

The British Golf Greenkeeper



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The British Golf Greenkeeper

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Front Cover Picture

This month's Front Cover Illustration highlights the special feature on grass seeds for Golf Courses appearing in this issue. The two species shown are Yorkshire Fog and Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue. They are taken from a booklet "The Identification of Grasses by the Foliage" published by Suttons Seeds Ltd, Reading.

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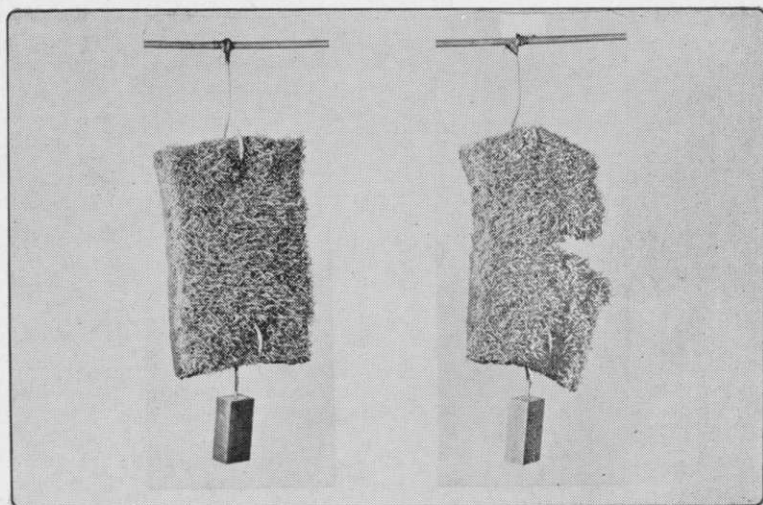
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Grass roots wisdom

A review of grass seeds suitable for golf courses

GRASS is probably the most successful family of plants occurring naturally in the British Isles, where it grows almost everywhere in abundance. The world contains approximately 10,000 species of grass, but Britain has only about 160 occurring naturally, of which eight have been selected for characteristics which make them useful in the production of domestic and professional turf.

Grass habitats are very diverse, and extend from the mountainous terrain of the north to tidal mudflats far out in estuaries of the south.

One of the most commonly sown species of plants, it has an important role to play in virtually every private garden and public recreational area,

● This review is abridged from a book by GEOFF TAYLOR, turfgrass adviser to W. W. Johnson & Son Ltd., of Boston, Lincs.

from golf courses to city parks. It is a natural foil for the bright colours of a flower bed, and with little attention will enhance any area.

So it is hardly surprising that grass tends to be taken for granted, largely due to the British climate, which favours its growth and disguises the many important factors which contribute to the production of good turf.

At this point it is perhaps sensible to remind ourselves what the word turf means. The term is usually applied to a community of plants, ideally consisting of grasses only. The word turfgrass is now being generally accepted to describe any area of grass that is used for non-agricultural purposes, and includes for example, ornamental areas, verges, and all the many sporting applications.

These diverse roles call for different species, as clearly the grasses which are

able to produce the fine dense turf of the golf green are not suitable for the heavy wear and tear of the professional football pitch. In practice, it is not usual to sow pure varieties of grass, as a greater degree of flexibility is obtained from a mixture.

A mixture can respond to environmental changes more successfully and will also resist weed invasion and attacks from disease. Pure stands of any species always run the risk of disease, which has a greater opportunity to reproduce on susceptible plant material. This can even lead to the breakdown of a variety's resistance to a particular disease.

Today, with the aid of varieties, the basic eight species are used to provide different mixtures that will approach quite closely in most cases the ideal requirements of most turfgrass situations. The species may be divided in different ways, but probably the most important factor is the ability to tolerate close mowing.

Other important characteristics are tolerance to wear, fineness of leaf, disease resistance, and habit of growth in particular, whether it produces runners and if so, whether they are rhizomes or stolons (growing below or above the soil).

The golf course is one recreational area that illustrates quite well the importance of prescribing the correct mixture for each of the various playing areas. Although the management will vary from course to course, it is possible to distinguish quite easily four types of turf with different needs—the greens, the tees, the fairways and the rough.

Each area has two principal considerations—the height at which the turf will be mown, and the degree of wear imposed upon it. There are, of course,

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[Grass Review from Page 5]

the other factors listed earlier which need attention, as they tend to be inter-dependent. For example, low mowing, at 8mm. ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.) or less will put stress on the plants and increase the risk of disease.

THE GREEN, as the focal point of every hole, needs to be maintained in a really first-class condition. Besides providing a playing surface which should be uniform although not necessarily level, it is used throughout the year and must, ideally, always remain attractive.

On most other sports turf there is a season when the grass can be rested and many of the man-made stresses relaxed to allow a thorough recovery from the rigours of use. But in golf this is not possible. It is important, therefore, to make full use of the modern improved varieties which offer really significant benefits over the older types that frequently have little to commend them over commercial seed.

The green is very closely mown and is traditionally composed of a mixture of chewings fescue and browntop bent, in proportions that nowadays are usually 80% to 20%. These species tolerate close mowing of 5mm. ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) better than others, and produce the very fine textured turf that is essential for the surface of the green.

There are a number of varieties of chewings fescue, but one which is commercially available for the first time in 1974 is Waldorf, which has received excellent reports from trials conducted over a number of years both here and abroad. It has been singled out for its superior ability to produce a truly neat, compact turf which has a very high degree of disease resistance, ensuring that its colour will remain attractive.

Browntop is available also in a number of varieties, but in this case, there are two quite distinct types. On the one hand there is Highland Bent which has good winter colour, is inclined to be uneven in growth, produces both rhi-

zomes and stolons, and is very aggressive when compared with the growth habits of other species.

On the other hand, there are the bred strains from Holland, such as Holfior, which are uniform, have good summer colour and produce rhizomes only. It is considered sound sense to blend the bents so that good colour is obtained all the year round with the additional benefit of greater uniformity.

In the case of **THE TEE**, the prerequisite is clearly not the closeness of mowing, but the degree of wear. Courses which have more than one tee per hole are able to reduce this severe burden on the grasses, but it is still vital that the mixture used should consist principally of wear-tolerant, vigorous rhizomatous species.

Recommendations vary, but the principal specie must be smooth stalked meadow grass, sometimes known as Kentucky blue grass, or more correctly *poa pratensis*. This would be combined with a second rhizomatous specie, creeping red fescue, making up the major part of the mixture. Other ingredients would be chewings fescue and browntop. The two principal ingredients, plus the bent, are included for their ability to repair and recolonise scarred and bare areas.

