

# Progress in Perennial Ryegrass Breeding

by Dr John Hendrix, *Plant Breeder, NVH Mommersteeg, Vlijmen, Holland*

WITH PERENNIAL RYEGRASS having well over half the British market for sports and amenity grass seeds, one would have expected plant breeders to devote much effort to producing improved varieties of this species. But, until recently, this was not the case.

The reasons are twofold; firstly, certain pasture varieties such as Lamora and S23 which were originally bred for agricultural use have proved themselves to be valuable turfgrass varieties; secondly, sports and amenity turf mixtures (on which there are no statutory controls) have provided an overflow outlet for commercial ryegrass strains and agricultural hay-type varieties in years when these have been overproduced. Consequently – and regrettably – it is possible to see in many turf seed mixtures today a high percentage of ryegrass varieties which have been selected by plant breeders to produce bulky erect-growing foliage intended for farm, hay and silage crops, for example Verna, Ruanui, S24 and S321. These varieties are ideal for the purpose for which they were intended but have no place in sports turf mixtures.

As I have mentioned, the agricultural pasture ryegrass varieties have several characteristics useful in sports turf, notably a high tillering capacity, dense prostrate growth and good resistance to wear. However, they also show some that are less desirable, as their breeders were not concerned with colour, texture, ease of mowing or turf growth-pattern. These are irrelevant features of a grazing pasture where heavy yields and persistency are the main considerations; therefore no selection was done to incorporate the beneficial features of these characteristics in those varieties.

In formulating our breeding programme we had to ask ourselves just what were the desirable features for perennial ryegrass? Many of these individual characteristics are fairly obvious, such as good colour, fineness of leaf, few seed heads, easily-mown turf and disease resistance. However, on looking more deeply into the practical use of ryegrass in sports turf swards it became clear that there were really two different roles that ryegrass has to perform: the first on Winter games areas like football and hockey pitches, the second on Summer turf areas such as tennis courts. Some turf is in both categories, for example that of general playing fields, but it should be remembered that these dual or multi-purpose areas sustain greatest damage during the Winter months when conditions are at their worst.

We therefore decided that in the first instance a new variety would have to cope with the problems of Winter games areas, notably, heavy wear under cold, wet conditions. To fulfil this requirement a grass was required not only to withstand heavy wear but also to have the ability to recover from turf damage during the Autumn-to-Spring period. To achieve this, the variety had to tiller and grow late into the Autumn and as early in the Spring as possible, simply because a plant that is dormant during this period has no chance of regenerating to recover from turf damage. In addition to this all-important feature, two other characteristics for Winter games areas were considered desirable: firstly, a good colour over the Winter period (unfortunately most agricultural varieties tend to show a degree of leaf brownness then, so this had to be selected out). Secondly, an easily-mown sward was preferable for efficient gang mowing and to produce a tidy finish to the turf – agricultural varieties often tend to show ragged or torn leaf ends after mowing.

Having settled on our aims for the new variety, we started the breeding programme which eventually came to fruition in the marketing of our variety 'Stadion'. Those of you who have seen it growing will know it has the characteristics which we set out to produce. This is by no means the end of the story. I stated earlier that a ryegrass variety for Summer

# Quick-change artist

The Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex is a remarkable machine — so remarkable that we call it the world's first Greens Management System. The Tournament Triplex is a 12hp vehicle with hydrostatic drive, which powers four separate turf maintaining operations. Each conversion, from superb greensmowing to utility mowing, to Verti-Cutting, to spiking takes less than a minute — and no spanner!

**Greens Units** A full 67" cut. Each 23", nine-bladed cylinder can be lifted individually.

**Utility Units** Heavy-duty cutting cylinders and bottom blades for approach and tee mowing. Grass catchers provided with all units.

