



Some Great Golf At Gleneagles!

The 1984 National Golf Championship for SIGGA members took place over the Glendevon Course at Gleneagles recently. The weather was excellent, catering superb and the golf course in top condition due to the efforts of Jimmy Kidd and his hard-working staff.

Thanks go to Gleneagles Hotel Golf Courses for granting us courtesy of the course and I would like to especially thank Ian Ferrier of the Gleneagles' management for all his great help in making sure we had a super day. The scores, generally, were commendable and the winners are to be congratulated on some very fine golf.

Joe McKean.

SIGGA's Role At The Open Championship

I wish to thank all the executive committee and members who assisted at St Andrews and in the SIGGA tent—the Open was a great success for the association and its image. Everyone did what immediate past president Chris Kennedy has been advocating for some time and I was proud to be able to carry out his idea. He must have been delighted to see his project develop and become such a success. Thank you, Chris, for all the work you did.

I was proud to be involved in the scheme along with Joe McKean, who is a marvellous public relations officer for the association and he did an outstanding job at the Open. To all SIGGA members who organised the bunker raking, it was a great exercise carried out by professionals and thanks to all greenkeepers who did the work.

It must have been an experience for the younger members to see what is involved in organising an Open Championship and to Walter Woods, who sweated blood and tears, and his staff, I cannot give enough praise for their work and dedication to the association. Considering it is the greatest golf show in the world, words are hardly

Continued overleaf...

Results

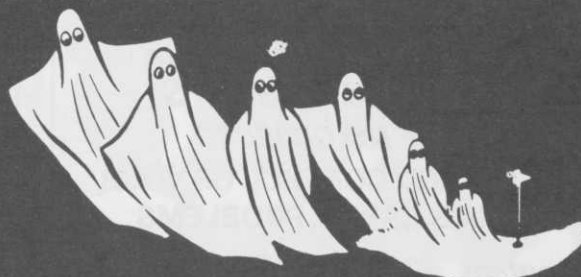
SIGGA Trophy	Scratch Prize	George Hampton (N)	—	71
Ransomes' Trophy	First Class	Walter Woods (C)	75-5	70
	Runner-up	Alistair Connell (W)	77-4	73 (best inward half)
Pattisson Trophy	Second Class	Bill Lyon (C)	82-12	70
	Runner-up	Ian Hamilton (N)	88-16	72
STRI Trophy	Third Class	John Granger (W)	101-23	78
	Runner-Up	Sandy Brown (C)	100-18	82
SAI Trophy	Head Greenkeepers	Alisdair McLaren (N)	72-6	66
Souter of Stirling Trophy	Registered Apprentices	John Urquhart (N)	79-6	73
Friendship Trophy	Best Nett Score	Lindsay Anderson (A)	73-8	65
St Mungo Trophy	Section Winners	North		
Veterans' Prize	—	George Cranna (N)	89-16	73
Life Members	—	Hugh Laurie	82-9	73
Assistants' Prize	—	Stewart Crawford (E)	78-9	69
Trade Golf	—	Robert Bruce (Stewarts)	84-14	70
Trade Putting	—	Duncan McNab (Sports Turf Services)		36

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sufficient to express what Walter did for the association's image. I'll just say thank you Walter and staff.

Last, but not least, our appreciation must be recorded and given to the R&A for providing us with the facilities. I have never known so much hospitality and generosity shown to greenkeepers. I met with greenkeepers, superintendents and course managers from all over the world and the visitors' book will be treasured by SIGGA. We had over 1,000 people call into the tent throughout the week and I was delighted to meet so many greenkeepers with their wives and families, as well as club captains, greens convenors, company directors, trade representatives and golfers.

I thank you all for making the 113th Open Championship a week in which the association gained more recognition from the world of golf and the membership were proud to be associated with the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

J. Neilson—Chairman.

The obituary to Bill Beveridge attributed to Jimmy Kidd in the August issue was, in fact, contributed by Cecil George, course manager at Lenzie Golf Club, Strathclyde.

New Members

Peter Miller, Schwenke Strasse 14A, 4500 Osnabrueck, West Germany

A.R. Walker, 11 Newbigging Drive, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire

Change Of Address

J. Taylor from 4 Coolgardie Green, Westwood, East Kilbride to 1 Burnock Place, Gardenhall, East Kilbride

T. McKenna from Sennelaga, West Germany to Head Greenkeeper, c/o Grim's Dyke GC, Oxhey Lane, Pinner, Middlesex

Determining Your Destiny

Two topics of increasing interest to our profession but, as yet, neglected by the Press and educational authorities are fiscal management practices and staff management techniques, although I believe these subjects are taught in one-week, supervisory-type courses to senior members of golf club greens staff.

