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GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR : F. W. HAWTREE



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No. 240 New Series

MARCH 1965

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*Chasing that little ball around
Seemed a harmless sport.
But now I'm rather worried
By the latest news report.**

*While we stay home and baby-sit
Deserted by the daddies—
Oo la la! Do you suppose
The cads will chase the caddies!*

* "French Girl Caddie Arrives To Teach
At Golf Club."

—JEAN LOVERING.

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EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: SANDerstead 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 14/- for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. LATEST COPY DATE: 8th of month prior to insertion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in whole or in part is prohibited. This Magazine shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be re-sold, lent, hired out, or otherwise disposed of. *Contributions and photographs of interest are invited.*

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

We are sorry to hear that Tom Chamberlain, Head Greenkeeper at Highgate Golf Club, has been in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery and send our best wishes.

* * *

Unfortunately owing to uncertain health, Mr. A. J. E. Cook, Lawn Mower Sales Representative in the East Midlands for Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, retired at the end of 1964. In future that territory will be covered by extending the areas of other representatives.

* * *

The Editor, "The British Golf Greenkeeper".

Dear Sir,

We are writing to apologise for any false impression given to your readers in your January issue by your publishing our News Release on the visit of The Links Superintendent of St Andrews to Ipswich.

Inadvertently we gave the impression that they had "insisted on standardising on Ransomes mowers for all cutting work". We are aware that other equipment is in use at St Andrews and apologise to any other manufacturers of grass cutting equipment who have been caused embarrassment by our statement.

Yours faithfully,
Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd.

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Many New Courses in America

By
JOHN STOBBS

Since it is reckoned to cost something around £130,000 to build a new golf course in America nowadays — and that doesn't begin to cover the cost of the clubhouse and other buildings — it is really remarkable how great is the flood of new courses all the time over there.

Over here only the first faint signs of a real expansion in the numbers of courses are making themselves felt. Still, any expansion at all is good for the prospects for greenkeeping as a way of life; so maybe the trend is worth watching, with an eye to its possible ultimate effects.

One wholly good thing about the way golf has developed in America is the vastly more liberal availability of the game to all sections of the community. Pretty well any sizeable town has its municipal golf courses, and indeed by now just about half the courses in America are open to the public on roughly the same basis — if nothing like as cheaply — as our tiny minority of public courses over here.

The reason for the discrepancy between the ordinary man's opportunities for golf in these islands of private clubs, and in America, seems to be simply that far more people in America are prepared, and can afford, to pay a bit more for their golf. There, over a third of all new courses are being built not by the Municipalities or private club themselves, but by speculative builders, "real estate developers" as they call them there; and the reasons for building these new courses seem to be as much commercial as recreational.

Package Deal

Often there's a sort of package deal with the Municipality. The Municipality specifies the type of course it wants and how it's to be run, and sometimes puts up the cost of the land. The "Real Estate" man buys the rest, builds the course with municipal support and encouragement, and relies for his profits largely upon the value of the houses he builds around it. Those actually adjoining the course fetch a substantially higher price than those which don't.

The whole thing is worked out on a very thorough assessment of how many people live, and are likely to live in future, within an area up to 20 miles from the chosen spot. (Americans look on a 15 mile drive much as we look on a three mile one.) The developers take a pretty close look, too, at the prospects of any other "Daily Fee" courses within range. They also analyse local average income per head, and how fast prosperity is growing in the area.

Sometimes developers miscalculate, and new courses fail. But in a land where the population has increased by a third since the last war, the general situation is on their side.

Investments

If things look encouraging, they reckon to lay out over £30,000 on about 200 acres of land, over £50,000 on building the course, over £15,000 on a course-watering system, and around £7,000 each on a course architect and on course equipment. Financial backing may come from banks, insurance companies, or partly from Federal and State development agencies.

It is, in fact, all very much a reflection of the general American attitude to things: finding ways of expanding the demands of ordinary people for the ordinary things of life. As one writer puts it: "Any real estate developer needs the golf course to promote area traffic. The completed golf course creates an area of stability and an atmosphere of vibrance which is considered vital to the home-selling industry."

