

FEBRUARY

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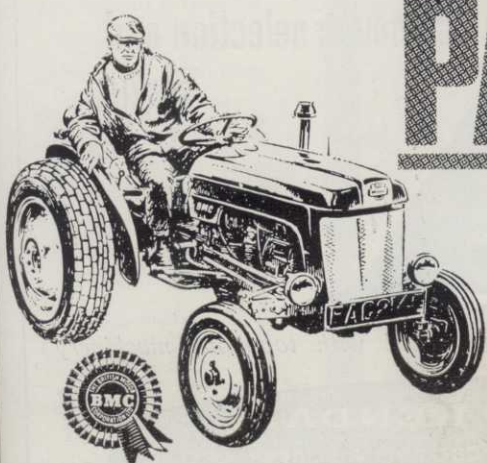


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FEBRUARY 1967

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*But when the ball is on the tee
The strangest change comes over me.
My elbow flies, my grip is loose,
My stance becomes hypotenuse.
My left arm warps, my knees turn stiff,
And with a might swing — I whiff!*

—Ethel M. Havens

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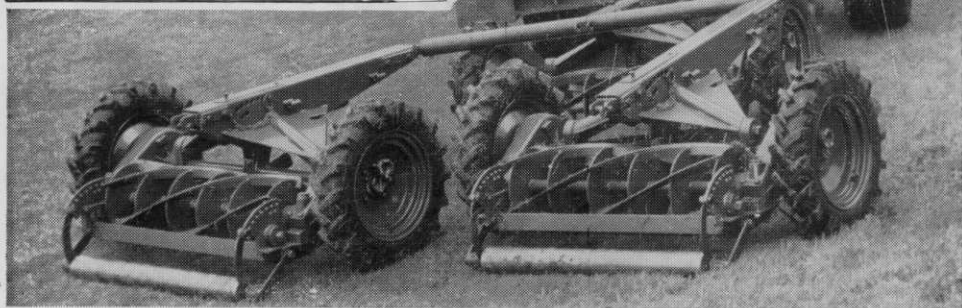
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Ding Dong

The Wrekin Golf Club is going to lose about 3½ acres to the Wellington by-pass. Efforts to obtain a similar area from neighbouring woodland donated as open space were approved by the Council's committee, referred back to it by the Council, and have now been re-approved by the Committee.

Anti-Golf Course

Sidmouth Ratepayers' Association is appealing for volunteers to stand as anti-golf course candidates for the local council. A rather grandiose scheme for a championship course on Muttersmoor has been brewing for some years and the town is sharply divided on the issue.

Words

Henry Longhurst has been wondering in the *Sunday Times* why earlier golfers referred to "holding" putts instead of "holing" them. We have two pet hobby horses in present-day usage. "Greens" Committee instead of "Green" Committee. Remember the visitor who was introduced to the Chairman of the Greens Committee and complained about the lunchtime cabbage? The other is "seeding" instead of "sowing". Seeding is something only the plant can do. Otherwise we may as well re-write the parable: "A seeder went forth to seed . . .".

Too Easy

The 500-odd 3rd at Hollinworth in a drive and a No. 8. David Snell certainly had a near gale behind him. But he also holed the No. 8 for an albatross.



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CHANGES IN GREENKEEPING

By J. K. CAMPBELL

Links Supervisor, St Andrews, Scotland

READING the 75th anniversary issue of *Golf Illustrated* brought back to mind many changes in the game of golf from the days of the old "guttie" to the modern ball, and from hickory to the power steel shafts of this modern era.

On reflection as a greenkeeper and in discussion with many of my profession, one is also reminded of the changes and evolution in the methods and equipment for golf course upkeep, in an effort to maintain the turf to withstand the wear and tear of the welcome and ever-increasing numbers of enthusiastic golfers who, after all, make up the vast majority.

It was my privilege to know and have many discussions with the late J. H. Taylor while he was living in retirement in North Devon, and when he recalled the experiences of his first job as a greenkeeper at Westward Ho! In those early days the greenkeeper's only equipment was a shovel and birch broom and the methods of golf course maintenance much more primitive than they are today. The greenkeeper had to be an expert with the scythe which was one of the main implements for manicuring greens and tees, cutting long grass, and trimming bunker faces.

