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THE BRITISH GOLF
GREENKEEPER
HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

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Front Cover Picture:
Demonstration of Ransomes Motor Triple on the Woodbridge Golf Course

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THE GOLF FOUNDATION has produced the golfers,
The Golf Development Council is producing the golf courses.

Let's take a look at the shortages and the problems that this upsurge in golf interest has produced. What can we learn from the past 10 years?

Providing facilities

It can take four years or more to produce a golf course ready for play. Therefore, by the time it is realised that new golf courses are needed, the situation is already four years behind the times.

Simple facilities like driving ranges, (e.g. on existing sports fields when not used for other games) or rudimentary greens and tees provided on sports grounds, common land, parks, farmers' fields, may satisfy schools and beginners for a time. Artisan type clubs which use courses at off peak times should also be encouraged at existing courses to assist maximum use of existing facilities. But full scale new golf courses are demanded in the end. They must be located and planned well ahead of demand.

Cost of construction is rising. £100,000 is not exceptional on an unfavourable site. Standards are rising all the time and intense use demands a higher specification than formerly.

Private ventures may falter for lack of funds. Municipal bodies have to be encouraged. Municipal courses now break even and show a profit. A privately operated public course can do even better.

The integration of housing development with new golf courses provides the best way of spreading the cost and giving something extra in return. But planning restrictions stultify this type of development in many countries, though in the USA (especially Florida) it still flourishes. Otherwise, a private venture needs, say, 200–300 enthusiasts with at least £500 to £1,000 each.

Because costs are high, the tendency for each new venture to seek a bigger club house and longer ‘Championship’ course should be discouraged. Simple layouts and buildings can be developed fully in the future, if the original plans are right.

Government help may be available where derelict industrial land can be reclaimed and landscaped by making a golf course. It is cheaper, for instance, to remodel slag heaps for golf than for many other purposes because more internal contours can be left. But any reclamation scheme should ensure adequate top soil cover and drainage of playing areas at least.

The British Government recognises the need to encourage sport and makes grants towards the provision of new courses and training teachers. The old idea of golf as a game for the favoured few dies hard but it should be relentlessly contradicted wherever it survives. Lack of government help may indeed prolong this old myth. Grants will naturally carry the obligation to use them for general benefit.

Recently many more commercial interests have become interested in ‘investing in leisure’. The publicity of televised sponsored tournaments has been attractive for some years. Now the sponsorship of amateur events may follow. This new money would be better channelled into the sub-structure of the game instead of its facade. It is folly to foster more surface activities until background technology and personnel can take the strain.

Nine hole courses nearly halve the costs and in remoter areas may well satisfy demand. They should always be planned with an eye to future extension to 18 holes.
Par 3 courses and Pitch and Putt Courses are popular and the latter, especially, can be lucrative. But they are a sign of the popularity of the game rather than a solution to providing facilities for it.

Pressures
The rush of new golfers and hence the urgent need for new courses, now shows us where plans were needed years earlier. Today, many of our resources are woefully out-dated.

Greenkeepers
An apprenticeship scheme was started about six years ago but only at the instigation of greenkeepers themselves. Golf in Great Britain is curiously organised. Responsibility for fundamental thinking is dispersed. There are four amateur, ethnic groups, one traditional supra-national body dealing with limited areas, female organisations, professional bodies concerned more with finance than the game itself, the Golf Development Council which tries to link the above bodies and the Golf Foundation supported by manufacturers and official representatives from most sections of golf. Each organisation is, indeed, represented in some form on most of the others. This provides a superficially democratic system of government but produces effective stalemate in any urgent matters outside each organisation's immediate area of concern. Thus, there is still no effective encouragement or training for greenkeepers. Older courses cannot find them. New courses have to take pot luck. The average age of groundstaff in Britain has, at a guess, gone down from 40 to 20 in ten years. Traditional greenkeeping practices are in danger of being lost because we were all slow in realising the side effects of developing golf alone and not its associated trades.

Research
An expanded programme of research was equally lacking. The investment in research in relation to expenditure could be as low as -0042%. No industry can long survive on this proportion – nor does it deserve to.

