

The British Golf Greenkeeper



No. 367

December 1975

15p

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The British Golf Greenkeeper

CONTENTS

	Page
SLIT DRAINAGE	5-9
DIARY DATES	13
SECTION NEWS	11-19
NEWS	19

Front Cover Picture

THE Cambridge Sportsfield Compaction Breaker in action, cutting a slit to provide a vertical drainage channel. See Slit Drainage, Pages 5-9.

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Slit drain system

FOR the majority of natural soils, a good structure is essential if rain water is to percolate freely through the soil. When the structure is damaged, by mishandling during construction or by play in wet conditions or by poor management, the soil transmits water very slowly. The result is a wet, soft playing surface leading to more damage.

As one possible solution, the existing soil may be replaced by a properly designed sandy top soil which will remain permeable even when compacted.

Slit drainage, introduced into Britain by the Sports Turf Research Institute, offers an alternative way of getting water away from the surface which has proved extremely successful for many clubs of different kinds.

The installation of slit drains creates permeable regions at regular intervals across the playing surface, providing a permeable connection between the soil surface and the drain pipes. Surface water can thus by-pass the much slower route through the soil body.

The main function of slit drains is obviously vertical transmission of water. They will allow vertical infiltration through a compacted, impermeable layer into a more permeable stratum. For example, there may be a compacted surface layer impeding infiltration and below this a less compact, better-structured more permeable layer. Alternatively, a compacted top soil may overlie a drainage carpet of ash or gravel. Slit drains will allow water to flow vertically from the surface, and lateral flow to the drain pipes can take place in the more permeable layer, provided that this second layer is indeed sufficiently permeable. In this situation, the slit drains are acting as true vertical drainage channels.

A second function of slits is to provide additionally for lateral condition of water to the drains where conditions do not otherwise allow this. When the sub-soil is impermeable, so that water

By I. G. Daniells, Soil Physicist, The Sports Turf Research Institute

cannot readily get away at the bottom of the slits then the slits must convey water sideways to some outlet. In this case it is vital that the slits do make a good connection with the drain pipes via the permeable backfill over the pipes.

The width, depth and spacing of the slits, the spacing of the drain pipes and the material filling the slits are inter-related and all affect the amount of rainfall the slits can cope with. In cases where slits are acting exclusively as vertical drainage channels allowing surface water access to a permeable sub-soil, then narrow slits of the order of half-an-inch may be appropriate, because of their relative cheapness and ease of installation. On the other hand, wide slits may be considered likely to be more permanent and, where an impermeable sub-soil necessitates lateral conduction of water in the slits then a wider slit, say two inches, is definitely required.

The spacing of the slits affects their efficiency in two ways. The closer together they are, the less distance that water has to flow over the surface before finding a vertical channel, and the more slits of a given width that there are over the surface, the greater the capacity of the whole system. Spacings usually vary from one to three feet, depending on slit type, soil type

[Turn to Page 7]

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[from Page 5]

and drainage design rate.

All other things being equal, increasing the depth of the slits greatly increases their capacity for lateral transmission. However, the depth of the slits is usually dictated by the requirement to link them properly to the backfill over the drain pipes. Whenever pipes are installed, it is well to bear in mind possible future slitting, and to arrange the depth of the pipes and the build-up of backfill over them to accommodate slits of a suitable depth.

Materials varying in particle size from fine dune sand to gravel have been used as filling for slits. The coarser the filling, the more permeable it will be and hence the greater will be the efficiency of the slits. It must be remembered however, that permeability depends on uniformity of particle size as well as the degree of coarseness. Very often the particle size of the material over the drain pipes will dictate the degree of coarseness of the slit filling, because of the danger of a fine filling washing into the drains contributing to silting up and possibly affecting the playing surface through settlement. The depth of the slits will decide whether they cut through the coarse aggregate over the pipes or through the finer blinding layer above this. The use of too coarse a slit filling is prohibited by the hazards, to mowing machines and players, of large particles at the soil surface. Thus the problem one often faces is in choosing a slit filling which, while being sufficiently permeable, is neither too fine over the drains nor too coarse at the surface. One solution is to have a two-part slit with, say, pea-gravel in the bottom for rapid lateral conduction of water, and a coarse sand (matched to the gravel to avoid being washed into it) in the top of the slit. Gravel flows easily into slits and settles firmly. Wet sand (and even some dry sands) will not flow from a

