The British Golf Greenkeeper



No. 373

June 1976 15p

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The British Golf Greenkeeper



FOUNDED 1912

Published monthly for the benefit of greenkeepers, greenkeeping and the game of golf on behalf of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association

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Our Front Cover this month shows the presentation of the winners cup in an annual invitation tournament sponsored by John Chaplin (Machinery) Ltd. of Leeds in which 150 invitations were sent to greenkeepers and groundsmen to play in the tournament which was held at Woodhall Hills Golf Club at Calverley, near Leeds, on Wednesday 28th April. Our picture shows Mr. J. Evans, Captain of Woodhall Hills presenting the trophy to J. R. Grierson of Elland Golf Club watched by Mr. K. Mitchell and Mr. J. Chaplin of Chaplins Grass Machinery.

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ain distributors WALES

STROKE FOR COURSE VALUE Patrick Smartt

I recall, some years gone, when watching "The Putter" at Rye, to have seen Roger Wethered play a monumental recovery stroke at the last hole.

Fully to savour the moment, it is to be remembered that we were on the 18th and so witnessing a close-fought match. Still capable of driving the ball a long way, he had hooked away into the sand among the dunes. Standing on tall ground, looking down at him it was clear that a high and powerful shot was needed if he were to reach the fairway. To play such a stroke demands perfection in striking. A tea-spoon full too much sand spells disaster.

He took the ball clean with what I think to be a No.7., it soared up and away to finish on the green. The onlookers at this meeting are connoisseurs of the game, there was a second or two of astounded silence.

It was after the return of my numbed senses, the thought intruded: "He couldn't have done that on my home course." This was no querulous local bias, but one of fact. That ball would have been lost, of if found, unplayable because you cannot swing a club in thick gorse-whins, for those north of the border.

This simmered in the mind, for at the direction of my committee I was fighting for an extra stroke on our S.S.S. rating for course difficulties. The reason being the gorse. In those days there was a narrow strip of heather, not the growth from which to recover easily, between the fairway and the jungle. It could stop the ball running into trouble.

In the S.S.S. scheme is written: "An addition to the basic Standard Scratch Score. . . . will be made only for courses of *exceptional* difficulties other than length." This raises the question how exceptional difficulties are defined, and where does one meet them? In the days before there was an S.S.S., and any claim for an extra stroke beyond thought, I could lead you to a short hole surrounded by pineapple plants sharp as spears: another blind over a bungalow, blind over a railway viaduct. A green perched on a

anthill, the sides like those of a pyramid. To which may be added the circumstance that the greens were constructed of a hard mud bace, covered by a thin covering of sand—no stop.

These circumstances were to be met with at tropical clubs. Our attitude was, there is the hole, there are the problems, lets to it. To avoid that cliche 'it was the same for all' is impossible. I can sense some saying that it was a travesty of golf. Over a thirty years contact with the game in hot countries, I came across one or two players who refused to play on those courses. This conceited attitude rebounded upon them. When after the customary two and a half years of duty, the first half of their four months home leave was spent in trying to recapture their game.

Every golfer has a preference for, or antipathy to a certain type of course. There are more than one well-known professional who dislikes links, not as might be supposed because of the strong winds, but the ill-defined areas of the fairways. Trees, bushes or heather, mostly absent from links, give them an avenue down which to drive. In short, and it is understandable, they like to have a road map. My own preference, of minimum interest, is the links, caused by a sense of tradition and history. It is pleasing to record that view has been passed on to some youngsters of my acquaintance.

There is a sneaking feeling the tight lay-out, such as was my home course already alluded to, may have an inhibiting effect on the freedom of the swings on the young, turning them into defensive players.

As expected we did not get our extra stroke. Golf is a game and should be treated as such. But, I cannot get away from the opinion that the golfer should have room to swing, even to chip out sideways. As I no longer play, that can be said without prejudice, although it goes against tradition.

On the other hand, none of us could have produced that stroke by Roger Wethered.

PATTISON IN THE WEST

DEREK RUSSELL

Handsome, debonaire, confident-some of the words used by him when we said we want to print something about youactually he is not a bad looking chap in a rugged old fashioned sort of way, two smashing kids and a very charming wife, fond of the country and enjoys meeting people-in fact he is just the man to promote Pattisons new van sales delivery service.