Design
At the same time, the boom in new courses attracts a number of professional amateur golfers and others into the design field. They probably lack practical experience. Again, if money is not to be wasted there should be a full supporting service of agronomy. Design itself is changing the whole time in its details in order to keep up with new greenkeeping techniques. The triplex green mower, as one example, needs adequate space to manoeuvre on surrounds as well as a green structure able to resist compaction.

Construction
The number of golf course contractors increases at the same time. Stress must be laid on the need for precise detailed specifications and drawings. Good constructional foremen who could interpret general indications do not exist anymore. The construction of a golf course can only be resolved by an engineering approach, however experienced the designer may be.

With qualified architects fully engaged, urgent schemes may use advisers or contractors alone of little experience, often with unhappy results both in design and practice. Standard contract documents should be available so that clients can obtain value for money and be given protection.

Future
Unless these problems are met squarely by the responsible authorities in each country, control of the situation will pass out of experienced hands into those of entrepreneurs and persons with no interest in aspects of the game of golf which have been proved by time.

Basic etiquette and rules could even be at hazard. Encouragement of development must come from the top – from the authorities who have inherited and understood the changing traditions of the game. They must remould these to current needs. The flood of new golfers must be actively encouraged (our basic philosophy rests on the universal benefits of the game) but its direction must be guided. The money and time now involved in golf are very serious business indeed. Those who care for the game's interests must respond on the same level.

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April 1973
Those Sixty Years

by

Stan Morton

LITTLE DID I THINK when I joined the Association 58 years ago that I would have the pleasure of attending the Diamond Jubilee Dinner at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, with so many fellow Greenkeepers, their wives, friends and guests.

The Association had only just got started when World War I began. A lot of us had to go, and some had to start again, more or less from scratch. This is where I feel I must mention a few names — most of them are ‘The late’ — F. G. Hawtree, Senior, A. Whittal, Chairman for many years, W. Smithers, Hon. Secretary from the revival of the Association, Tom Bridges, Tom Mason, and, from the North, W. Woods and G. McNieve, to mention a few. These stalwarts did most of the spade work.

Between the wars, membership was growing all the time. Wages began to improve, and well they might, for I remember going cap in hand to get my men a 2/- rise. This, I am glad to say, is not now the case.

I have seen a lot of changes, most of them for the better. For instance, we used to have essay competitions, prizes given by firms. These were all very well, but there were many Greenkeepers who could do their job on the course, but found it hard to put it on paper. This was overcome when the different sections were formed and were able to arrange their own lectures and meetings.

On the other hand, when other sections were formed we saw a great difference in the annual Tournament. Numbers started to drop and have never got back. In the early days it was common to have 120 to 140 entries for four days. Also in those days there was a lot more enjoyment, somehow. Where the most progress was made, I think, was in the ‘Thirties’.

We had the Association’s 21st Dinner at the Hendon Golf Club, with about 150 members and guests. Also, the first edition of the British Golf Greenkeeper came out in July 1936. At first it was issued once a quarter. The great favourite for years were articles by Harry Fulford. He was a great friend to Greenkeepers, and the wives loved to read his piece each time it arrived.

Also in the early ‘Thirties’, the Committee decided we should make ourselves known from the playing side. I was given the job to get a team of Greenkeepers to play anyone who would take us on. Around about that time I was able to call on about half-a-dozen Scratch men and make a team of 12 and 14 of 5 handicap and below. That great friend, Henry Longhurst, gave me a great start by arranging a fixture with Cambridge and Oxford, also the Pro’s: the Stewards, Police and Secretaries followed and we were always able to give a very good account of ourselves. About this time we had started our own research and trial plots on half-a-dozen courses under the leadership of Tom Mason.

The Benevolent Fund has always been a great concern of the Association. We have never been flush. I have always felt our partners at the Club, the Pro’s, could help. Half-a-dozen Exhibition Matches up and down the country could have swelled our funds. After all, the better the course is in condition, the more trade the Pro is going to do.

