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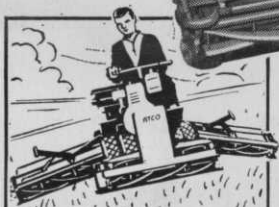
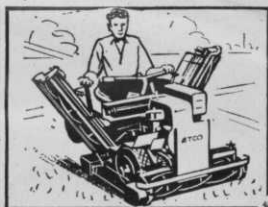
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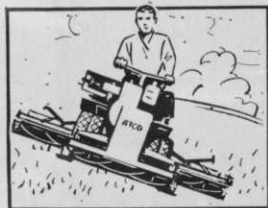
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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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No. 274 New Series

JANUARY 1968

WRONG LINE

*"I took up golf to develop self control,"
an especially poor golfer confided to his
caddie.*

*"You should have taken up caddying,
Mister," replied the exasperated youth.*

—GARY FOSTER.

JANUARY

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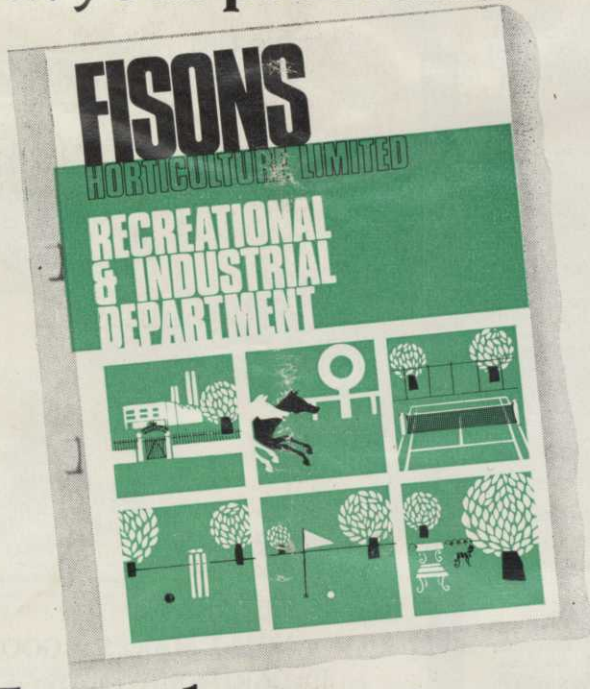
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The Abergele Golf Club in North Wales is busy installing itself on its new site in Gwrych Castle grounds. They hope to have nine holes ready for next year and the second nine the year after that. Their present nine-hole course is to be crossed by the new Abergele By-pass.

* * *

John Campbell, Links Supervisor at St Andrews, showed us over his new quarters last month. He is now installed between the first and eighteenth holes of the Jubilee Course with commodious sheds, his own generating plant and repair shops. The hotel on the site of the former Black Sheds is due to open next June, and bookings are already being taken. The old stationmaster's house is to become an inn.

* * *

New municipal courses have been agreed by the councils of Rotherham and Stevenage and work on the former scheme at least will start this year. Brentwood and Dartford are also extending existing nine holes to 18. Harlow, Waltham Cross and Epping Urban councils may also join together in a project for another local golf course.

* * *

The Minister overruled his inspectors finding on the proposed development of the Kings Norton Golf Course, Birmingham, for housing. The club have plans to move farther out of town. The new clubhouse at Carnoustie will cost £57,878. This is nearly three and a half thousand pounds more than the last estimate due to rises in labour costs and materials.

* * *

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GOLF COURSE?

by **B. C. CLAYTON**

Senior Advisory Officer, The Sports Turf Research Institute

THE architect and the greenkeeper would hardly answer this question in the same way. A course may be a good one so far as the layout goes, but a poor one from the point of view of the general condition and upkeep. I suppose most golfers would prefer to play on a course which is interesting and challenging in its design though badly maintained rather than on a dull course in tip-top condition. The ideal, of course, is a combination of both — good design with good maintenance.

