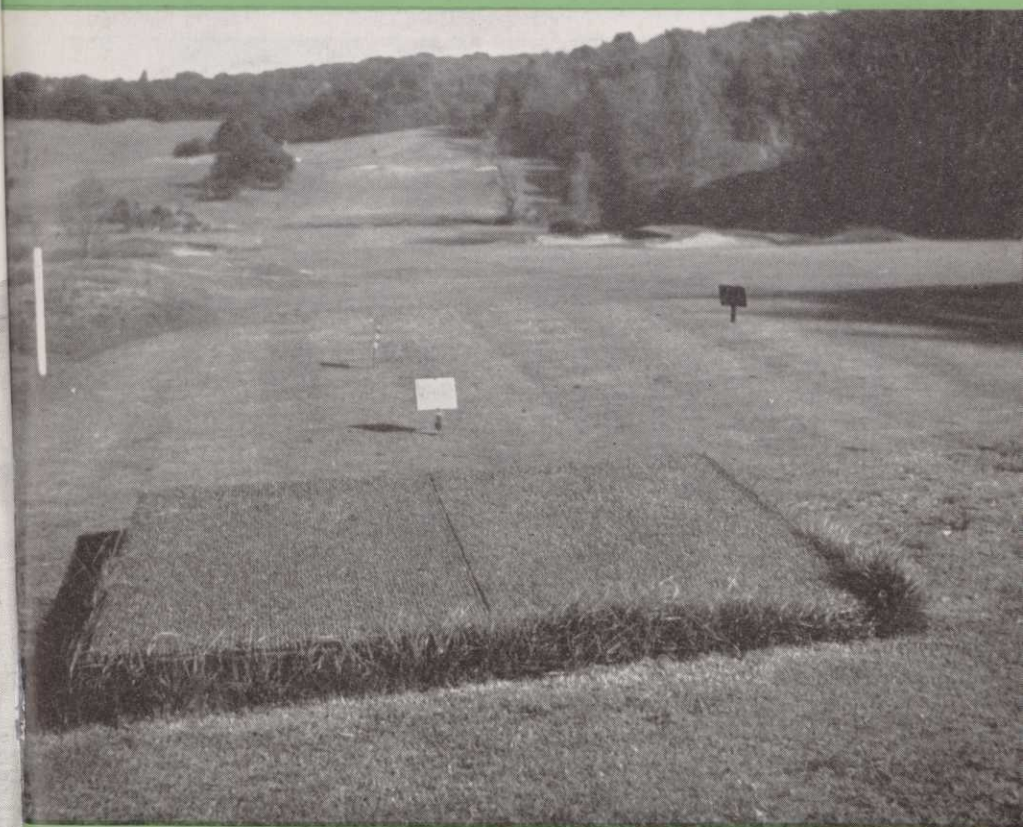


The British Golf Greenkeeper



April 1974 15p

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Front Cover Picture

An example of the Astroturf tee. See article on page 30.

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TEE SHOTS

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 1974 CONFERENCE AND SHOW, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

The name Anaheim has a surprising Teutonic ring in an area not far from Mexico. But surprise does not stop there. My bedroom in the Disneyland Hotel overlooked 110 acres of car park, a monorail station, three lines of electricity pylons and a banana tree.

This plantain figured frequently in the tropical landscape surrounding the hotel and tended by a Dane from the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. Surprise again!

The American golf course superintendent must however either be more accustomed to these distractions or more dedicated to the job in hand. There was no lack of attendance at the six educational assemblies which

provided the meat in the GCSAA 45th International Turfgrass Conference and Show from February 10th to 15th. But this for once was no surprise.

Speakers well-known on both sides of the Atlantic punctuated the programme — Dr. Fred Gray, Bob Mitchell, Tom Mascaro, Alexander Radko—to name only a few. Frank Lamphier, after recovering from a sore throat, talked about the Ransomes' International Tournament and the B.G.G.A. Symposium at Ipswich in October with a series of slides about the trip. Excellent colour slides also illustrated a lecture by Tom Mascaro, who was so impressive at that symposium, and had lost none of his polish meanwhile.

The Exhibition seemed bigger than ever. Certainly there were more Ransomes' 5/7 Hydraulic gangs on view than last year at Boston and every other conceivable machine was to be seen.

I spoke to Dick Skogley from Rhode Island (who will be back in Europe on a sabbatical this year) Leon St. Pierre from the New England G.C.S.A., and David Gourlay, President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association. I also saw several visitors from New Zealand and Guy Catchpole, Ransomes' General Marketing Manager. Clifford Wagoner finished his presidential year of office in great style and I was grateful to him and the G.C.S.A.A. for their hospitality.



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SURFACE DRAINAGE— NEW TECHNIQUES

G. G. FISHER

Gordon Fisher is B.Sc., of the University College of Wales. Following this experience he went down to be Advisory Officer with the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley. He spent the next 15 years at Fisons both at home and overseas and is now a director of the Cambridge Soil Services and a professional turf consultant. He spends a good deal of his time testing materials and devising products for Government and Industry.

The Importance of Surface Drainage

Surface Drainage is basically a question of increasing drainage in regard to both the speed and quantity of water draining from the surface to the sub soil, that area which has tended so much in the past to be a missing link. Excellent drainage from tile system down below, plenty of water on the top, but no effective link between. Now it is largely speed of drainage, speed of surface drainage, which is so important to Golf. You cannot play properly on a wet surface and this is obvious to all; a wet surface whether it is mud or in fact standing water, will not provide the right playing conditions.

Of course, it goes a lot further than that and there is the question of producing the right sort of grass surface both in quality and quantity. In quantity you want to maintain 100% cover; you don't want bare ground, and you don't want 50% cover, but this is what the wet surface can so often produce. Perhaps even more we should think about the quality of the turf which can arise from putting up with a wet surface. As you know, you are trying to maintain grasses of a certain type mostly on fairways or greens. You are trying to maintain the Bents and Fescues, you are trying to put up with, or if you can, eliminate the *Poa Annua*s and you don't want perennial rye grasses in most situations. But the wet surface is the one which will encourage an annual meadow grass, perennial rye grass type of sward as opposed to the one which you want, which is more usually Fescues or even *Poa pretensis*. Smooth stalked meadow grass is a rather more favourable grass and here again, it is very much more at home on a dry surface than the wet one.

A further reason for the importance of surface drainage on the golf course is to produce uniformity. A considerable part of the battle of maintaining turf is producing uniform penetration,

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and a uniform result across the surface of a green or across a fairway. This applies to penetration of water, nutrients, fertilisers, etc. It applies to the production of thatch or heavy surface mats, which as you know, tend to occur in isolated places, and alongside. You may get areas without any surface fibre full of worms, full of coarse grasses, full of weeds, and it is this lack of uniformity which will often cause a low quality in many turfs.

