

Tee Shots

The British Association of Golf Course Architects had a serious discussion about the shortage of skilled greenkeepers when it met in December. The Architects see the problems especially because of that critical period between completion by the contractors and opening for play when maintenance has to be of a very high standard. Even more tricky is the period between completion by the contractors and acceptance by the client. Contractors, like everybody else, find it hard to get skilled men and, since considerable travel may be involved, their possibilities are even more limited than for a golf club.

It is clear that one fundamental difficulty lies in the organisation of golf itself. Responsibility is split between four national golf unions and a rule-making body. These five come together in a thing called CONGU which is neither a type of eel nor part of darkest Africa but a Council which apparently has no executive powers to act in the general interests of the game.

Nobody can blame the Greenkeepers Association for this situation

nor for failing to try to meet it. Ten years ago the Greenkeepers Association foreseeing the future started its Apprenticeship Scheme, the only trade in the country which trains apprentices with no help whatever from its employers.

In October, the British Golf Greenkeepers Association arranged a Turf-grass Symposium at considerable cost to itself and with the help only of two firms interested in supporting greenkeeping for its own sake. The only other conferences of this type are those (apparently rather select) organised by research bodies and weed control.

Ireland, too, is beginning to feel the pinch and there are talks going on concerning the setting up of an instructional course at an Agricultural College near Dublin.

The Department of Employment is concerned at the situation and is thinking of setting up a pilot scheme for training young men just too old for apprenticeship.

Meanwhile, golfers happily go on playing, making more courses, putting up bigger prizes and organising more matches. Instead of blasting out of the bunker, golf is burying its head still more deeply in the sand.

THAT PARIS TRIP

Although the A.G.M. was favourable, so many Sections have since expressed no interest (one in fact, positive antagonism) that we have obviously been wasting time, postage, and print.



Granular Fertilisers

**IDEAL FOR FAIRWAYS
AND APPROACHES**

SEND
NOW
FOR OUR FREE
'GREENKEEPING'
CATALOGUE

CANNOCK FERTILISERS LIMITED, CANNOCK, STAFFS WS11 3LW