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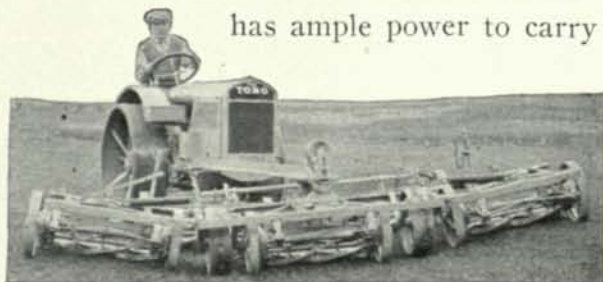
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The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

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VOLUME II.

No. 8

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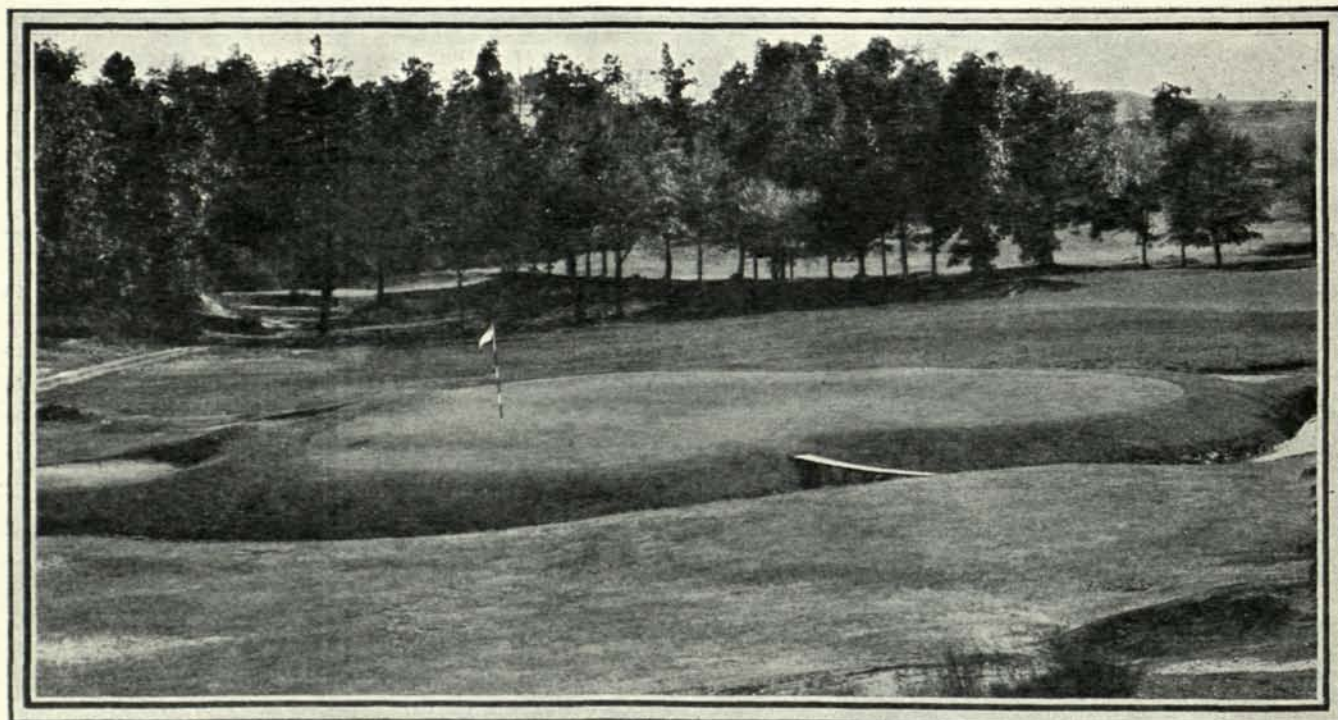
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JOHN SHANAHAN
Superintendent of course at Brae
Burn Country Club, dean of New
England golf course
superintendents

BRAE BURN ready for 1928 National *Brown Patch kept off course by regular application of SEMESAN*



The picturesque sixth green at Brae Burn Country Club, West Newton, Massachusetts

"**E**VERYTHING possible will be done to have the course in perfect condition," says *Golf Illustrated* in discussing the preparation of Brae Burn for the 1928 National, "and if perfection is humanly possible, it will be brought about by John Shanahan, who is one of the real veteran greenkeepers not only of America but of the world."

