



NEWS LETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

THERE'S ENOUGH TO DO

ANNUAL MEETING

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

GOOD GOLFERS

A GOLF MEDITATION

JANUARY

1932

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Greens' Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST Editor
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

MARSTON BURNETT Business Mgr.
330 Waltham St., West Newton, Mass.

January, 1932

Vol. 4, No. 1

"Nature knows no pause in progress and development, and attaches her curse on all inaction."

Goethe

Henry Ford has said, "We are never satisfied with the way that everything is done in any part of the organization; we always think it ought to be done better and that eventually it will be done better".

In this year of 1932, now with us, what better New Year's resolution can we make than to try to better the various methods and phases of golf course maintenance, to strive to save in time and money, to perfect our work as far as possible, so that when the year has passed, we shall know that we and our courses have shown progress?

The Annual Golf Show and Convention of the National Association of Greenkeepers will be held in New York City, January 19-22. This will probably be the only convention so close to New England for some years, and every greenkeeper should attend if possible. It would pay every club to send their greenkeeper to this convention, to see the new equipment exhibited, to listen to the fine speakers, to hear and take part in the many discussions on all phases of golf course maintenance. He will come back from this convention worth more to his club, and will be better prepared to face the coming season with confidence.

Due to some clubs being forced to curtail their expenditures very drastically, there are some very fine greenkeepers who are unplaced as yet for the 1932 season. All clubs who need greenkeepers should communicate with the Employment Committee of the Greenkeepers Club at once.

"OH YES! I GUESS THERE'S ENOUGH TO DO"

Now that the active season's past
And we've a breathing space, at last,
Some people wonder "what we can do
The cold long winter months, all thru?"
There's lots to do from now till Spring,
Fixing the tools and everything.
Watching the drains, the ice, and snow,
Getting machines ready to mow.
Mix compost, screening loam and such,
(So our Spring-Work won't be so much).
Trucks to fix, and the tractors, too,
Yes! I guess there's enough to do!
Another thing, much better yet,
Let's all be sure and not forget—
Above all else, sure let us find
Certain time to improve our mind.

C. E. Treat.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, on January 4th. Following a fine dinner, Mr. Herbert A. Taylor of Somerville entertained with sleight of hand, and had the gathering donning their glasses to try to solve his "magic".

At the business meeting following the entertainment the revised by-laws and constitution as submitted by the committee were passed. All reports of officers and committees showed the club's activities to be numerous and in good condition.

The following were elected as officers for 1932:

President—James McCormack
1st V. Pres.—Thomas Fahey
2nd V. Pres.—Howard Farrant
3rd V. Pres.—James Sullivan
Secretary—C. W. Parker
Treasurer—Frank H. Wilson, Jr.
Trustee for 3 yrs.—Carlton E. Treat

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

R. A. Michell, Chairman
Edwin Hansen
Ernest B. Lord
C. W. Parker
Marston Burnett

GOLF COMMITTEE

C. E. Sowerby, Chairman
P. F. Hayden
R. Wallace Peckham

John Shanahan
Phillip Cassidy

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

John S. Latvis, Chairman
Paul G. Wanberg
W. J. McBride
Thomas Galvin
Joseph Oldfield

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Members of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England.

Gentlemen:—

In my report, a year ago, I spoke of a line along which I hoped we could work, namely, that of cooperation. I stated, at that time, that I felt that we had made a beginning, and it seems to me, that this year, we have made further strides. Let me speak of two items that I think will bear me out.

Early in the season the Mass. Golf Association asked your president to give a list of five or six greenkeepers from which they could pick three, including your president, to serve on the Committee of the Service Section of the Mass. Golf Association. As a result I called a meeting of the Board of Directors, at Woodland. After talking the matter over, pro and con, the meeting adjourned to Brae Burn, that same evening, to meet with the officials of the Mass. Golf Association. As a result of these meetings, and with the approval of your Board of Directors, your president submitted to Pres. Chase of the Mass. Golf Association six names, and he appointed James McCormack, Frank Wilson, and your president active members of the Service Section Committee. Your Service Section Committee, for it is made up of your Directors, have received a most cordial welcome; their ideas and suggestions have been received with interest, and in a great many cases with adoption. Each of your committee feel, I think, that it has not only been a move along cooperative lines, but a move from which a great good will come.

