

Mid Anglia

Hon Sec: R.S. Morris, 41 Hampden Way, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambs. Tel: Huntingdon 213348

Our annual fixture against the Secretaries was held in May at Ashridge Golf Club and for the second year running our lads were pipped by the odd match. However, the occasion was enjoyed by all who attended and our thanks go to Sandy Heron, the Secretary at Ashridge who greatly helped with the organising of the event.

Thanks also to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for providing sandwiches for the players.

We are now well into the holiday season and so our next full golf meeting is not until September, but we have a home match organised on July 28 at Cold Ashby Golf Club when a team from the Midland Section will visit us for a 12-a-side, 36-hole match.

BGGG NEWS

Northern

Hon Sec: B. Freeman, Tel: 0937 832653

The orange colour of the Kubota tractors was seen at Moor Allerton during the spring when Alan Gray of Fearncro, Sheffield master-minded a display for greenkeepers. Two models were on display, the new 34hp L345 and the smaller tractor, the B7100 16 hp model which had a set of three hydraulically driven gang mowers mounted to a design of Alans. Though nifty in concept the tractor, which had four-wheeled drive would need to have turf tyres fitted to offset sward damage on the finer turf areas.

The L345 attracted lively interest and provided an opportunity for us to feel the built in luxuries of this model. This model won the more favourable comments although it was a pity no gangs or other implements were on hand to put the machine to work. After the demonstration the group moved indoors where films, slides and a question and answer period were handled most efficiently by Gordon Henry, Product Development Manager of Kubota Ltd.

At the section's AGM the following were elected as officers: President—W. Mountain; Chairman—D.C. Hannam; Vice Chairman—P. Taylor; Secretary/Treasurer—B. Freeman (Tel 0937 832653); Comp Secretary—J. Scott (Tel 0937 61668); Auditors—W.H. Bartle and D.C. Hannam; Committee—C. Geddes, I. Tomlinson, D. Roberts, A. Loft-house, M. Bryant, A. Gamble. Mr. Spencer, C. Garnett, A. Robertshaw, S. Bailes, W. Heeles ex-officio.

It was ruled that members who had not paid their subscription by June 30 would have their membership terminated and they would need to re-apply before being reinstated.—Stern news maybe to some!

Also there was overwhelming agreement for the resolution that anyone arriving at section tournaments in jeans etc or indeed anyone improperly dressed would not be eligible for play.

The section took the opportunity of thanking Walter and Betty Heeles for the unstinting help, to the retiring chairman Colin Geddes for long service and to Ben Freeman with suitable encouragement for the next leg!

Skipton Golf Club hosted our spring tournament when players had the pleasure of playing on the doorstep of the Yorkshire dales amid lark song and curlew calls. The tourn-

ament was played over 27 holes, the first nine marking the inauguration of the Laurie Sharp stableford competition. Had it not been for the thunder and rain the event would have been a treat. The course had a lot on offer ranging from primrose bedecked ravines to railway lines. The variety of wild flowers appearing around the course was an added pleasure.

The section thanked the Skipton club for accommodating us at such short notice when the original venue, Bingley St Ives was unplayable because of heavy snow.

We are also grateful to Norman Sheddon who organised the starting and checking the scorecards.

The dwindling interest shown in a formal annual dinner has raised the idea of holding periodic gourmet evenings at provincial centres. Alan Lofthouse has this idea in hand and details will appear in these columns.

BGGG NEWS

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Hon Sec: K. Munt, 77 The Croft, Sudbury Town, Wembley Middlesex. Tel: 01 904 2487

With rounds of 75 and 73 Ray Wotten of Burnham Beeches GC won the Presidents Prize and Ransomes watch at our 36 hole Spring Tournament. Ray's last round (nett) 73 clinched the solid silver salver on a last round count back from Seve Schmitz, who's last round 77 let him down after a fine 71 in the morning.

Sonning, in fine condition thanks to the hard work put in by Alan Collis and his staff, played to its full length from the back tees. The fact that nature's overhead irrigation system seems to be stuck on repeat did not help scoring either. This made Jack Brearley's 69 nett in the morning a very fine score indeed. John Teixeira of Hillingdon GC who was defending the Parkers Shield for the best low gross shot a 76 to be hot on his heels. The nearest nett score to Jack's 69 came in from Seve Schmitz of Ellesborough GC with a 71 while Brian Valentine (Goring and Streatley GC), Tom Foster (Maidenhead GC) and John Teixeira all had 72s.

