

Proposition from the Southern Section

"That the present system of electing a Chairman be abolished, and the best man for the job be elected irrespective of the Section to which he belongs."

Several members, including Messrs. Herrington, Drewitt and Dixon spoke strongly against this proposition, emphasising that the honour of being elected Chairman was, and should be, for services rendered to the Association and its members. Mr. Pord voiced the opinion of the Executive Committee who were not in favour of any change from the present system. After further discussion a vote was taken, and the proposition was defeated by 49 to 2.

The British Golf Greenkeeper Journal

Mr. F. W. Hawtree regretted there had been a loss of approximately £33 during the year. Production costs had risen by £80 and advertising revenue had dropped by £120, but he assured members the financial position of the Journal was quite sound. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting to the Hon. Editor for his continued efforts.

Apprenticeship Scheme

The Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship had held two meetings, and a Sub-Committee had been formed to handle enquiries as they arose. 6,500 copies of the Scheme had been forwarded to Youth Employment Officers throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and an Employers' Guide was available explaining the operation of the scheme. Toward the costs of developing the scheme the English Golf Union had contributed 100 guineas, the Scottish Golf Union 75 guineas, the Welsh Golf Union 25 guineas, the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association 25 guineas and the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association 50 guineas. To date about 9 registrations had been made through the Council.

F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

The Hon. Secretary reported that for the current year one greenkeeper would be going to Bingley in October, and that the Sports Turf Research Institute had reserved two places for the Fund in the Spring of 1965, and he hoped to receive enquiries at an early date for these placings.

Any other business

Mr. J. Glass asked if permission could be obtained from the Royal and Ancient for members to attend the Open Championship on production of their passes. The Hon. Secretary said he would make the necessary enquiries.

The meeting closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair by Mr. F. W. Hawtree.



Mr. Editor,

Perhaps this letter will start the ink flowing and we shall learn what our members think :

"The cat amongst the Pigeons"

Is it not time something was done about practice before a tournament or county meeting not including club competitions.

Golfers, the most selfish, inconsiderate, dissatisfied and persistent moaners one could ever meet. They expect to practice up to dark the day before, hacking their way round tees and fairways, long studded shoes tearing at the surface of the green, and still expect to start playing at 8-0 a.m. the following day with everything perfect, including new holes cut. With staff shortages and shorter working weeks in industry, surely ground staffs should have a fair crack of the whip and not have to start at the crack of dawn in these days of enlightenment, no wonder we can't keep staff. I suggest the course is closed to competitors at least 24 hours before the start of the tournament but leaving the course open for club members who give up the right to play during these tournaments.

This would give the ground staff 24 hours unimpeded effort to prepare the course.

It is in my opinion, time that we in this association, being affiliated to the Golf Unions, made strong recommendations to these unions on this point.

Have I stirred a hornet's nest, I hope so.

H. Hughes,
Cuddington Golf Club.