



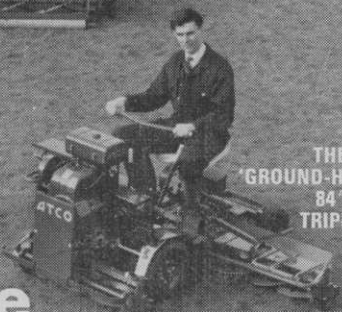
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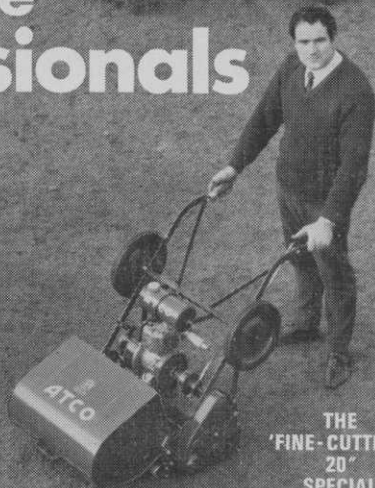


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HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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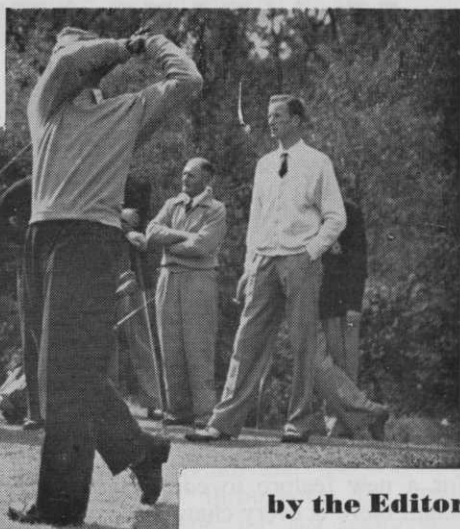
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

East Coast

Harwich Council is looking at the possibility of providing a new 18-hole golf course in conjunction with the other local authorities in north-east Essex.

South Coast

* * * *

Worthing

A new road planned by Sussex County Council as a relief for the A.27 Brighton to Portsmouth road may go through the middle of the Hillbarn Golf Course. However there are three alternative routes which are being evaluated.

Portsmouth

Work has started on the new Portsmouth municipal golf course at Portsdown Hill. This is to replace Great Salterns golf course, part of which is to go for building. The new site lies on high ground to the north of the town and commands a view of Portsmouth, Hayling Island, and the Isle of Wight.

South West

* * * *

Chipping Sodbury, a 9-hole layout on common land, is acquiring 100 acres on the other side of the clubhouse and is starting work on a new eighteen. Total length will be 6,603 yards.

Wales

* * * *

Newtown Golf Course in Montgomeryshire is considering the acquisition of 50 acres adjoining its present 9-holes to extend the course to a full 18.



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18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

NO 6 — THE LAKE

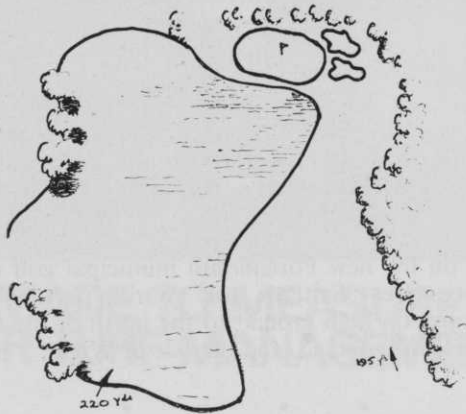
by FRED HAWTREE

NO new golf course, hoping to get its image on to the front cover of *Golf Illustrated* dares go into action without a lake somewhere in its purlieus. Keeping up with the Trent Jones's has become a point of honour so if your committee is looking around for a new feature to commemorate its reign, there is every chance that a water hazard will appear on the agenda.

Water has played a part in the game

until earth-moving machinery and less economical ideas came back from areas to which the Scots had exported their game in the nineteenth century.

If money is no object, local soil factors can be discounted. Your pool can be lined with butyl, supplied from the mains and even act as a reservoir for your water supply or a receptacle for your land drainage. The material excavated can be used to form mound



No. 12 at the Champions Club, Houston, Texas. The lake covers four acres. From the normal tee (right) only an elbow juts into the fairway. The championship tee is to the left. The green falls away to the lake and there are trees on the right for good measure.

of golf since the first "feathery" trickled into the Swilcan Burn at St Andrews. And it is less than 50 years since the "floater" was in circulation. Where has all the water gone these days? Presumably the big expansion in the twenties, 50 new courses a year, diluted the market with too many golfers who never left dry land.

