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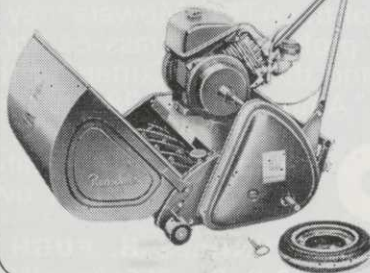
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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



FOUNDED 1912

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE
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GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME
OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF
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The Association is affiliated to the
English and Welsh Golf Unions.

No. 298 New Series

FEBRUARY 1970


FEBRUARY

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EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: 01-657 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 15/6 for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. LATEST COPY DATE: 8th of month prior to insertion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in whole or in part is prohibited. This Magazine shall not, without the written consent of the publishers first given, be re-sold, lent, hired out, or otherwise disposed of. Contributions and photographs of interest are invited.

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Hon. Secretary: P. C. French, 3 Skeet Hill Cottages, Daltons Road, Chelsfield, Orpington, Kent.

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

According to a report by the Southern Sports Council, Hampshire has a shortage of 45 9-hole courses. This calculation is based on an estimated need of 9 holes per 15,000 population and does not mean that all these new courses have to be of 9 holes.

★ ★ ★ ★

Farmers continue to play their part in meeting the need for new courses and Mr F. L. Coombs is proposing to turn 100 acres on the outskirts of South Molton in Devon into an 18-hole golf course.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Eastern Sports Council is also backing a new £140,000 scheme at Stockwood Park in Luton. Luton Corporation welcome the sport but say that they will have to get the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for this expenditure.

★ ★ ★ ★

Mr Willy Gill, President of the Golfing Union of Ireland, speaking at the Limerick Golf Club dinner, has called for the establishment of municipal golf courses throughout Ireland. Last year the Union had the support of the Irish Tourist Board and the Minister for Finance to make a municipal course in the Phoenix Park but the plans were "stymied" in the final stage.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Midland Sports Council is recommending a plan for a new course at Odeby near Leicester. The Council say they will be looking for considerable financial assistance for the £54,000 scheme.

★ ★ ★ ★

Dennis Gillery, Head Greenkeeper at Scarborough South Cliff Golf Course, is moving south to work for the Greater London Borough of Bromley. He will have charge of Bromley's two municipal courses, one of which was only opened last year. The Chairman of the Club's Green Committee presented him with an inscribed silver cigarette box on behalf of the members and described Mr Gillery as "a man for all seasons".



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HIDDEN DANGERS

by PETER KEELING

DANGER money for greenkeepers. That was the cute idea of Ken Buchanan, head greenkeeper at Brackenwood Municipal Course at Bebington, Cheshire.

While his idea did not earn much respect from the authorities, it certainly earned him a large slice of national newspaper publicity, and must have set people thinking.

Ken claimed: "I feel danger money should be paid on all municipal courses. Apart from being hit twice, once on the shoulder and once on the backside, I've had many near misses."

Assistant Tom Graham backed him up by saying: "It's no good waiting until someone is seriously injured."

Although the suggestion got to the committee stage on the local parks and amenities council it got short shrift.

But give Ken Buchanan full marks for effort . . . and it certainly opens up new vistas for the workers.

Perhaps top of the list could go the traffic wardens, that group of people beloved by all motorists. They could claim danger money for potential assault and battery every time they book a motorist for popping into a shop for a packet of cigarettes, conscience money for being regarded as social outcasts, and blood money for selling their souls to the devil.

One of the committeemen considering Ken Buchanan's case added another poor soul to the list when he said: "Should we, for instance, pay danger money to road sweepers who might be hit by traffic?"

Or those footballers who are always being sent off for retaliation. Should we give them danger money when an opponent's face gets in the way of their fist?

And then there are the babies in prams. Should they get some kind of award for the inconvenience they are put to by well meaning passers-by who can't resist scratching them under the

chin or giving them a sticky sweet. Perhaps all babies under the age of two should qualify for, what shall we call it . . . "tickling money".

