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THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

(The B.G.G.A. is affiliated to the English Golf Union, and the Welsh Golf Union)

Editor:
G. A. PHILPOT



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Among the Sections

SOUTHERN SECTION NOTES

By W. Mason

January "Fixture".

WE begin the year 1956 in this Section with an interesting "fixture". On Wednesday, 25th January, a representative of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd., is to give us a talk and film show on the subject of "Mechanised Mowers".

It will be held, as usual, at the Stirling Castle Hotel, London Wall, commencing at 6-30 p.m. May I request all members of the Section to make a note of this special event. Previous visits from Messrs. Ransomes' representatives have always provided us with something out of the ordinary, and I am sure the new film which will be shown will be no exception. I ask all members to make a special effort to be present, and to be ready to ask any questions.

February Arrangements.

I am glad to announce that arrangements have been made for one of the representatives of Messrs. Synchemicals, Ltd., to address us on Wednesday, 15th February, commencing at the usual time and the usual place. Please make an immediate note of this event in your diary and make sure you keep the evening clear. It will be the first occasion on which this firm will have given a talk to our Section. The subject will deal with the problems of Weed Control.

Subscriptions.

In the November issue of the magazine a paragraph was included in my notes requesting members who had not paid their subscription for the year 1955-56 to do so without delay. I am glad to say that there was a good response to this request and I wish to thank all concerned. I now have to state that my Committee decided at its last meeting that any member who still has not paid his subscription *will not be eligible to play in the Section's 1956 Tournament.* This event, by the way, will take place at the Reading Golf Club in May, and further details will be announced in due course.

Resignation.

I regret to announce that Mr. A. G. Mortimer, who was attached to the Addington Court Golf Club as an assistant greenkeeper, has left greenkeeping and has resigned from the Association. We wish him the best of good fortune in his new career.

A Coincidence!

Our old and esteemed member, Mr. C. R. Cooke, of the St. George's Hill Golf Club, Weybridge, Surrey, writes:—

"What about the following for a strange coincidence? We have a new steward at this Club. His name is C. R. Cooke. His birthday is on 17th March, 1899—that is my birthday and I was also born in the same year. He was a prisoner of war in the first World War—and so was I!

"So it turns out that we have the same name and are of the same age. The only difference is that he was christened Charles Richard, but my parents decided on Clarence Robert for yours truly!"

SHEFFIELD SECTION NOTES

By E. Peat

January Meeting.

OUR next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 24th January, when we shall have the pleasure of a talk by Mr. J. I. Preston, who will also be bringing along some more of the latest films made by Messrs. Fisons, Ltd. I hope there will be a full attendance at what is bound to be a most interesting evening. Please make a careful note of the above and be sure to turn up to welcome our old friend.

New Year Greetings.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you, Mr. Editor, and all Officials and members of the Association a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION NOTES

By H. Hughes

Welcome, 1956!

I AM sorry that I missed the notes for the December issue of the magazine, but if anyone has had a year like the one I have experienced I am truly sorry for them. Everything seems to have gone wrong, and I for one will not be sorry to wish 1955 away, and have a fresh start.

I trust that you all had a happy Yuletide, and may you have a bumper 1956 crop of weedless grass. I also sincerely hope that our brains, etc., are clear from the fog of smoke and the effects of the bottled water!

Discussion.

I have arranged for a Discussion to be held at the Thatched House Hotel, Manchester (near the "Manchester News" Offices), on Thursday, 19th January, commencing at

7 p.m. prompt. Please make a special effort to be present. If you have any problems, bring them along. Incidentally, someone may know of a cure for a curse!

Compliments.

May I on behalf of this Section wish our Editor all the best for 1956, and may he be as successful this coming year, as he has been in the past, in producing a Journal of such a high standard. May he also be successful in deciphering some of the "tripe" we secretaries send him! [*No trouble at all, friend Hughes, so long as they write on one side of the paper only!*—Editor.]

MIDLAND SECTION NOTES

By W. Barton

New Year Greetings.

BY the time you peruse these notes we shall have passed from the year 1955 and entered into 1956. I should therefore like to take this personal opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May it be a lucky one for all greenkeepers, wherever they may be.

Annual Dinner.

Our Annual Dinner was held at the King's Head Hotel on Monday, 12th December—and what a grand time we all had! I do so much wish we could get a few more members interested in events of this sort. Believe me, if only members would make the effort to come just once, I am sure they would never miss another. I will not say more about the Dinner in these notes, but will leave the rest to our Editor, who came all the way from London to join the merry party, and who is referring to the event elsewhere in the current issue.

In my notes in the January issue of a year ago I referred to the subject of Golf Clubs taking more interest in the Association and all it stands for. I am proud to be able to say—twelve months later—that this is happening in the Midlands; and those Clubs who have answered my suggestion are enjoying it. In this connection I am sure our Editor will make a few comments on what he saw and heard during his recent visit to Birmingham.

Lecture.

We had the pleasure of listening to a very fine Lecture by Mr. Hunt, of Messrs. Suttons, on 25th November, but it was a great pity that so many of our members missed it. The subject was "Water". He dealt with its importance to plant life, its movement in the soil, and other aspects of irrigation, etc.

I should like to add that if any other Section of the Association is looking for a fascinating lecture on this subject then they should try to obtain the consent of Mr. Martin Sutton to allow Mr. Hunt to come along and repeat his talk. Mr. Hunt is

certainly the complete master of his subject, and members will learn a great deal by listening to him.