The ultimate hazard then became neglected unless it occurred naturally,

features or to build up greens and tees. Dual use of the feature itself and exploitation of the material it provides will obviously improve the look of the pool's balance sheet. And if you stock it with trout there are future benefits to come.

What are the design factors involved?

The outline should be informal like everything else on the golf course.

Remember that informal swimming pools have now made the kidney bean shape nearly as regular as the circle. If the pool has to be lined, careful treatment of the edge to conceal the lining will be needed. You will be luckiest if it is possible to dam a stream so that Nature determines most of the outline and provides the surrounding contour ready made.

Depth should normally be 4 ft. 6 in. or more. A shallow pool will heat up in summer, evaporate more quickly, and encourage algae formation. Adequate depth will encourage natural processes appropriate to our climate and give the pool a life of its own. There are chemical treatments to keep the water clear but the greenkeeper has enough to do already.

Area, from every point of view is fundamental to the success of the operation. The water, and plenty of water, must be well seen to have its full landscape effect. And if it affects play, it must be seen from the point at which the shot is played. Admittedly our original links water hazard is often invisible or only seen as a dark line in the distance. But golf has moved away from blindness of water hazards just as it has from blind greens. On flat land, therefore, where the area of the pool might exceed what is economically feasible if the water is to be seen from a distance, the appropriate site will often be just in front of a tee especially at short holes. Then the problem is clearly set and the landscape effect is at its maximum. This siting will be still more desirable where the natural water table is several feet below ground level unless the distant view is from high ground. Where tees are elevated, the water can move nearer the green and introduce other playing factors besides pure "carry".

The shallow water trap a few inches deep is not to be recommended unless it be an enlargement of a moving water course presupposing that ground conditions do not require a concrete basin and that its contents do not stagnate. An artificial pool of little depth involves a lot of upkeep for the doubtful pleasure of tempting members to

remove their shoes and socks.

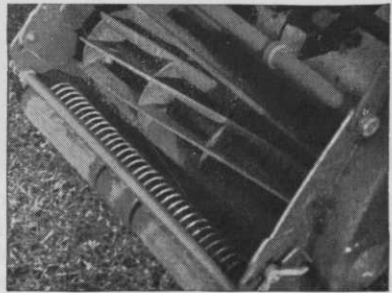
It is agreeable to allow marginal and aquatic plants to enhance the natural appearance of the pool where complications of upkeep will not arise. Close to play, it should be ensured that the banks are not steeper than 1 in 4 and that they are grassed to the lowest water level in summer. Gang mowers can then maintain them without difficulty down to the water's edge.

If then you want your water hazard to be fully effective, make it big enough, deep enough, natural in appearance and easy to maintain. But before you do anything persuade a surveyor member to calculate the volume of the excavation and be certain that you will have water in it throughout the year. Judging by 1968, the last requirement at least should not be difficult to fulfil.

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THOSE WHO SERVE

Number 4 in the series of Profiles by Brigadier C. W. Morton, M.C.

ERNEST HENRY BENBOW

ERNEST BENBOW (67) started his greenkeeping career in 1919 at Handsworth Golf Club, and last year he retired having served at that one Club for 48 years, 43 years of which he has served as its Head Greenkeeper. He tells me that the photograph of him shown in this profile was taken in 1933. Today he is slightly older!

During his time he was a scratch golfer and won the B.G.G.A. Scratch Cup on three occasions. Last year he was 2nd in the B.G.G.A. Tournament played at Skegness. Not bad for a man of 67. He has taken a great interest in



the administration of his Association having served for 30 years on the B.G.G.A. Executive and on Section Committees. He is now a Life Member of the B.G.G.A.

Mr Benbow is also a very modest man since he has given me the minimum of information on which to write his profile. However, it is enough to show that his heart was in his Club, Handsworth Golf Club, in his Association and in the game of golf. What else can one want of any Head Greenkeeper? A fine record of devoted service. Congratulations, Mr Benbow.



