NORTH WEST
June is drawing to an end as I write and the rainy season appears to have finally come to an end. I must admit that this month I am struggling to find something to report, as there seems to be very little happening in the North West. One date for your diary, however, is 25 August, when we have a visit to the GEM fertiliser works at Accrington. Unfortunately we are restricted to just 30 members, so it will have to be a case of first come, first served.

At the regional final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament at Workop our section had only one qualifier make it forward to the grand final – Chris Hulme. We all wish Chris the best of luck in 'the big one'.

That seems to be it for now, though I am looking forward to The Open and then a few days at the National Tournament, where I hope to meet many section members and renew old acquaintances. Any news or views, please contact me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

SCOTTISH REGION
The Scottish Region National Tournament was held at Brunston Castle GC, Ayrshire, on 22 June, staged on a new course which has been open for only one year, though every player was fulsome in their praise for its condition. Congratulations and thanks to Gordon Heron and his staff and also to George and Anna Fergusson and their clubhouse staff for their kindness and hospitality – especially the catering organisation, who did wonders despite limited catering facilities. Our special thanks also to Mr Bob Low, owner of Brunston Castle, for his kindness in granting us courtesy of the course. Although he could not be with us in person he did not forget us and a 'phone call from Belshill to wish us well – and to offer every one in the club a drink, which added the final flourish to a great tournament and a fine course, one that will become even better as the years progress. Our best wishes, then, to everyone at Brunston Castle for every success in the future.

No less than 92 people attended, of whom 80 were players, and as will be seen by the scores, they found it a very tough course indeed. As usual, competitors were far flung, from Tain in the north to Goswick in the south (or should I say north of England?). Some people, including our intrepid editor, had a slow journey but still they came back – year after year. In mentioning the editor, does he realise that nearly every bad score was put down to the appearance of his camera on the 17th tee? Well, someone has to take the blame!

It was a bonus for us that BIGGA chairman John Crawford was with us to present the trophies, and it was nice also to see young Gordon Irving back in the promised land – popping along to see some old friends. A special thanks to Jim Paton, Willie Blair and Jimmy Neilson for their assistance – we worked Jim Paton so hard that the poor fellow wasn’t fit enough to walk round the course and was forced to take a buggy (auld age disnae come ither ’Jim), – nice drive at the first, though!

ELLIOTT SMALL

• The full results of the Scottish Championship appear on Page 7, together with photographs of the major trophy winners – editor.

KENT
Not much to report this time around, except perhaps to remind you of some of our events later in the year. Perhaps the most important will be our hosting of the Regional Seminar at Hadlow College on 27 October. The topic for our half dozen expert speakers will be the implications and practicalities of golf 365 days a year. The final line-up of speakers has yet to be finalised, but we intend to make it a topical, interesting, educational, and perhaps even stimulating day of discussion for greenkeepers, secretaries and golf club officials.

On the golfing front we have our Autumn Tournament at Langley Park on 15 September. Also to be pencilled in is our Christmas Turkey Trot, which may be staged at Darenth Valley.

At least one definite piece of news is that Andy Johnson, head man at Sene Valley, is once again a married man. This report will undoubtedly appear some time after the ceremony in May, so I deliberately omit the word ‘happily’. Only kidding, of course, for would we greenkeepers be without ‘er indoors? I have found they can also come in very handy as makeshift green staff and I remember a couple of years ago (at seven months pregnant) my wife was painting tee markers in the shed. I also know of one head greenkeeper who was known to send his wife out to switch the dew sensors at bunker raking. Well, there we are Andy, a few useful tips for a happy and fruitful marriage. Oh yes, and when she has finished those chores out on the course don’t forget she has also to wash your overalls and make the dinner. I think I had better shut up now, in case my wife reads this!

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH EAST REGION
Bright sunshine together with a refreshing north easterly breeze greeted the competitors of the South East region on 29 June, bent on qualifying to represent the region in the Hayter Challenge Tournament finals to be staged at Sand Moor in September. For this regional qualifier we were fortunate in having the new Weald of Kent course at our disposal, and after a filling buffet lunch the competitors set out to try and master the terrain, truly in excellent condition when one considers that it has been open for just one year.

Thanks must be extended to John Millen for helping to arrange the tournament; and to all the staff at Weald of Kent for their unfailing courtesy and professionalism. Thanks also to Hayters plc for their help and generous sponsorship of the day, which must be voted a great success.


Good fortune to all qualifiers at the National Finals at Sand Moor.

DAVID WOOD

SOUTH WALES
The Hayter Challenge regional final held at Clevendon GC on 8 June was played on a glorious day, the weather being warm and wind free, in fact perfect golfing weather. Before the competition I rather fancied our chances, as some good scores had been registered at section monthly meetings and most of the lads were playing consistently well. So what went wrong?

