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I would like details (without obligation)
of your Pension Plan for
Golf Club Greenkeeping Staff

NAME

ADDRESS

Club by which employed

Position held

Date of birth



BGG

THOSE WHO SERVE

Brigadier C. W. Morton, M.C., editor of *Golf Course & Clubhouse Management*, journal of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, pays a tribute to two senior greenkeepers whose service to golf adds up to nearly a 100 years.

SIDNEY STANTON

SIDNEY STANTON first started work in 1921 with James Carter & Company, Raynes Park, on golf course construction. He had been with them for 3½ years when he was loaned to Malden Golf Club as a foreman on the construction of their course. When this had been completed, Sidney stayed on at the club as head greenkeeper. He remained at Malden Golf Club as head greenkeeper for 16 years, until 1941 when he was taken away and engaged in war work until 1945.



In 1945 he went to Royal Wimbledon Golf Club as head greenkeeper. He is still there after 23½ years and still going strong, although he is now 70 years of age. Whilst undergoing a practical course on golf club secretary's work at Royal Wimbledon in 1951, I had the pleasure of being given my first instructional lessons in greenkeeping by Sidney Stanton. I thought he was most knowledgeable then and a very good lecturer. What he doesn't know now about greenkeeping isn't worth knowing. After all, he has had nearly 44 years at the job and is still as keen as ever. A fine record.



LEN HAKEN

Now aged 82, LEN HAKEN first began work as a gardener. During the First World War, he served in the 2nd Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) and was mentioned in dispatches in 1918. On his return home he joined the Sale Golf Club, Cheshire, as a greenkeeper. Last year, he completed 50 years' service at the Sale Golf Club, the last 34 of which he served as the head greenkeeper.

During his early days as a greenkeeper, he says that "it was very hard work with long hours and all work done by hand. There were no machines in those days." Although he never attended a course of instruction on greenkeeping, he used to go to all the lectures arranged by the Associations of Greenkeepers and Groundsmen. He finally retired in 1968 at the age of 81, and says that he is not enjoying his retirement one bit. He loved his work and the open air life. He is a Life Member of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, and also a Life Member and Vice-President of the National Association of Groundsmen. A fine record.

Are you green about grass?

Probably not. The fact that you're reading this magazine suggests that you probably know a great deal about turf.

But establishing and maintaining a good turf is no easy matter, even for an experienced man.

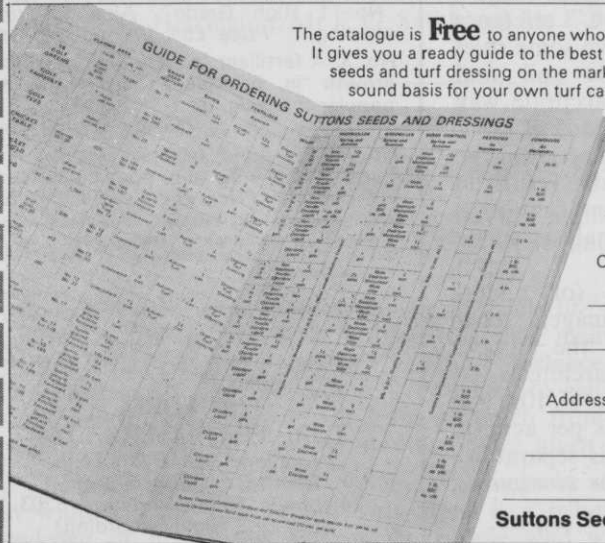
So to make it a little simpler Suttons have included a guide chart for all their products in their 1969 catalogue of 'Grass Seeds and Sports Turf Needs'.

This chart helps you choose the right seed and suggests quantities for anything

from a golf green to a race course. It tells you which of our fertilizers to use and at what time of year. (Greensward, Fairsward, Autumn Turf Fertilizer, Organic Turf Dressing). And it tells you when to use Suttons wormkillers, when to apply our selective weedkillers, moss destroyers, pesticides and fungicides.

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The catalogue is **Free** to anyone who sends this coupon. It gives you a ready guide to the best range of grass seeds and turf dressing on the market. And at least it's a sound basis for your own turf care ideas.



Name _____

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Address _____

Suttons Seeds (445) Reading, Berks.

(contd. from p. 10)

"optimum" being a condition of land which has been for many years covered with undisturbed grass.

Drainage effecting a permanent influence on soil water

There are two methods generally in use which effect a lasting influence upon the soil/water regime; these are piped drainage and mole drainage. In landscape works both have uses and are often combined, the former being regarded as a permanent capital investment and the latter as a form of tillage or cultivation to be repeated after a period of years dependent upon soil and weather.

