

RAISING teams of 11 or 15 players is not as easy as it once was, most club secretaries will readily admit. But while interest in team games is declining, many sports played by individuals are enjoying as big a boom as they ever have had. And golf is among them. Not even in the halcyon days around the turn of the century, when many of today's existing golf courses were laid down, was the game as popular as now.

which in the case of the smaller clubs at least make up the bulk, and certainly the most regular source, of income. Subscriptions vary from about 5 guineas a year at the smaller courses to 25-40 guineas at the bigger and more exclusive clubs. The cost of golfing is lowest in Scotland where courses are less expensive to run, and more municipal courses operate.

In the past, fees have been kept within

PRESSURES on the GREEN

As a result, many clubs and courses, especially in the London area, have become exceedingly busy. At a public course, like the one in Richmond Park, players might have to arrive at 6-0 a.m. to be sure of a game on a fine week-end. Most recruits find it worthwhile to join a club, however. Britain's one million players support 1,500 clubs, and a number more are planned in the London area, in spite of the high costs of land and construction.

Rising Costs

The surge of popularity has not automatically brought prosperity to the private clubs, which make up the bulk of the total. Like many other institutions, they are constantly under pressure from rising costs of wages, rates, fuel and other overheads. Labour charges generally make up about 60 per cent of the total outgoings, and even this percentage may conceal a shortage of staff. A big club with an 18- and a 9- hole course to maintain will often have an outdoor staff of a dozen or so, and a professional, who also runs the shop and as often as not hires out trolleys in place of the pre-war caddies. The indoor staff may also number up to a dozen, including stewards, waitresses, cooks and kitchen hands, commanded by a secretary, who is usually a retired bank manager or service officer. The wage bill for a staff of this size can easily be £12,000-£15,000 a year.

As a result of increases in costs, which amount to about 20 per cent. in the past five years alone, nearly all clubs have been forced to raise their subscriptions,

reason by working on very small margins, or by increasing the number of members. But many clubs are approaching their optimum numbers (between 250 and 750 are the normal limits) and it seems likely that subscriptions rather than membership totals will have to be increased in the future. This is particularly the case in the London area, where many clubs have waiting lists, and some have re-imposed entrance fees in addition to a high and rising level of subscriptions.

One important alternative source of income, and an increasingly popular one, is to encourage visitors, either individuals or groups, especially at off-peak times. The bigger clubs recoup some of their added costs by staging tournaments, and even the smaller local courses stage championships for company sports clubs and golf societies.

In order to encourage the habit of visiting other courses, the Golf Society of Great Britain offers its members privileges at 15 national courses beyond a given distance from their homes. Golf courses near the sea, such as Ferndown, close to Bournemouth, and some of the well-known resort-courses such as the British Railways courses at Gleneagles, depend a lot on golfing holidays, and green fees there may be the largest single source of income.

Bar Profits

For all clubs, however, the clubhouse offers the best way of making an honest penny. Bar profits have long been the main standby, and recently one-armed

(Continued on page 16)

News



from the Sections

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

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

OUR SPRING TOURNAMENT WAS held at the Finchley Golf Club on the 16th May with an entry of 48. In spite of the weather the course was in very good condition. I would like to thank the Members of the Trade who so kindly supported our Prize Fund, also the Finchley Golf Club for their cheques, one for £5 5s. 0d., and one for £3 3s. 0d., the latter being from the Ladies' Section.

The results were as follows:—1st Morning, E. Foulds, 77—6=71. 1st Afternoon, P. Staines, 87—15=72. Scratch, G. Darby, 78—77 Gross. Over 60's, S. Morton, 160; W. E. Moore, 164. 1st Year Competitor: D. Major, 90—93, 183 Gross. Vice-Presidents, D. Craig. 36 Holes, 1st, P. Staines, 146; 2nd, G. West, 147; 3rd, E. Foulkes, 148; 4th, B. Pearce, 149; 5th, J. K. Glass, 150; 6th, G. Hitchcock, 152; 7th, M. Freeman, 153 (ties); 10th, R. Fordham, 154; 11th, L. Lucas, 155; 12th, J. Ness, 155; 13th, F. Corner, 156; 14th, P. Moore, 156.

