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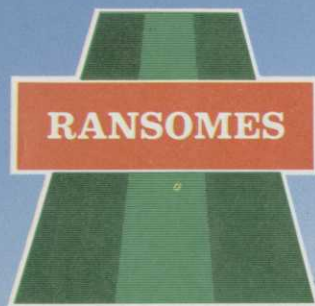
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MARCH 1984

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The full weekend's programme

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Golf Course '84



Trinity Hall
Cambridge

The full *Golf Course '84* programme is detailed on pages four and five and shows the intensive and varied programme that has been put together by the participating associations. Education classes in Irrigation, Cost Saving In Machinery Maintenance and Disease In Turf run concurrently with the respective general sessions.

All delegates will have received conference details. However, please ensure forms are returned to register for any or all of the classes.

Golf Course '84 is a striking example of how the entire fine turf industry is coming together—literally under one roof.

It is good to report that the long-awaited meeting between SIGGA, EIGGA and the BGGGA took place last month at Hags Castle Golf Club, near Glasgow, having been previously postponed due to bad weather.

At the end of what appeared a very amicable meeting called to discuss matters of common interest between the associations, delegations went home to report to their ruling committees. Hopefully, each association will now wish to see this dialogue continue and look towards a more unified future.

Finally, this month's *Greenkeeper* presents a larger-than-ever issue of the magazine. Not only does it include contributions by regular writers, but articles from two distinguished members of the greenkeeping profession—Walter Woods of SIGGA and links supervisor at St Andrews and Jack McMillan, EIGGA president and course manager at Sunningdale. They also comment in *Notebook* (page 29) on the Verti-Drain, which is pictured on this month's front cover working the 18th fairway of the Old Course at St Andrews.



Walter Woods



Jack McMillan

Golf Course '84

From April 12-15 at Trinity Hall, Cambridge

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

British Association Golf Course Architects

- 2.00-2.45 Donald Steel
2.45-3.30 Donald Harradine
The Architect's Relationship With Other Aspects Of The Game
- 3.30-4.00 Tea
4.00-5.00 Geoffrey Cornish
The History Of The Golf Course Architect
Get Acquainted Party
Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

British Turf Irrigation Association

- 9.00-9.15 Vivian Auer—BTIA Chairman
Introduction To The BTIA
- 9.15-9.50 Martyn Jones—Agronomist
Management Of Irrigation Systems
- 9.50-10.10 Andrew Lawrence—Weir Pumps
Pumping Systems For Irrigation
- 10.10-10.30 Graham Carson—Wavin Plastics
Pipework—Fittings For Irrigation Systems
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee
11.00-11.30 Jim Webb—Severn Trent Water Authority
Golf Course Irrigation Systems—The Water Authorities' View
- 11.30-12.15 Dr Jim Watson—USGA Greens Section
The Past, Present And Future Of Turfgrass Irrigation
- 12.15-12.30 Open Discussion Forum With All Speakers
12.30-2.00 Lunch

British Association Of Golf Course Constructors

- 2.00-2.45 Dr W. Adams—University of Aberystwyth
Sand Technology In Golf
- 2.45-3.30 Peter Jenkins—Scapa Leisure Surfaces
Synthetics In Golf
- 3.30-3.45 Tea
3.45-4.30 Dennis Turner—Parks Manager, Maidstone Borough Council
Enduring The Constructor On Your Golf Course

- 4.30-5.15 Cabell Robinson—Robert Trent Jones S.A.
Construction Management In Europe
After Dinner: Film Show

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association

- 9.00-10.30 SIGGA Programme Delivered By Chris Kennedy—SIGGA Chairman; Jimmy Kidd—Course Manager, Gleneagles Hotel; Walter Woods—Links Supervisor, St Andrews
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee

PGA European Tour

- 11.00-12.30 George O'Grady or Tony Gray
What The PGA Expects From A Tournament Venue
- 12.30-2.00 Lunch

Golf Course Superintendents' Association Of America

- 2.00-2.45 James Prusa—Director Of Education GCSAA
GCSAA In Action
- 2.45-3.30 Stanley J. Zontek—Regional Director USGA
USGA Greens Section
- 3.30-3.45 Tea
3.45-4.30 Bruce Williams—Superintendent, Bob O'Link Golf Club, Illinois
The American Golf Course Superintendent
- 4.30-5.15 Dr James Watson—TORO
The Turfgrass Industry, Past, Present And Future
Formal Dinner With Guest Speaker Bruce Critchley—BBC TV Golf Commentator And Former International

