

Greenkeeper or Superintendent

Opinions of Officers and District Vice-Presidents of
Majority favor retaining

John MacGregor Against Change

CHICAGO GOLF CLUB—CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I HAVE been requested by Mr. Power of the National Greenkeeper to give my opinion on the proposed change of the name of greenkeeper to some other more appropriate name. After reading our president's opinion in the last issue of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER I have not changed my opinion. I would like to read many more for and against the change.

My view of the art of greenkeeping covers the entire maintenance of the golf course. Good golf essentially comes from good greens. In years gone by, the putting green was practically all that was necessary for a good game of golf; what other name could have been chosen for the man in charge of the greens but greenkeeper.

As the game of golf progressed, so the art of greenkeeping must necessarily keep up with or ahead of the game; this meant the greenkeeper must improve conditions between the teeing-off place and the green. This meant finer turf on what we now call the fairway, a limited space which necessarily had to be cut, leaving on either side, longer grass known as the rough which also had to be mown to a certain length, then traps, bunkers, and other hazards, soils, grasses, chemicals, fertilizers, the care and operation of machinery, the handling of men to produce the almost perfect playing condition of the golf player—all of this has just naturally enlarged the job of the man who used to look after the putting greens on the old time course.

The name greenkeeper then, seems to me to be a very appropriate one. We will be known as greenkeepers, no matter which name may be chosen. The mortician is still and always will be known as the undertaker; I doubt if we ever will require the services of the gentleman to bury the name greenkeeper.

John Pirie Against Change

WHIPPOORWILL COUNTRY CLUB—
CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK

IN ANSWER to your letter of June 3, with reference to the proposed change of name from

"Greenkeeper" to "Golf Course Superintendent," I wish to state that I am distinctly not in favor of any change in the name. My reasons are many and varied, but to be brief as you request my ideas are as follows:

I am a great follower or believer in Tradition, and I would sooner have the golfing public come on my course and inquire the identity of the Greenkeeper rather than the Golf Course Superintendent.

With reference to Colonel Morley's article re the changing of the name Steward to Club Manager we have a striking example of this at our Fisher's Island club. During the last five years the name Steward was changed to Club House Manager, but when a meal is considered especially fine the members of the Club always ask the identity of the Steward rather than the Club House Manager.

In my opinion golf has already been stripped of some of its finest traditions and I am very much in favor of keeping the name, just as is.

Alex Binnie Against Change

SHOREACRES GOLF CLUB—LAKE BLUFF,
ILLINOIS

IN expressing my views through the National Greenkeepers' paper, our president lays great stress on the word superintendent. What does that word mean? To your chairman of the Greens, and to ourselves, it means nothing, absolutely nothing, for you and I are just the greenkeeper.

Is the word greenkeeper above the standing of our profession? No, it is not. It strikes me at times that some of our boys get conflicted with the term "green cutter." There is a close resemblance between the two bodies, because if you don't take your cutters into your confidence in regard to their work, you are not going to get the best of results from your employees, and you are to them just plain boss. That is all you are, just plain boss.

What is in the name if you don't produce? You may call yourselves anything you like, but you will still be the greenkeeper.

The changing of the name in my estimation means nothing, but don't lose sight of the fact that the time is coming when the NATIONAL

GREENKEEPER will not
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The greenkeeper di
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John Gray A

ESSEX GOLF AND
SANDWICH, ON

REPLYING to your lett
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Shall We Change Our Name?

the N. A. G. A. regarding this important question.

the name "Greenkeeper"

what it stands for. We have the honor of being a profession, and it is above any trade. It is above any other. It isn't a matter of simply a case of giving the best that is in you.

of our great Scotch different articles that appear in papers about changing the name. "Oh, would some power preserve us as others see us." "Oh, would some see myself as others

we are going to look you're going to look to greens are. If they are just what your name is. I know, or at least you should be called.

It tells us what a greenkeeper is; namely, botany, pathology. Yes, he has named plants, and how many of us know? We do know about pathology seems to be what is John hinting at. Well, I think this is

pathology, there are lots of things that will bring up the plants, and kill off the plants in a name?

not give us all of our glory where it is due. The glory for the condition

change the name "greenkeeper" to golf course superintendent," it is my opinion that for the present time at least, the word greenkeeper, is more appropriate.

This for the reason that since the early stages of the game of golf, the man who took care of the course has always been designated the "greenkeeper."

