NEW FROM IRELAND

Drip-dry golf . . . that's the next modern miracle of industrial ingenuity. A factory in Ireland is developing artificial greens for golf courses, woven from the same kind of man-made fibre which they use for men's shirts and women's frocks.

The fabric greens have already been tried out on golf courses in America, in States like Arizona where they have extremes of heat and cold. Apparently it stands up to either drought or snow.

"It can be used for either indoor or outdoor greens," say the makers. "The fabric can be laid down and used practically anywhere—in a disused barn or even on the club-house floor. It can be washed with a detergent. There is no reason why golf courses and bowling greens shouldn't be carpeted to give perfect conditions for sport all the year round."

Experts doubt, however, if there is likely to be much demand for the artificial green here. "We don't need it in this country," says Southall grass-and-course expert Arthur Cogswelle.

"We can grow our own grass greens, but the artificial surface could be useful in the arid countries where they have to use sand greens, or even putt on bare baked earth."


NEW FROM CARTERS

The 1963 edition of Messrs. Carters' Booklet "Treatment of Golf Courses and Sports Grounds" has just been published and will be of interest to all greenkeepers.

The accompanying Spring Price List (Grass Seeds, Fertilisers and Implements) has been enlarged to show a larger selection of their wide range of products available for use on turf.

Messrs. Carters will be pleased to post copies to any of our readers not already on their mailing list.

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News

from the Sections

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

Chairman:
G. W. MASON
(Halifax West End)

Hon. Secretary:
J. K. GLASS
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
(Thorpe Hall) Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

Spring Tournament

THE ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT, due to be played on Tuesday, 9th April, has been postponed. The new date will be Tuesday, 7th May. Closing date for entries will now be Saturday, 27th April.

February Meeting

Despite the continued severe wintry weather, 30 members turned up for the February meeting held in the Market Tavern, Bradford, on Tuesday, 19th February. The speaker was Mr. H. Winkle, of B.S.A. Ltd., who illustrated his talk with coloured slides. These were most interesting and Mr. Winkle clearly explained the different processes gone through in making an engine. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Robertshaw, seconded by Mr. S. Bailes, after Mr. Winkle had answered members' questions.

Our thanks are due to our President, Mr. W. Mountain, for providing a delicious buffet supper and drinks.

New Member

We welcome to the Section Mr. W. Dalby, who has taken over the position of Head Greenkeeper to the Ganton Golf Club, in succession to the late Ted Calam.

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
(Thorpe Hall) Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

WE HAD A VERY GOOD ATTENDANCE on 13th February and a cost interesting colour film showing the installation of alkathene tubing for water to all the greens on the Portrush Golf Course. Many thanks to Messrs. Parkers and their representatives who gave the show, especially Mr. Booth, who gave a running commentary and answered all the questions put to him afterwards.

The Section Annual Spring Tournament will be played at Thorndon Park Golf Club, Brentwood, Essex, on Wednesday, 15th May. During my absence in hospital, my Committee decided that all entries for the tournament should be sent to Mr. F. W. Ford, 66 Mercer Road, Holloway, N.19, together with the name of their club and handicap.

Please note the closing date will be Monday, 29th April, and the draw will be made on the 30th. All competitors will be notified.

May I please remind all members that the end of our financial year is 1st May, when subscriptions become due.

(We all hope Bill Mason will soon be back in harness again and send him our very best wishes—Editor.)

Quiz

Topical and interesting questions on subjects such as leatherjackets, ring disease,
bone meal dressings, soil samples, surface drainage, square frost holes, etc., were discussed at the ever popular quiz on Wednesday, 13th March, at the Tabbet Restaurant.

It was very gratifying to see new faces among the old of the 47 members who, despite this never-been-known-before winter, and all the problems that go with it, seemed in very good spirits.

Thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Jock Glass, who, with his natural ability and a big hammer, conducted a very enjoyable evening.

**Thorndon Park**

Entries for Spring Tournament to Hon. Secretary as usual, closing date Monday, 29th April. Preference of starting times to accompany entries.

**Visit to Suttons**

On Wednesday, 26th June, a party of 40 members will be guests of Suttons and Sns, Ltd., Reading, and from past experience this will be a most enjoyable and instructional day out.

A coach will be provided, leaving Charing Cross at approximately 8:00 a.m., or members can travel under their own steam. Either way, apply to Secretary as soon as possible.

The Spring Meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th May, by kind permission of the Committee of the Hartlepool Golf Club.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, 13th April, at the Marquis of Blandford, Westgate Road, Newcastle, at 7:00 p.m.

**NORTH-WEST**

Chairman:
T. Brennan
(Witham G.C.)

Hon. Secretary
Romiley G.C.

THE SECTION SPRING TOURNAMENT will be held at the Sale Golf Club on Monday, 13th May, by kind permission of the Council.

Eighteen holes will be played in the morning nine holes in the afternoon. Members are requested to make an early start. Entries should be sent to me by the 6th May.

The Annual General Meeting will also be held at the Sale Golf Club in the evening of 13th May and will commence as near as possible to 7:00 p.m.

Subscriptions are now due. Early payment saves reminders and extra postage.

**NORTH-EAST**

Chairman:
J. Simpson
(Ponteland G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
Heathery Cottage,
Heathery Lane, Gosforth,
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED of a visit to the Sports Turf Research Institute, on Tuesday, 23rd April. The bus will leave St. Thomas Street, Haymarket, Newcastle, at 8:30 a.m. Lunch and tea at Bingley. As applications had to be in by the end of March, will any member who has not yet applied and intends going, please let me know at once, along with any of their "officials".

