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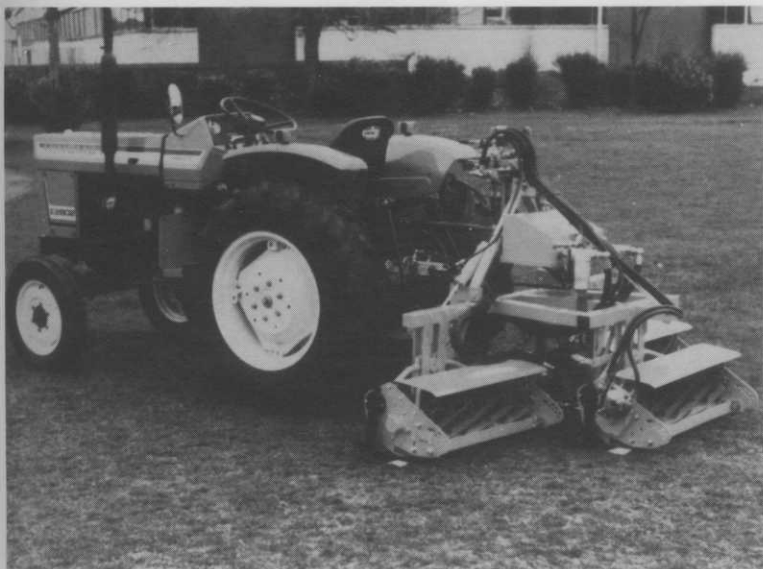
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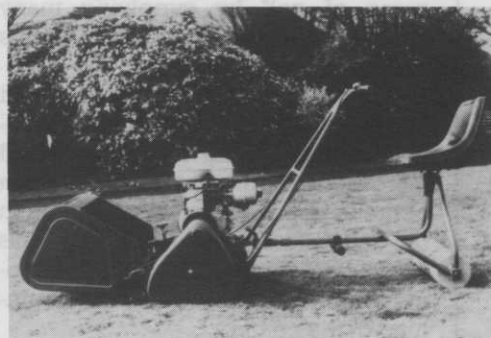
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Stewarts of Edinburgh

Still going strong

THE name of Stewart & Co, Edinburgh has long been respected by golf club officials and greenkeepers in the UK and overseas. The company was founded in the autumn of 1894 when premises were established close to Edinburgh Castle, which became the company's trademark with the motto Stronghold. In those days, much of Stewart's business consisted of supplying seeds and plants to farmers, estate gardens and horticulturists. The company originally traded under the name of Low & Stewart, then in 1899 Low left the firm and J.C. Stewart, son of an East Lothian farmer was joined by John Lockhart Forbes, a keen golfer and international rugby player.

As trade expanded, the company started to supply sports clubs, schools and universities. The first golf club customer was Luffness, situated in the heart of East Lothian—Scotland's 'holy land' of golf. Subsequently, the company has always been linked with the game of golf by supplying many course requisites to all the famous clubs.

Stronghold Grass Manure and Grass Seed Mixtures became household names among turf experts and the greenkeeping fraternity. Mention of these popular mixtures appears in the golf historian Horace Hutchinson's book *Golf Greens And Greenkeeping*, which was published at the beginning of the century.

Stewarts have always maintained a genuine interest in the lot of the greenkeeper and, in 1902, they helped to organise the first outing of the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers, the acting secretary of which was J.L. Forbes. As the interest in golf increased, so did the reputation of Stewart's and their first customer south of the border was Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club in 1904. The same year also marked the start of a long connection



A vintage view of Royal Dornoch—'Sown with Stewart's Stronghold grasses—an early sales brochure declared.

with the courses at St Andrews, which has continued ever since, and exhibiting at the Open Golf Championship. The 1904 Open was at Royal St George's—another customer. By this time, Stewart's reputation had extended to France and the Continent, where they were involved in a number of new golf courses.

Eventually, the firm moved to South Saint Andrew Street, where it remained for 65 years. A construction department was also set up by Stewart's and they began building golf courses, such as the East Course, North Berwick, and playing fields for Glasgow Academicals, near Anniesland on the outskirts of Glasgow, but all this finished in August 1914 as war loomed.

