February 1st. This means that section reporters will have to work hard on their copy by at least one clear month and send relevant new copy before the appearance of the current issue. All out-of-date announcements will be removed. Co-operation in meeting these deadlines will be appreciated.

EAST MIDLANDS

The AGM meeting for the Maxwell Hart Shield was held on November 25th at Lingdale GC, Woodhouse Eaves. An enjoyable and well attended day resulted in honours going to Ian McCartney, Chief Reporter of The Daily Star, and Hector Morrice, Editor of the Formidable. The AGM, all going to well

The AGM, following the below, was held to represent the section for the coming year. CHAIRMAN: Richard Barker, VICE CHAIRMAN: Dave Perkins, SECRETARY: Tony Howarth. COMMITTEE: Graham Arnold, Mark Bindley, Walter Cole, Steve Goode and Paity McCarron. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: Richard Barker and Tony Howarth, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paddy McCarron.

The 1991 season saw considerable success for the section's golfers at both regional and national level. Congratulations to all those who contributed, especially Richard Barker, Steve Goode and Maurice Emery. Let's hope the coming season offers a quality of challenge for us to look forward to!

Finally, it is with pleasure that I pass the section's thanks to Gordon Mitchell, our retiring secretary, for the hard work he has done for us. Best wishes Gordon, and good luck in your new position at Leek.

TONY HOWARTH

WEST SCOTLAND

The turn-out for the 1991 West Section AGM, at Renfrew GC, was well supported by more than half of the total section membership. Lenzie and Cowal Golf Club's are to be thanked for their personal invitations to the section to come and play over their courses. It is a pleasure to us all to receive an open invitation and to know the hand of friendship extends to the greenkeeping fraternity.

The Annual Dinner was once again held at Sloans Restaurant and was well attended, though grumblings were heard concerning the venue and the quality of meals served that evening. Your committee will give this serious consideration well in time for next year. There was nothing but praise for the three guest speakers: Peter Lloyd, Assistant Secretary PGA Scottish Region, Stuart McCrae, Chief Reporter of The Daily Star, and our own Jim McKenzie, Head Greenkeeper, Wentworth Golf Club.

Allistair Connell, the section's new chairman for 1992, presented Cecil George with crystal glass for his involvement in the organising of the new HNC courses for greenkeepers.

I would point out to you all that despite Cecil's immense involvement in the Association, there is no truth in the rumour that he arrived back on Friday evening in the gentlemen's bar to discuss with the committee how difficult the week had been! On behalf of Cecil's many friends exiled in the South, Jim McKenzie presented a further gift to him. Lectures for greenkeepers and students at Langside College Horticultural Dept. have been arranged as follows:

14th January: Kenny Hunter (Frews Grass Machinery) on Machinery for the Golf Course.
13th February: Robert D Bruce (Stewart & Company) on Turf Manufacture and Production. All lectures will commence at 2.15 pm at Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Glasgow.

Drew McKechnie, the new vice-chairman, arranged a games night at Claremont Bowling Club in December, claiming that if successful there is no reason why more of the same cannot be organised in the coming months.

As can be seen from this report, the West Section committee has been working hard on your behalf and ask for nothing more than your unswerving support. Happy New Year to you all.

GORDON KERR

EAST ANGLIA

Our AGM on November 13th at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club was well supported and ran fairly smoothly until someone decided to reduce the size of Norfolk! He was over-rulled because Norfolk has always been 'that big' and as he was a fellow 'foreigner', he didn't have a vote anyway!

Most of the officials who were elected en-bloc, the exceptions being our faithful president of many years, John Moyce, who has been replaced by our own Jim McKenzie, Head Greenkeeper, Wentworth Golf Club. As can be seen from this report, the West Section committee has been working hard on your behalf and ask for nothing more than your unswerving support. Happy New Year to you all.

GORDON KERR
COMING UP


January 20th-21st: BIGGA Seminar Programme – Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

January 22nd-24th: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition – Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

February 4th: STRI Irish Seminar – As January 14th – Milltown CC, Dublin.

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

February 11th: STRI Welsh Seminar – At January 14th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.


April 8th: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, The Royal York Hotel, York.


