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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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No. 233 New Series
AUGUST 1964

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*I note with some misgiving,
As I pursue each shot,
The grass is always greener,
Wherever my ball is not.*

SIDNEY BRODY.

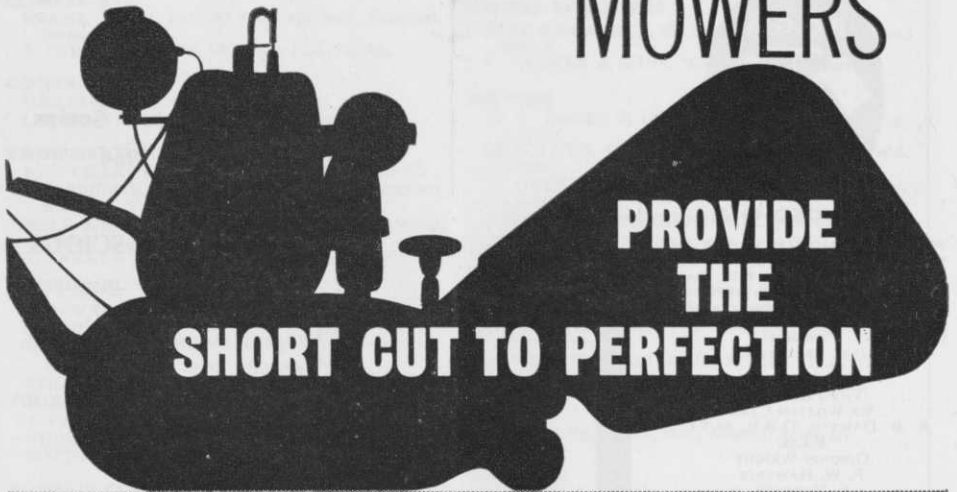
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SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

H. Hilder will have been 50 years at Worplesdon in October this year. He started in 1914 as a lad of 14, had a few months in the First World War and four and a half years in the Second.

Now Head Greenkeeper, he says he could not manage without his brother Fred who also started at 14 at the same course, did five years in the Second World War and completed 44 years' service last June.

It is good to know that there is a record of devotion in the South to compete with that of the Jones family at Little Aston.

Another "old retainer" is Harry Monkhouse at Marston Green, who retires next year. We first met Harry when this Birmingham public course was only a plan on paper just before the war and, indeed, its second nine holes were only opened afterwards. Now he will see it cut to nine again when the Birmingham Airport runway is extended. Happily, plans are afoot for a new 18 holes on adjacent land.

* * *

We were glad to make the acquaintance of Berkhamsted last month and of W. Morris, the Head Greenkeeper, who manages to keep greens on the common without water which are the equal of any under much more favourable conditions. The total absence of sand bunkers is not the time-saver one might expect because the grass features obviously take their toll of manhours. But perhaps it is a comfort in winter when the battle against encroaching bracken is also dying down.

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LAST (3) MONTH(S)

by The Editor

For the amateur editor it is a great relief when there is enough material to fill his magazine, even if some of it is reprinted from others. In October we shall have another original series of articles from "The Observer's" Golf Correspondent, Mr. John Stobbs, but in August at least, and September probably, this hand must intervene if we are to avoid the reproach of becoming a "Digest". It may be that many readers prefer the authoritative stuff of the professional writer to in-filling editorials. If that is so, two months' patience will be no hardship. But the delay may seem less intolerable if these notes are delivered in the staccato form which the Editor of "Golfdom" adopts. In that hope and with apologies to Mr. Herb Graffis, here goes . . .

Bush Hill Park G.C. in suburban Enfield to have extensive face-lifting . . . Members O.K.'d Committee's plans for more length, less walks between holes . . . George Low is Bush Hill pro.

North-West superintendents had their summer field-day schedule on 8th July at Bingley's S.T.R.I. Station . . . John Parker, who once served hitch as superintendent in Kent's Tunbridge Wells, now tends test grounds . . . Says men in greentending business profit by taking afternoon off occasionally and seeing what goes on there.

St. Neots, Hunts. G.C. plans extension to 18. Present short 9 must expand to meet increasing demand for golfing facilities . . . Two-man team went to London, England, and talked Ministry men into government loan . . . Huntingdon county boasts only 2 courses.

Shell Refinery in Strasbourg has plans for sports centre with 18 holes . . . Currently France has no fee courses and

no municipal projects . . . This may be first step.

Had enough? Even if you have, just one more paragraph must be added, this time a genuine quotation.

"Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews has appointed a press officer to improve conditions for coverage of British Open at St. Andrews, 8th-10th July . . . Almost any change would be an improvement . . . R. & A. spending about \$5,000 to increase and improve sanitary facilities for the Open which were about on a par with press arrangements."

So much for the home of golf!

One hopes all the changes met general approval. Certainly those at Royal Birkdale for "The Masters" made for general comfort in every way. Douglas Pate had installed miles of rope and fencing and everyone could watch play from the sidelines or switch from match to match at the controlled crossings. I had to visit seven other courses on the way there and in the district, so my viewing was limited to two half days. Even so, it included the shot which Max Faulkner hit from the rough at the 2nd in the last round when his ball described a graceful arc in the air and finished forty yards back nearer the tee.

Earlier in the month I had been much impressed by six month old turf on three new courses in warmer climates.

All sown last Autumn, even Lyon, the most northerly, was playable while those at Le Lavandou on the south coast of France and Son Vida in Majorca are now open. Mr. Michael Fenn had much to do with the first two with advice from Mr. Bernard Clayton of the S.T.R.I. In Palma, Mr. John Escritt was called in

and paid his last visit only a few weeks back.

A few days on the Costa Brava in June were not unwelcome, even if they had to be spent in marking pine trees to be cleared for the new course at Pals. This is one of many developments in Spain. Mr. Hamilton Stutt is designing another not far off. Pals is at present little more than a beach, a restaurant, and a wireless station. This is used to beam programmes into Russia. The wireless waves are bounced off the sea up on to the Heaviside layer and then descend into the appropriate area of the U.S.S.R. It was not explained whether this procedure was necessary to get them over the Iron Curtain but one hopes that part of the programme at least is devoted to news of Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

The last time we met I had some commendatory things to say about the comforts of Aer Lingus. I did not realise the extent to which this magazine must be read beyond our immediate circle, nor the influence which a few casual words here can exert on national institutions. Within a fortnight I was in an Air France Caravelle noting with pleasure that not only were the head-rests lower and less protruding, but also the backs of the seats were covered in Aer Lingus green and the fronts upholstered in a very passable imitation of the tweed worn by the Irish Air Line hostesses.

Should any greenkeeper wish to put right any notable injustices or discomforts, a word in these columns . . . or preferably 600 words to fill a page for the benefit of his fellow-readers.

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circulates amongst the people who really influence decisions on the purchase of machinery and materials for golf courses. Publicity in these columns is the quickest way to reach the heart of your selling problem. An advertisement rate-card will gladly be sent on request.

WHY KEEP RECORDS?

By MARVIN H. FERGUSON

*Mid-Continental Director, and National Research Co-ordinator,
U.S.G.A. Green Section*

The most obvious reason for a golf course superintendent to keep records is that of enabling him to account to the members of his club for *their* money which he has expended in the process of maintaining *their* golf course. This alone is reason enough for adequate records. It is the club's property. It is their money. The members have a right to know how their money was spent and what was accomplished through its expenditure.

There are many additional dividends to be gained from the keeping of adequate records. Good records help the superintendent to gauge the effectiveness of his operations, to accurately estimate costs of future work, to prepare a sound budget, to be able to predict machinery and equipment replacement needs, to evaluate the performance of men and equipment, and to compare maintenance costs with others (on a valid basis).

Measuring Effectiveness of Work Done

The turf around trees near tees and alongside fairways has been nicely trimmed and provides a pleasing appearance. Most club members like it that way and usually no questions are asked. But suppose an economy-minded member inquires about the cost of this trimming. He is entitled to know. Can you give him the answer?

There is some evidence of grub damage on fairways. This damage will not be excessive but it could be cleared up completely with an application of a soil insecticide. Is it worth the cost of treatment now or should the operation be postponed until next year? How much will it cost for materials and for application? The answer to the first question must be based upon one's budget position and the attitude of his club with respect

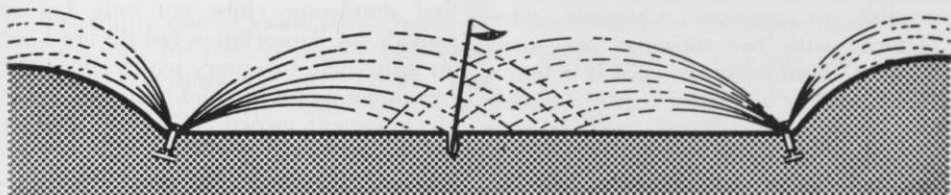
to standard of maintenance. It is a question of judgment. The second question is one of fact, however, and can be answered rather precisely on the basis of records kept in the past.

