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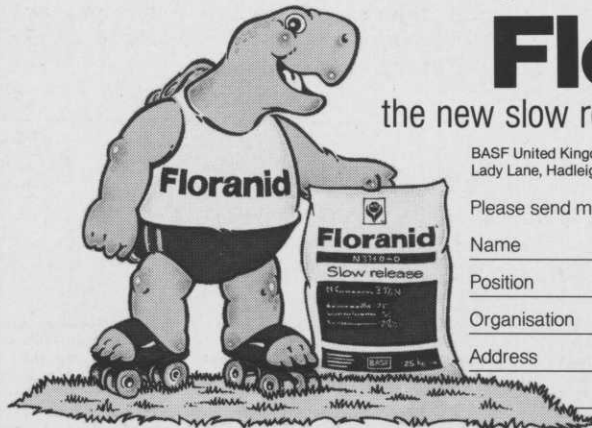


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GREENKEEPING and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association
Founded 1912

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FRONT PAGE:

*Martyn Jones concludes his series
on American Greenkeeping
techniques*

*Winter-dormant Bermuda grass at
Georgia, showing an overseeded
putting green*



John Lelean

GREENSIDE COMMENT

A FAIRWAY FOR GREENKEEPERS

This month we are printing in full the proposals made to the BGGA by the Professional Golfers Association outlining their suggestions for a joining of forces between the two principal bodies involved in the game of golf.

However, since the document was first presented to the Executive of the BGGA and the two other Associations representing Greenkeepers in England and Scotland a further approach has been made by golf's controlling body, the R & A, through their Secretary Michael Bonallack.

The first meeting of the three Associations, together with the English Golf Union and a representative of the R & A has already been held in York with a further meeting arranged on 4th November.

At the first York meeting it was agreed that a Steering Committee should be appointed to explore the financial and other problems associated with the creation of a joint Federation and to draft a Constitution for consideration by the three Greenkeeper Associations. Both the PGA and the R & A consider the appointment of a full time executive officer with secretarial assistance is essential if Greenkeepers are to be represented by an Association with sufficient authority to improve the status, development and interests of Greenkeepers throughout the UK. As members of the EEC one does not have to stretch the imagination too far to include European Greenkeepers as well.

We have constantly complained that Greenkeepers are not receiving a fair deal from the golf industry and now this fact has been publicly recognised by the most respected authority in golf. Not only recognised, but acknowledged it takes organisation and finance to put the matter right.

Specific sums have so far not been mentioned, but Mr. Roger Robinson at the October meeting told the Greenkeeper Associations, the R & A would give consideration to the additional financial burden which would otherwise fall upon the Greenkeepers in setting up a more professional organisation.

The time has come to grasp the nettle and for all Greenkeepers to give serious consideration to the approaches from the PGA and the R & A. A number of BGGA Sections have already formed opinions about the PGA proposals and have indicated their reservations over tying themselves to the Professional Golfers. Naturally, there are suspicions about the PGA motives in asking the Greenkeepers to join them. Is it entirely a wish to give a helping hand to a body of men without whom golf could not be played or might it strengthen still further a powerful and very financially secure organisation?

The role of the club golf professional is changing rapidly. They no longer have the exclusive control over the sale of golf equipment. The pattern now developing, is exactly the same as has happened in the United States with the mushrooming of golf equipment supermarkets, offering cut price clubs, balls, bags and trolleys. Can Greenkeepers be blamed for suspecting the PGA might be protecting their own members interests by looking at the possibilities of diversifying into overall golf course management.

There are now two firm offers on the table and Greenkeepers throughout the land must put aside personal prejudices and support whichever scheme is best for those young men already in our multi-million pound industry and those who will enter with expectations for the future.

NEXT MONTH:

**GREENKEEPERS WIN KUBOTA TOURNAMENT
FRED HAWTREE VISITS PAU
REACTION TO PGA PROPOSALS**

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ST. ANDREW'S CONFERENCE

The Editor reports.....

Over three hundred delegates, including students from Elmwood College, attended a Conference for Greenkeepers held at Younger Hall, St. Andrews last month run in conjunction with the Ransomes International Tournament, organised by SIGGA Executive Members under the Chairmanship of Walter Woods.

The Scottish Greenkeepers, excelled themselves, not only for the entertainment arranged for the many nationalities attending the three day event, but by their attention to detail and personal concern that everyone should not only feel welcome, but wanted, at St. Andrews.

This year forty-five greenkeepers, secretaries and green chairmen from Sweden flew in for the one day conference. When one considers Sweden has only 175 courses, a degree of the depth of enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge can be gauged. Not only that - they could all converse in the English language!

The theme throughout the day was the golf course maintenance.

David Jones discussed the methods he was using to bring back the finer grasses to Purdis Heath; Russell Brown, Turnberry's Course Manager, refuted criticisms of his course's suitability and readiness for next year's Open Championship; Gordon Childs, a member of the Devon and Cornwall

Section of the BGGGA gave a well received paper on Parkland Management, and the morning session finished with a previous Green Chairman at Lindrick, Nicholas Park, presenting a well researched and excellently illustrated lecture justifying the present turf culture regime at Lindrick.

