Mid Anglia

Hon Sec: R.S. Morris, 41 Hampden Way, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambs. Tel: Huntingdon 213348

Our annual fixture against the Secretaries was held at Cold Ashby Golf Club and for the second year running our lads were lapped by the odd match. However, the occasion was enjoyed by all who attended and our thanks go to Sandy Heron, the Secretary at Ashridge who greatly helped with the organise of the event.

Thanks also to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for providing sandwiches for the players.

We are now well into the holiday season and so our next full golf meeting is not until September, but we have a home match organised on July 28 at Cold Ashby Golf Club when a team from the Midland Section will visit us for a 12-a-side, 36-hole match.

Northern

Hon Sec: B. Freeman, Tel: 0937 832653

The orange colour of the Kubota tractors was seen at Moor Allerton during the spring when Alan Gray of Fearncro. Sheffield master-minded a display for greenkeepers. Two models were on display, the new 34hp L345 and the smaller tractor, the B7100 16 hp model which had a set of three hydraulically driven gangs mounted to a design of Alans. Though nifty in concept the tractor, which had four-wheeled drive would need to have turf tyres fitted to offset sward damage on the finer turf areas.

The L345 attracted lively interest and provided an opportunity for us to feel the built-in automatic gear system. The factory staff were on hand to put the machine to work. After the demonstration the group moved indoors where films, slides and a question and answer period were handled most efficiently by Gordon Henry, Product Development Manager of Kubota Ltd.

At the section's AGM the following were elected as officers: President—W. Mountain; Chairman—D.C. Hannam; Vice Chairman—P. Taylor; Secretary/Treasurer—B. Freeman (Tel 0937 832653); Comp Secretary—J. Scott (Tel 0937 61668); Auditors—W.H. Bartle and D.C. Hannam; Committee—C. Geddes, I. Tomlinson, D. Roberts, A. Lofthouse, M. Bryant, A. Gamble, Mr. Spencer, C. Garnett, A. Robershaw, S. Balles, W. Heeles ex-officio.

It was ruled that members who had not paid their subscription by June 30 would need to re-apply before being re-instated. —Stern news maybe to some!

We also had overwhelming agreement for the resolution that anyone arriving at section tournaments in jeans etc or indeed any item improperly dressed would not be eligible for play.

The section took the opportunity of thanking Walter and Betty Heeles for the unending help, to the retiring chairman Colin Gardes for long service and to Ben Freeman for suitable encouragement for the next leg!

Skipton Golf Club hosted our spring tournament when players had the pleasure of playing on the doorstep of the Yorkshire dales amid lark song and curlew calls. The tournament was played over 27 holes, the first nine marking the inauguration of the Laurie Sharp stableford competition. Had it not been for the thunder and rain the event would have been a treat. The course had a lot on offer ranging from primrose bedecked ravines to railway lines. The variety of wild flowers appearing around the course was an added pleasure.

The section thanked the Skipton club for accommodating us at such short notice when the original venue, Bingley St Ives was unplayable because of heavy snow.

We are all grateful to Norman Sheddon who organised the starting and checking the scorecards.

The dwindling interest shown in a formal annual dinner has raised the idea of holding a periodic gourmet evening at provincial centres. Alan Lofthouse has this idea in hand and details will appear in these columns.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Hon Sec: K. Munt, 77 The Croft, Sudbury Town, Wembley Middlesex. Tel: 01 904 2487

With rounds of 75 and 73 Ray Wotten of Burnham Beeches GC won the Presidents Prize and Ransomes at our watch at the 36 hole Spring Tournament. Ray's last round (net) 73 clinched the solid silver salver on a last round count back from Seve Schmitz, who's last round 77 let him down after a fine 71 in the morning.

Sonnin, in fine condition thanks to the hard work put in by Alan Collins and his staff, played to its full length from the back tees. The fact that nature's overhead irrigation system seems to be stuck on repeat did not help scoring either. This made Jack Brearley's 69 nett in the morning a very fine score indeed. John Teixeira of Hillingdon GC who was defending the Parkers Shield for the best low gross shot a 76 to be hot on his heels. The nearest net score to Jack's 69 came in from Seve Schmitz of Ellesborough GC with his consistent 71 nett.

