

The British Golf Greenkeeper

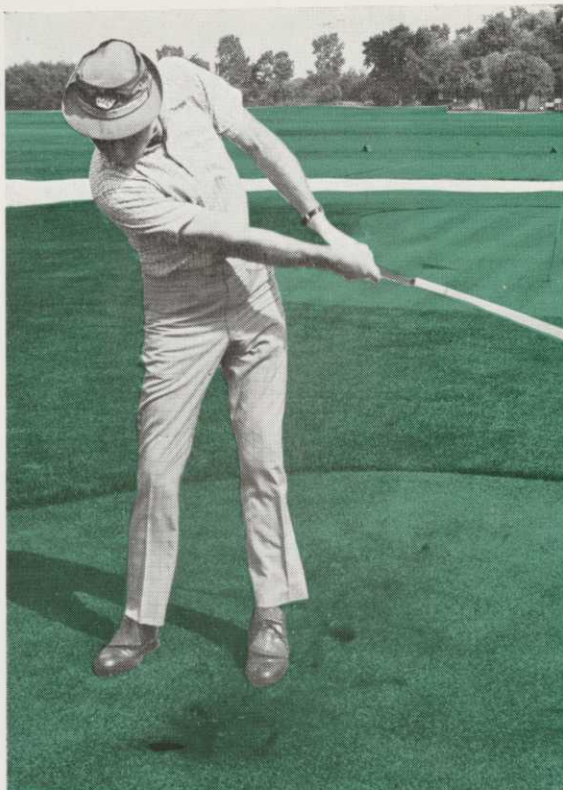


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THE BRITISH GOLF

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

No. 321 New Series

FEBRUARY 1972

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CONTENTS

TEE SHOTS	PAGE 3
BE PREPARED	4
WINTER DORMANCY AND DESSICATION	6
WINTER CHECK LIST	8
MOWING IN 1972	12
NEWS FROM SECTIONS	16
SITUATIONS VACANT	20

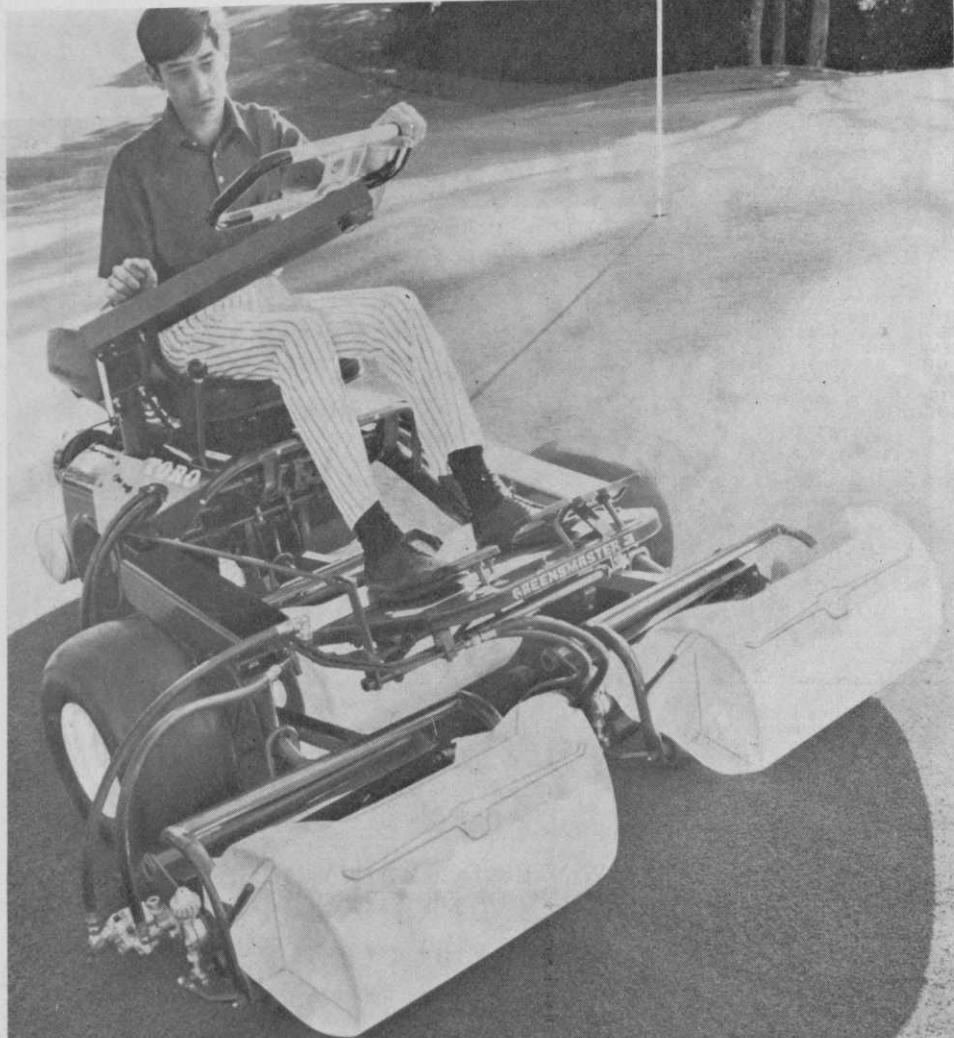
EDITORIAL AND SUBSCRIPTION OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: 01-657 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: £1.25 for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in 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.

