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Front cover

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GOLF COURSE DESIGN

Some Personal Views on Modern Golf Course Architecture

J. Hamilton Stutt, B.Sc.

Chairman, British Association of Golf Course Architects

PART 2: THE CONSTANT CHALLENGE

The early beginnings

For a proper understanding of golf course architecture, it is helpful to know something of the early origins and development of the game.

Early paintings show that a form of golf on ice must have been fairly popular in Holland as far back as the Middle Ages, but there is little doubt that golf as we know it originated, perhaps as early as the fourteenth century, along the east coast of Scotland. Here nature had provided the perfect setting not just the sea-side sand dunes but, equally important, the fine sheep and rabbit grazed grass across which a small ball could be played without being lost. These conditions must have been extremely rare before the advent of mowing machines, which accounts for the very localized nature of early golf.

Golfers would play along until they saw a little patch of smooth grass, perhaps nestling in among the sand dunes, just inviting a shot. These became the first greens. After holing out, probably in a convenient rabbit scrape, some sand would be taken out of the hole and this used to tee up (within a club length) for the next shot. The whole point is that golf from its earliest days was played in a completely natural setting with predominantly gentle, wind-formed mounds and other features. It is when unthinking man has tried to superimpose artificial looking features, steep banks, square greens, etc., on the game that so much of the true essence has been lost.

I want to see natural beauty restored to golf, inland as well as seaside.

By the mid-fifteenth century, the game had already become so popular as to interfere with the defence of the realm. In 1457, an historical Act of Parliament decreed that "the futeball and the golf be utterly cryit dune" so that the good citizens should not be diverted from the practice of archery! Royal account books show that the Kings (James III and IV) who signed this and later similar Acts, were not above ordering themselves some new clubs at the same time — an early case of "do as I say, not as I do"!

An interesting point here is that from its very earliest beginnings in Scotland, golf has been a game for King and commoner alike. In its spread much later to the USA and Europe, golf was from the outset regarded as a status symbol. There is a danger that the resultant lavish courses and club houses may, in many cases, price out of existence a game which need not be expensive to be enjoyed. There is room in golf for all kinds of golf club.

It is probably not widely known that the game of golf is 18 holes purely by chance. The good people of St Andrews had been playing, probably since the late 1400s, on 11 holes. They finally settled in 1764 on 9 of these natural green sites, among the sand dunes on the way "out". Coming back home towards "the auld grey toon" they played into exactly the same holes, with an extra home hole beside the first tee, nice and handy for the nearest hostelry. Voila, 18 holes! It was not until much later, in 1832, that separate holes were cut for the inward half, so giving the famous double greens.

Although there would be no clearly defined fairways as we know them today, many players' second or third shots



Club house and swimming pool on one of the author's golf courses. Balconies and bars overlook the course and Mediterranean beyond. Very nice indeed -I enjoy being invited back! - but it is the golf course and spirit of the club which matter most in golf. This can be found in the simplest of clubs as well as in the most lavish.



The best possible layout plan is all important (Meon Valley Golf and Country Club, nr. Wickham, Hants, for the Ashton Court Group).

on these early links courses tended to be played from the same area. These must soon have been worn down to the bare sand. Further wear and natural erosion deepened and enlarged these patches into what we now call bunkers, all of them, by virtue of their formation, being automatically located in the most diabolically awkward places. The existence of a majority of these natural bunkers on the right-hand side confirms that slicing is not a malady afflicting modern golfers only!

There must have been a fair amount of trial and error in these early courses as golf spread around the available links land. Bad features would soon be abandoned and the good remain. A kind of natural evolution which helps to explain why our great links courses, especially the Old Course at St Andrews, were able to set such a high standard of excellence that their influence has affected every other golf course since built throughout the world.

What skills should a golf course architect possess?

We are all often asked this question.

Only twice in nearly 30 years, once in Britain and once in Spain, have I had the sheer delight of planning golf holes among natural sand dunes in exactly the same manner as our ancestors of over 500 years ago.

On every other kind of ground, the golf course has to be created by architects.

To meet this exciting *challenge* of design, I believe a golf course architect should possess the following abilities.

1. Flair for design

I put this first because it is an aptitude possessed by few and which can only be partially learned. Whether one's field is the designing of houses, ships, motor cars or golf courses, I would go as far as to say that without this flair, this ability to recognize and create beauty of line, one will never become more than a mediocre architect.

2. Preparing plans

With experience, it is not too difficult to produce a layout of sorts in only a day or so, or even, as some have boasted, in an airport waiting room! Even though it means accepting fewer commissions, I however still frequently find myself spending several weeks on a new layout before I am satisfied that it is *the best possible layout* I can create for the land.

Only by really knowing the ground and taking sufficient time and thought can one be really confident of the layout plan, and that *maximum use has been made of every natural feature.* The saving in construction costs alone from this is well worth the time spent, apart from the added bonus of a more attractive course.

In addition, the golf course architect must be able to design and draw detailed plans for greens and surrounding features suitable for the strategy and beauty of each hole.

Mistakes can be costly and, once constructed, often impossible to put right effectively. A good architect should, in my opinion, try to get the course "right" and in proper detail at the planning stage *before construction starts.* This is the only way to minimize the risk of unnecessary and expensive changes during construction – or even after the course is completed – which occur much more often than they should.

3. Golf course construction

Extensive experience of golf course construction is, in my opinion, highly desirable.

I regard my many years in civil engineering and golf course construction as a most valuable part of my training, second in importance only to the lengthy apprenticeship I was fortunate enough to have with great golf architects like Mackenzie Ross and John Morrison.

Ability is required to draw up detailed specifications covering all stages of construction. Here again a skilled architect can save his client considerable sums by knowing how to draw up a tailor-made specification to suit his client's finances. Some new golf courses have failed largely because the architect, lacking construction experience, played safe by sticking to a "Rolls-Royce" specification. The resultant unnecessarily high construction costs never gave the project a chance to be financially viable.

The architect should also be able to control contracts, advise on construc-



Documentation needed for a new golf course! (Detailed green plans, specifications, etc.)

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tion problems, correct any mistakes which may arise, certify payments, and agree final accounts where required to do so.

4. Knowledge of civil engineering and landscape architecture

Modern heavy earth-moving equipment can perform wonders, but knowledge is needed of what can be done easily and what would be unduly expensive.

Detailed knowledge of trees, drainage and irrigation systems.

Familiarity with surveying and the interpretation of aerial photographs and topographic maps.

5. The game of golf

A thorough understanding of the game, its traditions, strategy and courses is, of course, essential -- though this knowledge is possessed by many thousands of golfers. It is a help, though not essential, to have been a reasonably good golfer at one stage in one's life. Much more important is personal experience of golf as played by the beginner and average golfer, as well as by the expert, so that a new golf course may be equally suitable for all. Knowledge of the inner workings of golf through service on committees and so on is also a great help.

6. Turf culture and greenkeeping

Long experience and a deep understanding of all the problems connected with the establishment and maintenance of the fine turf on a golf course is highly desirable. Knowledge is needed on top soils, cultivation, soil ameliorants and fertilizers, modern developments in grass seeds, weed and pest controls, etc.

