

# Control of Casting Worms

by

S. H. Goss

The control of casting worms, *Allolobophora Longa* and *Allolobophora Nocturna*, has long been desirable from the greenkeeper's point of view. Trodden down and flattened, worm casts cause considerable damage to grasses and can lead to a course becoming virtually unplayable in the autumn or early spring when casting worms are most active.

Severe worm infestations are usually associated with soils with a high Ph factor so the long term aim for effective worm control must be to reduce the Ph factor on any area where worms are a continuing problem.

In the short term, several effective treatments are available using either traditional materials, such as Mowrah meal or Lead Arsenate, or the more modern insecticide chlordane and carbaryl.

Mowrah meal has proved a useful control agent for many years but its application is laborious and it has no residual effect. Lead Arsenate is certainly persistent and toxic to worms but its application to golf courses or playing fields accessible to the public is extremely hazardous.

Chlordane, an insecticide of the organo-chlorine group, has proved to be an easily applied residual worm killer and, used carefully, provides little danger to human or animal life. Its very persistence in the soil has, however, brought it into disfavour with some authorities.

Carbaryl is an effective, quick acting insecticide which will act much more quickly than chlordane and which has none of the disadvantages of chlordane. It is non toxic to birds or animals and can be safely used on public open spaces. However, it does not usually have such a long lasting effect as chlordane and normally an annual treatment is desirable although the writer has experience of one heavily infested course in North East London that was treated on two successive years in 1966 and 1967 and has not since required any further treatment.

Another characteristic of carbaryl is that due to its fairly rapid breakdown in the soil, it will only kill casting worms and not worms which are active at lower levels and which are wholly beneficial. This 'selective' kill is therefore an advantage, particularly on heavy soils which have a drainage problem.

Both chlordane and carbaryl will control leather jackets and wireworms, cluster flies and those species of mosquito which rest on grass.

Although chlordane and carbaryl have made worm control easier, it is still very necessary to carry out the work under the right conditions. In the autumn or early winter, from September to early December, worms become more active near the surface. Damp humid conditions after the fall of leaf favour worm activity while the ground is still fairly warm. Winter frosts drive worms underground and treatments should not be made in frosty weather.

Spraying machinery used for worm control should be of the high volume type with the capacity to apply 80-100 gallons of mixture per acre.

Inexplicable failures do sometimes occur with both chlordane and carbaryl. It must be admitted that we do not yet fully understand all the factors involved in a worm control treatment but our experience over the last few years has shown that worm control is now much more widely carried out, particularly where there is a heavy demand for good playing surfaces all the year round, and that in the majority of cases carbaryl and chlordane are very effective.

The general rules for successful worm control are:- use the best materials at the right dosage rate, at the right time, when worms are near the surface. Always treat as large an area as possible and try to treat the fairways as well as the greens and tees.

If in doubt about materials or equipment, there are several specialist contractors who will undertake this work on a contract basis and so leave the greenkeeper free to concentrate on his many other tasks.

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## SOME CURRENT WORM KILLERS

### *VITAX WORM KILLER AND INSECTICIDE* (Contains Chlordane)

Vitax wormkiller has the advantage of killing the worms underground and also killing leather jackets, ants and chafer grubs at the same time. These grubs feed on the grass roots causing withered patches to occur. Damage is more severe if the autumn of the previous year has been wet.

The product is available in liquid or granular form. For the liquid formulation, the grass should be mown just before application and not mown for 3-4 days after application. This first mowing should be made without the box. On compacted areas, or where the sward is thick and matted, spiking prior to application and additional watering is advisable. The recommended rate of use is one gallon in at least 20 gallons of water per 1000 square yards.

### *M & B WORM KILLER*

'M & B' Worm Killer is a wettable powder formulation containing 50 per cent of the active constituent carbaryl. This new product works quickly and effectively and eliminates the need for costly hand-sweeping operations.

One annual treatment, during September and October is usually sufficient, but heavily infested areas may require re-treatment in the following spring. Alternatively, the treatment may be initiated in the spring during March and April.

The worms die underground and results should be visible in four days.

Apply to freshly-mown turf when the ground is moist.

### *SYDANE 25 LIQUID WORMKILLER*

*One of the new range of Synchemicals professional user products*

Sydane contains 2½ lb Chlordane per gallon. It is an oil emulsion and is diluted with water prior to spraying.

