

AROUND THE GREEN



BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

South Wales Section

Mike Wilson, Head Greenkeeper at Ashburnham Golf Club won the West of Wales Alliance on his home course with a one over par score of 73 to win the title by two strokes. Mike got to the turn in 35 but for a disappointing finish would have captured the crown by a much bigger margin. If anybody needs any item of uniform, please can they let me know so that I can order it. Also, if there is anything to be put in the Journal, please can you forward it to me. Golf dates to be noted are as follows:
14th June Southerndown - Secretaries v Greenkeepers 1.00 pm start
15th June Long Ashton - Regional Iseki Tournament. Qualifiers will have qualified at Rolls of Monmouth on 13th April and will be notified of arrangements at a date nearer the Tournament.
7th July Royal Porthcawl 18 holes, 1.00 start
15th September Fairwood Park 27 holes, 10.00 start
October 5th St. Pierre South Wales v South West, 12.30 pm.

Devon and Cornwall Section

The Section's last meeting was held at Yelverton Golf Club on 1st March. We arrived to be met with a thin covering of snow on the heathland of Dartmoor and a keen North-Westerly wind. A few of our hardier members attempted to play golf after receiving assurances from Steve Redman, the Head Greenkeeper, that the snow would soon go. About twenty of our less hardy members, after warming up with gallons of coffee and well wrapped against the elements, walked around the course with Steve as our guide. En route we discussed a variety of topics ranging from problems specific to heathland through to observations and suggestions on how our playing members were trying to hit the ball in the strong wind. Back at the Clubhouse, the bar was opened and circulation duly restored. Cards for the

morning's golf were checked and results were as follows:

May & Baker Assistants Shield - 1st A. Woolnough (Teignmouth GC) 2nd J. Breyler (Churston GC) 3rd W. Potter (East Devon GC) Supaturf Cup - Head Greenkeepers and Trade Members 1st T. Pipe (Honiton GC) 2nd M. Pike (Elfordleigh GC) 3rd K. Stuart (Stanley AF West Ltd)
Fifty-two members sat down to a good meal. The afternoon talk was given, for the first time in our history, by a lady, Sue Goodfellow, on the Ecology of a Golf Course. Thank you Sue for an informative talk and discussion. Our thanks also go to Steve for the very good condition of the course and to the inside staff for looking after us.

B. J. Summers

Best wishes for the future go from our Section to Ken Luxton who has recently retired after being Head Greenkeeper of the prestigious East Devon Golf Club for the past eighteen years. Ken, a popular and active member of our Section from its foundation, began as a caddy at the East Devon Golf Club in 1938. He went on to join the RAF as a Flight Mechanic for the next seven and a half years, managing to put in over 2,000 flying hours. The Sunderland flying boats were Ken's main charges during his career. On leaving the Services he returned to Devon to work as a Groundsman and Gardener at the Bicton College for the following five years. His next move was to become Groundsman at the Exmouth Grammar School from where he left to start as Assistant Greenkeeper at East Devon Golf Club. After gaining valuable greenkeeping experience, Sidmouth Golf Club were to benefit from Ken's expertise for the next five years. However, Ken's heart was at Budleigh Salterton where he accepted the Head Greenkeeper's position on November 5th 1970 until his retirement in 1988. During his time at East Devon, Ken built or enlarged tees at every hole, adding a total of 3,000 square yards of new teeing area, certainly a bonus for the ever increasing traffic which all clubs are experiencing. He

also built new twelfth and sixteenth greens. As with all greenkeepers, Ken has had many amusing incidents over the years, two of which his staff mentioned to me.

I am sure most people will have heard of the seven bore, the tidal wave that enables people to surf many miles inland on the River Severn at certain times of the year. Well, Ken created his own when his water tank gave up after many years of service and 12,000 gallons surged down a right of way by the course before making a spectacular leap from the cliffs onto Budleigh beach many feet below!!! The second incident occurred when Ken, playing in a fourball, watched aghast as having all driven a young lad appeared from the gorse beside the fairway and proceeded to collect the balls, which were also the best drives of the round, only to disappear from whence he came. Ken, still a man of action, rapidly disappeared hot on the trail of the youngster only to re-emerge some minutes later hat askew, bleeding from gorse scratches to inform his startled and by now much amused partners that he came within arms length of grabbing 'the young gentleman' when he could follow no further through a small hole in the boundary fence!!! I am sure Ken won't mind me relating these incidents and concluding by reminding him not to forget us but to continue to join us at our meetings where he will be very welcome. Perhaps it might be a quirk of fate, but it leaves me to finish these Section notes on Ken's retirement by welcoming Ralph Moore, who is at the other end of his career, to our Section. Ralph, Jack Moore's son, is leaving Fulwell Golf Club to take up the Head Greenkeeper's position at Stover Golf Club where I am sure he will make his mark.

