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# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE



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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE  
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The Association is affiliated to the  
English and Welsh Golf Unions.

No. 317 New Series

OCTOBER 1971

## OCTOBER

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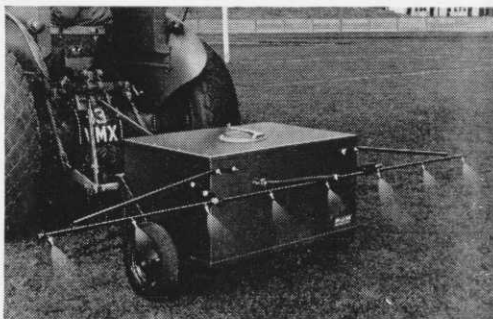
EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: 01-657 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: £1.25 for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. LATEST COPY DATE: 8th of month prior to insertion. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in whole or in part is prohibited. This Magazine shall not, without the written consent of the publishers first given, be re-sold, lent, hired out, or otherwise disposed of. *Contributions and photographs of interest are invited.*

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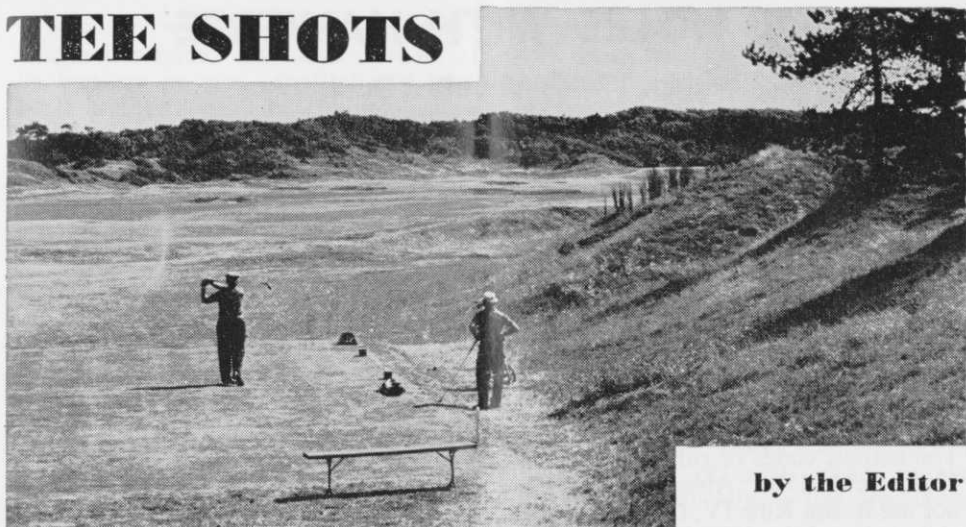


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# TEE SHOTS



by the Editor

The construction of new courses is still dominated by municipal effort. At this moment, probably a hundred local authorities are thinking about providing local inhabitants with more room for golf and if all these schemes are realised the present discomforts of municipal golf will be much reduced.

Schemes already under construction are these at Easthampstead (covering Wokingham and Bracknell as well), Newcastle-under-Lyme, Luton, Strood, Tonbridge, Grangemouth in Scotland, the London Borough of Havering, Scunthorpe, Portsmouth and Ellesmere Port.

Schemes actively in process of preparation include courses at Swindon, an extension from nine to 18 holes at Nelson, at Aberdeen, Richmond and in the Lea Valley.

Others are being investigated at Bromyard, Wirral, Rayleigh, an extension from nine to 18 at Berwick on Tweed, at Bristol, Caerleon and Cheshunt.

Where will all the greenkeepers come from to man these courses?

The only initiative ever taken to meet this problem has come from within the ranks of greenkeepers themselves. Clubs watch their staff diminish and hope that more mechanisation will do the work. But there is a limit to this line of action and some of the latest machines like the ride-on triple mowers produce their own problems.

Golf Unions seem primarily concerned with championships, the Golf Development Council with producing more golf courses, the Golf Foundation with producing more golfers.