Despite extending his talk well over the allotted time, there were many in the hall who were not convinced the objectives had been achieved or whether an overwhelming belief in principles had clouded the original issues.

Did we really hear correctly that green is only a cosmetic colour for the putting surface?

The afternoon session was led by Mike Bonallack, the Secretary of the R.&A., whose significant remarks are reported elsewhere in this edition. Then followed a paper by Rolf Lowgren of the Swedish Golf Federation with a most interesting slide presentation of golf in Sweden, including the development of a new course inside the Arctic Circle.

Bob Heron, from the Canadian GCSSA, showed how his team tackle the massive ice-flows that spill out of the adjacent river every spring turning the greens and fairways into a penguin's paradise. He also showed pictures of migrating wild geese descending on the course and how greenstaff stage a rodeo style round-up so they can be shipped out by truck to join another flight path to the south.

Although fascinated by Bob's efforts to overcome adversity there were several who, applying a little lateral thinking, wondered why anyone had built a golf course there in the first place!

Agronomist Stanley Zontek, who I had the pleasure of meeting several times during the three days, covered the subject of the US Greens Section and how this organisation of consultant agronomists helps golf courses with analysis and advice. It was interesting to discover the finance for maintaining the staff, offices and the well read news-letter, comes from money raised at the US Open Championship.

Jim Wyllie, from the Bay View Golf and Country Club, closed the session in his usual polished fashion. Disagreeing with some of the previous speakers and not afraid to say so.

Well done the SIGGA Conference Committee. Although thirteen countries were represented, the English were sparse on the ground. If only more Green Chairmen would take the trouble to attend an event such as this, they would have a better understanding of the vagaries of maintaining a golf course.

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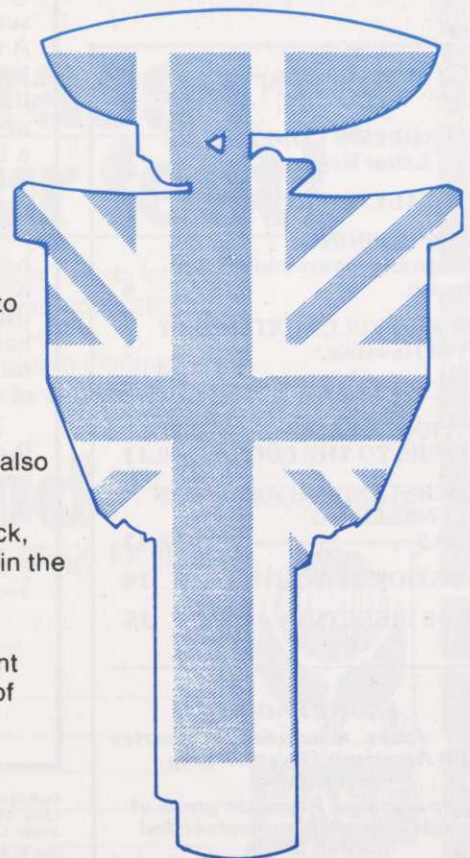
It isn't all "just grass" to us — sometimes it isn't even grass at all. We also design sprinkler systems for artificial surfaces.

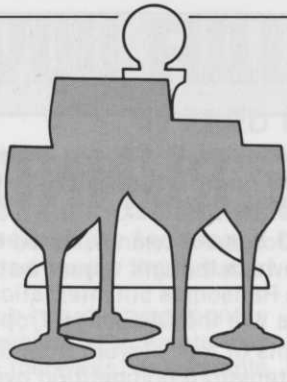
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THE CRYSTAL COMPETITION

Journey's end! This is the sixth and final part of the Crystal Competition sponsored by Rigby Taylor, producers of the Mascot range of turf-care products.

Over the past five issues you have been posed a total of twenty-five questions about golf and greenkeeping, this month the last five questions are printed to make-up the total of thirty.

All thirty questions are listed below with spaces for your answers.

There are three prizes and the winner of the first prize of a magnificent cut glass decanter and matching lead crystal glasses will be the first correct entry drawn out of the hat after the closing date of **30th November 1985**.


The competition is open to all readers of
Golf Greenkeeping.

Cut out the 'golf ball' tokens from the previous issues and attach them to your entry. Anyone missing a previous token may obtain one by writing to the Editor.


The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. You know the rules so go to it!

And there is a bonus prize. The Editor will award a mystery bottle of whisky in a draw to the entrant who answers just one section of five questions correctly.

Which section we are not telling - that's the mystery. But it does give every competitor a chance to pick up a prize even if you cannot submit an all correct score.



