

## COMING UP

**February 10th-17th:** GCSAA Exhibition and Convention – New Orleans, USA.

**February 11th:** STRI Welsh Seminar – 'The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management' – Caer Beris Manor, Bulth Wells.

**March 11th:** British Institute of Golf Course Architects Seminar, 'The Positive Face of Golf Development', Institute of Engineers, London.

**March 24th-26th:** RECMAN (Sports Council) Conference and Exhibition – National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

**March 26th-29th:** Golf Asia '92 – World Trade Centre, Singapore.

**March 27th-29th:** BIGGA National Education Conference – Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

**April 8th:** BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel, York. Commencing 2.30pm.

**April 23rd-26th:** The World of Golf, Olympia, London.

**April 29th:** BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

**June 3rd-4th:** Landscape Industries '92. Trade Show – National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

**July 16th-19th:** The Open Championship – Muirfield, Scotland.

**August 10th-12th:** BIGGA National Golf Tournament – Littlestone GC, Kent.

# AROUND THE GREEN

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

● Will section reporters please note that final copy date for inclusion of *Around The Green* material in the April issue is March 1st.

### KENT

December 12th saw our annual Turkey Trot played at Ashford GC, and despite this taking place in the middle of a very cold spell – frozen ground et al – we were very lucky to find a pleasant, clear day. The course was in excellent shape, especially the fairways, and our thanks again go to Willie McConville and his staff. Once again the catering staff did us proud with a superb Christmas dinner and we are thankful that Ashford GC, undoubtedly fine hosts, are prepared to have us visit them on a regular basis.

First pick of the prizes went to Peter Gee with 41 points, followed by David Wood with 39 and Peter Biscoe with 38. It was nice to see some new faces participating and I hope we will see them again in other events later in the year. The trade prize was won by one of these 'new boys' – Chris Dale of Haynes – with 44 points. I can assure Chris it will be the last time he plays off a 24 handicap! Thanks also to the many trade members who supported us and provided raffle prizes, especially Mike Lincoln-Smith who brought the Ransomes Goblet, also won by Peter Gee.

Some members may have noticed that we held a 'vegetarian' Turkey Trot this time – no turkey

appearing on the prize table. I understand one was sent, but it was unable to read directions, its main problem apparently stemmed from disorientation after crossing the new Dartford Bridge and in receiving little help when asking the way. Running round the toll-booths emitting gobble, gobble noises only seemed to annoy people and when it eventually found the M20 and got through the road works, it finally got lost in the fog!

Following our dinner and prizegiving we held our AGM, which must have been the fastest in BIGGA history, for those assembled (representing only about one third of our membership) had very little to query. The committee remains the same as last year, seemingly no volunteers coming forward for election. However, this year the role of secretary and 'main man' has been filled by David Wood of Holtye. As some of you already know, John Millen has taken on greater responsibilities with the Joint Golf Course Committee, his Board of Management work and his new Weald of Kent course (which will open in the spring) and this will consume much of his time. Our thanks to him for his skill and devotion in handling the majority of our section affairs over several years. During the meeting, David Wood gave a brief summary of our activities in 1991 and reminded us of the events planned for 1992. If you need to contact him, his number (evenings) is 0342 850875.



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# AROUND THE GREEN

It further transpired that I failed in off-loading my job of Around The Green scribe, so you will have to put up with my ramblings and rantings for another year – you lucky people! Please always remember that Around The Green is YOUR section of the magazine and I will be pleased to include any snippets of gossip you may feel the urge to pass to me. My number is 0634 682908. With snippets in mind, may I welcome Neal Carter back to Kent, this time as head green-keeper at the new Birchwood Park development near Swanley. The Welsh wizard returned from his Italian post full of pasta and with pockets bulging with lire (and boots full of Farmura), and though he lasted longer in Italy than Jimmy Greaves, it seems his main dislike of that country – and therefore his inspiration to return to Kent – was probably the inability of his Italian staff to grasp his rules for indoor cricket!

