



By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen
Motor Mower Manufacturers Charles H. Pugh Ltd.

ATCO

GANG MOWERS

for
**LARGE AREA
MOWING**



Reliable... Adaptable... Manoeuvrable

There are two models of the new Atco Gang Mowers available. No. "1" is a general purpose mower, and No. "2" designed for extremely heavy duty.

The unique ganging arrangement allows for multiples of one unit upwards making subsequent conversions very economic.

A particularly outstanding feature applied to both models, is the totally enclosed all-gear drive. All the gears run in an oil bath which makes for extremely low maintenance in respect of time and cost.

Atco Gang Mowers are only some of the many machines in the Atco complete range from the 12" roller type to the 34" roller type with a full range of Rotaries, Sidewheels and the Atcoscythe.



DEMONSTRATIONS can be arranged on your own turf.

We will gladly make an appointment for you NOW.

...AND REMEMBER IT IS ATCO FOR LIFE!

The quality of ATCO service has been a bye-word for the past 40 years. Every ATCO can be serviced from one of the many ATCO-owned branches, and everywhere there is an ATCO Engineer ready to advise and help you with your motor mowing problems.

CHARLES H. PUGH LTD., P.O. Box 256, Atco Works, Birmingham 9

THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



FOUNDED 1912.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GREENKEEPERS, GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

President:
CARL BRETHERTON

Vice-Presidents:
SIR ROBERT WEBBER, J.P., D.L.
SIR WILLIAM CARR
MAJOR A. WHITLEY LAVARACK, M.C.
R. B. DAWSON, O.B.E., M.S.C.,
F.L.S.
GORDON WRIGHT
F. W. HAWTREE
S. NORGATE
I. G. NICHOLLS
F. V. SOUTHGATE
P. HAZELL
W. KINSEY
R. C. AINSCOW

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS,
Thorpe Hall G.C.

Vice-Chairman:
D. G. LORD,
Maesteg, G.C.

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer:
C. H. DIX,
Addington Court G.C.
Featherbed Lane,
Addington, Croydon, Surrey

Executive Committee:
Carl Bretherton (President),
G. Herrington, J. J. Bryan, E. H.
Benbow, G. J. O'Gorman, S. T.
McNeice, O. P. Jones, B. V.
Fordham, J. Parker

Hon. Auditors:
Messrs. STOV, HAYWARD AND CO.,
97-99 Park Street, London, W.1.

Hon. Solicitor:
R. A. BECK,
21 Lime Street, London, E.C.3.

The Association is affiliated to the English and Welsh Golf Unions.

No. 203 New Series
FEBRUARY 1962

*There is nobody so irritating
as somebody with less intelligence
and more sense than we have.*

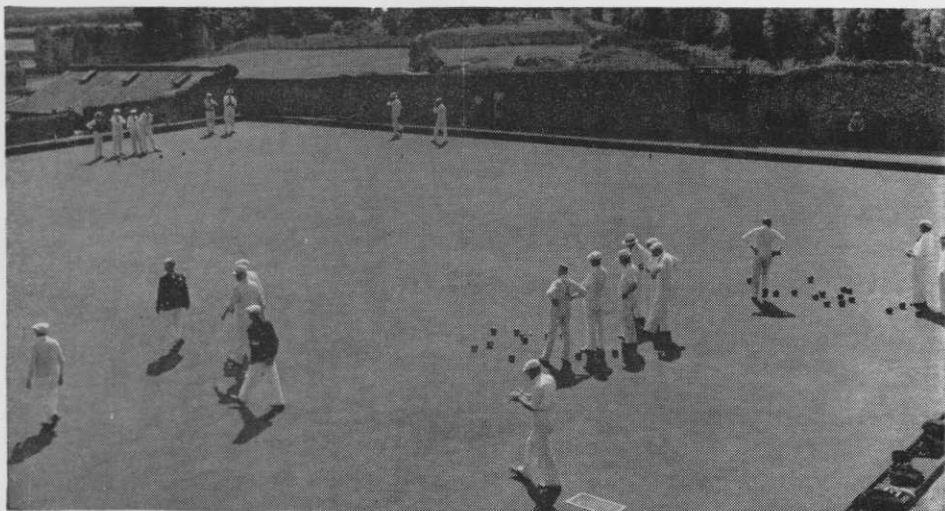
Don Herold.

