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FOUNDED 1912

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spread it around.**

# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

A brighter side to events in Belfast was the opening last month of a new £250,000 sports complex on the slopes of Belfast's Black Mountain. The Green Briar Golf Centre is situated on a 24-acre site, easily reached from the city and already has a 135 ft. covered driving range in two tiers which cope with 24 customers at once. Two uncovered Driving areas, each with 15 bays, will be added shortly and work has already begun on developing a short 9-hole course.

\* \* \* \*

Journalist Mike Borissow has just completed the first 9 holes of his own golf course on farmland between Sissinghurst and Benenden. The Borissows bought a run-down farmhouse with 100 acres, obtained planning permission, hired farm worker Charlie Woolford as groundsman and in eighteen months had 9 holes ready for play.

On the other hand, Mr Fell who omitted to get planning permission before making his 9-hole course on land opposite his home in Lapworth, Warwickshire, has been told he cannot play on it. Mr Fell has now applied for planning permission and hopes he will not be obliged to revert the land to its original use.

\* \* \* \*

Average strokes taken by competitors in the Open at St. Andrews were highest at No. 17. Over the four rounds, players failed to make par at this hole 208 times and only 5 birdies were recorded.

\* \* \* \*

Whitburn Golf Club is living on the edge of a cliff as quarrying operations creep closer to the back door of the wooden club-house. Crockery rattles on the shelves in the greenkeeper's cottage when blasting takes place.

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# SOME AUTUMN TURF DISEASES

By R. D. C. EVANS, B.Sc.

Advisory Officer, Sports Turf Research Institute

The weather conditions which prevail during the autumn period are often highly favourable for the development of a number of damaging turf diseases and precautions should, therefore, be taken to guard against disease attack. Turf disease attacks can be greatly reduced by management practice. As with human disorders, prevention is undoubtedly better than cure.

## *Fusarium Patch Disease*

Probably the commonest disease of sports turf, *Fusarium*, is encouraged by mild damp weather which frequently prevails during the September-October period. If such weather conditions seem imminent it is wise to apply a preventive fungicidal dressing whether disease symptoms are apparent or not. This practice is particularly desirable on areas which have been prone to the disease in previous years—golf greens on damp, low-lying or sheltered situations, for example, often require precautionary treatment of this kind. Bearing in mind that moisture is essential for the development of *Fusarium*, it will be obvious that the turf can be protected by keeping its surface as dry as possible. Regular morning switching or brushing is, therefore, useful in the autumn to remove dew and to assist the speedy drying of the playing surface.

Apart from the measures mentioned above, *Fusarium* damage can be prevented, or at least minimised, by ensuring that the grass has as much natural resistance to fungal attack as possible. A generally strong and hardy sward is less prone to disease infestation than one which has been weakened by mismanagement during the course of the growing season. The disease-resisting properties of a turf can also be seriously reduced by excessive fertilizer treatment at this time of the year—encouraging a lush sward by applications of nitrogen during the autumn lays the area wide open to

*Fusarium* attack. Fertilizer dressings containing appreciable amounts of nitrogen should, therefore, not be applied later than the end of August as a general rule. Autumn top dressings (compost/sand dressings, soil/sand/peat dressings etc.) if applied in damp, smeary condition, or in too great amounts, or if not thoroughly worked in after application, will smother the sward and produce a surface microclimate ideal for disease development.

If, in spite of all precautions, the turf is hit by *Fusarium*, apply a suitable fungicide without delay. Mercury dressings (both organic and inorganic) and Quintozene (PCNB) give effective control.

## *Ophiobolus Patch Disease*

This affliction is also frequently encountered during the autumn and is often confused with *Fusarium*, though its characteristic ring-shaped symptoms should make it easily identifiable. *Ophiobolus* is encouraged by much the same management and weather factors as *Fusarium*, but is particularly likely to appear on recently limed areas during a warm wet summer or autumn. Fairways are particularly prone to the condition after liming the previous winter, although if the winter liming is followed up by a good balanced fertilizer dressing the following spring the fertilizer can reduce the chances of attack.

