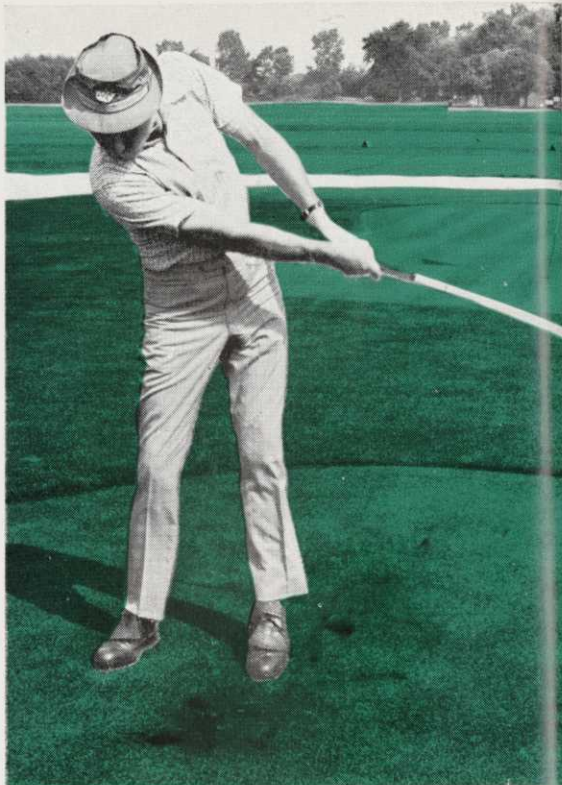


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THE BRITISH GOLF

# GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

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## CONTENTS

TEE SHOTS	PAGE 3
HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES	4
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION	6
A QUESTION OF FERTILISERS	8
NEW FLYMO MAN	10
REMINISCINGS 53 YEARS AGO	12
EDITORIAL INFORMATION	14
NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS	15
CLASSIFIEDS	18
COVER PICTURE	
The 12th at Royal Birkdale.	

Last month the cover picture was Folkestone Golf Club-house and not Felixstowe as printed.

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Both have a 12 volt electric self-starter, battery and automatic charging system as a standard fitment. They can be power driven with the cutters stationary by operating a cutter release clutch.

What's more, either machine may be used with or without the optional standard Atco trailer seat.

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It can be adjusted quickly to suit individual operator heights by means of an instant clamping lever.

There's a new 'swing over' type glass fibre grass box. It is mounted on tubular steel support arms and its lower section is recessed so it can be used with swivel front rollers.

Then there's a large capacity fuel tank which holds one gallon of petrol.

It takes one professional to recognise another. Is it any wonder then that Atco mowers are used on some of the most famous stretches of turf in this country.

## **ATCO** As famous as the lawns we cut.

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# Tee Shots

Particulars of the Ransomes-Hahn ride-on green mower are now appearing. With its alternative cylinders for fine cutting, tee or approach cutting, or verti-cutting, the tractor unit should seldom be idle. The machine will be on show at the Annual Tournament at St. Annes if you have not previously had a ride.

If your bunkers are big enough you are going to want a Toro Sandpro! Sounds like a blaster, but is a three-wheeled tractor with mounted hydraulic bunker scratchers and 68 inch rakers. The operator rides, of course, and the job is scheduled to take 4 minutes a bunker or 4 to 5 hours for the whole course.

If you are still interested in 1971 machines look through Billy Bartles section in the new STRI Journal:—

New Mowers: 3 Mayfield

5 Atco

3 Dennis

2 Hayter

2 Masport

1 Mountfield

1 Brott

2 Ransomes

1 Qualcast

1 Toro

1 Victa

1 Wolseley

A cheque for £5,500 will settle for the lot.

Chemagro, a division of USA's Baychem Corporation, have come up with a new idea for selling fungicides. The distributors issue certificates worth 200 points with Dyrene and Dexon and 400 points with a case of Baygon. Rewards vary from a cigarette lighter for 600 points to a typewriter for 5,000.

