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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.

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Tom Mason Retires

It is 55 years since Tom Mason was foreman in charge of constructing greens and tees on the last six holes at the Hendon Golf Club. A year later he became Assistant and in 1913, Head Greenkeeper. Now he has decided to retire.

Although wounded during his three years' service in the First World War, he was soon back on the job and in 1922 won the Greenkeepers' Open Tournament. Nine years later he won it a second time.

Meanwhile he was making a name in the greenkeeping world, inventing a new method for draining bunkers on heavy soils and laying down trial plots on his own course and elsewhere with different grass species treated on different lines. The knowledge gained led to his paper "The Acidity Treatment of Golf Greens" in 1931 and he was an obvious choice to represent the Southern Section on the Research Station's Practical Advisory Committee when it was set up in 1934. Other papers he wrote will be found in Nos. 11 and 27 of the Research Station's Journal.

Readers will also remember his contributions in these pages over the years and join us in wishing him many years of happy retirement. Fifty-five years at the same golf club and 51 years a member of this Association are themselves a measure of his contribution to his chosen craft.

* * *

Our President has received a letter from Mr. R. B. Dawson, O.B.E., M.Sc., F.L.S., and readers will like to see the following extract :—

Dear Mr. Bretherton,

I want to thank you most sincerely for the presents received from the B.G.G.A. No doubt you will pass on my thanks to the Executive when next they meet. The gifts took three forms—a Wood-Met trolley which we needed for the house; an electric shaver; and two ash-trays. These are all most useful and will be long cherished.

Yours sincerely,

R. B. Dawson.

**"You've
got to
keep them
happy!"**

by

John Stobbs

One of the more entertaining things about American golf magazines is the way in which they sometimes give us a glimpse of what things are likely to become over here—if we give them a chance.

A lot of the characteristics of American golf though could well be adopted over here, one of them being the apparent dedication and accepted status in the club of the Course Superintendent or Head Greenkeeper.

Surprisingly, this shows mainly in the continual harping on the theme that it is up to him to improve his status and authority even further. He is already expected to be able to take time off to make speeches to local groups of people

on more or less any aspect of his job. He also seems to have the right to post his own notices and bulletins on the club notice board, and to play a vital part in planning his course's upkeep for several years ahead, as well as working out the financial budget to cover it.

For many Head Greenkeepers over here, this involves more time than they can reasonably spare from their practical duties, but the American is being continually badgered from all sides to become ambitious altogether: to take courses in salesmanship, for instance, so that he can "sell" himself and his ideas to the professional, the members, and, not least, to the new Chairman of the Greens Committee, who has made a fortune out of manufacturing garbage cans and now addresses himself with a dangerous self-confidence to the task of interfering with the course and making a darned nuisance of himself—if he's not quickly made an ally.

Freedom to Work

Again and again in American Golf literature—and not least in the magazine of the American Association of Greenkeepers—the Greenkeeper is reminded that his freedom to get on with his job and do what only he knows needs doing, without infuriating interference and batteries of unreasonable complaints, depends entirely upon how he handles the golfers themselves and their elected representatives.

Often it sounds as if he's being advised sympathetically on the psychology of coping with a shower of unruly, spoilt and altogether difficult children.

It could be that not a few Head Greenkeepers over here have much the same feeling about their own members! It could be too—and perhaps the more so in their case—that the rules of tactics continually put forward in America might apply here too.

Allowing for the usual American self-consciousness about this sort of thing, and the peculiar ethic they seem to have of over-dissimulated good fellowship (which somehow appears to grow more genuine with continual usage) here is what the usual "Advice to the Greenkeeper on the proper handling of members" seems to amount to:

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1. It's not enough to know your job and the quirks and oddities of your own turf and soil. You must also make sure that everyone knows how well you know it. Always be ready to talk clearly about it, and explain things to members. For instance, you are bound to have a darned good reason for doing something to the course which some members don't like—even if it is only instinct of long experience. If you're always ready to explain it (or, as they'd put it over there, "sell" it), you can damp down a lot of complaints at source.

2. Show how satisfied you are with the life itself, and proud of your course, and inspire your staff with that feeling. That sounds all too American-earnest doesn't it? But it's certainly true as far as your standing with the members goes. You can get away with even the most outrageous personal dictatorship about the course if the members, somehow, feel proud of you for it. So they seem to think over there, anyway!

3. Use two weapons, psychology and curiosity, against the man who wants to interfere—whether its the new Chairman of the Greens Committee, or just one of the club's back markers beefing about the greens as usual.

New Chairman!

With the new Chairman of the Greens Committee, rule 1, say the Americans, is—Get in first! Make your own plans for exactly what you want to do during his first year of office, then go and explain them to him in vast detail and ask him if he's got any suggestions. Don't wait for him to get after you with his own ideas. How this might work over here, I'm not qualified to say! But

it's certainly true that most new Chairmen of Greens Committees have no real idea of the sheer amount and complexity of work you're already doing every year.

