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# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR : F. W. HAWTREE



FOUNDED 1912

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE  
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GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME  
OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF  
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The Association is affiliated to the  
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No. 248 New Series

NOVEMBER 1965

## POOR PUTTERS PAY

*I think that I may never see  
A green where I take less than three;  
Unless I change my fate is sealed,  
They'll bury me in Putter's Field.*

— BOB HERZ.

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# 4

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for dressing lawns, laying turf, or sowing grass seed.

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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

It is good to meet some of the younger generation of greenkeepers and see their courses still kept in the classic tradition of their predecessors. Wilf Earnshaw at Davyhulme Park in the North-West must only be in his middle twenties. He will be tackling a new green this autumn. As at many courses round Manchester, traffic on neighbouring roads has increased and what was safe for a country lane is dangerous today. So the club has wisely decided to play safe and move the 10th.

\* \* \*

L. Beetham, another younger generation greenkeeper at the Huddersfield Golf Club, is relaying his 18th green after doing the 9th last year. This time the problem was slopes in the green, not safety but the basis is the same. More people, more play, thus slopes which cut down holing space can no longer be afforded.

\* \* \*

Not only the younger generation is planning for work this winter. Charlie Brassington, one of the original members of the North-West Section, is adding a couple of new holes to the Crompton and Royton Golf Club. Neighbouring developers have built bungalows within feet of the 3rd green, so changes have to be made.

Oddly enough, it is no defence to say "the club has played this hole for sixty years — the window I have just broken has only been there a week". Your neighbour can, if he feels disposed, get an injunction to stop you playing that hole as it stands. Fortunately, it often happens that neighbouring gardens belong to members of the club who do not wish to get an injunction against themselves.

\* \* \*

Douglas Pate of Royal Birkdale can rest content after all his labours this year for both Open and Ryder Cup — that is if he has not already started preparations for the Carling next year. There is no relaxation for the greenkeeper at a club like this, but Douglas seems to thrive on it. We hope he realises the esteem in which he is held by the Association and the credit he brings to his profession.



Joseph C. Dey, Junr., Executive Director of the USGA, tells you

## "HOW TO WRITE LETTERS ABOUT GOLF"

**D**O you ever have an urge to write letters to an editor, or to a public official—or even to a golf official? Whether or not you have given in to this particular temptation, it's not too late to realise the importance of style in letter-writing.

Of course, what you have to say may be very important and replete with truth; but **how** you say it may be the key to its effectiveness.

How do successful letter-writers do it? Many of them write the United States Golf Association; since they use a wide variety of styles, you may find it useful to examine their tastes. This, then, is a sampling of honest-to-goodness letters to the USGA.

An attribute of a really effective letter is brevity. Like this:

**"My friends cheat. Please send me a copy of the Rules of Golf."**

Or this, from a youngster:

**"I would like to have some information about my amateur static."**

Or this from a lady in California:

**"Would you please send us a copy of your description of a player who does not turn in all scores, or amends them, to maintain a 'suitable' handicap?"**

There's only one description: "Indescribable".

The wistful letter has a low-pressure appeal to some folks. Here's an example of wistfulness that pulls at the heart-strings:

**"I would appreciate it very much if it were at all possible for you to help me locate a position as an assistant pro.**

**"At the present time I am employed in the city in a position I have had for three years. But every time the sun comes out and the weather begins to get nice, my heart yearns for the golf course."**

### GRATITUDE—WITH NEEDLE

Then there is the letter that expresses gratitude but at the same time has a gentle needle and may even make you feel a bit of a heel. The writer of one such model letter is the Episcopal Bishop of Pittsburgh, the Rt. Rev. Austin Pardue—and he was *not* writing the USGA.

His family was spending the summer at Easthampton, on Long Island, and Bishop Pardue used to visit at week-ends. It was a summer of great drought, and the Maidstone golf course was burned to a crisp. One Saturday afternoon in the locker

room the distraught chairman of the Green Committee, Phillip Brown, sought the assistance of Bishop Pardue.

"Autie," he said, "can't you do something about this drought? Can't you arrange for some rain?"