The only player from our section to qualify for the final was Laurence Walter of Wenwose Castle GC. Two other competitors came away with something: ‘yours truly’ as mug of category two and Philip Huish as mug of category three! Just in case he forgets to mention it in his column, Richard Whyman (Devon & Cornwall) won the mug of category one! Our thanks to Hayters, especially Kim Macfie and Robin Boyes, for their splendid support and for presenting a magnificent prize table, also to all at Clevendon GC for their hospitality and to Barry Reeves and his staff for course presentation. Last but not least our thanks to Marion and Gordon Child for their hard work and splendid organisation.

Dennis Archer is recovering from an operation in which he has had a leg amputated and I’m sure everyone will join with me in wishing Dennis the very best of good luck. Our thoughts are with you Dennis, and we all hope that everything turns out well.

Andrew Jenkins has yet to open the bottle of bubbly he won in Westbur, for he is (or was, at the time of writing) still waiting to become a father. Any news for the summer newsletter will be greatly appreciated. Contact me on 0792 2339232.

PETER LACEY

NORTH WALES
June has been a quiet month in North Wales, so there is little to report save that of Chris Davies at Sand Moor in September. Also to be pencilled in is our Christmas Turkey Trot, which may be staged at Darenth Valley.

At least one definite piece of news is that Philip Huish as mug of category three! Just in case he forgets to mention it in his column, Richard Whyman (Devon & Cornwall) won the mug of category one! Our thanks to Hayters, especially Kim Macfie and Robin Boyes, for their splendid support and for presenting a magnificent prize table, also to all at Clevendon GC for their hospitality and to Barry Reeves and his staff for course presentation. Last but not least our thanks to Marion and Gordon Child for their hard work and splendid organisation.

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Gordon & Marion Child, who as usual ran the day so smoothly.

RICHARD WHYMAN

CLEVELAND

Two of our members have qualified for the Hayter Challenge final at Sand Moor GC, Graham Pyle and Chris Powley -- congratulations and good luck to them.

Whilst driving a Greens King on a gravel path, Ian Holloran found two golfers blocking his path and he was forced to brake hard. As he was on a side-sloping path he slid broadside into a beck, causing minor damage to the machine. Fortunately he was unhurt.

On heavy, temporary winter greens offer the advantage of protecting normal greens during the worst of winter, so that from springtime onward the finer grasses are in better condition and are better able to provide good putting surfaces. It is important at this time of year to make provisions to harden off the greens and have stocks of fungicide available in case of fungal attack. Scarifying, aerating and drying off by reducing irrigation application during September will help enormously.

The new course at Yafforth, Northallerton, opened in fine condition, new course at Breton, near Salburne, according to head greenkeeper Brian Hall, is now fully operational and 'doing well.' Darlington Borough Council's course at Stresholme is to add an ambitious driving range to complement the popular 18 hole course whilst Jim Webster (head greenkeeper) advises that he is busy setting up a nine hole course, complete with driving range, at the Hallgarth Hotel complex near Darlington.

BRUCE BURNELL

LONDON

Congratulations to Pat and Tina Swinn on the recent arrival of their new son, Sean Francis. We wish them all the best and hope they don't have too many sleepless nights. Congratulations are also in order following the triumphant win of Doug Smith and John Jackson at the recent guest day event held at Thorpe Hall GC. Although staged on Doug's home territory, this win amongst the members must surely be all the more satisfying, whilst the rock solid performance of John, as always, was impressive.

The summer league is progressing towards an interesting climax and the final rounds certainly promise to be entertaining. I will keep readers informed when the final stage results come to hand. The winter seminar venue has been decided, with Oaklands College kindly offering us some dates in early December. A programme is currently being drawn up. Keep the news coming in, all ideas are welcome. Don't hesitate to call me on 081 599 5629.

TONY DUNSTAN

SURREY

The sun always seems to shine on Cresta Cup day and this year was no exception as players travelled to the Haydock Park Show. If you are interested please contact me. DAVID PROCTOR

NORTHERN

Our Presidents Day Tournament was held at South Leeds GC on 10 June, by kind permission of the management committee. The course was in fine condition, reflecting all the hard work put in by Graham Hope and his staff. Thanks must also go to Mr. Terry Hughes, Captain of the Rabbits, for presenting the prizes, and to the bar and catering staff for an admirable job. The results: 1st S. Midgley, 2nd A. Smith, 3rd L. Kirkbright.

Our grateful thanks -- as always -- go to our president, Bill Mountain, (who by the way is in his 33rd year of office) for putting on such a splendid prize table, and last but not least our thanks to our friend Mel Guy for being the president's right hand man on the day, arranging all the score cards etc. Everyone had a grand time.

