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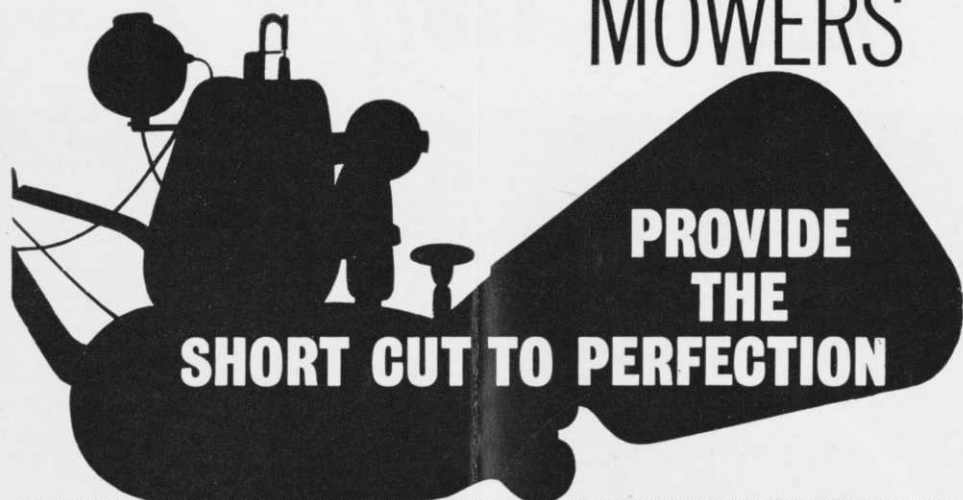
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GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



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DECEMBER 1964

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HAROLD G. O'DONNELL.

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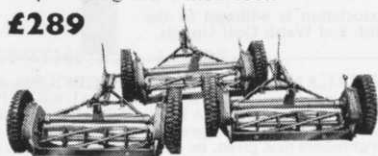


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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Greenkeepers should relax over Christmas, because on 1st January the new Standard Scratch Score scheme comes into force. The basic S.S.S. will be fixed on the total length of the course, measured as before, and will go up one stroke from 70 in every 200 yards above 6,400 and down one stroke in every 200 yards below 6,200. For instance, 6,123 produces a 69, 5,987 a 68, 6,500 a 71, and so on.

You may, therefore, expect to see your Green Committee prowling round the course looking for the number of yards necessary to put them above the next milestone. Sometimes it will only be 20 yards or so if you are lucky with a 5,982 or 6,182, but if you are only just over a minimum, you can expect to be building quite a few new tees next year.

* * *

T. O'Brien has moved from the U.S.A.F. Base golf course at Chateauroux in France to the new course under construction at Domont. This is on the N.1 out of Paris going north to Boulogne so anyone taking a car abroad this summer may find themselves passing by and be able to look him up. He got married between moving from one course to the next and we hope that Mrs. O'Brien is settling down happily in her new surroundings.

* * *

This reminds me that a corner for Mrs. Greenkeeper will appear regularly from next month. Mrs. Mawson from Bardsey in Yorkshire has kindly undertaken to help solve the recurring problem of greenkeepers' healthy appetites. She will be glad to have suggestions from other readers' wives and I can think of several that I hope she will hear from.

* * *

Meanwhile, I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Work and Play by John Stobbs

“There has been a regrettable tendency to think (and say): ‘How can he do his work when he is out there playing golf?’. Clubs should insist that one or two games a week with the pro., Green Chairman and a member is part of the job . . .”

Thus the regular columnist Fred V. Grau in the American magazine on club and course management, *Golfdom*.

Is it a point which applies over here, too?

Student Golfers!

Grau insists that it is not enough for the man in charge of the course to know how to grow turf. “The time may not be far off when a turf student, in order to graduate in turf-grass management, will be required to develop proficiency in golf just as he now must pass technical subjects. Truly, he cannot qualify as a turf manager unless he knows the quality of turf desired by golfers. Grass can be grown without too much difficulty. Grooming grass into high-quality playing turf, pleasing to players, is the highest art in the profession.”

The idea is so obvious as almost to be ridiculous to state. Yet, over there, there seems to be a need to say it. Over here, on the other hand, one would think that the proportion of Greenkeepers who do not play and love the game is very small.

Or is it? Who knows? Anyone? Certainly, when you come to think of it, there are a number of cases around of Head Greenkeepers who do not play the game at all: and countless more of Greenkeepers who never play it with the same affectionate dedication as the weekend maniacs they prepare the course for.

Understanding

Can a man who isn't wedded to the game himself, as a regular hobby, really understand what greenkeeping is all about? At the least, it's doubtful. (And the same might certainly be said of the

turf advisers whom clubs call in to prescribe treatment for greens.) But this surely is known well enough. And even the non-golfer can at least take an interest in putting; and make a point of trying out all his greens himself regularly with a putter and a few balls.

The Club's Attitude

The real question Grau may be raising for our purpose is: what is the club's attitude to the greenkeeper's right to play the game? Is it just assumed that they'll play in their spare time: summer evenings, Saturday afternoons, and after any mowing and dew-levelling on Sundays? Left like that, the Greenkeepers' golf can be something of a busman's holiday! If you've been working on the course all the week, every week, do you want to spend your free time there, too? Not every man does, by any means.

The ideal answer is, of course, that a club should expect its Greenkeepers to play a bit of golf, if not wholly during working hours, at least dovetailed into them. I remember how the greens staff in my own club before the war—one of the best and most skilled staffs anywhere, at any time—used to play five holes three or four times a week more or less during their lunch hours, apart from regular weekend games. Certainly every man among them enjoyed and understood the game, and knew from his own experience and instincts what the golfer wanted from a course (above all in those subtle qualities of play which only practical experience can teach); and equally certainly the state of the course benefited immensely from it.