HAROLD SIDDORN

HAROLD SIDDORN (67) became a greenkeeper in 1916, at the age of 14, with the North Worcestershire Golf Club at Northfield. He became a Head Greenkeeper 24 years ago in 1945 at Blackwell Golf Club where he still works. He has now put in a total of 43 years in greenkeeping and is still going strong. He tells me that what he now knows about greenkeeping is chiefly due to the excellent teaching of the "good old greenkeepers of the past". Today, he says, greenkeeping is made very much easier by modern machinery. His weekly wage as a young boy was 12s.

Other clubs he has served at are: Kings Norton Golf Club (1920-1925); Lickey Municipal Golf Club (1925-1935). He was absent from greenkeeping during the war years and in 1945 went to Blackwell Golf Club, Northampton. In the past, he used to play golf, reaching a handicap of 7. Recently he says he has not played much although he still takes a great interest in a large number of amateur and professional

golfers whom he knows personally. A lifetime of a steady climb up in the art of greenkeeping and still actively engaged as a Head Greenkeeper at the age of 67. Congratulations Mr Siddorn. May you reach your half-century at greenkeeping before you retire.

HERE AND THERE

A letter of complaint has been sent to the Doncaster Corporation by officials of Wheatley Golf Club about gipsies camped on adjacent land off Armthorpe Road.

A spokesman for the golf club said the main trouble at the moment was with animals which were let loose on the course during the night causing untold damage. The cost of repair to one green was about £50.

* * * *

Members will be sorry to hear that S. C. Dennis is in hospital with dermatitis. He has taken this chance to write down some of his experiences over the past 50 years in greenkeeping and these will be appearing in a future issue. Meanwhile we all wish him an early recovery.

* * * *

Bute District Council have increased playing fees for the much improved Port Bannatyne Golf Course. The increases, for men, vary from 6d. added to a round (now 3s. 6d.) to 10s. more for the annual fee (now £3 10s.).

Mr John Shaw, the greenkeeper at the course, has been commended for the excellent work and improvements he is carrying out.

* * * *

Ron Malin, of Scott Road, Chadwell St. Mary, has retired at the age of 68 after 50 years of greenkeeping at the Orsett Golf Club. He assisted the late Fred Baisden to lay the first six holes, then nine in 1919. The course was extended to the full 18 holes in 1930, and recently championship golf has been played at Orsett.

A presentation was made by the

Head Greenkeeper, David Singleton, on behalf of the green staff of a lighter and a tankard. Ron says he hopes to spend more time in his garden but has promised to help out when the occasion demands.

The club is running a benefit competition and a collection from those members who are unable to enter. The proceeds will go to Ron—a man who is greatly admired and respected by members and staff alike.

“THE PRINCE OF GREENKEEPERS”

by WILLIAM BRADFORD

Many years ago a golfing scribe gave this title to Alex. S. Pringle, greenkeeper at the Killermont Course of the Glasgow Golf Club, and on Monday, 5th May, Alex. was laid to rest in his home town of Carlisle in Lanarkshire.

It is a measure of Alex.'s worth that this title neither roused rancour nor jealousy, envy nor malice, only pleasure that so apt a rank had been given to so worthy an exponent of his craft and to one whose unflinching courtesy, good humour and kindness had so endeared him to us all.

His course, no matter the season, was always immaculate, and the pride of his club members. It was also the criterion and inspiration of many greenkeepers. He had that gift no matter how great the occasion of being quite “unflappable” and had an apparent ease in carrying out whatever came to hand.

At a now historic meeting to re-form the S.G.G.A. which was held at Barnton just after the war he was appointed General Secretary. And it was he who laid the foundation of integrity and good fellowship that has guided all who followed him. He not only loved, he adorned our social occasions. A prince of goodfellows as he was a prince of greenkeepers. Good-bye Alex. Thank you for the pleasure of your company.

**THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH
INSTITUTE
BINGLEY, YORKSHIRE**

The 18th A.G.M. of the SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE was held at Bingley, Yorkshire, on Monday, 28th April, under the Chairmanship of Mr Alan Sowden.

(1) In the Annual Report for 1968, which was adopted, reference was made to:—

(a) **Research**

The appointment of an Assistant Director with special responsibility for research coupled with the building of a new Biology Laboratory have paved the way for a boost in research. Much of the experiment ground will continue to be taken up with the blocks of experiment plots arranged to assess new and old varieties of the common turf grasses. Other work includes trials designed to assess the value of different proportions of physical soil ameliorants in producing free draining, hard wearing turf with further work on the production of clean seed beds, with particular reference to annual meadow grass studies.

