What Beacons Should Guide New Green Committee?

When the retiring green committee completes its tenure of office and steps out of the official roster to make room for its successor, the legacy that is turned over to the newcomers too frequently consists of good wishes, sympathy and a vague and incomplete array of miscellaneous data relative to the operations and findings of the past season.

As many can testify, this is the case in the majority of clubs, but happily the number is growing smaller. Now the practice of clubs making any claim to business management is to require a detailed appraisal of the course's equipment and supplies, a full report of the season's work, its status as the retiring committee presents its report and recommendations for the succeeding committee based on the experience and investigation of the body that is completing its work.

In the preparation of such a report the retiring committee finds it well worth while to take the greenkeeper into its confidence. The committee probably started work full of enthusiasm and declared for a policy of possibly too stringent economy. Then, as the season came on, and play lured them, their work as green committee men languished. There is no need for concealing the facts. It is history in about 50 per cent of the cases we have seen, and entirely in accord with human nature.

The greenkeeper must carry on with practically no co-operation and casual supervision. Along about August, the inadequacy of the green-budget becomes apparent and orders are issued to cut the force to the limit and to buy as little as possible.

This is nothing new to the greenkeeper; he has seen it happen year after year and could advise practical means of avoiding the jam were he consulted before it was too late. Sometimes he suffers from an inferiority complex that makes him mute when, at the beginning of the year, the green-chairman announces to him the figures of an obviously inadequate budget. Many a greenkeeper has felt, to quote the words of one who has been through the mill, that he "would have to go like hell to do half the work cut out for him, on the money allowed."

In a report for the guidance of an incoming green-committee finances, course conditions, labor conditions, and the equipment and material situation comprise the major headings.

Beacons for Newcomers

A check-up should take into full consideration the drainage and irrigation situation on the course as prompt action during the idle season of the course should be taken on such work as may be necessary. The report should reveal the functioning of the drainage system in fairways, traps and greens. Trouble or inadequacy, if any, should be reported on in detail and suggestions and estimated cost of correction submitted. There may be no tile installed in bad spots, the soil may be heavy, or there may be other troubles. With fairway watering coming into the picture so strong it deserves investigation by many clubs. The report should take into consideration any need of additional water supply or storage facilities as this work should be done, insofar as possible, during the course's idle season.

Recommendations for trap and bunker work require a place in the report and both sides of cases for and against any contemplated alterations call for presentation in a report of full value.

The report should include data on the compost supply available and future requirements. Property fencing often is neglected in reports and for that reason the incoming committee leaves it out of its plans. Space is required for a report on the sand in the traps. Amazing losses due to wind, rain, etc., frequently run up sand costs.

An outline of necessary fairway treatment and results of past practice with fertilizer, compost or manure, should have a prominent place in the report. Usually the data on the greens is extensively given in such reports as are submitted and the rest of the course touched upon in only a fragmentary fashion.

A check-up of the condition of the rough, the walks, drives, shrubbery and trees and
recommendations as to their treatment together with a report of the work done during the last year also makes an important item in the report.

**Equipment Appraisal**

An appraisal and estimate of requirements on course equipment, shop equipment, material and supplies, is a highly important part of any complete and workable report. Often a club penalizes itself by trying to get by with wornout or inadequate equipment, or less than the necessary amount of supplies because the green-committee was working in the dark. In this matter the close co-operation of the greenkeeper is vital to an accurate and helpful report. The greenkeeper can give facts and figures concerning the performance of equipment and supplies that should govern the incoming committee’s purchasing activities.

The report should tell the story of what repairs, renewals and reconditioning of equipment is necessary during the idle season and detail the extent and condition of shop facilities and equipment available for this work.

When elections take place rather early in the fall, there should be particular explanation made of the fertilizing and other work in progress, so that it may be pushed through to successful completion. Seeding and fertilizing poor spots in the fairways is often neglected because it is work that comes when many clubs are changing administrations.

A complete report of the operation of a green-committee, with frankness concerning the body’s mistakes, and recommendations that are based on careful investigation of costs and past experience, will not only be a guard against thriftless and pointless operations by the succeeding administration but will, when necessary, provide a good solid foundation for getting any needed assessments approved by the members.

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**Look-and-Learn Policy Gives Good Golf at Low Price**

**By W. C. CAPRON**

Anaconda (Mont.) Country Club

About ten years ago we decided to form a country club at Anaconda, and the usual procedure was adopted at that time. An organization was formed, committees appointed and stock sold entitling the holder to membership. With this money a clubhouse was built and a nine hole course laid out.

The original nine holes was planned by the professional and some members of a neighboring country club working with us. These nine holes were never satisfactory, due to reasons which will appear later. The accompanying map of our course shows the course as it is now.

A number of years prior to starting the country club the Anaconda Copper Mining company established a district about six miles east of town which the company called Opportunity. It sold this district off into about 10-acre lots to workingmen at the plant. In the center of this district a park was established. Through this park runs a clear mountain stream. When the location of the country club came up it was decided that the best place for it would be at Opportunity and the Anaconda Copper Mining company allowed us to place the original nine holes on this park, thereby saving us the expense of purchasing new ground. We did purchase, for a nominal sum, the ground on which the clubhouse and other service facilities are located. It will be noted that the course at the end near the clubhouse is a narrow neck and widens out at the upper part. This was made necessary due to the shape of the park and the land around being sold.

The prevailing wind through this valley comes from the southwest, and as the course, of necessity, runs east and west and also as the afternoon sun is bad for all holes which go from east to west, the original nine holes were difficult. We had several long holes running directly into the wind and sun. These nine holes extended up to our present No. 14.

**Laying Out New Course**

About five years ago we decided to extend our course to 18 holes and obtained...