

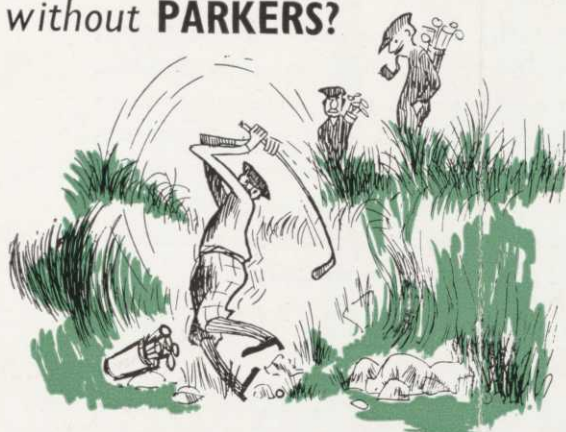
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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



FOUNDED 1912.

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No. 209 New Series
AUGUST 1962

*A wise man sees as much as
he ought, not as much as he can.*

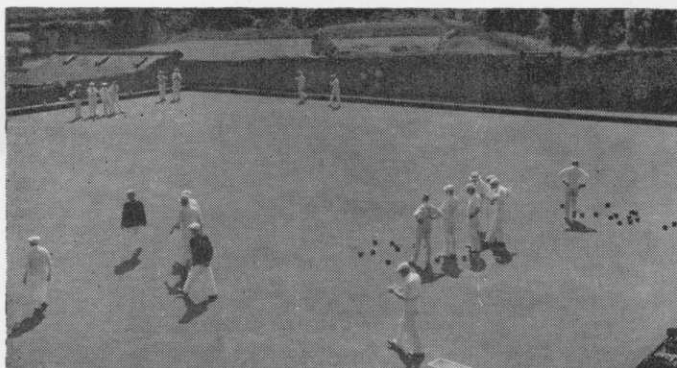
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Help the Greenkeeper!

One of the big firms in horticultural sundries has started a "Help the gardener" scheme which might be worth a trial by some of those supplying equipment to golf courses.

There is an astounding range of spades and forks for example in any comprehensive gardening catalogue and one of them is presumably best for one job and one person. By paying a deposit, a customer can have his choice delivered and try it out under practical conditions.

When it comes to the bigger machines used on golf courses, most firms will arrange a demonstration on the site, and this is a wise precaution whatever is in view. Often the choice will be narrowed down to a firm with which the greenkeeper has dealt for many years. There is much to be said for quick personal service in spares and repairs and old established firms have built up a reputation for reliability which inspires confidence whatever the machine. But who would like to say which is the best of the thirty odd rotary mowers which befuddle the market? And what greenkeeper has time to arrange even a dozen demonstrations? The answer should be a week's trial use after he has narrowed down his choice to the machines that he thinks will give him best service and results. A good machine will sell itself once the experienced handler has made it do the job he wants.

* * *

We have now added another form of transport round a golf course to our collection.

Royal Birkdale's Head Greenkeeper, D. Pate, drove us round in the rain the other day in the armoured car which was bought for the Open Championship last year. This choice had nothing to do with the character of the event but was determined by an attractive price and the fact that it would go anywhere. To judge from the ascents which it took in its stride, it would even go into orbit very willingly.

Other favourites in our collection are:—Bentley—the most comfortable; helicopter—the most noisy; and mule—the most frustrating, especially on dog-legs. Although we have waited patiently by several 'buggies', we have never yet been offered a lift. Meanwhile, our usual and possibly best vehicle is still Shanks' pony.

NOT only were many of those who went to Woodhall tempted to describe it as the best inland course in the country but the Championship itself—in the odd way these things do happen—suddenly convinced a number of the most experienced pundits that a new era had started in Amateur golf, and become incontrovertibly proved in that event.

Analysis of the actual scoring would be a bore, and prove nothing, either: so much depending on the wind, the day and the state of the course (infernally difficult!). Analysis of why so many of us—from younger players to older players, right up to the senior golf writer present—felt this suddenly strong impression of a new standard, is not too easy either. But what seems to have happened is that there is now a much wider field of amateurs, all able to score well under competitive championship conditions; and most of them are young. Of the 43 qualifiers for the last two rounds, all on 153 (76, 77) or better, over half were under 25, less than 10 over 30. This is a change, and a radical one; for in championship qualifying rounds over a course like Woodhall in its hard conditions, wisdom, ability to keep one's head, and sheer experience of how and why to cope, must count for a lot. These young players had not suddenly and magically acquired these qualities, natural to their elders. Not at all; they succeeded simply because they have learnt to swing well, hit the ball hard, and rested on the confidence that comes from that: they could rely on their swings to take them through.