John Anderson Against Change

CRESTMONT COUNTRY CLUB—WEST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

SHALL we change our name?—"No." So it was decided at the last meeting of the Association of Greenkeepers of New Jersey.

This question that is being discussed all over the country at the present time, was brought before the members at the last monthly meeting, and after a heated discussion, it was decided to let the title remain "Greenkeeper" for the present. For what is good enough for the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, is good enough for us.

At the same time this question should get very careful study and thought, from the different groups, from all angles. My opinion is, that the title "Greenkeeper" is befitting our profession until we find a better one, and one that is more suitable.

Ever since I can remember, the man who was in charge of any golf course in Scotland, was known as the "Greenkeeper," and "Supt." or "Manager" was not thought of, nor would have been recognized. Today the Association of Golf Greenkeepers of Great Britain is still the same, and I do not hear of any change up to the present time. The man who is in charge of any golf course, has a primary duty to his members, that is, give them fine turf from tee to green. Most of his time is spent in working out the best way to produce this turf, and after getting it, fighting to keep it. So that after all "Greenkeeper" seems to me to be the logical title.

Since president John Morley gave his views in the magazine, I have no doubt there will be many discussions among the men relating to this matter, and it will be very interesting to hear the different opinions.

Hugh C. Moore Against Change

ST. SIMON'S ISLAND GOLF CLUB—ST. SIMON'S ISLAND, GEORGIA

I READ Colonel Morley's editorial and I surely did enjoy it. I do not see any reason why we should change from greenkeeper to golf course superintendent. We have been known as greenkeepers as far back as the ancient days of golf and to be frank I think it should be left to Colonel Morley's own personal judgment. He has done more for us than we realize, so why should we not leave it up to him.

I believe it is his desire for us to be known as greenkeepers, therefore I am in favor of being known as greenkeeper. It's good enough for me, for I am really proud of my profession and only hope that I can continue on the balance of my days and be called a greenkeeper.

Joe Williamson Against Change

SCIOTO COUNTRY CLUB—COLUMBUS, OHIO

IN RESPECT to the proposed change of the name of our profession, personally I can discover no possible reason for any alteration whatever.

Greenkeepers are what we are and always will be as long as we profess greenkeeping as our calling.

There are numerous qualifications necessary to become a real greenkeeper and to be able to accomplish successfully the problems of caring for a golf course. I for one am quite satisfied with the title "Greenkeeper"—but I do hope to see it on a much higher plane in the future where it will be recognized among the arts and sciences.

The name is obviously fitting and rightfully belongs.

George Davies Against Change

BIG SPRINGS GOLF CLUB—LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

I THINK it is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard to change the name from greenkeeper to superintendent.

Anyone can be a superintendent, but that does not make him a greenkeeper, as we know greenkeepers.

It is as greenkeepers we have built up our as-

Against Change

COUNTRY CLUB
TARIO, CANADA

of June 3, with refer-
u are taking regarding

sociation, our good name and standing in the golf world. If we become superintendents, we absolutely lose our identity with golf.

Greenkeepers we have been for the last hundred years, and if I have my way, greenkeepers we will remain.

O. E. Evans Against Change

COUNTRY CLUB—YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

IN answer to your letter of the 3rd of June I wish to say that I have read the "Editorial" written by our esteemed president, Colonel John Morley.

The name or word "Greenkeeper" may not sound large enough to some of the brothers, but to me it implies a large and scientific profession.

I would say that as a suggestion we might try to educate the public to the full meaning of the word "Greenkeeper."

T. H. Riggs Miller Against Change

RICHMOND COUNTY COUNTRY CLUB—
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

YOUR letter of June 3rd to hand, re a discussion as to whether greenkeepers should call themselves greenkeepers or superintendents.

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." For a number of years a greenkeeper was more or less a glorified foreman, considered as a necessary evil on a

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T. H. RIGGS MILLER
Staten Island, New York

golf course. Nobody suspected him of knowing anything, other than mowing grass.

Through organizations such as the National Greenkeepers' Association, the golf world has learned that the greenkeeper is responsible for the great pleasure derived from the game of golf today. They are not only respected by the club officials as guardians of the clubs' most precious asset, TURF, but their advice is sought on every policy the club effects pertaining to the golf course.

The word "greenkeeper" like many English words has undergone a change, whereas in previous years it meant a grass mower. Today it is synonymous with a man who dedicates his life to every branch of TURF culture.

