

SPORTS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CALLS ON PLANNING AUTHORITIES TO AID GOLF BOOM

DR ROGER BANNISTER, chairman of the Sports Council, has urged the Government and local authorities not to hold up the boom in golf by a tough attitude on planning consent for new courses.

He admitted that the Sports Council's target of 500 new courses in England and Wales by 1981 would be hard to achieve unless there was more co-operation from planning authorities.

Speaking at the Professional Golfers' Association convention in London, Dr Bannister said the present rate of new golf course building, about 25 a year, was not enough to give golf its first major expansion of facilities since the 1930s. Plans for more courses had been trapped in the 'rough' of land shortages, high land costs and the bunkers of planning consent.

He said: 'I think our target can only be realised if local authorities and Government change their attitude and allow land for golf courses to be made available in green belts, which is quite possible without loss of its amenity value.'

'Not only golf, but several other sports can be imaginatively inter-laced to the great satisfaction of all. Walkers, riders, fishermen and golfers can co-exist without fear of a whizzing golf ball.'

He added: 'We understand the difficulties faced by local authorities when they are being pressed to provide land for a new golf course close to a crowded town. Competition for such land is considerable.'

'But we believe local authorities should play their full part in providing the land for a game which a wide cross section of the British public clearly want and enjoy.'

'We think our target is a realistic one which deserves to be met. Britain taught the rest of the world to play golf, and it seems only fair in this Sport for All year that we should not deny our own people the chance to play it themselves.'

Dr Bannister also called for:

More municipal courses The present ratio in England and Wales is 92 private courses to 8 municipal courses. He said: 'A better balance would be a ratio of 70 to 30 and then the scandalous early dawn queues at municipal golf courses would be cut.'

Smaller, less sophisticated and cheaper courses, including more 9-hole courses. He mentioned the Sandown Park golf centre, built on about 60 acres instead of the usual 100, as a good example.

Use of derelict land for golf courses. There are 50,000 acres in Britain, much of it formerly used by the Coal Board and the Defence Ministry.

More multi-purpose use of golf courses Clubhouse facilities for other sports, like squash, and careful landscaping of courses to allow picnic spots and bridle paths.

NEW RIDING MOWER WITH BUILT-IN SAFETY

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The mower cuts a 28in. swath and the 30in. turning radius permits a tight turn and trim within ½ in. of borders. Extra large diameter wheels give good traction.

News



from the Sections

Special occasions

- Mar 23 Southern Section Annual Dinner
26 East Midland Section Lecture
30 Midland Section Annual Dinner
- Apr 4 South Coast Section Spring
Tournament
4 Southern Section Lecture
5 Sheffield Section Lecture
18 Welsh Section Spring Tournament
- May 8 Midland Section Spring
Tournament
8 North West Section Spring
Tournament
9 East Midland Section Spring
Tournament
9 Southern Section Spring
Tournament
- June 12 Sheffield Section Outing
to Cannock Fertilizers Ltd.
13 East Midland Section Presidents v
Captains Match
14 Midland Section Presidents Match
- July 18 Sheffield Section Annual
Tournament

SOUTHERN

By F. W. Ford

Hon. Secretary:

68 Salcombe Gardens,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
Tel: 01-959 2847

Chairman:
C. A. MOORE
(Stanmore)

February Lecture

Our thanks to Frank Smith of Maxwell Hart for being with us on Wednesday 7th February to give us the benefit of his expert knowledge of grass seed.

His talk was followed by an interesting presentation of close up slides of various seeds. Slides were also shown, by Don Ticehurst, of Evengrass artificial grass panels being laid as an experiment on the wicket area of a cricket pitch.

The slides showed the panels being clipped together and laid out to enable the correct area of turf to be marked out for lifting. Turf was lifted and sufficient soil was removed to allow panels to be laid approximately 1 in. below surrounding surface.