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association

- 10.30-11.00 Dr Peter Hayes—Director Of The Sports Turf Research Institute
The Maintenance Problems Found On Advisory Visits

- 11.00-11.30 Jim Arthur B.Sc (Agric)—Agronomist To The R & A
Open Championship Course Preparation
- 11.30-12.00 Lawrence Pithie—Course Manager, Minchinhampton Golf Club
Management Of Different Types Of Course
- 12.00-12.30 Peter Wisbey—Course Manager, North Foreland Golf Club
Safety At Work
- 12.30-12.45 Jack McMillan—EIGGA President
12.45-2.00 Lunch
2.00 AGMs Of The British Association Of Golf Course Architects, British Association Of Golf Course Constructors, English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association
After Dinner: Film Show And Live TV Coverage Of The US Masters

MONDAY, APRIL 16

Golf At The Gog Magog Golf Club

- 10.00 Nominated Teams Of Three From Each Association Competing For The *Greenkeeper Trophy*—(Total Stableford Score) In An Inter-Association Competition. Associations Can Advise *Greenkeeper* Of Players' Names At *Golf Course '84*

Stableford Competition For All Delegates Including Association Competitions

Cost To Non-Greenkeeper Association Members...
£12 Green Fee + £8.50 Meals
Cost To Greenkeeper Association Members... £8.50 Meals

Education Classes

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Irrigation

- 10.00-10.30 George Shiels—Senior Lecturer In Horticulture, Writtle Agricultural College
Calculation Of Irrigation Requirement
- 10.30-11.00 Robin Hume—E.A. Yates And Sons, Sandbach
Water Supply And Storage
- 11.00-11.45 Dirk Lenie—Rain Bird International
The Concept And Design Requirement Of A Pop-Up Sprinkler
- 11.45-12.15 Robin Hume, E.A. Yates And Bill Hawthorn—Watermation
Pumping Systems And Pipework
- 12.15-13.00 Peter Roberts—TORO And Bill Hawthorn—Watermation
Control Systems

- 11.00-12.00 Brian Mitchell Of Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies
Hydraulic Systems—Their Use, Operation And Maintenance And Fault Finding
- 12.00-12.30 David Halford Of Lancashire College Of Agriculture And Horticulture, Myerscough Hall
Back Lapping—An Aid To Keeping A Good Edge

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Disease In Turf

- 9.00-9.30 Roy Woolhouse—Sports Turf Research Institute
Fusarium Patch Disease
- 9.30-9.45 Questions
- 9.45-10.15 *Red Thread And Take-All*
- 10.15-10.30 Questions
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee
- 11.00-11.45 Graham Paul Of May & Baker
Fairy Rings
- 11.45-12.15 *Colletotrichum, Drechslera Leaf Spot And Seedling Diseases*
- 12.15-12.30 Questions

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

- 8.30-10.00 Self Assessment Test In Class
Subjects By Lecturers Concerned

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

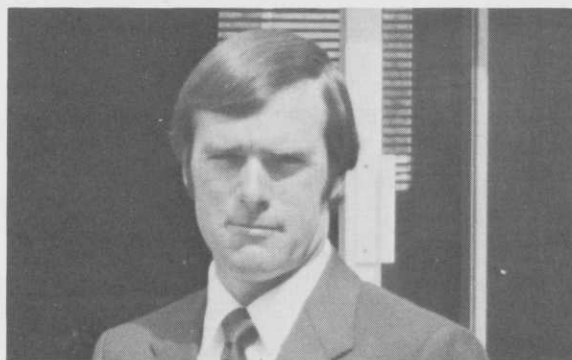
Cost Saving In Machinery Maintenance

- 9.00-9.45 James Dawson And Sons, Lincoln
Types, Selection, Fitting And Maintenance Of Belts For The Transmission Of Power
- 9.45-10.30 Chris Prevost Of Autocar
Electrical Equipment, Barking
Petrol Versus L.P.G. Versus Diesel
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee

Golf Course '84

In·My·Opinion

Chris Kennedy



Chris Kennedy is course manager at Hags Castle Golf Club, Glasgow and chairman of the Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association

In Scotland, we pride ourselves on our education programme, which follows the SCOTEC syllabus. In my opinion, however, there is a missing link in the 'Fine Turf' part of this education programme. Students are being well advised on the technical side but, in the field, head greenkeepers and course managers do not have enough time to spend with apprentices.

In most cases, this is not through choice, but thrust upon them by golf club committees, boards of management or whoever is holding the purse strings.

