

May  
1929  
Volume III  
Number 5

# The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

*The Leading Journal of the World on Turf Culture and Golf Course Maintenance*

Official Organ of The  
National Association  
of Greenkeepers of  
America

## Winged Foot

Scene of the Open Championship

By CAPTAIN DAVID L. REES, *Greenkeeper*  
*Progress Country Club, White Plains, N. Y.*

JOHN H. ELLIFFE, greenkeeper at Winged Foot Country Club, has been there for seven years—that is, ever since the construction of the thirty-six holes began. John was superintendent of construction and came to Winged Foot with an excellent background of construction and maintenance experience.

For the open championship next June only one of Winged Foot's two courses will be played over, namely the West Course. Practically all of the holes on this course run north and south, and this is one of the several features at Winged Foot that indicate its really good design and construction.

Quite a number of new traps are being fashioned, and several holes lengthened, for the coming occasion. Mention of lengthening the holes leads to the comment that there will be positively no phoney distances marked up on the Winged Foot card for the championship. Where the card reads 517 yards the hole will be found to measure all of 517 yards—that, and nothing less. The West Course will be made to measure 6,754 yards, with a par of 72.

In the traps George Low rakes will be used "just to simplify things a bit," John Elliffe says—then he adds, "but our traps won't be as hard as those at Oakmont!" The rough on the West Course will be just what it says.

We believe John is even fertilizing the rough, to make sure there will be plenty of it. And it will be ROUGH!

As is the case of all Westchester courses, the soil at Winged Foot is heavy clay, which means that if dry weather prevails at the time of the

Open, there will be quite a roll on the ball. The fairways are chiefly fescue. Rocks are found in profusion in the section where Winged Foot is located. At one time they were a whole lot more plentiful on the course than anyone wanted—so much so that the greenkeeper numbers a compressor among the items of his equipment.

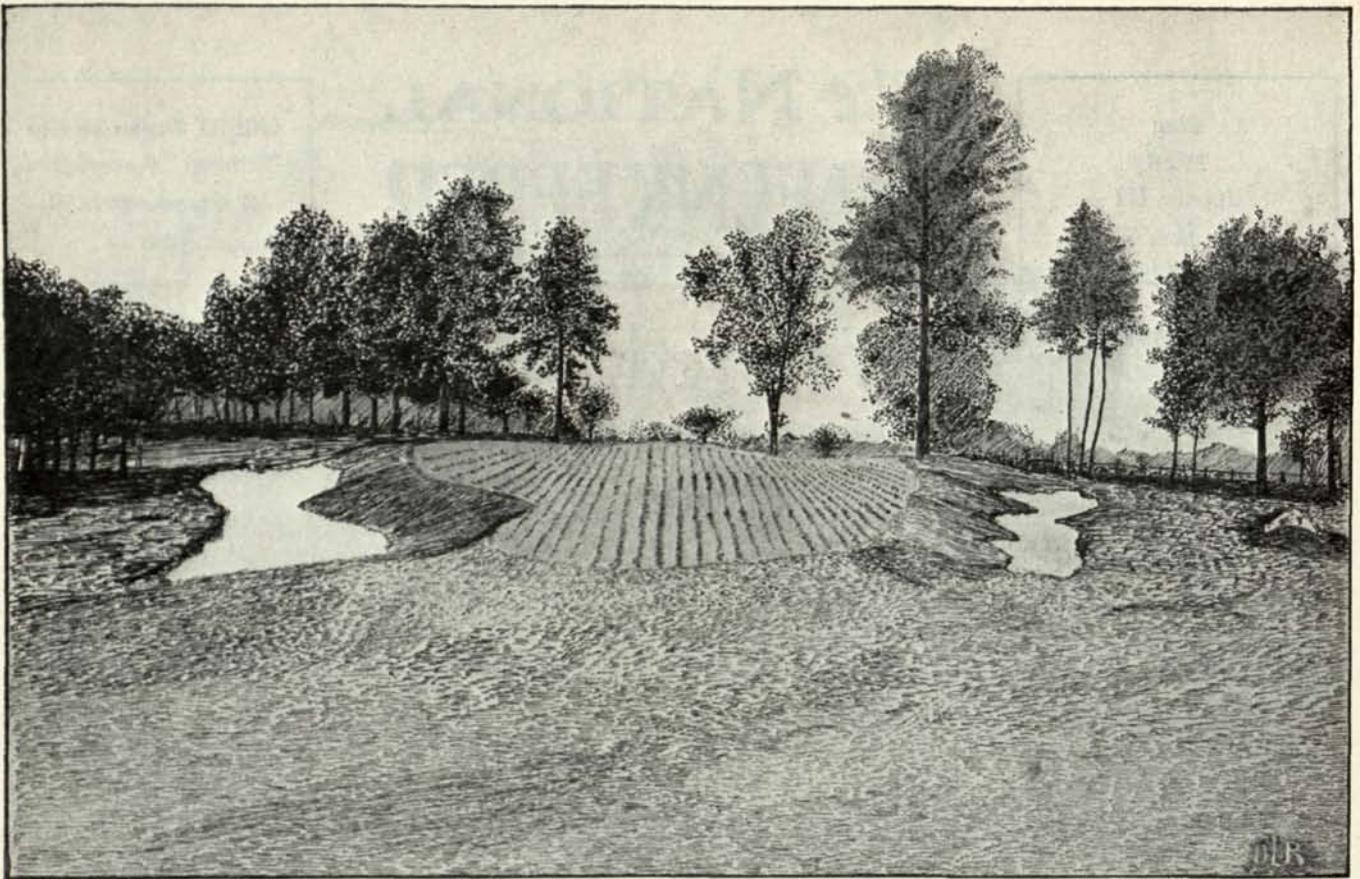
The greens of this course are seeded bent, and they enjoy a very high reputation indeed for excellent putting surface. All of the greens face the shot—that is, none of them are sloped away

