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THE BRITISH GOLF

# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



FOUNDED 1912

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GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME  
OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF  
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No. 251 New Series

FEBRUARY 1966

*If you think it's hard to meet  
new people, pick up the wrong golf  
ball.*

—ROQUA WASSAM

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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Eight young men are in Macclesfield on 8th and 9th February for the first specially arranged course for apprentices at the "SISIS" Works. They come from as far apart as Crewe, Oxley Park, Olton, Eastbourne, Stanton on the Wolds, Addington and Bristol. The use and upkeep of the "SISIS" range of machines, illustrated talks, sessions in the works and practical demonstrations make up this short but intensive course.

The Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship have much appreciated the co-operation of Mr Hargreaves and Mr Taylor in arranging the course and their hospitality to the apprentices. It is hoped that other firms will follow suit.

\* \* \*

Southport golf clubs are organising an inter-club information service for visitors. Those who arrive, say, at Royal Birkdale and cannot get a game because of a society meeting or competition will be forwarded to either Hillside, Hesketh or Southport & Ainsdale, wherever there is the least delay. Other clubs where overcrowding occurs ought to follow this example and spread the load as evenly as possible.

Golfers could, of course, help themselves by telephoning beforehand. The days when the casual visitor could arrive, take a green fee, and tee up are no more and week-end visiting will soon be only a happy memory.

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# BE PREPARED

By W. H. Bartle

Advisory Officer The Sports Turf Research Institute

**N**EW ideas are essential to progress and in golf course maintenance there is no lack in this direction. It is, however, true to say that some of the old ideas continue to be basically good greenkeeping but tend to be forgotten in the rush of modern times. In this category comes "spare turf" to quote our grandfathers or as we prefer to say today the provision of a turf nursery

If first-class conditions are to be maintained particularly on greens and tees then a supply of good quality turf is essential for carrying out urgent repairs. Unfortunately the provision of a turf nursery is often discussed at all levels and in sincerity but no action is ever taken until turf is urgently needed when it is too late to do anything about it.

## Accidents

Admittedly large scale annual renovation by turfing is seldom necessary on the actual greens but there is often need for repairs to odd damaged areas. Such damage might result from accidental scorch by chemicals, an attack of disease, extreme climatic conditions or vandalism which is quite frequent these days in many areas. Concentrated wear by foot traffic and caddy carts on restricted surrounds may also create a need for new turf in order to remove an eyesore and/or maintain fair playing conditions in close proximity to the green.

If good turf is available the aforementioned problems can be quickly dealt with and it is also possible to remove such blemishes as Yorkshire fog patches which may spoil the appearance and uniformity of the putting surface. It also means that weeds which have great resistance to selective weed-killer such as the Speedwells can be completely removed before they spread and the surface immediately restored by patching.

With the current emphasis on additional length and in some cases loss of land due to other development including road works, many golf clubs are concerned in making alterations to existing layouts. These often involve the construction of a new green or greens as quickly as possible whilst maintaining the existing course in full play. In such situations a supply of good turf is an obvious requirement. The need for prepared turf does therefore really always exist and the golf course is incomplete without a prepared turf nursery.

## Prime Need

For routine needs a nursery in the region of 400 to 600 sq yds. is generally adequate but a larger area should be the aim where some major reconstruction scheme is envisaged. Suitable turf can in some instances be obtained by working down an area of fairway away from the main line of play where the sward is predominantly bent, fescue or a mixture of these grasses. General maintenance on the same lines as practised on the greens for a couple of seasons or so would in these circumstances produce a satisfactory material for most renovation work. Although turf suitable for renovation on tees if not greens can be cultivated on most of our courses it is true to say that for use on greens the turf nursery is generally best produced from seed.

## Close at Hand

For the production of such a nursery choose a site where it will be possible to provide adequate attention. In the past many turf nurseries have been started in remote corners and because of this they have been neglected or completely forgotten. Ideally, the site should also be near a water point so that moisture can be readily provided as and when necessary

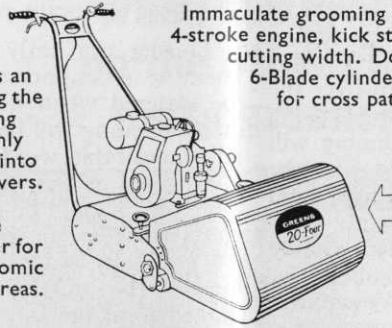
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A depth of 6 in. of top soil is desirable on the nursery and it should preferably be a light or medium loam and must be thoroughly cultivated. The texture of heavier soils can be improved by adding sand and peat, etc. Materials of this nature should be evenly spread over the surface and well worked into the existing soil. If the soil is over-acid, liming will be necessary and this should also be worked into the surface soil during final cultivations while invariably a pre-seeding fertilizer will be needed. Actual soil requirements should, however, be determined by tests on representative soil samples from the areas concerned—a service available at the Institute to all greenkeepers of affiliated golf clubs.

