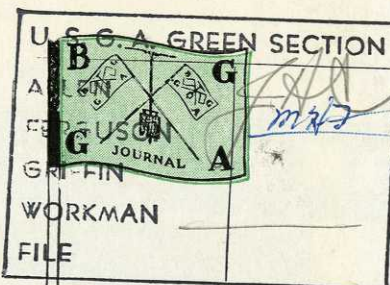


The British Golf

Greenkeeper



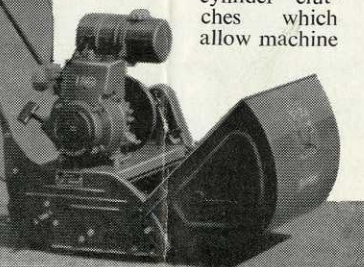
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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON EDITOR F W HAWTREE.



FOUNDED 1912.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GREENKEEPERS, GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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No. 226 New Series
JANUARY 1964

"Golf may be played on a Sunday, not being a game within the view of the law, but being a form of moral effort"

STEPHEN LEACOCK.

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“Treatment of Golf Courses and Sports Grounds”

free on request

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**RAYNES PARK,
LONDON, S.W.20**

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

GREENKEEPER APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME BEGINS

THE Apprenticeship Scheme for Golf Greenkeepers has been approved by the Ministry of Labour and included in the official list of schemes open to young men in Great Britain. This month, 6,500 booklets will go to all Youth Employment Officers in the Kingdom. Employers' Guides and standard Deeds of Indenture will soon be available for all golf clubs operating the scheme.

Three things are important. Firstly, all golf clubs should take on at least one apprentice. Secondly, the apprentice should be registered under the Scheme. Thirdly, he should receive the fullest possible training in the craft. If golf clubs and greenkeepers will co-operate in these three needs there can be greenkeepers in the future up to the standard of the present.

The Scheme will then depend on today's Head Greenkeepers and their staffs. They must patiently train apprentices in the habit of good work as well as the methods. They must try to instil their own pride in that work as well as the know-how. They must arouse interest and sustain it by a programme giving variety and relief as well as solid instruction. There will be failures, but time spent in avoiding others will be doubly rewarding.

I wish to thank the representatives of the National Golf Unions and of the British and Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Associations for helping to formulate the Scheme. Together we thank the Board and Officers of The Sports Turf Research Institute who provide a home and continue to work for the Scheme. With all this help, nearly two years' preliminaries have left unscathed the funds of the two Greenkeepers' Associations whose original anxiety for the future of their craft began this new chapter in golf greenkeeping in its native home.

* * *

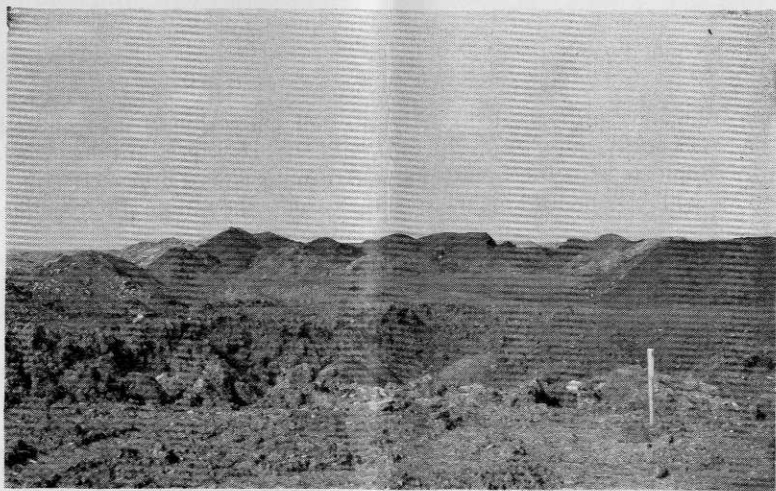
Mr Michael Fenn, Secretary of the Lyon Golf Club, is moving to the new course at Valcros, near Le Lavandou, in the South of France where he hopes to be installed by the Spring. A picture showing part of this attractive new course which occupies a tree-clad mountain valley appears on page 6.

1963, when we can look back on it over a longer interval, may prove to have been a year in which several trends crystallised into the pattern of the next few decades. Leaving aside the revived discussions on the larger ball or how English pros. might win the Ryder Cup, Canada Cup, or the Open, a number of less debated but more debatable events occurred in the nether regions of golf which are certain to affect its future.

