

Meeting

A meeting took place during which it was proposed by B. Reeves that two or three of our senior members be made Honorary Life Members of the section. This was a unanimous decision and Messrs. W. M. Ashley, A. Butler and W. Tyrell were duly elected. These three members, with an average age of 70 years, have devoted a lifetime of faithful service to the Association, and all Golf Clubs in the South-West. We in this section are greatly indebted to them for the keenness they have created amongst our younger members. Undoubtedly our present day enthusiasm and strength is entirely due to these three stalwarts.

Arthur Meeker

All members will be sorry to hear of the illness of Arthur Meeker and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy and full recovery.

Greetings

The South-West Section send Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all other sections, to our President, Vice-President, Editor and Secretary, and not forgetting all members of the trade who so generously support us throughout the year.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members: T. Moore, C. Ball and T. A. Waygood.

WELSH

By S. A. Tucker

Chairman:
M. GEDDES
(Royal Porthcawl)

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

Greetings

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE B.G.G.A. I take this opportunity on behalf of the Welsh Section to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Spring Meeting

The Committee has decided to play our Spring Meeting at Langland Bay G.C. I hope to give you a full report in the January issue of the journal.

EAST MIDLAND

By S. T. McNeice

Chairman:
F. FROST
(Derby G.C.)

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

A.G.M.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at the Central Tavern, Huntingdon Street, Nottingham, on Wednesday, 23rd October.

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The Chair was taken by Mr. D. G. Whitehead.

Annual Report

The Hon. Secretary gave a detailed report on the activities of the Section, its adoption being carried.

Financial Statement

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Thornton, presented the accounts which are still on a sound basis. The adoption of the accounts were carried.

Election of Officers

President. Mr. R. C. Ainscow was unanimously re-elected.

Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents of the Section were re-elected en bloc. In addition, Mr. R. Brown was elected to join our Vice-Presidents.

Chairman. The Section Vice-Chairman, Mr. Fred Frost, Derby Golf Club, was unanimously elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Vice-Chairman. Mr. L. A. Foster, Chilwell Manor Golf Club, was elected Vice-Chairman.

Hon. Secretary. Mr. S. T. McNeice re-elected.

Hon. Treasurer. Mr. A. Thornton re-elected.

Section Representative. Mr. S. T. McNeice re-elected.



DECEMBER

- 9th North-West Section Lecture, Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester, 7-0 p.m.
- 10th S.G.G.A. Winter Meeting, Glasgow—Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, 7-0 p.m.
- 11th Northern Section Film Show and Christmas Social, The Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford, 7-0 p.m.
- 11th S.G.G.A. Winter Meeting, Dundee—Nicoll & Smithbert, Nethergate, 7-0 p.m.
- 11th Southern Section Lecture, Talbot Restaurant, Moorgate, E.C., 6-30 p.m.
- 12th S.G.G.A. Winter Meeting, Edinburgh—The Free Gardeners Institute, Piccady Place, 7-0 p.m.
- 12th North-East Section Lecture, Ravensworth G.C., 7-15 p.m.

25th



JANUARY.
30th

Sheffield Section, President's Evening.



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The following were elected to serve on the Committee: Messrs. D. Bull, S. Talbot, F. Oliver and D. G. Whitehead.

Section Auditors. Mr. D. G. Whitehead and Mr. S. Talbot were elected Hon. Auditors.

It was decided at the meeting that the Headquarters of the Section in future should be based in Leicester. This would be more central, as the majority of our members were in the Leicester and Northampton area.

In making this move it was thought we would get a larger number attending the meetings.

Transfer

Mr. J. Moore, Glen Gorse G.C., Leicester, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper to the Saltburn-on-Sea G.C., Yorkshire, and has been transferred to the Northern Section. We wish Mr. Moore every success in his new venture and hope his association with his new club will be a happy one.

Autumn Tournament

I wish to apologise for omitting Golf Ball Manufacturers as a prize donor to our Annual Tournament in my notes of last month.

Seasons Greetings

A very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all officers and members of the Association from the East Midland Section.

NORTH-EAST

By T. Oliver

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

Chairman:

J. SIMPSON
(Ponteland G.C.)

Lecture

AT A MEETING HELD AT THE Gosforth Golf Club, by kind permission of the Committee, on Thursday, 7th November, a talk was given by Mr. W. H. Bartle, of Bingley Research Station. The subject was "Watering". Our speaker dealt with the question of watering from every angle and explained things so well that by the time he had finished we had very few questions to ask. The attendance at the meeting was the best we have had, 60 people being present, including quite a few interested members from golf clubs.

