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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



FOUNDED 1912

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE
BENEFIT OF GREENKEEPERS,
GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME
OF GOLF BY THE BRITISH GOLF
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No. 272 New Series

NOVEMBER 1967

BRANDED

*I bought a Nicklaus sweater,
Fine slacks by Middlecoff,
Hopeful that such competence
Might possibly rub off.
I bought a Billy Casper hat,
A Gary Player shirt,
A pair of Arnold Palmer shoes
They told me wouldn't hurt.
Attired in celebrated clothes
From head to toe so neatly,
I confidently took my swing
And missed the ball completely.*

—SIDNEY BRODY.

NOVEMBER

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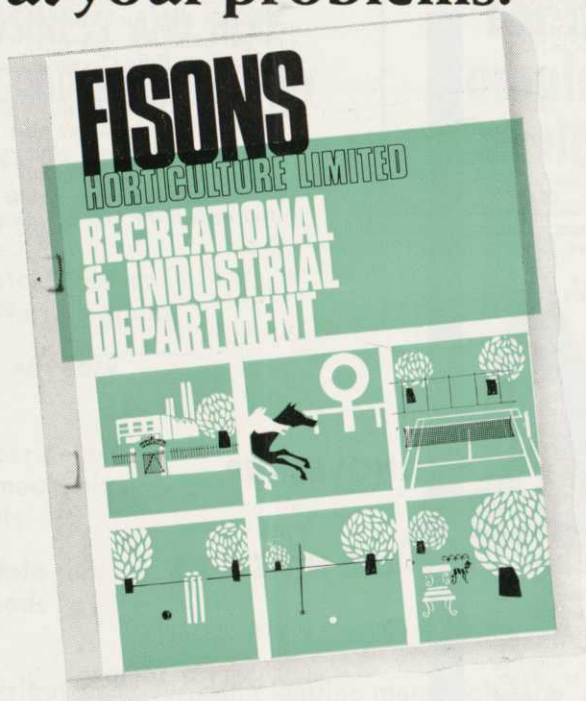
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EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: SANDerstead 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 14/- for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. LATEST COPY DATE: 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

The quest for the automatic tractor is on again. Last time, guidance was to come from cables laid underground. This time hopeful experts at the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe, in Bedfordshire, are providing the machine with electronic eyes which spy out obstructions ahead and spin the steering wheel accordingly. They will also look down a furrow and make sure that the next one is exactly parallel to it. A "proximity sensor" attached to a guard rail all round the machine at waist level cuts out the engine in case the electronic eyes latch on to a milkmaid instead of the nearest tree.

* * *

The medical profession is worried about "sport madness" and injuries which crowd the hospitals with Saturday afternoon casualties. *Pulse*, the doctors' newspaper, even thinks it was an error to appoint a Minister of Sport. So far boxing, rugby, soccer and car racing are the chief offenders. But from the way our courses fill up at the week-ends, golf will be on the list before very long.

* * *

Peter Campbell, one of the senior members of the N.W. section, has been in hospital for seven weeks but is now happily recovered. He had been looking forward to getting back to his home ground, the Stockport Golf Club. Ill-health had not parted him from it before and at the age of 75 he was naturally anxious to get back to work.

* * *

The City of London Corporation is extending Epping Forest by 66 acres and 42 of them, bought for £14,500, will be leased to the Theydon Bois Golf Club to give them another nine holes. A City Corporation spokesman said: "It is in our interests to preserve and, where possible, improve the land". A plan for an Epping Forest drive-in cinema was not on his list of improvements.

* * *

The West Sussex Golf Club at Pulborough is seeking permission to develop 15 acres of land to the north-west of the clubhouse as a nine-hole par-3 course. The area is now rough grazing and scrub.

WINTER WORK

by E. M. BAYLIS, N.D.A., Advisory Officer,
The Sports Turf Research Institute

Mr Baylis was with the Institute for nearly six years, and has now returned to Monmouthshire to run the family farm on the retirement of his parents.

The past warm summer has produced not only good golfing conditions but an abundance of fruits and berries which have now ripened on trees and bushes. If folk lore runs true, a long and severe winter may be in the offing. One suspects this even more so because last winter was very mild indeed. Bearing these thoughts in mind any outstanding items of routine autumn work should be dealt with as quickly as possible.

PLANNING

There are very few golf courses these days where the staff look upon winter as a rather "dead" period when the main occupation during working hours are drinking tea and playing cards. Few of us enjoy working in wet or cold conditions but if some time is given to producing a flexible plan of the season's work, staff can be kept interested and occupied both usefully and profitably through the winter, even where no major projects are under consideration. Many clubs have plans for very full winter programmes this year which leave those who will be implementing them in no doubt that every available minute must be used to best advantage.

WINTER TEES AND FROST HOLES

As the weather deteriorates, a great deal of damage to the major playing areas can be prevented if markers are placed on winter tees where these are available. Recovery of areas worn out by summer play on the major tees can be encouraged by providing adequate aeration and oversowing the worn parts, even though the season may be quite well advanced. Establishment from seed may not be entirely satisfactory but a combination of some young seedlings and natural recovery growth of the existing sward should produce a reasonable grass cover by spring. A few local

areas, possibly tees serving short holes, may require to be completely reurfed.

The majority of greenkeepers appreciate the value of using either completely separate frost holes or siting pins on aprons in winter where the terrain allows. There can be no clear-cut rules defining when frost holes should be brought into use. Only the greenkeeper can decide. But it should be remembered that both short and long-term damage can be caused to fine turf by players using it not only in frosty or thawing conditions but also when the surface is excessively wet. When the greens themselves must be used right through the winter, compaction around the old hole sites should be relieved by thoroughly solid-tining the affected areas each time the pins are moved.