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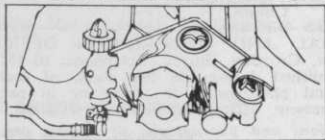
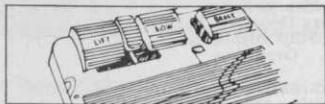
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Tee Shots

TRANSATLANTIC NEWS

The Perfect Golf Course?

The United States Golf Association has plans for its own golf course to stage the US Open periodically, and other championships between times. The site proposed is in New Jersey and extends to 224 acres. A panel of four golf architects elected by the American Society of Golf Architects will prepare route plans for the course and later the detailed specifications and plans.

Golf's tribute to Ike

Two major golf associations have undertaken a scheme to honour the memory of General Dwight Eisenhower. The goal is to help finance two institutions in which Eisenhower was intensely interested: Eisenhower College in the East, and Eisenhower Medical Center in the West. The project has been named *GOLF'S TRIBUTE TO IKE*.

The United States Golf Association and the Professional Golfers' Association of America are seeking the help of every golfer in the United States. Contributions to the foundation are a means of expressing appreciation for the General's great influence on the popularity of the game.

Hot news

Heated golf balls will travel about 30 per cent farther than balls at air temperature. Par Electronics of Panorama City, Calif., is capitalising on the fact by manufacturing Hot Balls, a battery-powered, rechargeable ball warmer that will keep three balls heated to the necessary 105°F for a complete game (\$14.95). Note: Heating balls in the sun is no good, a Hot Balls spokesman claims. They have to be heated to the core.

The Editor



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Be Prepared

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

At this less busy time in the calendar when the weather may have temporarily closed the course or may prevent outside work, some thought can be given to the coming months and growing season. Once spring growth is under way and the usual pressures return, time will be at a premium. Now is the moment for preparation and planning to make life easier and happier in the months ahead.

Present problems

Aim at completing the current jobs on hand as soon as possible and certainly before the spring rush begins. As well as outstanding drainage work, unfinished course alterations such as tee extensions, etc, should be the immediate concern when favourable weather allows. When really bad conditions stop outside work, however, do not neglect other essentials such as preparing compost. Lopping tree branches, hedging and fencing work may also be tasks to finish but in the meantime still keep an eye open for sudden problems such as an outbreak of *Fusarium* patch disease.

Machinery

A golf course that starts the growing season with machines out of commission is starting off on the wrong foot. Every machine on the course should be systematically inspected in the winter months to make sure that it is capable of working to maximum efficiency. Worn parts should be renewed, engines overhauled if necessary and if this means sending the machine away, insist that it is returned properly serviced in good time. Do not overlook the smallest detail and if experience has shown a component of a particular machine to be susceptible to breakdown it is worthwhile getting a spare in stock.

Course sundries such as hole cups, flagsticks, tee markers, etc, should all be examined and where necessary repaired and painted. Advantage should also be taken during any brief mild spells of weather to see that there are no faults with the watering system. Do not forget to check hoses and couplings which can sometimes perish after a few months storage.

Materials

Careful choosing of the right materials at the right price will please a lot of people in many ways. If there is any doubt about the suitability of a material for a particular purpose, e.g., selective weedkiller for use on the greens, etc, take expert advice.

