tures, essays and meetings where knowledge was pooled and often debated for two hours or more. The 1914-1918 war temporarily checked the good work but in 1919, with the rehabilitation of the Association (here again thanks mainly to our friend, F. G. Hawtree) things really began to liven up with more visits to places of interest and education.—Carter, Suttons, Ryders, Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, Shanks, Greens and, in addition, our splendid companion, The British Golf Greenkeepers' Journal, so popular that within five years it more than doubled its size. Its contents with the exception of half-a-dozen or so advertisements, consisted of essays and the practical findings of some of the best greenkeepers of that time, all in plain language to be understood by all. But eventually, due to pressure on the Editor and cost, the present-day journal was produced by the late Mr. Philpot, and is now carried on by the son of the famous F. G. Hawtree.

**First Triple**

Around 1919, when the old horse roller machine was the only means of cutting fairways, we the Executive Committee of the B.G.G.A. introduced to Mr. Sandy Cuthbert, Mr. Reed and other officials of Messrs. Shanks and Sons, at the Hendon Golf Course, an idea that we felt would reduce labour, time and horses. The idea was three skeleton machines placed in triple formation, with a seat fixed over the top and a pair of shafts to be drawn by one horse. It would do the work with one man riding, and one horse pulling, three times quicker than the old roller machine method, three men, three horses plus continuously cleaning the rollers of worm casts. However Shanks and Sons turned it down. We then approached Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies again without success.

Our next thought was, "What about pooling our cash and getting a trial one made up and patented?" But we felt that if we did it ourselves, we would upset the traders. And so it was forgotten until 1923 when many of us were invited to Rangers Park Golf Course to see a machine for cutting fairways sent over from America by a firm known as the Shornie manufacturers. With the exception of a few minor details, it was the same as ours.

You may guess the rest of the story. The Shornie people did very well out of it and our manufacturers had to buy the patent rights.

The machine was so impressive that my own club and many others purchased, or gave orders on the same day. What a blessing and comfort it was to sit on a seat and cut the fairways in a third of the time! What a mistake not to have made it ourselves!

**Early Trials**

Next, as a result of the writer's findings on his own trial plots at Hendon, laid down in 1927, it was agreed by the Executive Committee to carry out similar experiments on other soils namely:— Seaside Sand, Inland Sand, Chalk, in addition to my own clay. The courses selected:—

Seaside Sand—Royal West Norwich.
Inland Sand—Frilford Heath.
Chalk—Coulsdon.
Clay—Sudbury.

As pioneer the writer was elected as chairman with two valuable assistants, Messrs. S. Morton and W. Kirby. Our duty was to attend the above courses and instruct the laying out of a number of plots three yards by one yard and boarded all round the allocated areas were dug up, neutralised as near as possible, and sown with different grass species. Then each plot was divided into three and treated with acid reacting neutral or control, and alkaline reacting fertilisers. The results would take up too much time, but our members learnt a lot from the scheme. This, together with write-ups from other members gave birth to much interest in the use and value of Sulphate of Ammonia, Sulphate of Iron and compost.

This scheme started a year or two before the Bingley Research Station was established, so it could be claimed that the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association should be credited with much that was later substantiated by the St. Ives Research Station, now the Sports Turf Research Institute.
As a staunch advocate of S/A and S/I plus plenty of compost, I am very pleased that our findings of that time as to their value are still valid.

Supporter

In the early days of the Research Station we were proud to have supporting us the Hon. Secretary of the Board of Management of the Station, Mr. Norman Hackett. Mr. Hackett's untiring efforts to prove the value of acid reacting fertilisers for encouraging the finest grasses and discouraging the more succulent species weeds and worms, were very pleasing, particularly to me because all he preached coincided with my own past findings. Unfortunately some took too much for granted and through wrong usage of S/A and S/I many greens were damaged for such long periods that it was considered by some too dangerous to use. However, any person interested would do well to read the book written by the late Mr. Norman Hackett in the early days of 1930 or to visit the plots at Bingley to confirm its claim.

