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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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No. 250 New Series

JANUARY 1966

GRASS: I PASS

*There's no green as mean
As the fast green that wasn't;
Unless it's the green
With the break that doesn't.*

—CLIFF MACKAY.

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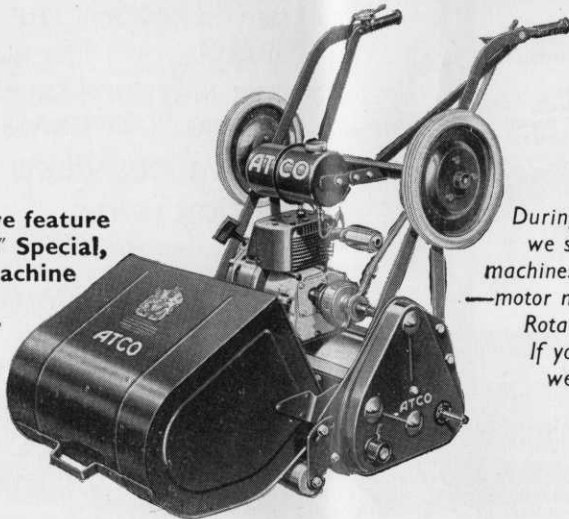


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TRUE VALUE
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No need for us to extol the individual virtues of our mowers: ATCO has been synonymous with quality for over forty years. All this experience and all our advice is yours for the asking. Our wide range of grass-cutting equipment for every purpose is matched only by ATCO's unique nation-wide servicing arrangements.

May we suggest a demonstration on your own turf?

This month we feature the ATCO 20" Special, the perfect machine for a perfect finish on your greens. £95.



During the next few months, we shall show all our large machines in our advertisements —motor mowers from 20" to 34", Rotaries and Gang Mowers. If you can't wait that long, we will gladly supply full details on request.

TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

East Kilbride Development Corporation are proposing to turn their present headquarters at Torrance House into a club-house for a sports centre. The corporation will move into the town centre.

Building is due to start in May on the present golf course and a new course must be found for the club.

* * *

The death occurred on Wednesday, 22nd December, of Sir John Brownson Greaves, C.B.E., of Colchester, a director of Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich. He was 65 years of age, and is survived by his widow, Lady Doris Io Greaves, and two daughters.

Sir John joined the board of Ransomes in November 1953, and was chairman of the executive committee of the board from December 1954 to January 1959. He remained a member of the board until his death.

He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1941, and was knighted in 1946 for his service in India during the second world war.

* * *

So well known has the name "Sisis" become that it has been decided to incorporate it into the Company's Title. This has been changed, with the consent of the Board of Trade, from W. Hargreave and Co. Ltd., to "Sisis" Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd.

The change of name takes effect from 1st January 1966. The full range of "Sisis" equipment will continue to be designed, manufactured and supplied by the same Board of Directors and Management as at present.

* * *

Mr J. H. Franks, who joined W. Hargreaves & Co. Ltd. two years ago following previous experience in agriculture and horticulture, has now moved to near Banbury, Oxfordshire. As "Sisis" Technical Representative he will cover the southern half of England for the Company, enabling more regular visits to be made to Authorities, Sports Organisations, Dealers, etc. He will discuss and advise fully on the application of "Sisis" equipment, arrange demonstrations and introduce the latest designs and developments in "Sisis" machinery and equipment.

* * *

SPECIAL APPRENTICESHIP COURSE

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd., formerly known as Messrs W. Hargreaves & Co. Ltd., are arranging a course for a minimum of six apprentices at their works at Macclesfield, Cheshire, in the week commencing 7th February. Apprentices wishing to attend should get permission from their clubs and write to the Hon. Secretary, British Golf Greenkeeper Association, as quickly as possible.

THE CARING OF THE GREEN: TRAINING THE YOUNG

By S. L. McKinlay

IF I know my greenkeepers they will not, in these days of frost and snow, be idling their time away before the small screen because there is limited opportunity for work on the course in their care.

