

Sisis introduce the Powagang

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited, have introduced their POWA-GANG, pto-driven, five-unit gang mower for general sale.

After declaring their intentions to enter the grass cutting machinery market last autumn, the company have considerably developed the first model. A number of machines have been working in several parts of the Midlands, North West England, and Wales for some time.

Advantages claimed for the SISIS Powagang are:—

All cylinders are driven from tractor p.t.o., providing more than adequate power for the work in hand.

Elimination of ground wheels considerably improves efficiency when cutting uneven surfaces or in difficult, wet conditions. Ridge and furrow ground, can be cut far more satisfactorily than with wheel driven cylinders. Elimination of wheel slip, under adverse conditions enables cutting to continue in most instances.

On golf courses, by selection of tractor speeds and height of cut, it is possible

to cut fairways, semi-rough and rough to the desired standard.

Transport between sites is simple indeed. The main chassis wheels are of such diameter that when the units are lifted into transport it is possible to take the complete outfit on to public roads without the requirement of a special gang carrying frame or trailer.

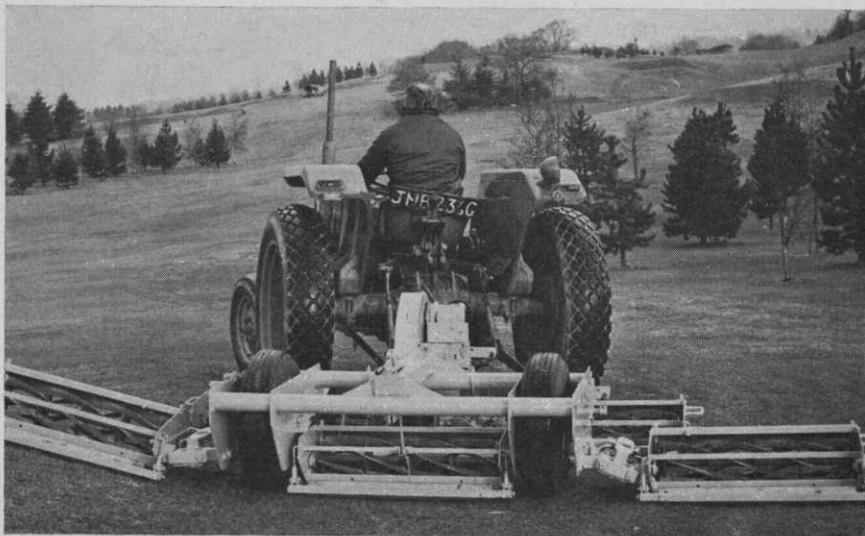
The absence of wheels on the cutting units permits the overlap of verges along footpaths and roadways, to cut up to or over the edge and reduce the need for coverage of narrow strips with additional machinery.

The units stay in line when reversed, quite an advantage for negotiating difficult situations and for storage.

The Powagang is simply and quickly detached from the tractor releasing this for other duties when required.

The rear wing units can be folded up and put out of gear quickly to allow cutting at a reduced width.

The Powagang will be in full production ready for the first cut of 1976.



The Sisis Powa-Gang five-unit mower, now on general sale

The Greenkeepers

DOUGLAS PATE, better known to all his friends as 'Doggie' and member of the committee of the North West Section for about 13 years, is Head Greenkeeper of Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport, where he has been since 1952.

After serving his time at Bishopbriggs Golf Club in Scotland, war service interrupted his career which continued after the war at Fairhaven Golf Club until joining his present club.

Royal Birkdale is an 18 hole seaside links with 700 playing members. Fairways run between sandhills and sea buckthorn and white poplar are the only surviving trees. To help him Doggie has a staff of seven and equipment including 3 Tractors—1 Trencher—1 Land Rover—Shredder—3 20" Atco Specials—2 24" and 1 30" Atco Heavy Duty Quintuple, Atco Gang Mowers—Flymos—Hayters—Sisis Autocraft.

No. 8 Douglas Pate

His choice of seed is Mommersteeg, fertilizers from Rigby Taylor and each year a different fungicide—Verdosand, Maysan, Mersil, Mildothane.

