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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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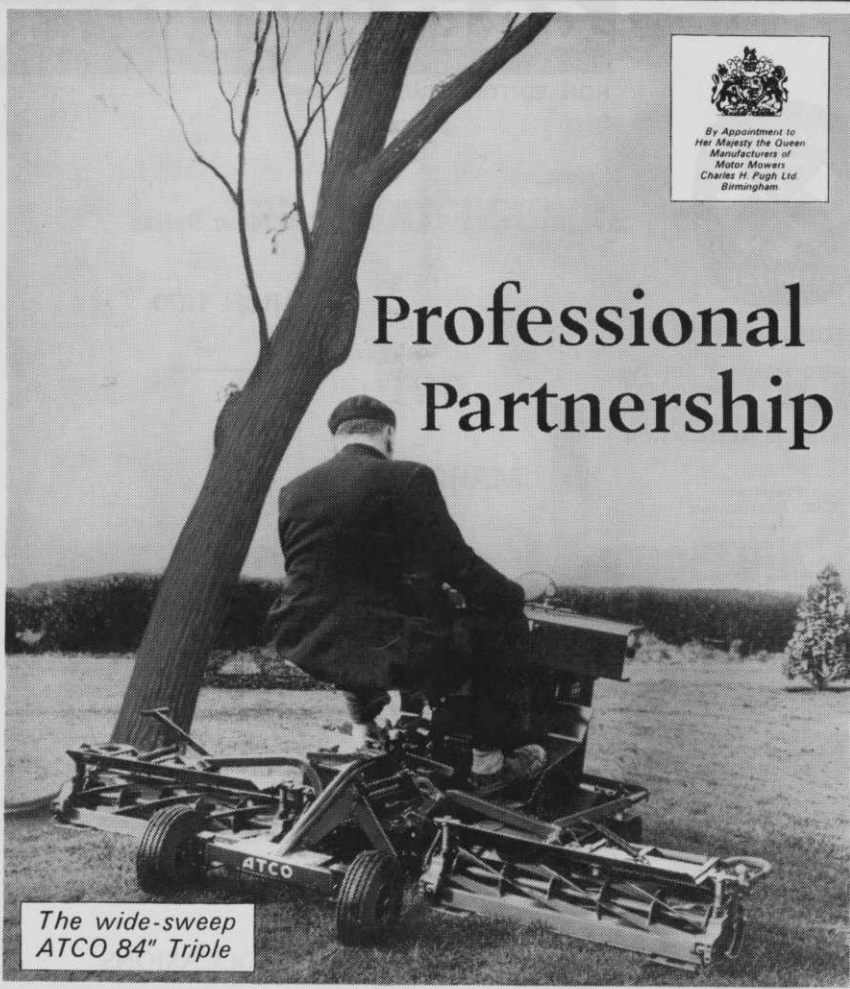
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The Rhos-on-Sea Golf Club has been offered its 18-hole golf course and clubhouse with bedrooms for twenty people at the price of £60,000. Miss Blodwyn Lloyd Williams is retiring as Managing Director of a small private company which owns the sea-front course. With 450 members this works out at £133 6s. 8d. per head for the 6,064 yard course which lies either side of the Caernarvon/Denbigh border.

Not far away, at Wrexham, a public enquiry has been considering proposals to tip in the Moss Valley which included the subsequent construction of an 18-hole golf course. Counsel for the Company applying for permission to carry out the tipping said that the materials would be restricted to foam rubber, scrap timber and builders rubbish. If the first material predominates, it should ultimately be a very comfortable course to play on.

At the other end of the scale, Atherton Recreation Ground Committee is considering reclamation which will provide a 9-hole golf course on the site of the old Gadbury brick works.

Kingston Hill Golf Club, Stafford, have had outline approval for developing a new 18-hole golf course at Ingestre. The existing course was bought some while back by a property development company.

The Marquis of Douro has obtained permission for constructing a new golf course as the first phase of a countryside park in the Hackfield Section of his Stratfieldsaye Estate. He hopes to attract national tournaments.

The Old Course at St Andrews was closed for play at the beginning of January and will not re-open until the end of March. This will give John Campbell, the Links Supervisor, time to get on with various improvements for the Open Championship which starts on 8th July. One of the notable changes is a new tee which adds 30 yards to the 370 yard 3rd. This new tee opens the course record to all comers. The previous record of 66 was held jointly by Jack Nicklaus, Peter Alliss and Bernard Hunt. Incidentally, John is off to the 41st Annual Conference of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America at Houston in February.

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18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

No. 10—DO IT YOURSELF

by FRED HAWTREE

DEAR G.,

Many thanks for your letter. I was interested to hear that you are going to make the new green at the 4th this autumn. You seem to have done all the necessary preliminaries but I will run through them again in case you have missed any.

