



## 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

A DRY March and a dry May portend a wholesome summer if there be a showery April between.

#### Change of Address

A letter recently received tells us that Mr. Stanley Smith now lives at 133 Moorside Gardens, Ovender, Halifax.

Mr. Smith, a former Head Greenkeeper of Alwoodley Golf Club, retired several years ago and by custom is a NORTHERN SECTION Life Member.

#### The big one

The biggest one-day pro-am event in the U.K. this year will be the Jimmy Tarbuck Classic.

Moor Allerton G.C., Leeds will be the venue and the purse will be a cool ten grand.

#### Provincial News

Entries for this year's Open at Royal Birkdale are expected to be at record levels; this is even in the face of a 20 per cent increase in the registration fee.

The R. & A. are ready to cope with this. Four courses — Southport and Ainsdale, West Lancashire, Hesketh and Hillside will be used for the qualifying rounds. Should the number of entries 600, at least one other qualifying competition will be held ahead of those already planned.

#### Green side up!

Congratulations to Adrian Robertshaw and his team on their successful completion of Ilkley's new fifth green.

Built to a specification conforming to modern-day thinking, construction took place during a spell which was reported to have been the driest month period on record for 120 years, in that area.

No sooner had the finishing touches been made than the River Wharfe, notorious for rising quickly, burst its banks in parts and altered the complexion of one of the green's remodelled bunkers.

Mr. Robertshaw kept a careful record of all man-hours spent on this project and would be willing to assist any greenkeeper attempting to estimate for similar work.

#### It's a date

Dates which could be considered interesting during 1976 include the 21st International Drainage Event, scheduled for May 13th. This will be staged at Rectory Farm, Marston Trussell, near Market Harborough. On show will be equipment of all description concerned with drainage, ditching and hedging.

Then there's the Yorkshire Show at Harrogate, July 13th — 15th.

In September from the 7th to the 9th, the Institute of Groundsmanship holds its 31st International Exhibition at Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey. If you have not yet been to this spectacle of colour and technical innovation, think about it; interest your club: get your chairman to go with you.

#### Cab happy

An important point worth taking

notice of is the fact that by September 1st, 1977, all tractors must be fitted with approved safety cabs or frames. This means that tractors supplied before September 1st, 1970, not yet having a cab or frame fitted should be equipped before 1977.

From June 1st 1976 all new tractors must be fitted with a so-called Q-cab. Q stand for quiet and means that the in-cab noise should conform to a level not higher than 90 decibels.

Noise can easily damage the sensitive human ear. It is said that to be subjected to 105 dBA for fifteen minutes daily can permanently affect hearing. No doubt most of you do have ear muffs or ear plugs. If not seriously consider investing. Write to the secretary for further details if in doubt.

Those dates again:

September 1st 1970 — All new tractors supplied after this date had to be fitted with an approved safety cab.

From June 1st 1976 — All new tractors must have a Q-cab with an in-cab noise rating not exceeding 90 dBA.

September 1st 1977 — is the deadline by which all tractors must have some sort of approved safety cab or roll-bar fitted.

Prices for these items range from about £100 for a basic roll-bar to around £800 for a Q-cab. Of course tinted glass and quadro-sound would run a little extra still!

### **Down the wheeltappers!**

A topic rarely touched on in these pages is the activities of, and time given up by members of your committee.

Although the job of a Northern Section Committee Man could hardly be described as onerous, it is nevertheless demanding to the point that decisions must be made with other people in mind.

During 1975 Committee members met a total of eight times to discuss and process Section business.

A committee such as this should not be regarded as a closed-shop. All members should be aware that they are free to put forward ideas which they think

would be of benefit to the majority.

While you lot have been up to your eyes in drains or slogging behind dumb machines one chap at least has been enjoying himself.