If and when any Section listens to an outstanding Lecture such as the one I have mentioned above, would it not be a good idea to mention the fact in the magazine, so as to give the Hon. Secretaries of other Sections the opportunity of contacting the Lecturer with a view to getting him to come along and give a repeat to greenkeepers in other parts of the country? I should like to hear what other Hon. Secretaries think of this idea.

Sectional Tournaments in 1956.

The Midland Section's Spring Tournament will be played on the Course of the Blackwell Club (by kind permission of the Committee), on Wednesday, 25th April. Further details will appear later, but I should like to hear by the end of March from all members who intend to take part. This would be a great help to the Committee and myself, so come on, boys, do your best to help yourself and to help me. Don't leave your entry till the last minute.

The Autumn Tournament of the Section will be held at the Worcester and County Golf Club (by kind permission of the Committee) on a date to be arranged during the month of September. Further details will be published later, but again I should be glad to be notified by members as soon as possible of their intention to play in this event.

Headquarters' Christmas Draw.

I should like to thank all those members who pulled their weight and sold so many tickets. One member alone sold no fewer than 20 books—this was very good work indeed. I am grateful for the way in which nearly all of you returned everything to me in time for despatch to Headquarters.

I say "nearly all of you", but there are a few members who have not complied with my request, and I would like to hear from these members, returning the sold and unsold books to me as soon as possible, so that I can return them to Headquarters.

I should like to remind our members that this Draw is not run so much for the prizes, but to get money to run your Association—which cannot be run without funds.

May I add that I have received a letter from our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Moss, thanking the members of the Section for the grand effort they made.

NOTTINGHAM SECTION NOTES

By G. Mitchell

Compliments.

THE members of the Nottingham Section feel it to be their duty to thank our worthy Editor for his untiring interest in the Association. Without the regular production of the magazine many a green-

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keeper would be at a loss. How greatly we enjoy the various notes and comments of those whose duties entail the care and maintenance of golf courses.

After the very trying season we have endured in this part of England as regards lack of moisture, it is, I am sure, the wish of everyone concerned that 1956 will treat us more reasonably and provide us with a chance to catch up on work which simply could not be attended to last year.

Committee Meeting.

A meeting of the Committee was held at the Central Tavern on Wednesday, 15th December to discuss various items of business, and members will be informed of our deliberations in future issues of the magazine. In the meantime I want to extend to all members my sincere personal wishes for a Very Prosperous New Year.

Our Next Meeting.

Wednesday, 25th January, is the date fixed for a "Cross-Table Talk" between members of the Section. Please make a note of this date and make every effort to be present—and thus help to keep the spirit of the members of the Section up to par.

NORTHERN SECTION NOTES

By F. G. Smith

THE meeting with the District Golf Clubs is being reported below by our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Bartle, but I would just like to say that all the Golf Clubs who sent an apology have now had a report of the meeting.

The circulars which I sent you regarding your share of the scheme were returned to me very promptly. My grateful thanks for this help in getting the scheme going. You will be interviewed at the earliest, but it will take time to get through to you all in such a large area. Before this is in print some of you will have paid your first share of the Assurance Scheme—which is a large step in the right direction, judging by the many replies I have received.

New Member.

We give a hearty welcome to Mr. G. E. Sykes, of Messrs. Telfords, of Harrogate, who has joined the Section as a Class D member; and we trust he will join us in all our activities.

A Loss to the Section.

Northern Section members will be sorry to hear that Mr. F. Walker, Greenkeeper and Professional to the Clitheroe Golf Club, Lancs., is leaving the profession to help his good lady with her business. Frank has been a keen and lovable member of the Section and we shall miss his kindly smile at our Tournaments. Though very sorry to see you go, Frank, we all wish you the very best of luck and every success in your new way of life.

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Christmas Draw.

Very many thanks for your help with the above. Though not so good as last year, we did our best in a good cause, and I have pleasure in asking Mr. Philpot to publish your receipt for the monies sent me. This saves quite a lot in postage, so here it is as received by me.

List of Subscribers to H.Q. Christmas Draw.

Brook, T., 10/-; Bell, L., £1/11/-; Beale, J., 10/-; Buckley, W., 10/-; Beard, E., 10/-; Blades, J., 10/-; Bradbury, F. C., £1/10/-; Bailes, S., £1; Boyle, R. B., 12/-; Bartle, W., £1; Chamberlain, K., 7/6; Collinson, C. R., 10/-; Cowe, D. L., 10/-; Crossland, W., 10/-; Copland, D., 10/-; Coates, J., 7/6; Cooper, D. F., £1/2/-; Chappell, J. C., 10/-; Calam, E., 10/-; Driver, H., £1; Dorsey, C., 10/-; Downes, J. P., 10/-.

Edmond, R. P., 10/-; Fletcher, J. W., 10/-; Fant, J., 5/-; Flint, G., 10/-; Foulds, E., 10/-; Geddes, G., £3; Greenwood, C., 10/-; Hullah, T., £1; Harper, L., 15/-; Nuggan, W., 10/6; Hardisty, J., 10/-; Harris, J. W., 10/-; Iveson, T., 10/-; I'Anson, A., 10/-; Ironmonger, E., 10/-; I'Anson, T. F., 10/-.

Jolly, J. S., 10/-; Jakeman, R., 10/-; Kendall, G., £1; Kirk, R. E., 10/-; Leafield, C. G., 10/-; Lowcock, L., 10/-; Mulrooney, J., 10/-; Munns, E., £1; Moore, C., 15/-; Mountain, W., 10/-; Murray, J. R., 12/-; Mason, G. W., £1; Money, A., 10/-; McKee, J. R., 10/-; Mawson, J., 10/-; Newbould, N., £2; O'Brien, J. G., 2/6.

