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The Association is affiliated to the English and Welsh Golf Unions

The British Golf Greenkeeper

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Locked out at Grange Park — Head Greenkeeper, Michael Hudson (left), Dave Baines (centre) and Mike Hannon. See our special story on page 5.	

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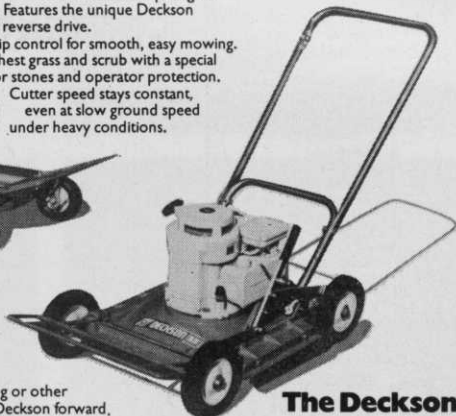
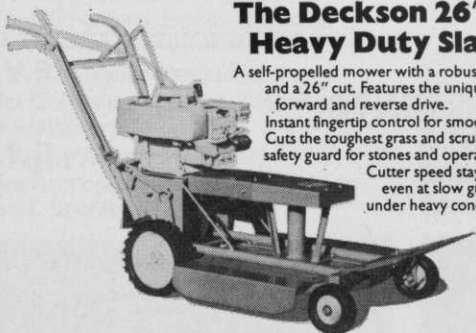
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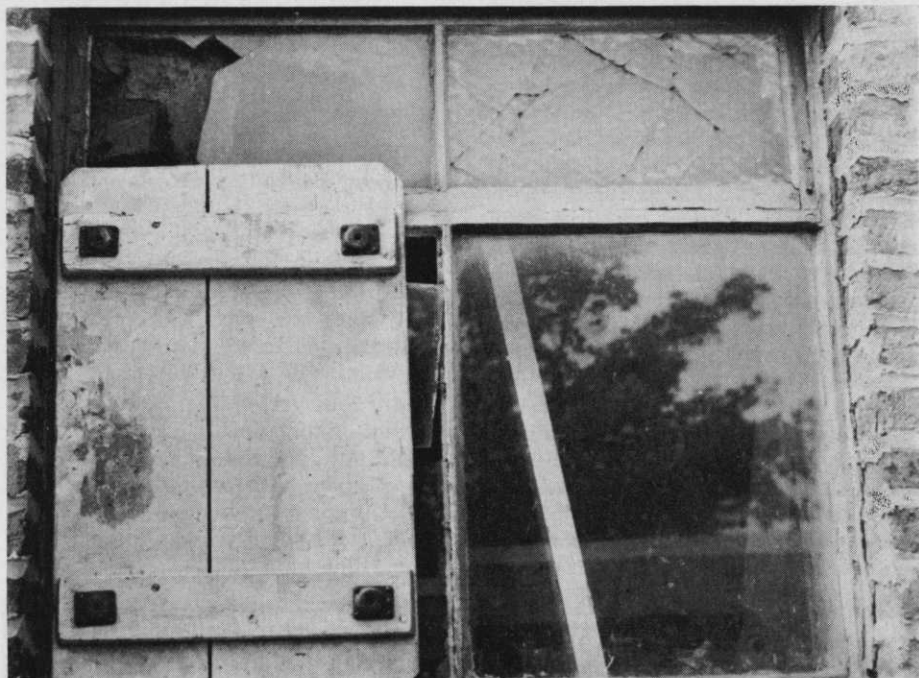


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Dispute makes history



The broken and patched-up window of the greenkeepers' barn at Grange Park golf course, with the wooden span which, say the men, holds up the roof.

Five strikers sacked

THE entire greenkeeping staff were sacked from a Merseyside golf club—five days after they staged the country's first ever greenkeepers' strike. They were told that they had been dismissed on Monday, June 9, after they put in claims for better working conditions and more pay.

