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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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### **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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