Richard Dodd, a Northern Section Honorary Vice President, has recently been to far-off Tobago, an island in the Caribbean. Richard is golfing correspondent for a leading Yorkshire newspaper and in the line of duty accompanied nearly 90 amateurs plus a line-up of international tournament professionals to take part in the fourth annual Mount Irvine Bay Hotel Pro-Am.

In an 18-hole pro-am on January 14th, Richard partnered Peter Latchmansingh of Trinidad, and finished second to Scotland's John McTear, Curtis Cup player Julia Greenhalgh, and two other amateurs. The big 54 hole pro-am in which Martin Foster of Bradford was Richard's partner ended less spectacularly. They said it was the

A lot is said about Northerners being backwards at coming forwards. Amongst Northern Section members we have golfers, philosophers, journalists, ornithologists, antiquarists, even green-keepers. To this impressive list of disciplines must now be added that of inventor.

To our notice comes the news that Mr. Alan Mountain of that well-known Yorkshire firm, William Mountain and Son, has turned his hand to making machinery.

So far in existence is a motorised rotary sifter and an adjustable angle-dozer for use currently on a Hayter Condor.

The rotary riddle is likely to be of use to golf and sports clubs and horticulturists because of its design and size. No price details are yet available.

Mounted on a welded square-section steel frame the sieve resembles a concrete-mixer drum. Material requiring grading is put in through the front loading hole. The fines fall through the mesh on to the floor, or into a barrow. Stones and trash etc. are removed through a door in the low rear part of the drum when it is not in motion.

The machine looks as though it could fill a gap between hand riddling, or sc screening, and the more expensive types of rotary sifter, thus making one-man operation more practicable.

Powered either by a 4 HP, 4-stroke petrol engine, or optional electric motor the transmission from power unit to drum is by way of vee belt. Three mesh sizes are available; 5, 6 and 10 mm.

Already the machine has been tried by several clubs in the district, including Strensall, York; Bradford and West Bowling.

Donald Roberts, Head Greenkeeper at West Bowling Golf Club states that it is "A very good machine if used correctly". "Can easily be used by one man".

For further details write to:

W. Mountain & Son Ltd.,  
Jackson Lane Works,  
Bank Avenue,  
Morley, Leeds, LS27 9JE.

We learn that a honorary member Mr. J.R. Escritt, M.Sc., Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, has recently had a spell in hospital. Reports on Mr. Escritt's condition are favourable and indicate that little time will be lost before he resumes work.

Kindest regards to you Mr. Escritt from the Northern Section. We hope that your treatment has been successful and that your progress will be sustained. The mystery of what goes into compiling your weather forecast was revealed at Moor Allerton G.C., 29:1:76, 8.00 p.m. Thirty five members listened to Mr. Tyldesley, from Harrogate, a Meteorological Officer attached to the Ministry of Agriculture explain in expert fashion how weather data is obtained and collated for use by growers, mariners, aviators, and of course Burt Ford and Co.

The whole process is universal. Those charts you see with lines, numbers and symbols on are the product of information received from observers, balloons, aeroplanes, ocean ships and satellites.

Apparently the time it takes from receiving information to it being read over the radio can take as little as one hour. Mr. Tyldesley used slides to illustrate his talk, and very ably answered questions that were put to him afterwards.

Many thanks Mr. Tyldesley for providing us with a first-class evening.

The raffle with books as prizes realised four pounds for the benevolent fund: thank you gentlemen.

Should any of you wish to know the weather forecast for your area at any time you should ring the Regional Met. Office, Bawtry. Tel. No. 0302/710474.

An instant forecast can be used for the Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield areas by dialling 98091.

#### **Moving experience**

Knaresborough Golf Club is moving out lock stock and barrel over the fence, to accommodate the sand and gravel people.

Head Greenkeeper Tony Baxby tells us that work on a new course will begin early 1976 and will be laid out on a site adjacent to the present one. Mineral extraction is not due to start until 1981.

