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THE BRITISH GOLF

# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME  
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## DECEMBER

## CONTENTS

PAGE 3	TEE SHOTS
4	EIGHTEEN HOLES WITH HAWTREE—No. 8 THE ROUGH
6	SCOTTISH GREENKEEPERS' COMPETITION SITUATION VACANT
8	YOUR ETIQUETTE IS SLIPPING SPECIAL OCCASIONS
10	NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS
16	MRS GREENKEEPER

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M-W.185

# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

An alternative to the M4 links road round Reading has been proposed by an engineer working for a Committee of local residents. One member of the audience, when the scheme was discussed, said he felt there would be a lot of opposition to a route across the golf course, but another said, "You seem to be dealing with unreasonable people who think more of a piece of land for knocking a little ball about on than homes for four hundred people".

The St Neots Golf Club in Huntingdonshire were about to open their second 9 holes when the Ministry of Transport stepped in. They considered that the 17th and 18th were too close to passing traffic on the A1 so the two holes were put out of play before they were in play. The Club has plans to construct two more holes in a less controversial position.

Bedford Borough Council has plans to develop 142 acres near Kimbolton Road at Cleat Hill as a golf course. Ravensdon Parish Council, in whose area the site lies, are raising no objection.

Blyth Town Council in Northumberland has taken over 120 acres of a disused pit heap for a new 18 hole golf course. The Government will give a large grant towards the estimated cost of over £100,000.

The Vicar of Wortley Parish Church is a full member of the Wortley Golf Club north of Sheffield. Evensong on Sunday, 2nd November was a special service for golfers with members of Wortley, Stocksbridge and Tankersley Park invited.

Work will soon start on a new 18 hole golf course at Westport, Co. Mayo with a length of 6,700 yards and breathtaking views over Clew Bay. This should be a great tourist attraction in that part of Ireland.



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# 18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

## No. 8—THE ROUGH

by FRED HAWTREE

When we drove over the water at Hole No. 6 we noticed that our grandparents were either made of sterner stuff or took a cheerful view of the hazards of golf. Incidentals like walls, rocks, and dykes added zest to their round and the rougher the rough, the merrier the contest.

Features which are nowadays omitted from travel agents' invitations to 14 days golf in the sun were put forward as positive attractions. Open a Golfing Annual from the 1890's almost anywhere and you will find something like this:—

“The chief hazards are gorse bushes, large bunkers filled with whins and water, roads, and cart ruts.”

Or again:—“Last year the club took in some extra ground . . . this giving the additional hazards of two deep pits, one full of water, a running stream, a road and a quantity of rushes.”

Who cut down all the rushes?

In the current ecology of golf, the player adapts his environment to the game instead of his game to the environment. If the rough *can* be cut it *will* be, at any rate within slicing and hooking distance of the fairway.

On any course an imperceptible change also occurs daily as disciples hack hopefully about. And it is occurring more quickly as year round play increases and the natural processes of regeneration cannot keep pace. Eventually the stage is reached where grandfathers can say that the rough is not what it used to be. You will have known for some time that the fairways are not what they used to be.

Setting aside speeding play (which we

can only do for the sake of simplicity) your golfers will accept deep rough if it is an obvious part of the landscape. Ground Willow beside sea-side fairways, heather in heathland, these may bother them in play but do not offend their sense of justice. Give them, however, a foot of deep grass in smooth meadowland and the inevitable discussion will follow.

A. Unplayable only a foot from the fairway (green).

B. Teach you to play straight (short.)

A. Best shot of the day and lost the ball.

B. Wasn't quite good enough, was it?

A. What have the ground staff been up to?

B. Rained every day for a fortnight.

A. Penalises the rabbit.

B. What's his handicap for?

A. Should have thought the course was difficult enough already.

B. Too easy by half.

A. Discourages visitors.

B. Don't want them. Ruin the course.

A. What are you going to have?

B. The same again.

Most people expect the tournament performer to put up with a specially roughened layout. The spectacular recovery is exciting and memorable. But he will have a great deal of help in marking and finding the ball. In a caddie-less Sunday Medal with another match hard on your heels, losing a ball is not an enticing aspect of the game if you can reflect that another turn of the gang-mowers would have left you in the clear.

On the other hand the roughless golf

course is a tremendous bore. The unity of each hole is destroyed, its scale lost and the landscape emasculated. These considerations apart, we have seen before how few elements are available to the designer of courses in extracting interest from a dull piece of ground. Do away with the rough and you have only got contour, sand, water and trees left. On a flat site with no water, you are left with sand and trees. And if the trees die . . .

So keep a reasonably hairy fringe as a framework if only to preserve the

lark's nests. Beyond that do everything possible to encourage the local flora even if you do not go as far as the golfer who telephoned his local newspaper correspondent to say that while playing 18 holes he had counted 140 Ladies Tresses. (If he was counting his strokes as well, he must have been an awkward man to have in the match ahead). "Our greens are botanical deserts", said the *Manchester Guardian Weekly Country Diary*. "But the rough, the lovely rough, is full of treasures.

