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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME
OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF
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No. 258 New Series

SEPTEMBER 1966

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And my body says "Who? Me?"

—STEPHEN SCHLITZER.

SEPTEMBER

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The record entry for the Annual Tournament at Little Aston found playing conditions almost unbelievably good for these days. Tuesday brought rain, but Monday and Wednesday were fine and it was hard to believe that this tranquil park setting with views to distant hills was only a few miles from the city centre. It was good to meet so many old friends, new ones, and the faithful group of wives. We hope they will all be at Walton Heath next year

Was shown the course equipment at Prestatyn recently. One novelty amongst others was the Overgreen trailing five Certes units instead of the usual three. Has anyone else tried this? Another time-saver was a long side-arm extending from the tractor trailing a harness with two heavy chains. These smooth all the sand bunkers on this links in something under 1½ hours.

Attended the last two days of the inaugural tournament of the new Pals golf course, first on the Costa Brava, later in the month. The first seed was sown on 1st November 1964, the last in Spring this year. There were competitions every day and receptions every night for a fortnight and the final dinner and prize giving was attended by over 300. Not bad for a new nine-hole course.

Bromley has started work on the first nine of a municipal 18 holes at Downe where Charles Darwin once studied earthworm activities. The ground is a public open space well furnished with trees. The scheme was started by Orpington, now merged into the Greater London Borough. The first nine holes of the Dartford Rural District's municipal course at Lullingstone Park opened in June is already said to be crowded though fairly remotely situated. There is still room for more.

Studying Natural History on the Golf Course

From a correspondent

Reprinted from The Times, London, 30th July 1966, by kind permission.

SOME golf courses, well tended as they are and sometimes enclosed, are becoming better and better havens for wild plants, butterflies and moths, and resident and migratory birds. Many golf links have been encroached upon by the increased agricultural use of land or by tremendous building activity until they have become oases of unspoilt and to a great extent conserved countryside. It is a common mistake to think that a tract of countryside can be conserved without knowledgeable and regular attention, and although golf course upkeep may not be entirely perfect from the naturalists' point of view, for it may be a little too careful, it is obviously suiting plenty of animal, bird and plant species.

There have only been a few reports of cases where insect or weed-killing sprays used on greens have resulted in wholesale death of birds that fed on poisoned insects or coated weed seeds. There have, indeed, been far more records received of preserved species that are now scarce "out in the open". The very fact that links are often fenced and patrolled during daylight hours by golfers and greensmen keeps out many wild-flower pickers as well as itinerant butterfly collectors and bird-nesters. The mowing of the fairways seems to suit some plants, and the restriction of scrub in outer roughs is also helpful.

Early this year Mr Henry Longhurst reported that there were 147 varieties of wild flowers flourishing on the links at Saunton. There are at least 200 varieties on a Sussex coastal course, including some that are rare and that attract ardent botanists from a long way off. Certainly some of the 200 are grasses, like the unobtrusive Dune Fescue and the bulbous Meadow-grass or even sedges like the Salt-marsh Sedge, but these give clues to the types of habi-

tat that this golf course covers and thereby protects, and there are plenty more showy wild flowers as well. In some seasons Sand Catchfly, with its striped and swollen calyx and small, topping bright pink flowers, colours the ground. There is usually a brilliance of blue Viper's Bugloss in the early summer and wide treads of acid-yellow Stonecrop or Wall-pepper

TRAMPLED PLANTS

The dunes on the open, sea side, are spoilt by hordes of picnickers who trample the small plants to extinction and leave tins and bottles about when they go home. On the other side, inside the fence, among the seashore grasses, there is a riot of small-flowered clovers, Fenugreek, and still some Sea Holly as well as streamers of Sea Bindweed with rosy bell-tent flowers and mats of Sea Sandwort. There is even a sandy bank, close to another fence, where "Little Robin", the often taller, but uncommon, relation of Herb Robert, grows.

Six-spot Burnet moths sling their cocoons by the score on the stems of high grasses beside the fairways and Painted Lady butterflies as well as Red Admirals coming in from across the Channel enjoy their first landfall without being chased and captured. This is one of the few places left to look for Clouded Yellows, for even during years when they are scarce there are generally a few here in early autumn. There are always Wheatears and Redstarts, too, in spring and autumn, and occasionally in September small gangs of Stone Curlews, Thick-knees or Great Plover pause before setting off over the sea.