Then, of course, there are those unfortunate people who find themselves outside supermarkets with goods they have not paid for. The magistrate learns later that they either did not know what came over them, or that they were in a daze. Perhaps we should pay them "Mystification money".

While concerned with our weird and wonderful systems of justice, what about the magistrates and judges! The type of pontificating old bore who clears his throat, looks over his glasses and asks: "Pray tell me, what is television."

Perhaps we could get some money together to buy these unlearned judges a set of encyclopaedias.

What about our friends in blue? Spare them a thought as they crouch behind walls, operating a radar trap on a 30-mile-an-hour stretch out in the country on a straight road that just invites a touch on the accelerator.

It breaks their hearts to set into motion the machinery that could cause a man to lose his driving licence. The stony face, sadistic manner and sarcastic voice is only a front to hide the distress they feel for the motorist whose livelihood depends on his car.

Let's give the speed cops a "heart-break allowance" to make up for the emotional disturbance they must feel.

And for all people who use a telephone regularly how about aggravation money". Perhaps a set scale of payments. For the man who breaks his wrist when slamming down the telephone too hard after vainly trying to get the operator for 25 minutes, I think £25 would be appropriate.

For the man who three times after midnight is pulled out of bed for wrong numbers, and stubs his toe on the end of the bed the last time, the GPO

should send a bunch of flowers round to his wife next morning.

And for the poor bloke whose wife or daughter seems to be never off the phone, give him money to buy an "anti-natter" device that disconnects the call after 15 minutes.

These are normal hazards and annoyances of life, but what about men who live in constant danger. On the edge of a precipice, so to speak. The door-to-door salesman who lives by his ability to get his foot in the door with the speed of a rocket boosting off from Cape Kennedy.

He deserves danger money to pay for corn plasters and physiotherapy treatment for the days when he finds housewives with reflexes as quick as his own.

Then there is the man who is admitted to the home, but during the course of his career suffers for it. I mean our old friend the insurance agent. He is let through the door, but at what cost. For he doesn't have to be just an insurance agent, but an electrician, a removal expert and a general do-it-yourself merchant.

Some housewives think that for a two shilling a week endowment policy the Man from the Prudential will be only too pleased to do all manner of jobs in the house just because they happened to be passing through.

One poor soul confessed to me: "I

get £25 a week for my insurance round, but I reckon each week I do local electrical and general contracting firms out of £80 worth of work. And the only thanks I get for it is that my customer will deign to be three weeks in arrears instead of four."

Life is full of hidden dangers, and these days nobody lives more in fear and trembling than the football referee. He has a thankless task, but too often he heaps trouble on his own head by inconsistency, and by trying to be the star of the match.

The hallmark of a good referee is to be firm, unobtrusive and alert to situations off the ball. Now crowd violence is building up to such an extent that the day of the referee as we know it may be numbered. There will have to be some more mechanical substitute not subject to normal human frailties.

Because I am sure that if current Football League referees had nothing more dangerous to do than dodge the occasional miscued golf ball they would feel that their lot was indeed a happy one.

Footnote: There are no prizes for anybody who, reading between the lines of this article, hazards a guess that I have lost my driving licence for speeding.

(With grateful acknowledgement to the Groundsmen.)

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"Keep on the Grass!"

"Keep on the Grass!" is the title of a new 16 mm colour film produced by Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies with the co-operation of Fisons Limited Cambridge Division.

The film spotlights the magnificent lawns surrounding the colleges at Cambridge and the more common grass areas where people live and play. It also shows the immaculate swards of Old Trafford, Wimbledon and St. Andrews and the smaller fine turf areas achieved by home gardeners.

"Keep on the Grass!" emphasises that, whatever the size of lawn, the principles of good turf management remain the same. It also shows what a properly implemented programme of lawn care can achieve.

The step-by-step guide begins on a small lawn in September with raking and scarifying followed by cross mowing. Next, as a comparison, sophisticated "professional" machines are seen performing the same tasks on public turf areas.

The half-hour film also explains the correct methods of spiking and slitting, plus the application of top dressing, where it emphasises the importance of levelling-off with lute or drag mat.