Accurately calculate the exact needs before ordering so that you are not short at a crucial time in the summer. When the various materials are delivered make sure that they are stored under the conditions that the manufacturers specify. If, for example, it is advised that a tin of fungicide is best stored in a cool, dry cupboard, try and ensure that this is done. Careless storage is very frequently never discovered until the material is required, when it is then often found to have deteriorated to the point of

worthlessness or, at the least, great inconvenience. Poisonous chemicals should, of course, be kept under lock and key and when such materials are used the recommended safety codes should be rigorously followed—remember careless mistakes could be fatal.

When samples of substances such as sand and soil are available, ask for them. You may find that the sand or soil is not really up to the standard you require.

Keep a check on all the materials bought and applied; such information may come in use next year. As well as having current greenkeeper's magazines or the back pages of *The Sports Turf Research Institute's Journal* at hand it is also wise to make out a list of your suppliers with telephone numbers, etc, so that should any emergency arise, an accurate bank of information is quickly available. Such recording is, of course, not only valuable and applicable to ordering materials but all other aspects of golf course maintenance work.

Diary

Besides checking machines, ordering materials, etc, there are many other small points about which some advance knowledge and preparation would be useful. Incidentals such as checking with the Club Secretary on fixtures and important tournaments for the coming season often save tempers and embarrassment later. Another wise action at this stage is to make initial contact and tentative arrangements with any firms from whom you may hire machinery later in the year.

Finally

Despite the most thorough preparation and organising it is still possible that some unexpected problems will occur. In a way, it could be said that you must prepare yourself to accept this. Many greenkeepers have the confidence and ability to overcome such difficulties but if there are any gaps in your knowledge which could lead to a situation in which you would be a little uncertain what to do, now is the time to ask or read and find out.

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Winter Dormancy and Desiccation

Dr. Thomas Watschke

Knowing how grasses grow is essential for all turfgrass managers. Equally important, however, is to know something about how turfgrasses 'rest' (dormancy). As the winter months approach, day length, light intensity and temperatures (both day and night) decrease, causing many physiological changes in turfgrasses.

The first effect of these changes is a reduction in growth. Higher temperatures than those occurring in late autumn are required for the optimum functioning of metabolic processes responsible for rapid growth. Nitrogen metabolism slows, resulting in decreased protein synthesis. Carbohydrates accumulate in storage tissue (rhizomes, stolons, crowns) because the metabolic demand for carbon is reduced (less growth and lower respiration). As long as chlorophyll remains in the leaf, photosynthesis will continue even after temperatures become quite cool. The majority of the carbon dioxide fixed in late autumn is translocated as carbohydrate to storage tissues.

Once temperatures are cold enough to cause leaf chlorophyll degradation, photosynthesis is drastically curtailed and new foliar growth is almost non-existent. The leaf canopy of turf areas becomes a mottled green to light brown colour and dormancy prevails.

Late autumn is also the time when root sloughage begins. As much as 80 per cent of the root system of turf grasses is lost over the winter. The crown area, however, is very much alive and at the mercy of the elements.

We are indebted to *The Keynote*, published by the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Inc., for allowing us to print these two timely articles from their November issue.

Mr. Frank Sirianni, superintendent of the Penn State University, has produced a useful check list of winter work, and Dr. Thomas Watschke, Assistant Professor of turfgrass science at Pennsylvania State University, writes on winter dormancy and that dangerous phenomenon—desiccation.

Because the grass is alive it transpires, respire, and at times fixes small amounts of CO₂ and consequently requires water. The inability of grasses to satisfy their water requirement results in a wilting phenomenon known to a turfgrass manager as 'desiccation'.

Desiccation is probably the foremost cause of winter injury from the Great Plains to the Atlantic seaboard and is not restricted to cool season grasses. Desiccation occurs when the water supply is diminished to the point where the plant is unable to absorb water to replenish that transpired. Several winter days of snow cover, low humidity and wind will enhance the possibility of desiccation. Evaporation losses from the soil coupled with

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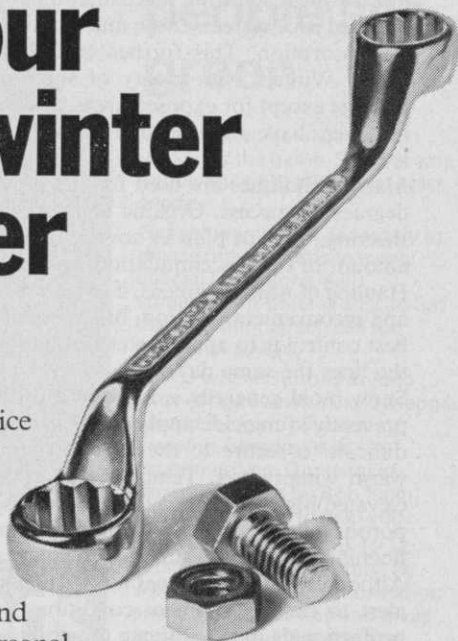
Every winter the Atco Service Organisation is snowed under with mowers waiting for their annual service.

