



be similar and would allow a wide diversity of plants and animals to flourish. Finally it was proposed that the EAU should continue to be involved with the golf course design in order to ensure that the most ecologically sympathetic proposals would be achieved. Now armed with an independent report suggesting that the proposed golf course could only do good, Mr Doyle Davidson appointed a planing consultant, someone who was fully acquainted with local planning authorities and regulations to guide the company's application through the various planning committees.

Next came a video. Amongst the Wentworth members was a PR director of a large advertising agency who, together with a number of his colleagues, produced a video making the case for the proposed new course. On the video Chris Denham, B.B.C. S.W. presenter, interviewed Renton Laidlaw the golf correspondent of the *London Evening Standard* who pointed out the need for additional golfing facilities; John Jacobs who confirmed that his design would enhance the area; Dr. Parker who also confirmed that the affect on the flora and fauna would be beneficial, and Richard Doyle Davidson who calmed the fears of the estate residents and members. The video presentation was made to

some 30 interested groups and it contributed greatly to the ultimate success, a professional tool for a professional approach.

The majority of the objectors, having seen the evidence and received the company's presentation of the facts, withdrew. The planning committee of Runnymede Borough Council agreed to the plan with one caveat, that an ecological management committee be formed to produce a ten year management plan for the site. This committee compri-sing representatives from the Borough Council, Wentworth residents association, the EAU of Liverpool University, the Surrey Wildlife Trust, the golf course architects and the Wentworth Club Ltd. with Richard Doyle Davidson appointed chairman. Having drawn up a routing plan for

the golf in conjunction with the architects and Dr. Arthur Linley of the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Mr. Doyle Davidson presented this to the management committee who endorsed the scheme. The Runnymede planning authorities also aproved both management plan and planning application.

The route of the course was then marked out with tape and scrub cleared to a width of 50 yards. The trees that were to remain in these 'playing areas' were marked and the tree clearance programme started in the autumn of 1987.

The site is now ready for the golf course constructors, Golf Landscapes, to move in and start shaping and building. Details of the design and construction will form the basis of the next article in this series.



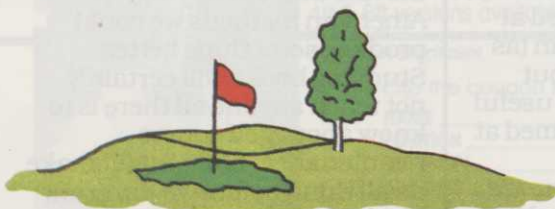
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MORE BOOKS for GREENKEEPERS and GREENS

THIS occasional series, which started in July 1986, has attempted to suggest a reading list for those interested in golf course maintenance. The great difficulty is the need to have some understanding of a whole range of subjects. Concentrating on a narrow spectrum makes it impossible to cross boundaries and appreciate the difficulties of the other people involved, be they agronomists, architects or golfers. Many failures over the past eighty years can be attributed to the lack of wider visions.

A secondary objective has been to share with other book-lovers the joys of discovering interesting old books. Over the past five years, golf books have shot up in value and scarcity. People in the book trade recognise that golf is a specialised market and channel golf books to specialist dealers, where prices soon escalate. Today, it is rare to find interesting old golfing books in the hands of general dealers. This has taken much of the fun away from those of us who enjoy searching the shelves for rarities at bargain prices. It can still happen, of course, and I had such a find last summer. The small seaside town of Whitby has some interesting corners and passing, of all things, a knitting-wool shop, I noticed some shelves of books. I looked them over, not expecting to find very much, only to realise that amongst the romantic novels of the Thirties was *Golfing (1893)* by Horace Hutchinson, the first great golf writer who was golf correspondent to *The Times*, priced at £2.50! Indeed, the lady in the shop told me she was pleased to see it go as it had been there for years. The real value proved to be about £80 - so don't forget to look in every knitting-wool shop you pass! This book has some useful material about early courses and their play and fits neatly into my category concerning the philosophy of the game as it is played. Inability to understand changes in the game as it is played, then and now, leads to

COMMITTEES

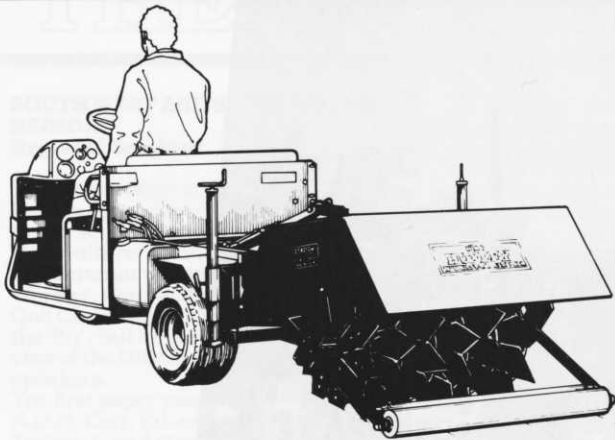
by Eddie Park

confusion in what we are being asked to provide for the golfer. During the past year I have managed to extend my collection without spending too much money. The largest item, both in price and size, is *The British Islands and their vegetation* by A G Tansley (1939). Sir Arthur Tansley was very much the "father" of ecology in this country in the days before the subject became such a political football. This magnificent tome, published nearly fifty years ago, is remarkable for the fact that it is still in print and is still a standard work of reference. So a secondhand copy at less than half the new price of £75 is good value. Think of any area of Britain or any habitat and you will find a detailed and easily understood description of WHY it is what it is. Knowledge concerning the influence of local soils and local climates on the vegetation is invaluable when the aim is to grow specific perennial grasses. Speaking of soils and their ecological influence, another volume in the "New Naturalist" series which caught my eye was *Britain's Structure and Scenery* by L Dudley Stamp (1946). This concerns the topography and soils of different areas and relates them to the geographical history.

