

AROUND THE GREEN

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

MIDLAND AND NORTH WALES SECTION

Mid Anglia Section

The first meeting of 1989 was held at Beadlow Manor Hotel, Golf and Country Club on Monday, 23rd January with a look back over 50 years in Greenkeeping through the eyes of Bob Plain.

Bob's early days at Gullane were spent mowing greens with a 16" Certes push mower, top dressing fairways with dune sand, controlling weeds by digging them out with hand forks.

Soon after World War II, Bob moved to the beautiful Beaconsfield Course in Bucks where he was to spend well over half his working life. He recalled the using of Morrow Meal as a worm killer, which needed hundreds of gallons of water to wash into the turf and then the sweeping up of barrows-full of worms as they surfaced. In later years, arsenate of lead, an evil but very effective worm-killer was introduced only to be replaced in the '60's by Chlordane. The introduction of Ransomes Overgreen was a major innovation in the late '40's but things really took off in the '60's with the first pop-up irrigation system installed at Handsworth in 1964 and in the early '70's with Triplex Ride on mowers.

Bob has also derived much pleasure from his impressive playing record, winning the Greenkeepers Annual Tournament at Sudbury Golf Club in 1947 and tie-ing for the News of the World Scratch Cup at Little Aston in 1967, only to lose the 18 Hole play-off.

Bob's talk was both interesting and colourful and was followed by a brief look further back to 1923 with a short film of a Professional Golf Tournament at Verulam Golf Club, sponsored by Mr Samuel Ryder and his brother, who a few years later donated the Ryder Cup. Each Professional was paid £5.00 to cover his expenses for the day, and the 36 hole Tournament was won by Arthur Havers, the Open Champion, whose Second Round 67 was 10 under par (bogey) and the original Course Record was bettered no less than 21 times during the day.

The film was in remarkably good condition and the holes shown have not changed in 65 years. We thank Mr Len Ryder, grandson of the sponsors, for the loan of the film and to Bob Plain for what was indeed a fascinating glimpse into the history of our great game.

Out thanks also to Mr J Minashi, managing director and members at Beadlow for the use of the club house.

We return to Beadlow Manor on Wednesday, 26th April for the Spring Tournament over 27 holes. The entry fee is £17.50 for coffee, lunch and evening dinner. This should be sent to:- Ken Bunting (0442-843359) by 19th April.

Other dates for this year's diary include:- Monday 10th July, Summer Tournament at Berkhamsted Golf Club, 36 holes. Tuesday 26th September Autumn Tournament at Buckingham Golf Club 27 holes. Thursday 7th December Christmas Scramble at South Beds Golf Club, 18 holes.

R J GOODWIN

Midland Section

Our Christmas Tournament in December attracted a record number of players and guests, over the Whittington Barracks Golf Club. Our thanks to Trevor Morris and his staff for producing the course in wonderful condition on such a still and sunny day after early frost. Two starting points proved its worth with all of us sitting down to our traditional Christmas meal by 5.30pm. Many thanks to the inside staff and also to the gentlemen who provided us with coffee and mince pies at the halfway point. First prize was won by E. King, with Ted Evans in second place. The AGM on the 13th December at Edgbaston Golf Club was conducted with 22 members present to elect the same officers and Committee as last year, plus one new Committee member Dean Cleaver.

Our 1989 Golfing Competitions are booked, the first one will be on Tuesday 25th April at Bridgnorth Golf Club, fee £12.00 per person, closing date for entry, 5th April. You will all receive an entry form for all the tournaments sometime in March. Remember you MUST always book your entry through Peter Richmond, including your entry remittance. NO-ENTRY on the day.

On the 9th January Mr David Jenkins (Charterhouse Turf Machinery) gave a very interesting talk on that age-old problem of "Compaction". He gave some very useful advice on the setting-up of a Verti-Drain machine, for different depths pattern and lift. Many thanks to David Jenkins and the 20 or so members for attending.

March 29th Moor Hall Golf Club. Your chance to hear and put your questions to Neil Thomas! Hope to see you there.