Paley, W., 10/-; Paton, W., 10/-; Paley, E., 10/-; Rook, B., 3/-; Roberts, D., 10/-; Southgate, F. V., 10/-; Scott, J., 10/-; Sharp, G. L., £1; Storey, F., 10/-; Smith, F. G. (Jun.), 17/6; Smith, F. G. (Sen.), £1; Smith, S., 5/-; Scott, D., 10/-; Sharp, J., 10/-; Temple, J. G., £1; Tomlinson, H., 10/-; Walker, F., £1; Workman, J., 15/-; Wagstaff, T., 15/-; Wilkinson, H., 10/-; Whiteley, R., 10/-; Yates, H., 10/-; Burton, J., 10/-; King, F., 10/-.

Total, £51/15/6.

Educational Evening.

Our December "get-together" was very well attended at the Market Tavern, Bradford, when we were shown several films on Sport by our Vice-President, Mr. E. Foulds, who takes a great interest in the Association. Our Chairman, Mr. G. Geddes, thanked Mr. Foulds for the show, and the vote was seconded by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Bartle, who said it gave him great pleasure to do so. Mr. Foulds suitably replied.

Our next Educational Evening will be held in Leeds on the 10th January, 1956; this will be held in the Church Institute, Albion Place, and the Talk will be given by Mr. Gordon Wright, Secretary to the Ganton Golf Club. This will be the highlight of the Winter's programme which you should make every effort to attend.

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New Year Greetings.

As this will appear in the first issue of the "British Golf Greenkeeper" for 1956, I should like, on behalf of the Section, to wish everyone in the Association, and connected with it, "A Very Happy New Year".

The Old Year lies behind us and another has begun. May it prove for all of us a very happy one.

Future Status.

In our May issue of this Journal there appeared a report on a Meeting with Leeds Golf Club Officials when it was stated that a further meeting would be arranged to cover other areas in our Section.

Thanks to the Committee of the Northcliffe Golf Club, it was possible to hold this meeting with Officials of the Golf Clubs of Bradford, Huddersfield and Halifax areas, on 24th November, at the Northcliffe Golf Club.

This meeting was not so well attended as we had hoped but apologies were received from the Huddersfield, Ilkley, Elland, Lightcliffe and Keighley Clubs. These Clubs showed their interest by asking our Secretary for information on the results of the meeting.

The Clubs represented at the meeting were Northcliffe, West Bowling, West Bradford, Bradford, Ogden and Woodhall Hills.

Mr. L. Bakes, Secretary of Moor Allerton Golf Club, again presided and introduced very ably the points for discussion, namely, Wages, Conditions of Service, Labour problems, and the encouragement of younger men to take up greenkeeping.

He was followed by Mr. G. T. Geddes and Mr. F. G. Smith, who both put the case of our members over in no uncertain manner.

The discussion which followed was very interesting but never seemed to reach the same level as at Leeds. One new feature at this meeting was the explanation by Mr. S. Norgate, of Ogden, of a simple but very attractive Pension Scheme which could be introduced immediately to the benefit of both Club and employee.

It was decided unanimously at this meeting to go ahead with this Pension Scheme and that each Club and member of our Section would be dealt with individually.

By the time this report appears in print, each of our members will have had the chance to accept or reject the Pension Scheme.

Here, on behalf of the Section, I must thank Mr. Norgate for the work he has done in organising this Pension Scheme, and for the work he must still do; for he has undertaken the task of interviewing personally all members and Clubs who take advantage of the Scheme.

In conclusion I should like to say that these meetings have done quite a lot of good, particularly in the Leeds area. Many staffs

have already felt the benefit and if this Pension Scheme helps to attract the younger men into greenkeeping and assures the future for the majority, then the extra work it has entailed for our Executive will not have been in vain.

W. H. BARTLE.

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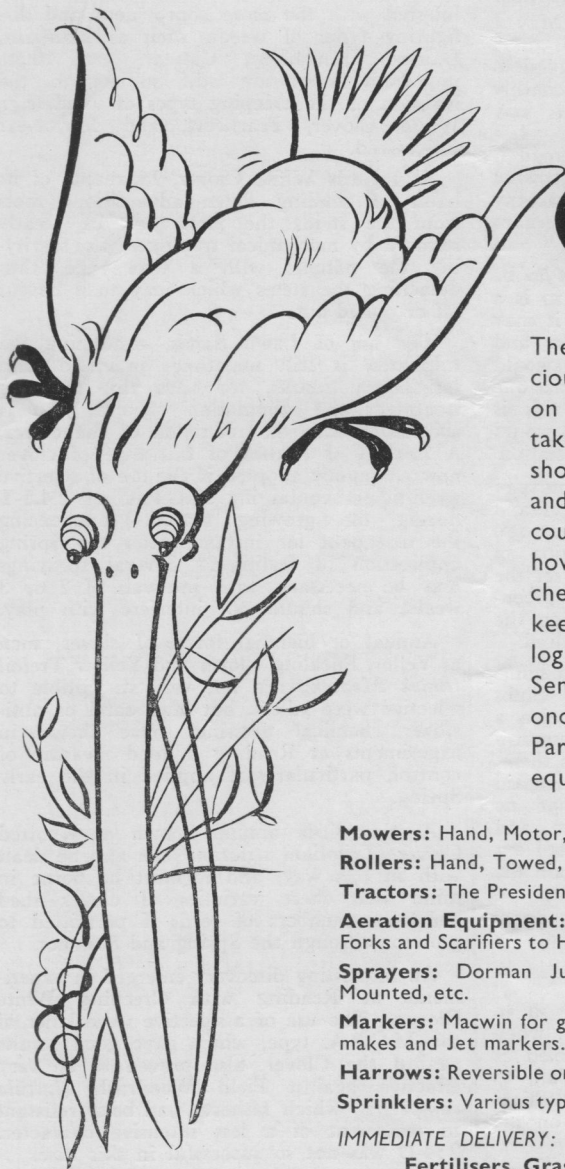
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The Editor writes:—

Personal Thanks.