Our next lecture will be held at Ravensworth Golf Club on 12th December at 7-15 p.m. and will be given by Mr. Ian Forbes of Edinburgh. A good attendance is asked for.

Mr. Tom Oliver

Our Secretary, Mr. Tom Oliver, has had his operation and is now at home resting. We all wish him a speedy return to health.

Greetings

The North-East Section would like to take

this opportunity to wish all the members of the B.G.G.A. a very happy Christmas and all the best of everything for 1964.

NORTH-WEST

By V. Crabtree

Chairman:
T. BRENNAN
(Wilmslow G.C.)

Hon. Secretary:
223 Market Street
Whitworth, Nr. Rochdale

Greetings

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL IN THE North-West Section. May I, on behalf of the President, Chairman, the Committee and myself, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

At this time of the year I think we are prone to recapture the events of the year, to think back and perhaps remember old friends and happy times spent together at lectures, tournaments or perhaps the occasional visit to another course and the knowledge gained by chatting to other greenkeepers and perhaps even feel some regret that through force of circumstances you have not been able to meet with us at all.

The coming year is another book as yet unopened, old friends and new friends will be glad to meet you, perhaps by your absence you may miss a lot. Make a New Year resolution to play an active part, by attending our functions, business and social. The Association is your! come and enjoy it.

To our friends in other sections we extend the Seasons Greetings, remembering Royal Birkdale and the hospitality extended by them at the Annual Tournament, and hoping to meet again next year.

New Member

Welcome to Alan Glover, hoping your association be long and active.

December Lecture

On Monday, 9th December, 1963, at 7-0 p.m., Mr. H. Ratcliffe, of Rigby Taylor Ltd., will be speaking to us at the Garrick Hotel, Fountain Street, Manchester. His subject, a general talk on "Fertilisers and Other Top Dressings"; please give him the support worthy of a really fine speaker.

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

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

Quiz

OUR QUIZ ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH October, made a very interesting evening, with plenty of questions asked. Mr. J. Noakes was very anxious to know the best way of getting worms out of his greens; he says that around the greens and fairways they respond very quickly to his treatment but the few

which appear on the greens, although given the same treatment, still remain. Most present appeared to have the same trouble and all kinds of worm killers were suggested. Next was how to get rid of thatch on the greens. This was a long and very debateable subject and, after various suggestions were made, no really definite conclusion was reached. Maybe some of the other section greenkeepers have the same trouble and would like to pass on a cure. Our next lecture will take place on Wednesday, 11th December, and will be given by Mr. D. Peters, by kind permission of Messrs. F. W. Berk. His subject will be mainly "Wormkillers", so maybe Mr. Noakes and others will get an answer to their problems. The time and the place: 6-30 p.m., The Talbot Restaurant, Moorgate, London, E.C.

Mr. J. Rimmer

Mr. J. Rimmer phoned me to say he has taken up a new post as Head Greenkeeper to the Hartsbourne Country Club. We wish him well in his new job.

New Members

We welcome to the Section Mr. W. A. Songhurst (Shirley Park Golf Club) and R. Claydon, Woburn Green, Bucks.

Greetings

Once again the festive season comes along and on behalf of all our members may we wish all other sections and members of the Association, including trade associates, a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, with a special thanks to Mr. Editor for our monthly journals.

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

Chairman:
S. BAILES

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

Autumn Tournament

THE ANNUAL AUTUMN TOURNAMENT of the Section was played under ideal golfing conditions, on Thursday, 17th October, over the course of the West Bowling, Bradford, Golf Club, by kind permission of the Committee.

Thirty-six members took part and with the course in first class condition, many good scores were returned and the Handicap Committee will no doubt be busy at the next meeting.

Results

Scratch: R. Barnes (Hazel Grove), 67. Veterans: S. Smith (Alwoodley), 71. 1st Division: 1st, G. L. Sharp (Woodhall Hills), 66; 2nd, D. Roberts (West Bowling), 67; 3rd, M. Henderson (Ganton), 68; 4th, D. Storey (Cleckheaton), 68. 2nd Division: 1st, M. Tucker (Headingley), 66; 2nd, C. Garnett (West Bowling), 69; 3rd, D. Scott (Scar-

borough South Cliff), 71; 4th, P. Williams (Northcliffe), 72. Vice-Presidents: 1st, P. Geddes (Clitheroe), 71; 2nd, R. Kirk (Horsforth), 71.