FEBRUARY CONTENTS

- Page 3 TEE SHOTS
4 DEVIL'S ADVOCATE 5
6 HARE RAISING
8 OF SOILS AND SPECIES
10 and 12 SECTION NEWS
11 SPECIAL OCCASIONS
13 REPORT FROM THE LOTHIAN
14 "GOBLIN" REPLIES
15 HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES,
S.G.G.A. NEWS AND SITUATIONS
VACANT

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: SANDerstead 2690. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 14/- for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. LATEST COPY DATE: 8th of month prior to insertion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in whole or in part is prohibited. This Magazine shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be re-sold, lent, hired out, or otherwise disposed of. Contributions and photographs of interest are invited.

TO INSERT A CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT, write to the Advertisement Manager at the above address. The rate is 6d. per word (minimum 15 words). Box Number, 1/6d. extra. Remittance must be sent with order. Please state number of insertions required and write advertisement in block letters. Advertisements will be inserted in the first available issue.



Thinking about the turf?

Problems? Suttons will know the answer... and they operate a special advisory service to give those responsible for sportsgrounds the benefit of their knowledge of turf and grasses. Some good advice now... buy your grass seeds, fertiliser, weedkiller and turf dressings from Suttons, and be sure of service backed by understanding.

don't fail to grow

Sutton's

grass seeds

Post coupon now for FREE catalogue to Sutton & Sons Ltd., Dept. BGG 5, Reading

name

address

Please send me your free catalogue of grass seeds and turf specialities, also details of your Grass Advisory Service.

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

WE were communing lately with a well-known golf architect. (Golf architects are always written of as well-known, reputed, or noted, but the description is more a credit to the writer for having heard of them than a tribute to their renown.) We asked him, as people unfortunately do, which golf course he considered to be his best. This knowledge would greatly interest our readers.

He removed the straw from his mouth and appeared to cogitate. After years of weighing replies to questions from Green Committees, he would not be rushed into a hasty verdict. We could understand his reluctance but another digression may be needed if you are to do so too.

Gem

When visiting almost any course to play with a member, you have known that moment on a certain tee when he says: "*Henry Cotton* (or *Dai Rees* or *James Braid* or any such distinguished golfer) *said this was the finest short hole he knew when he played here in 19 . . .*" No record remains of his opinion of the other seventeen holes. After many repetitions of these judgments at different courses, you have realised that a civil visitor was obliged to let fall some crumb, however eagerly it might be snapped up and preserved for the amazement of posterity.

A short hole will normally give a reasonable excuse for spontaneous exclamations because it is so often a device to bridge what is otherwise unplayable. A sniff of danger from lake, stream, or chasm still twitches the golfer's nostrils however used he may be to stately, roughless rounds at home. And "fine" is warily non-committal on the vital issues, leaving personal honour untarnished and audience not dissatisfied.

Grass recognition

Our golf architect regarded his straw with growing interest. This evidently showed the prominent keel of *Aira flexuosa* not the unbroken cylinder of *Festuca elatior subsp. pratensis*, as he had first suspected. Signs of imminent speech were rising and we waited sympathetically. Hardened by clients primed with all the opinions of great players since their course opened and eagerly awaited his, lost in the contemplation of a vivid past, swimming with green links, he pondered, selected, and finally affirmed.

"Ur!", he said, replaced his straw, and left us.

We do not know the courses ourselves and, on reflection, did he perhaps mean "Er . . .", leaving you to fill in the details?

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE 5

by
Goblin

"Every year there is absolute merry hell if on any morning the Captain, Committee, Secretary or Head Greenkeeper decides now is the time to use them."

WHAT PRICE FROST HOLES?

EVERY year the Green Committee decides to have them. Every year the turf research people publish solemn warnings about the need for them. Every year the greenkeeper eventually cuts them—after a fashion. And every year there is absolute merry hell if on any morning the Captain, Committee, Secretary, or Head Greenkeeper decides that now is the time to use them.

Members, at many clubs anyway, care more about the fun of the particular morning than the state of the greens in one month, three months' or six months' time; and "frost holes" are something they don't really understand the need for. "After all", Muggins will say to Plomp, as they set out on one of those horrible mornings when a two inch deep frost is just beginning to thaw on the top, "After all, we played when it was like this last year, and the greens were all thawed out by mid-afternoon. Make a lot of fuss about nothing, some of these people. The course *is* for the members, isn't it?"

Deciding factors

What the answer is to people like this only well-run clubs can say. Perhaps well-run clubs don't have people like that—on the principle that the morale of the troops depends on the R.S.M. and that it is part of a good Secretary's job to be one. But there is an undoubted practical difficulty about the exact moment and circumstances at which it really is essential, or at least wisest, to declare the greens themselves out of play, and turn the players on to the frost holes on the approaches.

