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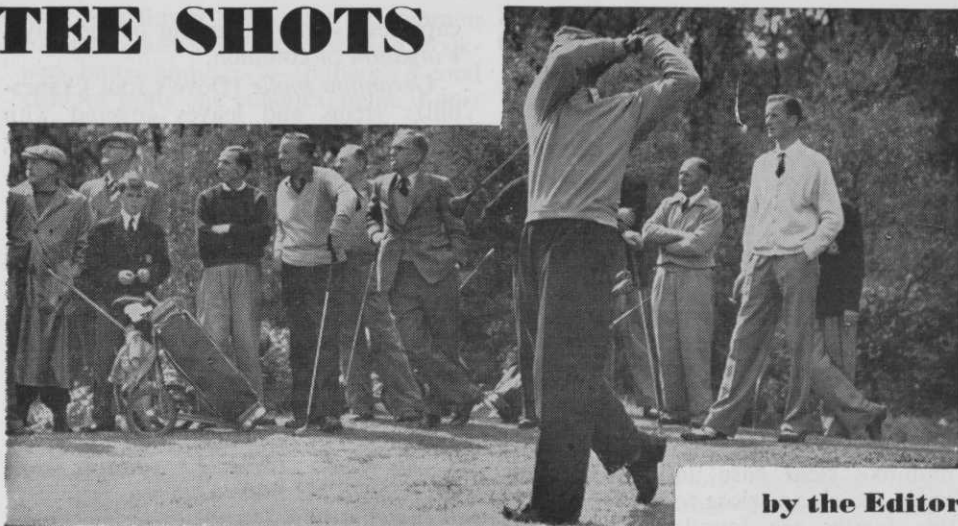
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

THE ASSOCIATION MEETS IN WALES

Sixty-eight greenkeepers, many with their families, travelled to Wales for the Annual Tournament and Annual General Meeting on 11th, 12th and 13th August at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. Nearby Porthcawl was still adorned with heraldic devices on shops and lamp-standards left over from the Prince of Wales' Investiture and we were all glad to invest Welshman Fry as our Chairman for the coming year.

Those who remember the last visit to the golf course had not forgotten the weather on the second day and this year's event followed a similar pattern reducing Tuesday's 36-hole event to 18 holes only.

Fortunately recent improvements to the clubhouse had included enlargement of the bar so the sudden crush was well contained. The course too had made big strides since we were last there. Cattle fences are no more and the links type layout was at its best.

Pyle & Kenfig Captain, Mr Evans, presented the prizes on the last day and the club made a handsome addition to the prize list kindly donated by individuals and firms listed elsewhere in this issue.

Next year's tournament will be in Yorkshire when the Northern Section will be hosts. Scarborough is likely to be the nearest resort. If you missed this year's assembly make a date for August 1970.

* * * *

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BOTANICAL NAMES

Part II

by R. HAWTHORN

THAT all botanical names have a meaning is often overlooked and an appreciation of this fact is a great help to understand them.

Here are some more examples of botanical and common names of plants, with brief details of what they mean.

Ranunculus bulbosus (Bulbous Buttercup): distinguished by its swollen bulb-like stem base and its leaf segment, which are close together. Most of this family are found in marshy or damp places, a likely habitat of frogs, hence *ranunculus*, from *rana*, a frog, and *bulbosus*, bulbous.

Ranunculus repens (Creeping Buttercup): a common species with large leaves which spreads quickly by leafy runners; *repens* means "creeping".

Ranunculus acris (Common Crow-foot): the tallest of the buttercups, growing to 3 ft. high. The flower stalks carry more blooms than most other types. *Acris*, sharp or bitter, indicating that the plant has an unpleasant taste.

Ranunculus ficaria (Celandine): glossy green leaves mainly heart shaped and wavy at the edges. *Ficaria*, fig-like, refers to the leaves, but Celandine may have been taken from the Greek word **chelidon** or swallow, because it was said that the greater celandine flowered when the swallows returned, and withered when they departed.