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The British Golf Greenkeeper

SECOND BRITISH TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

The 2nd British Turfgrass Symposium, organised by the British Golf Greenkeepers Association and Co-Sponsored by a number of suppliers to golf courses, will be held at the Burford Bridge Hotel, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey, on Tuesday, 5th October, 1976.

The theme of this year's conference will be 'Golf Course Design Construction and Maintenance' and will consist of four papers, two to be presented in the morning session and two in the afternoon. The subjects and speakers are as follows:

'International Golf Course Design and Construction' by F.W.Hawtree.

'Bunker Design and Maintenance' by J. K. Campbell.

'Budgeting for Golf Course Maintenance against Objectives' by a leading U.S.A. Golf Course Superintendent.

'Green Construction & Grasses by R. W. Palin.

Time has been allowed after each paper for question and answer sessions and for further discussion on each paper.

The Burford Bridge Hotel is a high class hotel at the foot of Box Hill and its Tithe Barn, an integral part of the hotel offers excellent facilities for both speakers and delegates to enjoy the conference in comfortable and extremely attractive surroundings. The cost of attending the conference will be £5 which will include admission to all sessions, morning coffee, buffet lunch, tea and a printed copy of the papers. Maximum attendance is limited to 300 due to the physical restraints of the conference room. Application forms for attendance will be distributed with next month's issue of The British Golf Greenkeeper at which time the event will be widely publicised through national and trade media. Readers wishing to ensure a place at the Conference may write to Walter Heeles, the Hon. `Secretary, enclosing £5.

For delegates wishing to stay overnight in the Dorking area the following are local hotels who can be contacted regarding accommodation:

Burford Bridge Hotel, Dorking, Surrey. Dorking 4561 The Bell Inn, West Street, Dorking, Surrey. Dorking 2801 Bridge House Hotel, Reigate, Surrey, Reigate 46801 Cranleigh Hotel, 41, West Street, Reigate, Surrey. Reigate 40600 Reigate 43468 Drift Bridge Hotel, Epsom, Surrey. Burgh Heath 52163 Dukes Head, Brockham Green, Dorking, Surrey. Betchworth 2023 Punch Bowl Motel, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey. Dorking 2820



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The Greenkeepers

HEAD Greenkeeper at Broadstone (Dorset) Golf Club is E. R. West. Eddie West started work at the club in 1963 taking over as Head Greenkeeper in 1966 from Albert Crane who had been with the club for 40 years. Previous work included a spell at the Meyrick Park course in Bournemouth which was interrupted by 2 years National Service in Germany, Eddie has been a member of the B.G.G.A. since 1963 and a member of Parkstone Artisans from 1955-73. Successes include the South Western Championship held at Launceston in 1973. Eddie is now a member of Broadstone G.C. and plays off a handicap of 4.

Broadstone is an 18 hole course sited on heathland but well wooded with Pine, Oak & Silver Birch. It is an interesting course on undulating ground offering a first class challenge without being unduly long. The club has 800 members served by the club Professional P. Ward. There is a total Greenkeeping staff of five plus two part time assistants when those are required.

Equipment owned by the club includes A Ransome Triplex, 3 Auto-Certes, 1 24" Matordor, 4 Flymos, Bomford Bandit Flail, 2 Tractors, Triple Gang Mower, 1 Cyclone Spreader, 1 Sprayer, 1 Hayter Condor, 1 Pattisson 'Spiker, 1 Cart, 1 Front Loader Bucket, 1 Rotary Screen, 1 Dixon Air Cannon (for leaf clearing).

Seeds/Fertilizers/Fungicides used by Eddie include Fisons Mersil, also their weed cleaner, Cannock, SAI, Supaturf and May & Baker.

The course presents Eddie with few problems. There has been some drainage problems on greens and fairways, but a drain renewal programme was started last winter which will be spread over the next year or two.





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There's wildlife galore along the River Wharfe

I have often wondered how many folk playing Ilkley Golf Course are able to detach themselves from the game sufficiently to notice the everyday activity around them.

