

The annual tournament

Results of the Annual Tournament held at the Walsall Golf Club, Broadway, Walsall, Staffs, on 11th, 12th, 13th August, 1975.

Monday, 11.8.75

1st Prize, S.T.R.I. Cup and Sona Set, R. S. Howlett, 36 Points.

2nd Prize, Hargreaves Cup and Radio, B. Emberley, 36 Points.

3rd Prize, Bedsread, G. Woodward, 36 Points.

4th Prize, Casserole and Stand, R. W. Willards, 36 Points.

5th Prize, Lamp, B. E. Payne, 34 Points.

6th Prize, Ash Tray and Compact, P. A. Marsh, 34 Points.

Tuesday, 12.8.75

“News of the World Cup—36 Holes Scratch.

1st Prize, Travel Goods, M. Owen, 147 Gross..

2nd Prize, Holdall, R. W. Lance, 155 Gross.

Jubilee Cup Inter-Section—36 Hole Medal, Southern Section.

Three Tankards and Pen/Pencil Sets, R. H. Howlett, G. Payne, B. E. Payne, 455.

“Coming of Age” Cup (60 Years and Over)—18 Hole Medal.

1st Prize, Maxwell Hart Trophy and Clock, P. Whitehead, 72 Nett.

2nd Prize, Cut Glasses, C. A. Moore, 73 Nett.

Senior Division—36 Holes Medal.

1st Prize, Ransomes Cup and Watch, D. H. Major, 146 Nett.

2nd Prize, Golf Illustrated Cup and Sona Set, R. Tempest, 146 Nett.

3rd Prize, Universal Cup and Clock, J. C. Newman, 146 Nett.

4th Prize, Holdall, D. F. Golding, 150 Nett.

5th Prize, Holdall, G. Payne, 150 Nett.

6th Prize, Dishes, B. E. Payne, 150 Nett.

7th Prize, Umbrella, W. F. Machin, 151 Nett.

8th Prize, Tankard, B. Plain, 152 Nett.

9th Prize, Camera, W. Heeles, 153 Nett.

10th Prize, Bedsread, H. A. D. Fry, 153 Nett.

11th Prize, Spoons, G. Woodward, 154 Nett.

12th Prize, Mats, B. Emberley, 154 Nett.

Junior Division.

1st Prize, Pattison Trophy and Watch, A. Shaw, 138 Nett.

2nd Prize, President's Cup and Holdall, M. Bladon, 139 Nett.

3rd Prize, Mays Cup and China Coffee Set, W. L. Tuckwood, 140 Nett.

4th Prize, Garden Chair, C. Geddes, 147 Nett.

5th Prize, Holdall, H. N. McAddey, 148 Nett.

6th Prize, Set of Headcovers, H. Marshall, 149 Nett.

7th Prize, Umbrella, T. Patchin, 149 Nett.

8th Prize, Vegetable Dish, P. A. Marsh, 150 Nett.

9th Prize, Pifco Lamp, B. Ashby, 150 Nett.

10th Prize, Table Set, W. Sumner, 151 Nett.

11th Prize, Mats, C. A. Moore, 151 Nett.

Wednesday, 13.8.75

18 Holes Medal.

1st Prize, Allan Taylor Cup and Golf Bag, A. J. T. Kite, 61 Nett.

2nd Prize, Verdone Cup and Camera, T. Patchin, 65 Nett.

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- 3rd Prize, Tankard, M. Owen, 66 Nett.
4th Prize, Tankard, H. M. McAddey, 67 Nett.
5th Prize, Breakfast Set, D. F. Golding, 67 Nett.
6th Prize, Sundae Dishes, A. Martin, 69 Nett.
7th Prize, Tray and Glasses, H. Marshall, 70 Nett.
Vice-Presidents and Trade Members.
1st Prize, 9 Golf Balls, B. Pilsbury, 76 Nett.
2nd Prize, 3 Golf Balls, F. G. Catchpole, 73 Nett.
3rd Prize, Set of Glasses, J. Field, 75 Nett.