The early types of grass mower did not give the smooth fine cut that the precision multi-bladed motor mowers make today to produce the immaculate putting surfaces that are now an essential.

The high standard of upkeep in modern golf course maintenance has placed a distinct responsibility on the greenkeeper who is expected to be a man of many parts, with more than a modest knowledge of petrol and diesel engines, soil chemistry, grass and weed identification and eradication, and so on, plus

the natural affinity to deal with his own staff, his committee and players.

The push type grass mowers once used for cutting greens and tees are gradually being replaced by powerful multi-bladed motor mowers which have made the task much easier and better results are obtained in less time.

The old horse-drawn grass mowers once used for cutting fairways has now been superseded by tractor-drawn quintuple and septuple gang-mower units, and those can contend with considerable areas in the course of a day.

There are rotary mowers for dealing with all kinds of long grass, and although the old art of scything is gradually dying out, it is still a joy to see the results achieved by the few who can still handle this useful implement.

Also there is now a wide range of mechanically propelled machines for almost every conceivable operation of golf course maintenance from turf-cutting to hollow-tining, which do the job more efficiently than was ever possible by old-time methods.

Advanced techniques and their application depend so much upon the skill and experience of the man on the job, namely the greenkeeper, in order to keep abreast of the many problems with which he may be confronted in the course of his work.

The Greenkeepers Association would like to pay tribute to those connected with the Sports Turf Research Institute whose efforts should surely have every support. With the theoretical and thorough practical experience from which should follow the wholehearted approval of every Greens Committee if the ever-increasing number of golfers are to be presented with the best possible playing conditions.

SPORT

Altogether, there are 20 courses and 5,762 club members in the Netherlands. Dutch golfers would dearly love to have more courses but this is made difficult by the acute shortage of land in the overcrowded Netherlands. Apart from the shortage of courses Dutch golfers also have to face high membership fees and considerable social sifting, for the game has its class barriers. That may just add to its desirability, of course. Then again, golf was introduced to the Low Countries from a lofty height. It was first played in 1893, by foreign residents in the Hague — probably British diplomats. Golf isn't without status in Britain. Neither are diplomats.

(From the "Holland Herald")

Now there is the almost equally remarkable phenomenon of a 28-year-old Irish woman, Mrs Gwen Brandom, once a motor-racing driver and badminton international who took up golf purely by chance. She was caddying for an older woman, picked up a club at the end of the day and hit the ball such a prodigious distance she decided she'd take up the game seriously, and within three years had come down to scratch.

Mrs Brandom stands 5 ft 4 in, weighs 12 stone, drinks Guinness, smokes cigars and can crush a beer can in one small hand.

(Brian Glanville writing on Girls in Sport in "Town")

THE MEAT IN THE SANDWICH

Golf

Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews—Sec: Brig E Brickman, DSO; Deputy Sec: Mr W N B Loudon, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews, Fife (St Andrews 12).

British Golf Greenkeepers' Association—Sec: Mr C H Dix, Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey (Sanderstead 0281).

English Golf Union—Sec: Lt-Col K A Nash, 35 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berks (Wokingham 1952).

(From A Directory of Sports and Pastimes published in "The Field", Vol 228, No 5946).



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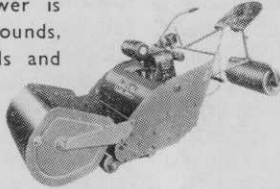


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If you are altering a green next Autumn it is not too early to start planning for it now.

CONSTRUCTING A NEW GOLF GREEN ON AN EXISTING COURSE

by

D F BOOCOCK

BEFORE going to the considerable trouble and expense of constructing a new golf green, committee members should examine the pros and cons very carefully, preferably in consultation with a golf architect, and be absolutely sure that any change in a particular hole will bring lasting benefits over the years. Quite often one sees abandoned green sites on a course — members having realised after a year or two's trial that the old way was better after all!