PAUL COPSEY

## SOUTH WALES

December 11th saw our annual Christmas Competition held at Pyle and Kenfig for the Vitax Shield, the day being well attended with 33 people playing and the competition going well, especially when one considered the hard ground conditions which made judging putts difficult. The weather got the better of a few golfers, some playing only nine holes, but all in all I think the rest enjoyed the day. The winner of the Vitax Shield was Idwal Morris with a very respectable score of 35 points, this enabling Idwal to win a cut glass decanter set, donated by Allan Stow of Vitax, and a statuette. Andrew Jenkins, a new recruit for 1992, scored 36 points and was awarded a consolation prize, with the field following thus: 2nd D Donne, 3rd M Stokes, 4th L Hallett, 5th N Owens, 6th D Jones, 7th P Lacey, 8th P Long, 9th B Price, 10th B Kitcher, 11th M Jones-Inco, 12th R Lucas, 14th M Norfolk, 15th P Swain, 16th J B-Jones, 17th A Bull, 18th T King, 19th M Jones-Llanishen, 20th A Millar. Each of the above won a bottle, varying from whisky and wine to lager; and our thanks to some of our members, along with the following traders, for presenting prizes: Proturf, Sisis, Western Log Company, Tacit, Birds of Cowbridge, Colin Murphy, Rigby Taylor and Avoncrop Thanks must also go to the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities.

We held our AGM in the clubhouse with a total of 42 members in attendance and a number of items successfully discussed. The following officers were elected:- Chairman: H Parry, Vice Chairman: M Jones-Inco, Section Administrator: P Swain. Golf & Social Committee:- H Morgan (chairman), R Kitcher, L Hallett and T King. Education:- D Archer (chairman), P Lacey, G Price and A Jenkins. Regional Board:- P Swain and H Morgan. H Parry is our representative on the Board of Management. Those elected were given a unanimous vote by all present.

Thanks must go to Paul Robinson and his green staff for the course preparation, to the steward and stewardess for looking after us throughout the day, and the cook for providing an excellent evening meal.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs John Walsh and Mr and Mrs Brian Price, each on the addition of little one. They can also look forward to sleepless nights! Fixture cards will be sent to members in the new year and I hope to see many more of you attending our meetings in 1992.

PHILIP SWAIN

## DEVON AND CORNWALL

With the frost slowly clearing, twenty pairs tested their skills on December 11th against a well prepared Oakhampton course, a credit to Richard Wisdom and his staff. This event saw numbers limited to a maximum of 80, which hopefully made lunch more comfortable for those attending – and what a meal the girls served to us! It kept coming until we could eat no more and our thanks to them all – including those in the kitchen – for their superb food and service. Fol-

lowing lunch, Patrick Flegg of P J Flegg presented prizes to those who had battled for honours in playing a greensome Stableford. 1st: J Mitchell and R Parr 35 points, 2nd: G Child and T Gooch 34, 3rd: B Lewer and C Rawlings 33. Just missing the prizes and in 4th place were K Kellow and P Bullen with 32 points. Our thanks to Patrick for both donating and presenting the awards.

Following the prize presentations we all sat back to enjoy our afternoon cabaret by the 'Wag from Widecombe', Mr Tony Beard, who kept us all entertained with his West Country humour and ably demonstrating that his will be a hard act to follow – but we'll try! Tony's cabaret act completed we held two raffles, the first for the Avoncrop hamper, donated and presented by Rod Feltham to our lucky winner, Clive Ralph. The second raffle saw members choose from a table laden with over forty prizes! Our thanks to all who donated such fine prizes, also to Oakhampton GC for making us feel so very welcome and to Don Hunt for providing us with wine over lunch.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Westurf '92 is to be held at Long Ashton GC, Bristol, on Wednesday April 29th. Please support this show, in order that the region may support you.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## NORTHERN

I will start by wishing all our members a happy new year. In December we saw the winter golf competition and AGM held at a bitterly cold and frost-bound South Leeds GC. Just 14 members bothered to turn out and this looks like being the last winter competition unless considerably more interest is shown. However, the lads who did play enjoyed it and Telford (bandit) Jarvis won first prize, followed by Robin Smith and Chris Martin.

The AGM which followed was attended by 12 members, and for those who were not there, the following is a brief resume: The treasurer reported a reasonable financial position, but money had been hard to come by and a large loss was incurred at the annual dinner/dance. The secretary's report stressed again that members should support the section. On a more successful note, 38 new members had joined; Telford Jarvis had won the ISEKI final and the Northern Region won the team event. Additionally, the Northern Section retained the Patissons 'Battle of the Roses' trophy. Golf in 1991 had been arranged at Bradford, Northcliffe, Scarborough South Cliffe, and Kirbymoorside. The secretary then thanked the president, chairman and committee, also Norman Sheddon, Tony Dodson and the rest of the section's trade friends. The new committee was elected as follows: President-Bill Mountain, Chairman-Philip Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer-Bob Lupton, Committee – Alan Gamble, Ian Thomson, Dennis Cockburn, Telford Jarvis, Colin Garnett and Brian Carr.

Places are still available for the trip to Lloyds of Letchworth in March – please ring me for details.

