

U. S. G. A. Greenkeepers' Meeting

Terse story of the three-day convention of greenkeepers at Atlantic City, Pine Valley and Washington. Small attendance due to season.

By JOHN McNAMARA, 1st Vice President
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THE 2nd annual Greenkeepers' meeting of the U. S. G. A. Green Section was held at the Atlantic City Country club on Monday, June 4, 1928.

When we arrived in the morning at the club house, it was noticeable to see a gang of men and a tractor with a chain harrow cleaning up the sand traps for the occasion.

The first thing on the programme in the forenoon was a golf tournament for those who wished to partici-

ate. The Philadelphia greenkeepers took three of the four prizes offered, Mr. Valentine taking the first, Mr. Ryan the second, Mr. Daugherty the third, while the fourth prize was won by Mr. Hackney, the professional of the Atlantic City Country Club.

After lunch, which was served at the club house, Mr. Kendall Read, chairman of the Green committee of the club, led the party of about sixty-five to seventy-five, including some of the officers of the U. S. G. A., Green Section and Green chairmen of various clubs, over the golf course.

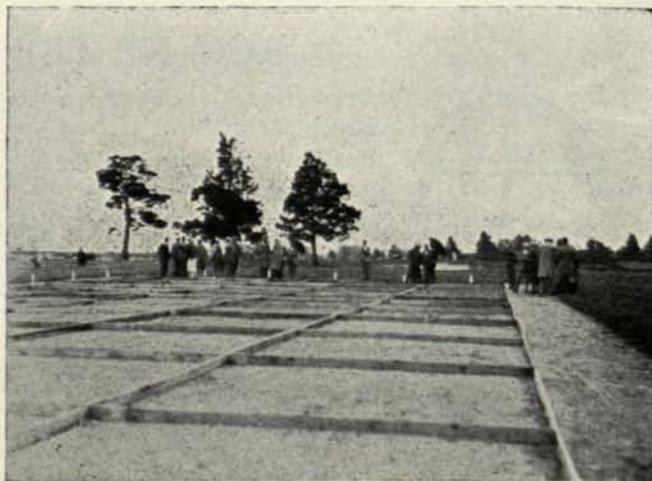
The first place of interest was the pump house where the water situation was fully explained. All of the water supply is forced by air from a 200-foot deep well into a tank. From there it is pumped out through the ground for the watering of greens and fairways. The capacity of this well is from four to five hundred gallons per minute. We then proceeded to the tool house, which contained power sprayers, mower sharpeners, tractors, etc. The party then continued to go over the golf course.

The grass was rather wet after a shower of rain and Mr. Read went on to explain at some length the advantages of building greens so that they may show up from different angles by not placing the face of the greens always at right angles to the fairways. He also explained the way they had the traps built so as not to have any high banks around them which may cause extra hand labor. While talking of this economy, many of the greenkeepers noticed a pair of horses pulling a mower that was used for cutting the rough and they remarked that a club of this size should be more modern and have tractors for this kind of work as it would be

more efficient and more economical in the long run.

After explaining about the partly poa annua greens and fairways (which from my estimation may be all improved by the use of more fertilizer) the fairways principally of fescue, clover and poa annua looked rather hungry and a little extra care would improve their looks to a great extent. What a difference in the fairways and greens of the Pine Valley Country Club where they have practically the same ground and weather conditions. I have travelled over the country quite a bit and have seen a good many golf courses and have always noticed that where there are too many advisors the course always suffers for it.

The next places of interest were the experimental plots, about fifty in number. These plots, as I understand, are under the supervision of the United States Golf Association, Green Section. Each patch is of a different variety of grass seed sown on sandy or very poor soil for the experimenting of various fertilizers.



NEW GRASS PLOTS, ATLANTIC CITY COUNTRY CLUB

The seed had not been sown long and it was just beginning to show some green grass. The most advanced or fastest to germinate was the poa trivialis, which shows it is the fastest grown of the fifty varieties sown.

By this time it was cold and raining somewhat and everyone went for the club house where dinner was served, after which the prizes were awarded the winners of the golf tournament. Among other things discussed were poa annua, brown patch and their remedies.

Pine Valley On Tuesday

TUESDAY morning, June 5, 1928, we all took the nine o'clock train for the Pine Valley Golf Club, located near Clementon, New Jersey, which is only fifty minutes' ride from Atlantic City. The attendance was rather small as there were only about twenty-five or thirty present.