Once the project has been agreed, the operation should be carefully planned, particularly if the course staff are going to undertake it as an extra to routine maintenance. Constructional work, especially involving major grading to form satisfactory levels, is best completed during the drier months of the year. The aim should be to have the green site prepared up to the final cultivation stage by mid-August despite the considerable demands on labour for regular grass cutting on the rest of the course.

In order to gain time, turfing the new green is generally preferred to sowing and turf may be taken from the green which is being replaced. On the other hand, this procedure involves a time lag when neither old nor new green is available for use. The difficulty can be surmounted by preparing over a period beforehand (scarifying, feeding, mowing) a suitable area of turf elsewhere on the course. If sufficient turf is not available for the whole site then banks and parts of surrounds could be sown (together with any areas damaged by the passage of heavy equipment) and turf used only for the immediate approach and the green itself. The turfing should be completed

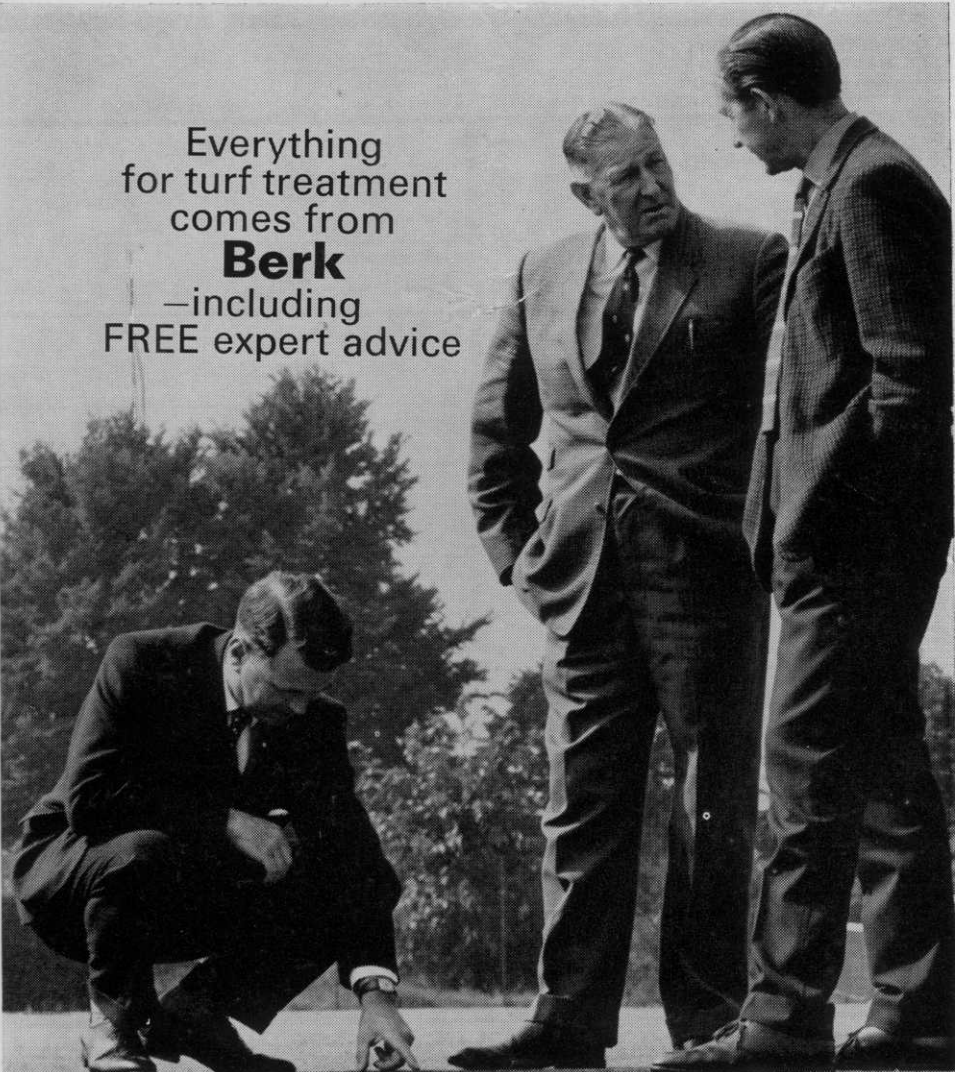
during the period October/December.

