



NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER MEETING

A RESUME OF BROWN PATCH CONTROL

PITCH HOLDING GREENS

SEPTEMBER

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.

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting was held at the Braeburn Country Club, West Newton, Mass. on September 12th. The Club Championship was won by Emil A. Masciocchi of the Oak Hill Country Club, Fitchburg, Mass. with a score of 84. Second gross was won by Wallace Peckham with a 90. Net prizes were won as follows:

- 1st, Wm. Lindsay, 93-16-77.
- 2nd, Thomas Brennan, 103-25-78.
- 3rd, Frank Wilson, 106-27-79.
- 4th, James Sullivan, 97-17-80.

Wallace Peckham celebrated his birthday in good style.

We noticed two tees where the markers could have been put further back.

One of our friends said that this meeting was the first he could remember at which we had not asked for articles for the NEWSLETTER. Perhaps we have come to the conclusion that it doesn't do much good. However, we need some now, and hope that some of our friends who are interested will send in their contributions.

In keeping with the times, the Western Massachusetts Greenkeepers are carrying on. At the Pittsfield Country Club for the July meeting twenty-one members gathered. August saw about the same number at Williamstown. The next meeting will be held at Berkshire Hills Country Club, Pittsfield, Mass., on Wednesday, September 21st. Golf at 2.30; supper at 6.30.

as reported by Marston Burnett.

IF and When.—Men will wear brown this Winter, says a stylist.

They will if they did last Winter.

—Life.

The annual meeting at the Green Section Experimental plots at the Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass. was held on August 17th. Dr. John Monteith, Jr. of the Green Section was present, and discussed the various plots, with the various experiments being carried on. There was a large attendance of interested greenkeepers and green chairmen.

Although this meeting was of interest, and all such meetings have a definite value and an important place in our efforts to better ourselves and our courses, we venture to state that we feel that this meeting could have more value. We would like to see a committee from the Greenkeepers Club work together with the ones who have previously sponsored these meetings, with the definite idea of trying to make more of these meetings. We wonder if it wouldn't be a better idea to have the "eats" as a dinner to follow the plots' visit, than as a lunch before visiting the plots. A committee for this purpose could discuss all such questions and probably make more out of this meeting.

We wonder what ever happened to that suggestion of ex-president Treat that we have an outdoor meeting with our salesman and dealer friends. We seem to have tried all Summer to sponsor a greenkeeper-pro tournament, and it now seems probable that the next meeting will be run along these lines. It might be well to think over such suggestions that have been made in the past, and never tried. Any idea which furthers cooperation among those interested in golf course maintenance should be a step in the right direction.

Greenkeeper with seven years experience, thirty years working with turf; would appreciate hearing of club needing experienced man. Address XYZ % Newsletter.

We are fortunate in presenting this month a "Resume of Brown-patch Control" by our president. This is a fine article which our readers will do well to save. We hope that the copies of the NEWSLETTER are filed away for future reference, and that articles such as this give help from time to time when problems arise.

A RESUME OF BROWN PATCH CONTROL

By James McCormack

Unicorn Country Club

Although we have received some valuable information on the prevention and control of turf diseases, this problem of brown patch continues to cause considerable trouble and expense.

It is fairly well agreed that this scourge is caused by fungi, which finding the proper incubating conditions, grow very rapidly and kill the grass. The conditions necessary for fungi to spread are well defined. If these conditions are controlled their growth can be cut down to a minimum, if not prevented entirely.

The most satisfactory and economical way of combatting this disease is the preventative method. The resistance of the grass should be built up and maintained throughout the season and especially preceding humid rainy weather. The physical condition of the soil has much to do with deep rooting of the grass. The right proportion of sand should be placed in the top soil so that sufficient air will reach the roots and proper drainage conditions maintained close to the surface of the green.

A fertilizing program which tends to make the grass more sturdy is an important factor in controlling this disease. Spring top-dressing should contain a well-balanced fertilizer applied in compost of correct texture and during the hot months a small amount of inorganic fertilizer should be added to each top-dressing. The green should be well watered after each application in order to dissolve the fertilizer and get the compost close to the roots.