[Turn to Page 9]



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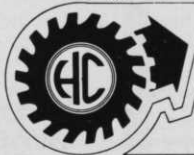
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[From Page 7]

hopper without some form of vibrator and there is a danger that sand will not pack tightly in the slits. Allowance should be made for subsequent settlement by filling the slits proud.

The fact that the material in the top of the slits is sand rather than soil can affect the growth and colour of the grass. It will take some time for the grass to re-grow over the slits, and it is often paler in colour due to nitrogen deficiency.

Half-inch slits (usually filled with sand only) may be formed by forcing the soil apart with tractor-drawn mole-plough type of equipment. This method is rapid, as the slits are cut and filled with sand in the one operation. Since the slits are formed by compressing the soil to either side, some surface-heave is inevitable, the amount depending on soil conditions. The surface-heave will settle down in time, helped by rolling, but it is all too easy to seal the top of narrow slits.

Where there is a requirement for lateral conduction of water in the slits, then the wider slits are required. These may be excavated by a narrow trenching machine mounted on a wheeled or tracked vehicle. Excavated soil must be removed from the site, but there should be no surface-heave.

Quite apart from surface-heave, wheel-or track-damage may occur to a turf surface if any type of slit-drainage equipment is used. The damage can be reduced by choosing the right conditions or using boards or steel plates for the equipment to run over where necessary.

On areas of relatively coarse turf like fairways the surface damage that might

occur should not seriously interfere with play. Tees are also areas where slit drainage can give benefit. In many cases the only pipe drainage necessary is a single drain on the lower side of the tee, laid to a positive outlet and back-filled appropriately to enable slit drains to connect with it. As regards greens the position is decidedly doubtful—it is difficult to guarantee a uniform putting surface if any kind of slit drainage is installed. On the other hand slit drainage can be extremely useful on approaches, many of which have been compacted and wet (despite drains) since they and the greens were constructed in the first place.

Slit drainage over extensive fairway areas may not be financially practicable for many clubs. However, where there are wetness problems on crucial dropping areas and approaches to greens, provided that existing pipe drainage is sound, or new drains are put in, slit drainage could bring about a big improvement at an acceptable cost.

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SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

with their opinions and perhaps we could get a permanent quiz going in the journal.

Let's hope that we have more than twenty-five members at next month's meeting at the Whitbreads Brewery social club, Moorgate. The snacks are cheap and the beer is good, so there's quite an incentive for a start!

By the way, our January lecture will be given by J. R. D. Palmer of Supaturf Products.

New Members: M. Butrymdwicz, Cottismore; D. R. Baker, Walton Heath; G. Taylor, Walton Heath; R. Blackmore, West Middlesex; M. P. Fitzimmons, Beckenham Place Park; L. J. Neal, Surbiton; H. W. Cave, Wycke Green; A. R. Holt, Bulcleuch.

Obituary: It was with regret that we learned of the death of Frank Mace of Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club. Our deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Mace on her sad loss.

Secretaries Match

A grand day was had on Tuesday, October 7th at Beaconsfield Golf Club in our Annual Match (Battle) with the Golf Club Secretaries.

Once again we came out on top, thanks mainly to Bob Plain and his staff for the excellent state of the course and putting the holes in the right places, he must have known we were coming!

Our thanks to the indoor staff for the excellent meals and service at the 19th. Special thanks to Major Adair for providing the wine with our lunch.

Southern Section Match

Result of the annual greenkeepers

[Turn to Page 14]



Southern Section

Chairman:

D. S. GOULD
Langley Park G.C.
Beckenham, Kent.

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. D. MAJOR
36 Tynedale Road,
Strood Green,
Betchworth, Surrey.

