CLEVELAND

A busy month of lectures and social activities in March to report, beginning with a talk given by Ian Webster from Houghall College, Durham, on “Water Management”. Ian suggested that water management is all too easy: just programme the timings and greens are watered while we sleep. But do we know how much water is already in the soil? We need to, and by using a moisture meter (which probes the soil), we can obtain an instant read-out. We need to allow for evaporation on sunny days, transpiration loss in growing conditions, and irrigate only to make up for those losses. Soil moisture checks should be undertaken two or three times a week, greenkeepers then will learn quickly how their greens drain water away; if they draw slowly (on clay or peaty soil) then irrigation should be applied with caution. It is too easy to over-irrigate and the suggestion is water frugally and if in doubt - don’t. Two key factors are to feed little and often and apply just enough water to keep the grass alive. In addition, wetting agents are deemed desirable. By September, greenkeepers should be watering sparingly, for we will soon experience poor drying days and rain will be expected. Too much irrigation - rain = waterlogging and aggravates thatch build-up and increases the risk of waterlogging, which has been formulated to meet the exacting professional standards for golf, landscaping, turf and amenity use. Whatever the requirement, ranging from putting greens to tennis courts, or from hard- wearing rugby pitches to roadside verges, one of the blends will fit the bill. A careful choice of high-performance grass varieties are especially tailored to customers’ requirements and the intended end use of the turf. Consideration is also given to low maintenance needs and environmental concerns.

Barenbrug UK is able to provide such carefully targeted mixtures because it has outstanding grass varieties in every category of the STRI turfgrass seed lists. Tel: 0359 707766.

BOB LUPTON

DEVEN & CORNWALL

St Enodoc G.C. was the venue for our March meeting, the morning competition being for the Supaturf Head Greenkeepers & Trade Trophy and the May & Baker Assistants Trophy. Members were also competing for places in the 1992 Iseki regional final and just to make things more complicated, competitions were played over St Enodoc's two courses, this to comply with their handicap rule.

Our Zero to 18 handicap golfers played the ever testing Church course, with our 19 to 28 handicap section playing the shorter Hollywell course. As scores were being counted it came as no surprise that all the winning scores came from the Hollywell course, though I am sure as no surprise that all the winning scores came from the Hollywell course, though I am sure)

NORTHERN

Another month goes by and when you read this our annual dinner dance and first golf competition will already be history.

Our lecture season has now finished and it was pleasing to see more people attending - keep it up! However, not many BIGGA members turned up for our last event, which was a quiz night with our colleagues from the IOG. It was a good night, we were made very welcome at Headingley and the event could possibly be repeated next year. By the way, BIGGA members were also competing for places in the 1992 Iseki regional final and just to make things more complicated, competitions were played over St Enodoc's two courses, this to comply with their handicap rule.

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BOB LUPTON
Please keep those applications for the pesticide training courses coming in. There is a popular misconception that all operators over the age of 27 are covered under the famous ‘grandfather’ clause, but this is not the case. The code states that some appropriate instruction must have been received: some of us may not be as secure as we think we are.

The section committee would like to meet all members, especially new members, at (at least) one meeting this year, so please make an effort to come along and see what we do. I’m sure you won’t be disappointed.

Turning to even more recent matters, as a Cirencester man born and bred I felt a tremendous sense of pride in seeing so many celebrated greenkeepers at the National Education Conference, not to mention several illustrious, if in one or two cases notorious, experts from within the turfgrass industry. I hope that many will now recognise Cirencester as being much more than an insignificant dot on the map on the short cut between the M4 & M5, and took the chance to enjoy the town Roman villa & wall, the 11th century church, the diverse Eliz-abethan and Victorian architecture and not forgetting Tesco Homebase and the Burger-King!

The atmosphere from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon was charged and electric, learning interspersed liberally with good humour. It’s virtually impossible (and probably quite unfair) to single out any particular high point, though the three Americans, Tom Cook, Bill Roberts and Patrick O’Brien were quite outstanding, as (on our side) the three working greenkeepers, Derek Green, Laurie Pithie and Bernard Findlay. Tipping the scales 4-3 to us was the irrepressible Jon Allbutt, who makes a potentially deadly subject very palatable indeed.

There were hints-a-plenty on public speaking technique for any would-be future speakers, these ranged from cracking jokes early on, to near respiratory failure (in an effort to breathe slowly), and from plenty of eye contact, to assault with a ladies nine-iron. Thanks from the rank-and-file membership, to all at head office, and for Lindum Turf & their associates, whose hard work and sponsorship made this event not only happen, but also run as smoothly as this weekend obviously did.