I SHOULD like to take this opportunity of thanking the many members of the Association for their personal Christmas cards and letters, etc., of goodwill. May I say how much I was cheered by all these kindly tokens of remembrance. It is good to know that one's efforts to provide a monthly magazine, however feeble those efforts may be, are appreciated by our members. The responsibility is great; sometimes the road is long and the going hard; nor is one growing any younger, but I feel somehow that my labours over the past 19 years have perhaps not been altogether in vain.

The Association's membership ought to be far larger than it is; why this is not so is a mystery to me. Be the reason what it may we must push on and aim at bigger and better things in 1956. If members would make a stern resolution to obtain at least one new member apiece this year—and this is not a great deal to ask—what history it would make in the long annals of our Association.

Another matter which must be pursued with the utmost vigour is that of wages and conditions of service, etc. About a year ago I wrote several articles in the magazine on this important subject, and, I believe, set the ball rolling. I suggest that every greenkeeper, in his own interest, should keep the matter well in the forefront of his mind.

Somehow or other it must be brought home to Committees and Officials of Golf Clubs that greenkeepers are entitled to receive a remuneration consistent with the responsibilities of the job. Many of the Clubs themselves agree that greenkeepers are underpaid for their labours, and have little or no security in later life. These matters, and others of a similar nature, must be sorted out if the greenkeeping profession is to retain the middle-aged and attract the youth.

This is indeed food for thought in 1956.

Southern Section Lecture.

Christmas was already in the air, so to speak, on Wednesday, 14th December, when the Southern Section members assembled at the Stirling Castle Hotel, London Wall, to hear a talk by our old friend Mr. William Moore, of Messrs. Sutton and Sons, on the subject of "Common Turf Problems".

There was quite a fair gathering, and everyone agreed that the speaker had given us a practical talk on his usual high level, to say nothing of his concise answers to the avid questioners which followed the talk.

A cordial vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. F. Chambers and seconded by the Editor, to Mr. Martin Sutton for making the talk possible, and of course to Mr. Moore for what he said on a difficult and in parts still unsolved subject.

The following is a very brief *résumé* of Mr. Moore's main points:—

The speaker gave a talk on Turf Problems with special reference to the control of weeds in turf. He remarked that, while it is now somewhat unusual to find Putting Greens infested with the more conspicuous and disfiguring types of weeds, such as Plantains, Daisies, Dandelions, Catsear, etc., these important areas are still subject to the invasion of the creeping types of weed, e.g., White Clover, Pearlwort, and Mouse-ear Chickweed.

As regards White Clover, by reason of its habit of sending down adventitious roots from the stems the plant can be greatly reduced by mechanical treatment, i.e., scarifying the patches with a wire rake, thus detaching the stems which may then be cut off or pulled out.

The use of Lawn Sands, containing the sulphates, is still sometimes practised with satisfactory results, for with this form of treatment the stimulation of the grass is coincident with the reduction of the clover. A method of control of this type of clover now commonly adopted is the use of selective weed-killers containing M.C.P.A. or 2.4.5-T during the growing season, commencing the treatment for instance after the Spring application of fertiliser. Several sprayings may be necessary, with intervals of 2 or 3 weeks, and should not interfere with play.

Annual or biennial forms of clover, such as Yellow Suckling Clover and Yellow Trefoil (*Black Medick*), are not very susceptible to selective weed-killers, but lawn sand or anti-clover chemical dressings have shewn in experiments at Reading a good measure of control, particularly if applied in the early Spring.

Another little annual known as Knotted Clover (*Trifolium striatum*) can also be dealt with in this way, and it must be borne in mind that these varieties of clover shed enormous numbers of seeds if permitted to grow on through the Spring and Summer.

An interesting discovery emerged in experiments at Reading with Creeping White Clover. The use of a selective weed-killer of the M.C.P.A. type, which gave good results against the Clover, also proved to be very effective against Field Woodrush (*Luzula campestris*) which hitherto had been resistant to treatment of a less intensive character. 2:4-D was not so successful in this case.

The lecturer, of course, mentioned Yarrow as one of the more difficult weeds, and it has been more conspicuous than usual on account of the dry Summer; this plant, with a carrot-like leaf, will enjoy any amount of hot weather. It was found that Yarrow was often greatly reduced by the intensive use of a selective weed-killer as adopted for White Clover, and in this case both M.C.P.A. and 2:4-D have been known to exercise some control.

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Mechanical treatment has already been mentioned in the case of clover. This may be extended to the use of knife-tines to cut through the roots of both clover and yarrow before spraying them with a selective weed-killer. Incidentally, slitting the turf with knives is also recommended for reducing Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), for which up to the present no cure has been discovered. Intensive and heavy applications of selective weed-killers at Reading did no more than temporarily check the growth of this coarse grass, present in the putting greens of many golf courses.

(Concluded on page 16)

Hon. Secretary's Notes

Annual Tournament, 1956.

I regret to advise members that information has just been received from the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club that they are unable to accommodate us for the 1956 Tournament. Arrangements are now being made to obtain an alternative Course, and when final details are known they will be published immediately. For the benefit of members who will compete in the Tournament, the dates will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th, 14th and 15th August.

Christmas Draw.