"Well, I'll see," the Bishop replied. "I'll speak to the Boss. When would you like a delivery?"

"How about tonight, or tomorrow morning—early?" asked the eager Mr Brown.

"Pretty short notice," was the reply. "You'd better give me some alternative dates."

"Well," said Mr Brown, "how about next Wednesday or Thursday?"

"I'll do what I can," the Bishop promised. "I'll speak to the Boss."

Nothing happened that night, nor the next day, and Bishop Pardue went back to Pittsburgh after the week-end. But in the middle of the following week there was a deluge, which literally saved the parched Maidstone course. Phil Brown was overjoyed, and he sent a telegram of thanks to Bishop Pardue. In reply, the Bishop wrote him somewhat as follows:

**"My Dear Mr Brown and members of the Green Committee:**

**"My Senior Partner and I have received your message of thanks with gratification. We have been in the business of serving mankind a long while, but it is always pleasing to receive such expressions as yours.**

**"If you should want future deliveries, we would be glad to arrange for them, but we would suggest the hours between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, when all of our branch offices are open."**



By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen  
Motor Mower Manufacturers Charles H. Pugh Ltd.



*The early bird who gets the worm  
Has ample satisfaction  
Nor is it hard to SEND A CARD  
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Don't let your Atcos stand in the shed all winter without service. By sending to us regularly at this time of year you will be rewarded with a lifetime of reliable use.

You will also beat the rush when many users who have forgotten their mowers during the autumn send them in at the last minute, just before the grass starts growing, when inevitably our Service Department is inundated with work and cannot guarantee to return the machines as quickly as usual.

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## **"HOW TO WRITE LETTERS ABOUT GOLF" — contd.**

### **MONEY**

Letters dealing with money are often quite effective and revealing of character, depending upon which end of the money you're on. Take entry fees for championships, for instance.

There is the nonchalant, brassy sort of communication. Once a gentleman's entry fee was a basketball check which the bank bounced right back at the USGA. With no reluctance at all, the USGA called the gentleman's attention to this trifling matter. He replied with another check and the following philosophical note:

**"Try this one. My wife beat me to the check book. You know how it is. Sorry. No one hurt. Tear up the other one."**

But sometimes our conscience doth make cowards of us, to the degree that we can't wait to write—we must hurry to the

telephone, as did a wife who communicated this message:

**"My husband's entry fee check was drawn on a joint account which I had overdrawn," she said breathlessly. "Please let me make it good and accept his entry. I don't want him penalized for my mistake—and I don't want to hear about it from him for the rest of my life, either."**

Entry accepted.

You'd think that hopefulness would be a compelling quality in a letter, but don't depend upon it. At least hopefulness cuts no ice with the hard-hearted men who handle the Open entries. To enter the Open, an amateur's handicap must be not over two strokes.

Once a hopeful amateur boldly stated:

**"I have never been handicapped."**

Entry rejected.

*To be continued*

With grateful acknowledgements to the  
*USGA Golf Journal*

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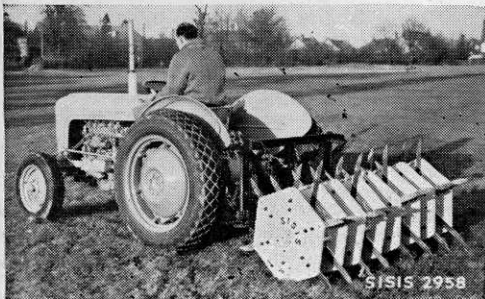
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## Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Scheme

**L**AST month two young men left the groundstaff of a club in the Home Counties because, less than a mile away, they could earn £3 a week more. They went to a dead-end job admittedly, but is greenkeeping any better? We think it is. Can we convince possible recruits?

If we do nothing, golf course upkeep in the future will become very sketchy. Already one head greenkeeper at a well-known London club complains: "There is just no time for finesse".

