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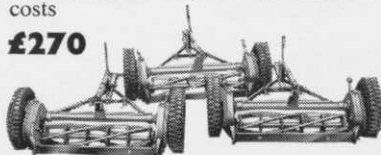


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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



FOUNDED 1912.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE
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GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME
OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF
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The Association is affiliated to the
English and Welsh Golf Unions.

No. 213 New Series

DECEMBER 1962

*He that has seen both sides of
fifty has lived to little purpose if he
has not other views of the world
than he had when he was much
younger.*

WILLIAM COWPER.

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Fifty Years

I wish to salute with much respect and no small affection the greenkeepers who came together to make this Association and those who persevere today.

This family group has kept a pride and purpose in its work during fifty years which have obscured more old values than revealed new ones. It has won respect from all who understand what greenkeeping means.

The job is not easy. To be a paid official amongst honorary ones is unenviable. Captains, chairmen, and committees come and go. The greenkeeper remains loyal to the golf course itself. He is ambitious only to meet its challenge and make it finer. He is patient because he works with Nature. He is tolerant because he knows golfers and their foibles.

This anniversary is a measure of those virtues. They have united a scattered membership with small resources in two unselfish aims—mutual help and the advancement of the craft. These alone will ensure that the achievement of the past will safeguard and benefit the future.

F.W.H.

The British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

1912



1962



Admiralty House
Whitehall, S.W.1

As a golfer, I was interested to learn that this year is the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association's Fiftieth Anniversary. I send my congratulations and best wishes on this occasion.



20, BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1

I would like to send a word of congratulation to the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association on reaching their 50th year. In the time, they have worked wonders, and completely remade the condition of our courses in this country.

Everyone who plays owes them a deep sense of gratitude. May they go on from strength to strength.



TODAY'S news headlines approximate to yesterday's science fiction—manned satellites, Telstar and trips to the moon. The whole nation is science-conscious and ordinary people tend to think that there is a modern scientific answer for all things. Nowhere is this more true than in sports turf management whether of cricket wickets, football pitches, golf greens or what have you. A product with a good dash of scientific jargon in its publicity matter is sure to gain adherents who will flatter themselves on their acumen and will swear by the product—whatever the results produced.

Written in sincere appreciation of the constant loyal support accorded by British Golf Greenkeepers to The Sports Turf Research Institute ever since its inception. We at Bingley have our part to play but all our efforts to raise the standard of playing conditions must fail without the enthusiasm and skill of the men on the job.

IT'S SO SIMPLE . . .

says J. R. ESCRITT, M.Sc.,

Assistant Director, The Sports Turf Research Institute

In the last few years we have been asked about new ideas in:—

Grasses which don't grow.

Chemicals which make mowing unnecessary.

Nitrogenous fertilizers which do not make the grass grow.

Soil treatments which make drainage unnecessary.

Soil aerators which are superior because they don't penetrate.

Needless to say, all these ideas need a little qualification!

In all the enthusiasm for making the most of new discoveries (obviously a good thing in itself) there is sometimes a tendency to forget the object of the exercise which is to produce the best possible conditions for the game—good teeing grounds, good fairways and good greens. When considering how to do just that, it is worth remembering that although these areas are in a way artificial they owe a lot to nature. There are many natural processes which are not yet capable of being replaced by scientific

marvels. Most of us prefer the old methods of procreating the human race!

Turf management is not without science. The Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley—born in 1929, still going strong and growing stronger—carries out as much research as finance will allow. There are still plenty of real problems for us to solve but in the direct interests of associate members we have to keep checking up on ideas which some have been persuaded are epoch-making. Unfortunately, few epoch-making ideas come forward and despite all further researches the basic principles remain surprisingly constant. Most troubles met with results from departures from these basic principles—in other words most troubles with turf (and possibly elsewhere!) are man-made. Some people will never appreciate that weed, worm, disease or mud trouble has arisen from some possibly unnecessary treatment they have been persuaded to apply for another purpose.



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BGG-3

Mowing

There is a lot of science involved in mowing and its effects but one doesn't need a B.Sc. to appreciate the need for a good mower in good condition and used efficiently, preferably in dry conditions and frequently enough. A superficial knowledge of pH is no substitute for full appreciation and implementation of those rules.

Feeding

It is a long time since it was established that for good turf almost the cheapest standard fertilizers are also the best. For fine turf this means that the basis of all good fertilizer treatments is sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate and sulphate of potash. A little organic nitrogen and phosphate is commonly added but the farther one departs from the basic formula the poorer the results usually. Fertilizers of this kind used properly in the growing season encourage tough, hard wearing grasses and at the same time discourage disease, worms, weeds and mud. The chief improvement in the field of fertilizer treatment in recent years has been the advent of granular fertilizers (commonly based on sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate and muriate of potash). These are very convenient to use on extensive areas of sports turf though not very suitable for fine turf.

It is worth remembering that the aim is not to produce high fertility but to produce good turf.

Watering

Time has brought an increasing awareness of the value of watering to maintain growth and good playing conditions in dry weather. More people now possess watering systems but these are not all used to the best advantage. All too frequently we hear the cry, "Too little and too late". During the summer the potential loss of moisture by transpiration is the equivalent of about 1/10 in. per day. One might say that three weeks without rain result in a deficiency of 2 in. i.e. 200 tons per acre (9-10 gallons per sq. yd.). Some deficiency is not a bad thing, of course, but too much means poor colour, poor growth, poor playing conditions and even loss of good turf.