During the early summer you will have had prepared the plan showing existing and proposed contours over the site and calculated quantities of top-soil, turf seed, peat, drain-pipes, sand, clinker, stone. These have now been ordered and those, like drain pipes, with uncertain delivery are already near the job.

You also booked a Drott with the 4-way bucket—a very useful machine for this sort of work—because it will both dig and carry and is not too damaging to the turf it traverses provided it keeps straight. However you also marked out a route to the new green which would avoid playing areas and which would even allow lorries to deliver materials right up to the new green when the ground was dry. This will avoid a large number of journeys with your own tractor and trailer, save double-handling, and release more of your own staff for shaping up the new formation by hand.

Everything should be done in this way to save time. You are operating with a fairly small ground staff, the weather at this season is uncertain (though it is the only time the work can be done in this way) and it is important to get all the turf back by Christmas. That is presumably why you are only tackling one green this year. There is nothing more depressing than opening up too much ground and seeing the job run on into spring next year, especially as there are

still routine tasks to be done on the rest of the course which cannot be neglected.

A temporary green was also prepared last summer, so that it could be in reasonable condition by now and enable you to switch the turf from the old green to the new one, when the time comes, without much disturbance to play.

You have also mown down all the grass over the site of the new green so that turf can be readily stripped and re-used. I expect you have also booked a turf lifting machine (because that too will save hours of hand work) and arranged to alter the water system. I know your head greenkeeper is in your confidence and has had plenty of time to organise his programme to fit in this extra task. I think that brings us up to date. Now for the work itself.

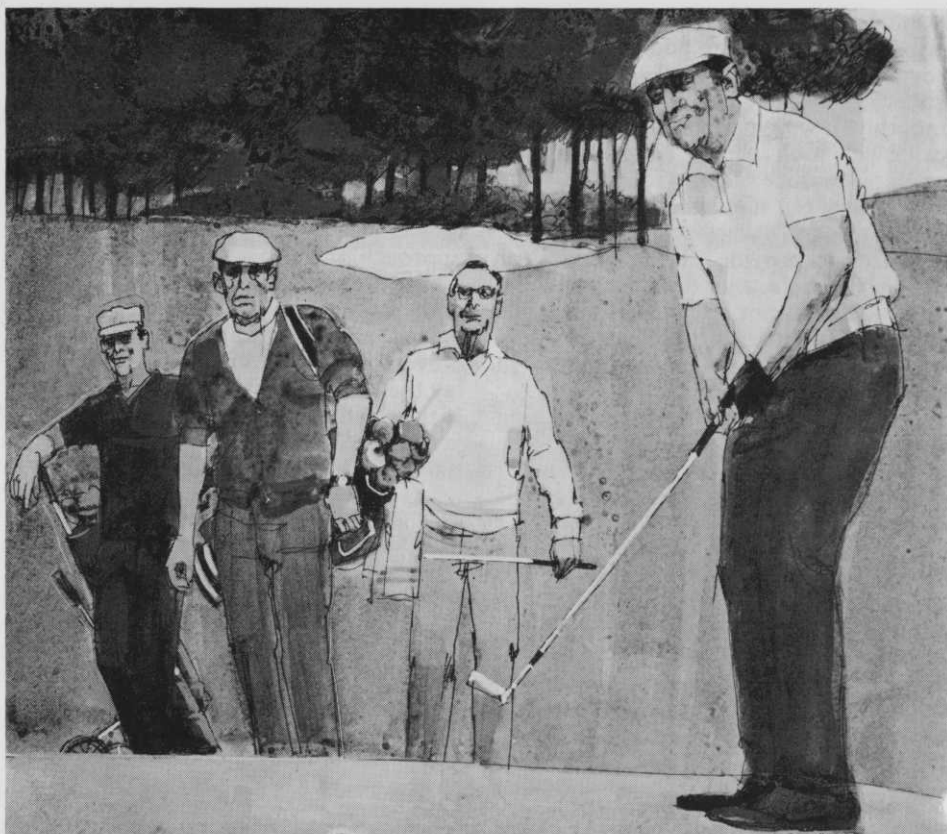
When the turf is stripped from the site make sure a big enough area is cleared. It is surprising how big an area is needed, especially for a built up green, if the banks are to be graded out properly. As a rough guide you will need at least twice the area of the putting surface; keep machines inside this limit.

As it may be a month or two before the turf is relaid, it will be better to lay it out rather than roll or stack it. Otherwise there will be considerable discolouration.

Now remove the top-soil and place this to one side or at the back of the green not on the approach which should be disturbed as little as possible.

Next form the new contours in the sub-soil. If you import filling material, make sure that it is stable, and properly consolidated. Even if you are only levelling by out and fill see that the filling is done in layers each one firmed up before the next one goes on.