Perhaps there is some other member who could fill the gaps I have left in these 60 years, so I would like to conclude on a personal note. Since starting as a boy at Camberley Heath, I have enjoyed every game of golf, visits to all Tournaments, Lectures and visits to firms in the trade, which have been most interesting. Having made a rough total, I have played, in the four Countries, over 300 Courses and only once was I asked for a green fee. That was last year at Flackwell Heath after having been given permission from the Head Greenkeeper to go ahead. I was later informed by the Secretary that no one

The British Golf Greenkeeper
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Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex - the world’s first Greens Management System.
played there before a green fee is paid. So, away we went to Temple where we had a wel-
come, fit for anyone, from the Secretary, Steward, and my very old friend and Green-
keeper Jim Rosier. We had drinks half way round and were met by the Captain and his 
wife as we came off the last green, with an invitation to come again. 

Having enjoyed the Dinner at the 21st year, also the Diamond Jubilee, I may not be 
about at the Centenary; but I hope the powers that be at the time will take the Tourna-
ment to St. Andrews.

The Funny Side of 
Greenkeeping

The late Harry Fulford, a former professional golfer and humorist, wrote this piece for our 
magazine 25 years ago. Its philosophy will still appeal to many.

AND WHAT I KNOW about greenkeeping could be written on a postage stamp. At the same 
time I am going to place on record – listen to this, Freddy Hawtree – that I was once in a 
job where I was responsible for the upkeep of the course. Never mind where it was, but 
it was not a hundred miles from the Research Station at Bingley, Yorks.

At that time amongst my members was one reigning Amateur Champion, a Captain 
of the victorious Cambridge team of that year, and many times Open and Amateur 
Champion of Australia.

And the Club, fed up with the Green Committee, composed of Doctors, Chartered Ac-
countants, Solicitors and Mill Owners, decided that the poor dam pro. was the only 
man who could make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear! In plain English, I was the cat’s 
whiskers so far as the course was concerned.

My first job of reconstruction was to clear the ninth green of worms. The subsoil 
would have delighted the heart of a potter. All day long you could see the worms form-
ing fours on its surface. A very keen member of the Club said: ‘Destroy the worms and 
you do away with Nature’s natural ventilation and drainage.’ (Incidentally from a 
putting standpoint I prefer a green with wormcasts, for they often deflect my ball towards 
the hole!)

However, let me go back to the ninth. From information received I ordered one 
hundredweight of steel filings from Sheffield. We covered the green with them, and a 
week later that green went Bolshevik. It resembled the bottom of a tanker that had been 
six months at sea!

We wrestled with the problem, and giving it up, I constructed a new green some forty 
yards farther on, and placed a ‘Ground under Repair’ board on the 20ft by 10ft that 
marked the site of what had been. As a Bug Blinder, steel filings were napoo. That taught 
me something.

The era of rule of thumb greenkeeping has long since passed. When I find myself 
to-day in the presence of the modern greenkeeper I merely listen. Not for me to butt in 
where angels fear to tread. I am quite conscious of my own limitations.

If Mr Hawtree tried to tell me how to make a golf club it would be seconds out of the 
ring. If he showed me a hefty divot and explained that it was deficient in lime, or its surface 
was not Poa something, I should listen and then still understand nothing.

I am not trying to throw bouquets at the greenkeepers, but I have always held the 
opinion that the most important servant on the golf club staff is not the steak and kidney 
provider, despite the fact that he generally gets the lion’s portion out of the poor box at Christmas, not is it the professional whose profits go in penny stamps for A/c’s rendered, 
but it certainly is the greenkeeper who, if he did not produce the goods, would put the 
caterer out of work, and the pro. a shade nearer the workhouse.

The British Golf Greenkeeper
In the inauguration of Associations connected with the workers, pride of seniority is held by the professionals, who in 1901 formed themselves into the PGA. Next, I believe, came the disciples of Mrs. Beeton, the thirst-quenchers of the nineteenth hole; and then arose the greenkeepers.

I have heard rumours of a caddies' Union, but so far they lack a leader. It will come, but meanwhile there is more or less cohesion amongst those who administer to the requirements of a class of individual who claim to know more about our jobs than we do ourselves!