This rush starts in early December and lasts all the way through to late March. And as each mower receives the personal attention of skilled mechanics each job takes a considerable amount of time. Consequently the queue of mowers waiting for service grows longer and longer. Obviously it's best if you can get your machine to us before the rush.

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losses by transpiration place unattainable demands for water on an already crippled root system. Often much of the soil water is frozen and unavailable for absorption. This further reduces the time for severe desiccation to occur. Winters with plenty of snow cover seldom result in desiccation damage except for exposed areas where snow is blown away. Most winters however, have bare ground periods when the potential for desiccation is high.

Many techniques are used for the prevention of desiccation with varying degrees of success. Organic and inorganic mulches, burlap, polyethylene sheeting, porous plastics covers, or erection of snow fence to increase the amount of snow accumulation, have all been used to alleviate desiccation. Hauling of water to greens, if irrigation cannot be turned on, is an expensive and inconvenient solution, but necessary to save desiccating turf. The very best control is to apply water through irrigation lines if possible and drain the lines the same day.

Snow mold generally is more of a problem when snow fence is used, and preventive fungicide applications are more essential. Covers are bulky and difficult to secure to the turf and condensation often occurs on sunny, warm winter days. Temperatures under various covers occasionally are elevated high enough to induce growth of *Poa annua*. Screen materials or porous plastic covers do allow air movement and reduce temperature fluctuations and are superior to solid tarpaulins.

Although desiccation does not occur every winter, turf managers should be alert to the environment conditions conducive for its appearance. Turf professionals must cultivate the ability to recognise conditions favourable for desiccation and take the proper precautions to minimise its effect. During snow-free winter periods the crown area of turfgrasses should be periodically checked for turgidity. Desiccating turf appears very dry, is brittle to the touch, and is easily pulled from the soil. Examination of the upper 1½-2" of soil should also be made periodically, particularly during windy weather, as soil moisture can decline very rapidly during low humidity days (10-20 per cent relative humidity) which occur during the winter months.

Much continuous effort is expended for excellent turf during the growing season, and there is no reason for those efforts to go down the drain by losing grass to winter desiccation. Providing for the needs of dormant turf is every bit as important as the attention it receives during the growing season. Grass needs your attention 12 months of the year. Are you there?

Turf Manager's Winter Check List

Frank Sirianni

November is the month Superintendents and Turf-managers in Pennsylvania are making preparations for winterising their golf courses, sod farms and equipment. The following is a list of *musts* we use at the University Golf Course.

1. Protect turf from frost damage, either by water or by keeping golfers and traffic off until conditions are favourable.



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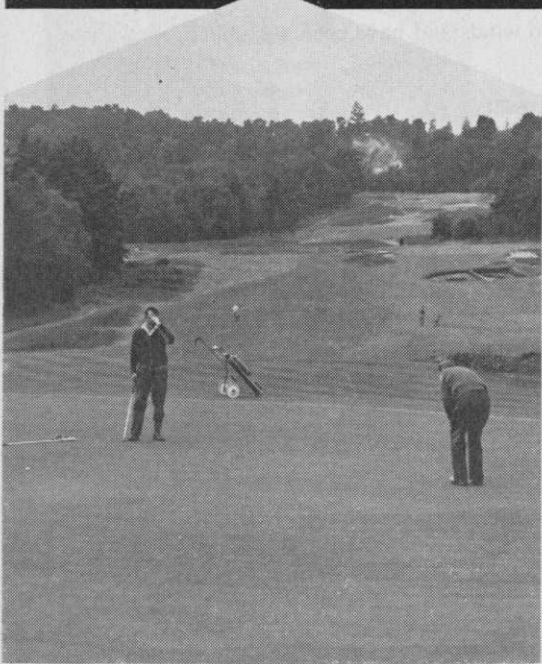
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2. Complete all outside work, save inside work for wet and cold days.
3. Drain all water lines, open drains where there is danger of freezing. Blow lines out with air if possible.
4. Store equipment that will no longer be used.
5. If course is left open for late play move cups to front of greens—take tee markers off and put in front of tee.
6. Add a few tablespoons of anti-freeze to water in ball washers if they are left out.
7. Use snow fence along entrance roads and near shops to protect areas that drift.
8. Keep leaves picked up.
9. Wrap and use guy wires on trees planted in fall.
10. Check radiators on vehicles that will be out and subject to freezing conditions.
11. Clean catch basins and drain boxes.
12. Spray greens for winter protection of winter kill, if budget permits spray tees and collars, etc.
13. If greens are exposed to winds and have been a problem, snowfence may help.
14. Spray evergreens if necessary.
15. Paint ball-washers—flagsticks—tee markers and waste baskets.
16. Overhaul and sharpen machinery, check each machine for worn parts.
17. If course is new and not fully covered keep seed on hand for dormant seedling.
18. Store all liquids in heated area to protect from freezing.
19. Mark and label all materials, use shelf rotation.
20. Attend Turf conferences, equipment shows and schools.
21. As soon as snow cover is gone check course several times during winter months.
22. Look over last season's records, make plans for next season's improvements.

