchester Country Club was built. Was surveyed by Donald Ross in 1921 and cutting and clearing with horse and scoop in Spring of 1922. Opened to membership in August, 1923. Starting salary was .30 per hour. Mowing was done with a 21" Pennsylvania mower that was as heavy as power greens mowers used today.

Was made Greens Superintendent in 1932, found out then what responsibility and long hours were.

The year 1936 brought the destructable flood which washed away course dam as well as doing considerable damage to all parts of the course.

The "Big Blow" of 1938 which we well remember blew down approximately one quarter of the big pine trees and also the bridge over No. 2 Gully. From the wind-

falls, cut up 95,000 ft. of logs which were sold to the Government and kept 15,000 ft. for future use on the golf course.

With the start of World War II lost all help except 3 men and operated this way for 2 years. Budget at that time was \$4,000.

In 1937 tool shed burned. The fire starting during the afternoon most of the machinery was saved as it was in use on the Course. In the Winter of 1954 a fire again struck the tool shed and repair shop this time destroying everything.

Introduced the Veterans Administration to this line of work in 1948 by training a man under the GI Bill which was a first in this area. They investigated work and qualified it as a three year course.

In 1957, given an honorary dinner by Club Membership in observance of 25th Anniversary as Supt. and presented a watch.

In 1961 slipped while working on course and broke right leg which put him out of focus for 1-1/2 years. Many Superintendents at this time offered their help which was greatly appreciated as the whole summer of 1962 was spent in the hospital and orders given to an assistant from hospital.

Mr. Buecher has seen many changes during his lifetime - ie - Greens were weeded by men who ended up pulling out half the grass along with weeds — now we have the wonder chemicals. In 1958 a fairway sprinkler was installed eliminating manual changing of sprinklers, however this brought on the problem of annual blue grass which now covers 90% of the fairways and "goes out" in hot weather.

Although frustrating many times it is still his whole life and the golf course that has been with him all these years, his haven.

Business Meeting Highlights

Dean Robertson, Supt. Bradford C. C. was voted an associate member.

Applications for associate membership were received from:

Albin B. Mellon
Amesbury C. C.
258 Elm St.
Amesbury, Mass.

Eugene J. Dooley, Supt. Lynn Municipal G. C.
48 No. Franklin St.
Lynn, Mass.

An appropriation of \$250.00 was voted for expenses at the Eastern States Exposi-

tion where the N. E. G. C. S. A. will have a turf display. All Supts. should plan a trip to the Fair in Sept., where your time and service will be required at least for one day. This is your opportunity for public relations as 4500 people per hour per day will pass this exhibit.

Any suggestions or recommendations regards public relations or ideas for our exhibit would be appreciated. Especially before the Fair.

Homer Darling and Joe Oldfield are doing nicely after being laid up for a few days.

Bruce Silven was out on the links at Manchester after a long illness.

Herb Johnson joined us for the day on his way to Vt.

Elmer Fuller stopped by for the day.

A lively discussion regarding the merit of the recent budget questionair sent to MGA club member Green Chairmen raised many questions.

Questionairs regards golf course Budgets, labor costs, salaries, type clubs etc. will be distributed to our Association membership at the August meeting. Your cooperation in answering and returning forms will be greatly appreciated.

Next Meeting

Supts. Championship Golf Tournament

Aug. 3 — Belmont C. C. — Route 128 to Rte. 2 towards Boston, 3rd set of lights — Winter St. take right, club is short distance on left.

Host Supt. : Manny Francis Jr.

Directors meeting	10:45
Approval of nominating committee 1965	
Business meeting	11:15
Lunch	12:30

Golf after lunch — Ladies are also invited for golf and lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Rhode Island Turf Field Day is August 26, 1964 — Can you afford to miss it??

May Day . . .