Sydane is applied at a rate of 1 gallon to 1300 sq yds (quart to 325 sq yds) being diluted with between 40/60 gallons of water depending on the type of spraying equipment being used. It is for use only as a turf wormkiller.

It is harmful to livestock and fish. Keep all livestock out of treated areas for at least 14 days and do not contaminate ponds, waterways and ditches.

### *KYPCHLOR 25E Containing 2.5 lbs Chlordane*

Turf treatment with Kypchlor 25E should be carried out in late autumn or early spring for the control of earthworms.

Kypchlor 25E incorporated into the soil prior to laying new turf or sowing seed is a preventative measure which greatly assists in the establishment of a pest free sward.

The dosage for golf greens of 20 yds radius, 1260 sq yds is 10 pints Kypchlor 25E.

### *FISONS CHLORDANE WORMKILLER 25% w/w Chlordane*

Fison wormkiller kills worms underground. The manufacturers recommend you mow.

Apply 3 fl ozs in 2 gallons of water per 20 sq yds; 1 gallon in 20 gallons of water per 1000 sq yds or 5 gallons in 100 gallons of water per acre.

# Autumn Fertilisers

By **John Stephenson** B.SC(HONS) *Maxicrop Limited*

THE CURRENT PRACTICE of using high amounts of the major plant nutrients – N.P.K. – has left the role of the trace elements, the minor plant nutrients, rather in the background. But it is worth considering the role to which trace elements are put within the plant. They are used in the main within the molecules of enzymes; these can be considered as chemical converters. They assist the countless chemical conversions that go on within the plant and which are designed to convert the basic elements – carbon dioxide, water, N.P.K. – into the many substances which go to make up the finished plant.

Trace elements are also vital in the molecules, hormones, auxins and so on, which are so vital in controlling the rate of growth and development of the plant. Trace elements, if you like, are vital to the health and vigour of the plant and we've no need to tell you what healthy grass looks like. High levels of N.P.K. on the other hand are responsible for promoting healthy growth. Trace element application does increase yield, but not to the extent that applications of N.P.K. do.

Where does this leave the greenkeeper at this time of year? Being interested in the appearance and health of his grass, there should be no need to convince him of the need for trace elements; but what is the best way and time to apply them? There is little doubt that the quickest way to get these vital trace elements into the plant is by foliar feeding; the trace elements in the spray are absorbed through the leaves on which they fall in a very short time, a matter of ten minutes or so. They are also absorbed into the part of the plant where they are required in the greatest concentration, the manufacturing areas, the leaves.

One of the difficulties in concocting a foliar feed containing trace elements is the balance – the proportion relative to each other of trace elements which should be included. Trace elements can compete with each other for uptake by the plant and an excess of one, however slight, can inhibit the uptake of another. Also in too great concentrations they can even become toxic to the plant. This is one of the reasons why seaweed extract is so successful as a foliar feed. The trace elements are there in the proportion required by the plant, because they are in the proportion in which they were in one plant already, that is the seaweed. Maxicrop was the first product to be sold in this country as a foliar feed and it's a lead we hope we've maintained.

As the temperature falls, the metabolic activity of the growth of the grass or any plant decreases to an almost static point. This does not mean that during the winter months grass stops growing and developing, it means that during the colder periods it slows down and speeds up again if the temperature should rise. It is important, therefore, that if you are not going to feed during the winter, you ensure that the grass has everything it requires during these months, so that should the temperature rise sufficiently it can make progress.

Remember we are not only talking about growth, in which sports turf growers are disinterested, but in the ability of the grass to repair damage, to resist and survive periods of stress and strain (such as too much water, too little water and physical damaging) and to keep up an attractive appearance. In these functions metabolic activity, and thus trace elements, are vitally important.

So, if your grass is going to survive the winter and all that the winter brings with it, it must have a full stock of trace elements. The time to apply these as a foliar feed or in any way is in the Autumn when the temperature is still sufficiently high and the metabolic activity of the plant great enough to absorb and utilise the trace elements. If you apply them during the colder months, the chances are that the metabolic activity of the grass will be so low as to absorb and utilise very little of the foliar feed you are applying.

