

"DEAR CHAIRMAN"

Frequent letters from greenkeeper post his chairman on all grounds developments

ONE of the country's most successful greenkeepers—successful in the condition of his course and in drawing down something like the pay a plant with a big investment should pay its operating authority—says that much of his satisfactory performance is the result of keeping his green-chairman completely acquainted with work on the course. When there is any special work being planned on the course or when any unusual conditions arise, this greenkeeper sees to it that a note concerning the situation is sent to his chairman without delay.

Naturally the greenkeeper cannot wait, in many cases, for word from his chairman before action is taken. However the practice of keeping the chairman advised of all developments protects the greenkeeper against adverse criticism and certainly provides the chairman with plenty of material to show at board meetings or to members, as evidence of the greens department's businesslike operation.

One of the greenkeeper's daughters is a highly competent secretary, so a few minutes' work with her weekly suffices to give the chairman a close-up on the major developments. Some of these letters to the chairman follow. It will be noted that they give the sort of information that chairmen and boards want.

Concerning a tee reconstruction job, in which members naturally are keenly interested, the report ran:

The tees are almost finished except for some cleaning up and grading in the places where we have taken the fill for building. The whole job to date has cost the club in labor and material approximately \$728.40.

Commencing next week I propose to lay off three men for the remainder of July and August. This will reduce the payroll about \$240 per month, which I am hoping will enable us to keep within our budget without jeopardizing the condition of the golf courses. If this heat continues we shall not have much grass to cut, but our water bill will go up.

My wife and the girls are going to Belmar for two weeks and I thought I

might run them down Saturday and stay until Monday. I hope this will meet with your approval.

Emergency work and chances to use buying foresight, when reported verbally to a busy chairman, often and excusably miss fire, but when a letter like the one following is made a matter of record, greenkeeper, chairman and club interests are covered:

During last week-end, the water meter, which supplies the golf shop, sprung a leak, and much water was spilt over No. 7 fairway. However, the meter belongs to the Water Co., and they have taken it out for repairs. Altho this did not cost the club any money, I would suggest that in future, this meter be taken out all winter, as are the others on the golf courses, to save rent and possible damage to toilets, wash basins, etc., in the golf shop.

During the holidays, some trespassers pushed over about 80 feet of the hand rail, and up-right supports on the bridge crossing the ravine at No. 11 hole. This was smashed to pieces in the ravine, so I have had to buy some material, and keep the two men on for a few days in order to have it repaired. However, it will be finished by the week-end.

It has come to my knowledge that a mower company is going out of business. They have a quantity of parts, and a lot of equipment and supplies that we will be in need of next summer. Some of this material can be purchased for half price or less, at the sale, for cash of course. If it were possible, I could purchase for \$100 what it will cost us \$200 or more later on.

I would appreciate hearing from you in regard to these matters.

No chairman can keep in touch with all the work going on at the course. The chairman gets scores of suggestions from

players and by having the accurate answer, such as the spiking data furnished, in the following letter, keeps the membership assured that the course work is under expert and vigilant management:

Regarding the spiking of the greens; I am very much in favor of spiking as often as possible and as deep as possible. I can assure you our greens are spiked as often as we can do it, sometimes once a week. I find we save water and get plant-food down to the grass roots where it is needed.

We are having a very bad attack of inch worm on all trees, and I am afraid they are going to clean all foliage from elms, oaks, cherries and most flowers. It is too bad we did not get that power sprayer we talked about last fall. I have tried to borrow or hire one, but that is impossible; they are all working overtime.

One of our tractor bridges crossing the stream on the west course gave way the other day, and landed a tractor and load in the stream. Fortunately no one was hurt and little damage done, but we really need the bridge, and it will probably cost \$150 to repair. I would like you to see and O.K. this work before I start it.

A close-up on a situation involving personnel, something with which chairmen and board members seldom are acquainted, forms the greater part of the following report:

The heavy rains lately have slowed work on the new tees. In some places there was so much water we could not work with machines. However, I had to use the men to fix the road from the parking place to the course, which was all washed out, and to repair drains which get clogged up.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the man who occupies the little house on Summit street and who worked on the course and did some patrol work in the evenings, has left and got another job. I understand this man came to see you some time ago about selling refreshments at the house. He has been rather eccentric of late, and I am really glad to be rid of him. I do not think it right that he should live in the house after leaving the club service. This house should go to another man who works for the club, I think. I would be glad to get your views about this as soon as possible, so we can get this matter settled.

The trespassing situation is much better, but there are still many bums chiseling golf. I am enclosing a few of the permits they get from club employees.

Midwest Greenkeepers Recommend Course Labor Wage Hike

A SPECIAL committee of the Midwest Greenkeepers' Assn, investigating golf course labor conditions, found a raise in wages fair and necessary.

Endorsement was given the plan of paying on a monthly basis which makes for a better feeling on the part of the men, yet does not increase the budget appreciably. On rainy days there generally is enough work for the men.

On courses where work is scattered and men have to make long trips from the sheds to their work on the course a 9-hour day nets about 8 hours of work, the Midwest investigation found. It is not common practice to give extra time for overtime on Saturday afternoon. Sunday work is generally recognized as warranting extra pay. The investigating committee recommended transportation expense when men are asked to come back in the evening for extra work. Original intention of the committee to make definite recommendations of wage scales was abandoned due to investigation showing wide variation in controlling conditions. It was the concensus of the survey that a higher wage be paid mechanic-greensmen than that paid to hand-mower greensmen.

PINE LAKE CC issues an attractive folder listing "Eleven Reasons Why You Should Be a Member." Reasons, which are tersely summarized in a paragraph of excellent selling copy, are: It is a club you can afford; Pine Lake is in sound financial condition; It is a friendly, sociable club; Established in 1902 Pine Lake is one of the oldest clubs in the district; Pine Lake has a championship golf course; Unexcelled swimming and bathing; Horseback riding; Championship Tennis Courts; Children's playgrounds; Meals famous for their delicious goodness; Pine Lake is a family club.

Illustrations of club facilities and of members and their families enjoying these facilities, help to make this folder one of the most effective club membership folders, although it is an inexpensive job.