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FYLKING SMOOTH STALK MEADOW GRASS

'FROM QUALITY CONSCIOUS SEED DISTRIBUTORS'
THE BRITISH GOLF
GREENKEEPER
HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

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CONTENTS

TEE SHOTS PAGE 9
THOSE SIXTY YEARS 12
THE FUNNY SIDE OF GREENKEEPING 16
‘BEEN TO BOSTON’ 18
SITUATIONS VACANT 20
NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS 22

Front Cover Picture:
Demonstration of Ransomes Motor Triple on the Woodbridge Golf Course

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(You need only 1 oz. per square yard.)

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And it's called Hi-lite.

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Hi-lite Mosskiller.  Fisons Agrochemical Division

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Telephone Cambridge (0223) 870312.
The Atco Groundsman.
A cut above other mowers.

The 28" and 34" Groundsman are now available in both electric and kick-starter versions.

The electric version has a 12 volt self-starter, battery and automatic charging system as a standard fitment. Apart from this and their cutting widths, they share the same features.

To start with, they're both fitted with six heavy duty blades which give 81 cuts per yard—an unusually fine cut for their size.

They can be power driven with the cutters stationary by operating a cutter release clutch.

What's more, either machine may be used with or without the optional standard Atco trailer seat.

Another feature is the tubular handles specially designed for added manoeuvrability when turning.

They can be adjusted quickly to suit individual operator heights by means of an instant clamping lever.

There's a new 'swing over' type glass fibre grass box. It is mounted on tubular steel support arms and its lower section is recessed so it can be used with swivel front rollers.

Then there's a large capacity fuel tank which holds one gallon of petrol.

It takes one professional to recognise another. Is it any wonder then that Atco mowers are used on some of the most famous stretches of turf in this country.

ATCO
As famous as the lawns we cut

For full details of Atco mowers write to Charles H. Pugh Ltd., P.O. Box 256, ATCO Works, Birmingham, B9 4PR.
Dear ‘Besieged’ of Tunbridge Wells...

If it’s any consolation, you are not alone in your difficulties.

Every week, groundsmen and greenkeepers write to me from all over the country, worried about the state of their turf; and the effect it’s having on their players.

I tell them that what they really need is a proper turf service. The best one I know of is operated by Fisons of Cambridge.

Not only do they offer an unusually fine range of products, but something that is invaluable in this day and age—a sympathetic ear.

They’ll send a man round to see you, free. You can talk things out and sort things out. (All their people are thoroughly trained in all aspects of turf culture.)

Then he’ll recommend the best course of action in your particular case; although, of course, you’ll be under no obligation.

Anyway, why don’t you get in touch with them yourself? The address to write to is: Fisons Ltd., Recreational and Industrial Dept., Harston, Cambridge, CB2 5HU. Or you may call them at 0223 870312.

Meanwhile, may I suggest a stout padlock?

The complete fine turf service.
With pleasure announce that they hold the greatest concentration of lawn mower spares and lawn mower engine spares in the country

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Two Vertirake Models for thatch removal on fine turf and out fields

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H. Pattisson & Co. Ltd., Stanmore Hill Works, Stanmore, Middx. 01-954 4171
WE ARE EMBARRASSED!

When we visited England in 1971 to introduce WARREN'S A-34 BLUEGRASS SEED, we thought we had an inventory sufficient to supply the market in Great Britain as well as the U.S.A. Late in 1971 we received word that the 1971 crop had been a disappointment. We were not too concerned because we felt we had a sufficient supply to carry us through 1972. Then word from our sales department advised of heavier than expected sales in the States resulting in a serious depletion of our inventory.

We returned to America to get a closer look at the situation. It was not good. Word from the State of Washington, where A-34 seed is grown, indicated a short crop for 1972. As a result, all sales in the States were stopped.

Our distributors for the United Kingdom and Europe, HURST GUNSON COOPER TABER LTD., were advised of the situation and cautioned not to accept large orders for A-34 until the situation improved, which would not be until the autumn of 1973 or 1974.

At this point HURST had a fair inventory of A-34. We were in hopes this inventory would carry us through the shortage period until we could replenish the HURST stock. Our hopes were not to be realized, simply because people who had planted A-34 to test it in 1971 were suddenly aware of the fact that the things we had been telling them about A-34 were not just a lot of "Yankee Ballyhoo" but were factual and A-34 did perform as we claimed. Consequently, we now find ourselves in the embarrassing position of having orders we cannot fill for at least one year . . . probably two years.

You can be certain as soon as we possibly can, we'll again be shipping WARREN'S A-34 seed to our distributor, HURST GUNSON COOPER TABER LTD. of Witham in Essex.

Yes we are embarrassed . . . and sorry if we have had to disappoint you, but you can be sure . . .

WARREN'S A-34 WILL BE BACK!

WARREN'S A-34 is the finest grass you'll come by. It is highly disease resistant, takes a lot of traffic and abuse and tolerates up to 65% shade. Its color is a dark green and it recovers quickly when injured.

One pound of A-34 seed will plant 1,500 square feet and will produce excellent turf in one year.

A-34 need not be blended with other seed because it does well in most any type of soil and under most climatic conditions.

For more information about WARREN'S A-34 BLUEGRASS, please contact our distributor:

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Tee Shots

THE GOLF FOUNDATION has produced the golfers.
The Golf Development Council is producing the golf courses.

