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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.

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



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No. 223 New Series
OCTOBER 1963

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the ball much closer than I did
a week ago.*

STEPHEN SCHLITZER.

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Ed. Maule, formerly of Sandyhills in Glasgow has settled down in Majorca with his wife and his sons and is picking almonds off the trees in his garden. He has also discovered an exotic fruit on a cactus which he introduces to the unwary as a rare delicacy in spite of the bristles, which they are removing from their lips for the rest of the day.

He is about the only greenkeeper in the inner circle who has had anything like sunshine this year, and Sundays often see the family on the beach at Magatoff under the pine trees. A storm nevertheless blew up in September and washed away many of the features he had built up on his new course during the summer. He will be getting them back into shape for sowing this month.

* * *

Working Retirement

Frank Smith called to see us last week on one of the holidays which he allows himself since he retired from the post of Superintendent at the S.T.R.I. Life has not been all holiday though. He put in a hard spell at Castletown in the Isle of Man to help them get back greens which the winter had left bare. He lost a couple of stones in the process, but he says it was worth it.

* * *

No Bagpipes?

George Wilson, formerly Hon. Treasurer of the Midland Section, has arrived in Paris to take over his new course near Meulan. One of his first tasks was to help St. Nom de la Breteche get ready for the Canada Cup. If some of the gladiators hole their approach shots at the 17th, it will be partly due to some neat turfing under George's able guidance. He left England armed with a new record player, a bottle of Chivas Regal, golf clubs and two "Trulutes". With this array he was ready for anything.

* * *

Mr. Martin Sutton

Messrs. Sutton's 'Turf for Sport' struck a sad note when it arrived last month. An article by Mr. Martin Sutton had been written for this issue shortly before his death. Greenkeepers will greatly miss this popular figure in the world of turf.

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COURSES IN PLAY—IV

John Stobbs

IN the last month I haven't travelled to any course not already mentioned in this series: so this time we might look at the general field of club golf—the real, important, and toughest part of the game.

I've often wondered what the average club and its members look like to the greenkeepers. There must be a fairly wide variety of recognised types of bug-bear which besets them everywhere. I've met quite a few of them, I think: so why not start a collection?

* * *

1. *The Perfectionist*. When I was a smallish boy, in the early thirties, I once heard an old member come into the club and explode at the Secretary: "Mr. Secretary, there's a plantain, as big as a sixpence, right in the middle of the 14th green. Had to putt over it. Quite spoilt my morning!" The amazing thing was that he seemed to be perfectly serious about it. The Secretary diverted him diplomatically towards the bar. Such men are probably rare, now; though they certainly used to abound. At least there was a certain integrity of purpose about them.

Nowadays the perfectionist is much more likely to be a man with a complete obsession with one particular element of the course. I knew one, an admirable chap whom I liked very much, who had somehow got it into his head that the nasty little patches of heather amongst some hollows by one green were left there especially to spoil the hole. It was his idea that the hollows ought to be

fair grass, not variable heather. Most members didn't care twopence either way; but the Head Greenkeeper was a kindly man and when the member eventually gave up the battle, he suddenly went out one day and mowed away the heather. I've never seen a golfer look so surprised and pleased as the old protester did the following Sunday morning. His usual shot was in the usual hollow. When he got there he stared at it amazed. Then he said "I've been waiting thirty years to be allowed a fair shot out of this damned hole!"

Then he fluffed it.

Other perfectionists are rough-specialists: the sort of men who think that the sole purpose of rough should be to slow up the progress of their ball and prevent it entering anything thicker! To them anything less than an evenly trimmed rough amounts almost to an obvious plot by the Committee to drive them out of the club. Their greatest hate is the small casual bush, left neatly in the middle of mown rough. They always go into it. Or if they don't, the sight of it puts them off. "Can anybody maintain," they demand, "that one little bush all by itself is anything but an unfair, fluky hazard?"