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CARTERS SPECIAL GRASS FEEDER No. 1

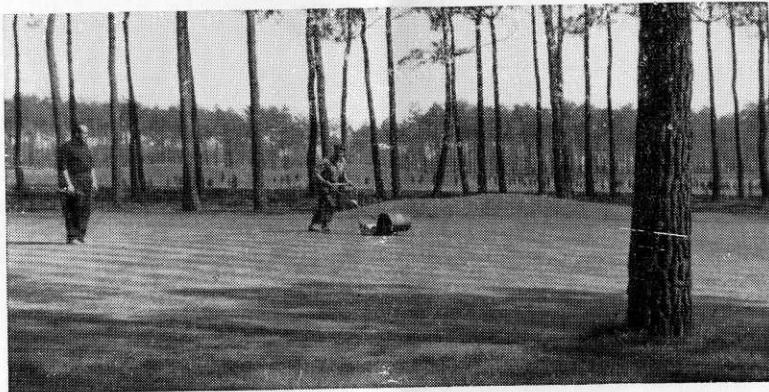
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1 cwt. 58/6; 5 cwt. at 57/3 per cwt.; 10 cwt. at 56/- per cwt.;
Per ton £53 10s. 0d.

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Ideal for Spring renovation of Winter-Playing Pitches, Golf Fairways, and other large areas of grass. Apply at 5 cwt. per acre, preferably during damp weather.

1 cwt. 45/-; 5 cwt. at 43/9 per cwt.; 10 cwt. at 42/6 per cwt.;
Per ton £40 0s. 0d.



Full details of Grass Seeds, Fertilisers and Maintenance Equipment are now available in our "Spring Price List", post free on request

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It isn't, in fact, all done for the love of golf, or even for the sake of giving more people a chance to play it!

Be that as it may, the resulting expansion in golf is certainly doing the greenkeeping profession over there nothing but good. The University of Massachusetts now offers scholarships to "High School" golfers planning to take up turf management as a career; and everywhere the chances for the ambitious young "Course Superintendent" are the wider for the general situation.

Meanwhile the pure demand for golf there presses to such an extent that the experiment of floodlighting whole courses, first tried out 40 years ago and abandoned, has been resuscitated. Tall Pines, a private club near Philadelphia, started it in autumn of 1963. Louisquisset, a public course on Rhode Island, followed — on the general theory that although only 50 per cent of American courses are open to the public in general, over three-quarters of American golfers play on them. The

lighting system used is a 1,000-watt mercury floodlight developed by General Electric. It gives lighting about five times the strength of ordinary American street lighting for tees and greens, and about half that brightness through the green. These two courses both found that special nightplay green fees more than covered the costs on setting up and running the lights; and other courses have been following in their wake.

Way Ahead !

It all looks a long way ahead of anything we have yet — or perhaps want — over here. By no means all our public courses are full up during weekdays, especially in winter. Would more people want to play in the evening after work if courses were floodlit for them?

Not for a year or two yet perhaps. After all, we're only just persuading the average municipal council that it's worth while even to think about providing a public course at all.

From Suttons-with care

FOR SPRING RENOVATION

Suttons No. 23 mixture of grasses for tees 3/- per lb. 300/- per cwt.

Suttons, of course, are able to supply a full range of excellent mixtures for *greens, approaches, fairways*, etc. These consist of the finest strains, perfectly blended and economically priced. Full details and prices on request.

FOR SPRING FEEDING

Suttons 'Greensward' fertilizer—unequalled for use on all fine turf. Derived from high-grade organic materials (almost 50%). Ensures a *gradually available* supply of plant nutrients. Apply 2 oz. per square yard in Spring. May be used at lighter rate of application as tonic dressing during summer.

1 cwt. 69/6

5 cwt. @ 68/6 per cwt.

10 cwt. @ 66/6 per cwt.

20 cwt. @ 64/6 per cwt.

Suttons 'Fairward' fertilizer—a most economically priced, chemically balanced fertilizer, specially prepared for use on fairways. Apply 5 cwt. per acre in Spring.

10 cwt. @ 37/9 per cwt.

