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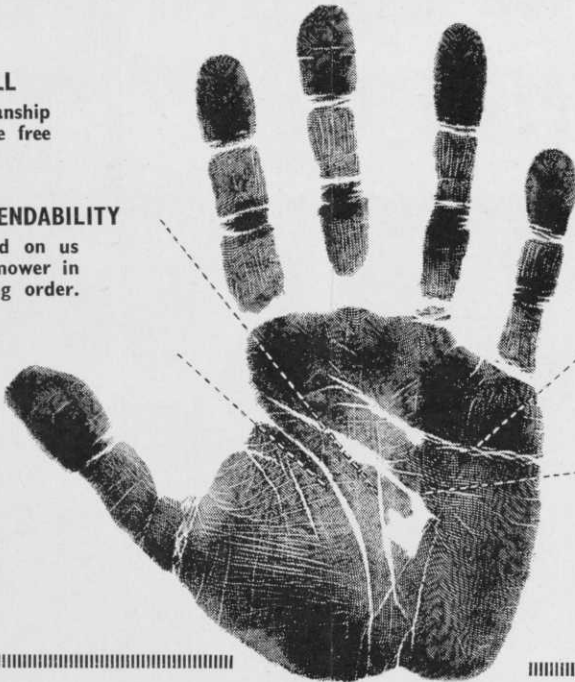
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No. 230 New Series

MAY 1964

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you can do the day after tomorrow just
as well.*

MARK TWAIN.

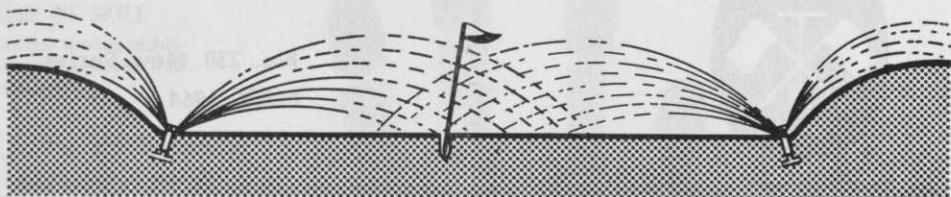
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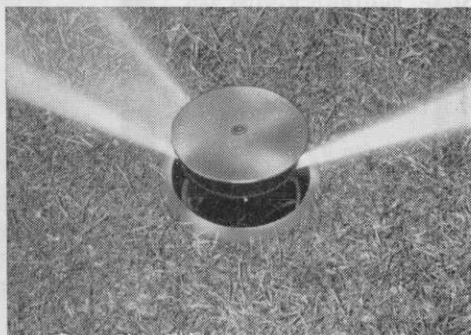
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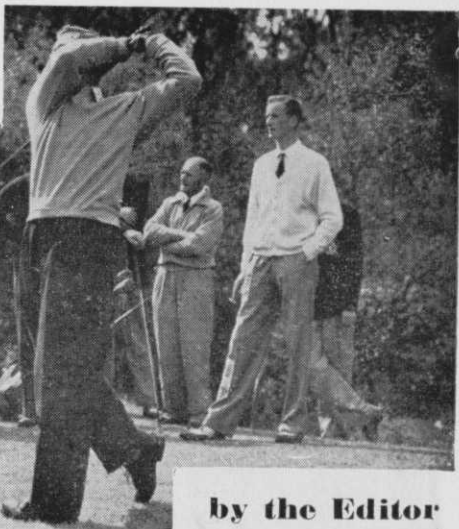
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

YORKSHIRE WOOD ON THE MOVE

THE National Coal Board is to move a wood to create a screen of trees between Garforth Golf Club and 100-acre extensions to the Springs opencast coal site between Garforth and Barwick-in-Elmet.

The mature trees will be lifted by the roots and re-planted in a belt between the golf clubhouse and the boundary of the extended opencast site.

