Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON & CORNWALL

The Section would like to express its gratitude to PJ Flegg Ltd and Devon Garden Machinery, our main Iseki dealers, who once again provided transport and breakfast for members who played in the 1992 Iseki regional final, which was held at the splendid setting of the Isle of Purbeck GC. Our congratulations to Lauchlan Millar and Richard Hall who came second in the O-9 section, also to Dick Parr who finished third in the 19-28 section. We wish them all good luck in the final.

As defending section team winners, the boys battled hard to once again lift the prized shield, but were beaten by this year the very strong South team. Our thanks and good wishes go to Ed Simcox, 'Mr Jacobsen' in South West, who has recently left the area to take up the position of groundsman at Oakleys in Shrewsbury.

I have just finished filling up upcoming section meetings and look forward to meeting you all during the coming season, the dates of which are as follows: Oct 14th at Dawlish Warren for the DO Hunt Trophy, speaker to be arranged. Nov 11th at Chilton Fleet for the Toro Trophy, followed by our AGM, Dec 9th at Oakhampton for the PJ Flegg Trophy, followed by comedian Tandy Shermer. Jan 13th at Fingle Glen for the Devon versus Cornwall match, followed by speakers Jim Arthur and Nick Ridgen, Feb 24th at Perranporth for the Avocroc Trophy, followed by speaker M Jones. March 24th at Woodbury for the Suppertax/M&B sponsored event, speaker to be arranged. July 7th at Launceston for the Jacobsen Trophy, followed by speaker David Golding.

RICHARD WHYMAN

KENT

Just a few things to report this time. Firstly some rather sad news about the recent death of Cecil Maidment, the last and highly regarded by all the members at Bexleyheath. He will be sorely missed, but always remembered.

A few dates for your diaries for forthcoming events. Although we had originally hoped to have the Autumn tournament in October, the Autumn Regional at the Colchester Centre on November 2nd. Obviously the organisation of these events at a regional level has a current fringe for Essex, with what the Iseki qualifier at Chelmsford as well, but next year I understand that the Iseki qualifier will be in Kent, so eighty pence saved each way at the Dorfart crossing next year!

A personal thanks and a plug for Howard Evans Financial Services, the man who is the special financial advisor to BIGGA. As some of you may know, I am in the process of moving house, a traumatic experience at the best of times, but I have received great assistance from Howard. I know a number of greenkeepers in Kent and the South-East have also gained from his expertise on many financial affairs, so do not forget that services are offered to you free as members of the Association – a definite plus included in your membership package. Advertisements for his services regularly appear in the magazine so why not give it a try – his office number is 0792791179.

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH WEST

Avoncrop Amenity are the generous new sponsors of the annual match against the South West secretaries. Not only did Avocroc provide prizes and a brand new trophy, but also laid on transport for our team to travel to the Launceston GC in Cornwall for the match. Unfortunately, even with all this VIP treatment, the actual result of the match was a dismal defeat for our side and we left the secretaries toasting a rare win. This slice of bad luck did not detract from the day out and our thanks to Launceston GC for hosting this match on their fine course and to Rod Feltham, 'Mr Avocroc', for his generosity.

Of course, it’s not been all doom and gloom for the section players recently, thanks to some brilliant play from Leigh, Simon Montague and Paul Thorn in winning their handicap categories down at the Iseki Regional Final, with the South West walking off with the team prize for the first time. Well played all.

I reported last month on Laurence Pitthee’s move from Minchinhampton GC. Well, it’s an ill wind as they say, for I am leaving Lilley Brook GC, Cheltenham, to take over from Laurence at Minchinhampton – now there’s a tough act to follow! Through the pages of this journal, I would like to thank Lilley Brook staff, committee and members for happy times and for being such a super Club to work for – I wish them well for the future.

PAUL WORSTER

EAST MIDLANDS

Two regional events are the Regional Tournament to be held at Wanstead GC on October 9th and the Regional Seminar at the Colchester Centre on November 2nd. Obviously the organisation of these events at a regional level has a current fringe for Essex, with what the Iseki qualifier at Chelmsford as well, but next year I understand that the Iseki qualifier will be in Kent, so eighty pence saved each way at the Dorfart crossing next year!

