

Monday, September 21 found our members participating in a joint meeting with the Club Managers Association at the beautiful Midlothian Country Club for golf and dinner. Ed Duehr, Host Superintendent had his headaches that day because of the heavy rain the day before. One of his fairways was completely under water. Despite this fact he had the rest of the course in great shape. I have never seen so much bent in watered fairways in the Chicago area. The Superintendents won all the golf prizes.

OCTOBER MEETING

Our annual Golf Tournament will be played at our next Monthly meeting. The Host Club will be Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, Illinois. The meeting date has been set for Tuesday, October 13, 1964. Sharpen up your game and play the challenging golf course that Paul Voykin, the host Superintendent, has groomed so well all summer.



Left to right — Dr. Jack Butler, Dr. Mike Britton James Holmes, Dr. William H. Daniel, Roy Nelson, Warren Bidwell.

SPECIAL MEETING

LA SALLE HOTEL, August 21, 1964

At our last monthly meeting held at Olympia Fields Country Club on August 3, 1964 it was suggested that our Association attempt to hire some individual to come into our area and investigate our problem. This person in turn would make a report on his findings and perhaps give us some good clues as to what really happened.

This was approved by the majority present. On Friday, August 7 President Warren Bidwell called a Board meeting to discuss problems involved in securing such an individual. The outcome of the meeting resulted in a compromise. After realizing that one individual would find this too big a task it was decided that we call on the Chicago District Golf Association to help us. After discussing the various ramifications of this problem it was decided to ask Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue and Dr. Mike Britton and Dr. Jack Butler of the University of Illinois to participate in a panel discussion along with two of our Superintendents from Chicago. Next we needed a Moderator and only one man fit this bill. Jim Holmes, our Midwest Agronomist representing the United States Golf Association, was the man. The meeting date was set for 3:30 P.M. Friday, August 21, 1964 at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Charles Eckstein, one of the biggest backers of the Golf Course Superintendent, representing the Greens Committee of the Chicago District Golf Association. After remarking on the reasons for the meeting, he turned the program over to the affable Jim Holmes. Jim pointed out that we were assembled to discuss two things: What happened to our fairway turf? and, What are we going to do about it?

It must be pointed out at this time that there were over 200 attending. Several states were represented Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana and Michigan. The group was made up of Superintendents and their Chairmen as well as many Club Officials and interested Commercial People.

The panel consisted of:

- Dr. William H. Daniel, Purdue University
- Dr. Jack Butler, University of Illinois
- Dr. Mike Britton, University of Illinois
- Mr. Roy Nelson, Superintendent of Ravisloe Country Club
- Mr. Warren Bidwell, Superintendent, Olympia Fields Country Club

Dr. Butler's opening remarks follow:

No one thing was to blame — Each environment is different. Soil conditions, drainage, management, variety of grasses and amounts of rainfall all entered into the picture. Conditions are different everywhere. The man who lives with the problem is the man to pinpoint the reasons for the problems.

Dr. Britton's opening remarks:

We have experienced wet, hot, and humid conditions this past month. These factors are perfect for disease. Mike showed several slides at this point illustrating what the disease looked like and the damage that it had done. Moisture is the key to our problem, whether in the soil or in the air. Last severe attack was in 1955. This disease may hit every year or it may skip many years. Annual Bluegrass seemed to have been more susceptible to Pythium damage than either Bent or Common Kentucky Bluegrass. There are no adequate chemical controls at present for the prevention or cure of Pythium.

Dr. Daniel's opening remarks:

We have had other years when this pest was prevalent. Some worse and some not quite as bad. If there is a breeze or if the humidity is below 40% by 10:00 A.M. there is little damage from disease. If we have high temperatures, high humidity and no wind for several days we have trouble with disease. It seems to incubate at night.

Mr. Warren Bidwell's opening remarks:

Are we not as a group of Superintendents trying to strive too hard for perfection? Aren't we trying to soup up the grass too much? Aren't we as a group of Superintendents too color conscious? Don't we invite many of our own troubles? The competition with the club across the street is perhaps too keen. We use more fertilizer each year. Some old timers practice minimum feeding programs to help them through time of stress. They sacrifice looks for ease of maintenance during rough times.

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