Europe's first automatic two-tier driving range at Finchley did not suffer from lack of publicity but nevertheless belongs to these background events. It will be interesting to see whether the promised developments on these lines elsewhere produce a generation of practice addicts content with the brief exhilaration of knocking a bucketful of balls to the far netting or whether they will lead more and more players into personal encounters over eighteen holes.

NEW TRENDS DEMAND NEW COURSES

by
The Editor



The half-way stage in work on Corby's new municipal course created out of the desert left by open-cast iron-stone mining. This new layout will measure over 6,300 yards and will relieve some of the problems due to too few courses in Northamptonshire

If this happens, where are they going to play? 1963 at least gave some hope that this fundamental problem would be tackled. There are signs of several new public courses, one in N W London, two in Kent, two in Essex, and another in Birmingham. The new public course at

Corby in Northants should also this year start to satisfy the needs of the many expatriate Scotsmen who support the steel output of Stewarts & Lloyds.

Many urban and rural councils have also changed the views which limited the wider development of the game



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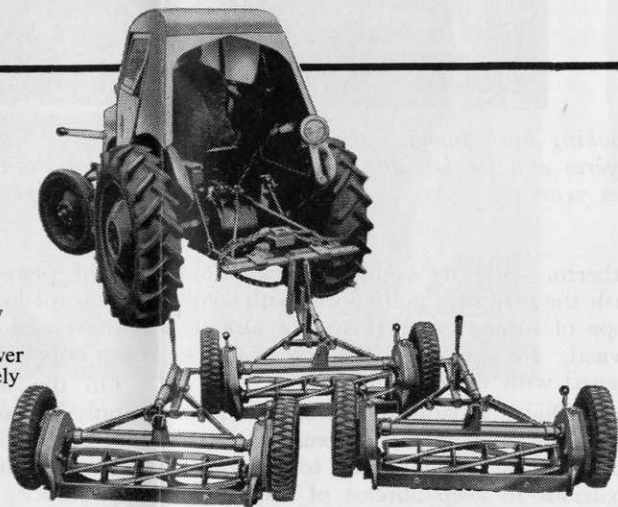
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ATCO Gang Mowers are only some of the many machines in the ATCO complete range from the 12" Roller type to the 34" Roller type with a full range of Rotaries, Sidewheels and the Atcoscythe.



The Triple Gang illustrated costs **£270**

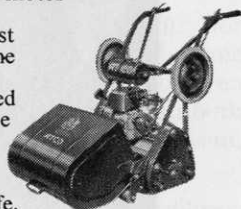
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The 20" Special for 'superfine' mowing of greens

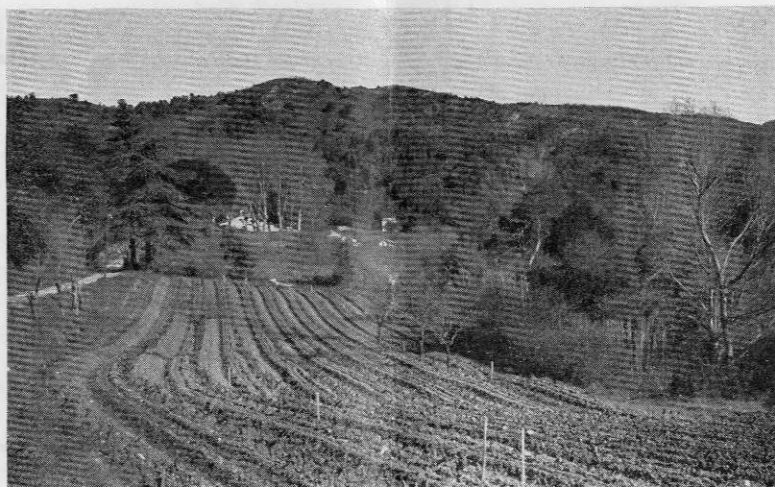
This 'self-contained' motor mower has become recognised as the best machine of all for the maintenance of the perfect finish required for the Greens. The specification is complete and will maintain peak performance—for life.

