



## North West

The North West branch held a golf match at Chester Golf Club in May. It should have been against South Wales but, because of other commitments, they were unable to attend. However, the captain and committee of Chester GC stepped in and saved the day. The result of the match was a defeat for the greenkeepers by three matches to one.

Some 40 people enjoyed the day and the superb food provided by Mrs Hartell-Payne. Thanks go especially to Alistair Jack for providing a team at very short notice and to Ransomes and Cheshire Light Tractors for providing prizes.

David Royle of Ransomes had the unenviable task of deciphering the score cards—rumour has it that he blew up two calculators (must have been Japanese!).

Last, but not least, thanks to the greenstaff led by Len Sproston. His

course was in enviable condition and he broke the hearts of those of us who are struggling to get any kind of grass growing—never mind good species!

Members will be notified of future events through the North West newsletter, which is to be circulated quarterly. Meanwhile, contact me on Chester 678879 if you need any information.

A. Campbell.

## Sussex

I would like to say right away how much the Sussex lads who attended *Golf Course '84* at Cambridge enjoyed the conference. Meeting so many friends was, in itself, an innovation to us all.

The Sussex branch greenkeepers held their annual match against the golf club secretaries in May—the result was a complete beating for us all. Well done, the secretaries, but I can assure them that the result is only a temporary respite. Many thanks to Jim Coutts of Mannings Heath for such a resolute team of secretaries. Thanks also to Major Carroll and Worthing Golf Club's steward and stewardess

for an excellent meal after the match.

It was delightful to see Peter Simpson and his wife Enid, who came along to present the trophy to Jim Coutts and his team. Well done, Jim.

Thank you, Hugh MacGillivray for such a splendid course and for keeping the sun shining.

The one thing the greenkeepers did win on the day was the raffle—by our good friend Bob Moore of Seaford GC and Dormy House. Well done, Bob.

Dennis Ayling.

## Surrey

Surrey's spring meeting was held at Old Thorns Golf Club. This relatively new course proved to be an extremely hard challenge with narrow fairways and many small lakes.

The scratch prize was won with an 83 and 85 by Paul Pearce, Ken McNiven's new assistant at Effingham.

1st handicaps A.Cale (Old Thorns), 2nd handicaps D.Lucas (Old Thorns), 3rd handicaps D.Lenham (Sunningdale), 4th handicaps A.Davey (RAC), 5th handicaps G.McNiven (Effingham) and 6th handicaps D.Fernie (Effingham).

A special prize was donated by Old Thorns Golf Club for nearest the hole at the 16th. This was won by J.Covey, a greenkeeper at Old Thorns, but because the prize was an overnight stay at Old Thorns, he declined the offer and the prize was given in conjunction with the Veteran's Cup and so it went to Derek Bishton—a retired greenkeeper from Sunningdale.

Many thanks to Dave Lucas and all his greenkeepers for the splendid condition of the course. The greens held the pitch and putted true. So much for the adverse criticism of sand greens.

Thanks to the management and catering staff for keeping us well looked after in the food and drink stakes. Also, our thanks to the trade for donating the prizes for the raffle. I think everyone who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

## An Open Letter To All EIGGA Members

Having attended the very successful *Golf Course '84* and being a young head greenkeeper, I want to put forward some thoughts for the future of EIGGA in the hope they will act as a catalyst for sensible and reasoned discussion.

While listening to some of the comments of older greenkeepers at Cambridge, the thought that continually crossed my mind was that we, as a profession, have become blasé about the problems facing us. All too often the answer given to an idea was: 'it has been tried before and it will not work'. Surely, we should take heed of the saying: 'if at first you don't succeed, then try and try again?'

The problems facing us as a new organisation are vast, but not insurmountable—especially if we finally accept that we must become a self-financing body and not rely on others for support. There are two ways of doing this—either increase the membership or increase the subscription. Now, I can almost hear the cry: 'we can't afford it,' but if EIGGA can offer some of the benefits other bodies offer, then surely the answer would be: 'can you afford not to pay it?'

The modern greenkeeper has the world at his feet and, as SIGGA is proving, respect and financial reward can be gained, but only when we go about things in an orderly manner and present a professional image—as do the Scots.

Many lessons were learnt in Cambridge, but perhaps the biggest was that EIGGA should not be side-tracked by the wishes of others, but should forge ahead with its plans in an aggressive, but controlled, manner and prove that we are The Association to belong to.

A. Campbell

**Greenkeeper  
has a new phone number  
0255 507526**