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Robert Trent Jones Snr.

A Maker of Memories

The golf course architect, Robert Trent Jones Snr., once described by the *New York Times* as the greatest in the world, is this year's nominee for the 'Old Tom Morris' Award from the Association of Golf Course Superintendents of America.

This rare and profound form of recognition is only given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the game of golf. Past recipients have included Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, President Gerald Ford and last year, the first lady of golf, Patty Berg.

Trent Jones, a lively rotund 80 years old still travels the world designing golf courses.

He has thirty under construction, including a second course for the King of Morocco, twenty in the planning stage and around 450 completed.

The 27 hole course at Moor Allerton nr. Leeds is his only finished course in Britain, but he is currently working on a public course carved out of a disused rubbish tip, seven miles from London Airport, which when completed will give superb views over Windsor Castle.

Jones, British born emigrated to the USA with his family when he was six. He landed his first job as a caddy at 12 and in 1927 shot the lowest amateur score in the Canadian Open.

Friends urged him to turn professional, but he had already made up his mind he was going to design golf courses, no doubt influenced by a man who had come into his life, Donald Ross already a renowned golf course architect and incidentally a student of old Tom Morris.

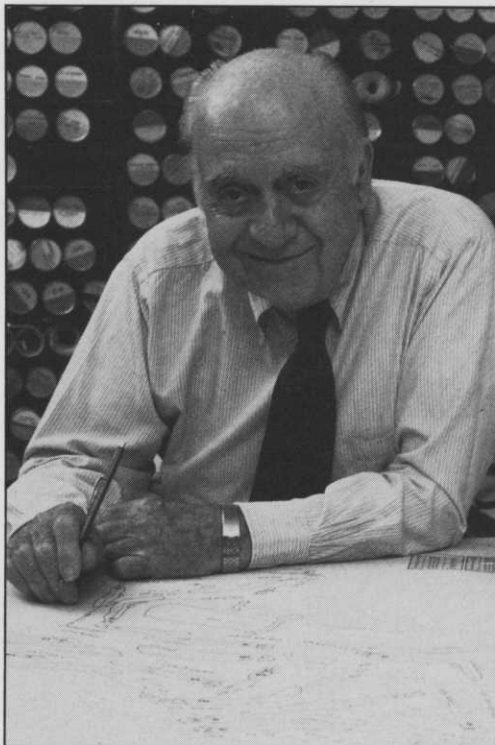
Robert Trent Jones is a firm advocate that managing a golf course is a profession. Greenkeepers must be able to diagnose disease, organise soil fertility and manage their staff to follow a prescribed programme of maintenance.

He believes the key to improved standards is better education, facilities for which are still sadly lacking in Britain, but advancing rapidly in the United States, with numerous Universities prepared to regard agronomy, as a pure science with degree courses for golf course managers.

As an architect he has a simple philosophy. 'Every hole should be a hard par, but an easy bogey!' His greens and tees are always big, water and sand his trade mark, but always placed to penalise the poor shot and at the same time add beauty to his designs.

'Every hole should be a hard par, but an easy bogey!'

He continues to log 300,000 air miles a year, briefly alighting here and there in teeming resorts and remote corners to oversee current projects.



During one recent week, he was in Texas and Florida. During the following week, he was scheduled to be in Boston, Spain and California. Between travels, he was at home in Montclair, talking nonstop about the vast new territory that he is turning into fairways and greens.

'I'll retire when they build that last bunker and put me in it'

All in all, Jones has 20 golf courses under construction around the globe and another 30 in various stages of planning. Assuming that these 50 projects reach full fruition, he will have created a total of 500.

Born in the British Isles (where incidentally, he has recently designed another golf course, in Wales), Jones moved with his family to Rochester, N.Y. At age 12, he landed his first job, as a caddy. Other duties in those younger days included cutting the greens every day with a Worthington mower. One boy pushed. Another pulled.

In an interview with Clay Loyd of Golf Course Management he said, "I didn't know anything about golf, but I used to emulate the pros who

gave exhibition matches there - British players like Henry Vardon and Ted Ray".

For 50 cents, Jones bought his first golf club in the pro shop - a 2-iron - and used it for every shot. By age 16, he set a record for the course. "In the morning, I carried my own bag and shot a 77", he recalls. "In the afternoon, my friend carried my bag, and I had a 69".

