

The British Golf Greenkeeper



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No. 365

October 1975

15p

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Birmingham 20

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Hon. Solicitors:
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203-205 High Street
Orpington

The Association is affiliated to the English and Welsh Golf Unions

The British Golf Greenkeeper

CONTENTS

	Page
ANNUAL REPORT	5
AGM	7, 9
THE GREENKEEPERS	13
NEWS	21, 22
COMPANY PROFILE	23-26
SECTION NEWS	28, 29

Front Cover Picture

Wentworth G.C. recently had a Cushman Turf Care System on trial for a week from Huxleys Garden Machinery. During this time a fire broke out on the course and in a matter of minutes the system was converted to a sprayer, and driven to the fire, which it extinguished. A report on the system appears on Page 17.

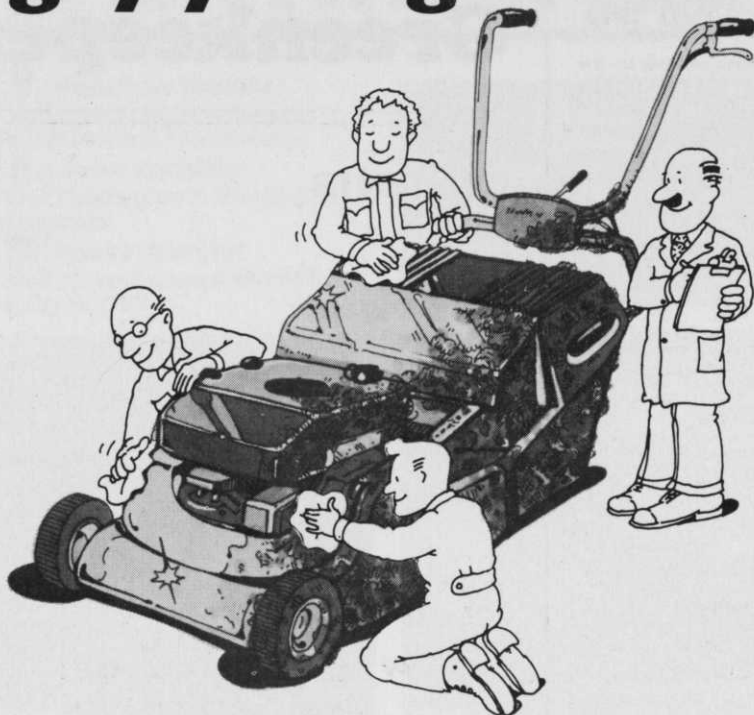
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The British Golf Greenkeeper

The annual report

Administration

It is with regret that we find we have reached the end of the Chairmanship of Mr. E. R. James, who for the past 12 months has proved such a worthy Chairman, and we offer our very sincere congratulations and thanks for his services.

We now look to our Vice-Chairman, Mr. V. W. Smith, to succeed Mr. James and we have every confidence in his ability to occupy this office.

Mr. Dix retired from office of Secretary/Treasurer at the end of April, and we offer our thanks for his 14 years service and wish both Mr. and Mrs. Dix a long and happy retirement.

Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to the R & A for again providing free passes to some of our members to attend the Open Championship, a privilege much appreciated by those able to make the trip.

The Wage Scale was again reviewed by the Executive Committee last March, and their new recommendations should again prove to be beneficial to our members.

The Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping is now in being, and Mr. G. R. Richards has been appointed as the Training Co-ordinator.

The Apprenticeship Scheme is still going ahead and our thanks are due to the Officers for their efforts in this scheme.

The F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund which had a balance of £326 has now been transferred to the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping.

Membership

Once again there has been a steady increase in membership. A most satisfactory situation.

Annual Tournament

The 57th Annual Tournament was held last year at the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club, Swanage, with approximately

66 members taking part. Once again we had a very enjoyable meeting and we are sure that all those who took part had a very enjoyable visit to Dorset. We much appreciate the courtesy and kindness of all the officials and staff at Purbeck for their efforts to make our visit so pleasant, and we would again express our appreciation of all the Trade Associations who help so generously to make our prize table a worthy effort, and the representatives and friends who gave so much practical help.

Sections

Our thanks are again due to the Officers who take such an active part in Sections activities, which undoubtedly is one of the chief essentials of a satisfactory association, the membership of which covers the whole country.

Second International Greenkeepers' Tournament

The date for the second International Greenkeepers' and Superintendents' Golf Tournament has been fixed. It will be held at Walton Heath on Wednesday, 6th October, 1976. The Second Symposium will be held on 5th October, 1976, the day before the Tournament at a location close to Walton Heath.

The British Golf Greenkeeper

The Journal is continuing to make progress under the Editorship of Mr. D. R. B. Hopkins.

S.T.R.I.

Once again we would like to express our thanks to the S.T.R.I. for their continued advice and assistance to members when they could be of help.

In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of the following members:

R. E. Kirk (Northern Section), C. Davidson (Southern Section), B. Kingston (Southern Section), F. Cashmore (Midlands Section).

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The annual meeting

MINUTES OF THE 58th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at WALSALL GOLF CLUB, BROADWAY, WALSALL, STAFFS.,
on MONDAY, 11th AUGUST, 1975, at 3 p.m.

The Chairman opened the Meeting, at which there were approximately 88 members present.

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Chairman asked the Meeting that as the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting had been printed in the Journal, these could be taken as read. This was agreed on the proposition of Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Machin.

2. Annual Report

The Hon. Secretary read the Annual Report, and its adoption was proposed by Mr. Drewitt, seconded by Mr. C. Moore. The Chairman asked members to stand in silence in memory of the deceased members whose names had been listed in the Report.

3. Financial Statement

Copies of the Accounts were circulated, and the Hon. Treasurer was very pleased to report that there was a substantial balance in the Head Office accounts. The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Geddes.

4. Executive Committee Report

The Tournament sub-committee, elected by the Executive Committee, were named as Messrs. James, Walsh, Smith and Major.