**Verti-cut Units** Patented twin offset blades remove 'thatch', keep greens in play even in difficult conditions.

**Vibra-Spiker** Now spiking takes even less time than greensmowing. High-frequency vibration penetrates to a depth of 1½" with a minimum of compaction. The combination of this unique quick-change unit feature, full 67" swath for every operation, variable-speed units and individual unit lifts make the Tournament Triplex an investment which no club can ignore. Your local Distributor is keen to impress you with a demonstration. Give him a call.

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich.

**RANSOMES**

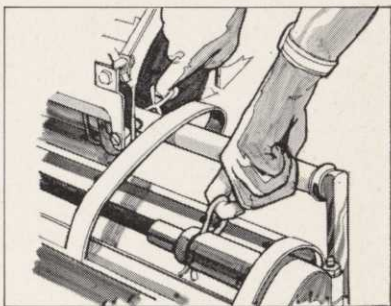


## Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex



# Ransomes-Hahn Tournament Triplex

When an advertiser tells you that a conversion is quick it's customary to take it with a pinch of salt. But *this* time take it as fact. Trying is believing, and you can try it for yourself at your local Ransomes dealer! You simply pull the connecting pin and quick-couple cable, remove the existing unit, and slip the selected unit into place. It takes less than a minute! Honest!



## Tournament Triplex Greens Unit

A full 67" of cutting width with the exclusive features of variable speed cylinder drive, giving you a cylinder speed completely independent of ground speed. Units may be operated one-down, two-down or all-down.

## Tournament Triplex Utility/Tee Units

Triplex utility units use same seven-blade design as greens reels, but have heavier fairway blades to withstand approach and tee mowing. These units are ideal for approach maintenance and the precision cutting of tailored tees, and can be adjusted down to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " for greens-mowing after top-dressing.