At the very least they will not be falling into the errors of the power boards who were recently caught with their plants down. If outside work is impossible they will be overhauling their equipment against the spring when the song of the mowers will again be heard in the land. They will be mending their fences, mixing their fertilisers and feeding preparations, tending their trees—in short, they will be well occupied.

The greenkeeper is, to my way of thinking, the most important single person associated with a golf club. To be sure, it is wonderfully agreeable to have an efficient clubmaster who cares for our creature comforts indoors, it is comforting to have a good professional who will repair our clubs (though that is now a rare requirement), sort out our swing, and generally have a thought for our playing performance.

Key Man

But it is possible for a golfer to make virtually no calls on the pro. or the clubmaster and yet have a fairly full golfing life, and it is the greenkeeper who can make that life a misery or a joy. If the course is ill-kept then even a golfer playing at his best in the most genial weather and with the right kind of company will go home ill-content. Trim teeing grounds, well-cut fairways, tidy bunkers, and smooth greens are a joy to behold, they are also, I am persuaded, a joy to create and maintain.

Last summer I played at Killermont on the Sunday after the Tennant Cup competition and mentioned to the duty greenkeeper that the course had looked to be in excellent trim on the great day. His reply astonished me. "It wasn't quite right. We couldn't make up our

minds what was wrong, but we decided it was a little too hard to be just right."

It would have been easy for that greenkeeper to accept my commendation, which was honestly given, but pride in his craft would not allow him to escape what he regarded as his responsibility to have the course perfect. And he refused to make an excuse of the weather.

It will be gathered that I have an especial respect for greenkeepers, and not only because some years ago they saw fit to give me an office of honour in their organisation. They have always been an essential part of the game, though for too long they were lightly regarded as being not much more than unskilled labourers.

Many Jobs

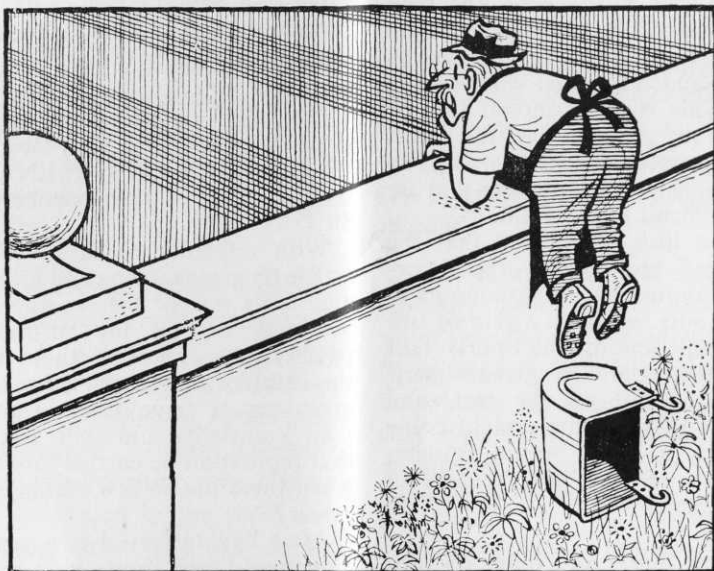
Now they have to possess a wide range of skills. Even routine maintenance of a course involves knowledge of machinery, its operation and maintenance, fertilisers, weeds, diseases, and pests (and these may include conveners and committees), the management, planting and pruning of trees, the timing of operations, such as turfing, the ordering and care of materials.

If new greens or tees are to be made the greenkeeper has to be wise about grading and drainage, seeds mixtures and times of sowing, lifting and laying of turf, rolling, top-dressing—the lot.

How he finds time and the energy to keep abreast of new developments in soil science and mechanics, botany and biology, I don't know. But he does.