The best descriptions and studies of mole ploughing have been made by H. H. Nicholson in Chapter X of "Principles of Field Drainage"⁴ and should be referred to by landscape designers who practice in areas where the right clays predominate. Normal agricultural mole drainers are adequate for use in construction work, but for maintenance cultivations special cable drawn implements are essential to avoid damage and to the best of my knowledge there is only one on the market⁷.

The recent publication "Techniques of Landscape Architecture"⁷ refers in this apart from the absence of guidance as connection to use in "pure clays" — quite to what is "pure," reference to Nicholson⁴ who lays down some rules for the type of suitable soil and describes them in a more accurate way by reference to the proportions of sand, silt and clay, and in my experience the only way to ensure reasonable results in the absence of positive identification is to have a mechanical analysis made of it.

As to piped drainage (or under-drainage or subsoil drainage), techniques of design are of the utmost importance to landscape architects — and with costs in the order of 10s. per yard, that is hundreds of £s per acre, it is necessary to consider this separately.

(to be continued)

Reference to textbooks and papers referred to in the text

¹ *British Standard Code of Practice*

CP 2003 (1959) published by the Council for Codes of Practice, 2 Park Street, London, W.C.1.

² *British Standard Code of Practice CP 2001/1957 — "Site Investigations."* Published by the Council for Codes of Practice, 2 Park Street, London, W.C.1.

³ "Drainage of Agricultural Lands," *The American Society of Agronomy, Madison, Wis., U.S.A.*

⁴ "The Principles of Field Drainage," *H. H. Nicholson, Cambridge Press.*

⁵ "Biology and Civil Engineering," *The ICE, Great George Street, London. 1949.*

⁶ "Soil Structure," *E. Crompton, University School of Agriculture, Newcastle on Tyne. H.M.S.O. Reprint from N.A.A.A. quarterly review No. 41.*

⁷ "Techniques of Landscape Architecture." Edited by *A. E. Weddle Heineman, London.*

⁸ "Scientific Research in Soil Drainage," *Journal of Agricultural Science, Vol. XXIV, Part 4—1934.*

⁹ "Soil and Water Conservation Engineering" — *Frevert and others. John Wiley, New York.*

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Many Golf Clubs using T.F.T. Fertilisers include The Berkshire, Prince's, Sunningdale, Wentworth and also used annually by The Royal Gardens and Parks, 'Lord's', 'Wimbledon', Ministry P. B. & Works, Municipal Authorities.

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**MR ROBERT
BRIAN
DAWSON,
O.B.E., M.Sc.**



It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Mr R. B. Dawson of 32 Oak Avenue, Bingley, passed away peacefully in the Keighley Victoria Hospital on Wednesday, 12th February.

He will always be remembered as the first Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute from its foundation in 1929 until he retired at the end of 1963. The success and reputation which the Institute enjoys today is due in large measure to the careful foundation which he laid and to his own resourceful character. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1956 in recognition of his life's work and the Board of Management made him an Honorary Vice-President on his retirement.

Mr Dawson is survived by his widow (Mrs M. K. Dawson), his son and three married daughters.

The funeral was held at the Nab, Wood Crematorium, Bingley, on Tuesday, 18 February at 11 a.m. The B.G.G.A. and the Northern Section were represented by Mr G. Herrington (Chairman B.G.G.A.), Mr A. Robertshaw (Chairman Northern Section), Mr H. Herrington, Mr F. G. Smith and Mr J. Parker.

“ PRACTICAL LAWCRAFT ”

The sixth edition of *Practical Lawncraft* was published in February by Crosby Lockwood only a few days before the death of its author, R. B. Dawson, O.B.E., M.Sc.

In some sense this book must epitomise his life's work and since that work encompassed the whole field of preparing and maintaining turf for sport and pleasure, it has become a standard work for guidance and reference. It is precise where precision is possible, it is reticent where to generalise would be imprudent. The thoughtful greenkeeper will learn as much from its broad approach to the problems discussed as from the specific advice given to counter and solve them.

There is probably no other volume which can be recommended to the practical man without some reservation. This alone is a tribute not only to the author's knowledge of his subject but of the people who would most benefit from it.

The price is 35s.

MESSING ABOUT WITH THE COURSE

by PATRICK SMARTT

MOST golfers are dissatisfied with their game. That should be sufficient. But there are always some who are dissatisfied with the course. Not its condition, but its layout. They suffer from an ineradicable urge to alter holes.

Protests are met with the accusation of being old fashioned, reactionary. This platitude betrays shallowness of thought.

