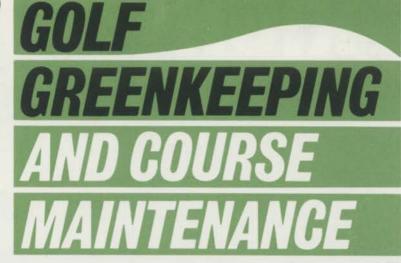
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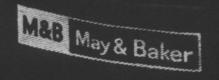
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The Official Journal of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association



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#### This month's front cover

#### Mounted Hydraulic 5

Ransomes Mounted Hydraulic 5 is a fully mounted 5-unit gang mower with a particular application for golf course fairways where severe undulations make mowing difficult as well as other large grass areas which are cut frequently and a good quality finish is required.

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A single lever operated from the tractor seat sets all the cutters in motion in the forward or reverse direction. The mower is lowered into work or raised for transport by the tractor's hydraulics.

Quickly attached to the tractor 3-point linkage and PTO this compact gang mower will soon make any golf course "match trim" however difficult the terrain. Just as easy to detach, the mower is free standing allowing the tractor to be used for other duties.





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#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN



#### Dear Friends,

I feel humble yet very proud to be Chairman for 1979-80 of this great Association which is growing in strength year by year thanks to the hard work put in by the Section Secrétaries and the National Secretary. I would like to see 100% membership. There are quite a lot of Golf Clubs whose Greenkeepers are not members and it will take an extra effort by existing members to try and get these people to join. Now the BGGA have the apprenticeship scheme off the ground I would like all Golf Clubs to help by subscribing to the BGGA. A sum of ten pounds a year would help considerably. This is a mere drop in the ocean, only 2p per member per year. A substantial subscription from the EGU, the LGU and the County bodies, would also help the apprentice scheme for this is from where the Greenkeepers of tomorrow will come. Section Secretaries who know any Golf Club whose Greenkeepers are not members of the BGGA send to the Head Greenkeeper entry forms and we may increase our numbers. If I can help then write to me and I will do all I can.

I have had one or two instances where Greenkeepers have been refused the courtesy of being allowed to play golf on other golf courses free. Well, this is the procedure. If you are a bona fide paid up member of the BGGA and you go to another club contact the Secretary and show your BGGA card. Dress correctly, conduct oneself in a perfectly correct manner and thank them for the courtesy. I cannot see any Greenkeeper going to play on another course before making sure that they have not got a competition on or Ladies Day, etc. There is no reason why BGGA members should not get 100% courtesy of courses.

I suppose like myself you all look forward to receiving your journal. Now it would be nice if more Greenkeepers wrote articles of interest to be published in your own official magazine so without more ado pen to paper and get that interesting article off to the Editor. Address published in the journal.

Well we have recently had our 62nd BGGA three day tournament held at Royal Birkdale and it was a very happy time. I must say thank you to the Secretary of the Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Mr Waites, for his organisation, I must say well done to the bar staff who although under intense pressure from both sides managed to keep their cool and coped very well indeed. A special well done to the green staff and I might say Tom O'Brien did us proud. The greens were superlative. Thank you Tom.

I was not too struck on the areas of jungle that I seemed to find myself in and on Wednesday I was partnered by the Retiring Chairman, Colin Geddes, and for a while I thought we were on safari. Still it is a great course and it sorted the men from the boys. My Section, the North West, did me proud all dressed in Tartan Green with BGGA badges on they went berserk. David Golding, our worthy Secretary and Treasurer won the Senior Division and had his handicap dropped to seven, serves him right. Edwin Walsh won the Toro Scratch Cup, David Golding, Jim Robinson and Edwin Walsh won the Jubilee Cup and David also won on Wednesday. Good show the North West Section. I hope you repeat it all next year at Minehead.

Now I must say thank you to our President, Mr T. Scott, for being so helpful to us during the year. He could not be with us owing to business pressures. I know you all will share with me when I say Thank You Walter and Betty, you make our three day event run so smooth. Now to the people who we call our special friends the men in the trade who subscribe the prizes to make our show a success, I will not name them for I may miss one out, but we truly are grateful to you all. Thanks to Bill for doing the cards and John Field and David Craig for acting as starters and standing for hours on the 1st and 10th tees. We thank the Captain and Committee of the Royal Birkdale Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of this wonderful Championship Course and I thank Mr Eckersley Hope for presenting the prizes. I thank Bob Halsall, the Professional, for the free use of trollies.

Now before I finish I must congratulate the STRI at Bingley on their Golden Jubilee Year and may they go on to further strength. Hundreds of Greenkeepers must have put a polish on their expertise by attending a course at St Ives Research Station.

Thanks to all fellow members for competing and although only a few can win it is the participation that matters and meeting old friends and making new ones. Good luck to you and your families. I look forward to seeing you all at Minehead next year.

> YOUR CHAIRMAN R. LEWIS

## **TORO TOPICS**

#### Closing down your irrigation system for the winter

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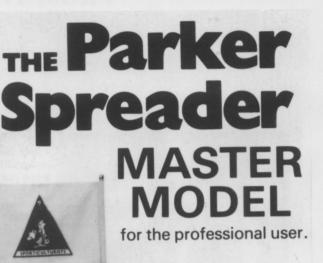
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## **GOLF COURSE DESIGN**

Some Personal Views on Modern Golf Course Architecture

by J. Hamilton Strutt, BSc Chairman, British Association of Golf Course Architects

PART 8

#### FUTURE TRENDS

What kind of new golf courses will we be designing in the year 1984 — or even 2000, and where will they be built?

