

AROUND THE GREEN

KENT SECTION

ON January 9 at West Malling Golf Club a few of us were treated to a very informative and interesting presentation and talk from John Hinton of B.A.S.F. about fertilisers, in general, and their benefits, miss uses, and how their use fits in with the yearly management of the golf course.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, the only disappointing part being the lack of members that attended, and I am in full agreement with Chris Mardon's closing comment for those who stayed away, that it was their loss not ours.

Many thanks to John Hinton for making it such an informative afternoon, and to the catering staff at West Malling for providing us with the sandwiches and afternoon tea. As a note to the "what's in it for me" and "how much is it going to cost me" members of the Association I am pleased to inform you, after the event, that the whole afternoon and refreshments would not have cost you a single penny!

I'm pleased to announce that the committee has been increased by one other member, David Horn of Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club, the only drawback to this being that a round of drinks is now going to cost more!

At the time of writing this winter has not yet fully materialised and there seems to be increasing levels of play, perhaps soon we could benefit from a few weeks of snow.

I hope that those of you in East and Mid Kent are adhering to the Water Board's recent imposition of a hose pipe ban and banning of watering golf courses and sports grounds - it's nice to know that they are fully aware of how their customers use their resources and when and how much water golf courses use.

Although in saying this I cannot see it raining everyday before the start of the summer so it looks like we may be in for another difficult time as with last summer, but we shall see, as nature has a habit of levelling itself out in the end.

PAUL COPSEY

SURREY SECTION

A couple of quick reminders. First, the greenkeepers annual gentlemen dinner takes place at Walton Heath on Friday March 16.

It is limited to one guest per greenkeeper and costs just £17 each, which for 18 holes and dinner sounds a very good price.

Secondly, the national education conference at the Royal Holloway College in Egham runs from March 30 to April 4. This event deserves all our support, so why not encourage your captains and committee members to attend, along with your staff?

Congratulations to Donald Wells, who has just been awarded the Silver Medal for the outstanding student greenkeeper in the British Isles, quite an achievement! Don works on the South Course of Wentworth, and received a cheque from his employers, and some very good local press reports for his efforts.

Congratulations also to David Wyburn, assistant head at Foxhills, and his wife Caroline, who is expecting their first child in late June. A prospective BIGGA member, perhaps?

New to the area is Chris Kennedy, who took up his new post as Wentworth's Course Manager on February 1st, after 21 years at Hagg's Castle.

Chris tells me they have over 400 trees down over the three courses, so doubtless they'll all be kept pretty busy there for

some time. When time allows, we'll hopefully see him at some BIGGA functions, meanwhile, all the best in your new post.

Leaving us, is Simon Wells, formerly a greenkeeper at Walton Heath, who has gone off round the world for a year. Also leaving us soon, is Jack McMillan of Sunningdale, who, after a tenure of ten years is leaving to take up a consultancy position, with The International Golfers Club (sponsors of the National Education Conference).

Jack is former Chairman of BIGGA, and presenter of The McMillan Tankard.

Sorry to see you're leaving us Jack, but glad that your knowledge and experience will now reach a wider audience. Although with your article in the Daily Telegraph recently, you seem to have a pretty good circulation now!

The news from the Surrey members who attended ETME 2, is that it was a great success and considered both valuable and enjoyable.

Clive Osgood from Walton Heath, the Surrey Section ex-Chairman, is now representing us at a regional level also. Thanks, Clive for giving up more free time in what must be an already busy schedule.

Despite, the appalling weather the lecture on grinding at the R.A.C. Club was quite well attended. The lecture by Atterton & Ellis, was very well given, and the machines (R.A.C.s own) were very impressive as was Tony's workshop, which I'm sure made a few people rather envious. An excellent evening and our thanks to all concerned.

If you have any problems regarding the magazine, please contact me and I'll try to rectify the situation. Also any items you would like put in this section, such as appointments or golf and social events, pictures included would be very

welcome. My number is (025 125) 4287.

PHIL BALDOCK

MIDLANDS SECTION

MAY 2 brings our spring tournament to Coventry Golf Club (Finham Park) which also combines with our qualifying round for the Iseki regional final being played this year at Kedleston Park.

The draw for the Rigby Taylor Greensomes Knockout will also be made at the spring tournament, so now is the time to choose your partners carefully.

Dates for your diary:
May 2 Spring tournament, Coventry Golf Club.

July 11 summer tournament, Broadway Golf Club and

August 29, autumn tournament, Llanymonch Golf Club.

Finally, if anyone has any news or ideas for the magazine or indeed for the section please do not hesitate to contact me on 0789 762912. I look forward to seeing you at Finham Park.

