NORTH SCOTLAND
We welcome two new members to the section, Ian Wakeman from Brora GC and Caroline Ross (our second lady member) from Royal Dornoch. In writing of Dornoch, now that Robert Paterson and his staff have the famous links back in top condition, major work is under way on the second course – The Struie. The greens are being returfed, with fairways Vertidrained and seeded. Remaining in the area, work has begun on Peter De Saveroy’s course at Skibo Castle, just south of Dornoch. The main problem here, perhaps, will be the control of a large rabbit population.

Congratulations to George Paterson, head greenkeeper at Fortrose, who has won the inaugural North Order of Merit for his consistently high places in competitions. His success in this section.

Older members will be saddened to learn of the death of retired member George Cranna, of Kinnity, near Inverurie. Our thoughts are with Mrs Cranna at this time and we wish her well.

AIN MACLEOD

SOUTH COAST
In pride of place this month is Kerran Daly, head greenkeeper at Salisbury and South Wiltshire GC. Kerran successfully gained the Master Greenkeeper Certificate this summer and is the first member of the section to obtain this prestigious award. Congratulations, Kerran – no doubt other members will be inspired to follow your example.

Your secretary needs a response from section members! First aid training, now a vital part of staff development, can be provided by the section, this training will be provided on a day to four days of training. Please let me know if you are interested, so that a programme of training can be provided.

Secondly, the provision of coaches to BTME at Havant in January and Westruf in April. A coach to both these events could be provided if required. Again, let me know if you are interested in making a trip to these events.

SOUTH COAST MEETING – BASINGSTOKE GOLF CLUB

The South Coast section should be proud indeed of the support from our greenkeepers and their guests, for a field of 56 came to Basingstoke GC to participate in the Summer Tournament. Again, this year the prize table was sponsored by T Parker & Sons (Turf Management Ltd) and Roffey Brothers Ltd., with additional prizes supplied by Avoncrop Amenity Products, Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, ICI Professional Products and through the personal generosity of Ian Rickman, head greenkeeper at Basingstoke.

Ian had manoeuvred the course to a very high degree, which was appreciated by all who played and showed. The greenkeeping by Captains of the club, James Buchanan, joined the members for a wonderful meal supplied by Val Keddie and prizes won by Pat Godber (formerly of Bexleyheath).

KENT

You will all probably have read the report of the National Tournament at Littlestone in Greenkeeper International. No words are adequate to describe the quite horrendous weather conditions on the last day. I can quite honestly say that I hope never again to venture under such conditions – if venturing means I must play under such howling gales and torrential rain!

The gales of the first two days seemed to pale into insignificance compared to the final day. The course was superbly parred by Malcolm Grand and his staff and many felt it was quite possibly the highest quality turf they had the privilege to play on.

The golf from our meagre band of Kent stalwarts was not in main fairly unremarkable, though we all completed card scores every day – some achievement. To put this into perspective, the first (and probably easiest) day of blustery conditions saw many golfers playing their 'sleeping' membership. At the last count we had 116 golfers (at Dunbar GC) if you get the opportunity. The North West was well represented and Peter Solski (Daventry) found himself deservedly amongst the winners.

The section AGM will be in late November and full details will appear in the November issue.

PERT CROSS

The season beat the Northern section at Stockport in what has become known as the 'Battle of the Roses'. Not only did we win, we whitewashed 'em, and as the results poured in I do believe I could hear the ghostly sounds of Mick Hannam sobbing his heart out in the upper reaches of the M62!

To be fair, the Northern section was unable to field a full team, but we made up five matches and everyone enjoyed a good day of golf. The course, a magnificent parkland creation, was in perfect condition – thanks to Paul Pearsall.

I would like to thank Stockport GC for allowing us the courtesy of their course, also the catering staff for looking after us so well. Last but not least, thanks must go to the sponsors with David Haskell of T Parker & Sons (Turf Management Ltd) and Rigby Taylor for arranging a most enjoyable day of golf at Whitefield GC, Manchester, in August. The day was a tremendous success with good company, good food and a superb course.

The bloody par threes were hard! Thanks to Brian Booth for his invitations.

JANE RYAN

AROUND THE GREEN

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JANE RYAN

October 12th: TOROPGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award – Aldwark Manor, York

October 14th: BIGGA Northern Region Seminar – Askham Bryan College

October 14th-15th: KUBOTA Challenge – The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

October 16th: BIGGA Northern Region Seminar, Reaseheath College

October 19th-21st: BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York

November 2nd: BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Colchester Centre, Essex

November 3rd: BIGGA South West Region Seminar – Carrington College

November 11th-12th: IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh, Scotland

November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show – Monte Carlo, France

November 24th-26th: Golf International 2000 – Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey

November 25th: Biggin Hills Region Seminar – Warwickshire College

November 27th: BIGGA North Scotland Section Conference – Dundee College

December 7: ICI Professional Products Premium Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York