

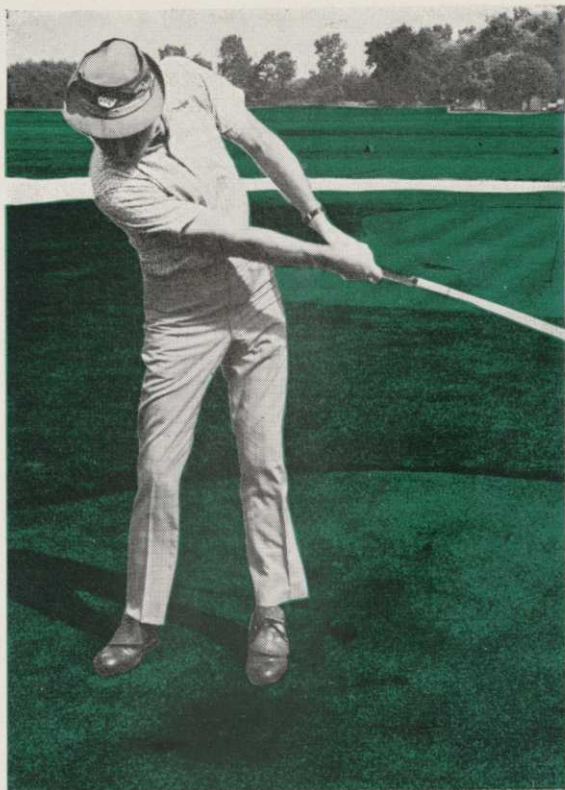
The British Golf Greenkeeper



APRIL 1972

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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

FOUNDED 1912

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GREENKEEPERS, GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME OF GOLF BY MEDIA PROMOTIONS LTD ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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APRIL 1972

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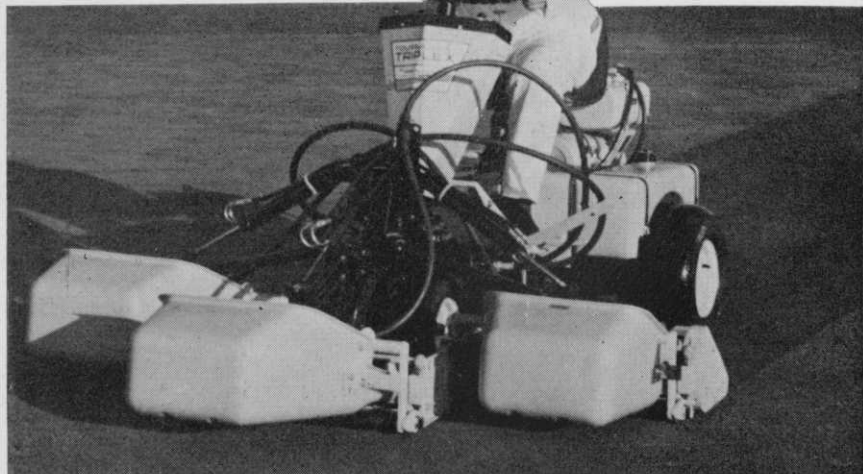
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Tee Shots

The Royal & Ancient Championship Committee has taken on a consultant agronomist to help it prepare and repair links over which its championships are played. J. H. Arthur, B.Sc., is the man. A Reading University graduate, he was recently with Twyford's, the seeds firm, and much less recently an advisory officer with the Sports Turf Research Institute. He is also consultant to the golf architects' firm of Cotton (CK), Pennick, Lawrie & Partners. Mr. Lawrie is Chairman of the Championship Committee.

Mr Lawrie has not, as far as we know, any present connections with a research or experimental establishment but, at 51, he will obviously have considerable experience behind him. It is said that he will be co-operating with head greenkeepers.

This will be of interest to members of the British and Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association, especially those who have borne the brunt of championship preparations in the past generally with a 4 or 5 a.m. start for a week or more.

Now men with the greatest experience in getting important golf courses ready for big events will have the benefit of outside advice. Let us hope it will be more helpful than some of the suggestions made in the past, so that greenkeepers can co-operate with Mr. Arthur.

It is curious that the Royal & Ancient has only done one thing for greenkeepers in the past. This was the establishment in 1929 of the Bingley Research Station with the help of the four national golf unions. Over forty years later, the greenkeepers' associations still support that foundation. The R & A appears to be more steeped in modern than ancient history.

