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THE BRITISH GOLF

# GREENKEEPER

HON EDITOR F W HAWTREE.



FOUNDED 1912.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GREENKEEPERS, GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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"GOLF DIGEST"

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TAKING TROUBLE

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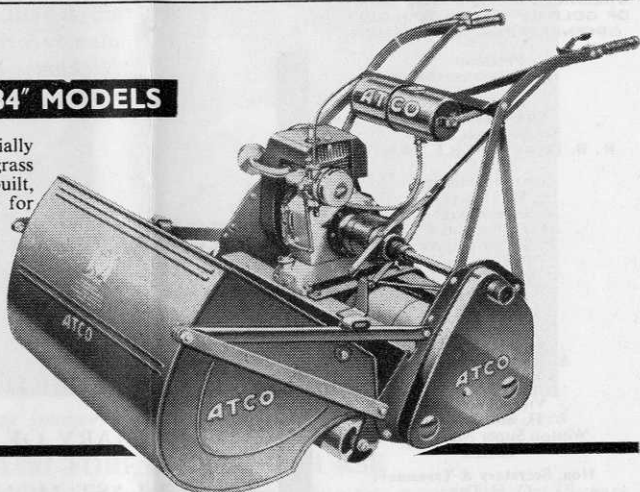
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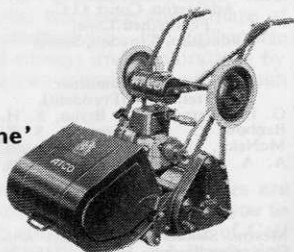
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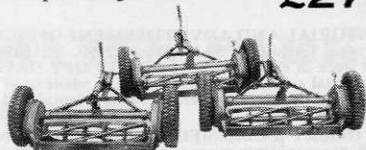
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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

**M**R. K. J HEMINGWAY, a Director of Patisson's, reports a novel use for the 10 in. Patisson Renovator at a golf club not 100 miles from Piccadilly Circus, where it is customary to put a flag stick in the temporary greens with no hole tin. Subsequent arguments amongst players as to which ball was nearest the pin in order to determine the result of the hole so interested the greenkeeper that he decided to cut a 10 in. hole with his Patisson Renovator and thought that this would certainly settle any arguments. In fact, it did more, and was acclaimed by members with great enthusiasm. We hear that several other clubs are following suit. We hope that after the discussion about the bigger ball has been settled, the new one about a bigger hole will not be long in following.

\* \* \*

Tom Mason is now nearing his 55th year as Head Greenkeeper at Hendon Golf Club, where a new club house is about to be built. These many years of loyal service have not been forgotten by the club in its new programme, and Tom has had handed to him the keys of a new house only some 200 yards from the site of the new club house. With the house goes a signed agreement that he will occupy the house for the rest of his life, whether as Head Greenkeeper or after retirement. Judging by Tom's appearance, he will be occupying this house for many years to come and his only wish is that all other greenkeepers will be treated in the same generous way. Tom's new address is 145 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, NW7

\* \* \*

Tommy Oliver is now back on the job at Gosforth Golf Club looking as fit and well as ever. We hope that John O'Gorman of Glamorgan will soon have made as good a recovery from his operation. Among recent moves we hear that A. Juniper has moved from Hayling Golf Club to the Ellesborough Golf Club near Aylesbury

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# Diary of a Championship by a Course Superintendent

by **MARION MENDENHALL**  
*Golf Course Superintendent,  
Kenwood Country Club, Cincinnati,  
Ohio*

*What must a golf course superintendent do at the time of a National Championship? His typically long and busy programme is reflected in the diary below of two days devoted to the 1963 Women's Open Championship of the U.S. Golf Association.*

## Last Day of Practice

### A.M.

- 4-30—Going to be in the low 90s today. No rain forecast.
- 5-30—Arrived at the Club.  
Checked with the three water men who started watering tees at 4 a.m.
- 5-45—Short four men of the crew this morning, all old employees. Never before have I had this many off at one time. Two are off because of deaths in their families, one is sick, one is getting an electrocardiogram.
- 6-0—Crew hand-watering greens, trying to water only high areas and around greens. Greens are on the wet side, will try to get them drier
- 6-15—Checked with the men watering.

They are all watering a little too much. This is hard to control the men know there will be no hand-watering during the play and they want to be sure the greens have enough.

