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No. 268 New Series

JULY 1967

GOLFACT

*The 18 holes in a golf course
Started with one Scotch linkster,
Who nipped a bit at each wee tee—
And was an 18-drinkster.*

—DICK HAYMAN.

JULY

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EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: SANDerstead 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 14/- for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. LATEST COPY DATE: 8th of month prior to insertion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in whole or in part is prohibited. This Magazine shall not, without the written consent of the publishers first given, be se-sold, lent, hired out, or otherwise disposed of. Contributions and photographs of interest are invited.

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Bill Mason, honorary secretary and treasurer of the Southern Section since 1934, is retiring and is handing over his duties to F. N. Ford who lives at 68 Salcombe Gardens, Mill Hill, N.W.7. Bill's 33 years as hon. secretary have seen the Southern Section grow in strength and he himself sees many changes in the greenkeepers' work. Looking through the minutes he was amused to find a record of the meeting at which he was elected when our founder said: "I am pleased to know that young Bill Mason will take the job". The Southern Section and the whole association will wish to express their thanks to Bill Mason for a fine job and a worthy one.

* * *

Arundel Golf Club has decided to buy its 58-acre course from Major Watts Russell for £10,000. They hope to obtain a grant for half the value and to raise the remainder by a gift scheme and an annual loan of £5 per member for the next two years.

* * *

Harwich and Dover Court Golf Club has been without a greenkeeper for more than five weeks. The Green committee, led by the captain, have been keeping greens, fairways and rough in condition.

* * *

Cheltenham Trades Council moved a resolution last month viewing with concern the spending of £96,000 on golf courses. Mr L. M. Reay had however noted at trade union conferences that delegates arrived with golf clubs ready for the leisure periods. Mr Reay was charged with the task of moving an amendment to restrict grants to municipal courses.

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TEES ON THE MODERN GOLF COURSE

By M. B. BROWN

The Sports Turf Research Institute

IT all starts on the tee and there can be no denying that the facilities offered on the starting point can make or mar a round of golf.

The golfer requires an area which presents a level firm surface from which he can assess the problems and the traps which are between him and the hole—an area which preferably blends in well with the surrounding course and is not too obviously artificial. The greenkeeper requires an area which is readily accessible to machinery and on which it is possible to carry out regular and routine maintenance with a minimum expenditure of time and effort.

A series of pocket handkerchief tees, perhaps raised a foot or two above the general levels of the area, often terraced and extending well into the fairways, pleases neither the golfer nor the greenkeeper—particularly the latter. What effort is required to mow those pocket handkerchief tees and their banks twice a week! Especially, as is so often the case in this country, when the greenkeeping staff is below strength. And consider the space wasted by those small terraced tees.

To meet the demands of modern golf and busy courses larger tees are essential—an area of at least 200 sq. yd. will enable wear and tear to be evenly spread—and, most important, will give the greenkeeper an opportunity to carry out progressive renovation and even rest sections of the tee as necessary during the main playing season. On short holes where iron shots cause so much devastation to tees even larger teeing areas should be considered.

The maintenance advantages of one large teeing ground as opposed to the motley collection of pocket handkerchief tees which was—and in some cases still is—evident on many of our courses, are readily apparent. Operations such as mowing, weedkilling and fertilizer distribution can be more readily, evenly and quickly carried out

despite the possible increase in overall area.

In short, the greenkeeper is being given more opportunity to implement the type of maintenance programme required to produce teeing surfaces of good standard and one hopes that his interest in the tees will thereby be increased.

To achieve the conditions which the golfer nowadays expects maintenance of tees must be regular. A sward which will make regular and steady growth and which will withstand heavy wear is required and appropriate fertilizer treatment in spring and again if necessary in mid-summer will encourage such a sward. A suitable granular fertilizer is satisfactory and is easy to apply—alternatively a general fertilizer dressing such as is used on the greens but at a somewhat lower rate of application may be used. Excessive fertilizer application must, however, be avoided since it will lead to a too lush growth which in turn may well result in too soft surfaces.

Mowing twice a week during the growing season is necessary but on no account should tees be mown too closely, a height of cut of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. being regarded as the minimum. Although it is time-consuming, boxing off clippings is advisable—the constant return of clippings will certainly encourage soft surface conditions.

Solid tine aeration in autumn will relieve the compaction caused by the season's play as well as encouraging deeper and more vigorous rooting. Further aeration in spring preferably with slit tines will again improve rooting. A strong root system will improve resistance to wear and drought and the sward will recover more readily from the effects of play.

