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# The **BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER**

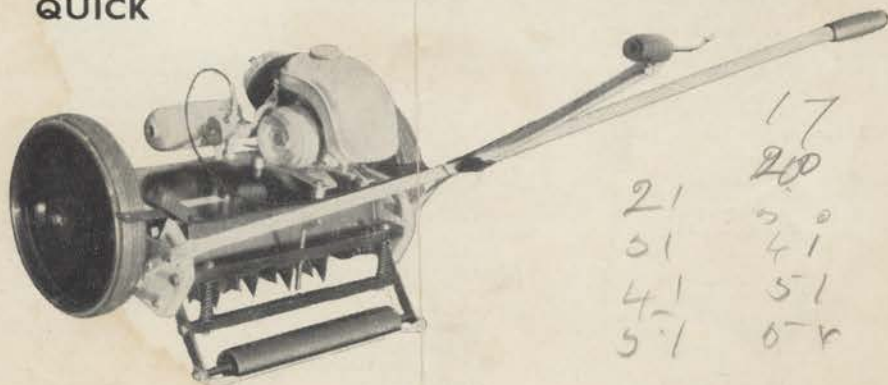
No. 150  
(New Series)  
MAY,  
1957

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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

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Members, Advertisers, and Contributors are asked to note that all communications to the Editor relating to G. A. Philpot, "British Golf Greenkeeper", should be addressed to 7 CLERKENWELL CLOSE, LONDON, E.C.1. Tel.: CLerkenwell 4169. Hon. Secretaries of Sections and other correspondents are asked particularly to make a careful note of the above.

## Among the Sections

### SOUTHERN SECTION NOTES

By W. Mason

#### January Lecture.

I AM glad to announce that a representative of Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Reading, will be coming along to give us a talk on Wednesday, 26th January, at the Stirling Castle Hotel, London Wall, commencing at 6-30 p.m., as usual. The subject will be: "Turf Problems, with special reference to Fungus Diseases". Will all members of the Section please make a careful note of the above.

I would like to comment favourably on another good attendance at our December Film Show and commentary by Mr. Hazell, of Messrs. Ransomes. Our best thanks are extended to the Firm and its three representatives, who gave us a most interesting and instructive evening.

I should add that it was very nice to have you with us once again, Mr. Editor, after your recent bout of illness.

#### Personal Thanks.

Through the medium of our magazine, may I express my sincere personal thanks to all those members of the Southern Section who, when returning the counterfoils for the Xmas Draw, expressed the Season's Greetings to me. These messages of goodwill were greatly appreciated.

#### New Member.

We give a hearty welcome to a new associate member. The details are: Mr. P. G. Whitehead, 72 Pollards Oak Crescent, Oxted, Surrey.

### NORTHERN SECTION NOTES

By F. G. Smith

#### Educational Evening.

OUR second meeting of the Winter was held in the Golden Lion Hotel, Leeds, on Tuesday, 7th December, 1954. This took the form of a "Ladies' night" and we had a grand turn out to see the films shown by our President, Mr. F. V. Southgate, of Messrs. Ransomes. We are indebted to both for a very fine evening, with a break for tea and sandwiches.

The film on cleaning, stripping, etc., of hand-machines was most interesting, as was also the film on motor mowers. The one enjoyed most by the ladies, of course, was the colour film "Keeping Britain Trim" with all its array of beautiful flowers and gardens.

Our Chairman, Mr. G. Geddes, said he was very pleased to see so many ladies present, though he knew some ladies were prevented from attending through colds, etc. He was sure all present had enjoyed the colour film very much, and he asked the company to show their appreciation to Mr. Southgate for a wonderful evening and asked him to convey to Messrs. Ransomes our sincere thanks for making it possible and for the refreshments provided. Mr. G. Kendall, Vice-Chairman, seconded the vote of thanks which ended a most instructive and enjoyable evening for all.

Our next Educational Evening of the Winter will be held in the Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford, on Tuesday, 18th January, 1955, when we will be given a Talk and Film on "Irrigation" by Major J. S. Stower, M.C., of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd.. This will be the first Lecture and Film the Section will be having entirely devoted to watering and sprinklers, and should be most interesting and instructive to all our members. I look for a bumper house as usual.

#### Instructional Course. S.T.R. Institute.

Your Committee has again decided to pay the Registration Fee for two members of the Section to attend the Spring course of instruction at the S.T.R.I., Bingley.

A vacancy occurs for one member to attend the week's course. Will any member wishing to attend please send his name to me for inclusion in the draw. Just to make it quite clear, we pay your Registration Fee of £7 7s., and we look to yourself and your Club to help with the other expenses, which I think you will agree is a very encouraging offer, so start sounding your Clubs now and let me have your names early please.

#### Transfers.

The following members have been transferred to other sections:—

Mr. D. Smith (Class A), Old Links (Bolton) Ltd. G.C. and Mr. N. W. Brankley (Class A), Wilmslow G.C., Knutsford, Cheshire, to the N.W. Section under the care of my colleague, Mr. H. Hughes. You are both assured of a welcome when you meet the boys of the N.W. Section. Mr. R. E. Smith (Class A) to the Midland Section; this will be completed later when I get his correct address. You are also assured of a welcome, Ray, Best of luck to you all in your new posts.

#### New Member.

We give a hearty welcome to Mr. Carl E. Monsson, of the Djursholm Golf Club, Djursholm, Sweden, who has joined the Section. We cannot expect him to attend our "get togethers", but we hope he will enjoy the "Journal" and being a member of the B.G.G.A. what about dropping our Editor, Mr. Philpot, a note sometime on the conditions the greenkeeper has to contend with in Sweden? I know

you can do it, "Carl", and it would be of great interest to our members.

### Congratulations.

Mr. A. Money has been appointed Head Greenkeeper to the Headingley Golf Club, Leeds.

Mr. D. Copland has been appointed Head Greenkeeper to the Keighley Golf Club.

The Best of Luck to you both, and good green-keeping in 1955.

With this movement Mr. A. Money has now changed his address to Golf Farm, King Lane, Alwoodley, Leeds.

### B.G.G.A. Xmas Draw.

I was very pleased at the fine response of Section members in the sale of tickets and prompt return of counterfoils in the H.Q. Xmas draw. The amount sold by the Section members was 509 books and 3 tickets, £63 14s. It was impossible for me to acknowledge each individual effort or to answer your kind letters, so collectively I offer my sincere thanks to you all for kind help and wishes and in the hope that the Editor, Mr. Philpot, will find room to publish each contribution as your receipt. I trust you all received the results of the Draw posted to you.

