

February 1980

No. 417

GOLF GREENKEEPING AND COURSE MAINTENANCE



The Official Journal of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association





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GOLF GREENKEEPING AND COURSE MAINTENANCE

STEWART'S CHALLENGE MATCH

East SIGGA versus
North-East BGGGA



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Back in history an English army led by General Johnnie Cope marched up to Scotland on a visit which could hardly be described as sociable. He camped near Longniddry at a place called Prestonpans and promptly went to bed. He was rather a heavy sleeper and by the time he awoke in the morning the Scots had arrived and dished out their own brand of Highland hospitality.

The legacy of this event is a Scots song with the opening line "Hey Johnnie Cope are ye wakened yet".

The raiding party of the North-East section of the BGGGA were certainly wide awake when they arrived at Longniddry Golf Club on 23 October to take up their clubs against a team from the East Section of SIGGA.

A heavy wind most of the morning abated to provide ideal playing

conditions on a Course which Duncan Herd and his staff had in excellent condition. A great day's Golf was had by all, not only the two teams of six couples but playing and non-playing supporters as well.

The NorthEast Section repeated the previous year's performance and ran out convincing winners 4½ games to 1½.

Real Scots hospitality was much in evidence and a great day was enjoyed by the whole party.

In the brief speeches concluding the formal proceedings Chairman Harry Smith for the Hosts and Jack Simpson for the Visitors warmly thanked the council and staff for Longniddry Golf Club and Graeme Forbes of Stewarts and his staff for the parts they played in making it a memorable day.



Team members awaiting the match

THIS MONTH'S FRONT COVER

Commencing on page 5 we publish an article written by Martyn T. Jones, Lecturer in Sports Ground Construction and Management at Lancashire College of Agriculture, describing an experiment in constructing a number of golf holes with each green and tee demonstrating different methods of construction, irrigation and maintenance. Our front cover picture shows the laying of PVC sheeting and network of perforated pipes during the construction of the "Cellsystem".

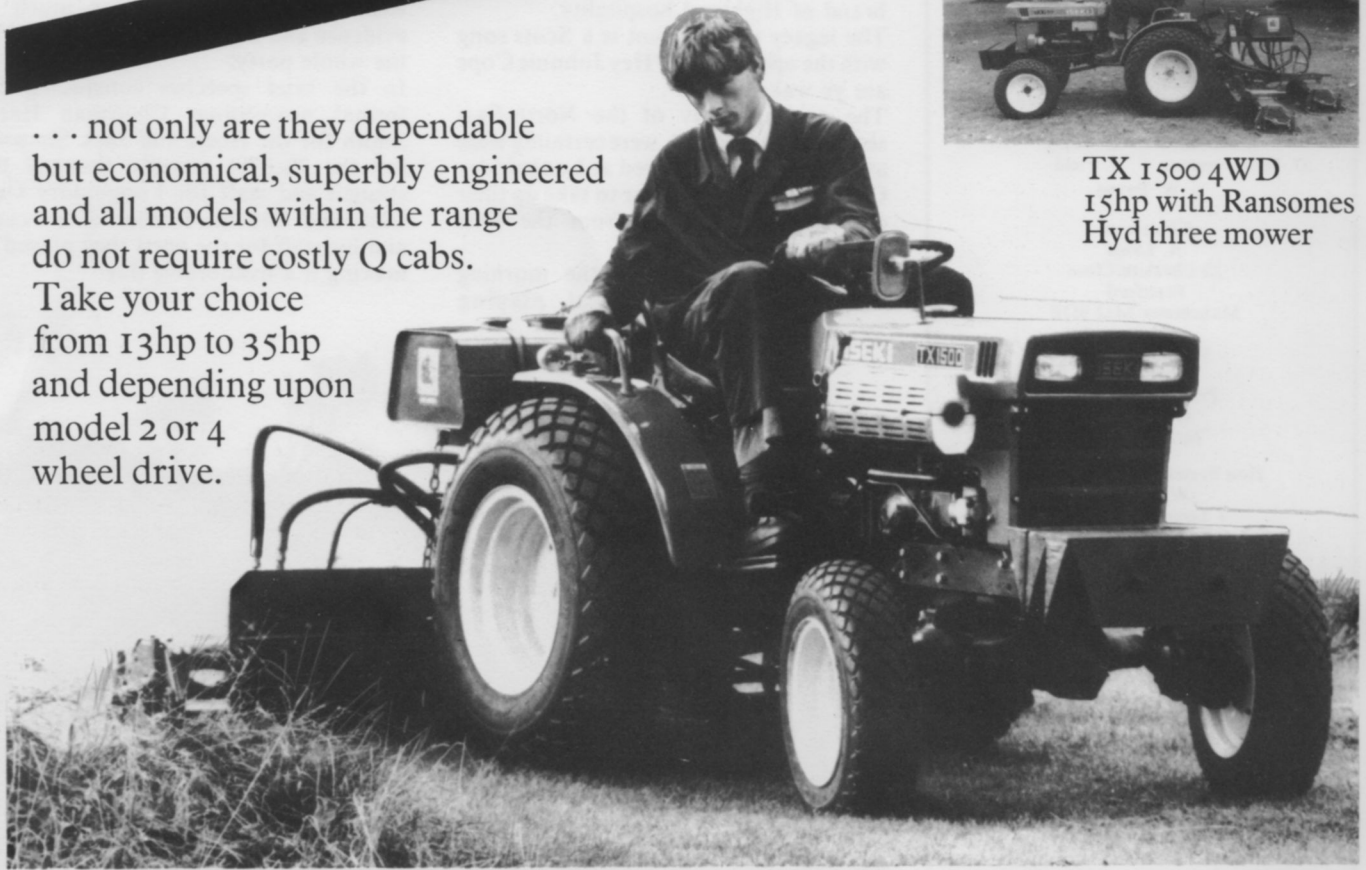
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Teaching Facilities for Golf Course Construction and Maintenance

A report on a unique development at the Lancashire College of Agriculture

Martyn T. Jones

Lecturer in Sports Ground Construction and Management

The game of golf originated on the linklands of Scotland and since those humble beginnings has extended throughout the world. Within our own shores, it has encroached on virtually every type of site imaginable. From linkland to woodland, from fertile pastureland to industrial wasteland; no terrain has escaped the imagination and determination of the golfer and golf course builder.

About half the golf courses in Britain were in existence before 1900, whereas in America, where fervent patronage of the game festinated the development of courses, it is very much a 20th century pastime.

The majority of British greens were constructed from the native soil and contoured to ensure surface shedding of water. Their inherent properties were characterised by the unyielding hardness of their surfaces during the drier summer months. The British "chip and run" game was a natural consequence of these qualities.

The courses received relatively little use, particularly during the wetter months, and the indigenous grasses were well able to withstand the limited traffic.

However, in more recent years the greater demand for all-year-round golf and the increased number of golfers has put a strain on these old courses.

The American influence on the game has also initiated a major change to British golf courses. Resilient greens with the capacity to "hold the ball" are now desired by the majority of British golfers.

The American high sand-content greens require efficient irrigation systems and high rates of fertilisation to maintain the grass in good condition. In many States, the high temperatures necessitate frequent, light irrigation to cool the grasses and avoid heat stress. The American "pitch and stop" game is a natural consequence of their greens construction and maintenance systems.

The transplantation of the American game to the courses of Britain has resulted in British golfers demanding heavy rates of irrigation and fertilisation on their greens. This despoilation of the original game, founded on dry, hard putting greens, has caused further degradation of many honourable old courses.

Many of the modern golf courses have imitated American construction systems, although few have accurately reproduced the detailed specifications of the USGA Green Section.

The long history of the game in Britain, with all of the developments associated with it, has produced a bewildering diversity in construction profiles and maintenance programmes.

The present-day greenkeeper or course manager requires an appreciation of the principles, advantages and limitations of a wide range of construction and maintenance systems if he is to maintain a golf course successfully anywhere in the UK.

Although basic principles of agronomy may be applicable to all sites, refinements dictate a need for specialist knowledge. Research has an important role to play in gaining the necessary knowledge and educational establishments have a duty to disseminate the results of research.

A unique teaching unit is presently being developed at the Lancashire College of Agriculture, nr Preston and will consist of a number of golf holes with each green and tee demonstrating a different type of construction, grass species composition and irrigation equipment. All will require differing

maintenance programmes.

The construction work is carried out by turfgrass students, under the direction of the College staff. The construction systems included in the development are described in the following paragraphs.

Traditional construction

This green is reminiscent of many long-standing golf greens in Britain and consists of a piped drainage system underlying a sand-ameliorated topsoil. Many old greens did not include the installation of pipes and relied entirely on surface shed for drainage. However, more recent developments in the 1960s did include underdrains and this is the era of golf course construction that has been replicated in this example.

The topsoil mix was produced from the native loam, ameliorated with sand and peat to produce a mechanical analysis of 70% sand. Mixing was accomplished by layering soil and sand, followed by rotary cultivation.

The resultant soil is an homogeneous sandy loam, poorly structured and displaying rather low infiltration and percolation rates. The contours of the green produce a shallow saucer to accentuate the inherent problems of the soil composition.

Annual Meadow-grass (*Poa annua*)



Rotary cultivation of the rootzone mix during the construction of the traditional green.