After loosening and raking, soil panels were laid and topped up with a dry fine sandy soil. This was then booted in gradually to enable it to penetrate the holes in the artificial grass panels. Finally seed was sown in the usual way. Results have shown that the roots penetrate through the panels to the soil beneath thus ensuring a moisture supply to the issuing turf. This method has been tried out effectively in the goal mouth areas on soccer pitches and on winter tees, in particular where the space is limited.

The Benevolent Fund is £5 better off by the draw and the winning ticket holder this month was Ernie Hall. A private 'Whip Round' resulted in a further £4.

Dave Craig completed the evening by showing a film he took on the Boston trip last month. Thank you, Dave, we all enjoyed your efforts and commentary.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members:

C. Chamberlain and A. Janson (Muswell Hill), R. Dove (Royal Eastbourne), B. L. Newcombe (Woodcote Park), S. Ford (South Herts), D. A. Cross (Brookmans Park), and M. Collins (West Kent).

Benevolent Fund

At the 1971 AGM it was decided to form our own fund to enable an extra grant to be made to widows and dependants and to keep in touch with retired members via a Christmas gift each year, etc. So far £150 has been paid out in grants and the fund is now at a low ebb. To keep it going, a draw is run each month on lecture evenings, ball sweeps at golf meetings and several donations have been received from members.

Will any member who feels he would like to make a contribution, please send it to me and I will reply by receipt in each case. Any donation, no matter how small will be gratefully received.

Sad News

Following the death of Bert Dixon last month I have to report that Wally Drewitt aged 82, late of Burhill Golf Club and Jock Drummond aged 64, of the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club also died in January. Flowers and Benevolent Grants, both H.Q. and Section, were sent with messages of sympathy from the Southern Section.

Past Season: Lectures

We would like to offer our grateful thanks to the speakers who visited us at Ampfield over the winter months. These were Mr Roffey of Roffey Ltd., Mr Bradbury of Mommersteeg Seed Ltd., and Mr Knight of Ransomes who gave us three very interesting and not to be forgotten evenings.

Spring Golf Tournament

All members should now be aware that this is to be held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club on the 4th April (Wednesday) and those wishing to play should have conveyed to me in writing their intention. If any member wishes to play and has not yet informed me, will he please get in touch without delay.

AGM

This is to be held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club on the 4th April after the completion of the Spring Golf Tournament.

Subscriptions

Please remember that these are now due and prompt payment would save a lot of inconvenience.

NORTH-WEST

Chairman:
R. VICKERS,
Leigh Golf Club

By H. M. Walsh
Hon. Secretary:
Horrobin Cottage,
OldLinks Golf Club,
Montserrat, Bolton,
Lancs.

Spring Tournament

As stated in previous issues of the Journal, our Spring Tournament will be played over the Leigh Golf Club course at Kenyon Hall, Kenyon, Nr. Warrington, on May 8th 1973. It will be a 27-hole competition, 18 in the morning, 9 in the afternoon. The AGM will take place in the evening. Tee off times from 9 am. A Competition over 18 holes will be run for members' guests. Will all members taking part please inform me of their meal requirements so that I can make the necessary catering arrangements.

Lectures

Our sincere thanks to Glynn Vaughan of Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries for the excellent film show and talk which he gave to the members of the North West Section with the able assistance of Mr Rees and Mr Holt, members of the staff of Burrows Ltd. Salford. Also our thanks for the refreshments pro-

RETIREMENT OF MR. TOM MCNEICE

MR TOM MCNEICE retires from his position as Head Greenkeeper of The Leicestershire Golf Club on March 31st. Mr McNeice will then have completed 22 years as Head Greenkeeper to the Club.

During his years at the Leicestershire course he has built up a considerable reputation and the Leicestershire greens have been the envy of golfers throughout the County. Recently he has been superintending the replanning of several holes and the reconstruction of many of the tees and some greens.