Having chosen the site, consideration must be given as to how best to form the green. If the ground slopes up towards the green or if there is a cross fall the cut and fill method is usually adopted. If the ground slopes down to the site then filling material will have to be imported (or excavated elsewhere on site) to raise levels at the back of the green, setting it up to catch the ball. On fairly level ground it may be possible to just bring in sufficient top soil to form banks and allow these to be merged in naturally with surrounding levels. In all cases acute slopes and angles should be avoided; contours must be as gentle and natural as possible both for aesthetic and maintenance reasons.

Where considerable grading is necessary the first step is to strip the turf and top soil from the area of the green and its surroundings. Grading is then carried out in the sub-soil, the filling being deposited in uniform layers about 6 in thick and made firm to minimise settlement, but not so compact that drainage suffers. If the green-keeping staff are tackling the job it will probably be necessary to hire suitable equipment together with operator. The surface of the foundation level should be moulded exactly to the contours required on the finished green, ensuring that there will be plenty of flat places for the pin, and that the final surface will naturally shed rainwater. This last point is particularly important where greens are sited on the foot of a sloping fairway — there will be considerable surface water runoff from surrounding higher ground and too often the green acts as a natural

(continued on p. 12)

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| Feeding | | | |
| Berk Spring/Summer Fine Turf Feed | 5 cwts per acre, 2 ozs. per sq. yd. | March-August | - |
| Berk Spring/Summer Granular Fertilizer for Outfields | 3 cwts per acre | March-August | - |
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| Berk Weed Killer (Standard) 2.4D | 2-3 fluid ozs. per 100 sq. yds. | Warm dry weather during Spring or Summer | Half gallon of water per 100 sq. yds. |
| Berk Weed Killer (Super) 2.4D + CMPP | 4-6 fluid ozs. per 100 sq. yds. | Warm dry weather during Spring or Summer | Half gallon of water per 100 sq. yds. |
| Berk Clover Killer CMPP | 6-8 pints per acre | April-September | 20-50 gallons of water per acre |
| Moss Control | | | |
| Berk Mercurized Turf Sand | 4 ozs. per sq. yd. 10 cwts per acre | Late February to June | Water in during dry spells |
| Berk Moss Killer | 4 ozs. per sq. yd. 10 cwts per acre | Any time during the year, but especially prior to normal Autumn treatments | - |
| Berk Moss Eradicant | 4 ozs. per sq. yd. 10 cwts per acre | Any time during the year | - |
| Berk Lawn Sand | 4 ozs. per sq. yd. 10 cwts per acre | Early Spring to Late Summer | Water in during dry spells |
| Fungicides | | | |
| Berk Turf Fungicide | 1 oz. to 40 sq. yds. | As and when necessary | Liquid-1 oz. in 2-8 gallons of water Powder-1 oz in 14 lb. of fine dry sand |
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(continued from p 8)

collecting point for such water. During the grading work bunkers should be formed and drained as required.

On heavy or wet land tile drainage will be required for the green and on very poor sites a hard core drainage layer with suitably spaced drains tapping this may be advisable. With a sandy, free-draining site it will be reasonable to omit drains in the first place and only introduce them later if proved necessary.

Where a drainage layer is needed, the tapping drains would be introduced into the sub-formation surface and backfilled with porous aggregate of 3 in- $\frac{3}{4}$ in gauge, eg graded clinker, gravel rejects etc. The drainage layer is then laid, using small mechanical dumpers and taking appropriate precautions to avoid damage to drains. After a blinding layer of fine hard ash, preserved top soil is then spread over the area to form a uniform surface layer of not less than 9 in firmed depth on the green itself. On banks and surrounds less soil is necessary, say 3-4 in.

On sites where an ordinary tile drainage system is needed, or where drains can be omitted, the top soil spreading is completed and followed by sub-soil cultivation to relieve all compaction. The latter is done by means of a sub-soil cultivator or a mole plough fitted with a sub-soil shoe. The operation should be carried out with the maximum fall on the green at 2 ft centres and at a minimum depth of 18 in and repeated at an angle where appropriate. Land drainage follows sub-soiling and care must be taken to remove sub-soil spoil without contaminating the top soil.