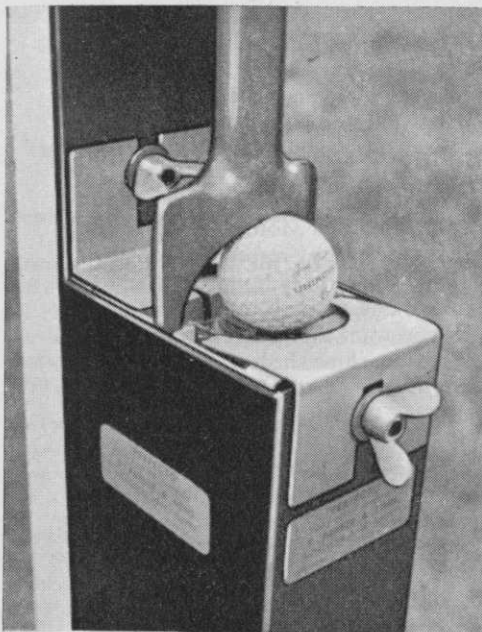
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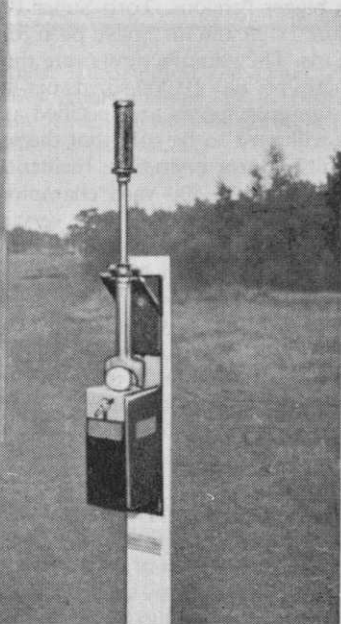
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Mowing in 1972

by The Editor

The mowing pattern has greatly changed over the past few years. 'Ride-on', 'hydraulic', 'air cushion' are now part of the vocabulary and 1972 will see them still more firmly established. Small staffs can cope with more grass in less time though some machines produce problems which only more machines will cure.

The smaller forward mounted triple units like Ransomes 73-inch Junior Motor Triple, the Horwool Triplex, Greens Triple-master, or the Toro 70-inch Professional are taking over from walk-behind mowers round greens and tee-banks and even on tees themselves. Engine power for climbing slopes with a heavy cut is fundamental in these designs. Top speed is of less consequence. Accidents arise more from speed than slide or tipping because all have low centre of gravity. Many greenkeepers report something better than a 50 per cent time-saving since switching to this type of operation. Towed mini-gangs have won less popularity on golf courses though Atco and Ransomes still produce versions cutting 56 inches width.

The bigger versions, Toro Super Pro (84½ ins.) and Ransomes Standard Motor Triple (86 ins.) have been joined by the Allen Motostandard 1200, 78½ ins. The manufacturers rate their cutting capacity respectively at: 28 acres per day 10,000 sq yds per hour and 4½ acres per hour (in 4th gear) but top gear speeds are specified as 8.80, 4 and 6¼ mph respectively and you will need to be sure that the work you want the machine to do will permit top-gear operation. Incidentally, the machine sheds at the monster Dar-es-Salam 7,500 yard championship course, made by an American Golf Course Architect, look very much like an Ipswich production line with five Motor Triples dominating the scene.