It had also been agreed that the Competition should be played from the B.G.G.A. Tee Markers, and the Executive Committee ruled that late entries could not be accepted.

The 1976 Tournament was in the hands of the Southern Section, and the Executive Committee had been informed by Mr. Major of the offer of the courtesy of Walton Heath

Golf Club on 9th, 10th and 11th August, 1976. It was accepted with thanks, but regretted that at the moment no nomination for Vice-Chairman was available.

The Executive Committee were informed by Mr. Hopkins, Editor of the Journal, that he would be forwarding the sum of £550 to Association funds.

5. Election of Officers

President: In the absence of Mr. Carl Bretherton, it was proposed that he should again be approached and asked to continue in office for the ensuing year. This was unanimously agreed.

Vice-President: It was proposed by Mr. Janovskis, seconded by Mr. Foulks, that the names as listed in the Journal be re-elected. This proposition was carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that Mr. C. H. Dix, Mr. F. G. Catchpole, Mr. J. F. R. Wilson, Mr. B. C. Jennings and Mr. D. Craig be accepted as Vice-Presidents of the Association. This proposition was carried unanimously.

Chairman: The Chairman—Mr. James—proposed that Mr. V. W. Smith be elected Chairman for the ensuing year, and this was unanimously agreed.

Mr. James then rose and handed his badge of office to Mr. F. G. Catchpole, who then presented it to Mr. Smith. Mr. James expressed his thanks to the Meeting for all the support he had been given during his year of office.

[Turn to Page 9]

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[AGM from Page 7]

Mr. Smith thanked the Meeting for electing him Chairman and said he sincerely hoped he could do as well as his predecessor. He then presented Mr. James with a tankard in recognition of his services during the past year.

Vice-Chairman: This office was left vacant until the nomination from the Southern Section had been received.

Secretary/Treasurer: It was proposed by Mr. Fry, seconded by Mr. Scott, that Mr. W. Heeles be nominated as Secretary/Treasurer, and this was carried unanimously.

Executive Committee: It was unanimously agreed that the Executive Committee be as nominated by the Sections.

Hon. Auditors: It was proposed by Mr. Plain, seconded by Mr. Peters, that Messrs. Smallfield, Rawlins & Co. be re-elected as Hon. Auditors, and this was carried unanimously.

Hon. Solicitor: It was proposed by Mr. Plain, seconded by Mr. Geddes, that Mr. H. Dowding be re-elected for the ensuing year, and this was carried unanimously.

6. Proposition from the Executive Committee

It was put to the Meeting, that as the cost of postage and other expenses were increasing all the time, that an increase in subscriptions was

inevitable to enable Sections to remain active. The proposition by the Executive Committee was as follows:—

Head Greenkeeper: £4.00 to £5.00.

First Assistant: £3.00 to £4.00.

Assistant: £2.00 to £2.50.

Vice-Presidents: £2.50 to £5.00.

After discussion, an amendment, proposed by Mr. Janovskis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that these figures be taken individually, was agreed to, and this was as follows:—

Head Greenkeeper: £4.00 to £5.00.

First Assistant: £3.00 to £4.00.

Assistant: £2.00 to £2.50.

Vice-Presidents: £2.50 to £3.00.

This was carried unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

It was requested that the Secretary look into the question of the validity of the Members' Pass Cards.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Mr. Moore, and seconded by Mr. Scott.

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The annual tournament

Results of the Annual Tournament held at the Walsall Golf Club, Broadway, Walsall, Staffs, on 11th, 12th, 13th August, 1975.

Monday, 11.8.75

1st Prize, S.T.R.I. Cup and Sona Set, R. S. Howlett, 36 Points.

2nd Prize, Hargreaves Cup and Radio, B. Emberley, 36 Points.

3rd Prize, Bedsread, G. Woodward, 36 Points.

4th Prize, Casserole and Stand, R. W. Willards, 36 Points.

5th Prize, Lamp, B. E. Payne, 34 Points.

6th Prize, Ash Tray and Compact, P. A. Marsh, 34 Points.

Tuesday, 12.8.75

“News of the World Cup—36 Holes Scratch.

1st Prize, Travel Goods, M. Owen, 147 Gross..

2nd Prize, Holdall, R. W. Lance, 155 Gross.

Jubilee Cup Inter-Section—36 Hole Medal, Southern Section.

Three Tankards and Pen/Pencil Sets, R. H. Howlett, G. Payne, B. E. Payne, 455.

“Coming of Age” Cup (60 Years and Over)—18 Hole Medal.

1st Prize, Maxwell Hart Trophy and Clock, P. Whitehead, 72 Nett.

2nd Prize, Cut Glasses, C. A. Moore, 73 Nett.

Senior Division—36 Holes Medal.

1st Prize, Ransomes Cup and Watch, D. H. Major, 146 Nett.

2nd Prize, Golf Illustrated Cup and Sona Set, R. Tempest, 146 Nett.

3rd Prize, Universal Cup and Clock, J. C. Newman, 146 Nett.

4th Prize, Holdall, D. F. Golding, 150 Nett.

5th Prize, Holdall, G. Payne, 150 Nett.

6th Prize, Dishes, B. E. Payne, 150 Nett.

7th Prize, Umbrella, W. F. Machin, 151 Nett.

8th Prize, Tankard, B. Plain, 152 Nett.

9th Prize, Camera, W. Heeles, 153 Nett.

10th Prize, Bedsread, H. A. D. Fry, 153 Nett.

11th Prize, Spoons, G. Woodward, 154 Nett.

12th Prize, Mats, B. Emberley, 154 Nett.

Junior Division.

1st Prize, Pattison Trophy and Watch, A. Shaw, 138 Nett.

2nd Prize, President's Cup and Holdall, M. Bladon, 139 Nett.

3rd Prize, Mays Cup and China Coffee Set, W. L. Tuckwood, 140 Nett.

4th Prize, Garden Chair, C. Geddes, 147 Nett.