Finally, surface drainage is important in countering increased precipitation and increased wear. I say precipitation advisedly rather than rainfall, because these days, apart from our rain and snow, we put so much water on artificially, so that whereas you may have a natural rainfall in the area of 20 to 35 inches, yet with constant watering these days, you are perhaps doubling these figures and this has to be borne in mind as a need for much better drainage through the surface, to get rid of these increased quantities of water. Also there is the question of countering the increased wear. I think we can safely assume that the vast majority of clubs have had a vast increase in the number of members over the last 10 years. This means increased traffic, increased wear, increased compaction, and you need a better surface drainage to counter that.

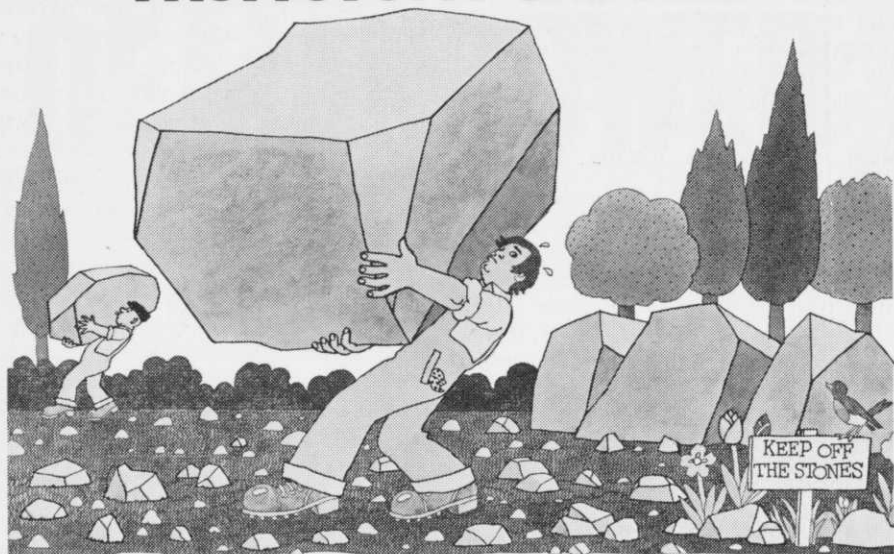
Before we go to the question of how to achieve this surface drainage we should mention that the drainage from the sub-soil is of course fundamental. It is no use going into measures for improving the surface drainage until you have effective drainage from the sub-soil. This may be a natural permeable material below, more often it means an adequate clay tile or plastic tube system. The point is, of course, that it is no use putting surface measures in such as sand slits and having them fill up with water with nowhere to go.

As to the actual techniques of achieving surface drainage, the ideal method of course, is to treat the soil profile in depth. Most of the early links were put on sand dunes and there you have a free natural drainage, which generally speaking, is satisfactory at all times of the year. That is natural permeability. These days if you are building golf courses in other situations you will nearly always build up a soil profile with a permeable layer at the base of coarse sand, and on the surface, usually a mixture of sand, peat and a certain amount of soil according to the permeabilities which are desired and can be achieved. One can say in such cases that you have one big sand slit and there is no need to go to extra measures to improve it, because you have got a built-in permeability right from the start. More and more golf greens are being built in this way but the cost is considerable. £10—£15,000 per acre is necessary to build up a profile in this way. A typical profile to be used on a football field will have more sand and blinding under the soil layer which is mostly sand and peat to ensure a quick draining profile. An even more permeable profile is possible with 24" sand, then a layer of sand and peat only, with no soil. This was done in Sweden but one must remember that this profile takes longer to establish a grass sward in these very permeable conditions.

Sand Slitting

Most of you have to deal with the existing conditions and apart from the expense of improvement, there is the interruption to play which cannot easily be tolerated. Therefore the question of sand slits as a means of improving surface drainage has been

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considered for quite a number of years past; the producing of vertical bands filled with permeable materials which will then link with the drainage system below.

Early attempts to achieve this used either mole ploughs of some modification, or the smallest dimension of trencher, but there are difficulties with these methods. The mole plough is apt to cause considerable ridging and disturbance of the surface and is therefore mainly suitable when you can tolerate a whole-sale cultivation and reseeded of the ground, and is only suitable in those circumstances. With the trenching machine, the difficulty lies in the quantities of materials which have to be handled, a question of having to move several hundred tons of soil per acre out of the trench and moving several hundred tons of sand back into the trench to make a sand slit. This becomes a very time absorbing and messy operation, very damaging to your turf over which you have to handle and cart these vast quantities of material, and you are often left with a considerable width of slit far in excess of what is needed to carry water away. The size is largely determined by the machine that has made the slit but with a wide slit, you have to cover the scar and reseed it.

The approach which we had in the Cambridge Soil Services to this problem, was to assess certain requirements to make this into as simple a job as possible. First of all, surface water must have easy access into and down through the slit. Secondly, established turf must have as little disturbance as possible which means the cleanest possible cut through the turf with an absolute minimum of ridging due to passage of the implement. Thirdly, we look to economy in the handling of materials which go into that slit, because of the large tonnages which may be necessary per acre and because of the general susceptibility of golf turf

to carting materials across them. Fourthly, we look for a ready flow of those bulky materials into the ground and when you consider that the most easily available material is sand which is naturally rather damp, this is not an easy material to flow down through hoppers and through slots, so we are anxious to get the best possible flow with these fairly crude materials.

We arrived at the principle of creating a narrow slit with a vibrating blade. A narrow slit because this is adequate for the passage of water, and is a passage which can be achieved without removing existing soil, often rather a messy operation. A vibrating blade because this makes a very clean cut through turf and secondly, gives a very easy flow of these unfavourable materials like damp sand through the hopper and down into the ground. In our development of this we did look at some of the vibrating blade equipment which is already on the market for creating deep aeration. We modified some of this equipment so that we could put sand down into the ground using this similar vibrating technique.

From there we moved on to a much more comprehensive system. We designed a machine solely for this injection of sand in fairly narrow slits of about $\frac{1}{2}$ " - 1" wide and 7" - 9" deep. Since we wanted equipment which would do the whole job fairly quickly, we put three blades on to the machine which we called a Triple Sand Injector. This is capable of considerable outputs of between 1 and 2 acres per day. Making the machinery produce even narrower slits had practical problems such as stones blocking the passage of material into the slit, and this could cause a ripping action of the trench when stones were present in the soil.

