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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.

No. 207 New Series
JUNE 1962

If at first you do succeed, don’t take any more chances.
K. Hubbard.

JUNE

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Fertile thoughts on Budgets

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Peaks of Wigan

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The Hillside course was in superlative order for the Piccadilly No. 1 Tournament last month. The weather on the first three days was all wind and rain but Ted Macavoy had left nothing to the last minute and the players were full of praise for his efforts. "The best greens . . .". "The best fairways . . .", were almost commonplace remarks.

The new practice ground sown last September was already in action. The seeds mixture was pure fescue and bent on a mixture of river sludge, sewage sludge, and the natural sand to proportions which seem to give the moisture holding and fertility levels needed without destroying seaside character.

The first of the six new holes which will bring the championship length up to just under 7,100 yards is now nearly completed and with recent clubhouse extensions and improvements, this club has taken its rightful place among memorable seaside links.

* * *

On another part of the coast, we were pleased to see J. Warrender again at Burnham and Berrow. He moved there from Woodcote Park about eighteen months ago and has lost no time in adapting himself to the very different conditions.

The long stretch of dune country gives an arrangement of nine holes out and nine holes back which is time-consuming in maintenance operations. However, we timed the complete operation of hole-changing at 2 hours, 6 minutes. Two younger members of his team shot round the course in a jeep but still took extreme care over the vital stages of the job. Mr. Warrender is due to go into hospital for a leg operation but is seeing the course into perfect order for the Summer season before he takes the necessary break.

* * *

A new course near Cannes is in the planning stage. The greens at Mougins nearby were bright yellow at the beginning of May just before this course closed for the Summer. The new site has an abundance of water and will be able to keep open throughout the year. Another new layout at the other end of the French Riviera is also in a mountain valley where water can be stored and will have the same charm of pine clad hills surrounding it without the climbing which more elevated sites demand. A good spot for the Annual Tournament when the Common Market leads the B.G.G.A. to become the E.G.G.A.
THE first three major events of the season shared something directly in common: play on a great seaside links of first-class calibre. They were the match between Oxford and Cambridge at Hunstanton, the Halford Hewitt Tournament at Deal and Royal St. George’s, and the Martini £6,000 Professional Tournament at St. Andrews.

At Hunstanton, the horrible (if now almost forgotten) winter was still with us: the snow and sleet showers flew over the links on the back of a strong north easterly and the little African playing for Oxford turned slowly blue beneath his normal duskiness until someone saved his life with an old army greatcoat to put on over his four pullovers. It nearly came down to his ankles, which he said made it all the better.

The greens staff there had not had a chance to bring the course into any particular condition: the dressings they had put down over the greens two months before were still lying in black smudges and streaks on the surface, the spring rains not having come at all. On the whole, though, the greens putted well; and indeed at Hunstanton the local sand seems particularly favourable to fine turf. It sets easily into a smooth surface, and even when brown and bare, lets a ball roll true.

Nothing Jumpy

The same can nearly always be said for Deal and St. George’s; in fact in many respects they have some of the finest greens in the world. I don’t think I once saw a putt do anything jumpy or odd; and time and time again the eye and the player were alike rewarded by the sight of a long one coasting in perfect evenness of flow across the green to draw almost imperceptibly to a stop by the hole. Ten footers, hit straight, rolled straight and sharply in.

John Stobbs

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Three by the Sea

There is no doubt though, particularly at St. George’s, that something interesting is happening to the fairways with the years. They seem to be less dry and sandy, and are more and more developing the softer characteristics common on inland territory.

One distinguished, if somewhat rigidly traditional, ex-champion golf-writer bemoans the fact that St. George’s, in particular, is turning into what he calls a “cow-pasture”.

But this is a matter of opinion; and perhaps the effect of years of mowing and the occasional treatment is bound to have a richening effect in the end. To almost any inland player, certainly the Sandwich fairways are still near Paradise.

Occasional Boggle

At St. Andrews, too, a number of professionals in the Martini saw some doubtfulness in the greens. With all respect to the City’s municipal greens staff, and to the dry cold spring followed by sudden rain just before the tournament, which made the grass suddenly reach for the heavens in its joy, they did seem to be less true than sometimes in the past. There was a tendency for putts, if only here and there, to boggle at the sight of the hole: usually a sign either of softness or over-thickness of grass surface, both of which show their effect most strongly as the ball slows down.

For the amount of wear it gets, of course, the Old Course still remains something of a natural miracle: but there were one or two mutterings in dark corners from old gentlemen about the effects of modern mowing machinery.

