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**ENQUIRY BUREAU.**—The Editor desires to point out that he will be pleased to answer enquiries from our readers, and forward to them the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier of any particular proprietary article or product used in the construction, maintenance and upkeep of a golf course. Enquiries are coming in from greenkeepers asking for such information. They may, for example, know the trade name of the article or product they wish to purchase, but may not be conversant with the name and address of the actual manufacturer or supplier. The Enquiry Bureau will gladly supply this information, and thus enable the greenkeeper to contact the manufacturer or supplier direct.

**TO MANUFACTURERS.**—In order that our information may be kept constantly up to date, manufacturers or suppliers are requested to forward their latest trade lists, catalogues, and any other confidential information regarding their products. By so doing the Bureau will be able to function to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

**TRADE REVIEWS.**—The Editor will be pleased to arrange to devote space in our editorial columns to a review of our advertisers' products, etc. Will advertisers please forward details for this purpose.

THE BRITISH GOLF

# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



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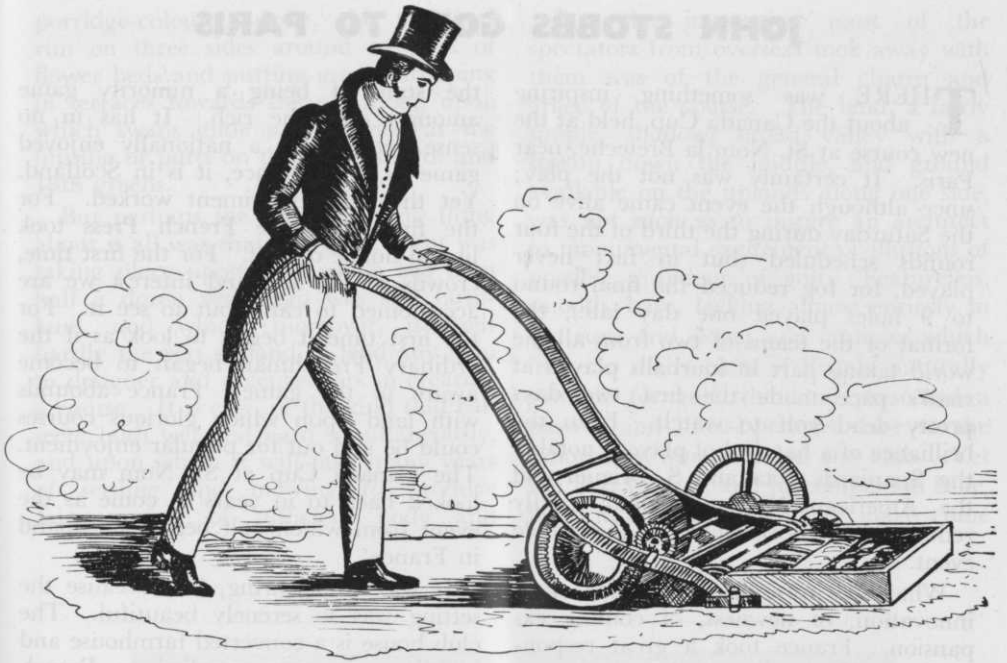
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every happiness at Christmas

and throughout the New Year

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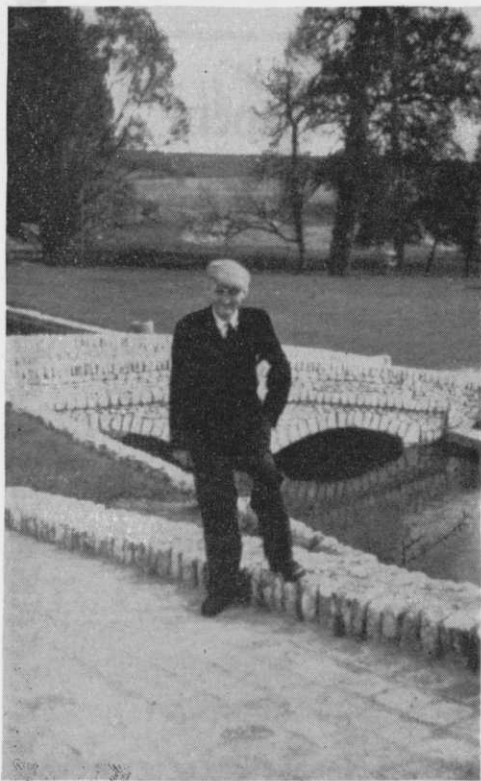
## JOHN STOBBS GOES TO PARIS

THERE was something inspiring about the Canada Cup, held at the new course at St. Nom la Breteche, near Paris. It certainly was not the play; since although the event came alive on the Saturday during the third of the four rounds scheduled (but in fact never played, for fog reduced the final round to 9 holes played one day late), the format of the teams of two from all the world taking part in fourballs played at snail's pace made the first two days pretty dead golf to watch. Even the brilliance of a handful of players, notably the Spaniards Sota and S. Miguel and the American Nicklaus, could hardly redeem the laboriousness of the whole event.