We are all by way of being specialists. I can imagine a member of the Greenkeepers' Association deeply immersed in a book entitled, 'The Love Story of a Leatherjacket'; and a steward, 'Ten ways of dealing with Hen fruit'. As for the pro., apart from the book he has written himself, he can only criticise the various short cuts to proficiency that seem to be a feature of our daily Press to-day.

Where does it all lead us? Unity is no doubt a fine thing. Why should not the greenkeepers have a confidential journal of their own? I see no reason why not.

By the way, I should like to get to the bottom of a mystery that has got me beat. Some few weeks ago I prepared the ground for a small lawn in my garden, on which a grandchild could play in the summer – which, by the look of things, will never arrive. I turned over the soil to the depth of a foot, prepared a level surface, and bit the ear of a friendly greenkeeper for sufficient of his four and sixpence per lb. seed. I told myself that I should get a lawn that no green could surpass. The seed struck, came up, but the winner proved to be a couple of sticks of rhubarb that now resemble a sheltering palm!

Every greenkeeper has his own problems. He of Slotpton-on-Mud is faced with a clay subsoil wherein worms make nightly whoopee. At St. Andrews an aerial torpedo would never produce signs of life in the basement.

On public courses where the non-golfing public can roam at will, the remains of ham sandwiches, paper bags, fruit and broken glass, shorten the greenkeeper's life. But has any reader even suffered from a visitation of magpies?

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(we will pay the postage)

April 1973
FIFTY-FOUR MEMBERS of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association flew into Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the 44th Annual International Turf Grass Conference and Show organised by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

All knew that Boston had some connection with baked beans and a Tea Party: a few knew that Boston bore the title 'The Birthplace of American Freedom' for its unique role in the war for American Independence. Thirty-eight miles south of Boston lies Plymouth where it all began with the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620. For over 150 years the American Colonies tolerated rule from the Old Country and Boston was always foremost in protesting at what they considered to be the tyranny of the British Crown. It was a Boston man, Joseph Warren who, on April 18th, 1775, sent out the call to action which Paul Revere, and others, carried.

The British departed in 1776. Since then, Boston has become a prosperous city with a population of three million; one of the country's largest wool markets; the centre of the North-East's fishing industry and one of the major seaports on the Atlantic coast. The clever ones in the party knew all this already; the rest of us gleaned it later from the guide books.

Boston is a city of great contrasts; charming 17th and 18th century buildings, modern architecture and, of course, skyscrapers; narrow cowpath alleys and sweeping super-highways. A city of scholars and sailors with modern dockyards, universities, theatres and concert halls. We were told that 'January in Boston is likely to be chilly with the average daily temperature ranging from a low of 23°F to a high 37°F'. For once the Americans were guilty of understatement. The day after we arrived, the National Weather Bureau registered a low of 1°F in the early morning and a high of only 16°F in the afternoon. (The Americans do not wish to know about degrees Centigrade.)

The Boston Globe reported that 'Traffic cop Walter Fahey wore beneath his uniform, thermal long-johns, two sweaters and a nylon pile parka, and still felt frozen'. A foolhardy few of us, who walked from our hotel to the conference registration centre, arrived with aching brows and frost-nipped noses and ears. We considered ourselves lucky to still be intact inside our St. Michael string underwear. We thought of investing in thermal long-johns but felt it might cause comment and embarrassment if we had to take them off everytime we entered an over-heated interior.

Inside the John B. Hynes Civic Auditorium all was warm, very warm, despite its vastness. We presented our credentials to the charming receptionists and received a plastic covered identity card for insertion in the breast pocket. If hitherto we had not been easily recognisable by the natty cut of our immaculate suitings, we were now clearly labelled as British. Our hosts were perhaps disappointed that we were not wearing bowler hats but so was I when the label identifying an Oriental gentleman did not read 'Made in Hong Kong'.

