

NO CODE HOURS

Long, Hard Work, Live
Members, and Small
Town Club Thrives

By ORVILLE MEYER

Pro-Supt., Fort Madison (Ia.) C. C.

THESSE observations and methods of trying to stimulate club activity and help fill up the hole that has been made in club profits the last few seasons, have been taken from a small town (approximately 14,000) and a small club.

Our club here has approximately 100 members, most of whom are active, playing members and management has been turned over to myself and Mrs. Meyer, who acts as house manager and cateress. My own duties consist of professional and greenkeeper. The present season we have been very fortunate and have actually had a net gain in membership, although our dues were reduced and it necessitates our running on a reduced budget. That means we must spend less money and still improve on past club service in order to stimulate activity. On this basis most professionals and club managers are forced to cut their labor item and consequently are having to perform a great many duties that in less trying times they would have hired done.

Now this beer question. Thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our group of members, the license for the sale of beer was purchased by the free will contributions of our members. To show our appreciation for this favor, beer is sold at our club at the same price it is sold in town and in addition we are selling to our members beer in case lots at a fraction above wholesale price. So by the end of the season most of the contributions toward the license will have effected enough saving on their beverage for home consumption to repay their initial investment.

Here, as every place else since the advent of the new beer, many beer gardens and dine and dance places have sprung up, catering materially to the class of trade that the country clubs should by all means have and hold.

We happen to be situated here in a very cool and beautiful spot several hundred feet above the river with a view for many miles of the Mississippi river. Through the use of publicity gained in the

society column of our local paper and other propaganda we stress the point that the most enjoyable and beautiful spot for our members to spend the hot summer nights is right at their own club, offering for their use and enjoyment a new type electric phonograph for those who wish to dance, a recently installed practice putting green flooded at night with lights, for those wishing to be out in the open and enjoy the cool evening breezes.

Our locker room was remodeled this spring and a new bar or counter that also serves as a merchandising show case as well as sandwich counter was built in. This work was done by my assistant and myself in order to hold down expenses. We feature at all times a small variety of sandwiches and cold plate lunches.

By lengthening out our hours of service it is indeed surprising how much of this evening and lunch business we have been able to hold, that would otherwise slip away.

Thanks to the loyalty and generosity of our members, we look forward to a good year in clubhouse business and with whatever success we meet this season, we must feel that many long hours' work and co-operation of our members has produced the desired result, more volume of business to compensate for the smaller margin of profit.

GRASS VS. TURF

Advises Selection for Deep-Rooted Greens Growth

By WILLIAM H. TUCKER

IN IDENTIFYING the type of greens of any golf course we invariably hear the expression of the "grass greens" used, but seldom if ever do we hear of any course having turf greens.

The correct use of the term grass should only be used where it refers to numerous varieties of pasture bents that produce stolons and grains. Other grasses include redtop, *poa trivialis*, bluegrass, crested dog's tail, *poa annua*, and carpet grass. These grasses develop practically their entire root system within an inch of the surface under putting green conditions and, being so shallow rooted, it is necessary to topdress, water, and chemically feed them to an excess every few weeks.

To encourage a deep root action with these grasses it is necessary to build up a

surface structure. And this can only be done by innumerable topdressing over a period of several years.

Grass greens are costly to maintain for the following reasons: Because of their shallow roots, excessive compost dressings must be applied on the surface which will form a layer strata and, when watered, develops what is known as a "mush surface" with the result that when the greens have been watered, the one, or 1½-in. layer of compost surface becomes a saturated layer. Consequently a ball landing on the green from any distance will leave an indentation.

Grass greens are also usually conducive to angleworms, clover, chickweed, plantain, dandelions; in fact, any taproot will survive in it. Thus constant attention is necessary to eliminate these pests. Another item of expense is the necessity of sowing additional seed both spring and fall to thicken up the stand and to check invasion of weeds.

