



**FEBRUARY**

28th Southern Section, Lecture, Stirling Castle, 6-30 p.m.

**MARCH**

8th East Midland Section, N.A.G. Film Show, Blue Boar, Southgate Street, Leicester.

9th Southern Section, Annual Dinner, Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, E.C.

20th Northern Section, Film Show, White Swan, Call Lane, Leeds.

22nd East Midland Section, N.A.G. Lecture, Blue Boar, Southgate Street, Leicester.

**APRIL**

26th Northern Section, Spring Tournament, Otley Golf Club.

**AUGUST**

13th, 14th and 15th B.G.G.A. Annual Tournament, Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

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## Film Show.

Arrangements have been made for the loan of films of the 1958 and 1959 Penfold Swallow Tournaments played at Prestwick and Barnton. These will be shown at the White Swan, Call Lane, Leeds, on Tuesday, 20th March.

## SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:  
J. K. GLASS  
(Thorpe Hall)

Hon. Secretary:  
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

OUR FEBRUARY LECTURE WHICH will be given by Mr. W. H. Bartle of the S.T.R.I. will be held on Wednesday, 28th February at the Stirling Castle at 6-30 p.m. Mr. Bartle is well-known to most of our greenkeepers and it is hoped that members will make every effort to come along and welcome him.

## Annual Dinner.

Arrangements have now been completed for the Section Annual Dinner, which will take place on Friday, 9th March, at the Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, E.C. Please apply to me for tickets, the price of which will be settled at our next meeting. We have been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Mickey Morris, the Keyboard Comedian, a member of the Concert Artistes Society, who will entertain us after dinner.

## Mr. D. S. Gould.

We are pleased to welcome to the Section, Mr. D. S. Gould, Head Greenkeeper at Stoneham Golf Club. Private address: 35 Hamilton Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants.

## SOUTH-WEST

By A. Cockfield

Chairman:  
G. GILBERT,  
(Warminster G.C.)

Hon Secretary:  
(Shamcastle G.C.)

IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT Mr. Hawtree's film show on course design and construction was so poorly attended. Any lecture requires considerable preparation. Mr. Hawtree had a long way to travel and in all probability had given up a more important engagement to fulfil this date, it was therefore, to say the least, most disappointing to have such a poor turn out at this end.

For those who did turn up, it was a most enjoyable evening. The slides were colourful and most interesting and the discussion which followed went a long way towards ensuring that Mr. Hawtree's visit was not entirely in vain. On behalf of the Section I wish to express our thanks to Mr. Hawtree, and to Mr. Southgate who always comes along to say a few words at the right time.

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## Five Pointers from a Short Report of a Meeting of Secretaries and Handicapping Convenors organised by the Lothians Golf Association

★ It was agreed that generally speaking most courses in the Lothians could adopt a Special Scratch Score on each Competition day because ground conditions do alter and bring a course into a different Course Category from which it had been allocated in assessing the Standard Scratch Score. This applies both to lowering and increasing the Standard Scratch Score.

★ It was recommended that the Special or Standard Scratch Score be fixed prior to play on the Saturday morning so that players could see the target which had been fixed but on the other hand some Clubs felt it was better to do this either during the day or at completion of play. It was pointed out that the Standard Scratch Score has nothing to do with the play of Club Members but is a theoretical calculation of a Scratch golfer playing imaginary shots of a defined length according to Course Category which defines run of ball plus 35 putts

and taking into consideration Course Value and overall average length.

★ Regarding handicapping it was pointed out that the Golf Unions have issued new recommendations in reviewing Category 1 players. It was suggested that somewhat similar, though perhaps less stringent recommendations be adopted in reviewing players in Categories 2, 3 and 4.

★ It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the player if he wishes his handicap reviewed to produce cards of Open Tournament performances signed by the Promotee Club Secretary and most important of all a note of the Special Scratch Score for the day.

★ It was ascertained that most clubs have a method whereby a player's handicap lapses after one or two years if no returns have been made and he must thereafter produce cards in the normal way to achieve a handicap.

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## "Goblin" replies to S. C. Dennis of Upminster

To The Editor,

Dear Sir,

S. C. Dennis of Upminster writes in your December issue, complaining that I made a most unwarranted attack on his profession. I am sorry he got that impression; my articles were meant in no such spirit at all.

I have always felt very strongly that the Head Greenkeeper and his men are the most important people on a golf course. In fact I would far rather see a Head Greenkeeper in the position he often had before the war, of some authority over the behaviour of members on the greens, than the position he rather implies many have been reduced to today. I entirely agree with him that the art of greenkeeping is something that should be really well rewarded; and that no course should be understaffed. This is surely a matter of the members being prepared to value their greenkeepers at what a really qualified greenkeeper is worth. It takes years to get to know your greens and to acquire the art of good greenkeeping, which you can certainly only do by experience.