DEAN CLEAVER.

NORTHERN SECTION

IT was good to see so many Northern Section members at E.T.M.E. 2. The show seems to be getting "Bigga" and better each year!

I hear down the grapevine of personnel changes; at Fulford, Halifax West End and Wetherby. Philip Stirk moves from Fulford to become head greenkeeper of a new development at Stockton Forest. John Grierson moves from Elland Golf Club to become head man at Halifax West End. Committee man and regional administrator, David Hannam, moves from Baildon to take over the reins

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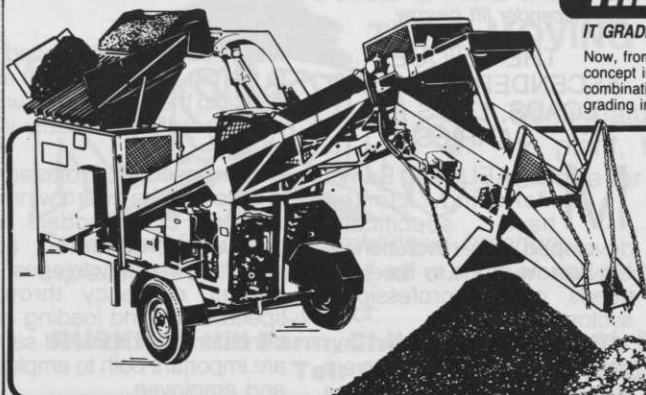
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AROUND THE GREEN



The last Northern Section Ransomes trip of 1972. Spot the familiar faces?

from retiring John Scott at Wetherby. Our very best wishes and good luck for the forthcoming season to the new appointees. So after all these moves the gossip round the section is: 'Who has got Baildon, West End and

Fulford?'

The first lecture of 1990 was a very good talk on conservation gardening by Patrick Crowley who has his own business in Leeds carrying out this work. He was formerly a professional photographer and this showed in his excellent slides. It was just a pity he had a sparse audience.

An extra lecture date for your diaries is in March when Ian Proudler of Endfield Nurseries talks to us about trees for the golf course, March 28 is the date, West Bowling Golf Club the venue and 8 p.m. the time. Please try and pop along and fetch a friend.

The BIG EVENT of the Northern Section social scene is

the annual dinner dance, which this year will be held at Baildon Golf Club on Saturday, April 28. The time is 7.30 p.m. for a meal at 8 p.m. The disco after the meal will play until midnight.

The cost for the evening is only £10.

This event is open to friends, relations and not just members. I hope we shall see more greenkeepers this year. Tickets are available from me and a deposit of £5. per double ticket is required. In case you do not know my telephone no. is Bradford 590463 and I can also be found at Cleckheaton Golf Club.

Going through some books the other day I came across an old photograph which by chance is very topical to the Northern Section at the moment with the Ransomes trip in prospect.

It is of the last Ransomes trip some 18 years ago (I think!). See if you can spot the following (younger) faces: Brian Birdsell, (County Mowers) Geoff Mawson (retired), Hugh Marshall (retired), David Anderson (Moor Allerton), Mick Hegerty (somewhere in Germany), Ralph Smith (Bradford), Joe Baxter (St. Ives), John Storey (Ogden), John Scott (retired),

NEW VERTI-GROOM CUTTING UNITS FOR RANSOMES GT GREENS TRIPLE

INTRODUCED to maintain constantly good putting surfaces on golf greens more economically, and being exhibited at ETME 2 for the first time, were Ransomes new hydraulically driven Verti-Groom cutting units seen on their GT Greens Triple mower.

Compared with conventional greens cutting units, during trials both in Britain and overseas, the Verti-Groom units collected up to three

times the amount of material after cutting a green. Besides grass cuttings, the boxes also contained thatch and moss.

Being mounted ahead of the front disc roll the Verti-Groom, which can be lifted out of work, does not throw top dressing into the cutting cylinder and as it floats independently of the cutting unit Ransomes say it is not over aggressive.

Mounting the Verti-Groom in front of the unit keeps the distance between the front and rear rolls to the minimum which reduces the incidence of scalping on undulating greens.

PRODUCT FOCUS

Continued on page 31



The Ransomes Verti-Groom on Greens Triple mower.



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AROUND THE GREEN

Continued from page 30

David Spurdun (Ganton), Donald Roberts (retired), Adrian Robertshaw (Ilkley), Colin Garnett (Garforth), and Bill Mountain.