5th Prize, Holdall, H. N. McAddey, 148 Nett.

6th Prize, Set of Headcovers, H. Marshall, 149 Nett.

7th Prize, Umbrella, T. Patchin, 149 Nett.

8th Prize, Vegetable Dish, P. A. Marsh, 150 Nett.

9th Prize, Pifco Lamp, B. Ashby, 150 Nett.

10th Prize, Table Set, W. Sumner, 151 Nett.

11th Prize, Mats, C. A. Moore, 151 Nett.

Wednesday, 13.8.75

18 Holes Medal.

1st Prize, Allan Taylor Cup and Golf Bag, A. J. T. Kite, 61 Nett.

2nd Prize, Verdone Cup and Camera, T. Patchin, 65 Nett.

[Results continued on Page 12]

[The annual tournament from Page 11]

- 3rd Prize, Tankard, M. Owen, 66 Nett.
4th Prize, Tankard, H. M. McAddey, 67 Nett.
5th Prize, Breakfast Set, D. F. Golding, 67 Nett.
6th Prize, Sundae Dishes, A. Martin, 69 Nett.
7th Prize, Tray and Glasses, H. Marshall, 70 Nett.
Vice-Presidents and Trade Members.
1st Prize, 9 Golf Balls, B. Pilsbury, 76 Nett.
2nd Prize, 3 Golf Balls, F. G. Catchpole, 73 Nett.
3rd Prize, Set of Glasses, J. Field, 75 Nett.

We are indebted to the Committee and Members of the Walsall Golf Club for permitting us the use of their facilities and to the entire Greenkeeping Staff for their hard work and the resultant excellent conditions.

We are also indebted to the following who kindly contributed to our prize fund: C. Bretherton, Esq.; Gordon Wright, Esq.; Toro (U.K.); The Professional Golfers' Association; The Golf Ball Manufacturers' Association; "Golf Illustrated"; Andrews Lawn Edgers Ltd.; Chipman Ltd.; Cannock Fertilisers; R. C. Craig & Co. Ltd.; Fisons Ltd.; Kingston House (Mowers) Ltd.; Maxwell M. Hart Ltd.; May & Baker Ltd.; T. Parker & Sons Ltd.; H. Pattison & Co. Ltd.; Ransomes Simms & Jefferies Ltd.; Stewart & Co.; Supaturf Products Ltd.; Suttons Seeds Ltd.; Universal Materials Co. Ltd.; Hayters Ltd., Mr. B. A. Cox, Capt., Great Barr Golf Club; Walsall Golf Club; Mr. Cartwright, President, Walsall Golf Club; Horwool Manufacturing Ltd., Sisis; Mrs. Hodson, Walsall Golf Club; Aspera Motors (England) Ltd.; Mr. Kearns, Walsall Golf Club.

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The Greenkeepers

JOHN SCOTT has been Head Greenkeeper of Wetherby Golf Club since 1967. Prior to this he was Head Greenkeeper/Steward of Town Moor G.C., Doncaster from 1959-1967, Head Greenkeeper/Steward of Rushden & District G.C. from 1957-1959 and earlier Assistant Greenkeeper of Sandmoor G.C. from 1952-1957.

Wetherby is an 18 hole course, hilly from the 14th in, otherwise flat, clay loam. It borders a river and is well wooded with a mixture of mature and young trees. There is a playing membership of approximately 550.

To assist him, John Scott has a First Assistant, one further assistant and a boy. The club owns a fairly varied range of equipment including 1 Leyland 245 Tractor, 1 Tractor Mounted Sprayer, 1 BMC Mini Tractor with Loader, 3 20" Auto Certes, 1 Toro GM3, 2 Flymo 21", 1 Ransome 5 Gang Mower, 1 70" Toro, 1 26" Hayter, 1 Greens 3 Gang Mower, 1 Sisis Auto Turfman Spiker, 1 Sisis Rotorake, 2 Cyclone Fert. Spreaders, 2 ICI Knapsack Sprayers, 2 Trailers (Tipping), 1 Light and 1 Heavy Tractor Rollers, 3 Hand Rollers, 2 Barrows, 1 Patisson 6' Rotary Soil Screen, Pop Up Sprinklers (Toro), Thatching Reels.

John's preference for fungicides is Maysan, Brassicol and Troposan; for

No. 7 : John Scott

fertilizers he relies on Rigby Taylors and for seeds, Finneys.

Most of the course is very little above river level making drainage very difficult. When the river is high, water has to be pushed off the greens manually, when the river lowers drainage is very good. Being a very picturesque river-side course there is tremendous visitor traffic causing very heavy wear on the tees, especially as being a very compact course, there is very limited teeing ground room. This may be alleviated in the future as the club have purchased the railway embankment which runs through the full length of the course. Due to its position, the course suffers from annual meadow grass and Yorkshire fog, this in turn causes quite a fungus problem, and requires spraying regularly once a month. Dew is usually very heavy and has to be swept every morning. Better fungi control is obtained by alternating between the three above mentioned fungicides and better control of poorer grasses has been achieved since the purchase of thatching reels for the GM3.