Grass in fairways is growing rapidly. Clippings are so heavy they are lying on top of the turf. They are unsightly and they stick to one's shoes when they are wet with dew. Why have these clippings become so heavy? Has rainfall been heavier than normal? Has the night irrigation man been spending more time than usual on the fairways? How much fertiliser was applied? When? Good records will provide this information and perhaps give a clue to the factors contributing to the excessive growth.

There is excessive *Poa annua* in the collars of greens—more than in other years. Could a weed control treatment, which eliminated some existing vegetation, have coincided with the period of *Poa annua* germination? Or was there a severe disease attack which thinned the bent at a critical period? Records may reveal the reason for the excessive *Poa annua*. Memories often are so faulty as to be unreliable in one's efforts to recall dates and events of such a nature.

Frequently, the Green Section agronomist asks a superintendent a question such as, "When did you last apply insecticide for sod webworm control?". The answer may be, "Oh, about 3 weeks ago". Upon checking records it is frequently found that the elapsed time is much greater. Memories just cannot be completely trusted during a busy, hectic season. Only a written record which can be referred to during a less busy season can be the basis for an analysis of the effectiveness of one's activities.

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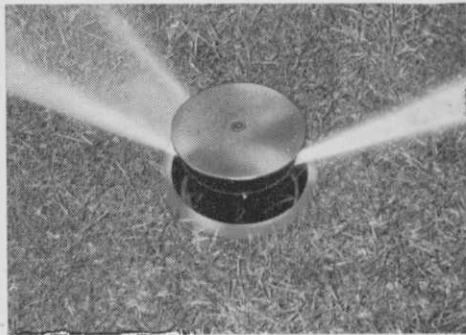
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Estimate Costs of Future Work

Records of labour and material requirements for routine operations permit precise estimates of costs of performing this or similar work in the future. Suppose, for instance, that a club wishes to establish a different grass on fairways. During the golfing season it may be possible to maintain bluegrass satisfactorily with two mowings per week, whereas, bermuda-grass which requires closer cutting and which grows during the summer months may require four mowings per week. How much more time will be required? Will presently owned mowing equipment be sufficient to take care of the problem? Will a new tractor be needed?

It may be decided that fairways should be aerified more frequently, that flagstick positions be changed twice daily, that sand traps be raked more frequently, that divots in tees be repaired and top-dressed daily, or that new towels on ball washers be replaced more frequently. Conversely, it may be proposed that only the putting green should be sprayed with fungicide and that fringe areas be skipped in order to save money. The superintendent with complete facts at hand can answer all such proposals intelligently. He can predict the amount of savings in the latter case and perhaps forestall a decision that would prove to be false economy. In the case of increasing the frequency of some maintenance operations, he can accurately estimate the increased costs and committee members may not wish to provide this amount of money for the improved conditions.

Budget Planning

It is virtually impossible to plan intelligently and accurately a budget for a future year's operations unless records of former operations are available. Labour costs may change, but experience in other years with respect to labour requirements by hours are helpful in figuring costs. Thus, hours required multiplied by current or foreseeable labour costs will provide a very accurate prediction for budget purposes.

A budget which is prepared realistically should take into account the depreciation rates of equipment. A budget item for equipment replacement should be inserted annually so that major items of capital expense are spread over a number of years rather than being shown on a single year's budget. It is distressing to find that some clubs not only fail to provide for depreciation but do not have an up-to-date inventory which shows the remaining useful life and estimated value of equipment owned. Costs of supplies can be estimated with fair accuracy by studying the invoices or purchase orders from past years. In the case of fungicides and insecticides it is well to maintain a supply of materials on hand even though sizable quantities must be carried from one year's inventory to the next. More accurate estimates of material needs may be made by referring to records of weather conditions, disease incidence, severity of insect attacks, etc. If quantities of materials used can be related to the conditions prevailing during the season, such information is more valuable than a total figure which simply expresses costs of materials used.

Comparing Costs

It has been said frequently that comparisons between golf courses cannot be made. Regardless of the validity of the statement, comparisons will continue to be made. If records are accurate and detailed, some comparisons are possible and in some cases they may be helpful.

For instance, two clubs may compare the average time required for mowing an acre of fairway or to rake 1,000 square feet of sand trap or to cultivate 1,000 square feet of putting green. It may be helpful to know that a seven unit gang mower allows one superintendent to easily mow his fairways three times a week with one tractor, whereas his neighbour, operating with a five unit gang cannot get over his golf course in the same length of time.

