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Greenkeeper

United we'll stand!

Demonstrating that, ahead of the joint talks on forming a federation (see page 12), the three greenkeeping associations can cooperate to take on – and beat – the rest of the golfing world, our front cover shows the winning greenkeeping team in the 1985 Kubota Golf Challenge. From left to right: I. McLeod (Tain), I. Toon (Moor Hall), R. Hughes (Little Hay), J. Teixeira (Hillingdon), S. Melville (Murrayfield), A. Peel (Trafford), J. Donaldson (Cherwell Edge) and, sitting, B. Turner (Worplesdon).

This year's event at The Belfry was a four-way contest, with teams of eight also representing golf writers, stewards and secretaries, who were the defeated finalists.

In the semis, the greenkeepers almost whitewashed the stewards – the only reverse coming in the last match with a defeat for Donaldson. The secretaries beat the journalists 5½ to 2½ at this stage, but more than met their match in the final, only managing to take two matches off the greenkeepers – Hughes and Melville going down.

The attention later switched to St Andrews and the fifth Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament, where the Canadians were hot favourites to successfully defend the Ransomes Challenge Trophy. There was a record turnout with teams of four from 13 countries contesting a Stableford competition over 36 holes.

At the end of the morning round, only one point separated the leaders – Scotland stood on 45 and the Canadians had 44. A further point behind were the Dutch, Swedes and Northern Irish.

The wind proved difficult in the afternoon and it was the two teams from across the Atlantic that mastered the conditions – Canada returned a creditable 47 points and America 46. The Canadians retained the Ransomes Challenge Trophy with a total of 91 points. Scotland were second with 89 and the USA third a point behind. Only four points spanned the first four places – Northern Ireland came fourth – and, with three teams (Holland, West Germany and Spain) finishing on over 80 points, it was a close-run competition.

After the tournament, which is held every three years, the traditional Ransomes banquet was attended by 150 at the Rusack's Marine Hotel where Keith Mackenzie, former secretary of the R & A and president of the Golf Foundation, was the guest speaker.

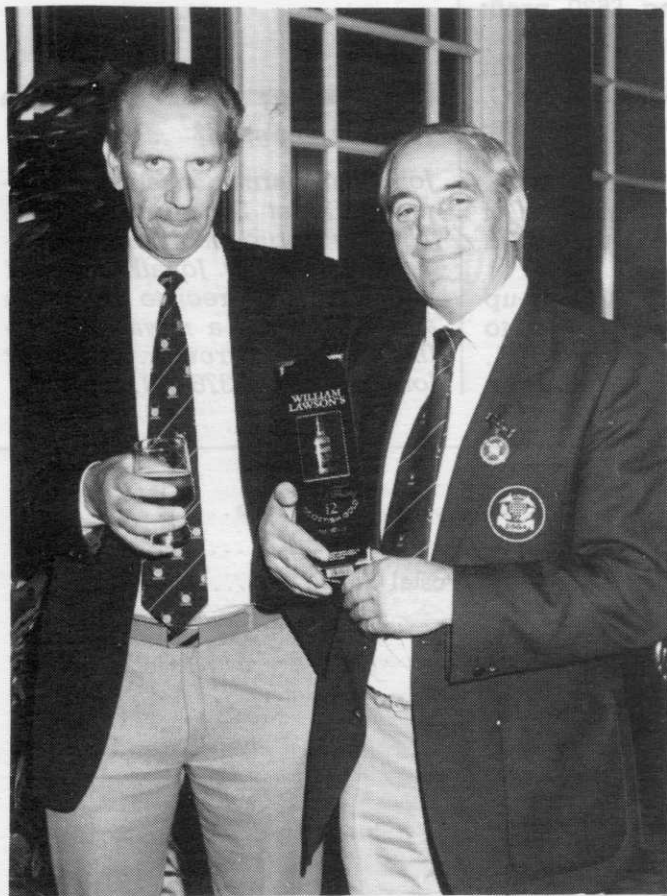
The Ransomes Challenge Trophy, a silver salver, was presented to the Canadians by the chairman of the St Andrews Link Trust Sir John Carmichael, who also gave tankards to members of the first three teams.

Ransomes sales director Guy Catchpole thanked the Links Management Committee for making it possible to play the Old Course. "It's an appropriate venue because the tournament started as a result of Scottish greenkeepers, some 20 years ago, challenging their English counterparts," he said.

NOW TURN TO PAGE 16



The winning Canadian team — Successful Defenders, with their trophies.



Bill Lawson, E.I.G.G.A.'s Chairman presents his own brew to S.I.G.G.A.'s General Secretary in recognition of the Scots hospitality.



Runners up Scotland with in the foreground Guy Catchpole, Sales Director of Ransomes.

RANSOMES ST ANDREWS



England go into action, Messrs Munt and Richardson.



Keith Mackenzie — main speaker at the Ransomes Banquet.



Some of S.I.G.G.A.'s organising committee left to right. Joe McKean, Walter Woods, Jimmy Kidd, Chris Kennedy, Jimmy Neilson.