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1. An Australian golfer is a close relative of a famous cricketer, Who is he?
2. Who are the three men presented with the 'Old Tom Morris Award'?
3. Who designed the Lincolnshire course of Woodhall Spa?
4. What are 'Whins'?
5. Where is the first Jack Nicklaus designed course in the U.K?
6. Club golfers play for a Monthly Medal. Where did the 'Medal' round originate?
7. The early 'gutta' ball was made from what?
8. What part of the world did the material come from?
9. What type of wood was used for the wooden shaft club before hickory was brought in from America?
10. What is measured with a Stimpmeter?
11. What was the name of the forerunner to the Sports Turf Research Institute?
12. Which course staged the first 'Open Golf Championship'?
13. The first trophy was 'the Challenge Belt' to be retained by the first competitor to win it three years in succession. Who was that competitor?
14. Whose responsibility is the allocation of a Standard Scratch Score to the golf course?
15. (a) What is the size of the putting hole?
(b) What is the minimum depth it must be sunk into the green?
16. Name the two championship courses at Gleneagles.
17. How many rounds of golf were played in the first Open Championship at Prestwick in 1860 to complete the 36 hole championship test?
18. How can observation of bird life indicate an infestation of leather jackets?
19. New Zealand golfer Bob Charles had play suspended at Sunningdale during the European Open when he reached the first green. Why?
20. Name two of the common causes of weed incursion in fine turf.
21. What is the sign used on the container of a Toxic chemical?
22. How many species of earthworm are there in the U.K. Nine Fifteen Twenty-five?
23. Which British tree is facing extinction through the activities of a beetle?
24. What year was the BGGGA in its original form, started?
25. Which architect is associated with the two tier green?

And now for this month's final five questions.

26. How many yards is the famous 10th hole at the Belfry?
27. What was the final score in the 1985 Ryder Cup?
28. Which course is Walter Woods associated with?
29. Name two of the major plant nutrients.
30. Who is the present Secretary to the R. & A?

Cut out the list of questions and attach the page to a plain sheet of paper, listing your answers from 1-30.

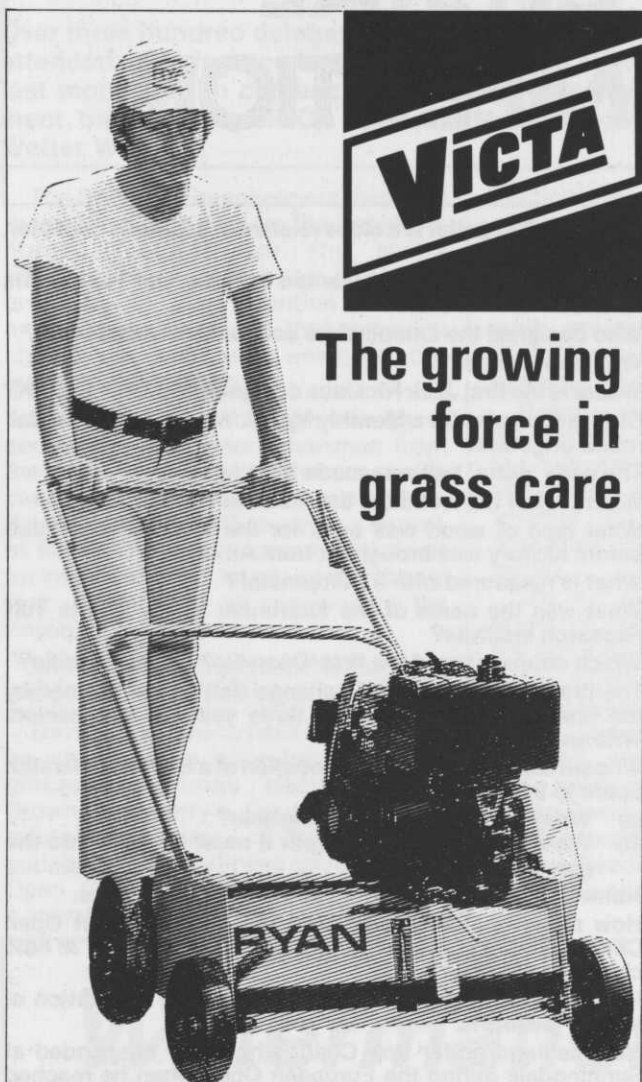
If you do not want to cut the magazine, a plain sheet of paper is acceptable, but don't forget to include your name and address.

Send your completed entry to the Crystal Competition Golf Greenkeeping, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorks LS22 4SR to arrive not later than 30th November.

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TWICE RUNNING

As the early mist on an October morning cleared from the famous links courses at St. Andrews, a thought uppermost in the minds of competitors taking part in Ransomes 5th International Tournament was 'Could the Canadians win the Challenge Trophy again?'

A record entry with teams of four players from thirteen different countries took part in a stableford competition over 36 holes.

At 8.30 a.m. the Welsh were the first to tee-off and at the end of the first round only one point separated the two leaders - Scotland with 45 and the Canadians on 44. Breathing down the Canadian's necks, one point behind, were the Dutch, Northern Irish and Swedes. Only three of the thirteen teams were under 40 points after the morning round, with every prospect of an exciting tussle in the afternoon.

