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# Don't Despair *If you fight hard enough, bad weather can be licked*

## When

# Nature Frowns

By  
JOHN MACGREGOR  
Greenkeeper, Chicago G. C.

LAST season, I went through an experience in greenkeeping that convinced me, after summing it all up, that if I had been yellow instead of taking a fresh hold on myself with the determination to overcome the difficulties which just then looked impossible to bridge, I would be in the discard by now.

The Chicago Golf Club was awarded the Walker Cup Matches in 1928. I was informed of this by my Green Committee the latter part of September in 1927 and immediately set about preparing for this great golf classic. I wanted to have the course in as good or even better condition than any layout over which this tournament had been played in the past. Considerable work was accomplished in the fall of 1927.

In the spring of 1928, I set out to finish the job of grooming the course. Everything was going along on schedule and coming fine; in fact, I was quite elated at the progress being made. But I was premature in my elation.

The dates of the matches were August 30 and 31. Along about the last week in July, Old Dame Nature said, "Now I will see what you are made of," and she did! It rained several days in succession, and every time it rained the ground became more water-soaked, and all of this time I was trying to get about 3,000 yards of sand into the traps.

On the final day a veritable cloudburst flooded everything. The water was about level with the grass on the greens and, before it had a chance to soak in, the sun came out. It seemed to be hotter that day than at any time during the year, and as a result the water got so hot that it scalded the grass.

Next morning, when I walked over the greens, my heart was sick. Greenkeeping up until that day had been comparatively easy and pleasant, but just then the bottom seemed to have dropped out of my

world. I had my opinion of any one who would set the date of a tournament in August, but that did not help my case any, so I studied this catastrophe and decided what I could do about it.

Fortunately, a spell of dry weather followed; so I let the greens dry out—that is, the seven which were hit. For a week, I left them absolutely alone. As this was the dormant season for grass, I knew I must be careful.

While the greens were drying out, I was preparing compost for top-dressing and hauling it to the greens. When everything was ready, I got the top-dressing machines out, sending two men out ahead to mix 100 lbs. of 12-6-4 fertilizer with the compost at every green. The greens were top-dressed immediately, the compost brushed in, and the greens given a thorough watering.

There was no evident change for about four days, then the grass started to grow and continued to do so until the end of the season. Of course, there were some places so badly scarred that they could not recover, and such places were plugged or re-turfed, using the turf around the collar of the particular green I was patching. This gave me the same texture and color of grass as the green. Ordinarily I would not have attempted this but necessity is the mother of invention.

Every eight days I used brown-patch preventive, although I do not think it was necessary. I stayed with those greens day and night and believe under the circumstances had them in good condition on August 30th. Two days before the tournament I got the last of the sand in the traps and a lucky rain immediately after packed the sand just right for play.

There was other important work to be done. I lined up the men for the different jobs which had to be attended to during the matches. Greens were to be cut in the morning, starting at six o'clock.

# Cut the Cost of Green Maintenance in HALF

It costs as much or more to mow greens with hand mowers as it does to mow the entire fairway. Should members be penalized to pay this premium when it is possible to cut the cost in half by the use of up-to-date methods?

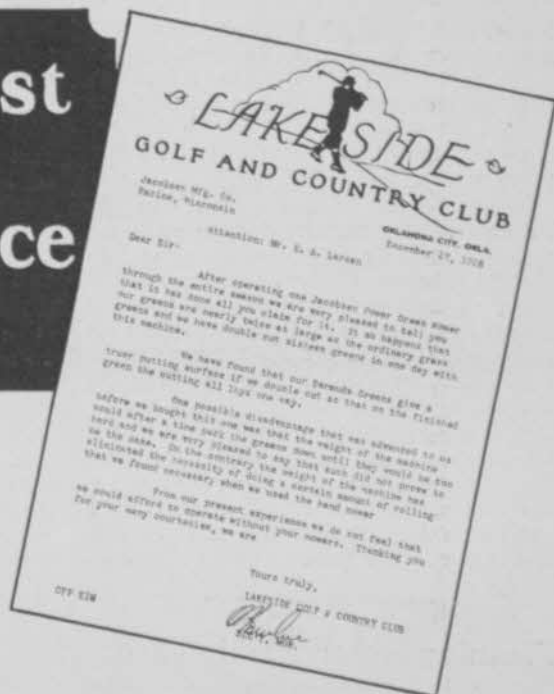
If you are in any measure responsible for the efficient expenditure of Club funds, do not fail to investigate the very substantial savings available by the use of Jacobsen Power Putting Green Mowers. In addition, they positively excel the best work of any hand mower. We stand ready to prove these statements by demonstrations on your own grounds.