### Getting Ready

Initial preparation could start now with further frequent surface cultivations being carried out throughout the growing season with the object of removing undesirable grasses and weeds as they appear. Later on in the summer a fine, evenly firmed and smooth seed bed should be prepared for the late summer sowing. Preparation of this nature is best done by alternate heeling and raking. Any recommended fertilizer should be applied and raked into the prepared seed bed some 7-10 days before sowing takes place using a seeds mixture comprising

- 8 parts American Chewings' fescue (Grade 1)
- 2 parts American browntop bent (Grade 1)

A sowing rate of 1 oz. per sq. yd. should produce a turf of good texture for golf greens providing the seed bed has been properly prepared.

During the early days of establishment it is important that the nursery be watered when necessary and careful hand weeding will be required to remove all undesirable weed grasses and perennial weeds as they appear. Initially topping only should be done but as the new grass thickens up the height of cut can be gradually reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. at which height the nursery should be maintained until the following season. From then onwards further gradual reductions can be made to something like  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. at which level frequent cutting should then be practised.

Thereafter, the nursery should be maintained on similar lines to the greens in play at all times, i.e. regular cutting, occasional scarification, adequate application of fertilizer along with weed, pest and disease control as necessary. Continuity of turf supply should be safeguarded by re-preparation of bare ground and re-sowing as the turf is used. When renovation is necessary it should be remembered that turf gives an immediate grass cover. Be prepared for any eventuality and start work on preparing a turf nursery now.

### 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.

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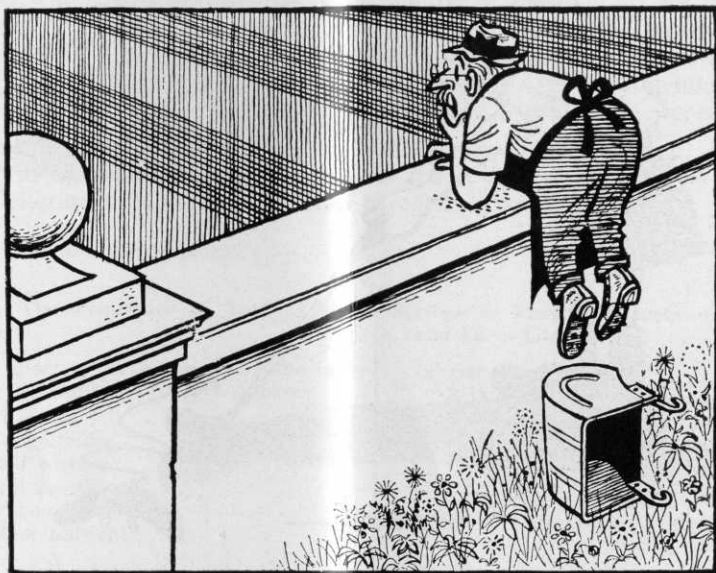
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**VELVETONE**





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## NEW SURFACE UNDAMAGED BY SHOES

Damage from spiked shoes in club houses and surrounding areas is a perennial problem to be faced by those responsible for golf club maintenance. A new product from the 3M Company, "Tartan" surfacing, has been successfully used in the U.S. for a number of years, it is a tough polymer with a slightly indented surface, some  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. It is widely used for locker rooms, walk-up areas to the tees, paths and similar areas. The surface is practically indestructible as well as showing no damage from studs. In addition it offers a non-slip surface which reduces the slipping hazard usual on wooden or other conventional floors. Unlike conventional surfaces, it requires no maintenance except for an occasional brush-over or hose-down.

Originally, this surface was invented for horse race tracks to allow racing in all weather conditions. It has been found to be unaffected by any weather or the pounding of horses' hooves, or by the spikes on athletes' shoes. To prove its toughness, a 40-ton army truck has been run over it without causing any damage. As well as the non-playing areas, many golf courses have installed "Tartan" surfacing for driving ranges.

It may be laid on any firm surface such as concrete, asphalt or boards. It costs 30s. per square foot.

# FUNGAL DISEASES OF TURF GRASSES

The Sports Turf Research Institute has recently published the 2nd edition of the above-mentioned book of which the author is Mr Drew Smith, M.Sc., Plant Pathologist at the Research Institute from 1951 to 1958. This 2nd edition of a well-known book has been completely revised by the author and by Dr N Jackson who was Plant Pathologist from 1958 to 1965.