I feel that the head greenkeeper's role is evolving into a purely managerial one and more emphasis has to be placed on educating our embryo managers in these subjects from their early years at college. How can we put forward a professional image and argue hard financial facts with golf club management committees when we do not have the benefit of a formal education in these matters?

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professional people who generally comprise golf club committees. Quite a number of clubs have chartered accountants in charge of their books; golf professionals are given a basic training in accountancy, as doubtless are club stewards, but not head greenkeepers. Could this be why we have had to strive in order to proclaim our professional image? Is it that we are at a disadvantage to our colleagues? The effort and pressure most headmen sustain is ten fold, yet we seem to be held in somewhat less esteem.

Impressions, generally, are that convenors are responsible for courses and, in some cases, they are. Some greenkeepers say their ideal would be a permanent greens convenor. I disagree. Such an appointment is, in fact, that of course manager. I feel what is required of us as course managers in dealing with committees, which can sometimes have all the hallmarks of a high court hearing, is the courage of our convictions. We should always speak with dignity and a knowledgeable air. This is very important and what makes us members of a profession as opposed to a trade.

We are answerable at all times to a committee. On a committee, not everyone will agree with you. They are not meant to—people have their own opinions and are entitled to them. Committees are the best way to run clubs, but they must delegate members' wishes as opposed to individual hobbyhorses. At my club, the desire and achievement (I hope) is first-class playing conditions throughout the year with particular emphasis on competitions. Conditions are to generally reflect weather conditions with no great emphasis on holding greens. This is my brief.

To comply, I organise for the greens to be cut before every competition. Fresh holes are cut and all bunkers raked regardless of day, weather, time etc. This undertaken, surely no higher standard of presentation is

possible? The object of the exercise is to serve the membership.

A good greenkeeper may learn a lot by listening to members' opinions, but he must differentiate between constructive and uninformed criticism. An example of the former was when complaints about weeds on pathways resulted in the purchase of a knapsack sprayer and the spraying of herbicides, which meant the end of the problem and a reduction of workload as the job was previously done by hand.

I feel, although it may be unfair, that a lot of colleagues tend to approach the public relations part of our job with an attitude towards golfers of 'what do they know?' and 'just a lot of moaners.' This is certainly prevalent among apprentices. This is very unprofessional.

At most clubs, golfers will certainly tell you when the course is in good condition, so it is to be expected they will inform you when the reverse applies. Members know when conditions are good, they score better. Dealing with members is a great opportunity to display professional ability and knowledge and junior staff should be encouraged to answer members' queries as this reflects well on the club and organisation.

On the subject of staff management, with a younger generation of course managers emerging, someone in their mid-twenties can be in charge of, say, a staff of five, comprising an assistant head, a journeyman, two apprentices and one youth training scheme boy. In many cases, the assistant is an older man resistant to change. It is easy to understand how this can become a volatile situation, particularly as no training is provided to deal with such matters.

Although there will always be natural leaders, if we are to be called course managers, we must first be trained in managerial practices.

Sandy Blacklaw, Course Manager, Crow Wood GC.

Do you see a familiar face?



This photo—from the collection of *Greenkeeper* contributor John Campbell, who is standing on the far right—shows members of SIGGA's north section. It was taken after an annual tournament at Monifieth some 15 years ago.



Chairman's Report

After EIGGA's successful participation in *Golf Course '84*, the board of management has decided to hold EIGGA's own conference in 1985.

The venue will be the University of Warwick and the dates March 22-24 inclusive. We hope that this venue will encourage members from all over the country to attend. For further details, please contact the general administrator.

The board has also been working on ways to improve standards of education throughout greenkeeping and a meeting has been arranged with the principals of several major colleges to discuss ways in which we can liaise towards this end.

The North West branch has been involved in extensive talks on education and credit must go to the branch committee for achieving this.

Still on the subject of education, details of colleges offering both day and block release courses can be obtained from the general administrator.

Head greenkeepers should make sure youngsters in their charge attend these courses and make the case to their committees, for only by education can we achieve the professional image we seek.

In conclusion, I should like to

extend congratulations on behalf of EIGGA to Walter Woods and his staff for the superb condition and presentation of St Andrews for this year's Open. Proof to all that traditional methods in the hands of a true professional like Walter produce results second to none.