20 cwt. @ 37/- per cwt.

40 cwt. @ 36/- per cwt.

80 cwt. @ 34/- per cwt.

120 cwt. @ 31/6 per cwt.

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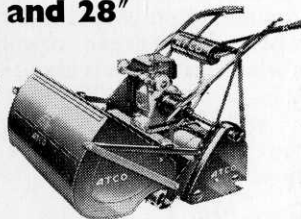
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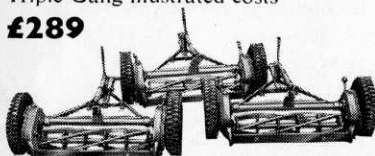
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Unique—because individual units can be 'ganged' in multiples of one to nine units. Three models are available The Triple Gang illustrated costs

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THE PERIODIC REPORT

By PAUL N. VOYKIN

IT'S a long way from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to Chicago, and even further to San Diego. But the longest distance we all must travel is the road toward becoming successful green superintendents.

After four years of experience in Canada, I continued my apprenticeship at Olympia Fields CC in Chicago. From there I went to another private club and, three years later, made a change to a private club in Chicago's north side where greater challenges and opportunities were offered. After a short time there, I asked myself, "How can I improve my executive position as green superintendent of this million dollar plant?" I wondered what some of the highly respected superintendents in my area did to attain their success. What keys to success did they possess?

I talked with these outstanding men and learned that one of the keys in their administration was submitting periodic reports to the green committee; and this is what this forum is about—Management Aids.

I will illustrate what I mean by giving you excerpts from some of my own monthly reports.

Case No. 1

This is from my February, 1962 report on weather:

"*Weather*—Fifty-one inches of snow has fallen to the end of February. The record snowfall was in 1952 with a total of 66 inches. We may catch up yet! The record rainfall we had last fall, combined with the almost record snowfall this winter, makes for a very wet golf course this spring."

Case No. 2

Here is the weather report from the following month of March:

"*Weather*—We have just experienced one of the worst winters on record,

snow-wise. It started on December 9th, and kept accumulating until 60 inches fell, and it wasn't until March 23rd that ground finally began to show, along with something else, winter-kill. This is a more serious condition than snow-mold, and is usually the result of poor drainage."

Case No. 3

Now, I will present a complete report to give you an idea of how they are set up. Here is my June report:

"*To:* Mr John Doe, Green Chairman, and members of the Green Committee.

"*Subject:* June Progress Report for the Grounds Department.

"*Weather*—The weather has been dry, with seven days in the nineties, which is normal for June. We watered 20 out of 30 nights and frequently in the mornings.

"*Greens*—The greens have made an excellent comeback, and all have the same color and putting quality. The exception is the 17th green, which is being cut higher because, as yet, the roots of the newly laid sod have not made a strong contact with the soil. Until the roots penetrate deeper into the soil and make the soil more friable, the green will be on the hard side.

"*Tees*—All the tees have been fertilized with 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet of 5-5-0. We are letting the grass around the tees get longer for the hot weather. The area around the tees has been cut at $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch. We will now cut it at $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This setting will make the aprons around the tees look much better.

"*Fairways*—I believe we are one of the few clubs in Chicagoland that has clover-free fairways; in fact, at this time, we are free of any weeds. Clover is one of the most difficult weeds to get rid of, and the chemicals used to eradicate it are very potent. By carefully making tests on plots and spraying only on cool days, we have accomplished complete eradication of this weed with no damage to the grass."

I then go on to talk about irrigation, construction, and end up with miscellaneous items under title of "Porridge

Talk about perfect turf?

Walk about perfect turf!

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'CLOVOTOX' Selective weedkiller for controlling clovers and other weeds in turf.

'DICOTOX' Showerproof selective weedkiller for economical general weed control in turf.

'DICOTOX' EXTRA Four times as concentrated as 'Dicotox'.

'SUPERTOX' 30 Broad spectrum selective weedkiller for turf. Kills weeds *and* clovers.

'MERSIL' Concentrated turf fungicide with rapid activity. In powder form for application as a suspension in water.

'MERFUSAN' Turf fungicide with similar range of action to that of 'Mersil'. In powder form for dry application.