Let's take a look at the shortages and the problems that this upsurge in golf interest has produced. What can we learn from the past 10 years?

Providing facilities
It can take four years or more to produce a golf course ready for play. Therefore, by the time it is realised that new golf courses are needed, the situation is already four years behind the times.

Simple facilities like driving ranges, (e.g. on existing sports fields when not used for other games) or rudimentary greens and tees provided on sports grounds, common land, parks, farmers' fields, may satisfy schools and beginners for a time. Artisan type clubs which use courses at off peak times should also be encouraged at existing courses to assist maximum use of existing facilities. But full scale new golf courses are demanded in the end. They must be located and planned well ahead of demand.

Cost of construction is rising. £100,000 is not exceptional on an unfavourable site. Standards are rising all the time and intense use demands a higher specification than formerly.

Private ventures may falter for lack of funds. Municipal bodies have to be encouraged. Municipal courses now break even and show a profit. A privately operated public course can do even better.

The integration of housing development with new golf courses provides the best way of spreading the cost and giving something extra in return. But planning restrictions stultify this type of development in many countries, though in the USA (especially Florida) it still flourishes. Otherwise, a private venture needs, say, 200–300 enthusiasts with at least £500 to £1,000 each.

Because costs are high, the tendency for each new venture to seek a bigger club house and longer ‘Championship’ course should be discouraged. Simple layouts and buildings can be developed fully in the future, if the original plans are right.

Government help may be available where derelict industrial land can be reclaimed and landscaped by making a golf course. It is cheaper, for instance, to remodel slag heaps for golf than for many other purposes because more internal contours can be left. But any reclamation scheme should ensure adequate top soil cover and drainage of playing areas at least.

The British Government recognises the need to encourage sport and makes grants towards the provision of new courses and training teachers. The old idea of golf as a game for the favoured few dies hard but it should be relentlessly contradicted wherever it survives. Lack of government help may indeed prolong this old myth. Grants will naturally carry the obligation to use them for general benefit.

Recently many more commercial interests have become interested in ‘investing in leisure’. The publicity of televised sponsored tournaments has been attractive for some years. Now the sponsorship of amateur events may follow. This new money would be better channelled into the sub-structure of the game instead of its facade. It is folly to foster more surface activities until background technology and personnel can take the strain.

Nine hole courses nearly halve the costs and in remoter areas may well satisfy demand. They should always be planned with an eye to future extension to 18 holes.
Par 3 courses and Pitch and Putt Courses are popular and the latter, especially, can be lucrative. But they are a sign of the popularity of the game rather than a solution to providing facilities for it.

Pressures
The rush of new golfers and hence the urgent need for new courses, now shows us where plans were needed years earlier. Today, many of our resources are woefully out-dated.

Greenkeepers  An apprenticeship scheme was started about six years ago but only at the instigation of greenkeepers themselves. Golf in Great Britain is curiously organised. Responsibility for fundamental thinking is dispersed. There are four amateur, ethnic groups, one traditional supra-national body dealing with limited areas, female organisations, professional bodies concerned more with finance than the game itself, the Golf Development Council which tries to link the above bodies and the Golf Foundation supported by manufacturers and official representatives from most sections of golf. Each organisation is, indeed, represented in some form on most of the others. This provides a superficially democratic system of government but produces effective stalemate in any urgent matters outside each organisation's immediate area of concern. Thus, there is still no effective encouragement or training for greenkeepers. Older courses cannot find them. New courses have to take pot luck. The average age of groundstaff in Britain has, at a guess, gone down from 40 to 20 in ten years. Traditional greenkeeping practices are in danger of being lost because we were all slow in realising the side effects of developing golf alone and not its associated trades.

Research  An expanded programme of research was equally lacking. The investment in research in relation to expenditure could be as low as -0042% No industry can long survive on this proportion - nor does it deserve to.

Design  At the same time, the boom in new courses attracts a number of professional amateur golfers and others into the design field. They probably lack practical experience. Again, if money is not to be wasted there should be a full supporting service of agronomy. Design itself is changing the whole time in its details in order to keep up with new greenkeeping techniques. The triplex green mower, as one example, needs adequate space to manoeuvre on surrounds as well as a green structure able to resist compaction.

Construction  The number of golf course contractors increases at the same time. Stress must be laid on the need for precise detailed specifications and drawings. Good constructional foremen who could interpret general indications do not exist anymore. The construction of a golf course can only be resolved by an engineering approach, however experienced the designer may be.

With qualified architects fully engaged, urgent schemes may use advisers or contractors alone of little experience, often with unhappy results both in design and practice. Standard contract documents should be available so that clients can obtain value for money and be given protection.

Future  Unless these problems are met squarely by the responsible authorities in each country, control of the situation will pass out of experienced hands into those of entrepreneurs and persons with no interest in aspects of the game of golf which have been proved by time.

Basic etiquette and rules could even be at hazard.

Encouragement of development must come from the top - from the authorities who have inherited and understood the changing traditions of the game. They must remould these to current needs. The flood of new golfers must be actively encouraged (our basic philosophy rests on the universal benefits of the game) but its direction must be guided. The money and time now involved in golf are very serious business indeed. Those who care for the game's interests must respond on the same level.