Now for two books with the same title: *Turf Culture* by Ian Greenfield (1962) and by Frank Hope (1978). Greenfield is described as "being specifically as agricultural adviser to a leading firm of chemical manufacturers". His views on turf nutrition would not meet with universal approval, but this is a comprehensive work containing much of interest. Frank Hope's book is aimed at the practicing groundsman (as opposed to greenkeeper) but again there are some very useful sections. Another book aimed at the same market is an American publication *Grounds Maintenance Handbook* by H S Conover (1953).

A very general reference book on golf is *The Shell International Encyclopaedia of Golf* by Donald Steel and Peter Ryde (1975), with excellent descriptions of courses and architects as well as of golfers. Now for something completely different - *Lawn making together with proper keeping of putting greens* by Leonard Barron (1906), a book published in New York which records the early difficulties experienced by Americans who tried to copy our fine grassed areas. A quote makes interesting reading: "As well recognise first as last the fact that the world famed lawns of Europe are impossible to the gardens this side of the Atlantic. Over there the grasses grow once they are established and reseed themselves with a facility that is surprising to the New World gardener. Here, with the problems of excessive and brilliant sunshine in summer, often coupled with spells of exhausting drought, and followed by extreme cold of our often rigorous winters, the grasses suffer strains which necessitate an entirely different method of lawn making. Hence the fine art of lawn grass mixtures has developed almost into a science and excites an amount of interest that is not paralled elsewhere." Indeed it was even worse than that when the attempt was made to make lawns and greens in even more unsympathetic climatic areas. Somehow, over the years we allowed ourselves to be persuaded that the Americans did it better than we did. The truth is that greenkeeping over there was much more difficult because of the climate and soils, but they had some success in solving their problems. Read the *Green Section Record* and you will see that many snags remain. As for us, we all fell for the line that by copying American methods we could produce something better. Studying books will certainly not teach anyone all there is to know about golf course maintenance, but it might make us all think before we jump out of the frying pan into the next fire.

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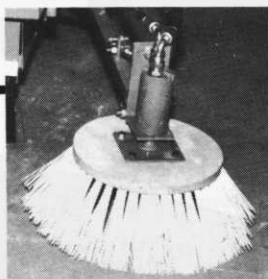
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AROUND THE GREEN

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION Regional Seminar

THE South West and South Wales Region held its second Seminar on 9th March at Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Cannington.

The Seminar was introduced by Paul Worster, Course Manager at Lilley Brook Golf Club, still not fully recovered from the 'flu', but he gave us all an enthusiastic view of the BIGGA before introducing the speakers.

The first paper was given by Nick Rigden, N.D.H. Cert. Ed. on 'Greenkeeper Training', and started the day off with an insight into the training given at Cannington for the City and Guilds. He also pointed out courses which they are prepared to run at the college for the future of greenkeeper education. How good it was to hear someone spelling out the importance of specialised greenkeeper training from a college. Well done Nick!

Bob Corns of the N.C.C. gave the second paper on 'Nature Conservation of Golf Courses', and I personally have not heard a better talk on conservation connected to golf courses. It was very informative and his slides were excellent. I am sure they were enjoyed by everyone.

We ran up to lunch with question time conducted by the Chairman, Ivor Scoones, with the two morning speakers taking on a lively 30 minutes of questions. After an hour off for a superb lunch provided by the college chef, Ken Morris, everyone came back for the afternoon session happy and replete. Jeff Perris, B.Sc. from the S.T.R.I. started the afternoon with a paper on "Turf Management", and all those who know and have had the pleasure of hearing him speak before, will know how good he is. Jeff always seems to have the ability to read the mood of the people, and with his expert knowledge put over a first class talk.

The last paper of the day was given by Tony Gray, P.G.A. European Tour Director, on 'Tournament Golf Courses'. Tony, who came in to bat last - not the best spot to be in - proved the ideal man for the job. Not only was his talk very enlightening, but it also stirred up the minds for question time which was to follow. His many humorous remarks plus his undoubted knowledge of golf and courses made him a pleasure to listen to. The question time conducted by the Chairman was again very lively but with time running out, yours truly had to call a halt.

I am sure the sixty people who attended and paid for the Seminar enjoyed it. I personally would like to thank the

college for having us, and providing such marvellous facilities and of course, all four speakers for such excellent papers. Also my thanks to all who attended and supported us, including the numerous students who were interested enough to slip into the Hall on occasions just to listen and learn, and were therefore very welcome.

Gordon Child, Regional Administrator.

South West section

On the 26th January, Broome Manor Golf Complex played host to the South West Section for a most interesting lecture and slide show from Jack McMillan, head greenkeeper at Sunningdale. Jack's wide experience and knowledge of golf certainly showed through as he passed on many useful tips and ideas to the audience.

After a short break, Brown and Sons Seeds took over with a general knowledge quiz for teams of three greenkeepers, with the team captained by Laurence Pithie winning with 23 points out of 30 points. Many thanks to Dave Padfield of Browns for researching the questions and providing the prizes.

The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the only shame was that only 17 members bothered to turn up. Members should note that the Spring Tournament featuring the Iseki Qualifying round will be held on May 3rd at Lansdown.

