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Chairman

D. L. MACDIARMID,
Royal Burgess Golfing Society
Barnton, Edinburgh 4.

General Secretary:

R. B. MOFFATT
71 Kelton Street, Glasgow E.2

THE WEST SECTION REGRET to announce the death of John Irvine, late of Irvine Municipal Golf Course. He was a member of long standing and was well known in the West Section.

The Annual Spring Competition of the West Section will be held over Kilmarnock Brassie on Thursday, 16th April, 1964.

NORTH AND MIDLAND SECTION

Social Evening

OUR ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENING will be held in Nicoll & Smibert's Restaurant, Dundee, on Saturday, 28th March, 1964, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be had from members of the Committee.

Our next lecture will be on 19th February at 7 p.m. The subject will be "Grass Identification", by Dr N Jackson of The Sports Turf Research Institute.

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT the General Secretary is now on the telephone—number SHETtleston 6591

SITUATIONS VACANT

HEAD GREENKEEPER required, starting wage £13. House available. Apply Secretary, Saltburn Golf Club, Yorks.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER REQUIRED for Hartley Wintney Golf Club, Hants. Experience not essential. Apply W J Dauncey, Esq., Brincliffe, Odiham, Hants.

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.

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NEW COURSE NOTES

W Milton, Assistant Greenkeeper at Downfield Golf Club, describes some of the jobs and problems in making new holes when his course was remodelled last year

DUE to the ever-increasing need for more houses, about threequarters of the course on which I work is being taken over for housing, adjacent land being constructed as a new course, using only three of the original holes.

The land originally consisted of woodland and pasture. The first procedure was the ploughing up, harrowing and sowing of the pasture land with a mixture of grass seed suitable for fairways. This was done about four years ago. It was then left to grow naturally, except for winter grazing by sheep for two years. While this was going on, woodcutters began cutting down the trees, huge beech, oak and sycamore, leaving barren gashes through the trees, except for one or two fine specimens left at strategic points designated by the architect responsible for drawing up the plans, to which the constructors have to work.

About now the greenkeepers begin to realise the tremendous amount of planning and careful measuring that has gone into the drawing of the plans of the course and the greens and the amount of work involved. After the woodcutters are gone, a new machine appears, a huge bulldozer with long steel teeth starts to dig out the roots of the trees, a few smaller ones also arrive and begin work on the greens. They remove the top soil from the area of the greens and put it in spoil heaps, then start to shape the contours of the greens in the sub-soil.

While all this was going on we had been continuing our normal duties on the old course, with the exception of the head greenkeeper, who was fully occupied supervising operations and seeing that the correct procedure was being carried out in accordance with the plans.

With the addition of extra staff it was now our turn to take part in the proceedings.

We cut out three temporary greens which would be played until the new course was finished and ready for play. We also had to remove dykes which crossed fairways and we carted the stones to the site of the new club house, also under construction, to be used as bottoming for the car park. With a new tractor and gang unit the fairways and semi-rough were cut out of the now well-established grass and kept at a height of three inches for the rest of the season.

By now the roots had been extracted and buried in an old quarry nearby and another job was in progress. A stream which was piped through the fields and flowed into ponds on the original course, still incorporated in the new one, was made into an open ditch winding its way across six fairways before it ran into a sluice-box where it could be run into the ponds or diverted into another ditch which is also a feature of the course.

We greenkeepers now started to clear the fairways through the woods of stones and roots which had been torn up by bulldozers and discs in the process of cultivation. This continued throughout the remainder of the season and I would not like to estimate how many loads were carted. But we filled a large part of the quarry left for this purpose and we must have shifted hundreds of tons of material.

I would now like to point out a mistake which was made. We are making a nine-hole par three course ourselves, also in woodland. Instead of tearing it up with bulldozers, we ploughed it and although it was rough going we did not have a fraction of the stones to clear and it was much more easily prepared for sowing.

The end of the season was approaching and the contractors were stopping until spring as conditions were getting too wet. By now the greens were shaped out and six had been covered with a 6 in. layer of clinker plus a 9 in. layer of top soil, taking care not to go on to the greens with tractors, at this or any

other stage of the operation, as this compacts the top soil and possibly breaks drainpipes which are also in the greens and most essential if the greens are to be properly cared for. After making a few tees in the same manner, except that they were turfed, winter was upon us and we all know what last winter was like, but it started us off on a new job which kept us busy all winter.

