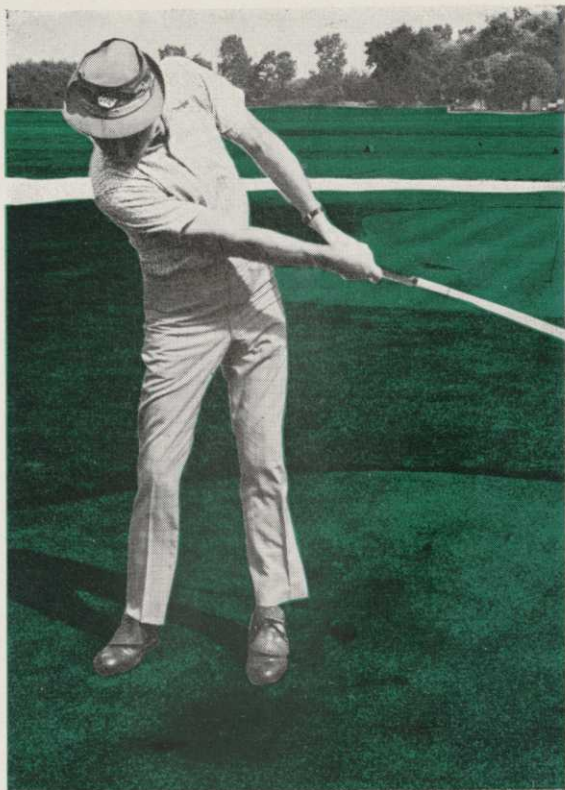


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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

FOUNDED 1912

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CONTENTS

TEE SHOTS	PAGE 3
CORRESPONDENCE	6
FERTILISERS	9
SEAWEED	12
GOLF GREENKEEPING	14
NEWS FROM SECTIONS	19
CLASSIFIEDS	23
BUYER'S GUIDE	24
COVER PICTURE	
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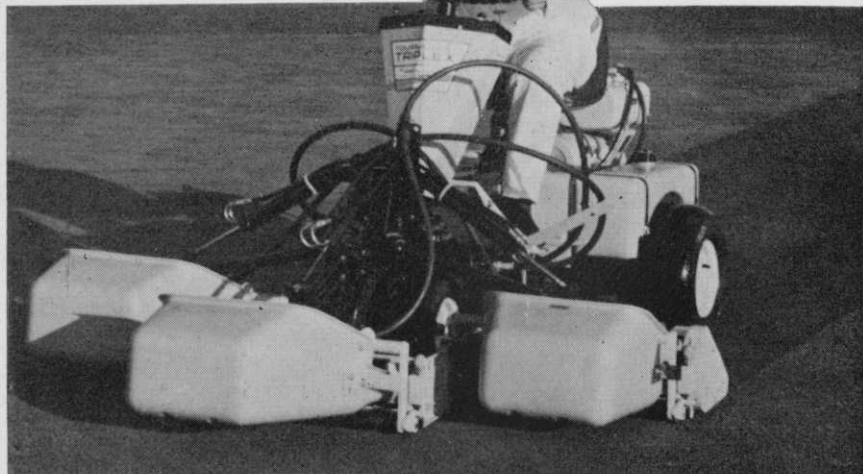
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Tee Shots

The Royal & Ancient Championship Committee has taken on a consultant agronomist to help it prepare and repair links over which its championships are played. J. H. Arthur, B.Sc., is the man. A Reading University graduate, he was recently with Twyford's, the seeds firm, and much less recently an advisory officer with the Sports Turf Research Institute. He is also consultant to the golf architects' firm of Cotton (CK), Pennick, Lawrie & Partners. Mr. Lawrie is Chairman of the Championship Committee.

Mr Lawrie has not, as far as we know, any present connections with a research or experimental establishment but, at 51, he will obviously have considerable experience behind him. It is said that he will be co-operating with head greenkeepers.

This will be of interest to members of the British and Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association, especially those who have borne the brunt of championship preparations in the past generally with a 4 or 5 a.m. start for a week or more.

Now men with the greatest experience in getting important golf courses ready for big events will have the benefit of outside advice. Let us hope it will be more helpful than some of the suggestions made in the past, so that greenkeepers can co-operate with Mr. Arthur.

It is curious that the Royal & Ancient has only done one thing for greenkeepers in the past. This was the establishment in 1929 of the Bingley Research Station with the help of the four national golf unions. Over forty years later, the greenkeepers' associations still support that foundation. The R & A appears to be more steeped in modern than ancient history.