Competent Player

It's probably true, too, at present, that those clubs where the Head Greenkeeper is a pretty competent player benefit from the fact. Moor Park, for instance, springs to mind at once, where the Miller brothers are two of the tigers of the County, and the two courses are kept in splendid trim.

Grau tells one story which, owing to the different nature of our grass and our general attitude to course conditions, isn't likely to apply on any but a small minority of British courses, but which still makes an interesting example of how a practical knowledge of the craft of the

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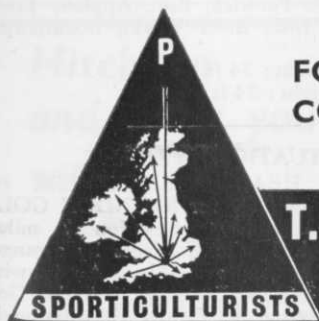
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game can help solve a troublesome problem on a particular course. In his own words :

"The complaint was that, in spite of heavy watering, greens would not hold a shot. The bent grass was suffering from too much water as a result. I was playing low-handicap golf then so, to test a theory, I hit a number of balls to greens from 80 yards out. Sure enough, they wouldn't hold, but the answer was in the fairway grass, not the greens.

Feather-bed

"The non-golfing superintendent, to keep the fairways 'lookin' purty', kept the thick Bermuda cut at $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The ball sat on top of a 'mattress' so that no one could impart control to the ball with the club face. The 'balloon ball' floated to the green and kept right on rolling off the back. By lowering the fairway cut to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, we gave controlled shots back to the golfers, the greens held better and were healthier with less water."

Normally, in this country, you're only likely to get a "flier", as our pros. call it,

from thick wet grass in the rough. What causes it is a matter of fairly complicated golfing ballistics: but in essence it's a matter of backspin being reduced by the fact that the ball is not struck-off against a firm surface, "squeezed against the turf" as the old-fashioned jargon used to put it. You can, in fact, get much the same sort of result—a kind of "flier" if not what Grau calls a "balloon ball"—off thin, loose, sandy turf on seaside courses. But Grau's does make an interesting illustration of how a tricky problem, making everyone scratch their heads at a course, may really be a quite different problem shown its effects in such a way as to disguise its real cause.

It's also an example, of course, of how the playing quality of a course has to be examined as a whole, and understood as a whole—which only a practising enthusiast for the game is ever likely to be able to do.

Which brings us back to where Fred V. Grau kicked off. Playing the course is part of the Greenkeepers' job; and any club that doesn't recognise this ought to have its brains examined.

PRESIDENT'S GOLF PLEA

Gosforth Golf Club's Annual Dinner last night was, as ever, a relaxed social event at which gay quips and entertainment were the keynotes (*writes Ken McKenzie*).

Yet with such a distinguished gathering of members and guests, matters of moment did arise, and county President Mr. Charles N. Storey, of Whitley Bay, took the opportunity to make some heartfelt remarks.

He gave everyone pleasure by commenting, as had Gosforth Captain, Mr. W. G. H. Beaman, on the fine Bridle Path services of Mr. Tom Oliver, who has been greenkeeping at Gosforth for 44 years—and last night looked one of the fittest men present.

"It is one of my ambitions that the status and importance of highly skilled greenkeepers, in these days when specialised knowledge and experience on a course are so important, should be elevated," he said, to warm applause.

(*Newcastle Journal*)

HURLINGHAM SHOW

T. Parker & Sons'

"Guessing Height of Pole" Competition

The winners are as hereunder:—

Wednesday, 30th September.

Winner: S. G. Ledger, Esq., East Berks. Golf Club, Crowthorne, Berks.

Gussed height: 29 ft. $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Correct height: 29 ft. $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Thursday, 1st October.

Winner: R. Fenwick, Esq., Appleby Frodingham Ltd., Steel Works, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Gussed height: 34 ft. 3 in.

Correct height: 34 ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.

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The first fairway of the future Pals Golf Course on the Costa Brava. Clearing was done in August, soil spread and sown in October. In the warm Spanish climate play should be possible early next Summer.



CORRESPONDENCE

F. W. Hawtree, Esq.,
Hon. Editor,
"British Golf Greenkeeper",
Addington Court Golf Club,
Addington, Croydon, Surrey.

Dear Mr. Hawtree,

I would be very grateful if you could publish my thanks for a wonderful surprise I got after the Presentation of Prizes at our annual Competition at the Northumberland Golf Club, when our Chairman, Mr. Jack Simpson, said they had one more presentation to make, and called on Mr. Leslie Jones to present me with a clock that goes for 400 days. It was really a very pleasant shock as I had not the slightest idea till it was announced. Our Chairman and Mr. Jones said a few kind words. When I got my surprise over I managed to give my very

grateful thanks to the company and I was very pleased to accept this very wonderful present at the Northumberland Golf Club, and again I thank the Committee and all members of the Section. I might add it was the best meeting for attendance I have ever seen and especially pleasing to see so many young members. I will still be attending the meetings as usual and always look forward to them. I am sure our Chairman, Jack Simpson, and Secretary, D. A. Earsman, will make a good team, along with a keen committee, and that the Section will continue to grow. We also owe our thanks to Mr. L. A. Jones and Mr. C. N. Storey for their valuable help to the Greenkeepers' Association. I am also very honoured to be elected a Vice-President of our Section.

Kind regards,
TOM OLIVER.

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and away you go
with a
P.J.M.
SPRAYER**



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TREES ON THE GOLF COURSE

by

B. C. Clayton, M.A.

*Senior Advisory Officer,
The Sports Turf Research Institute*

Don't Allow Too Many Round the Greens

There are a number of jobs on the golf course which, for various reasons, usually wait until the winter. Not the least important of these is tree trimming. There is no doubt that trees are the making of many a golf course, both as decoration and often with a positive contribution to the design of the various holes. However, trees keep growing slowly but surely, and sometimes it proves necessary to check them. Young saplings and shrubs will grow up almost imperceptibly sometimes among older trees and when a green becomes shielded from direct sunlight and free flow of air by a deep semi-circle of trees and woody shrubs, the turf becomes very susceptible indeed to Fusarium Patch disease. Such a green will be much healthier if the young trees and shrubby growths between the adult trees are cleaned out.