With seven of the fairways and two greens being in the woodland, there was a lot of undergrowth, branches and dead trees to be cut down and cleaned up. So with axes, saws and fires, we kept ourselves warm. There was a lot of limbing to be done along fairways, round greens and also trees which were left as hazards. This was often quite tricky, but by using a rope tied round the trunk, we were soon clambering round the trees with great confidence and rather began to enjoy it as we saw the trees begin to take shape and look more symmetrical.

Spring arrived as usual and brought quite a few troubles on the old course,

it also brought back the contractors to resume where they had left off. They finished off the greens, then added peat, sand, manure, and incorporated it into the soil with a small rotovator, firmed and raked, then making any slopes blend as gently into the surroundings as possible and sowed the seed. By now we have brought the fairways into a finer cut and can see the course taking shape with a certain amount of pride in having been a part of the proceedings.

As I write now, the contractors have gone, most of the greens have been cut a few times at half-an-inch and also had a light roll. I am looking forward to next year eagerly, as we hope to open for play some time in the new season. We realise there is a lot to be done for many years yet, frequent top-dressings and some bunkers to introduce and also a lot of tree planting, to bring the perfection which we wish, but at the moment I would say it will be an excellent modern course of which we will be very proud.



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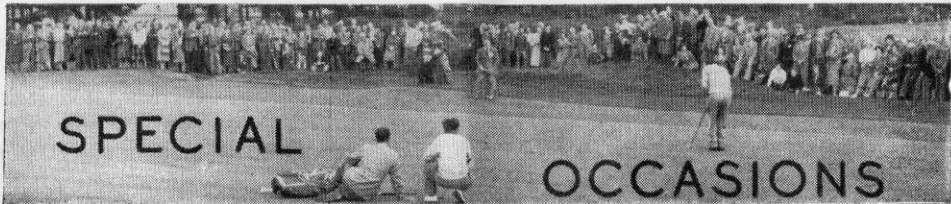
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FEBRUARY

- 12th Southern Section Lecture, "Fertilisers", Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, Moorgate, London, E.C., 6-30 p.m.
- 17th North-West Section Lecture, Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester
- 18th Northern Section Lecture, "Weeds and Weedkilling", The Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford.
- 18th S.G.G.A. Lecture, Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow Dr N. Jackson, "Grass Identification"
- 19th S.G.G.A. Lecture, North and Midland, Nicoll & Smiberts, Nethergate, as above.
- 20th S.G.G.A. Lecture, Free Gardeners' Institute, Piccadry Place, Edinburgh, as above.
- 20th North East Section Dinner, Gosforth Golf Club.

MARCH.

- 9th North-West Section, Lecture, "Turf Topics. What do you know?" Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester
- 13th Southern Section, Annual Dinner
- 28th S.G.G.A. North and Midland Section, Annual Social Evening, Nicoll and Smiberts Restaurant, Dundee.

APRIL.

- 16th S.G.G.A. West Section, Annual Spring Competition, Kilmarnock Brassie.

MAY

- 5th Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Little Aston Golf Club.
- 12th Southern Section, Spring Tournament, Croham Hurst Golf Club.

SEPTEMBER.

- 22nd Midland Section, Autumn Tournament, Stourbridge Golf Club.

GOLF IN RUSSIA

There is no golf in Russia. That is, there wasn't until a pair of American businessmen visited Moscow a few months ago. One of them, Robert F Dwyer, of Portland, Ore., is a member of the executive committee of the U.S.G.A.

He persuaded his luncheon host, Dimitri F Varaksin, a Soviet Deputy Minister in charge of lands, timber and power, to try a golf swing—and this could very well be the beginning of the end of the U.S.S.R.

It was in the sunshine of Moscow, with the staff of Mr Varaksin's headquarters watching that the Russian took the driver in his hands, writes Jerry Pratt, Business Editor of *The Portland Oregonian*, in the August issue of the *U.S.G.A. Golf Journal*.

"Our host took the long-stemmed club back above his shoulders and swung viciously and well, both feet planted powerfully on the ground, his shoulders coming through in a natural swing. He missed.

"When the club came down again it smacked the golf ball cleanly on the cheek so that it rose in a drive of 60 yards to the wall of a shed at the end of the garden, bounced off the shed and rattled around in the rough. There was applause and Mr Varaksin gave an order that was equivalent to 'Find that ball'

"They were still looking for the ball when we left. Mr Dwyer said that was a good sign."

