

WALTER WOODS

St. Andrew's Links Superintendent

The Preparation of a CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

What makes a great championship course? I doubt very much if it's length, when you consider that Ian Woosnam, Sandy Lyle and Seve Ballesteros can hit the ball well over 300 yards off the tee. Perhaps it's character. That is a possibility, when you see the ruggedness of Royal St. George's or the serenity of Turnberry. Then it might be beauty, such as St. Andrews at evening when shadows are at their longest.

Fred Hawtree, the Golf Course Architect and one of the foundation stones of the British Greenkeepers Association, once remarked "A Golf Course is made famous not by what is there, but rather by what happened there". If you study his remarks you will be able to analyse his logic.

There is an abundance of great courses throughout Britain - Hollinwell, Woodhall Spa, Blairgowrie, Hunstanton or Gleneagles are a few examples. Unfortunately geographical location dictates their suitability or lack of it. Such questions as:- is an airport located in close proximity; has the course access by road and rail; is there sufficient car parking; is sufficient space available for a tented village, are all part and parcel of organising today's tournaments.

Last year we watched Oakland Hills and Augusta on television. We envied the ability of their Superintendents, Ted Weorhle and Bill Fuller. We admired the excellence they produced. However, we too could acquire this excellence, if we constructed our Golf Courses in Botanic Gardens and made costs so prohibitive that only a few could play. For us golf has become a national sport, accepted by the public as a recreational game, which anyone can play at a reasonable cost.

Club Management is well aware of "pounds and pence". This virtually dictates that courses be played, on normal greens and tees, for as many days as possible throughout the year. Championships are also important. They project the courses that they are played upon. They also promote the game of golf and encourage a large manufacturing industry in golf and golf related products.

Great players from around the world acknowledge that the traditional British golf course has stood the test of time. If golfing skill is to be encouraged, it is essential that Green Staff maintain surfaces in a traditional manner, while making use of modern science and technology.

The "OPEN", is the ultimate golf championship and provides the greenkeeper with an opportunity to present his course in the best possible playing condition, taking into account the delicate balance of history, golfing records and modern ability, coupled with traditional fast fiery surfaces.

A well managed championship course will always be kept in reasonable order, working at 70% efficiency and requiring only 30% more effort to have it in peak tournament condition.

Walter Woods is the Links Superintendent for the four courses at St. Andrews, the Old Course, the New Course, the Eden and the Jubilee. He is a long standing member of the BGGA, and an honorary member of the GCSAA. This year as well as being the Director of Education for SIGGA he has taken on the mantle of President. An accomplished speaker, he has lectured in the United States and Canada, on the maintenance and history of British Golf Courses.



Walter Woods instructs his apprentice on the 18th green

When Mr. Keith MacKenzie, past Secretary to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, approached Muirfield to accept the 'Amateur' at short notice, he asked Shaig Logan the Head Greenkeeper how long it would take him to prepare the course. Shaig replied, quite seriously, "Would two weeks be too long Sir?"

To prepare for the "OPEN" takes a little longer, however, and the R&A would normally approach the venue concerned some 2 or 3 years in advance. Once arrangements have been made the Greenkeeper will organise his work schedules for each area, taking into account even the smallest detail.

FAIRWAYS

There is no precise definition in the Rules of Golf for the term 'fairway'. The term 'through the green' encompasses both the fairway and rough.

Density, uniformity, smoothness and firmness are the components of quality fairways. Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and many more great players advocate short, uniform grass and firm surfaces. The firmer the surface the more backspin they can apply, making the game, more of judgement and control.

Links fairways are regarded as terrain which God provided for golf. The undulations and mounds, the bounce and roll test a player's character. Maintaining these surfaces can be equally demanding, sometimes even exasperating, to the greenkeeper. To create uniformity, everywhere should be equal, yet mounds and high spots dry out quickly, while hollows receive water and become soft and lush encouraging larger divots.

Aeration is divided into categories: hollow-coring, verti-draining, and slitting. Sand is spread in the hollows and fen peat onto the higher areas. Overseeding takes place annually with particular attention paid to weak areas or spectator routes - with strong creeping red fescue cultivated into existing grasses, and these areas protected by post and rope.

Prior to the tournament, fairways are made narrower by allowing the semi-rough to grow, then they are cut back in areas dictated by the championship committee. After the tournament they are reinstated as soon as possible to their original state, which is necessary to speed up play, to cater for the thousands of amateurs from all over the world who want to play at St. Andrews.