Nature intervened during the afternoon with a wind gusting up to 30 mph which the competitors blamed for their frequent exclamations of anguish. The wind proved disastrous for the Swedes who dropped right out of contention, but the two teams from across the Atlantic proved to be masters of the wind. The Canadians returning a superb 47 points and the USA team 46.

The German team, lying eleventh at lunch-time, scored 45 points in the second round to be placed sixth overall. Alas, the Scots who led after 18 holes recorded one less in the afternoon, but took second place.

So the Canadians won the Ransomes Challenge Trophy for the second time with a total of 91 points. Scotland were second and USA third.

Only four points separated the first four places. Northern Ireland were fourth, and three teams, Holland, West Germany and Spain, tied for fifth place.

Following the tournament, the traditional Ransomes Banquet was attended by 150 guests at the Rusack's Marine Hotel where Mr. Keith Mackenzie, the Past Secretary of the R & A was guest speaker. He described how the game of golf was played at St. Andrews in the past and said how much he enjoyed being present at such an international occasion.

Receiving the Ransomes Challenge Trophy, the Captain of the Canadian Team, Mr. Bob Heron said: "It had been a wonderful occasion and a privilege to play the Old Course".

Ransomes Sales Director, Mr. Guy Catchpole thanked the Links Management Committee for making it possible to play the tournament at St. Andrews. "It was appropriate for it to have been played on the Old Course", he said, "because the Ransomes Tournaments started because the Greenkeepers in Scotland wanted to challenge Greenkeeper members in England to a game of golf."



Pictured with their Scorer on the first tee of St. Andrews' Old Course waiting to drive off is the Canadian team, winners of Ransomes 5th International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament. The members of the Canadian team are (left to right) Bob Heron, Doug Meyer, Lockie Shaw and Kimmo Soloman.

ARE YOU FULLY EXTENDED?

by FRED HAWTREE

In the hinterland of Sleazeville-on-Sea where I have my holiday cottage, Golphin, there is an excellent nine hole course though, regrettably, it announces itself in the landscape by thin rows of cypress. One wishes Mr. Lawson had never introduced them into his Edinburgh nurseries.

When the club heard, some months ago, that the neighbouring estate was to be auctioned, there was considerable excitement. If they could extract 50 acres or so, they might finally realise their perennial dream of extending to 18 holes. In 1928, the committee had refused an offer of a similar area for a modest £500, believing that 9 holes were plenty for 72 members.

All subsequent committees agreed that this refusal had been short-sighted. One can only concur. It is axiomatic that any land connecting with golf course boundaries should be snapped up even if it is superfluous to present needs. The club will surmount such hurdles with the greater comfort, the greater the area available to expand elsewhere. A nine hole course will feel obliged, still more strongly, to go to all lengths to acquire more ground. Even if it is small now, another piece may become available one day and enable the magic 50-60 acres to be put together to achieve the transition to the Senior League.

Apart from extending or meeting future problems, it is always good to have control over what happens next to the course. Houses may otherwise be built or public access provided in fields alongside a hole running close to the boundary. It is then no argument to point out that the golf course has been there 100 years and members have always had the right to climb the fence and retrieve their golf balls. There is an absolute duty not to cause injury or damage outside the course boundaries whatever may be the situation inside them. Then there are occasional needs, car parking for a pro-am., a turf nursery, a tree nursery; a modest rent might be obtained from a local stables for grazing. The club can decide for itself instead of being a helpless onlooker. The asset will never be found to be wasting.

If however, there is enough land for an extra 9 holes then any lingering reluctance should disappear. Action should be swift, firm and decisive to avoid the monotonous chant down the next fifty years "*In 1985, the Committee could have bought it for £X,000*"; and its antiphon: "*Is that all?*".

The faint-hearted may first wish to take outside advice as to the use of the land for golf, its soil, its drainage, whether contours are suitable. These questions can be answered if necessary after an option has been obtained. An option is a wise precaution even though the vendor's agents are looking to the golf club as their prime purchaser. If the land is not suitable for golf, it

is likely to be an odd piece of country not commanding any inflated price but naturally the club will not reveal any potential development which they envisage. Any change of use will involve planning consent and that is where the option to buy will be useful while an application is being considered. Its outcome may indeed modify assessment of the purchase price. If a local land agent or surveyor is also a member of the club, so much the better; but in any event, the input of an expert in valuation should come at an early stage.

If attractive drawings start to arrive on the committee table, they should be allowed to lie there. Low handicap golfers with less artistic prowess but more influence in the club may also feel obliged to offer layouts.

The risks of adopting schemes prepared by persons not specifically qualified are awesome when the current costs of construction are added to those of purchase. Mistakes at this stage are not only expensive: they also lead to discomfort and frustration later when they have to be corrected.