(With grateful acknowledgments to "The Golf Course Reporter")

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DRIVING ACCURACY AND LENGTH IN THE OPEN

This chart summarizes the drives of all players on Holes 1 and 18 in the 1963 Open Championship. There were 150 players on each of the first two days and 51 qualifiers in the third and fourth rounds on the third day.

| HOLE 1 | | | | | | HOLE 18 | | | | | 1963 Hls. 1-18 3 Days | 1956 Third Round |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------|------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Number of Drives in; | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Total | % | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Total | % | | |
| Fairway | 98 | 114 | 59 | 271 | 67% | 85 | 87 | 55 | 227 | 56% | 62% | 65% |
| Fringe | 11 | 6 | 18 | 35 | 9% | 7 | 7 | 5 | 19 | 5% | 7% | |
| Rough | 41 | 30 | 25 | 96 | 24% | 58 | 56 | 42 | 156 | 39% | 31% | 35% |
| Total | 150 | 150 | 102 | 402 | 100% | 150 | 150 | 102 | 402 | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Average Length of Drives; | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carry | 234.9 | 238.1 | 247.6 | 240.2 | | 240.1 | 230.4 | 224.2 | 231.2 | | 235.8 | 239.6 |
| Roll | 8.3 | 10.1 | 15.0 | 11.1 | | 9.3 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 5.8 | | 8.5 | 13.8 |
| Total | 243.2 | 248.2 | 262.6 | 251.3 | | 249.4 | 234.6 | 228.2 | 237.4 | | 244.3 | 253.4 |
| Longest Drive; | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Bayer | Bayer | Makalena and Coon | | | Lema | Palmer | Lema | | | | Garrett |
| Length | 282 | 292 | 290 | | | 277 | 265 | 266 | | | | 281 |
| Wind; | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Direction | Cross | Favor. | Favor. | | | Cross | Against | Against | | | | Favor. |
| Strength | Light to med. | Light to med. | Med. to heavy | | | Light to med. | Light to med. | Med. to heavy | | | | None |
| | Gusty | Gusty | Gusty | | | Gusty | Gusty | Gusty | | | | |

(Courtesy U.S.G.A. Golf Journal)

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A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE Committee will be held on Saturday, 7th March, 1964, at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, at 12 noon. Luncheon interval will be at approximately 1 p.m.

TAKING TROUBLE

We reprint part of a letter from the Royal St. David's Golf Club to the Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship. If all clubs will make the same effort, the success of the scheme will be ensured.

*Royal St David's Golf Club,
Harlech, North Wales
18th January, 1964*

"Regarding the training syllabus, we are satisfied that our head greenkeeper is fully competent to carry out the basic instruction required in the subjects under the headings of 'Construction of New Turf Areas' and 'Routine Maintenance of Golf Courses', more advanced instruction being received by the boy attending a course at Bingley in his final year, i.e in autumn, 1965. For further instruction in maintenance and repair of machinery, I hope to arrange for him to be attached for about a fortnight to one or both of the firms who service our own machines (one is an authorised Ransomes repair agent and the other a Massey-Ferguson agent) In 'Background Sciences' we are not very fortunate, since the local education authority are unable to put on a course especially for one boy and the population in the district is such that there are not enough potential pupils for a course

JOB IN THE BAHAMAS

**Winter Temperature
65° — 85°**

I HAVE RECEIVED AN ENQUIRY through Mr J Wallis-Arthur, President of the Southern Section, for a good, hard-working Greenkeeper in the Bahamas. Middle aged married man without family preferred. Accommodation provided. If any member is interested he should apply to Ralph Hutchison, Cotton Bay Club, Eleuthera Island, Bahamas. P.O Box 8, Nassau, Bahamas, and enclose a photograph.

C. H. DIX.

in the subjects required to be organised. However, during the present winter season the boy is attending a weekly day release course run by the local authority and designed primarily for agricultural apprentices, and I have asked that the instruction should include some elementary botany, soil science and biology. It is our intention, with support of the local authority, to send the boy during the winter 1964/5 to a day release course at a Technical College at either Wrexham or Shrewsbury. Finally, as regards the game of golf, the boy is already a very competent player and has been a junior member of this Club for a number of years"

*Yours sincerely,
R. F Tomlinson,
Secretary*

Mr. Fred Chambers

We record with sorrow the death on 18th January of Mr Fred Chambers, President of the Southern Section, and a life-long friend and supporter of greenkeepers. He will be sadly missed personally by many greenkeepers round London and by the Association as a whole. His interest in a wide sphere of activities will not easily be replaced.

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