

MISSING LINKS

EACH proposal for a new university is a dagger pointing at the heart of the golf clubs. And well they know it, those shrewd, jolly men from the banks and the insurance offices. They are accustomed to look death in the face—nothing yellow about any of them when they fought the Hun—and they won't go down now without a fight. But what can they do against those smart fellows at the U.G.C.? The plan to take away their golf course, hatched with some boulder from the county council, is bound to go through in the end. Look at the way, they tell themselves glumly, poor old Norwich was sold down the river. The very idea of destroying a golf course to put up a university! And so they drink up, and try that dicey short hole by the stream once more, and do it in bogey, only to be bunkered at the long fourteenth by the water-tank.

It is tragic, of course, to think of the golf clubs being closed down all over the country. But nothing—not even the cultural traditions of the golf club—must be allowed to stand in the way of our university expansion programme. Those green, smiling oases, which the golf clubs nobly preserved from speculative builders, must now play a still more vital role in our economy. Picture the pile-driver on that elevated third tee, from

where a full shot with a brassie could break a window in the club house. Bulldozers will lumber along the fairways, and excavators devour the greens. It is sad, and yet exhilarating. In a couple of years a senior common room will stand on the site of the club house. Then it will be port, instead of gin and tonic, that circulates round the table. And instead of the artless conversation of golfers you will hear the marvellous erudition of dons.

"You can expel nature with a pitchfork, but it will always return." HORACE may be right. Will the ghosts of departed golfers still walk the long fairways and stand reverently by the greens? Will Dog Leg Hall (as the first new hall of residence will be called) echo to the eerie cry of "Fore"? The dons, at any rate, will exult in the creation of a new sort of Redbrick. Instead of gowns, the academic body will wear Fair Isle sweaters. Spiked shoes will be compulsory at lectures. And after raising £5m. by public subscription, the new university will build a brand-new golf course on its site.

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NEW THREAT TO GOLF COURSE

FINANCIAL considerations, plus the shortage of building land, may lead to a critical examination of the need for Brighton to have three golf courses.

Some members of the town council are awaiting with interest the final figures for the year of takings and expenditure at the three courses—Hollingbury, Waterhall and The Dyke.

Because they are so obviously in the "green belt", Waterhall and The Dyke are not likely to be threatened. But Hollingbury's days could be numbered.

Some of the councillors feel that the southern part of the course will eventually have to go for housing, and that the northern section would then have to become an extension of Moulsecoomb Wild Park.

Such a park would serve an area which has rapidly increased in population since the war, with the building of new estates and the planning of further development if Hollingbury ceases to be a golf course.

In the year ended 31st March, the last for which detailed figures are yet available, Hollingbury golf course cost £7,278 and brought in only £2,794.

For Waterhall the figures were £4,038 and £2,529, and for The Dyke they were £7,564 and £3,926.

These figures show an "in the red" result of £9,531 for the three courses; or almost £2 spent for every £1 of receipts.

Miniature golf seems to be a much more paying proposition from the ratepayers' point of view.

The course at Roedean brought in £7,688 for an expenditure of £4,451, and at Rottingdean the receipts were £5,841 and expenditure £3,146.

Even putting greens showed a slight profit in the last financial year—£2,940 in green fees against an expenditure of £2,915.

With acknowledgments to the "Brighton Argus", 19th December.

News



from the Sections

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

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

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

OUR NOVEMBER LECTURE WAS held on Tuesday, 7th November, at the White Swan, Leeds. Twenty-eight members, a quite encouraging number, attended to hear Mr. J. R. Escritt, M.Sc., of the S.T.R.I., give a talk on "This Year's Turf Problems". Mr. Escritt dealt with the problems which he and other members of the Research Station's Advisory Staff seem to have encountered most in their travels to various parts of the country. First was the weather, which had been so unsettled that such operations as selective weedkilling had not been able to be carried out. Secondly, the great amount of mat that was being found on turf, this leading to shallow root growth. Thirdly, the neglect in the use of compost. Following the talk there were many questions put to the speaker, which he ably dealt with.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Escritt was proposed by Mr. G. Mason, Chairman, seconded by Mr. W. Mountain, President.

January Lecture.

This will take place on Tuesday, 23rd January, at the Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford, at 7-15 p.m., and will take the form of a film show and talk to be given by Mr. G. Vaughan, of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd.

New Member.