The afternoon saw the leaders collapse with gross scores in the mid 80s. This left Neil Wichelow of Hillingdon GC with his consistent total of 159 (80, 79) the winner of the Parkers Shield. Ransomes green fee prize, his total of 148 (75, 73). Brian Payne of Burnham Beeches produced the best afternoon golf with a 76 gross 71 nett. M. Gale of Hillingdon rounded of the Hillingdon and Burnham Beeches benevolent tournament, by taking the first year competitors prize with 173 gross.

The section are appreciative to members and staff of Sonning Golf Club for the work they put in to give us a nice day. We also thank the Ladies section at Sonning who gave up their Tuesday match to give us the freedom of the course. David Craig ensured the golf flowed smoothly and ironed out any starting problems with his usual efficiency.

Some 34 members played at Sonning which is nearly half the total membership of 70. One face it was good to see at Sonning was that of Bob Plain, back amongst us in fine health.

With the support our section is now receiving and with 15 single figure handicap players, we should have a good representation at the national tournament at Ipswich. Don't forget to enter!

If you have any news that would be of interest to the section don't wait until it makes the News of the World! Send it to me and we'll get it in the journal.
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for the first time with staggering results. Guest prize was won by G. Storey, with 35 points. In the 1-7 handicap section R.J. Smith carried 28 points. Runner up was Smiling George Newson with 24 points. The 18-24 handicaps prize was won by Wally The Bandit, Mann, on 28 points. Runner up in this section was yours truly', Mick Lathrope with 26 points. I had a job to convince my wife that I didn't buy the prize, and then she said, 'Well, it makes a change from the Loo Seat!' (What ever happened to that Ron?)

In the 1-7 handicap section R.J. Smith carried the prize. I had a job to convince my wife that I didn't buy the prize, and then she said, 'Well, it makes a change from the Loo Seat!' (What ever happened to that Ron?)

The 'Criers' prize was won by Roy Gould. I'm going to write to Mr. Jim II Fix It to see if he can stop my meadow grass seeding!


don't hallucinate.

Our Spring golf tournament was held at Birstall Golf Club, Leicester and we thank Captain and Committee of Birstall for allowing us the courtesy of the course. Our thanks also to the Ladies for doing the cards, raffle etc, to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cole for buying the prizes and to all the firms, vice presidents and golf clubs who donated prizes. Mr. W.A. Garratt Captain of Birstall, also one of our vice presidents, presented the winners with their prizes who were:- Greenkeepers: 1st S. Donogue 87 (13) 74, 2nd I. Simmons 97 (22) 75 on last nine. 3rd R. Allen 81 (6) 75, 4th D. Bull 85 (9) 77. Vice Presidents: 1st R. Lead 83 (11) 72, 2nd G. Organ 99 (24) 75, 3rd M. Walker 84 (8) 76. Visitors: 1st A. Holwell 78 (5) 73, 2nd R. Liquorish 88 (12) 76, 3rd M. Elkington 86 (9) 77.

The agm was held at Longcliffe Golf Club and the officers elected were as follows:- President, R. Bailey; Chairman, S. Fretter; Vice-Chairman, D. Cleaver; Secretary, R.W. Wills; Treasurer, P. McCarron; Section Representative, P. McCarron; Committee—Kempster, B. Mott, N. Root, W. Cole and R. Holt.

South Coast

Hon Sec: Nita Stimson, Caretakers Cottage, Breamore House, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Tel: Breamore 277.

The 1981 Spring Meeting was held at Hockley Golf Club, Winchester, on 20th May. Relentless rain soaked everyone at the start of their morning round but thankfully by mid-morning the skies cleared and the rest of the day was dry and sunny. Thirty-eight members took part in the 36 hole Medal Competition and the prize winners were-

Eric James, our Chairman, thanked Hockley Golf Club for giving the Section the opportunity to play their course, complimented John Dodds and his greenstaff on its excellent condition, and thanked Mrs. Hollingworth, the Stewardess, for the meals she provided; she received a bouquet as a token of appreciation.

In reply, the Captain of Hockley Golf Club, Mr. Ball, said that the members were delighted that the greenkeepers had visited their course—it was always in good condition but now they would enjoy playing a course which looked immaculate. He felt that greenkeepers should be encouraged to play as it gave them a better understanding of their job. Mr. Ball presented the prizes.