Our American friends are fortunate in that so many of their new golf courses can still be constructed on the vast areas of unspoilt land, particularly woodland, which still exist in their less crowded country.

There are still a great many very beautiful sites to be found in the British Isles, thank goodness. Many underutilised country estates with established parkland, and forest fringes of natural pine and heather are examples which spring to mind.



UTILISING WASTE LAND

Pressure on land for agriculture, homes and other uses, and even simply its high cost per acre means, however, that during the coming years we golf architects in Britain and Europe are more and more going to have to face the challenge of *creating* a golf course out of nothing. A reversal of the first 500 years of golf architecture when the most important skill has been to make the best possible use of existing natural features.

Instead of making the golf course fit the landscape, the compleat golf course architect is also now going to have to be able to make a landscape to fit a golf course.

Many would-be golf architects, particularly those whose knowledge is solely of golf, rather than golf *plus* the many other skills required, are going to find this a far tougher examination paper!

I realise I am very fortunate in having

reached the stage in my career as a golf architect when I can pick and choose my commissions and only design on sites, or in parts of the world, which appeal to me. Having said that, I realise I must be something of a "sucker" for a challenge, because I like having at least one of these "something out of nothing" design commissions under way at a given time.

Let me tell you of just two such projects — one fairly recently opened, one still on the drawing board — to give you some idea of the exciting possibilities which must exist in many parts of the country.

1. Blyth, Northumberland. An old colliery slag heap, parts of which, when I first saw it, looked like a landscape on the moon. Reclaimed with a 98% grant to gently undulating grassland, carefully contoured ready for the subsequent construction of an 18-hole golf course, now in play.

2. Southampton Corporation. Busy gravel pits which, in the past, might have been left as vast useless holes in the ground. Every local authority is looking for places to dump refuse so, instead of simply filling these holes, gentle hills and valleys will be formed to the contours I am designing. This not only provides increased volume for refuse but ideal ground shaping for the later construction of an 18-hole golf course and amenity area.

Reclaimed tip/gravel workings like this are unlikely ever to be viable for agriculture or building and it is difficult to think of a better use for them than golf and recreation, particularly as they are often, as in Southampton, very close to large centres of population.

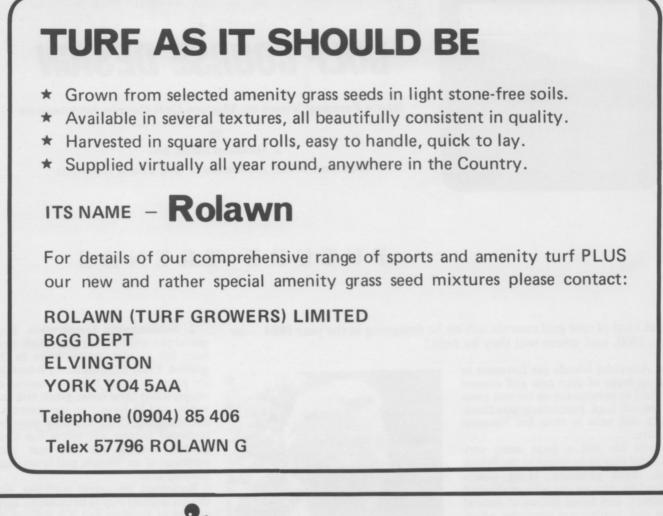
The important thing (not always observed, I am told) is that the golf course and reclamation must be designed *together*, rather than trying to add a golf course as an afterthought to unsuitably shaped terrain.

From the links of St Andrews circa 1484, to Southampton Corporation Rubbish Dump circa 1984, is quite a change of venue for our game in 500 years!

#### The high cost of golf

I touched in an earlier article on my concern at what I believed to be the unnecessarily high construction costs reported on some golf courses recently opened in Britain.

Latest, although abroad, is the reputed  $\pounds 2\frac{1}{2}$  million which Mr Kerry Packer appears happy (one assumes) to fork out for his new golf course in Sidney. One hopes at least the caddy shed, if not the Club House, is included in this figure! I am sure this Sidney course is a very fine one, but at these costs, whatever they include, it is difficult to see how the concept can possibly be







Henry Cotton putting on the 18th at Ampfield Par 3, Nr. Romsey, Hampshire

economically viable. Mr Packer undoubtedly has other items in his balance sheets. I hope at least the Head Greenkeeper's salary is in keeping with his responsibilities!

It is important for all of us in golf to try to see that costs and the economics of golf are kept within reasonable bounds if golf is to continue to prosper and expand.

Fortunately, there are several ways in which this can be done. I have already touched on unnecessarily high construction costs and the penalties of poor design. I will summarise here other possible ways of achieving cheaper golf as they are also signposts of likely ways in which golf may well develop over the years to come.

#### 1. Financing by carefully planned building development adjoining the golf course.

*Comment* A high proportion of golf courses overseas are financed in this way and it is a method which must surely be used more in this country. To those planning authorities who still oppose even a modest number of homes allied to golf, I would say, go and look at Wentworth and ask yourself if the end result is not most attractive, even 50 or so years after.

The additional finance which could come from housing would also enable many golf courses to be constructed on second grade land at present too expensive to develop for golf, leaving prime land for more important use in agriculture, etc.

#### 2. Design of more modest courses as well as the De Luxe.

Comment There is room for both in golf. At the top end of the scale we have Golf and Country Clubs where some of my most recent 18-hole courses cost between  $\pounds 130,000$  and  $\pounds 180,000$ . (A

recent 36 holes in the Midlands by A. N. Other is reported to have  $cost \pounds 500,000!$ ) On the other hand the full length Bramshott Hill Municipal Course which I designed for the New Forest District Council was completed in 1975 for around  $\pounds 60,000$ , which included an automatic irrigation system. I would have liked larger tees and greens and more money for drainage, but the fact remains that the course is busy seven days a week and has already been used for smaller tournaments and county professional championships, etc.