The Editor

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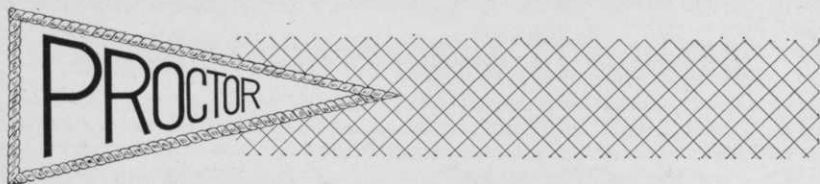
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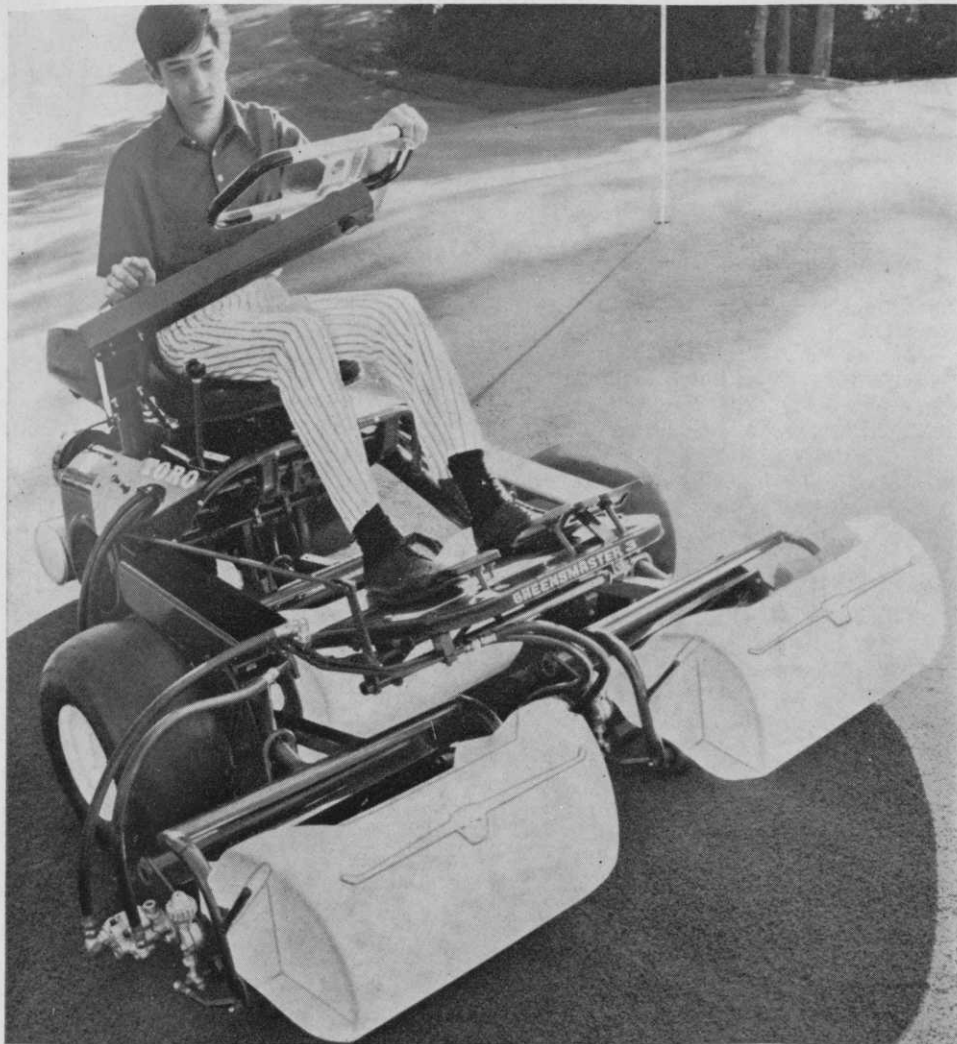
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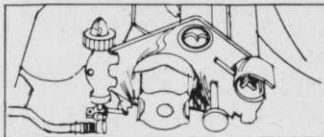
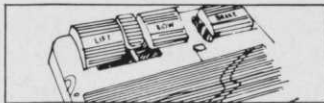
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Correspondence

19 Vernon Drive,
Stanmore, Middlesex
24th January, 1972

Dear Mr. Hawtree,

In reply to Mr. Jones letter I would like to point out that I do express an opinion that soft greens, thatch, black slime and Fusarium are accentuated by the use of a pop-up system and this is the reason:—

When greens were made in this Country we, in our draining system, allowed for a certain amount of water retention in the green but the modern method 'American' style is as enclosed and *you will see that* in the U.S.A. they have found part of the answer to automatic sprinklers. They have had these sprinklers for longer than we have, which has given them time to evolve a solution and we have to learn from whoever we can.

