

SECTIONAL News

CLEVELAND

Hon. Ass. Sec: Roger Shaw,
12 Bede Terrace, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8AJ

The annual trip to Scotland this year went to Ladybank and Scotsraig. The team enjoyed a fine weekend and also earned an honourable half in the match against the Scottish greenkeepers.

Our thanks to the Scots and the clubs for their courtesy and their hospitality.

The section organised transport to the Scotsturf Exhibition on the 12th November. This was well attended and apart from a few problems with the bus it all went well. Several members made the most of the two hours delay in returning home from Edinburgh and this may well become an annual event in the future.

A talk by Gills, the Massey-Ferguson dealers has been arranged for the end of January/start of February. This will be an evening lecture, details later in the newsletter.

Our National Chairman, George Malcolm gave a talk on the 15th January at Brass Castle.

SHEFFIELD

Hon. Sec: G. Brammah,
302 Redmires Road,
Lodge Moor, Sheffield S10.
Telephone: (0742) 302526

The winter lectures got under way with a visit by our Section to Rolawn Ltd. at Elvington near York in November (See picture Dec. issue).

The day proved to be a complete success which was due entirely to Mr. Rod Moore and all the Rolawn staff. Coffee on arrival was followed by an excellent buffet lunch when many of the Rolawn staff made themselves available to discuss greenkeepers requirements.

The afternoon was taken up by a visit to various production units around Elvington where we saw the turf being harvested. The warm welcome and excellent organisation shown by Rolawn was appreciated by us all.

Our December lecture spot was filled by Richard Bishop and Richard Patchett of Ransomes who took the members through the Ransomes range of equipment and in particular the new G.T. triple mower. The meetings, as is always the case when Ransomes visit us, was very well attended and an excellent buffet was kindly provided.

Now the new Association came into being in January 1987, we are to see the start of a new chapter in the history of British Greenkeepers. We, the Sheffield Section wish the new Association every success and hope that every member will lend their support so that greenkeepers can at last achieve the improvement in pay, conditions, and standing that we have strived for, for so many years.

MID ANGLIA

Hon. Sec: L. Wakerell,
26 Loxley Road, Berkhamsted,
Herts. HP4 3PS

Our final fixture of 1986 was the Christmas Invitation at South Bedfordshire Golf Club on 11th December, and with 72 competitors playing a "TEXAS SCRAMBLE", the event proved to be most enjoyable despite the cold, wet weather.

Paul Lockett and the Green Staff had the Course in superb condition, especially so late in the year, and this helped provide some very low scoring.

The winning combination of Paul Fitzjohn, J. Droy, John Wells and D. Matthews with a score of 65 took the decanter's and momentoes. R. Hughes, J. Booth, J. Nesbitt and R. Lucas, scored 67 to take a carriage clock each, and M. Green, M. Gobey, J. Chapman and A. Burden on 68 won a figurine.

Our thanks to Mr. Joe Spinks who provided the Winner's Prizes and Mommersteeg International who presented a prize to each member of the winning team.

We are also indebted to Mr. Norman Ward, Parkers Ltd., Rigby Taylor's (South) Ltd., Ransomes Ltd., and Mr. Derek Prior for their contribution to the prize fund.

Some 86 members and guests sat down to a splendid Christmas Dinner after which the Club Captain presented the prizes and welcomed all to South Beds. The Section Chairman in reply thanked the Captain and all the Staff for the courtesies extended to us throughout the day.

We are also most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Smith for selecting and obtaining some of the prizes, Roland Hughes for a prosperous Raffle, and Ken Bunting for his hard work in organising the Competition.

ON THE MEND

Greenkeepers nationally and Mid Anglia particularly will be pleased to hear that Bob Goodwin, Head Greenkeeper at Ashridge Golf Club at Berkhamsted is on the road to recovery after a session under the surgeon's knife.

Bob was taken ill suddenly in mid-November and rushed into hospital, but we now hear he has been regaining his strength aided no doubt by the left-overs from the festive season.

He is expecting to be back in harness in mid-February, though for a time it will be light duties. Some judicious replacement of the tee markers, flag-pole painting or preparing an update inventory of the equipment should keep him occupied until the advent of Spring.

SOUTH COAST

Hon. Sec: J. R. Dennis,
Hampshire College of Agriculture,
Sparsholt, Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 2NF.
Telephone: (096) 272441 Ext. 288.