### List of Subscribers to H.Q. Xmas Sweep.

Messrs. P. J. Allnatt, 10s. 0d.; W. Bartle, £1 0s. 0d.; F. Bradbury, £1 2s. 6d.; G. Blades, 10s. 0d.; T. N. Brook, £2 0s. 0d.; J. Burton, 10s. 0d.; S. Bailes, £1 0s. 0d.; L. Bell, 10s. 0d.; J. G. O'Brien, 10s. 0d.; R. B. Boyle, 10s. 0d.; W. Buckley, 11s. 6d.; M. Barnes, 10s. 0d.; H. W. Brankley, £1 10s. 0d.; W. L. Black, 10s. 0d.; E. Calam, 10s. 0d.; D. Copland, 11s. 0d.; D. L. Cowe, 10s. 0d.; W. Crossland, 12s. 6d.; S. W. Downes, £1 10s. 0d.; H. Driver, 10s. 0d.; J. P. Downes, 10s. 0d.; J. Donnelly, 10s. 0d.; C. Dorsey, 10s. 0d.

J. Fant, 5s. 0d.; J. Fletcher, 10s. 0d.; E. Foulds, 10s. 0d.; A. Greenwood, £1 10s. 0d.; G. Geddes, £1 0s. 0d.; H. Hirst, 17s. 6d.; J. Hardisty, 7s. 6d.; W. Huggan, 10s. 0d.; T. Hullah, £1 0s. 0d.; A. L. Harper, £1 2s. 6d.; J. W. Harris, 10s. 0d.; I. Hewitt, £2 0s. 0d.; F. Kenny, 7s. 6d.; G. Kendall, £1 15s. 0d.; R. Kirk, £1 0s. 0d.; C. G. Leafield, 10s. 0d.; L. Lowcock, 10s. 0d.; W. Mountain, 10s. 0d.; J. R. McKee, 12s. 6d.; T. Mulrooney, 10s. 0d.; D. MacPhee, £1 0s. 0d.

N. Newbould, £1 0s. 0d.; E. Paley, 10s. 0d.; W. Paton, 10s. 0d.; D. Palmer, 10s. 0d.; W. Pease, £1 0s. 0d.; W. Paley, 10s. 0d.; T. Robertson, 10s. 0d.; D. Roberts, 10s. 0d.; A. Robertshaw, 10s. 0d.; F. V. Southgate, 10s. 0d.; S. Stoney, £1 0s. 0d.; G. L. Sharp, £1 0s. 0d.; D. Scott, 10s. 0d.; F. G. Smith, sen., £2 10s. 0d.; F. G. Smith, jun., 10s. 0d.; S. Smith, 10s. 0d.; J. Sharp, 10s. 0d.; J. Scott, 10s. 0d.; D. Stevenson, 10s. 0d.; F. Storey, 10s. 0d.; D. Smith, 10s. 0d.; J. G. Temple, 10s. 0d.; H. Tomlinson, 12s. 6d.; F. Walker, £1 0s. 0d.; J. Workman, 12s. 6d.; H. Wilkinson, 10s. 0d.; T. Wagstaff, £1 0s. 0d.; R. Whiteley, 10s. 0d.; H. T. Yates, 10s. 0d.; E. Pilsforth, 2s. 6d.; A. I'Anson, 10s. 0d.; T. F. I'Anson, 10s. 0d.; T. Iveson, 10s. 0d.; H. Jolly, 10s. 0d.; J. S. Jolly, 10s. 0d.; A. Money, £1 0s. 0d.;

E. Munns, £1 0s. 0d.; G. W. Mason, 15s. 6d.; C. Moore, £1 0s. 0d.; J. Mawson, 10s. 0d.; J. Garbutt, 10s. 0d.; E. Falkingham, 10s. 0d.; Committee, 10s. 0d.; Ironmonger, 10s. 0d.; F. King, 10s. 0d.; F. Taylor, 10s. 0d.; J. Oldham, 6s. 0d. Total, £63 1s. 4d.

### Section Sweep: Grand National.

Your Committee has again decided to run the Section Sweep, so I look for your kind help in the disposal of the tickets, this will be in aid of the Section Benevolent and Educational Funds. I am hoping we can create a record this year and I expect to have the books posted to you in January.

### Greetings.

As these notes will appear in the dawn of a New Year, it gives me pleasure to wish all members of the Association, members of the trade, and to our Editor, Mr. Philpot and his Staff (including Mr. H. Fulford) all the very best for 1955.

The Old Year lies behind us,  
And another has begun;  
May it prove for all of you  
A very happy one.

### WELSH SECTION NOTES

By S. A. Tucker

### New Year Wishes

WELL, members of the Section, by the time you read these few notes the Festive Season will be but a pleasant memory. I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday, and I take this opportunity of wishing all officers and members of the Association a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I would like to think that we are going to have a much better Summer in 1955 than the shocking affair of 1954. It will be far more satisfying to greenkeepers to see all the members of our Clubs enjoying themselves in the sunshine; and it will make the greenkeeper and his staff happy to think that their labours are not in vain.

### Christmas Draw.

I would like to thank all members of the Section for the manner in which they responded as regards selling the tickets which were sent to them, and also for the prompt manner in which the counterfoils, etc., were returned to me, thus enabling me to get my stuff off to Headquarters in good time. This co-operation was greatly appreciated by the writer.

### NOTTINGHAM SECTION NOTES

By G. Mitchell

I HOPE that the members of our Section had a very satisfying time of it during the Festive Season, and have now settled down once again to the more serious task of preparing the greens for another seasonable thrashing by the members of the golfing fraternity.

I extend to all members my very best wishes for a Happy New Year—and all that goes with it.

I also wish to thank all concerned with the Draw for their co-operation, and I hope that everything will be satisfactory at the final reckoning.

### **Congratulations.**

I would like to congratulate our old friend, Mr. Walter Roberts, who has taken over the reins at the Radcliff-on-Trent course in the place of Mr. Teskey. I extend to him the best wishes of this Section, and hope he will be rewarded in full for his efforts in his new post.

### **February Lecture.**

I have confirmation of the details of a Lecture to be given to our Section on Wednesday, 23rd February, by Mr. B. C. Clayton, M.A., of the Research Institute. His subject will be: "Practical Aspects of Greenkeeping". This title sounds most intriguing, and I sincerely hope that every member will be present to support our distinguished visitor from Bingley. Let us have a really bumper attendance on this notable occasion.

### **SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION NOTES**

By W. T. Tyrrell

#### **Good Wishes.**

I AM very sorry to say that owing to circumstances beyond my control, the letter containing my notes for last month's issue, failed to reach the Editor, and therefore no greetings of goodwill to and from my Section were published in our magazine. I much regret this inadvertent omission, but may I make the best amends possible by wishing all members of the Section and the Association a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May good health and good luck attend us all—not forgetting the Annual Tournament of the Association!