Taking the good design for granted, and looking at the different courses all over Britain throughout the year, we at the Institute concerned mainly with the greenkeeping side of the picture, have noted the distinguishing features of the course which stands out above its fellows in this respect.

Unspotted Greens

Greens first of all, since these are the greenkeeper's shop window. Putting surfaces will be true and smooth, not too hard and yet not too soft (although there is, of course, some controversy at present as to how soft we should make our greens, some people preferring the very soft "Target Golf" conditions that are said to prevail in America). The greens will be completely free of weeds. So many otherwise good greens are spoilt by just occasional small plants here and there of plantains and daisies which could be removed in two or three minutes with a fork. The greens will have no blemishes caused by petrol or oil, or by careless application of materials which can scorch like selective weedkillers or mercurial fungicides. The hole will be neatly cut, and the condition of the turf around it will show that the pin has not been in the same place too often. Mowing, of course, will be well nigh perfect — clean, straight mower lines, no skinning and no biting into the surrounds.

On the immediate surround and on the approach, the turf will be as smooth and uniform as on the green itself, and will be mown with a motor mower fitted with box — no running up to the edge of the green with the gang mower, spraying the green liberally with grass clippings!

No piles of grass

Another mark of the good golf course is the absence of nasty little heaps of half-rotted grass clippings dotted about like miniature pyramids. These clippings are valuable and should be collected up straight away and put all together in some central heap away from sight (and smell) so that they can rot down and later on make a useful addition to the compost heaps.

Good compost, incidentally, helps to produce good greens, and the planned production of annual supplies of mature natural compost is another indication of the "super" course.

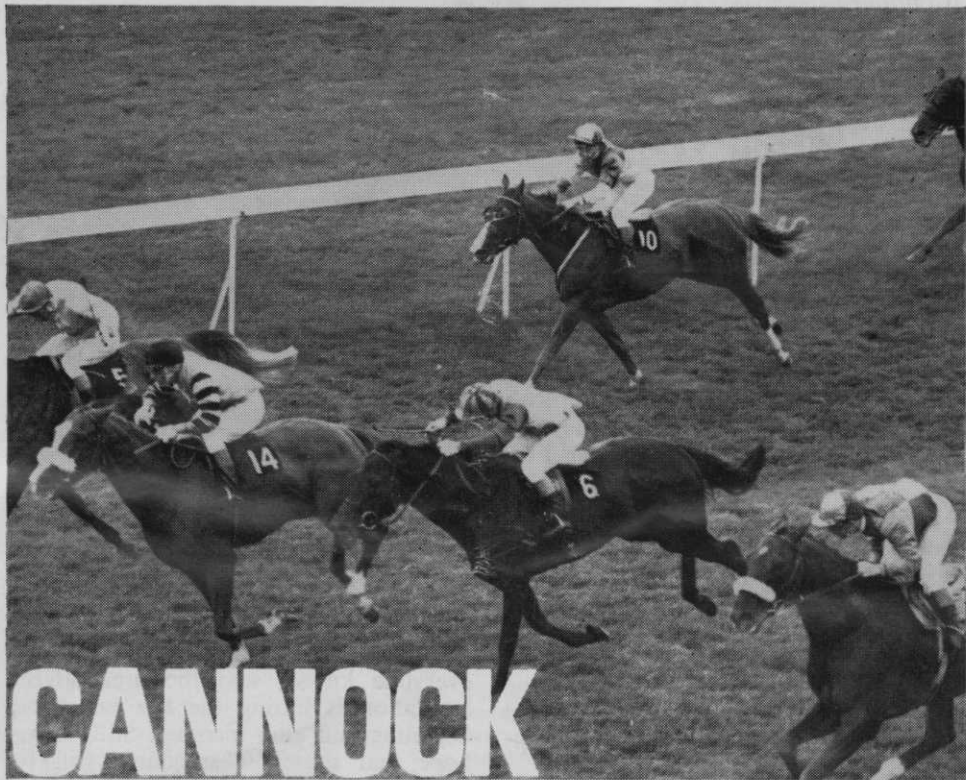
Neat bunkers

So is the condition of the bunkers — trim bunkers with a minimum of four inches clean non-binding sand. Air-cushion mowers and more appropriate grass and weedkillers are helping to take some of the sweat and toil out of bunker maintenance.

