

THE JOINT COUNCIL

FOR

GOLF GREENKEEPER APPRENTICESHIP

Tomorrow's Greenkeepers are needed today.

Training Apprentices on your golf course will ensure that the Greenkeeping skills of the past can help with the upkeep problems of the future.

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GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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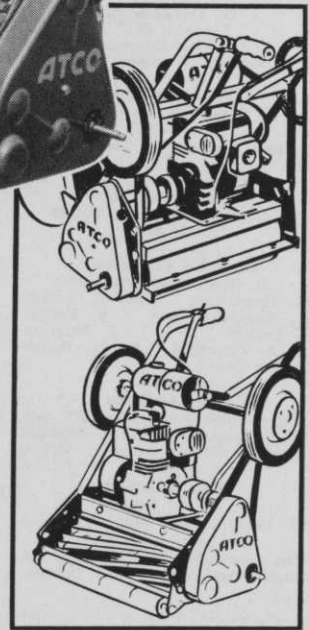
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Civic Sunday at Bury St Edmunds had to held without the Mayor. Alderman Stephen Davies had a recurrence of back trouble after driving the first ball on Bury's two new holes the day before. Changes have had to be made because the new A45 carriageway cuts through the second hole. Four new holes come into play next spring. The Club Secretary, Major R. G. Dove, says that in spite of the changes a full 18 holes has been maintained thanks especially to the excellent work of the green staff.

* * * *

Ten thousand people were able to watch play in the Open Championship at Lytham St Annes from stands erected on the course.

* * * *

An outbuilding at Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club was destroyed in a blaze last month. While firemen tackled the fire, the bar was closed.

* * * *

Councillors of Dinnington Parish, near Rotherham, received anonymous phone calls after a site meeting to discuss building a golf course in the village. Councillor Mrs Freda Shirt said some of them were "far from pleasant".

* * * *

Hooligans ran riot on the Elderslie golf course near Paisley last month, devastated the 7th green and damaged others. Boulders and bottles littered the turf. Mr Bob Smith, the greenkeeper, said that he had never seen anything as bad in his whole career.

* * * *

Work has started on an additional 9 holes at Ferndown in Dorset.



Grass Seeds

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COURSE BLIGHT — THE MEMBERS

by JIM MURRAY

West Coast Sportswriter

If you think "Poa annua" is a small South American python, or that "blue fescue" is a period in Picasso's development as a painter, you have never been exposed to that forlorn community of men who have to go out and try to par a golf course with a collection of rakes, hoes, tractors, aerators, blowers, tubs of manure, hose, sprinkler heads and tears.

The golf course superintendent's natural enemies are winds, sun, rain, ferrets, moles, skunks, crows, seagulls, deer, salt, drought, flood, weeds, rocks, and locusts, but his really implacable foe is that all season insect, the full-sweated, red-eyed MEMBER who may be further identified by the froth around his mouth, the mud in his hand and the triple-figure score in his pocket.

"Call that a golf course?" he will scream. "Goats wouldn't graze on it!"

In every tournament of 200 players, there is one winner—and 199 critics of the golf course. "Unfair test of golf!" screams the guy who put it behind a tree with his built-in slice. "Who's the course superintendent around here, Dracula?" "Who cut these greens—sheep?"

In California, there are more than 660 golf courses. In Southern California alone, the golf superintendents' chapter numbers 168. For all of them, this time of the year is their moment of truth. The big boys, the big tournaments, come through, from the Southern California Open at Los Coyotes to the L. A. Open, the Crosby, and the Andy Williams and the Bob Hope.

Golf superintendency is part agronomy, part aggravation. A member comes howling in to have a barranca,

which has been there since the glaciers, filled in so his topped shot will keep rolling and won't cost him a stroke. It would cost the course owner a real stroke to fill, as the soil cost for such a mammoth fill would run into hundreds of thousands.