How do you guess what the weather is going to do next? Do you worry

more if the greens are hard all the way down, or frozen just on top, or frozen underneath but thawing on top, or just slushy and beginning to freeze in an east wind: or what? Do you adopt a rule-of-thumb penknife test—so much depth of blade before you hit frozen ground and it's O.K. (or not O.K.?) to play on them today? Do you invoke oracles for advice, examine entrails, search the sky or believe the 8-0 a.m. weather forecast. ("Fog, some bright intervals, slight rain or snow, possibly frost later in some areas.")? Or do you just go on the principle of taking no risks?

No argument

Why not the latter? But who's to say? Really—and we all know it—the only man to say is the Head Greenkeeper. If he doesn't know his ground, his grasses, his greens and his local weather signs—then he shouldn't be there at all! Even if he doesn't, he may as well be presumed to be in the position of "the best prime minister we've got". If he is to say, he is to do also: just put the flags in the frost holes and be obeyed. But is he? It is not unknown for opinionated members, out early, to want to know who's been tampering with the flag sticks—and put them all back in the greens again. The answer is, that if the Head Greenkeeper tells the Secretary he is going to put the flags in the frost holes, and the Secretary puts up a notice saying that's where they are, there should be no argument about it.

What, of course, is ludicrous, is where things get to the state in a club where some of the older (and perhaps lower handicap members) are more concerned

Continued on page 16

BY APPOINTMENT TO



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

SEEDSMEN
CARTERS TESTED SEEDS LTD.

The New Dunham Forest Golf Course Cheshire



A Fine View of the 2nd Green

This new 9 hole course in Cheshire was planned by Mr. John W. Bealey, our Golf Course Architect, and constructed in nine months under his direction. Sown throughout with Special Mixtures of Carters Tested Grass Seeds, the course was officially opened for play on the 4th June, 1961. Many golfers from other Clubs attending the opening Ceremony, commented upon the excellence of the course

Golf Course Architects and Grass Seed Specialists

The 1962 Edition of our illustrated booklet:—
“Treatment of Golf Courses and Sports Grounds”

free on request

Carters
TESTED SEEDS LTD

**RAYNES PARK,
LONDON, S.W.20**

HARE RAISING

"Natural enemies of the young hare are so numerous that, as soon as her litter is born, the doe distributes her young individually away from the nest."

by HENRY TEGNER

YOUNG hares are particularly vulnerable to vermin of all sorts and the doe always separates her litter, after birth, and hides them individually in separate forms, or couches, in the grass, so that when a leveret is discovered it appears as if it were the only offspring. It is this practice that has given rise to the belief that the hare has only one young at birth, when in actual fact a doe hare normally gives birth to five leverets. Hares are said to transport their young as a cat will carry her kittens—by holding the infant with her mouth by the scruff of its neck. This post-birth transport operation has scarcely ever been witnessed, and it is believed to take place mainly at night.

Leverets are born fully furred and with their eyes open. They are active as soon as they are born. The young rabbit, on the other hand, is born hairless and blind.

Natural Enemies

Hares have numerous enemies besides men and dogs, who are probably the two most terrible of all. Foxes and eagles must come close behind, but there are others such as stoats and weasels. Leverets, because of their diminutive size and utter defencelessness, are nearly every predator's game—from the rat and carrion crow right up to the fox.

The hare can belie his reputation for timidity and be a very pugnacious creature. This happens, particularly in February and March, during the peak of the rutting season, when buck hares will fight over their does even to the death. The hare, of course, has earned his reputation for madness as a result of his antics during March. Hares have been known to stand up and fight sheep and cattle that have disturbed them. They fight not only with the powerful legs but with their teeth as well.

The best known voice of the hare is his scream of pain, but he makes other sounds as well. In the past his speech was frequently imitated by poachers. The commonest sound is rather like the word "don't" without the "d"—a sort of "oont" or even "aunt".

Arthur White who at one time was a keeper at Milton Abbas in Dorset, used to imitate the hare's voice, not to attract others of the same species, but vermin such as the fox and stoat. His mimicry was very successful and he enticed many victims.

It is not generally known that both the hare and the rabbit eat their own dung. This habit is not dissimilar to that of cattle and sheep who chew their cud. In chewing the cud the animal regurgitates partially digested food from the stomach back into the mouth where it is re-masticated. Food passes straight through the hare and rabbit before it is re-consumed.

Many ecologists believe that hares have increased considerably since the advent of myxomatosis to Britain. There is undoubted evidence that this is so.

Tribal Dances

The hare occasionally engages in what can best be described as a tribal dance. Both the blue, or mountain hare, *Lepus timidus*, and the common brown hare, *Lepus europaeus*, participate.

