



Ransomes stand.



Walter Woods at the lecturn.

attention paid to both of us, I felt we accomplished all we set out to do.

We were both encouraged greatly by the support from the 'classic' clubs in the British Isles, such as Turnberry, Troon, Royal St George's, Wentworth and others, whose superintendents and committee members contributed information and transparencies.

After our sessions were complete, it was time to take in the show. The GCSAA projection was for some 80,000 square feet of exhibits, which was extended later to 91,000 square feet, and more than 250 companies in attendance represented by some 2,000 top management and marketing personnel.

Three days were needed to cover the entire range of exhibits. The irrigation companies, whose

equipment—with the advent of printed circuits and micro-computers—has reached the stage of high sophistication needed to cope with the intricate programming necessary in the sun belts of America to prevent wilt, did good business.

Some of the financial problems of our clubs could, it would appear, be solved by a golf car fleet, which is big business in the USA with new shapes resembling modern cars and claiming "streamlining at 15mph."

One of the exhibits that attracted great attention at all times was the very best of British—our good friends Ransomes. Buying a company in the States called Wisconsin Marine has led to a goodly share of the grass-cutting market. Our friends in the States know a good company when they see one. We wish them

the best of luck.

Tuesday evening was taken up with the conference banquet and an unbelievable 1,250 people in the Sheraton Hotel Ballroom to hear retiring president Jas Timmerman confer the prestigious Tom Morris Award for services to golf on past US president Gerald Ford. His response to the award was most humble and his remarks a credit to his golfing partner Bob Hope. In fact, it appeared as if Hope had written the speech, such was the humour of it.

When the 1985 GCSAA conference and show closed, the expected relief from the organisers was tinged with regret. They live and breathe the GCSAA and its showpiece and are now looking forward to 1986 and San Francisco.

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## Berks, Bucks and Oxon

Since taking up the chairmanship in August, I would be the first to admit we have had some problems. First, communication to branch members has been poor, but I can assure you

every effort is being made to see this will not be the case in future.

There have been some problems regarding subscriptions—if any member has paid his sub for the year and not received a new membership card, please contact the general administrator on 0473 711810 or me on Henley 578147.

The branch AGM was held at Goring and Streatley GC. I thank all members who attended on what was a cold winter's night. It was agreed that the present committee would be re-elected. Since, D.Smith has left EIGGA and the committee has co-

opted others to serve and help get the B, B & O going.

Presently, committee members are W.McMillan (chairman), J.Brearley (vice-chairman), S.Schmitz (secretary), E.McCabe (golf administrator), E.Valentine (treasurer) and A.Collis.

Ed McCabe is working hard to organise some golf outings, so we can all look forward to playing soon. We are also discussing the possibility of arranging some lectures for next winter.

I would like to think that 1985 will be the year the B, B & O gets on its feet and becomes one of the most healthy and friendly sections of EIGGA, but please appreciate that the branch is only as good as the support members give it.

Belatedly, I wish you all success in 1985 and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

*W.McMillan.*

## ITS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

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**Tel.: 041-427-4701**

**E.I.G.G.A.**  
**Danielle Jones,**  
**General Administrator,**  
**2 Golf Cottage,**  
**Bucklesham,**  
**Ipswich,**  
**Suffolk.**  
**Tel.: 0473 711810**

## London

The AGM of the London branch was held at Aldenham. Tom Low (Hartsbourne) was confirmed as chairman in succession to David MacIndoe and Chris Greenwood (Muswell Hill) was elected to join the present committee of Mike Peters, Tom McDonald, Derek Mason and David Low (branch administrator).

The meeting was lively and constructive and followed by a buffet lunch. As usual, the food served by the Aldenham catering manager Martin and his staff was excellent.

In the evening, we listened to two very interesting talks. Our thanks go to Jon Allbutt of Synchemicals for his talk on the Safe And Effective Use Of Chemicals. The evening was concluded by John Linaker, secretary of Moor Park, who made us aware of the economics and organisation involved in running the world-famous club. Tom Low described Mr Linaker as being to the secretaries what Jim Arthur is to greenkeepers.

The spring tournament will take place at Aldenham on April 23, teeing off at 2.00pm. An evening outing will be held at Hartsbourne on July 5, starting at 4.30pm. Those wishing to participate should contact me on 01-950 4270 as meals cannot be guaranteed if not requested beforehand.

Any EIGGA members living in

*Continued on page 16...*



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## The Learning Process Goes On

A recent head greenkeepers' supervisory course at Elmwood College, Fife, attracted 23 students. Organised by the college and supported by SIGGA, three students travelled up from England, while another came from the Channel Islands to attend.

A varied programme was offered, ranging from the role of a supervisor, health and safety, conditions of employment, report writing and budgetting to public speaking, which doesn't come easy, but can be mastered with practice.

As might be expected, not all the subjects offered met with complete approval, but it's a fact that something appearing irrelevant at the time can prove useful later on. However, we are waiting for written comments from students and these will be taken into account when preparing next year's programme.

SIGGA feels that this type of course is extremely useful and will continue its involvement.