I agree with President John Morley that the word superintendent is ambiguous and in no way helps the situation; golf course manager is better; grounds manager leaves out the word golf. I am in favor of retaining the original word GREENKEEPER.

Herbert E. Shave Against Change

OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB—
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

THE old name is good enough for me. We have always been known as such and why change it.

If the majority want to change, follow John Morley's idea.

R. E. Farmer Against Change

BRYNWOOD COUNTRY CLUB—
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

THE word "Greenkeeper" was probably started from the phrase "The Keeper of the Greens." The word has been used so long now that it is considered English. It is no longer a common or a slang word.

Many greenkeepers have charge of the golf course proper, many look after the club house grounds and greens, and some greenkeepers manage the club house

Prominent Greenkeepers Speak Out

Here are some of the N. A. G. A. officials whose letters are published in this issue.



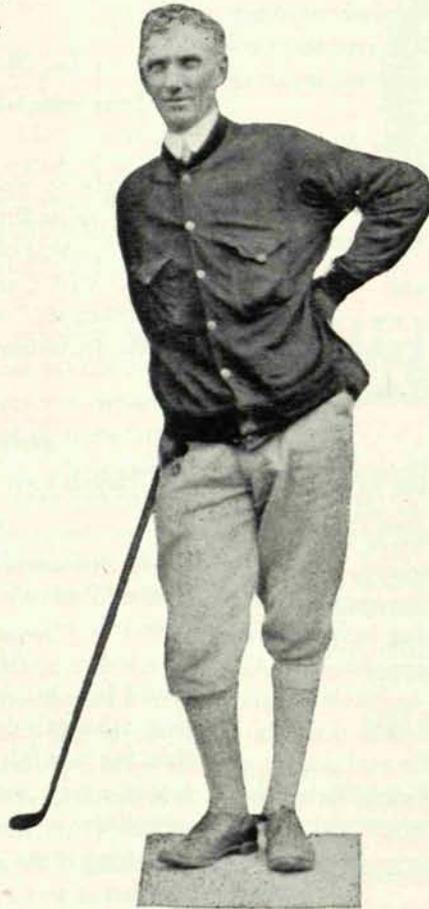
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Garden City, L. I.



ALEX BINNIE
Chicago, Ill.



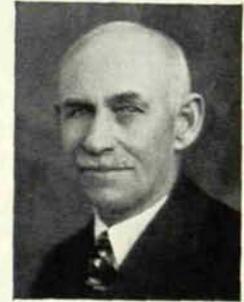
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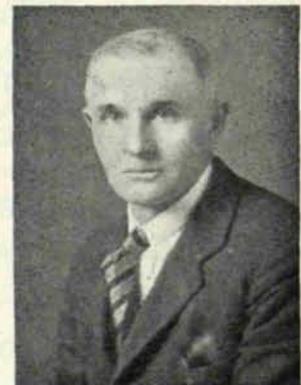
CHARLES ERICKSON
Minneapolis, Minn.



HUGH C. MOORE
St. Simons Island, Georgia



JOSEPH WILLIAMSON
Columbus, Ohio



ELMER F. AFFELDT
Roslyn, L. I.

and the grounds. This difference in an official capacity is hard to explain unless you say he is a greenkeeper, a managing greenkeeper, or a manager and greenkeeper,

Some greenkeepers supervise the maintenance of other courses. He is considered a supervisory greenkeeper. The word superintendent of grounds does not separate these distinctions.

Since our official magazine is called "The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER" there seems little need to change the name. The greenkeepers themselves will have to show their employers that distinction which they are seeking to adopt with a new word.

Carl A. Bretzlaff Against Change

MERIDIAN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB—INDIANAPOLIS,
INDIANA

I AM not in favor of changing the name of "greenkeeper" to "golf course superintendent," at least, not until the approval of the entire membership of the National Greenkeepers' Association is received. I cannot see what would be gained by changing the name, especially just when the organization is becoming well-known.

For your information, the Indiana Greenkeepers' Association recently changed their name to "Golf Course Superintendents of Indiana," but this was done at a time when I was laid up with pneumonia and unable to express my disapproval. I think this should have been brought up at an annual meeting, after the entire

membership had had an advance notice of such a contemplated change, and given an opportunity to have their say.