The prizes were presented by Mr. B. Cawthray, Captain of West Bowling, who was introduced to members by our President, Mr. W. Mountain.

In a brief speech the Captain said he was pleased to welcome the Section and how much more clubs were beginning to appreciate the work of their greenkeepers.

A vote of thanks to the club was proposed by Mr. D. Roberts (Vice-Chairman), seconded by Mr. A. Robertshaw.

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Our thanks are due to the indoor staff for the enjoyable meals, to Jim Wade, professional, for loan of caddy cars, and Donald and his staff, Colin—makes one think—for a course in a condition which they can be really proud of.

Finally I wish to thank the many local Golf Clubs who so kindly contributed to our Prize Fund.

Mr. R. B. Dawson

Mr. R. B. Dawson, O.B.E. (Director of S.T.R.I.), and an Hon. Vice-President of the Section, as many of you will now know, retires this month after 34 years at the Station. Mr. Dawson is known to most members of the Section through visits to the Station and his attendance at our Tournaments. Behind the scenes he has helped the Section in many ways and I am sure all members will want to join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Seasonal Greetings

Another year has quickly rolled by and as these are the last notes for 1963 I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members the Happiest of Christmases and All the Best in the New Year. Maybe, as a resolution for 1964, a few of you will write articles for the Journal, and those who have not paid their subscriptions for 1963 will do so immediately.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members: Mr. B. Gilbank (Fixby Golf Club), Mr. A. Gregg (Cleckheaton Golf Club), Mr. H. Marshall (Cleckheaton Golf Club), Mr. A. Nightegale (Longley Park Golf Club), Mr. G. Smith (Woodhall Hills Golf Club) and Mr. J. Moore (Saltburn Golf Club), who has transferred from the Midland Section on taking up his new appointment.

December Film Show

As a further reminder to the circular—don't forget, 11th December, Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford, 7-15 p.m., Ransomes' film show and Christmas Social.

MIDLAND

By F. Cashmore

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

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

Seasonal Greetings

ON BEHALF OF THE MIDLAND Section I should like to send the Season's Greetings to all members of the B.G.G.A., to their families, Section Vice-Presidents, our friends of the trade and especially to our President and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bretherton.

Annual Dinner

I am glad to say that the opinion of quite a number of people who were at our Dinner on 1st November was that it was the best ever. Eighty-seven sat down to an excellent meal, ample portions and well served. As usual our President was in the Chair. We were sorry that Mrs. Bretherton was not well enough to be with us, and we all send our good wishes and hope that she will be able to be with us next year.

We were pleased to have the Association Chairman with us and I am sure George enjoyed his trip to the Midlands. We also had the pleasure of the company of our Editor, who tried to explain to us what a Golf Architect was, but I don't think he was very successful. We were also very pleased to have Maurice Woodbine, the Golf Correspondent of the *Birmingham Post and Mail*, with us.

Our thanks are again due to Mrs. Mason and her daughter for their grand effort in selling raffle tickets. I am pleased to say they broke their record in the amount sold. We must also thank the Park Superintendent at Warley Park for the beautiful flowers he sent as a prize, also Mr. Harley Roberts and Mrs. Mason who also gave prizes.

The artistes were excellent entertainment and Johnny Scott was a great help in making our announcements. But the highlight of the evening was the film which was taken and shown by our friend Dick Parker. His shots of Greenkeepers at work, and play, caused a lot of comment and merriment, but the

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comical antics of his partner, Eric Ballinger, playing (?) golf had to be seen to be believed; it was as good as any Crazy Gang film. They must have put a tremendous amount of time and work in the making and they deserve our thanks for the pleasure and enjoyment they gave everyone.

One thing was noticed and remarked on by Mr. Ken Sargeson, of Atco Mowers, when he was proposing the Toast to the Ladies and Guests. He said he had been attending our Dinner for 13 or 14 years, and he had never seen so many ladies present as there were this year. We hope to see them again next year, when we are looking forward to another grand evening.



THE SCOTTISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

D. L. MACDIARMID,

Royal Burgess Golfing Society,
Barnton, Edinburgh 4.

General Secretary:

R. B. MOFFATT,

71 Keltón Street, Glasgow, E.2

THE LECTURES TO BE HELD ON 10th, 11th and 12 December will have two speakers. On the 10th, Mr. Bradford will be joined by Mr. G. Alexander, Prestwick St. Nicholas G.C., in Glasgow; 11th by Mr. J. Campbell, St. Andrews G.C., in Dundee; 12th by Mr. J. King, Luffness New G.C., in Edinburgh. We extend our thanks to these members on this occasion and hope to have good attendance in their support.

