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The Association is affiliated to the English and Welsh Golf Unions

# The British Golf Greenkeeper

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Our Front Cover this month shows the presentation of the winners cup in an annual invitation tournament sponsored by John Chaplin (Machinery) Ltd. of Leeds in which 150 invitations were sent to greenkeepers and groundsmen to play in the tournament which was held at Woodhall Hills Golf Club at Calverley, near Leeds, on Wednesday 28th April. Our picture shows Mr. J. Evans, Captain of Woodhall Hills presenting the trophy to J. R. Grierson of Elland Golf Club watched by Mr. K. Mitchell and Mr. J. Chaplin of Chaplins Grass Machinery.

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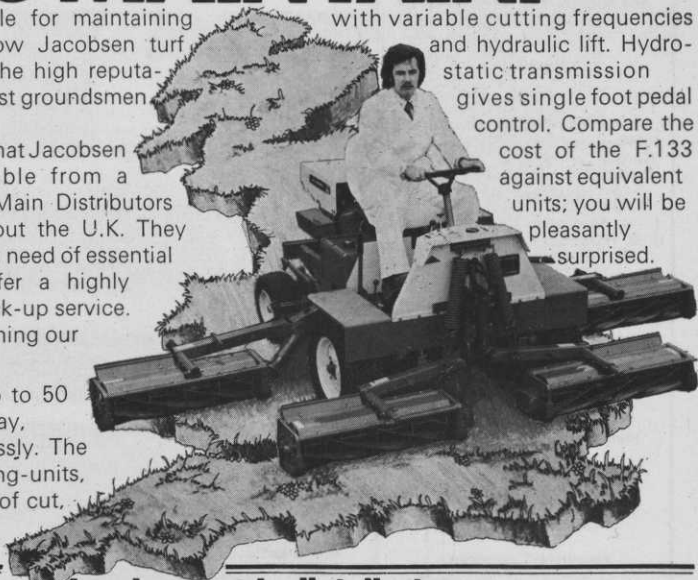
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# STROKE FOR COURSE VALUE

Patrick  
Smarrt

I recall, some years gone, when watching "The Putter" at Rye, to have seen Roger Wethered play a monumental recovery stroke at the last hole.

Fully to savour the moment, it is to be remembered that we were on the 18th and so witnessing a close-fought match. Still capable of driving the ball a long way, he had hooked away into the sand among the dunes. Standing on tall ground, looking down at him it was clear that a high and powerful shot was needed if he were to reach the fairway. To play such a stroke demands perfection in striking. A tea-spoon full too much sand spells disaster.

He took the ball clean with what I think to be a No. 7., it soared up and away to finish on the green. The onlookers at this meeting are connoisseurs of the game, there was a second or two of astounded silence.

It was after the return of my numbed senses, the thought intruded: "He couldn't have done that on my home course." This was no querulous local bias, but one of fact. That ball would have been lost, of if found, unplayable because you cannot swing a club in thick gorse-whins, for those north of the border.

This simmered in the mind, for at the direction of my committee I was fighting for an extra stroke on our S.S.S. rating for course difficulties. The reason being the gorse. In those days there was a narrow strip of heather, not the growth from which to recover easily, between the fairway and the jungle. It could stop the ball running into trouble.

In the S.S.S. scheme is written: "An addition to the basic Standard Scratch Score. . . will be made only for courses of *exceptional* difficulties other than length." This raises the question how exceptional difficulties are defined, and where does one meet them? In the days before there was an S.S.S., and any claim for an extra stroke beyond thought, I could lead you to a short hole surrounded by pineapple plants sharp as spears; another blind over a bungalow, blind over a railway viaduct. A green perched on a

anthill, the sides like those of a pyramid. To which may be added the circumstance that the greens were constructed of a hard mud base, covered by a thin covering of sand—no stop.

These circumstances were to be met with at tropical clubs. Our attitude was, there is the hole, there are the problems, lets to it. To avoid that cliché 'it was the same for all' is impossible. I can sense some saying that it was a travesty of golf. Over a thirty years contact with the game in hot countries, I came across one or two players who refused to play on those courses. This conceited attitude rebounded upon them. When after the customary two and a half years of duty, the first half of their four months home leave was spent in trying to recapture their game.

Every golfer has a preference for, or antipathy to a certain type of course. There are more than one well-known professional who dislikes links, not as might be supposed because of the strong winds, but the ill-defined areas of the fairways. Trees, bushes or heather, mostly absent from links, give them an avenue down which to drive. In short, and it is understandable, they like to have a road map. My own preference, of minimum interest, is the links, caused by a sense of tradition and history. It is pleasing to record that view has been passed on to some youngsters of my acquaintance.