What was inspiring was the feeling of innovation, of newness, of coming expansion. France took a great responsibility in playing host to the event, since French golf has still hardly got beyond

the state of being a minority game amongst only the rich. It has in no sense yet become a nationally enjoyed game as, for instance, it is in Scotland. Yet the bold experiment worked. For the first time, the French Press took liberal notice of golf. For the first time, crowds of the size and interest we are accustomed to came out to see it. For the first time it began to look as if the ordinary Frenchman began to become aware of the game. France abounds with land upon which glorious courses could be laid out for popular enjoyment. The Canada Cup at St. Nom may be looked back to in years to come as the event from which golf began to expand in France.

It was all inspiring, too, because the setting was so serenely beautiful. The club house is a converted farmhouse and buildings—it once supplied to French Kings at nearby Versailles. Of mellow



*Jim Ellis was the first Head Greenkeeper at St. Nom and supervised the construction of both courses. He was just bringing them into good order when he met with a fatal car accident in France on his way back to England for the B.G.G.A. Tournament at Bridlington in 1961.*

porridge-coloured stone, the buildings run on three sides around an area of flower beds and putting green, dropping in terraces towards the old moat, upon which swans glide unconcerned at the missing of putts on the adjacent 9th and 18th greens.

But perhaps the most inspiring thing about it all was that this great event was taking place upon land which less than half a dozen years ago was still farmland, and which, moreover, is itself hardly the sort of land to lend any help to designer and greenkeepers in creating a course. It is clay, of the kind that can seem both wet and hard simultaneously, and upon which it will take many years of settling and mowing to produce fairway turf of sufficient body and

But the impression most of the spectators from overseas took away with them was of the general charm and grace of the course. The land, a fairly simple, shallow, broad valley with a stream down the middle, and ground available on the uplands along one side, was not such as to inspire an architect to monumental excitement or illusions of possible grandeur of golf. Featureless, smooth, bare, lacking almost entirely in the runs and slopes and crannies which make so many parts of Britain naturally suitable for golf, the land presented a passive and unco-operative face to the innovators who founded the club. Yet the Red Course, and its companion Blue, both just over 6,700 yards, have come



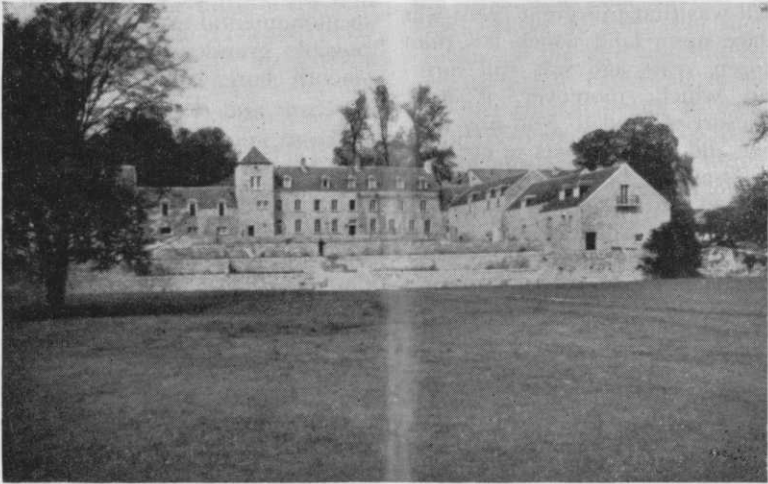
*Looking towards the Blue Course from the Red.*

springiness to suit the game. The greens, too, still young and immature, had to face a really tremendous ordeal of wear and pounding. That they came through it in a state in which critical putts could still be holed and were (it was Nicklaus' final nine holes, including a run of five consecutive 3s, which settled the event), was really a bit more than might reasonably have been expected of them.

into being in a way which suggests they will mature in about twenty years into a delightful place to play. They have not interfered with the country. You can stand and look down the wide valley and feel that the nature of the land, the atmosphere of the place, has not been changed or violently assaulted in the making of the holes. It will always be "golf where the old farm used to be".

At the same time, many of the holes are unobtrusively strongly definite in character. The first short hole on the Red Course, No. 3, is a fine one, from a tee perched above an artificial lake

members will become very fond. First a short-hole hops downhill to a tightly bunkered, built-up green; then a long 17th marches patiently towards and then up the slope to the little hill before the



*The Noble Nineteenth.*

created from the stream, played over the lake to a wide green: with the green of the previous drive and pitch hole just uncomfortably near enough to the water. The plateau green of the medium-length 5th, perched against the side of a little hill, will obviously always be a devil to find for the average player, yet entirely fair and receptive to the bold, high, pitch. The short 9th, down the hill to the moat by the club-house, is one of those holes which look remarkably difficult from the tee, without any obvious reason for doing so, although the bunkers are, aggressively placed on either side. This hole proved itself in the vast number of shots from the world's experts which missed the green: including all four players in match after match.

The finish of the course is admirable. Take an area of absolutely bare, much-too-gently sloping ground and make a great finish?