G. W. Earl Against Change

OGDENSBURG COUNTRY CLUB—OGDENSBURG,
NEW YORK

IN reply to your letter of June 3rd, asking for my opinion regarding the changing of the name "Greenkeeper" to that of "Golf Course Superintendent," I wish to state that I am not in favor of changing the name "Greenkeeper," as I feel that word is more appropriate for the profession than "Superintendent."

John Quail For Change

HIGHLAND COUNTRY CLUB—PITTSBURGH,
PENNSYLVANIA

LAST summer I had occasion to visit a golf course in Central Pennsylvania and of course the first thing that came into my mind was, "Where is the greenkeeper and who is he?" After inquiring as to his whereabouts, I found him busily engaged with a pick and shovel digging a French drain. I made myself known and after chatting a while, I found that he regularly mows six greens every morning, rakes most of the traps, cuts several tees and what have you to do.

Asking if the course was public or private and finding out that it was a private club with plenty of money and they were willing to spend it to have a good course, I began wondering what was wrong with the fellow. Here was a nice little eighteen-hole layout with wonderful possibilities and here was a GREENKEEPER who was doing the work of about two men to keep it going when he could have hired another man to do the work and then seen that the work was done. This illustrates my idea of a GREENKEEPER.

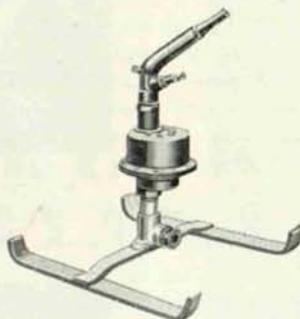
The next day on my way home, I stopped in a town for lunch and as I came out of the restaurant, I saw a car parked by the curb with Green Knoll Country Club painted on the side. A very prosperous looking man was in the drivers seat and my curiosity was aroused and upon inquiring I found that he was the SUPERINTENDENT of a prosperous country club about four miles from town. I was invited to stop over and look his place over and have a chat with him on the latest methods of golf course maintenance.

Arriving at the club, I asked for the superintendent and was informed he was in his office. I entered a nice little room where I found the man I was looking for. On the walls he had pictures of his course and several others. There were blue prints showing the whole layout, water drains and other things which an accurate record should be kept of. He was dressed up with a nice clean shirt and light trousers.

We started out over the course and I could tell a man

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who was used to SUPERINTENDING was on the job. He didn't do the work himself, he saw that it was done, and that it was done in a satisfactory manner. This man was a SUPERINTENDENT. He didn't keep the greens, he saw that they were kept.

As to golf course managers, I have also seen one of that type. He sat in an office most of the day and had a greenkeeper report to him for orders. The pro, caddy master and other outside help was also under him. All he did was to give suggestions and as long as everything went along all right I suppose he had a job. But when it comes down to seeing that the course is in the best possible shape, it is up to a superintendent.

I have often heard the golf course superintendents called groundskeepers, golf keepers, caretakers and a host of other names. Would it not be better to designate them as superintendents and have every one understand that that is what they are instead of every other person guessing what a greenkeeper is. I am very heartily in favor with the movement to change the name and was one of the instigators in changing the name of the Western Pennsylvania Greenkeepers' Club to the Tri-State Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

This change was suggested by a Chairman of Green Committee and endorsed by the Sales Manager of a large manufacturing concern. It has met with the approval of all Green committeemen in this district and we were complimented on our foresight. If it works in one district it will work in another. I am for the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

Elmer F. Affeldt For Change

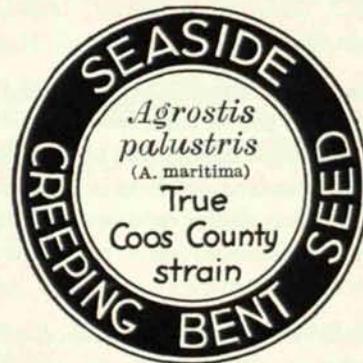
ENGINEERS' COUNTRY CLUB—ROSLYN,
LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

AFTER reading the opinion of our worthy president, Colonel John Morley, and various other high lights in our organization located in different sections of the country, regarding the name of our organization, I have withheld my reply to your letter of June 3rd, until after the monthly meeting of the Long Island Greenkeepers' Association, which was held last night June 9th.

After a lengthy but very fair discourse of the subject it was decided and carried by unanimous vote that the name should be changed from "Greenkeeper" to "Golf Course Superintendent."

