

There's wildlife galore along the River Wharfe

I have often wondered how many folk playing Ilkley Golf Course are able to detach themselves from the game sufficiently to notice the everyday activity around them.

The River Wharfe meanders its way down the full length of the course, this is itself a big attraction to wild life. Nobody could help noticing the abundance of moorhens, feeding happily on its banks, oblivious to events around them.

Only if a human comes too close do they go scurrying along the water.

Dippers are common and can be seen walking about in the shadows and then bobbing under the water in search of food. They are easily recognised by their large white chests.

Mallards are to be found all year round. In spring the ducks can often be seen swimming accompanied by as many as a dozen young, and often pure white drake among them.

The common sandpipers have been there all summer nesting on the river bank, some within yards of where the golfers pass. Herons, too, are there all year. I have spotted as many as three together.

They are shy, easily frightened, and stand motionless in the water on the lookout for food . . . crayfish, or bullheads perhaps. They may even catch the odd trout.

Regular winter visitors are the little grebes, or dab chicks. They are hard to discern, staying on the surface, then diving and re-surfacing 20 yards away.

Oystercatchers, reed bunting, coal tits and many others are seen near the river, but the gem of all must be the kingfisher.

Usually one only glimpses a brilliant flash of turquoise flying low, but one may be lucky and see one perched in a willow waiting to dive after some small fish.



DAVID SPURDEN, an assistant green-keeper at Ilkley Golf Club, has herons, kingfishers, mallards and oystercatchers as his daily companions and has absorbed the mysteries of their lives almost unconsciously. Here he asks us to look anew at the wild life about us.

Regretfully, they are not as prevalent as in previous years.

Away from the river the course is slowly being transformed. It is four years since the club began a tree-planting scheme. Since then some 5,000 trees—mainly pine, larch and birch—have been planted.

For the birds, if not for the golfers, these are a welcome addition.

They have provided homes for at least a dozen pairs of redpoll, their nests previously being unheard of here.

Gold crests, long-tailed tits and many different types of finches can be found searching the plantations for food and who can say what birds the trees may attract in future?

Now that winter is coming, a covey of partridges has re-appeared and pheasant venture out seemingly aware they will not be shot at. Now is the time for waxwings and the nuthatches seen here in the last two years.

Fieldfares are already here, feeding on the hawberries and the kestrel is an everyday sight, as are the feathers which denote their kills.

We must hope that winter will not be too severe on them and that next year we may see the kingfishers increase. This season is surely a cruel, testing time for all these varieties of wild life.

NEWS

NEW ROLFE'S APPOINTMENT

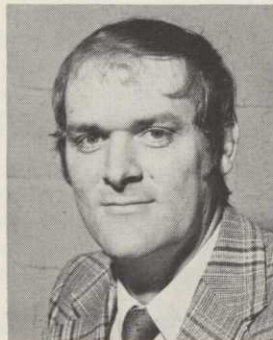
Rolfe's Mini Tractors Limited of Romsey, UK agents for Jacobsen turf equipment, have appointed Mr. Peter A. Hampton as Area Manager for West England and Wales.

Mr. Hampton will be responsible for co-ordinating demonstrations, sales, spares and service requirements for agents, distributors and customers within his area. In addition to Jacobsen, Rolfe's are UK agents for International Harvester Mini Tractors, Parker Sweepers, Bunton rotary mowers and Cooper Edge 'n' trim.

Mr. Hampton re-joins Rolfe's after spending a year as general manager of a garden machinery retailer in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. He has had many years experience in the horticultural equipment market.

Mr. Hampton is married and now lives near Trowbridge in Wiltshire. His interests include craft woodworking and picture framing.

Rolfe's Mini Tractors Limited are based at Winchester Hill, Romsey, Hants, SO5 8YY



"FRANCE-GOLF"

A GROUP of the most prominent French landscape and sportsground construction companies has been formed into an organisation called "France-Golf". The Director is an Englishman, G. W. Davison, Chairman and Managing

Director of Cambridge Soil Services Ltd of Cottenham, Cambridge, who instigated the scheme with the assistance of F. L. Lenoir of Brussels.

"France-Golf", with its established businesses in all parts of the country, will make reasonably priced golf available to all by providing good courses and encouraging general tuition and interest in the game. It is probably the largest organisation of this type anywhere and will have a great impact on golf course development in France.

THREE NEW PRODUCTS FOR AMENITY HORTICULTURE

Three new products for the sports-turf market are to be distributed by Chipman Limited, Horsham, Sussex. The products, marketed by Duphar-Midox Limited, Smarden, Kent are:

FYDULAN—a granular material combining dichlobenil and dalapon are broad spectrum weed control in shrubberies.
DACONIL 2787—a broad spectrum non-systemic turf fungicide, containing chlorothalonil for the control and prevention of a wide range of diseases including Fusarium patch, Ophiobolus patch, Red Thread, Dollar Spot, Leafspot, Melting Out and Leaf Blight.