Do you still want to cut it all down?

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## A PERFECT LAWN THE EASY WAY

By PAUL VOYKIN

Golf Course Superintendent,  
Briarwood Country Club.

The "golf course lawn" is the envy of practically every home owner. In this book, an authority on growing this magnificent turf gives an effective programme for improving and maintaining the home lawn. Paul Voykin dispels the bewildering, sometimes contradictory information of garden columnists and fertiliser companies. In its place, he provides simple, practical, month-by-month guidance applicable to the particular area in which the home owner lives. The author tells which type of grass to plant where, and why . . . how and when to fertilise . . . the advantages and dangers of chemicals . . . what must be known about weedkillers and the real "secret" of eradicating weeds . . . the problems of insects and insecticides . . . how to mow and mowing equipment . . . plus scores of how-to tips discovered in a lifetime of professional lawn work.

*A Perfect Lawn the Easy Way* is the one lawn book that tells the home owner when to start, what to do . . . and when to just take it easy.

\$1.95 87.1990 (paper). \$3.95 81.1991 (cloth). 128 pages. 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 9".

NOTE: *American Garden Guild's selection for May 1969. Published by Rand McNally & Co. First Golf Superintendent ever to write a book for the home owner.*

## SCOTTISH GREENKEEPERS' COMPETITION

KIRRIEMUIR GREENKEEPER WINS

The winner of the £100 First Prize in the 1969 Scotland's Greenkeeper of the Year Competition sponsored by S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd., in conjunction with the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association, is Mr William Ritchie of Kirriemuir Golf Club.

The judges reported on Kirriemuir as "Outstanding among a very high class entry". Mr Ritchie will receive his £100 and the S.A.I. Perpetual Challenge Trophy at a lunch to be given by S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd. in Edinburgh on 20th November. The six runners-up, who will each receive £10 and a copper plaque, are as follows:—

James King, Luffness New Golf Club.  
Arthur Duncan, Blairgowrie Golf Club.  
William McKelvie, Dumfries & County Golf Club (1968 winner).

Alex. K. Pirie, Hazlehead Golf Club.

Gordon Elliott, Inverness Golf Club.

L. F. Millar, Erskine Golf Club.

Preliminary judging on the 81 entries was carried out by members of the S.G.G.A. and final judging of the short list of 12 courses (two from each S.G.U. area) by four independent experts on golf course maintenance.

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# YOUR ETIQUETTE IS SLIPPING

by  
Peter Hefford

The slackening in attention to golf etiquette is getting so bad the Royal and Ancient and the P.G.A. are becoming worried. Clubs are being asked to bring more forcibly to players' attention those simple but sound pointers on course behaviour which precede the rules of golf.

Many of us are lucky enough to belong to good clubs and to play with civilised friends who respect golf and its manners. It comes as a rude shock to learn about thoughtless behaviour in other places. It has even been reported that players have been seen dragging trolleys through bunkers!

Of course, established golfers who should know better sometimes have lapses from grace. This past weekend playing in a club medal competition, one of my fellow-competitors managed to walk on the line of my putt four times during the round! But I think he is just getting old and absent-minded.

The new generation of golfers must rightly be blamed for the drop in standards of course behaviour. I do not mean young people, but those people who are now, for the first time, finding golf within their expanding social orbit.

In the past golf has often been accused of representing the worst in middle-class snobbery. Certainly, in pre-war days people in trade and other non-

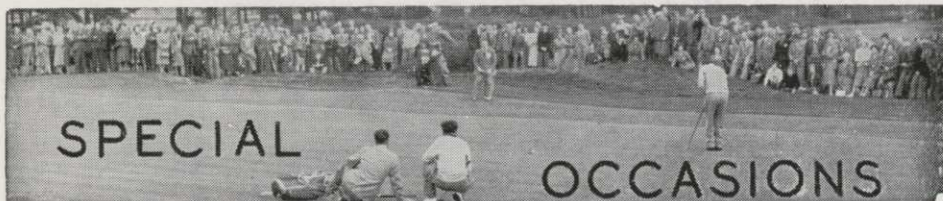
professional occupations were firmly excluded. Those of us with fairly liberal views are pleased to see the game nowadays opening its frontiers and offering its pleasures to a wider public.

Unfashionable though it may be to say so, there is a tremendous amount of good in middle-class standards — nowhere is this more evident than on the golf course. Respect for the rules, for other people's pleasure, and a gentle love for this most fascinating of games are middle-class attitudes which have held the game together.

As with most games golf is delicately and artificially structured. Remove any part of this structure and the whole thing loses pleasure and point. This must surely be self-evident to even the most unfeeling of people.

The more musty aspects of clubhouse etiquette may be open to question these days. Social behaviour has changed since the early part of the century. Some clubs are way out-of-date with their lists of domestic taboos.