Stewart's signed their last pre-war contract in July with Granton Golf Club to build a new course by the sea on the north side of Edinburgh. A month later, the club secretary optimistically wrote to delay the start until 1915, "when the war was bound to be over." The course was never built and is now the site of a housing estate.

The outbreak of the First World

War brought all Stewart's Sportsturf activities to a halt and the firm had to rely on its farm, market garden and private estate connections to keep going. Unfortunately, many of the company's records of this period were lost when the top floor of their premises was requisitioned between 1939-45 as a fire service post.

When the First World War was over, Stewart's resumed their Sportsturf business and, soon after, they had built up an extensive connection with virtually every Open Championship venue and most of the major clubs, as well as a host of bowling greens, cricket and sports clubs.

In 1939, Stewart's formed a limited company and John Macadam joined the board. Once again, their Sportsturf business came to a standstill at the beginning of World War Two. In spite of staff and material shortages, the firm survived. When the war was over, they were back in business, although the difficulties of obtaining supplies of seed, fertiliser and other items through restrictions lasted for some time.

Stewart's were one of the first com-



Stewart's new premises at Dalkeith.

panies to offer a contract spraying service of selective weedkillers on golf courses and playing fields, which was much in demand. They designed special machines constructed like gang mowers to be towed by tractors and carry out this work on undulating ground.

The company also established a turf nursery at Archerfield, East Lothian on light sandy soil where they grew special turf from seed, a project which the firm carried on for a number of years. Stewarts are now distributors of Rolawn Turf in Scotland.

Stewarts have also given tremendous service to the sportsturf industry in voluntary and honorary capacities. The company has provided two presidents of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and also two vice-presidents, and two vice-presidents of SIGGA. For many years, five of their staff have given lectures to greenkeepers' and groundsmen's associations, as well as horticultural societies. Two personnel have regularly taken part in BBC radio programmes and one has appeared on TV. Stewarts also provided a lecturer for the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden training course on turf culture. And two members of the staff have been awarded the Scottish Horticultural Medal.

In 1958, Bill Pender, one of the company's most popular representatives, joined Stewarts as technical representative and, in 1973, J.I. Stewart, son of the founder, retired from the company and so ended the connection with the family that had lasted for almost 80 years.

In addition to fertilisers and grass seed mixtures, Stewarts introduced many products for the benefit of greenkeepers and groundsmen. Among the most popular were nylon golf flags, fibreglass flagpins and the St Andrews Turf Switch. In addition to



Graeme Forbes.

this, they had the manufacturing rights for the Comb-It grass comb and the Stronghold electric shoe cleaner.

With the enlargement of the company's activities and the influence of the changing conditions of business, Stewarts decided to move from the centre of Edinburgh to an industrial site at Dalkeith on the boundaries of Mid and East Lothian, where a new factory and warehouse of 20,000 square feet was built. In addition,



Ian Forbes.

there are large areas for material storage required in manufacturing and space for expansion.

The move prompted a major expansion of the sales force. In 1976, Neil Macdonald joined the company. Neil is responsible for the north/east of Scotland and also carries on Stewarts' traditional advisory service. At present, he is acting as consultant to a construction project in Spain.

The death of Bill Pender in 1978 was a great loss to the company and to his many friends in greenkeeping. The company also lost their London agent the following year, but Mr Bithray has proved an excellent successor. In 1978, they also commenced the construction of a new compost plant and the conversion of the company's offices to a computerised system.

In 1981, Ken Waddell became field sales manager with special responsibilities for public authorities. Robert Bruce joined the firm and is now technical sales rep in the west and Alan Miller has taken over the south east of Scotland and north of England. The logistics are capably handled by Robin Davidson, who is a familiar face to most greenkeepers and groundsmen.

Stewarts have proudly completed 90 years of service to sport with major emphasis on turf culture for recreation and amenity purposes. At the moment, they are developing some new projects for the supply and installation of artificial surfaces.