Tees must be level and firm, a condition which can be brought about by top dressing in autumn and during the season. The autumn top dressing is perhaps the most important since a greater quantity of material can be

(continued on page 7)

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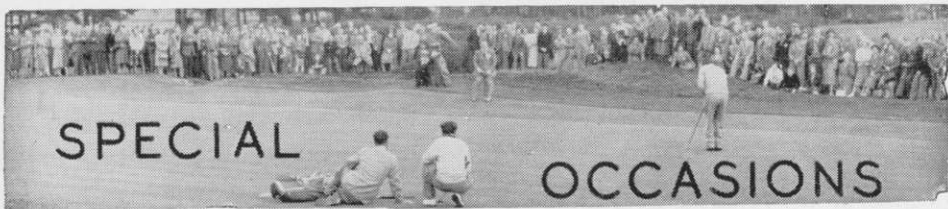
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- JULY** 3rd Midland Summer Cup and A.G.M. — Habberley G.C.
 18th Sheffield Tournament — Lees Hall G.C.
- AUGUST** 7th, 8th, 9th Annual Tournament — Walton Heath.
 27th Northern President's Match — Filey G.C.
- SEPTEMBER** 14th Southern Autumn Tournament — Langley Park G.C.
 21st Northern Match with Sheffield — Otley G.C.
 22nd Midland Annual Dinner — Merry Vale Hotel, Langley Green.
 28th North-East Annual Competition — Northumberland G.C.
- OCTOBER** 4th Welsh Autumn Meeting — Pennard G.C.
 4th North-West Autumn Tournament — Haydock Park G.C.
 26th Northern Autumn Tournament — Alwoodley G.C.

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(continued from page 4)

safely applied and worked in at a period when the course is quieter. A good quality medium loam soil—or alternatively a well made screened compost—and a sharp lime-free sand mixed in equal quantities (or more or less according to circumstances) is ideal and should preferably be applied immediately after aeration.

During the season progressive maintenance will mean that teeing grounds can survive the main season without ending up resembling the goal-mouth area of a football pitch in April. Such renovation may be carried out by seeding or by turfing after worn areas have been scarified and aerated—where seed is used further light top dressing could beneficially be applied before sowing. A seeds mixture containing the compact and harder wearing grasses such as crested dogstail, smooth stalked meadow-grass, creeping red fescue and bent is to be preferred but if ryegrass is present in the sward a proportion of a suitable strain of this grass, e.g. S. 23, should be included to maintain a sward reasonably uniform in composition. If turf is used it must match as closely as possible the existing sward and the establishment of a turf nursery solely for the renovation of tees is something which many clubs in this country would do well to consider. If possible renovated areas should be

rested to allow at least initial establishment.

Progressive renovation during the course of the season does not mean that end of season renovation can be avoided and major renovation should be carried out in autumn.

Golf is played all the year round and although there is much less play during the winter months weather conditions are such that tees suffer badly as a result of winter play. Special winter tees—which could even be areas of the fairways or artificial surfaces—should therefore be considered particularly on courses where teeing space is limited.

Drainage, worm and weed control are further points which must be considered when discussing tees, and all are important. There is a tendency for many tees to be situated in close proximity to trees and tees in this position are at a disadvantage from the start. The construction of tees under a tree canopy should be avoided but if, for specific reasons, tees are sited near trees overhanging branches should be cut back and root pruning carried out where necessary.

It is realised that the establishment of teeing grounds as described will not be practicable in every case—especially on existing courses—but there are very few holes on most courses where some useful modification cannot be achieved, to the satisfaction of both the golfer and the greenkeeper.

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WILLIAM MOOR RETIRES

William Moor, who has been with Messrs Suttons for more than 53 years, has now retired apart from one or two more visits to Italy where he still has some business interests in a turf advisory capacity.

Mr Moor was educated at the Reading Blue Coat School where he became head boy. He was a Sergeant Instructor in the 1914-18 war and served in the Home Guard in the Second World War being subsequently gazetted an Honorary Captain.

He has made many friends in the golfing world and looks back on some who will not be known to the present

generation. Some of the best known greenkeepers he recalls are Hugh MacLean (Jim's father at Sunningdale), Sid Suanders (Walton Heath), Alf Hindley (North Hants), Charlie and Fred Venn, Messrs Arnold (Addington), Nye (Camberley Heath), Norris (Henley), Tom Bridges (Royal Liverpool) and many others.

As you will see from the photograph reproduced here Mr Moore still wears his years lightly and would, we believe, always be glad to see any of his friends at his home in Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading. We wish him many happy years of retirement.