Proper watering is very essential to healthy turf. Too much water has proven as disastrous as too little. A check on the condition of the green can be made when the cup is moved.

Where conditions are such that this disease is of major importance a small amount of fungicide should be applied to each top-dressing. This dose should be much lighter than recommended in ordinary brown patch control, its purpose being to stop fungi growth as soon as the spores begin to germinate. This light application will not kill the spores which are very resistant but will greatly retard their germination. Spores from which the fungi germinate can lie inactive in the green over an extended period of time. When the proper grow-

ing conditions present themselves, these spores develop into the various types of fungi which then develop rapidly.

Watering in early morning before the sun strikes the green has proven very beneficial. After a growth has started, this watering will remove the fungi from their place of germination and reduce to a minimum their damaging effect upon the grass.

The season for brown patch growth extends from June to August. The ideal conditions for its growth are humid weather generally following rain with the temperature in the vicinity of seventy-five degrees. Temperature is a very important controlling factor on the rate of growth.

When brown patch is first noticed a light dose of fungicide should be immediately applied and washed in before sun strikes the green. If the growth is not observed until later in the day, the application of fungicide and water should not be made until after the sun is quite low. Bichloride of mercury has proven to be very effective. Best results have been obtained by using two ounces per thousand square feet of turf. This is applied in liquid form by dissolving in water or with the top-dressing followed by a thorough watering.

A light application of fertilizer helps the greens in many instances to come back quickly. This should not be made too heavy otherwise the grass will grow too rapidly and be more susceptible to further infection. If no fungicide is available when brown patch is first noticed a thorough washing with water has been found very satisfactory in reducing its growth. Many fungicides have been grossly exaggerated and only those should be used which have proven satisfactory in the past.

Every fall an application of lime tends to sweeten the soil. Also, a light application with top-dressing during the middle of the season proves beneficial. Lime will neutralize an excess of acid present in the soil and restore the proper pH value to the surface water. The rate of fungi growth is dependent upon the proper pH value. If this is altered by the addition of lime in small amount, the growth is retarded greatly.

Heavy watering during extremely hot weather is necessary to save the grass from burning up. It must not be overlooked that this water greatly dilutes any application of fungicide. It is much better to give more frequent application in light doses than to apply a

heavy dose, as this has a very damaging effect on the grass. The application of any chemical to the green should never be entrusted to an inexperienced person.

Bill Lindsay reports opening a new practice putting green this Summer at the Manchester Country Club. Bill has had very little trouble with brown-patch this year, having had practically none on even the fifth green, which has been troublesome before.

We noticed very little publicity about the fact that our new club champion, teaming with his club pro, bested Gene Sarazen and partner at Oak Hill last month, in one of the two times Gene was defeated in his New England tour. Emil and partner should be a good team next month at Bear Hill.

A new practice putting green and also a new practice pitching green have been opened recently at the Fall River Country Club. This pitching green is about 35 by 50 feet, with a large and deep trap on the left side. This trap is shallow on one end and deep on the other, and is for practice. Seventy yards of fairway in front of the green, and ample rough around the trap and green enable any player to practice any shot from seventy yards down to the putt. This green is near the club house, and already has seen much use.

CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT

From Mr. David G. Reid of Hovey & Company of 150 Milk St., Boston, comes the following news, "HOVEY & COMPANY,, formerly a Partnership, is now under the complete ownership and management of David G. Reid and will continue to serve their customers with the same prompt and reliable service as in the past." Mr. Reid is well known to New England greenkeepers and to the trade, having been senior partner for many years. The NEWSLETTER takes this opportunity to wish Mr. Reid and Hovey & Company continued success.

"The true friend is the one who understands".

We are wondering if anyone in the East has used sodium chlorate extensively as a weed killer, for weeds in traps.

PITCH HOLDING GREENS

By F. C. Groos, Long Beach C. C.

Reprinted from

"The Pacific Greenkeeper"

Greens that will hold a pitch shot and still retain a true putting surface seem to be a much discussed subject—agreeably discussed if the ball holds, and just plain cussed if it does not.

