

The Greens Keeper

EDGAR A. GUEST

He's on the job at break of day and when the stars come out,
 There's always trouble on the course for him to fret about,
 He starts the gang to work at dawn and follows them around
 Then listens to committeemen whose wisdom is profound,
 They talk of "bents" and "fescues" in a way that makes him squirm
 For they acquire much knowledge in one brief official term.
 His task is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it means
 Next year there'll be another man brought on to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name, or have a smile for him,
 They only wonder why it is the course is not in trim.
 They only rave and rage and rant while hunting for a ball
 And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the rough this fall,
 And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints in a trap
 "The course is in a rotten shape!" declares each gloomy chap.
 And yet my hat is off to him, now winter intervenes,
 I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million pests to fight,
 'Tis his to see that every green is watered well at night.
 The weeds attack his finest work, the drought destroys his grass,
 The rain beats down the tender shoots, but still the players pass
 And still they play the game they love, a happy golfing clan
 Who never stop to count the odds against a single man.
 And so I wave my hand to him, who toils in sturdy jeans,
 The best old friend all golfers have—the man who keeps the greens.

Annual Report of the Chairman of the Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association for the Year 1922

MEMBERS OF THE GREEN SECTION:

At the end of the second year's work of the Green Committee the chairman is able to make a report which it is believed justifies the conclusion that the Green Section has made notable progress in the task it has essayed. The task is in reality one of huge proportions. It requires ample facilities for experimental work, as it is mainly by this means that our knowledge is increased. Thus far we have had cordial cooperation from the United States Department of Agriculture; but the Green Section itself should have the means to enlarge the investigations.

THE BULLETIN and the Service Bureau are primarily educational in scope; and all educational processes need to be continuous in order to be effective. In short, the Green Section has no temporary task, but one which will be needed as long as golf is played.

Membership

The Green Section now has the support of 557 clubs, in contrast to 387 one year ago—an increase of 170, or nearly 50 per cent. In addition, we have a list of special subscriptions to THE BULLETIN, largely of men who in some way are especially interested in the progress of golf.

Green Section Membership

U. S. Golf Association clubs	1921	1922
Other clubs	269	376
	118	181
Total clubs	387	557
Individuals	75	193

The Green Section ought to embrace every *bona fide* golf club in the United States and Canada, as its influence will be nearly in proportion to the number of readers of THE BULLETIN. Under the present plan of support it really reaches only the better clubs. It is highly desirable to devise a means of support for the Green Section so that its services can be secured by every club at a much smaller fee than is at present the case. The present plan is really a makeshift to provide the necessary means. As a contribution to the development of public golf courses, the Green Committee now sends THE BULLETIN free to the Superintendent of Parks or equivalent officer in every city that supports a public golf course. There are now 36 such cities, according to information at present available.

Financial Report

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for Year Ended December 31, 1922

Receipts

Membership Fees from 549 clubs.....	\$9,020.00
Subscriptions for THE BULLETIN other than provided for in membership fees	728.80
Reprints—Vol I	81.61
Interest on bank deposit	98.99
Miscellaneous	21.56
Total receipts	\$9,950.96

Disbursements

Twelve monthly BULLETINS, including printing and cuts.....	\$2,481.40
Binders	240.00
Washington office expenses:	
Clerical services, rent, equipment, postage, telephone, telegrams, stationery and office supplies.....	3,780.55
Traveling and sundry expenses of committee members.....	1,211.84
Subscriptions—Periodicals	21.50
Experimental material and examinations.....	298.00
Experimental implements	62.50
Expenses—meetings	321.25
Bank exchange	15.02
Total disbursements	\$8,432.06

Excess of receipts for year ended December 31, 1922..... 1,518.90

Cash Account—December 31, 1922

Cash in bank and hand, December 31, 1921.....	\$3,585.04
Excess receipt year ended December 31, 1922.....	1,518.90
Advance payments received for 1923 membership fees and subscriptions	1,191.00
	\$6,294.94
Deduct—Loan United States Golf Association, repaid.....	2,500.00
Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1922.....	\$3,794.94

The disbursements shown in the foregoing statement very closely represent the operating expenses of the Green Committee for the year. Two additional obligations incurred during the year are however not included in the cash disbursements, due to the fact that payment for the obligations was not approved prior to the close of the year; these additional obligations are the reprinting, in a single cover, Volume I of THE BULLETIN, and the printing of the index for the 1922 BULLETIN. These two obligations amount to approximately \$1,150.00.