The first of twenty-five lectures and discussions began that afternoon in the ballroom of the adjacent Boston-Sheraton Hotel. The general theme for the conference was 'Time for a Change' and the three morning and three afternoon sessions were sub-divided into the following themes:

- Legislative Changes and the Golf Course Superintendent.
- Changes in Putting Green Construction Concepts.
- Changes Affecting Turf Management Practices.
- Changes in Automatic Irrigation Concepts.
- Changes in the Demand for Superintendents.
- Changes and the Thinking Superintendents.
On the Tuesday the exhibition was opened. Over 140 exhibitors – dominated by Hahn, Toro-Jacobson – had reserved booth space in the show which was housed on two floors of the Hynes Auditorium. It remained open for three days allowing everybody to visit every stand, if they felt so inclined. Quite a few of the British contingent must have done just that, judging by the sacks of free samples that were carried on to the plane for the return journey.

The American Golf Superintendents are masters of presentation and they are allocated enormous annual budgets to spend on the upkeep of their courses. Having attended most of their lectures and seen their exhibits, it was gratifying to realise that their techniques and equipment were similar but not superior to those used by the British Golf Greenkeeper. Most of our party made friends with and were generously entertained by some of our American counterparts and their wives. Quite a lot of 'shop' was talked, opinions and advice were exchanged and a considerable amount of Bourbon was consumed. Some have already started corresponding and hope to entertain each other again, either in this country or the USA.

There were, of course, social events organised by the GCSAA. We were their guests at a buffet and dance aptly named the 'Boston Tee Party' and at a banquet and dance, on the last night, at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel. During this last event, Fred Hawtree made a brief but very apt, and much appreciated speech before presenting to Bob Mitchell, President of the GCSAA, a Testimonial of Appreciation and an inscribed silver pencil.

We also went on coach trips one of which took us to the Brookline Country Club in the Boston suburbs. This beautiful and 'legendary' club was founded way back in 1892. It will be the venue this year for the Walker Cup on August 14th - 15th.

The Superintendent at this club has 27 interesting and exacting holes in his charge. He also supervises the conditioning of the bowling greens, three paddle or platform tennis courts, two indoor tennis courts, one squash court and a skating pond of five acres. When we visited Brookline the ground was frozen solid and all outdoor activities had been suspended, as they are for most of the winter in New England.

However, we were able to watch the ladies playing a match against Canada on the indoor curling rinks. The Superintendent said he did not have to worry about these. 'They've had the same man taking care of them for years. I guess they don't trust me with them'.

He said that his biggest worry was thatch but poa annua is probably the most prevailing problem to plague golf courses in the Boston area.

'What do you think of America?' countless people have asked me since I returned. 'Well, I was only there for five days and then only in Boston', I say. I advise them to listen to Alistair Cooke who has been out there longer than I have. If they want to know what Boston looks like, they should see the film 'Fuzz' which was shot entirely in that city and is also exciting and very amusing.

One thing that impressed me was the politeness of the people and the trouble they will go to if help is required. We all agreed on this, just as we did, before we went our various ways from Heathrow on Saturday 13th January, that we had had an experience that we would not have missed for anything.

In response to numerous enquiries we can now reveal that the anonymous author of 'Boston Re-Invasion' was none other than one A. Harrison, General Sales Manager of Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd.
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Herts
DR ROGER BANNISTER, chairman of the Sports Council, has urged the Government and local authorities not to hold up the boom in golf by a tough attitude on planning consent for new courses.

He admitted that the Sports Council's target of 500 new courses in England and Wales by 1981 would be hard to achieve unless there was more co-operation from planning authorities.

Speaking at the Professional Golfers' Association convention in London, Dr Bannister said the present rate of new golf course building, about 25 a year, was not enough to give golf its first major expansion of facilities since the 1930s. Plans for more courses had been trapped in the 'rough' of land shortages, high land costs and the bunkers of planning consent.

He said: 'I think our target can only be realised if local authorities and Government change their attitude and allow land for golf courses to be made available in green belts, which is quite possible without loss of its amenity value.

'Not only golf, but several other sports can be imaginatively inter-laced to the great satisfaction of all. Walkers, riders, fishermen and golfers can co-exist without fear of a whizzing golf ball.'