DACTHAL—a selective pre-emergence or post-emergence herbicide containing chlorthal-dimethyl which is especially effective against Creeping Speedwell.

Mr. Roy Jennings, Managing Director of Chipman Limited, has said that he decided to market all three products because each had an important and specific role to fulfil. 'Fydulan' presented an opportunity to deal effectively and economically with shrubbery weed control, even where tough grass weeds predominated; 'Dacthal' was a long-sought answer to the control of creeping speedwell which had resisted conventional selective weedkillers and was becoming a major and widespread nuisance in turf. In 'Daconil 2787' the means to protect turf from disease, or to eradicate an existing disease, is available in a single safe and easy to use flowable product and Mr. Jennings was certain this would be a valuable new material for grounds-men and greenkeepers.



SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

Mr. Kevin Neil Shaw,
5 St. Lukes Terrace, Cleckheaton.
Assistant Greenkeeper, Cleckhampton
and District Golf Club.

Northern Section

Chairman:
COLIN GEDDES
Moor Allerton
Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
W. HEELES
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.
Tel: K'boro 3851

GROUNDED

A Northern Section Committee member Colin Garnett has recently been ill in hospital. Colin, Head Greenkeeper at Garforth Golf Club is apparently making good progress towards recovery.

Good luck and sound health for the future Colin.

NEW MEMBERS

The Section extends a warm welcome to the following new members.

Mr. Joseph Baxter,
Brow Farm, Harden, Bingley,
Head Greenkeeper, Bingley St. Ives
Municipal Golf Club.

Mr. Alan Baxter.
Brow Farm, Harden, Bingley,
Assistant Greenkeeper, Bingley St.
Ives Municipal Golf Club.

Mr. Melville Chapman,
7 Eassom Road, Redcar, Cleveland.
Vice President.

Mr. John Lingard,
Hillside Chapel Fold, Lower Wike,
Bradford.
Vice President.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Already, fairly warm on the heels of the Government's sex equality bill, the first job advertisement was published requiring the services of a—will you believe—GROUNDSPERSON.

This rather farcical situation cropped up in one of the monthly trade journals. The BGGGA must feel fortunate for not having a name, or part thereof, likely to contravene the Sex Discrimination Act.

Whilst on names people have for years now been striving to change the title of Greenkeeper to something more sophisticated. Ask yourself: what title could be considered more individual, more awe inspiring, more romantic than Head Greenkeeper? Why, had D. H. Lawrence known of our trade, the gamekeeper in Lady Chatterley's Lover would not have had a look in.

EUROCALL

In response to current trends, David Hannam and his staff at Sports Turf Research Institute have this season submitted to the kilo and litre.

All treatments on the trial grounds are now prepared in the metric form whether in weight, area, or volume. Even the recording of daily temperatures and rainfall has been 'metricated'. This move is in line with general S.T.R.I. policy.

AMELIORATION

Alarm and confusion was apparently generated by an article in our March writeup. The subject was the law regarding safety cabs on tractors.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that tractors used on golf courses or

sports areas are however, exempt from the compulsory fitting of safety cabs.

The information was intrinsically correct but applies only to those tractors supplied and intended for, definitively, 'agricultural use'.

ON THE MOVE

A recourse to the green has been made by Peter Blacker.

Mr. Blacker a former Head Greenkeeper of Woodsome Golf Club, but latterly a technical representative for a leading Northwest firm has recently taken up the post of Head Greenkeeper to Headingley Golf Club. May success be yours for the future in your new position Peter.

GOLF

Well done Chaplins for your excellent invitation tournament at Woodhall Hills Golf Club on April 28th. Congratulations too for its smooth organisation, really fine food, and the impressive lineup of prizes.

Special thanks are due from all those who had the pleasure of participating.

The prospect was mooted of this tournament becoming an annual event;— a mighty fine prospect indeed.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 24th Presidents Day-Cleveland G:C.
August 5th Invitation Tournament-

Ilkley G.C.

October 14th Autumn Tournament -

Bedale G.C.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. J. STIMSON
North Wilts, G.C.
Devizes.

The final lecture of our 1976/77 Winter Programme held at Alresford Golf Club on 6th April was very entertaining and we extend our most grateful thanks to Mr. Jack Roffey for showing us such marvellous colour slides illustrating his recent visit to Rhodesia and South Africa. There were tantalising glimpses of a variety of wildlife, from giraffes to warthogs; the contrast between the Great Plains and the townships, the magnificence of the Victoria Falls, and the odd slide depicting a golf course or bowling green. We were informed that Elliott grass was used in nearly all bowling greens; that the application of fertilizers and weedkillers was almost unheard of and that there was no labour shortage; e.g., ten or more native workers employed on a nine hole course.

