

Looking



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Back

As a staunch advocate of S/A and S/I plus plenty of compost, I am very pleased that our findings of that time as to their value are still valid.

Supporter

In the early days of the Research Station we were proud to have supporting us the Hon. Secretary of the Board of Management of the Station, Mr. Norman Hackett. Mr. Hackett's untiring efforts to prove the value of acid reacting fertilisers for encouraging the finest grasses and discouraging the more succulent species weeds and worms, were very pleasing, particularly to me because all he preached coincided with my own past findings. Unfortunately some took too much for granted and through wrong usage of S/A and S/I many greens were damaged for such long periods that it was considered by some too dangerous to use. However, any person interested would do well to read the book written by the late Mr. Norman Hackett in the early days of 1930 or to visit the plots at Bingley to confirm its claim.

Practical Link

As mentioned earlier, the Research Station at Bingley started in 1929. For quite a time many greenkeepers were reluctant to fall in with its aims but a year or two later the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, affiliated itself to the Station and formed the Practical Advisory Committee. This fortunately helped to (and, I believe, eventually did)

eliminate the fears of greenkeepers about what the Research Station might do to them.

Demise

The Practical Advisory Committee met at Bingley in Spring and Autumn to survey the plots and hold a conference. We would discuss our findings on the plots, make recommendations thought to be beneficial to the Greenkeeper and voice any complaints from members. Our first meeting took place on the 9th October, 1934 and this continued twice yearly until the death of our beloved Chairman, the late Mr. F. G. Hawtree. I much regret that in spite of their great value, no further meetings have taken place since. Strange as it may seem, the same persons who were appointed at the start continued to the end and reported their findings in our own Journal.

The Future

It is a pity that new blood cannot be found to renew this most important contact with the Research Station and make the B.G.G.A. still more interesting and educative. It gives one more incentive to look forward to our Journal, when there are reports from our own Greenkeepers of their findings at the Station or on their own courses, Essay Competitions and accounts of lectures.

But now it will soon be 1963. Good luck to all those who have done so much for the B.G.G.A. in the past, and to all those who carry on the good work in the next fifty years.

GREENKEEPERS 1914-18 (See page 9)

1. S. Fletcher, D.C.M., M.M., Moseley Golf Club. Cpl., King's Royal Rifles. Twice wounded in France; awarded the Military Medal for holding up an enemy advance at Ypres, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1918 for conspicuous gallantry in the Field.
2. C. Berridge. Late Woodside Golf Club.
3. J. Seager, Biddenham Golf Club. Pte., Buffs. 4 years' service.
4. T. Mason, Hendon Golf Club. Cpl., Royal Garrison Artillery. Served in France; wounded.
5. A. Scott, Cowdenbeath Golf Club. Driver, R.A.S.C. Served in France. (Invalided).
6. J. Henderson. Pte., Northumberland Fusiliers.