3. Shorter courses, par 3 courses, etc. Comment Apart from being expensive to construct, long courses also require a great deal more land. I believe there is a future in Britain, particularly near large towns, for the compact courses already popular in the USA where they are given the flattering name of "Executive Courses". I did one not long ago in France, where it was given the wonderful sounding title of "Parcour PDG" (President Director General).

To be successful, I consider these shorter courses should be economical in land usage only and that everything else, size of greens, featuring, etc., etc., should be to a really good standard. If this is done, a very high percentage of golfers will find them probably just as enjoyable as full-length golf. It will certainly be very nice for all of us to have the opportunity of getting back to rounds of 24 hours or even less when we feel like it!

On Par 3 golf courses, it is most important for the greens, as at Ampfield, to be sufficiently large for the length of shot being played to them.

Provided this is done, and decent size tees also constructed, there should be a future also for good par 3 courses.

#### **Thought for today**

Have you a persistently wet area on your course?

Provided it fits in with the golfing strategy of the holes affected (e.g. not where it will trap a good drive and force everyone to take an iron from the tee) there is nothing more effective as a main drainage artery than an open ditch.

Please, please try to make it not a straight "damn ditch" but a natural looking "bonny wee burn" as on this completely man-made example at St Mellion, nr. Plymouth.



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## **TURF TOPICS**

#### The Case Against Autumn Fertilizers

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

Golf Course Agronomist - Landscaping Consultant

I have consistently advised against the use of autumn fertilizers for golf greens for more than thirty years.

If you accept — and the reasons are beyond argument — that the finer textured grasses, notably Agrostis and Fescue, thrive best on poorer soils, then there is no point in building up the manurial levels of golf greens, or annual meadow grass will surely invade and rapidly dominate.

I can only quote the remark made by one of the leading ecological botanists in the country to the effect that he failed to understand why when these fine leaved species had taken half a million years to become adapted to very low levels of soil fertility and especially in levels of phosphate and potash, some fertiliser companies thought they knew better than the grasses themselves what the plants required!

Despite all the evidence in the field, the successful reversal of annual meadow grass dominance by the use of nitrogen alone, and the pure Fescue or Fescue and Agrostis sward of greens receiving no phosphates (and sometimes no fertilizers at all), there is reluctance by some to accept even the research work in this field, let alone the practical field work over at least thirty years, on the grounds that the American work was at levels far higher than normal application rates in Britain. Quite apart from the fact that all too often I have found exactly those rates being used on heavily fed courses, the basic truth applies, whatever the rate. At higher rates the invasion comes sooner!

Another reason for using no fertilizers after the first week of August is, of course, the encouragement that autumn fertilizers, even those where the nitrogen levels have been kept low, give to fusarium patch disease, both directly by stimulating "out of season" growth and indirectly by encouraging annual meadow grass invasion.

Air is the best fertilizer. With intensive aeration and good compost who needs "artificial" fertilizers? But there are, of course, too many golfers — and I regret to say a few greenkeepers who pander to them — who confuse colour with quality — the "nice and green" school. If you want good winter putting surfaces you do not want lush turf in autumn. But you can fool the critics by a dressing of sulphate of iron in October and again in March — a ploy as old as greenkeeping! The minimum rate is  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz/sq yd but in wet weather this can be exceeded — though it will blacken the turf and high rates may scorch slightly. I need not remind old hands that it must be watered in if it is not rained in.

Continued on page 20

#### AGM AND ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

THE ANNUAL REPORT PLUS AN ILLUSTRATED REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL TOURNAMENT WILL APPEAR IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

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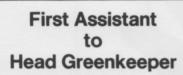
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Applications invited for post of working Head Greenkeeper for busy Golf Course. Proven experience of Golf Course maintenance essential.

Salary negotiable.

No living accommodation available.

Apply with full details to:-The Secretary, KNOWLE GOLF CLUB, Fairway, Brislington, Bristol. Telephone: Bristol 770660

14



## Make those bearings purr

#### THE condition of a bearing can be assessed by listening to it at work. Place a screwdriver on the housing and put an ear to the handle. The various sounds and their implica-tions are shown in table 1.

A bearing that can be heard without the aid of a screwdriver is already in poor condition. A noisy bearing in an oil bath needs immediate attention because fragments from it can contaminate the oil and damage the other bearings. Other signs that all is not well are: A sudden rise in temperature.

This could be caused by excessive lubrication or incorrect adjustment. A bearing which should have some axial movement may have been rectly adjusted. When the incorrectly adjusted. When the bearing heats up slightly it expands and develops a self-imposed pre-load

which causes it to heat up more. Loss of lubricant. This may be caused by a faulty seal or the bearing heating up the lubricant and forcing it out of the seal.

Failed bearings. Inspection of the bearing's working conditions may reveal the cause of failure. For instance, the rotor bearing of a flail mower will fail when the machine is operated with one flail missing. This puts an enormous load on the bearings. Tractor front-wheel bearings do not last long when the When removing a bearing, mark all the mounting housings so that they can be re-fitted in their original places. Remove any damaged bear-ing carefully and clean it with paraffin for inspection. Rust indicates that the bearing's

housing-seal has allowed moisture in and, possibly, that the lubricant has not succeeded in keeping moisture out. This is often seen in neglected front-wheel bearings of tractors used for yard scraping. Bearings that have turned black or dark blue or brown have been overheated.

