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## No. 218 New Series MAY 1963

The first young man on the tee wiggled, waggled and took what seemed a dozen practice strokes.

"Why don't you hit it?" suggested one of his group, a trifle impatiently.

"It's been a long time since I've played," the first golfer replied, "and it may be a long time before I play again. I just want to savour it a little."

"GOLF DIGEST."

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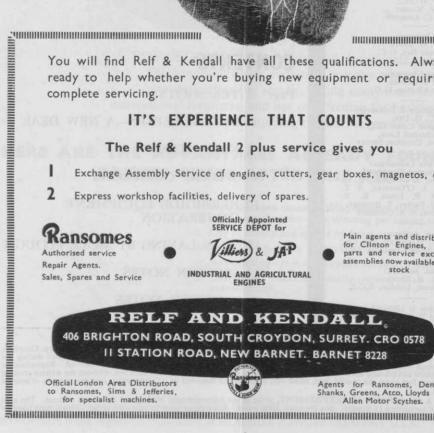


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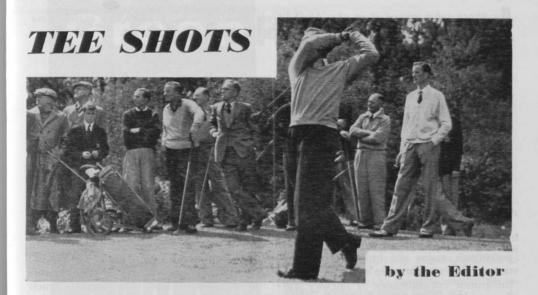
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#### **Apprenticeship Joint Council Meets**

THE first meeting of the Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship took place at Bingley on the 8th April. Representatives of the Scottish Golf Union, the Welsh Golfing Union and the S.T.R.I. met greenkeepers' representatives from England, Wales and Scotland and got down to final details of the draft scheme prepared about this time last year. Next meeting will be in October and meanwhile it is hoped to get Ministry approval, booklets prepared for Youth Employment Officers, with an Employers' Guide, Syllabus, training facilities and all the other aspects dealt with. A lot to cover in a short time, starting from scratch, but if the enthusiasm of the meeting is any guide, we should see something material before the end of the year.

#### Golf du Prieuré

The newest Paris golf club will have a 12th Century Priory as a club house. Two 18-hole courses are planned and work will start on the first one this month. Championship length and club house luxury will give the project a standing amongst Europe's best and so long as there are more golfers than clubs can accommodate, there seems to be no problem in starting a scheme on this scale. A No. 1 greenkeeper will be wanted soon. Anyone interested? The site is in the heart of the country but only about three-quarters of an hour from the Eiffel Tower by the autoroute. Considerably less if you happen to be driving there with Monsieur Cuvelier, the young Paris businessman who is launching the project.

#### **Glasgow to Palma**

We were glad to find Ed Maule safely installed in Majorca with his family. Clive, the younger son, is assisting his father on the golf course. His elder son is studying Spanish and will take an office job. Mrs. Maule had the misfortune to slip and sprain her ankle soon after arrival, in spite of practice on slippery Glasgow pavements in the early part of the year.

Many Southern Section members will remember Ed Maule from his spell at Hadley Wood before he went to Prestatyn. He learnt his golf at Gullane, where he changed over from left to right handed play and got down to scratch in a quick eighteen months. For those who missed it in the April "Golf Monthly", we reprint this article here with grateful acknowledgments.

# Greenkeepers —A New Deal

#### by A CORRESPONDENT

GOLF, like a fruit machine gone ber-serk, is currently pouring out the jackpot to anyone who bothers to pull the handle. Clubs, by virtue of mass patronage, enjoy the financial ramifications of full membership though suffering the minor encumbrance of fairway traffic problems. Club professionals, toiling from dawn till dusk on the uninitiated, and subsequently off-loading sets of clubs and trappings, have about them a fullbellied prosperous air. Their tournament counterparts face a season laden with spoils in the region of  $\pounds 80,000$ . The tragic irony of the whole gilt-edged merry-go-round is that the men who work the handle-who make the whole thing possible-are still waiting their turn for a ride; or rather, a fair deal from the golf boom which they so very largely help to sustain. They are the greenkeepers.

