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The **BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER**

No. 126
(New Series)
MAY,
1955

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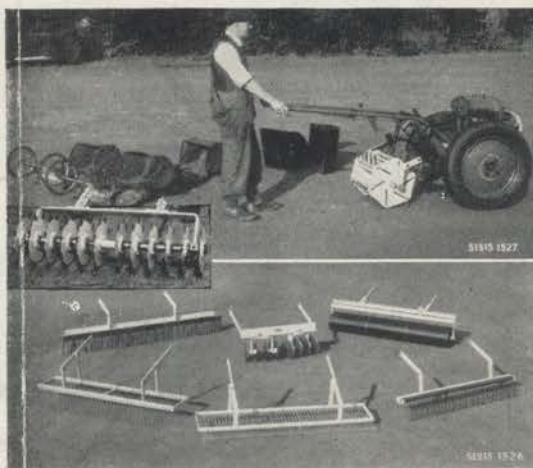
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THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

(The B.G.G.A. is affiliated to the English Golf Union, and the Welsh Golf Union)

Editor:
G. A. PHILPOT



Publishing Sub-Committee

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C. A. TYDEMAN
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Among the Sections

SOUTHERN SECTION NOTES

By W. Mason

Subscriptions.

I WOULD like to remind all members of the Section that 31st May marks the end of the Association's financial year and therefore annual subscriptions for the year 1955-56 become due on 1st June, 1955. It will greatly facilitate my work if members would forward their dues to me as soon as possible after that date. Please do the necessary and thus help not only yourself but your Hon. Treasurer.

Appointment.

Mr. A. J. Smith writes to inform me that he has taken up a new appointment as Head Greenkeeper to the Gerrards Cross Golf Club. His new home address is: North Lodge, Chalfont Park, St. Peter's, Bucks.

Change of Address.

The following members have changed their home address as follows:—

H. Cruttenden, Sheerness Golf Club, Sheppey, Kent.

K. M. Watts, 2 Mount Pleasant Rd., Saffron Walden, Essex.

S. Freeman, 15 Lawrence Drive, Cobham, Nr. Gravesend, Kent.

Mr. D. Blackmore, a member of the Section, is resigning owing to a change of occupation.

New Member.

I am very pleased to welcome the following new member to the Association, and we give him a cordial invitation to join us in our various activities:—

W. P. Hunt, Head Greenkeeper, Ashford G.C., Kent. Private address: 5 Middle Close, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent.

NORTH-EASTERN SECTION NOTES

By T. Oliver

Talk and Film Show.

WE are greatly indebted to Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd., and to Mr. F. V. Southgate, for providing us with an extremely interesting and enjoyable evening at the Crown Hotel, Newcastle, on Thursday, 24th March.

The event was held in conjunction with the North-Eastern Branch of the N.A.G., and there was a full attendance. Two films were shown, each with a running commentary by Mr. Southgate.

The first film dealt with the important subject of the care and maintenance of mowing machines of all types. Lots of good advice and hints were noted.

The second film took us on a trip around a number of famous British cities and towns, with golf courses, gardens and sports grounds, and showing various types of Ransomes' mowers actually at work "on the job". The fact that this film was in colour added greatly to its beauty and detail.

Mr. T. Auld, our Chairman, at the conclusion of the evening, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Southgate and his firm, and this was seconded and put to the meeting by Mr. Rathbone, of the Groundsmen's Association. Mr. Southgate appropriately replied, and then invited all present to join him in refreshments—a gesture greatly appreciated by the gathering.

Spring Competition.

In our next issue I hope to publish a report of our Spring Tournament which is due to be played over the course of the Ravensworth Club (by kind permission of the Committee) on Thursday, 5th May.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION NOTES

By W. T. Tyrrell

Our Section Tournament.

I HAVE been looking around for a course for our Section Tournament and I am pleased to be able to announce that the event will be played at the Saltford Golf Club (by kind permission of the Committee) on Thursday, 7th July. We are particularly indebted to Mr. Guy Tanner, the Secretary to the Club, for the help and co-operation he has given us in fixing these details. I hope to see everyone present at this event, including two members from "down South" who have been missing for the past two years.

This early announcement gives our members every chance to keep the day free of other engagements, and I should be glad to receive notification of your entries without delay, so that I can make the necessary arrangements with the Club regarding lunch and tea. I would like to see us all together for once at Saltford, so have a go, one and all.

Saltford Open Tournament.

An 18 holes Open Foursomes Medal Tournament (on handicap) for amateur and greenkeeper partnerships will take place at the Saltford Golf Club on Tuesday, 31st May, starting at 5 p.m. Five greenkeepers took part in a similar event last year, and I am hoping to see more entries on the forthcoming occasion. Get one of your members to come along with you and join in the fun. There is a good service of buses, by the way, from Bristol to the Saltford Club.

Subscriptions.

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions for the year 1955/56 become due on 1st June. Will you please deal with this matter early next month.

MIDLAND SECTION NOTES

By W. Barton

The Draw.

HERE are the details of the Draw and Starting Times for the Midland Section's Spring Tournament to be held at the Gay Hill Club on Thursday, 12th May:—

9-30 a.m. and 2 p.m.—E. Benbow, C. Fletcher and W. Barton.

9-40 a.m. and 2-10 p.m.—C. H. Smith, B. Whyley and J. C. Barton.

9-45 a.m. and 2-15 p.m.—G. Hart, P. Squires and M. Gibbs.

9-50 a.m. and 2-20 p.m.—H. Drewitt, G. A. Jones and S. Long.

9-55 a.m. and 2-25 p.m.—J. Toy, T. Judge and A. Borraston.

10-0 a.m. and 2-30 p.m.—W. Handy, E. Clarkson and A. Hastelow.

10-5 a.m. and 2-35 p.m.—T. Jones, R. Scott and M. Markham.

10-10 a.m. and 2-40 p.m.—G. W. Clarkson, A. W. Dayman and J. Blondel.

10-15 a.m. and 2-45 p.m.—R. E. Smith, E. J. Goodwin and J. Needham.

