

CHICAGO GOLF CLUB 1921

The Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, IL is known as the oldest 18 hole golf course in the United States. Recently, in the estate of a former member, an account was found describing the reconstruction of the golf course in 1921 and 1922. To some of us "old timers" the information is familiar. To the rest of you the text could be a revelation or simply entertaining.

LABOR SECURED

Local labor or imported labor was the first question for consideration. We found that we could secure contract labor thru an employment agency at 30 cents per hour, but such contract would have put upon the Club the necessity of housing the labor and providing for timekeepers, porters, transportation and a fee to the employment bureau. All of these items taken into consideration indicated an eventual cost of 35 cents and a fraction per hour. Investigation of the conditions around Wheaton indicated that we could engage men for this price and relieve ourselves of housing the men and other onerous details necessary if contract labor were used. We set a figure of 35 cents per hour, at which price we operated throughout the entire season for all labor, except subforemen and men for special work. The plan had proven very satisfactory; we have had a splendid class of labor and it is the opinion of your committee that results have been accomplished at a minimum labor cost.

Method of Constructing New Greens

The greens were located by Mr. Raynor, architect and a model furnished by him was staked out on the ground, carefully surveyed as to contour and shaped in the rough with earth taken from bunkers surrounding the greens, or, as in the case of #7 and #13, hauled from other parts of the grounds. Each green after it was shaped was inspected by Mr. Raynor, and instructions were given as to desired changes in contour, and as to the use of cinders and drainage. In some cases cinders and tile were used. #12 was netted with tile and covered with four inches of cinders, whereas #13 on account of the lay of the land and its construction required neither cinders nor tile; #8 was tiled across the front; #6 was tiled thru the center, and in like manner each green received individual consideration.

When greens were shaped and ready to finish each was built up; first with four inches of sod; then four inches of manure which had been previously piled and well rotted; then five to six inches of top soil carefully selected from various parts of the grounds. The green was then sanded, limed and raked, and was ready for the compost and seeding.

In May compost piles were started - built up of manure, humus from the bog south of the polo field, sand and lime. These piles were watered constantly to prevent heating and to assist rotting, and at proper intervals were turned and screened.

When ready for seeding, the new greens were covered with one inch of compost, marked out in squares of about one yard and hand seeded with the proper amount of seed for each square, then lightly raked and rolled, and turned over to nature to do the rest.

The fairways built this year were first heavily manured (about a car to the acre) then plowed, disced and harrowed; they were then planted in cowpeas and buckwheat. In preparing for seeding, manure was spread over the cover crop at the rate of about a car to the acre and all plowed under. The ground was then disced both ways, harrowed and then worked either with a plank drag or with a chain drag, and where necessary was hand raked and rolled. The seeding was

done with wheel-barrow seeders, the ground being laid out in squares so that all parts would receive the proper amount of seed.

Effect of Dandelions on Next Year's Operations

The question of handling the fairways to be seeded in 1922 is a problem; this year we seeded very little sod land. In 1922 we will encounter almost entirely sod land which was overrun with dandelions. We hope these lands, plowed as they have been, will freeze out the dandelions so that we can put in a cover crop in the spring. If, however, the dandelions do not winter kill, we must depend upon constant cultivation next year, in order to eradicate them in time for fall seeding. We must also prevent the blowing of dandelion seed from the property on the west. We may be able to keep the blossoms picked so that they will not seed, if not, we may be obliged to seek permission of the property owners to plow and reseed their land, or at least weed their lawns. We hope to solve this problem effectively at the lowest possible cost, but we believe action is necessary to eliminate this pest. On our own property we have plowed most of the rough and the balance will be treated next year.

Water System

Although the general layout was not changed, all three engineers criticized the size of the pipe which was proposed to install, with the resulting installation of

6,865 feet of 6" pipe

10,412 feet of 4" pipe

7,144 feet of 2" pipe

24,421 feet — total

All pipe was laid below the frost line, most cases being five (5) feet below the surface, though the contract stated four and one-half (4½) feet, and the system is provided with adequate outlets of self-draining, non-freezing type. Three 4" and three 6" fire hydrants have been installed for the protection of the Club property, and the water mains have been laid to reach every part of the course with hydrants installed every one hundred fifty (150) feet throughout the fairways, so that the entire course can be watered with an adequate supply at high pressure.

Pressure Tank \$6,250.00

A tank was installed for pressure purposes of capacity of 50,000 gallons on a 125-foot tower, giving us approximately 70 pounds pressure at the base of the tank and not less than 50 to 60 pounds pressure at all hydrants. This pressure is sufficiently strong, when using suitable sprays, to break the water up into fine mists for the proper watering of the greens. Pressure from the old tanks was so low that sprinklers would scarcely operate.

Water Storage Pond \$11,741.00

The system as recommended by Mr. Raynor called for a consumption of 250,000 gallons of water per day. The water issuing from our wells at a temperature of about 50°, when used directly on the greens, chills the roots of the grass and is considered detrimental to the welfare of the greens. To provide a quarter of a million gallons a day, it was necessary to dredge the pond and get adequate storage capacity, and means of tempering the water before its use on the course. The pond now has a capacity of approximately 3,000,000 gallons which is nearly two weeks' supply. You will readily appreciate the advantages of having the water in storage for this length of time. When sprinkling the fairways and greens at night, our consumption of water will be approximately 450 gallons per minute for eight to ten hours.

Sand and Cinders

Some sand and cinders will be needed for new greens in 1922. The biggest expenditure will be for bunkers. The method planned for building bunkers is to put in about 6" of cinders, to be well tamped, and then 6" of sand. Mr. Raynor advises that we will not have the same trouble with the clay working up thru the sand, as we have had in the past. Many of the bunkers at present on the course are packed hard and we believe that the proposed method will overcome this fault. We estimate that twenty-five (25) cars of cinders and fifty (50) cars of sand at \$10,000.00 based upon this year's cost, will be sufficient.