* * *

2. Then there's the *Tee-angle Maniac*. He will maintain, bitterly, until his sight fails him, that his whole game is ruined if a tee is not exactly squared off along the edges and left as a perfect rectangle *exactly* aiming up the centre of the fairway. If the tee happens to aim a bit right, then he insists that that must make him aim right too. Other men may look only at the fairway in taking their aim. He has to take aim by the cut edge of the tee. Why he has to, no-one can imagine. Moreover, it is a fact, some sort of golfing optical illusion maybe, that if you ask three men to draw out the correct edge-line for a tee, they will all angle it different ways. There's just no answer to this chap at all.

* * *

3. The *Hole-basher* is usually a bad player; but occasionally just a man who can't see what's difficult about putting. He'll slam the pin back without looking

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at what he's doing, tearing half-an-inch of the edge of it in the process, having already pushed the other edge of it out of shape by hiking the ball out of the hole with the head of his putter.

* * *

4. He is followed round the course, inevitably, by the *Hole-Fusser*. The hole fusser is a low handicap player, who suffers perpetually from the jitters on the short ones. He will examine each hole minutely for its comparison with a perfect circle; then complain bitterly that no-one can possibly get short putts in when all the holes are out of shape. He also hates the little thicker growth that a hot day may bring round the very edge. He also claims that the greenkeepers always cut holes on top of a small hill, so that whichever way he putts at them, the ball rolls to one side or the other. He also claims that the holes are $\frac{1}{4}$ in. too small, which they probably are after the passage of

* * *

5. The *Hole-Treader* (often female), whose illusion it is, and has always been, that the correct way to hold the flag is to stand with both feet together, the outer edge of the sole of the nearer foot just overlapping the edge of the hole. They have a habit, strangely, of standing on the side of the hole which their own subsequent putt will be aimed at. This, of course, is just co-incidence.

* * *

6. The *Hole Treader* usually behaves in a neat and careful manner, unlike the *Bag Dropper*, who often, for good measure, throws his recalcitrant putter in the air and then fails to catch it.

* * *

7. The *Idle-Trolley-Ghosts* ignore all notices and signs diverting them round bunkers etc., and pull their trolleys directly over the shortest possible route across the edge of the green. Their traces are everywhere, but their identity—unless caught in the act—remain obscure. Hence "ghosts", since they must be the double-lives of some of the angels complaining about them in the club.

8. The *Divot-Sprayer* holds that crows remove divots from their proper places all the time, and therefore there's no point in him putting his back. He doesn't.

* * *

9. The *Desperation-Man* putts with a 3-iron—and leaves nice little chip marks all over the place to prove it, often three to a green, every time round.

* * *

10. The *Olde Body-Englishe Dancer*. Any sort of putt sets him off; gesticulating, capering, twisting, stamping, and finally falling flat on his face. He wears shoes with the longest spikes he can find. He thinks his pirouettes help to keep the greens aerated.

Have you any more types you can add to this collection?

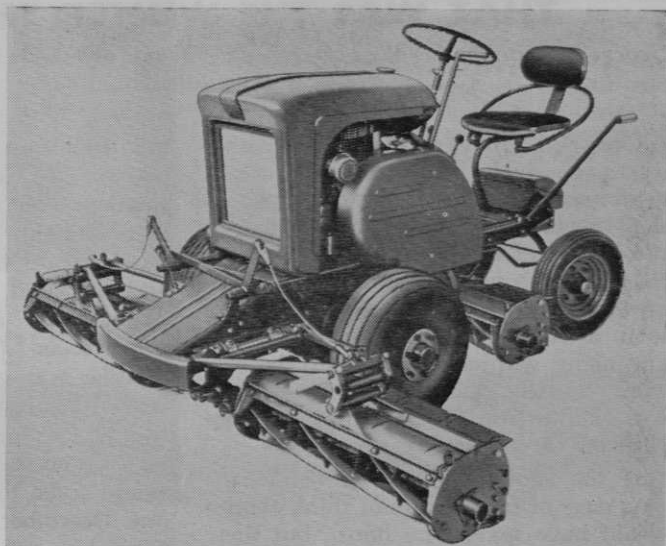


NEW LEAFLET ON GRASSCUTTING FOR GOLF COURSES

A new leaflet on rotary grasscutting for golf courses is available from Hayters (Sales) Ltd. of Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. Of interest to Greenkeepers, this leaflet describes the advantages gained by using the Hayter 6/14 tractor-drawn p.t.-o. machine which will top grass to any height between ground level and 6 ins. in any conditions—will not choke or clog in wet weather, and gives an even cut all over. Ideal for trimming the rough, the 6/14 has a 6 ft. width of cut and is fitted with special side stone guards. Already in extensive use on sports grounds, parks and fields, the Hayter 6/14 has been proved on many golf courses in this country.