We welcome to the Section the following new member: Mr. P. Bullock, 16 Montgomery Gardens, Intake, Doncaster. (Bessacarr Golf Club, Doncaster).

Grand National Sweep.

Members of the Section will shortly be receiving books of tickets for this Sweepstake. As any profit from this event helps a great deal to keep the Section's finances on an even keel, your Committee look for your support in making it a success.

NORTH-WEST

By B. Ellis

Chairman
O. P. JONES
(Bramhall G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
Romiley G.C.

TWENTY MEMBERS ATTENDED THE Lecture given by Mr. Joss of the Sports Turf Research Institute on 23rd November. The subject was, "Some Aspects of Construction" which was very instructive and enjoyed by all present.

New Member.

We welcome the following new Hon. Associate Member: Mr. Watson, Chairman of the Greens Committee, Birkdale Golf Club, Birkdale, Lancs.

SHEFFIELD

By R. Whitehead

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

Hon. Secretary:
34 Sherrington Road,
Sheffield, 7.

IT WAS VERY PLEASING TO SEE such a splendid attendance at the lecture given by our Hon. Editor, F. W. Hawtree. About sixty members and guests from local Golf Clubs enjoyed a very interesting show of coloured slides taken on golf courses in this country and on the continent, and very instructive and entertaining they proved to be.

After a short interval, Mr. Hawtree gave a talk and answered questions put to him by members and guests on a wide variety of subjects. Interest shown was really good and our President, Mr. A. Shardlow had to halt the proceedings at 10-20 p.m., when Mr. Bernard Elliot of the Sheffield Union of Golf Clubs, thanked Mr. Hawtree on behalf of all present for a very enjoyable evening.

We were very pleased to have with us for the first time, the Association's Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. H. Dix, who travelled up for the evening with Mr. Hawtree.

New Members.

We welcome to the Section Mr. J. J. Dearlove, of 63 Langsett Avenue, Sheffield 6, who has taken over the post of Head Greenkeeper at Hillsborough Golf Club, also Mr. F. Crookes, 12 Cheetams Avenue, Unstone Green, nr. Chesterfield, who is assistant at Dore and Totley Golf Club, and lastly, Mr. W. Williamson, of West End Hotel, who is assistant at Pheonix Golf Club.



JANUARY

- 11th East Midland Section, N.A.G. Lecture, Blue Boar, Southgate Street, Leicester.
- 17th East Midland Section, N.A.G. Lecture, News House, St. James Street, Nottingham, 7-30 p.m.
- 23rd Northern Section Lecture, Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford, 7-15 p.m.
- 25th East Midland Section, N.A.G. Lecture, Blue Boar, Southgate Street, Leicester.
- 31st 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.
- 22nd East Midland Section, N.A.G. Lecture, Blue Boar, Southgate Street, Leicester.

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MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

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

OUR ANNUAL DINNER WAS HELD at the King's Head Hotel, Bearwood, on the 10th November, when we had a record number of ninety-seven sit down to a very appetizing meal consisting of soup, turkey, potatoes, sprouts, peas, Christmas pudding, cheese and biscuits, and coffee.

Apologies were received from Messrs. T. R. Groom, J. W. R. Robinson, L. C. Foster, J. P. Richards, J. Conlon, L. Wheeler and E. W. Fiddian. We were very pleased to have with us our President, and Mrs. Bretherton, Mr. Jock Glass, Association Chairman, our Editor, Mr. F. W. Hawtree and Mr. C. H. Dix, Association Secretary and Treasurer. We also had a good number of Vice-Presidents and the representatives of the Trade gave us great support.

Our President called upon Jock Glass to propose the Toast of the Association, which he did most admirably, and his remarks as to the supply of qualified greenkeepers in the years to come, should give the officials of the golf clubs quite a lot to think about. Charlie Stowe proposed the Toast of the Ladies and Guests, saying how pleased he was to see so many ladies present, and he sympathised with the greenkeeper's wives. He said his wife was a golf widow, but he did not know what the greenkeepers' wives called themselves. Our Editor responded, and was soon in great form. In spite of his belittlement of himself as an Editor, he is always ready to have a go, and I think everyone would agree he makes a success of it.

The concert was a great success in spite of artistes having to compete with the patrons of the bar, but as long as everyone enjoyed themselves in their own way, that is all that matters.