The Invitation Day at Pannal GC on 17 August is fully booked and no further entries can be taken. There are, however, still a few places for the Autumn Tournament at Kirbymoorside GC on 6 October. Any member wishing to book should send a deposit of £10 to me at 49 Cornwall Road, Binley. W Yorks. BD16 4RL, or call me on 0274 568128 for further details.

PAT MURPHY

DEVON & CORNWALL

With the sun shining for the first time in weeks, our sectional qualifiers travelled to the Haydock Challenge regional final held at Clevedon GC on Tuesday 8 June. The Hayter agents for the section, Devon Garden Machinery and Hennings Ltd., kindly sponsored mini bus travel to the final and Alan Dommett of DGM drove the Devon qualifiers, although Martin Hennings unfortunately had to attend to his company's involvement with the Cornwall County show, which started only days later. With this, the Cornish qualifiers nominated Dick Parr to drive their bus and though perhaps it would be better to drive a car over the trip, I understand that Doug Kirkham turned up in his Flying Doctors motor home and said that it was the journey of a lifetime! As to the event, our qualifiers had both good and bad fortune, with 'yours truly' collecting the mug of the category, 'yours truly' collecting the mug of the category, an event that may have been a little less desirable.

As to the event, our qualifications are in order to all team members who took part. In closing, I would like to thank Hayters for sponsoring this superb event, also

 lure of a lifetime! As to the event, our qualification are in order to all team members who took part. In closing, I would like to thank Hayters for sponsoring this superb event, also.
Around the Green

making it a great opportunity to join the Association for the remainder of 1993. New members this month are Andrew Bain from Inverness and one of my assistants, John Urquhart, who rejoins after a couple of years away.

Seven hardy souls made the long trek to Ayrshire for the Scottish Greenkeeping Championships at Brunston Castle, and it is good to report that Caird Park's Paul Murphy picked up the major trophy for the best scratch score. It was certainly worth the journey as Brunston is a superb course and was in great condition, especially as it had only been open for a year. We had good weather, a great time, a big entry, and many old friendships were renewed. The North section is due to hold this competition in 1995, so anyone who would like to put their name forward, please 'phone me and the committee will discuss it at the next meeting.

New member Colin Forbes of Aboyne was fairly burning it up in a competition at Braemar recently. He raced to the turn in 29 and came home in 52 for a three under standard scratch 61 which equals the course record. I wonder if Colin will be at Kinriemuir next month to challenge the scratch boys.

We wish Hughie McLatchie all the best as North representative in this years ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition. Fine recognition for the work he has done at Peterhead, which is in fine condition. Hugh has contributed a couple of items this month, first to wish Kevin Peace all the best in his new job as head greenkeeper at Inverurie. A sad loss to Peterhead, but maybe Hugh's new deputy will be able to keep up with him at the bar. His second bit of information concerns another of his staff, Aileen Snowden. She started on the course 18 months ago and has been attending Elmwood College, where she is making good progress. Hugh says she is turning out to be a good apprentice on the course, is a good worker and gets on well with the rest of the staff and members of the club. He advises other greenkeepers not to be frightened of employing female staff.

I recently went to see Alick Mackay at Skibo to see how the new golf course is progressing. Greens and tees are currently being turfed and fairways seeded. All the bunkers are in place and look superb. They have been constructed, using the traditional revetting method, by Alick and his staff. I look forward to seeing the finished article and hopefully playing it in the future. It will be the sort of course where if the golf is bad there is always the views across the loch or west to the hills, a perfect setting for a golf course, with much wildlife as well.

AYRSHIRE

Highlight in June was the Scottish National Tournament held in our area at Brunston Castle, near Girvan. Brunston Castle is a new course designed by Donald Steel and is well set forward, please 'phone me and the committee will discuss it at the next meeting.

We wish Hughie McLatchie all the best as North representative in this years ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition. Fine recognition for the work he has done at Peterhead, which is in fine condition. Hugh has contributed a couple of items this month, first to wish Kevin Peace all the best in his new job as head greenkeeper at Inverurie. A sad loss to Peterhead, but maybe Hugh's new deputy will be able to keep up with him at the bar. His second bit of information concerns another of his staff, Aileen Snowden. She started on the course 18 months ago and has been attending Elmwood College, where she is making good progress. Hugh says she is turning out to be a good apprentice on the course, is a good worker and gets on well with the rest of the staff and members of the club. He advises other greenkeepers not to be frightened of employing female staff.

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RAY CLARK

NORTH SCOTLAND

Section members may like to tell non-BIGGA members on their staff that half-yearly memberships are now available for a much reduced fee, members on the day, will provide a suitable toy for your granddaughter.