Cracks are caused when the bear-

#### TABLE 1: SOUNDS OF FAILURE

Sound Continuous soft purring noise Squeaking or metalic sound Metallic tone

**Ringing clear tone** 

Regular knock in time with the speed of rotation of the bearing

Rumbling

Intermittent knock or rattle Crunching sound

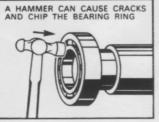


Figure 1: Don't do this.

WORDS:

VIC MOORE

ing is fitted in a distorted housing, forced into a housing which is too small or forced on to an oversized Using a hammer (figure 1) is shaft. likely to fracture the bearing race. But the damage may not show until the bearing has been in use.

Flaking describes the condition when parts of the bearing surface start to lift away from the ball or roller tracks. The main causes are: A distorted outer ring caused by a mis-shapen housing or dirt between the outer ring and the housing.

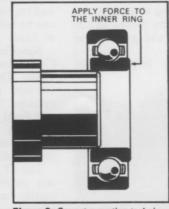


Figure 2: Correct mounting technique applying force to inner ring.

#### Possible cause Normal bearing

Probably lack of lubricant Probably the bearing has too little internal clearance. This may have been caused by forcing the bearing on to an over-sized shaft Indentation in the outer race which may have been caused by incorrect fitting A damaged race-inner or outer depending upon which one is rotating A fluted track which may have been

caused by the passage of an electric current Damaged ball or roller

Dirt in the bearing

 Incorrect mounting technique such as applying force to the outer ring in order to put the inner ring on a shaft (figure 2).

Lack of lubrication.
Dirt. Even soft materials like wood will damage a bearing. Wood which shows any sign of splintering should not be used to tap bearings into place.

Electric current allowed to pass through a bearing will cause a "wash-board" on the inner or outer race bearing surfaces. Half a volt is enough to damage a bearing. Do not allow welding current to pass through a bearing. When welding a shaft on a machine, the earth lead of the welder should be clamped to the shaft and not to the most convenient part of the machine.

As well as examining the bearing, check the housing for high spots that would distort the outer ring. Never deliberately damage the outer ring or the housing to secure the

When the bearing is retained by an end-plate (figure 3) check that this is not distorting the outer ring when tightened. This can be pre-vented by fitting carefully sized shims under the end-plate. The shim thickness is critical. When in doubt, seek professional advice. When a bearing has been changed, the thickness of the shims must also be changed. Some bearings are designed to withstand end thrust in one direction only. Check that such a bearing was mounted the right way round-that the thrust applied towards the more open side

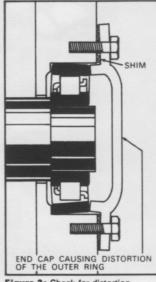
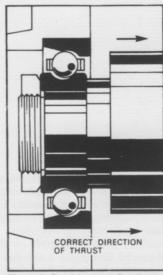


Figure 3: Check for distortion.



ILLUSTRATIONS:

RICK CURTHOYS

Figure 4: Check for thrust direction.

of the bearing (figure 4).

Excessive lubrication can cause a bearing to fail. The lubricant slows down the rolling elements at certain points in their travel and they slide over the bearing surfaces, which causes excessive wear. Too much grease in a bearing can cause it to overheat.

Often, all the information required to buy a replacement bearing is the maker's name and the number stamped on the side of the rings.

Should the bearing numbers not be legible, most bearing manufac-turers will usually be able to supply a replacement when provided with the following information: The type of machine; the position of the bear-ing on it and its job; all the bearing dimensions (figure 5) whether metric or imperial; the type of rolling ele-ments-roller or ball; whether it is sealed or semi-enclosed on one side; and whether it is designed to take end thrust.

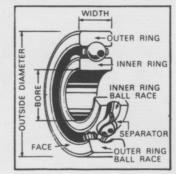


Figure 5: Bearing dimensions.

## MOTSPUR PARK REVIEW

The Andrews Novagen is powered by a Briggs and Stratton four-stroke engine. The silencer / exhaust system keeps the engine noise to a minimum. The output is 11 KVA at either 100/115 volts or 200/240 ac with a simple switch to enable the operator to select the output voltage he requires.

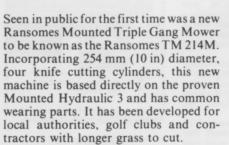
There are two sockets for each voltage and two plugs for each are supplied as standard.

The Novagen is housed in a steel

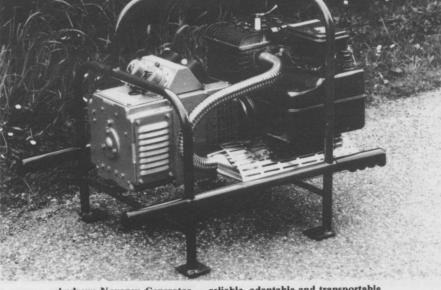
frame, with moulded carrying handles and a stable four point cradle.

A wheeled transporter, fitted with big diameter rubber-tyred wheels for manoeuvring over rough ground, is an optional extra.

Andrews Novagen is available from Appointed Dealers throughout the UK and further information can be obtained from Bob Andrews Limited, The Garden Machine Centre, Sunningdale, Berkshire. Telephone Ascot (0990) 21960.



The introduction of this mower means that users will have the combined advantages of Ransomes well known Magna trailed units, together with those features associated with hydraulically driven cutting units mounted on a tractor. Such



Andrews Novagen Generator - reliable, adaptable and transportable

features include, amongst others, the ability to cut under wet conditions, a reverse drive for clearing blockages and for backlapping and the means to cut over edges of verges and golf course bunkers.