P.S. More news of staff changes. Chairman Philip Sutton moves from West Bradford to take Baildon Golf Club and Robert Gee has been promoted to assistant course manager at Cleckheaton Golf Club.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH COAST SECTION

DESPITE police warnings not to venture out unless your journey was absolutely necessary, a hardy band of stalwarts attended our February meeting. This took place during the second winter storm to hit the South and made road driving conditions particularly hazardous.

However, those who made the journey had the pleasure of listening to Bob Young from Sparsholt College Hampshire. Bob gave a paper on "Principles of Nutrition as applied to Fine Turf". This gave an up-to-date outline on the thinking and understanding of topical nutritional policies and ended with a question and answer session. Bob also covered the range of Courses on offer at Sparsholt College Hampshire for Greenkeepers and will be happy to supply a written report of his paper to any interested members.

My thanks to Bob for turning out on a foul evening, knowing that earlier in the day rain was seeping into his house from a number of dislodged tiles.

Finally, if you have not yet completed your application form for the Regional Seminar at Sparsholt College Hampshire on the 13 March 1990, you could be too late.

BOB DENNIS

SCOTTISH, NORTH SECTION

THE Section will be holding a one day conference on Saturday December 5. It will be at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, King St., Aberdeen and it is hoped that we shall be able to attract some first-class speakers and hope to attract well over 100 greenkeepers, secretaries, greens convenors etc.

More details to follow, watch this space.

Lottery tickets will shortly be distributed and the committee hope all members will assist in selling them.

The Spring outing will take place at Arbroath Golf Club on Thursday May 17.

GORDON MOIR

NORTH WEST SECTION

I start this month's notes with sad news that Tommy Dirkin a North West member for some years, died suddenly of a heart attack. Tommy was always active and enjoyed his membership. He will be sadly missed, especially by the Manchester members.

On a lighter note we have two long-serving members this year becoming life members.

These are Robert Janovskis, who retired from Worsley G.C. last May, and Arthur Warhurst, who retired from North Manchester G.C. after completing 35 years there. Congratulations to both these members and may they enjoy their retirement for many years to come!

Two golf tournament dates for the year have been confirmed and these are: Spring tournament - Withington G.C. May 30 and greenkeepers stewards - Turton G.C. September 10.

These fixture and others when confirmed will be in future section notes. The spring tournament will be played also as a qualifier or the ISEKI tournament. Any members with any interesting news or enquiries please contact me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

LONDON SECTION

FIRST of all, our best wishes go to Michael Peters who has left us to join Alberugh Golf Club in Suffolk.

Anybody who remembers David Low will be pleased to hear of the birth of his first child last November. A huge baby boy weighing in at 9 lb 7 oz and named Tom after his father.

David was head greenkeeper at Harsbourne Golf Club before moving onto Northampton Golf Club. I had the pleasure of his company during a few rounds of golf so on behalf of the London Section, congratulations to you and your wife.

The storm at the end of January gave everybody extra work. At Hadley Wood we were lucky with only a dozen or so trees falling, but others were not so lucky. (Section Chairman John Edwards at Moor Park lost over 100 trees and that magnificent clubhouse received bad damage to the roof. Just one example, I'm sure there are many more.

Finally a few dates for your diary. The first Tuesday in March sees our last winter lecture at Aldernham Golf Club at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday April 18 at Grymsdyke Golf Club for the Iseki Qualifier (London Section) A.M. and 18 holes in the afternoon, format to be arranged.

There are two midsummer meetings, the first on the 7th or 8th of May at North Middlesex Golf Club starting 3.30 p.m. and the second at Muswell Hill sometime in June at 3.30 p.m., dates to be arranged.

Our autumn meeting is a 36 hole tournament to be played at Porters Park Golf Club on October 25. The Iseki Regional Final will be played at Sudbury Golf Club on July 4.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

SOUTH WEST SECTION

HAVE you ever noticed what an empty, forlorn lonely place a deserted clubhouse is? Torrential rain, or a hurricane raging or lately a South West Section lecture.

I have postponed the rest of the planned programme until this Autumn. I hope that with some new quality speakers, demonstrations, guided course tours and golf competitions we can cater for everyone and provide some reasonable audiences. In the meantime we are hoping to run another one day course to cover the foundation module of the FEPA regulations. I need another five names to get this one off the ground. Also on the horizon is Westurf 90, again at Long Ashton on May 2nd. The trade support and interest is quite staggering, we must have your support and interest coming through the gate on the day, entry is free, there will be at least fifty companies exhibiting, please make a point of being there in numbers.

Finally my commiserations to all who have suffered storm damage, there have been some horror stories coming up from the far South West, I would appreciate any quality photographs of any such damage for possible future publication.

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