

LAWNS *for* SPORTS

By
REGINALD BEALE, F.L.S.



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LAWNS *for* SPORTS

THEIR CONSTRUCTION
AND UPKEEP



Reginald Beale F. L. S.

LAWNS *for* SPORTS

THEIR CONSTRUCTION AND UPKEEP

By REGINALD BEALE, F.L.S.

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Messrs. James Carter & Co.

RAYNES PARK

LONDON, S.W.

LONDON

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PREFACE

THE popularity of field sports and games is simply wonderful, but yet more wonderful still is the fact that, whilst there are many books devoted to the games themselves, no one has apparently considered it worth while to write one on the all-important subject of the construction and upkeep of sports grounds.

There is undoubtedly a demand for a book on this subject, my post-bag has been telling me so for the past 20 years, and so insistently that I have at last fallen.

Doubtless there are many better qualified to handle the subject, but as they have stood aside all these years I make no apology for stepping into the breach and telling in simple language all that I have learned about the fascinating subject, in my position as Manager of the Sports Department of my firm, Messrs. James Carter and Co.

This department came into existence when the country caught the Golfing fever, and I well remember the day when we received a letter asking us how long it would take to produce a Putting Green from seed.

This was indeed a poser, we simply did not know, our old and trusted experts gave a minimum of 3 years, whilst Mr. Punch put it down at 300.

Well! We at once instituted a series of experiments, plots were prepared and sown with different mixtures, at rates varying between the then accepted quantity of 3 bushels to the acre and 24 bushels.

These experiments, simple in themselves, demonstrated at once and beyond question that a close, dense turf of the finest quality could easily be produced from seed in from 9 to 12 months by sowing the seed at the rate of 1 oz. to the square yard, or approximately 12 bushels to the acre.

This rate we accepted as our standard, and it has since been accepted as *the* standard.

It was all very well to satisfy ourselves that this so-called miracle could be performed, but it was quite a different matter to convince the public.

At last an opportunity arose to demonstrate the system on a large scale at Sunningdale, where 60 odd acres of the roughest heathland in England was converted into a first-class Golf Course, in the then record time of 12 months. The seed was sown in September, 1900, and the Course was opened for full play, without any tedious rules about teeing up the ball through the green, the following September.

Nothing succeeds like success. We improved our methods, and when the next opportunity came along, at Walton Heath, we reduced the period of maturity to 8 months, the seed being sown in September, 1903, and the Course opened for play on May 14th, 1904.

The next record, and one that has never been approached, let alone beaten, was made at Sandy Lodge, which was brought into play in the incredibly short time of 5 months, the seed being sown in April, 1909, and the Course was fit for play on September 25th of the same year.

America then came into prominence, and we achieved the impossible by producing English turf at the County Club, Brookline, Boston, Mass., and on many other Courses. All sorts of problems arose, such as the destruction of worms, which at one time seriously threatened to make inland Golf impossible.

Again I am proud of being able to boast that it was my department, which by then was growing vigorously, solved the problem by inventing and introducing Carters Worm-killer. It was the one and only efficient and non-poisonous wormkiller in those days, but since then we have been flattered by the usual cloud of imitations. But in this, as in our system of rapid turf production, we have never been equalled, and still hold all records.

As interest in the game increased, my post-bag became heavier and heavier.

This prompted me to write and publish *Carters Practical Greenkeeper*, which I think I may describe without undue vanity as the textbook upon which the art of greenkeeping as practised to-day was founded.

I have written too much perhaps about the one game, Golf; the game which brought into being the department which I am so proud to guide, so perhaps I may be excused. In any case it is fairly obvious that if one is capable of constructing and keeping a Golf Course, which is in full play year in and year out, in fair weather and in

foul, other grounds, devoted to seasonal games and used in most cases only when the weather permits, are fairly easy.

It has taken me over a year to sort my notes and collect the material for this book, which is founded on my personal experience. Nothing has been recommended that has not been proved time and again, and yet I fear it is far from complete.

If, however, my efforts meet with a measure of success I will return to the subject and endeavour to bring out improved editions.

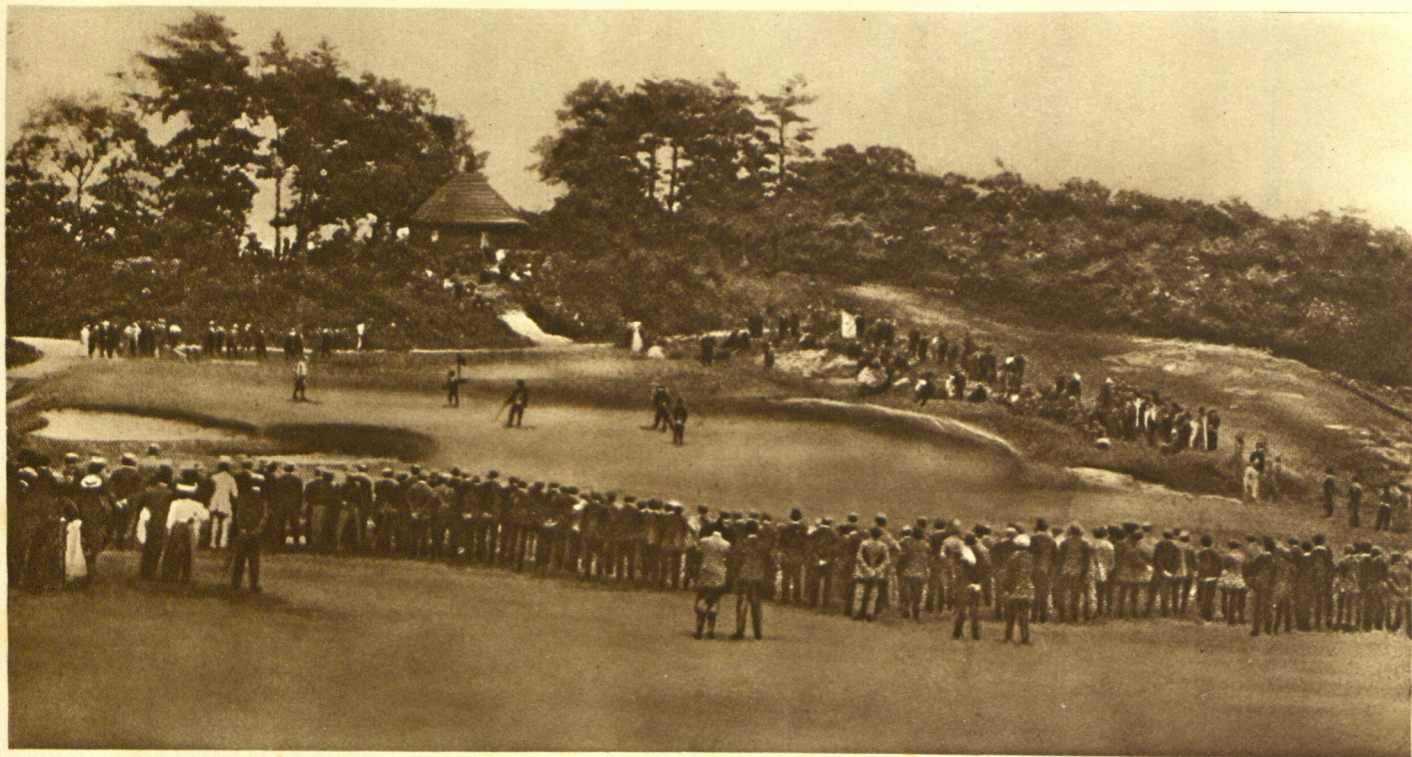
Raynes Park, 1924.

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