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**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.

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THE BRITISH GOLF

# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



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No. 229 New Series  
APRIL 1964

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*"I don't mind a guy reading the greens, but does he have to be such a slow speller?"*

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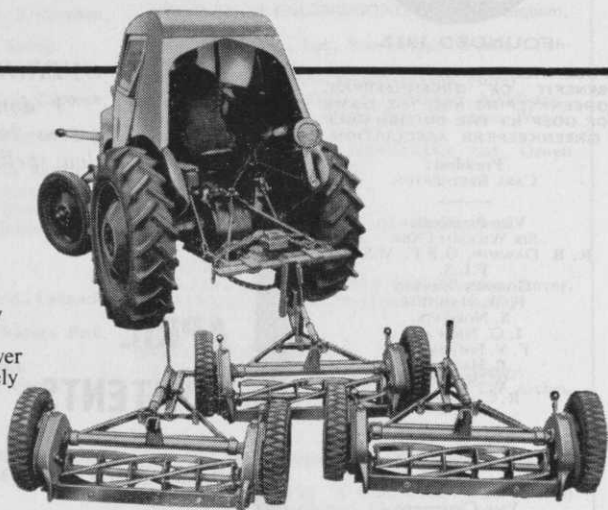
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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

**M**R. and Mrs. Bill Mason celebrated their Golden Wedding on 7th March. Among many others they had telegrams from the Association and the British Golf Greenkeeper. We all wish continued health and happiness with a special thanks from the Southern Section whose Hon. Secretary Bill has been for many loyal years.

\* \* \*

Mr. Tony Everard, the new High Sheriff of Leicestershire, goes to play golf at Charnwood Forest Golf Club by helicopter. The eight mile trip takes him about six minutes. The nine holes take a little longer.

\* \* \*

Mr. G. W. Long retired from his post as Head Greenkeeper at the Torquay Golf Club, Petitor, on the 29th February, 1964.

George William Long was born at Coney Heath, Herts., on the 27th February, 1898, and after service with the Somerset Light Infantry in the First World War, started work on the Torquay Golf Course, where his father was Head Greenkeeper, in 1919.

He succeeded his father as Head Greenkeeper in June, 1945. George Long can thus boast of over 44 years' uninterrupted service to one golf club and he is greatly respected by all the members and staff.

A presentation was arranged for 6-15 p.m., on the 7th March, when he received tokens of appreciation from both the Torquay Golf Club and the Torquay Artisans Golf Club.

Mr. G. H. Taylor is George's successor in charge of the course and has worked with him for the past year or so.

\* \* \*

Burford Golf Club in the Cotswolds has just opened a new club house. The club started in 1936, and bought the freehold for about £17,000 when the lease ran out in 1962. Now they have spent a similar sum on this two-storey building. The upstairs accommodation comprises one flat for the steward and another for the greenkeeper.

\* \* \*

Messrs. Carters have introduced a new Fairway Fertiliser in addition to their combined Grass Fertiliser and Weedkiller (including 2:4, 5-T), Carters specially compounded mixtures now come in strong multi-wall paper sacks.

Messrs. Carters 1964 edition of "Treatment of Golf Courses and Sports Grounds", is now available for readers. Write to Carters Tested Seeds Ltd., Raynes Park, London, S.W.20.

**Over**

**here . . .**

**and**

**there . . .**

*Arthur Lacey, former Captain of a British Ryder Cup team and now living in America, makes some interesting comparisons between golf as played in U.S.A. and Britain.*

**T**O compare American golf and British, is like trying to compare baseball and cricket. This is rather a drastic statement, but the following will give an indication of the differences.

It is rare for a match to be played unless there are four. Even when it is match play singles, the usual procedure is to play foursomes. I have seen

matches where two successive rounds are played together. That is your score is matched against the winner of the other pair if you happen to beat your man. It can happen that you win your game, lose to the other man when cards are matched, and your opponent would have beaten the man who wins from you, if their cards had been compared.

Everybody keeps scores meticulously, and all players hole out every putt, no matter how short. There may be as many as six games, or more running at the same time, and from time to time during the game adjustments are liable to be made and new matches started. This tends to slow play terribly. A fair time for a round of golf is four hours. At busy times, it can be nearer five. In fact most players resent a fast player, and say so too.