The first time I saw hares dancing the performance reminded me of group dances at a children's party. It was on the links behind Beadnell bay in Northumberland in March. I first noticed one or two hares coming over the ridge of some dunes into a great central cup. They kept coming until I counted 13 of them. The leader then started circling and weaving in what

Continued on page 16

DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE!



NOW is the time to get your mower in for that overhaul—carried out by skilled engineers—1962 tools and equipment. Over 10,000 spares in stock. Fleet transport for immediate delivery.

IT'S EXPERIENCE THAT COUNTS

RELF & KENDALL HAVE THE ANSWER WITH THEIR

2-PLUS SERVICE

1. Exchange Assembly Service of Engines, cutters, Magnetos, Gear-boxes, etc.
2. Express workshop facilities and delivery of spares.

Main agents and distributors for Clinton Engines. Spare parts and service exchange assemblies now available from stock.

Ransomes

Authorised service repair agents.
Sales, Spares and Service.

RELF AND KENDALL

406 BRIGHTON ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY. CRO 0578

11 STATION ROAD, NEW BARNET. BARNET 8228

Official London Area Distributors to Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, for specialist machines.



Agents for Denn's, Shanks, Greens, Arco, Lloyds and Allen Motor Scythes.

OF SOILS AND SPECIES

by Dr. R. F. HUNTER

Hill Farming Research Organisation

MOST experimental work on chemical ploughing has been done where ordinary ploughing is difficult and expensive—on hill pastures. Various chemicals have been used, of which dalapon has been studied most.

Our experience dates from the summer of 1959 when surface sowings were tested by dry conditions. Trials that failed in 1959 were re-sown in 1960, but this was so long after the original spraying that it could not be regarded as a fair test. For these reasons we have so far suspended judgment on whether chemical ploughing is a useful technique in hill pasture conditions.

* * *

Dalapon does not affect hill grasses equally; some are more susceptible than others, some are resistant to very high rates.

Both *Molinia caerulea* (purple moor mat grass or flying bent) and *Nardus stricta* (white bent or moor mat grass) are susceptible and 6 lb. to the acre of dalapon applied in summer has invariably killed these two species. *Agrostis tenuis* (bent) and *Festuca ovina* (fescue) are rather more resistant and require 12 lb. an acre if a satisfactory kill is to be achieved, although a considerable reduction can be got with 6 lb. an acre. Bent is more susceptible to spraying in May, while fescue is more susceptible to an August spraying. These two species invariably occur together; thus spraying at different dates will kill one or the other but not both unless a very high rate is employed.

* * *

Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire fog) *Holcus mollis* (creeping soft grass), *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (sweet vernal) and *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair grass) were all resistant to a 10 lb. an acre rate as

were the *Carex* species (sedges) and all the broad-leaved hill pasture plants. To kill the last group broad-leaved herbicide is necessary.

Dates of spraying appear to be unimportant in reducing the cover of native plants, provided they are between June to August inclusive. But as this obviously determines the date of sowing, our practice has been to spray in August and surface sow the following spring.

* * *

Disposal of dead trash is a problem. If there is not too much it can provide shelter for germinating seeds, otherwise it can be burned. Where turf and trash are deep, as on many *Nardus* and *Molinia* pastures, germination is hampered by turf drying out more readily than on normal soil. Harrowing is useful but must be precise: light harrows bounce over the dead turf, heavy harrows tear it away from the soil as a huge carpet. On some sites a heavy pitch pole harrow has been relatively successful, tearing up those plants which are not quite dead and might recover. Where rainfall is high and good germination likely, cultivations are not required.

All reseeded areas should be fenced. This is particularly important on a dead turf where seedlings, until they have grown through into the mineral soil, can easily be pulled out by grazing sheep.

The most promising swards to improve by chemical ploughing are *Molinia* and to a lesser extent *Nardus*. These are generally associated with a peaty soil, very deficient in lime, phosphate and nitrogen. Sowing should be accompanied by liberal dressings of compound fertiliser with high nitrogen, repeated until the sward is sound.

The best results have been achieved on *Molinia* swards sprayed in late July

Continued on page 16



ATCO

FOR THE GOLF COURSE - AND FOR LIFE

PARTICULARLY

THE 20" SPECIAL

**FOR "SUPERFINE"
MOWING OF GREENS**

This "self-contained" motor mower is fast becoming recognised as the best machine of all for the maintenance of the perfect finish required for Putting Greens. The specification is complete and will maintain peak performance — for life.



ATCO's range of equipment for Golf Courses covers every possible requirement, from the 12" Roller type right up to the 34" Roller type, and Gang mowers as well. Then of course, there is a full range of Rotaries, Sidewheels and the Atcoscythe.