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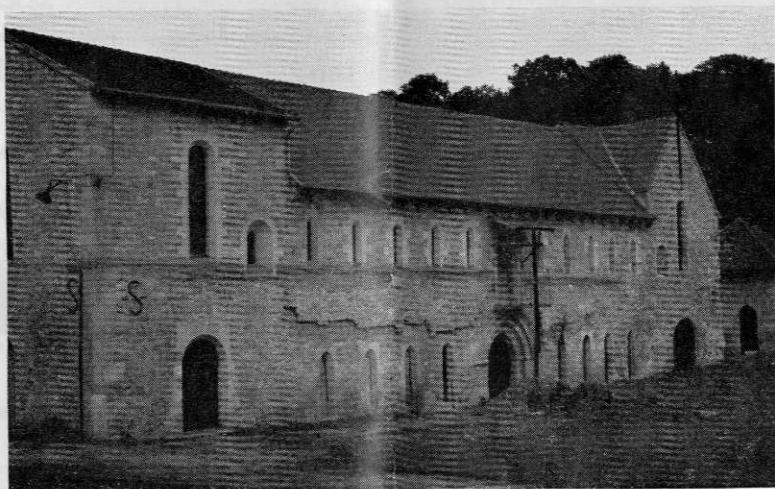
Looking back towards the future 7th Tees at the Valcros Golf Course between Hyères and Le Lavandou on the South Coast of France Vines grew here then, two years ago Now golf is bigger business than wine—even in France

hitherto. Brighter councillors can now push the idea of a golf course with some hope of support and, if land is already owned, the financial aspect can be argued with more confidence.

All this is in addition to several new private courses on more luxurious lines. But then everything has to be more luxurious to keep abreast of the times. 1963 certainly set a record in the num-

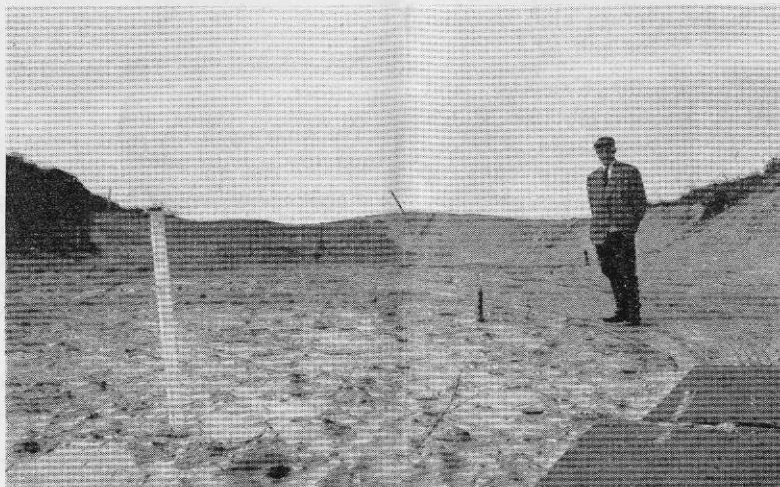
ber of plans exhibited on club notice boards for locker room extensions, mixed lounges and cocktail bars. Many clubs even improved their courses.

On the whole, demand will exceed supply for at least the next six years and this is a healthy sign. One wonders if the growth of heavily endowed events, appearance money, and sponsored amateur tournaments is equally healthy



This twelfth century Priory will form the nucleus of a new, luxury, 36-Hole Golf Club near Paris—Le Prieuré This is the club to which George Wilson went from Coventry

The Royal Birkdale Golf Course is one of the few courses in resorts well furnished with hotels that have the length, quality and area to deal with modern championships. Even so this club is in the throes of major changes to keep abreast of modern needs and to provide for the future



Douglas Pate, Royal Birkdale's Head Greenkeeper, stands on the green of his new 12th Hole being built last Autumn to replace the short 17th which created crowd control problems.

They are an inevitable corollary of the game's growing popularity but presumably Association Football must have passed through the same stage once. To see the dangers, translate the back page of a popular daily newspaper into terms of a golf tournament when it is reviewing the disturbances, carpetings, transfers, suspensions, fines, threats, and boastings, which make up space between football matches. Imagine the fun when Pro. A starts to get shirty with Pro. B for coughing when he was addressing the ball. Was it deliberate? asks A of a bystander "Just let him ask *me* that" says B. Referee takes both names, R & A says something must be done.

Another aspect of these promotions and even of the Open itself is how long club members will happily give up their course to accommodate them (often in-

volving drastic alterations or restrictions) and give up their time to be a steward or general lackey. If the frequency increases, their interest will do the opposite, especially while home-bred talent fails to excel.

Similarly, if the requirements for staging an Open Championship become very much more exacting, it will be even more difficult to find a course with both the quality and the space for this event, even if the members accept it.