Choosing a golf course architect

The British Association of Golf Course Architects (BAGCA) was formed by a small group of us, each with over 25 years experience, in order to try to establish standards of experience, knowledge and integrity in the profession. As you can see from the above, golf

course architecture has become a highly specialized profession and we were concerned at the harm being done, due to persons practising golf architecture with insufficient training or experience.

I am, however, not going to follow up with the obvious slogan – "Play safe, employ a member of BAGCA"! We would much rather that you choose your golf course architect on the merits of his proven skills - not solely because he is either (1) a BAGCA member, (2) a champion golfer, or (3) a television personality!

Being a good golfer - whilst an ability we can all envy - has really very little to do with being a good golf architect. In fact it is rather like asking a great actor to design a new theatre. I should like to make it plain, however, that there is no reason why a former champion golfer - and I stress the word former, because golf architecture is a full-time, demanding profession should not one day become a good golf architect. It will, however, not be because of his golfing skills but because he has been blessed with and acquired the abilities I have already discussed.

Do, please, carry out these three simple tests:

- 1. Ask for a complete list of courses for the design and construction of which the architect has been personally responsible throughout.
- 2. Ask for details of four of the most recent golf courses completed. Write to them.
- 3. Go and see at least two of them.

Check particularly on the following points:

- (a) Does the course look really attractive?
- (b) Does maximum use appear to have been made of any natural features such as a lake or stream? Has unhill climbing been necessary avoided?
- (c) Do the greens, bunkers, tree planting, etc., look completely natural, blending in with their surroundings, or do a lot of the features look like burial mounds?
- (d) Is the course easy to maintain by modern machinery (avoidance of steep slopes, etc.)?
- Meet clients and discuss service (e) given by architect. Did he make expensive alterations during construction, was the contract sum ex-ceeded? Be fair, however. A course might be wet or tees small, for example, because drainage and other items had to be cut down to meet a client's budget. This happens to all of us.

Sorry if this month's contribution has been rather heavy going, but in subsequent articles I hope to deal with bunkers, tree planting, and other more specific aspects of golf course design.

Thought for today

Nearly every golf course which I visit has some superfluous fairway bunkers within 180 yards or so of the back tee. These only trap beginners, hold up play, and can cheerfully be ignored by better players. Have you thought of saving maintenance by grassing them over - if possible leaving as gentle, sweeping mounds, which can easily be kept mown?



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TURF TOPICS

J. H. Arthur, B.Sc.(Agric.)

Golf Course Agronomist - Landscaping Consultant

How often in the last decade have we seen golf courses whose entire character has been changed, often at vast expense, in a misguided attempt to improve colour. If ever I hear any player comment that a particular course has beautifully green greens, then I know that the chances are that it has not good greens.

The natural colour of a good links or heathland course is anything but green for most of the year. Golf today is played 365 days a year – well, snow and frost permitting – and it is pointless producing nice green greens which provide good putting surfaces for a few summer months if we have to tolerate thatchy bogs for most of the rest of the year.

Thatch is the curse of modern greenkeeping. It is unquestionably linked with annual meadow grass – there is no such thing as a soft, soggy, fescue green. Annual meadow grass dominance is also unarguably caused by three factors. These are over-fertilizing, overwatering and under-aerating. These terms are, of course, relative.

We need to aerate far more today, when there is so much more play, than even 10 years ago. In certain circumstances, once-a-week slitting is not excessive – yet too many greenkeepers feel they have done well to aerate two or three times a year. Worse still, one Head Greenkeeper told me (at a recent lecture) that no only did his green committee refuse to let him aerate at all but he had not even got an aeration machine.

Over-watering is the commonest fault. It has been made far too easy by the increasing use of pop-up sprinklers. But how unfair to blame the pop-ups when the fault lies with the man setting the clocks on the control panel. In fairness this is often not the Head Greenkeeper. On one course, for a month a member with the aid of a spare key had been re-setting the clocks to half an hour each night and resetting them to the original three to six minutes before the arrival of the greenkeeping staff the $\sqrt{}$ next morning. A category one player, he wanted soft greens to pitch into and stop on. Now he has no club - let alone a handicap!

Most greens require no more than 250–300 gallons a night. Too many get up to 10 times as much and soggy

thatch develops; few realize how quickly — often several inches in a season!

But the prime cause of thatchy meadow-grass greens is unquestionably far too liberal treatment with the wrong fertilizer. Too many young greenkeepers are taught that the secret of good putting surfaces lies in the regular use of some magic mix out of the bag. In fact I suppose it depends more on the quality of the mower than any other single factor. The best greens thrive on neglect and the best fertilizer is air. On many Championship links and heathland courses virtually - indeed sometimes literally - no fertilizer is used at all. That which is used is chiefly organic nitrogen. It is gratifying to see some turf fertilizer companies formulating mixtures for golf greens with very little phosphate - and a minority have produced as a standard that old-fashioned but technically faultless mixture of equal parts of ammonia, blood, hoof and horn and iron that was old-fashioned when I proved its merits over 30 years ago.

Another fault is to put the fertilizer on too soon, as well as to water too soon. You cannot beat nature in greenkeeping. Cold wet greens start growth even later than cold dry greens. Late April is quite soon enough over most of the country to start thinking about the first fertilizer dressing. If you must produce a little colour for the benefit of the unskilled, who will confuse colour with quality, then use a very little sulphate of iron in March.

All greenkeeping is a logical and basically simple exercise – but it takes time to learn the details and especially to recognize from symptoms potential problems far enough in advance to take remedial action. The difference in my view between a really brilliant Head Greenkeeper and the average is that the former never really has a crisis on his hands – as he has anticipated and dealt with it before it starts to be a problem.



Are things getting better?

Dear Sir, Over the past three or four years we in the Sheffield Section have been trying to bring some improvement in the wages of our members. Feeling that a local approach was better than a national one, we made contact with the Sheffield Union of Golf Clubs to see if we could get together to formulate a wage scale for greenkeepers employed by clubs in the area.

At first we did not get much help from the Sheffield Union but over the past year one of our Vice-Presidents, Mr E. Park, has been President of the Union and he has put a lot of effort into putting our case forward. Last June Mr Park called a meeting of all golf club captains and greens chairmen; at this meeting it was decided to obtain details of wages being paid by local clubs. Having collected this information Mr Park formulated a list of all the wages and sent a copy of the list to all golf clubs (this list did not give details of clubs or staff it was just a list of wages); from this list clubs could see if they were out of line with the wages other clubs were paying.

We for our part are now carrying out the same exercise among ourselves after which greenstaff will have the same information as the clubs and will know what other clubs are paying their staff. In future when greenstaff go into wage negotiations with their clubs they will know where they stand locally regarding the wages being paid by other clubs and the clubs will not be able to say, as before, we know that such and such a club only pay so much and so on.