Any other members who turn up to compete will have to take their places behind the field, i.e., after 10-15 a.m.—as mentioned above. The times given above apply to greenkeepers. In the afternoon the times may have to be revised.

At the moment of writing I have not received all the entries for the afternoon from visiting amateurs and professionals, but we anticipate a good entry for both of these Sections.

How To Travel.

Competitors travelling from the City centre should make their way to Albert Street, and board a No. 50 bus which will take them as far as the Maypole. They can then get a Midland Red Bus to the Gay Hill Golf Club. Alternatively, the Club is about 10 minutes' walk from the Maypole.

Handicap Revisions.

The following members' handicaps have

been revised as indicated:—

H. J. Drewitt, from 12 to 14; A. F. Eagles, from 12 to 14; W. Handy, from 10 to 12; A. C. Jones, from 7 to 8; J. R. Toy, from 17 to 19; G. L. Woodward, from 2 to 3.

Helpers.

We are always very grateful to our friends in the Trade who give up their valuable time to come along and do all the work for us, so that we can go out and enjoy ourselves. Without these good friends some of us would not be able to participate in the golf, so I will now take this opportunity of thanking them not only for what they have done in the past but for their promise to carry on for us at Gay Hill.

Their names are: Messrs. D. Gilbert, N. Prior and G. Vaughan. There is one name missing—that of Mr. P. A. Marshall—and we are going to miss him very much. Our old friend, as you know, has left us to go down South. Good luck, Phil.; we all wish you the best of luck in your new venture, but we hope you will still put in an appearance whenever you are able so to do.

Our Visitors.

Please note, regarding our Spring Tournament, that it is up to the Head Greenkeeper to invite his Captain, Secretary, or any Club member he wishes; and to send the name of the competitor to my friend Mr. W. Mason, 150 Court Oak Road, Queens Park, Harborne, Birmingham, 17. Please do not write to Mr. Mason or myself to ask us to do the inviting—we have quite enough writing to do! Once again I ask members of the Section to note the above.

Trips.

We have not been able as yet to make any final arrangements regarding our proposed trips during the Summer, as the entry so far to hand is still too small to justify our going ahead. I shall expect to get further names at the Spring Tournament.

The Journal.

Will any member of the Section who knows of any member who is not getting his copy of the magazine please advise the latter to write to me and let me know. I will then take steps to see that any such members are included in the Editor's mailing list.

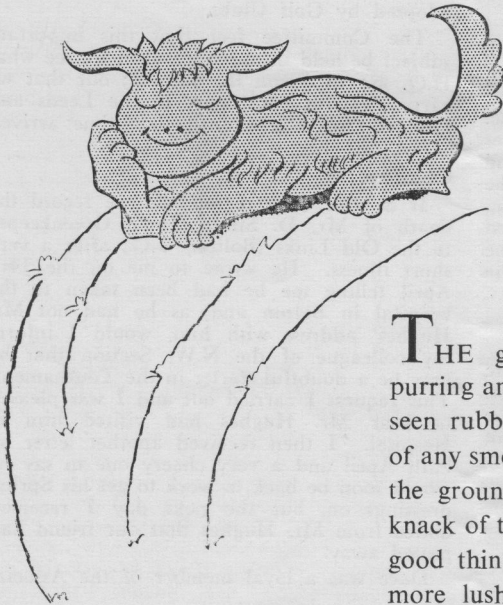
SHEFFIELD SECTION NOTES

By E. Peat

Annual General Meeting.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Section will be held on Tuesday, 17th May, at the Cannon Hotel, commencing at 7-0 p.m. I hope all members will make a note of this date and endeavour to be present so that any decisions made will be with the full authority of the Section.

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Section Sweep.

I anticipate that by now the sale of our Section Sweepstake tickets will be well under way. Let us try to make it a bumper effort and please let me have all monies and tickets returned so that the Draw may be made at the A.G.M. on 17th May.

S.U.G.C. Match.

Our annual match versus the Club Officials, arranged by the Sheffield Union of Golf Clubs, is this year to be played at the Dore and Totley Club on Tuesday, 7th June. The Union members and officials have never spared any effort to add to our pleasure and comfort on this day, and I hope there will be a good turn-out to show our appreciation. As I shall need to know the number expected for tea, etc., I hope anyone not able to come along will let me know by the date of the A.G.M. so that I can make all arrangements.

Section Tournament.

I have received confirmation of the date and venue of our Annual Section Tournament. This will be played over the course of the Hillsborough Golf Club (by kind permission of the Committee) on Wednesday, 20th July. Will all members intending to compete please note and arrange accordingly.

NORTHERN SECTION NOTES

By F. G. Smith

Meeting with Golf Clubs.

IT gave me great pleasure to call a meeting on 29th March, 1955, between Officials of Leeds and District Golf Clubs, and Officials of the B.G.G.A. (Northern Section) with the object of discussing staff problems now affecting all Golf Clubs.

As my colleague, Mr. W. Bartle, is reporting on the meeting, I will only mention that in my opinion the results are already bearing fruit and I hope the success will be carried to other districts such as Bradford and District, Huddersfield, Halifax and District, etc.

Open Discussion.

We again met as a Section in the Market Tavern, Godwin St., Bradford, on Tuesday, 5th April, and I was very pleased to see such a grand turn-out of members. Our Chairman, Mr. G. Geddes, opened the meeting for discussion on any subject, but I am afraid the evening was solely taken up with the report of the meeting with the Leeds Golf Clubs.

Every angle was tackled and many questions were asked and answered on the subject of conditions of service, wages and pension schemes. It was arranged that a meeting be called on the 19th April in the Market Tavern, Bradford, to hear speakers from several Insurance Firms explain how a Pension Scheme would affect the Greenkeeper and how it would work in the Association and Golf Clubs.

This date duly arrived and we had a good

gathering of members, the Chairman, Mr. G. Geddes, introduced each speaker and allowed each a half-hour to explain to the members present, briefly, how it would work. This was a most interesting evening and I am sure most of the old hands felt they had been born too soon, but that the younger members would benefit greatly if the scheme were adopted by Golf Clubs.