We are very proud that Mr. L. A. Jones has been elected President of the English Golf Union. Not only does he take a great interest in the game, he is also very keen on our work and greenkeeping, and it was mostly through his efforts that we arranged a meeting with Jock Glass, Chairman, Mr. Dix, Secretary, and Mr. Hawtree, Editor, which was very successful and resulted in Northumberland and Durham Greenkeepers re-joining the B.G.G.A. Mr. Jones has very generously presented the Section with a prize. This will be known as "The President's Putter", the competition to take what form the Committee decides. On behalf of the North East Section we thank him very much and wish him all the best and a happy year of office.
APRIL
3rd Welsh Section, Spring Meeting, Clyne Golf Club.
4th Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Sutton Coldfield Golf Club.
18th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (West Section), Annual Spring Competition, Erskine Golf Club.
23rd North East Section, Visit to Sports Turf Research Institute.

MAY
7th Northern Section, Spring Tournament, Woodsome Hall, Huddersfield Golf Club.
9th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (East Section) Annual Competition, Dunbar Golf Course.
13th North West Section, Spring Tournament, Sale Golf Club.
14th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (North and Midland Section), Annual Golf Tournament for the Georgie McLean Trophy, Old Course, St. Andrews.
15th Southern Section, Spring Tournament, Thorndon Park Golf Club.
16th North East Section, Spring Meeting, Hartlepool Golf Club.
28th East Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Derby Golf Club.

JUNE
11th Midland Section, President's Match, Handsworth.
12th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (East Section) Annual Competition, Dunbar Golf Course.

AUGUST.
12th, 13th and 14th Annual General Meeting and Annual Tournament, Royal Birkdale Golf Club.

SEPTEMBER
26th Midland Section, Autumn Tournament, Handsworth Golf Club.

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.

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EAST SECTION

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION WILL be held on 9th May over Dunbar Golf Course, commencing 9.30 a.m. Entries to be sent to the Secretary not later than 2nd May.

NORTH & MIDLAND SECTION

OUR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT for the Georgie McLean Trophy will be held on Tuesday, 14th May, on the Old Course, St. Andrews, by the kind permission of the Joint Links Committee. I will notify all members of full details later.

SITUATIONS VACANT


ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required. Wages above agricultural rate. Free newly built bungalow and light—3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, etc. Full details to Secretary, Denham Golf Club, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

HEAD GREENKEEPER required, East Devon Golf Club. Only fully experienced men considered. Wage £15 per week. Excellent house and garden adjacent to course, rent and rates free. Details in writing to the Secretary.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required to work in pleasant conditions at attractive rate of pay. Shirley Park Golf Club, Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey.
BUYING NEW EQUIPMENT—continued.

ground conditions, or for use on other
types of surfaces. The degree of their
intended use for transportation, perhaps
over uneven surfaces such as golf fair-
ways, should be provided for.

Adequacy of design for these facilities
in regard to heavier items of equipment
may call for quite elaborate additions to
a unit but their omission may be fatal
to the success of the job. An example
is the development of tractor hydraulic
controls for otherwise unmanageable
implements.

The greater the diameter and the
broader the rim surface of the ground
or driving wheels, the easier it will be
to propel or control a travelling chassis.
This simple rule is often neglected in
the interests of initial economy, but the
result is loss of time and even undue
wear and damage to transmissions or
other mechanisms.

Handles also are often reasonably
adequate for ground use but may be
found inconvenient or fatiguing when it
is required to use them for transporta-
tion of the machine.

Remote controls should be located
conveniently and in correct relation to
one another.

Most well designed equipment is
capable of certain necessary adjustments
and these fall into two main categories
—take-up adjustments for wear, and
change over adjustments for facili-
tating variations in the functional results
obtained. These should be carefully
studied by the prospective buyer. It is
generally unsatisfactory to attempt to
design one adjustment mechanism for
both the above purposes. It is important
to note also that any adjusting mechan-
isms should be so located as to avoid
having any adverse effect on the rigidity
of construction or on the working com-
ponents of the equipment. Adjustment
mechanism should provide positive
means of setting components so that
having once been correctly related they
will remain so when the item is put to
work. Adjustments may also be neces-
sary to suit varying heights of operators,
but this feature is now rarely omitted.

Safety of operator. One further re-
quirement, especially of machines with
power driven components, is safety of
operator. This is a most difficult aspect
of design and is generally met by cover-
ing in or guarding moving parts (except
where it is better that these should be
under continual observation), by safety
cut-out controls and by the use of the
“dead man’s handle” principle. This
latter is a most effective and efficient
way of reducing risks to man and
machine and also to fine turf surfaces.

Demonstrations. The practical opinion
of an operator is invaluable in the selec-
tion of equipment, especially hand tools
and machines, but he should be given a
budget for expenditure. There is little
doubt that control features are normally
the most difficult for purchasers to access
and in this respect the value of practical
demonstrations under working condi-
tions is inestimable. The operator him-
self, however, should be the final arbiter
and should take the opportunity to make
the demonstrator pass on to him the
know-how of handling. At the same
time, in the event of purchase, the
printed working instructions should be
requested and perused. The demon-
strator can be asked to point out im-
portant parts of the instructions. These
will have been prepared with the in-
tention of keeping down faults and mis-
understandings and attention to them
will be amply repaid. As much or more
of the designer’s intentions may appear
in well drafted instructions as in the
sales publicity for a product.

As a general rule simultaneous com-
petitive demonstrations should not be
arranged as this may merely prove em-
barrassing for all concerned and will not
necessarily improve the presentation of
the products.

It should be understood that good
work is not produced so much by a
tool, implement or machine as by the
operator. Equipment should not be
expected to think for itself. The hand-
ling of it, however, should always be
sufficiently simple and physically un-
fatiguing as to leave the operator free-
dom of thought and attention to the
work in hand.

This article first appeared in S.T.R.I. Journal No. 36, 1960.
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