SURREY
Another good turn-out of over thirty section members gathered at Epsom GC on 21 October for our Autumn Tournament, played over 27 holes. With a cold wind blowing over exposed areas of the course, plus Epsom's tricky undulating greens, a real test of golf ensued.

RESULTS: 1st overall R Christie 49 pts, 2nd D Fernie 48 pts, 3rd D Walder 45 pts. AM - J Roberts 37 pts, PM - M Haynes 17 pts. Trade B Willmott 46 pts.

Following a superb evening meal the club captain presented the prizes; kindly donated to the winners by Rigby Taylor. Thanks went to the club for having us, the catering staff, to Doug Fernie and all his staff for presenting the course so well, and to Ron Jobson for all his help on the day.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of qualifying players, the Veterans Cup has been held over until the Turkey Trot, which is our next golf event on 14 December at Ashford Manor GC. Following the golf, but before the evening meal, our AGM will take place - remember, this is your chance to air your views on any business - and to elect committee members for the new year.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all our section members and readers a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

ROGER TYDEMAN

LONDON
The autumn meeting was held in October at Brookmans Park GC. RESULTS: 1st Darren Burdis 42 points. 2nd. Jimmy Jay 34 points (back nine play-off), 3rd. Barry Moggridge 34 points. The longest driver was Craig Handside, with nearest the pin prize going to Robert Washbrook. The course was in excellent shape and we thank Chris Carpenter and his staff for their hard work. I would also like to thank Brookmans Park for their hospitality and the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

Congratulations to Donal Pen-H-Howard and Paul Cooper on their recent win in the Summer Knock-Out. They defeated Chris Carpenter and Darren Burdis in a very exciting final. The match was played at South Herts, won on the first extra hole! I would like to thank South Herts for allowing us to use their course.

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TONY DUNSTAN

KENT
October 27 saw the Kent section host the South East Conference at Hadlow College, a very popular venue which attracted some 110 delegates to listen and join in discussions on our topic of “Golf 365 Days A Year”. After the very wet weather experienced during the early autumn, some were perhaps looking for answers to their problems. Following introductions from a representative of Hadlow College and our SE Region chairman, Chris Mardon, the first speaker was Gordon Jaaback, with a very topical presentation on the influences of the weather in the southern part of the UK, the methods and benefits of recording details and how they apply to our situations.

Mike Travers, Lamberhurst GC, followed, presenting his experiences of winter golf. Following Mike's article earlier this year, this generated great interest and debate. Our special thanks to Mike for coming along, especially as he is currently not in the best of health. The last speaker before lunch was the London Golf Club's soil scientist and irrigation expert, Colin Sainsbury, with a very interesting presentation on soil characteristics and conditions and their effects on plant growth.

A brief question and answer session preceded lunch, delegates then able not only to demolish a superb buffet and partake of liquid refreshment, but also to visit the assembled trade stands. Hadlow College again kicked off the afternoon session with an introduction to NVQ qualifications in greenkeeping, plus a brief outline of some of the very good courses at the event.

Please call for samples & information
Jack's presentation could best be summed up as a cautionary tale concerning the detrimental effects of winter golf and general over-play and traffic on our courses, with well known golf course constructor and contractor, Brian Pierson, outlining some modern aspects in design and specification to try to cope with some of these problems. The rest of the afternoon was given over to a rather heated debate, the topic of which, once more, revolved mainly around our old friend Poa annua.

I think we all enjoyed our day, but to sum up my personal appraisal of the day would take more space than allotted here. At this point, I am still digesting it, but cannot escape the feeling that in general some of the attitudes discussed were somewhat defeatist and negative. I am still of the belief that given a certain set of problems, materials, machinery and techniques exist to solve them. Yes, some compromise and understanding is needed from our golfers during winter play, but the overriding problem appears to be higher up, with direction to our golf clubs and courses regarding adequate budgets to implement maintenance works desperately needed, plus conception and pure bad planning of golf fixture lists, not enabling works to be carried out at the correct, optimum times of the year. A bit of give and take would go a long way.