The other rule for coping with him, and with the low handicap man on the rampage, is to *pick his brains*. Neither of them would be where they are, either in the club or in the game, if they hadn't got some kind of ability of character and intelligence. Just as you sometimes get a good original suggestion from a member of your staff, so you may even be able to dig one out of the pate of the Chairman of the Greens Committee! And if one of the back markers is beefing, you can sort out the trouble more quickly, and with the least fuss, by trying to see things from his point of view. Often, in fact, you can make him happy easily enough by merely suggesting how you could do something about it and when might be the best time.

Looking Ahead

This will normally be several months ahead, at the earliest! If it proves to be something unessential, he'll forget about it just about as soon as you will. If there is something in what he's on about, though, you'll have it under control long before there's any danger of the Greens Committee trying to foist on you some remedy you don't like.

Simpler to preserve a splendid isolation and a traditional secretiveness about your own intentions, say, "perhaps" to everything—and then do just what you intended to anyway!

Maybe now. But, judging from America, it doesn't look as if that's the way the wind's blowing.

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A

Course

Record

Played by David Hulley

Described by J. J. Dearlove

Hillsborough Golf Club on Thursday, 6th August, 1964. The course record has been held by home professional Jack Shanks with 67 since 1947.

Weather conditions were excellent and the course was slowly drying out and playing shorter than usual. The greens were rather slow, having been left uncut since the previous Monday for technical reasons.

On to the first tee strode the hefty Sheffield and Yorkshire player, David Hulley, looking every bit the powerful golfer he is in a powder blue attire, carrying his drainpipe bag with a mere 8 clubs which looked too small alongside his burly 14 stone frame.

A Good Beginning

The first hole, 430 yards uphill, with a very narrow fairway and a gloating out of bounds adjoining the left of the fairway—a hole feared by most—only required a drive, 4 wood and a single putt to David.

No. 2 hole, a short 136 yards, was no problem with an 8 iron and 2 putts.

No. 3, the most difficult on the course, proved its reputation and needed 3 shots to find the green, a single putt here kept the card tidy with a 4.

Holes 4 and 5, of similar length of 380 yards, needed 7 shots each, including 3 putts.

Poor Chip Shot

Missing the next green, a short 193 yards, with a 6 iron and a poor chip shot—by David's standard—to within 4 yards of the pin, the putt lipping the hole costing a 4.

The dog-leg to the left 8th was simple enough with a careful 5 iron from the tee, followed by a 9 iron and single putt.

The controversial 9th proved a little difficult, missing the green with his second shot as most players do, David had to chip back and a single putt again saved the situation.

The 10th, a downhill hole of 190 yards, proved too short for David's 8 iron and he was required to chip back and hole the putt for a bogey 3.

Expensive 11th

The 11th proved disastrous and the only 5 on the card was for this 470 yards uphill hole.

The 348 yards 12th proved very easy with a drive and 2 putts, one being from the apron.

Planting an 8 iron 3 feet from the pin at the 141 yards 13th and a single putt resulted in the only 2 on the card.

The 14th and 15th were uneventful enough with 4's on both.

The 16th caused a little trouble, but a long putt again helped out.

Trying to hit the green at the 296 yards 17th with a 3 iron, David came a bit unstuck and needed a wedge and a raking putt to chalk up another 3.

Only 2 Shots

The longest and last hole on the course of 500 yards, believe it or not, was reduced to a drive of a 9 iron and a single putt.

A very jubilant David left the last green with a 63 and shattered the course record by 4 shots.

Only 25 putts were required on this very fine round, one that may not be beaten for many years to come.

Another member playing in the same medal competition off 10 handicap returned a net 62 to win first prize, including David's halfcrown!

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HEAD GREENKEEPER—HENDON GOLF Club will shortly require a Head Greenkeeper to fill the vacancy arising on the 31st December, 1964, when Tom Mason retires after 55 years' service with the Club. This is a very well paid position, and applicants will be expected to be men who are highly experienced in their profession. Free accommodation is provided in a new 5-room cottage on the site. Applicants (preferably under 45) are expected to have special knowledge of greenkeeping problems which arise on a clay sub-soil. Applications (which will be treated in strict confidence) should be made in writing giving details of experience to

reach the Secretary, Hendon Golf Club, Holders Hill Road, Hendon, London, N.W.4, not later than the 19th October.


HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED FOR Whitby Golf Club. No accommodation available. Experienced men please apply to Secretary, Whitby Golf Club, Low Straggleton, Whitby, Yorks.

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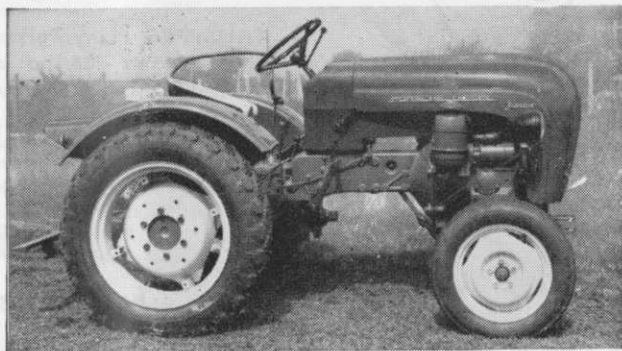
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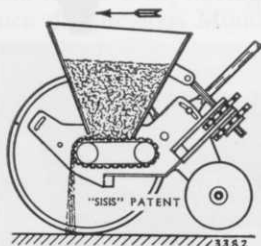
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