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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



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No. 207 New Series

JUNE 1962

*If at first you do succeed,
don't take any more chances.*

K. Hubbard.

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The Hillside course was in superlative order for the Piccadilly No. 1 Tournament last month. The weather on the first three days was all wind and rain but Ted Macavoy had left nothing to the last minute and the players were full of praise for his efforts. "The best greens . . .". "The best fairways . . .", were almost commonplace remarks.

The new practice ground sown last September was already in action. The seeds mixture was pure fescue and bent on a mixture of river sludge, sewage sludge, and the natural sand to proportions which seem to give the moisture holding and fertility levels needed without destroying seaside character.

The first of the six new holes which will bring the championship length up to just under 7,100 yards is now nearly completed and with recent clubhouse extensions and improvements, this club has taken its rightful place among memorable seaside links.

* * *

On another part of the coast, we were pleased to see J. Warrender again at Burnham and Berrow. He moved there from Woodcote Park about eighteen months ago and has lost no time in adapting himself to the very different conditions.

The long stretch of dune country gives an arrangement of nine holes out and nine holes back which is time-consuming in maintenance operations. However, we timed the complete operation of hole-changing at 2 hours, 6 minutes. Two younger members of his team shot round the course in a jeep but still took extreme care over the vital stages of the job. Mr. Warrender is due to go into hospital for a leg operation but is seeing the course into perfect order for the Summer season before he takes the necessary break.

* * *

A new course near Cannes is in the planning stage. The greens at Mougins nearby were bright yellow at the beginning of May just before this course closed for the Summer. The new site has an abundance of water and will be able to keep open throughout the year. Another new layout at the other end of the French Riviera is also in a mountain valley where water can be stored and will have the same charm of pine clad hills surrounding it without the climbing which more elevated sites demand. A good spot for the Annual Tournament when the Common Market leads the B.G.G.A. to become the E.G.G.A.

THE first three major events of the season shared something directly in common: play on a great seaside links of first-class calibre. They were the match between Oxford and Cambridge at Hunstanton, the Halford Hewitt Tournament at Deal and Royal St. George's, and the Martini £6,000 Professional Tournament at St. Andrews.

At Hunstanton, the horrible (if now almost forgotten) winter was still with us: the snow and sleet showers flew over the links on the back of a strong north easterly and the little African playing for Oxford turned slowly blue beneath his normal duskiness until someone saved

John
Stobbs

his life with an old army greatcoat to put on over his four pullovers. It nearly came down to his ankles, which he said made it all the better.

The greens staff there had not had a chance to bring the course into any particular condition: the dressings they had put down over the greens two months before were still lying in black smudges and streaks on the surface, the spring rains not having come at all. On the whole, though, the greens putted well; and indeed at Hunstanton the local sand seems particularly favourable to fine turf. It sets easily into a smooth surface, and even when brown and bare, lets a ball roll true.

Nothing Jumpy

The same can nearly always be said for Deal and St. George's; in fact in many respects they have some of the finest greens in the world. I don't think I once saw a putt do anything jumpy or odd; and time and time again the eye and the player were alike rewarded by the sight of a long one coasting in perfect evenness of flow across the green to draw almost imperceptibly to a stop by the hole. Ten footers, hit straight, rolled straight and sharply in.

THREE BY THE SEA

There is no doubt though, particularly at St. George's, that something interesting is happening to the fairways with the years. They seem to be less dry and sandy, and are more and more developing the softer characteristics common on inland territory.

One distinguished, if somewhat rigidly traditional, ex-champion golf-writer bewails the fact that St. George's, in particular, is turning into what he calls a "cow-pasture".

But this is a matter of opinion; and perhaps the effect of years of mowing and the occasional treatment is bound to have a richening effect in the end. To almost any inland player, certainly the Sandwich fairways are still near Paradise.

