

## Green Section and Supply Section of Metropolitan Golf Association

By G. W. Milnes

The beginning of the Metropolitan Golf Association Green Section dates back to June 23, 1925, when a special meeting of the Metropolitan Golf Association was called to consider and vote on a plan for the organization of a service bureau for golf clubs in the Metropolitan district. This meeting was attended by nearly 100 delegates, and after a discussion these delegates endorsed the idea of a service bureau and referred the matter to the executive committee with power to act. The purpose of the service bureau, as stated at that time, was primarily to help in the purchase of implements and materials and to distribute information and advice with regard to the maintenance of golf courses. The expense of this service was to be borne by a fee of \$100 to be paid by each particular club. Twenty-two clubs applied for membership, and a headquarters was established at 2 Rector Street, New York City.



Hardly anything can compare in interest with a meeting on a golf course, where greenkeepers and committee members may get first-hand information on turf practices and the use of equipment.  
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By the end of the year, the number of member clubs participating in the service bureau had increased to 39. From then on there was a steady growth. In December, 1928, the membership included 63 service bureau clubs out of a total in the association of 180. It was then felt advisable to discontinue the service bureau as a separate organization, and a new constitution was proposed and adopted at the annual meeting of December 11, 1928, whereby the service bureau was consolidated with the other activities of the association. At the same time the work was divided into two sections, namely, the Green Section and the Supply Section, and from that time on the Green Section has been concerned solely with the distribution of information and advice in regard to golf course maintenance, while the Supply Section has dealt only with questions relating to the purchase of implements and materials. Also, the annual dues of the association were increased so that all clubs shared the expense incurred in carrying on

the above activities. This was done because it was felt that under the old plan all were sharing indirectly in the benefits for which only a few were paying the way. At the present time the Green Section and the Supply Section stand ready to serve the entire membership of the Metropolitan Golf Association, which now consists of 192 clubs.

The activities of the Green Section, under the direction of a trained field man, include meetings, advisory service, field work, local bulletins, and supervision of demonstration turf gardens. Meetings of chairmen of green committees and greenkeepers are sponsored by the Green Section but are not held according to any definite schedule. During the past season this phase of Green Section activity has been limited to cooperation with district associations in New Jersey, Long Island, and Westchester County, at meetings held on demonstration turf gardens. It is planned to enlarge the scope of the work along these lines during the season of 1931. The advisory service and field work of the Green Section, which necessarily are the backbone of an organization of this kind, required an average of over 100 calls to clubs throughout the district during the past seasons. Mimeographed bulletins covering subjects of local interest are issued from time to time as occasion requires, although no effort is made to keep to a definite schedule. In addition, the Green Section undertakes a general supervision of the three United States Golf Association Green Section demonstration turf gardens located in this area, directing the application of fertilizers and reporting the condition of the various plots each month during the growing season.

The activities of the Supply Section, under the direction of a separate manager, include advisory service, the placing of orders for member clubs, bulletin service, and the holding of machinery demonstrations. The advisory service of the Supply Section pertains only to sources of supply and prices for various commodities in demand on golf courses. When requested, the Supply Section also acts as purchasing agent for member clubs, placing orders for the various commodities, which are then shipped and billed directly to the club. The grouping of orders for near-by clubs into car lots with resulting saving to participants is an important feature in this connection. To further this work, the Supply Section issues from time to time, though adhering to no definite schedule, a bulletin pertaining to its activities. In addition, the Supply Section sponsors, as occasion demands, machinery demonstrations at the various courses, to which greenkeepers, chairmen of green committees, and all others interested are invited.

As pointed out above, the entire membership of 192 Metropolitan Golf Association clubs may avail themselves of the services of both Green Section and Supply Section. Greenkeepers, chairmen of green committees, professionals, and all others connected with member clubs may call for assistance at any time.

The territory covered by the Metropolitan district includes an area of which the radius is 55 miles from Columbus Circle, New York City, plus all of Long Island. Outside the city limits it includes Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties, and parts of Dutchess and Orange Counties, in New York; the lower portion of Fairfield County in Connecticut; and 13 northern counties in New Jersey. As may be readily seen, there is a wide overlapping in this area, not only with the Westchester, Long Island, and New Jersey state golf associations, which work in close harmony with the Metro-

politan Golf Association, but also with the Connecticut state, New York state, Fairfield County, and Philadelphia golf associations as well. Needless to say, this overlapping does not simplify the work of the Green Section or the Supply Section in the Metropolitan District.

The officers of the Metropolitan Golf Association, who are elected at the annual meeting held in December of each year, are as follows:

For 1930.—John A. Ladds, president; Jess W. Sweetser, vice-president; Livingston Platt, treasurer; Stacey Bender, secretary. Green Section committee: Harry P. Kidd, chairman; Frederick W. Kiendl, Robert F. Arnott, Eugene L. Larkin.

For 1931.—Stacey Bender, president; Jess W. Sweetser, vice-president; Livingston Platt, treasurer; Fred Connell, secretary. Green Section committee: Robert F. Arnott, chairman; George Kiendl, St. Albans Golf Club; William Rice Hochster, Quaker Ridge Golf Club.

The office of the Green Section and the Supply Section of the Metropolitan Golf Association is at 295 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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### Greenkeepers' Association of Western Michigan

By John E. Dustin

Our association was formed early in 1929 for the purpose of meeting fellow greenkeepers and comparing results we are obtaining on our courses. We give each other the value of our experiences and discuss the condition of our putting greens and fairways, methods of fertilizing, disease control, and similar matters. By such cooperation we hope to improve our courses and to maintain them in the cheapest possible manner.

Regular meetings of the association are held the first Monday of each month. In the summer we hold meetings every two weeks on the various courses represented in the association. Each of these summer meetings is preceded by a 9-hole match and a lunch, after which informal discussions are participated in, particularly with regard to conditions on the course on which we have just played. If one of our meetings happens to be in a neighborhood where any equipment is made which is used in our line of work, we get permission to go through the factory. The factories are glad to demonstrate their equipment to us.

Our membership is now about 50. We have three classes of members: regular members consist of greenkeepers and superintendents of golf construction; associate members are assistant greenkeepers or those who have served at least two years under a competent greenkeeper; honorary members are chairmen of green committees employing greenkeepers who are regular members of the association, and are exempt from all dues or assessments. Associate members have no vote. The annual dues are \$1 for regular and associate members; in addition to this there is an initiation fee of \$5.

The officers and directors of the association are as follows: President, John Dustin, Kalamazoo Country Club; vice president, L. McQuillan, Ionia Country Club; secretary-treasurer, Andrew Peck, Battle Creek Country Club; directors, Lee Dustin, Berrien Hills Country Club; W. B. Matthews, Grand Rapids; Raymond Lampky, Jackson Country Club; M. F. Webber, Groesbeck and Red Cedar Country Club.