Top Dressing

On the intensively managed areas of golf greens, the object is to produce surface conditions suitable for the game. An important contribution to this is top dressing with sandy compost. It does not sound excitingly scientific—but it is remarkably effective. The passing years, instead of producing scientific replacements of the process have instead increasingly accentuated its value. People who are persuaded to neglect composting or to use other materials because of supposed special virtues generally come back to compost.

Aeration

When growing agricultural and horticultural crops soil cultivations ensure a good tilth with adequate aeration. With turf we have consolidation by users as well as by equipment and we are restricted in our cultivations. It makes good, practical sense, however, to do what we can in this direction. There is an element of science behind all this—but people have cultivated the land for a very long time!

Scarification

Long before 1962, farmers found that vigorous harrowing of old established pastures and meadows produced more vigorous growth, since the old "fag" strangled new growth. One of the biggest advances in turf management techniques in recent years has been the introduction of excellent scarification machinery. Remember, however, that like other machines, these need skilled and intelligent use!

Where's all this leading?

These six headings are the basic principles of turf management—and there is remarkably little atomic science! They are simple and apply with little modification to most sports turf whether for golf, bowls, or hockey. Follow them and it is surprising how few are the difficulties that arise and how little there is need for up-to-date information on the latest cure-all. And even that needs putting on properly to give the best results!

IT'S GETTING VERY LATE

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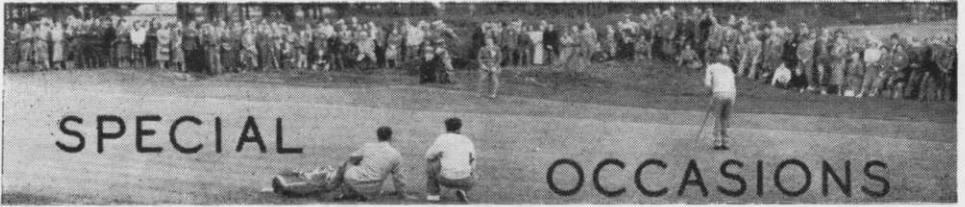
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MAKES AND TYPES**



**SALES
SERVICE**

SATISFACTION





DECEMBER

11th

Northern Section, Social Evening, Old Queen's Head, Main Street, Bingley.

14th

Midland Section, Annual Dinner, King's Head, Bearwood.

25th



1963

JANUARY

21st

North West Section, visit to Messrs. Ellis Rees.

ITS NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND!

But the efficient experienced Greenkeeper doesn't make the mistake of leaving the repair of his Mowers till he wants to use them in the Spring.

NOW IS THE TIME—when mowing has ended for the winter months—to send equipment to be overhauled.

Loyds & CO. (LETCWORTH) LTD.
LETCWORTH HERTS.
Telephone: Letchworth 139

Looking



(Key on page 12)

Back

FIFTY YEARS OF GREENKEEPING

by TOM MASON

One of our earliest members looks back on some of the highlights in the Association's long history and his own career

THE British Golf Greenkeepers' Association has reached its fiftieth year. Its formation was mainly due to our tactful and far-seeing friend the late F. G. Hawtree, known to us older ones as Freddy. As a member for forty-nine years and a very close friend of his, I know I am speaking for all who knew him, when I say that we owe him the deepest appreciation and gratitude for the untiring and splendid work he did for the Association. Not only do we miss him personally but also as an Association, particularly for his genius in smoothing out our tricky problems whenever they arose.

His gift of speech did much to improve the status of the Association; one often wonders whether it would have got so far today without him and those loyal and constructive early members—to name a few—Messrs. MacNiece, Baker, Prickett, Lacey, Smithers, Scott, Kirby, Steward, Dunn with whom I was proud to serve on the Executive Committee for many years just before and after the first World War before the Association broke up into sections. They were busy times.

Best Endeavours

The objects of the Association are now well-known. We, its members during these fifty years have done our best to improve our technique and better the conditions of golf courses. How often do our employers realise the work done for their benefit by the Association, and the loyalty and knowledge of their greenkeepers?

In 1912 a greenkeeper was assessed by the hours and the hard work he put in on the course, and, so it was said, by the number of sheep droppings he could balance on a shovel.

When I look back at those hard days, my thoughts drift to what the present day golf course worker would say if told to carry out what had to be done then. I quote: "Summer hours—Commence work six a.m. finish six p.m. One-and-half hours off for meals". Wet or fine one was expected to keep going, walking behind a 30 in. or 36 in. horse-mower, or pushing one of the old silent Messers on the greens with the box on. No tea and cake in the morning nor in the afternoon, only after lunching, with your bread and dripping and cold tea out in the fields in order to get the work done. Why bread and dripping? What was wrong with the steak and chips that one might smell when passing the clubhouse, and a nice warm shed to eat it in?

Rewards

Those were the good old days but this is why there was no steak and chips:—

	£	s.	d.
Head Greenkeeper ...	1	10	0
Skilled Groundsman ...	1	2	0
Horse driver, etc. ...		14	0

and this often included working three hours on Sundays, sweeping and rolling greens and on Bank holidays until work was finished.

There were times when one could put in an hour or two overtime, at sixpence per hour. Some will say: "But look what you could buy for your money in those days.

The old ones know all about that, and the most sensible will say, as I do, that the Greenkeeper and his staff are far better off now in all ways, than they were in the early days.

But thank goodness for those early days of 1912 and for the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association with its lec-