We saw one of the machines which do the job in action near Nottingham last Autumn. The essential part of the mechanism is a pointed scoop which digs down on either side and then under the tree. Then it can lift and carry with the trunk resting in a cradle above the scoop. The crucial point comes when replanting in a hole of the same dimensions previously prepared by the same machine. It is not so easy to get a ton or two of wood and earth to stand up straight. One would think that the generally informal superstructure of the average tree would allow a fair latitude. It is not so. A few inches off the vertical and it is obvious that man has taken a hand.

Relief

Mere Golf Club in Cheshire has been reassured by the £70 million Rank Organisation, which took it over last month, that no immediate changes are envisaged. The group owns bingo halls and bowling alleys amongst other activities, but says it does not run everything on the same lines.

Lot One

Fulford Heath Golf Club, York, will have to bid for their course if they want to keep it when it comes under the hammer in July. The Deramore Estate at Heslington, which yields more than £12,000 a year in rents will be auctioned as a whole, in two blocks, or in forty lots. The catalogue soon to be released says, 'Championship golf course included'.

Hold-ups

Wembley Council has deferred its £102,000 scheme for a municipal golf course at Fryent Way. Further study by the open spaces committee will reduce the cost. Nearby, Hendon has turned down a planning request for an automatic driving range, at Brockley Hill, Stanmore. Orpington U.D.C.'s new public course is held up for a decision by the Ministry of Transport on the route of the South Orbital Road.

LAST

MONTH

By

The Editor

The popularity of golf is certainly not flagging when Rural District Councils are considering the provision of public courses. Dartford R.D.C. has already got plans for a new 18-hole course in Lullingstone Park, in Kent, and has started construction of nine holes this year. The park lies on the southerly-facing slope of the North Downs above the Darenth Valley. The area is well over 300 acres, but large sections are densely wooded and these will remain untouched for the benefit of the general public, while the more open land will provide a course of well over 6,000 yards with comfort.

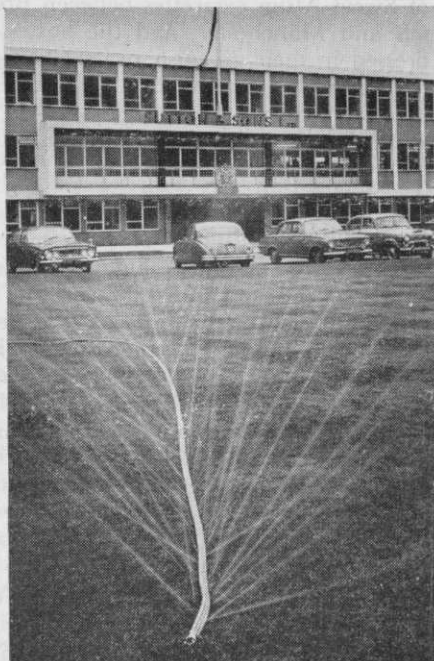
From several holes, players will look down over Lullingstone Castle, in the valley, and the Roman villa nearby gives further proof of the popularity of this site down the centuries. Perhaps even the Roman game of "paganica", in which some historians see a primitive form of golf, was played over the same fields. In A.D. 350, the preparation of the golf course was less complicated, the basic idea of driving a ball to a given point in as few strokes as possible, or in less strokes than the opponent, was the same, but the open country and a landmark to serve as a goal, provided the arena. If further excavations reveal the mosaic floors of a Roman driving range, we can be certain that the wheel has come full circle.

The following week also began in Dartford, but this time in the Urban District and on the Dartford Golf Course itself, which is to be sadly carved up by the new motorway to the Kent coast. It is difficult sometimes to convince green committees that where every inch of land is already in use and some, as here, used twice by crossing two holes, the only safe and possible answer is to reduce the length of the course proportionately to the reduction of area. This is purely a question of simple arithmetic. The proper architect (the non-golfing type) can solve the problem by adding extra floors if he wishes to accommodate more people per acre. The golf architect can only plan on the ground floor and has to visualise future cries of pain and anguish if he squeezes more holes into the land than common sense dictates. This attitude is doubly important for the future when more golfers, many of them with a less formal approach to the etiquette of the game, will flood the golf courses of England throughout the week.