Being a seaside links presents special problems, one of them drought conditions. These have been overcome by installing a very successful watering system namely 'pop ups' on greens and fairways and tees. The system was installed by Cameron Irrigation, has proved excellent and has produced no maintenance problems.

Another disadvantage of being a seaside links is the lack of soil—every year at least 500 tons has to be purchased for maintenance work etc.

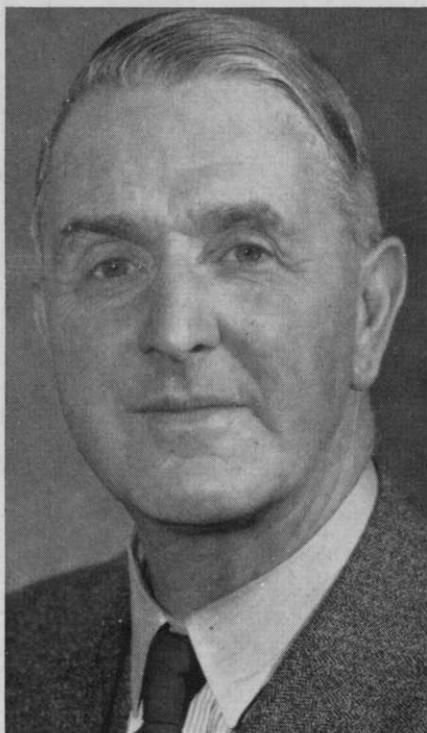
Amongst all connected with golf, the name Royal Birkdale is synonymous with championships. Since 1952, 7 amateur championships and 13 professional tournaments have been held there.



Doggie Pate at work on the Royal Birkdale course

OBITUARY

Phil Hazell



PHIL HAZELL, a vice-president of the B.G.G.A., died recently at the age of 84. A native of Ipswich, he worked for Ransomes for all his working life—reaching 51 years' service with the company.

For most of his working life he was a travelling representative for the company's grass machinery division and he was a well-known personality to greenkeepers in many parts of the country. At the time of his retirement, Phil Hazell was Ransomes area manager for the London area, and before that he was representative in the North Midlands.

He worked very hard on behalf of the B.G.G.A. and was seen at all the major golf functions, helping with the organisation. In his retirement he played golf at Purdis Heath, until poor health forced him to give up. The B.G.G.A. sends every sympathy to his widow and daughter.

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For many years this space has been reserved for an advertisement by R. C. CRAIG, & CO. LTD.

PATISSONS are proud to announce that David Craig has agreed to join their marketing enterprise, from January in the new year, David will be one of a team of specialists covering the whole of England, Scotland and Wales.

David Craig, who is a Vice President of the British Golf Green Keepers Association has for many years been well known to Green Keepers and Club secretaries in the South, is a valuable asset to Patissons, he will be able to offer that little extra "Ground" knowledge when promoting our wide range of equipment.

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PHILIP MARSHALL received a presentation cheque from Ransomes when he retired recently after 44 years in the horticultural trade, 21 with Ransomes.

Philip recalled his years as an area manager with Ransomes as very happy ones, with good friends and colleagues. "Naturally, I am going with a touch of sadness," he said, but added that he was lucky in being happily married and enjoying his life at home. His wife would be pleased not to see him packing up to leave every Monday morning.

Making the presentation on behalf of all his colleagues, Guy Catchpole, general marketing manager, grass machinery division, described Philip as a very kind and generous man who was always ready to help others.

The picture shows Phil Johnson, director, Ransomes grass machinery division (left) and John Wilson, sales manager (right) watching Guy Catchpole (second right) making the presentation to Philip Marshall.

Play on, young man!

