Greenkeeper or Superintendent:
Opinions of Officers and District Vice-Presidents on Proposed Change of Name.

Majority favor retaining the name Greenkeeper, as follows:

John MacGregor Against Change
CHICAGO GOLF CLUB—CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
I have been requested by Mr. Power of the National Greenkeeper to give my opinion on the proposed change of the name of greenkeeper to some other more appropriate name. After reading our president's opinion in the last issue of the National Greenkeeper I have not changed my opinion. I would like to read many more for and against the change.

My view of the art of greenkeeping covers the entire maintenance of the golf course. Good golf essentially comes from good greens. In years gone by, the putting green was practically all that was necessary for a good game of golf; what other name could have been chosen for the man in charge of the greens but greenkeeper.

As the game of golf progressed, so the art of greenkeeping must necessarily keep up with or ahead of the game; this meant the greenkeeper must improve conditions between the teeing-off place and the green. This meant finer turf on what we now call the fairway, a limited space which necessarily had to be cut, leaving on either side, longer grass known as the rough which also had to be mown to a certain length, then traps, bunkers, and other hazards, soils, grasses, chemicals, fertilizers, the care and operation of machinery, the handling of men to produce the almost perfect playing condition of the golf player—all of this has just naturally enlarged the job of the man who used to look after the putting greens on the old time course.

The name greenkeeper then, seems to me to be a very appropriate one. We will be known as greenkeepers, no matter which name may be chosen. The mortician is still and always will be known as the undertaker; I doubt if we ever will require the services of the gentleman to bury the name greenkeeper.

John Pirie Against Change
WHIPPOORWILL COUNTRY CLUB—CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK
I answer to your letter of June 3, with reference to the proposed change of name from "Greenkeeper" to "Golf Course Superintendent," I wish to state that I am distinctly not in favor of any change in the name. My reasons are many and varied, but to be brief as you request my ideas are as follows:

I am a great follower or believer in Tradition, and I would sooner have the golfing public come on my course and inquire the identity of the Greenkeeper rather than the Golf Course Superintendent.

With reference to Colonel Morley's article on the changing of the name Steward to Club Manager we have a striking example of this at our Fisher's Island club. During the last five years the name Steward was changed to Club House Manager, but when a meal is considered especially fine the members of the Club always ask the identity of the Steward rather than the Club House Manager.

In my opinion golf has already been stripped of some of its finest traditions and I am very much in favor of keeping the name, just as is.

Alex Binnie Against Change
SHOREACRES GOLF CLUB—LAKE BLUFF, ILLINOIS
In expressing my views through the National Greenkeepers' paper, our president lays great stress on the word superintendent. What does that word mean? To your chairman of the Greens, and to ourselves, it means nothing, absolutely nothing, for you and I are just the greenkeeper.

Is the word greenkeeper above the standing of our profession? No, it is not. It strikes me at times that some of our boys get confused with the term "green cutter." There is a close resemblance between the two bodies, because if you don't take your cutters into your confidence in regard to their work, you are not going to get the best of results from your employees, and you are to them just plain boss. That is all you are, just plain boss.

What is in the name if you don't produce? You may call yourselves anything you like, but you will still be the greenkeeper.

The changing of the name in my estimation means nothing, but don't lose sight of the fact that the time is coming when the National Greenkeeper will be a very appropriate one. Men will be proud to be called "greenkeeper," one that cannot be taken from him and he doesn't have a thought, a dollar, a cent to spend. Only the professional (greenkeeper) is one of the crafts, he is an anvil, a hammer, a chisel, a saw, with the gift given to him by his employer.

Now, that is just how it is to our employers. And that's the way I see it, just as good as your employer in the condition of your golf club, and when the employer says "Mr. Greenkeeper," then you know who you are and what you are.

Our worthy president should be very careful in classifying the work and organization of the greenkeeper to an ordinary trade that you might not recognize. We have a great variety of names for our work; there are many and varied names, but to be brief as you request my ideas are as follows:

 differing powers. This gives us to see our employers, and our employer the value of the gift we give and the power the gift gives us.

I can't help thinking of the poet, when I read the controversy, when I hear lately in our golf club, the name change of the superintendent to Club House Manager, but when a meal is considered especially fine the members of the Club always say the identity of the Steward rather than the Club House Manager.

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Shall We Change Our Name?

the N. A. G. A. regarding this important question.
the name "Greenkeeper"

Hugh C. Moore Against Change
St. Simon's Island Golf Club—St. Simon's Island, Georgia

I read Colonel Morley's editorial and I surely did enjoy it. I do not see any reason why we should change from greenkeeper to golf course superintendent. We have been known as greenkeepers as far back as the ancient days of golf and to be frank I think it should be left to Colonel Morley's own personal judgment. He has done more for us than we realize, so why should we not leave it up to him?