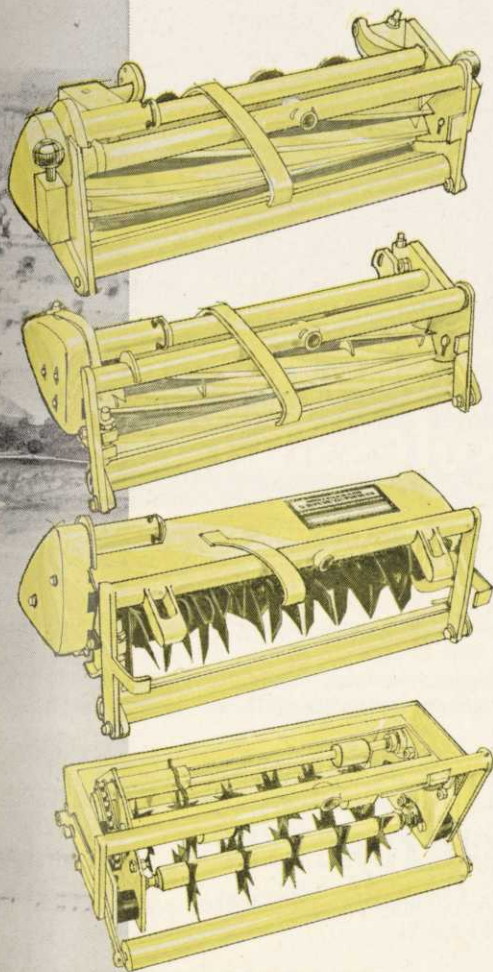
## Tournament Triplex Verti-Cut Units

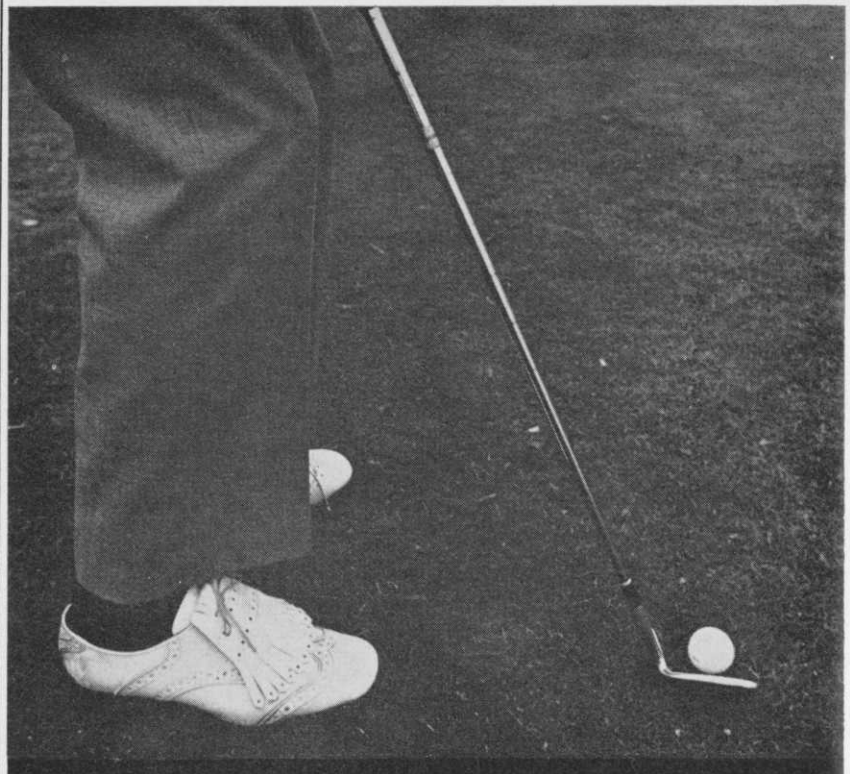
Verti-Cut units use durable, yet thin offset blades to remove thatch and grain as they begin to form. With 67" of cut (the Verti-Cut units are the same width, work at the same speed, and use the same grass catchers as the greens and utility units) and a riding vehicle, these attachments are ideal for preventing the development of thatch etc., lessening the need to take greens out of play for renovation. Variable-speed cylinder drives provide high tip-velocity even at low forward speeds.

## Tournament Triplex Vibra-Spiker

Vibra-Spiker reels use gentle high-frequency vibration to achieve deep penetration, without excessive weight, even when ground is hard and dry. Spiking (summer aeration) provides root pruning and moisture absorption, relieves surface compaction, and conserves fertilizers and fungicides by getting them immediately to the root zone. Full 67" swathe and Triplex speed make spiking a task that now takes even less time than greensmowing. Spiker penetrates to depth of 1½".

**Ransomes-Hahn  
Tournament Triplex  
- the world's first Greens  
Management System.**





## Just like your club, your turf needs a professional.

For expert help and advice with their game, most club members have a professional to turn to. But who can a green keeper turn to for help in keeping his turf up to par?

His own professional: SAI TURF FOOD

Courses like Carnoustie and Muirfield use SAI Turf Foods. It works wonders with grass.

It comes in the form of mini-crumb granules which makes it easy to spread. It also stays where it's put, releasing its goodness slowly into the soil to strengthen grass growth.

For stronger, greener, cleaner, healthier turf, try SAI.

All enquiries to the manufacturers or to our accredited suppliers for England and Wales: Chipman Chemical Co. Ltd., Horsham, Sussex. Telephone 60341/5



**HORTICULTURE LTD.**

Hortus House, 3 John's Place, Edinburgh.

Telephone: 031-554 5451

turf was also required; these different conditions need other characteristics such as drought tolerance and resistance to red thread disease. We already have a breeding programme under way to produce a variety to fulfil these requirements. Furthermore, we are continually collecting, selecting and testing new plant material as a means to produce new varieties which show improvements on those in use today. Thus for many years to come we shall continue to make playing conditions better and turf management easier.

---

*The British Golf Greenkeeper's Association*

**MINUTES OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION**

*19th May, 1973*

TWELVE MEMBERS were present including the Chairman who took the chair for the meeting.

The Agenda for this meeting was the proposal for increases in subscription rates which had been made at the Executive Meeting held at Birmingham in March, 1973, and which necessitated a change of rules. Views of this proposition were discussed at some length by the representative members of various sections, some of which were in full agreement with the proposals, and others were of the view that they should be modified to some extent, particularly with regard to the proposed increases for Honorary Members, as it was felt this could possibly have a detrimental effect on this form of membership.

