SOUTHERN IRELAND
Due to airline re-scheduling, my time at Hermitage Golf Club for the Southern Ireland Iseki competition was very short. However, in the time that I was there the sun shone over the magnificent picturesque course in beautiful condition under the care of head greenkeeper, Jim Byrne. My thanks to Chris Nolan for the taxi ride.

Twenty-nine greenkeepers took part in the competition and the results are as follows:
Category 1 - Handicap 0-9 inc
1st Tony Burke nett 73, 2nd Inn Richie nett 74, 3rd Ollie English nett 74.
Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc
1st Joe Flaherty nett 70, 2nd Jim Byrne nett 70, 3rd Tom Bignal nett 73.
Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc
1st David Casbourne nett 77, 2nd Chris Nolan nett 80, 3rd Brendan Harmon nett 85.

We all look forward to seeing the team at Coventry Golf Club for the final on 24th September.

DEBBIE SAVAGE

NORTHERN IRELAND
Unfortunately, (writes Debbie Savage) due to fog, Leeds/Bradford Airport was closed and my journey to Lurgan Golf Club was aborted. Luckily David White was also due at Lurgan as part his recent trip to Eire and Northern Ireland so the reporting is up to him as follows:

Like Debbie, my flight was also delayed, though due more to the monster car park known as the M25 than fog! I arrived in Lurgan some hours late and was dismayed on asking directions to be told that a bomb had gone off in Lurgan centre and all traffic was diverted around the town – my informant, bless his devious heart, failed to let on that the bomb had exploded months previously, though it did leave me with heart in mouth for a wee while! I was not too late to see at least some of the splendid golf being played over a pretty and lush parkland course, though it was a pity I had no time to acquaint myself with all those who were locked in combat. Looking through the lens of a camera, however, I could pick out the skilful players and was most impressed with the style and performance of Patrick Devine, who shot a mean 74 gross over a tight and demanding track.

Those Northern Ireland guys certainly know how to enjoy themselves too, and I was regally plied with Old Bushmills and Guinness! Thanks to all them all for a splendid day. The results are as follows:

Category 1 - Handicap 0-9 inc
1 st Patrick Devine nett 68, 2 nd Michael O'Neill nett 73, 3 rd Laurence McCusker nett 73.
Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc
1 st Jonathan Eager nett 68, 2 nd Davey Eager nett 69, 3 rd James Kane nett 70.

Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc
1 st Raymond McMath nett 71, 2 nd Paul McBlane nett 73, 3 rd Hugh McLaughlin nett 85.

Like Debbie, I shall look forward to seeing the victors at Coventry GC, which I’m sure all will enjoy immensely.

DAVID WHITE

EAST OF ENGLAND
Our first tournament of the season was held in the ‘Soak of Peterborough’ and a ‘wee soak’ is what we experienced. However, the weather did not spoil the friendly welcome we received at this municipal council, the first our section has played.

Nineteen greenkeepers attended the Orton Meadows course, which is built in two very different halves. The long half, which played around a lake, was a real test in the wind and the back nine was one where tee shots had to be well placed to gain advantage. With tees well back — nearly on to the busy A1 — it was not surprising that a local man, Graeme MacDonald, won with a splendid 35 points to beat Gilbert Ogden of Stokoe Rochford, with Michael Wood of Thorpe Wood in third place.

I should like to place on record my thanks to BIGGA for making sure the wives who attended the recent conference at Cirencester had a superb time. Three members from our section took their wives along and they are now all looking forward to next year’s meeting.

COLIN SWINGLER

NORTH SCOTLAND
The section’s Spring Outing to Montrose GC was a great success, despite the windy weather. The course was in first class order, which would have been reflected in the scores had it not been for the gale force wind blowing, warm though it was.

Nonetheless we were well looked after, with 74 members, trade and guests participating, 69 of them playing golf. Our thanks to the catering staff in the Caledonian clubhouse.

