



**Dear Sir**

The following letter was sent recently to the editor of *Golf World*.

We note with great interest in Peter Alliss' column in your April issue there is to be a National Putting Competition sponsored by Mentzendorf Kummel. The proceeds of the competition are to be divided between the Golf Foundation and the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, the latter to be for a 'centre for agronomy learning,' a sort of huge nursery where young and old greenkeepers could come to lectures and listen to the latest ideas on golf course maintenance, machinery, etc.

Apart from the fact that the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association represents only a section of greenkeepers in the UK, a centre for learning and advice already exists nationally in the form of the Sports Turf Research Institute which, although recently having received funding from the R&A, has been severely short-changed by golf, as a game, in the past.

We wonder what the competitors in this excellent competition will get for half their money?

The Board of Management, English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

Peter Alliss replies thus:

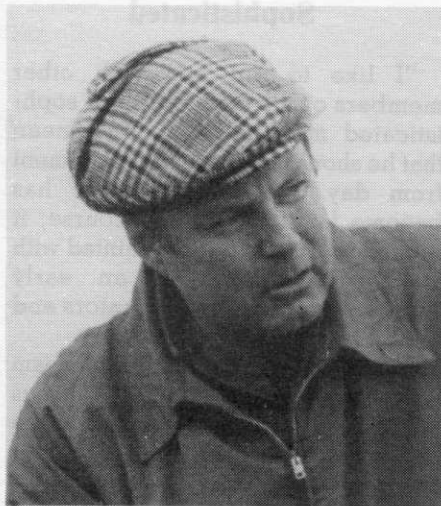
I am delighted that the instigation of our putting competition has caused such a stir in your world. Along with the Sports Turf Research Institute and a couple of other notable agronomists, the dust is really flying. I couldn't be more pleased.

One of the problems, as I re-read my article, is that perhaps every 'Y' hasn't been crossed and every 'I' dotted, but I can assure you that it is our intention to make sure that any monies from the competition will be devoted to the furtherance of golf, either by paying for equipment

to get young golfers started, or in some way to further the cause of greenkeeping and grounds-manship.

I feel that one of the main problems in golf, over the 35 years or so I've been watching it closely, is that too many people have gone off in too many directions. There is an enormous amount of jealousy, envy and non-sharing of secrets. Any suggestion that someone from another part of the world could teach our so-called experts anything is beyond comprehension.

Once again, let me assure you that whatever monies come into the 'kitty' will be put towards furthering golf. Whether they will end up on your table, the STRI's table or somebody else's table, I know not.



**Peter Alliss.**

## North West

The first meeting has taken place of the Cheshire College of Agriculture liaison committee. The committee's function is to work with the Greenkeeper Training Committee and the college tutors in order to help prepare a suitable syllabus for the City & Guilds golf greenkeeper courses.

Represented on the committee are the golf unions, secretaries' association, greenkeepers' associations and representatives from the trade.

The committee has been set up with advice from the GTC and a considerable contribution of effort and time by Dennis Mottram of the Cheshire College of Agriculture.

The North West committee of EIGGA is at present establishing

a winter programme of seminars and lectures — the first being a one-day seminar at the Cheshire College of Agriculture in October. The date and programme still have to be finalised, but one of the speakers will be from the STRI. Members will be informed of the final arrangements at the earliest opportunity.

We would like to hear from members with requests for speakers at future lectures and seminars and their views on last winter's programme of events. Contact me on 051-606 9856 or Terry Adamson on 0978 832908.

In future would members please contact me or Terry Adamson if they have any queries or want information on any subject regarding EIGGA or the North West branch, as our chairman Bill Lawson, you will appreciate, has a heavy work load this year.

The chairman's shield was contested at Chester Golf Club between the North West and a team from Chester GC. The result was a win for EIGGA. Thanks go to everyone concerned at the club for a very enjoyable evening's golf and dinner. *Raymond Hunt.*

## London

It has not been much of a summer so far, but at least it stayed dry for our evening outing to the Hartsbourne Country Club.

