

# THE SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## BINGLEY, YORKSHIRE

The Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE was held at Bingley on Monday, 26th April, under the chairmanship of Mr Alan Sowden.

(1) In the annual report for 1970, which was adopted, reference was made to:—

(a) *Research.*—Emphasis in the main was on testing grass varieties and adding to information on the best use of grass species and varieties. Fifteen new trials were sown, the total area taken up by the project being brought to almost three acres. Wear treatment was carried out artificially with a modified turf aerator made to an Institute design.

Other work included fungicide trials with, in addition, some small tests on the treatment of *Ophiobolus* patch disease and an external trial on the treatment of fairy rings, also trials of mosskillers and herbicides. The soil amelioration experiments continued.

(b) *Advisory Service.*—There was a noteworthy increase in the demand made upon the advisory service by sports clubs, parks departments and education authorities, particularly in respect of sports ground construction. Much favourable television, radio and press publicity was obtained, particu-

larly in connection with the reconstruction of the Wembley Stadium pitch.

(c) *Education.*—Six instructional courses, each of five days' duration, were held in 1970, these being attended by a total of 145 greenkeepers, groundsmen and club officials, etc. Lectures were given at centres throughout the country and articles were contributed for publication in popular magazines. Members of staff continued to serve on national and local committees concerned with the training of greenkeepers and groundsmen.

(d) *Finance.*—Despite tremendous increases in overheads the financial result was a nominal surplus, this being due to the exceptional earnings of the advisory service. But future dependence upon the advisory service making no less a contribution to revenue will obviously continue, particularly as costs continue to rise, further to which it is now a matter of priority that more funds be obtained to expand the level of research.

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

(3) Elections were: President, the Duke of Norfolk. Vice-Presidents, Carl Bretherton, Esq.; Sir William Worsley; R. G. J. Kirk, Esq. Chairman, Alan Sowden, Esq. Vice-Chairman, R. E. Cameron, Esq.

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