Autumn Tournament

Our Autumn Tournament to be played at Sunningdale on Thursday, 30th August will be run on the same lines as in previous years, 4 Ball Stableford in the morning, and Green-some Stableford in the afternoon. When sending entries will members please state handicap and club, also partner's handicap. Partners may be either the Captain, or a member of the competitor's club. Closing date for entries is 20th August.

New Members

We are glad to welcome the following new members to our Section. W. A. Lipscombe, 23 Thurlst Avenue, Morden, Surrey, and G. Piggott, 1 Gillets Hill, Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames.

Subscriptions

I would thank all members who have sent in their subscriptions and remind those who have not, to do so now.

EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

Chairman:
S. TALBOT
(Wollaton Park)

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

OUR ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT was held at Sherwood Forest Golf Club on Wednesday, 9th May by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. Play was over 18 holes. The weather was kind to the early starters who only had a strong breeze to contend with, but the later ones had to finish against strong wind and torrential rain.

On this very fine course with a standard scratch score of 74, Stan Long of Leicester Municipal again retained the Section Cup with a magnificent gross score of 73, playing off a handicap of 3 to give him a nett score of 70. His score read as follows:—Out, 4, 3, 4, 3, 5, 5, 3, 4, 5—36. Home, 4, 4, 5, 5, 3, 4, 3, 4,—37,—73.

Prize winners were as follows:—1st Nett, S. C. Long, Western Park, 73—3=70; 2nd Nett, R. W. Willars, Leicestershire, 95—24=71; 3rd Nett, D. Bull, Bulwell Forest, 86—10=76; 4th Nett, S. T. McNeice, Leicestershire, 89—12=77; 5th Nett, E. A. Clarkson, Leicestershire, 88—10=78; 6th Nett, F. Oliver, Bulwell Hall, 91—13=78; 7th Nett, G. Dunkley, Northamptonshire, 91—12=79; 8th Nett, R. Bowler, Wollaton Park, 94—15=79. Ties decided on second 9 holes.

Vice-Presidents' Section: 1st, K. Milner, 77—scratch 77. 2nd, A. E. Smith, 86—9=77.

The meeting was very well attended with twenty members competing for the Section Cup. Mr. H. Herrington of Sherwood and Mr. George Herrington of Lindrick took part and we were very pleased to have George and his son join us. Seven Vice-Presidents also attended and we had six visitors.

The Section Chairman, Mr. Stan Talbot thanked the Sherwood Forest Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of the course, Mr. W. G. Smith, Captain for kindly presenting the prizes, the Steward and Stewardess for a delightful meal, and Mr. H. Herrington and his staff. Mr. Smith replied by extending a welcome to the Section on behalf of his Club.

I should like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to thank Mr. A. J. E. Cook for giving so much of his time in helping to make the Tournament so successful.

We are indebted to the following who so kindly contributed to our Prize Fund: Mr. R. C. Ainscow, President; Mr. A. E. Smith and Mr. G. V. Lee, Vice-President; Mr. A. G. Beck, Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd.; Messrs. H. Pattison & Co.; Messrs. T. Green, Ltd.; and Messrs. ATCO Service Branch, Sheffield.

Mr. S. C. Long

Stan Long, head greenkeeper at the Western Park Municipal Golf Course, and our Section Treasurer since 1958, has been appointed professional in succession to Jack Loach, who retired in April.

Mr. Long, who will also remain head of the greenkeeping staff, was recommended by the Parks Committee for the profession's post and this has now been confirmed. A low handicap golfer who has played for the county second team, he joined the staff of Western Park as head greenkeeper four years ago and the course has made remarkable strides since then.

New Member

We are glad to welcome to our Section Mr. P. McCarron, 28 St. Peter's Road, Leicester, who is a member of the Leicestershire Golf Club staff.

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

Hon. Secretary:
76 Four Oaks Common Road
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

THE WEATHER WAS VERY KIND to us this year for our President's Match. It must have been the warmest evening of the year and the greenkeepers had to work hard to keep their end up as the President's team included five or six internationals. We were very pleased to have the Association Chairman, Jock Glass with us for the evening. After a great struggle the greenkeepers were able to keep it all square $7\frac{1}{2}$ matches each, which was a very satisfying result. After the Match, our President again provided a wonderful meal for all present, including a number of notabilities who had not played in the match, chief of them, Sir Ernest Canning, a young man of over eighty.

