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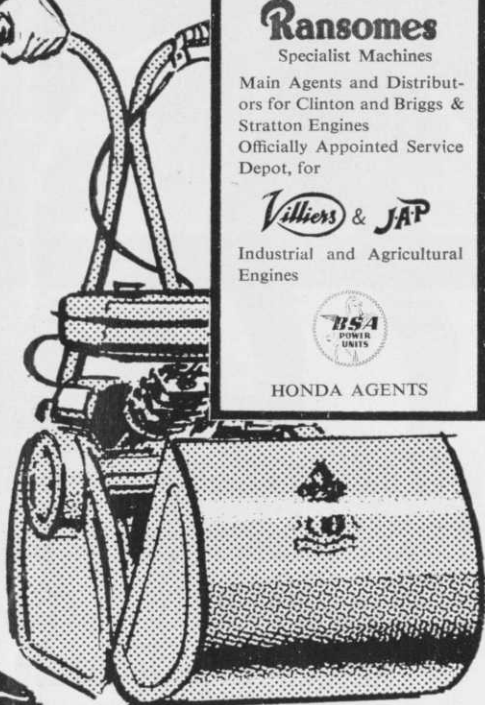
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HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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No. 266 New Series

MAY 1967

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The famous course at St Andrews, Scotland, has one bunker known as "Hell", because it's so hard to get out of.

A visiting American clergyman had been warned about this trap, but landed in it anyhow. He took his niblick and made a perfect shot, landing the ball on the green. Turning proudly to the caddie, he said, "And what do you think of that?"

"I think when ye die, ye'd better take yer niblick with ye."

—B. HUFF.

MAY

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The whole Association will be saddened by the news of the death of Mrs Bretherton in April. After undergoing two operations she had returned home, and we had all looked forward to seeing her restored to full health at this year's Tournament. We send all our sympathy to our President.

New Courses

Malton and Norton's 9-hole course will soon be extended to eighteen. The East Riding Planning Authority has now approved the 56-acre extension.

Theydon Bois will soon have a second golf course. Epping and Ongar Rural District Council plan a par-3 course, driving range, putting course and club room on 27 acres.

Theydon Bois Golf Club itself may also extend to 18 holes soon.

Gosby Golf Club, Leicester, is completing another nine holes to bring the course up to full size.

Worcestershire Golf Club is also planning to double its nine holes. But this club was 18 holes before the war. Now Army housing occupies most of the original first half.

Changes

Workshop Golf Club is making four new holes to give more length and avoid an area where a new road will eventually cut across a corner of the course. George Herrington is helping in his spare time and tree clearance, cultivations and green formations are already complete.

Problem

The rapid growth of "Pitch and Putt" Clubs in Ireland has led them to form their own union. But any course with a hole over 90 yards long is barred as it is considered too near the real thing. The 90-yard-plus courses come into the par-3 category but their players' handicaps cause a problem. A 10-handicap man on a 54 par gets two extra strokes when he plays on a full scale par-70 and mops all the trophies in sight. There will be a par-3 greenkeeper in the Association soon. You have been warned.

GREENKEEPING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

by L. H. RYAN, ADVISORY OFFICER
THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IN such a large country as the U.S.A. there are, of course, wide variations in climate. However, it may be of some interest to make certain general comparisons between greenkeeping in the U.S.A. and greenkeeping in Britain.

Broadly speaking, maintenance of golf courses in the U.S.A. is on a much higher plane than in Britain. I am not saying that the greenkeeper is better educated or experienced, but the clubs in the United States spend more money on maintenance, more on materials and have at their disposal a far greater range of equipment.

Costs

In the U.S. it is generally accepted that a minimum of £1,400 per hole is spent each year on maintenance (this is the average 18-hole golf club — not the larger plush country club) while in Britain the average maintenance cost would be perhaps £400 per hole. These are only rough estimates but suffice to show the great difference in average maintenance costs per year between the two countries.

It should be noted, however, that clubs regardless of location are quite variable in their maintenance standards and in their budgets. Because of geographical location, length of season may vary in different areas thus affecting the degree of maintenance required.

Mechanical equipment

In the U.S. mechanisation is increasing, and machinery is becoming more and more specialised. The actual headquarters of the greenkeeper are assuming more and more importance in the scheme of things. No longer has he to operate from an antiquated barn, but has a modern, well-equipped building including offices, equipment storage,

up-to-date facilities for his men and a repair shop complete with carpenter. He usually has a skilled mechanic who maintains his expanded range of equipment to a high standard of operating efficiency. Since the end of World War II greenkeeping has undoubtedly made great progress from the point of view of mechanisation — a trend which labour shortages have accelerated. New mowing equipment for instance has come on the market (both rotary and cylinder types) and the time taken to cut the grass has been reduced still further. Although mowers in Britain have had their efficiency increased to the same extent, on British courses the greens are mown only three times a week on average at the height of the growing season. In the U.S. most clubs during the summer season mow every day and very few clubs mow less than five times a week.

New types of sprayers, distributors, spikers, sprinklers, etc., have made the job easier for the greenkeeper, cheaper for the club and have produced superior results.

Some of the American equipment is sold in Britain, through agents, and is proving popular with greenkeepers and groundsmen.

It is, of course, necessary to find the right sort of man to get the best out of improved machines. As in farming, the tendency will probably be to use more and more machines and still fewer men. The natural outcome of this will be improved conditions for the men and higher wages.

