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HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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No. 271 New Series

OCTOBER 1967

GROUNDHOG GOLF

One member of a regular foursome had been having a hard time of it all day. On the 16th hole his ball went into a particularly deep sand trap next to the green. Two of the foursome were on the green waiting when the third man approached from the other side.

"Where's John?" he asked.

Just then there was a crunch of sand but no ball flew up out of the trap.

"Shhh!" said another player. "I think he's coming underground!"

—BEN CASSELL.

OCTOBER

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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Members will have been grieved to hear of the death of Mr Rod Davies, a vice-president of the Midland Section. Mr Davies was golf writer for the *Birmingham Mail* for many years and often attended Midland Section functions and matches. His cheerful company will be greatly missed.

* * *

The Royal North Devon Golf Club was in trouble last month. The course lies on the northern burrows where the villagers have grazing rights and it was reported at a meeting of the burrowers committee that two areas of turf had been removed by the golf club. One measured 12 ft. by 6 ft., and the other 20 ft. by 6 ft. This must have made two big holes in this 300 to 400 acres.

* * *

It was reported last month that the roof on the new tractor shed on the Jubilee Course at St Andrews was nearing completion and that work would soon start on the move from the Black Sheds to the new building. The sheds are being cleared, though will not be taken away, to make more room for the new

(continued over)

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* * *

Bids for Charterhouse Golf and Country Club were withdrawn at auction last month. This venture in Somerset began with the simple 9-hole course on 40 acres some three years ago, and the club and two cottages were offered with it. Bids reached £20,000 before the lots were withdrawn. Then the country club with public rooms and 12 bedrooms was offered separately but was withdrawn at £10,000; then the golf club was offered alone and that was withdrawn at £9,000. The auctioneers say they are still in the market for anyone interested.

* * *


Ossie Jones, head greenkeeper at the Bramhall Golf Club in Cheshire, and a well-known member of the north of the Association and the North-Western Section, is putting the finishing touches to two new greens he has recently completed. These little touches consist of 15 trees which a new American-built tree mover owned by a Bramhall firm called Clapham Nurseries has lifted from the ground complete with roots and three tons of earth. The first tree moved was a 15 ft tall Scots Pine but the machine can transplant trees up to 40 ft. in height.

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Part III

COURSE PREPARATION SAVES RULES TROUBLES

By **RICHARD S. TUFTS**

Former President and Former Chairman of Rules of Golf Committee,
United States Golf Association

WATER HAZARDS

The subject of water hazards is large and complex. It is proper to consider first the important part played by the architect in their design. Some very difficult situations can be caused by the architect's failure to recognize the application of the Rules to his work.

In the design of any water hazard, consideration must be given to the ingenuity of the golfer and the fact that he can contrive to send his ball into the hazard across any given point in its margin. Therefore, it should be possible for the player to drop a ball where he will have a fair opportunity to play at whatever point required to keep any part of the margin of the hazard between himself and any position on the green where the hole might be located.

If it be impossible to meet this requirement of Rule 33-2, then the lateral water hazard Rule (Rule 33-3) must be used, which requires dropping within two club-lengths of the margin of either side opposite the point of last crossing.

It all seems quite simple, but all too often lack of foresight can make it pretty complicated. Water hazards add much to the beauty of a golf hole and they are often useful in handling drainage problems, but it should always be borne in mind that, unlike a bunker, there is no opportunity for a recovery when a ball is in deep water. Therefore, due discretion must be exercised in their use.

They should never be placed as close to the putting green as bunkers, they should never be used to make excessive demands upon players, especially in the higher handicap range, and when situated along the line of play some extra fairway width should be provided.

Brooks parallel to the line of play present difficult problems when there is "jungle" country or out of bounds on the opposite side, a situation which can introduce an element of doubt as to whether the ball is in the hazard, lost, or out of bounds.

Large bodies of water often require use of the lateral water hazard Rule (Rule 33-3), and when any such water hazard is adjacent to the green the ball must be dropped on the green side and "must come to rest not nearer the hole" than where it last crossed the margin. Obviously, if the water hazard is designed to embrace the green in an arc, there will be times when the ball cannot be dropped in accordance with the Rule without coming to rest nearer the hole. This situation can be handled by establishing a special drop area. But all this artificiality can be avoided if the hazard margin is built in an arc bending away from the green rather than around it.

There are many problems of this nature which can be created when water hazards are constructed without due regard for the Rules. Certainly the alert architect will have a Rule book handy whenever he makes plans for the construction of a water hazard.

However, the alert superintendent can do much to offset the unhappy results of careless planning by the architect. He can, for example, disregard somewhat the natural outlines of a water hazard and designate its margins in a way to provide space to drop within the provisions of the lateral water hazard Rule. This solution can be further improved by avoiding certain cup locations.

