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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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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR : F. W. HAWTREE



FOUNDED 1912

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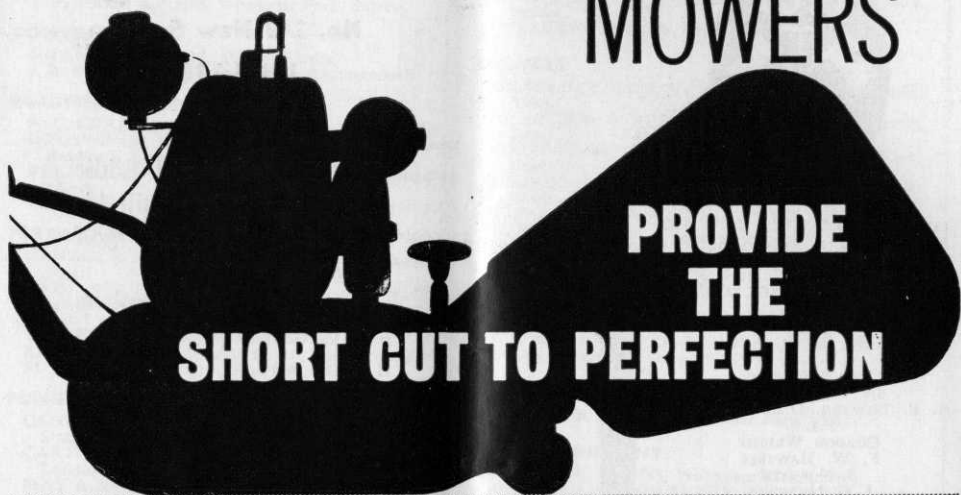
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Grants

“If you are a taxpayer you will, no doubt, be interested to know that work has now started on a magnificent new club house for the Royal Winchester Golf Club.” The article in a Sunday newspaper at the end of May went on to describe how government grants had been made to this golf club and others, implying strongly that the taxpayer’s money was being spent on luxuries for the few. There is certainly a danger that this kind of journalism will find material to feed on if all golf clubs get the idea that new locker-rooms can be partly built at public expense. The money is apparently available—£40 million every year for the development of sport. So far as golf is concerned, the urgent need is for more space to play—not more space to store clubs.

Many deserving cases can get no help because work has already started or because they have too short a tenure of their ground. At Llandeilo in South Wales the club was obliged to start work on its new course because it has to quit its present land next year. But starting work disqualifies them from a grant.

Quality

Another drawback to the scheme as it now operates is that grants are made with no assurance as to the quality of what will be done. It is no use adding nine holes to a golf course unless they are to give permanent satisfaction. Several “do-it-yourself” jobs will help fill the immediate need, but produce dissatisfaction in the future as their defects show up.

Any scheme for helping golf is laudable, but this one needs to be both more flexible and more selective if it is to avoid old-fashioned reproaches about helping the rich man’s game.



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MOWING

By

G. C. MACADAM, S.D.H.,

Advisory Officer,

The Sports Turf Research Institute

Mr Macadam writes about some basic principles of a basic job for apprentices and newcomers to greenkeeping.

DURING the growing season a very high proportion of the working time of the greenkeeping staff will be spent on mowing the greens. The efficiency with which this is carried out largely influences the quality of the grass swards and the putting surfaces. It is important to understand the principles of the work in order to obtain the best results.

Each time a golf green is mown and the cuttings removed, the soil is deprived of some of its nutrients. Cutting therefore should be aimed at removing the minimum amount of foliage and this calls for regular cutting at a reasonable height of cut. Mowing irregularly and at long intervals is harmful because a greater weight of foliage is removed than by more frequent mowing.

Delayed Cutting

In practice, greens mown three times per week when growth is relatively vigorous usually provide good conditions for satisfactory putting. When the cutting is done must be determined locally but Monday, Wednesday and Friday are usually set aside as "mowing days". It is, however, an advantage at the weekend if the cutting could be delayed until Friday afternoon or even Saturday morning, as greens mown early on Friday are often slow to putt on by Sunday when golf nowadays is usually at its height. During the spring and autumn periods when growth is less vigorous, mowing might only be required once or twice per week but uneven and straggly growth should not be allowed to form.