The Editor

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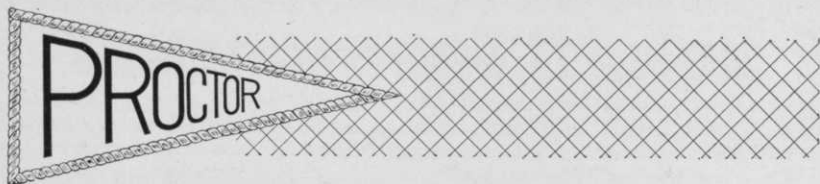
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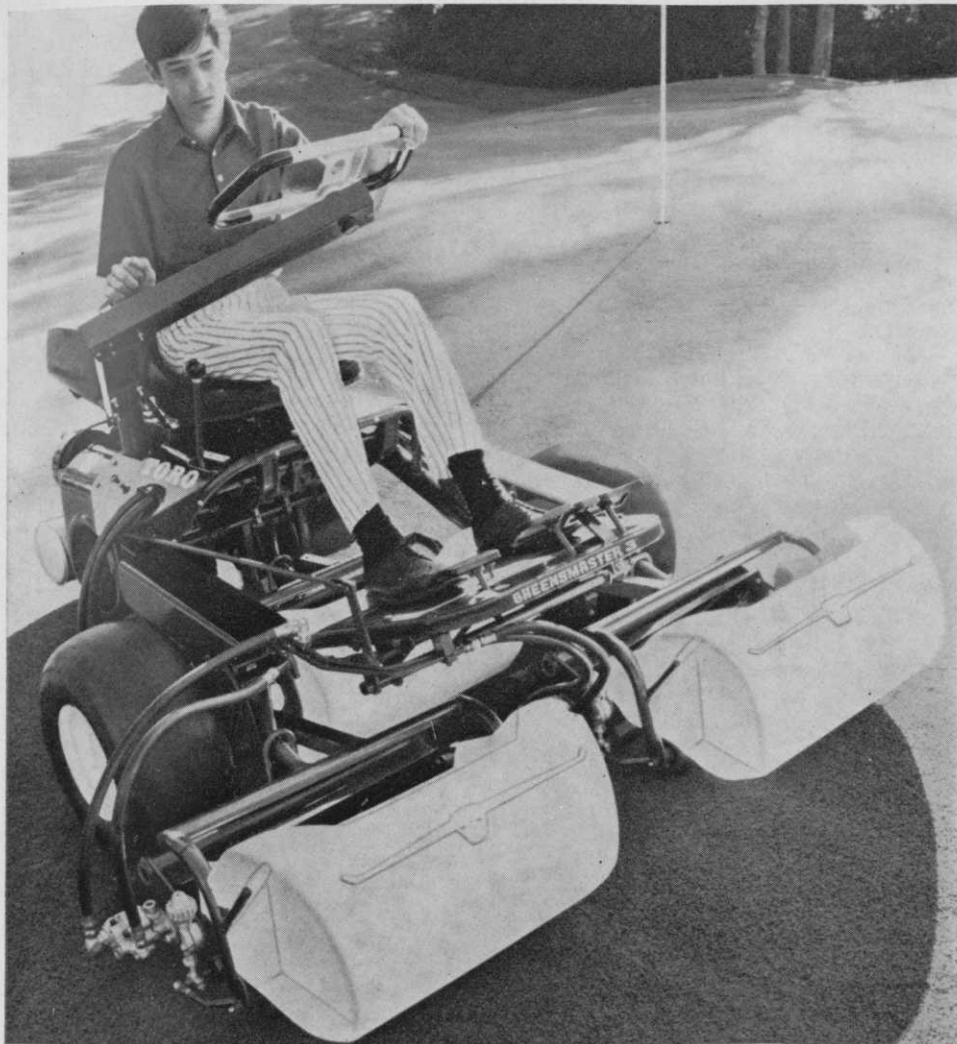
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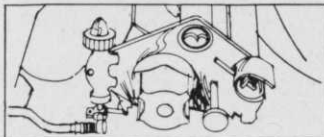
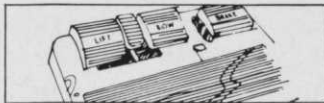
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For further information, please contact
 FLYMO Ltd. (distributors), Greycaine Road, Watford, Herts., England.

Correspondence

19 Vernon Drive,
Stanmore, Middlesex
24th January, 1972

Dear Mr. Hawtree,

In reply to Mr. Jones letter I would like to point out that I do express an opinion that soft greens, thatch, black slime and Fusarium are accentuated by the use of a pop-up system and this is the reason:—

When greens were made in this Country we, in our draining system, allowed for a certain amount of water retention in the green but the modern method 'American' style is as enclosed and *you will see that* in the U.S.A. they have found part of the answer to automatic sprinklers. They have had these sprinklers for longer than we have, which has given them time to evolve a solution and we have to learn from whoever we can.

My opinion, for what it is worth, is that we have jumped into the deep end with

pop-ups before we know too much about them. This is the reason that I appealed for knowledge from those who have had experience over several years but it would seem that those who could help have not taken up their pens; I only wish they would for the benefit of us all. I did have a personal letter from one greenkeeper which was very enlightening, but unfortunately was not for publication. We are now having pop-ups installed against my wishes, so I hope to visit as many courses who have pop-ups as possible to learn how to use them in the best possible way and still have good greens, so we should be delighted to hear from those who are fortunate enough to have this most satisfactory combination of pop-ups and good greens. May I appeal again for those who can to flood Mr. Hawtree with information for the benefit of us all.