I have told before of an experience I had one miserable winter night some years ago when I was asked to chair a meeting in Glasgow at which some of the Bingley boffins, the experts from the Sports Turf Research Institute, were to talk to West of Scotland greenkeepers. There was frost and fog and no inducement at all to be elsewhere than at the fireside. But about 50 greenkeepers turned up, some from as far away as Helensburgh and Lanark and almost all dependent on public transport.

**When the grass
on the other side
looks greener**



**yours needs
SPORTSTURF VELVETONE!**

I.T.P. Sportsturf Velvetone is the organic lawn conditioner proved in action on the royal lawns at Ascot and the grass courts at Wimbledon.

For less than £15 an acre, the autumn/winter formula of Sportsturf Velvetone will condition your fine turf areas beautifully. Forty per cent organic, it contains trace elements and carefully balanced lawn foods exactly suited to the finer grasses.

It assists root action all winter long but doesn't encourage vigorous top growth until spring. (If you're a greenkeeper who hasn't the time or labour to apply turf dressing during

the playing season, you'll find Sportsturf Velvetone extremely useful.)

For less fine turf. I.T.P. Winter Outfield Fertilizer Seventy-four per cent organic, this high-grade fertilizer costs less than £10 an acre. It's excellent for cricket outfields, golf fairways, football grounds and other large sports areas. Good for construction of new grass surfaces too. (Also available with selective weed killer)



VELVETONE

Not only did they listen to the experts with the most intense interest; they deaved them with questions which proclaimed a lively awareness of their own skills. It was a most heartening reminder that the modern greenkeeper is a dedicated craftsman.

Some clubs and club members appreciate their most important employee. Recently at the Hayston Golf Club's dinner-dance the greenkeeper, the club professional, and the clubmaster were present as guests and, very properly, publicly applauded for their work during the year. This is as it should be, for golfers are in general not the most altruistic of people, we are too ready to take for granted essential services that are sometimes difficult to maintain.

I find it a little chastening that the admirable golf greenkeeper apprenticeship scheme should not be thriving more mightily. It was instituted a year or two ago by the golf unions, the Sports Turf Research Institute, and the greenkeepers' associations because of the real, and justified, fear that the time might come when golf as a game would founder because there were no greenkeepers to maintain courses.

More Needed

At present there are only six apprentices in Scotland registered under the scheme, 40 in England, numbers which are not nearly sufficient to ensure the maintenance of the game as it exists, to say nothing of the courses that are under construction or planned. It is a well thought out scheme that ensures the proper training of young men who, because of the continuing popularity of the game, are assured of a good job for life. And it is a good job—a hard job, a

job making great demands on the intelligence as well as the physique, but a rewarding job.

We would do well to cultivate our greenkeepers. Without them we would be like the golfer in the old story who on his death descended into Hell and there found a wonderful golf course and a wonderful set of clubs. But there were no golf balls to play with and that, as Satan said, was the Hell of it!

With grateful acknowledgement to the Glasgow Herald.

* * *

The following letter appeared in the same newspaper two days later,
IN SUPPORT OF GREENKEEPING
November 30, 1965

Sir,

With reference to S. L. McKinlay's article on greenkeeping and greenkeepers, may I, as one of the six apprentices in Scotland, express my surprise at the paucity in numbers of those taking up this outdoor career. In the past Scottish greenkeepers have been renowned for their knowledge and skill, but how can that reputation be carried into the future when there are so few making this their career?

After having served two years of my indenture I can thoroughly recommend the job as a career for a youth who is prepared to study and work hard with the view to becoming a greens superintendent.

It is up to Scottish golf clubs to make it an attractive career, offering good wages and conditions as an incentive, thus ensuring the continuance of first-class greenkeepers from Scotland.

ALLAN CRAWFORD.

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RIVERSIDE 5415

NEW METHODS OF RENOVATING TURF GRASS

By Wayne C. Morgan

AERIFICATION for the mechanical breaking of compacted surface soil and matted turf has been an accepted and regular practice on many golf courses and other turf grass areas for many years.