The dangers of an amateur design are compounded by two other factors. If the preferred scheme is presented by a person familiar with the process of grants, interest-free loans and sponsorships, he acquires some extra 'pull' which may tip the scales his way. The other factor operates if the captain is a low handicap golfer and feels obliged to present his own version of a new 9 holes. If he is also likely to be instrumental in raising a substantial sum towards the cost then that club could well be in for 10 years of turmoil. To be fair, a scheme prepared by someone who has never planned a golf course before may be a winner. But the odds are all against it. Nevertheless there is a curious tradition in golf clubs with rules as democratic as could be desired, that the Captain acquires some despotic authority above the governing processes and has to be indulged in 'his year'. The layout adopted will be there long after the Captain's name has faded on the Honours Board. Let us hope it will be a memorial to him by permanence and because of his reticence.

Outside advice raises certain difficulties in itself. It is natural for the Committee to wish to sell a scheme to the members which is obviously attractive and progressive. They will often want more from their consultant than he can deliver. Any plan is a compromise and an extension has not only to make the usual compromises with the land but also with the connec-

tion to the existing course, the provision of a second starting point, the avoidance of too much disturbance to the holes in play, and the provision finally of two reasonably balanced, blended halves. If the existing course is tightly planned and the new acreage is minimal, nobody can provide the sort of length, which is often over-optimistically expected. Total length is a precise function of acreage and contour and a layout which exceeds the appropriate yardage will either be unsafe or eccentric.

The golf course architect will have estimated probable costs and made recommendations as to the method of construction. The work will be beyond the means of an average ground staff but there will be jobs they could undertake. There may be one or two greens to be made within the confines of the existing layout. One per year is a fair allowance though there is scope for more if earth movement, for example, is done by the contractor chosen for the extension. There is a British Association of Golf Course Contractors. Try them first.

The golf course architect or his agronomist should also have determined whether existing grass cover on the new land should be retained. The groundstaff can undertake mowing economically. They will do it more regularly and at better times than a contractor who has to come from a distance. It is surprising how quickly a fine turf will develop where the surface is acceptable. The savings are considerable. Ploughing, cultivating and sowing cost something like £1,200 to £1,400 per hectare and there is still further stone-picking and a long maintenance period before a playable surface develops.

New greens to a full specification by contract cost £8,000 to £9,000 each and tees, say £2,000 per hole initially. Fairway bunkers can wait but allow for tree planting in the initial stages. On these lines, with the ground staff's collaboration, the cost of the 9 holes could be held down closer to £110,000 than the normal range, about £150,000, entirely contracted out.

We seem to have run a long way past the Sleazeville-on-Sea Golf Club's current activities. They have not yet bought the land but they already have a plan for the new 9 holes pinned to the notice board. There is plenty of green colour with yellow bunkers and a bright blue water hazard. But there is no scale. Therefore I cannot honestly assess whether it might be a disaster or not, though I have my suspicions. But I did notice that it was signed by a member and that he was the Captain and that he had a low handicap and that he was promoting fund-raising activities. That is an irresistible combination. Nobody will dare to stand in his way. My educated guess therefore is that S.O.S.G.C. are in for a long haul before they get it right. I could be wrong. I hope so. Otherwise, does anybody want to buy a holiday cottage called 'Dungolphin'?

THE PGA PROPOSALS TO THE BGGGA

The British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, founded in 1912, is the longest established and most prestigious Association in its field. In recent years, a lack of development and poor promotion and P.R. has encouraged the formation of other Greenkeepers' Associations in the U.K. and failed to attract a large number of working greenkeepers into membership. These two factors have combined to erode the prestige of the Association and its members.

FIRST MEETING

In 1981 meetings were held between representatives of the PGA, BGGGA, and the Stewards' Associations. At that time it was felt that the climate was not right for any alliance.

More recently, the particular affinity of the greenkeeper and the Professional have become more apparent and in June 1985 the PGA invited representatives of the Executive of the BGGGA to a meeting at PGA Headquarters.

SECOND MEETING

A second meeting took place on Saturday 6th July. General agreement was reached on most issues and it was decided that the proposals should be set out in full for consideration by the Sections of the BGGGA. Once agreement is reached in principle a timetable would be evolved leading to the necessary changes being implemented within a period of 6-12 months, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the PGA.

The following proposal outlines plans to bring the BGGGA into the 'eighties' and give its members the status and recognition they deserve

There would be three principal objectives to the development of the BGGGA.

- (i) *the development of membership services with the aim of attracting all greenkeepers into the Association in due course.*
- (ii) *the evolution of the BGGGA into a more professional and influential organisation.*
- (iii) *the close working relationship of the BGGGA and PGA bringing a more concerted influence on golf clubs and other employers to the mutual advantage of both Associations.*

Development of Membership Services

It would be the intention to develop the services and privileges of membership to a point where everyone involved in the profession either wanted or needed to be a member.

Public Relations

The resources of the PGA, together with its existing publications could be brought to bear on a campaign of presenting the greenkeeper to the golf world as the highly qualified, dedicated and resourceful man he really is.

