

Horses and hang gliders add to the hazards on Baildon Moor

John Lelean meets David Hannam, the inventive greenkeeper with plenty of problems to solve.

Bradford, the heart of the woolen industry, was one of the wealthiest parts of the country just before the turn of the century so it was inevitable that areas of sheep grazing on the residential outskirts, but still in sight of the satanic mills would become, what was then the rich man's hobby - golf courses.

Nine courses were constructed within a ten mile radius of the city between 1891 and 1900 among them Baildon Golf Club, once known as Bradford Golf Club until the accolade was transferred to their neighbour across the valley at Hawksworth.

The Baildon course was con-

structed on common land on Baildon Moor. It is still common land despite the private golf club. Adjoining land-owners have the right to graze cattle and sheep, dog owners are free to wander at will, horses are ridden daily and on a warm Bank Holiday it is not unusual to find a family picnicking on one of the greens. Fortunately there are not too many warm weekends on Baildon Moor.

The latest hazard for golfers are trainee hang gliders who use the elevated slopes to launch themselves into space in the hope of making a soft landing in the moor mat grass or thick sedge at the edge of the

fairways.

Baildon's most famous neighbour is show jumper Harvey Smith, whose extensive stables overlook the ninth green. He exercises his horses across the golf course daily, but keeps away from the playing surfaces as far as possible.

The custody of the course is in the capable hands of the new Northern Regional Administrator, 40 year old David Hannam, for many years secretary of the Northern Section.

He came to Baildon as Head Greenkeeper nine years ago from the Sports Turf Research Institute

MANAGEMENT

where he was an experiment ground superintendent, following six years at Ilkley Golf Club as an assistant greenkeeper.

David is one of the few greenkeepers in the country with management qualifications obtaining a NEBSS certificate in Supervisory Studies in 1975, together with a City and Guilds Supervisory Management.

He also holds an Intermediate National Diploma from the Institute of Groundsmanship and obtained a distinction at the Cheshire College of Agriculture, where he was voted best student of the year. Latterly he has lectured part-time at Wakefield and Shipley Colleges.

We met out on the tenth green where he was re-modelling the bunker to the front of this par three. As my arrival on foot across the moor, guided by distant landmarks, coincided with the onset of rain, neither of us needed a great deal of persuasion to adjourn to the comparative comfort of the tractor cab.

David said his club, founded in 1898, has never been regarded as wealthy, but always well supported by a mainly artisan membership.



Stripping turf prior to re-modelling Baildon's eighth green.

There are around 700 altogether and their fees have to finance most of the expenditure as the surrounding courses cream off much of the green fee paying visiting parties.

Last Easter, a fire gutted most of the interior of the club-house, but this has now been refurbished at a

cost of £120,000. Part of the original wooden building clad in masonry still remains, brought it is said, at dead of night by horse drawn wagon from the Leeds Golf Club at Cobble Hall. No one is sure whether the journey during the hours of darkness was to disguise its eventual

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destination or to facilitate the move.

Most of the greens, regarded as the driest in Bradford, have a pre-dominance of bent, some annual meadow grass with fescue on the better drained greens. One, the newly constructed fourth, has more fescue than any other because it was sown that way and now after struggling for a couple of seasons has produced a fine sward.

The greens drain well throughout the year despite a lack of constructed drainage. David puts this down to a programme of intensive aeration throughout the winter starting with hollow tining in October, leaving the holes open.

He then deep slits about five times with a "home made" 12in converted Sisis DP48 split in half, just one of the pieces of maintenance equipment he has invented for use with a compact tractor. During the playing season aeration continues with a 7in slitter, as frequently as possible.

The soil is acid with a predominantly clay sub-strata, though David believes it is a "friendly" structure, allowing roots to penetrate quite deeply through the fissures.

During the season he aims to apply four top dressing applications with his own mixture of two to one sand and compost, supplemented with ground peat and a touch of charcoal.

As a traditionalist, Hannam makes his own compost from an abundance of local horse "muck" and quality top soil, in the firm belief that a good organic balance must be maintained for the benefit



A newly delivered Lloyds Paladin adds credit to Baildon's new fourth green.

of the soil, micro flora and a healthy sward.

Fertilizers are applied twice in the year, a spring dressing of Slow Release Nitrogen, followed by a later application of the same feed.

Like most other Yorkshire greenkeepers David needs to watch for fusarium. As a preventative he alternates between Vinclozolin and Iprodione and gives his greens a periodic iron spray.