I think in the end this method will bring greenstaff wages much more into line with one another and also help to improve things generally; it is far better than trying to enforce the old wages scale as we tried to do before and found impossible. I think things are changing for the better (perhaps not fast enough for some) and who knows perhaps some time in the not too distant future we will be paid as we should be, as the most important people involved in the game of golf.

> Yours faithfully Barry Lax Secretary/Treasurer Sheffield Section of BGGA



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Golf Course Maintenance—Spring

John Leonard Head Greenkeeper, Prestbury Golf Club



John Leonard

These notes generally refer to maintenance work during March, April and May, but since writing my last article, covering late autumn and winter work, we have been subjected to a colder spell of weather than we have experienced for a number of years and snow has been lying on greens, tees and fairways for a longer period. This has held up a number of jobs which would normally have been done by this time.

For example, some construction work which we had planned has been impossible to carry out because of the frozen conditions, which were in some way due to the extremely wet spell immediately preceding. Some of the maintenance spiking has had to be passed over, but when the thaw sets in and conditions are right once again we will revert to our maintenance programme.

Greens

Spring work on greens will include constant vigil for fungal attacks. These are less likely following a cold spell but with snow covering the course for a period we then have the possibility of an outbreak of snow mould. If milder conditions suddenly reappear, on the other hand, we must keep an eye open for fusarium, etc., and take rapid appropriate action. It will be necessary to continue the switching on greens to remove dew and any debris on the putting surfaces. Similarly we must continue the regular repair of pitch-marks and move hole positions at least once per week.

Slit tining of greens will proceed on a weekly basis on our course as this helps surface drainage and the percolation of moisture to lower levels. In my opinion the circulation of air is helping to break down the mat. If surface growth occurs it may be necessary to give an occasional topping with the mower but it could be mid-April at the earliest, in this part of the country, before we start to reduce the cutting height; it might be as late as May before the cylinders are set down to $\frac{3}{16}$ in.

In March, I will be reckoning to lightly scarify all my greens prior to the application of a top dressing, which is my own mixture and has proved over the years to be suitable for my greens. Each course may require a different mixture and it will be the experience of the greenkeeper to decide the mixture which is suitable for his own needs. I apply 3-4 lb per square yard by hand; the greenkeeper's practised eye can gauge the correct volume. The same mixture is applied to the approaches to greens, which in these days are maintained to the same standard as the putting surface. I prefer to apply fertilizer separate to the top dressing mixture, usually about four weeks later, when there is the first sign of appreciable growth.

Fairways

Normally, February/March is our time for heavy duty spiking of our fairways, the only way to get really deep root growth and assist drainage. We follow this by veemoing (or scarifying with our



Sisis tractor mounted aerator



Switching

Veemo) followed by a thorough sweeping to remove all the debris. In the three years since I adopted these practices I have seen a marked improvement of the fairways, much appreciated by the golfers. Care is then necessary in the choice of the fertilizer mixture, remembering that we do not require excessive surface growth but a good healthy sward and strong root growth. If any weedkilling is necessary, April is usually the month to apply the appropriate solution; choosing the right day for this important job is most critical, to avoid "drifting".

We continue divoting throughout this



period, on a regular basis, but during April/May when we have confidence that seed will germinate, we change to a soil/seed mixture.

Tees

I usually slit tine tees in March/April, prior to re-seeding winter tees or worn areas, again when we have some confidence that good germination will be possible. A fertilizer dressing will be applied in April/May. Early spring is the time to get out and position summer tee markers, yardage signs, ball washers, seats, etc., which should, by now, have been repaired, repainted, or renewed, as discussed in my last article.

Bunkers

There always seems to be work to do on bunkers at this time and I trim edges and impart new sand where necessary in good time for the main playing season.

General

Once again I feel it is necessary to stress the need for forward planning of work to be done in this extremely busy period ahead of us. With weather and ground conditions impossible to forecast, we will rarely be able to fix, in advance, a precise day on which certain jobs can be done or even commence. If you draw up a list of jobs for the period, however, in / some sort of order of priority, you can cross them off as they are done and up-date the list week by week. In this manner you can have some sort of confidence that nothing important is missed, even if it is delayed.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

These announcements are free to members of the BGGA

G.M.3 for sale. Excellent condition. Four cutting reels, three thatching reels, two engines, two hydraulic tanks. Numerous other spares. Bargain at today's prices. $\pounds1,900$. Contact R. Tempest, Otford 2379 (home), 2922 (work), Darenth Valley Golf Course.

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A.c. output sockets conform to British Standards on all four models. Bill Beveridge, the man who almost joined the mounted police, has just celebrated 42 years service with Ransomes Grass Machinery Scotland.

Now Sales Manager of the Scottish company he joined in 1936 as an apprentice, Bill almost escaped from the grass machinery world on two occasions. If his father had had his way he would have been in the catering trade, but after six months at the Caledonian Hotel as a waiter he decided he was more suited to engineering and joined Morton Engineering in Edinburgh, which was taken over by Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies of Ipswich in 1948.

Bill, who now lives in Balerno, completed his apprenticeship and served in the RAF for six years before returning to Scotland and a job in the workshops, but in 1948 he was put on the road demonstrating and selling grass machinery and he has been a salesman ever since – even though he was tempted at one stage to join the mounted police. However, his six years in the RAF was enough uniform for him and the million miles he has clocked up since have done nothing to dampen his enthusiasm for selling.

In his career-long associations with golf clubs and public authorities he has won great respect and is a trade member of the groundsmen's and greenkeepers' associations. He was the first trade member elected as President of the Edinburgh section of the Institute of Groundsmanship and is an honorary life member of the Scottish Greenkeepers' Association. And, as if not content with dealing with turf all day, his main hobbies are golf and bowls.



Bill clocks up 42 years. Bill Beveridge (centre) receives the congratulations of Ransomes Managing Director Bob Dodsworth for his 42 years with the company. With them is grass machinery Marketing Director Guy Catchpole (right) who worked with Bill in Scotland after the war.

Hillside Golf Club Head Greenkeeper, George Lloyd



George Lloyd has been at Hillside Golf Club for eight years, for the past six as Head Greenkeeper. After leaving school and a period in horticultural and nursery work, George entered greenkeeping at Ormskirk Golf Club under the Head Greenkeeper Mr A. Fyles before moving to Hillside as deputy in 1970.

At Hillside he found an 18-hole championship links course, the front nine holes being very flat and the second nine hilly between sandhills close to the sea. A total greenkeeping staff of six plus two part-timers serve a club membership of 750, helped by a well-balanced range of equipment.

George's choice of materials is fairly broad. For grass seed Rigby Taylor, Bolton and Supaturf mixtures. For fertilizers on greens and tees Supaturf



and SAI are preferred and for fairways, Fison's granular. Shrubs and roses on the course are fed with SAI Enmag granular and fungicides are chosen from Maysan, Verdisan and Benlate. The annual rate of consumption of materials at Hillside is as follows:

Mushroom compost for		
fairways	300	tons
Soil for general		
maintenance	400	tons
Top dressing for greens		tons
Fertilizer for greens, fairways		
and tees	10	tons

One of the biggest problems at the course is drought during summer months. Toro pop-up sprinklers have been installed on all greens by George and his staff and this has been a substantial help. All tees are watered by surface impulse sprinklers. Three fairways have had Rainbird fully automatic sprinklers fitted, again by the staff, and it is planned to extend this on more fairways as finance permits. Another problem faced by many seaside courses is sand being blown out of the bunkers. The answer at Hillside is a brush, shovel and barrow!

