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HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

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CONTENTS

TEE SHOTS	PAGE 3
HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES	5
A GOLF SUPERINTENDENT SHOULD BE A GOLF SUPERINTENDENT	7
PERENNIAL RYEGRASS BREEDING	11
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING	15
LETTER TO THE EDITOR	16
NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS	17
SITUATIONS VACANT AND WANTED	22

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*Umbrella pines on the Playa de Pals Golf-course,
Costa Brava*

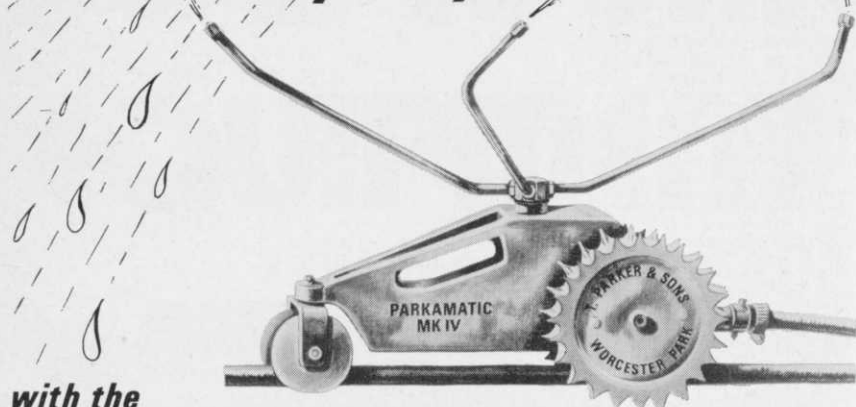
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Tee Shots

WITH COSTS INCREASING and land no more easy to come by, many local authorities are turning to Par 3 courses as potential satisfaction for the demand for golf. Corby in Northants has started work, East Grinstead is planning, Woking is thinking on these lines. Rather like driving ranges, the solution is only a temporary one. Before long, those who have started golf this way are looking around for the full scale article.

* * *

Further details of the First British Turfgrass Symposium at Ipswich are that the date will be 4th October and speakers will include leading specialists on irrigation, drainage, research, and related topics. Application forms for registration will appear in our next issue: meanwhile, keep this date free.

* * *

Tom Mascaro, whose article on Aeration appeared in our July issue, will be one of the speakers at the Conference in October. He is director of Product and Market Development of Hahn's Westpoint Division. Hahn, as most greenkeepers will know already, is the company with which Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd., are associated, selling their products on a world-wide basis under the Ransomes-Hahn label.

* * *

We have received details of a proposed training course in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship to be arranged in Northumberland and Durham. It will provide college-based tuition and practical work, combined with on-the-job training which will be obtained by trainees working under the supervision of experienced greenkeepers and groundsmen at golf clubs and athletic grounds.

Mr E. L. King, Assistant Regional Controller of the Department of Employment in Gallowgate, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4TP, is the man behind the scheme and it is to be hoped that greenkeepers and golf clubs will support him to the full when he is able to launch it.

* * *

Clevedon is well sign-posted off the M5 west of Bristol. Hope to see you there in August.

* * *

Efforts to track down the leaks in the mailing list are slowly bringing results. We hope to have a new list and new printers in two months time. Even the Editor missed his copy for a time.



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Hon. Secretary's Notes

A.G.M. Clevedon Golf Club, Clevedon, Somerset

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be held at Clevedon Golf Club, on Monday 13th August at 2.30 p.m. Notice of resolutions must be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary TWENTY-ONE DAYS before the date of the meeting. Under Rule 29, proxies may be voted at all general meetings. A Form of Proxy may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and returned not later than the first post of Wednesday 8th August.

Annual Tournament

The fifty-sixth Annual Tournament will be held at Clevedon Golf Club on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th, 14th and 15th August 1973. Entry Forms appeared in the June Journal.

Programme

Monday 13th August: Morning – 18 holes Stableford;

Afternoon – Annual General Meeting 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 14th August – 36 hole Medal; News of the World Cup (Scratch) Senior Division (plus to 11); Junior Division (12 to 24); the Jubilee Cup (Team Prize off Handicap); 'The Coming of Age' Cup.

Wednesday 15th August: Morning – 18 hole Medal;

Afternoon – Prize distribution 3 p.m.

Handicaps

Section secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all competitors from their records before the tournament. All handicaps must be based on the National Golf Union's handicapping system.

Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at Clevedon Golf Club on Sunday 12th August, 1973 at approximately 5.30 p.m.

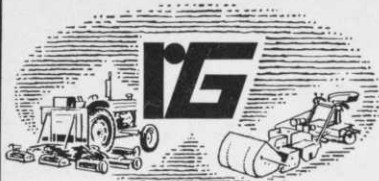
Trophies

May I remind all holders of trophies from last year's tournament who are not taking part this year, to ensure that these are returned to the Clevedon Golf Club, Clevedon, Somerset, before Saturday 11th August, 1973.

Annual Draw

May I remind members that all counterfoils and moneys should be returned to their Section secretary and NOT to me.