The afternoon saw the leaders collapse with gross scores in the mid 80s. This left Neil Wichelow of Hillingdon GC with his consistent total of 159 (80), (79) the winner of the Parkers Shield. Ray Wotten won the nett prize, his total of 148 (75), (73). Brian Payne of Burnham Beeches produced the best afternoon golf with a 76 gross 71 nett. M. Gale of Hillingdon rounded off the Hillingdon and Burnham Beeches benevolent tournament, by taking the first year competitors prize with 173 gross.

The section are appreciative to members and staff of Sonning Golf Club for the work they put in to give us a nice day. We also thank the Ladies section at Sonning who gave up their Tuesday match to give us the freedom of the course. David Craig ensured the golf flowed smoothly and ironed out any starting problems with his usual efficiency.

Some 34 members played at Sonning which is nearly half the total membership of 70. One face it was good to see at Sonning was that of Bob Plain, back amongst us in fine health.

With the support our section is now receiving and with 15 single figure handicap players, we should have a good representation at the national tournament at Ipswich. Don't forget to enter!

If you have any news that would be of interest to the section don't wait until it makes the News of the World! Send it to me and we'll get it in the journal.

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BGGG NEWS

East Anglia

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Well lads, time to stop cutting grass for a minute and put your feet up. Nothing much to report this time, except that our local club has put its gondolas away and started hiring trolleys again.

We had a nice quiet day at Stowmarket. It was nice to see some old faces that have been missing of late. I can't remember when I last saw a combine cutting the rough or the sunshine for one of our tournaments. I should imagine Michael Peters and his staff are working nights to keep that grass down, but keeping it down he is.

Our new handicapping system was used

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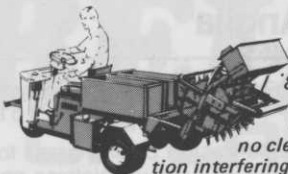
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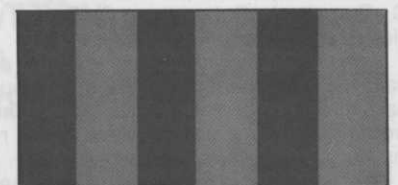
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for the first time with staggering results. Guest prize was won by G. Storey, with 35 points. In the 1-7 handicap section R.J. Smith carried off the Kings prize with 26 points. Runner up was Smiling George Newson with 24 points. The 18-24 handicaps prize was won by Wally The Bandit, Mann, on 28 points. Runner up in this section was 'yours truly', Mick Lathrope with 26 points. I had a job to convince my wife that I didn't buy the prize, and then she said, 'Well, it makes a change from the Loo Seat!' (What ever happened to that Ron?)

The 'Triers' prize was won by Roy Gould. Keep quiet about the points Roy, I know how you feel, believe me.

The prizes were presented by Mr. Dyball, past captain of Stowmarket, and we must thank the catering staff. At the end of a quiet summer's day, we rolled home at peace with the world, and watched the grass grow.

When you all receive your forms for your next tournament, please return them as soon as possible and if you say you are going, then for some unforeseen reason can't, then let Dave know. The next venue is Thetford, July 8. Then it's the Big One at Purdis, August 17-19. Be there if you can!

I'm going to write to Mr. Jim 'I'll Fix It to see if he can stop my meadow grass seeding!

BGGA NEWS

East Midlands

Hon Sec: R.W. Willars, 27 Condor Close, Broughton Astley, Leics. LE9 6RR. Tel: Sutton Elms 283053

The Long Alley Skittles Night which was held in April at the Plough Inn, Littlethorpe, was such a good night that I have been asked to arrange a similar night for the Autumn.

Our Spring golf tournament was held at Birstall Golf Club, Leicester and we thank Captain and Committee of Birstall for allowing us the courtesy of the course. Our thanks also to the Ladies for doing the cards, raffle etc, to Mr and Mrs Walter Cole for buying the prizes and to all the firms, vice presidents and golf clubs who donated prizes. Mr W A Garratt Captain of Birstall, also one of our vice presidents, presented the winners with their prizes who were:- Greenkeepers. 1st S. Donogue 87 (13) 74, 2nd I. Simmons 97 (22) 75 on last nine. 3rd R. Allen. 81 (6) 75. 4th D. Bull 85 (8) 77. Vice Presidents: 1st R. Lead 83 (11) 72, 2nd G. Organ 99 (24) 75. 3rd M. Walker 84 (8) 76. Visitors: 1st A. Holwell 78 (5) 73, 2nd R. Liquorish 88 (12) 76, 3rd M. Elkington 86 (9) 77.

