COMING UP

February 10th-17th: GCSAA Exhibition and Convention - New Orleans, USA.
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 29th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 - Long Ashton GC, Bristol.
June 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

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 Duke 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 role 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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A GRASS ROOTS BUSINESS
South Wales

December 11th saw our annual Christmas Competition held at Pyle and Kenfig for the Vitax Shield. We were joined with some people playing and the competition went well, especially when one considered the hard ground conditions which made judging puts difficult. The weather got the better of a few golfers, some playing only nine holes in all that remained. We all 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 G Price, 9th M Kitchen, 10th M Jones-Inco, 12th R Lucas, 14th M Norfolk, 15th P Swain, 16th J B-Jones, 17th A Ball, 18th T King, 19th M Jones-Llanishen, 20th A Millar. Each of the above won a bottle, varying from whisky and wine to a lovely new Telford jug. We all thanked to some of our members, along with the following traders, for presenting prizes: Proturf, Sisis, Western Loggers were elected:- Chairman: H Parry, Vice Chairman: M Jones-Inco, Section Administrator: P Swain, Golf & Social Committee:- H Morgan (chairman), R Kitchen, L Hallett and T King. Education:- D Archer (chairman), P Lacey, G Peterson 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.

The AGM of the London section was held at Mill Hill GC on November 28th, the committee for the previous year were re-elected as follows: President-Bill Mountain, Vice President-Michael Oldham, Secretary-Dr. John Deere Cup - Eric James, Bulberry Woods, Regional Final at Chelmsford GC. August 10th - Summer competition at Hatfield and London GC. South East Region: Martin 13th: Gentlemen's Day at Cobham GC. July 6th: ISKE Regional Final at Chelmsford GC. August 10th to 12th - BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone GC.

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 Edey-Chairman, Andrew Phillips-Treasurer. Committee:- Martin Smith, Barry Moggeridge, Nick Baldwin, Graig Handsyde and Doug Smith.

Our Turkey Trot preceded the AGM, the eventual winner being Craig Handsyde of Hasley 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 on the members to advise. We will keep you 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 HANDSIDE (081-447 0214) and BARRY MORGGERIDE. Please give them a call about any London section golfing event.

Dates for 1992: London Section: April 9th- Spring meeting/ISKE qualifier at West Mids. GC. July 7th - Summer competition at Hampton GC. August 11th - Summer competition at Hatfield and London GC.

South East Region: Martin 13th: Gentlemen's Day at Cobham GC. July 6th: ISKE Regional Final at Chelmsford GC. August 10th to 12th - BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone GC.

Anyone who has anything interesting to tell, please do not hesitate to contact me, telephone 081 441 3216.

Andrew Phillips

South Coast

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

Please get in touch with your 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 McBride, 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 preparing 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 out on the prizes in 4th place were K Followell 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 Wagtail Three. The band were great and everyone was 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 ANorcrop 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 low water mark for this competition, unless 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 ISKE final and the Northern Region won the team event. Additionally, the Northern Section had received a partner for the Roses' trophy. Golf in 1991 had been arranged at Bradford, Northcliffe, Scarborough South Cliffe, and Kirkbymoorside. The secretary then thanked the president, chairman and committee, also noted Sheldon, Tony Dodden 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, Vice Chairmen- 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 receive your members card for the year 1992 – is your address correct? Please note 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 paid for in advance 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 Mounts. 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

Devon and Cornwall

With the frost slowly clearing, twenty pairs tested their skills against a freshly cut and 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 up to us 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-
A R O U N D  T H E  G R E E N

CLEVELAND

The Spring Tournament scheduled for April will be held at Stresholme 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 Shaw is next in line, with a new baby expected in March.

George Malcolm, head greenkeeper at Middle-brough 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 never too busy for his fellow man and 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.

B R U C E  B U R N E L L

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 delegate at recent conferences will confirm, it will be well worth making the effort to attend this event.

Best wishes to Ian Hamilton on attaining a new dual position at the Cherry Lodge and Coulston 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).

R O G E R  T Y D E M A N

B U C K S ,  B E R K S  &  O X O N

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 I Anderson, 3rd D Porter. Harvey Tribe won the CMW donated turkey, with I Anderson taking the Donald T. Brown Trophy for the best gross score of 71 and Richard Minton fired the longest drive and nearest the pin was won by H Wilson. Our grateful thanks once again to Frilford Heath GC, especially Secretary, James Kleyhnans, 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, etc.

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AROUND THE GREEN

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May I once again remind members of our Gents Dinner on March 6th at Pitford Heath – tickets are still available – contact Bob Woodward (0628 665412) 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 Finlays on taking over the helm at Glasgow Gailies, 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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THE PLACE: Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol
THE TIME: From 10am to 5pm

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