- 6-40—Arrange for three golf carts to be taken to the pro. shop and for return of the ones used yesterday (in tournament preparations).
- 7-0—Talked with Pinkerton people. They are to see that clubhouse employees park in the right area near the maintenance barn.
- 7 15—Six men starting to mow greens. We use two men as a team—they have two greens mowers, a tractor and a two-wheel trailer. They split a green in the centre and mow each way, load the grass clippings on the trailer, put the mowers on the trailer, and go to the next green. In this way all the clippings are always picked up and we don't have a mess or dead spot near the green.
- 7-20—Arrange for man to cut 2 x 4's for out-of-bounds stakes and make six signs to go back of tees. Make steps to get press people over hedge, as requested by a Committee man. (P.S.—Steps cost \$65 in labour and material and, to my knowledge, were not used.)
- 7-30—Have man put up ticket sign and other signs at Club entrance and start his all-day job of paper pick-up. (The gallery has been very good about putting paper in the receptacles.)
- 8-0—Again have man fill divots in fairways, and show him additional places to top-dress.
- 8-5—Talked with cup changer about pin placement for practice round, trying to save good places for tournament.
- 8-10—Put in out-of-bounds post that was missing near No. 9 green.
- 8-15—Talked with bunker mower man about extra mowing.
- 8-20—Checked all green mowers to see that they were making a good, clean cut.
- 8-30—Checked with U.S.G.A. about the work for tomorrow morning.
- 8-45—Checked into Club office for mail.
- 9-0—Sent man to town to pick up U.S.G.A. tee markers that were shipped late. Talked with U.S.G.A.

about moving gallery ropes and taking care of ropes during tournament.

9-30—Talked with U.S.G.A. about extra parking area and making it out of bounds. Must have more out-of-bounds stakes made.

9-45—Coffee break.

9-55—Have man pick up limbs left from windstorm last Saturday, mostly on our other course, those on the Championship course were picked up earlier

10-15—Repair bridge railing broken by kids last night.

10-30—Have two men put up scoreboards at 6-9-18 greens.

10-35—Talked with television men about cable across road and about power outlets. Put up two signs for them.

11-0—Have three men raking sand traps and one man repairing ball marks.

**P.M.**

12-30—Have man check greens for wilt. Have three men mowing collars and tees. (The grass clippings from around greens and tees are removed by the same method as the putting green clippings.)

12-40—Two men back again making out-of-bounds posts.

12-45—Sent man back to town for U.S.G.A. tee markers, on first trip they were too long to haul on pick-up truck, and truck had a full load with other things.

12-50—Talked with television announcers about course. They needed a little information to use as fill-in for Saturday telecast.

1-30—Checked with trap rakers to see that they were leaving a good, sharp lip.

1-35—Have three men complete roping off fairways.

2-0—Talked with Wade Stuth, from Muskogee, Okla. He flew in to see how the Bermuda grass he planted for us was doing.

3-0—Have two men roping off extra parking area.

3-30—Men have all put in nine hours. Two men working on. I'm going home to eat.

3-35—Was stopped by television men they need some old inner tubes to cover cable connections. I'll have to hunt up some.



## GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Hole Tins  | Tee Boxes      |
| Cutters  | Tee Plates     |
| Staffs   | Ball Cleaners  |
| Mats   | Tablets        |
| Mowers   | Rollers        |
| Hose   | Sprinklers     |
| Mole Ploughs                                       | Rotary Sifters |
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4-0—Will stop by the hardware store on the way home to get a couple of rakes, and other odds and ends.

5-30—Two men will start mowing fairways—should be completed by dark.

6-15—Back again. Checking all holes tee to green, checking all greens for watering for tomorrow

7-40—Check completed, starting home. Surely can get around the course quickly with a cart. Was stopped twice before I could get by the clubhouse. Man arrived with portable toilets, showed him where to place them.

8-35—Arrived home. Took time cards home with me so that I won't have to stop tomorrow to make up pay record.

9-42—Payroll completed, through for the day

### First Day of Championship

**A.M.**

12-15 (midnight) — Night watchman called from Club, men cutting fairways didn't lock up the tool barn.

4-30—Going to be about 88 degrees today, could shower  
 5-45—Short three men this morning.  
 6-0—All men hand water greens lightly  
 7-10—One man checking ropes.  
 One man hand-mowing low spots in fairways.  
 Four men mowing greens.  
 Two men raking sand traps.  
 One man mowing tees.  
 Two men working on tee signs.  
 Rest of crew working on our other course this morning.  
 7-15—Talked with U.S.G.A. about plans.  
 7-30—Checked on the green mowers to see that they were cutting clean, also checked trap rakers.  
 8-30—Have two men put up tee signs.  
 One man cleaning up paper  
 9-15—Send man to hardware store for three step-ladders to be used at scoreboards.  
 9-20—Put ladies' and men's signs on toilets, they were removed by kids last night.  
 Get putting green attendants to first four or five greens.