In architecture, these four courses—with much superficially in common in their territory—differ most interestingly
in what they make of it. Hunstanton has perhaps the most spectacular ridge of dunes, running as high as a house from one end of the course to the other about 200 yards inland from the sandy shore and parallel to it. The holes out hug the landward side, with a small stream and the lushness of genuine accredited cow-pasture on their right: then climb about on the shoulders of the range towards and around the turn, before shooting straight out to the shore at the 10th.

There, the disturbance on the adjacent bathing beach has led to sand blowing across the shore on to the green, which was still covered with a new layer, settling within the grass, as the match was played.

The same trouble has long since wiped out the old second hole at Littlehamp-ton, and is probably a problem in many links around the coasts. Saunton, in Devon, fights a perpetual battle with battalions of marram grass planted to stabilise the vast dune country which lies between the holidaymakers' sands and the course.

Subtle difference

Deal and St. George's, separated from the shore by a huge shingle beach and ridge, have none of this to cope with (though they do get seepage of seawater at times, particularly at Deal). The nature of both is subtly different from Hunstanton. Hunstanton continues with a string of holes tacking to and fro across the flatter part of the central dune-ridge, and ends with two climbing in succession to plateau greens set on the seaward shoulder of it. Deal and St. George's, on the other hand, though blessed with some fair heights of dune, direct their holes around and in between them.

St. George's has one frightening plateau green, the 10th, with a steep drop directly all around its back edge, and huge bunkers set in the forward slopes of its sides; and Deal has one short-hole tee, the 6th, perched high on the top of a sand-hill, where players in April often find themselves needing timber to reach a green only some 150 yards away by the shore.

But in general both courses use the undulations of the between-dune country to leaven the fairways, and minor ridges and rolls to give interest to the greens.

Splendid Simplicity

There are some great holes on both. At St. George's the pattern of the testing longish holes is often a drive transversely across a minor crest of dune, with pot bunkers set nastily in its face, then a second shot along beside the range to a green protected only by bunkers. At Deal, the tendency is much more for the fairways to tack across country to greens sited either flat and open, or most testingly in hollows between the undulations. There is one splendid simple short hole, though, the 14th (between a brassie and a 4-iron) which depends on a green rising in a slight plateau, with a drop and heavy bunkers on either side, and a rough sandy track at the back.

* * *

This is the hole where Lionel Munn, asked to hit a shot for a photographer, once borrowed a spoon and a ball and, with his jacket and hat on, holed his demonstration shot: possibly the only extant photograph of a man actually hitting an ace.

At Deal, on the 1st, as at St. Andrews, a small cross-water hazard guards the approach to the green. It is notorious at Deal how many times matches going down the 19th end by one side or the other dropping their second short into the water, just as they do at St. Andrews into the Swilcan Burn.

Looked at in cold logic, there is no reason at all why a small water cross-hazard in front of the green should in any way affect the shot. But nearly all bad shots arise from doubt sown in the player's mind; and, at sowing doubt, water before the green is one of the most potent craftsmen imaginable.

I've run on so long now that only a paragraph remains for the tactics and strategy of the Old Course, and the trouble the Martini competitors, like all others, had with it. To speak of it so lightly would be sacrilege. So I won't. Another time, if I may. . . .
WIRRAL
WEED
KILLING

Two years ago, I had to find an answer to a weedkilling problem far greater than I had previously met—eighteen greens and 120 acres of fairway

BENEFIT FROM IRRIGATION

Report of Rothamsted Experimental Station, where Wright Rain equipment is used, outlines irrigation experiments.

IRRIGATION in the drier years in Britain is of great value particularly in South Eastern England, according to the annual report of the Rothamsted Experimental Station. The report points out that in what was accepted as a wet year both early potatoes and grass benefited greatly from irrigation. Low rainfall from March to June, 1960, at a time when grass was vulnerable to lack of moisture, showed that irrigation was beneficial.

Yield Doubled

Experiments from irrigating rye grass at Woburn last year showed greatly increased yields over non-irrigated plots. Putting on a total of 3 inches in late April, May and June almost doubled the yield from 9.6 cwt. per acre to 19.8 cwt. per acre. During this period cuts of grass were taken between the second week of May to the third week of June. This represented an increase in dry matter over non-irrigated plots from 1 ton 7 cwt. to 2 tons 5 cwt. per acre.

With early potatoes 11.97 tons per acre were recorded, an increase of 2.24 tons over non-irrigated potatoes.

