

MAY

16th Southern Section, Spring Tournament, Finchley Golf Club.
30th Southern Section, A.G.M., Stirling Castle, 6-30 p.m.

JUNE

7th Midland Section, President's Match, Handsworth Golf Club.
7th North West Section, A.G.M., Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street,
Manchester, 7 p.m.

AUGUST

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

GOOD GRASS DOES NOT MAKE TRUE GREENS

By MAURICE WOODBINE

(Golf Correspondent of The Birmingham Post)

ONE of the unhappy signs on many golf courses in recent years has been the inability of officials concerned with the maintenance of the courses to realise that there is a little more to the problem than the mere growing of grass.

One does not attempt to decry the admirable work being done by various firms who specialise in the treatment of sports grounds, but the advice they give has to be tempered with a certain amount of knowledge on the part of those who make the decisions as to what methods are used.

The people most qualified to do that are the professionals and greenkeepers at the club concerned, but more often than not their advice is overruled by those who have only the scantiest idea of what is necessary.

It can be said that no serious damage is done, so long as these deliberations affect only the fairways, but when we come to the greens a vastly different situation arises.

The essential need of greens is that they should be true. The texture of the

grass is certainly important, but is of secondary value to that of the actual surface.

Rolling

There are those clubs who will not have a roller put on their greens because they are concerned solely with the growth of the grass.

If, by reason of the type of soil involved, rolling is necessary—as it is at many courses—this attitude is absurd. The accurate surface is far more important.

It makes no difference to the run of the ball—or no difference which can be assessed—if there happens to be a little clover amid the grass, but it makes a great deal of difference if the entire surface of the green is blemished and scarred from heel-marks, worm-casts and the like.

I simply cannot understand why men of limited experience wish to override those who have closely studied such matters. It is up to those who play on these courses and find that their otherwise accurate putts are deflected from their real direction by the uneven nature of the ground to make their complaints to the committee.

In that way this stupidity may be overcome by the mistaken attitude of their committee being brought to a head.

*With grateful acknowledgments to
The Birmingham Post.*

TALLY-HO IN THE HIGH STREET

A FRIEND of mine who lives in the outskirts of the local spreading town rang me up the other day to complain that a fox had been at his pet gander. This man likes geese and he keeps a goose and a gander—they never seem to produce any offspring—in his backyard.

He had been woken early in the morning by a most fearful row and he was just in time to see a big fox departing over the fence at the bottom of the garden. Now my friend knows a fox when he sees one. In his younger days he spent nearly every winter Saturday hunting with the pack of hounds with which I am connected.

This was why he rang me for he wanted to know whether hounds could meet somewhere near at hand and try to do something about the urban foxes which, he said, were becoming a menace to the resident poultry.

Arrangements were made for hounds to meet at a house five miles from the built-up area. It was intended to draw towards the houses during the course of the day.

The first cover, a wood of an acre and a half in extent, produced a fox which circled twice and then set his mask straight for the suburbs. A five-mile point ended up among the pavements. Hounds were called off in case of damage to private property.

by HENRY TEGNER

They were taken back into the country to draw again and the same thing happened. We had three separate foxes in front of us that day and they all went to town, as it were, to save their brushes.

To show willing, hounds met again three weeks later near suburbia. Before drawing, the master sent the car followers ahead to try to form a cordon between the countryside and the town. When hounds found their fox he set his mask, like a homing pigeon for suburbia and ran through the cars without hesitating. Hounds followed him down the paved roads eventually to mark their quarry to ground in a hole beneath the back-garden of a council house amongst litter, empty cans and garbage.

When we reached the pack there was a line of curious human faces peering over the back-garden fences at the sight of foxhounds and dismounted men and women standing amid their steaming horses. There was nothing to do but to leave the fox where he had found sanctuary.

I have always had a high regard for the intelligence of the fox. He is certainly one of our cleverest wild animals.

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SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Sports Turf Research Institute was held at St. Ives Research Station, Bingley, on Monday, 16th April under the chairmanship of Mr. Alan Sowden.

In the annual report, reference is made to the great honour done to the Institute by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh who, in June, 1961, graciously gave his patronage to the Institute.

Reference is also made in the annual report to the research programme carried out during the year. This included further work on moss control, top dressing experiments and variety trials with grasses. New fungicides for use against diseases were investigated and, at the request of May & Baker, Ltd., trials were carried out with a view to evaluating two forms of urea formaldehyde resins in comparison with other nitrogenous fertilisers.

The Revenue Account for the year ended 31st December, 1961 showed an increase in general income of £2,266 to a total of £30,663, whilst expenditure rose by only £732 to £29,083. The surplus of £1,580 was capitalised in accordance with the provisions of the Articles and will be used to further the main objects of the Institute.