The South West Section held its AGM on 1st March at Lansdown Golf Club, Bath. The meeting opened at 2.20 pm to 17 members chaired by Mr. R. Gates. Officers were elected as follows:-

Chairman - R. Gates
Vice Chairman - W. Curtis
Administrator - P. Worster
Regional Board Representatives -
L. Pithie, L. Millar
National Board Representative - I. Scoones
Non-Committee Positions:-
Match Captain - J. Kane
Prize Procurer - A. Stiff

Fixtures for 1988

Spring Tournament Lansdown Golf Club (with Iseki qualifying) 3rd May
Match vs Secretaries Budleigh Salterton Golf Club 26th May
Greenkeeper/Amateur Westonbirt Golf Club 1st June
Iseki Regional Final Long Ashton Golf Club 15th June
36 Hole Summer Tournament Cirencester Golf Club (with Jacobsen qualifying) 3rd August
Match vs South Coast Kingsdown Golf Club 13th September
Match vs Welsh Section St. Pierre Golf

Club 5th October

Christmas Tournament Burnham and Berrow Golf Club 15th December
Laurence Pithie was congratulated as 'Master Groundsman of the Year' by the Administrator on behalf of the meeting. Ivor Scoones, Jock Millar and Laurence Pithie were thanked for the time they spend on the Regional and National Boards respectively

Concern was expressed at the apparent omission of the ARMS Tournament from the fixture list this year, the Administrator informed the meeting that Peter Hampton was undecided whether or not to run it again this season due to the excess workload and the torrent of complaints he has usually received about pairings, timings, etc. Les Johnson proposed that we might help him officially this year using our knowledge and experience to solve any of these problems. After some discussion, this was agreed. The resolution that the John Ireland Foursomes be dropped and the trophies be used for alternative means was passed, the trophies to be used at the Committee's discretion. The Administrator pledged to carry on organising lectures and talks, etc. but only if they were better supported than of late.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm with thanks to the Chair and Lansdown Golf Club.

P.A. Worster.

South Coast section

Would members please note that the Sections Golf Tournaments for 1988 are as follows:-
Spring Tournament 19th May
West Sussex Golf Club best gross and best net scores, over 36 holes qualifying for the Jacobsen Greenkeepers Tournament.
Summer Tournament 13th July
Southampton Municipal Golf Course.
Autumn Tournament 6th September
Romsey Golf Club
Annual Match v South West Section 13th September
Bristol and Clifton Golf Club
All enquiries regarding any Tournament should be sent to our Tournaments Organiser, Mr. Joe Burdett whose address is: 948 Castle Lane West, Bournemouth, BH7 6SP. Tel: 0202-483017
Details of Spring Tournament are:-
Venue: West Sussex Golf Club
Date: Thursday 19th May
Competition: 36 hole Medal
Members wishing to play only 18 holes will be entered in an 18 hole Medal.
Members aged over 50 can also compete for the Nita Stimson Trophy
Entry fee: £9.75
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AROUND THE GREEN

to BIGGA South Coast Section. Teeing off from 9.30 am.

Members who intend to play should send their written entries giving name, address and current handicap together with entry fee to Joe Burdett at the above address. Please also state whether you wish to enter the 36 or 18 hole Medal Competition and the Nita Stimson Trophy Entries to arrive not later than Friday, 6th May, 1988.

J. R. Dennis

SOUTH EAST REGION

London Section

A letter from your Chariman:

I would like to welcome all members to the new London Section, although the Section has been in existence for some years now. The first A.G.M. of the BIGGA Association London Section was held on 19th January, 1988. The area has been increased and a new Committee has been elected into office, so everything is new. May I take the opportunity of thanking those members that attended the AGM and for their vote of confidence in me, by electing me as their Chariman.

I will endeavour to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability and would thank also my Committee for their acceptance of their positions. I look forward to the coming year with a great deal of optimism and pride in the knowledge that I will have a very workable team with which to operate. Thank you all once again and welcome to all the new members in the Hertfordshire County and the East London and West Essex areas.

Bill Thompson

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to our past Chairman, David Low. David has been forced to resign because of personal circumstances. His experience, commitment to the Association and pleasant manner will be missed not only by the Committee with whom he worked so closely, but I feel sure, by all the members that had the privilege of knowing him.

May I wish David and his wife all the very best for the future. The AGM was held at Pinner Hill Golf Club and I thank them and their staff for their kind hospitality.

A lot of business was carried out and I would like to give you the names of your elected Committee:-

Vice Chairman - Mr. John Edwards
Administrator - Mr. Michael Peters
Committee

Mr. Norman Exley
Mr. Christopher Greenwood
Mr. Brian Anderson
Mr. Jeffrey Donovan
Mr. Jeremy Hill

Mr. Nick Baldwin

The following were elected Regional Board Representatives, myself and Brian Anderson. The Region comprises of 5 Sections, London, Surrey, Kent, Sussex and East Anglia.

The accounts for the period April 1987 to January 1988 were read and accepted. Any member requiring a copy should contact me.

The Chairman mentioned the extension of the Section in his opening comments. The position is that the area that is inside the M25 covering the North of the Thames together with Herts and Middlesex is now the boundary of the London Section. This increases the size of the Section and makes the potential of the Section that much greater.

Any member wishing to apply for uniforms should contact me as soon as possible with their sizes and choice of colours, etc.

The following is the dairy of events:-

21st April

Spring Meeting at Moor Park Golf Club at 3.00 pm. This will be an 18 hole event also qualifier for the Regional final of the Iseki National Tournament. The cost will be £6.00 per head which will include a sandwich buffet on completion of the golf.

Members wishing to take part in the event please contact me NOW on Northwood (09274) 28167.

1st June

Evening Golf Meeting at Bush Hill Golf Club. I am awaiting confirmation of this event and will notify members in the next newsletter.

10th June

GRAND SUMMER BALL at Aldenham Golf and Country Club, 7.00 for 7.30 pm until midnight. Dancing to the 'Patrice' Band. Cost £16.00 per ticket, which are now available and members wishing to attend should contact me now in order to secure a ticket.