I believe it is his desire for us to be known as greenkeepers, therefore I am in favor of being known as greenkeeper. It's good enough for me, for I am really proud of my profession and only hope that I can continue on the balance of my days and be called a greenkeeper.

Joe Williamson Against Change
Scioto Country Club—Columbus, Ohio

In respect to the proposed change of the name of our profession, personally I can discover no possible reason for any alteration whatever. Greenkeepers are what we are and always will be as long as we profess greenkeeping as our calling.

There are numerous qualifications necessary to become a real greenkeeper and to be able to accomplish successfully the problems of caring for a golf course. I for one am quite satisfied with the title "Greenkeeper"—but I do hope to see it on a much higher plane in the future where it will be recognized among the arts and sciences.

The name is obviously fitting and rightfully belongs.

George Davies Against Change
Big Springs Golf Club—Louisville, Kentucky

I think it is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard to change the name from greenkeeper to superintendent.

Anyone can be a superintendent, but that does not make him a greenkeeper, as we know greenkeepers.

It is as greenkeepers we have built up our as-
sociation, our good name and standing in the golf world. If we become superintendents, we absolutely lose our identity with golf.

Greenkeepers we have been for the last hundred years, and if I have my way, greenkeepers we will remain.

O. E. Evans Against Change

COUNTRY CLUB—YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

In answer to your letter of the 3rd of June I wish to say that I have read the "Editorial" written by our esteemed president, Colonel John Morley.

The name or word "Greenkeeper" may not sound large enough to some of the brothers, but to me it implies a large and scientific profession.

I would say that as a suggestion we might try to educate the public to the full meaning of the word "Greenkeeper."

T. H. Riggs Miller Against Change

RICHMOND COUNTY COUNTRY CLUB—
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

Your letter of June 3rd to hand, re a discussion as to whether greenkeepers should call themselves greenkeepers or superintendents.

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." For a number of years a greenkeeper was more or less a glorified foreman, considered as a necessary evil on a golf course. Nobody suspected him of knowing anything, other than mowing grass.

Through organizations such as the National Greenkeepers' Association, the golf world has learned that the greenkeeper is responsible for the great pleasure derived from the game of golf today. They are not only respected by the club officials as guardians of the clubs' most precious asset, TURF, but their advice is sought on every policy the club effects pertaining to the golf course.

The word "greenkeeper" like many English words has undergone a change, whereas in previous years it meant a grass mower. Today it is synonymous with a man who dedicates his life to every branch of TURF culture.

I agree with President John Morley that the word superintendent is ambiguous and in no way helps the situation; golf course manager is better; grounds manager leaves out the word golf. I am in favor of retaining the original word GREENKEEPER.

Herbert E. Shave Against Change

OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB—
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

The old name is good enough for me. We have always been known as such and why change it.

If the majority want to change, follow John Morley's idea.

R. E. Farmer Against Change

BRYNWOOD COUNTRY CLUB—
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The word "Greenkeeper" was probably started from the phrase "The Keeper of the Greens." The word has been used so long now that it is considered English. It is no longer a common or a slang word.

Many greenkeepers have charge of the golf course proper, many look after the club house grounds and greens, and some greenkeepers manage the club house.
Prominent Greenkeepers Speak Out

Here are some of the N. A. G. A. officials whose letters are published in this issue.

CHARLES ERICKSON
Minneapolis, Minn.

HUGH LUKE
Garden City, L. I.

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON
Columbus, Ohio

HUGH C. MOORE
St. Simons Island, Georgia

ALEx Binnie
Chicago, Ill.

HERBERT SHAVE
Birmingham, Michigan

JOHN ANDERSON
West Orange, N. J.

GEORGE DAVIES
Louisville, Kentucky

ELMER F. AFFELDT
Rovlyn, L. I.
and the grounds. This difference in an official capacity is hard to explain unless you say he is a greenkeeper, a managing greenkeeper, or a manager and greenkeeper.

Some greenkeepers supervise the maintenance of other courses. He is considered a supervisory greenkeeper. The word superintendent of grounds does not separate these distinctions.

Since our official magazine is called "The National Greenkeeper" there seems little need to change the name. The greenkeepers themselves will have to show their employers that distinction which they are seeking to adopt with a new word.

Carl A. Bretzlaff Against Change
MERIDIAN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

I am not in favor of changing the name of "greenkeeper" to "golf course superintendent," at least, not until the approval of the entire membership of the National Greenkeepers' Association is received. I cannot see what would be gained by changing the name, especially just when the organization is becoming well-known.