Usable temporary greens

Temporary greens to which play can be transferred when the main greens are not fit due to frost, excessive rain, or work which is being done to improve them (re-laying, forking, top dressing, etc.) are desirable on every hole where it is practicable to make them. On the good course sufficient work will have been done on these temporary greens to make their condition passable, so that it

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 4)

is really no great hardship for the members to have to use them occasionally.

Dry, firm, clean tees

Tees are a "give-away" on some courses — uneven, soft, weedy and smothered with wormcasts. On one of the "alpha plus" courses the turf on the tees will be practically as good as on the greens, especially on the first tee which is often something of a show-piece. Clippings will be boxed during mowing, surfaces will be dry and firm, and scars and divots promptly repaired.

No bad lies on fairways

No golfer likes to play a good shot from the tee and then walk up to find his ball lying in a little hollow on the fairway where the grass is about three inches long. These small pockets where the grass escapes the knives of the gang mower will seldom be found on good fairways. Nor will those ugly bumps which get skinned by the mowers.

Well-maintained fittings

The most obvious feature of the well-managed course is the condition of the golf fittings and furniture like tee markers, benches and shelters. On a good course they will be maintained in perfect repair and those that require it will be given a fresh coat of paint during the winter. Ball washers will be kept topped up with water; litter baskets will

be frequently emptied. These are simple things but typical of a course which is in good hands.

Well-ordered equipment

Less obvious to the casual visitor, but almost invariably found on a well-managed course, are equipment sheds stocked with clean, well-maintained machinery; tools with their unpainted parts bright and shiny, each in its allotted place; the sheds themselves dry and clean with uncluttered floors.

Sufficient staff

Before the angry letters flood in to the editor, I hasten to add that on these first-class golf courses there will also be an adequate staff and sufficient funds to provide the necessary materials and equipment. Labour is difficult now, as everyone knows, and the breathalyser legislation is hitting the bar sales and depleting golf club incomes. Still, let us hope that somehow standards will be preserved and that there will always be golf courses in this country which will continue to reflect the abilities of the British Golf Greenkeeper.

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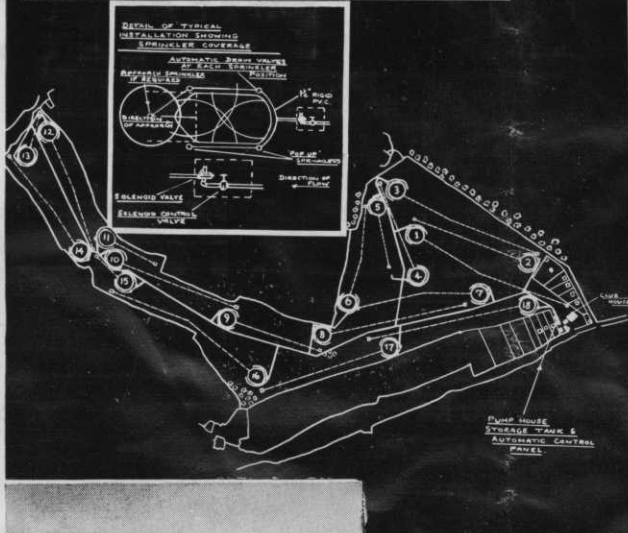
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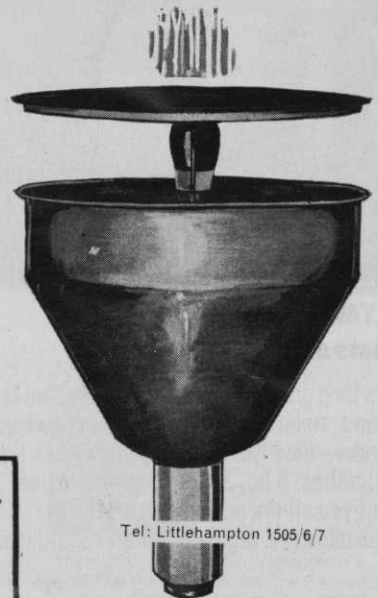