C H DIX



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Further details from

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A Golf Superintendent should be A Golf Superintendent should be A Golf Superintendent

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by **Paul N. Voykin**, *Golf Superintendent, Briarwood C.C., Illinois*

A TREND IN OUR GOLF COURSE profession is perturbing me; this month I would like to expound on it. I may be mistaken, but I think I see our golf course superintendent's profession turning from its true direction. I am speaking of the recent trend of green superintendents slowly encroaching on the field of managership and away from our true profession of greenkeeping. This situation, I believe, has developed from the managers becoming general managers and taking charge of the whole clubhouse-and-grounds operation. As a result of their yet unproven venture, we have become panicky and think that by acquiring new titles and certificates, by attending bookkeeping and finance seminars, and urgently seeking further clubhouse property responsibilities, the situation will change.

I don't think so. A Golf Course Superintendent is a Golf Course Superintendent, and a Manager is a Manager, and the only way this fact will change is if you wish to change your profession completely. If that's what you want, go ahead, but do it full turn, please. Do not play games – you're only fooling yourself.

In my case there is no conflict. I know what I want to be – a good greenkeeper and nothing else. I'll be happy with that title, because, you see, I know something else – call it a basic managerial premise, if you wish. That is, unless the golf course superintendent is in complete charge of all and total bookkeeping, and unless all money passes through his office, he can never be top dog or in full control at the club: at least not in the eyes of the board members. This fact is as sure and true as the fact that the golf professional will always be the glamour man at the country club no matter how many double knits you own or how well you groom the grass.

Clouding up our true identity by seeking out extra jobs and taking more responsibility for a little more money has nothing to do with our real profession and skill of growing and manicuring grass. This is futile hypocrisy. General managership is not our business. The managers who have taken over completely and are now total general managers have sold down the river their true responsibility to the club. They have taken on too many responsibilities and have gone into fields that they know nothing about. Let's not play their ambitious game. As in the past top clubs will learn that it's not going to work, and there really is no money saved.

Let me be absolutely blunt. Become a manager or stay a golf course superintendent, but whatever, be true to yourself – you can't be superb at both jobs. Declare your hand. Don't get into a mixed-up ball game unless you want to change jobs every few years as some general managers are doing. The wise ones (and we have a few outstanding ones in the Chicago area) work with us, cooperate with us, communicate and coordinate with us, and they are smart enough to keep out of our areas or responsibility – something they know nothing about. That's the way it should be.

I would like to say something else. I am not, nor is anybody else, impressed by greenkeepers calling themselves property managers, golf engineers, turf managers and other nonsensical names. Golf or green superintendents – yes, greenkeepers – lovely, 'grass growers' or 'grass farmers' is fine with me. I know what I am and I make good money at it. I don't need to seek extra 'janitorial' jobs around the clubhouse to tarnish my true professional image. My direct responsibility is the golf course and that load is heavy enough

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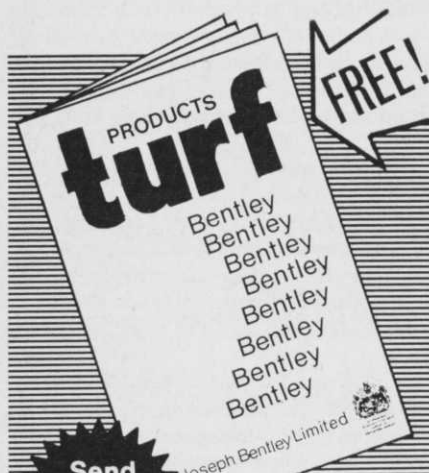
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for me. And please don't give me that old business about shrinking my duty as a breadwinner, or not being able to take on extra responsibility, or not trying to uplift our profession. I take on more responsibility and I am more involved with exciting things than I know what to do with – for my family and for the image of my profession. And I know many of you are the same. Long ago I could have become manager, but that's not my forte. I am a GREENKEEPER, and in this field of endeavour I strive for perfection.

There is something else I must tell you that is in me (and unless you have a touch of the same, you might as well become a manager or go into something else). I would miss the soft warm rains that fall on the turf that I grow. I would miss the white snow that covers the golf course in late fall for the first time, melts, and then softly comes again. I would truly miss all the challenges of nature that go with my profession. The hot sun of summer heat and the salty sweat of humidity on my brow. I would miss the pleasure of admiring turf manicured and maintained under both good and adverse conditions and knowing that I had a hand in keeping the verdant picture that way. But of course there would be other things, also, soothing the frustrations of working with nature. I would miss her many gifts to us greenkeepers, the trees changing in the seasons and the flowering shrubs in spring. I would miss the daisies and other wild flowers hiding from our mowers next to the majestic elms, and I would miss the pheasants calling to their mates in early morning. I know I would miss the honest faces of commercial friends calling on me and old greenkeepers advising me. But most of all I would miss getting up each early morning and playing the endless chess game of man against nature, or perhaps more truthfully, trying to work with her and relishing the achievement and, oh, the satisfaction and the pleasure that comes once in a while each season when just for a short time I have won the battle.

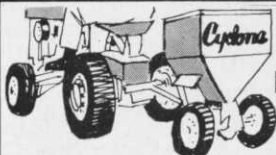
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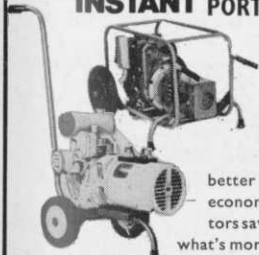
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