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Before play started, a man was placed at each green to erase the ball holes and rake the traps around the green. The same applied to the fairway traps, one man for each fairway. I had the pleasure of hearing a member tell me he did not see one trap with a footprint in it, nor a green with a ball hole.

Another item of importance was the mowing of the fairways. This gave me food for thought. How was I going to cut the fairways without interrupting the play? I finally decided to *cut them at night*; so I had the tractors equipped with lights and the men cut the fairways every night, starting about 5:30 p. m., finishing about 2 a. m.

It is significant that on the seven greens which were hit so hard in July, I did not see a sign of brown-patch the remainder of the season, but on the greens which were *not* hit in July, the small or dollar patch was much in evidence.

## Planning Season's Maintenance Campaign

By FRED A. BURKHARDT  
Westwood Country Club  
President, Cleveland District Association of  
Greenkeepers

THE greenkeeping profession is advancing by leaps and bounds and what I might consider the right thing to do this year maybe all wrong next year. Like any other scientific research work some things are stumbled into and others very carefully thought out.

Following is the program I intend to follow this season, weather conditions permitting. I do not claim that this can be used on other courses but to my particular case it seems to fit and work very nicely. The first part of April I shall use about 15 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia to greens that average about 6000 square feet. I will follow with applications every week for the rest of the summer but reduce the amount each week until I get to about 5 lbs. per 6000 square feet and run through the hot summer months with this amount. In the fall I raise the amount again until I reach 10 lbs. per 6000 square feet. My greens get two top-dressings a year, one in April and one in September. The top-dressing contains top-soil, sand, and charcoal. Before the greens are top-dressed I give them a light covering of tobacco dust, about a hundred lbs. to a green about

6000 square feet. The method I have just told about has been very successful on my course and that is as much as I will say about it.

I have found out through sad experience that it does not pay to use new compost with a great amount of manure in it, because I have had a great deal of trouble with it. The difficulty I had last fall made me go back to lime and I intend to use some this year. The amount I use will be very small.

No doubt you have heard about fertilizers causing a great deal of trouble. I do not think it is fair to condemn the fertilizer itself but the way it is used. You can over-feed and under-feed just as easily as feed the right amount. I think that if you can find the right proportion of fertilizer for your grass and not go to extremes but stay at a happy medium you will not be able to blame fertilizers for other diseases.

## Scald Is Real Horror.

Brown-patch of course is the terrible enemy of the greenkeeper! But give me brown-patch instead of scald. I can bring my grass back in a short time with brown-patch but it is a different story with the scald. Last spring we had some unusual weather. A cloud burst of rain in the morning followed by a sun that would cook eggs, and what did we get? A blistered grass that was hardest in the world to bring back to life. I have no plan to offer for scald. For brown-patch a light application of lime might prevent it. If you have brown-patch start a little raking and some nitrate of soda will bring them back if you can start at the work the minute it turns up.

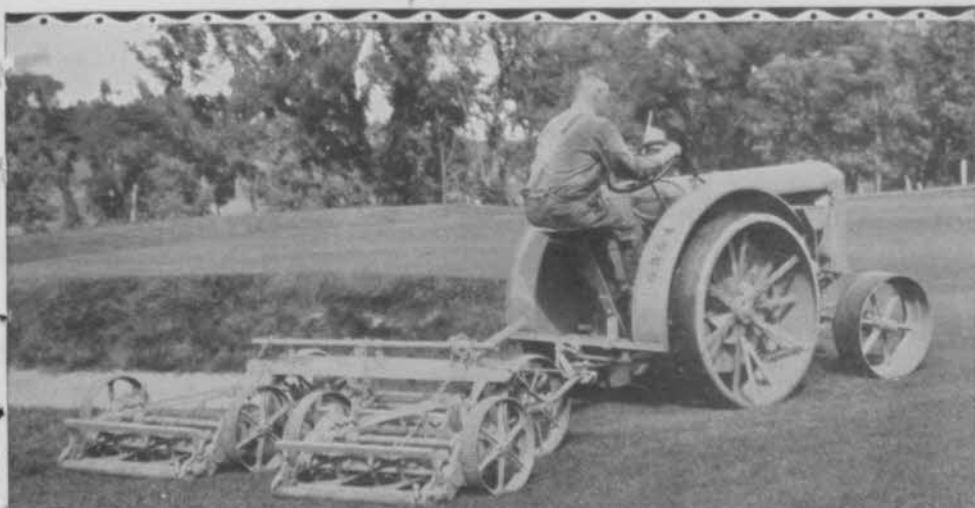
The golf course today is getting motorized. I might spend just as much money this year, with all my equipment motorized, but that is not saying I am spending it for the same amount of work. I am absolutely sure that I can give more time and attention to things that were impossible when we had hand equipment.