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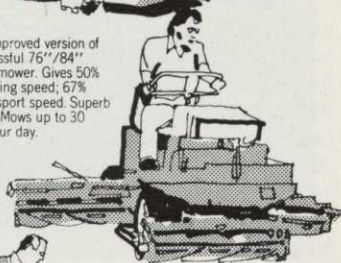
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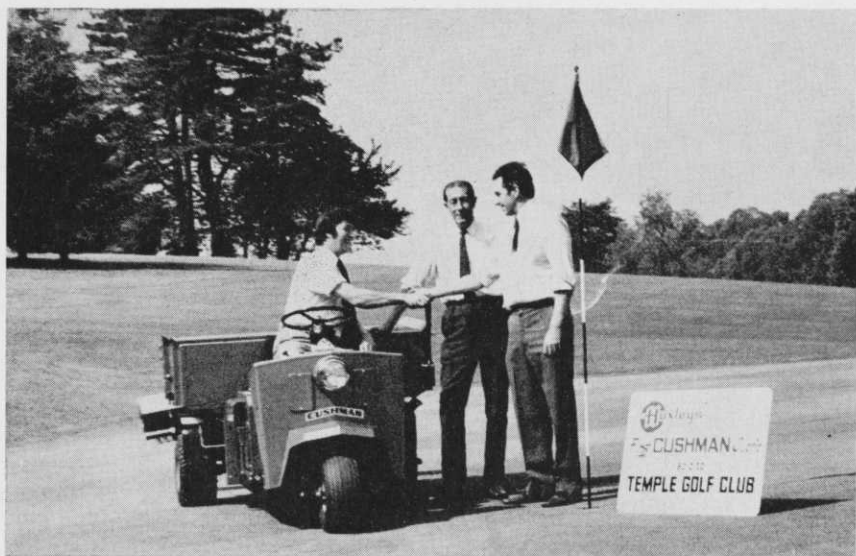


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The British Golf Greenkeeper

Turf maintenance machine that will go anywhere

THE first Cushman Turf Care System to be sold in the U.K. was delivered recently to Temple Golf Club by Huxleys Garden Machinery. The system has been available in the U.S.A. for 5 years during which about 3,000 systems have been sold. The following report on the system has been sent to us by Dennis Paul, Head Greenkeeper at Temple Golf Club. Thank you, Dennis.

WE PURCHASED the Cushman System after demonstrations at Temple and one other Golf Course. New machinery was required but we were looking for a suitable range of machinery that could also fit into our existing systems. The Cushman does fit in very well and it gives us a machine that can travel over the greens without damage—in the same way that a Triplex system can.

Before the order was placed with Huxleys Garden Machinery a budget had to be presented to the Green Committee. Cushman System versus small tractor with safety cab and a similar range of implements as the Cushman. Pricewise there was not a great margin of difference, but the obvious benefits of the Cushman were the deciding factors. Already these benefits are showing themselves.

We save time and costs when applying Top Dressings, Fertilizers and spraying. We can aerate the greens and tees quickly. We have a general purpose vehicle for transporting tools, sand, etc. I can travel to any part of our course in five minutes—top speed 22 mp.h. and

a smooth ride at that.

The machine will work anywhere, greens, fairways, banks. Tees can be top dressed with a soil/grass seed mix in a few minutes. Triple gang mowers are no problem to use. With a brush fitted to the hydraulic linkage the Dew can be swept off the grass in a fraction of the time taken before.

Two at a time

By the second week in August we had hollow tined 19 greens. This year the cores were pulverized and spread. Only the fibre was removed. A Ryan Greensaire removed the cores. The Cushman fitted with a mounted brush and trailing a dragmat broke up the cores. Our Hahn Triplex picked up the fibre. Only two greens were out of play at any one time and then not for long.

The Cushman is a good tool and we like it. The system works. It does replace a small tractor and you end up with a vehicle that can mechanize the work on the greens. Makes life easier.



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Reflections on design

ON THE club terrace that stands high above the last green, with Bobby Locke we gazed upon the scene. A superb view, embracing the 1st and last holes, the golden bloom of the gorse, whin, north of the border, the patchwork of the weald of Sussex spreading away to the undulating backcloth of the South Downs.

Bobby, somehow that genial bishop-like figure could not be addressed otherwise. He always called me Mr. Smartt. Few realize that is the custom of South Africans, and those who rather acidly criticise Gary Player for using that prefix, have not visited that country as often as the writer. May not a country use its own form of expression?

Pear into square

Bobby, as I was about to say, turned his eyes to the 18th green. "Why, Mr. Smartt, is that green cut as a square?" This touched me nearly. I had resigned the post of secretary some years before. All that could be said was, that in my time it was pear-shaped, narrowing and widening here and there. As did all the others.

His remark was significant, for here we had one of the great golfers concerned about the outline of a green. The general impression is that tournament players' sole interest is in the surface, the pin placement, and surrounding danger. To which may be added, in the days before watering, what lies behind. That, and a course could be named, leads to defensive play. The pin cannot be attacked.

The merging of greens and bunkers into the natural features of the available ground has been, to borrow from Bernard Darwin, my King Charles' head.

Patrick Smartt writes about the geometry of the golf course

A golf course should not be an exercise in geometry. Yet you can still find them. Fairways that run straight, the rough on either side, be it grass, trees or heather in parallel lines. Rectangular or circular greens, the latter in the days when we used British money, I called half-crowns dumped in a fairway. The bunkers are sited to catch the pulled or sliced drive of the long-handicap player. The same at the entrance to the green. The bunkers, a saucer of sand with a bank to act, as it were, a defence.

No imagination, little challenge, and even for a club category golfer, small incentive. That must be qualified. It could lead to a wrong assessment of his skill. On such a hole, he is put unfairly to the test of playing one of the most demanding strokes in the game—the straight one. His superiors (in skill only—let it be said) can carry those bunkers, and are then left with no stiff examination for the second stroke.

Practical test

In parenthesis, I cannot recall one of the army of "club golfers" complaining that the hole was too testing. That is, with one exception, when three oldish players (I have told this before) deemed a carry too long. They would not accept that the distance was only 150 yards. A stroke with a No. 5 iron—of greater loft than the modern club, convinced them. It eased their minds, and

[Turn to Page 20]

[Patrick Smartt from Page 19]

that is the way to help.

I have, as ever, wandered down side roads. A habit of which readers must be aware, and unfortunate editors.

It is inexplicable that at an early age, the picture of a hole made an impact. If there is one thing at which the professional golf course architect finds his hackles bristling, it is the amateur designer. That should not be confined to an individual; he is up against the Club Committee which, through the Green Committee has engaged him. His knowledge and **feeling** for a course are discarded on the grounds of cost.