In time, he talked Cornell University into allowing him to take a hodgepodge of academic courses of his own devising. Simultaneously, he enrolled in the Rochester School of Art, and to this day his sketch pad is never far from hand.

"You can't be a great golf course architect without a knowledge of all golf shots", says Jones "You can build a golf course, but you can't build a great one unless you know the golf shots and have the feel. That's what makes my courses harder to play for the pros; I know what's a good golf shot and what's not a good golf shot - and I make it fair".

What is it like working with the man the *New York Times* has called the most famous golf course architect in the world? GCM asked one prominent GCSAA member golf course superintendent who was in from the beginning of one course's construction.

"The Jones organization allows you (the Superintendent) to have some creative input, to expand a little on what they're trying to do. They are trying to create modestly priced golf today. Jones is more inclined to work with what nature has given him, as opposed to moving massive amounts of earth. He tries to enhance what's there as opposed to drastically changing it. He's done that very well where we are".

That sounds strangely similar to the way some earlier architects designed golf courses. Among them was Old Tom Morris of Saint Andrews. He selected natural green-sites, plotted holes on these sites and arranged them into a circuit - all the while favouring the natural contour of the land. Jones' style, as he describes it, is having a "feel" for golf course design and "knowing how to take the terrain and route the golf course through it, then designing the holes according to strategy and the terrain that you find on the individual holes".

"Too many architects are trying to emulate the dunes of Scotland", says Jones. "Unfortunately, that is not easy to do - and it's frightfully expensive. What's more, they wind up with a mishmash of mounds that look like a bunch of ugly chocolate drops, and a golf course that isn't much fun for the members to play".

Next on Jones' busy agenda: He plans to write a book. "I'd like to pick my Top 100 golf courses". Jones, who started a book years ago but never completed it, plans to solicit input from professional and amateur golfers, golf news media and other appropriate sources to provide a "solid base" for his picks.

We are indebted to Golf Course Management and Director of Communications, Clay Loyd of the GCSAA for the material in this article.

RUFFORD TOP DRESS SUPPLIES ACQUIRE A SILICA SAND QUARRY.

The Lancashire coast is famous for its fine quality sand. Blackpool built its holiday reputation on the sea washed deposits, some of Britain's greatest links courses were carved out of the dunes.

Now a twenty five acre, thickly forested site near Southport adjacent to the Fylde coast recently acquired by Rufford Top Dress Supplies, part of the Rowcroft-Hambro Group has been found to hold deposits of one of Britain's finest silica top dressing sands.

The litter from thousands of years of decaying vegetation has also produced a bonus of decomposed leaf mould, ideal for mixing with the sand to produce one of the country's highest quality top dressings for sports turf surfaces, particularly suitable for golf courses.

Surveys have shown that in addition to the hundreds of thousands of tons of sand in the quarry there is also a huge deposit of valuable peat, as yet,

untouched. Analysis has shown it is regarded as an ideal planting peat as it has been formed from a mixture of bark and sedge because it too lies under the forest.

The quarry owned by the Rowcroft-Hambro (Group) Limited, based in Manchester and the new owners are now determined to break into the top dress market in the UK. They believe they have a number of very real advantages over most of their rivals in the top dress business.

Firstly, with complete control they can extract and process the product and guarantee total consistency of quality. Secondly, they also guarantee to deliver to practically every corner of Great Britain within forty-eight hours and indeed within twenty-four

hours to many areas. Lastly, considering the high quality of the product the Company believes it is priced extremely competitively.

The Company has invested heavily to bring the quality of processing up to a high standard. As both sand and soil deposits are lying under a forest, removing brambles and twigs proved difficult, but now at last this has been totally overcome. The final product is a very fine and easy to apply top dress.

As it is a single product with a single price the Company believe it would be advantageous for organisations such as manufacturers and suppliers of horticultural machinery as well as, of course, companies already involved in the marketing of top dress to act as their agents.

They plan to install a bagging plant in the coming weeks and currently deliver loads from five tonnes to twenty-five tonnes in bulk to most parts of the country by road, especially to the North-West, North-East, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cumbria which are the main areas already supplied. A fleet of contract lorries is on call to ensure delivery when the top dress is needed.

The Company has already had many glowing reports from golf clubs stating their entire satisfaction with both product and service.

It is the Company's hope that 1987 will be a significant year for them and hopefully by the year end they will have made their mark and will no longer be regarded merely as newcomers but rather as an established name.