Containing approximately 90 pages of text with 13 pages of coloured or black and white photographs, the book will be of value to practical men, plant pathologists and research workers. All known information on the more common turf diseases is concisely summarised and control methods are fully described. All golf greenkeepers, groundsmen, gardeners, parks superintendents, playing fields officers, club secretaries and plant pathologists should own a copy

Those wishing to place an order should apply to the Institute. The price is 25s. (net) including postage. This hard-backed book is attractively bound in green with gilt lettering with a serviceable transparent dust cover

The contents are as follows:—

## Section 1. The Principles of Turf Disease Control.

- (a) The effect of environment on the incidence and development of turf diseases.
  - (i) Moisture.
  - (ii) Temperature.
  - (iii) Soil texture.
  - (iv) Soil reaction.
  - (v) Soil organic matter
  - (vi) Plant nutrients.
- (b) The effect of species and varieties of grasses.

The field behaviour of some turf grasses towards common diseases.
- (c) The effect of cultural practices on turf diseases.
  - (i) The establishment of turf by seeding.
  - (ii) The establishment of turf by vegetative means.
  - (iii) Mowing.
  - (iv) Top dressing.
  - (v) Liming and turf acidity control.
  - (vi) Fertilisation of established turf.
  - (vii) Weed control.
  - (viii) Moss and worm control.
  - (ix) Rolling.
  - (x) Scarification.
  - (xi) Switching.
  - (xii) Aeration.
  - (xiii) Soil sterilisation.
  - (xiv) Watering.
  - (xv) Frost prevention.

(d) The control of turf diseases with fungicides.

- (i) Fungicidal materials.
- (ii) Application of fungicides.
- (iii) Safety considerations.

Disease control chart.

## Section 2. Fungal Diseases of Sports Turf and Lawn Grasses.

- (a) Seedling diseases.
  - (i) Seedrot and pre-emergence blight.
  - (ii) Post-emergence seedling diseases.
- (b) Major diseases of established turf.
  - (i) Fusarium patch disease.
  - (ii) Dollar spot disease.
  - (iii) Corticium or red thread disease.
  - (iv) Ophiobolus patch disease.
- (c) Diseases due to *Helminthosporium* spp.
  - (i) Melting out of smooth-stalked meadow-grass.
  - (ii) Leaf blight of ryegrass.
  - (iii) Leafspot, footrot and seedling blight.
  - (iv) Other *Helminthosporium* spp.
- (d) Diseases of lesser importance.
  - (i) Anthracnose of annual meadow-grass.
  - (ii) Powdery mildew
  - (iii) Crown rust.
  - (iv) Stripe smut.
- (e) Inflorescence diseases.
  - (i) Choke.
  - (ii) Twist.
  - (iii) Blind seed.
  - (iv) Ergot.
- (f) Fairy rings.
- (g) Slime moulds.
- (h) Lichens.
- (i) Important turf diseases rarely or not yet recorded in the British Isles.
  - (i) Typhula blight (snow scald).
  - (ii) Brown patch.
  - (iii) Frost scorch (string of pearls).
  - (iv) Copper spot.

References.

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## HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES

A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE Committee will be held on Saturday, 12th March 1966, at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, at 12 noon. Luncheon interval at 1 p.m. The Agenda will be forwarded direct to members of the Committee.

C. H. D.

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## TRIBUTES TO THE LATE TOM BRIDGES

Tom Bridges was universally acknowledged to be a master of the calling to which he devoted himself so arduously and assiduously.

His long and honourable career is so widely known that it needs no repetition from me.

However, the nature and character of the man was only discernible to those who were privileged to be his friends, and I was fortunate to be one of them.

Tom was not an easy man to know. One's first impression inclined to a dour and taciturn nature.

This impression was quickly dispelled on further acquaintance. Reserved — yes, but one soon discerned the natural dignity of the man, combined with a very humane and understanding outlook.

For instance, Tom would never countenance the denigration of a fellow Greenkeeper who may be unfortunate enough to be in a spot of trouble at a given moment. I know of many a greenkeeper, including myself, who was grateful at one time or another for the sage advice Tom had unobtrusively tendered if approached.

He was always a stalwart of the B.G.G.A., and took a leading part in the resuscitation of the North-West section after the war. He was immensely grateful when he was elected a Vice-

President of the section, an honour which he richly deserved.

Tom Bridges will be remembered with deep affection by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

His presence will be sorely missed, but his influence will live on.

T. BRENNAN.

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Apart from Bill and Jim, his two sons, I feel I have known Tom as much as any other member. Having first met him in the early twenties I had the pleasure of playing with him at Swansea Bay. Being very much a junior to him I always looked up to him and respected him. During my many years at Formby, with Tom at Hoylake we were, so to speak, neighbours. We used to spend many weekends together sorting out our problems.

He was always a great man for the Association and one of the members to help from the North-West section, a section that has gone from strength to strength.

Tom would always be at our lectures in Manchester and many times I have seen younger Greenkeepers getting advice on their problems.

He is a great loss to the Association, a greater one to Bill, Jim and Greta and a loss of a great personal friend to myself.

STAN MORTON.