BUNKERS

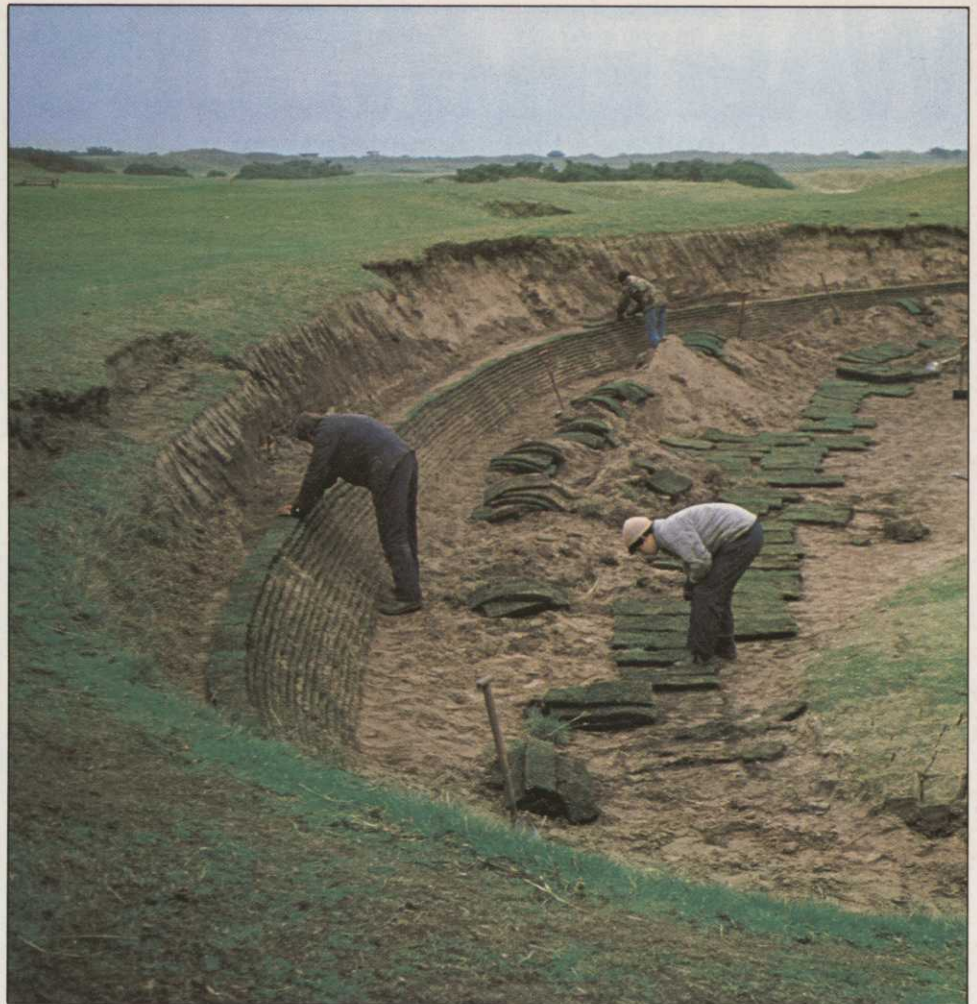
Bunkers are a feature of St. Andrews - copied all over the world - sometimes unsuccessfully. Bunker facing or revetment is a skilled job adding character to the course. The deep, frightening faces, which confront the wayward golfers, are constructed in such a fashion to prevent sand blowing away. All of the bunkers are named, Hell Bunker, Cockle, the Principal's Nose, Beardies and the Road Hole Bunker, each has played its part in history, the latter being no exception. Doug Sanders pitched out dead, for his four in 1970 only to three putt the last, then lose out in the play-off the following day. Tommy Nakajima, the Japanese golfer, after leading in the 3rd round of the 1978 championship, took five shots and finished with a nine - five over par. Some of the locals have renamed this bunker "Nakajima Sand".

TEES

Tees are maintained exactly as greens, adopting the same method of maintenance. They are aerated, fertilised, irrigated, top-dressed, and scarified in a similar fashion.

We have ladies, forward mens, competition and tournament tees. Tee positions and pin locations are organised to constantly change the walking-off routes. Regularly, tournament tees are firmed up by allowing the public to play on a rotation basis. Fescue and bent grass is encouraged, allowing lower cutting heights similar to those for Greens.

During any tournament our first tee is used as a practice putting green area to allow competitors a few putts to relieve tension before they tee off.



Above: Bunker facing or revetment is a skilled job. The deep faces are constructed to stop sand blowing away.

Below: The fourth green at St. Andrews looking over the town.



