

# Why I Get Along with the Boss and He Gets Along with Me

By MATT MELVILLE

Greenkeeper, Southmoor Country Club.

THE thorn in the side of many greenkeepers is their relations with their president and green chairman, and, on the other hand, I have no doubt that greenkeepers in many cases have brought grey hairs to and harsh words from their ranking officials.

When these two factors get together on the right basis there will be effected the economies and general improvements required in golf maintenance.

Unless there are widely divergent and positive temperaments on both sides, there is no reason why the greenkeeper and the chairman can't work smoothly together, granting that the greenkeeper is a man of some ability and the green chairman is willing to give some attention to his responsibilities.

Early in my experience as a greenkeeper my chairman was a man who would go over the course with me on a flying trip only just prior to the directors' meetings. I never had to consult him regarding the big expenditures and was left pretty much on my own. Some greenkeepers might think this was an ideal condition, but let me to say it was far from satisfactory.

I learned something from that connection and made up my mind that if I was ever going to get ahead in this business I'd have to make contact with any chairman I worked for and keep this contact on a basis of close co-operation, study and effort. This policy has worked well.

Nowadays, each Wednesday during the season I make a practice of visiting another club in the district with my president and green chairman. We play golf casually and study the courses intensively. We have never failed to come away with some ideas that could be applied to our own course.

No matter how hard and intelligently a fellow works, the time will come when weather or other conditions will offset his labors. Then he needs a green chairman to whom he can tell his troubles and get not only inspiration but resourceful tips based on his chairman's own successful business

experience. The greenkeeper profits when he can talk over his situation with an officer who has an intimate and sympathetic knowledge of the conditions. A green chairman who has had some farming experience, even if it has been in the fairly distant past, makes a good man to get the most from his greenkeeper.

I enjoy my job and think that I'm doing first-class in handling it, because I have what many good greenkeepers need, a chairman whose care prevents me from jumping at conclusions or thinking that I "know it all." I don't bother him with any of the details of the job, neither do I go wildly into any major work on the course without talking it over with him.

If I had to tell in just three words why the boss and I get along together, I'd say: "Attention, understanding, action."

## GOOD OF THE GAME FIRST AND ALWAYS

LACK of co-operation between the professional and the greenkeeper puts a penalty on both of them.

Where there is a well-kept golf course, invariably you will find more business in the pro shop, especially when it is known the pro takes a real golfing interest in the course.

The pro should not forget that first, last, and all the time he is serving the game of golf. Almost everything he does is, in this day, keenly observed, and upon his conduct and his methods depend the welfare not only of himself but of the game of which he is the outstanding representative.

When this duty and responsibility becomes more fully recognized by the boys, then there will be no cause for some of the criticism of the present time.

ALEX PIRIE.

President, P. G. A. of America.