The River Wharfe meanders its way down the full length of the course, this. is itself a big attraction to wild life. Nobody could help noticing the abundance of moorhens, feeding happily on its banks, oblivious to events around them.

Only if a human comes too close do they go scurrying along the water.

Dippers are common and can be seen walking about in the shadows and then bobbing under the water in search of food. They are easily recognised by their large white chests.

Mallards are to be found all year round. In spring the ducks can often be seen swimming accompanied by as many as a dozen young, and often pure white drake among them.

The common sandpipers have been there all summer nesting on the river bank, some within yards of where the golfers pass. Herons, too, are there all year. I have spotted as many as three together.

They are shy, easily frightened. and stand motionless in the water on the lookout for food . . . crayfish, or bullheads perhaps. They may even catch the odd trout.

Regular winter visitors are the little grebes, or dab chicks. They are hard to discern, staying on the surface, then diving and re-surfacing 20 yards away.

Oystercatchers, reed bunting, coal tits and many others are seen near the river, but the gem of all must be the kingfisher.

Usually one only glimpses a brilliant flash of turquoise flying low, but one may be lucky and see one perched in a willow waiting to dive after some small fish. DAVID SPURDEN, an assistant greenkeeper at likley Golf Club, bas herons, kingfishers, mallards and oystercatchers as his daily companions and has absorbed the mysteries of their lives almost unconsciously. Here he asks us to look anew at the wild life about us.

Regretfully, they are not as prevalent as in previous years.

Away from the river the course is slowly being transformed. It is four years since the club began a tree-planting scheme. Since then some 5,000 trees mainly pine, larch and birch—have been planted.

For the birds, if not for the golfers, these are a welcome addition.

They have provided homes for at least a dozen pairs of redpoll, their nests previously being unheard of here.

Gold crests, long-tailed tits and many different types of finches can be found searching the plantations for food and who can say what birds the trees may attract in future?

Now that winter is coming, a covey of partridges has re-appeared and pheasant venture out seemingly aware they will not be shot at. Now is the time for waxwings and the nuthatches seen here in the last two years.

Fieldfares are already here, feeding on the hawberries and the kestrel is an everyday sight, as are the feathers which denote their kills.

We must hope that winter will not be too severe on them and that next year we may see the kingfishers increase. This season is surely a cruel, testing time for all these varieties of wild life.

NEWS

NEW ROLFE'S APPOINTMENT

Rolfe's Mini Tractors Limited of Romsey, UK agents for Jacobsen turf equipment, have appointed Mr. Peter A. Hampton as Area Manager for West England and Wales.

Mr. Hampton will be responsible for co-ordinating demonstrations, sales, spares and service requirements for agents, distributors and customers within his area. In addition to Jacobsen, Rolfe's are UK agents for International Harvester Mini Tractors, Parker Sweepers, Bunton rotary mowers and Cooper Edge 'n' trim.

Mr. Hampton re-joins Rolfe's after spending a year as general manager of a garden machinery retailer in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. He has had many years experience in the horticultural equipment market.

Mr. Hampton is married and now lives near Trowbridge in Wiltshire. His interests include craft woodworking and picture framing.

Rolfe's Mini Tractors Limited are based at Winchester Hill, Romsey, Hants, SO5 8YY



"FRANCE-GOLF"

A GROUP of the most prominent French landscape and sportsground construction companies has been formed into an organisation called "France-Golf". The Director is an Englishman, G. W. Davison, Chairman and Managing Director of Cambridge Soil Services Ltd of Cottenham, Cambridge, who instigated the scheme with the assistance of F. L. Lenoir of Brussels.

"France-Golf", with its established businesses in all parts of the country, will make reasonably priced golf available to all by providing good courses and encouraging general tuition and interest in the game. It is probably the largest organisation of this type anywhere and will have a great impact on golf course development in France.

