

Letters to the Editor

Flat 20 Eastmoor close
Foley Road East,
Streetly,
Sutton Coldfield
7th July 1972

Dear Mr. Hawtree,

I am very interested to read in 'Tee Shots' in the current issue of The British Golf Greenkeeper, your reference to Golf Clubs on Common Land, and in particular, Bulwell Forest (not 'Bitwell') near Nottingham and Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.

You may be interested to know that I started my golf at the former, and now play at Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, the Sutton Coldfield Club.

What is more interesting, however, is the fact that my Grandfather, Edmund Williamson who was the station master at the Bulwell Forest Railway station, offered the use of his 'parlour' in 1887 to the few gentlemen of Nottingham who decided that Bulwell Common was an ideal place for their game of golf, and his son Tom aged 7 acted as the first caddy, carrying a few clubs (loose) under his arm, and a pocket full of wet sand with which to make the tees.

Son Tom (my own father) eventually became the first Professional of the Notts, Golf Club, at the age of 16, after having learnt the art of Club *and* ball making at North Berwick, Scotland. This was in 1896, he later moved with the Club to its new course at Hollinwell. He remained pro. until his death in 1950, having spent 54 years with one Club, although he had many tempting offers to move elsewhere.

My father was actually appointed on a 3 months' trial basis, and because he never had any further reference to this, he used to joke that he was 'still on trial'.

It is further interesting to note that his first Midland Championship win, one of many, was at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club in 1897, when he was only 17 years of age.

As leading Midland Professional, on the occasion of the Annual Match with the top Midland Amateurs', he was always drawn to play Carl Bretherton, your President.

Yours sincerely,
Fred Williamson

P.S. I believe there was a time in the early 1900's when it was claimed that my father had designed and made, or altered, nearly every course within a radius of 50 miles of Nottingham.

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Dear Sir,

May I refer to Mr. C. A. Moore's letter in the April issue. I would endorse the opinion of Mr. Adrian Robertshaw (January issue). The automatic pop-up sprinkler system of watering greens only accentuates the development of soft greens, thatch, black slime and fusarium when it and other treatments are abused or neglected.

There can be no doubt that the pop-up system is *the* irrigation system for all modern golf courses. Its use should pose no special problems for progressive greenkeepers. Minor drawbacks may arise on some older courses.

The combination of good greens and the pop-up system is not due to 'good fortune' but rather skilful methods of greenkeeping as outlined by Mr. Robertshaw in conjunction with automatic watering.

Obviously it takes time to adapt to any new method. After the first year most problems should be ironed out. So one must be patient. As one gains experience with the automatic pop-up system one will be pleasantly surprised.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. LANE

49 Arthur Street
Blairgowrie

Dear Sir,

I reply to Mr. Moore's letter in the April issue of the British Golf Greenkeeper about the pop-up system.

I have read with interest about pop-ups in the magazine and in my opinion soft greens thatch, black slime and fusarium are caused by mis-use of the pop-up system.

I've had this system for two years at Blairgowrie Golf Club and would recommend it to anyone if used sensibly and properly.

The timing clocks in this system are arranged so that every green can be watered individually and each green treated as an individual. All greens are not alike for there are greens that hold water and some that dry out quickly so this means that the head greenkeeper in charge should know his greens and know that when using the system some greens will need two or three minutes while others might need longer and some greens will not require water every time you use the system.

The system was installed to help the greenkeeper through the dry spells and not to be used to soften the greens as the American golfers like them, and more and more British golfers feel the same way. When this happens the only man to blame is the person in charge of the system as in this climate over watering does more harm than good, but I still think it is a great system if used properly.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES LOW
(Head Greenkeeper)

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