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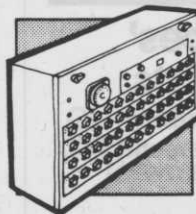
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North West

The North West branch recently enjoyed a visit to Royal Birkdale, scene of the 1983 Open. We were welcomed by head greenkeeper Tom O'Brien who showed us around his sheds and workshops. Particular attention was paid to the complex irrigation system, which made one or two of us quite jealous!

We then walked the course. Split into small groups and discussing various points, we thus realised the purpose of the trip. I would like to thank Tom and also the secretary and committee of Royal Birkdale.

I would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating Walter Woods, links supervisor of the St Andrews Golf Courses, on the supreme—and traditional—condition of the Old Course for the Open. One

look at the greens was an education into what we should all be aiming for.

Thanks also to Joe McKean, general secretary of SIGGA, for the hospitality he and his members extended to me during my stay at St Andrews. The SIGGA tent was a tremendous success with plenty of interesting events taking place and providing a welcome shelter for weary greenkeepers. Let's hope EIGGA can reciprocate at Royal St George's in 1985.

The autumn tournament takes place at Wrexham GC on Monday September 17. All entries to T.Adamson, 26 Ffordd Gryfydd, Llay, Wrexham, Clwyd.

Andrew Campbell.

S.Schmitz (Ellesborough) finishing second and third.

Our thanks go to Cyril Hammond, secretary of Burnham Beeches, and his staff for an excellent course and to the catering staff for a most satisfying meal.

Officers elected are chairman—M.McMillan (Badgemore Park), vice-chairman—J.Brearley (Southfields), branch administrator—Derek Smith (Maxwell Hart) and golf administrator—E.McCabe (Calcot Park).

Any new members or old members wishing to join or rejoin are asked to contact Derek Smith at 22 Wincroft Road, Caversham, Berks. ☎ Reading 470815.

Derek Smith.

Berks, Bucks And Oxon

The branch was re-formed at a meeting on August 1 at Burnham Beeches Golf Club. An 18-hole Stableford was contested by 30. First prize went to P. Knight (Calcot Park) with M.Haring (Stoke Poges) and

London

Well, what a drought. I'm glad they haven't rationed water—whisky isn't the same without it!

It's been a busy time lately and the following events have also been organised. The autumn meeting is on

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September 25 at Porters Park—8am for 8.30, please; dinner-dance at the Post House Hotel in November—the date will be announced next month; one-day seminar at Moor Park on November 28. The theme will be golf course maintenance and construction.

A good turn-out would be appreciated at all these venues.

Speaking of good turn-outs, some 50 greenkeepers and guests enjoyed a marvellous evening's golf at Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club on July 27. Many thanks to Hartsbourne's committee for use of the course, which improves in condition every year—just like Tom's golf! Many thanks also to his wife for serving so many with a most excellent supper.

As always, these occasions take a lot of organising. Thankfully, we have two men more than capable in David Low and Michael Peters.

Thanks also to Parkers and particularly Alan Moffat for providing a lovely barbeque for the first prize, which was won by Dave Merrills and to Hartsbourne for again donating generously to the prize fund. The other winners were J. Whitely, T. Low and P. Wicks and A. Low (guest).

In keeping with EIGGA's policy for education by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, it was with great

interest and enjoyment that all present listened to Michael Peters' talk on how he manages his course. Let's have some volunteers for next year please! Look forward to seeing you all at Porters Park. Remember to return your form!

David MacIndoe.

Sussex

Thank you Holtye Golf Club for hosting one of our evening games. Thanks also to Bob Tingey for preparing the course—it was in excellent condition. We also extend our thanks to the captain and all the club's members. Finally, thanks to Ted's wife for another wonderful meal. I do not know how she does it!

The July evening game was held at Tilgate Forest with the best score coming from Dick Bull. Again, thanks to all the staff and the club for use of the facilities.

The annual match between the Sussex and Surrey branches took place recently at Tyrrells Wood. For the second year, the Surrey lads retained the tankard—well done. It is a match we all look forward to and we

will be hoping to put our name on the tankard next year!

The Surrey branch kindly invited us to play in the McMillan Trophy at Sunningdale. The event was played over the Old Course and for those of you who have never visited Sunningdale, it is a must. The course is magnificent and tribute must be paid to Jack McMillan—the master craftsman of his chosen profession.

Do not forget the autumn tournament, which is to be held at Rowlands Castle on September 25.

