

AROUND THE GREEN

MID ANGLIA

The first of our winter series of events took place at Beadlow Manor Golf Club on November 27, also our AGM.

The meeting proper was preceded by a presentation given by Howard Evans, the pensions advisor to BIGGA, and this proved to be most informative and is something that I would recommend to all other sections. Thank you, Howard, for making such a long journey to be with us throughout the day.

The AGM was attended by some 30 or so members of the section and it was satisfying to see many more present after last year's poor turn out.

I will report on the AGM more fully at a later date, but can briefly tell you that all reports were approved by members present. The Committee was re-elected en bloc, with the exception of John Wells, who was elected as our new chairman, being proposed by present chairman Gerald Bruce. I am sure you will join me in thanking Gerald for his hard work during his period of office. The chairman closed the meeting by proposing a vote of thanks to Beadlow Manor for allowing us the use of their facilities.

The Christmas Texas Scramble was held at South Beds Golf Club on December 6th where a large turnout of members and guests again enjoyed the hospitality of this friendly Club. A full report will appear next month.

GEOFF SMITH



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SOUTH WEST AND WALES REGIONAL SEMINAR AT SOMERSET COLLEGE, CANNINGTON, NOVEMBER 1990

Somerset College was the venue for a gathering of 150 people in what proved to be an excellent day for our region and an encouragement to us all with students from both Cannington and Sparsholt College in attendance.

Speaking first was Nick Rigden, the Head of Horticulture at Cannington and a man who has been involved in education and training since 1968. A horticulturist trained at Writtle College, he has over the past 12 years developed a deep interest in turf culture. It was he who instigated greenkeeper training at Plumptre before moving to Somerset to bring the same to Cannington, (both being BIGGA approved centres of learning) and he was able to give us an insight into his greenkeeper training programme.

Next was Peter Wilson who, as Chairman of the EGU Golf Course Committee, gave a paper on The Way Forward. Peter, who started his golf at Ganton, was a scratch player for many years and a county player for both Yorkshire and Lancashire. His commitment to golf has been remarkable, with one of his main interests being handicapping. As a member of the BIGGA Board, the R & A Greenkeeping Panel and Chairman of the STRI there could be none better qualified to speak on The Way Forward and his most enlightening paper was well received.

Our third speaker was Dr Peter Hayes, who is Director of the STRI and a serving member of the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee, the Greenkeepers Training Committee and the NTC Committee. His long specialist experience in grass and golf course agronomy was much in evidence and his address on the research work carried out by the STRI was clear and precise, leaving no one in doubt that here was a man on top of his profession.

Following a lively question time with an excellent lunch, we moved to the address given by Roy Brighton. As a key figure in Time Manager International, an organisation dedicated to encouraging people of all levels to make better use of their time and talents, Roy's paper - Management of Time and People - was so good that no one could take their traditional afternoon nap! He is so full of enthusiasm and wit that you just have to sit up and take notice, and his accuracy is such that everyone at some time must have felt a twinge of conscience. Roy is one of very few who can make 45 minutes feel like no time at all.

Jack McMillan, our last speaker, needs no introduction. Having now joined the International Golfers Club following nine years as head greenkeeper at Sunningdale, Jack advises and helps young greenkeepers. With his wealth of experience gained whilst travelling the world, he was an ideal choice to talk on The Changing Face of Greenkeeping.

After question time the day ended with BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scoones giving special thanks to Somerset College, the traders who took part, myself in the chair and to SISIS, who sponsored the seminar.

GORDON CHILD

SOUTH WALES

December 12 saw the occasion of our AGM and Christmas Competition at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, held due to the generosity of the committee of the Club, to whom we offer our thanks.

The AGM was well attended, with retiring chairman, Huw Morgan, opening the meeting before handing over to Hugh Parry, the new chairman for 1991. Steven Evans was voted in as vice-chairman with Phil Swain remaining as administrator and taking over the finances from Paul Robinson. Paul held this job for over 14 years and in recognition of his great contribution he was presented with a tankard by grateful members.

Huw Morgan is now chairman of golf and the social sub committee, taking full control of the handicapping in the hope of cutting down the number of 'bandits'. Steven Evans is chairman of the education sub committee and will be responsible for organising lectures and seminars. He insists that they will be well attended, a view endorsed by this reporter!

We shall be holding a knock-out competition from April through September and details may be found in September 'Around The Green'. The closing date for entries is Feb 28th, with an entry fee of only £3.00. Let me know if you are interested.

The competition results were as follows: Winner of the Vitax Shield and decanter and glasses - donated by Allan Stow - L Hallett with 36 points. Second; M Stokes with 35, followed by T King (35), H Parry and H Morgan (33), I Morris and B Price (32) M Jones (31), and P Long, T Thompson, and B Kitcher all with 28. All players from second through twenty fifth received a bottle from the prize table and we are thankful for the prize donations received from Vitax, Avoncrop, Birds, Munro's, Rigby Taylor, Celtic Mowers, Maxwell Hart, Sta-Brite, Colin Murphy, Tacit, Euroturfcare and Westernlogs.

The only player to score two on a par three was L Walter and he received a prize of golf balls. Our funds were swelled by a successful raffle and our thanks go to Colin Murphy for doing such a grand organising job.

We would be the poorer without trade support and I extend sincere thanks to all who supported us throughout 1990 - long may you continue with your generosity.

Finally we were sorry to learn of Steve Elms departure from Tredegar Park and wish him well in the future. His departure heralds a change for yours truly, who is taking over at Tredegar Park - it's all swings and roundabouts in 1991!

PHILIP SWAIN

● Continued on Page 50