The President introduced Jock Glass, Chairman of the B.G.G.A., who made some very true remarks about the past, present, and future of the greenkeeping profession, which I am sure had a great effect on the company present. Mr. L. C. Edwards, Captain of the Handsworth Golf Club said how very pleased they were to see such a great gathering. Our Section Chairman, George Hart thanked our President for his kindness in making it possible for us to play against some of the cream of Midland golfers. Our old friend Charlie Stowe had some very amusing things to say about his match and the opposition with which he had to contend. Our President thanked everyone for their

kind remarks, the Handsworth Club for their co-operation in making the evening such a success, and the Steward and his staff for the grand way in which they looked after us. So ended a night that everyone present will remember for many days to come.

The results were as follows:—

PRESIDENT'S TEAM

1. C. Stowe and J. M. Urry	3 & 1, 1
2. H. J. Roberts and J. T. Mitchley	— 0
3. A. W. Holmes and I. Wheeler	— 0
4. E. W. Fiddian and W. Johnston	— 0
5. A. W. Pullar and D. M. G. Sutherland	— 0
6. G. Stubbings and A. H. Clayton	— 0
7. T. R. Hodgetts and R. W. Bailey	— 0
8. E. Moggs-Wright and R. Baldwin	1 up, 1
9. W. H. R. Lloyds and D. J. Davies	8 & 6, 1
10. Dr. E. G. Wilkinson and H. G. Lunt	4 & 3, 1
11. S. A. Dark and J. P. Richards	— 1
12. A. J. Hurst and W. E. R. Cross	— $\frac{1}{2}$
13. C. Gold and T. A. Phillips	4 & 3, 1
14. J. Conlon and G. N. James	7 & 6, 1
15. R. D. Parker and E. Ballinger	3 & 2, 1

$7\frac{1}{2}$

MIDLAND GREENKEEPERS

1. G. Woodward and G. Hart	— 0
2. E. Benbow and H. Gibbs	2 & 1, 1
3. R. Pugh and T. Jones	1 up 1
4. J. Glass and W. Handy	1 up 1
5. V. Smith and W. Barton	3 & 2, 1
6. G. Wilson and S. Christie	3 & 1, 1
7. H. DREWITT and E. Adams	2 & 1, 1
8. A. Hastelow and J. Toy	— 0
9. E. Walford and W. Machin	— 0
10. G. Smith and B. Powell	— 0
11. A. Stephens and E. Mitton	2 & 1, 1
12. G. Barton and E. H. Lumby	— $\frac{1}{2}$
13. W. D. G. Handy and D. Wolton	— 0
14. A. Bevington and B. Baxter	— 0
15. G. Fox and D. Hoynes	— 0

$7\frac{1}{2}$

Handicap Revision

The Committee have made the following revisions to handicaps: A. C. Jones, 10 to 8; W. Machin, 6 to 10; and W. D. J. Handy, 14 to 20.

MR. S. R. GIBBS

We were grieved to learn of the death on Sunday, 3rd June, of Sydney Robertson Gibbs of Gwynne Cottage, Stanwell Road, Bedfont.

Mr. Gibbs was Director and Secretary of J. Gibbs Limited at Bedfont, Middlesex and Ripley, Surrey.

The Funeral Service was held at Bedfont Church on Friday, the 8th June, followed by cremation at the South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth.

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

Chairman:
M. GEDDES
(Royal Porthcawl)

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

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING took place at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club by kind permission of the Captain and Committee in conjunction with the Secretaries. All members observed a minute of silence in memory of the late Stan Phillips of the Southerndown Golf Club. May I express, on behalf of all members our deepest sympathy to the relatives. Stan was a very fine fellow, always willing to help the Section in any way he could, a very staunch Committee man who never missed a meeting. We shall all miss him very much.

I would like to express our thanks to John O'Gorman our retiring Secretary for all the work he put into the Section in spite of personal worries, and I sincerely hope that I shall be able to carry on the good work.

Our A.G.M., was a very pleasant one and all present were pleased with the position of the Section.

Competition.