It is time they all got their heads together to decide what must be done to ensure that all their efforts will not founder on the simple basic need for good maintenance.

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# 18 HOLES WITH HAWTREE

## No. 17 — What is a Bunker?

By F. W. HAWTREE

An eighteenth-century golfer, recalled from the Elysian Fields for a mixed foursome, would not understand many features of the contemporary game. Tee, green, hole, style, garb, his partner, all are different. But he would recognise the bunkers even if he did refer to them as "hazards".

The word "bunker" was not written into the golfing vocabulary until 1824. The earliest codes of rules (St. Andrews 1754, Leith 1775, Aberdeen 1783) did not use it. But Rule IV, Lifting of Break-clubs, etc., of the 1858 Royal & Ancient Rules reads: "All loose impediments within a club length of the ball may be removed on or off the Course, when the ball lies on grass . . . . When a ball lies in a bunker or sand, there shall be no impression made, nor sand or other obstacle removed by the club, or otherwise, before striking at the ball. When a ball lies within a club-length of a washing-tub, the tub may be removed, and when on clothes the ball may be lifted and dropped behind them". The distinction "bunker or sand" does not necessarily mean that bunkers were not sanded but, in dialect at least, the original bunker was an earthen seat or bank in the fields.

The bunker, indeed, is about the last remnant of golf as it was originally played—the game, as Gordon G. Smith said, "of the slow, canny yet strong, resourceful Scottish character . . . the game of the patient, self-reliant man prepared to meet whatever fortune may befall him". Notions of equity have changed all that but the bunker has managed to survive—a rich source of debate on what is fair and unfair. If the bunker goes, we shall have to rely on the rough. But most of that, like the wash-tubs, has gone already.

We touched on the penal versus strategic question early in the round so the proper location of bunkers can be shortly dismissed. Those which give options are more exciting than those

which give none: those which affect the player before he plays are more stimulating than those which only affect him after his shot. But having devised a scheme on these lines, there must still be some manoeuvring to get the bunker into the right place for the general appearance of the hole and for its relationship to the ground around it. And on most courses, there will always be holes which can only be bunkered in a way which punishes a bad shot because the layout is a compromise with the land as a whole. Therefore the idea that a golf course can be transformed by a general overhaul of its bunkering system is often misconceived. There may be room for improvement but much broader factors determine merit. A general overhaul also runs the risk of too much change being dictated by fashion. Soon after the war there was a big drive to reduce the number and size of bunkers. Somebody made the statement that each bunker cost £30 a year to maintain. In those days that sum, duly multiplied, was at least equivalent to the wages of two men doing nothing else. Many superfluous bunkers were filled up but they were seldom replaced by others more effective and appearance sometimes suffered. Others were simply grassed over without correcting the shape so that balls tended to collect in one area and concentrate divot marks.

Next it was noticed that sand became confused with the soil underlying it. There were trials with beds of ashes, gravel, concrete and perforated plastic sheeting as insulation.

The question of the overhanging lip had been more or less exhausted long before but it came back in disguise with demands for fairway bunkers which permitted playing a long iron or even a wood to the green. It is not clear how this idea was to be reconciled with another practice which required raking the sand to leave deep grooves which would ensure the opposite.

Now a well-known championship course has turfed the faces of most of its bunkers in case a ball should bury itself and be lost. In championships, with expert players, caddies, markers and spectators, this chance seems remote and no recent results seem to have been affected by it. On seaside links, the problem of maintaining sand faces against wind erosion is often acute and Scottish greenkeepers first developed the turf wall system to provide a solid backing. Covered with sand, a natural formation is retained but grassing the slope produces a new maintenance problem and an artificial appearance while the total effect on the landscape is mournful. The paucity of design elements available to the golf architect has been mentioned before, the concealment of sand limits them still further, destroys visual scale and tends to reduce a links to a meadow.