The machine has a height of cut



Illustrating the new offset head for the Ransomes 61 Rider Rotary enabling it to cut under shrubs. This new head also has a rear grass discharge as an alternative to a side discharge

adjustment of  $13 \text{ mm} (\frac{1}{2} \text{ in})$  to 90 mm  $(3\frac{1}{2}$  in) and being hydraulically driven and tractor mounted, the cuts per metre can be varied to suit the required quality of finish.

Specifications: Cutting width: 2.14 m (7 ft); Transport width: 2.39 m (7 ft 10 in); Diameter of cutting cylinder: 254 mm (10 in); Four knife cutting cylinder. Suitable for MF.135 or MF.20 and Ford 3600 and 333 type tractors.

There were two machines on Ransomes Stand incorporating significant modifications.

The 61 Rider Rotary, introduced at last year's Motspur Park, has a new cutting head with a rear discharge as an alternative to side discharge, to avoid cut grass being thrown onto roads, footpaths, flower beds and the like. In addition the head has been offset to enable the machine to cut under shrubs.

The Tournament Triplex greens mower was exhibited with just one electric clutch for all three cutting units whereas previously there had been three, one for each unit. This modification has been made to help keep production and maintenance costs to a minimum and the Company claims there is no loss in operating capacity. In the event of a unit becoming accidentally damaged the flexible drive shaft to the unit can be disconnected allowing the machine to operate with two cutting units only in work.



#### Fisons' Top Dressings Now Repackaged

A major change in the packaging of their range of sports turf top dressings is announced by Fisons. In line with modern practice for most peat products, they are now to be sold by volume rather than weight.

The new packs are in 30 litre sizes for Fisons' Humull and Sand and Fisons' Sports Turf Compost and in 80 litres for the Humull and Selected Sedge Peat brands. These sizes have been chosen to provide greatest ease of handling, especially for one-man operations. Recommendations for use for all the brands remain unchanged but are now expressed volumetrically with an approximate weight equivalent.

The new packs of Humull and Sand and Sports Turf Compost are available through Fisons' stockists now and those of Humull and Selected Sedge Peat will be on sale shortly.

Rolawn (Turf Growers) Limited, producers of mature turf for sports grounds and general amenity use, announce the opening of their Third Regional Turf Production Centre.

Based south of Cambridge on a "substantial acreage" of carefully selected soils, Rolawn's total production of speciality turf now amounts to several hundreds of acres. Further turf production centres are planned for Scotland, the South / South West and North West of England.

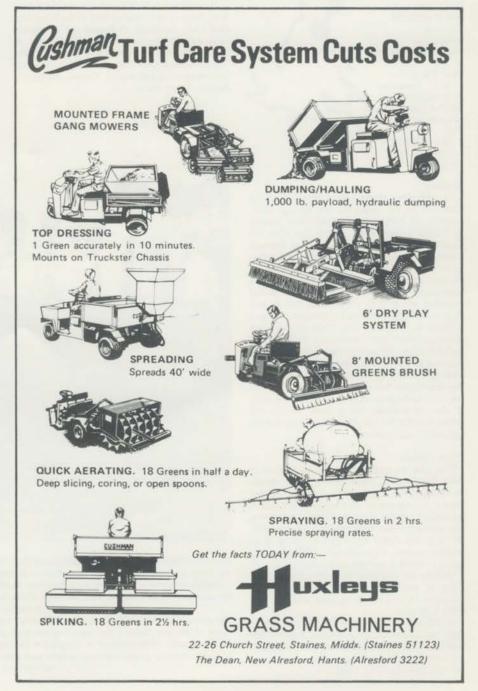
The Company's head office, experimental grounds and main turf production centre are at Elvington, near the City of York and their number two production centre is located near Telford in the West Midlands.

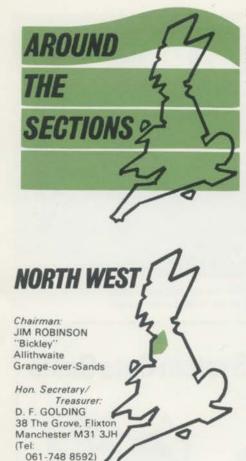
The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's 31st Annual Canadian Turfgrass Show, 9-12 March, 1980. Skyline Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Information on this conference can be obtained by contacting the CGSA office at 698 Weston Road, Suite 32, Toronto, Ontario M6N 3R3, Canada.



The new all-weather cab for the Nickerson 84 Triple Mower on display at the STRI Golden Jubilee





#### Obituary

It is with deep regret that I have to inform members of the death of Mr George Hall, formerly of Ashton & Lea Golf Club. George died after a very short illness, just after his success at our Spring Tournament at Heswall where George was 2nd and was also the leading "over 55". He leaves a wife and son and our thoughts go out to them both. George was a very enthusiastic member of the BGGA and he had presented me with an oil painting that he had done of the 18th green and clubhouse at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club to mark the playing of the "Open" within our Section. Mrs Hall has informed me that George had started a painting of Royal Birkdale and I know he was looking forward to the National Tournament. Our Section has lost a very great gentleman who was soon to become an Honorary Life Member of the Association, but I think we all will remember him for his great enthusiasm for the Section's Tournaments.

#### **Dinner** Dance

This year we make a very welcome return to John Bond's Club, Dean Wood, Skelmersdale on Friday, 2 November, for our Annual Dinner Dance. My thanks to the Captain and Council for allowing us the facilities of their Club. It was two years ago when John was our Chairman that we held our dance there and it was a great success, so come on gentlemen, let's make a big effort to make it another good night.

Tickets are available from me, the price at going to press had yet to be confirmed but should be £5 per head, bring your friends, everybody welcome.