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PAUL COPSEY

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Question: What is guaranteed to bring on rain in the middle of a long hot summer? Answer: A BB&O golf day at East Berks GC! As luck would have it, that’s exactly what happened. Out of the clubhouse trotted our fine members and down came the rain, but did it dampen the spirits of our merry band? Certainly not! They still managed to put together some fine scores with top of the pile being Andrew Ryan of Ellesborough with 32 points and Brian Baker of Frilford Heath. In third place was Pat Wheeler with 31 points and he also won the nearest the pin. Just 39 inches away.

Question: Who eats raw meat, can drive the ball 305 yards on a wet day to win the longest drive and lives at Calcot Park? Answer: Simon Robinson – which comes as no surprise to anyone who has played with him (only kidding Simon). Thanks from the section to Mark Piggot, the headman, for a quite stunning course and to the secretaries, members and catering staff of East Berks GC for allowing us to play and for feeding us so well (a particularly important part of a greenkeepers’ golf day)!

But by no means least thanks to St-Brie, Rigby Taylor and batsman for their continued support in these difficult times. Thanks also to Roy Kates, our national chairman, for presenting the prizes – even though we still await the arrival of the phantom red jacket with bated breath. Maybe next time Roy!

A couple of reminders for your diary: Our Autumn Invitation meeting is at Burford GC on 8th Oct. If you would like to play, please reply promptly (ie, as soon as you receive your email form) as there are only a limited number of places available for this very popular event. Also, if you have entered in the Rigby Taylor Knock-Out Tournament may I remind you that the finals are at Frilford Heath on Oct 16th. If you know now that you cannot make it, please let me know in order to avoid unwanted hassle nearer the time.

RAY CLARK
A fine sunny day saw the Cresta Cup return to its traditional venue – the New Zealand GC on June 8th. Dave Wyburn beat Ronnie Christie on count-back with 36 points, with Paul Weston third and Brian Wilmott once again taking the trade prize. Thanks were extended to David and Marilyn Johnson for the preparation of the course and buffet respectively, and to New Zealand Ari- sakes GC for the use of their facilities.

Unfortunately, despite a good attendance of 38 players, less than 20 players had applied by the entry closing date. As you must all be aware, numbers in advance are always available well before an event, it is vital that members plan their golf in the same astute manner as they plan their work – late entries may well have to be refused in the future.

An event taking place in August is the McMil- lan Tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 6th (probably this should read ‘which will have taken place’ by the time this magazine reaches you), and the Parkers Salver takes place at Sunnington GC on September 24th (entries close Sept 11th).

Finally, would all members who have recorded good scores in regional events recently please check their very latest current handicap with Robert Hook. It is the duty of every golfer to play a correct handicap at all times.

ROGER TYDEMAN

MIC ANGLIA

The first round results of the Lodgeway Four-Ball Tournament are as follows: R McKeon and K Bunting beat D Matthews and S Mason by 5 & 3, B Piggot and C Wright beat D Piggot and J Jones by one hole, C Brook and E O’Hanlon beat T McCreadie and M Hall by 4 & 3, A Grew and G Boulton beat P Robinson and N Primett by 8 & 7, S Johnson and A Bland beat P Dietz and F Simpson by re- nce at the nineteenth. P Simmons and J Wells beat P Lockett and R Cougan by 3 & 2 and D Croxton and I Oliver beat G Bruce and G Smith by 2 & 1.

Lectures and golf meetings are currently being arranged for next year, with the Spring Tournament scheduled for Mid Herts GC and the Summer Tournament at St Neots. Dates will be confirmed later. The 1992 Autumn Tournament will once again be held at Woburn GC, again subject to final confirmation.

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As I am new, I would like to hear from any members with any constructive ideas, news or any suggestions that they think will benefit the section or BIGGA. Please contact me by writing to 49 Cornwall Road, Gilston, Buntingdon 16 ARL, or ‘phone me on 0274 568128.

Presidents Day at Bradford GC was played in rather showery weather but this did not deter our stalwart members. The results were: Div. 1: 1st M Lealman, 2nd D Collins, 3rd M Hannan. Div. 2: 1st T Jarvis, 2nd M Bryant, 3rd C Garnett. The Jubilee Cup was won by I. Kirkbright and the best visitor was P Marshall. Highest scores were achieved by D Thackrey, A Smith and B Carr. Congratulations to you all.