Other types of machinery are available. Modification of a hollow tine machine can introduce sand into the holes created in the soil. The cores

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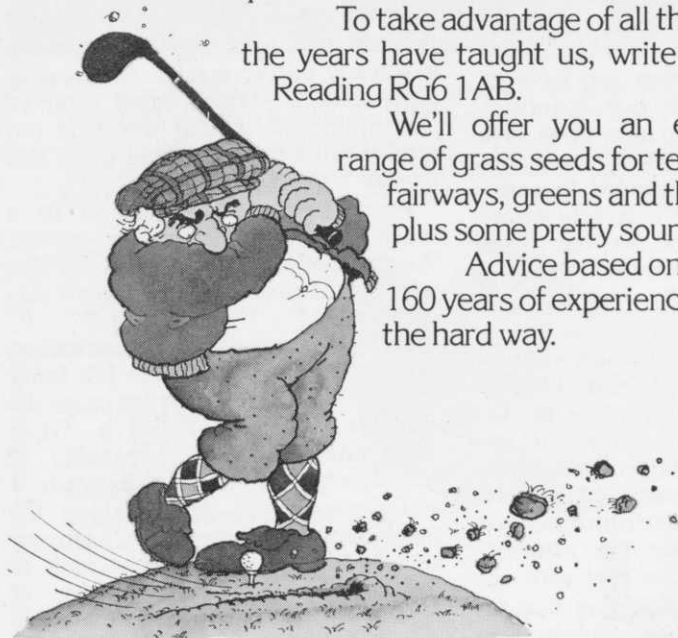
And we're getting hacked about all the time at Vilamoura in Portugal, Puerto di Hierro in Spain and Walton Heath.

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are about $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 7" deep and 3 ft. apart. Recovery after this operation is quite rapid. We also looked into larger equipment, tractor hauled and powered by the tractor with a special low ratio gearbox, able to put in 3 slits at a time, and fed by hopper at the rear, slits being 4' apart, although by coming back over the same area, the distance between slits can be decreased to the required distance apart.

To give an example of sand slitting technique I may mention one football pitch which was in very bad order. After ensuring the sub-soil drains were in good order, sand slitting was carried out with a simple modified agricultural mole plough. The slits were 2" wide, 12" deep and 4 ft. apart and filled with an artificial aggregate. It was carried out at the period of spring renovation to allow ridges to be eliminated and re-seeding to be carried out. A great difference was then seen in a 12 months period. The operation was successful despite a $\frac{1}{2}$ " layer of soil having to be put over the slit, in order to re-seed the area. However, this was sandy soil, and even an 1/8" of wrong soil might seal off the slit. Also, although the soil at the side of the slit is thought of as impermeable, it is in fact not so, and water does enter the slit down its entire length.

To illustrate how quickly an area can be treated, a professional football pitch was treated starting on the Monday, finishing on the Friday and the pitch was played on the Saturday, illustrating how work can be carried out effectively on an emergency basis and still produce a successful effect.

The process can also be carried out on more favourable soils, where a thin blanket of sand is also spread over the surface of the soil creating continuity between the slits and also to protect the soil from the adverse effects of compaction.

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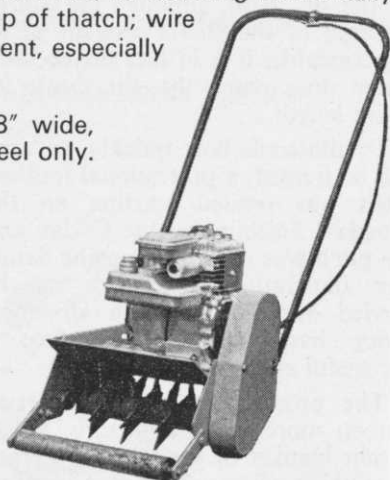


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1974 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

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30th Sept., 1st and 2nd October '74

Mr. E. R. James has kindly furnished the following information for the benefit of members who will be attending the above Tournament. He suggests writing to Swanage Tourist Information Centre, Shore Road, Swanage, Dorset, Tel: Swanage 2885, who will be pleased to offer any assistance for accommodation or supply a copy of the Swanage Guide.

He suggests that the best places, for accommodation with access to the Club would be Swanage, Studland, Corfe Castle or Langton Matravers. The map shown below will assist in locating these places. Train services to Swanage end at Wareham where buses and taxis are available to complete the journey.

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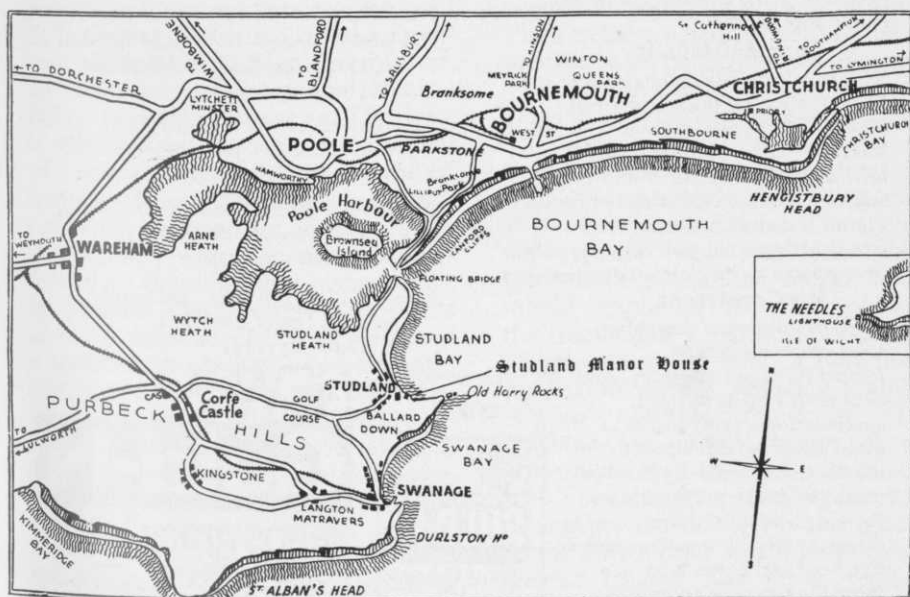
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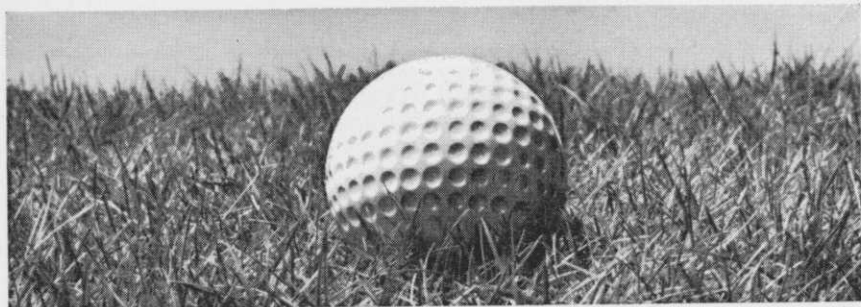
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from zero to full speed without altering the speed of the cutting disc. This permits the mower to cope with varying conditions of grass growth.

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FRIGHT

Patrick Smartt

All of us have suffered fright on a golf course. Fear of winning, fear of a good score when facing the last few holes, fear of missing a putt. Even driving off the first teeing ground in front of even a meagre group of spectators can intimidate some.

Others are encouraged by onlookers. That is often a matter of pride. A desire to show them you can play the shot. It is nowadays put down to the adrenalin flowing—the meaning of which is not within the knowledge of this ancient one.

Inquisitive as ever where the mind controls the player, why is it that a certain hole, no matter the course, defeats the player? There will always be some hole that one would rather not tackle. J. H. Taylor has a strong dislike, forcibly expressed, of the Road Hole at St. Andrews in the days when it was more fearsome than now. Why should it be that a hole we have played countless times suddenly strikes terror into the soul?