B. Pile

SOUTH EAST REGION

London Section

For various reasons there has not been an article for the London Section here lately, but I shall try to make it a regular feature in future.

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AROUND THE GREEN

We have been relying on the local newsletter to keep our members informed. It is most unfortunate that the first paragraph of the second letter did not read as well as it might have done and we will try to see that it does not happen again.

The Spring Meeting will have been played by now at Moor Park. This proved to be a most popular venue and thanks go to John Edwards and his staff, also the Club for their hospitality.

Next month, we have Summer Meeting at Bush Hill Park with a starting time of 4.00 pm.

This is on the 1st June. Also the Grand Summer Ball will be held at Aldenham Golf Club 7.00 pm start on 10th June. Please contact me now if you would like to go to either of these - there might be a vacancy.

I am now taking names for our Summer Meeting at Pinner Hill on 23rd August at 4.00pm.

The Summer League should be in progress now and I can take this opportunity to ask those playing to watch the 'play by dates' in order that the League runs smoothly. It would be unfair if Nick and Jes have to start chasing people as they have put in so much work already.

M. Peters

Kent Section

The Kent Section's Seminar on 23rd March was well attended and delegates were treated to a wide and varied coverage of topics related to greenkeeping. Thanks go to the speakers for their time and effort. It was nice to see so many Golf Clubs represented at the Seminar, not only from Kent but also several delegates travelled in from East Sussex. It was also good to see other officials apart from greenkeepers at the event, though those who attended as members of Greens Committees were hopefully not offended by Brian Pierson's remark that 'A camel is a horse designed by a Greens Committee'.

They seemed to take it in good part anyway!! Now that this appears in print, hopefully I will not get the blame of his business suddenly goes into decline!!

Thanks go to the Catering Staff for the

lovely dinner at West Malling and also for looking after us so well. Also thanks to the members of the Trade for their support at the event.

On 6th July at 3.00 pm there will be an informal afternoon's golf at Sene Valley. There will, however, be a slightly competitive edge to the proceedings as the winner and runner-up from this event qualify to play in the Jacobsen Tournament at Hunstanton on 11th October.

Dates for the diary:

29th June Wentworth Golf Club 18 holes, Iseki Regional Final.

6th July Sene Valley Golf Club 3.00 pm, Jacobsen Qualifier (2 to qualify)

14-17th July Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club British Open, raking bunkers

2nd August Hankley Common Golf Club 36 holes, Management Trophy (entries to Hankley Common please)

25-30 September Ayr, Scotland National Tournament and International Conference

11th October Hunstanton Golf Club 18 holes, Jacobsen Tournament

19th October Wilderness Golf Club 36 holes

10th Nov STRI Regional Seminar 9.00-4.00

13th December Christmas Turkey Trot and

AGM 11.00 am - 6.00 pm

Please book early with Secretary

P. Copsey

Surrey Section

Jim Russell has left Hankley Common Golf Club to take up the post of Course Manager at Lingfield Park Golf Club and, therefore, has given up the job of Secretary for the Section. He goes with our best wishes and thanks for all he has done for the Surrey Section. We also wish both him and Debbie, his fiancée, many happy years together as they are to be married next year.

Mr. D. Johnston has taken on the post of Secretary and we are sure he will fill the post admirably. Please give David your support by returning entry forms promptly to allow him to make the appropriate arrangements for forthcoming events.

Clothing - we apologise for the delay in clothing, but the Headquarters Office is

doing all it can to resolve the situation for outstanding items. If you have any queries, please contact J. Russell on (0342) 833099. Trip to Ransomes - There will be a trip to Ransomes this year and the date will be advised later.

Section Funds - We are purchasing a BIGGA flag which we can use at our functions throughout the year. We are also purchasing a word processor and printer for administration purposes, together with a projector and screen for use at winter lectures.