Yours truly,
C. A. Moore.

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New French Sports Expo

An educational and community sports equipment exhibition SPORTEXPO, will be held from the 27th September to the 1st October, 1972, in the new Bordeaux exhibition centre (France) under the high patronage of Monsieur Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Prime Minister, and Monsieur Joseph Comiti, Secretary of State for Youth, Sports and Recreational activities. Sporting equipment from all over the world will be on display and there will be a vast panorama of constructions and materials used for the development of sports and recreational activities. It should be observed that this is the first time that an exhibition of this kind will be held in France.

Super Sucker

Details of the Super Sucker machine referred to in the January issue are obtainable from:—

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Company,
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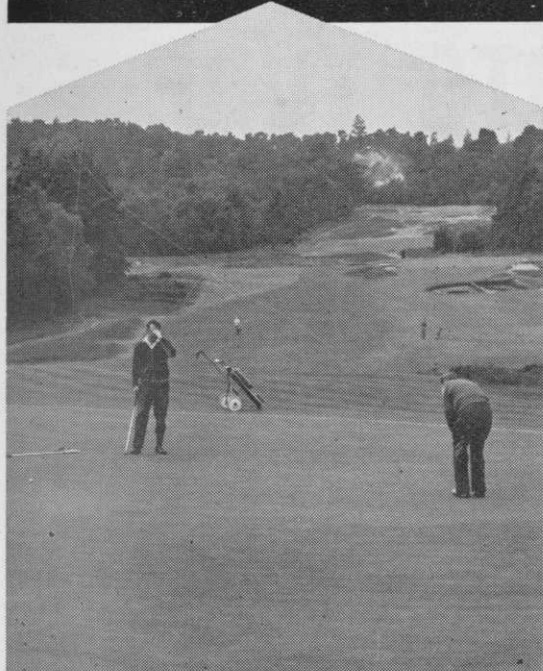
Golf, cricket, bowls, tennis, whatever the game, Suttons can supply the right mixture of grass seeds.

But sometimes it is necessary to devise prescriptions to meet special conditions. And sometimes problems arise in turf management which call for specialist advice.

This is where Suttons unique knowledge comes in, knowledge gained by years of planting, growing, blending and experimenting. Our team of experts, headed by Bob Palin, will be delighted to help you.

Send today for Suttons 1972 catalogue for the full story, as well as lots of useful information and ideas. This is free and gives you a ready guide to the best range of grass seeds and turf dressings on the market. It is also a sound basis for your own turf care ideas.

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Particularly well-known is the range of compounds and specialised products for fine turf including Organic Lawn, Winterfeed and Greenex fertilisers, Turfex to control weeds and moss, Mercurex mercurised turf sand, etc. For fairways and other gang mown areas four GK Granular compounds are available. Fusarium Specific turf fungicide, Chlordane liquid worm killer, Concentrated Worm Killer (Rotenone powder) and Texturf turf conditioner are worthy of note. Cannock grass seed mixtures enjoy a high reputation and only the most suitable varieties are used.

And fertilisers from Suttons too

The 1972 catalogue from Suttons Seeds Limited covers the full range of supplies likely to interest the greenkeepers, together with pages giving a Calendar of Turf Culture and a centre spread showing the rates for given areas applicable to all Suttons seeds and dressings.

Greensward still leads the cavalcade. The mixture has 1.05% iron as well as a good organic content. One ton costs £4.20 per cwt, 2 ozs per square yard (5 cwt per acre) are recommended as a basic Spring dressing.

For soils deficient in organic matter, a new dressing 'Greensward' and 'Humus' has been produced for £3.15 per cwt though the recommended rate of application is 4-8 ozs per square yard.

The Suttons Organic Turf Dressing is prepared for fine turf surfaces at £3.65 per cwt. Its high organic content contrasts with 'Foursward' which Suttons have developed for feeding large areas. Sportsground Fertiliser may be used where natural organic matter is low. These two cost £3.50 and £3.00 respectively, but both can be applied at 2 ozs per square yard.

Autumn is still a long way off but Suttons Autumn Turf Fertiliser will supply the sward's needs after a trying season. Low in nitrogen, iron is still included for healthy grass.

For those with a weed problem, 'Cleanturf' combines fertiliser with two powerful selective weedkillers. This material costs £4.35 per cwt at the ton rate on which too, all the preceding prices are based.

AND FERTILISER ON TEE TOO

J. Perris, B.Sc., Advisory Officer, Sports Turf Research Institute

Introduction

The primary aim in maintaining a tee should be to provide a firm dry surface, giving a level stance at all times of the year. To achieve this ideal condition sound construction is the first essential but good management will be the next step to success. Work on the tee should not be confined to fairly regular mowing with an occasional rest when conditions get really bad, but rather as all the year round attention along the following lines.