Once again, modern varieties of all the species in the mixture are vastly superior in their ability to produce a dense, harder-wearing turf, with greatly improved colour all the year round plus disease resistance. In particular, *poa pratensis*, with varieties like Prato and Fylking, are so much better that the commercial Danish seed is by comparison a non-starter.

In the case of creeping red fescue, it would be preferable to use Dawson, a member of the group 1 category, typified by fine leaves and relatively dwarf growth habit.

The third type of turf area, **THE FAIRWAY**, is similar to the tee in some respects, but differs in that the degree of

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This photograph of a new golf green was taken 3 weeks after Tana Grass was laid. The green was ready for play just 3 months after the completion of the work.

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The performance of Tana has been demonstrated on Courses laid in the North of England, and in trials at various centres, including Bingley Sports Turf Research Institute.

[Grass Review from Page 7]

wear is not confined to one small area. The local soil type is also more likely to have an influence on the mixture, particularly if variations exist.

In view of this it is often advisable to include timothy, which may replace part or all the *poa pratensis*. Where timothy is used instead of the *poa*, it is necessary to increase the proportion of creeping red fescue.

In many cases it is possible to use the same mixture as for the tee, although where soil conditions are heavy or the area is prone to wetness timothy would be a valuable sward component. Timothy is an interesting specie which tolerates wear, but it is available in two forms.

One type is a very dwarf creeping form which is best known in the Aberystwyth variety S.50. The other is the common one, which is also used extensively in agriculture and is available in several varieties, the best of which are the prostrate types such as King and S.48½.

Finally, there is **THE ROUGH**, which by comparison with the other three turf

areas is an area of relatively low or no maintenance. Cutting or topping if carried out is minimal, and the turf is largely left to its own devices. The slow, low-growing species would be chosen where the rough is to be produced from seed, and one additional specie not recommended for use elsewhere would be fine-leaved sheep's fescue. The mixture would also include the other two fescues, *poa pratensis* and browntop, but in proportions that enable each specie to play a more or less equal role, since close mowing and wear are irrelevant in this instance.

Grass is something that is generally taken for granted because it is to be seen everywhere and grows quite freely under British conditions.

Good turf is **not** natural, however, and is obtained only by the use of good varieties.

The cost is usually higher than for commercial seed, but it is possible to reduce sowing rates substantially with the superior varieties, so that the total outlay on seed is no higher. In view of this it is not surprising that professionals are turning to the better grasses, which are more in keeping with the needs of the modern community.

NOW, eleven specialist seedsmen give their recommendations for mixtures covering all the requirements of greenkeepers on British courses.

Cannock Fertilisers Ltd., Cannock Staffordshire WS11 3LW.

GREENS

Mixture No. 23—80% Highlight chewings fescue; 20% Highland browntop bentgrass.

TEES

Mixture No. 24, for newly seeding or repairing — Highlight chewings fescue; Cascade chewings fescue; Newport smooth stalked meadow grass; creeping red fescue; Highland browntop.

FAIRWAYS

Mixture No. 22—Perennial ryegrasses Aberystwyth S.23 and S.321; creeping red fescue; browntop bent.

Eastern Cultivated Turf Farms Ltd., Cranley Nursery, Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, London N10 3AR.

Growers of Warren's A-34 bluegrass, available as seed and turf. This smooth-stacked meadowgrass is disease-resistant and withstands shade up to 65%. It will thrive in open sunlight and varying soil conditions, and withstands short mowing down to ½ in.

Goldsmith Brothers Ltd., Bury St. Edmunds.

GREENS

Heavy soil: 70% Barfalla chewings

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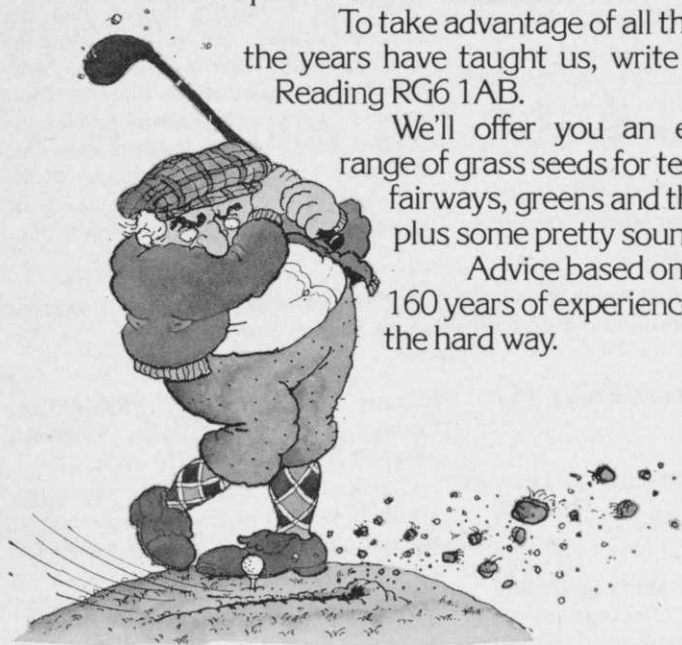
And we're getting hacked about all the time at Vilamoura in Portugal, Puerto di Hierro in Spain and Walton Heath.

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Advice based on 160 years of experience learnt the hard way.



Suttons Seeds

We've been thrashed around for 160 years.

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fescue; 30% Bardot browntop.

Light soil: 80% Barfalla chewings fescue; 20% Bardot browntop.

TEES

Heavy soil: 30% Baron smooth stalked meadow grass; 25% Bardot browntop; 45% Barfalla chewings fescue.

Light soil: 30% Baron smooth stalked meadow grass; 20% Bardot browntop; 50% Barfalla chewings fescue.

FAIRWAYS

Heavy soil: 35% Baron smooth stalked meadow grass; 25% Bargena creeping red fescue; 30% Barfalla chewings fescue; 10% Bardot browntop.

Light soil: 40% Baron smooth stalked meadow grass; 40% Bargena creeping red fescue; 15% Barfalla chewings fescue; 5% Bardot browntop.

W. W. Johnson & Son Ltd., Boston, Lincs. PE21 8AD.

GREENS

Blend J1—80% chewings fescue; 10% Holflor bentgrass; 10% Highland bentgrass.

Mowing: 5mm. ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.). The sward is quite capable of persisting at this mowing height but should be supported by judicious management.

