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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

Jimmy Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at Welwyn Garden City Golf Course, has been doing a great job in maintaining nine new holes extra this year in addition to his normal eighteen due to a large slice of the course being removed for improvements to the A.1. His new layout will be over 6,000 yards and he hopes to have it ready by next June.

Paul Cook, one of the early recruits to the Apprenticeship Scheme, has now done four years at Addington Court Golf Course since he finished his apprenticeship. He was first under Cyril Chamberlain until he retired, when Bill Machin took over. Now at the age of 22, he has been selected as Head Greenkeeper for the new championship golf course at Westport, Co. Mayo. It will be a great pleasure to the greenkeepers who started the Scheme to see young men already getting some of the top jobs.

The new Tonbridge Municipal Course is now under construction. Although on the short side, it will be a particularly pretty layout, part of it having been cut out of woodland. Thirty-two acres of trees have been cleared and all the greens have already been formed after a start at the end of June. Messrs Spearman Construction Limited of Epping, Essex, are the contractors.

The new municipal course at Rotherham is approaching completion. Nine holes will be in play next year and the second nine in 1973. This job was undertaken by the Parks Department by direct labour. A new clubhouse has been built which would grace any private course and some hundreds of golfers have already formed a Club and will be practising during the winter ready for the "Off" next summer.



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# NO RECORDS

by PATRICK SMARTT

It is almost habitual with many people to write to the papers, describing some incident or feat and ending with the query: "Is this a record?" It is seldom so, but it is popular with editors, leading as it does to correspondence from others claiming to have done better.

Thinking on this, I started to reflect on the best part of 50 years playing at golf. No records, save on some small colonial courses, but over that space of time one experienced some unusual happenings.

I once ran a professional's shop. For the benefit of students of the Rules of Golf, let it be known that I received no remuneration. It was an act of friendship to a good friend, a professional at a small club on the south coast of Natal in South Africa. His wife had to go into Durban for a serious operation. It was a most interesting two weeks, enhanced by his entrusting me to continue his lessons. Perhaps he was rather overwrought. He has since made his name as a coach, and we still correspond—usually disagreeing on some technical point!

Thus I have been at the buying and the selling ends of golfing equipment.

A hole in one, in addition to being a fortuitous combination of skill and luck, has contradictory rewards. It costs the amateur an outlay in drinks to members. His professional counterpart, at a nominated hole, can collect a considerable sum. That I have never been in the position of dispenser, I prefer to attribute to luck rather than a smear on my ability. It has, anyway, prolonged the lives of several bank managers. Unless I have been playing on the course at the time, I have made it a rule to refuse adding to the expense of the poor man who has holed in one.

I believe that some mathematical boffin has calculated, presumably for his own amusement—it is of little interest—the odds against such a piece of luck. I have witnessed four "aces", as

modern language has it. One of these was through the medium of television, and the perpetrator Tony Jacklin. Since writing the first draft of this piece, the "Box" has produced another, at Royal Birkdale in the Open of 1971. And that means that I have seen five. The odds against that would surely drive our boffin into a mental home.

I have one better for him. A course holed in one. From the first tee on the Crowborough Beacon G.C. a member sliced his drive over a hedge and into the cup on the 18th green. Is this?—well no—I seem to have read of a similar peculiarity somewhere. Probably in the Golfer's Handbook.

Luck is predominant. I was present when someone playing a short hole across a valley bisected by a stream, saw his ball strike the narrow planks forming a bridge, bounce, trundle up the slope to drop into the hole. It has a semblance to another, when the ball never left the ground and finished in the hole. Golf it was not. Or was it? Once the element of luck is expunged we no longer have A GAME, and there is little point in playing.

Is it not curious that the holing of long second shots, requiring a more difficult club, receives no acclamation nor celebration. I have holed a full brassie (No. 2 wood), and my opponent contented himself with: "Silly blighters for luck." And luck of course it was. In Jersey (I have told this one before in a book) a full No. 2 iron found the bottom of the cup. I was playing solo, young and enthusiastic, and on my return to the Club House I told the steward of this with some pride. He came from Scotland. His reaction was: "Ooh, Aye." He did *not* say "Och".

I have told elsewhere of a green on which, in the last century a competitor took 156 putts. It is an authenticated event, it occurred on a course in Sussex, an instance of which it is superfluous to enquire: "Is this a record?"

Birds being killed in the air by a golf ball are commonplace. In a rather

unusual colony, British Honduras, in the 1920s my ball holed out after rebounding from a domestic duck. The bird, after a period of shock, recovered.