The volume of play strips the tees, scars the fairways and wears tracks round greens. Above all, it delays essential operations like mowing and small staffs have still less time for polish. A big effort may be made for a major tournament—two head greenkeepers, by no means elderly, have died suddenly within weeks of this kind of effort—out late at night changing holes, up at 4 a.m. mowing, with all the worry of critical players and gallery—even everyday routine at busy clubs now demands this kind of programme.

Happily, many clubs realise the value of their groundstaff, give their greenkeeper an adequate team and pay a decent wage. But only about 30 are doing anything for the future. That is the number who have registered

youngsters with Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship.

No sensible youth with the qualities which are needed will commit himself to a club, where committees and officers change annually, for wages less than he can get in industry. He must be convinced (and his parents) that he will be trained and that his knowledge will eventually have a solid market value.

The Golf Unions of England, Scotland and Wales worked with the Greenkeepers' Association to set up an Apprenticeship Scheme run by a Joint Council. The Council issues a syllabus, keeps in touch with Youth Employment Officers, gives information on training courses, provides printed Deeds and an Employers' Guide.

That is only a beginning, but it must have support from all golf clubs who believe that their future is as important as their present. A young man taken on purely as a form of cheap labour will lose interest and drift into easier work. If he is taken on as an apprentice, trained, taught to play golf, and given a permanent official to look after him, the new problems and still higher standards of the future will be met and the long tradition of golf greenkeeping in Britain preserved for the next generation.

---

**Golf clubs can obtain information about the Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Scheme from:—**

**B. M. WOOD, F.C.I.S.,**

**Hon. Secretary,**

**Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship,**

**St Ives Research Station,**

**Bingley,**

**Yorkshire.**

# FLYMO LIMITED

## introduce two new snow ploughs

**T**WO compact, light and inexpensive hand-propelled snow-ploughs were shown for the first time in Britain at the National Association of Groundsmen's Exhibition at Hurlingham on 6th and 7th October.

They are to be marketed by Flymo Limited who this year successfully launched the "air cushion" lawnmower in this country.

Designed to solve the snow clearing problems of local authorities, industry and home owners, the ploughs—the Snow Pup and the Snow Husky—will cost £47 5s. and £65 respectively.

Both are made by the Toro Manufacturing Corporation, of Minneapolis, who have been established 50 years in both the consumer and institution mower field and are brand leaders in America.

In line with its policy of introducing the world's most modern horticultural equipment to Britain, Flymo Limited recently signed a reciprocal marketing agreement with Toro.

### The Snow Pup

The Snow Pup, which weighs 22 lb.—women can handle it with ease—will clear three inches of snow from a 50-foot drive in ten minutes.

Cutting a 14-inch-wide swath, it throws snow at the rate of half a ton a minute 15 feet in any of seven directions and its polyethylene body on a light-weight aluminium frame makes operation easy and fast.

It won't rust, chip or peel, is unaffected by petrol or oil, moisture or chemicals and can be used for pushing or as a shovel to remove drifts, clear steps and porches or free stalled cars.

### The Snow Husky

The Snow Husky, which weighs 27 lb., clears a 21-inch channel, throwing

snow 20 feet in any of seven directions and can hang from a garage wall.

It will clear a 100-foot drive of three inches of snow in 15 minutes and tackles heavy, powdery or packed snow.

Both the Snow Pup and the Snow Husky will be available throughout Britain from distributors and dealers handling the Flymo domestic "air cushion" lawnmower and the new Professional 19-inch model.

Bookings for demonstrations at the first snow can be made immediately through distributors and Flymo authorised dealers or by applying to Flymo Limited, Penn Place, Rickmansworth, Herts.

### THE SNOW PUP

#### Specifications—

2½ H.P. Tecumseh two-stroke engine, fully enclosed.

Fixed jet carburettor.

Rewind starter.

14-inch track.

Weight: 22 lbs.

Adjustable and replacement paddles.

Seven-position 15-foot throw.

Rigid durable polyethylene body.

Light-weight aluminium frame.

Price: £47 5s.

### THE SNOW HUSKY

#### Specifications—

3 H.P. two-stroke engine.

21-inch track.

Seven-position 20-foot throw.

Weight: 27 lb.

Price: £65.

Other details as for Snow Pup.

### MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

### FOR HIRE

SISIS AUTOTURFMAN Aerator for hire, £25 per week—Do it yourself. J. B. Burnell, 2 Clarence Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees.

# News



from the Sections

## SHEFFIELD

*Chairman:*  
G. HERRINGTON  
(Lindrick)

*By J. J. Dearlove*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
63 Langsett Avenue  
Sheffield, 6

### Sheffield v. Northern Section Match

A VERY DISAPPOINTING NUMBER—16—travelled by coach to the Scarcroft Golf Club to compete against the Northern Section for the Slater Trophy. With the help of our President, Mr A. Shardlow, we were only just able to field a team of members.

The Northern Section again won the trophy for a second time with a result of four matches to two. All the games were quite close finishes with four matches decided at the 16th and two at the 17th. Full details of the match will be in the Northern Section notes.

It is fitting to mention the wonderful condition of the course, the excellent meals and the hospitality afforded us by the Scarcroft Golf Club and our neighbouring section members.

We played the usual 9 holes for the Coach Cup on our arrival at Scarcroft and this was won by apprentice greenkeeper John Walker, of Wheatley, with a net score of 33. A very good score indeed for John playing in his first competition.

A big thank you to Mr B. Elliott for meeting the cost of the coach, also to Mr F. Croft for his presence and general help.

### Lectures

Are being arranged for the last Thursday of every month—November, January, February, March and April at the Brunswick Hotel, Haymarket, Sheffield.

### Bill Lawrence

It is my painful duty to report the death of Mr Bill Lawrence who passed away on the 29th July after a long illness. Bill was a long-serving member and was elected on to the committee back in 1950. I am sorry for the delay of this sad news but have only recently received a letter from Mrs Lawrence to whom I have written expressing the deepest sympathy of this section.

## NORTH-EAST

*By D. Earsman*

*Chairman:*  
J. SIMPSON  
(Ponteland G.C.)

*Hon. Secretary:*  
Arcot Hall Cottage  
Dudley  
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 3

### Annual Competition

OUR ANNUAL COMPETITION WAS played over the course of Ravensworth Golf Club on Thursday, 23rd September, by kind permission of their committee.

Results, Scratch Score—D. Gray, Newcastle United Golf Club, 140. The Ransome Cup was won by W. Bleazard, Ravensworth Golf Club, for the best net score, 132. Other prize winners—R. Hinson, Bamburg, 134; T. Green, Ravensworth, 136; A. Gunn, Ravensworth, 136; T. Kirkley, Brancepeth, 136; D. Earsman, Arcot Hall, 137; R. Robb, Whitburn, 138; P. Crombie, Wearside, 139; J. Smith, Morpeth, 143; N. Snailham, South Moor, 144; R. Derham, South Shields, 145; J. Hayes, Northumberland, 146; J. Wroath, Ravensworth, 146; P. Bishop, Seaton Carew, 147.

Our Chairman, Mr J. Simpson, thanked the club for their kindness in allowing us the use of the course and the steward and stewardess for the very enjoyable meals. He then introduced Mr N. Anderson, Captain of the Ravensworth Golf Club, who had kindly consented to present the prizes and say a few words on our behalf.

Our thanks are due to the following members of the trade and golf clubs who so kindly contributed to our prize fund: Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd.; W. Hargreaves & Co. Ltd.; Atco Service Branch; May & Baker Ltd.; Stewart & Co., Edinburgh; J. McKenzie Blakelaw; Garden Mechanisation, Newcastle; W. Lowes, Newcastle; Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs; Northumberland Golf Club; Arcot Hall Golf Club; Ponteland Golf Club; Morpeth Golf Club; Tynemouth Golf Club; Gosforth Golf Club; Alnmouth Golf Club; South Shields Golf Club; Seaton Carew Golf Club; Chester-le-Street Golf Club; Hartlepool Golf Club; Ravensworth Golf Club; Brancepeth Golf Club; also to Messrs. C. N. Storey; A. Harrison and I. T. Johnstone.

We are grateful to Mr Lowery and Mr McKenzie for attending to the cards.