Magazines and Year Books

This particular aspect of P.R. could be developed immediately. It is felt that the magazine of the BGGGA could be combined with the PGA Journal. The cover would reflect the involvement of both organisations and the new publication would be a double magazine reflecting all the features and editorial of the present BGGGA magazine. The PGA enjoys having a Journal which places no financial burdens on it and it is anticipated the same facility would apply to the BGGGA. The current BGGGA magazine should be developed as a vehicle for promoting greenkeepers. A Careers Brochure should be produced similar to the one currently used by the PGA, and this too would present the BGGGA as a Professional Association concerned with recruiting the best possible assistants and offering them a thorough training and secure career.

Advice on Contracts and Appointments

A full-time Secretariat would give much greater scope for liaison and negotiation with individual clubs on members' contracts and salaries and proclaiming the case for greenkeepers in general to clubs, Golf Unions, etc. An 'Appointments' service would be offered notifying members of job opportunities and approaching clubs offering poor terms to bring them up to the standard required.

Tournaments and Members Activities

The greenkeeper is often an avid golfer and currently enjoys a programme of organised tournaments. The full resources of the PGA would be put behind developing the greenkeepers tournament programme with more attractive prizes.

Training

The training of BGGGA apprentices and members is already well-advanced and respected.

There would be no attempt to influence the training of greenkeepers and the responsibility for determining the content, frequency, location and degree of training would continue to rest with the BGGGA.

The advantage of the new alliance would be to give the BGGGA more flexibility for Managerial positions. A Diploma in Golf Management would also be available to qualified members of the BGGGA, thus equipping them with a qualification to apply for these senior positions in the future.

Expanded Services

One of the principle aspects of this proposal is the appointment of full-time staff by the BGGGA backed up by the existing resources of the PGA.

(ii) Evolution of the BGGGA

The current organisation is bottom-heavy and unwieldy. There is insufficient professional representation and the time-consuming administration of a major national Association is carried out by elected representatives trying to make a success of their own jobs and run the Association at the same time.

A similar re-organisation would lend itself ideally to the future long-term interests of the BGGGA.

Development of Regions

The present sections meet regularly and an elected representative sits on the Executive. Individual members and sections would still enjoy the same representation if the sections - still retaining their own identity were formed into four or five Regions. Each Region would then elect a member to serve on the National Executive comprising six or so members.

The full-time Secretary would attend the meetings of the Regions in order to service the Committee and bring a consistency to proceedings.

This system has brought the PGA out of the wilderness into the forefront of sports bodies in twelve years. Members still control all aspects of the Association, determine the Constitution and Regulations, Subscriptions, Training Methods, etc. The full-time staff carry out the wishes of the membership and the Executive.

(iii) BGGGA and PGA Liaison

It is easy to imagine many asking "why should they do this?" or "what's in it for the PGA".

Greenkeepers and Professionals are two essential ingredients in the world of the most highly organised club-sport in the world. Yet, in many cases they are treated as necessary luxuries at best and labourers at worst.

Clubs currently employ four basic groups of staff; greenkeepers, professional stewards, and secretaries. Each is represented by different organisations and none enjoys the support of the other in times of difficulty. An alliance of greenkeepers and professionals would do much to improve their status.

Separately, these two stalwarts are a lone voice in the wilderness. Together, they will double their influence. Their basic requirements are very similar. The growth in influence and pressure eventually available to members of both organisations can only be estimated but it is a safe assumption that in time the PGA will only play tournaments at clubs with BGGGA members just as it enforces this condition with PGA members and bring other pressures to bear in the interests of members of both Associations.

It has been suggested that the PGA is seeking an alliance in order to open up greenkeeping opportunities for its members. This is not so. It is envisaged that in the future, the pro-greenkeeper will be even less likely than now. There will be those who by virtue of circumstances are sufficiently talented to qualify in both disciplines and be eligible for membership of both Associations but these will be insignificant in number and likely to become less.

FINANCE

The proposed re-organisation could be achieved by the appointment of a full-time BGGGA Secretary, based at PGA National Headquarters supported by all the resources available.

This will cost significantly more than the present system and a basic outline of the Expenditure of the initial year(s) is set out below.

	£
Salaries and National Insurance	15,000
Car Expenses	4,000
Telephone	2,000
Stationery and Postage	2,000
PGA Admin. Charge	10,000
Audit and Legal Expenses, etc.	1,000

	34,000

Note

1. These are anticipated figures.
2. They do not represent an increase of £34,000 since the BGGGA currently incurs expenditure for telephone, postal and administration expenses.
3. The PGA Administration charge is estimated to cover a contribution towards the running of Headquarters including heat, light, rates and other services including the services of a Chartered Accountant, Computer, etc. etc.

Based on current membership numbers, an increase in subscription from the present rates to £20 for head greenkeepers and £15 for Greenkeepers and apprentices would bring increased income of approximately £8,000 - £10,000.

The main increase in income would come from an increase in the membership encouraged by the new organisation and development of membership services. If, the membership was doubled, this would cover the full costs on subscriptions alone. The PGA would be prepared to support this development of the finance for a period. The increase in subscriptions may appear significant at first but should be set against PGA members paying between £70 and £80 and Trainees £40 at present.