Perhaps one or two disastrous errors lodge in mind, and confidence evaporates. It becomes a spectre, approached with a sinking heart.

There is little purpose in trying to get the player to relax, to concentrate on a smooth swing. He has conditioned himself to expect doom. The shaft feels as if it were made of concrete; the head feels like one of: "The Old Oaks of England."

It can be any hole, but the last, if the score is useful, causes the most casualties. The player gets an attack of the 'must' fever. Must have a five here. Must have a good drive. Must have a good second. Must lay the approach dead. The root cause is the sequence of the hole. The player is 'riding a finish'.

Onsets of fright seldom concern an entire hole. They nearly always involve the drive. The mind centres on a particular bunker, beckoning emphatically, or a carry. The cause is close to the chicken and the egg, which starts what?

As a very junior official in a small colony, whenever H.E. the Governor happened to be playing immediately ahead, it did not matter which side of the fairway he was, I either hooked or sliced in his direction. Eventually I took care, under no pressure from him, either to start before or two matches behind him. Had he been straight, I might have learned accurate driving earlier.

Living on a course at which several holes call for a carry over deep ravines, used by smugglers from the coast in days gone by, it has become obvious that these disturb the handicap player more than anything else. As he stands on the teeing ground, that gorge expands in the mind's eye far beyond its actual width.

The player's antennae, or if you like, his radar has ranged on a spot which should not come into reckoning. These holes do not pose the question of playing short, or going for the carry. It is questionable if they are more than 100 paces from the man standing at address, and perhaps 30 yards from bank to bank. If the ground were level there would be few mishaps. In some respects that fright is understandable, but not the sudden mental block after playing confidently for years.

A player may be a reasonable judge of distance when it comes to estimating his second stroke or an approach, but present him with a carry of the kind described, and his morale descends to the depths—like his ball.

No doubt a 'trick cyclist' would provide an answer. Personally, I found there was only one cure. Take a dozen balls, metaphorically roll up one's sleeves, and like a boxer enter-

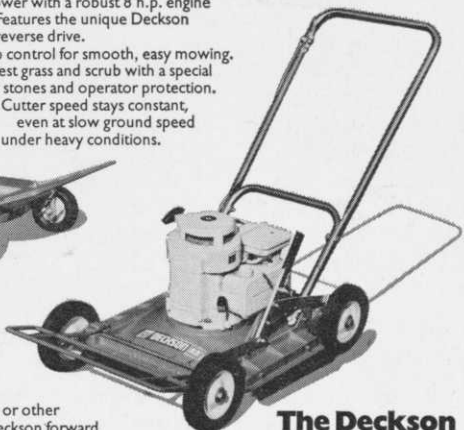
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ing the ring take on that hole. Usually the match is over before all dozen balls are struck. The knock-out, as it were, comes sooner than expected. Two victories have been achieved. Over oneself and over the carry.

A number of years ago, when I was a club secretary, I was approached by three elderly members (now paying where I hope there are no carries), with the complaint that the carry over gorse and heather at the last hole was unfair. My plea that it was about only 150 yards, which at a short hole would not worry them at all, was met with disbelief.

In the end we all tramped down to that teeing ground, the harassed secretary—several years past his half century—carrying a No. 5 iron. He proved his point, and the old gentlemen played happily ever after.

Which goes to prove that wrong impressions are easily formed. Let no one suggest that the average club member should indulge in pacing out the distance for his second shots. He might, however, ease his mind if he stepped out some of the carries that have deranged his mind when gazing upon them.

NEW FROM MOMMERSTEEG

A new seed mixture developed by Mommersteeg International was introduced at the IPRA exhibition in Liverpool (20 March 1974) for general-purpose playing field/sports application.

The mixture contains four different grass species, using specially-bred varieties from Mommersteeg's own plant breeders, and is designed to meet the following needs: wearing capabilities, tolerance of different mowing heights, disease resistance,

ease of mowing and speed of establishment.

The new general-purpose mixture is carefully balanced to allow each constituent to fulfil its role in the production of the turf sward—all varieties are OECD Certified: 50% Stadion perennial ryegrass, 25% Novorubra creeping red fescue, 20% Koket chewings fescue and 5% Timo timothy.

STADION—perennial rye grass—quick to establish and selected for its dense prostrate growth habit which gives an extremely hard-wearing sward. It is easily gang-mown and has good resistance to red thread disease.

NOVORUBRA—creeping red fescue—a versatile variety capable of adapting to a wide range of soils. It is particularly useful on thinner soils of low fertility and by its rhizomatous growth it will colonise open patches in the turf.

KOKET—chewings fescue—an outstanding variety for close-mown turf where it forms a dense base to the sward. It is extremely attractive in appearance and shows good disease resistance.

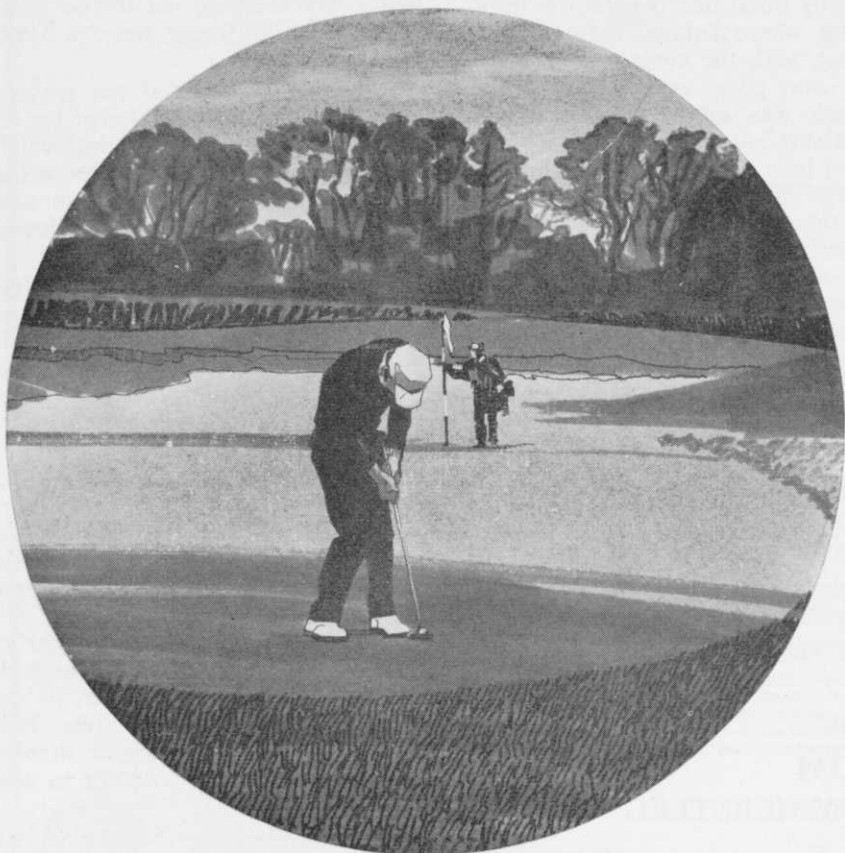
TIMO—timothy—a hard-wearing variety which thrives on wetter soils and forms an important part of the turf in less closely-mown areas. It is valuable during the Winter months because of its high tolerance to cold and wet conditions.