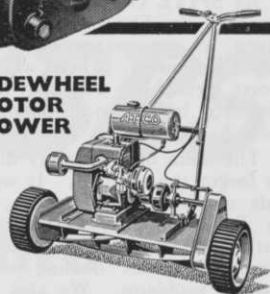
**AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT
OF ALL, IMPECCABLE SERVICE.**

EVERYWHERE there is an ATCO Engineer attached to an ATCO owned Branch ready to advise on any problem in connection with grass cutting.

* **DEMONSTRATIONS OF ANY ATCO
CAN BE ARRANGED TO SUIT YOU
OR YOUR GREENS COMMITTEE**

**CHARLES H. PUGH LTD.,
P.O. Box 256, Atco Works, Birmingham 9**

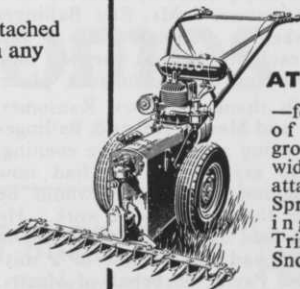
**SIDEWHEEL
MOTOR
MOWER**



—fully power propelled
in 20" and 24" cutting widths.

ATCOSCYTHE

—for every type
of rougher
growth with a
wide range of
attachments for
Spraying, Saw-
ing, Hedge
Trimming and
Snow Ploughing



News



from the Sections

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
76 Four Oaks Common Road
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

IN SPITE OF VERY UNFAVOURABLE weather, the film show by Messrs. Ransomes, given in conjunction with the N.A.G. on 19th December, when we experienced the worst period of fog for many years, was attended by eleven members. The groundsmen had a similar number present.

The main film certainly did much to make us forget the weather. It was a tour of seaside resorts of East Anglia, from the Wash to Felixtowe, showing the beaches, parks, bathing beauties, the lot, and of course Ransomes machines dealing with many grass cutting problems. We also saw a short film dealing with the care and maintenance of the Certes machine, and another very interesting film of the journey from Scotland to London in three days, made by students on a Ransomes motor mower. Mr. Eric Ballinger of Messrs. Parker & Ballinger said a few words between each film, and at question time some very interesting discussions took place.

Mr. Bill Wells thanked Messrs. Ransomes, Mr. Bill Payne and Messrs. Parker & Ballinger for a very interesting and instructive evening, and went on to say that as we had now viewed the machines on film, it would be interesting to see them actually at work. He suggested that a field day may be held in the Spring as he had had the promise of a suitable site. Mr. Bill Payne, on behalf of Messrs. Ransomes and Messrs. Parker & Ballinger were all in favour, so it would appear that we can look forward to a very interesting day in the near future.

Appointment.

We congratulate Barry Powell, late of the North Worcestershire Golf Club, on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper to the Kenilworth Golf Club. His address is now 6 Hyde Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and we wish him every success in his new job.

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

Chairman:
G. W. MASON
(Halifax West End)

Hon. Secretary:
8 Goit Stock Terr., Harden,
Bingley, Yorks.

OUR ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT will be played over the course of the Otley Golf Club, on Thursday, 26th April, 1962 (by kind permission of the Committee). Please make a note of the date.

December Meeting.

This was held at the Old Queen's Head, Bingley, on 12th December, when forty members, a most encouraging number, attended a combined Educational and Social Evening. A Brains Trust occupied the first part of the evening, when the panel consisted of Messrs. K. Chamberlain, T. Hullah, W. Mountain and J. Parker with Mr. G. W. Mason acting as Chairman. After the panel had expressed their views on questions raised, many of which came from our old friend Horace, other members joined in the discussion. A most interesting session was held, and this was followed by a pie and pea supper with seasonal drinks. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Mason expressed best wishes for 1962, and Mr. S. Smith responded on behalf of members.

Mr. J. M. Mawson.

Members will be pleased to hear that, as an expression of appreciation for his services to the Scarcroft Golf Club, Mr. J. Mawson has been elected an Honorary Member of the Club.

Mr. J. Temple.

Mr. J. Temple, who has been assistant to Mr. G. Geddes at Moor Allerton has now retired. John has been a staunch supporter of the Association and I am sure that I am expressing the feelings of all members in wishing him well in his retirement.

New Members.

We welcome the following new members to our Section. Mr. G. Ackroyd, 55 Lingfield View, Moortown, Leeds 17; Mr. A. Walsh, 31 Stonegate Farm Road, Meanwood, Leeds (both of Moortown Golf Club), and Mr. A. B. Jowett, of Grosvenor Engineering Co., Bradford (Associate Member).