Additional income would be encouraged from a number of external sources and pressure brought to bear on other organisations to support the development of the BGGGA with grants and donations.

It is not anticipated that the whole burden will fall on BGGGA members but it must be understood and accepted that over a period of time they must make a greater contribution if they are to enjoy a greater return.

Retention of Finance

The BGGGA will continue to control its own finances and ALL income accruing through subscriptions, donations and funds raised through activities will belong to the BGGGA. The overall control of assets will be in the hands of the PGA Board of Directors but the Board will also guarantee the financial security of the BGGGA in the future.

This same system applies to PGA Regions and the WPGA which in every respect determine their own financial income and expenditure.

The BGGGA would be financially independent but enjoy the security of the resources of the PGA.

IDENTITY OF THE BGGGA

It is clear that a number of changes will be required to the basic organisation and the Constitution of the BGGGA if the developments in this proposal are to be achieved.

- (i) The Association will be called The British Golf Greenkeepers' Association unless the BGGGA decide to change it.
- (ii) BGGGA stationery will be used.
- (iii) Headquarters will be referred to as "BGGGA National Headquarters".
- (iv) The BGGGA Secretary will wear the BGGGA badge and tie at official functions.
- (v) The BGGGA magazine will still be recognised but as a part of a joint publication with the PGA Journal.
- (vi) The BGGGA Executive will control all aspects of BGGGA activity and, in addition, have a seat on the Executive of the PGA.

CONCLUSION

The PGA feels that it has an administrative base and resources which are ideally suited to assist the BGGGA achieve a new status in the golf world. The PGA would benefit from the additional influence this would give its members as part of an alliance of golf club employees.

To be successful, members of the BGGGA would be required to have vision and determination and accept a number of developments which would make this possible.

It is envisaged that for a period of time, membership of the BGGGA would be offered to qualified greenkeepers currently in membership of other Associations. However, if these individuals, choose not to take advantage of the situation, the plans could still go ahead unhindered.

The whole object of this exercise would be to develop an Association which greenkeepers could not afford to ignore. It is envisaged that in a few years all clubs with vacancies will stipulate Membership of the BGGGA essential in their advertisements just as nearly every club specifies Membership of the PGA for appointments of Professionals.

It is the time to consider the future not only of the BGGGA, but of every individual member. A great deal of hard work and commitment will be needed to make it successful but the benefits will far outweigh the problems.

The PGA did it twelve years ago and proved that the formula works - does the BGGGA want to do it now with the help of the PGA?

SECTIONAL News

SHEFFIELD

Hon. Sec: Frank Barratt,
46 Lister Avenue,
Sheffield S12 3FP.
Telephone: (0742) 399941

All members of the section, and indeed all greenkeepers will be saddened by the death of George Herrington. George was a good man in the broadest sense of the word, and will be greatly missed.

The Annual Slater Trophy match, Sheffield versus Northern Section was held this year at Heworth Golf Club, York. The Sheffield Section thank all concerned for a very pleasant day, even the weather was kind. There was of course a snag, the Northern Section won, yet again.

Six days after the debacle at Heworth, the Autumn Tournament was played at Hallowes Golf Club, and again the section thank all concerned for a pleasant afternoon.

The result was:-

J. McNickolas	(2 up)
R. Needham	(2 up)
K. B. Heaney	(2 up)

The opening talk of the winter series was a non event, our promised speaker Mr. M. Farrant of Farrant Chemicals (Soil Life) did not turn up. Although this had been a long standing date, asked for by Mr. Farrant, confirmed by letter and again at the Windsor Exhibition where Henry Gillespie, Barry Heaney and myself had a long talk with Mr. Farrant, he saw fit to cancel our arrangement by a phone call late the night previous to his proposed talk, this left the section without a speaker. I find this cavalier attitude difficult to understand, particularly when the people being so badly treated are potentially customers of a product not yet fully proven.

The November talk will be given by Mr. David Stansfield of The Sports Turf Research Institute; Hillsborough Golf Club, 2.30 p.m. November 6th.

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain,
6 Locke Street, Newport,
Gwent NP1 5HL

On Wednesday 9th October we held our annual match against the South-West at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club.

The match was a well-fought affair played with enthusiasm.

This year it was the year of the South-West yet again.

RESULTS:

P. Swain v. G. Wissett	Won 1 up
T. Thompson v. C. Lewis	Won 2 & 1
D. Jones v. L. Walters	Lost 4 & 2
H. Fry v. W. Jones	Lost 2 & 1
J. Walsh v. R. Kitcher	Lost 5 & 4
T. Gray v. D. Williams	Lost 4 & 3

The South-West won 4-2

Dates for 1986:

17th April: Wenvoe Castle Golf Club
10th July: Dinas Powis Golf Club

NORTH EAST

Hon. Sec: J. S. Richardson,
20 Aston Way, Clavering Park,
Whickham, Tyne & Wear
Telephone: 886765

On the warmest day of the year we held our annual Autumn Meeting at Arcot Hall Golf Club.

