

Merits of sand

D. C. Bean
Purdur Farm Lane,
Ipswich.

Sir,

The article in your October issue about sand for golf courses, reproduced from a publication of the United States Golf Association, is of much interest to one who was involved, some two years ago, in assessing the merits of various sands for bunkers.

The references to 16 mesh and 60 mesh screens and the particle size ranges used in the United States to define coarse, medium and fine sands do not appear to correspond with British practice. Here, coarse sand particle size is 2.0 to 0.60mm., medium sand is 0.60 to 0.20mm., and fine sand is 0.20 to 0.06mm. There is a range of British Standard sieves from No. 7 to No. 200, to cover the classification of sands into these grades. In the United States, coarse sand is defined to be smaller and fine sand to be larger than the British grades.

The specification recommended for bunker sand—1.0mm. to 0.25mm. with 75 per cent in the range of 0.5mm. to 0.25mm. and preferably of rounded particles—may well be ideal. The nearest specification in British terms would be that all should pass a No. 14 sieve (1.2mm.), 75 per cent should pass a No. 25 sieve (0.60mm.) but be retained on a No. 52 sieve (0.30mm.), and all should be retained on a No. 72 sieve (0.21mm.), but where can sand in such a narrow range of size be obtained at any reasonable cost?

The quantities of sand used by golf clubs are insignificant in a supplier's output and to produce to such a tight specification would probably be very costly. Sands of such a type may be found naturally in certain isolated locations but, unless the golf course is nearby, transport costs will make purchase out of the question.

It would be useful to have comment on the U.S. specification from knowledgeable sources in this country, and to know if the sands in bunkers on championship courses such as Muirfield, Royal Lytham and St. Annes and others are to any particular particle size specification.

Experience of playing a number of good, but not necessarily championship, courses suggests that bunker sand is often that obtainable at least cost, sometimes with a silt and clay content, soggy in wet weather and caked hard in dry. The player suffers a twofold penalty.

Two years ago no specification for bunker sand could be found, so in general terms the criteria were freedom from silt and clay likely to cake and obstruct free drainage, avoidance of very fine sand liable to be blown away by wind, a maximum particle size unlikely to damage mower blades, freedom from organic matter, and a neutral but not alkaline condition.

Regard was also given to Mr. F. W. Hawtree's statement in the British Golf Greenkeeper for October 1971: "Our inland sites use a coarse washed sand free of fines at one end of the scale and of small stones at the other. An even particle size gives the least binding."

The list of criteria could be expanded, but how much better it is to state, as our American friends have, a specification that is clear to all sand suppliers, understandable by those responsible for the construction and upkeep of golf courses, and covering a material acceptable to players.

Playing acceptability, not mentioned by the American source, is important. Golfers expect sand in which the ball will not plug and in which footmarks are minimal. Sand depth is also relevant.

One problem is that only sands used commercially on a large scale, for

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The annual meeting

PROCEEDINGS of the 57th annual general meeting of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, held at the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club on Monday September 30, 1974.

THE CHAIRMAN opened the meeting at which there were approximately 85 members present. In the absence of the president, he conducted the meeting.

Minutes. The chairman asked that, as the minutes of the last AGM had been printed in the journal, these could be taken as read. This was agreed.

Annual report. The hon. secretary read the annual report, and its adoption was proposed by Mr. Ainsworth and seconded by Mr. Fretter. The chairman asked members to stand in silence in memory of deceased members whose names had been listed in the report.

Financial statement. Copies of the accounts were passed round and the hon. treasurer reported that there was a reasonable balance in the head office funds, due to the increase in subscrip-

tions. He was pleased to say that this had not affected membership figures. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Ford.

Executive Committee report. The Tournament Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive Committee were Messrs. James, Walsh, Smith and Major.

It had been agreed that the competition should be played from the new B.G.G.A. tees, and would be easily identifiable.

The 1975 tournament was in the

[Continued facing page]

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[Annual meeting/Continued]

hands of the Midland Section, and Mr. V. W. Smith had been nominated as vice chairman. The section had already received the offer of the use of Walsall Golf Club for the tournament, probably in August. The hon. secretary expressed members' congratulations to Mr. Smith on his nomination.