THREE NEW PRODUCTS FOR AMENITY HORTICULTURE

Three new products for the sportsturf market are to be distributed by Chipman Limited, Horsham, Sussex. The products, marketed by Duphar-Midox Limited, Smarden, Kent are:

FYDULAN—a granular material combining dichlobenil and dalapon are broad spectrum weed control in shurbberies. DACONIL 2787—a broad spectrum nonsystemic turf fungicide, containing chlorothalonil for the control and prevention of a wide range of diseases including Fusarium patch, Ophiobolus patch, Red Thread, Dollar Spot, Leafspotn Melting Out and Leaf Blight.

DACTHAL—a selective pre-emergence or post-emergence herbicide containing chlorthal-dimethyl which is especially effective against Creeping Speedwell.

Mr. Roy Jennings, Managing Director of Chipman Limited, has said that he decided to market all three products because each had an important and specific role to fulfil. 'Fydulan' presented an opportunity to deal effectively and economically with shrubbery weed control, even where tough grass weeds predominated; 'Dacthal' was a longsought answer to the control of creeping speedwell which had resisted convential selective weedkillers and was becoming a major and widespread nuisance in turf. In 'Daconil 2787' the means to protect turf from disease, or to eradicate an existing disease, is available in a single safe and easy to use flowable product and Mr. Jennings was certain this would be a valuable new material for groundsmen and greenkeepers.

The British Golf Greenkeeper



Northern Section

Chairman: COLIN GEDDES Moor Allerton Golf Club Hon. Secretary: W. HEELES 7 Tentergate Close, Knaresborough, Yorks. Tel: K'boro 3851

GROUNDED

A Northern Section Committee member Colin Garnett has recently been ill in hospital. Colin, Head Greenkeeper at Garforth Golf Club is apparently making good progess towards recovery.

Good luck and sound health for the future Colin.

NEW MEMBERS

The Section extends a warm welcome to the following new members.

Mr. Joseph Baxter,

Brow Farm, Harden, Bingley,

Head Greenkeeper, Bingley St. Ives Municipal Golf Club.

Mr. Alan Baxter. Brow Farm, Harden, Bingley, Assistant Greenkeeper, Bingley St. Ives Municipal Golf Club.

Mr. Melville Chapman, 7 Eassom Road, Redcar, Cleveland. Vice President.

Mr. John Lingard, Hillside Chapel Fold, Lower Wike, Bradford. Vice President.

SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

Mr. Kevin Neil Shaw,

5 St. Lukes ^{*}Terrace, Cleckheaton. Assistant Greenkeeper, Cleckhampton and District Golf Club.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Already, fairly warm on the heels of the Government's sex equality bill, the first job advertisement was published requiring the services of a—will you believe—GROUNDSPERSON.

This rather farcical situation cropped up in one of the monthly trade journals. The BGGA must feel fortunate for not having a name, or part thereof, likely to contravene the Sex Discrimination Act.

Whilst on names people have for years now been striving to change the title of Greenkeeper to something more sophisticated. Ask yourself: what title could be considered more individual, more awe inspiring, more romantic than Head Greenkeeper? Why, had D. H. Lawrence known of our trade, the gamekeeper in Lady Chatterley's Lover would not have had a look in.

EUROCALL

In response to current trends, David Hannam and his staff at Sports Turf Research Institute have this season submitted to the kilo and litre.

All treatments on the trial grounds are now prepared in the metric form whether in weight, area, or volume. Even the recording of daily temperatures and rainfall has been 'metricated'. This move is in line with general S.T.R.I. policy.

AMELIORATION

Alarm and confusion was apparently generated by an article in our March writeup. The subject was the law regarding safety cabs on tractors.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that tractors used on golf courses or sports areas are however, exempt from the compulsory fitting of safety cabs.

The information was intrinsically correct but applies only to those tractors supplied and intended for, definitively, 'agricultural use'.

ON THE MOVE

A recourse to the green has been made by Peter Blacker.

Mr. Blacker a former Head Green-Keeper of Woodsome Golf Club, but latterly a technical representative for a leading Northwest firm has recently taken up the post of Head Greenkeeper to Headingley Golf Club. May success be yours for the future in your new position Peter.

GOLF

Well done Chaplins for your excellent invitation tournament at Woodhall Hills Golf Club on April 28th. Congratulations too for its smooth organisation, really fine food, and the impressive lineup of prizes.