On completing the above work, ploughing is usually needed and care should be taken not to turn up sub-soil. Cultivations follow to produce a reasonably fine tilth and to relieve all compaction through the full top-soil depth. Ordinary agricultural implements are best for this work, eg disc or tined harrows; the use of rotary cultivators (particularly those operating at high speed and pulverising the soil)

should be avoided. Running the discs etc up and over the banks surrounding the green is often a useful way of blending the banks in to give a natural appearance.

During cultivations the opportunity can be taken to ameliorate the top soil using materials such as gritty lime-free sand, peat and dried sewage. It should be borne in mind that once the turf is laid very little can be done from the surface to alter the character of the underlying soil. Skimping at this stage can mean the difference between an excellent green and just a mediocre one. The quantities of the various ameliorants needed are dependent on the soil type. With a heavy clay top soil up to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons gritty lime-free sand and 5-10 cwt granulated peat per 100 sq yd might be needed. Poor sandy soils lacking organic matter may need peat and/or dried sewage. The soil ameliorants should be applied evenly and then thoroughly cultivated into the top soil.

(continued p. 13)



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(continued from p. 12)

Soil tests should also be completed to determine any lime requirement or major nutrient deficiency and appropriate corrective action taken. Any lime necessary is applied at some convenient time during the cultivations but the fertiliser is withheld until just before turfing.

Having completed the bulk of the work by, say, August the site can now be cultivated at intervals to clear it of weeds until October. Of course, if adequate watering facilities are available it is possible to carry straight on and turf the green. However, turfing usually commences when weather and ground conditions are favourable from the first week in October. A fine, smooth and evenly firmed turf bed should be prepared to the levels and contours desired by alternate hand raking and heeling. During this work any surface stones or other rubbish would be removed. The final operation is to spread and rake in the fertiliser.

Turf lifting these days is best done mechanically and many contractors have a suitable machine available for hire. The work is done quickly with the minimum of damage and a uniform end product is assured; this eases laying considerably. The turf should be laid with broken joints, each turf being closely butted to the adjoining turves. It is best to work from boards placed on turf already laid so that the prepared soil surface is not disturbed. The necessary materials should be transported over boards so that newly laid turf is not subject to direct traffic.

On completion the green should be given a light rolling using a 5 cwt hand roller. A sandy compost is then applied at the rate of about 4-5 lb per sq yd, and thoroughly worked into the surface.

The major work is now over but the green is by no means in a playable condition. Self congratulation should be reserved until an acceptable putting surface has been created.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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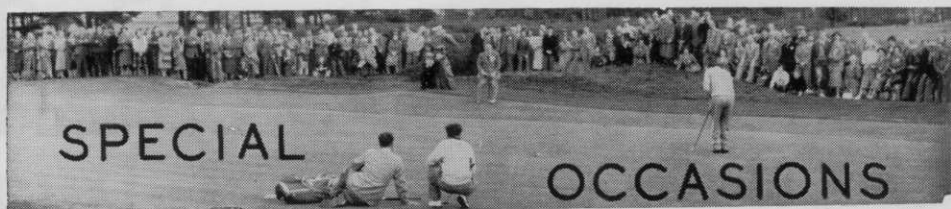
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FEBRUARY

6th North-West Lecture, Manchester, 7.30 p.m.

7th S.G.G.A. Lecture, Glasgow, 7 p.m.

7th S.G.G.A. Lecture, Dundee, 7 p.m.

8th Southern Lecture, London, 6.30 p.m.

9th S.G.G.A. Lecture, Edinburgh, 7 p.m.

9th S.G.G.A. East Outing.