There is no irrigation system at Baildon, but plenty of water is close at hand, a whole reservoir full, backing on to the greenkeeper's sheds! When necessary he can dose 400 gallons on every green in a day by filling a tank on a trailer, driving out on the course and pumping it on with a petrol engine.

Naturally time consuming, very labour intensive, hardly to be recommended, though a lifesaver in

times of severe stress, that is why he puts such emphasis on deep green aeration to increase the root growth.

All the greens at Baildon are cut with hand operated mowers, adjusting the height of cut and mowing frequency consistent with the prevailing climatic conditions, the amount of play and current green treatment.

David has four Lloyds Paladins, with two Ransomes Marquis to cut tees. Last year the club invested in a Beaver 508 with floating heads to cut the fairways to replace the mounted triple set.

This has been a wise buy as the course can be cut weekly in just over the day compared to the two days of work a fortnight it took previously. All agree the fairways have never looked better.

David has been a firm believer in the compact tractor since it was first introduced to the market, Baildon being the first course in the UK to go "compact" for total greens maintenance. He bought his first in 1980 and a second three years later. He said "As a general workhorse for this course there is nothing better."

Power is regarded as essential at Baildon and as well as the 12.5hp compact he has one 4WD-17hp, another of 37hp and a 4WD-60hp for heavy duty haulage.

Winter construction projects involve the building of at least three tees each year despite the limitations of only three greenstaff other than himself, but this has not stopped him building a

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new fourth green from scratch on ground previously in the category of scrub, as well as remodelling another.

Ninety-six loads of rooting mix went into the area, pulled across the course by tractor and trailer. It was sown at the beginning of October with an 80/20 fescue/bent mixture rather later than planned because of bad weather, but now in its third year is developing a thick and healthy sward.

Although Baildon has a Green Committee, David said he is given almost a free hand to maintain and develop the course as he sees fit. The club have adopted a very liberal attitude to the work carried out and have the utmost confidence in the ability of his management and the skill of his greenstaff.

They also subscribe to a sound progressive policy for greenstaff education and training and are to be commended for what Hannam believes is a very healthy attitude, unlike some clubs who still remain ignorant or apathetic to the professional development of their greenstaff.

One of his staff, Scott Thompson,

holds a full City and Guilds certificate in greenkeeping, another Stephen Gardner an ex-YTS student from nearby Otley golf club, is on the first year course at Shipley College. His first assistant Nick Faram has been at Baildon for 13 years. All are encouraged to attend greenkeeping lectures and exhibitions.

David's new role within the Association as Regional Administrator is expected to be even more time consuming than that of Northern Section Secretary. There will be more meetings to attend, greater distances to travel, particularly because his kingdom extends from Merseyside to Teeside, and South Yorkshire to the Scottish Borders.

Asked how he saw his new job developing, David said his predecessor David Golding would be a hard act to follow, but he did have some new ideas which in time he hoped to implement.

His primary objective would be as a link between member and management, feeding views from the five Sections through to Headquarters. Meanwhile he still had the bunkers around the tenth green to finish as soon as it stopped raining.

OBITUARY

Mr John Field, one of the most respected members of the golf course distributive industry died at the end of January after a short illness, aged 66.

Among the mourners at his funeral were many friends from the world of golf, including greenkeepers, business associates, fellow members of local golf clubs as well as a large number of personal friends and relatives.

As a young man John represented Franks Keeps an old established firm supplying golf and sports clubs in the South East. Later he joined Maxwell Hart, becoming their Technical Sales Manager a position he held for many years.

Through his association with greenkeepers he became closely involved with the BGGGA attending local lectures and tournaments, taking an organizing role each year at the National Tournament, where his service proved invaluable.

As a mark of the Association's appreciation he was appointed a Vice President at National level as well as a Vice President of the Southern Section.

After a lifetime associated with golf courses it was inevitable he would take up the game, joining his local club, Langley Park. His wife Audrey also shared his interest and they shared many happy hours on British courses.

John will be sadly missed by his wife, son and daughter as well as the many friends he made through the game of golf.