Commenting on the calculation of irrigation need, the report says that in general the original specification was substantial, but it was hardly to be expected that all crops had the same water requirements. The underestimation of the need for grass and potatoes was about right for beans but was above the need for sugar beet and cereals.

and rough growing every kind of weed in the book.

The ordinary rosette weeds were no trouble, but the greens were badly infested with clover, yarrow, pearlwort, parsley piert and a weed that was known locally as sea-side chickweed. Previously this chickweed had only been checked by lawn sand and always came again in the Spring.

I tried all the usual selective weedkillers, M.C.P.A., 2-4 D and 2,4,5, T. Several applications at intervals would no doubt have succeeded against the clover and pearlwort but not the chickweed and parsley piert.

Weedkiller used by Farmers.

I decided therefore to try the comparatively new G.M.P.P. and bought a gallon of “Blitzcleve”, a weedkiller used by farmers for surface weeds.

Using a Drake and Fletcher knapsack sprayer fitted with three “O” jets, I mixed 14 fluid ounces of “Blitzcleve” with three gallons of water and used this quantity to a green of about 650 square yards. At an ordinary walking pace this rate of application covers the area without any difficulty and usually leaves sufficient for one width around the perimeter.

Within a week the chickweed, pearlwort and parsley piert were turning yellow, another week they were turning brown and within a month they had faded away and no scar to find any indication of where the weeds had been.

The clover and yarrow gradually went and no trace of anything was seen again that year. The chickweed duly appeared again in the Spring and again the same treatment brought the same result. No clover or yarrow appeared at all and now the sward is completely clean.
So with the “Blitzcleve” costing 37/9d. per gallon, it costs approximately 5/-d. per green and £4 10s. 0d. for the whole eighteen. The whole treatment costs so little and the result so good, that the application could be applied annually as a preventive rather than a corrective treatment.

No scorching was visible at any time and during the trials with the C.M.P.P., I applied on the same turf 16 and 18 fluid ounces and I am certain that if the basic principles of weedkilling are carried out namely—a good leaf area, don’t mow before 48 hours after application and choose ideal weather conditions for spraying, I don’t think any difficulty will be encountered.

I am certain that G.M.P.P. in the form of “Blitzcleve” is the solution to one of the biggest problems we greenkeepers have ever had. The surface weeds have always been difficult to eliminate, but I certainly have found the answer.

**RECORD BREAKER AT SIXTEEN**

Sixteen year old Tommy Patterson, playing in the Victory Cup at Morpeth, Northumberland, set a new record for the course with a 67. The previous records were:—Amateur, 70; Professional, 68.

When only fifteen he was Club Champion of both Morpeth and Newbiggin Golf Clubs, surely another record. Now playing off scratch, he played his third game for Northumberland on the 19th May against Yorkshire at Foxton Hall, Alnmouth, and won 4—3.

J. G. Irving, Head Greenkeeper,
Newbiggin-by-Sea Golf Club,
Northumberland.
News

from the Sections

NORTH-EAST

By T. Oliver

Chairman:
J. Simpson
(Ponteland G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
Heathery Cottage,
Heathery Lane, Gosforth,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne 3.

AT A MEETING HELD AT THE Marquis of Blandford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, it was proposed by T. Nutman and seconded by D. A. Earsman, that we rejoin the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association as the North East Section. All present were in favour and a Committee was elected as follows:—Chairman, J. Simpson, Ponteland Golf Club; Vice-Chairman, D. A. Earsman, Arcott Hall Golf Club; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, T. Oliver; Committee: Messrs. R. Derham, N. Fraser, T. Kirtley, L. Lowery, R. Raine, H. Sommerville, R. H. Nicholson and T. Auld.

It was proposed by L. Lowery that Mr. L. A. Jones, Deputy President of the English Golf Union be elected President of the North East Section and I am very pleased indeed to say that Mr. Jones has accepted. I must mention here that Mr. Jones has given invaluable help in the reforming of our Section, and I know that nothing would please him more than to see our membership grow to a greater number than before. It was as a direct result of his efforts that we were able to meet the Chairman of the Association, Mr. J. K. Glass, Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. H. Dix, and Mr. F. W. Hawtree together with Mr. Jones at a Meeting in the Clubhouse of the Gosforth Golf Club, when many interesting items were discussed. It was a most enjoyable meeting and our Chairman, J. Simpson, thanked Mr. Glass, Mr. Dix, and Mr. Hawtree for attending, the Committee of the Gosforth Golf Club, for the use of the Clubhouse, and the Steward and Stewardess, Mr. and Mrs. Powell for preparing snacks.