A reduced oxygen supply resulting from soil compaction and overwatering can limit the growth of grass roots severely. Under low oxygen conditions, potassium and phosphorus in the plant shoot is decreased. Sodium accumulation in high concentration, which is undesirable, was found in the shoot of a plant growing under low soil oxygen.

Soil compaction decreases the large pore space in soils, resulting in restricted water penetration. Alternate layers of soil and organic material on old golf greens may build up to four to six inches deep, and will reduce movement of water through the surface soil.

During the winter of 1961, Hemstreet and Dorman, of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service in San Bernardino County, successfully tested a new technique, "deep aeration," for the renovation of old, weak golf greens. Results of this trial showed significant increases in turf vigour, appearance, rooting depths and water infiltration. Water puddling on the green was reduced, as were the frequency of irrigation and total amount of water used. At the Santa Anita Golf Course in

Arcadia (owned by Los Angeles County), an old weak green which had been removed from play every summer for the past seven years was selected to further test this new method of deep aerification in 1964.

After a sprinkler can test, when the sprinklers were operated for 15 minutes, water remained puddled on the green for over one hour. When the trials were completed, the superintendent reported that even when water was applied for 45 minutes, there was no water standing on the deeply aerified areas.

Plugs of soil on 3-inch centres were removed with a 1-inch-diameter soil tube to a depth of six inches. Treatments consisted of backfilling the holes with a soil mix containing 6 parts fine sand, 1 part nitrohumus, and 3 parts of either peat moss, lignified redwood sawdust, or calcine clay. These treatments were compared to mechanical aerification with $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thatch spoons, holes left open, every four weeks from May through August.

The green was overseeded with Sea-side bent at the completion of the work. Approximately two weeks after the holes were backfilled, the turf had completely filled over the holes. The green was reopened to play in early June, following completion of the work. Within three weeks, the green had to be closed again as the course superintendent said the turf in the check and machine-

aerated plots was dying. There was no weakening of the turf observed in the deep aerification treatments.

Soil samples taken for rooting depths about three months after the work was completed revealed that there were dense masses of roots to the full depth of the deep aerification holes. There didn't appear to be any significant differences in rooting with any of the deep aerification treatments. Numerous new roots were noticed in the one-quarter-inch machine-aerified holes which were left open. Very few roots were found in the undisturbed columns, a condition similar to the rooting of the turf before the trials began.

Measurements to determine the oxygen status within the soil were made. The results indicated insufficient oxygen for healthy root growth and development in all of the turf soil except where the deep aerification was done. This could explain poor root growth in the compacted surface soil but does not necessarily eliminate mechanical resistance of the soil as an addition factor affecting root development. This becomes even more significant when it is realised that this was the maximum oxygen in the soil that could be obtained as the turf was to be irrigated that night after a longer-than-usual dry period.

Water infiltration measurements showed there was a significant increase in the water infiltration rates of the deep aerification holes when compared to the mechanical-aerified plots. An observation that may be of significant value is that pertaining to the amount of annual bluegrass, *Poa annua*, in the green. Before treatments were begun, it was estimated that greater than 50 per cent of the green was *Poa*. After the deep aerification treatments and overseeding with

Seaside bentgrass, the bent could be seen first growing over the deep aerification holes. By mid-August, there was a significant decrease in the *Poa annua* with a corresponding increase in bentgrass.

Discussion Prices vary so much for the installation of new golf greens, it is difficult to arrive at an average figure. The size of the green, sprinkler system requirements and drainage needs must be considered. Whether all the work is to be contracted or only partly contracted, or is to be done by the regular work force at the course, will also affect costs of the green.

Let's assume that an average green to rebuild entails a cost of about \$2,500 for a 5,000 sq ft. green. If deep aerification costs approximately five cents a square foot, this would be only about one-tenth of the cost to rebuild the green.