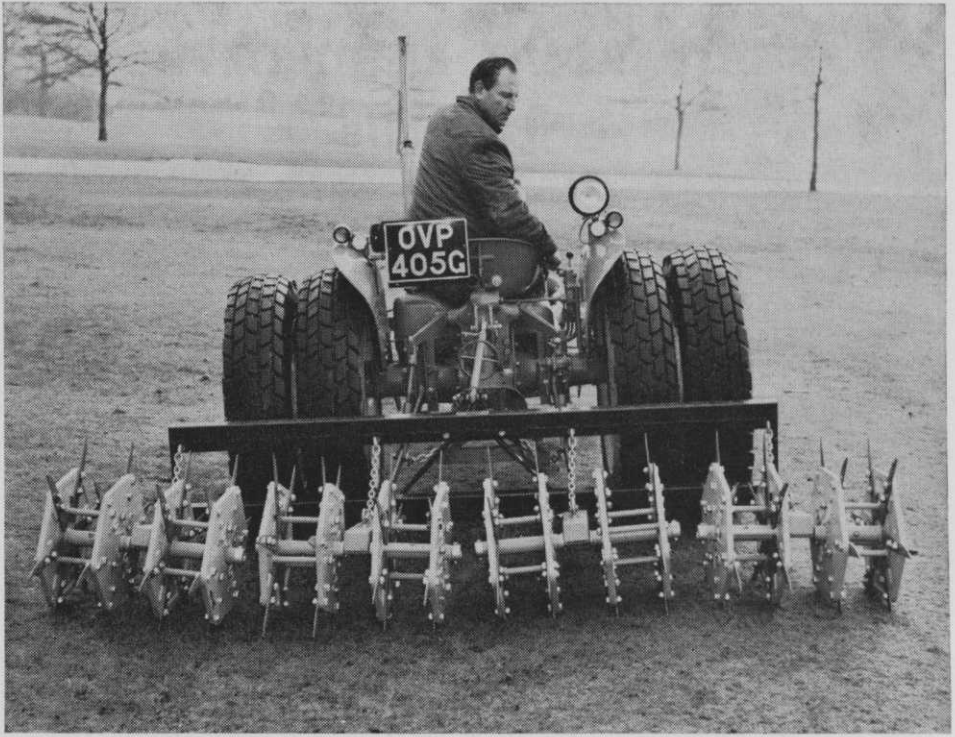
At this time of the year, Santa Ana winds can dehydrate a course overnight. Sudden rains can make it playable only by canoe. On the golf course here, a neighbouring oil tank buckled, and put 500,000 barrels of high-gravity crude on to the fairways. The oil company re-sodded the course. Trouble was, the soil had so much saline content that the players referred to one hole as "Lot's Wife"—pillar of salt.

At Los Coyotes, the superintendent sprayed a green with a chemical to kill devil grass. Unfortunately, it had a foreign substance in it which killed everything. The members wanted to fire the superintendent, the superintendent sued the chemical company, the chemical company sued the outfit that sold them the preparation, and, when last seen, the buck had been passed clear down to a Chilean nitrate company.

Mrs Suzy Frederickson, who is married to one of them, reports that you can always tell a golf superintendent's home lawn. It's the worst one on the block. She is thinking of forming a greens committee.

One course superintendent, fed up with the members' complaints, which were as inaccurate as their tee shots, finally posted this notice. "As you are aware, the undersigned is only the

(contd. on p. 8.)



NEW 8 FT. TRACTOR MOUNTED AERATOR BY SISIS

Sisis equipment (Macclesfield) Limited have introduced an 8 ft. wide general purpose tractor mounted aerator to their range of equipment for sports ground management.

Developed from the Sisis 6 ft. general purpose aerator LA/6 for tractor mounting, the new 8 ft. wide version is to be known as the LA/8.

Designed for the American market, where many tractors are fitted with high-flotation "balloon" tyres thus increasing the overall width, the LA/8 is almost identical to the 6 ft. version, having precisely the same hexagon units which carry the same types of tines. Due to the extra width and weight, however, a wider more robust mounting frame is incorporated.

The LA/8 can now be offered to authorities and club users and offers obvious savings in time and labour.

The price ex works is £209 10s. complete with reversible double-ended tines, type CLD.

Additionally, for existing LA/8 users who may require to extend their present unit, a conversion set of new main frame and 2 ft. unit including tines, complete with drawbar and lifting chain, can be offered at £70 ex works. It is not thought completely satisfactory to mix new and old tines in the same machine and users are recommended to purchase a new complete set of tines with the conversion unit.

Wire mesh guards for safety in transport between sites are available as an optional extra.

43 YEARS AT KNEBORTH GOLF CLUB

When Bert Race joined Knebworth Golf Club, 43 years ago as a groundsman, the ground staff used three horses pulling mowers to cut the grass.

It took five days and even then most of the "rough" grass was so high that you could search for a lost ball for hours and still not find it. Now Bert is head groundsman.

The horses are gone and in their place are the mechanical mowers. They do the job in a few hours and the "rough" is kept almost as short as the greens.

Bert is proud of the course and has looked after it for a good part of his life.

Ask him the secret of his well-kept greens and he'll smile, tap his head and say: "It's all up here".

Knebworth Golf Course opened on 6th June 1908. Bert remembers the date well, although he didn't take up his job as groundsman until 1926. Since then the welfare of the course has been his main concern.

"Jack of All Trades."

"I look after everything. I'm a jack of all trades. I've seen every secretary

the club has had come and go and I'm still here."

After so many years, Bert is looked on as something of a character. His greens are his pride and joy and woe betide anyone who damages them. He once made a woman who was walking about on the course in high-heeled shoes, finish her round in bare feet. He took the same attitude with two members playing a round of golf in football boots.

He is helped in his job by three groundsmen who work from eight in the morning to five in the evening and longer during the light summer evenings.

Bert used to have a handicap of four, but he doesn't play very often now. He thinks that all-metal golf clubs have made the game easier for golfers than when he used to play a round with hickory shafted clubs.

He loves the fresh air and the exercise you get from playing golf. To him, "there's no game like it".