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Mr. S. T. McNeice,
Head Greenkeeper,
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EARLY METHODS OF GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

by **J. K. CAMPBELL**
Links Supervisor, St Andrews

ST ANDREWS connections with the game of golf go back a long way. It has been played there since 1553, and possibly earlier. There is a record of the Marquis of Montrose playing golf at St Andrews in 1628, buying two golf balls for tenpence on the day before his wedding, and returning a few days later for further supplies.

An interesting contribution made by St Andrews to sporting history is the official acknowledgment that rabbits are useful to golf. Around 1650 the city authorities permitted the archbishop to "plant and plenish rabbits" in certain parts of the links. The idea, apparently, was that the archbishop could have the meat in return for his rabbits grazing the course. Mowing machines were not yet invented, and any burrows or holes that were made merely provided further natural hazards. History draws a discreet veil over the performances and records of those original golfing rabbits, but seventy years later there is another reference to someone else being given the privilege of "planting black and white rabbits". The city authorities were, however, learning their lesson. This time there was a proviso that "the links were not to be spoiled where golf is used". The assumption is that these later rabbits were expected to keep off the fairways and spend their time grazing in the rough.

Later this concession passed to another farmer. It seems he had no

interest in golf, for he took no steps to keep his rabbits within the area allotted to him. As the result, the links became little more than a rabbit warren. By this time the city of St Andrews was in debt and the links — which had been public property — were sold, with the proviso that the public could still play there.

House of Lords banish rabbits

It was now around the beginning of the nineteenth century, and two clubs had come into existence. Their players complained that the rabbits were spoiling the course. It needed long and expensive legal action, which went as far as the House of Lords, to end the nuisance. Even today sheep and cattle grazing is quite common on a few courses in Britain where ancient laws are still in force which give certain farmers free grazing rights. Most of these courses are laid out on common land which belongs to the local community and where golf is permitted at a very cheap rate as a form of recreation.

The difficulties of turf upkeep under these circumstances can be appreciated — and the task of course maintenance must be pretty tough. It is the writer's experience that most of these particular courses are well kept in spite of ravages of the animals. This is surely a great tribute to the greenkeeper and his staff.

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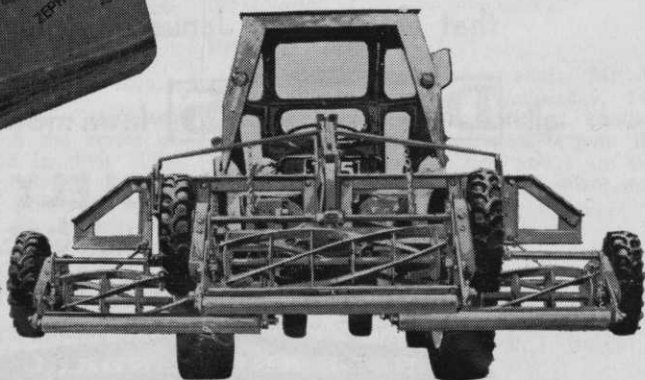
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- JANUARY** 9th North-West Section Lecture—Garrick Hotel, Manchester.
10th Southern Section Lecture—Stirling Castle, 6.30 p.m.
15th North-East Section Target Golf Competition—Gosforth, 7 p.m.
25th Sheffield Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, 7 p.m.
26th North-East Section—Annual Dance.
- FEBRUARY** 7th Northern Section Lecture—Horsforth Golf Club.
12th North-West Lecture—Garrick Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
14th Southern Section Lecture—Stirling Castle, 6.30 p.m.
- MARCH** 6th Northern Section Lecture—Horsforth Golf Club.
29th Southern Annual Dinner—Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Club.