R. B. MOFFATT

(General Secretary).

S.G.G.A. NORTH and MIDLAND

A.G.M.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in Nicoll and Smiberts Restaurant, Dundee, on 24th October, when Mr. J. K. Campbell, St. Andrews, was in the Chair.

The following Office-bearers were elected:
President: Mr. J. K. Campbell, St. Andrews.

Vice-President: Mr. S. Gray, Caird Park.

Committee: W. Ritchie, R. Scott, J. Low, J. Moffatt and J. Cameron.



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Secretaries and Treasurers: W. Ritchie and W. Milton.

Auditors: W. Falconer and R. Scott.

Executive Committee: J. K. Campbell, S. Gray, W. Milton and W. Ritchie.

New Member

We welcome to the Section Mr. H. W. McGillivart.

Lecture

Our first lecture will be held in Nicoll and Smiberts, Dundee, at 7-30 p.m., on 11th December, 1963, when a talk will be given by Mr. Wm. Bradford and Mr. J. K. Campbell on Golf Course Maintenance.

Greetings

On behalf of the Section I send to the Editor and Staff, members of the Trade, and to all Greenkeepers, our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year.

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.

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Mr. R. B. Dawson, retiring Director of the S.T.R.I., seated (in light mackintosh) amongst a "refresher course" at Bingley in 1947. We can recognise ten well-known figures in greenkeeping. Can you do better?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trustees,
The F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to thank you for your assistance in sending me to the Bingley Instruction course.

I feel sure this course has helped a lot in my career as a greenkeeper. I am most grateful for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

BILL MACHIN.

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the Northern Section for allowing me to attend the Instructional Course in Turf Management at the the Sports Turf Research Institute. I found the lectures and practical demonstrations most interesting. I am sure the knowledge I received from the week's course will be very useful.

Yours faithfully,

C. GARNETT

(West Bowling Golf Club).

SITUATIONS VACANT

HEAD GREENKEEPER required for course in London Area. Good position for man of ability. £17 10s. 0d. p.w. No accommodation. Full details of experience to Secretary, Home Park Golf Club, Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

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HAYLING GOLF CLUB, Hayling Island, Hampshire, require working Head Greenkeeper for seaside links. Unfurnished accommodation available. Applications giving age, experience and family to Secretary by 31st December, 1963.

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ICE-SHEET DAMAGE

By **TED WOHRLE**

Supt., Beverley C.C., Chicago.

This article deals with a subject little known in this Country until last winter. It is of interest that its conclusions match those of several greenkeepers over here who suffered severely in the early months of 1963. If the "killer" returns, we may have to devise routine measures annually.

But don't let it spoil the Christmas festivities. It may not be so bad this time.

CONSIDERING that the Midwest and East were hard hit by ice-sheet damage in 1961-62, and that New England had the unwelcome visitor back again last year, there is a very strong possibility that many areas in the northern part of the country are going to have to put up with the phenomena once more in the cold months of 1963-64.

So, at this moment, the big question in the minds of practically every superintendent north of the Mason and Dixon line probably is: "Is there anything that we can do to guard against ice-sheet damage or, at least, minimise its injurious effects?"

Superintendents who have gone through the ice-sheet ordeal think they know the cause, some possible ways of preventing it and, since they had to renovate their courses after it heavily damaged them, the remedy for it. Yet they are not 100 per cent sure they know all the answers that there are to be known about winterkill.

Heavy Rainfall Started It

In reconstructing the events that led up to our troubles in the Midwest in 1961-62, we had abnormally heavy rainfall in August and September of the former year. It amounted to something like 30 inches, enough almost for the entire 12 months. October and November also were excessively rainy, with the result that the soil became super saturated. This left the grass roots in a shallow, unhealthy state.

We might have survived the rain, but in early December a severe ice storm struck the Midwest. It was followed by heavy snowfall within a few days and for the next three and one-half months

most of our courses were covered by ice and snow.

Warm Weather May Have Hurt

Soon after the ice and snow storms hit us, we sensed that we were in for great trouble. But there was nothing much that could be done because most courses, especially those around the Lakes, were literally snowbound. Late in the winter we had a few days of unseasonably warm weather, which turned out to be a blessing for some, but as far as I am concerned, the worst thing that could have happened to us. Some superintendents, including Ray Gerber of Glen Oak, were able to remove the ice from their greens during the warm spell and their courses suffered very little damage. But most of us weren't so fortunate, finding it impossible to get to the greens to work on them. Even if we had, desiccation may have caused more damage than the ice sheets did.