Occasional Boggle

At St. Andrews, too, a number of professionals in the Martini saw some doubtfulness in the greens. With all respect to the City's municipal greens staff, and to the dry cold spring followed by sudden rain just before the tournament, which made the grass suddenly reach for the heavens in its joy, they did seem to be less true than sometimes in the past. There was a tendency for putts, if only here and there, to boggle at the sight of the hole: usually a sign either of softness or over-thickness of grass surface, both of which show their effect most strongly as the ball slows down.

For the amount of wear it gets, of course, the Old Course still remains something of a natural miracle: but there were one or two mutterings in dark corners from old gentlemen about the effects of modern mowing machinery.

In architecture, these four courses—with much superficially in common in their territory—differ most interestingly

in what they make of it. Hunstanton has perhaps the most spectacular ridge of dunes, running as high as a house from one end of the course to the other about 200 yards inland from the sandy shore and parallel to it. The holes hug the landward side, with a small stream and the lushness of genuine accredited cow-pasture on their right: then climb about on the shoulders of the range towards and around the turn, before shooting straight out to the shore at the 10th.

There, the disturbance on the adjacent bathing beach has led to sand blowing across the shore on to the green, which was still covered with a new layer, settling within the grass, as the match was played.

The same trouble has long since wiped out the old second hole at Littlehampton, and is probably a problem in many links around the coasts. Saunton, in Devon, fights a perpetual battle with battalions of marram grass planted to stabilise the vast dune country which lies between the holidaymakers' sands and the course.

Subtle difference

Deal and St. George's, separated from the shore by a huge shingle beach and ridge, have none of this to cope with (though they do get seepage of seawater at times, particularly at Deal). The nature of both is subtly different from Hunstanton. Hunstanton continues with a string of holes tacking to and fro across the flatter part of the central dune-ridge, and ends with two climbing in succession to plateau greens set on the seaward shoulder of it. Deal and St. George's, on the other hand, though blessed with some fair heights of dune, direct their holes around and in between them.

St. George's has one frightening plateau green, the 10th, with a steep drop directly all around its back edge, and huge bunkers set in the forward slopes of its sides; and Deal has one short-hole tee, the 6th, perched high on the top of a sand-hill, where players in April often find themselves needing timber to reach a green only some 150 yards away by the shore.

But in general both courses use the undulations of the between-dune country to leaven the fairways, and minor ridges and rolls to give interest to the greens.

Splendid Simplicity

There are some great holes on both. At St. George's the pattern of the testing longish holes is often a drive transversely across a minor crest of dune, with pot bunkers set nastily in its face, then a second shot along beside the range to a green protected only by bunkers. At Deal, the tendency is much more for the fairways to tack across country to greens sited either flat and open, or most testingly in hollows between the undulations. There is one splendid simple short hole, though, the 14th (between a brassie and a 4-iron) which depends on a green rising in a slight plateau, with a drop and heavy bunkers on either side, and a rough sandy track at the back.

* * *

This is the hole where Lionel Munn, asked to hit a shot for a photographer, once borrowed a spoon and a ball and, with his jacket and hat on, holed his demonstration shot: possibly the only extant photograph of a man actually hitting an ace.

At Deal, on the 1st, as at St. Andrews, a small cross-water hazard guards the approach to the green. It is notorious at Deal how many times matches going down the 19th end by one side or the other dropping their second short in to the water, just as they do at St. Andrews into the Swilcan Burn.

Looked at in cold logic, there is no reason at all why a small water cross-hazard in front of the green should in any way affect the shot. But nearly all bad shots arise from doubt sown in the player's mind; and, at sowing doubt, water before the green is one of the most potent craftsmen imaginable.

I've run on so long now that only a paragraph remains for the tactics and strategy of the Old Course, and the trouble the Martini competitors, like all others, had with it. To speak of it so lightly would be sacrilege. So I won't. Another time, if I may. . . .

WIRRAL WEED KILLING

Two years ago, I had to find an answer to a weedkilling problem far greater than I had previously met—eighteen greens and 120 acres of fairway

BENEFIT FROM IRRIGATION

Report of Rothamsted Experimental Station, where Wright Rain equipment is used, outlines irrigation experiments.

