GREENKEEPING MANAGEMENT

SCOTTISH REGION

The region has had a very busy time of late, with two major competitions held in the space of a month.

The ISEKI Regional finals were held on May 30th over Gullane Links, East Lothian. The course was played in the hills at Langbank and overlooking beautiful River Clyde countryside. Few could fail to be impressed with the condition of the course from the coarse and Gordon Kerr, having recently taken over as Head Greenkeeper from Bannervie Day, had prepared the course superbly, a credit when the limited irrigation facilities are considered.

Play was, on the whole, of the very highest standard though there were a number who returned from the course from the 3 entrants. Our thanks go to Reekie Plant & Ken Petrie, and of course, Peter Powell of Ransomes UK for all their help and financial assistance, and to Steven Broad, the organiser. Everybody had a great day at Gledwood House and the winners are looking forward to the finals at Meldon on August 1st. The winners were:

First Class: C. McKay, Crail Golfing Society (77-8-69); S. Taylor, East Kilbride Golf Club (81-8-73).

Second Class: J. McKenzie, Renfrew Golf Club (78-7-71); D. Lauder, Buchan Castle Golf Club (77).

Best Head Greenkeeper: I. MacLeod, Tain Golf Club (75).

Best Assistant: G. Paterson, Fortrose Golf Club (77).

East Scotland

The annual Summer Tournament was held over Burntisland Golf Course on June 13th and although the event was played in heavy rain the turnout was first class. Our thanks go to the Captain, Course Manager for the courtesy of the course, to Bob and Ray Thomson for the delicious meals and to Head Greenkeeper Norman Wood for the excellent condition of the course.

This is the first time since 1967 that we have played at Burntisland but if comments are anything to go by, we shall return before too long. The lucky (should this read skillful, Ed?) winners were: Scratch: G. Wood, Dunbar. 1st Class: J. W. Robertson, Rath Park. 2nd Class: J. Nisbet, Murrayfield. 3rd Class: A. Nimmo, Alloa. The new mixed pairs format was won by D. Easingwood of Dunbar.

Our congratulations go to all East Region players at the ISEKI Tournament held at Gledwood House. All of you put up a splendid performance. The qualifier for the finals, Fraser from Dunbar, goes forward with our hopes pinned on him and our sincere good wishes.

There have been a vast number of changes in the section regarding Head Greenkeepers. Almost every week we hear of a club placing advertising. Does anyone know the reason? Is the pressure of course matters. We must be seen as capable of managing courses to very high standards if left in control of the course. If we are to communicate adequately with committees or members, or are subject to an constant influx of discarding and discouragement sets in and by settling for a ‘do as you are told’ edict one crisis after another will result.

We all know how club politics and politicians lead to disastrous effects on the course; and the politics are not about to go away by themselves. Quite the opposite, they are worsening, with niggardly complaints, viz: not strimming around tee markers.

The publicity given to Poa annua now is more than 60% agrostis, spread evenly through the green, we are doing well. The only place where you can achieve more is on limestone heathland and links, both of which are free draining with a high PH factor. It is rare to find it on more acid soils.

Our congratulations go to all Cawder Golf Club for their warm welcome and kindness in giving us the courtesy of the Course for a wonderful day.

The winners were: Scratch: D. Leith, St Andrews Links (70); Best Nett: C. McKay, Deeside Golf Club (78-7-71).

First Class: G. Brown, Turnberry Golf Club (73); S. Taylor, East Kilbride Golf Club (B.H.I.); Sullivan, Craigiehill Golf Club (74).

Second Class: J. McKenzie, Renfrew Golf Club (78-7-71); Melville, Lothianburn Golf Club (71); W. Fletcher, Troon Golf Club (73).


Best Head Greenkeeper: I. MacLeod, Tain Golf Club (75).

Best Assistant: G. Paterson, Fortrose Golf Club (77).

Chris Hunter

WEST SCOTLAND

Once again we are into the busy season of endless cutting and strimming work, with chemical fertilizers, fungicides etc and preparing for club competitions, and still we find time to compete in B.I.G. G.A. matches.

This years lucky West Section representatives to the ISEKI National Tournament are: S. Taylor, N. Henry, D. Lauder, J. Coleman (reserve). We congratulate you all and wish you good luck.

The Scottish National outing was held this year at the Cawder Golf Club in Glasgow, with our section, West Scotland, being the hosts.

Cawder Golf Club were very welcoming and looked after each and every one of us. A special word of thanks goes to the Club Captain, John Gourlay, for his kind words and hospitality, and also to Alistair Connell, the Course Manager when the morning course was a joy to behold and a delight to play upon.

Unfortunately, the Captain of Cawder holds Alistair in such high esteem that he provides medication (a special Scottish formula) for any various tees around the course!

This is a great new addition to all at Cawder for a great day. We hope to meet you all again.