I submit hereunder details of the Result of the Christmas Draw. All winners were written to before Christmas and with one exception Ticket Counterfoils have been returned to H.Q. and prizes duly despatched. The winner of the 6th prize—Ticket No. 19680—has been written to but so far no reply has been received. Perhaps the seller of this Ticket will communicate with me. I hope to publish a Receipt and Expenditure A/C. regarding the Draw in the February issue of the Journal.

Result of Christmas Draw.

- 1st Prize.—A Television Set.—Ticket No. 17129.
- 2nd Prize.—Turkey and Bottle of Whisky.—Ticket No. 19009.
- 3rd Prize.—Chicken, Bottle of Whisky and Bottle of Rum.—Ticket No. 11350.
- 4th Prize.—Bottle of Whisky and Bottle of Port.—Ticket No. 16590.
- 5th Prize.—Bottle of Whisky.—Ticket No. 20229.
- 6th Prize.—100 Cigarettes.—Ticket No. 19680.

Drawn at the Association's Headquarters, 56 Avondale Road, South Croydon, Surrey, on 13th December, 1955.

No prize will be despatched until the corresponding Ticket counterfoil is received at Headquarters.

D. V. D. Moss, *Hon. Secretary.*



John Gunn looks into things

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Midland Section Annual Dinner

By the Editor

I HAD the privilege and pleasure of accepting an invitation to attend the Annual Dinner of the Midland Section of the B.G.G.A. which took place on Monday, 12th December, at the King's Head Hotel, Bearwood, Birmingham. And let me say at once it was well worth while making the long journey from London, despite a bitterly cold day, to be present among the good fellows of the Midland Section and their friends. As soon as I stepped into the Hotel I found myself happy and contented, surrounded as I was by so many of my old acquaintances, and greeted with a degree of hospitality for which Midlanders are renowned.

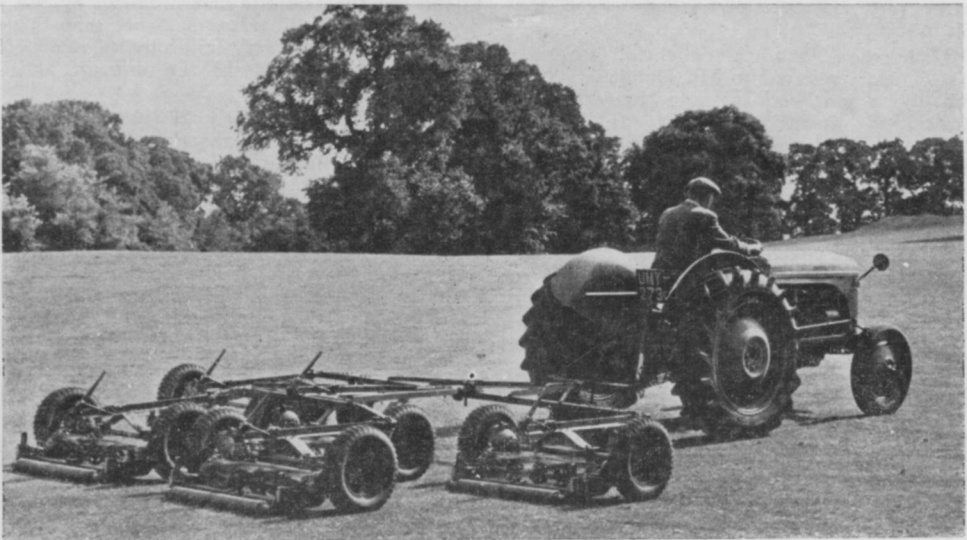
Well over 100 members and visitors had the pleasure of greeting Mr. Carl Bretherton (who, as usual, occupied the Chair) and his good lady, who, now happily in much better health, came along to support our President.

The meal itself was well prepared and admirably served; and one must congratulate the management and the staff on a really good job. The menu consisted of the following: Cream of Tomato Soup; Poached Fillet and Tartare Sauce; Roast Chicken and Bread Sauce, Seasoning, Kidney Beans and Garden Peas, Roast and Creamed Potatoes; Peach Melba Glacé; Assorted Biscuits and Cheese;

Coffee. When this effort had been disposed of, not a person in the room, I am sure, still felt hungry!

After the Loyal Toast (proposed by the Chairman), Mr. G. Hart proposed "The Association". He said that since their last Dinner Mr. Bretherton had been honoured by his election as President of the B.G.G.A. It was also an honour to the Midland Section, and they all felt he was the right man in the right place. As greenkeepers they were very proud of their Association, and he wished to thank all the Clubs in the Midlands for their support during the past year. The Section had held two very successful competitions, and they were particularly happy in the fact that these events had attracted the support of so many prominent Midland amateurs and professionals. The separate competitions organised by the Section for these gentlemen had brought added pleasure to all concerned.

Mr. Neil Prior, of Messrs. Sutton's, and one of the Section's Vice-Presidents, next proposed "The Visitors". It was a great pleasure, he said, to propose this Toast, and the members were delighted to see so many guests and visitors present. In addition to the Midland amateurs and professionals who had come along for the occasion, they were more than glad to have with them Mr. and Mrs. D. Gilbert, who had come all the way from Ipswich; and the Editor, who had travelled from London. They were glad, too,



For the Greenkeeper, as well as for Industry, Winter is the time for stocktaking. As the cutting season draws to a close, equipment can be thoroughly examined and decisions reached on what will need renewing this year. The wise Greenkeeper will want the fullest information on modern mowers, and will be sure to write for descriptive literature to :—

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to welcome Mr. B. Payne, Mr. Gilbert's successor in the Midlands.