Special thanks are due from all those who had the pleasure of participating.

The prospect was mooted of this tournament becoming an annual event;— a mighty fine prospect indeed.

HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

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Hon. Secretary, Tynemouth Golf Club Ltd. Spital Dene, North Shields Tyne & Wear NE20 2ER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 24th Presidents Day-Cleveland G:C. August 5th Invitation Tournament-

Ilkley G.C.

October 14th Autumn Tournament -Bedale G.C.

South Coast Section

Chairman:	Hon. Secretary:
E. R. JAMES	MRS. J. STIMSON
	North Wilts, G.C.
	Devizes

Devizes.

The final lecture of our 1976/77 Winter Programme held at Alresford Golf Club on 6th April was very entertaining and we extend our most grateful thanks to Mr. Jack Roffey for showing us such marvellous colour slides illustrating his recent visit to Rhodesia and South Africa. There were tantalising glimpses of a variety of wildlife, from giraffes to warthogs: the contrast between the Great Plains and the townships. the magnificence of the Victoria Falls, and the odd slide depicting a golf course or bowling green. We were informed that Elliott grass was used in nearly all bowling greens; that the application of fertizilers and weedkillers was almost unheard of and that there was no labour shortage; e.g., ten or more native workers employed on a nine hole course.

It was obvious that Jack had enjoyed every minute of his holiday and it wouldn't surprise me in the least if the title Roffey Bros. of Bournemouth was superseded by the title Roffey Bros. of Bulawayo!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jack and Harry for the refreshments they so kindly provided.

Will any member who wishes to visit Twyford Plant Breeding Station at Adderbury on their Turfgrass Open Day on Thursday, 22nd July 1976, and has not yet booked his seat on the coach, kindly contact me without delay. A Buffet lunch will be provided.

The coach will be leaving Parkstone at 8 am and picking up members en route at Southampton and Winchester. The seat reservation fee is £1.25 and your remittance should be sent not later than

The British Golf Greenkeeper

30th June 1976 so that arrangements can be finalized.

Members are requested to make a note of my change of address as from 22nd June 1976:-

> Caretaker's Cottage Breamore House Breamore

FORDINGBRIDGE

Hampshire (Tel. Breamore 277).

Our sincere thanks to the Directors and staff of Sisis Equipment Ltd., for their courtesy and warmth to all the members of the section who made the trip to Macclesfield Golf Club on the 27th of April for the second occasion of the playing of the 'Sisis Handicap Trophy', for their generosity in providing a very excellent dinner in the evening, also various prizes, and to Mr. Henshaw for providing a set of very handsome wine glasses to go with the trophy. Thank you gentlemen. Also our thanks to the ground staff for the excellent condition of the course in these trying weather conditions, and to the staff inside the club-house, who kept everyone happy before and after the event.

Winners as follows:

Sisis Trophy S. Bridges H/cap 8, 36 Pts 2nd S. Edgerley H/cap 12, 33 Pts 3rd R. Graham H/cap 18, 31 Pts 4th P. Chapman H/cap 10, 30 Pts C. P. O.

Best score at Short Holes

J. Gillett 7 Pts

S. Richardson 7 Pts

Most sixes on the card

E. Drage 10

THE Midland Section's Annual Dinner & Dance was held on the evening of Friday 2nd April, 1976, the venue was once again the Elms Hotel, Aldridge. A wonderful night's entertainment was enjoyed by the 122 people who attended. The chair was taken by Mr. Norman Russell, President of the Midland's Section, and Hon. Secretary of Little Aston Golf Club. The after dinner speeches were given by Mr. R. A. Willetts, Captain of Handsworth Golf Club, and Mr. Vic Smith, Chairman of the B.G.G.A. The remainder of the evening was taken up by dancing etc., which went to make this function a great success.

I would like to thank all the people who donated prizes towards the raffle and everyone who helped out in other ways throughout the evening.

The Summer Tournament and Annual General Meeting will be held at the Habberley Golf Club, near Kidderminster on Monday, 12th July, 1976 by kind permission of the Captain and members of the club. Please be assembled at the club by 9.30 a.m. The closing date for this tournament is 27th June, anyone who wishes to submit a point of view to be put before the A.G.M. must put it in writing and send it to me no later than 21 days prior to the meeting.