Doubtful Case

The next morning began by convincing a committee of one, represented by a B.E.A. official, that it was possible to register a suitcase to Manchester via Brussels. One would have thought that this had already been achieved in an Airport as busy as Heathrow but he had never received the request before. For me, it was clearly far simpler for my suitcase to remain in transit in Brussels while I visited a site, rather than have to clear it through Customs and take it back again later in the day. After consultations, he grudgingly allowed that it was feasible and I could only hope that other officials along the line would grasp the idea more readily. Evidently somebody had doubts because when I reached the steps up to my Viscount in the evening, my suitcase was standing at the foot and each preceding passenger had been asked if it belonged to him. I finally claimed it and produced proof of ownership. Only then was it put aboard.

I do not know if all Aer Lingus Viscounts are arranged like this one. With only two seats on either side of the gang-



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way and thick green upholstery everywhere, the impression was one of space and restful luxury. The seats were also low in the back, so that one could see comfortably all round. All the other planes in which I travel have tall seats with an awkward bump behind the head, which pushes the chin down on to the chest. This produces a pensive air about the regular air traveller, which is eventually an occupational disease. The theory is that after take-off the tall seat can be adjusted to a semi-reclining position. When the appropriate lever is pulled, the seat falls back into the lap of the passenger behind, who generally objects forcibly, and quite rightly. But this adjustment in no way affects the relation of the head to the spine. With a short back to the seat stopping at the shoulders, there is no discomfort and I cannot imagine that the negligible chances of survival, should anything go wrong when the aircraft is hurtling down the runway at 140 knots, are in any way reduced. Aer Lingus have also contrived to retain an entirely Irish character on board their aircraft, whereas others vie with each other to be

international. It is agreeable to be able to get a tin of Phoenix beer or a packet of Sweet Afton cigarettes between Brussels and Manchester, and the hostesses, dressed in their greenish tweed, manage to dissemble the slightly petulant expression which I have always taken, I am sure wrongly, to characterise the face of the Irish girl.

Lancashire Coastline

This flight was the prelude to a round of courses on the Lancashire coast. The first call was at Royal Birkdale, where Douglas Pate was taking time off from his tremendous constructional programme to spread a spring fertiliser on his greens. Clad in apron and with pannier suspended in front of him from his shoulders, he strode with regular paces across his greens, casting handfuls to left and right. The technique was both impressive and accurate.

Then on to Hillside, where Ted Macavoy, in addition to his normal 18 holes, has three of his new ones to maintain. Two more are now being shaped up and before long, with internal altera-

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tions on his present course and six new ones in impressive sand-dune country, he will be pleased to receive any championship you care to name.

Then to Southport and Ainsdale, where the desire for a practice ground may require changes on the course. This is a club where golf is a serious matter and I believe they can put a team of scratch golfers in the field whenever they like. Lastly, to West Lancashire Golf Club, on the morrow, where new bunkering and minor adjustments following their recent complete re-construction are putting the finishing touches to a testing layout, under the supervision of Harry Roberts.

French Visit

The following week took me to four new courses and one possible site in France. Most I have mentioned before, but the new 18 holes at Rochefort-en-Yvelines are now green and with a landscape of pine trees, birch and heather, should make one of the most attractive layouts round Paris. I walked round with Monsieur Jacques Léglise, President of the French Golf Federation, and a party which included Monsieur Bourret, who came to Saint Cloud as Director from the Royal Golf Club Belgique, at Ravenstein, Brussels. Mr. Chamley, the promoter of this course, has ideas rather in advance of those generally pertaining in France and has already illuminated one hole of the Pitch and Putt Course (which surrounds the clubhouse) experimentally for golf at night. Most people that I have met seem to think that French golfers will prefer other pursuits at this time of the day. But vines have already been pulled out elsewhere to



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make golf holes, so anything can happen.

