

LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY

BY

G. C. NASH

(FROM RALPH VINEY, CAPTAIN, ROUGH-OVER GOLF CLUB)

January 1

Dear Mr. Whelk:

I have much pleasure in confirming that at a special and extraordinary committee meeting held yesterday afternoon you were officially appointed secretary of the Roughover Golf Club at a salary of £250 per annum.

The committee have asked me to congratulate you on your good fortune and have also requested me to inform you that you will be required to take up your duties some time before the tenth of this month.

Yours very truly,
Ralph Viney

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(FROM COMMANDER HARRINGTON NETTLE, C.M.G., D.S.O., FLAGSTAFF VILLA, ROUGHOVER.)

Tuesday, January 2

Sir,

I learn that the committee have given you the job of secretary, and although you are not coming to Roughover until the tenth of the month, I shall be glad if you will note that one of the springs in the armchair to the left of the fireplace in the reading room is broken — the spiky end having occasioned me acute discomfort less than five minutes ago.

Please understand that unless you attend to this matter immediately there will be trouble waiting for you when you arrive.

Yours faithfully,
Harrington Nettle

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(FROM LIONEL NUTMEG, MALAYAN CIVIL SERVICE (RETD.), OLD BUCKS COTTAGE, ROUGHOVER.)

January 2

Dear Sir:

I hear that you are the new secretary. May heaven help you.

Yours faithfully,
L. Nutmeg

(FROM ADMIRAL CHARLES SNEYRING-STYMIE, C.B. (MEMBER OF ROUGHOVER GOLF CLUB COMMITTEE).)

January 2

Dear Mr. Whelk,

In case you should be under any misapprehension as to what your job as secretary of the Roughover Golf Club entails, I have much pleasure in enclosing herewith a typewritten list of your duties, etc., and I shall be glad if you will pay particular attention to pages 13-15, 21, 26 and 43.

You will not, I trust, misunderstand me when I tell you that I was not at all impressed by your general bearing, manners and personality when you came up for interview before the committee. Kindly, therefore, see about this before you arrive.

Yours faithfully,
C. Sneyring-Stymie

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(FROM GENERAL SIR ARMSTRONG FORCURSUE, K.B.E., C.S.I., "THE CEDARS", ROUGHOVER.)

January 2

Sir,

I hear that you have been appointed secretary of the club and it will be as well for you to note here and now that the committee are nothing but a pack of bovine nincompoops and lying humbugs.

As you are likely to become tainted by close proximity with them in due course, I am taking this early opportunity of pointing out that I am not in the habit of overlooking incompetence.

Yours, Sir,
Armstrong Forcursue

P.S. In case your appointment may have given you a swollen head, I have pleasure in drawing your attention to the fact that the only other applicant for the job was adjudged insane. In spite of this, however, the voting was but 8 to 7 in your favour.

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