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*"It don't make any difference, lady" said the boy. "They ain't never nobody's husband here!"*

## OCTOBER

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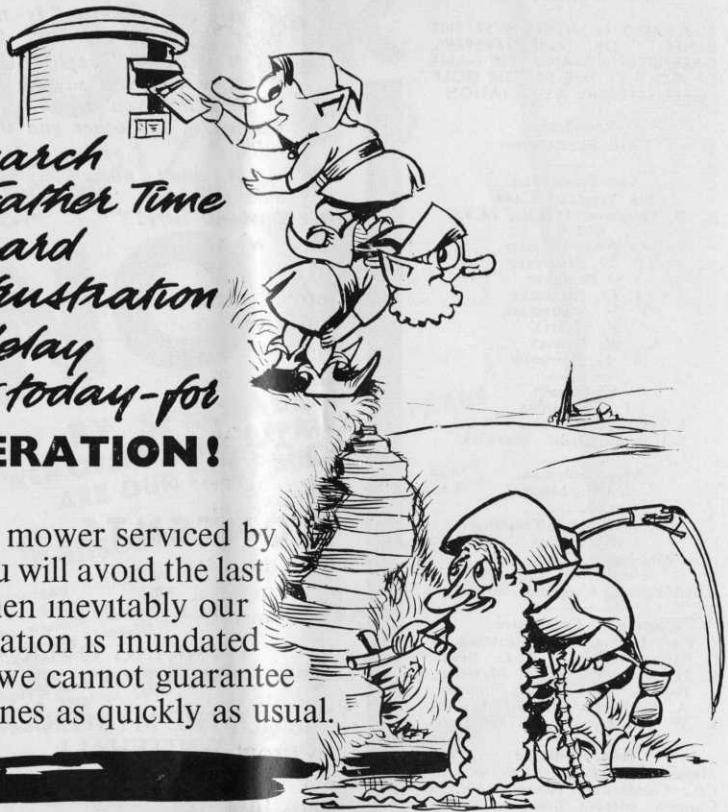


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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

On a later page is printed an admirable review of the events leading up to the Minister's decision not to allow a new golf course on moorland near Keswick. The opinions expressed will coincide with those of our readers. We may be biased but it is difficult to consider that a golf course intrudes on any landscape.

The Minister thought the texture of the grass would be out of character. He is evidently not a botanist. We, ourselves, read patiently last year the comments of a county planning department on a new golf course in parkland of high landscape value. The chief recommendation in that case was that the greens under construction should be covered with soil.

The Minister might have been on safer ground if he had been concerned about bunkers. But a glimpse of those at Walton Heath or Woodbridge where heather, sand and fescue blend most agreeably would surely have softened his attitude. Or, like Berkhamstead, we could do without them altogether.

Tees could be treated appropriately and greens present no problem. Only the club-house and car-park require careful thought and treatment. This question seems not to have exercised the Minister's mind, no doubt because it is of increasing complexity at the ancient monuments under the control of the Minister of Works.

Fortunately there is an increasing number of golfers who only see a pretty hole in wild country as an improvement on Nature. A set of nine or 18 is certainly the best way to get people into the fresh air and countryside which at present too many prefer to view from inside the family saloon.

If the Minister is right, golfers will no doubt be agitating for the removal of sheep from the fells on the grounds that they are not part of the natural fauna. Human beings often spoil the view too.

It is unfortunate that the fundamental principle could not have been stated as a general one before a public inquiry engaged much trouble and expenditure. The Minister could then have saved those involved a lot of time, not least that of his own Inspector.

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# TAKING OVER A NEW APPOINTMENT AS HEAD GROUNDSMAN

## Things you should do

by D. H. Pearse, Head Groundsman, Steel Company of Wales Sports Ground

**T**HE days when a groundsman was an individual with a wheelbarrow, a spade and a broom are as dead as the dodo. Over the past 20 years a new conception of what a groundsman is and what he is responsible for has gradually emerged. There are associations who see to this. They set examinations, appoint district committees, advise on hours and wages, in fact, have put the whole matter on an efficient and recognised plane. It behoves a Head Groundsman, therefore, to act up to the standards required and see that his staff do, too. On taking over a new appointment as Head Groundsman there are essential points to check, which can be listed as follows