I regret I have nothing much else to report just now about this part of the world, but we hope to liven things up in the near future.

### **MIDLAND SECTION NOTES**

By W. Barton

#### **New Year Wishes.**

AS you read these notes we find ourselves at the beginning of 1955, and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

How many of you have made new resolutions? Please make one special one for yourself—to support your Section, and to attend some of the Lectures and other functions your Committee work so hard to organise for you.

In a recent issue I asked members of the Midland Section to write and let me know if they would like to attend the Christmas Party. Below you will find a brief report of this event—and may I add that every member of the Committee attended.

One visit to such a jolly show would ensure your never missing another. Now let us see if we can get together a bit more often than just at our golf tournaments.

I cannot do more than appeal to you fellows through the columns of the magazine.

### **Counting the Cost.**

One matter I must indeed stress—and I do constantly bear it in mind—is the expense. I know we could all do with a bit more money; and if by any chance there are any members of golf clubs who read my notes, will they please try to do something to help their outdoor staffs by giving them a little financial aid towards the cost of the fare, etc. This is not much to ask, and if a collection were made among the members I am sure they would support the idea and I am certain the staff would appreciate it.

### **What We Stand For.**

I should like to visit each Club within our Section and explain just exactly what the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association stands for, and what good work it does in making and keeping the outdoor staffs of these Clubs happy at their work.

I would like Committees of Golf Clubs, as well as members, to know that our Association has helped its members greatly to improve their knowledge of their responsible and complex job of course upkeep—and thereby to improve the general condition of the respective courses; thus making the game far more enjoyable.

I honestly think it is time that all Golf Clubs should take a little more interest in the Association, if only to the extent of seeing that the members of their respective staffs have the means to attend the Lectures. Furthermore, one wishes that Club members would also come along to these Lectures so that they could see and hear what is going on in the matter of sound, solid commonsense.

If there are any members of the Section who would like me to write their Secretary in respect of any points mentioned above, will they please drop me a postcard and I will gladly do my best for them. I thank certain members who have already been in touch with me, and I hope that what I have written on their behalf will help them. In any case I hope these members will keep in touch with me.

### **Reminders.**

I should be glad to hear from members with reference to the "trips" which are being arranged for you, i.e., to Messrs. Ferguson's, Messrs. Acto, and The Research Station at Bingley. What I would like is a card, as soon as you can let me have it, indicating which of the above-mentioned you wish to attend. You can also invite your Chairman, Secretary, or any member who is interested. We shall be only too pleased for them to join us, but I must know your intentions in good time, so that further details and arrangements can be settled.

### **This Year's Tournaments.**

I am pleased to announce that we have the courses fixed for the Section Spring and Autumn Tournaments. They are Gay Hill and Little Aston, respectively, and I am sure we can look forward to good entries for each of these popular events. Further announcements respecting these and other events will be published in the near future.

### That Tankard!

Last, but by no means least, is another reminder! At a recent Committee meeting, my friend, Mr. Mason, was looking a little sad, and when requested to explain the cause, he replied that he would never be able to play golf good enough to win a tankard—and there was a spare hook at the local where he happens to abide! He said he just wondered. Thereupon the Committee knelt in silence. Then, faintly, we heard the murmur of a voice. It emanated from our good friend, Mr. G. Hart, and he answered in a very sweet tone. You see he had got on the table, and he said he would give Wally a tankard. Upon hearing those kind words the Committee thanked Mr. Hart and called upon him to fill all the glasses!

After we had drunk a toast to his health, he slumped into silence, so if he reads this I hope he will not forget his promise!!

### The Xmas Party.

The Christmas Party was a great success, and everyone who came along thoroughly enjoyed himself. The entertainers were very good too. One of them was playing about with electricity. He displayed a machine which cracked and flashed like lightning. He held a neon lamp in one hand, and what looked like a silver ball in the other, then he brought the other end of the lamp in contact with the part of the machine which was flashing, and so lit the neon lamp.

He then placed a bulb in his mouth, and after placing his hands on the machine, lit the bulb. He also produced sparks from his mouth and hands, altogether a rather remarkable sight.

I should very much like to thank Mr. Hill, the President of the Local Branch of the Groundsmen's Association, on behalf of all the greenkeepers and their wives, for a splendid night's entertainment. I know our people enjoyed every minute of it. I was very sorry our old and trusted friend, Mr. Neil Prior, was unable to attend the party. If he reads this (and I am sure he will) I should like him to know we were thinking about him.

### "Christmas" Dinner.

Now comes a reminder about our "Christmas" Dinner, to be held on Monday, 21st February. Full details appeared in my notes of last month. Please apply early for tickets (price 12s. 6d. each) and remember that as the number that can be seated is limited, it will be a case of first come, first served!

### Change of Address.

One of our members has changed his address as follows:—Mr. G. Cole, to 10a, The Beordens, Callow End, Worcester, Worcs.

### Future Programme.

The following is a list of meetings for the early months of the New Year arranged by the local Branch of the N.A.G., and to which all members of the Midland Section of the B.G.G.A. are cordially invited:—

7th Jan.—Lecture (at the Crown Hotel): "Plant Pathology in Relation to Turf Cultivation." By Mr. H. G. Ward, Director of International Toxin Products, Ltd.

19th Jan.—Debate and Film Strips: "General Matters of Interest," "Film Strip: Turf."

24th Jan.—Film Show (at the Midland Institute): "The Earth Worm." "Photosynthesis." "Roots." "World Gardens."

2nd Feb.—Film Show (at the Midland Institute): "Problems of Sports Ground Management." "Soils." "Gardens." (Plant Protection Ltd., Films).

16th Feb.—Debate and Film Strips (at the Crown Hotel): "General Problems." "The Football Field."

4th March.—Lecture (at the Crown Hotel): "Construction of Bowling Greens and Cricket Squares." By a member of the Staff of Messrs. Sutton & Sons, Ltd.

16th March—Sports Forum at the Chamber of Commerce: "Discussion with, and the views of, some of the Sporting Personalities of the Midlands."

25th March—Lecture (at the Crown Hotel): "Random Reflections—a General Talk on Groundsmen's Problems." By Mr. F. J. Reed (Messrs. Ryder's Ltd.).

## NORTH-WESTERN SECTION NOTES

By H. Hughes

### New Year Wishes.

Here we are in 1955—and a Very Happy New Year to you all. I am sure all greenkeepers in this part of the country are glad to see the back of the year 1954, if only for the abnormal and continuous rain. What a long spell we had! Perhaps 1955 will be a scorcher, with shortage of water and (who knows) other species of greenkeeping troubles!