PAUL WORSTER

SURREY

The regional Gentlemen’s Dinner held at Wal- ton Heath on March 17th saw Mick Haynes employ his local knowledge in difficult conditions to take the main prize. However, the very next day he injured his leg playing football and may struggle to play his Huxley Bowl match (Competitors note: round one due by May 18th).

Returning to its traditional venue at New Zealand GC is the Cresta Cup on June 8th, the format as usual being afternoon golf and tea – please enter promptly.

The annual England v Scotland match will take place at Regent Heath GC on July 30th. Players in recent years will testify that this is contested with the ferocity of the Calcutta Cup and it is also noted that an English victory is long overdue. Anyone wishing to play should contact Derek Walder (England) or Robert Brewer (Scotland) who will select the teams accordingly.

Despite recent appeals, I have received little feedback from members regarding sectional news. Remember that births, marriages, pro-motions and witty anec-dotes may well be of interest to our members and I’m sure these must occur with some frequency. Please don’t hesitate to forward any such items to either Dave Andrews or myself.

ROGER TYDEMAN

SHEFFIELD

The section would like to thank David Golding for presenting the talk on education at our March lecture, held at Rotherham Golf Club. Also thanks to Yorkshire executive Mr Peter Wharton, who came along to the meeting to update our members on what is happening with the education syllabus at Askham Bryan College. Mr Wharton is a member of the Col-lege Advisory Committee.

I have just completed Phase III City & Guilds Management at Askham Bryan, a course tightly packed with vital training for today’s course manager. The list given here will give you some idea of the syllabus: Surveying and planning; Golf course design; Conservation; Tree preservation; Fertilisers; Plant care; His- tory of golf; Soils and drainage; Herbicides; Labour planning, organisation and costing; Machinery costing; Budgeting exercise (final project); Computing; Quotations; Filing sys-tems; Stocktaking; Ordering goods; Machinery records; Partial budgets; negotiation; Employ-ment legislation; Highways legislation; Indus-trial relations; Training; Man management; Safety legislation; Wages; VAT; Disciplinary procedures; Interviewing procedures and recruitment; Housing; How to put an adver-tise; Office management; Report writing; Supervision of staff; Forward planning; Long term plan-ning; Assignment visits; Work study; Presenta-tion of written work; Verbal presentation; Communication and Personal presentation.

The student is given assignment work to take home – with a deadline. The wise entrant will be careful to allocate adequate time to complete if he/she wants good marks.

Remember, knowledge is power, so take full advantage of the training the colleges are offering to enhance your status as a green-keeper and your skills as a manager.

Nick Bisset, John Middleton, Ian Snape and Bruce Cox are all excellent management tutors, and we as greenkeepers are indebted to them for their encouragement, enthusiasm and patience in guiding us through the City & Guilds examinations.

If you are debating enrolling for a college management course, all I can say is ‘the satisfaction far outweighs the inconvenience’. If you require any information on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JANE RYAN

NORTH WALES

Here we are again looking forward to another successful season. I would like to take this
opportunity to wish all new members every success in their first year of membership. In addition, I would like to wish Mark Proctor and his family all the best, for Mark has taken on the new job of course manager at Carden Park GC.

Going on to something different, many thanks to all concerned for organising our recent welding lecture at Northop. These events could possibly be better attended, so please lads, give us more support if you possibly can.

Dates for your diary include May 21st for our spring tournament, which will be held over the delightful setting of Chester (Curzon Park) GC. Please also note that this is an Icki qualifier (see times are from 10.00 am - 11.45 am) and also note that no entries will be accepted on the day. Please send off your entries (and the payment) before the event. Members requiring additional information regarding this event should call T. Adamson on 0978 852908.

Finally, don't forget - if you have any news, views or opinions, please contact 'yours truly' on 0248 712490.

DS PROCTOR

LONDON

Several members of the London section attended the National Conference at Cirencester in March, which gets better every year. I know our members were enthralled by the talks given by some of the speakers and equally enjoyed the after lecture discussions which took place. A big hello to Adrian and Ian from Hadden Hill GC, near Didcot in Oxfordshire-by the way, have you sorted out your education yet?

April 9th saw our Spring Tournament played at W. Middx. GC, the sun shining all day and everyone enjoying it immensely. My partner and myself only managed 10 holes in the morning, due to a few uneducated (in golf course etiquette) members of W. Middx., but the course was a fine test for all the players. Thanks to the Club for making us most welcome throughout the day. Two new trophies were being contested for this year: the Stableford (with support given by Howard Storey) repre-

senting John Deere, his talk being followed by a working demonstration with the whole John Deere range being made available for use. Our thanks to John Deere for providing a buffet for those attending, and to Ivan Beelestone and his Club - Telford GC &CC for both organising the event and allowing us the use of their facilities.