IRRIGATION in the drier years in Britain is of great value particularly in South Eastern England, according to the annual report of the Rothamsted Experimental Station. The report points out that in what was accepted as a wet year both early potatoes and grass benefited greatly from irrigation. Low rainfall from March to June, 1960, at a time when grass was vulnerable to lack of moisture, showed that irrigation was beneficial.

Yield Doubled

Experiments from irrigating rye grass at Woburn last year showed greatly increased yields over non-irrigated plots. Putting on a total of 3 inches in late April, May and June almost doubled the yield from 9.6 cwt. per acre to 19.8 cwt. per acre. During this period cuts of grass were taken between the second week of May to the third week of June. This represented an increase in dry matter over non-irrigated plots from 1 ton 7 cwt. to 2 tons 5 cwt. per acre.

With early potatoes 11.97 tons per acre were recorded, an increase of 2.24 tons over non-irrigated potatoes.

Commenting on the calculation of irrigation need, the report says that in general the original specification was substantial, but it was hardly to be expected that all crops had the same water requirements. The underestimation of the need for grass and potatoes was about right for beans but was above the need for sugar beet and cereals.

Lou Lowcock, Head Greenkeeper of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club relates how he cleaned out all the usual and some unusual weeds from the century-old turf of the Hoylake links.

and rough growing every kind of weed in the book.

The ordinary rosette weeds were no trouble, but the greens were badly infested with clover, yarrow, pearlwort, parsley piert and a weed that was known locally as sea-side chickweed. Previously this chickweed had only been checked by lawn sand and always came again in the Spring.

I tried all the usual selective weedkillers, M.C.P.A., 2-4 D and 2,4,5. T.

Several applications at intervals would no doubt have succeeded against the clover and pearlwort but not the chickweed and parsley piert.

Weedkiller used by Farmers.

I decided therefore to try the comparatively new C.M.P.P. and bought a gallon of "Blitzcleve", a weedkiller used by farmers for surface weeds.

Using a Drake and Fletcher knapsack sprayer fitted with three "O" jets, I mixed 14 fluid ounces of "Blitzcleve" with three gallons of water and used this quantity to a green of about 650 square yards. At an ordinary walking pace this rate of application covers the area without any difficulty and usually leaves sufficient for one width around the perimeter.

Within a week the chickweed, pearlwort and parsley piert were turning yellow, another week they were turning brown and within a month they had faded away and no scar to find any indication of where the weeds had been.

The clover and yarrow gradually went and no trace of anything was seen again that year. The chickweed duly appeared again in the Spring and again the same treatment brought the same result. No clover or yarrow appeared at all and now the sward is completely clean.

So with the "Blitzclev" costing 37/9d. per gallon, it costs approximately 5/-d. per green and £4 10s. 0d. for the whole eighteen. The whole treatment costs so little and the result so good, that the application could be applied annually as a preventive rather than a corrective treatment.

No scorching was visible at any time and during the trials with the C.M.P.P., I applied on the same turf 16 and 18

The fairways and rough were no difficulty at all and were dealt with quite easily with "Blitzweed" Super at a cost of 22/6d. per gallon.

Applied at 4 pints per acre the cost worked out at 11/3d. per acre the result was better than I ever expected and now it is only a case of repeat applications to combat the weeds that appear each year through so many weeds being allowed to seed year after year.



Lou Lowcock stands on a famous short hole green No. 11, The Alps, at Royal Liverpool. A popular green with spectators, Hillbre Island is in the distance.

fluid ounces and I am certain that if the basic principles of weedkilling are carried out namely—a good leaf area, don't mow before 48 hours after application and choose ideal weather conditions for spraying, I don't think any difficulty will be encountered.

I am certain that C.M.P.P. in the form of "Blitzclev" is the solution to one of the biggest problems we greenkeepers have ever had. The surface weeds have always been difficult to eliminate, but I certainly have found the answer.