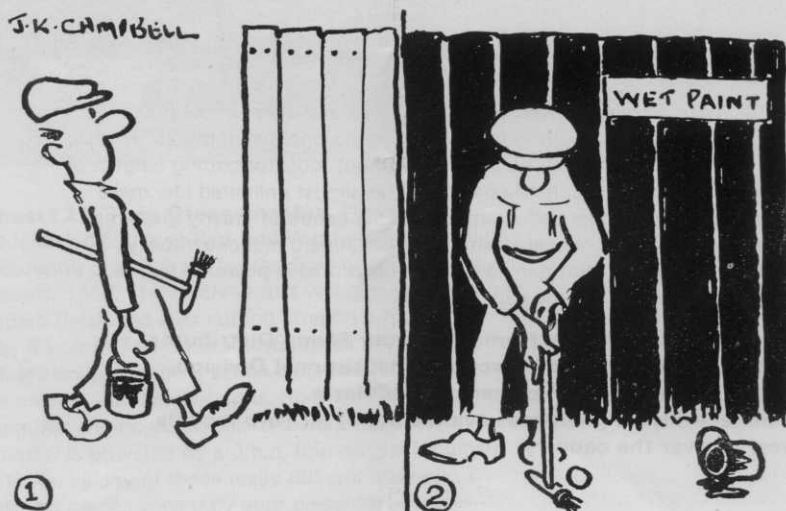
MARCH

7th North-West Section Lecture, Manchester, 7.30 p.m.

17th Southern Annual Dinner, South Herts. G.C.

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HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES

MEMBERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY be very sorry to know that Mrs Bretherton has been in hospital since before Christmas but I am glad to say I understand her health is now improving, though slowly. I have arranged for a few flowers to be sent to her with a message of sympathy and the wish for her speedy recovery from all members.

Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the above Committee has been arranged for Saturday the 11th

March 1967 at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, commencing at 12 noon.

IN SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE

One of the most recent trainees to receive his certificate on completion of his apprenticeship wrote:—

“You may be interested to know that I have also passed my Third-Class Certificate in the National Association of Groundsmen and I am studying to take my second and first-class certificates this year. I also passed my UEI in Horticulture obtaining second place in the country in Grass and Green-keeping. I attend fortnightly lectures during the winter months, given locally by the National Association of Groundsmen. Unfortunately there are no such lectures arranged by the Association.

“Yours sincerely,—Patrick J Coleman, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton.”

We think this is a first-class example of using to the full the limited facilities at present available and getting the most out of them. We shall watch Patrick Coleman's career with much interest.

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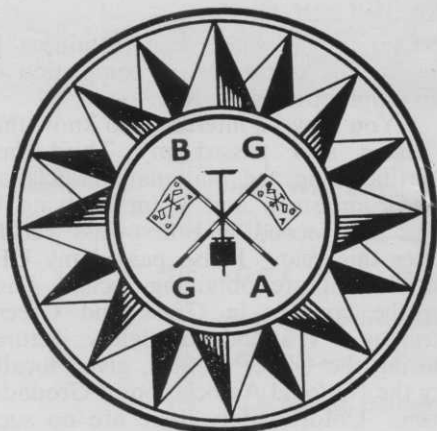
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News



from the Sections

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Hon Secretary:

Chairman:

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

Meeting

WE HAD A VERY GOOD ATTENDANCE for our special meeting on Wednesday, 14th December which was held prior to our lecture. Mr J K Glass, who was in the chair, told the meeting they had been called together to elect a vice-chairman for the whole of the association and that all head greenkeepers present should take part in the election. Mr S Morton and Mr C A Moore were then put to the meeting. Mr J Stobbs proposed that C A Moore should be elected and this was seconded by E Hall; and Mr Maidment proposed S Morton and this was seconded by H Hughes. The vote was then taken and it was left to two of our presidents, Messrs R C Craig and W J Holloway to collect and count, the result being 13 votes for S Morton and 20 for C A Moore. Mr Moore responded by thanking the meeting, saying he would endeavour to do his best for the association. Mr P Marshall (Messrs Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries) then took over the meeting by showing us wonderful slides on the various Ransomes machines with a running commentary as he went along. Afterwards a number of questions were asked and answered. In all a most interesting and enjoyable evening. Our next lecture will take place at the Stirling Castle, as usual, on Wednesday, 8th February at 6.30 pm and will be given by Mr W H Bartle, from the Research Institute, and the title he has chosen

is "Golf Course Maintenance". We look forward to a full house with plenty of questions for Mr Bartle to answer.

Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner will take place at the South Herts Clubhouse on Friday, 17th March. The Club has very kindly consented to the use of the course in the afternoon for anyone who wishes to play an 18-hole four-ball better ball competition. Will you please, when sending for tickets, let me know if you will be taking part in the competition. An early request will be greatly appreciated so that arrangements can be got under way.

I thought the following letter from C J Pitman, now greenkeeping in Portugal, might be of interest to members:—

Dear Mr Mason,—I have settled down to some hard work here at the New Vale da Lobo golf course. I am in charge of the already constructed nine holes. It is very warm and dry at present and we have the automatic pop ups on most nights. Henry Cotton, the architect, has put a layer of clay under the greens to hold some of the water and this is working extremely well.

Please convey my best wishes to the Southern Section members for a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher J. Pitman.

Mr S H Battams

It is with very great regret I have to report the death of Mr S H Battams, who passed away on Saturday, 17th December. I would like, on behalf of all our members who knew Sydney so well, to express our very deepest sympathy to Mrs Battams and family in their great loss.

MIDLAND

By R. Goodwin

Hon. Secretary:

Chairman:

G. HART
(Gay Hill)

167 Birmingham Road
Lichfield, Staffs.

Apologies

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY sincere apologies to Mr D Greey, Mr B Baxter, Pattisson's Ltd and May and Baker for the omission of their names in the list of Prize donors at Blackwell, in the December issue of the Journal.

Spring Tournament

The Spring Tournament will take place at Whittington Barracks Golf Club by kind permission of the Captain and Committee, on Tuesday, 23rd May 1967.

Visit

A visit to Sutton & Sons Ltd is to be arranged for June. I hope to give further details in next month's Journal about this kind invitation.

NORTH-WEST

Chairman:
W. BURGESS
(Ringway G.C.)

By H. M. Walsh
Hon. Secretary:
78 Hadfield Street,
Oldham, Lancs.

Lectures

OUR LECTURE FOR JANUARY WAS given by Mr J Castell, of Fisons Ltd, to a very interested audience. They were very quick to take up Mr Castell's offer to answer questions put to him on fungal diseases. It was another very successful meeting and well attended — thank you, gentlemen.

Our next lecture, which will be on 7th March at the usual venue, The Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, at 7.30 pm, will take the form of an open discussion amongst the members present, so if you have anything to ask or information to give please roll up and make our last lecture of this winter series as successful as all the others.

New Members

We extend a cordial welcome to Mr T Jenkinson, of Oldham Golf Club, to the Section and hope to see him at some of our future functions.

NORTHERN

Chairman:
D. ROBERTS
(West Bowling G.C.)

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

Handicaps

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN handicaps have been made: A Robertshaw, 15 to 14; D Roberts, 8 to 7; J Scott, 13 to 15; A Cox, 14 to 15; G Bennison, 16 to 13; and C Ramsden, 24 to 22.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members: K Dagers of Keighley Golf Club and I S Smith of West Bradford Golf Club.

FOR SALE

ONE RANSOMES OVERGREEN with three 16-in Certes Mowers and Grass Boxes complete. Price £50. Apply Heswall Golf Club, Wirral, Cheshire.

EAST MIDLAND

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

By S. Fretter
Hon. Secretary:
20 Woodcote Road
Kingsway
Narborough Road South
Leicester

Spring Tournament

THE ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT will now be held at the Leicestershire Golf Club on Monday, 8th May 1967. Details of this will appear in a later Journal.

Subscriptions

Will members and Vice-Presidents who have not already paid their subscriptions, please do so now as they are OVERDUE. Please send them direct to our Treasurer.

Monthly Journals

Will Head Greenkeepers please notify me if any of their staff are not receiving their Journals.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Mrs Greenkeeper's Own Corner

with Ann Mawson

This is the month when lemons should be at their best. To keep them, place the lemons in a basin of water and cover with a plate to keep them submerged. Change the water every fourth day. Lemons will keep like this for a considerable time.