◇ ◇ ◇

Handicaps vary up to 30, and all competitions are actively played in by a big proportion of the members. There is usually no entrance fee, and one can always have a voucher on the pros. shop for your prize. Prizes are quite valuable too, and perhaps the most popular form of competition is the best of four. Usual form is par bogey or medal. Score cards here give par and bogey for the hole. Where a hole is an easy three or four, par and bogey are the same. In this kind of event the winning score is generally close to 100 points, counting four for par, six for birdie, eight for an eagle, bogey two.

This type of play slows things up terribly. The reason for all scores being kept is for handicap purposes. Generally, if you fail to hand in cards your handicap stays down until you show figures, but the usual practice is to give very generous handicaps when you are not winning. The difference

*Continued on page 6.*



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Broad-leaved weeds
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**M.T.S.**  
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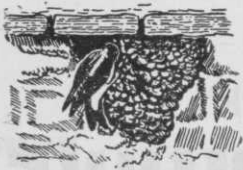
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in our attitudes here is most marked. I can recall golfers who gave up the game when we adopted strict par, making their excuse the fact that as they could no longer play down to a certain handicap, they were no longer interested in playing. Here, a man will think it a huge joke or triumph, if he scores a gross birdie at a hole, and finds he has two strokes to deduct. I started off in an event with a two (birdie), opponent a two (stroke), next hole I had a birdie four, opponent birdie four (two strokes) Nett one, nett two, par was eight for the two holes. Electric carts are the general rule now. It is rare to see a game without at least one. This also slows play, even if the cart can travel at 20/25 m.p.h. Have you ever heard of two players hitting their balls in the same direction. The same thing with caddies. It is normal for the caddy to take two bags, and again he is always where it takes most time to get the club.



All golfers here tend to take more instruction than in G.B. While better play should speed up the game, thinking too much of what you are told to do for certain shots can delay things a lot. The standard of play around the greens is far superior amongst Americans than with Britishers. Many players who are in-

capable of playing any sort of long game are quite good scorers by virtue of good chipping and putting. There is always a good putting green or sometimes more around the clubhouse, and every player spends long hours there. The pro shop always has a big selection of putters and the fact that so many games are putting matches makes it imperative that when the putter sours on a player, he hies off to the shop to get another. Always the club at fault.



An infinity of time is spent by most people on the green, and I will say, the places holes are put on some courses, would make Colonel Bogey turn in his grave, and some of our more temperamental players blast the secretary and all his committee into eternity. Cleaning the ball is more or less a general rule. Not a lick and wipe on seat of the pants as I recall, but a wet bath towel tied to the bag for this purpose. This can waste time. All players tend to mark their ball too, even when a tap would tumble it into the hole. There seems to be a feeling that to step up and hole out might cause same dire calamity, so they just don't do it. It is all a question of habit.

Few players even think of playing two rounds and any golfer who tries a third round is liable to get his name in the local paper.

Yet the U.S. Open has 36 holes on the final day, though there is a strong feeling that this will be changed. Spectators will come whether it is one or two rounds, and this would bring extra gate

*Continued on page 8.*

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Apply 3 pints to treat one acre.

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money. The P.G.A. match-play championship was changed to medal play, as it was found that fewer spectators came for just one pair, and more often than not, unknowns knocked out the stars early, so leading players did not enter until conditions were altered, and sponsors able to raise the prize money. There is no professional event where match play is the rule, and this is rather sad. Golf is so essentially a personal combat test, rather than a marathon nerve test.



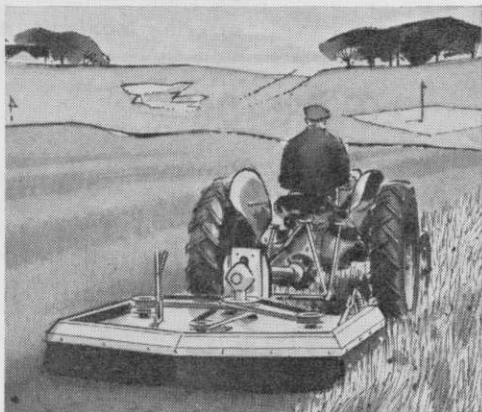
Another noticeable point is the fact that the biggest bags seem to be used by the biggest duffers. They carry everything likely to be needed. Umbrella, regardless of the weather, complete waterproof outfit, caps, towels, gloves, occasionally a bag of practise balls too, but I am not suggesting that they indulge in practise half way round, much as some would like I'm sure.