Fifty or more miles away on a sandy inland golf course at the edge of an old forest there are even more extra pleasures for any members who may be nature-minded. A mass of Bog Pimpernel flowers smother the grass at the edge of one of the holes on the ladies' course. Lilac-flowered Ivy-leaved Campanulas decorate the sides of several narrow ditches. Marsh St John's Wort, its hairy

(Continued overleaf)

leaves trapping drops of water and thus turning themselves silver, makes black-watered pools more attractive than they would be without any vegetation, even if it makes it more difficult to find balls that have been sliced across the rough.

SPREADING FRINGE-CUPS

Early in the year Lousewort changes the colour of the grass on the fairway and in the autumn Saw-wort, heather and heaths, and dwarf gorse make the patterns of colour. There are places where Marsh Gentians grow and open their big blue flowers for a few bright hours and one teeside where "Fringe-cups" (*Tellima grandiflora*) were spreading well when I last saw them. To the purists they may be only garden escapes, but they are a long way from the garden here and getting a chance to grow well.

Silver-studded blue butterflies flutter their way all round these long and shorter courses and seem to maintain their numbers. In the open adjacent forest land, they are getting fewer and fewer. It is the same with Nightjars, they seem to stand a better chance on the golf course property than they do outside it. Often when I have left the clubhouse at dusk in the summer I have paused to hear their churrings coming from all round, together, when the wind was in the right direction, with the higher-pitched reeling of a Grasshopper Warbler.

Some of the downland links have great numbers of interesting plants in their precincts. The rare Moon Carrot belongs to the entrance of one club and is given three-star rarity rating in a wildflower handbook. It may not look very different from an ordinary wild carrot flower unless you are expert, but the green frill of bracts under the flower-head are undivided and, I am told, it shines out whiter than white at night. The fairways and roughs on the chalk hills are wonderful places for such eye-catching butterflies as the black-and-white Marbled Whites, or "Half-mourners" as they used to be called, and for the rapidly scarcening Blues, the Common Blue that is no longer at all common and the even more local Chalk-hill Blue and Adonis Blue. The

(Continued overleaf)



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last two lay their eggs on the Horseshoe Vetch, a plant that is actually and literally losing ground yearly now that so much of these hills (or "mountains" as Gilbert White called them) is ploughed.

There used to be hundreds of butterflies in and over the grass on Cissbury Hill and on one slope a strong stand of Maiden Pink. Now they all seem to have gone but on the golf course near by there are still plenty of Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Small Coppers, and Brown Argus butterflies and one small colony of the Pink. Bee orchids decorate the valley sides above the long fairways, just after the creamy Dropwort is over and sometimes there are numerous Fragrant Orchids too. Tree and Meadow Pipits and Linnets and Yellowhammers all do their best to distract the players.

There are links where the attractions are so great that it is difficult to concentrate. An elderly golfing naturalist once told me that she had found Orange Birdsfoot on a Hampshire golf course and I have searched for it to the detriment of my game ever since. I have repeatedly lost balls into the woodland where Martagon Lilies were reputed to grow beside another remote course. I listen, with envy, to stories about the Sand Crocus which grows on a golf course in Devon and nowhere else in this country, for I have never been able to go at the time of the year when it flowers. I remember, when I was a child, abandoning my game altogether on the course on Wimbledon Common when I heard that Dartford Warblers were breeding in the gorse there. And there have been times, more recently, when I have got to the car park of a course near my home and spent several hours watching spring migrants and finding Shepherd's-cress, or Teesdalia, Hoary Cinqufoil, and Moenchia there without getting as far as the clubhouse.

LOSS OF A HOLE

Watching White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries basking on bramble flowers in high summer on a golf course where wild daffodils grow earlier in the year has often led to the loss of a hole, and the hope of seeing rare plants and

butterflies on any of the New Forest courses never improves my game. Possibly if I ever had the chance to play at Churston, or Mullion, or up by the Brecks at Thetford, it might be as well to explore the courses first and play afterwards.

