KENT
You should soon receive details regarding our Spring Tournament at Rochester & Cobham GC, also those entering a visit on 26 April to the London Golf Club. Joe Paulin. The LGC’s course manager has been a visitor, which our all members to see at first hand one of the major golf construction projects in Europe. As you may know, the two courses at LGC have been designed by Eddie Bear Inc, with Jack Nicklaus personally designing one of the courses - the Heritage. The timing of the visit should perfectly coincide with a wide range of activities taking place on the courses, from conception to initial maintenance. It is certain to be an excellent educational experience and opportunity, with perhaps a follow-up planned for next year.

Although informal, we propose to meet in the Hole & Groom public house between 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm. The pub is sited on the left side of the A20, about 3-4 miles beyond Branks Hatch Circuit, leading south towards Maidstone. Not only will this give us a chance to meet, but those who wish may buy a pub lunch or sandwich. For those who choose to go straight to the course, may I suggest you arrive a the maintenance shed complex no later than 1.30 pm. The London Golf Club is located just off the A20 suggested ‘Sunsted’ on the same side of the road as the pub and about 2-3 miles past the Branks Hatch Circuit. For further information call me on 0322 452777.

Those of us who make it through to the regional final of our new Hayter Challenge Tournament will find it strange that BIGGA regional administrator, Norman Exley, will no longer be in attendance. As you may know, Norman passed away in February, its enthusiasm and commitment will be missed not only by our region but also at national level by our Association. For many years Norman suffered from a heart complaint, so apart from sending our condolences to his family we have seen fit to send a small donation from the Kent section toward heart disease research.

PAUL CORSEY

SOUTH WEST

Happy birthday Dear Jo-Jo, Happy Birthday to you, 18 February was John Kane’s birthday, so what better way to celebrate than with a section event? especially when you have reached the ripe old age of 18. Yes, 18 February was John Kane’s birthday, so what better way to celebrate than with a section event? A20, about 3-4 miles beyond Brands Hatch Circuit, returning to take up a post as greenkeeper at a club north of Hampton, with views toward Jutland, Denmark.

Now is the time to take a stock check, get quotations and place orders for delivery in advance of events. Devoting fairways in April is vital: five men, five days (except par three’s), Greens compaction is serious: with 500 players out between Friday and Monday (average weight 10 stone = 31 tonnes), rollers on greens are not necessary. Hole cutting more often is desirable, together with weekly solid tining in summer and weekly slitting in winter - or Vertidraining once or twice a year. drainage is absolutely vital.

The outing to GEM Professional Products in Lancashire was a success and we were well received by senior GEM staff, witnessing fertiliser production at first hand. For a family firm they are to be complimented on being so up to date and we offer them congratulations on obtaining BS5750.

An HND course in Greenkeeping is now on offer at Ashkham Bryan College. BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section stands Kenny Anderson all the best for his new job at Sheringham in Norfolk and congratulates Dale Robertson on taking over from Kenny as head greenkeeper at Newmarch, near Aberdeen. I recently attended the section secretaries/regional administrators meeting at head office. This was very worthwhile with many discussions and ideas being bandied about. The book-keeping workshop was the most discussed, with much learnt in a short space of time.

The 200 Club tickets are slowly coming in, though these should all be sold by now. Please send your money in immediately - the first draw takes place next month.

The section library is up and running with...
the following books are available: • Turf Management for Golf Courses, James Beard. • Turf Management Handbook, Freebairn. • Golf Course Presentation, John Hacker and George Shiels. • All Presentation, John Hacker and George Shiels. • The COSHH Pesticide Regulation, John Hacker and George Shiels. • The dry stane dyking method. The new holes come from 6431 yards to 6713 yards and par from 71 to 72. Grass Technology International are the designers. The greens, tees, aprons and bunker architecture. The greens, tees, aprons and bunker surrounding were turfed, with fairways being seeded in June 1990 to 350000/ba. Derek Roy and his staff all the best in this year of change, having to maintain the existing course while settling in the extension, but still hope to see them at section meetings. In July, we hope to organise a trip (in conjunction with Souter's and Nairn Dunbar) to visit the holes during the setting in period this year. In August, we hope to visit: Bill Miller and Pat Allan of Stewart's, two organised tours have been arranged to visit Stewart's turf farm and works. The first takes place on Tuesday, 20 April, when a bus will leave from the town centre at 0930. The second will be on Tuesday, 27 April, though this time the bus will leave from Aberdeen. As guests of Stewart's, there is no charge for these trips, but members should note that numbers are limited — so it is a case of first come, first served. Stewart's will also be having a 'spring clean' of their space, so green chairman etc. will be most welcome. Time is not on our side so please phone me on 0862 954420, especially to reserve your seat on the bus. The second trip will also be from Inverness. Please support this initiative by one of our patrons. Finally, welcome to two new members: Duncan Adams from Royal Aberdeen Golf Club and William Duggie from Inverness. IAIN MACLEOD

