The Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship

Hon. Secretary, B. M. Wood, F.C.I.S., St Ives Research Station, Bingley, Yorkshire. Tel.: Bingley 2484.

Chairman: F. W. Hawtree.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE JOINT COUNCIL HELD IN THE ST IVES MANSION, BINGLEY, ON MONDAY, 26TH APRIL 1965.


Apologies: Apologies for absence were reported from Messrs W. Bradford, H. Fry and G. Breen-Turner.

Minutes of First Annual General Meeting:
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the Joint Council held on 20th April 1964 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Financial Account 1964: The Hon. Secretary presented the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st December 1964. This showed receipts amounting to £311 5s. against payments of £238 12s. 4d., leaving a balance carried forward of £72 12s. 6d.
RESOLVED: That the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 1964 as presented by the Hon. Secretary be and is hereby received and adopted.

Honorary Secretary’s Report: The Hon. Secretary reported that by and large the scheme had got away to an encouraging start. Much interest had been shown in the scheme by golf clubs though not all of those which had requested information had taken the next step of registering apprentices. From the inception of the scheme on 1st January 1964 to date, 38 sets of deeds had been issued and 15 apprentices had been registered, though a further batch of applications would be considered at an ordinary meeting following this Annual General Meeting.

The main difficulty experienced in the working of the scheme had been the provision of suitable courses in background sciences. The Joint Council having an insufficient number of apprentices in any one area to justify the provision of special courses it had been necessary to fall back on existing courses, mostly in general horticulture. He believed, nevertheless, that the Joint Council’s policy of insisting on some formal instruction being given in theoretical subjects was the right one. A dossier of courses which can be provided throughout the country had been built up as the result of a national survey undertaken at the Joint Council’s request. The whole question of the training of groundsmen—which term could be taken in its general context to include the training of greenkeepers—was under investigation by the Department of Education and Science and both Mr Escritt and the Secretary had attended the first meeting of interested bodies. The interests of the Joint Council’s apprentices would, of course, be kept in mind at any future meetings attended.

The Secretary had addressed meetings of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries in Harrogate and of the B.G.G.A., Sheffield Section, the latter being a joint meeting with Chairmen of Green Committees. There was a possibility of his being asked to address a future meeting of Sheffield and District Union of Golf Club representatives. Every opportunity of publicising the scheme through the Institute’s publications was taken through the courtesy of the Director and occasional articles were supplied to Editors of Golfing publications.

The Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs had requested assistance in the preparation of a circular to their member clubs and this had been given.

The Hon. Secretary concluded by referring to the present climate through-
out the country which was generally favourable towards the training scheme and he stated that this had undoubtedly been reflected in the helpful attitude shown towards him by all with whom he had been in contact.

RESOLVED:
That the report of the Hon. Secretary be received with thanks.

Election of Officers: On separate motions it was RESOLVED that officers elected for the ensuing year be as follows: —Chairman, F. W. Hawtree, Vice-Chairman, J. Parker, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, B. M. Wood.

CORRESPONDENCE
F. W. HAWTREE, ESQ.,
Editor
British Golf Greenkeeper

Will you please accept my sincere thanks for the very kind tribute you pay me in your Journal on the occasion of my impending retirement from the Artisan Golfers' Association. Your generous sentiments are deeply appreciated. But it strikes me that a brief addendum is desirable to your notes. Prior to my 30 years of office as Hon. Secretary of the A.G.A. it was my privilege and good fortune to serve for 13 years as Assistant Secretary to your father, the late F. G. Hawtree, who was the Association's first Secretary. His kindness, his wise guidance, his friendship, were qualities for which I have ever been most grateful and if any applause seems merited for services I may have rendered I pray it may be shared with F. G. H. Beyond any shadow of a doubt the solid foundations on which the B.G.G.A. and the A.G.A. are now firmly established are due entirely to the devoted efforts and sound principles of F. G. Hawtree.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. GARDNER.

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