

# **THE JOINT COUNCIL FOR GOLF GREENKEEPER APPRENTICESHIP**

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## **First Annual Meeting**

The first annual meeting of The Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship was held at St. Ives Research Station, Bingley, on Monday, 20th April.

This Council comprises representatives of the national Golf Unions of England, Scotland and Wales, the British and Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Associations and The Sports Turf Research Institute. Its function is to administer a national scheme for golf greenkeeper apprenticeship as recently approved by the

Ministry of Labour, and it is hoped that the operation of such a scheme will do much to raise the status of greenkeepers and thereby encourage recruitment to a trade which, in the post-war years, has been adversely affected by competition from industry. The Joint Council and all associated with it clearly recognise that unless young men can be attracted into greenkeeping now, there will be no successors to the present head men at golf courses throughout the country, many of whom are now approaching retirement.

It was reported at this meeting that interest expressed in the scheme had so far exceeded all expectations and this augured well for the future.

On the subject of wages, The Joint Council does not regard the laying down of rates for apprentices as a part of its function but confines itself to a recommendation that employing clubs should pay percentages ranging between 45% and 70% of the craftsman's rate during the three-year term of apprenticeship. Many clubs have nevertheless sought more positive guidance. In Scotland, a joint meeting was held recently between representatives of the greenkeepers' and golf club secretaries' associations together with those from the Scottish Golf Union. Recommended rates were put forward by the greenkeepers as a guide—it being realised that conditions vary as between different areas—and endorsed by the representatives present as figures to be aimed at. Assistant greenkeepers were shown at £12 per week, First assistants at £13 10s. 0d., and Head greenkeepers at from £17-£20 depending upon whether house and/or fuel are provided, plus pension provision. It is understood that similar figures may be regarded as reasonable in England and Wales.