The chairman is Ian Forbes, son of J.L. Forbes, and Graeme D. Forbes as managing director is the third generation to serve the company. Appropriately, the founders' original motto has proved a successful trademark, for Stewarts have maintained a 'Stronghold' in the grass roots of the sports and recreation industry and will hopefully continue to do so well into the next century.

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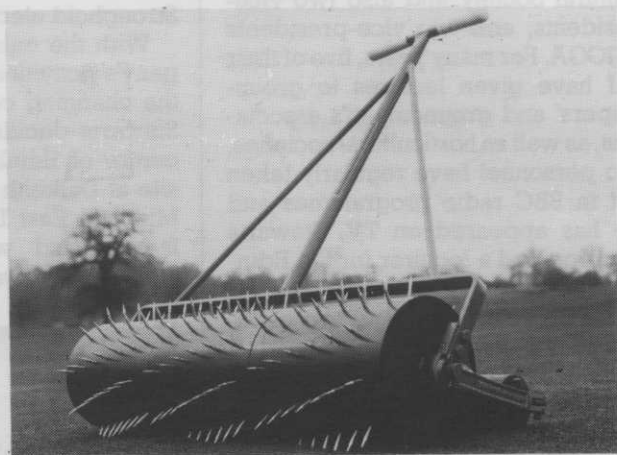


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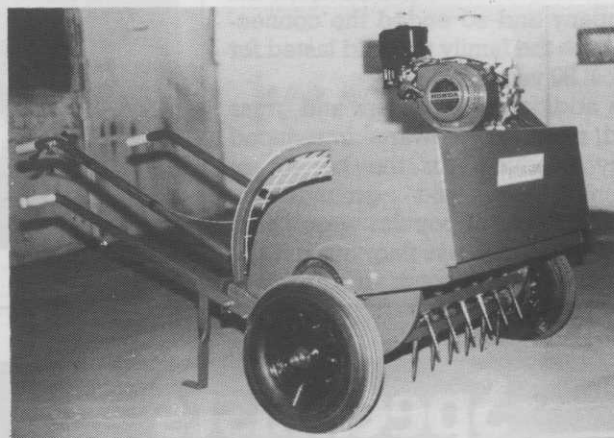
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Chairman's message

As my year of EIGGA chairmanship draws to a close, I would like to make some observations about our industry in general and EIGGA in particular.

First, I should like to say what an honour it has been for me to have served as chairman since my election at Cambridge. I have greatly enjoyed meeting people from this and other countries who share the same interests and ideals.

EIGGA has, in its first two years, come a long way—perhaps not as far as some would have liked, but things take time.

Looking at education, EIGGA is now represented on the GTC (Greenkeeper Training Committee) along with SIGGA, the BGGGA, the secretaries' association, national golf unions, Bingley and Jim Arthur. The aims of the GTC are to check on the content of courses on offer, discussing with the tutors what greenkeepers feel is right or wrong and to ensure that they are run on the right lines.

The involvement of the golf unions is extremely important, as it has become obvious that, in many cases, golf clubs do not wish to educate their staff. The reasons behind this attitude are many but, with the support of the golf unions, we will have a stronger voice. After all, better education will have many benefits, most obviously the improved condition of the courses.

This brings me to the standing of greenkeepers in golf. EIGGA was formed to present a much more professional image, both in education and appearance. The latter has, undoubtedly, been achieved. The new blazers and ties mark our members as the smartest in the country and this has brought favourable comment from many quarters.

Education, as I have said, is moving along the lines we wish to see, coupled with the various diplomas offered by EIGGA. It should be noted that some colleges are offering a phase three City and Guilds course in management, covering all aspects of golf course management. However, I feel it must be said that greenkeepers can be, and frequently are, their own worst enemies. Many seeking more rewards from their chosen career are not prepared to help themselves.

How can we expect others to take us seriously when we do not take ourselves as such? There are several

Election Of National Officers

Nominations have been received for the undermentioned offices, which will be ratified at the association's AGM on Sunday March 24 during the annual conference at Warwick University.

President—Dennis Ayling (presently vice-president), nominated by Sussex.

Vice-president—David Jones, nominated by north west.