The mixture is treated with SAIs as seed dressing for protection against fungal attack and to encourage quick establishment.

Recommended sowing rate is $\frac{1}{2}$ oz per square yard for sowing down new playing fields; 1 oz per square yard is recommended for renovation work.

Full details of all special Mommersteeg seed mixtures for sports turf and their new Sports and Amenity Turf catalogue will be available from the Mommersteeg stand at the IPRA exhibition. . . .

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NEWS

All members will join in congratulating Mr. & Mrs. Bill and Mary Mason on their Diamond Wedding. The anniversary fell on 7th March. They received six telegrams, the one from Buckingham Palace read:—

“The Queen sends you warm congratulations and wishes on your Diamond Wedding”.

Bill and his wife also received a telegram from Mrs. B. M. Hawtree wife of our founder, who still remembers Bill from his days as Hon. Secretary of the Southern Section, and even before.

The A. F. Scoop Trenchers excavate narrow trenches for the installation of electric and telephone cables, water pipes and land drainage.

The full range of trenching covered is 2", 4", 6" and 8" wide and the maximum depth is 39". Each machine has a built-in winch powered by the engine which gives a maximum trenching speed of 100 yards/hour.

The excavated spoil is deposited to one side of the trench by an auger or if required a conveyor can be fitted to lift unwanted spoil straight onto a tractor trailer.

They are used by Golf Course Contractors, and several clubs have purchased machines to do their own pop up sprinkler systems or drainage schemes.

Many more have used the economical self-drive hire scheme (from £8.00. + V.A.T. for a two weeks period) operated by A.F. Trenchers to complete small schemes and for corrective drainage work. With the 2" trench and conveyor, sand slitting is an especially economical and successful proposition for greens with bad drainage characteristics.

As they are of low all up weight, 5½ cwt. for the "F" Series and 8½ cwt. for the "G" Series, they create a minimum of ground disturbance, both when trenching and when moving from site to site.

Full details of machines, hire rates etc. may be obtained direct from A.F. Trenchers Ltd, Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 9JS. . . .

A new booklet has been produced by Huxleys Garden Machinery outlining the machines, terms and conditions available for the hire of specialised equipment on a short term basis.

This hire service is complementary to Huxleys main business which is almost exclusively devoted to the sale and service of machinery to the professional user, including to date 27 Ransomes Hahn Tournament Triplex Greens Management Systems.

Lloyds & Co. Letchworth Ltd. announce that a limited number of their ride-on triple mower, the 'Marathon' will be available for delivery during 1974 backed by a full spares service. Improvements & modifications have been incorporated since the machine was first introduced at Motspur Park in 1972. Details are available from the manufacturers at Birds Hill, Letchworth, Herts.

Wolseley Webb Ltd of Electric Avenue, Wilton, Birmingham have produced a new booklet on Webb Professional equipment covering mowers, cleaners and edge cutters. It is available free of charge by writing to the manufacturers.

Humber Manures Ltd of Stoneferry, Hull have issued a new leaflet on the organic based compound fertilisers available to all concerned with the maintenance of sports turf. It is available free of charge from the manufacturers.

NEWS

Peter Burge writes:—

One of the interesting papers read at the 45th International Turfgrass Conference and Show at Anaheim, California was given by Roger Clark the Brand Manager of Swift Chemical Company, the U.S.A. distributors of I.B.D.U. slow release Nitrogen. Roger Clark detailed the growth of sales of this product which is now being marketed as a straight Nitrogen and also as a component part of balanced fertilizers. The paper dealt in depth with the scientifically backed evidence relating to the release characteristics and economies that can be made by using I.B.D.U. and visits were also

made to Golf Courses in Southern California by the Delegates where they were able to see for themselves the performance of the product under normal working conditions.

I.B.D.U. is now available here in the U.K. and Ireland from David T. Boyd (Commodities) Ltd., 24, Eastcheap, London, EC3M 1HB and enquiries should be directed to Peter J. Burge who is responsible for marketing I.B.D.U. in the UK . . .

Opening ceremonies for the new national headquarters of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) in January in Lawrence, Kansas were attended by nearly 300 people, including Kansas Governor Robert B. Docking, U.S. Senator Robert Dole, Lawrence Mayor Nancy Hambleton, nine Association Past Presidents and the current Executive Committee.

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The day's activities included a pre-showing for members in the morning, as well as a public showing in the afternoon with official welcomes to Kansas and Lawrence, a dedication plaque unveiling and a ribbon cutting. The building remained open for public tours until 4 p.m.

Members from 14 states and Canada were on hand for the festivities which marked the opening of the first solely-owned facility for the Association in its 47-year history . . .

J. Gibbs Limited of Bedfont, Middlesex have recently been appointed sole Distributors for the Litterlift Giant Vac Vacuums and Blowers for the Greater London and Surrey area.

A range of six widely priced vacuum machines for collecting litter, grasscuttings, thatchings and leaves is available. Optional nose cones and hose attachments are offered, and

machines are fitted with Briggs and Stratton Engines. Models range from small units suitable for gardens to larger machines for Local Authority and Contractor work.

Also available are three Briggs and Stratton powered Blowers for windrowing and piling leaves, litter and other debris with a 260 m.p.h. air blast. This method is claimed to be seven times faster than hand raking or brushing. Blowers can also be used to dry out dew and rain from golf courses, cricket pitches, bowling greens, etc. . . .

Messrs. T. H. Baggaley (Horticultural Engineers) Ltd. who have just introduced their liquid feed fertiliser injection system for Golf Course and Sports Ground use, have appointed Messrs. E. A. & Yates & Sons of Sandbach, Cheshire and Wakefield, Yorks their distributors for the U.K. Market. . . .

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NEWS

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited announce some internal reorganisation and additions to their outside selling staff.

Mr. D. A. Tait has been appointed Trade Sales Manager with the responsibility of administering the Company's sales to Distributors, Domestic Stockists, Service and Repair Dealers, etc., throughout the U.K.

Mr. K. A. Vertigan, formally SISIS Representative for Lancashire and Cheshire, has been appointed Direct Sales Manager, and will be responsible for administering the selling activities in those territories where SISIS have adopted a direct sales policy.

Mr. Vertigan's place in Lancashire has been filled by Mr. Don R. Dixon, operating from his home at The Laburnums, Sheep Hill Lane, New Longton, near Preston, telephone number Longton 613666.

SISIS have added Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire to their direct selling areas and this territory will be covered by Mr. E. A. Burgess, who has been SISIS Representative in the West of Scotland for the past two years. He will be operating from 3 Thoresby Drive, Edwinstowe, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, telephone number Mansfield 822844.