Quad Greenshield stamps with one of those Ransomes-Hahn green mowers should shift a lot of machines.

The Editor



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# Hon. Secretary's Notes

**The Annual Tournament will be held at St. Annes Old Links, St. Annes on Sea, Lancs., on 14th, 15th and 16th August.**

## Annual Tournament Accommodation

Members are advised to write to the local Town Clerk for information regarding possible accommodation, but if any member is in difficulty, the following list has been supplied by the Secretary of the North West Section:—

**MORECAMBE.** To let, 1972 model 6-berth Caravan. Regent Caravan Park, Morecambe.—Inquiries to Mrs. J. E. Wray, 14 Garden Road, Kendal, Westmorland.

**BLACKPOOL.** Central. "Mayfair" Hol. Flatlets. Nr. Prom. Everything provided.—E. Phayre, 60 Adelaide Street. Tel. 22823. (Full July 15-29).

**BLACKPOOL.** First in Europe. "It's a Knock-out". Day and night delight plus new Zoo park for '72.—Free guide, from R. Battersby, Dept. 31, Town Hall.

**BLACKPOOL.** Central. 48 Palatine Road. F/Brd. from £1.35. OAPs £1.25. Car Park. Colour TV. Baby sitting.—Mrs. Gallagher. Tel. 21295.

**BLACKPOOL.** Cosy Holiday Flatlets. TV. Reduced terms early/late season. S.A.E. brochure.—Adelphi, 301 Promenade. Telephone 46679.

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**COCKERHAM.** De Luxe Self-catering Holiday Chalets. Sea front position. Fully licensed club. Dancing, shops, flush toilets, showers, electricity. Chalets for four people from £8 to £24.—Brochure, Cockerham Sands Country Club and Caravan Park, Cockerham, near Lancaster. Tel. Galgate 387.

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**FLEETWOOD,** Bourne Leisure Caravan Park. Four-berth Caravan to let. To couples only. All inquiries—Tel. Bolton 652492.

**MORECAMBE.** Join us at the Seashell Hotel (licensed), 85 Regent Road. Colour TV in bar, heaters all rooms. F/Brd £1.75 daily.—Tel. 265.

**MORECAMBE.** Glengarry Guest House, 3 Thornton Grove. F/Brd or B/Bfast. Lounge, colour TV, sep. tables. S.A.E.—J. and L. Grainger. Tel. 2865.

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**BLACKPOOL.** St. Albans Hotel. Licensed. 355 South Promenade. Central heated, sun Lounge, overlooking sea. Easter to end June £1.90 day. OAPs Holidays June 3 to 17, £1.50 day. July onwards £2.10. Bed/Breakfast £1.75.—Mrs. Martin, Tel. 46671.

**BLACKPOOL S.** The Chimes, 34 Alexandra Road, adj. prom. F/Brd from £11 weekly. Reductions OAPs to end of June. Parking space.—Mrs. Van-Roten. Tel. 41620.

**BLACKPOOL.** Gladmor, 128 Reads Avenue, Central. B/Bfst, evening dinner from £1.40 daily. Children according to age. Sep. TV lounge. Comfort assured.—Hicks. Tel. 26805.

## Wages Scale Recommendation

In March 1972 the Executive Committee re-considered the figures, and now suggest the following:—

Head Greenkeeper	£30 to £34 per week (plus accommodation)
First Assistant	£23 to £26 per week
Assistant	£19 to £22

40 hour week. 3 weeks holiday after one year's service. Plus statutory holidays.



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# Professional Certification

For Golf Course Superintendents—Professional Certification by Palmer Maples, JR. Many Professions have a certification programme to measure the performance of their “practitioners” and the general success of their activities.

Whether it is a certification programme for physicians and lawyers or for other professions and service groups, the person being awarded this “seal of approval” received it from his peers—those who are in the same field and who, from their own experiences know the problems and standards of performance associated with that particular profession.

And so it is with the newly-announced certification programme of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America which was introduced in June.