Spring

Spring is usually the time of year when the summer tees are first used, when we hope to have seen the last of the bad weather and the winter tees. It is at this time, however, that many people make their first mistake. Changing from winter to summer tees should not be dictated by the date on the calendar but rather by the state of the weather, growth, etc. Impatience at this time can often ruin a good tee for the remainder of the summer.

When winter tees are eventually brought out of play do not forget about them until next winter, hoping they will grass over to some extent, but instead carry out a proper programme of renovating the thin, bare and often muddy patches. Intensive solid or slit tine spiking will be the first essential to relieve the compaction often found as a

result of constant play under wet conditions. This intensive spiking will also assist the formation of a seedbed tilth. Any levelling work required should then be undertaken using sandy soil if extra material is necessary to fill in depressions, etc. When a suitably tilled level seedbed has been prepared a dressing with a well balanced granular fertiliser is useful prior to sowing a fine seeds mixture. If a dry spell follows, watering may be necessary to assist germination and establishment.

A well-balanced fertiliser dressing should also be given to the summer tees as soon as sustained spring growth is evident. Bumpy or bare ground that may remain should be given a dressing with sandy compost or sown as appropriate. When growth becomes stronger, gradually reduce the height of cut from the winter topping height of about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the summer height of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Do not forget to box off clippings at all times. Late spring may also be an appropriate time to carry out some weed control work.

Summer

Continue with weed control work if required, allowing some 5-6 weeks to elapse between sprayings. About mid-summer growth may fade from the spring fertiliser dressing hence another fertiliser application may be required.

At this time play will no doubt be extremely heavy and therefore the need to move the tee markers frequently will be of paramount importance. Courses with large teeing areas will no doubt be counting their blessings at this time. Nevertheless, divot marks will occur no matter how big the tees and time should be found occasionally to fill in divot marks with sandy compost containing some fine grass seed. If moisture is present either due to artificial or natural precipitation, the inclusion of grass seed is extremely helpful and advantageous.

The winter tees should still not be forgotten at this time. Make sure that they receive regular mowing as well as weedkilling work, etc. if the need exists.

Autumn

The urgent need to complete maintenance tasks on the greens often means that work on the tees is delayed until the late autumn. Sanding and de-worming of the winter tees should, however, perhaps be exceptions to this practice in order to get them into a reasonable condition in good time.

Renovation of the worn summer areas will be very important when the main work on the tees is eventually started. In a similar manner to that discussed for renovating the winter tees intensive spiking and levelling work will be essential. Turfing can then be carried out to achieve a grass cover on the bare areas although there is no reason why seeding could not be undertaken if renovation procedures can be completed in the early autumn. Keep topping the grass as growth continues and take earthworm control measures if necessary.

Winter

Occasional applications of a gritty, preferably lime-free sand may be necessary to maintain a firm dry surface. If reasonably open weather and suitable ground conditions allow, further solid or slit tine aeration work would also be beneficial.

