



Kent

By the time you read this, you will already know about the cancellation of our autumn golf meeting at Cobtree Manor Park on September 9 and its transfer to West Malling on September 29. We apologise for this. It was due to circumstances out of our control.

The Kent seminar will take place on October 15 at Broome Park Golf and Country Club. Speakers include Nick Park, Martin Hawtree, Wing Cmdr W. McCrea, Jack McMillan and Chris Mardon.

As reported fully last month, the Course Management Trophy was held at Hankley Common recently. The event is for club teams of three, consisting of the head greenkeeper/course manager, secretary and green committee chairman. Congratulations to the West Malling team of Mike Ellis, secretary, Ernie Thompson, green committee chairman, and our own Chris Mardon. Well done you Kentish men!

John Atkins.

East Anglia

The Cambridge Hotel in August was a good place to be. Eddie Spittlehouse and the boys had knocked it into good shape and the hospitality was of a high standard, even though some of the golf wasn't!

Some, however, did almost excel. Steve Freestone scored 40 points and P. Howard 39 in the 0-17 section, followed by S. Painter 38 points and Mick Lathrope 35 points (straight up, no fix, honest!).

First guest was M. Crack 45 points (net 63) - there's always one! Second guest - on 42 - was D. Fox. First lady was Mrs Bawden with 42 points. Lucky Eddie won the booby prize.

Not much happening up here - the grass keeps growing, we keep cutting it. We're told the rough's too long, greens too slow, holes are in the wrong place, we get asked why we can't cut the fairways at night and why did the wheel fall off somebody's trolley. You know, quite the normal, routine stuff!

Well, that's it folks. Must catch my stage coach...

M. Lathrope.

North-West

The autumn golf tournament was held in glorious sunshine at Mold Golf Club. The branch committee would like to thank the Churchview Garage, Wrexham Lancia agents, for its sponsorship.

Also, many thanks to Arnold Cox of Rigby Taylor, Phil Davies of Joseph Metcalf and Walter Briggs of SISIS for donating excellent prizes.

It was agreed the course was in top condition and the greens were some of the best played for a long time.

Thanks to the greenstaff for all their hard work and congratulations to Teg Morris and staff for the superb condition of the course.

A most enjoyable evening meal was followed by the prizegiving. Our thanks go to Ray and Elsie Sheldon for the bar and meal.

Prize winners were: members - Paul Massey (Helsby) net 67, guests - Rob Jones (Wrexham) net 68.

EIGGA representative Bill Lawson recently attended a two-day meeting of the GTC at Askham Bryam College, York. A range of subjects was discussed, details of which will be published in *Greenkeeper*.

Guy Cannings.

Continued from facing page...

this will effectively keep the vicinity of the site free from disturbance by tractors, etc.

The type of gravel can be controversial and it is prudent to visit as many quarries as possible and compare costs. A good $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stone is ideal but, on some courses, natural subgrade can be used effectively. Broken pantiles and rubble are successful also. When buying, it is best to purchase a spherical stone. In our case, we used 250 tonnes, so it is evident costing is paramount.

When sand only is used in the rootzone, it is important to use a blinding layer of coarse sand or vermiculite clay. This prevents fine sand particles filtering into the drainage carpet. In fact, in a sand-only green, USGA specifications must be adhered to.

However, in a sand soil mix, I do not feel it necessary to use a blinding layer, as soil tends to bind the sand and hold the mixture fast and, in this case, a blinding layer would only restrict drainage, which is not what is wanted. The top mix is important, for it ultimately dictates the nature of the green.

Nowadays, we could be forgiven for thinking sand only is the only way. It is not. When constructing, a main criteria is that the new green be typical of others on the course. How can we accomplish this by building a sand-only green on a clay course?

Instead, we must use our skill to emulate our other greens, which may not be easy. I have seen many successful greens built using soil only. This was the skill of an older generation, who built surface drainage into their con-

struction. In our new green, we use 200 tonnes of sand and soil, mixed and shredded by the quarry. Again, a good price is required. However, this should not effect quality.

The best sand is described as medium fine and should meet Bingley's requirements. Most quarries will give you a detailed analysis of their product when requested. It is necessary to be aware of what you are using.

The soil should be laid over the drainage carpet and compacted, using your feet, to a depth of some 9in. This should only be done in dry weather and the soil should be tramped, raked and levelled as much as is required to gain a fine even tilth ready for turfing.

Alexander W. Blacklaw, Course Manager, Crow Wood Golf Club.