The agm was held at Longcliffe Golf Club and the officers elected were as follows:- President, R. Bailey; Chairman, S. Fretter; Vice-Chairman, D. Cleaver; Secretary, R.W. Willars; Treasurer, P. McCarron; Section Representative, P. McCarron; Committee— F. Kempster, B. Mott, N. Root, W. Cole and R. Holt.

BGGA NEWS

South Coast

Hon Sec: Nita Stimson, Caretakers Cottage, Breamore House, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Tel: Breamore 277.

The 1981 Spring Meeting was held at Hockley Golf Club, Winchester, on 20th May. Relentless rain soaked everyone at the start of their morning round but thankfully by mid-morning the skies cleared and the rest of the day was dry and sunny. Thirty-eight members

took part in the 36 hole Medal Competition and the prizewinners were:

Best Gross score over 36: A. Devlin (Dunwood Manor) 151 pts. 2nd Best Gross score over 36: B. Emberley (Knighton Heath) 160 pts. Best Nett score over 36: K. Unsworth (Hockley) 146 pts. 2nd Best Nett score over 36: S. Barker (Parkstone) 147 pts. Best Gross score morning: I. Stickley (Southampton Municipal) 79 pts. Best Gross score afternoon: G. Briggs (New Forest) 80 pts. Best Nett score morning: T. Patchin (Hockley) 73 pts. Best Nett score afternoon: R. Whyman (Lee on the Solent) 75 pts. Best Nett score over 36 for 24 handicap: S. Wedge (Southampton Municipal) 167 pts.

Eric James, our Chairman, thanked Hockley Golf Club for giving the Section the opportunity to play their course, complimented John Dodds and his greenstaff on its excellent condition, and thanked Mrs. Hollingworth, the Stewardess, for the meals she provided; she received a bouquet as a token of appreciation.

In reply, the Captain of Hockley Golf Club, Mr. Ball, said that the members were delighted that the greenkeepers had visited their course—it was always in good condition but now they would enjoy playing a course which looked immaculate. He felt that greenkeepers should be encouraged to play as it gave them a better understanding of their job. Mr. Ball presented the prizes.

Credit for the success of the meeting must go to Eddie Fox, ably assisted by Allan Jeffery and Roger Hanks, and also our thanks to Jim Fry, Barry Beckett, Nick Clarke, Richard Johnson, Jack Roffey, and Bill Smith, for their support.

The tenth Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Section was held later that eve-

Continued on page 26

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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

Continued from Page 13

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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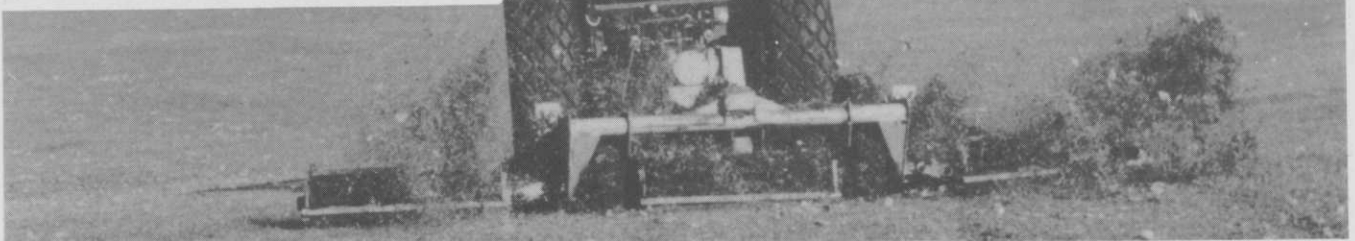
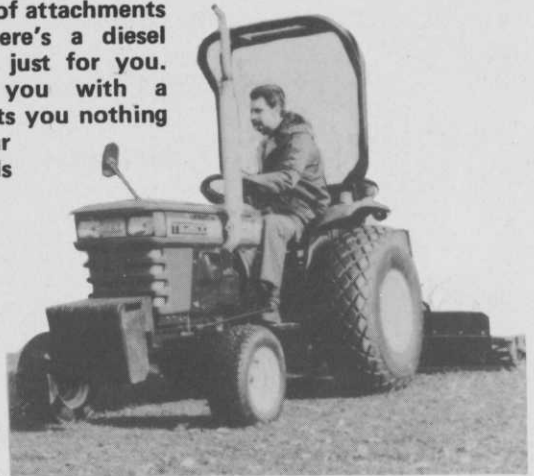
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