Just recently, your Directors voted to hold a joint meeting of our Club with the Executive Committee of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. This meeting, and a later meeting, with the Board of Directors, showed

plainly the friendly feeling expressed at all times. It was a pleasure to see and meet with fellow greenkeepers from distant points. This meeting again showed our readiness to cooperate with any organization that is trying to up-lift the Greenkeeper or Golf in general.

The reports from your other officers and committees will tell you, in detail, of our work this year, of our gain in membership, our good financial standing, our many interesting meetings, the golf tournaments we have held, the many fine courses over which we have played, and the fine hospitality we have received at all hands.

I would like to express my thanks in particular to Editor West and Business Manager Burnett, again, for the fine work they are doing on the "Newsletter". This publication is, indeed, a fine credit to our organization, no doubt, more so, than we members realize. Can't we, you and I, the rank and file of our Club, show our appreciation of this work by at least keeping the Editor, yes *loaded down*, with material to print? I have, no doubt, but our genial Editor will agree that by writing articles and sending notes and supporting the paper, will be the best way to show our appreciation.

I could go on in detail, in regard to the fine work done by other officers and committees, and speak of the fine cooperation and help I have had from them all. I hereby want to thank each and every one. Throughout the year, on whomever I called, I got a ready response of service.

To the incoming president, I pledge loyal and hearty support, and offer him my best wishes. I can readily say that he will find ready cooperation, sincere friendliness, and in fact, a great bunch to serve.

To the members of the Greenkeepers Club I wish to thank each and every one of you for the privilege of serving you as President.

For many years our Club has run And all the time its been "most fun", Getting to know each other well— A mighty good "bunch", the world, I'll tell.

A more serious, and a much better side Is the gain in knowledge, no secrets to hide,

What is good for one, is open to all, Any trouble descends, at a beck or call

The whole Club responds, and opinions
out-pour
And the member gets what he's looking
for!

So let us continue on our way.
No "axe to grind", no grudge to pay,
Just helping each one as we can
To be a good greenkeeper and a better
man.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlton E. Treat,
President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. President, and Members:

We have held, as is our custom, five Winter meetings in Boston, and seven Summer meetings with golf tournaments at country clubs.

At our five Winter meetings we had three prominent turf maintenance speakers, an implement meeting, and our annual meeting.

The seven Summer meetings were well distributed over our territory, two of these were at clubs not visited before.

Since the establishment of the Experimental Plots at the Charles River Country Club, a meeting there at least once each year has become necessary.

Thirteen new members have been voted in during the year, and two have passed over to the great majority.

The number in good standing will doubtless be reported by the Membership Committee.

A new project has been started this year; namely the promoting and financial supporting of experimental turf work at the State College. Also this year the club sent a representative to a turf maintenance meeting in New Jersey.

This year has seen the New England Service Bureau reorganized as the Green Section of the Massachusetts Golf Association, and including three greenkeepers on its committee.

A committee has been at work revising our constitution and by-laws.

Your secretary suggests that a file of the "Newsletter" should be kept as part of the records of the club.

R. A. Mitchell,
Secretary.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

I wish to express to the members of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England my appreciation of the honor of being elected their President and assure them that I will endeavor to fill this office to their satisfaction.

I realize that the New England Greenkeepers' Club has been serving a splendid purpose and it is my intention of carrying on along the same lines as in the past.

We have at all times shown our desire to co-operate with any organization in the promotion of better golf course conditions.

With the prevailing circumstances and curtailed budgets, it is very important that we improve ourselves by attending regularly the monthly meetings of our Club.

I hope that all our members will take an interest and voice their opinions on all subjects brought up for discussion. Your Committee will obtain the best speakers possible to address our meetings on subjects pertinent to our work. The members are invited to make suggestions to our Committees, and, I would appreciate any constructive criticisms from any of our members for the best interest of our Club.

Let us make the Greenkeepers' Club of New England more beneficial to its members and more influential for the welfare of the golfers in our district than ever before.