Two dates to remember are June 18th for our Summer Tournament at Handsworth GC, with the closing date for this event being May 15th.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

As I compiled these notes at the end of March, I realised we were only two weeks away from our annual tournament against North Wales - how time flies!

Looking at the team list for this first match I also became aware that some of the usual names were missing; and then it dawned on me - I had been doing this job for too long, for some of the 'regulars' are now retired and (I'm sure) getting enough golf in at their leisure. However, I am equally sure that we will finish with a full and capable team, hopefully attracting some of the lower handicap players to swell the ranks.

I have little else to write other than to ask you all to support the golf fixtures throughout the summer - and if you have any news please give me a call on 051 7245412.

BERT CROSS

NORTH EAST

Warkworth GC was the venue for our Spring Tournament in April, a Friendly Club that made us all feel very welcome. The day was about the warmth we have had so far and resulted in the largest turn-out yet - with almost fifty players taking part. The results were: Best gross: Tony McLure, Whickham GC: 70. Best nett: Robert Bell, Slaey Hall GC&CC: 95-28=67. Assistants Cup: David Jennings, Newbiggin GC; 71-3=68. Veterans Prize: Steve Pope, Tynon Park GC: 95-28=68. Other leading scores: J. Richardson, Whickham GC: 74-8=68. S. Cray, Slaey Hall GC&CC: 84-15=69. M Gumm, Tynon Park GC: 77-8=69. I Johnson, Stocksfield GC: 81-11=70. N Parkin, Haxdon GC: 75-5=70.

The qualifiers for ISEKI are (0-9) D Jennings, J Richardson, S Pope, M Gunn with reserves A McLure and N Parkin. (10-18) S Cray, I Johnson, G Gumsford, B Webber. Other reserves A Fiddes and P Hetherington. (19-28) R Bell, K Rutherford, R Creane, P G Paul with reserves B Hughes and J Rippon.

Our thanks to Warkworth GC for entertain-

ing us, to Alf Fiddes (head greenkeeper) for the excellent condition of the course and to the donating companies: Ryton Gravel Co., Turf Care Supplies, St. Ives, Whiburn, Thomas Arnold, St. Pierre, Rigby Taylor, Partissons, Ruftords, Stewarts of Edinburgh and ICI. A special thanks to Abcon (top dressings) for financing all the competitors meals!

JIMMY RICHARDSON

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Regional Conference took place at Langside College, Glasgow on March 10th, a day in which we had everything from pouring rain and bright skies, followed by hail and snow. However, this did not deter people from travelling from as far afield as Southernness and Fortrose on the Black Isle. Six speakers entertained the audience of 140.

Colin Urquhart, Langside College, spoke on greenkeeping education and of the varied types and contents of courses covered at Woodburn House. Colin was followed by the ebullient Danny Godfrey of Inter-Seed, who gave his audience a further insight into the breeding and selection of seeds, backed up with some interesting slides.

Fortunately Chris Kennedy from Wentworth had to withdraw at a late date but his capable assistant, Jim McKenzie, took over to tell us about the Good, the Bad and the Ugly sides of greenkeeping as he saw it. By using his collection of slides, Jim emphasised these points more vividly. This was followed by Neil Thomas, who addressed the audience on 'BIGGA - The Crossroads', where we have come from and where (hopefully) we are going. Following on from the progress made in the last 5 years, Neil stressed the importance of greenkeepers. Lastly, on behalf of our membership to give the Association their whole-hearted support and at the same time to impress upon non-members the benefits to be gained by being a member of the Association.

Just before lunch a presentation of a magnificent print from a painting of the Old Course, St. Andrews was made to Cecil George from the Scottish region, to thank him for all the hard work he had put into the Association over many years, with hopefully many more to come. The presentation was made by our chairman, John Crawford. After lunch Ben Simpson of Algurine astounded everyone with his slides on the many and varied uses of seaweed throughout all ranges of landscaping and horticulture. Finally George Brown of Turnberry told us in his own inimitable...
45 - manner how he was always open-minded about all greenkeeping practices and how what was good for one course might not be suitable for another. There was an intriguing insight into George's ideas of bunker renovation and also the exasperation and delights of working a links course on the West coast of Scotland after winter storms and on beautiful summer days. All in all it was a good day.