From a natural history point of view the golf course where the Lizard orchids grow is the most famous. I cannot give a clue to its locality for the tall, grotesque-flowered plants are sometimes abundant and sometimes very scanty. Considering their weirdness, they do not show up well but they smell, when you are near enough to notice, as bad as billy goats. It is possible on this course to pick a small bunch of asparagus, growing wild, and to enjoy the sight of a dense patch of blue Meadow Cranesbill. Creaking-voiced, husky Corn Buntings sing all day and there is a tale that black-veined White Butterflies are still seen here. There are sprawls of golden and white bedstraw which have hybridised to produce a pale yellow-flowered offspring, and skylarks nest on the ground beside such rarities as clove-scented Broomrape.



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ANNUAL TOURNAMENT and A.G.M.

ANNUAL REPORT: 1966

Administration

We congratulate our Chairman, Mr J Simpson, on a most successful year of office, and thank him for his endeavours. We all appreciate how much his efforts have helped to re-establish the North-East Section as a very valuable part of our Association.

We offer sincere congratulations to Mr F Cashmore who is nominated to succeed Mr Simpson. No member, we feel sure, could be more worthy of this office.

The Annual Draw again proved a financial success, thanks to the efforts of members who sold tickets. We congratulate the winners of prizes, and trust that all members will continue their efforts in this field, which is so important for the satisfactory running of our affairs.

Once again our thanks are due to the R. and A. for allotting 12 passes for the Open Championship, and we are sure that those who were able to attend were appreciative of this privilege.

It would appear from the number of inquiries received both from members and golf clubs, that the Wage Scale Survey, amended in March, is still supplying useful information, and we are confident that these inquiries are proving beneficial to our members.

The Apprenticeship Scheme has once again proved its value and the number of would-be greenkeepers is on the increase. The latest figures show that there are now 42 signed apprentices, and a further 28 deeds issued.

Membership

The figures as provided by the Sections at the year ended showed our membership to be a fraction lower than last year, 676 against 680, but it is gratifying to note that the increased numbers last year are still with us.

Annual Tournament

The 48th Annual Tournament was held at Whitley Bay Golf Club, and

AT THE TOURNAMENT



*Messrs Ford, Hastilow Sumner Dixon,
Smith, Walsh, Drewitt.*

whilst again the entry was on the small side, it must be understood that the venue meant a long trip for a large number of our members. Those who took part had a very enjoyable tournament, with admirable weather. Our very sincere thanks are due to the Secretary and his staff for all their efforts to make our visit such an enjoyable one and we must again emphasise our appreciation and thanks for all the generous donations and prizes presented for the tournament.

Sections

Our thanks are again due to Section Secretaries and their Committees for their continued efforts within the Sections in arranging tournaments, lectures and visits of interest, also to the firms and organisations who assist in making these arrangements possible.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we can advise members that the Irish Section has been re-formed, and are now in action for the current year

“ British Golf Greenkeeper ”

Our sincere thanks are again due to the Hon. Editor of our Journal and his staff, also to Section Secretaries for local news, and those who assisted with articles for publication. It is regretted that there have been cases where members have not been receiving their Journals, and it must be emphasised that Section Secretaries must keep the editorial staff fully advised of all new members, changes of address, and cancellations.

Benevolent Fund

There have been four calls on the Benevolent Fund during the year under review, and a total of £50 was paid out. We again received the proceeds of a special competition run by one club for this fund, and would again express our sincere thanks. Unfortunately this idea, which was mentioned last year, has not so far spread to other clubs.

F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

This fund again made provision for four reservations at Bingley during the year, and it is very gratifying to know that these were all taken up by members. The trustees of the fund are again very appreciative of the assistance given by clubs with the expenses of the greenkeepers who have attended these courses.

Sports Turf Research Institute

Once again we would express our sincere appreciation for all the assistance and interest shown to our members by the Sports Turf Research Institute.