Those few days of warm weather, in my estimation, could have been the cause of most of our trouble, although I will concede this is a matter of conjecture. A good deal of sunshine passed through the ice during this period and was absorbed by the grass. The heat partly melted the ice on the leaves but the plants remained encased in ice. This possibly resulted in sufficient leaching to kill many of the grass plants.

Greens Almost Black

Late in March, when the ice and snow finally thawed, most of us found we were in serious trouble. Many greens were

sadly discoloured, some of them being almost black. In addition, the odour that emanated from them was nauseating. This may have been due to one or two conditions: Carbon dioxide, produced in the root area, couldn't escape because of the ice sheet; or the absence of oxygen caused an anaerobic condition in which alcohol instead of sugars and starches was manufactured. It was noted that the thatch actually fermented.

The superintendents in the Midwest area hastily got together to go over the maintenance ground rules and see if anyone had any lucid ideas for lifting us out of our dilemma. Certain maintenance procedures were suspected of having caused some of our trouble. Fertilisation, irrigation, treatment for snowmold, aeration, the use of chemicals, etc., were thoroughly discussed in an effort to find some clues.

The use of corn gluten meal as a winter fertiliser was at first denounced, but we learned that courses that didn't apply this product were just as severely damaged as those that did. Next, aeration, or lack of it, was blamed. Then, late fall mowing and some of our ideas about irrigation came under suspicion. We finally decided we couldn't finger any of these things as being the culprit because the results of too many of our maintenance practices contradicted others. For example, at one 36-hole course in the Chicago area, 18 greens had gone out but the other 18 were in good shape. Maintenance on both courses had been identical.

Continued on page 20.

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Is This The Answer?

Eventually, soil structure was discussed. A quick survey showed that most severely damaged greens were ones in which the soil was heavily compacted. At one course, where thick layers of peat and sand were evident in the green structure, excessive damage was suffered. There could be only one conclusion: If compacted turf is overlaid by a thick sheet of ice, it doesn't have a chance. There is no way in which life-giving oxygen can reach the roots. Air drainage is a must!

One rather curious observation was made by several Midwest superintendents. Immediately after the thaw, the turf looked perfectly normal for late March. But, within a few days, it had turned a sickening straw colour and, at a few courses, even black. This led us to believe the grass may have been damaged by still another cause—ice crystal formation on the lower tissue and root.

Superintendents in our area now generally agree that certain bents are a good deal more tolerant to ice-sheet damage than others. Toronto and C-15 and Penncross, for example, came through the winter of 1961-62 in much better shape than Seaside. At our course, much of our old bentgrass thinned out and, in some cases, disappeared. Seaside greens along with the poa anua took a terrific beating.

Bringing our greens back in the spring of 1962 wasn't an easy job, but by early June they were in reasonably good shape again. We employed a two-step programme in restoring the putting surfaces: First, we aerified the dead areas and then used a verticut machine to break up the plugs. Then we seeded with Seaside at the rate of 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. The seed was worked into the soil and kept moist until germination.

As a second step, we seeded first and then aerified. This meant that the seed actually was buried by the soil which was extracted. We feel that the seed was well anchored by planting it this way and that germination time was reduced. In both operations, damping off was something of a problem and could have resulted in a bad disease condition. But we applied fungicides quite liberally and kept it minimised.

How New England Fared

The story of how the Country Club of Brookline was shaken by winterkill in 1962-63 is well known because it was widely publicised due to the playing of this year's U.S.G.A. Open. Most other superintendents in New England had just as many problems with ice-sheet damage as John Kealty, the C.C. of Brookline greenmaster. . . Last winter, Penobscot Valley in Bangor, Me., recorded 175 inches of snow and then got an additional 20 in April to plague Superintendent Charles Emery. . . Pete Ruby of Portland G.C. and Walter Swasey of the Riverside munny course, also in Portland, were ploughing snow off the greens in early April. . . They had treated for snowmold the previous fall and escaped serious trouble. . . When the ice broke up in the spring, they applied Milorganite at 50 to 100 lbs. per 1,000 square feet and their greens quickly came around. . . Tony De Rocco of Oakland C.C. in Runford, Me., made his final fall cut at $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and escaped with little damage.

This article is condensed from a speech made by Ted Woehrlé at the G.C.S.A. convention last February.

Reprinted with grateful acknowledgments to the author.