Blend J2—40% Waldorf chewings fescue; 40% Dawson creeping red fescue; 10% Holflor bentgrass; 10% Highland bentgrass.

Mowing: 8mm. ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.). At this height a really dense turf will be obtained with a somewhat reduced management requirement. If desirable the mowing may be at 5mm. but the need for more exacting management will be increased.

TEES

Blend J3—30% Waldorf chewings fescue; 30% Dawson creeping red fescue; 5% Holflor bentgrass; 5% Highland bentgrass; 30% Prato smooth stalked meadow grass.

Mowing: 20mm. ($\frac{3}{4}$ in.). This is the best height at which to mow for normal purposes but where 15mm. ($\frac{1}{2}$ in.) is preferred this can be done provided the sward is rested and mown at levels of

not less than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. for 3–4 months.

FAIRWAYS

Blend J4—30% Waldorf chewings fescue; 20% Dawson creeping red fescue; 20% Ruby creeping red fescue; 5% Holflor bentgrass; 5% Highland bentgrass; 20% King timothy.

Mowing: 20mm. ($\frac{3}{4}$ in.). A reduction to 15mm. in mowing height is possible but is normally undesirable.

Maple Leaf Mills Ltd., Seed Division, Oakwood, Ontario, Canada.

Fylking bluegrass is an ingredient of many seed mixtures, and is a large-seeded variety. There are approximately 1,130,000 seeds per pound, comparing well with other bluegrasses which can number up to 2,100,000 per pound.

Fylking thrives mowed to half an inch and is resistant to disease. It endures light shade and reduces the frequency of mowing. For the purpose of sod growing, the turf is ready for lifting 80 to 90 days after seed planting. Once established, Fylking should require three or four feedings annually, each to provide about 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.

Individual plants resemble fine fescue, suggesting that some chewings or penn-lawn in a Fylking seed blend should prove compatible as a nurse for new plantings. In fact, if mowed less than a half inch, the tillers grow near the ground, much like a bentgrass. The name originates from the ancient Nordic language, and means a dense crowd or battle formation.

The Miln Marster Group Ltd., Chester and Kings Lynn.

GREENS

Mixture No. A1—30% browntop; 70% chewings fescue. Sow at the rate of 2oz. per square yard.

TEES

Mixture No. B2—10% browntop; 45% chewings fescue; 35% creeping red fescue; 10% rough stalked meadow grass. Sow at the rate of 2oz. per square yard.

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coventry

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Department of Recreation,
Council Offices,
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The appointment will be for a contract period of three years; passages, baggage and settlement allowances will be provided.

Applications giving full details of qualifications, previous experience, marital status and the age and number of dependents and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent by AIR MAIL to the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Hamilton, Bermuda, to arrive not later than 28th December 1974.

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FAIRWAYS

Mixture C3—30% Aberystwyth S.23 perennial ryegrass; 10% browntop; 20% chewings fescue; 30% creeping red fescue; 5% crested dogstail; 5% rough stalked meadow grass. Sow at the rate of 1oz. per square yard or 2 cwt. per acre.

ROUGH

Mixture D4—10% Aberystwyth S.23 perennial ryegrass; 70% short seeded perennial ryegrass; 10% chewings fescue; 10% creeping red fescue. Sow at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per square yard or 1 cwt. per acre.

Mommersteeg Seed Co., Station Road, Finedon, Wellingborough, Northants. NN9 5NT.

GREENS

Mixture MM11—80% Koket chewings fescue (OECD Certified); 10% Tracentia browntop (OECD Certified); 10% Highland browntop (OECD Certified); dressed with 'SAIsan'. Sowing rate: 1oz. per square yard; mowing height: $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

TEES

Mixture MM14—45% Koket chewings fescue (OECD Certified); 25% Fylking smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 20% Monopoly smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 10% Highland browntop (OECD Certified); dressed with 'SAIsan'. This mixture is rather slow in its initial establishment, and should not be used for very early or late sowings. As an alternative the universal mixture (MM 22) may be sown. Sowing rate for repair work: $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per square yard; mowing height: $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

FAIRWAYS

Adaptability is an important quality of any golf course fairway; soil conditions, shade intensity and the ground water table can vary quite markedly in different areas of the course. Heavy divot scarring of the turf, particularly on par four holes from approach and pitch shots, can be concentrated in specific areas, so the turf must be able to tolerate this and quickly recover from any

damage. Therefore a high proportion of rhizomatous grasses must be included in the seed mixture. Sowing rate: $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per square yard; mowing height: $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

ROUGH

Mixture MM13 — 50% Novorubra creeping red fescue (OECD Certified); 45% Monopoly smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 5% Highland browntop (OECD Certified); dressed with 'SAIsan'.

Nickersons of Rothwell, Field House, Grimsby, Lincs. DN34 4SX.

GREENS

Mixture Gold Seal—50% Highlight chewings fescue (OECD Certified); 30% Erika chewings fescue (OECD Certified); 20% Boral browntop bent (OECD Certified). Sowing rate: $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per square yard.

TEES

Mixture Silver Seal—35% Reptans creeping red fescue (OECD Certified); 10% Dawson creeping red fescue (OECD Certified); 15% Sydsport smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 10% Primo smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 10% Boral browntop bent (OECD Certified). Sowing rate: $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per square yard.

FAIRWAYS

Mixture Green Seal—20% Melle perennial ryegrass (OECD Certified); 25% Sydsport smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 25% Primo smooth stalked meadow grass (OECD Certified); 10% Heidemeij timothy (OECD Certified); 20% Repteans creeping red fescue (OECD certified).

Plantagenet Seeds Ltd., 9a Market Place, Pickering, Yorks. YO18 7AA.

A new nine-hole golf course at Ganstead, near Hull, has been built with Tana grass, the first in the world to be completed by this method. The greens and tees are all now ready for play, and the comments on the course, at this early stage, undoubtedly reflect the correct choice of varieties, as well as the contribution from the Tana grass system.

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NEW
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The British Golf Greenkeeper

[Grass Review from Page 13]

The varieties chosen were Highlight and Koket chewings fescue, and tracentenate and Bardot agrostis tenuis. The proportion was 80% chewings fescue and 20% agrostis tenuis.

At Bridlington municipal golf course 13 greens have been completed this year, again using Highlight chewings fescue and enate and Bardot agrostis tenuis, with 20% S59 creeping red fescue included to strengthen the grass in view of the close proximity to the sea and the somewhat impoverished nature of the soil.