The control of moss, biggest headache in many lawns, is amply demonstrated on grass originally so infected that its owner had decided to dig up and start again. The film shows the right way to use Fisons Lawn Sand and how subsequent raking of dead material transformed the ground within a few months.

Correct feeding and proper watering is the theme of the spring and summer months featured in "Keep on the Grass!". The film shows more than 20 different types of weed which can appear in lawns and how they can best be destroyed with hormone weed killers. Here, emphasis is placed on correct handling of garden chemicals and the need for following product instructions meticulously.

The final section of the film deals with mowers and mowing. Camera close-ups show the right way to set blades and cylinder to obtain best results.

"Keep on the Grass!" should interest professional and amateur gardeners alike. It will be available for hire to groups and societies through Sound Services Film Library, Kingston Road, Merton Park, London, S.W.19.



JAN.	19th	North-West Section Lecture, Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, M/c.
JAN.	29th	Sheffield Section Lecture, Brunswick Hotel.
FEB.	4th	Southern Section Lecture.
FEB.	17th	North-West Section Lecture.
MAR.	4th	Southern Section Lecture.
MAR.	17th	North-West Section Lecture.
MAR.	20th	Southern Section Annual Dance — Shirley Park G.C.

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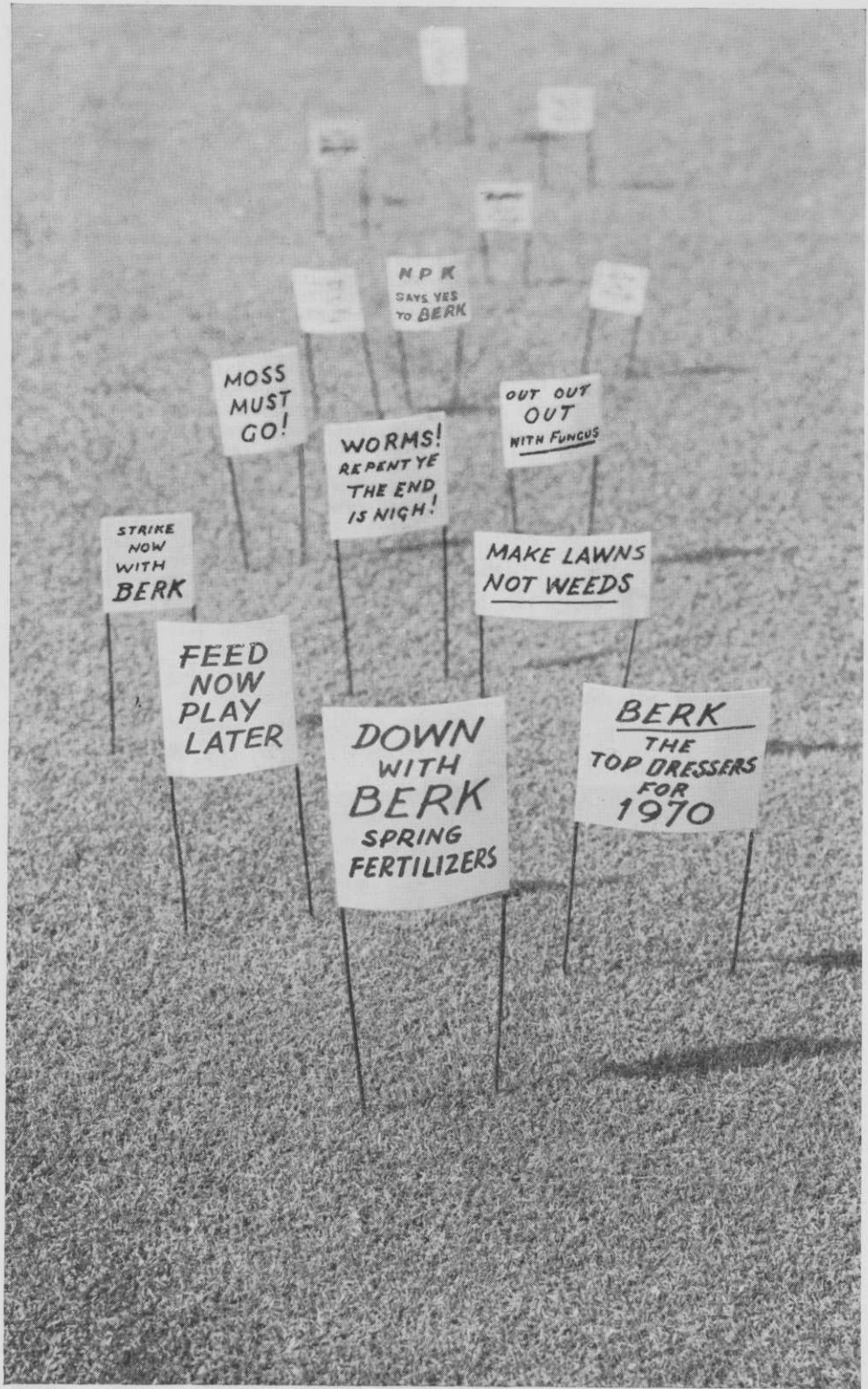
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News