The Institute's advisory service continued to be in great demand throughout the British Isles and Europe and education was continued through courses at Bingley and by the giving of lectures.

Elections to office included the re-appointment of Lord Brabazon of Tara as Honorary President, Sir Bracewell Smith, Mr. Carl Bretherton and Sir William Worsley as Honorary Vice-Presidents, Mr. Alan Sowden as Chairman and Mr. Carl Bretherton as Vice-Chairman.

TALLY-HO IN THE HIGH STREET—*cont.*

With the growth and spread of our towns and cities into the surrounding countryside, it is not surprising that a breed of urban foxes has grown up.

Surroundings of this nature are usually extremely safe for foxes, providing plenty of shelter and bounteous feeding. The only hazard a town fox has to face is traffic—a menace that is also man's.

The fox is an extremely adaptable creature. When myxomatosis swept the land clear of rabbits, which were supposed to be their mainstay, foxes quickly accustomed themselves to an alternative diet.

Foxes have found it easy to adjust themselves to a city life. City dwelling for a fox can be comfortable. In the open country men with hounds will hunt them.

There is plenty of good sustenance too in these urban places. Mice, rats, unenclosed poultry, plenty of garbage and a plethora of unconsumed scraps put out for pets.

A fox is not an underground dweller in the same sense as the badger. Plenty of vixens have their cubs above ground. If they have them in an earth, they often shift them early to another habitation.

Townee vixens soon learn that there is no need to bother with a deep hole. In any case, such places are not easily found in and about human dwellings and the fox itself is not a good excavator.

Once they have established themselves as suburban dwellers, foxes are almost impossible to eliminate.

I know one breeding earth in an open space in the midst of suburbia in which the occupants were dealt with by gas, but it is the only one and I doubt whether the mass murder made much of a dent in the local vulpine population. Urban foxes are here to stay.

*With grateful acknowledgments to
The Farmers' Weekly*



THE SCOTTISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

THE ANNUAL TOURNAMENT OF the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association will take place at Carnoustie Golf Club on Thursday, 21st June, 1962 by kind permission of the Committee.

Ian Fraser,
General Secretary.

NORTH & MIDLAND SECTION

OUR ANNUAL TOURNAMENT WILL take place at Montrose Golf Club on Thursday, 7th June at 1-45 p.m. by kind permission of the Committee.

New Member

We welcome to our Section Iain R. Armit of King James VI Golf Club, Perth.

W. Ritchie,
Secretary.

LOTHIANS GOLF ASSOCIATION

Short Report on Meeting of Green Conveners and Greenkeepers

Mr. W. A. W. Sivewright presided over a gathering of 31 Green Conveners and Greenkeepers held in Edinburgh.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, pointed out that this was only an exploratory meeting and all the subjects on the agenda could only be discussed in general and if it was felt that progress could be made or action taken in any direction then a committee would have to be formed to carry out the detailed work involved.

After a general discussion on bulk buying of seeds, sands and fertilisers, loaning of Equipment, etc., it became evident that much information would have to be procured from clubs before progress could be made. At this point a committee consisting of W. Skene (Merchants), T. Cowper (Dalmahoy), T. D. Harkins (Musselburgh) and F. Hunter (Prestonfield) was formed. They

were requested to get from clubs the following information.

(a) What equipment was available in the Lothians? was any of it available for loan?

(b) Were any clubs interested in grouping together with the idea of purchasing between them any major items for course maintenance?

(c) Get information from clubs about sources of supply and cost of seeds, sands and fertilisers.

(d) When available this information was to be circulated to clubs for individual action.

(e) Were any green conveners or greenkeepers interested in the possible formation of night classes by the College of Agriculture.

During the free and general discussion that took place the following interesting statements were made :

(a) Many neighbouring clubs do lend equipment.

(b) Many clubs purchase a large number of items at very favourable rates from friends of the club.

(c) Green Conveners are only messengers between the Council and the Greenkeepers and as they only serve for a year or two, this period is not long enough for them to become interested in the job.

(d) Greenkeepers would rather have a Green Convenir who served for a lengthy period. Someone interested in the job with whom they could discuss their many problems. He might never have any practical knowledge but he could learn to talk the same language.

The question of greenkeepers' wages was raised and the Chairman said there was no authorised scale in existence. Efforts were being made by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries to frame a recommendation to clubs on this matter. Some Clubs tried to use the agricultural rates but in general it was being found necessary if good men were required to pay rates comparable to that paid locally in industry. Some clubs were now operating a superannuation scheme.



Lindrick Golf Club,
Lindrick Common,
Nr. Worksop.

