

Greens Mowers Go Thru Paces

Demonstration of hand and power putting green mowers brings out big crowd. Country Club, Cleveland, in fine shape for competition

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Photographs by Louis A. Van Oeyen



FRED BURKHARDT
President, Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers

PROVING conclusively that the mowing of putting greens is still a highly competitive proposition, manufacturers of power and hand mowers put their machines to the test at the Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio on Monday afternoon, April 23.

The demonstration was a distinct success. Under the management of the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers headed by President Fred Burkhardt of the Westwood Country Club, the tests were conducted without a hitch. In the power mower class were two machines, the new Worthington "Overgreen" and the Jacob-

sen. In the hand mower class

were the Toro, Pennsylvania, F & N and Worthington. A bright sun following a cloudy morning greeted the fifty or more greenkeepers who came from all parts of

northern Ohio to witness the mower test. President Burkhardt had appointed Bert Sheldon, greenkeeper at the Country Club, Grange Alves, pro-greenkeeper at the Acacia Country Club, Cleveland and E. J. "Mayor" Corlett, greenkeeper at the Beechmont Country Club, Cleveland, as judges and they immediately took charge of the exhibition.

With the crowd watching closely and the judges studying every detail of the trial the new Worthington "Overgreen" mower was put upon Number 18 green, having an area of five thousand square feet. This mower mows in concentric circles from the outer edge of the green to the center, and the irregular shape of this particular green kept the operator busy making the sharp turns. The approximate time of mowing was twelve and one-half minutes. The Worthington is a rubber tired tractor with three thirteen inch units making a thirty-six inch cut. It runs very smoothly and appears to be easily operated.

Pennsylvania Romps Over Green

NEXT the judges put the Pennsylvania hand mower with an eighteen inch cut on one half of the practice green, an area of twenty-seven hundred and fifty square feet. It was easy for John Metzger to romp over

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A GROUP OF CLEVELAND DISTRICT GREENKEEPERS AT THE COUNTRY CLUB DEMONSTRATION

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this surface and he covered it in six and one-half minutes, which is record time for the distance. This little Super mower purred like a kitten throughout the exhibition, and its performance was exceedingly impressive.

Moving across the fairway to Number 1 green the Toro hand mower with a seventeen and one-half inch cut was put to work on a little over half of this smooth surface. The area of about thirty-nine hundred feet was covered in nine minutes by Tony Skicy. Like the Pennsylvania the Toro made a clean, easy job and there was no apparent effort on the part of the operator.

The other half of Number 1 green was assigned to the F & N hand mower, and as soon as the operator started to work it was noticeable that it was cutting very much closer than the other machines. Upon examination the judges found that the mower was set two sixteenths of an inch lower so that no comparative check on the time consumed could be taken. It was noticeable, however that the mower ran very smoothly and the cut was almost perfect judged from any angle.

Jacobsen Does Neat Job

FROM Number 1 green the party moved over to Number 3 green where the Jacobsen nineteen-inch power mower was put to work on the sixty-five hundred and fifty-two square feet of surface. This machine in charge of H. H. Majeska buzzed rapidly back and forth across the big green and after he had finished he took a couple of turns around the outer edge to make a clean, even job. The total time consumed was eighteen and one-half minutes, and the results as reported by the judges were very good.

After finishing the putting green Mr. Jacobsen, president of the company took the little mower and tackled a new uncut vegetatively planted bent tee adjoining the green on the north. With the cutting unit still at putting green length the Jacobsen mowed this bent tee with its tough heavy grass without any effort, showing the excess power that these tractor machines have when needed.

Next the twenty-four inch Jacobsen Power Mower was put on Number 18 green, but as this test was unscheduled no official recognition was taken of it.

Returning to the clubhouse the Worthington Shawnee hand mower was given the other half of the practice

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green to mow, an estimated area of twenty-five hundred square feet, and the time consumed was seven minutes. This was the only high wheel machine, all the other hand mowers being on rollers.

Golf Officials Much Pleased

MANY Green committee chairmen and golf club officials dropped in during the afternoon and got some first-hand knowledge on green mowing. Quite a few remarked that they did not realize what a difference there could be in mowing greens, not only the kind of machine used but the skill of the operator having such a bearing upon the result. They commended the Greenkeepers' Association upon promoting such an interesting exhibition and undoubtedly the effects will be felt in the Cleveland District for some time to come.

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