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News



from the Sections

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D. ROBERTS
(West Bowling G.C.)

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

December Lecture

A LECTURE WAS HELD IN THE clubhouse of the Horsforth Golf Club on Wednesday, 6th December. Thirty members attended. The speaker was Mr R. V. Davies, B.Sc., of the Sports Turf Research Institute, who took for his subject "Identification of Grasses". In a most interesting and simple manner the speaker went through the methods of identifying a selection of grasses common to greenkeeping conditions. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr A. Robertshaw, vice-chairman, and seconded by Mr D. Ward, one of our younger members.

Lectures

Through the kindness of the Committee of the Horsforth Golf Club the series of winter lectures will be held in their clubhouse. Please note the following dates:—
7th February: Mr Howe of SISIS will speak on "Turf Management"; **6th March:** Mr A. Robson of Blakesley Reid Ltd. will speak on "Lawn Mower Grinding".

Grand National Sweep

Members will shortly be receiving books of tickets for our usual Grand National Sweep which is run primarily to boost the section's Benevolent Fund. It is hoped that all members will do their best to make it a success.

SOUTHERN

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

F. W. Ford
Hon Secretary:
68 Salcombe Gardens
Mill Hill, N.W.7

Happy New Year

ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN Section — compliments of the season and predictable weather to all members of the B.G.G.A.

December League

We were very fortunate indeed to have a visit from Mr R. L. Morris, senior turf horticulturist from Sevington Research Station, Ipswich. The subject he chose "The use of chemicals on turf" with particular emphasis on weed control, brought a great response from our members at question time. The questions varied from the type of sprayers to be used, to, how to get rid of moles and ball-pinching crows but our speaker from Fisons answered all the questions with patience and satisfaction. He did appear slightly perturbed, however, when he could not convince a certain member that by following instructions on the chemical container, a clean sweep could be made of pearl wart on fine turf. During his talk Mr Morris said that he could not stress enough how important it was to read and adhere to the manufacturers instructions before using all chemicals.

Taking the chair during the absence of the president, our chairman, Jock Glass, thanked Mr Morris for a very fine lecture and hoped that he would pay us another visit in the near future.

Annual Dinner

This will be at the Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Club on Friday, 29th March 1968 and again will be preceded by 18 holes of golf. Full details in the February issue of the *Journal*.

February Lecture

We will welcome once again Mr W. Finch of Maxicrop, on Wednesday, 14th February 1968, at the "Stirling Castle", London Wall, Moorgate, at 6.30 p.m. Bill Finch needs no introduction and I am sure that as in the past his talk will prove most valuable and interesting.

New Members

We welcome to the section the following new members and hope to see and meet them at all our meetings:—

J. Moffat, R. Hawes, and P. J. Stevens.

Journals

Any paid-up member who is not receiving his *Journal*, please let me know.

MIDLAND

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

By R. Goodwin
Hon. Secretary:
167 Birmingham Road
Lichfield, Staffs.

George Hart Retires

AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS AS head greenkeeper to the Gay-Hill Golf Club, George Hart, our chairman, has now retired.

George moved from his native Scotland, down to the Midlands in 1934, and it was not long after, in 1936, that he won the British Greenkeepers Annual Championship for the first time. He went on to win it again on two occasions. He helped to reform the section after the last war and through the years has been an automatic choice as our charman. He has also been chairman of the chairman. He has also been chairman of the Association.

In recognition of his loyal services, the Gay-Hill Club and members made a presentation to George, in the clubhouse. He also received a handsome gift from the Lady Members.

First assistant, Fred Bubb, now takes over as head greenkeeper, and we wish him every success for many years to come.