THE FIRST of the winter lectures got off to a very quiet start due to the lack of attendance of members who preferred to stay at home and watch the big fight on the 'box'.

However, it was not a wasted evening for those who did bother to turn up. A stimulating quiz took place hosted by a small team of experts consisting of a welcome regular visitor, Jock Glass from Thorpe Hall G.C., and equally welcome relative newcomer, John Campbell of Foxhills G.C. The bulk of the questions fired at them consisted mainly of queries concerning their opinions on Triplex mowers. Young Jock shot out of his seat in agreement when asked if he thought the Triplex mowers encouraged a quicker build up of fibre and it was thought by both our panel of experts and quite a few other members, that more turf problems were emerging with the 'Triplex age'.

If anyone has any comments on Triplex machinery, irrigation or any subject concerning greenkeeping I would be pleased if they would write to me

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Diary dates

- Dec. 4 N.W. Section, Visit to Toro.
- Dec. 4 Sheffield Section, Talk by Mr. D. F. Boocock of the S.T.R.I., Abbeydale G.C., 2.30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 Northern Section, Annual Dinner, Oakdale G.C.
- Jan. 6 South Coast Section. Talk on "Toro" Equipment. Alresford B.C. 7 p.m.
- Jan. 12 N.W. Section, Lecture by Mr. T. L. Hewett, Atco Ltd.
- Jan. 29 Northern Section, Lecture by Mr. Tyldesley, a Meteorological Officer, Moor Allerton G.C.

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[From Page 11]

v. Secretaries match.

Morning Foursomes:

A. D. Mercer		D. Major	
	$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$
A. J. Acres		R. Plain	
J. R. Marshall		B. Payne	
	0		1
J. E. Ritchie		P. Fitzjohn	
M. E. Dorney		G. Brown	
	0		1
J. M. Price		W. Machin	
J. B. Sinnott		G. Payne	
	0		1
J. Crowther		J. Newman	
J. E. Miller		H. Brown	
	$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$
H. Tullow		S. Taylor	
F. A. Pearce		D. Gould	
	1		0
J. Adair		P. Taylor	
	—		—
	2		4

Afternoon Singles:

A. D. Mercer	0	B. Payne	1
A. J. Acres	1	G. Brown	0
J. R. Marshall	1	D. Major	0
M. E. Dorney	0	R. Plain	1
J. E. Ritchie	0	J. Newman	1
J. B. Sinnott	0	P. Fitzjohn	1
K. M. Price	1	S. Taylor	0
J. Crother	0	G. Payne	1
J. E. Miller	0	H. Brown	1
H. Tullow	0	W. Machin	1
F. A. Pearce	1	P. Taylor	0
J. Adair	1	D. Gould	0
	—		—
	5		7

MATCH RESULT :

GREENKEEPERS	11
SECRETARIES	7

Sheffield Section

President:

S. K. ARNOLD

Hon. Secretary:

B. V. LAX

153 Kilton Road,
Workshop, Notts.

WE HELD our first winter meeting at Abbeydale Golf Club on October 2nd.

On this occasion we were shown some of the Ryan Turf care equipment and also, for the first time for many of us, we were able to see the new Cushman Turf Care System.

All the equipment was brought along for us by Mr. L. A. Bedwin of Horwood (Manchester) Ltd. Many thanks to both Mr. Bedwin and Horwood Ltd.

As we decided at the A.G.M. there will be no winter meeting in January 1976. Happy Christmas and New Year to all members and their families.

East Midland Section

President:

R. BAILEY
147 Mere Road,
Wigston Magna,
Leics.

Hon. Secretary:

S. FRETTER
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leics.

OUR Annual Autumn Golf Tournament was held at Birstall Golf Club on Wednesday, 1st October, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. We had a very good entry, the course was in good condition. Our thanks to the Captain and Committee, the inside and outside staff for making it a very enjoyable day. Our thanks to David Bentley Ltd., May & Baker, H. Pattisson Ltd., Cannock Fertilisers, Tilcon Construction, Mr. Goddard, for prizes. Our thanks to Mrs. Mott, Mrs. Welch for doing the cards, also to Mr. & Mrs. R. Willars for the buying of prizes.