He added: 'We understand the difficulties faced by local authorities when they are being pressed to provide land for a new golf course close to a crowded town. Competition for such land is considerable.

'But we believe local authorities should play their full part in providing the land for a game which a wide cross section of the British public clearly want and enjoy.

'We think our target is a realistic one which deserves to be met. Britain taught the rest of the world to play golf, and it seems only fair in this Sport for All year that we should not deny our own people the chance to play it themselves.'

Dr Bannister also called for:

- **More municipal courses** The present ratio in England and Wales is 92 private courses to 8 municipal courses. He said: 'A better balance would be a ratio of 70 to 30 and then the scandalous early dawn queues at municipal golf courses would be cut.'

- **Smaller, less sophisticated and cheaper courses, including more 9-hole courses.** He mentioned the Sandown Park golf centre, built on about 60 acres instead of the usual 100, as a good example.

- **Use of derelict land for golf courses.** There are 50,000 acres in Britain, much of it formerly used by the Coal Board and the Defence Ministry.

- **More multi-purpose use of golf courses** Clubhouse facilities for other sports, like squash, and careful landscaping of courses to allow picnic spots and bridle paths.

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**NEW RIDING MOWER WITH BUILT-IN SAFETY**

SAFETY IS A SPECIAL feature of the new Howard Bolens 728 riding mower which is marketed by Howard Rotavator Co. Ltd., West Horndon, Essex.

The engine is started by key and three safety switches – on the seat, the ignition and brake – interlock. If the operator gets off without setting the brake, the seat switch stops the engine automatically. If the operator brakes hard, the mower disengages automatically and the blade is stopped.

The 7 h.p. engine, with three forward speeds and one reverse has plenty of reserve power for heavy mowing and the 2-pedal control enables changing gear on the move.

The mower cuts a 28in. swath and the 30in. turning radius permits a tight turn and trim within \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. of borders. Extra large diameter wheels give good traction.
News

from the Sections

Special occasions
Mar 23 Southern Section Annual Dinner
26 East Midland Section Lecture
30 Midland Section Annual Dinner
Apr 4 South Coast Section Spring Tournament
4 Southern Section Lecture
5 Sheffield Section Lecture
18 Welsh Section Spring Tournament
May 8 Midland Section Spring Tournament
8 North West Section Spring Tournament
9 East Midland Section Spring Tournament
9 Southern Section Spring Tournament
June 12 Sheffield Section Outing to Cannock Fertilizers Ltd.
13 East Midland Section Presidents v Captains Match
14 Midland Section Presidents Match
July 18 Sheffield Section Annual Tournament

SOUTHERN

By F. W. Ford
Chairman:
C. A. Moore
(Stanmore)

Hon. Secretary:
68 Salcombe Gardens,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Tel: 01-959 2847

February Lecture
Our thanks to Frank Smith of Maxwell Hart for being with us on Wednesday 7th February to give us the benefit of his expert knowledge of grass seed.

His talk was followed by an interesting presentation of close up slides of various seeds. Slides were also shown, by Don Ticehurst, of Evengrass artificial grass panels being laid as an experiment on the wicket area of a cricket pitch.

The slides showed the panels being clipped together and laid out to enable the correct area of turf to be marked out for lifting. Turf was lifted and sufficient soil was removed to allow panels to be laid approximately 1 in. below surrounding surface.

After loosening and raking, soil panels were laid and topped up with a dry fine sandy soil. This was then bootised in gradually to enable it to penetrate the holes in the artificial grass panels. Finally seed was sown in the usual way. Results have shown that the roots penetrate through the panels to the soil beneath thus ensuring a moisture supply to the issuing turf. This method has been tried out effectively in the goal mouth areas on soccer pitches and on winter tees, in particular where the space is limited.

The Benevolent Fund is £5 better off by the draw and the winning ticket holder this month was Ernie Hall. A private ‘Whip Round’ resulted in a further £4.

Dave Craig completed the evening by showing a film he took on the Boston trip last month. Thank you, Dave, we all enjoyed your efforts and commentary.

