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May 1999 Greenkeeper International 73
March was a more relaxed month for me as far as travelling was concerned. However, I did attend a seminar at Rotherham Golf Club run by the Sheffield Section and Walton Heath for the South East Region’s Gentlemen’s Dinner. Both events were very successful and it was nice to see so many attending. Whenever I go to Walton Heath there is always such a warm friendly feel about the place. You are made so welcome by everyone from the Captain and members through to all the staff. Then of course there’s Clive Ogood. Clive is one of the best and his courses are always in good shape and this day was no exception. Walton Heath is living proof that the old traditional golf courses can live with the best and you come away hoping that nothing will ever change at this historic golf club. The Sheffield Section seminar also held at the fine venue of Rotherham Golf Club, had a good array of speakers and was very well organised. It was nice to see Barry Heaney keeping his hand in and helping out. It was a pleasure to be in their company.

When I was first asked to make this presentation I thought it would be easy, but just try to put 50 years into 45 minutes and you will soon have the same trouble I did. It’s what to leave out rather than what you say, but I think in the end it became alright on the night, as they say. I had to leave at lunchtime for Aldwark and the Board of Management meeting, so I had little time for reflections.

What a warm sunny end to March this year, it lived up to its reputation of coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb. By the time you read this page you will no doubt be cursing your luck, for I suspect there will have been the usual batch of cold east winds to knock you back. We did at least have a chance this year to get the grass moving a little before the rush of the new season was upon us and that is something we have not had the benefit of for the last few years. I don’t think there is another job anywhere which you must take every opportunity that the weather offers, because if you don’t you are sure to be making to suffer later in the year. I am looking forward to the rest of April and the long awaited GTC meeting on the 15th, when I hope to find out most of the answers to the many questions you have all been asking.

On the 25th March, Elliot, Nell and I went over to Portmarnock Golf Club for a meeting with Iain Ritchie, Joe Bedford and Tracy Coburn, who are President, Past President and Administrator of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland (GCSAI). The meeting was to try and work out how our two associations could work closer together for the benefit of all greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland.

I am pleased to report that the meeting was very successful and I would like to thank both Elliot and Nell for their contribution and support.

Gordon Child
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