

## An Apprenticeship Scheme for Golf Greenkeepers

The following appeared in the Spring 1964 issue of the Youth Employment Service CAREERS BULLETIN.

An apprenticeship scheme for greenkeepers on golf courses, other than municipal golf courses, was introduced in 1963. The scheme is run by a Joint Council which represents the Golf Unions of England, Scotland and Wales, the British and Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Associations and the Sports Turf Research Institute.

The minimum age for entry to the scheme is 15 years but older entrants may be accepted up to their 18th birthday. All entrants serve a probationary period of 6 months but this period counts towards the period of apprenticeship, which normally lasts 3 years. For older entrants the period of apprenticeship may be reduced by up to one year. It is intended that all apprenticeships should be completed before age 20.

Under the agreed training provisions of the scheme the apprentice learns about grasses, weeds, the soil, fertilisers and the chemicals used to control grass diseases and pests. He learns how to run and maintain mowers, tractors and sprayers, how to construct new turf areas and how to organise the routine work of maintenance of the course. He also learns how to play golf because that is important in understanding how to do his work best.

During the apprenticeship the

apprentice is granted day or block release during working hours without loss of pay to attend classes and practical demonstrations and to make instructional visits to approved establishments. In the third year he also attends a course at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, Yorkshire.

There is a keen demand for men who can manage golf courses and because of lack of recruitment during and just after the war, vacancies for skilled greenkeepers are increasing. The new scheme, which will help to meet this demand, provides good opportunities for boys who are suited to an active, outdoor life and have an interest in the application of soil science and turf cultivation to sport.

Further information about the scheme may be obtained from Local Youth Employment Officers.

## POCKET GUIDE TO TURF TREATMENTS

F. W. Berk & Co. Ltd. have prepared a handy pocket guide to turf treatments for the use of groundsmen and greenkeepers. It sets out in full the best methods of using Supplex sprinkler hoses and Supplex Chlordane liquid and granular wormkiller, and of controlling moss with Berk Moss Control compounds. Concise tables enable quantities and costs to be assessed for various sports areas. This pocket-size guide, which is printed on stiff card and protected inside and out by a celloglaze finish, is available free to groundsmen from the Company's Head Office, F. W. Berk & Co. Ltd., Berk House, 8 Baker Street, London W.1.



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