



London

The spring meeting was held courtesy of Aldenham Golf Club, which was a credit to Alec, Graham and Jeff. Dinner was up to Aldenham's usual high standard in the hands of its capable staff.

A big thank you goes to Mr Thompson and his secretary for retrieving the first prize in time for the presentation!

Many thanks also to Rigby Taylor, Patisson and David Craig for donating prizes. The winners were: 38 points—D. MacIndoe; 37 points—A. Green, J. Robertson and N. Bennett.

Tommy and I recently attended the Surrey branch dinner-dance, which was a roaring success. Well done, Surrey, and book your tickets for next year, please!

David MacIndoe.

East Anglia

Not a good start to the year I'm afraid as I lost the notes of our meeting at Stoke-By-Nayland, so please accept my apologies if I omit your name from this report.

The AGM was a quick and efficient affair with all officers being re-elected. I must single out secretary/treasurer Steve Noye for the exceptional way in which he handles our affairs. He is a credit to us and long may he wish to stay.

Thanks must go to Stoke-By-Nayland for looking after us so well. It really was a super day. Both the inside and outside staff headed by Kevin King did a wonderful job. It has been a bad spring for us all, but it's still nice to see that you're not the only one with a 'lively' course.

Over 80 turned up and the prizes (or

Obituary

It has been reported that Mr J. Howe of Bremhill Park Golf Club, Swindon, Wiltshire died of a heart attack recently. The association's sympathies are extended to his family.



Golf Course '84 - All the participating Associations get together.

those I can remember) went to: Richard Smith, who won the 0-18 section and the Jacobsen Shield with 33 points; Steve Freestone, who won the 18-28 section and the Atco Cup with 44; Roger Plummer and Jeff Fayers were in there somewhere and Mark Spooner declined the guest prize because of his professional status. Other than that, I don't know!

However, I do know it was an exceptional meal in very good company and surroundings.

The next venue is Bishop's Stortford on Friday, June 29. See you there.

Mick Lathrope.

Surrey

What a great dinner-dance—the best yet! The Drift proved to be a super venue, looking out on to the 18th green. Tables were arranged in sixes, eights and tens, which kept the atmosphere warm and friendly. The food was superb with a choice of starters, three different main courses

and a variety of sweets from the trolley.

During the evening, the captain of the Drift Mr C. Lody presented the branch with a trophy to be played for annually between Surrey and Sussex for which the branch is very grateful. The raffle was well-supported and our thanks go to the trade for their generous support with many of the prizes.

The disco played on until the early hours with hardly anyone leaving until after lam.

A final word to Chris, our host at the Drift. Many thanks for a truly great night and I am sure I speak for everybody who attended. Roll on next year!

Bert Watson.

North West

The North West branch held its first AGM in March. Although the number of members present was small, some very constructive ideas were given for the committee to work on during

the next year. Full copies of the minutes are available to members.

The turnout in April at Heswall Golf Club, Merseyside was much better—more than 80. This number was boosted by another 70 guests of SISIS, all of whom helped get our first spring tournament off to a fine start. As members may appreciate, a lot of hard work goes into organising such events and, therefore, thanks are due to Terry Adamson and Bill Lawson. Bill had a particularly demanding task on the day, preparing the course and handling all the normal duties of a chairman.

The committee wishes to thank SISIS and Maelors for their tournament sponsorship and particularly Walter Briggs of SISIS for his hard work on the branch's behalf throughout the year.

The prize table, as usual, was of an excellent standard, which again goes to show how much support we receive from our trade members.

First prize winners were: Paul Pearse—assistants' trophy presented by G.Cox, professional at Rhuddlan GC; Terry Adamson—shield donated by Walter Briggs, and Francis Cripps of Abergele GC, who won a shield donated by Maelors. The many more prize winners are too numerous to mention.

Thanks go, as always, to our hosts and their staff who made a valuable contribution to the smooth running of things, making the event such a success.

Finally, may I inform members that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Bill (Wm.) Lawson only donates William Lawson's Scotch Whisky as a prize because he receives a generous discount. In fact, he gets it for nothing!

Andrew Campbell.

Kent

The spring tournament that was to be held in May was cancelled, but at North Foreland on June 20 we will play for the shield usually contested in April/May.

The golf will be followed by a lecture on first aid for minor injuries and correct procedures in the event of something more serious. If you can't make the golf, please try to attend the lecture at 7.30pm.

The Kent branch would like to welcome Steve Richardson and Gordon Farrington. Steve has taken charge at Cob Tree Manor Golf Club, constructed by Golf Landscapes for Maidstone Council and due to open in late summer. Gordon replaces Mike Smith as head greenkeeper at Littlestone. Good luck also to my first assistant Steve Suttle who has taken over as headman at Sene Valley GC near Folkestone.

Following the undoubted success of the EIGGA/STRI seminar at Broome Park in March, we are looking to arrange something along the same lines for the autumn. Members might like to know of a one-day seminar arranged by the Sussex branch and to be held at Plumpton College where the speakers will be Martyn Jones and George Shiels.

A lecture by Dr Bryn Green of Wye College is being arranged at Chestfield GC in September.

Two other forthcoming events with dates to be finalised will be a trip to Lely Iseki at Cambridge arranged by Hugh Page (Sussex) and a machinery class held by Paice & Son in conjunction with Ransomes.

The autumn golf meeting will be at Canterbury GC on October 4.

Peter Wisbey.

In·My·Opinion Continued...

in the 1930s are still relevant today. I am sure he is right. Are our sports and grass areas really that much better than they were 50 years ago? I suppose that without control of the main elements, and let us hope that day never comes, we will only ever be able to control the fine tuning.

Whether it be a new grass variety, chemical or piece of machinery, I find that whatever new techniques are adopted—and we have a full-time technical manager constantly experimenting with new systems—we are still at the mercy of the basic elements.

I can remember producing some fine mature turf by our 'standard' production method in just over seven months. Normally, the process takes around 18 months and sometimes turf will not harvest after two years. Yet, that year, with that particular turf, the elements were obviously on our side, illustrating the degree of influence weather can play on the speed of establishment.

With our turf production nurseries now totalling about 1,000 acres throughout the UK and having sold well over that quantity since our business started (much of which has gone for golf course use), I can confidently say that, in our small sector of the industry, all is well and growing.

I am convinced that there is a tremendous future for us all in the business of growing and maintaining grass, not only here but in Europe generally where the industry is still in its infancy.

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