I must not omit to thank our long-suffering Editor, who sorts out all these notes, corrects the spelling and deciphers the writing and scribble. Good luck to you, Mr. Editor; I am deeply grateful! [*You do yourself an injustice, Mr. Hon. Secretary, but thanks for your kindly good wishes. I can do with them* —EDITOR]

### Spring Tournament.

It is the wish of our President, Mr. E. Brassington, that we play our Spring Tournament at the Crompton and Royton Golf Club. We thank our President for his generous offer; and many of us will remember the wonderful reception we had on our last visit to his Club. We hope to play the Tournament on Tuesday, 26th April, so please book this date and make sure we have a bumper entry.

### Trip to Bingley.

We are also hoping to arrange a trip to Bingley Research Station on Wednesday, 25th May. We shall make the journey by coach, calling probably at Stockport, Manchester Central, Manchester Victoria and Rochdale.

All members wishing to make this trip are asked to notify Mr. B. Ellis, at 1 Windsor Grove, Romiley, Stockport, as soon as possible, so that a suitable coach or coaches may be booked with the least delay, bearing in mind that we shall soon be approaching the busy time for advance booking of coach parties. Therefore will you kindly make up your mind quickly about this

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to the late King George VI

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## **The Whitley Bay Golf Course**

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### ***"Treatment of Golf Courses and Sports Grounds"***

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trip and drop a card to Mr. Ellis. The cost of travel has not yet been arranged, but I can at least confirm that the more who go the cheaper will be the individual charge.

**January Lecture.**

Each member of the Section will be notified by post of a Lecture to be given at Southport sometime during the present month by one of the qualified staff of Messrs. W. Hargreaves & Co. Ltd., of Cheadle. The room we usually take is now fully booked for dances, so I have to find another location.

The Lecture will take place on a Saturday afternoon. The date, place and time will be sent to you.

**New Members.**

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of the Section and the Association:—

Mr. J. Daniels, Greenkeeper's Workshop, Hindley Hall Golf Club, Hindley, Lancs.

Mr. G. L. Davies, 24 Bracken Lane, Nr. Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire. (Prenton G.C.).

Mr. T. Thorpe, Golf House, Stoneheads, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire. (Whaley Bridge G.C.).

Mr. H. Smith, 18 High Street, Bolton, Lancs. (Bolton G.C.).

Mr. W. Williams, 170 Swinton Hall Road, Swinton, Manchester. (Swinton Park G.C.).

The following three members have notified their change of address:—

Mr. T. Brennan, to The Bungalow, Doe Park, Speke Road, Woolton, Liverpool.

Mr. S. Smith, to Ashton Golf Club, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancs.

Mr. G. Maudsley (from Northern Ireland Section) to, 48 Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.

We have also two transfers from the Northern Section, as follows:—

Mr. D. Smith, to Old Links G.C., Bolton, and Mr. W. Brankley, to the Wilmslow G.C. Welcome to our Section.

**SONG OF THE SECRETARY BIRD**

We trust you will always replace the pin—  
If you don't, we've a pond we shall drown  
you in.

Don't play till the men on green have gone—  
If you do, we've an oak we shall hang you on.

Replace all your divots, or kindly note  
We shall ask our head carver to cut your  
throat.

*Reginald Arkell.*

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# The Curtain Rises

By Harry Fulford

HAVING, I hope, fully recovered from over indulgence at the Xmas now gone for ever; and also, if you are a Scot, seen the dawn of yet another New Year in your traditional manner—which is keeping your spirits up by putting them down—nothing remains but to wish you all a Happy and, above all else, a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

The decks are once again cleared for action, for whatever lies before us. Our friend the Editor has recovered from a severe bout of 'flu, and is again taking nourishment. During the early days of last month I thought I was out for the count on two occasions, and am not as yet in the clear. An anxious time for the wife, but she has again a song in her heart which, if I am not mistaken goes something like this:—"Praise the Minister of Pensions, who has eased the housewife's tensions. Every little helps a lot—and so on."

In the next breath she says that coal has gone up fourpence a sack! There was ever a fly in her ointment, and that perfect peace that passeth all understanding seems as remote as the retirement of our much beloved and much abused Prime Minister, the one and only Winnie, yet what matters if he does or does not. Things will go on just the same and we shall rejoice or grieve as circumstances warrant. You have already broken all the resolutions you might have made for the New Year and are in step with myself who, knowing my own weakness, never make any.

I imagine that few greenkeepers will regret the departure of 1954, nor will any other person who prefers reasonable weather conditions as opposed to what we received. I am surprised we are still minus webbed feet and feathers. Last month was the limit. Those courses where the subsoil is sand and gravel must be the envy of greenkeepers whose courses consist of clay, and who are expected to make silk purses out of sows' ears. The district in which I grow old, I trust, gracefully, includes courses such as Berkshire, Wentworth, Sunningdale, Camberley Heath and the North Hants course at Fleet—all of them heather-clad with sandy subsoil. Last month they were playable throughout, but a different tale has to be recorded for those in the Thames Valley, Datchet, for instance, disappeared completely under the flood waters. The clay courses around London must have been quagmires. Again I stress my conviction that winter golf is an apology for the real thing. It is chiefly a form of exercise for elderly gentlemen who, without their daily round, would soon cease to exist.

There is something pathetic but praise-worthy in their devotion to the game. I see them wet or fine bringing out their trolleys around 9 a.m. and teeing-up clad in waterproof garments. The great majority at the North Hants Club are retired "Brass Hats" and one-time administrators of our far-flung Empire. The giving up of India placed them on the shelf and brought them home to England to

form little communities in districts where golf and bridge are obtainable. They are bound to miss their tropical climate, but no doubt their language keeps them warm. Stout fellows!

\* \* \*

As the culprit who set the question for our recent competition "Are you in favour of smaller greens?", I realise that the vote is rather against them, but I do congratulate myself on raising a topic that brought nearly a hundred replies and proved such a success. It all goes to prove—if indeed proof is necessary—that the greenkeeper has his calling at heart. The man who has not is holding down his job under false pretences. The President in his Xmas Message hit the nail squarely on the head when he wrote: "Greenkeepers are themselves doing all they can to improve their knowledge of up-to-date methods and cheap, efficient techniques". Quite so, and the success that attends their efforts helps to popularise the game.

Those thoughts of mine sound like: "You scratch my back and I'll do the same to yours". Are we members of a sort of Mutual Admiration Society? or, "Here's to us, none like us?" Hardly so, but I see no reason why we should not take pride in our work, though my own personal vanity does not arise from my green-keeping knowledge, but rather that I am permitted to write in this Journal. For this my gratitude goes out to the Editor, that long-suffering arbiter of contributions sent in by those who aspire to fame by means of the pen. For his help and tolerance during the many years in which we have been associated, my grateful thanks; and, be it noted, you green-keeping cynics, that the above is not written in the hope of favours to come. I would scorn such toadyism, so there.