We are indebted to the Committee and Members of the Walsall Golf Club for permitting us the use of their facilities and to the entire Greenkeeping Staff for their hard work and the resultant excellent conditions.

We are also indebted to the following who kindly contributed to our prize fund: C. Bretherton, Esq.; Gordon Wright, Esq.; Toro (U.K.); The Professional Golfers' Association; The Golf Ball Manufacturers' Association; "Golf Illustrated"; Andrews Lawn Edgers Ltd.; Chipman Ltd.; Cannock Fertilisers; R. C. Craig & Co. Ltd.; Fisons Ltd.; Kingston House (Mowers) Ltd.; Maxwell M. Hart Ltd.; May & Baker Ltd.; T. Parker & Sons Ltd.; H. Pattison & Co. Ltd.; Ransomes Simms & Jefferies Ltd.; Stewart & Co.; Supaturf Products Ltd.; Suttons Seeds Ltd.; Universal Materials Co. Ltd.; Hayters Ltd., Mr. B. A. Cox, Capt., Great Barr Golf Club; Walsall Golf Club; Mr. Cartwright, President, Walsall Golf Club; Horwool Manufacturing Ltd., Sisis; Mrs. Hodson, Walsall Golf Club; Aspera Motors (England) Ltd.; Mr. Kearns, Walsall Golf Club.

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The Greenkeepers

JOHN SCOTT has been Head Greenkeeper of Wetherby Golf Club since 1967. Prior to this he was Head Greenkeeper/Steward of Town Moor G.C., Doncaster from 1959-1967, Head Greenkeeper/Steward of Rushden & District G.C. from 1957-1959 and earlier Assistant Greenkeeper of Sandmoor G.C. from 1952-1957.

Wetherby is an 18 hole course, hilly from the 14th in, otherwise flat, clay loam. It borders a river and is well wooded with a mixture of mature and young trees. There is a playing membership of approximately 550.

To assist him, John Scott has a First Assistant, one further assistant and a boy. The club owns a fairly varied range of equipment including 1 Leyland 245 Tractor, 1 Tractor Mounted Sprayer, 1 BMC Mini Tractor with Loader, 3 20" Auto Certes, 1 Toro GM3, 2 Flymo 21", 1 Ransome 5 Gang Mower, 1 70" Toro, 1 26" Hayter, 1 Greens 3 Gang Mower, 1 Sisis Auto Turfman Spiker, 1 Sisis Rotorake, 2 Cyclone Fert. Spreaders, 2 ICI Knapsack Sprayers, 2 Trailers (Tipping), 1 Light and 1 Heavy Tractor Rollers, 3 Hand Rollers, 2 Barrows, 1 Patisson 6' Rotary Soil Screen, Pop Up Sprinklers (Toro), Thatching Reels.

John's preference for fungicides is Maysan, Brassicol and Troposan; for

No. 7 : John Scott

fertilizers he relies on Rigby Taylors and for seeds, Finneys.

Most of the course is very little above river level making drainage very difficult. When the river is high, water has to be pushed off the greens manually, when the river lowers drainage is very good. Being a very picturesque river-side course there is tremendous visitor traffic causing very heavy wear on the tees, especially as being a very compact course, there is very limited teeing ground room. This may be alleviated in the future as the club have purchased the railway embankment which runs through the full length of the course. Due to its position, the course suffers from annual meadow grass and Yorkshire fog, this in turn causes quite a fungus problem, and requires spraying regularly once a month. Dew is usually very heavy and has to be swept every morning. Better fungi control is obtained by alternating between the three above mentioned fungicides and better control of poorer grasses has been achieved since the purchase of thatching reels for the GM3.