You will shortly be receiving details of golf for 1992 – is your address correct? Please notify me if you move. Please also note that all entries require a £10 deposit for each tournament. You will not be placed on the entry sheet until a deposit reaches me. This seems to be causing some consternation with some members. The reasons for having a deposit system are 1) Caterers need to know exact numbers one week before a competition, and these numbers must be paid for. 2) Numbers of players must be known beforehand so that I can budget for the prize table. 3) Golf Clubs not only limit numbers of players but also require – in advance – names, addresses and

handicaps of all players. I am afraid that the days of 'just turning up on the day' are gone.

Finally, on a sad note, I have just heard of the death of Eric Armitage, formerly of Mountains. Eric had been ill for a long time and I am sure his passing will be sadly noted by our more senior members.

BOB LUPTON

## LONDON

The AGM of the London section was held at Mill Hill GC on November 28th, the committee for 1992 being elected as follows: Brian Kelly-Secretary, Norman Exley-Chairman, Andrew Phillips-Treasurer. Committee – Martin Smith, Barry Moggeridge, Nick Baldwin, Craig Handyside and Doug Smith.

Our Turkey Trot preceded the AGM, the eventual winner being Craig Handyside of Hadley Wood GC with 34 Stableford points, a good score under difficult conditions. Thanks go to the trade members for supporting us again, and to Mill Hill GC staff for looking after us so well on the day. For 1992 the London section has set up a sub-committee of three to organise golfing events throughout the year. Hopefully, if this is successful, entry forms will be sent out for all our golfing events. This will enable us to calculate exact numbers for catering, for we have been lucky so far in guessing numbers for lunch or dinner, but it might be only a matter of time before we get it all wrong and upset all concerned, especially the host Club. We must organise ourselves better and, to this end, the new sub-committee is relying heavily upon you, the members, to advise them well in advance if you intend playing at our selected venues in 1992. More information about this will be made available in our next 'Around the Green'. The sub-committee consists of: NICK BALDWIN (tel: 0525 714452), CRAIG HANDYSIDE (081-447 0214) and BARRY MOGGERIDGE. Please give them a call about any London section golfing event.

Dates for 1992: London Section: April 9th-Spring meeting/ISEKI qualifier at West Middx GC. July 7th – Summer competition at Panshanger GC. August 11th – Summer competition at Hatfield and London CC.

South East Region: March 13th- Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath GC. July 6th- ISEKI Regional Final at Chelmsford GC. August 10th to 12th – BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone GC.

If anyone has something interesting to tell, please do not hesitate to contact me, telephone 081 441 3216.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

## SOUTH COAST

Once again our annual Christmas Stableford Competition took place at the Royal Winchester GC in December. Over sixty members took part in the competition – a record for the section.

We are made most welcome at the Club and the support from the committee and manager, Mr David Williams, is much appreciated.

The competition took the form of individual Stableford points over 18 holes and was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and New Forest Farm Machinery. Results: Winner of the Rigby Taylor Shield- Brian Newcombe, Woodcote Park, 40 points. Runner-up, for the New Forest Machinery/John Deere Cup – Eric James, Bulberry Woods, 37. Third Alex McCombie, Parkstone, 35. Other prize winners were: Stephen White, Jeremy Norris, E Ball and John Payne. My thanks to Mark Wilton and Nick Clarke for providing and pre-

# AROUND THE GREEN

sending the prizes and especially to Kevin Unsworth, head greenkeeper at the Club. Although not in the prize list, Kevin did qualify for the ISEKI regional tournament in June.

After the competition and before the section Christmas dinner the AGM was held. The main change was in the composition of the committee. Mr Ted West, founder member of the committee in 1973, did not seek re-election. Thanks to Ted for his long stint was expressed by our chairman, Ken Lodge, and endorsed by all those present. In addition to the existing committee, three additional members were elected. They are Kerran Daly, Ian Rickman and Alan Mitchell. A superb Christmas dinner followed, with wine being provided by Jim Fry, section president. The award of prizes concluded a very enjoyable day.

The final Winter Lecture will be held on March 5th at Alresford GC, commencing at 7pm. The speaker will be Ken Barber, head greenkeeper at the East Sussex National Golf Club, who will talk on course maintenance. Come early if you want a seat!

BOB DENNIS

## EAST ANGLIA

The biggest event of 1991 for section secretary Mike Peters was his hole in one, bagged in December. The following was submitted by Mike's father, Roger Peters.

'Twas a real cold frosty morning, on the eighth day of December,

And as the days event turned out, a good one to remember.