CHICAGO GOLF CLUB
RECONSTRUCTION WORK

SEEDS USED

GREENS

(Sow 1 pint to square yard)
Mixture 1921 - 4 bu. Chewing Fescue
1 bu. Creeping Bent
1/2 bu. Red Top
1/2 bu. Colonial Bent

Mixture 1922 - 4 bu. Chewing Fescue
1/2 bu. Colonial Bent
2 bu. Creeping Bent

FAIRWAYS

(Sow 10 bushels to acre)
Mixture 1921 - 4 bu. Chewing Fescue
1 bu. Red Top

Mixture 1922 - 4 bu. Chewing Fescue
1 bu. Rhode Island Bent

ROUGH

(Sow 6 bushels to acre)
Mixture 1921 - 4 bu. Sheep Fescue
1 bu. Blue Grass
1 bu. Red Top

Mixture 1922 - 4 bu. Sheep Fescue
1 bu. Red Top
(No Blue Grass-account of poor quality of seed)

OUTLYING GROUND TO BE SOWN

Hayland (eventually Blue Grass)
Sow per acre - 1 1/2 bu. Oats
1/2 bu. Timothy
6 quarts Clover

Alfalfa Land

Sow per acre - 20# Alfalfa

RECONSTRUCTION COST

EQUIPMENT

	Materials	Labor	Total
<u>HOSE & SPRINKLERS</u>			
500' 2" Rubber Hose	334.85		
500' 3/4" Rubber Hose	67.50		
1000' 1" Rubber Hose	225.00		
Suction Hose	9.39		
Hose Washers, Spanner Wrenches, Nozzles, Sprinklers, Siamese Connections, etc.	104.62		
2 Boston Park Sprayers	291.48		
1 Rainmaker	1032.84		
			1032.84

TOOLS & MACHINERY

1 Case Tractor & Bosch Magneto (10-18)	536.50
1 Spring Tooth Harrow (3 section)	46.75
1 7' Double Disc	90.00
1 9' Culta Pack	85.00
1 2-bottom Tractor Plow	
2 extra shears	111.00
1 55 bu. Manure Spreader	182.00
1 Holden Lime & Fertilizer Spreader	35.00
1 9' Chain Drag	80.00
1 Soil Mixer	377.03
1 10' Double Disc	142.80
10 Thompson Grass Seeders	161.92
Shovels, Spades, Rakes, Sod- cutters, Grub Hoes, Picks, Wheelbarrows, Gas Tanks, Pipe Cutters, Stock & Dies, Wrenches, Chisels, Tape, Axes, Hammers, Lanterns, Pails, Dippers, Oil Cans, etc., etc.	786.89
Mat Compost Screens	27.86
Paint	2.40
1 Roll Galv. #12 Fence Wire	3.70
9 Rolls Chicken Wire used around greens	16.62
6 Rolls Roofing Paper for tool shed	9.00
	2694.47

2694.47

TOTAL EQUIPMENT COST\$3727.31

RECONSTRUCTION WORK

MATERIALS USED

	1921	1922	Total
Cars of Manure	114	20	134
Cars of Fertilizer	2	--	2
Cars of Limestone	3	--	3
Cars of Sand	11	33	44
Cars of Cinders	11	38	49
Cars of Gravel	2	3	5
Cars of Stone	13	--	13
Cars of Tile	3	--	3
Cars of Pipe	8	--	8
Cars of Lead	1	--	1

Editor's note - this is very interesting. Some contrast of today's work.

-next page-

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GROUNDS BUDGET MARCH 1st to NOVEMBER 30, 1923

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>
1 Green-keeper	250	2250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
1 Mechanic	160	1440	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
6 Greensmen	100	5400	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
12 Greensmen	95	7980	---	1140	1140	1140	1140	1140	1140	1140	---
1 Teamster	95	855	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
1 Fairway Man	95	665	---	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	---
1 Fairway Man	95	570	---	95	95	95	95	95	95	---	---
2 Greensmen	90	900	---	---	180	180	180	180	180	---	---
4 Sprinklers	45¢ hr.	2000	---	---	400	600	600	400	---	---	---
		<u>22060</u>	<u>1105</u>	<u>2435</u>	<u>3015</u>	<u>3215</u>	<u>3215</u>	<u>3015</u>	<u>2615</u>	<u>2340</u>	<u>1105</u>

WEEDERS

1 Foreman	150	675	75	150	150	150	150	---	---	---	---
6 Weeders	105	4275	315	630	630	630	630	630	630	630	---
10 Weeders	105	3150	---	525	1050	1050	525	---	---	---	---
20 Weeders	105	5250	---	1050	2100	2100	---	---	---	---	---
		<u>13800</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>2355</u>	<u>3930</u>	<u>3930</u>	<u>1305</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>---</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

Power	900
Oil, Gas & Feed	1500
Supplies & Repairs	600
	<u>2500</u>

Editor's note - How does this compare to your budget of today?

EQUIPMENT

1 Tractor	1000
6 Mowers (Tees)	168
8 Mowers (Greens)	280
100' 2" Hose	125
1 Roller	150
2 Sweepers	220
Screen	250
	<u>2193</u>

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Spotrete • PMAS (10%)	AMA Plus 2,4-D
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A fisherman was lugging a large fish when he met another fisherman with half a dozen small ones on a string.

"Howdy", said the first fisherman, dropping the huge fish and waiting for a comment.

The fellow with the string of small ones stared and stared. Then he said calmly, "Just caught the one, eh?"