Spring Meeting

Our Spring Meeting was held at Tynemouth Golf Club on Thursday, 26th April, by kind permission of the Committee. Four Balls, 18 Holes were played and the results were as follows:—H. Sommerville and P. Smith (Alnmouth) 2 up; 2nd, D. Gray (Backworth) and S. Pope (Tynside) 1 up.

Our President, Mr. L. Jones was present together with Mr. Hood, President of the Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs and Mr. A. Harrison, President of the Durham Union of Golf Clubs. Mr. Jones spoke of the advantage to all greenkeepers in joining the Association and was strongly supported by Mr. Hood and Mr. Harrison.

Our Chairman, J. Simpson, thanked the Committee of the Tynemouth Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, T. Nutman, for the excellent condition of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the catering, and Mr. Jones, Mr. Hood and Mr. Harrison for their support.

New Members

We welcome to our Section, Mr. R. H. Nicholson, 1a Amberton Road, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham, who was one of the first to join. We hope that Mr. Nicholson will be one of many, and that Greenkeepers will contact others in their own areas and encourage them, in their own interests, to join. With the commencement of the new Apprenticeship scheme, we feel sure more younger men will be attracted to our profession.

EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

Chairman:
S. Talbot
(Wollaton Park)

Hon. Secretary:
40 Edward Road,
Clarendon Park, Leicester

OUR AUTUMN TOURNAMENT WILL be held on Tuesday, 25th September, 1962 at the Willesley Park Golf Club, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire by kind permission of the Committee.

Subscriptions

May I again remind members that their subscriptions for 1962-63 are now due. Please do not delay payment until attending some future meeting as this complicates the Treasurer's book-keeping. There are still several unpaid subscriptions for 1961-62. Would members please give this immediate attention. Your Treasurer's address is: Mr. S. C. Long, Municipal Golf Course, Frith Farm, Hinckley Road, Leicester.
WE WERE FORTUNATE IN HAVING a delightful day for our Tournament atTamworth Golf Club on the 1st May. The entry was down to 22 and I feel sure that with a little extra effort many more members could join us for a very enjoyable day.

The prize winners were as follows:—A. C. Jones (Little Aston), Nett 143, Ransome’s Cup and Electric Blanket; G. Woodward (Walsall), Gross 154, Sutton’s Cup and Carving Set; R. Pugh (Sandwell Park), Nett 147, Camera from Messrs. Fison’s Ltd., and Cannock Agricultural Co.; A. Boraston (Little Aston) Nett 149, Biscuit Barrel from Messrs. W. Hargreaves & Co.; A. Stephens (Moor Hall), Nett 149, Canvas Chair from Messrs. Parker & Ballenger Ltd.; E. Adams (unattached) Nett 150, Pyrex Dish from Lunevale Products and Hilton Gravel Co.; V. Smith (Handsworth), Nett 151, ½ doz. 65’s from Mr. G. N. James; E. Walford (Olton), Nett 153, 1 doz. Forsums from the Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co.; G. Hart (Gay Hill), Nett 154, Holdall from Messrs. Carters Tested Seeds and F. W. Lees & Son.; E. Benbow (Handsworth), Nett 154, Bottle of Sherry from Messrs. Mitchels & Butlers Ltd. Over 50’s: A. C. Jones, Leg of Pork from Mr. J. W. R. Robinson. Players with 2’s on cards, R. Pugh, T. Jones, W. Barton and A. Boraston won golf balls which were given by Mr. Carl Bretherton. The prizes for our visitors were won by R. Hill, Tamworth G.C., 72 Nett and E. Ballinger, Tamworth G.C., 74 Nett.

The Captain of Tamworth Golf Club presented the prizes and said how pleased they were to see us, and that they would be glad to welcome us again at a future date. Our Chairman, George Hart, thanked Mr. Hill for presenting the prizes, the Council of Tamworth Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse, the Steward and Stewardess for excellent meals, Andy Dishington for the use of caddy cars and the fine condition of the course, the donors of the prizes, and our friends from Messrs. Ransomes, W. Payne and R. Stanley for the great help they gave us in issuing cards and recording the scores.

Members will be pleased to hear that we had a short visit from Albert Oakley who was brought along by Mr. Carr. Albert is still very weak and is going to the R.A.F. Convalescent Home, which we hope will help him to regain his strength. He has the best wishes of all of us.

Annual General Meeting

We are trying to arrange the A.G.M. for the last week in June. I will let you know when it is fixed and hope all members will endeavour to attend. If members cannot

THERE’S A LOT TO LEARN IN LIFE!