Another point which was discussed at some length was the proposed increase in Entrance Fee from 15p. to 50% of the subscription. Here, again, it was thought possible that this large increase could possibly affect membership of the Association and Mr Heeles proposed an amendment to the original proposition that the increased rates, as suggested for Classes A. B. C and D, should be accepted but that there should be no charge in Class E membership. Also that the Entrance Fee should be increased to 50p and not 50% of the subscription. A vote was taken on this amendment which was passed by a majority of seven for and three against, with one abstention.

The Chairman then agreed that the rates should be adjusted according to the amendment and the Hon. Secretary was asked to publish these figures to operate from 1st May, 1973.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

---

**NOTE**

The wage scale recommendations printed in the May issue of the Journal should read *Minimum* per annum.

*Editor*

# Letter to the Editor

Little Whinfell  
Crowborough Sussex  
TN6 3ST  
18th May, 1973

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to have upset Mr Wright, Greens Convener at Downfield, G.C. I can only plead that on television it did look artificial. Now that I know, I withdraw that accusation wholly.

If, indeed, it was an accusation. If Mr. Wright will read that article again he will see that I suggested it made a good hole, calling for thought. The sight of that lake led me to think on water bunkers and write a *general* article on that subject. The piece is not entirely devoted to the Downfield G.C.

Mr Wright suggests that the Swilcan Burn, with its concrete banks bears more of man's stamp than his pond. May I, in all humility, suggest that the Swilcan was there many years before concrete was invented.

Were I younger and still active, I would give much to visit Downfield and have to make up my mind whether to go for the carry at the 11th, or play short. The test of a good hole.

By coincidence, the Head Greenkeeper at my home club is named Wright!

Yours truly,  
Patrick Smartt



*Some of the representatives from 20 golf clubs in the Guildford area watching a ride-on triplex greensmower being put through its paces at Bramley Golf Club.*

# News



## from the Sections

### Special occasions

- |      |    |                                       |
|------|----|---------------------------------------|
| July | 18 | Sheffield Section Annual Tournament   |
|      | 23 | Midland Section A.G.M. and Summer Cup |
| Aug  | 13 | } B.G.G.A. Annual Tournament          |
|      | 14 |                                       |
|      | 15 |                                       |
| Sept | 5  | Southern Section Autumn Tournament    |
|      | 12 | Welsh Section Autumn Tournament       |
|      | 13 | Midland Section Autumn Tournament     |
|      | 18 | North East Section Autumn Tournament  |
|      | 30 | Southern Section Trip to Bingley      |
| Oct  | 3  | Midland Section Day Trip to Bingley   |
|      | 10 | Southern Section Secretaries Match    |

---

## MIDLAND

---

Chairman:  
G. HART  
(Gay Hill)

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

### Autumn Tournament

The Autumn Tournament will be held over 27 Holes at the Gayhill Golf Club on Thursday 13th September.

All entries should be sent direct to me by Saturday 1st September.

### Autumn Day Trip

A coach trip has been arranged for Wednesday 3rd October, to the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, followed by a visit to the new Moorallerton Golf Course, Leeds, for a conducted tour of the Course by Mr. Colin Geddes, Head-Greenkeeper.

Arrangements are as follows:

Coach to pick up at Bingley Hall, Birmingham at 7.0 a.m. prompt (good Car Park)

Arrive at Bingley, St. Ives, 10.30 a.m. (Coffee and biscuits)

Lunch at Research Institute at 1.0 p.m.

(Soup, steak pie, potatoes, 2 veg, choice of sweet, coffee, 75p)

After lunch, visit Moorallerton Golf Club, arrive 2.45 p.m.

Tea will be taken before departure from Leeds.

Will all members wishing to go on this trip, please let me have their names by 13th September.