To summarise, trace elements are vitally important as chemical constituents of enzymes, hormones, etc., which in turn are responsible for the metabolic activity that goes on

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within the plant: trace elements thus promote the health of the plant, its ability to repair damage, to survive periods of stress and still look attractive. The best way to apply trace elements is as a foliar feed, preferably a seaweed extract, since this is a natural and balanced form of application and an important time to apply is in the Autumn so that a good supply of trace elements remains within the plant until next Spring.

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# Reseeding Golf Greens in the Autumn

by **R. W. Palin** *Sutton Seeds Ltd.*

We are all aware that it is dangerous to put new wine into old bottles, but it is often a good thing to put new grass into old greens.

Many of our greens, while offering excellent putting surfaces at certain seasons, are far from good at other times of the year. One of the main reasons for this changing pattern is the actual composition of the sward. There is scarcely a green without some *Poa Annua* in the herbage, and this insidious plant is a most prolific seeder, producing many generations in the course of a year, even under very close mowing. It colonises rapidly, to the disadvantage of the desirable *Agrostis* and *Festuca* species.

Being of annual duration and often short-lived, we have a changing pattern of colour and texture as one generation of *Poa* succeeds another. Nature has a habit of putting *new* grass into old swards, but not necessarily of the type we require for golf, and our answer, therefore, lies in oversowing periodically with the proper grass seeds, to produce the ideal turf.

Where the existing turf is really very sparse, it is necessary to scarify severely to remove the old plant debris and create a seed-bed – seldom looked upon with favour by the members, yet essential to the future of the course. The alternative is to give sparse areas a thorough spiker/slitting, or sarel rolling, to perforate the surface, and then sow the seed and literally rub it into the surface. In either case, a top-dressing of compost at about 5-7 lb. per square yard is necessary to cover the seed. September is the ideal month for such work, bearing in mind that the seeds will take a week or so to germinate, and the seedlings will need to be well developed before the onset of winter.

It is, of course, a good idea to mix some suitable seeds with the autumnal or early spring compost, and it is surprising how many plants and colonies of desirable grasses develop as a result, to the benefit of the turf as a whole.

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## RENOVATION

Even the finest putting surfaces can be improved by overseeding during Autumn renovations with **Mommersteegs** Golf Green mixture, sowing rate  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz to the sq yd.

This is a mixture of 'Koket' Chewings Fescue, and 'Tracenta' Browntop, both varieties being internationally accepted in the OECD Certification Scheme. Its fine leaves, say Mommersteeg, have a proven persistence under close cutting conditions, an in-bred disease resistance, and its consistent dark green summer colour are some of the outstanding features in its rising popularity with leading professional Greenkeepers.

**Carters** recommend an oversow rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz per square yard any time from mid August to late October.

Oversowing for renovation should be carried out during showery weather or at any time if the course is equipped with an irrigation system.

# News



## from the Sections

### Special occasions

- Sept. 19 Midland Section Autumn  
Tournament  
Oct 3 East Midland Section Autumn  
Tournament  
4 Southern Section Lecture  
9 North West Section Lecture  
14 East Midland Section Annual  
Dance  
Nov 1 Southern Section Lecture  
7 Northern Section Autumn Outing  
14 North West Section Outing  
27 Northern Section Buffet Dance  
Dec. 6 Southern Section Lecture  
11 North Western Section Lecture

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## EAST MIDLAND

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*Chairman:*  
G. DARBY

*By S. Fretter*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
4 Queens Drive,  
Leicester Forest East,  
Leicester

### Annual General Meeting

The annual General Meeting was held at the Anchor Inn, Hathern, on Monday 31st July 1972 at 7.30 pm. There was a very good attendance of greenkeepers. The Treasurer reported a good year financially. The following were elected:- *President* Mr. R. Bailey, *Chairman* Mr. G. Darby, *Vice-Chairman* Mr. W. Woods, *Secretary* Mr. S. Fretter, *Treasurer* Mr. A. Thornton, *Committee* Mr. J. Carrick, Mr. P. McCarron, Mr. D. Whitehead, Mr. B. Mott, Mr. G. Arnold,

Mr. S. Fretter, Mr. W. Woods, Mr. G. Darby, Mr. A. Thornton, Mr. W. Tuckwood, Mr. W. Cole.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. J. Carrick for his two years as Chairman of this section.