With great advances in knowledge, we never quite catch up. But some fundamental facts we do acquire and often by bitter experience.

For example, we discovered, early in life, that

THE BEST IS CHEAPEST IN THE END!

And many, many others have found this to be true, which is why there is an ever-increasing demand for “Leda” Gang Mowers, “Paladin” and “Pegasus” Putting Green Mowers, the “Ariel” Mower for backs of Bunkers etc.

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LETCWORTH HERTS.
manage in the afternoon to play for the Parker Challenge Cup, please try to attend the meeting in the evening. In the last few years we have had a very poor attendance, so please do make an effort this year.

**Congratulations**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, Jack Toy was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his 47 years' service with the club—37 of them as Head Greenkeeper. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

**New Members**

We welcome two new members, D. J. Walton, 175 Ralph Road, Shirley, Solihull, Warwickshire, who is assistant at Shirley Park Golf Club, and S. Christie, 25 Terry Street, off St. John's Road, Dudley Worcs., who has joined us from the Scottish Greenkeepers' Association as Head Greenkeeper at Dudley Golf Club.

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**NORTH-WEST**

**Chairman**

O. P. JONES

(Bramhall G.C.)

**Hon. Secretary:**

Romiley G.C.

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**OUR SPRING TOURNAMENT WAS**

held on 2nd May at the Bramhall Golf Club by kind permission of the Council. We were favoured with a fine day and 40 players took part in the Competition. In the afternoon, 13 players took out cards to play for the President's Prize presented by Mr. W. Kinsey. This Competition is confined to Visitors and Hon. Associate Members, and was won by Mr. F. Fagan with a nett score of 67 from a handicap of 4. His round was the best of the day.

Mr. J. G. Brown, Vice-President, took the Chair and after apologising for the absence of our President, went on to thank the Captain and Council of the Bramhall Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of their course and club house. Sincere thanks were also given to the Donors of the Prizes, to the Steward and Stewardess for excellent meals, and to Mr. Jones and his staff for the splendid condition of the course.

The Chairman then introduced the Captain, Mr. Eastwood, to present the prizes, and after which, he closed the meeting, saying how very pleased they were to have us at Bramhall.

The Prize Winners at Bramhall were as follows: Visitors Prizes: 1st nett, F. Fagan, 67, Bottle of Whisky; 2nd Nett, J. Loman, 70 (on last nine holes), Bottle of Sherry.


Once again, our thanks are due to Mr. Payne, Mr. Williams of Messrs. Ransomes, and Mr. Greaves of Messrs. Ellis Rees, who always come along to issue and check the cards.

**Prize Donors:**


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**EIRE (IRISH)**

**Chairman:**

J. G. Bryan

(Eddmondstown G.C.)

**Hon. Treasurer:**

PRANK MERRIMAN

(Edmondstown G.C.)

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**AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Mr. P. McGuinness resigned his appointment as Hon. Secretary. We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. McGuinness for all his work on behalf of the Section.

Laurence Kelly of Grange Golf Club, Rathfarnham, Dublin, 14, and Victor Bruce, Dunmurry Golf Club, Belfast, N.1., were appointed Joint Hon. Secretaries.

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**Spring Competition**

Our Spring Competition for the President's Prize and Shanks Cup was played at the Dun dall Golf Club on the 14th May in dry, if somewhat stormy weather conditions. The results were as follows:—1st, P. Caul (Island), 72—3=69; 2nd, L. Kelly (Grange), 76—6=70; 3rd, R. Wightman (Helen's Bay), 81—9=72 (on 2nd 9); 4th, J. G. Bryan (Eddmondstown), 84—12=72. Best Gross, V. Bruce (Dunmurry) 77. 5th, H. Pettigrew (Royal Belfast), 86—12=74. 6th, S. Allen (Warrenpoint), 83—7=76. 7th, D. McDonnell (Grange), 81—4=77.
"FATHER, what’s the value of a grassland sod?"

"The books put it this way, son. A sod is a complex conglomeration of the roots of pasture plants; decaying vegetable matter; fibrous residues of animal dung; mineral rich worm casts and is teeming with bacteria and other lower forms of animal life. It may vary in depth from very little to several inches and lies within and above the true soil surface.

The boys like dung but anything the humans call humus will do. The more work we do, the more we breed and then there are more of us to do even more work."

"What happens in poor conditions—when you get waterlogged or when the soil surface runs together and is sealed so that you can’t get any air?"