New Members
A warm welcome to the following new members:
- C. Chamberlain and A. Janson (Muswell Hill), R. Dove (Royal Eastbourne), B. L. Newcombe (Woodcote Park), S. Ford (South Herts), D. A. Cross (Brookmans Park), and M. Collins (West Kent).

Benevolent Fund
At the 1971 AGM it was decided to form our own fund to enable an extra grant to be made to widows and dependants and to keep in touch with retired members via a Christmas gift each year, etc. So far £150 has been paid out in grants and the fund is now at a low ebb. To keep it going, a draw is run each month on lecture evenings, ball sweeps at golf meetings and several donations have been received from members.

Will any member who feels he would like to make a contribution, please send it to me and I will reply by receipt in each case. Any donation, no matter how small will be gratefully received.

Sad News
Following the death of Bert Dixon last month I have to report that Wally Drewitt aged 82, late of Burhill Golf Club and Jock Drummond aged 64, of the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club also died in January. Flowers and Benevolent Grants, both H.Q. and Section, were sent with messages of sympathy from the Southern Section.

The British Golf Greenkeeper
Past Season: Lectures
We would like to offer our grateful thanks to the speakers who visited us at Ampfield over the winter months. These were Mr Roffey of Roffey Ltd., Mr Bradbury of Mommersteeg Seed Ltd., and Mr Knight of Ransomes who gave us three very interesting and not to be forgotten evenings.

Spring Golf Tournament
All members should now be aware that this is to be held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club on the 4th April (Wednesday) and those wishing to play should have conveyed to me in writing their intention. If any member wishes to play and has not yet informed me, will he please get in touch without delay.

AGM
This is to be held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club on the 4th April after the completion of the Spring Golf Tournament.

Subscriptions
Please remember that these are now due and prompt payment would save a lot of inconvenience.

RETIREEMENT OF MR. TOM McNEICE

MR TOM McNEICE retires from his position as Head Greenkeeper of The Leicestershire Golf Club on March 31st. Mr McNeice will then have completed 22 years as Head Greenkeeper to the Club.

During his years at the Leicestershire course he has built up a considerable reputation and the Leicestershire greens have been the envy of golfers throughout the County. Recently he has been superintending the replanning of several holes and the reconstruction of many of the tees and some greens.

It was only natural that Mr McNeice should follow on in his father's footsteps and become a head greenkeeper. On leaving school he went to work as an apprentice under his father at Banstead Downs and they later went together to the RAC Golf Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom. After 8 years there, then at the age of 22, he left to go on his own as head greenkeeper, which took him to Hearsall, Coventry, Leamington and Stinchcombe hill. During the war he worked as an agricultural engineer and afterwards was appointed head greenkeeper of the Robin Hood Golf Club, Birmingham, where he stayed for five years; he then joined his present club.

He is a former chairman of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, and of the East Midlands Section. He has also served as secretary of the S.W. Section, Midlands Section and East Midlands Section. He served on the executive committee from 1938–1968.

Mr McNeice has always been interested in the game of golf and his lowest handicap was four. Now at 67, he still plays in the spring and autumn sectional competitions for greenkeepers and has won several times.

Mr and Mrs McNeice will be spending their retirement in Leamington Spa.

NORTH-WEST

By H. M. Walsh
Chairman:
R. Vickers,
Leigh Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
Horrobin Cottage,
Old Links Golf Club,
Montserrat, Bolton,
Lanes.

Spring Tournament
As stated in previous issues of the Journal, our Spring Tournament will be played over the Leigh Golf Club course at Kenyon Hall, Kenyon, Nr. Warrington, on May 8th 1973. It will be a 27-hole competition, 18 in the morning, 9 in the afternoon. The AGM will take place in the evening. Tee off times from 9 am. A Competition over 18 holes will be run for members' guests. Will all members taking part please inform me of their meal requirements so that I can make the necessary catering arrangements.