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

June 3rd-4th: Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

SOUTH WEST

The morning dawned fair and frosty for our Autumn Tournament at Tracy Park, with play accordingly starting on temporary greens. But... let's hear it for Steve, for after the first few holes members of his staff appeared – as if by magic – and most of the pins were replaced. Maxwell Hart have adopted this tournament from 1991 and thanks to their generosity the prize table was bursting at the seams.

My playing partner, James Taylor from Tall Pines, was finding the mix of greens to his liking, firing six birdies in a round of 67 gross (or 41 points). Not quite good enough, however, for a protege of mine – Philip Newton from Lilley Brook – came in with the best score of 43 points off a highly dubious 28 handicap. Philip is an extremely likeable young man who has been in greenkeeping and playing golf for just under two years.

THE FULL RESULTS: Philip Newton (Lilley Brook GC) 43 points and winner of the Maxwell Hart Trophy. Division 1: 1st, J Taylor (Tall Pines GC) 41 points. 2nd, C Pidge (Tracy Park GC) 39, 3rd, M Gray (Clevedon GC) 37. Division 2: 1st, J Leigh (Henbury GC) 35 points. 2nd, S Earl (Chipping Sodbury GC) 34. 3rd, R Wellman (Lyme Regis GC) 34.

Many thanks to Maxwell Hart and Sta-Brite Supplies for the prizes, to Tracy Park for their hospitality and to Steve Francom and his staff for preparing such an excellent course upon which to play.

The latter part of the day was given over to Colin Pyce and his Terralift for a very informative and interesting couple of hours, giving us a full insight into how this versatile machine can help with the maintenance of greens and tees etc., and also how it can be adapted to maintain and improve the health of trees.

Colin's talk was followed by our AGM, with Bob Gates formally retiring from the Chair after some 22 years! Bob, who built up the section from virtually nothing to its present lofty heights, was presented with an inscribed crystal vase by Ivo Scoones, who also paid tribute to Bob's great efforts to further the cause of greenkeepers and greenkeeping.

Elected Officers: CHAIRMAN – J York, VICE CHAIRMAN: P Cox, SECRETARY: P Worster, MATCH CAPTAIN: K Miller, REGIONAL BOARD: I Scoones & R Williams. Also elected to served on the committee was S Earl, with David Everett elected to the college committee at Camington.


A full list giving details etc., sponsored by T H Waite's, will be circulated soon.

At the meeting it was decided that all players participating in team events will be required to stay at the site the night before the day. It was also stressed that the most important event in the calendar is WESTURF '92 and that all members should make an effort to attend.

Finally I would like to wish all members a happy New Year and good greenkeeping for 1992.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTH WALES

First may I wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year, with the hope that you have all recovered from the festivities by now!

My wife and I extend thanks to the staff at HQ for the support (and the flowers) which followed our recent car accident. Thankfully, everyone is now well on the mend.

The November lectures had a reasonable attendance and our thanks to those who responded to the call; with a question for the rest: where were you?

Speakers were Stuart Pierson on COSHH, Tony Gush on Fuels and Gordon Wright on Ecology on the Golf Course. To them we extend our thanks for their time and effort in supporting our section.

We are working on one more lecture this winter, covering the subject of Practical Welding, and I'll keep you all posted on this one, which should prove most interesting.

The Christmas Golf Day at Abergele & Pensarn GC was a tremendous success with over 70 players turning out. RESULTS: 1st David Law 35 points (winner of the Bruera Shield). 2nd Terry Adamson 34 points, Guest – Paul Pearce. Special thanks to sponsors Bruera, Turf Mech, Richard Campey, Walkers, Gem, Cheshire Light Tractors, Fletcher Stewart, Martin Brothers, Hunters of Chester and Monmersteeg and most grateful thanks especially to Abergele & Pensarn GC, who at the eleventh hour took such a greenkeeper in.

Finally, I know all our members will join with me in wishing Clif Hunt, formerly of Vicars Cross GC, all the best on his retirement, albeit a little early.