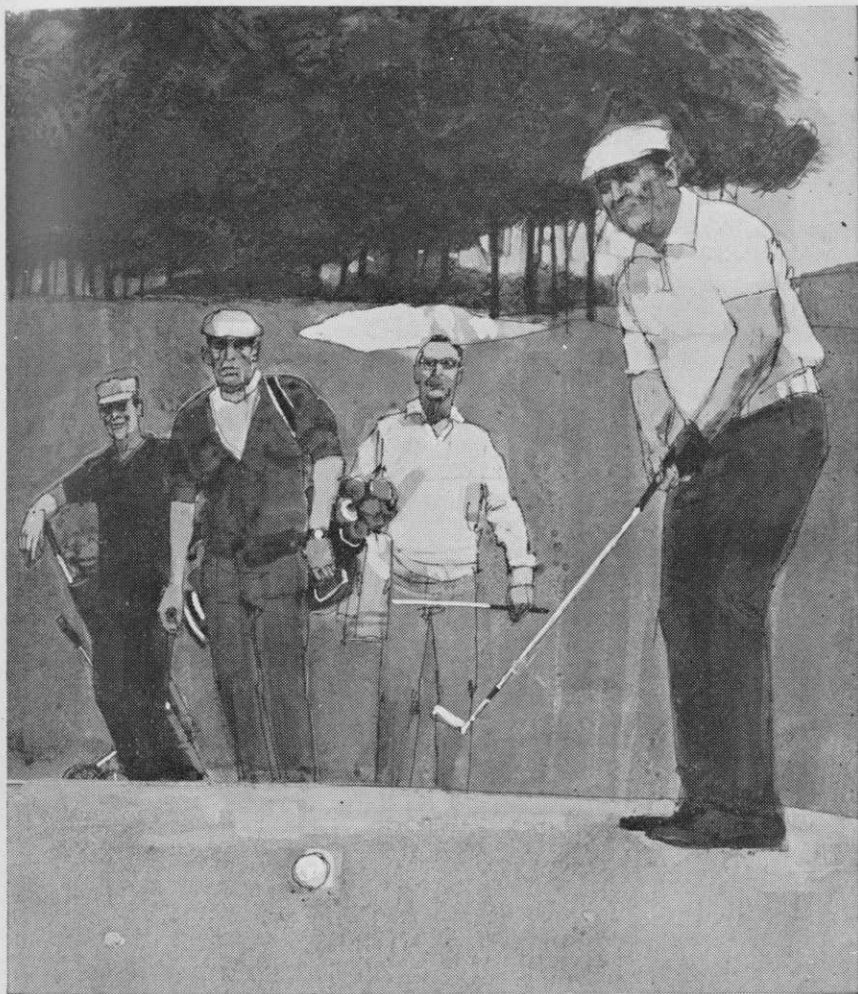
Other points

Traffic on to and off tees can often cause unsightly muddy tracks particularly in the winter months. Means should be devised, therefore, to re-route traffic occasionally and so avoid continuous wear in any one spot.

On very wet and/or heavily used courses artificial teeing surfaces such as rubber mats are often used with some success in the winter. Again it will be important to make sure that these artificial surfaces and surrounding areas are maintained properly and not allowed to develop into rubber islands in a sea of mud.

Luck or labour

On some courses the natural soil type and indigenous grasses are such that teeing areas require very little attention and more or less look after themselves. For the vast majority, however, presentation of a good tee surface involves a great deal of time and hard work spread throughout the whole year.



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Greenkeeper 2

Seaweed I

I refer to your appeal on page 3 of your January 1972 issue for comments from anyone who has used the soil conditioner and fertiliser, S.M.3.

Dear Sir,

This Company operates a number of separate divisions including one concerned with golf course construction, namely V.E.B. Golf Course Construction and one on the establishment of vegetation on sterile and poor soils, namely V.E.B. Landscape Reclamation Ltd. S.M.3 has been widely used primarily by the latter Company for the vegetating of soils with a poor structure but our experience leads us to believe that it could well be useful on the areas suggested by you, that is, sports grounds on clay soils. It is our experience that the material appears to be effective by promoting vigorous growth not only of the grass sward but primarily of soil micro organisms. Thus soils of poor structure and low organic content are encouraged to develop into suitable sward bearing media. The fertiliser is not only responsible for soil structure improvement primarily through the growth of micro organisms but also supplies a full range of trace element fertilisers for green plant growth.

As mentioned above, this group's experience with this material has chiefly been through the land reclamation division. However, our golf course construction company is always interested in utilising new substances where they are of benefit and should a suitable occasion occur in the future, no doubt this material will be employed. Should such an occasion occur, I shall write to you again describing our experiences.

Yours faithfully,

T. F. Risely.

Seaweed II

George Wilson, from Paris, has also sent us a pamphlet describing the advantages of French seaweed. The 'algues marines' are however said to improve plant health to such an extent that fungicides and insecticides often become superfluous. It gets better and better. Otherwise the French stuff does everything you would expect of a British seaweed but will set you back about 12 francs for a 1 cwt or £10 for a cubic metre.

Seaweed III

If you want to know all about S.M.3, the English product, write to Mr. W. Finch.

Seaweed IV

We still do not seem to have any FACTS or EXPERIENCE about this stuff. Why not? But this is what Maxicrop Limited of Holdenby, Northampton, have to say about their product. They are clearly quite confident of the benefits.

'Maxicrop Liquefied Seaweed is excellent for Golf Greens. The growth promoting hormones present encourage an extensive root system which will help the grass stay green during dry weather by reaching the moisture at a lower soil level.

'One of the main advantages is that Maxicrop does not scorch so can be used as a tonic when a quick pick-me-up is necessary. This is particularly useful for matches and competitions. As it is immediately absorbed, it can be applied at any time during the season with no interruption of play, and is compatible with the usual selective weed-killers. It also gives a degree of resistance to fungal diseases.

'Maxicrop plus 17% Nitrogen can be used to encourage a newly sown sward.

'Maxicrop is not extracted from seaweed—it is seaweed broken down by a special hydrolytic process. All the trace elements and other properties of seaweed are, therefore, retained. Alginic acid, which is extracted from seaweed for various medicinal uses and for human food, is also present and has been recognised for many years as a valuable soil conditioner. Not only does it help to break up clay soils, but also helps to bind together light soils so that they hold more moisture and more nutrients.

Maxicrop is an organic substance. It provides a good medium in which soil bacteria

can flourish. When these are prolific they also maintain a good soil structure and release nutrients already present so that they are available to the plant.

'Very limy soils can lock up trace elements such as Iron, Magnesium and Manganese, causing severe chlorosis. Maxicrop, complexed with 1% Iron, can usually clear up these troubles, but for very severe cases use Maxicrop complexed with Iron, Magnesium and Manganese. These elements are in chelated form and are immediately available to the plant. Any other element can be chelated with Maxicrop to order. The other elements present in Maxicrop ensure a correct mineral balance.'