It was brought out that the name "Greenkeeper" originated in Scotland where the Royal and Ancient game came from many years ago, and that in those days the name was most fitting as his duties were to keep the greens, and that the sheep in grazing kept the fairways and tees, hence the title "greenkeeper."

Today this mode of golf course up-keep has changed. The man in charge of a course has many duties to perform, he must be of great diversity, viz construction superintendent, landscape superintendent, expert me-



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chanic, plumber, painter, carpenter, bookkeeper, and above all a diplomat.

Of course the mere changing of the name from greenkeeper to that of golf course superintendent will not help a man in holding his job any better, but it does seem that the title of superintendent will help in elevating the man in charge of a million dollar or more investment more quickly to the professional class where he rightfully belongs.

Many still believe that the greenkeeper, or greensman is the fellow who cuts the greens, and is therefore more or less a laborer, it never occurring to them the myriads of duties that he really performs.

Hugh Luke For Change

GARDEN CITY COUNTRY CLUB—GARDEN CITY,
NEW YORK

*I*N regard to changing the name of "Greenkeeper" to "Golf Course Manager" or "Golf Course Superintendent."

In my opinion, it is a question whether the rose will

smell better under a new name. In other words, it is the man and not the name that counts.

However, just to be off the fence, I am in favor of "Golf Course Superintendent."

Jerome MacDonald For Change

PALMETTO GOLF CLUB—AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

*R*EPLYING to your letter of June 3rd, I have read the editorial of our president, Colonel Morley, and have not given it much thought as yet, but would say that I would rather have the name changed to superintendent if it will not do any injury to our profession as a whole.

David Tait For Change

NORTHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB—MERIDIAN,
MISSISSIPPI

*I*N my opinion it's the only thing to do. Greenkeeping has gotten way beyond a job and I am heartily in favor of the change.

James Muirden Says Manager

RIDGEWOOD GOLF CLUB—CINCINNATI, OHIO

I HAVE received your letter of June 3rd, and also have read with great interest Colonel Morley's editorial in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER.

After giving this matter serious consideration my suggestion is that the name golf course manager would be the most suitable and appropriate.

J. O. Campbell Says Manager

WETHERSFIELD COUNTRY CLUB—HARTFORD, CONN.

I HAVE just read Col. John Morley's editorial in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. I believe the time is here when we should change the name to something other than "Greenkeeper."

I agree with Mr. Morley that "Golf Course Manager" is a better name than "Superintendent." It better describes us. One definition of a manager is a skilful economist, and that's what a great many of us are.

I believe if a poll were taken of all the members, a great majority would decide on "Golf Course Manager."

Ford Goodrich Says Manager

FLINT COUNTRY CLUB—FLINT, MICHIGAN

*I*F THE majority of members feel that the name of our organization should be changed, let us take Colonel



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John Morley's suggestion and call ourselves golf course managers.

As for me the name greenkeeper is O. K.

Charles Erickson Says Let's Vote

MINIKAHDA CLUB—MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

I AM in receipt of your general letter of June 3rd in which you express Col. John Morley's opinions with regard to the name Greenkeeper and Golf Course Superintendent.

We, in Minnesota, feel much the same. A short while ago we changed our name to Superintendent, but this was not satisfactory with a great many of the boys. For my part I believe the name Greenkeeper carries as much weight as the name Golf Course Superintendent.

We had a meeting today at the Somerset Country Club, St. Paul, Minn., and talked over this matter. However, we could not come to any agreement. We are not entirely satisfied with the present name, or the proposed name, and believe something more scientific could be adopted. This is a matter that requires special consider-

ation and cannot be decided upon in too great a hurry, so believe the best thing to do is to leave this matter in the hands of Col. John Morley or other officials who are better versed in the choosing of titles.

James Connaughton Says Let's Vote

MONROE GOLF CLUB—PITTSFORD, NEW YORK

IN reply to your request of June 3rd, I would suggest that the question of changing the name of greenkeeper to golf course superintendent be taken up at the next annual Convention, which will be held in New York City.

I believe it necessary in order to avoid misunderstanding in the future and in order that each and every greenkeeper in good standing who belongs to the National association be given the privilege to express his opinion by ballot as to whether or not the name greenkeeper should be changed to golf course superintendent.

As a rule greenkeepers are shrewd, competent, honest and sincere and according to my way of thinking can and will deal with any important question in regard to their profession.



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