Apologies

On behalf of the section I wish to apologise to the "Moor-Hall" Golf Club, Sutton Coldfield, who in the November *Journal*, were mistakenly referred to as "Moor Park Golf Club.

I would also like to extend my apologies to Mr Haynes (president), Mr John Slater (vice-captain), and Mr Carr (Chairman, Green Committee).

Thank you gentlemen, and thank you "Moor-Hall" for making our autumn tournament a splendid occasion.

New Members

We welcome to the section, A. Jamieson who has moved down from Scotland to become head greenkeeper to the Leamington and County Golf Club and another Scottish greenkeeper, D. Hurst, assistant at Pype Hayes Golf Club.

SHEFFIELD

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

By H. Gillespie
63 Langsett Avenue
Sheffield, 6

THURSDAY, 30th NOVEMBER, AT 7.00 p.m. was the setting for the switch-on of the Sheffield Illuminations and also the occasion for the visit of Mr G. Vaughan of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., and assisted by Fearnco Ltd., screened two very interesting films, one of which was very new showing new towns in the making and how

careful and imaginative planning can ease the maintenance of roadside verges and landscaped open spaces, refreshments preceded question time and as usual Mr Vaughan came through with flying colours but collected some food for the Ipswich design team to digest.

The meeting wound up at 10.15 p.m. with a vote of thanks from Mr A. Shardlow; an interesting evening enjoyed by the 32 members present.

Lecture

Our next lecture will be on Thursday, 25th January 1968, at the Brunswick Hotel, Haymarket, 7.00 p.m., with Mr Bartle of the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley.

Appointments

Congratulations to J. Walker formerly of Wheatley Park Golf Club on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club and to W. Williamson who has joined the Hallamshire Golf Club Staff.

New Postal Coding

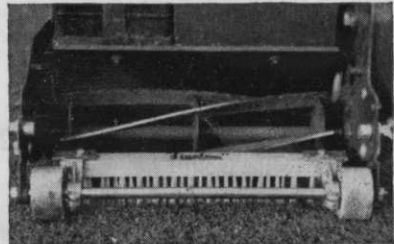
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FROM 47/6

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SEEDSMEN LTD.
EDINBURGH, 2

NORTH-WEST

Chairman:
F. HALSTEAD
(Bury Golf Club)

By H. M. Walsh

Hon. Secretary:
78 Hadfield Street,
Oldham, Lancs.

Lectures

ANOTHER ENTERTAINING AND instructional lecture was given by Mr Tootal of Massey Ferguson Ltd., with the help of films to our members, who continue to give good support. Afterwards a number of pertinent questions were asked and answered.

The next talk will be given by Mr Ratcliffe of Rigby Taylor Ltd., on Monday, 12th February 1968, at the Garrick Hotel, Manchester, at 7.30 p.m.

A Happy New Year to everybody.

NORTH-EAST

J. SIMPSON
(Ponteland G.C.)

By D. Earsman
Arcot Hall Cottage
Dudley
Newcastle on Tyne 3

Competition

MR ROBINSON, MANAGER OF THE John Jacobs Golf Centre, Gosforth Park, has very kindly arranged a Competition, Target Golf, for the North East Section, on Monday, 15th January, at 7 p.m. You are invited to come along and see what you can score on the Targets.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members: C. W. Maston, Class A; and W. R. Lawson, Class E.

FOR HIRE

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE, WITH or without operator, Ryan turf cutters, Ryan Ren-O-Thin rotorakes, Ryan Greensaire aerators, Sisis heavy-duty spikers, Howard rotavators, excavating and drainage machinery. Coswells, Agricultural and Sportsground Contractors, Crosston Road, Farington, Leyland, Lancs. Telephone: Leyland 21243.

WANTED

GANG MOWER REQUIRED FOR cutting grass aircraft runway — full details to Ballyfree Farms, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Telephone: Wicklow 5607.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GREENKEEPER REQUIRED FOR Midlands Golf Club. Salary £1,000 per annum. Pension Scheme will be initiated. Apply in writing, giving age and full particulars of previous employment, to:—Mr A. L. Richardson, 103 Broad Lane, Bradmore, Wolverhampton.