Finally a list of 'contents' which varies from batch to batch but does not seem to have much missing.

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Golf greenkeeping

A need for training and research in 1972

By The Editor

The state of greenkeeping in Britain is out of step with the development of golf. Millions of pounds are being spent on new courses, on machines to maintain them, on prize money, on clubs and balls—a few thousand are spent on research and a few hundred on training greenkeepers. Golf course maintenance risks a decline.

Firstly, from 1946 to 1959, newcomers to greenkeeping were rare. Men who should now be passing on experience are too few and their time is over-burdened because staffs are small. But there is still no other way in which the traditions of good greenkeeper practice can be learnt.

Secondly, this gap coincides with a sharp increase of players and of golf courses. New courses inevitably lag four or five years behind demand. Existing courses, built to older standards, are overplayed and new ones cannot find fully trained men to look after them. The rate of new course construction would represent a need for 25% more head greenkeepers in 10 years time.

Thirdly, many clubs tend to economise on staff hoping that new machinery will redress the balance. There is consequently no time for finesse and many machines actually produce problems which only more machines can help to cure.

Lastly, the job is not always rewarding financially and working conditions are often poor. There is no reason to hope that the attractions of an outdoor life will alone encourage recruitment.

The British and Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Associations have done what they can to improve wages, status and training but their funds come entirely from members' subscriptions and only just cope with their present level of activities. The B.G.G.A. publishes a monthly magazine, arranges lectures in the winter and collaborates in an apprenticeship scheme which has produced 109 trained men since it started five years ago. 35 more are now apprenticed.

This scheme is hampered by lack of educational facilities. Some technical colleges run day release courses but the only specialist training centre is The Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley founded by the four national golf unions in 1929. The S.T.R.I. is primarily a research and advisory body but manages to run five 5-day courses each year, always over subscribed. A Government grant supplements subscriptions, donations and income from advisory services, but the surplus for research is small. Much present work, for example, concerns new grass strains because this attracts grants. Urgent problems of soil structure and drainage have to wait. A rough calculation suggests that the golf industry's investment in research and training is 0.00065%.

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There are three urgent needs:—

- 1 The encouragement of recruits to greenkeeping.
- 2 More and better education of apprentices.
- 3 More research into the problems of golf course construction and maintenance.

The rational way to satisfy these needs is to build on the framework which exists.

Recruitment

The National Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship now lives on its £3 Registration Fees and a number of voluntary workers. The scheme needs a full time paid secretary to promote development, supervise apprenticeships and encourage golf clubs to engage apprentices and improve wages and working conditions.

Training

Apprentices are scattered all over the country often remote from urban centres where technical colleges may not in any case give suitable instruction. Background education is, therefore, absent or elementary. A correspondence course would overcome the difficulties of geography and dearth of suitable instructors. At the same time, the 5-day courses at Bingley should be extended to a month or more and the greenkeepers' magazine should be expanded and enabled to commission technical articles and provide instruction for all grades.

Research

The staff at the S.T.R.I. must be expanded to provide at least two more Research Officers free of advisory duties and concentrating on areas of research now neglected.

The appointments and investments necessary to implement these proposals would cost about £2,000 immediately and £9,000 annually thereafter. Unless those engaged in golf by way of trade are prepared to cover this outlay, we can only look to organisations representing golfers themselves to collect it as part of annual subscriptions. On a comfortable minimum of 500,000 golfers accountable, it represents 2p per head to be earmarked for investment *in the future of the game*.

Postscript

The following is fairly typical of a number of letters I receive:

'Dear Sir,

I am at the moment employed at the Golf Club (in Lancashire) as Assistant Head Greenkeeper. I have been a greenkeeper for 7 years during which time I have been to Bingley for a week and attended a course at Wigan in connection with the National Institute of Groundsmanship. Later this year I passed the 3rd grade exam, which I had prepared for at Wigan. However, this covers a large amount of sports and does not specialise in any single game such as golf.

My position is this. I am conscious of wasting time and learning little or nothing in more practical experience. Please could you, therefore, advise me for I would be very grateful for any encouragement you could give me in regard to my future in green-keeping.

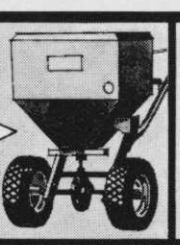
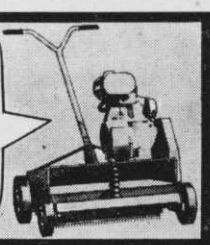
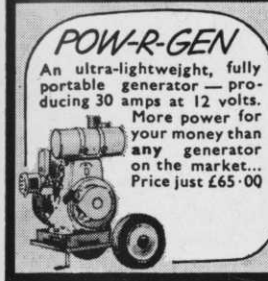
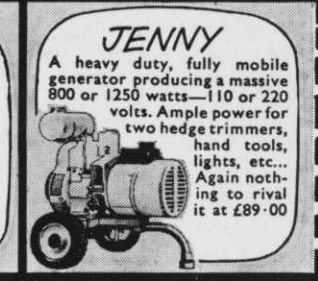
Yours sincerely,
(signed).