The old courses were laid out long before specialists were thought of, some like Topsey "just growed". There are instances of some of the old heroes so engaged. James Braid comes to mind.

If changes are to be made, the object should be to make them more interest-

ing. In olden days in the colonies, it had to be amateurs. Somewhere about 1926, a young man the same in age as the year, in Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia, had the cheek of the young to suggest that the cross-bunker on the 1st, an intrenchment with a level bank was archaic. Left to his own devices, the alignment was altered to an angle from left to right. The bank was curved, creating small harbours in the sand, and there were high and low portions on its skyline. Placing it at an angle, gave the less expert members a safety route. The more accomplished in order to be up in two were faced with a longer and higher carry. Most important of all, it looked right. A bunker growing out of the ground, rather than a first world war trench, or a bank on an Irish steeplechase course.

Making their mark

It is high time we returned to the outlines of putting greens. Straightaway, it has to be accepted that there is no continuity in policy; and that applies to the whole course. The only permanency are the Head Greenkeeper and a long-serving secretary. Captains and committees change, and they seem dogged by the idea that they must leave a mark of their period of office; thus alterations.

There is one that confounds me. Reducing the size of greens. While this may lessen the likelihood of three putts, it adds to the strain of accurate approaching. The argument that it is an economy, is beyond an aging mind. Of course there is less time spent in mowing the putting surface, but the surrounds still have to be cut. The smaller the greens, the less space for pin-placing. Towards the end of the season, they are pock-marked with old hole plugs. The financial excuse is as specious as most Government budgets.

A murrain on greens shaped (if that be the right word) like a matchbox, or a coin dropped in the fairway.

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NEWS

New sprayer

A NEW sprayer was introduced by Allman Patents Ltd. at Motspur Park. It is the Multispray knapsack sprayer.

The 3.8 gallon tank is made from reinforced polypropylene which does not corrode. The simple pump gives 75 p.s.i. pressure provided by the action of two arms situated for protection in deep grooves incorporated in the design of the tank.

A large, fine mesh filler strainer is easy to clean. No tools are required—the pump is fixed by a wingnut and the ball valve is removable by hand. There are no springs and oil or grease are not required.

Measuring 8½" x 17" x 22½", the sprayer has a low centre of gravity and is specially shaped for operator comfort. Price will be £32 plus V.A.T., carriage paid.

Turf matting

AQUAFEED weather resistant nylon matting is set in the surface of the soil, loose or sandy ground is stabilized, and in addition protected from erosion.

The matting permits free entry and circulation of oxygen, and this assures the pre-requisite for healthy plant growth and good grass coverage. Turf may even be pre-grown in the matting, for these reasons **Earth Anchor Matting** is extremely useful in the laying down of sports and playing fields. Amongst other things, the matting's porosity promotes surface drainage and drying, and in addition, serious harm to turf is prevented, scuffing and traffic damage recovering quickly. Complete details may be obtained from Amberol Limited, Railway Wharf, Derby Road, Belper, Derbyshire.

Open day

A SUCCESSFUL Open Day was held at Twyford Seeds Ltd., Adderbury, Banbury, Oxfordshire, recently when nearly 400 guests inspected their extensive amenity grass plant breeding station and trial grounds. Many greenkeepers attended from all parts of the country and considerable interest was shown in the new ryegrass called MANHATTAN which has achieved consistently good results over the last three years at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley. MANHATTAN was also sown round the Twyford trial golf green, where it looked very strong.

MANHATTAN is particularly hard wearing and is said to have a very low cutting requirement. It is rapid in establishment and forms a good ground cover for golf fairways and tees.

[Turn to Page 22]

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[News from Page 21]

The golf green which has been down for three years was quartered and sown with four different fine turf mixtures. Twyford's PENNCROSS was particularly outstanding in one quarter, having a close knit sward of fine grasses and a root growth of over 4" in depth.

It was announced by Mr. Jonathan Franks, the Sports Turf Manager, that Twyford's had been awarded the contract for the supply of grass seed and pre-seeding fertilizer for the new 36-hole Belfry championship and executive course which is being constructed at Sutton Coldfield, where PENNCROSS is sown on the greens and MANHATTAN perennial ryegrass on the tees and fairways.

Golfing talk

EYRE Methuen Ltd. have just published "How to Talk Golf" at £1.75 which in the Foreword they describe

as the first attempt to include in the form of a glossary both the standard terminology and the jargon of the game. Written by David Langdon the book is liberally illustrated by his excellent cartoons.

Under "Greenkeeper" we find the following explanation: "The bronzed, muscular factotum responsible for the daily state of the entire course. Usually to be seen motoring round the fairways on a tractor apparently aimlessly, in all weathers, or at rest in his hut scanning the "Greenkeepers Wanted" column in "Golf Weekly" to check on current pay scales being offered in the trade. Often a man of infinite charm, with an affable manner and a plus-two handicap. Always a good captive audience for a boring shot-by-shot account of your round of golf when it is difficult to detect the glazed expression in his eyes, narrowed to slits by long exposure to the elements".



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Company profile

No. 5 : Ransomes

AS MANY members of the B.G.G.A. will know, Ransomes have given considerable support to the Association over a great many years. Not only are they the largest supporter of the B.G.G. through their advertising but they have always been prepared to offer their own staff, in working hours, to assist in B.G.G.A. functions. This article will give readers a good idea of the size and scope of Ransomes.

WHEREVER golf is played the name of Ransomes is known. There must be very few golf courses in the world that do not use one or many machines from Ransomes range of professional grass machinery.