. . . Or Round the Tees

It is just as important to keep trees around tees within reasonable bounds. A tee will never do well in a veritable tunnel of tree branches—as one occasionally sees. When there are too many trees round a tee the grass itself is thin and spindly, and in winter especially the surface is soft, never really drying up at all.

When the tree branches start actually overhanging the edge of a green or a tee it is certainly time that they are pruned back. Rainwater dripping from

the branches and twigs directly on to the turf thins out the grass and encourages moss and surface slime moulds. There is also more risk of Fusarium Patch disease below spreading tree branches.

Root Pruning

Trespassing tree roots are not so obvious, of course, but once they get into a green in force they will rob the turf of very large amounts of water and plant foods. They will usually be fairly near the top of the green and sometimes will actually break the surface. When this happens, the roots need to be taken out and that particular part of the green returfed. A good greenkeeper, though, will have anticipated the danger long before this stage is reached. He will dig a trench between the offending tree and the green and sever all the roots he can find before filling in the trench again.

Leaves—A Mixed Blessing

Autumn leaves with all their splendid colour variation increase the golfers' enjoyment of the course. The greenkeeper regards them with less enthusiasm because he knows that they are going to cause him a lot of extra work. However, there are useful aids to leaf collection these days and the small mechanical leaf-sweepers have proved very handy for getting the leaves quickly off a green. Heavy leaf falls on fairways and rough are very troublesome to deal with. Sometimes a forage harvester borrowed from a local farmer has done good work and I have seen large rotary mowers used quite adequately to disperse the leaves below a large tree somewhere near the middle of a fairway.

But leaves do have their uses and one can make really good compost from oak, beech, birch, etc., if there are worthwhile amounts ready to hand. Built up in layers with a little nitro-chalk sprinkled over each layer to speed up decomposition they will produce first class material for top dressing—mixed afterwards if need be with good top soil, sand, etc. A good shredder powered by an electric or petrol motor will make short work of preparation for top dressing once the leaf mould is sufficiently rotted.

100 Years of

Golf in

North Devon

by

R. A. Pooley

WITH most of their special centenary celebration events now behind them the Royal North Devon Golf Club can look back on the past season with a tremendous amount of satisfaction.

All the competitions were well supported and a crowd of 600 turned up to watch the exhibition match between four famous tournament professionals—Peter Alliss, Brian Huggett, Max Faulkner, and Christy O'Connor.

This large gathering was in sharp contrast to 1853, when the first game of golf was played on Northam Burrows. In the early days just a few hardy individuals tried their hand at a game, which was mainly played north of the border.

But as the number of players increased it was decided to hold a meeting and on 4th April, 1864, in Bideford, these enthusiasts met to "arrange the preliminaries for playing the fine Scotch game of golf on the Burrows of Northam".

Club formed

The proposal was adopted and the club was named the North Devon and West of England Golf Club, with the Hon. Mark Rolle as president.

One of the principal problems facing these pioneers was finding a place to change. This was overcome by renting a room at Beer's Farm, Pimpley, Northam.

This led to another snag—transport. But these staunch sportsmen were not to be denied their game and a horse cart was hired to take them to the course, about two miles away.

A well-known print shows one of the early members, Capt. Molesworth, and several of his associates driving along in what appears to be a reckless manner in a two-wheeled trap.

Capt. Molesworth was truly a great character. All his life he played with only three clubs. With these implements he used to lay big wagers and despite the handicap of inferior equipment, often came out on top. He was just as well-known for his skill at bargaining. Golden sovereigns, suits of clothes and mining shares all came alike to the Captain as stakes for golfing encounters.

Became 'Royal'

When he was 82, Capt. Molesworth took part in a particularly notable match, for the ages of the four contestants totalled 335 years. Dr. W. L. Reid, 87, and Capt. T. L. Gordon, 81, beat Mr. R. B. James, 85, and Capt. Molesworth, by 3 and 1.

When in 1867 the Prince of Wales gave his patronage, and the club became "Royal", the seal was set on its fame. Golfers descended like vultures to play on the course which was then, as now, an adventurous, but fair one. One person ventured to say that it had the "tallest, spikiest rushes in the world and the biggest bunkers to carry".

Another milestone was laid in 1868, when the Westward Ho! and North Devon Ladies' Golf Club was formed. Their course was on the ground now occupied by Sandymere and for some obscure reason they were allowed to use only one club—a wooden putter.

Originally the course—which started from just below the Pebbleridge—had only 14 holes, and three were played twice to complete the round of 17 holes.

Famous golfers

At that time holes were cut out by penknives and marked with gull feathers. There were no greens in those days and the grass was uncut, although the sheep of the potwallopers or villagers in the district kept the grass in check.

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Many famous golfers learnt the game on these links, including the immortal J. H. Taylor—the greatest of them all—who won the Open Championship five times.

During the war the course, like numbers of others, was requisitioned and used as a bombing range. But the ravages caused by its war service have now been removed leaving few traces of those troublesome days.

One unfortunate aspect of this fine course is that it is no longer the venue of any major championships. Everyone accepts that as a course it is the equal of any in Great Britain, but there are two vital factors missing.

Thousands come

The first is that because it is on what is practically public ground it is virtually impossible to collect any gate money—a necessity if one is going to run a major championship with prizes running into thousands of pounds.