It is recommended with Tana grass that care be taken to keep it moist by irrigating for the first 7-10 days, preferably morning and evening. The first cut is taken 2-3 weeks after laying; thereafter repeat cutting to one inch height is maintained for the following two months, after which the cutting height is gradually brought down to $\frac{1}{8}$ in., or whatever height is desired for play. The height of the mower is raised to $\frac{3}{8}$ in. during the winter if play has not already commenced.

Each of the greens receives a basal fertiliser dressing before Tana is laid, and a folia feed at the time of, or soon after, laying. Thereafter repeated light doses of suitable top dressing fertiliser such as Growmore is applied. Each green also receives a top dressing of sharp sand/peat/sterile soil, though in lighter quantities than would normally be applied after sowing or laying natural turf.

Also advocated is the use of a preventative fungicide, particularly when the cutting height is reduced from one inch, and of course, during those

periods of the year when fungus diseases are most active.

It is, of course, possible to include all varieties of seed in Tana production, and a number of trials are being conducted including various species, such as agrostis stolonifera and poa pratensis. On the Continent poa pratensis is a favourite, and a number of varieties are being tried, including Fylking, which has so far stood out as an excellent variety.

Suttons Seeds Ltd., Advisory Service, Reading, Berks.

GREENS

Mixture No. 25—A blend of the agrostis and festuca species, which consists of seeds of the highest purity and germinating ability. A sowing rate of 1 to 2 oz. per square yard is advised. This mixture consists of Certified Highland bent, Certified Highlight chewings fescue, Certified Oregon chewings fescue, and creeping red fescue.

Mixture 26—A mixture within a single species to produce the needle-like sward occurring on many of the links courses. A sowing rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 oz. per square yard is advised.

The mixture consists of:— Certified Highlight chewings fescue, Certified Oregon chewings fescue, Certified Aberystwyth S59 creeping red fescue, Certified OECD Dawson creeping red fescue.

TEES

Mixture 23—A hard-wearing blend of grasses which may be sown equally well in spring, summer or autumn for divot repair or general over-sowing on existing tees, or for producing a rapid cover on new tees.

This blend consists of Certified Highland bent, Certified Oregon chewings

[Turn to Page 16]



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[Grass Review from Page 15]

fescue, Canadian creeping red fescue, Finnish timothy, American smooth stalked meadow grass, Certified Kentish perennial ryegrass, Certified Ruanui perennial ryegrass.

FAIRWAYS

Mixture 24A—Some fairways are almost pure agrostis and festuca species; others have poas and perhaps Cynosurus cristatus, and on the heavier land probably a percentage of lolium perenne.

We offer two standard prescriptions and advise seeding rates of between 2½ and 5 cwt. per acre.

The non-Ryegrass prescription consists of Certified Highland bent, N.Z. crested dogstail, Certified Cascade chewings fescue, Certified Oregon chewings fescue, Canadian creeping red fescue.

Mixture 24B — Including perennial ryegrass, made up of Certified Highland bent, Canadian creeping red fescue, Finnish and Canadian timothy, Certified N.Z. Ruanui perennial ryegrass.

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GREENS

Penncross—agrostis palustris; sowing rate ¼oz. per sq. yd.; or A1 green mixture—80% OECD Certified Barfalla chewings fescue; 20% Certified Blue Tag Oregon browntop; sowing rate 1-1½oz. TEES

A2 tee mixture—30% OECD Certified Barfalla chewings fescue; 35% OECD Certified Bargaena creeping red fescue; 25% OECD Certified Baron smooth stalked meadow grass; 10% Certified Blue Tag Oregon browntop; sowing rate 1-1½oz. per sq. yd.

FAIRWAYS

Fairway mixture—40% OECD Cer-
[Continued on facing Page]

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[Grass Review continued]

tified Barfalla chewings fescue; 35%
OECD Certified Bargena creeping red

fescue; 15% OECD certified Baron
smooth stalked meadow grass; 10%
Certified Blue Tag Oregon browntop;
sowing rate 1½-2 cwt. per acre.

Seed Measurement Table Quantities to nearest ⅛ cwt.

	Yards	Square yards	1oz. per sq. yd. cwt.	2oz. per sq. yd. cwt.	4oz. per sq. yd. cwt.	1lb. per sq. yd. cwt.
Eighteen (average) golf greens	625 each	6¼	12½	25	100	
Quarter acre	1,210	⅝	1⅜	2¾	11	
Half acre	2,420	1⅝	2¾	5½	22	
One acre	4,840	2¾	5½	11	44	

Some Grasses grouped according to habitat (which might indicate their uses in turf)

CHALK/LIMESTONE FORMATIONS	SANDY SOILS	SANDY SEA SHORES/ MUD FLATS	STIFF MOIST CLAYS/ LOAMY SOILS
Festuca rubra	Poa pratensis	Poa maritima	Phleum pratense
Festuca ovina	Agrostis tenuis	Poa bulbosa	Poa trivialis
Crested Dogstail	Agrostis canina	Agrostis stolonifera var. compacta	Agrostis stolonifera
Wavy hairgrass	sub spp. Montana		Crested Dogstail
Ryegrass	Festuca rubra		
Timothy	Festuca ovina	Festuca rubra var. arenaria	Festuca rubra
Agrostis—stolonifera/tenuis			Lolium perenne

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HORSES FOR COURSES

by Patrick Smartt

RE-READING once again, Jacklin's absorbing book on his life, it was interesting to note his comparison of American courses with those to be found in these islands.

He makes the point that bunkers should be fair at all times. He develops that argument by describing some of ours as steep-sided horrors, long outdated, and from which there is virtually no escape in one stroke other than playing out sideways, or backwards.

Apart from bringing home to those of a much earlier golfing generation the change in outlook of the modern competitor (or one of them), this opens up some questions.

As Professor Joad, on the Brains Trust programme, used to say with the utmost regularity: "It depends on what you mean by . . ." In this instance, fairness.

In modern thinking an undulating fairway produces unfair bounces. Is it too naïve to ask if the ball kicks the wrong way every time? As for playing a ball lying on an up, or down slope, most players of amateur county class would expect to cope adequately with these—from experience alone.

On a number of our "outdated" courses, recoveries from these antique coffins have been seen on television. The impression is that most of them end up leaving the player with a holeable putt. That is, from greenside bunkers, and with a **sand-wedge**. The impossibility of playing a long second from them is granted. To the surprise of many, one of the American women professionals, in the Colgate tournament at Sunningdale, was seen to attempt a wood from sand. The ball struck the bank. Her caddie's thoughts would be interesting.