Practical Link

As mentioned earlier, the Research Station at Bingley started in 1929. For quite a time many greenkeepers were reluctant to fall in with its aims but a year or two later the British Golf Greenkeepers’ Association, affiliated itself to the Station and formed the Practical Advisory Committee. This fortunately helped to (and, I believe, eventually did) eliminate the fears of greenkeepers about what the Research Station might do to them.

Denise

The Practical Advisory Committee met at Bingley in Spring and Autumn to survey the plots and hold a conference. We would discuss our findings on the plots, make recommendations thought to be beneficial to the Greenkeeper and voice any complaints from members. Our first meeting took place on the 9th October, 1934 and this continued twice yearly until the death of our beloved Chairman, the late Mr. F. G. Hawtree. I much regret that in spite of their great value, no further meetings have taken place since. Strange as it may seem, the same persons who were appointed at the start continued to the end and reported their findings in our own Journal.

The Future

It is a pity that new blood cannot be found to renew this most important contact with the Research Station and make the B.G.G.A. still more interesting and educative. It gives one more incentive to look forward to our Journal, when there are reports from our own Greenkeepers of their findings at the Station or on their own courses, Essay Competitions and accounts of lectures.

But now it will soon be 1963. Good luck to all those who have done so much for the B.G.G.A. in the past, and to all those who carry on the good work in the next fifty years.

GREENKEEPERS 1914-18

1. S. Fletcher, D.C.M., M.M., Moseley Golf Club. Cpl., King’s Royal Rifles. Twice wounded in France; awarded the Military Medal for holding up an enemy advance at Ypres, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1918 for conspicuous gallantry in the Field.

2. C. Berridge. Late Woodside Golf Club.


I MAKE no apology for choosing the subject of Designing and Constructing Golf Courses for our brief consideration this evening for it is one, to my mind, equally as important to the Greenkeeper as the study of grasses and soils, for it has been said, and in my opinion rightly said, that no man can be an efficient Greenkeeper unless he possesses a knowledge of the principles of golf course designing and construction.

I remember stating in this very room eight years ago, on the occasion of the inaugural meeting of this Association, that the more knowledge a man had of greenkeeping the more economically he could run his course, and tonight I am prepared to submit the same argument with regard to the important branch of greenkeeping which we are now considering and which has sprung up and made such gigantic strides during the past ten years or so.

Fashions in golf courses, like fashions in dress, change very quickly, and it is safe to say that two-thirds of the existing golf courses in the United Kingdom at the present time are hopelessly out of date, as far as the positions and designs of the greens and bunkers are concerned, and it is my opinion that the number of golf courses will increase, and competition will become so keen between the clubs, that committees will be forced to bring their courses up-to-date in order to retain the allegiance of their members.

Temperament

Now the art of designing and constructing greens and bunkers on up-to-date lines is not one that can be picked up in a few weeks by an unintelligent and unskilled workman.

A man, to do it satisfactorily, must have an artistic temperament, an eye for country, an imagination, and a good knowledge of the game; by that I do not mean that it is absolutely essential that he must be a good player, for on the one hand we all know some of the finest exponents of the game have not the slightest idea of designing a green or bunker, whilst on the other hand—do we not know of quite moderate players who have turned out some very excellent work in this direction.

Now I make bold to assert that the gift of construction is not given to every Greenkeeper, and in some cases it is far better to get in outside advice than ruin his reputation by wasting money in attempting something for which nature has not endowed him with the necessary gifts.

Evolution of Golf Course Construction

The evolution of golf course construction to those who have closely followed it for the last twenty years or so, has been of a particularly interesting character.

In the early days of golf, nature did most of the greenkeeping, and a good deal of the bunker construction, for many of the links in those days were laid out on sandy soil, and when a bunker was made, all that was necessary was to remove the turf and the wind would do the rest, in fact, I have heard it said, that if a divot was not replaced in three months the scar became a bunker.