The Committee feel that this important subject be held in abeyance until we see what H.Q. are to do on the subject; but that we carry on with our report to the Leeds and District Golf Clubs until that time arrives.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. D. Smith, Head Greenkeeper to the Old Links (Bolton) G.C., after a very short illness. He wrote to me on the 14th April telling me he had been taken to the hospital in Bolton and, as he had not Mr. Hughes' address with him, would I inform my colleague of the N.W. Section that he may be a doubtful starter in the Tournament. This request I carried out and I was pleased to hear Mr. Hughes had visited him in Hospital. I then received another letter on 20th April and a very cheery one to say he would soon be back to work to get his Spring dressings on, but the next day I received notice from Mr. Hughes that our friend had passed away.

Dave was a loyal member of the Associa-

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tion, greatly respected by all who came in contact with him; and I, with many others who were privileged to know him, feel we have lost a very dear friend. His memory is a keepsake, not just for today, but every day.

We offer our sincere condolences to the relatives of our late colleague.

Annual Tournament.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again at Cobble Hall on the 10th May, which event I hope to report fully in the next issue of the Journal. I know "Tommy" will have the course in first-class order for us all.

Course at Research Station : Letter of Appreciation.

The following letter recently received by me from Mr. James M. Sharp, of the Clayton Golf Club, Bradford, will be read with interest :—

"I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you and all concerned for the most interesting and instructive way in which the Course on "Turf Management" was organised and put over at the Turf Research Institute at Bingley from 28th March to 1st April, 1955.

"I have learnt a great deal, and I enjoyed every moment, both in the Lecture Room and on the plots, where you, Mr. Smith, so ably gave the demonstrations.

"Both Laurence Sharp (of the Woodhills Golf Club) and myself would esteem it a favour if you would convey our sincere appreciation to the B.G.G.A. Northern Section for their kindness and enterprise in making it possible for us to attend this course."

Future Status.

On 29th March, 1955, a delegation of our Leeds area members, along with the Hon. Secretary, met representatives of Leeds Golf Clubs, at the Moor Allerton Golf Club.

The meeting, which had been discussed and planned by our Committee and quickly arranged by our Hon. Secretary, was readily housed by Moor Allerton Golf Club, to whom we are very grateful for the kindness.

Mr. L. Bakes, well known to many of our members, and who is Secretary at Moor Allerton, was invited to take the Chair, and he kindly accepted, making a very excellent job of it.

Our delegation was made up of Messrs. G. Geddes, T. Hullah, W. Paley, J. Mawson, L. Lowcock and our Hon. Secretary. The Golf Club officials represented the Headingley, Moortown, Moor Allerton, Scarcroft, Sand Moor and Leeds Clubs.

A most friendly atmosphere prevailed throughout the meeting, in fact it was a pleasure to hear the expressions made by the Club officials when speaking of their Greenkeepers and Assistants.

Most of the problems of the day were discussed, including Wages, Hours, Labour,

Pension Schemes and the encouragement of younger men to take up a Greenkeeping career.

The meeting was unanimous that the points discussed were of paramount importance if the present level of maintenance on our courses is to be upheld.

Finally, the meeting resolved that our delegation should obtain all possible information on Pension Schemes available so that a further meeting could be arranged in the near future when more concrete proposals could be considered, with a view to gaining all round satisfaction.

It should be noted that this meeting was with the Leeds Golf Club Officials only and further arrangements will have to be made to cover other areas but, through the medium of this Journal, members will be kept up-to-date with any and all negotiations.

W. H. BARTLE.

NOTTINGHAM SECTION NOTES

By G. Mitchell

Committee Meeting.

THE Nottingham Section held a Committee Meeting last month at the Central Tavern, Nottingham, to discuss business in connection with the Spring Tournament. Suggestions were put forward with the intention of interesting the Committees of local Clubs in the work of the Association. We want these Clubs to encourage their staffs to become members. This policy, as we wish to emphasise, is of direct value to the Clubs themselves. It is, of course, also up to existing members to get hold of greenkeepers who are non-members and point out the advantages accruing by joining the Section and the Association.

Spring Tournament.

Our Sectional Spring Tournament was held on Wednesday, 27th April, on the course of the Leicester Golf Club (by kind permission of the Committee). Among the Clubs represented were Leicestershire, Derby, Bulwell Hall, Bulwell Forest, Wollaton Park, Chilwell Manor and Radcliffe.

Owing to our previous official starter—Mr. P. A. Marshall—being now resident in the South of England, our friend Mr. Parish, of Messrs. May and Baker, Ltd., kindly undertook to act in this capacity, and we thank him for services rendered.

The competitors got away very smoothly, with no doubts at all in their minds of the dangers and pitfalls that lay ahead! None was heard reciting Tennyson's famous poem "The Brook" :—

"I come from haunts of coot and hern,
I make a sudden sally"

Nevertheless, the evidence was soon clear that the particular "brook" at the Leicestershire Club, apart from coming from its own haunts, also conjured up haunts of another

(and less happy) kind in the minds of quite a few of the competitors, for they were soon dabbling in the waters of this brook (called on occasions by quite a variety of different names)! Anyway, this brook put a lot of good sport into the game.

After a very laborious 18 holes, the competitors then prepared for an attack on a most appetising spread consisting of steak, chip potatoes and peas, etc.—and plenty of this grand fare! I am sure the Section members will agree with me that it was indeed an achievement on the part of the most able stewardess and her staff to prepare and serve so splendid a meal to the hungry mob!

Presentation of Prizes.

At the end of the day came the presentation of the prizes, after which Mr. R. Ainscow, one of our Vice-Presidents, proposed a vote of thanks to the Club and the staff for the very efficient way in which everything had been laid on for our comfort and pleasure. Mr. McNeice, Head Greenkeeper to the local Club, then spoke on behalf of the competitors. He thanked the donors of prizes and all who in any way had given up their time to lend a hand for the occasion. I should add that our very good friend Mr. A. J. E. Cook took over the duties of official "card reckoner", and also assisted in the presentation of prizes.