The results were: Scratch – 1st R Paterson 79 (b.i.h) 2nd G Hampton. Handicap Class 1 – 1 st A MacLeod 79-3=76. 2 nd George Mitchell 81-4=77. 3 rd A Dempster 83-5=78. Class 2 – 1 st B Taylor 85-8=77. 2 nd A Scarhan 86-7=79. 3 rd S McBain 88-9=79. Class 3 – 1 st T Simpson 93-20=73. 2 nd S Frost 96-20=76. 3 rd S Donald 94-17=77. Unofficial and booby shared by K Wood and R Allan. Trade P Allan 78-5=73. Apprentice B Cameron 89-9=80. Veteran A Grant 86-8=78. Guest W Donald 93-6=87. Nearest the pin – R Patterson.

The day rounded off with the usual raffle and the first of our 200 Club draw, the winners being: Jan – £30 C Cumming, 16 Gollanhead Ave. Rosemarke. Feb – £30 M Hampton, Balghulan Cott. Pitlochry PH16 5QT. March – £40 J Hamilton 15 Crown St. Inverness. April – £100 J Lawson, Letham Grange Farm, Colliston by Arbroath DD11 4RL.

Man on the move is Andy Robertson, who in June moved from Thruso to become first assistant at Surnningdale in Berkshire. We wish him all the luck in the world in returning his money if he gets lucky in the 200 Club.

Congratulations to Steven Macintosh, first assistant at Muir of Ord, who won the North District Championships at Elgin by 6 strokes with a one under par total of 137. Fellow greenkeepers were thrilled to see the skills of the SEC1 finalists to be staged in Coventry in September. Robert Allan Hazeland is first reserve in class three.

Finally, the winner of a BIGGA blazer in the free members raffle at the Spring Outing was Donny Dingwall from Contin, near Strathpeffer. We hope to run a similar draw at our Autumn Outing.

IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WEST
Summer is here, the sun is shining, birds are singing, golfers are meaning, the greens mower is on the blink and the hosepipe ban is looming. Apart from that everything’s fine.

The historic Westonbirt School was the venue for the ever-popular John Ireland Greensomes Competition at the end of May. Urbanes thanks to the Westonbirt Bursar, John Watts, for yet again closing the course for the afternoon to allow us to play. All 52 competitors enjoyed the short course, the quality of which was reflected in the low scoring. Interestingly, the competition, which involves a greenkeeper paired with an amateur partner, was won for the second year running by brothers: Division 1 (0-18) 1st. J. & M. Leigh (Henbury G.C.) 75-18=93. 2nd. L. Johnson & R. Hodgson (Salford G.C.) 81-18=99. 3rd. C. Tozer & D Rendell (Bridport G.C.) 74-10=84. Division 2 (19-28) 1st P Baynton & S Long ( Ashton) 86-27=113. 2nd M Gray & P King (Clevedon) 80-19.5=99.5. 3rd A Johnson & R Stubbs (Salford) 87-23=110. Best nine - T Welsby & C Middleton 35. Two's – J Cooper & I May. J. M & Leigh.

Many thanks to all the staff at Westonbirt for preparing the course, the landlord and his wife at the Old Royal Ship for the excellent meal, and Avoncrop and Roffey Bros. for their donations to our prize table.

Congratulations to Laurence Pithie, our Master Greenkeeper, on his forthcoming move to Canover House, where he is to become the new adviser/agronomist to their some ten projects in the South East. Laurie is to oversee the courses right from the pre-construction stage to the day-to-day maintenance when they are up & running – quite a challenge. We wish him all the best.

Section membership now stands at 150, a far cry from the 56 on the books when BIGGA started in 1987. There is still room for more however, so do make every effort to convince any greenkeeper.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1992 29
Thursday 6 August 1992. Time: Teeing off from Tournament, which was a little disappointing for ball better ball. A guest can be either a member and committee, or maybe the first prosecution. The competition, consisting of a member and guest, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four ball better half. The guest can either be a member from your own Club or a greenkeeper from a different Club. Written entries giving name and address, name of partner and current handicap, together with the current fee, should be sent to: Mr Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 9EA. Tele: 0258 861482. I am pleased to report that following a nasty fall at home followed by eleven nights in hospital, Ken has been unable to attend one or two meetings but has become very adept at overseeing numerous household chores. He has informed me of a number of new courses under construction in South Hampshire, including Cams Hall at Fareham, so hopefully this will provide plenty of opportunities for members in this section.

