

John Kealty—Story of the '63 Open

John Kealty, golf course superintendent at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass., was called "the real story" of the 1963 USGA Open Championship by Clarence W. Benedict, newly installed President of the USGA. In making the report of the Championship Committee at the USGA Annual Meeting in New York City, January 25, Mr. Benedict spoke of the tricky winds at the Open, of Julius Boros' steady play, the challenge of Arnold Palmer and Jacky Cupit and the commendable attitude and conduct of Jack Nicklaus at a mass press interview immediately following his failure to make the 36-hole cut.

But all these, Mr. Benedict said, were secondary to the story of John Kealty. He described Mr. Kealty as a proud man, one who would not be satisfied with anything less than perfection in the preparation of his golf course for the Championship.

In the fall of 1962 the golf course at The County Club was in superb condition. There was every reason to expect that this condition would

exist at the time of the Championship. However, the winter of 1962-63 was devastating. When spring came there were acres of dead turf. In Mr. Benedict's words, "John Kealty's world had come crashing down around him." But Mr. Kealty did not have time for despair. He began to put the course back in condition. A period of drought followed the arrival of warm weather and this added to the difficulty of preparing the course for the Championship.

Mr. Kealty and Al Radko, USGA Green Section Agronomist, called up all their knowledge, skill and patience in attempts to grow turf quickly. By the time of the Championship, the course was in playable condition. It was not in top condition, and no one was more aware of the deficiencies than was John Kealty. Yet without the quiet devotion, fortitude, and cooperative attitude of this man, the Championship might have been played under much poorer conditions.

John Kealty truly was THE story of the Open.

COMING EVENTS

March 16

Turf and Grass Conference
South Plains College
Levelland, Texas

March 18-19

Turf Short Course
University of Maine
Orono, Maine

March 23-24

USGA Golf Course Management
and Golf Officials Conferences
Ambassador Hotel
Los Angeles, California

March 25-26

USGA Golf Course Management
and Golf Officials Conferences
Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel
Detroit, Michigan

March 27-28

USGA Golf Course Management
and Golf Officials Conferences
Bellevue-Stratford Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April 13-15

Southeastern Turfgrass Conference
Tifton, Georgia