

The Kubota Golf Challenge.

In this year's Kubota Golf Challenge played on October 12th and 13th at the Belfry, the greenkeepers swept all before them, for their third successive victory.

Young and fit, from a healthy outdoor life, they brushed aside the less athletic stewards by six matches to two in the semi-finals before overcoming the guile of the secretaries in the final. The margin was 5½ to 2½ and the greenkeepers were always in control, losing only the last two matches.

The Fourth Estate, represented by the golf writers, duly finished fourth, finding the combination of a wet and windy Brabazon course, a woman team member and stewards intent on dispensing defeat rather than hospitality too much to cope with. At least they had run the Secretaries, twice winners of the event, close in the semi-final despite starting off a point down as a result of one team member breaking down on the M6.

To everyone's surprise, including their own, the writers did manage to win something. Flinging Kubota's gleaming orange mini-tractors round a cone-bedecked car park with reckless abandon, they won a novel driving competition. Admittedly, the greenkeepers, the real professionals, were handicapped by having to drive a much larger machine in the confined space.

Out on the course, however, where it mattered, there was only one team in it. In the bar afterwards, the stewards and the secretaries could be seen in huddles discussing the merits of reducing greenkeepers rations and increasing their workloads before coming to the conclusion it would just make them leaner and meaner and harder to beat.

GRAND FINAL 1st Tee (Brabazon Course)

Greenkeepers v. Secretaries

MATCH RESULTS:

Melvin Guy (5) (South Leeds G.C.)	halved against	Elliott Proctor (3) (Northumberland Union G.C.)
Richard Barker (6) (Longcliffe G.C.)	beat 3&2	Bob Abercromby (7) (Woodhall Spa)
Mike Sheehan (6) (Mere G.&C.C.)	beat 7&6	Ronnie Luckman (8) (East Devon G.C.)
Ray Howlett (8) (Cheshunt G.&C.C.)	beat 2 up	Colin Desmond (9) (Knott End G.C.)
Edwin West (8) (Broadstone G.C.)	beat 1 hole	Lou Hatton (9) (Unattached)
Ivan Toon (9) (Moor Hall G.C.)	beat 5&3	John Crowther (10) (A.G.C.S.)
Philip Wentworth (North Hampshire G.C.)	lost by 2 holes	Jim Coutts (11) (Mannings Heath G.C.)
Neil Whittaker (15) (Woburn G.C.)	lost 2&1	Ray Hill (15) (St. Ives G.C.)

GREENKEEPERS WON 5½ to 2½

Greenkeepers v. Stewards

MATCH RESULTS:

Richard Barker (5) (Longcliffe G.C.)	lost 3&2	Roy Mobbs (12) (Worlebury G.C.)
Melvin Guy (5) (South Leeds G.C.)	beat 3&2	Pat McGreevy (13) (Chipping Sodbury G.C.)
Mike Sheehan (6) (Mere G.C.)	beat 5&4	Tony Caldeira (13) (Redditch G.C.)
Ray Howlett (7) (Cheshunt G.C.)	beat 3&2	Harry Roberts (15) (Shire-Hampton Park G.C.)
Ivan Toon (9) (Moor Hall G.C.)	lost to 3&2	Mike Moffat (16) (Upton-by-Chester G.C.)
Edwin West (9) (Broadstone G.C.)	beat 5&3	Roger Gregory (18) (Southwick Park G.C.)
Philip Wentworth (14) (North Hampshire G.C.)	beat 3&2	Bill Ireland (18) (South Beds G.C.)
Neil Whittaker (15) (Woburn G.C.)	beat 2 up	Lawrence Tippet (18) (Churston G.C.)

GREENKEEPERS WON 6 to 2

Turf Grass Diseases

The onset of winter is the time when the greenkeeper must keep a constant vigilance over his greens to spot and diagnose the first symptoms of disease.

The latest edition of an excellent publication from the Sports Turf Research Institute entitled *Turf Diseases*, defines a disease as a harmful deviation from the normal functioning of physiological processes caused by a pathogenic organism.

Both bacteria and viruses can cause diseases in turf, but they are considered to be relatively unimportant compared to the fungi organisms.

In the introduction, author Neil Baldwin says much new information has come to light since the first booklet was published in 1979 and this new information and the advice for treatment is included in the 40 pages.

As would be expected Fusarium Patch occupies the first pages in the book as the most common and most damaging disease to affect putting surfaces. The small brown or orange circular spots appearing on the green surface, are the first visible symptoms. They can increase rapidly both in size and number to produce patches of dead grass, both in fine turf and particularly on poa annua greens.

It is suggested the best preventative measures are mechanical rather than chemical. Greens should be adequately drained, dew taken off the surface and aeration with the addition of a sandy based top dressing to make the surface less moisture retentive.

There are now a number of products on the market to treat Fusarium Patch once the first signs appear. During the winter months when growth is slow the contact fungicides such as chlorothalonil, iprodione, vinclozolin, and quinterozone, provide good control, though many of these products are expensive.

A total of eighteen turf grass diseases, which will cover almost all those known to the British Greenkeeper are described in detail, together with the visible symptoms, conditions in which the disease will thrive and measures and treatments to relieve the problem. There are also eight colour plates for instant identification of Fusarium, Take-All, Red Thread, Dollar Spot, Fairy Rings, and Damping Off.

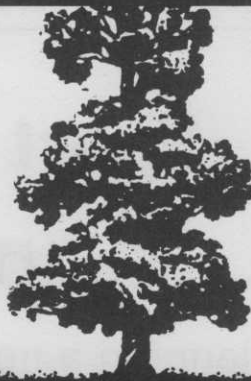
This essential publication for any greenkeeper can be obtained from the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley St. Ives, priced £2.50.

FEATURE 1

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