The craft faces something more than the germ of a crisis. It is suffering from a sizeable leak which began as a slight seepage a few years back when a handful of disgruntled greenkeepers here and there drifted into industry. Latterly the flow has become more pronounced and the "situations vacant" columns of golf magazines have ominously thickened with requests for greenkeepers.

Recruitment to the craft turned out to be nothing more than a trickle. A census of members in the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, an institution which cannot boast of allegiance from every greenkeeper but nevertheless represents a cross-section, showed that half of them were the top side of middle age and a considerable proportion of the remainder were somewhere near it. Greenkeeping had become a top-heavy craft in one respect with insufficient successors to carry on where the present generation leave off. The situation is steadily worsening and it does not require much imagination to foresee what damaging effect this state of affairs could have on British golf if it is allowed to develop unchecked.

There are multiple reasons for this critical state, not least of which is the greenkeepers' inability, or characteristic reluctance, to form themselves into a formidable national unit capable of extracting from golf's hierarchy and the Government a standard of wages and working conditions attractive enough to retain men of talent. Such an idea might not only seem anarchistic in concept but also totally unworkable for clubs who can illafford extra expense. However the threat of a meteoric rise in greenkeepers' wages may become inevitable as good men become scarce and in a position to accept the highest bidder.

Greenkeeping is not officially recognised by the Ministry of Labour as a skilled trade in the fashion of carpentry, butchery, pattern-making and like crafts. The reason for this would seem in part that greenkeeping possesses no formal apprenticeship scheme. This means that an occupation which demands a working knowledge of botany, biology, meteorology, labour management, agricultural and mechanical engineering, basic farming and diplomacy (for use with obtuse Greens Committees) goes under the



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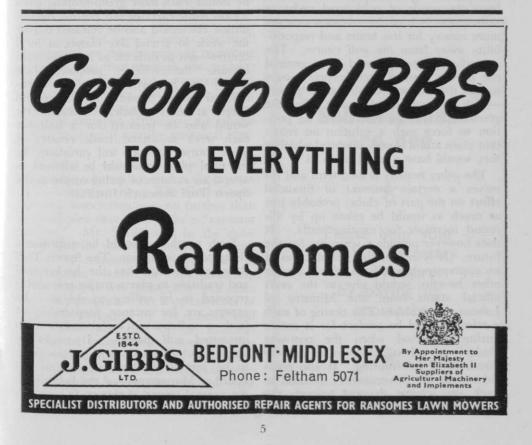
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vague official classification of "groundsman"—although a man in a Labour Exchange would know the difference.

When a greenkeeper talks terms with prospective employers he has to rely on a wage table set out by the National Association of Groundsmen whose economists could not have envisaged-and why should they?-the amount of special work that befalls a golf greenkeeper. The Association has recommended a 42-hour week with two weeks paid holiday after twelve months. It suggests time and a half for overtime and double time on Sundays. A groundsman's wage (with accommodation) should, it suggests, vary between £13 and £15 10s. according to his staff. Without accommodation he should expect between £14 10s. and £16 10s. a week. Junior assistants at the age of fifteen should receive £6 rising to £10 15s. at the age of 20.

#### \*

There can be no mistake about the cause of the greenkeeper drift. It has been the result of cold hard cash; or rather, the lack of it. A man can get more money for less hours and responsibility away from the golf course. The immediate remedy would be a general rise in the level of greenkeepers' wages so that they become viable—plus "perks" —with jobs outside the sport. But the greenkeepers at present are in no position to force such a solution on reluctant clubs and it is very doubtful whether they would have a mind to do so.

