

# 43 YEARS AT KNEBWORTH GOLF CLUB

When Bert Race joined Knebworth Golf Club, 43 years ago as a groundsman, the ground staff used three horses pulling mowers to cut the grass.

It took five days and even then most of the "rough" grass was so high that you could search for a lost ball for hours and still not find it. Now Bert is head groundsman.

The horses are gone and in their place are the mechanical mowers. They do the job in a few hours and the "rough" is kept almost as short as the greens.

Bert is proud of the course and has looked after it for a good part of his life.

Ask him the secret of his well-kept greens and he'll smile, tap his head and say: "It's all up here".

Knebworth Golf Course opened on 6th June 1908. Bert remembers the date well, although he didn't take up his job as groundsman until 1926. Since then the welfare of the course has been his main concern.

*"Jack of All Trades."*

"I look after everything. I'm a jack of all trades. I've seen every secretary

the club has had come and go and I'm still here."

After so many years, Bert is looked on as something of a character. His greens are his pride and joy and woe betide anyone who damages them. He once made a woman who was walking about on the course in high-heeled shoes, finish her round in bare feet. He took the same attitude with two members playing a round of golf in football boots.

He is helped in his job by three groundsmen who work from eight in the morning to five in the evening and longer during the light summer evenings.

Bert used to have a handicap of four, but he doesn't play very often now. He thinks that all-metal golf clubs have made the game easier for golfers than when he used to play a round with hickory shafted clubs.

He loves the fresh air and the exercise you get from playing golf. To him, "there's no game like it".

*With grateful acknowledgements to the "Stevenage News."*

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Those of you who take your holidays on the Costa Brava or nearby will be glad to know that golf course construction is active in that part of the world. The Sitges Golf Club to the south of Barcelona is planning an extension from 9 to 18; a new site just north of Barcelona is also under examination for a new 18-hole golf course and farther north still the Pals Golf Club, near Gerona, is extending from 9 to 18. The Son Vida course in Majorca is also extending to 18, the first full golf course in the Balearic Islands. Work should also start soon on a new 9-holes in Ibiza and there is even talk of a course in Minorca.