#### **Bicycle clip**

Starbeck entrepreneur, David Ward, keeps a beautiful course. So much so, it not only attracts golfers but guys on scramble bikes too! The other week Dave played host to two chaps on bikes plus three cop cars — straight up! He reckoned the cars made more mess than the bikes, which were wheeling their way through and around bunkers. Needless to say, they were charged with grievous bunkerly harm!

#### **Out of gear**

An old friend to many, Mr. Jeffrey Mawson, has had a tough time lately, having spent three weeks in hospital. Luckily though, Mr. Mawson informs us that he is making steady progress towards recovery. He also tells us that come April '76, he will have clocked thirty years as Head Greenkeeper to

Scarcroft Golf Club.

Kindest regards Jeff from the Section. We hope that your future is bright.

### Union

Congratulations to Mrl Ralph Emsley and his bride Anne on the occasion of their marriage on November 22nd.

Ralph has been in the turf business some time now and is currently Head Greenkeeper at Lightcliffe G.C.

### Education

Only nineteen head greenkeepers responded to an opportunity to listen to and air their opinions to Mr. G. Richards at Moor Allerton G.C., December 17th.

Mr. Richards, as everyone is aware, is Training Co-ordinator appointed by the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping. His brief for December 17th was to spell out what is currently afoot in the light of formal education for trainee greenkeepers and time-served men alike.

To say that the proposed system starts from scratch and is something new to our profession, the prospect is quite impressive.

In an attempt to ease the present unemployment situation the Government is allocating £90,000 to help the Agricultural Training Board set up a scheme to train school leavers who wish to adopt farming as a career.

This scheme is open only to those leaving school between July and December '75 and will be available to these people up to March 31st, 1976.

Employers supporting the new venture will receive grants of up to £220 for each entrant trainee. The training period, consisting of on-job, off-job tuition, is expected to be about eighteen months.

Training will be conducted in modular fashion, each module leading to a proficiency test. It is hoped that two such modules will be completed by the trainee in the eighteen month period.

A point of irony in the agribusiness is that in this time of statutory wage restraint the farm workers' basic rate has

risen by an extra £6 a week to an average of around £49. This is the largest single pay award ever achieved by farmers. Eventual cost to the economy - £75 million.

## Southern Section

Chairman:  
D. S. GOULD  
Langley Park G.C.

Hon. Secretary:  
MRS. D. MAJOR  
36 Tynedale Road,  
Strood Green, Brockham,  
Surrey.  
Betchworth 2190

THE Annual Dinner will be held at Walton Heath G.C. on 26th March, 1976., at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, priced £4 each can be obtained from the Hon. Sec.

Please note that the Autumn Tournament will take place on August 16th, 17th and 18th and not as previously stated.

### December lecture

EYES down, ears akimbo for a brief report on an interesting lecture given by Mr. Palmer (Supaturf), entitled, 'Turface and the Golf Course'. Turface is a calcined mineral aggregate, calcined to a minimum temperature of 1,200 fahrenheit.

The product could be used to its best advantage in the construction of Golf Greens, or tees, to assist in a speedier journey of water from surface to drainage system, while at the same time absorbing considerable amounts of water and nutrition provided by fertilizing for later use.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding the amount of Turface which should be in the mixture, but it is said to be around 10% to 30% by volume, according to the day content. Turface has apparently been through many tests to insure that its crumbly structure, (no offence), will not break down into its basic form, which is clay, and all tests have proved satisfactory. Its use is not restricted to only construction, but can be used following spiking and hollow-tine forking.

For those who think Turface would

eventually sink too far below their green to do the surface drainage any good; wrong! It remains stable because of its angular shape, and on the "face" of it seems to have some promising possibilities. Not that this is a new product, it has been used extensively in the U.S.A. for around eighteen years. More information will gladly be provided by Supaturf Products Ltd.

Anyone having any comments on the 'troublesome three', namely, Irrigation, Triplex mowers and Greens Committee Chairman, (not always in that order) please send them in, your views would be appreciated. The address to send them to is: David Jones (Head Greenkeeper), c/o West Essex Golf Club, Bury Road, Chingford, London, E.4.