GREENS

Most criticism is reserved for greens. Although greens represent only about 2% of the golf course area, they play a role in 75% of all golf strokes, assuming a par round. Any professional golfer scoring par rounds would be well down the money league. So putting is the area which separates the men from the boys.

Good quality greens are the most important part of the golf course. Greens receive more discussion in the clubhouse than any part of the course. More golfers blame greens rather than their own ability. How many times have you heard the comments 'The greens are too slow', 'The greens are too bumpy'.

The finest quality greens I have ever seen and ones which would immediately suit championships are Muirfield, Gullane, Elie, Kilspindie, Sunningdale and the Merion in Philadelphia. What do all these greens have in common? The answer is that they contain a large amount of fescue and bent grass. Why the Merion and not Augusta - simply because of the climate. Augusta's greens are total Pencyross Bent and require warm temperatures to survive. The Merion, with a similar climate to Britain, is maintained with traditional British greenkeeping methods and although a relatively short course, it promotes skill rather than relying on green speed only.



Championship greens can only be kept for short periods. To expect perfect greens every day of the year is asking the impossible. Good greens are expected and great greens should be appreciated. Never can the greenkeeper explain his ability to the members. For like most things it is taken for granted. Golfers everywhere fail to understand the frustration of aeration or top-dressing or why pin positions are kept deliberately on the perimeter of the greens. Fine grass playing surfaces can change from one season to another and require constant attention.

Once we are informed that we are to receive the Open Championship I allow the year before to work to my advantage. It provides an excellent opportunity to prepare for the following year. During the summer I would deliberately keep fertiliser to a minimum and if applied it would be to experiment with timing for use prior to the tournament the following year.

Artificial watering would also be kept to a minimum, with the philosophy that a good drought will get rid of any undesirable grass which might be present. If any grass colour is required one way to achieve this would be to apply Sulphate of Iron.

Above: *If we constructed our golf courses in Botanic Gardens such as Augusta few could afford to play.*

Aeration would also be more intensive, followed with sandy top dressings and in the event of some of the weaker grasses dying these would be replaced with grass which will succeed. This can be achieved in the Autumn by plugging with a 6 inch diameter hole cutter and replacing with suitable turf from the Turf Nursery. One particular green at St. Andrews has received over 10,000 of these turfs over the last 10 years. This treatment might appear drastic but it is successful. Over the winter months it does not take long for it to blend into the surrounding grasses.

Bent and fescue will provide a much better density of grass texture

Bent and fescue are tolerant and once established will provide a much better density of grass texture, uniform and smooth and from then on less expensive to keep. The 'playability' factor will also improve with more trueness of ball roll. Resilience or bite will be discovered and less plug marks will be noticed.

Winter months are critical. The weather can assist or oppose you. Aeration, bunker and turf repairs should all be completed early. Spring quickly approaches and nothing should be attempted that will disrupt the surfaces. Delegation of duties will be necessary to allow you to operate and concentrate on the course.



Left: *The 18th green and the headquarters of the R&A.*

The 1st tee duals as a practice putting green prior to the major tournaments.

Most of the contractors will arrive at this time. First to appear will be the stand erectors. Nineteen or twenty stands, which contain seating capacity for over seventeen thousand people daily, have to be erected at prime viewing locations around the perimeter of the course. Next to arrive will be the telephone, electricity and water companies. Miles of pipe and cables have to be ploughed underground. To accompany them will be television, fencing contractors, plumbers and joiners. Each day involves meetings to provide them with available routes and information so that they can conduct their own particular operation in harmony and eliminate fear of extensive damage.

Fertiliser can be applied to the greens and tees at the first sign of growth

The first sign of growth allows an opportunity to spread fertiliser to greens and tees. Organic liquid feeding through the sprayer can commence to fairways and semi-roughs. Irrigate more regularly if the weather gets warm. The intention now is to create grass cover using discretion. Growth is necessary to repair aeration and turfing marks. It will also allow maintenance duties such as the application of light top-dressings every two or three weeks without smothering. Verticutting, particularly the flat areas should work hand in glove with top-dressings. Regular rolling with the heavier tee mowers fitted with smooth rollers will be required to firm up the top surface.

Weedkilling takes place in every area when sunny weather permits, particularly patches of clover which might exist in the semi-roughs. Greens usually require two applications to eliminate broad and small leaved weeds such as Daisies or Mouse-eared Chickweed. Chemicals have a knocking or stressful effect on the grass so special care should be taken with timing. Constant supervision and written instructions will be important to eliminate human mistakes.

