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TO MANUFACTURERS.—In order that our information may be kept constantly up to date, manufacturers or suppliers are requested to forward their latest trade lists, catalogues, and any other confidential information regarding their products. By so doing the Bureau will be able to function to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

TRADE REVIEWS.—The Editor will be pleased to arrange to devote space in our editorial columns to a review of our advertisers' products, etc. Will advertisers please forward details for this purpose.



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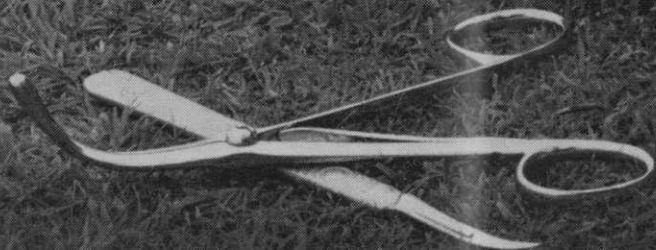
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TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The Greater London Council plans to put up charges on its public courses from 10s to 15s for weekend rounds. Hainault Forest and Beckenham Place Park already pay their way under the present scale of charges with 200,000 rounds a year but the Greater London Council needs another 100,000 to cover increased costs for the whole of its sporting facilities. Golf, being a popular game, has been chosen to bear the brunt.

Towneley Golf Club members at Burnley have been complaining to their Council about their clubhouse. As one of East Lancashire's most popular golf courses, facilities at the 19th hole are stated to amount to "a sixpenny tea dispensing machine, a couple of toilets, two sinks and a geyser that doesn't work."

Harborne Golf Club Limited at Birmingham has gone into voluntary liquidation. Fortunately, this is purely a financial exercise so that nearly half of £65,000 realised by the sale of land outside the course can be distributed amongst shareholders at the rate of 16 per share. A new company has been formed called Harborne Golf Club (Birmingham) Limited but in other respects there will be no change apart from £35,000 which is being kept in the kitty.

Rumours have been circulated in the West Country that Exeter Golf and Country Club was to be sold. Mr Francis Johns, the club's Executive Director and Secretary, has emphatically denied it and also another current rumour according to which the club intended to construct a second course some miles from Exeter.

A new course in North Devon is, however, planned at South Molton where Mr F. L. Coombs, a barrister, has now received planning approval for 18 holes on 175 acres of grassland.



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18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

No. 14 — Research in the Seventies

by F. W. HAWTREE

It is time to sound an alarm. The sixties showed what could be done to attract people to golf. For longer than that, the Golf Foundation has done noble work among the schools. Now the pressure is on. We are hurrying (slowly) to provide more golf courses but hardly more than ten new ones open annually. In the twenties, 50 were made each year. They were often made with rudimentary knowledge of soil science and never with the idea that they would have to stand up to pounding by thousands of feet and trollies in all weathers. Most inland courses are deteriorating. Greenkeepers never have a chance to put them right. Green committees are often keener to add length or alter bunkers than to get down to the basic need for drastic reform of the structure of courses which will soon resemble the goalmouths of the average football pitch.

Compaction by traffic over the grass had led to refined machines for spiking, slitting, and hollow tining. But they only act as palliatives. On poorly drained courses play in wet weather puddles the surface, the grass loses vigour and we rely on more fertiliser to get it back. A winter with no frost, a drought after a cold spring, any aberration from a normal weather pattern leaves the turf gasping.

Drainage is our problem. Drainage of greens, tees and fairways, drainage through the top-soil, drainage of the sub-soil. Winter play will be more agreeable, damage will be negligible, the turf will be stronger and its condition will not oscillate wildly from one month to the next.

But when we try to find out about drainage we soon realise that events have overtaken research. We can

borrow from the U.S.G.A. Green Section their specification for constructing greens with a porous layer below a special soil mixture. But the proportions of sand and peat to form the ideal mixture with our local soil are still hit and miss because little work has been done to determine the acceptable range of permeability and how it can be produced.

