AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SOUTH COAST

I am pleased to inform members of our December Competition Details as follows:

Date: Wednesday 2 December 1992, Venue: Royal Winchester Golf Club. Format: 18 Holes Stableford. Teeing Off: 10.30am onwards. Fee: £14. Closing Date: 23 November 1992. All applications and correct fee to: Mr J Burdett, 40 Church Street, Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0NY Telephone 0747 811439. My thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Farm Machinery Limited who are sponsoring this competition.

Following the above the section AGM will be held at 4pm. I am hoping that our national chairman will be in attendance to answer questions and outline the work of the Board.

Voting members must be elected each year at our AGM and I would welcome nominations. Please ensure that each nomination has the consent of the nominee and has a proposer and seconder. Resignation or withdrawal of nominations are also invited, please submit before 23 November.

If you are unable to take part in the competition you can still attend the section’s Christmas Dinner which will be served at about 5.30pm. The cost will be £12.50 and your cheque should be sent to Joe at the above address.

An afternoon talk has been arranged for Wednesday 2 December 1993 at Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester, starting at 2pm. Mr D P Haley of Lloyds of Letchworth will be talking on Grass Care Equipment. Refreshments are being kindly provided by the company at 3.30pm. Please support this meeting with your attendance.

In the annual match against the South West Section at Wells GC in September our team managed to halve the match - yet again! Ours was a ‘mixed’ team of section members, one trade representative and a SW member. This was the result of members promising to play but not turning up. However, Paul Drodge, captain of our team, managed to ring around and eventually produced a team who had a very enjoyable day. Our thanks to officials at Wells GC for their help and support.

BOB DENNIS

EAST SCOTLAND

Monsoon conditions greeted us on our arrival for the Annual Autumn Tournament at Newbattle GC. A steady downpour throughout the night and day made conditions tough to say the least, but thanks to Steven Dixon and his staff we somehow managed to continue with the competition, although it is fair to say that many of us chose the warmth of the clubhouse instead.

Our grateful thanks – as always – go to the captain and council of Newbattle for the courtesy of the course, to the catering and bar staff for excellent victuals; and to Steven and his merry men for getting the course playable in the first place.

In the absence of our chairman, who was on holiday, the speeches were made by our vice chairman, Peter Ormston. May I say what a fine job he made of thanking everyone associated with making this the great day it was – despite the weather. The prizes were presented by the Newbattle green chairman to the following rainsoaked players: Scratch: S Melville, Lothianburn, 1st Class-G Ferguson, Duddingston, 2nd Class J Bell, Duddingston, 3rd Class W Hudson, Linnhe, 4th Class J Neillson, Murrayfield.

One piece of very important news is that due to a mix up of dates, the Annual Dance will now take place at Ravelston House Hotel, Musselburgh, and NOT at Turnhouse GC as previously indicated. Ticket prices for this event are going well, so if you have yet to book, please do so now.

The golfing season is at last coming to a close and for once I am glad to see it over. Very dry conditions during May and June have been followed by the wettest August and September on record – with many courses in the east going into winter in the worst condition for many years – all due to this excessive rainfall.

I have just heard that a very prominent member – Ralph Bullock from Seahouses GC - is retiring early in 1993. Ralph has been an ever-present member at tournaments; lectures, etc., in this in spite of travelling long distances. We wish him a long and happy retirement and send our best wishes to his charming wife Grace, who has had more than her share of illness over the past year. We hope her recovery is rapid indeed, in order that she may also enjoy retirement.

I support Crawford, first assistant at Ratho Park has moved to Broommiekowrie GC - our best wishes to him.

Finally, please note that the section AGM will be held on 25 November at Kingsknowe GC. A full programme has been devised and this will be in the hands of members quite soon. This year the programme will be sponsored by Sports Turf Services, who will also be staging a lecture and machinery demonstration.

WILLIE BLAIR

SUSSEX

For our Autumn Meeting the section visited Bognor Regis GC on a day of fairly kind weather, there being only the odd shower or two. The turn-out was still somewhat low, with only 27 members and guests taking part, PLEASE – more members for the Christmas Turkey Trot at Littlehampton GC on 16 December.