It was only natural that Mr McNeice should follow on in his father's footsteps and become a head greenkeeper. On leaving school he went to work as an apprentice under his father at Banstead Downs and they later went together to the RAC Golf Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom. After 8 years there, then at the age of 22, he left to go on his own as head greenkeeper, which took him to Hearsall, Coventry, Leamington and Stinchcombe hill. During the war he worked as an agricultural engineer and afterwards was appointed head greenkeeper of the Robin Hood Golf Club, Birmingham, where he stayed for five years; he then joined his present club.

He is a former chairman of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, and of the East Midlands Section. He has also served as secretary of the S.W. Section, Midlands Section and East Midlands Section. He served on the executive committee from 1938-1968.

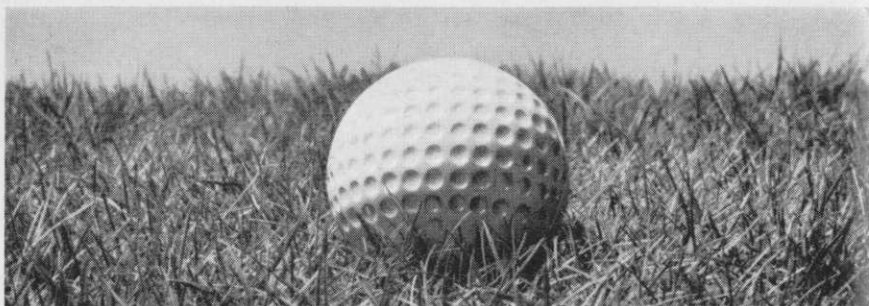
Mr McNeice has always been interested in

the game of golf and his lowest handicap was four. Now at 67, he still plays in the spring and autumn sectional competitions for greenkeepers and has won several times.

Mr and Mrs McNeice will be spending their retirement in Leamington Spa.



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vided, liquid and solid; thank you once again gentlemen.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new member and hope his time with the Association will be a happy one:-
H. Williams, Esq., Huyton & Prescott Golf Club, Huyton, Nr. Liverpool.

EAST MIDLAND

Chairman:
G. DARBY

By S. Fretter
Hon. Secretary:
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leicester

Annual Spring Golf Tournament

The Annual Spring Golf Tournament is being held at Radcliffe on Trent Golf Club on Wednesday 9th May 1973. All those playing should notify me by the 25th April, 1973 at the latest.

The Golf Club at Radcliffe on Trent is situated on the Cropwell Road and covers an area of approximately 100 acres. It is an 18 hole course 6,200 yards in length with a par of 69. The first nine holes are tight, but the back 9 are much easier, there are two very good par fives, twelve par 4's and 4 par 3's.

After the Second World War, it was modernised and brought to its present lay out by Mr T. S. Hawtree. It is pleasantly situated in the country six miles east of Nottingham, just off the A52 road to Grantham.

A new by-pass is scheduled to pass through part of the course and extra land has been made available for construction of new holes, these have been designed by Mr T. C. Pennick. A new Club House has been built on Dewberry Lane about 500 yards past the original Club House.

The write up of Radcliffe on Trent Golf Course has been sent to us by the Head Greenkeeper, Mr P. Malin. We thought it would help the golfers on the 9th May 1973.

New Member

I would like to welcome to this section Mr S. L. Farrington, Head Greenkeeper of Priors Hall Golf Club, who has transferred to us from the North East section. We wish him a long and happy stay in this section. Also we wish him all the best in his new job.

Retiring Member

Mr S. McNeice, Head Greenkeeper of Leicestershire Golf Club is retiring at the end of March. Mr McNeice, as you all know, has been a life long member of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

April 1973

NORTHERN

Chairman:
J. SCOTT
Wetherby Golf Club

By Walter Heeles
Hon. Sec.
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks
HG5 9BJ

Many thanks to B. Jennings of Flymo Institutional for an excellent slide show and talk on their range of machinery, also many thanks are due to the Captain, Committee and Members of the Moor Allerton Golf Club for the use of their Club house for the evening.