The Sports Council appointed a small committee to decide how best research into problems of this sort should be aided. Their report appears to have gone into mothballs. Grants totalling about £10,000 are made to the Sports Turf Research Institute and to Aberystwyth though the latter is more concerned with sports grounds where similar problems arise. The S.T.R.I. is otherwise supported entirely by voluntary contributions and with the whole range of golf course problems to be studied has to trim its research to a limited budget. £10,000 on research to sustain our investment in golf courses of perhaps £1500 million hardly makes sense. If we compare it with the total annual operating costs, the cost of new courses, what golfers are spending and tournament prize money, it makes less sense still.

Apart from research, we are not spending one penny on education. Five years ago, the British and Scottish Greenkeepers Associations, recognising the dangers, started an apprenticeship scheme with the help of the golf unions. This scheme supports itself on the fees it charges for issuing the apprenticeship deeds. At least it has produced 90 well trained young men and more are training now. But education beyond this level is totally absent except for lectures which the sections of the Greenkeepers

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Every winter the Atco Service Organisation is snowed under with mowers waiting for their annual service.

This rush starts in early December and lasts all the way through to late March. And as each mower receives the personal attention of skilled mechanics each job takes a considerable amount of time. Consequently the queue of mowers waiting for service grows longer and longer. Obviously it's best if you can get your machine to us before the rush.

That way you get your Atco serviced, oiled and greased for its winter hibernation and back to you quickly. So you're left with plenty of time to get on with the more important winter jobs without any worries.

The same goes if you want a new machine. Order it before December and you can be sure of a swift delivery.

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New Machine from Flymo Cuts 18 Greens in Four Hours:

GREENMASTER III — THE FIRST RIDE-ON GREENSMOWER TO COME TO THE U.K.

High quality cutting and time-saving are key features of the new 58 in. Toro Greensmaster III gang mower — the first ride-on triplex greensmower to be introduced to the United Kingdom.

The completely hydraulically-driven Greensmaster III gang mower has a performance of 144 cuts per yard and a capacity of cutting 18 greens, each measuring up to 7,500 sq. ft., in three to four hours with only one man.

Special design emphasis on weight distribution enables the Greensmaster III gang mower to maintain its high performance even on saturated greens.

Introduction of the new machine is the latest move in the policy of the Institutional Division of Flymo Limited of Watford in providing equipment to improve standards and reduce the mowing chore to the minimum. This enables clubs to undertake total and efficient golf course management with limited labour forces.

The three 21 in. cutting units of the Greensmaster III gang mower incorporate all the outstanding features of the popular 21 in. Toro Greensmaster pedestrian-operated machine which is still available.

The new machine, which can also be used on aprons, cuts greens from $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to 11/16th in. An adjustment of height by an additional 3/16th in. for cutting aprons can be made in seconds, without tools, by means of spring-loaded hand wheels.

Another feature is that all three cutting units are clearly visible forward of the greenkeeper seated in a relaxed position at all times. All three cutting units are interchangeable.

Powered by an electric-start 12 h.p. Kohler engine the new model cuts greens at 3 m.p.h. and reaches 7 m.p.h. in transport between greens.

The Greensmaster III gang mower weighs 1080 lbs. and measures a compact 89 in. x 72 in. with a height of 46½ in. Special wide-fitting balloon tyres, each with a ground contact of

43 sq. in., are designed to prevent turf damage.

Other features include single foot control to raise and lower cutting units with automatic engagement and disengagement of cutter drive, and spacious frame-mounted boxes for grass collection. There is an adjustable high-back padded seat for maximum driver comfort and minimum operator fatigue.

NEW 19 ft. TORO PARKMASTER CUTS TIME AND MOWING COSTS

Designed flexibility for mowing around natural and other obstacles and a cutting width of 30 in. up to 19 ft. are key features of the new Toro Parkmaster gang mower being introduced to the United Kingdom by the Institutional Division of Flymo Limited of Watford. It has a capacity of more than 100 acres a day.

