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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.

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.

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GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE.



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NOVEMBER 1964

A golfer's idea of drowning his troubles is to knock his golf balls into the lake.—SIDNEY BRODY.

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

We looked at the Ankara Golf Course last month to see how sand greens worked. Members said they soon got the strength but were liable to hit the ball off the green when they went back to grass. Best results are obtained with local caddies who, when smoothing out the surface for their client, give an extra swish round the hole so that the ball will drop though inches off the line.

Needle matches tend to be won by the side with the best swisher. . . .

Thence to Aldeburgh, almost as dry this year as Turkey. J. Cassidy, who has been there for over thirty years, told us he had not mown his fairways since June.

Group Captain E. R. Berry is Secretary—Engineering is his speciality and he has found a new use for old Overgreens by removing every other blade from the Certes mowers and using the outfit on tees or elsewhere where a close but less fine cut is needed. The same idea has been used at Pannal. The Group Captain was there too. . . .

Members of the Llandeilo club in Carmarthenshire are visiting the new 100-acre site which they have bought for a new eighteen to replace their present nine. Enthusiasm for the game in South Wales is infectious and inter-club matches frequent. Thus there are several course extensions and transfers in this corner of Wales.

With land as cheap as £80 an acre in some areas a new course is a good deal more feasible here than in most English suburban areas. Of two very similar sites we have seen lately, likely to produce courses of the same length and quality, one cost £20,000 more than the other. Who said £1,000 a hole?

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TREE

TALK

by

JOHN STOBBS

Having taken a look last month at the American attitude to the Greenkeeper's place in golf, as highlighted in their greenkeeping magazines, it might be interesting to go on by taking a look at some of the other subjects the American Head Greenkeeper is always being advised about.

One of the simplest and most wide-open of them is that of trees and shrubs on golf courses, or, as they put it, "beautifying the course". Once again, the responsibility for the whole subject is thrown firmly—almost harshly—upon the Head Greenkeeper, who seems to be expected to take responsibility for just about anything.

That's right, really, of course; for breathes there a greenkeeper anywhere who wants anyone else interfering with his course, without yielding to him as, at least, the final arbiter of what's done, where, how and when.

Over here we look rather differently at the subject of trees on courses. Our

first interest is much more with their place as hazards and as shapers of holes than with their purely decorative effects. The two do combine, though: and combining them to best effect and purpose is something of an art.

Using Native Trees

First, what sort of trees and where? "Trees should blend with the landscape and native material is usually very desirable," says *The Greenkeepers' Reporter*. We could almost translate that as: "Use trees which grow readily on your ground, and put them where they look as if they belong." There's no doubt that this superficially over-simple advice is sound.

Think of all the courses where trees form, shape and provide special tactical hazards for play; and nearly all of them depend on trees growing naturally on the course, either with the holes designed around them, or with extra seedlings planted where the Greenkeeper thinks they can improve a hole. Often, the trees which have become a known and loved feature of the course have been self-sown from the seed carried by wind and bird from trees already around the course; and often they stand where they stand now simply because the Greenkeeper decided to let them grow where they started up.

Stop and Think

This can, in fact, be quite a point to bear in mind when carrying through the usual programme of trimming and clearing the rough, or even when trimming around existing bunkers. It's the work of a second to slice off a young tree four or five inches high, wherever it makes its own attempt on life. It may take a few seconds more to stop and think about it.

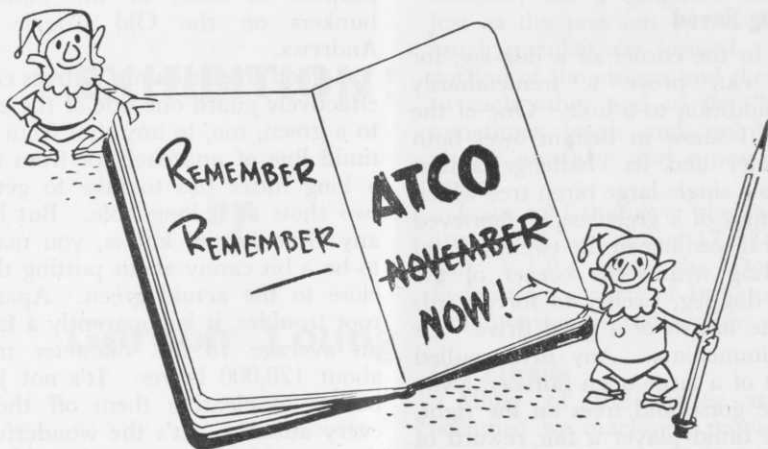
Of course, here conditions are on the Greenkeeper's side. If he lets it grow a bit, and then decides he doesn't like it there, he can always take it out. If he destroys it the moment it pops its little green nose up, then the choice is lost to him.