When I started in golf course management 22 years ago, I was lucky enough to come into it at a time when mechanisation meant that the cutting cylinder was propelled, but you still had to push the mower. If you were an apprentice, it could be six months before you were allowed near a green with a Push Certes. You then had to learn to cut in a straight line and set the machine properly.

Training in the 1960s might not have been so technical, but I certainly feel that the courses were not so heavily played and the head greenkeeper or course manager had more time to spend with younger members of staff.

Because we are in the leisure industry, courses are generally very busy. The biggest outlay is wages, so if staff at least understand or preferably play the game of golf, then this is not only to the head greenkeeper's advantage, but also to the benefit of the apprentice. Greenkeeping, like golf itself, is a constant challenge.

You will never be completely satisfied with your course, nor will the players, as some like firm fast greens and some like slow, soft surfaces.

It is for this reason that I ask you, no matter what association you are a member of—be it SIGGA, EIGGA or the BGGA—and if you are taking on an apprentice to consider:

1. When did you last take an hour or two to explain the proper way to change and site new holes, taking into account wind and ground conditions, etc?
2. When did you look at the bunkers from a player's point of view—ie shape, contour and quality of raking—and ask yourself are there large hollows just where the ball normally lands?
3. Are your greens cut often enough?

When you are taking on an apprentice, is it because you have decided to increase your staff ratio or replace another apprentice who has finished his five years? Or is it because, a few years ago, you actually had a qualified man but, because of cut-backs or the need to purchase equipment, you were told to trim back your wage bill and the only members of staff who would make any decrease in monetary terms were journeymen?

Nowadays, do you find that the apprentice has to take on jobs from his first few days of service that he would not normally be tackling for quite a few months and, even then, under your supervision? Because you are under pressure from the greens

management committee, general members of the club, consultant agronomists or keeping your hi-work equipment in a good state of repair, you just do not have the time to spend with him.

If this situation is true and you also trained the chap that the apprentice is working with, then you end up with a 'blind leading the blind' situation. Unfortunately, this is exactly what is happening at some clubs and then the head greenkeeper leaves and to save even more cash, the club appoints the first assistant to head greenkeeper and maybe he is not ready to take on the post.


Head greenkeepers and course managers should take a good look at their staffing requirements and if they are inadequate tell their clubs so.

You might get no reaction, but put your case properly and tell them that not only are they not getting the best out of their staff, but from you also. Prove to them that they are on the road to financial disaster because when a golf course gets to a low standard nobody wants to play it and it takes a lot of time, effort and extra money to bring it back again.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a successful season, especially Walter Woods and his staff at St Andrews for a great Open.

Naturally, I hope that SIGGA meetings with EIGGA and the BGGA are fruitful and of benefit to all greenkeepers. It is far better that we are united in matters such as training, staffing and matters of common interest to the game of golf.

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Out·On·The·Course

Tyrrells Wood

John Campbell meets the man in charge—Bert Watson

SURREY boasts some of the finest golf courses in the south and Tyrrells Wood near Leatherhead ranks among the best of them. It is laid out on the rolling terrain of the North Downs with majestic tree-lined fairways adding to the character, strategy and beauty of the golfing landscape. The architectural style of bunkering and contoured slopes around built-up greens bear many hallmarks of the original course designer—James Braid.

The fine old red brick clubhouse occupies a commanding position and can be viewed from various parts of the course through the trees. In the early days, many well-known people were members of the club. Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Rothermere were often met at the end of their round by a chauffeured Rolls or a groom with horses. Professional Eddie Ward gave lessons to the racing driver Malcolm Campbell. Before the war, when the clubhouse had dormy accommodation, Rex Harrison and his first wife Lilli Palmer stopped there.

One man who has trodden the paths of the famous and learned to appreciate the attraction and challenge of maintaining the course over the past 27 years is course manager Bert Watson. His long spell



Bert Watson in his temporary office.

of service is ample testimony to the dedication and loyal esteem he has for the club. Bert and his charming wife Lesley have a daughter Dawn, 18, and son James, 10, who has already decided he is going to follow in his father's footsteps.

Although Bert worked for a short period in a garage after leaving school, he recalled: "I always wanted to work on a golf course and when I was offered a job at Tyrrells Wood, I jumped at it." His mentor and boss then was Andrew Corstorphine, formerly head greenkeeper to the

Royal & Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews. "I learned a lot from Andrew, who was very knowledgeable in all aspects of greenkeeping and taught me much about selective weedkillers when they first came into vogue."

