



HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES

Hollinwell Golf Club, Notts.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fifty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be held at the Hollinwell Golf Club, Notts., on Monday, 23rd August 1971, at 2.30 p.m. Notice of resolutions must be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary TWENTY-ONE DAYS before the date of the meeting. Under Rule 29 proxies may be voted at all general meetings. A Form of Proxy may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and returned not later than the first post on Wednesday, 18th August.

THE ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The fifty-fourth Annual Tournament will be held at the Hollinwell Golf Club, Notts., on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 23rd, 24th and 25th August 1971. Entry forms appeared in the June journal.

Programme

Monday, 23rd August: Morning—18 holes, Stableford; Afternoon — Annual General Meeting at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 24th August: 36-hole Medal; News of the World Cup (scratch); Senior Division (plus to 11); Junior Division (12 to 24); the Jubilee Cup (Team Prize off Handicap); "The Coming of Age" Cup.

Wednesday, 25th August: Morning—18-hole Medal; Afternoon — Prize distribution, 3 p.m.

Handicaps

Section secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all competitors from their records before the tourna-

ment. All handicaps must be based on the National Golf Union's handicapping system.

Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at Hollinwell Golf Club on Sunday, 22nd August 1971, at approximately 5.30 p.m.

Trophies

May I remind holders of trophies from last year's tournament who are not taking part this year to ensure that these are returned to the Hollinwell Golf Club before Saturday, 21st August.

Annual Draw

May I remind members that all counterfoils and monies should be returned to their Section Secretary and NOT to me.

C. H. DIX

THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH-QUALITY TURF

by J. O. WALKER

Technical Manager, Agricultural Division,
B.A.S.F. United Kingdom Limited

Turf is a horticultural product which impinges on the daily lives of most people and it does so with greater frequency than most products. It is a basic ingredient of the environment, and a fundamental requirement for a host of sporting and recreational activities. It is also a source of endless challenge to the enthusiastic gardener.

To the agronomist, turf is an extreme example of continuous monoculture under conditions which would daunt those accustomed to growing most other crops. What other plant is required to be raised as a homogeneous mixture of two or three species, in the entire absence of weeds and disease, and also withstand continuous trampling and cutting?

There are, surprisingly, situations in nature where this ideal is virtually achieved without the intervention of man and most people will have heard of the renowned seawashed turf from Cumberland. However, it has proved difficult and expensive to transfer this turf to situations where it is required, and in any case supplies are now nearly exhausted.

A grass sward is produced in practice

by sowing seed on a carefully prepared seed bed or by laying turf which itself has been produced from seed at a nursery site. Either method requires attention to detail in site preparation, including levelling, drainage, soil structure improvement, tilth preparation and weed elimination. After attention to these aspects success will still depend on selection of high-quality seed, fertilisation, and careful sowing and irrigation. This in turn will only mark the beginning of a continuous process of culture necessary to produce and maintain the sward.

It is not difficult to appreciate therefore that the cultivation of a good sward is an extremely expensive business. For example, it can cost £1,500 to £5,000 to reseed or returf a football pitch and from £1,500 per year to maintain it. It is also clear that money spent in the best preparation of a new sward is money soundly invested.

Techniques are now available, and already widely used in other crops,

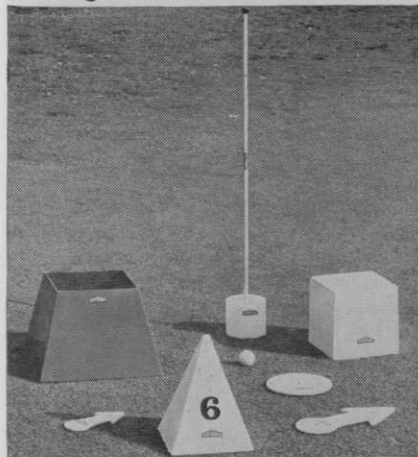
which could make a very large contribution to improving sward preparation.

These techniques involve sterilising the surface layers of the soil to remove weeds, weed seeds, and pests and diseases. Weeds and their seeds are one of the most costly and intractable problems in site preparation and it is surprising that sterilisation is not already more widely used.

Sterilisation can be carried out relatively simply and safely with Basamid, a granular material which is rotovated into the soil according to a well-proven technique. The soil surface is then sealed and the chemical left to do its work. The cost, at approximately £150/acre for the chemical and sealing, is a very low price to pay for the benefits obtained. It is also low in comparison with the total investment in turf culture. The technique is worthy of careful consideration by the raisers of turf and also by those responsible for laying new lawns and any other areas requiring a good quality sward.

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Complementary to the above are the existing items, such as **Polythene Tee Balls** in red, white and yellow; **Bogey-type Hole Cup** in nylon (one-piece moulding); and the **Fibreglass Flagstaffs**, as listed in our current Golf Catalogue.

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