

Ayrshire

The section AGM took place at Prestwick recently with 25 members present - section proposals for the national AGM were discussed and these have been forwarded to the general secretary.

The section committee for 1986-7 is: chairman - H. Diamond (Belleisle), vice chairman - B. Finlayson (Ardeer), secretary - J. Paton (West Kilbride), committee - T. Parker (West Kilbride), M. Power (Troon Darnley), R. Burke (Irvine Bogside), A. Forrest (Western Gailes) and R. Bruce (trade).

Transportation has been arranged for the section spring outing to Thornhill Golf Club, Dumfries on April 17 and there will be various pick-up points.

There is a joint one-day seminar on April 10 with the west section at the Inverclyde National Sports Centre, Largs - speakers arranged include a representative from D.G. Allan Oils, Bob McLaren of the Ayrshire Golf Union and golf professional Bobby Lockie.
Jim Grainger.

West

Since the last report, the section AGM has been held, courtesy of Cowglen GC, with nearly 30 members in attendance. The meeting was interesting and thanks go to chairman A. Connell for handling the meeting so competently.

Chairman Connell was elected for another year's office, as was his vice-chairman R. Fitzpatrick. A. McDougall was returned as secretary for another year. Proposals from the west section membership for the executive AGM have been put in writing and sent to the general secretary.

The section has again been playing football with different degrees of success! In the first encounter against a pub team, we were beaten 3-0 but, in the return, when back to a full first team, we won 3-2. I would like to take this opportunity to throw out a challenge to any other sides.

Important dates for the section are: Thursday May 8 - spring tournament at Cowglen Golf Club; Wednesday June 4 - team match versus Ayrshire at Milngavie Golf

Club and Thursday September 28 - autumn tournament at East Renfrewshire (provisional).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank past chairman Jim Paton for all his work on the section's behalf. He has resigned to take up the job of Ayrshire section secretary and we wish him every success.

The new west section committee is: A. Connell (Cawder) - chairman, R. Fitzpatrick (Whitecraigs) - vice chairman and A. McDougall (Stirling) - secretary.

The committee consists of D. Hindmarch (Milngavie), C. George (Lenzie), A. Ferguson (Cowglen), S. Hogg (DrumPELLIER), C. Kennedy (Haggs Castle), F. Scullion (Dumbarton), D. Gall (Cardross), R. Brewer (Douglas Park) and trade members R. Aitken of Richard Aitken & Sons Seedsmen and R. Deans of Autogarden (Glasgow).

The chairman and committee hope that everyone in the section will take an active part in events this year, helping to make it the most successful ever. We also wish everyone in the section a good growing year.

A. McDougall.

Dear Editor

Every time your magazine arrives, I read it with great interest and learn something new.

Obviously, the main theme in your magazine is greenkeeping, rather than construction and architecture. Nevertheless, I consider these three elements for the establishment of a golf course very closely interwoven and it is on this point that I would like to make some remarks.

Thanks to the good and sensible advice we get from grass, soil and construction experts, we, the architects, can supply the specifications for a properly built golf course.

The experienced constructor knows how to apply these specifications to his work and eventually supply a first-class finished product.

By that time, the client is often

in a happy state of mind, sitting on a cloud of euphoric contentment, satisfied that his project has been realised.

So far so good, especially for the architect and the constructor, but then what? Who is now going to be the nurse to this healthy baby? In other words, who will be the greenkeeper and staff?

Often, the greenkeeper is only taken on just before or after construction work has finished and may well come from an area or a country where conditions are entirely different.

The greenkeeper is not, and cannot, be aware of the difficulties that may have occurred during construction, the weak spots on the course, the problem areas, etc...

As a result of this, the healthy baby becomes ill after a year or so and the client unhappy and discontented.

Suddenly, everybody is blaming everybody else for what

has gone wrong.

I would strongly recommend that certainly the greenkeeper and, if possible, also part of his staff work on the course during construction, thereby establishing a lasting contact with the architect and constructor and getting the full benefit of knowing how to cope with any problem areas inherent to the soil structure.

It would also do no harm to solicit the services of an agronomist, specialising in the field of golf courses, towards the end of construction in order for him to establish a maintenance programme with the agreement of all parties concerned, very much including the greenkeeper.

In that case, there will be much less arguing later and the respective responsibilities will have been clearly defined.

*J.F. Dudok Van Heel,
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International, Brussels.*