A “blue-ribbon” nine-man committee, made up of golf course superintendents, has formulated the programme, in which those superintendents vying for the title of “Certified Golf Course Superintendent” will be judged by their colleagues. The committee has worked with Dr. Paul M. Alexander, Director of Education of GCSAA, in planning and implementing this programme.

What does the GCSAA certification programme entail?

The focus of the programme is a written examination, divided into six parts, with each part dealing with the major areas of the experienced superintendent’s job.

The six areas are:

1. Knowledge of the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America, including the history, purpose and ethics of the Association, and the profession of golf course superintendency;
2. Knowledge of the game of golf, including the official rules of the game;
3. Turf-management procedures (consideration of practical problems in the major areas of irrigation, fertilisation, equipment calibration, soil facts, cost analysis, drainage systems, etc.);
4. Pesticides—comprehensive questions on the selection, usage, safety precautions, and limitations of contemporary plant protectant chemicals are included. This will indicate to local, state or federal pest control licensing agencies that the superintendent who passes this examination is fully proficient and capable of handling and supervising the use of such materials;
5. Business Administration—techniques of record-keeping and application of such information, budget preparation and presentation, etc.;
6. Management: people relationships, recruiting, training, and supervising crews; public relations (officials, members, club department heads, community, etc.).

Members of the GCSAA who have held the Class A classification for three years, and who have been employed as golf course superintendents for that period of time, are eligible to take this examination. In addition, those members who have been employed as golf course superintendents for 20 years or more while enjoying Class A status will be certified without examination if they apply before September 1, 1973.

Applications and examination papers are coded to maintain confidentiality, and these are obtained through the GCSAA headquarters (in the first month following announcement of the Certification Programme, GCSAA received more than 450 requests for applications!). The superintendent may take as much time as he desires to prepare for the examination. When he is ready, a date mutually agreeable to him and to an official monitor in his area is arranged. The examination material, identified only with the code number, is then sent to the monitor in a sealed packet and opened only in the presence of the applicant. When the examination is completed, the material is resealed in the presence of the applicant and mailed back to GCSAA headquarters.

A maximum of six hours, all in the same day, is allowed for the superintendent to complete all parts of the examination. Each of the six parts is graded separately, and a passing grade in every part is required for certification. If the superintendent fails any one or more parts of the examination, he will need to be re-examined only in those parts which were failed. The applicant can repeat the failed portions as many times as he desires, but if the failed parts are not successfully completed within one year of the original examination date, he must repeat the entire examination.

One time is not enough for certification.

The certification programme must keep pace with progress in agronomy, equipment and technology—and so must the golf course superintendent. Therefore, the certified golf course superintendent will be required to take another examination within five years of being certified. He must also maintain his membership in GCSAA and remain actively employed as a golf course superintendent. Other requirements for re-examination are completion of one regional GCSAA workshop or successful completion of a GCSAA-approved correspondence course of study.

Other aspects of the certification programme deal with those superintendents who leave the profession for several years and their mandatory re-examination if they return to golf course superintendency.

The GCSAA certification programme climaxes 30 years of discussion and planning, and the benefits of certification will undoubtedly show that this careful planning has been well worth the time and effort involved.

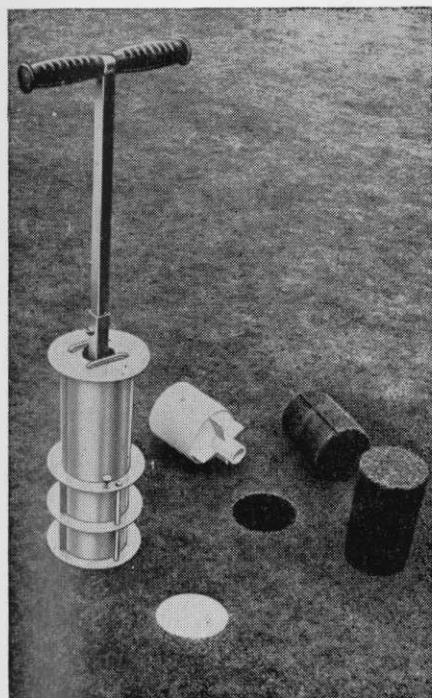
Certification should also attract many young people into the profession of golf course superintendency, now that they know that there is some way of measuring their achievements in the profession.