It was obvious that Jack had enjoyed every minute of his holiday and it wouldn't surprise me in the least if the title Roffey Bros. of Bournemouth was superseded by the title Roffey Bros. of Bulawayo!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jack and Harry for the refreshments they so kindly provided.

Will any member who wishes to visit Twyford Plant Breeding Station at Adderbury on their Turfgrass Open Day on Thursday, 22nd July 1976, and has not yet booked his seat on the coach, kindly contact me without delay. A Buffet lunch will be provided.

The coach will be leaving Parkstone at 8 am and picking up members en route at Southampton and Winchester. The seat reservation fee is £1.25 and your remittance should be sent not later than

30th June 1976 so that arrangements can be finalized.

Members are requested to make a note of my change of address as from 22nd June 1976:-

Caretaker's Cottage
Breamore House
Breamore

FORDINGBRIDGE

Hampshire
(Tel. Breamore 277).

Our sincere thanks to the Directors and staff of Sisis Equipment Ltd., for their courtesy and warmth to all the members of the section who made the trip to Macclesfield Golf Club on the 27th of April for the second occasion of the playing of the 'Sisis Handicap Trophy', for their generosity in providing a very excellent dinner in the evening, also various prizes, and to Mr. Henshaw for providing a set of very handsome wine glasses to go with the trophy. Thank you gentlemen. Also our thanks to the ground staff for the excellent condition of the course in these trying weather conditions, and to the staff inside the club-house, who kept everyone happy before and after the event.

Winners as follows:

Sisis Trophy S. Bridges H/cap 8, 36 Pts
2nd S. Edgerley H/cap 12, 33 Pts
3rd R. Graham H/cap 18, 31 Pts
4th P. Chapman H/cap 10, 30 Pts
C. P. O.

Best score at Short Holes

J. Gillett 7 Pts
S. Richardson 7 Pts

Most sixes on the card

E. Drage 10

THE Midland Section's Annual Dinner & Dance was held on the evening of Friday 2nd April, 1976, the venue was once again the Elms Hotel, Aldridge. A wonderful night's entertainment was enjoyed by the 122 people who attended. The chair was taken by Mr. Norman Russell, President of the Midland's Section, and Hon. Secretary of Little Aston Golf Club. The after dinner speeches were given by Mr. R. A. Willetts, Captain of Handsworth Golf Club, and Mr. Vic Smith, Chairman of the B.G.G.A. The remainder of the evening

was taken up by dancing etc., which went to make this function a great success.

I would like to thank all the people who donated prizes towards the raffle and everyone who helped out in other ways throughout the evening.

The Summer Tournament and Annual General Meeting will be held at the Habberley Golf Club, near Kidderminster on Monday, 12th July, 1976 by kind permission of the Captain and members of the club. Please be assembled at the club by 9.30 a.m. The closing date for this tournament is 27th June, anyone who wishes to submit a point of view to be put before the A.G.M. must put it in writing and send it to me no later than 21 days prior to the meeting.

I would like to welcome to the Midland section the following new members:

K. Greatrex Kings Norton Golf Club
(Class C)
K.D. Palmer Staverton Park Golf Club
(Class A)
W.G.Pye Lilleshall Hall Golf Club
(Class A)

DIARY DATES

Wednesday September 29th, 1976
Midland Section Autumn Tournament
Venue: Ladbrook Park Golf Club Ltd.

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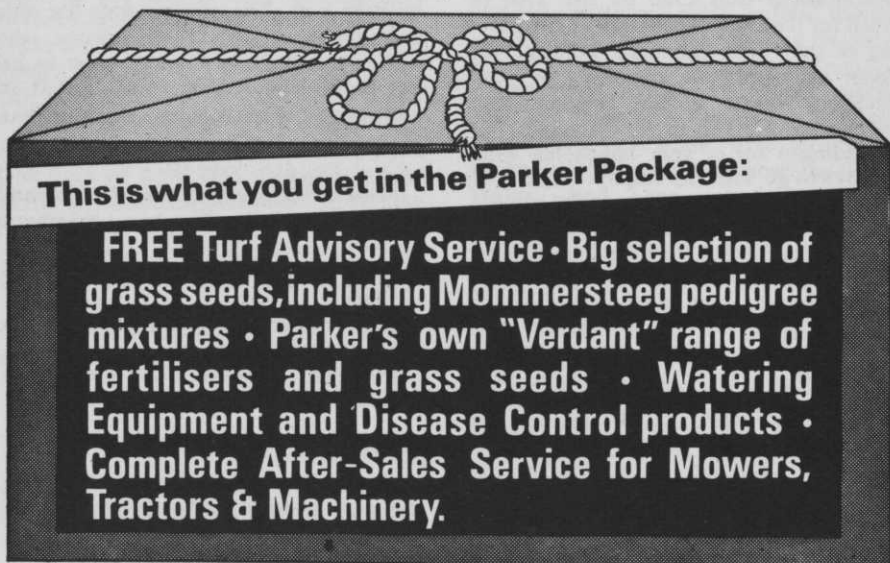
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LETTERS