General view during the construction of the porous layer green.

has been sown on the green to typify many problematic greens in Britain. The seed was from an annual strain of *Poa annua*, producing the floriferous, upright, tufted habit of the common garden weed. In time, the sward may change with the ingress of a more perennial strain, displaying a less floriferous, more prostrate, creeping habit of growth. This would create a much more desirable putting surface.

The green will receive a maintenance programme sympathetic to the requirements of *Poa annua*.

The irrigation equipment for this green has been kindly donated by Watermation Ltd and comprises of four RK 70 PC pop-up sprinkler heads.

The tee is also a traditional construction and will exhibit similar problems to those encountered by many greenkeepers.

Porous layer construction

This construction has a cross-section similar to the USGA Green Section Specification, consisting of a pipe drainage system underlying a gravel raft of washed pea gravel (10 mm diameter). The material was spread to a uniform depth of 150 mm over a subgrade which maintains the same contours as the final putting surface. A 50 mm blinding layer of coarse sand was spread over the consolidated gravel raft to prevent the migration of the rootzone mix into the drainage system.

The topsoil mix is a modified version of the USGA Green Section Specification.

In many areas of North America, the high precipitation rates and incidence of Pythium Blight, an extremely damaging, water-borne disease, necessitates rapid surface drainage of golf greens. To ensure the required drainage rates, the USGA Green Section Specification stipulates a rootzone mix with the bulk of its particles falling within the coarse to

medium sand range (1 mm to 0.25 mm diameter).

The drainage rates preferred in America can be considered excessive in our more temperate climate and, with this point in mind, the rootzone mix in this green consists of a prepared compost with the majority of its particles falling within the medium to fine sand range (0.50 mm to 0.125 mm diameter).

The prepared rootzone mix was spread to a uniform depth of 300 mm. Peat was incorporated into the top 50 mm of the mix to aid moisture and nutrient retention for germination and establishment of the grass seed.

A plastic barrier was installed around the perimeter of the green construction to prevent lateral moisture movement from the greens' coarser rootzone mix into the fine-textured collar soil. Omission of this textural barrier would have resulted in the risk of a droughted edge to the green.



Outlet point being positioned in the PVC sheeting during the construction of the "Cellsystem".

The green was sown with a traditional 80% Chewing's Fescue / 20% New Zealand Browntop seed mixture and developed a 300 mm rooting depth within eight months of sowing.

The irrigation equipment for this green was kindly supplied by Toro Irrigation Ltd and E. A. Yates & Son (Sandbach) Ltd and comprises three Toro 650 Series pop-up sprinkler heads.

The tee is a traditional construction but, at a later date, will have a sand-slit drainage system installed as a demonstration of the technique.

Cellsystem

The "Cellsystem" is a new and patented construction system which cannot be compared to any conventional methods.

The site was excavated to an average depth of 400 mm and lined with a laminated PVC sheet to isolate the green construction from the surrounding and underlying soils.

The "cell" so produced — hence the tradename — has a network of perforated pipes laid on the plastic sheeting. There is a water intake point and an adjustable outflow control. This allows sub-irrigation whilst providing accurate control of the water table within the construction.

Porous sand, the material which produces the rootzone mix, was placed directly on the plastic film and the pipe system. The average depth of the sand is 400 mm, peat and fertilizer being incorporated into the top 100 mm to ensure nutrient availability for germination and initial establishment of the grass.

When the "cell" had been filled with the sand and the surface ameliorants had been incorporated, the outlet control was raised to facilitate total saturation of the construction. As the water became visible at the surface, the outlet control was lowered to drain the construction, simultaneously producing even settle-

ment of the sand. This operation was repeated until the sand had been satisfactorily consolidated. The surface was then rolled firm in readiness for seedbed preparation.

At this stage it was decided to experiment with a Ransomes "Motor Rake" to produce the seedbed. The technique was very successful, although slight adjustments to the rakes were necessary to produce a satisfactory result. Greenkeepers and construction companies might find similar trials of interest and value.

The green was sown with *Agrostis palustris* "Penncross" at a rate of nine grammes per square metre. The seed germinated in five days and within a month had produced a dense sward with a rooting depth of 100 mm. As the roots elongated, the water-table was lowered to avoid the development of anaerobic conditions in the rooting zone.

A number of trials will be carried out to ascertain the most suitable maintenance programme for the grass under these growing conditions.

It is the first "Cellsystem" golf green in Britain and the materials for the construction were generously donated by Cellsystem AG/SA/Ltd of Switzerland and Chipman Ltd, the UK licensee for the system.

The tee for this hole will be a porous layer construction but will be divided into sections to demonstrate the effectiveness of a variety of porous layer materials, including washed pea gravel, "Lyttag" and "Perlag". A variety of rootzone mixes will also be utilized and will demonstrate the qualities of "Lignite", "Turface" calcined clay and "Perlite".

Sand/humull construction

A "Mackenzie" green is presently being constructed and will contain a sand / Humull rootzone mix.

The sand used in the lower tier will be a coarse to medium sand, whilst that in the upper tier will be a medium to fine sand.



A ransomes "motor rake" being used for seedbed preparation of the "Cellsystem".

Upper tiers of high sand-content greens often display severe drought problems. The aim of this construction is to ensure uniform moisture distribution throughout the green. Differences in playing characteristics of each sand will be observed and noted.

The depth of the rootzone mix will be 300 mm but will not be a homogeneous mix. A cross-section of the construction will reveal that it consists of three layers. The 100 mm thick base layer will be composed of seven parts by volume of sand / one part by volume of "Humull", a peat product which was generously donated by Fisons Ltd. The 100 mm thick middle layer will consist of 2½ parts by volume of sand / one part of "Humull", enriched with additional nutrients; and the top 100 mm will be composed of four parts by volume of sand / one part "Humull".

The provision of a nutrient and organic-rich layer half way down in the

construction is aimed at improved moisture and nutrient retention and subsequent root branching. It should also produce a soil atmosphere which is more favourable to the intended grass species composition, a mixture of *Agrostis castellana* "Highland" and a number of *Agrostis tenuis* cultivars. *Agrostis* species are susceptible to a number of diseases, notably *Fusarium nivale* and *Ophiobolus graminis* var *avenae*, and the incidence of disease on the sward will be closely monitored.

A pop-up irrigation system has been kindly donated by Cameron Irrigation Company Ltd.

A large greenside bunker is lined with "Terram 1000" filter membrane to prevent the underlying silt from contaminating the bunker sand, the material being kindly donated by ICI Ltd.

The tee is a sand-bed construction and consists of a 150 mm layer of medium to fine sand overlying a network of gravel trenches at two metre centres. Half of the tee was sown with *Poa pratensis* "Kimono" and the remaining half laid with "Bravura" turf of the same grass composition. The seed and turf were kindly supplied by Mommersteeg International Ltd. A pop-up sprinkler irrigation system has been kindly donated by E. A. Yates & Son (Sandbach) Ltd and consists of six Toro 300 Series heads.

USGA Green Section specification

A green is to be constructed that will conform to the specifications of the USGA Green Section. It will provide an interesting and valuable comparison to the other methods. An irrigation system will be installed, the equipment being generously provided by Perrot Irrigation Ltd and will demonstrate their LVZEW pop-up sprinklers.

General features

Bunkers have been constructed to



"Terram" being used as a filter membrane in drainage trenches.

demonstrate a selection of techniques. Grass-faced, sand-faced and reversed-turf-faced are included in the examples. Various depths and different types of sands have been used to compare the "playability" of bunker sands.

Synthetic teeing surfaces will be included to provide useful comparisons between proprietary materials. They will be laid according to the manufacturers recommendations and the amount of usage will be closely monitored. The development will also be furnished with a variety of golf course accessories to display the range currently available.

A different maintenance programme will be adopted on each green and tee, sympathetic to the requirements of the grass species composition and construction system. A wide selection of maintenance equipment is available for evaluation and operative training, the well-equipped College machinery workshop providing an ideal servicing and repairs facility.

The development is the first extensive purpose-built turfgrass teaching complex in Europe and, with the additional features of winter sports areas, bowling green, cricket square, hard porous pitch, demonstration and trial grounds, will provide a unique opportunity to turfgrass managers, architects and other members of the industry to study and compare a wide range of sporting surfaces and maintenance systems.

Education is an integral part of technological progress and can contribute a great deal to the development of an industry. Conversely, industry can contribute a great deal to the development of education and technological progress perpetuates the need for education. The degree of industrial involvement in the provision of this teaching unit indicates a promising future for people associated with the construction and maintenance of golf courses and other sporting facilities.



Golf course greens in the west of Scotland are being attacked by "a green, slimy primitive organism", described as "treacherous to walk on and looking like broken-up jelly fish".

The agronomist to the Royal and Ancient club said the unidentified organism is "the most difficult problem in recent greenkeeping history".

As yet, it appears to be confined to courses around Glasgow, Eastwood and Bonnyton.

The British Agrochemicals' Association has strongly defended the use of the highly toxic weedkiller, 2,4,5-T, after calls for its ban.

The association's director, Mr C. S. Major, said there was a wealth of evidence to show that 2,4,5-T products, where the amount of the impurity dioxin was strictly limited, were safe to use as directed.

This evidence was accepted by independent authorities, governments throughout the world and international agencies, he claimed.