Bert Watson is a genial chap and a first-class greenkeeper who likes to keep his course in good shape seven days a week. He runs the course himself with three men. "We are all long-service employees—Ian Huggett has 25 years, Keith Harris and Jack Street have both been with me for over 12 years. Staff relations are excellent—it's a matter of give and take and I'm proud of the fact that we are always top of the league in the wages scale.

"The club takes a genuine interest in the welfare of all staff. We have an excellent pension scheme and bonus arrangements that are appreciated by everyone."

The course seems to cope extremely well with all kinds of weather and even after a heavy snowfall at the time of my visit, conditions were reasonably dry underfoot.

The surfaces of the above average size greens had a nice firm resilience and there was little sogginess, even after the high precipitation of January. Bert remarked that the chalky nature of the soil and regular aeration made for good drainage. "I'm a great advocate of slit tining to keep the turf in good condition all year round," he said.

The natural springy turf of the Downs makes ideal fairways—the ball sits up well, inspiring golfers' confidence, and the generous width of fairways allows ample leeway for error. Bert, like many other greenkeepers, finds that uphill fairways tend to be more prone to divot marks in critical areas. On the 17th fairway alone they repaired over 4,000 divot holes recently.

With the advantage of an abundance of trees, many of the holes are secluded, a feature golfers



The putting surface falls away at the rear of the 7th.

Continued on page 12...



Large sand traps involve lots of work to keep them trim and tidy...

appreciate. The disadvantages of trees are coping with leaves and other debris in the autumn. "We have a Sisis Litamisa for dealing with large areas of leaves and it does a good job," Bert said, "but I would like to see a machine combining the job of sweeping up leaves and pulverising them at the same time. This would speed up the composting process and make leaves easier and less time consuming to deal with."

Manufacturers please note!

As we were walking through the rough I spotted several snares set to catch rabbits. "They're mine," Bert pointed out. "If I don't keep them down, they can be troublesome and I'm partial to a bit of rabbit pie now and again!"

The rabbits invade from surrounding estates, where control measures are lax or non-existent. A few years ago, the rabbit population was decimated by myxomatosis, but now they are on the increase again. Rabbits are unwelcome on golf courses, where their burrowing and scraping activities do not endear them to greenkeepers or golfers.

Tyrrells Wood has over 70 sand traps, which entail a lot of work during the playing season. Grooming sand is always expensive in terms of time, labour and money. "I would like to see a standard type of sand recommended for all golf courses. It would be easier to order, could be used for bunkers and top dressing and much fairer to golfers, who would be acclimatised to its texture and consistency for playing recovery shots," he explained.

With today's ever-increasing play adding to the compaction rate, Bert believes that the latest ranges of aeration equipment have been a big

boon to greenkeeping. He maintains that triplex greensmowers are a necessity nowadays to get the work done ahead of play, but still prefers to see the finished effect of a good handmower on the putting surface. "I like to cut my greens just under 3/16in. This produces the kind of pace my members like for putting," he said.

Bert has never found it necessary to bring in a consultant to help him deal with problems. He is the kind of man with the ability and expertise borne of long experience to run his course smoothly and successfully to the satisfaction of his membership.

He admits there is a need for more education among young greenkeepers in the theory and science of turf culture to cope with the many situations that arise, but added, "there is no substitute for experience and having the confidence in your ability to make decisions and handle the complexities of dealing with staff,

club officials and the day-to-day running of the course.

"My long term objective for the course is to strive constantly to improve the facilities, achieve more economical maintenance and make a round of golf more enjoyable and interesting for all. This may mean altering bunkers, enlarging or making new tees, planting trees, reshaping fairway contours and a host of other jobs approved by the committee.

"I like to listen to constructive comments from my members. Sometimes they come up with good ideas," he said.

"I look forward to the winter. It is a welcome change of pace after the busy hustle and bustle of the growing season. Greenkeepers don't have time to hibernate, although some golfers might think they do.

"On the contrary, there are always a lot of jobs to be done that can't be tackled at any other time of the year. There is always drainage work, overhauling machinery and satisfyingly creative construction work, which allows the inexperienced to learn and gives the experienced man an opportunity to demonstrate his skills and ability in the art of landscaping for golf.

