

Firestone Courses In Good Shape

By HENRY PROVENCE, *Greenkeeper*

Firestone Country Club and Public Course of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio

IN REFERENCE to your letter of September 7, as to how we managed to overcome the depression we kept both of our courses in fairly good shape. We have both a public and a private course, thirty-six holes in all.

We centered most of our work on our greens and tees. Every golfer seemed to be well pleased with them. We cut down on our labor but not on our fertilizer, as well as seed and minor equipment.

We had a few sod webworms on our public course that marred the greens a bit so I used forty pounds of arsenate and six pounds of sulphate with sand and they came along fine.

Summing it all up I did more figuring, thinking and harder work, as well as my men and I do not believe my two courses will be affected for 1933 along these lines as they weren't deprived of anything they required. I cannot see much better conditions for 1933 under these modern times.

Hall Uses Nitrate of Soda

By G. W. HALL, *Greenkeeper*

Cowansville Golf Club, Cowansville, Canada, Quebec

TO EXPLAIN my troubles for the year 1932, I must say my Directors have been for cutting expenses since we first began the season. But I think they have looked on the dark side a little too much, as we shall not come out so badly.

The first thing they did was to cut my wages ten per cent and asked me to manage with one man and that I have done. I have been doing the work this season by myself with the aid of one man and kept expenses down.

The first thing I did was to get compost for my greens. I got it from a spare part on the course and got one hundred and fifty pounds of nitrate of soda to mix with it and derived great results from it and a saving of one hundred dollars of buying.

In July, because I had no time to make my own, I bought ten tons at five dollars delivered, and dressed

my greens again and they have kept in great shape. Never had them better.

I have not had a complaint from the members or guests. There have been a great number from the States playing, and they told me the course was in wonderful shape.

For the fall dressing I have taken earth from the same place again instead of buying and that will be a saving of about one hundred and fifty dollars. I am mixing one hundred pounds of nitrate of soda with it again. I gave my bad fairways twenty tons of lime at two dollars a ton delivered. Of course what keeps my expenses down, I have a tractor with three-section mowers, also Worthington power mower for greens. My greens are a good size, 9-hole course, 2565 yards.

Slack Has Been Fortunate

By WM. SLACK, *Greenkeeper*

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

IN REPLY to your questionnaire on, How I Overcame the Depression of 1932—Well, I think that I can truthfully say that I am one of the most fortunate greenkeepers in the state with regards to expense as I have had all the men and material necessary to keep the University of Michigan golf course in first-class condition.

Not being in the habit of blowing my own horn as the saying goes, I base my statement on the condition of the course from the compliments paid to me by the many visitors who have played here from the different states.

Of course, I am well aware that if I had not had a crew of loyal men and plenty of material, I would have been in the same boat as some of the unfortunate men all around me who have not been blessed with all the facilities that I have had to work with, and I take this opportunity of congratulating them all for the condition that they have kept their courses in, as I have visited quite a lot of them and have marveled on the work they have done.

I further consider myself very fortunate in that I have had only a very slight attack of small brown patch on one green which is not worth mentioning, while some of my brother greenkeepers all around me have had lots of trouble. I think I can attribute my good fortune to this reason that since May I

have thoroughly disced all the greens every two weeks and watered in the morning.

I must say that I think I had a fair share of sod webworm and it sure kept me busy for a while, but after applying kerosene emulsion on some greens and arsenate of lead on others I gave them a shock at least for this year.

I cannot close without sympathizing with the greenkeeper who has had to struggle along with a shortage of everything. I trust this reply complies with our worthy president's request.

How I Beat the Budget in 1932

By JOHN DAVIDSON, *Greenkeeper*

Wanango Country Club, Reno, Pennsylvania

THE greatest expense in maintaining a golf course is the labor and the most successful greenkeepers are those who can manage the handling of their men, as well as understand the condition of their turf and know how to improve it without making any false moves.

I am on an 18-hole golf course on the side hills of Western Pennsylvania, where the soil is very thin, about a half inch to grow the needed grass on both greens and fairways. In spite of this the greens and fairways have improved wonderfully this year owing to a new watering system which enables us to water the approaches and landing places.

If a more extensive watering system had been provided the fairways would be in much better condition. But not so with our greens; we have to use the most uncommon thing in the world, common sense when watering them. I have had very little trouble with any pests or diseases during my experience as a greenkeeper, not even in 1928 when I was on another course or in 1931 on this course; two years which proved disastrous to many course maintenance men.

This year the Green committee allowed me the munificent budget of six thousand dollars on which to run the golf course. This meant that I had to cut the number of men employed to the minimum, so I hired five men, all good workers, and all willing to pull for the course.

One man mows the fairways, cuts the rough, and keeps two tennis courts in excellent condition. The

other four men cut five greens each day and rake the traps around them. When that is completed these four men report where we left off the day before and working in gang formation the rest of the eight hours we cut the slopes of greens, the tees, do what topdressing is necessary and other odd jobs.

This gives each man a chance to see the other fellows' greens and to jest over the straight or crooked lines of the mowers or other things which come to their attention. We always have a little fun and plenty of work.

I worked with my men and then found time to grind mowers, keep the equipment in shape, run the gas engine for the water supply, and put on the sprinklers at night with two boys to fill in where necessary.

Before I took up the work here sixteen men were employed on the course at a cost of about \$12,000 a year. Most of the members tell me the course was never in better condition.

Berkshire In Good Shape

By THOMAS NOCKER

Berkshire Hills Country Club, Hartford, Connecticut

IN REPLY to Col. Morley's letter of September 7th, I want to make a short statement.

Starting the season of 1932 at the Berkshire Hills Country Club, the officials of the club cut all help from ten to twenty per cent—greenkeeper taking the lion's share in the cut, also cut the amount of men from six to four. But, seeing that I was the construction superintendent of the course and therefore had always a personal interest in the course I had to resort to every trick gained in my twenty years' experience in this country.

Despite all this we have had excellent comments from guests as well as from players in the New England P. G. Q., also the Berkshire Open.

I think that both workmen and greenkeepers should be entitled at the end of a successful season for the club to something more than just a lot of salvaged and empty promises.

Regarding the outlook for the season of 1933, we cannot see much improvement so far, but live in hopes of early prosperity for everybody.