



Some Great Golf At Gleneagles!

The 1984 National Golf Championship for SIGGA members took place over the Glendevon Course at Gleneagles recently. The weather was excellent, catering superb and the golf course in top condition due to the efforts of Jimmy Kidd and his hard-working staff.

Thanks go to Gleneagles Hotel Golf Courses for granting us courtesy of the course and I would like to especially thank Ian Ferrier of the Gleneagles' management for all his great help in making sure we had a super day. The scores, generally, were commendable and the winners are to be congratulated on some very fine golf.

Joe McKean.

SIGGA's Role At The Open Championship

I wish to thank all the executive committee and members who assisted at St Andrews and in the SIGGA tent—the Open was a great success for the association and its image. Everyone did what immediate past president Chris Kennedy has been advocating for some time and I was proud to be able to carry out his idea. He must have been delighted to see his project develop and become such a success. Thank you, Chris, for all the work you did.

I was proud to be involved in the scheme along with Joe McKean, who is a marvellous public relations officer for the association and he did an outstanding job at the Open. To all SIGGA members who organised the bunker raking, it was a great exercise carried out by professionals and thanks to all greenkeepers who did the work.

It must have been an experience for the younger members to see what is involved in organising an Open Championship and to Walter Woods, who sweated blood and tears, and his staff, I cannot give enough praise for their work and dedication to the association. Considering it is the greatest golf show in the world, words are hardly

Continued overleaf...

Results

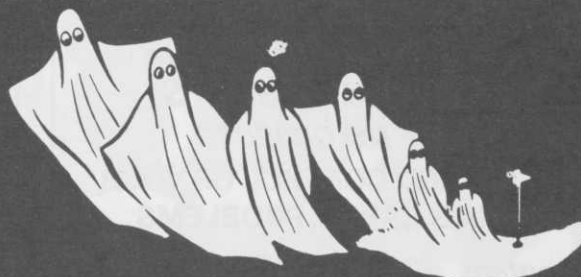
SIGGA Trophy	Scratch Prize	George Hampton (N)	—	71
Ransomes' Trophy	First Class	Walter Woods (C)	75-5	70
	Runner-up	Alistair Connell (W)	77-4	73 (best inward half)
Pattisson Trophy	Second Class	Bill Lyon (C)	82-12	70
	Runner-up	Ian Hamilton (N)	88-16	72
STRI Trophy	Third Class	John Granger (W)	101-23	78
	Runner-Up	Sandy Brown (C)	100-18	82
SAI Trophy	Head Greenkeepers	Alisdair McLaren (N)	72-6	66
Souter of Stirling Trophy	Registered Apprentices	John Urquhart (N)	79-6	73
Friendship Trophy	Best Nett Score	Lindsay Anderson (A)	73-8	65
St Mungo Trophy	Section Winners	North		
Veterans' Prize	—	George Cranna (N)	89-16	73
Life Members	—	Hugh Laurie	82-9	73
Assistants' Prize	—	Stewart Crawford (E)	78-9	69
Trade Golf	—	Robert Bruce (Stewarts)	84-14	70
Trade Putting	—	Duncan McNab (Sports Turf Services)		36

Qualifiers For Kubota Competition

- 1 Lindsay Anderson (Powfoot GC) 2 Alisdair McLaren (Nethybridge GC)



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sufficient to express what Walter did for the association's image. I'll just say thank you Walter and staff.

Last, but not least, our appreciation must be recorded and given to the R&A for providing us with the facilities. I have never known so much hospitality and generosity shown to greenkeepers. I met with greenkeepers, superintendents and course managers from all over the world and the visitors' book will be treasured by SIGGA. We had over 1,000 people call into the tent throughout the week and I was delighted to meet so many greenkeepers with their wives and families, as well as club captains, greens convenors, company directors, trade representatives and golfers.

I thank you all for making the 113th Open Championship a week in which the association gained more recognition from the world of golf and the membership were proud to be associated with the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

J. Neilson—Chairman.

The obituary to Bill Beveridge attributed to Jimmy Kidd in the August issue was, in fact, contributed by Cecil George, course manager at Lenzie Golf Club, Strathclyde.