### New members

I would like to welcome to this section two new Vice Presidents. Mr. L. F. Bull, 64 Glenfield Frith Drive, Leicester. Mr. D. Baum, 4A Elms Drive, Quorn, Loughborough.

### Subscriptions

On checking we find that we have still some subscriptions for greenkeepers outstanding for this year. As stated these are to be paid by 3rd October 1972. It would be appreciated if those still owing would forward as soon as possible to save us postage etc. in reminders.

### Bereavement

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. W. Roberts who passed away suddenly. He was greenkeeper until retirement at Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club. He will be sadly missed at our Annual Golf Tournaments.

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## SOUTHERN

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*Chairman:*  
C. A. MOORE  
(Stanmore)

*By F. W. Ford*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
68 Salcombe Gardens,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
Tel: 01-959 2847

### October lecture

A reminder that a winter programme of lectures commences on Wednesday, 4th October, at the new meeting place in the 'Adelphi' Bar, George Hotel, George Court, WC2 at 6.30 pm. Philip Marshall of Ransome-Hahn Tournament Triplex Greens Management System, and I, shall look forward to seeing you in full strength again.

Also for your diaries, Wednesday, 1st November, a first time visitor to the section Pat Moran OBE, NDH (BEL), a tree specialist and judge on national level. Wednesday 6th December, another first timer, STRI Biologist, Mr. A. R. Woolhouse BSc with the subject 'Turf Diseases'.

### Match

A 20-a-side match versus a Stowmarket society could be arranged for late October providing there are sufficient interested members and providing the Match Captain is notified in time. Royston Golf Club has been suggested as a mid-way venue. Entries

should be sent in at the earliest possible time to *R. Tempest, The White House, Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts.* and *NOT TO ME*. This could develop into an annual event.

### Bereavement

As you all know by this time another stalwart supporter of the BGGGA passed away after a long illness very patiently borne. Mr. C. R. Cooke, 'Clarry' to all who knew him well, died on 16th June. Flowers were sent from all his friends in the Southern Section and J. McWilliam represented the section at the crematorium. The following letter was received from his widow:

Dear Mr. Ford,

Many thanks for your letter and cheques for which I was most grateful.

I would specially like it to be mentioned in the journal that my husband was the founder of the Sheffield Section of the BGGGA which was a very hard task to get started.

Also he was the first greenkeeper to experiment with lead arsenate for worm eradication which eventually proved such a great success, and it is widely used nowadays. Despite a lot of criticism he stuck to his guns to prove its success.

I am going up to Sheffield for a holiday, so I expect I shall see some of the old greenkeepers as I have always taken a great interest in greenkeeping in all its trials.

I am, yours sincerely,  
EDITH COOKE

### New members

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following: A. J. Covey (Harefield Place), V. F. Brenes, R. H. Cox, D. Hudson, and K. L. Miles of Surbiton Golf Club, and J. Risbridge of Beaconsfield.

A warm welcome also to M. C. Owen who has moved to Roehampton from the North West Section.

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## NORTH EAST

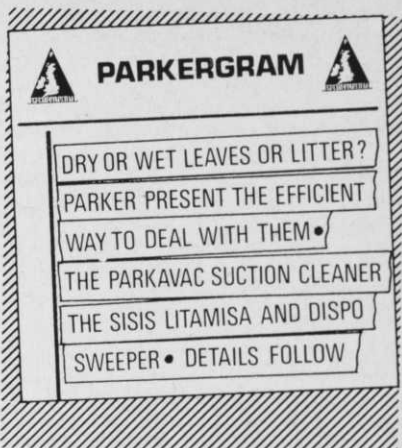
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Chairman:  
Mr. J. SIMPSON

By G. Jeffries  
Hon. Secretary:  
55 Brackenfield Road,  
Framwell Gate Moor,  
Durham

Our AGM was held on Saturday 24th June 1972, at The Bridge Hotel Newcastle, 20 members being present.

Our chairman, Mr. J. Simpson, opened the meeting and thanked the committee and members for their support during the past year.



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A report on the year's working was given by the secretary and treasurer, and was considered satisfactory.

