

The Greenkeepers' Club of New England

By John Shanahan, Brae Burn Country Club

In January, 1923, a group of greenkeepers, in the Boston District, met to consider the advisability of forming an organization for social and educational advancement of greenkeepers and the greenkeeping profession. A letter was sent out to all the greenkeepers in New England, asking them to a meeting to discuss the matter further. At this meeting, which was held in February, 1923, about fifty responded to the invitation.

The Greenkeeper's Club of New England was organized at this meeting and was the first association of its kind in the country, founded solely for and by greenkeepers, themselves.

Since that time, regular monthly meetings have been held. The winter meetings are held in Horticultural Hall, Boston. At these times lectures have been given by authorities on various subjects pertaining to greenkeeping, as well as discussions among greenkeepers themselves, of the various problems confronting them. Each year the club has invited the green committee chairmen of New England to a luncheon meeting, to give them an idea of the aims and purposes of the club.

The summer meetings are held at various golf clubs. The first outdoor meeting of the club was a demonstration of golf course equipment. This was the first meeting of its kind ever held in New England and was attended by a large number of both green committee chairmen and greenkeepers. Since that time, this has been an annual event. At the other summer meetings the forenoon has been devoted to demonstrations and inspection of the course. After lunch and business meeting a golf tournament is held. It has been the aim of the club to visit courses where different problems could be studied.

The club has had a cordial invitation and welcome from the golf clubs visited and in several instances the club has been the personal guest for the day of the local green committee.

Two meetings have been held at the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst where grass plots have been examined and lectures given by the college staff.

The club has shown a steady growth from the start and has now a membership of over eighty. A fine spirit of fellowship has been developed among the members. Many individual problems have been solved, and a better understanding between green chairmen and greenkeepers established.

Sulfate of Ammonia and Earthworms

Four years ago at Baltusrol earthworms or rather, worm casts, were regarded as a greater problem than either weeds or brown patch.

At that time ammonium sulfate was not used to any great extent—certainly not more often than twice a year, and then only in light quantities.

During the past four years the method of maintaining the putting green turf has followed very closely the general practice advocated by the Green Section of the U. S. G. A.