But the five men involved feel that they had every right to make the claims on the Grange Park Golf Club in St. Helens, and are now considering taking their sacking to an unfair dismissals tribunal.

Mr. Michael Hudson, aged 32, has been the Head Greenkeeper at the St. Helens club since September. He has been a Head Greenkeeper since the

Story by Iain Stewart Webster

Pictures by G. Griffiths

1960's and his last post was in Port Madoc.

He claims that the old barn which is used as the men's refuge for meals, toilet and wash-place while they are at

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[Sacked, from Page 5]

work, has prompted him to contact public health officials.

"There are fungicides and paraquat only feet away from where we are expected to eat our lunch," alleged Mr. Hudson, "But that's not all. Another few feet away we are expected to exercise our bodily functions."

Mr. Hudson's assistants, 16 year old David Baines and Mike Hannon aged 17 claim that a wooden spar is wedged on the window ledge of the barn to prevent the roof from falling in.

The five men involved claim that they have been pressing for improvements and a wage rise since Christmas, but that the club haven't taken any action. After fruitless talks with an arbitrator and the club the men decided on strike action.

The men are especially bitter about the sackings because they had been complimented many times on the condition of the greens and fairways.

"The two boys take home under £16 a week and the two other men's take home wages are under £20.

"I take home £29 a week and the club pay rent and rates for my council house at 3, Beth Avenue, St. Helens. But that puts an extra £520 on my tax bill every year," claimed Michael Hudson.

The British Golf Greenkeeper's lay down a wage scale for greenkeepers and their assistants, but it is up to the golf club and the employees to reach an agreement.

"We have contacted the Department of Employment who said they would send a public health inspector down to the club," said Mr. Hudson.

Mr. Tom Purcell, the secretary of the Grange Park Golf Club, St. Helens would not comment on the sackings on the day the men were fired. He said that any comment would come from the Golf Club's council when they had discussed the matter.

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Standing Conference formed

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR GOLF GREENKEEPING

This new organisation has been inaugurated to deal with the intractable problem of golf greenkeeping. It will be representative of

The Golf Development Council

The English Golf Union

The Scottish Golf Union

The Welsh Golfing Union

The Golfing Union of Ireland

The British Golf Greenkeepers
Association

The Scottish Golf Greenkeepers
Association

The Association of Golf Club
Secretaries.

The object of The Standing Conference are:

To initiate, improve and promote the education and training of golf greenkeepers

To act as a link between bodies having similar objects

To collaborate with educational and scientific establishments in defining a common syllabus and standards

To receive, hold and disburse monies in the pursuit of these objects.

The Golf Development Council, which took the initiative in calling together the golfing organisations concerned with these problems, has agreed to accept the administrative responsibility for The Standing Conference during the first two years of its existence.

Mr. C. F. Windrow of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club has been appointed Chairman, Mr. L. D. Warne of The National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association is the Hon. Treasurer and Mr. G. A. McPartlin of The Golf Development Council has been appointed Hon. Secretary.

The Home Unions are backing The Standing Conference financially. Initially The English Golf Union is contributing £5,000, The Scottish Golf Union £1,000, The Golfing Union of Ireland £500 and

The Welsh Golfing Union, while agreeing to make an initial contribution, has not yet decided on the amount.

One of the first tasks for the newly formed Conference will be to appoint a Training Co-ordinator to investigate the various types of training at present being given to greenkeepers; to liaise with golfing and educational bodies and to stimulate the organisation of training courses for greenkeeping at suitable centres throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. These courses will be conducted to common syllabus, have a uniform standard of examination and provide a recognised professional qualification.

It is hoped that the foundation of The Standing Conference will mark a considerable step forward towards a solution to what is proving to be one of the most serious problems facing golf today.