Harry Vardon, his contemporaries and later generations had to cope with them. Their sole instrument for recovery was the niblick, a club without a flange to

slide it through the sand. Despite this, John Henry Taylor went round Royal St. George's, Sandwich, in 69, knowing he had to do so. To be trite, it is the same for everyone. The deep bunkers are there—punishing—and it is an old axiom that it is the man who makes the least errors wins.

That was before the term "Scrambling" had been invented. Which may be defined as keeping the score within reasonable limits, when not striking the ball as well as normally. Into that can be read the wish to reduce punishment, without decrying the skill shown in getting out of trouble.

Another question begs. Trees are now in fashion on new courses. There are many on the old inland clubs. Does a ball lying against a trunk, or in the roots, offer a more amenable chance for recovery than from those sanded depressions? Furthermore, with the introduction of water "traps", they are not bunkers, mostly in America to the relief of one ancient, are we now to expect a water-wedge? It is difficult to see what design this would take, within the provisions of Rule 2. "Form and Make of Clubs". A noted coaching professional was asked the correct stroke from water, and is reported to have said he did not know.

Inevitably it will be argued that an amateur cannot understand what it is like playing for your livelihood. It is only necessary to have watched some Open Championships, and seen the haggard faces of some of those in contention to have a fair inkling.

A player anxious to win the Amateur of any of the major golf countries, is under heavy strain. He is not called to play 72 holes medal, but by the time he has reached the final he could have played that number. Whereas in this formula a disastrous hole does not wreck

[Turn to Page 20]

[Courses from Page 19]

his chance, the course cannot attack him by holing long putts or chip shots as a human opponent may.

Perhaps the idea of "fairness", whatever that may mean in golf, is the key. That master of writing about golf, the late Bernard Darwin, when writing on that subject posed the question: "Do we wish to descend to the bloomless heights of Chess?" I quote from memory.

Reflecting on what has been written—the opinions of an oldster—one wonders whether the passion for startling scores, some of it due to promoters with an eye on the gate-money, and a proportion to the publicity they receive is responsible. The public has been brain-washed into expecting returns under 70. An obvious way to get these results is to make conditions easier.

But, after due acknowledgement has been made to improved clubs and balls,

improved technique (?)—do they hit them any straighter than Vardon or Taylor?—and making allowances for the different conditions, are the 69s any better golf than the 74s of those two?

Professionals' tournaments today are a form of entertainment, and the cast (the competitors) know they have to produce brilliant figures. There are two sides to that. To win demands low scoring. To be in a position to demand appearance money, the performer must produce the goods. It is natural, therefore, that he does not regard heavy punishment for a wayward stroke amiably.

That is but a soft impeachment. It has to be accepted that the golf of today, and yesteryear are two different games.

Finally, not without pleasure and pride, it can be claimed that our long outdated courses, with their steep-sided horrors of bunkers, have yet to allow an inferior player to win the Open.

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Sand plan for healthy turf

A new management programme for greens

Since World War II, we have seen play on some nearby golf courses go from 20,000 rounds a year to over 100,000 rounds a year. The pattern has been the same throughout the country. This has required changed maintenance practices, principally an increased use of nitrogen fertilizer and water to grow more grass in order to keep up with wear. Because the resulting grass is more succulent and more attractive to insects and fungi, increased amounts of control chemicals have been used. Increased irrigation and increased play have aggravated compaction, which is relieved by use of coring machines.

We now use maximum amounts of fertilizer on greens, but play continues to increase. What direction can we take now? In considering this question, we felt that a different approach to putting green maintenance was worth considering.

Although great progress has been made in putting green management over the past 25 years, the major problems continue to include thatch and compaction. Thatch provides a reservoir for diseases and both thatch and compaction limit air, water and root movement in soil. Coring, to relieve the problem, creates a serious weed problem with *Poa annua*, goose-grass and crabgrass.

Our solution to these problems is to provide light and frequent top-dressing with sand in the 0.05 to 1.0 mm range. This sand will drop out of sight and the golfer will never know the green has been dressed. Just enough sand is applied to mingle with the stolons and prevent a thatch layer from forming. Coring is eliminated because compaction is reduced. Bentgrass seed is added to the top-dressing

About the Author:

Dr. John H. Madison was born in the Midwest, raised in New England and received his Ph.D. in plant physiology at Cornell University, New York. He came to the University of California, Davis campus in 1953 where he has worked continuously with turf-grasses. He is the author of two major texts; "Principles of Turfgrass Culture" and "Practical Turfgrass Management" as well as many other publications.

so there is continual crowding of weeds and rapid replacement of turf whenever bare areas occur. For the sake of economy, seed, herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizer are added to the top-dressing so all operations are combined.

When the program is begun on an existing green, there may be some immediate response if the green is badly thatchbound. If the green is the ordinary layer cake of thatch and sand layers occasionally pierced by aerifier holes, no immediate results should be expected. However, by the end of the second growing season there should be noticeable weed suppression and good general vigour. Improved rooting should begin to result in a turf more tolerant of stress.

The program

We top-dress every three weeks with the following materials.

Sand-0.05-1.0 mm
(- 18 + 200
screen)

[Continued on facing Page]

[Sand Plan/continued]

Nitrogen source
to provide Nat

K_2SO_4

Dolomitic lime
(acid soils or
dolomitic
gypsum (soils
above pH 6.5)

(If dolomites are
not available
add Epsom
salts

Zinc chelate or
mixed minor
element chelates

Iron chelate

Phosphorus source
to provide P at
Bentgrass seed

When pesticides are used, we add them as wettable powders to give the recommended rate. We alternated between the insecticides Diazinon, a somewhat systemic phosphate, and Sevin, a carbamate. Depending on season and disease, we have used thiram, Dexon, captan, Koban, and Daconil 2728. ®

How the program has worked so far.

1. Amount and Frequency of Top-dressing: This is critical. The goal is to apply just enough sand just often enough so thatch is mixed with sand but a good cushion or mat is left above the sand.

We apply 3 cubic feet of sand per 1,000 square feet at three-week intervals, 15 times a year. This is a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of sand per year.

2. Top-dressing Sand: Sand, as specified (- 18 200), will drop from sight as soon as it dries, or it may be washed in by turning on the irrigation system for a minute or two. If the application is not even, one may need to drag or broom it in. The golfer should never know the green was top-dressed. Keep looking for a good sand.

3. Top-dressing Practice: We find that top-dressing machines apply material evenly at low rates. We figure

on adding $\frac{1}{28}$ " of sand at each treatment.