The Bulletin

The twelve numbers of Volume II of THE BULLETIN issued in 1922 contain 348 pages not including the index; the index will be mailed out with the January, 1923, BULLETIN. The committee has been much encouraged by the many commendatory letters received, and if one may judge from this, THE BULLETIN is rendering a highly appreciated service.

The issue of Volume I became entirely exhausted some time since, and as there is still large demand for this volume it has been reprinted and is offered at \$2.25 per copy. Already a large number of orders have been received.

Beginning with the last number of Volume II, THE BULLETIN has become the official organ of the United States Golf Association. Many of the official actions of the United States Golf Association are of permanent reference value to all golfers. The rule decisions published in THE BULLETIN will have the *official endorsement* of the United States Golf Association and therefore be authoritative.

Enlargement of Work

For the fiscal year 1923 the United States Golf Association has allotted \$8,500 for enlarging the activities of the Green Section. This sum is over and above that received from membership dues in the Green Section. The additional money will be used partly to increase the amount and scope of the turf experiment work and partly to promote additional field work. At the present time there are many requests for assistance, each of which really requires a visit. Most of these requests it has been impossible to fulfill, but it is hoped that a field specialist can be secured to perform such duties. Eventually at least three such men will be needed, but it may be necessary first to train such men so that they can render proper service.

In the growing and maintenance of fine turf there is still a vast array of problems, and with the additional funds available the amount of the investigations now under way will probably be doubled. Incidentally it is hoped to stimulate more technical experimental work in the South and in the West, where the conditions are very different from those at Washington.

District Green Sections

As an outgrowth of the Green Section idea there are now local or district green sections organized in nine cities, as follows: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, St. Louis, and Kansas City. Some of these district sections are exceedingly active and helpful to the member clubs. It is apparent, of course, that such

organizations can do many things beyond the scope of the United States Golf Association Green Section, such as cooperative buying, machinery demonstrations, etc., all of which are highly desirable; besides, they can do much to raise the standard of greenkeeping by frequent meetings involving inspection of courses, discussions of methods, etc. Eventually there should be such a local green section in every large golfing center.

The relations between the United States Golf Association Green Section and the local green sections bring up some new problems which will require careful consideration. The United States Golf Association Green Section is primarily concerned in finding and disseminating information about the physical problems of golf courses, such as turf growing, soils, architecture, machinery, etc. The local sections, to be sure, also carry on this work, but in addition can be exceedingly efficient in such matters as cooperative buying, standardizing methods of greenkeeping, and other activities directly concerned with the management of the club. In short, the local green sections can well engage in many activities that it does not seem wise to include in the scope of work of the United States Golf Association Green Section.

For practical reasons it is desirable that every local or district green section be represented by a member on the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association so that their respective activities may be thoroughly discussed and the best possible cooperation secured.

Golf Architecture

That there has been a decided betterment in golf architecture during the past five years is too patent to deny. There is still room for very large improvement, however. It is not too much to say that some recent architecture deserves only censure. During the coming year there will be many articles on this subject in THE BULLETIN. Better golf courses will be secured just as soon as the golfing fraternity comes to realize what a golf course should be. Likewise this will help to cut out extravagant costs in building courses. It will be a happy day when clubs begin to brag about what they get for their money rather than how much they spend.

Acknowledgements

The Green Committee is deeply appreciative of the encouragement and assistance given by so many clubs and individuals, including business men. Contributions to THE BULLETIN from individuals are becoming more numerous continuously. This bespeaks an active and intelligent interest in the task of the Committee. Golfers are more and more realizing how much help can be rendered by team work and by pertinent discussions. All of these symptoms indicate an improved *esprit de corps* among golfers, one concerned not only in playing the game but in furthering all matters that concern the progress of golf.

The Green Section does not guarantee or certify the goods of any commercial dealers in seeds, fertilizers, machinery, or other golf course supplies. Beware of the dealer who states or implies that his goods have the endorsement of the Green Section.