But with the growing popularity of the game, there sprang up golf courses as distinct from golf links and many were laid out on heavy soil far removed from the sand dunes and sea breezes, where natural hazards were conspicuous by their absence, and where it was necessary to make by artificial means every bunker and green on the course.

You do not need me to remind you what hideous and artificial creations these bunkers were, consisting as they did of a built up rampart stretching...
from one side of the fairway to the other
for the carry from the tee, and a similar
creation just short of the green, or, in
the case of a long hole, there were three
banks each stretching right across the
course, all of the same height and each
looking as formal and as artificial as it
was possible to make them.

After a while it was thought that this
style could be improved upon and the
cross bunker took its place.

Having found that this fashion allowed
the half-topped ball to go unpunished,
the pot bunker made its appearance, and
for a time greenkeepers and groundmen
were busy digging pots here, pots there,
pots almost everywhere, many of them
completely hidden from the view of the
player.

Well, this fashion had its day, and
a short one at that, and was followed by
the fashion in vogue at the present time,
namely Hummock and Hollow, and
there is no doubt about it that this
fashion, where carried out on bold lines,
has been the means of making many a
dull course interesting and a flat course
appear undulating.

I am afraid however, that on certain
courses it has been a little overdone.

It has certain drawbacks insofar that
it is a somewhat expensive form of
hazard, both with regard to making and
upkeep.

I have seen large sums of money frit-
tered away in an attempt to alpinize cer-
tain courses through lack of knowledge
and imagination on the part of those in
authority.

Planning, Designing and Constructing
Hazards

Mr. John L. Low once said that no
hazard is unfair wherever placed. Well,
in one sense this may be true, for it is
obviously the wrong thing to do to play a
ball into it wherever it may be placed, on
the other hand, it is obviously the wrong
thing to do to place a hazard on the
direct and proper line to the hole at
such a distance from the tee that would
trap a well-hit ball, and in my opinion,
one of the reasons why so many of our
present day courses provide such uninter-
esting golf is because of the hap-
hazard placing and arrangements of the
bunkers.

I do not blame the Greenkeeper for
this, for I know in all too many instances
the undesirable system is still in vogue
at many clubs of the green committee
going out on the course on a Saturday
afternoon, or a Sunday morning, and
saying after a great deal of argument,
we will have a bunker here and a bunk-
ker there.

Each bunker must be part of a system
of bunkering for the particular needs of
the hole, and the system is not neces-
sarily determined by the length of the
hole, but very largely by the lie of the
land.

No Rules

If the ground is of an undulating
character then the system of bunkering
and the positions will be influenced
thereby, and as the undulations and
slopes vary at different holes, so the
arrangement of hazards should vary
accordingly, therefore you will see how
impossible it is to lay down any hard
and fast rules as to the positions of
hazards.

You may take two holes of exactly the
same length, running parallel with each
other if you like, but very largely owing
to the difference in the lie of the land,
or the rolling nature of it, the arrange-
ment of the hazards is entirely different
one from the other.

Therefore I warn you that if you
should ever be tempted to reproduce the
bunkering of a certain hole on a noted
course, at a hole of a similar length on
your own course, make certain before
doing so, that the lie of the land is simi-
lar in every respect.

In order to make the game as interes-
ting as possible to every class of player,
place your hazards in such positions that
they can be avoided by he who is able
to gauge his ability at the game
correctly.

Variety

Far too many courses today lack
variety.

There is a sameness about the holes,
the type of hazard, etc., which makes
the course monotonous.

I am of the opinion that you cannot
have too much variety on a course.
There should, as far as possible, be some distinctive feature about each hole, some distinctive character which will maintain the interest of the player for the whole eighteen holes.