I would like to welcome to the Midland section the following new members:

K. Greatrex Kings Norton Golf Club (Class C)

K.D. Palmer Staverton Park Golf Club (Class A)

W.G.Pye Lilleshall Hall Golf Club (Class A)

DIARY DATES

Wednesday September 29th, 1976 Midland Section Autumn Tournament Venue: Ladbrook Park Golf Club Ltd.



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LETTERS

I was most upset and surprised to read the article by A. J. T. Kite Esq., Hon. Secretary, Midland Section of the B.G.G.A. Upset, because so many statements are grossly untrue and surprised, because this gentleman has, it would seem, been prompted to write because one of his members was unsuccessful in his application for the position of Course Superintendant.

My Company and I are most anxious to have a happy and mutually beneficial relationship with your members. May I, therefore, respectfully request that the following facts are published in the next edition of your journal.

1. The position was advertised, as per the enclosed text, in the following publications.

Golf International Golf World Golf Monthly Recreation Management Golf Club Management Nineteenth Hole Golf European.



These were chosen as the most suitable for us by our Golf Course Architects Peter Allis and Dave Thomas.

2. To suggest we did not wish to state accurate figures regarding salary and increments is both ludicrous and probably libellous. Our advertisement gave a normal description of the post offered. 3. We cannot be responsible for figures "bounced around". Our advertisement clearly stated "Salary by negiotiation up to £5,000, together with free housing and transport". Although I do not feel inclined to divulge the agreed salary I am confident that it is, quite rightly, the highest remuneration in Great Britain for the position.

4. The farm house has been, as was always intended, completely rebuilt and refurbished, incidentally at a cost of \pounds 4,315. It has 5 bedrooms, is fully centrally heated and overlooks both golf courses.

The "Company transport" not a van, but is in fact an Escort estate, which we consider is most suitable for the job.

5. After careful consideration, six were short listed from numerous applications, one was from the Midlands (name and address will be supplied on request). The most suitable was Mr. Alex Low, who had just completed two new golf courses at Grangemouth and has considerable experience with opening new golf courses throughout the world.

6. It is obvious that Mr. Kite is disgruntled because a representative of the B.G.G.A. was not invited to our Press Presentation on February 2nd; incidentally the ONLY, not "one of the numerous public relations meetings given by the Belfry". It was basically for Sports Writers and other members of the media. It is intended to invite members of associations, including the B.G.G.A., connected with golf, at a later date, when we can show much more progress and a clear indication of the character of the courses, which do not open until Spring and Summer 1977.

I would like to correct Mr. Kite's scurrilous advice to local greenkeepers regarding recommended wage scales and working conditions. May I assure local greenkeepers that we would like to engage the best persons available and, as with our Head Greenkeeper, we are

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prepared to pay a good wage, in keeping with or above your present scale, together with excellent working conditions. It is my honest and sincere belief that the Belfry will only be as good as its staff. We will try very hard to recruit the very best available and to keep them happy and satisfied as we work together in this new and exciting project, which I am sure will benefit all in my native Midlands.

I am concerned that your association, which I had believed to be professional in its approach, can sanction such unjust if not defamatory statements, without any attempt to verify the "facts" it claims to report.

Finally, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, always with pleasure, at your service.

> Yours truly, J. Brian Cash, Chief Executive.

EDITORS NOTE

That Messrs. Allis & Thomas recommended 'Nineteenth Hole' suggests that they had their watering slightly wrong. For any readers who may not know it, 'Nineteenth Hole' is the official Journal of the Golf Club Stewards Association, not normally regarded as a breeding ground for good greenkeepers.

That neither 'The British Golf Greenkeeper' nor 'Golf Illustrated' (alphabetical order) were included suggests that the same gentlemen were not aware that these two journals carry 80%—90% of all advertising placed in this country for greenkeepers. A pity, for it could have saved Mr. Cash a lot of money. Ah well, perhaps we should all stick at what we are best at!





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