Hayters also make a range of hand-operated powered grasscutters. These include the popular 18 in. Hayterette, the new 21 in., and the 24 in. and 26 in. rotary scythes which are available with wheel or roller trailer seats and a wide range of accessories.

**NEW
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Facts about the new motor triple which was on display at the N.A.G. Hurlingham Exhibition.

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Engine—JAP model 4/44, 450c.c. 4-stroke engine fully governed throughout the range up to 2,800 r.p.m. Average fuel consumption $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon per hour (2.25 litres per hour).

Drive—V-belt and roller chain to cutting units. Clutches included for cutter and wheel drives. Main clutch centrifugal. Cutting cylinder Multi-plate.

Transmission—Totally enclosed oil bath gearbox with hardened steel gears and pinions incorporating forward and reverse gears and differential.

Cutting Units—Welded steel frame fitted with skids, cutting cylinder 5-knife, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. (20 cm.) diameter, all welded construction running in ball bearings. Width of cut 30 in. (76 cm.), cutting height adjustment maximum $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. (35 cm.), minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (12.7 m.m.). 34 cuts per yard (37 per metre).

Controls—Separate control levers for :
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(b) Cutter drive clutch.
(c) Lifting each cutting unit individually.
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Transport speed, up to 8 m.p.h. (13 k.p.h.).

THAT WAS THE WINTER THAT WAS

George Herrington recalls last season's troubles as a warning of what we may have to expect soon.

One can safely say that last winter was one which all greenkeepers want to forget and one that we hope we shall never see the likes of again. In the middle of December, our course was in perfect condition and we cut the greens ready for Christmas golf. Then, soon afterwards, came the frost, day and night, with cold winds into the bargain. Finally came the snow, which I was glad to see, as I thought it would keep off the cold winds.

If the snow had arrived before the long days of frost, I do not think courses would have taken any harm, but there was too much frost in the ground before it came and this remained in the ground for many weeks after the snow had gone.

After about eleven weeks, the snow started to thaw and the only place where there was any sign of damage was where people had walked on the snow and caused scald marks. We also had a little fusarium where the greens and semi-greens joined, but none at all on the greens.

Suffocated

It was with the thaw that the trouble began. There was still so much frost in the ground that the water from the melting snow could not get away and so formed big pools on the greens. With more frost, these were then frozen over for days on end, keeping the air from the grass. Thus, in cases where the grass had been cut close, the greens did not get any air and the grass died back. On the other hand, courses which did not cut so low were better off, because the air was able to get at the grasses more easily. This would seem to be borne out in our district, as none of the courses with long grass on the greens were hit at all badly, whilst we only had trouble on the greens and on odd semi-greens where caddy-cars had worn the grass rather thin and not where the grass was long.

Henry Cotton stated in the "*News of the World*" that Lead Arsenate caused

the trouble at Birkdale, through being put on too late just before the bad weather. He should, however, get his facts straight, as I had a talk with D. Pate, Head Greenkeeper at Birkdale, and he told me he put his Lead Arsenate on in October, but had to water it in. You may remember the weather was very dry at this time last year. I dressed all my greens with lead at 1 oz. per sq. yd. early in October and began to wonder when the rain would come to wash it in, but long before December our greens were back to normal.

Whitewash

After the snow, when the frost was coming out of the ground, I agree it did bring the lead up with it and if you walked on the greens, it came to the top like white-wash. I do not think, however, that it had anything to do with the grass "going-off" as other well-known courses that had not used lead were affected and were just as 'bald' on their greens.

For once, our Pros had something to make excuses about. While they were going to warmer climates for the good of their health, we greenkeepers were striving against the worst possible weather to get our greens back into shape. A lot of people would do well to realise that greenkeepers cannot beat the weather, but only try to work with it and help where we can.

