

News



from the Sections

EAST MIDLAND

By S. Fretter

Hon. Secretary:

4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leicester.

Chairman:
J. CARRICK

New Members

I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming to this Section the following greenkeepers:—

R. Spurr, 24 Lower Park Street, Ilkeston, Derby, greenkeeper of Erewash Valley Golf Club; K. Elliott, 48 Meadow Vale Crescent, Clifton Estate, Bullwell, Nottingham, greenkeeper at Wolatton Park Golf Club; A. A. Durrands, Lanscot, Willoughby Road, South Raucsesby, Sleaford, Lincs, greenkeeper at Sleaford Golf Club.

General Meeting

At our General Meeting held at The Anchor Inn, Hathern, on Wednesday, 11th November 1970, Mr J. Carrick of Northampton Golf Club was voted as Vice-Chairman of The British Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

Dinner-Dance

By now you will have received your form for the dinner-dance to be held at The Saracen's Head, Leicester, on Saturday, 16th February 1971. Would you please return the form to me stating whether you will be attending or not, together with your remittance for the tickets, by the 31st December 1970. If there are any tickets over after all the members have answered, these will be offered to guests. So please notify me if you would like any tickets for guests.

Christmas Greetings

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SOUTHERN

By F. W. Ford

Chairman:
C. A. MOORE
(Stanmore)

Hon. Secretary:
68 Salcombe Gardens
Mill Hill, N.W.7
Tel: 01-959 2847

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO MEMBERS OF THE
B.G.G.A. EVERYWHERE.

November Lecture

Over 50 members assembled at the Stirling Castle on Wednesday, 4th November, to listen to a talk by the Senior Advisory Officer of Bingley, Mr Clayton. The talk started with general hints on renovation of fairways which had suffered during drought. P.H. should be checked and if too low an application of lime may be necessary plus as much spiking and slitting as possible during the winter and a dressing of fertiliser in the spring. He noted that there had been a good deal of over-watering by clubs who had pop-ups and this had resulted in a big build up of thatch. He suggested that Rotaraking would take care of that but this was hotly disputed by some members. They claimed it was impossible to get rid of thatch whilst greens were in daily use and even if

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greens were rested while this was carried out it would be far from satisfactory.

Re tees, Mr Clayton suggested that owing to the greater amount of play these days they should be enlarged to spread the load. At the moment many courses had large areas of teeing ground to be returfed, larger tees could be rested earlier and seeded before the bad weather.

Trolley damage was also mentioned, but as the speaker said, other than putting tank traps round the approaches it seems impossible to stop some golfers from pulling trolleys along the edge of the green and ruining the approaches. Greens to be slit tined as often as possible he considered to be a must during winter.

The speaker was thanked by the chairman for a most interesting lecture and this brought the meeting to a close.

My most grateful thanks to Charles Moore, our chairman, for recording the above notes during my absence.

January Lecture

This will be held at the Stirling Castle at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th January, 1971, and the speaker will be Mr Gooding, representing Sychemical Ltd. Mr Gooding is no stranger to the Southern Section and on his last visit to us he handed out very useful leaflets on "The Use, Selection and Application of Chemicals in Turf Maintenance."

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members:—

A. E. Calvert (Shooters Hill), R. Boniface, E. Chappel and R. Marchant (Royal Eastbourne), S. A. Kilby (Old Ford Manor), D. Bessey (Greenford) and J. E. Liddington (New Zealand).

Bereavement

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of one of our old members, Bill McKean. He collapsed and died on the eighteenth green at the South Beds on Wednesday, 4th November, and in the words of Jack Glass, a very old friend of his, "This is how he would have wished to go—not to be a burden to anyone."

His first assistant for over 25 years at South Beds, R. Booth, writes to say how much he will miss him as a head greenkeeper and a good friend and I know this is how we all feel in the Southern Section, as indeed all who knew him in the B.G.G.A.

