you do not need soil analyses to determine what it needs. Rubbing a soil sample between finger and thumb is, I regret, a far more accurate way of analysing soil than taking it to many testing laboratories.

The secret is to follow austere greenkeeping: minimal fertiliser and nitrogen only; strictly controlled irrigation; intensive drainage; and the use of comparable top dressings to the existing root zone. Then, as night follows day, you will succeed in proving that you do not have to learn to live with annual growth tests at the ninth, partaking of mince pies, scotch and/or beer supplied by the section. RESULTS: Overall winners - J Hill; C Reed; S Reed & J McEnaney. Second - C Allan; A Cale; A Ford & B Elder. Third - G Barr; P Ward; M Geldrum & B Wilmot. Fourth - P Ray; A Murray; J Warner & T Collier. Nearest the pin competitions were won by T Bulk; C Allan; P Hughes and B Wilmot, with longest drives won by the "sluggers", S Sheriff and P Ray.

Special thanks must go to Littlehampton GC for their hospitality yet again and to the catering staff for a superb evening meal, also to George Barr as MC (or stand-up comic?) and to all who attended this most enjoyable day. I'm sure the section would like to wish both Raymond Day and Dennis Ayling all the very best in their new appointments at Sandridge Park and Rowlands Castle respectively, also to Nick Bean, who is "in between" courses at present.

MARK WILTON

DEVON & CORNWALL

Seventy nine members and trade guests attended our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 9 December, which was again held at Okehampton GC. Despite weeks of rain, Richard Wisdom and his staff had the course in excellent condition with very little wear. Our good friend Patrick de Flegg then gave the golf prizes to M Shoolbee and P Bond (Sidmouth) 42pts (1st), A James and A Ramsden (Budock Vein) 40pts (2nd). A Hayes (China Fleet) and R Hughes (St Mellion) 38pts (3rd).

Our thanks to Patrick for both donating and presenting the golf prizes and to our president Don Hunt for supplying the wine at dinner. Our raffles concluded the day with the first draw won by Hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewrthwaite, won by two of our Cornish members, J Stevens and J Mitchell. The second raffle was for the prizes kindly donated by members and the trade. The section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton GC for once again allowing us the use of their facilities.

Our best wishes to Peter Winter, formerly with Fisoton, as he embarks on his new career.

Dates for your diary: February meeting on Wed. 24 at Perranporth GC. March meeting on Wed. 24 at Woodbury Park GC. WESTURFE Trade Show on Wed. 28 April at Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SURREY

Effingham GC hosted our final golf event of 1992 on 10 December on a course that was a credit to Peter Broadbent and his staff. Scoring was good with Brian Eastman "stuffing" the rest and taking the title with 41 points. Thanks as ever to the Effingham club for their excellent hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Following prize presentations the AGM was held and in his chairman's report, Terry Huntly announced that 1992 had been a good year for the Surrey section with winter lectures and golf events very well attended. In addition, despite the generous donation of £1000 to the Wiltshire small greens project, there was no sensible tests. There is therefore be to see if materials will support the growth of grass - and if there cannot be learnt by the overall winner was the friendly club of Effingham GC on passing his PA2 sprayer test.

Gareth Roberts of Cooks of Eaglescliffe GC on passing his PA2 sprayer test.

ROGER TYDEMAN

CLEVELAND

Congratulations to Ian Harrison of Darlington GC on his success in the ICI Premier greenkeeper of the Year award. This bright young head greenkeeper has put together a modern maintenance complex at Darlington with health and safety very much to the fore, along with exemplary record-keeping and a fine pesticide store. Ian's attitude to safety working is a model of what the trade want in a support. Darlington GC should be very proud of 'their' man - good luck in the future, Ian.

Our December meeting took the form of a quiz - Cleveland BIGGA v Teeside IoG - sponsored by TurfCare of Co. Durham and chaired most ably by quiz-master Terry Charlton, TurfCare's managing director. The quiz victors were the IoG, though it could be said that the overall winner was the friendly atmosphere that pervaded throughout.

Congratulations to David Cook of Eaglescliffe GC on passing his PA2 sprayer test.