I know how extremely difficult it is to do this on certain courses, which are as flat as a pancake, and absolutely devoid of natural features, but the art of golf course construction has made such vast strides of late years, that even with such unpromising material as this, I have see most interesting courses made by a man with a little imagination and not a lot of money at his disposal.

Two “Don’ts”

In your efforts to do this however, do not fritter your Club’s money away by making the hideous, unsightly and artificial looking creations such as one sees dotted about on all too many courses, when travelling up and down the country.

Don’t waste time and money, in making hummocks which, when finished, resemble mole-hills grassed over.

Don’t waste your Club’s limited means by wasteful expenditure in trying to make a sand dune on land which nature intended for a brickfield, neither make any bank, hummock, or hollow, which looks from any point artificial.

You have seen and I have seen a beautiful landscape spoiled by some artificial creation designed in all probability by a retiring chairman of a green committee anxious to leave something behind by which his term of office will be remembered.

Such a creation is usually known as Brown’s or Smith’s folly.

See to it that you are not responsible for anything that may be designated the Greenkeeper’s folly.

Making Mounds

In making mounds, as much variety should be introduced as possible, if the work is to be successful.

All too many Greenkeepers introduce into their work far too much tidiness and symmetry; no two hummocks in a range should be exactly alike, there should be some distinctive change in each, the contour of each hummock should be different; the secret of success in this part of course construction is to be found in natural looking irregularity.

If you wish to see the real natural hummocks as only nature can make them, go to the Lake District, make a study of the contours there, and then reproduce those lines on a smaller scale in your hummock building and you will surprise yourself.

I have seen hummocks made as if the Greenkeeper were a drill sergeant trying to drill nature into perfect orderliness; chains of so-called hummocks like squads of soldiers whose dressing by the right was as perfect as the most exacting drill sergeant could desire. Well, if you wish to make your course duller than what it is already, do work of this kind, for orderliness in construction work means dullness.

Another mistake usually made in hummock construction is making them on too small a scale.

Hummocks to look natural, must be of bold design.
I fully realise that they are expensive things to construct on bold lines, but it is far better not to attempt to build hummocks unless you have sufficient labour at your disposal to make them large enough to be natural looking.

There is one important point in the designing of hummocks that should never be forgotten, namely, to so design them, that the more off the line the player is, the greater the punishment.

**Design of Hazards**

In designing a hazard there are many things to be taken into consideration, the first is the kind of shot it is to catch, secondly the lie of the surrounding land, thirdly, the question of drainage, fourthly, the design of existing bunkers in the immediate vicinity.

With regard to the first consideration, namely the kind of shot which the bunker is expected to catch, it is hardly necessary for me to point out that a bunker placed to catch a hard hit wooden club shot must of necessity be built on larger and bolder lines than one built to catch a badly hit iron approach shot.

The next point then is the lie of the surrounding land.

If the bunker is constructed on a down slope, then the sand area will be wider and possibly the bank higher than if on a flat surface or an up slope.

**Drainage Vital**

Then the question of drainage must not be lost sight of when designing the hazard.

It is a waste of time and money to dig a deep bunker, unless you are certain that it is possible to drain it.

There is nothing more annoying to the player, nothing to my mind more objectionable on a golf course than so-called sand bunkers lying throughout the winter months full of stagnant water, and not withstanding the great advance there has been in the science of land draining during the past few years, it is no uncommon sight to see this kind of thing on our so-called modern courses.

If the question of drainage prevents deep excavation then mounds should be built with the sand packets above the surrounding ground level.

The soil for the mounds can be obtained by stripping a wide area surrounding the site for the hazard and digging a few inches deep, thus making a shallow excavation.

The fourth point to be remembered is the design of the surrounding bunkers.

I have already pointed out the desirability of avoiding similarity in designs and the necessity of introducing as much variety as possible.

Therefore it will be well before deciding upon your design to cast your eye around the neighbouring bunkers and see if it is not possible to introduce some feature into your new bunker which the existing ones do not possess.