Basic Method

The elder watchers noted that where ten or fifteen years ago one would have seen a great number of unformed or untidy swings all over the field, nearly all these young men have comparatively simple, sound methods. Perhaps—and it could be an important trend if it is true—it is the first definite result of the work of the Golf Foundation, in encouraging both the game and the proper learning of it amongst the young; added to, most likely, both by the coaching schemes subsidised by the four national unions, and by the general climate of

LINCOLNSHIRE GREEN

John Stobbs played in the Amateur Stroke Play Championship and reports his impressions from Woodhall Spa.

attention to method engendered in the attitude of—and through the controversies about—the Walker Cup selectors.

However it is, there can be little doubt but that it is true; and that young players of ordinary county standard now score and compete with consistency and dash of a far higher order than their predecessors were capable of. There are far more people now in the field capable of still being in the picture after the first three rounds; and in fact in the first 30 in the results, from the 290 of Slater and Shepperson down only to the 304 scored by Joe Carr, and stopping there, the only players definitely over 40 were Slater, Carr and Pierce; and over 30 Thirlwell, Burgess, Davidson and Huddy. Nearly all the rest were youngsters nearer 20 than 25.

It suddenly thus becomes possible to prognosticate with some certainty that within another five years—if the trend continues, and there is no reason why it should not—there will not only be a positive flood of good players still under 30, but many more come up by then to join them. Competition in amateur golf will be much more on the American pattern of acknowledged free-for-all; and favourites vastly more difficult to

foresee—as, indeed will rapidly become national and Walker Cup teams. Although this certainly means the eclipse of the middle-aged county player (and none of us likes being swept into backwaters, by however admirable a tide) it will undoubtedly do British golf a vast amount of good.

Scottish Verdict

The second theme is the course itself. If Woodhall isn't the best inland course in Britain, it's not easy to name one decisively better; which may amount to much the same thing. When you find Scots talking of it in the same breath with Gleneagles and Rosemount, Yorkshiremen with Ganton, Sussex men with Pulborough, Surrey men with Walton Heath and Sunningdale, and Hertfordshire men with Berkhamsted, some special quality of merit is at least deducible!

So let enthusiasm rip! May I admit that I took 83 in the first round, then in the second a score I just refuse to reveal: and still came away admiring it immensely and longing to play it again. You can say more: that it is the sort of golf course you could settle down to play on for the rest of your life, and never want to live anywhere else.

It is so nothing of an odd phenomenon. The country of Lincolnshire all around is flat and fen-like, a continuation of the Wash country. But set suddenly in it at Woodhall is this ridge of sandy country with heath, heather and pines. Golf was played there for some time before the local Lord of the Manor, Colonel G. V. Hotchkin, took a hand in it, redesigned

the layouts and ended with the present course.

The first 11 holes proceed in a loop of 5, then a long run out to the turn, and a tack back, through wonderful open, slightly undulating, heath. The fairways are narrowish, and bordered by heather of a peculiarly tough and clinging consistency, though it is nowhere left long enough to make a ball disappear.

But the wonderful character this somehow gives the course, with the holes laid out as they are, is hugely added to by the cavernous sand bunkers everywhere. There is nothing magic about bunkers; in fact many nowadays are just a bore; but none of them are a bore at Woodhall. Never have bunkers fitted so absolutely naturally into an inland course. Understandably, because the bunkers are there anyway; all you have to do is to excavate them and keep them open—a little job performed adequately enough by the constant spade-work of niblicks.

Three Blind Shots

There is something indefinably right about the way they are placed, too. They give the impression of growing out of the terrain, as it were; and perhaps the best thing about them is that though their penalty is real if you do get in (often to take three strokes before seeing the fairway again, since they are often deeper than your hat) there is absolutely no need to go into any of them at all. Their function is mainly to terrify the eye; and to nearly every green a straight, firm shot, pitching pin high, is absolutely and utterly safe from them.

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The last 7 holes are able to ease up a bit with the sand hazard; for from the 12th drive onwards into the trees we go on the lower level of the heath; and from then to the end belts of birch make a continual threat along every hole. There's one hole, though, where the sand comes back in a tight battalion before and around the green: the drive and short-pitch 15th. There I took a lovely 7, 5 of it struck out of sand: and this is quite, quite easy to do.

One Bad One?

There is perhaps one bad hole, the 16th: rather an undistinguished drive and pitch to a flat green surrounded by trees, and half hidden by a cross ridge 30 yards short. In winter conditions this may be a fine hole; but it somehow lacks the character of the others; and is vastly overshadowed by 15 and 17, both challenging drive-and-short-pitches. It's a contrast to them, yes; but not a very good one.

