

## "Goblin" replies to S. C. Dennis of Upminster

To The Editor,

Dear Sir,

S. C. Dennis of Upminster writes in your December issue, complaining that I made a most unwarranted attack on his profession. I am sorry he got that impression; my articles were meant in no such spirit at all.

I have always felt very strongly that the Head Greenkeeper and his men are the most important people on a golf course. In fact I would far rather see a Head Greenkeeper in the position he often had before the war, of some authority over the behaviour of members on the greens, than the position he rather implies many have been reduced to today. I entirely agree with him that the art of greenkeeping is something that should be really well rewarded; and that no course should be understaffed. This is surely a matter of the members being prepared to value their greenkeepers at what a really qualified greenkeeper is worth. It takes years to get to know your greens and to acquire the art of good greenkeeping, which you can certainly only do by experience.

So much else of what he says is again entirely in accordance with what I was saying. The pre-war way *was* to feed greens little and often; and this is still done on at least three of the courses I know where the greens are still good. In general it is not the experienced and enthusiastic greenkeeper who is behind the trouble; it is much more likely to be the general tendency in treatment and advice sometimes thrust upon him rather against his instincts.

He is right too, of course, about the careless and disrespectful treatment of courses by many of the members of the clubs which play on them (see my piece about trolleys).

I can tell him that I wrote not only from the impression of the courses in my own county, which I have known for twenty years or more, but also of many of the courses upon which major amateur and professional tournaments have been played this year.

As far as I am concerned—the very best respects to him and his men.

Yours sincerely,

"Goblin".

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