The other is that competitions nowadays attract so many entries that two courses are needed. Saunton—seven miles away as the crow flies—immediately springs to mind, but by road it is a difficult journey, especially in the summer when mile-long traffic jams are the rule rather than the exception.

So it appears that the Royal North Devon Golf Club will never again attain the great heights it once knew as the Mecca of British golf, but one can rest assured that no one is shedding any tears, for it still attracts thousands of golfers each year.

Not perhaps the man who plays off scratch, but the one who plays for the fun of it and for the happy family atmosphere which is always predominant in this club, the oldest in England still playing on its original area.

With grateful acknowledgments to the "Western Morning News", Plymouth.

S.G.G.A. NEWS

Senior Greenkeepers' Golfing Society

A DEPARTURE FROM THE USUAL outing took place on the 10th November, when fifteen greenkeepers with an aggregate of 615 years' service, met together as the Senior Greenkeepers' Golfing Society

This new found Society, whose hope it is to have one meeting in the Autumn of each year, has only one purpose—this is that the "elder brethren" can meet socially and if they wish, enjoy a little, not too serious, golf!

There can be few societies who have had such an auspicious start. Lanark Golf Club were the kindest of hosts and the arrangements by Mr. and Mrs. Gibson of that club were the major part in what proved to be a memorable day.

The weather too was at its most genial behaviour, for although Glasgow was in the grip of one of the worst fogs for years, at Lanark the sun was blazing down from a cloudless sky. After lunch the challenge of this really testing course could not be resisted and seven of the company went out, with the others as spectators. There was a good deal of gamesmanship of the best natured kind and afterwards to tea and a final dram for the road home. We hope to meet again next year, but it will be difficult to match our wonderful day at Lanark.

WM. BRADFORD.

The 19th

A new £40,000 club house is to be built on the Mid-Kent Golf Course, at Singlewell, near Gravesend.

100-Room Hotel on Golf Course

A proposal to build a 100-bedroom hotel on Morecambe golf course has been approved in principle by Morecambe Corporation Parks and Publicity Committee. Designed mainly for the accommodation of conferences, it would include a lecture hall, cinema, banqueting hall, tennis court and swimming pool.

It would first require the consent of the golf club whose lease with the Corporation has still four years to go.

"Caterer & Hotel Keeper".

CORRECTION

We apologise to Mr. Rees, Sales Director of Messrs. Atco, whose name was inadvertently spelt Reece in the Midland Notes in our November issue.



DECEMBER

- 7th North West Section, Lecture.
- 8th Northern Section, Lecture, Market Tavern, Bradford.
- 9th Southern Section, Lecture, Talbot Restaurant, 6-30 p.m.
- 10th South West Section, Christmas Competition and Social Evening, Clevedon Golf Club, 12-30 p.m.
- 10th North East Section, Annual Dinner.
- 14th East Midland Section Quiz. Blue Boar Hotel, Southgate St., Leicester.

25th



JANUARY

- 5th East Midland, Lecture, Central Tavern, Huntingdon Street, Nottingham., 7-30 p.m.
- 7th East Midland Section, Films, Blue Boar Hotel.
- 13th Southern Section, Lecture.
- 18th North West Section, Lecture.
- 25th East Midland Section, Quiz, Blue Boar Hotel.

FEBRUARY

- 2nd East Midland Section, Lecture, Central Tavern.
- 4th East Midland Section, Lecture, Blue Boar Hotel.
- 15th North West Section, Lecture.
- 16th Northern Section, Lecture, White Swan, Leeds.
- 18th East Midland Section, Lecture, Blue Boar Hotel.

MARCH

- 2nd East Midland Section, Lecture, Central Tavern.
- 8th North West Section, Lecture.
- 11th East Midland Section, Lecture, Blue Boar Hotel.

APRIL

- 6th East Midland Section, Lecture, Central Tavern.



MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

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News



from the Sections

Greetings

From the President:

To all members of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association I send very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year; may your work for a larger membership and for golf courses meet every success in 1965

CARL BRETHERTON.

From the Chairman:

To all members of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association and all readers of the Journal I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

H. G. SHEPPARD.

From the Hon. Secretary:

To every member of the Association I would like to send my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

C. H. DIX.

NORTH-EAST

By D. Earsman

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

Hon. Secretary:
Arcot Hall Cottage,
Dudley,
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

Annual Dinner

OUR ANNUAL DINNER WILL BE held on Thursday, 10th December, at Chester-le-Street Golf Club, by kind permission of their Committee. A good attendance is expected.

Lecture and Film Show

A lecture and film show was held on the 5th November in conjunction with the National Association of Groundsmen, at the Carlisle Hotel, Newcastle. The subject: "Weedkilling". The speaker was Mr. Garnett, of Chipman Chemical Co., who answered many questions.

It was a very interesting film, showing all kinds of weedkilling in progress. On behalf of our Section our Vice-Chairman thanked Mr. Garnett for an excellent lecture and said he was sure that everyone would go home with a lot more knowledge in weedkilling.

Greetings

On behalf of the North East Section we wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

Chairman:
F. FROST
(Derby G.C.)

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

A.G.M.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at the Railway Hotel, Campbell Street, Leicester, on Tuesday, 20th October.

Mr. F. Frost, Section Chairman, took the Chair with only six members present and opened the meeting by reading a telegram from the President apologising for being unable to attend and wishing the Section every success for the coming year.

Officers elected for the ensuing year:—
President: Mr. R. C. Ainscow.

Vice-Presidents as listed on Section books, also elected: Mr. M. W. Youngs, Dr. Walsh and Mr. Austin Webb.

Chairman: Mr. F. Frost.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Talbot.

Committee: Messrs. D. G. Whitehead, D. Bull, F. Oliver and S. Fretter.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. Thornton.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. T. McNeice.

Member Executive: Mr. S. T. McNeice.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and Committee for their services during the year. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. E. H. Charman for his help and guidance with the Section accounts.