The Executive Committee had been advised by the hon. secretary that Mr. F. W. Hawtree was resigning as editor of the Journal from October 1, 1974, and that Mr. D. R. B. Hopkins, our present publisher, had accepted the duties of editor. The hon. secretary was asked to advise all section secretaries of this change.

The Executive Committee had been advised that the funds in the Journal account, about £1,300, would be transferred to the General Fund Head Office account, and that Mr. Hopkins had offered a minimum payment of £500 a year to association funds in the future.

Mr. Goodwin proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hawtree for his efforts as editor for 17 years, and sincere appreciation of this proposition was expressed by everyone present.

Election of officers. In the absence of Mr. Carl Bretherton, it was proposed that he should be asked to continue in office as president for the ensuing year. This was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that the vice-presidents listed in the journal should be re-elected. Mr. D. B. Hargreave's name replacing the late Mr. William Kinsey. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. I. Scoones, chairman, proposed Mr. E. R. James as **chairman** for the ensuing year, and this was carried unanimously. Mr. Scoones handed his badge of office to Mr. James and expressed his thanks to members for the support they had given him during his year of office. He said it was an occasion which would always remain in his memory.

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[Annual meeting from Page 13]

and it had been a very pleasant and enjoyable period. He hoped what he had been able to do had been in accordance with the wishes of members.

Mr. James thanked Mr. Scoones and said he hoped he would be able to do as well during the coming year. He presented Mr. Scoones with a suitably engraved tankard as a sign of recognition of his services.

It was proposed by Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Payne that Mr. V. W. Smith should be elected as **vice-chairman** for the year 1974/75, and this was carried unanimously.

The chairman expressed his regret that to date no successor had been found to take over the office of **secretary and treasurer**, as had been requested by Mr. Dix for the last two years, but assured the meeting that every effort was being made to try to find somebody to fill this office.

Mr. Dix said he also was sorry that he was obliged to force the issue regarding his own wishes, and while he would not allow his name to go forward for another year, he was prepared, mainly in view of the finances involved, for which he felt responsible, to continue to act as secretary and treasurer until the end of the present financial year, April 30, 1975.

If by this time nobody was forthcoming to take over this office, he regretted that he would have to finalise the accounts and pass them to the auditors to maintain, at the same time pass on any secretarial duties for the chairman to handle.

It was unanimously agreed that the **Executive Committee** should be as nominated by sections.

The hon. treasurer reported that the services of Messrs. Smallfield, Rawlins and Co. as **hon. auditors** had again been most efficient, and at his proposal it was unanimously agreed that they be re-elected.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. H. Dowding, who had kindly taken over

the duties of **hon. solicitor** should be re-elected for the ensuing year.

Proposition from South Coast Section:

That a letter from head office be circulated to all golf clubs inviting them to donate a sum of money each year to the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, such contributions to be used either to improve and maintain the standard of training and educational facilities available to greenkeepers, and thus encourage their proficiency, or to be utilised in a manner which will be to the benefit of all members.

After discussion at some length, it was proposed by Mr. Scoones and seconded by Mr. Ainsworth that a letter from the Executive Committee should be forwarded to clubs, as suggested, and this was carried.

Proposition from Southern Section:

That the title Head Greenkeeper should be changed to Course Manager.

This proposition again came before the meeting and after some discussion, an amendment was proposed by Mr. Fretter, seconded by Mr. Woodward, that the title should remain as Head Greenkeeper. This amendment was put to the meeting and carried by a majority of 38 to 34.

Proposition from Northern Section:

Amendments to Rules:—

Rule 3. Delete the present wording and substitute: "the headquarters of the association should be situated in the residential area of the secretary".

Rule 16. At an annual or special general meeting, the president should be offered the courtesy of the chair. Should the president decline, or in his absence, the chairman should then proceed to take the meeting, unless he wished to extend a further invitation.