In this present year of grace I hope to make further researches for the benefit of greenkeepers; to retain and enhance my reputation as an expert on all matters appertaining to golf, and generally create the illusion that I am a knowledgeable sort of cuss! Please allow me to indulge in this pretty belief. All my life I have cherished the idea that my geese are swans, even if at times they are hardly geese. Happy is he who has never experienced setbacks, and yet it is from these that we benefit from experience.

I feel that I am getting out of my depth, so perhaps it is better that I should finish my January effort!

---

Education is learning a lot about how little you know.

\* \* \*

Golf is what letter-carrying, ditch-digging and carpet-beating would be if those three tasks were to be performed on the same afternoon.

## Our Essay Competition

By The Editor

**B**ELOW we publish a further excellent selection of essays received in connection with our recent competition on the subject: "Are You in Favour of Smaller Golf Greens?"

Everyone may not agree as to which is the more desirable—large or small greens—but we are sure everyone will agree that the essay competition was a great success, and the views expressed were of considerable practical value.

There is overwhelming proof that greenkeepers make a close study of the many problems which they come up against in their daily task of trying to work to a pared-down Club budget and with an undersized staff. That they manage to do so is a tribute to their good planning and loyalty.

Mr. A. Dean, Waterfall Golf Course, Brighton, Sussex, writes:—

To this question there is, in my opinion, only one answer and that is, yes. Smaller greens are beneficial to everyone connected with Golf. From the Club's side of the question, it can mean a saving of many pounds a year on their Balance Sheet, as smaller greens do not require the amount of fertilizers, weed-killers, worm-killers and every other commodity that is necessary for getting golf greens to the standard required.

Then from the playing side. Smaller greens call for greater accuracy as if the hole is such a one that would, say, require a wood for the second shot, then how much more difficult the shot will be to finish on the green. Yes, the golfer has to be far more accurate when making his approach than is the case if the greens are large. One does not have such long putts on the smaller greens as on the larger ones, but the smaller green tends to improve one's play, and yet make golf more difficult and accurate.

Now I should mention what I consider to be the most vital reason for smaller greens. First, owing to many Clubs not being able to afford a large staff, smaller greens are the answer, as it takes less time to mow, dress, rake, and do the hundred and one other jobs which have to be done to keep the standard required. Therefore it goes to prove that with smaller greens you save money by having more time for other jobs and do not require as many men to maintain the course. So it is obvious that with smaller greens everyone benefits; the Club by saving on the cost of upkeep; the golfer by having to be more accurate with his shots; and the greenkeeper as he knows that with a small staff he can achieve far more with the time, money, and staff allowed to him if he has only to use half the material required which, as I have said, means he can devote more time to improving the course to his own and the Club's satisfaction.

Mr. D. G. W. Neville, Gog-Magog G.C., Cambridge, writes:—

My opinion is that larger greens must be the answer. For better maintenance, and in spite of labour shortages these days, I maintain a

larger putting area is still the answer to better sward and golf. That should be the ultimate aim of every greenkeeper. The green is the area that golfers must continually use, and hole-cutting systematically and intelligently carried out in various positions will afford great protection from excessive wear, while in winter the advantages are much greater.

The larger area gives more chances of keeping the course in play over the frost period. I refer to frost greens. A large green means a large approach that can well be used for a frost green. This is a big consideration for keeping members content to play their course—and continue more play at the 19th.

The big putting areas of courses naturally take more to maintain in cost of treatments, *i.e.*, spraying, worm-control, top-dressing and fertilisation, but if the head greenkeeper has a free hand, he will budget his expenditure to a low figure, over a long-term policy—which is the only way that a Club can operate successfully at the present time.

It must be granted that operations of all modern machinery favour the bigger area, and the "Overgreen" with its many attachments can bring about a true putting green. Variation of mowing, with turning and angles changed every week can only be successfully carried out on the big area that permits this. All this is very important to good turf culture. To maintain good turf means watering, for surely the one head-ache of all greenkeepers is drought. With small staffs in these days it is no longer easy to water by night. The big green allows watering whilst play is in progress. Sprinklers and hose set in a position away from the pin will enable some good watering to be done. You will get some interference but it is slight, enabling a really important operation to be carried through.

In the constructional field the big green may be a big target, but target greens of this type encourage the golfer to attack the pin, and surely this must foster a better standard of golf.

These are my views, and I should mention that I maintain big greens in my present position, and I have also, prior to this job, maintained small greens.

Mr. S. C. Stainton, Royal Wimbledon G.C., London, S.W.9, writes:—

This question first of all allows the imagination to wander from the green of 1,000 square yards to the pocket handkerchief size and then calls for some reasonable size to be considered.

The first consideration of a greenkeeper is maintenance, and this will be to some extent controlled by the size of his staff. The question of finance will also play a part when considering cost of fertilisers, worm-killers, weed-killers, fungicides, etc. This factor will to some extent determine the size of green you can afford.

I am not in favour of greens being smaller than 30 yards by 20 yards, my reason for this being that its maintenance is reasonable and, in my opinion, is the minimum size for an "Overgreen" mower to be used without detrimental results.

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Another aspect which must be considered is from the playing point of view. Today we have members who play for exercise and pleasure, and who constitute a fair number of the membership. There are also the golfers who play competitive golf. I consider the average size green is suitable for both types.

Considering the smaller green, it would have to be fairly flat, because undulations of any size would reduce the space available for changing holes to fair putting areas.

The smaller green may attract the interest of some, with the idea of more accuracy being required in finding the green. It would not, in my opinion, have favour with the majority of players—who find enough difficulty in playing, through the green, without having to pinpoint at the end.

Golf, as I see it, is made up of players and golfers, the players with medium to high handicaps constitute the majority of any Club, therefore providing the greater part of the subscriptions. These being the life blood of the Club, nothing must be done to deter these players from their pleasure and chance of finding the green.

Mr. J. Marshall, Ryl, Lytham and St. Anne's G.C., writes:—

May I express my views and ideas as regards "Smaller Golf Greens"?

Greenkeepers would all welcome smaller greens, but we have no choice in the matter, as most golfers favour large greens, if for nothing else than to boast about their size and also for their long putts (*e.g.*, 30 yards) which are sometimes sunk.

I would like to see smaller greens on all courses, but, with smaller greens, I would like to see a larger area at the perimeter of the green cut to the height of cut for tees, and giving special attention to the "apron" of the green.

I would like to see the "green-cut" merge into the perimeter, because there is nothing more annoying to the golfer than to find his golf-ball lodged against a fringe of grass. This fringe, as I call it, would be there owing to the area around the green being wide enough to mow with "Gang Units" when mowing the fairway.