But to judge fashion, we must have basic principles. Here is a round dozen:—

(1) The forms of a bunker are infinite. Exploit them to the full to produce good landscape and demand a wide variety of shots.

(2) If the hole allows, site them to give options inspiring a complete plan for playing the hole from tee to green. This means that all bunkers in a hole are related.

(3) Continue this relationship visually to form an agreeable pattern with asymmetrical rather than precise balance.

(4) Vary this pattern at holes of similar length to produce different situations and make different demands.

(5) Show sand strongly for landscape effect and scale.

(6) Relate bunker location to the standard of scratch. This is the only standard which, by definition, is predictable. Higher handicaps normally adapt to options because of shorter tees and random length shots.

(7) Vary predetermined distances to site bunkers in desirable contours (e.g. cut into rising rather than descending ground).

(8) The variation of form includes

orientation, size, contouring but there will often be one form correct for a particular situation. Avoid similarity in neighbouring bunkers, an outline generally at right-angles to the line of play and situations which disperse interest rather than concentrate it.

(9) Be discreet with bunkers which limit tee shot distance.

(10) Give full thought to drainage on clay or low-level sites.

(11) Build boldly with curves and banks adaptable to machine mowing.

(12) On inland sites, use a coarse washed sand free of fines at one end of the scale and of small stones at the other. An even particle size gives least binding.

You can doubtless produce a dozen more of your own. That is the delight of bunkering. We have not, for example, touched on the delicate question of the bunker at the back of the green. But if grassing the faces is the first step to grassing the rest, we shall not have to bother.

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# ANNUAL REPORT—1970

## *Administration*

We offer our congratulations to our chairman, Mr A. Robertshaw, for the very efficient and satisfactory way he has carried out his duties during the year, and we trust he has enjoyed a certain amount of pleasure from these duties.

Our vice-chairman, Mr J. Carrick, will be succeeding Mr Robertshaw, and we offer our congratulations to him and wish him a happy and successful year of office.

The annual draw was again held this year to augment the funds of the Association and we are happy to report that the efforts put forward by members was again most encouraging, and we do congratulate them on the final result, which showed an increased income of approximately £30.

The draw for the current year is already under way, and is again being held on the Dunlop Masters Tournament with a similar prize distribution as last year, and we look forward to at least as good, if not a better, result.

Once again the R. & A. very kindly forwarded a dozen passes for the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, and we express the sincere thanks of our members for this courtesy which is much appreciated by those who are able to take advantage of these passes.

We were again this year invited by the Artisan Association to enter two of our members for the Annual Tournament at Moor Park. Mr J. Kilby represented our Association in the Junior Division and Mr G. Payne in the Senior Division. Unfortunately they were not listed among the winners but we are quite sure they had a most enjoyable day's golf in a very nice setting.

The new South Coast Section which was formed last year is, we understand, making satisfactory progress and according to information to hand their membership is now in the region of 38. It would seem, therefore, that this breakaway from the Southern Section is proving to be a satisfactory development.

The wage scale recommendations were again reviewed by the Executive Committee in March this year and a new set of proposed rates was published in the

Journal. We think it will undoubtedly prove beneficial to our members.

The apprenticeship scheme is still doing good business and the latest figures available show that 248 deeds have been issued, 188 registered and 118 completed. We feel sure that this scheme must be proving a great advantage to golf clubs throughout the country requiring additional labour on their courses.

## *Membership*

According to the latest section returns of membership our present figure stands at 826 against 809 last year.

## *Annual Tournament*

The 53rd Annual Tournament was held last year at the Filey Golf Club, Yorkshire in mid-August with a satisfactory entry of approximately 60 members. This event proved a very pleasant occasion with good weather and some excellent golf was experienced by those taking part. The club and staff were most co-operative in every way and we wish to express our very sincere thanks for all their efforts which made our visit so pleasant. Again we are greatly indebted to those individuals and firms that gave their personal assistance and donated to much in the way of cash and prizes.