I am pleased to report that members turned out in force to listen to Derek Ganning when he spoke at our November meeting. Members were very interested to hear all about the Belfry courses and Derek did not disappoint with his very interesting and enjoyable talk. Among the audience were a number of guests including Ron Whitehead, Head Greenkeeper at La Moye Golf Club, Jersey. Ron told me that his last chance to attend a Section Meeting was over ten years ago, when he was a member of the Sheffield Section.

Also making a difficult journey to attend the meeting were several of our members from the Isle of Wight. Members support for these evenings is very much appreciated by your Committee and plans are now being made for the next year's programme.

On the golfing side of the Section I can report that thirty-five members and guests took part in the Turkey Trot competition. This new event, which it is hoped will become an annual competition, is sponsored by Rigby Taylor & J. T. Lowe.

This year's venue was the Royal Winchester Golf Club and our thanks to Reg. Varlow, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for all their work in preparing the course.

Results were as follows:

1st	Peter Marsh (17)	39 points
2nd	Terry Patchin (13)	39 points
3rd	Kevin Unsworth (11)	38 points

Turkeys were also won by Phil. Wentworth, Bob Walker and Paul Drodge. Top guest's prize went to our President, Jim Fry with 35 points.

Our thanks to Nick Clarke of J. T. Lowe and Mark Wilton of Rigby Taylor for arranging and sponsoring this event.

The final winter lecture will be on Wednesday, 4th March, 1987, when Mr. Yelland of Rigby Taylor will be giving a presentation not only of his firm's products but also an update on the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986. This important new legislation has implications for all users of chemicals and if you are not sure now about Certificates of Competence make a note in your diaries regarding the date.

The Section's AGM will follow Mr. Yelland's talk and this is *your* chance to put *your* point of view and hear of the Section's plans for the next twelve months.

Finally, a welcome to three new members: Kevin Cue, Petersfield G.C., Nicholas Deakin of Stanley West, A. F. West and Keith Jenman of Jenman Engineering Services.

NORTHERN

Hon. Sec: D. C. Hannam,
12 Moorfield Avenue, Menston,
W. Yorks.

Telephone: (0943) 72008

At last the course is resting, bound up in the grips of a frost, the keenest on record since Ian McAskell's birthday, the coldest recorded January weather since Queen Victoria left her throne, and certainly the coldest in our shed since we bought a thermometer four years ago. As these very words are penned the sub-zero temperature is creating elegant feathery plumes on the glass pane before my eyes, as I pause and gaze outwardly for inspiration; ah, how magical!

The big (BIGGA) bang took place, presumably on January 1st. It must have been a very controlled explosion, our knowledge to date being extremely scant, but as information is released all possible will be done to ensure you are kept up to date.

A most enjoyable evening was spent on December 11th in the company of Mr. Mike Canaway of the Sports Turf Research Institute. Mike who is Senior Research Officer at STRI spoke very ably on the work of the Institute, outlining its historical origins through to the services available and research work in progress today. This very good talk provoked some excellent discussion, the overall result being a really worthwhile evening. Thanks Mike, your services were really appreciated.

Our Moor Allerton Turkey Trot on December 16th attracted an intrepid troupe of turkeys, who, needless to say enjoyed every foot-squelching minute of it. Although quite cold and incredibly wet underfoot in places, the day held dry till about 3 p.m. allowing all players to make home, happy, but tired. That chap from Pontefract, Collins, I think his name is, ambled in with a 72, and that was after a 10 on the 1st! Colin Garnett from Garforth took the 2nd Division 1st with a creditable 73. Well done to you both and all. Thanks as always to Moor Allerton and Colin Geddis for lining us up - We are greatly obliged.

Now that we are officially international our plans have moved accordingly and thus are pleased to announce that on February 26th Ian Tomlinson, Head Greenkeeper at the Lausanne Golf Club, Switzerland will be flying in to present an account of his work there. Please make this evening a success by filling the club house.

On March 19th we have with us Mr. Ray Hawkins of May & Baker. The subject under the hammer will be chemicals: herbicides, pesticides, fungicides. Two films will be shown relating to the handling, care and usage of toxic chemicals, together with a talk on the recently introduced Food and Environmental Protection Act; and how it affects the greenkeepers. Also on the stocks is a visit to STRI - details later.

The article in the last Journal on Poa annua by Mr. Alan Gamble was first presented at the seminar "Are you

getting the best from your course?" on November 20th, 1986. This creditable paper formed part of an impressive programme of speakers and subjects and is a Northern Section copyright article*.