Prize-winners.

The following were the leading returns and prize-winners:—

- 1st.—S. T. McNeice (Leicester), 80—10=70.
—Carving Set (Mays Chemical Co., Ltd.).
- 2nd.—A. White (Nottingham City), 86—10=76.
—Tankard (Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd.).
- 3rd.—G. Mitchell (Chilwell Manor), 102—26=76.—Clock (C. H. Pugh, Ltd.).
- 4th.—F. Oliver (Nottingham City), 91—14=77.—Ronson Lighter (Pattisson's, Ltd.).
- 5th.—W. Sheppard (late Radcliffe-on-Trent), 89—12=77.—Candle Sticks (T. Green & Son, Ltd.).
- 6th.—W. Elson (Bulwell Forest), 92—13=79.
—Ash Tray (Mr. S. Brown, Leicester G.C.).
- 7th.—S. Talbot (Wollaton Park), 106—26=80.—Six Golf Balls (Mr. S. Davis, Leicestershire G.C.).
- 8th.—D. Whitehead (Wollaton Park), 131—26=105.—Three Golf Balls (The Secretary, Leicester G.C.).
- Scratch Prize.—F. Frost (Derby Municipal), 77.—Tee Mat (Universal Mat Co.).
- Highest Score.—A. Thornton (Chilwell Manor).—Book: "Practical Greenkeeping" (Messrs. Hargreaves, Ltd.).
- Putting Competition.—A. B. Shipstone (Bulwell Forest), Score of 16.—Cake Stand (Carters Tested Seeds, Ltd.).
- Vice-Presidents' Prize.—R. Ainscow (Bulwell Forest), 99—22=77.—Four Golf Balls. J. Small (Mapperly), 79—scr.=79.

HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES

Annual Tournament, 1955.

HERE is a reminder that the Annual Tournament of the Association will be held at the Dyke Golf Club, Brighton, Sussex (by kind permission of the Committee), on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8th, 9th and 10th August.

Full details of the event, together with loose leaf Entry Form, will be published in our June issue.

Intending competitors who will be requiring accommodation are advised to *make application immediately* to The Southern Accommodation Bureau, 68 Queen's Rd., Brighton, Sussex, stating their requirements *in full detail*. Please mention the B.G.G.A. when writing, in which case there will be no booking charge. Members should deal with this matter *at once*, as accommodation in August is rapidly being booked up by holiday visitors.

Annual Return.

Will all Hon. Secretaries of Sections please advise me in writing by not later than Wednesday, 15th June, details of the following:—

- (a) Total Membership of the Section as at 31st May, 1955.
- (b) Names and Club address of any members who have passed away since 1st June, 1954.

D. V. D. Moss, *Hon. Secretary.*



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May — or May Not!

by Harry Fulford

AND this, my friends, is the so called Merry Month of May. As a child I recall the maypole, not to be confused with the name of a multiple firm of provision merchants, but the thing that the kids pranced around.

We went further and cut ourselves may sticks from the Devonshire lanes, bent them into a loop and tied posies on them. We then serenaded the local gentry; warbled sweet songs such as "Three Blind Mice". Coppers were tossed to us to remove ourselves elsewhere, and at the close of a strenuous day we divided and spent our ill-gotten gains on humbugs and ginger pop.

Happy days! At least we thought so, and if those old English "revels" have died out the memory still remains. So we must make merry and forget our manifold sins and wickedness. We have lived through a ghastly winter, and if you should desire to go on living now is the time to show your appreciation of the countryside with its floral attractions, the song of the birds and the sound of a lawn-mower at work. And that, I think, is all I need say about the Merry Month of May.

* * *

Humanity is a collection of beings holding different views, for we do not all see and think alike, which is a blessing. If we possessed a government with no opposition we should be on a par with Russia—where opposition is not tolerated. We may consider our neighbour an idiot, and if, as he probably does, think the same of us, at least we continue to live in amity one with another.

I was reminded of this diversity of thought whilst in the local at Easter. The company were discussing films and I was fool enough to barge in with the statement that I had only been to a cinema twice in my life, and that a quarter of a century ago in Paris and London respectively, and I added that to the best of my belief my wife had never been.

I certainly held the attention of the house. There was a moment of silence and then a babel of voices, out of which emerged the fact that my education had been sadly neglected; that I was a freak; an object of pity! In fact, a type of individual that had survived the Victorian age and whose obituary notice was long overdue. As for the wife—what pleasure had she, especially tied to a person like myself?

I certainly disturbed the peace of that Easter Monday morning; I had shaken my old cronies to the core, and I asked myself if I was narrow in my outlook on life. I do not think so, for if they only knew it I

could teach my old friends a lot on how to enjoy life to the full.

I have lived in places they have only seen at the pictures. Why then should I gaze at a screen on which is shown make believe by made up beings of both sexes. That is not education as I conceive it.

Further I reminded them that every time they paid "two and eight" for a seat they were possibly enriching some already wealthy alien, and that our worthy landlord had lost the profit on two pints of best wallop.

I am probably a lone voice crying in the wilderness, and that a vote on the part of you, my readers, would be overwhelmingly against my views. Yet am I still unrepentant and perhaps a miserable old so-and-so.

I am not really, for I am a Merry Andrew when in company.

* * *

Envy does not enter into my make up, yet if I was ever given cause it was due to our Editor's description of his attendance at the dinner of the Licensed Victuallers' Golfing Society which he described so vividly in our last issue. I read it with mixed feelings, having just made a meal of sausage and mash! The menu of this feast was of a kind to give a dyspeptic such as I a pain in the larder, whilst the liquids that accompanied the solids must have been—with 950 diners present—of a bulk sufficient to float the Queen Mary.

I can only express the hope that when our tormentor arrived at his residence in the early hours, and eventually found his room, that his alcoholic slumber was disturbed by the vision of pink elephants and gigantic spiders, and that he came to his senses feeling like nothing on God's earth.