On the matter of trees, in fact, the Greenkeeper can always look ahead, maybe decades ahead (and he's probably the only man in the club who does). He's free to use his own imagination, and—especially if he is a keen golfer

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himself—to improve or embellish the course according to his own instincts for it.

There's a lot to be said, of course, especially nowadays, for trees, or even a single tree, as a trouble-free hazard. A tree doesn't normally have to be raked, trimmed, cut or replenished! And as a fair hazard to a wild shot—especially if it is kept clear underneath—it can be without equal.

A Seedling Saved

A tree in the corner of a dog-leg, for instance, can prove a tremendously effective addition to a hole. One of the best holes I know in Britain owes both its character and its challenge almost entirely to a single large birch tree which an old genius of a greenkeeper reprieved as a natural seedling in the twenties, and left standing within the corner of the left-hand dog-leg, twenty to forty yards beyond the length of a good drive. Its effect is immediate. Any drive pulled to the left of a large open fairway, away from some gorse and trees on the right, brings the timid player a fair reward of having to play a medium or long iron high over the tree, or else to hook the shot round it, or else to play safe to its right, which leaves him with a substantial chip to get his four. It's a very beautiful tree, too, this one, as a single birch can often be: and if there was any move now to cut down that little seedling the imaginative old greenkeeper allowed to grow, there'd be near-revolution in the club!

Effective Hazards

Another advantage of trees, particularly trees like birch, beech, chestnut or holly, is that they can be kept clear underneath, so that any man can find his ball, but still remain wholly effective hazards; and in that they are better than thick grass or gorse. They can almost make a world of difference to the charm of a course if planted between adjacent holes, so that as they grow, you can no longer see players coming the opposite way up an adjoining fairway. Used thus, they can enclose a hole in its own world: which tends to make it a more individual and enjoyable one.

Trees can also be used in a challenging and slightly off-beat way. The drive to the 12th at Wentworth's West Course, over the row of conifers, put even Arnold Palmer off his stroke this autumn: leading him to cock one up a bit and hook it into the woods on the left further on. There's a single tree, too, somewhere near the middle of the first fairway at Rosemount, at Blairgowrie in Perth, where it serves much the same tactical purpose as some of the mid-fairway bunkers on the Old Course at St. Andrews.

A good tree or clump of trees can most effectively guard one side of the entrance to a green, too, to any shot from a more timid line of approach, or from the line a long hitter has to take to get up in two shots at a long hole. But here, as any Greenkeeper knows, you may need to be a bit canny about putting the trees close to the actual green. Apart from root troubles, it is apparently a fact that an average 18 ins. diameter tree has about 120,000 leaves. It's not just the bother of clearing them off the green every autumn. It's the wonderful meal they provide for worms, just where you don't want to encourage the brutes!

Tree Nursery

The Americans seem to be all for each Greenkeeper making his own tree and shrub nursery: from which he can transplant chosen trees from year to year. In many of our bare courses, this may be an idea worth thinking about. But on most of them, one might guess, nature provides the nursery readily enough—wherever the rough grows thick and deep.

Which of our varieties are best for which sort of course is a matter of purely individual opinion. But, apart from the ever-present conifers of sand country, the ones which seem best to combine usefulness as hazards with beauty and grace might be: birch, beech, holly, chestnut, wild cherry and wild apple—easy enough to come by, all of them, as any boy knows who's grown all of them from gathered seed: let alone the vast free nursery nature provides everywhere, on heath, woodland and even hedgerow.

Maybe it's all a bit easier over here than in America, really.

WHAT

AN

EXHIBITION!

by

Gordon Young

"I'm going to Hurlingham today," I said at breakfast.

"Are you going to play?" my wife asked.

"Play what?"

"Polo."

I looked up, ready to explain. It did not need the clouds of smoke and the spurts of blue flame coming unheeded from the toaster to confirm that she was miles away. I could tell from the far-away look in her eyes that she was picturing me expensively mounted, galloping down the field, knee to knee with H.R.H. Perhaps sharing a pot of tea and a plate of cucumber sandwiches afterwards and—oh, what joy—him saying, "You must bring your wife home to meet mine."

It was cruel, but it had to be done. "They don't play polo there any more. Haven't done for a long time," I said.

"Oh!" crestfallen. "Well, why are you going there?"