## *Sections*

We are again indebted to all the officers who give so much time to sections' activities, which we feel is so much a part of the satisfactory running of the Association. Members must appreciate the local activities as it does undoubtedly enable a great many more to take part in the facilities that can be offered within the section.

## *“British Golf Greenkeeper”*

Once again we must express our sincere thanks to the editor and staff for the publication of the Journal, also to those who have been good enough to furnish articles of interest for publication.

## *Benevolent Fund*

We have this year had a heavier call on our Benevolent Fund through the un-

fortunate passing of several of our members and in all £120 has been paid to dependents.

#### *F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund*

Three members visit Bingley under the auspices of the F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund during the year and our thanks are due to those clubs who were kind enough to help with some of the expenses incurred by those visits.

#### *Sports Turf Research Institute*

We would again like to express our thanks to the Sports Turf Research Institute for all the help they are so willing to give when the occasion demands.

#### *In Memoriam*

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

Cecil Jones, Midland Section; D. Earsman, North-East Section; Bill McKean, Southern Section; P. K.

Carless, North-West Section; J. L. Lowery, North-East Section; P. Campbell, North-West Section; H. Ratcliff, North-West Section; David Whitehead, Welsh Section.

*We are indebted to the following who have kindly contributed to our Prize Fund.*

C. Bretherton, Esq.; I. G. Nicholls, Esq.; Gordon Wright, Esq.; The "News of the World"; The Sports Turf Research Institute; The Professional Golfers' Association; The Golf Ball Manufacturers' Conference; The British Motor Corporation Ltd.; "Golf Illustrated"; The Cannock Agricultural Co. Ltd.; Messrs R. C. Craig & Co. Ltd.; Messrs Fisons Ltd.; Messrs Flymo Ltd.; Messrs Hayters Ltd.; Messrs Henton & Chattell; Messrs Landscape Maintenance 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 Pressure Jet Makers Ltd.; Messrs Charles H. Pugh Ltd.; Messrs Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd.; Messrs Stewart & Co., Seedsmen Ltd.; Messrs Sutton & Sons Ltd.; Messrs Allan Taylor (Engineers) Ltd.; Messrs Universal Mat Co. Ltd.; Messrs Machin & Hartnell Ltd.

## PRIZE LIST

The S.T.R.I. Cup, 18 holes Stableford:

- 1st Prize (S.T.R.I. Cup and linen), D. Jones, 39 points;
- 2nd Prize (Hargreaves Cup and rug), E. Walsh, 37 points;
- 3rd Prize (casserole), A. Whitehead, 36 points;
- 4th Prize (car lamp), M. Barrett, 35 points.

*News of the World Cup*, 36 holes Scratch:

- 1st Prize (tea service), I. R. Toon, 153.

Jubilee Cup Inter-Section, 36 holes Medal:  
(3 tankards), East Midland Section.

"Coming of Age" Cup (60 years or over), 18 holes Medal:

- 1st Prize (table lamp), W. Summer, 75.  
(coffee maker), G. A. Hall, 77.

Senior Division, 36 holes Medal:

- 1st Prize (Ransomes Cup and wrist watch), A. Robertshaw, 147.
- 2nd Prize (*Golf Illustrated* Cup, voucher and wine glasses), D. H. Major, 149.
- 3rd Prize ("Universal" Cup, and golf bag), V. W. Smith, 149.
- 4th Prize (table lighter), D. W. Summerell, 151.
- 5th Prize (½ doz. tea knives), M. Barrett, 153.
- 6th Prize (travelling clock), E. Ainsworth, 153.
- 7th Prize (1 doz. golf balls), F. W. Machin, 153.

8th Prize (bath towel), R. J. Goodwin, 154.

9th Prize (cigarette case and cuff links), J. L. C. Noakes, 155.

10th Prize (snack box), I. P. Smith, 156.

Junior Division (12 to 24):

1st Prize ("Patterson" Trophy and wrist watch), P. Whitehead, 146.

