WORK AND WORRY

Greenkeepers World Over Strive to Improve Courses and Themselves

CREENKEEPERS the world over are kept busy for long days but still manage to find time to take an earnest and diligent part in the turf betterment work of their greenkeeping associations.

Golf club officials and members rarely have the slightest idea of the extent of the valuable work being done for golf club operation by these organizations of greenkeepers. With little, if any publicity to the general public, with no glory, spending their own "off time" and some of their very moderate salaries, the greenkeepers continue to faithfully study at these meetings with their comrades in the cause of better, thriftier golf course maintenance.

It is high time that golf club officials generally gave these greenkeeper organizations and the greenkeeper members substantial co-operation as partial payment for what the greenkeeping groups are doing for the clubs.

The enthusiastic work of greenkeepers in striving to improve playing conditions at their clubs is world-wide, judging from letters Golfdom receives. One of the most interesting foreign communications came to us from Arthur Biel, hon, sec, of the New Zealand Golf Greenkeepers' Assn.

Mr. Biel writes:

Herb Graffis. Editor, GOLFDOM:

I am pleased to be receiving your Journal every month and I am indeed grateful to you and to Dr. Monteith whose thoughtfulness was the means of my getting it. It gives me great pleasure to state that I enjoy reading it, because it is so very different to anything published here. I especially enjoy the breezy manner in which it is written.

I have taken one or two good suggestions from it which I have passed on to my members. After I have read it I pass it on to our pro. After him the members

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of the club's executive have it in turn. After that I send Golffom to the North Island. What happens to it up there I don't know as I have not received any back yet, so I suppose they are still travelling round. To show how these journals make trade, my triplex mower needs new cutting reels badly. It is a Worthington. As my committee could find no agent in New Zealand, they were inquiring about the possibility of getting blades made, when the first Golffom came along. The vice-captain saw Worthington's ad, so wrote them re price of new reels and units and I understand if funds permit that they intend ordering 3 new reels and two units so as to make it a quintriple. So you may be sure that I am pleased.

This Is Keeping Busy

I have been going to write and thank you for quite awhile now but really I don't seem to have time to do anything, as I am working an 18-hole golf course practically single handed. I only have a man two days a week who keeps the tees cut and does a bit of scything round bunkers, banks and trees. In the growing season I cut the fairways once a week which takes two full days; the rough about once a fortnight (one day), and the greens which average between 400 and 500 square yards, twice a week; on rare occasions three times a week. As it takes me about seven hours to cut the greens so that it does not give me much time for changing holes, sharpening and fixing up machines, etc.

On top of that I have nearly 4,000 square feet of velvet bent plots at home, most of which I cut three times a week, also a large garden (2/3 acre) which I am sorry to say is at present sadly neglected. When it gets too dark to do any more outside, I have the association's business to attend to. Just at present I am making and sending out the reports of the conference. We are not financially strong enough yet to get them printed. So I am going fairly steady from about 6:30 a. m. till midnight, six days a week.

I am enclosing a copy of report just to let you see how we are progressing. It is only a bold outline but it is the best I can manage in the time at my disposal. I had over 100 to make and send out. I wish to thank you sincerely for sending me GOLFDOM and I can truthfully say that I look forward to it every month.

With kind regards, I remain Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR BIEL.

Accompanying Mr. Biel's letter was a report of the Third annual conference of the N. Z. G. G. A. held at Palmerston, N., Jan. 22, 23, 24.

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