Because *Ophiobolus* is encouraged by damp conditions, spiking and possibly drainage work can go a long way in reducing incidence of the disease.

The disease can be controlled by repeat applications of organo-mercurial fungicides at suitable rates, and if the disease appears on a golf green then treatment of this type should undoubtedly be given. On fairways the cost of such treatment over a wide area is usually prohibitive.

## *Red Thread Disease*

Red Thread or *Corticium* is also

prevalent in autumn and is most frequent in fine turf where fescue is an important constituent of the sward (although it will attack other grasses too). Not the most serious of the turf diseases, Corticium can cause a general loss of colour and ruin the appearance of a golf green during the latter part of the season. Corticium appears particularly on swards of low fertility where nitrogen is lacking, and the importance of carefully balanced fertilizer treatment is well illustrated by considering the relative incidence of Corticium and Fusarium. Too much nitrogen encourages Fusarium, too little favours Corticium and a balance must be struck between the two.

Various fungicides will give a degree of control, inorganic mercury fungicides in many instances proving the most effective of all.

#### *Other Fungal Diseases*

A less well known disease is Helminthosporium leaf spot which also frequently appears during the summer and autumn. It is most often encountered on golf tees where smooth-stalked meadow-grass is the most important constituent of the sward. Adequate fertilizer treatment during spring and summer is helpful, and the turf should not be too closely mown. The use of more disease resistant smooth-stalked meadow-grass varieties such as Prato or Merion is also advisable.

Fairy rings of various types are common during the autumn months, most of them fairly harmless, although there are exceptions—the rings caused by *Marasmius oreades* for instance which actually destroy the turf. If you are unlucky enough to get these *Marasmius* rings on or near your greens you will just have to cut them out entirely, removing the infected soil and turf, and replace them with fresh material.

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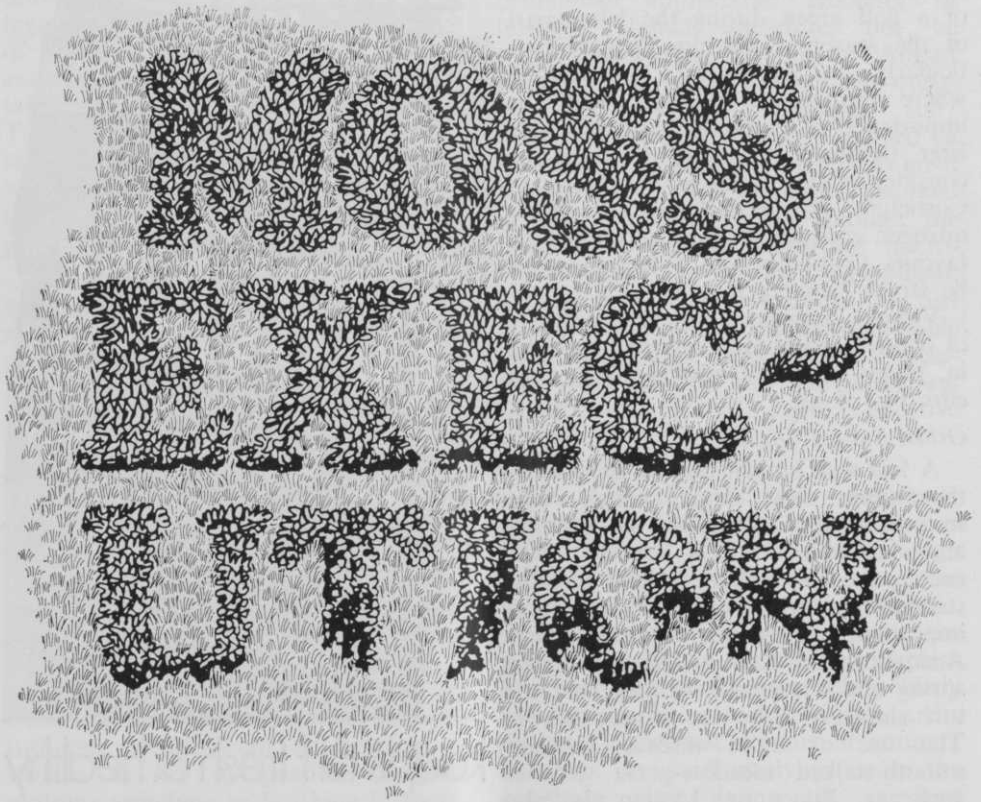
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	15th-17th	Motspur Park Exhibition.
	23rd	Welsh Section Autumn Tournament.
	22nd-23rd	18th Parks and Recreation Exhibition.
OCT.	29th	Midland Section Autumn Tournament.
	29th	Northern Section v. Sheffield Section Tournament.
	6th	South Coast Section Meeting.
	6th	North-West Section Autumn Tournament.
	7th	Southern Section Quiz.
	14th	Southern Section v. Secretaries Match.
NOV.	15th	Northern Section Annual Tournament.
	19th	Midland Section Lecture.
	26th	North-West Section Lecture.
	4th	Southern Section Lecture.
	10th	North-West Section Trip.