Returning to Bognor, the prizes were donated jointly by Roffey’s and Parker’s, the results being: Morning medal-1st Peter Ray (Haywards Head) nett 68, 2nd Alastair Cale (Ham Manor) nett 72. Guest-D Bell nett 69. Nearest the pin – Jim Coppin. Afternoon Stabler 1st Andy Paynter (East Brighton) 39 pts. 2nd Stewart Shelford (Ifield) 37 pts. Guest-R Elderfield 36 pts. Nearest the pin – Dave Ranger.

Many thanks to Bognor Regis GC, to Jeremy and his staff, and to the caterers for a superb meal. Roland Hughes who deserves a mention for his sterling waiter service!

Best wishes to Mike Burnrymowisz on his retirement from Forest Farm Park GC - we hope he will continue to attend our future meetings.

MARK WILTON

SOUTH WALES

Our Autumn Meeting for the President’s Shield was held on 9 September at St Mary’s Bay GC, Bridgend. This was a new venue for the section, with the course only having been open for a few years. The course was a bit soft in some places but I’m sure we can all relate to this problem, especially with all the rain that has fallen over the month of August and beyond.

We were lucky with the weather, the rain holding off, and the results were: Presidents Shield – Ian Ellis (Rhondda GC) 69 nett (winning a carriage clock, donated by our sponsors, Frank Sutton’s, John Deere Tractors, and Radius). Low gross: Mike Jones 81 (Carriage clock/ Frank Sutton’s). 2nd nett – Phil Swain, on countback, 71 (rechargeable torch/ Frank Sutton’s).

A raffle was held to help swell section funds, the winners being Leslie Hallett and Dougie Donne, with prizes donated by Avoncrop Amenity Products. Congratulations to Malcolm Davies and wife Roberta on the birth of a daughter – Laura Jane, also to Michael Stokes (Dennis Archer’s deputy) and Jane, who will now have their hands full following the birth of twin boys.

Colin Reilly of Pennard has returned north west to the Pleasanton GC near Blackburn, taking up his appointment on 6 October. I’m sure I speak for all in thanking him for his help over the past three years in assisting with seminars and lectures – even staging one at his own club. Colin’s deputy at Pennard, Peter Lacey, is now in charge and we wish them both all the best for the future.

Tony King has also moved recently, from Moun- tain Lakes to Virginia Park Golf and Bowls Club at Caerphilly, whilst a new member to our section, transferring from Scotland, is Robert Johnson, who has taken over at Newport GC., Rogerstone – we wish them both well.

The next competition is the Christmas meeting, followed by the AGM, at Pyle and Kenfig GC on 16 December. Please try to attend, and if you cannot make the golf at least make an effort to attend the AGM – there are changes planned for 1993 and you will have only yourself to blame if you don’t know anything about them!

PHIL SWAIN

EAST ANGLIA

Our happy band of wails and strays turned up for golf at any time of day and the morning in September, including one stranger in the camp – David White – who came to sample the rustic air, which he then proceeded to pollute with his pipe. We are not complaining, however, for it made a change from certain well known fertilisers…

It seems that it is further from Essex to Norfolk than from Norfolk to Essex – perhaps it’s uphill! The Essex men were noticeable by their absence, but it was quiet without TG Wells (only kidding Dave) and come to think of it, it was a long way for him to travel.

Well, I hope those who attended had a good day. Certainly we old ‘Etonians’ had great fun getting the course ready – if only to prove to our members what can be done when management allow us get on with it!

The Cromer Crabs came inland and cleaned up yet again – well (spit, spit) done. The prize winners were:- 0-18 Roger Plumber (Cromer) 37 pts, 2nd Steve Freestone (Eaton) 34 pts. 19-28 1st Steve Pigott (Cromer) 33 pts, 2nd Steve Davidson 31 pts. Trade – K Taylor. Prizes were donated by Pattison, Rigby Taylor, Colliers, ICI and Haynes.