RECORD BREAKER AT SIXTEEN

Sixteen year old Tommy Patterson, playing in the Victory Cup at Morpeth, Northumberland, set a new record for the course with a 67. The previous records were:—Amateur, 70; Professional, 68.

When only fifteen he was Club Champion of both Morpeth and Newbiggin Golf Clubs, surely another record. Now playing off scratch, he played his third game for Northumberland on the 19th May against Yorkshire at Foxton Hall, Alnmouth, and won 4—3.

J. G. Irving, Head Greenkeeper,
Newbiggin-by-Sea Golf Club,
Northumberland.

News



from the Sections

NORTH-EAST

Chairman:
J. SIMPSON
(Ponteland G.C.)

By T. Oliver
Hon. Secretary:
Heathery Cottage,
Heathery Lane, Gosforth,
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

AT A MEETING HELD AT THE Marquis of Blandford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, it was proposed by T. Nutman and seconded by D. A. Earsman, that we rejoin the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association as the North East Section. All present were in favour and a Committee was elected as follows:—Chairman, J. Simpson, Ponteland Golf Club; Vice-Chairman, D. A. Earsman, Arcott Hall Golf Club; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, T. Oliver; Committee: Messrs. R. Derham, N. Fraser, T. Kirtley, L. Lowery, R. Raine, H. Sommerville, R. H. Nicholson and T. Auld.

It was proposed by L. Lowery that Mr. L. A. Jones, Deputy President of the English Golf Union be elected President of the North East Section and I am very pleased indeed to say that Mr. Jones has accepted. I must mention here that Mr. Jones has given invaluable help in the reforming of our Section, and I know that nothing would please him more than to see our membership grow to a greater number than before. It was as a direct result of his efforts that we were able to meet the Chairman of the Association, Mr. J. K. Glass, Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. H. Dix, and Mr. F. W. Hawtree together with Mr. Jones at a Meeting in the Clubhouse of the Gosforth Golf Club, when many interesting items were discussed. It was a most enjoyable meeting and our Chairman, J.

Simpson, thanked Mr. Glass, Mr. Dix, and Mr. Hawtree for attending, the Committee of the Gosforth Golf Club, for the use of the Clubhouse, and the Steward and Stewardess, Mr. and Mrs. Powell for preparing snacks.

Spring Meeting

Our Spring Meeting was held at Tynemouth Golf Club on Thursday, 26th April, by kind permission of the Committee. Four Balls, 18 Holes were played and the results were as follows:—H. Sommerville and P. Smith (Alnmouth) 2 up; 2nd, D. Gray (Backworth) and S. Pope (Tyneside) 1 up.

Our President, Mr. L. Jones was present together with Mr. Hood, President of the Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs and Mr. A. Harrison, President of the Durham Union of Golf Clubs. Mr. Jones spoke of the advantage to all greenkeepers in joining the Association and was strongly supported by Mr. Hood and Mr. Harrison.

Our Chairman, J. Simpson, thanked the Committee of the Tynemouth Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, T. Nutman, for the excellent condition of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the catering, and Mr. Jones, Mr. Hood and Mr. Harrison for their support.

New Members

We welcome to our Section, Mr. R. H. Nicholson, 1a Amberton Road, West Hartlepool, C. Durham, who was one of the first to join. We hope that Mr. Nicholson will be one of many, and that Greenkeepers will contact others in their own areas and encourage them, in their own interests, to join. With the commencement of the new Apprenticeship scheme, we feel sure more younger men will be attracted to our profession.

EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

Chairman:
S. TALBOT
(Wollaton Park)

Hon. Secretary:
40 Edward Road,
Clarendon Park, Leicester

OUR AUTUMN TOURNAMENT WILL be held on Tuesday, 25th September, 1962 at the Willesley Park Golf Club, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire by kind permission of the Committee.

