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 5th 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

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 Bigden, 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 Plumpton 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 BIGA 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 York 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 during 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 - Time, Training 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, needed 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, Howard 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.

How 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. I insist 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 Vitas Shield and decanter and glasses - donated by Allan Stow - L Hallett with 36 points. Second; M Stokes with 35, followed by T King (33), J Parry and H Morgan (33), J 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 Peters, Asgrow, Birds, Mound's, Rugby Town, Celtic Mowers, Maxwell Hart, Sta-Brite, Colin Murphy, Tacit, Euroturfcare and Wesenfarm.

The only player to score 2 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 donating 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

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GREEN

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DEVON AND CORNWALL
Over 60 members attended our AGM, held on November 13 at the Pingle Glen Leisure Complex near Exeter. First on our agenda was the Foursomes Competition for the TORO Trophy, with prizes kindly donated by Greenlands SW Ltd.

Results were:
1st: J Breyley (Churston) and N Pring (Padbrook) – 39 points; 2nd: K Broad (Fingle Glen) and M Pike (Ellordleigh) – 37 points; 3rd: G Child (Churston) and P Newcombe (East Devon) – 36 points.

Our thanks to Greenlands SW Ltd for the donation of prizes and to Mr Breading and his staff for providing such fine food and service. A special thanks must go to Bill Pike and his green staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition and to Fingle Glen for allowing the section to use their superb facilities.

AGM Details: 1) Section accounts: These were circulated and their acceptance proposed by J Mitchell, seconded by B Pike. 2) Election of Regional Officer: With only one name put forward, Jeff Mills was elected. 3) Venues and Speakers: Members were informed of the intended venues for 1991-92 and were asked to propose venues for the season of 1992-93. Speakers were discussed for next season’s meetings and the possibility of raising trade sponsorship to help cover some of the speakers’ costs.

The season for Devon and Cornwall runs from October through April and our programme for 1991-92 is as follows:
October: Carlton Bay; November: Bude - AGM; December: Okehampton; February: St Enedoc; M Jones; March: Bigbury; April: Launceston - Guest Day.

Looking ahead to 1992-93 our programme is:
October: Warren; November: China Fleet - AGM; December: Okehampton; February: Penrith; March: Woodbury; April: Launceston - Guest Day.

Concluding our business, the Chairman read aloud a letter from our Regional Administrator. This, backed by the R & A relates to training and pay of greenkeepers, thus ensuring the sound future of golf courses in this country. If any member is experiencing trouble with their Club regarding this matter, the letter can be sent to their Club by contacting Gordon Child, Archways, Churston Ferrers, Nr Brixham, Devon. Tel: 0803 844056.

Our Christmas meeting, returning again to Okehampton Golf Club, was attended by 85 members and guests, with members playing a Greensome Stableford for the P J Flogg Trophy. We are grateful to the Club for use of their facilities and to Richard Wisdom and his staff for presenting the course in excellent condition. Winners were N Pring and R Hall, scoring a brilliant 25 on the back nine. Following a superb Christmas Lunch Patrick Flegg of P J Flegg Ltd presented the prizes to: 1) N Pring (Padbrook) and R Hall (Padbrook) 48 points; 2) D Parr (Truro) and R Whyman (Bude) 46 points; 3) R Whyman (Bude) and B Ridgeway (Fingle Glen) 40 points.

Our entertainer was the very funny David Jade, who was presented with an Association tie. Thanks to generous donations, we held two Christmas raffles, the first being for the Avon Crop and Monro Hampers. These were presented by Rod Feltham and Mike Berriman to winners. N Stonelake and R Hall.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTHERN
A glorious day brought out 30 or more members to our annual Christmas golf day at South Leeds Golf Club. Nearly everyone was a prizewinner of some sort and I hope everyone enjoyed the day. After a hearty meal many people stayed on for the section AGM, during which some new faces were voted on to the Committee. I hope the newcomers will gain wisdom from the old hands still serving and put their knowledge to good use.

The new Committee is:
President: W Mountain; Chairman: P Taylor; Vice Chairman: B Carr; Secretary/Treasurer: B Lapton; Committee: G Oxley, M Leaman, D Cockburn, A Gamble, C Garnett, G Hope, T Jarvis and E Patey.

Committee man Graham Hope has the champagne on ice with much to celebrate. First his marriage to Diane and now a new job, moving from Moor Allerton to be head man at South Leeds. Last, but not least, I understand that the patter of tiny feet is expected in the not too distant future.