9-30—Change position of some of the gallery ropes. Put up cross-over signs and lines for gallery passage across certain fairways.  
 11-0—Increase size of parking area, take cars onto fairway of other course.  
 11-15—Start relieving green attendants for lunch.

**P.M.**

1-40—Last players off Clean-up crew can start.  
 3-40—Four men filling divots in fairways.  
 Two men mowing tees.  
 Green attendants going home after last players pass their stations.  
 5-50—Crew going home—have worked about 12 hours.  
 7-20—Back again. Complete check of each hole again. Won't need to water greens tomorrow, but will water tees.  
 8-35—Through for the day The days of the tournament are not bad at all, but the three or fours days just before are rough because of all the little things that have to be done.

(With grateful acknowledgments to the "U.S.G.A Golf Journal")



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 AND  
 FOUR TO GO



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# LAST MONTH

by

The Editor

*The Editor, accompanied by Mr. Dix, B.G.G.A. Hon Secretary, visited all the Scottish Sections between 14th and 16th January*

If you put down a tee-box on the outskirts of Dumfries and walked 300 or 400 yards to the south-west, you would certainly find a place to cut the hole and you could go on placing tee-boxes and holes for the next forty miles. It is no surprise that Scotland is the home of golf. Whether it is by the sea or inland, the countryside was shaped up as one vast golf course with readymade green formations and tee positions. You only have to mow the grass. To Southern eyes, the landscape is also unbelievably free from scrappy development and even scrappier wastepaper.

We looked at Turnberry, Prestwick and Troon on our way to the first lecture at Glasgow. As an exercise in bunkering, Troon would repay months of study. The BOAC aircrews, spending time between flights at the Marine Hotel and out bright and early on the 1st tee, never lifted their eyes from their ball, even when a Boeing 707 swept over them a few hundred feet up on its way to land at Prestwick.

Glasgow on a Tuesday afternoon is not the easiest place to find a plug for the appropriate electric point in the Christian Institute where the West Section lectures are held. Everything closes down at 1 p.m. (as it did the next

day at Dundee). But we were organised by 6 o'clock when Cecil George, the Chairman of the West Section, and Ben Moir, the Secretary, came to meet us at the Central Hotel and took us out to dinner. There were rather more than 50 people attending the lecture. We were taken out afterwards as a reprisal and instructed in the mystery of halves, gills and drams. Amongst many others we met R. B. Moffatt, the General Secretary of the Association.

On Wednesday we went to Dundee via Buchanan Castle and The Trossachs. We had met William Bradford, the Vice-President of the S.G.G.A. the previous night, but when we got to his golf club he was engaged in drainage problems on the far side of the course and time was pressing. We liked the arrangement of the estate with pleasant timber houses on slopes looking down over the attractive parkland layout.

At Dundee we reconnoitred Nicoll & Smiberts Restaurant, where the lecture was to take place, by having lunch there and managed to find the right sort of plug at an electrical contractors before meeting Willie Ritchie, the Secretary of the North and Midland Section. Mr John Campbell, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews and President of the Section, introduced us very kindly, and with an attendance of 38 out of a membership of 38, we were very much impressed by the enthusiasm of this Section, especially as it is the most scattered of the three Sections which form the Scottish Association.

During the afternoon we had been up to Carnoustie but had, unfortunately, missed Robert Gordon, who is Head Greenkeeper there. The courses looked in excellent order and the weather was mild enough for greens to be mown.

On Thursday morning Mr John Campbell met us at St. Andrews and took us over the Old Course. We saw the new spectator mounds and paths through the gorse, which are being made to assist viewing at the Open later in the year. We also inspected with some misgivings the right-hand side of the green at No. 17, where grass has been removed from the edge of the road