A complete Cushman system with accessories has just been purchased which has proved to be a marvellous asset to the club in time saving. At a busy course with numerous society meetings simply getting things done becomes a top priority.



Some of the equipment used at Hillside Golf Club

Two international tractors Nuffield tractor Forward loader H.J.6 heavy duty Sisis spiker Pattisson tractor-mounted scarifier Vicon fertilizer spreader PTO-driven soil shredder PTO-driven circular saw Tractor mounted sprayer Diesel and one petrol Land Rover

Five 18 in. Paladin mowing machines for greens 21 in. Lloyds Paladin for tees Two 18 in. Ransomes Autocertes for tees Toro 70 in. mower Three 19 in. Flymos Allen weed-eater Allen 24 in. Rotary Rotavator



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Daconil 2787* is the all-round non-systemic fungicide that offers a wide spectrum of control. It cures important turf diseases, precluding harmful soil residues with a high degree of crop safety.

Use Daconil 2787 and your green hygiene will improve within a season. Dollar spot, leaf spot, red thread, fusarium patch and fusarium leaf blight all brought under control.

Easy and economic to use, safe for humans, domestic animals, livestock, birds, bees and beneficial insects, Daconil 2787 is prepared in a formulation especially adjusted to your turf requirements.

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Sports Turf Research Institute—The 50th Year

The STRI has held five day instructional courses for the staff of member organizations regularly for many years — in fact since the war. More recently they have met requests to provide special courses for representatives of the trade, including the construction industry and turf machinery firms. New ground was broken in 1978, however, when a special up-dating course for teachers of turf culture was held at Bingley. This was so enthusiastically received that it has been decided to repeat the exercise in 1979.

Educational visits to various groups and organizations keep the Institute busy throughout the year. 1978 was notable for the strengthening of the liaison with the Association of Playing Field Officers, reflected by representation at their Annual Conference, where Institute staff significantly contributed to the lecture programme. A Municipal Golf Seminar, held at Bedford, with the theme "Looking Afresh" was attended by members of staff – who were involved with the original construction of the Bedford municipal golf course and an active part was taken in a Second Discussion Meeting for UK turfgrass research workers at Sheffield University towards the end of the year. Various outside lectures were also presented in 1978, to numerous local branches of groundsmen's and greenkeepers' associations.

In 1965 it produced a standard work Fungal Diseases of Turf Grasses which is now being re-written to produce an even more useful book. In the same year it co-operated with the National Playing Fields Association to produce the small but meaty book Sports Ground Construction - Specifications now in its second edition (1975). An Institute booklet Choosing Turfgrass Seed in 1978 has sold very well as has also the textbook ABC of Turf Culture by J. R. Escritt, the Director, also published in 1978 (by Kaye & Ward). Early in 1979 there will be an Institute booklet Fertilizers in Turf Culture and another book by the Director, Construction and Care of Lawns (Hodder & Stoughton).

The Institute is celebrating its Golden Jubilee with three open days on 20, 21 and 22 June 1979. Features on these days will be: An exhibition of the Institute's work in a large marquee

Demonstrations on the trial ground A trade exhibition of machinery and

materials

There will also be technical talks by the Director and Assistant Director.

In an effort to intensify the research programme the Institute has launched a Golden Jubilee Research Appeal to its member bodies, to member organizations of all kinds and to its friends in the trade for commemorative contributions to the Research Fund.

The aim of the STRI is to help improve facilities for *all* sports at *every* level and in 1979 the Institute celebrates 50 years of this work. Established in 1929 by the four National Golf Unions as the Board of Greenkeeping Research, its original function was to improve the techniques used in golf greenkeeping. Since that time the Institute has spread its wings, changed its title and, with all the major sporting bodies represented on the Board of Management, now includes all types of amenity turf as well as non-turf playing surfaces in its research and advisory work.

The value of the work done (alone with the Institute's precarious financial position) has only recently been "officially" recognized. For nearly 50 years it has been almost entirely supported by subscriptions from member clubs, fees for advisory work and analyses of samples, and donations from many friends in the trade. Now much of the current research, into cultivars, mixtures and wear of turfgrass spp. is supported by the Natural Environment Research Council but still, with inflation eating rapidly into thin resources, progress can only be at a relatively slow pace. Further financial assistance in 1978 has come from the Sports Council with a grant of £100,000 over three years to assist with administrative costs. The Sports Council hopes that the grant ". . . will encourage local authorities, local education authorities and sports clubs to make greater use of the Institute as a source of information and advice"

Research plus a wealth of experience form the backing for the advisory service available to subscribers to the Institute. In years past staff have been involved in research on materials for

control of weeds, pests (including earthworms) and diseases. Other topics have covered the whole sphere of turf culture with the aim of finding new techniques and better materials. Work in 1978 has included the cultivar, seeds mixture and turf wear trials, mentioned above, with the aim of determining which cultivars (varieties) of the turf grasses and which mixtures of them are best able to stand up to use and abuse and maintain good standards whilst requiring less attention. Waterlogged pitches are often a feature of sport at this time of year and the Institute is actively involved in the introduction of new drainage techniques, notably slit drainage. On-going work is into soil mixtures and soil improvement techniques to give better drainage and harder wearing surfaces. Techniques to combat fibre problems, processes to produce improved turf and reinforcement of grass surfaces and testing of chemicals to control ophiobolus patch disease and fairy rings are all topics under investigation at the present time.

The Institute quite frequently finds that people embark on expensive constructional work without realizing that the technical service it provides could be of assistance. This is often brought to the fore when pleas for help from organizations who have undertaken such work, with consequent unsatisfactory results, are received by the Institute. On constructional matters, the Institute operates in one of two ways, either as consultants to an architect or engineer who is in charge of the job or as consultants in charge themselves. Outstanding major constructional projects in which the Institute has been involved in 1978 have included new tennis courts at Wimbledon, a considerable project on sports ground drainage involving combined slit and pipe drainage for the States of Jersey, sports ground development at Bradford for the Civil Service Sports Council, new playing fields for Plymouth Polytechnic Institute and Special new pitches at the National Sports Centres at Bisham Abbey and Lilleshall. Away from the sports front, and indicating the versatility of the Institute, a project resulting in the grassing down of a tip area in Wales was also completed under the Institute's guidance.

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> There's a choice of 50 or 60 inch out front rotary cutters. And a pussyfooted anti-scalp facility.

Both operator and environment will appreciate the stealthy quietness.