from the Sections

NORTHERN

Chairman:
A. ROBERTSHAW

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

November Lecture

The first lecture of the winter session was held in the Clubhouse of the Horsforth Golf Club on Wednesday, 12th November. Thirty-five members attended to hear a talk by Mr Lloyd James of Flymo Ltd. The speaker, who illustrated his talk with films, took for his subject "Mowing for the Professional". In this he dealt with his firm's complete range of mowers including the ones for fine turf. A long and fast range of questions were fired at the speaker which he ably dealt with. Our thanks are due to Flymo for a most interesting evening and for the refreshment generously provided.

Subscriptions

There are still a large number of subscriptions which became due on 1st May, 1969, still outstanding. I would be much obliged if members who have not paid would now send them to save me the time and expense of sending the usual crop of reminders.

Willie Bartle

Willie Bartle, our former Treasurer, and better known to older members, has been in hospital and undergone a couple of operations. Members will be pleased to hear he is now recovering and I am sure will join me in wishing him a quick and complete return to good health.

W. Wilkinson

Willie Wilkinson, formerly Head Greenkeeper to the Shipley Golf Club, has taken

up a new appointment with the Old Fold Manor Golf Club. I am sure we will wish him well in his new position.

NORTH-EAST

By G. Jeffries

Chairman:
J. SIMPSON

Hon. Secretary:
55 Brackenfield Road,
Framwell Gate Moor, Durham.

Twenty-five members attended the lecture on Wednesday, 19th November, held in The Duke of Wellington Hotel.

Our Chairman introduced the members to Mr D. D. Wishart, B.Sc., of The Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley. The subject covered by Mr Wishart was on General Maintenance, and a very interesting and instructive talk it was, as I think all members present agreed. Mr Wishart covered every part of a golf course from tee to green. At the end of his lecture there were few questions to be asked.

Our Chairman thanked Mr Wishart for the splendid manner in which he had conducted the lecture. This was applauded by all.

We welcome to the Section the following new members: W. Jones, Durham City Golf Club, and J. E. Cairns of Ponteland Golf Club. May their association be long and happy.

There are quite a number of subscriptions outstanding and I should be pleased if members would let me have them as soon as possible or notify me if they no longer wish to belong in the Section.

SHEFFIELD

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

Hon. Secretary:
By H. Gillespie
63 Langsett Avenue
Sheffield, S6 4AA

Lectures

Thirty-three members gathered on Thursday, 27th November, to welcome Mr J. D. Joss of The Sports Turf Research Institute for his talk on "Drainage". He explained very fully the drainage requirements of a putting green and the different methods to be adopted; the standard of questions in question time was very good.

The number attending the lectures is very good and shows the appreciation of the high standard of the speakers. Please keep it up chaps; why not tell the others just what they are missing and encourage them to come along. We will gladly make them members if they aren't already. This goes for members of your Club's committee's as well, the more the merrier: if the present isn't big enough we will get one bigger.

