

The "Allan Taylor" Cup—18 holes Medal

1st Prize	Allan Taylor Cup & Hedge Trimmer ...	T. Patchin	71
2nd	Verdone Cup and Travel Bag	J. C. Newman	71
3rd	Golf Bag	S. Dagger	72
4th	Bath Towel	D. H. Major	72
5th	Vegetable Dish	R. Peters	72
6th	Compact & 2 Pks. P/Cards	J. Robinson	72

Highest Nett SENIOR Score	Bottle Drambuie	I. Scoones
Highest JUNIOR	Bottle Champagne	E. C. M. Brown

We are indebted to the following who have kindly contributed to our Prize Fund.

C. Bretherton, Esq.
 J. Hamilton Stutt, Esq.
 Gordon Wright, Esq.
 "The News of the World"
 The Sports Turf Research Institute
 The Professional Golfers' Association
 The Golf Ball Manufacturers
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Annual Report 1974

Administration

This year has been one of several additional activities and interest and we have been most fortunate in having Mr. Ivor Scoones as our Chairman; who has undoubtedly proved a very efficient Officer, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to him for the successful way he has handled our business.

We have to succeed him, Mr. E. R. James of the South Coast Section and we feel sure from the efforts Mr. James has already made in developing our new Section, he will undoubtedly prove a worthy successor to Mr. Scoones.

One of the major events of the year was the increased membership fees. The object of this increase was to improve the finances of Head Office funds and this has undoubtedly been accomplished; happily we are glad to say, without any diminishing of membership.

The Annual Draw was held as in previous years with an increased charge for tickets. This proved a good move, also, the receipts were nearly 100% up on previous years, which again was a satisfactory effort for our finances.

Once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to the R & A for again providing free passes to some of our members to attend the Open Championship, a privilege much appreciated by those who were able to make the trip.

The Wage Scale recommendations were again reviewed by the Executive Committee last March and further figures were proposed and given as much publicity as was possible. We

feel sure that once again these proposals have been beneficial to a great number of our members; also we think that many Golf Club Secretaries are looking for guidance in this respect.

We are most happy to advise our members that our Association was invited to join the Golf Development Council, and I need hardly say, that your Executive Committee were delighted to accept this invitation.

Our representation on the Turfgrass Advisory Committee has been changed slightly owing to the resignation of Mr. Carrick, and we would like to express our appreciation to him for his efforts in this field. To succeed him we are very pleased to include the name to Mr. E. Walsh of the North-West Section who is now representing the Association on this Committee in conjunction with Mr. A. Robertshaw.

The latest figures by the Joint Council of Apprentices show that this scheme is still progressing. The latest figures were:—398 issued, 284 registered, and 177 completed. Our thanks are once again due to the Officers of the Council for the continued success of the Scheme.

Membership

The figures produced by the Sections for the year-ending April 1974 show a total of 1,028, which we feel is most satisfactory, particularly in view of the increased membership fees already mentioned. This figure is approximately a 40 increase on last year.

Annual Tournament

The 56th Annual Tournament was held at Cleveland Golf Club, Somerset and once again it proved to be a very happy and interesting event. With good weather and a good attendance, and a delightful course, we feel sure that all those who took part had a very enjoyable visit to Somerset. We much appreciated the courtesy and kindness of all the officials and staff at Cleveland for their unstinting efforts to make our visit so pleasant and we would again express our appreciation of all the Trade associations who helped so generously, to make our prize table a worthy exhibit, and the representatives and friends who gave so much practical help.

International Match

A new advent in our programme this year was an International Match which was made possible by the courtesy and efforts of Messrs. Ransomes Sims & Jefferies. It was

through their efforts this International match was arranged in conjunction with the Pro Am Tournament which they normally hold each year, and invitations were sent to ourselves and the Scottish Association to provide a team of four, to represent England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Invitations were also sent to a Continental team, the U.S.A., Canada and Japan. This was felt to be a splendid occasion to meet Greenkeepers from all parts of the world and thanks are again due to Ransomes Sims & Jefferies for arrangements made for Dinner and entertainment after the match. Some very pleasant associations were made with representatives from Canada, U.S.A., and the Continent, as well as Great Britain. Unfortunately, Japan were unable to arrange a team to reach us in time for the fixture, but we received expressions of appreciation from them together with a Samurai Head-dress as a token of friendship. The Americans were also

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happy to provide us with a memento of a Hole Cutter in brass, with suitable inscription.

