

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:-

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|------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 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. |

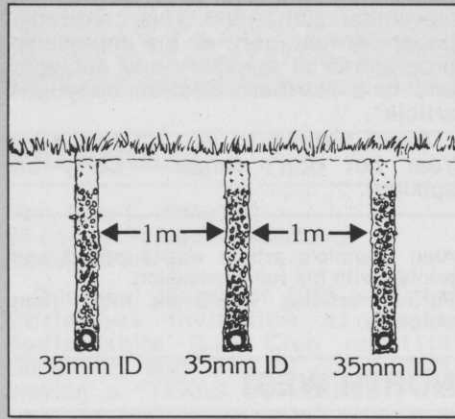
Golf was followed by a splendid Christmas dinner for a full house of 70, after which we were entertained by Hercules Britain's funniest strong man. The day ended with the raffle draw, by which time we were all full of food, good fun and Christmas spirit. It only leaves me to thank all who made this day 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:

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5 Martindale Road, Darlington

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