James McCormack

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

We were pleased to have with us at the meeting Mr. M. E. Farnham of the Philadelphia Country Club, and Secretary of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

The February meeting will be held the second Monday in February, so that members in Boston for the meeting may attend the Sportsman, Motor-boat, and Golf Show, to be held from Feb. 6-13.

Send your dues for 1932 to Frank H. Wilson, Jr., Treas., Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass.

We feel that the Golf Committee did a splendid job doing so well during the year, and returning a balance of seven dollars.

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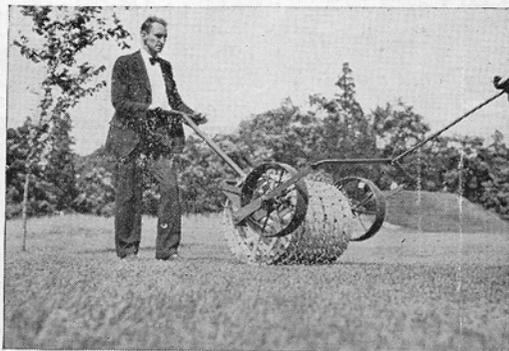
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President McCormack, upon assuming office, asked that the same spirit of Co-operation which had prevailed in the past might prevail during 1932. He also asked that the members attend all meetings, so that the club might better help them and they help the club.

The new constitution and by-laws will be printed shortly and distributed to the members.

GOOD GOLFERS

As greenkeepers, I believe we have all noticed a constantly increasing tendency for the professionals to take over the greenkeeper's job. There is a very good reason why the professional should be very much more sensitive to the putting surface of a green, the turf on tees and fairways, than a greenkeeper who plays his course only occasionally. You and I know that many greens look very smooth and putt very poorly, and good golfers are rarely deceived as to who is at fault when putts go amiss. Again, we all know that worm casts smoothed in the early morning are up again by mid-afternoon in Fall and Spring. Many greenkeepers use temporary tees, and even temporary greens quite unnecessarily, and if they were players, and often playing with members, they would be more careful, and at least know how the players feel about it.

I can already hear some of you ask—when can we find time to play around, and keep all the help on the job?—why not walk around and look over the greens, tees, and fairways? You can always well afford to do the most important thing to be done. First things come first. There is no more important job for a greenkeeper than to see to it that his course is playable every day and satisfactory to the men who pay his salary. Walking around does not acquaint you with the players' problems. Most players tack around a course from tee to rough, to bunker, to fairway, to water hazard, to green eventually, and then, if it is worn too smooth around the cup, swear fluently because the cups are not changed more often. If you play your course, you know when tee balls and cups need shifting, when fairways are too short or too long, when bunkers demand attention, and where balls are lost unnecessarily.

Doubtless every club has its duffers, that drive off your best tee with an iron because they can't hit with a driver, and scar up a foot of turf in the process; then chop along fifty yards at a time, leaving a wake of divots until it is not a matter of replacing the turf, but one of returfing the place. If you are playing around you can sometimes tactfully ask them to try and tip back a lifted sod, so that the next player won't break a leg in the hole.

Again, you are certain to have players who are inordinately proud of their Scotch ancestry, playing a dirty pill of a ball, advertising Mazda lamps possibly, left them by an impecunious caddy, and they will in all seriousness implore you to cut down all your blueberry bushes and black alders you have nursed and guarded for years, so that they can see where the ball falls 30 yards at right angles to a green on a 140 yard hole. Fortunately I have a cemetery on my course with some vacancies, quite handy, but still lacks shrubbery, where one could answer such men.

However, the lost ball problem is very far from a joke to many players, and oddly those who can best afford to lose balls are usually the ones most sensitive and anxious to recover them. It is good judgement to eliminate as far as reasonably possible all places that balls are lost in ordinary play, and more especially those places where hunting holds up those players following. The greenkeeper who is also a good golfer can judge much better where to clean and where real hazards are necessary.

Often a greenkeeper is required to make a new tee for championship matches, or maybe to improve the angle of the shot; only if he is a good golfer can he judge the exact yardage from the green, the required height for best visibility. In this day and generation a greenkeeper is expected to be a soil expert, a turf expert, a business manager, a first class mechanic, but above all a good golfer to please his clientele, and enjoy his monthly get-together with his fellow greenkeepers.