Seminar - because of other events that will be taking place throughout the year, we intend to hold our Seminar early next year so as not to clash with other organised events. At this moment in time, we are open to any suggestions as to possible speakers and venues, remembering that we want greenkeeper participation in our Seminar - all offers will be appreciated.

Saxons and Celts - This is an addition to the calendar and will take place on 25th July at the RAC Country Club. The Team Captains are S. McMillan and B. Turner.

I. McMillan

SCOTTISH REGION North Section

The Section outings for this year are :- 19th May Craigiehill, Perth and 15th September Strathpeffer. Entries on official forms only.

The Section, together with the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, are trying to fix up spraying courses around the North for our members. As everyone should know, new pesticide laws are coming into effect in January next year and everyone must have a certificate before they will be allowed to spray. These courses will be at Nairn, Tain and Fraserburgh and will be held in November/December. Members will receive more details later. For those in the south of the Section, courses are available at Elmwood College, Cupar - dates on request. Would members please note that a course on tractor mounted sprayers allows them to use a knapsack, but the opposite does not apply.

Play around with

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AROUND THE GREEN

Congratulations to two of our members, C. McDonald, First Assistant at Deeside Golf Club, who recently got married and to W. Forsyth, Duff House Royal, who has been invited by Russells on an all-expenses-paid week long trip to Minneapolis to see the Toro factory. Willie is one of two Scottish greenkeepers invited. He has dealt exclusively with Russells and Toro since they came on the market.
G. Moir

MIDLAND AND NORTH WALES REGION Berks, Bucks and Oxon Section.

This year we held our AGM at Goring and Streatley Golf Club where Steve Schmitz was elected as our Chairman.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman, Billy McMillan, for all his time and effort as Past Chairman. The Spring Meeting will be held at Beaconsfield Golf Club on Wednesday, 1st June. The cost will be £12 inclusive of morning coffee, lunch and an evening meal. Those who wish to play, please contact Bill Paterson, Beaconsfield Golf Club, Seer Green, Bucks.
D. Murtagh

East Midlands Section

Our Spring Golf Tournament takes place on Thursday, 12th May at Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby. Tees have been reserved from 12.30 to 2.30 pm. Singles and Pairs Knockout competitions - entry forms have been sent out and the draw for these competitions will be made at the Spring Golf Tournament. If you have not received an entry form, please contact me immediately. The Autumn Golf Tournament is to take place at Kettering Golf Club on a provisional date of September 28th but as this date coincides with the Association's National Golf Tournament at Ayr, the date is yet to be confirmed. The Rigby Taylor Match against the Midland Section is to be held at Moor Hall on 7th October, first match off at 8.15 am. Qualifiers for this match are decided from the Spring and Autumn Golf Tournament.

R. W. Willars

Midland Section

By the time you read this we will be well into Spring and hopefully it will continue to be

better than the last few years even if it has been slightly wetter!! A busy golfing schedule awaits us and I hope to see you at one or more of the competitions in the year ahead. May I extend a hearty welcome to all new members. Those of you who have not been mailed entry forms for this year's competitions and would like one may ring Peter Richmond on 021-354-5616 and he will gladly put one in the post. If anyone is interested in playing in any of the inter-Section matches or other team competitions then ring Tom Kelsall on Tamworth 284782. If you know of any member who is not receiving his magazine, please let me know at once so that it may be rectified, or if any member has a grievance or helpful suggestion also to get in touch so it may be discussed at Committee level. Our lecture at Telford Golf and Country Club was very poorly supported but Toro Irrigation of Sandbach gave a very interesting talk. We also had the opportunity to view some of their underground hardware and other pieces of equipment which help to make up their systems. Let us hope that future visits and lectures receive a better response. Several members from the Midlands, myself

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included, recently attended open days at Breakwells and Leicester Horticultural Engineers where we were able to keep abreast of new machinery and also avail ourselves of the refreshments provided. Both these days proved informative but unfortunately the most memorable moments were the drunken greenkeepers 'throwing up' in the middle of the afternoon.

Wishing you green grass and blue skies!

I. Toon

NORTHERN REGION

North East Section

There will be a match against Northern Secretaries at South Shields Golf Club on July 4th. The Autumn Tournament has yet to be fixed.