from the approach—and all are mighty tightly trapped. There is not a single blind hole on the course, nor is there a water hazard.

There are four short holes on the championship course—numbers 3, 7, 10, and 13—and as is quite generally the case, it will be at those short holes that many of the players in the Open will meet their Waterloo. None of the short holes can safely be negotiated with a mashie. Number 7 is the shortest. It measures 172 yards. All of the four short holes are



JOHN H. ELLIFFE  
*Greenkeeper at the*  
*Winged Foot Country*  
*Club, Mamaroneck,*  
*N. Y.*



NUMBER 3 GREEN, WEST COURSE, WINGED FOOT COUNTRY CLUB  
*This hole is 217 yards long and requires a very accurate tee shot*  
*Drawing by Captain David L. Rees*

really and truly difficult, and numbers 10 and 13 are doubly so when a west wind is blowing.

In the case of the long holes, strictly accurate second shots are the only means of getting down in par. Even long tee-shots must be placed with due care and skill, for the fairways are thoroughly well trapped. At the fifteenth hole, for instance, only a well-placed drive will open up the green.

Until the last putt is holed, the player on Winged Foot cannot let up on the strength and accuracy of his play, for right to the eighteenth green the course will be found to be a strenuous test for the best of golfers. The man who beats 295 there next June should come enviably near to the title of American Open Champion.

## Meeting of Greenkeepers at Winged Foot

A PLAN is already under way to hold a meeting of greenkeepers at Winged Foot during the National Open Championship in June. While nothing official has been announced it is quite likely that President John Morley of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America will call a meeting of the Executive committee, probably on Saturday, June 29.

Winged Foot is located at Mamaroneck, N. Y. which is on Long Island Sound, about 30 miles above New York City. It is conveniently located for all the Metropolitan greenkeep-

ers and also is but a short distance from those residing in southern New England, and eastern New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It is probable that a dinner will be held at one of the famous shore resorts, which are so plentiful in that vicinity, and the meeting will be more or less a sociable get-together gathering for the boys.

During the day the greenkeepers will carefully inspect the famous Winged Foot West course where they will be able to see the play of the champions in their final rounds.