The month ended with a westerly trip to see the Bath Golf Club, at Sham Castle, where A. A. Cockfield, Secretary of the South-West Section, keeps his spectacular course on the hills in such excellent condition. A site in the Mendips, where not long ago lead was smelted in long stone tunnels, still to be seen. And finally to the West Cornwall Golf Club at Lelant. This being only a few miles from Lands End, is as far as we can go for the present.

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RIVERSIDE 5415

Ophiobolus Patch Disease on Turf¹

by Dr. C. J. Gould,
Dr. Roy L. Goss, and
Maksis Eglitis²

OPHIOBOLUS patch is a serious disease of turf in England and nearby continental areas, but only rarely has it been reported seriously affecting cultivated grasses in the U.S. Since the turf disease complex in western Washington closely resembles that in England in other respects (1), it was suspected that sooner or later *Ophiobolus* patch would be found here.

Following a mild winter and very wet spring, typical symptoms of *Ophiobolus* patch appeared on a new experimental putting green turf area near Puyallup, Wash., in June, 1960. However, perithecia of the causal fungus were not found until November, five months later.

Symptoms

The disease appeared first as light brown spots of turf with diameters of only a few inches. However, most of the affected areas increased rapidly in size; some became two feet or more in diameter. Both shoots and roots of the grass plants were severely attacked, with the result that handfuls of dead turf could be pulled up easily. Affected areas did not recover for several months. The original species (*Agrostis tenuis* Sibth. hort. var. *astoria*) did not re-invade some spots and re-invaded others very slowly,

starting in the centre. *Poa annua* L. and various weeds became established in many spots so that the eventual appearance was that of miniature Fairy Rings. The disease was much more striking on the *Agrostis* putting green turf than on an adjacent lawn turf composed of 60 per cent Creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra* L. hort. var. Pennlawn) and 40 per cent Astoria bentgrass. Fescue filled in the affected spots in the latter case. Smith (5) lists certain varieties of *A. tenuis* as being susceptible and of *F. rubra* as resistant.

Similar spots appeared about the same time on Astoria bentgrass plots at Farm No. 1 at the Western Washington Experiment Station, five miles from the other site. An *Ophiobolus* with similar spore measurements was found recently in this material and also in bentgrass collected in January, 1961, from a fairway on a golf course near Tacoma, Wash.

The fungus more closely fits the description of *Ophiobolus graminis* Sacc. var. *avenae* E. M. Turner than that of the type variety. (*O. graminis* var. *graminis*). Sizes of asci and of ascospores for the type variety are reported somewhat differently by various workers, but they are smaller than those for the variety *avenae* as shown in Table 1.

Ophiobolus graminis var. *graminis* causes the common "take-all" disease of cereals. It is world-wide in distribution and is reported from all areas of the U.S. except the extreme south eastern states (7). It is usually most serious in the northern U.S. and in Canada. Sprague (7) states that it appears to be native to the Pacific Northwest.

Because *Ophiobolus* is so widely distributed in the grass family, it is surprising that it has been reported so seldom as a troublemaker on turf in the U.S. In 1932, Monteith and Dahl (3) briefly mentioned its occasional occurrence. However, none of the recent general bulletins on turf diseases even lists the fungus. Some golf course superintendents from eastern Washington have reported seeing such diseased

spots previously and Dr. Marion Harris of Washington State has stated that several years ago he found *Ophiobolus* in a sample of turf from a golf course at Walla Walla, Wash.

In his excellent description of this disease, Smith (4, 6) stated that applications of lime favoured development of the disease. Lime had not been used in our plots and the pH was 6.0.

Smith (4) reported that the disease could be controlled by use of ammonium sulphate or mono-ammonium phosphate fertilizer. He (4) and Jackson (2) also

showed that certain organic mercury fungicides were beneficial. The fungus appeared to be suppressed in our plots following applications of PMAS (10 per cent phenylmercury acetate) at $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce in 10 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet every two weeks.

1. Scientific paper No. 2078. Western Wash. Exper. Sta., Puyallup, Wash. Work was conducted under Project No. 1394.
2. Plant pathologist, assistant agronomist, and research associate, respectively, Wash. State U., Western Wash. Exper. Sta., Puyallup, Wash.