The Parkmaster is a combination of a 79 h.p. purpose-built tractor and an outfit of five, seven- or nine-reel-type trailed gang mowers especially designed to save maintenance costs on large turf areas including parks, golf courses, motorway verges, playing fields and similar situations.

The latest product in the Flymo Institutional range, the Parkmaster provides unequalled flexibility of a tractor unit with a five, seven- or nine-unit frame. The five-unit model cuts a maximum swath of 11 ft., the seven-unit model a 15 ft. swath, and the nine-unit model a 19 ft. swath.

All three models, which can operate the 30 in. mowers singly or in conjunction with others, depending on the nature of the turf, are claimed to save up to 50 per cent in time and maintenance costs.

The main feature of the hydraulic control enables each mower to be raised and lowered at the simple push of a lever to clear around obstacles without having to stop for changes and adjustments. The 79 h.p. engine gives the tractor unit a capability of long service rugged performance on any terrain.

Mobility is emphasised by a road speed of 30 m.p.h. for transport

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Associations arrange for themselves. We should be sending men for advanced training at university level. The American Superintendents Association's scholarship and research fund in 1969 was 21,000 dollars. This year the U.S. National Golf Day will give 14,300 dollars to the fund. Over there, these figures are regarded as trifling compared with the need though in all some 80,000 dollars was allocated to golf educational funds in 1969.

It is fair to assume that the momentum of the present tide of new golfers will carry itself on without much assistance. We should consolidate our position before moving on. Knowledge from research is needed to provide the sub-structure which will produce good turf in all seasons. The money for making the changes will have to come from golf clubs themselves and would be better spent this way to guarantee the future than on new cocktail bars.

There are dozens of voluntary bodies supporting the playing side of the game. They should direct a little of their

income to encourage the knowledge and practice fundamental to every shot ever played. A National Golf Day in the British Isles would alone transform the scene. The Sports Council should consider whether part of the grants to assist golf development would not be better spent in the direction of research. Much of it would in any case assist other games. Golf was the first sport to look ahead when the four National Unions set up the Research Station at Bingley in 1929. That foresight, indirectly, has assisted Twickenham, Cardiff Arms Park and Wembley.

Tournament pros' managers could benefit their clients, even if only in the field of public relations, by directing them towards covenanted donations towards this aspect of the game. Professional tournaments rely on a host of club members spending their own time and money. After prize-money there could still be a margin to be ploughed back into the game itself. If the golf unions could see so far ahead in the twenties, it will be a sad reflection on all of us of we only look backwards in the seventies.

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between jobs. The unit compacts to 8 ft. in width for easy road travel and garaging.

The hydraulic system enables the unit to slim down to pass through narrow areas and disengages the mowers for road transport in less than a minute.

To meet the requirements of any surface the tractor operates four forward gears and reverse. The unit utilises Toro Spartan six-blade gang mowers (30 in. x 8½ in. diameter) for use on formal and semi-formal turf areas and Toro heavy-duty four-blade Roughmaster gang mowers (30 in. x 10 in. diameter) for "control mowing" of limited care turf areas. All the blades are specially designed and highly engineered for rugged performance and low maintenance requirements.

Other special features include a turning radius of 7 ft. 3 in., a 2:1 hill operation capacity, a facility for adjusting the ground pressure of the wheels and rear rollers and hydraulic brakes.

The hydraulic control at the driver's elbow, power steering and maximum seat comfort ensure minimum driver fatigue for long operations.

LATEST NEW ZEALAND MOWER JOINS FLYMO RANGE

A rugged, 28 in. power-driven rotary mower for heavy-duty grass application, the Roughmaster 28 is the latest model in the Morrison range of turf care equipment available through the Institutional Division of Flymo Limited of Watford.

Designed to meet a wide variety of grass conditions, the Roughmaster 28 incorporates several unique design features coupling power with manoeuvrability.