RESPONSIBLE GREENKEEPER required to take complete charge of new 18-hole golf course near Paris. Good wages, new furnished bungalow, car, etc., age of no importance. For further details apply:—George Wilson, Golf du Prieure, Sailly 78, Yvelines, France.

HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED by Huyton and Prescot Golf Club, Nr. Liverpool. Applications in writing stating age and experience should be addressed to: The Secretary, Huyton and Prescot Golf Club, Huyton Lane, Huyton, Liverpool.

TRADE NOTES

Recognising the importance of new product development in formulating future product and marketing policies, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd. of Ipswich, have appointed a Technical Director, Mr D. H. Fleming-Brown, who will join the executive board during January.

* * *

Further developments in the manufacture of the Flymo airborne mower are announced — new hood, easier starting, dustproofing. These are features of the 1968 Domestic and Professional models.

* * *

Thomas Green & Sons Ltd. announce that they have made two new appointments to their sales force. Mr D. Allington has been appointed Field Sales Manager, U.K. Mowing Equipment Division, and Mr G. D. Trainor has been appointed Sales Office Manager in charge of all internal sales administration, home and export.

Mrs Greenkeeper's Own Corner

with Ann Mawson

First of all may I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and all the very best for 1968. Well, we are round to party time again. The main thing is to make your home a really friendly meeting place, and your guests truly welcome, no matter how small or modest it may be. True hospitality and a welcome in the atmosphere will make it a success. Buffet suppers are by far the best. NOW FOR SOME RECIPES!

String Alongs

Thread 12 skewers with cocktail sausages, pieces of liver and kidney, pickling onions, mushrooms, small pieces of fillet steak and small rolls of bacon. Brush with vegetable oil and bake in a moderately hot oven 375° F or Regulo Mark 5 for about 20 minutes. Season when savouries are nearly cooked. To serve 12 people.

Shrimp Savouries

Line 12 patty tins with shortcrust pastry, prick the centres with a fork, brush well with beaten egg and bake in a hot oven 400° F or Regulo Mark 6 for 15 minutes. Allow to cool. Make the filling with 2 oz. of butter, 2 oz. of plain flour, 1 pint of milk and seasoning to taste, stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of prepared shrimps, pour into cool cases, serve hot or cold, and garnish with parsley. To serve 12 people.

Onion and Egg Flan

Make three 8-inch flan cases with shortcrust pastry. Take nine hard-boiled eggs, and slice the whites of three into each case, and sieve yolks on the top. Cook $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. coarsely grated onions in 4 oz. butter, do not brown, mix in 3 oz. of plain flour, and seasoning and stir in $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints of milk, simmer for 10 minutes. Pour into flan coat thickly with grated cheese and brown under the grill. To serve 12 people.

Swedish Sandwiches

These always look so attractive. You need both brown and white bread. Remove all crusts, cut into circles, hearts, rectangles, ovals and squares or any other shape you can think of. Butter thinly and cover with salmon, cream cheese, Blue Wensleydale, English Cheddar, Welsh Caerphilly, White Cheshire, Double Gloucester, Farmhouse cheese or sliced ham and decorate with pickled cucumber, halved, stoned olives, or sliced hard-boiled eggs. There are so many alternatives — prawns piped with cream cheese and shredded lemon rind, cream cheese with black olives, salami with tomato slices, sardine and lemon, mayonaise and salami with sliced gherkins, smoked salmon with hard-boiled eggs, smoked trout with green pepper, and assorted salami.

Have a lovely time.

— Until February . . .

FOR HIRE

SISIS AUTOTURFMAN Aerator for hire, £25 per week — Do it yourself. J. B. Burnell, 2 Clarence Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees.

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THE GRASS**

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