Subscriptions

May I again remind members that their subscriptions for 1962-63 are now due. Please do not delay payment until attending some future meeting as this complicates the Treasurer's book-keeping. There are still several unpaid subscriptions for 1961-62. Would members please give this immediate attention. Your Treasurer's address is: Mr. S. C. Long, Municipal Golf Course, Frith Farm, Hinckley Road, Leicester.

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

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

WE WERE FORTUNATE IN HAVING a delightful day for our Tournament at Tamworth Golf Club on the 1st May. The entry was down to 22 and I feel sure that with a little extra effort many more members could join us for a very enjoyable day.

The prize winners were as follows:—A. C. Jones (Little Aston), Nett 143, Ransome's Cup and Electric Blanket; G. Woodward (Walsall), Gross 154, Sutton's Cup and Carving Set; R. Pugh (Sandwell Park), Nett 147, Camera from Messrs. Fison's Ltd., and Cannock Agricultural Co.; A. Boraston (Little Aston) Nett 149, Biscuit Barrel from Messrs. W. Hargreaves & Co.; A. Stephens (Moor Hall), Nett 149, Canvas Chair from Messrs. Parker & Ballenger Ltd.; E. Adams (unattached) Nett 150, Pyrex Dish from Lunevale Products and Hilton Gravel Co.; V. Smith (Handsworth), Nett 151, $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. 65's from Mr. G. N. James; E. Walford (Olton), Nett 153, 1 doz. Forsums from the Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co.; G. Hart (Gay Hill), Nett 154, Holdall from Messrs. Carters Tested Seeds and F. W. Lees & Son.; E. Benbow (Handsworth), Nett 154, Bottle of Sherry from Messrs. Mitchels & Butlers Ltd. Over 50's:

A. C. Jones, Leg of Pork from Mr. J. W. R. Robinson. Players with 2's on cards, R. Pugh, T. Jones, W. Barton and A. Boraston won golf balls which were given by Mr. Carl Bretherton. The prizes for our visitors were won by R. Hill, Tamworth G.C., 72 Nett and E. Ballinger, Tamworth G.C., 74 Nett.

The Captain of Tamworth Golf Club presented the prizes and said how pleased they were to see us, and that they would be glad to welcome us again at a future date. Our Chairman, George Hart, thanked Mr. Hill for presenting the prizes, the Council of Tamworth Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse, the Steward and Stewardess for excellent meals, Andy Dishington for the use of caddy cars and the fine condition of the course, the donors of the prizes, and our friends from Messrs. Ransomes, W. Payne and R. Stanley for the great help they gave us in issuing cards and recording the scores.

Members will be pleased to hear that we had a short visit from Albert Oakley who was brought along by Mr. Carr. Albert is still very weak and is going to the R.A.F. Convalescent Home, which we hope will help him to regain his strength. He has the best wishes of all of us.

Annual General Meeting

We are trying to arrange the A.G.M. for the last week in June. I will let you know when it is fixed and hope all members will endeavour to attend. If members cannot

THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN IN LIFE!

With great advances in knowledge, we never quite catch up. But some fundamental facts we do acquire and often by bitter experience.

For example, we discovered, early in life, that

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manage in the afternoon to play for the Parker Challenge Cup, please try to attend the meeting in the evening. In the last few years we have had a very poor attendance, so please do make an effort this year.

Congratulations

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, Jack Toy was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his 47 years' service with the club—37 of them as Head Greenkeeper. We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

New Members

We welcome two new members, D. J. Walton, 175 Ralph Road, Shirley, Solihull, Warwickshire, who is assistant at Shirley Park Golf Club, and S. Christie, 25 Terry Street, off St. John's Road, Dudley Wors., who has joined us from the Scottish Greenkeepers' Association as Head Greenkeeper at Dudley Golf Club.

NORTH-WEST

Chairman
O. P. JONES

(Bramhall G.C.)

By B. Ellis
Hon. Secretary:
Romiley G.C.

