KENT SECTION

On January 9 at West Malling Golf Club a few of us were treated to a very informative and interesting presentation and talk from John Hinton of B.A.S.F. about fertilisers, in general, and their benefits, miss uses, and how their use fits in with the yearly management of the golf course.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, the only disappointing part being the management of the golf course. It seems as nature has a habit of levelling itself out in the end.

PAUL COPSEY

SURREY SECTION

A couple of quick reminders. First, the greenkeepers annual gentlemen’s dinner takes place at Walton Heath on Friday March 16. It is limited to one guest per greenkeeper and costs just £17 each, for 18 holes and dinner sounds a very good price.

Secondly, the national education conference at Royal Holloway College in Egham runs from March 30 to April 4. This event deserves all our support, so why not encourage a colleague or committee member to attend, along with your staff?

Congratulations to Donald Wells, who has just been awarded the Silver Medal for the outstanding student greenkeeper in the British Isles, quite an achievement! Don works on the South Course of Wentworth, and received a cheque from his employers, and some very good local press reports for his efforts.

Congratulations also to David Wyburn, assistant head greenkeeper at Foxhills, and his wife Caroline, who is expecting their first child in late June. A prospective BIGGA member, perhaps?

New to the area is Chris Kenward, who took up his new post as Wentworth’s Course Manager on February 1st, after 21 years at Hagg’s Castle. Chris tells me they have over 400 trees down over the three courses, so doubtless they’ll all be kept busy there for some time. When time allows, we hope to see him at some BIGGA functions, meanwhile, all the best in your new post.

Leaving us, is Simon Wells, formerly a greenkeeper at Walton Heath, who has gone off round the world for a year. Also leaving us soon, is Jack McMillan of Sunningdale, who, after a tenure of ten years is leaving to take up a consultancy position, with The International Golfers Club (sponsors of the National Education Conference).

Jack is former Chairman of BIGGA, and presenter of The McMillan Tankard.

Sorry to see you’re leaving us, Jack, but glad that your knowledge and experience will now reach a wider audience. Although with your article in the Daily Telegraph recently, you seem to have a pretty good circulation now!

The news from the Surrey members who attended ETME 2, is that it was a great success and considered both valuable and enjoyable.

Clive Osgood from Walton Heath, the Surrey Section ex-Chairman, is now representing us at a regional level also. Thanks, Clive for giving up more free time in what must be an already busy schedule.

Despite, the appalling weather the lecture on grading at the R.A.C. Club was quite well attended. The lecture by Atterton & Ellis, was very well given, and the machines (R.A.C.s own) were very impressive as was Tony’s workshop, which I’m sure made a few people rather envious. An excellent evening and our thanks to all concerned.

If you have any problems regarding the magazine, please contact me and I’ll try to rectify the situation. Also any items you would like put in this section, such as appointments or golf and social events, pictures included would be very welcome. My number is (025 125) 4230.

DEAN CLEAVER.

NORTHERN SECTION

It was good to see so many Northern Section members at E.T.M.E. 2. The show seems to be getting “Bigga” and better each year!

I hear down the grapevine of personnel changes; at Fulford, Halifax West End and Wetherby. Philip Stirk moves from Fulford to become head greenkeeper of a new development at Stockton Forest. John Grierson moves from Elland Golf Club to become head man at Halifax West End. Committee man and regional administrator, David Hannam, moves from Baldon to take over the reins.

AROUND THE GREEN

IT GRADES... IT SHREDS... IT BLENDS...

Now, from GRADEALL comes a new concept in greenkeeping. A unique combination of blending, shredding and grading in a single unit that gives you:

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The SS100 performs aggressively on even the poorest quality dump soil with stones, stubble and sods producing high quality loose and manageable soil. In fact, the SS100 turns tough, lumpy organic humus into pure, workable compost.

From cricket tables, to bowling greens, to golf greens and fairways... indeed any turf area... you’ll benefit from the SS100’s unique capabilities.

CALL US...

if you want to make the GRADE!
AROUND THE GREEN

The last Northern Section Ransomes trip of 1972. Spot the familiar faces?

from retiring John Scott at Wetherby. Our very best wishes and good luck for the forthcoming season to the new appointees. So after all these moves the gossip round the section is: 'Who has got Baildon, West End and Fulford?'

The first lecture of 1990 was a very good talk on conservation gardening by Patrick Crowley who has his own business in Leeds carrying out this work. He was formerly a professional photographer and this showed in his excellent slides. It was just a pity he had a sparse audience.

An extra lecture date for your diaries is in March when Ian Proudler of Endfield Nurseries talks to us about trees for the golf course, March 28 is the date, West Bowling Golf Club the venue and 8 p.m. the time. Please try and pop along and fetch a friend.

The BIG EVENT of the Northern Section social scene is the annual dinner dance, which this year will be held at Baildon Golf Club on Saturday, April 28. The time is 7.30 p.m. for a meal at 8 p.m. The disco after the meal will play until midnight.

The cost for the evening is only £10.