If mixing top-dressing requires buying special equipment, the sand and fertility programs can be separated during the initial 2-4 year test period. For good mixing, the sand should be slightly damp.

4. Coring: A coring machine can be well used to break the interface at the first top-dressing. After that the coring machine should be prohibited. It is no longer needed and its use spoils the benefit of weed control.

5. Weed control: Most weed seeds require light to germinate. Top-dressing buries them and replaces them with grass seed.

6. Disease Control: Top-dressing should reduce inoculum by burying it. We have had Pythium on our aprons that failed to enter the experimental area. Top-dressing areas, in shade, continue to get Fusarium patch during long periods of cold, wet over-cast.

7. Insect Control: Without thatch, it is more difficult for caterpillars to burrow and easier for birds to find them, but control is still necessary. Insecticides in the top-dressing are effective.

8. Mineral Nutrition: Different sands are more or less mineral rich. The minerals added are for assurance—actual need may be less. When more nitrogen is used, other minerals should be increased in proportion.

9. Organic Matter: No organic matter is used in the top-dressing. This program is to control excess organic matter—thatch. Grass creates its own organic matter which adds to the cation exchange capacity of the soil.

With grateful acknowledgement to USGA Green Section RECORD a publication on Turf Management by the U.S. Golf Association.

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NEWS

WITH the darker evenings now with us for a few months, time perhaps to do a little reading. We have just received the latest list of an organisation specialising in selling books on agricultural botany and gardening. Readers wishing to receive a copy should write to Lesley Enstone, 2 Elm Cottage, Aldenham, Watford, Herts. WD2 8AN.

AVAILABLE for Section Meetings during the coming winter is an aeration machinery slide lecture from Ransomes aimed at groups of Groundsmen and Greenkeepers. The slide lecture lasts approximately 45 minutes and interested members should contact John Wilson, Sales Manager of Ransomes' grass machinery division at Ipswich.

THE Horticultural Division of Cannock Fertilisers Ltd. announce the appointment of Mr. Ian McJennett as Technical Representative in South Wales. His home is in Penarth and he is particularly well known in sports circles. Mr. Roy Bartlett, who lives near Stroud (Glos.) takes on additional territory comprising Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. A range of Toro grasscutting equipment for turf management at the new Bar Hill Golf Club has been bought to prepare the 18-hole course. The course, near Cambridge, is part of the first new residential development and amenity projects undertaken by the Trafalgar House organisation.

The fleet of machines includes a Toro Greensmaster 3 ride-on triplex greens mower, a Trojan 3 ride-on triple rotary with 60in. cut, a Toro 70in. Professional ride-on triplex cylinder machine and an 11ft. Toro Super Pro ride-on gang unit. The machines were supplied by Bartram Mowers Ltd. of Norwich.

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Senior post

READERS will be interested to learn that Mr. R. Bradley ex North-West Section of the B.G.G.A. has recently been nominated senior Vice-President of the New Zealand Golf Greenkeepers Association.

AGM report

THE Minutes of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association, together with the Income and Expenditure Account, will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

(Re-Advertisement)

HEAD GREENKEEPER

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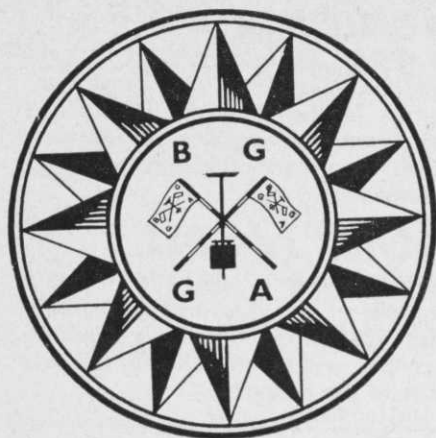
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SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
N. M. STIMSON
North Wilts. G.C.
Devizes.

ON behalf of all our members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed towards the success of the 1974 Annual Tournament.

Members are reminded that the next winter lecture will be held at Alresford Golf Club on Tuesday, 7th January, 1975 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. I. E. Flowerday, the Toro Irrigation Products Manager of Wright Rain Ltd.

Our autumn meeting was held at Parkstone Golf Club on 28th October 1974. Fifty-two members and guests attended and they all enjoyed a leisurely day as play had to be restricted to 18 holes of golf because of the recent change to Winter Time. However this did not appear to detract from the success of the meeting, and again the weather was kind to us.

Our chairman thanked the captain and committee for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities, and also expressed thanks to his own green staff and the indoor staff who looked after us so well. Mrs. King provided an excellent lunch. Mr. James paid tribute to the efforts of Mrs. Stimson and

Messrs. E. Fox, A. Jeffery and P. Marshall, who all helped in the organisation of the meeting and he also thanked the members of the trade and others who had contributed so generously to our prize list and raffle.

The secretary then took the opportunity to address the meeting and drew attention to forthcoming events and the recent decisions of the section committee. She also mentioned that Mr. Ian Greenfield, the past chairman, wished her to convey his best wishes for a successful meeting and his most grateful thanks for the Parker pen presentation gift. His health was improving gradually and he hoped he would continue to get better so that he could attend the meetings next year.

The chairman then called upon Mr. R. L. Shakeshaft, the captain of Parkstone Golf Club to say a few words and present the prizes.

The prize winners were: R. Plain and B. Chase (set of head covers) 42 pts.; E. West and Mr. Draper Flymo (cup and gloves) 39; R. Rogers and A. C. Evans (cigarette lighters) 38; E. Brown and D. Stewart (propelling pencils) 38; J. Hamilton Stutt and W. J. Knowles (bottles of whisky) 37; F. Ainsworth and E. Allward (pair of secateurs) 37; B. Emberley and A. Jones (hand warmers) 37.

We are pleased to welcome two more members, and we hope their association with us will be a long and happy one: B. Ramsdin (Vice-President); E. W. Moseley (Blackmoor Golf Club). We also hope that Ian Rickman (previously at Ferndown) is enjoying the change of scene at Bramshott Hill Golf Club.

Southern Section

Chairman:

F. W. FORD
(South Herts.)

Hon. Secretary:

F. W. FORD
68 Salcombe Gardens,
Mill Hill, London, NW7
Tel: 959 2847

PRAYERS were answered and umbrellas remained unfurled on Wednesday, 9th October for the annual 12 a side match between the Southern Section and the A.G.C.S. at the Stoke Poges Golf Club. Handicaps being reasonably equal the match was played off scratch.