"Strict union rule; no working in water. We’re out, mate, the lot. There’s a lot of idle renegade bacteria that come with the water but they’re no good to anybody. Puts us back two months or so to get rid of them and clear up after the water has gone. Air? well—cut off the air and that’s our lot. But the worms usually help us out by going up and letting in a bit of air."

"How are you affected by artificial fertilisers?"

"We like them. They make the old grass grow and this means more dung and urine from up top and bigger and better roots down here."

"Thank you very much Mr. Bacteria."

"That’s all right, Guv; me successors will look forward to meeting you later on, if you know what I mean."

My eyes are now accustomed to the light and I can see animal life in many different forms; coming towards me is a very small white worm hardly bigger than a pin head. "Hello my little man. What’s your name and what do you do around these parts?"

"My name’s Enchy something. There are millions of we Enchys to the acre in a good sodded sward. We do a lot of the soil moving that is usually credited to the worms. We bring dung and decaying leaves and vegetation from the soil surface and dump it near the roots plants. When there has been too much help, we blot up the surplus moisture, then give it out to the soil particles at some later date. They pass it on to the plant roots. This humus material we have been working on helps prevent loss
of moisture from the soil in times of drought by preventing evaporation.”

“What do you like best?”

“A good friable sweet smelling soil with plenty of air and lots of lovely grub. We’re a bit dependent on these lazy bacteria devils, you know, because they make our food a bit more digestible for us. Mind you, they do a lot to put up with at times, especially when these stupid humans pack the top of the soil and exclude the oxygen.

“There is one tribe of the bacteria race we have a very high regard for.

They are the ones that produce the nitrogen from their large round bumps which break off the white clover roots. Boy, don’t those little blighters work! And we all benefit from it down here. The nitrogen leads to increased growth which means more food for us either as dung or decayed leaves. But if the leaves are taken away and no dung returned to feed on, many of us die from starvation and the majority who live migrate to better feeding grounds.”

“Enchy, it is most kind of you to have spared the time to talk to me, many thanks.”

“Not at all, I would just like to have it put on record that our greatest fear is not of nature, but of the illogicality of man.”

As I moved about down here I can see moisture coming into the air spaces so I guess it has been raining pretty hard up there. The mass of fibrous, sponge-like material which surrounds me is greedily sucking it up. It is also quickly seized upon by the millions of new grains of soil which have been brought up to this level from much lower down by Enchy and his co-cultivators. As this surplus moisture is taken away the air spaces are free again to bring in the life-giving oxygen.

It is fascinating how these little soil particles clothe themselves in water. On its way through the ground the water has taken up a bit of chemical here and a bit of mineral there so that it can feed the plant root hairs on a good balanced diet.

Down here they say about water that it can only do good while it is being kept in circulation. There is plenty of co-operation on all sides to keep it flowing. The soil grains when they have supplied the roots, draw on fresh supplies from other grains at a lower level and these in turn are freely fed by the spongy humus. The more humus material there is to hold the soil particles apart from each other, then the thicker is the covering of water on each particle.

Before I return to base there is one other group of people I must talk to.

“Mr. Earthworm, would you tell us about your job?”

“We do the work of chemist and engineer but we can also tackle air conditioning, debris collection, and general soil amelioration. We are best known as earth movers. We load up with raw soil from the lower layers and then move up to the surface where the load is dumped. The return journey is usually made with a leaf or some other partly-rotted material.

“We use humus as food to keep us active, and where there is a good supply

(Continued on page 13)
The Annual Spring Tournament was played at Otley Golf Club on the 26th April, by kind permission of the Committee. Forty members took part in what must be regarded as a most successful day. Weather conditions were ideal for golf and some good scores were returned—the handicapa committee will have some work to do.

Results: Scratch Prize—P. Geddes, (Clitheroe) 70—76=146. 1st Division, 1st, S. Smith, 68—70=138; 2nd, J. Scott (Belle Vue), 67—71=138; 3rd, D. Beaumont (Moortown), 68—71=139; 4th, M. Henderson (Ganton), 73—69=142; 5th K. Driver (Bacup), 72—72=144; 2nd Division: 1st, D. Storey (West Bowling), 63—62=125; 2nd, G. Geddes (Moor Allerton), 71—75=146; 3rd, M. Tucker (Headingley), 74—73=147; 4th, C. Moore (Northcliffe), 73—78=151; 5th G. Bennett (Otley), 75—77=152. Veteran's Prize: G. Gomersall (Headingley), 65 (one round only). Pro-Greenkeeper, D. Cooper (unattached). Vice-Presidents: 1st, F. Walker (Clitheroe) 69—73=142; 2nd W. Hanley (Ogden), 74—72=146. Special Prize for Highest Score: P. Williams (Northcliffe), 86—82=168.

