

## Greenkeepers' Club of New England

By Robert A. Mitchell

The Greenkeepers' Club of New England has the distinction of being the first club of its kind in the United States. It was in the fall of 1923 that Thomas Fahey, of Winchester, and Alec Brice, then of Belmont Springs, made a canvass of the greenkeepers of the clubs of metropolitan Boston with a view of ascertaining the sentiment regarding the forming of some kind of a greenkeepers' organization. The matter was discussed further by Frank R. Wilson, Jr., of the Charles River Country Club, and C. E. Treat, of the Woodland Golf Club, on a train returning from the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association at New York in January, 1924, when Mr. Treat decided to call a meeting of some of the more prominent greenkeepers in the district, at his home, on February 5. At that meeting it was agreed to hold a get-together dinner at Cottrell's Restaurant, in Boston, on February 25, 1924. The dinner was attended by 41 greenkeepers, and there the Greenkeepers' Club of New England was formed, a constitution adopted, and the following officers elected: President, John Shanahan; vice-president, James Holden; secretary, F. H. Wilson; treasurer, C. E. Treat; trustees, Valentine Flood, William McBride, and James Sullivan. The membership has since grown to 80, one-half of whom are from the Boston district, one-quarter or more from Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts, and the balance scattered. Membership is confined to greenkeepers and assistant greenkeepers.

On June 9, 1924, our first tournament was held, at Brae Burn. In May, 1925, the club conducted the first outdoor demonstration of golf course equipment and machinery held in this part of the country. During the last 7 years the club has visited and played golf on over 25 of the courses of New England. At our winter meetings we have listened to some of the best authorities on golf course maintenance and construction, have had meetings at the Massachusetts Agricultural College and meetings with seed and implement men, and have had many interesting discussions of local problems. A spirit of friendship and cooperation has sprung up among the members which is growing year by year. The club has won the respect of those with whom it has come in contact and has raised the standard of greenkeeping and increased the skill of its member greenkeepers. In 1929 it started the publication of its official organ, the *Newsletter*. This paper, which is published each month, has received much favorable comment; its success is largely due to the untiring efforts of G. C. West, editor, and M. Burnett, business manager, both of whom are greenkeepers.

The purpose of the organization, to quote from its by-laws, is "the advancement, by cooperation, of the interests and welfare of its members and of those in whose employ they may be from time to time, and the establishment of uplifting standards of dignity and skill among our greenkeepers by cooperative education and training amongst ourselves in the varied requirements of our profession, and the education and training of employes under us in the various departments of our work."

Regular meetings are held monthly. One is the annual banquet and business meeting. Four are educational meetings. Seven are held on golf courses (educational features being a prominent part of

these meetings). We also cooperate in the holding of a golf equipment show, with field demonstrations, and we hold a meeting at the Charles River demonstration garden of the United States Golf Association Green Section. We have begun to hold joint meetings also with the state greenkeepers' associations lately organized in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Each year since the founding of a school for greenkeepers at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, at Amherst, we have made a pilgrimage to that institution at the time of its annual golf maintenance exhibits.

The following is a brief resumé of our 1930 meetings:

January 6. Annual meeting with election of officers and banquet.

February 3. Business meeting at Horticultural Hall, Boston. Speaker, W. B. Hatch, golf architect.

March 3. Business meeting at Horticultural Hall, Boston. Speakers, Prof. L. S. Dickinson, Prof. M. J. Markuson, and Dr. W. H. Cubbon, of Massachusetts Agricultural College.

March 15 and 16. Attended the fourth annual golf course maintenance exhibition at Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst. Two forums for discussion of golf course problems. Joint open meeting with Greenkeepers' Club of New England and Connecticut Greenkeepers' Association.

April 7. Business meeting at Horticultural Hall, Boston. Speaker, Dr. F. J. Sievers, director of the agricultural experiment station at Amherst.

May 12. Albemarle Golf Club, West Newton, Mass. Golf tournament. Demonstration of top-dressing equipment.

June 2. Unicorn Country Club, Stoneham, Mass. Golf tournament.

July 7. Weston Golf Club, Weston, Mass. Golf tournament. Demonstration of loam steamer.

August 4. Agawam Hunt Club, East Providence, R. I. Golf tournament. Inspected extensive grass tennis courts. Combined meeting with Rhode Island greenkeepers.

September 2. Stoney Brae Country Club, Wollaston, Mass. Golf tournament.

October 8. Brae Burn Country Club, West Newton, Mass. Club championship golf tournament.

November 3. Waltham Country Club, Waltham, Mass. Golf tournament.

December 1. Hotel Narragansett, Providence, R. I. Joint meeting with the Rhode Island and Connecticut greenkeepers' associations. Speakers, Dr. T. E. Odland and Dr. H. F. A. North, of Rhode Island State College.

The officers reelected for 1931 are: President, Carlton E. Treat, Woodland Golf Club; first vice-president, Thomas Fahey, Winchester Country Club; second vice-president, James McCormack, Unicorn Country Club; third vice-president, Howard Farrant, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.; treasurer, James Sullivan, Waltham Country Club; secretary, Robert A. Mitchell, Kernwood Country Club, Salem, Mass.; trustee for 3 years, T. W. Swanson, Bear Hill Country Club; trustees, Frank H. Wilson, Charles River Country Club; R. Wallace Peckham, Sachuest Golf Club.

The board of trustees is in charge of a trust fund for the benefit of the sick and needy.