If we had smaller greens we would have to make the perimeter, and also the surrounds, attractive to the golfer. The surrounds would have to be kept topped with the "Gang Units"; all this would be necessary if we were to have smaller greens.

The maintenance of small greens would be reduced both in cost and labour (if they were of a size between 400 and 500 square yards) considerably. Mowing greens of this size could be accomplished easily with the "Overgreen Mower", whereas with large greens a green-keeper has had a good day's work mowing eighteen, especially when the growth is heavy, which means that the three grass boxes have to be emptied three times in the case of each green.

The cost of chemicals would be reduced, and also top-dressing of compost, or other materials used for putting green upkeep. There would also be less pitch ball marks to be lifted, because these are usually found on the front

sections of greens, or on either side, rarely in the centre—where golfers think the hole should always be cut.

Yes, I am all for smaller greens, which would be easier to maintain, but, as already stated, with smaller greens you must make the area around the green as attractive as possible, or back again will come the large greens where putts of 25 to 30 yards are quite common.

Mr. J. J. Dearlove, 172 Seaton Lane, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham, writes:—

Opening the front page of the B.G.G. and seeing the above question immediately set me thinking; "what an easy one to answer." But the more I thought about it the more difficult the question proved to be. I finally reached an emphatic *NO* as my decision, through the following channels:—

My first thoughts were: "Aren't all green-keepers in favour of smaller greens?" After all, there would be less mowing, piercing and scarifying, etc., to do. Look at the time we would save. I could use the extra time on that big bunker at the 10th or the path leading from the 4th tee, or get on with many other such jobs that would improve the appearance of the course.

Think of the money the Club would save on fertilizers and the like. We could use a bit of the extra cash to purchase some much wanted worm-killer for the tees.

Then it occurred to me: "What would the people who matter think about it? The members." I think we can safely divide golfers into two categories, "tigers" and "rabbits", and deal with them in that order.

The "tigers" would, I think, be in favour of the smaller green. They would certainly welcome the accuracy that the smaller green calls for. They are always looking for a difficult test of golf and *will* insist on playing from the back tee anyway, knowing too well that I'm trying to preserve them for a coming competition. "No!", the smaller green would be no handicap to them, they are too accurate with pitching. I'm sure they never notice the size of the green.

But what about the "rabbits," and I'm going to include our Ladies' Section here, even though some of them may be offended?

Most Clubs are not blessed with a championship lay-out, nor are they necessarily situated in a thickly populated area, which means they must rely on the "hardy annuals", the golfers we can always find on the course most week-ends and whose faces are ever so familiar to the steward and stewardess. Everything must be done to satisfy these people, so that they will leave the course feeling very happy with their game and will probably bring a friend on some occasion.

What is the attraction of golf? Is it the cracking tee-shot down the middle? That must have something to do with it. Or is it the iron shot that finds the green no matter how adventurous the previous shot may have been. Yes, I think that contributes largely to the thrills of the game, apart from the putts that disappear from 30 feet or so, and the ones that

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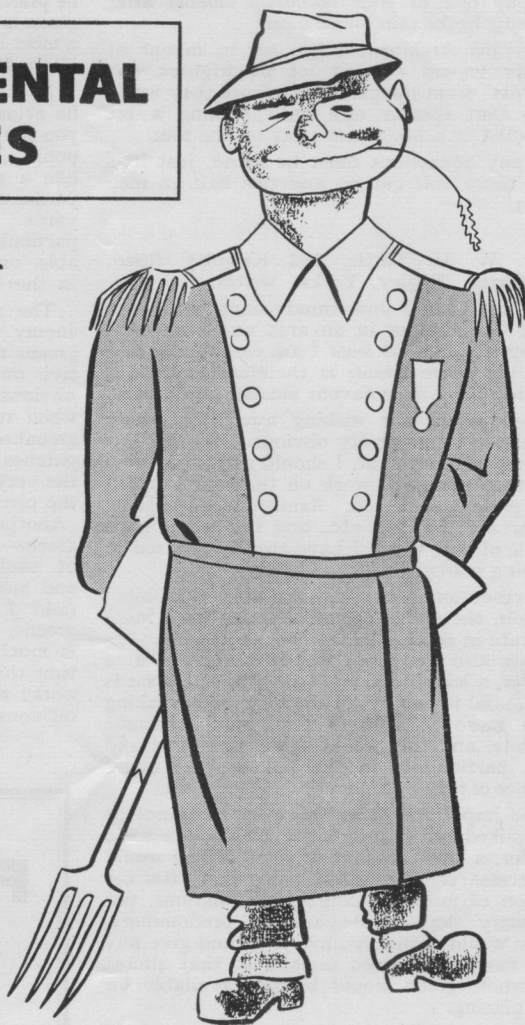
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just fail. Isn't hitting the green like reaching the pay box of your favourite cinema after queueing in the rain for an hour?

No! Mr. Architect, I am *not* in favour of smaller greens. Don't let us frighten our "rabbits" from the game. I'm sure they won't mind that bunker and path looking a bit neglected or a few worm-casts on the tees.

If any alterations must be made, just let's have those hole cutters and tins half an inch bigger!

Mr. W. H. Bartle, 152 Keighley Road, Crossflatts, Bingley, Yorks., writes:—

As one who is unfortunate enough to be a Head Greenkeeper in an area and era where money is scarce (at least I am continually told so) and, where labour is therefore limited, it follows that I must favour smaller golf greens.

The reasons for wishing away the larger greens are to me pretty obvious. If I had less putting surface to cut, I should gain some time for other necessary work on the course which is at present neglected. Again, there would be less area to fertilise, etc., and this would save a little of that which I have already referred to as being scarce.

Furthermore, in my humble "rabbits" opinion, the golfers would become much more accurate in the use of the shot to the pin.

I am also convinced that if my greens were smaller, a large number of the artificial hazards now found necessary for the purpose of making them more difficult to find, would become obsolete, and this would again save time and cash, particularly in the upkeep and maintenance of many bunkers.

One important point, however, must not be overlooked and that is, if my greens were to be smaller, a large amount of re-modelling would be necessary. The reason being, that after the fashion of most old courses, undulations, unnecessary slopes and bankings predominate. These would naturally have to go and give way to a more level green surface, so that almost the whole green would become available for hole placing.

Some grumbling would probably come from the golfers in the event of having to face a smaller green, but, after all, with the modern "weapons" carried in the average bag today, the journey from tee to green is made easy enough, and I personally argue that a smaller green makes the finish to the hole no more difficult.

Anyway, to come back to earth with a bump; knowing my members and how hard it is to kill tradition, I'm afraid all this, in my case, is just wishful thinking!