Finding Maintenance Weaknesses

It is frequently the case that the membership of a club is not overly critical of

the conditions existing on a golf course. While superintendents may dream of this kind of membership, it is not a good situation because without the benefit of golfers' criticism and comment, a superintendent may fall into a maintenance routine that neglects some feature of the course.

Recently one superintendent found in going over his records that he had spent hardly anything for tee repair, ball washers, and towels. His records immediately revealed to him a matter that he had overlooked on the course and one about which his players had not complained. He immediately undertook a programme of regularly servicing ball washers and repairing tees. This situation may seem unusual, but it happens more frequently than most of us realise. It is often difficult to see ourselves. When records can help reveal such weaknesses they perform a real service.

Kinds of Records

Records systems may be simple or complicated and they may consume little or much time. The dislike of a complicated, time-consuming system has

deterred many from keeping anything like complete records.

The simplest and most desirable is a daily diary. If routine operations as well as special jobs are recorded and weather conditions noted, this diary together with payroll records and invoices for materials purchased will provide the basic information needed by the superintendent.

Because of the fact that records hold a fascination for many people, it is easy to progress to certain other types of records that will provide useful information.

Complete records do require a considerable amount of time. Those who have kept such records feel that they are well worth the trouble and time. They enable the superintendent to subject his operations to a constant, critical analysis. He can spot his weaknesses, he can precisely predict next year's costs, he can defend those maintenance tasks he believes to be important, he can recommend the elimination of costly course features which he believes to be unimportant, and finally, he can demonstrate his responsibility to the club by showing his membership exactly what he has done *for them with their money.*



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News



from the Sections

NORTH-EAST

By D. Earsman

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J. SIMPSON
(Ponteland G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
Arcot Hall Cottage,
Dudley,
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

A.G.M.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on 20th June at the Carlisle Hotel, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There were 15 members present.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Simpson, welcomed the members and thanked them for their support during the past year.

Report on the year's working was given by the Secretary and Treasurer and was considered satisfactory. Members, including President and Vice-Presidents, totalled fifty-nine.

Officers elected for ensuing year:—

President: L. A. Jones.
Vice-Presidents: J. V. Todd, F.R.C.S.,
C. N. Storey, K. B. Hood, A. Harrison.
Chairman: J. Simpson.
Vice-Chairman: R. H. Nicholson.
Committee: T. Nutman, L. Lowery, R. Raine, N. Frazer, T. Kirkley, R. Derham, T. Oliver, W. R. Harker, H. Somerville.

Hon. Auditors: Messrs. Martin, Hilton, Blakey.

Secretary and Treasurer: D. Earsman, Arcot Hall Cottage, Arcot Hall, Dudley, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee and members, thanked Mr. Lowery and the Auditors for their work with the account, sweep tickets and competitions. It was hoped that Mr. Lowery, who had not been in the best of health, would soon be fully recovered.

The Annual Competition will be held (by courtesy of the Committee) at the Northumberland Golf Club during September, date to be fixed.

Tom Oliver, Secretary for many years, has now given up the office. He will be retiring shortly. The Chairman, on behalf of all our members, thanked him for his work on their behalf and wished him all the best for the future.

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
76 Four Oaks Common Road
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

President's Match

WE AGAIN HAD A FINE, WARM evening for our match against the President's team. I expect you already know the result, our Editor called in at Handsworth during the evening and kindly said he would see that the result appeared in the July issue. I was again disappointed at the very poor attendance of members. Two years ago we had a team of twenty-eight, last year twenty, this year seventeen. It is gratifying to know that those who do attend appreciate the great amount of work that our President puts in on behalf of golf and greenkeepers, as expressed in the remarks of Mr. Harley Roberts, Mr. S. E. W. Cooper, the Captain of Handsworth, our Association Chairman, George Geddes, and our Section Chairman, George Hart. They all thanked Mr. Bretherton on our behalf and expressed the hope that they would be able to come for many more years.

Bill Machin

We extend our best wishes to Bill, who has moved to the Southern Section as First Assistant at the Upminster Golf Club, Essex. We wish him every success in his new job.

Counterfoils

Just a reminder if any of you have not returned your counterfoils for the "News of the World" Tournament. Please let me have them at once.

NORTH-WEST

By V. Crabtree

Chairman:
D. PATE
(Royal Birkdale G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
223 Market Street
Whitworth, Nr. Rochdale

Trip to S.T.R.I.

THE SECTION TRIP TO BINGLEY was on 8th July, 1964. We had a good trip, arriving at lunch-time, and were then conducted round the experimental grounds by Mr. H. J. Lidgate, B.Sc., who very efficiently and most effectively explained the various treatments and results of the experiments under observation at S.T.R.I. Great interest