During the Vietnam war, 2,4,5-T was used as a defoliant. Dioxin was released in the Seveso disaster in which a town in northern Italy had to be evacuated. And a study in Oregon, USA, showed that women in areas treated with the weed-killer had more miscarriages than women living elsewhere.

A ban on its use in Britain has been called for by the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers.

Mr Major said products used in Vietnam contained up to 450 times the level of dioxin permitted in products which were sold in the UK.

The UK limit of 0.1 parts per million was recognized as acceptable by both the Food and Agricultural Association and the World Health Organisation.

Dioxin was produced at Seveso as a result of an accident in the manufacture of a type of trichlorophenol, which was not made in the UK, he said.

American authorities still allowed 2,4,5-T to be used on rice and rangeland. They had suspended some uses until the results of further tests were available.

In the United Kingdom, there was no evidence connecting the chemical with suggestions that it was responsible for abnormalities and miscarriages in humans, and abnormalities in sheep.

• The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers has instructed its members employed by the Forestry Commission not to use the chemical 2,4,5-T.

The decision came after the Commission turned down a request from NUAAW president, Mr John Hose, to ban its use.

As from 1 January 1980, British Seed Houses has appointed Mr R. Jeremy C. Howarth, OND, as their Northern Technical Representative, who will be based in Skipton, Yorkshire. Mr Howarth trained at Askham Bryan College of Agriculture and Horticulture and gained further experience with Basildon and Leeds Parks Departments. He has spent the last four years with the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley where he was a Technical Advisory Officer for Southern Scotland, North East of England and East Anglia.



At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee the following recommended wage scale was approved:

Head Greenkeeper	36 hole course	£127.40 pw
	27 " "	£120.35 pw
	18 " "	£113.30 pw
	9 " "	£106.15 pw
1st Assistant Greenkeeper		£92.05 pw
Assistant Greenkeeper		£84.95 pw



Dear Members,

What happened to my idea for our own Association Golf Course, Training School and Headquarters. Remember the appeal for 200 members to put up £500 spread over two years, along with some of their holiday time to be put in working on the project, well it seems to have gone the way of other self help ideas, down into a sea of apathy. The only way would seem to be, do it myself.

There are one or two among you who feel the way I do, and I would like to take this opportunity of giving my sincere thanks to those 28 Association members who put pen to paper and wrote to me saying they would support the scheme as requested, but alas 29 of us could not tackle the amount of work and cash needed, two hundred would have been a different matter.

Perhaps the time has arrived for us to dig into our pockets and find enough money through increased subscriptions to pay a good full time National Secretary who can give all his working day travelling round golf courses to bring our Association up to 100% membership and I am sure the Secretary himself would agree it is a full time job.

The sort of finance required for this would be an annual subscription of £30, right away I can hear people saying it is too much, but consider it would cost £12.50 a year to purchase the Journal over the counter, £25 levy to be in a union, and last but not least another £80 a year to pay for golf that is one of the courtesies extended by the golf clubs to holders of an Association card. In lots of cases golf clubs who are far sighted would pay this subscription for greens staff to belong to a strong and energetic Association that is about to go places.

What are the alternatives if things just go on as they are, no money, no improvement, all this situation leads to is stagnation, and how any body of work people can allow this to happen is beyond me. Next time you are asked to vote on matters regarding subscriptions be sure you have given it the thought needed for such an important part of our Association.

Over the years jobs for green staff have been advertised in our own Journal and

Golf magazines, in cases where we have control of material placed in these adverts it seems unthinkable that we have condoned advertisements where a job is offered at less than the going rate recommended by our Association. In a situation where a man takes less than the rate for a job, he is keeping all his fellow greenkeepers years behind in trying to obtain the correct pay for work done. When I hear greenkeepers grumbling about poor pay and working conditions nearly every time it is because he took the job in the first place knowing that he was being underpaid, and what is not right in the beginning is very hard to get right later on. So to people applying for new posts, please make sure that a works contract and rates of pay are correct from the start.

Here is a name to conjure with "The Agronomist", or in plain language someone who turns up by request, when someone has not been doing their job properly, these gentlemen would not hold the power they do today in sports turf care if they had not been given a foothold in work which should be the greenkeepers, and no one else. We seek to strengthen our position in golf and yet allow these people and many others to tell us what is right or wrong with a job that most of us spend a working lifetime trying to perfect. Our own members, some with 40 and 50 years in the business are the only ones who should be qualified to say what is right or not, there is no substitute for skill and expertise.

After reading one or two articles recently in golf magazines, where leading British Golf Professionals have had the audacity to ask for meetings with golf greenkeepers to air criticism and offer advice about golf course maintenance and management all I can say to them is get on with playing the game, and improving their own winning ability, stop carping about conditions of courses, and leave it in the capable hands of the British Golf Greenkeepers who would never dream of telling them how to play golf. Golf Professionals have a very short memory, before the influx of television we had some wonderful players who got on with the job in hand and did not look around for someone to blame when their game was not quite up to scratch, and I would remind some of our present day Prima-Donna's, they are allowed to use British Golf Courses by courtesy of members who own and pay for their up-keep, they are not there solely for a few people to forget what the game is all about and pick up large amounts of money, then go around moaning about everything in sight. What seems to always stand out about these moans are that they usually come out when their playing results are a little better than usual, you would never hear one of them say a word as they disappear into oblivion after having failed to make the final cut in one of the big tournaments. Please think about your unsung fellow Course Professionals who are the

salt of the earth and never see any of the glory, they just get on with doing their job same as we do to the betterment of golf all over the world.

RAY TEMPEST
Head Greenkeeper and Chairman,
Southern Section BGGA

Dear Sir,

I recently attended the lecture you gave to the Northern Section which may I add I found very interesting. During the lecture a point was raised about having a section in the journal for apprentices. I myself having just finished my apprenticeship think this could only be beneficial to beginners in greenkeeping. I should therefore like to start off with an article which I found very helpful.

It is just one of the many helpful and useful bits of knowledge I acquired at Askham Bryan College at York. I think it will not only benefit apprentices but also assistants.

Take a situation. The Head Greenkeeper is away for the day and one of the lads is out gangmowing and the tractor runs out of diesel. If you follow the steps given below you will find it is not all that difficult to bleed a tractor.

Your first step is to make sure the diesel tank is at least half full of diesel if the tractor has a gravity feed system on it. If the tank has diesel in it look and make sure the diesel tap is actually turned on and check the sediment bowl is not full of any dirt. Having done this operation the next step is to slacken the bleed screw on top of the fuel filter. (Most tractors now have two filters). Start pumping with the small lift pump (when fitted) and continue pumping until AIR FREE fuel flows from the bleed screw. Retighten the bleed screw.

Next undo the bleed screws on the injector pump and bleed as above. Tighten the bleed nuts. Operate the starter to turn the engine over (approx one revolution). Bleed again. Tighten bleed screws. Operate starter again and repeat as necessary until all air is out of the pump.

The final operation is to slacken off one of the high pressure pipe unions. Crank the engine over with the starter motor — air will then escape. When air free fuel flows retighten the union. That cylinder "should" then fire. If not repeat by slackening a second as well as the first union again.

Once the engine speed increases above the starter motor speed the rotary pump can pump air from the remaining pipes and the engine will start.

NB. Retightening of the high pressure unions must be done with a spanner not with the fingers!

IAN C. TOMLINSON
Assistant Greenkeeper, Scarcroft GC



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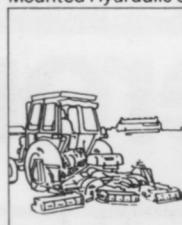
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contd

Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter from the Secretary to the members for not attending the Symposium on 9 October 1979. I would draw his attention to the Sections who held their Tournaments on 8 October 1979.

(1) The Midlands Section. The Chairman of this Section was the person who made most of the arrangements for the Symposium and International. Both the events were held within his Section.

(2) The North West Section. The national Chairman is a member of this Section. As I understand 8 October was practice day for the International teams. I think it would have been his place as Chairman of the BGGGA, the host Association, to be at the Practice Day to welcome the visiting teams. On reading the Section News I find not only the Chairman but two of the English team were not at the practice. Do the players prefer to win prizes in the Section than represent the Association in the International Match. The Secretary asks Section Committees not to arrange conflicting dates. I think the people involved with the past events made the arrangements for both. I hope the Committee who will be involved in 1982 make a note of the dates and then the members may be able to support the Symposium.

On the other side I would like to thank all who were involved with the arrangements for the 1979 Symposium. It is great to know Greenkeepers travel so far to attend both the Symposium and the Golf.

A. READER

Dear Sir,

In recent weeks the BGGGA has acquired a new President in Golf Professional and TV commentator, namely Mr Peter Allis. At the time of his appointment I made objections, not to the man who seems a super guy, but because of his calling. There seems to be

a storm brewing at this very moment which could be very embarrassing for him and for our Association, during the latter half of 1979 we had well known Professional Golfers moaning about the state and condition of British Golf Courses and asking for meetings and Symposiums with Golf Greenkeepers, if this letter is printed in your magazine there are one or two points I would like to make and questions I would like to ask.

1. British Golf Courses are laid down and prepared for amateur Golf Club members who pay golf greenkeepers wages, who give of their best with funds and machinery available at each particular Club. They are certainly not prepared to some magical formula that can make our Professional players beat overseas golfers.