Status of Sections (B). After the wording "the committee shall meet

[Continued on facing page]

[Annual meeting/continued]

twice a year”, add: “that a further meeting could be called by the chairman for any urgent matter”.

The amendments to the above rules were discussed and after some discussion, it was proposed by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Walsh that they should be unanimously adopted.

Any Other Business. Mr. A. Robertshaw said that he would be attending a meeting later this year on behalf of the

association of the Turfgrass Advisory Committee, and he would welcome any information from members concerning the priority of matters which required early consideration.

Mr. Sales, secretary of the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club, expressed a sincere welcome to members and presented the hon. treasurer with a cheque for £20 for the association.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. Plain.

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended April 30, 1974

	Head Office £	Sections £	1974 total £	1973 total £
INCOME				
Entrance fees	—	146.24	146.24	143
Special donations and grants	—	45.50	45.50	14
Members' subscriptions	1,462.90	1,044.35	2,507.25	1,513
Honorary members' contributions	—	15.00	15.00	43
Special donations for prizes	2.10	623.65	625.75	444
Sweepstakes and raffles, less expenses	226.97	104.28	331.25	248
Badges and ties	3.00	—	3.00	11
Advertising revenue from magazine	144.77	—	144.77	106
Interest on investments (gross)	108.57	15.76	124.33	46
Surplus on tournament expenses	—	16.35	16.35	51
	<u>£1,948.31</u>	<u>£2,011.13</u>	<u>£3,959.44</u>	<u>£2,618</u>
	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE				
Postage and telephone	110.57	556.12	666.69	566
Printing and stationery	115.24	93.69	208.93	141
Magazine production costs	(41.21)	—	(41.21)	78
General expenses and wages	356.28	213.21	569.49	259
Travelling	85.55	95.34	180.89	166
Artisan golfers' fees	—	1.05	1.05	1
Management	178.10	214.15	392.25	410
Symposium	350.00	—	350.00	—
Board of Greenkeeping Research Journal	—	189.40	189.40	227
Prizes	—	444.17	444.17	441
Tournament expenses	109.59	—	109.59	46
Net cost of entertaining	—	6.23	6.23	136
Cost of badges and ties after stock adjustment	—	25.34	25.34	6
Taxation	73.70	—	73.70	27
	<u>£1,337.82</u>	<u>£1,838.70</u>	<u>£3,176.52</u>	<u>£2,504</u>
Surplus for year carried to balance sheet	<u>£610.49</u>	<u>£172.43</u>	<u>£782.92</u>	<u>£114</u>

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Diary Dates

1975

- Jan. 7 Midland Section—Panel/G'keeper/Trade Rep. "Question Time". Edgbaston G.C. Time 2 p.m.
8 Southern Section Lecture — Whitbreads Social Club.
- Feb. 4 Midlands Section Lecture — Mommersteeg Int. Kings Norton. Time 2 p.m.
8 Southern Section Lecture — Whitbreads Social Club, 6.30 p.m.
- Mar. 4 South Coast Section Lecture — Huxleys, New Alresford, 7 p.m.
5 Southern Section—Whitbreads, 6.30 p.m.
21 Southern Section annual dinner, Walton Heath.
- May 14 Spring Tournament, Southern Section — South Herts.

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Sand letter

[From Page 11]

example, in the construction industry or for water filtration purposes, are available in the United Kingdom at reasonable prices. Furthermore, the technical specifications for these sands to which suppliers habitually work often permit a wide range of particle size, so that insistence on close limits may cause difficulties.

Thus a lowering of standards from the ideal becomes inevitable to cost-conscious golf club committees who may be ill-equipped technically to distinguish good sand from bad.

In the experience of two years ago, it was found that the cheapest sands were contaminated with silt, clay and organic matter. Better sands, at up to twice the price, tended to be too coarse, with too great a proportion over 0.60mm. in size or too fine with too great a proportion less than 0.30mm.

The best sand, which may have approximated to the American specification, was available only from a distant source and was priced at about three times the sand actually purchased, and about six times the cost of the cheapest local product.