The answer to all these problems, fortunately, is that the players that count will continue to enjoy their game of golf in their own way anonymously. Nobody will ever hear from them. The time to worry will be when they no longer turn up in their droves. Therefore, greenkeepers at least make things comfortable for them while they are still with us.

IMAGE

Lt.-Col. K. A. Nash discusses one of his problems as Secretary of the English Golf Union—publicising his publications

IMAGE, PROJECTION OF

OUR problem, we reckoned, is to put over to the average club member what we are doing for golf

Our publication—the Calendar, and the Year Book, are all right for Match Secretaries, Club Secretaries, County Union Secretaries and those sort of chaps, but what does the average golfer know about us?

A good question.

Also a good question is what does the average golfer, or the average club member, *want* to know about us?

Well, he pays a bob a year to us so he is entitled to know

Another good question is what *is* an average club member?

You might say he is the possessor of a 14 handicap.

You might say he's a business man, or a retired serviceman, around about fifty year of age.

You might say that he has a comfortable income.

You might say anything you damn well like, but the only thing you can be sure of is that he enjoys his game of golf and doesn't really care a tinker's cuss about anything else except the bar opening times.

And his subscription.

Unlike his trolley, he can't be pushed around.

He has never got his spectacles with him when you want him to read a notice (or anything else, except his card when he has gone round under his handicap).

The task, then, of projecting one's image (as the ad-men say) to this bloke is a pretty formidable one.

You see, it's rather like talking to yourself

* * *

Nevertheless, we felt bound to make an effort.

We rang up a chap we know—something to do with advertising.

“The current trend, old man, is ‘off beat’ ads. Facetious stuff, you know—full of understatement. Nothing intense, whatever you do. See Schweppes, Roy Brooks or Accles & Pollock. Not to mention Guinness.”

“My dear chap, we practically originated that stuff. See ‘The Golfing Year, 1961’ ”

“Never heard of it ”

“Goodbye, old man.”

* * *

Let us, we thought, have a go at the good old Popular Press.

“Well, it's terribly difficult to get space these days, old boy. Of course, if you had a strike by golf stewards, or a colossal row at a meeting

Otherwise there's not much doing at this time of the year

Have you got anything controversial?”

“Well, there is something coming up, but it's got to go through the various Committees, and then the Council has got to ”

“Yes, I see, old man. Well, give me a ring next March—maybe able to get something in then ”

* * *

“Try,” said a chap in publishing, “making your publications more grand. You know the sort of thing—glossy illustrations, first-rate cartoons, articles by

top writers, and all that sort of thing. Raise the standard, old chap. Wrap the message up, as it were. Double the price."

"But we give most of them away"

"Who to?" (He wasn't the sort of bloke who says "To whom?"—he is a very average golfer himself)

"To golf clubs."

"Oh Gawd."

* * *

There is only one thing to do, we thought. Get enough of the trade to buy advertising space so that we can enlarge the scope of the editorial matter and publish every darned thing we do. Cut out all this "social round" stuff. Who wants to read about dinners and speeches and whether they were held in the Café Royal or the Burp and Guzzle?

* * *

The telephone rang.

* * *

"I say," said the caller, "thanks for the write-up you gave our dinner this month. Can you send a couple of dozen copies over for the chaps. Might as well have another dozen Year Books if you've got 'em. I'll send you a cheque."

* * *

The funny thing about this is that it really happened.

With grateful acknowledgments to the Author The E.G.U. Dates Calendar costs 5/ p.a., post free.



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Messrs. Carters Blue Book of Gardening for 1964 appeared in December and readers can obtain a copy free on application to Messrs. Carters, Raynes Park, London, S.W.20. Eight pages of colour photographs will show you just how to plan your flower beds for best effect and well-known vegetable strains abound in the second half of the catalogue. This will be a useful fireside companion during the next two months.

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★ Distributors DENNIS BROS Ltd.

★ GANG MOWERS FOR HIRE

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RIVERSIDE 5415

Golf history in the pro's shop

By **GEOFFREY COUSINS**

DELVING into the past is not always a question of digging. Archaeologists may wield the pick and shovel and spend a good deal of time on their knees sifting rubble for clues to the history of extinct races. But there are other forms of reasearch less arduous, and the game of golf provides an interesting field of study.