Symposium

In conjunction with Tournament, Mr. F. W. Hawtree was instrumental in organising the First British Turfgrass Symposium which took place at Ipswich on the 4th October 1973, and was certainly an occasion for the B.G.G.A. The point when an association comes together with other delegates to talk about its work rather than its purposes is an important one, and reflects not only enthusiasm but responsibility.

The Symposium was the first of its kind; the attendance figure of 200 was therefore a most encouraging start. The breakdown of attendance figures are as follows:—

From Golf Club	...	101	(50%)
From Firms	...	66	(33%)
From Local and Central Government	...	7	(4%)

From Associations and Institutes	...	11	(6%)
From Abroad	...	14	(7%)
The number of Golf Clubs represented was	...	68	

On the day of the Symposium a post-card with space for percentage scoring and general comments was issued to each representative. 50% of the respondents suggested that the future location should be in the Midlands. Suggestions for future Symposium themes were fungal diseases, machinery, chemicals, turfgrass varieties, training and turfgrass management. All but one said they would attend future Symposiums. Here in this sample at least, was enthusiasm and conviction of the need to hold future Symposiums.

Sections

Once again our thanks are due to the officers and Committees who give



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so much of their time to assist the Sections in their local activities and we are sure that members find local news, which we receive from these Section Secretaries for inclusion in their Journal, to be of the greatest interest.

The British Golf Greenkeeper

Our Journal is continuing to make progress and the editing staff have much appreciated the additional news which has been forthcoming for inclusion in the Journal and also for the collaboration of Section Secretaries in assisting to maintain the mailing list, whereby our members have not been disappointed to any extent in the non-receipt of the Journal.

Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund has this year paid a total of £100 to dependants of deceased members since our last report.

F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

There was only one application during the year for the assistance of this fund to attend a course of instruction, but from recent enquiries, the fund will undoubtedly be put to greater use in the coming year.

S.T.R.I.

Once again we would like to express our thanks to the S.T.R.I. for their continued advice and assistance to members when they could be of help.

In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of the following members, announced in the British Golf Greenkeeper:—

- J. L. WHITE—East Midland.
TOM LLOYD—Welsh.
Wm. KINSEY—Late Pres. of N.W. Section.
A. STEPHENS—Midland Section.
C. BRASSINGTON—N.W. Section.
J. WALLIS-ARTHUS — Southern Section.
J. NESS—Southern Section.

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NO SURFACE DAMAGE

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Severe Spring Drought puts Playing Surfaces under Heavy Pressure

TAKE TURF ACTION NOW!

Just how could you combat the effects of the long, dry period that we had this Spring - the effects on turf in some cases have been pretty disastrous.

Ransomes would like everyone to benefit from their experience and to help you make the best out of what you have.

Not only now, but the year through, on a management basis.

Let's tackle each of the major problems that can affect your turf so seriously:

1. Soil Structure

Good growth depends on the soil being in good physical condition, with plenty of space in the soil for air, water and fertilisers to get down to the grass roots. The big enemy of this ideal condition is compaction - pressure from any source, tractor or footfall, can effectively seal the surface to prevent the life-savers getting down to the roots.

The farmer ploughs to cure this problem but the Golf Greenkeeper needs a less drastic remedy. Aerifying tools provide that solution. The *unique* action of Ransomes-Hahn Aerifying with specially designed 'spoons' ensures that the soil will be opened up and the soil structure maintained at its peak.

2. Thatch

Not all the grass blades stand up to be cut when you're mowing. And all mowers cut on a horizontal plane, so what happens to the blades that are lying flat on the ground? They form 'grain', uncut

blades that will remain flat until they die after about a month and become part of the 'thatch'. This thatch forms a roof over the soil that stops water and air penetrating, and, as it usually lays in one direction, it can have a very adverse effect on golf greens. And subsequently, on your putting! So how do we cope with this

mattress of grass? Simple really, we just use a mower that cuts vertically instead of horizontally, the Ransomes-Hahn 'Verti-Cut'.

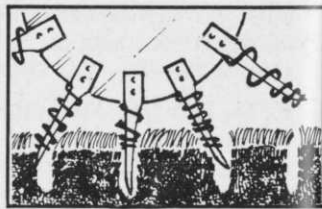
3. Top Dressing

It is the organic matter that we add - especially the organic material in the grass plant, that gives soils stability. The structure can, of course, be improved with materials like sand, humus and peat moss, depending on local conditions. This top dressing must be worked thoroughly into the surface.