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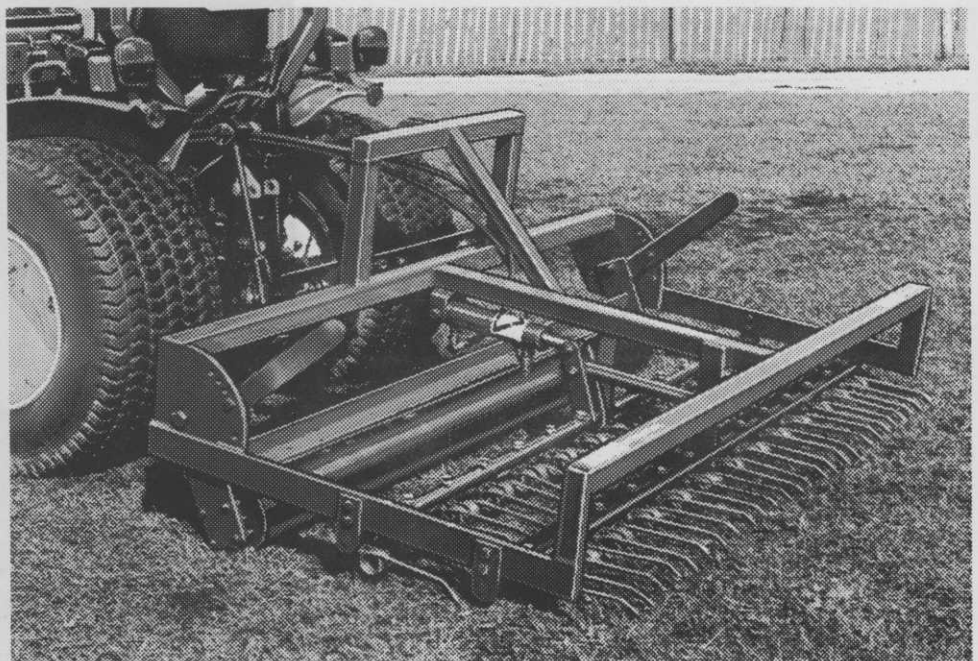
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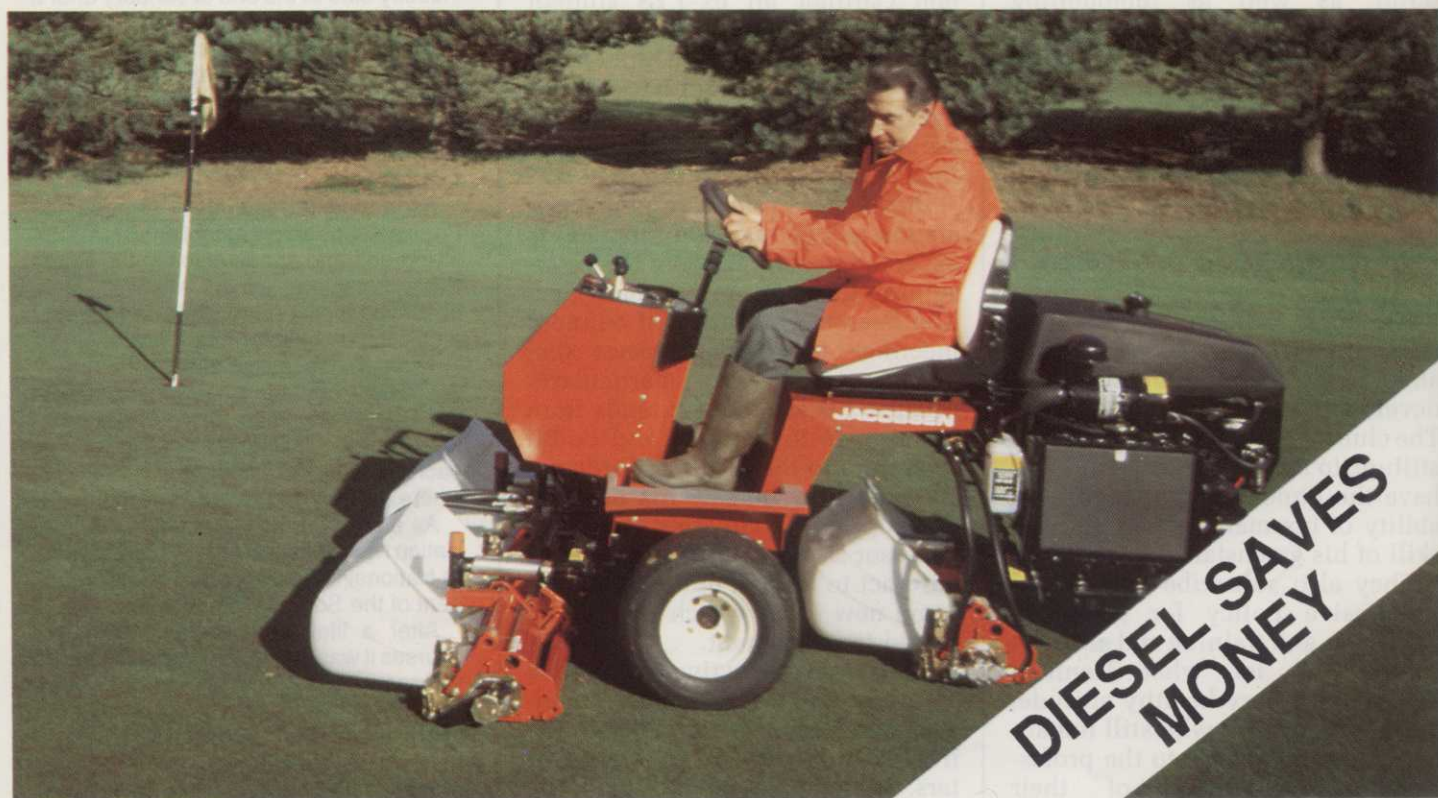