When a golf or bowling green is being rebuilt, it requires that the green be taken out of play for up to five months. With deep aerification, the turf can be used again as soon as the work is finished, although it would probably be beneficial to allow the turf two or three weeks to completely fill in.

Savings of water costs may contribute substantially to help pay for the deep aerification. It is entirely possible that with a deeper root system less frequent watering could result in water savings from 25 to 50 per cent or greater. If watering is done manually, there could also be substantial savings in irrigation labour costs. Other savings from fertilisation, disease and weed control may also be possible.

*With grateful acknowledgements to the
Golf Course Reporter*



"What do you generally do with yourself after morning service Vicar?"

BBRITISH equipment for outdoor recreation will be featured in a special exhibition at The Design Centre in the spring of 1966. Called "Time Out—Design for Leisure", the exhibition will outline the evolution of the major British sports and types of open-air recreation and show how the various products associated with these activities have been developed and perfected. Equipment manufactured by sophisticated industrial methods will be shown alongside products which still largely depend on the skill of craftsmen for their quality. The exhibition will demonstrate how improved standards of design and production have led to improved performance. "Time Out" will be open from 27th April until 30th May

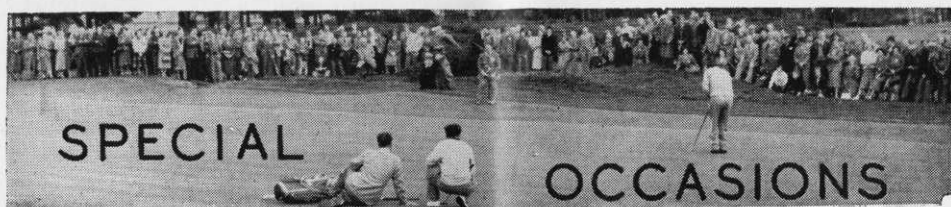
There will be four major kinds of outdoor recreation dealt with in the exhibition—traditional British games, such as cricket, soccer, rugby, golf and tennis,

modern athletics, activities such as camping, hiking, sailing and hill-climbing; and field sports such as shooting, riding and fishing. The criteria of good design will be explained in the exhibition, with particular reference to performance, and will be illustrated both by items of historical interest and by sectionalised exhibits as well as by equipment in current production. The effects of specifications drawn up by the governing bodies of particular sports to ensure safety or uniformity in performance in equipment will be shown, as will some of the modern aids for measuring sporting achievements.

The exhibits will be chosen by a specially appointed CoID selection committee assisted by independent technical assessors for each sport or type of recreation featured in the exhibition. The exhibition has the support of the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

FOR HIRE

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



JANUARY	11th	North-West Section, Lecture, H. J. Lidgate, S.T.R.I., Bingley.
	12th	Southern Section, Lecture, Whitbreads, 6.30 p.m.
	18th	S.G.G.A. Glasgow, Lecture.
	19th	S.G.G.A. Dundee, Lecture.
	20th	S.G.G.A. Edinburgh, Lecture.
	27th	Sheffield Section, Lecture, Brunswick Hotel, Haymarket.
FEBRUARY	8th	S.G.G.A. Glasgow, Lecture.
	9th	S.G.G.A. Dundee, Lecture.
	10th	S.G.G.A. Edinburgh, Lecture.
	16th	Southern Section, Lecture, Whitbreads, 6.30 p.m.
MARCH	1st	North-West Section, Lecture, J. D. Ross, S.T.R.I., Bingley
	16th	Southern Section, Lecture, Whitbreads, 6.30 p.m.
	25th	Southern Section, Annual Dinner North Middlesex Golf Club.



To mark his retirement after 35 years with the firm Mr C S Hinton (left), manager with Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Edinburgh, was presented with a cheque by Mr W D Akester (right), director

Also pictured is Mr F G Catchpole, Lawn Mower Sales Manager