It is often thought that continued close cutting brings about a reduction in the weed population. Whilst this is

true up to a point, keen mowing will not eliminate the majority of weeds which establish in golf greens. Many weeds of turf such as dandelions, daisies, pearlwort, clover and yarrow are capable of surviving and spreading under very close heights of cut and over-close mowing would only reduce the competition which the grasses can offer them. In addition, continued keen mowing slowly results in a reduction in grass vigour and density. This condition favours the invasion of moss, thus creating a further problem.

During the main growing season when steady grass growth is obtained, a height of cut of 3/16th in. is the desirable minimum on golf greens. However, during any periods of prolonged drought this could well be increased to ¼ in. During drought, growth is hampered and a little extra cover helps the turf withstand the moisture shortage. This is not so important where adequate artificial watering can be done and indeed might be undesirable as an increase in the cutting height might allow straggly growth to develop.

How High?

During the early spring and late autumn periods mowing is best carried out at a height of ¼-5/16 in. according to conditions. During the spring 5/16 in. is quite close enough until signs of fairly settled growth are noticed when the blade can be lowered to ¼ in. and ultimately to the minimum as growth further improves. During the autumn the reverse order should be observed and it might even be necessary to continue topping the grass occasionally right into the early winter if the season remains open.

There are no hard and fast rules as to the week or month when the height of cut should be raised or lowered as this depends entirely on growing conditions and the prevailing weather. The greenkeeper is the person who should be allowed to decide just what is best as his own experience will have taught him.

Adjustment of mowing heights should be carefully done so that an even cut is

assured. Most modern mowers suitable for golf greens are of the roller type. With these the height of cut is the measured distance between a straight edge placed across the front and rear rollers and the actual cutting edge of the sole plate. This distance should be set and checked at each end of the sole plate and again in the middle.

Fine Adjustment

The cutting cylinder should also be finely adjusted to the sole plate. If the setting is too tight the machine will be hard to drive and if it is too slack a clean cut will not be obtained. A simple test is to rotate the cutting cylinder against a piece of paper placed on the edge of the sole plate and adjust the setting until a satisfactory cut has been obtained with the cutting cylinder running freely.

The question often arises whether grass cuttings should be allowed to fly or should be boxed off. It is true to say that the regular return of cuttings conserves plant foods and provides some organic matter to the surface soil. This assists drought resistance and helps

give the turf a good colour. However, the accumulation of organic matter in the base of the turf favours the activity of earthworms and can lead to the spread of weeds and weed grasses. The continual return of cuttings also makes the green surfaces soft and spongy and more susceptible to disease attack. In view of this grass clippings are usually best removed at all times but if the surfaces are completely free of any weed the occasional cut without the box might be beneficial in helping the greens to withstand a severe drought.

Finally the care of the mowing machine should never be forgotten. After each day's work the mower should be thoroughly cleaned of all grass cuttings and any worm casts which may have adhered to the rollers. Regular lubrication should be a habit and the machine should be stored neatly in the shed where it is not moved around unnecessarily when obtaining other implements. It should also be kept away from mixing bases to avoid corrosion which may occur from fertilizer dusts.



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The Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship

Hon. Secretary,
B. M. Wood, F.C.I.S.,
St Ives Research Station,
Bingley, Yorkshire.
Tel.: Bingley 2484.

Chairman: F. W. Hawtree.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF THE JOINT COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ST IVES MANSION, BINGLEY,
ON MONDAY, 26TH APRIL 1965.

Present: Messrs F. W. Hawtree
(Chairman), J. Parker (Vice-Chairman),
J. R. Escritt, G. Herrington, D. L.
McDiarmid, R. B. Moffat (substituting
for Mr W. Bradford), W. A. W.
Sivewright, and B. M. Wood (Hon.
Secretary).

Apologies: Apologies for absence
were reported from Messrs W. Bradford,
H. Fry and G. Breen-Turner.

*Minutes of First Annual General
Meeting:*

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the first Annual
General Meeting of the Joint Council
held on 20th April 1964 were taken as
read, approved and signed by the Chair-
man.