Trustee—Kevin Munt, nominated by the board of management.

thousand greenkeepers in this country today—how many belong to an association? Far and away the minority.

Apathy is our worst enemy. I'm not quite sure how we deal with this, but deal with it we must to achieve our

goals. Ask yourself: "What do I want from greenkeeping?" If you consider it a 40 hours a week job—and many do—and when you have finished work, you no longer want to think about golf courses, then changes in



Surrey

The recent turkey trot at Malden Golf Club was won by Mickey Connors. Thanks go to Alex and his staff for their part in organising a most enjoyable day.

The branch's next lecture—at Woking GC on February 11, 1.30pm—will be on course preparation and presentation and given by the PGA European Tour.

The annual dinner-dance takes place at the Drift Golf and Country Club on Saturday April 27.

Finally, congratulations go to Mickey Connors on his recent election as captain of the Drift.

Ken MacNiven.

North West

The last two lectures of 1984 proved to be very enjoyable—40 years experience went into Bob Janoskis' talk and all those present learned something.

Wrexham GC was the venue for the November seminar. Martyn Jones kept everyone interested, both inside the clubhouse and out on the course. Thanks go to the speakers and also to the club and secretary K. Fisher for all his help.

Forthcoming events include two evening talks—one by Nick Park and the other by Mike Harbridge, plus a full-day seminar by Watermaton. Members will receive all the information for these by letter.

Finally, the branch would like to congratulate Eric Staniforth, managing director of SISIS, on receiving the MBE.

Bill Lawson.



EIGGA members and guests at the autumn meeting, which was staged at Wrexham GC.

status and salaries are a long way off.

Greenkeeping is a profession, make no mistake about it—a career that is with you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It is not that many years ago that professional golfers were looked down upon and it is only since the formation of the PGA that progress and status have zoomed. Strength is what we need. Every greenkeeper in this country should join EIGGA now. We already have more greenkeeper members than any other association in Britain, but we need more. If every head greenkeeper joined, we would have 2,000 members!

Progress must be maintained. Our most important aim is to employ a full-time administrator to visit clubs and check on such things as conditions of employment. This can only be achieved with money. All over the country there is a small hard core of dedicated people working to benefit your future. Give them the backing they deserve. Support your branch and if you don't have one, form one today!

I was interested to read a recent article questioning the role of agronomists in British greenkeeping. The author said they threatened the jobs of many greenkeepers and that if greenkeepers were more articulate, agronomists would be out of a job.

I do not agree with this view. On a well-run course, the course manager and the agronomist can work in harmony. It is extremely helpful to have a second opinion from a trained eye. As for being more articulate, we're back to education again, aren't we?

In a recent copy of the USGA *Green Section Record*, there was a letter from a top superintendent thanking agronomists for their contribution to raising the status of superintendents in America. The secretary, course manager and agronomist are all part of a team—they are not in competition.

I trust that as many members as possible will attend EIGGA's annual conference at Warwick University on March 22, 23 and 24. A full programme is planned by greenkeepers for greenkeepers.

I look forward to seeing EIGGA move ahead in 1985. Remember, your future is in your hands. Join now!

Peter Wisbey.



Central

Sixteen members of the section paid a visit to Henry Sheach's of Kirkcaldy recently. After being welcomed by Alistair Sheach, we toured the workshops. After lunch, we were given a practical demonstration on how to choose, use and maintain a chain saw. This part of the afternoon talk was given by Mike Irons of Omark Industries. To finish, Grant Chalmers of Sachs Dolmar gave the history of his company and run-down of products.

There was an excellent turn-out of 45 at Muckhart Golf Club to hear a lecture by Walter Woods and Jimmy Kidd. Both were given a hearty vote of thanks. Walter spoke on the work required to bring the courses at St Andrews back into shape after the Open Championship. Jim then took as his theme classical British golf courses and the points that link them, such as how architects used the natural topography of the land and flora and fauna to create courses that blend into the surrounding landscape.

E.Small, Secretary and Treasurer.