Officers' elected for the coming year were as follows:- *President*, C. N. Storey, Esq., *Vice-Presidents* were returned en bloc. *Chairman*, J. Simpson, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*, N. Fraser, *Secretary and Treasurer*, G. Jeffries, *Committee Messrs.* T. Nutman, J. Taylor, D. Holmes, T. Oliver, R. Derham, J. Snowdon, T. Robson.

The chairman on behalf of the members, thanked our auditors for their work with the accounts, and Tom Oliver for his help at our golf competitions.

## MIDLAND

*Chairman:*  
G. HART  
(Gay Hill)

**By R. Goodwin**  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
4 Burton Old Road,  
Streethay, Lichfield,  
Staffs.

### Summer tournament

The Annual Summer Tournament was held at Habberley Golf Club, Kidderminster, on Monday 24th July 1972.

Twenty-five greenkeepers took part with results and prizes as follows:-

A. Jamieson	Nett 60	Habberley Cup and Carpet
T. Morris	Nett 65	Summer Cup and Carpet
W. Boyce	Nett 68	Carpet
G. Woodward	Nett 68	Bottle of Whiskey
T. Cutler	Nett 68	China Tea Set
E. Thomas	Nett 69	½ Bottle of Whiskey
A. Cutler	Nett 69	½ Bottle of Whiskey
J. Hughes	Nett 70	½ Bottle of Whiskey
P. Jones	Nett 71	Bottle of Gin
V. Smith	Nett 71	Deck-Chair
E. Benbow	Nett 72	½ Bottle of Gin
R. Pugh	Nett 73	Bottle of Sherry
A. Kite	Nett 73	Bottle of Sherry
R. Goodwin	Nett 74	Carpet
A. Boraston	Nett 76	Bottle of Wine
G. Smith	Nett 77	½ Bottle of Gin
R. Pullen	Nett 77	½ Bottle of Gin
W. Barton	Nett 78	Tankard
H. Drewitt	Nett 79	Wine
D. Haynes	Nett 80	Left-Hand Glove
B. Lowe	Nett 82	Pair of Socks
A. Parton	Nett 82	2 Golf Balls
W. Shortley	}	1 Golf Ball Each
G. Hart		
A. Boffy		

### Visitors Prize

J. D. Monk      Nett 71      5 Golf Balls

The Prizes were presented by the Captain of Habberley, Mr. R. A. Pratt. For the greenkeepers, George Hart, the Chairman, thanked Mr. Pratt and all the members of Habberley Golf Club for the courtesies of their course and clubhouse, and for once again providing all the wonderful prizes.

Our Chairman also thanked John Grealy, Head Greenkeeper, for the tip-top condition of the course, and the stewardess, Mrs. Grealy, and her lady helpers, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Binns, for the excellent meals and service throughout the day.

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in the clubhouse of the Habberley Golf Club on Monday 24th July.

Thirty six members attended the meeting which was presided over by the Section Chairman, G. Hart. Apologies were received from Peter Hart.

The minutes of the last AGM were read and passed along with the Secretary's report of the year's activities. The Treasurer reported a healthy Balance Sheet once again, and was accorded a vote of thanks from all members.

The following officers were elected for the year:- *President*, Mr. Carl Bretherton, *Vice-Presidents*, last year's Vice Presidents were re-elected with the addition of J. D. Monk and G. Hiams, *Chairman*, G. Hart, *Vice-Chairman*, V. Smith, *Secretary*, R. Goodwin, *Treasurer*, F. Cashmore, *Committee*: The following members were elected to form a committee: R. Smith, A. Boffy, L. Greenow, A. Boraston, G. Smith, R. Pullen, A. Cutler and A. Kite. *Representative to the Executive*, V. Smith, *Honorary Auditors*, Messrs K. Sargeson and E. Ballinger.

A vote of thanks was expressed to Mr. Sargeson and Mr. Ballinger for the wonderful job they were doing in keeping our financial affairs in good order.

It was approved that the Secretary be given an Honorarium of £20.00.