Watering agents can be added with the weedkiller when applied to the greens and this will assist the grass to stand up to more prolonged periods without water.

Hole positions during this period can be located around the perimeter of the greens with the intention of saving the ideal locations until required. Sand screened through a fine mesh will be placed into the bunkers well in advance, firmed up and constantly raked to ensure no lips or edges are apparent.

Fertiliser is again applied to greens and tees approximately 5 weeks before the event. Timing is essential to have the fertiliser well past its peak. Better putting surfaces are a reality when the turf is on the lean and hungry side.

If Triplexes are used, daily checks, morning and evening, to hydraulic hoses and joints are essential - the last thing you want is oil spillage or petrol leaks. Hold your course back during this period, just like a jockey with his racehorse waits for the last furlong and sight of the winning post.

Occasionally, cut with pedestrian mowers set at around 3/16ths of an inch to allow for the bedding-in of the cylinders and blades. Two weeks before the tournament you will begin to realise the benefit of your past work and the efforts of your staff. No motivation is necessary - they are just as keen and equally proud of the course. Turn off your irrigation system with the intention of allowing surfaces to dry out. Then only water lightly with discretion if temperatures are high.

Give greens the last verti-cut then remove Triplexes altogether. Reduce the height of cut down a fraction on pedestrian mowers then start cutting the greens once per day.

The press will be inviting comments to create a sensational story

This is when the professionals arrive to practice. They will be more relaxed and will be liable to make comments. The Press will be present and they will invite remarks hoping to create a sensational story. Cut everything, which will promote tidiness - the sides of your tee banks and around bunkers to encourage the ball to roll into the middle rather than lodge on the edge. Reduce the cutting height of your fairway mowers. If they have steel wheels have a spare set of rubber tyred wheels on stand-by. In the event of very hot drying weather steel wheels will leave unsightly scorch marks.

Receive short and long term weather forecasts. The evening before the tournament remember to switch off the electric to your irrigation systems - it would really be chaotic if the pop-ups came on during play. Give each of the greens a light brush then cut them in two opposite directions. Cut them again the following morning and from then on twice daily, morning and evening. Day to day decisions will be required however regarding speed in the event of wind. A Stimpmeter can be a valuable tool to measure the speed and create uniformity throughout the 18 greens (plus your practice green). Some greens might require extra cutting and brushing; some might require less cutting - at least it gives a measure of uniformity of putting speed.

Hole locations will be decided each morning - usually at dawn. The Championship Chairman accompanied by the Head Greenkeeper will decide on the best pin positions taking the weather into account. No tricky positions are necessary. Once selected, the hole is extracted and the cup inserted at least three quarters of an inch below the grass surface. Loose grass around the perimeter of the hole is then trimmed with scissors. After completion the immediate area is firmed up by pressing on a board and the earth part painted with a quick drying paint.

On the second day of the Championship you can relax..... but keep out of the way!

Over the next few days the course will be abused with machinery. Fairway mowers will almost be cutting roots

and scalping mounds. Greens will quickly deteriorate under the stress of cutting and rolling. Skilled cutting operators will be required to cut using instinct; cutting lines will be difficult to see or read. The mechanics will be busy with minor repairs to mowers and damage created by traffic. All the Head Greenkeeper has to do is co-ordinate, mainly to reduce panic when things go wrong.

After the second day of the championship you can relax. The professionals will be too busy concentrating on how to score. Keep well out of the way - all you have to do now is pray for dry, breezy weather.

To produce a quality course where fairways and tees are cut and attended daily and greens cut twice per day is a luxury few clubs can afford, but by careful budgeting and good management of resources there is no reason why quality conditions should be denied. In the wake of the event and resulting from the television exposure which the course has enjoyed visitors will arrive and more than financially compensate for any extra expenditure incurred or revenue lost.

After the tournament is finished all that remains is history. The winner's name will be mentioned regularly, he will become financially secure - and he certainly deserves to. But there will be many losers and the Greenkeeper will probably be among them. He too will be rich, but not financially, only in the knowledge and satisfaction that what he accomplished took more skill and effort than that of all the players put together.