Our Section Chairman, George Hart, thanked our President for all the many ways in which he helps us, and the great interest he shows in our Association, and asked Mrs. Bretherton to accept a bouquet to show our respect for the great interest she also has for the Association. This was presented by Miss Donna Benbow.

Our Chairman also said how pleased he was on behalf of our Section to ask Ernie Benbow to accept a watch to show our appreciation of the great job he has done during the last fifteen years as our Treasurer. In his reply Ben said he thought it was time a younger man took over.

Our thanks are again due to Mrs. Mason and her helpers for the magnificent result they achieved with the raffle, which helps considerably in meeting expenses. I should like to express my personal thanks to everyone who was present, for the magnificent way in which they supported my efforts.

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SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

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

A VERY INTERESTING LECTURE was given by Mr. Barlow of Messrs. F. W. Berk, on Wednesday, 29th November. The main subject was the control of earth worms and although the attendance was not up to the usual number, many questions were asked about the new worm killer. I would like to record a vote of thanks to Messrs. Berk & Co., and to Mr. Barlow for his most instructive and interesting talk, and his detailed answers to all questions, also for distribution of pamphlets.

Lecture.

Our January lecture will take place on Wednesday, 31st January, at the Stirling Castle at 6-30 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. Rixon of Messrs. Suttons who will talk on "Turf Research" and will illustrate with slides.

Section Annual Dinner.

Please note in your diaries that arrangements have been made to hold our Section Dinner on Friday, 9th March at the Talbot Restaurant.

Change of Address.

Mr. E. C. Gowing has taken up a new appointment at Eaton Golf Club. We wish him every success in his new post. Address: 68 Melrose Road, Eaton, Norwich.

Condolence.

On behalf of the members of the Southern Section, may I extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. C. A. Moore, on the death of his father last November. Mr. Moore writes that his father was with the West Middlesex Golf Club from 1905 until he retired in 1946, with the exception of the war years, 1914-18.

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.

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

Would you please express my grateful thanks to the B.G.G.A. for assisting me through the F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund to attend the recent Autumn Course held at the Sports Turf Research Institute.

I found the course most instructive, and interesting, and it will undoubtedly be of great benefit to me.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) P. G. Moore.

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HEAD GREENKEEPER required for Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club, Warwickshire. Capable of taking complete charge of Course and Staff. Must be fully competent and conscientious. Housing accommodation not provided. Apply, giving full particulars of past experience and wage required to the Secretary.

FULL-TIME GROUNDSMAN/GREENKEEPER required by Grange-over-Sands Golf Club, North Lancashire. House available. Full details from Hon Secretary.

WANTED—WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER. Applications will be received up to 31st January, 1962. State experience and salary required. House available. Apply to: C. E. Carter, Hon. Secretary, Cleveland Golf Club, 12 Wilton Green, Lazenby, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

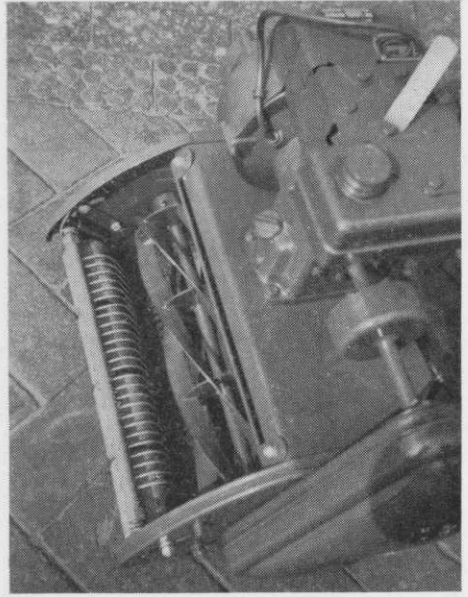
THE "COMB-IT" GRASS COMB

Messrs. A. J. Whitfield have published details of their new grass comb for use with ATCO, Ransomes, and Suffolk mowers. The comb is fitted between the front rollers and cutters of the lawn mowers. A disadvantage of the front roller is that it tends to flatten the grass in front of the cutting cylinder. The grass comb overcomes this advantage by combing the grass up behind the front rollers.

The grass comb is held in contact with the turf by spring pressure which can be varied to give a light combing for close cutting or a scarifying action to loosen the dead growth, which is then picked up by the cutters and thrown in the grass box.

The regular use of the grass comb lessens clover and moss, increases the tilting action of the grass, and promotes dense turf of even texture.

