

Surrey

In January, the branch held a seminar at Sunningdale for young greenkeepers to present talks and gain confidence in public speaking.

The evening started with a short introduction by Kenny MacNiven on A Need For Public Relations, which was very well-received by the audience of 50 greenkeepers.

The next speaker was Cameron McMillan, whose presentation, Father To Son, included slides of Sunningdale and the work methods of his father's younger days and how they are done today.

Jack stood at the back listening and proud to think he has brought into greenkeeping another chip off the old block. Well done, father and son!

The next speaker was Bob Thompson, head greenkeeper at the Hoebridge Golf Centre. His theme, Pay As You Play, was extremely interesting, especially to those greenkeepers in private clubs hearing that people queue up at 5.30am to play!

It's a wonder Bob manages to get any work done. He also discussed the problem of not having a head greenkeeper on the staff while the course was being built.

The third speaker was branch secretary Paul Pearse, whose topic was Surrey Golf Courses. Paul showed many slides taken on golfing trips around the county, going from heathland to chalk downs, parkland and clay. It is nice to know Surrey golfers have such a wide choice.

Finally, Jack McMillan gave a



A typical Surrey scene - Camberley Heath.

resume on the formation of BIGGA. It seems everything looks well for the future.

Our thanks go to Sunningdale artisans for granting us use of their bar and club rooms for the evening.

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The annual Vitax tournament takes place at Ferndown GC, Dorset on Thursday May 21. Six teams of greenkeepers representing the Midlands, mid-Anglia, Wales, south-west, Devon and Cornwall and the south coast will compete.

Organised by Vitax's amenity manager Colin Murphy, it is being supported by Vitax Key distributor Roffey Bros of Bournemouth.

Dear Sir...

I always read Jim Arthur's articles in *Greenkeeper* with interest. They not only match our way of thinking about how to treat Poa annua on greens, but also because they are easy for us amateurs to understand.

In *Yobs and yuppies (Greenkeeper, November/ December 1986)*, Mr Arthur wrote: 'Education must also extend to club members.' He also mentioned: 'Seminars and club evenings.'

I would like to bring your attention to another line of communication between the greenkeeper, his green committee and club members.

In the Netherlands, clubs have their own journals, published six, nine or 12 times a year.

The Eindhovensche Golf Club - 55 years young, with 18 holes and 800 members - started to seriously attack Poa annua on the greens two years ago, hand-in-hand with Mr L. Kappen Ing, the Dutch Golf Federation's agronomist.

At the same time, the green committee started to contribute articles to the club journal about the 'bad guy' (Poa annua) and the 'good guy' (Agrostis-Festuca). Written in a lighthearted way and not too long, club members read the series with interest.

Members know exactly what we are doing with the greens and why we are doing it. We get a lot

London

The seminar at Aldenham Golf and Country Club was a great success and my thanks go to Mr Phillips for allowing us the use of the club and to speakers Derek, Chris, Norman, Graham and John. Thanks also to Allan Moffit and John Cockburn for their valued support.

Anybody wishing to put a team into the summer league should contact me as soon as possible. This year, the format has changed slightly and the two top teams of each league go through to the quarter-finals.

We are busy putting together a programme for the year, so watch this space!

Michael Peters.

of questions and Shakespearean remarks such as 'Much Ado About Nothing.' And we are accused of having a Poa annua complex - the green committee is the talk, not of the town, but the bar!

We need simple information on topics such as the link from Poa annua, via fertiliser and water, to thatch and why the colour of the green is of no importance to a good putting surface and most of my information comes from *Greenkeeper* and *Golf Monthly*.

Perhaps the idea of clubs producing magazines could spread to the UK. The potential readership is vast and it should be given this simple message: 'To hell with Poa annua. Long live your fine British grasses!'

But never promise them a rose garden...

Rob Keunen, Green Committee Member, Waalre, Holland

Ed: Communication is the watchword of most successful and happy golf clubs and I am very pleased that you find Greenkeeper so useful in spreading the 'gospel.'

You and your fellow countrymen are to be congratulated on such an innovative publishing scheme. I know of no UK club producing a regular magazine - although, no doubt, someone will correct me.

Further Association News Round-Up From North of The Border

West Section: Lectures at Woodburn House are being well received both by Students and College Staff.

A Question Night was held at Cawder Golf Club in January and this was fairly well attended, a convivial evening was held by all.

Some internal problems have been encountered by the West Section Committee leaving us without a Secretary/Treasurer at the moment and this is being dealt with by myself and Committee as a matter of urgency.

Our Booklet advising all members of the West Section was to have been posted but this has been delayed at the moment.

A joint Seminar involving ourselves and Ayrshire takes place at Ayr Technical College on February 19th 1987.

A visit to S.A.I. in Edinburgh takes place in March and that completes the West Section's Winter Itinerary.

A. R. Connell

Ayrshire Section: The sections games night held just before Christmas was a great success, with 32 members in attendance, which I believe is the best attended games night yet. The Committee hopes this is a good guide to the future attendance wise.

The calendar for the year is taking shape with two meetings

later this month. The first is the joint Ayrshire/West Section Seminar at Ayr Technical College when the Sports Turf Research Institute will provide the Speakers on the 19th and the following week on the 26th is the sections A.G.M. at Prestwick.