And one of the standard practices of John Shanahan in keeping Brae Burn's putting surfaces in the condition for which they are famous is the application of du Pont Semesan. He says: "I have used Semesan with great success in controlling brown patch on the greens of the Brae Burn Golf Club."

Brae Burn, founded in 1897, is New England's outstand-

ing golf club. It has a membership of 751 with a three-year waiting list. Numerous state and national championships have been held at this historic golf club, the most famous, perhaps, being the National Open Championship in 1919. And next month Brae Burn is to be the scene of the 1928 National Amateur.

Greenkeepers who realize the true importance of their responsibility are using Semesan to prevent and control brown patch. They know it cannot harm the greens and never fails to control both the small and large brown patch.

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AUGUST
1928

The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

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

VOL. II
No. 8

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

Olympia Fields

Its reaction to the play of the champions

By Robert E. Power

Editor, The National Greenkeeper

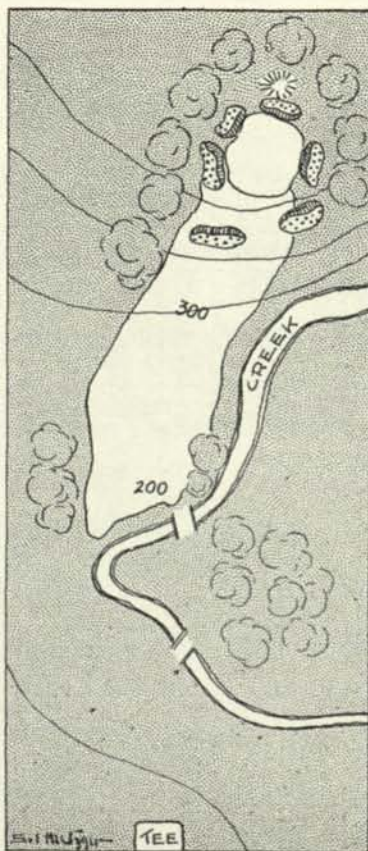
OLYMPIA FIELDS—a flat prairie-like golf course, thirty-five miles southwest of Chicago! That's how I pictured it in my mind. The only thing in the picture that was right was the distance—everything else was wrong.

When John C. Dee of the Mower Company kindly picked me up and drove me out Thursday morning, June 21, I was ready to see a big place but not a picturesque one. Imagine my feelings when we turned off the main highway into a graveled private road that wound through groves of magnificent oaks, across little wooded valleys with gurgling brooks and finally out upon a gorgeous eminence, landscaped with trees and shrubs with the great stone clubhouse dominating the picture. Close by was the 18th green flanked in the back with a beautiful grove of old trees, while far to the north stretched the paralleling fairways of the 1st, 9th, 10th and 18th holes. Over to the west was the Illinois Central electric rapid transit rightaway so I knew that most of the golf course must be back in the woods and valleys we had just driven through.

And it was. After playing the second shot on Number 3

you enter the forest and you do not emerge until you play your second shot on Number 7. Again you enter the woods at Number 11 green and you come out

Worthington



THE 17th HOLE WHERE ROLAND HANCOCK LOST THE CHAMPIONSHIP. He took five shots to hole out from the right hand rough about opposite the word creek



FRED KRUGER
Olympia's efficient greenkeeper

at Number 18 tee.

I did not go to Chicago to see who was the best golfer in the world. Of course I saw him and all the other also rans. But I wanted to see and tell my greenkeeper readers to what extent the physical condition of the course and its care and preparation affected the play of the champions. Because after all the acid test of the greenkeeper's work is the play of such experts as Farrell, Jones, Hagen, Deigel, MacDonald Smith, Armour and a host of others. They play the ball as they find it. Every lie in the fairway, the rough, and in the bunkers is studied carefully. When they hit a shot to the green it stays where it is hit, providing the green is right. And they certainly stayed on those vegetative bent greens at Olympia Fields.