MARK PROCTOR

EAST OF ENGLAND

What a glorious day we picked for our Lambs Trophy in October, with the course at Burghley Park like a green carpet and manicured to perfection – as usual – by David and his team. A gathering of twenty four players returned some excellent scores, and I suppose that when you prepare the course to your liking, you are allowed to win. And that is how it happened, with David Salisbury returning 41 points to retain the trophy once again. Tied in second place with 37 were C MacDonald, G Dolan and F Cobb. Prizes were donated by our generous sponsors, Robin Lamb and Colin Sangster, and we were delighted that they both joined us for an excellent meal in the clubhouse. Our thanks also to other friends in the trade, who also joined us and gen-
Vitax and also not forgetting The Berkshire — for will be notified to you all later. Our thanks to the standing committee were returned en bloc.

Dave Heads and Andrew Thompson (Frilford Heath), and Alan Collis and Paul Reeve (Sonning). The matches being staged over the green course.

The Whiteleaf v Frilford Heath match proved a close affair, with never more than two holes in it at any stage. But the Sonning pair — who had been 18th all square. Deadlock was broken with Thompson chipping in from greenside for a 3, leaving Lee Edwards a 20 footer to halve the 18th, but it at any time, the match eventually going to the extra hole and to Frilford Heath for their kindness in letting this be held on their fine course, the superb condition of which is a huge credit to Dave Heads and his staff.

The section send congratulations to Mr and Mrs Mike Hughes on the birth of their new baby daughter, with the hope that both mother and baby are well. Finally, may I wish you all a happy New Year, with the hope that I shall be seeing you all during the coming season.

RICHARD WHITMAN

Midlands

On October 31st the Midlands section defeated their old rivals, the East Midlands, in a Rigby Taylor Match played at Coxmoor Park. The match was played in good spirit and we thank the East Midlands section for a most enjoyable day. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of Steve Blakeman and Rigby Taylor and we thank them most sincerely and look forward to repeating the performance in 1992. We need to say, our thanks also to Coxmoor Park GC for most generously granting the use of course and clubhouse, all presented in excellent condition.

The section send congratulations to Mr and Mrs Mike Hughes on the birth of their new baby daughter, with the hope that both mother and baby are well. Finally, may I wish you all a happy New Year.

DEAN CLEAVER

Sheffield

Our first winter lecture of the season was given recently by Mark Radford of Ransomes, a most entertaining talk and interesting video show. On November 27th our Christmas Golfing Competition was held at Wortley GC, where an excellent turn-out of 40 players battled away over a thirteen hole Stableford, with the principal prize winners being: 1st D Chappell (27), 2nd P Unwin (26 on count-back). 3rd M Scothern (26 off a +1 handicap!) and 4th S Hird (24). Even our new assistant competition secretary, P Heaney, won a prize, hal hal! The putting competition was again won by I Lilley, with the section able to add £14 towards its funds.

We would especially like to thank Wortley GC for courtesy of the course, along with Barry Heaney and his staff for presenting excellent
playing conditions. Additionally, to the trade members for donations to the prize table and especially to B Booch of Rigby Taylor for the excellent crystal glasses etc. At this point we must give an extra special mention to the catering staff at Wortley GC, who did us so proud with a six course dinner, so thoroughly enjoyed by all. In fact, the whole day was a complete success in every way!

Golfing dates for 1992: May 11th- Spring Tournament at Wheatley GC, tee-off at 2.00 pm. Sept 7th- Autumn Tournament at Sitwell Park GC, tee-off at 1.30pm.

All this leaves me with just one happy task, that of wishing everyone in the Sheffield section a happy and prosperous New Year.

IAN COLLETT

NORTH SCOTLAND

Our section AGM took place on November 26th at Letham Grange GC, the day starting with a very interesting talk given by a representative from Modern Maintenance Products. Twenty eight hardy souls then played golf in a Chairman V Vice Chairman match over the new course at Letham Grange. Amidst tales of bribery and nobbling, chairman Dougal Duguid accepted defeat and presented the winning Sam Morrison with the trophy, which we sincerely hope will become an annual award. Our thanks to Jim Grainger and his staff at Letham for the condition of the course.

Following a lovely meal the AGM took place, with a main issue being the resignation of Gordon Moir from the secretariat, and of yours truly taking his place! There followed a presentation to Gordon in gratitude for all his hard work, with a relief map and drawing up detailed specifications for the first time. David will talk about club professional all working together, an excellent exercise in communications.