Sagina procumbens (Pearlwort): the creeping, carpeting plant found on paths and very often in close lawn turf. *Sagina*, the old name for Spurrey, originally regarded as a species of this genus, defines a fattening food. *Procumbens*, trailing or creeping, refers to the mode of growth.

Cerastium vulgatum (Mouse-ear Chickweed), with lance-like leaves akin to a mouse's ear in shape and texture, and covered with hairs, the probable derivation of its common name. *Cerastium*, from the Greek **keros** (horn), which describes the shape of the seed

capsules as they come out of the calyx. *Vulgatum* or common.

Geranium molle (Dove's foot Cranesbill): stems and leaves covered with soft white hairs, flower colours varying from red- to white-purple. *Geranium*, from the Greek word **geranos**, a crane; the fruit does resemble the head and beak of that bird, so we also get the English name Cranesbill. *Molle*, soft, possibly a reference to the softness of the foliage.

Erodium cicutarium (Common Storks-bill): The same family (natural order) as the Cranesbills, and the fruit again resembles the head and beak of a bird of the heron family. *Erodium* is from the Greek **erodius**, a heron, referring to the elongated shape of the fruit. Leaf shape has some resemblance to hemlock, or **cicuta**, the root word of *cicutarium*.

Trifolium repens (White Clover): the creeping and rooting stems of this plant are well known, as are the white flowers and the three leaflets with the pale band across them. *Trifolium*, three-leaved.

Trifolium dubium (Suckling Clover or Yellow Trefoil): this may well be the Irish Shamrock, with a darker yellow flower. Common on roadsides and sportsgrounds. *Dubium*, doubtful, but of what I do not know. Doubtful, perhaps, whether it is an Irish shamrock, a clover or a Trefoil!

Medicago lupulina (Black Medick): each leaflet ends in a tiny point to distinguish it from the trefoils. Often found sown with grasses in agriculture, being a good fodder crop. *Medicago*, sometimes explained as derived from the Greek **medike** because the Medes introduced the genus into Greece, or from *media*, the country from which alfalfa was supposed to have come. *Lupulina*, rope-like, probably referring to hope clover.

Ornithopus perpusillus (Common Birdsfoot): so named because its groups of beaked pods look like a bird's claw. *Ornithopus* from the Greek **Ornithos**, a bird, and **Pous**, foot, and *perpusillus*, very small, relating to the size of the flowers.

Lotus corniculatus (Birdsfoot Trefoil):

gay little flower with over 70 common names — lady's fingers, shoes and stockings, butter-and-eggs — so there's a good case for using one botanical name. *Lotus* was the old name adopted by Greek naturalists for a trefoil-like plant, and *corniculatus*, "horned" refers to the shape of the seed pods, often spread out like birds' toes.

Potentilla reptans (Cinquefoil): Cinquefoil, five-leaved; the botanical name *Potentilla* comes from **potens** or powerful, some species having active medicine properties. *Reptans* — creeping, a description of its stems.

Potentilla anserina (Silverweed): as before, *Potentilla* denotes the plant's use in medicine, for the treatment of ulcers and sores. Travellers also put it in their socks to make their feet more comfortable. *Anserina* comes from the Latin, **anser**, a goose, and the name may be a reminder that this grows freely on the closely grazed grass where geese have been.

Alchemilla arvenis (Parsley Piert): sometimes called Lady's Mantle. The common name refers to the shape of the leaves, which resembles a lady's cloak. *Alchemilla* is from Arabic, denoting that the plant was used in North Africa in alchemy or medicine, *arvenis* means that it is found in cultivated fields.

Galium saxatile (Heath Bedstraw): in the old days people often slept on a mattress of dried bedstraw and other plants, covered with a sheet; but the botanical name *Galium* comes from **gala**, milk, the leaves of the plant formerly being used to curdle milk. *Saxatile* means that it is found in stony places.

Taraxacum officinale (Dandelion): the name Dandelion comes from the Latin **denslionis**, meaning lion's tooth, probably relating to the shape of the leaves. *Taraxacum* is the Old Arabic name, and *officinale* comes from **officina** or chemist shop.