One memory of Bill McKean which will stay with me and a lot of members for a long time was seeing him in full Highland dress complete with bagpipes piping us all in to the annual dinner at Dulwich and Sydenham in 1968.

The club was well represented at the crematorium and the Southern Section representative was Bob Plain, who also made the necessary wreath arrangements. Our grateful thanks to you, Bob. Parker & Sons were represented by Dick Elliot.

Supers

On Sunday, 8th November, a party of 15 American and Canadian members of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of New England flew into London en route for Scotland and Ireland and were welcomed by your chairman and myself at the Charing Cross Hotel.

A very pleasant hour followed in which we exchanged journals and news letters, etc., and talked American, Canadian and English greenkeeping shop.

Apart from visiting the beauty spots of the British Isles, the main object of their tour was to inspect and possibly play English, Scottish and Irish golf courses.

When I asked Leon St. Pierre, their business manager, how the tour had originated, he said it all began two years ago when John Campbell visited the States and invited them over. Who knows a party of British golf greenkeepers may be touring the American golf courses one day!

After sightseeing in London the following day and visiting a neighbouring golf course, their intention was to travel by coach to Scotland, stopping at Coventry Cathedral and York.

At St. Andrews they were to be guests of John Campbell for three days and then a tour of Ireland to complete the trip.

SOUTH COAST

By Tom Graham

Chairman :
P. MALIA
(Lee-on-Solent)

Hon. Secretary:
"Waverley,"
West Lane,
Hayling Island,
Hants.

Christmas Greetings to all members of the Association from the South Coast Section.

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

Chairman:
M. GEDDES,
23 Fenton Place,
Porthcawl, Glamorgan.

Hon. Secretary:
36 Clase Road,
Morriston,
Swansea, Glam.

Meetings

The meetings which were suggested at the Annual General Meeting, i.e. the winter meeting and the friendly meeting with the South-West Section, were discussed at our Committee Meeting and it was decided that it would be impracticable to hold them. Instead it was agreed to try and arrange a trip to the Motpur Park Exhibition in the autumn.

Information

One thing I would like members to do if they want news of what is going on in the Association is to write to me direct. It seems there is a lot of gossip going on about what is not being done and what ought to

be done and to save you any trouble in the future just drop me a line and I will do my best to give you the answer. Thank you.

Greetings

Now that the festive season is near and my last chance to express the members' feelings to the Association members — we wish you all a very Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year. Good Luck to you all.

Subscriptions

ALL members who have not paid up their subs before the 1st January will have their journals stopped as it is costing us money, so please pay up immediately.

SHEFFIELD

By H. Gillespie

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

Hon. Secretary:
63 Langsett Avenue,
Sheffield, S6 4AA.

Lecture

The attendance at our first lecture of the winter, given by Mr D. P. Horner of Hayter Ltd. and Fernco Ltd., on 15th October at the Hare and Hounds, Nursery Street, Sheffield, was not as well attended as had been the trend during the 1969 winter series. Please make the effort and support the lecturers who give up their evenings for our benefit.

The lecturer on Thursday, 15th January, 1971, is Mr D. N. H. Hicken of David Miln (Seedsman), Chester, and the subject is "Top Dressing."

Congratulations

Congratulations to John Waddoups, who has left Abbeylea G.C. to take charge at Holme Hall G.C., Scunthorpe. Best of luck in your new venture, John.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Section and hope their association will be a long and happy one:—R. Carr (Scunthorpe G.C.), A. C. Pearson and R. Cummins (Phoenix G.C.).

Greetings

On behalf of the Sheffield Section members may I wish the Association officials and all our greenkeeping friends the compliments of the season.

NORTH-EAST

By G. Jeffries

Chairman:
J. SIMPSON

Hon. Secretary:
55 Brackenfield Road,
Framwell Gate Moor, Durham.

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that I inform members of the death of Mr D. Earsman, for many years secretary and treasurer of our Section until July 1969. Dave, who died suddenly on Wednesday, 28th October, was a very well known and respected member of the Section.