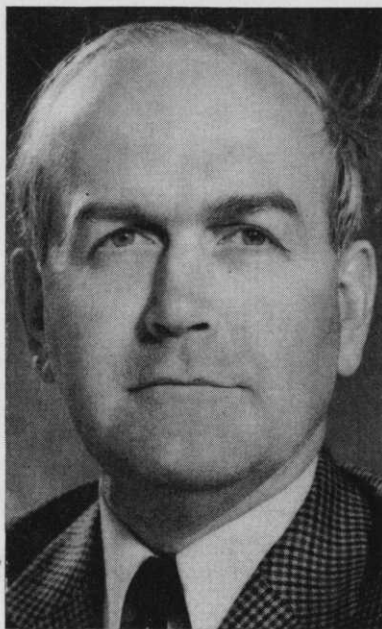
Founded in 1789 by an iron-founder, Ransomes made the world's first lawn mower, Buddings Patent, in 1832, and the Ipswich based company has been in the forefront of grass machinery development ever since.

They produced the first petrol lawn mower in 1902 and the first mains-operated lawn mower in 1926. Since then the emphasis has shifted from the domestic lawn mower to the professional grass cutting machine.

An important recent development has been the introduction of hydraulically operated mowers. Here again Ransomes were pioneers. The Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang, introduced in 1968, was the world's first hydraulically operated gang mower, to be followed in 1973 by the launch of the Motor 5/3, the world's most advanced grass cutting machine.

Today Ransomes offer machines for all types of grass cutting—from the smallest garden to the largest airfield, from the roughest verge or orchard to the smoothest golf green.

Golf course equipment may be regarded as the company's speciality, however. The Auto-Certes, available in 18 and 20 inch versions, is a specialist golf greens mower, with a ten-knife



GUY Catchpole, General Marketing Manager, Ransomes Grass Machinery Division.

reel for a superb finish.

A range of gang mowers are available for golf course applications. Sport-cutter units, coupled in groups of one, three, five, seven or nine to give a cutting width of up to 20' 6" are for mowing fairways where regular cutting is practised and a good finish essential.

Magna units, available in the same widths, are for cutting the rougher areas. Hydraulic Power 5/7 Gang Mk. 2

[Turn to Page 25]

Quick-change artist

The Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex is a remarkable machine — so remarkable that we call it the world's first Greens Management System. The Tournament Triplex is a 12hp vehicle with hydrostatic drive, which powers four separate turf maintaining operations. Each conversion, from superb greensmowing to utility mowing, to Verti-Cutting, to spiking takes less than a minute — and no spanner!

Greens Units A full 67" cut. Each 23", nine-bladed cylinder can be lifted individually.

Utility Units Heavy-duty cutting cylinders and bottom blades for approach and tee mowing. Grass catchers provided with all units.

Verti-cut Units Patented twin offset blades remove 'thatch', keep greens in play even in difficult conditions.

Vibra-Spiker Now spiking takes even less time than greensmowing. High-frequency vibration penetrates to a depth of 1½" with a minimum of compaction. The combination of this unique quick-change unit feature, full 67" swath for every operation, variable-speed units and individual unit lifts make the Tournament Triplex an investment which no club can ignore. Your local Distributor is keen to impress you with a demonstration. Give him a call.

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RANSOMES



Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex

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DETAILS



RANSOMES Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang Mark II—becoming increasingly popular on the golf course.

[Ransomes from Page 23]

will cut up to ten acres per hour at 7 m.p.h. With full hydraulic power there is no need to wait for good weather for gang mowing.

All the cutting units are driven by hydraulic power, with forward and reverse drive, and hydraulic power lifts in the unit in and out of work. This machine is becoming increasingly popular on the golf course, both in Britain and the U.S.A. as its advantages and benefits become better known.

Ransomes markets the Ransomes-Hahn range of golf course equipment. The Tournament Triplex greens management system is well established in Britain with over 400 machines in operation with golf clubs of all sizes. The one man machine gives 67" of cutting width with special greens reels, tee reels, verticut reels and vibra spikers. Brushes and combs and a useful gravity-dump trailer complete the range of accessories for the machine which has become known as a time and money

saver, while maintaining the highest possible standards of greens management.

Ransomes-Hahn also offers a range of turf maintenance machinery. The TM80 and 140 Aerifiers are ideally suited to the turf maintenance requirements of fairways. Designed for mounting on tractors with standard three point linkage, either model can be fitted with a choice of tines to aerify, spike or slice, to improve root structure and drainage and help fine turf withstand the rigours of year round play.

The PD-2 Power Drag is a unique self-propelled three-gang drag unit for fast matting of golf greens. The range also includes pedestrian operated self-propelled vertifiers, aerifiers and verticutters for the fine turf areas of the golf course.

Finally Ransomes offers a range of golf course accessories, manufactured in Scotland, the home of golf, and sup-

[Turn to Page 26]

[Ransomes from Page 25]

plied by Ransomes Grass Machinery (Scotland) Ltd.

Ransomes is a large company, employing some 3,000 people in the U.K. and making a wide range of farm machinery and electric industrial trucks in addition to its annual £7 million turnover in grass machinery.

Because its resources are large it can offer sales and service facilities second to none. A national network of distributors staffed by personnel who have received product and service training at the company's Ipswich headquarters offer totally reliable sales advice and after-sales service, including a comprehensive spare parts facility.

Training courses are also held at Ipswich, in a purpose-built conference block, for operators of Ransomes equipment. These courses enable the operator to fully understand, and so get the best out of sophisticated machines like the Tournament Triplex, enabling him

to achieve optimum performance, allowing effective maintenance to be done at the golf club, cutting maintenance costs and delays.

The grass machinery marketing division is headed by executive director Phil Johnson. General marketing manager Guy Catchpole is assisted by sales manager John Wilson, and recently appointed marketing manager Brian Kitchener who controls the service departments.

Under John Wilson, four area managers act as the link between the company and its distributors. They are Bill Beveridge, Scotland; Glyn Vaughn, North of England and North Wales; Bill Payne, West of England, South Wales and the Midlands; and Ted Reilly, Southern and South East England.

These men are all keen golfers who understand the special requirements and problems of the greenkeeper. They are not only well known to B.G.G.A. members as Ransomes but also for their support of regional B.G.G.A. activities.