23rd August

Golf Evening 18 Holes at Pinner Hill Golf Club, confirmation awaited.

26th to 30th September

BIGGA National 3 day Tournament followed by 2 day International Conference at the Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, Scotland. Members wishing to attend please contact me NOW.

Summer League

For the benefit of new members, this is a tournament which I have run for the past few years and the format is as follows:- Each team comprises 2 greenkeepers and plays each of 3 other teams in a league competition on a home and away basis. 2 points for a win, 1 for a half. The winners of the league go forward to a knockout competition. There are normally 4 leagues in the event.

Any teams wishing to participate, please contact me NOW.

Mailing

If you have any other member in your Club receiving this newsletter please contact me so that I may be able to put all other communications in one envelope thus avoiding unnecessary expense.

Thank you

We apologise to David Murphy of Kingston House Mowers for not mentioning him in our last newsletter for the valuable support he gave us at our Autumn meeting at North Middlesex Golf Club. Many thanks David, it was very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank most sincerely Sylvia, the daughter of Chris Greenwood, for all the excellent work that she has done for the Association over the past 10 months. She has done all our typing and duplication work with all that that entails. She moved away in February and will be sorely missed. Thank you Sylvia very much and all the best for the future

Michael Peters.

Sussex section

Dates for the Section dairy include:-
26th April Littlehampton Golf Club 36 holes 9.00 am tee-off.

May

Sussex v Surrey
(date to be confirmed)

June

Cophorne Golf Club
(date to be confirmed)

14th July

Brighton and Hove Golf Club. 2.00 pm

18th August

Bognor Regis Golf Club 2.00 pm

29th September

Royal Eastbourne Golf Club, 36 holes 9.00 am tee-off. 1st December Lewis Golf Club, Turkey Trot. 10.00 - 11.00 am tee-off. 18 holes.

R. P. Jones

MIDLAND AND NORTH WALES REGION

East Midland Section

Spring Golf Tournament

Our Spring Golf Tournament takes place on Thursday, 12th May at the Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby, Leics. This is a change of date from earlier information.

Entry forms have been sent out and should be returned by the closing date of 1st May. If you have not received one, please contact me.

Singles and Pairs Knockout.

We shall again be running our Singles and Pairs Knockout competitions throughout the Summer. Entry forms have been sent out with the Spring Tournament letter and should be returned by the closing date of 1st May. The East Midland Section Committee

Play
around
with

ISEKI

AROUND THE GREEN

would like to welcome all new members to our Section and hope that they will participate in as many events that they possibly can through the season. Would members who require any items of the BIGGA uniform please contact me for an order form.

R.W. Willars

Mid Anglia Section

At the AGM held at St. Neots Golf Club on 16th February, the following were elected to represent the Section for the fourth coming year:-

President - Graham Pitcher

Chairman - Paul Fitzjohn

Secretary - R. J. Goodwin

Treasurer - Les Wakerell

Match Secretary - Ken Bunting

Representatives to Regional Board - Paul Fitzjohn and John Wells.

The February Lecture at St. Neots was well attended by more than 50 members who were given a talk and film on the development of the "John Deere Organisation" ably assisted by Woodlands Agriculture Ltd. of Brigstoke, Northampton who kindly donated half the cost of the lunch.

Dairy Dates

27th June

Iseki Golf Tournament at Tewkesbury

Park Golf Club (Qualifiers over 18 holes

of Spring Tournament on 19th April)

8th July

Annual match v Midland Section at

Moor Hall Golf Club.

2nd August

Summer Tournament, 36 holes at

Knebworth Golf Club (Qualifier for

Jacobsen's International Tournament)

19th October

Autumn Tournament, 27 holes at

Ashridge Golf Club.

Look out for further details of these fixtures and Winter meetings in future newsletters.

R. J. Goodwin

Midland Section

Our AGM took place at Edgbaston Golf Club on 27th January with only 17 members attending. Our elected officers are as follows:-

President - R. Pugh

Chairperson - A. Kite (021-351-4423)

Secretary - I. Toon (021-308-6684)

Treasurer - E. Thomas (021-308-2954)

Committee members and their duties:-

Lecturers - Peter Woodward (021-378-

2511)

Competitions Secretary - Peter

Richmond (021-354-5616)

Inter Section Matches - Tom Kelsall

(0827-284782)

Handicaps - Mick Hughes (021-422-2615)

Regional Representatives are A. Kite and

I. Toon.

On February 17th Peter Woodward

arranged a visit to the Toro factory at St. Neots. 18 of us left Walsall Golf Club on a coach laid on by Alexander's (better known as King's Heath Mowers) and were treated to a most enjoyable day visiting not only the Toro UK factory at St. Neots but also the Bury St. Edmunds factory where export machinery is made. Our grateful thanks go to Mr. Dale and his associates of Toro and also to Peter Richmond who displayed another of his many talents and drove the coach.

Competitions for the Year!

Summer - 11th July

Maxstoke Park

Autumn - 22nd September

Worcestershire Golf Club

Christmas - 7th December

Copt Heath Golf Club

Closing dates for any competition will be

14 days prior to the competition. Anyone

wishing to play who has not yet received

application forms should notify Peter

Richmond who will oblige.

Finally an apology to Mr. N. Woolfrey for

the 'gaff' I made when I previously

reported that S. Stenhouse had won the

Christmas Tournament when it was in

fact N. Woolfrey who won.

I. R. Toon

NORTHERN ENGLAND REGION

North West Section

Our Seminar at Mere Golf and Country

Club on March 17th was a huge success as

usual with a large turnout of members

who were treated to an enthralling array

of speakers.