Golf Greenkeeping is available by subscription to Club Secretaries, and Green Chairman

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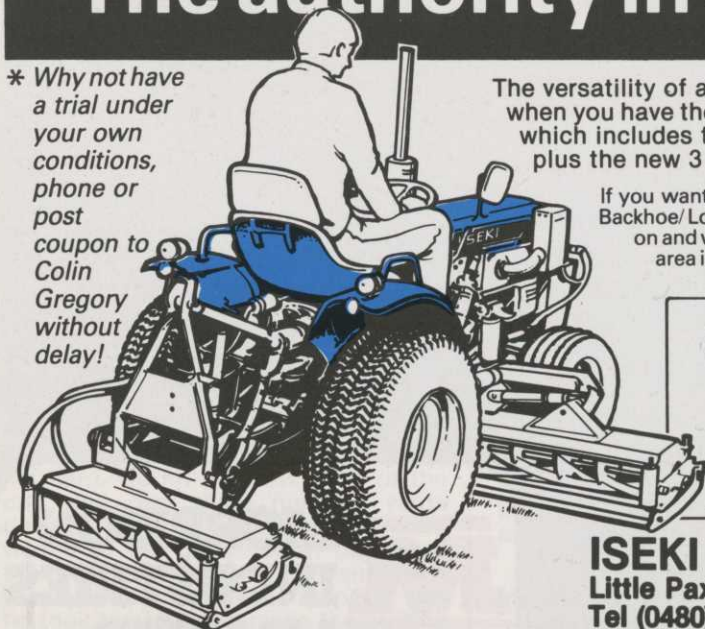
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HUNSTANTON TOURNAMENT

Later in the clubhouse a philosophical Trevor said, "I seem to have a hang-up approaching the eighteenth on every course where the green is in front of the clubhouse windows. I don't know why because I am fully insured against breaking the glass!"

Ron Hughes a left hander from the Mid Anglia Section, hit the ball superbly all day, knotching up 18 points on the outward nine mostly head on into a biting easterly wind gusting up to 50 mph. He too was on the 18th tee with 30 points under his belt, but because of problems with a loose insert in the face of the driver, decided to use the three wood for safety's sake. He topped the drive, took another two shots to the edge of the green and despite a delicate chip, the ball shot four yards past and his putt ran out of steam inches from the hole.

Masters for the opportunity to play a championship links course, but this was a pleasure he had to postpone. Venturing on to the east coast links

still in the grip of winter would have been a certain recipe for a bout of pneumonia, for someone who only hours before had left a sunny Racine basking in temperatures around the high 70's.

Among the guests at the presentation dinner were Mr. Jeremy Thompson a past Captain and present Green Chairman, the Club Secretary, Mr. G. H. Allen, the Head Greenkeeper, Mr. Jimmy Reed, the professional Mr. John Carter and the Editor of Golf Greenkeeping, Mr. John Lelean. The proceedings were hosted by Morrison Industries General Manager, Mr. Chris Smith, who even provided some choice New Zealand wine (Morrison's are an Antipodean Company) to round off an excellent menu.

This tournament was the final of the 1985 Jacobsen Competition postponed from last year because of the change in dealership to Morrisons, announced at the Windsor Show. During the next few months a series of regional events will be held, culminating in a 1986 Tournament which is planned to be played once again over the Hunstanton links.

Peter Shaw was told by Curt Kimpfbeck presenting his prize of a stereo radio, he would also receive an invitation to attend an educational conference organised by the GCSAA to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in February next year.

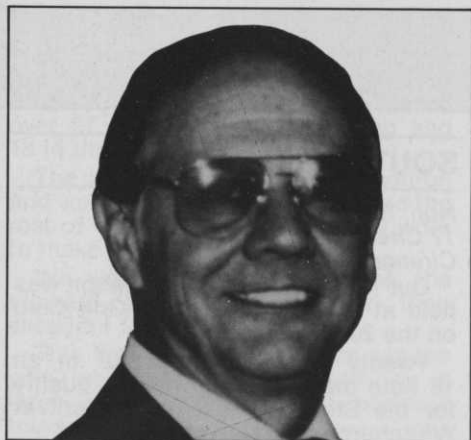
Responding, Peter thanked everyone involved for arranging such a superb final and said how much he had enjoyed the golf despite the conditions. He had a special word of praise for Jimmy Reed for the excellent preparation of the course, particularly the greens, which played fast and true, when so many other courses were still in the grip of a long hard winter.

Footnote

Peter had a double reason for celebration that night. He was told during a telephone call home, one of his sheep had given birth to twins!

