

this can produce irregularities in the surface.) The success of this summer seed renovation is variable, depending on whether the tees can be watered in dry weather and also to some extent on the exposure to wind, especially on coastal golf links.

It is rather surprising to find on one's advisory rounds that there are still tees on a number of golf courses where mowing is done regularly without a box on the mower, and clippings are returned to the tee. One of the most necessary attributes of a tee is a firm surface, and the regular return of the grass clippings, in addition to favouring the spread of weeds and the proliferation of worm casts, makes the surface soft. Mowing without a box is, as a rule, not due to lack of appreciation of the consequences, but to lack of time or the fact that the tee mower does not have a box (or boxes). Neither of these problems is incapable of solution and it is mainly a question of cash.

Fairway maintenance

Finally, a word or two about the fairways. At this time of year mowing and periodic 'divotting', that is to say replacing divots and filling in divot holes and scrapes with a soil/seed mixture, are the main requirements in the way of maintenance. Golfers are often blamed for not replacing divots when really the culprit is a rook or crow which picks the divot up again after the golfer has dutifully fitted it back.

There is sometimes, especially at seaside links courses, the odd fairway or two where there is very little soil over sand — perhaps just one or two inches or so. A dry summer really hits fairways like these, and the turf becomes so dry and brown that one wonders whether it will ever recover. Recover it does usually, but it is never sufficiently compact and uniform to provide good lies. On one or two of the links in the south of England a grass making a substantial contribution to the sward is bulbous meadow-grass, which dies right back in a dry summer, new stems and leaves being produced from the bulb in the autumn to give a much improved cover of grass for the fairway during the winter. This, in fact, is the grass which was grown a long time ago on the greens of some of the golf courses in the Riviera — at Cannes for instance — when golf used to be played only during the winter. The performance of the grass in the summer was irrelevant.

Watering of fairways would have caused hands to be raised in horror 20 to 30 years ago but there is no doubt that *discriminating* watering of these very sandy fairways keeps the grass growing when there is no rain, without changing the botanical composition of the turf for the worse; and there is a strong case for the installation of a few pop-up sprinklers, at any rate in the more strategically important areas. The accent though should be very much on 'discrimination', the turf being watered just sufficiently to prevent it wilting and no more.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR VANCOUVER CONFERENCE

By Kevin Munt

It was my recent good fortune to have the opportunity to attend the 32nd Annual Canadian Turfgrass Conference held in Vancouver in March. This conference was a real education for a number of reasons, firstly the conference was an exercise in excellent organisation and co-ordination, secondly the whole affair was conducted with a nice balance of friendship and learning.

Including a two day 36 hole pre-conference golf tournament the show covered six days and over 60 greenkeepers teed-off for the two days of golf. These were joined by a further 600 registrants and their wives for the Conference. All these people stayed in the 5-star Hyatt Regency Hotel which was also the venue for the Conference. This created a marvellous holiday atmosphere. Every time I stepped into a lift or went for a drink in the bar, I met someone wearing the conference ID badge, so straight away I had something in common. This also made me feel that I was part of something large and important in the Turfgrass world. The North American Superintendent realises he is an important person in golf and that a Conference of this proportion is vital to his education and standing in that world. (So does his Club).

Not only did I learn a lot about golf greenkeeping and running a conference

for a large Association, I received a good golf lesson in the Tournament. I was drawn off the first tee with the Presidents of the Canadian and United States Superintendents Associations and it was a nerve racking experience. The golf tournament was a very good ice-breaker for some of the early registrants and it gave us all a chance to get over the travel weariness, I say all of us because some people traveled 4000 miles from the east coast to attend their National Conference.

After the two days of golf we enjoyed a free day to enjoy the sights of Vancouver. It is the most beautiful city I have ever seen and a marvellous place to hold a conference.

On the night before the conference started 500 people attended a cheese and wine party hosted by British Columbia Golf Superintendents Association. British Columbia was the host province for the Show. This was the first of three great evenings that followed each days lectures. The second evening was known as the 'Rainbird Bash'. This was a real let your hair down session which included a large seafood spread and beer all night laid on by Rainbird Irrigation. They also ran

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ning and it was a straightforward affair. One decision concerns next year's Spring Meeting—the draw will be such that players of scratch to 12 handicap will play together (in threesomes) and players of 13-24 handicap likewise.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, and we hope that their association with us will be a long and happy one: Peter Reese (Weymouth), Colin Read (South-

amptonMunicipal); Keith Elsworth (Meyrick Park); Paul Cox (Hockley); John Bowers (Meyrick Park); Robert Lodge (Southwick Park); John Lawton (Tylney Park); Stephen Trew (Parkstone) and Simon Bowler (Liphook).