[Nothing of the sort!—Editor.]

Further to these kindly remarks I am prepared to wager my Old Age Pension for one week that his breakfast consisted of a hair from the dog that bit him the previous evening. However, you and I feel honoured to think that our Editor should have been invited to participate in such goodly cheer and such excellent company.

Finally, and following the Editor's example, I ask were his thoughts during the meal on yet another verse from Omar Khyyam:

Ah, fill the Cup:—what boots it to repeat
How time is slipping underneath our feet;
Unborn, tomorrow, and dead yesterday,
Why fret about them if today be sweet!

The wife has just announced that our mid-day meal consists of boiled cod followed by "spotted Dick". Bah! who wants to live at the Dorchester whilst the pleasures of our own table are available?

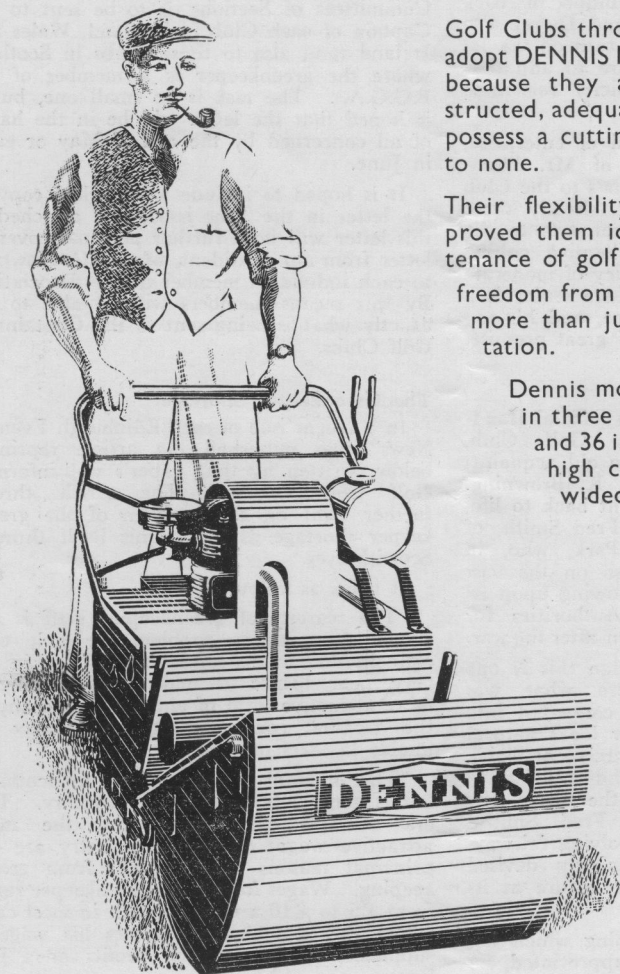
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The Editor Writes:—

Visit to Maylands.

LAST month I had the pleasure of visiting the Maylands Golf Club, at Harold Wood, Essex, at the invitation of Capt. A. Newman, an old friend of mine, who has been the Secretary to the Club since its inception several years prior to the last War.

It was a nice gesture on his part to invite me to lunch, to talk over old times, and to recall the occasion of the Club's official opening—a truly gala event which drew a huge crowd, and gave the Club a popular “send off”. Apart from a fine game between four of the leading players of the day, Joe Ezar, the dusky American (whom no doubt will be well remembered by some of my readers) gave the crowd a wonderful exhibition of trick shots, and Messrs. Clapham and Dwyer also provided a convulsively comic turn on the 1st teeing ground. Dare I venture to add that the writer handled the publicity for these events!

Today the Club is still full of enterprise, and the recent appointment of Mr. Plumbridge and his son as professional to the Club is proving a popular move. Already there has been an influx of new converts to the game, thanks to the comprehensive golfing facilities available, and the policy of moderate fees for lessons, etc. Plumbridge senior is a teacher with a wide experience, and his son is an up-and-coming player of great promise.

Whitley Bay.

I have received a copy of the Official Handbook of the Whitley Bay Golf Club, Northumberland, written by an old acquaintance of mine in Mr. R. H. K. Browning. Whitley Bay is a course brought back to life, almost by a miracle, by Mr. Fred Smith, of Messrs. Carters, of Raynes Park, who, in 1949, was called in to advise on the vast problem of reconstruction, following upon its being requisitioned by the Authorities for open-cast workings for coal soon after the war.

To the best of my knowledge this is one of the rare instances where what was originally flat land has been converted into undulating country which now looks natural but is in fact almost entirely artificial. Millions of tons of soil, clay and rock had to be shifted about to build up the whole new terrain in accordance with Fred Smith's prepared plasticine model, involving fairways on different levels and cunningly devised ridges and valleys to simulate nature at its best.

The result has been something which has to be seen to be believed and appreciated, for out of chaos has come cosmos; in other words, out of sheer desolation has emerged an undulating course of 6,500 yards full of interest and calling for great skill.

The formation of the hills and valleys was carried out by Messrs. John Laing and Sons, Ltd., working in close association with Mr.

Fred Smith as golf course architect, and, of course, with Messrs. Carters Tested Seeds, Ltd., who were responsible for making the seed-bed, and the supplying and sowing of grass seeds.

Congratulations, Messrs. Carters and Mr. Fred Smith, on an extraordinarily fine achievement.

The Problem of Problems.

The subject of the wages, conditions of service, etc., of golf greenkeepers continues to monopolise the thoughts of all of us in one way or another, and there is considerable activity going on at Headquarters and in the Sections.

As a consequence of this activity a letter, previously submitted to and approved by the Committees of Sections, is to be sent to the Captain of each Club in England, Wales and Ireland (and also to those Clubs in Scotland where the greenkeeper is a member of the B.G.G.A.). The task is no small one, but it is hoped that the letter will be in the hands of all concerned by the end of May or early in June.

It is hoped to include a loose leaf copy of the letter in the June issue, and attached to this letter will be a further personal covering letter from our President, Mr. F. G. Hawtree, to each individual member of the Association. By this means members will be able to see exactly what is being sent to the Captains of Golf Clubs.