Mr. Burgess' place in Scotland has been filled by Mr. Ian McKay, who has recently joined SISIS and he can be contacted through the SISIS Scottish Office in Kirkcaldy, telephone Kirkcaldy 62325, or at 20 Cawdor Crescent, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, telephone number Bishopton 2076 . . .

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is an international organization with over 3,600 members in the United States, Canada and other countries. Organized on September 13, 1926, as the National Association of Greenkeepers of America; name changed to the Green-keeping Superintendents Association in 1938; became the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1951. Activities include an International Turfgrass Conference and Show sponsored annually by the important and outstanding annual GCSAA; recognized as the most important and outstanding annual forum of the turfgrass industry. Special emphasis placed on golf turf development and its allied fields. The Equipment Show, a show within a show, enables manufacturers and suppliers to exhibit the latest products designed for golf course maintenance. The first meeting was held in Chicago in March 1927. 1974's Conference and Show is scheduled for Anaheim, California, Feb. 10-15.

The Scholarship and Research Fund separately incorporated in 1956 fulfils a recognized obligation to the future of golf through financial assistance to qualified and deserving students seeking careers in golf turf. Research grants are directed toward original research and to further expand knowledge of turf and turf management practices. More than \$275,000 has been distributed to worthy students and original research since the Fund's inception. For 1973-74 a total of \$21,650 was awarded to 48 scholarship recipients and 13 research grants were made totalling \$14,600.

Open house and dedication ceremonies for the new headquarters building of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) was at 1 o'clock, Saturday, January 12, 1974 in Lawrence, Kansas.

Plant Some More in '74

The following is a list of Trees recommended for Golf Course planting and was originally the subject of a talk given by Mr. Cassell of London Transport to the Southern Section of the B.G.G.A.

Name	Type	Planting distance (feet)	Final Height (feet)	COMMENTS
American Oak	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Quick growing — beautiful scarlet foliage in Autumn. Specimen tree — good Commercial value.
English Oak	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Slow growing large imposing tree—good as single specimen.
Plane Tree	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Quick growing large specimen tree—very reliable.
Lime Tree	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Quick growing beautiful tree, plant in small groups—does cause problems with aphids if planted near Clubhouse or amenity areas.
Lombardy Poplar	Forest Deciduous	15	60+	Quick growing — roots troublesome, Weeping Willow very beautiful tree. Do not plant within 100 feet of buildings or Greens.
Willows—Variety	Forest Deciduous	20	60+	Quick growing—large imposing tree—very adaptable—not popular at moment owing to dutch elm disease.
Elm Tree	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Should not be planted within 150' of either greens tees or clubhouse buildings.
Beech Tree	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Large Noble tree of beautiful appearance when planted as a specimen tends to branch early—plant in groups to obtain best results—prefers lime soils but will tolerate some lime deficiency.
Silver Birch	Forest Deciduous	6—12'	50—60	Most graceful and accommodating of all the larger trees—beautiful.

Name	Type	Planting distance (feet)	Final Height (feet)	COMMENTS
Ash	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Large graceful forest tree—medium growth. Seeds can be a nuisance.
Sycamore	Forest Deciduous	30	100+	Large and quick growing forest tree—seeds freely—can cause nuisance with seedlings near greens.
Evergreen Oak	Forest Evergreen	30	60+	Slow growing—large forest tree—dense—small foliage—Magnificent specimen tree — should be planted much more frequently.
Chamaecyparis Lawsonia	Ornamental Evergreen	6—12'	60+	Most of the ornamental Conifer sold in this country are varieties of this genus—very rapid growing — most useful for quick screening of buildings, boundaries, etc. Requires good soil and after care.
Holly	Ornamental Evergreen	3— 9'	35+	Very useful evergreen tree surprisingly fast growing in good soil. Plant both male and female trees to ensure good crop of berries.
Cherry Flowering	Ornamental Deciduous	6—12'	35+	Useful as specimen plants near clubhouse, very limited flowering period then rather uninteresting.
Acers in Variety	Ornamental Deciduous	6—12'	30+	Quick growing short lived trees extremely attractive for Autumn Colour and bark, specimen trees only.
Mount Etna Broom	Ornamental Evergreen	6—12'	20+	One of the easiest small trees to grow and one of the most delightful in flower, long slender branches covered with sweet scented yellow flowers for 2 months or longer in Summer.

ARTIFICIAL TURF ON GOLF GREENS?

The golfer, it seems, is one of the sports world's last ecological purists. Football and baseball enthusiasts—players and spectators alike—offered no resistance whatsoever when their once lush playing fields were covered with lifeless artificial turf.

But the golfer steadfastly refuses to accept, or even consider, artificial turf as a substitute for nature's living, breathing grass. Experts contend that an acre of grass performs the same function as a 70-ton air conditioner.

The grass, trees and other plant life on a golf course act as an oxygen factory, and trap and filter out airborne dirt, cinders and grime.

In a recent poll, members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects were asked the question: "Should artificial turf be used on a golf course?"

May be on Cartpaths

The members, the leading golf designers in the United States, Canada and Mexico, responded with an overwhelming and resounding, "No!"

Only a few suggested that artificial turf might be used sparingly in less vital areas of the golf course, such as cart paths. In an extreme situation, several said it might be used on the tee.

But none of the architects would tolerate the use of artificial turf on golf's hallowed ground, the putting green.

"The game of golf is too closely tied to nature's green earth to allow any substitutions," says Ellis Maples, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

"Much of the skill of putting comes in reading the green, calculating how the grain of the grass, its texture and length, its moisture content, will affect the roll of the ball," Maples points out. "Greens constructed with artificial turf would be too constant . . . too easily reckoned with."

But there are other problems with artificial turf.

Frank Duane, Port Washington, NY, immediate past president of the Society, reveals that the artificial turf is too costly, and too unwieldy.

Can't Contour Artificial Grass

Because the artificial turf can't be contoured, green would have to be built flat, without dips and rolls . . . an unthinkable situation for the architect; although, the idea of a flat green might appeal to the chronic three-putter.

Several architects—including Marvin Ferguson, Bryan, TX, Geoffrey Cornish, Amherst, MA, William Mitchell, West Palm Beach, FL, and William Amick, Daytona Beach, FL—agree to the use of artificial turf on heavily played daily fee courses, *but then only on the tees.*

"Where you have extremely heavy traffic and cannot afford constant maintenance of the tees, you're probably better off using artificial turf, rather than playing from a mud hole," they contend.

Gerald Matthews, Lainsburg, MI, who also approves of the use of artificial turf on heavily used tees, points out another drawback:

"If you talk to golfers who have used artificial tees, you find a very negative attitude," Matthews claims.

"Most golfers will opt for the natural tee every time, even though the grass might be rather sparse. You just don't get the right 'feel' hitting off plastic grass."

And architect Mal Purdy, Livingston, NJ, reports still another problem with the artificial turf.