- A. MEET THE STAFF
- B. CHECK THE INVENTORY OF TOOLS.
- C. CHECK THE INVENTORY OF MACHINERY
- D. SEE THAT THE POWERED ONES START IF NOT WHY NOT ?
- E. CHECK ALL KIT
- F. CHECK ALL MONIES.
- G. CHECK GROUND PLAN FOR DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND BOUNDARIES. ENQUIRE ABOUT RIGHTS OF WAY LOCATION OF GAS MAINS AND ELECTRIC CABLES, BENCH MARKS.
- H. CHECK FERTILISERS FOR GENERAL CONDITION LABELLING AND QUANTITY
- I. CHECK THE SECURITY OF SHEDS.
- J. MEET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB OR PERSON IN CHARGE TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS.
- K. CHECK ALL BUILDINGS FOR WEATHER PROOFING.

### A. Meeting the Staff

It is essential that you speak to members of your staff individually in order to estimate their capabilities as groundsmen and their physique. Make it quite clear to them in a rational manner—never bluster, it only weakens your position—

what you expect of them, and once having made yourself and your ideas clear NEVER walk back on them.

### B. Check the Inventory of Tools

This you must do in case of any deficiencies in the stock, at the same time you can take a note of any worn out tools that should be replaced, and make out or have made out orders for new ones.

### C. Check Inventory of Machinery

Check the inventory of machinery against the machinery produced in case of deficiencies. Watch out that the numbers tally. It has been known for a good engine to be replaced by a bad one. If the numbers don't agree, investigate the reason thoroughly

D. See that the powered ones start, if not, why not? Check points, carburetors, sparking plugs. If you cannot trace any fault send for Agent's mechanic.

E. Check all games kit and make a note of any deficiencies, ordering the necessary replacements.

### F. Check all Monies

If there are games like putting, golf, bowls, tennis, for which a charge is made for playing and that money is in your charge, you should check the number of the individual tickets issued and see that the money for them is correct and that the proper float is in the cash box.

### G. Check Ground Plan

You should consult the master plan of the grounds and check drainage system so that if your field develops any wet areas you can locate the nearest land drain by measuring as your plan indicates. Boundaries should be checked in case of any legal matter that may arise, and if the boundary is fenced, which is usual, this should be inspected

*contd. on p. 6*

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for holes so that intruders, animal or human, may not unlawfully enter and cause damage. Rights of way must be checked for legal reasons. Gas mains must be checked and a strict ruling must be kept on the amount of coverage on these pipes, there should be some type marker over these mains to indicate their presence. This also applies to electric cables. Overhead cables must always clear the ground by a specific amount. There are rules set down by the Electricity Board which must be carried out. (twenty feet.)

#### H. Check Fertiliser for General Condition, Labelling and Quantity

The reason for this is, if the fertiliser has been allowed to become damp it will be rendered inefficient in that the component elements would have lost their strength through the moist atmosphere reacting on them. If the labels are missing these must be replaced immediately to avoid a wrong application. The quantities should be checked in case there is insufficient in stock for use. If necessary, re-order

#### I. Security of Sheds

All sheds must be checked for security, especially if constructed with galvanised sheets. Look for any sheets that may be loose through gales. Check that locks are effective. **THESE POINTS ARE IMPORTANT** in case of an intruder breaking in. The police would take a dim view if these points were not looked into. There are also the insurance people to think of, they would investigate all points of security before they met the claim.

#### J Meeting the Chairman (or whoever is in charge)

This is to establish good relations. It is essential that you get on well with him and prove your efficiency in all aspects of your job and ascertain, early on, what his ideas are. Never try to hide a mistake; to do so is one of the biggest administrative mistakes you can make. Tell the Chairman or whoever you are responsible to that you have made an error and what you suggest to rectify it. If you are big enough to be a Head Groundsman, you are big enough to

admit a genuine fault. Confession, besides being good for the soul, is good for the work. Steps can be taken to rectify To try to cover up does two things

1. If found out it breeds an atmosphere of doubt in the mind of the Chairman, so that if a mistake occurs afterwards which is no fault of yours or your staff he will never be quite content that you had no part in it; and

2. It prevents remedial action being taken in time.

K. Check all Buildings against damp. See that fertilisers are stored on top of duck boards and away from outer wall so that air is allowed to circulate the bags so that condensation does not occur. Be careful how you handle bags, especially if they are made of paper Machinery must not be kept in a damp place or rust will set in. It is a good policy to start mowers once a week in the closed season so that the magneto does not become damp.