N. East Section

OUR Autumn Tournament was held on Thursday 28th August, at the Gosforth Golf Club, by kind permission of their Captain and Committee.

Best Scratch score over 27 holes: D. Faulder (Blyth GC) 106—Joseph Miller Salver and camera. The Ransomes Cup and Watch was won by W. Bewick (Whitburn GC) for the best nett score of 99½.

2nd J. Grainger (Durham City GC), 102½—Alarm Clock; 3rd B. Skipper (Eaglescliffe GC), 105—Bed Spread; 4th C. Moseby (Blyth GC), 105½—Nylon Sheets; 5th B. Wilson (Stocksfield GC),

East Midland Match

Prize winners in the East Midland Section's Annual Autumn Tournament:

Greenkeepers

1st	G. Arnold (Erewash)	85 gross	22 handicap	63 Nett
2nd	M. Lake (Northampton)	91 "	24 "	67 "
3rd	D. Jack (Leicestershire)	87 "	16 "	71 "
4th	P. McCarron (Leicestershire)	95 "	24 "	71 "
5th	I. Toon (Kirby Muxloe)	79 "	6 "	73 "
6th	B. Mott (Rothley)	84 "	10 "	74 "
7th	D. Bagshaw (Stanton on the Wold)	87 "	12 "	15 "
8th	S. Fretter (Kibworth)	88 "	12 "	76 "
9th	J. Goddard (Mapperley)	91 "	14 "	77 "
10th	A. Shaw (Radcliffe on Trent)	88 "	11 "	77 "
11th	R. Spurr (Erewash)	89 "	12 "	77 "

Vice Presidents

T. Dauccia	86 "	18 "	68 "
------------	------	------	------

Visitors

1st	Mr. Vincent	87 "	18 "	69 "
2nd	Mr. Smith	86 "	16 "	70 "
3rd	R. Tattersall	74 "	0 "	74 "

The Shield presented to us by Machin & Hartwell, Nottingham for best scratch for our Spring and Autumn Tournament has been won by I. Toon (Kirby Muxloe).

The Toro Cup for best nett for Spring and Autumn Tournament has been won by G. Arnold (Erewash).

106-Set Spoons: 6th J. Richardson (Tynemouth GC), 107½-Blanket: 7th K. Barrs. (Ravensworth GC), 108-Table Lamp; 8th W. Holden (Warkworth GC), 109-Lighter: 9th T. Nutman (Tynemouth GC), 110-Towel Set; 10th J. Jeffcock (Stocksfield GC), 112-Holdall.

The over 50 Cup was won by J. Carss of (Dunstanburgh Castle GC, with a score of 110.

Our Chairman, Mr. J. Simpson thanked the Captain and Committee for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse, thanks was also due to Michael Runnacles and his staff for the splendid condition of the course, our thanks are also due to the following golf clubs,

and members of the trade, who kindly contributed to our Prize List.

Ponteland GC., Chester-le-Street GC., Tyneside GC., City Newcastle GC., Dinsdale Spa GC., Hartlepool GC., Ravensworth GC., Wearside GC., Whitley Bay GC., Tynemouth GC., Alnmouth GC., Morpeth GC., Brancepeth Castle GC., Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs., Sisis, Ransomes, Flymo, Bland Short, Brian Skeen, Rigby Taylor, May and Baker and our President, Mr. C. N. Storey.

Tom Oliver had a few holes too, at 80 years young I don't think that was too bad at all, it was nice to see Tom out and about after his illness over the last winter.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. J. STIMSON
North Wilts, G.C.
Devizes.

SIXTY-FOUR members and guests attended our Autumn Meeting which was held at Lee on the Solent Golf Club on Thursday, 2nd October 1975. Play started promptly and everyone hoped the day would stay fine but by late morning the rain arrived and water-proofs and brollies were required. After a delicious Ploughman's lunch, several fainthearted players decided to forgo the afternoon nine hole competition in preference to a wetting of a different kind. However, the weather was the only disappointment, the course was in good condition and we were well looked after by the indoor staff.