The North West Section members would

like to thank all concerned for the hard

work they have done in putting on the

seminar especially John Lowery,

Education Chairman, whose work was

invaluable.

The Section Committee sent out a letter

to every Head Greenkeeper in the region

informing them of this year's activities

in the North West. If you did not receive a

copy, please contact me as soon as

possible and I will send you one.

Here is an offer that no

golfer/greenkeeper should pass up. How

would you like to walk alongside your

favourite golfer? Well, you can - simply

volunteer to rake bunkers at this year's

'British Open' at Lytham-St-Annes. If

any member nationwide wishes to take

part, will they contact myself or Dave

Golding, Regional Administrator at 38

Grove, Flixton, Manchester.

The Committee has been asked to

advertise for any interesting or

informative articles to be published in

our magazine. So if you have anything

which may help other greenkeepers or be

of some interest, please put pen to paper.

Finally, there has been another change

in Secretary's position. I am resigning

from the job having obtained the post of

Assistant Course Manager at the new Goodwood Park Golf and Country Club. The new Secretary will be announced at a later date.

I would like to thank the Section's Committee for all their help over the recent months and wish them all the success in the future.

Mark Lewis

Northern Section

There appears to be a strong attack of

Spring Fever in our Region right now, a

veritable all-change extending beyond

our county boundary to mainland

Europe. But first the home news:-

Northern Section Committeeman Robert

Lupton has taken hold of the reins at

Cleckheaton Golf Club succeeding Chris

Ramsden who has moved to Dusseldorf.

David Whitaker is leaving Rawden for

Golf Club Domaine Imperial, Gland,

Switzerland; a new development on the

edge of Lake Geneva. Also leaving for La

Swisse is Jim Richards, formerly an

Assistant at Knaresborough. Jim is

setting out to join the International team

of Ian Tomlinson based at Lausanne.

Another Northern Section

Committeeman Alan Lofthouse is

moving to Saffron Walden to crack the

whip there. Quite naturally, we wish the

mentioned gentleman every good

fortune in their new endeavours.

With little doubt the next bulletin will

carry news of the resultant knock-on

effect.

For those of you looking for a decent

night out, please note that our Annual

Dinner-Dance will take place at Otley

Golf Club on 29th April at 7.45 pm. As

always, we would be delighted to see you

and in the meantime would be equally

delighted to take your booking at £10.00

per head.

A pleasant front centred over Moor

Allerton on 18th February when Mr.

Alan Murray of the Leeds Weather Centre

entertained us to a very interesting

insight of Met Office activities. Did you

know that the British Meteorological

Office sell world-wide weather

information to 80% of the world's

airlines and also to other countries,

including Japan? Soup manufacturers

gear their production to cold spells and

Marks and Sparks actually tape the

farmer's forecast and use the

information on which to base their next

weekend's purchasing!

We even learnt that Moor Allerton Golf

Club had become subscribers to the

Weather Service at Leeds allowing them

to obtain weather data by direct ex-

directory line - pretty keen, eh?

Section dates

11th May

Spring Tournament, Hornsea

14th June

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AROUND THE GREEN

President's Day, Cobble Hall. If you feel like a decent read, £7.50 will buy you the transcript of our last Seminar, Greenkeeper, Golf Course and Conservation; package and postage inclusive.

David Hannam

Cleveland Section

It was with regret that I received Mr. W. Burt's resignation as President of the Cleveland Section, but due to poor health he has had to stand down. Bill has been with the Cleveland Section since it began and he was one of the founder members, long ago in a back room in Yarm. He is well liked by both greenkeepers and groundsmen in the area and I am sure that everybody wishes him a speedy recovery and hope to see him up and about again soon.

Our Spring Tournament will be the qualifier for the Regional round of the Iseki National Tournament. 12 qualifiers are needed - 4 from the categories:-

- 0 - 9 inc
- 10 - 18 inc
- 19 - 28 inc

The Regional Final will be played at Moor Allerton on Tuesday, 24th May. Also our Spring Tournament is the qualifier for the Jacobsen competition (best net and best gross).

A lot of thanks to Mr. Jeremy Howarth for his lecture on the range of seeds available from Inter Seeds accompanied with an excellent slide show.

Unfortunately there were only 9 people there, a rather poor affair and very embarrassing for those stalwarts who turned up to give their support as usual. A lot of time is spent in putting these lectures and demonstrations on for your benefit and a greater commitment and interest of the part of members is necessary.

Finally, only paid-up members shall receive information and newsletters in the future.

T. A. Naisbitt

Sheffield Section

For our February lecture date two Advisors from the STRI accepted our invitation to come and speak to us on two different subjects. Mr. Stuart Ormandroyd dealt with the problems of wet greens and greens construction whilst his colleague Mr. Steven Isaac spoke in great detail about turf diseases, their cause, prevention and cure. The turnout was excellent with some 40 members enjoying an interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks to Messrs. Ormandroyd and Isaac and to the STRI. With the approach of the Association's AGM, an informal discussion on matters relating to the BIGGA formed the basis of

our March meeting. Mr. David Golding, our Regional Administrator, kindly agreed to come and join us and was able to contribute a good deal of news and comment to the debate. It was clear from the general feeling of the meeting that problems still exist and answers need to be found soon if the momentum of the Association's progress is to be maintained. However, we were impressed with David's enthusiasm and I feel sure that providing the Board's decisions reflect the feelings of the rank and file member most of the problems can be resolved.