Any member living in an area without a branch and wishing to participate in the formation of one can, by contacting us, be put in touch with other members in his area. August saw the reformation of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon branch—enquiries to Derek Smith on Reading (0734) 470815.

Peter Wisbey.

Surrey

The McMillan Tankard was played for recently, courtesy of Sunningdale over the club's famous Old Course—a privilege that was much appreciated by a not surprisingly large turn out.

After an excellent day's golf over a truly magnificent course, the McMillan Tankard was presented to David Jones of Leatherhead GC by Jack McMillan.

Our thanks go to the Sunningdale secretary Mr Almond for his help in arranging this fixture and to the artisan section for the use of its clubhouse and bar facilities.

A series of winter lectures is being drawn up and members will be notified of dates and venues as soon as possible.

Kenny MacNiven.

Not Forgetting The Falklands

One of the latest recruits to EIGGA is Sir Rex Hunt, civil commissioner of the Falkland Islands. A letter from Government House, Stanley to EIGGA general administrator Danielle Jones was accompanied by a £15 cheque for a subscription.

Sir Rex wrote: 'Many thanks for the copy of *Greenkeeper*. I should point out that I scarcely qualify for membership as our golf course here is as the Scots first planned it. We have no proper tees, no proper fairways and no proper greens. My greenkeepers are the sheep, the bunkers are 105mm shell holes and other hazards include barbed wire and old Argentine dug-outs.

'Nevertheless, we live in hope. We have recently acquired a Portakabin for use as a clubhouse, the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Golf Club (with whom we are twinned) has kindly donated some handsome flags and flag poles and, with the help of a roller borrowed from the Royal Engineers and a couple of lawnmowers from Government House, I hope that we shall gradually improve our greens.

'We have plenty of peat mould to put on them and stacks of manure from the sheep. We even have a friendly golf consultant, who is interested in coming here from England and advising us on how to plan the course.'

The diary of a golf course constructor—Continued...

certain bad Press in recent months, it would appear that the courses are getting their act together and nothing seems to inhibit the plans for further projects.

Friday June 22

Return to Bournemouth Airport, which is only a 20 minute drive to the office. This year certainly appears to be one of great change and possible expansion for the company and general interest in leisure activities can only be good for the industry as a whole.

Fellow members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors report a marginal upturn in activities nationally, although it must be regretted that many contracts are still being let to 'muck shifters' and other less-experienced contractors.

You can only hope that the clients do not inherit too many problems, although past experience favours the use of companies with both a good reputation and the expertise to carry out work to the highest standard.

The weather, although a little too dry for the establishment of seed, is

proving ideal on most construction sites but, no doubt, we will receive our fair share of wet weather as the year progresses!

The company has diversified even further over the past two years and is now fully involved in the maintenance of bowling greens, cricket squares and fine turf areas.

We have recently purchased a Verti-Drain, the first machine with the capability to achieve the penetration and compaction easement we have all known has been required, but which has, until now, been almost impossible to achieve. We are offering this out on hire to golf courses and have been very pleased with the response.



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Seeing the wood for the trees

By Cecil George

THE vast majority of golf courses in the UK have a tree or bush of some description somewhere or other. This has always been the case and where we get natural growth of trees they tend to beautify the landscape.

It is well known that birds, animals and wind carry and drop the seeds haphazardly, but although this form of transportation of seeds is most prolific, only a few survive and often in the most unused, untouched, unkempt pieces of ground imaginable.

For all species of trees to germinate, they must have the right pH. The majority of common conifers grow best on acid soil with a pH value between 4.5 and 5.5. If the pH is outside this range and, in particular, if the soil is neutral or alkaline (pH 6.5—7.5) many species will grow badly. Broadleaf trees tolerate soils with much higher lime content than

conifers do and will grow well in soil values up to 7.0. For poplars, a soil with a pH over 5.5 is essential.

This all sounds technical, but the truth is that so many people (especially those associated with golf courses and I *don't* mean greenkeepers) plant young trees of every description without troubling to consult the basic rules on how to establish wooded plantations and shelter belts on a golf course. They just stick them in and hope for the best and when results are not forthcoming, the committee wonders how the course down the road can grow trees and yet they can't.

For simple information about trees, any local branch of the Forestry Commission is only too willing to help. In some cases, they will come and plant the trees. There is a charge for this service.

From experience, I know the pleasure that can be had by walking over your course, admiring trees of great beauty you have planted, tended and coaxed through snow, drought and fire, the last of which can be a plague to any golf club trying to establish a wooded area.