Financial Account 1964: The Hon.
Secretary presented the Receipts and
Payments Account for the year to 31st
December 1964. This showed receipts
amounting to £311 5s. against payments
of £238 12s. 4d., leaving a balance
carried forward of £72 12s. 6d.

RESOLVED:

That the Receipts and Payments
Account for the year ended 31st
December 1964 as presented by the Hon.
Secretary be and is hereby received and
adopted.

Honorary Secretary's Report: The
Hon. Secretary reported that by and
large the scheme had got away to an
encouraging start. Much interest had
been shown in the scheme by golf clubs
though not all of those which had
requested information had taken the
next step of registering apprentices.

From the inception of the scheme on
1st January 1964 to date, 38 sets of

deeds had been issued and 15 appren-
tices had been registered, though a
further batch of applications would be
considered at an ordinary meeting
following this Annual General Meeting.

The main difficulty experienced in
the working of the scheme had been
the provision of suitable courses in
background sciences. The Joint
Council having an insufficient number
of apprentices in any one area to justify
the provision of special courses it had
been necessary to fall back on existing
courses, mostly in general horticulture.
He believed, nevertheless, that the Joint
Council's policy of insisting on some
formal instruction being given in
theoretical subjects was the right one.
A dossier of courses which can be pro-
vided throughout the country had been
built up as the result of a national
survey undertaken at the Joint Council's
request. The whole question of the
training of groundsmen—which term
could be taken in its general context
to include the training of greenkeepers
—was under investigation by the
Department of Education and Science
and both Mr Escritt and the Secretary
had attended the first meeting of
interested bodies. The interests of the
Joint Council's apprentices would, of
course, be kept in mind at any future
meetings attended.

The Secretary had addressed meetings
of the Association of Golf Club Secreta-
ries in Harrogate and of the B.G.G.A.,
Sheffield Section, the latter being a joint
meeting with Chairmen of Green Com-
mittees. There was a possibility of
his being asked to address a future
meeting of Sheffield and District Union
of Golf Club representatives. Every
opportunity of publicising the scheme
through the Institute's publications was
taken through the courtesy of the
Director and occasional articles were
supplied to Editors of Golfing publica-
tions.

The Northumberland Union of Golf
Clubs had requested assistance in the
preparation of a circular to their mem-
ber clubs and this had been given.

The Hon. Secretary concluded by
referring to the present climate through-



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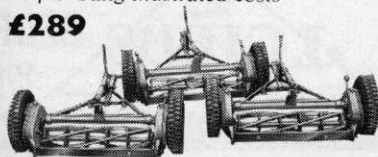


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out the country which was generally favourable towards the training scheme and he stated that this had undoubtedly been reflected in the helpful attitude shown towards him by all with whom he had been in contact.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Hon. Secretary be received with thanks.

Election of Officers: On separate motions it was RESOLVED that officers elected for the ensuing year be as follows:—Chairman, F. W. Hawtree, Vice-Chairman, J. Parker, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, B. M. Wood.

CORRESPONDENCE

F. W. HAWTREE, ESQ.,
Editor
British Golf Greenkeeper

Will you please accept my sincere thanks for the very kind tribute you pay me in your Journal on the occasion

of my impending retirement from the Artisan Golfers' Association. Your generous sentiments are deeply appreciated. But it strikes me that a brief addendum is desirable to your notes. Prior to my 30 years of office as Hon. Secretary of the A.G.A. it was my privilege and good fortune to serve for 13 years as Assistant Secretary to your father, the late F. G. Hawtree, who was the Association's first Secretary. His kindness, his wise guidance, his friendship, were qualities for which I have ever been most grateful and if any applause seems merited for services I may have rendered I pray it may be shared with F. G. H. Beyond any shadow of a doubt the solid foundations on which the B.G.G.A. and the A.G.A. are now firmly established are due entirely to the devoted efforts and sound principles of F. G. Hawtree.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. GARDNER.

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What it means to be a Greenkeeper's Wife

"I feel that I have been subsidising golf clubs all my married life." Those words were written by the wife of a greenkeeper, who, throughout the 33 years of her married life, has had to go out to work to supplement the family income.