Collections of old clubs, balls, club-making and greenkeeping implements, documents and books exist in many parts of the country as evidence of the interest taken in such things, but unfortunately most of them are in private golf clubs or other places not accessible to the general public.

There is a very fine collection in the Royal and Ancient clubhouse at St. Andrews. The Professional Golfers' Association have an assortment of relics at the Bishopsgate offices. At Hoylake, Muirfield, Prestwick and other championship clubs are to be found many objects of historical interest, but visible only to members and visitors privileged to use the clubhouses.

National Museum

I have felt for a long time that a National Museum of Golf should be instituted on the lines of that at Golf House, the headquarters in New York of the United States Golf Association. The only public museum of the kind in Great Britain, so far as I know, is that started some years ago by Mr. Ralph Sammel, managing director of Spalding, who felt that a representative collection of golfing relics ought to be available to ordinary visitors to St. Andrews. This museum is in a room at the rear of Forgan's shop a few yards from the 18th green of the Old Course, and much of the credit for the taste and attractiveness of the display goes to Mrs. Laurie Auchterlomie, whose husband, one of the city's leading club-

makers, is the son of the late Wille Auchterlomie, until his death honorary professional to the R. and A.

Laurie Auchterlomie himself gave several pieces to the Forgan museum, and anyone who goes into his shop at Pilmour Links will do well to persuade him to open some of the lockers there, show sets of old clubs preserved with loving care, and gossip about their history and the great golfers or notable characters who once owned them.

Many other professionals who have an interest in the past possess collections of various sizes and this article is inspired by my visit to Walton Heath for the recent Artisans' Championship, when Harry Busson, the professional there, showed me some of his treasures. My eye was caught by three metal moulds used for the manufacture of gutta-percha balls, or, more familiarly speaking, the "gutties", which superseded the feather-stuffed ball and flourished for more than half-a-century before giving place in turn to the rubber-core ball.

Making the "guttie"

All these moulds were similar in construction, consisting essentially of two slabs of metal each containing a half-ball recess. The method of using them was simple. A piece of gutta-percha approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches cube was first softened in hot water and placed in the lower mould. The top mould was then placed in position, and the whole put in a press. The moulded balls were kept for some time to mature before being used, but retained for a long time their plasticity, so that a guttie misshapen or badly cut in play could be softened in hot water and remoulded.

On examining the moulds in Busson's shop I was struck by the fact that one was perfectly smooth inside, the next in-

dented with rough marks probably made by a centre punch, and the third having a regular pattern obviously made by mechanical means.

Here in front of me, was the whole history of the guttie—the first, intermediate and final stages of its manufacture.

The very first gutties were made entirely by hand, a suitable piece being first softened in hot water, and then rolled by the palm of the hand on a board until spherical. These balls, when first tried, were far behind the featherie in performance, having a very short and erratic flight. It was discovered by those pioneers that the ball behaved very much better towards the end of a round, but that on being softened in hot water and rolled again so that the dents and cuts were removed, it flew just as badly at the start of the next round.

Early morning methods

It did not need a great deal of thought to realise that the more marks a ball had the better it flew, and the next step was to make these marks in as regular a pattern as possible by hand, using a pointed hammer

When some enterprising ball-maker introduced a mould he made it smooth,

and hand-hammered the balls after they came from the mould. The next step was to punch marks in the surface of the mould so that the balls emerged covered with rough protuberances—the fore-runner of the “bramble” marking.

And finally we attained the patterned mould, which produced a ball complete with lines, checks, or “brambles”, according to the fancy of the maker or the fashion of the day

Golf ball manufacture of the mid-20th century is conducted on such precise principles that the depth of the “dimple” or “recess” marking is measured to thousands of an inch, and it has been proved that a certain depth of dimple will give a correct performance, whereas markings shallower or deeper than the optimum will give less satisfactory results.

All this, nevertheless, springs from the experiments of those pioneers who learned the dynamics of the golf ball by trial and error. And those moulds in Busson's shop at Walton Heath, side by side with the boxes of modern, precision-made rubber-core balls, glistening in their coats of sprayed polyurethane paint, remind us of the debt we owe to those ancient craftsmen who hand-hammered the early gutties.

Reprinted by kind permission of the Editor, "The Artisan Golfer"

GOLF GREENKEEPER APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Copies of “The Employers' Guide” issued by the Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship may be obtained from —

B. M. Wood, Esq., F.C.I.S.,

Hon. Secretary,

Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship,

St. Ives Research Station,

Bingley,

Yorkshire.