Groundsman's and Greenkeeper's happiness is a Turf-Cat – no purrr-haps about it! **GREENS KING**

70" TRIMMER

The Jacobsen Greens King supplied complete with grass boxes and front rollers is the ideal greens machine for you. Powered by a 14H P engine it can cut an average 18 hole golf course in less than four hours Jacobsen engineering can provide you with the following features

- High quality cut on your greens
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- The ability to select any of the three reels for the final pass.
- Excellent weight distribution eliminates tyre marks and compaction.
- Operator comfort and ease of control including the ability to get on and off the machine from either side making for operator efficiency.
- Two transport speed ranges giving the operator the ideal speed between greens

The Jacobsen 70" Triplex Trimmer is the answer to quality mowing in areas which require a lot of manoevrability. It is ideal for getting under overhanging branches and shrubs and will cut around trees without a second look.

The Jacobsen 70" Trimmer is Strong, giving long working life. Powerful with eight H.P. engine. Operator comfort and ease of control. Up to four miles per hour mowing speed.

- Transport speeds in excess of 7 miles an hour
- High stability for banks and uneven areas.
- Grass boxes front and rear rollers can be supplied as extras.

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The Jacobsen Turf King comes in two sizes of 76" and 84" width of cut to give the user the ideal machine for his application. Powered by a 14 H P engine through hydrostatic transmission and controlled by a single pedal the Turf King can cope with almost any conditions. The constant cutter speed can give a wide range of finishes from extra fine for quality turf to a standard acceptable for parks and recreation grounds all in the same machine.

- The Turf King gives you all you could ask for including.
- · Good curb-climbing for road verges
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- Ease of control and operator comfort.
- · All day petrol tank to save time on refuelling.
- · Fully articulated units which follow uneven ground contours
- · Grass collection boxes can be supplied as an extra.

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MARSHALL CONCESSIONAIRES APPOINT NEW SPARES MANAGER

Marshall Concessionaires Ltd the Brackley based importers of Jacobsen grass machinery and other turf care products, including Ryan, Bunton International Harvester and Parker, have announced the appointment of a new Stores Manager. He is Mr Geoffrey M.1. Stroud, aged 52, whose extensive experience includes posts in the control and storage of equipment with the British Army.

Born in Buckinghamshire, Mr Stroud



is a member of the Institute of Purchasing and an Associate Member of the British Institute of Management. Following war-time service he spent the early years of his working life in estate agency and then he re-joined the Army, where he soon graduated to the post of adjutant of a 700-man unit. He was responsible for the pay and general welfare of men and their families.

In 1961 he moved into the field of inventory management, where he started gaining experience in the control of handling of large supplies of military equipment. To this he subsequently added experience in command of various Army stores units, including the administration of 50,000 line items of automotive and electronic stores, based on a computerized provision system.

Immediately prior to his present appointment Mr Stroud worked in the Ministry of Defence, being responsible for the management of all reserve holdings of ordnance stores. He has served abroad in West Africa, India, Malaysia and several European countries.

Married with two grown-up daughters Mr Stroud lives near Banbury, Oxfordshire. His main leisure interest is in choral singing.

SISIS HYDERATOR

This latest powered aerator, from SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited, is ideal for regular use on golf greens and other fine turf areas. Three types of tine are available, in sets of 48, for year-round use: hollow coring, solid and slitting. For good manoeuvrability and ease of handling, the Hyderator has a free-wheel differential and for transport or turning at the end of a swath the tine drum is lifted hydraulically. Drive direct to the drum means that the machine does not rely on wheel traction, making it ideal for softer conditions as the weight on the wheels is minimal. For transport, the wheel drive is connected by a simple mechanism and permits a comfortable walking speed between areas of work.

ALAN BORASTON

At the annual dinner of the Little Aston Golf Club on 9 December 1978 a presentation of a gold watch was made to the Head Greenkeeper Alan Boraston in appreciation of 25 years service to the club. Those present gave him a standing ovation.

WILLEM TRAVELS TO LEARN

Getting an education in golf management has become an international affair for 21-year-old Dutchman Willem Swart.

His father is head greenkeeper at De Pan near Utrecht and Willem has just spent a couple of months learning and helping out at Ipswich Golf Club under course supervisor David Jones. No trip to Ipswich would be complete without a visit to Ransomes to see the mower that started it all – the Budding. Then education calls and Willem is off again in February, this time to the San Diego Golf Academy in California for a course on golf management.

With a certificate in his pocket he hopes to manage a golf and country club. Back home in Holland? No, he's aiming for Spain or the United States.



Willem Swart (left) and David Jones, Ipswich GC course supervisor (right), with Ransomes' Bob Buckingham and the machine that set modern grass-cutting on the road.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULT

The result of the questionnaire published in a recent issue of *The British Golf Greenkeeper* on trade union membership was as follows: leaflets distributed - 1250; returned - 184. Those in favour - 99; those against - 85.



HONDA LAUNCH NEW CENTRIFUGAL WATER PUMP RANGE

Honda (UK) Ltd announce that in conjunction with leading British manufacturers they are producing a range of water pumps. These pumps will be marketed through authorized Honda power products dealers, and in certain cases will be sold for export.

The new range of Honda water pumps has been primarily designed to handle water, although the open-type impellers permit the self-priming pump range to efficiently handle liquids such as slurry having up to 25% solids in suspension.

In common with all Honda power products, spare parts and servicing facilities are available in the UK and throughout a world-wide network.



New Honda water pump – model W.P. 1.5". Prime mover which powers the new Honda water pump model W.P. 1.5" is the advance design Honda G150 four-stroke, which develops 3½ h.p. at 3,600 rev/min. Maximum rated output of the W.P. 1.5" is 5,000 g.p.h., 92 ft head, with suctions of up to 25 ft.

1979 SUPPLEMENT TO "Choosing Turfgrass Seed in 1978"

A 32-page supplement is now available to bring the yellow-covered booklet *Choosing Turfgrass Seed in 1978* up to date. The contents include:

- (i) Revised information on cultivar availability.
- (ii) An eight-page section on perennial ryegrass, with a new summary of availability information, including a table of comparative ratings for all the most persistent available cultivars.
- (iii) A new section giving a pattern form of tender for grass seeds and other information to help anyone concerned with the seed section of tenders and specifications of work.

The supplement is available from the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU, price 40p post free.

The booklet Choosing Turfgrass Seed in 1978, much of which remains valid and which is necessary for the best use of the new supplement, is still available while stocks last: the booklet and the supplement together cost £2.00 post free.

NEW REPRESENTATIVE

Nickerson Turfmaster are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Ray Garland as Midland Area sales representative for the whole of their new improved range of turf maintenance machinery.

Ray Garland has had many years experience in the grass machinery industry dealing with public authority and amenity areas.

Married with two children, Ray Garland will shortly be taking up residence in Lincolnshire and can be contacted at Nickerson Turfmaster, Fullbridge, Maldon, Essex. Telephone (0621) 54051.

MFR (Manufacturing) Ltd have obtained the agency for the ELCO spark plug cleaner and are making a special introductory offer of a one-off unit at £6.25 (including VAT, postage and packing). The device is obviously of great interest to all users of petrolpowered equipment. This item operates from a 12 volt battery and it is claimed that it is the only one of its type which is approved by the US Army.