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Midland House,
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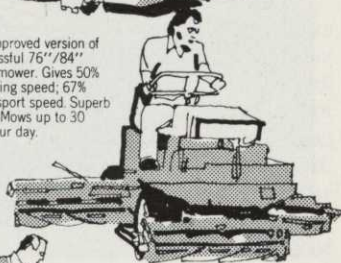
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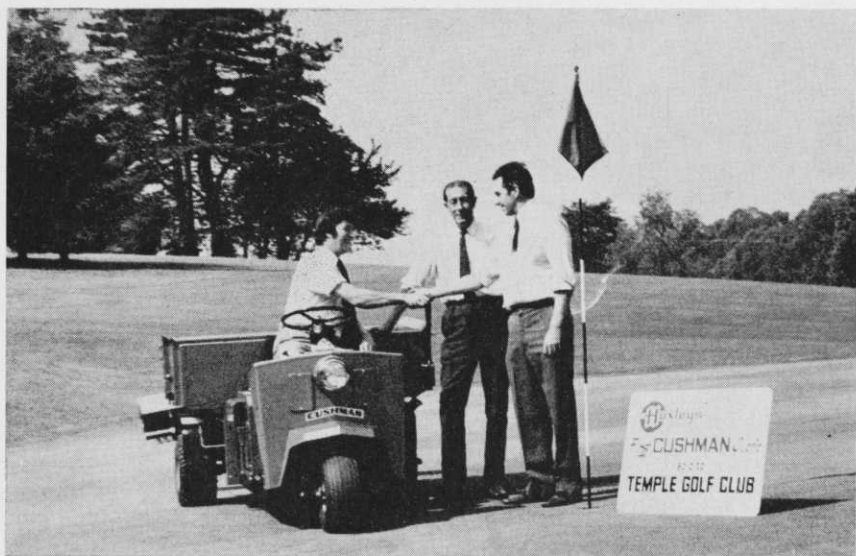


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The British Golf Greenkeeper

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THE first Cushman Turf Care System to be sold in the U.K. was delivered recently to Temple Golf Club by Huxleys Garden Machinery. The system has been available in the U.S.A. for 5 years during which about 3,000 systems have been sold. The following report on the system has been sent to us by Dennis Paul, Head Greenkeeper at Temple Golf Club. Thank you, Dennis.

WE PURCHASED the Cushman System after demonstrations at Temple and one other Golf Course. New machinery was required but we were looking for a suitable range of machinery that could also fit into our existing systems. The Cushman does fit in very well and it gives us a machine that can travel over the greens without damage—in the same way that a Triplex system can.

Before the order was placed with Huxleys Garden Machinery a budget had to be presented to the Green Committee. Cushman System versus small tractor with safety cab and a similar range of implements as the Cushman. Pricewise there was not a great margin of difference, but the obvious benefits of the Cushman were the deciding factors. Already these benefits are showing themselves.

We save time and costs when applying Top Dressings, Fertilizers and spraying. We can aerate the greens and tees quickly. We have a general purpose vehicle for transporting tools, sand, etc. I can travel to any part of our course in five minutes—top speed 22 mp.h. and

a smooth ride at that.

The machine will work anywhere, greens, fairways, banks. Tees can be top dressed with a soil/grass seed mix in a few minutes. Triple gang mowers are no problem to use. With a brush fitted to the hydraulic linkage the Dew can be swept off the grass in a fraction of the time taken before.

Two at a time

By the second week in August we had hollow tined 19 greens. This year the cores were pulverized and spread. Only the fibre was removed. A Ryan Greensaire removed the cores. The Cushman fitted with a mounted brush and trailing a dragmat broke up the cores. Our Hahn Triplex picked up the fibre. Only two greens were out of play at any one time and then not for long.

The Cushman is a good tool and we like it. The system works. It does replace a small tractor and you end up with a vehicle that can mechanize the work on the greens. Makes life easier.



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Reflections on design

ON THE club terrace that stands high above the last green, with Bobby Locke we gazed upon the scene. A superb view, embracing the 1st and last holes, the golden bloom of the gorse, whin, north of the border, the patchwork of the weald of Sussex spreading away to the undulating backcloth of the South Downs.

Bobby, somehow that genial bishop-like figure could not be addressed otherwise. He always called me Mr. Smartt. Few realize that is the custom of South Africans, and those who rather acidly criticise Gary Player for using that prefix, have not visited that country as often as the writer. May not a country use its own form of expression?