Finally, I’ll sneek in details of our annual Turkey Trot and AGM at Dar- ten Valley GC on 16 December. Please bring along a prize between the value of £5-£10 (no bottles of booze please!). The cost will be around £14, with an 18 hole Stableford teeing off circa late morning, followed by Christmas dinner and our AGM. This is your chance to have your say – even if you are当选 to the committee and do your bit for our Association. Some of you must by now think that you could do this (scribes) job. All you need is the back of a fag packet, a broken Biro, a vivid imagination (no one ever provides information to enter in), no sense of humour, and a large chip on your shoulder. That could possibly narrow the field down to 100 likely candidates – I wonder how many will turn up on the day?

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH COAST

Autumn Tournament in October, which had a record entry of 56 members and guests, I am pleased to include the following report provided by our chairman, Ken Lodge.

The Autumn Tournament was held at High Post GC on 5 October. Scheduled originally as a 36-hole greensome, due to atrocious weather only eleven holes were played in the afternoon. The stars of the show were Nick Weller and his staff, the course being in superb condition. The greens were out of this world and a number of members and guests said they were the best greens on which they had played this summer. Well done Nick!

Results: 29 Holes. 1st Prize & Jacobson Trophy – Don Friend and Roger Searle (High Post GC) 56 points (better p.m. score), 2nd Ian Rickman & R Allison (Basingstoke) 56 points. 3rd Bernard Emberley & Paul Hector (Knighton Heath & Broadstone) 55 points. 4th Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park) 54 points. Best Surviving Score a.m. Derek Cheetham & M Cummins (Knighton Heath) 54 points. Best Surviving Score p.m. (11 holes), Rob Bailey & Dave Reed (S Wilks & High Post) 21 points. Longest Drive: Graham Bungay (Wel. low). Nearest the Pin: Paul Hector (Broadstone).

The weather did not deter members and guests from enjoying themselves. Thanks must go to the host club for making us so welcome; to the captain and committee who granted us the courtesy of their wonderful course; to Maureen Illingworth and her helpers who made sure we were well fed; and to Bill Goodwin, the club manager, who helped out with the score cards and in general looked after us all day.

Lastly, thanks to our main sponsors, Villax Commercial and Amenity Products, represented by Alan Stow, and Avoncrop Amenity Products, represented by Brian Stephens. Also thank you to all other people who made donations to the prize table.

The next winter lecture will be on Wednesday, 12 January at the Dorset College of Agriculture. Our speakers are Ed McCabe and Arthur King from Brokenhurst Manor GC and the talk will commence at 2.00pm. Refreshments will be available.

Please take advantage of this facility to connect with a coach travelling to the BIGGA Turf Management Seminar and Exhibition on 17-21 January. The region is providing a ‘feeder’ coach from various points in the section to connect with a coach travelling to the BIGGA Turf Management Seminar and Exhibition.

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AROUND THE GREEN

Bucks, Berks & Oxon

A great day was enjoyed by all who attended the Autumn Invitation at Calcot Park GC. Greenkeepers and their guests all had a fine time, none more than Terry Jackson, who walked off with two prizes, also head greenkeeper Simon Robinson, who with benefit of local knowledge, picked up third prize. Our many thanks to Simon Robinson and his staff, to secretary Alan Bray, and to the catering personnel, for a very well run and enjoyable event, also to our trade friends: County Mowers for donating the Toro Shield, plus Sta-Brite, Risbo’ Turf, Rigby Taylor, and Driving Force (Europe) Ltd.


Finally, a 'get well soon' message to Roy for his masterful handling of a hugely popular tournament. RESULTS: Semi-finals (a.m) D Childs & D Goodchild beat G Irvine & P Wier. B Payne & R Wooton beat D Childs and D Goodchild. Finals (p.m) B Payne and R Wooton beat D Childs and D Goodchild. Thanks to Frilford Heath GC, and David Heads of course, for producing wonderful playing conditions.

Midlands

On 14 October our section travelled to Willesley Park GC to play against East Midlands, an event generously sponsored by Rigby Taylor, now in its ninth year. This year's match saw no different factors, both teams being highly competitive. Our team displayed some new faces, however, with some 'old faithfuls' being disappointed not to qualify for this enjoyable event, organised so capably by Rigby Taylor.