Mr. Jim Fry, our President and a member of Lee on the Solent Golf Club, thanked the captain and committee for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities and also complimented the green staff and catering staff on the results of their hard work. Mr. Fry also paid tribute to Eddie Fox, Allan Jeffery and members of the trade who had all helped in the organisation of the meeting and he also thanked the contributors to the generous prize list. He was delighted that the meeting had been such a success and thanked all those present for their support. Mr. Fry then called upon Mr. John Hunt, the Chairman of the Green Committee, to say a few words and present the prizes.

Prizewinners:— (Morning) Special prize for visitor guest and partner, Bob Plain and D. MacIntosh 39 pts. golf ball bag; glove and six golf balls. 1st C. Burke and K. Arnold 37 pts. Toro Cup; two cut glass jugs; 2nd P. Marsh and H. Toole 37 pts. two pairs of cuff-links; 3rd J. Stimson and P. Hough 36 pts. lighter and pen. (Afternoon) 1st I. Greenfield and R. Longwill 16 pts. two bottles of whisky; 2nd T. Watts and J. Hewlett 15 pts. Poly post fencing;

3rd D. Walker and J. Flailes 14 pts. two penknives.

Immediately after the prize giving, Mr. Eric James took the opportunity to remind members that Mr. Phil Marsall had finally decided to retire from his appointment with Ransomes. Eric paid tribute to the welcome assistance Phil had given the Section on past occasions and he felt that his retirement was one occasion which should not go by unacknowledged. As a result of an impromptu committee meeting which had taken place at teatime, he had much pleasure in declaring Phil Marshall an Honorary Life Member of the South Coast Section. A decision which received the unanimous approval of all the members present. Phil Marshall then thanked the Section for the honour which they had bestowed upon him. All good wishes for a long and happy retirement, Phil!

A talk on "Toro Equipment" will be given by Tim Mortimer of J. T. Lowe (Longham) Ltd. on Tuesday 6th January 1976 at Alesford Golf Club at 7 p.m. Start the New Year well and attend our lecture evening!

Our very best wishes to John Dodds on his new appointment with Hockley Golf Club and congratulations to Terry Patchin on his promotion to fill the vacancy created at Ampfield Par 3 Golf and Country Club.

We welcome to the Section the following members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one.— J. R. Hughes, Bramshaw G.C.; C. R. B. Broom, Bridport and West Dorset G.C.; M. D. Webb, Alton G.C.; P. Payne, Fisons (Hon. Member). A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members.

North East Section

President:
C. N. STOREY
11 Holywell Avenue,
Whitley Bay,
Northumberland.

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

THERE are a number of subscriptions overdue, I would like these to be paid before the New Year otherwise the

defaulters will be taken off the list of our membership.

The following are new members of the section, and we hope their association with us will be a happy one: R. Grieve, (Whickham GC), S. Hooper (Ponteland GC), T. Brown (Whickham GC), R. M. Shaw (Billingham GC), G. Palmer (Whickham GC), J. R. Wright (Wearside GC), T. Collins (Brancepeth GC), and K. Rutherford of the City of Newcastle GC.

On behalf of the members of the North East Section, may I take this opportunity to wish all Members of the Association and the many Golf Clubs and firms who kindly support us throughout the year, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Northern Section

Chairman:

J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

W. HEELES

7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.

Tel: K'boro 3851

ON MONDAY the 6th October, 38 Members took part in the Section's Autumn Tournament at the Lancaster Golf and Country Club. We were favoured with good weather, good food, and very good company.

Our thanks to the Committee and members of the Lancaster Golf Club for their generosity in allowing us the courtesy of the Course and Clubhouse, also many thanks to Brian Umpleby for having the course in good condition.