R. Wallace Peckham.

We have available a few back copies of several issues of the NEWSLETTER which will be sent without charge to any member who has not these copies for his files. Notify the Editor if you desire any back copies.

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We feel that the following sermon by a golfing minister is worthy of your notice:

A GOLF MEDITATION

Rev. Edwin L. Noble

"Damm that slice!" More frequently than any other, this is the first word uttered on the starting tee. What has happened to evoke this fervid bit of eloquence? The ball, hit with every intention of sending it out over the fairway for two hundred yards or more (sometimes it seems as if we hit it with the intention of driving it down to Salisbury beach), makes a beautiful curve to the right, sails gracefully over the long grass and finally comes to rest in the roots of an old stump or deep in the long hay. More eloquence is stimulated by the "cussedness" of inanimate things when we try to get it out and lose a couple more strokes. The score for that hole is ruined, together with most of our good disposition.

What the golfer needs to know, and remember, is that the unoffending ball has gone just as it was hit, right to the place where it was sent. If it had been hit right it would have gone straight. If it had gone straight there would have been no trouble. Rough territory, long grass, traps, bunkers, water hazards are all trouble makers for the man who does not play a straight game. If there are pitfalls there are also helps. The markers on the tee give him his direction, the fairway is mowed short and kept smooth. The flag in the hole shows him where the score is to be made. Three, four or five will take him there if he GOES STRAIGHT. Seven, eight or ten when he GOES CROOKED. The real golfer hits the ball true, sends it straight and blames no one save himself when a shot is fozzled.

Life is like that. Education, training, coaching all the way up from infancy make it possible for the average man to live joyfully and skillfully. Traps and pitfalls are not for those who walk in the straight and narrow way. The man who lives clean, knows his weaknesses, learns the rules and obeys them, looks without envy upon the success of another, keeps his temper, takes misfortune standing up, is generous toward a rival, helpful to the less fortunate and who never takes his mind off the ultimate goal—he is the man who will

reach the end with a low score, for he has played the game of life, STRAIGHT!

BUSY AT R. I. C. C.

This Fall the weather was very good for planting trees and shrubs, so we took advantage of it, and planted three thousand white and red pines in different parts of the grounds.

We put in three new traps at the right-hand side of the fifteenth fairway, about a hundred and fifty yards from the tee, and a new tee to the left of the old one. The traps will prevent many balls from going out-of-bounds. The seventeenth tee has been enlarged.

Four men will be kept busy this Winter, pruning some of the large trees, cleaning away underbrush, and hauling beach sand for the traps.

Thomas Galvin, Greenkeeper,
Rhode Island Country Club

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KEY TO IDENTIFY GRASSES IN TURF

- A. Plants with rootstocks
- B. Ligule a fringe of hairs BERMUDA GRASS
- BB. Ligule a small membrane
- C. Leaves stiff, bristle-like, sharp-pointed RED FESCUE
- CC. Leaves not stiff nor bristle-like
- D. Blades folded in the bud, the tip boat-shaped KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
- DD. Blades convolute in the bud, flat when expanded, not boat-shaped at tip
- E. Ligule long; blades rather broad RED TOP
- EE. Ligule very short; blades narrow CREEPING BENT
- AA. Plants without rootstocks
- B. Collar with appendages in addition to the ligule; blades shiny beneath.
- C. Appendage a sharp projection point from the angle of the sheath on each side MEADOW FESCUE
- CC. Appendage a flange-like projection on each side of the collar
- D. Blades folded in the bud PERENNIAL RYE-GRASS
- DD. Blades convolute in the bud ITALIAN RYE-GRASS
- BB. Collar without appendages in addition to the ligule
- C. Blades bristle-like, stiff
- D. Leaves pale bluish green SHEEP'S FESCUE
- DD. Leaves bright green FINE LEAVED FESCUE
- CC. Blades not bristle-like nor stiff
- D. Leaves rather broad, convolute in the bud
- E. Sheaths hairy; plants at length forming stolons CRAB GRASS
- EE. Sheaths glabrous; plants never forming stolons PIGEON GRASS
- DD. Leaves folded in the bud
- E. Collar glabrous; blades narrow ANNUAL BLUEGRASS
- EE. Collar hairy; blades broad
- F. Sheaths and blades hairy YELLOW OAT-GRASS
- FF. Sheaths and blades not hairy
- G. Plant forming stolons; ligule a fringe of hairs; tip of blade rounded CARPET GRASS
- GG. Plant not forming stolons; ligule a small membrane; tip of blade acute GOOSE GRASS