I R TOON

East Midlands Section

For the first time we held a golf tournament prior to the AGM held at the Erewash Valley Golf Club, Ilkeston, Derby on 14th November. Fifteen members played on a very successful day with the main prize donated by Maxwell Hart Limited. Our thanks to Erewash Valley Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their course, to the inside staff for the hospitality and the excellent meal, and to Graham Arnold and his staff for the very good condition of his course. Nick Danvers, our retiring Chairman, presented the winners with their prizes who were as follows:- Winner - G. Arnold, 2 up. Second - R Willars, 1 up OL9. Third - M Billings, 1 up. Fourth - D Leatherhead, 1 down. Fifth - G Mitchell 2 down.

The AGM at 6.30pm was attended by 18 members and the following officers were elected:- Chairman Nick Root, Vice-Chairman Richard Barker, Secretary Roger Willars, Committee Graham Arnold, Nick Danvers, Paddy McCarron and Gordon Mitchell, Section representatives Nick Danvers and Roger Willars. Another first time event was the Rigby Taylor Winter Stableford held at Birstall Golf Club on Wednesday 14th December. This event to be held annually was a bring and win competition with 21 members and guests attending. Our thanks to Birstall Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their course, to Doreen and Reg James for the excellent Christmas Dinner presentation and hospitality shown to us, and the outside staff were also thanked for the very good condition of their course. Steve Blakeman of Rigby Taylor presented the divisional winners with their Rigby Taylor Salvers, who were:- 0-14 R Willars, 40pts. 15-28M.Hopkins, 33 pts. As it was a bring and win competition, all competitors took something homewith them at the end of a successful day.

R W WILLARS

Berks,Bucks & Oxon Section

All members of the Section please note details for the forthcoming Spring Tournament:- To be held at Badgemoor Park Golf Club 24th April, 1989. The entry fee

AROUND THE GREEN

is £15.00 per person for a 36 hole competition including morning refreshments, lunch and evening dinner. First come, first served, and the first 60 people to enter with Mr Ian Rickman, 53, Woodruff Drive, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 6NH will be the lucky ones! Starting times will be notified and NO late entries will be accepted. Details of the new Section Committee areas follows:- Chairman, Bill Paterson, Secretary, Roy Kates, Treasurer, David Childs, Publicity Secretary, Harvey Tribe, Golf Administrator, Ian Rickman. Other Committee Members are:- Des Murtagh, David Duke, Simon Edmond, David Heads, Peter Henderson. Thanks to Mr Simon Johnstone of the Berkshire College of Agriculture who gave a very successful lecture on 22nd February to 25 members on Pesticides and the Law.

H.TRIBE

North West Section

Congratulations are in order this month to two North West Section Members of the Association. First Bill Lawson is due to become National Chairman of the Association in April. Bill has been an active member of the North West Committee and the Board of Management since BIGGA was formed. It must be said that the honour of being National Chairman is no more than Bill deserves. His life revolves round greenkeeping and the BIGGA. Good luck Bill and enjoy your year in office. Secondly, our North West past Secretary David Golding, has been appointed Education Officer for BIGGA. This appointment can only be an advantage to the Association as David has worked so hard to help the Association off the ground. I am sure that David has a great deal to offer all our Members, so lets hope that greenkeepers of all ages take advantage of what David and the Association have to offer educationally. Once again, David good luck in your new venture. Members who failed to attend the half-day lecture at Bury Golf Club on 5th January missed out on a very informative day. Turfland arrived with a large selection of Brouwer equipment, but rain put paid to any demonstrations. Instead, we were shown videos of the machinery at work and a film of a 'typical day in the life of a greenkeeper'. I think his name was superman! Danny Godfrey from Inter Seeds closed the session with an excellent talk on grasses and how seeds are

collected and distributed. This man is a mine of information! The one sour note of the day was the fact that only nine people bothered to turn up; once again leaving the organisers embarrassed and apologising to people who travelled many miles to help our Members.