The usual Sunday game of golf, twixt Michael and his Dad,

Was starting at the usual time, although the day was bad.

The tee-off followed usual trends and both balls went astray,

Dad hooked his drive off to the left, Mike's went the other way.

Approach shots didn't go too well, as each ball took a dive,

And so the outcome of this hole: they both went down in five.

Mike drove from the second tee with all his heart and soul,

He then turned to his Dad and said "It's in the bloody hole!"

ROGER PETERS

## EAST MIDLANDS

A Stableford competition for the Rigby Taylor Salvors was held on December 18th at Birstall GC, the results being: DIVISION ONE - 1st Dave Leatherland, 2nd Ian Marshall, 3rd Richard Barker. DIVISION TWO - 1st Adey Porter, 2nd Brian Mott, 3rd Jamie Bedford. Congratulations to all.

Some indifferent golf was overshadowed by the Christmas dinner afterwards by Joe Barsby's ability with the knife and fork and Dave Leatherland's lung power. Seriously though, thanks to all at Birstall GC, and to Rigby Taylor.

This month the section is pleased to welcome the following new members: Jim Murray, Ian Dunmore and Stephen Tolley - all of Longcliffe GC - and Michael Bird of Leicester City Council. We hope to see you all soon. Finally, if anybody needs to contact me, my home telephone number is 0509 650140.

TONY HOWARTH

## NORTH SCOTLAND

First may I welcome an old friend, Mike Wilson, who returned to our area after several years of plying his trade in South Wales. He recently took over at Kingussie and we wish him all the best in his new job and look forward to welcoming him at our outings this year. The autumn event, of course, will be held at Kingussie.

Our fund-raising activity this year is the formation of a 200 Club, those members receiving tickets being urged to sell or buy them as quickly as possible, or return them for resale. We propose to make a draw at each of our three main outings,

each draw naming four winners. The committee feel that this scheme will be better than the lottery, where tickets were often not returned by several members and returned late by others. Starting the 200 Club this month should enable all tickets to be sold before the first draw is made at Montrose in May.

The latest (January 1st) information on our regional seminar in November at Dundee College of Further Education is that five speakers are confirmed, with two others being sought. Three co-sponsors have been found and the programme is coming together well.

Finally, may I thank all the staff at BIGGA headquarters for a very enjoyable and productive meeting of regional administrators and section secretaries, held at Aldwark Manor during mid December. I hope this will become an annual event, as it provides a great opportunity to meet other regional administrators and section secretaries, to put faces to names, and to share in lively debates on running a section.

IAIN MACLEOD

## SOUTH WEST

'Twas a crisp and sunny morning at Shirehampton Park GC for the annual Veals Christmas Tournament and Luncheon on December 11th. The sunshine was certainly bright, and with temperatures plunging to minus 8 overnight the course was certainly crisp (crisp enough for most people, anyway)! Steve Francom, the head greenkeeper at Tracy Park, found the elusive temporary greens to his liking, recording the days' best score of 39 points.

The coldness of the morning was more than compensated for by the warmth of welcome that we received from staff and officials alike at this busy Bristol Club. In fact, the hospitality was such that we felt entirely 'at home' throughout the whole day. Many thanks to Chris, Colin and all the outdoor staff for their efforts on the course, with special thanks to Club secretary, Piers Barington-Wells, for presenting the prizes, and to the catering staff, ably led by Anne Roberts, for the outstanding meal. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to our main sponsors - Veals Lawnmowers - and to Messrs Avoncrop, Sierra UK, Ransomes, Roffey Bros., Western Golf Development and TH Whites, for their generous contributions to the prize table.

The full results were: 1st-S Francom (Tracy Park) 39 points, 2nd-J York (Wells) 38, 3rd-P Connert (Lyme Regis) 35, 4th-C Sealey (Chippenham) 34, 5th-I Montacute (Bradford on Avon) 34, 6th-J Cooper (Saltford) 34. Congratulations to all!

The Winter Lecture programme is now in full swing, with members urged not to forget that MGC credits are allotted to all those who attend, thus providing them with a chance to get ahead of the game in this, our industry standard.

Two big events coming up in the near future are the National Education Conference, held this year at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester on March 27th-29th, and WESTURF '92 at Long Ashton GC on April 29th. Both events will be well worth attending and we may be calling for volunteers at both to man the doors/gates etc., so be warned!

In the meantime, may I leave you with a gentle reminder: 'you've got to be in it to win it!' Loosely translated, this means that any greenkeeping staff not in our Association are likely to miss out in a big way. Of course, it goes without saying that the Association also needs YOU!