MFR (Manufacturing) Ltd, Cosgrove, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK197JE. Tel: 0908 563331.





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GREENKEEPER TRAINING CHESHIRE & DISTRICT

The refresher course for Assistant and Head Greenkeepers held at Reaseheath Agricultural College, Nantwich, Cheshire, at the beginning of April last year proved a success, so much so that the Reaseheath College agreed to hold a further course at the college the week commencing Monday 19 March 1979 concluding with a visit on Friday 23 March to a prominent sports turf equipment manufacturing company in Macclesfield where further discussions on turf, examination of modern types of machinery with a visit to a local golf course to see the plant in action took place.

The course covered very comprehensive details of the work of the Assistant and Head Greenkeeper; management, Factory Act and Safety at Work, grasses and weeds, fertilizers and chemicals, trees and tree care, soils and drainage, construction of golf greens and tees and also elementary surveying.

AUTOTURFCARE US VISIT BOOSTS DEALER KNOW-HOW

First-hand knowledge by dealers of manufacturing processes and philosophies behind products distributed in the United Kingdon through the Autoturfcare organization has followed a 10-day US tour.

The tour involving a round trip of more than 11,000 miles was arranged by Autoturfcare Ltd, of Guildford and Darlington, to take in visits to the Toro Company, Gravely Corporation, Briggs & Stratton and the Kohler Company.

The seven-State tour which meant flying deep into the heart of the United States, and air travel from Minnesota in the north to Florida in the south was brainchild of Autoturfcare Managing Director Bert Jennings.

"We wanted dealers to see for themselves something of the organizations behind the products they sell", he explains. "It is important if dealers are going to sell products with complete confidence. The tour has resulted in greater involvement."

With the tour coming to a close there was still the opportunity to make a formal occasion of the presentation of Gravely awards to the United Kingdom dealers:

- Best UK Gravely Dealer Ashfield Lawnmower Service, Warley, West Midlands
- Best UK Gravely New Dealer T. Davies & Son (NW) Ltd, Llandudno Gravely Salesman of the Year Award –
- John Shaw, Hugh Page (Sussex) Ltd, Heathfield.

The first of the fact-finding missions – to the Toro Company – also solved a long-standing mystery of the origin of the name "Toro" even though there had been a "Big Bull" tractor in the early days. The current company name was a contraction of the ploughing term "Two-Row".

At a formal dinner on the third day of the Toro visit the opportunity was taken for presentation of United Kingdom awards:

- Best UK Toro Institutional Dealer A. M. Russell Ltd, Edinburgh
- Special Award Institutional Dealer Robertson & Weir Ltd, Kingsbridge, Devon
- Best UK Toro Consumer Dealer Bartram Mowers Ltd, Norwich
- Best UK Toro Dealer for Service County Mowers Ltd, Leeds
- Best UK Toro New Dealer J. Bland Short, Sunderland
- Best UK Toro Trimmer Dealer Turners of Wheatley Ltd, Oxford.





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See your May & Baker Distributor today. He'll have your supply of 'Supertox' 30 on hand, the broad-spectrum weedkiller for all sports and amenity turf. He'll also have your free summer hat!

Supertox 30 from



'Supertox' is a trade mark of May & Baker Ltd. Dagenham Essex RM10 7XS

"GOOD SHOT!"

Patrick Smartt

We approach the season of the year when the cry of "Good shot" will be ringing throughout the land. It is an expression that on occasion can cause irritation to the striker, unless he be one of those who lives on fulsome praise.

In modern language "great shot" seems to have taken over, leaving as all superlatives do, little to be said about something truly outstanding. Either compliment can be inaccurate, which is why it is not always acceptable to the striker.

The flight of the ball looks reasonable and it finishes approximately where the player intended, but only he knows it was slightly out of the heel or towards the toe and that he has "got away with it". The tournament professionals are the greatest sufferers. A booming drive lands miles down the fairway to the accompaniment of "oohs" and "ahs", and the second comes to rest close to the flag. There is a barrage of handclapping. They cannot know that in truth the ball had been hit rather thin, and only luck in the run has made it, judging by results, a good shot. It is noteworthy that under such circumstances the other player remains silent. He knows. Apart from acknowledging only purely good golf, he is probably cursing the fellow's luck.

In general British, in particular Scottish, spectators know their golf and are not easily roused to hysteria. This at times has given rise to outspoken criticism from American players, accustomed to explosive audiences. They have mistaken an adequately informed view of the fame for partisanship. I should add that a number of great American competitors have stressed that when a British crowd applauds, it is genuine applause.

I am reminded of a player whose opinion of a stroke was altered by the turn of events. I witnessed it. Bernard Darwin, not the most placid of foursomes partners, was playing for the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society against a club team. They were approaching the end of a close fought match, and Darwin wished his young partner to use wood for a second. The young man took an iron which rested some 15 feet short of the pin. The senior partner walked forward, black as a thunder and voicing his opinions about young beggars who would not listen to good advice. He holed the putt. Wreathed in smiles he congratulated his partner on a fine stroke.

Thus far the emphasis has been mainly on crowd reaction, a different matter from the interchange of compliments between two contestants. In the life stories of the more notable players one comes across occasional criticisms of opponents so wrapped in concentration that they are oblivious of the presence of a fellow-competitor. On the other hand, I have read of a comparative newcomer to the "circuit" drawn to play with Ben Hogan. He was warned that he would find him uncommunicative. In the event, on such occasions as the new man played a good stroke the master remarked on it.

To descend to a less elevated sphere, that is to say club golf, I believe that while the courtesies should be observed too much "good shot" can be harmful. The golfer with a bad grip or standing incorrectly to the ball will, on certain days manage to hit them straight. He is "getting away with it", and praise will brainwash him into pursuing his faulty method. A beginner can be comforted by a "that's better" . . . if it is better. If not, be silent. Sincerity demands it.

If a well-struck ball takes a bad bounce into a bunker or other undesirable place, then by all means say "bad luck". When it has been directed into trouble by the player, any such remark is false, and knowingly false. The best illustration of this situation is in the old chestnut: "Is Mr Snooks in the bunker, or is the old (six letter word) on the fairway?" I think I knew the professional who so expressed himself during a Professional—Amateur tournament, and a most genial fellow he was.

Sympathy over a bad stroke, particularly from a spectator with no selfinterest is one thing. There must be quality in the one deserving praise.



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Remember what I wrote in last month's notes about George Newson slouching about Felixstowe in the snow looking like an incongruous Quasimodo, well did you read the article in a recent edition of Golf World about our George. The Editor of the article George Houghton certainly sung the praises of him and why not indeed, he most certainly is one of the old school of unsung, unassuming, unparalleled characters of greenkeeping. It's rumoured that even Mother Nature goes to our George for advice. I particularly liked the paragraph George Houghton wrote "I have never met the like of George Newson. Among golf personalities he stands alone, taking the game in his easy stride. Fishing he regards seriously, but for greenkeeping he has a mighty passion. The terrain on which the game is played is not merely contributory. Caring for the links at Felixstowe Ferry is life itself for George Newson and had he lived and worked anywhere outside this Suffolk village, Newson's fame in greenkeeping would have spread to every corner of golfdom. He would have hated that."