G. Brammah

SCOTTISH REGION

Central Section

The two Section lectures in February proved to be very successful, with both of them being well attended. We are indebted to the Council and members of both Tulliallan and Ladybank Golf Clubs for granting us the use of their clubhouses to hold these events and also our sincere thanks go to the speakers, Jimmy Kidd (Gleneagles), John Souter (Souter of Stirling), Keigh Vertigan (Sisis), Nander Robertson (Glenside Organics) and John Hutt (Rigby Taylor) for their excellent presentation of their particular subjects. The Section Spring Outing, will be held courtesy of Falkirk Tryst Golf Club, Larbert on Thursday 21st April, and all entries for this event must be in by 14th April.

The Autumn Outing has been arranged for Thursday, 29th September at Alloa Golf Club, Alloa.

Notice of the Inter-Club Tournament and the proposed bowls matches will be sent out with the Spring Outing entry forms, so if you wish to participate in any of these events, please return your forms promptly.

On his retirement, in February, from Souter of Stirling, the members made a presentation to Jock Armstrong for all the hard work and assistance he had given to the Central Section since its formation in 1980, when he was elected onto the Committee of which he has been a member ever since.

The best wishes for a long and healthy retirement go to Jock from all his friends in the Central Section.

The following is a letter sent to the Committee of the Section by Jock:

Dear Fellow Members,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your very generous and lovely gift of a crystal whisky decanter. It has been a great honour for me to have been a member of the Central Section over the past years and indeed have met and enjoyed your friendship as well. It was a most unexpected gift and I have been at such a loss for words.

I can only thank you most sincerely once again for your kind thoughts and good wishes, and hope that our friendship continues to be as enjoyable in the coming years.

Yours sincerely
Jock Armstrong.

Would any member who wishes items of information included in future Section Reports please forward them to me as soon as possible. It is your own Association, so please make an effort by contributing to make it successful.

John Crawford.

West Section

The West Section held their AGM on Monday, 1st February at Renfrew Golf Club, which was attended by 22 greenkeepers, 3 Trade members and 1 Associate member. The AGM went very smoothly with Bob Fitzpatrick handing over the Chairmanship of the West Section to Cecil George, and his Vice-Chairman Raymond Day.

The new Committee are :-
Chairman - Cecil George
Vice Chairman - Raymond Day
Secretary - Robert Brewer
Committee
Chris Kennedy
Robert Fitzpatrick
David Gall
David Hyndmarsh
Steven Hogg
James Gray
Gordon Kerr
James McKenzie
Richard Aitken (Trade)
and Kenneth Hunter (Trade)
Sub Committee Convenors:
Education - C. N. George
Finance - R. Aitken
Social - J. McKenzie
Match & Handicap - R. Day

The West Section Spring Outing will be held at East Renfrewshire Golf Club on 28th April. The cost for the day will be £10.00 which will include morning coffee, a 3 course lunch and high tea. The Autumn Outing is provisionally booked for Tuesday, 6th September at Gleddoch House Golf Club. Congratulations go to James McKenzie for his new post as Head Greenkeeper at Renfrew Golf Club. James was previously employed by Cawder Golf Club. Also congratulations go to Jamie Coutts who has moved from Beasde Golf Club to Walton Heath Golf Club as Assistant to Clive Osgood. The Committee wish both greenkeepers all the best in their new positions. The Committee of the West Section would like to wish everyone in the West a great golfing year and hope to see as many members as possible at the outings, etc that have been organised.

R. Brewer



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Uses: Golf greens, bowling greens, tennis courts, lawns, golf fairways and racecourses.

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Uses: Golf courses, sports fields, landscaping, seeding, planting and land reclamation.

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RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGES SCALE

In response to many requests, the Association has formulated a recommended minimum salary/wages scale for 1988, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the golf club and greenkeeping staff. The quoted rates apply to 18 hole golf courses.

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£12,650 per annum*
Deputy Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£ 9,100 per annum*
First Assistant	£150.96 per week *
Assistant Greenkeeper	£141.54 per week *
Apprentice 50% of Assistant Greenkeeper rate i.e. and to increase annually by 12.5%	£ 70.77 per week *

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy the appropriate salary scale of £9,100 per annum should apply.

N.B. Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

* Basic conditions of employment should include:-

- (1) where accommodation is provided by the Club it should be rent and rates free with heating/lighting costs borne by the club.
- (2) where accommodation is not provided by the club a suitable remuneration should be paid.
- (3) 40 hour week
- (4) Retirement Pension Scheme
- (5) Telephone costs on club business
- (6) Mileage allowance
- (7) Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
- (8) If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half with double time on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

