

Let Us Help You, Greenkeeper

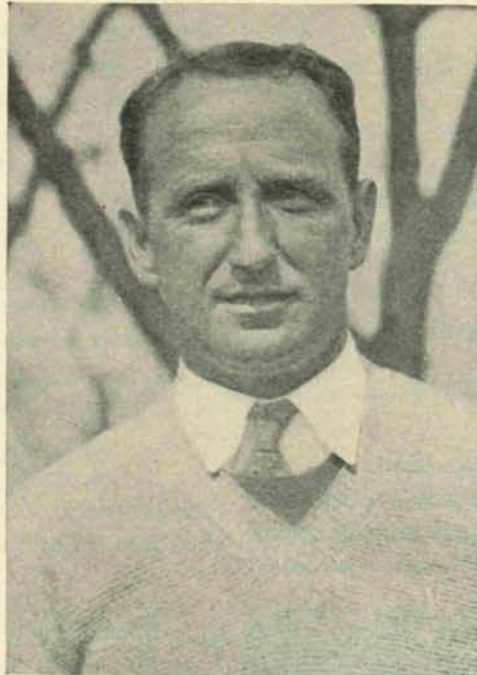
By BOBBY CRUICKSHANK, Professional
Progress Country Club, Purchase, N. Y.

WE—golf professional and greenkeeper—are both aiming to have our club members derive the greatest possible pleasure from their golf, so what shall we naturally do? Get together on the matter, of course. Two heads always have been better than one, and in this connection they surely always will be. One of the greatest pleasures of my present job is the friendship that exists between Captain David L. Rees, superintendent of our golf courses, and myself. We constantly talk things over and play an occasional round on the course together, and our co-operation does truly result in mutual goodwill and genuine benefit.

While in some sports the looker-on sees more of the game than the player himself, the fact remains that in the case of golf the player is in a better position to see and appraise the course than the one who does not play. As an instance, I can recall my having made a suggestion after my first round on my old course at Oklahoma City—which suggestion resulted in the complete transformation of one hole. The change it was universally acclaimed, was to the vast betterment of the hole, from the player's standpoint. And it is the player, after all, who pays the piper and ought therefore to be allowed to call the time!

Where the greenkeeper is not a golfer—and he, unfortunately, very often is not—it would seem to me essential that he co-operate with his professional. In preparation for tournaments, for example, the pro ought to be genuinely helpful in the matter of fixing the positions of the tee markers and in the placing of the cups. The professional may be able to say to the non-playing greenkeeper "Number five green is extraordinarily fast to-day" or again, "Number fourteen is unusually slow"—and the greenkeeper, with his technical skill in maintenance, may then proceed to remedy those temporary drawbacks to low scoring.

In co-operation, the pro, and the greenkeeper may, as another instance, decide that it would be an improvement to widen the "rough" area here, or to narrow it there. And the pro, might say, "I had a miserable



Bobby Cruickshank

slice from the tenth tee but found myself in a dandy lie. You could very reasonably punish us more there"—and the greenkeeper can accordingly leave that grass longer. The proper raking of traps, the addition or enlargement of bunkers, the removal of trees—those may all be points on which the fellow who plays every day may very profitably help the greenkeeper—particularly, as I say, where the greenkeeper does not himself play golf. The golfer cannot over-estimate the debt he owes to a good greenkeeper—to the fellow who helps in very great measure to make good golf possible, and I take this opportunity of wishing success to the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. May your organization, in continuing its splendid work, receive from the playing

public, both amateur and professional, a full measure of appreciation.

Editor's Note: The writer of this friendly talk to the non-playing greenkeeper is too well known as a golfer to need an introduction to our readers. That he practices what he preaches is confirmed by Captain Rees, who in a recent conversation said with a quick smile, "Bobby's a bully good friend of mine."

Ten Thousand Dollars for Seed

Ten thousand dollars spent in one season by a golf club for grass seed? Doesn't seem possible, does it? However, it's a fact.

How did this come about?

Puffy soil, due to too deep plowing, rushing to get the seed in without waiting for a rain to settle and firm the surface. All surface soil plowed in beyond the reach of the feeding roots of the grass plants, leaving practically nothing more than gravel to receive the seed.

Grass seed was drilled in, and the first heavy rain washed fifty per cent of the seed so far into the light soil that it never germinated.

That's a short story of how ten thousand dollars was spent by one club this year. Next year they will spend twice as much in re-seeding, patching, fertilizing and worrying their thin stand along.

It was a new club, and they locked the barn after the horse was stolen. After the officials had talked with an expert greenkeeper, one of our prominent association members, this fall, the club subscribed for the National Greenkeeper and purchased all back numbers.