Credit for the success of the meeting must go to Eddie Fox, ably assisted by Allan Jeffery and Roger Hanks, and also our thanks to Jim Fry, Barry Beckett, Nick Clarke, Richard Johnson, Jack Roffey, and Bill Smith, for their support.

The tenth Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Section was held later that eve-

Continued on page 26
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ning and it was a straightforward affair. One decision concerns next year's Spring Meeting—the draw will be such that players of 12 handicap will play together (in threesomes) and players of 13-24 handicap likewise.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, and we hope that their association with us will be a long and happy one: Peter Reese (Weymouth), Colin Read (Southampton Municipal), Keith Elsworth (Meyrick Park); Paul Cox (Hockley); John Bowers (Meyrick Park); Robert Lodge (Southwick Park); John Lawton (Tyhiney Park); Stephen Trew (Parkstone) and Simon Bowler (Liphook).

We are very sorry to learn that Trevor Pipe, the former Hon. Secretary, has decided to transfer to the Surrey Section (Liphook). We are very sorry to learn that Trevor Pipe, the former Hon. Secretary, has decided to transfer to the Surrey Section (Liphook).

Sisis competition

'TOLD YOU SISIS WILL TRAVEL ANYWHERE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR HYDROMAIN'

Congratulations to John Roots of Northfleet, Gravesend, the winner of the Sisis Hydromain Cartoon Competition. Sisis say that they were very impressed with the high standard of the entries and judging proved to be extremely difficult. However, Mr. Roots caption, printed above, was judged to be the best and a case of wines is on its way.

'I TOLD YOU SISIS WILL TRAVEL ANYWHERE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR HYDROMAIN'

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That stuff the Americans used to send up here' and to Mr. L. Nelson of York, for 'Its Lunar-sy to work without a Sisis Hydromain'. The following deserve a special mention:

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e) I said, 'Greens Sit by Noon. No! go to the Moon!'

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Vancouver Conference report

Continued from Page 13

an inter-province boat race (beer drinking contest). Sixteen teams of 4 men and women raced to drink 4 pints the quickest.

The last evening saw a fitting end to a professionally run event—the Annual Banquet. Over 500 sat down to a four course meal and were entertained by a comedy duet and then a band. The banquet only served to further demonstrate how well organised the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association is.

If you have read this far and are wondering why I have so far only talked about the entertainment side of what is supposed to be a Turfgrass Conference and Show. It is because I wanted to show what can be achieved by a group of forward thinking people who wish to advance their profession. The superintendents of North America are not only achieving this in their own circle they are showing their golf clubs and the trade their professionalism.

Professionalism was one of the many subjects covered by the 18 speakers. Other subjects covered were Replacing Poa Annua With Bent', 'Mechanizing Turf Maintenance', 'Tree Care & Maintenance', 'Control of Aquatic Plants', 'Water Options and Systems Available', and 'Recreation For The 80's'. All the lectures were well presented and most were accompanied for good slide presentations. One speaker by the name of Dr. Roy L. Goss presented an article on how to grow Good Poa Annua. He had a lot of explaining to do.

The lectures were held in a large ballroom in the hotel. Next door to this in an even larger ballroom was a machinery show. These rooms were four floors up in the thirty four floor hotel. In the show were two Kubota tractors, a full range of both Toro and Jacobson machinery including their tractor mounted gang mowers. I could not believe the equipment that was in the hotel four floors up.

This trip came about because I attended our own International Symposium in 1979. There I met the members of the Canadian crew who were to play in the International Match. I built up a friendship with Bob Wick who was the CGSA Director for British Columbia. He then invited my wife and myself to stay in Canada for three weeks taking in the Conference. So I would say to any greenkeeper in Britain who has the chance to attend any lecture or golf match and who wishes to improve his knowledge and make friends in the 'Profession' to jump at the chance. We all have our moans and groans about the BGGA but none of us are beyond reproach and nobody knows it all. But a group of people who get together and share their ideas and views can only extend their personal horizons and become more in their chosen career.

The North American greenkeeper is not a better greenkeeper than a British greenkeeper but he does have a more professional outlook to his job and is thus better recognised by the people he is working for.

Editor's note. Kevin and all members of the BGGA will be pleased to learn that an International Greenkeepers Conference is being held in Britain later this year. More details about this will be published in the next issue of the magazine.
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