My thanks go to all the speakers and Cecil George and John Crawford who chaired the two sessions. To Langside College in allowing us the use of the facility and to the catering staff. I especially thank Colin Urquhart and Margaret Hamilton from Langside for their assistance, and Willie Blair, Chris Yeaman, Andrew Forrest and Fraser Ross for their assistance at registration. This was the first time a conference had been held at Langside and there were a few problems, most of which were overcome. The main problem was probably the lack of parking spaces at and around the college. That aside, the day was very successful and we look forward to the 1993 conference, which will probably be held at Oatridge College, again in March.

The annual Match Scottish Region v the Secretaries Association, took place at Elie Golf House Club on Wednesday 18th March. After extremely heavy rain all morning throughout Scotland everyone was a bit apprehensive, but as usual Elie was dry and mud free. Mind you, there was a gale blowing and when Brian Lawrie, Elie head greenkeeper told us that play was off the medal tees, visions of another win for the greenkeepers seemed acceptable, due to our being used to working in such conditions. When our leading couple, the vice-chairman of the Scottish Region, Gordon Moir and his partner Cecil George, strode to a flourishishing 5/4 victory the writing was on the wall and the second match also finished at the 14th - another win for the Region ?? Well someone forgot to tell the secretaries that they're not supposed to win and except for Sum Morrison and Joe Wallace, the match was a rout: Secretaries 6 Greenkeepers 2.

There will have to be some serious selection before the '93 match and many of the regulars should be shaking in their shoes. We'll do all you gallant secretaries, ably led by captain Gilbert Dempster from Longniddry. Just in case our captain for the day Gordon Moir and Cecil get carried away with themselves with their win, I would remind them that their opponents were approximately 50 years older (combined) than them. All in all it was a fine day, finished with a bleeper, a dram, a guld meal and stories from the respective captains. Our thanks to Sandy Sneddon, secretary at Elie and all the Elie staff for their hospitality and to Brian Lawrie and his men for the excellent condition of the course. Next time Brian, put us off the ladies tees - maybe we will then have a chance.

ELLIOTT SMALL

NORTH SCOTLAND

Following on from last month, here are the four remaining speakers. Our fifth and final speaker in the morning of our one-day conference will be David Golding, his subject naturally being education, with particular reference to the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Maybe this will provide the spur needed for North Scotland section members to enrol - for so far we have no participants. I believe this will be David's first seminar in Scotland and we are indebted to Neil Thomas for taking over his duties to allow him to come north. Following David's talk will be a question and answer session, followed by lunch. This will be followed by Peter Lloyd, assistant secretary of the Scottish PGA. Peter is to give us a light-hearted look at life SPGA style. We welcome a speaker from the professional body just as we welcome a member of the IOG, Mr Andrew Mur-ray, as our seventh speaker. Andrew was parks manager of Kirkcaldy DC until retirement and he will be addressing us on golf course maintenance in the public sector.

Last but by no means least, we have Eric Shiel, executive consultant of the JGCC. The Joint Golf Course Committee was set up by the R&A, aimed at giving golfers a better deal and improving conditions on courses. Its birth was the direct result of "The Way Forward" document, which was published a few years ago. Mr Shiel's talk will be "The Way Forward - An Update", with the JGCC telling me that by conference time they hope to have a significant message to impart - we look forward to hearing it.

Following all this will be a lively question and answer session, wrapping up what we hope will be an interesting and educational day. There are 180 seats available in the college lecture theatre, so when you get your application, return it quickly to avoid disappointment.

Congratulations to ex North Scotland chair-man John Flint, who after 50 years of golfing has recently recorded his first hole in one. Well done, John, there is hope for us all! On a more serious note, congratulations are due to John Geddes, who is leaving Kingston GC to become head greenkeeper at Ellon GC, and to Derek Ligthow, a Scot who is returning north from London to become head greenkeeper at Banchory GC, taking over from Jeffrey Herd, who after 30 years as head man is stepping down to the quieter role of assistant. Other movements are David Sinclair, assistant at Royal Aberdeen, moving to a similar post at Cruden Bay and Graham Mackie, assistant at Murcar, moving to Glenaegles. Martin Orave, newly qualified Dornoch greenkeeper, is joining the Scottish takeover at Wentworth. We wish them all well in their new jobs, along with any other members on the move.

IAIN MACLEOD

COMING UP

June 3rd-4th: Landscape Industries '92, Trade Show - National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.
July 16th-19th: The Open Championship - Muirfield, Scotland.
August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament - Littlestone GC, Kent.
September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Exhibition - Peterborough, Northants.
September 24th: ISEKI Championships Final - Coventry GC, Warwickshire.
October 12th: TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award - Aldwark Manor, York.
October 26th-November 27th: BIGGA Management Courses (five weeks) - Aldwark Manor, York.
November 11th-12th: IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh.
November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show - Cannes, France.