



## SIGGA's Success At St Andrews

The fifth Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament at St Andrews was a huge success and not just for the 13 countries taking part.

The programme of supporting events organised by the SIGGA committee proved to be equally outstanding, with the international conference as the main attraction. This was divided into a morning 'home' session introduced by Mr Louden, a distinguished R & A member and the 'away', or overseas, session opened by the R & A's secretary Michael Bonallack, who came out strongly for greenkeepers maintaining their independence and uniting to ensure that greenkeeping becomes a stronger profession with better qualifications and educational opportunities. To this end, he pledged the R & A's moral and financial support.

The home session was based on the different types of golf course and their management - heathland was tackled by David Jones of Purdis Heath, linksland by the late Russell Brown, Turnberry (see page 7) and parkland by Gordon Childs of Churchston G.C. The striking thing was the similarity of approach at all three environments, with variations on a theme (Arthurian) of minimal fertilising, watering and maximum elevation of compaction through intensive aeration. (The papers presented by Gordon Childs and David Jones will be published in *Greenkeeper*). The morning session closed with a slide show from Nicholas Park, formerly greens chairman at Lindrick, who rammed home the message that there are still pitifully few courses in the British Isles that have conquered the Poa problem.

In the afternoon, we were entertained by experiences from other countries and climes. Gene Baston from the GCSAA outlined what a powerful and impressive organisation has been created in the States. Stan Zontek of the USGA Greens Section, as ever



Michael Bonallack recommended the greenkeepers to stay independent.

## North And Midlands

The section had a good turn-out for the autumn outing at Ballater Golf Club. The weather stayed fine and the course was in excellent condition. Our thanks go to the club for a very enjoyable day.

The section's AGM was held in the evening, at which G. Hampton and G. Webster were presented with medals to commemorate their inclusion in the Scottish team for St Andrews.

Star prize of the day, a magnificent Titleist golf bag, is on its way to Royal Dornoch and Ian Small can expect a putter the next time I see him.

The main prize winners were: scratch - R. Patterson; Meldrum Memorial Trophy - D. Dingwall; 1st class - G. Paterson; 2nd Class - R. Hardie; 3rd Class - W. Paterson; McLean Trophy - E. Skinner; Toro Trophy (veterans) - W. Currie; junior veteran - J. Flint and trade shield - M. Dennis.

*Iain Hamilton*

the polished performer, gave a revealing insight into agronomy US style. Bob Heron from the CGSA produced an 'ice spectacular' while Rolf Lowgren from the Swedish Golf Federation showed how golf should be organised. Can you imagine a greens chairman having to be educated in turf culture by the game's governing body before being allowed to take office? Jim Wyllie, also of CGSA, produced a different show. His slides illustrated how fairways can be changed almost like relaying carpet - from shag-pile to Wilton! The overriding impression was that the rest of the world is prepared to pay much more for its golf and, consequently, education than golfers in Britain.

In all, a day for SIGGA to be proud of, with a highly professional team of greenkeeper speakers.

## Central

Since the last executive meeting, things have been quite busy within the Central section.

The inter-club tournament, run throughout the summer, proved to be a great success and was eventually won by Dullatur Golf Club. It is intended to make this an annual competition.

An autumn outing was held at Balbirnie Park Golf Club, Markinch, when some 30 members and guests had a great day. Considering the atrocious weather on the previous days, we were fortunate to play at all.

Prize winners were: net aggregate (spring and autumn) - Ian Ritchie 137; best net - Walter Garland 73; best scratch - Brian Inglis 74; 1st class, first handicap - Graham Scougall 76; 1st class, second handicap Brian Lawrie 84; 2nd class, first handicap - Duncan Peddie 78; 2nd class, second handicap - William Whitfield 82; visitors' prize - Harry Archer 70 and the two-ball foursomes - Brian Inglis and William Whitfield 38½ points.

Our thanks go to Ian MacMillan and his staff for having the course in such good condition, despite the weather, and to Mr and Mrs Chalmers for the excellent meals

and service provided and to the council and members of the Club for the courtesy they extended.

The international conference at St Andrews was quite well attended by Central section members, who voted it a huge success and our congratulations go to the organising committee for all their hard work.

The section is indebted to Stewarts & Co for the presentation of a silver quaich, which will be played for at outings next year.

Further to a previous statement regarding the seminar organised in conjunction with the East section, the committee has decided that, due to the East section's failure to pay half the costs, to which two of its officials had agreed, the Central section does not wish to be involved in organising any future events with them. The amount in question is £32.45p.

At a recent committee meeting, the paper on the proposed amalgamation between SIGGA, EIGGA, the BGGGA and the PGA - a copy of which has been sent to every member of the section - was discussed at length. The feeling of the committee was that the best future for greenkeeping is through education and, to this end, SIGGA is at the forefront and, therefore, for the time being, we should continue to make our own way forward.

It was decided to invite Martyn Jones to speak to the members sometime early in the New Year and to organise a visit to Inverclyde Sports Complex at Largs in March.

Our congratulations go to the following members of the section

who have taken up new appointments lately: William Lyon, Crieff, on gaining his first appointment as head greenkeeper at Forfar Golf Club; Ian Ritchie, Dullatur, on being appointed assistant head greenkeeper at Ladybank Golf Club; John Philp, St Andrews, who becomes the first links supervisor to be appointed by the Carnoustie Links Trust and Brian Finlayson, Braehead, on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Ardeer Golf Club in Ayrshire.

At present, membership of the Central section stands at 75. New members: Ian MacMillan, Lilliedale, High Street, Freuchie, Fife; Craig Stafford, 357 Julian Road, Cadham, Glenrothes, Fife and David McOwat, 33 Duncan Road, Glenrothes, Fife. Change of address: Ian Ritchie, 10 Queen's Crescent, Ladybank, Fife.

*John Crawford.*

### Ayrshire

The section ran a lottery in conjunction with the Open Championship. It was a great success with an outstanding £530 profit after deductions.

The first prize, a weekend for two at Gleneagles, was won by G. Featherstone of Largs. The second prize, two weekly tickets for next year's Open, went to A. Waite of Powfoot. D. McLean of Turnberry collected the third prize of £50.

There were four runners-up prizes of £15 each, which went to A. Marcurci, Kirkcudbright; A. Hitches, Warwick; D. Johnston,

Gourock and R. Aitken, Glasgow.

The autumn outing was to Glasgow Gailes, where the scoring was very good, due, in part, to the excellent condition of the greens provided by Bobby Bennett and staff.

Thanks go to the steward and stewardess and to the club for affording us the courtesy of the course and facilities.

The winners were: scratch - A. Forrest (Western Gailes), 1st class - R. Weir (Bogside), 2nd class - M. Power (Troon) and 3rd class - G. Sloan (St Cuthberts). The leading visitor was A. Leask (Glasgow Gailes).

The north lost to the south of the section in a match for the R. Aitken Trophy. M. Power, who is now in charge of the Troon courses, had the Darnley in excellent condition. After a super meal, R. Aitken Snr presented the trophy to Harry Diamond, who thanked him for sponsoring this event.

We send best wishes to A. Jamieson in his new position as head greenkeeper at Prestwick St Nicholas and to Colin Hamilton, who has moved south to take up an appointment as first assistant at Worthing.

*J. Grainger.*

### Lost - And Found?

Jonathan Harmer mislaid a Farmura file at Scotsturf recently. The file is brown with gold embossed lettering. Jonathan would very much appreciate its return and is offering a reward to the finder or borrower. Contact Jonathan on 023376 241.

### 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 £15

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.