

thing about this situation, but your green chairman and his committee can. Your green chairman and his committee should have the point of view of the golfer and not the diner or the dancer and keep expenditures in their proper category.

When periodical recessions hit us and the need to economize arises, your green chairman should remember that the majority of members retain their membership because of golf, and when budgets are sliced let him see to it that the golf budget is the last and not the first to be reduced.

Of course, we who are interested in golf and the preservation of our courses, must be dollar conscious and practice rigid economy. But my experience convinces me that true economy does not mean the abandonment of the essentials of preservation. False economy is expensive, and therefore extravagant.

I should like to see a departure from the present character of golf clubs. There are thousands upon thousands of people who would like to play golf and enjoy the companionships of a private club which they do not get in equal measure from the public courses, but are denied the privilege because of the initial cost and recurring expense. I would like to see golf clubs constructed with only a locker room and a snack bar. Of course, the cost of building the golf course would be no different, but club facilities and therefore initial cost of membership would be substantially reduced and I am convinced that such a club could be operated on half the dues now required.

#### **Cooperation with Architects**

The green chairman can also encourage a closer association between the green superintendent and golf architects. A green can be attractive architecturally and still lend itself to easy and efficient maintenance. A golf green is a short time in building, but it is a long time in maintenance, and while the architect may feel that he knows the problem, he cannot know it unless he is in constant touch with the upkeep.

The green committee will also in my opinion do a service to golf by discouraging too many championship courses, where support is expected to come from businessmen. We must remember that 70 percent of the members are high handicap players, and you are not contributing to their enjoyment when you require them to shoot 120 instead of 100.

Maybe I have stuck my neck out, but

these are a few honest observations, not the brand of honesty that McTavish exhibited when he would never again play with McPherson, "That dishonest s.o.b. who claimed he found his ball off the green in the ruff, when it was in my pocket."

You doubtless have observed that I have said nothing about the fairways in this district. That is where silence is golden. Our Chamber of Commerce used to dispute the idle rumor that St. Louis has terrible summers, but of late years they have adopted the expedient of recommending, when weather enters the conversation, of changing the subject.

I have fought poa annua year after year. I have burned crab and silver crab by the acre in an effort to obtain bent fairways. I have seen yarrow tried as a substitute for grass. I have seeded to Merion. I have fallen back on Bermuda and when I contemplate results, the lines of the poet Thomas Moore have come to mind:

Oh ever thus from Childhood's hour,  
I've seen my fondest hopes decay.

But I am convinced that with all the work being done on grasses, sooner or later we will have the answer. However, we must not be content with Bermuda or zoysia, although it may be a satisfactory choice of evils for the present. The aesthetic aspect of golf is not pleased with a dead grass eight months of the year, and I have yet to see a permanent marriage between those summer grasses and the winter ones.

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#### **Seek New Turfgrass Varieties On Kansas State Test Plots**

Height of mowing trials on turfgrass plots at Kansas State College, Manhattan, are being interrupted after five years of work, in favor of new phases of research, report William F. Pickett and Ray A. Keen of the K-State department of horticulture.

In the tests best mowing height for Bluegrass was found to be 1½ to 3 inches. Bermudagrass and Zoysias are best when mowed less than 1 inch high. Research showed that mowing should be frequent and regular—at least once or twice a week.

Pickett said no turfgrasses tested in the variety trials have proved highly satisfactory for this area, and directors of the Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation

now believe a breeding program holds most promise. Consequently, one of the new phases of research will be to establish a series of plots to develop new varieties to be tested.

"We have Bermudas that will grow here better than those which have been developed in other areas and sent here for testing," commented Keen. "The crossing of common Bermuda with hardy African Bermudagrasses should give something good as well as hardy."

The College also is to establish a turf garden in which the best of the present varieties, as well as new varieties, will be tested. Cool and warm season grasses will be separated, and a series of putting green varieties, to be mowed as putting green surfaces, will be included.

Five years of experimentation at K-State, financed by the College, by the Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation, and by the greens section of the United States Golf Association, has helped establish that Bermudagrass is best for play areas, especially where there can be no irrigation. However, Bermuda has not proved winter hardy much north of Manhattan. Generally Bluegrass has been more satisfactory than Bermuda in northeastern Kansas and further north. Bluegrass, to do well, should have a yearly renovating program, should have protection from white grubs, and must be cut high during the crabgrass season.

### **Superintendent Views Departmental Team**

**A. WARD CORNWELL**

Supt., Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe, Mich.  
(At GCUSA convention)

**W**HEN a club hires their three top department heads, the course superintendent, manager and professional they expect these three men to work together as a team. In other words they expect these men to do things for each other. With that fact in mind this team should give some thought as to what they can do for each other to make a better operated club.

Upon first thought it might be easy to say to one's self that there is nothing I can do for him or there isn't much that he can do for me to make this a better operated club. Now this is the time to start giving it a second thought and you may come up with some of the following answers.

The course superintendent's first thought

is to give the other two members of that team a good golf course; he is making a place to which more people want to come. That might mean the difference between a club with a full membership and a waiting list, or a club that could stand a few more members so it can make both ends meet.

It can mean more sales from food and beverages sold by the club manager's staff and more pro shop sales and golf lessons by the professional.

In keeping a good golf course you are also helping the professional by the fact that he may be able to score lower and that can also apply to the members that he gives lessons to. Playing a better game is part of his profits.

You can help the manager by keeping some men on your staff who can at least handle part of the club house maintenance work in the off season. He can get this work done cheaper and at the same time he is helping you by making it possible for you to keep more key men on the year around. Laying good men off in the fall is a very good way to lose them next spring.

The course superintendent is handicapped by the fact that he is not brought in contact with enough of the members so they do not know enough about what his problems are or what his aims are. To be of any help to him they should be told of some of the things that are going on out on the golf course. That way they will be able to answer some of the questions intelligently if asked by a member in the event the superintendent is not around to answer them.

The three men, for the good of the people they work for, should take enough time off from their own busy world to set down over a cup of coffee or lunch to find out what the other man's problems are. You will be surprised how often some one will come up with an answer that might be of some help.

The superintendent should be encouraged by the professional to play more golf on his course. If the superintendent is a poor golfer maybe a few minutes' instruction now and then will help him. In playing his own course he will see things in the same light that the pro and members see things. He will see things that need correcting that he might miss otherwise.

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**NEED SUPPLIES? See Page 139**

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