A one-day seminar is being arranged for November at Plumpton Agricultural College. Members will be notified of the speakers and date in the next issue.

Plumpton's courses starting in October are Phase I, Greenkeeping—Phase II and Enterprise Management—Phase III (all day-release). Also, Greenkeeping—Phase II is being offered for the first time at Plumpton in block-release for those further afield.

I would like to welcome Paul Wright to Dale Hill and wish him well in his new post. Paul is now the head greenkeeper. He moves from the RAC where he was first assistant.

Clive Dryden.

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SIGGA At The Open

St Andrews was the place and July the month when SIGGA advertised itself in a big way for the first time at an Open Championship. We set up a hospitality tent in the tented village complex at St Andrews and this proved a huge success. Over a thousand names appear in the visitors' book and it was a great pleasure to greet so many club officials, visitors from overseas, agronomists and course architects, friends from the BGGGA and EIGGA (although fewer than we had hoped for), our supporters in the trade and so many of our members.

We feel the object of the exercise—namely, establishing a meeting place for a lot of people involved in the fine turf industry—was achieved.

In addition, groups of greenkeepers from the five sections of SIGGA came to St Andrews by bus and car each day and took over the duties of bunker raking from 1pm until the close of play from Walter Woods' permanent staff. In return, the R&A gave them free admission to the Open and provided them with a luncheon voucher and car park ticket. This was a most generous gesture by the R&A and greatly appreciated by SIGGA.

Our vice-president Walter Woods did a tremendous job for SIGGA in his negotiations with the R&A and his Links Management Committee. Hopefully, we can build on this year's experience and continue to be represented at the Open each year.

I would like to express my thanks to Jimmy Neilson,

president of SIGGA, for the great job he did as the front man who received all the visitors and made them feel most welcome.

I must also say thanks to Dick Duggan of Glencorse, John Crawford of Dunfermline, Elliot Small and all the others who took their turn at the table, making sure that everyone signed the visitors' book. Cecil George, Chris Kennedy, Jimmy Paton of West Kilbride and Alistair Connell organised the bunker raking duties to perfection and ran around all week ensuring that everything possible was done to make 'St Andrews '84' a success.

Finally, well done to all SIGGA members who came to St Andrews. Through their presence and support, we achieved our objective.



Learning from the past... Continued

was the fact that the Greenkeeper Training Scheme made no provisions whatsoever for the further training of greenkeepers to become head greenkeepers or course managers that condemned it from birth. I don't know of any job in which you can move into a position of management without training.

EIGGA has made a useful start with a management course and, indeed, skills in finance, budgetting, ordering and managing staff are essential. But it is the implementation of policy that is so vital. It is the making of daily judgments regarding the timing, degree and arrangement of mechanical and chemical factors that is so difficult. Golfers and golf clubs have failed totally to recognise these considerable skills. Yet it is this difficulty of implementation, in the context of changing natural conditions and pressures of play, that

has led to such mixed success by different clubs—perhaps even using the same agronomist for advice on setting policy.

We are back to the need for a knowledge of botany, plant ecology and soil science, which enables practical judgment to be soundly based. Once more, we must move on two parallel tracks. Others, more qualified than I, will no doubt draw up a syllabus for college education in the future.

I am more concerned about the present and will come straight out and say that I believe it would not be too difficult to equip the aspiring course manager (or those already in such posts) with enough basic knowledge to make the job both easier and more satisfying. And also to argue successfully with golfers and committees who base their demands on unsound scientific grounds.

During last winter, I spent some time weekly with our own staff discussing these topics and setting some reading in between. I have been encouraged to see that when we now discuss work programmes, their contribution and confidence has improved markedly. This whole subject of basic sciences in relation to greenkeeping is so important I will return to it again.

Many people are now taking more interest in golf-course maintenance. This is the opportunity to ensure that a proper structure for the future is set up, but with due regard for the present. As to status, I think that subject would then seem less important. Skilled men with adequate basic knowledge to back their skills will always receive proper recognition.

Marshall Concessionaires' Qualifying Tournament

The Marshall Concessionaires' qualifying tournament for SIGGA members was held at Cawder Golf Course, Bishopbriggs, near Glasgow in June. Fifty took part and the six who qualified to go forward to the finals in England later this year are Jim Grainger (Largs GC), Steven Hogg (Cawder GC), Alan Clark (Ballochmyle GC), Alan Purdie (Broomieknowe GC), Ian McLeod (Tain GC) and Ian Galbraith (Hilton Park GC).