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HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES



Walton Heath

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fiftieth Annual General Meeting of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be held at the Walton Heath Golf Club, Tadworth, Surrey, on Monday, 7th August 1967, at 2.30 p.m. Notice of resolutions must be sent in writing to the hon. secretary TWENTY-ONE DAYS before the date of the meeting. Under Rule 29, proxies may be voted at all General Meetings. A Form of Proxy may be obtained from the hon. secretary and returned not later than the first post on Wednesday, 2nd August.

The Annual Tournament

The fiftieth Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Walton Heath Golf Club, Tadworth, Surrey, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 7th, 8th, 9th August 1967. Entry Forms were enclosed with the June Journal.

Programme

Monday, 7th August: Morning—18 holes Stableford; Afternoon — Annual General Meeting 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 8th August: 36 holes Medal; "News of the World" Cup (scratch); Senior Division (plus to 11); Junior Division (12 to 24); the Artisan Medal; the Jubilee Cup (Team Prize off handicap); The Coming of Age Cup.

Wednesday, 9th August: Morning—18 holes Medal; Afternoon — Prize distribution at 3 p.m.

Handicaps

Section secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all competitors from their records before the tournament. All handicaps must be based on the National Golf Union's handicapping system.

Executive Committee

A meeting of the executive will be held at the Walton Heath Golf Club, Tadworth, Surrey, on Sunday, 6th August 1967, at approximately 5 p.m.

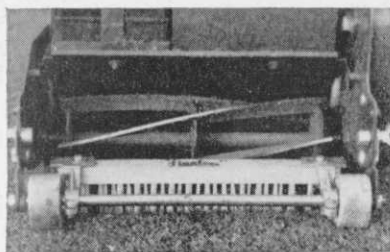
Trophies

May I remind holders of trophies from last year's tournament who are not taking part this year to ensure that these are returned to the Walton Heath Golf Club before Saturday, 5th August.

Annual Draw

May I remind members that all counterfoils and moneys should be returned to their Section secretary and NOT to me.

C. H. DIX.



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PRESIDENT'S TEAM v. GREENKEEPERS' TEAM

Handsworth Golf Club, Thursday, 22nd June

The Handsworth Golf Course was in magnificent shape for this popular event which Mr Bretherton arranges each year between a team of Midland Club members and another from the Midland section of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association. The automatic watering system had obviously coped satisfactorily with the recent dry spell and Mr Drewitt in particular found the greens to his liking, holing five putts said to be of the length of a cricket pitch and another chip shot of 50 yards or thereabouts. His activities led to his side's victory against H. E. Roe and Rod Davies by a handsome margin, and another notable victory was that of E. Benbow and R. Smith over Mr Jack Urry, Chairman of the Warwickshire Golf Union and Hon. Treasurer of the English Golf Union, who played with Mr M. Ingram. T. Jones and V. Smith managed to win on the last green while R. Goodwin, Midland Section Secretary and A. Boraston halved their game, as did Messrs L. Greenow and D. Brazier.

After the match the two teams and nearly an equal number of invited guests sat down to an excellent hot meal and in the short speeches which followed many thanks were expressed to our President for his hospitality and all the work which he does for greenkeepers everywhere. The teams and results were as follows:—

<i>President's Team</i>			<i>Greenkeepers' Team</i>		
R. Hiatt and P. Skerritt		0	T. Jones and V. Smith	1 up	1
R. D. Kirkby and R. W. Whittington	1 up	1	W. Marnock and W. Barton		0
A. Pullar and J. T. Mitchley	4 and 3	1	G. Woodward and R. J. Pugh		0
J. N. Urry and M. Ingram		0	E. Benbow and R. Smith	4 and 3	1
J. W. Jackson and T. A. Phillips		$\frac{1}{2}$	R. Goodwin and A. Boraston		$\frac{1}{2}$
H. E. Roe and Rod Davies		0	H. Drewitt and A. Stephens	8 and 6	1
S. Allen and E. H. Ballenger	6 and 5	1	A. Hastilow and R. Hughes		0
J. Johnson and N. H. Russell	6 and 5	1	G. Smith and G. Bunting		0
W. L. Jones and A. Derbyshire		$\frac{1}{2}$	L. Greenow and D. Brazier		$\frac{1}{2}$
R. D. Parker and R. W. Bailey	2 up	1	W. Royce and L. Halton		0
V. G. Bull and D. Davies	2 and 1	1	N. F. Horner and R. Ramsden		0
Dr V. E. Milne and H. Patchett	1 up	1	W. E. Lawley and G. Morris		0
		—			—
		8			4