Prize winners were as follows: Scratch Prize S. E. Oddy. Gross 79; 1st Division 1st. E. Paley Nett 69; 2nd. C. Geddes. Nett 73; 3rd. W. Heeles. Nett 75. 2nd Division 1st. J. L. Greirson. Nett 68; 2nd. D. Carter. Nett 72; 3rd. P. Marshall. Nett 76. On Last Nine. Vice Presidents. 1st. W. Mountain, President. (Would all V. Presidents please take note of this up and coming star in their ranks. eh eh eh!) 2nd. E. Armitage, 3rd. P. Duncan.

The Farrods Irrigation Trophy. This Trophy was donated to the Section by

Farrods of Ripon Ltd. (The best Gross score over three rounds, i.e. The Spring Tournament, the Presidents Prize, and the Autumn Tournament.). The Winner was D. Roberts with a gross score 290, second W. Heeles. gross 297. Third E. Paley. Gross 303. Mr. P. J. Duncan presented the Trophy on behalf of the company.

October 20th, 7.30 p.m., Moor Allerton Golf Club saw the first event of our 1975/76 evening Lecture Season. A rather small but enthusiastic number of 39 members listened intently to the guest speaker, Mr. F. W. Hawtree.

With the theme, the History of Golf Course Architecture, Mr. Hawtree revealed the origins of the golf game, how it seemingly began in Scotland's North East coastal region in the 1600's and how in 1869, Westward Ho became the first Course in England. Mr. Hawtree's account progressed from these basic beginnings among the sand dunes, to Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton, mentioning their influence in bringing about artificial naturalness to the landscape scene. He also spoke of the five basic elements a golf architect has at his disposal—grass, trees, water, sand and contour; really a limited range of resources with which to work.

With the aid of transparencies we were taken on a whirlwind tour of golf courses both in Europe and the U.K.

Books on golf, fungi and flowers were offered in a raffle, the proceeds of which amounting to £2, were credited to the section benevolent fund. Both Mr. Hawtree and our secretary Walter Heeles won prizes: there is no truth in the rumour that our raffles are fixed!

A visitor on Northern Section territory attending a one-week course at Bingley St. Ives, October 20-24 was Neil Smith, grandson of Mr. Frank G. Smith. Neil works at Maldon Golf Club under his father Frank G. Smith junior. It is heartening to see three generations of the same family finding fortune from this noble profession of ours.

Because no one else seems bothered

we would like to point out that the disease *Ophiobolus Graminis* is now reclassified as *GAEUMANNAMYCES Graminis*—just a small point!

Every good wish goes to Kenneth Bennison on his recent appointment as Head Greenkeeper to Otley Golf Club, from October 1st. Kenneth, brother of Gordon Bennison, Head Greenkeeper of Scunthorpe Golf Club, takes on his new task with a range of modern equipment and a staff of 3.

On the international front, in the United States bureaucracy has decreed that by October 1976, any person concerned with the application of poisonous substance must hold a certificate. This involves the passing of an exam by

either the Superintendent or other key personnel of the club. Anyone not certified will be regarded ineligible to use pesticides associated with Turf.

North-West Section

Chairman and Hon. Secretary:

H. M. WALSH
34 Kingsfold Close,
Brightmet,
Bolton, Lancs.

OUR thanks to the Captain and Council of Bury Golf Club for their kindness in granting us the courtesy of their course and facilities of the club house on the occasion of our Autumn Tournament on the 6th of October. Thanks to Mr. C. Bamford, Captain of

Prizes

Prizewinners in the North West Section's Autumn tournament. All over 27 holes.