P.S. My age is 23.'

It is hardly possible to give this young man much encouragement at present. The proposals outlined above would at least enable him to gain the specialised knowledge he is seeking. Some golf course would be glad of it one day.

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DIAMOND JUBILEE DINNER

The Association will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary at the Annual Tournament in August.

The Executive Committee has decided to mark the occasion by a dinner to be held in the Baronial Hall of the Blackpool Tower on Wednesday, 16th August, at 7.30 p.m., for guests, members and their ladies.

Early application is advised to ensure reservations.

The cost for the dinner will be £1.75 per head. Please apply early for tickets and enclose your remittance.

This is a unique occasion in the history of the Association, and indeed of golf. Don't miss it.

Hon. Secretary,
C. H. DIX.

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News



from the Sections

Special occasions

- APRIL 12th Southern Section Trip to Ransomes.
18th South Coast Section Spring Tournament.
18th Welsh Section Spring Tournament.
20th North East Section Spring Tournament.
- MAY 3rd Southern Section Spring Tournament.
18th North West Section Spring Tournament & A.G.M.
23rd Midland Section Spring Tournament.
- JUNE 7th East Midland Section Spring Tournament.
21st Southern Section A.G.M.—Hendon Golf Club.

NORTH-EAST

Chairman:
MR. J. SIMPSON

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

Spring tournament

The starting time for the Spring Tournament which takes place on Thursday, 20th April 1972, at the Gosforth Golf Club, will now be 12.30 p.m., and not 1 p.m. as stated in the last issue of the journal.

April 1972

NORTH-WEST

Chairman:
J. GILLET,
(St Anne's
Old Links)

By H. M. Walsh
Hon. Secretary:
Horrobin Cottage,
Old Links Golf Club,
Montserrat, Bolton,
Lancs.

Lectures

Our sincere thanks to Mr. G. K. Smyth of May & Baker Ltd., for the very interesting talk he gave to our members on the various fungicides used in the maintenance of fine turf, and on selective weedkillers and when and how to use same. Our thanks also to Mr. P. Wyatt of H. Pattissons & Co., for showing us some of the latest equipment used on the modern golf course, with some very useful equipment which is still in the trial period, but which bodes very well for the future. Thank you once again, gentlemen.

Spring tournament

As stated in the last issue of the journal our Spring Tournament will be held over the Hillside Golf Club course, Hastings Road, Southport, on Thursday, 18th May, and will as usual be a 27 hole competition, but due to a Club Rule the competition this year will be 18 in the morning and 9 in the afternoon. An 18 hole competition for Honorary Members and visitors will be held in the afternoon. The A.G.M. will be held in the evening following the prize giving. So once again, gentlemen, will you please arrive as soon as possible for a 9 a.m. tee off, and, also again please let me have your entries as soon as you can so that arrangements for the catering can be put in hand.

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to D. S. Duggan of the Woolton Golf Club, Liverpool, and hope his association with the Section will be a happy one.

NORTHERN

President:
W. MOUNTAIN

By Walter Heeles
Hon. Secretary:
7 Terntergate Close,
Knaresborough,
York, HG5 9BJ
Tel: Knaresborough 3851

Annual social

The Annual Social of the Section was held at the Horsforth Golf Club on 15th December, 1971. Our thanks are due to the Committee of the Golf Club for the use of the Club for the evening. Our principal guests were the Hon. Secretary and the Captain of the Club.

Many thanks to Ron and his wife for the excellent meal.

Lectures

In January we had a lecture on Pop Up Sprinklers by Farrods of Ripon. This was put to the members very ably by Jeff Wilkins. In February a lecture on Soil and Drainage was given by Mr. Fred Roberts of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Annual spring tournament

The Annual Spring Tournament will be held at the Halifax West End Golf Club in May. Date and times will be forwarded to the members nearer the time.

Mr. J. Parker

Mr. J. Parker, who has been presented with a cheque for £50, wishes to express his thanks to all members who contributed to this gift.

WELSH

Chairman:
M. GEDDES

By J. Rees
Hon. Secretary:
Neath Golf Club,
Cadoxten, Neath, Glamorgan

Spring meeting

Our Spring Tournament will be held at Brynhill Golf Club on Tuesday, 18th April, 1972. Members are respectfully reminded that I must have their entries on or before 16th April, so that I can let the Steward know how many to cater for.

Subscriptions

There are still subs outstanding and it would be appreciated very much if members who have not paid their dues would do so at their earliest convenience to Mr. M. Geddes, 23 Fenton Place, Porthcawl.