Lectures
Our sincere thanks to Glynn Vaughan of Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries for the excellent film show and talk which he gave to the members of the North West Section with the able assistance of Mr Rees and Mr Holt, members of the staff of Burrows Ltd. Salford. Also our thanks for the refreshments pro-
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N. Ireland – Richarson’s (Ulster) Ltd., 1 Short Strand, Belfast BT5 4BS. Tel: Belfast 57424/5/6
Eire – ICI (Ireland) Ltd., 5/9 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2. Tel: Dublin 771831

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The British Golf Greenkeeper
vided, liquid and solid; thank you once again gentlemen.

New Members
We welcome to the Section the following new member and hope his time with the Association will be a happy one:

H. Williams, Esq., Huyton & Prescot Golf Club, Huyton, Nr. Liverpool.

**EAST MIDLAND**

By S. Fretter

Chairman:
G. DARBY

Hon. Secretary:
4 Queens Drive, Leicester Forest East, Leicester

**Annual Spring Golf Tournament**
The Annual Spring Golf Tournament is being held at Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club on Wednesday 9th May 1973. All those playing should notify me by the 25th April, 1973 at the latest.

The Golf Club at Radcliffe on Trent is situated on the Cropwell Road and covers an area of approximately 100 acres. It is an 18 hole course 6,200 yards in length with a par of 69. The first nine holes are tight, but the back 9 are much easier, there are two very good par fives, twelve par 4’s and 4 par 3’s.

After the Second World War, it was modernised and brought to its present lay out by Mr T. S. Hawtree. It is pleasantly situated in the country six miles east of Nottingham, just off the A52 road to Grantham.

A new by-pass is scheduled to pass through part of the course and extra land has been made available for construction of new holes, these have been designed by Mr T. C. Pennick. A new Club House has been built on Dewberry Lane about 500 yards past the original Club House.

The write up of Radcliffe on Trent Golf Course has been sent to us by the Head Greenkeeper, Mr P. Malin. We thought it would help the golfers on the 9th May 1973.

New Member
I would like to welcome to this section Mr S. L. Farrington, Head Greenkeeper of Priors Hall Golf Club, who has transferred to us from the North East section. We wish him a long and happy stay in this section. Also we wish him all the best in his new job.

Retiring Member
Mr S. McNeice, Head Greenkeeper of Leicestershire Golf Club is retiring at the end of March. Mr McNeice, as you all know, has been a life long member of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

**NORTHERN**

By Walter Heeles

Chairman:
J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
7 Tentergate Close, Knaresborough, YORKS HG5 9BJ

Many thanks to B. Jennings of Flymo Institutional for an excellent slide show and talk on their range of machinery, also many thanks are due to the Captain, Committee and Members of the Moor Allerton Golf Club for the use of their Club house for the evening.

**MIDLAND**

By R. Goodwin

Chairman:
G. HART

(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
4 Burton Old Road, Streethay, Lichfield, Staffs.

President's Match
The Annual Match against Mr Bretherton’s Team will be at Handsworth Golf Club on Thursday 14th June. Once again I will be looking for a good turn-out of Greenkeepers, so make a note of the date – 14th June.

Autumn Tournament
The Autumn Tournament will be held at the Gay Hill Golf Club, over 27 holes, on Thursday 13th September, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

Spring Tournament
Members who have not yet sent me their entries for the Spring Tournament at Edgbaston Golf Club, on May 8th, should do so during the next few days so that I can make final arrangements for catering.

**SHEFFIELD SECTION**

By H. Gillespie

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON

(Lindrick)

Hon, Secretary/Treasurer:
63 Langsett Avenue, Sheffield S6 4AA

The Committee and Members of the Sheffield Section congratulate our President, Mr S. K. Arnold, who is to be next Lord Mayor of Sheffield. Best Wishes for a successful term of office.

Lecture
A very encouraging turn out, with 41 members present, welcomed Messrs J. B. Ball and J. Rhodes of Vitaseamin (SC) Ltd. to Abbeydale Golf Club on 1st February.

The subject was Calcified Seaweed: an explanation of how this product is lifted from the sea bed and processed, and the advantages to be gained from its use.

Our thanks to Vitaseamin Ltd.

The final lecture on 5th April 1973 at Abbeydale Golf Club at 2 pm will be by Mr G. Vaughan of Ransomes Ltd.
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