Jacobsen Tournament Stableford Scores

31 points - P. Shaw (6), 30 - T. Bennett (11); R. Hughes (9); 28 - D. Collins (12) North; 27 - G. Payne (7) S. Coast; 26 - W. Curtis (8) S. West; S. Wood (12) Midlands; 25 - K. Heaney (9) Sheffield; D. Jones (11) Welsh; 24 - R. Whyman (11) D. & C; A. Partridge (12) N. East; J. Chapman (17) Mid Anglia; R. Wentworth (18) S. Coast; 23 - T. McCreadie (6) Midlands; P. Henderson (18) N. East; 22 - M. Hopkins (17) E. Midlands; C. Crocher (15) Cleveland; N. Root (18) E. Midlands; 21 - L. Miller (4) S. West; M. Hannam (7) North; A. Naisbitt (12) Cleveland; M. Fry (12) Welsh; 18 - M. Digman (18) North; 17 - T. Tench (12) N. West; 16 - D. Taylor (18) Sheffield.



Curt Kimpfbeck, Jacobsen's Vice President of Sales, flew across from Chicago to make the presentations.

Peter Shaw, the Course Manager at Preston Golf Club and a playing member of Clitheroe Golf Club won the Jacobsen Tournament over the windswept Hunstanton course last month, just a single stableford point from Trevor Bennett of Trevoze Golf Club and Ron Hughes the Course Manager at the Little Hay Municipal Complex.



Peter Shaw, Preston Golf Club's Course Manager receiving the winner's trophy from Curt Kimpfbeck

His score of thirty one points off six handicap was a superb performance in the testing conditions, as were the scores of the two runners-up. In the traditions of all good finals the winning score came from the last putt on the eighteenth green where Peter's second shot, a pitching wedge to the pin, ran three yards past and he holed out for a birdie three.

Playing immediately behind, Trevor Bennett, a member of the Devon & Cornwall Section, stood on the eighteenth tee with thirty points on his card. He hit his best drive of the day well over three hundred yards down wind and needed only a sand wedge to the green. What happened then we will never know, sufficient to say the ball did not respond and he took two more to make the putting surface and another two to get down.

Accepting the rub of the green, in the true spirit of all Greenkeeper Tournaments, Ron confessed to a truly great twelve months golf, including three major prizes at the National Tournament and membership of the victorious Greenkeeper's Team at the Belfry.

Despite the wind and rain with temperatures only short of freezing, the warmth of the reception in the clubhouse from both members and staff, quickly thawed the most frozen fingers, leaving a lasting impression of Hunstanton's generous hospitality to the twenty-five competitors, supporters and guests.

Jacobsen's Vice President of Sales, Mr. Curt Kimpfbeck, flew in from Chicago to perform the presentation ceremonies, foregoing a visit to the

SECTIONAL News

SOUTH COAST

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

Section members will be pleased to read that arrangements for the Summer Meeting are as follows:-

Venue: Isle of Purbeck Golf Club

Date: Thursday, 10th July 1986

Cost per person: £8.50

The competition, consisting of a member and partner from their Club, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four ball better ball, commencing at 1.00 p.m.

Written entries, giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the correct fee, should be sent to:-

Mr. Ian Rickman,
53 Woodroffe Drive,
Basingstoke,
Hants. RG22 6NH
Tel: Basingstoke (994) 463587

Please note that the closing date will be Friday, 27th June 1986, and that you must be a paid up member to play in the Tournament.

Members will know that subscriptions become due as from 1st May, and details of the new subscription rates were printed in the April Journal. However, for this Section will members please note:-

- (i) Class 'E' members subscription fee is £10.00
- (ii) Class 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' members please add a Section Levy of £2.00 to your subscription, as agreed at the recent Section A.G.M.

Your prompt payment of Subscriptions will be much appreciated.

MID ANGLIA

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

The Summer Tournament will be held at Ashridge Golf Club on Tuesday, 8th July, over 36 holes.

This meeting is for Section Members only and Entries together with Handicap and £10.00 fee must reach Ken Bunting the Competition Secretary by Monday, 30th June.

A Draw will be made on 1st July, so no late entries will be considered.

The Competition will begin at 8.30 a.m. prompt, so please arrive early to assure the smooth running of the Tournament.

Annual Subscriptions are now overdue and should be sent to the Treasurer, Les Wakerell without further delay.

EAST MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: R. W. Willars,
27 Condor Close, Broughton Astley,
Leicestershire.
Tel: Sutton Elms 283053

SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Our Annual Spring Golf Tournament is being held on Wednesday May 14th at Sherwood Forest Golf Club, Mansfield, Nottingham. The first tee will be booked from 12 noon.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Our Section A.G.M. will be held on Monday May 19th at the Leicestershire Golf Club, Evington Lane, Leicester and will start at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

GREENKEEPERS V. VICE-PRESIDENTS GOLF MATCH

This year's annual golf match between the Greenkeepers and Vice-Presidents will be held on Tuesday, June 17th at the Leicestershire Golf Club, Evington Lane, Leicester.