Golf is now finished until Spring and our only chance to meet together is at Winter lectures. What a pity more people do not support both their section and our speakers on these occasions. Our lecture in November unfortunately clashed with a football match on TV and despite being a video recording age, only 12 people, which included trade or retired members, could be bothered to turn up. It is very disappointing for all concerned that these events are not better supported, as a great deal of work goes into organising them on YOUR BEHALF. Please, in future, do try to get along to these events, if only to enjoy a chinwag and a pint. Bring along your assistant or even a Club Committee man.

Some dates to note are:
Wednesday, February 13th, 2.00 pm at West Bowling Golf Club, Bradford. Eddie Stead will talk to us on four wheel drive tractors. A provisional booking for March 20th is that of EFG Halifax and Iseki, both of whom will talk to us on their product ranges. I do sincerely hope to see more faces this year and also look forward to seeing many of our members at BTME in Harrogate during the week commencing January 21.
• From Page 50

EAST MIDLANDS

Playing our old rivals the Midlands Section, at Whittington Barracks Golf Club in October for the Rigby Taylor Challenge Shield, our plan of action was to play competitively (well done Trevor and his staff) but THEY stuffed us so full of food at lunch that we were obliged to get that far all day! Our thanks go to Rigby Taylor for a marvelous time, together with gratitude to the steward and stewardess for superb service and dinner care. Kirby Mushoe Golf Club was the venue for the Breakewell Tournament, with the winners spoils going to that crafty Leicestershire fox Richard Barker. In second place were Paddy McCarron, Graham Arnold, Nick & Andy May; Iski was top greenhand and likewise to those who provided such a lovely meal.

We held our AGM at Charnwood Forest Golf Club on November 26th and express thanks to the Club for course courtesies and for giving all the staff going to that large membership - on paper - but that only a hard-core of 20/30 or so regularly attended our functions. The point was raised that short of dragging individuals along there would be far fewer members and each and every one of us must try to encourage a wavering work colleague to join us, or by your section and region officials.

Opinion had it that the head greenkeeper and his staff for preparing the course. With 24 members in attendance at the AGM, the following officers were elected:

Chairman: Richard Barker; Vice Chairman: Dave Perkins; Secretary: Gordon Mitchell; Committee: Paddy McCarron, Graham Arnold, Nick & Andy May; Iski was top greenhand and likewise to those who provided such a lovely meal.

Our thanks are extended to all the Section headquarters, on November 21st. Our thanks to them for photographing our meeting.

In giving thanks we must not forget Bernard Dibhams Secretary. The question of the magazine, Greenkeeping Management, was also raised, namely the poor editorial quality, late delivery, and omissions and delays in articles appearing concerning our section. The point was made that the Association was more than aware of the problems and were actively involved in a complete overhaul of the publication.

As we enter a new year a reminder that our seminar at the STRI, Dave Boocock followed with a very interesting talk on golf course maintenance in the North of Scotland, paying particular attention to the timing of some remedial work necessary. In turn Roy was followed by Stig Persson, immediate past President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Federation, who gave us an insight into the development of golf in Scandinavia, together with pertinent comments on the importance of good maintenance skills.

The Institute. It was to his credit that he turned a subject which might have become very technically orientated into one of great interest to our members.

With an extremely high class of speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics, everyone of the 160 attendees must surely go down in history as one of our most successful.

The Institute. It was to his credit that he turned a subject which might have become very technically orientated into one of great interest to our members.

Also, please, please, can we have a photograph on our membership cards and a photograph of the chairperson.

Finishing this month, it seems to me that we are in for a spell of weather much colder than over the past few years, which might just give us a bit of peace and quiet with no fiddling about with the renovations necessary after yet another heavy year of player pressure. On that subject, I find it most annoying to read of our greenkeeping profession being castigated as grossly underpaid and unemployed. If this is the case, then I would like to meet this person face to face at the earliest possible opportunity.

Monopoly is in, with 75% of Golf Clubs represented. The weather, bright and sunny all day, made for some fantastic golf. The weather, bright and sunny all day, made for some wonderful golf, and good turnout of both members and guests.

To be a great success. Our section had a tremendous turnout, with out 75% of Golf Clubs represented.

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Our thanks to this busy club for allowing us the use of the course and monopolising the clubhouse during the afternoon lecture and our meeting.