For your information, the Indiana Greenkeepers' Association recently changed their name to "Golf Course Superintendents of Indiana," but this was done at a time when I was laid up with pneumonia and unable to express my dissapproval. I think this should have been brought up at an annual meeting, after the entire membership had had an advance notice of such a contemplated change, and given an opportunity to have their say.

G. W. Earl Against Change
OGDENSBURG COUNTRY CLUB—OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

In reply to your letter of June 3rd, asking for my opinion regarding the changing of the name "Greenkeeper" to that of "Golf Course Superintendent," I wish to state that I am not in favor of changing the name "Greenkeeper," as I feel that word is more appropriate for the profession than "Superintendent."

John Quaill For Change
HIGHLAND COUNTRY CLUB—PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Last summer I had occasion to visit a golf course in Central Pennsylvania and of course the first thing that came into my mind was, "Where is the greenkeeper and who is he?" After inquiring as to his whereabouts, I found him busily engaged with a pick and shovel digging a French drain. I made myself known and after chatting a while, I found that he regularly mows six greens every morning, rakes most of the traps, cuts several tees and what have you to do.

Asking if the course was public or private and finding out that it was a private club with plenty of money and they were willing to spend it to have a good course, I began wondering what was wrong with the fellow. Here was a nice little eighteen-hole layout with wonderful possibilities and here was a GREENKEEPER who was doing the work of about two men to keep it going when he could have hired another man to do the work and then seen that the work was done. This illustrates my idea of a GREENKEEPER.

The next day on my way home, I stopped in a town for lunch and as I came out of the restaurant, I saw a car parked by the curb with Green Knoll Country Club painted on the side. A very prosperous looking man was in the drivers seat and my curiosity was aroused and upon inquiring I found that he was the SUPERINTENDENT of a prosperous country club about four miles from town. I was invited to stop over and look his place over and have a chat with him on the latest methods of golf course maintenance.

Arriving at the club, I asked for the superintendent and was informed he was in his office. I entered a nice little room where I found the man I was looking for. On the walls he had pictures of his course and several others. There were blue prints showing the whole layout, water drains and other things which an accurate record should be kept of. He was dressed up with a nice clean shirt and light trousers.

We started out over the course and I could tell a man...
who was used to SUPERINTENDING was on the job. He didn’t do the work himself, he saw that it was done, and that it was done in a satisfactory manner. This man was a SUPERINTENDENT. He didn’t keep the greens, he saw that they were kept.

As to golf course managers, I have also seen one of that type. He sat in an office most of the day and had a greenkeeper report to him for orders. The pro, caddy master and other outside help was also under him. All he did was to give suggestions and as long as everything went along all right I suppose he had a job. But when it comes down to seeing that the course is in the best possible shape, it is up to a superintendent.

I have often heard the golf course superintendents called groundskeepers, golf keepers, caretakers and a host of other names. Would it not be better to designate them as superintendents and have every one understand that that is what they are instead of every other person guessing what a greenkeeper is. I am very heartily in favor with the movement to change the name and was one of the instigators in changing the name of the Western Pennsylvania Greenkeepers’ Club to the Tri-State Golf Course Superintendents’ Association.

This change was suggested by a Chairman of Green Committee and endorsed by the Sales Manager of a large manufacturing concern. It has met with the approval of all Green committee men in this district and we were complimented on our foresight. If it works in one district it will work in another. I am for the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

Elmer F. Affeldt For Change
ENGINEERS’ COUNTRY CLUB—ROSLYN, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

After reading the opinion of our worthy president, Colonel John Morley, and various other high lights in our organization located in different sections of the country, regarding the name of our organization, I have withheld my reply to your letter of June 3rd, until after the monthly meeting of the Long Island Greenkeepers’ Association, which was held last night June 9th.

After a lengthy but very fair discourse of the subject it was decided and carried by unanimous vote that the name should be changed from “Greenkeeper” to “Golf Course Superintendent.”

It was brought out that the name “Greenkeeper” originated in Scotland where the Royal and Ancient game came from many years ago, and that in those days the name was most fitting as his duties were to keep the greens, and that the sheep in grazing kept the fairways and tees, hence the title “greenkeeper.”

Today this mode of golf course up-keep has changed. The man in charge of a course has many duties to perform, he must be of great diversity, viz construction superintendent, landscape superintendent, expert me-
chanic, plumber, painter, carpenter, bookkeeper, and above all a diplomat.

Of course the mere changing of the name from greenkeeper to that of golf course superintendent will not help a man in holding his job any better, but it does seem that the title of superintendent will help in elevating the man in charge of a million dollar or more investment more quickly to the professional class where he rightfully belongs.

