

# News



from the Sections

## NORTH-WEST

*Chairman*  
O. P. JONES  
(Bramhall G.C.)

*By B. Ellis*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
Romiley G.C.

THE SECTIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting was held at the Garrick Hotel, Manchester, on the 7th June, and the following Officers were elected. President: W. Kinsey. Vice-Presidents: Messrs. D. B. Hargreaves, V. E. Sangster, E. Brassington, W. Payne, J. Williamson, J. G. Brown, T. Bridges and T. M. Gribben. Chairman: T. Brennan, Wilmslow Golf Club. Vice-Chairman: D. Pate, Royal Birkdale Golf Club. Secretary: B. Ellis, Romiley Golf Club. Treasurer: E. Macavoy, 21 White Meadows Drive, Thornton, Liverpool. Committee: Messrs. V. Crabtree, O. P. Jones and H. Smith.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Walter Sumner on being elected an Honorary Member of the Grange Park Golf Club, St. Helens, in recognition of 42 years' service. Walter commenced work with the Club at the age of 14.

### Autumn Tournament

The Section Autumn Tournament will be held at the Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, on Thursday, 27th September.

### New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members. N. Illingworth, 71 Waterloo Road, Birkdale, Southport (Hon. Associate Member); K. Thompson, 8 Factory Lane,

Heath Charnock, Chorley (Shaw Hill Golf Club); and J. Goldstraw, 24 Handley Road, Bramhall, Cheshire (Bramhall Golf Club).

## EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

*Chairman:*  
S. TALBOT  
(Wollaton Park)

*Hon. Secretary:*  
40 Edward Road,  
Clarendon Park, Leicester

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I have to announce the death of Mr. A. Mould, Head Greenkeeper to the Kibworth Golf Club, near Leicester. Mr. Mould was, for a number of years, a member of the Midland Section.

### Autumn Tournament

It has been suggested that we engage a coach to convey members from Nottingham to Willesley Golf Club for our Autumn Tournament on Tuesday, 25th September. In order to find out if this will be worth while, will members wishing to use this mode of transport please contact me without delay. This is very important.

### Handicaps

The following adjustments to handicaps have been made:—S. C. Long, 3 to 2; R. W. Willars, 24 to 22; and S. Fretter, 11 to 13.

## NORTHERN

By J. Parker

*Chairman:*  
G. W. MASON  
(Halifax West End)

*Hon. Secretary:*  
8 Goit Stock Terr., Harden,  
Bingley, Yorks.

THE ANNUAL AUTUMN TOURNAMENT of the Section will be played over the course of the Headingley Golf Club on Thursday, 18th October, by kind permission of the Committee.

### Sweepstake

Members who have not yet returned their counterfoils and monies for the Sweepstake tickets are kindly requested to do so immediately, so that I may forward them to Headquarters.

### Changes of Handicap

The Committee have made the following changes of handicap:—J. Scott, 15 to 13; D. Beaumont, 10 to 9; G. Mason, 14 to 13; D. Copland, 8 to 7; S. Smith, 12 to 11; G. Gomersall, 21 to 19; S. Bailes, 19 to 20; and D. Storey, 24 to 18.

### Visit to Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies

It has been proposed, subject to support forthcoming, to pay a visit to Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Works at Ipswich towards the end of September. The idea is to travel to Felixstowe on a Sunday, and stay the night there before moving on to Ipswich on Monday morning. The return journey

would be made Monday evening. Members who are interested are asked to forward their names to me by Saturday, 18th August, to enable arrangements to be made, if there is sufficient support.

## SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

*Chairman:*  
J. K. GLASS  
(Thorpe Hall)

*Hon. Secretary:*  
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

MAY I REMIND MEMBERS THAT the closing date for entries for our Autumn Tournament to be played at Sunningdale on the 30th August is 20th August.

### New Member

We are glad to welcome to our Section Mr. R. A. Laver, 7 Southfield Cottages, Oakland Road, Hanwell, London, W.7.

### Change of Address

Mr. H. C. Clanson has moved to 5 Columbus Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.

## WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

*Chairman:*  
M. GEDDES  
(Royal Porthcawl)

*Hon. Secretary:*  
36 Clase Road,  
Morrison,  
Swansea, Glam.

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL members and visitors to Wales for the Annual Tournament and A.G.M. at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. I hope your visit will be a most enjoyable one with fine weather to enable you to see the Welsh country with its hills and dales, and I know you will enjoy the course on which you will be playing.

### Acknowledgment

Mrs. M. Lewis wishes to thank all members of the Section for their kind expressions of sympathy on the death of her brother, Stanley Phillips.

### Subscriptions

As our Treasurer was unable to be with us at our A.G.M., on the 19th June, would members who have not yet paid their subscriptions please forward same as soon as possible to Mr. Geddes, 23 Fenton Place, Porthcawl, Glamorgan.

## NORTH-EAST

By T. Oliver

*Chairman:*  
J. SIMPSON  
(Ponteland G.C.)

*Hon. Secretary:*  
Heathery Cottage,  
Heathery Lane, Gosforth,  
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE Marquis of Blandford, Newcastle-on-Tyne, when a number of new members were elected. The Section strength is now 30, with a promise of more to come.

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## ORNAMENTAL GRASSES by Margery Fish

**A**N occasional clump of ornamental grass among the flowers acts as a foil. The tall ones add grace and welcome height, the dwarfs make carpets of different colours. They need not take up much room and only a very few are determined spreaders, and these can be controlled.

Where there is plenty of room, pampas grass (*cortaderia* or *gynerium*) is really lovely and is valuable because it flowers so late in the year that its showy plumes hang on for most of the winter. The Victorians spoilt it for many of us by cramming enormous plants into little gardens, but given room and a good landscape setting, it is attractive all through the year and the only attention it needs is a match set to it on a still day early in the year to get rid of the old growth. There is a dwarf form for smaller gardens; a very tall one where space is no object, and a soft pink one for variety. *Arundo donax* is another tall and imposing plant, with 8 ft. blue-grey leaves, and does best if cut to the ground each spring.

### Beloved of the Victorians

Another grass beloved of the Victorians and having a renewal of popularity today is *Phalaris arundinacea variegata*, Ribbon Grass or Gardeners' Garters. It spreads if given the chance, and to enjoy its company without reservations, it can be planted in a large drainpipe sunk in the ground. At the back of the border it can be allowed to produce its 3 ft. flower spikes, but near the front it is more effective if kept cut to a carpet of pale green and white.

The damp-loving *Glyceria aquatica variegata* has a great deal of pink in its striped leaves and is very handsome, but it needs plenty of room or else great control. *Acorus calamus variegatus* and *A. gramineus elegantissimus* also like a damp situation and are lovely from the moment they produce their new growth in brilliant shades of red, cream and green. *Cyperus vegetus*, the fascinating reed rush, with flower heads like green feathers with a bronze sheen, is of American origin and has to be grown in a damp situation in hot dry climates but

in England seems to do best in a normal flower bed. I notice it usually sows itself when growing in full sun. The leaves of *Elymus glaucus* are like blue-grey satin, but it is one of the worst runners I know, and needs the drainpipe treatment.

Plants that look nice in the winter always appeal to me and there are three grasses that can be relied on however bad the weather. The two-foot arching feathery heads of *Stipa calamagrostis* turn light buff late in the year and remain attractive all through the winter. The pheasant grass, *Stipa (Apera) arundinacea*, changes its rich red tones for warm ivory and remains neat and graceful, and *Helictotrichon sempervivum glaucum* keeps its soft blue-grey colour and remains a large graceful clump.

A tall and graceful grass for a formal planting is *Miscanthus sinensis*, which has several elegant variegated forms. Both *Panicum virgatum* and *P. proliferum* take on warm tones in late summer, and the narrow, silver, frayed leaves of *Luzula nivea* shows up the graceful white flower heads. *Luzula sylvestris marginata* has a suggestion of white at the edges of its wide green leaves. It makes a thick clump which no weed can penetrate and is a good plant to use with tall subjects with little basal growth, such as *Verbena bonariensis* or herbaceous lobelias.