By Matt Blaydon of the Midlands Section

TOMORROW'S Greenkeepers are wanted today and it's up to the older hands to offer them every encouragement. If the new lads also play golf this should count as an added keenness to their employment. Not all Head Greenkeepers play golf I know, but whether they do or don't, the new lads should be given the incentive, by the Club, to take paid time off to play in B.G.G.A. matches. Head Greenkeepers who play could offer lifts to the matches to the new lads. The

most promising newcomers to Greenkeeping have been attracted to the work because they enjoyed playing golf. They should be encouraged to join the B.G.G.A. by their employers and encouraged to play in B.G.G.A. matches. I have known of a promising newcomer to Greenkeeping who was sacked by his club because he took unpaid time off to play in a B.G.G.A. Section match. Tomorrow's Greenkeepers are wanted today and if they also enjoy playing golf they should be encouraged in both directions. Let their pride be justified.

SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches



Northern Section

Chairman:

J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

W. HEELES

7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.

Tel: K'boro 3851

"IF the grass grows in Janiveer
It grows the worse for't all the year."

Does the word "metric" mean anything to you? In next to no time Systems Internationale will be all the rage. All turfmen, particularly head greenkeepers, should seek to acquaint themselves and their staff with a knowledge of metrication.

Perhaps the best way to start is to measure work being carried out and actually think in metric terms. Another useful beginning is to write for the Metrication Board's booklet "Farming and Horticulture". Free on request this publication gives information which the greenkeeper would find helpful. The address to write to:

The Metrication Board,
22 Kingsway,
London WC2B 6LE.

Glen Hardcastle, formerly of Sandmoor Golf Club, is now back in Yorkshire after spending nine months at the Capilano Golf and Country Club, West Vancouver, Canada.

From working in a summer season crew of seventeen men, with maximised automation, and a fabulous course

budget, Glen now works the turf in the good old way at Moor Allerton Golf Club, Leeds.

Speaking of Moor Allerton Golf Club, it really is a course and a half! Like most head greenkeepers Colin Geddes has his headaches, not one of the least being the installation of an extensive £10,000 tile-drain network on fairways 16, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27. Besides this, excavators have gouged out a track whilst repairing a length of natural gas pipe. Gone are the good looks and a batch of well-established trees and gorse; back to square one, Colin!

Sources of information reveal that the price of fertiliser is likely to rise by spring. The chief reason for this, it is forecast, is that old bogey inflation, coupled with higher processing costs.

Because of the lengthy travelling involved to and from our functions John Fairhurst of Lincoln has requested a transfer to the East Midlands Section. John tells us that it would enable him to join the Leicester area meetings in about one hour.

Mr. William Bartle, a Northern Section Life Member, recently became a sexagenarian. Seldom seen at section functions nowadays, Willy still continues to offer solid, sensible advice to sports centres in South Wales and the North East, under the direction of S.T.R.I. Sincere good wishes and sound health for the future, Willy.

Thomas Green and Son Ltd., North Street, Leeds have stopped production of their famous range of mowing equipment. The firm, established in Leeds 120 years ago, also manufactured road rollers. All is not lost though because

their grass machine business has been sold to Reekie Engineering, Lochland Works, Arbroath, and the roller interest is now owned by a Clitheroe firm.

Things are on the up at Wetherby Golf Club. John Scott—No. 7—has been favoured by Leeds Divisional Plans Sub-Committee who have granted permission to knock down the existing equipment shed and erect a new building.

Peter Baume of Elland has left Horsforth Golf Club and is now a groundsman at Bradford University. Peter, Northern Section Committee man, is also treasurer of the thriving Halifax branch of the I.O.G.

It is with regret that we receive the information of the death of Mr. Laurie Sharp. At 76, Mr. Sharp will be remembered by all who knew him as a steady golfer and one who contributed over 50 years' service to greenkeeping.

Latterly of West Bowling and Woodhall Hills Golf Clubs, Mr. Sharp was a regular attender at section gatherings, and put in 25 years' duty on the committee between 1931 and 1956.

With sadness we report that another of our members, Mr. William T. Hannam, died in hospital on November 29 after sustaining a heart attack.

Bill, at the age of 71, was a true man of the land and gave over 35 faithful years to greenkeeping both at Garforth and Bradford Golf Clubs. Only two days previously Bill had been enjoying the good company and lecture at Moor Allerton G.C.

With the passing of these two great men, the loss of experience and colour to our trade is irreplaceable. It is left to those remaining to strive to maintain the same degree of dignity and respect.