2. Next time any of our top British golfers fail to make the halfway cut in some major tournament, perhaps the BGGGA should have a meeting with them to explain the rudiments of the game and give a talk on sportsmanship.

3. Lots of people involved in the game of golf know how hard their Golf Greenkeepers work, and sometimes under very trying conditions, but the most trying condition of all is to have approximately 450 bosses who can include, Secretary, Committee men, and any well intentioned member who thinks he knows better than the Greenkeeper.

4. One other thing not mentioned very often is a sham Golf Course Architect, lots of courses have been planned by people who know precious little about golf course construction, then when the course is passed on for maintenance to regular working golf greenkeepers, there is no blame attached to who planned the course when suddenly drainage does not work or is totally inadequate, wrong types of seed grasses sown in areas where the soil does not suit, incorrect planting of shrubs and trees. These things happening on a course in play is a very different matter than at the construction stage, it is a very costly business to put right and can take years to correct.

The answers to points raised above are very simple.

1. Be sure who ever plans a new course has the knowledge and ability required to produce a first class job.

2. Make sure that all greenkeepers from head man down are paid the correct recommended rate for the job, let him do the work he is trained to do with the minimum amount of interference, this can be done by Clubs having a liaison man instead of anyone who thinks he knows better.

The record speaks for itself, British golf courses are the envy of other countries all over the golfing world, and as a member of the BGGGA I am proud to say we have the skill and expertise second to none, just let us get on with the job.

RAY TEMPEST
Head Greenkeeper and Chairman,
Southern Section, BGGGA

Davenport Golf Club

require

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

The Jacobsen 70" Trimmer provides:

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- Good curb-climbing for road verges
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Please send me complete details.

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EAST BRIGHTON GOLF CLUB

Kerran Daly is Head Greenkeeper at East Brighton Golf Club situated just outside the town on the Roedean Road. When he left school at 18 Kerran started his greenkeeping life at the Berkhamsted Golf Club in 1971. Moving from Hertfordshire to Brighton in 1973 he joined the Hollingbury Park Municipal course and in 1974 was made Head Greenkeeper. In that position he gained valuable experience and in 1976 took on the full responsibility as Head Greenkeeper on the privately run East Brighton Club which is an 18-hole downland course facing the Channel and is, as anyone who has been there knows, rather windy.

The Club has 475 playing members including a 75-strong ladies section.

The greenkeeping staff apart from Kerran are his assistant, Tom Lynch and two apprentices B. Gibbs and L. Blunt.

Equipment owned by the Club includes:

For Greens — Toro GM3 with scarifying reels = 2 Ransomes Auto Certes.

For Tees — 2 Ransomes Marquis.

For Fairways and Semi-rough — 5 Trailed Ransomes gang mowers.

For banks, etc — 2 Flymos, 1 Victa and 1 Paicesetter Brushcutter.

2 McCormick International Tractors, one with bucket and hydraulic trailer.

1 Allman tractor-mounted sprayer.

1 Parks Professional 7-gal sprayer.

1 Cyclone Major for fertiliser.

1 Sisis trioroborake scarifier.

1 Patissons SP aerator

and for top-dressing 3 well worn shovels.

Kerran's preference for seeds, fertilizers and top dressing is:

Insecticide—ICI Gammacol

Fungicide—Synchemicals Tecto

Weedkiller—Synchemicals Estemore and Cloveride

Fertilizer—Fisons Greenkeeper 1 and 2

Max Hart Crumules

Seed for greens—Mommersteeg MM11

Seed for tees—Max Hart R8 Hartman
Top-dressing—Fisons Humull and Sand

According to Kerran their main problem is one of design. It's a very old golf course and of course the ball travels much further now. This has led to a lack of flair and excitement from the tee, and in many cases no real choice or challenge.

To combat this plans have been drawn up for the introduction of new bunkers and many of the present bunkers have been re-designed. New tee positions have been built on a few holes and some fairways have been given new outlines. This winter they will start their tree



planting scheme aided by a free council grant and it is hoped that this will add to the beauty of the course and the enjoyment of the golfers.

Kerran says that his greens consists almost entirely of Poa Annua. Contrary to some expert advice he finds that with sensible management, i.e. judicious fertiliser treatment at rates recommended by the STRI, watering only when really necessary, constant slitting and scarifying and top-dressing as often as money will allow, a very true, firm putting surface can be achieved. He has had no great problem with Fusarium rivale and a little extra scarification at seeding times keeps the greens pacey.

Obviously Fescue/Bent greens are desirable as they are easier to produce a good finish on but Kerran believes that the average club with Poa Annua should use it to its best advantage and forget chancing disastrous invasion of Clover, Cocksfoot, Ryegrass and Yorkshire Fog by wholesale slaughter of the Poa Annua. Members are happy with the greens and so is he. The conditions, circumstances and resources of all clubs vary and no recipe can apply to them all so Kerran makes a plea for a middle of the road approach, moderation and sensible management.

He tells us he is sick and tired of being called one of the "Green Brigade" by Jim Arthur. Poa Annua gives a beautiful summer colour and he makes no apologies for that. In winter it is anything but green but can be made to wear and putt well. He feels that it is in fact the Fescue/Bent protagonists who will go through hell and high water for the sake of a better winter "colour".



Man versus Machines

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

Golf Course Agronomist - Landscaping Consultant

I still find considerable confusion of thought on the subject of the mechanisation of greenkeeping operations. All too often the same attitude is expressed as that of the Green Committee at one small Scottish Club where they decided to buy a triplex mower and not replace the eldest of a fairly mature team of three looking after 18 holes — admittedly links are no so arduous to run, but needing a great deal more skill. The Head Greenkeeper, whose reaction was predictable, was asked if he had a better suggestion. He had! It was to “buy two more of yon machines and then you will not need any greenkeeping staff at all”!

To those controlling purse strings and policies, I can only ask them to understand that machines never save men on a golf course — they only save time.

Primarily machines enable work to be done more quickly so that essential greenkeeping operations are kept ahead of play, thus minimising interference with members' enjoyment of their round. It is however far more important that play does not interfere with the essential tasks of looking after the course. Nothing is more frustrating to greenkeeping staff saddled with chronically slow and out of date machinery than to have to constantly stop and let play through — in the end even the most obdurate will falter and the task is postponed.

Perhaps the major justification for pop-up irrigation is that it stop the members interfering with the watering — even more so than the obvious advantages of night watering, saving of water and permitting play to proceed without the annoyance of hoses and sprinklers on putting surfaces.

Another justification for mechanisation is that it permits operations being carried out on an intensive basis, which would otherwise never get carried out at all. Many clubs use triplex mowers merely to carry out *weekly* verti-cutting through the whole of the growing season. This is quite impossible without verti-cut reels.

But perhaps the most cogent reason for the more intensive mechanisation is the fact that vastly more golf is played today than ever before and this trend is predictably going to increase. To quote one of my long term budgetary forecasts for a major Scottish club (made with a trace more seriousness than it may seem) “in five years time we may have four million unemployed — half of them playing golf”.

This greater intensity of play has many effects. Primarily there is much more wear — and especially much more compaction. Players' feet — and trollies — do not cause manurial deficiencies but they do cause consolidation, which demands much more intensive aeration.

But, whereas in the old days, when one hardly saw a golfer on the course from late October until spring and it was possible to carry out an autumn and winter programme on a controlled and leisurely basis, nowadays there is almost more golf played in winter on some courses than in summer. As a result, greenkeeping operations have to be carried out under less and less satisfactory conditions, forced further and further into the winter and appalling weather conditions by the extension of the golfing calendar at both ends of the season.

This is the reason for the spectacular success of the Cushman equipment — now to be followed by a Sisis equivalent, with even deeper penetration. Not only can these machines aerate a green in about four minutes but with an early start all greens can be aerated, weekly if necessary and certainly fortnightly and be back in the shed before any player has seen them in operation.

Furthermore, the top dressing equipment on these machines enables an entirely new approach to top dressing to be implemented. Increasingly, later and later top dressing under wet conditions has caused problems with smeared muddy surfaces, thinning out of turf density and encouragement of fusarium patch disease. With a top dressing unit, it

is feasible to top dress throughout the growing season under ideal conditions for quick absorption provided you have a very finely screened, grit-free “compost” and can brush it in mechanically.

On another tack, with more and more sophisticated machines we need more skilled staff and many clubs find a considerable saving, not so much in money as in saved working hours for vital and expensive machines, by better maintenance and quick repairs *in situ*, made possible by employing a skilled greenkeeper mechanic. It is not so much the cost but the loss of machines for days in being collected, repaired and delivered, when a timely on-the-spot repair could often get it back in action in a few hours.

Beware then of the fallacy that a new machine can save a man. All too often I find situations where there are more machines than drivers. We must release staff for training. They are entitled to holidays, even at times which are inconvenient to the club, and even the fittest greenkeepers can suffer sickness and accident.

Finally, the standards of presentation of golf courses today is always set higher and higher and without men you cannot cope. Even mechanised bunker raking needs a back up by hand finishing. To those who quote the US as being light years ahead of us in greenkeeping, I would remind them that some US subscriptions are in the \$1,000 per annum level and staffing with two or three men and a Cushman *per hole* — and this is an entirely different ball game.