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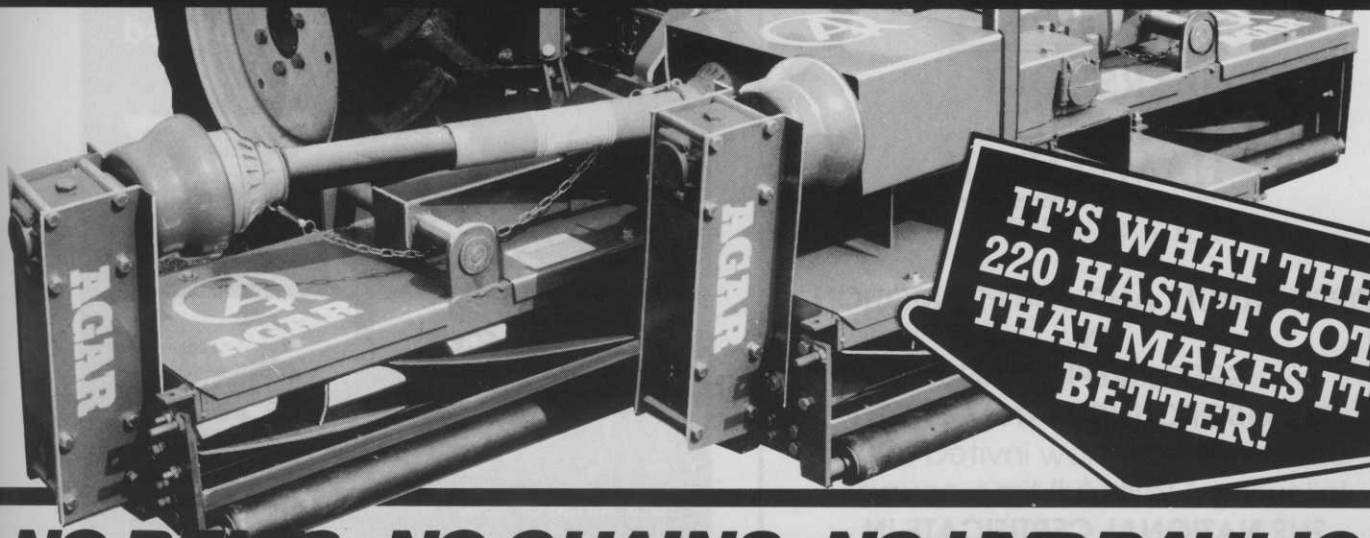


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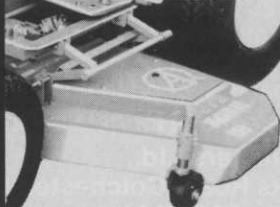
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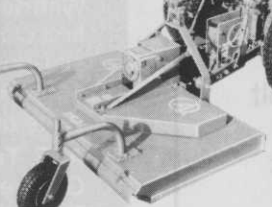
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SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

South Wales Section

On February 21st, we visited Powerfab at Tredegar. Manufacturers of backacting units for all types of machinery. The turnout from the membership was very poor but those who attended were given an excellent time.

We met at 1.45pm for coffee, then toured the whole factory, seeing it from the raw material stage to the machining, welding and painting stages, through to the final assembly. We also had a quick demonstration on the versatility of all the machines from front-loading buckets to the tracked vehicle backacters. It was interesting to learn that Powerfab export to virtually every country in the world and that they would be prepared to make an attachment for any specific use, from clay buckets to bore drills. Our thanks to Mr Ken Johns and his staff for their very kind hospitality.