The morning matches were close, but events took a change in the afternoon - with our lads doing 'the business' in convincing style. The evening once again proved to be most enjoyable, an excellent meal fully backed up by 'entertainer' Dave Leatherland. Our many thanks go to Willesley Park GC and their staff for looking after us so well, in particular Tony Howorth, who presented the course in such good condition under difficult weather conditions.

The following week saw the final of the Greensomes Knockout, contested over the delightful Coxmoor Park GC, Nottingham. Mike Hughes and I took on the very strong pairing of Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris, the match a tremendous battle going to the final hole, Mike and 'yours truly' winning the match by a single hole. Again, a superb day was enjoyed by the players. Many thanks to Rigby Taylor (and staff) for sponsoring this event, also for working hard to support BIGGA. Also many thanks to Coxmoor Park GC and their staff for making our day so enjoyable.

The final of the Singles Knockout, played over the Walsall GC course during October, was won by Mike Hughes, who beat Paul Loffman in a close match. Many thanks to Walsall GC for allowing us to use their course for this important final.

Finally, you may remember a couple of months ago my mentioning the raising of money (at our Autumn Tournament) for little Amy Nonn, whose grandfather is head greenkeeper at Kidderminster GC. Amy's mum and dad wrote a lovely letter, thanking us for our generosity. The money raised will be used to purchase a talking computer that hopefully will aid Amy in her education.

DEAN CLEAVER

Sussex

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Autumn Tournament at Cooden Beach GC, though I understand from 'the lad(s)' that the course, looked after by Stefan Antolik, was in superb condition, with the weather - surprisingly - staying dry for most of the day (all save the last group, who got rained upon!).

The meeting, sponsored by Parker Hart, was a 36 hole event. RESULTS: (medal round a.m.) 1st Roland Hughes 69 nett, 2nd Robert Short 77 nett (back nine), 3rd Robert Hudson 77 nett. Trade & Guests: 1st Andy Ford 30 points. 2nd Alistair Cale 28 points. 3rd Chris Reed 27 points. Trade & Guests: 1st B Willmot 37 points, 2nd D Taylor 30 points. A nearest the pin competition was also held, winners being Chris Reed (7th), Jim Coppin (16th) and Stefan Antolik on the 18th (after three shots). The section wish to thank sponsors, Parker Hart, the green staff, committee and caterers of Cooden Beach GC - all contributed toward making the event a memorable one.

MARK WILTON

Mid Anglia

The Hayter Challenge national final was held in September at Sandmoor GC, Leeds and produced a good performance from Jon Moothore of Brocket Hall GC, who finished third in the individual event, category one. The Midlands region (of which the Mid
Around the Green

I'm equally sure we now can set out the basis of a policy for our committee to consider.

The raffle rounded off a most successful day, with our thanks to all the trade for donating prizes to the raffle table, also to Don Hunt and Roffeys for donating the golf prizes, and to Gordon Child for his excellent talk.

As many of you will know, head greenkeepers of venue courses are asked not to play golf on the day, as many of our non-golfers enjoy looking around their course, suitably escorted by the head greenkeeper.

With this, the last section report David White will receive from me before he leaves his job as editor, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing him every success in the future, also of blessing were all nine candidates very palatable indeed, all nine candidates • 50

The results, amidst all the shenanigan, were: (0-18) 1st Mike Virley 35 pts, 2nd Ian Willet 31 pts, 3rd Roger Plummer 31 pts. (19-28) 1st (winner of the Parker Shield) Kevin Bunn 36 pts, 2nd Steve Pigott 35 pts, 3rd Steve Davidson 33 pts.

Many thanks to Yarmouth & Caister for their kind hospitality and Henry Stead for the excellent course condition. The day was slightly marred, however, by people not turning up and not notifying the secretary (I could have come after all – ML). The culprits will be billed for the day and I hope it doesn’t happen again – You haff bin varned!

David White would be a successful and happy new year for all.

PAUL LOCKETT

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first meeting of the season was held at the excellent venue of Bowood Park GC, by kind permission of the owner, Mr Ross Cobbledick. Also our thanks to club secretary, Tony Japes, and all the staff at Bowood Park, for making our day such a success.