SURREY

February seemed to have flown by and with no golf event or winter lecture to report, I welcome this opportunity to remind members of our forthcoming Spring Tournament. This year the venue for the 36 hole stroke play is being held on the 2nd and 3rd April, with the date for the 1st Clive Browning (Bowood) +4. 2nd Gordon Tamblyn (Mulloon) +4. 3rd Brian Summers (Carbery Bay) +3. The Harrogate Challenge also took place between Brian Summers & Gordon Tamblyn, with £50 being donated to section funds by Devon Garden Machinery. The winner was Gordon Tamblyn by one hole. The section presented Jack Moore, head greenkeeper at Teignmouth GC, with a tankard to mark his retirement after over 30 years greenkeeping. We all wish you a happy retirement. Jack and his wife and family will be missed. The section presented Peter with a BIGGA tie and thanked him for his paper. The section would also like to thank the captain & committee of Perranporth GC for their hospitality. The section wish our guest presenter, Brian Summers & Gordon Tamblyn, all the best for the future. Without prompters on show you can't afford to miss Westurf '93.

ROGER TYDMAN

NORTH EAST

Grateful thanks are extended to the Ryton Gravel Company for an invitation extended to all section members to visit their quarry on 25 February, followed by a visit to the Caithness Nature Reserve. In thanking them I must also apologise for what was a particularly measly turn-out, for only eight people bothered to turn up! Thanks to Mike Bayley of Ryton Gravel and especially to Mr. Brian Peattie for his hospitality and for helping to make the event go as smoothly as possible. The presentations were well attended and I am sure that we will all be better informed about these matters.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

NORTH WALES

Our first competition of the season will be held at Curran Park, on Thursday, 22 April. Prizes are available from T Adamson and D S Proctor and must be returned with payment (£11.00 for members and £12.00 for guests) before 16 April 1993. Forms arriving after the above date will not be accepted. Teeing off will be from 10.00 -11.40 am.

LYNNEMYCHE

is the setting for our annual match against the North West section on 26 April, with tee off from 12.00 noon - 1.15 pm. Those wishing to be considered for the team should contact 'Lyres' truly on 0248 713490. This year the match will be sponsored by Gom Professional. Congratulations to D Parry on his appointment to head greenkeeper at Prestatyn Golf Club, following the departure of N Pearse to Hydeley Golf Club in Germany. I know I speak for the whole committee in wishing Norman every success in his new appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations also to P Gabriel and J Chung, promoted to senior first assistant at Cardon Park, to J Moody on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Chirk Golf and Country Club, and to A Sharp on his new appointment in Kent. D S PROCTOR

SOUTH COAST

Winter lectures have been reasonably well attended, although the January meeting at Game Down Golf Club was poorly supported, mainly due to the atrocious weather which was prevalent at the time. The talk by Gwilym Thomas from Lloyds of Letchworth for his firm's presentation. In February, Jim Arthur gave a very enjoyable talk, much appreciated by members present.

These meetings are arranged not only for their content, but also as a forum for local greenkeepers to meet and have a natter. If you’ve not been in the habit of attending our lectures, you are missing out on more to follow.

Tournament time is almost upon us, and our Spring Tournament this year is being held at Sherborne GC on Wednesday, 25 May. The format for the competition is 36 holes played from 7 May onwards with only four teams wishing to play 36 holes can play just one round. The entry fee will be £14. 00 and all applications to play, with handicaps, fee, etc., should be addressed to: Tournament Organiser, 23 box hurdle, Child Osprey, BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset. DT11 8EA. (Tel: 0258 861482).

Other section tournaments later in the year are: Sherborne GC on Tuesday, 21 July. Autumn Tournament, High Post GC on Tuesday, 5 October.

