

tion must be more aware of the need for self publicity within the golfing community.

So the message is obvious. What is known, proven by research and confirmed by practical experience, must be blazoned from the roof tops and supported by every possible authority and influence. We have no brief and less ability to stop fools from being parted from their money by rogues, but we do have a responsibility to see that the information to prevent it is widely available. Remember that, otherwise we are going to be increasingly clobbered by deteriorating disasters, which perhaps would be better, sooner rather than later, converted to safari parks.

What is really worrying is that all the problems are freely recognised by many in authority, who have ducked their responsibilities in the past by saying it was not part of their brief, or that the opposing view has some validity, or that there are extenuating circumstances, particularly in the choice of venues.

Failure to stand up and be counted will inevitably result in all the hard won ground over the past 20 years in which there has been some progress back to traditional course standards

and all year play will be lost, as faulty remedies are advocated to correct the results of faulty management, wrong construction methods and undue emphasis on ephemeral presentation for televised events. Those peaking courses should always remember that peaks are preceded and followed by troughs. My fear is that the troughs will be measured in months and the peaks in days.

Thus, it seems that the R & A - as the senior body in the game - has a definite role to play in co-ordinating action between all interested parties. A role which perhaps extends beyond the original function envisaged for the Greenkeeping Panel. However, this role should only be a short term need, until the results of co-ordinated actions start to be seen. By then, the R & A will have effectively demonstrated again its capacity for showing a lead in golfing matters when the need arises.

My remarks concerning "The Way Forward" are only a re-iteration of what I have preached over the years and it has given me no satisfaction to be proved right by events. All I hope is that thought will be stimulated and constructive discussion ensue to ensure an appreciation of all the better things in golf.

Do not dismiss my comments as the sentimental ramblings of a geriatric yearning for the past, but as a sincere attempt to influence a change of course. If this article and the document generates sufficient interest I might later return to discuss in more detail the subjects covered, for I am well aware that there are many involved who are implementing sane policies and who fear as much as I do for the healthy future of our Royal and Ancient game.

F R O M T H E F A I R W A Y

'Never to old to learn' - says Sid Arrowsmith

I read your September issue of the Golf Course with great interest and have been prompted to put pen to paper after reading the new feature entitled "Topical Turf Tips"

One of the many reasons why the art of greenkeeping has not improved sufficiently over the years is due to greenkeepers like the 60 year old man who was refusing to "go back to school" (his words) to study chemical applications. He also said he believed he knew more than any College Lecturer on this very technical subject. How wrong can a man be!

I have recently completed the courses

and one examination, so let me put all minds at rest. These courses are very, very good. Not too technical, lots of practical information well presented and with the growing interest in the environmental situation, absolutely vital for those of us involved in the industry. Not only did I learn much regarding actual spraying techniques, but the necessary safety aspects including storage requirements, handling products and the essential recording procedures.

So much so that I can now boast probably the best chemical container in greenkeeping, to a design with MAFF guidance.

My recording systems, for both bulk storage of chemicals and applications,

the safety clothing storage, washing facilities, etc, all came about from attending the Greenmount College in Antrim where we were instructed by a qualified farmer, whose lecture technique was second to none.

So a plea to my colleagues - please go out and search for training and guidance. To do otherwise is to let down our wonderful profession as well as breaking the law. If we are to be treated as professionals in our industry we must act in a professional manner.

Sidney Arrowsmith,
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