



The SIGGA Leader

Congratulations to Duncan Gray, head greenkeeper at Prestwick St Nicholas on his appointment to Lahinch, Co. Clare as head greenkeeper. Duncan, secretary of the Ayrshire Section, will be missed by SIGGA. He and his chairman Jim Grainger have both worked extremely hard on behalf of the association. We wish him every success.

On February 16, the STRI visited Glasgow and gave a day-long seminar at Hags Castle GC. It was an excellent day and Dr Peter Hayes and his team from Bingley got a good feedback from the audience of 70. Poa annua will never be the same again!

A week later, a turf conference was held in Glasgow and, guess what, annual meadow grass got another mention! Alan McDougall, West Section secretary and head greenkeeper at Eastwood GC, delivered a first-class lecture on his thoughts as a young head greenkeeper. Alan gave a tremendous boost to SIGGA with his outstanding contribution to a worthwhile day.

I am sure many more of you will be anxious to have a go at public speaking. We need a bigger contribution from expert practical greenkeepers and less from the agronomists.

Some interesting points came out of the turf conference. First, the training of greenkeepers at apprentice level as we know it now will change dramatically. Entry to greenkeeping and many other skilled trades will be via the Youth Training Scheme. The Scotec qualification will eventually disappear from the scene and we should be thinking right now of devising a scheme ourselves of great practical content, which we can offer to a college for them to conduct. The practical aspect should be stressed, for

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Members of the East Section were disappointed that the trip to St Andrews on January 24 had to be cancelled due to the weather, but it is hoped to hold the visit at a future date.

A mini symposium was held at Duddingston Golf Club on Tuesday February 21, where four excellent speakers delighted the 42 members present. The speakers were A. Paterson of Watermaton, K. Vertigan of SISIS, M. Eddington of S.T.S. and golf professional Ronnie Shade. Our thanks go to them for an excellent afternoon.

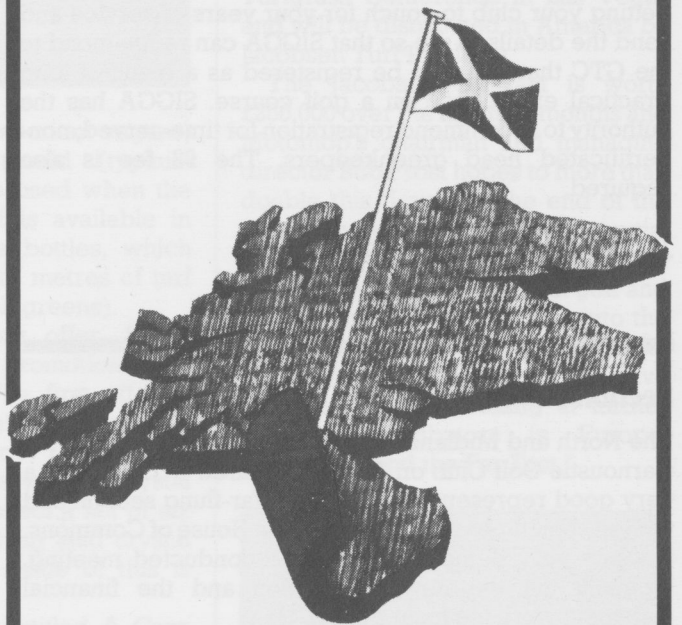
Prior to the symposium, the section held its AGM. The committee was re-elected *en bloc*.

The Spring Tournament will be held on Tuesday April 10 at Glencorse Golf Club and the Autumn Tournament at Broomknowe on September 4.

Membership cards for 1984 will be sent out shortly to all paid-up members. Subs should be paid as soon as possible or you risk being deleted from the mailing list for the magazine, etc.

It has been proposed to hold a raffle again this year and the chairman and committee hope that all members will support this as well as they have done in the past. Last year, tickets were returned unsold without a name saying who they were from. It is hoped this does not happen again and that members will do their best to sell the tickets.

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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.



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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.