We played an 18 Hole Competition Medal Round in very windy weather conditions but there were some very good scores. The John Duncan Cup was won by J. Williams with a score of 88—15=73; 2nd, J. Martin, 80—6=74, and 3rd, J. Rees, 89—9=80. The Birdie Cup was won by B. Jones with a score of 95—15=80; 2nd, H. Fry Snr., 103—22=81, and 3rd, D. Jones, 99—14=85.

D. G. Lord writes,

"It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of Mr. Stan Phillips, Assistant Greenkeeper at the Southerndown Golf Club, who died on the 14th June, in Bridgend Hospital.

Stan commenced his greenkeeping career at the Southerndown Club in 1926 and spent all his working life there. He was an active member of the Welsh Section for the past 27 years, and his staunch support will be sadly missed.

The funeral service was held at St. Bride's Church, nr. Bridgend on the 18th June when Mr. M. Geddes, Chairman, Mr. A. Jury, and Mr. Cox represented the Section, and I attended on behalf of the Association."

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

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

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

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Section was held on the 7th June at the White Swan, Leeds. Twenty-five members, a disappointing number turned up, though it was pleasing to see several young members taking an interest in the Section's affair.

Before calling on the Secretary to read the minutes of the last A.G.M., the Chairman, Mr. G. Mason asked members to stand in silence and pay respect to the two members, Mr. C. Leafield, and Mr. C. Blades, who had passed away since the last meeting.

The Secretary and Treasurer in presenting his report was able to show another satisfactory year's working. Despite increased costs the financial position of the Section remains sound.

Before vacating the chair for the election of Officers, Mr. G. Mason thanked the Committee and all those who had helped to make the year's events successful, Golf Clubs and Members of the Trade for support of the Tournament Prize Funds, Mr. A. Nott for the free use of rooms, and Mr. W. Mountain, President, for his generous gifts of refreshments, etc. Mr. F. G. Smith then took the Chair for the election of Officers. The following were elected:—President: Mr. W. Mountain; Chairman: Mr. G. W. Mason; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Scott; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. J. Parker. Committee: Messrs. E. Munns, A. Robertshaw, E. Paley, S. Bailes, A. Routledge, B. Holian and A. Cox. Executive Representative: Mr. J. Parker; Hon. Auditors: Messrs. C. Moore and L. Harper. Mr. G. Geddes was elected as the Section's nomination for Vice-Chairman of the Association in the coming year.

Mr. G. Mason then took over the Chair again and thanked Frank for taking over during the election. He also thanked members for again electing him to the office, and hoped that he would be able to serve the Section to the best of his ability.

Several matters were discussed and it was decided to leave them in the hands of the Committee. The meeting closed with Mr. Mountain satisfying the needs of the inner man though NOT with what seemed to be the main topic of conversation on the arrival of the hot dry spell—WATER!

Change of Address

Mr. F. Kenny has now moved to the following address:— Betty's Lodge, St. Ives, Bingley.



THE SCOTTISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

OUR ANNUAL TOURNAMENT WAS held over the Championship Course at Carnoustie on Thursday, 21st June. Although there had been little rain the greens were in excellent condition but high wind made scoring very difficult, however the very fine meals served in the Clubhouse and at the Caledonia Club were very much appreciated. The generosity of the Trade was very evident in the fine array of prizes. Mr. Paterson, Chairman for the day, introduced Mr. J. Forbes of Edinburgh who presented the prizes.

The results were as follows:—Scratch: 1st, J. Dickson (Kilspindie) 77; 2nd, R. Dugan (Killermont), 78. 1st Class: 1st, W. Fraser (Falkirk Tryst), 81—7=74; 2nd, W. Ritchie (Kirriemuir), 80—5=75; 3rd, J. Clark (Monktonhall), 81—6=75; 4th, H. Smith (Broomieknowe), 84—7=77; 5th, D. McNicol (Windyhill), 86—9=77; 6th, W. Elder (Monifieth), 86—8=78. 2nd Class: 1st, C. Adams (Powfoot), 90—16=74; 2nd, D. Shade, 91—16=75; 3rd, W. Hind (Cupar), 90—14=76; 4th, J. Campbell (St. Andrews), 87—10=77; 5th, R. Patterson (Paisley), 90—13=77; 6th, J. Baillie (Bruntsfield), 95—18=77. Veterans: 1st, R. Dishington (Cathkin), 86—7=79; 2nd, R. Burnside (Longniddry), 90—11=79; 3rd, A. Pringle (Killermont), 90—11=79; 4th, G. A. Morris (Milngavie), 83—3=80. New Members: 1st, J. Murray (Cruden Bay), 83; 2nd, A. Ferguson (Killermont), 89. Foursomes: W. Falconer (Pannure), and S. Donachie (Deeside). St. Mungo Cup: East Section, Nett Aggregate, 227.