Then George Houghton goes on "Newson's magic ability as a greenkeeper, his natural gift as a golfer, and skill as a fisherman combine with the intuition and sensitivity of a naturalist. He talked about the flora and fauna." I can but only endorse all that George Houghton wrote about our George. I remember a club Open we had at our course when George came along to watch his pro. playing, two Felixstowe members came to me and looking rather agitated asked where Mr Newson was. I asked why the panic, was there something wrong at Felixstowe? "Good heavens no" they said, "we only want to ask him where the best spots are for tonight's fishing." And that I think typifies our one and only George Newson.

My thanks to Golf World and associate editor Mr George Houghton for their kind permission to reproduce in part some of that article.

Bumped into our ex-Hon. Sec. Terry Shipp in Stowmarket Sports Centre the other evening. Terry wishes to be remembered to all. I don't know who looked the worst, he was dripping sweat after just playing table tennis, and I sweating buckets after a hectic session on the Badminton courts. We met in the bar (where else), swapped a few tales, and drawing my own conclusion from our conversation, left me wondering whether it will be long before he is back in harness.

On the tournament front we are in the process of trying to arrange meetings at Royston, Cambridge, Bury St. Cromer. Edmunds and Felixstowe, and I hasten to add that these are not definite venues, they are all still in the pipeline, and hopefully will be verified very shortly.

Well I think we can safely say we've seen the last of the snow for this winter. I think on our course we have just about painted everything we could get into our sheds, and more besides. I must have the only multi-coloured red, white, yellow and black spotted radio there is, thanks to our resident Rembrandt Ramsey.

President: J. H. FRY Chairman: E.R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary: Mrs J. STIMSON Caretakers Cottage Breamore House Breamore Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 2DE (Tel: Breamore 277

Fifty members attended the lecture evening at Alresford on 7 February and they enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining talk by Mr Jim Arthur. No one disputed his point that most turfcare problems arose from overfeeding, over-watering and under-aerating, and Mr Arthur mentioned some examples of the problems on which he had been asked to give advice. He stressed that there were five basics to good greenkeeping: frequent aeration; top dressing (compost with humus); regular verticutting; absolute minimum of fertilizer and irrigation; and machinery never saves manpower. Members also appreciated his list of the four essentials a Head Greenkeeper should possess: a knife, a notebook, a thick skin and two deaf ears! Our sincere thanks to Jim Arthur for a very interesting, informative and amusing talk.

Members are reminded that their annual subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 May, and attention is drawn to the 1978 AGM decision that those members who have failed to renew their annual subs by 31 July each year should have their monthly journals withheld until the necessary remittances have been received by the Hon. Sec., together with an additional 50p penalty payment.

The 1979 Spring Meeting will be held on Thursday 10 May at Hindhead GC, Surrey, thanks to the kind courtesy of club officials. All greenkeeping members are invited to participate. Tee off 8a.m.; 36-hole medal; entry fee £6.00 (this includes £1.00 prize table donation). N.B. Wide wheeled trolleys will be allowed and proper dress, i.e. collar and tie to be worn in dining-room, please. Will all members who intend to play please send their entries indicating current golf handicap to Mr E. Fox, Tournament Organizer, c/o Huxleys Garden Machinery, The Dean, New Alresford, Hampshire, not later than Monday 23 April 1979. Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to BGGA South Coast Section.

Notice is hereby given that the 1979 Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Section will be held at Hindhead GC, Hindhead, Surrey, on Thursday 10 May at 7.30 p.m.

As a reminder of last year's AGM proceedings, I submit the following report:

The Seventh AGM of the South Coast Section was held at Bramshaw GC on Thursday 11 May 1978 at 8.10 p.m., and it was well attended. Mr Eric James took the Chair.

The minutes of the Sixth AGM held at Puttenham GC on 12 May 1977 were taken as read and duly adopted and signed. A report on the activities of the past year was read out by the Hon. Sec. and she also presented the financial statement for the year ending 30 April 1978 showing a healthy balance in hand; both reports were considered satisfactory and were duly adopted. The entire Section Committee stood down after four years good service and the following officers were appointed:

Mr J. H. Fry (President); E. R. James (Chairman Executive and Committee Representative); I. Greenfield (Vice-Chairman); G. Darby; P. Drodge; E. Fox (Tournament Organizer); M. Kirkham; P. Marsh; R. Paterson; I. Rickman; E. West (Handicap Sec.) and Mrs N. Stimson (Hon. Sec.).

Details of future 1979 golf meetings were submitted:

Spring Meeting - 10 May at Hindhead GC Autumn Meeting - 4 October at Brockenhurst

Manor GC SW Intersection Match - 14 June at Knighton Heath GC



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Southern Intersection Match - July at Alresford GC

Also details of the provisional Winter Programme 1978/79:

7 Nov. - Huxleys - new film "Training of Golf Greenkeepers"

5 Dec. - Mr R. A. Hunter - General aspects of irrigation

9 Jan. -Mr J. S. Palframan - Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

6 Feb. – Mr Jim Arthur – Turf culture 6 Mar. – Mr John Jacobs – Life as a tournament pro. or Mr P. Hampton - Machinery

Members' attention was drawn to a new arrangement regarding refreshments on lecture evenings.

Quotations were considered in respect of the 1978 Christmas Dinner/Dance and it was decided to accept the one from Meon Valley Golf and Country Club.

It was reported that the Annual BGGA Tournament 1978 would be held at Moor Allerton GC, Wike, Leeds 17, on 14-16 August.

The Chairman expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by Jim Fry, Eddie Fox, Allan Jeffery, Eddie West and Nita Stimson. Also thanked members and trade members for their support and the staff at Alresford GC for their co-operation on lecture evenings; Mr Alan Simmons was thanked for auditing the accounts. Mr Eddie Fox was presented with a golf shirt as a token of appreciation for all his hard work as Tournament Organizer. Some matters were brought up under any other business, including the newly presented Jacobsen Shield, and overdue subscriptions when it was decided that those members who have failed to renew their annual subscriptions by 31 July each year should have their monthly journals withheld until the necessary remittance has been received by the Hon. Sec. together with the additional 50p penalty payment.