All this sounds grim. It isn't. After every player has been as tough as you can imagine, they settle down at the nineteenth, pay up, drink up, reminisce, just like we do, fix another game for the next day, when you have assumed they will never speak to one another again, and all is well.

I almost forgot. The refreshment hut halfway is on every course. The popular starting time is between twelve and one o'clock, so you stop for boiled eggs, hot chocolate, coffee, milk, various forms, biscuits, etc., etc., and usually roll dice to see who pays, then slip on to the next tee, just as the following match is rushing to jump the claim.

*With grateful acknowledgment to the "Artisan Golfer".*

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# LAST MONTH

by  
The Editor

We parted last month on the way to Brussels. The brief return of winter made the plane only quarter of an hour late and my host ordered us a Steak Minute each in the grill at Melsbroek Airport. I have never found out whether 'Minute' refers to cooking time or size. In either event, the description is off-centre. The reality is a considerable slice of the animal concerned requiring not one but twenty-five minutes in preparation at Brussels. Even so, the general effect is one of slight external scorch with the inside remaining roughly as it left the butcher's shop.

Nevertheless, it fortified and helped to exclude the east wind as we circled later round a chateau only ten miles from the centre of the city. This was certainly a 'chateau minute' with three rooms on each of three floors surrounded by a tiny moat. The cellars, elegantly attired for sampling the stock on the spot, were 11th Century and each floor moved successively a hundred years nearer the present as one went up the staircase. Two stone cannonballs found when the moat was cleaned out showed that No. 4 on the Bofors gun in a more recent war had a relatively easy job. The mediaeval loader had to be a weight lifter of Olympic class.

Planning a golf course in Continental countries is often complicated by laws of inheritance which make the plan of the site look like a jungle of suburban plots. Pieces of land have been divided, sub-divided and divided again through the generations. Even if the owners are known, a world tour is likely to be necessary to see them all in order to re-unite

so many thin strips of land. Some have already been sold, so that on a coloured plan ominous white spaces obstruct the only route which can at first be visualised for eighteen holes. And all this comes before tackling the normal problems of contour, length, safety, and the rest.

Oddly enough, the more difficult the assignment, the easier the job. Either a respectable golf course can be planned or it cannot. If it can be planned, there is only one way to do so—if not "Good afternoon!". I leave aside the question of what makes a respectable golf course because any greenkeeper will know the answer instinctively. In this case we came out of it with 6,200 yards, five 3-bogeys, two fives and only two sub-standard fours in the remainder. Not brilliant stuff, but acceptable—indeed essential when so many golfers are knocking at the doors of clubs already crowded. Belgium, in this respect, has just the same problems as those from which we suffer in this country.

At dinner that evening by candle-light in front of the great stone fireplace, it was only appropriate that a count and countess should have joined the party, and as I climbed the stairs later on and into my fourposter bed, I had no trouble in leaving behind the ghosts of the centuries on the floors below.

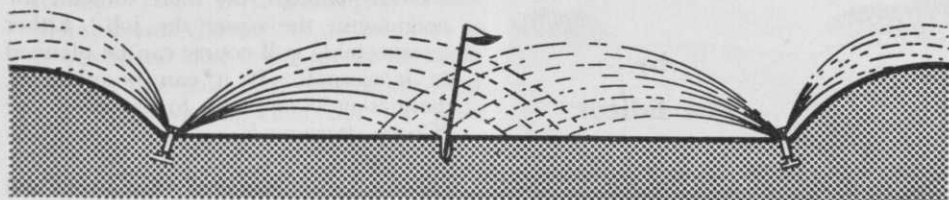
## Changeover

The next day Dusseldorf appeared under the wing of the aircraft. The English greenkeeper, 'Lofty' Duncombe has now left to Wiesbaden and has been succeeded by a German, Herr Strünker, who came from the Essen Golf Club. He has quickly got into his stride and was all ready to get going as soon as the frost was out of the ground, so that the course would be in good trim for opening later in the year.

Then on to Bochum, a last-minute invitation which had to be fitted into a programme already uncomfortably congested. This factor, combined with a sharp east wind, speeded up operations to such an extent that within 70 minutes of walking round the site we had the nine holes planned and the ordnance map marked with the area which would

*Continued on page 11.*

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