



North-West

The spring tournament was held at Caldy Golf Club in early March, followed by the AGM, dinner and presentations. The branch committee would like to thank the club captain, secretary and directors for the courtesy of the course.

Also, our thanks go to John Huyton (Mealors) for sponsorship and assistance on the day and all the other companies that donated prizes.

Members and guests were fortunate to find the course playing so well following prolonged frost. The results were: best gross - T. Adamson 75, best net - G. Davies net 65 and the assistants' trophy - G. Cannings net 68.

A presentation was made to the retiring SISIS managing director Eric Staniforth from the EIGGA board of management. We all wish Eric a long and happy retirement. A presentation was also made to retiring branch chairman Bill Lawson, who received a silver salver from the new chairman Rick Fletcher on behalf of the members.

At the dinner, Vicars Cross assistant Mark Sutton was congratulated by the chairman on winning a free place to the EIGGA conference at Warwick.

Contact numbers for the north-west are: chairman - Rick Fletcher on 051-625 9898, administrator - Terry Adamson on 0978 83 2908 and treasurer - Guy Cannings on 051-625 6436.

Guy Cannings.

Surrey

As many of you will probably know, Clive Osgood is in hospital and our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations in their new posts go to David Lenham (Camberley Heath), Billy McMillan (Sunningdale), Kevin

Munt (Royal Dornoch) and Ian McMillan (Hankley Common).

It is with some relief that the Huxley Bowl has finally been concluded. P. Pearse and S. McMillan defeated A. Davey and M. Lower in the two-legged final. This year's first-round fixtures for the Huxley Bowl should have reached you by now and the best of luck goes to all competitors.

Paul Pearse.

The Learning Process...

EIGGA member David McIndoe is something of a Likely Lad residing presently in the haven that is the Killarney Golf and Fishing Club.

Scotsman Dave, with a dapper line of dress for any occasion, has taken to the magnificent locality well and is now busy embarking on many tasks out on the course.

Killarney members and visitors alike have warmed to the affable Scot and his committee was only too willing to contribute towards his visit 'over the seas' to Warwick for the recent EIGGA conference.

Here, David outlines the many plus points of his trip, which will surely prove a very worthwhile bonus for the Killarney club in return for such a modest outlay.

Thursday

Left Cork Airport at 9am on April 3 (only flight available) and was collected by a friend from Heathrow and taken to Sunningdale GC. After lunch in the company of three other course managers, it was back in the old routine - looking at and assessing neighbouring golf courses. The Scots fraternity in London have a great understanding and always appear ready to discuss their problems, theories and ideas. So, there we were, three Scots and one Canadian course manager (over for the conference), walking Effingham GC, Surrey and discussing anything attaining to course management. A good start to my trip!

Friday

Stayed overnight with the course

manager at Leatherhead GC, Surrey. A quick breakfast and by 7.15 I was on my way to Warwick in the company of Bob Moreton, course manager of the famous Berkshire GC. Arriving at 10 am, we were in plenty of time for the first lecture at 11.

Out president Dennis Ayling opened the conference in the presence of 100 delegates, mostly greenkeepers belonging to EIGGA. The first lecture from head greenkeeper David Wells set the pattern for the rest of the weekend - a well thought out and presented paper with enlightening slides showing the many problems in maintaining a busy public golf course. As David sat down to great applause, I hoped that the following speakers would maintain the standard and they did just that. The evening finished, as did Saturday, meeting old friends for a drink in the bar, where talk from every corner was about golf courses and related problems. The old saying 'greenkeepers never take a holiday' has more than a grain of truth!

Saturday

In the morning, we heard about constructing a course from start to finish and how to look after the flora and fauna found there. Next, a session from apprentice greenkeepers was thoroughly enjoyable and the future of our profession looks to be in good hands.

After lunch, came the heavy-weights! J. Arthur, his usual self, burning with enthusiasm for British greenkeeping methods. You almost felt sorry for the Americans! J. McMillan then told us, "the grass is talking to you. All you have to do is listen." Well, we listened to Jack and we learned.

Sunday

Grasses for golf was the theme at 9am, with some extensive research from Dr Shildrick of Bingley. He gave a super paper, detailed and specific. It obviously took many hard hours of research and study to produce.