The robust traction-drive New

Zealand machine is fitted with a floating cutting head which pivots to follow contours in close-cutting operations and reduce unsightly scalping. Removable side skids which guide the floating head also help prevent turf damage and provide easy over-edge cutting. In rough cutting, the side skids are fixed to their brackets in a reverse position which makes them inoperative. Inset rear wheels ensure accurate over-edge cutting.

An unique principle of smooth-based orbital discs, which are an additional feature and interchangeable with the two front castor wheels used in normal operations, provide a rotating slide movement for the front of the machine enabling easy operation over uneven ground.

Particularly suitable for use in parks and reserves, road verges, golf courses and other similar areas, the Roughmaster 28 is versatile and easy to operate for lengthy periods.

The mower's powerful 7 h.p. Tecumseh engine, designed for continuous heavyweight performance, drives through a completely enclosed trans-axle at three forward speeds and reverse, with a top forward speed of 4½ m.p.h.

The combination of manoeuvrability, range of speeds and the choice of cutting heights from ½ in. to 3½ in. give the machine exceptional versatility. An important safety feature is the arrangement of the cutter drive mechanism which automatically places a brake on the revolving cutter when the cutter drive is disengaged.

Weighing 290 lb. and measuring 72 in. x 32 in. with a wheel base of 26 in., the machine can be fitted with a trailer seat for a driver-operator for continuous cutting.

The 16 in. diameter pneumatic tyres give positive drive and safety on slopes. The cutter bar is fully enclosed in its housing.

Witham Council is supporting Braintree and District Golf Club by making representations to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government over the Ministry's refusal to make loan sanction for £35,000 for construction of the golf course at Stisted.

The Ministry previously granted loan sanction of £25,000 for purchase of the land.

HAYTERS DEVELOP MOWER FOR CEMETERIES

A new lightweight mini-sized rotary mower which can cut grass right up against stonework has been developed by rotary mower pioneers, Hayters Ltd. of Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. It was displayed on the company's stand at NAG and Park Administration exhibitions.

The mower, called the Hayter Hawk, has a 12 in. cut and is fitted with inset rear wheels and a choice of an inset roller or inset wheels for the front.

One of the main features is the inclusion of a side inlet and a small nylon chisel-shaped vertical deflector which acts as a scoop and draws grass from the side on to the cutters. This is designed to enable the mower to cut right up against monumental stonework. The nylon pad prevents damage.

In addition, another deflector can be fitted on the other side so that the operator can push the machine up one side of the row, and then back down the other—cutting right up to the edge in both directions.

The front roller together with the deflectors enables the machine to be suitable for all grass cutting applica-

tions in confined spaces. The necessity for hand trimming is virtually eliminated with the exception of corners within a stone framework.

Power for the cutting mechanism is provided by a Briggs and Stratton 147 c.c. four stroke engine which develops 3 b.h.p. at 3000 r.p.m. An automatic choke is standard.

The cutter bar has two cutting edges which can be reversed before re-sharpening is necessary. It is friction driven by a concave bottom plate mounted directly onto the engine crankshaft. In the event of the blade striking an obstruction it can slip around the bottom plate to a new position at which it can continue cutting thus reducing damage to the blades and preventing direct shock loads on to the engine.

Cutting height adjustment is by altering the setting of the wheels giving a variation of cut between $\frac{7}{8}$ in. to $1\frac{5}{8}$ in.

The machine weighs 52 lbs (23.6 kilos) and is 38 in. (96 cm.) long, 38 in. (96 cm.) high, and 15 in. (38 cm.) wide. Complete with wheel conversion set and extra grass deflector selling price is £40 10s.

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HEAD GREENKEEPER, Assistant Greenkeeper. Apply Secretary, Guildford Golf Club, High Path Road, Merrow; Guildford 63941.

SECOND GREENKEEPER required by Copt Heath Golf Club; age 25 to 40 years; good position and prospects for the right man; no accommodation. Apply to the Hon. Secretary, Copt Heath Golf Club, Knowle, Solihull, Warwick.

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