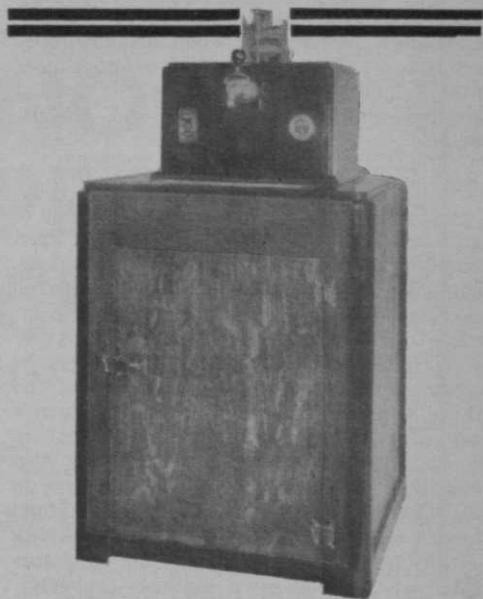
Grass Best for Tees.

Grasses just referred to, however, are adaptable to lawns and grass tees and, not having to be cut so close, their shallow roots are shaded and protected both in the hot and cold seasons. Grass tees are preferable to turf tees because all divots and scarp wounds can be satisfactorily patched, repaired and seeded, and forced to recover and close more rapidly than would turf tees.

Thus, to grow grass all that is necessary is to prepare an inch layer of a fine compost texture soil, sow the seed, rake it in, roll and water. This is easy up to this stage, but here the expense of maintenance begins and trouble follows continually.

Production of turf is a study in itself, demanding thorough knowledge of soils available and a knowledge of which grasses are most adaptable to these soils. To grow turf means the expert assembling of the proper combination of root-forming varieties that will grow to the best advantage in the soils at hand. The depth to which roots will penetrate depends in great measure on the substructure and the depth and texture of the soil as well as the time permitting it to form and develop a matted root-system.

The following varieties of turf-forming grasses will produce a permanent turf for putting greens or any other pleasure turf: Rhode Island bent (*agrostis stolonifera*), German bent (*South German agrostis*), German creeping red fescue (*festuca ru-*



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bra), fine leaf fescue (*festuca teninfolia*), Chewing's fescue, and wood meadow (*poa trivialis*). These are the varieties used for turf putting greens, fairways, bowling greens, tennis lawns, polo, and athletic fields.

Soil Determines Seed.

Selections of the proper percentages of any or all of these varieties depend upon whether or not it is to be seeded in alkali, acid, or neutral soil. Standard prepared seed mixtures are not always advisable because of this. A hundred pounds of expensive seed containing three varieties may be sown in an acid soil, and only one of the three varieties may be adaptable to such a soil, thus the remaining two varieties are a total loss. Germination of all of the seed might be satisfactory, but when the young plants are about to absorb the plant food in the soil they gradually succumb, leaving a thin turf, due to the fact that only one-third of the seed sown matures properly.

From this we see that grass greens need more attention than correctly conceived turf greens. Grass greens must be watered and mowed daily in the summer season. They must be chemically fed, raked, and

top-dressed every 6 or 7 weeks. Figuring the expense of labor for all this, and the mixing of compost, the expense and grief in eradicating brown-patch, the whole thing is very costly to maintain.

On the other hand, the fibrous and deep root system of turf putting greens conserves moisture; consequently, watering every other day is sufficient to keep the surface springy and free from danger of burning up. The putting surface is resilient and will hold a pitched ball without leaving any material indentation on the putting surface.

Turf greens require mowing only every other day in summer as they are slow feeders and slow growers. Turf greens should not be overfed or forced with stimulating chemicals for they may be easily maintained by using a complete organic fertilizer and compost mixture. This applied twice during the summer is all that is required to keep turf in splendid condition and brown-patch will be practically eliminated. Turf putting greens, if a good stand is secured after the first sowing of seed, do not require any more seed as the turf improves with age

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