MIDLAND

Chairman:
G. HART
(Gay Hill)

By R. Goodwin
Hon. Secretary:
4 Burton Old Road,
Streethay, Lichfield,
Staffs.

President's Match

The Annual Match against Mr Bretherton's Team will be at Handsworth Golf Club on Thursday 14th June. Once again I will be looking for a good turn-out of Greenkeepers, so make a note of the date - 14th June.

Autumn Tournament

The Autumn Tournament will be held at the Gay Hill Golf Club, over 27 holes, on Thursday 13th September, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

Spring Tournament

Members who have not yet sent me their entries for the Spring Tournament at Edgbaston Golf Club, on May 8th, should do so during the next few days so that I can make final arrangements for catering.

SHEFFIELD SECTION

Chairman:
G. HERRINGTON
(Lindrick)

By H. Gillespie
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer:
63 Langsett Avenue,
Sheffield S6 4AA

The Committee and Members of the Sheffield Section congratulate our President, Mr S. K. Arnold, who is to be next Lord Mayor of Sheffield. Best Wishes for a successful term of office.

Lecture

A very encouraging turn out, with 41 members present, welcomed Messrs J. B. Ball and J. Rhodes of Vitaseamin (SC) Ltd. to Abbeydale Golf Club on 1st February.

The subject was Calcified Seaweed: an explanation of how this product is lifted from the sea bed and processed, and the advantages to be gained from its use.

Our thanks to Vitaseamin Ltd.

The final lecture on 5th April 1973 at Abbeydale Golf Club at 2 pm will be by Mr G. Vaughan of Ransomes Ltd.

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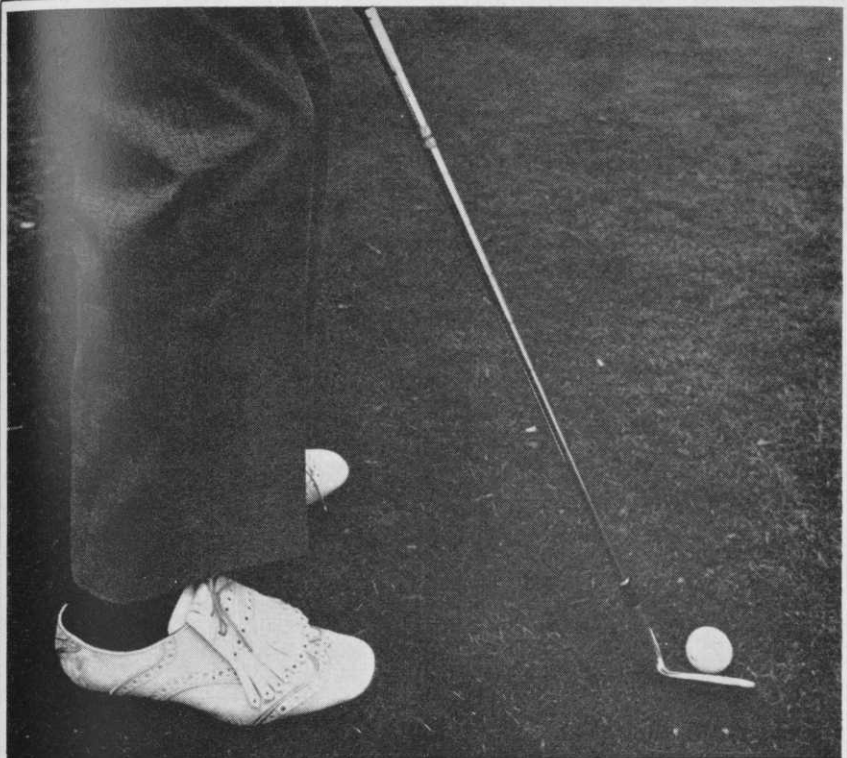
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