Scratch Prize	E. Walsh	114	Gross
Over 60s	R. Vickers	110½	Nett
1st Nett	D. Golding	109	
2nd "	S. Edgerley	110	
3rd "	R. Vickers	110½	
4th "	F. Fletcher	112	
5th "	E. Walsh	112½	
6th "	P. Chapman	113	
7th "	J. T. Holt	115	
8th "	J. Robinson	115½	
9th "	G. McDonald	116	
10th "	J. Gillett	116½	
11th "	M. Holmes	118	
12th "	O. P. Jones	119	
13th "	D. Robinson	120	C.P.O.
14th "	W. Summer	120	"
15th "	H. M. Walsh	120½	
16th "	P. Shaw	121	
17th "	H. Smith	121½	C.P.O.
18th "	H. McAddey	121½	"
19th "	P. Kelly	122	
20th "	J. Wright	125	
21st "	R. Janovskis	127½	C.P.O.
22nd "	R. Lewis	127½	"
23rd "	E. Drage	131	
24th "	A. Dawson	133	
Visitors Prize	A. D. Purdy	78	over 18 holes

Bury G.C. for his warm welcome and for presenting the prizes in the evening, to Mr. & Mrs. Purdy for the excellent meals provided, to Mr. A. Millburn and his staff for the very good condition of the course, to Mr. G. Vaughan for his help with the monies etc., to the weather for being so kind, and to all those who helped to make this day a success.

To you gentlemen for entering and turning up to play in such great numbers, and a very special thank-you to the following donors of prizes: Chairman of the Green Bury Golf Club, Professional Bury Golf Club; Messrs. Ransomes Sims & Jefferies; Toro (U.K.); Hargreaves 'Sisis' Ltd.; H. Patisson; R. Daniels; Garden Centre; Theo Wilson & Son; W. Barrows & Son; Supaturf Products; Cheshire Light Tractors; Chipman

Ltd.; Atcos Service Branch Longton; May & Baker Ltd.; S.A.I. Edinburgh; Dixon Brown & Tait; Joseph Metcalf & Son; Wilcocks & Son, Preston; Can-nock Fertilisers.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. B. Metcalf for the very interesting talk which he gave on various species of grass seed, also general fertilisers and also for the liquid refreshments provided, thank you Brian.

The January talk will be on the 12th by Mr. L. Hewitt of Atcos Service Branch, at the Swinton Park G.C., East Lancs Road, 7.30 p.m.

We welcome to the Section the following new members: A. W. Dawson, Hindley Hall Golf Club, Hindley, Nr. Wigan. B. Cooke, Dunham Forest Golf Club, Altrincham, Cheshire.

NEWS

STEWART & CO. Seedsmen Ltd., the amenity turf specialists, are currently involved in a new building programme to facilitate increasing business.

A 4 acre site at Mayfield Industrial Estate, Dalkeith, Midlothian is their choice for the construction of new works and offices. Modern plant for the production of compost, top dressing and fertiliser mixing is being installed in conjunction with a streamlined materials handling system to cope with their already comprehensive range of turf maintenance supplies and equipment. Production of their range of golf course accessories is also to be enlarged to cater for increased demand.

A regrettable effect of this development is the closure of their city centre garden shop in Edinburgh, only 20 yards from the world famous Princes Street. Parking problems and high rates plus the increased use of Garden Centres has meant the severing of the connection of 81 years in the retail garden trade.

THE beginning of further expansion into the British seed market by Mommersteeg International, plant breeders, has been marked by the opening of extensive new facilities at the company's Finedon, Northamptonshire, headquarters on Wednesday 15 October by its chief executive, J. W. Berkelbach.

The new facilities include a 4,500 square feet warehouse and office block at the company's Finedon trials ground, a warehouse and administration block totalling 30,000 square feet adjacent to the main offices which contain a 700 kg/hour grass seed cleaning plant.

The new seed plant, although designed primarily for grass, is also able to handle other seeds, including the oilseed rape and forage crop varieties for which Mommersteeg is well known. The plant has five cleaning stages plus an applicator for either liquid or powder seed dressings and an output weighter and bagger. The output can produce either bulk lots or packs.

GREETINGS

From the President

Best wishes to all members of the Association and I hope that 1976 will be a good year for the B.G.G.A.

Carl Bretherton



From the Chairman

I wish all our members and their families a most enjoyable Christmas, with the best of luck and good fortune in the New Year.

V. W. Smith



From the Hon. Secretary

To every member of the Association I would like to extend my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

W. Heeles