The Chairman was congratulated on an orderly meeting (!) and a vote of thanks given to the Hon. Sec. The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

KEN1

Chairman: PETER WISBY

Hon. Secretary: JOHN ATKINS 134 Swalecliffe Road Whitstable Kent (Tel: Whitstable 266089)

It has been a hard winter in our county and it is going to be a major operation to get our courses back into shape after the damage done by floods, frost, snow, and gales. This will take a lot of materials, equipment, labour, and above all skill. This skill can be gained by experience but experience is just another word for trial and error, and who can honestly say that he has made no errors while gaining his experience! What is really needed for the young, and not so young, greenkeepers of today is a first-class training scheme that teaches the theoretical as well as the practical side of our job. As you must know, this scheme is now available in the form of practical tuition from experienced, registered greenkeepers combined with theoretical teaching at colleges to City and Guilds standard. A local college may well provide the C & G course for us if we can get the minimum number of at least 12 students to apply for this course. It was to this end that we held our monthly meeting on 13 February. As well as a good turnout of greenkeepers we had as our guests quite a few club secretaries who were invited to hear our views on the setting up of a Kent training scheme. We first saw the Ransomes film on the scheme and then had a discussion on the need for greenkeeper training in Kent. The outcome was that we should try to get this under way by next winter if the college can arrange this. I will let you know the developments of this matter in the near future.

SOUTHERN

Chairman: D. S. GOULD Langley Park GC Beckenham, Kent

Hon. Secretary: DAVID CRAWFORD 17 Kings Road New Haw Weybridge, Surrey

The annual subscriptions are now due and owing to the fact that David Crawford our secretary is taking a new post in May will you please send your subs to Derek Gould.

Do not forget the Spring Tournament which is being held at Cromhurst Golf Club on 24 May. Please send your deposit of £5 with stamp-addressed envelope to Ray Tempest as the closing date is 10 May.

The February lecture was held at The George on the 7th. The attendance was low, it seems that our members are more interested in watching football than supporting the Section. They missed a very interesting film show put on by R. Lance and M. Johnson of Surbiton Golf Club.

Diary notes 24 May Spring Meeting - Cromhurst 27 June Midlands v. Southern - Walsall 9 July South Coast v. Southern - Arlesford 26 September Autumn Tournament - Surbiton 3 October Southern v. Secretaries - Sandy Lodge After a considerable amount of time we

have found a permanent place to hold our winter lectures. Starting from 10 October 1979, we will be holding the lectures at the Sesame Club, 49 Grosvenor Street, London W.1.

SECTION NOTES AND READERS' LETTERS FOR THE JUNE ISSUE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR NOT LATER THAN 1 MAY



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J. A. Arthur

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EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the BGGA will be held at Moor Allerton GC, Coal Road, Wyke, Leeds 17 at 12 noon on 9 May 1979 to consider and approve an increase in members' subscriptions of £2 for Class A members and £1 for Class B, C and D members.

Walter Heeles Hon. Secretary BGGA



As this is a private club the management have requested that jackets are worn with collar and tie or polo-necked jumpers. Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated. The meetings commence:

1979 10 October 7 November 5 December 1980 9 January 6 February 5 March

Handicap revision 1979

(new handicaps) D. A. Baker (24) F. W. Corner (12) A. E. Creese (15) W. Cavanagh (5) R. Cook (15) J. Campbell (13) F. W. Ford (18) T. Foster (15) P. Fitzjohn (8) B. Findley (24) E. R. Gould (18) E. R. Green (16) F. Hayter (12) I. Hugget (18) T. Huntley (15) R. Howlett (7) R. Johnson (15) D. C. Johnson (6) J. Kirkpatrick (4) R. Kates (10) J. Liddington (15) C. Lody (15)

J. Lyons (9) D. H. Major (6) C. Mitchell (15) A. J. Martin (19) D. McIndoe (9) J. C. Newman (7) B. Newcombe (12) K. Noble (14) G. Piggott (17) B. Piggott (13) D. Piggott (24) G. S. Payne (10) T. W. Price (14) D. J. Philips (24) P. Stains (12) M. Smith (3) R. Tempest (5) P. Taylor (11) R. Tydeman (12) P. Whitehead (16) A. E. Watson (13) J. Withey (18)

Golf matches

Wednesday 25 April – all day – to be played at Banstead GC.

Wednesday 13 June – at 4 p.m. – to be played at Ifield GC.

Tuesday 18 September – times to be arranged - to be played at East Brighton.

It is hoped that all future meetings and discussions will be published, giving members future arrangements and venues, therefore, encouraging better attendance!



President's Prize – Wednesday 16 May at 1.00 p.m. at Retford Golf Club.

Annual Tournament – Tuesday 17 July at 9.30 a.m. at Abbeydale Golf Club.

NORTH WEST

Spring Tournament 1979

Monday 14 May is the date of this year's Spring Tournament to be held at Heswall Golf Club on the Wirral. Will members wishing to enter please let me have their entry and meal requirements as soon as possible.

On the move

Our congratulations go to Malcolm Fairhurst on his recent appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Gathurst Golf Club, Cheviton, near Wigan. If you put into practice what you have learnt under Bert Scott at Shaw Hill, Malcolm, you will not go far wrong (that is as long as you stick to greenkeeping!).

Congratulations also to Robert Janovskis on his recent appointment as Course Manager at Worsley Golf Course. Whether the tax man is chasing Bob or not I do not know but I hope he has settled down now as even I am having trouble keeping up with him. Bob's move left a vacancy at Dunscar Golf Club that Alan Milburn stepped in to, so it is good luck, Alan, and congratulations.

Burrows visit

May I thank Keith Sutton and his staff for their hospitality on our visit to Burrows workshops and showrooms at Leyland. Some 40 greenkeepers enjoyed a drink, hot-pot supper, and a look round the works. It was also nice to see the Ransomes representative David Royle with his wife at Burrows and it gave most of us a first chance to see the "Greenkeeping Training Film". All in all it was a very enjoyable night and once again my thanks to Burrows and all their staff.

February lecture

My thanks to Mr Brian Metcalf of Joseph Metcalf Ltd for giving us a most interesting talk on fertilizers and the new regulations relating to them. The programme of fertilizing, wormkilling, etc., was very interesting and the cost of the 12-month programme was quite reasonable.

I must apologise to Brian and all members who attended that evening on not being able to get into the golf club until rather later than advertised – it was a pity because it was a really good turn-out.



Hon. Secretary: V. T. COOK 32 Westlake Gardens Worthing West Sussex (Tel: Worthing 60595)



A meeting of the Sussex Greenkeepers' Association was held at the Ugly Duckling, Haywards Heath, on Wednesday 21 February. Mr C. Piggott, Head Greenkeeper, Worthing Golf Club, was in the chair. Future events were discussed, and would members kindly make a note of the following arrangements.



The Spring Tournament is to be held on Wednesday 9 May 1979 at the Whittington Barracks Golf Club, Tamworth Road, nr. Lichfield, Staffs, by kind permission of the Captain and committee of the club. Please assemble at the club for 9.15 a.m. The closing date for this tournament is the last day of April; as usual failure to notify me of your intention to play will automatically exclude you from playing.



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Contact: Golf Course Section (Parks and Sports Grounds).

Suttons Seeds Ltd, Hele Road, Torquay. Tel: Torquay 62011. Contact: R. W. Palin.

TURF MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd, Shoresclough Works, Hulley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2LZ, Tel: Macclesfield 26363. Contact: Mr G. R. Lackford.

Sisis Centre in Scotland: 52/58 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PY. Tel: 031-667 0689.

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