"To see a Groundsmen's exhibition."

"The last time you went to one of those 'do's' you were the one that made the exhibition."

"That was a Greenkeepers' dinner." Realising immediately that I had made a tactical error by identifying the occasion so promptly, I grabbed a piece of smouldering toast, said "This is strictly business" and hurried out of the room.

Strictly business? — Not strictly true! It was a pleasure to visit the 19th Exhibition sponsored by the National Association of Groundsmen at the Hurlingham Club Grounds. Friday, 1st October, was a delightful autumn day, just as the previous one had been. As usual greenkeepers formed a large proportion of the visitors and their greetings to each other and to the "reps" were sometimes frank and uninhibited but always as warm and sunny as the day itself.

I am told that over the two days the attendance was about 17,000, including four V.I.P.s from the Dutch Sports Federation, a party of Italians and many Commonwealth and foreign visitors.

Old Friends

Many of the ninety stands were occupied by machines, proved over the years to be as near perfect as machines can be. Polished, gleaming and unscarred, some perhaps with small modifications, they may have looked different, at first glance, to those in so many greenkeepers' sheds, but they were the same old friends, tried and trusted.

Of the new machines, Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies were showing their 86-inch Motor Triple, which is of especial interest to those who have steeply banked areas of grass to keep in order. Also on their stand was a newly designed frame for the J.5 quintuple gang unit mowers, clever in its simplicity.

As usual the stand of Messrs. T. Parker & Sons was the largest and most comprehensive in the show. They have now expanded their interests to supplying driving range equipment and are marketing the Berkshire Golf Ball Collector. This is an ingenious machine which, towed by a baby tractor or even a motor-cycle, is capable of picking up 1,000 golf balls each cylinder revolution.

Also of interest to those who have driving ranges was the "Auto-T" being demonstrated by Golf Improvements Ltd. This semi-automatic tee mat unit

is not for sale but can be rented at a reasonable annual cost. One of its advantages is that between trips to the Bahamas and signing his name on golf club heads, the overworked professional can sit while teaching—only a slight movement of one foot being required to release each ball on to the tee.

Yellow Hose

Messrs. F. W. Berk & Co. were introducing the Nobel Tricoflex plastic hose. This hose has a bright yellow opaque cover, resistant to sun and wear, and a smooth inner tube which, it is claimed, boosts water flow by 30%. Between these two tubes is the "knitted Tergal" reinforcer which gives it its strength.

I was standing in the middle of Messrs. Horwood's stand thinking how popular I would be if I returned to the Club towing a Ryan Greensaire Aerator behind my little Fiat—or perhaps towing the Fiat behind the Aerator—that is, if I had £435 in my pocket, if . . . "How much is that mower?" I heard a voice behind me. The salesman gave the

required information. "Oh, gawd!" the voice again, with such pathetic vehemence that for a moment I thought it must belong to the younger Steptoe, "They'd never buy me that! I'm the Head Greenkeeper at —. They've never bought me a machine since I've been there!" He shuffled off the stand, a small, bowed figure muttering to himself. For me this was the one disturbing incident of the show. I cannot dismiss from my mind the thought of that poor fellow kneeling on the first tee, a pair of shears in his hand and forty blistering acres of clipping stretched out ahead of him.

Open-air Classroom

What a splendid open-air classroom this exhibition could be for teaching greenkeeper apprentices! All the knowledge, know-how, and wisdom of greenkeeping and groundsmanship concentrated in a relatively small area and readily imparted by the representatives of the various firms! It would be possible for apprentices to learn their craft in two days! Of course, each lad

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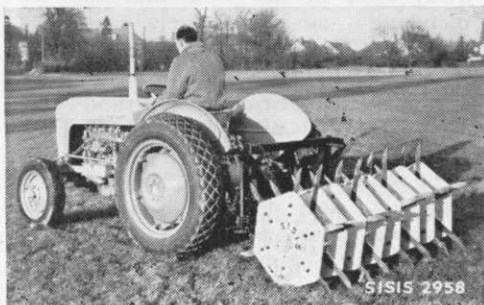
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would have to be a prodigy with an exceptional brain, a photographic memory and the stamina of an ox. Somewhere there must be young gentlemen with these qualifications . . . somewhere!?

They could learn most of what is worth knowing about turf, its cultivation and its protection on the stands of Messrs. Carters Tested Seeds Ltd., Cannock Agricultural Company Ltd. and Frank Keep (1958). Ltd. The knowledge thus assimilated being endorsed, summarised and supplemented, of course, by the mandarins of the Sports Turf Research Institute.