News



from the Sections

SOUTHERN

By W Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

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

Lecture

OUR LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, 13th November, given by Mr William Finch, International Products, was a very great success. We were pleased to see a good attendance to welcome him. Time went so quickly with all the questions asked and answered that we shall look forward to a return visit later

January Lecture

Our January lecture will be given by Mr. Philip Marshall, by kind permission of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Jefferies, who write to say he will give a talk on their latest machines, followed by a film show. This should be very interesting and we look forward to another bumper attendance. The date is Wednesday, 8th January, 1964, time 6-30 p.m., and as usual at the Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, Moorgate, E.C.

New Member

We welcome to the Section, A. Ireland, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

Chairman.
M. GEDDES
(Royal Portcawl)

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

John O'Gorman

I AM HOPING THAT BY THE TIME you read these notes, John O'Gorman will be

out of hospital. He has had an operation on his lung and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery

New Year Greetings

May you all have a very Happy and Prosperous New Year in your work and play

SHEFFIELD

By J. J. Dearlove,

Chairman.
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

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

Entertainment

MR. GLYN VAUGHAN OF RANSOMES, Sims, and Jefferies and Mr J F Crofts of Fearnco Ltd., entertained our members at the Brunswick Hotel, Sheffield, on 27th November

Heavy rain in the late afternoon reduced our numbers but it was good to see a few Golf Club officials present and we hope to see more of them attend our lectures.

Three excellent films were screened, one of which I believe won an industrial film award. This speaks highly of the quality of entertainment. We thank Messrs. Ransomes and Fearnco Ltd., for the wide variety of food and liquid refreshment provided for us.

When giving his vote of thanks, our President, Mr Shardlow hinted that it would be interesting to visit Ransomes Works at Ipswich.

Mr Vaughan immediately extended an invitation to our section and suggested a summer visit would be more suitable owing to the long journey. If anyone is interested in such a trip and will let me know in the next week or so, we can probably decide on arrangements at the A.G.M.

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

Chairman:
S. BAILES

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

November Lecture

OWING TO INDISPOSITION I WAS unable to attend the lecture held in the White Swan, Leeds, on Tuesday, 12th November, and I am indebted to our President, Mr W Mountain, for the following report.

The first lecture of the winter session was given by Mr J R. Escritt, M.Sc., whose subject was "Around the World with Grass"

There was an excellent attendance of 55 members, one of the largest numbers we have ever had.

Listening to Mr Escritt's lecture, or private talk as he put it, was most fascinating and held every member's undivided attention throughout the whole lecture. In his three weeks' tour of the U.S.A. he talked about "25

hours per day", but we gained the impression of more like three months travelling from one side of the U.S.A. to the other, and in their trying to convince their method of grass culture being better than the English way, we imagine they would have a hard task when we know Mr Escritt's capabilities and experience at the Research Station.

During question time various members put their queries forward and Mr Escritt replied in his usual capable manner

The vote of thanks was given by the Chairman, Mr S. Bailes, and this was seconded by Mr G. Geddes.

January and February Meetings

In January we hope to have an "Any Questions" session and on Tuesday, 18th February, Mr I Forbes, of Messrs. Stewart & Co. Edinburgh, will give a talk on "Weeds and Weedkilling" Details of venues and times will be circularised in due course.

New Member

We welcome to the section Mr I. Peak, of Hessele Golf Club.

Mr. K. Chamberlain

Keith Chamberlain, of Northcliffe Golf Club, and one of our younger committee members has been appointed Head Greenkeeper to Ferndown Golf Club, Bournemouth, and takes up his new position in the New Year I am sure we all wish him good luck in his new venture.

Grand National Sweep

Once again I have to remind you that you will shortly be receiving books of tickets for our Grand National Sweep. It is hoped that all members will do their utmost to make it a success and so help the funds of our Benevolent Account.

NORTH-EAST

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

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

A LECTURE WAS HELD IN THE clubhouse of Ravensworth Golf Club by kind permission of their Committee on Thursday, 12th December Forty members turned up to hear a most interesting talk by Mr Ian Forbes, of Stewarts of Edinburgh.

The subject, "Weeds and Weedkillers", and results shown with slides and screen kept the members keenly on the alert and following the talk the speaker ably dealt with questions put to him. It was very encouraging to see many new and young members present.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr J Simpson, Chairman, to Mr Forbes, heartily endorsed by all present, and also to the Committee of the Ravensworth Golf Club for the use of the clubhouse and for kindly providing sandwiches, etc., which all enjoyed.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members Kenneth Hoey, Reuben Wright, Michael David Runnacles, Douglas Neil Docherty, William Bleazard.