It was only a matter of time before the ride-on principle was adapted to mowing greens, though so far British manufacturers seem to have been reluctant to follow. Greens with a top-soil mix made to a modern specification, likely to retain drainage characteristics even under regular compaction, stand up to this usage best of all. Automatic watering, leaving the green permanently moist, also plays a part in estimation of benefits. The ability to lift mowers individually is an important feature to look for. The final cut round the edge will otherwise put the wheels on exactly the same route each time. The Toro Greenmaster 3 is the best known in this country. Starting at 7.00 am, all 18 greens should be cut by 10.30 am, including the time needed to empty the boxes. Golfers may still prefer narrow stripes of cut at weekends but during the week a tremendous number of man hours can be saved for extra finesse elsewhere.

For those still walking, the choice of green mowers in the 18 inch to 20 inch range gets no smaller. Autocertes, Atco Special, Greenmaster, all have their adherents. Greens, Lloyds, Dennis, Suffolk, Hayter also build machines for super-fine cutting. Easy attachment of combs should be a

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feature nowadays and, of course, the more you specialise in your favourite mark throughout the range, the simpler becomes routine maintenance and arrangements for repairs, though many firms like Parkers, R. C. Craig, Relf & Kendall, Mountains, Parker & Ballinger, Huxleys and Gibbs can cope with most situations.

The same wide choice applies to standard trailed gang-mowers, though the more recent application of hydraulic drive to reels as well as lifting is confined to the Ransomes Hydraulic Power 5/7 Gang Mower. The 7 unit model will set your club back about £2,000 but will cut seven acres an hour at seven mph. For rough work the Hayter mounted triple rotary is a reversible supporter to cylinder machines.

Rotary mowers have multiplied in the last 20 years, though it is now only seven years since Flymo introduced the original 19 inch air-cushion rotary. In 1972 a 15 inch version will be added to the range and the 21 inch Contractor 52 has been re-designed with a new retractable undercarriage amongst other new features. The price is £78.75. One advantage of this machine is its great versatility on slopes, under bushes, and on newly sown areas allowed to get too long. Always remember to follow the operating instructions when working on banks and wear sensible footwear, not sandals.

Whatever your choice, remember that each design is a compromise. No one machine can incorporate every advantage. Weight, balance, controls, power, speed, ease of adjustment are only some of the variables. Keep it oiled, keep it greased, keep it adjusted and, as they used to say in the music halls, keep it clean.

For details of these machines and any others in which you may be interested, send a postcard giving your address and the names of those which interest you to: B.G.G.A. (Mowers), Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, CRO 9AA.

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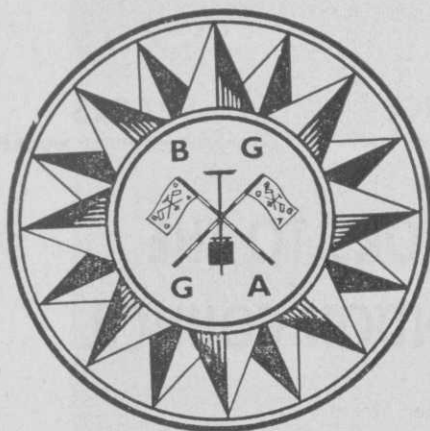
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News



from the Sections

Special occasions 1972

- Feb 1st East Midland Section Lecture and Film Show
2nd Southern Section Lecture
7th North West Section Lecture
22nd Midlands Section Lecture—
2 pm Kidderminster G.C.
Mar 1st Southern Section Lecture
10th Midlands Section Dinner
and Dance—Park Restaurant,
Sutton Coldfield 7 pm
24th Southern Section Annual
Dinner—South Herts G.C.,
N20.

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.

Annual trip

The trip this year, which was to the International Sports Company, Horbury, Wakefield, was a highly successful one. Thirty-one members made up the party and from what most of them told me they were highly delighted with what they had

seen and been told in their tour of the works. I would like, on behalf of the members who made this trip, to offer our sincere thanks to the Directors and staff of the International Sports Co. for their courtesy and kindness both when showing us round and their willingness to answer the diverse questions put to them. Also for the excellent refreshments provided. At this point I wish to extend a vote of thanks to Swinton Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their clubhouse in the evening and also the use of their car park during the day. Thank you once again, everyone.