The letter is her reaction to my notes last week, when greenkeepers' problems, ranging from the apprentice scheme to poor pay and lack of support by the clubs, were given a good airing. This is what Greenkeeper's Wife has to say:

"Being the wife of a greenkeeper I read Tee Up on Tuesday—my husband has to, as it is the only way he gets to know what is going on at his club! At the time we were married, 33 years ago, our wage was 35s. (dole was 26s. man and wife), but my husband, loving his job, was prepared to work six full days every week, apart from Good Friday and Christmas Day, when the course was closed.

"Then came the war. He was called up in 1940 at 31 years of age, did five years' service, then it was back to his job—for £4 10s.

"He moved to another club for £6 10s., and after 19 years' service there his monthly cheque for a five-and-a-half-day week, and every other Sunday morning, with stoppages, is £42 4s. We have to stretch it in a five-week month.

"I have been able to work, thank God, but I still feel that I have been subsidising golf clubs all my married life. I am sorry we shall not live to see the day when there are no greenkeepers.

"You may ask: Why, after 43 years, is he still in such a trade?

"It has been for the love of the game and matching his wits against nature and the two-legged rabbits.

OTHER HALF

"I haven't written this as a tale of woe, but to let you see a bit of a greenkeeper's other half. Sorry I cannot publish my name, but I swear all I have said is true and, thanks to you, more people may be made to take notice."

As a comparison, to the pay quoted by Greenkeeper's Wife, it is worth noting that the Executive Committee of the Greenkeepers' Association after a country-wide survey, recently issued the following scale as a guide to clubs—Head greenkeeper, £16 to £20 per week; first assistant £13 to £13 10s.; greenkeepers £12.

And they point out that in the top scale the lower limit represents comparative newness to a responsible post and the upper limit will often be exceeded at busy clubs.

Another recommendation is that a club operate a pension scheme which guarantees a man not less than half (including the State pension) his income at retirement.

*With acknowledgments
to the "Sheffield Telegraph"*

Situations Vacant

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Watering



'Supplex' Sprinkler

This triple-bore plastic hose is minutely perforated throughout its length. One end is closed so that when the perforations are opened by water pressure, a *fine* rain-like spray is produced which soaks without flooding – in a rectangular pattern. Supplex is the logical choice for rectangular areas. Lengths are available to cover, in one operation, tennis courts, bowling greens and cricket pitches.

'Tricoflex' Reinforced Plastic Hose

For conveying water, Tricoflex is three ways superior to rubber hose. Tricoflex withstands the kind of rough handling that soon destroys a rubber hose; it weathers better – it is particularly resistant to long exposure to the sun – and its light weight and suppleness make it easier to coil and carry. Tricoflex hose is constructed of 3 layers: black P.V.C. inner tube, with mirror finish for optimum water flow, knitted jacket of 'Tergal' polyester fibre and an opaque vivid yellow outer cover of polythene. Tricoflex has been proved in rugged tests on building sites – will last you years!



Moss Control

Berk Moss Control compounds are based on mercury – this is present in an insoluble and harmless form. Mercury not only kills moss but prevents subsequent growth – it can control moss for up to three years. Three compounds are available: the choice depends on the individual requirements and the time of the year.

M.T.S. (Mercurised Turf Sand)

This is applied at 4 oz. per square yard from early spring to late summer. It kills moss immediately, reduces weed population and, because it contains a quick-acting nitrogen fertilizer, stimulates grass growth.

Moss Killer

This is applied at 4 oz. per square yard at any time of the year but especially prior to normal autumn treatments. Moss Killer does not contain a grass stimulant but gives rapid control over moss.

Moss Eradicant

A special formulation to control the following crop of moss while killing the immediate crop gradually – so there is no disfigurement from dead moss.

Hints on Moss Control

1. Moss will always invade and colonise neglected turf.
2. Do not rely on raking alone to remove moss. This spreads moss spores and fragments which can re-infest the site. Always use a moss killer in conjunction with raking.
3. Correct turf management should always be practised. After using a moss killer, the factors responsible for the appearance of moss should be removed.
4. Some common causes for the appearance of moss are:
 - *Poor drainage and aeration
 - *Bare patches
 - *Over-rolling and compaction
 - *Acid and undernourished soils
 - *Persistent close mowing.