Shifting the designated hazard margin can be used to accomplish other objectives. For example, the margins of water hazards in which there are such

obstructions as bridges can be defined either with ample opportunity for the player to drop away from the obstruction in the hazard (as required by Rule 22-2b) or with small prospect that his ball would be in a situation from which he would elect to drop in the hazard.

The advisability has already been mentioned of clearing up areas adjacent to a water hazard in which a ball might be lost, to which solution can be added the possibility of including such small areas within the bounds of the water hazard itself.

One danger which should be foreseen is the possibility that flooding of the water hazard may cause the water to extend beyond the defined hazard margin. If this should occur, the water outside the margin of the hazard will then be casual water (Rule 32) and the player is not penalised when dropping out of it. This may or may not be a desirable development, but at least a decision on what is desired should be made when the hazard margin is defined. Obviously, the Rules governing play in water hazards need to be care-

fully studied by the superintendent as well as the architect.

MAINTENANCE IN MATCH PLAY AND STROKE PLAY

If the superintendent has taken a real interest in the application of the Rules in his daily maintenance, he will be in a position to devote most of his attention to his course when getting ready for a tournament.

For a match play tournament, in which players are competing against each other in the same group, there is no particular reason why standard maintenance procedure should not be followed, subject to any requests made by the committee in charge of the competition.

However, in a stroke play event the entire philosophy of course maintenance is changed by the fact that the first player off is competing against the last player and consequently the playing conditions of the course during the day should be as nearly uniform as it is possible to have them. Bunkers are

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raked and ball marks and other damage to the greens are repaired in order to maintain the course in as nearly as possible the same condition that it was for the first player. However, any mowing of putting greens or fairways should not be done after a hole has been played by the first group. Even watering should be avoided. As for cutting off a few offending tree limbs, trimming some extra tall rough or even repairing a bad wash found in the woods, can you imagine how happy that would make an early player who had the misfortune to suffer some calamity from being in the situation subsequently corrected?

WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE

Any competition, whether stroke or match play, is conducted under the supervision of a committee (Definition 9) and the superintendent should keep in close touch with this committee at all times. He should advise it of his plans for all work on the course, obtain a schedule of the starting times and for any possible play-off, should receive the committee's instructions on course condition and advise it of any unexpected changes, and should be available to cut the holes and set out tee markers for each day's play, either with a representative of the committee or in accordance with its instructions.

It will be a happier golfer who plays on a course constructed by an architect and supervised by a superintendent both of whom are Rule conscious in their work. Such a situation will also make the United States Golf Association happier by the contribution it is certain to make to better observance of the Rules of Golf.

Reprinted with grateful acknowledgments to the U.S.G.A. Golf Journal, in which it originally appeared in April this year.

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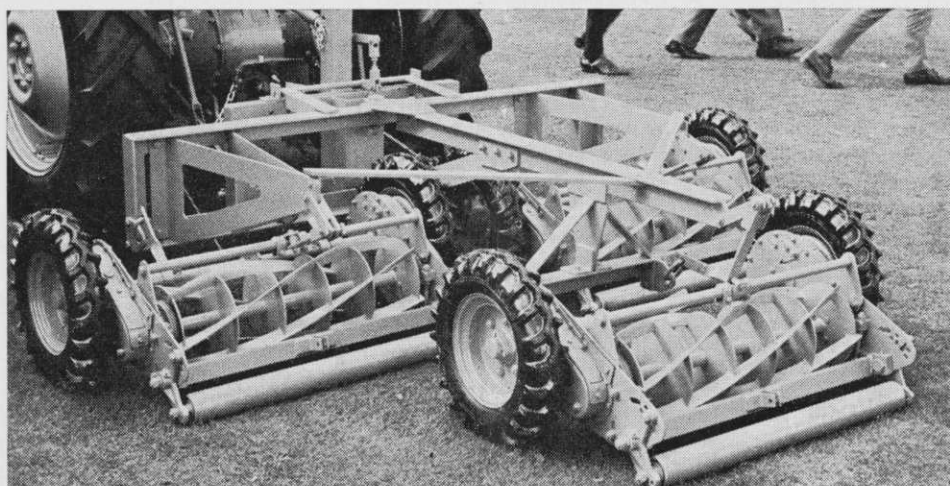
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MOTSPUR PARK SHOW

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The Aberdeen golf range which opened three years ago was closed on the last Saturday in September. The bar and restaurant will carry on but no more golf balls will be struck.

THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Walton Heath Golf Club, Tadworth, on Monday, 7th August 1967, at 3 p.m.

The Chairman opened the meeting at which 46 members were present, and invited Mr Carl Bretherton to occupy the Chair.

