Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Section secretaries and correspondents should note that the closing date for ‘Around The Green’ copy is the first day of the month preceding publication – eg. copy for March issue must be received by February 1st. This means that section reporters must think ahead 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 All out-of-date announcements will be spiked. 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 Marshall, with Adrian Porter and Maurice Emery second and third respectively. The trade section winner was Chris James. Well done and many thanks to all at Lingdale.

At the AGM, the following were elected 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 Paddy 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 quality to look forward to!

Finally, it is with pleasure that I pass on 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 Rothesay 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 for us to look forward to!

Our AGM of November 13th at Bury St Edmunds was well supported and ran fairly smoothly until someone decided to reduce the size of Norfolk! He was over-ruled 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of the officials were elected en-bloc, the exceptions being our faithful president of many years, John Moyce, who has been replaced by Ernie Hart. We wish John well and thank him for all the hard work he did for us, especially in the early years. I am sure Ernie will carry on in the same vein. Our new vice president is big Bobby Chesham, who is also vice chairman (how many more vice’s has he got?), and our chairman is again the evergreen Sam Sylvester, who is also the treasurer. We’ve got more double acts than the Crazy Gang and come to think of it, we are the Crazy Gang. Our secretary is Mike Peters and the handicap secretary is Steve Freestone, a man it is wise to keep in with!

The Annual Dinner was once again held at Sloans Restaurant and was well attended, though grumbles 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 McCrory, Chief Reporter of The Daily Star, and our own Jim McKenzie, Head Greenkeeper, Wentworth Golf Club.

Alistair Connell, the section’s new chairman for 1992, presented Cecil George with crystal glass on behalf of the section, whilst congratulating him on his recent retirement. Cecil is one of the few characters left in greenkeeping, as anyone who has ever attended any meeting he has chaired will vouch, for not only has he been a great stalwart of the West Section but also to greenkeeping in general. He has served on the BIGGA Education Committee and quite recently was involved 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 on Monday morning to give instructions to his assistant for the week ahead and 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

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