



SIGGA National Tournament

The association's major golfing occasion was held courtesy of the captain and council of Downfield Golf Club. The weather was excellent and a splendid entry of over 100 took part.

The course, as usual, was in great condition considering the extremely wet, cold spring. Our thanks to Willie Milton and his staff for their efforts.

The hospitality afforded us by the club and the clubhouse staff under Mr Parker was first-class and we are indebted to them for making the day a success.

Club captain Mr E. Boyd and his wife presented the prizes and drew the raffle.

Scoring, on what is generally recognised as one of the hardest courses in Scotland, was very good.

John Souter would surely have won the prize for the luckiest shot of the day - if there had been one - with his 'heid up' approach to the 9th green, which finished 15 feet from the flag.

A most pleasing aspect of the tournament was entries from as far afield as Seahouses in the north of England to Dornoch in the north of Scotland and even from the west coast of Ireland.

Elliott Small.

Memory Lane Again

The discussion on the 'old days' in the June issue of *Greenkeeper* between John Campbell and Jack McMillan stirred a few memories among some older greenkeepers.

George Alexander, vice president of SIGGA, wrote 'It took me back to my early years in greenkeeping at Prestwick St Nicholas, Ayrshire, where my father was head greenkeeper. My entry into this work coincided with the introduction of the Ransomes Certes mower, which proved to be an excellent machine. It was sheer joy after the brute strength needed to push a Shanks Caledonian, which ran on brass brushes. What a boon it was to see the advent of ball bearings!

Fairways were cut with a horse-drawn triple mower then, which was eventually replaced by a Model T Ford tractor and gang-units. The tractor took some of the drudgery out of our work. We did not have a watering system, so the club decided to purchase a 500 gallon tank as we had an old water-filled quarry on the course and the idea was to use this valuable source of water for irrigation in the summer. Scottish summers being what they are, it was not until 1934 that we needed it! It was the driest period I remember and we watered the greens non-stop from April to September.

Many steep slopes and odd corners of the course had to be scythed in the summer until we finally welcomed the arrival of

two Kutruf side wheel mowers. Repairing club marks with seed and soil was a time-consuming task, for there was little grass cover on dry sandy fairways during the summer.

After the busy playing season was over, all the greens were hollow tined with Paul forks. This was extremely laborious, leg aching work. Top dressing, using material from the compost heap that was made up of alternate layers of soil and manure or seaweed, followed.

Winter could be an easier time, but often there were alterations to be done and before the days of turf cutting machines, this was back breaking work with old diamond-shaped turf spades and edging irons.

I remained at Prestwick St Nicholas until the outbreak of war. After demob from the army, I returned to the club to take my father's place as head greenkeeper when he retired. The installation of an automatic watering system and all the other advances in equipment made the job much easier, but it takes total commitment to keep on top of all the work.

I have enjoyed my career in greenkeeping and meeting many fine people in the business. Continued success to all those who are working hard to improve the status of greenkeeping.'

North

Nearly 50 members enjoyed the hospitality of Fraserburgh GC for our first outing of 1986. The course was in top-class condition, but we could have done without the hurricanes! This kept scores fairly high and Stephen McIntosh managed a scratch 77, which won the Bowen Trophy and the Registered Apprentice Trophy.

Other main prize winners were: 1st Class-A. Grant 72, 2nd Class - D. Munro 75, 3rd Class - G. McKie 87, Vets - D. Dingwall 79, Trade - Eddie Connaughton (Wales) 80.

The flag at Fraserburgh was flying at half mast in honour of Steve Donnachie. It's hard to believe that it was at this outing last year that we presented Steve with his retirement gift. He will be missed. *I. Hamilton.*

Prize winners

Best Net Score	A. Patterson	(Powfoot)
Best Scratch Score	D. Mackison	(Braehead)
1st Class 1st	T. Murray	(Ratho)
2nd	D. Gray	(Lahinch)
3rd	J. Grainger	(Letham)
2nd Class 1st	J. Kidd	(Gleneagles)
2nd	R. Bulloch	(Seahouses)
3rd	G. Farrington	(Ballater)
3rd Class 1st	G. Matheson	(Dornoch)
2nd	W. Linn	(Powfoot)
3rd	J. Granger	(Helensburgh)
Head Greenkeeper	D. Gall	(Cardross)
Assistant	P. Murray	(Card Park)
Registered Apprentice	G. McKie	(Tain)
Veteran	J. McCulloch	(Peebles)
Visitor and Trade	M. Dennis	(STS)
Team	Ayrshire	