Good fortune to you all this New Year but don't forget - Carry on spiking!

Editor's Note:

Alan Gamble's article was supplied and printed with his full permission. Further articles would be more than welcome.

NORTH WEST

Hon. Sec: David F. Golding,
38 The Grove, Flixton,
Manchester M31 3JH
Telephone: 061-748-8592

Seminar '87

Just a reminder for members that tickets are now going fast for March 12th at Mere Golf & Country Club. Don't be disappointed send your cheque now, made out to B.I.G.G.A. North West Section.

All Applicants should be addressed to the Secretary. We expect the seminar to be a memorable day for several reasons but not least we hope to have the first President of the B.I.G.G.A. Mr. Walter Woods with us on the day.

Golf '87

Our golf committee are new finalising an exciting programme of golf for the forthcoming season, so members are advised to get their clubs out, clean their shoes and start practising. More details will follow next month of the venues.

Germany bound

Preston Golf Club Course Manager, Peter Shaw is leaving to take up an appointment in Germany at a course close to Munich, to be a near neighbour of fellow section member Stewart Macintosh.

Peter has been a very active member of the section and was to have taken over as Chairman in May, but travelling expenses are likely to be too exorbitant on section funds!

I know members will join the committee in wishing Peter a successful career in Germany. Don't forget to leave the trophies behind Peter! We understand there are plenty to win in Bavaria.

Popular Trident representative Ron Parry sadly died just prior to Christmas after a short illness.

Formerly a very successful greenkeeper Ron always worked hard for the Association especially in recruiting new members. He will be sadly missed and our condolences are extended to his family.

Mick Bottomley is leaving Rossendale Golf Club to join Barry Gregson travelling the world for the Dave Thomas organisation. Mike's first contract looks like taking him to Pennina, Portugal.

With two stalwarts leaving active participation in the section, the way is now clear for the young pretenders to emerge into executive office.

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain,
7 Elm Close, Underwood Estate,
Llanmartin, Newport,
Gwent NP6 2HT

Telephone: Newport 413227

On Thursday, 11th December we held our Christmas competition for the Vitax Shield. This was well attended with a total of 30 members present.

The competition was a closely fought affair with the eventual winner on 39 points being L. Walter who took the Vitax Shield, a bottle of Whisky donated by Colin Murphy and a golf glove and balls from the prize fund.

Second was Mike Norfolk with 37 points, winning a golf umbrella donated by George Clarke from Southerndown Golf Club.

Third was Paul Long with 36 points taking a John Deere Umbrella donated by Frank Sutton Agricultural Engineers of Raglan.

Ted Thompson with 34 points won a crystal glass rose bowl donated by Rigby Taylor, in fourth place.

All other competitors received a prize donated by the members playing down to 18 points.

On behalf of our committee I would like to thank the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their course and club facilities throughout the day.

We would like to thank Paul and the rest of the greenstaff for preparing the course in such excellent condition.

I would like to send my belated Christmas and New Year greetings to all our members.

With the new Association now formed I would like to thank all the members for their help in the past 3 years.

I hope that we can go from strength to strength as one Association and look forward to a bright and prosperous future.

Provisional Dates for 1987

April 16th Spring Meeting
St. Mellons Golf Club

A.G.M. at Southerndown Golf Club
June 18th

SOUTH WALES

The South Wales branch of The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association will stage a One Day Seminar at the Pencoed College of Agriculture, Nr. Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan on the 15th April 1987.

Speakers already confirmed are, Mr. Archie Patterson of Watermaton, David Jones, Course Manager at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club, Tony Horne, Grounds Manager at Cardiff Arms Park. A fourth speaker will be confirmed shortly.

A buffet lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

An extremely interesting day is guaranteed so please make every effort to attend, members will receive more information shortly but in the meantime, further information can be obtained from:

Raymond Hunt, 9 Esplanade Avenue,
Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan CF36 3YS.
Telephone: (0656) 771335.

DEVON & CORNWALL

Hon. Sec: Bill Pile,
33 Knowle Drive,
Exwick, Exeter EX4 2DF.
Telephone: 214053

On Wednesday 17th December we held the Christmas meeting at Okehampton Golf Club. In the morning some 30 members played a greensome for the P. J. Flegg Trophy. Most were lucky to complete before the rain set in for the day, and that in itself is unique for this Winter.

It was noted however that over half made their annual visit to the river by the 12th green.