NORTH-WEST

By V Crabtree

Chairman:
T. BRENNAN
(Wilmslow G.C.)

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

HAVING GOT OVER CHRISTMAS IF you are English and New Year if you are Scottish, here is a Happy New Year from me to you. Let us once again unite and be British, be an Association, meaning "a Society of persons joined to promote some object" Surely our object is more fully to understand our job and even coerce Mother Nature into yielding more abundantly the grass we desire, the turf of which we are so proud, to join together educationally and socially for the pleasure and mutual benefit of each other

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Many New Year resolutions will have been made, many will by this time have been broken. May I borrow the Salvation Army theme song and apply it to our Association "Come and Join Us", the strength and usefulness of it lies in its unity, its unity depends entirely on you. This game of golf is being played more and more, meaning more and more traffic over our courses, bringing more and more problems in its wake. Perhaps some speaker at a lecture can help, or some fellow-member suggest something you did not know, or perhaps—put the boot on the other foot—you can help one of us with some problem. I will risk being accused of reiteration and say once again, "Come and Join Us"

Lectures

SINCE MY LAST NOTES WE HAVE had a lecture by Mr H. J Lidgate, B.Sc., Chemist to the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, his subject, "Fertilisers", being enjoyed by about 20 members. Thanks to Mr Lidgate were expressed by the Vice-Chairman, Mr D. Pate.

On 9th December, Mr H. Ratcliffe, of Messrs. Rigby Taylor Ltd., gave a lecture on "Fertilisers and other Top Dressings" In his own inimitable style he expounded his facts and theories and answered many questions. Thanks to Mr Ratcliffe for a very enjoyable evening were expressed by the Chairman, Mr T Brennan.

January Lecture

28th January, 1964 (Tuesday) Mr William Finch, N.D.H., of International Toxin Products Ltd., Subject: "Simple Science of Turf Culture"

February Lecture

17th February, 1964 (Monday) Mr D. B. Hargreaves, Managing Director of Wm. Hargreaves & Co. Ltd. Sisis.

March Lecture

9th March, 1964, Mr J. D. Joss, D.H. of S.T.R.I. Subject "Turf Topics, What do you know?"

All lectures will be held in the Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, at 7.15 p.m. The Garrick Hotel is situated just behind Lewis's Store, Piccadilly

New Member

We welcome to the Section, Mr E. T. Clarke, and hope his membership will be a long and enjoyable one.

IN MEMORIAM

We have learned with sorrow of the death at the age of 92 of Mrs. Bridges, wife of Tom Bridges, one of the senior members of our Association. Mrs. Bridges had many friends amongst older greenkeepers and will be sadly missed. We all send our deepest sympathy to the Bridges family.



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General Secretary

R. B. MOFFATT

71 Kelton Street, Glasgow E.2

New Year Greetings

WITH ALL BEST WISHES TO OUR members throughout the New Year

A. HUISH

(East Section Secretary).

LECTURES AND FUNCTIONS

JANUARY

- 14th S.G.G.A., Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow (F. W Hawtree on "Golf Course Construction"), 7-0 p.m.
- 15th As above. Nicoll & Smithbert, Nethergate, Dundee, 7-0 p.m.
- 16th As above. Free Gardeners' Institute, Piccardy Place, Edinburgh, 7-0 p.m.
- 28th North-West Section Lecture, "Simple Science of Turf Culture", Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, 7-15 p.m.
- 30th Sheffield Section, President's Evening.

FEBRUARY

- 17th North-West Section Lecture, Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, 7-15 p.m.
- 18th Northen Section Lecture, "Weeds and Weedkilling"

MARCH

- 9th North-West Section Lecture, "Turf Topics, What do you know?", Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, 7-15 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hon. Editor,
B.G.G.A. Journal.

Dear Sir,

May I, through the medium of the Journal, say a word or two in answer to an article by Henry Cotton in a National Newspaper, on 1st December, 1963.