Going into lunch 3½—2½ up served as an appetiser to a first class meal and the 8—4 in the afternoon's singles resulted in the most conclusive win of the series so far.

We have now notched 5—3 on the Challenge Trophy. Well done team and better luck next year. Fergus, perhaps

we had better play off handicap next time!!

A warm welcome to the following new members: R. Lansbury (Old Fold); M. Sperring & B. Kenneally (Upminster); L. Harris, F. R. Spicer, C. D. Wakefield & S. R. Whittaker (Frilford Heath); B. Richardson (Fisons); F. W. Kimber (Hugh Page (Sussex) Ltd.); and D. Ashford and R. Howard of Chipman Ltd.

The first meeting at Whitbreads on 16th October proved to be a very successful evening. Firstly because we had R. L. Morris, Senior Horticulturist, Levington Research Station with us on this occasion to talk on some aspects of chemicals and secondly we had a good attendance of 70 in a room capable of holding as many more?

Among them. we were all delighted

[Turn to Page 28]

Foursomes

Southern Section

R. Tempest (Darenth Valley)	& M. Owen (Roehampton)	0
B. Payne (Burnham Beeches)	& G. Hayes (South Herts)	½
D. H. Major (Betchworth Pk)	& R. Plain (Beaconsfield)	1
G. Payne (Maidenhead)	& H. Brown (Home Park)	1
W. F. Machin (Addington Ct)	& J. Kendall (Stoke Poges)	1
F. W. Ford (South Herts)	& S. Taylor (Fulwell)	0

A. Heron (Ashridge)	& D. L. Gould (Hayling)	1
A. J. Acres (Stoke Poges)	& J. M. Ritchie (Leatherhead)	½
J. Marshall (Bristol & Clifton)	& C. Howarth (I.O.W.G.U.)	0
J. Crowther (Hallamshire)	& R. Griffiths (Sandy Lodge)	0
A. R. Bird (Basingstoke)	& K. Chaunby (West Hill)	0
J. R. Adair (Beaconsfield)	& M. Dorey (Brookmans Pk)	1

—

3½

—

—

2½

—

Singles

Southern Section

R. Tempest	1	v
M. Owen	0	v
B. Payne	1	v
G. Hayes	0	v
D. H. Major	1	v
R. Plain	1	v
G. Payne	1	v
H. Brown	1	v
S. Taylor	1	v
J. Kendall	0	v
W. F. Machin	1	v
F. W. Ford	0	v

A.G.C.S.

A. Heron	0
D. L. Gould	1
A. J. Acres	0
J. M. Ritchie	1
J. Marshall	0
C. Haworth	0
R. Griffiths	0
J. Crowther	0
A. R. Bird	0
M. Dorey	1
K. Chaunby	0
J. R. Adair	1

—

8

—

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4

—

Match Winners Southern Section 11½—6½

Southern Section

[From Page 27]

to see past Chairman Jock Glass and past Superintendent St. Andrews, John Campbell. John, now a resident in the South, told me that he intends to join the Southern Section and we hope to see him at many more of our meetings. Congratulations on your new appointment, John, and best wishes from us all.

Aided by projector slides, Bob Morris talked effortlessly on chemicals, methods of spraying and use of spraying equipment etc. He stressed the importance of not taking any liberties with chemicals, of reading instructions on containers carefully and wearing protective clothing. He also said that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Food "A" book should be a must in every Head Greenkeeper's library.

Question time revealed that March is the month for spraying Veronica, that deterioration of stored chemicals is negligible providing containers are in good condition, that it is good practice to date containers when storing, and that fungicides have a longer lasting effect as wettable powder than as a possible liquid fungicide.

The totally irrelevant slide which had supposedly slipped in, was shown again by request, much to the obvious appreciation of one and all. 'Who mentioned thatch?' The proceeds from the concluding Southern Section Benevolent Fund Raffle organised by "Bonzo" totalled £8.70.

Northern Section

Chairman:

J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

W. HEELES

7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.

Tel: K'boro 3851

THIS year the Invitation Tournament was played at the Ganton Golf Club, by kind permission of the committee.

Twenty-five members with their guests took part in what started out to be a very wet and nasty afternoon, however the rain did cease and the sun shone for

us all to play and enjoy the amenities of a golf course in the very best of condition. The eventual winners were: D. Ward and N. Whitehead, Harrogate Golf Club, on a card play-off from A. Robertshaw and A. Cowman, Ilkley Golf Club.

Once again I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of all who took part to the Committee and Members for allowing us the courtesy of the Course and Clubhouse for the afternoon and evening.

Autumn Tournament

The Annual Autumn Tournament of the Section took place on Wednesday, 16th October at Alwoodley Golf Club. Fifty-six members attended, a very good turn-out once again. Thanks are extended to the committee and members for allowing us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse, and we must not forget our friend, Hugh Marshall, for the excellent condition of the course and, last but not least, the Steward and his wife for the very good meal they provided for us, and also the members who donated to the prize list. Also many thanks to our friend, Peter Wyatt, from Pattisons for all the help he gave in issuing the cards and recording scores. Thanks, Peter.

Winners: 1st Div. Scratch—D. Ward. 1st, C. Ramsden; 2nd, C. Geddes; 3rd, W. Heeles; 4th, D. Storey. 2nd Div. 1st, D. Carter; 2nd, J. L. Grierson; 3rd, R. Johnson; 4th, C. Garnett; Vice-President's Prize: 1st, J. Grierson; 2nd, F. Readman.

The following Members' Handicaps have been adjusted:

D. Carter 24 to 18

J. L. Grierson 21 to 17

Forthcoming Event

The Annual Dinner will take place at the Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale, Harrogate, on Friday, 13th December 1974 at 7.15 for 8 p.m. The Menu will be as follows: melon, oxtail soup, roast turkey and chipolata, french beans, cauliflower, fruit salad and ice cream, coffee, cheese and biscuits. Cabaret. £2 per head plus gratuities.

North-West Section

Chairman:
E. WALSH, ESQ.

Hon. Secretary:
H. M. WALSH, ESQ.,
Tel: 40050

OUR thanks are due to the captain and council of Prestbury Golf Club, Cheshire, for their kindness in granting us the courtesy of their course and facilities of the club house on the occasion of our Autumn Tournament on 10th October. Our thanks also to Mr. Allan, the captain, for the warm welcome he extended to us and also for presenting the prizes in the evening, to the numerous prize donors both private, and our friends in the trade, to Messrs. Vaughan, Wyatt, and Faulkener for their great assistance in seeing to the cards, meal tickets, and monies, etc., to Mrs. Hays for the excellent meals provided, the bar staff, and to our friend and colleague, Mr. J. Leonard and his staff for the excellent condition of the course and to the Section's committee for their great work in helping with the smooth running of the tournament, and to the members themselves for the excellent turnout, one of the best on record. Thank you, gentlemen.