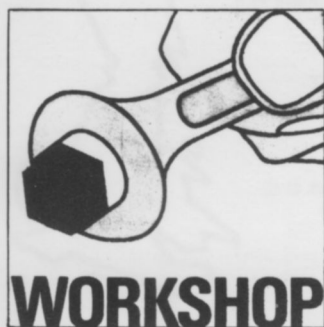
An Extraordinary Meeting of the BGGA will be held at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds 1, at 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 March 1980, to consider and approve an increase in members' subscriptions as follows:

Class A — From £9 to £12

B — „ £6 to £8

C — „ £5 to £7

D + E — At discretion of individual Sections



Keep that roller chain rolling

Words: VIC MOORE

Illustrations: RICK CURTHOYS

THE roller chain needs more care and attention than other types of chain used on farm machinery.

It has two precisely made bearings at the end of each link (figure 1). One is between the outside of the pin and the inside of the bush; the other between the outside of the bush and the inside of the roller.

Main causes of premature wear are:

Lack of lubrication: Red rust on a chain is a sign of deterioration due to lack of lubrication. As links will not be equally starved of lubricant, the wear in each link joint will vary causing the operation of the chain to become even more rough. A poorly lubricated chain is likely to become noisy and hot. Eventually it will start to break up due to "galling", a process whereby the surfaces of the hardened pins and bushes can become welded together.

Misaligned sprockets: The chain will rub the sides of the sprocket

teeth causing wear to teeth and chain, and the chain joints will be put under great strain due to the chain twist. The two sprocket shafts must be parallel and the faces of the sprockets must be in line (figures 2 and 3). The straight edge must touch the leading and trailing edge of both sprocket wheels at the same time.

Worn sprockets: Never fit a new chain on to a worn sprocket. Main type of sprocket wear is "hooking" of the teeth (figure 4). The driving sprocket tries to wrap the chain around itself and rapidly wears the chain. On some machines the sprockets can be reversed so that both faces of the teeth may be used. But this must be done before the teeth wear too much or else they will tend to bend under load. The amount of tolerable wear on a sprocket depends upon speed and load. As these increase, the allowable tooth deformation decreases.

New links for old chains: A common mistake is to use a new link or section of links to repair a stretched chain. This also applies to the use of a new joining-link on an old worn chain. It subjects the chain to a shock load every time the new link or links engage the sprocket. In a surprisingly short time this shock load will cause the whole chain to deteriorate.

As a general rule, a single-pitch roller chain—one with a pitch the same as the sprocket on which it is used—should not stretch more than about 2 per cent before it is replaced. A double-pitch chain—the pitch is twice that of the sprocket—can only be permitted to stretch to 1.5 per cent before replacement because it has only half as many joints to wear, compared with a single-pitch chain.

There are two methods of measuring chain stretch:

Compare it with a new chain: A

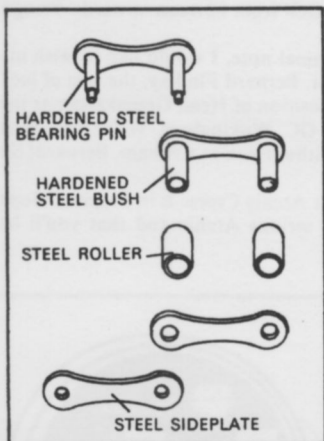


Figure 1: The roller chain has two precisely made bearings at the end of each link.

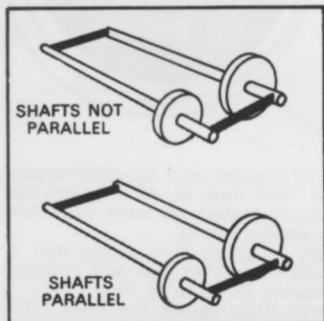


Figure 2 (left) and Figure 3 (right): Checking for misaligned sprockets. The two sprocket shafts must be parallel and the faces of the sprockets must be in line.

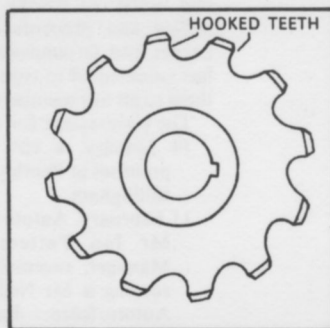
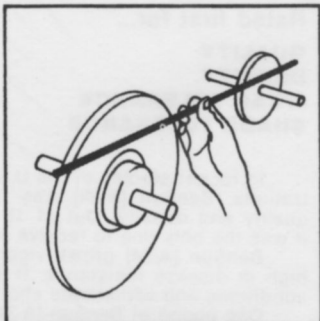


Figure 4: The main type of sprocket wear is 'hooking' of the teeth. The driving sprocket tries to wrap the chain around itself and rapidly wears the chain.

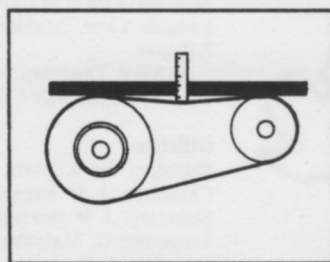


Figure 5: Checking chain tension. Use a ruler to measure the amount of slack in the middle of the chain.

2 per cent stretch is one link in 50 or half a link in 25. When 25 links of the chain being tested are laid alongside 25 links of a new chain and both chains are pulled tight, the old one must not be more than half a link longer than the new one. If it is, it has stretched too much and may well damage a good sprocket.

Measure the length: Pull the chain tight and compare the actual length over 25 or 50 links with the theoretical length. The 50 links of a half-pitch chain must not measure more than $25\frac{1}{2}$ in, because an extension of $\frac{1}{2}$ in in 25in is equal to a 2 per cent stretch.

CHAIN CARE

Tension: Chains which are too loose are noisy and whip, which causes shock loads. An over-tensioned chain will wear rapidly due to the extra stress on all its parts and may strain the sprocket shaft bearings.

Correct chain tension varies according to the machine. As a general guide the tension of a well-adjusted chain in its slack side should be equal to 2 per cent or 3 per cent of the distance between

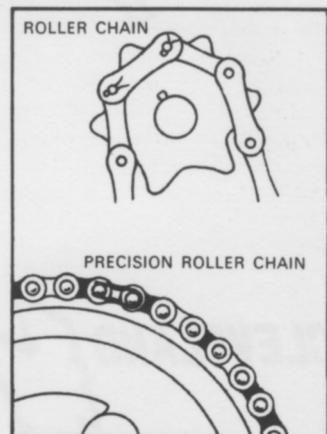


Figure 6: Testing the chain. Always fit the circlip or split pins so that they travel with the closed edge leading.

the sprocket centres. For instance, when the chain sprockets are 40in apart, the chain should have about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in of slack.

To check tension, pull one side of a chain tight so that all the slack is on the opposite side of the chain, then place a straight edge along the slack side and measure the amount of slack at the middle of the chain (figure 5). Tension should be checked several times with the sprockets in different positions to allow for incorrect sprocket manufacture.

Lubrication: Often a chain is "lubricated" by having an oil-can squirted at it while in motion. The main outcome is that oil is transferred from the can to the outside of the chain, and from there back to the holder of the oil-can. Little chain lubrication occurs.

Oil must be made to penetrate into the rollers. Chains which do not have a constant supply of oil from an oil bath, or drip, should be removed from the machine, washed in clean diesel fuel or paraffin and soaked in chain oil for an hour or so. Better still, soak the chain in warmed oil or a chain lubricant. Where possible, move the chain while it is soaking to help oil penetrate the chain joints. Remove excess lubricant from the outside of the chain before refitting.

Fitting: Always fit the circlip or split pins so that they travel with the closed end leading (figure 6). When the circlip has been fitted, tap the side plate of the joining link so that it rests against the circlip to prevent the risk of the side plate pinching the inner link and stopping the chain from flexing at this point.

AROUND THE SECTIONS



CLEVELAND



This is the first news from a new Section. Monthly meetings have been held since September. Mommersteeg rep, Danny Godfrey was our first excellent speaker and the new turf samples of Mommersteeg's Bravura were most impressive.

In October we held our Autumn 18-hole golf tournament at Darlington (Haughton) Golf Club. Course manager Roger Shaw had the course in excellent condition. Twenty-four prizes were kindly donated by the trade and golf clubs. The winner of the cup donated by Marshall Concessionaires and the Ransome Gold Watch was Alan Gilbraith, Head Greenkeeper at Richmond GC. The prizes were presented by Mr Robson, Darlington (Haughton) GC, Captain. Score cards dealt with by Bob Bevan and Bill Burtt.

The same day, 16 October, Lloyds of Letchworth demonstrated their gang mowers and hand motor mowers. This proved excellent and was enjoyed by 60 greenkeepers and committee men.

12 November Sisis entertained us with some excellent slides and talk very well put over by their new rep. for this area, Terry Charlton from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, who has taken over since the retirement on 31 July of Bill Burtt, who was a friend to all groundsmen and greenkeepers with his friendly manner and courteousness and interest in our work to provide good playing surfaces. We are delighted that Bill has agreed to be our first President.

Sisis did us very well the same evening by providing supper and a drink and we all received publications of the varied but good equipment.