No one with any knowledge of golf and in his right mind would quarrel with the removal of out-dated bunkers sited to punish the indifferent strikers. Their unnecessary presence adds to the cost of upkeep. Some defeat their purpose in serving as useful range-finders for the better players.

Let us get one thing clear. With the exception of those clubs which cater for the professional "circuit", the object of a committee is to keep the greatest number of members contented. That has been said hundreds of times; it is not always remembered.

It is reasonable to assume that a man joins a club because the course suits him. No matter how attractive the social side, it is the course, particularly if he is no longer young, that influences his decision. I know. I have been a secretary. Someone asks if he may have a look round: "Too hilly; too tough; can't stand lush grass for rough; too flat and dull," or he likes it. Having made up his mind and joined, it did not occur to him that someone was going to come along, bursting with ideas, and muck about with a layout that he has been subscribing to for years because he *liked* it. You can multiply "he" by a hundred.

What to the likes of him does a blind hole here and there matter. The odds against his getting closer to the hole when he can see the bottom of the pin

are long. There was a time, many years ago, when in receipt of a stroke I could keep a scratch player on his toes. I remain sceptical that it makes all that difference to them. There is the added interest, even excitement, of wondering where the ball has finished as he walks forward. That statement is based on the archaic notion that golf is a game and not a mathematical exercise.

Furthermore, there come to mind two of the finest links in these islands that offer blind strokes.

One hears talk of a bad hole — whatever the definition of that may be. To me, only a dull hole comes within that category, and offers the only good reason for re-siting a green. A new fetish is raising its ugly head, that of lengthening holes, and this not on courses that entertain the tournament "circuit". For some reason perfectly normal people become disturbed if under the Standard Scratch scheme their course is rated at 70 or less, a state of mind that is beyond my comprehension. I once heard talk of putting the tee back at a long and good 4 hole. It tested the good player, the long handicap man could not get up in two but he had his handicap to help him.

The expression used was "to make it a proper 5". What is a proper 5? The good player, if he cannot reach the green with his second will get down in a chip and a putt. He still gets his 4. The more 5s there are on a course the more the low handicap man likes it — he is being offered birdies. The unfortunate remainder are faced with a longer third stroke, a longer walk and inevitably a tendency to press in the understandable desire to reduce the distance and thereby increase the accuracy of that third shot. This

(contd. on p. 20)



HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES

I have received a letter from J. Stobbs, who is now Head Greenkeeper at a course in France, belonging to Count D'Ormesson, asking if I know of anyone who would be interested in having Count D'Ormesson's nephew, a young man of 17, to stay with them to improve his English and play some golf. In return, the French family would be pleased to have a young man between 16 and 18 years stay with them for a month's holiday in Paris.

If anyone is interested would they please write to Mr J. Stobbs, 220 Ave.,

Oliver D'Ormesson, 94 Ormesson Sur Marne, France.

Acknowledgment

The President of the Estoril Golf Club wishes to acknowledge the many applications for the post of Head Greenkeeper and/or Assistant advertised recently in this Journal. He will be writing to three of those whom he thinks would be happiest in the post within the next two weeks with a view to arranging an interview when he is next in London. He would like to thank the others for the trouble they took in writing to him and will be returning original references in due course.

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TRADE NEWS

by G. R. Young

NEW TURF CARE PRODUCTS BY FISONS LIMITED

Messrs Fisons Limited are now marketing two new light-weight, turf care products:—

"Greenkeeper 2" has been formulated for use on golf greens and fine turf by impregnating granular peat with high nutrient fertiliser. With a well balanced NP and K analysis of 14:4:4 it should be applied two or three times between April and August at 1 oz. to the square yard.

"Combined" for feeding and weeding in one operation contains the same organic, peat-based fertiliser as "Greenkeeper 2" plus a new combination of selective weed-killer: 2, 4-D and Dicamba (Banvel Dr). To be applied at 1 oz. to the square yard from April to September, when weeds and grass are growing strongly.

Both products are packed in heatsealed, white polythene bags weighing 62½ lbs., which is enough to treat 1,000 square yards.

"Greenkeeper 2" and "Combined" have been developed as a result of the continuing research by Fisons Levington Research Station into fertiliser requirements for sports turf. The makers claim that the products show quick visible results, are easy and economical to handle and reduce scorch risks even in dry weather.

CROSS COUNTRY VEHICLE

The recently introduced GNAT Mark 2 light-weight, cross country vehicle manufactured by Aimers McLean Limited at Kelso, Roxburgh, exerts a ground pressure of only 2½ lbs. per square inch from its three broad tyres, insufficient to damage the ground over which it is travelling.

