

## CORRESPONDENCE

### FROST GREENS

In reply to the article written by Mr. Dearlove, of the Sheffield Section, I accept the opportunity of presenting my views on his two leading questions.

I heartily endorse Mr. Escritt's remark, that the decision as to when play should be restricted be left to the person who knows best—the greenkeeper.

Let us face facts and not personal issues. Golf courses in general depend on the skill of the head greenkeeper through-out the year, to supervise the staff and maintain the course or links in a first class condition. He has many important decisions to make to achieve high standards without obstructing play unduly. It is only years of practical experience and intelligent application that enables a greenkeeper to reap the fruits of his previous decisions, so why disregard his advice and the situation, after all, play restriction is normally short lived. The past two winters for instance have more than proved whether or not a green committee is justified in making such a decision. The reason being, any member of a golf club can be on the committee, and you can rest assured he will be feigning to be an expert covering most aspects of green-keeping, within a very short space of time; agree with him and before you know it he's grown to be a golf course architect.

If unplayable conditions occur mainly through the week, when a club official is not present, and possibly out of the area for a few days, under these circumstances how are they able to formulate an opinion. After all it is only a small minority of the golfing community who want to play when adverse conditions prevail, and they are generally the first to complain if the greens are backward in spring.

If frost holes are cut in readiness to meet such emergencies, this would automatically keep the course in play without any difference of opinion arising. All skill disappears from the game when frost conditions exist so its only a matter of exercise and keeping

the swing going. There is no doubt, golf is unique in the world of out door sports simply because it's about the only game which is not seasonal.

Now this brings me to the second question quoted by Mr. Andrews, to stop griping and get on with the job. For years the greenkeeper has been doing an excellent job and, in many cases, without sufficient machinery, or up to date equipment. At the same time he has adapted himself to meet this advancing scientific era. Frustrated with the shortage of the right type of staff, trying to be in several places at once he has not had a "please yourself" job with regular hours like others better paid. Greenkeeping is a relentless challenge to the conscientious man seeking higher and higher standards. Each one of us approaches our day to day problems in different ways, but our eventual aim is always the same—to give the best playing conditions possible as far as the weather elements allow. I sadly recall many occasions when our greens have been in peak condition, small divots have been made on the greens by some irresponsible player missing a putt. There have always been too many taciturn greenkeepers, Mr. Andrews. I hope I leave you in no doubt which category I belong to.

Yours sincerely,

J. MAWSON,

Scarcroft Golf Club,  
Leeds.

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### ANOTHER 'FIRST'

What is claimed to be Europe's first complete golf centre is to be erected on the sea front at Seaburn, Sunderland, by the newly formed subsidiary of Lynwood Ltd.

In a letter to shareholders, the Chairman of Lynwood, Mr. W. D. W. Knight, says that the subsidiary, County Golf Ranges Ltd., has been granted permission for the project by Sunderland County Borough Council. The golf centre will have 36 tees on two floors and will incorporate "unigolf", described as an entirely new development.