

Tee Shots

The Kanto Region Greenkeepers Association of Japan has sent a magnificent 'Kabuto' to our Association as a memento of our 60th Anniversary. The 'Kabuto' is a traditional head-dress elaborately wrought and decorated. There are now five Greenkeeper Associations in Japan and the Kanto region surrounds Tokyo. We shall all wish to express our grateful thanks for this gift from such distant colleagues.

The Motspur Park Exhibition was as successful as ever and a great place for reunions. Professor Troll and John Zak from Massachusetts University met several old friends especially on the Fison's stand. Professor Troll spent six months sabbatical leave at Fisons in 1969. He tells me that he has recently invested \$70,000 in equipment for his courses in turf management at Stockbridge Hall, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Attendance at the 1st British Turf-grass Symposium at Ransomes' Ipswich works on 4th October, was over 200. British Greenkeepers, Secretaries and Green Committee Chairmen sat down with contingents from Canada, United States of America and European Superintendents' Associations. The Chairman was Geo, McPartlin, O.B.E., of the Golf Development Council and the Golf Foundation.

The theme was 'Drainage and Irrigation'. Dr. Ede and Gordon Fisher from Cambridge opened the series of six papers, each of which was followed by a panel discussion and question time.

W. D. Hawthorn spoke on Automatic Watering and H. Swan on Water Hazard Construction. Tom Mascaro (Hahn Co. U.S.A.), described mechanical means of maintaining surface drainage and J. R. Escritt, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, outlined Progress, Limits and Research.

On the morning panel were Robt. W. Mitchell, President Emeritus of the Golf Course Superintendents of America and David Gourlay, this year's President of the Canadian Association. L. Millar (Burnham & Berrow), Geo. Wilson (Le Prieuré, Paris), two Scots in the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, which organised the event, were in support.

After lunch the panel changed to Ivor Scoones, Chairman of the B.G.G.A., J. K. Glass, Thorpe Hall Golf Club, John Campbell, St. Andrews, and F. W. Hawtree whose father founded the Association 60 years ago. The Session concluded with Ransomes' film 'The Royal and Ancient Game'.

On display were the gold plated Hole Cup, mounted as a trophy and presented to the British Greenkeepers by the American Association and a Kabuto, a 60th Anniversary gift from the greenkeepers of the Kanto region of Japan.

An International Tournament with four teams from the British Isles, Eire, Canada, U.S.A., and Europe was held the day before. The Scottish



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team had been victorious after having piped themselves out to the Tee in the afternoon.

The Canadian Association presented a desk set to Len Arbon, Head Greenkeeper of the Woodbridge Golf Club where the match had been played.

The Symposium was organised by the B.G.G.A., in the interest of good greenkeeping and golf at large.

The New Zealand Golf Greenkeepers' Association now has 127 financial members. Recently they held a field day at the MANUKAU GOLF CLUB. Over 70 greenkeepers were conducted over the course by Head Greenkeeper, Jack Showler. He explained the drainage problems which had arisen since installation of the automatic irrigation system, and how these problems were being rectified. The Wimpaway semi-hydraulic fairway mower proved its versatility on the wet practice fairway. Though on rubber tyres the units gave a clean cut without clogging, and with no wheel tear marks. Also on show was Power Equipment Ltd.'s Power Pony fitted with the extended rotor cutter, and triple mini gangs. The R.O.H. Verticut mower showed its potential as did the farm bikes displayed by Honda and Suzuki agents. A private contractor's stump remover, hydraulic-mounted, made a quick tidy job obliterating a macaracarpa stump. It also made quite a 'hit' with one of Whitford Parks' senior committee men, standing by chance on the lethal side. How's the head Morri?

Notcutts believe that the best way of buying nursery stock is by inspection, and welcome visitors to their extensive nurseries by appointment. Visitors should fix an appointment with Mr. Dyter. If necessary, Notcutts will arrange overnight accommodation as well as meeting visitors at a railway station or airport.

In addition to the ordinary size of nursery stock tree, Notcutts offer 'almost vandal-proof' standard trees. As the nurseries cover almost 300 acres, visitors should allow a full day so that they can see the extensive stock in detail.

The Autumn Council Meetings have been busy looking ahead to 1974 and 1975's new golf courses. Both commercial and municipal ventures into multi-sports developments, with golf very much in the centre, are now finding favour.

The Parks and Sports Committee of Maidstone are going ahead with a scheme to build a golf course on the Cobtree Estate, near Maidstone. The site of 110 acres is on undulating farmland and a large proportion of mature woodland will be preserved. Work is expected to start on construction in 1975.

The Borough of Hemel Hempstead, just before transformation with the new Dacorum Local Authority District, are making plans for an 18-hole championship public course, together with other recreational activities, on a magnificent farmland site overlooking the village of Bourne End. The project is exciting considerable local interest. Work is expected to start next year.

Outline planning permission has now been granted to the Trustees of the Earl of Bathurst to build a Country Club and Sports Centre in Cirencester Park. The complex will include an 18-hole championship length golf course.