The fitting of the grass comb to the mower is simplicity itself—the comb can be attached and detached in SECONDS—no nuts or bolts—it is held in position by spring tension, and has proved itself a thoroughly strong and worthwhile piece of turf management equipment.



Consider the time and cost of hand raking and hand collection of dead material from greens and lawns. The comb will do the work of four men in quarter of the time, and leave the lawn or green free of dead material—everything the comb takes from the green or lawn is thrown into the grass box.



THE SCOTTISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

THE FOLLOWING LECTURES HAVE been arranged: Mr. J. D. Joss of the S.T.R.I., will talk to the West Section on 16th January, the North and Midland Section on the 17th January, and the East Section on the 18th January. Mr. Beveridge, of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies will talk to the West Section on 13th February, the North and Midland Section on the 14th February, and the East Section on the 15th February.

Venues for these lectures are as follows: West Section, Christian Institute, Bothwell

Street, Glasgow; North and Midland Section, Nicoll & Smiberts, Nethergate, Dundee and East Section, Free Gardeners Institute, Picardy Place, Edinburgh. March—All Sections to arrange open meetings.

Ian Fraser, Secretary.

North & Midland Section.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at Nicol & Smiberts, Nethergate, Dundee, on 7th November, 1961. The following Office Bearers were elected. President: G. M. McDonald, Vice-President: W. Falconer; Committee Members: J. Leith, A. Duncan, S. Gray, S. Christie, W. Ritchie (Montrose); Secretary and Treasurer: W. Ritchie (Kirriemuir); Auditors: Messrs. W. Falconer and J. Ross.

Lecture.

Our first winter lecture by an officer of the S.T.R.I., will be held in Nicol & Smiberts, Dundee, on 17th January, at 7-0 p.m.

W. Ritchie,
Secretary.

SURVEY OF RANSOMES MOWERS FOR 1962.

The basic price of many of the Lawn-mowers manufactured by Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd. remain the same as 1961, although retail prices are slightly higher owing to the recent purchase tax adjustments.

One notable exception is the 2-stroke version of the popular 14 in. "Sprite" which has been reduced to £32 9s. 9d. This mower is also available with an electric motor (£40 1s. 7d.) or as the recently introduced 4-stroke machine (£36 8s. 8d.). The 4-stroke model is powered by a B.S.A. sidevalve unit which has been specially developed for the Sprite.

Domestic rotary mowers are becoming increasingly popular, and Ransomes' 18 in. "Typhoon" has been in heavy demand since its introduction last year. This mower will clear thick long grass and weeds with ease, yet impart a good finish to finer areas of grass, making it an ideal general purpose machine. The Typhoon can be supplied with 2-stroke (£21 15s. 0d. tax free) or 4-stroke power (£26 15s. 0d. tax free), the latter model being fitted with an oil bath air cleaner as standard.

Two Controls.

The 18 in. "Mercury" has gained the respect of thousands of "owner-users" as a mower with a really first-class performance at a reasonable cost. This light mower is powered by a 1 h.p. 4-stroke engine and has only two controls

—a throttle and landroll clutch—which give perfect handling when mowing those awkward corners. The price of this machine complete with grassbox and concave is £57 13s. 9d. An electric powered version of this mower is available at the same price.

Another quality machine, styled similarly to the Mercury, is the "Marquis", which is used extensively by professionals in the upkeep of ornamental lawns. This machine is offered with a choice of 18 in. or 20 in width of cut and is designed for areas of 3,000 sq. yds. Price of the 18 in. model is £75 6s. 0d. and that of the 20 in. £90 9s. 7d.

Outriggers.

The "Mastiff" heavy duty mower, now offered with a choice of 30 in. or 36 in. cutting cylinders, is a sturdy and compact machine with a performance unequalled in its class. Two outrigger units can be attached to the operator's trailing seat to increase cutting widths; a reverse gear is fitted as standard and a self-emptying grassbox operated from the handles of the machine can be supplied. This type of grassbox, when used in conjunction with the reverse gear, saves a great deal of valuable time when frequent emptying is required. Price of the basic machine with normal grassbox is £331 10s. 8d. for the 30 in. machine, and £362 4s. 8d. for the 36 in. model.

These are but a few of the machines included in Ransomes extensive range; further details, price lists and illustrated brochures can be obtained on application to the manufacturers at Orwell Works, Ipswich.

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