There is a sneaking feeling the tight lay-out, such as was my home course already alluded to, may have an inhibiting effect on the freedom of the swings on the young, turning them into defensive players.

As expected we did not get our extra stroke. Golf is a game and should be treated as such. But, I cannot get away from the opinion that the golfer should have room to swing, even to chip out sideways. As I no longer play, that can be said without prejudice, although it goes against tradition.

On the other hand, none of us could have produced that stroke by Roger Wethered.

## PATTISON IN THE WEST

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The British Golf Greenkeeper

# SECOND BRITISH TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

The 2nd British Turfgrass Symposium, organised by the British Golf Greenkeepers Association and Co-Sponsored by a number of suppliers to golf courses, will be held at the Burford Bridge Hotel, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey, on Tuesday, 5th October, 1976.

The theme of this year's conference will be 'Golf Course Design Construction and Maintenance' and will consist of four papers, two to be presented in the morning session and two in the afternoon. The subjects and speakers are as follows:

'International Golf Course Design and Construction' by F.W.Hawtree.

'Bunker Design and Maintenance' by J. K. Campbell.

'Budgeting for Golf Course Maintenance against Objectives' by a leading U.S.A. Golf Course Superintendent.

'Green Construction & Grasses' by R. W. Palin.

Time has been allowed after each paper for question and answer sessions and for further discussion on each paper.

The Burford Bridge Hotel is a high class hotel at the foot of Box Hill and its Tithe Barn, an integral part of the hotel offers excellent facilities for both speakers and delegates to enjoy the conference in comfortable and extremely attractive

surroundings. The cost of attending the conference will be £5 which will include admission to all sessions, morning coffee, buffet lunch, tea and a printed copy of the papers. Maximum attendance is limited to 300 due to the physical restraints of the conference room. Application forms for attendance will be distributed with next month's issue of The British Golf Greenkeeper at which time the event will be widely publicised through national and trade media. Readers wishing to ensure a place at the Conference may write to Walter Heeles, the Hon. Secretary, enclosing £5.

For delegates wishing to stay overnight in the Dorking area the following are local hotels who can be contacted regarding accommodation:

Burford Bridge Hotel, Dorking, Surrey.  
Dorking 4561

The Bell Inn, West Street, Dorking,  
Surrey. Dorking 2801

Bridge House Hotel, Reigate, Surrey.  
Reigate 46801

Cranleigh Hotel, 41, West Street,  
Reigate, Surrey. Reigate 40600

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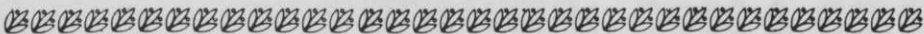
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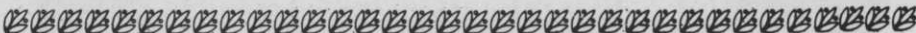
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# The Greenkeepers

HEAD Greenkeeper at Broadstone (Dorset) Golf Club is E. R. West. Eddie West started work at the club in 1963 taking over as Head Greenkeeper in 1966 from Albert Crane who had been with the club for 40 years. Previous work included a spell at the Meyrick Park course in Bournemouth which was interrupted by 2 years National Service in Germany. Eddie has been a member of the B.G.G.A. since 1963 and a member of Parkstone Artisans from 1955-73. Successes include the South Western Championship held at Launceston in 1973. Eddie is now a member of Broadstone G.C. and plays off a handicap of 4.

Broadstone is an 18 hole course sited on heathland but well wooded with Pine, Oak & Silver Birch. It is an interesting course on undulating ground offering a first class challenge without being unduly long. The club has 800 members served

by the club Professional P. Ward. There is a total Greenkeeping staff of five plus two part time assistants when those are required.

Equipment owned by the club includes A Ransome Triplex, 3 Auto-Certes, 1 24" Matordor, 4 Flymos, Bomford Bandit Flail, 2 Tractors, Triple Gang Mower, 1 Cyclone Spreader, 1 Sprayer, 1 Hayter Condor, 1 Patisson 'Spiker, 1 Cart, 1 Front Loader Bucket, 1 Rotary Screen, 1 Dixon Air Cannon (for leaf clearing).

Seeds/Fertilizers/Fungicides used by Eddie include Fisons Mersil, also their weed cleaner, Cannock, SAI, Supaturf and May & Baker.

The course presents Eddie with few problems. There has been some drainage problems on greens and fairways, but a drain renewal programme was started last winter which will be spread over the next year or two.





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