On a lighter note, an allusion was recently made to the Scots coming over Hadrian's Wall and making an assault on us English chaps.

Mr. A. Robertshaw, when asked why he allowed this to occur, announced that he could manage people climbing on his wall but he didn't care too greatly

to being assaulted!

Five new members this month: Michael Bottomley, Clitheroe G.C., Class C; Nicholas Redman, Baildon G.C., Class C; Anthony Cuss, Garforth G.C., Class C; Stephen Young, Moor Allerton G.C., Class C; Ian Tomlinson, Scarcroft G.C., Apprentice Class C.

A piece of really hot news concerns Peter Marshall erstwhile of Moor Allerton G.C. Peter has been appointed by the well-known firm of Patissons, Stanmore Ltd., as representative for an area north of the Humber, to the Scottish border.

Apparently this is a new departure in selling technique for Patissons because it is planned that Peter will drive round with a vehicle actually containing all but the firm's largest products, which in turn will be available as a direct sell. Good luck, Pete, on your journey from January 1st, and turfmen look out for Peter down your way!

Whether after a rough day's golf or a hard day's work, 36 keen members settled in at Moor Allerton to listen to Mr. Lees of Scottish Agricultural Industries speak on turf nutrition, on November 27th.

Mr. Lees briefly outlined the value and functions of the macro/micro elements, and calcium; he also expressed his personal beliefs in the value of top dressing. Question time brought up the subject of slow release fertilisers and provoked some comment.

North-West Section

Chairman and Hon. Secretary:

H. M. WALSH
34 Kingsfold Close,
Brightmet,
Bolton, Lancs.

OUR sincere thanks to Jim Bradbury of Mommersteegs Seeds for the very interesting talk and slides shown and the interesting information re the new seed regulations as to species, purity, germination, etc. The next talk will be on January 12th and given by Mr. L. Hewitt of Atcos Longton Branch. The February meeting will be an open

debate between members, on the 9th.

An important date for members' diaries is January 19th when Mr. G. R. Richards, Training Co-ordinator, The Standing Conference for Greenkeeping will be addressing all greenkeepers in the North West at Swinton Park Golf Club, time 7.30 p.m. This meeting is of great importance to greenkeepers and I would urge all members to attend if possible.

We welcome to the section the following new members and hope their association with us will be a happy one: H. McPhail Muir, Runcorn G.C., Cheshire; P. L. Taggart, Bolton G.C., Bolton, Lancs.; D. Daley, Reddish Vale G.C., Cheshire.

On behalf of all the members of the North West Section and myself, I would wish the compliments of the season to our President, Mr. C. Bretherton, The Editor, Mr. D. R. B. Hopkins, our Secretary, W. Heeles and to greenkeepers and their families wherever they may be, the best of good fortune for the future.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. J. STIMSON
North Wilts, G.C.
Devizes.

ON November 4th, 1975, Mr. John Field, the Technical Sales Manager of Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd., gave us a very interesting talk on metrication which is to be introduced this year. Mr. Field handed out a leaflet which set out the fractions, etc. which should simplify conversion and members should find it a very useful guide. Mr. Field caused some consternation among his audience when he introduced another topic for discussion, viz. deterioration of greens with the advent of triple ride-on mowers and full irrigation systems.

Mr. Colin Head of Chipman Ltd. will be making a welcome return as our guest speaker on Tuesday, February 3rd, 1975.

We welcome to the Section the fol-

lowing members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one: Ivan Brown, at present in the British Virgin Islands (Hon. Member); M. E. Salter, of Corhampton G.C.

Southern Section

Chairman:
D. S. GOULD
Langley Park G.C.
Beckenham, Kent.

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. D. MAJOR
36 Tynedale Road,
Strood Green,
Betchworth, Surrey.

UNFORTUNATELY our planned November lecture to be given by Mr. Payne could not take place due to unforeseen circumstances.

Nevertheless, Mr. John Campbell from Foxhills Golf Club stepped into the breach at the last "mow"! His lecture for the evening was "Sand Bunkers". How, you may ask, can anyone keep the attention of 30 greenkeepers for 45 minutes on the subject of sand bunkers. John managed this feat admirably with a collection of slides showing the methods of reconstruction of bunkers at St. Andrews, backed up by a most interesting and humorous commentary.