The results were:-

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1st: | R. Whyman (Bude G.C.) | |
| | M. Pike (Elfordleigh G.&C.C.) | 39 pts. |
| 2nd: | P. Newcombe (Exeter G.&C.C.) | |
| | J. Mills | 37 pts. |
| 3rd: | T. Blackburn (Downes Crediton) | |
| | R. Parker | 34 pts. |

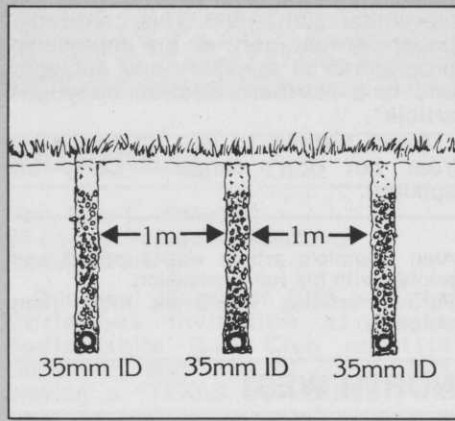
Golf was followed by a splendid Christmas dinner for a full house of 70, after which we were entertained by Hercules Britain's funniest strong man. The day ended with the raffle draw, by which time we were all full of food, good fun and Christmas spirit. It only leaves me to thank all who made this day one we will all remember. The staff at Okehampton G.C. P. J. Flegg and Iseki for the golf prizes. D. O. Hunt for the wine at the tables. All members and trade for raffle prizes, and to Browns for the Christmas hamper.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Christmas meeting (did anyone notice?) and I would like to thank Gordon Child and Brian Summers who stepped in and ran the meeting so well for me.

The annual match versus the Secretaries will be at Teignmouth G.C. on Tuesday 24th February 1987, the team will be notified by our Chairman.

One final point, if Mr. Bert Flack happens to be reading this, thank you for your Christmas card, please send me your address so I can reciprocate in the future, also you are often asked about at our meetings so any news would be appreciated.

Happy New Year to you all.



Use 35mm pipe at the required grade, with gravel fill and topped as required, for cost economy. Water will drain away horizontally only through pipe, not through gravel.

A typical situation was encountered at Redditch Golf Course, which enjoys a very attractive undulating setting, partly in old parkland and partly woodland. At the time of construction an excellent job was made of the course layout, irrigation system and, of course, the Club House, but little or no attention was paid to under drainage. The course is constructed on Red Marl and the lack of drainage has caused serious problems with maintenance and even playing on the course in particularly wet periods. Over the years various attempts have been made to improve the situation by installing odd drains into the wettest

areas and mole ploughing complete fairways. None of these treatments was particularly successful and the mole ploughing caused an unacceptable amount of disturbance.

The Club decided to allocate a budget to drainage on an annual basis and starting with the wettest fairways, drain the whole course over a number of years. The whole course was examined, planned out and costed. It was found that the problem in the woodland areas was mainly a complete lack of soil structure coupled with very thin top soil, whereas in the old parkland the soil was in generally much better condition but the old existing drains had been broken in the construction of the course. A decision was taken to install drains with the trenchless machine at 2 metre spacings and to treat the whole of the wettest fairways within the budget available.

The first phase was installed in the early summer of 1985 during a fairly wet period; disturbance was minimal and in fact most players continued to use the fairway whilst the work was in progress. The system performed very well over the 1985-86 winter and the second phase was completed in dry conditions in 1986.

The cost of draining a fairway varies considerably depending on length and width etc. but the total cost of the two phases completed was £20,000 and eight complete fairways have been improved, so an average cost per fairway is around £2,500.

SEMINAR FOR THE NORTH-EAST

A distinguished line up of speakers has been booked for a one day seminar on Tuesday 17th March at Houghall Agriculture College by the Cleveland Section of the Greenkeepers' Association.

Jack McMillan the BGGVA Vice-Chairman and Sunningdale's Course Manager will preside over the proceedings which will commence at 9.00 a.m.

Among the speakers are Nick Bissett from Askham Bryan College, who will discuss Greenkeeper Training, Robin Hume from Turf Irrigation Services and Eddie Sims of Par 4 on Irrigation for

the Golf Course, Derek Gannon, the Belfry's Course Manager on Preparing a Championship Course and an up date on the latest Pesticide Legislation by a spokesman from the Ministry of Agriculture.

There will be an opportunity for questions to the panel at the end of the session.

The total seminar fee of only £6.00 includes, coffee, lunch and a set of notes.

Details and reservations from:

A. Naisbitt
5 Martindale Road, Darlington

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