

SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches



Northern Section

Chairman:

J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

W. HEELES

7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.

Tel: K'boro 3851

"IF the grass grows in Janiveer
It grows the worse for't all the year."

Does the word "metric" mean anything to you? In next to no time Systems Internationale will be all the rage. All turfmen, particularly head greenkeepers, should seek to acquaint themselves and their staff with a knowledge of metrication.

Perhaps the best way to start is to measure work being carried out and actually think in metric terms. Another useful beginning is to write for the Metrication Board's booklet "Farming and Horticulture". Free on request this publication gives information which the greenkeeper would find helpful. The address to write to:

The Metrication Board,
22 Kingsway,
London WC2B 6LE.

Glen Hardcastle, formerly of Sandmoor Golf Club, is now back in Yorkshire after spending nine months at the Capilano Golf and Country Club, West Vancouver, Canada.

From working in a summer season crew of seventeen men, with maximised automation, and a fabulous course

budget, Glen now works the turf in the good old way at Moor Allerton Golf Club, Leeds.

Speaking of Moor Allerton Golf Club, it really is a course and a half! Like most head greenkeepers Colin Geddes has his headaches, not one of the least being the installation of an extensive £10,000 tile-drain network on fairways 16, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27. Besides this, excavators have gouged out a track whilst repairing a length of natural gas pipe. Gone are the good looks and a batch of well-established trees and gorse; back to square one, Colin!

Sources of information reveal that the price of fertiliser is likely to rise by spring. The chief reason for this, it is forecast, is that old bogey inflation, coupled with higher processing costs.

Because of the lengthy travelling involved to and from our functions John Fairhurst of Lincoln has requested a transfer to the East Midlands Section. John tells us that it would enable him to join the Leicester area meetings in about one hour.

Mr. William Bartle, a Northern Section Life Member, recently became a sexagenarian. Seldom seen at section functions nowadays, Willy still continues to offer solid, sensible advice to sports centres in South Wales and the North East, under the direction of S.T.R.I. Sincere good wishes and sound health for the future, Willy.

Thomas Green and Son Ltd., North Street, Leeds have stopped production of their famous range of mowing equipment. The firm, established in Leeds 120 years ago, also manufactured road rollers. All is not lost though because

their grass machine business has been sold to Reekie Engineering, Lochland Works, Arbroath, and the roller interest is now owned by a Clitheroe firm.

Things are on the up at Wetherby Golf Club. John Scott—No. 7—has been favoured by Leeds Divisional Plans Sub-Committee who have granted permission to knock down the existing equipment shed and erect a new building.

Peter Baume of Elland has left Horsforth Golf Club and is now a groundsman at Bradford University. Peter, Northern Section Committee man, is also treasurer of the thriving Halifax branch of the I.O.G.

It is with regret that we receive the information of the death of Mr. Laurie Sharp. At 76, Mr. Sharp will be remembered by all who knew him as a steady golfer and one who contributed over 50 years' service to greenkeeping.

Latterly of West Bowling and Woodhall Hills Golf Clubs, Mr. Sharp was a regular attender at section gatherings, and put in 25 years' duty on the committee between 1931 and 1956.

With sadness we report that another of our members, Mr. William T. Hannam, died in hospital on November 29 after sustaining a heart attack.

Bill, at the age of 71, was a true man of the land and gave over 35 faithful years to greenkeeping both at Garforth and Bradford Golf Clubs. Only two days previously Bill had been enjoying the good company and lecture at Moor Allerton G.C.

With the passing of these two great men, the loss of experience and colour to our trade is irreplaceable. It is left to those remaining to strive to maintain the same degree of dignity and respect.

On a lighter note, an allusion was recently made to the Scots coming over Hadrian's Wall and making an assault on us English chaps.

Mr. A. Robertshaw, when asked why he allowed this to occur, announced that he could manage people climbing on his wall but he didn't care too greatly

to being assaulted!

Five new members this month: Michael Bottomley, Clitheroe G.C., Class C; Nicholas Redman, Baildon G.C., Class C; Anthony Cuss, Garforth G.C., Class C; Stephen Young, Moor Allerton G.C., Class C; Ian Tomlinson, Scarcroft G.C., Apprentice Class C.

A piece of really hot news concerns Peter Marshall erstwhile of Moor Allerton G.C. Peter has been appointed by the well-known firm of Patissons, Stanmore Ltd., as representative for an area north of the Humber, to the Scottish border.

Apparently this is a new departure in selling technique for Patissons because it is planned that Peter will drive round with a vehicle actually containing all but the firm's largest products, which in turn will be available as a direct sell. Good luck, Pete, on your journey from January 1st, and turfmen look out for Peter down your way!

Whether after a rough day's golf or a hard day's work, 36 keen members settled in at Moor Allerton to listen to Mr. Lees of Scottish Agricultural Industries speak on turf nutrition, on November 27th.

Mr. Lees briefly outlined the value and functions of the macro/micro elements, and calcium; he also expressed his personal beliefs in the value of top dressing. Question time brought up the subject of slow release fertilisers and provoked some comment.

North-West Section

Chairman and Hon. Secretary:

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

OUR sincere thanks to Jim Bradbury of Mommersteegs Seeds for the very interesting talk and slides shown and the interesting information re the new seed regulations as to species, purity, germination, etc. The next talk will be on January 12th and given by Mr. L. Hewitt of Atcos Longton Branch. The February meeting will be an open

debate between members, on the 9th.

An important date for members' diaries is January 19th when Mr. G. R. Richards, Training Co-ordinator, The Standing Conference for Greenkeeping will be addressing all greenkeepers in the North West at Swinton Park Golf Club, time 7.30 p.m. This meeting is of great importance to greenkeepers and I would urge all members to attend if possible.