Thanks for 14 years of dedicated work

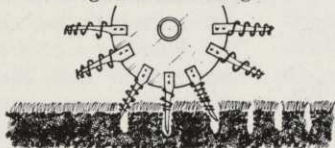
ON BEHALF of The Greenkeepers' Association and myself, I would like to thank Mr. Dix for the dedication and hard work that he has given to the Greenkeepers' Association as secretary over the past 14 years. As chairman of the association this past year, I can appreciate the amount of work involved in the position of secretary, and the competent and cheerful way in which Mr. Dix has given of his time and knowledge for our association. We do hope that Mr. and Mrs. Dix will still attend as many of our functions as possible, as we are loth to lose contact with them and we wish them a long and happy retirement.

Eric R. James
Chairman British Golf
Greenkeepers' Association.

Give your roots an airing

When it comes to spiking and slicing you'll have to look a long way to find anything more effective than the Ransomes-Hahn TM Models. The cultivating action of the aerating 'spoons' are the result of patient research into the surest way that the spiking will allow air, water and fertiliser to do most good. This action is unique to Ransomes-Hahn. Turf tearing is prevented by the patented 'Flexi-press' springs which fit over the spoons. Alternatively, the double point spiker blades cut cleanly and quickly. Three point tractor attachment makes the TM models highly manoeuvrable to deal with normally inaccessible areas.

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Company Profile

No 3: Sisis

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited was incorporated on February 11th, 1932 by the late Mr. William Hargreaves, father of the present Chairman, Mr. Derek B. Hargreaves, and commenced trading from premises at Cheadle, Cheshire.

Since their earliest days, the Company's products have been designed and developed to raise the standard of sports turf and recreational areas and, in more recent time, hard porous playing surfaces. The original concept resulted from meetings between the founder and Mr. R. B. Dawson, then Director of The Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, Yorkshire. Regular contact with the Institute has been enjoyed and many ideas exchanged.

Since 1932 the Company has designed and continually extended the range and manufacture of their highly specialised management equipment for all types of recreational and amenity areas. The resulting equipment is used by skilled

greenkeepers and groundsmen throughout the world. SISIS is now the leading manufacturer of such products in Europe. Educational Authorities, Parks Departments, Departments of the Environment, H.M. Services and all categories of Sports Clubs, both professional and amateur are regular users of SISIS equipment.

In 1962 the Company moved from their humble premises in Cheadle to a modern factory on the new Industrial Estate in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

The trade name 'SISIS' having become increasingly identified with the Company's products, W. Hargreaves and Company Limited, was re-named SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited.

Since moving to Macclesfield the Company's sales and production have increased more than five times and in excess of 20% is now exported to all corners of the world where sportsmen demand the finest playing surfaces to

[Turn to Page 10]



The new Shoresclough Works of SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd on the Hurdfield Industrial Estate.

[Company Profile, from Page 9]

give of their best. The SISIS export distributorship network covers all Western European countries plus South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and, for the past two years, SISIS have increased exports to the Far East, notably Japan and Singapore.

The company's current premises at Shoresclough Works, Hurdsfield Industrial Estate, Macclesfield was opened on 11th February, 1972 on the 40th anniversary of the incorporation. The development provided 35,000 sq.ft. of factory and office space. A special loading bay facilitates regular use of TIR Containers for direct road deliveries to any of the SISIS European distributors.

Chief Engineer, George Hobbs, heads the research and development team at a separate factory where some engineering components are made and prototypes are built. This factory is located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or so from the main works.

The present day staff of SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited, is almost

100 strong and includes two grandsons of the founder, Mr. R. A. Hargreaves a director, and Mr. J. W. Hargreaves. Several members of staff have worked for 25 years or more with the company and SISIS Managing Director, Mr. Eric Staniforth, has now celebrated 40 years of service.

SISIS General Works Manager, Douglas Everett and Sales Office Manager, Gordon Lackford, are both men with more than 30 years service with SISIS, whilst General Sales Manager, Arthur Harrison, is a relative newcomer with only 15 years to boast about!

A separate section of the Sales Department has recently been formed, under the control of Dennis Orme, to administer the ever increasing demand for spare parts and service.

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