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 May issue is April 1st.

NORTHERN

I hope everyone enjoyed the show at Harrogate, where it was good to see so many Northern section members present. Special thanks to those who gave up their time to man the doors and perform special duties.

With spring quickly approaching, now is the time to tell you of the golf events planned for 1992: SPRING TOURNAMENT over 27 holes, Wed. 15th April at Kirkbymoorside GC (Iseki Qualifier). PRESIDENT’S DAY Wed. 3rd June at Bradford GC. INVITATION DAY, Wed. Aug 19th at Northcliffe GC (Shipley) n.b. guests must be officials from your Club. AUTUMN TOURNAMENT Wed. 30th Sept at Scarborough (South Cliff) GC.

The Roses Match for 92 will be in Lancashire and details will follow when available. Please note that all bookings must be accompanied by a 10% deposit and that entries close one week before the event. Most venues have a 40 limit so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. Unfortunately the proposed trip to Lloyds of Clifton has been cancelled due to lack of interest. The Annual Dinner Dance will take place at Tinos Restaurant/Wharfedale Public House, Arthington, Otley on Friday 3rd April, commencing at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £15.00 and the event is open to members and guests. Please call 0274 590463 for reservations.

BOB LUPTON

SURREY

The winter lecture held recently proved to be a huge success, with over fifty members present. A superb presentation on chainsaw safety was given by Brian Mills and Alistair Scott from Brinsbury Letchworth has been cancelled due to lack of interest. The roses Match for 92 will be in Lancashire and details will follow when available. Please note that all bookings must be accompanied by a 10% deposit and that entries close one week before the event. Most venues have a 40 limit so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. Unfortunately the proposed trip to Lloyds of Clifton has been cancelled due to lack of interest. The Annual Dinner Dance will take place at Tinos Restaurant/Wharfedale Public House, Arthington, Otley on Friday 3rd April, commencing at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £15.00 and the event is open to members and guests. Please call 0274 590463 for reservations.

BOB LUPTON

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

Thanks to all who attended our first winter lecture at Sonning GC, featuring what may have been a long-winded and boring subject - COSHH - but which actually turned out to be one of the finest lectures I have ever attended. Those who were present now realise just how important the subject is and our sincere thanks go to Jon Bond for his excellent presentation, along with gratitude to Alan Collis and Sonning GC for the smooth running of the event. Whilst on the subject of lectures, do not forget the third lecture in the series: Conservation on the Golf Course, again at Sonning GC on March 17th. The speaker is from the National Conservation Council and the topic is indeed most topical - so I hope to see you all there!

Not too many reminders this month (I can visualise the sighs of relief!) but a prompting that we will be looking for entries for the Rigby Taylor Fourball Trophy soon, so sort out a good partner beforehand and I'm sure you all will get snapped up and keep watching this column for details. That wraps it up for this month, but I hope to see you all at Sonning.

RAY CLARK

MID ANGLIA

The BTME at Harrogate goes from strength to strength and congratulations must go to all concerned. It was particularly good to see our section so well represented, with many members supporting the event. The section has been relatively quiet over the Christmas period, though we have had one lecture - being entertained by Chris Brook who talked of his experiences in bringing a new golf course into play from seed. It was an extremely interesting talk (even though there wasn't a projector!). Well done, Chris. Elsewhere in Faces & Places you'll see the news of Andrew and Ann Kennett's new addition (Elizabeth Helen) and I'm sure you'll join with me in wishing them lots of happiness together.

Finally, you should have all received your entry forms for forthcoming competitions. Chris Brook would be very grateful if you send the appropriate form and entry fee back to him at least 2 weeks before the competition. If you haven't yet received forms - or have any query - please do hesitate to contact me.

GERALD BRUCE

MIDLANDS

Following our AGM held at Edgbaston GC our committee remains the same; as follows: President: R Pugh. Chairman: A Kite. Vice Chairman: M Hughes. Secretary: D S Cleaver. Treasurer: P...
KENT

As we gear up for the coming season, I would first like to offer comment to Gary Mills letter which appeared in January Greenkeeper International. I think we all appreciate that not all green staff play golf or indeed wish to play golf, but nevertheless the term 'aptic' could most certainly be levelled at the response received for other events we attempt to organise within the section.

I well remember the very poor response we received two years ago when we organised a series of three informal afternoon educational lectures throughout the winter. The numbers attending the final lecture were almost embarrassingly small for the speaker -Danny Godfrey of Inter Seeds - as they were for those who took the time and effort to organise the lecture. That is why we have no winter educational programme, favouring in future the repeat of a semi-annual (every other year) of the type and scale successfully held at Woodlands, Swanley. The same argument could be applied to the attendance at our section AGM last December, when all members were welcome to come along, indeed I am conscious of the time of their business, but again the response came from only about 20% of our registered membership.