### Midland Section Accounts

*Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 30th April 1972*

#### Receipts

To Balance - 1st May 1971	
Cash in Hand	3-68
Balance at Bank	12-76
Subscriptions Class A	54-63
Class B	9-00
Class C	27-18
Entrance Fees	1-62½
Badges, Ties, etc.	3-30



Entertainment	141-06
Grant from H.Q.	4-70
Donations	71-60
News of World Draw	40-97
Artisan Fees	-60
Prizes	31-60

£402-70½

#### Payments

By H.Q. Section Dues	46-20
S.T.R.I. Dues	18-00
Badges, Ties, etc.	
Journal Postages	26-75
Entertainment	149-52
Hire of Room	2-10
Printing	9-85
Postage	10-26½
Honorariums	10-00
Travelling Expenses	3-00
Prizes	16-51
Repairs to Cup	.75
News of World Draw	40-97
Balance 30th April 1972	
Cash in Hand	12-58
Balance at Bank	56-21

£402-70½

#### Summary of Section Assets – 30th April 1972

##### Cash and Bank Balances:

Balance as per Receipts and Payments as to	
General Section Funds	68-79
Deposit Account at Bank	136-36
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£205-15</b>

The above Statements, which include all Funds in the hands of the Section, have been audited by a qualified Auditor and were submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Section held on 24th July 1972.

G. Hart *Sect. Chairman*

F. Cashmore *Sect. Treasurer*

Eric Ballinger *Auditors*

K. Sargeson *Auditors*

Paid up Members	75
Hon. Life Members	12

#### New members

We welcome to the section the following new members:- C. J. Rogerson, Apprentice Greenkeeper at the Leamington and County Golf Club, J. S. Stevenson, Assistant Greenkeeper at Stourbridge Golf Club, Worcestershire.

## NORTH-WEST

By H. M. Walsh

*Chairman:*  
R. VICKERS,  
Leigh Golf Club

*Hon. Secretary:*  
Horrobin Cottage,  
Old Links Golf Club,  
Montserrat, Bolton,  
Lancs.

#### Autumn tournament

As stated in the last issue of the journal, our Autumn Tournament will be played over the course of the Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Montserrat, Bolton. Please enter early and let me have your meal requirements please. Date Thursday 19th October.

#### Annual trip

I have now confirmed the date for our trip to the International Sports Co., Ltd., Dunlop factory, Speke, Liverpool, as Tuesday 14th November 1972. Please let me have your names as soon as possible and will you also please check last month's journal for details. The management would like us to arrive approx 10 am – 10.15 am and would members who advise me they would like to go please make this their time of arrival.

#### Lectures

This winter's series of lectures will commence with a talk and slides on breeding better strains of grasses for sports grounds etc., given by J. Bradbury Esq, Technical Adviser of Mommersteeg Seed Co, Ltd. Date Monday 9th October 1972, time 7.30 pm and the venue Swinton Park Golf Club, East Lanes Road, Swinton.

The December talk will be given by K. Heath and will include colour slides. Mr. Heath is senior representative of 'SISIS' Equipment Ltd., Macclesfield, Cheshire. Date Monday 11th December 1972: time and venue 7.30 pm: Swinton Park Golf Club.

The January talk will be by our old friend, P. Wyatt of Pattisons Ltd., on Monday 15th January 1973, 7.30 pm, at Swinton Golf Club.

#### New members

We welcome the following new members and hope their association with the section will be a long and happy one:- C. F. Haspell, Garden Centre, Great Budworth, Northwich, Cheshire, J. H. Wilson, Ashton under Lyne Golf Club, Ashton under Lyne, Lancs., C. J. Walker, 27 Gambrel Grove, Ashton under Lyne.

#### Note

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to the North West Section by the insertion of their Section Notes under the heading of the Southern Section. – *Editor*

**'The court won'  
says defeated singles  
champion.**

It was noted that maybe hockey sticks should have been the order of the day during the end of season Bowls Tournament. My sympathies were certainly with the visitors who were clearly bewildered by the fads and fancies of the green.

**City in "quagmire" jibe.**

**You almost need a  
driver on the greens.**

... you might think a 4 foot miss to be inexcusable, but it was merely indicative of the state of the playing surface. As the home captain wryly put it - "It's just not croquet!"

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What the papers say has led us to believe that not enough people are using Fisons Sports Turf Compost.

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growth and a sward that turns visitors green.

(Just one application: think of the time and labour you save.)

What's more, Sports Turf Compost is free flowing and packed in polythene bags that can stand up to outside storage.

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Fisons Agrochemical Division

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