But this criticism cannot be levelled at the rules and etiquette of the golf course itself. Each one is vitally necessary for the well-being of the game — even those which may seem pedantic at first glance. They have been evolved through centuries of trials and tribulations on the links.



NOV.	12th	Northern Section Lecture—Horsforth G.C.
	25th	North West Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester.
	27th	Sheffield Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, Haymarket.
DEC.	3rd	Southern Section Lecture—Stirling Castle.
	9th	Midland Section Lecture—Old Crown Hotel.
	10th	Northern Section Lecture.
	16th	Northern Section Christmas Social.

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# News



## from the Sections

### MIDLAND

By R. Goodwin

Chairman:  
G. HART  
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:  
4 Burton Old Road,  
Streethay, Lichfield,  
Staffs.

#### Autumn Tournament

The Autumn Tournament took place at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, on Wednesday 24th September.

Alf Hastilow and the groundstaff had the course in perfect condition, while Mr Lanham and Mrs Oldham did a first-class job of supplying our needs in the Clubhouse.

Our thanks also go to the Captain and Committee of the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and clubhouse and for the generous donation towards the cost of the Greenkeepers' meals.

We also thank the professional for the use of caddie-carts and our good friends Mr Eric Ballinger, Mr Peter Wyatt and Mr Glyn Vaughan for helping throughout the day with score-cards etc.

Mr Timpson, Chairman of the Green Committee, apologised for the Club Captain who could not be with us, and said how pleased he was to see such a good entry for this event.

Mr Timpson went on to say that Greenkeepers would always find a warm welcome at Sutton Coldfield and hoped that it would not be long before this event took place again at this Club. He then presented the prizes to the following players:—

PRIZE WINNERS—27 Holes.

Best Gross: R. Goodwin 119—Stainless Steel Tea Set.

Best Nett: T. Morris 102—Clayton Cup and Tea Service.

2nd nett: J. Bevan 104—Lotus Golf Shoes.

3rd nett: R. Hughes 104½—Voucher.  
4th nett: E. Leeson 105—Putter.  
5th nett: R. J. Pugh 106—Bathroom scales.  
6th nett: A. Boraston 107—1 doz. golf balls.  
7th nett: D. Brazier 108—Cigarette Lighter.  
8th nett: G. Hart 108—Pullover.  
9th nett: G. Smith 109—Pullover.  
10th nett: E. H. Benbow 110½—1 doz. golf balls.  
11th nett: R. Smith 111½—Bottle of Sherry and sprayer.  
12th nett: R. Pullen 112—Wallet.  
13th nett: H. Drewitt 112½—Sprinkler.  
14th nett: G. Bunting 113—Beer Mug.  
15th nett: V. Smith 114½—3 Golf Balls.  
*Coming of Age Prize:* J. Bevan—Bottle of Sherry and Sprayer.  
*Visitors Invitation:* Mr F. D. Brown 69—6 Golf Balls; Mr H. Crump 71—3 Golf Balls.  
*Players with 2s:* A. Boffy, E. Benbow, E. Leeson, R. Hughes, A. Cutler—1 Golf Ball each.

#### Prize Donors

We are indebted to the following for their kind and generous donations to our Prize List:—

Thomas Clayton Ltd.; Lotus Shoes Ltd.; British Steel Shafts Ltd.; Parker & Ballinger Ltd.; Flymo Ltd.; Pattison & Company Ltd.; ATCO Ltd.; May & Baker Ltd.; British Overhead Irrigation Ltd.; Cannock Agriculture Ltd.; Rigby Taylor Ltd.; J. P. Harvey Ltd.; Taylor's Ironmongers Ltd.; Mr E. Barber, Walmley Golf Club; Mr J. R. Greenhalgh, Walmley Golf Club; Mr F. D. Brown, Walmley Golf Club; Mr J. Johnson, Whittington Barracks Golf Club; Mr J. W. R. Robinson; Mr Carl Bretherton.

<i>Midlands Greenkeepers</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Association of Golf Club Secretaries</i>	
G. Hart		R. Rowlands	
R. Smith	0	S. Allen	1
V. Smith		H. Timmings	
G. Bunting	0	A. Greetham	1
E. Benbow		N. H. Russell	
J. Bevan	1	G. Dring	0
A. Boraston		J. H. McCarthy	
T. Jones	1	T. Fowke	0
H. Drewitt		R. Wynne, Woollyry	
A. Hastilow	1	R. S. Parsons	0
		A. V. Backson	
D. Haynes	0	A. B. Ashworth	1

We had some lovely weather for this match; the Little Aston course was in perfect condition. Our Chairman G. Hart thanked Mr Russell and the Little Aston Golf Club for their hospitality and the Secretaries for coming and giving us an enjoyable afternoon.

#### Les Greenow

Members will be sorry to hear that Les Greenow has had quite a long spell in Kidderminster Hospital with a leg infection. We trust you are getting fit again by now Les, and look forward to seeing you in the near future at our forthcoming events.

#### Annual Subscriptions

Frank Cashmore, the Treasurer tells me that most subscriptions are now in but would