There are several dwarf grasses for odd corners or the front of a border. The young growth of *Arrhenatherum elatissimum bulbosum variegatum* is attractive with its stripes of white and green, and its bulbous root is interesting. *Holcus lanatus albo-variegatus* is tufted in growth and makes a thick carpet of pale leaves. Mr. Bowles' golden grass, *Milium effusum aureum*, is seldom more than a foot in height, and surrounds itself with little gold seedlings, and the cream variegations in the narrow leaved *Molinia coerulea variegata* are almost golden at times. *Dactylis glomerata* is an attractive little cocksfoot, and *Festuca glauca* a tiny silver-blue grass.

*With grateful acknowledgments to "Amateur Gardening".*

# *Role of the Green Committee Chairman in Training and Direction of Workers*

By REAR ADMIRAL JOHN S. PHILLIPS

Member, U.S.G.A. Green Section Committee, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**I** CONSIDER it a distinct pleasure to come to this annual meeting and to encourage all those present in this splendid joint endeavour. From the point of view of a golfer, it is a refreshing experience to be able to meet with men who contribute so much to those who enjoy the game of golf. It is doubly pleasant to recognise what you have done and to realise you are in session today in order to plan even more for the golfers' pleasure. Today, we are enjoying the dreams many of you had years ago, and surely many of us will live to enjoy the careful planning of the men who attend this meeting.

The programme today abounds in men of talent and experience. I am certain we all realise that most of the work in a modern society must be done by corporate bodies, simply because ours is a civilisation of extreme specialisation. Few tasks can, therefore, now be done by a single individual. Most tasks call for numbers of people working together. Experience has shown this can best be done by establishing an organisation. Someone must run things; lines of responsibility must be laid down and people must be allotted their several tasks. In golf, the people tend the physical plant and their talents are exercised in housekeeping and maintenance.

## **Academic Discipline**

To practice a profession one must have acquired mastery of an academic discipline as well as technique for applying this special knowledge to the problems of everyday life. A profession is therefore intellectual in content, practical in application.

First, the golf course superintendent today must have all the respect that goes with the dignity of a profession achieved by practical experience, technical knowledge, tact, and professional ethics. No longer are country clubs interested in men who owe their position to club politics and who, through

lack of any semblance of training in modern management, are totally unfit. No industry employs inexperienced men for work requiring special skills and training.

## **Jack of all Trades**

The Green Committee Chairman is the liaison between the club members and the superintendent. The former is engaged in an avocation while the latter's is a vocation, and in the great majority of cases his only means of livelihood. The superintendent is "a jack of all trades". He is part agronomist, pathologist, mechanic, hydraulic engineer, chemist, business man, and last and by no means least, organiser and leader of men. When in general the membership considers the course maintained in good condition the chairman should go very slowly in making changes in the routine followed by the maintenance force.

Be careful, also, about meddling with the structure of a golf course. It is better to efficiently maintain your present course. Few committees appear to realise that golf, after all, is played for fun, and the most important thing in golf course construction should be to make it more pleasurable. The most successful committees are those that understand requirements and features that make a superior course more enjoyable.

Most members of Green Committees, themselves men of intelligence, experienced, and specialists in their professions, often seek advice from men whose only qualification on matters pertaining to golf is their ability to play a good game. The mere fact that a course is considered to require alteration should be a warning that unless the committee is careful the club may make the same mistakes again, and that every precaution should be taken to insure that any changes to be made shall be of a permanent and lasting character. Beware

of the "built-in" headaches. The cost of expert advice is infinitesimal compared with the cost of unproductive manual labour. The purpose of a golf course should be to give pleasure and that to the greatest number of players possible, without respect to their capabilities. Such a course can be played with thought as well as mechanical skill. The golf course designed so as to afford a variety of shots to accomplish the same end is the course that appeals to the low, middle, and high handicap player.