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U.S. golf course guidelines

NATIONAL survey figures recently released by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (G.C.S.A.A.), intended to provide its membership general guidelines, also prove to be of interest to the comparison minded golfing public.

Knowing full well before they began that the "average golf course" does not exist, G.C.S.A.A.'s survey now reports some interesting points for golfers and non-golfers alike to ponder.

The mythical "average course" will be an 18-hole private course with more than 400 members. It will be open ten months of the year during which time 37,340 rounds of golf will be played.

The golf course superintendent will manage 168 acres with bluegrass fairways averaging 2.9 acres each, bluegrass tees of 2,460 square feet and bentgrass greens of 5,914 square feet.

Budgets climb

To keep this area in the condition desired by his membership, the superintendent's annual operating budget will be \$109,501. This annual total includes items such as a \$7,964 investment in capital equipment, \$59,301 for labour (excluding the superintendent's salary), \$5,068 for fertilizer, \$4,298 for pesticides, \$4,810 for equipment repair and \$1,767 for seed.

A comparison of these recent survey results with those of a similar survey made in 1971 reveals a 19.7 per cent increase in overall operating budgets while the actual maintained acreage of golf courses decreased 3.85 per cent.

As substantiated in other national survey reports, an increasing proportion of golf courses are located in southern areas with a decreasing proportion in western states. Also, greater numbers of golf courses are defined as public, municipal or semi-private while private

golf courses are proportionally on the decline although they still comprise the largest number of courses.

Survey results were tabulated from responses supplied by more than 1,200 of the association's member golf course superintendents from throughout the United States and Canada.

DIARY DATES

- Oct. 6 N.W. Section Autumn Tournament, Bury G.C.
- Oct. 7 Southern Section Secretary's Match, Beaconsfield G.C.
- Oct. 7 East Midland Section. Lecture by Johnsons Seeds Rothley Park G.C.
- Nov. 4 East Midland Section. Lecture on Drainage by Chipman Ltd. Longcliffe G.C.
- Nov. 4 South Coast Section. Lecture on "Golf Green Maintenance" by Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd.
- Nov. 15 East Midland Section. Annual Dinner/Dance Shakespear Inn, Leicester, 7.30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 East Midland Section. Lecture by S.T.R.I. on Greens and Tee Construction Leicestershire G.C.
- Dec. 4 North West Section. Trip to Toros at Darlington.
- Dec. 12 South Coast. Christmas Dinner/Dance, Hythe.
- Jan. 12 North West Section. Lecture by Mr. L. Hewitt, Atco's Longton Branch.

SECTION NEWS



East Midland Section

President:

R. BAILEY
147 Mere Road,
Wigston Magna,
Leics.

Hon. Secretary:

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

OUR Annual Dinner/Dance will be held at the Shakespeare Inn, Braunstone Lane, Leicester, on 15th November, 1975, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £3.25 each. Would you please let me know as soon as possible how many tickets you require. Closing date 1st November, 1975.

A lecture by Chipman Ltd. will be held at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough, on 4th November, 1975, at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. I. Toon who have just had a baby son.

A quiz will be held at the Three Nuns Hotel, Loughborough, on 6th January, 1976, at 7.30 p.m. Also notify Mr. B. Mott seven days before quiz if you will be attending.

Captain's versus President's Team.

The above match was held at Longcliffe Golf Club on Wednesday, 4th June, 1975, where once again the Cup was won by the Captain's team. Our thanks to the Committee of Longcliffe Golf Club for the courtesy of the

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

course, and to the inside staff for an excellent meal, and to the outside staff for the excellent condition of the course.

We would like to welcome the following members to this section: D. P. Shorrock, 113 Greengate Lane, Birstall, Leics.; B. P. Harding, 3 Clear View Crescent, East Shilton, Leics.; J. M. Payne, 4 Bratmyr, Fleckney, Leics.; W. B. Overton, Park Farm House, 49 Hazel Road, Loughborough, Leics.; G. Hodges, 2 St. James Street, Stapleford, Notts.

North-West Section

Chairman:

E. WALSH
46 Peasley Close,
Logham, Padgate,
Warrington.

Hon. Secretary:

H. M. WALSH
34 Kingsfold Close,
Brightmet,
Bolton, Lancs.

FURTHER dates for your diaries are Mr. L. Hewitt, Atco's Longton Branch, 12th January.

The February and March dates with speakers in the next issue of the Journal.

As stated in the previous issue the trip to Toros at Darlington will be on 4th December by coach. Picking-up points will be Moor Lane Bus Station, Bolton, approximate time at the moment 7 a.m.; Swinton Park G.C., time 7.30 a.m. People who wish to make this trip please let me have your names as soon as possible.

We welcome to the Section the following new members: J. P. Daley, Reddish Vale Golf Club, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire; G. Brown, Leigh Golf Club, Kenyon, Warrington, Cheshire; D. Rimmer, Hesketh Golf Club, Southport, Lancs.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. J. STIMSON
North Wilts, G.C.
Devizes.

THE first of this Winter's programme of lectures will be held on Tuesday, 4th November, 1975, at 7 p.m. The Captain and Committee of Alresford Golf Club have kindly offered their clubhouse for our use once again and it is hoped that all members will be able to attend. Last year's programme was well supported and we hope to see you all present at Alresford again this Winter, whatever the weather! Our speaker will be Mr. John Field of Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd. and his topic will be "Golf Green Maintenance".

We welcome to the Section the following members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one: E. Croft and S. Bury of Hayling Island Golf Club, and P. M. Packham, Department of the Environment (transferred from Southern Section).

Northern Section

Chairman:
J. SCOTT
Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
W. HEELES
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.
Tel: K'boro 3851

THE Invitation Tournament took place on Wednesday, the 23rd July, at the Wetherby Golf Club by courtesy of the Committee and members. The weather was mainly sunny with some showers, the food was excellent and the course was in first-class condition.