The day started with 40 golfing members playing a Stableford for the D O Hunt Trophy over the superbly presented course, whilst non-golfers took their usual walk before lunch.

After an excellent lunch our president, Don Hunt, presented the prizes he had so kindly donated, the Atterton & Ellis-Toro Trophy will be presented by Roger Denson (Atterton & Ellis) and David Cole (Toro) at an evening to be arranged.

Finally, our best wishes to Paul Seago on his appointment at Gullane, and to Gordon Child who will be one of the last real apprentices, from an age when ‘blessed were the weak’ (and in some cases, our homes). Just when we thought all was lost, along came the high pressure, and everything in the garden was lovely.

The Autumn Tournament at Castle Eden GC in September was a great success, with members coming from as far afield as Bedale, N. Yorkshire and Carlisle. Gary Munro reported the course as ‘immaculate’, with warm, sunny weather and horticultural second to none. Thanks to all at Castle Eden, especially David Crocher and his staff, and to Allan Goodchild, Par 4 Irrigation, Aitkens and Claytons for valued support.

RESULTS: 1st D Crocher and P Robinson (Castle Eden) 66 nett. 2nd R Ord and G Watson (Castle Eden) 68 nett. 3rd K Dyson and P Docherty (Seaham) 68 nett. 4th G Munro and G Wellens (Bedale) 69 nett.

PAUL LOCKETT

CLEVELAND

Irrigation closing down and draining of pipework, valves, pumps, etc. is necessary, indeed vital, as a frost precaution here in the north east. Potential weaknesses in pump and/or motor need testing after five years. Winter is the time for tests, for we don't want failures next summer. I feel happier with a main agent carrying out servicing.

With the return of wormcasts, fairway gang mowing is virtually impossible on banks after rain. We really do need an effective and lasting worm control. The course is becoming messy, with tractors skidding on grease-like surfaces.

Paul Moore is confirmed as head greenkeeper at Darlington, whilst Stuart Vickers is now first assistant at Brass Castle GC. We also welcome Anthony Hodgson and Geoff Ward, both at Blackwell GC. Brian Skeen of Billingham is now dealing in Jacobson and Massey Ferguson compacts, also Sabo Roberzine, whilst Dick Lawson of Plescebridge is confirmed as the Toro main dealer.

The October meeting, presented by Par 4 Irrigation, featured modern irrigation techniques. They suggest a three-wire system, with controls of various programmes tailored to suit. We live in a modern world of technology and must admire the kit available for golf course maintenance. Thankfully, a good installation can last many years.

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BRUCE BURNELL

EAST ANGLIA

Once again, Sam is our correspondent for the day out at Yarmouth & Caister GC. This time I wasn't on holiday or fishing, rather my absence was due to a full field, me being number 44 in a field of 37! Apparently you all had a good (or better) day without me, so I'll go fishing next time.

High wind and threatening rain greeted 37 bandits as they battled their way around our 'Ener's patch, which was in excellent condition. No one hit a horse or jockey, as someone had the good sense to call off the racing. Another 'someone', however, ran a 'book' on how long it would be before one of a constant stream of helicopters landed on one of Henry's temporary greens and just to liven things up, someone took long odds and painted an 'H' in the middle of Henry's white circle!

The results, amidst all the shenanigan, were: (0-18) 1st Mike Virley 35 pts, 2nd Ian Willet 31 pts, 3rd Roger Plummer 31 pts. (19-28) 1st (winner of the Parker Shield) Kevin Bunn 36 pts, 2nd Steve Pigott 35 pts, 3rd Steve Davidson 33 pts.

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David White has sent me a report on the West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge. Now in its second year, it consists of teams of three from Gog Magog, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, and Newmarket, playing home and away evenings, each teams' Stableford points added together over the season. The winners this year were Gog Magog, represented by Lyndon Uplagh, Julian Hill and Peter Mallons, who amassed 718 points to beat second place Haverhill, with 679 points.

The Atterton & Ellis-Toro Trophy will be presented by Roger Denson (Atterton & Ellis) and David Cole (Toro) at an evening to be arranged.

