

## THOSE WHO SERVE

Brigadier C. W. Morton, M.C., editor of *Golf Course & Clubhouse Management*, journal of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, pays a tribute to two senior greenkeepers whose service to golf adds up to nearly a 100 years.

### SIDNEY STANTON

SIDNEY STANTON first started work in 1921 with James Carter & Company, Raynes Park, on golf course construction. He had been with them for 3½ years when he was loaned to Malden Golf Club as a foreman on the construction of their course. When this had been completed, Sidney stayed on at the club as head greenkeeper. He remained at Malden Golf Club as head greenkeeper for 16 years, until 1941 when he was taken away and engaged in war work until 1945.



In 1945 he went to Royal Wimbledon Golf Club as head greenkeeper. He is still there after 23½ years and still going strong, although he is now 70 years of age. Whilst undergoing a practical course on golf club secretary's work at Royal Wimbledon in 1951, I had the pleasure of being given my first instructional lessons in greenkeeping by Sidney Stanton. I thought he was most knowledgeable then and a very good lecturer. What he doesn't know now about greenkeeping isn't worth knowing. After all, he has had nearly 44 years at the job and is still as keen as ever. A fine record.



### LEN HAKEN

Now aged 82, LEN HAKEN first began work as a gardener. During the First World War, he served in the 2nd Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) and was mentioned in dispatches in 1918. On his return home he joined the Sale Golf Club, Cheshire, as a greenkeeper. Last year, he completed 50 years' service at the Sale Golf Club, the last 34 of which he served as the head greenkeeper.

During his early days as a greenkeeper, he says that "it was very hard work with long hours and all work done by hand. There were no machines in those days." Although he never attended a course of instruction on greenkeeping, he used to go to all the lectures arranged by the Associations of Greenkeepers and Groundsmen. He finally retired in 1968 at the age of 81, and says that he is not enjoying his retirement one bit. He loved his work and the open air life. He is a Life Member of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, and also a Life Member and Vice-President of the National Association of Groundsmen. A fine record.