The bunkers and featuring should be



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done at the same time as the general formation. If they are added afterwards they seldom blend so well. Avoid anything that could be called a "pimple"—smoothly flowing undulations on a broad scale will look much better. By all means introduce gentle folds into the putting area but remember that the more rolling the green surface the bigger the total area to provide adequate space for cutting the hole and distributing wear. The folds must not be so pronounced as to cause maintenance problems and they should not cause water to collect in hollows.

Unless the sub-soil is free-draining you will next instal the drains and the drainage layer—stone rejects blinded with ash or chippings. Even if none of your present greens have one, it looks as though the amount of play in the future will make rapid drainage essential if your new green is to remain healthy. On a sandy or a light loam this will probably not be necessary. Then you should sub-soil cultivate the surrounds of the new formation (and wherever the Drott has been) to relieve compaction. A rotovator

will only make the situation worse.

Now the top-soil can be spread. Whether you take the top-soil from the old green or use new, make sure that it has the right degree of permeability by adding the appropriate amounts of sharp sand and peat. The Sports Turf Research Institute will tell you what these should be. Extend the soil-mix on to the approach or on to a site for a frost green if you can afford it.

By now a month or more will have passed and you have got the rest of November to firm up the soil, prepare it, lay the turf, and give a final top-dressing. If the weather has held you up (and never try to beat the weather by working when the soil is wet) you still have December in reserve. So you should have the new green ready for play next May.

A final word. If you have not made all the preparations, warned the members, organised your ground staff, the hired machinery, the materials, and advice—don't start now. Wait until next autumn.

Yours ever,
F.

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NEWS ITEMS...

Fifty Years Young

Frank Cotton has now entered his 51st year as greenkeeper at Trentham Golf Club near Stoke-on-Trent. Frank went to the Club in 1919 on leaving school at the age of thirteen. Apart from six years in the National Fire Service in World War II, Frank has been pushing his mowers ever since those days, his chief relaxation, in his spare time, being a game of golf. One big relief came when the Club bought the land, which previously used to belong to two farmers who were not too fussy where their cows grazed. Frank's biggest job then was getting rid of the hoof marks.

* * * *

SICK LIST

Jeffrey Mawson had a less happy Christmas than usual being confined to hospital after an accident, which fractured a bone in his spine. Members will be glad to know that he is now back home and making satisfactory progress. No doubt some of Mrs Ann Mawson's recipes are helping to put him well on the road to recovery.

* * * *

Flymo, A World-Wide Brand Leader

Flymo Limited of Watford is the only company marketing internationally a brand name motor mower in their own right, said Mr Charles Bramall, Chairman of the Flymo world-wide group of companies at a combined Christmas and fifth anniversary celebration at the Savoy Hotel, London, in December.

The function was attended by more than 60 gardening editors and writers from national newspapers and magazines.

Mr Bramall said that Flymo, the world's only air-cushion motor mower, was first introduced five years ago and had quickly established itself as an outstanding machine, and a revolutionary development in lawn mowing.

He stated: "Today, Flymo is a brand leader in the United Kingdom, throughout Europe, and in many other countries in the world.

"It is manufactured in West Germany,

South Africa and Australia and is exported from Britain to more than 30 countries.

"All this has been achieved in just five years and the only way to do this is to get up off your seat and get out and sell."

Mr Bramall said that one of the secrets of a successful international operation was not only to provide the marketing policy and organisation down to the last detail but to employ local people who understand local marketing and also the requirements of local turf care.

He said: "We believe that the most important person is the customer. Flymo provides more than a first-class product it provides a service to its customers right from the point-of-sale through to installation and after-sale service."

Mr Bramall explained that throughout the world Flymo was marketed in exactly the same way, through authorised distributors and dealers, and every machine was fully demonstrated to the customer.

Speaking of the future, Mr Bramall said that Flymo was the name that was going to stay for many years. He said that new developments were always designed to give the customer what he wanted.

Future motor mowers would be lighter and quieter. Noise was a big factor to be overcome and nobody wanted to see a continuation of the noisy suburban Sunday morning.

Mr Bramall added that since Flymo was first introduced national gardening writers had been fair and helpful in their evaluation of all the air-cushion motor mower models. They had been sometimes constructively critical about some design details and as a direct result a number of improvements had been incorporated in the design of Flymo machines over the past five years.

MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREEN-KEEPERS 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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RANSOMES

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|------|------|---|
| FEB. | 17th | North-West Section Lecture, Brunswick Hotel, M/C |
| MAR. | 4th | Southern Section Lecture, Stirling Castle, Moorgate, E.C. |
| MAR. | 17th | North-West Section Lecture. |
| MAR. | 20th | Southern Section Annual Dinner, Shirley Park G.C. |
| APR. | 22nd | Welsh Section Spring Meeting, Wenvoe Castle G.C. |
| MAY | 6th | Midland Section Tournament, Oswestry G.C. |