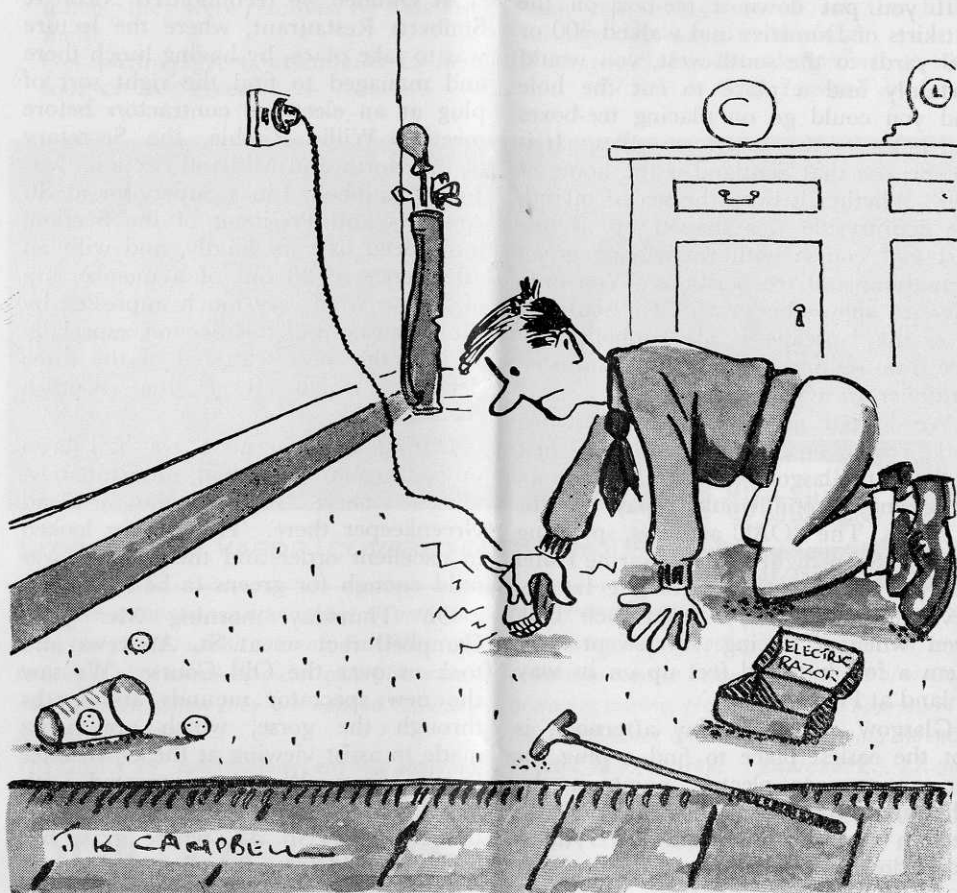
and loose chippings left to make a shot back on to the green more interesting. Fortunately, we were not playing, otherwise we might have viewed this change with even more alarm. A brisk look round the Royal and Ancient Club House under the amiable guidance of Mr Tom Goodfellow completed the tour and we made our way to Edinburgh in time to get installed in the Free Gardeners' Institute. The shops were open, but at last we had the plug to suit the projector. We met Harry Smith, the Chairman of the East Section, and Alex Huish, Secretary. Mr D. L. Macdiarmid was also there and Mr Jim King of Luffness asked most of the questions. About 30 members attended.

**Mr. J. K. Campbell, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews, has a keen eye for the golfer's foibles. Many of his cartoons have appeared in "Golf Illustrated".**

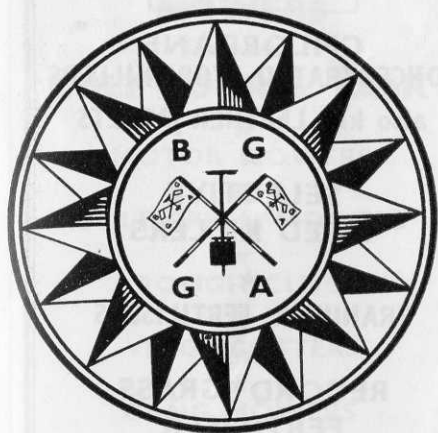
Our readers will be enjoying in the coming months a selection which he has very kindly sent to "The Greenkeeper".

Our Friday homeward lap was 440 miles, but it was pleasantly broken at Muirfield, where a walk over the course impressed us again with the remarkable quality of this layout and where Colonel B. Evans-Lombe showed us the Raeburns and other treasures in the club house.

In these days when there is so much talk about the growing popularity of golf, it is refreshing and salutary to go round a land where it has always been popular and where it is so much part of everyday life. Meeting more than a hundred greenkeepers who look after some of its finest courses, one felt certain that the great traditions of the past are in eminently capable hands for the future.



# News



from the Sections

## NORTH-EAST

By T. Oliver

*Hon. Secretary.*  
Heathery Cottage,  
Heathery Lane, Gosforth,  
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

*Chairman.*  
J. SIMPSON  
(Ponteland G.C.)