Hopefully, certification will also lead to standardisation of curricula in the schools offering turf management programmes.

With certification, the role of the superintendent will not only receive greater emphasis through all who are associated with him on the golf course, but it will enhance his stature in the community as well. Because of today's great stress on ecology, the expertise that the golf course superintendent has attained in turf management and plant protectant chemicals should make him a recognised authority on these environmental factors within the community.

To summarise then, the GCSAA Certification programme is not only beneficial to the superintendent. This programme has inherent and potential benefits to club owners, club officials and members, golfers, other agencies concerned with golfing, and the public at large through the certified superintendent's involvement with the community.

With acknowledgements to Golf Superintendent.



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# A Question of Fertilisers

By W. N. S. Bissett

The season will soon arrive when most outdoor maintenance activities on the golf course will be in full swing. The bills for fertiliser will be coming in and almost invariably will show some increase on the previous year. This usually gives rise to queries by Committee men on the necessity for the various materials, and ways to keep expenditure to a minimum are examined.

## Why Fertiliser?

Of all the factors influencing growth, the nutrient status of the soil is one which can be partially affected by the greenkeeper. However, the extent to which fertilisers improve grass growth is not only dependent on the quantity and quality applied but also on the effects of the other inter-related factors, e.g. light, temperature, moisture and air. Lime is not a fertiliser but is sometimes required to correct over-acidity which restricts growth and fertiliser availability.

To obtain the optimum grass growth, providing that all other factors are favourable, a wide range of mineral elements are required. Most soils, however, naturally contain sufficient minor elements to grow satisfactorily and in general only the major nutrients require replacing, i.e. Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P) and Potash (K).

Different soils have different levels of natural resources which the bacteria, etc. convert to available plant foods.

For plants to take up the N, P and K, these nutrients have to be in a soluble state and, therefore, are liable to leaching by rainwater and loss into the drains. This point is illustrated by a number of reports of stimulated weed growth blocking rivers as a result of leached fertilisers from agricultural land. The naturally produced elements are, of course, subject to the same losses as applied fertilisers. Artificial watering can also increase the losses by this method.

Once the plants absorb the nutrients they are used to build up plant tissue and it can be seen from this that on golf greens and tees where the grass clippings are removed the nutrients are also removed. A further loss is now created.

Fertilisers are, therefore, required to maintain the balance of nutrient levels so that optimum grass growth is obtained. On a golf green higher levels of fertiliser treatment are required because (a) wear is more intensive and quicker recovery is necessary, (b) clippings are usually removed and (c) artificial watering increases leaching.

On a golf tee, fertiliser treatment should only be slightly less intensive than on a green as quick recovery from wear damage is necessary to maintain satisfactory playing conditions. Circumstances on a fairway are different as clippings are invariably returned, thus creating a cycle of nutrients. However, occasional fertilising may be necessary to make up losses due to other causes.

## What Fertiliser?

Once it has been decided that fertiliser is necessary the type of fertiliser to use is the next consideration. Different materials have been shown in experiments to have different effects on turf. The three major nutrient N, P and K, are required annually by the grass plant. The form in which these elements are applied is important. Experiments have shown that alkaline N fertilisers such as nitrate of soda should be avoided as they lead to a turf which is wormy and weedy. Organic N fertilisers have a similar effect if used alone but have advantages which merit their inclusion in mixtures—they are slower acting and assist drought resistance.

The acidic N fertilisers should, therefore, be used and the most convenient is sulphate of ammonia with dried blood or hoof and horn forming the organic content.

To apply P. superphosphate is prominent as the most suitable, with bone meal providing the organic content. Basic slag provides phosphate but also contains lime and will lead to weed and worm invasion if used regularly.

To apply potash, sulphate of potash is the most suitable material.

