



From The Executive Committee

SIGGA's executive committee would like to take this opportunity to outline the stages of apprenticeship.

Stage 1—Apprenticeship Registration Form. Application for a form should be made to section secretaries of SIGGA. Forms should be completed, on behalf of the applicant, by his head greenkeeper. When signed, forms should be sent to the greenkeeper training committee at the address on the form.

Stage 2—Enrolment At College. After about six months on a course, enrolment at a college should be made. The three-year course consists of phase one in the first year and phase two, which spans the second and third years.

Log Book. On registering, applicants will be sent a log book by the greenkeeper training committee. This must be signed by the head greenkeeper as each stage of the apprenticeship is completed. This serves as proof of competence at tasks on the course.

Stage 3—Certification. College certificates will be given when students pass exams in each phase. Registration. Send completed and

signed log books, plus copies of college certificates to the general training committee, for listing in the UK Register of Certificated Greenkeepers. In return, a certificate will be sent. The registration fee is £1 and this must be forwarded, with all the relevant enclosures, to the general training committee.

In some cases, registration can be granted to greenkeepers without college certificates. The main requirement will be a minimum of ten years work experience on a golf course. Applications should be accompanied by recommendations from past or present head greenkeepers or club officials.

Central

The annual autumn golf outing was held at Braehead Golf Club. Our thanks to the captain and committee of Braehead for their courtesy and hospitality.

Billy Whitfield of Stirling GC, only two days after completing the Glasgow Marathon, still had too much energy left and spreadeagled the field with a 64 net which, coupled with his spring tournament 69 net, won him the Ransomes Salver. Gordon Smith of Crieff GC with a net 69 won the Aitken Trophy and Brian Finlayson of Braehead used his local knowledge to win the scratch prize with a 76. The visitors' prize was won by Tom Currie of Braehead.

The section committee has organised a talk and slide show by

Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles and Walter Woods of St Andrews (January date and venue to be announced) and—in conjunction with the east section—a one-day seminar by the STRI (Bingley). Further details, February date and venue to be confirmed.

The section, with Bowens of Markinch, organised a demonstration of machinery at Dunfermline GC. An excellent afternoon was much appreciated by those who attended. Our thanks to Hugh Galloway of Bowens, Kubota, Dick Scotcher of Nickersons and Keith Vertigan of SISIS. Thanks also to Dunfermline GC for the facilities.

North And Midland Section

Nearly 60 members enjoyed the courtesy of Braemar Golf Club for the autumn outing and AGM.

Prize winners were: 1st Class—J. Urquart net 65; 2nd Class—B. Cocker net 64; 3rd Class—I. Noble net 62; Veterans—D. Livingstone net 64.

Winner of the Meldrum Memorial Trophy for the best aggregate score for the spring and autumn tournaments was D. Cardno with 142. Mike Dennis of STS excelled himself with an awesome net 62 to take the trade prize.

At the AGM, secretary Doug Grassick resigned and, on behalf of the section, I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years and wish him all the best for the future.

The new secretary is Iain Hamilton of 58 Whitecraig Road, Newburgh, Fife KY14 6BU. ☎ 0337 40727.

APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP OF SIGGA

Name of Applicant Age

Full Postal Address

..... Postal Code

Golf Club or Company

Position at Club or Company

Registered Greenkeeper or not Certificated

I enclose my annual subscription of £14.

Signed

Section Secretaries

AYRSHIRE — J. Grainger, 3 Castlepark Gardens, Fairlie, Ayrshire.

CENTRAL — E. R. Small, 2 Castle Park, Kincardine, By Alloa.

EAST — W. Blair, 13 Redhall Avenue, Edinburgh.

NORTH — I. Hamilton, 58 Whitecraig Road, Newburgh, Fife.

WEST — A. McDougall, 17 Poplar Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

Greenkeeper Training continued

what good course condition is all about, prior to the disastrous two decades of over-watering and over-feeding, nor knowledge of the physics of the game which might make them more eloquent defenders of the old standards of fine, firm, fast, all-weather greens and tight lies, which is what essentially the game is all about. Worse still, they ruin lovely heathland and links courses left in their charge and eventually someone has to come and reverse it all.