Then followed an abundance of talent in the forms of M. Jones, course manager at Saffron Walden GC with Parkland Problems; Estate and Golf Course Management by J. Kidd (Gleneagles), who was followed

by a Canadian greenkeeper, G. Witteveen, who showed us some of the mistakes that can and do happen. His paper, entitled Twenty-five Years of Mistakes, was a real masterpiece.

EIGGA chairman Bill Lawson summed up the weekend as "a progressive step in education and better standards of course maintenance."

Monday

Up at 8.30, breakfast and then to Leatherhead GC to inspect the

alterations carried out by S. McMillan. The two new greens and several tees cut through a forest are a first-class operation. By 10.30am, we were on our way back to Heathrow to catch my return flight and a welcome reunion with wife and family.

All in all, a full and informative weekend. My mind refreshed and buzzing with ideas, I returned to my task of ensuring that members and visitors can fully appreciate the joy and challenge of golf at Killarney.

Expenses

Return ticket	
Cork - Heathrow	£137
Petrol	£34
Lunches	£14
Dinners	£8
Total	£193

Travel to Warwick and two overnight stays were covered by friends.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the club for a very enjoyable working weekend.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate and thank everyone who gave us all such a memorable EIGGA conference in 1986. The standard of such well presented papers was a contributory factor to the obvious success of the whole three days that we have now come to expect of such an event in the EIGGA calander.

The tremendous spirit that prevailed throughout the three days was something I am sure no one will ever forget.

From the very first day with David Wells telling us all of 62000 rounds of golf played on his course in one year, through to the Rigby Taylor Quiz, we all knew straight away what a very enjoyable three days we had to look forward to.

Saturday morning belonged to four young men who really did give us something to be proud of, in that they are all part of our greenkeeping profession, many congratulations to David Lucas, David Merrills, Cameron Mc Millan and Raymond Hunt, indeed a credit to their chosen profession.

After the Saturday afternoon papers, once again full of very interesting topics by our more senior gentlemen, we moved to what I am sure was the best formal dinner in our short history. Our guest speaker Sir Rex Hunt related some of his past experiences on golf courses around the world, much to the delight of everyone present. We all wish Sir Rex and Lady Hunt a very

happy retirement at their home in Sunningdale.

On the Sunday I was somewhat amazed at the numbers in attendance at the first lecture after the previous nights festivities, yet again a very enjoyable day with something for everyone with the respective papers holding a captive audience.

I would like to thank on behalf of all members of EIGGA two people who have really moved mountains to provide us with an Association of which I am particularly proud to be a member. First to Danielle to whom we owe so much, not only for the work in arranging everything for a conference from one year to the next, but also for her dedication and help given to EIGGA over the past four years. Thank you Danielle, long may it continue.

Secondly to Bill Lawson who seemed to thrive as Chairman. Bill we are eternally grateful for all you have done on behalf of EIGGA and all you are continuing to do.

Lastly but by no means least may I thank the Members for their support at the conference. I was particularly pleased to see so many old friends and delighted to meet so many new ones.

I can conclude by adding that our Association can only go from strength to strength with the enthusiasm and dedication that now prevails.

Dennis Ayling
President EIGGA

London Branch

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Aldenham Golf & Country Club in March and although no golf was planned, at the invitation of Mr. David Phillips (owner) a few brave soles ventured out, and, guess what? it rained!

A very interesting discussion took place before the A.G.M., with regard to the present moves to amalgamate the three Greenkeeping Associations under one umbrella, very appropriate in the present climate! The feelings of the branch are that the objectives are correct but everything that EIGGA has achieved in the last four years must be safeguarded.

As a result of the A.G.M. the committee for 1986 will be as follows: Tom Low (Chairman), David Low (Administrator), Tom McDonald, Mike Peters, Derek Mason and Chris Greenwood.

The next meeting will be held at Finchley Golf Club on June 23rd at 4.00p.m.

Thanks must go to Mike Peters for continuing with the Summer League he ran so successfully last year. Please try and arrange to play the matches between the stated dates.

At this years conference held at Warwick it was nice to see other members of the London Branch in attendance. We even had a team in the Rigby Taylor Quiz, thanks to Tony Taylor and Bill Thompson for their support, we did not win, but gave a good account of ourselves. As in previous years the whole weekend was most enjoyable, meeting and making friends and sharing experiences both good and bad.

David Low.