The other remedy is long-term and involves a certain amount of financial effort on the part of clubs; probably just as much as would be taken up by allround increases for existing staffs. It does however provide a warranty for the future. It is in fact the introduction of an apprenticeship scheme which, among other benefits, would give to the craft official status from the Ministry of Labour departments. The timing of such a scheme could be perfect for it comes during a period when the post-war "bulge" of school children is on the threshold of job-hunting. It also coincides with the Government's decision to back any scheme devoted towards the training of the young. Indeed the Government has declared its intention of taking powers to compel laggard employers to do more towards technical training for the young. A Ministry of Labour official says; "The time would now be right for a plan for apprentice greenkeepers to be accepted."

\*

Such a plan has in fact been formulated and already received approval in principle from the English Golf Union, the Welsh Golfing Union, and the Scottish Golf Union. Its architect is Mr. F. Hawtree whose father founded the Golf Greenkeepers Association some fifty years ago as "a medium for the exchange and development of knowledge and traditions in the practice of the craft." Mr. Hawtree adds the rider, "today a wider range of action is needed if that practice is to endure."

The scheme envisages a three-years' apprenticeship plus six months which a young entrant would serve initially in a probationary capacity. During this time he would learn basic green-keeping from a club while carrying out normal routine duties. He would also be released during the week to attend day classes at local centres-not as difficult as it would seem because the syllabus proposed falls closely into line with that of the horticultural scheme already in existence and taught at many technical institutes. He would also be released for a half-day each week to attend trade centres or other courses to study soil variations. In the final year, he would be allowed to attend an autumn or spring course at the Sports Turf Research Institute.

Such a scheme would be surprisingly cheap to set in motion. The Sports Turf Research Institute has the background and tradition to play a major role and is reported to be willing to do so. Its experts are, for instance, prepared to set forth a syllabus in collaboration with interested golf parties. It might be pointed out that most golf parties likely to be interested already serve on the Board of Management of the Institute in the normal course of things. It is said to

\*

be willing to take over the paper work attached to the scheme including the registration of apprentices.

A Joint Council, suggests Mr. Hawtree, would have to be established among golf organisations. This Council would have no jurisdiction over clubs with regard to payments of apprentices but could be called in to settle disputes. Its main concern would be general policy.

Although the apprenticeship idea has thus far been greeted with hallelujahs from the hierarchy, it is likely to meet with opposition at club level. The favourite objection will be that clubs would not be prepared to foot the bill for training (they would be responsible for an apprentice's travel and tuition); greenkeepers are too busy to give adequate training to others; and no club wants to spend four years' money on an apprentice who may very well leave them as soon as he qualifies.

Mr. Hawtree says, "There is some truth in all these statements but it is not unreasonable to assume a proportion of golf clubs are willing to look beyond immediate advantage," although he does point out that even if wages are small "at least there may be hope of recruiting a few young men through the training which an organised apprenticeship gives." He stresses that his plan is only an outline although he has produced concrete examples of the way the scheme could fit in with existing technical institutes.

If there is one flaw in this otherwise admirable scheme it is that it slinks away from talking money. The Golf Greenkeepers Association goes no further than a timid plea that clubs make a "constant review." Mr. Hawtree is in the same camp but for different motives. He suggests, "to recommend a wage scale in conjunction with an apprenticeship scheme might well antagonise golf clubs and halt progress." Yet a greenkeeper of the type envisaged by the scheme will want more assurance of his financial future; at least viable recompense for his qualifications and talent. Perhaps if golf clubs had faced this fact some years ago the game would not now find itself on the brink of a crisis.



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## JIM BRIDGES HONOURED

Malone Golf Club, Dunmurry, Belfast. 22nd April, 1963.

#### Dear Sir,

I have been instructed to inform you that at the last Annual General Meeting of this Club, the Head Greenkeeper, Mr. Jim Bridges, was unanimously elected as an Honorary Member, for very long and valued services to the Club in general, and for the construction of the new Course in particular.

Yours faithfully,

#### W. J. DUNKERLEY,

Secretary.