With grateful acknowledgements to the "Stevenage News."

Those of you who take your holidays on the Costa Brava or nearby will be glad to know that golf course construction is active in that part of the world. The Sitges Golf Club to the south of Barcelona is planning an extension from 9 to 18; a new site just north of Barcelona is also under examination for a new 18-hole golf course and farther north still the Pals Golf Club, near Gerona, is extending from 9 to 18. The Son Vida course in Majorca is also extending to 18, the first full golf course in the Balearic Islands. Work should also start soon on a new 9-holes in Ibiza and there is even talk of a course in Minorca.



TURF SPECIALISTS

Dr Joseph Troll, Assistant Professor, Plant and Soil Science Department, University of Massachusetts, is a turf specialist. He is spending six months in this country studying the problems of turf disease and a considerable part of his time will be spent at Fisons. When he visited Nacton Works, Ipswich, as guest of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, he was in the company of other turf specialists. In the photograph, left to right are: John Wilson, Ransomes Grass Machinery Sales Manager; Bob Morris, Fisons Turf Specialist; Professor Troll; and John Shaw, Grass Machinery Demonstrator.

SITUATIONS VACANT

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
PARKS DEPARTMENT

HEAD GREENKEEPER, HIGH ELMS AND BROMLEY COMMON GOLF COURSES

Applications are invited for the above appointment on Miscellaneous Salary Scale 9 — £1,370-£1,480 (including London Weighting) (approval pending).

Housing accommodation will be available if required.

Applicants should be thoroughly trained, and must have an extensive and practical experience of the construction and maintenance of golf courses, and the control and supervision of staff.

Application forms from the Establishment Officer, Town Hall, Bromley, Kent, quoting reference 12/4.

Closing date 30th July 1969.

HEAD GREENKEEPER (Working) required. Must be fully experienced in course maintenance. Salary up to £1,500 per annum. Apply stating age, experience, and references to The Secretary, Verulam Golf Club, 226 London Road, St Albans, Herts.

(contd. from p. 4.)

RESIDENT course superintendent. The course is really watered, dried, forested, leafed, sanded by an absentee superintendent who is also in charge of rodent control, silicone content of traps, the birds and bees, and sometimes even remote control over putt breaks.

“This superintendent is reachable only in one way. So, if you will all get down on your knees and address him directly—(and DON'T SHOUT, a whisper is all that is necessary)—maybe he'll heed, and will have the course in good shape for the tournament this week.”

With grateful acknowledgements to the “Golf Superintendent.”

SITUATION WANTED

MAN (22½) requires 1st Assistant's job. House or flat essential: first class references. Holds N.A.G. certificate. Write 39 Ferry Bridge Road, Castleford, Yorkshire.

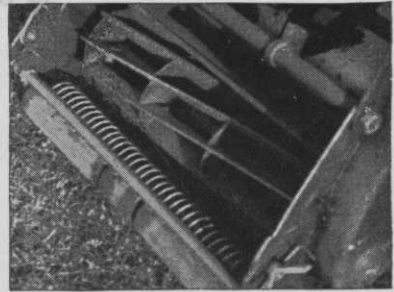
FOR HIRE

SISIS AUTOTURFMAN AERATOR, £25 per week—do it yourself. For contract prices telephone Burnell, Eaglescliffe 3647.

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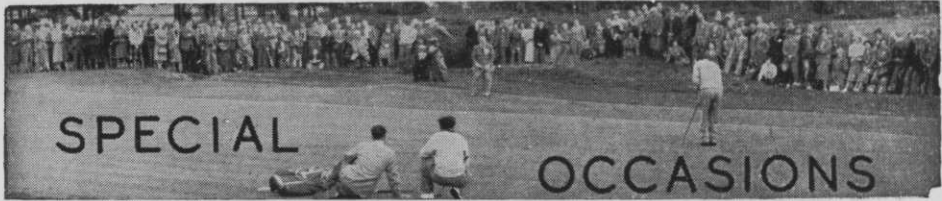
PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

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	9th	South-West Section Annual Tournament.	
	21st	Midland Section A.G.M. Midland Section Habberley Cup	} Habberley
AUGUST	11th	B.G.G.A. Annual Tournament—Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.	
	12th		
	13th		
SEPT.	11th	Southern Section Autumn Tournament—Crews Hill G.C.	
	16th	N.A.G. Exhibition—Motspur Park.	}
	17th		
	18th		
	24th	Welsh Section Autumn Meeting—Carmarthen Golf Club.	
	24th	Midland Section Autumn Tournament—Sutton Coldfield G.C.	
25th	Southern Section visit to ATCO.		
OCTOBER	15th	Southern Section Greenkeepers v. Secretaries.	
	16th	North-West Section Autumn Tournament—Bolton G.C.	

125th BIRTHDAY GIFT

J. Gibbs Ltd., of Bedfont, Middlesex, the Grass and Machinery Specialists, are celebrating their 125th birthday by giving away free reproductions in full colour of genuine antique maps of the following six counties: Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey.

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