Seminars are no alternative to formal training. All too often they merely provide a platform for the propagation of some nonsensical, come-today, gone-tomorrow ideas, leaving their listeners confused. I, for one, am addressing none this year and further hope that we shall see less trade-motivated meetings unless they are unashamedly designed to inform about the products or machines involved and not disguised as education.

Far better for such firms to straightforwardly entertain their customers rather than to pretend to be part of an education scheme.

KENT BRANCH NEWS

An evening meeting was held at Chestfield Golf Club in September, the numbers attending were disappointing, however those absent were the losers.

Dr. Bryn Green from the University of London, who spoke at length on the ecology of golf courses in Kent.

A survey was carried out in 1983, of 20 of the 41 courses in the county. Dr. Green made full use of slides to explain the various management practices relevant to links, downland etc.

It became evident during the evening, that the ideas that Dr. Green put forward were not so different from those of many greenkeepers namely; infertility and working with nature & not against her. Many thanks to Dr. Green for a fascinating lecture.

Our Autumn golf meeting was held on the 4th October, at Canterbury Golf Club. 30 members & guests played a morning medal & afternoon stapleford over a course in fair condition considering the amount of rainfall in the preceding weeks.

Results were as follows:

Morning

1st. Chris Lathem, 63 nett.
2nd. Paul Joiner, 66 nett.
3rd. Dick Knappett, 67 nett.
all from Broome Park.
Scratch. Mike Smith. 75 nett.
Guest. Dave Erica. 70 nett.

Afternoon

1st. George Brown, Broome Park, 34pts.
2nd. Steve Suttle, Sene Valley, 33pts.
3rd. W. Ellis.
Trade. Geogg Yelland. (Rigby Taylor) 39pts.
Guest. P. Summerfield, 36pts.

Thanks go to the Captain, Committee & Staff of Canterbury Golf Club for making our day so enjoyable. Thanks also to the following companies for donating prizes; Ransomes, Paice & Sons, T. Parker & Sons, Rigby Taylor and Patissons.

The spring meeting will be held at Rochester & Cobham Golf Club on the 9th May 1985.

On the 28th November 24 members visited the premises of Lely Imports at St. Neots where we received a guided tour of the warehouse, stores, workshops etc.

After an excellent lunch we boarded the coach for the short trip to Manns to see construction of the impressive TORO 350D. We toured the various departments, seeing each stage from chassis assembly to the finished article (less units which are still built in the U.S.A.).

Many thanks to Graham Dale of Lely and Ted and Dick Kingsland of Kingslands (Sandwich) Ltd. for their hospitality.

Among the events planned for 1985, are a visit to Royal St. Georges to see preparations for the forthcoming Open and Ransomes machinery 'clinic' organised by Paice & Sons.

Watch this space!

P. A. Wisbey Seasons Greetings to all members.

The reclamation of indigenous turf—continued...

and men, it is fascinating to see that much of the book is concerned with the variety of weeds to be found. Even at the royal household, man does not even begin to defeat nature!

We, too, cannot beat nature—we must work with it and so, again, we are back to ecology. We intend to replace coarse grass or weed grass with fine grass. That means we intend to shift to a management that provides conditions to suit bents and fescues, not *Poa annua*. Whatever the golfer thinks he would like, he can't get away from that reality.

The middle way, or doing it gradually, probably will not work at all or the timescale would be far too

long. If you can get the worst over in two years, you have a chance. Spin it out maintaining poor conditions for much longer and everyone loses patience. Too many good greenkeepers and their chairmen have departed the scene for good trying that one. It certainly takes time for complete reclamation and a lot of it. Eventually the fine grass comes back. Many panic at that stage by trying to increase turf density too fast. Be patient. One day you suddenly realise that resilience has returned even in dry periods. We then have firm, fast greens. The principles of the past (which are unchanging) have been successfully combined with the

methods and machinery of today.

I will close with a quote from Donald Steel, who is not only a fine architect and expert golfer, but a veteran member of green committees and someone who actually understands greenkeeping. "If golf is not played on firm, fast greens, it is only half a game," he has said.

The restoration of this traditional British turf does not only make for better golf—it is the only way in our climate to produce economically and ecologically viable and manageable golf turf.

Next time, we will look at the reasoning behind the policies that work and how to prepare for action!