IAN FRASER,
General Secretary.

ROYAL SHOW—NEWCASTLE

Messrs. Kinnis & Brown, Ltd., are exhibiting the Sudbury Soil Test Kit at the Royal Show at Newcastle in July.

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NORTH & MIDLAND SECTION

OUR ANNUAL COMPETITION WAS held at Montrose Golf Course on Thursday, 7th June, 1962. The weather was most favourable and conditions excellent for scoring. Our thanks are due to the Members of the Trade who have so handsomely donated to our Prize list. The results were as follows: 1st, J. Falconer, Pannure Golf Club; 2nd, I. Simpson, Blairgowrie Golf Club; 3rd, W. Elder, Monifieth Golf Club; 4th, W. Falconer, Pannure Golf Club.

Mr. G. M. McDonald, our Chairman thanked the Committee of the Montrose Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the catering staff, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, for excellent meals, and Mr. W. Ritchie and his staff for the excellent condition of the course.

W. RITCHIE,
Secretary.

West Section Secretary:

C. N. George, 39 Alexandra Avenue,
Lenzie, Kirkintilloch.

East Section Secretary:

A. Huish, 11 Hamilton Road, Gullane,
East Lothian.

HON. SECRETARY'S NOTES



I AM VERY PLEASED TO INFORM members that the Welsh Section have expressed a wish to provide the prizes for the Wednesday Competition at Pyle & Kenfig. I am sure everyone will be most happy to accept this kind offer which is a very nice gesture on the part of the home team.

May I remind holders of trophies from last year's Tournament who are not taking part this year, to ensure that these are returned to Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl, prior to this year's Meeting.

Annual Draw

Will members please note that all counterfoils and monies should be returned to their own Section Secretary and NOT to me.

C. H. Dix.

MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

PRESSURES ON THE GREEN—cont.

bandits have made a useful haul in some clubs. But the most neglected opportunity has been in catering. Frequently at present turnover is too small to make the service particularly attractive, either to members, cooks or stewards. As a result standards are often low and reliable staff is short in supply. In some cases, the natural conservatism of members is to blame; the idea of attracting visitors and family parties by the clubhouse facilities is not favoured.

In spite of this, the future prospects seem to be best for clubs far-sighted enough to call in professional catering, install a manager, run the clubhouse on strictly business lines, and even go so far as to provide alternative facilities—tennis or squash courts (as at Wentworth), ultimately a swimming pool. This would enable subscriptions to be kept to a minimum, solve the problem of keeping the family amused and maintain golf's main attraction—a wide appeal to different age groups, and to women as well as men.

With grateful acknowledgments to "The Financial Times".

SITUATIONS VACANT

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required. (Second of four). Good cottage available in village adjoining the course. Apply with references to Secretary, John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sandy, Beds.

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ENQUIRY BUREAU.—The Editor desires to point out that he will be pleased to answer enquiries from our readers, and forward to them the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier of any particular proprietary article or product used in the construction, maintenance and upkeep of a golf course. Enquiries are coming in from greenkeepers asking for such information. They may, for example, know the trade name of the article or product they wish to purchase, but may not be conversant with the name and address of the actual manufacturer or supplier. The Enquiry Bureau will gladly supply this information, and thus enable the greenkeeper to contact the manufacturer or supplier direct.

TO MANUFACTURERS.—In order that our information may be kept constantly up to date, manufacturers or suppliers are requested to forward their latest trade lists, catalogues, and any other confidential information regarding their products. By so doing the Bureau will be able to function to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

TRADE REVIEWS.—The Editor will be pleased to arrange to devote space in our editorial columns to a review of our advertisers' products, etc. Will advertisers please forward details for this purpose.