Lectures

The Nottingham Branch of the N.A.G. invite members of this Section to attend their lectures, dates are as follows:—

Tuesday, 5th January, 1965: Modern methods of seed production by J. L. Clucus Ltd.

Tuesday, 2nd February, 1965: New Products. Fisons Horticulture Ltd.

Tuesday, 2nd March, 1965: Motor Mowers. Thomas Green & Son Ltd.

Tuesday, 6th April, 1965: Ford Motor Co. Ltd.

These lectures will be held at the Central Tavern, Huntingdon Street, Nottingham, at 7.30 p.m.

I have received a letter from Mr. H. B. Bowler, Hon. Secretary of the Leicester Branch N.A.G., inviting the members of our Section to attend the following lectures:—
3rd December—Synchemicals.

14th December—Quiz.
1965.

7th January—Shell Films.

25th January—Quiz.

4th February—Mr. Page, Leicester Parks Department.

18th February—Jim Bradbury, Rugby School.

11th March—Bingley Turf Institute.

These meetings will be held at the Blue Boar Hotel, Southgate Street, Leicester.

Film Show

A MOST SUCCESSFUL MEETING WAS held on Tuesday, 10th November, when a party of about forty, including members of the Leicester Branch of the N.A.G., gathered to watch a collection of most interesting films by Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies.

Owing to the indisposition of Mr. A. J. E. Cook, Mr. Tony Woods, also of Messrs. Ransomes, very kindly conducted the proceedings of the evening. Over refreshments Mr. Woods, together with Mr. G. V. Lee and his co-director, Mr. Harold Sharpe, of Leicester Horticultural Eng. Co., answered queries.

We thank Messrs. Ransomes for allowing these films to be shown, Mr. Tony Woods for travelling over from Cambridge to be with us and also Mr. G. V. Lee who made all the arrangements.

Greetings

From the East Midland Section comes wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

Chairman:
M. GENDES
(Royal Porthcawl)

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

Greetings

NOW THAT WE ARE GETTING NEAR to the festive season I take this opportunity to wish all members of each section a Very Happy Christmas and a Very Prosperous New Year, may 1965 be a good year for each and all in work and play. On behalf of the Welsh Section I say good luck to you all.

Spring Meeting

I am hoping to arrange the spring meeting at the Whitchurch Golf Club, some time in April if possible, and will be giving further news on a later date.

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SHEFFIELD

By J. J. Dearlove,

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

Hon. Secretary:
63 Langsett Avenue,
Sheffield, 6.

Lecture

THE FIRST MEETING OF OUR winter programme got off to a flying start at the Brunswick Hotel on Thursday, 29th October.

The subject, "Winter Playing Conditions"; the object, to find out just what is required from the greenkeeper and his course during the winter months.

With our President, Mr. Shardlow, in the Chair flanked by two well-known figures, Mr. Escritt, Director of S.T.R.I., and Mr. Frank Smith, former Superintendent of the same establishment, add to this an attendance of about sixty, including a good number of club officials, and the stage was set for the most interesting, enlightening and entertaining evening one could wish for.

Not waiting for the first question and going in head first, Mr. Escritt told us that drainage was neglected and out-of-date and was the basic reason for most of our winter problems. I noticed a lot of heads nodding in agreement on this point and from then on for two and a half hours a barrage of questions was directed to the platform.

Thanking everyone for the excellent questions, I would like to deal with what we learned from all this.

Firstly, golf being the all-year-round game it is, it is our duty to provide the best possible conditions that club finances allow.

Golfers could play a great part with a little more care and respect for their courses. This point brought a voice from the floor, "In a recent greenkeepers' competition over a local course, trolleys were pulled to the edges of greens, over tees and through bunkers". Heads hung in shame; one could have heard a pin drop.

Quickly on to the next point. Any frost, be it black or white, and even a cold wind can be injurious to fine turf. Most greenkeepers have their methods of dealing with these conditions in the form of frost holes or temporary greens.

It was generally agreed that trolleys, as such, do very little damage but tend to concentrate traffic to certain areas which become walked off, unsightly and bad for play. This raised a query, "With this being very evident, why restrict trolleys from teeing areas?". Food for thought here providing the tees are at ground level.

If trolleys, in exceptional conditions, have to be disallowed, it is only fair that players should be warned in advance that this might happen so that they can be prepared.

Spiking equipment is not used enough in the winter months when it would assist drainage.

Teeing grounds are often not big enough for present demands and too often do not receive fertiliser treatment, the result is that artificial tees have to be used in winter.



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I could go on longer on this meeting but I must end with two very important issues. The first from Mr. Escritt who went on to say that the decision as to when play should be restricted should be left to the person who knows best, the greenkeeper. He admitted that he would not like the job himself and would suggest the best way might be for the committee and greenkeeper to reach an agreement together.

The last, but not least, comes from Mr. Andrews of the Dore & Totley Club. It was definitely meant to be heard and I would be failing in my duty not to mention it in these notes. He said that greenkeepers should stop griping, to use his own word, get on with the job and make golfers feel welcome to play on their courses.

I feel some readers might have something to say on these two matters, either in agreement or not. I think the Editor would like to print what you have to say.

New Members

On a more pleasant note we give a hearty welcome to the following new members: R. Bamforth, K. Pettinger, J. A. Evison, W. M. Hill, T. Harris and R. H. Ledbury.

Greetings

At time of writing the festive season seems a long way off but I will take this early opportunity to send Christmas Greetings to all connected with the smooth running of the Association and the publication of the journal, also to the staff of the S.T.R.I., Bingley, and greenkeepers everywhere.