You can sit back and try to analyse the particular charm and challenge of Woodhall, and never quite arrive at a certainty. Perhaps that itself is part of it—as with the theme of a woman with a bit of irreducible mystery about her, no matter how many years you know her. But in Woodhall's case I think part of the answer may be that the essential of playing it well is to direct the drive to the tactical side—usually the bolder, too—of every fairway; then be able to play firmly at the pin: and then do so! Your mind, in fact, must weather the hazards before the ball is struck; and that, perhaps, is part of the best of golf.



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All this, I think, makes good golf. But *splendid* golf, as Woodhall provides, is essentially indefinable and subjective. Either it is there for you, or it is not.

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AUGUST

13th, 14th and 15th B.G.G.A., A.G.M. and Annual Tournament, Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

30th Southern Section, Autumn Tournament, Sunningdale Golf Club.

SEPTEMBER

25th East Midland Section, Autumn Tournament, Willesley Park Golf Club, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.

26th Welsh Section, Cardiff Cup, Glamorganshire Golf Club.

27th North West Section, Autumn Tournament, Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park.

OCTOBER

18th Northern Section, Autumn Tournament, Headingley Golf Club.

NOVEMBER

28th Midland Section visit to Messrs. Massey Ferguson.

GOLF CAPTAINS AND GREENKEEPERS AT ROMFORD

Once again the Essex Golf Captains were hosts to a team from the Southern Section at the Romford Golf Club on Thursday, 12th July.

After an enjoyable lunch, the two teams played 18 holes on a course which was in perfect condition, thanks to W. Moore and his staff.

Both teams, for the second year running, scored the same number of points. The Greenkeepers results were as follows :—

Ford and Craig, 45 pts.

W. Moore and Ness, 39 pts.

Glass and Noakes, 37 pts.

P. Moore and Staines, 32 pts.

Whitehead and Dennis, 41 pts.

James and Hall, 38 pts.

Foulkes and Stobbs, 36 pts.

After tea prizes were presented and Mr. Glass thanked the Captains for a most enjoyable day.

STAFF PENSIONS

Mr. Sidney Norgate, "Enderleigh", Brant Avenue, Illingworth, Halifax, Yorkshire, will always be interested in helping clubs and Greenkeepers starting a staff endowment insurance scheme. Pilot scheme was started by the Northern Section some years back and is worth bearing in mind.

ROYAL SHOW

At the Sudbury Soil Test Kit Stand at the Royal Show, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, from 3rd to 6th July, over 650 individual Soil Tests were made for visitors to the Show.

THE DOWIE

We apologise to the memory of Mr. Muir Dowie. The hole named after him at Hoylake is No. 7, not No. 10 as a caption in our July issue wrongly stated.

JIG-SAW IN GERMANY by F. W. Hawtree

THE new layout of 18 holes for the Düsseldorf Golf Club was planned in April and work has started on the practice ground. The rest of the course will be made after the harvest this month.

The site is seven miles to the east of the city and was selected from three alternatives. Its intrinsic advantages made it a natural choice, although farthest from the centre. Distance can be an advantage in these days of expanding suburbs and the tranquil rural atmosphere will more than repay a few extra minutes in the car. The soil is lighter, the landscape—with only a few distant houses in sight—ininitely more attractive than either of the alternatives, and from my point of view the planning presented an exciting challenge. All the elements were there—strong undulations, hills, valleys, streams, part wooded, part plain—the problem was to find the pattern of 18 holes which would dovetail into this picture to give the length required without steep climbs or blind approach shots and, above all, which would reproduce in play the tremendous variety and interest of the ground.

Well Hidden

I thought of Willie Dunn who was frequently consulted about sites for golf courses in the late 19th century and is reputed to have said of each one, "God obviously intended this to be a golf course"! The same intention could be assumed at Ratingen but it was carefully concealed. It therefore provides an excuse to try and answer a question which Mr. Rod Davies asked me in Birmingham two years ago and which has worried me on and off ever since. He asked what mental processes are involved in planning a new golf course and it was difficult to give a satisfactory answer because they all occur at once.

In the first place one gets under the skin of the site to feel what sort of a course it will give and what sort of layout is going to take the player round it in a natural, orderly fashion. There will be surprises on the way by all means but the land itself must produce the arrangement of holes not the layout be forced

unsympathetically on to the land. Where atmosphere or contour vary noticeably, the agreeable areas must not all be fired off in the first few holes. There is a strong and a weak way round each site (sometimes, too, there is an expensive and a cheap way—another factor to be borne in mind). How many courses are there where the 17th and 18th tail away after strong climaxes earlier on; how many where the 19th seems a long way up in the air as you stand on the 18th tee; how many where a frivolous hole exaggerates an anticlimax instead of providing a break in tension which emphasises other holes before and after it.

