

The Greens Keeper

EDGAR A. GUEST

He's on the job at break of day and when the stars come out,
There's always trouble on the course for him to fret about,
He starts the gang to work at dawn and follows them around
Then listens to committeemen whose wisdom is profound,
They talk of "bents" and "fescues" in a way that makes him squirm
For they acquire much knowledge in one brief official term.
His task is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it means
Next year there'll be another man brought on to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name, or have a smile for him,
They only wonder why it is the course is not in trim.
They only rave and rage and rant while hunting for a ball
And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the rough this fall,
And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints in a trap
"The course is in a rotten shape!" declares each gloomy chap.
And yet my hat is off to him, now winter intervenes,
I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million pests to fight,
'Tis his to see that every green is watered well at night.
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought destroys his grass,
The rain beats down the tender shoots, but still the players pass
And still they play the game they love, a happy golfing clan
Who never stop to count the odds against a single man.
And so I wave my hand to him, who toils in sturdy jeans,
The best old friend all golfers have—the man who keeps the greens.

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