Surface thatch accumulation must be removed by Ransomes-Hahn

'Verticutting' before top dressing is attempted and then top dressing penetration to the soil below is effected by the Ransomes-Hahn 'Power Drag'.

Repeated Ransomes-Hahn Aerification with its unique cultivating



Packed soil now has room to expand into the scooped out holes. The root-zone is opened out to enable air, water and fertilizer to have the most benefit. Strong root formation is made more easily in the surrounding soil.

action is the best means of changing soil texture in the top 3 or 4 inches of the soil profile, allowing for the area to remain in use at all times. The action of the uniquely designed 'spoons' in removing cores of soil is the finest way of aerifying, and patented 'Flexipress' springs fitted over each spoon prevent turf tearing.

RANSOMES SYSTEMS TO THE RESCUE

One of the prime defences against any sort of trouble is to know the enemy. Turf care is no exception. Weather can be very unpredictable. This year, a very dry Spring caused no end of problems, so we must make the best of the condition prevailing.

Ransomes knowledge of turf care goes a long way beyond mowing and their complete range of turf maintenance equipment is designed to ensure that your grass areas are as good as they possibly can be.

The easy way to get the better of playing fields

For greens matting or mild scarification of playing areas, the Ransomes Hahn PD-2 power Drag really covers the ground.

One man covers 9'6" at one pass, the 3.H.P. engine making easy work of a task that could otherwise be a chore.

For narrow areas the two wing mats are removable.

The Power Drag's unique swirling action really gets top dressing down through the grass to the soil, where it's needed. It is also invaluable for hard playing areas.

When you've finished, the Power Drag folds up quickly taking up minimum space for transport or storage.

This superbly practical turf maintenance tool is waiting to be demonstrated to you. A call to your Ransomes dealer is all that's needed.

Check these features

One man mats 9½' swath.

Self transportable

Folds quickly for storage

Drag mats in extra-strong galvanised flexible ribbon steel.

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LETTERS

**'Reprinted from the October 24th
issue of Golf Illustrated'**

Editor,
Golf Illustrated,
8 Stratton Street,
London. W1X 6AT.

Dear Sir,

In recent months there has been a considerable amount of correspondence in various golfing magazines regarding the serious shortage and the status of Greenkeepers in this country. The situation has been brought to a head simply because we are now building more golf courses per annum than ever before and many of these new clubs are finding it almost impossible to obtain experienced staff to take over from the contractors once the course has been seeded.

Fortunately for the Greenkeeper, this has meant that clubs are now being forced to raise the salaries of their greens staff to a more realistic level, rather than rely on the old agricultural standard rates of pay which makes little or no allowance for the genuine skills of the experienced Greenkeeper.

Surely the time has come when some positive action should be taken by the Golf Course Development Corporation to train and encourage more Greenkeepers into the industry.

In America there are a number of Universities where a young Greenkeeper can go on a two or three year course where he is taught by experienced staff the skills of the profession.

Such a course is financed from a central fund to which all golf clubs in the States contribute. If the Greenkeeper leaves with a Certificate of Competance, he knows he can obtain a worthwhile job and after a further three or four years of practical experience he is likely to be offered the position of Golf Superintendent which carries a deserved status together with a good salary.

Such a scheme costs money but with over 1700 Golf Clubs in the U.K., with an average Membership of 300 per club, surely no golfer would object to a 50p levy being built into his annual club subscription which could go towards a training scheme for Greenkeepers. Such a scheme would raise over £250,000 per annum which would enable the Council to approach more than one University or Horticultural Training College to set up a proper two-year training course for Greenkeepers which would be to the mutual benefit of all those interested in golf.

Yours faithfully,
p.p. Twyford Seeds Limited.
Jonathan Franks

33 Knowle Drive,
Exwick,
Exeter,
Devon, EX4 2DF.
7.10.74

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write and say how much I agree with Mr. Mawdeleys' letter in the September Greenkeeper, as we here in the South West are in a similar position.

I would like to see a Greenkeepers' Union. Now this may cause a stir, but we are responsible people who would not treat a union as a chance to strike at any trivial occurrence, (we know who would have to put the