Compromise

These faults are often due to defects in the club-house position but when the choice is free, experience naturally provides some facility in determining a location which will compromise between layout, access, services, outlook, contour, and orientation. Some compromise! But once it is achieved, indeed, earlier, the 1st and 18th are taking shape and, one hopes, two other holes at the middle or a third of the round.

At this stage, the pieces of the jig-saw are still big ones—they will be subdivided later on—but they must already interlock. If one piece is neglected the pattern is never complete and another club will be condemned to live for ever saying "If only . . .". I use the words "for ever" advisedly because once the course is laid out on the wrong lines, it can never for practical purposes be put right in the future. Some are laid out more wrongly than others and no land will ever permit the abstract ideal. Nevertheless there is a practical ideal for each piece of ground and that is the only goal.

We can now start work on the detail in earnest, remembering that each detail is still vital in the broad picture. This will already be splitting up the site into areas and dictating profitable lines of investigation. Where hills are involved the general direction of the finish will be doubly important. Thinking about this

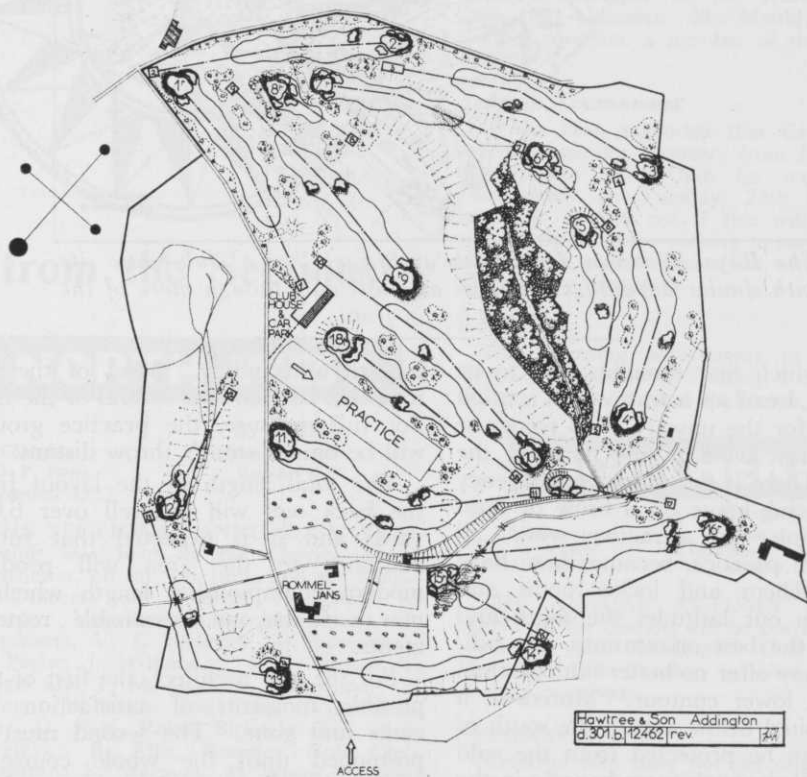
will already influence the start. The short holes must be the jewels but the 5-bogey holes can be boring if they lack feature. These and a host of other factors determine each move in the game but at the same time their interaction is building up the total effect.

Experience will generally show at once

adjourn for luncheon until the Hon. Treasurer reported one hole short.

But with all the experience in the world, on a good site (by which I understand one with a variety of natural feature and enough room to manoeuvre to use it properly), there is only one way to find the best possible series of holes—