Pitch Shots Hold Greens

WE HAVE all seen vegetative bent greens in the past four years that had so much

turf that the ball would not bite. Instead it would bounce and roll, sometimes into trouble. But Fred Kruger's greens at Olympia Fields held every shot even to the longest iron and brassies. For instance I saw Bobby Jones, after an ordinary drive on the four hundred and thirty-three yards, Number 14-hole hit a long, low iron shot with a hook on it and it did not roll more than ten feet. All through the three days I watched them and I never saw a ball go over that should have stayed on. On the short holes particularly I saw many mashie and mashie niblick shots that actually jumped backwards.

The result of this condition was to give the players confidence in going for the pin which all the good ones did. On the other hand I noticed several contestants not used to such finely prepared greens who played their approach shots short thinking they would get closer to the pin and many of them ran into traps and rough.

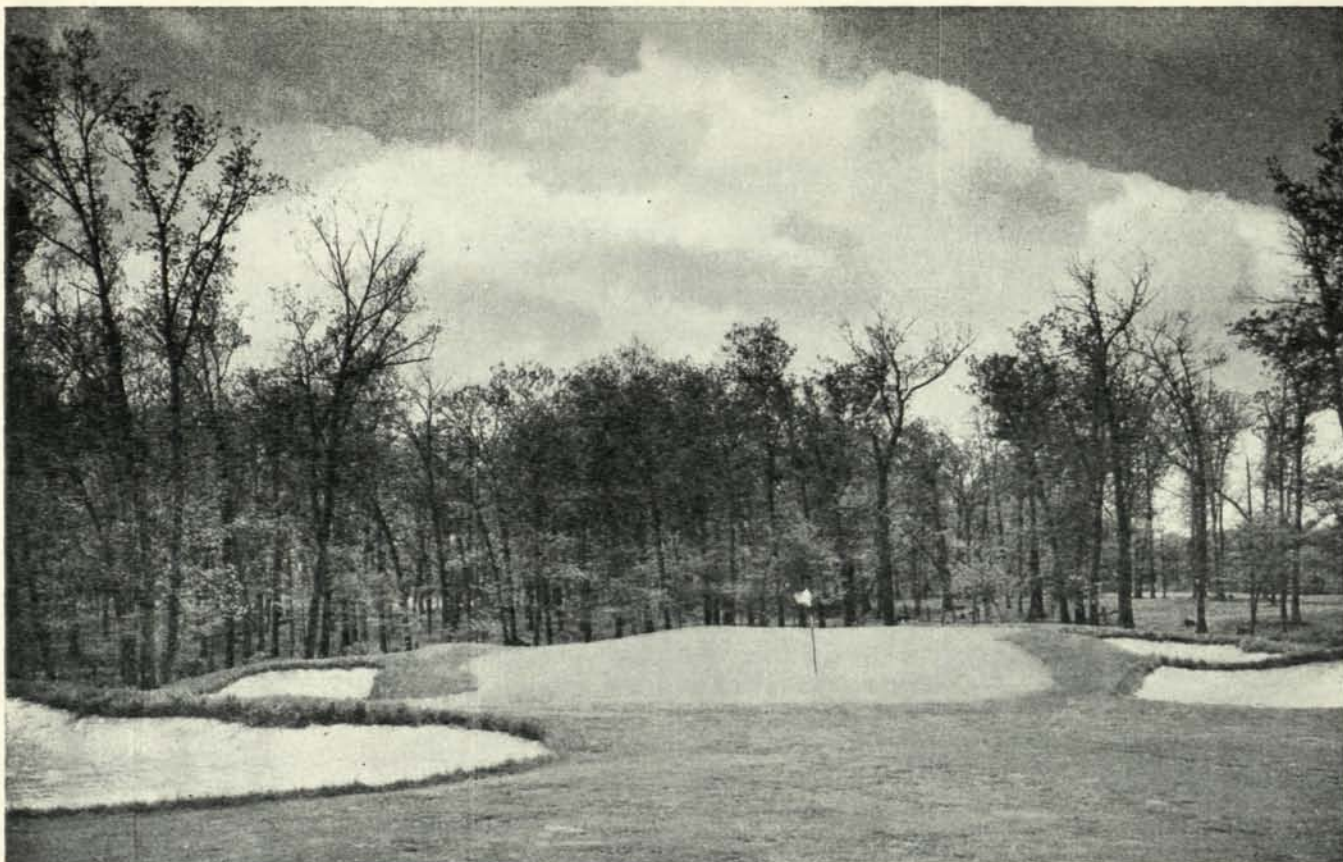
I wish some of these so-called golf course architects who think they have to slope every green on a two-shot hole in order to hold the ball, could have watched the play in the 32nd