It is not suggested that bunker sand should necessarily be standardised throughout the country. To go so far might detract from the individual characteristics of courses in widely differing environments. Nevertheless, guidance from some recognised authority would be welcomed and would help to improve golf course standards.

Who in this country will confirm the American recommendations and express a view on the tolerance that may be permitted in the interests of cost without impairing the playing qualities of the sand?

Your action in reprinting the American article is to be applauded and may stimulate further comment from the experience of others and from sand suppliers, followed by the authoritative guidance suggested.

NEWS

WELCOME to our new chairman, Mr. E. R. James, head greenkeeper at Parkstone Golf Club, where he has been for the past eight years. Mr. James was previously at West Essex Golf Club for nine years, and before that at Kingsthorpe Golf Club, Northants, his home town, where he started his career.

A golfer, Mr. James plays off a handicap of 14. He welcomes hearing from members at his home address, 49 Chatsworth Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Telephone: Parkstone 745059.

WE ARE sorry to report the death on November 10, 1974, of Mr. Sam T. Elliot, superintendent of the Royal Montreal Golf Club since 1960.

Before taking up this post he was at Ranfurly Castle. Members of the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association will remember him particularly as their general secretary from 1957 to 1960.

LITTER LIFT Ltd. of Scethrog, Brecon, announce further sales of the 16 h.p. Model 1595 litter collector to two large golf courses where they are proving highly satisfactory for leaf collection.

THE Sports Ground Irrigation Co. of St. Mary's Road, Market Harborough, have announced their appointment as official installation contractors for Buckner pop-up sprinklers for the West Country, the Midlands and Cheshire.

CRITCHLEY BROS. LTD., manufacturers of Lamflex and PVC Pipeway plastics land drainage pipes, announce that these products are now approved to British Standard BS 4962 (1973), and have been issued with kitemark approval, licence No. 5838.

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SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

Golf Club), Mr. M. Wheeler-Osman (Stoneham Golf Club), Mr. E. Sales, Mr. G. Cockwell and Mr. P. Norman (Isle of Purbeck Golf Club), Mr. C. Robinson (vice-president), and Mr. E. Fox (honorary member).

Southern Section

Chairman:
F. W. FORD
(South Herts.)

Hon. Secretary:
F. W. FORD
68 Salcombe Gardens,
Mill Hill, London, NW7
Tel: 959 2847

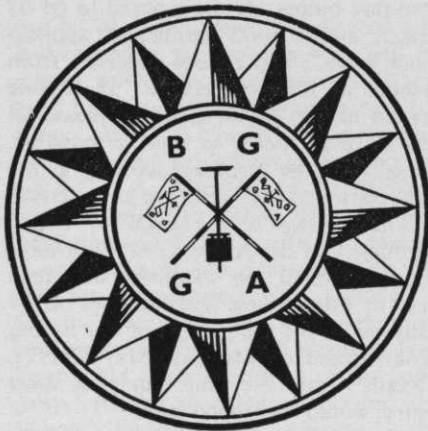
ON NOVEMBER 7 we had a very well-attended meeting, when Mr. Franks of Twyfords Seeds Ltd., Banbury, gave a talk on Grass Breeding. The talk was illustrated with a film by Barenbrug of Holland, showing how the Dutch variety of Baron Smooth-Stalked Meadow Grass was raised. It was interesting to see what a tremendous amount of work by the plant breeder goes into raising a new variety.

Mr. Franks went on to talk about the different characteristics of the Barenbrug varieties, and members showed a particular interest in the new American creeping bent grass called Penncross, which some had already tried with good results.

In thanking the speaker for a very good lecture, the chairman made reference to Mr. Franks' obvious interest in greenkeeping, shown by his recent article in Golf Illustrated about a training scheme for golf greenkeepers.

Our thanks to Bonzo Ryan for organising the raffle, proceeds of which were £9.60.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: A. G. McNally
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South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
N. M. STIMSON
North Wilts. G.C.
Devizes.

A HAPPY New Year to one and all.