The Spring Golf outing will be held at Stranraer Golf Club on Tuesday 7th April and the Autumn outing will be on Tuesday 15th September at West Kilbride Golf Club by courtesy of both Clubs Committees.

The Radix Students at Ayr Technical College are progressing through their modules successfully and they seem to be enjoying the enthusiasm shown by the Staff. Several Courses in Ayrshire have volunteered to assist with practical experience for the College until they can build up their own facilities. The Students in the second year have been taken on visits to the S.A.I. Seed facility at Ingliston and on the same day they also took in the Scotsturf Exhibition at Ingliston. They visited West Kilbride to see a Tee under construction and did some work on the visit. Future visits planned include Bunker construction at Ayr Belleisle Golf Course, Championship Course presentation at Turnberry Hotel Golf Course and Green construction at Glasgow Gables Golf Club. This exercise also lets the Students see other Golf Courses where they can compare types and layout with their own.

Finally, Mr G. Brown, Course Manager at Turnberry Hotel has

been co-opted onto the Section Committee, and we would like to welcome him to this position. The Committee feels sure that any contribution made by George will be both welcome and beneficial to the Section.

J. Paton

Central Section: A visit to Inverclyde Sports Complex at Largs, on Tuesday 20th January, was enjoyed by 17 members of the section and our sincere thanks go to Hugh Blair for giving us a very extensive and interesting tour of the whole complex and a full explanation of how it functions.

At a committee meeting held on Thursday 29th January, a very lengthy discussion took place on the new Greenkeeper's Association, with the Chairman and Secretary giving a full explanation of the set up so far.

K. Vertigan of SISIS wished to know what part of the Trade would be expected to play in the new Association and expressed the feeling that this should be clarified well in advance of any of the section's spring outings.

Section golf outings were proposed as follows, Spring 1988, Scotsraig, Autumn 1988, Schawpark.

A letter will be sent to all members of the section, encouraging them to give their full support to the new Association and to take a more active part in all the activities which are organised for everyone's benefit.

John Crawford

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Dear Sir

I was very interested to read John Campbell's article entitled 'Out on the Course' concerning course manager Laurence Pithie and Minchinhampton Golf Course in Gloucestershire, which appeared in the Jan/Feb issue of the Greenkeeper.

I myself work at Beverley and East Riding Golf Club in North Humberside, (which was also founded in 1889) as an assistant greenkeeper, where I have been for the last five years. What I found interesting about the article was that we at Beverley have a lot of similar problems as Mr Pithie. Our course is situated half a mile from Beverley on a patch of common land called the Beverley Westwood. Between the months of april and december we have cattle grazing on the common and course, sometimes as many as 500 but the last couple of years down to 160 due to new EEC

regulations on milk production. Usually we rely on cattle to graze down the rough but last year for the first time in club history we had to cut semi-rough. Our first job in the morning between april and december apart from routine switching etc. is to remove cow dung from fairways, greens, tees and bunkers with a shovel. Unlike Minchinhampton we are allowed to fence off our greens permanently which is a great help in protecting the putting surface. We have an automatic sprinkler system and are allowed to use certain weed-killers and fungicides usually when cattle are not present, as for fertilizer we use that too but not any organic fertilizer as the mess afterwards is horrific. We also have a full spiking and top dressing programme. Our greens are cut usually with our Toro GM3 or a 20" mower, our tees are cut by hand always and cutting around the wire

fences on the approaches is quite an art. Fairways are cut weekly with a Ransomes trail set of 5 gangs and we have just purchased a new set of 3 gangs for semi-rough.

Our most common and mounting problem is that of vandals, mainly at weekends, with flags being taken or destroyed. Also someone has an urge to go spinning around in a car on the fairways, nothing though to match the car in the picture shown in your article.

I was very pleased to see that we at Beverley are not the only club with these problems, I wonder how many other courses there are in the country with similar problems and hazzards as Minchinhampton and Beverley Golf Club. Thank you once again for an interesting and enjoyable article.

I.T. Collett

Assistant Greenkeeper

Beverley & East Riding Golf Club

Tridents Major Move

Richard Lawrence managing director of Trident Turf Supplies has announced the appointment of Roy Dagnall as amenity division sales director. Roy was previously with Rigby Taylor Ltd., and now joins Trident to take responsibility for the company's move into National Local Government Contracts. Commenting on the move Richard Lawrence said "Roy's vast experience and numerous contacts will be of great benefit to Trident. With an increased product range we are confident that we can satisfy all the needs of our growing list of customers."

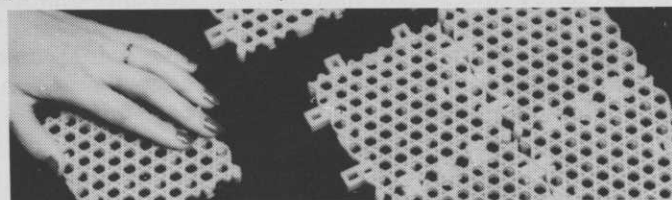
Deere on the course at Sunningdale...



Alec McKee, Commercial Manager, Douglas Walker, Managing Director, Keith Almond, Club Secretary, Jack McMillan, Course Manager.
John Deere Ltd. delivering a 2450 model to Sunningdale Golf Club.

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