The above points should always be borne in mind when taking up a new appointment.

*Reprinted from the "Groundsman," August 1966 by kind permission.*



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## THE MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF WHITEHALL

**W**HAT constitutes good planning and what is injurious to the amenities of the countryside is often a matter of opinion, so that it is not surprising that decisions on planning matters are far from consistent.

Occasionally, however, a decision is made which seems so devoid of common sense that it is difficult to understand how it could have been arrived at by anyone in full possession of the facts.

Such a decision was that given recently by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, refusing permission for the construction of a golf course for Keswick on land at Shoulthwaite, St John's-in-the-Vale.

The decision followed a public inquiry into an appeal by Keswick Golf Club Ltd. against the refusal of the Lake District Planning Board to allow the construction of the course.

Many of the facts of the matter are not in dispute. Keswick, one of the main holiday resorts in the Lake District, should be able to offer golf as an attraction to visitors. The site selected for the course is on rough ground of little agricultural value and the developers are anxious and able to meet all conditions for siting and screening of buildings and car parks.

The original decision of the Planning Board was incomprehensible but the Minister's final "no" was unbelievable, for it reversed the recommendation of the inspector holding the inquiry that the golf course should be permitted.

The inspector heard comprehensive evidence from both sides and inspected the proposed site. He considered that the making of greens and fairways would be minor transformations of insignificant scale in relation to the surroundings. Except the numbers would be greater, he could see no difference between golfers carrying their bags and walkers carrying their rucksacks. He expressed the opinion that a car park alongside a main traffic route would not look out of place and that the golf house, by using suitable materials and screening, could be made to blend with the surrounding countryside.

The inspectors who conduct these inquiries are not infallible and it is not suggested that their opinions should always be adopted by the Minister, but they are highly skilled, professional men who have had the advantage of hearing both sides and of seeing the sites concerned.

In this case, however, the Minister, in his Whitehall office, presumably not having made a trip to Keswick to see the site, decided that he knew best and turned down a project which could have a considerable effect on the prosperity of Keswick as a holiday town.

His reasons for so doing are that the greens and fairways of a course would be a different texture from the surrounding moorland and that there is a risk that man-made changes would harm the magnificent natural beauty and character of the area. No word of objection to the buildings or the car park.

*contd. on p. 10*



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## 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.

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contd. from p. 7

Those who know this bald, moorland area will be at a loss to understand what the Minister is talking about. As the inspector reported, the greens and fairways would hardly be noticeable against the scale of the landscape and, if anything, would look much more pleasant than the existing fellside. As to making changes, any farmer in the area could make much more drastic alterations to the appearance of the moor if he decided to drain a few acres and improve the pasture—and he would be given aid by the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out the change!

The Minister says that he accepts that there is a need for a golf course at Keswick but if he will not allow construction on this least attractive part of

the area, where can the promoters hope to find an acceptable site?

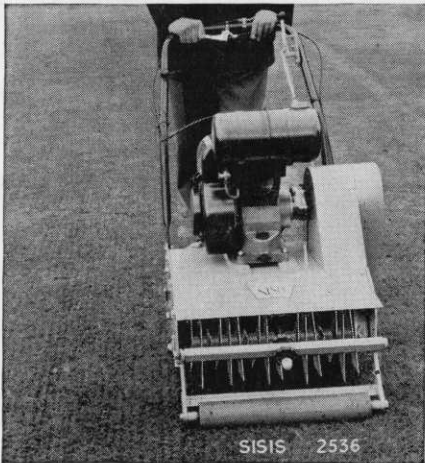
This newspaper has always been in the van of the fight to prevent development in the Lake District which would be out of place and destroy the natural beauty which so many people come to admire, but this is a case where the building of a golf course would improve the appearance of the area concerned, would help the prosperity of Keswick and would provide enjoyment for thousands of people. One is left to wonder if the Minister, or those who advise him on these matters, fully understood the facts of this appeal or appreciated the nature of the countryside concerned.

*Reprinted from the editorial of "The Cumberland Herald," 27th August 1966 by kind permission.*

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