

BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 1965

Administration

We congratulate our Chairman, Mr H. E. Sheppard on a very successful year of Office, which we should appreciate must have been most difficult owing to the unfortunate death of his wife, and our most sincere sympathy and thanks are expressed to Mr Sheppard.

We would offer sincere congratulations to Mr J. Simpson who will succeed Mr Sheppard for 1965/66.

The Annual Draw for last year was again a financial success, and although the final returns did not quite reach the 1963 figure, our thanks are due to all members for their efforts. The Executive Committee, in their wisdom, had agreed to change the prize allocation for the current year, as they were of the opinion that a larger top prize would be a greater incentive for people to purchase tickets.

Our thanks are due to the R. and A. for their kindness in allocating passes for the Open Championship. Though small in number we are sure that those who were fortunate enough to receive them were most appreciative.

It will be interesting to members to know that the Wage Scale Survey with its recommendations has been sent to many Golf Clubs who have made inquiries to the Hon. Secretary for information on this subject.

The Apprenticeship Scheme is moving ahead very steadily, and it would seem that the opportunities offered to young men interested in greenkeeping is reaping a reward. Twenty-eight apprentices have already signed on the dotted line, and a further 11 Deeds have been sent out by the Council for completion.

Membership

The figures given by Sections at the end of the year showed our membership to be in the region of 680, an increase of 65 over last year. It is most gratifying that our numbers have increased to such an extent, particularly in view of the increase in membership fees.

Annual Tournament

The 47th Annual Tournament was held at Weston-super-Mare last August, and although the entry was not so large as one might hope for, a most successful meeting was enjoyed. Our thanks must be offered to the Secretary and his staff for their efforts on our behalf. We would also once again express our sincere thanks for all the generous donations and prizes presented for the occasion.

Sections

Section activities were again much in evidence, with Tournaments, Lectures and visits of interest, and our sincere thanks are due to Secretaries and their Committees for all the arrangements made, and the co-operation of firms and organisations who have helped to make these arrangements possible.

The British Golf Greenkeeper

Once again we must express our sincere thanks to the Hon. Editor of our Journal. There was a change of printers in the early part of this year, which unfortunately did cause some delay in the publication date for a time, but it will be appreciated that this was unavoidable with the change over, which was quite an undertaking for the editorial staff. Thanks are again due to Section Secretaries for their local news, and to all those who submitted articles for publication.

Benevolent Fund

It is gratifying to note that there has only been two calls on the Benevolent Fund during the year under review.

We are very appreciative of any donations that are forthcoming for this Fund, and it is of interest to know that one Golf Club has made an Annual contribution of approximately £10 for the last 20 years, by holding an annual competition among its members, from which all the entry fees go to make up this contribution. A wonderful idea for which we are very thankful. Who knows, perhaps other Clubs might consider this a worthy venture.

F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

The facilities offered by this Fund have again been accepted with enthusiasm. Three members were sent to the Sports Turf Research Institute during the year under review, and all placings for the coming Autumn and the Spring of 1966 have been applied for. Once again the Trustees of the Fund would express their appreciation to Clubs who offer financial assistance for their greenkeepers when attending a course of instruction.

Sports Turf Research Institute

Under the directorship of Mr J. R. Escritt, the Sports Turf Research Institute has again offered every assistance to our members, and their unflinching interest in all our activities is very much appreciated.

In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of the following members announced in the *British Golf Greenkeeper* since our last report.

Messrs J. O'Gorman, E. G. Sharrett, H. Warburton, C. A. Tydeman, G. A. Jones, Tom Chamberlain, F. C. Neal and D. H. Rees.

By order of the Executive Committee.

Chairman: H. E. Sheppard.
Hon. Secretary: C. H. Dix.