As usual, Tom Low and his staff had the course in excellent condition and his wife Joyce prepared a lovely supper. We are also indebted to the artisans for the use of their clubhouse, which they are hoping to extend by next year. I'm sure we will have contributed in a small way to their bar profits!

It was nice to see Peter Brimmell and Alan Moffat of T. Parker & Sons once again giving their support. Congratulations are due to Alan on his recent marriage. Good luck, Sue.

The results were: scratch to 12 — J. Hill 37 points, R. Howlett 35 points; 13 to 28 — C. Barker 40 points, A. Taylor 36 points, N. Exley 35 points. Handicaps will be duly reviewed in time for the next event.

Tom and Anne McDonald are again organising the dinner-dance, which

*Continued on page 20...*



will be held at the Post House, Heathrow on Friday November 15. Please phone Tom on 01-950 7469 or me for details. To avoid the drink/drive problem, mini-buses can be arranged from different areas.

Finally, remember to advise the branch if you are coming to the autumn meeting at Muswell Hill on October 3.

David Low.

## East Anglia

We've had two tournaments this year and they have both been excellent. Newmarket, where 'Uncle Mick' nearly got a prize (not the booby either), was great. The course was in great shape. Well done the keeper — I didn't catch his name, but I'm sure we will all remember his course.

First greenkeeper in the 0 to 17 handicap section and winner of the SISIS Trophy was Trevor Manning, who is the first assistant at Newmarket. Trevor won on a countback from D. Wells, who had 37 points. In third place was Larry Coytie (Romford) on 35 points.

In the 18 to 28 division, the Atco Cup went to Steve Freestone (Eaton) with 35 points. M. Jones and J. Barnard were placed second and third. D. Freeman won the guest prize with 37 points, while the booby prize went to P. Barrigan.

Thanks go to SISIS, King and Supaturf for some of the prizes and to Newmarket for a great day.

Paul Bertenshaw could not be at Newmarket as he was helping his wife have a baby. It was also good to see John Young up and about after serious illness. Let's hope it's not too long before he makes a complete recovery.

Mick Lathorpe.

## Surrey

The Surrey branch will be holding a one-day seminar on Wednesday November 27 at Wentworth. Presented by the Sports Turf Research Institute, the format will be:

9.30

Assemble and Chairman's Introduction.

10.00-11.00

Principles of Golf Course Drainage (i.e. greens, tees, fairways and bunkers)

11.00-11.45

Construction of a Golf Course

11.45-12 noon Discussion

12.00-12.30

Grasses and Special Reference to Poa annua

12.30-1.30 Lunch (£7.25)

1.30-2.15 Turf Diseases

2.15-3.15

Problems of Maintenance

3.15-3.45 General Discussion

3.45 Disperse

Please remember, club secretaries and greens committee chairmen are welcome and the charge for the day will be £9.

Surrey would like to offer its best wishes to G. Watt who has retired after 29 years as head greenkeeper at Purley Downs. Mr. Watt is returning to his home town of Edinburgh, where we hope he will enjoy many years of golf. His replacement is D. Andrews.

M. Hale, Administrator.

## Book Review

### MOTOR LAWNMOWERS 2

ATCO, FLYMO, HAYTER, HONDA, MOUNTFIELD, VICTA, WEBB



### Owners Workshop Manual



The success of the first *Motor Lawnmowers Owners' Workshop Manual*, published by Haynes Publishing, has led to the introduction of a companion volume for a new generation of motorised mowers. Makes and models covered are: Atco, Commodore 14, Flymo TL Micromo, Hayter Hobby, Honda HR17 and HR194, Mountfield Emblem and M3 Power Drive, Victa Silver Streak and Webb 14.

All have been stripped down and rebuilt in the company's workshop and the text includes step-by-step photographs.

This manual will also be of help to those whose mowers are not listed, but have a Tecumseh or Briggs and Stratton engine or, in the case of the Flymo, a Kawasaki two-stroke engine. The first manual related to some of the earlier Atco, Flymo, Ginge, Qualcast, Suffolk, Victa and Webb models — both cover only pedestrian-controlled mowers and not the ride-on type.

*Motor Lawnmowers 2*, by J. Parker, costs £7.50.

# Fisons are putting on