PAUL WORSTER

## CLEVELAND

The committee elected for the Cleveland section in 1992 is: Chairman - H Lees, Vice Chairman - G Munro, Secretary/Treasurer - R Shaw, Regional Representatives - I Holleran and G Malcolm, News - B Burnell, Social - K Heslop. Golf - G Pyle, G Munro and S Shotton.

The Spring Tournament scheduled for April will be held at Stressholme GC, Darlington. The exact date will be announced later.

Gary Munro, head greenkeeper at Bedale GC., is hard at work constructing a 35 acre extension, and quite apart from his busy work with 24 greens and numerous bunkers he is also the proud father of a new son, Thomas James Munro, who was born last June. Gary's father, Jim Munro, retired recently as professional at Eaglescliffe following 27 years of service. On the proud father front, we hear that Roger Shaw is next in line, with a new baby expected in March.

George Malcolm, head greenkeeper at Middlesbrough Brass Castle is yet another busy man, currently working on green construction work. We in Cleveland are justly proud of George as our worthy National Chairman, the more so as he is never too busy for his fellow man and is always willing to help other greenkeepers - you just have to ask!

The December inter-section quiz, Cleveland versus the North East, was held at Durham GC and proved a memorable event, thanks especially to our sponsor Terry Charlton.

BRUCE BURNELL

## SURREY

With March fast approaching it is time to dust off the golf clubs and commence preparation for another superb season of golf on offer to Surrey members. The first golf event precedes the annual Regional Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath GC on Friday, March 13th and early rounds of the Huxley Bowl will also be due. Later in the month (March 27th-29th) the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester plays host to BIGGA's National Education Conference. As delegates at recent conferences will confirm, it will be well worth making the effort to attend this event.

Best wishes go to Iain Hamilton on his attaining a new dual position at the Cherry Lodge and Coulsdon Court Golf Clubs. Any other news from within the section will be most welcome, so please call either David Andrews (081 651 3251) or myself, Roger Tydeman (081 657 7256).

ROGER TYDEMAN

## BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Sorry for the brevity of this report, but I have just become 'Uncle Ray' following the birth of my sister's first! Don't worry, I'll make up for it next month.

The results of our recent Turkey Trot revealed a 'dead-heat' of three - all on 34 - and final placings were decided on count-back: 1st H Tribe, 2nd L Anderson, 3rd D Porter. Harvey Tribe won the CMW donated turkey, with L Anderson taking the John Deere Trophy for the best gross score of 81. Richard Minton fired off the longest drive and nearest the pin was won by H Wilson. Our grateful thanks once again to Frilford Heath GC, especially secretary, Jacques Kleynhans, and course manager, Dave Heads, together with dedicated staff who turned out the course so superbly. Finally our gratitude to the catering staff for excellent 'inner-man' provisions and to our friends in the trade who once again served us proudly: John Deere, CMW, Golf and Turf, Risborough Turf Supplies, Rigby Taylor, ➡ 50

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May I once again remind members of our Gents Dinner on March 6th at Frilford Heath – tickets are still available – contact Bob Woodward (0628 664512) or me, Ray Clark (0628 829208). Forthcoming events: Mar 17th, Lecture (7pm) at Sonning GC. May 15th, Spring Tournament at Henley GC.

RAY CLARK

## SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish region will be holding a conference on March 10th at Langside College, Glasgow, commencing at 9m. Speakers include the irrepressible Danny Godfrey, Wentworth's Chris Kennedy and Turnberry's George Brown. An added bonus is presented by the attendance of Neil Thomas, who will address the conference on the progress of BIGGA in the 90s. Details from me, phone 0259 31445.

ELLIOTT SMALL

## AYRSHIRE

The section AGM took place in late November and was fairly well attended. Things appear to be going quite well, although we could do with a bit of a push on those greenkeepers in our area who seemingly don't appreciate the benefits now associated with membership in BIGGA. Come on lads, let 'them' know what they're missing!

Ian McNab, head man at Dumfries and County has been appointed liaison officer for the Dumfries and Galloway area and will be attempting to form a D&G sub-section – please give him your support.

We held a games night just before Christmas in the Ardeer Clubhouse, which went very well. Prizes were of the traditional festive nature and by the end of the evening the mood was in the same vein. Thanks to the Ardeer committee and staff for the use of their premises – and for smashing catering.

Not much movement this time on the job front, with the only known change being that of Brian Finlayson taking over the helm at Glasgow Gables, this after four years at the Troon Municipal courses. The section send good luck to him – although we know he won't need it!

DUNCAN GRAY

## South West and South Wales Region



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