He had been a member of the Association for a great number of years and always had the welfare of his fellow members at heart. We will miss Dave very much indeed at our future meetings, particularly as he attended these in all weathers.

I have no doubt in my mind that greenkeeping has lost greatly by his passing.

On behalf of all members of the North-East Section, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs Earsman and his daughter Elizabeth in their great loss.

Greetings

On behalf of the members of the North-East Section, may I take this opportunity to wish all members of the Association, and the golf clubs and firms who kindly support us throughout the year, a happy Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

NORTH-WEST

By H. M. Walsh

Chairman:
T. BRENNAN
(Royal Birkdale)

Hon. Secretary:
Horrobin Cottage,
Old Links Golf Club,
Montserrat, Bolton, Lancs.

Annual Trip

Our sincere thanks are due to the directors and staff of Charles H. Pugh Ltd. for the very warm welcome they extended to us on

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the occasion of our visit to their Birmingham factory on 10th November, for their very generous hospitality and their friendly and patient approach in answering all the questions put to them during a very pleasant and instructive day. Thank you, gentlemen, and I hope that we may visit your works again in the future. Thirty of our members made the trip and each one of them assured me that he had had a really good day, and that, gentlemen, made it all worthwhile for me.

Lectures

The December talk will be given by Mr Wyatt of H. Pattison Ltd. on 7th December. Venue as for all this winter series will be the Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester, at 7.30 p.m. The January talk will be by a member of Chipman Chemical Co. Ltd. on Tuesday, 5th January.

The first of this season's talks was a joint affair on 26th October and given by Mr H. Ratcliff of Rigby Taylors Ltd. and Mr G. Smythe of May & Baker Ltd. This was given to a really full house, thirty-six of our members being present. Slides were shown and a very interesting talk given by both gentlemen was greatly appreciated by the members present.

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members and hope their association with the section will be long and happy.

J. Stewart (Woolton G.C.), M. C. Owen (Lee Park G.C.), R. Parry (Werneth G.C.), and Honorary Member W. Burrows.

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

Chairman:
A. ROBERTSHAW

Hon. Secretary:
8 Goit Stock Terr., Harden,
Bingley, Yorks.

Autumn Tournament

Through the courtesy of the club committee we paid our first visit to the Wetherby Golf Club on Thursday, 15th October, on the occasion of our annual autumn tournament. Fifty members took part in the event, and as on most occasions we were favoured by ideal weather conditions.

Our thanks are due to all the officials and members of the staff for their co-operation in making a most enjoyable outing. Following tea the prizes were presented by the club captain and a vote of thanks by Mr A. Robertshaw was heartily endorsed by members. We also thank all local golf clubs who kindly donated to our prize fund.

Results

Scratch Prize—C. Martin (Fulford), 79.
First Division—1st, K. Gallagher (Sandmoor), 79-12-67; 2nd, C. Geddes (Moor Allerton), 86-15-71; 3rd, A. Robertshaw (Ilkley), 81-9-72.

Second Division—1st, D. Todd (Wetherby), 88-24-64; 2nd, R. Lambert (Wetherby), 90-24-66; 3rd, C. Garnett (West Bradford), 87-18-79.

Veteran Prize—S. Smith, 71.

Seasonal Greetings

As these will be the last notes for 1970, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Association the happiest of Christmases and all the best for the coming year.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members:—

E. Dillon (Garforth G.C.), P. T. Murphy (ShIPLEY G.C.), J. Woodward (Castletown Links, Isle of Man).

November Meeting

The first meeting of the winter session was held at Horsforth Golf Club on Wednesday, 4th November. This took the form of an "Open Discussion" and the good number of members present were able to air their views on a whole range of subjects under the chairmanship of Mr A. Robertshaw.

MIDLAND

By R. Goodwin

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
4 Burton Old Road,
Streethay, Lichfield,
Staffs.