Those words in a message in the armed forces mean I'm in big trouble and need help. The coming month of May does not mean this (as a rule) to golf Course Superintendents. May is the last coolish month when good grass growth is the rule, and the last month to get those jobs done that are too ticklish for the hot months, northern

counties excepted. Get your vertical mowing, aeration, brushing and topdressing done... 24D the broad leaved weeds in fairway, rough and non use areas... 245TP the ponds... Sod jobs and tree planting should be behind you by June first... water system and all equipment (sprinklers, hose, etc.) A. O. K. and ready to go. I have lived by the following rule for years, END ALL EXTRA JOBS BY JUNE FIRST.. START NO NEW PROJECTS.. DO NOTHING BUT ROUTINE MAINTENANCE FOR THE NEXT ONE HUNDRED DAYS... HOLD WHAT YOU HAVE. By extra jobs I mean construction of any description, or anything that can not be described as routine. All to often I have seen greens go 'off' when the Super and his crew were planting trees, painting the club, fixing roads and so on. I can recall almost losing two greens when I was making a foundation for a toilet.. instead of doing the job I was hired for. (The greens had been overwatered by the nite man.. the water standing in depressions on the greens heated up to air temp, 80, and away went the turf... it took quite a while for it to recover and in the meantime they made me sick every time I saw them. No-one needs to chew out a Superintendent at a time like this, HE feels worse than any-body.)

Hands Off In Hot Weather

This is a pet peeve of mine. If you have good greens on the first of June LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE. Don't go punching, scratching or dumping anything on them. Remember, bents and Pea go semi-dormant during the hot months and any boo-boos will be slow to heal.. so do everything with T. L. C. 'tender loving care' and an easy hand.. fertilize lightly, mow often with a sharp mower, keep the moisture level sufficient without being surplus and spray iron.. and fungicide on a regular basis if your budget permits. Check your greens twice a day, probe any 'funny' looking spots for localized dry spots or what have you. Watering greens is an individual problem, different on each course.. however generally speaking, twice a week to capacity with some hand syringing (I have a term for this I can't put in print) if conditions warrant it.

I hope you get the picture and even more-so I hope your club will bear with you on the hands off policy.. some chairmen are never content unless they are re-modeling something somewhere. Stick to your guns boys! There are two ways to handle extra jobs, extra help and extra money OR get a contractor in to do it.

How I Got This Way

Now some of you may wonder how I got so clever about all these trade secrets.. here's how.. at sometime or other I have made just about every mistake you can make on a golf course from fighting with greens chairmen to burning down the work barn.. (actually a foreman did that).. like a three legged mink I am now a bit trap shy.. you name something awful concerning a golf course and I've had it at some time or other... BUT I remember these trumatic experiences, and how stomach churning they felt; and how often they kept me running to the bathroom... and little by little I learned. I may not be an expert Agronomist but I am an expert trouble keeper out of.. and maybe that is better.

Bill Smart, Editor
Hudson Valley G. C. S. A.
New York

Help Wanted

We welcome and need new members... those who have a genuine interest in golf course maintenance and related fields, such as lawn interests and equipment personnel. This includes Superintendents, Foreman, Greensmen, Club Officers, Owners or Operators of courses, Sod Farm Men, Equipment and supply people and so on.

the editor *Dick Blake*

If any of our subscribers have problems and for one reason or another do not care to bring them up at the meetings or in person, shoot them along to me and I will hand them over to the 'Trouble Shooting Committee'. No personal problems please, I've got enough of my own.

Here are a few samples to show what I mean:

Dear HVGCSA,

Our Golf Course Supt. claims he has 'Fairy Ring' on his greens and that he saw little people dancing around them in the moon light. How can I deal with this situation?

Upset Greens Chairman

Dear Upset,

~~Put a double lock on the clubhouse stock.~~

Dear Newsletter,

I sprayed all my greens with what I thought was a water soluble fertilizer.. it was sodium arsenite. The greens are all straw colored and won't grow. What can I do now?

Puzzled Superintendent

Dear Puzzled,

Leave town.

Dear Trouble Committee,

Every Sunday morning during the golf season, a little old lady comes out on my ninth fairway and picks dandy-lions. One day I went out and told her to get off and she hit me with her walking cane. What action can I take now?

Frustrated

Dear Frus,

Stay away from the ninth fairway on Sunday mornings.

Golf Course Superintendents
Association
OF NEW ENGLAND



RICHARD C. BLAKE
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