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that I have to announce

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the death of Mr. Bert Jones, Head Greenkeeper at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. Bert, who died suddenly on Sunday, 10th January 1972, was a well known and respected member of the Association for a great number of years. He was a very good committee man who always had the welfare of his fellow members at heart. We will miss him greatly in our future meetings.

On behalf of all members of the Welsh Section I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Dennis and his sister in their great loss.

MIDLAND

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

By R. Goodwin
Hon. Secretary:
4 Burton Old Road,
Stretchay, Lichfield,
Staffs.

Spring tournament

Will members please note that the Spring Tournament will be held at the Droitwich Golf Club on Tuesday, 23rd May and not Wednesday, 24th May as originally published. All entries should be directed to me no later than 12th May.

January Forum

Despite appalling weather conditions, about 30 people turned up at Walmley Golf Club on the evening of 18th January and a very interesting exchange took place. A panel of greenkeepers answered a number of questions over a very wide range, on the Upkeep and Maintenance of the Golf Course.

The President of Walmley Golf Club, Mr. Jones, did a very fine job as Chairman and managed to keep the peace right up to the last question which was 'What do Greenkeepers think of Green Chairmen?'

Our thanks to the Captain and Committee of the Walmley Golf Club for allowing us to hold the Forum in their very fine Clubhouse.

New members

We welcome to the Section the following new members and look forward to seeing them at our future events.

L. C. Frost—Assistant Greenkeeper at Sutton Coldfield G.C.

J. A. Bonner, M. G. Hill, D. James, E. A. Pullen—Assistant Greenkeepers at the Kings Norton G.C.

J. B. Tomlinson, who has recently returned to the Midlands after six years as Golf Course Manager at the Banff Springs Hotel, Alberta, Canada.

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Chairman:
C. A. MOORE
(Stanmore)

By **F. W. Ford**
Hon. Secretary:
68 Salcombe Gardens,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Tel: 01-959 2847.

February lecture

It is my pleasure to report another good monthly meeting attendance and to thank Mr. Jennings and his three Flymo experts for entertaining us with a talk, film show and a refreshment conclusion at the bar.

Aided by the projector slides, Mr. Jennings expertly conducted us through the Toro range of machines, commencing with the bread winning 18 in. Flymo. Fondly he referred to the original Flymo as the machine which paid their wages whilst they got on to bigger things, such as the 70 in. and the G.M.3.

The Greensmaster 3 is obviously attracting the most attention at the moment and the question time revealed that despite the £2,000 plus price, over thirty had been sold in this country already, with the expectancy of three times as many in 1972. Regards annual overhaul Mr. Jennings said his estimated £100 compares favourably with the cost of three or four conventional mowers. The Greensmaster 3 mows a golf green in 6-8 minutes and 18 in 3 hours including travelling from green to green time.

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Spring tournament

The Annual Spring Tournament will take place on Wednesday, 3rd May at the Mayland Golf Club, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex, and will be a 36 hole Medal Competition.

Members must be up to date with their subscriptions to be eligible and should write in to me stating **Name, Club and Lowest Handicap.** CLOSING DATE, MONDAY, 24th APRIL.

New Members will play from Scratch in 1st year competition and must submit three cards duly signed by their club secretary or Artisan section. I would also like to remind last year's cup winners to bring back their trophies with them or to make sure they are at Maylands Golf Club by Wednesday, 3rd May. The Rule (1971 A.G.M.) one prize only, will be strictly adhered to.

New members

A warm welcome to the following new members: *J. M. Gowan* (Denham), *D. A. Gall and R. Glazier* (Ifield), *H. Morton* and *M. J. Ball* (Eppingham) and *I. Johnstone* of Woodlands Manor.

Deceased

It is my very sad duty to report the death of Ernie Gowing, Head Greenkeeper to the Eaton Golf Club, Norwich. A member of this Association for over 40 years, he was Head Greenkeeper at Addington Palace for a number of years before going to Eaton Golf Club. In earlier days he served under George Hart with Bert Fordham at Hadley Wood.

I have written to Mrs. Gowing on behalf of the Section expressing our deepest sympathy.

Retirement

James Johnstone sends his best wishes to all his friends in the Southern Section on his retirement from Leeds Golf Club. I have written wishing him a long and happy retirement in Scotland when he finishes in February.

Used Golf Balls Bought. Any quantity. Price 20p per dozen. Solid and perished balls no value. **Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co. Ltd.,** 29 Highgate Road, Birmingham 12. **Large quantity of Maiden topsoil black or brown.** Also horse and farmyard manure. **Leonard W. Power Limited,** Telephone Waltham Cross 22519/23548.

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Required for 18-hole Golf Course at Maxstoke Park Golf Club, Coleshill, Warwickshire (12 miles from Birmingham). Accommodation available, 3-bedroomed detached house. Salary and conditions satisfied the previous employee for 10½ years. Apply stating age and experience to Secretary or for further details ring **Mr Martin—021-779 2465** after 6.00 p.m. any evening.

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