Pear into square

Bobby, as I was about to say, turned his eyes to the 18th green. "Why, Mr. Smartt, is that green cut as a square?" This touched me nearly. I had resigned the post of secretary some years before. All that could be said was, that in my time it was pear-shaped, narrowing and widening here and there. As did all the others.

His remark was significant, for here we had one of the great golfers concerned about the outline of a green. The general impression is that tournament players' sole interest is in the surface, the pin placement, and surrounding danger. To which may be added, in the days before watering, what lies behind. That, and a course could be named, leads to defensive play. The pin cannot be attacked.

The merging of greens and bunkers into the natural features of the available ground has been, to borrow from Bernard Darwin, my King Charles' head.

Patrick Smartt writes about the geometry of the golf course

A golf course should not be an exercise in geometry. Yet you can still find them. Fairways that run straight, the rough on either side, be it grass, trees or heather in parallel lines. Rectangular or circular greens, the latter in the days when we used British money, I called half-crowns dumped in a fairway. The bunkers are sited to catch the pulled or sliced drive of the long-handicap player. The same at the entrance to the green. The bunkers, a saucer of sand with a bank to act, as it were, a defence.

No imagination, little challenge, and even for a club category golfer, small incentive. That must be qualified. It could lead to a wrong assessment of his skill. On such a hole, he is put unfairly to the test of playing one of the most demanding strokes in the game—the straight one. His superiors (in skill only—let it be said) can carry those bunkers, and are then left with no stiff examination for the second stroke.

Practical test

In parenthesis, I cannot recall one of the army of "club golfers" complaining that the hole was too testing. That is, with one exception, when three oldish players (I have told this before) deemed a carry too long. They would not accept that the distance was only 150 yards. A stroke with a No. 5 iron—of greater loft than the modern club, convinced them. It eased their minds, and

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that is the way to help.

I have, as ever, wandered down side roads. A habit of which readers must be aware, and unfortunate editors.

It is inexplicable that at an early age, the picture of a hole made an impact. If there is one thing at which the professional golf course architect finds his hackles bristling, it is the amateur designer. That should not be confined to an individual; he is up against the Club Committee which, through the Green Committee has engaged him. His knowledge and **feeling** for a course are discarded on the grounds of cost.

The old courses were laid out long before specialists were thought of, some like Topsey "just growed". There are instances of some of the old heroes so engaged. James Braid comes to mind.

If changes are to be made, the object should be to make them more interest-

ing. In olden days in the colonies, it had to be amateurs. Somewhere about 1926, a young man the same in age as the year, in Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia, had the cheek of the young to suggest that the cross-bunker on the 1st, an intrenchment with a level bank was archaic. Left to his own devices, the alignment was altered to an angle from left to right. The bank was curved, creating small harbours in the sand, and there were high and low portions on its skyline. Placing it at an angle, gave the less expert members a safety route. The more accomplished in order to be up in two were faced with a longer and higher carry. Most important of all, it looked right. A bunker growing out of the ground, rather than a first world war trench, or a bank on an Irish steeplechase course.

Making their mark

It is high time we returned to the outlines of putting greens. Straightaway, it has to be accepted that there is no continuity in policy; and that applies to the whole course. The only permanency are the Head Greenkeeper and a long-serving secretary. Captains and committees change, and they seem dogged by the idea that they must leave a mark of their period of office; thus alterations.

There is one that confounds me. Reducing the size of greens. While this may lessen the likelihood of three putts, it adds to the strain of accurate approaching. The argument that it is an economy, is beyond an aging mind. Of course there is less time spent in mowing the putting surface, but the surrounds still have to be cut. The smaller the greens, the less space for pin-placing. Towards the end of the season, they are pock-marked with old hole plugs. The financial excuse is as specious as most Government budgets.

A murrain on greens shaped (if that be the right word) like a matchbox, or a coin dropped in the fairway.

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