RUFFORD TOP DRESS SUPPLIES

Require immediately Agents for all parts of the UK to help in the launching and establishing of their superb product.

The Company has recently acquired ownership of a sand quarry located at Rufford, near Southport, Lancashire. This quarry has vast deposits of a very fine silica sand which has been described by acknowledged experts as one of Britain's finest top dress making sands.

As the quarry has been under a forest for over one hundred years the sand is covered by a layer of soil which is in effect an accumulation of forest litter which is now a rich decomposed leafmould. When the fine sand and this soil are processed together they produce a top dress of the very highest quality.

The Company is now very well situated and totally determined to make a major impact on this market and this is surely a unique opportunity for suitably qualified agents to join us in what would undoubtedly be a long term financially rewarding joint venture.

All Enquiries to:
**THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,
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GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE

new ways to install piping



Installing 35mm pipe with a trenchless machine pulled by a track vehicle.



Laying drainage pipe on the parkland course at Redditch Golf Club

Wet, soggy fairways and greens are among the most frequent criticisms made by Britain's golfers. Criticisms perfectly justified, which should not arise if Green Committees only recognised the solutions are readily to hand, though at a price.

Tom O'Brien, Royal Birkdale's Head Greenkeeper had problems with standing water shortly after his appointment to the club. His comments on how to handle the job are simple and to the point. "First find your outlet. There is no point in ripping up the course and installing drainage if there is no place for the water to escape. Only by working back from either a running stream an existing pond or a fully working drainage exit can the problems be overcome".

There are courses where none of these solutions are available and it may be necessary to excavate your own pond. Not such a difficult or expensive operation with the type of mechanical equipment now available on contract hire to the greenkeeper.

Many of our courses were constructed around a hundred years ago on land rejected by the farming

community as unsuitable for either cultivation or feeding cattle. They may have installed land drains and if they had most of them have either caved in or become blocked with silt and debris. Although the golf course may have occupied a position of splendid isolation on the fringes of habitation, because of the growth of personal transport, in the form of the car, those isolated sites overlooking golf

continued on page 16

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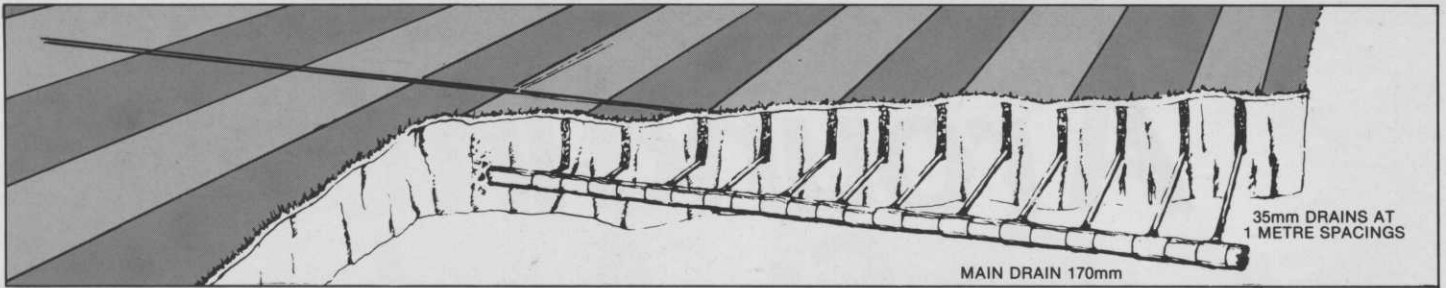


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Using pipelaying machinery now available and the revolutionary 35mm pipe designed and manufactured specifically for drainage by Aqua Pipes Ltd, the draining of sports grounds becomes simple.

courses became the desirable homes for those that could afford to move away from the needs of public transport.

People need water, thousands of gallons a year, most of which is poured into the drains or on to the land. Roads were built, collecting even more concentrations of rainwater much of it allowed to run on to the only open space nearby - the golf course.

No wonder our courses appear at times to be miniature versions of the lakes of Northern Ontario until by evaporation or seepage into the clay subsoil the surplus water disappears.

A number of drainage contractors now have techniques to install course drainage without the previous upheaval of deep trenches and mounds of earth that take weeks to replace.