Not very many new members from Dorset took advantage of the opportunity to enter our Spring Tournament, which was a little disappointing for your committee. Next year's Spring Tournament will be at Sherborne GC, and a good turn out from members in West Dorset would be appreciated.

Finally a report of our Spring Tournament, for which I am indebted to Joe Burdett, as follows: 'From a total field of 40 players from all over the area, the sponsors Huxleys Grass Machinery Ltd (Alan Jeffrey and Mike Read) and Jim Pry (section president) were well pleased with the response. The sponsors kindly presented their own individual prizes, which were appreciated by the winning greenkeepers. Additional prizes were donated by Roffey Brothers Ltd., CMF Equipment, Sta-Brite Supplies and I.C.I. Garden Products, and distributed by the host Club. John Wilson, assisted by the section vice-chairman Paul Drodge. The vice-chairman thanked the host Club for their hospitality and generosity in not only donating two glass engraved tankards, but also donating £250 towards the cost of the tournament. The main prize in the tournament was the Jacobsen Cup, set of crystal glasses and a glass engraved tankards, 2nd D Archer (Sherry, Avoncrop), 3rd A Parks (Whisky, Toro), 4th D Jones (Sherry, British Seed Houses) 5th P Robinson (Wine, G Peck/Birds) and 6th A Jenkins (Wine, M Davies/Cradoc GC). I am pleased to report that following a nasty fall at home followed by eleven nights in hospital, Ken has been unable to attend one or two meetings but has become very adept at overseeing numerous household chores. He has informed me of a number of new courses under construction in South Hampshire, including Cams Hall at Fareham, so hopefully this will provide plenty of opportunities for members in this section.

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£99. This includes coach travel from your local
our golf days and section functions.

The following are ISEKI qualifiers: 0-9 B Hor-
Lewis, I Buckley, trade prize - Derek

Northern region of BIGGA plan

This is my last report as section secretary as'I am
my successor is Pat Murphy, course manager at Shipley GC, and all queries, golf deposits etc.

Bob Lupton

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£99. This includes coach travel from your local
our golf days and section functions.
Many thanks to the committee and members of Chester GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. Naturally, our congratulations to head greenkeeper Peter Sproston and his staff for presenting such an excellent course and thanks to our sponsors: R J Campey, High Speed Oil, Gem Professional, Fisons, Fletcher Stewart, Mommersteeg Seeds and Jamie Warr, pro at Chirk G&CC.

On a personal note, Terry Adamson and I would like to thank Lewis Parks, chairman of Chester GC for his company on the day.

Turning to other matters, anybody interested in staging one of our events at their Club should contact Terry Adamson. During the rest of the season we hope to arrange a match against the North Wales stewards, so – once again – anybody interested, please contact Terry. D S PROCTOR

KENT
May 6th saw our Spring Tournament and ISEKI qualifier held at Darenth Valley. It turned out to be a fabulous day: the weather was glorious, the course was in great shape (thanks to the hard work of Nigel Stapley and his lads), and the food at lunch and throughout the evening was terrific – possibly the best day we've had yet. Unfortunately only about 16 or so competed in the morning, with the numbers ‘swelling’ for the afternoon's Texas Scramble to about 20. Most of the usual hard core were there, so for those who did not make it, I can only say that you don't know what you missed for you couldn't find a - possibly the best day we've had yet. Unfortu-

nately only about 16 or so competed in the morn-

The best of luck to you both.

A couple of nearest the pin prizes were up for grabs and the winners – each with a rare accurate shot – were Neil Carter and me! Many thanks to Bernard Dibhams and Rigby Taylor for providing the wonderful cut glass prizes for the morning medal and we are delighted to learn that Rigby Taylor will also be donating a trophy which we shall play for annually at our Spring Tournery. Thanks also are due to our other friends from the trade who come along to support us and donate prizes at all our events – it is much appreciated by all who take part.

Finally, the news of two new staff members at Stockton Park, with Paul Stockton, previously at Cobtree Manor, joining as an assistant greenkeeper and Mark Drake, formerly of Pennyhill Park, taking the position of deputy course manager. The best of luck to you both.

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