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### Greenkeeper 1



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# ANNUAL REPORT — 1970

## *Administration*

We congratulate our chairman, Mr H. A. D. Fry, on the quiet and efficient way he has carried out his duties and trust he has enjoyed his year of office as much as we have enjoyed his chairmanship.

Mr A. Robertshaw, our vice-chairman, will be succeeding Mr Fry and we offer our congratulations and wish him a most happy and successful year.

The annual draw was once again a successful effort, the final result being on a par with last year and our thanks are once again due to members and friends who made this result possible. The draw this year is being held on the Dunlop Masters Tournament and it is hoped that this will enable the draw to be made and publicised earlier.

Our thanks are again due to the R. & A. for kindly forwarding a dozen passes for the Open Championship at St. Andrews.

Once again we entered two members for the Artisan Annual Tournament this year at Moor Park and our representatives were Mr F. Ford, of South Herts, in the Junior Handicap Division, and Mr W. Machin, of Addington Court, in the Senior Handicap Division. Both made a great show on behalf of the Greenkeepers and we must offer our sincere congratulations to Bill Machin on winning third prize in the Senior Division with a nett score for 36 holes of 139.

A very important factor in our administration this year has been the formation of the South Coast Section for members in the Dorset, Hampshire and West Sussex area and, which according to early reports, is proving most satisfactory. Our thanks and appreciation are due to Mr P. Malia who was largely instrumental in the formation of this new section and we would also like to thank the members who have taken office with Mr Malia and the Southern Section for their splendid co-operation in this new development.

The wage scale recommendations

were reviewed by the Executive Committee in March and new figures were given as published in the Journal. It is hoped these will prove beneficial to our members.

The apprenticeship scheme is again bringing in new greenkeepers and the latest figures available show that 220 deeds have been issued, 153 registered and 90 completed.

## *Membership*

According to section returns, our membership figure stands at 809 against 810 last year.

## *Annual Tournament*

The 52nd Annual Tournament was held at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club in August last with an entry of approximately 60. It was a very happy occasion but the weather was not too kind and the Championship and Handicap Divisions winners had to be decided on 18 holes. We have to express our sincere thanks to the club and staff for the service and attention which made our visit so pleasant. We must once again thank the individuals and firms that gave assistance and presented donations and prizes.

## *Sections*

From published reports in the Journal, it is obvious that the sections have again had a full and active year and our thanks are due to all the officers that make this possible within the sections.

## *“British Golf Greenkeeper”*

Our thanks again to the editor and staff for the continued success of the Association Journal; also to those who have assisted with articles of interest to members.

## *Benevolent Fund*

We are pleased to report that the calls on the Benevolent Fund have been very light, only £20 having been requested during the year under review.

## *F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund*

Two members visited Bingley under the auspices of the F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund during the year and