

# GOLF DOMINATES MRC AT AMHERST

By KENT BRADLEY

**A**PPROXIMATELY 175 greenkeepers and others interested in golf registered for the fifth annual Massachusetts Recreation conference held March 11-13 at Massachusetts State College, Amherst. This number very favorably compared with a total of 125 registered for other sports at the conference. Ninety attended the annual golf section banquet, and saw moving pictures shown by GSA member, Robert D. Pryde, Race Brook CC, Orange, Conn. The films were of Pryde's golf tour around the world.

To get things under way, Martin C. Higgins, Fall River CC, Fall River, Mass., read a paper, "The Grass and the Time of Mowing." Higgins cited the advantages of evening or night mowing, especially in hot weather. Less play interference, less loss of plant moisture due to bleeding, were the reasons cited. He said it required 3 to 5 hours of sunlight for grass to heal when cut during day. There is considerable loss of water, at a time when plant pores are closed. Turf cut in evening can carry through hot days better. Little if any noticeable growth occurs at night. Mentioned how well turf stood up in tournament play, when mowing was done in evening or night so as not to interfere with play.

Jack White, Stockbridge CC, Stockbridge, Mass., discussed, "Putting Greens and the Time of Watering." Early evening watering from 6 to 8 p. m. was lost by 4 p. m. the following day, in many cases, he said. He favored watering between 4:30 and 7:30 a. m., from the plant standpoint, and from the standpoint of cost. Carleton E. Treat, Supt. Montclair, CC, Montclair, N. J., and assistant to Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson at the Winter School, charged the graduates, urging them to be

considerate of fellow greenkeepers and turf men's reputation—to be careful of methods, be thoughtful of their club, turf and self. Dr. Roland H. Verbeck, Director of Short Courses at MSC, presented the certificates to graduates of the Winter School. Director Verbeck's remarks dealt largely with the growth of golf in the past fifty years, and the great progress made in the past 15 years.

F. A. McLaughlin, seed analyst, Mass. Agr. Exp. Sta., discussed seed testing and laboratory findings. His remarks showed that there was little risk in seed purchasing when dealing with those who are fundamentally in this business, who do not deal in seed only as a side line. Failings of seed from unreliable sources were due to failure to properly label seed, according to law; old seed from carry-over stock; seed high in weed content; high in chaff and litter; seed not adapted to the locality where sold; greatest failing was seed of low germination power. Tips on seed buying given by McLaughlin were: investigate purity and germination and check the test date to see if it is recent. Consider price, multiply purity by germi-



Arthur Anderson, Braeburn CC (left) and Jack Gormley, Wolfert's Roost CC, inspect the GSA booth at the conference.

nation percentages and divide total by cost per pound. Check on the source of seed, where grown, the amount of weed seed present and the general viable and clean feel of seed. Weed seeds present in mixtures used to serve as clue to source where grown. New methods are a fluorescent glow test made in dark room with ultra violet and other lights.

C. W. Baker, F. H. Woodruff & Sons, Milford, Conn., spoke on grass seed from the commercial angle. Lauded suggestions on more stringent seed laws, made by McLaughlin. A seedsman is in a legitimate business for legitimate profit, margin of which is not as high as it would appear, after considering costs of selections and recleaning seed. Seedsmen are interested in seeing that purchaser buys seed for proper conditions where used. While legal obligation ceases when seed is delivered, a moral obligation exists and is met by seeing that customer gets the type of grass he expects. Creeping bents are not for the average homeowner, as the turf is not given the proper care. Stringent seed laws gives regular seedsmen a selling advantage.

#### A Quick Way to Make Compost

Robert D. Pryde spoke on his trip around the world. He said that in Singapore there were 70 employees on a 36-hole course. Men get 15c, women 10c a day, our money rate, and they feel well paid. In South Africa, he found a method of preparing breakdown of compost organics that was done in three months. At the bottom of a pit 2½ ft. deep, two rows of drains were installed. Alternate layers of manure, hay, weeds and other refuse were dusted with wood ashes to aid in fermentation. Material was kept wet every week, turned in 15 days, and then again. In two months material was re-piled and left to stand one month; then taken under shelter for storage and screening. Layers were packed lightly to permit air and water penetration. Should pile cool, fermentation has ceased, and needs water added. If pile smells too strong and flies gather, too much water has been used; aerate by turning pile between regular interval.

Lawrence S. Dickinson spoke on, "Let's Diagnose the Trouble." "I traveled some 9,000 miles last year chasing sick turf. In most cases greens came in good in the spring, and the trouble experienced on different places were coincidental rather

than just due to weather of July and Aug. The causes go back to the fall of '36, when ground went into winter too moist; then with mild and wet winter, combined with spring conditions, left greens in state for easy collapse in summer. Localized root system due to too much water, poor drainage and too close mowing in fall left plants with little stored vitality. While many greens eventually went under the plow, others that did not give trouble, may do so this year, with no reflection on the part of greenkeepers. With close mowing, raising height of cut only one-sixteenth of an inch will not effect play noticeably, but increase leaf strength one-third more than cutting at lower height."

Director Fred J. Seivers, Mass. Agr. Exp. Sta., talked on "The Opportunities of the Golfer." "Don't take things too seriously. Deliver us from those without a sense of humor," he said. "Lack of humor shows lack of sense of imagination. We need a sense of imagination these days. Minds lacking same, are easily led to believe anything said. Green-chairmen should expect greenkeepers to make some mistakes. Anyone that does anything is bound to make mistakes. The more one does, the better his percentage of success. Nothing is sure in the best laid greenkeeper's plans. There are too many factors beyond his control to make things 100% certain. Golfers know (or think so) all about how to run the course. Anyone that thinks he knows it all shows a lack of imagination. One who is terribly sure of every thing is the most difficult to get along with. Our problems depend on stop, look and listen. Keep golf a game, not a profession," he counseled pros.

The golf section of the conference was wound up with the showing by George McClure of movies on construction of the new Ohio State U. golf course. Exhibits at the conference besides those of golf equipment and supply dealers and manufacturers were crafts, sports, and education.

**Olympia Pro Lauded**—Chuck Tanis, pro at Olympia Fields CC, is the subject of two of the best tributes to a fine home-club pro we've read lately. Chuck's professional merits are written in the club magazine by Mrs. Frank Hammond, pres. of the Chicago Women's District GA, and by Wm. H. Townsend, a club official. Mrs. Hammond comments, "The great mistake most of us make is that we do not consult our pros often enough."