#### Diary Dates

Friday 26th March – Southern Section Annual Dinner.

Tuesday 11th May – Spring Tournament at Romford G.C. (Gidea Park). (Entries close April 16th, to Derek Gould advise handicap).

Wednesday 9th June – Annual General Meeting at Fullwell G.C.

Thursday 15th July – Southern v. Midlands at South Herts G.C.

16th, 17th, 18th August – Annual Tournament at Walton Heath G.C.

#### New Members

A warm welcome to:—

Bryan James Wheeler-Holohan, West Kent Golf Club.

Guy Stewart Fry, West Kent Golf Club.

Reggie Moss, West Kent Golf Club.

Stuart Leonard Grace, West Kent Golf Club.

Lawrence Cornelius, West Kent Golf Club.

Geoffrey Smith, Verulam Golf Club.

Thomas Edward Spong, Harewood Downs Golf Club.

G.M. Cashman, Banstead Downs Golf Club.

B. Wright, Subiton Golf Club.

C.B. Ellis, Turf Maintenance.

E. Atkinson, Darenth Valley Golf Club.

Our final Winter lecture evening will be Tuesday, 6th April, at Alresford Golf Club, when we will be entertained by Mr. Jack Roffey on his return from the World Bowls Tournament held at Johannesburg.

We welcome to the Section Mr. M.D. Webb of Alton Golf Club and hope his association with us will be a long and happy one.

## Midlands Section

*Chairman:*

V. W. SMITH

*Hon. Secretary:*

A. KITE

5, Lillington Close,  
Sutton Coldfield,  
West Midlands.

MEMBERS of all the sections will be saddened to hear of the death of Ernie Bembow in December, '75. Ernie was one of the most popular and respected members of the Midland Section, young and old members alike will remember him with affection.

Ernie spent 40 years of his working life serving Handsworth G.C. as Head Greenkeeper. Amongst his many golfing attributes were his winning of the News of the World Trophy twice at the National Tournament, playing for England against Scotland before the war, becoming a scratch golfer and consistently winning the trophy's played for in the Midland Section. Ernie served the Midland Section for many years as a committee member. I am sure that you will join me in offering our sympathy to his wife, son and daughter.

Members of the Midland Section would like to offer their condolences to Mr. Bretherton whose wife passed away in December.

## SPRING TOURNAMENT

The spring tournament will be held at the Little Aston G.C. (Roman Road, Little Aston Park), on Tuesday 11th May, '76, entries to play in this event



should be received by me no later than the 25th April, '76. Once again I must remind you that it is most important that your entries are received by the said closing date as the Club's involved need to know the numbers to be catered for.

### DINNER DANCE '76

The annual Dinner Dance is to be held once again at the Elms Hotel, Aldridge, Staffs, on the evening of Friday 2nd April, '76. The price of tickets is £3.75 each, these can be obtained from all Officers and Committee members. The greenkeepers who attended this function last year will confirm what a splendid evening this was, so let's please have a few more of you taking an interest and turning out this year.

### South Coast Section

*Chairman:*  
E. R. JAMES

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

It was pleasing to see some new faces at our first lecture evening of 1976. The topic was "Toro Machinery" and we were fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Ron Huntley, the Toro Regional Manager. Ron gave us a very interesting and informative talk on current Toro machinery and emphasised his remarks with many detailed slides. After a short break, Tim Mortimer of J.T. Lowe (Longham) Ltd. presented a Toro film showing the exciting 1974 Masters Tournament at Augusta. Thank you Gentlemen for a very enjoyable evening, and our thanks too to the Directors of J.T. Lowe (Longham) Ltd. for the free refreshments.

### North-West Section

*Chairman and Hon. Secretary:*  
H. M. WALSH  
34 Kingsfold Close,  
Broughton,  
Bolton, Lancs.