B.CROSS

Northern Section

Jeepers Creepers what a winter!! With conditions that would have caused old Brutus to be anything but discontented, we press on, cutting grass, working soil like silk, in an ambience most conducive to rational thought and stable foothold! Did you have a good Christmas? About thirty of our number limbered up for the event at South Leeds on the 21st taking part in our Turkey Shoot. Although scrambled at relatively short notice, a good time was had by all, with a little bit of something for about every knocker. Many thanks to Mel Guy and South Leeds for the organisation and a warm welcome. Sorry you missed the AGM. Had the journal appeared on time matters would have been different. Then came the event that had everybody buzzing: ETME. The European Turf Management Exhibition was a winner and, without doubt, is destined to become the UK's premier amenity event. Northern Section Committee members figured prominently, being in attendance throughout the period ensuring the smooth running of the seminar programme. All in all, a very well-orchestrated affair which ran without mishap. February we went on a Tiger Hunt! The "Tiger" though, on this occasion, turned out to be a lissome young lady whose fitness was patently obvious. She was pursued (hunted) through river and forest by fellas on tractors which, had you taken your mind off the bird, could be considered very suitable for golf course duties. Needless to say, she was netted in the end. Carraro was the machine, JCM our presenters on the Italian Jobs and other interesting pieces of equipment. Our thanks to JCM and Mr Gordon Henry. 1989 promises a super season golf wise, commencing on May 25th at Wakefield Golf Club. This event will produce the qualifiers for the Iseki semi-final at Baildon during July. Then it's get-your-guest-lined-up for the Invitation Tournament at Ganton on July 27th. Another event to remind you about is the Dinner Dance at Otley Golf Club on

Friday 14th April. Secure your booking now to avoid severe disappointment on 0943-72008.

D.HANNAM

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

South Coast Section

For our February meeting, 60 Members and guests were delighted to welcome Kevin Munt as our speaker. Kevin gave a first-class illustrated talk on the arrangements for the 1987 Suntory Matchplay Championship. This was the tournament that was hit by the October Hurricane and Kevin's talk illustrated only too well the hard work that took place to enable the tournament to proceed. As was to be expected, Kevin also discussed the construction of the sand greens at Wentworth's South Course, and a lively discussion took place on the correct method of construction and maintenance required for this type of green. Our thanks to Kevin for an excellent evening and our best wishes to him and his family on his new venture as Course Manager at Munich in West Germany. The Section's golf tournaments for 1989 are as follows:- Spring Tournament Monday, 22nd May, High Post Golf Club, Summer Tournament Wednesday, 12th July Cowdray Park Golf Club, Autumn Tournament Thursday, 5th October, Isle of Purbeck Golf Club. Annual Match v South West Section Thursday, 12th September, Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club. Please retain these details and direct all enquiries to our tournament organiser, Joe Burdett. Details of our Spring Meeting are as follows:- Mondays, 22nd May High Post Golf Club, 36 hole Medal competition teeing off from 08.30. Members wishing to play 18 holes will be entered in an 18 hole medal. Members aged over 50 can compete for the Nita Simpson Trophy. Entry fee £11.00 each and cheques to be made payable to "BIGGA South Coast Section". Written entries giving name, address, handicap and fee should be sent to Joe Burdett at the following address:- 948, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 6SP. Tel. 0202-483017. Please state whether you wish to enter for the 36 hole, 18 hole or Nita Simpson Trophy. Entries to arrive no later than SATURDAY 6th MAY. Section representatives to compete for the Regional Iseki Tournament at Budleigh Salterton Golf Club, on 6th July will be chosen following

AROUND THE GREEN

this competition. Finally, our best wishes to Eric James who is retiring from Parkstone Golf Club. Eric, has ably represented greenkeeping and greenkeepers over many, many years and is well-known to all in the industry. Justice cannot be done in these few lines to Eric's achievements, and I am hoping that he can be persuaded to write an article on his many and varied experiences. Thank you Eric, for all your hard work over the years much appreciated by all Members of the Section. **B.DENNIS.**