At this point I hope John is back to full fitness after his tractor accident in early August. His wife Lynn was very worried about him trying to get back to work too soon, so from us all John, get well soon but take it easy.

#### **Royal Birkdale Golf Club**

It is knowing where to start in thanking people who made the National Tournament such a great success. The greenstaff really did us proud so thanks to Tom O'Brien, Mike Mercer and boys for everything. The greens were perfect and the holes were in just the right places especially on Tuesday! My personal thanks must go to Mr Walter Heeles and his good lady for all their hard work in organising the event. The starters John Field and David Craig who with Bill Payne once again looked after the cards so competently.

The North West Section certainly had a show of strength at Birkdale and it was reflected in the amount of prizes we won. Edwin Walsh winning the "Scratch Trophy", yours truly winning the best nett (bandit) and Tim Moon winning the Wednesday Medal. It gave me great pleasure beating Edwin by one shot for the "Aggregate Trophy", better luck next year Ed! (he'll get me for that). We once again retained the Jubilee Cup for the Section, myself, Edwin and Chairman Jim making up the team, Jim I know in great pain during the afternoon with several blisters on his hands, but he soldiered on.

Next year the National moves to the South West Section and it will be held at the Minehead Golf Club, Somerset, in August and I certainly hope we will have the same numbers there. A final thanks to the Captain and Council of the Royal Birkdale Golf Club for allowing us to play their wonderful golf course, it was a chance of a lifetime for so many.

When we talk of Royal Birkdale the name of Doug Pate always arises. Doug had done so much to make it a great course. Since his retirement earlier this year I believe Doug has not been very well, but I know members will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and good health for the future.

#### Lectures

Once again the winter is upon us and I have arranged the following dates:

19 November - Toro

- 17 December Chipman Chemicals
- 21 January To be confirmed
- 18 February Sisis
- 17 March -

- Annual General Meeting. These will take place at Swinton Park Golf Club, East Lancashire Road, Manchester, by the courtesy of the Captain and Council of the club, kick-off 8 pm. Let's have a big turnout as they are usually enjoyable evenings.

Robert Janovskis and our new National Chairman Dick Lewis have promised to behave themselves this year.

Finally gents, don't forget to dress correctly, NO JEANS please.

#### New Members

May I welcome the following new members to our Section. I hope their association with us will be a long and happy one:

Mr H. Walker, Rochdale Golf Club; Mr S. J. Nicholls, Rossendale Golf Club; Mr N. Prestwich, Ashton & Lea Golf Club.



At a recent visit to Hurst Crop Research and Development Unit at Great Domsey, Essex, members of the Parks and Amenity Departments from a number of Local Authorities in London and the Home Counties, together with a party from the Essex Institute of Agriculture, were shown some of the many thousands of trials being carried out there. These included cereals, flowers, vegetables, forage crops and amenity grasses, the latter being of particular interest.

The photograph shows Dr Cesco Bassi, Hurst's Forage Crop Breeder, discussing with the party a trial plot of the new Hunter fine leaved sports-type perennial ryegrass, which is exclusive to Hurst. Dr Bassi said: "This cultivar is unique for its characteristics of rapid germination, easy but less frequent mowing, good resistance to wear and tear, good drought resistance and superb green colour all the year round."

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

SOUTH COAST

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

Another twelve months have flown by, and it is time once again to remind you that the first of our Winter Programme of Lectures will be held at Alresford Golf Club, near Winchester, on Tuesday, 6 November, 1979 at 7 pm. The guest speaker will be Mr G. S. Taylor of Johnsons Seeds and his theme will be Improved Cultivars of the main turf species. I very much hope that the ppossible shortage, and increased cost, of petrol will not deter you from attending! Please remember that your Greens Chairman or any other Club official, will be a welcome guest at any of our lecture evenings.

Our best wishes for the future go to Charlie Burke who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Queens Park GC, and to Reg Varlow who succeeds Charlie at Royal Winchester GC. Reg was previously First Assistant to John Pavne at Lee on Solent GC.

We are pleased to welcome two new members from Lakey Hill GC, viz G. P. Stanfield and S. Robinson, and we hope that their association with us will be a long and happy one. London W1. The nearest underground station is Bond Street which is five minutes walk from the club. Leave Bond Street underground by the Davies Street exit, turn right at exit until Grosvenor Street crosses Davies Street. Turn right at Grosvenor Street and the club is on the left, two doors up from the Cassanovo Club. There is ample car parking after 6 pm. Lectures begin at 6.30 pm. The club has a strict rule regarding dress, i.e. Jacket and Tie or Jacket and Polo Neck must be worn. Any member not suitably dressed will not be admitted as a doorman is in attendance. The Section would like to invite any members of other sections to the lectures and can ensure they would be most welcome.

#### Lecture Dates

 October, 1979 — Ben Turner Tractors.
 7 November, 1979 — Marshall Concessionaires.

5 December, 1979 - Johnson Seeds.

9 January, 1980 - Ex-National President and well-known golf broadcaster, Tom Scott.

6 February, 1980 and 5 March, 1980 — These two lectures still to be finalised but we are very hopeful that one will be given by a BBC golf commentator.

#### New Members

SHEFFIELD

We have had several new members this year and the Section welcomes them all and hope they will attend the lectures and participate in our golf tournaments. hole net: (1) A. Whittington 99 (Winner of 27 and 18-hole cups); (2) P. Heaney 99}; (3) S. Platts 100; (4) J. McNicholas 104}; (5) I. Lilley 105 (Winner of 27-hole gross cup); (6) G. Naylor 110; (7) S. Woolley 111; (8) G. Mason 111}; (9) F. Barratt 111}; (10) K. B. Heaney 112}; (11) N. G. Whitaker 113; (12) L. Allsebrook 113; (13) R. Ward 1131; (14) M. Coultas 1141; (15) R. N. Maltby 1141; (16) A. Goldthorpe 1141; (17) H. Herrington 115; (18) A. Spencer 115; (19) G. Herrington 116; (20) E. M. Palmer 1161; (21) P. Quartermaine 1161; (22) G. Williamson 1171; (23) J. Goldthorpe 119; (24) T. A. Smith 120; (25) B. V. Lax 120.