Finally, our best wishes to Paul Seago on his appointment at Gullane, and to Gordon Child who will be one of the last real apprentices, from an age when 'blessed were the weak' (and in some cases, our homes). Just when we thought all was lost, along came the high pressure, and everything in the garden was lovely.

Back to the floods. The section's annual match versus S Wales at St Pierre on 6 October foundered for the first time. Repeated torrential storms caused extensive flooding, and although the old course looked in excellent condition (thoroughly inspected by Merv Gray and myself in the afternoon), exactly the right decision was made to keep it closed. The West team went off and played somewhere else, (thanks, ladies), while the South West team went home in dribs and drabs to lick their wounds. There's always next year!

On a sunnier note, the section First Aid Training day at Salford was a great success. The good offices of Medical Training Services, combined with the bonhomie of Dick Burleigh, made a difficult subject very palatable indeed, all nine candidates • 50

SOUTH WEST

What a peculiar October has been. For the ten days, rainfall was sufficient to break yet another record, leaving us all wading around our courses (and in some cases, our homes). Just when we thought all was lost, along came the high pressure, leaving the remainder of the month so dry that watering systems were hastily re-commissioned, construction and maintenance programmes re-commenced and everything in the garden was lovely.

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1993
Around the Green

vices, based in Inverness, while Graeme Nicoll is a director of Hanson and Robinson Life Pensions Ltd, based at Dyce, Aberdeenshire. Our third new member is Mr R O Blair of Stonehaven.

As we approach Christmas, I hope the weather has been kind to all, enabling aeration and rebuilding programmes to be completed. This month saw Tain assistant, John Urquhart, setting off on his attempt to travel around the world by land and sea in under 100 days. I hope all goes well and he makes it back in time for the spring rush!

I attended a machinery presentation day at Gle-neagles recently, courtesy of Scottisch Grass Machinery, a great opportunity to see a wide range of machinery in operation and to meet with fellow greenkeepers to discuss the machinery merits and exchange views. Thanks to David Macleod and Company for a very worthwhile day - one that hopefully will be repeated.

Work has already started on the planning of the North section's One Day Conference, to be staged in Aberdeen next year. The date is Thursday 1 December 1994, venue the Scottish Agricultural College. Eight potential speakers have been contacted and their replies are awaited. Watch this space for further news - as it breaks.

On a personal note, may I say how sad I am to learn of the resignation of David White, our editor. David was always ready to help me with any request I might have and I will miss our little chats and exchanges of letters. I wish him every success in whatever the future may hold for him, whilst hoping that the magazine will not suffer by his departure.

Finally, may I wish friends and colleagues everywhere a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

PAT MURPHY

NORTHERN

By now you should have received a copy of our winter programme for 1993/94. If you do not have one, or want an extra copy, please give me a call and I'll send you one.

The Autumn Tournament took place at Kirkby-moorside GC, though unlike our Invitation Day at Pannal GC, where the sun shone, we had cloud cover and heavy showers all day. However, despite a wet rainy day everyone who took part had a most enjoyable time. This event was again sponsored by our friends Chaplins, and our thanks to John Chaplin and Bob Mitchell for their continued support to our section. I must also thank our colleague Alan Frost, who has just taken over as head greenkeeper, and his staff, for preparing the course for us under such difficult conditions, also the captain of Kirkbymoor-side GC for making us warmly welcome and presenting the prizes.


Once again, thanks to Norman Sheldon (Aitkens) for looking after the cards for us, and for donating a prize for the table, also to Norman Schofield, Allan Dyson, Graham Walker, and Pattisons for their donations to the prize table. Thanks additionally to Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc, who braved the elements on the 15th hole, measured for nearest the pin prize, which he donated.

Andrew Smith, formerly of Woodside Hall GC, has now taken up the post of first assistant at Old Fold Manor GC, Hertfordshire. Andrew has also resigned from the committee of our section. Andrew, we wish you well in your new venture and thank you for the time and effort you put in while performing your duties in the section.

Dates for your diary:


I may take this opportunity to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

NORTH SCOTLAND

Three more new members to welcome, all Associate, two of which are the North section's new regional financial advisers. Donald Macdonald is the proprietor of Ian Macdonald Insurance and Financial Ser-