Teams for this event will be selected by the respective Captains and the participants will be notified in due course.

AUTUMN GOLF TOURNAMENT:

The Autumn Golf Tournament is being held on Thursday October 2nd at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough, Leics. The first tee will be booked from 12 noon.

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: Steve Wood
58 Guerne Road,
Beechdale, Walsall
Telephone: (0922) 611380

Our last lecture of the season presented by Bob Bolland at Great Hay G.C. covered the topical subject of 'Spraying and Calibration', together with the safety aspects of this potentially dangerous activity.

Bob also emphasised the strict new Pesticide Legislation Regulations controlling not only spraying chemicals but their safe keeping as well.

He pointed out all personnel using chemical sprays are now required by law to be adequately trained and qualified before they are permitted to handle agro-chemicals.

Following an extended question period, members were shown one of the hi-tech sprayers in action out on the course. All were impressed with its capabilities, accomplishing all it set out to achieve.

Should any club require the services of the hi-tech sprayer, Bob can be contacted through E. T. Breakwell.

There are still one or two problems to solve concerning dates for the Summer and Autumn Tournaments, but as soon as these are finalised members will be informed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

29th July

Midlands v. East Anglia at Tewkesbury

Will those wishing to play in this match please contact A. Phipps-Jones (Tewkesbury 292892).

If over subscribed the team will be named by selection.

SOUTH WEST

Hon. Sec: P. Worster
17 Chesterton Grove,
 Cirencester

Our first meeting of the season was held at Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club on the 20th of March.

Twenty members took part in an 18 hole medal competition to qualify for the Steetley-Vitax Tournament at Whitchurch in Wales on May 22nd.

It was a cold, windy day and at times it was like battling through the desert in a sand storm. Perhaps this had some effect on the attendance which was best described as sparse.

The greens were in marvellous condition for the time of the year and extremely quick.

The winners were:-

1st	K. Millar (Weston G.C.)	66
2nd	C. Chambers (Unattached)	70
3rd	J. King (Clevedon G.C.)	76

The team for the Steetley Tournament is:-

Scratch to 9
K. Millar, J. Kane (Res. W. Curtiss)
10 - 18
J. Thomas, I Scoones (Res. L. Johnson)

19 +
P. Cox, R. Gates (Res. L. Johnson)

C. Chambers qualified for the 19+ group, but had to withdraw as he ceases to be a member after April.

We wish him the best of luck in his new venture in the holiday business at Weston-S-Mare, and we are sure he will do well with his gentle, good natured approach to everything.

Notice to all Sections:

The A.R.M.S. Charity Tournament which is jointly run by the South West Section and Peter Hampton is to held on Thursday 21st August 1986 at the Filton Golf Club, Bristol.

Open to all sponsors and other section. Please contact:-

PETER HAMPTON,
Telephone Trowbridge (02214) 5864
for entry forms and further details.

WELSH

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

The Welsh team to play in the Steetley-Vitax Competition is as follows:-

Scratch to 9	Mike Jones, John Hopkins (Res. Graham Cox)
10 - 18	Dennis Jones, Philip Swain (Res. Henry Fry)
19 plus	Graham Wissett, Colin Lewis (Res. Tia Garland)

An additional fixture planned is the match against the Secretaries. This will be played at Southerndown G.C. on the 3rd June 1986, starting at 1.00 p.m.

Our condolences to Henry Fry and Dennis Jones who braved the elements at Hunstanton in the Jacobsen Tournament. Although unsuccessful they enjoyed the experience and fought well in the toughest of conditions.

On Thursday, 17th April, we held our Spring Meeting at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club. The Competition was played over 27 holes, 9 in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

The course was in excellent condition and we must thank Tia Garland and the rest of his boys for all their hard work to make the course so good.

We would also like to thank the steward and stewardess for their excellent food and service.

This first competition of the season was well attended and won by a large margin compared to previous tournaments.

Winner of the Cardiff Cup was Kevin Moore with a nett score of 104. He also took a Stuart crystal vase donated by Rigby Taylor

In second place was Lawrence Walter with a nett score of 109.

Third came Graham Cox with a score of 109½.

John Hopkins with a score of 113 occupied fourth place.

A raffle was held to help swell the funds which was well supported by everyone present. I would like to thank Ken Chatwin for cracking the whip on the wallets.