Mr Bretherton asked the meeting to stand in silent tribute to those who had died during the year, as named in the Secretary's Report.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, and on the proposal of Mr Glass, seconded by Mr Ford, were confirmed and signed.

Arising from the Minutes, the Secretary informed the meeting that the first match between the B.G.G.A. and the Secretaries' Association had been fixed for 24th October 1967, at the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, and asked that a team of eight from the Southern Section be selected at this Tournament.

Annual Report

This was read by the Hon. Secretary and its adoption was proposed by Mr Crabtree and seconded by Mr Walsh.

Financial Report

The Hon. Treasurer reported the financial situation to be quite sound, and explained the increase in the Journal expenses was due to an adjustment on previous year's figures which necessitated allowing for 13 months printing to be included. Questions were raised as to the Association investments and the Hon. Treasurer said he would discuss this question with the Auditors to see if these could be improved. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr Ford, seconded by Mr Cashmore.

Executive Committee Report

The Tournament Committee elected were Messrs Cashmore, Moore, McNeice, Herrington, Folkes, three to form a quorum. The Sheffield Section had nominated Mr G. Herrington as vice-chairman for the ensuing year, and the Association had been offered the courtesy of the Seacroft Golf Club at Skegness for the 1968 Tournament, the dates being 12th, 13th and 14th August. Congratulations were extended to Mr Herrington on his appointment, also for the Tournament venue for 1968.

Election of Officers

President:

It was proposed by Mr J. Glass and seconded by Mr G. Wilson that Mr Carl

Bretherton be re-elected as President of the Association. Carried unanimously. Mr Bretherton thanked the members and said he would be very pleased to carry on in office.

Vice-Presidents:

It was proposed by Mr McNeice and seconded by Mr Barton that the Vice-Presidents as listed in the Journal be re-elected. Carried.

Chairman:

It was proposed by Mr Lord and seconded by Mr Folkes that Mr C. A. Moore be elected Chairman. Carried unanimously. The retiring Chairman, Mr Cashmore, thanked the members for their generous support during his year of office, also the Hon. Secretary for his assistance and guidance. He said it had been a year of great enjoyment and one that he would always remember. Mr C. A. Moore took the Chair, and presented a tankard to Mr Cashmore in recognition and appreciation of his services. Mr Moore then thanked the members for his election, and said he was conscious of the honour bestowed upon him and hoped he would be able to carry out his duties to the satisfaction of everybody.

Vice-Chairman:

It was proposed by Mr Barton and seconded by Mr Sumner that Mr G. Herrington be elected Vice-Chairman. Carried unanimously. Mr Herrington expressed his appreciation for the confidence shown by his election.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

It was proposed by Mr Herrington, seconded by Mr Lord that Mr C. H. Dix be re-elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Carried unanimously. Mr Dix thanked the meeting and expressed his willingness to continue in office.

Executive Committee:

It was proposed by Mr Folkes and seconded by Mr Lord that the Executive Committee should be elected as nominated by Sections. Carried.

Hon. Auditors:

It was proposed by Mr Walsh and seconded by Mr Barton that Messrs Smallfield Rawlins & Co. be re-elected Hon. Auditors. Carried.

Hon. Solicitor:

It was proposed by Mr Glass and seconded by Mr Walsh that Mr R. A. Beck be re-elected Hon. Solicitor. Carried.

Subscriptions to the Sports Turf Research Institute

A recommendation from the Executive Committee was put to the meeting that at the request of the Sport Turf Research Institute the annual proportion of members subscriptions allocated to the S.T.R.I. should

be increased from 3/6 to 5/-. The figure of 3/6 had been in operation for a great many years, and it was considered that the request for an increase was quite justified.

To meet this increased payment the Executive Committee proposed that subscriptions should be increased as follows: Class "A" and "D" Head Greenkeepers and Greenkeeper/Professionals £1 12s. 6d., to be allocated 9/- Section Fund, 13/6 Central Fund, 5/- S.T.R.I., 5/- Journal. Class "B" First Assistants £1 2s. 6d., to be allocated 7/6 Section Fund, 5/- Central Fund, 5/- S.T.R.I., 5/- Journal. Class "C" Assistants 16/6, to be allocated 6/6 Section Fund, 5/- S.T.R.I., 5/- Journal. Class "E" Honorary Members remain unchanged. After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Mr Folkes, and seconded by Mr Ford that the recommendations be accepted. A vote was taken and the proposition was carried by 34 for with nil against, and 12 abstentions.

These increased subscriptions would take effect from 1st May 1968.

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair by Mr Cashmore.

SITUATIONS VACANT

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required. Applicants should be fully experienced and capable of supervising staff in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper. Assistance regarding housing accommodation may be available in the near future.

Applications, stating age, experience etc., and salary required to the Secretary, Hallamshire Golf Club, Sandygate, Sheffield 10, not later than 21st October.

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