Organisation is not under way for our Western Autumn Meeting at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, to be held on Thursday, September 16th. Further additional information to follow regarding fees, catering and times. Please note that in order to qualify for prizes in competition they must possess a National Handicap Certificate.

My thanks to those of you who have assisted with this please contact me on 0786-64098 (work) or 0786-72548 (home) as the process of getting organised is the Annual Dinner, which was such a success last year. Tickets for this will be on sale from the Autumn Meeting. Do please ensure that this popular event will have limited numbers and ensure you are seen to that — and you are urged to buy your tickets early.

Until the next issue, enjoy your holidays, clear your minds of queries, or information in our report, do please contact me.

Robert Brewer

MIDLANDS

One of our Association’s oldest members, Jim Bevan, has passed away at the age of 74. Jim, who was affectionately known as ‘Ginger’, had spent a record twenty five years at Little Aston and it was there that he was honoured to be selected as caddie for the Prince of Wales, back in 1932. He was a stalwart supporter of our Association and its sporting events and he will be sorely missed. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Our annual R. Taylor Green-thees Knock-out Pairs Tournament is progressing well, with 8 pairs still remaining. I shall bring further reports next month.

Still on the R. Taylor theme, the annual East Midlands v Midlands Golf Challenge will be played at the Longcliffe Club on Monday, October 2nd. To qualify for this you must net better than any of the three 27 hole competitions will be included in selection of the team’s best nett scores for our team line-up.

Finally, and forgive me if I repeat myself, do please contact me if you have any items of news for insertion in Greenkeeping Management. It is important that you have any of your memberships for your collection.

Ivan Toon

Willie Blair

40 Greenkeeping Management

August 1989

ROBERT BREWER
Let us welcome the time of year when the sun shines and greenkeepers are seen at prayer — kneeling over small holes in the ground when the watering systems are suffering from "seasonal belligerence." Everyone asks: "Why are we doing it?" We don't want to know when they realise the problem needs money to put the greens right.

The section held the rearranged golf fixture for the Lamb's Trophy at Stoke Rochford Golf Club in sunny weather, on a course that was in splendid condition. The views over the stately home and park were awe inspiring and when the standard of golf fell there was splendid wild-life to watch and lift the spirits high.

We had been invited to play at Stroke Rochford by Peter Bloodworth. Both are well known as for his Worth Draining. Peter declared he hadn't played golf for three months, but still managed to return a nett 68 and scoop one of the prizes. The Lamb Trophy, for greenkeepers, was won by Mr. A. Me- Chairman, Mr. Graham Patrick of Woodhall Spa Golf Club with a nett of 68 on his second place. The came E. Hunt and C. Macdonald, each receiving donated prizes.

Our match was played by Mr. R. Lamb and presented the Trophy — also to the Captain and Committee of Stroke Rochford for the use of their delightful course.

-Colin Swingler

"It hadn't rained since the old King died", but ... you've guessed it, as soon as we stepped onto the green at Chipping Sodbury for the Browns Bowl match against the Secretaries, down came sideways on a stiff breeze.

The match, decided by Stableford points, was hard fought and despite the temperature struggling to reach fifty some pretty hot scores were returned. The Secretaries were still trying to hold on to their moment of glory (and the Bowl) after their win in '88, the first in almost a decade, but with Mervyn Gray scoring 38 points and Jock Miller and Vic Lether scoring 36 points each, we greenkeepers looked pretty good. And so it turned out, for although Ray Simpson (B) and Chris Crip replied with 35 points each for the Secretaries it was to no avail, the Greenkeepers winning by 26 to 24. On both courses thanked Browns of Bristol for the prizes and Chipping Sodbury for their hospitality.

I've had three replies to take up places on the spraying course (Foundation Module) and this simply not enough! There are more of you who are conscientious enough to want to hold the necessary certificate — I've got mine. I'll look forward to seeing a great many of you at Knowle on August 1st for the 36 hole Championship. I plan to arrange a tour of both course and facilities for non-players in the afternoon; and sincerely hope that more than one person will be interested enough to turn up and grasp the opportunity to view another course and hear of both problems and remedies. This is how experience is gained.

-Paul Worster

The weather was perfect for the Presidents Day at Moortown Golf Club, in preparing for the ISEKI Regional Qualifying Tournament, had been performing a rain dance for several weeks in order to "colour it green".

He's a great dancer — but his timing is lousy! At 11.45 a.m. on the national final at Moor Allerton on Tuesday, 21st October, in our Section were Edwin Walsh, Ray Johnson, Mick Hannan and Dave Collins. The hospitality by Iski was excellent and all the golf left some golfers complaining they could not eat it all (even Mick & Ray were left with something of the size of half an emu, plus all the trimmings! It was a pleasure to see the BIGGA Executive Director, Mr. Thomas, Education Officer, David Goldberg and National Chairmen present at the event, and also the editor of our new magazine David White, who were all pleased with the turn out. Thanks go to David Han- and his boys for all their hard work on the course.

-August 1989

Bob Lupton