

# TAKING OVER A NEW APPOINTMENT AS HEAD GROUNDSMAN

## Things you should do

by D. H. Pearse, Head Groundsman, Steel Company of Wales Sports Ground

**T**HE days when a groundsman was an individual with a wheelbarrow, a spade and a broom are as dead as the dodo. Over the past 20 years a new conception of what a groundsman is and what he is responsible for has gradually emerged. There are associations who see to this. They set examinations, appoint district committees, advise on hours and wages, in fact, have put the whole matter on an efficient and recognised plane. It behoves a Head Groundsman, therefore, to act up to the standards required and see that his staff do, too. On taking over a new appointment as Head Groundsman there are essential points to check, which can be listed as follows

- A. MEET THE STAFF
- B. CHECK THE INVENTORY OF TOOLS.
- C. CHECK THE INVENTORY OF MACHINERY
- D. SEE THAT THE POWERED ONES START IF NOT WHY NOT ?
- E. CHECK ALL KIT
- F. CHECK ALL MONIES.
- G. CHECK GROUND PLAN FOR DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND BOUNDARIES. ENQUIRE ABOUT RIGHTS OF WAY LOCATION OF GAS MAINS AND ELECTRIC CABLES, BENCH MARKS.
- H. CHECK FERTILISERS FOR GENERAL CONDITION LABELLING AND QUANTITY
- I. CHECK THE SECURITY OF SHEDS.
- J. MEET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB OR PERSON IN CHARGE TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS.
- K. CHECK ALL BUILDINGS FOR WEATHER PROOFING.

### A. Meeting the Staff

It is essential that you speak to members of your staff individually in order to estimate their capabilities as groundsmen and their physique. Make it quite clear to them in a rational manner—never bluster, it only weakens your position—

what you expect of them, and once having made yourself and your ideas clear NEVER walk back on them.

### B. Check the Inventory of Tools

This you must do in case of any deficiencies in the stock, at the same time you can take a note of any worn out tools that should be replaced, and make out or have made out orders for new ones.

### C. Check Inventory of Machinery

Check the inventory of machinery against the machinery produced in case of deficiencies. Watch out that the numbers tally. It has been known for a good engine to be replaced by a bad one. If the numbers don't agree, investigate the reason thoroughly

D. See that the powered ones start, if not, why not? Check points, carburetors, sparking plugs. If you cannot trace any fault send for Agent's mechanic.

E. Check all games kit and make a note of any deficiencies, ordering the necessary replacements.

### F. Check all Monies

If there are games like putting, golf, bowls, tennis, for which a charge is made for playing and that money is in your charge, you should check the number of the individual tickets issued and see that the money for them is correct and that the proper float is in the cash box.

### G. Check Ground Plan

You should consult the master plan of the grounds and check drainage system so that if your field develops any wet areas you can locate the nearest land drain by measuring as your plan indicates. Boundaries should be checked in case of any legal matter that may arise, and if the boundary is fenced, which is usual, this should be inspected

*contd. on p. 6*

for holes so that intruders, animal or human, may not unlawfully enter and cause damage. Rights of way must be checked for legal reasons. Gas mains must be checked and a strict ruling must be kept on the amount of coverage on these pipes, there should be some type marker over these mains to indicate their presence. This also applies to electric cables. Overhead cables must always clear the ground by a specific amount. There are rules set down by the Electricity Board which must be carried out. (twenty feet.)

#### H. Check Fertiliser for General Condition, Labelling and Quantity

The reason for this is, if the fertiliser has been allowed to become damp it will be rendered inefficient in that the component elements would have lost their strength through the moist atmosphere reacting on them. If the labels are missing these must be replaced immediately to avoid a wrong application. The quantities should be checked in case there is insufficient in stock for use. If necessary, re-order

#### I. Security of Sheds

All sheds must be checked for security, especially if constructed with galvanised sheets. Look for any sheets that may be loose through gales. Check that locks are effective. **THESE POINTS ARE IMPORTANT** in case of an intruder breaking in. The police would take a dim view if these points were not looked into. There are also the insurance people to think of, they would investigate all points of security before they met the claim.

#### J Meeting the Chairman (or whoever is in charge)

This is to establish good relations. It is essential that you get on well with him and prove your efficiency in all aspects of your job and ascertain, early on, what his ideas are. Never try to hide a mistake; to do so is one of the biggest administrative mistakes you can make. Tell the Chairman or whoever you are responsible to that you have made an error and what you suggest to rectify it. If you are big enough to be a Head Groundsman, you are big enough to

admit a genuine fault. Confession, besides being good for the soul, is good for the work. Steps can be taken to rectify To try to cover up does two things

1 If found out it breeds an atmosphere of doubt in the mind of the Chairman, so that if a mistake occurs afterwards which is no fault of yours or your staff he will never be quite content that you had no part in it; and

2. It prevents remedial action being taken in time.

K. Check all Buildings against damp. See that fertilisers are stored on top of duck boards and away from outer wall so that air is allowed to circulate the bags so that condensation does not occur. Be careful how you handle bags, especially if they are made of paper Machinery must not be kept in a damp place or rust will set in. It is a good policy to start mowers once a week in the closed season so that the magneto does not become damp.

The above points should always be borne in mind when taking up a new appointment.

*Reprinted from the "Groundsman," August 1966 by kind permission.*



## GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

Hole Tins	Tee Boxes
Cutters	Tee Plates
Staffs	Ball Cleaners
Mats	Tablets
Mowers	Rollers
Hose	Sprinklers
Mole Ploughs	Rotary Sifters
Aerating Machines	
and all	
Greenkeeping Tools	

**H. PATTISSON & CO. LTD.**  
**STANMORE · MIDDLESEX**  
 Telephone GRImSDyke 4171/4172