DEAN CLEAVER

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Congratulations to Kevin Munt, who won the Parker Harts Summer Tournament at Stoke Poges GC. I know that those present were impressed with the course and we thank Stoke Poges GC for their generosity. In particular, we thank the secretary, steward and catering staff and, of course, Alec Millar and his green staff for producing such excellent playing conditions. Thank you also to Richard Gooding and Parker Harts for their generous support.

Has every BB&O member received this year's fixture card? If you haven't received the fixture card? If you are minus this vital information, contact me ASAP and I will send one to you straight away. Do you want to try go-karting? Same thing applies, i.e. if you haven't received the information contact me ASAP and I will send etc. etc. - this event is an open invitation and everyone is welcome.

We need your ideas for social events that you would like to see staged next year, also your ideas for the 1994 lecture programme - ring me or write to me with your valued input.

RAY CLARK

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Around the Green

Half the County Fire Brigade turned up.
Another rather bizarre thing happened this week on a Cotswold golf course. Four members were happily playing the sixteenth hole (appropriately nicknamed the Holy Apostles) at Cirencester, when one of them looked casually up at a high flying aeroplane only to see, to his horror, what appeared to be a body falling from the sky and crashing to the ground somewhere on, or very near, the course. Well, eight fire engines, six police cars, two helicopters, a spot plane with thermal imaging equipment, and a mobile incident room later, a cargo net belonging to a Hercules Transporter was found in an adjoining field. Never a dull moment!

Robin Greaves found out what team cap- taincy was all about when the section team entertained the South West Secretaries team at Minchinhampton New Course last month. The secretaries, ably captained by Matt Sullivan of Clevedon, were well organised and well prac- tised, and won by three matches to two, getting their names on the Avoncrop Shield for the sec- ond year running. David Padfield of Avoncrop Amenity was on hand to present the shield and prizes to the worthy winners, recalling as he did the origins of the competition, right back from the days of the Brown’s Bowl to the present time, and pointing out that the greenkeepers have yet to get their name on this new tro- phy. There’s always next year...

Thanks to Minchin- hampton New Course for their hospitality, thanks to my staff for preparing the course against all odds during the torrential storms, to the stew- ardness for the most marvellous meal, and last but no means least, to Avoncrop Amenity for their sponsorship.

Congratulations to Guy Woods of Castle Coombe on winning the section nomina- tion through to the regional final of the ICI Premier Green- keeper of the Year competition. Fierce competition came from Ivor Scones and myself also nomi- nated, but Robin Greaves’ patent scor- ing method was put to good use and Guy came out a worthy winner by just two points, from a possible 150. I’m sure that we have a good chance of a national final this year running. Good luck Guy.

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COMING UP

August 18-19: The Walker Cup, Interlachen, Minneapolis, USA
September 7-9: IG Show, Peterborough, Northants
September 14: Supreme Mowing seminar on maintenance of cutting cylinder, Irvine Golf Club, Irvine. Details from Linda Adams: 0709 873436.
September 14-15: The Hayter Challenge Tournament Final, Sand Moor Golf Club, Leeds
September 24-26: Ryder Cup, Interlachen, Minnesota, USA
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September 24-26: Ryder Cup, Interlachen, Minnesota, USA

SOUTH COAST

In the regional qualifier for the Hayter Chal- lenge Tournament, held at Clevendon GC in June, three of our section members qualified for the national final, which will be held at Sand Moor GC next month. Congratulations to Brian Newcombe, third in division one, and Shaun White and Paul Jackson, first and second respectively in division three.

The day was marred only by the non-appear- ance of four of our team, though some with good reason, especially Rob Bailey, who suf- fered a hernia only the day before! Had a full team been fielded it seemed very likely that the section would have won the Section Shield.

Next year’s Hayter Challenge Tournament regional qualifier will be held at Bude GC and because of the distance involved your commit- tee have decided to provide some assistance, possibly by providing a mini-bus and helping financially towards overnight accommodation.

Congratulations also to Mark Webb on being chosen as the section’s nomination for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. Mark will now be visited at Alresford GC this month by regional representatives of ICI and BIGGA. Members who played in the Summer Tourna- ment at Alresford will know how his course has changed since being extended to 18 holes.

Alan Mitchell, recently at Test Valley GC, is moving to pastures new – literally – for begin- ning this month Alan will be head greenkeeper at The Hampshire GC, presently being con- structed just outside Andover. His assistant at Test Valley, Andy Blackwell, is taking over as head greenkeeper. We shall be able to see Andy’s course next April, as our Spring Tourna- ment is due to be held there.

Finally, members who would like to repre- sent the section in the annual match against the South West in September can contact Paul Droge on 04252 71954 for further details.

Bob Dennis