Finally, please support Westurf at Long Ashton in Wessex on Monday, 20 June. The arduous nature of our winter golf turf demonstration organised so far and a number of section officials are working hard to make this event successful.

BOB DENNIS

DEVON & CORNWALL

THE BEST IN THE WEST AND IT’S FREE... There are only a few days to go before this year's Westurf Trade Show. This is the event to attend if you are a turf dealer or anyone interested in the turf industry. It takes place on Wednesday 24th April, at an early morning registration from 8am, with the show opening at 9am. The first meeting will be at 9.30am with a trade show, which will conclude at 4.30pm. There will be a varied range of visiting exhibitors, with over 70 stands to view. There will be free entry for you and a guest. Lunch will be provided from the motorway and when you arrive parking and admission is FREE.

There are at least 30 dealers who will be there to answer your questions and you will also be able to see the latest machines being put through their paces on the large demonstration area which includes a great deal of turf turfing. We understand that there are 15 manufacturers who will be showing machines on show you can't afford to miss Westurf '93.

Our February meeting was held at Perranporth GC on Wednesday 24th, with an early morning first coffee and ranging from 7am, followed by an excellently prepared lunch for the Avoncroft Trophy. Our thanks to Bill & John Mitchell who presented the course in such fine condition — and it was on Father's Day.

John Palfrey of Avoncroft presented the golf prizes to: 1st Clive Browning (Bowood) +4. 2nd Gordon Tamblyn (Mulloon) +4. 3rd Brian Summers (Carbery Bay) +3. The Harrogate Challenge also took place between Brian Summers & Gordon Tamblyn, with £50 being donated to section funds by Devon Garden Machinery. The victor was Gordon Tamblyn by one hole. The section presented Jack Moore, head greenkeeper at Teignmouth GC, with a tankard to mark his retirement after over 30 years greenkeeping. We all wish you a happy retirement. Jack and his wife and family will be missed. The section presented Peter with a BIGGA tie and thanked him for his paper. The section would also like to thank the captain & committee of Perranporth GC for allowing 75 members the use of their facilities, also to Mr R Pye for looking after the inner man. Our Guest Day meeting will be once again at Llanymynech. The setting for our annual match against the North West section on 26 April, with tee off from 12.00 noon - 1.15 pm. Those wishing to be considered for the team should contact 'Lyres' truly on 0248 713490. This year the match will be sponsored by Gom Professional. Congratulations to D Parry on his appointment to head greenkeeper at Prestatyn Golf Club, following the departure of N Pearse to Hydeley Golf Club in Germany. I know I speak for the whole committee in wishing Norman every success in his new appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations also to P Gabriel and J Chung, promoted to senior first assistant at Cardon Park, to J Moody on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Chirk Golf and Country Club, and to A Sharp on his new appointment in Kent. D S PROCTOR

SOUTH WALES

Those people expecting to see Huw Morgan’s name at the end of this column might just wonder what's going on when they see my name in print. To set the record straight, after being elected to the post of section secretary for South Wales, Huw accepted a job as course manager at the Wilderness Golf Club in Kent. He took up his new position on 15 March and his family will be joining him soon. The section wishes him all the best of luck for the future, whilst personnel products on show you can't afford to miss Westurf '93.

RICHARD WHYMAN
have ended by the time this appears, so I'd like to thank all the speakers, David Smart (Liquid-Turf), David Ward (Porthcawl GC), Doug James (Nomix-Chipman), Michael Williams (Glamorganshire GC), Huw Morgan (Southerndown GC), Dennis Archer (Whitchurch SC), Carl Crome, Jon Allbutt, Brett Mayberry, Allan Webb and Rhone Poulsen. A plea goes out to our membership for greater attendances to these events if they are to continue. The average attendance at evening lectures was nineteen, and with a section total nearing 130 for 1993 surely we can manage more! Thanks must go to those involved at Pencoed College for allowing us the use of the college facilities to stage these events, with special gratitude to Peter Gillard for his major contributions.

For 1993 there have been some major changes to the running of the golf days, not only to the price but the fact that the total cost must be paid in advance, (not, as it used to be, a deposit and the remainder on the day). Note therefore that the payment is the entry fee and this must reach the secretary at least ten days before the event. No Payment — No Meal — No Competition — No Exceptions! Also note that all the competitions begin in the afternoon, this to encourage greater attendance during 1993.

