

Golf Courses In 1929

How various problems of construction and upkeep were solved, told in their own language

Further contributions will be welcomed and should be mailed not later than December 10.



WILLIAM JOY

Lower photo shows view of Pomonok golf course, Flushing, N. Y.

during the N. Y. Metropolitan P. G. A. Championship held here a few weeks ago.

During July and August I used no fertilizer. The course is in use most of the time. My plan of night-sprinkling avoided inconveniencing the players—this in itself is something worth working for. Great watchfulness is however required of the greenkeeper to see to it that the greens do not receive too much water. Our fairways are coming back well; we are seeding the bad places. And it is my opinion that there will be more fertilizer than seed used around this part of the country.

At another time I will be glad to write you about the construction work here at Pomonok. At this point it is a pleasure to mention the friendly co-operation of Pomonok Club members and the backing and encouragement I have received from Mr. William H. Green, Chairman of the Green committee.

watch the greens to see that they were not getting too much water. If the greens were getting too much water, I watered them every other night and instructed the men to water the approaches about thirty yards out from the greens on the intervening night. This plan worked admirably, and I may add that I had the pleasure of hearing many favorable comments on the condition of Pomonok greens

What is Washington Bent?

*By W. P. FRAZIER, Greenkeeper
Lost Creek Country Club, Lima, O.*

IN REPLY to your questionnaire regarding brown patch, am pleased to say that during the five years that I have been here we never have been bothered with brown patch; why I do not know, unless it is due to the construction of the greens. We have never used any manure on our greens, even in compost. If anyone cares to write me I will tell them the construction of our greens.

Our first nine holes were put out in the fall of 1924 and planted with Washington bent. The second nine in the fall of 1928 planted with Washington bent. There is as much difference as between night and day. What is Washington bent? This grass was purchased from two different places, one is fine and one is coarse, so which is Washington?

Regarding the location of greens. I do not think that has a great deal to do with brown patch. I have seen greens which are in the open have brown patch just as badly as those which were enclosed.

We have some weeds to contend with, but will have them more or less when you do not have some place to put your dirt so that the weed seed which is in the soil will germinate and then stop the growth by turning or heating. You will have more or less weed seed blown onto your greens during seeding time when they are covered with topdressing and next year you will have some more weeds, and about the only way you will get them out is to dig them out.

As to crabgrass, we have some around the edges of a few of our greens and I think it is due to our close cutting of the blue grass next to the bent which has not been as well taken care of as the bent, due to lack of fertilizer. As to chickweed it has never bothered us a great deal due I think to the use of arsenate of lead.

We have not done any new construction work except to complete what was started during the fall of '28. Our new greens were planted October 6, 1928 and opened for play June 6, 1929.

And fellow-greenkeepers if you ever pass through Lima, Ohio would be glad to have you come out to the club for I can talk better than I can write, this being my first attempt.

Fencing the Golf Course

By CHAS. ERICKSON

Greenkeeper, Minikahda Golf Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota



CHARLES ERICKSON
Veteran Minnesota greenkeeper

I AM a little lax when it comes to writing letters to the National Association of Greenkeepers, but in reading the last issue of your magazine it made me embarrassed to note there was nothing from this section of the country, with the exception of an article by one of our young greenkeepers, Harold Stodola, of the Keller Club, St. Paul, Minn.

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It seems that the majority of the greenkeepers always seem so busy and have something on their minds. For my part I have not had any trouble at all. Everything has been going along nicely throughout the season. Have not been bothered with brown patch or weeds. We go over our greens every day and in that way we do not give the weeds a chance to multiply.

I have done quite a little work this season. We fenced in nearly our entire golf course, which is about 160 acres, and put up a wonderful fence with barb wire on the top, so it would be quite difficult for anyone to get in except by the gate. Have also done a lot of carpenter work. We built a house for the caretaker who is working at the club house, and of late we have put up a nice trap shooting house, besides doing some tiling which the county made us do. Taking it all in all, a person does not have to look for work on a golf course as there is always plenty to do.

Do not believe it is necessary to tell you how I do my work as all greenkeepers work under different conditions. We do not have the same soil to contend with, nor the same climate. So, I always do things in my own way and find myself coming to the front with my work. I have never been afraid of anyone looking at the beautiful Minikahda course, as it is certainly a real course.

I do not have to ask for money to go ahead with my work, or a man or two if I find I need additional help. I have a chairman who cannot be beaten in seven states. He has always told me that it is up to me (leaving all matters to my judgment) so I have always been careful not to abuse the privilege. However, I have visited at clubs where they have not had more than four or five men at the most and that certainly is not sufficient to take care of all the work connected with a golf course. I have found that they have had to be stingy about their help and finances in general, and still some of the members expect the greenkeepers to have the courses looking as good as those on which a great deal of money has been expended.

Every so often we run across one of these chairmen who will say, "I was over at such and such a course to play a game of golf and the greens were simply wonderful and the fairway was so good that you could have cut a putting green anywhere, and the bunkers were ruffled and they looked beautiful, and the long grass was cut so short that you could see the ball fifty yards away." It may be possible that the greenkeeper, of the course, that was getting "knocked" did not have sufficient help to make the course as wonderful as the one bragged about. Well, we have to stop and figure that in all probability the other fellow had all the help he needed, all the money he needed, so why shouldn't he have a perfect course. In one instance I told a man so and I only hope that he will read this article in some issue of your magazine.

How I Plan My Work

GREENKEEPING comes very easy to me, but just remember that I have been at the same club for the past twenty-nine years, besides having eleven years of practice with the