Obituary

It is with great regret that I inform the membership of the death of Mr Arthur Price of Carmarthen.

Arthur was a very popular character not just within South Wales, but throughout the country as a past chairman of the former Association at National level as well as at Sectional level. Arthur attended the meetings regularly throughout the years, from Sectional competitions to National competitions and was a regular member of the Welsh team in International competitions.

I am sure that Arthur will be missed very much by the members from South Wales and throughout the country. We send our sincerest condolences to his family at their bereavement.

Recent Appointments

We would like to wish every success to Graham Cox and Huw Parry on their recent appointments to new posts. Graham took over at Cardiff golf club at

Cyncoed and Huw took over at Caerphilly golf club where Graham was previously.

P. Swain

South Coast Section

Westurf '89

Please support this Regional Trade Exhibition which is taking place on Wednesday, 24th May at Long Ashton Golf Club, near Bristol, Avon.

A large number of exhibitors will be in attendance making the event one of the largest Turf Exhibitions to be held in the South West. Your Committee has proposed hiring a coach or mini-bus to take Section members to the event. Please let me know if you wish to take advantage of this offer.

Details of our Summer Tournament are as follows:- Cowdray Park Golf Club, West Sussex.

Wednesday 12th July, 1989. Teeing off from 2.00pm £12.00 per person. Closing date 4th July.

The competition, consisting of a member and partner from their club, will be the usual format of an 18 hole Four ball better ball.

Written entries, giving name, address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the appropriate fee should be sent to:- Mr. J. Burdett, 948 Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, BH7 6SP. Tel: 0202-483017.

J. R. Dennis

MIDLAND AND NORTH WALES REGION

Mid Anglia Section

Around 22 members turned out on Monday 27th February at Welwyn Golf Club to hear a lecture by Mr Finney of Ayletts Nurseries, St Albans. The subject was "Trees, Shrubs and Heathers for the use on the Golf Course and Club House Areas", and was very informative backed by a range of coloured slides. Our thanks to Mr Finney for stepping in at such short notice, and also to John Wells for organising this event.

A late reminder of the Spring Tournament to be held at Beadlow Manor on April 26th. Fee £17.50. Please contact Ken Bunting on 0442-843359. Please contact me if you have not received a copy of the 1989 fixture list, and note that my telephone number is 0923-228703, and not as printed in the Jan/Feb issue of the magazine.

Finally on behalf of all our members, I would like to convey our thanks to Bob Goodwin for all his hard work and efforts over the last ten years.

P. Fitzjohn

Midland and North Wales Section

Our March lecture at Telford Golf and Country Club was very well attended with 39 members present to hear Richard Maw, the Testing Officer for the West Midlands, give a talk on the Pesticides Law and answer numerous questions. There were unfortunately some unanswered questions which even Mr Law said should be looked at more fully, and a majority left feeling either unsure or complacent about these new regulations. A most interesting afternoon was had and many thanks go to Mr Maw for sharing his knowledge. Thanks also to Telford Golf and Country Club for the use of their facilities. For those who were unable to attend and would like further information on the Pesticide Law and modules, they can ring Mr Maw or Mr Delahay on 021-550-0007.

I. R. Toon

East Midlands Section

Our Spring Golf Tournament is to take place at Mapperley Golf Club, Mapperley Plains, Notts on Wednesday, 17th May, first tee booked from 12.00 until 1.30pm.

The Singles and Pairs knockout will again be run through the Summer and the draw for these competitions will be made at the Spring Tournament.

Qualification for the Iseki Golf Tournament will be taken from the first three in the handicap categories 0-9, 10-18 and over 18 at the Spring Golf Tournament.

The Spring Golf Tournament is also the first qualifying round for the Rigby Taylor Golf Match against the Midlands Section in October, the other qualifying round being the Autumn Golf Tournament. Qualifiers are the top ten in the

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AROUND THE GREEN

aggregate nett scores. Dates for your Diary Wednesday 17th May, Spring Golf Tournament, Mapperley, Notts. 14th-16th August National Annual Golf Tournament, Lyme Regis, Dorset. Wednesday 27th September Autumn Golf Tournament, Scaptoft, Leics. Monday 13th November AGM and Golf Competition, Melton Mowbray, Leics.

