

New England Notes

BY LLEWELLYN L. DERBY

FORTY New England greenkeepers battled through the championship tournament which was held at the Brae Burn Country club, Newton, Mass., on October 8. Handicap medal play with four prizes and with the two best medal players competing for the title at match play was the order of the day.

Ted Swanson of Bear Hill tallied an 84 in the morning round to an 87 for R. Wallace Peckham of Sachuset, but the latter was on his game in the afternoon, winning 6 and 4. Alex Ohlson of the Lexington Golf club, winner last year, did not compete.

The four net winners were E. D. Pierce, Kittansett; Bill Lindsay, Manchester, N. H.; J. C. Adams, Pine-wood; and Joe Oldfield, Brae Burn. The guest's prize went to P. W. Chase, and Jim Sullivan of Waltham, captured the prize for men over 50 years of age.

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Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson of Massachusetts Agricultural College, spoke to 79 members of the New Jersey Greenkeepers' Club at their banquet at Rutgers, N. J., September 29. Prior to his arrival at Rutgers, Professor Dickinson had made a tour of courses in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Considering the lack of rainfall he found courses in these states in fair condition.

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Earlier in the month, Professor Dickinson and Director Fred Sievers of the Massachusetts Experiment Station, visited several courses in Eastern Massachusetts, including Kittansett, Fall River, Charles River, Woodland and Brae Burn.

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Greenkeepers are coming to place more emphasis on the use of various forms of humus and peat, in the opinion of Guy West, greenkeeper of the Fall River (Mass.) Country Club. Although both these substances are being offered commercially nowadays, they are ordinarily offered as aids to increase the water-holding capacity of a sandy soil and to lighten a clay soil—in other words, to improve the textures of soils in general. There is also much to be said for the use of humus and peat as a base for commercial fertilizers or as a carrier for certain forms of manure. Doubtless, they are to be preferred to sand as a filler.

"As golf courses continue to be built," continues Mr. West, "with much regard to certain topographical features and less to soil conditions, sod must be made and oftentimes in these cases humus and peat can be worked in before seeding.

"Usually with the commercial forms on the market it is wise to compost with soil if it is to be applied to a sandy soil, and with soil and sand if it is to be applied to a clay soil. Some substances offered may be applied directly but it is advisable to try a small amount of fair-

way, note results and be guided by them in the future."

Due to the exceedingly dry season this year as well as last, Greenkeeper West is inclined to believe that much more topdressing of fairways will be necessary than normally. It is a pretty good plan to take stock now. If there is on hand a good supply of compost-humus in its best form, there is no cause for worry. If humus or peat must be purchased for this purpose, the materials should be those known from use or recommended by other greenkeepers under similar conditions.

Many times around the corner in an out-of-the-way place on a course is material that may help out the compost pile. Humus and peat may be awaiting discovery.

* * *

In these days of deflated values and upset business conditions, it is refreshing to hear that things are going along well in some places, and this is why a story by Greenkeeper M. D. Maxwell about an organization known as the Marshfield (Mass.) Country Club, Inc., is of interest.

A little over eight years ago the club was organized for the purpose of operating and maintaining buildings and grounds suitable for playing golf and other games, and to furnish facilities and equipment for the athletic

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and social activities of a country club. This was in 1921 and the capital stock of \$20,000 was quickly purchased by residents in and near the town of Marshfield.

In 1922 the course was formally opened with ceremonies befitting the occasion and the driver and ball used in driving from No. 1 tee by the late president of the club, Daniel M. Frye of Somerville, Mass., now adorn the walls of the clubhouse.

Since this time the club has prospered steadily, improvements to the property have been made annually, the grounds have been beautified, and a new entrance was completed recently.

With interest in golf increasing the club directors decided to add nine holes to present nine-hole layout and more land was purchased, giving the corporation a holding of 125 acres.

Plans and specifications were drawn and work started and it is expected that this Southeastern Massachusetts course will have eighteen of the snappiest, sportiest, and prettiest holes to be imagined. And the good part about it is that already stock has been sold to nearly pay for the completion of this new work.

Pay as we go has been the policy of the handful of men who started this project and the club has operated on a profitable basis each year. Profits have been turned back into the property for improvements. The stockholders have always received annual dividends of 6 per cent.

* * *

Tom Galvin, Greenkeeper at the Rhode Island Country Club, reports an exceptionally dry season at his club. The pond at the right of No. 8 green dried up completely for the first time in the history of the course. This drought did have one saving grace, though. It led

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to the discovery of 300 yards of humus which was unknown for many years and which was promptly gotten out.

Construction work this fall will include the making of ladies' tees at the second, third and fourth holes, and a practice field at the left of the eighteenth hole.

"Fifty-cent" Brown Patch made a call on several of the greens this month and Greenkeeper Galvin finds this type more harmful and harder to control than the large patches.

* * *

Contract maintenance for golf courses bobs up in New England. Woodworth Bradley has taken over the Pawtucket Country Club at Pawtucket, R. I.

* * *

Herb Moran of the Newport Country club had an extra hazard added to his course one day last month when a dozen mules from nearby Fort Adams came visiting.

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, published monthly at Cleveland, Ohio, for October, 1930.

State of Ohio, County of Cuyahoga, ss.
Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Robt. E. Power, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the National Greenkeeper and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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ROBERT E. POWER, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of October, 1930.

A. F. Reymer.

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