SOUTH EAST REGION Surrey Section

Guildford Golf Club was the venue for last year's Turkey Trot where 48 Members of the Section turned out to play in this popular fixture. Results:-First, B.Eastman, 40 pts, Second, S.McMillan, 38 pts, Third, J.Chambers, 37 pts, (back 9), Fourth, D.Woodward, 37 pts. Considering the windy conditions, the results were still very good proving there are still too many bandits playing off false handicaps! Our thanks to Guildford Golf Club and Rob Denning and his greenstaff for having the course in such excellent condition. On December 17th, a Dinner Dance was arranged at Leatherhead Golf Club, which I am told was a fantastic night for all who attended. This was a great chance for the wives to meet each other and get away from greenkeeping, to which their life is accustomed! As for the men, it was probably just another day at work!! Fixtures 1989:- Gentlemens Dinner, Walton Heath Golf Club, 17th March. BIGGA v Secretaries, Malden Golf Club, 10th March, Spring Tournament, Betchworth Park Golf Club, 11th May. Cresta Cup, New Zealand Golf Club, 12th

June. England v Scotland, Walton Heath Golf Club, 4th July. McMillan Tankard, Sunningdale Golf Club, 4th August. Silver Salver, Leatherhead Golf Club, 21st September. Autumn Tournament, Worplesdon Golf Club, 23rd October. Turkey Trot, Effingham Golf Club, 8th December. The Committee for 1989 is elected as follows:- Chairman, Clive Osgood. Vice-Chairman, Ian McMillan. Secretary, Jim Cassidy. Treasurer, Stuart McMillan. Other Members, Jim Russell, Bob Wiles, Dave Johnstone. Any queries regarding problems within the Section, should approach any of the above named. **J.RUSSELL**

Kent Section

On 13th December, we had our Turkey Trot competition at Ashford Golf Club. The winner was Steve Suttle of Sene Valley, closely followed by Andy Toomey of Bexley Heath, Malcolm Graham of Littlestone, Bob Cook of Parkers and Paul Copsey of North Foreland. Bob Cook's performance earned him best finalising position in one of our competitions (as he kept reminding everybody), but what a fantastic prize was in store for him. What appeared to be a box containing a bottle of scotch turned out to be a rather large article of ladies underwear wrapped around a metal bar and wrapped in newspaper!! It makes you wonder who the cruel culprits could have been to have put this prize on the table, but at least some thought had gone into it and it was different from all the other bottles of spirits on the table. Never mind Bob, they may come in handy one day! The weather on the day was dull and damp, but the 30 competitors had a good day and thanks go to Willie and his staff and the catering

staff at Ashford for their efforts. In the evening, we held our AGM and all the existing Committee were re-elected:- Chairman, Chris Mardon. Secretary, John Millen. Members. Derek Keen, Andy Arthur, and Paul Copsey. On 31st January, a machinery clinic was held at West Malling Golf Club and very many thanks must go to Vic Maynard and Paice and Sons for organising an excellent and very informative day. The 30 or so delegates heard an excellent talk from Nigel Church of Ransomes in the morning, with the afternoon devoted to Kubota engines and tractors. Hopefully all those who attended learned a little more about basic principles of servicing and repairing all types of machinery, and perhaps one day we may repeat the exercise on a larger scale as the topic is very relevant and an excellent chance to gain valuable knowledge, save time and money. All members should have received a newsletter and a programme of events for the forthcoming year, and hopefully all Members will support the events as well as they did last year. New faces would be welcome. Our Section grew by over 20 last year and perhaps will grow in strength this year. It's with much sadness I learned of the passing of the Supaturf representative, John Field, at the end of January. John was a welcome and regular visitor to my previous Club for Supaturf and previously TMS. He was one of the characters of the profession. His untimely death is especially sad as he was so looking forward to full retirement and spending more time with his wife and playing golf. He will be fondly remembered and may I wish his wife and family our sympathies and best wishes for the future. **P.COPSEY**

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