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
W. E. MOORE
(Romford)

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

Good Wishes

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN Section may I take this opportunity to wish all members of the Association, our many friends in the Trade, the Editor and his associates a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

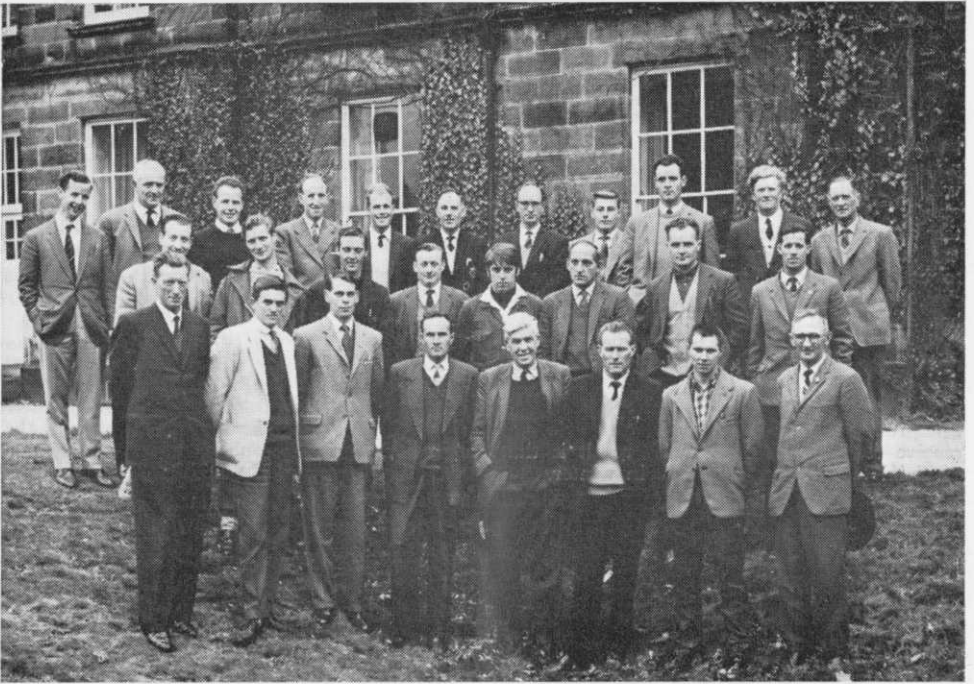
Quiz

Our first meeting on 14th October, which was a quiz, proved very interesting and kept our Quiz Master, J. K. Glass, very busy. A few of the questions being asked and matters discussed covered Fusarium, worm control, the best method of getting rid of moles, the absence of Poa Annua on the greens this year, concluding by asking how many greenkeepers had an apprentice with them (answer, two).

Lecture

As already mentioned our next lecture will be given by Messrs. Hargreaves, followed by F. W. Berk & Co. Subject chosen, "Moss Control". This will take place on Wednesday, 13th January, usual time and place, and we look forward to a very good attendance.

ANOTHER COURSE AT THE S.T.R.I.



Left to right:

Back Row: F. Corbett, Marple G.C.; J. Mercer, Shandon Park G.C.; A. Watson, Tyrrels Wood G.C.; D. Major, Beaconsfield G.C.; S. Hardwick, Filey G.C.; G. Jeffery, Camborne-Redruth U.D.C.; D. Carter, Werneth Low G.C.; R. Machin, Witham Hall School; E. Ainsworth, Lincoln G.C.; J. Steele, Penrith G.C.; W. Brown, North Berwick G.C.

Middle Row: D. Campbell, South Shields Parks Dept.; W. Kerr, South Shields Parks Dept.; B. Streeter, West Sussex G.C.; T. Kingsland, Herefordshire G.C.; E. Minshall, Birkenhead Park G.C.; K. J. Sayles, Richmond G.C.; M. Swann, Dun Laoghaire G.C.; A. Thornton, Wollaton Park G.C.

Front Row: L. A. Hunt, R.F.U. Twickenham; A. E. Parsons, Barton-on-Sea G.C.; S. E. Chaffey, Weston-super-Mare G.C.; T. H. Finch, Clyne G.C.; R. A. V. Prendergast, Stoneham G.C.; W. Henderson, Civil Service Sports Association; D. Collins, Pontefract G.C.; A. Hadgkiss, North Worcester G.C.

Vice-President and New Members

A. G. Bates has been elected a new Vice-President. We welcome to the Section new members D. Tuplin and R. Stillwell, who is an apprentice with his father at Ham Manor Golf Club.

A. C. Banks

I have just been informed that our old friend A. C. Banks has passed away. I feel sure all my old members will be sorry to hear this and will join with me in expressing our very deep sympathy to his wife.

Tom Mason

We all wish Tom many years of good health and happiness in his retirement.

Handicaps

Various members' handicaps were revised by the handicapping committee and carried by the rest of the committee, on Wednesday, 14th October. A further revision to take place after the Spring Tournament, 1965.

S. Battams, 14—16; E. Brown, 19—20; T. Chamberlain, 15—17; A. C. Cresse, 4—5; I. J. Cox, 12—14; S. Dennis, 16—17; H. G. Dixon, 14—16; E. Hall, 7—8; J. M. Johnstone, 9—11; W. Kingston, 16—17; W. Mason, 19—24; T. Mason, 13—16; J. Macrae, 8—10; J. Stobbs, 9—10; P. Staines, 13—12; C. Stillwell, 18—19; P. Whitehead, 11—12.

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
76 Four Oaks Common Road
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

Seasonal Greetings

ON BEHALF OF THE MIDLAND Section I would like to wish all members of our Association a very Happy Christmas and all the Best for the New Year and take this opportunity to thank our Section Vice-Presidents, many friends in the trade and Mr. and Mrs. Bretherton for their interest and help during the past year.