New Members

Peter Miller, Schwenke Strasse 14A, 4500 Osnabrueck, West Germany

A.R. Walker, 11 Newbigging Drive, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire

Change Of Address

J. Taylor from 4 Coolgardie Green, Westwood, East Kilbride to 1 Burnock Place, Gardenhall, East Kilbride

T. McKenna from Sennelaga, West Germany to Head Greenkeeper, c/o Grim's Dyke GC, Oxhey Lane, Pinner, Middlesex

Determining Your Destiny

Two topics of increasing interest to our profession but, as yet, neglected by the Press and educational authorities are fiscal management practices and staff management techniques, although I believe these subjects are taught in one-week, supervisory-type courses to senior members of golf club greens staff.

I feel that the head greenkeeper's role is evolving into a purely managerial one and more emphasis has to be placed on educating our embryo managers in these subjects from their early years at college. How can we put forward a professional image and argue hard financial facts with golf club management committees when we do not have the benefit of a formal education in these matters?

We should consider the formidable calibre of the

POSITION WANTED

For 21-year old Assistant Greenkeeper, currently employed by Bellshill Golf Club. He is a time-served apprentice, fully certificated (SCOTEC 1 & 11), has good all round experience and is willing to move to any suitable location. A full reference can be supplied.

For further particulars please contact:-

G. Heian (Greens Convenor)

Bellshill Golf Club

Orbiston, Bellshill

Lanarkshire

Telephone: 0698 734465 (home)

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professional people who generally comprise golf club committees. Quite a number of clubs have chartered accountants in charge of their books; golf professionals are given a basic training in accountancy, as doubtless are club stewards, but not head greenkeepers. Could this be why we have had to strive in order to proclaim our professional image? Is it that we are at a disadvantage to our colleagues? The effort and pressure most headmen sustain is ten fold, yet we seem to be held in somewhat less esteem.

Impressions, generally, are that convenors are responsible for courses and, in some cases, they are. Some greenkeepers say their ideal would be a permanent greens convenor. I disagree. Such an appointment is, in fact, that of course manager. I feel what is required of us as course managers in dealing with committees, which can sometimes have all the hallmarks of a high court hearing, is the courage of our convictions. We should always speak with dignity and a knowledgeable air. This is very important and what makes us members of a profession as opposed to a trade.

We are answerable at all times to a committee. On a committee, not everyone will agree with you. They are not meant to—people have their own opinions and are entitled to them. Committees are the best way to run clubs, but they must delegate members' wishes as opposed to individual hobbyhorses. At my club, the desire and achievement (I hope) is first-class playing conditions throughout the year with particular emphasis on competitions. Conditions are to generally reflect weather conditions with no great emphasis on holding greens. This is my brief.

To comply, I organise for the greens to be cut before every competition. Fresh holes are cut and all bunkers raked regardless of day, weather, time etc. This undertaken, surely no higher standard of presentation is

possible? The object of the exercise is to serve the membership.

A good greenkeeper may learn a lot by listening to members' opinions, but he must differentiate between constructive and uninformed criticism. An example of the former was when complaints about weeds on pathways resulted in the purchase of a knapsack sprayer and the spraying of herbicides, which meant the end of the problem and a reduction of workload as the job was previously done by hand.

I feel, although it may be unfair, that a lot of colleagues tend to approach the public relations part of our job with an attitude towards golfers of 'what do they know?' and 'just a lot of moaners.' This is certainly prevalent among apprentices. This is very unprofessional.

At most clubs, golfers will certainly tell you when the course is in good condition, so it is to be expected they will inform you when the reverse applies. Members know when conditions are good, they score better. Dealing with members is a great opportunity to display professional ability and knowledge and junior staff should be encouraged to answer members' queries as this reflects well on the club and organisation.

On the subject of staff management, with a younger generation of course managers emerging, someone in their mid-twenties can be in charge of, say, a staff of five, comprising an assistant head, a journeyman, two apprentices and one youth training scheme boy. In many cases, the assistant is an older man resistant to change. It is easy to understand how this can become a volatile situation, particularly as no training is provided to deal with such matters.

Although there will always be natural leaders, if we are to be called course managers, we must first be trained in managerial practices.

Sandy Blacklaw, Course Manager, Crow Wood GC.

Do you see a familiar face?



This photo—from the collection of *Greenkeeper* contributor John Campbell, who is standing on the far right—shows members of SIGGA's north section. It was taken after an annual tournament at Monifieth some 15 years ago.