Many still believe that the greenkeeper, or greensman is the fellow who cuts the greens, and is therefore more or less a laborer, it never occurring to them the myriads of duties that he really performs.

Hugh Luke For Change
GARDEN CITY COUNTRY CLUB—GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK

In regard to changing the name of “Greenkeeper” to “Golf Course Manager” or “Golf Course Superintendent.”

In my opinion, it is a question whether the rose will smell better under a new name. In other words, it is the man and not the name that counts.

However, just to be off the fence, I am in favor of “Golf Course Superintendent.”

Jerome MacDonald For Change
PALMETTO GOLF CLUB—AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

Replying to your letter of June 3rd, I have read the editorial of our president, Colonel Morley, and have not given it much thought as yet, but would say that I would rather have the name changed to superintendent if it will not do any injury to our profession as a whole.

David Tait For Change
NORTHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB—MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

In my opinion it’s the only thing to do. Greenkeeping has gotten way beyond a job and I am heartily in favor of the change.

James Muirden Says Manager
RIDGEWOOD GOLF CLUB—CINCINNATI, OHIO

I have received your letter of June 3rd, and also have read with great interest Colonel Morley’s editorial in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER.

After giving this matter serious consideration my suggestion is that the name golf course manager would be the most suitable and appropriate.

J. O. Campbell Says Manager
WETHERSFIELD COUNTRY CLUB—HARTFORD, CONN.

I have just read Col. John Morley’s editorial in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. I believe the time is here when we should change the name to something other than “Greenkeeper.”

I agree with Mr. Morley that “Golf Course Manager” is a better name than “Superintendent.” It better describes us. One definition of a manager is a skilful economist, and that’s what a great many of us are.

I believe if a poll were taken of all the members, a great majority would decide on “Golf Course Manager.”

Ford Goodrich Says Manager
FLINT COUNTRY CLUB—FLINT, MICHIGAN

If the majority of members feel that the name of our organization should be changed, let us take Colonel
July, 1931

The National Greenkeeper

25

An improved model Ohio Greens Cultivator loaned with each car shipment.

Make a light top dressing NOW with

"WINDRIFT"
Hardwood Humus Material

Absorbs heat for spring growth. Brings turf much earlier.

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John Morley's suggestion and call ourselves golf course managers.

As for me the name greenkeeper is O. K.

Charles Erickson Says Let's Vote

Minikahda Club—Minneapolis, Minnesota

I am in receipt of your general letter of June 3rd in which you express Col. John Morley's opinions with regard to the name Greenkeeper and Golf Course Superintendent.

We, in Minnesota, feel much the same. A short while ago we changed our name to Superintendent, but this was not satisfactory with a great many of the boys. For my part I believe the name Greenkeeper carries as much weight as the name Golf Course Superintendent.

We had a meeting today at the Somerset Country Club, St. Paul, Minn., and talked over this matter. However, we could not come to any agreement. We are not entirely satisfied with the present name, or the proposed name, and believe something more scientific could be adopted. This is a matter that requires special consideration and cannot be decided upon in too great a hurry, so believe the best thing to do is to leave this matter in the hands of Col. John Morley or other officials who are better versed in the choosing of titles.

James Connaughton Says Let's Vote

Monroe Golf Club—Pittsford, New York

In reply to your request of June 3rd, I would suggest that the question of changing the name of greenkeeper to golf course superintendent be taken up at the next annual Convention, which will be held in New York City.

I believe it necessary in order to avoid misunderstanding in the future and in order that each and every greenkeeper in good standing who belongs to the National association be given the privilege to express his opinion by ballot as to whether or not the name greenkeeper should be changed to golf course superintendent.

As a rule greenkeepers are shrewd, competent, honest and sincere and according to my way of thinking can and will deal with any important question in regard to their profession.

"SOD-KUT" . . . . a hand-power sod cutter . . . . designed for greenkeepers

Solves the greenkeeper's troubles. Produces sod of absolutely uniform thickness and square even edges, insuring solid, tight butting, with consequent quick knitting and firm, smooth relays. Cuts a strip 13/8" wide, any length and any depth from 3/16" to 2 1/4". No horses or tractors used; two men operate it, easily cutting 15,000 sq. ft. of sod a day. Weighs less than 100 lbs. and uses no weights.

Invaluable for removing infections in greens, remodeling of tees and installing sprinkling systems. Can be rolled about with absolutely no injury to greens. Meets the exacting requirements of greenkeepers for a simple, trouble-proof, convenient and ACCURATE tool. Write for full information. Some territory still open and available for selling agents.

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