

Not only did they listen to the experts with the most intense interest; they deaved them with questions which proclaimed a lively awareness of their own skills. It was a most heartening reminder that the modern greenkeeper is a dedicated craftsman.

Some clubs and club members appreciate their most important employee. Recently at the Hayston Golf Club's dinner-dance the greenkeeper, the club professional, and the clubmaster were present as guests and, very properly, publicly applauded for their work during the year. This is as it should be, for golfers are in general not the most altruistic of people, we are too ready to take for granted essential services that are sometimes difficult to maintain.

I find it a little chastening that the admirable golf greenkeeper apprenticeship scheme should not be thriving more mightily. It was instituted a year or two ago by the golf unions, the Sports Turf Research Institute, and the greenkeepers' associations because of the real, and justified, fear that the time might come when golf as a game would founder because there were no greenkeepers to maintain courses.

#### More Needed

At present there are only six apprentices in Scotland registered under the scheme, 40 in England, numbers which are not nearly sufficient to ensure the maintenance of the game as it exists, to say nothing of the courses that are under construction or planned. It is a well thought out scheme that ensures the proper training of young men who, because of the continuing popularity of the game, are assured of a good job for life. And it is a good job—a hard job, a

job making great demands on the intelligence as well as the physique, but a rewarding job.

We would do well to cultivate our greenkeepers. Without them we would be like the golfer in the old story who on his death descended into Hell and there found a wonderful golf course and a wonderful set of clubs. But there were no golf balls to play with and that, as Satan said, was the Hell of it!

*With grateful acknowledgement to the Glasgow Herald.*

\* \* \*

The following letter appeared in the same newspaper two days later,  
**IN SUPPORT OF GREENKEEPING**  
November 30, 1965

Sir,

With reference to S. L. McKinlay's article on greenkeeping and greenkeepers, may I, as one of the six apprentices in Scotland, express my surprise at the paucity in numbers of those taking up this outdoor career. In the past Scottish greenkeepers have been renowned for their knowledge and skill, but how can that reputation be carried into the future when there are so few making this their career?

After having served two years of my indenture I can thoroughly recommend the job as a career for a youth who is prepared to study and work hard with the view to becoming a greens superintendent.

It is up to Scottish golf clubs to make it an attractive career, offering good wages and conditions as an incentive, thus ensuring the continuance of first-class greenkeepers from Scotland.

ALLAN CRAWFORD.

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