This month, 29th January, we have Mr Hardisty of Norton Villiers Ltd. and his subject will be "Engine Construction and Maintenance". This should be very

interesting seeing we all use motorised equipment these days.

Make a date! January 29th at 7.15 p.m., The Brunswick Hotel.

I have received a letter from F. Frost who left Sickleholme for Bermuda earlier in 1969. He thanks all Sheffield greenkeepers for the good wishes I sent him on your behalf and says he is settling down well to the different techniques required in the Bermuda climate. The Mid-Ocean Club, where he is employed, is a very busy club requiring a large staff — a super-intendent, two English greenkeepers, horticulturist, mechanic, driver, foreman and twelve Portuguese greenkeepers — quite a staff.

New Members

We welcome the following new members: S. Lawler, Tankersley Park Golf Club; A. Wadkin, Lees Hall Golf Club; and M. Woodliff, Hallamshire Golf Club.

A Happy New Year to you all.

NORTH-WEST

By H. M. Walsh

Hon. Secretary:

Horrobin Cottage,
Old Links Golf Club,
Montserrat, Bolton, Lancs.

Chairman:
T. BRENNAN

Lectures

Our thanks to Mr Fairhurst of T. Forster & Sons (Hort.) Ltd., for his very interesting talk on "Wild Life on Golf Courses",

and the very excellent slides used to depict same, both in summer and winter. Thank you, sir.

Our December talk was to have been given by Mr Ratcliffe of Rigby Taylor Limited but unfortunately he was taken ill and was unable to attend. He wrote to me asking me to make his apologies to the members present and also to have a drink with him for the coming festive season. The members then drank Mr Ratcliffe's health and hoped he would make a speedy recovery and become his old self once again.

The January talk will be given by Mr Unwin of Joseph Metcalf Ltd., and the subject will be "Planting and Cultivation of Trees on Golf Courses". This is a subject in which most greenkeepers are interested so let us have a really good attendance once again. Date January 19th, 7.30 p.m., and the venue Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester.

The February talk will be given by Mr Whyatt of H. Pattison & Co., the date 17th February, 7.30 p.m., venue Brunswick Hotel.

The March talk will be given by G. Vaughan of Ransomes Sims & Jeffries on 17th March.

New Member

We are pleased to welcome to the section the following new member and hope his association will be a long and happy one: L. Cook, Pleasington Golf Club, Pleasington, Blackburn, Lancs.

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(Thorpe Hall)

By F. W. Ford
Hon. Secretary:
68 Salcombe Gardens
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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO MEMBERS
OF THE B.G.G.A. EVERYWHERE

December Lecture

A good gathering made the journey to the Stirling Castle to listen to a talk on "Organics" by Mr W. Finch, a subject in which he is second to none.

Very interestingly he talked about organic collides, trace elements and of course seaweed. Bill Finch is a great believer in seaweed, consequently his lectures are always worth listening to.

During a discussion which followed he offered a permanent solution for DRY SPOTS on golf greens, a treatment of Teepol followed by seaweed.

Good stuff this seaweed! Bill even takes a daily dose himself! He also told me later on at the bar that he considered his visit to the Southern Section as one of the highlights of the year.

February Lecture

On Wednesday, 4th February 1970, our speaker for the evening will be R. L. Morris, senior horticulturist (turf), from the Levington Research Station, Ipswich. His last visit to us was in 1967 and on that occasion he made a great impression on the members of the Southern Section.

New Members

A warm welcome from us all to A. J. Dennis of Broadstone and a sincere hope that he will be able to join in some of the section's activities in the coming year.

Subscriptions

Members who have not paid their subscriptions are reminded of Rule 7 (c). No person whose subscription is in arrears shall participate in any advantages or privileges of the association, vote on any question or compete for any prize.

Bereavement

Our thoughts go to Bert Dash whose wife died of heart trouble on Thursday, 4th December.

One of our oldest Association members and an ex-committee man, Bert also wrote to say he was pleased to say that she had passed away free from pain. On behalf of all his friends in the Southern Section I wrote back to him offering our sincere and deepest sympathy in his great loss.

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