In writing of the trade, our deepest sympathies go to the family of Ken Sterns, who died recently after a long battle with cancer. Ken was a good friend and a cornerstone within our section – he will be sorely missed.

On the matter of BIGGA golf at Eaton, I do hope the aforementioned event will not be the last on our present site and that money doesn’t have the last word – to be a greenkeeper one has to be the best for the future.

MICK LATHROPE

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our section wishes Tony King (South Wales section) a speedy recovery following his recent illness during the Iski Final, and congratulates all members of the Regional team who battled away to finish second in the team event once again. Our best wishes also to Mike Pike for a speedy recovery following his recent operation – one which Mike had rather too long to wait. We all look forward to seeing Mike in the near future.

Many of you have read over the last few months
articles by Jon Allbutt informing us on the legislation covering COSHH and FEPA and warning us that our local Environmental Health Officer will be armed with powers to enter premises and is ready to crack down on golf clubs. How many of you think that because your club hasn't been visited by an inspector over the last dozen years or more you are safe? Well I will inform you that a club in Corinthians has already been visited and has undergone a full inspection. Make sure you have made the necessary assessments and if you think you can do no better than to do so now. If you feel that the section should run a course covering assessments etc., please let me know and I will arrange something.

Richard Whymans

North Scotland

Our Autumn Outing was held at Kingsussie GC by kind permission of their management committee. The course was in fine condition, reflecting all the hard work put in by our greenkeepers. Following the lunch we had the secretary of the R&A, Mr M Bonallack with his talk "The Role of the R&A in Greenkeeping Education". Mr Bonallack has certainly not least we have Mr E Shiel, the executive consultant of the Joint Golf Course Committee, who will discuss "The Way forward". To round off the day we will have another question and answer session.

We feel this will be a very interesting day for any one connected with the golfing/greenkeeping world.

North Wales

A note in your diaries for sections: a seminar will be held at the Welsh College of Horticulture on Wednesday 18 November where guest speakers will be D. Jones of St. Pierre, D. Green of Royal Liverpool, D. Golding BIGGA Educational Officer, and N. Park of Lindrick. A fee of £1 will be charged in aid of the Golf Club. The day will be limited to 170 delegates, so anyone interested in going who hasn't received a brochure should contact Mr A MacLaren on 0479 3365 immediately to see if there are any spaces left.

JAIN MACLEOD

Mid Anglia

The Mid Anglia AGM will be held at Kirby Muxloe GC on Wednesday 18 November. Any member of the club is invited to attend the AGM. In addition to the AGM, we will also have an afternoon of talks. If you would like to contribute to that afternoon, please contact me. For those wishing to play golf, the tee is booked from 2pm onwards, followed by the AGM at around 5pm. Entry forms for the Texaco Scramble to be held at South Beds GC on Thursday 3 December, are now available from Gerald Bruce (secretary) Tel: 0442 8764438, Chris Brown Tel: 0442 4424883 or Paul Lockett Tel: 0525 402550.

Paul Lockett

NORTHERN

By now you all should have received a copy of our winter lecture programme for 1992/93. If you do not have a copy, or require extra copies, please give me a call.

The first aid course scheduled for 13 January seems to be attracting a lot of interest, so if plan on attending, get your name down as soon as possible. This year we hope to offer you a world of instruction, as well as a visit to some of the many locations around the country that might be of interest.

The Autumn Tournament took place at Scarborough South Bay GC. Unlike our Invitation Day at Northcliffe GC, when the sun shone, it was the exact opposite with rain falling until the late afternoon - just as the prizes were being presented the sun dared to show itself for a few moments. The best endowed most enjoyable day, sponsored by our friends Chapple, many thanks to Michael Chaplin and Bob Mitchell for their continued support to the section. I must also thank to Colin Robinson and his team for preparing a first class course for the tournament; and the committee of Scarborough GC for making us warmly welcome and giving us the courtesy of their course.


Don't forget to get names and deposits in for the Christmas Tournament at South Leeds GC on 9 December.