Annual Dinner

I am glad to report that our Dinner was again a great success. We were sorry that our President and Mrs. Bretherton were prevented from joining us owing to illness. It was the first occasion since we resumed after the war that Mr. Bretherton had not presided. We had a record attendance with more than a hundred for dinner. Mrs. Mason and her daughter also beat their record with the raffle; they extorted the sum of £19 10s., for which they have our thanks. The artistes, especially the comedian, Bob Hatch, were on top form and gave us first class entertainment.

Our Vice-President, Mr. Eric Lumby, very kindly presided and introduced Mr. H. G. Sheppard, our Association Chairman, who proposed the toast of the Association. G. Hart responded and thanked everyone for coming

and supporting our Dinner. Mr. Lumby proposed a toast to the Ladies and Guests in a very gallant and amusing manner. Mr. Carter, from Atco Ltd., responded.

We thank the following for providing the prizes for the raffle: Mr. F. Carr, Mr. Bubb, Mrs. Mason and her daughter and the Superintendent at Warley Park.

I would like to say how pleased I was at the success of the evening, both socially and in number; it repays the time spent in organisation and I look forward to another next year.

Spring Tournament

I can now let you know the result of the Spring Tournament at Stourbridge:—

Clayton Cup and Tea Set (Thomas Clayton Ltd.)—D. Brazier, 144 nett.

Putter (British Steel Golf Shafts Ltd.)—G. Woodward, 157 gross.

Golf Jacket (Swallow Raincoats Ltd.)—A. Boraston, 149 nett.

Shirt (Atco Ltd.)—B. Powell, 150 nett.

Bottle of Whisky (W. F. Payne, Esq.)—A. Stephens, 151 nett.

Travelling Clock (Woodheads Seeds Ltd.)—W. Handy, 152 nett.

Ronson Lighter (H. Pattison Ltd.)—V. Smith, 152 nett.

Silver Pencil (May & Baker Ltd.)—T. Jones, 155 nett.

Clock (Rigby Taylor Ltd.)—A. Hastilow, 156 nett.

Glass Ash Tray (L. Wheeler, Esq.)—H. Drewitt, 156 nett.

Tea Service (Parker & Ballinger and Harveys Ltd.)—E. Benbow, 161 nett.

Bar Set (Tudor Mower Services)—W. Barton, 162 nett.

Booby Prize, 12 Golf Balls (En-Tout-Cas)—L. Greenow, 222 nett.

Best over 50's—Leg of Pork (J. W. R. Robinson)—G. Woodward, 153 nett.

Best gross for 8 short holes—C. F. N. Boulton, B. Powell and E. Benbow, 27 (four golf balls each).

Players with 2s on card—Carl Bretherton, W. Handy, D. Brazier and A. Boraston.

Visitors—4 Golf Balls—E. Ballinger, 73 nett.
Two Golf Balls—A. Wall, 75 nett.

SOUTH-WEST

By A. Cockfield

Chairman:
G. GILBERT,
(Warminster G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
(Shamcastle G.C.)

Greetings

THE SOUTH WEST SECTION SEND Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our President, Vice-Presidents, officials and all other sections, not forgetting the numerous golf clubs and firms who so kindly support us throughout the year.

Social Evening

All members please note. Our Christmas Competition and Social Evening will be held

at Clevedon Golf Club on Thursday, 10th December. Members taking part in the competition please be on the first tee not later than 12-30 p.m.

NORTHERN

Chairman:
S. BAILES

By J. Parker

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

Autumn Tournament

THIS WAS PLAYED OVER THE course of the Halifax Golf Club, Ogden, on Thursday, 22nd October, 33 members taking part.

Though the afternoon started well a rapid deterioration of the weather brought strong winds and driving rain, bringing many "no return" from the unfortunate later starters.

Results:—

Scratch Prize—K. Driver (Serlby Park), 78.
1st Division—1st P. Williams (Northcliffe), 82;
2nd S. Smith (Alwoodley), 83; 3rd D. Roberts (West Bowling), 83.

2nd Division—1st R. Ford (Clitheroe), 83;
2nd H. Childs (Fulford), 84; 3rd A. Robertshaw (Otley), 90.

Veteran's Prize—G. Geddes (Moor Allerton), 98.

Vice-Presidents—1st P. Geddes (Clitheroe), 82; A. Brophy (Sandmoor), 82.

High score at single hole—J. Hannan (Moor Allerton), 12.

Following an excellent tea, which took away the thoughts of an earlier wetting, the prizes were presented by Mr. H. Dyson, Vice-Captain of the Club.

Our thanks are due to all members of the staff of Ogden for their help and the warmth of welcome by club officials.

Thanks are also due to the Golf Clubs who so kindly contributed to our Prize Fund.

Mr. R. B. Dawson

As members know, we had hoped to make the Section's retirement presentation to Mr. Dawson at the Autumn Tournament at Ogden but unfortunately, owing to illness, he was unable to attend. On behalf of the Section, which I am sure is every members' wish, I have written him hoping for his quick return to better health.

I have in reply received a letter from Mrs. Dawson expressing their thanks for the gifts: a gold Roamer watch suitably inscribed, a bedside trolley and electric kettle.

Lectures

The following lectures have been arranged: 8th December, 1964, Market Tavern, Bradford—Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, lecture and illustrations, followed by our usual pre-Christmas get-together.

16th February, 1965, White Swan, Leeds—Synchemicals Ltd., "Turf Chemicals, New Techniques".

New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Section the following new members: G. R. Hartley, S. H. Hardwick, P. G. Ford and R. Thomas.

Seasonal Greetings

Once again a year has quickly passed by and as these are the last notes of 1964 I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Association the Happiest of Christmases and Successful Greenkeeping in the coming year.

Subscriptions

I know this isn't the happiest of paragraphs to finish the year's notes but many subscriptions are still outstanding and I would be very happy to know that in the New Year I had not my usual pile of reminders to send out—thank you.