Our thanks to Richard Barker, winner of the Breakewell Tournament at Kirby Mushoe.

• Continued on Page 62

SOUTH WEST

A very busy and prosperous New Year to all BIGGA members and officials. 1991 must be the year of opportunity for the Association, a golden chance to continue building success from the very firm base already achieved. It cannot be done without the work and support of ordinary members and each and every one of us must try to make a contribution. This may perhaps be achieved by encouraging a waving, but not with any cunning or guile, or by attending more meetings, lectures, seminars etc. Maybe you could volunteer to serve on your section committee if you have the available time and or the desire. Any contribution, no matter how small, be welcomed with open arms by your section and region officials.

Our thanks to Richard Barker, winner of the Maxwell Hart Shield, at the sittingbourne and Knowle Park Golf Club.

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• Continued on Page 62

BEST TEAM: G Barr, 34 points; R Day, 33 points; R Short, 35 points; D Perkins 2nd, G Arn 3rd and M Emery 4th.

TRADE/GUESTS: C Sutton, 39 points; D Sutton, 38 points; P Ward, 36 points

Longest Drive: 7th Fairway: R Day; 17th Fairway: G Fudge

Nearest the Pin: 6th green: M Burythewicz; 8th green: R Jones; 16th hole: R Elderfield

In 2nd at: C Sutton; Worst Out: A Ford; Worst In: Yours Truly

DICK BULL

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire AGM has just passed, almost unnoticed, with our membership seemingly happy with the efforts of the current committee. Chairman George Brown thanked the Section for sending him to such far-flung places as Florida, Japan and Portugal to spread the word about new greenkeeping standards being set in our area. He wished the new Chairman Charlie (Chic) White every success in his travels during his time in office and welcomed Derek Wilson, Bogsides, who was elected Vice-Chairman, together with Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, who was elected to the Committee.

The Ingleston Golf (SCOTSTURF) once again proved to be a great success. Our section had a tremendous turnout, with 75% of Golf Clubs represented.

The Ayr College continues to produce excellent greenkeeping seminars, but in order to keep our BIGGA members up-to-date we will have to keep our magazine in circulation.

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• Continued on Page 62

NORTH SCOTLAND

The one day conference held by the Section on December 5th at The Agricultural Hall, Aberdeen, must surely go down in history as one of our most successful.

With an extremely high class of speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics, everyone of the 160 attendees must have left feeling that they had received considerable benefit. Not only was the attendance revealed to be 90% of the number attending prior to the meeting, but many of the speakers have agreed to give a second and supply services.

The conference began with Dr Tom Kavanagh of Dublin University, who gave his usual witty, entertaining and informative address, on this occasion featuring developments of golf courses in Ireland under construction or of those recently completed and of the mistakes that had been made.

From the STRI, Dave Boocock followed with a very interesting talk on golf course maintenance in the North of Scotland, paying particular attention to the timing of some of the remedial work now being carried out.

Following coffee, Roy Biggins of Time Manager International left his audience with a realisation of how easy it can be to improve the quality of life with just a little more planning and effort. In turn Roy was followed by Stig Persson, immediate past President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Federation, who gave us an insight into the development of golf in Scandinavia, with pertinent comments on the importance of good maintenance skills.

Lunch over, Dr Neil Baldwin of the STRI spoke of a number of the more common disease problems encountered in Britain and of the results of trials of the Institute. It is to his credit that he turned a subject which might have become very technically orientated into something that was easily understood, absorbing and interesting to all delegates.

Cecil George, course manager at Lenzie and BIGGA Continued on Page 62
Education Convener for Scotland; was next on stage to tell us how greenkeeper education began in Scotland and of its progress to the present time. He then revealed some of the content of educational courses today and of the help given by various bodies like the R & A and the Greenkeepers Training Committee.

The penultimate speaker, Paul Campbell, manager of Greens of Scotland and formerly of the Scottish Agricultural College, may well have sent a few of those present scurrying back to their club committees to report of the implications of COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) and of the effects it will bring about now that legislation is being tightened.

To complete the line-up we had Peter Smith, who is a playing professional on the full European Tour, speaking from Tour event and of the conditions required by Tour officials. These he listed as being firm tees to allow a stable stance, closely cut fairways to aid backswing, and firm but fast greens that will reward a well struck shot. He then mentioned his least and most favourite courses from a golfer's viewpoint.