Watering is an important factor but here again conditions of course say whether you should water one day a week or two. I water each green twice a week during the dry season. The watering is done in the evening in about two and half hours. We cover our greens with about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of water per night. This will change according to conditions of the green.

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# CLUB MANAGERS PLAN UNIFORM house cost system

## AT LIVE ANNUAL CONVENTION

By HERB GRAFFIS

THERE were two features of the third annual convention of the Club Managers Association of America, at which more than a hundred of the golf and city club managers of the country went into a huddle to discuss their problems March 5 and 6, at Cleveland. Of major interest to club officials was the inauguration of plans for a standardized accounting system. This is to follow the general policy of the standardized hotel accounting system now employed by probably 50% of the nation's hotels, according to the estimates of those present. The other headline action of the meeting concerned doubling the association's dues of \$5 annually, as the figure stood prior to the Cleveland meeting. The increased income is to be used in so prosecuting the association's affairs that its membership and scope of its activities will be broadened.

---

### CLUB MANAGER'S ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA OFFICERS

*Elected at Cleveland convention*

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The city club managers constituted the majority of the attendance, but the representative country clubs had a number of the field's stars on the job, taking a lively part in the proceedings.

Discussion of the standardization of accounting was brisk and to the point. Some managers confessed difficulty in handling the situation properly at their own clubs due to the inability to get figures on similar operations that would present an accurate picture of costs and work for comparative purposes. The association in its three years has put on its roster 353 members and now stands in excellent shape to serve clubs by tackling this problem of standardized accounting; any club official can testify along with his manager how hopeless it now is to get helpful comparison of club operations in view of the widely divergent methods of accounting. The committee to handle this important phase of club management began its operations at Cleveland, with instructions to make a preliminary report as soon as possible.

President Charles Buss of the Cleveland A. C. opened the speaking program with an address on "What We Expect from Our Club Manager" and stressed the importance of telling the manager definitely, in advance of his engagement, just what was expected so there could be a close check-up and no chance for misunderstandings. Another club president, Harold J. Adams of the Buffalo A. C. spoke on the relations between the officials and the manager. Adams said successful club operation was founded on the platform that if you hold a club manager responsible you ought to take his advice, instead of letting the loud-speakers among the directorate do the bossing. He stated that in his job as president, which he had held for a number of years, he made a strong point of keeping out of the manager's way. He emphasized that discipline and concentration of authority are vital in smooth operation.

Ted DeWitt, manager and vice-president of the Hollenden hotel, was an added start-

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spared no expense to make this the finest hose.

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er on the program. He has a record of successful club management and is the genius who turned a hotel that was hanging onto the ropes into one of the country's highly profitable and popular establishments. DeWitt pointed out the expense and futility of club operations that went through a change in policy every time a new administration was elected. He related the sad fact that a manager is forced into the path of least resistance and is liable to lose his job if he fights for what he knows is right. He counseled the managers to tell their employers in any "sick" situation, that if the employers won't give the manager a chance to work out his remedy, it is best for all concerned to get a new man. A fellow who knows his stuff and has the courage of his convictions will be kept on the job, according to De Witt's observation. He finished by stating that the club manager must know bookkeeping to the extent that he can properly analyze statements, discover leaks, and explain and suggest corrections to the board of directors.

The country club managers held a group session Wednesday morning, while the town club managers were having their conference. Col. C. G. Holden of Olympia Fields presided over the country club session. The managers showed considerable interest in course maintenance methods and accounting and again brought to light wide variations in accounting methods.

Miss Clara Pressler of Cincinnati, speaking on "Why Not Lady Caterers?" gave her idea of the country club food service as conducting a home on a larger scale, and detailed the technical training women were getting in order to qualify them as first-class operators of the feeding departments of clubs.

George D. Fish, C. P. A. of New York talked of the club audit and the relation of the auditor to the manager, again bringing into the spotlight the urgent necessity of standardized accounting and the guide posts that are put up for the manager by a plain and accurate accounting system.

So far as the association's progress was concerned, the increased dues are to be devoted to the employment of a paid secretary to push the work of the association. The meeting discussed the possibility of getting out an annual book and selling advertising to finance the association, but ruled this out as savoring too much of working a racket on the manufacturers. They considered that with 9,500 country

and town clubs in the country the association membership could be built up to a point where it could easily finance, within itself, its hopeful plans.

The last session of the convention was devoted to brief buying talks on linens by David Parke, on coffee by Col. Bill Stewart and on meats by Arthur Davis.