The Greenkeeper Shortage.

In a recent issue of the “Edinburgh Evening News” was published the article reprinted below, written by that paper's well-informed Golf Correspondent. The article throws further light on the problem of the greenkeeper shortage as it presents itself through Scottish eyes.

It reads as follows:—

“The scarcity of greenkeeping staff is fast becoming a major problem for golf club councils and unless something is done in the very near future to make greenkeeping a more attractive form of employment, many of the smaller course-owning clubs may be unable to carry on.

“The problem is not confined to Scotland, but is general throughout the country. This era of full employment and the more attractive wages offered in industry are the principal reasons for the drift from greenkeeping. Wages for a head greenkeeper range from £5 to £10 a week, though in most cases where the lower scale operates his wage is supplemented by catering profits or a free house.

“There is a trend towards doubling the greenkeeper's job with some other function such as professional-greenkeeper, greenkeeper-professional, or greenkeeper-steward.

“In Scotland, there are roughly 1,000 greenkeepers, and it is reckoned that a staff

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of four is essential to maintaining an 18-hole course. Obviously, if the present drift is allowed to continue, the wealthier clubs will command the labour because they are the only clubs able to pay the higher rates being demanded by greenkeepers.

Approach To Union

"The Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association seeks a £12-£14 a week rate for a head greenkeeper, who, it is contended, has to maintain and care for some £1,000 worth of equipment as well as train and get the best out of his staff and keep the course in good order. Golfers have come to expect a high standard of greenkeeping, which increases upkeep costs and makes more work for the greenkeepers, whose job is arduous and requires a knowledge of many subjects as well as considerable manual skill. The feeling among greenkeepers is that they are kept too much in the background of club life in many cases, and that their work is not appreciated.

"The Association recently made an approach to the Scottish Golf Union with a view to obtaining its support for raising the status of greenkeepers by asking the Union to recommend to the clubs the adoption of the following proposals:—

(a) A form of superannuation; (b) a wage scale for assistants of £7 a week and for first assistants £7 10s.; and (c) a form of apprenticeship to be introduced.

"The proposals were discussed by the Union and rejected on the ground that this was a matter between the Greenkeepers' Association and the clubs. This decision, naturally, was a great disappointment and nothing further has been done, but since that time there has been much more talk of forming a union.

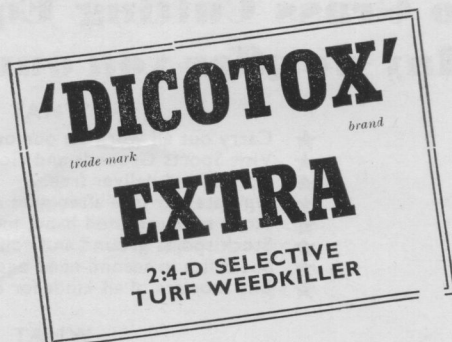
Will Be Raised Again

"Indeed, it is only a question of time before the matter is raised again, out of sheer necessity. The Association, incidentally, is not a union, but exists for the purpose of mutual self help and improvement of greenkeepers' conditions by arranging lectures, essays, and other competitions; collaboration with the Sports Turf Research Institute; to act as an employment agency; and to effect any other objects of a similar nature.

"Trouble is that only about one-fifth of the greenkeepers in Scotland are members of the Association. Notwithstanding, the clubs must realise that the future of their courses depends on a better recognition of the greenkeeping staff and take steps to improve their conditions.

"Clubs are faced with ever-increasing costs these days, and are reluctant to keep on raising subscriptions, but increased mechanisation has not solved the greenkeeping question and subscriptions have not increased in the same ratio as upkeep costs, which are three times what they were before the war."

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Nitrogen Sources for Maintenance of Turf Grasses

[We reprint the following interesting article from the columns of our esteemed contemporary: "Golf Course Reporter", of America. The author is Dr. G. M. Volk, of the Florida Experimental Station. The article originally appeared in the Florida Turf Association Bulletin.]

NITROGEN is the most critical of the fertility elements used in turf management, and its proper use is second only to water in importance. This is partly because nitrogen fertilisation produces a great response in all grasses, and partly because most other factors such as disease and wearability depend on this rate of growth and the succulence of the grass.

Nitrogen must also be given special consideration because of the wide choice of forms in which it may be supplied. This is still further complicated by the many factors which determine the changes in forms of nitrogen in the soil, with their varying rates of availability to the plant.

What Happens to Fertilisers on Turf?

There are three distinct differences between crops to which nitrogen is applied. A crop such as corn continues normal growth all season, accumulating energy materials and mineral nutrients in the plant for the production of an ear by the end of its lifetime.

A grass pasture crop is harvested regularly by grazing animals and cannot store nutrients against a period of need because the removal of the plant tops by the animals carries the nutrients away.

A turf is similar to the grass crop in one type of maintenance but differs greatly in another type of maintenance. It is similar to a grazed grass wherever clippings are removed, because this permanently removes any nutrients in the clippings. But if clippings are allowed to return as on most lawns and fairways, the nutrients are all returned and the only loss is by leaching or certain gaseous losses of nitrogen during changes in the soil.

Clippings are equal to a low grade organic fertiliser. They are not readily attacked by micro-organisms in a manner that makes their nitrogen immediately available again. On the other hand, potash is readily leached from the clippings into the soil for re-use by the grass. The phosphorus is unavailable until decomposition of the grass is quite complete. One of the benefits of proper use of soil top dressing on turf is the burying of dead plant parts and clippings so that rapid decomposition with its attendant benefits can take place.

Much of the nitrogen may be lost by leaching from the soil during seasons when the grass is dormant or grows slowly. If grass is growing rapidly, very little is lost except during periods of very heavy rainfall. Little

potash and almost no phosphorus are lost from well aerated soils of slight to moderate acidity. Losses from sandy soils can be great if the soil is strongly acid.