Prize winners as follows, all over 27 holes: Scratch Prize: E. Walsh, 113 gross; Veterans Over 50s: R. Lewis, 112 nett; Aggregate Rose Bowl: S. Edgerley, 207 nett Spring and Autumn; 1st nett: S. Edgerley, 96 nett; 2nd: R. Lewis, 112; 3rd: E. Walsh, 113; 4th: R. Janovskis, 114; 5th: F. Fletcher, 115; 6th: J. Leonard, 116½ C.P.O.; 7th: S. Dagger, 116½; 8th: J. Robinson, 117; 9th: P. Chapman, 117½; 10th: D. Golding, 119; 11th: R. Peters, 121; 12th: H. McAddey, 121½; 13th: A. Leonard, 123½; 14th: R. Graham, 125; 15th: M. Holmes, 126½; 16th: R. L. Thomas, 127; 17th: H. M. Walsh, 128 C.P.O.; 18th: J. Wright, 128; Visitors Prize: K. Edgerley, 73 nett over 18 holes.

There will be an extra Tournament for 1975 which will take place prior to our Spring Tournament as under.

It is proposed that SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd. will sponsor a Golf Tournament to be played for annually by North West Greenkeepers.

The event will be held in April, at a course within the region, and competitors will play for a trophy, with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd best nett, as well as a special prize for best nett, 18-24 handicappers.

The venue for the 1975 Tournament will be Wilmslow Golf Club and the date, Thursday, 24th April 1975. Refreshments will be provided by SISIS and the presentation of prizes will be made at the end of the day.

Will those members of the section wishing to take part in 1975, please contact the Secretary, Mr. H. M. Walsh at 34 Kingsfold Close, Brightmet, Bolton.

The December talk will be given by our friend P. Wyatt on Monday, 9th December, at Swinton Park G.C., East Lavis Road, Swinton, time 7.30 p.m.

We welcome to the section the following new members and hope their association with us will be a happy one: A. R. Faulkener, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, Honorary Member; R. Young, Chorley, Lancs., Hon. Member; P. K. Shaw, Clitheroe Golf Club, Clitheroe, Lancs.; F. Johnson, Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat, Bolton; H. Jackson, Leyland Motors, Hon. Member; J. Cogan, Garforth, Leeds, Yorks., Hon. Member; D. Legg, Broughton, Chester, Hon. Member.

East Midland Section

Chairman:
G. DARBY

Hon. Secretary:
S. FRETTER, ESQ.,
4 Queens Drive,
Leics. Forest East,
Leicester.

THE Annual Spring Tournament is being held at Spalding Golf Club on Wednesday, 14th May 1975. If you are interested in a bus for this tournament, would you please let me know.

The final of the Knock Out Cup was held at Rothley Park Golf Club on Sunday, 20th October 1974. This was won by Mr. M. Lane, a vice-president, who beat R. Willars 5 and 3.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Midlands Section

Chairman:

G. HART

Hon. Secretary:

R. GOODWIN

2 Greenkeepers' Cottage,
Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts.

FOLLOWING the resignation of A. Jamieson the position of Hon. Treasurer is now held by Mr. E. V. Thomas. Members and Vice-Presidents please send your subs. to the new Treasurer at the address below.

Mr. E. V. Thomas,
78 Hillmorton Road,
Four Oaks,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.
Tel. 021-308 2954.

I would like to welcome the following new members: N. Pullen, Blackwell (Class C); A. B. D. Black, Finham Park (Class C); J. Guest, Sutton Coldfield (Class C).

Belated congratulations to C. Frost who now holds the position of Head Greenkeeper at the new Druids Heath G.C.

Sheffield Section

President:

A. SHARDELOW

Little Timbers,

The Quillot.

Walton-on-Thames,

Surrey.

Hon. Secretary:

B. V. LAX

153 Kilton Road,

Worksop,

Notts.

OWING to personal commitments, our secretary for the past eight years, Mr. Henry Gillespie, has recently given up the position. Henry has worked really hard on behalf of our section. I would like to thank him on behalf of all our members.

Our annual match for the Slater Trophy played against the Northern Section, took place at Doncaster G.C. on 17th September by kind permission of the captain and committee.

The course was in fine condition unlike the weather which was, to say the least, a bit wet. The result of the eleven eighteen hole matches was a very pleasing win for Sheffield, 7 matches to 4.

During the morning the Sheffield members played a 9 hole Bogey com-

petition for the Coach Cup. The winner being Mick Coultas (Grange Park Golf Club). Second was Roy Brailsford (Worksop Golf Club).

Once again our lectures will be held at Abbeydale Golf Club, on the first Thursday in every month at 2.30 p.m. Thanks go to Abbeydale for allowing us to use the club. The first meeting was a demonstration of Jacobsen equipment and was attended by approximately 35 members. Our thanks go to Mr. D. Coad of Rolfe's Mini Tractors Ltd., also to Fearnco Ltd. for a very interesting afternoon.

Best wishes to all members and their families for a very Happy Christmas.

Diary Dates

- Dec. 3 South Coast Section Film
"Grasses"—J. H. Franks
Twyford Seeds. Alresford
G.C. Time 7 p.m.
- 4 Southern Section Lecture
— Whitbreads Social
Club. Time 6.30 p.m.
- 9 North-West Section Lec-
ture—H. Pattison & Co.
Swinton Park G.C. Time
7.30 p.m.

1975

- Jan. 7 Midland Section—Panel/
G'keeper/Trade Rep.
"Question Time". Edg-
baston G.C. Time 2 p.m.
- 8 Southern Section Lecture
— Whitbreads Social
Club.
- Feb. 4 Midlands Section Lecture
— Mommersteeg Int.
Kings Norton. Time 2
p.m.



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GREETINGS

From the President

Best wishes to all members of the Association and I hope that 1975 will be a good year for the B.G.G.A.

Carl Bretherton



From the Chairman

I wish all our members and their families a most enjoyable Christmas, with the best of luck and good fortune in the New Year.

E. R. James



From the Hon. Secretary

To every member of the Association I would like to extend my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

C. H. Dix