*Joe McKean,  
SIGGA General Secretary.*

## The 1985 Kubota Golf Challenge



This year's Kubota event takes place at The Belfry on October 17-18. It is now a four-cornered match with a team from The Association of Golf Writers entering the fray. Each association is responsible for selecting eight players. The timetable is:

### Thursday October 17

Arrive at midday; practice round, 1pm; team photos, 5.30pm; cocktails, 7pm and dinner at 7.30pm.

### Friday October 18

Breakfast at 7pm; semi-finals, 8am-9am; buffet lunch, midday-2pm; final and third-place play-off; 1pm-2pm; cocktails, 7pm and dinner/prize-giving at 7.30pm. Departure is after breakfast on Saturday.

## Central

A one-day seminar was held at Dunfermline GC recently and, due to tremendous interest, a limit of 130 had to be put on the number of places available.

A good cross-section of greenkeepers and club officials was in attendance when Dr Peter Hayes, David Boocock, Roy Woolhouse and

Gordon Macadam of the STRI gave an insight into the many aspects of golf course work. This was followed by a lively question and answer session. Thanks go to the STRI for providing such excellent speakers and to Dunfermline GC for the use of its clubhouse.

*John Crawford,  
Section Secretary, 1 Katrine Drive,  
Crossford, Dunfermline KY12 8XR.*

## EIGGA News & Views Continued...

Hertfordshire, Middlesex and north and west London who have not been notified about events in the area should contact me so that I can check the mailing list.

*David Low.*

### East Anglia

People on the move lately include Dick Scott, who left Cottessey Park to go to Thorpness and then left Thorpness. Mick Clark has been promoted

to head greenkeeper at Gorleston—we wish him well.

Congratulations to Dave Jones are in order for the first part of the Diary of A Greenkeeper (January/February). I thought it was first-class—even I could understand it!

Diary dates for this year's golfing events include: May 15—Bungay (if the clubhouse is finished); June 19—Newmarket; August 6—Cambridge Hotel; September 6—Purdis Heath and October 16—Maylands (to be confirmed).

*M. Lathorpe.*

### North West

Heswall Golf Club was the venue for a talk by Nick Park on Greenkeeping And How It Affects The Golfer, which was illustrated by some fine slides of historic golf courses.

The 73 members and guests enjoyed a question and answer session with Nick and Eddie Park. My thanks go to both speakers who travelled from Sheffield to provide a memorable evening. Thanks also go to the captain and council of Heswall GC for use of the clubhouse.

*Bill Lawson.*



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## Let's Get The Priorities Right

It seems a pity that the EIGGA and SIGGA pages in *Greenkeeper* are devoted solely to branch news. There are no 'views' to mention. Is this due to a lack of material perhaps?

I offer some thoughts on technical greenkeeper education as a follow-up to Jim Arthur's article on this subject in the November/December issue and Peter Wisbey's comments in October's *Out On The Course*.

Providing an opportunity for greenkeeper training at college is one of several benefits that can come out of sound management—staff relationships, staff accommodation, wage scales, clothing allowances and priority to course machinery and maintenance in club budgets are others.

Golf club committees run businesses; they are not likely to give continued preferential treatment to the workforce unless they consider such a policy a worthwhile investment.

Those responsible for a club's financial security and standing will always value and respect good greenkeepers who work together,

efficiently and conscientiously and keep open channels of communication with club officers.

The head greenkeeper/course manager can only act as a representative for the interests of all his staff if each member contributes to the team effort and approach by pulling his weight, standing independent on occasions and giving feedback to the head man.

So, let's all be prepared to promote ourselves and our profession. Only by this means can we and greenkeeping as an applied science have a secure future.

*David Merrills, Porters Park GC, Herts.*

## Shades Of The Past

Let me take you back to the beginning of the century with a few extracts from a club handbook that may be of interest. 'The letting of grazing for the season (1919) was considered by the committee and it was agreed that the greenkeeper should have the let for the season for the sum of £24.' Very cunning those old greenkeepers! As well as keeping the grass short, it was

fertilised at the same time and there was a plentiful supply of mutton for the winter.

Forget your modern grass-cutting equipment. For £30, the greenkeeper found a horse suitable for grass cutting. Presumably, it pulled a gang mower! A horse had a two-fold use, as it produced a ready-made supply of organic material to help make compost. At the end of the season, the farmer would buy the horse back from the club for £20.

There was no problem conveying sand and other material around the course as the greenkeeper purchased a secondhand wheelbarrow.

A number of golf clubs employed scythe gangs twice yearly to cut the grass. Golfers of old accepted vastly different conditions to their counterparts today—long grass and firm greens to name but two. But they adapted to the conditions and adjusted their shot-making accordingly.

As we approach the latter part of the century, things have certainly changed with machinery, fertilisers, watering systems, etc, etc. But have these modern inventions made our jobs any easier or more enjoyable?

*Jim Grainger, Ayrshire.*

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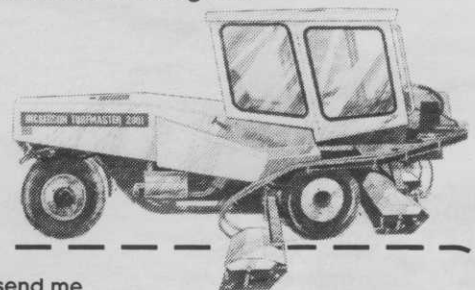
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