Prizewinners: 1st Prize, R. Johnson & Mr. N. Stead, Nett 56; 2nd Prize, E. Armitage & Mr. C. Auty, Nett 60; 3rd Prize, W. R. Skelton & Mr. M. Harper, Nett 63.

Guests included Mr. L. Plews, Captain Wetherby Golf Club, Mr. A. Edwards, President Wetherby Golf Club, and

Mr. F. G. Tomlinson, Chairman Green Committee, Wetherby Golf Club.

The following Handicaps have been amended: R. Johnson, 18 to 14; P. Marshall, 20 to 17.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: D. Budimir, 1 North Dean, Keighley, West Yorks. (S.T.R.I.); D. Thompson, 8 St. Ives Grove, Harden, West Yorks. (S.T.R.I.); D. Moore, 4 Ruskin Avenue, Bradford, BD9 6EB (S.T.R.I.).

David Ward, Head Greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club, tells us that on 29th June someone caused extensive

DIARY DATES are on page 27

damage to his 3rd, 4th and 12th greens by pouring on some kind of chemical substance.

In addition—to support Dave's theory that this act was malicious and not a prank—15 out of 18 holes, newly cut for the Sunday competition, had also been tampered with. All plugs had been transferred from the old holes and expertly replaced in the new holes. Flags had then been stuck in the soil in the old holes. Someone with a grudge indeed!

The Section extends congratulations to Ilkley Golf Club assistant greenkeeper, David Spurden, on his marriage to Louise on 2nd August. Mr. and Mrs. Spurden honeymooned in Wales and now live at Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Anyone willing to contribute news or items of interest for inclusion in the NORTHERN SECTION NEWS, please contact David Hannam at Bingley 5131.

When scythe was king

THIS special article is by N. Fraser who was Head Greenkeeper at Chester-le-Street G.C. for almost 40 years until he retired at the age of 62 for health reasons.

IT'S A far cry looking back to the old days on a golf course when man and a scythe was maybe the main machinery, but in the hands of the right person it was the only tool for bunkers, bank-sides, and general cutting and was an every day routine; and for this maybe wages 6½d per hour. In fact the main implements otherwise deemed necessary to fulfil the other work were barrow, spade, shovel, rake, turfcutter, hole cutter, and cast iron side wheel machine for cutting greens, and as often there was no grass box to this, one could imagine it was often a wet job. Plenty of grass cuttings and worm casts thrown up on one's legs.

Brush the greens first was a must, and with a birch broom, that was an art in itself to do so, and a great necessity owing to the number of sheep grazing, an added hazard to cutting, and also the only manure the land ever got. But, as sheep were maybe one of the main incomes, a necessary evil! Income was small, green fees as little as 1/6d. and subscriptions £1.1.0.

These were the days of unemployment and a job was a job, so with little equipment, make do and mend, and try again was the way to find the answer. The Greenkeeper over the years built up a knowledge of many things, a Jack of all Trades to keep things running, but on the golf side also played the game and in so doing, knew what was required by all who played. Hence those men will now be hard to replace, and the experience gained still comes in handy today.

Those were the days of the horse, the pleasure of the tractor to come. A single unit for fairways, which might get cut once a fortnight, and of the horse, a

story could be told, it was human I'd say, and still talked about today. Fairways were cut, yes! But not the rough, that was the farmer's job once a year. But in that time it was not unknown to lose a ball, and set down a bag of clubs to find it, and start again looking for the bag of clubs. "Real Tiger country", as it was known.

Things did improve when the Ransomes "Sulky", 3 units for fairways came along, at least it had a seat, and as the horse knew its way round the fairways. It was a pleasure. Also hand machines were improving inasmuch were not so heavy, and so easier to push.

The main battle was worms. Today one never sees a cast owing to modern worm killers. It was nothing to see men doing battle on a pouring wet day, watering greens with maybe something like Sulphate of Copper to bring up the worms and brush them off, and what a pride to get one green clean. Mowrake meal took over but still needed plenty of water. Water laid on to the greens was unknown, maybe a hand pump from a water-logged bunker or a pond.

But the greatest evil of all, at least as I thought being young, were the drain pipe type rollers filled with cement, one at each green, with a detachable handle, one carried from green to green and roller to roller. The job ever stays with me today. But one day the "Pro Greenkeeper" gave me the job to "See" as he put it! how far each roller would run down the hill to the river. Strange! but they all finished up in the river. A lesson today on rolling and its results.

The beginning of the turn of the tide as it were. For it was the turn over right from only knowing how to feed and look after a horse, to the unknown whims of a tractor, a big step forward, and start again a new make do and mend.

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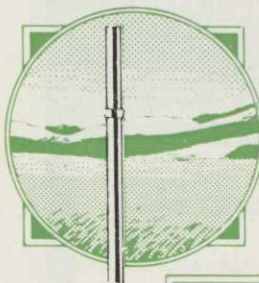
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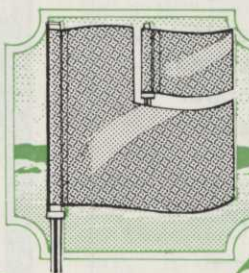
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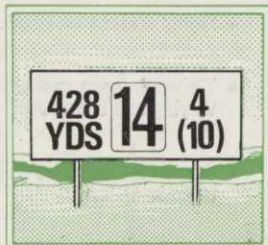


Quick Change Flags

For use with the Ransomes flag poles, simply unscrew top of pole and slip on the flag.

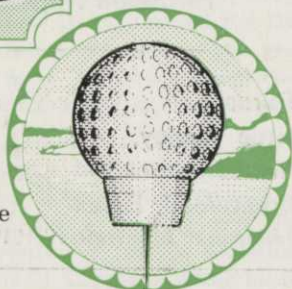
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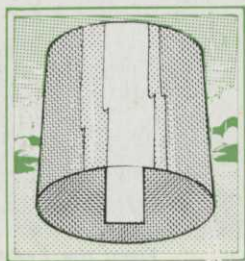


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