National Open Golf Championship of the United States at Olympia Fields. I wish also that antagonists of creeping bent greens who say they won't hold a pitch shot could have sat at 6 or 13 or 16 and witnessed the way the boys who know how, banged their spades and mashie niblicks smack up to the pin. Emmett French hit a ball on the 153 yard 16th that actually struck beyond the cup and bounced back a foot nearer the hole. On the contrary Hagen on his third round Saturday got timid and careful and played his pitch shots to the front edge of the greens. They stayed right there leaving him a long putt to get near the hole. Had he gone boldly for the pin I think he might have won the championship because that's just what Farrell did when he made his 71.

As to the actual putting condition of the Olympia greens I am not so enthusiastic. I have seen better greens and I have seen worse ones. I think they improved each day but the fact that they were young and got scuffed up with the spiked shoes that every player wore, made it difficult for the ball to always hold the line. Once or twice I saw a side slope putt



No. 3—A fine two-shotter, 420 yards long. The second shot to this green was about the hardest on the course. Many of the best players including Hagen took sixes on this hole



No. 4—398 yards long is typical of many of Olympia's drive and pitch holes. Although the green is comparatively level it held the shots very well



No. 14—433 yards was a graveyard for many hopes. The fairway narrows at the end of a long drive while the second shot uphill is longer than it looks



No. 15—555 yards—the longest hole on the course. A narrow tree-bordered fairway bending to the right puts a peculiar hazard on the long shot. As far as we know no one made this green in two

which looked good until it got near the hole when a blade or two of grass would deflect it enough to miss the center of the cup. That's the problem for every greenkeeper to think about when there is a whole day's play, and where so much is at stake. Your greens may be perfect in the morning but how are you going to keep them that way till nightfall? Perhaps I am crazy but I thought many times as I saw good putts go astray, that the man at the green who forks up the divots could every now and then when there is a gap of two or three minutes, examine the area around the cup and smooth up any marks left by the spikes of the players who had gone before.

Olympia Has Flossmoor Bent

THE grass at Olympia is a fine, curly, deep green, close-matted Metropolitan, shall we say—or Washington, or what have you—bent. Locally it is known as the Flossmoor bent because it was planted from stolons from the Flossmoor Nurseries near Chicago. It was absolutely free of clover or weeds, though the clover grew quite luxuriantly on the aprons right up to the putting surface. It looked to me from the color and the way the pitch shots held as though it had lots of fine topdressing and sulphate.

One would expect the Olympia creeping bent greens to be very fast, but in my opinion they were about medium—certainly nothing like Oakmont last year which were periously fast yet true as a billiard table—nor were they quite

as fast as Scioto in 1926. It rained very hard Friday afternoon and there were intermittent showers on Saturday which may have made the greens slower than usual, but in spite of the incessant tramping they stood up well and I think were better on Saturday than any day of the tournament. This fact showed up in the play of Johnny Farrell, the champion, who could not get his putts to go down with any regularity on Thursday or Friday and was noticeably wobbly around the cup. But on Saturday it was an entirely different story and his putts went down with monotonous regularity.

Clover Causes Close Lies

THROUGH the green there were many close lies owing to the presence of clover in the fairways. This is due I was told, to the fact that Olympia Fields is in a clover belt and furthermore the cold, dry spring held back the growth of the fescue and poa grasses. Even so, it seems as though this abundant clover growth might be checked by scientific fertilization in order to get a neutral reaction in the soil. My guess is that the soil which is dark and loamy is too "sweet" though that is a matter for turf chemists to test out and decide.