"Some people get their kicks by slashing the stuff up with knives," he claims.

Who would do such a thing? Vandals, perhaps! Or, may be it's ecology nuts who prefer that golf course forever remain the way Mother Nature—or, the golf course architect—intended them.

Grateful Acknowledgements to:
Southern Golf Course Operations
U.S.A.

Situations Vacant

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DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

HEAD GREENKEEPER £1,641 to £1,773 p.a.

The Council are currently constructing a 9-hole Golf Course at Fulwell Park, Hampton Hill, and it is anticipated that it will be ready for play in October 1974, but an appointment is to be made as soon as possible. Preference will be given to suitably qualified persons. Duties include responsibility for maintenance of the course and control of staff.

Form from The Manager of Recreation, Langholm Lodge, 146 Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey (01-940 8351), returnable by 26th April 1974.

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Construction will start later this year of an 18-hole Championship golf course at Bedwell Park, Essendon. Applications are invited for the post of Head Greenkeeper. He will assist in supervising work on the course during the first two years. Salary will be above average. Accommodation is **not available** at present.

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THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER

TOWARDS A BETTER MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIBERS' COMMENTS WITH A VIEW TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF "THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER"

1. "How about a series of articles about various golf courses, asking the Head Greenkeeper in each case his work problems, his views and aspects of the day to day running of his course?"
2. "Would like it to contain more of Greenkeeper's problems and cures, not taught enough to young members".
3. "I would like more articles from practical men, such as the one in September on "Top Dressings" by J. Bradbury.
4. "May I say that personally I enjoy reading technical features dealing with seasonal problems as they are likely to come along at the appropriate time of the year. Especially if it was possible to have more than one view, say, under different climatic conditions as would be the case in different parts of the country".
5. "More photographs—Secretaries and Chairmen of Sections, retiring members, etc.".
6. "I think members should be encouraged to contribute articles themselves, even if they are only letters to a lively correspondence column".
7. "I would like you to accept only those adverts which carry the recommended BGGGA scale, with reference to Situations Vacant. Also on your front covers let us see more pictures of Greenkeepers and not Golf Pros".

8. "Vacant situations should not be advertised in the BGGGA journal under a box number".

Footnote

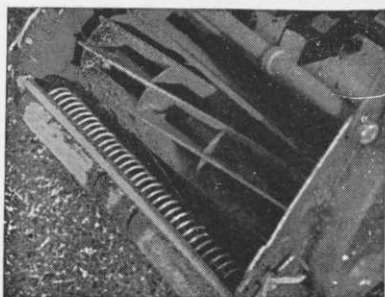
These are some of the suggestions received in a recent survey. They assume that we have a large trained staff writing articles and reviews, interviewing members, taking photographs, soliciting (and paying for?) technical articles.

Section Secretaries are about the only people who themselves provide any regular material.

F.W.H.

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Special Occasions

and Golf Fixtures

1974

- April 3 Southern Lecture.
 18 North-East Spring Competition — Berwick (Goswick) G.C.
 23 Welsh Section—Cardiff Cup—Pontypridd G.C.
- May 1 South Coast Section Spring Meeting, Basingstoke G.C.
 2 Midland — Annual Spring Tournament — Robin Hood G.C.
 15 East Midland—Spring Tournament — Longcliffe G.C.
 15 Southern — Spring Tournament — Home Park G.C.
 16 North-West — Spring Tournament, Dean Wood G.C.
 17-19 B R A B A Z O N TROPHY — Moortown.
- June 5 Southern Annual General Meeting.
 3-8 AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP—Muirfield.

- 25 Welsh Section Annual General Meeting — John Duncan Cup—Southerndown G.C.
- July 3 Southern V Midland Match, Crews Hill G.C.
 10-14 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP—Royal Lytham and St. Annes.
 15 Midland Summer Tournament & A.G.M.—Habberley G.C.
 22-27 ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP—Woodhall Spa.
- Sept. 1 CARL BRETHERTON BOWL—Handsworth.
 6 Southern Buffet/Dance — West Essex G.C.
 11 Welsh Section—President's Shield—Pennard G.C.
 11 Southern Autumn Tournament — Burnham Beeches.
 18 East Midland Autumn Golf Tournament — Chilwell Manor G.C.
 18 Midland Section — Autumn Tournament — Handsworth G.C. B.G.G.A.
 30 1974 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT and A.G.M.—Isle of Purbeck G.C. Studland, Swanage, Dorset.

Southern Section

Chairman:
 F. W. FORD
 (South Herts)

Hon. Secretary:
 F. W. FORD
 68 Salcombe Gardens,
 Mill Hill,
 London, NW7.

January Lecture

We had a talk on trees by Mr. Cassell of London Transport. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a list of trees recommended for your golf course planting.

February Lecture

Mr. Head opened his talk by outlining broadly the areas of turf management where the greatest interest was being focussed at the present time. He emphasized that companies which supply products and services to greenkeepers should consider the problem of fine turf culture objectively, and provide recommendations which they could justify on a scientific basis. Particular reference was made to the immensely valuable contribution to turf grass science made by Dr. V. I. Stewart and Dr. W. A. Adams of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, which had done so much to remove mystique from the subject and provide a basic framework of fact on which a turf manager could build his turf care programme. To get the maximum benefit from this new science it was important that the necessary technology should follow swiftly on its heels and Chipman Limited were introducing products, advisory and contract services to meet the new technical demands.

One area high-lighted was that of turf nutrition where the luxury use of general purpose fertiliser recipes at standard rates of application without regard to existing soil nutrient levels, mowing practices and sward composition would be hard to justify on either technical or economic grounds. With the advance of knowledge and with the availability of new slow-release materials, it was now possible to be accurate and specific in designing a fertiliser programme to produce optimum results in a cost-efficient manner.

Interest was also shown in the idea of using soil temperature at 1 foot depth to determine when growth would occur, and hence when fertiliser application should be made to antici-

pate it. This could overcome the uncertainty of seasonal variation with latitude, aspect, altitude and coastal or inland location in selecting the correct time for treatment.

Some consideration was given to advances in selective weed control where new herbicides were discussed which provided reliable control of two problem species, Creeping speedwell *Veronica filiformis* and Yellow Suckling Clover *Trifolium dubium*.

Consideration of modern contracting facilities for turf maintenance led to a topic which stimulated comment. Questions and discussion by members present, that of improving sports turf prone to waterlogging by drainage schemes, centred around the technique of constructing vertical sand channels to intercept surface water and convey it directly to the drains. Mr. Head described the way in which design of drain spacing, sand type and dimensions of sand slit determined the drainage capacity of any scheme.

