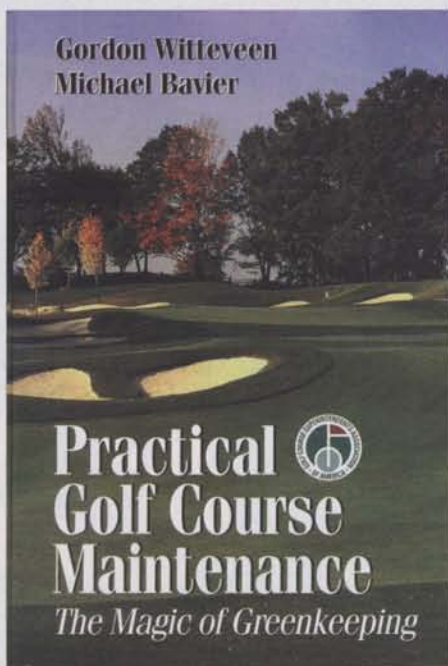


Practical Golf Course Maintenance

THE MAGIC of Greenkeeping

By Gordon Witteveen and Michael Bavier



I was very fortunate to attend a one day seminar in 1997 called "The Magic Of Greenkeeping" Gordon & Michael gave. An insightful & candid portrayal of what ingredients make a successful superintendent, delivered with great verve & panache in a Morcombe & Wise style of humour ensuring those attending did not nod off in the process.

I can think of no greater achievement for any person who has dedicated their life to one profession than to communicate their wealth of experience through the publishing of a book. What is a surprise is the fact that they dedicate this book to their Green Chairmen. This in itself speaks volumes of where their personal success

lies, not just in sound agronomy but in communication with those golfers on the front line.

Through careful nurturing of their contact with club members they gained genuine support, trust & respect for their knowledge in the art of greenkeeping. We all thrive in our positions when we are a valued member of the team which Gordon and Michael certainly achieved. This book goes into detail about all aspects of turf management which, professionally integrated, will lead to success in this business of golf.

Its general aim is to give renewed vigour and enthusiasm for a profession which has countless pitfalls for those who do not tread carefully. After the last two winters we have endured we can all do with an intellectual "pick me up". They cover the rudimentary elements of greenkeeping, making this book a sort of Lonely Planet guide for greenkeepers, espousing what budding or experienced greenkeepers really need to know.

The emphasis on practical matters in turf management is excellent. Any greenkeeper will find something useful within these pages. Practical experience is only gained through hard, dedicated work. It takes several years to accrue such skills. The best of these is the "sixth sense" which prods the mind into seeing some form of action is required for the greenkeeping matter at hand. This book goes a long way to exposing the important facets which over time help to form this sixth sense. The many common sense ideas will be most interesting to those greenkeepers or students with limited experience. Items covered are clear, concise & of great benefit to younger greenkeepers studying for their N.V.Q Levels 2 & 3. They often quote maintenance or management techniques used by associate Superintendents so a cross reference of experience is succinctly highlighted for your attention. Those Course Managers with many years experience will revel in the accuracy of problem solving & more importantly - prevention of the pitfalls & will no doubt evaluate these against your own practical methodology. Another important area covered in detail throughout the various sections of the

book is the restoration of turf from a poor to healthy state with years of good practical husbandry coming to the fore.

In case you are concerned that this book, written by two American/Canadian Superintendents, will only be useful to American style Greenkeeping - forget it! This is a foray into global greenkeeping skills and there is plenty here for the European greenkeeper. This book is a fine addition to any turf managers library. It should be read by all those seeking new ideas or to support & salute other superintendents achievements on ways in which this increasingly complex and competitive world of golf can be nurtured with stress-free success

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Book reviewed by David Winterton, O.N.D., C.M.S., M.G.