### Winter Programme

Please note the following dates for Winter Lectures:

Dec 3 Lecture to be arranged

1974

Jan 15 Lecture and Film Show at Kidderminster Golf Club at 2.0 p.m. by Flymo Institutional

Feb 19 Lecture on Golf Course Construction; further details in later Journal.

### President's Match at Handsworth

The result of the Annual Match against Mr. Bretherton's Team, held at Handsworth Golf Club on Thursday, 14th June, is given overleaf.

A beautiful summer evening made this very good fixture really enjoyable. The course was, as we have come to expect it, in fine condition and all the tributes to Vic Smith and the Green staff were well deserved.

The match was followed by an excellent supper, and it is to Mr. Bretherton that all players were truly grateful. Mr. D. Mansell, Club-Captain, welcomed everyone to Handsworth and proposed the Loyal Toast.

Mr. H. Walsh, Association Chairman, thanked Mr. Bretherton for his services to the Greenkeepers' Association for so many years. Mr. Bretherton announced the result of the match in which his team won by 9 to 6. He said how pleased he was that everyone had enjoyed their evening.

George Hart, Section Chairman, thanked Mr. Bretherton and his players for a grand

game and pointed out the score, suggesting that the Greenkeepers were doing better every year. Mr. Bill Dudley-Evans, speaking for the President's Team, thanked the Greenkeepers for their efforts in work and play, and M1.

Bretherton and the Handsworth Golf Club for making the fixture possible for so many years.

Finally, a warm 'thank you' to Mr. Bate, Competition Secretary, for making many arrangements for this Match.

#### President's Team

1	E. Moggs Wright + T. Hodgetts	
2	T. Phillips + D. Mansell	
3	H. J. F. Mitchell + S. Allen (2+1)	
4	R. Ramsden + R. Parker	
5	F. R. Hignell + E. Fiddian (3+2)	
6	R. N. Smith + C. C. Moore	
7	J. Murphy + D. Davies (7+6)	
8	R. Daniel + K. M. Wall	
9	J. W. Jackson + E. Ballinger (2 up)	
10	R. Kirkby + R. Pilsbury (7+6)	
11	R. Whittington + W. Dudley Evans (6+5)	1
12	W. Hartley + W. Heath	0
13	D. J. Moore + T. Podmore (4+3)	1
14	D. McAllister + J. W. Butler (5+4)	1
15	D. McColl + J. T. Shaw (4+2)	1

RESULT 9

#### Greenkeeper's

0	W. Marnock + A. Kite (4+3)	1
0	R. Goodwin + J. Hughes (3+2)	1
1	V. Smith + H. Lewis	0
0	D. Haynes + T. Morris (2 up)	1
1	E. Benbow + B. Ashby	0
0	J. Bevan + B. Lowe (3+1)	1
1	E. Thomas + F. Ashby	0
0	A. Boraston + G. Bunting (4+2)	1
1	H. Walsh + G. Hart	0
1	M. Bladon + H. Drewitt	0
1	W. Boyce + D. Shortley	0
0	G. Smith + M. Hudson (5+4)	1
1	A. Jamieson + R. Chandler	0
1	W. Trevor + P. Johnson	0
1	T. Jones + J. Boffy	0

6

## SOUTHERN

Chairman:  
C. A. MOORE  
(Stanmore)

By F. W. Ford  
Hon. Secretary:  
68 Salcombe Gardens,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
Tel: 01-959 2847

### A.G.M. 18-Hole Medal

Details of the 18-Hole Medal played at the Hendon Golf Club on Wednesday, 6th June, are as follows:

1	A. Morton (West Byfleet)
2	R. Lance (Surbiton)
3	W. Wilkinson (Old Fold)
4	S. Kilby (Old Fold)
5	T. Price (Whitewebbs)
6	R. Johnson (Effingham)
7	G. Payne (Maidenhead)
8	R. Peters (Bush Hill Park)
9	C. Mitchell (Maidenhead)
10	M. C. Owen (Roehampton)
11	P. Whitehead (Shooters Hill)
12	M. Claydon (Beaconsfield)

