



London

Forty members attended the first AGM, which was held at Aldenham GC recently. The meeting went very smoothly and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for re-electing me chairman. I feel honoured and will endeavour to improve the branch and, so, our standing throughout the industry.

D. Low was appointed branch administrator and he can be contacted on 01-950 4270. The committee is now: D. MacIndoe—chairman (Ø Watford 36416); T. McDonald—entertainment (Ø 01-950 7469); M. Peters—golf (Ø Northwood 28167) and Derek Mason—who makes up the full quota and who will be responsible for educational trips (Ø 01-340 6498).

The AGM was held in conjunction with an impressive demonstration and talk by Fred Reed of Lloyds Machinery of Letchworth. This was followed by an excellent buffet and then, by way of a change, Fred talked about his escapades as a Football League referee!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lloyds for a most enjoyable day and wish them, along with Fred, many prosperous years in the trade.

The spring meeting will be held courtesy of Aldenham GC on May 1. Please return your entry slips today!

D. MacIndoe.

East Anglia

It seems to have been a short winter—not too wet, not too cold, not much snow. Pretty boring, really, and the grass hasn't stopped growing! Most of the machinery is back and it doesn't seem to have been away five minutes. Top dressing is being put on the tees and greens and away we go again, each year trying to better the last.

I sometimes wonder what perfection is. Not so long ago, the average club golfer and greenkeeper thought his greens were good—a bit slow, but true. Then the boffins started

on about annual meadow grass being public enemy number one, so everybody hunted it down and starved it out. Now the greens are like putting on lino and they tell us some of the bent grasses need verticutting twice a week and green is not beautiful.

In the search for perfection, we can only end up in one place (besides the funny farm) and that's on artificial greens—dead flat, with no fertilisers, no cutting, no greenkeepers and no boffins. Until that day comes, we can all go quietly potty playing the imperfect game of golf (well, it's the way I play anyway).

The list of venues for 1984 is: April 25—Stoke by Nayland with the AGM at 11am sharp; June 29—Bishop's Stortford; September 6—Bury St Edmunds; October 23—Frinton for a match against the captains. The last event will be staged in Norfolk on a date to be arranged.

Finally, we all wish John Moyce every success in his new venture, Town & Country Horticultural Suppliers. Give him as much support as he has given us over the past few years.

Mick Lathrope.

North West

The branch recently hosted an educational seminar at the Welsh College of Horticulture for the whole of the turf industry. Over 80 attended and there were representatives from more than 30 golf clubs and local authorities. It was particularly refreshing to see many greens chairmen and secretaries present including, in one club's case, the finance committee, chairman and professional.

Lectures were delivered by Jim Arthur, A. Patterson and W. Fisher of Lely Iseki. Our sincere thanks to these gentlemen for their assistance and providing us with an interesting day. Thanks are always due to G.M. Wright and the officials of the college for helping us to prepare for this event.

Will members please note that the South Wales match has been arranged for May 14 at Chester GC. Information will be given in the quarterly newsletter sent to all members.

Andrew Campbell.

Sussex

It is with sadness that I report the death of Jack Holland, who was assistant greenkeeper at Willingdon GC. Peter Negus, the head greenkeeper, said: "Not only was Jack a good worker, but a gentleman and a very nice bloke." Peter and all his staff will miss him very much.

As the winter lectures draw to a close thanks go to Richard Bishop from Ransomes for the January lecture and Brian Richardson from May & Baker (February).

The Student Of The Year Award went to Tony Patching from Hill Barn Golf Course, Worthing for successfully completing the two-year course Phase II Greenkeeping And Sports Turf Maintenance at Plumpton Agricultural College. Well done, Tony.

In Sussex, we are very fortunate in having a college specializing in greenkeeping/turf culture. Our thanks to Nick Rigden, the head of horticulture, for organising and encouraging clubs to send their trainees. Those greenkeepers and secretaries who are not aware of the training available can contact Nick on 0273 890454 for any information concerning greenkeeper training and education.

Also thanks to Bob Surridge of J.D. Ward. All members will have received a booklet outlining pension schemes available—very useful for those members not fortunate enough to have a club pension.