Jim Bridges has been 17 years with Malone. He is the man who has whipped the club's new course of 250 sprawling acres into shape in just over two years.

"In another two years this will be one of the finest inland courses in the British Isles," he stated, "that's not boasting—that's fact. I've seen them all and this course is about the best."

Converting the rolling farmland into golfing country has not been an easy job—but it has been a satisfactory one. "It's been backbreaking work and it's not finished yet," he said. "I had a team of 24 men with me at the start—that's cut down to 11 now. But I'll get a lot of satisfaction out of just looking at it when the job's completed."

He comes from a long line of scratch golfers. And his father, the famous Tom Bridges, has been greenkeeper at Hoylake for 35 years.

Jim's big ambition at one stage was to be a professional golfer. "I was a scratch golfer when I was only 18. And if I had my life to live over again I'd still want to be a golfer," he said.

With plenty of work still to be put in on the course Jim rarely gets a chance to play much golf nowadays. But he has already picked out his favourite hole—the 11th. "It's a short hole, picturesque—and a real golfer's hole. One day you might play it with a two iron, the next day it would take a seven. I think it's the one I like best."

The 11th is one of two holes on the course to have been aced since the course was opened just over two years ago.

ALEX TONER.

Reprinted from "The Northern Whig & Belfast Post", 12th April, 1963.

#### Sutton's Spring News

The Spring Number of Messrs. Sutton's "Turf for Sport" has reached us with their 1963 list of turf dressings and equipment. The magazine has a useful article "Coarse Grasses" by William Moore, one of the firm's well-known grass specialists, and frequent illustrations add to its interest. The Editor, Mr. Martin A. F. Sutton, F.L.S., F.R.S.A., contributes an article on the use of the brush on turf and there are snippets about Lichen and some of Sutton's many activities abroad and at home.

We learnt only a week or two back that Mr. Martin Sutton had been in hospital and all readers will join us in wishing him an early return to good health and full activity.

#### S.T.R.I. Board Meets

The twelfth Annual General Meeting of The Sports Turf Research Institute was held at the St. Ives Research Station, Bingley, on Monday, 8th April, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alan Sowden.

In the annual report—which was adopted —reference was made to the research programme of the past year. This included a continuation of top dressing experiments, long range fertilizer trials and the effects of controlled liming of turf. Experiments with herbicides were started, variety trials (seeds) were continued and new fungicides were explored. Of particular interest was the laying down of a number of trial strips of porous materials as used for running tracks and allweather pitches. Further investigations will be conducted into the physical properties of these materials.

#### New Catalogue

Messrs. T. Parker & Sons' new catalogue has just reached us and will form a useful addition to any greenkeeper's reference library. Photographs and prices of standard mowers, sprayers, tractors, and all kinds of useful equipment and accessories make it a comprehensive review of tools for the greenkeeper's job.

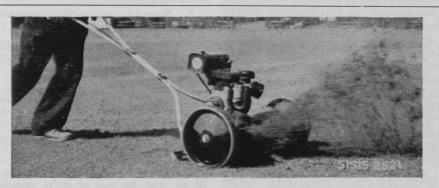
We suggest readers write to Messrs. Parkers at Worcester Park to obtain their own copy of this sixty-eight page book.

#### Apology

We regret that in last month's article about the demonstration of Ransomes Mowers, it was not made clear that the demonstration at Park Royal and also one at Motspur Park were, in fact, at the express request of and sponsored by the four London Main Distributors of Ransomes.

We ask Messrs. Relf & Kendall of Croydon, Messrs. J. Gibbs of Bedfont, Messrs. T. Parker & Sons Ltd. of Worcester Park and Messrs. Huxleys Agricultural Machinery Co. Ltd. to accept our apologies.