After lunch some of our Vice-Presidents and Guests played an 18-hole medal, the winner of this section was Mr E. W. Park.

After the evening meal, which was first class fare, our President thanked all at Abbeydale for their hospitality and asked Mr Park to present the prizes to the winners. On behalf of all those who took part in a fine day's golf many thanks to our Competition Secretary, Mr Pete Quartermaine, for all his work to make a successful day.

Our first winter lecture meeting will be held at Lindrick Golf Club on 1 November at 3 pm. Further meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at Lindrick at 3 pm.

Chairman: COLIN GEDDES Moor Allerton Golf Club

NORTHERN

Hon. Secretary: W. HEELES 7 Tentergate Close Knaresborough, Yorks. (Tel: 0423 863851)

#### **President's Prize**

Our President's Golf Tournament was played over the Headingley Course on 28 June.

The day itself did not turn out to be anything special but the golf and get-together went down pleasantly. The big shake-down produced the following results:

Division One	Hcp	Gross	Net
1 A. Robertshaw	9	84	75
2 C. Geddes	12	89	77
3 H. Marshall	14	91	77
Division Two			
I D. Anderson	24	98	74
2 C. Garnett	18	94	76
3 R. A. Patchett	22	99	77
Vice-President & Guest			
I A. Cavill			

2 J. Haynes

3 B. Lacey

Very deservedly our thanks must go to Mr William Mountain for his work in making this day its customary success.

#### New Recruits

Gentlemen, raise your hats please to the following new members.

Welcome to the Northern Section, chaps, we hope your liaison with us will be both useful and lasting: R. A. Patchett, Wharfeside, Bark Lane, Addingham, Ilkley — Assistant GK, Skipton GC; A. Gamble, 94 Harlow Crescent, Harrogate — Head GK, Pannal GC; D. Collins, 45 Queen Street, Pontefract, W Yorks — Ist



Chairman:

Secretary: D. GOULD Langley Park G.C. Beckenham Kent.

Southern

#### **Ransomes** Trip

May I again remind members of this trip to Ransomes Works, Ipswich, leaving on Monday 5 and returning on Tuesday 6 November, 1979. Our Secretary tells me that he has very few bookings for the trip so far but I'm sure that from a Section membership of 200 there must be a couple of dozen who would like to go. The cost is £10 per head and I'm sure if head greenkeepers were to approach their secretary, clubs would be willing to pay the cost as it is an educational trip and so furthering their staff's knowledge of machinery. Derek Gould will be only too pleased to hear from you.

#### Winter Lectures

The first lecture is on Wednesday, 17 October at The Sesame Club, 49 Grosvenor Street, We had a very successful Section Annual Tournament on 17 July at Abbeydale Golf Club. As always Abbeydale was in first class order and Eric Palmer and his staff must have put in a lot of effort cconsidering the poor spring we had. In all about 45 members played at Abbeydale, the competition was a 27-hole medal, nine holes in the morning and 18 after lunch.

As in the past we were provided with a really first class set of prizes, these prizes are provided by the associated trade, without whose generosity our golf matches would not be the same. Those who donated were as follows and we offer our sincere thanks: Sisis Ltd, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Supaturf Ltd, Cannock Fertilizers Ltd, Chipman Ltd, Mommersteeg International Ltd, May & Baker Ltd, H. Pattisson & Co Ltd, Rolawn Ltd, Joseph Bentley Ltd, W. Mountain & Son Ltd, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd, Suttons Seeds Ltd, Bomford & Evershed Ltd, Fisons Ltd, Drake & Fletcher Ltd, T. Parker & Sons Ltd, Stewart & Co Seedsmen Ltd, Marshall Concessionaires Ltd. Maxwell Hart Ltd, SAI Horticulture Ltd, County Mowers Ltd, Autoturfcare Ltd.

The winners of all the above prizes plus three trophies are listed below, all the scores are 27Assistant GK. Pontefract & District GC; B. D. Carr, 39 Torre Hill, Leeds 9 — Assistant GK, Moor Allerton GC; B. Freeman, Flat 4, Highfield, 76 Station Road, Tadcaster — Student GK, Askham Bryan Coll of Agr; M. W. Mitchell, 88 Primrose Lane, Bingley — Apprentice GK, Shipley GC; P. J. Bellwood, 53 Hawkshead, Seacroft, Leeds 14 — Assistant GK, Moor Allerton GC.

#### On the Move

We hear that Mr Alan Grey has left Mountain's of Morley to work for the firm of John I. Fearn of Sheffield. Alan, who dealt with machinery sales in the South Yorkshire area, is now involved with the promotion of Kubota tractors and allied equipment. If Kubota's take your fancy give Alan a ring at Morley 535063.

#### Promotion

Two of our long-standing Vice-Presidents, Messrs J. Cogan and G. Vaughan, were nominated and accepted as Vice-Presidents of the BGGA at the National AGM held at Royal Birkdale on 20 August.

Other Northern Lights at Birkdale included our very own Chairman Colin who rounded off his highly successful year as Association Chairman by thanking all for their help and support. His special thanks went to Walter and Betty Heeles for their monumental assistance thereby goes another story. Walter made the announcement that he intended giving up his job as Association Secretary from next March. This, not unexpected, bombshell gave rise to gquite a bit of discussion.