Pat Murphy

Midlands

On Wednesday 9 September our Autumn Tournament was played at Harborne GC. The course was presented in excellent condition, thanks to David Dorrell and his team. The course proved to be difficult on the day, with scores well grouped, that is apart from Mark Cutler who finally won by some 8.5 shots with a final score of 103.5 for 27 holes. Second was R Pullen with 112 and third was T Dorrell with 121. The Gross Prize was won by Paul Lockett with a score of 121 and the Trade Prize was won by I Toon with 120. Many thanks are due for the excellent way in which we were looked after and to the many people who helped make the event such a successful one.

On 9 December we hold our Christmas Tournament at Beau Desert GC with the closing date being 15 November. The event will combine our AGM and the Christmas party - we hope that many more members will attend. The AGM will take place late in the afternoon, following the golf, and members not playing are invited and indeed encouraged to attend. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 9 December at the Harborne GC. The date has been fixed to allow the Annual Seminar, again to be staged at the Warwickschire College at Moreton. Members should have received details, complete with application form, but those who have not should contact me. I am sure you have made any arrangements to attend. Those who may have been missed and would like to attend are urged to contact me on 0789 762912.

Dean Cleaver

Neale Venters, currently training at Gedney Hill, Lincs. Our next meeting will be the AGM Tournament, to be held at Kirby Muxloe GC on Wednesday 18 November. Any member of the club is invited to attend the AGM. Following the AGM, the golf or the meal is cordially invited to the AGM itself, which should commence around 6.30 pm.

Finally, as another year in the life of the section draws to a close, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!
The annual match between the North West section yards. As you might imagine, there are some fine which played twice works out at just  over 6,000 hole to be played. The clubhouse is Arley Hall itself, which is stocked with rare and beautiful waterfowl, making the perfect backdrop to a well maintained course. The result was a win for the stewards, mainly because some team members failed to turn up despite making promises - nevertheless a day to remember and enjoyed by all who attended.

Now that winter draws in our thoughts turn to winter lectures. As soon as I have completed the programme I will ensure that members receive a full fixture list covering the winter period. To start the ball rolling an interesting talk by Clive Heginbotham of ICI on Nutrition of Fine Turf will take place at Bury GC on 25 November commencing at 7.00pm, followed by our AGM. Please make every effort to attend and support your section.

One piece of news I am very happy to report is that Anthony Davies and his family are all making a good recovery following their motoring accident. Any news, views or comment - please contact me on 051 724 5412.

BECT CROSS

EAST OF ENGLAND
To be given a jewel is always worth a wait, however long, and our return to Kings Lynn GC was certainly worth the two year wait.

On the last occasion we experienced a cloud-burst and play was abandoned for the day, so we were really looking forward to this fixture. The Rigby Trophy was played on this superb course set in park and heather. The fairways proved a little narrow for some of us and the 'give' underfoot was something many of us had not experienced for a long time.

The prizes, which were greatly appreciated, were donated by our sponsors and trade friends. Steering a straight course paid off for Michael Wood of Thorpe GC and he is now the trophy holder for 1992/93. Following him closely came the evergreen David Salisbury of Burghley Park, with further prizes being won by G MacDonald, G Patrick and D Wells. As Aussie Macklin wasn't with us to retain the raffle prize, his boss' David Salisbury was lucky - again!

The hospitality of Kevin and Liz Morgan in the clubhouse made our day complete - many thanks.

To club secretary Mr J G Higgins we give our grateful thanks for the courtesy extended to us. The Toft GC (Bourne) fixture on 4 November will have taken place when this report appears - a report will follow.

COLIN SWINGER

SURREY
On 24 September the Surbiton GC hosted the Parker's Salver and despite several days of monsoon-like rainfall, Tony Witt and his crew managed to present the golf course in top class condition. The results were: 1st D Box 39 pts. 2nd W George 38 pts. 3rd R Christie 34 pts, with Brian Wilmott (32pts) completing a hat-trick of prize victories.

Thanks to Surbiton GC for allowing us courtesy of their course, to the catering staff for their hospitality and, obviously, to the green staff for a job well done. Special thanks are also due to Ron Johnson for his continued help at golf days with scoring, score cards and the like.