Before calling on Mr. C. Barritt (Captain, Otley Golf Club), Mr. G. Mason (Chairman), thanked all who had helped to make a most enjoyable day. This was without doubt due to the Officials and all members of the staff of the Club, to whom nothing had been too much trouble. He especially thanked the Stewardress for first class meals, and Adrien Robertshaw, Greenkeeper, for his hard work in getting the course into such excellent condition for the Tournament.

In a short speech, Mr. Barritt welcomed members to the club, and expressed their pleasure in allowing us the courtesy of the course for the occasion. He went on to say that the work and skill of the greenkeepers was beginning to be more appreciated by Golf Clubs.

A vote of thanks proposed by Mr. J. Scott was heartily endorsed.

We were pleased to have with us Mr. R. B. Dawson, O.B.E., (Director of the S.T.R.I.) and two old stalwarts of the Section, Frank Smith and Gilbert Kendall.

THE SPRING COMPETITION FOR THE President's Shield took place at the Pennard Golf Club on 3rd April under ideal weather conditions. We had a good entry of 24 members. The Pennard course is a good test of golf and it came out best in this Competition. Our praise is due to Jack Martin for the great improvement to this fine course in the past few years. We are grateful to everyone who subscribed to the Prizes, and to our faithful followers, also F. V. Southgate who travels from Bristol to do all the spade work at every meeting.

The Captain, Dr. O'Kayne presented the prizes and welcomed the greenkeepers to Pennard.

T. S. Morris, Chairman, Welsh Golf Union, praised the work done by greenkeepers.

Mr. I. G. Nicholls, our President, spent part of the day with us, but owing to a prior engagement had to make an early return to Cardiff.

Mr. M. Geddes, Section Chairman, replied on behalf of the Greenkeepers, thanking the club for their kindness, the Steward, the Professional, and all the Staff for making the day a great success.

The Prizewinners at Pennard were as follows: 27 Holes—S. A. Tucker (unattached), 130—11=119; D. G. Lord (Swansea Bay), 126—7=119; D. Jones (Pyle & Kenfig), 135—14=121; B. D. Jones (Pyle & Kenfig), 139—15=124; A. Price (Carmarthen), 137—11=126; J. Rees (Pyle & Kenfig), 136—9=127. Handicap 24—M. Young (Whitchurch), 149—24=125. First Year—W. J. Cox (Southerndown).

New Members
I wish to welcome the following new members to our Section: J. Tahy, 41 Blackweir Terrace, Cardiff (Glamorganshire G.C.); M. J. Thomas, 37 Lewis Avenue, Blackwood, Monmouthshire (Blackwood G.C.); D. Dunn, 107 Connought Road, Cardiff (Glamorganshire G.C.) and W. J. Cox, Belle Vue, St. Brides Major, Nr. Bridgend, Glamorgan (Southerndown G.C.).

Dates
Please make a note of the following dates and let us have a good entry for these events. 19th June, Annual General Meeting, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, 11-30 a.m., followed by a Competition in the afternoon, 18 holes for the Duncan and Birdie Cups. 13th, 14th and 15th August, B.G.G.A. Annual Tournament at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, and 26th September, Cardiff Cup at Glamorganshire Golf Club, Penarth.

MISCELLANEOUS
Professionals and Greenkeepers having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

SITUATIONS VACANT
GUILDFORD GOLF CLUB—GREENKEEPER WANTED. Previous experience essential. No accommodation. Apply giving qualifications to:—Secretary, Guildford Golf Club, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey.


ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required by Shirley Park Golf Club, Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey. Trainee considered. No accommodation. Apply Secretary.

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

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<tr>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>19th</th>
<th>Welsh Section A.G.M. and Competition, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.</th>
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<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>South West Section, Annual Tournament, Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club.</td>
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<td>30th</td>
<td>Southern Section, Autumn Tournament, Sunningdale Golf Club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>East Midland Section, Autumn Tournament, Willesley Park Golf Club, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Midland Section visit to Messrs. Massey Ferguson.</td>
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Worm's Eye View—continued.

...of this we work a seven-day week, 24 hours a day, and in a year, we and the Enchys combined can move up to 26 tons of soil to the acre."

"What a wonderful feat; how on earth (if you will excuse the expression) do you move all this soil?"