DDT CONCENTRATE Insecticide for the control of turf pests including leatherjackets.

MERCURY BICHLORIDE Controls worms.

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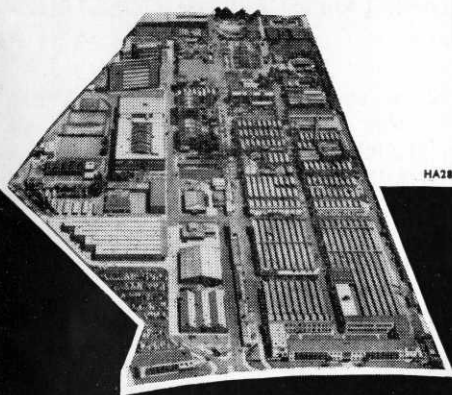
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Potpourri." Here are a few items from Porridge Potpourri:

- "1. If everybody we talk to adamantly informs us that they repair their ball marks, and those of five others besides, who are the golfers who do not? The greens are becoming very pock-marked going into the summer.
- "2. We have played several golf courses, including two public fee clubs this season, and our course takes first prize for litter! Chocolate and cigar wrappers, golf ball containers, cigarette packages and Pepsi containers were all over during the season!
- "3. Ladies' day was a success with compliments to the Grounds Department for using potted begonias in place of tee markers.
- "4. Briarwood hot rod! Driving through and up our highest sand traps in a golf cart!
- "5. Some goldfish sighted on No. 10 lake. If they get large enough through the summer, they will take care of our algae problem.
- "6. The duck hens are nesting quietly by No. 3 lake, and we have erected a sign that says 'Quiet! Duck Maternity Ward!'"
- "7. I wish the golfers would yell 'FORE' when the greensmen are working in the traps or are in the way. Some of the crew have been hit because no warning was sounded . . . we don't want anyone hurt."

I generally set up my reports under these headings: WEATHER, GREENS, TEES, FAIRWAYS, and end with PORRIDGE POTPOURRI. Sometimes there are additional headings, such as: ROUGH, TRAPS, LANDSCAPE, or CONSTRUCTION.

Why Reports?

Now, some of you may ask, What does this accomplish? Why go to all the trouble?

First, it is a summary of what was done during the month. Second, it is a catalog of weather conditions and maintenance procedures that can be referred to whenever necessary. Third, a copy of this report is given to the golf pro and the manager to keep them informed as to what has been done in my department for the month, and to give them a scheduled forecast of some of the future projects.

Most important, it is a means of educating my green committee members about what is going on each month. The reports explain some of the fundamental steps we take to give the members a top-notch golf course. And the committee, now well informed, works with me in trying to promote understanding among the more interested club members regarding our operations. This is of great assistance to me.

Perhaps the real reason a person wants to improve himself can be better explained in something I read recently in the Wall Street Journal under the heading "What is an Executive?"

What is an Executive?

"He is called by many names: the boss, top management, head man, chief, or just plain Tom or Bill. Each day he lives with problems and every day he's on the lookout for solutions. A good executive is understanding, fair, a cajoler, co-ordinator, arbitrator, listener, and decider. In addition he is efficient, hard-working, patient, impatient, aggressive, and ambitious for himself and his club.

"His constant companions are work, too little time, budgets, inventory, ideas, materials and equipment, employee relations, and company dollars. No one knows better than he the meaning of pressure. He is second-guessed, loved, appreciated, tolerated, respected, blamed, praised, understood, misunderstood, needing and needed, but never ignored.

"The executive knows the loneliness of management. For there comes a time for decision. Despite all the counsel from associates above and below, it is he who says YES or NO. He can't afford to err in judgment. Whether it be selection of personnel or the kinds of materials or equipment he purchases, he is always responsible.

"The good executive is the voice for his club . . . both written and spoken. Thus, he is reader, student, speaker, moderator, writer . . . as well as the subject of a speech or article. He is the product of business and means business. What he does can produce a ripple or tidal wave of activity.

"For this he has learned . . . To get a better job, keep *doing* a better job. That's how executives are made."