I MAN TO MANAGE A MAY DE UN ALLEN AND	
SPECIA	AL OCCASIONS
MAY	
7th	Northern Section, Spring Tournament, Woodsome Hall, Huddersfield Golf Club.
9th	Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (East Section) Annual Competition, Dunbar Golf Course.
13th	North West Section, Spring Tournament, Sale Golf Club.
14th	Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (North and Midland Section), Annual Golf Tournament for the Georgie McLean Trophy, Old Course, St. Andrews.
15th	Southern Section, Spring Tournament, Thorndon Park Golf Club.
16th	North East Section, Spring Meeting, Hartlepool Golf Club.
28th	East Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Derby Golf Club.
JUNE	,
11th	Midland Section, President's Match, Handsworth Golf Club.
12th	Southern Section, Annual General Meeting, Talbot Restaurant.
27th	Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association Annual Golf Outing, Prestonfield Golf Course, Edinburgh.
AUGUST.	,
12th, 13th	
and 14th	Annual General Meeting and Annual Tournament, Royal Birkdale



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## HERBICIDE EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION

#### By Dr. J. R. Orsenigo

WILL "Weedkiller Super Z" control the weeds in your turf? It will if you have taken two correct steps. First: Selection of the proper chemical for the particular turf-grass and weed problem. Second: Accurate application of the right amount of chemical at the right time in the right way in the right place.

The effectiveness of any chemical can be reduced markedly by misapplication. The wrong weed killer, or faulty application, can cause turf injury or poor weed control.

Accurate calibration is the key to applying the right amount of chemical weed killer. The procedures listed below are not unique but will facilitate proper calibration of both dry and liquid chemical applicators. It is desirable to calibrate on the terrain to be treated since errors are common when equipment is calibrated on paved roadways.

Equipment should not be ignored after calibration. Repeated periodic "calibration checks" will ensure accurate application.

The remainder of this article discusses basic but practical essential suggestions for calibration of A. Dry materials and B. Liquid Materials.

#### A. CALIBRATION FOR DRY MATERIALS

#### Table 1.—Preferred General Procedure

1. Adjust delivery openings on applicator at estimated or approximate setting and fill hopper with a weighed amount of chemical to be applied.

2. Set tractor or unit speed as it will be operated in field.

3. Operate unit over a measured course of several hundred yards in field : the dry chemical can be collected by suspending a trough or pan beneath the delivery openings. 4. Weigh the amount of chemical remaining in the hopper and calculate the amount of dry chemical applied as follows: Original chemical loaded in hopper minus chemical remaining in hopper equals amount of chemical applied.

5. Calculate area treated : Width of applicator swath times distance covered equals area of measured course in square feet.

6. From 4 and 5 calculate amount of dry chemical applied per acre as follows :

Lbs. per acre =  $\frac{\text{course}}{\text{area of measured course in}}$ sq. ft.

This value will be lbs. per acre of formulated chemical applied. To determine amount of active ingredient applied, multiply lbs per acre by percent active concentration and divide by 100, as follows: Lbs. per acre active =

#### lbs per acre formulated chemical x % act. 100

7. Rate of application is increased by wider delivery openings.

8. Rate of application is decreased by narrower delivery openings.

9. Complete calibration by adjusting unit and testing until desired quantity of material is applied.

Example: A dry chemical applicator is 10 feet wide. When driven over a distance of 435 feet it distributed 20 lbs. of chemical at a given delivery opening.

Lbs. per acre =  $\frac{43,560 \times 20 \text{ lb.}}{10 \text{ ft. } \times 435 \text{ ft.}}$  = 200 lb./ A formulated chemical.

If the active ingredient concentration was 20 per cent, the rate of active material applied per acre was:

Lbs. per acre  $\frac{200 \text{ lb. x } 20\%}{100} = 40 \text{ lb./}$ 

A active.

### Table 2.—Alternative Procedure

1. Adjust delivery openings on applicator to estimated or approximate setting and fill hopper with a weighed amount of chemical to be applied.

2. Jack up applicator so that wheels do not touch the ground. Tie a piece of cloth (or paint) to one spoke of wheel.

3. Place a piece of canvas or sheet metal under the delivery openings to catch the chemical when it is dispensed.