A Land Drainage firm at Shipston-on-Stour, D. W. Clark are now specialising in golf course work using polypropylene pipe.

A small percentage of their contracting work has always been involved with the drainage of recreational areas, but as the volume of this work increased, they could see the need for a more specialised approach to suit the particular problems associated with sports field surfaces. The major problem is to disperse surface water as quickly as possible which requires drains laid as closely as economically possible, and without disturbance to the playing surface. This can be achieved by installing a drainage system at 6 metre to 10 metre spacings and cross gravel banding with 50mm wide slots at 1 metre to 2 metre spacings, but the installation of the basic drainage system is both expensive and causes major disruption.

To minimise these problems they have developed a 35mm diameter drainage pipe, which can be laid in the bottom of each gravel slot, eliminating entirely the need for

larger diameter pipes. Any collector drains can normally be kept off the playing area, for instance at the edge of the rough on Golf Fairways.

In conjunction with the 35mm pipe they have also developed two machines for installation, one machine excavates a trench to a true gradient, controlled by laser, elevates the soil directly into a trailer, lays the pipe and installs the gravel fill in one pass - this machine is ideally suited for areas where gradient is critical. Where gradient is not a problem, a simple trenchless machine is available which draws a slit through the ground and injects the pipe and gravel fill as it passes. As the majority of golf courses enjoy good slopes this system is ideally suited to the drainage of most fairways.

continued on page 20

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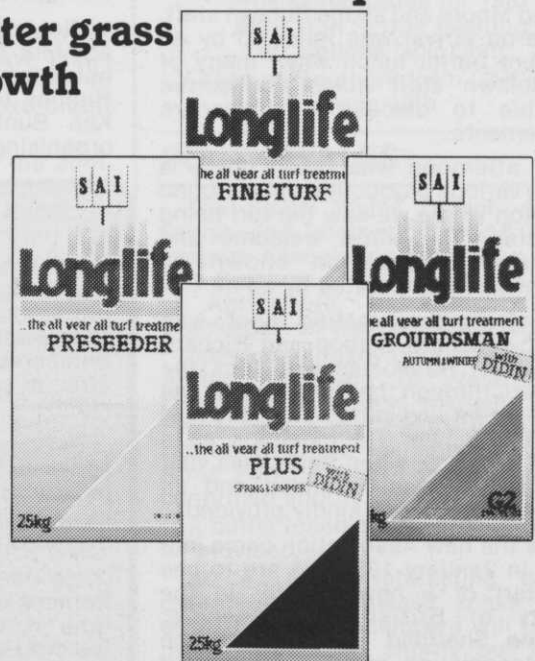
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SECTIONAL News

CLEVELAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHEFFIELD

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

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

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

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

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

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

MID ANGLIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON THE MEND

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST

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

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

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

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

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

Results were as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN

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

Telephone: (0943) 72008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editor's Note:

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

NORTH WEST

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

Seminar '87

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

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

Golf '87

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

Germany bound

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELSH

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

Telephone: Newport 413227

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Provisional Dates for 1987

April 16th Spring Meeting
St. Mellons Golf Club

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

SOUTH WALES

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

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

A buffet lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

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

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

DEVON & CORNWALL

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

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

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

The results were:-

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

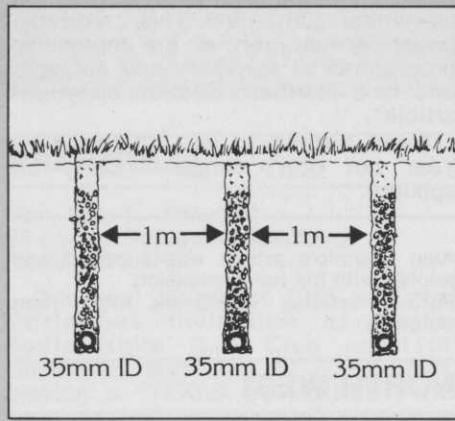
Golf was followed by a splendid Christmas dinner for a full house of 70, after which we were entertained by Hercules Britain's funniest strong man. The day ended with the raffle draw, by which time we were all full of food, good fun and Christmas spirit. It only leaves me to thank all who made this day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

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

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

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

Happy New Year to you all.



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

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

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

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

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

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

SEMINAR FOR THE NORTH-EAST

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

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

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

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

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

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

Details and reservations from:

A. Naisbitt
5 Martindale Road, Darlington

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