The poor old green gets shot from all angles. Writers, if they mention it, hail or boo from behind a barricade of typewriters; the architect shoots it from the ground up; golfers praise or condemn it according to the vagaries of their game; so, here goes a shot from the greenkeeper's standpoint.

That it is disheartening to a golfer who carefully has placed his shot near the pin only to see it bounce merrily on its way to the tall and uncut goes without saying. But it is equally disconcerting for the player who favors the pitch and run shot to find that his ball sticks in the surface with a sickening plunk. Worst of all to the player is to see his putts deflected because of ball holes or heel prints in the turf.

Happy, therefore, is the greenkeeper who has been able to bring his soil structure to such a state of moisture-holding consistency that a good playing surface is maintained without the necessity of soaking the green to such an extent that the resultant loss of bacterial action endangers the life of his turf. It is a common practice to apply a topdressing of 60 per cent sand, 20 per cent loam, and 20 per cent organic matter, and while it is conceded that this mixture should produce the desired result in texture when the green is constructed, yet the passing of years makes it evident that this mixture becomes depleted in organic content despite the application of commercial fertilizers and strict adherence to topdressing schedules. Thus the quality of the turf is impaired as is also the pitch holding quality of the green.

Unlike the gardener who can add his annual organic quota to bring his soil up to standard, the greenkeeper, because of his turf, cannot spade anything beneath the surface.

Since it is impossible to spade in organic matter so necessary to maintain the ideal structure, then the nearest and most practical approach to it is spiking it in, for this seems to be the only way left to get beneath the turf and, at the

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same time, to keep the players at the game.

I have maintained faithfully the practice of spiking before every topdressing for the past seven years and during that time have enjoyed frequent pats on the back administered by good golfers who like to see their back spin shots stay put.

Our spiker punctures the turf every inch and a half with a hole three-eighths of an inch wide and one and one half inches deep. Cross sections taken of these holes display that they are half filled with top dressing.

Spiking, then, increases the pore space, replaces some of the vitiated organic soil content, increases bacterial action, and insures moisture penetration to the very longest root depths. Consequently the golfer shoots spiked greens with confidence that they will hold, and the greenkeeper enjoys a continued maintenance of the turf.

We have been maintaining our greens in very good holding condition by watering them only every other night for a duration of from three-quarters to one hour according to the contour of the green. Our experience has indicated that spiking not only obviates the necessity of soaking the green, but adds materially to economic turf maintenance.

"New ideas are always in the ether. Don't let mental static drown them out". A fine place for you to get some new ideas is to attend a greenkeepers' meeting, and listen to your fellow greenkeepers.

"Team work is the ultimate proof of good management". Do you realize the fine team work shown by your Board of Directors in their work to make your club worthwhile?

HUMANS MIGHT GIVE IT A TRY

The robin thought his fortune was made when he spotted that string. It was tied to a post but he didn't see the post. It was new and white and strong and twenty feet of it were lying on the ground. Visions of the swellest nest in Elmville seized his imagination. He closed on the loose end with his beak and gave a lusty tug. The string sprang back a yard or so and the robin almost lost his balance. "That just can't be," he wigwags with his tail and grabs it again. Same manoeuvre. Same result. Robin scratches his ear and takes another hold. He stands a minute, calculating. This time he leaves the ground in flight, string in tow—and down come both within a dozen wing-beats. When we left the window ten minutes later he was still at work. Next morning the string was still there but the robin had gone. But he built his nest just the same.

A man might have said: "It's no use while this drat depression lasts. Lots of jack around but I just can't get it till things loosen-up."

But once the robin found that string was hopeless he went after some that wasn't. Found it, too, and some feathers and horsehair, and that new nest looked just about the way he pictured it.

For what the moral may be worth—the robin works with beak and claws from dawn till dark however tough the going.

—Credit Where Credit Is Due

All obstructions to the execution of laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency.

—George Washington

"It's a cinch to cut the other fellow's budget".

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