On some of the long holes such as 1, 9, 15 and 18 it was often a wood club for the second shot and I saw many of these that were low and off the line because the lies were close and snaggy.

The roughs were purposely long and heavy

especially in places like the valley on Number 3 and near the ditch on 9 and 18. The committee intended to penalize a player who was off the line with his tee shot and they succeeded very effectually. Scioto did the same thing in 1926 but it was the universal opinion that Olympia Fields was much harder to play out of. This heavy rough on the right of Number 17 probably cost young Roland Hancock the championship. His long tee shot landed there and he was three shots getting on the green which was slightly over one hundred yards away. Undoubtedly the shouting gallery and the fact that he had a difficult shot to make unnerved him because he looked up on the shot and did not get out. With one shot wasted he could still win easily but the strain was too much for the unseasoned lad and he blew up completely.

NO ONE can say for sure what effect the condition of the rough had upon deciding the championship. From my personal observation I think it was quite a factor. I watched Farrell off and on for three days and he was uniformly straight and long off the tee, whereas Bobby Jones, who played with Farrell on Thursday and Friday, almost wore himself out whacking out those marvelous recovery shots you read about, from the tall and uncut. I believe I heard more "if" stories about the rough than any championship I ever attended.

Bunkers in Fine Shape

FINALLY the bunkers. Though raked in the approved harrow style they were not difficult due to fairly easy slopes and abundance

(Concluded on Page 32)



No. 16—153 yards, a really famous hole. It was here that Bobby Jones took five on his last round. The bunker at the right is very deep

Among Metropolitan Clubs

A digest of news and gossip of the activities of the
greenkeepers in and about New York

Glen Oaks Golf & Country Club, Long Island, N. Y.

Elmer F. Affeldt, greenkeeper of this course, is a charter member of the N. A. G. A., and treasurer of the Metropolitan Greenkeepers Association. To the National representative Elmer was, as always, the courteous, kindly gentleman. "A bit of news to keep the magazine wheels rolling?" he said. "Well, we should



The 9th green at Glen Oaks, Long Island

all be glad to give that, for after all the magazine is our paper, and we greenkeepers can get out of it just in proportion as we put into it. My motto is 'All together. Let's go, and all do our bit.'

"My course? It's had too much rain, now there's too much grass!—and soon there'll be too much Brown Patch!! It has not been an ideal season with us, but we guess the worst is yet to come, with August and the dog days. There's one consolation, though, and that is that the Fourth is over, with its flying divots. My poor tees on the short holes look as if they might have the small pox!—but why worry?—for there won't be another Fourth for a year."

Deepdale Country Club, Great Neck, Long Island, N. Y.

This is one of the new and exclusive clubs on Long Island, built on the shores of Lake Success, the largest fresh water lake on the island. The layout was by the late Seth Raynor and his associate Mr. C. B. Banks, and follows modern trends in golf course architecture. Mr. Harry Williams, now greenkeeper, has been at Deepdale since the beginning of construction, and right now has his course in very pretty shape. Harry is a charter member of the Metropolitan.

Deepdale was recently taken over by a group of Wm. K. Vanderbilt's friends, and to take care of the consequent increased memberships, the club contemplates additions to its buildings to the tune of about \$200,000.

Garden City Golf & Country Club, Long Island, N. Y.

One of the oldest courses in the Metropolitan district, Garden City—located in one of the finest residential sections on the north shore—was the scene of Walter J. Travis's amateur championship triumphs in 1900 and 1901.

Hugh Luke, the greenkeeper, is one of the original members of the N. A. G. A., and has been at Garden City a number of years. Recently he has been revamping several greens—notably number seven. The reconstruction done by Hugh has added much to the variety and interest of the course, which is built on unusually flat land.

By an ingenious system of bunkering, Garden City course is made to resemble a typical "old country" links. Hugh was mighty busy applying Brown Patch



Garden City's No. 16 looks like an old country hole

preventive to his greens, though he had been lots luckier than plenty of greenkeepers on the island, where this scourge has been flourishing apace in the recent humid weather.

Albert J. Wilder, Fenimore Country Club, White Plains, N. Y., late of Cleveland, has promised us an interesting article on his course for the September issue. We are looking forward to hearing from Albert.