The return of all clippings to a turf should largely eliminate the need for potash application other than at the beginning of the growing season, and should entirely remove the need for phosphorus after a few years of regular fertilisation. In contrast, removal of clippings will reduce the native fertility of the soil and additional fertiliser supplements may be needed.

Forms of Nitrogen.

In order to discuss nitrogen fertilisation intelligently, it is necessary that certain of the fundamental differences between the various forms be understood. They are divided into (a) *water-insoluble nitrogen*, (b) *water-soluble organic nitrogen*, (c) *ammoniacal nitrogen*, and (d) *nitrate nitrogen* on the fertiliser tag. The water-insoluble nitrogen is present in the various meals, tankages, sludges and certain other waste or by-products. These materials usually contain some water-soluble nitrogen in addition to the insoluble nitrogen.

The *water-insoluble nitrogen* cannot be used by plants as such but must first be attacked by soil micro-organisms and broken down into soluble forms of nitrogen. This process may take anywhere from about two to

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twelve weeks, depending on just how resistant the material is to decomposition. Some materials such as dried blood may decompose very rapidly, while others of very low grade may never release nitrogen at a rate sufficient to be of any practical value. Certain waste products of the plastics industry are appearing on the market as insoluble nitrogen fertiliser. The availability of their nitrogen varies so greatly that these materials should not be used unless specific information on the material in question is available. Organic composts carry much of their nitrogen in insoluble form and are excellent top dressers if properly prepared.

Water-soluble organic nitrogen usually refers to urea and cyanamide nitrogen. It quickly changes over to ammoniacal nitrogen in the soil and generally may be considered as such. The insoluble nitrogen and water-soluble organic nitrogen must be converted to ammoniacal nitrogen to be usable by plants.

Ammoniacal nitrogen is the ammonia form of water-soluble nitrogen usually offered as sulphate of ammonia, anhydrous ammonia, and ammonium nitrate. The latter is one-half ammoniacal nitrogen and one-half nitrate nitrogen. Ammoniacal nitrogen is present also in ammoniated superphosphate. Ammonia nitrogen can be used by plants but the greater portion is converted to nitrate nitrogen in the soil before being taken up by plants.

Nitrate nitrogen, which usually is purchased as nitrate of soda, nitrate of potash, ammonium nitrate, or calcium nitrate, is rapidly taken up by plants. It is another form of water-soluble nitrogen.

For all practical purposes the nitrogen carrying materials listed on the fertiliser tag may be placed in three groups by putting the water-soluble organics and ammoniacals together in group I as follows:

- I. Water-insoluble nitrogen.
- II. Water-soluble nitrogen other than nitrate.
- III. Nitrate nitrogen.

The grouping is convenient for two reasons. It differentiates quite well between the rates of leaching losses from heavy rains immediately after fertilisation, and it indicates their rate of uptake by plants. Nitrate nitrogen is water-soluble but has special characteristics that make separate listing desirable.

Water-insoluble nitrogen cannot be removed from the soil either by plants or leaching rains until decomposed by soil organisms. The rate of release of nitrogen varies greatly between materials, and the relative value of the materials for a given purpose depends upon just what rate of release is desirable for the crop being fertilised. Unfortunately, materials having a relative slow rate of availability of nitrogen usually have a significant portion of it in forms very difficult to make available in the soil. The slower the release the less efficiency of total nitrogen applied. As a result, the best insoluble materials are those having an intermediate rate of release

of nitrogen. The seed meals (castor, tung, cottonseed), activated sludges (Milorganite, etc.) and certain high quality tankages constitute this group.

Ammoniacal nitrogen is held by the soil against leaching for the two to four weeks period usually required for its conversion to nitrate nitrogen. Keeping the soil acidity low, in the range pH 5.5-6.5, helps to hold ammonia against leaching loss. This limited mobility of ammoniacal nitrogen may retard penetration of surface applications and be undesirable where very rapid response is needed.

Nitrate nitrogen moves readily with the soil moisture. For this reason it is used at times when a readily available source of nitrogen is needed for quick growth and the material is to be applied to the surface, as with turf.

Soluble Fertilisers.

The use of soluble fertilisers applied in solution as sprays or drenches has quite recently come into widespread use. These materials usually consist of mixtures of ammoniacal nitrogen, nitrogen, urea, and soluble potash and phosphate salts. The fact that they are in solution when applied does not mean that they will be leached any more

