



North West

The North West branch recently enjoyed a visit to Royal Birkdale, scene of the 1983 Open. We were welcomed by head greenkeeper Tom O'Brien who showed us around his sheds and workshops. Particular attention was paid to the complex irrigation system, which made one or two of us quite jealous!

We then walked the course. Split into small groups and discussing various points, we thus realised the purpose of the trip. I would like to thank Tom and also the secretary and committee of Royal Birkdale.

I would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating Walter Woods, links supervisor of the St Andrews Golf Courses, on the supreme—and traditional—condition of the Old Course for the Open. One

look at the greens was an education into what we should all be aiming for.

Thanks also to Joe McKean, general secretary of SIGGA, for the hospitality he and his members extended to me during my stay at St Andrews. The SIGGA tent was a tremendous success with plenty of interesting events taking place and providing a welcome shelter for weary greenkeepers. Let's hope EIGGA can reciprocate at Royal St George's in 1985.

The autumn tournament takes place at Wrexham GC on Monday September 17. All entries to T.Adamson, 26 Ffordd Gryfydd, Llay, Wrexham, Clwyd.

Andrew Campbell.

Berks, Bucks And Oxon

The branch was re-formed at a meeting on August 1 at Burnham Beeches Golf Club. An 18-hole Stableford was contested by 30. First prize went to P. Knight (Calcot Park) with M.Haring (Stoke Poges) and

S.Schmitz (Ellesborough) finishing second and third.

Our thanks go to Cyril Hammond, secretary of Burnham Beeches, and his staff for an excellent course and to the catering staff for a most satisfying meal.

Officers elected are chairman—M.McMillan (Badgemore Park), vice-chairman—J.Brearley (Southfields), branch administrator—Derek Smith (Maxwell Hart) and golf administrator—E.McCabe (Calcot Park).

Any new members or old members wishing to join or rejoin are asked to contact Derek Smith at 22 Wincroft Road, Caversham, Berks. ☉ Reading 470815.

Derek Smith.

London

Well, what a drought. I'm glad they haven't rationed water—whisky isn't the same without it!

It's been a busy time lately and the following events have also been organised. The autumn meeting is on

ANNOUNCEMENT!



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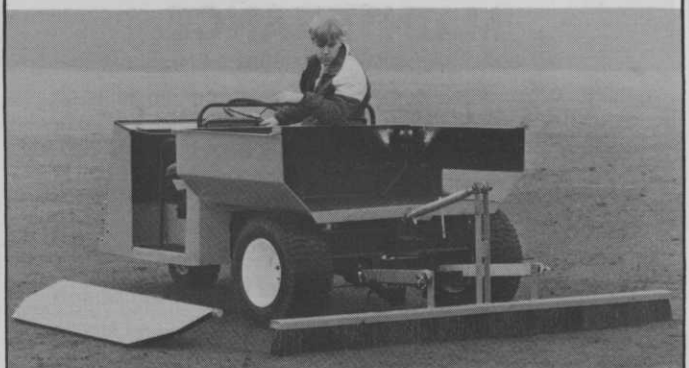
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September 25 at Porters Park—8am for 8.30, please; dinner-dance at the Post House Hotel in November—the date will be announced next month; one-day seminar at Moor Park on November 28. The theme will be golf course maintenance and construction.

A good turn-out would be appreciated at all these venues.

Speaking of good turn-outs, some 50 greenkeepers and guests enjoyed a marvellous evening's golf at Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club on July 27. Many thanks to Hartsbourne's committee for use of the course, which improves in condition every year—just like Tom's golf! Many thanks also to his wife for serving so many with a most excellent supper.

As always, these occasions take a lot of organising. Thankfully, we have two men more than capable in David Low and Michael Peters.

Thanks also to Parkers and particularly Alan Moffat for providing a lovely barbeque for the first prize, which was won by Dave Merrills and to Hartsbourne for again donating generously to the prize fund. The other winners were J. Whitely, T. Low and P. Wicks and A. Low (guest).

In keeping with EIGGA's policy for education by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, it was with great

interest and enjoyment that all present listened to Michael Peters' talk on how he manages his course. Let's have some volunteers for next year please! Look forward to seeing you all at Porters Park. Remember to return your form!

David MacIndoe.

Sussex

Thank you Holtze Golf Club for hosting one of our evening games. Thanks also to Bob Tingey for preparing the course—it was in excellent condition. We also extend our thanks to the captain and all the club's members. Finally, thanks to Ted's wife for another wonderful meal. I do not know how she does it!

The July evening game was held at Tilgate Forest with the best score coming from Dick Bull. Again, thanks to all the staff and the club for use of the facilities.

The annual match between the Sussex and Surrey branches took place recently at Tyrrells Wood. For the second year, the Surrey lads retained the tankard—well done. It is a match we all look forward to and we

will be hoping to put our name on the tankard next year!

The Surrey branch kindly invited us to play in the McMillan Trophy at Sunningdale. The event was played over the Old Course and for those of you who have never visited Sunningdale, it is a must. The course is magnificent and tribute must be paid to Jack McMillan—the master craftsman of his chosen profession.

Do not forget the autumn tournament, which is to be held at Rowlands Castle on September 25.

A one-day seminar is being arranged for November at Plumpton Agricultural College. Members will be notified of the speakers and date in the next issue.

Plumpton's courses starting in October are Phase I, Greenkeeping—Phase II and Enterprise Management—Phase III (all day-release). Also, Greenkeeping—Phase II is being offered for the first time at Plumpton in block-release for those further afield.

I would like to welcome Paul Wright to Dale Hill and wish him well in his new post. Paul is now the head greenkeeper. He moves from the RAC where he was first assistant.

Clive Dryden.

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