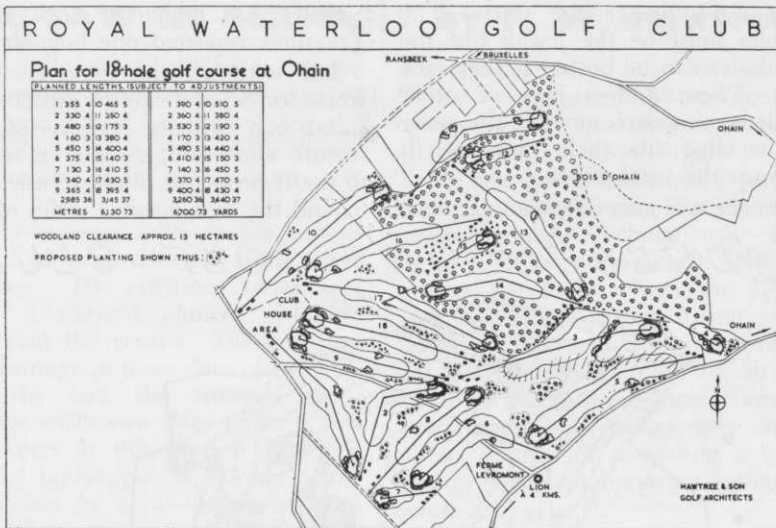
DÜSSELDORF GOLF CLUB



what cannot be done and the implications, perhaps holes ahead, of any single step. And it is probably the only thing which will check the designer when, after making compromise after compromise, he reaches the point where he knows that if he goes any farther the total effect will be feeble and frustrating. Consequently, this stage provides an absorbing exercise with extreme pleasure if solved satisfactorily in the minimum number of moves. Perfection would be five minutes for reflection, one walk round the site, and there is the layout! They say of an eminent professional golfer no longer with us that he achieved this feat one morning and was ready to

that is to walk and keep on walking, twisting all the possibilities this way and that until suddenly the whole scheme clicks naturally into position. On this site the distance covered until that moment was 22½ miles. On flat sites, a stroll through the middle may show the solution at once; on bad sites, the happy solution may never come; on good but difficult ones it is happiest when the work to find it has called for every resource the designer can command, constant adjustments of initial impressions as new ideas develop, and strict control of emotions ranging through fury and despair to relief and delight.

Looking back, as I like to do in order



The Royal Waterloo Golf Club at Brussels has a club-house site with similar advantages to these at Düsseldorf though more of the course lies in front.

to find which first thoughts had to be corrected, I can see a trap which is often prepared for the unwary. To recognise it now may avoid a few miles in the future. There is an instinctive tendency to site a club-house on a brow or crest commanding an attractive view all round. In practice, because there have to be kitchens and locker-rooms and because in our latitudes the south and west are the best orientations, the hill-top site may offer no better outlook than one on a lower contour. Moreover, a building sited below and to the south of a crest can be protected from the cold side, it will sit much more happily in the landscape without breaking up the horizon, and both internal and external planning can be more interesting and even more economical.

An old A.A. gun site provided the trap at Düsseldorf—a good field of fire all round but a poor length hole up to the boundary behind and a long climb up for the 18th in front. The solution was to move the club-house 100 yards down the slope. Then both 1st and 9th holes will acquire good length; the 18th, aiming at the club-house all the way, will end in a natural amphitheatre just below it without having to climb the whole of the slope; and the view from all the main rooms will be just as good,

indeed, outstanding. Most of the last nine will be seen and several of the first. For full measure, the practice ground will be only a stone's throw distant.

The total length of the layout from the back tees will be well over 6,000 yards and it is expected that future additions to the area will produce modern championship length which is now well beyond reasonable requirements.

For the golf architect, the first of two possible moments of satisfaction has come and gone. The second must be postponed until the whole course is modelled and green. In between, there will be many more miles over ploughed land in wet weather, hot weather, and probably snow.

For the group of Düsseldorf golfers whose scheme this is, the moments of pleasure are still to come. It can take up to two years to plan, build, and bring a golf course into playing condition. We hope to improve on that and in any event a practice ground will be ready for autumn. But at least they can be patient in the knowledge that they have a site of which any club could be proud and that there are some spectacular holes on the board which will test whether the practice they put in meanwhile has been earnest or not.

News



from the Sections

NORTH-WEST

Chairman
O. P. JONES
(Bramhall G.C.)

By B. Ellis
Hon. Secretary:
Romiley G.C.

THE SECTIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting was held at the Garrick Hotel, Manchester, on the 7th June, and the following Officers were elected. President: W. Kinsey. Vice-Presidents: Messrs. D. B. Hargreaves, V. E. Sangster, E. Brassington, W. Payne, J. Williamson, J. G. Brown, T. Bridges and T. M. Gribben. Chairman: T. Brennan, Wilmslow Golf Club. Vice-Chairman: D. Pate, Royal Birkdale Golf Club. Secretary: B. Ellis, Romiley Golf Club. Treasurer: E. Macavoy, 21 White Meadows Drive, Thornton, Liverpool. Committee: Messrs. V. Crabtree, O. P. Jones and H. Smith.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Walter Sumner on being elected an Honorary Member of the Grange Park Golf Club, St. Helens, in recognition of 42 years' service. Walter commenced work with the Club at the age of 14.

Autumn Tournament

The Section Autumn Tournament will be held at the Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, on Thursday, 27th September.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members. N. Illingworth, 71 Waterloo Road, Birkdale, Southport (Hon. Associate Member); K. Thompson, 8 Factory Lane,

Heath Charnock, Chorley (Shaw Hill Golf Club); and J. Goldstraw, 24 Handley Road, Bramhall, Cheshire (Bramhall Golf Club).

EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

Chairman:
S. TALBOT
(Wollaton Park)

Hon. Secretary:
40 Edward Road,
Clarendon Park, Leicester

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I have to announce the death of Mr. A. Mould, Head Greenkeeper to the Kibworth Golf Club, near Leicester. Mr. Mould was, for a number of years, a member of the Midland Section.

Autumn Tournament

It has been suggested that we engage a coach to convey members from Nottingham to Willesley Golf Club for our Autumn Tournament on Tuesday, 25th September. In order to find out if this will be worth while, will members wishing to use this mode of transport please contact me without delay. This is very important.

Handicaps

The following adjustments to handicaps have been made:—S. C. Long, 3 to 2; R. W. Willars, 24 to 22; and S. Fretter, 11 to 13.

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

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

Hon. Secretary:
8 Goit Stock Terr., Harden,
Bingley, Yorks.

THE ANNUAL AUTUMN TOURNAMENT of the Section will be played over the course of the Headingley Golf Club on Thursday, 18th October, by kind permission of the Committee.

Sweepstake

Members who have not yet returned their counterfoils and monies for the Sweepstake tickets are kindly requested to do so immediately, so that I may forward them to Headquarters.

Changes of Handicap

The Committee have made the following changes of handicap:—J. Scott, 15 to 13; D. Beaumont, 10 to 9; G. Mason, 14 to 13; D. Copland, 8 to 7; S. Smith, 12 to 11; G. Gomersall, 21 to 19; S. Bailes, 19 to 20; and D. Storey, 24 to 18.

Visit to Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies

It has been proposed, subject to support forthcoming, to pay a visit to Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Works at Ipswich towards the end of September. The idea is to travel to Felixstowe on a Sunday, and stay the night there before moving on to Ipswich on Monday morning. The return journey

would be made Monday evening. Members who are interested are asked to forward their names to me by Saturday, 18th August, to enable arrangements to be made, if there is sufficient support.

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

Hon. Secretary:
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

MAY I REMIND MEMBERS THAT the closing date for entries for our Autumn Tournament to be played at Sunningdale on the 30th August is 20th August.

New Member

We are glad to welcome to our Section Mr. R. A. Laver, 7 Southfield Cottages, Oakland Road, Hanwell, London, W.7.

Change of Address

Mr. H. C. Clanson has moved to 5 Columbus Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

Chairman:
M. GEDDES
(Royal Porthcawl)

Hon. Secretary:
36 Clase Road,
Morrison,
Swansea, Glam.

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL members and visitors to Wales for the Annual Tournament and A.G.M. at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. I hope your visit will be a most enjoyable one with fine weather to enable you to see the Welsh country with its hills and dales, and I know you will enjoy the course on which you will be playing.

Acknowledgment

Mrs. M. Lewis wishes to thank all members of the Section for their kind expressions of sympathy on the death of her brother, Stanley Phillips.

Subscriptions

As our Treasurer was unable to be with us at our A.G.M., on the 19th June, would members who have not yet paid their subscriptions please forward same as soon as possible to Mr. Geddes, 23 Fenton Place, Porthcawl, Glamorgan.

NORTH-EAST

By T. Oliver

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

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

A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE Marquis of Blandford, Newcastle-on-Tyne, when a number of new members were elected. The Section strength is now 30, with a promise of more to come.

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ORNAMENTAL GRASSES by Margery Fish

AN occasional clump of ornamental grass among the flowers acts as a foil. The tall ones add grace and welcome height, the dwarfs make carpets of different colours. They need not take up much room and only a very few are determined spreaders, and these can be controlled.

Where there is plenty of room, pampas grass (*cortaderia* or *gynerium*) is really lovely and is valuable because it flowers so late in the year that its showy plumes hang on for most of the winter. The Victorians spoilt it for many of us by cramming enormous plants into little gardens, but given room and a good landscape setting, it is attractive all through the year and the only attention it needs is a match set to it on a still day early in the year to get rid of the old growth. There is a dwarf form for smaller gardens; a very tall one where space is no object, and a soft pink one for variety. *Arundo donax* is another tall and imposing plant, with 8 ft. blue-grey leaves, and does best if cut to the ground each spring.

Beloved of the Victorians

Another grass beloved of the Victorians and having a renewal of popularity today is *Phalaris arundinacea variegata*, Ribbon Grass or Gardeners' Garters. It spreads if given the chance, and to enjoy its company without reservations, it can be planted in a large drainpipe sunk in the ground. At the back of the border it can be allowed to produce its 3 ft. flower spikes, but near the front it is more effective if kept cut to a carpet of pale green and white.