December meeting was a joint one with the Teesside branch of the Institute of Groundsmanship, held at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Acklam Park, where we were entertained by Fewsters of Darlington, machinery suppliers, also Marshall Concessionaires. We saw Marshall films of turf maintenance machinery, aerators, sub airs, scarifiers and cutters of various types. The Turf Cat looks extremely manoeuvrable. The Jacobsen Green-King also looked very good. Our thanks to Derek Coad of Marshalls and Barry Harker from Fewsters. Again we were treated to refreshments. Thank you, gentlemen. These two gentlemen provided two bottles of whisky and sherry which were raffled and proceeds shared between Greenkeeper and Groundsmen funds. Barry Harker has volunteered to type our newsletter and post them to all our members. We thank you, Barry.

The programme for the new year is:

14 January, a visit to Brian Skeen's new premises at Bentley Avenue, Cowpen Lane, Billingham.

11 February, Autoturfcare talk and film with Mr Ian Patterson, North Regional Manager, successor to Jack Cogan; also coming is Mr Neil Eaves, the manager of Autoturfcare Faverdale, Darlington assembly factory.

17 March, a visit from Chipmans of Derby, showing us their sand slitting techniques of greens in particular, also informing us of their new cellsystem.

Meetings held at Middlesbrough Municipal GC, Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough, all starting at 7.30 pm.

24 April, Thursday, 1 pm. 18-hole golf tournament at Eaglescliffe GC.

Officials:

President: W. J. Burtt
Chairman: J. B. Burnell
Secretary: J. B. Burnell
Treasurer: G. Malcolm
Committee: H. Lees, R. Shaw, K. Beck, B. Coatsworth, C. Atkinson
Vice-Presidents: Tony Chambers, Brian Skeen

SOUTHERN

Chairman:
R. TEMPEST

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



Winter Lecture

Unfortunately our speaker for the December lecture was ill and could not attend and so a general discussion was held with our President, David Craig, in the chair. Many issues were discussed ranging from greens committees to the training schemes for young greenkeepers.

Conspicuous by his absence at the past couple of lectures has been our "ace" raffle ticket seller Bonzo Ryan. I understand that Bonzo has had a lot of vandalism on his greens. He has had his greens sub-aerated and the young thugs have found it easy to tear-up strips of turf. Anyway, Bonzo has been out on the course during the last two lectures with the police trying to catch the culprits and we hope they have been successful and given them good kick up the ...!!

The March lecture is on Wednesday 5th.

Annual Dinner

Don't forget this is on Friday, 14 March at Walton Heath GC. Tickets from Derek Gould — price £7. Golf from 12 noon onwards. Bring a guest.

On a personal note, I would like to wish my first assistant, Bernard Findlay, the best of luck in his new position of Head Greenkeeper at the Black Swan GC, Wokingham. We're just about managing without you at Croham, Bernard! So all the best.

I hear that Archie Creese is in hospital. Hope it's not too serious Archie and that you'll be

It's Playable
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Rated first for...

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One pound of BenSun [A-34] sows 2,000 square feet (over 1,000 seeds per square foot) producing a dense green sward of turf.

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fighting fit for the golf tournaments this year.

SPRING TOURNAMENT — Make a note of the date. **WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY** at **PORTERS PARK GC, RADLETT, HERTS.** Details in next month's journal.

SUSSEX

Hon. Secretary:
RON JOBSON
10 Blenheim Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 4AG



Well here we are again in another New Year. Time flies and looking forward to the lighter evenings. My wife is busy dusting off my clubs, cleaning my golf shoes, oiling my umbrella, dipping all my best golf balls in bleach bless her. When I suggested she rub my bag down with an oily rad she drew the line. I think there's a moral there somewhere.

Many thanks to my friends for their Christmas and New Year greetings sent to my wife and I. Peg sends a big thank you. We couldn't afford the postage to send everyone a card so through my notes thank you. It's one of the perks of being Secretary.

All members will be pleased to hear Chris Keen's wife gave birth to a bouncing girl over 8 lb. As you know, Chris was unable to attend some meetings because of her confinement. Congratulations to Chris and Elizabeth. So it looks as if Tandridge have another budding member of the green staff coming along if they think a girl called Emma would be suitable.

I hear John Bishop is buying a new set of golf clubs. It looks as if John is throwing down the gauntlet. We shall have to be on our toes at our Spring meeting at East Brighton Golf Club on Thursday, 24 April. Andre Cornhill will be sending out notes shortly for all members wishing to play in the Spring Tournament.

However, getting back to the business of the day we have John Shaw of Hugh Page Ltd giving a talk on machinery on 16 January at the Ugly Duckling, 7.30. On 20 February we have Mr Hawtree from Addington Court Golf Club, the well known golf course architect, to give a talk on golf course construction. Don't forget to give some thought to our trip to Ransomes in October. Let me know at our meetings if you

would like to go. I will be getting a list up. Twenty is the number I am looking for so don't blame me if you are disappointed.

Peter Bacon of Worthing Golf Club has changed his address. May we wish Peter all happiness in his new home.

NORTHERN

Chairman:
COLIN GEDDES
Moor Allerton
Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
JOHN SCOTT
16 Quarry Hill Lane
Wetherby
Yorks
(Tel: Wetherby 61668)



Erudition

Our deep-winter meetings of Learned Scholars this season really do hum of quality: no bullshit in our Section.

29 November saw us soaking up the facts about the production of our Journal. Derek Hopkins painted a pleasant, entertaining picture on the task and trials of bringing together all the necessary ingredients. He carefully explained methods of production, why some journals are thinner than others, why they arrive late in the month, why there isn't more editorial together with the costs involved.

One point that Derek raised was that even as far back as the 20s and 30s much was written about leather-jackets and the status and working condition of golf greenkeepers. These articles were written in letter form by member greenkeepers. Today much is spoken about the status, etc of greenkeepers but as far as the Journal is concerned there are fewer letters, and even less is heard about leather-jackets, those hell's angels of the sub-sward.

Derek blew his little trumpet — and justifiably too — about the quality of the front cover. Colour always adds lustre to a scene and a good pic on the front creates early interest with the reader. It was surprising to learn that each front page colour photograph costs about £165 to produce, together with a great deal of skill. Each colour picture is printed over four separate times, a very precise operation if all the detail is to fit nicely. Formal compliments have in fact been laid at Derek's feet about front cover quality.

Our Journal is on the move presentation-wise. All that is needed are articles dealing with our

job, what it entails, how we see it and how we would like others to view it. All this is possible and much can come from within our own ranks. Even, for instance, if you have an idea but haven't the time or inclination someone could be found to put your thoughts into words.

Very many thanks Derek for taking the time to drop in on us and print the picture: we enjoyed your company.

Another event that went down great guns — apart from the Stones — was the evening when Peter Allis came along to speak to us.

With no particular theme in mind Peter addressed a bulging room-full and talked over and through a number of topics from anybody's over-developed 18 year old daughter to his own youth at Ferndown. I'm sure he said his father was a Pole, his mother Dutch, he was born in Berlin, they spent a time in South Africa before moving to Dorset, and he had relatives in every UK country.

Daftness notwithstanding Peter dealt authoritatively with his understanding of our trade and noted his personal observations.

He applauded our training scheme. Also touched on was the state of antagonism that sometimes arises between club committees and greenkeepers. This was tied in with his phrase "the mysticism of greenkeeping", and how committees and wider society don't understand what the job is about. One of his aims as President of the Association is to have a go at stimulating a broader appreciation of our profession by encouraging new members, improving PR and generating funds.

Greenkeeping is a trade that can be just as technical as you like to make it. It is a fairly straightforward craft but Peter observed that even with the handful of eminent agronomists about nowadays different schools of thought existed.

Peter also portrayed several sketches of his side of the business highlighting the fact that it was style that went a long way to building a better image. He voiced his disgust at the certain few pro-golfers who contribute little or nothing to the game but take all from it.

So remember chaps **DO IT WITH STYLE.**

Our warm thanks to you Peter for a nice change. Come among us again soon.

Fresh Blood

And still they keep coming: gentlemen a warm 1980 welcome to you from the Premier Section. We hope your association with us will be a long and happy one.

Mr D. W. Summerell, Caretta, Tuckers Town, Bermuda — 1st Assistant GK, Mid Ocean Club, Bermuda; Mr D. Hall, 50 Moor Lane, Addingham, Ilkley — Assistant GK Skipton GC; Mr H. Denehan, Van Straelenstraat, 60 Antwerpen 2000, Belgium — Assistant

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GK Ternes Golf and CC; Mr R. Ralston, Box 627, Menwith Hill, Harrogate — Vice-President; Mr A. Lanny, 511 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland — Vice-President; Mr N. Nimick, 1st Assistant GK, Sennelager (British Army) Golf Club, BFPO 16; Mr P. Hunter, 3 Coupland Road, Garforth — Assistant GK Garforth GC; Mr G. South, 33 Saxon Grove, Moortown, Leeds 17 — Apprentice GK Sandmoor GC; Mr P. J. Chapman, 25 High Street, Lazenby Village, Cleveland — Vice-President.

Big "do"

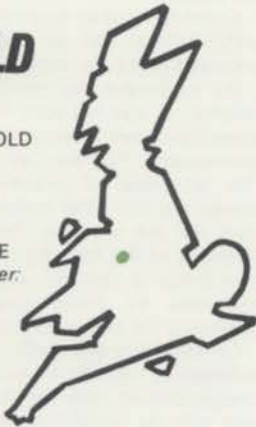
Please take note of our 1980 annual dinner date: **FRIDAY, 7 MARCH, WETHERBY GOLF CLUB.**

The cost is expected to be very nominal and well within a working man's means. Greenkeepers of all denominations are especially welcome at this event — see you there.