To "Goblin",

Dear Sir,

About 25 years ago we had a hand sweeper called "Goblin" and "Devil's Advocate" is as much behind the times as that sweeper.

When I took over here after the war there were so many weeds that if all the members had turned out daily we would have been at it for years. So what did we do? We called in Bingley as a little bird had whispered to me that they had been working on selective weed killers to rid grass of all weeds. I straight away got my club to buy suitable spraying equipment so that we could do our own spraying when the weather was suitable. If a contractor is called in he has to do the spraying irrespective of the weather. Consequently, he tends to use a weed killer that will stand a certain amount of rain and which I do not think gives as good a "kill".

We sprayed all the greens, tees, fairways and semi-rough every year until 1960. Since then we have "spot" treated as we now have to look for weeds and it is not worth while spraying all over.

With weed killers such as these available, "Goblin" puzzles me on his course when he says they have a lot of weeds now as surely they could not have had many weeds in the old days if they hand weeded the fairways.

Yours faithfully,

G. Herrington,
Head Greenkeeper.

58 Abingdon Road,
Drayton,
Nr. Abingdon on Thames,
Berkshire.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for the Greetings Telegram which you kindly sent on the occasion of my Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Whilst writing may I take the opportunity of wishing continued success to the Journal, which by the way I still read with great interest.

Yours very truly,
C. C. Prickett.

Very glad to have news of you, Charles. You were at a Committee Meeting forty years ago in London with Tom Bridges and Tom Mason, and must, with them, be one of our most senior members.

It was always good to play at Frilford Heath when you were in charge.

I still remember that half-crown you gave me when the Greenkeepers' Tournament was at Sundridge Park in 192?. With compound interest, it is now worth nearly 6/8½ but does not go anything like so far.

F.W.H.

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the growing period of the turf the available potassium is not sufficient, potassium will need to be added in a quantity high enough to adequately raise the potassium level. (2) The kind and amount of clay in the soil. Some types of clays hold more potassium than others, and some clay types hold potassium in a more available form than others. If a soil is high in clay, it will be able to hold more potassium than a soil which is primarily sandy. A sandy soil will need small but frequent applications of potassium whereas a soil high in clay may be able to provide sufficient potassium with larger but less frequent potassium applications. (3) The type of watering programme. Where the watering programme is heavy, potassium will tend to leach out of the soil more readily than where the watering programme is light. (4) Whether or not clippings are removed. Grass clippings contain a considerable amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. O. J. Noer has reported that clippings removed from a golf green in Memphis, Tennessee contained nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash in the approximate ratio of 3-1-2, respectively. If the clippings are removed instead of being allowed to remain on the turf, potassium will be depleted more rapidly. (5) The kind of grass grown. All turfgrass species and varieties need available supplies of essential nutrients. However, some turfgrasses are cool season types and others are warm season types, and because of this difference the various types require greater amounts of nutrients at different times of the year. (6) the particular management of the turf. In general a turf that is mowed close and frequently will need more potash than one that is mowed higher and less frequently. A turf area that is designed to be kept in an active growing state the year round by either overseeding warm season grasses or by the use of permanent cool season grasses will more than likely need to be fertilised with potash more frequently and with an overall increase in amount of potash. On the other hand

a turf area that is allowed to go dormant or partially so in the winter will not need an addition of potassium during the winter. In many cases the winter dormant period gives the potassium minerals time to weather, the result of which is at least a partial replenishment of the available potassium in the soil. If such weathering is inadequate to supply all the needed available potassium for the following growing season, applications of potassium will need to be made in the spring and anytime thereafter if the available potassium supply becomes short. It is also a good policy to have sufficient quantities of available potassium in the soil in the fall in order that the turf can become "hardened" for the cold winter temperatures. It is felt that plants well supplied in potassium and not overly tender due to high applications of nitrogen in the fall will be more

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capable of surviving freezing temperatures of the winter. There is also the possibility of getting too much available potassium in the soil. Plants are apparently unable to regulate the uptake of potassium; and if the soil supply is high enough, a so called luxury consumption may result. Under such conditions, the high potassium content in the grass plant may cause an excessive amount of stiffness in the stems and leaves as well as other undesirable or harmful effects. (7) The general weather conditions of the area. If there is a great amount of rainfall there is apt to be a need for more available potassium in the soil to replace that lost by leaching.

*With grateful acknowledgments to
the U.S.G.A. Journal.*

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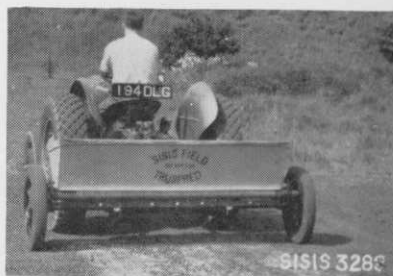
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