I would like to thank Peter Henderson and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, the committee for their courtesy and the steward for the excellent meals.

Thanks also to the trade for supporting the section and the donation of prizes.

TROPHY WINNERS:

Best Gross: (Salver)
C. Handyside (Gosforth G.C.) (7)
(Carriage Clock)
77 + 38 = 115

Best Nett: (Ransomes Cup & Watch)
J. S. Richardson (Whickham G.C.) (108½)
74 + 34½ = 108½

Greenlay Cup: (Wine Set)
J. Redhead (City of Newcastle G.C.)
76 + 33 = 109 Nett

Fewsters Shield: (Holdall)
I. Johnson (Stocksfield G.C.) (14)
76 + 33 = 109 Nett

Fisons Tankard (9 holes Competition):
J. S. Richardson (Whickham G.C.)
34½ Nett

Sisis Tankard:
I. Johnson (Stocksfield G.C.)
33 Nett

Our grateful thanks to the following:

Ryton Gravel Co. . Bland Short . Karsway
Parkside . Fewsters . Dixon Sports
Stewarts . Pattinsons . Bentleys
Supaturf . Fison . Sisis . Ransomes
Lloyds

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: S. Wood,
153 Dickinson Drive,
Bescot, Walsall,
West Midlands WS2 9DR
Telephone: (0922) 640291

On Wednesday 18th September we held our Autumn Tournament at Trentham Park G.C.

We would like to thank the committee and the members for giving us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse facilities.

Because of the International Exhibition that week our numbers were reduced to only 24 players, but a good day's golf was had by all.

A. Lewis won the gross competition with a fine one over par score for 27 holes, and also wins the best Gross Aggregate score from our three major Tournaments, for the second year running.

Best Nett:	67	25½	J. Humphries
Second:	69	34	M. Hughes
Third:	71	36	S. Wood
Fourth:	72	35	I. Toon

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

December 2nd:
Xmas Competition at Olton Golf Club, £9.00 each.
Contact A. Phipps-Jones (0684) 292892.

January 13th (Monday) - 7.30 p.m.):
Summer Golf Videos,
Moor Hall Golf Club.

February 10th (Monday) - 7.30 p.m.):
Lecture Moor Hall Golf Club

March 7th (Friday) - 2.00 p.m.):
Spraying and Chemicals
Telford Golf and Country Club:
Contact:
I. Toon (021) 308 7936 for details.

SOUTH COAST

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

Over fifty members and guests took part in the Section's Autumn Tournament in September. This was a 36 hole Greensome Stableford Competition, held at Waterloo Golf Club. As usual, the Section is indebted to the Club officials for their hospitality, in particular to Laurie Carless and his staff for preparing the course to such a high standard. Thank you Laurie, and we were pleased you could join us for the evening meal and presentation.

Our thanks also to trade members for their contribution to the Prize Table.

Prize Winners were:-

1st	J. C. Newman (7)	79 pts.
	D. Grove (7)	
	DOWNSHIRE GOLF CLUB	
2nd	B. Emberley (7)	78 pts
	P. Hector (11)	
	KNIGHTON HEATH GOLF CLUB	
3rd	R. Walker (9)	74 pts
	J. Lister (20)	
	QUEENS PARK GOLF CLUB	
4th	J. Stimston (14)	74 pts
	R. Trim (Hon)	(11)
5th	C. Mitchell (9)	74 pts
	R. Lawrence	
	MAIDENHEAD GOLF CLUB	
6th	B. Forder (4)	72 pts
	W. Brackstone (15)	
	SOUTHAMPTON GOLF CLUB	

In the Annual match play Tournament between our Section and the South-West, our team had a handsome win of 5 matches to 1.

However, most games almost went to the 18th hole, so it was a very tight and hard fought match. Our thanks to Derek Cheetham, Head Greenkeeper at Knighton Heath Golf Club for arranging the competition.

I am pleased to report that Derek and his partner Bob Walker were 1 up at the end of their game.

New members since my last report:

Stephen Longyear
Phillip Ryder

(Both with Pennyhill Golf and Country Club)

NORTH WEST

Hon. Sec: David F. Golding,
Telephone: (061) 748 8592

The North-West Committee are unanimously agreed. Please study the reports etc., and if anybody has any views, please write to me as we on the Committee would like as many opinions as possible.

We feel that:-

- All Greenkeeping Associations should be 'united' under one Association in the future with a paid full-time Administrator.
- We do not accept the P.G.A. report in its present form and even in another form, we do not think it is in the interest of any Greenkeeper to be linked with the P.G.A.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES:

December 11th, 1985	'Trees on Golf Courses'
January 8th, 1986	'ICI/Maxwell Hart, Slow Release Fertilizers'
February 12th, 1986	'SISIS Equipment'

Usual venue, The Old Cock Hotel, Stretford, at 8.00 p.m.
Junction 8 off the M63 towards Old Trafford.