Mr. L. Foster (Past President of the Midland Counties' Golf Association, and Past President of the Staffordshire Union) ably responded. He said all the visitors considered it a privilege to be invited to the Section's festive board. They were proud to have in Mr. Bretherton a National President as well as a Sectional President, and the speaker was glad to have the opportunity of sitting next to this great supporter of the game of golf. He thanked the Section for the reception it had given the visitors, and hoped they would have many more opportunities of joining the greenkeepers not only at dinner, but also at their tournaments.

The Chairman then said he would like to acknowledge the kind remarks made about himself by Mr. Hart and Mr. Foster. His one great desire was to be an active and useful member of the Association and the Section.

They had suffered a grievous and irreparable loss in the recent death of their President and Founder, Mr. F. G. Hawtree, and it was exceedingly difficult to follow in the footsteps of a man who had done so much in the cause of greenkeepers and greenkeeping. He concluded by thanking the gathering for the reception given to his wife and himself.

A presentation (by Mrs. Hart) of a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Carl Bretherton was then made amid much applause, and the latter very appropriately acknowledged the gift.

Then came another delightful surprise. Mr. G. Hart referred to Mr. Douglas Gilbert and the grand work he had done for the Association during his stay as Messrs. Ransomes' head representative in the Midlands. They were sorry in more ways than one that he had left them to live at Ipswich, but they all wished him well in his new location. As a small token of their appreciation Mr. Hart asked Mr. Gilbert, on behalf of the Midland Section, to accept the gift of a leather cigarette box and lighter to match.

Mr. Gilbert, in his reply, said that both his wife and himself were rather overcome for words, and it was difficult for him adequately to express his thanks for these gifts, which were as delightful as they were totally unexpected. He was only too glad to have been of assistance to the Midland Section of the B.G.G.A. during his stay in the Birmingham area. He was very pleased to have his wife with him on this important festive occasion, and wished to assure the Committee that he would always retain the liveliest interest in the Section. He concluded by expressing his thanks to the Section for the presentation, which would always be one of his greatest treasures.

After a short break, in which the tables were cleared, we sat down comfortably to enjoy a first-class entertainment, with Mr. Gilbert (as usual) acting as an efficient and

amusing M.C. The artists were: Mr. Don Hill (pianist); Mr. George Hill (accordionist); and "Professor Stan" (whose conjuring show left everyone completely mystified, if not, indeed, bewildered!). During this part of the proceedings, Mrs. Bretherton very kindly drew the winning tickets in the draw always so well organised by Mr. Neil Prior and his willing helpers. The funds accruing make a most substantial addition to the financial prosperity of the Midland Section.

In closing this all-too-brief account of the function, I wish to add my own personal thanks to Mr. W. Barton, Mr. G. Hart, and all officials of the Section for providing me with such a splendid evening. The Midland Section is certainly a live one, and the support from members of Golf Clubs, as well as the Clubs themselves, is something which must be the envy of more than one other Section of the B.G.G.A. Well done, the Midlands, and may you go from strength to strength in 1956.

Talk by Mr. R. B. Dawson.

On 23rd November the members of the Southern Section were honoured by a visit from Mr. R. B. Dawson, M.Sc., Director of the Research Institute at Bingley. As might have been expected, there was a very satisfactory attendance, and everyone present gave his undivided attention to what the speaker had to say.

Mr. Dawson prefaced his talk by referring to the loss the Institute had sustained by the death of Mr. F. G. Hawtree who, said the speaker, had served very faithfully on various Committees, especially in the difficult and critical early days.

Referring to his nearly 27 years at the Research Station, Mr. Dawson described some of the great changes and advances he had seen during that period, such as Selective Weed-killers, New Tackle, New Machines and New Techniques. Some experiments at Bingley had failed, of course, but many had proved successful. The Station had no desire to blind anyone with science, and had always kept the practical side to the forefront. One could never overrate the value of the man who put technical discoveries into practical use.

Now that the Station had to deal with turf for many forms of sport outside golf, many more technical problems had to be investigated than was the case in the early days. They had to study many of the old diseases, but he regretted to say that new ones were being discovered! So far as golf courses were concerned the difficulties of getting proper labour were increasing, and this was in itself a problem.

He then referred to the internal and advisory work of the Station. New experiments and research were continually being carried out, but all these matters took time and much patience before final conclusions could be arrived at.

A number of experimental plots were on the "secret list", and these he obviously could not mention. But they were busy on such matters as the selective control of grasses; selective weed-killers of all types; Fusarium; Corticium; Dollar Spot; Fairy Rings; Moss; Top Dressings such as Seaweed Meal, and Sawdust; Soil Warming; Grass Selection, etc., etc.

The Station, he pointed out, was faced, as ever, with considerable financial difficulties, as the scope of its activities increased. Its income had to increase quickly if the experimental and advisory work was to continue on anything like an adequate basis.

Question time naturally brought many queries. These included old and new posers. Here are a few quoted at random: Calcium Arsenate versus Lead Arsenate; Solid versus Hollow Tining; Slitters; Mechanical versus Hand Mowing; Bitumen for Winter Teeing Grounds; Castor Meal; Fairy Ring Treatment; Selective Worm Killers; Fusarium and New Experiments with Late Dressings; etc.

The proceedings ended with a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Dawson, seconded by the Editor, for coming to London and giving the members of the Section such a wonderful evening. Mr. Dawson said he was glad to be with us and he hoped to come again in the not too distant future.

The meeting was then declared closed and the hum of discussion continued to echo between the greenkeepers for some time at the 19th hole.

She was a lovely young bride, radiantly fair, dewy-eyed and as slender as a wand. She walked down the aisle, a picture of girlish innocence and simplicity on her father's arm.