Before I leave the question of designs there are a few general principles which might be laid down.

The first is, do not make the sand area too narrow, this should in no case be less than four times as wide as it is deep.

On the other hand, do not have the sand area too wide, especially if it is a shallow excavation, or it will be too easy to recover from.

**Practical Tips**

Avoid sharp angles, and straight lines everywhere, and see that the contour of the bank is natural looking.

Ensure a good slope from the fairway to the centre of the sand area, otherwise a ball just trickling into the bunker cannot be extricated unless the player chooses to play back.

See that the bottom of the banks are sloped and the sand pushed well up to the slope in order to assist the ball to come to rest in the centre of the sand area.

Build the back bank sufficiently high to preclude the possibility of a ball jumping it.

Make sure there are no nooks and corners from which it is impossible for a player to have the full use of his niblick.

Avoid sleeper faced bunkers as being positively dangerous and flukey with the rubber cored ball.

From the President:

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the B.G.G.A. I would like to refer to the wisdom and foresight of the late Mr. F. G. Hawtree in founding the Association. As his immediate successor to the position of President, I am deeply conscious of his great work for Greenkeepers and Greenkeeping.

The messages received from the Prime Minister and Lord Brabazon do indeed emphasise the status and work of our Association.

C. R. Bretherton.

From the Chairman:

To the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and all members of the Association, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

D. G. Lord.

From the Hon. Secretary:

To all members of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association and readers of the Journal, I send my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

C. H. Dix.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Central Tavern, Huntington Street, Nottingham, on Wednesday, 17th October, 1962.

The Meeting which was very poorly attended had Mr. Stan. Talbot in the Chair. The Chairman asked members to stand and pay tribute to Mr. A. Mould who died during the past year.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read, confirmed and signed. The Annual Report was read by the Hon. Secretary and its adoption was proposed by Mr. D. G. Whitehead, seconded by Mr. A. Thornton and carried.

The Financial Statement reported by Mr. S. C. Long showed a satisfactory year, the position of the Section remaining sound. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr. D. G. Whitehead and seconded by Mr. D. Bull and carried.

Officials for 1963

Election of Officers: President: Mr. R. C. Ainscow; Vice-Presidents: It was proposed by Mr. F. Oliver and seconded by Mr. D. G. Whitehead that the list of Vice-Presidents as read should be re-elected en bloc. Chairman: Mr. D. G. Whitehead; Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Frost; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. Thornton; Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. T. McNeice; Committee: Messrs. D. Bull, F. Oliver and S. Talbot. Executive Representative: S. T. McNeice.

Mr. S. C. Long who, owing to other commitments has had to retire as Section Hon. Treasurer, was thanked by the Chairman for all his work during the past four years.

Several other matters were discussed which will be dealt with by the Committee.

Subscriptions

I am still pleading to a few members who have not yet paid their subscriptions which became due on the 1st May last. Our new Treasurer, Mr. A. Thornton, 15 Trent Road, Beeston, Notts., will be pleased to receive this cash.

New Member

We welcome to our Section Mr. B. F. Mott, 110 Overston Road, Sywell, Northampton. Mr. Mott is assistant greenkeeper at the Kingsthorpe Golf Club, Northampton.
MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
J. H. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
76 Four Oaks Common Road
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

OUR ANNUAL DINNER WILL BE
held on the 14th December at the King's
Head Hotel, Bearwood. A good concert party
has been engaged to entertain us and we are
looking forward to a very pleasant evening
when we hope members will support us by
bringing along their wives or girl friends. I
shall be pleased to send tickets to members
on request.