Golf Events for 1984: May 24—a match versus the secretaries; June 19—Holtye, 3pm start; July 11—Tilgate Forest, 3pm start; August 16—Mannings Heath, 3.30pm start and September 25—36-hole autumn tournament, Rowlands Castle.

The Sussex branch would like to welcome all new members especially those who have worked so hard to form new branches in all parts of the country. We look forward to seeing you all at Cambridge for *Golf Course '84*. Well, good golfing and remember that spring is just around the corner!

Further information about the branch can be obtained by phoning me on Crawley 25301.

C. Dryden.

**Turn to page 14 for
Surrey and Kent news...**

Surrey

The branch annual dinner and dance takes place at the Drift Golf and Country Club on April 28. Tickets are £8.50.

Golf fixtures include a spring meeting at Old Thorns Golf and Country Club on Tuesday, May 29, starting at 8.30am. Numbers are limited to 51 and the price is £12. The Cresta Cup will be played over the New Zealand Golf Course on Monday, June 11, commencing 3.30pm. The McMillan Tankard is an afternoon fixture at Sunningdale on Friday, August 3.

The Surrey branch meets Sussex at Tyrrells Wood GC on August 21 and The MacGillivray Shield will be played over Banstead Downs Golf Course on Monday, September 10 in the afternoon.

Finally, the autumn invitation meeting is at Guildford GC on October 11, starting at 8am with numbers restricted to 60.

The Surrey branch held its AGM recently at the New Zealand club and these officers were elected: president—J.Parker; vice president—D.Craig; chairman—A.Bradshaw (Malden GC); vice chairman—

D.Lenham (Sunningdale GC); secretary—K.MacNiven (Effingham GC, ☐ Bookham 54312 for entry forms); treasurer—A.Watson (Tyrrells Wood GC); committee—A.Armitage (Richmond Park GC), B.Moreton (Berkshire GC), M.Pearson (Royal Wimbledon GC), I.McMillan (Datchet GC) and R.Denning (Guildford GC).

FIRST CLAIM ONE I.G.G.A.'s INSURANCE SCHEME

When E.I.G.G.A. was formed, it was felt that, for their subscriptions, the members should have some sort of accident insurance cover, and the good sense of this decision has recently been born out by one of our members being the first to benefit from the insurance scheme.

Last year Mr John Roots, of the Mid-Kent Golf Club, sustained an injury to his leg whilst playing football, and was subsequently off work for some time.

He believed that his E.I.G.G.A. insurance cover extended only to accidents sustained at work, but decided to make enquiries anyway. The result was, that he made a successful claim on his insurance, and was extremely satisfied with the amount he received.

His E.I.G.G.A. insurance cover gave him that extra security when he most needed it. Our very best wishes to Mr Roots for a total recovery.

Kent

The joint EIGGA/STRI seminar held at Broome Park Golf And Country Club last month was a great success. Over 80 delegates attended, some coming from as far afield as Ipswich, Crawley and Worthing. Also present was Nick Rigden from Plumpton Agricultural College, who brought along a group of his students.

The splendour of the Broome Park mansion provided a perfect setting for an interesting day of lectures. Chairman Peter Wisbey introduced Gordon Macadam who started the day with an interesting talk on the complex subject of drainage. This was followed by Jeff Perris whose subject was golf green construction. Jeff talked us through the various stages of preparation and construction with the help of slides. I feel sure that some of the younger members of the audience will feel more confident about construction work on their courses having listened to these gentlemen.

After a short question and answer session, Dr Peter Hayes took the floor to talk on grasses with special reference to Poa Annua—the old

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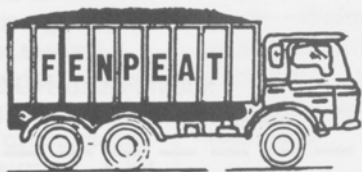
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Nice greens you've got for a new course. Must have taken ages to establish.
Not at all. Six months actually.

Six months!! We've had our fourteenth out for nearly 2 years because of re-seeding!

Why didn't you get hold of Rolawn?

Rolawn?

Yes. Rolawn. When we were ready to prepare our greens they came to check out our soil type and had their turf down in only two days. The greens were ready for mowing within a couple of weeks.