W. E. Drewitt, Burnham-on-Sea G.C., Somerset, writes:—

There are a number of reasons why I am in favour of smaller greens. To begin with, in these post-war days there are a great many Golf Clubs in a gloomy financial position, and are most of the time struggling to keep their heads above water. Now it is my contention that as a Head Greenkeeper one must budget like a thrifty housewife, particularly where the

putting greens are concerned, which should be priority on any golf course. Having a smaller green is going to keep maintenance costs down, a most important factor, which in these days is essential to Golf Clubs staying alive.

Another reason. Should a number of greens be attacked by Fusarium Patch disease, then you are going to save your Club a great many pounds, especially if the difference is something like a green covering an area of 900 square yards compared with a green of 600 square yards. Your budget is then indeed an item, particularly if one uses the best fungicide available on the market, which always is better in the long run than anything cheap.

The same principle applies if our mutual enemy the leatherjacket happens to find the greens most delectable. The cost of a preventive on smaller greens such as D.D.T., is obviously going to be less. Furthermore, when ready to top-dress putting greens, the greenkeeper is going to be mentioned in dispatches to his respective Greens Committee by the very fact that he is again saving money by the obvious use of less fertilisers.

Another reason why I am in favour of smaller greens—and this is really basic. In these days of skeleton staffs, and with the aerating and mowing of greens, in particular the latter (and I am especially referring to my own greens, where I use Pegasus motor mowers) it is much quicker to cut smaller greens. The time thus saved on this can be utilised for other work; and not forgetting that the petrol and oil consumption is considerably reduced, and

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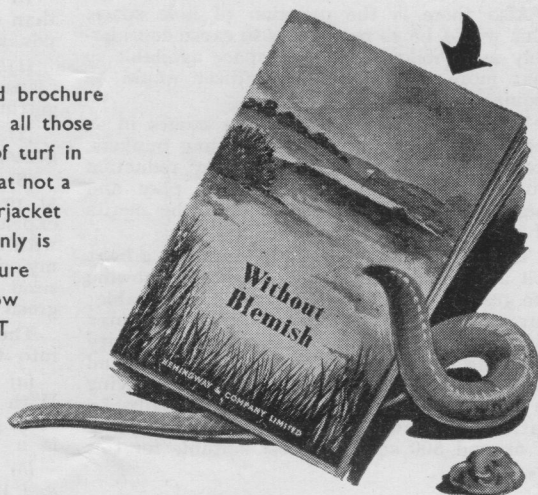
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generally speaking a longer life is ensured for the machinery. I suppose that now I have expressed my views, one must think of the golfer, the type who likes the appearance of a large green. After he is as digested what I have written he might still prefer his course with large greens. I can emphasise to him that he has nothing to worry about in playing on smaller greens. He surely must have confidence, with his set of ultra-modern golf clubs, of finding the greens no matter what size they are. If he does still favour a large green, and he happens to take three or four putts, then he'll have a flaming temper. Then, look out; he is looking for the best excuse; and he's sure to blame it on the greenkeeper!

D. Kirkpatrick, Dulwich & Sydenham G.C., London S.E., writes:—

At first sight most Greenkeepers would say: "by all means let us have smaller greens, as this would mean less work, and most staffs are not too big these days". But when things are studied and the difference in expenses realised, we find there is not so much advantage after all. Assuming the greens are normal, say, around 500 sq. yds., to reduce them to 400 or even 350 sq. yds., would save very little as regards fertilizers, etc.

Our greens cost approximately £1 per 100 square yards per year for fertilizers, worm-killers, etc., so the saving would not be more than 30/- per year.

Regarding mowing, if an Overgreen is in use the saving would be five minutes per green, but if in reducing the size of the green the corners were made more pronounced, it would mean quicker turning which would result in uneven mowing, as these machines are not at their best on quick turns.

The biggest saving would be if hand machines were used, but how many clubs can afford to cut this way these days?

Also there is the question of hole space. This would be so reduced as to cause considerably more wear in the hole space available so that more attention and fertilizer would be required in this area.

Then the question of contour comes in as most greens are contoured regarding bunkers, etc., to "take" the green, and any reduction would probably be noticeable in play and might have considerable effect on the merits of the hole.

To sum up I think if the course is on a light soil and hand machines are used for mowing the greens then a smaller green is practicable; but on a clay soil and where a lot of winter play makes frequent hole changing a necessity anything under 400 sq. yds. is too small, and most golfers would not be too pleased at having to run-up shots which would normally be puttable. Therefore I contend that a green of around 500 sq. yds. most suitable for this area.

S. C. Dennis, Upminster G.C., Essex writes:—

Am I in favour of smaller greens? Most decidedly, yes. In the days of the depression (the early 30's) when golf ball's became gold to most golfers (and to some have remained so ever since) we had to cut out the ball's every

hideout—and still do. Now the game has been made much easier. Stand on the teeing-grounds of most courses, take a swipe with closed eyes, open them, you see your ball in the distance. Long rough to trap a bad shot has gone for ever; the game has been made four shots per round easier to all.

Now, here is my first reason for smaller greens. To compensate the "Colonel" for his generosity through the green, the game should be made harder by greens not larger than 500 sq. yds.—even down to 400 on long holes.

They should have much more length than breadth and be heavily bunkered to make the golfer play the right shot or suffer the penalty. Far too many bad shots work out better than the well-played one. Again, these greens should be as flat or near as possible to allow 90 p.c. putting space.

Reason No. 2.—All greens should be egg-shaped, to enable the greenkeeper to cut them without having to go over and over the same ground with this so-called modern machine, the "Overgreen".

Reason No. 3 is the watering of greens. I have asked the opinion of a number of greenkeepers on this subject and nine out of ten have agreed it to be their hardest job. Again, smaller but longer greens would go far to making our job much more tolerable. Take cutting; far too much time and money are wasted on these large and ill-shaped greens.

J. Ellis, Stand G.C., Whitefield, Manchester, writes:—

The subject of the Essay: "Are you in favour of Smaller Greens?" is rather misleading, because greens which are regarded as small in some parts of the country may be called large in other parts.

So I will give my idea of size of greens, and reasons why.

In my opinion greens should be no smaller than 400 sq. yds. and no larger than 500 sq. yds. and should be reasonably level.

(1).—Greens of this size allow plenty of places for moving pin-holes, without the green getting badly worn.

(2).—Wherever the hole-tin is placed on the green, there are no "bus ride" putts.

(3).—"Cost of Upkeep"—Most Golf Clubs are at present having to keep a tight hold on expenditure (at any rate, that is the position with most clubs in the North of England), and my opinion is that it is better to have a medium-sized green in good condition than a large green in poor condition.

