

THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE BINGLEY, YORKSHIRE

The 19th A.G.M. of THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE was held at Bingley on Monday, 27th April, under the Chairmanship of Mr Alan Sowden.

(1) In the Annual Report for 1969, which was adopted, reference was made to:—

(a) Research

Grass variety trials were extended over about 1¼ acres including 186 varieties and commercial stocks. Further trials of fungicides were laid down and future plans include development of methods of disease study and prevention under more easily controlled conditions in greenhouses. Other work included trials of mosskillers, herbicide treatments for the control of poa-annua in seedbeds and several small-scale tests of new herbicides. Studies of soil amelioration continued.

(b) Advisory Service

The Institute's advisory service was in constant demand and with the easing of the Government's economic restrictions there was a considerable increase in the number of sports grounds under construction compared with the previous year. The Institute's knowledge and experience of sports ground construction is being increasingly recognised in its appointment as consultants to many more projects.

(c) Education

The demand for places on courses continued to grow and the number of courses was increased from five to six. Other educational activities included lectures through-

out the country — also one in Cologne — and publication of the *Journal*, *Sports Turf Bulletin* and several articles for the popular sports press. The first International Turf Grass Research Conference was held in Harrogate, the Director and Senior Staff of the Institute making major contributions in organisation and the presentation of papers.

(d) Finance

In spite of inflation and the heavy burden of Selective Employment Tax, the year ended without deficit. It was, nevertheless, regrettable that achieving this result sometimes caused Staff to be diverted from their proper tasks by financial considerations associated with fund-raising.

(2) A message of greetings was sent to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Institute.

(3) The following elections were made:—

President, The Duke of Norfolk; Vice-Presidents, Carl Bretherton, Esq., Sir William Worsley, R. G. J. Kirk, Esq., C.A.; Chairman, Alan Sowden, Esq., M.I.C.E.; Vice-Chairman, R. E. Cameron, Esq.

Tribute was paid to the untiring efforts over many years of Mr Carl Bretherton who, whilst remaining an Honorary Vice-President, stood down from the Vice-Chairmanship in favour of Mr R. E. Cameron, representative of the English Bowling Association.

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