

# What it means

to be a

## Greenkeeper's

### Wife

"I feel that I have been subsidising golf clubs all my married life." Those words were written by the wife of a greenkeeper, who, throughout the 33 years of her married life, has had to go out to work to supplement the family income.

The letter is her reaction to my notes last week, when greenkeepers' problems, ranging from the apprentice scheme to poor pay and lack of support by the clubs, were given a good airing. This is what Greenkeeper's Wife has to say:

"Being the wife of a greenkeeper I read Tee Up on Tuesday—my husband has to, as it is the only way he gets to know what is going on at his club! At the time we were married, 33 years ago, our wage was 35s. (dole was 26s. man and wife), but my husband, loving his job, was prepared to work six full days every week, apart from Good Friday and Christmas Day, when the course was closed.

"Then came the war. He was called up in 1940 at 31 years of age, did five years' service, then it was back to his job—for £4 10s.

"He moved to another club for £6 10s., and after 19 years' service there his monthly cheque for a five-and-a-half-day week, and every other Sunday morning, with stoppages, is £42 4s. We have to stretch it in a five-week month.

"I have been able to work, thank God, but I still feel that I have been subsidising golf clubs all my married life. I am sorry we shall not live to see the day when there are no greenkeepers.

"You may ask: Why, after 43 years, is he still in such a trade?

"It has been for the love of the game and matching his wits against nature and the two-legged rabbits.

### OTHER HALF

"I haven't written this as a tale of woe, but to let you see a bit of a greenkeeper's other half. Sorry I cannot publish my name, but I swear all I have said is true and, thanks to you, more people may be made to take notice."

As a comparison, to the pay quoted by Greenkeeper's Wife, it is worth noting that the Executive Committee of the Greenkeepers' Association after a country-wide survey, recently issued the following scale as a guide to clubs—Head greenkeeper, £16 to £20 per week; first assistant £13 to £13 10s.; greenkeepers £12.

And they point out that in the top scale the lower limit represents comparative newness to a responsible post and the upper limit will often be exceeded at busy clubs.

Another recommendation is that a club operate a pension scheme which guarantees a man not less than half (including the State pension) his income at retirement.

*With acknowledgments  
to the "Sheffield Telegraph"*

### Situations Vacant

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER REQUIRED.** Up to £15 per week, according to experience. Apply Secretary, Hampstead Golf Club, Winnington Road, London, N.2.

**HEAD GREENKEEPER FOR 18** hole golf course in the London area, must be fully competent and able to take charge. Write: Secretary, West Middlesex Golf Club, Greenford Road, Southall, Middlesex.

### 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.