SIGGA would like to thank Malcolm Clark, managing director of Autogarden (Glasgow), for providing all the hospitality for players and officials and also for donating six beautiful prizes. Alistair Connell, course manager at Cawder, presented an excellent golf course. We wish all the qualifiers every success.

Joe McKean.

Jimmy Kidd has been appointed estates manager of Gleneagles Hotels. Jimmy joined Gleneagles in March 1983. In his new position, he will be responsible directly to the general manager Peter Lederer for all aspects of golf-course maintenance, gardens, landscaping, and all projects related to the 610 acres of Gleneagles Hotel. Jimmy can be contacted on 07646 2231 (ext 4364) or 07646 2879 (home).

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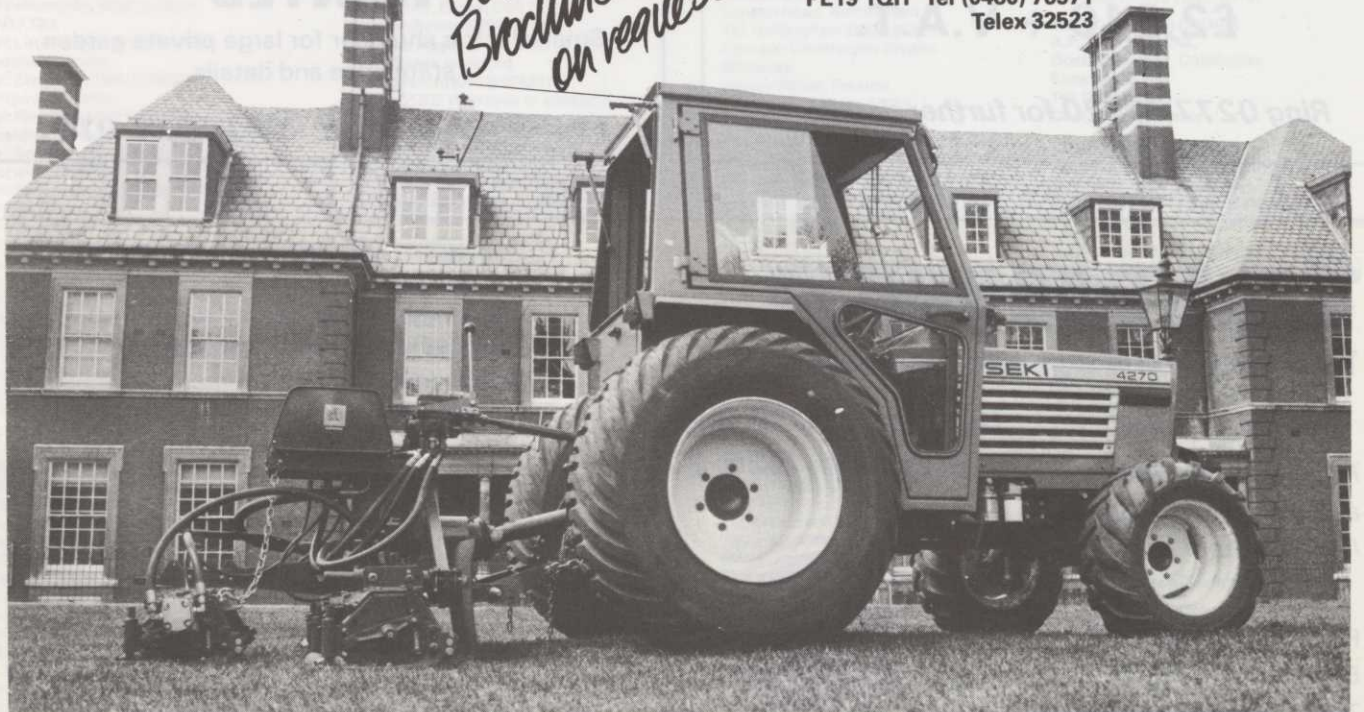
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Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SD
Tel: Ringwood (042 54) 6261

Watermaton Ltd.,
Monument Way E., Woking,
Surrey, GU21 5LY
Tel: Woking 70303 Telex: 859224

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

J.S. Bishop & Co. Ltd.,
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Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks,
SL6 0NY Tel: 06286 4444

LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILISER

Farmura Ltd.,
Stone Hill, Egerton,
Nr. Ashford, Kent
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MOWERS (SALES, SERVICE, SPARES)

Parker & Ballinger Ltd.,
71, Hill Village Road,
Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands, B75 5BH
Tel: 021 308 6888