He began by explaining the definition of a sand bunker, which turned out to be a piece of bare ground scolloped out and filled with sand, and went on to say that the original bunkers were probably started by rabbits scraping on fairways on the links courses. I'd hate to meet one of the St. Andrews rabbits in the dark, John!

The cost of filling and maintenance of bunkers when it was discussed and calculated was quite surprising. It was £40-£50 per year per bunker on average which was broken down to 15p a shot. The popular depth of sand seems to be around four to six inches, which is about 13 cubic yards for every hundred square yards of bunkers. In the U.K. we don't seem to have an approved grade of sand, whereas the U.S.G.A. think in terms of sands with a particle size of .25mm. to .5mm.

The importance of treading sand down prior to opening the bunker for

play was stressed to avoid golf balls being plugged in the sand.

The coming February lecture should be of interest to anyone contemplating any drainage schemes on fine or out-field turf. Our guest for that evening will be Mr. F. W. H. Pyne, F.L.S., M.I., Agr.E., M.S.E., F.R.H.S. The date of this lecture, for the benefit of the uninitiated, is the first Wednesday in February, and will be held at the Whitbread Sports and Social Club, Whitbreads Brewery, Moorgate. Everybody will be welcomed as we usually have about fifty spare seats.

If any members of the trade have a show or an interesting demo' planned in the near future and they would like it mentioned in this column, would they give me a ring on 01-524 1691.

East Midland Section

President:

R. BAILEY
147 Mere Road,
Wigston Magna,
Leics.

Hon. Secretary:

S. FRETTER
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leics.

A LECTURE on fertilisers by Cannon Ltd. will be held on February 3rd at Charnwood Golf Club, Woodhouse Eaves, at 7.30 p.m.

Our Annual Dinner/Dance was held at the Shakespeare Inn, Leicester, on November 15th, 1975. There was a very good attendance, we were very pleased that the Chairman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. V. Smith, were able to attend this function.

The lecture by Chipman Ltd. at Longcliffe Golf Club was very well attended. Thanks to all at Longcliffe Golf Club and Chipman Ltd. We wish all sections and our own members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Midlands Section

Vice Chairman:

V. W. SMITH

Hon. Secretary:

A. KITE
5 Lullington Close,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

I would like to wish members a happy and prosperous New Year.

There are two lectures for members

of Midland Section to attend during winter months. The first one, which will be given by Graham Dale of Ransomes, is to be held at The Edgbaston Golf Club (Edgbaston Park, Birmingham) on Wednesday, February 11th, 1976. There is also a film to accompany this lecture. The second lecture will be given by Mr. D. Brown from the Amenities and Recreation Dept. of the Birmingham City Council on the subject of "Trees on Golf Courses". This lecture is to be held on Tuesday, March 9th, 1976, at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club (Thornhill Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield).

Both lectures will start at 2.30 p.m. and members are asked to assemble in good time. Please write or telephone me in advance and let me know if you intend to come to these lectures as the clubs who allow our section the use of their club-houses like to know the numbers.

Diary dates

- Jan. 12 N.W. Section. Lecture by Mr. T. L. Hewett, Atco Ltd.
- Jan. 19 N.W. Section. Talk by Mr. G. R. Richards, Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
- Jan. 29 Northern Section. Lecture by Mr. Tyldesley, a Meteorological Officer, Moor Allerton G.C.
- Feb. 3 East Midland Section. Lecture on Fertilisers by Cannon Ltd., Charnwood G.C., 7.30 p.m.
- Feb. 3 South Coast Section. Talk by Colin Head, Chipman Ltd.
- Feb. 11 Midlands Section. Lecture by Graham Dale of Ransomes, Edgbaston G.C.
- Mar. 9 Midlands Section. Lecture by D. Brown on "Trees on Golf Courses", Sutton Coldfield G.C.
- Mar. 26 Southern Section. Annual Dinner, Walton Heath G.C.