Table 1. Lengths of asci and ascospores of *Ophiobolus graminis* var. *graminis*, *O. graminis* var. *avenae* and the Washington collection on *Agrostis tenuis* hort. var. *astoria*.

Fungus	Source of data	Asci- Ascospores	Ascospores
<i>O. graminis</i> var. <i>graminis</i>	Sprague (7)	90-115 μ	60-90 μ (mostly 70-80 μ)
<i>O. graminis</i> var. <i>avenae</i>	Turner (8)	120-138 μ *	80-140 μ (mostly av. 101-117 μ)
Wash. Collection on <i>A. tenuis</i>	—	100-164 μ ** (av. 134 μ)	88-124 μ ** (av. 100 μ)

* Average range in length of three isolates.
 ** Average length of 50 asci and ascospores.

With grateful acknowledgments to "The Golf Course Reporter".

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News



from the Sections

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

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

THE SECTION ANNUAL DINNER once again was very well attended. Sixty-four sat down and enjoyed, I feel sure, apart from the dinner, a nice social evening.

The Committee were sorry to hear that three of our invited guests were unable to attend owing to various circumstances of which the Secretary had been notified. They were: Mr. Carl Bretherton, Mr. F. W. Hawtree and Mr. D. V. Moss.

We were pleased to welcome the Chairman, G. Geddes, and a very old friend of our Section, C. A. Tydeman, still looking hale and hearty.

Our President, Mr. Wallis Arthur, proposed the toast for the Association. He expressed his pleasure in proposing the toast to such an enthusiastic body. The Southern Section were very conscious of the good work which the Association did in providing a means for greenkeepers to get together, discuss their problems and exchange experiences. The Southern Section would always continue to look to the National Association for guidance with confidence whenever it was needed. Golf was becoming more popular than ever and crowded conditions made greater problems for greenkeepers. At such times the need for a National Association was greater than ever. G. Geddes, Chairman of the Association replied to this toast. Mr. Stan Morton proposed a welcome to our visitors and the members of the trade to which E. Colmar Wood, M.B.E., Secretary of Crews Hill Golf Club, replied.

A.G.M.

The Section Annual General Meeting will take place at the Talbot Restaurant, on Wednesday, 10th June, at 6-30 p.m. We hope every effort will be made to come along.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome three new members: S. G. Ledger, Golf Club Cottage, Ravenswood, Crowthorne, Berks.; G. P. Moore, c/o Mid Ocean Club, Tuckers Town, Bermuda; E. J. C. Pitman, 55 Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, Surrey.

Association Ties

I now have Association Ties in stock and shall be pleased to send on application to any of my members who are still without one.

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

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

Increased Subscriptions

PLEASE WILL YOU NOTE THE INCREASE of subscriptions for next year, they are in the April journal, in the Secretary's notes.

Atco Visit

Our visit to the Atco works has been fixed for 17th September. We shall arrive at the works at 2-30 p.m., please let me know if you will be in the party to allow me to let Mr. Sargeson know in good time how many to expect.

President's Match

I shall be on holiday, 6th to the 20th June, and shall want to know before then, the team we shall be able to have against the President's Team, on Thursday, 25th June. I want as many as possible to play, to show Mr. Bretherton that we appreciate the work he puts in for us and the interest he shows.

NORTH-WEST

By V. Crabtree

Chairman:
T. BRENNAN
(Wilmslow G.C.)

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

Spring Tournament

OUR SPRING TOURNAMENT WILL be held at Romiley Golf Club, Goosehouse Green, Romiley, Cheshire, on Tuesday, 19th May, closing date for entries, 12th May. For your convenience and to help catering arrangements, please try to send your entries in time.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Club after the evening meal, this is your section, come and see what goes on and so ensure its efficiency. It's up to you! A presentation will be made to our ex-Secretary, Mr. B. Ellis, for thirty-six years of valuable service to our section.