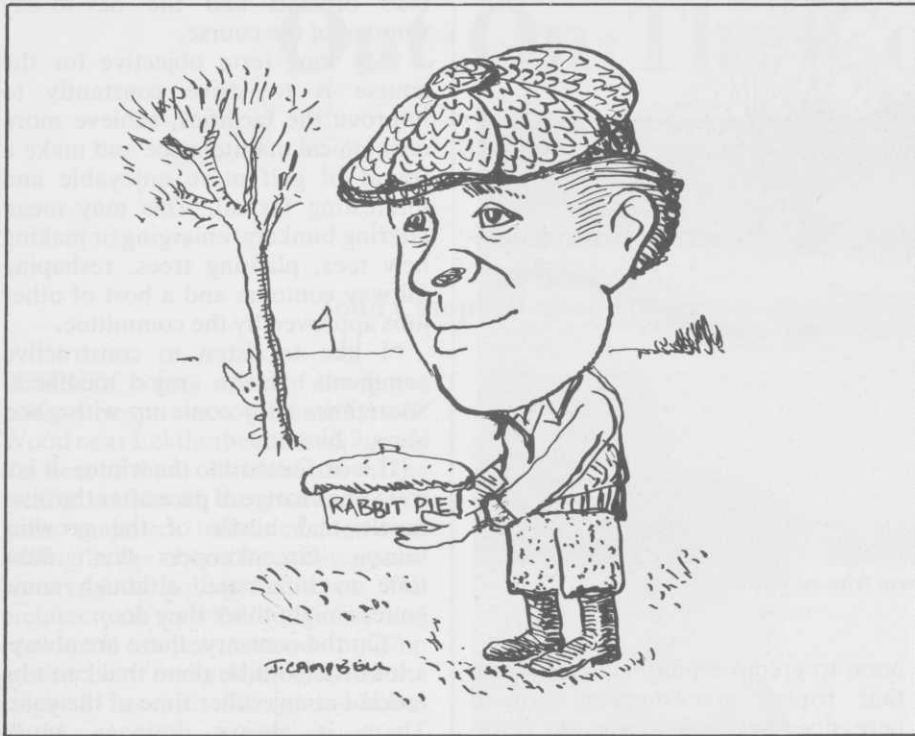
"We have a lot of trees at Tyrrells Wood and they often involve quite a lot of work in the autumn and winter. To keep trees in good shape, they may have to be pruned. When done properly, pruning can improve the health, beauty and function of a tree.

"It is also an important safety factor. All dead branches have to be removed, since a slight wind can bring them down with the risk of damaging property or causing injury. Low branches along pathways may need

Continued on page 14...



Empty drinks cans, filled with cement and painted, make useful tee markers.



removing, particularly if they are broken or have jagged ends.”

Greenkeepers who have to deal with tree-lined courses realise that maintenance of and around trees should dictate the choice of species. Autumn leaves are an annual irritation to golfers and a source of extra work to the greenkeeping staff.

Small twigs that break easily and litter the turf are common to some trees such as birch and beech. Leaves can cover a great deal of the playing area and make it rather difficult to spot golf balls. Trees should never be taken for granted—they must have proper consideration, just like turf, with individual characteristics and specified life spans.

“Some golf societies can cause a lot

of havoc and extra work on a golf course,” Bert said. “Often, they have little respect for the facilities and even less for the rules and etiquette of the game. They neglect to repair pitchmarks on greens, never smooth over footmarks in bunkers and leave a trail of empty drink cans behind them.

“Every greenkeeper should carry a pocket tape recorder. I am never without one and find it indispensable for making quick notes on the course as I travel around. Keeping accurate records and a diary of daily operations, weather conditions, etc, can be a great help when attending green committee meetings.

“Extracts from your diary can be used to form the basis of a regular report to keep the committee

informed on all aspects of the work programme or can be included in a club newsletter. Efficient business methods create a favourable impression and can help justify additional expenditure when the time comes for new equipment or the replacement of old machinery.”

Although Bert has been in greenkeeping a long time and declares that we can learn a lot from the past, he has a refreshingly modern outlook and strong views about many aspects of his profession.

“We have got to do much more for the education and training of young greenkeepers,” Bert said. “Our jobs are becoming more complex, equipment more sophisticated and the responsibilities more demanding. I think we have a long way to go with the provision of proper educational facilities for young men who want a good training in all aspects of golf course management.

“EIGGA has started the ball rolling, but a lot remains to be done for the men of the future. They deserve our united support and we should help them—now!”

Dinner-Dance Date

The Surrey branch annual dinner and dance will be held at The Drift Golf and Country Club, East Horsley on Saturday, April 28 (7.30pm for 8). Tickets cost £8.50 and are available from Kenny MacNiven, 5 Warren Farm Cottages, Warren Farm Lane, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey or Bert Watson, 27 Oakridge, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2NY (Tel: Dorking 881646).



Looking towards the 13th and 15th greens.



Bert points out the ten large bunkers on 18.