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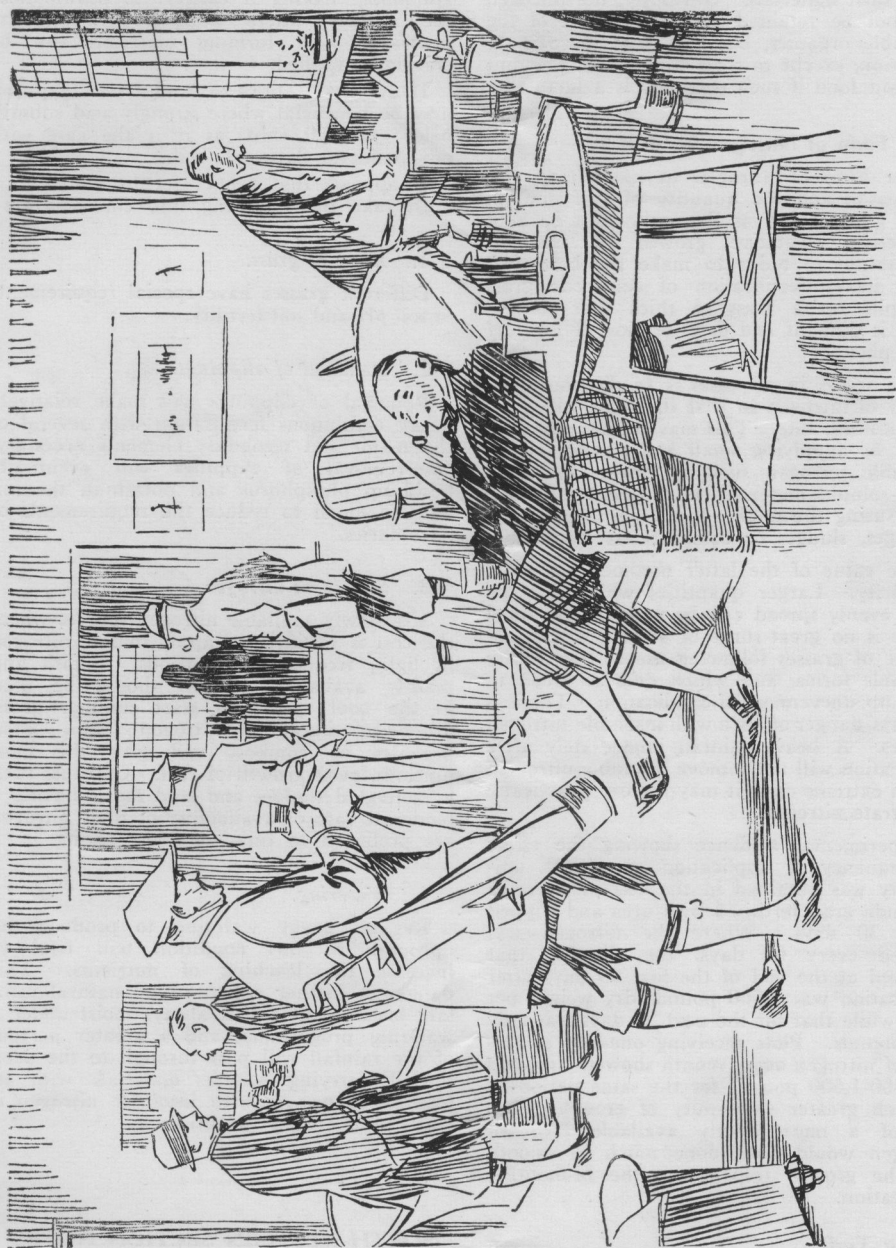
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A flash-back to a typical pre-war "19th-Hole" scene. Where are the "plus-fours" in these present days?

readily than the same materials applied in the solid forms as already discussed. These solutions may burn the turf if applied in concentrated form and not followed by light sprinkling to wash them off the grass. Adequate directions for use usually accompany such materials. Obviously, the nitrogen will not be retained as well as that of the insoluble organics, but otherwise there is no objection, except to their higher cost per unit of plant food if such economy is a factor.

What Form of Nitrogen for Turf?

The form of nitrogen to use varies with the season and the quantity of turf desired. Some grasses such as Bermuda must be kept in active vegetative growth by frequent fertilisation in order to make the best turf, while heavy fertilisation of centipede grass will pile up a grass so thick that rooting down is difficult and deterioration of the turf takes place.

The secret in all cases is to distribute the supply of nitrogen so that the grass will grow at a uniform rate. This may be accomplished either by supplying small amounts of readily available nitrogen such as nitrate or other water-soluble materials at frequent intervals, or by using the soluble forms found in meals, tankages, sludges or compost less frequently.

The value of the latter methods lies in its simplicity. Larger quantities which may be more evenly spread can be used at one time. There is no great surge of growth so characteristic of grasses following use of the readily available forms, and which does so much to show up unevenness of application. There is also less danger of burn with insoluble nitrogen sources. A heavy rainfall immediately after application will not remove insoluble nitrogen, but in extreme cases it may remove practically all nitrate nitrogen.

Experimental evidence showing the effect of frequency of application on growth uniformity was obtained in the 1953 tests on a Bermuda grass fertilised with urea and clipped every 30 days. Where the nitrogen was applied every 60 days, the clipping that followed at the end of the first 30 days after fertilisation was 2,900 pounds dry weight per acre, while that for the next 30 days was only 700 pounds. Plots receiving one-half of this rate of nitrogen every month showed clippings of 1,400-1,500 pounds for the same periods—a much greater uniformity of growth. The use of a more slowly available form of nitrogen would have done much to smooth out the growth response to the bi-monthly application.

Liming Turf.

The problem of liming undisturbed turf is a serious one, especially if a large portion of the nitrogen is of group II, the water-soluble organics and ammoniacals. There is always a certain amount of movement of ammonia nitrogen into the subsoil. There it converts to nitric acid and units with calcium

and may be leached on below the root depth. This lost calcium may be replaced by liming, but surface applied lime does not readily penetrate to the subsoil. The best safeguard is to keep the surface soil limed to the proper pH. This tends to slow the movement of ammonia, making it convert to nitrate near the surface where adequate calcium to neutralise acid forming materials can be efficiently applied.

Heavy applications of landplaster (gypsum) may be beneficial where strongly acid subsoils below pH 5.0 exist, as it is the case with our palmetto flatwoods soils.

It appears that proper fertilisation of turf must take the following into consideration:

1. *Kind of grass.*

Different grasses have special requirements of soil pH and soil fertility.

2. *Removal of clippings.*

Removal of clippings will make relatively heavy continuous fertilisation with several of the major and secondary elements necessary. Non-removal of clippings will eventually build up phosphorus and potash in the soil and do much to reduce the requirements of secondaries.

3. *Source of nitrogen.*

Use slowly available nitrogen sources where the cost is justified, or apply soluble nitrogen in light, frequent applications. Potash and readily available nitrogen should be used in the cool spring to start summer grass, otherwise insoluble nitrogen from good organics or compost will give the most uniform, even growth of turf. Organics such as activated sludges and seed meals having a moderate rate of availability of their nitrogen are preferred to those of lower rating.

4. *Watering.*

Regular heavy watering to produce the optimum in turf condition will tend to increase the leaching of nutrients. This danger is further enhanced by natural rainfall, because the soil is always moist under a watering programme, and a greater portion of the rainfall will pass through to the deep subsoil carrying soluble materials with it. Control of growth with insoluble nitrogen is easier under such conditions.

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION NOTES

By H. Hughes

Important Notice.

Members who will be going to the Research Institute, Bingley, for our visit on Wednesday, 25th May, will be notified by post as to the times and places of coach pick up, etc.

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