November Lecture

The first lecture of the winter session was held at the White Swan, Leeds, on Tuesday, 10th November. Thirty-five members attended to hear a talk by Mr. F. Mathews, D.H. (Edin.), F.Inst.P.A., of the Sports Turf Research Institute, who took for his subject "Trees on Golf Courses". The speaker dealt fully with trees suitable to varying climatical conditions and I am sure all members found it a most interesting and helpful talk.

The lists of trees provided, giving botanical names, proved an added aid to the talk and a useful reference for future use.

There were many and varied questions from members, which Mr. Mathews was able very capably to answer.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. S. Bailes (Chairman), seconded by Mr. D. Roberts (Vice-Chairman).

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NORTH-WEST

By V. Crabtree

Chairman:
D. PATE
(Royal Birkdale G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
223 Market Street
Whitworth, Nr. Rochdale

October Lecture

OWING TO THICK FOG AND A filthy night our October lecture was a complete washout. The lecture was to have been given by Mr. H. J. Lidgate, B.Sc., of S.T.R.I., but owing to illness his colleague, Mr. E. M. Bayliss, N.D.A., came to fill the appointment. We are indebted to him, doubly so, as he left his car some miles from Manchester and completed his journey by bus. I got half-way and had to give up and turn back. I telephoned the Garrick Hotel and Mr. Bayliss was the only one present, we thank him for his very great effort on our behalf and feel very sorry indeed that it was wasted. To Mr. Lidgate we wish a very speedy recovery to good health and hope in the near future to see both gentlemen.

Please note that all our lectures will be held at the Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, at 7-30 p.m. and are as follows:

7th December: Mr. J. H. Preston, of Messrs. Fisons Horticulture Ltd.

18th January: Mr. W. Finch, N.D.H., of Messrs. International Toxin Ltd.

15th February: Mr. Shepherd, of Messrs. H. Patisson & Co. Ltd.

8th March: Mr. W. H. Bartle, F.R.H.S., of S.T.R.I.

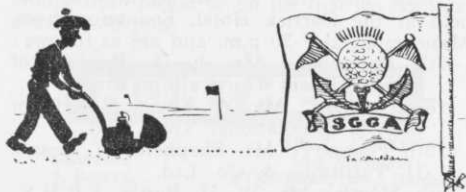
Enter these dates in your diary to remind you to try to come. Mr. Bayliss showed the lecturers' willingness to come, so please support them and your Committee if you can.

Season's Greetings

It is really astonishing how quickly the seasons come and go, it seems such a short time since I last sent this message to you, let's hope we are all one year wiser. Christmas is ageless with its family reunions and time spent with the children, so on behalf of the Section and everyone connected with it I wish you all, most sincerely, A Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.



J. K. CAMPBELL



THE SCOTTISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

D. L. MACDIARMID,
Royal Burgess Golfing Society,
Barnton, Edinburgh 4.

General Secretary:

R. B. MOFFATT,
71 Kelton Street, Glasgow, E.2

A.G.M.

THE 18th A.G.M. OF THE S.G.G.A. was held on Wednesday, 18th November, 1964, in Glasgow. Mr. D. L. Macdiarmid was in the Chair and thirty-eight members attended. We had a very interesting meeting with many lively discussions, the main point being the change of title. After many years talk on this matter it was again proposed that we should be called Golf Course Superintendent instead of Head Greenkeeper, the next in charge be known as Foreman, followed by Greenkeeper and then Apprentice. After a vote it was passed in favour of the motion.

The other point of interest was wages, which are always a sore point. The Chairman and Secretary gave a full report on the meeting with the S.G.U. and G.C.S.A. which took place in May of this year. It is now known that the S.G.U. have informed all golf clubs in the S.G.U. of the proposed scale and it is now up to Club Committees to take action.

W. Ritchie

We are very sorry to learn that Mr. Wm. Ritchie has given up as Secretary in the North and Midland Section. Willie, as he was known to all, was a very hard worker for the Association and when he took over as Secretary in the North he had to ask the Central Fund for help. He has now worked the section up to forty members and a very strong position. We are sure he has handed over to a good man in Mr. Wm. Milton, of Downfield. We wish them both well and extend our thanks for all their good work.

NORTH AND MIDLAND

A.G.M.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on Wednesday, 28th October. Mr. J. K. Campbell presided.

The following office bearers were elected:—
Executive Committee—President: Mr. J. K. Campbell; Vice-President: S. Grey.
Secretary and Treasurer: W. Milton and W. Ritchie (K.).
General Committee: W. Ritchie, I. Welch, J. Low, J. Moffat and J. Cameron.
Auditors: W. Falconer and J. Ross.

We very much regret that W. Ritchie has decided to retire from office as Secretary and I am sure everybody will join with us in congratulating him on the very good work he has done for the Section and which he will continue to do as an advisor in the future.

Lecture

Our next lecture will be given by Mr. J. K. Campbell of St. Andrews, to be held at the Y.M.C.A., Constitution Road, on the 9th December, at 7 p.m.

WEST SECTION

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT their subscriptions are now due.



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- ★ Powerful 4-stroke B.S.A. engine with special long-life bearings.
- ★ High speed, 10-knife cylinder specially hardened for long life gives 106 cuts per yard.
- ★ Thin, razor-sharp bottom blade with specially hardened cutting edge.
- ★ Separate cylinder and landroll clutches.
- ★ Precision adjustments enable perfect cutting.
- ★ Powered transport wheels can be instantly fitted for easy transport.
- ★ Accurately machined front-roll and landroll avoids damage to the finest turf.
- ★ Adjustable handles.
- ★ Large capacity petrol tank.
- ★ Cuts up to 2,000 sq. yds. in 1 hour.
- ★ The **complete** machine, mower and **engine** is Guaranteed by Ransomes.

Ask your Ransome distributor for illustrated leaflets and full specifications or write to:

RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES LTD. IPSWICH