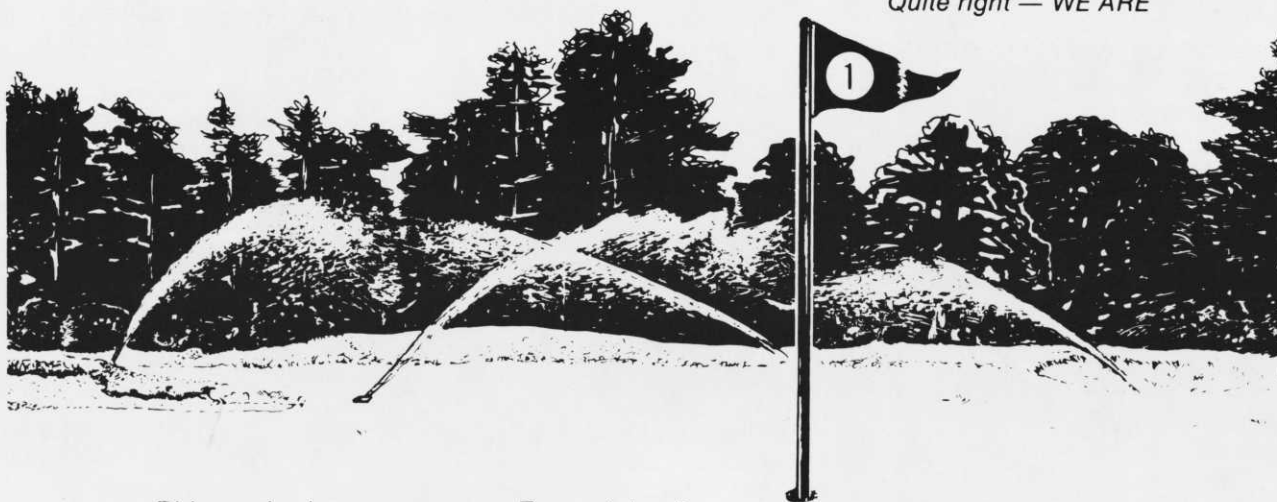
To promote and advance all aspects of greenkeeping; to assist and encourage the proficiency of members; to arrange an International Annual Conference, educational seminars, functions and competitions; to maintain a Benevolent Fund; to act as an employment agency; to provide a magazine; to collaborate with any body or organisation which may in any way benefit the Association or its members or with which there may be a common interest; to carry out and perform any other duties or responsibilities which shall be in the general interests of the Association or its members.



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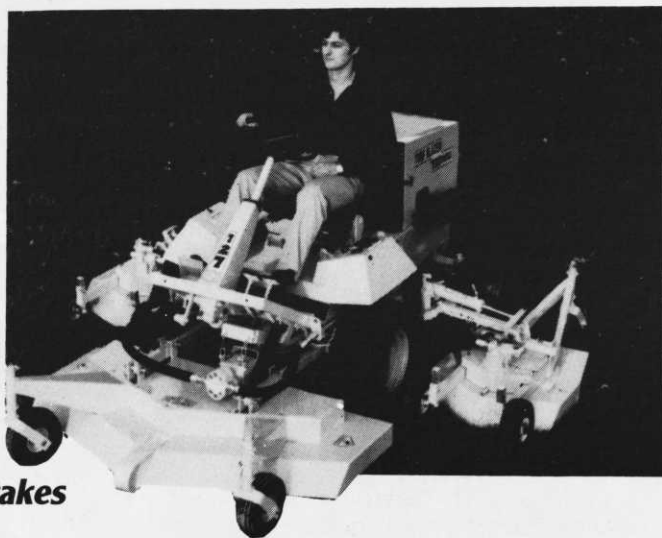
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Figure 1: Initial symptoms of take-all on fine turf



Figure 2: Classic symptoms of take-all

RESEARCH UPDATE

Neil Baldwin, plant pathologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute, continues his research and, in this article, describes the cause of take-all patch disease and its prevention and control.

FOR over a century, take-all patch disease has been recognised in agriculture as a problem of global importance, limiting significantly the productivity of pastureland and cereal crops.

On British golf greens however, take-all was relatively unknown until the 1950's when, to correct the extreme acidity of fairways of heathland courses, heavy applications of lime were made. Liming encourages take-all, and severe outbreaks were recorded.

During the next 25 years the damage done by liming was recognised and as this practice ceased, take-all declined. However, for reasons discussed later, take-all is once again on the increase. Consequently, due to the very destructive nature of take-all, its persistence and the absence of a chemical control measure, take-all is regarded as a potentially very serious problem in turf management.

Take-all is caused by the fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, until recently named *Ophiobolus graminis*, hence the old common name for the disease, *Ophiobolus* patch. To standardise the names used for diseases on a worldwide basis, the correct name for this disease is now 'take-all' and the use of all previous names has been discontinued.

On golf greens, the disease often appears initially as saucer shaped, slightly depressed bare areas (Figure 1) consisting mainly of dying bentgrasses. Accurate diagnosis of the disease at this early stage can only be made by laboratory examination. If help is needed, send a turf sample to the STRI.

These small patches may then enlarge into a ring, measuring up to 30 cm in diameter (Figure 2), of bleached or bronzed bentgrasses, the centre of each ring being occupied by plants resistant to the disease such as fescues, annual meadow-grass

and broad leaved weeds. Eventually, adjacent rings may coalesce, resulting in large irregular patches on greens or fairways (Figure 3). Although the disease is active only during the warmer parts of the year, the symptoms of attack usually appear in late summer.

DISEASE CYCLE

While most greenkeepers are aware that it is the bentgrasses that are very susceptible to take-all and consequently suffer most damage, the way in which the disease attacks the plant is not widely understood.

Take-all survives the winter in the soil as spores and dormant mycelium awaiting more favourable conditions the following spring. When warmer soil temperatures arrive, the fungus penetrates the vascular tissues of the plant, thus preventing the uptake of water and nutrients. Infected roots then turn brown and die and consequently affected turf may be easily detached from the surface. The disease then spreads up the plant as runner hyphae (thick mycelial threads which run in lines on the surface of the plant) which eventually penetrate the crown and kill the plant. The disease then produces flask shaped structures (perithecia) filled with spores which can then be spread by wind or water-splash to new areas.

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

When a greenkeeper first experiences the disease on his course the first question he may ask is "Why has the disease suddenly appeared here?" In fact the disease has probably been present all the time.

During the 1970's an extensive survey of British golf courses revealed that *Gaeumannomyces graminis* is nearly always present in turf at low population levels, even if the symptoms of disease attack have not been seen. Thus, if the

fungal inoculum with potential to cause take-all is there, the disease can develop once turf conditions are favourable.

There are two main reasons why take-all in most situations remains at these naturally low disease levels.

