

## Cost of Building and Seeding a Nine-Hole Course in the Fall of 1921 and the Spring of 1922

WILLIAM W. LONG, *Coatesville (Pa.) Country Club*

Dr. R. A. Oakley, vice-chairman of the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association, has written me the following letter:

August 31, 1922.

DEAR MR. LONG:

I have just had a letter from Mr. Alan Wilson, a member of our Green Committee, in which he says, "I was very favorably impressed by the article in BULLETIN number eight, written by Mr. Long on the Coatesville Club. It seems to me that this is just the sort of thing that would be helpful to clubs that have not much money to spend, and I am wondering if it would not be a good thing to ask him to write an article which would give us a little more detail of the division of the expense of building the last nine holes. If he could tell how much was spent on each green and fairway, that would, of course, be the best, but if he could not do that possibly he could tell us how much was spent on labor, how much on horses, how much on seed, how much on fertilizer, etc., and how much was given to them in the way of help."

I have written Mr. Wilson that I think his suggestion a good one and that I would pass it on to you. Could you please let me know if you think you could prepare something along the line that Mr. Wilson has indicated? We would appreciate it very much indeed if you could.

I regret that we did not keep the cost of each green and each fairway separate, but I can give the readers of the BULLETIN the total cost of constructing and seeding the nine greens and fairways, completing Coatesville's eighteen-hole course.

Since my article appeared in the August BULLETIN we have opened the second nine holes and played on them incessantly since Friday, September 2. The total length of the second nine is 3,139 yards, the longest hole, number 10, being 551 yards, and the shortest number 15, a mashie pitch, 115 yards.

The total cost of seed for both greens and fairways was \$1,168. Each green has an average of about 5,000 square feet of putting surface. We sowed about 30 pounds of German mixed bent and extra fancy re-cleaned redtop, half and half, on each green. The bent cost us \$1.40 a pound, and the redtop 25 cents a pound. The greens were built without traps, but the natural layout of the course makes it a hard one. No professional has yet covered it in 36, which is par. The greens are well set with grass, but owing to the lack of a water system they are too hard at the present time to hold a pitched shot. Early next spring we will put in a sprinkling system. Any club which does not do this at the start is taking chances. Fortunately we had an abundance of rain during the summer months, which saved our grass.

While the greens are all we could expect without a sprinkling system, the fairways could not be better for a five months' growth of grass. For the most part they are like a thick carpet, and I do not believe there is a missed spot as big as one's hand on the entire nine holes. We used 3 pounds of Kentucky bluegrass to 1 pound of extra fancy re-cleaned redtop, and sowed this mixture at a rate slightly less than 100 pounds to the acre. On good land any heavier seeding is likely to be a waste of money. While we are teeing up on these fairways now, I am confident that by next summer this sod will be thick enough to play each ball from its lie.

The best authorities on golf grasses advocate seeding in the fall. In my opinion fall seeding of greens is preferable to spring seeding only in case water is piped to the greens. One can never count with any certainty on fall rains, whereas one is always sure to have an abundance of rain throughout April in this locality. We seeded both our first and second nine holes in April and obtained an excellent growth of grass. Fairways, which must depend upon rains, I feel, should always be seeded in the spring. I would seed greens the latter part of August if I had water, and if I did not have a water system I would seed them in the spring just as soon as it could possibly be done after frost was out of the ground.

The total cost for fairways, greens, and tees for the nine-hole course, measuring 3,139 yards, follows:

Labor .....	\$2,275.95
Teams .....	799.45
Seed .....	1,168.00
Fertilizer .....	340.46
Sand .....	46.00
Total.....	\$4,629.86

Labor for the most part cost us 20 cents an hour. We paid a few men 25 cents an hour, and the labor foreman received 30 cents an hour. Labor has since been increased to 30 cents and 35 cents an hour.

With the acquisition of reasonably good farm land I believe any club could closely approximate the figures I have given providing there is some member who understands work of this kind who will without cost devote his time exclusively to the project during the course of construction. Most every newly formed club should be able to find someone who is interested enough to do this.

Mr. Wilson, in his letter, asks how much was given us in the way of help. Neighboring farmers, realizing a country club would increase the value of surrounding property, donated considerable work. As I pointed out in a previous article, the big steel mills loaned us trucks and tools and made us benches and tee boxes. While no solicitation was made for funds outside of the regular membership fee of \$100, several members voluntarily made donations, the total amounting to about \$1,000, all of which went into the treasury and is accounted for in the cost of the course as given.

## On Handling Peat and Compost

E. M. BARROWS<sup>1</sup>

All good greenkeepers build compost piles, and the bigger the pile the greater the pride of the green committee. Layer on layer of soil, manure, sand, peat and what not—easy enough to build and a monument to foresight and thrift. After a few months it is time to turn it over, and a couple of men start at one end with shovels. After a week or so, the green committee really appreciates the size of that pile, and the club's treasurer also goes down to look it over. Finally the sifting begins and the awakening comes. The workman with his screen and shovel toils and toils, and at

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