SHEFFIELD

President:
S. KENNETH ARNOLD
Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON

Comp. Secretary:
P. QUARTERMAINE
Hon. Sec./Treasurer:
B. V. LAX
15 Sheaf Place
Worksop
Notts S81 7LE



There's not a lot to report at this time of year, our lecture meetings are now well under way and I am pleased to say that they are very well attended.

The first of our lectures was given by Mr M. Jones from the Lancashire College of Agriculture. He illustrated his talk with some slides, some of which were taken on several American courses he had visited. Mr Jones gave some details of methods, equipment, wages, subs, etc, at the courses in question and proved, I think, that in the US they are way in front of us in every aspect. Some very interesting theories and observations came out of Mr Jones' talk, regarding the construction and maintenance of golf courses, a lot of those present were pleased to hear that all the experts don't follow the same lines regarding the treatment of golf greens.

Many thanks to Mr Jones for a very enjoyable talk, also for all his ideas and information that he gave to members afterwards.

6 December saw a visit to our meeting by Mr B. C. Clayton, chief advisory officer from the STRI, Bingley. Unfortunately I was ill and unable to attend but from reports by those present, as usual for someone from the STRI, Mr Clayton gave a first class talk on the "do's and don'ts" of fertilizer, water, etc, again proving that all the experts do not agree.

Our thanks to both Mr Clayton and the STRI, Bingley.

Don't forget our "Open Forum" at Lindrick GC on 6 March at 3 pm, come along and air your views and ideas.

SOUTH COAST

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)



I must apologise again to members for dashing off on 4 December 1979 as soon as I had introduced Mr David Jenkins of Marshall Concessionaires as the speaker for the second lecture in our 1979/80 programme. Derrick was not well and I did not like to leave him with my friend for too long. I had called a Committee meeting for 6.30 pm that evening and felt I

should attend it as the agenda dealt with matters which needed decisions or approval of action already taken, but I had to miss the remainder of a most interesting and entertaining evening. My Chairman contacted me the following evening, full of praise for the excellent presentation given by Mr Jenkins on Thatch and Compaction and mentioned that Question-time had been a very busy period indeed. Our grateful thanks to Mr Jenkins for giving us of both his time and the benefit of his knowledge and experience. My thanks too to the many greenkeepers who regularly attend these lecture evenings — it is very encouraging to see such a good blend of familiar and new faces. (For the record Derrick got better just in time for Christmas!)

The final lecture evening will be held on 4 March 1980. I regret that Mr John Jacobs is unable to keep his date with us (he will be teaching golf in Florida that week!) but I am pleased to say that Mr Peter Roberts, the Regional Sales Manager for Toro Irrigation, has kindly agreed to step into the breach and we look forward to his talk based on "achieving the most from your irrigation system to meet today's playing conditions".

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I must also remind you all of the details of the Spring Dinner Dance to be held at the Meon Valley Golf and Country Club on Friday, 11 April 1980; 7.30 for 8 pm dinner and dancing to 1 am to the Ronnie Horler Band; tickets (£7 each) are obtainable from me direct or at the March lecture meeting. I hope you will all make the effort to attend this function, the date of which has been switched from December in the hope that many more greenkeepers and their wives / girlfriends will take the opportunity to come and enjoy themselves.

I am pleased to welcome Mr N. Stainer of Ashley Wood GC, Dorset, as a member and I hope his association with us will be a long and happy one.

Finally, I would like to thank you all very much indeed for the generous cheque which Eric gave me, and to thank him for his very nice letter of appreciation. Such kind words make all the hard work well worthwhile, especially at a time like this when I am sat at my typewriter under the influence of . . . aspirins and cough mixture and in a state of near collapse!

I wish you all Good Health and Happiness in 1980, and I very much hope that the Association will achieve all its aims during the next decade.

MID ANGLIA

Chairman:
R. J. GOODWIN
2 Greenkeepers Cottage
Ashridge Golf Club
Berkhamsted
Hertfordshire

Hon Treasurer:
D. H. POOTS
Greenkeepers Cottage
Aspley Guise and
Woburn Sands GC
Aspley Guise
Bedfordshire

Hon Secretary:
R. S. MORRIS
41 Hampden Way
Eynesbury
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
Tel: Huntingdon 213348

Very little news to report for this month, things always seem quiet this time of year. I for one will still be quietly recovering from the festivities of Christmas and New Year. However I have one piece of news for you concerning our Spring Tournament.

This as you will have seen from the January Journal has been fixed for: MONDAY, 14 APRIL at 2 pm. JOHN O'GAUNT GOLF CLUB, SUTTON PARK, SANDY, BEDS. The club is situated on the POTTON-BIGGLES-WADE ROAD.

Would all of you who wish to attend that day, and play, let me know by 1 April. Should you wish to come, and not play, please also let me know so I have an idea of numbers to cater for.

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From past experience it appears that we get through heaps of sandwiches and if I have some idea of numbers you wont starve.

Don't forget Monday, 10 March when at 2 pm Cannock Fertilizers are giving us a talk in the Old Clubhouse at Woburn Golf & Country Club.

At the time of my writing this article; I see that our numbers have increased to 36 new members, and following the December issue of the Journal I would like to welcome the following:

M. Labram — Bedford & County Golf Club;
P. Lockett — Warden Hill Golf Club; F. M. Overson — Oundle Golf Club; M. J. Payne — St Neots Golf Club; S. Phillips — Chesham & Ley Hill Golf Club; F. F. Pratt — Little Hay Golf Course; K. R. Stanton — Mowsbury Park Golf Club.

BEDS. BERKS. & OXON.



Again I have pleasure in writing on behalf of the Committee. First the meeting at Maidenhead Golf Club. The President, Mr Walker, invited all Club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers who have donated or are members of the Section. After a round of golf we were the guests of Mr Walker for a drink followed by lunch. After lunch a very interesting meeting took place. Mr Walker will send minutes to all interested, then a follow up meeting when it is hoped to have more Clubs attending. On behalf of all who were at Maidenhead I thank Mr Walker.

The 27 November was the first lecture at Calcot Park when 30 members enjoyed an interesting talk given by Mr Jenkins. Many questions were asked which added to the interest. We hope to have the same numbers plus more at the next meetings. A date to put in your mind is 16 February when we will be holding a Dinner Dance at Maidenhead Golf Club. Numbers are limited to 70 so contact P. Taylor for your tickets now. We hope you will all enjoy the evening.

It is good to know the Section now has 96 members and I am sure we can make it 100 before long. If you know anyone who is not yet a member please bring him along in the hope he will join. Again I appeal for some members to write an article for the magazine, someone must have something to say and I am sure you can all write.

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I wish all Members and Friends a Happy New Year when I hope to meet many Old and New Members. We have the golf outings arranged and I am sure all who attended last year will tell the members who did not how much they enjoyed these outings, do join us this year.

NORTH WEST

Chairman:
JIM ROBINSON
"Bickley"
Allithwaite
Grange-over-Sands

*Hon. Secretary/
Treasurer:*
D. F. GOLDING
3B The Grove, Flixton
Manchester M31 3JH
(Tel:
061-748 8592)



One of our Vice-Presidents, Mr Bob Young from Chipman Chemicals, very kindly gave us an interesting talk on slow release fertilizers, the fors and against. Members seemed to be reluctant to change their fertilizer programme, but all this led to a very interesting question time. The attendance was down on the November lecture but numbers were still good considering it was only a week before Christmas. Thanks for your time Bob.

The February lecture will be on Monday 18th at 8 pm when Mr Ken Heath of "Sisis" will be with us at Swinton Park Golf Club.

AGM

The Section's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 17 March at Swinton Park Golf Club, 8 pm start. Members are urged to attend, especially those who feel they can help or suggest anything to help the Section. Nominations for committee will be needed and it is the ideal occasion to air all those views and ideas.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members, I hope they will have a happy association with us.

Mr K. N. Wroe, Heswall GC; Mr S. A. Wright, Mr N. H. Jeffs, Helsby GC.

Looking Ahead

As the Spring draws nearer we will soon be cleaning our clubs and shoes ready for the forthcoming golfing season. We have some great courses to play on during the season starting with a great favourite of mine Prestbury Golf Club, Cheshire. We will be playing for the "Sisis" Trophy and as defending champion I shall be doing my best to retain it (fighting talk). I even think we will be able to get Head Greenkeeper John Leonard out playing that day and he is a bit of a dark horse so there should be a great day's golf on Thursday, 17 April. Entry cards will soon be available.

Then a couple of weeks later on Monday 12 May we move to another of Cheshire's great golf courses, Sandiway, for our Spring Tournament. Their Head Greenkeeper Lawrence Pithie, successful at Warrington in the Autumn Tournament, will be out to do well and he will be the one to beat, but as usual a great day will be assured.

This year we will be playing host for the Annual "Battle of the Roses" match against the Northern Section.

In the match we have been lucky to be welcomed by Chorlton-cum-Hardy Golf Club, Manchester, right by the banks of the River Mersey, and Head Greenkeeper Bill Kenrick will be already preparing for Thursday, 29 May, if I know Bill. I would like any members of the team who travelled to Ilkley Golf Club last year to contact me if they would like to play again this year, as I appreciate the costs of playing away.