Our first winter lecture was held on Tuesday, November 5, and we wish to thank Mr. A. D. Smith of Parkers and Sisis for his talk on Golf Course Aereation and Maintenance, which was illustrated by slides of some of the latest Sisis equipment.

During question time members were vastly amused when Mr. John Payne of Lee-on-Solent G.C. produced a sample of turf and asked for a quick remedy to his thatching problem. It was felt that Mr. Payne had an 18-year replacement programme ahead of him, but nevertheless Mr. Smith pluckily agreed to hold a demonstration of the Sisis Autocrat at Lee-on-Solent the following week. We are sure it proved to be an interesting experiment.

Members are reminded that the next winter lecture will be held at Alresford Golf Club on Tuesday, February 4, 1975, at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Head of Chipman Limited and his topic will be Turf Management.

We are pleased to welcome seven new members and we hope their association with us will be a long and happy one. They are Mr. T. Pipe (Bramshott Hill

Southern Section

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and D. V. Slaney (Sunbridge Park); P. Perkin and E. R. Green (Woodcote Park); C. Smith and G. Morgan (Langley Park); and W. Lowe (Seaford Head).

A series of two lectures by Mr. Colin Head, technical manager of Chipman Ltd., has been arranged for Wednesday January 8, and Wednesday March 5. The first will be entitled New Techniques in Turf Drainage, and the second Soil Analysis and Fertiliser Recommendations—New Approach.

Wednesday February 5 will be a forum to discuss section matters, and all members are invited to attend. Also on this occasion Mr. Bert Jennings of Flymo is to show a film he brought back from the United States.

Subscriptions are long overdue from some people. Will these members kindly consult their chequebooks and make life easier for the secretary and treasurer!

North-West Section

Chairman:

E. WALSH, ESQ.

Hon. Secretary:

H. M. WALSH, ESQ.,

Tel: 40050

OUR THANKS to Mr. D. Legg of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies for the very interesting talk and films shown on new machinery, and the changing landscape of the industrial areas, brought about by the use of modern methods of reclamation of derelict sites. Thanks, also, for the refreshments provided, solid and liquid.

The January talk will be given by K. Vertigan of Sisis Ltd., on January 20, at 7.30 p.m. The venue is as before, Swinton Park Golf Club, East Lancs. Road, Manchester. Please let us have as good an attendance as before, when 26 members made the trip.

It has been proposed that the section make a trip to Ransomes, at Ipswich, on a date in January. Owing to the distance involved this will entail an overnight stop in Ipswich, making it a

two-day outing. It is proposed to go by coach, and a good number of applications have already been received from people at the last lecture. If anyone would like to go on this trip, please let the secretary know as soon as possible. Details will be furnished as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed.

The captain and council of Royal Lytham and St. Annes Golf Club have kindly granted our members the courtesy of their course and facilities of the club house for the playing of our Spring Tournament on Monday, May 5, 1975. Details nearer the time, but your early entry would be appreciated.

We welcome the following new members and hope their association with us will be a happy one: G. Worden (Barrow Golf Club), Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria; A. J. Platt (Barrow Golf Club), Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria; R. Fennah (Grange Park Golf Club), St. Helens, Lancs.; S. V. Bridge (Bury Golf Club), Bury, Lancs.

We also welcome Mr. Hudson, head greenkeeper at Grange Park G.C., to our section from the Midland Section.

Midlands Section

Chairman:

G. HART

Hon. Secretary:

R. GOODWIN

2 Greenkeepers' Cottage,
Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts.

A WINTER Tournament will be held at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on February 26 1975, at 10.30 a.m. The tournament will be played over 18 holes Stapleford, with the new Parker and Ballinger Salver being competed for. The closing date is February 1, 1975.

Owing to the fact that golf clubs are now expecting to know the exact numbers of members playing in our tournaments for catering and other purposes, members should put their applications in to the secretary before the closing dates. Failure to do so will result in their being unable to participate.

Members of all sections will be saddened to hear of the death of Frank Cashmore on November 4, 1974, at the