#### First Year

I. F. Wilkins (Temple)

Net	65	President's Cup and Table Lamp
	67	Camera
	67	Holdall
	68	Tea Service
	69	S/s Tankard
	69	Travelling Clock
	69	Chair
	70	Alarm Clock
	70	Coffee Set
	71	Cheese Dish
	71	After Shave
	73	Glass Set

Gross 85 Teddy

### Class F Members

We were all delighted to have with us on the occasion of our A.G.M. the following Honorary Life Members: Tom Mason, Bill Mason, Jim Rosier, Stan Morton and Jimmy Ness.

### A.G.M.

The following are details of the A.G.M. held at the Hendon Golf Club on Wednesday 6th June 1973.

Before asking the Secretary to read the Minutes of the last A.G.M., the President



called for all Members to stand in memory of Bert Dixon, Wally Drewitt and Jock Drummond.

The Minutes were then read and signed as correct. The Secretary and Treasurer reported the Section and Benevolent Fund Accounts in a very healthy state and after the Balance Sheets had been scrutinised by all Members present, they were adopted on the proposal of D. H. Major, seconded by S. Morton.

#### Election of Officers

*President:* Jack Wallis-Arthur

*Vice-Presidents:* D. M. Craig, F. W. Hawtree, G. P. Simpson, S. Field, K. J. Hemingway, F. Brittan, P. A. Marshall, C. Diebel, K. Thomas, V. L. Waeland, J. M. Thomas and J. Varney

*Chairman:* F. W. Ford

*Vice-Chairman:* D. H. Major

*Committee:* D. H. Major, P. Moore, J. Kirkpatrick, C. E. Ryan, D. S. Gould, W. Machin, R. Tempest and J. Sargeant.

*Executive Representative:* D. H. Major

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:* F. W. Ford

It was decided to change the venue for the 1974 A.G.M., and to make an all-out effort in the search for larger lecture rooms. Philip Marshall informed the meeting that there would be a coach laid on for the International Golf Tournament; details will appear in a later issue of Journal.

The Chairman called for a vote of thanks to the President and the meeting closed.

#### Autumn Tournament

The Autumn Tournament this year will be played at the Langley Park Golf Club, Barnfield, Wood Road, Beckenham, Kent – nearest Station, West Wickham (½ mile), on Wednesday 5th September 1973.

For the benefit of new members, the competition will be a 36-hole Stableford – 4 Ball better ball A.M. and a Greensome P.M. Partners *must* be a member of their own Club. Members wishing to play should write to me stating NAME, PARTNER'S NAME, CLUB AND HANDICAPS, in Block Letters. Closing date Monday, 20th August.

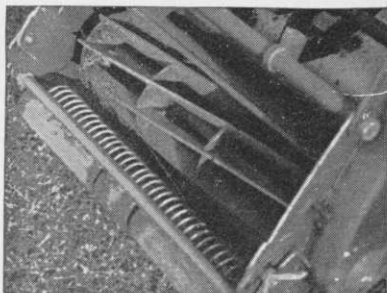
#### New Members

A warm welcome to the following new Members:

F. C. Stroud (Herne Bay)  
P. Manning (West Essex)  
J. F. R. Shipp (Thorpeness)  
D. C. Wash (Ipswich)  
V. Gant (Ipswich)  
M. G. Brock (Sudbury)  
P. J. Groves (Addington Court)  
J. Gunstone (Addington Court)  
M. Stansfield (Addington Court)

## STEWARTS GRASS COMB

FOR THE MAN WHO TAKES PRIDE IN  
HIS TURF



*From the People who care about Service*

## STEWARTS OF EDINBURGH

FINE TURF SPECIALISTS

EDINBURGH EH2 2AY

031-556 2102

## NORTH-WEST

**By H. M. Walsh**

*Chairman:*  
O. P. JONES,  
Bramhall Golf Club

*Hon. Secretary:*  
Horrobin Cottage,  
OldLinks Golf Club,  
Montserrat, Bolton,  
Lancs.