Point number two concerns the labour force. Labour management is one of the truly difficult problems. As industry grants increased benefits and shorter hours, it becomes more difficult to maintain an adequate labour crew, working long hours, at relatively low pay. Always consider the possibility of the men affiliating themselves with trade unions. When that comes, also comes classification of jobs and certain hours of work on certain days. I know of no problem one can have which requires any more study, thought and understanding.

### Firing a Man is Easy

The nature of man being what it is, any sound programme must consider all sides of his nature. It is incumbent on superintendents, therefore, to give rigorous technical and, in a way, moral training to crewmen. In your position as superintendent, always feel that it is much better to train a man to be reliable, honest, and trustworthy than it is to fire him. Firing a man doesn't require much know-how. A well-rounded crew is the mark of a good superintendent, because most of the training comes from the superintendent. your team. If he is *properly assigned* he his training has been neglected by the man who oversees him.

Consider that every crewman is on your team. If he is *properly assigned* he will serve in a measure that reflects his respect and feelings toward you. The nature of every man is to return good for good—you help him and he will help you.

One thought to consider is that if you spend five hours telling a man how to do a job and one hour telling him why

he is doing it, you will make a better workman out of him than if you devote six hours telling him only what to do.

### Compliments Breed Pride

Occasionally the chairman should talk to the crew and encourage their good work. Compliments, when and where deserved, breed pride and loyalty to all concerned. If constructive criticism for careless work is in order, the chairman, on these occasions, should not hesitate to speak of it.

I call attention to another phase of getting a job done, which I am sure most superintendents are already doing, but which they can always do better, and that is:

Number one on this list is preparing budgets together with the Green Committee Chairman and his committee. The committee should never be bypassed. There is only one way to provide good maintenance at a reasonable cost. That way is through greater efficiency.

Gentlemen, after the foregoing exhortation, let us explore one more means of improving the efficiency and overall know-how of our maintenance force, I have a recommendation: That the Green Section of the U.S.G.A. in conjunction with the G.C.S.A.A., initiate an educational programme for use by the superintendent and the green chairman to better equip the maintenance force in the performance of their numerous tasks on the golf course. The Green Committee Chairman should assist the superintendent in working out the details of each phase of this programme. Whenever possible, he should be present during the instruction periods and should actively participate in discussions which are bound to take place. I am sure he will then be a valuable entity in the affairs of the club.

In closing, let me say that due to the considerable increase in golfing facilities throughout the country, the many advances in "turf" through research, the lack of competent superintendent material, definite and radical steps must be taken to fill this void.

*With grateful acknowledgments to the "U.S.G.A. Golf Journal".*

## HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES



### PLYE & KENFIG GOLF CLUB, PORTHCAWL, GLAMORGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Golf Greenkeeper's Association will be held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorgan, on Monday, 13th August, 1962, commencing at 3-0 p.m.

#### The Annual Tournament

THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT will be held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorgan, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th, 14th and 15th August, 1962. Entry Forms appeared in the June issue of the Journal.

## PROGRAMME

**Monday, 13th August.**

**Morning—18 Holes Stableford.**

**Afternoon—Annual General Meeting, 3-0 p.m.**

**Tuesday, 14th August.**

**36 Holes**

**“News of the World” Cup (Scratch).**

**Senior Division (Plus to 11).**

**Junior Division (12 to 24).**

**The Artisan Medal.**

**The Jubilee Cup (Team Prize off Handicap).**

**The Coming of Age Cup.**

**Wednesday, 15th August.**

**Morning—18 Holes Medal Competition.**

**Afternoon—Prize Distribution at 3-0 p.m. (approximately).**

#### Handicaps

Section Secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all Competitors from their records before the Tournament. All Handicaps and revisions must be based on the National Golf Unions' handicapping system.

#### Executive Committee Meeting

A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, Glamorgan, on SUNDAY, 12th AUGUST, 1962, at approximately 5-0 p.m.

C. H. DIX (Hon. Secretary).

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## THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, 13th August, 1962, at 3-0 p.m.**

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
2. Annual Report.
3. Financial Statement.
4. Executive Committee Report.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Proposition from the Northern Section:—

That at the Annual Association Tournament a Competition should be held for all Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and prizes be given from Association Funds.

7. Any other business.

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