Christmas Greetings

We are nearing the end of another year so
on behalf of the Midland Section, I should
like to send Season's Greetings to our Presi-
dent and Mrs. Bretherton, and to all Mem-
ers of our Association, wishing them a Merry
Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

Hon. Secretary:
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN
Section, may I extend to all members of the
Association, and to our many friends in the
trade, our best wishes for a very Happy
Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

December Lecture

This will take place at the Talbot Restau-
 rant, London Wall, E.C., on Wednesday, 5th
December, at 6-30 p.m., when Mr. Booth, a
representative from Messrs. T. Parker will
show a film of the installation of alkathene
tubing at the Portrush Golf Club.

Mr. John Kirkpatrick

Our congratulations to Mr. John Kirk-
patrick, who is assistant to his father at Dul-
wich & Sydenham Golf Club, on being chosen
to play for the Surrey County. We in the
Southern Section feel that this is a great
honour both to us and to the B.G.G.A.

October Quiz

It is regretted that the Quiz which was to
have been held in October had to be post-
poned owing to alterations being carried out
at the Stirling Castle which made our room
unavailable at that time.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following
new members: M. R. Cooke, West Lodge,
West Road, St. George's Hill, Weybridge,
Surrey and M. Mandeville, 47 Getershams
Avenue, Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey.

CANNOCK

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and
A BRIGHT NEW YEAR

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PEAKS OF WIGAN

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I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS opportunity of wishing all members of the Association a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Autumn Tournament

The Annual Tournament of the Section was played over the course of the Headingley Golf Club on Thursday, 18th October (by kind permission of the Committee). Forty members took part in the Competition played under ideal golfing conditions. Fine weather but with a stiffish wind making good scores hard to come by. Results:—Scratch Prize, R. Barnes (Hazel Grove) 82; 1st Division, 1st, S. Smith (Alwoodley) 83—11=72; 2nd, J. Scott (Town Moor) 86—13=79; 3rd, D. Roberts (West Bowling) 88—14=72; 4th, E. Paley (Lightcliffe) 91—15=76; 5th, D. Copland (St. Ives) 83—6=79. 2nd Division, 1st, P. Williams (Northcliffe) 87—24=63; 2nd, D. Scott (Scarborough North Cliff) 94—24=70; 3rd, A. Robertshaw (Otley) 88—16=74; 4th, K. Chamberlain (Northcliffe) 93—21=72; 5th, M. Tucker (Headingley) 94—17=71.

Following tea, our President, Mr. W. Mountain introduced the Vice-Captain of Headingley Golf Club who presented the prizes. A vote of thanks to the Club and all concerned in making a successful day was proposed by the Chairman, Mr. G. Mason and seconded by Mr. J. Scott.

We were pleased to have Ted Gaiam over from Ganton to join us. We hope that by the time of the Spring Tournament he will be fit enough to take part.

Our thanks are due to the Golf Clubs who so kindly contributed to our Prize Fund.

Handicap Revision

The Committee have made the following revisions to handicaps: A. Money, 12 to 14; F. Kenny, 15 to 17; E. Munns, 13 to 15; F. Cox, 15 to 16; P. Williams, 24 to 18; S. Bailes, 22 to 20; and A. Cox, 20 to 22.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Section the following new members: R. G. Amer, 12 Chapel Lane, Headingley, Leeds, 6 (Headingley Golf Club); C. Clements, 29 Vesper Road, Kirkstall, Leeds, 5 (Horsforth Golf Club); R. Nardi, Golf Club, Aix les Bains, Savoie, France.

Change of Address

Mr. F. G. Smith (Jun.), has now moved to 105 Holloway Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex. We wish him well in his new position.

Welsh

By S. A. Tucker

CHRISTMAS, 1962 IS VERY NEAR SO may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Welsh Section to wish all members of the Association a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I hope that 1963 will be a year of great success to you all. To all the Welsh boys, "Good Luck" to you and I hope we shall meet at our next competition in April, 1963, venue and date of which will be published in the next issue of the Journal if possible.

Eire (Irish)

By Laurence Kelly and Victor Bruce

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY and Prosperous New Year from our Section to all others.

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