

THOSE WHO SERVE

Number 4 in the series of Profiles by Brigadier C. W. Morton, M.C.

ERNEST HENRY BENBOW

ERNEST BENBOW (67) started his greenkeeping career in 1919 at Handsworth Golf Club, and last year he retired having served at that one Club for 48 years, 43 years of which he has served as its Head Greenkeeper. He tells me that the photograph of him shown in this profile was taken in 1933. Today he is slightly older!

During his time he was a scratch golfer and won the B.G.G.A. Scratch Cup on three occasions. Last year he was 2nd in the B.G.G.A. Tournament played at Skegness. Not bad for a man of 67. He has taken a great interest in



the administration of his Association having served for 30 years on the B.G.G.A. Executive and on Section Committees. He is now a Life Member of the B.G.G.A.

Mr Benbow is also a very modest man since he has given me the minimum of information on which to write his profile. However, it is enough to show that his heart was in his Club, Handsworth Golf Club, in his Association and in the game of golf. What else can one want of any Head Greenkeeper? A fine record of devoted service. Congratulations, Mr Benbow.



HAROLD SIDDORN

HAROLD SIDDORN (67) became a greenkeeper in 1916, at the age of 14, with the North Worcestershire Golf Club at Northfield. He became a Head Greenkeeper 24 years ago in 1945 at Blackwell Golf Club where he still works. He has now put in a total of 43 years in greenkeeping and is still going strong. He tells me that what he now knows about greenkeeping is chiefly due to the excellent teaching of the "good old greenkeepers of the past". Today, he says, greenkeeping is made very much easier by modern machinery. His weekly wage as a young boy was 12s.

Other clubs he has served at are: Kings Norton Golf Club (1920-1925); Lickey Municipal Golf Club (1925-1935). He was absent from greenkeeping during the war years and in 1945 went to Blackwell Golf Club, Northampton. In the past, he used to play golf, reaching a handicap of 7. Recently he says he has not played much although he still takes a great interest in a large number of amateur and professional

golfers whom he knows personally. A lifetime of a steady climb up in the art of greenkeeping and still actively engaged as a Head Greenkeeper at the age of 67. Congratulations Mr Siddorn. May you reach your half-century at greenkeeping before you retire.

HERE AND THERE

A letter of complaint has been sent to the Doncaster Corporation by officials of Wheatley Golf Club about gipsies camped on adjacent land off Armthorpe Road.

A spokesman for the golf club said the main trouble at the moment was with animals which were let loose on the course during the night causing untold damage. The cost of repair to one green was about £50.

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Members will be sorry to hear that S. C. Dennis is in hospital with dermatitis. He has taken this chance to write down some of his experiences over the past 50 years in greenkeeping and these will be appearing in a future issue. Meanwhile we all wish him an early recovery.

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Bute District Council have increased playing fees for the much improved Port Bannatyne Golf Course. The increases, for men, vary from 6d. added to a round (now 3s. 6d.) to 10s. more for the annual fee (now £3 10s.).

Mr John Shaw, the greenkeeper at the course, has been commended for the excellent work and improvements he is carrying out.

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Ron Malin, of Scott Road, Chadwell St. Mary, has retired at the age of 68 after 50 years of greenkeeping at the Orsett Golf Club. He assisted the late Fred Baisden to lay the first six holes, then nine in 1919. The course was extended to the full 18 holes in 1930, and recently championship golf has been played at Orsett.

A presentation was made by the

Head Greenkeeper, David Singleton, on behalf of the green staff of a lighter and a tankard. Ron says he hopes to spend more time in his garden but has promised to help out when the occasion demands.

The club is running a benefit competition and a collection from those members who are unable to enter. The proceeds will go to Ron—a man who is greatly admired and respected by members and staff alike.

“THE PRINCE OF GREENKEEPERS”

by WILLIAM BRADFORD

Many years ago a golfing scribe gave this title to Alex. S. Pringle, greenkeeper at the Killermont Course of the Glasgow Golf Club, and on Monday, 5th May, Alex. was laid to rest in his home town of Carlisle in Lanarkshire.

It is a measure of Alex.'s worth that this title neither roused rancour nor jealousy, envy nor malice, only pleasure that so apt a rank had been given to so worthy an exponent of his craft and to one whose unflinching courtesy, good humour and kindness had so endeared him to us all.

His course, no matter the season, was always immaculate, and the pride of his club members. It was also the criterion and inspiration of many greenkeepers. He had that gift no matter how great the occasion of being quite “unflappable” and had an apparent ease in carrying out whatever came to hand.

At a now historic meeting to re-form the S.G.G.A. which was held at Barnton just after the war he was appointed General Secretary. And it was he who laid the foundation of integrity and good fellowship that has guided all who followed him. He not only loved, he adorned our social occasions. A prince of goodfellows as he was a prince of greenkeepers. Good-bye Alex. Thank you for the pleasure of your company.