At our Section AGM last November, the subject arose about the lack of interest and attendance at most of our functions. It was proposed that a questionnaire be sent out to 1988 Section members asking if they were satisfied with how the Section and Golf Competitions were being run, and asking for suggestions on what would make members attend functions, together with any comments on the Section and Association. Some 54 questionnaires were sent out with stamped addressed envelopes, but only 27 came back!!

R. W. Willars

SOUTH EAST REGION

London Section

The Winter lectures have become a very friendly night out and thanks to the following for the lectures:- D. W. Jenkins, David Smart. David Phillips, Nick Baldwin, Alan Stow, Watermaton.

We look forward to the lectures again next year. This month we have two venues, first a match against the Stewards at Northwood Golf Club, tee-off at 1.00pm with ihigh tea to follow. This could be a useful warm-up for the Iseki Qualifier (bandits welcome no risk to handicaps as this is a team event). The Iseki Qualifier is part of our Spring Tournament at Hadley Wood Golf Club on 24th April. This is a 36 hole competition with coffee, ploughmans lunch, and four course meal. Tee off at 8.30am. Cost £15.00

If you wish to play at either of these events, please ring me on Northwood 28167.

M. Peters

NORTHERN ENGLAND REGION

North East Section

Spring Tournament Seahouses Golf Club, April 20th. Tee-off 10.30am - 12.30pm. Autumn Tournament City of Newcastle Golf Club, September 21st. Matches against the Secretaries and East Lothian Section will be confirmed at a later date.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Johnson of Stocksfield Golf Club for his support in the past two years as the North East Representative on the Northern Regional Board, and wish him well in his new role as Vice-Captain at Stocksfield.

J. Richardson

Northern Section

So much for the wonderful weather, rattled on format length in last month's billy-doux! A quite exciting change of scene will take place early May when the BIGGA Nerve Centre moves from Bingley to new headquarters at Aldwark Manor, a large country hotel buried deeply within the Plain of York, about 12 miles north of the said city. This progression can only augur well for the Association and its positively developing profile in the greenkeeping and turfgrass industry generally. We wish David Golding every success in his new role as Education Officer to the BIGGA, yet more evidence of progress.

The bad or sad news is that Caroline Holdsworth, the BIGGA office Queenpin is leaving. Good luck Caroline in your future, and thank you for your charming assistance in the past.

With the movement of Mr Golding, the position of Northern Regional Administrator has fallen to yours truly (!), opening up the way for Mr Robert Lupton, who is now Northern Section Secretary. Bob will make a good go of it, perhaps injecting a bit of fresh perspective into the job. I, for my part, will endeavor to do what is right and would like to seize this chance to thank all concerned for their encouragement and support during my six years as Sec to Northern Section greenkeepers.

Bob is now your Section contact, and his address is:- 23 Hinchcliffe Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire. Tel: 0274-590463.

This development has brought about a re-shuffle in

the Northern Section office. Chairman Colin Geddes. Vice-Chairman Phillip Sutton. Regional Board Robert Lupton and Colin Geddes. Greenkeeper Liaison Training Committee, Northern Section Representatives Robert Lupton, Colin Geddes and Alan Gamble.

D. Hannam

After the 'winter' season of lectures, we are now looking forward to the coming year's golfing programme, but first I must bring you up to date with some changes which have taken place in the Section. First, it's congratulations to our former Secretary, David Hannam, who has been promoted to Regional Administrator. We wish him well in his new venture.

After my brief reign as Chairman, I have now taken over from where David left off as Secretary, and Colin Geddes has stepped into my shoes as Chairman which has left Phillip Sutton with the job of Vice-Chairman. As I am new to this job, I would like to hear from any members with their news, information, ideas or problems. Please remember it is your Section and what you contribute to it has bearing on what you get out of it. So, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any matter at all. I am waiting to hear from you!


Now onto some dates for your diaries:-

The Spring Tournament will be at Wakefield Golf Club on Tuesday 11th May. The Invitation Tournament is set for Tuesday, 25th July at Ganton Golf Club. Please note, numbers are strictly limited to 40 for this event, so it is essential to book early for this to avoid disappointment. The Intersectional Match will be on Tuesday, 10th October. For those taking part, please remember to dress correctly, in fact, why not push the boat out and buy some of the BIGGA uniform available from me at a very modest cost!


Last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome the new members to the Section who are Messrs:- M C Tattersall, E M Paley, A D Smith, R A Smith, C White, M R Wood and P Thresh. I hope they will take full advantage for their membership by taking part in our events.

R. Lupton


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