

desired, where as scarification is more beneficial in reducing thatch. The lecture continued with Mr. Palin explaining what soil is derived from and explaining the differences between what is termed top soil and sub soil.

Our thanks for most enjoyable evening.

## Sheffield Section

*President:*  
S. K. ARNOLD

*Hon. Secretary:*  
B. V. LAX  
153 Kilton Road,  
Worksop, Notts.

ON the 4th March, Mr. D.G. Gooding, the Technical Director of Syn Chemicals Ltd., came to Abbeydale and talked about the use of chemicals in turf culture. Mr. Gooding, sporting a really fine sun tan as he had just been on holiday abroad, brought along some slides to illustrate his talk. In these days of ever increasing use of chemicals in our work, Mr. Gooding gave us some very useful information about the various chemicals and the use to which they can be put. Mr. Gooding stressed that all precautions regarding their use should be strictly adhered to, although I am sure most Golf Clubs are not up to scratch as far as this is concerned.

I have now fixed up our summer golf matches which are as follows:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| May 25th   | Presidents Prize Day at Worksop G.C. Tee off 1.30 p.m.                              |
| July 20th  | Annual Tournament (section) at Sickleholme G.C. Tee off 9.30 a.m.                   |
| Aug. 23rd  | Autumn Tournament (Machin & Hartwell Trophy) Notts G.C., Hollinwell. Tee off 1 p.m. |
| Sept. 29th | Match against Northern Section, Hillsborough G.C. Tee off 9.15 a.m.                 |

I would like to thank the committees of the above clubs for their kindness in allowing us the use of their courses for our various competitions.

I would like to point out that following the President's Prize match we will be holding our A.G.M. in the evening at Worksop Golf Club, and I hope we shall have a good turn out at this. People who do not play in the golf match will be very welcome at the meeting afterwards (about 7.30 p.m.) so please come along.

Section members would like to offer their condolences to committee member, Mr. Brian Lunn. whose wife passed away in February.

## Northern Section

*Chairman:*  
COLIN CEDDES  
Moor Allerton  
Golf Club

*Hon. Secretary:*  
W. HEELES  
7 Tentergate Close,  
Knaresborough, Yorks.  
Tel: K'boro 3851

'YES, I will spend the livelong day  
With Nature in this month of May;  
And sit beneath the trees, and share  
My bread with birds whose homes are  
there;'

extract from: In May,  
W.H. Davies.

## New month, new members

A warm welcome from the section to two new members, Martin and David Shaw, both of 30, Virginia Road, Marsh, Huddersfield. The brothers are employed at Woodsome Hall Golf Club, Huddersfield and share the distinction of working under their father, Mr. Harold Shaw — see April Journal.

## When and where

Our summer season of events offers the usual endless variety and scope for you golfers.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| May 26th  | Spring Tournament<br>— Keighley Golf Club           |
| June 24th | President's Day<br>— Cleveland Golf Club,<br>Redcar |
| Aug. 5th  | Invitation Day<br>— Ilkley Golf Club                |
| Oct. 14th | Autumn Tournament<br>— Bedale Golf Club             |

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May the one with the highest handicap win – he usually does do!

Once again the B.G.G.A. is staging a one-day Turf Symposium. This will be held on October 5th at the Burford Bridge Hotel, Tadworth, Surrey. Interested parties should contact the secretary for further details: S.A.E's please.

### The Economy

One small but sensitively key point which must be publicised is that all subscriptions are now due for renewal. Our members' record for overdue payment is remarkably minimal. Please be kind enough to maintain this standard. Your Secretary would appreciate prompt attention.

### Block release

Several of our members have lately attended the one-week courses arranged by S.T.R.I. at Bingley, between March 22nd and April 9th.

They are:

Mar. 22nd – 26th R. Johnson, Ganton G.C.  
P.W. Lehmann, Otley G.C.  
M. Wilcock, Bradford G.C.

Although very intensive, these courses of instruction have a lot to offer turfmen in the way of supplementary knowledge. Lecture material is constantly being brought into line with advancing technology, and concurrently, every effort is made to ensure that practical demonstrations relate to and amplify the classroom theory.

### We think you are great too!

As regards Ray Tempest being a treasure to the Southern Section of whatever the B.G.G.G.A. is, how can this be refuted?

See March Journal, P.5.

### Immigrant

Mr. Gordon Bennison is now back in the nucleus after a period spent in the remote regions of South Humberside. Erstwhile Head Greenkeeper of Scun-

thorpe Golf Club, Gordon has returned to fulfil the role of Head Greenkeeper at the picturesque Pannal Golf Club. Mr. Bennison took up his new position on March 29th and plans to settle in Otley.

### Emigrant

Mr. Arthur Tucker, former Head Greenkeeper at Headingley Golf Club, has relinquished this position and has moved back over the border to his native Wales. Mr. Tucker has been at Headingley since the mid 1950's.

### March meeting

Our thanks to Mr. Jonathan Mann of Chipman Ltd., for his interesting dissertation on soil and slit drainage, on March 25th, at Moor Allerton. Over ninety per cent of the 'on site' slides shown were of football fields. This created a not unacceptable divergence from the green.

One personality present on this date, keeping the question-time up to scratch was Mr. Jeffrey Mawson. As mentioned in the March Journal, Mr. Mawson has been on the sick list, but is now recovered. Good to hear you back the other night, Jeff!

As this was most probably the last instructional meeting of the winter season, the committee and members of the Northern Section would like to thank most sincerely the committee of Moor Allerton Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the club facilities for our gatherings.

### Obituary

With sadness we record the death of Mr. John Downs, a former head greenkeeper to Moortown Golf Club.

At the age of sixty-six, Mr. Downs a Life Member was part of the Section for many years and will be remembered by all who knew him as a quiet, tolerant, hard working gentleman.

A tribute of flowers was sent from the Section and the funeral was attended by Mr. C. Geddes and Mr. B. Barnes, on behalf of the B.G.G.A. Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Downs on her sad loss.

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# LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I would like to refer to the article regarding the first of the Winter Lectures, published in December's Greenkeeper.

I have not heard such a load of cobblers from experts for a long time.

The fibre problem was with us ages before Triplex mowing was as fashionable as it is today and in any case takes years to build up to the proportions whereby it causes the problems we talk of today.

Triplex mowing, as it is called today, was called multi-mowing yesterday and was personified by the old Overgreen which machines St. Andrews have only recently discarded in favour of Triplex and we don't hear St. Andrews having a big fibre problem.

The p.s.i. of an Auto-Certes with a man walking behind is considerably greater than the p.s.i. of a Triplex so the compaction syndrome is less with Triplex.

The present excessive growth of fibre is caused by fertilization. Modern chemical fertilizers are especially designed to encourage root growth so that a sports turf surface is provided, where possible, all the year round. To do this we stimulate root growth above the rate

that nature intended. What we don't do, though, is encourage old root decay at the same rate. Consequently, like the Country, our "balance of payments" causes inflated fibre growth.

To combat this, constant aeration of the soil, together with regular root pruning, is essential and Triplex mowing secures us much more time to do this than was possible in the past.

Next thing we will hear is someone saying that multi, or gang, mowing on the fairways will cause fibre.

Come on, young Jock Glass, tell us why Triplex mowing causes fibre.

Yours faithfully,

S.G. LEDGER,  
Head Greenkeeper  
East Berks Golf Club.



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