From a knowledge of these relationships, and an awareness of daily rainfall figures it was possible to propose a system with a target drainage design consistent with the requirements of individual sites. Chipman Limited provided a technical consultancy service and would prepare schemes for the greenkeeper wherever required. Their construction teams could carry out all the work involved, including the installation of sand slits by the Sand Injection technique. In the past so many drainage "plumbing" systems had failed because surface water could not reach the pipes through soil where structure had collapsed. With the new techniques, schemes could be tailored to individual drainage rate requirement and their performance reliably quantified.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Colin Head who had made the journey from Horsham to be with us on this occasion.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members:—

C. BURKE (Roehampton) A.
LITTLE (West Essex) E.
REILLY (Ransomes) and C. L.
WALLIS and M. W. LOWER
(Chipstead).

Buffet & Dance

Arrangements have been made by your Dinner & Dance Committee for the above Buffet/Dance to take place at the West Essex G.C. Chingford, E4 at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 6th September 1974. Dress informal and admission £2.50 for Tickets. Please write to—Ray Tempest **not to me**—his address:—45, Telston Lane, Otford, Kent. Tickets will be also be obtainable from him on Lecture evenings.

North West Section

Chairman:

O. P. JONES

Bramhall Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

H. M. WALSH

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

Obituary

It is with the deepest regret I have to inform Members that the Section President for a great many years, Bill Kinsey to all his friends, died in hospital on February 15th. I am sure all members will join me in offering our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kinsey and family in their great loss.

Lecture

Our thanks to Peter Wyatt of Pattissons Ltd., for the interesting talk he gave us, also for the equipment shown to us. Our thanks too for the refreshments both liquid and solid.

Spring Tournament

As stated in previous issues of the Journal our Spring Tournament will

be played over the Dean Wood Golf Club Course, Lafford Lane, Up Holland, Nr. Skelmersdale on Thursday May 15th 1974 over 27 holes—18 in the morning, 9 in the afternoon. The A.G.M. will take place after the Prize giving.

Please get there early, Tee off 9 a.m., also let me have your entries and meal requirements.

Welsh Section

Chairman:

J. MARTIN

PENNARD GC.

Secretary:

T. M. JONES

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of Tom Lloyd, who died suddenly on Friday February 1st at the age of 63. Tom was head greenkeeper at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff for 48 years, and was one of the longest serving greenkeepers of the Welsh Section. Tom was also a very good committee man who served on the committee for many years and 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 Mrs. Lloyd in her great loss.

1974 Fixtures

Tuesday April 23rd. The Cardiff Cup at Pontypridd Golf Club.

Tuesday June 25th A.G.M., and Secretaries meeting, John Duncan Cup and Birdie Cup at Southerndown Golf Club.

Wednesday September 11th, Presidents' Shield at Pennard Golf Club.

Will all members going to the above meetings please try and contact me not later than a week before the meeting, in order that I may make the arrangements for catering. Also could

you try and be there at 9.30 a.m., for us to have an early start. Thank you.

T. M. Jones, Secretary.

Midlands Section

Chairman:

G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:

R. GOODWIN
2 Greenkeepers Cottage,
Ashridge Golf Club,
Ashridge Park,
Berkhampstead, Herts.

Lecture

The last lecture of the winter season was held at Blackwell Golf Club on Wednesday 20th February.

The subject of the lecture being drainage, it was given by Mr. Joss of the Research Institute who is very conversant on the subject and gave a very interesting lecture on all aspects of this, for which we would like to convey our thanks.

Our thanks also go to the Committee and members of Blackwell Golf Club for granting us the use of their Clubhouse for the event.

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of our Chairman and Committee to thank all members who have supported our lectures so well this winter and hope this trend continues in the future, when I am sure a further series of lectures will be arranged.

East-Midland Section

Chairman:

G. DARBY

Hon. Secretary:

S. FRETTER
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leicester.

Congratulations

I would like to wish Mr. B. Mott a long and happy time as Head Greenkeeper of Rothley Park Golf Club.

Autumn Golf Tournament

As most of you know, this was to be held at Burton on Trent Golf Club, but this is now cancelled owing to Burton requiring us to pay green fees.

This Tournament is now being held at Chilwell Manor Golf Club on September 18th 1974.

South Coast Section

Chairman:

I. GREENFIELD

Acting Secretary:

MRS. J. STIMSON

A Section Committee meeting was held at Ampfield Par Three Golf Club on Thursday, 7th February, 1974 at 6 p.m.

It was reported that this Section had been asked to ascertain whether there was a possibility that the 1974 Annual Tournament could be held at Parkstone Golf Club in August as the proposed trip to France had not been supported. Parkstone were unable to entertain the Association on three consecutive days at such short notice, but the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club had offered the Association the courtesy of their course and full clubhouse facilities. It was resolved that the kind offer of the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club be accepted and the dates provisionally arranged i.e. 30th September, 1st and 2nd October, duly confirmed.

A full discussion on matters relating to the organisation of the Tournament then took place. It was not anticipated that any difficulties would arise in obtaining the necessary accommodation required for participating members as the Tournament will be held during the start of the off-season holiday period, and there were plenty of hotels in the Swanage/Studland/Corfe Castle area.

The Committee were informed that they had been requested to nominate the Vice-Chairman for the current year and it was unanimously resolved that Mr. E. James be nominated to fill this position.

The Acting Secretary reported upon her meeting with Mr. Dix and Mr. Ford on 29th January, 1974.

The venue and date of the Spring Meeting were also discussed and it

was decided to accept Basingstoke Golf Club's kind offer of the courtesy of the course on Wednesday, 1st May, 1974. It has since been arranged that only "paid-up" members who send their entries (complete with entry money (£3.50p) and current golf handicap) to Mr. E. Fox c/o Huxleys, The Dean, New Alresford, Hampshire, by Thursday, 18th April 1974, will be eligible to play at the Spring Meeting.

It has been arranged that the Annual General Meeting will be held at Ampfield Par Three Golf Club on Thursday, 16th May, 1974 at 6 p.m.

The Acting Secretary submitted a report on the Section's finances. Suggestions relating to the Winter Lecture Programme and golf fixtures for 1975 were also considered.

The Chairman displayed three splendid pewter tankards which had been presented to the Section by Mr. Bill Denyer and it was agreed that the trophies should be suitably inscribed and played for annually. The Committee expressed their grateful thanks to Mr. Denyer for his delightful and generous gift.

Reminder : Dates to be recorded:

April 18th — Latest date for Spring Meeting entries.

May 1st — Spring Meeting to be held at Basingstoke G.C.

Sept. 30th — B.G.G.A. 1974 Annual Tournament to be held at Isle of Purbeck G.C.
1st and 2nd Oct.

N. M. Stimson.
170 Stockbridge Road
WINCHESTER Hampshire

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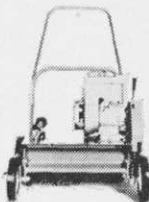
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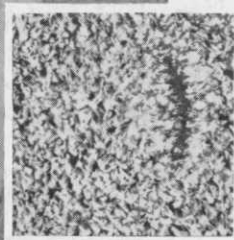
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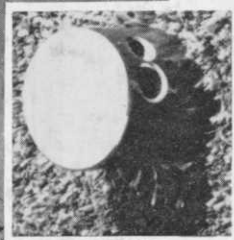
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