TROLLEYS

These aids to golf create work for the greenkeepers and some form of restriction may be deemed necessary in the winter particularly on heavy land courses. Trolley paths usually erode badly and frequently the most positive solution to the problem is to provide hard paths of ashes or gravel rather than repeatedly turf the worn parts each year.

OVERHAULING MACHINES

After a season's work most mowing machines on golf courses require a thorough overhaul which usually involves sending them to a service agent though some greenkeepers feel confident to do the work on the premises. This type of job and the inevitable routine painting obviously come into the category of bad weather work. If machines are despatched for service in early winter there is adequate time for them to be returned and tested before they are put to work again the following spring.

(Continued on page 6)

How Dunlop (unwittingly) solved your winter problem.



When Dunlop marketed the new Teachmaster, they didn't know how smart they'd been! To find a striking surface that outlasts all others and from which you can play *any type* of golf shot is smart enough. Here was a revolutionary indoor teaching aid for professionals.

But Dunlop have (unwittingly) solved your perennial problem, into the bargain. They have a striking surface ideal for golfers playing *outdoors* on a muddy course. Testing revealed that Golf Club grumbles about link and rubber mats will vanish when

members use the Teachmaster. Not only can they hit any type of shot—even a full wedge on a short hole—they will do it without wear to their clubs or injury to themselves! Even those who hate all other artificial surfaces will be sold on the Teachmaster. The Teachmaster (understandably!) was popular for undercover practice too. So why not keep *your* members happy rain or shine, indoors *or* out, with a Teachmaster striking surface? See your Professional, he has all the details.

You'll do better with

Dunlop

(Continued from page 4)

If possible one machine should be on hand all winter for topping any growth which occurs in mild spells. Last winter considerable growth took place and some greens particularly in the south of the country were very woolly indeed at times.

REPLENISHMENT OF COMPOST SUPPLIES

It is necessary to maintain continuity of supply year after year and compost production must be thought of as routine work on good courses. Those who do not already make their own compost should try to launch a system this winter by building up heaps of layered top soil and leaf mould or other organic matter. Certainly the work is arduous and it is worth inquiring whether finances would permit acquisition of helpful equipment such as a tractor fore-end loader.

BUDGETING

Whilst the staff are busy with manual tasks (probably one or other of those already discussed) the head greenkeeper will require to devote a good deal of attention to budgeting for the coming year. Costs continue to rise steadily and estimates should therefore be slightly generous and there is of course always a risk that the committee will prune one's estimate in any case.

TREES

A great deal of money is spent each

year planting trees on golf courses and it is pleasing to see how in a very few seasons these young plantations enhance the scene. Young trees planted during the autumn or very early spring usually establish most readily provided the weather is reasonably open when the operation is carried out.

In some cases trees are a hindrance to turf maintenance and occasionally it is necessary to lop offending branches where these shade or overhang greens and tees. When planting saplings in the past insufficient thought was given to the mature size of the trees and one is sometimes forced to fell half-grown timber because of its proximity to fine turf areas.

If not kept in check self-sown trees can imperceptibly crowd around important turf areas and drastic thinning must be carried out in these instances.

It is often not appreciated how far tree roots ramify in search of nutrients and moisture or how much they can leech turf. Poplars are notorious in this respect and should not be planted within a day's march of fine turf. Where root invasion of, for example, a green occurs, it is necessary to trench deeply between the tree and affected turf so that offending roots can be severed. The risk of suckers developing on the detached roots can be minimised by

(Continued on page 12)

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

Members will be interested to know that a most enjoyable day's golf was experienced by a representative team of our Association drawn from the Southern Section against the Golf Club Secretaries Association on 24th October at the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club. I have been told that we had a comfortable victory, but the main issue was the fact that everybody taking part considered it was a grand idea, and I am hoping to extend the facilities for this fixture to be continued on a wider basis in future years.

Apprenticeship Joint Council Meets

At the October meeting of the Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship it was reported that 98 apprentices had now been registered since the beginning of the scheme and 29 had successfully completed their apprenticeship.

The first apprentice ever registered was now a head greenkeeper, earning a good wage, with a cottage provided.

Representatives from England, Scotland and Wales attended the meeting and approved 18 registrations, of which 11 were from Scotland.

WHERE ARE TOMORROW'S GREENKEEPERS?

They are to be found amongst the youngsters of today who receive proper training under the official apprenticeship scheme. *EVERY* club should be employing at least one apprentice now, to ensure the future upkeep of our golf courses. *IS YOURS?*

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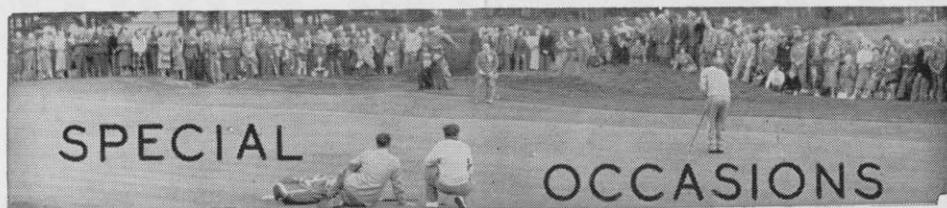


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30th Sheffield Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, 7 p.m.
- DECEMBER** 4th North-West Section Lecture.
13th Southern Section Lecture—Stirling Castle, 6.30 p.m.
- 1968
- JANUARY** 9th North-West Section Lecture.
26th North-East Annual Dance.
-

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