What I should like someone to do is to give a piece of land to make a golf course on, get all the leading Pros to work on it, pay them greenkeepers' wages and work their hours. I suggest they put the Henry Cottons in charge, the Dai Rees as foremen, and the Harry Weetman's to pull up trees, and to borrow a few of Max's old clothes to keep off the birds when they have sown it. Then, when they get it to perfection, if they ever do, call on the first eight in the 'Open' usually foreign players, to show how to play on it.



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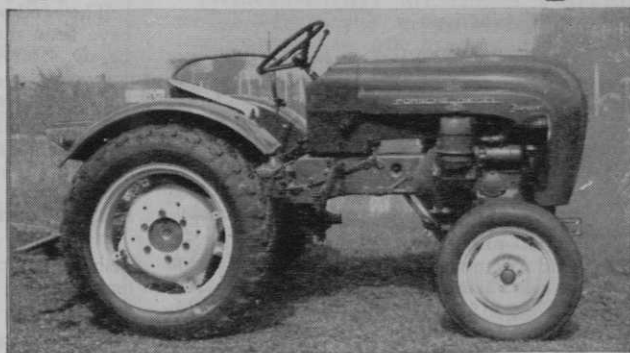
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from the Sections

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

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(Thorpe Hall)

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18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
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OUR FIRST MEETING WILL BE held at the Talbot Restaurant, London Walk, Moorgate E.C. on Wednesday, 9th October, time 6-30 p.m. This will be a quiz and we look forward to seeing you all, with plenty of questions to ask, to keep our Mr. J. K. Glass, who will be in the chair as usual, busy.

Autumn Tournament

Apart from the weather we had a very successful meeting on Wednesday, the 4th at Walton Heath with an entry of 86. Thanks to the directors of the club we had both the old and new courses to play on. The Tournament was 36 holes, four ball, better ball Stableford, $\frac{3}{4}$ of individual handicap with competitors changing courses in the afternoon.

The first prize aggregate was won by D. Place and Partner with 80 points; 2nd, A. M. Cooke and Partner, 75; 3rd, E. Folkes and Partner, 74; 4th, J. Rennie and Partner, 74. Best morning round—1st Prize, G. Hitchcock and Partner, 39 points; 2nd, E. James and Partner, 39. Best afternoon—1st Prize, A. Fordham and Partner, 41 points; 2nd Prize, D. Kirkpatrick and Partner, 41. Messrs. J. K. Glass and D. Craig took over for the prize-giving, and Miss Paul, the Lady Secretary very kindly presented them. After the usual thanks given to all concerned, Mr. Glass suggested the next best place was the nineteenth.

Association Ties

I would like to mention I still have a few Association Ties left, and will be pleased to send one to anyone on application.

New Member

We welcome to the Section Mr. E. R. West, 268 Arne Avenue, Parkstone, Dorset.

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

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Bingley, Yorks.

November Lecture

THE FIRST LECTURE OF THE winter programme will be given on Tuesday, 12th November. We have been fortunate to get Mr. J. R. Escritt, Assistant Director of S.T.R.I., who has recently visited America in connection with his work and he will give a talk on greenkeeping in that country. Members will be circularised nearer the date as to venue, etc. Make a note of the date. It is hoped that members will support the events arranged in the winter months. Remember these are for your benefit.

Autumn Tournament

Members are reminded that the closing date for entries for the Autumn Tournament to be played on Thursday, 17th October over the course of the West Bowling Golf Club is Tuesday, 8th October.

Messrs. S. Jolly and L. Lowcock

I am sure that members will be pleased to hear that both of them are steadily improving after their recent illnesses and I am sure we wish them continued improvement to good health.

Handicaps

The following adjustments of handicaps have been made:—J. Readhead 15, E. Munns 15, D. Storey 10.

New Member

We welcome to the Section the following new member: F. Hall, 50 Bexley Grove, Leeds 8 (Assistant Templenewsam Golf Club).

Annual Tournament

I am sure all members of the Section will wish me to congratulate on their behalf, the team of K. Driver, A. Crawford and D. Roberts on winning the Jubilee Cup for Inter-Section Competition.

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.