There will be a match against South East Scotland, probably in October - to be arranged. I would like to welcome the following new members to the North East Section:-

G. Arnott - Heworth GC

B. Hall - Hexham GC

A. Baxter - Newbiggin GC

J. Storey - Hexham GC

B. Hughes - Whickham GC

J. Richardson

North West Section

The Spring Tournament will take place at Tytherington Golf Club, Macclesfield on 12th May and names of people wishing to participate in this event should be given to Bert Cross on 051-724-5412 as soon as possible.

There are still places left for bunker rakers at this year's Open Golf Championship at Lytham St. Annes. Anyone needing accommodation please contact Dave Golding on 061-748-8592 as early as possible as we have to confirm numbers very soon.

Your Section Committee attended the AGM at York on 23rd March and all agreed it was a very successful day despite the pathetic show of North-West members. There should have been a show of support for the new Association by the Section, considering the Scots and South lads made a concerted

effort to attend and we didn't have one non-Committee member there.

There is a wide selection of uniforms now available from ties to blazers, so if any member wishes to obtain these items, please get in touch.

Bert Cross has been appointed as the new Secretary and I would like to conclude by thanking all concerned in helping me in my capacity as Secretary and I wish the North-West Section all the best for the future.

M. Lewis

Northern Section

There certainly has been no shortage of piquancy about our evening meetings this Spring. On 10th March we were taken down to ground level on a spectacular expedition, observing and examining at ultra-close quarters the wonder of wild flower kingdom. Names like Sanphire, Asphodel, Bird's Nest Orchid came off the tongue of our speaker, Mr. Gell, like smooth running water bringing identity to the exquisite floral studies on the screen.

With quiet enthusiasm Mr. Gell showed pictures of the flowers he had encountered on his travels. Surprisingly enough, most of the examples were resident very close to his home town, Harrogate - they are there, all about you, waiting to be noticed. Another delightful interlude was provided by our good friend Mr. Arthur Gilpin, the well known Yorkshire naturalist. Birds this time, shown with the usual degree of knowledge and aplomb. Flowers do not move and therefore the photographs need only be bothered by the wind. Birds conversely are keen, sensitive creatures, easily disturbed and certainly to not hang around to pose and say cheese - or do they? The quality, clarity and candidness of Mr. Gilpin's pictures almost lead you to believe the subjects were auditioning. Truly lovely shots highly indicative of the photographers art and patience.

The BIGGA AGM held at York on 23rd March certainly proved that the infant BIGGA is alive, kicking and exercising its lungs. 135 interested parties attended the meeting.

The Northern Greenkeepers Training Liaison

Committee met at Askham Bryan on 15th March. A plan was set in motion to arrange a Greenkeeper Education Awareness Meeting at Askham Bryan College on 12th July, 1988.

The aims of the meeting are to set out the greenkeeper training facilities obtaining at Askham Bryan, the Northern centre for greenkeeper education, with the objective of bringing together Head Greenkeepers and Golf Club Officers by invitation. More details will appear later.

Those greenkeepers willing to avail themselves of a certificate of competence to spray pesticides should enquire immediately with either Askham Bryan College of Agriculture or Shipley College. Both these teaching establishments are offering foundation modules and certification courses on the usage/storage of pesticides.

All spray operatives under 25 or those above concerned with direct supervision of spraying activities must hold a certificate of competence before January 1st 1989. The exercise is not cheap but in the long-run would be wise. We welcome to the Section Stephen Earl who has moved from Prestwick to Strensall as Head Greenkeeper. Philip Taylor is now well-installed at Alwoodley as Head Greenkeeper at Rawdon, Formerly First Assistant at Bradford Golf Club as too is Philip Palmer now at Branshaw Golf Club from Woodsome Hall. Mel Guy has opted for the commercial side of life leaving South Leeds Golf Club to join the sales team of W. Mountain and Son, Morley, Limited. On show, for all to see, these days in Moor Allerton Golf Club House is a ceramic replica of the Ryder Cup handed over to the Club for permanent display by Howard Clark, 1987 Ryder Cup Team member and tournament professional at Moor Allerton.

Do you wish to play for your Section against the Cleveland Section at Keighley on 27th July? All you have to do is ring 0943-72008 for instant booking. A 12-man team is required; but first come, first served. The same applies to the Roses Match at Blackburn on 11th August; team of 16 for this one.

16th August Invitation Day at Pannal - now booking.

D. Hannam



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