JACOBSEN NATIONAL DEALERS

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Hampshire SO5 0GR
Tel: (0794) 41144. Telex: 477341

Achurch & Sons (Horncastle) Ltd.,
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Horncastle (06582) 3441

Anglia Grasscutting Machinery Ltd.,
Suffolk & Norwich,
Lowestoft (0502) 65811/68668

Bristol Garden Machinery Ltd.,
Bristol, N. Wilts, Glos, Cornwall,
Bristol (0272) 719361

Club Mower Services,
Herts, Beds, & North London Borough,
Luton (0582) 841040

CNS Mowers,
Norfolk,
Hunstanton (048526) 234

Ellesmere AG,
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Worcs, W. Midlands, N. Powys, Staffs,
Oswestry (0691) 657232

Fletcher - Stewart (Stockport) Ltd.,
Cheshire & Greater Manchester & Wirral,
Stockport (061 483) 5542

Fulborn Garden Machinery Ltd.,
Cams,
Fulborn (0223) 880762

Ground Control Equipment
Co. Durham, Teeside,
Darlington (0325) 55946

Henry Kelland Ltd.,
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Old Forge Engineering Ltd.,
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Ingatesone (0277) 353611

Marshall Concessionaires (Retail) Ltd.,
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W. Sussex, S.W. Wilts,
Romsey (0794) 513185

Paul Seward & Co. Ltd.,
N. Yorkshire, W. Yorkshire,
York (0904) 704121

Sandas Mower Services,
S. Yorkshire,
Sheffield (0904) 704121

Waycott Bros. Ltd.,
Gwent & Dyfed & S. Powys,
Newport (0633) 612072

John Wilder (Agricultrual) Ltd.,
Oxon & Berks,
Wallingford (0491) 35595

Shanks Mowers Croyden,
Surrey, S. Kent, E. Sussex,
(01) 7714811

RANSOMES DISTRIBUTORS

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London Road, Nottingham,
Tel: Nottingham (0602) 862161
Contact: Christopher Bryden

Wilcocks,
Walker Street, Preston,
Lancs, Tel: Preston 53068

D. Rowe & Co. Ltd.,
The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex,
PO19 4JW Tel: (0243) 788100 Telex: 86110
Contact: Mr. D. Strange/Mr. J.E. Burfoot.

SAND

Martin Bros. Ltd.,
1A, Clifton Street,
Alderley Edge, Cheshire,
SK9 7NN
Tel: Alderley Edge (0625) 584571/2
Contact: Nick Gray

SANDSLITTING

L.D. Bourgein Oxford Ltd.,
South Hinksey, Oxford,
OX1 5AZ
Tel: (0865) 735420 Telex: 83147

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Barlow Tyrie Limited,
Springwood Industrial Estate,
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Telex: 98173
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Foundry Lane, Chippenham,
Wiltshire
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Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SEMI MATURE TREE PLANTING

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SEMI MATURE TREE PLANTING (EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE)

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

Evers & Wall Ltd.,
Hardi Division, St. George's Way,
Burmuda Industrial Estate,
Nuneaton,
CV10 7QT
Tel: Nuneaton (0203) 37 2054
Telex: 312426
Contact: Mr. W. Hayward

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Ned Johnson & Co. Ltd.,
163/7, Gilbalt Street,
Sheffield, S38UF
Tel: 0742 29508/9/0
(Link Matting)

The Charles Lawrence Group Ltd.,
153a, Farndon Road,
Newark, NG24 4SP
Tel: 0636 76218 Telex: 37668
(Synthetic Grass Backed Rubber)

Clan Marketing Company,
Milton House,
Loddington Kettering,
Northants, NN14 1JZ
Tel: 0536 710328
(Heavy Duty)

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Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

Notcutts Nurseries Ltd.,
Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
Tel: 03943 3344
(Incorporating Waterers Nurseries,
Bagshot, Surrey)

TREE TIES AND TREE GUARDS

J. Toms Ltd.,
Wheeler Street, Headcorn,
Ashford, Kent
Tel: Headcorn (0622) 891111

TRENCHERS

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OX1 5AZ
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Pan Engineering Co. Ltd.,
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Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 4YF
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Worth Draining,
Cornbecks, Irnham, Corby Glen,
Grantham, Lincs.
Tel: (047684) 266

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd.,
27 Vicarage Road,
Verwood,
Dorset, BH21 6DR
Tel: 0202 822372