The damp-loving *Glyceria aquatica variegata* has a great deal of pink in its striped leaves and is very handsome, but it needs plenty of room or else great control. *Acorus calamus variegatus* and *A. gramineus elegantissimus* also like a damp situation and are lovely from the moment they produce their new growth in brilliant shades of red, cream and green. *Cyperus vegetus*, the fascinating reed rush, with flower heads like green feathers with a bronze sheen, is of American origin and has to be grown in a damp situation in hot dry climates but

in England seems to do best in a normal flower bed. I notice it usually sows itself when growing in full sun. The leaves of *Elymus glaucus* are like blue-grey satin, but it is one of the worst runners I know, and needs the drainpipe treatment.

Plants that look nice in the winter always appeal to me and there are three grasses that can be relied on however bad the weather. The two-foot arching feathery heads of *Stipa calamagrostis* turn light buff late in the year and remain attractive all through the winter. The pheasant grass, *Stipa (Apera) arundinacea*, changes its rich red tones for warm ivory and remains neat and graceful, and *Helictotrichon sempervivum glaucum* keeps its soft blue-grey colour and remains a large graceful clump.

A tall and graceful grass for a formal planting is *Miscanthus sinensis*, which has several elegant variegated forms. Both *Panicum virgatum* and *P. proliferum* take on warm tones in late summer, and the narrow, silver, frayed leaves of *Luzula nivea* shows up the graceful white flower heads. *Luzula sylvestris marginata* has a suggestion of white at the edges of its wide green leaves. It makes a thick clump which no weed can penetrate and is a good plant to use with tall subjects with little basal growth, such as *Verbena bonariensis* or herbaceous lobelias.

There are several dwarf grasses for odd corners or the front of a border. The young growth of *Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum variegatum* is attractive with its stripes of white and green, and its bulbous root is interesting. *Holcus lanatus albo-variegatus* is tufted in growth and makes a thick carpet of pale leaves. Mr. Bowles' golden grass, *Milium effusum aureum*, is seldom more than a foot in height, and surrounds itself with little gold seedlings, and the cream variegations in the narrow leaved *Molinia coerulea variegata* are almost golden at times. *Dactylis glomerata* is an attractive little cocksfoot, and *Festuca glauca* a tiny silver-blue grass.

With grateful acknowledgments to "Amateur Gardening".

Role of the Green Committee Chairman in Training and Direction of Workers

By **REAR ADMIRAL JOHN S. PHILLIPS**

Member, U.S.G.A. Green Section Committee, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

I CONSIDER it a distinct pleasure to come to this annual meeting and to encourage all those present in this splendid joint endeavour. From the point of view of a golfer, it is a refreshing experience to be able to meet with men who contribute so much to those who enjoy the game of golf. It is doubly pleasant to recognise what you have done and to realise you are in session today in order to plan even more for the golfers' pleasure. Today, we are enjoying the dreams many of you had years ago, and surely many of us will live to enjoy the careful planning of the men who attend this meeting.

The programme today abounds in men of talent and experience. I am certain we all realise that most of the work in a modern society must be done by corporate bodies, simply because ours is a civilisation of extreme specialisation. Few tasks can, therefore, now be done by a single individual. Most tasks call for numbers of people working together. Experience has shown this can best be done by establishing an organisation. Someone must run things; lines of responsibility must be laid down and people must be allotted their several tasks. In golf, the people tend the physical plant and their talents are exercised in housekeeping and maintenance.

Academic Discipline

To practice a profession one must have acquired mastery of an academic discipline as well as technique for applying this special knowledge to the problems of everyday life. A profession is therefore intellectual in content, practical in application.

First, the golf course superintendent today must have all the respect that goes with the dignity of a profession achieved by practical experience, technical knowledge, tact, and professional ethics. No longer are country clubs interested in men who owe their position to club politics and who, through

lack of any semblance of training in modern management, are totally unfit. No industry employs inexperienced men for work requiring special skills and training.

Jack of all Trades

The Green Committee Chairman is the liaison between the club members and the superintendent. The former is engaged in an avocation while the latter's is a vocation, and in the great majority of cases his only means of livelihood. The superintendent is "a jack of all trades". He is part agronomist, pathologist, mechanic, hydraulic engineer, chemist, business man, and last and by no means least, organiser and leader of men. When in general the membership considers the course maintained in good condition the chairman should go very slowly in making changes in the routine followed by the maintenance force.

Be careful, also, about meddling with the structure of a golf course. It is better to efficiently maintain your present course. Few committees appear to realise that golf, after all, is played for fun, and the most important thing in golf course construction should be to make it more pleasurable. The most successful committees are those that understand requirements and features that make a superior course more enjoyable.