We welcome to the section the following new members and hope their association with us will be a happy one: H. McPhail Muir, Runcorn G.C., Cheshire; P. L. Taggart, Bolton G.C., Bolton, Lancs.; D. Daley, Reddish Vale G.C., Cheshire.

On behalf of all the members of the North West Section and myself, I would wish the compliments of the season to our President, Mr. C. Bretherton, The Editor, Mr. D. R. B. Hopkins, our Secretary, W. Heeles and to greenkeepers and their families wherever they may be, the best of good fortune for the future.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

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

ON November 4th, 1975, Mr. John Field, the Technical Sales Manager of Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd., gave us a very interesting talk on metrication which is to be introduced this year. Mr. Field handed out a leaflet which set out the fractions, etc. which should simplify conversion and members should find it a very useful guide. Mr. Field caused some consternation among his audience when he introduced another topic for discussion, viz. deterioration of greens with the advent of triple ride-on mowers and full irrigation systems.

Mr. Colin Head of Chipman Ltd. will be making a welcome return as our guest speaker on Tuesday, February 3rd, 1975.

We welcome to the Section the fol-

lowing members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one: Ivan Brown, at present in the British Virgin Islands (Hon. Member); M. E. Salter, of Corhampton G.C.

Southern Section

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

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

UNFORTUNATELY our planned November lecture to be given by Mr. Payne could not take place due to unforeseen circumstances.

Nevertheless, Mr. John Campbell from Foxhills Golf Club stepped into the breach at the last "mow"! His lecture for the evening was "Sand Bunkers". How, you may ask, can anyone keep the attention of 30 greenkeepers for 45 minutes on the subject of sand bunkers. John managed this feat admirably with a collection of slides showing the methods of reconstruction of bunkers at St. Andrews, backed up by a most interesting and humorous commentary.

He began by explaining the definition of a sand bunker, which turned out to be a piece of bare ground scolloped out and filled with sand, and went on to say that the original bunkers were probably started by rabbits scraping on fairways on the links courses. I'd hate to meet one of the St. Andrews rabbits in the dark, John!

The cost of filling and maintenance of bunkers when it was discussed and calculated was quite surprising. It was £40-£50 per year per bunker on average which was broken down to 15p a shot. The popular depth of sand seems to be around four to six inches, which is about 13 cubic yards for every hundred square yards of bunkers. In the U.K. we don't seem to have an approved grade of sand, whereas the U.S.G.A. think in terms of sands with a particle size of .25mm. to .5mm.

The importance of treading sand down prior to opening the bunker for

play was stressed to avoid golf balls being plugged in the sand.

The coming February lecture should be of interest to anyone contemplating any drainage schemes on fine or out-field turf. Our guest for that evening will be Mr. F. W. H. Pyne, F.L.S., M.I., Agr.E., M.S.E., F.R.H.S. The date of this lecture, for the benefit of the uninitiated, is the first Wednesday in February, and will be held at the Whitbread Sports and Social Club, Whitbreads Brewery, Moorgate. Everybody will be welcomed as we usually have about fifty spare seats.

If any members of the trade have a show or an interesting demo' planned in the near future and they would like it mentioned in this column, would they give me a ring on 01-524 1691.

East Midland Section

President:

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

Hon. Secretary:

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

A LECTURE on fertilisers by Can-nock Ltd. will be held on February 3rd at Charnwood Golf Club, Woodhouse Eaves, at 7.30 p.m.

Our Annual Dinner/Dance was held at the Shakespeare Inn, Leicester, on November 15th, 1975. There was a very good attendance, we were very pleased that the Chairman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. V. Smith, were able to attend this function.

The lecture by Chipman Ltd. at Longcliffe Golf Club was very well attended. Thanks to all at Longcliffe Golf Club and Chipman Ltd. We wish all sections and our own members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Midlands Section

Vice Chairman:

V. W. SMITH

Hon. Secretary:

A. KITE
5 Lullington Close,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

I would like to wish members a happy and prosperous New Year.

There are two lectures for members

of Midland Section to attend during winter months. The first one, which will be given by Graham Dale of Ransomes, is to be held at The Edgbaston Golf Club (Edgbaston Park, Birmingham) on Wednesday, February 11th, 1976. There is also a film to accompany this lecture. The second lecture will be given by Mr. D. Brown from the Amenities and Recreation Dept. of the Birmingham City Council on the subject of "Trees on Golf Courses". This lecture is to be held on Tuesday, March 9th, 1976, at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club (Thornhill Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield).

Both lectures will start at 2.30 p.m. and members are asked to assemble in good time. Please write or telephone me in advance and let me know if you intend to come to these lectures as the clubs who allow our section the use of their club-houses like to know the numbers.

Diary dates

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| Jan. | 12 | N.W. Section. Lecture by Mr. T. L. Hewett, Atco Ltd. |
| Jan. | 19 | N.W. Section. Talk by Mr. G. R. Richards, Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m. |
| Jan. | 29 | Northern Section. Lecture by Mr. Tyldesley, a Meteorological Officer, Moor Allerton G.C. |
| Feb. | 3 | East Midland Section. Lecture on Fertilisers by Cannock Ltd., Charnwood G.C., 7.30 p.m. |
| Feb. | 3 | South Coast Section. Talk by Colin Head, Chipman Ltd. |
| Feb. | 11 | Midlands Section. Lecture by Graham Dale of Ransomes, Edgbaston G.C. |
| Mar. | 9 | Midlands Section. Lecture by D. Brown on "Trees on Golf Courses", Sutton Coldfield G.C. |
| Mar. | 26 | Southern Section. Annual Dinner, Walton Heath G.C. |