As she reached the chancel steps her tiny feet brushed against a vase of lovely flowers, upsetting it. Silently she looked at the catastrophe, then raised her large, child-like eyes to the old clergyman and opened her beautiful eyes still wider. "That's a hell of a place to put a vase of lilies," she said. Then the service proceeded.

* * *

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"Certainly, here is a summons for my gas bill!"

* * *

Dance Hall Girl: "Mind if I finish my cigarette while we dance?"

Hero: "N-no—if you don't mind the smell of burning flesh!"

* * *

The absent-minded professor drove up to his garage, looked inside, returned to his machine, and went like fury to the police station.

"Inspector," he gasped, "my car's been stolen."

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B. G. G. A.

WELSH SECTION

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Year ended 31st May, 1955

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cash at Bank as at 31st May, 1954 ...	88	7	7				
Less unpaid Accounts at above date ...	11	3	11				
	<hr/>						
	77	3	8				
„ Receipts:—							
Entrance Fees ...	15	0					
Special Donations	9	7	0				
Members' Subscriptions ...	23	6	6				
Donations to Prize Fund ...	22	0	0				
Golf Ball Manufacturers ...	3	13	6				
	<hr/>						
	59	2	0				
	<hr/>						
	£136	5	8				
List of Unpaid Accounts at 31st May, 1955 ...	—	—	—				
„ Remittances to Head Office ...	10	11	0				
	<hr/>						
	£146	16	8				
	<hr/>						
By Payments:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Postages ...	1	17	6				
Printing and Stationery, etc. ...	4	0					
Board of Green-keeping Research Journals ...	4	18	0				
Prizes ...	14	10	0				
Tournament Expenses ...	2	0	0				
Welsh Golfing Union ...	2	2	0				
Donation to Sick Member ...	5	5	0				
John Duncan Remembrance Fund	5	5	0				
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Honorarium ...	10	0	0				
Hire of Committee Rooms ...	15	0					
Engraving Cup ...	12	6					
	<hr/>						
	47	9	0				
„ Remittances to Head Office ...	10	11	0				
„ Cash at Bank as at 31st May, 1955	88	16	8				
	<hr/>						
	£146	16	8				

Audited by (Signed): DAVID S. LORD.
S. PHILLIPS.

SHEFFIELD SECTION

Income and Expenditure Account for Year ended 31st May, 1955

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Income.</i>						
To Cash in Bank ...	74	11	7			
„ Cash in Hand ...	3	1				
	<hr/>					
	74	14	8			
„ Subscriptions:—						
Class A ...	15	0	0			
Class B ...	4	7	6			
Class C ...	8	1	6			
	<hr/>					
	27	9	0			
„ Sale of Sweep tickets	43	12	6			
„ Contributions for Prizes ...	13	11	0			
„ President's Donation	5	5	0			
	<hr/>					
	62	8	6			
	<hr/>					
	£164	12	2			
	<hr/>					
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Postage and Telephone ...	3	5	10			
Printing and Stationery ...	1	1	6			
	<hr/>					
	4	7	4			
„ Sweep Prizes ...	24	15	0			
„ Tournament Prizes	15	3	0			
	<hr/>					
	39	18	0			
„ President's Present Honorarium ...	23	0	0			
	10	10	0			
	<hr/>					
	33	10	0			
„ S.T.R.I. Lecture ...	1	11	6			
„ S.T.R.I. Journals ...	7	0	0			
„ Central Fund ...	9	1	6			
„ Dinner Expenses ...	9	12	0			
„ Northern Section Match Expenses ...	15	10	0			
	<hr/>					
	42	15	0			
„ Insurance ...	15	0				
„ Room Rent ...	1	10	0			
„ Bank Charges ...	4	6				
	<hr/>					
	2	9	6			
„ Cash in Bank ...	41	15	1			
Less due to Treas.	2	9				
	<hr/>					
	41	12	4			
	<hr/>					
	£164	12	2			

We certify that we have audited the above Balance Sheet and it exhibits a true and correct record.

P. E. BOOKER, J. LOMAS.
E. PEAT, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*

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Nitrogen Use For Golf Course Turf

The following paper was given by Mr. R. M. Williams (Head Greenkeeper to the Beverly Country Club, Chicago, Illinois) at the 1955 Midwest Regional Turf Conference, and is reproduced from a recent issue of our esteemed American contemporary, "Golf Course Reporter".—Editor.

NITROGEN promotes vegetative growth, increases the green colour of the leaves, and increases the succulence of the plant. Of course, if we use too much nitrogen we get a weak, yellow, non-resistant plant. Our objective then is to find the happy medium so that we produce a good healthy plant and in turn a good healthy turf. Naturally we must keep a balance of other nutrients too in order to make the plant react in the proper manner. However, this report is designed to deal primarily with the nitrogen factor.

Fitted to Soil Conditions.

Our fairway soil varies from heavy clay to light sandy silt, so we naturally will vary our fertiliser programme on these areas. The grass type is predominantly bent grass with *poa annua* and *poa trivialis* mixed in. The height of cut is $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in the Spring and Fall, with about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in Mid-summer. Our annual nitrogen application will total approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. This is usually applied in three applications. We start our programme off in late February or early March by applying about 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft., along with phosphorus and potash. The past two years I have used 6-12-12 for the purpose at 700 lbs. per acre. Then we follow up with Milorganite at 5 to 800 lbs. in early August and again in September, if we have funds left and if the grass needs it.

In the Spring I vary the programme by eliminating the phosphorus in the mixture in an effort to make our spring sodium arsenite treatment of *poa annua* more efficient. We have been trying some mixtures of Nugreen and muriate of potash for this purpose.