There are always problems establishing wooded areas, not always from vandals or wildlife, but mostly from club members. We all know that no matter how hard any committee strives to enhance or improve the course, each member in turn will find that refinements are detrimental and then we are accused of planting obstacles and making the course more difficult for the high-handicap player!

This is why wooded areas have to

Continued on page 28...

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Seeing the wood for the trees—Continued...

be planted with careful thought and I go back to where I started. Plant your trees out of play, if possible around the perimeter, behind teeing grounds—in places where no golf ball will land! For as sure as fate, if you don't, you will stand accused! Fences should (no, not should, *must*) be erected around young plantations. The rules of golf allow for this and must be applied. Otherwise, you will have members with caddycars traipsing through and over young trees inflicting severe damage in the process.

Even after 20 years of establishment in wooded areas, I can still point out the spots where the average wayward shot lands. These parts of any plantation will not even get off the ground. They will be trampled and run over by the caddycar maniac completely oblivious to the destruction he is wreaking while blindly marching in the direction of his ball. Protective fencing is essential when establishing a wooded area or plantation in the line of play. Notices can be put up, but they're invariably ignored, so fencing becomes all important.

The Victorians and Edwardians were great garden lovers and most of the public parks, landscapes and open spaces of today were created by them and although they did not plant trees on the scale of the Forestry Commission today, they planted them in profusion. The problem was, and still is, if you look at some of the woods planted around 150 years ago, you find a great mixture of broadleaf and conifers that don't seem to

complement each other.

A Forestry Commission spokesman told me that a good percentage of the wood should have been cut down when the trees became established. Those who planted the trees either died or moved on and so we find a fair number of woods with a conglomerate of species that should have been removed once the intended trees were established.

Heritage

Another part of our disappearing heritage is the hawthorn hedge. When I was a boy, the countryside was a maze of these hedges. Their disappearance may be due to the high cost of maintaining them and farmers allowing them to be neglected and die. Often they were removed and replaced with stob and wire fencing which, in comparison, does nothing to beautify the landscape. These old hedges gave shelter to animals and, more important, they housed a large proportion of birds and other wildlife.

The birds, in their turn, carried a wide variety of seeds to their nesting sites and then not only was there hawthorn in the hedgerows, but dog-rose, whin, broom, honey-suckle, brambles and a host of wild flowers and, of course, the odd sycamore, ash, oak, beech, rowan, scattered along the row to make up a beautiful landscape.

Once you get to the stage where you have the protective fencing erected and the areas in tree, then regular maintenance is most important. The young plants, more especially the conifers, must be tramped in, for they are surface-rooted trees and if not properly in the

soil, the roots come to the surface and the tree, as it gets older, can suffer or die during periods of drought. Great care must also be taken to prevent fire.

Fertilisation of the sapling is essential. There are many specially prepared fertilisers for trees and shrubs and one I particularly like is Enmag, which has always given me good results. It has the right balance of NPK and magnesium for my particular course.

Drainage on any course is all important and no tree will grow standing with wet feet. I have actually seen people digging holes, letting them fill with water and then planting trees in the boggy mess. There are certain trees that like water, such as willows, but not too much. So, once you have your plantations in, be kind to your trees and they will thrive.

Golfers must always be taken into consideration for, as much as they admire beauty, they do not want plantations interfering with their game. As I stated earlier, try to plant away from the line of play. I know this is not always possible, as in the case of tree-lined fairways. Unless the trees have established themselves and kill off the undergrowth, you will have to spend a lot of hours just keeping the grass down.

Today, with such aids as growth retarders and regulators, maintenance can be much easier, but I still feel, rightly or wrongly, that inhibitors can also stunt the growth of trees, so great care has to be taken with growth regulators.

Let us not delude ourselves that there is no work entailed in keeping wooded areas. Some committees consider that trees fill in unsightly spots and request that we plant such

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areas, but never consider the employment of extra staff to look after them.

Every greenkeeper with trees on his golf course knows that a certain amount of time and labour is required to look after them properly and that does not take into account leaf sweeping and wind and storm damage, which is always a regular occurrence in the autumn.

But even with all their faults, trees are beautiful and now that we have established our wood, and in spite of everything, we must maintain it.

Conifers, with their beautiful pine aroma, are not as difficult to maintain as broadleaves. Keep them well-trimmed at the bottom. When they reach around eight to ten feet high, remove some of the bottom growth and this will save you a lot of hard work, sore hands and scratched faces. Up to ten feet high, the branches are easily brushed and only a handful of waste has to be burned, but if you wait 20 or so years, as I have just done, it becomes a monumental task and a good deal of burning.