Then we have the National Tournament at Minehead Golf Club, Somerset, on 18, 19 and 20 August, a super venue to incorporate your holidays.

In our Autumn Tournament we have been successful in receiving the courtesy of Haydock Park Golf Club on Thursday, 9 October. Unfortunately for all gambling members there is no race meeting that day but even I would not gamble on Head Greenkeeper Barry Gregson being too far away from the coveted Ransomes watch.

A great year's golf in prospect so let's have wonderful entries, and remember at all times fly the BGGGA flag high. That's all from me for now, let the best man win but most of all enjoy it!

SOUTH WEST

President:
W. PAYNE

Hon. Secretary:
I. F. SCOONES
Failand Lawn
Failand
Near Bristol



On Thursday, 6 December we held our Christmas Lunch and Veals Cup competition at Clevedon GC and all who made the effort to attend had a wonderful morning's golf plus a delicious lunch. This was one of our most successful meetings of late and I would like to thank all who came who made it so.

We were pleased to see so many of the trade there and are most grateful for their contribution to our prize funds.

We were also most pleased to have as our guests for lunch, Mr Mark White, the Secretary of Clevedon GC, also his assistant Mr Ron Earl, whose help made the event possible. Another most welcome guest was Roger Bird, President of the Welsh Section.

The prizes were presented by our President, Mr Bill Payne, and were as follows:

	Gross	HC	Net
1st D. Everett, Chipping Sodbury	82	22	64
2nd K. C. Kenyon, Shirehampton	89	24	65
3rd C. Light, Knowle	94	24	70
4th L. Miller, Meon Valley	74	1	73

1st Gross

Barry Reeves, Clevedon 70 3 67

We would like to thank the following members of the trade for their attendance and generous prizes: Robert Greenslade, Veals Mowers, Bill Payne, Ransomes, Rodney Tetherton, Browns of Bristol. Mr Waycott of Waycotts Bristol, Brian Stephens, Pattisson, Peter Hampton, Marshall Concessionaires, Tim Cranfield, Woolsey Rotary Mowers and Enmore Park GC.

May I also on behalf of the Section thank all those at Clevedon GC for a wonderful meeting.

WALES

Chairman:
ARTHUR PRICE
Carmarthen

Hon. Secretary:
W. JONES
Golf Bungalow
Ogmore-by-Sea
Bridgend
Mid Glamorgan
CF35 5BY



The lack of meetings means lack of news, to sit down and write hearsay without facts is a dangerous occupation, so please bear with me until I can find some news. One thing, you're not missing anything.

I have contacted the clubs selected for our matches next year, also I have been in touch with a speaker for a winter lecture, no reply from anyone yet. The dates will be published whenever we receive them.

One thing we can say with certainty, we are pleased in this Section that Mr Peter Allis has accepted the position of President. A closer contact with Circuit Professionals will help the Greenkeepers and the Pro's in every way.

Our Treasurer Paul Robinson has been very busy again, writing to clubs in the Section and I might say with lots of success. The clubs have responded well to our pleas for donations and we thank them all very much indeed. A great pity all the clubs can't see their way clear to make a small donation, clubs who have always been in the forefront seem to ignore the Association. This attitude can't help but strain relations and with younger men learning the job of greenkeeping surely it's in any club's interest to help the Section.

I would like to repeat a statement I made in an earlier edition of the Journal. Any club who has had the kindness to answer our requests for donations should write to us if they have any greenkeeping problems. We may not be able to put them right, but with so many working practical greenkeepers, we can always help.

I would like to thank Mr Davies of Brecon Golf Club for kindly answering our call and returning the John Duncan Cup. Thank you and let us hope that you can play for it and win it again.

To all members of the Section, may I wish you a Happy New Year, and good Golf and Greenkeeping in 1980.

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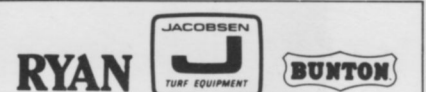
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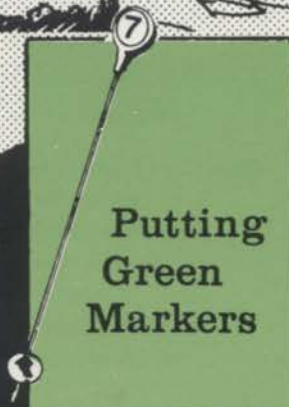
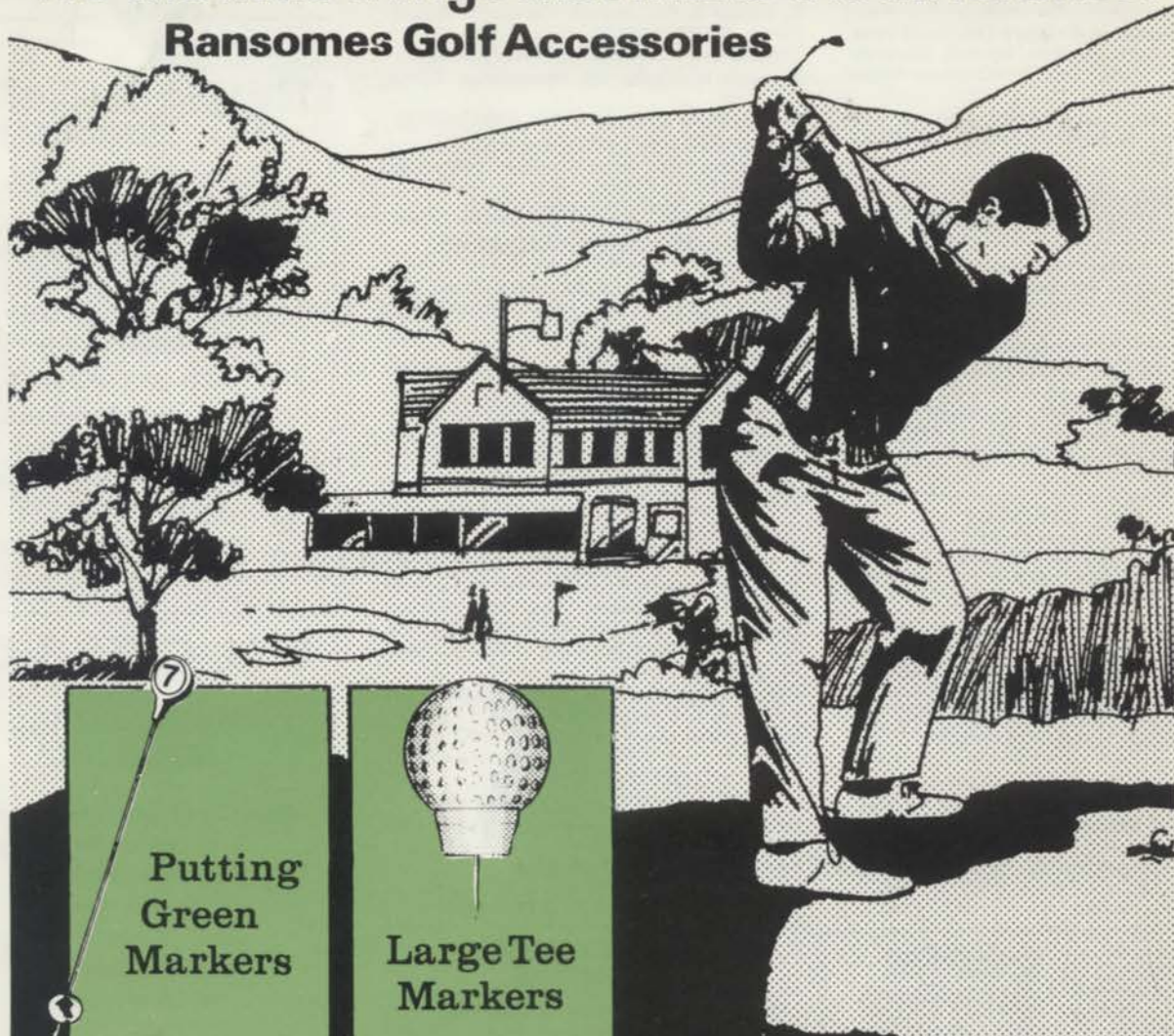
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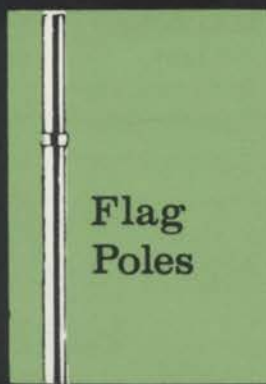
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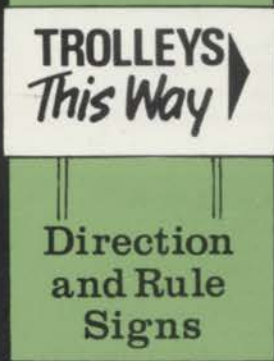
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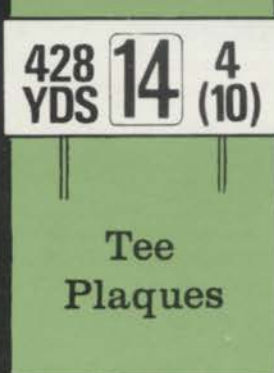
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