Lemon Biscuits

1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful of baking powder, grated rind and juice of 1 lemon, salt, 4 oz sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb flour, 1 oz lard, 2 oz margarine, milk if necessary.

Cut the fat up and rub into the flour, add the sugar, salt, grated lemon rind and baking powder. Next beat the egg, add the lemon juice, add to the mixture with a little milk if necessary to make a stiff consistency. Roll out to desired thickness, cut into mounds or fancy shapes, bake on a greased tin for about 20 min, depending on the thickness.

Lemon Curd

3 large eggs, 7 oz sugar, $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz butter, 3 lemons.

Wash and dry the lemons, grate the rind finely and place in a double pan, with the strained lemon juice, butter and sugar. Stir over heat until the sugar has dissolved; remove from the heat and pour slowly on to the beaten eggs, stirring vigorously. Return the pan to the heat and keep the water just simmering; stir constantly until the mixture coats

the back of the spoon slightly. Pour into jars and cover.

Lemon Mousse

4 oz sugar, 2 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of cream, 2 lemons, $\frac{1}{4}$ oz gelatine, a few nuts for decoration, 4 tablespoonfuls of water.

Whisk the egg yolks, sugar, and the rind and juice of the lemons in a basin over hot water until thick and creamy. Allow to cool. Whip the cream slightly and fold into the mixture. Whip the whites of the eggs stiffly and fold into the mixture. Lastly stir in the gelatine (which has been dissolved in the water). Pour into fruit dishes, and when set, decorate with chopped nuts. To serve four people.

Lemon Peel Candied

3 lemons, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ pint of water.

Cut the lemons into six portions, and take away the pulp. Wash the rinds, cover with cold water, bring to the boil and simmer until the skins are tender. Boil the sugar and water for seven minutes, put in the lemon peel (which has been well drained), allow to cook for three minutes. Lift out the peel and place on a rack which has a sheet of wax paper on it; dry in a very slow oven. Any sugar syrup left over can be used for sweetening puddings and sauces.

—Until March . . .

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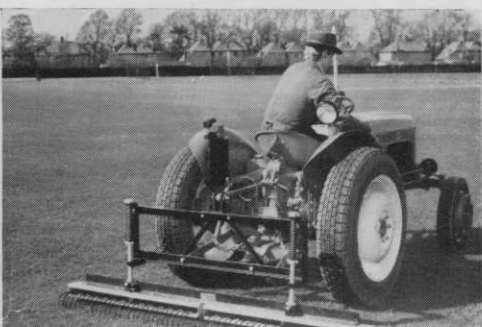
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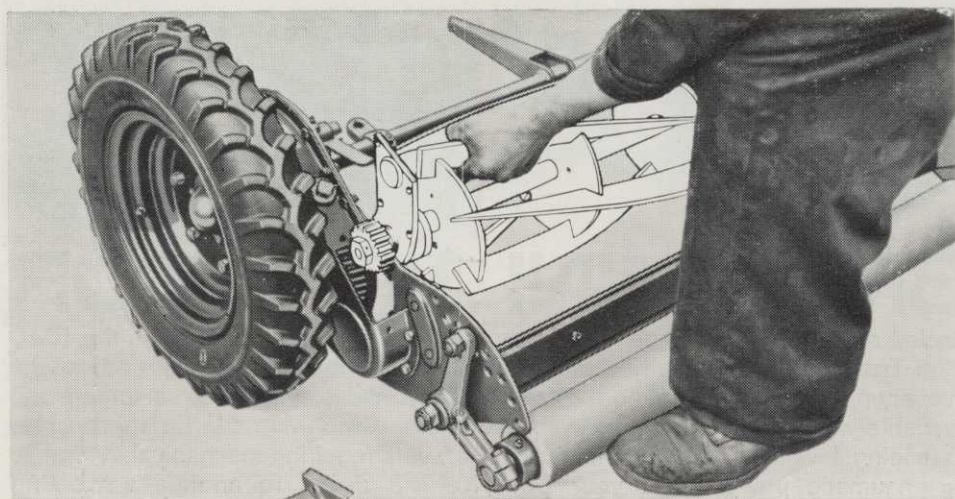
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