



News & Views

The SIGGA Leader

The SIGGA AGM took place in Edinburgh on March 27. The following officials were elected. President—J.W.Neilson, Murrayfield Golf Club, Edinburgh; vice-president—W.Woods, links supervisor at St Andrews.

The meeting agreed that subscriptions for 1985 will be £14 and that part of the extra revenue raised from the increase in subs will be earmarked to set up an educational and training fund within SIGGA.

The recommended wage scale for 1985 will be based on the inflation rate as at August 31 this year plus one per cent. The percentage figure of subs to be sent to the central executive will be increased from a quarter to a third.

Resolutions proposed by the North Section, with one exception, were defeated. The principal motion by the North to have proxy votes at meetings produced some lively exchanges, but failed to obtain the required majority.

However, a motion limiting the powers of the executive to impose certain standards of dress at section and local golf events was accepted.

The annual match between SIGGA and the Association of Club Secretaries for the Gillies And Henderson Trophy took place at Gullane Golf Club on Monday April 2. A splendid day of good golf, good weather and good company was enjoyed by all. The match result was a win for SIGGA by 5½ games to 2½. I thank the secretary and management at Gullane for kindly providing an excellent venue and Tom Watt and his greens staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition.

Joe McKean, General Secretary.

The year seems to be rushing on so quickly and a star prize should go to anyone who can forecast a pattern to the weather, writes *Jimmy Paton, West Section chairman and head greenkeeper at West Kilbride*. At my own course recently, we started work in cold, windy conditions and after half an hour we were graced with a severe snow shower. Next, the sun came out and the temperature rose considerably to the middle 60s. Then, later in the day, we had a hailstorm. Nevertheless, my members wanted to start their spring competitions the next morning. What must the poor grass be thinking? It doesn't know what to do. However, life must go on.

The West Section AGM was held recently at Cawder Golf Club and we thank the club for the facilities afforded us. The meeting was interesting, following so soon after one in October. This allowed us to carry forward to the national AGM some of the proposals discussed in October.

Something that saddened me was one young man's

Continued overleaf...

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belief that SIGGA does nothing for him. While we can provide some services for members—such as a magazine, recommended wage scales, lectures, golf outings and other social events—to get anything from SIGGA, you have to put something in by supporting and participating in events.

It is no use just sending in the subscription each year and sitting back and saying you get nothing for it. Neither is it any good sitting back and calling me and the committee all the names under the sun! We try to organise a broad spectrum of lectures and social events, but if you don't agree and would like something else, contact me or the committee with your ideas.

I would be very pleased to see articles from some of the more experienced greenkeepers appearing in the magazine. I heard an excellent talk—Trees On Golf Courses—by Cecil George at our Langside College seminar last year and such lectures are of great benefit to the young people in greenkeeping and also those of my own age, who can only benefit from other people's experiences.

The SISIS Greenkeepers/Green Convenors Foursomes was played once again over the West Kilbride links. The biggest turnout in the three years it has been played

A Point To Ponder

With all the talk on the demerit of the phosphatic contents in fine turf fertilisers, I welcome the opportunity to throw in this idea for your discussion.

As we all know, there is an insoluble, in water, content in all phosphur—this will vary from one fertiliser to another depending on the original source of the phosphur—for example, bone meal, Superphosphate, etc.

Could it be that this insoluble phosphur content is starting to become too prevalent in areas where it has been applied over a period of years, thereby having an adverse affect on the soil and, consequently, the turf?

Possibly a bit of research in this connection would allay this opinion or, if it is found to be the case, what measures could be taken to neutralise the effects of this static phosphur content?

Well, what do you think?

*Craig Stewart, Course Manager,
Stirling Golf Club.*

enjoyed the best weather for many weeks. West Kilbride GC must be thanked for the courtesy of the course.

The winners were the Hilton Park pairing of Bob McDougall and greens convener Ian Ferguson. They received the trophy and some beautiful crystal from Keith Vertigan and Ian McKay who represented SISIS. The winning score was a net 65. Thanks again to SISIS.

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