Most members of Green Committees, themselves men of intelligence, experienced, and specialists in their professions, often seek advice from men whose only qualification on matters pertaining to golf is their ability to play a good game. The mere fact that a course is considered to require alteration should be a warning that unless the committee is careful the club may make the same mistakes again, and that every precaution should be taken to insure that any changes to be made shall be of a permanent and lasting character. Beware

of the "built-in" headaches. The cost of expert advice is infinitesimal compared with the cost of unproductive manual labour. The purpose of a golf course should be to give pleasure and that to the greatest number of players possible, without respect to their capabilities. Such a course can be played with thought as well as mechanical skill. The golf course designed so as to afford a variety of shots to accomplish the same end is the course that appeals to the low, middle, and high handicap player.

Point number two concerns the labour force. Labour management is one of the truly difficult problems. As industry grants increased benefits and shorter hours, it becomes more difficult to maintain an adequate labour crew, working long hours, at relatively low pay. Always consider the possibility of the men affiliating themselves with trade unions. When that comes, also comes classification of jobs and certain hours of work on certain days. I know of no problem one can have which requires any more study, thought and understanding.

Firing a Man is Easy

The nature of man being what it is, any sound programme must consider all sides of his nature. It is incumbent on superintendents, therefore, to give rigorous technical and, in a way, moral training to crewmen. In your position as superintendent, always feel that it is much better to train a man to be reliable, honest, and trustworthy than it is to fire him. Firing a man doesn't require much know-how. A well-rounded crew is the mark of a good superintendent, because most of the training comes from the superintendent. your team. If he is *properly assigned* he his training has been neglected by the man who oversees him.

Consider that every crewman is on your team. If he is *properly assigned* he will serve in a measure that reflects his respect and feelings toward you. The nature of every man is to return good for good—you help him and he will help you.

One thought to consider is that if you spend five hours telling a man how to do a job and one hour telling him why

he is doing it, you will make a better workman out of him than if you devote six hours telling him only what to do.

Compliments Breed Pride

Occasionally the chairman should talk to the crew and encourage their good work. Compliments, when and where deserved, breed pride and loyalty to all concerned. If constructive criticism for careless work is in order, the chairman, on these occasions, should not hesitate to speak of it.

I call attention to another phase of getting a job done, which I am sure most superintendents are already doing, but which they can always do better, and that is:

Number one on this list is preparing budgets together with the Green Committee Chairman and his committee. The committee should never be bypassed. There is only one way to provide good maintenance at a reasonable cost. That way is through greater efficiency.

Gentlemen, after the foregoing exhortation, let us explore one more means of improving the efficiency and overall know-how of our maintenance force, I have a recommendation: That the Green Section of the U.S.G.A. in conjunction with the G.C.S.A.A., initiate an educational programme for use by the superintendent and the green chairman to better equip the maintenance force in the performance of their numerous tasks on the golf course. The Green Committee Chairman should assist the superintendent in working out the details of each phase of this programme. Whenever possible, he should be present during the instruction periods and should actively participate in discussions which are bound to take place. I am sure he will then be a valuable entity in the affairs of the club.

In closing, let me say that due to the considerable increase in golfing facilities throughout the country, the many advances in "turf" through research, the lack of competent superintendent material, definite and radical steps must be taken to fill this void.

With grateful acknowledgments to the "U.S.G.A. Golf Journal".

HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES



PLYE & KENFIG GOLF CLUB, PORTHCAWL, GLAMORGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Golf Greenkeeper's Association will be held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorgan, on Monday, 13th August, 1962, commencing at 3-0 p.m.

The Annual Tournament

THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT will be held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorgan, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th, 14th and 15th August, 1962. Entry Forms appeared in the June issue of the Journal.

PROGRAMME

Monday, 13th August.

Morning—18 Holes Stableford.

Afternoon—Annual General Meeting, 3-0 p.m.

Tuesday, 14th August.

36 Holes

“News of the World” Cup (Scratch).

Senior Division (Plus to 11).

Junior Division (12 to 24).

The Artisan Medal.

The Jubilee Cup (Team Prize off Handicap).

The Coming of Age Cup.

Wednesday, 15th August.

Morning—18 Holes Medal Competition.

Afternoon—Prize Distribution at 3-0 p.m. (approximately).

Handicaps

Section Secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all Competitors from their records before the Tournament. All Handicaps and revisions must be based on the National Golf Unions' handicapping system.

Executive Committee Meeting

A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorgan, on SUNDAY, 12th AUGUST, 1962, at approximately 5-0 p.m.

C. H. DIX (Hon. Secretary).

THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 13th August, 1962, at 3-0 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
2. Annual Report.
3. Financial Statement.
4. Executive Committee Report.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Proposition from the Northern Section:—

That at the Annual Association Tournament a Competition should be held for all Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and prizes be given from Association Funds.

7. Any other business.

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