2nd Prize (President's Cup and electric toaster), E. R. James, 147.

3rd Prize ("May's" Cup and golf bag), A. Jamieson, 156.

4th Prize (table lighter), L. F. Carless, 152.

5th Prize (butter dish), K. James, 156.

6th Prize (bath towel), G. Bunting, 157.

7th Prize (½ doz. golf balls), D. S. Gould, 157.

8th Prize (cigarette case and cuff links), J. H. Readhead, 158.

The "Allan Taylor" Cup, 18 holes Medal:

1st Prize (Allan Taylor Cup and cut glass bowl), R. N. Maltby, 69.

2nd Prize (Verdone Cup and clock), W. F. Machin, 70.

3rd Prize (½ doz. tumblers), A. Robertshaw, 71.

4th Prize (torch), V. W. Smith, 72.

Special Prize, 9 hidden holes:

Presented by Machin & Hartwell Ltd.  
R. N. Maltby, 33½.



## DODGEM-CARS

Patrick Smartt

Unwisely, I once wrote that I was shock-proof where golf is concerned, though disapproval still had its moments of activity.

As everyone who has ever listened to a political election speech knows, such positive assertions rebound. I read a while ago that in some clubs in the United States, members are required to play their round in golf carts! The reason presented is, I gather, that it speeds up play. There is a corollary in a quote from a professional to the effect that if he permitted the elder members to walk between strokes they would hold up the other players.

The purple-faced onset of a burst of blood pressure that this caricature of the game induced made it patent that I am a "square". I am, in short, shocked. At the present rate of retrogression, the young man of today who has been brought up in the traditions of golf will find himself a "square"—or, whatever the term may be then—in ten years time. I cannot visualise him on arrival at the club, transferring from a fast sports car to a "dodgem".

The problem of slow play is a very real one. I am constantly told that with overcrowded courses it is necessary to shave the rough, in order to save time looking for lost balls. Well, que sera, sera. The obvious question of why elect so many members is unpopular. I cannot see, however, why this should be solved by means that reduce a fine game to the equivalent of swinging dumb-bells at home.

There is a difference, as the late Gilbert Harding liked to point out, between a game and a sport. Golf is a game, but in contradistinction to bridge or bingo it is an outdoor game. Which means exercise. There are many instances of doctors suggesting to persons no longer young that they take up golf, because it entails walking. This I have always understood was directed to those who led a sedentary life, seated behind a desk, risking overweight and possible heart conditions.

Casting aside one's revulsion of

mechanised golf, it is diverting to review possibilities that could arise. I assume that these carts are single-seaters. If not, what happens when one player has sliced and the other hooked? Is an otherwise tedious wait going to be alleviated by listening to a stream of vituperative epithets, and the sight of an all-in wrestling match for possession of the steering tiller.

Eventually the couple behind, losing patience will drive off (mechanically), followed as shortly as possible by the next match. We now have several carts on the same hole, including the one concerned with the lost ball which will be trying to worm its way out like a motorist from a side road. If the carts are single-seaters there will be more traffic on each hole. A barging match seems inevitable, which is why I have named this piece Dodgem-Cars. These carts are not limited to the old. The young have to use them as well. What will be the condition of their legs when playing in a 36-hole tournament elsewhere?

Furthermore, fond memories of youthful exuberance on motor cycles and sports cars indicate some competitive dicing. With the passage of years the record for the course will be assessed in hours and minutes instead of the number of strokes used. Crash helmets, while looking odd, would leave my withers unwrung as a substitute for the popular cross of the headgear of an American engine-driver and that worn by a jockey.

For the few who are open-minded over methods of defeating an opponent, there seem to be opportunities for running over his ball (quite by mistake of course), or gradually edging his cart, himself and clubs into a bunker and then claiming a penalty. Other points in the Rules present themselves. If a cart breaks down and the player completes the round on foot, he has broken a club local rule (not the Rules of Golf). Does he lose the match? Again, if he sends for a mechanic, surely he is guilty of "undue delay".