Couple of weeks? That's amazing!

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News & Views Continued...

getting a job or task done is much more important than having only the theoretical background as to how it is done.

A word on registration. Those of you wishing to be a registered greenkeeper, a most important asset, should write to W.N.S. Bissett, 66 Old Orchard, Haxby, York YO3 8DT, giving him all relevant details of qualifications, a photocopy of any certificates (*never* the originals) and a £2 registration fee.

Those of you who are uncertificated are reminded that you also can obtain registration on the basis of the length of service (ten years), practical greenkeeping. Do this by getting your club to vouch for your years of service and send the details to me so that SIGGA can recommend to the GTC that you also be registered as a result of long practical experience on a golf course. SIGGA has the authority to recommend registration for time-served, non-certificated head greenkeepers. The £2 fee is also required.

J.D. McKean, General Secretary.

Section News

The North and Midlands Section held its Special AGM at Carnoustie Golf Club on Thursday March 1. There was a very good representation from our far-flung section and though sometimes it sounded like the House of Commons, it was a very democratic and well-conducted meeting. Opinions on the new constitution and the financial statement were the main points.

Members who could not attend will be informed by letter about decisions taken and notices of the section's

forthcoming activities will also be sent out.

It was at this meeting that we were informed of the impending retirement of Bill Beveridge of Ransomes. As far as we in the north are concerned, he was Mr Ransomes. I, as one of the oldest members of this section, well remember Bill coming up here in the early fifties. There was no flash talk when he sold us our first overgreen or Antelope—off with the jacket and Bill spoke with his hands. His talks on machinery and also on past ideas and methods were always fascinating and maybe in his retirement we can convince him to do these old talks again.

We will always think of you, Bill, as a good friend, president and assistant at outings and we hope you will continue to drop in to see us whenever possible.

Steve Donnachie.

February was very busy for the Central Section. The month began with a lecture by Colin Murphy of Steeley Minerals. His theme was *Fertilisers From Their Humble Beginnings Up To The Present Day* and Colin managed to throw a different light on a subject that has been well covered over the years—27 members enjoyed his talk. Immediately afterwards, a Special General Meeting was held.

The next meeting was an annual games night against the members of Grangemouth Golf Club at Grangemouth on February 15. This was a most enjoyable evening, even though we were well beaten—*again!*

It was most unfortunate for Dick Scotcher of Nickerson Turfmaster that the attendance for his lecture on February 29 consisted of only eight greenkeepers. Everyone said the weather was too good to miss the chance to get on with urgent tasks. All credit, then, to Dick who added to our knowledge with his lecture on the development and growth of the Nickerson machinery range.

Any members who have not paid their subscriptions must do so immediately otherwise their names will be removed from the mailing list.



News & Views

enemy! We then adjourned for an excellent lunch, which was served in the cellar bistro.

Roy Woolhouse opened the afternoon session talking about the various diseases affecting fine turf accompanied by some horrific slides to show what can happen if correct diagnosis and treatment are not forthcoming. I have heard Roy talk on several occasions and his knowledge of this subject and his memory for Latin names still amazes me!

The last session of the day, by David Sansfield, was given over to problems of maintenance. He covered all aspects of golf course management, from common problems to the role of the green

committee, finishing off with some examples of the kind of silly and unnecessary mistakes that get our profession a bad name. David emphasised that the paper he presented was his personal opinion. As he pointed out from the outset, most things relating to both golf and golf courses are, after all, opinions.

A general discussion then took place with some interesting points being raised. The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Hayes and his colleagues and also to George Brown and the staff of Broome Park for their hospitality. Dr Hayes, in reply, thanked the chairman and Kent administrator John Atkins for their work in organising the seminar.

Incidentally, congratulations to John and his wife, who presented him with a baby daughter the night before the meeting. Her timing was perfect. We wouldn't have been able to cope without John on the day!

One final word of thanks to EIGGA trustees David Jones and Michael Coffey for making the long journey to support us.

We shall be arranging similar seminars at the same venue in the future. Details will appear in the coming months. See you all at *Golf Course '84*.

Peter Wisbey.