Later still came the news that Walter has started back at work — do take it steady Walt.

#### Togetherness

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr Joe Baxter and his wife on the occasion of their marriage on 18 August.

Joe is Head Greenkeeper at Bingley St Ives GC.

#### More Golf

M. Rooks (18) and A. Ingleby (18) took first prize with a nett 61 at our Invitation Tournament held at Garforth Golf Club on 9 August. Running second were R. Patchett (22) and

C. J. Baker (14) with a 65.

A very good day's play was had: reports in the after-event being that the Garforth course gets better between our visits: there's compliments for you, Colin and Co.

Nickerson Turfmaster presented a Turfmaster 84 worth £4,000 to the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, for a hole-in-one competition at the annual tournament at Royal Birkdale.

The Turfmaster 84 is a British designed and built triple mower with a cutting width of 7 ft, and capable of mowing grass at the rate of up to three acres per hour.

The Turfmaster 84 was offered to be won by the British Golf Greenkeepers Association's member for his club, who scores the first hole-in-one on the 7th hole in the 36-hole competition. Unfortunately no one did.



Sorry chaps, but as you know, nobody has the power over the weather when a tournament is arranged, and as this Cromer tournament is the first we have had to cancel, then I'm sure you will all bear with us. It was such a good turn-out as well which makes it all the more disappointing. and the distance some of you travelled to get there mmakes you wonder who it was who had it in for you, and all that was after the lessons I had preparing for the big day, so many lessons in fact I had to offer to caddy for my pro in our pro-am, but before he would let me caddy he asked me if I was any good at finding balls. I said of course I was, so he said that's great, go and fine one, then we can make a start. Still, never mind eh, if my memory serves me correct the last time we played Cromer the weather was entirely the opposite, a wonderful day that was, and also to rub salt into a wound. I was on a camping holiday round Cromer way the following week and had wonderful weather. If it will help to ease the pain let me quote St Matthew chapter 5 v 45: That ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven, for he maketh the sun to rise on the evil aand on the good and sendeth rain on the just and unjust. Now who says I'm a complete heathen?

I'm sure we'll have better luck at the Gogs at Cambridge in September. It's certainly a real pleasure to play Doug Neville's course, the welcome we usually receive there is exceeded only by the state of the course, so don't forget, it's the annual Captains v Greenkeepers slaughter. Let's not be so generous this year chaps as we were last, I believe there are one or two individual Greenkeeper prizes to play for so here's hoping we won't capitulate so easily, plus of course there is Ransomes magnificent shield for the winning team.

Congratulations to Steve Noye and Dave Barton of Ipswich on passing their City & Guilds, and congratulations to Jim Thompson of Bury in passing a pub. Well done, Jim lad, hope you soon feel better.

If any of you have still to pay your subs, can 1 suggest you get them in pronto, because the late ones do tend to cause problems. They are crossed off the mailing list and consequently go a few months with no journal, so be forewarned.

So once again apologies for the cancellation at Cromer, let's hope the Gogs more than make up for that disappointment, but before that date I have an important lecture to go to, on Reincarnation and is it making a comeback?

#### **TURF TOPICS**

It hardens the turf, locks up surplus available phosphates, acts as a mild fungicide and produces a more uniform colour — especially in late winter when annual meadow grass looks so sickly yellow — as well it might because it is dying and under adverse weather conditions there can be no natural regeneration from seed on which its life cycle is so dependent.

For those who doubt my advice, remember that this is not some manic idiosyncrasy of my own invention, but the age old practice of famous greenkeepers long since dead based on sound scientific bases and practised on most of the Championship links and hundreds of other courses in Britain and indeed in Europe. Consider the areas where fine turf grows naturally. Whether these are links or salt marshes, acid moors or chalk downs, sandy heaths or old wornout pasture or parkland turf - whatever the pH (which may range from below 4.0 to above 8.0), the phosphate levels are invariably low or nill. All the phosphate that such fine turf receives in nature comes from a passing seagull!

Therefore if you want better greens for 365 days of the year, start by cutting out autumn fertilizers, reduce irrigation and aerate more intensively. Of course, to many who read this my apologies — as I am sure they are already doing just what I suggest! To those who are not, "think on"!



London Borough of Hounslow Department of Arts and Recreation

#### Head Greenkeeper

Applicants must be skilled and experienced in the upkeep of an 18-hole golf course and the supervision of maintenance staff.

#### Mi c 6/7 £3,975-£4,470 inclusive

Application forms from: Director of Arts and Recreation Civic Centre, Lampton Road Hounslow TW3 4DN. Tel: 01-570 7728 ext 3976



#### **ARTIFICIAL GRASS**

The Greensward Company, The Old Hall, Langham, Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire LE15 7JE, Tel: Oakham (0572) 2923 & 56031. Telex: 34362 Greeco G

#### **BUNKER RAKES**

CHELWOOD range of specially designed Bunker Rakes including the Motspur Park award winner. Contact your local dealer or. Chelwood Tool Company, Chelwood House, Thornbury, Bristol. Telephone: Thornbury (0454) 413809 for list

#### COMPLETE GOLF COURSE SUPPLY

T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd. Worcester Park, Surrey. Tel: 01-337 7791. Contact: R. F. Cook.

#### COMPOST/PEAT PRODUCTS

Fisons Limited, Horticulture Division, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: lpswich (0473) 830492.

Contact: Recreational and Industrial Department

Humber Manures Ltd, PO Box 27, Stoneferry, Hull HU8 8DQ. Tel: 0482 20458. Contact: Gerald Moxon.

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