Don't forget to contact a committee member if you are interested in the free travel to Harrogate for the BTM Show coming January. The Turkey Trot and AGM will be held at Elfingham GC, 19 December. ROGER TYDEMAN

LONDON
The section's third and final summer competition was held at Harfield & London GC on 11 August. A field of 32 players enjoyed the golf - but not the odd cloud-burst that threatened to ruin a good afternoon - however, the rain held off and most players completed a dry round. Thanks to Peter

and everyone connected with London & Hatfield for looking after us so well. The competition was well supported by our trade friends: CMW; Parkers; Sturte and SKG Landscapes - our thanks to them.

Results: 1st Tony Dunstan (Mill Hill GC) 45 pts. 2nd Ted Dickinson (Hatfield & London) 41 pts. 3rd John Jackson (Wienstead) 38 pts.

On to 17 September and our Autumn Competition, held at Uppminster GC. A disappointing turn-out but not surprising considering how busy everyone is at this time of the year. Only 16 players enjoyed what was a good day and a clear winner emerged in the form of Jimmy Jay of Brent Valley GC, with 80 pts over 36 holes, a long way ahead of second place man Douglas Smith of Thorpe hall GC on 69 pts.

Steve Paterson of Abridge GC came third with 66 pts. Our thanks to Patisons; Sierra; Fisons; Vicex; Rhone Poulenc; Agrimaster and to Dennis Smith of T Parker and Sons for organising all the prizes and presenting the winning shield. Our thanks also to Pat and all at Uppminster for allowing us to play.

Our London and SE representatives at the Iseki finals were John Jackson and Norman Exley and though neither brought home any silverware they were both proud to be part of the SE team - and London, naturally.

Please contact me with any news on 081 441 3216. Finally, a couple of movements around the scene: Brian Moggeridge leaves Mill Hill GC to take his first head greenkeeper post at Rosston GC, whilst Darren Burdis takes over as deputy head at Brookmans Park GC, moving from Hadley Wood.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

NORTH EAST
Stockfield GC was the venue for our Autumn Tournament held on 10 September. Richard Greane, our chairman, thanked the captain and committee of Stockfield for giving us courtesy of the course and for the hospitality extended to us all, also to head greenkeeper, Tommy Harrison, and his staff for preparing the excellent conditioned course so well.

Our thanks go out again to the usual donating companies: Byron Gravel Co; Shorts; Maxel Construction; Fisons; Stewarts; Rigby Taylor; Thompsons and Rickerby's, with a special thanks to Abcon (Top Dressing) for their very substantial donation. The following golf clubs also provided donations: Tyneside; Alnemouth; Newcastle United; Whitley Bay; Whitleburn; Beamish; Arcol Hall; Parklands; Prudhoe; Warkworth and Northumberland.

Results: Best gross A McAuley 71. Best nett (Ransomes Cup) N Parkin (Hexham GC) 74-7=77. Handicap 0-11 Best nett (Greenley Cup) B Wilson (Stockfield) 77-5=72 (on countback). Handicap 12-18 Best nett (Foresters Cup) L Bradley (Greenophage) 95-19=77. Other leading scores - I Johnson (Stockfield) 83-11=72. I Hutton (Consett) 77-3=74. J Richardson (Whickham) 80-5=75. C Calvert (Close House) 86-9=77.

Congratulations to Michael Gunn of Tyneside GC on finishing third in his category in the Iseki finals.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

COMING UP

October 19–November 27: BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) - Aldwark Manor, York
November 2: BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Colchester Centre, Essex
November 3: BIGGA South West Region Seminar – Cranleigh College
November 11–12: IOG Scotsfur Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh, Scotland
November 12–14: Golf Course Europe ’92 Show – Monte Carlo, France
November 24–26: Golf International 2000 – Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey
November 25: BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College
November 27: BIGGA North Scotland Section Conference – Dundee College, Angus
December 7: IOG Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York

1993
January 18–22: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

STOCK BROOK MANOR GOLF CLUB

The Secretary, Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Queens Park Avenue, Stock, near Billericay, Essex CM12 OS

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Tel: (0372) 276311

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