Crepis capillaris (Smooth Hawk-beard): of the dandelion family, with a lot of flowers massed together. *Crepis*, from the Greek **krepis**, a sandal, probably describing the shape of the leaves, and *capillaris*, hair-like, but how this description applies is hard to say.

Hypochaeris radicata (Cat's Ear): the common name refers to the bracts on the stem said to resemble cat's ears. *Hypochaeris* from the Greek **hypo**, under, and **chioros**, a pig. Pigs are supposed to eat this plant and because it has a thick, woody tap root, the word *radicata*, rooted, is brought in.

Leontodon hispidus (Common Hawkbit): *Hispidus* describes the flower head stalks; **hispid**, or covered with hairs.

Leontodon autumnalis (Autumn Hawkbit): *Autumnalis*, of the autumn, for the plant flowers from July to October.

Hieracium pilosella (Mouse-ear Hawkweed): Pliny, the Roman naturalist, believed that hawks ate this to strengthen their eyesight, so he gave it the name. *Hieracium* from **hieraz**, a hawk, *pilosella* from **pilosus**, hairy — alluding to the leaf hairs.

Senecio jacobea (Ragwort): with a lot of common names, among them Staggerwort, St James wort, Stinking Willie and Stinking Weed. Ragwort is derived from the ragged appearance of



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the leaves, *Senecio* from **senex**, old man (the hoary crown on the fruit), and *jacobea* from St James.

Bellis perennis (Daisy): the flower heads open early in the morning and close at night, hence the name daisy-eye or Daisy. That's a pretty name, but the botanical name is even prettier. *Bellis* from the Latin **bellus** pretty, and *perennis*, always — that is, "always pretty".

Centaurea nigra (Lesser Knapweed): the name refers to healing. *Centaurea*, after the **centaur** — a mythical beast, half man and half horse, for the legendary Chiron had used this plant to heal his wounds. *Nigra*, "black", refers to the plant's involucreal fringe.

Achillea millefolium (Yarrow): Yarrow was once used to stop bleeding, to cure colds, and as a tonic. The Greek Achilles was supposed to have used this plant to heal his wounds, hence *Achillea*, and *millefolium*, a thousand leaves.

Anthemis nobilis (Chamomile): as well as being used for herb lawns, chamomile was cultivated in earlier days to make chamomile tea, drunk to aid digestion. *Anthemis*, the old Greek name for Chamomile, derived from the name for a flower, **antheon**. *Nobilis*, noble or large, refers to the flowers.

Glaux maritima (Sea Milkwort): as both its common and botanical names imply, it is a plant found near the sea, or in sea-washed turf. *Maritima*, of the sea, and *Glaux*, seagreen, describing the colour of the leaves.

Veronica arvensis (Wall Speedwell): the origin of this one is very doubtful, some think *Veronica* is a corruption of *Betonica*, the foliage of the plants being similar; **betonica** seems to be derived from a Celtic word meaning "good head" (maybe it cures hangovers!). *Arvensis*, again, a plant of cultivated fields.

Veronica serpyllifolia (Thyme-leaved Speedwell): *Veronica*, as above; *serpyllifolia*, thyme-leaved, alludes to the shape of the leaves.

Prunella vulgaris (Self-heal): a plant once thought to have medicinal properties, curing people without the help of a doctor. *Prunella* from the German **braume**, quinsey, which the plant was

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supposed to cure; *vulgaris*, fairly common.

Plantago major (Broadleaved Plantain): the leaves are cooked as a green vegetable by some people. *Plantago*, from **planta**, sole of the foot; the leaves lie flat, like the sole.

Plantago media (Hoary Plantain): the common name gives the better description, for the leaves are downy; *Media* describes the size of the leaves — medium, or intermediate.

Plantago lanceolata (Ribwort): both botanical and common names are descriptive; *lanceolata*, "lance-shaped".