Lectures

The February talk will be given by Mr. P. Wyatt of Patisson & Co., Venue Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester. Time 7.30 pm—date Monday, 7th February.

New members

We welcome to the section the following new members and hope their association with us will be long and happy: J. Crawford (Chorltoncum-Hardy G.C.), M. J. Houghton (Southport Corporation G.C.), D. Harrison (Dean Wood G.C.), Chairman of the Green (Swinton Park G.C.).

MIDLAND

By R. Goodwin

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
4 Burton Old Road,
Streech, Lichfield,
Staffs.

February Lecture

A Lecture will be held at Kidderminster Golf Club on Tuesday afternoon, 22nd February, at 2 pm. The speaker will be Mr. John Hartstone, of Messrs. Yates Ltd., and his talk will be on Irrigation of Golf Courses. Again we would be very pleased to have along with members their Club Committee Members.

Annual Dinner and Dance

The Annual Dinner and Dance will take place at the Park Restaurant,

The British Golf Greenkeeper

Sutton Coldfield, on Friday, 10th March at 7 pm.

Tickets are now available from myself, Mr. G. Smith of Walmley Golf Club, or Mr. Frank Cashmore, Treasurer, Price £1.50.

EAST MIDLAND

By S. Fretter

Hon. Secretary:
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leicester.

Chairman:
J. CARRICK

New member

We wish to welcome to this section J. A. Hughes, Esq., 33 Babelake Street, Packington, Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Willesley Park Golf Club). Also R. H. Ingram, Larchfield, Swithlans, Leicester, a new Vice President.

Forthcoming attractions

ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT. Charnwood Forest Golf Club. Date to be notified later.

QUIZ. Details will be sent to you in the near future.

KNOCK-OUT CUP. Details will be sent to you in the near future.

LECTURE. A Lecture will be held at The Cricket Ground Hotel, Grace Road, Leicester, by Fisons Ltd., also a Film Show on Tuesday, 1st February, 1972.

ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE will be held at the Empire Hotel, Leicester, on Saturday, 14th October, 1972.

Congratulations

We wish W. Woods all the best and success as Head Greenkeeper of Hollinwell Golf Course.

I would like to wish all our members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

NORTHERN

By Walter Heeles

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

President:
W. MOUNTAIN

Discussion

To start the Winter Lectures and

talks going, an Open Discussion was held at the Horsforth Golf Club on Thursday, the 28th October. Thirty-four members turned up for this event and a very good evening was enjoyed by all.

Outing

Twenty members of the section were entertained to a visit at the Slazengers factory at Wakefield on the 4th November. Our thanks are due to the Sales Manager, Mr. Jobson, and his staff for the kindness and courtesy shown to us. It is hoped to arrange another visit in the near future.

Lecture

On Thursday, the 11th November, we were entertained to refreshments and a talk on fertilisers and their uses. Once again many thanks to Peter Bryant and his colleague from Albright and Wilson Ltd.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the section:

D. Metcalf, West Bowling; G. B. Evans, Alwoodly G.C.; J. R. Buckworth, Cleveland G.C.; D. Hardcastle, Sandmoor G.C., M. Kinghorn, Scarcroft G.C.; B. Barber, Scarcroft G.C.; J. R. Johnson, Ganton G.C.; R. Marsden, Wakefield G.C.; H. Shaw, Huddersfield.

SOUTHERN

By F. W. Ford

Chairman:
C. A. MOORE 68 Salcombe Gardens,
(Stanmore) Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Tel: 01-959 2847.

Hon. Secretary:

December Lecture

As requested, a full house turned up to listen to Mr. F. W. Hawtree's talk on Wednesday, 1st December. Thank you, gentlemen.

He began by giving some facts about the making of a golf green, covering siting and drainage, etc. He said the top soil should be at least 12 inches and recommended as a good mixture two parts soil, two sand and one peat.

The sand to be equal graded approximately .0-.2 millimetres. He also stressed the necessity compaction caused by the contractor's machinery by using a sub-soil cultivator.

A plan of a new course which is to be opened in the spring at Bedford gave us a glimpse of the delights and some of the problems a Golf Architect encounters when making a new course from scratch.

Devoting a little time to questions, Mr. Hawtree then proceeded to show some most interesting projector slides of courses he had made in different parts of the world. France, Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg and Monte Carlo, to mention a few.

Concluding, he introduced Mr. Higgins, who had recently joined him at Addington Court. Mr. Higgins, a new face to the Southern Section, told us about his recent visit to Morocco and related some of his experiences there.