Last but not least I'd like to thank all the folks at Aldwark Manor for making the two day administrators /secretaries meeting which I visited so very interesting. This was my first visit, though hopefully not my last, and it was nice to put faces to the names of those who I had spoken to on the telephone, though never met. Thanks again to all involved in making my stay both rewarding and enjoyable.

PETER LACEY

**LONDON**

The last few months have not brought good news to our section, especially with the loss of a valuable friend and member — Norman Exley. He contributed a great deal over the years and will be missed by us all. Our thoughts are with his family. The London Section has donated £200 to the Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital.

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**COMING UP**

**AROUND THE GREEN**

Highgate Golf Club. Last year he had a hip operation which unfortunately proved to be unsuccessful, this causing further treatment to be required. We send our best wishes for a speedy and successful recovery. Doug Smith has been appointed chairman of the committee, with the committee structure being as follows: Doug Smith — Chairman, Barry Moggridge — Secretary, Craig Handside — Treasurer, Martin Ballantyne — Honorary Secretary /Treasurer. We are looking for two new committee members and anyone interested should contact Doug Smith on 0788-742148. Entries for the summer fourball knockout are required, the cost being £5 per pair and the closing date 23 April. The contact, again, is Doug Smith. TONY DUNSTAN

**WEST SCOTLAND**

The section has staged two social events since the start of the year, the first being a games night at Claremont Bowling Club. Twenty four members, traders and guests enjoyed an evening of indoor bowls, snooker, darts, pool and dominoes. The evening was declared a great success, the winners being Sandy Bulloch and Nick McConville from runners-up Danny Lauder and John Scott Snr.

Next came a football match held during February, a match staged between greenkeepers from either the north or south side of the River Clyde. As a player for the south, I can only imagine that our members from the north must have been overawed at playing in the shadow of Ibrox Stadium, for though invested with the ten goal thriller, they lost by nine goals to one! However, they have assured me that their ‘away’ goal will be crucial in the return match. A special thanks must be recorded to life-member Joe McLean for referencing the match, it being good to see that with the result poised at one all, he was not ‘well’in Alistair Connell’s dive in the box. Alistair is getting so slow these days that he shouted ‘past my four times on the way down!’

I am pleased to inform members that Hamilton GC will be the venue for our spring outing on 22 April. Thanks to Hamilton for courtesy of their course and we look forward to meeting the sponsors of the Hayter Challenge Tournament on the day. Entry forms have been posted and entries must be returned by the closing date.

Congratulations to Scott Ballantyne on his appointment as course manager at Cowden GC and to Danny Lauder and Andrew McDowell on their moves as assistant greenkeepers to Stratherrick GC and Torrance House respectively.

Finally, this will be my last report as section secretary, as AJ (Sandy) Bulloch takes over the secretariat in April. I hope every member continues to give the section his keenest support — such as I have enjoyed over the past four years — and that the section continues to grow from strength to strength.

GORDON KERR

**MIDLANDS**

I will start by thanking the staff at BIGGA HQ for again putting together a two-day package that allowed section secretaries and regional administrators the opportunity to get together and be given insight into the way our successful Association is managed and second to meet with other officials to discuss the running of the Association and the problems encountered in running our particular section.

During the next month the Warwickshire College of Agriculture (GTCC Approved) will be mailing all head greenkeepers and their golf clubs, seeking to establish if a need exists for the running of short courses. Included will be a comprehensive list stating what might be made available.

DEAN CLEAVER

**CENTRAL SCOTLAND**

The first social event of the year got off to a great start in February when 40 members and friends enjoyed a night at the ten-pin bowling centre in Falkirk.

Also in February, 30 members attended Souter’s Sportsurf in Stirling and enjoyed seeing in first hand the facilities offered by John Souther to the greenkeeping profession. Particular interest was shown in the CAD (computer aided design) of golf course layout. Following lunch at Stirling GC, members were given a site visit to the course and the work carried out on the course over the past winter.

Our thanks to John Souther and his staff for staging a first class presentation and for delicious food and little refreshments to wash it down...

By now everyone should have received an entry form for the Spring Tournament at Falkirk Tryst on 28 April (note the change of venue). This will be the final qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, so by all means do not have a form — contact me now if you wish to play.

Section chairman Duncan Peadle and his committee extend a warm welcome to all new members and hope that you will take an active part in supporting the events currently being organised. It’s a great way of getting to know fellow members.

JOHN CRAWFORD