(b) **Advisory**

The advisory service on playing field construction and maintenance was in constant demand by private sports clubs, parks departments of local authorities and local education authorities. There was an increase in the number of visits made to L.E.A. school playing fields. As the report says, the aim is "to help subscribers get the best possible playing conditions with their budget".

(c) **Education**

Five instructional courses for greenkeepers and grounds-men employed by subscribers

were held in 1968, each being of one week's duration. All were attended to capacity. Enthusiasm for these courses has continued unabated over the years. Other educational activities included lectures at centres throughout the country, publication of the *Journal, Sports Turf Bulletin* and other articles for the sports press.

(d) **Finance**

The financial problems of running a voluntary, non-profit organisation are considerable and were increased by the general economic difficulties during 1968. The end result, a small deficit, was not in itself serious and served to underline the need for full support from all concerned with sports and amenity turf.

(2) A message of loyal greetings was sent to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Institute.

(3) The following elections were made:—

President, The Duke of Norfolk; Vice-Presidents, Carl Bretherton, Esq., Sir William Worsley; Chairman, Alan Sowden, Esq., M.I.C.E.; Vice-Chairman, Carl Bretherton.

**THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

Two Courses of Instruction were held at the Institute as usual this spring, 14th to 18th and 21st to 25th April respectively. A total of 51 students attended both courses.

Further courses will be held at Bingley during the periods 7th to 11th July, 13th to 17th October, 20th to 24th October and 27th to 31st October. All these courses are fully booked apart from the last one on which there still remain a few vacancies.



THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Course of Instruction—21st to 25th April 1969

Left to right:—

Back Row:—R. S. Howlett (Ferndown G.C.), A. H. F. Jiggins (Chester G.C.), J. Wilson (Brodick G.C.), G. Arnold (Erewash Valley G.C.), R. Wiltshire (Port of Bristol Authority), H. J. Hurford (Royal Guernsey G.C.), D. J. Rawlins (Denham G.C.), B. Fish (Ralston G.C.), F. Porter (Portishead U.D.C.).

Middle Row:—T. R. Rawson (Kent County Council), B. T. Govett (Kent County Council), J. Walker (Doncaster Town Moor G.C.), R. F. Buchanan (Wollaton Park G.C.), R. Hughes (Whittington Barracks G.C.), J. W. Bossley (Orsett G.C.), D. J. Webster (Orsett G.C.), B. Hill (Milnrow U.D.C.).

Front Row:—K. Wilson (Alderley Edge G.C.), R. Baldwin (Burnley G.C.), S. Hobson (Abbeydale G.C.), D. H. McQuilkin (Corby U.D.C.), J. D. Lowery (Ringway G.C.), J. Cousin (Hayling G.C.), A. C. Hack (North Cliff G.C.), D. W. Smerdin (East Devon G.C.).

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Carmarthen Golf Club,
Rhydymarchog,
Newchurch,
Carmarthan.

Dear Sir,

I would like to clarify a slight error in the *Journal*. The Autumn Meeting of the Welsh Section is listed as being held at the "CARMARTHENSHIRE GOLF CLUB". While heartily agreeing with this flattering description, may I point out that there are two other golf clubs in the county, Ashburnham and Glyn Hyr, and there is a certain amount of rivalry between the three of them. Therefore to avoid open warfare in the hills and the valleys could our address be amended in the next issue of *The British Golf Greenkeeper*.

I am not quite sure if you mentioned a periscope in one of your articles in the *Journal* as being a rarity on a golf course. We have had a 20-footer on our 16th tee in use since 1933.

Regarding your recent article on dog-legs you don't have to go outside the Principality to find some excellent examples—our 1st and 17th for instance.

Hope to see you at Pyle and Kenfig this August; try and bring some fine weather with you this time although it is said that lightning never strikes in the same place twice.

Yours sincerely,

A. PRICE,

Head Greenkeeper.



JUNE	4th	Southern Section A.G.M.—Stirling Castle.		
	16th	Sheffield Section Tournament—Hillsborough Golf Club.		
	24th	Welsh Section A.G.M.—Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.		
	26th	Midland Section Annual Match v. President's Team.		
JULY	1st	Northern Section Tournament—Horsforth G.C.		
	9th	South-West Section Annual Tournament.		
	21st	Midland Section A.G.M.	} Habberley G.C.	
		Midland Section Habberley Cup		
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.		
25th	Southern Section visit to ATCO.			
OCTOBER	15th	Southern Section Greenkeepers v. Secretaries.		