Firstly, present in the turf and soil are many other fungi and bacteria that are antagonistic to take-all and suppress the disease to such an extent that its pathogenic activities are almost totally inhibited.

Any turf management practice that is detrimental to these antagonists may consequently lead to an outbreak of take-all.

For example, sand-constructed greens are naturally low in antagonists and as such, are prone to take-all. The use of sterilised turf or materials in which the antagonists have been killed also aids rapid colonisation by take-all.

Secondly, a strong relationship between turf pH and take-all has been identified. It has now been well established that a sudden raising of the turf pH by the (often not deliberate) application of alkaline materials can lead to severe take-all attacks.

On golf courses, the application of lime is rare and generally only acidic fertilizers are used. However, there are several other possible sources of alkalinity. If water is taken from irrigation bore holes it can be hard, i.e. contain lime. Thus, every time the watering system is used, lime is being applied. However, in most cases this is not of major concern as not all water classified as "hard" has a high enough lime content to appreciably raise the turf Ph. Another important source of lime is the sand used either in construction or top dressing. If this sand has a high lime content then, particularly in wet regions where the lime can go into solution quickly, a rapid increase in turf pH can occur.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

It must be emphasised that once the disease has become established, there is no effective control measure.

At present two fungicides, namely carbendazim and

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RESEARCH UPDATE

<<

chlorothalonil, have a manufacturer's recommendation for control of take-all. At best these chemicals will give short term suppression of the disease only, and sometimes, following an application of these materials, the take-all will reappear at higher levels than previously. It is thought that the reason for this is that the fungicide will inhibit fungi in the soil that are antagonistic to the take-all and consequently this biological control mechanism is lost.

Consequently, fungicides may inhibit the process of take-all decline (see later) and therefore applications should be kept to a minimum. However much can be done to lessen the severity of a take-all attack. All efforts must be aimed at preventing outbreaks.

Firstly, the conditions under which the disease is likely to occur must be recognised. The sand construction method of building greens appear particularly vulnerable as sand can support only a low population of antagonists. There is some evidence that new courses built in woodland areas (where soils are low in antagonists) are also prone to the disease. By far the best prevention of take-all can be achieved by careful management of turf pH. Any practice that will rapidly increase turf

pH should not be used. Determine the lime content of sands used for construction, bunkers or top dressing. Also, be aware of any other possible sources of alkalinity, e.g. fertilizer and irrigation water.

A long term solution to take-all is offered by a phenomenon known as take-all decline, in which, given the right conditions, the disease will become less severe and disappear of its own accord. Consequently, once the disease has become established, our aim must be to establish these conditions so that the eradication of take-all is achieved as quickly as possible.

TAKE-ALL DECLINE

The decline of take-all takes place when the disease, after being present in an area for a number of years, apparently disappears, even if no active control measures have been taken.

In this country, three years may elapse before the disease becomes severe and may then be present at significant levels for a further one or two years.

Associated with this increase in severity of take-all is a build up of antagonistic fungi and bacteria in the soil.

Eventually the antagonists reach a point where they are able to inhibit the take-all and consequently the disease declines. These antagonists can be divided into two groups. Firstly, bacteria, certain soil fungi such as *Trichoderma* spp and strepto-mycetes which are able to produce antibiotics

and thus inhibit the take-all. Secondly a fungus known as *Phialophora* has been shown to colonise roots and thus leave little available root for take-all attack.

Experiments are in progress at the STRI in which laboratory cultures of fungi have been added to turf infected by take-all in an attempt to boost



Figure 3: Extensive take-all damage

this process of decline.

Take-all decline can be promoted as follows: As new outbreaks of the disease occur rarely in acidic turf, take-all can be discouraged by application of calcined sulphate of iron.

Application of fungicides should be kept to a minimum as they may inhibit the build-up of antagonists responsible for take-all decline. Outbreaks of fusarium patch disease can be prevented to a great extent by cultural control methods, thus minimising the need for fungicides.

Ensure healthy vigorous turf growth by supplying essential nutrients. Phosphates promote good root growth (and consequently discourage take-all) and potassium is generally regarded as beneficial as it enables the plant to withstand disease attack. Whilst these elements are often present at adequate levels in most greens, chemical analysis of soil samples in cases of take-all outbreak can determine the need for any fertilizer applications.

G. graminis, the causal fungus of take-all, survives unfavourable periods on dead plant material in the thatch layer. Remove excessive thatch by mechanical operations, e.g. hollow tining and scarification.

Take-all is usually most severe on wet, water retentive turf, as the disease spreads in water. Attention to drainage is consequently important.

TAKE-ALL DECLINE

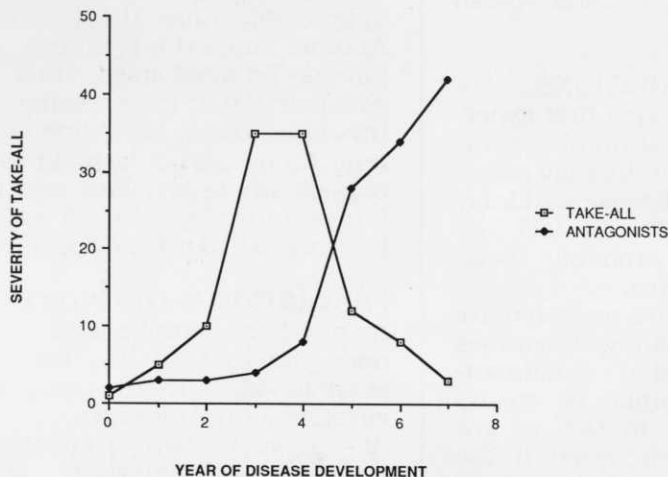


Figure 4: Take-all decline