On behalf of all who attended I would like to thank our president, Bill Mountain, for his hospitality and continued support for our section. Our thanks also to Ralph Smith, D Thackrey and their staff for a first class course and also to the secretary and committee for so kindly allowing us courtesy of the course.

There are still a few places left for our golf competition at Scarborough South Cliff on Wednesday September 30th, if you require an entry form please contact me. In the meantime I will be keeping myself busy at The Open at Muirfield and the Iseki Tournament will be played at Ports Park GC later in the year and there is also a possibility of a week long spraying course being arranged in the autumn, when greenkeepers can take both PA1 and PA2 tests. Details, once confirmed, will be available shortly.

PAUL LOCKETT

NORTHERN

As most of you are aware, I am now to the posi- tion of section secretary/reporter, having taken over from former secretary, Bob Lupton, who has been promoted to higher places as regional administrator. We wish Bob well in his new ven- ture.

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PAUL LOCKETT

NORTH SCOTLAND

Section members should note that application for membership of the new Scottish Golf Union Conference to be held in November will be dropping on their doorsteps later this month, shortly before they go around Scotland. Early booking is advised for what we are sure will be a very interesting and successful day.

Flying the flag for the North at the Scottish Championships at Kingsknoe were the Peter- head pair – Kevin Peace and Hugh McLatchie – who won the scratch and third class handicap sections respectively, along with Gordon Moir of St Andrews and Graeme Macdonald Greenkeeper Trophy – Well done, lads. This was the first ‘Scot- tish’ I had missed since 1982, though I under- stand the main talking point of the day was not golf – rather the mysterious illness that has befallen our chairman Dougall, which has meant his taking the drastic measure of giving up the drink. We all hope for his rapid recovery, as do all the pubs in the vicinity of Westhill!

This year the North Golf Union has set up an order of merit, with certain ‘Open’ events in the area having points awarded for high finishes. At the time of writing (June 30th), greenkeepers George Paterson (Fortrose) and Stevie Macintosh (Muir of Ord) are in first and second places.

Congratulations to Gerald Stewart on his pro- motion to head greenkeeper at Montrose, and a welcome to another Montrose man, Gary Tough, our newest member. Rounding off a trio of Mon- rose happenings, Steve Macdonald is leaving Montrose for a similar job at a course in Amster- dam – we wish him well.

Next month our autumn outing will be held at Kingsgill, so get your entries back as soon as you receive them. For those who have not played at Kingsgill, I can tell you that it is highly enjoyable with some lovely holes, especially the par three’s – as for the course, getting on the green being two is a major achievement! I am expecting a good turn-out, so enter without delay.

PAUL LOCKETT

PAT MURPHY

EAST ANGLIA

The Eastern Region final of the qualifying rounds for the Iseki Competition was played in conjunc- tion with our Purdy’s Machinery Trophy. This tro- phy was donated by Les Purdy when our section started and our thanks must be given for his con- tinued support. Les joined us for the game this year at Belton Woods Country Club and stayed on for the meal and presentation in the hotel after play.

The course has now been open for two years and to quote our chairman, Graeme Patrick, ‘the hard work that has obviously been put in by Paul Cale and his staff over two trying years is now showing excellent results’. The Purdy’s Machinery Trophy was won by David Griffin of Bel- ton Woods and Kevin Hodges also of Elton Purdy.

As you will know our section or BIGGA. Please contact me by writing to Roseville Road, Leeds. Two events to catch up on, folks, so pay atten- tion. The first was a lovely day out, sponsored by Fisons and Rushbrooks. I hope it will not be the last and thanks to both companies for an excel- lent day.

Taking sponsorship one stage further – now that we have greenkeepers versus first assistants – we could have greenkeepers versus captains, greenkeepers versus secretaries etc. etc. Local companies, please take note.

The second event was in early June at Wood- bridge, a nice part of the world. Unfortunately, there was what in polite circles would be called a ‘slip-up’. Woodbridge have a limit on...
we were most grateful. Fortunately, Ufford GC pointed would-be players. Fortunately, Ufford GC was first with 37 pts. Stockbrook Manor? Where's that? Billericay! Would he say that I wonder? Eton. Who said Cromer crabs don't come inland! Well done. Prizes were presented by the Woodbridge captain, Mr Watt, and donated by Sisis, Rushbrooks, CMW, ICG, Doe's and Turf Actant. Our thanks to Woodbridge for a great day out - we won't send you want dinner on your lap!). Superb golf and won both the gross and nett prizes.

