

# Annual Report 1974

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## Administration

This year has been one of several additional activities and interest and we have been most fortunate in having Mr. Ivor Scoones as our Chairman; who has undoubtedly proved a very efficient Officer, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to him for the successful way he has handled our business.

We have to succeed him, Mr. E. R. James of the South Coast Section and we feel sure from the efforts Mr. James has already made in developing our new Section, he will undoubtedly prove a worthy successor to Mr. Scoones.

One of the major events of the year was the increased membership fees. The object of this increase was to improve the finances of Head Office funds and this has undoubtedly been accomplished; happily we are glad to say, without any diminishing of membership.

The Annual Draw was held as in previous years with an increased charge for tickets. This proved a good move, also, the receipts were nearly 100% up on previous years, which again was a satisfactory effort for our finances.

Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to the R & A for again providing free passes to some of our members to attend the Open Championship, a privilege much appreciated by those who were able to make the trip.

The Wage Scale recommendations were again reviewed by the Executive Committee last March and further figures were proposed and given as much publicity as was possible. We

feel sure that once again these proposals have been beneficial to a great number of our members; also we think that many Golf Club Secretaries are looking for guidance in this respect.

We are most happy to advise our members that our Association was invited to join the Golf Development Council, and I need hardly say, that your Executive Committee were delighted to accept this invitation.

Our representation on the Turfgrass Advisory Committee has been changed slightly owing to the resignation of Mr. Carrick, and we would like to express our appreciation to him for his efforts in this field. To succeed him we are very pleased to include the name to Mr. E. Walsh of the North-West Section who is now representing the Association on this Committee in conjunction with Mr. A. Robertshaw.

The latest figures by the Joint Council of Apprentices show that this scheme is still progressing. The latest figures were:—398 issued, 284 registered, and 177 completed. Our thanks are once again due to the Officers of the Council for the continued success of the Scheme.

## Membership

The figures produced by the Sections for the year-ending April 1974 show a total of 1,028, which we feel is most satisfactory, particularly in view of the increased membership fees already mentioned. This figure is approximately a 40 increase on last year.

## Annual Tournament

The 56th Annual Tournament was held at Cleveland Golf Club, Somerset and once again it proved to be a very happy and interesting event. With good weather and a good attendance, and a delightful course, we feel sure that all those who took part had a very enjoyable visit to Somerset. We much appreciated the courtesy and kindness of all the officials and staff at Cleveland for their unstinting efforts to make our visit so pleasant and we would again express our appreciation of all the Trade associations who helped so generously, to make our prize table a worthy exhibit, and the representatives and friends who gave so much practical help.

## International Match

A new advent in our programme this year was an International Match which was made possible by the courtesy and efforts of Messrs. Ransomes Sims & Jefferies. It was

through their efforts this International match was arranged in conjunction with the Pro Am Tournament which they normally hold each year, and invitations were sent to ourselves and the Scottish Association to provide a team of four, to represent England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Invitations were also sent to a Continental team, the U.S.A., Canada and Japan. This was felt to be a splendid occasion to meet Greenkeepers from all parts of the world and thanks are again due to Ransomes Sims & Jefferies for arrangements made for Dinner and entertainment after the match. Some very pleasant associations were made with representatives from Canada, U.S.A., and the Continent, as well as Great Britain. Unfortunately, Japan were unable to arrange a team to reach us in time for the fixture, but we received expressions of appreciation from them together with a Samurai Head-dress as a token of friendship. The Americans were also

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### Symposium

In conjunction with Tournament, Mr. F. W. Hawtree was instrumental in organising the First British Turfgrass Symposium which took place at Ipswich on the 4th October 1973, and was certainly an occasion for the B.G.G.A. The point when an association comes together with other delegates to talk about its work rather than its purposes is an important one, and reflects not only enthusiasm but responsibility.

The Symposium was the first of its kind; the attendance figure of 200 was therefore a most encouraging start. The breakdown of attendance figures are as follows:—

From Golf Club	...	101	(50%)
From Firms	...	66	(33%)
From Local and Central Government	...	7	(4%)

From Associations and Institutes	...	11	(6%)
From Abroad	...	14	(7%)
The number of Golf Clubs represented was	...	68	

On the day of the Symposium a post-card with space for percentage scoring and general comments was issued to each representative. 50% of the respondents suggested that the future location should be in the Midlands. Suggestions for future Symposium themes were fungal diseases, machinery, chemicals, turfgrass varieties, training and turfgrass management. All but one said they would attend future Symposiums. Here in this sample at least, was enthusiasm and conviction of the need to hold future Symposiums.

### Sections

Once again our thanks are due to the officers and Committees who give



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so much of their time to assist the Sections in their local activities and we are sure that members find local news, which we receive from these Section Secretaries for inclusion in their Journal, to be of the greatest interest.

### **The British Golf Greenkeeper**

Our Journal is continuing to make progress and the editing staff have much appreciated the additional news which has been forthcoming for inclusion in the Journal and also for the collaboration of Section Secretaries in assisting to maintain the mailing list, whereby our members have not been disappointed to any extent in the non-receipt of the Journal.

### **Benevolent Fund**

The Benevolent Fund has this year paid a total of £100 to dependants of deceased members since our last report.

### **F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund**

There was only one application during the year for the assistance of this fund to attend a course of instruction, but from recent enquiries, the fund will undoubtedly be put to greater use in the coming year.

### **S.T.R.I.**

Once again we would like to express our thanks to the S.T.R.I. for their continued advice and assistance to members when they could be of help.

### **In Memoriam**

We record with sorrow the death of the following members, announced in the British Golf Greenkeeper:—

- J. L. WHITE—East Midland.  
TOM LLOYD—Welsh.  
Wm. KINSEY—Late Pres. of N.W. Section.  
A. STEPHENS—Midland Section.  
C. BRASSINGTON—N.W. Section.  
J. WALLIS-ARTHUS — Southern Section.  
J. NESS—Southern Section.

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