ANOTHER KEY TO IDENTIFY GRASS IN TURF

- A. Leaves convolute in the bud
- B. Collar with appendages in addition to the ligule; blades shiny beneath
- C. Appendage a flange-like projection on each side of the collar ITALIAN RYE-GRASS
- CC. Appendage a sharp projecting point from the angle of the sheath on each side MEADOW FESCUE
- BB. Collar without appendages in addition to the ligule; blades not shiny beneath
- C. Sheaths hairy
- D. Ligule a fringe of short hairs BERMUDA GRASS
- DD. Ligule a thin membrane CRAB GRASS
- CC. Sheaths not hairy
- D. Blades broad, hairy above; rootstocks none PIGEON GRASS
- DD. Blades not broad, glabrous; rootstocks present in older plants
- E. Ligule long; blades $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide RED TOP
- EE. Ligule short; blades $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch wide CREEPING BENT
- AA. Leaves flat or folded in the bud
- B. Collar with a flange-like projection on each side PERENNIAL RYE-GRASS
- BB. Collar without flange-like projections
- C. Whole plant soft, hairy YELLOW OAT GRASS
- CC. Whole plant glabrous or nearly so
- D. Collar hairy; blades broad
- E. Sheaths green; plant at length producing stolons; ligule a fringe of hairs CARPET GRASS
- EE. Sheaths white near the ground; plants never producing stolons; ligule a thin membrane GOOSE GRASS
- DD. Collar not hairy; blades narrow
- E. Blades stiff, bristle-like sharp-pointed.....
- F. Plants creeping by rootstocks; leaves usually bright green RED FESCUE
- FF. Plants in tufts
- G. Leaves pale bluish green SHEEP'S FESCUE
- GG. Leaves bright green FINE-LEAVED FESCUE
- EE. Blades not stiff nor bristlelike, the tip boat-shaped
- F. Leaves pale green; rootstocks wanting ANNUAL BLUEGRASS
- FF. Leaves dark green; rootstocks present KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

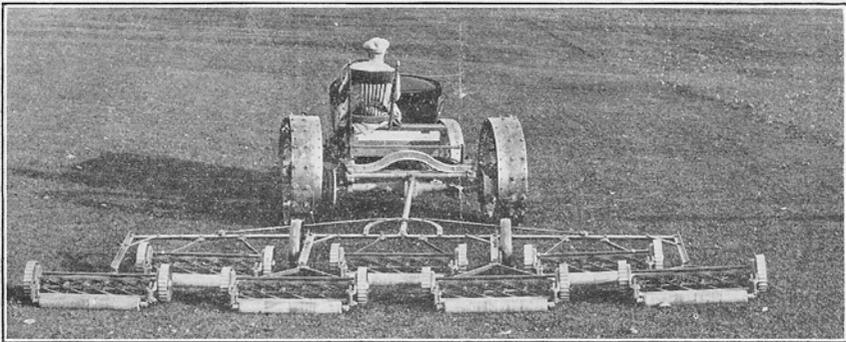
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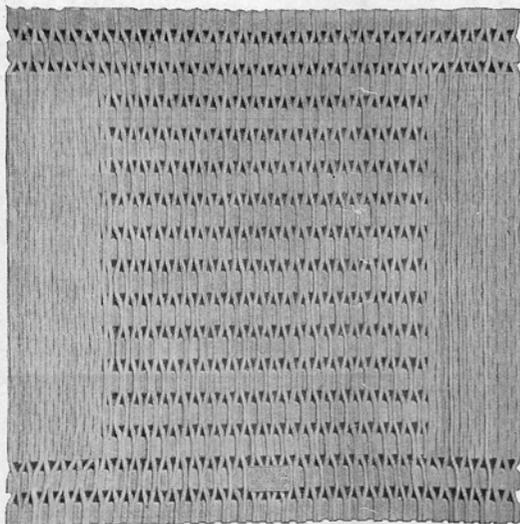
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