My opinion, for what it is worth, is that we have jumped into the deep end with

pop-ups before we know too much about them. This is the reason that I appealed for knowledge from those who have had experience over several years but it would seem that those who could help have not taken up their pens; I only wish they would for the benefit of us all. I did have a personal letter from one greenkeeper which was very enlightening, but unfortunately was not for publication. We are now having pop-ups installed against my wishes, so I hope to visit as many courses who have pop-ups as possible to learn how to use them in the best possible way and still have good greens, so we should be delighted to hear from those who are fortunate enough to have this most satisfactory combination of pop-ups and good greens. May I appeal again for those who can to flood Mr. Hawtree with information for the benefit of us all.

Yours truly,
C. A. Moore.

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New French Sports Expo

An educational and community sports equipment exhibition SPORTEXPO, will be held from the 27th September to the 1st October, 1972, in the new Bordeaux exhibition centre (France) under the high patronage of Monsieur Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Prime Minister, and Monsieur Joseph Comiti, Secretary of State for Youth, Sports and Recreational activities. Sporting equipment from all over the world will be on display and there will be a vast panorama of constructions and materials used for the development of sports and recreational activities. It should be observed that this is the first time that an exhibition of this kind will be held in France.

Super Sucker

Details of the Super Sucker machine referred to in the January issue are obtainable from:—

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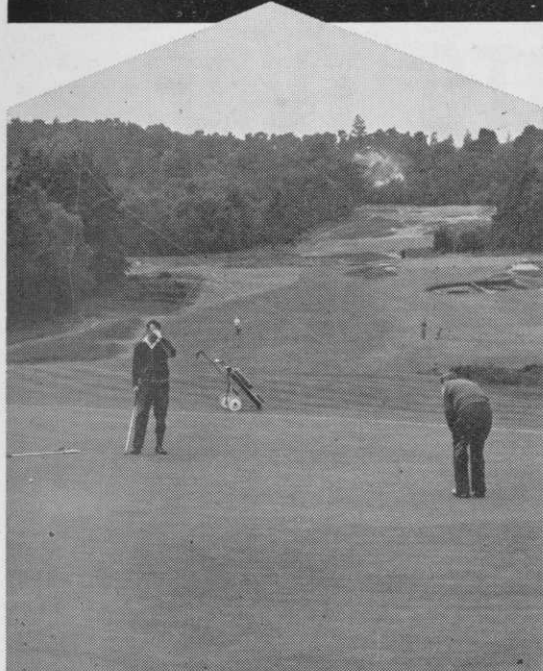
Golf, cricket, bowls, tennis, whatever the game, Suttons can supply the right mixture of grass seeds.

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Send today for Suttons 1972 catalogue for the full story, as well as lots of useful information and ideas. This is free and gives you a ready guide to the best range of grass seeds and turf dressings on the market. It is also a sound basis for your own turf care ideas.

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And fertilisers from Suttons too

The 1972 catalogue from Suttons Seeds Limited covers the full range of supplies likely to interest the greenkeepers, together with pages giving a Calendar of Turf Culture and a centre spread showing the rates for given areas applicable to all Suttons seeds and dressings.

Greensward still leads the cavalcade. The mixture has 1.05% iron as well as a good organic content. One ton costs £4.20 per cwt, 2 ozs per square yard (5 cwt per acre) are recommended as a basic Spring dressing.

For soils deficient in organic matter, a new dressing 'Greensward' and 'Humus' has been produced for £3.15 per cwt though the recommended rate of application is 4-8 ozs per square yard.

The Suttons Organic Turf Dressing is prepared for fine turf surfaces at £3.65 per cwt. Its high organic content contrasts with 'Foursward' which Suttons have developed for feeding large areas. Sportsground Fertiliser may be used where natural organic matter is low. These two cost £3.50 and £3.00 respectively, but both can be applied at 2 ozs per square yard.