I was most upset and surprised to read the article by A. J. T. Kite Esq., Hon. Secretary, Midland Section of the B.G.G.A. Upset, because so many statements are grossly untrue and surprised, because this gentleman has, it would seem, been prompted to write because one of his members was unsuccessful in his application for the position of Course Superintendent.

My Company and I are most anxious to have a happy and mutually beneficial relationship with your members. May I, therefore, respectfully request that the following facts are published in the next edition of your journal.

1. The position was advertised, as per the enclosed text, in the following publications.

Golf International
Golf World
Golf Monthly
Recreation Management
Golf Club Management
Nineteenth Hole
Golf European.

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COMPLEX

APPOINTMENT OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDANT

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Mr. A. Smith, The Belfry Hotel, Sutton,
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

3. We cannot be responsible for figures "bounced around". Our advertisement clearly stated "Salary by negotiation up to £5,000, together with free housing and transport". Although I do not feel inclined to divulge the agreed salary I am confident that it is, quite rightly, the highest remuneration in Great Britain for the position.

4. The farm house has been, as was always intended, completely rebuilt and refurbished, incidentally at a cost of £4,315. It has 5 bedrooms, is fully centrally heated and overlooks both golf courses.

The "Company transport" not a van, but is in fact an Escort estate, which we consider is most suitable for the job.

5. After careful consideration, six were short listed from numerous applications, one was from the Midlands (name and address will be supplied on request). The most suitable was Mr. Alex Low, who had just completed two new golf courses at Grangemouth and has considerable experience with opening new golf courses throughout the world.

6. It is obvious that Mr. Kite is disgruntled because a representative of the B.G.G.A. was not invited to our Press Presentation on February 2nd; incidentally the ONLY, not "one of the numerous public relations meetings given by the Belfry". It was basically for Sports Writers and other members of the media. It is intended to invite members of associations, including the B.G.G.A., connected with golf, at a later date, when we can show much more progress and a clear indication of the character of the courses, which do not open until Spring and Summer 1977.

These were chosen as the most suitable for us by our Golf Course Architects Peter Allis and Dave Thomas.

2. To suggest we did not wish to state accurate figures regarding salary and increments is both ludicrous and probably libellous. Our advertisement gave a normal description of the post offered.

I would like to correct Mr. Kite's scurrilous advice to local greenkeepers regarding recommended wage scales and working conditions. May I assure local greenkeepers that we would like to engage the best persons available and, as with our Head Greenkeeper, we are

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prepared to pay a good wage, in keeping with or above your present scale, together with excellent working conditions. It is my honest and sincere belief that the Belfry will only be as good as its staff. We will try very hard to recruit the very best available and to keep them happy and satisfied as we work together in this new and exciting project, which I am sure will benefit all in my native Midlands.

I am concerned that your association, which I had believed to be professional in its approach, can sanction such unjust if not defamatory statements, without any attempt to verify the "facts" it claims to report.

Finally, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, always with pleasure, at your service.

Yours truly,
J. Brian Cash,
Chief Executive.

EDITORS NOTE

That Messrs. Allis & Thomas recommended 'Nineteenth Hole' suggests that they had their watering slightly wrong. For any readers who may not know it, 'Nineteenth Hole' is the official Journal of the Golf Club Stewards Association, not normally regarded as a breeding ground for good greenkeepers.

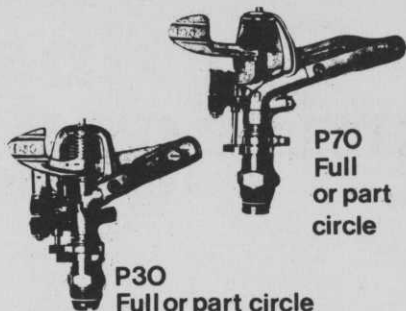
That neither 'The British Golf Greenkeeper' nor 'Golf Illustrated' (alphabetical order) were included suggests that the same gentlemen were not aware that these two journals carry 80%—90% of all advertising placed in this country for greenkeepers. A pity, for it could have saved Mr. Cash a lot of money. Ah well, perhaps we should all stick at what we are best at!

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