AT OUR LAST MEETING HELD ON Saturday, 21st December, it was proposed to hold a dinner, if possible at some Golf Club in the district. I am pleased to say I mentioned this to my own, The Gosforth Golf Club, and arrangements have been made by kind permission of the Committee to hold this dinner on Thursday, 20th February. This will be further discussed at a meeting on 25th January at the Marquis of Blandford. I also hope that members who cannot attend this meeting will let me know if they can attend the dinner. We also hope it will be convenient for our President, Mr L. A. Jones, President of the English Golf Union, and Vice-President O. V. Todd, F.R.C.S., President of the Durham Union of Golf Club and C. M. Storey, President of Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs.

## MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

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

*Chairman:*  
G. HART  
(Gay Hill)

### Tournaments

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT the following clubs have granted us the courtesy of their courses for this year's tournaments. Our Spring Tournament on Tuesday, 5th May will be at Little Aston Golf Club,

and the Autumn Tournament on Tuesday, 22nd September, at Stourbridge Golf Club. We should like to express our thanks to them for their kindness.

### Subscriptions

There are still a few members who have their subscriptions outstanding. Please will they let me have them as soon as possible.

Mr. R. B. Dawson

I should like to express the good wishes of the Midland Section to Mr R. B. Dawson on his retirement as Director of The Research Institute. I personally value the advice and help I have received from him on many occasions and wish that he has many years to enjoy his retirement.

## NORTHERN

By J. Parker

*Chairman:*  
S. BAILES

*Hon. Secretary:*  
8 Goit Stock Terr., Harden,  
Bingley, Yorks.

### February Lecture

THIS WILL BE HELD IN THE MARKET TAVERN, Godwin Street, Bradford, on Tuesday, 18th February. The speaker will be Mr. Ian Forbes, of Messrs. Stewart & Co. Ltd., Edinburgh. The subject will be "Weeds and Weedkillers". As the speaker is making the long journey specially to give this talk, your Committee look for your support by your attendance.

### December Film Show

What must have been a near record attendance of sixty members turned up for the film show held in The Market Tavern, Bradford, on Wednesday, 11th December. The two films presented by Mr G. Vaughan, of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, were first class and were much appreciated by all present. Mr Vaughan answered clearly the queries put by members.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr S. Bailes, Chairman, seconded by Mr G. Geddes, Chairman of the Association. In his remarks, Mr Geddes also wished, on behalf of the Association, a long and happy retirement to Mr R. B. Dawson, Director of The S.T.R.I., who was present. Our sincere thanks are due to Mr Vaughan for providing a most tasty supper and our President, Mr W. Mountain, for the liquid refreshment.

### Subscriptions

There are still a number of subscriptions outstanding. I know that if I write a personal letter to you that you will forward it—why not save me the trouble and send it now?

### Grand National Sweep

I trust that all members are doing their utmost to sell the tickets I have sent them. I still have plenty more. Remember the success of this effort is for the good of our Benevolent Fund.

## SOUTHERN

By W Mason

Chairman:  
J. K. GLASS  
(Thorpe Hall)

Hon. Secretary:  
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

OUR DECEMBER LECTURE GIVEN by Mr D. Peters, from F W Berk & Co. Ltd., again proved a great success, with plenty of questions asked and answered on worm killers and the importance of aeration. It was most pleasing again to see such a good attendance and we hope we shall have the same, with still more, to welcome Mr H. J Lidgate, B.Sc., who will be coming along from the Research Station on Wednesday, 12th February. He has chosen for his subject, "Fertilisers", and this, I am sure, will be most interesting. The place is, as usual, The Talbot Restaurant, 64 London Wall, Moorgate, E.C.2—Time 6-30 p.m.

### Annual Dinner

We shall be having our annual dinner on Friday, 13th March, which again will be held at the Talbot Restaurant. Will you apply to me for tickets and bring along your friends, so we can look forward to a nice get-together and social evening. Details will be given on application.

### Spring Tournament

Our Spring Tournament has been fixed to take place at the Croham Hurst Golf Club on Tuesday, 12th May

We welcome to the Section two new members —S. Reason, of 21 Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E 11, and D. W Keen, of 7 Bell Street, Rundle Terrace, Maidenhead, Berks.

## SHEFFIELD

By J. J. Dearlove,

Chairman:  
G. HERRINGTON  
(Lindrick).

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

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our best wishes to Mr R. B. Dawson, O.B.E., on his retirement from the S.T.R.I., Bingley

It might never be known just how much he has contributed to the establishment and maintenance of sports turf

I should think nearly every greenkeeper, groundsman and anyone who has taken part in sport on turf has benefited from his work.

It is satisfying to know that he will still retain an interest in the S.T.R.I. and become its Vice-President.

Our best wishes go out to Mr Dawson for a long and happy retirement.

We will gladly call on you to advise on your grass cutting equipment or arrange demonstrations. Ring us now



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