Cecil Jones

Members will be sorry to hear that Cecil Jones passed away on Wednesday, 14th October, aged 68. Cecil had worked for the Little Aston Golf Club for over 50 years. Much of his spare time was spent writing articles about Little Aston, and in particular, the wild life to be found on the course. He was highly thought of by all fellow greenkeepers who knew him for his friendly outlook and love of greenkeeping.

The funeral service on 19th October was attended by the President, Mr Bretherton, and seven members from the Midland Section.

Autumn Lecture

An excellent talk was given by Mr Bob Morris, Senior Turf Horticulturist of Fisons Levington Research Station, at the Handsworth Golf Club on Monday, 19th October.

It was good to see a fine turnout on this occasion—approximately 50 members from all parts of the Midlands—some coming from as far away as Oswestry and Llanymynech, a round trip of 140 miles.

Mr Morris's subject for the afternoon was "Turf Management on Golf Courses," with details on the use of fertilisers, top dressings and spray chemicals. He also emphasised the importance of the top soils structure and methods of improving soils for the benefit of fine turf. He also showed the film "Keep on the Grass," and finally a great number of slides showing weeds found in turf and

explained the methods of eradication of these species.

After a non-stop marathon lasting some three hours, Mr Morris answered a number of questions put to him by greenkeepers.

It was good to see so many young members at the lecture and I am sure they benefited from the excellent way in which Mr Morris put forward so many points of turf maintenance.

Our thanks to Mr Morris for his excellent talk, also to the captain and committee of Handsworth Golf Club for allowing us the use of the clubhouse, and also to Vic Smith, who worked so hard throughout to ensure the success of the lecture.

Seasonal Greetings

I would like to extend my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our President, Vice-President, members of the trade and fellow greenkeepers everywhere.

SOUTH-WEST

By **A. Cockfield**

Hon. Secretary:
10 Clarence Terrace,
Claverton Down, Bath.

Chairman:
L. MILLAR

Greetings

The South-West Section send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our President, Vice-Presidents, to all members of the Association, not forgetting the numerous golf clubs and various trades that so generously support us throughout the year.

George Gilbert

Many old greenkeepers will, I am sure, be interested to hear that G. Gilbert of Warminster G.C. has gone into semi-retirement. George has spent a lifetime at Warminster and has for many years been a respected member of the golfing public and the Association. I believe he is the only member from the South-West to win the Greenkeepers' Challenge Cup (1937). We all wish him many happy years and good health in his retirement.

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TRADE NEWS

PROMOTION FOR FLYMO REGIONAL MANAGER

Mr Jack Cogan, who has been a Regional Manager for Flymo Limited of Watford for the past six years, has been promoted to the new appointment of Trade Representative within the company's Institutional Division, which promotes the wide range of high work-rate grass-cutting equipment.

Mainly responsible for consumer division activities in North Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, Mr Cogan will now maintain close contact with his firm's Institutional distributors and end-users throughout the United Kingdom.

Joining Flymo Limited after 14 years with the J.A.P. and Villiers Engine Companies, Mr Cogan's new appointment is seen as an endorsement of the increasing importance of the Institutional Division with the company's continuing expansion.

Mr Cogan is already well introduced to greenkeepers as a member of the Northern Section of the British Greenkeepers' Association for the past six years. He has been involved in lectures to horticultural classes at a number of technical colleges.

Mr L. R. Dowsett, managing director of the Steetley Co. Ltd., has joined the board of BERK Ltd. in place of Mr P. R. Grossey, who has resigned.

Mr Cyril Thomson has been appointed by BIRMID QUALCAST (HOME & GARDEN EQUIPMENT) LTD. to undertake all the Public Relations work involved in respect of the products manufactured by the constituent companies of Home & Garden Equipment Division. He will be actively concerned with activities for Qualcast, Suffolk, ATCO together with Qualcast (Fleetway) and Lloyds Ladders.

COURSE COINCIDENCE

On a London Golf course in 1957, Edward Chapman, attorney, scored a hole-in-one on the sixth. The same day on the same course, another Edward Chapman — this one an actor — shot a hole-in-one on the eighth. They had never met.