So much else of what he says is again entirely in accordance with what I was saying. The pre-war way *was* to feed greens little and often; and this is still done on at least three of the courses I know where the greens are still good. In general it is not the experienced and enthusiastic greenkeeper who is behind the trouble; it is much more likely to be the general tendency in treatment and advice sometimes thrust upon him rather against his instincts.

He is right too, of course, about the careless and disrespectful treatment of courses by many of the members of the clubs which play on them (see my piece about trolleys).

I can tell him that I wrote not only from the impression of the courses in my own county, which I have known for twenty years or more, but also of many of the courses upon which major amateur and professional tournaments have been played this year.

As far as I am concerned—the very best respects to him and his men.

Yours sincerely,

"Goblin".

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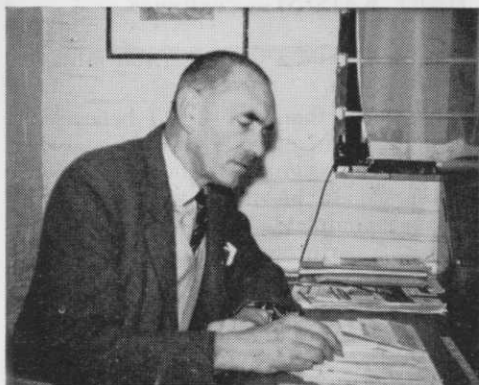
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## HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES



A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE Committee will be held on Saturday, 10th March at the "News of the World" offices, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4, at 2-0 p.m.

May I remind the members of the above Committee that the Southern Section Annual Dinner takes place on Friday evening, 9th March, at the Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, E.C.2, and I am sure the Southern Section would be very pleased to welcome any of the Committee who can make the trip to London on Friday to join them.

C. H. Dix.



### THE SCOTTISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

NORTH AND MIDLAND SECTION SOCIAL EVENING — OUR ANNUAL Social Evening will be held in Nicoll & Smibert's Rooms, Nethergate, Dundee, on Saturday, 17th March, at 7-0 p.m. Tickets (price 8/- each) may be had from members of the Committee.

Wm. Ritchie,  
Secretary.

### MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

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HEAD GREENKEEPER required. Staff of five. Modern equipment. Enquiries, stating age and experience, to the Secretary, Worcester Golf and Country Club, Boughton Park, Worcester. Tel. 22555.

WANTED for Holywell Golf Club, Brynford, Holywell, young couple for Professional/Greenkeeper and Stewardess or young man for Professional/Greenkeeper. Bungalow available if required. For terms of employment and salary, apply to Hon. Secretary.

about possible damage through playing on half frozen greens than either the Committee, the Secretary, or the Greenkeeper. Once the "anything for a quiet life" school takes over the running of a club, or lets itself weaken with the years into that attitude, then hope dies.

### Never recovers

Worse still than indecision is the failure to provide, year by year, decent sites for frost holes, where the grass is evened and looked after well enough to make some substitute for normal putting. If the frost hole is just stuck in an uneven bit of fairway or approach, you can't blame the members for grumbling at being expected to use them. Even this, though, may not be so bad as the weakest way out of all—compromise. Under this system the holes are merely placed near the front of the green throughout the winter, frost or no frost, and left there—throughout the dressing period, and throughout any foul weather that may come. The result, of course, is progressively fouler and more uneven putting throughout the winter, and the whole front part of the green knocked so badly to hell between November and March that it never really recovers from year to year.

It is really a libel on the greenkeeping profession to suggest that such a thing could ever happen. But it does. The only laugh I ever had out of the whole business was when one impatient member solemnly asked: "What's all the fuss? It never *really* freezes in this country anyway!"

Next Month—Why is a Weed?

appeared to be a set pattern around the grassy arena.

Now and then she—for I believe the leader was an old doe—would take her troop out of sight over the dunes to reappear again in the ring with her entourage complete. I do not know how long this performance would have lasted for it was suddenly interrupted by the appearance of a shepherd and his collie. The hares quite unhurriedly, and in single file, evacuated their dance floor and disappeared.

Again, in May, 1959, I saw a similar performance by 14 hares in a grass field, near Grantown on Spey and in October, 1958 I saw a party of eight mountain hares perform in the deer forest of Clova, in Angus.

*With grateful acknowledgments to the "Farmers' Weekly", 24th November, 1961.*

### OF SOILS AND SPECIES—*continued.*

or early August with 6 lb. dalapon to the acre and top dressed with 2 tons of ground limestone. 10 cwt of basic slag, sown in the following spring, given 3 cwt. of a compound fertiliser and not grazed until autumn.

The object in chemical ploughing is to change sward composition completely, but there may be advantages in selectively changing the composition of natural hill pasture.

*With grateful acknowledgments to the "Farmers' Weekly", 8th December, 1961.*

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