Using Less Fertiliser.

I have noted that over the past 8 years we have reduced our application of fertiliser to the fairways. It appears to me from both soil tests and turf condition that we are building up some of the depleted reserves of fertility. This same fact seems to be borne out in the green programme as well.

In 1954 we used $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 on the greens. In 1953 the figure was $4\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Prior to that time we were using from 7 to 9 lbs. per 1,000 per year. Along with the decreased use of nitrogen we have decreased to a greater degree the amount of phosphorus and increased the quantity of potash so that we end up the year with nutrient ratio of about 5-1-2 on the greens and about 5-6-4 on the fairways.

The past two years I have been interested in watching the correlation between the Summer condition of greens on various courses and the fertiliser practice on those greens. My observation is only a repetition of what so many of the older superintendents have told us in the past, that greens should be kept slightly on the hungry side in the hot and humid weather. Greens that are seldom if ever given a square meal of nutrients will thin down and be victimised by disease and have no colour. Those that are overfed and usually overwatered too are devoured by disease and wilt, and usually appear trampled to death around the hole-tins.

Yearly Schedule.

Our practice for fertilising greens begins in November when we apply approximately 2 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. to the greens in a dry organic form of either Milorganite or corn gluten. This gives us a head start in the Spring by bringing out colour and growth several weeks ahead of the usual Spring applications. Also we do not have to rush around in the Spring trying to get the first treatment on the greens. With this procedure we can wait until we have the irrigation turned on which is usually about

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15th April, and then go ahead and start our mid-Spring fertilising which is generally a complete fertiliser, such as 10-8-6. We use about 75 to 100 lbs. of this material at this time. After these two treatments, we have no set schedule but depend more upon the weather conditions and the appearance of the grass as indicators of when and how much we shall fertilise.

Product and Cost.

We have been using the same material throughout the Summer months for the past several years and in about the same proportions. The materials are Nugreen and Muriate of Potash. The Nugreen is Du Pont's synthetic organic with 45% Nitrogen content. The Muriate is Sunshine Brand from New Mexico and is a white sugar-like material containing 63% potash. We normally use this combination at the rate of 6 lbs. of Nugreen and 2 lbs. of potash per green of approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of area. Thereby we yield 2.7 lbs. of nitrogen and 1.26 lbs. of potash. Dividing this figure by 5 to ascertain the quantity per 1,000 we get approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of nitrogen and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of potash. We have found this amount to be adequate under our conditions for a period of 3 to 6 weeks.

One of the primary factors guiding our choice of this material is cost. The application of 6lbs. of Nugreen and 2 lbs. of potash costs 58c for the Nugreen and 9c for the potash or a total of 67c per treatment per green. Another factor guiding our choice of this material is the fact that this fertiliser has a high safety factor as pertains to burning of the turf. It will burn and burn good if used improperly through quantity or time of application. I have learned by experience not to apply this or most any other material in the real hot weather where daily temperatures run over 90 degrees or when the soil is wet. When the Nugreen and Potash mixture is used it should be diluted in 100 galls. of water per green and then watered in lightly. If the weather continues hot for a long spell I usually apply the Nugreen without the potash and at the rate of 6 lbs. per green in 100 galls. of water and no wash in is required.

This past year we tried out several plots on our fairways where we used the dry Nugreen as a fairway fertiliser. With the high analysis of 45% and the pelletised form, I felt that the kernels would be spaced apart from each other as they fall to the turf and if they burned it would be a very minor one. By applying only 50 lbs. per acre I would get about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Also, 1 ton of this material would cover my 18 fairways of approximately 40 acres, at a cost of \$160.00. Our tests worked out quite well with the biggest problem being the adjustment of the spreader to this low rate. We will do some more work along this line this coming season.

In summary I would like to repeat that we are using about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. on fairways per year. On greens we are using about 5 lbs. per 1,000 per year.

Southern Section Lecture.

(Continued from page 10)

The slitting (or scarifying, as mentioned by one of the greenkeepers in the discussion) can with advantage be supplemented by a sowing of grass seeds, including a proportion of *Agrostis*. Returfing appears to be the only direct method of dealing with Yorkshire Fog at present, and this draws attention to the necessity of creating and maintaining a turf nursery if possible.

Mr. Moore dealt with a few other weeds, including Pearlwort, for which experiments at Reading had shewn the superiority of special mixtures of artificials over selective weed-killers.

An interesting discussion followed, which the lecturer said he greatly valued in view of the useful information passed on by practical men of such experience, dealing with different soils and conditions. He conveyed to the Branch the greetings of Mr. Martin Sutton, who takes a personal interest in the activities of the Association.

Honour for Mr. R. B. Dawson.

We are sure all members of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be delighted to know that Mr. R. B. Dawson, M.Sc., F.L.S., Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, has had the O.B.E. conferred on him in the recent New Year Honours list. This is indeed an honour well-deserved by Mr. Dawson, and we offer him our heartiest congratulations.

The man who thinks twice before he speaks will often find that the world is talking about something else.

* * *

"How did you find the dog you bought for your week-end cottage?"

"A splendid watch dog. He lies in the house and won't let us in."

* * *

Money isn't everything, but it is usually well ahead of whatever is in second place.

* * *

He usually takes his wife to a night club—it's the only place still open by the time she gets dressed.

* * *

He's got an impediment in his speech. Every time he opens his mouth, his wife interrupts.

* * *

A lot of homes have been spoilt by inferior desecrators.

* * *

A pedestrian is a man who thought there was still a couple of gallons in his tank.