After strolling about the club house for an hour or so, Norman L. Mattice, the greenkeeper-manager, arrived and we started out on our trip over the golf course. Mr. Mattice showed us through his tool house and among other things he showed us a home-made fertilizer spreader and a home-made air pump which is used for pumping tires, also his fine horse, which he rides around on the course.

After this we took a tour of the course and it sure is in fine shape, slick enough for any tournament. From tees to greens there is not a course in the country in better shape. Perhaps they do spend money on the upkeep but it shows it even on the sandy soil. Mr. Mattice conducted us through his soil sheds and explained how he mixed the compost and the different fertilizers, also how much of each he used. Looking over his pump house he said that his pumps were equipped to pump from five hundred to one thousand gallons of water per minute.

After talking over the many good golf holes and the fine condition of the course, the party returned to the club house, partly exhausted, as the day was very sultry and felt like good weather for brown patch. We also visited some very beautiful homes within the vicinity of Pine Valley that are occupied by members of the club during the playing season. When we arrived at the club our lunch was ready and everyone enjoyed it. After lunch the crowd broke up and many of them took their train for Washington, D. C., while a few returned to their home clubs.

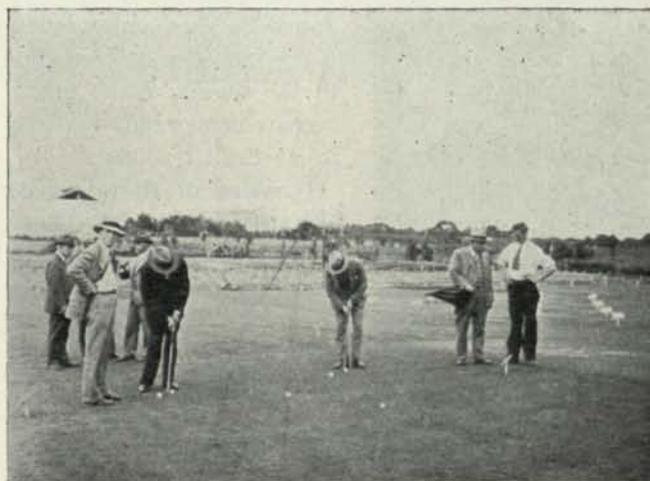
Washington on Wednesday

WEDNESDAY morning, June 6, about ten o'clock the party began to gather at the grass experimental grounds at Arlington. The audience again was small as only about thirty-five or forty attended this meeting. This meeting was very interesting especially for those who had not been there before and even for those who attended in prior years. Inasmuch as the party was small it gave everyone a better chance to ask questions of the ones in charge and there were a great many questions asked.

Dr. John Monteith, Jr., Dr. Harvey L. Westover, Mr. W. R. Walton, Mr. Dall and a few others were kept busy explaining about the different chemical and other fertilizers of which cotton seed and sow bean meal was among the best. Various preventions of brown patch and all the different grasses both from seed and vegetative planting were discussed. Among the many plots of grasses there has been a new idea put into effect. That is, there are several plots that have had cups in-

stalled for putting purposes so as to give the grasses a fairer test. This is all very well and good, but there is hardly anyone there to put this idea into good effect as the plots would not get enough hard usage for a good test.

If the Experimental grounds were moved closer to the city and were opened to the public as a putting green to be used in all sorts of weather so as to get the usage of an ordinary putting green, that I believe, would be



PUTTING ON THE GRASS PLOTS AT ARLINGTON TURF GARDENS

a fair test. These patches can never be tried out at Arlington so as to correspond in the same way as greens on golf courses.

Here again, everyone was amused. On a large lawn adjoining the Experimental gardens was a man sitting on an old time horse-driven roller lawn mower and the poor old horse was flopping his ears up and down with every step. He was sure going slow, as the day was warm. It reminded us all of the old days on the golf courses when we were trying hard to get the fairways cut with the old horses when they were all in from the heat.

It was very noticeable that the attendance of all the meetings was exceptionally small for such occasions. There were not any greenkeepers present from the districts west of Pittsburgh.

Testimonial for ABC of Turf Culture

"I am not an expert and do not want to appear to be giving an expert's opinion of Mr. Noer's book but for about two and one-half years I have to some extent, at least, been a student of golf course maintenance and I take pleasure in testifying that 'ABC of Turf Culture' is one of the most interesting and valuable books that have come in my hands during the time I have been interested in this work.

"It seems to me that every man who sells farm machinery or grass seed and certainly every man who comes in contact with the greenkeepers of the golf course should have a copy of this book."

A. G. Chapman, Chairman Green Committee
Audubon Country Club
Louisville, Kentucky.