If Peter Biscoe dares venture over to Barnehurst I can assure him that our resident thieving crow is not so obliging as to drop the ball it steals. As has already been published in Greenkeeper International, the enrolment fee for the "Master Greenkeeper Certificate" has been reduced to just £100 plus cost to my attention at the time of writing (Jan 31st) our section has only one member signed up for MGC - me! I am therefore appealing to you all, especially younger members, to support the scheme and enrol.

Finally, the section is pleased to welcome Peter Fornshaw of Ramsdale Park GC within our ranks.}

SOUTH WEST

It was a case of "there's no place like home". How well I remember my old home Club. All those rows with the secretary. The first letter of warning. The second. Happy days! Seriously, it made a very pleasant start to the '92 season to return to Cirencester GC for the Modern Maintenance International Golf and Lecture day.

Talk about lucky with the weather. No sooner had the last competitor come in from the course than the heavens opened, with two inches of rain falling over the next twelve hours. It was certainly nice to see the Cirencester course in such good condition, and so hard to think that in less than three years there will be a four lane by-pass cutting right through it, causing the loss of four holes and shattering the peace and tranquillity for ever. Our thanks to the Club for their hospitality and the staff for their hard work.

Thanks also to Frank Chute and his team from Modern Maintenance International for their very interesting presentation on 'Terra-technology (or something) - the art of repairs'. Frank managed to talk his way through a long list of different products, also demonstrating quite a few which could be of help in an emergency, or in routine in the greenkeepers workshop.

Congratulations to Steve Francom and Paul Thorn of Tracy Park on coming first and second in the morning round, narrowly beating Ivor Scoones into third place.

I'll take this opportunity to remind you all that nominations for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award are now due. Send nominations to your section committee no later than April 30th: we are looking for a name and a reason for the nomination.

Finally, don't forget WESTURF on April 29th. If you manage turf in the West, you can manage WESTURF! But don't just come alone - bring your staff and Club officials for a rewarding day out.
plex, near Exeter. The morning started with Devon taking on Cornwall in a nine hole match, the winning team (as usual) being Devon, returning six cards totalling 110 points to beat Cornwall with 103. The best score from Devon was John Breen with 21, this gaining him a pair of cut glass goblets donated by Rigby Taylor and the best Cornish score was that of Richard Minton – also with 21 – but declaring himself out of the prizes and allowing J Bullen to collect the prize of a video presented by – guess who? – Richard Minton! As is usual, the course was presented in excellent condition by our chairman, Bill Pile, and his staff.

Following a superb lunch the ‘Dry Patch and Wetting Agents’ seminar got underway, with Dr Neil Baldwin presented his paper on Dry patch. Neil, who is a plant pathologist with the STRI, told of his research into this problem, funds for which are being provided by the R&A.

Neil’s talk was most informative and I am sure he has made all of us more confident when dealing with Dry patch. We thank him for presenting his paper and for making the long journey West. In addition, the section thanks Mr Breading and Fingle Glen GC for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities.

Special thanks to all our trade friends who took stand space, these being Avoncroft and ICI, PJ Flegg and Ransomes, Devon Garden Machinery and Toro, Rigby Taylor, Fisons, and Willcocks. We hope they found the day successful.

RICHARD WHYMAN

S. WEST AND S. WALES ‘ARCTIC EXPEDITION’

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach arrived promptly at 9am to begin our ‘journey into the unknown’. All seemed well at the first pick-up point – Exeter G&CC – and with half our party on board we proceeded to the MS.

Flash lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lone ranger (waiting in a lay-by), and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting ‘up the line’.

After a 150 minute delay a second coach was commissioned and we continued our great adventure, having been adequately fed and watered in the pub, setting off for the MS once more. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in this package deal. However, the regional administrator was determined to take his party to the hinterland and having made Bristol and our last pick-up safely, we continued our trek to the BTME.

Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by a Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windscreen clear for the driver. Finally arriving at our destination – some three hours late – those able bodied members of the group still capable unloaded the coach, while others tried to free themselves from the refrigerated container.

At breakfast the following day an amazingly good humoured party are heartily in readiness for the opening of the 1992 exhibition, showing no signs of their endurance test ordeal. Having taken in the seminars, walked the exhibition hall and met old friends, we were able to enter first class teams in the quiz night, though in being so young at heart our team was just beaten by failing to remember Max Bygraves! Some then decided to take Harrogate by storm and one talented trio won the Karaoke at a night club, the name of which cannot be remembered, whilst others drowned their sorrows, with some sad results.

Rising next morning bright and early, we were once again greeted with sub-zero temperatures. Undaunted, we set forth to the exhibition halls and another excellent day of looking and learning. Continuing extreme cold in the evening suggested that taxis be laid on for those who were banquett bound and a superb meal and top class entertainment gave us a night to remember – or for some a night which cannot be remembered, though a good time was had by all.

The final day proved no less exciting than the others, with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to leave at 12.30, with everyone ready and on time. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded – leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last – even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.

With time to reflect on the disasters of ‘modern transport’, it has been suggested that we may have to resort to horse drawn carriages for 1993, these seeming more reliable. However, stops will have to be made at Bristol and Birmingham for a change of horses, though this should not
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