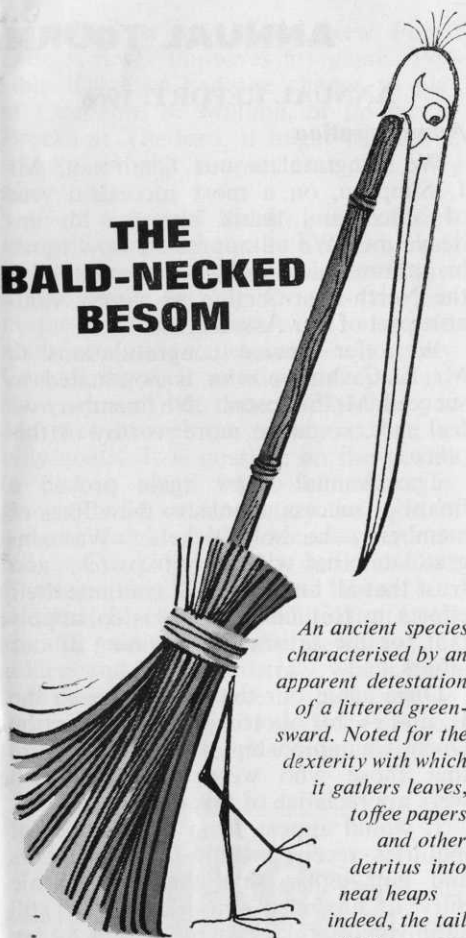
In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of the following members announced in the *British Golf Greenkeeper* since our last report Messrs Leslie Bakes, Bill Lawrence, H. Jackson, Fred Key, A. Thompson, T. Bridges and J. Marshall.

By order of the Executive Committee,

J Simpson, *Chairman.*
C. H. Dix, *Hon. Secretary*

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Poole, D. S.	24121	McAlister, J.	21898	Mitchell, A.	12515
Clegg, R.	22744	Hay, A. G.	17453	Hutchinson, D. J.	12713
Aram, B. R.	16537	Hector, W.	21972	Whitehead, E. R.	14870
Notley, M. J.	24004	Green, P. O.	17382	MacDonald, I. D.	22339
Craddock, J.	12605	Hunt, G. M.	08897	Whitcombe, E. E.	11138
McNaughton, T.	08569	Patterson, B. W.	03300	Stainer, N.	15150
Common, J.	12494	Plumbridge, M. M. R.	18135	Huggett, G. W.	16107
Bailey, D.	07965	Brown, E. C.	03413	Lynch, N. C.	01838
Carter, W. H.	13680	Aitken, G. J.	16220	Low, G. W.	06862
Lund, H. H.	10113	West, W. F.	22580	Lait, D. E.	01934
Coombs, P. J.	21901	Donald, R.	17394	Lambert, R.	17697
Beard, D.	00704	Midgley, D.	16980	Bonthron, D.	22221
O'Connor, C.	09213	Wilson, P.	21776	Coles, N. C.	08147
Allen, B. H.	01724	Bannerman, H.	06739	Thomson, P. W.	15297
Cole, M. E.	00471	Large, W.	06303	Thomas, D. C.	23183
Burns, J. R.	06674	Martin, J.	01481	Charles, R. J.	03355
Wilkshire, J. W.	01807				



Berk Autumn

of turf treatments for busy

Turf Fungicide



Fusarium Patch

This is both a preventive measure and a cure. Berk Turf Fungicide gives excellent control over Fusarium Patch and Dollar Spot—at very low cost. A 600 sq. yd. golf green requires only 15 oz. of the material which costs less than 13/6. It can be applied either as a spray or a powder in late summer and the treatment should be repeated at least twice at monthly intervals. Because it is non-abrasive it cannot damage spraying equipment and, provided that the machines are washed out after use, it cannot cause corrosion.

Berk Turf Fungicide is available in 1 lb. or 7 lb. tins.

Turf Weedkiller—Super

Contains Mecoprop and controls Clover Yarrow Pearlwort and deep-rooted and persistent weeds as well as Daisies and Plantains, etc. 1 gallon treats 3,200 sq. yds.

Turf Weedkiller—Standard

Contains 2,4D and controls most shallow-rooted and broad leaved weeds. 1 gallon treats 6,400 sq. yds.

Moss Control

Berk Moss Control compounds are based on mercury—this is present in an insoluble and harmless form. Mercury not only kills moss but prevents subsequent growth—it can control moss for up to three years. Three compounds are available the choice depends on the individual requirements and the time of the year.

M.T.S. (Mercurized Turf Sand) (M of A 1477)

This is applied at 4 oz. per square yard from early spring to late summer. It kills moss immediately, reduces weed population and, because it contains a quick-acting nitrogen fertilizer, stimulates grass growth.

Moss Killer (M of A 1478)

This is applied at 4 oz. per square yard at any time of the year but especially prior to normal autumn treatments. Moss Killer does not contain a grass stimulant but gives rapid control over moss.

Moss Eradicant (M of A 1479)

A special formulation to control the following crop of moss while killing the immediate crop gradually—so there is no disfigurement from dead moss.

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.