Tractors, mowers, piercers and a vast variety of machines could be sat on, crawled under, prodded, pulled, demonstrated and explained on the stands bearing such wellknown names as R. C. Craig, J. Gibbs, Thos. Green, W. Hargreaves, H. Pattison, Chas. H. Pugh and many others.

They could see the various methods of spraying water on the stand of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd. and of spraying weedkillers and insecticides by machines made by Pressure Jet Markers Ltd.

One new exhibit would, of course, have to be introduced—a stand showing the various types of golfers. It is essential that the young greenkeeper should know such well-known names as R. C. these by heart and how to deal with them—the Golfer Impatient Mk. 1, the Golfer Very Impatient Mk. 2, the Golfer Unreasonably Impatient Mk. 3 (the latter being the most common type), the Golfer Who Knows It All, the Golfer Without Etiquette. There are many others and new models are appearing every day.

Yes, it could be a very interesting course; the exhibition certainly was well worth the visit.

I wonder if the winner of 1 cwt. of hop manure in the grand raffle had to get home by public transport?

* * *



*One of the new machines exhibited.
The Sisis Auto-Rotorake.*

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News



from the Sections

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

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(Royal Porthcawl)

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Swansea, Glam.

Autumn Tournament

OUR AUTUMN MEETING WAS HELD at the Llantrisant Golf Club with the permission of the Captain and Committee. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following for the prizes we had for the competition:—Llantrisant Golf Club, including the Ladies' Section; our President, Mr. I. G. Nichols; May & Baker; and Mr. T. E. Lloyd. It is a great help to us to get such support and make the competition a bigger success.

Here are the results:—The Cardiff Cup with Tankard went to G. Philips; 2nd, D. G. Lord, pair of shoes; 3rd, A. Price, holdall; 4th, T. E. Lloyd, pair of overtrousers; 5th, J. Martin, 6 golf balls. There was also a competition for the 19-24 handicap and the 1st prize was won by H. Fry, senior; 2nd prize, W. Hooker. The competition was over a 27-hole aggregate; the following figures were returned:—1st and Cup, net 96; 2nd, 106½; 3rd, 107½; 4th, 111; 5th, 115½; over 18 handicap: 1st, 115; 2nd, 122. These figures are all net.

Subscriptions

If there are any members who have not yet paid their subscriptions, will they please send them to Mr. M. Geddes, 23 Fenton Place, Porthcawl, as soon as possible as they are now many months overdue. Thank you.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome D. Gude of the Holywell Golf Club to our Section. He has

just joined that club from the Southern Section and we all wish him well in his new job.

John O'Gorman

We would like to express our thanks to John O'Gorman's family for giving us a Cup in memory of their father. We shall be proud to play for it.

NORTH-EAST

By D. Earsman

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Autumn Competition

OUR AUTUMN COMPETITION WAS played over the course of the Northumberland Golf Club on Thursday, 17th September, by kind permission of their Committee.

Results: The best scratch score, J. Hayes, Northumberland Golf Club, 149. The Ransome Cup was won by C. Moseley, Blyth, for the best net score, 149. Other prize-winners: R. Derham, 152; T. Green, 153; J. Simpson, 153; R. Hinson, 154; D. Grey, 158; S. Pope, 159; W. Brown, 160; A. Nutman, 161; T. Oliver, 162.

Our President, Mr. L. A. Jones, attended the presentation. In his speech he said how pleased he was with the membership of the Section.

The prizes were kindly presented by Mr. Hilton, Captain of the Northumberland Golf Club, who said how pleased he was to welcome members of the Greenkeepers' Association. Our Chairman, Mr. J. Simpson, thanked the Committee for allowing us the use of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the very enjoyable meals, W. Dixen, Professional, for the use of the caddy cars. He also congratulated Mr. R. Raine and his staff on the splendid condition of the course and thanked Mr. L. Lowery for his help with the cards.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members: P. A. Bishop and T. W. Marr.

SOUTH-WEST

By A. Cockfield

Chairman:
G. GILBERT,
(Warminster G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
(Shamcastle G.C.)

Annual Tournament

AFTER A LAPSE OF THREE YEARS the South West Section returned to Warminster for its Annual Tournament. This course, situated high on the Wiltshire Downs, is always a popular venue for any tournament in this area and we greenkeepers are no exception. The fine fescue turf is the most important ingredient of the course, it makes for easy walking, it never dries out as the hard seaside links or parkland clay courses do and although our visit came at the end of a very dry summer the ball never ran along the fair-