Materials

Everywhere now there is a continuous flow of new and more efficient fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, growth

(Continued on page 6)

Book Review

MASTER GOLFER

Those brought up in sight of a golf course, like J. H. Taylor or the Whitcombes, develop a realistic approach to the game which stands them in good stead in the pressures of golf for a living. Now Jimmy Hitchcock, son of one of the Southern Section's best-known members, describes the process in a delightful mixture of personal history, anecdotes, and views of the inside of the professional circuit entitled "Master Golfer" (published by Stanley Paul, price 30s.).

Father was a strict taskmaster and kept his young son firmly on the hard road to success. Dick Burton was the next strong influence and both recur throughout the book at critical times. The younger Hitchcock, himself, was a real worker at the game and all his family helped him on in the early days.

One might think that a professional golfer would forget the details of rounds played years ago. Not so J. Hitchcock. The exact problems, fortunes, and turning points of every round in 20 or more key events are relived in sharp focus. It is better than watching the real thing. Each stroke is seen through the eyes of the player and the excitement and the tension come through clearly.

A good book for any greenkeeper with a young son keen on the game. In fact a good book for anyone to read. If you see the film "How to succeed in business without really trying", this book will provide the antidote. No young professional golfer ever gets to the top without quite exceptional dedication to his job. Jimmy Hitchcock obviously has that quality.

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(Continued from page 4)

regulators and fertilizers. They are possibly more readily accepted and more widely used in the U.S. than in Britain.

In the U.S. fertilizer certainly is more generously used on greens, fairways and even in the rough. The average club member likes a good green turf and is willing to spend the extra money to achieve it. The latest in fertilizer, storage facilities and distribution equipment is given to the greenkeeper and the members expect no excuses if he fails to produce results.

From the Playing Angle

British courses offer the best test of golf I personally have ever seen. Typical of so many foreign courses, yet unlike so many courses in the U.S., they put the emphasis on accuracy rather than distance. British courses really make one think. The English greens are also much smaller than the U.S. and the approaches more closely guarded. If the player strays from the fairway the rough will cost him at least a stroke to recover.

Mr Ryan is himself an American, now in the employ of The S.T.R.I.—
Editor.

21st ANNIVERSARY FOR MOUNTAINS OF MORLEY

The opening on 7th March in Jackson Lane, Morley, nr. Leeds for W. Mountain & Son Limited, known throughout the north as Mountains of Morley, marked the twenty-first anniversary of the founding of the firm. The premises were officially opened by Mr G. W. Bone, managing director of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies Limited of Ipswich. It also marked a success story of a man whose faith and ambition has seen a thriving business concern grow through the years from a small business venture which he launched on the 6th March 1946 in premises in Church Street, Morley, to one of the largest distributors and stockists in the north of England.

As a guide to the types of equipment to be found at the showrooms, these are the companies for which the firm has been appointed main distributors: Sisis, Ransomes, Hayter, Norton Villiers, Allen, B.S.A., Mayfield, J.A.P., Mountfield, Honda, Flymo, Wrigley, Tarpen, Bonser and Synchemicals. They are stockists, too, of ATCO, Suffolk, Qualcast, Webb, Parvac, Munivac, Gardenmaster, Wolf, Pinnock, Clinton, Briggs, and Stratton, Aspera and many others.

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I.P.A. Exhibition

The International Park Administration Congress and Exhibition at Stanmer Park, Brighton, on 18th-19th May will be the first show in 1967 at which Ransomes will exhibit their range of Grass Machinery for both the professional and domestic user. Ransomes are justifiably proud of the fact that they build the widest range of Grass Machinery in the world.

Amongst the machines on show will be the well-known Marquis. This is a mower which has gained the reputation for being the finest in its class. Available as an 18" or a 20", the Marquis is powered by a 119 c.c. B.S.A. engine which has been specially silenced to make the mower smooth and quiet running. An extra large capacity grass box is fitted, and dual controls make this machine very easy to handle.

The six-knife cutting cylinder gives 64 cuts per yard — enough to keep the most aristocratic of lawns velvety smooth.

Ransomes' stand (No. 117) will be staffed by the company's sales and service representatives who will answer all questions and inquiries about the Ransomes range of Grass Machinery.

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FARNHAM GOLF CLUB WILL SHORTLY require Head Greenkeeper. Accommodation provided. Write, stating experience, to Secretary, Farnham Golf Club, Sands, Farnham, Surrey.

HEAD GREENKEEPER FOR MOOR Park Golf Club. Applicants should be exceptionally experienced and under 45 years of age. A high salary will be paid to the successful applicant and excellent accommodation will be provided free.

Apply, in writing, to the Secretary, Moor Park Golf Club Ltd., Rickmansworth, Herts., stating age and qualification and when free to take up the post. A reference will be required.

HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED FOR 18-hole course in S.W. London/Surrey area. Assistant staff of four. Ample machinery available. Good salary. No accommodation but living allowance will be paid to the right man. Applications, with details of qualifications, to the Secretary, Home Park Golf Club, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.



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 - 11th S.G.G.A. Visit to Kilspindie G.C.
 - 23rd North-West Spring Tournament — Davyhulme G.C.
 - 23rd Midland Spring Tournament — Whittington Barracks G.C.
- JUNE**
- 13th Midland Visit to Sutton & Sons.
 - 14th Southern A.G.M. — Stirling Castle.
 - 20th Welsh A.G.M. — Royal Porthcawl G.C.
 - 22nd Midland President's Match — Handsworth G.C.
- JULY**
- 3rd Midland Summer Cup and A.G.M. — Habberley G.C.
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