THE Sisis Tournament for North West Greenkeepers will be played over the

Macclesfield Golf Club's course on Tuesday, the 27th of April, 1976, and will be held on similar lines to last year's tournament 18 holes Stableford. Tee off times from 12.30. Will all members taking part please let me have their entry, and time they wish to start, as soon as possible.

### Spring Tournament

Please let me have your entry and time of starting for this event also as soon as possible, May 17th, times from 8.15 a.m.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the 1st of May when the new rates will apply, as follows: Head Greenkeeper, £5, First Assistant £4, Assistant £3, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members £3.

Mr. Janovskis, our Treasurer, informs me that there are some members who are in arrears for 1975. Please note.

### Lectures

Our thanks to Mr. L. Hewitt of 'Atcos' Longton Branch for the very interesting talk which he gave on the importance of correct setting of the cylinder and bottom blades of all grass cutting machinery, also for the refreshments provided, both liquid and solid.

### 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 was held at Leicestershire Golf Club on December 2nd, 1975, given by Sports Turf Research Institute. There was a very good attendance. Our thanks to Leicestershire Golf Club for allowing us to hold our lecture there.

A Quiz was held at the Three Nuns Hotel on January 6th, 1976. There was a very good attendance. Quiz Master was our President, Mr. R. Bailey.

Annual Spring Tournament will be held at Rothley Park Golf Club on May 26th, 1976.

## Sheffield Section

*President:*

S. K. ARNOLD

*Hon. Secretary:*

B. V. LAX  
153 Kilton Road,  
Worksop, Notts.

ON the 6th November we welcomed to our monthly meeting, Mr. Rossiter of Bentleys. Mr. Rossiter came along and gave us a very interesting afternoon. He talked about trees and shrubs for use on our courses. I would like to thank Mr. Rossiter for his talk, also for the way that he stepped in at the last moment, as we were unable to get the speaker who was due to come along.

The Sports Turf Research Institute provided us with our speaker for our December meeting, when Mr. Boocock came along and gave an interesting talk on the subject of "Golf Green and Tee Construction".

We played our Annual match against the Northern Section at Moor Allerton Golf Club on the 27th November, 1975. The fixture was late because of an earlier fixture clash.

About 33 members travelled to Leeds to find the weather very rough, and playing round this really tough course proved to be hard work indeed. We may have found the golf hard going but we were very pleased with the result of the match. Sheffield once again retained the Slater Trophy, winning by 4 matches to 1, with one game halved.

We also played an 18 hole Stapleford competition which was won by Alan Spencer of Lindrick G.C.

I would like to thank the Northern Section for their hospitality, and the warm welcome we were given.

All members will I am sure join me in offering congratulations to our Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Walter Heeles and his good lady on celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary on March 26th. Well done Walter and well done Mrs. H.

# LETTERS

Dear Sirs,

I was interested to read Mr. Hemingway's letter regarding the introduction of the first hydraulically operated Gang Mower. I would accept that we were in this respect, very much neck and neck with our friends Patissons.

We were actively promoting our machines during the summer of 1968 and took out our first patent on hydraulic drive for gang mowing machines on the 27th January, 1964. This was followed by preliminary work on hydraulic gang mowing during 1965.

One point of amusement was the Hydraulic 5/7 Power Gang Mower demonstraion in Hyde Park where I recall Mr. Hemingway being present. Ken Buckeldee, our Product Training Manager, welcomed everyone over the loud speakers to the Ransomes demonstration, to which a lady sitting on a nearby seat (she had obviously overimbibed) shouted out "Why don't you . . . . shut up" to the amusement of everyone present. Ken Buckeldee of course was unperturbed, although we felt for the first time in his life, a little startled.

We now of course have made many hundreds of Hydraulic 5/7 Gang Mowers and not only are they in use in volume in the U.K., many thousands of pounds have been made for Ransomes and the country in exporting them to all parts of the world, including the U.S.A.

Yours faithfully,

F.G. Catchpole.

General Marketing Manager  
Grass Machinery Division.