The 400 lb. GNAT has a payload of 850 lbs. and can tow a further 950 lbs. Rugged and economical, it is able to cover parts of the course too soft or too steep for normal vehicles.

Powered by a 10 h.p. four-stroke engine the GNAT has disc brakes, a three-speed gear box plus reverse and a speed of up to 20 m.p.h. It is 7 ft. 6 in. long, and has maximum width of 5 ft. 1 in. Price £410.

"Exports up" report Sisis

SISIS export sales have risen for the third consecutive year; our despatches

in 1968 show an increase of more than 50 per cent on those achieved in 1967.

Litamisas have been sold in Norway, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy and South Africa.

For the second year we have received an order for a quantity of Aeromain outfits for delivery to the German Army which would seem to underline the acceptance of this equipment to the same extent as in Britain for the maintenance of Sports Grounds of up to six acres.

We have exhibited, either independently or in conjunction with our distributors, in Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Germany and France during 1968 and we aim to extend our exhibition programme to the other countries during the coming year.



NEW BOARD APPOINTMENT

A recent appointment at Ransomes Sims & Jeffries is that of Philip Lawrence Johnson, aged 42, who becomes marketing director, grass machinery and electric trucks. In 1967 he was appointed general manager, truck division, and in 1968 also took over control of the grass machinery division.

Mr Johnson, a Grimsby man, holds a Loughborough College Diploma and an Engineering Cadet Diploma; he is also a Chartered Engineer and a M.I.Mech.E. He secured a commission with the Royal Engineers and served in Germany in 1947-48.

GOLF COURSE CHARGES GO UP IN MAY

Golfers will have to pay more for their golf over the Troon municipal courses as a result of increased charges approved by the town council.

Daily tickets increase from 7s. 6d. to 9s. on weekdays and from 10s. to 12s. on Saturdays.

Single-round tickets increase from 5s. to 6s. on weekdays and from 7s. to 8s. on Saturdays.

Sunday charges: Day tickets increase from 10s. to 12s. The charge for one round increases from 7s. to 8s. and all yearly ticket holders will pay 1s. a round on Sundays.

* *

BACK TO THE OLD SET-UP

Bakewell, short of a pro-greenkeeper-steward since Richard Bennett moved to Bradway Driving Range, have gone back to the old greenkeeper-steward

set-up with W. H. Williamson, the first assistant greenkeeper at Hallamshire, filling the dual post and Mrs Williamson looking after catering. Williamson, who had been at Hallamshire since November 1967, was at one time on the Phoenix staff.

* *

GOLF BUGGIES

Bad news from Leicestershire. A company at Market Harborough has started production of electric golf buggies to transport the weary or the aged along the fairways of Britain or perhaps in the rough alongside. There are seats for two or four people and four special baloon tyres are claimed to safeguard the course. The hire charge looks like being £2 to £3 a round, but an enthusiast could buy one for between £550 and £700. If they do half the damage the trolley produces it will still be too much.

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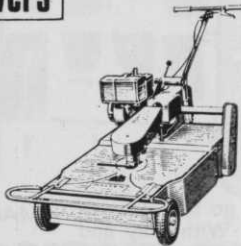
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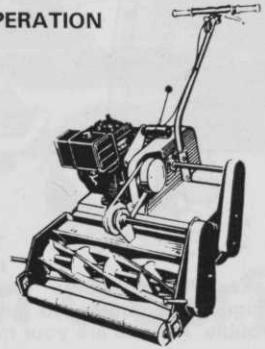
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(contd. from p. 16)

endeavour will lead to a series of wild lunges and a score of 7 or 8 and more.

The redesigning of a golf hole is an expensive business. Under no circumstances should it be attempted by an amateur. It does not follow that a good player is a good architect. I can think of one, an international amateur and a good friend of mine now dead, whose alterations were a failure.

When bitten by the alteration bug a club must seek the advice of a professional golf course architect (who need not be a professional golfer). This is not given free. Apart from experience in design and an "eye for country" — some courses have been planned in thick woods — he has a knowledge of soils, grasses, and most important — drainage. These the amateur lacks.

Then there is the cost of construction. If the local green staff are given the job the rest of the course will suffer. Even in winter there are storm

drains to be cleared and machinery overhauled.

I have in journeys round the country seen courses, or holes that have been "improved" — some by experts. It would be an exaggeration to say that these have always met with the approval of the double-figure handicaps who, it cannot be emphasised too often, keep a club in being.

Once a thing is done it is done. It cannot be reversed without a further outlay of large sums. To amend Shakespeare:

"If it were done, it is well it were done slowly".

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