

By **JACK D. MANSUR**

Turf Supply Dealer
Fryeburg, Me.

SO YOU'RE THE NEW GREEN CHAIRMAN

*You'll Have to Scrounge for Money,
All the Members Won't Love You —
But You'll Enjoy the Experience*

CONGRATULATIONS! You have just been made the head of the most important committee at your club.

I know that there may be some who won't agree to this rating, but if you've got a bad course you won't have a golf club that's worth a hoot and the other officers and committee heads won't be able to make much of a success of their work.

My hope is that the club will keep you as its green chmn. for a long time; that is, assuming that you're the fellow for the job and can benefit from the experience of others. Some of this experience I'll try to pass along to you.

To be of value to your club and make your job easier for yourself, you should start out by meeting your supt. and going fully over the situation with him. He is the man whose ability, understanding and resourcefulness will determine the success of your administration.

Learn from the Superintendent

You will be the liason man between the supt., the board and members. Probably the less you have to do the better off you, your supt. and the club may be.

Get to know your supt. well, getting his practical ideas just as soon as you can.

Keep your eyes and ears open and you'll soon wind up with a sound semi-technical education in turf maintainance

practices that has taken him years to obtain. He is going to be mighty happy to meet and know you too, especially if you have read and taken my advice, for you will be the kind of greens chmn. that he has been hoping, even praying, he might have.

In the area of the country club that I am most familiar with, your biggest problem (also the supt's) will be money. You will learn that nearly all of your club members expect their club condition to be equal to, or better than other clubs in the vicinity, yet, oddly enough, it will not occur to many of them that this takes money, and more money, among other things, to achieve this goal.

Treat Your Supt. Right

I'm assuming that your club is now paying your supt. a salary in line with other good qualified men in your area. You'd better check on this, for if you are not you may wake up one morning and find that you will need a new supt. Good men in the field are hard to find. Some form of life and accident insurance for him, plus a yearly bonus for especially good services will help to keep him with you and happy.

The club should also pay for the supt's dues in local and national turf associations, as well as the expense involved in attending the annual meetings of these

groups. The knowledge gained from such meetings will certainly be reflected in better conditions at lower costs in your own club.

Early in your new association with the supt. find out if he has been operating on a budget. If not, you, the directors and the supt. should work up one.

Find Out About Costs

The club treasurer can supply you with information on previous years' costs. Many items are quite uniformly needed in normal years. Labor costs will vary from year to year due to minimum wage standards, labor union scales and local commercial competition for labor. Extra manual work will add to your labor budget but will pay off in improved looks and playability of your course.

When you do find time to play golf on your new job, you might do it partially as a roving reporter for your supt.

You may miss a putt now and then trying to figure if a green needs aerification, verti-cutting or some other treatment. Remember, you're not an expert on green maintenance yet, so the technical decisions rest with your experienced supt.

You may get a fair share of complaints and suggestions but you can give as well as take. You are an educator now. You can talk or shame your fellow members into always replacing divots, smoothing out prints in traps, and making sure that paper and other rubbish is placed in the containers at the tees rather than scattered around where that ever-expensive labor force must waste time picking up after them.

You Set the Example

Allow no one to put a golf bag down on a green, or drag a caddy cart across the corner of the green on the easy way to the next tee. Be tough about these things, but cooperative also. Do the right things yourself at all times. The Sunday golfers will begin to have more respect for your suggestions and your judgment along these lines and your course will show more and more improvement.

If possible, ask for and get men of your own choice to serve with you on the Green committee and make sure they are as improvement-minded as you are.

A last suggestion to make the work of your supt. more pleasant and efficient is to teach and insist that the members make all their suggestions or complaints about the course maintenance to you or the committee. No man can do a good job trying to please a multitude of bosses.



Wade Stith (left), manager of Lynde & Rowsey Turf Nursery, Muskogee, Okla., was given an Award of Merit recently by the Oklahoma Turfgrass Assn. for outstanding work in turf management. Tom Leonard, OTA's outgoing pres. made the award.

Illinois Greenmaster Says Supt. Scores with the Eyes

We assume that we have given the golfer the best possible turf to play on and from there we must score in eye appeal. The supt. is the artist who must paint a picture in beautiful surroundings. This he can do in many ways, varying from the simple dressing up of an ugly spot or two to a complete long-range program of dressing up every hole on the course.

By dressing up we mean the planting of living, growing appeal to the eye. This ranges from ornamental flowers to ornamental and functional trees and shrubs.

The touch of the true artist makes the course beautiful appear as though it had been done by Mother Nature instead of by Father Supt.

*Roy W. Nelson
Supt., Ravisloe CC, Homewood, Ill.*

Kansas Turfgrass Officers

New pres. of the Kansas Turfgrass Assn. is Tom Andrews, supt., Elks CC, Salinas. Dwain Nelson is vp and Robert E. Lester, secy.-treas. Directors are L. E. Lambert, Robert Funk and Robert Gossard.

Midwest GCSA Officers

Midwest GCSA has elected Ray Gerber pres. for 1959. Norman Kramer and Al Johnson are vps. Secy.-treas. is Don Gerber. Directors include: Bert Rost, Herman Woehrl, Marvin Gruening, Ed Stewart, Wes Updegraff and Ben Kronn.