Plantago coronopus (Starweed; Buck's horn, Plantain): these names describe the plant well, and it is sometimes also called Star of the Earth. *Coronopus* from the Greek **korone**, a crow, and *pous*, foot, referring to the much-divided leaves.

Plantago maritima (Sea Plantain): both names speak for themselves, for the plant is found near the sea.

Armeria maritima (Thrift; Sea Pink): found on cliffs, on inland mountains, and in sandy places. Was it named Thrift because of the care it takes of any available food from the soil?

Armerixa, the old Latin name; *mari-tima* as before.

Polygonum aviculare (Knotgrass): *Polygonum* from the Greek **poly**, many, and **gonu** a small joint, referring to the many joints in the formations of the stem. *Aviculare* seems vague, for it indicates birds. Do birds particularly like knotgrass?

Rumex acetosa (Sheep's Sorrel): *Rumex*, the old Latin name for a kind of sorrel, from **rumo**, to suck (was it a habit of the Romans to suck sorrel leaves to relieve their thirst?). The leaves are acid, probably the reason for the second part of the name, *acetosa*, acid. The English name was probably suggested by the fact that these plants are found a lot in fields where sheep are pastured.

Rumex acetosella (Common Sorrel): the same as *Rumex acetosa*, meaning acid. Possibly some people might assume that these plants are regarded as acid in connection with the type of soil in which they are found, but the name would more likely indicate the taste of the leaves.

Luzula campestris (Field Woodrush): this has a lot of common names, among them Good Friday Grass. *Luzula* from the Italian **lucciola**, meaning Glow-worm. The plant has leaves fringed with white hairs, and when these are covered with dew they sparkle in the moonlight to make the botanist think of glow-worms. *Campestris*, found in plains or fields.

That more or less covers the weed and plants that will be common — at least in name — on grounds. Here now are some grasses familiar to groundsmen.

Lolium perenne (Perennial Rye-grass): cultivated in Britain for about 300 years, the old English name being Ray Grass; this was changed over the years to rye grass, and so now to rye grass. *Lolium*, the old Latin name for Darnel, and "Perennial", of course, needs no explanation.

Poa annua (Annual meadow grass): a very familiar grass and often regarded as a weed of fine turf, but some grounds would be bare if it disappeared; *Poa* is

Continued on Page 18



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ANNUAL REPORT — 1969

Administration

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we again congratulate our chairman Mr G. Herrington on a most successful year of office. He was our chairman in 1959 and we all look forward to the time when we can call on him to perform the hat trick.

We look forward to the coming year under the chairmanship of Mr H. A. D. Fry, our present vice-chairman, who so kindly took office after the regretted death of Mr D. Lord. We trust he will have a very happy and successful year.

The Annual Draw was again very well supported by our members, the final result showing an increase on last year, and our thanks are due to all those who made this result possible.

We were again kindly allotted 12 passes for the Open Championship at Lytham by the R. & A., and our sincere thanks are expressed for that privilege. All these passes were quickly taken up, and it is regretted that some members were too late in their application.

The Association were again represented at the Artisan Tournament at Walton Heath, this year by Mr H. Emery in the Senior Division and Mr A. Boraston in the Junior. Although they were not in the prize list, we understand they thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

As requested last year a copy of the latest recommendations of the Wage Scale Survey had been sent to chairmen of Green Committees of all clubs at which our members were employed, and it is hoped that beneficial results will be derived therefrom.

The Apprenticeship Scheme is still progressing, and the latest figures available are most encouraging. One hundred and eighty-six deeds issued, 132 registered and over 75 completed.

Membership

Once again our membership figures show an increase, and according to Section returns have now reached 810, an increase of 11.

Annual Tournament

The 51st Annual Tournament was held at the Seacroft Golf Club, Skegness, on 12th-14th August 1969 with an entry of close on 70. This proved a very satisfactory and enjoyable occasion. Everything possible was done by the committee, members and staff for our visit, and our sincere thanks are due to everybody concerned for their efforts. We would also again like to emphasise our appreciation for the generous support extended by firms and individuals for this event, both by donations to the Prize Fund and assistance given during the Tournament.