He said "Modern greenkeeping, which calls for soft watered greens during the summer, really has produced very wet and spongy putting surfaces just now, in fact many courses are on temporary greens already"

I think what Mr Cotton should have said, is, that Modern Golf calls for—I should say demands—soft watered greens during summer Mr Cotton must also know that the deciding factor on when to use temporary greens falls on climatic conditions which in turn make fine turf vulnerable to heavy damage, and not the calendar. It appears to me that Mr Cotton is out of touch with greenkeepers at present and I would suggest—if he can find the time—he attend a debate at one or more of the B.G.G.A. Section meetings, he will most certainly be welcome to the Sheffield Section.

If Mr Cotton is sufficiently interested in greenkeeping, I'm sure he will find the time to read our excellent journal and probably give us greenkeepers the opportunity to put our side of the picture.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) J J Dearlove,
Head Greenkeeper, Hillsborough G.C.
Hon. Sec., Sheffield Section B.G.G.A.

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THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Bingley, Yorkshire, wishes to appoint an additional Advisory Officer and invites applications. Preference will be given to candidates qualified in Horticulture or Agriculture or equivalent. Salary according to experience and qualifications. Contributory staff pension scheme. Further particulars from the Secretary

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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TIME AND MOTION ON THE GOLF COURSE

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Obstacles.

AT first sight, greenkeeping is not the sort of work which study of the operations involved can simplify. Weather, soils, competitions, overtime, machinery, all these vary so widely that the systems adopted for each course are not easily comparable. But with smaller staffs producing the same and better playing conditions, it is worth pausing sometimes to consider whether the simple, basic routines are still suited to present circumstances. The greenkeeper will know better than anyone the snags in thinking on these lines and the limits beyond which this kind of analysis cannot be pushed, but the cultivation of an enquiring and experimental attitude may well be rewarding if only through the interest and mental exercise which it stimulates.

One may easily spend more time and effort on a job than is necessary, simply through failing to fetch the proper tool or through starting without thought how it can best be tackled. Habit induces preference for a certain method, not a desire to try another. Even when another method is tried, it may be rejected as slower because the trial is too short for comparable proficiency to be developed. Sometimes old systems persist when machines, manpower or skills have changed.

Questions

Many work problems are too complicated to be solved in the head as the result of observation. They may require analysis and records. Is it certain that the walking between mowing eighteen greens is reduced to a minimum? Where two or more men are mowing at one time, is it certain that the work is divided to the best advantage? What is the shortest route from the machinery sheds and back, visiting each green on the way? To answer such questions it may be necessary first to record the times and distances travelled.

The same kind of analysis may be extended to bunker-raking, fairway mowing, and all the routine jobs involving time lost in moving between the places of work.

Commonsense

Mr D. H. Lloyd, Lecturer in Farm Management at Reading University, has recently been studying work from the farming point of view but his conclusions are applicable generally. He found that although expert advice had brought many improvements, commonsense observation by the man on the spot could give the same results. He gives eight simple principles which can be applied to any job to indicate whether the method is wasteful. They may well give the greenkeeper a new train of thought which will help him to achieve more with less effort from the staff available.

Eight Rules

- (1) *Make sure the work is made easy by ensuring that the worker is comfortable and using simple tools and gravity rather than human effort*
- (2) *Keep places of work as near together as possible and arranged to avoid unnecessary travelling, with tools handy to the work site*
- (3) *Arrange travel in straight lines and avoid back-tracking*
- (4) *When carrying or hauling loads, always take the maximum comfortable load to avoid unnecessary journeys*
- (5) *Use tools which suit the job*
- (6) *Balance the efforts of each worker in a team with the others, remembering that large gangs invariably breed wasted time*
- (7) *Try to finish off each job at the point where the next one will start*
- (8) *Examine each job to see whether it is necessary, can be done more easily or quickly, or can be combined with other jobs.*

(The British Golf Greenkeeper, 1959)

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ENQUIRY BUREAU.—The Editor desires to point out that he will be pleased to answer enquiries from our readers, and forward to them the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier of any particular proprietary article or product used in the construction, maintenance and upkeep of a golf course. Enquiries are coming in from greenkeepers asking for such information. They may, for example, know the trade name of the article or product they wish to purchase, but may not be conversant with the name and address of the actual manufacturer or supplier. The Enquiry Bureau will gladly supply this information, and thus enable the greenkeeper to contact the manufacturer or supplier direct.

TO MANUFACTURERS.—In order that our information may be kept constantly up to date, manufacturers or suppliers are requested to forward their latest trade lists, catalogues, and any other confidential information regarding their products. By so doing the Bureau will be able to function to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

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