#### Lectures

I am in the process of arranging for various speakers for this winter series of lectures and will inform members when list is complete.

#### Annual Trip

The venue is not decided as yet, date probably in November.

#### Autumn Tournament

The venue will be published in the next issue of the Journal.

#### Annual Draw

Please let me have moneys and counterfoils by the date on the tickets and please make cheques and P.O.s out to the B.G.G.A. and not to me.

#### Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due, please send to our Treasurer, Mr. R. Janovskis, 303 Moorside Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 3PN, who will be very pleased to receive them.

# NORTHERN

*Chairman:*  
J. SCOTT  
Wetherby Golf Club

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

The Annual Spring Tournament of the Section took place at the Bradford Golf Club, Hawksworth, Guiseley, Leeds on the 30th May.

On behalf of the Members of the Northern Section of the B.G.G. Association who took part in the Tournament, I would like to say thank you to the Committee and Members of the Bradford Golf Club for letting us have the courtesy of the Course and Clubhouse for the day, also to Mr. Ralph Smith and his staff for

the excellent condition of the Course and the Steward and Stewardess for the way they looked after us. Also a very big thank you to all the Traders who donated the many Prizes.

Many thanks to the following firms who donated prizes – Bradford Golf Club, Ransomes, Simms & Jefferies, Aspera Motors, Flymo, County Mowers, Cannock Fertilisers, Hayters, Chaplins, Pattisons, Wolf, M. A. Wardman, Farrods, Rigby Taylors, Metcalfs.

Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. J. Mawson for taking over the organisation of the score cards and issuing the meal tickets. (Thanks Jeff you did a good job).

## Winners of the Spring Tournament

		a.m.	p.m.	
Scratch Trophy	D. Ward	79— 5 =74	77—5 =72	Best Gross 156
1st Div. 1st Prize	D. Spurden	81— 9 =72	81— 9 =72	Best Nett 144
1st Div. 2nd Prize	E. Paley	86—12 =74	83—12 =71	Best Nett 145
1st Div. 3rd Prize	D. Roberts	81— 9 =72	84— 9 =75	Best Nett 147
2nd Div. 1st Prize	J. Storey	88—16 =72	87—16 =71	Best Nett 143
2nd Div. 2nd Prize	H. Marshall	97—19 =78	86—19 =67	Best Nett 145
2nd Div. 3rd Prize	G. Brayshaw	97—24 =73	97—24 =73	Best Nett 146
2nd Div. 4th Prize	C. Garnett	94—18 =76	92—18 =74	Best Nett 150
				... last 9
2nd Div. 5th Prize	J. Redhead	88—17 =71	97—18 =79	Best Nett 150
Vice Presidents' Prize				
1st Prize	E. J. Turner	78— 5 =73	76— 5 =71	Best Nett 144
2nd Prize	R. Dodd	84— 8 =76	80— 8 =72	Best Nett 148

Vice Presidents' 18 Hole Afternoon Competition

Winner: W. Mountain Highest Score of the Day – B. Umpleby

Following the prize giving, the Annual General Meeting of the Section took place, approximately 42 members attended.

The following persons were elected to Office at the General Meeting.

*President:* W. Mountain

*Chairman:* J. Scott

*V. Chairman:* E. Paley

*Sec. Treas.:* W. Heeles

*Executive Rep.:* W. Heeles

*Hon. Auditors:* F. G. Smith, W. H. Bartle

*Committee:* R. Barnes, D. Roberts, C. Garnett, G. Bennison, D. Storey, H. Marshall, D. Hannam, R. V. Lambert.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to David Storey on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper of the Fulford Golf Club (York) Ltd.



*Atco kick start version of the 28 in. Groundsman. It is powered by a 256 cc 4-stroke engine with fan cowl cooling and fitted with a centrally positioned kick start lever and open handles to permit easy access to the starter in pedestrian use. The six heavy duty blades give 81 cuts per yard.*