Sections

Through the endeavours of secretaries and committees Sections have again been most

active with visits, lectures and tournaments, all of which must be appreciated by members.

British Golf Greenkeeper

Our Journal, such an important feature of our Association, has again proved its value in so many ways, and we must again thank our Editor and his staff for their continued efforts.

Benevolent Fund

We are happy to report that the callings on the Benevolent Fund have been less than last year, payments only amounting to £45.

F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

Only one member has attended Bingley in the year under review, but two requests have been made for the coming autumn. Again our thanks are due to clubs who assist with the expenses of these courses.

Sports Turf Research Institute

We would once again express our thanks to the S.T.R.I. for all the advice and assistance given to our members when their problems arise.

In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of the following members announced in the *British Golf Greenkeeper* since our last report:—

Mr D. Lord, Welsh Section, vice-chairman; Mr T. Iveson, Northern Section, vice-president; Mr R. B. Dawson, O.B.E., Northern Section, vice-president.

We are indebted to the following who have kindly contributed to our Prize Fund:—

C. Bretherton, Esq.; Gordon Wright, Esq.; I. G. Nicholls, Esq.; The "News of the World"; The Sports Turf Research Institute; The Professional Golfers' Association; The Artisan Golfers' Association; The Golf Ball Manufacturers' Conference; The British Motor Corporation Ltd.; "Golf Illustrated"; Messrs Berk Ltd.; The Cannock Agricultural Co. Ltd.; Messrs Carter's Tested Seeds Ltd.; Messrs R. C. Craig & Co. Ltd.; Messrs Flymo Ltd.; Messrs J. T. Goudie & Co.; Messrs Hercules Powder Co. Ltd.; Messrs Maxwell M Hart Ltd.; Messrs Mays Chemical Manure Co. Ltd.; Messrs May & Baker Ltd.; Messrs T. Parker & Sons; Messrs H. Pattison & Co. Ltd.; Messrs Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries Ltd.; Messrs Relf & Kendall; Messrs Stewart & Co. Seedsmen Ltd.; Messrs Sutton & Sons Ltd.; Messrs Allan Taylor (Engineers) Ltd.; Messrs Top Form Turf Fertilisers Ltd.; Messrs Universal Mat Co. Ltd.; The Welsh Section B.G.G.A.; Messrs Pressure Jet Markers Ltd.; The Captain, Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club; Charles H. Pugh (Atco) Ltd.

MIDGET GOLF?

FARNBOROUGH, Hampshire, District Council has a problem. They want to turn a large piece of waste ground into a golf course.

It is useless for housing due to its soggy state but with a bit of infilling here and there it would be very suitable for up to nine holes.

But the Government thinks otherwise. When the plan was put up for consideration it had to pass through the hands of the Ministry of Technology works department—because nothing can be built near the Royal Aircraft Establishment without the approval of the Ministry of Technology due to height restrictions.

By all means build a golf course on the site, said the sages of the Ministry—but the bunkers must not be more than three feet high!

The Council gathered to consider this solemn edict. If they had to put at least two feet of earth on the site to get rid of the sogginess, then the lips of the bunkers would have to be under one foot in height. Fair enough!

But the townspeople are more worried. If the height restrictions are down to three feet then they will have to play the game on all fours to avoid being clobbered by a passing plane. The fact that no plane has ever passed over the area at less than 2000 feet does not enter into the question. What the Ministry of Technology says, goes.

The wags are now busy with solutions. Why not dig large trenches from tee to green so that players can leap in when a plane approaches, ask some.

Perhaps the best answer has come from a youth club. Give up the whole area to pea pushing. All fours are essential if one is to get the nose to the pea!

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To the Hon. Secretary.

Winter Lectures 1969/70

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Last winter we had the pleasure of visiting half the various Branches and we hope we may look forward to visiting as many of the others as possible this year. We believe we can offer a new and interesting evening to your members.

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