This event is open to friends, relations and not just members. I hope we shall see more greenkeepers this year. Tickets are available from me and a deposit of £5 per double ticket is required. In case you do not know my telephone no. is Bradford 590463 and I can also be found at Cleckheaton Golf Club.

Going through some books the other day I came across an old photograph which by chance is very topical to the Northern Section at the moment with the Ransomes trip in prospect.

It is of the last Ransomes trip some 18 years ago (I think!). See if you can spot the following (younger) faces: Brian Birdsell, (County Mowers) Geoff Mawson (retired), Hugh Marshall (retired), David Anderson (Moor Allerton), Mick Hegarty (somewhere in Germany), Ralph Smith (Bradford), Joe Baxter (St. Ives), John Storey (Cigden), John Scott (retired).

Continued on page 31

NEW VERTI-GROOM CUTTING UNITS FOR RANSOMES GT GRES GREENS TRIPLE

INTRODUCED to maintain consistently good putting surfaces on golf greens more economically, and being exhibited at ETME 2 for the first time, were Ransomes new hydraulically driven Verti-Groom cutting units seen on their GT Greens Triple mower.

Compared with conventional greens cutting units, during trials both in Britain and overseas, the Verti-Groom units collected up to three times the amount of material after cutting a green. Besides grass cuttings, the boxes also contained thatch and moss. Being mounted ahead of the front disc roll the Verti-Groom, which can be lifted out of work, does not throw top dressing into the cutting cylinder and as it floats independently of the cutting unit Ransomes say it is not over aggressive.

Mounting the Verti-Groom in front of the unit keeps the distance between the front and rear rolls to the minimum which reduces the incidence of scalping on undulating greens.

The Ascender lift barrow.

THE UNIQUE ASCENDER - GROUND LOADS, LIFTS AND CARRIES

MICHAEL Banks Marketing Limited have specifically developed their revolutionary Lift Barrow range to meet the needs of the professional sector.

The Ascender Twin can carry up to 5 cwt under very stable conditions. Such a weight can be easily loaded into the bin at ground level and lifted into the normal barrowing position with remarkably little effort.

The Ascender Professional is based on the award winning original. Both models are carefully engineered and robust. The advantages of greater efficiency through speedier ground loading and considerably improved safety are important both to employer and employee.
SOUTH COAST SECTION

Despite police warnings not to venture out unless your journey was absolutely necessary, a hardy band of stalwarts attended our February meeting. This took place during the second week storm to hit the South and made road driving conditions particularly hazardous.

However, those who made the journey had the pleasure of listening to Bob Young from Sparsholt College Hampshire. Bob gave a paper on "Principles of Nutrition as applied to Turf Care". This gave an up-to-date outline on the thinking and understanding of topical nutritional policies and ended with a question and answer session. Bob also covered the range of courses on offer at Sparsholt College Hampshire for Greenkeepers and will be happy to supply a written report of his paper to any interested members.

My thanks to Bob for turning out on a foul evening, knowing that earlier in the day rain was seeping into his house from a corrugated roof. Just one example, I'm sure there are many more.

Finally, if you have not yet completed your application form for the Regional Seminar at Sparsholt College Hampshire on the 13 March 1990, you could be too late.

BOB DENNIS

LONDON SECTION

First of all, our best wishes go to Michael Peters who has left us to join Alberough Golf Club in Suffolk.

Anybody who remembers David Low will be pleased to hear of the birth of his first child last November. A huge baby weighing in at 9 lb 7 oz and named Tom after his father.

David was head greenkeeper at Horsbourne Golf Club before moving onto Northampton Golf Club. I had the pleasure of his company during a few rounds of golf so on behalf of the London Section, congratulations to you and your wife.

The storm at the end of January gave everybody extra work. At Hadley Wood we were lucky with only a dozen or so trees falling, but others were not so lucky. Section Chairman John Edwards at Moor Park lost over 100 trees and that magnificent clubhouse received bad damage to the roof. Just one example, I'm sure there are many more.

Finally a few dates for your diary. The first Tuesday in March sees our last winter lecture at Aldernham Golf Club at 7 p.m. Wednesday April 18 at Grymsdyke Golf Club for the ISEKI Qualifier (London Section) A.M. and 18 holes in the afternoon, format to be arranged.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH WEST SECTION

Have you ever noticed what an empty, forlorn lonely place a deserted clubhouse is? Torrential rain, or a hurricane raging or lately a South West Section lecture. I have postponed the rest of the planned programme until this Autumn. I hope that with some new quality speakers, demonstrations, guided course tours and golf competitions we can cater for everyone and provide some reasonable audiences. In the meantime we are hoping to run another one day course to cover the foundation module of the FEPA regulations. I need another five names to get this one off the ground. Also on the horizon is Westfyl 90, again at Long Ashton on May 2nd. The trade support and interest is quite staggering, we must have your support and interest coming through the gate on the day, entry is free, there will be at least fifty companies exhibiting, please make a point of being there in numbers.

Finally my commiserations to all who have suffered storm damage, there have been some horror stories coming up from the far South West, would appreciate any quality photographs of any such damage for possible future publication.

PAUL WORSTER