East

The east section held its annual dinner-dance at Turnhouse Golf Club. Over 70 members and guests were present. Thanks go to Turnhouse for the hospitality and to club-master John Leeburn for the first-class meal. Turnhouse has been provisionally booked for 1985 and tickets are expected to go quickly, so start saving!

The section held its AGM by kind permission of Kingsknowe Golf Club. The important changes are that J.Paton has become chairman and J.Easton vice-chairman. Ronnie Bunting has stepped down as chairman after two years.

Our thanks go to Ronnie for his excellent service on the committee and to all the other committee members who give up their spare time to ensure that the section runs smoothly.

The majority of members fail to see just what goes on behind the scenes

and how much time and effort has to be put in by committee members. The easiest thing to do in this day and age is to criticise.

Congratulations go to Ronnie Blair, ex-foreman at Murrayfield, on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Thornton Golf Club in Fife. The section wishes him well in his post and he assures me that he will stay a member of the east section. Ronnie served his time under Jim Neilson and is the son of the east section secretary.

Congratulations also go to Stuart Greenwood and his wife Agnes on the birth of a daughter just before the New Year! I understand mother and child are well.

Negotiations are under way to hold the spring outing in the Borders. Our friends from Peebles, George Stavert and Jimmy McCulloch, who very seldom miss an outing no matter where it is, have given the invitation. Although we have still to negotiate this with the local authorities, there are high hopes.

I am sure George will do everything in his power to arrange this.

Subscriptions are now overdue, so if anyone hasn't paid yet, do so now before your name is taken off the mailing list for the magazine, etc. Subs this year are £14.

The section is on the look-out for some kind member of the trade to offer a trophy to be played for at the autumn tournament. At present, the section has only four trophies and they are played for in the spring.

If anyone knows a company that would like to donate a trophy, please get in touch with me.

I would also be glad to hear from any member who has relevant news for the magazine, as we are always short of material. It doesn't matter how brief the story is.

William Blair, Section Secretary.



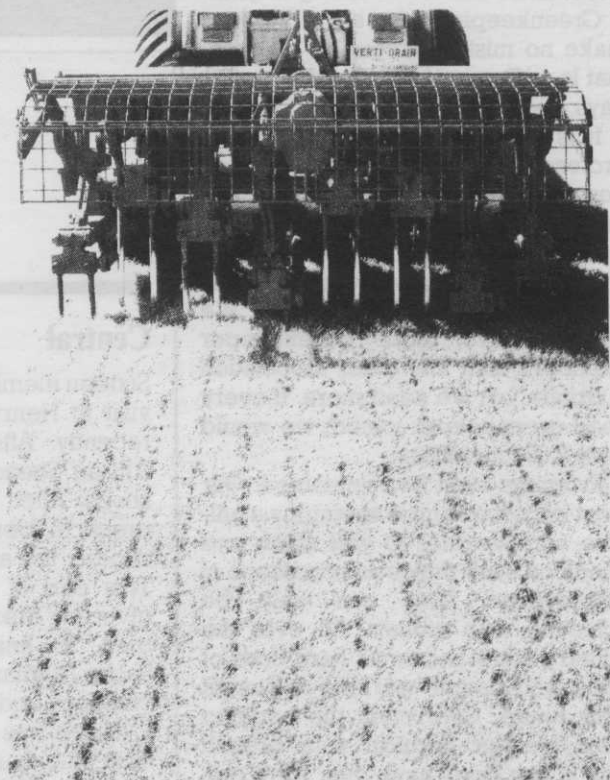
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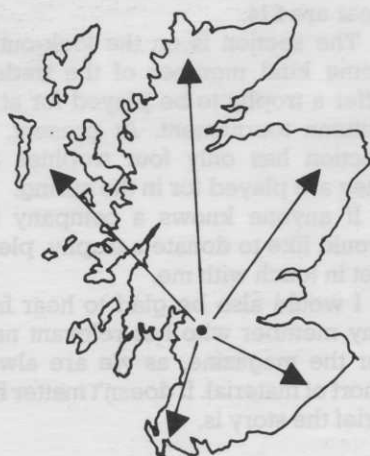
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