There was the usual sprightly entertainment program for the men and women at the meeting, and by the way, there were almost a dozen women managers at the convention.

New York put in a strong bid for the 1930 conclave of the managers.

### Brown Best Stain for Tennis Courts

CEMENT tennis courts are becoming increasingly popular with tennis players throughout the country, but have one serious drawback. Unless the cement is properly stained, the glare from the smooth surface of the courts under the bright summer sun will frequently make play impossible.

The courts of the Midwick Country Club near Los Angeles have been stained a reddish brown, which Mr. Alfred Wright, chairman of Midwick's tennis committee, claims has entirely eliminated all glare.

"The tennis courts at Midwick," reports Mr. Wright, "were built of reinforced concrete and were unstained at the time that they were completed. It is necessary, in order to secure proper staining by chemicals, that the courts be allowed to dry out entirely, and although we played on them for a while in this condition it was not the intention of the club to leave them in their white condition. As soon as the courts were thoroughly dry we stained them a reddish brown which approximates the color of en-tout-cas and with this staining the glare was entirely eliminated.

"There was no experimenting done at Midwick. We were familiar with courts at a nearby beach resort which were stained a similar color and which were without any glare under the most trying light conditions.

"It is our opinion after examination of all of the colors that were available from chemical staining and from coloring placed in the concrete at the time that it is mixed, that the color that we have chosen is the only one which will entirely do away with any glare."



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# MOVE TO ORGANIZE NATIONAL daily fee group

## AS NEW GIANT OF SPORT BUSINESS

ANOTHER milestone in the business advance of golf was passed March 14 during the Golf Show at Chicago when almost 40 owners of daily-fee golf courses met at a dinner and business session organized by the Chicago Daily Fee Golf Course Owners' association and took steps to organize a national association of daily fee course owners.

As the outcome of this meeting, the national organization probably will be launched early in May with a schedule of work definitely laid out by the organization committee headed by Arthur Ahern, president of the Chicago organization, and chairman of the preliminary session. The organization committee is composed of Arthur Ahern, Evergreen; Jos. Lavin, Golfmoor; Bert Sturm, Woodridge; T. J. Moreau, Mid-City; R. H. Montgomery, Hawthorne Valley; G. F. Whitmore, Jr., Willowick; W. H. Livie, Ridgewood; Jonathan Comstock, Cranston; J. A. Hunter, Superior; Henry Barry, Hickory Hills; D. D. Nel, Arcadia Brook; J. W. Lepper, Dixie High; Herbert Vos, Chain o' Lakes; Charles H. Thornton, Tahkodah; N. Lewis Afton, Waterford Woods; J. F. Chamberlain, Pipe o' Peace; Charles Nash, Techny Fields; J. W. Coghill, Cog-Hill; Ray Paddock, Wauconda; J. E. Murphy, Laramie; G. W. Darling, Rolling Hills, and W. G. Galliher, Washington.

Although not much time was available for getting the preliminary meeting organized, the response to the invitations sent out as "feelers" plainly indicated the need for a national daily fee course owners' association.

It was brought out at the meeting that now the daily fee course players are rather left out in the cold in the national tournaments, as it has been indicated that their presence at the National Public Parks tournament is not precisely welcome. The course owners considered the staging of a National Daily Fee Course tournament.

Figures on the investment represented

at the meeting showed that the daily fee golf course business right now is one of the major sports industries of the country. Considering the youth of the business and its present standing, as compared with baseball, for example, it was thought plainly evident that if for no other reason than to give a nation-wide demonstration of the extent and importance of the daily fee operations, such an organization as the one proposed would be worth while.

During the discussions at Chicago there were shown high-spots of a probable schedule for association activities to be considered at the formal launching of the organization. Among these subjects were the development of week-day business, handling women's play, catering to the family trade, comparison of price schedules, quantity buying, central registration bureaus, the daily-fee course from the realtors' standpoint, joint action in legal matters, promotion of industrial club business, course construction and maintenance costs and methods, clubhouse operating methods and costs, advertising, and strict maintenance of sportsmanlike conduct of players.

It was the hope of those at the Chicago meeting that a national daily fee organization would give the investment in this business a recognized standing, and that the investors' money would be better handled by a general exchange of ideas on correct practice. The matter of the psychology of the daily-fee name for such an association also was considered at the meeting, with the consensus of opinion being that the name was properly descriptive and involved no idea of cheapness, but rather that of high class golf and club facilities being offered on a thrifty, pay-as-you-play commercial basis.

For information regarding the progress of the organization committee inquirers are referred to Arthur Ahern, Evergreen Golf club, 9140 South Western avenue, Chicago, Ill.