The Scottish National Tournament was held this year at Kingsknowe Golf Club in Edinburgh on September 23rd has a limit of 40 (unless you want dinner on your lap!).

The AGM will be at Aldeburgh in December after the Turkey Trot - don't say I didn't give you enough notice.

MICK LATHROPE

MIDLANDS

On Thursday June 18th the Midlands section held their Summer Tournament at Handsworth GC. The weather was breezy but warm and this made for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course - for good golf on a well prepared course. Results were as follows: Scratch 1st - Kevin Peace - Peterhead 70. Nett 1st - Colin Scott - Kilmarnock 63. Best Head greenkeeper - Gordon Moir - St Andrews 73-5=68. Best Assistant greenkeeper - Ross Wilson - Kinross 72-6=66. Best Apprentice greenkeeper - Donald Campbell - Galashiels 80-13=67. Best Veteran greenkeeper - Jimmy Neilson - Murrayfield 85-17=72. 1st Class 1st - Richard Sharp - Kinross 72-7=69. 2nd James Duncan - Aberdeen 73-6=69. 3rd T McLeod - Tobermory 74-7=67. 2nd Class 1st - Hugh McArthur - Peterhead 89-21=68. 2nd Andrew Forrest - Swanston 92-24=68. 3rd George Stavert - Peebles 97-27=70. Section team prize - East section. Associate member/trade/guest - John Robertson - Athlone 83-24=59. Special Prize - Kevin Brunton - Southend 69 off scratch.

ELLIOTT SMALL

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

A super day was had by all at the Iseki Regional Final, on the 17th June. The venue of the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club turned out to be not only spectacular to view, but very demanding to play, especially with the strong winds. Many a ball was lost in the rough, but undaunted, the strong minded battled on. There were one or two that excelled themselves, and others that fell by the wayside, but the very excellent meal provided made up for any disappointments.

Ian Pogson, area sales manager for Iseki UK Ltd, presented the prizes, and as usual kept the laughter flowing. Our thanks to him and the Iseki company for sponsoring the day. Also to their catering staff looked after the inner man in first class style and the captain Matthew Anderson, vice-captain Tom Dow and secretary Bert Wallace made us more than welcome and even invited us back again. To all those people our thanks for a great day. Even though it was sunny and hot the strong wind and dry conditions made for some interesting and testing golf shots but the lads had obviously been practising hard and some excellent scores were handed in. And for one of our friends from the Trade a nett 59 gave rise to some 'interesting' comments. Needless to say his name and a few others have been circulated to the section secretaries for handicap reviews before the autumn outings. Results were as follows: Scratch 1st - Kevin Peace - Peterhead 70. Nett 1st - Colin Scott - Kilmarnock 63. Best Head greenkeeper - Gordon Moir - St Andrews 73-5=68. Best Assistant greenkeeper - Ross Wilson - Kinross 72-6=66. Best Apprentice greenkeeper - Donald Campbell - Galashiels 80-13=67. Best Veteran greenkeeper - Jimmy Neilson - Murrayfield 85-17=72. 1st Class 1st - Richard Sharp - Kinross 72-7=69. 2nd James Duncan - Aberdeen 73-6=69. 3rd T McLeod - Tobermory 74-7=67. 2nd Class 1st - Hugh McArthur - Peterhead 89-21=68. 2nd Andrew Forrest - Swanston 92-24=68. 3rd George Stavert - Peebles 97-27=70. Section team prize - East section. Associate member/trade/guest - John Robertson - Athlone 83-24=59. Special Prize - Kevin Brunton - Southend 69 off scratch.

ELLIOTT SMALL

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish National Tournament was held this year at Kingsknowe Golf Club in Edinburgh on September 23rd. It was a glorious day with a stiff breeze and a field of 82 players did battle for the many trophies. Willie Blair and his staff had the course in great condition even without an automatic watering system and after a month with no rain. Dennis and Dorothy Maddison and their...