Autumn is still a long way off but Suttons Autumn Turf Fertiliser will supply the sward's needs after a trying season. Low in nitrogen, iron is still included for healthy grass.

For those with a weed problem, 'Cleanturf' combines fertiliser with two powerful selective weedkillers. This material costs £4.35 per cwt at the ton rate on which too, all the preceding prices are based.

AND FERTILISER ON TEE TOO

J. Perris, B.Sc., Advisory Officer, Sports Turf Research Institute

Introduction

The primary aim in maintaining a tee should be to provide a firm dry surface, giving a level stance at all times of the year. To achieve this ideal condition sound construction is the first essential but good management will be the next step to success. Work on the tee should not be confined to fairly regular mowing with an occasional rest when conditions get really bad, but rather as all the year round attention along the following lines.

Spring

Spring is usually the time of year when the summer tees are first used, when we hope to have seen the last of the bad weather and the winter tees. It is at this time, however, that many people make their first mistake. Changing from winter to summer tees should not be dictated by the date on the calendar but rather by the state of the weather, growth, etc. Impatience at this time can often ruin a good tee for the remainder of the summer.

When winter tees are eventually brought out of play do not forget about them until next winter, hoping they will grass over to some extent, but instead carry out a proper programme of renovating the thin, bare and often muddy patches. Intensive solid or slit tine spiking will be the first essential to relieve the compaction often found as a

result of constant play under wet conditions. This intensive spiking will also assist the formation of a seedbed tilth. Any levelling work required should then be undertaken using sandy soil if extra material is necessary to fill in depressions, etc. When a suitably tilled level seedbed has been prepared a dressing with a well balanced granular fertiliser is useful prior to sowing a fine seeds mixture. If a dry spell follows, watering may be necessary to assist germination and establishment.

A well-balanced fertiliser dressing should also be given to the summer tees as soon as sustained spring growth is evident. Bumpy or bare ground that may remain should be given a dressing with sandy compost or sown as appropriate. When growth becomes stronger, gradually reduce the height of cut from the winter topping height of about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the summer height of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Do not forget to box off clippings at all times. Late spring may also be an appropriate time to carry out some weed control work.

Summer

Continue with weed control work if required, allowing some 5-6 weeks to elapse between sprayings. About mid-summer growth may fade from the spring fertiliser dressing hence another fertiliser application may be required.

At this time play will no doubt be extremely heavy and therefore the need to move the tee markers frequently will be of paramount importance. Courses with large teeing areas will no doubt be counting their blessings at this time. Nevertheless, divot marks will occur no matter how big the tees and time should be found occasionally to fill in divot marks with sandy compost containing some fine grass seed. If moisture is present either due to artificial or natural precipitation, the inclusion of grass seed is extremely helpful and advantageous.

The winter tees should still not be forgotten at this time. Make sure that they receive regular mowing as well as weedkilling work, etc. if the need exists.

Autumn

The urgent need to complete maintenance tasks on the greens often means that work on the tees is delayed until the late autumn. Sanding and de-worming of the winter tees should, however, perhaps be exceptions to this practice in order to get them into a reasonable condition in good time.

Renovation of the worn summer areas will be very important when the main work on the tees is eventually started. In a similar manner to that discussed for renovating the winter tees intensive spiking and levelling work will be essential. Turfing can then be carried out to achieve a grass cover on the bare areas although there is no reason why seeding could not be undertaken if renovation procedures can be completed in the early autumn. Keep topping the grass as growth continues and take earthworm control measures if necessary.

Winter

Occasional applications of a gritty, preferably lime-free sand may be necessary to maintain a firm dry surface. If reasonably open weather and suitable ground conditions allow, further solid or slit tine aeration work would also be beneficial.

Other points

Traffic on to and off tees can often cause unsightly muddy tracks particularly in the winter months. Means should be devised, therefore, to re-route traffic occasionally and so avoid continuous wear in any one spot.

On very wet and/or heavily used courses artificial teeing surfaces such as rubber mats are often used with some success in the winter. Again it will be important to make sure that these artificial surfaces and surrounding areas are maintained properly and not allowed to develop into rubber islands in a sea of mud.

Luck or labour

On some courses the natural soil type and indigenous grasses are such that teeing areas require very little attention and more or less look after themselves. For the vast majority, however, presentation of a good tee surface involves a great deal of time and hard work spread throughout the whole year.