There is a touch of "Dad's Army" about the following incident. During the last war, a unit of the Kings African Rifles known as the Independent Companies had moved up to a camp beyond Nairobi. Each company was destined for a different post in the Northern Frontier District. I commanded one of the companies and, the night before we were to move to our respective destinations, a signal arrived from G.H.Q. recalling me for some other duty. The colonel of the battalion which had been host to our motley during our brief stay drove me to the station the next day. He was an old peacetime friend, younger than I, and had by 1940 become accustomed, more in sorrow than in anger, to the eccentricities of

we amateurs. We were, I suppose, pretty "Independent".

Nevertheless, his face was a picture when he saw among my baggage six bags of golf clubs (one of them mine). The remaining five, the property of other officers, were to be dropped off at various stations in Kenya. There were no "Whitehall Damn it, sirs" about. It was probably a record. It was most certainly typical of the British; an example of the wide attraction of the game, and close to the sentiments of Bud Flannagan's: "Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler?"

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# ARE YOU A GOOD GREENKEEPER?

This quiz is designed to find out whether you match up to your responsibilities. For example, can you seriously say you know your job? Are you fully aware of what is expected from you?

Technically, do you understand why seasonal ground work is performed, and indeed, why daily routine work is carried out? It is not only for the money at the end of the week. Do you read, and keep abreast of all the latest developments appertaining to good golf course maintenance? For instance: knowing the correct method for doing a specific job? There are two ways of doing a job. Do you need constant supervision, or less? Are you familiar with the tools for the job? All these questions, and many like them, can be answered below.

To find out your relative position in "operation know-how" and management skills, do the "quiz"; don't be tempted to cheat, even though your conscience may prick.

1. *Do you consider yourself to be a good greenkeeper?*
  - A As good as allowed to be.
  - B No complaints from golfers, club secretaries.
  - C Within budgetary limits, yes!
2. *Is your greens chairman a knowledgeable person in turf culture?*
  - A Stands by you in all circumstances.
  - B Blames you.
  - C Believes in constructive criticism, suggests alternative remedies.
  - D Understands your problems.
3. *Do you keep an up-to-date diary. Work progress. Time taken, use of chemicals and results. Climatic conditions, etc?*
  - A Yes.
  - B Not necessary.
  - C Good greenkeepers are guided by events.
4. *Why do you think the three "Phases of soil state" are so very important?*
  - A Do not know.
  - B Interdependent.
  - C Better if ignored.
  - D Essential for good turf-culture.
5. *Do you know why some plants are more resistant to disease than others?*
  - A Micro-organisms in the soil contain antibiotics.
  - B Some plants contain antibiotic substances.
  - C Because of seed sown in sterilised soil.
6. *Annual Meadow Grass is the commonest of British grasses; Why is it so difficult to eradicate from intensively used sports areas?*
  - A Likes close mowing.
  - B Produce large amounts of seed.
  - C Elimination would create cultural problems.
  - D Arsenic compounds (weed-killers) interfere with plant absorption of phosphorous.
7. *In the event of a "break-in" at your equipment sheds, do you first*
  - A Repair and make good.
  - B Inform the police.
  - C Check stock and list items missing.
8. *A Xerophyte is?*
  - A Plant growth regulator.
  - B Bi-generic hybrid.
  - C Drought-loving plant.
9. *Synthetic growth regulators are used for?*
  - A To regulate grass and weed growth.
  - B Weed control on lawns and sports turf.
  - C For applying to newly sown grass areas.
10. *Hole trimmers are used for?*
  - A Replacing divots.
  - B To cover Fairy Ring disease.
  - C Finish off hole after cutting.

## NOW ADD UP YOUR SCORE

1. B—3, A—1, C—1.
2. A—3, B—0, C—1, D—3.
3. A—score 3 for Yes, B—deduct 1 from score for Not Necessary.

4. A—0, B—3, plus bonus 1, C—0, D—3.
5. A—3, B—2, plus 1, C—0.
6. A—3, B—0, C—3, D—3.
7. A—0, B—3, bonus 3, C—1.
8. A—0, B—0, C—3.
9. A—0, B—3, bonus 2, C—0.
10. A—0, B—0, C—3.

#### SO HOW DID YOU SCORE ?

A total of 36 is good. Above 36 and under 45 is very good. Over 45 or more, excellent. You are doing well and keeping abreast of new methods and developments in greenkeeping.

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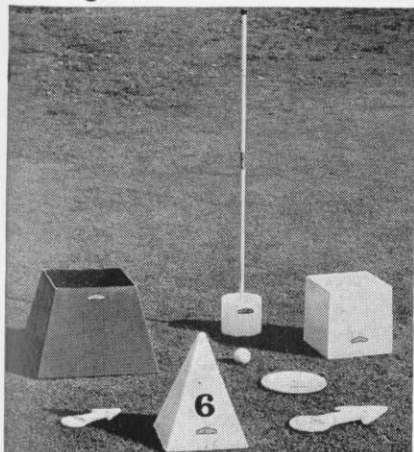
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		Results do.	.... 4.350
		Postage etc.	.... 12.300
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