The cost of upkeep of greens can be divided into three parts.

(a) *Cutting of Greens.*

With small staffs it is better to have medium-sized greens, as the time taken to mow greens is a very important factor.

(b) *Fertilizers, Weed-eradication, Aeration and Worming.*

With limited money at their disposal, Fertilizers, etc., are one of the things most Committees cut down first; and the difference between buying fertilizers, weed- and worm-killers, for medium, as against large, greens, can result in quite a considerable saving of money in twelve



months. Then there is time saved in aeration, and composting. Where compost has to be screened by the staff, it is possible to fork and compost 3 medium greens to 2 and in the case of very large greens 1, and this saving of time, especially in the North, where staffs are normally 3 or 4 men (including Greenkeeper), is very important, as it allows the staff more time to keep the rest of the course in better condition.

(c) *Watering of Greens.*

This is a queer season to be talking of watering greens when I believe the majority of Greenkeepers are becoming web-footed, but in normal seasons, when watering has to be done, and all water used, paid for (charged per 1,000 gallons, through meters), the money saved by having medium against large greens can again be considerable, besides time saved in labour.

Below is my summary in favour of Greens of 400 to 500 sq. yds.

- (1).—Reasonable cost to keep in good condition.
- (2).—Time saved in all operations.
- (3).—Plenty of room to change pin holes without undue wear on greens.

**The Editor writes:—**

**Good Wishes.**

**M**AY I sincerely thank the many members of our Association who sent me their good wishes for the Festive Season. The same applies to members of the Trade. It is a

great thing to have friends; to remember them and to be remembered by them.

I am also glad to say that I have practically recovered from my recent indisposition. Touch wood!

**Christmas Draw.**

I learn from our Hon. Secretary that the Headquarters Draw proved very popular, and in due course the financial account details will be published in the magazine. Printed details of the draw, I understand, have been distributed to the Section Honorary Secretaries.

**Southern Section Lecture.**

I managed to get along to part of the Talk and Film Show given by Mr. P. Hazell (and with the assistance of two of his colleagues of Messrs. Ransomes) to the Southern Section members at the Stirling Castle Hotel, London Wall, on 15th December. There was a full attendance, which I personally did not quite expect—having regard to the close approach to Christmas—but which was indeed a most pleasant surprise.

Three films were shown, each with a running commentary by Mr. Hazell. The first dealt with the care and maintenance of lawn and motor mowers, and although I personally did not see it, I understand that it was extremely practical, and chock full of good advice.

The second film—in colour—was a sheer delight. We were taken on a trip round Britain. We visited many famous cities and public buildings, and gardens, sports grounds and golf courses, and were made to realise how

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important and attractive are well-cut grass swards in their various settings. We saw different types of Ransomes' machines at work under the guidance of experts—men who not only know their jobs, but seem to know every blade of grass, so to speak, in the area, and type of sward under their control.

The third film (taken, we were told, by Mr. Doug. Gilbert) showed the remarkable resourcefulness and versatility of a Head Greenkeeper attached to a club in the Rugby district. This greenkeeper is armless, and yet he contrives—subject to a slight modification of the handle—to set up, start, and manipulate a motor mower just about as well as any human being possessed of two normal arms. This was indeed a tribute to a man who, in some miraculous way, has overcome a physical handicap that would completely defeat most of us.

At the conclusion of the show came a short session of questions, following which Mr. Fred Chambers, the Section President, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. Ransomes and their representatives for organising such a fascinating as well as practical evening. Mr. Fordham, Chairman of the Section, seconded, and the Editor, after adding his own appreciative remarks, put the vote to the meeting which, needless to say, was received with sustained applause.

Mr. Hazell modestly acknowledged the vote of thanks on behalf of his firm, himself, Mr. Cammell and his other colleague who operated the film unit, and then invited all present to join him in partaking of pre-Christmas liquid refreshment.

### "Random Ramblings"

I have received a number of letters from readers commenting on that portion of my article in last month's issue in which I referred to the problem of getting young blood into the ranks of the greenkeepers, due to the general economic position of Golf Clubs and (there can be no other phrase for it) the lack of appreciation by so many Clubs of the greenkeeper and his staff.

"What be done about it?", writes one man. "Every word you have said is true", writes another. "Please carry on with this important subject", says a third. And so on. I hope to have something more to say in a subsequent issue, but in the meantime I think it would be a first-class resolution for the New Year if we, in 1955, kept in the forefront of each of our minds this problem, and have a go at solving it. The lack of outdoor staff on golf courses is already a very serious matter indeed, and unless a remedy can be found pretty soon, heaven alone knows what will be the outcome. After all, Head Greenkeepers have a tremendous responsibility to carry on their shoulders; and, try how they may, it is physically impossible for them, without adequate and reasonable labour, to cope with an 18-holes golf course and maintain it in the condition they would like to, and could do, given a fair chance.

### Blue Book of Gardening

We have received for review, and for our files, a copy of that ever-welcome annual publication,

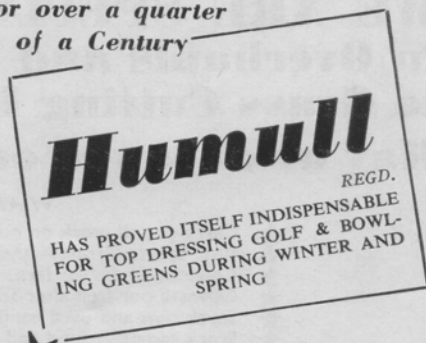
issued by Messrs. Carters Tested Seeds, Ltd., the 1955 "Blue Book of Gardening". You, too, may have a copy free on request to Messrs. Carters, at Raynes Park, London, S.W.20.

As usual, the Blue Book abounds in information for all those interested in gardens and gardening, and the four full coloured plates are an added attraction.

Flower and vegetable seeds in an extremely wide variety are detailed with many tasteful illustrations and cultural hints. Bulbs for Spring planting are also listed; and the Sweet Pea Section makes one long for high Summer. Plate No. 1 on page 34 provides a beautiful illustration of the 1955 novelty sweet pea, "Mollie Dunnett", bred on the Carter system for constitution, length of stem and quality of flower. Just as we are about to go to Press we learn that the coveted "Henry Eckford" Medal has been awarded to Messrs. Carters sweet pea grower and raiser, Mr. J. Ness, by the National Sweet Pea Society, for his success in hybridising and raising many varieties of sweet pea, including the one mentioned above, also the beautiful white variety "Swan Lake", and "Carlotta", to mention but a few.

The portion of the Blue Book which will have a special appeal to our members is that devoted to the making and upkeep of lawns, etc.; and there is a section listing a great variety of insecticides, weedkillers, and other chemicals and implements essential to the growth of healthy grass.

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