An elderly watcher with limited  
*(continued on page 13)*



- Sept. 23rd Northern Section Tournament.
- Oct. 6th Welsh Section Friendly v. South West Section.
- 6th Southern Section Quiz — The Ship Tavern, E.C.3.
- 7th North-West Section Autumn Tournament.
- 16th East Midland Dance.
- 18th North-West Section Lecture.
- Nov. 3rd Southern Section Lecture — The Ship Tavern.
- 9th North-West Section Annual Trip.
- Dec. 1st Southern Section Lecture — The Ship Tavern.



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## TRADE NEWS

### **DITCH WITCH trenchers all set to break new ground on British market**

M.K. Dynamics, the Tarporley, Cheshire based organisation, established specialists in trenching equipment, have recently been appointed sole concessionaires for Ditch Witch trenchers in the U.K., Southern Ireland and other specified areas. These machines have captured more than half the world market.

This major coup was brought off, in the face of stiff competition, by the company's Managing Director, Michael Kukla at the Ditch Witch H.Q. in Oklahoma U.S.A. He flew directly there after seeing a Ditch Witch in action on a business trip to the continent.

Michael Kukla immediately recognised the great potential for such machines in Britain.

The comprehensive range of Ditch Witch trenchers takes in machines with a capacity spread of 7 to 60 h.p. There's a choice of engines—diesel, TVO, petrol or the ultra-clean, low maintenance propane version. And there's a full range of attachments available for speedy field conversion. In fact, Ditch Witch design versatility is matched only by its flexibility in the field.

An outstanding feature is that the driving speed and the trenching chain speed are completely independent. This means that a Ditch Witch is completely at home on any kind of terrain. It also makes feasible the use of rubber tyres, avoiding damage to valuable surfaces.

Most Ditch Witch models are available with track or tyre option. Whichever you choose, a Ditch Witch never gets bogged down because its own hydraulic equipment at front and rear can be used to lift it clear of the ground.

Other noteworthy features include the one-piece rigid frame construction and a uniquely practical operator position near the rear mounted digging boom. Standard equipment solves the backfilling problem and the range of extra attachments includes a vibratory plough for trenchless cable laying and a boring unit.

These were the clinching factors behind Michael Kukla's decision to put his

proposals in person to the Ditch Witch president and top executives.

And since his triumphant return with the contract to Tarporley, M.K. Dynamics have set about promoting their new product with the same vitality they showed in gaining the initial concession.

The Ditch Witch range will be promoted on three fronts: on a straight sale basis backed by nationwide Ditch Witch after sales service; on a hire basis; and on a hire plus operator basis.

M.K.'s first public showing of Ditch Witch trenchers takes place in September at the Eastbourne Street Lighting Exhibition. And this will be forcefully backed up by a big advertising and public relations campaign.

With the tremendous marketing potential of Ditch Witch in mind, M.K. have already made moves on a massive extension to their sales and service organisation and are in the process of appointing agents on a nationwide scale in both the hire and direct sale fields.

M.K. are also prepared to follow up the predictable deluge of Ditch Witch enquiries with an enterprising go-anywhere, anytime, demonstration service. A Ditch Witch trencher will be "tailored" anywhere, anytime and put through its paces for any potential customer.

The Ditch Witch scoop will ensure a big slice of the expanding U.K. market of M.K. Dynamics.

---

### **STANDARDISE, MECHANISE AND ECONOMISE WITH RANSOMES**

At this year's Groundsmen's Exhibition held at Motspur Park during September Ransomes, Europe's largest manufacturer of a range of grass machinery, depicted many practical ways of minimising costs by standardising, mechanising and economising.

#### **Standardise with Ransomes**

With machines to tackle every aspect of grass maintenance, the advantages of standardising on Ransomes equipment are numerous. The company have designed their range of machines with a high incidence of interchangeability of