Impossible! But a very good one has been made, and one of which the

club, with acres of space between a few large magnetic bunkers, but ending with another uphill pitch to a slightly plateau'd green. Then the 18th, a drive to a right-curving wallop-and-pitch hole downhill at the end, which tempts the aggressive player to cut off as much as he can over the curve along the right-hand side: only to leave him, if he takes too bold a line, a perfectly devilish pitch over a bunker tightly biting into the right front of the green, from a lie probably in thick grass amongst a lot of old cooking-apple trees.

Clay soil can never give golf another Sunningdale, or Rosemount. But as the trees planted all over the course grow and mature, St. Nom will settle down into a very pleasant place for ordinary men to play golf.

Where one succeeds, others follow. In fact, there are already four more courses being made on the same side of Paris at this moment.



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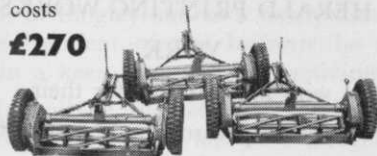


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**CHRISTMAS AND  
NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

to the  
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with many thanks for their  
valued help throughout the year.





## **S.T.R.I. DIRECTOR RETIRES**

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**Thirty-four  
years service**

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Mr. Robert Brian Dawson, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, is to retire at the end of the year when he will have reached his 60th birthday. Born in Northern Ireland of Yorkshire parents, Mr. Dawson was educated at Campbell College, Belfast and William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester. He graduated at Manchester University in 1925 with honours in General Science and in the year following he did post graduate work. From 1926 until 1929 he was on the staff of the Rothamsted Experimental Station in Hertfordshire, where his early work led to an M.Sc. degree. It was then that he was appointed first Director of the newly formed Institute at Bingley, which position he has held ever since. During the war years Mr. Dawson succeeded in keeping the Station in being with a skeleton staff which, however, devoted much of its energies to food production. This did ensure that with the return of staff in the immediate post war period, he was able quickly to put the Institute back

on to a proper basis from which it has continued to grow.

Mr. Dawson is an internationally recognised authority on sports turf and has broadcast several times on sound and television. It is largely due to his untiring efforts over the years that the Institute has acquired an international reputation which results in its officers being called upon to visit and advise throughout the British Isles and Europe.

Mr. Dawson was awarded the O.B.E. in the 1956 Honours List. He has written several books on turf culture including one which is in its fifth edition and of which a "pirate" edition has been published in Russia.

Married, with three daughters and a son, Mr. Dawson will spend his retirement in Bingley and as a newly created Vice-President of the Institute he will retain a keen interest in its activities.

He will be succeeded by Mr. J. R. Escritt, M.Sc., who has been associated with him for several years, latterly as Assistant Director.

# News



from the Sections

## Greetings

### From the President:

*To all members of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association I send very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year; may your work for a larger membership and for golf courses meet every success in 1964.*

Carl Bretherton.

### From the Chairman:

*To all Officers and Members of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association and all who read the Journal, including our Scottish friends, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.*

G. T. Geddes, Chairman.

### From the Hon. Secretary:

*To every member of the Association I would like to extend my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.*

C. H. Dix.

## SHEFFIELD

By J. J. Dearlove,

Chairman:  
G. HERRINGTON  
(Lindrick)

Hon. Secretary:  
63 Langsett Avenue,  
Sheffield, 6.

### Lecture

ABOUT 30 MEMBERS ATTENDED the first lecture of our winter programme, the subject being, "The planting and maintenance of trees suitable for Golf Courses". This lecture was probably unique in the Greenkeepers' calendar and proved most interesting and enlightening.

We are most grateful to Mr. R. T. Hurst, the South Yorkshire District Forestry Commissioner, who covered grants for tree planting and licence for felling, also to Mr. Broadhead, Head Forester to Earl Fitzwilliam at Wentworth Woodhouse. Mr. Broadhead showed film slides of tree planting recently carried out on his advice at a number of local golf courses.

Both gentlemen dealt with many questions before time ran out.

### Secretary

Having completed my first half year as Secretary of this section, I would like to thank our members for their support, and hope it will continue for our remaining meetings. Being the appropriate time, may I also wish them a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 1964. These wishes also go out from our Section to Mr. Hawtree, Mr. Dix and others concerned in the smooth running of the Association and publication of the Journal.

We would also like to thank Messrs. Fearnese Ltd., of Sheffield, for so kindly printing the cards for our winter programme.

## SOUTH-WEST

By A. Cockfield

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

Hon. Secretary:  
(Shamcastle G.C.)

### Autumn Competition

AN AUTUMN 18-HOLE COMPETITION was held at Clevedon Golf Club on Thursday, 26th October. Considering the weather conditions, it was most heartening to have an almost full entry.

Our congratulations to the winner, F. Trappell of Bristol and Clifton Golf Club, for returning such a fine score, 84-20=64. Something will be done about that! Other leading scores were: H. Sheppard, Weston-Super-Mare, and W. Light, Knowle, 72 nett. F. Tucker, Knowle, and A. Cockfield, Bath, 74 nett. T. Moore, Bath, 76 nett.

After enjoying an excellent meal the usual appreciations were made to the Clevedon Golf Club, the Steward and Stewardess and the Professional.