## What Form of Fertiliser?

To apply fertiliser to the fine turf on greens a powdered formulation is to be preferred as there is no risk of the localised scorch which is often obtained with granular materials. On tees either a powder or granular may be used according to preference. The ease with which granular fertilisers are handled makes these materials most suitable for application to the much larger fairway areas.

Liquid fertilisers are often suggested but they have decided limitations. The kind of fertiliser which can be used is restricted by solubility difficulties and there are problems in application. Because of the quantity of liquid involved there is a risk of scorch when applied by a sprayer and because even distribution is required, application by a sprinkler is not recommended.

#### How is Fertiliser Applied?

The methods which are used to apply fertilisers are varied involving hand or machine application. The person or persons whose job it is to apply the material should obviously be competent. Damage by uneven fertiliser distribution is not only harmful to the sward itself where excess can cause scorching but also to the general appearance where areas may be missed. When dealing with powdered materials it is, of course, essential to bulk the actual fertiliser with a suitable dry carrier, e.g. screened sandy compost to obtain an even spread. This applied whether the fertilisers are applied by hand or machine.

If a machine is employed it is important to ensure that calibration is carried out prior to each treatment so that no more (or less) than the required amount of fertiliser is applied. It is argued, and justifiably so, that a skilled man spreading fertiliser by hand is still one of the best methods of applying fertiliser.

#### When Fertiliser?

In the spring it is important to select the correct time of application and this can be done accurately using local knowledge of weather, etc. Often a "false spring" occurs early in the year only to be followed by a sudden cold spell. To obtain full benefit from fertilisers in the spring the grass should be starting to grow (seen as greening up of rough or hedgerows, etc.) and the fertilisers will then boost the natural growth.

Further fertilisers are generally required during the season and should be applied when growth from the previous dressings is beginning to die down, the object being to maintain even growth throughout the season. The fixture card should be borne in mind so disturbance of play is minimised.

Still and showery weather is best suited to the application of either powder or granular fertilisers but the lack of wind is not so critical with the granular types. Artificial watering removes some of the doubts regarding when to fertilise but excess water can lead to uneven distribution.

#### Where Fertiliser?

As stated previously fertilisers are required regularly on greens, surrounds and approaches, tees and, as often as necessary, on fairways. Selective fertilising of weaker areas of finer turf is not generally recommended but on fairways more frequent treatment can be carried out on weaker parts.

In organising the fertiliser treatment on one's particular course, a soil analysis should occasionally be carried out as a check; one of the services provided to member clubs by the Research Station. Poor results can be obtained by using too little fertiliser or the wrong material, just as too much fertiliser can create an amount of top growth far in excess of requirements and in the latter case there is obviously room to prune the budget.

*Note:* This article first appeared April/May, 1971.

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# New Flymo Man Has Wide Experience

The latest salesman appointed to the Institutional Division of Flymo Limited of Watford is 31-year-old Mr. Ivan Brown, of Mytchett, Surrey, who has had extensive experience of grass-cutting problems in the United Kingdom, Bermuda, United States and Canada.

He will undertake sales in the Greater London Area.

Ivan Brown was formerly head greenkeeper at the Guildford Golf Club and previously spent three years as a grounds superintendent in Bermuda for the Horizon Hotel Group. In Bermuda he was responsible for four hotels and maintenance of a golf course as well as supervision of trees, shrubs and citrus and vegetable plantations. Sponsored by the Government of Bermuda, he attended courses for horticulture and a special agronomy course for golf course Superintendents at the University of Florida.

He is a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship and the Canadian and Ontario Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Before leaving for Bermuda, Mr. Brown received extensive training in the United Kingdom. After four years as an horticultural apprentice in the Parks Department at Surbiton, he studied horticulture at the Surrey Agricultural College and was employed with nurseries, private estates and the National Coal Board.

At Guildford he was given responsibility to recommend a three-year plan to improve the course. A number of Toro machines to increase mowing efficiency to allow fuller course maintenance to be undertaken with the limited available staff were purchased for the project.



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