

## THE GRIND AT C.G.C.

Winter is upon us again and it's time for inside maintenance of equipment. At Chicago Golf Club this includes many hours of sharpening or grinding of gang mowers. With three 7 gang mowers and two 9 gang mowers this takes a good part of the winter. Procedures for grinding are presented here as they apply to Chicago Golf Club.

The wheels and bedknives are removed from the mowers and all dirt and oil washed off. Water is prevented from entering any bearings. Oil is changed in the gear cases every two years. All rollers are checked for end play and the bolts in the roller assembly are coated with Never-Seez. The reel is checked for any movement or play because proper bearing adjustment is essential before grinding.

Bedknives are ground on an Ideal Bedknife Grinder. The front edge is ground first so a slight burr will form on the top edge of the bedknife. All bedknives are ground to insure the proper angle to the reel.

Setting up the reel for grinding is the most important step for a sharp and true reel. The reel must be level in the grinder frame. The grinding stone is adjusted to make light contact with the blades. Use of a coarse stone is preferred over a fine stone. The coarse stone will cut faster and will not load-up with grindings. Blades are numbered and are ground in sequence 12345, 54321, 34512, etc. until desired results are achieved. The leading edge is ground so it contacts the bedknife first. A thin cutting edge wears longer and cuts better than a thick edge. For this reason blades are back ground to have a 3/32" leading edge.

Grinding can be an art form if done correctly. Proper training of operators is essential and the operator needs to pay careful attention to detail. The job of grinding is also tedious and once mastered, somewhat boring. It pays to take frequent breaks from the grinder and not rush to get it done.

Bedknives at C.G.C. usually lasts six years. This is through careful and regular adjustment during the season and correct sharpening techniques in the winter. Reels stay sharp all season without backlapping. All bolts are greased before the bedknife is reassembled to prevent rust. Reels are spray painted if needed. By following these procedures in the winter, trouble-free operation can be expected in the summer.

At the Chicago Golf Club we usually plant trees and shrubs every Spring and Fall. This is to replace old undesirable or dead trees and to revitalize the existing landscape. We have tried to use trees that are little known, but in many cases, superior to the standard fast growing trees such as Ash and Silver Maple. Following is a brief description of some of our new trees and an evaluation of their performance to date. In the Spring of 1980 we planted five European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) by the pro shop. European Hornbeam is a member of the Birch family with extremely clean foliage. The trees were planted as a screen and serve the purpose quite well as they are branched to the ground. All the trees are in perfect shape and are starting to grow rapidly. The Fall color is yellow, with the leaves later turning brown and staying on the tree through winter like an Oak. These trees are very ornamental and we have been very pleased with them. In April of 1981 four Common Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) were planted to screen the fifteenth fairway from the tennis courts. This tree is a deciduous conifer with light green feathery foliage which turns golden brown in Fall. The species takes two to three years to become established before any significant top growth will be produced. One of our trees has really taken off during the past season. These trees have a uniqueness which complement and enhance the beauty of the large Sugar Maples growing nearby.

These two species have been well received at the Club and lend a nice touch to the landscape.

**Mike Monroe, Asst. Supt.  
Chicago Golf Club**

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**Requirements** - Four Year Degree in Turf Management requested but not absolute requirement  
**Send Resumes to** - Richard E. Trevarthan; Golf Course Supt.; Prestwick Country Club, R.R. 1 - Harlem Ave., Frankfort, IL 60423; Phone 815/469-5903 (Office); 815/469-5238 (Home)  
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Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Mitchel family in Streator, IL due to the passing away of **Clarence Mitchell**, Class A.A. member.