Over 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent talk from the professional Malcolm Webb, ably assisted by head greenkeeper Mark Webb, both of Alresford GC, on the subject of enlarging an existing course.

Topics covered included acquiring extra land, planning permission, preparing detailed plans with a relief map and drawing up detailed specifications for tender documents. The main message to members was the need for teamwork from all those involved with the project. This meant club members, various committees, green staff and club professional all working together, an excellent exercise in communications.

Our fourth Winter Lecture, commencing at 7pm at Alresford GC on Wednesday February 5th, see our editor, David White, visiting our section for the first time. David will talk about Greenkeeper International – providing ample opportunity for an open question time – and will also discuss (with a small clutch of slides) his annual pilgrimage to Augusta in the spring, where The Masters Tournament is held.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH WEST

A happy New Year everybody, and a special welcome to all new members in the North West.

LONDON

The past year saw some fine golf played by various individuals from around the London section, and although at the ISEKI finals at Hillside our three qualifiers did not come away with silverware, they kept the London interest alive and flew the flag with great pride. Well done to Martin Smith from Portsers Park, and Darren Burdis and Robert Washbrook, both from Hadley Wood.

Simon Woolley of Brickendon Grange was a winner in the National Tournament at Royal St Davids, taking the Maxwell Hart Cup with a gross 77 (off 8), whilst the London Section Summer League final was won by Robert Phillips and Martin Smith, securing a 2 and 1 victory over local rivals, Darren Burdis and yours truly. This was a match played in great spirit and our thanks to Ronan at Ackley GC for allowing us to play on a "neutral" course. Still more winners in the section include Ted Dickinson of Hatfield & London GC&CC, who won at Porters Park during the summer, and Steve Cox of Abridge who took the Autumn Trophy at West Herts.

At present we have two fixtures arranged for 1992, these being at Panshanger and Hatfield &London, with dates to be finalised. The 1991 South East Regional Seminar at Merrist Wood was well attended and I and my greenkeeping team were fortunate to be present and found it of great educational benefit. Environmental topics have really come to the fore at many courses and are a constant source of conversation.

Your committee are still finalising the seminar scheduled for Feb 26th at Aldenham: we'll keep you posted. To all members, a happy 1992.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

SOUTH COAST

It was very pleasing to see such a good turn-out for the first section Winter Lecture in November. Over 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent talk from the professional Malcolm Webb, ably assisted by head greenkeeper Mark Webb, both of Alresford GC, on the subject of enlarging an existing course.

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BOB DENNIS

NORTH WEST

A happy New Year everybody, and a special welcome to all new members in the North West.

IAN MACLEOD
AROUND THE GREEN

Because we have quite a few new members in our section, I will take this opportunity to tell them how we function. During the winter we try to arrange evening lectures, these of course being announced beforehand, and the rule here is simple - just turn up (PLEASE) and enjoy a pleasant and informative evening.

Starting in April with a match against the North Wales section, we hold regular golf events throughout the year - in all six tournaments and including a qualifying round for the ISEKI sponsored tournament - and everyone is most welcome, beginners especially, who will also be given a playing handicap if required.

In the case of tournaments, the secretary must be informed of an intention to play at least seven days prior to the event, in this order that ample catering arrangements may be made. We always have an enjoyable time at these events, together with an excellent prize table usually provided by generous sponsors, so come along and meet other members and join in the comradeship.

I hope that 1992 will see greater interest, not only in local and regional events, but in those organised nationally. A prime example is the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate on January 20th-24th, an event that really should not be missed! Any further information may be obtained by calling me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

CLEVELAND

Our AGM was held at Middlesborough Municipal GC on November 14th, with 26 members present. The annual reports were read and accepted and G Pyle was co-opted onto the committee. The AGM complete, a talk was given by Mike Heath of Vitax on The Care of Fine Turf. This was an excellent and informative meeting appreciated by all members. The fairway scarifiers and aeration demonstration at Brancepeth Castle GC was most interesting, with the Toro and Ransomes trials demonstrating how fairways can benefit from scarifying and how water percolation will improve through aeration. Our congratulations to Mr & Mrs Gary Munro, who now have a son, their second child.

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