I know that all foresters thin out their woods at about five, six or seven years, but this is not recommended on a golf course. If you plant your trees at intervals of around nine feet you will get good ground cover and if you keep the bottoms clear, there will be no need for thinning.

I always ask myself the question of trees that are in play—are they a benefit or a hindrance to the golfer? If a golf shot does go off line and lands among the trees, then the golfer should be penalised.

I keep the branches of my plantations about six feet high. This makes a full swing impossible, but the chap who is nearer the green can still get a chip and run, or a half wedge shot, provided, of course, there is not a tree between him and the green.

After all, when an off-line ball strikes a tree and lands back on the fairway, you don't get an infuriated golfer telling you what you can do with your trees. The poor old greenkeeper seems to get blamed for everything.

I should have mentioned earlier that the dreaded protective fencing has to come down eventually, but not before you are satisfied that the trees are strong enough to stand the wear and tear of a busy golf course. If you can hold out against your adversaries a little longer about taking down the fence, then do so! The trees will benefit for every year the fence remains. An elaborate fence is not required, just stobs with a single wire or maybe even two wires—one low and one high.

Fact

Conifers live for a long time. As a matter of fact, the widest, tallest and oldest trees in the world are conifers—*Sequoiadendron Giganteum*. The trunk can reach a height of 310ft and the age of many of these trees may be up to between 2,000 and 3,500 years, although it is not possible to be certain since no species has ever died of old age, only as a result of some accident.

The *Sequoia Dendron* and the other giant *Sequoia Sempervirens*, the Coast Red Wood, are both native of California and Oregon. Sequoia commemorates the Cherokee chief and scholar Sequoyah (1770-1843) who devised an alphabet for the Cherokee language.

I don't imagine that we will ever get trees to that height, nor will we put our name to a tree, but we could plant the odd *Sequoia* and, who knows, maybe in 1,000 years someone will wonder who put it there. I am sure that *Sequoia* transplants are available, perhaps through local nurserymen.

Although conifers are large, old and beautiful, don't forget the broadleaves. After all, think of the age of some of our oaks, the lovely candle-like blossoms of the chestnut and there is nothing that adorns the countryside like the horse-chestnut and the red horse-chestnut with its delicate tinge of pink through the blossom. The red horse-chestnut is a hybrid, which arose by crossing with the American Red Buckeye. The flower-spikes of both these chestnuts are a magnificent sight when they open in May. Then there is the Ash with its lovely hanging bunch of keys. Ash fruits are so called because each seed, with its attached wing, has the outline of an old-fashioned key used for opening doors or chests.

The Sycamore is, in every respect, a typical Maple, but it was called a Sycamore when it was first brought to England for it was thought to be *Sycomorus* or Fig Mulberry as mentioned in the Bible. In Scotland, it was thought to be a Plane tree of the genus *Platanus* and both tree and timber are still called 'Plane' in Scotland. What child does not know the seed, or samarra of the Sycamore? We used to call them 'whirlygigs' due to the way they fall from the tree, spinning round like the rotor blades of a helicopter.

Where can you go in Scotland without seeing the lovely Silver Birch, a delicate tree with its characteristic drooping habit? It is said the Romans brought the Common Lime over and most of the places where 'lime' comes into a name is where they planted them. In July, the fragrance of the lime is really beautiful and it has a great attraction for bees during the summer.

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Applicants should apply in writing, giving details of prior experience, salary scales and the names of two referees to:-

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HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess a sound knowledge of modern turf management techniques preferably with links course experience. Thorough knowledge of the use of maintenance machinery and the ability to direct and motivate staff.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Application Form available from:

**The Secretary,
West Lancashire Golf Club,
Hall Road West,
Blundellsands,
Liverpool, L23 8SZ**

SOUTHERNDOWN GOLF CLUB

Mid-Glamorgan

invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

from persons of proven ability and experience in golf course maintenance of an 18-hole championship downland/links type course. Salary circa £10,000. No accommodation available.

Apply in writing stating age and experience to:

**The Secretary,
Southerndown Golf Club,
Ewenny,
near Bridgend,
Mid-Glamorgan.**

Closing date for applications 30th October.

SHANKLIN & SANDOWN GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Commencing early Spring 1985. Must have sound knowledge of all aspects of greenkeeping and machinery maintenance. Salary negotiable. No accommodation. Please apply in writing giving age, full details and present salary to:-

*The Secretary,
Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club,
The Fairway, Lake,
Sandown,
Isle of Wight.*