We are very sorry to learn that Trevor Pipe has decided to transfer to the Surrey Section now that he has settled in at Hoebridge Golf Centre, Woking, but we intend to keep in touch and take him up on his offer of a day's golf after its official opening next year!

Vancouver Conference report

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an inter-province boat race (beer drinking contest). Sixteen teams of 4 men and women raced to drink 4 pints the quickest.

The last evening saw a fitting end to a professionally run event—the Annual Banquet. Over 500 sat down to a four course meal and were entertained by a comedy duet and then a band. This banquet only served to further demonstrate how well organised the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association is.

If you have read this far and are wondering why I have so far only talked about the entertainment side of what is supposed to be a Turfgrass Conference and Show. It is because I wanted to show what can be achieved by a group of forward thinking people who wish to advance their profession. The superintendents of North America are not only achieving this in their own circle they are showing their golf clubs and the trade their Professionalism.

Professionalism was one of the many subjects covered by the 18 speakers. Other subjects covered were 'Replacing Poa Annua With Bent', 'Mechanizing Turf Maintenance', 'Tree Care & Maintenance', 'Control of Aquatic Plants', 'Water Options and Systems Available', and 'Recreation For The 80's'. All the lectures were well presented and most were accompanied for good slide presentations. One speaker by the name of Dr. Roy L. Goss presented an article on how to grow Good Poa Annua. He had a lot of explaining to do.

The lectures were held in a large ballroom in the hotel. Next door to this in an even larger ballroom was a machinery show. These rooms were four floors up in the thirty four floor hotel. In the show were two Kubota tractors, a full range of both Toro and Jacobsen machinery including their tractor mounted gang mowers. I could not believe the equipment that was in the hotel four floors up.

This trip came about because I attended our own International Symposium in 1979. There I met the members of the Canadian team who were to play in the International Match. I built up a friendship with Bob Wick who was the CGSA Director for British Columbia. He then invited my wife and myself to stay in Canada for three weeks taking in the Conference. So I would say to any greenkeeper in Britain who has the chance to attend any lecture or golf match and who wishes to improve his knowledge and make friends in the 'Profession' to jump at the chance. We all have our moans and groans about the BGGGA but none of us are beyond reproach and nobody knows it all. But a group of people who get together and share their ideas and views can only extend their personal horizons and become more in their chosen career.

The North American greenkeeper is not a better greenkeeper than a British greenkeeper but he does have a more professional outlook to his job and is thus better recognised by the people he is working for.

Editor's note. Kevin and all members of the BGGGA will be pleased to learn that an International Greenkeepers Conference is being held in Britain later this year. More details about this will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

Sisis competition

'I TOLD YOU SISIS WILL TRAVEL ANYWHERE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR HYDROMAIN'

Congratulations to John Roots of Northfleet, Gravesend, the winner of the Sisis Hydromain Cartoon Competition. Sisis say that they were very impressed with the high standard of the entries and judging proved to be extremely difficult. However, Mr. Roots caption, printed above, was judged to be the best and a case of wines is on its way. Because there were so many witty ideas, Sisis have awarded two extra prizes of a bottle of whiskey to Mr. Bill Marshall of Benton, Newcastle on Tyne for his caption: 'Its British of Course!!! Far more advanced than

that stuff the Americans used to send up here' and to Mr. L. Nelson of York, for 'Its Lunar-sy to work without a Sisis Hydromain'. The following deserve a special mention:

a) J. Barnes; b) S. Lee; c) R.N. Maltby; d) D. Golding; e) C. Lunt; f) S. Richardson.

a) 'When SISIS claim that the Hydromain System has Universal useage, they mean just that'

b) 'Sisis must have darn good reps. That's the Greens Chairman on there!'

c) 'No! That's no Lunatic he's just caught Hydromania'

d) 'Are you sure he's experienced? He keeps saying, 'Gee Up' to start it.'

e) 'I said, 'Greens Slit by Noon, Not go to the Moon.'

f) 'The Sisis Hydromain is so technically advanced and easy to operate, even Earthlings could use it.'

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