OUR SPRING TOURNAMENT WAS held on 2nd May at the Bramhall Golf Club by kind permission of the Council. We were favoured with a fine day and 40 players took part in the Competition. In the afternoon, 13 players took out cards to play for the President's Prize presented by Mr. W. Kinsey. This Competition is confined to Visitors and Hon. Associate Members, and was won by Mr. F. Fagan with a nett score of 67 from a handicap of 4. His round was the best of the day.

Mr. J. G. Brown, Vice-President, took the Chair and after apologising for the absence of our President, went on to thank the Captain and Council of the Bramhall Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of their course and club house. Sincere thanks were also given to the Donors of the Prizes, to the Steward and Stewardess for excellent meals, and to Mr. Jones and his staff for the splendid condition of the course.

The Chairman then introduced the Captain, Mr. Eastwood, to present the prizes, and after which, he closed the meeting, saying how very pleased they were to have us at Bramhall.

The Prize Winners at Bramhall were as follows: Visitors Prizes: 1st nett, F. Fagan, 67, Bottle of Whisky; 2nd Nett, J. Loman, 70 (on last nine holes), Bottle of Sherry. Greenkeepers: 1st Nett, E. Macavoy, 103, John Fitton Trophy and Holdall; Best Gross,

E. Walsh, 107, Pullover; 2nd Nett, J. Metcalfe, 106, Golf Umbrella; 3rd Nett, E. Walsh, 107, Clock; 4th Nett, R. Crabtree, 108, Pyrex dish; 5th Nett, O. P. Jones, 109 (on last nine holes), Bottle of Whisky; 6th Nett, W. Brady, 109 (on last nine holes), Windcheater; 7th Nett, R. Johnson, 109½, Clubhead covers; 8th Nett, G. Davey, 110½, Silver Pencil.

Once again, our thanks are due to Mr. Payne, Mr. Williams of Messrs. Ransomes, and Mr. Greaves of Messrs. Ellis Rees, who always come along to issue and check the cards.

Prize Donors: Bramhall Golf Club, Messrs. W. Hargreaves, Suttons & Sons, Rigby Taylor Ltd., Carters Tested Seeds, May & Baker, W. E. Sowerbutts & Co., G. Henshaw, Esq., W. Kinsey, Esq., O. P. Jones, Esq. and A. E. Fyles, Esq.

New Members

We welcome the following new members: Mr. F. Corbett, 130 Wellington Road North, Heaton Norris, Stockport (Marple Golf Club); Mr. W. Harling, 7 Best Street, Sunny Bank, Kirkham, Lancs. (Fairhaven Golf Club); also the following new Hon. Associate Members: Mr. R. Watkinson, 36 West End, Penwortham, Preston (Chairman of the Greens, Ashton and Lea Golf Club), and Mr. R. Mills, 331 Market Street, Whitworth, Nr. Rochdale (Chairman of Greens, Lobden Golf Club).

EIRE (IRISH)

By J. G. Bryan

Chairman:
FRANK MERRIMAN

Hon. Treasurer:
(Edmondstown G.C.)

AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting Mr. P. McGuinness resigned his appointment as Hon. Secretary. We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. McGuinness for all his work on behalf of the Section.

Laurence Kelly of Grange Golf Club, Rathfarnham, Dublin, 14, and Victor Bruce, Dunmurry Golf Club, Belfast, N.I., were appointed Joint Hon. Secretaries.

Spring Competition

Our Spring Competition for the President's Prize and Shanks Cup was played at the Dundalk Golf Club on the 14th May in dry, if somewhat stormy weather conditions. The results were as follows:—1st, P. Caul (Island), 72—3=69; 2nd, L. Kelly (Grange), 76—6=70; 3rd, R. Wightman (Helen's Bay), 81—9=72 (on 2nd 9); 4th, J. G. Bryan (Edmondstown), 84—12=72. Best Gross, V. Bruce (Dunmurry) 77. 5th, H. Pettigrew (Royal Belfast), 86—12=74. 6th, S. Allen (Warrenpoint), 83—7=76. 7th, D. McDonnell (Grange), 81—4=77.