"We eat it, nip up to the surface, get the old discharge auger on the go and then nip back again for another helping. By moving around pretty freely we can make sure there is plenty of work for the labouring classes to do as well as maintain good working conditions for them."

"And how about your job as a chemist?"

"We have a secret process for modifying all the soil we eat so that many of the essential plant foods such as nitrogen, calcium, phosphorous, potassium and magnesium are made more readily available when dissolved in water."

"How many of you are there to the acre?"

"The last time we had a census in this particular sod there were 10 cwt. of us, but mind you this is a pretty useful built-up area; plenty of food and plenty of employment."

"Do earthworms or other active soil workers move towards the newly made regions which are frequently ploughed by man?"

"Who would voluntarily go to a place where semi-starvation is a certainty and premature death a high probability? Any migration is in the reverse direction, much of the humus food on which we are so dependent has been destroyed and such lands are able to support only about 2½ to 4 cwt. of our population."

"Suppose there were men who regretted the folly of their ways, what steps could they take to encourage your active co-operation?"

"Just make sure that we have a regular supply of humus food and air. That's all we ask and we'll repay them handsomely."

"May I thank you and all your colleagues for taking part in this programme? Listeners will now be returning to the studio, I hope I follow."

"There you have it, son. Just think about it next time you walk across the 10-acre."

*With grateful acknowledgments to "The Farmers' Weekly".*
IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that I welcome the return to the British Golf Greenkeepers’ Association of the North-East Section which has, for some years, been operating independently. I know all members share my feelings. The Association will be all the stronger for their return and I hope that they will feel the benefit of a link with greenkeepers everywhere.

Although our Annual Tournament is to be held at Pyle & Kenfig this year, I sincerely hope we shall have the pleasure of meeting at least a few North-East Section members in Wales.

**Annual Draw**

The Annual Draw for 1962 will be run on the “News of the World” P.G.A. Match Play Championship to be held at Walton Heath Golf Club from 3rd to 8th September, 1962.

Prizes will again be to the value of £100 and tickets will be 6d. each in books of five. These should reach Section Secretaries during this month.

It was very encouraging last year to note the increased sale of tickets; however, as I mentioned before, there is still plenty of scope for improvement and it is hoped for an even better result this year.

C. H. Dix.

**A VERY LONG TIME**

“Since golf was played with a feather-stuffed gutty which was clouted with a cleek, women have been agitating for some recognition on the course.”

_Scottish Daily Mail, 10th April._

There was, however, much more agitation about the rubber-cored feathery.

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**FILL UP, DETACH AND POST THIS FORM AT ONCE TO:**

**HON. SECRETARY, B.G.G.A., ADDINGTON COURT GOLF CLUB,**

**FEATHERBED LANE, ADDINGTON, CROYDON, SURREY.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.G.G.A.</th>
<th>ANNUAL TOURNAMENT 1962</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pyle &amp; Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorganshire, on 13th, 14th and 15th August.</td>
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Please enter my name as a competitor and send me the full programme and conditions of the competition and draw sheet when published.

**NAME** (Block Letters) .................................................................

**ADDRESS** ........................................................................

**CLUB** ......................................................... **B.G.G.A. SECTION** .........................................................

**HANDICAP** ................................................................. at **(Course) SSS** ........................................

- Place X in box if eligible for Artisan Medal □
- Place X in box if eligible for Coming of Age Cup (60 and over) □
- Place X in box if requiring a caddy car 1st day □
- Place X in box if requiring a caddy car 2nd day □
- Place X in box if requiring a caddy car 3rd day □

**ENTRIES CLOSE 30th JUNE**
Square dealing in mowers

Those whose business it is to keep the mowers cutting will readily appreciate the kind of service offered by Relf and Kendall.

SPARES ALWAYS AVAILABLE FROM OUR VAST STOCK. FLEET TRANSPORT TO GIVE YOU IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.

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Authorised service repair agents. Sales, Spares and Service.

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Official London Area Distributors to Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, for specialist machines.

Agents for Dennis, Shanks, Greens, Acco, Lloyds and Allen Motor Scythes.
Ransomes mowers are used for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, the Centre Court at Wimbledon, England, and famous pieces of turf all over the world. Ransomes 20-inch ‘Antelope’ is a fully driven machine for tackling banks and verges, and other difficult places. Yet it will leave a good finish on grass of up to 1-acre in extent. Look at these features:

- Easy starting 4-stroke engine
- Five-knife large diameter cutting cylinder running on ball bearings
- V-belt and roller-chain transmission
- Height of cut adjustable from $\frac{3}{16}$" to $1\frac{3}{8}$"