On behalf of the Committee and members, I would like to pass on our congratulations to our President on celebrating his Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

The Committee were most grateful to those who donated prizes for both the golf tournament and the raffle.

Messrs. Cogan Engineering, Rigby Taylor, Dennis Archer, Keith Pike, Harry Smith, Paul Robinson and Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club.

NORTH EAST

Hon. Sec: J. S. Richardson,
12 Bede Terrace, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8AJ

On Tuesday, 22nd April we held our Spring Tournament at Goswick G.C., Berwick-on-Tweed.

We would like to thank the Committee for giving us the courtesy of their course and club.

Thanks go to the Steward and Stewardess for looking after us so well. Also to Head Greenkeeper, George Thompson and his staff for the superb condition of this excellent links course, truly a good test of golf.

Unfortunately the weather was windy and wet which sent the scores rocketing.

We acknowledge the generosity of those companies who donated the prizes.

Stewarts, Turf Care Supplies, The Ryton Gravel Co., Bland-Short, Sisis, Greenlay, Pringle of Scotland, Supaturf, Lloyds, Rigby Taylor, Farmura, Bridges Pennants, and S.A.I.

I would also like to thank Terry Charlton of Turf Care Supplies for his donation of a portable T.V. for nearest the pin at the short 9th, which was won by Alistair Holmes of the host club.

RESULTS:

Best Gross:	D. Jennings	78	(Newbiggin G.C.)
Best Nett:	K. Fennell	98-24-74	(Bedlingtonshire G.C.)
Assistants Cup:	A. McDonald	101-20-81	(Chester-le-Street G.C.)
	B. Weddell	90-12 = 78 nett	
	W. Holden	88-10 = 78 nett	

Thirty-one others received prizes.

I would also like to welcome to our Section the following new members:-

P. Anderson (Newcastle Utd. G.C.), J. Hagan (Whickham G.C.), J. Rippon (Whickham G.C.), D. Scott (Newbiggin G.C.), D. Weddell (Alnmouth G.C.), K. Jones (Bedlingtonshire G.C.), C. Fennell (Bedlingtonshire G.C.), B. Mitchell (Bedlingtonshire G.C.), D. McNeil (Wearside G.C.), B. Walker (Wearside G.C.),

NORTHERN

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

Telephone: (0943) 72008

An excellent evening was enjoyed by all those who attended the Annual Dinner and Dance held last month at Otley Golf Club.

To use a Yorkshire expression it was a 'Reight good do'. A first class meal was leisurely followed by a disco session to rival the talents of Legs & Co.

Our thanks to the Committee of Otley G.C. for their kind hospitality in allowing us the use of their Clubhouse and to the catering staff not only for the presentation of the dinner but the accompanying service.

Unfortunately the Spring Tournament due to be held at Northcliffe G.C. at Shipley on May 8th has had to be cancelled because the steward was unable to cope with the event. The A.G.M. fixed for the same day commencing at 7.30 p.m. will take place in the Northcliffe Clubhouse.

1986 FIXTURES:

Presidents Day	
June 19th	Garforth G.C.
Roses Match	
July 16th	Preston G.C.
Invitation Day	
August 14th	Easingwold G.C.
Autumn Tournament	
October 14th	Fulford G.C.



NORTH WEST

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

SISIS TOURNAMENT:

Entry cards are now available from myself on the Competition Secretary, Bert Cross.

Wednesday, June 18th is the day we travel to the Cavendish Golf Club, Buxton. A very welcome return for those who played last year. Our President will present the trophy and I know those members who enjoy fast greens will not be disappointed.

A word of warning though for those playing, keep one eye open for a land-rover!

On the Move:

Our new Chairman, Brian Moss has recently moved from Gatley G.C. to Davyholme Park G.C. We all wish Brian every success in his new post.

Congratulations:

Preston Golf Club's course manager Peter Shaw won the Jacobsen National Final last month held at Hunstanton Golf Club. Well done Peter. The sponsors Morrisons (Jacobsen) will be holding the 1986 final later this year so maybe Peter will have a North-West Section companion. Qualify by winning a section regional event later this year at a venue to be arranged.

New Golf Events:

The Committee are now finalising details for a golf match against the North West Stewards Association and a new annual golf tournament is being arranged to play for the 'Reg Vickers Memorial Salver'.

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Sports Ground Irrigation Co., 'Hereward Lodge', Paget Road, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leics. Tel: (0858) 63153.
Contact: Mr. M. D. Walker.

T. & G. Turf Irrigation Services, 8 Whitcliffe Grove, Ripon, North Yorks. Tel: (0765) 2941.
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