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The Chairman thanked Mr. Hawtree and asked him to bring the meeting to a close by making the monthly Benevolent Fund draw. 1st prize—1 dozen golf balls and 2nd cigarettes—were donated and proceeds amounted to £7.50.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, 24th March 1972 at the South Herts Golf Club, Links Drive, Totteridge, N.20. Nearest station: TOTTERIDGE & WHETSTONE. Tickets are available from me either by writing or on Lecture evenings at the Ship Tavern and are £2.00 each. Again we can assure members of a meal suitable to the occasion.

As in the past there will be an 18-hole four-ball better ball stableford in the afternoon and members wishing to play must arrange their own partners (guests may be invited to play) and record their best Net scores. There will be a sweepstake of 25 new pence each competitor. Those requiring lunch or sandwiches to notify the steward on arrival.

New Members

Whilst extending a warm welcome to the Section to New Members, I would like to include an invitation to our monthly meetings at the Ship Tavern where they can talk greenkeeping and meet new friends. W. A. Baldock (Hawkhurst G.C.), S. Dean (Stanmore G.C.) S. Anderson (St. George's Hill G.C.) and C. A. Price (West Kent G.C.).

March Lecture

A Quiz will conclude the winter programme of meetings at the Ship Tavern on Wednesday, 1st March. For the benefit of new members our Chairman, Mr. C. A. Moore, will preside as Quiz Master and will endeavour to answer any questions appertaining to greenkeeping—even in the loosest sense! For members who prefer it, questions on paper will be accepted and yours truly promises to read them out.

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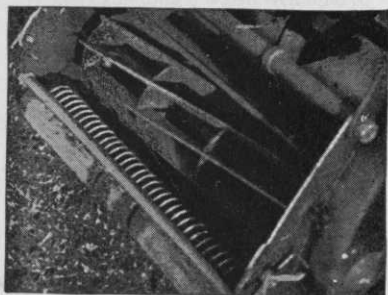
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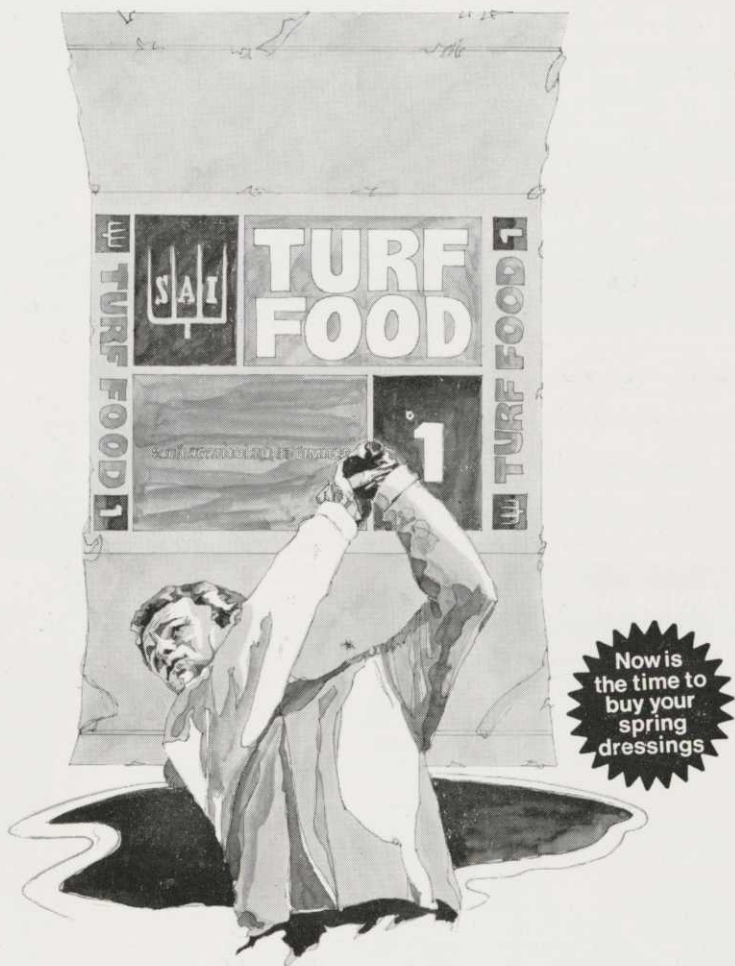
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