BRUCE BURNELL

SOUTH COAST

For the first time ever a section tournament had to be cancelled due to poor weather. After days of heavy rain, including the day itself, the December Turkey Trot was cancelled, with players stranded in the clubhouse. Fortunately the bar remained open and with cable TV and several video games available members still had a good day.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL February 1993 35

SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

on March 9th, 1993 at Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, 9am to 4pm

Speakers: Alasdair Wellwood, Roy Auld, John Philp, BIGGA's Education Officer David Golding, Eddie Connaughton, Jon Albutt, Steven Miller from Oatridge College and Jim Grainger. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £10 BIGGA members, £12.50 non-members. The conference is sponsored by the Scottish Region patrons.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 31445
The Open Championship on home ground "at Royal stone GC. Much applause was again directed over 1992 and reminded us of our stirring success representing about 25% of our registered Kent appearing, despite the cold and damp conditions. The section welcomed national chairman Roy chairman in two years time. The only bad news is that you lot will have to put up with reading my drivel in 'Around the Green' for at least another year. Serves you right for misdemeanours in a past life! PAUL COTSEY KENT Our Annual 'Turkey Trot' was staged at West Malling GC and, as it turned out, happened to be 'turkey less'. Our gracious host did us proud with a fine roast beef carvery meal, a fine change with the Christmas festivities rapidly approaching. Many thanks to the club captain, Chris Mardon, and his staff for presenting the course to such a fine standard, especially as we have had all such a dreadful time this winter with the continual rain. Much of you shot admiring glances at Chris's rice pudding - a true fairwayperfectionist! As for the golf, well not too serious as everybody went home with a prize on this occasion (for some of us the only time!). The winner and first pick of the assorted prizes went to Knowle first ever to be presented to the greenkeeper with the best scores in our 1993 spring, summer and autumn tournaments. The scramble itself was won by John's team (£100), 2nd (£70), 3rd (£50). There was much discussion at the AGM on the future of the English Golf Union. Mr Baxter will be talking in June were also drawn (from those who volunteered) and I shall be writing shortly to those who were selected. Our final winter lecture will be on Wednesday 3 March at St Albans (7.00pm). The venue is St Albans Golf Club, and our speaker is Paul Baxter, deputy secretary of the English Golf Union. Mr Baxter will be talking on the R&A document, 'The Way Forward', which contains a number of proposals on the future of golf. This should prove a lively meeting and I would urge all members to support this winter finale. BOB DENNIS EAST ANGLIA The Turkey Trot/AGM was held at Aldeburgh GC early in December when about 40 members attended and a good time was had by all. The CMW turkey voucher was won by Peter Howard (37 pts) with Mike Moss (35) second. Andy Turbin won the longest drive and Alan Carter won the putting prize. The prizes were donated by CMW; Rushbrooks; Pattisons and Rigby Taylor. Our thanks to Aldeburgh GC for having us - it is an honour to be granted the use of such a lovely old clubhouse for our annual general meetings and we greatly appreciate it. The AGM was very interesting and all the officers were re-elected. I would like to record a big 'thank you' to our chairman, Sam Sylvester, who does so much work for us in a style that is quite unique, coupled with endless patience. Sam Sylvester and Michael Peters are a grand double act and we would be in a muddle without them - thanks! There was much discussion at the AGM on 'greenkeeper image' and how to improve it. Qualifi- cations was the obvious one. I'm all for studying both on and off the course - and thanks to BIGGA, there appears at last to be something really good for greenkeepers exams coming through. It would be nice to get more support from the golfers though, for they do all the moanin' and afterwards get all the credit. What must you do to get on BIGGA Minimum Wage Scale? I've got a mate who started greenkeeping as a 16 year old and served three years as an apprentice, followed by five years as a first asstain- tant. He gained IQC exams (only exams available in 1967) and an EIGGA Gold Diploma. For twenty years he's been a head greenkeeper and last year he managed for the first time to get minimum rate. This year he's below minimum again, his club refus- ing to go for a 5% increase. He does all the work and his course is considered 'a good one to try'. Naturally, he's quite 'excited' by all this but doubtless will soldier on and hope that his loyalty will eventually be recognised - after 21 years at the same club. A few New Year thoughts - The first thing a greenkeeper should do is get a wife who can support him financially. I wouldn't mind a pound for every time I've heard it said 'there's a wind of change on the golf course'. He should go on to believe in this game I might just be believing it. I will say it's not for the lack of trying on the greenkeepers' part. Despite my grumblings, however, there's no doubt there are some huge strides being made, Royal recognition at Harrogate will go a long way in this game! Don't give up the fight - we've got a long way to go in making the profession more credible in more peoples' eyes - and that can't be a bad thing. Memb- ership is up, the magazine's looking good - the time's come to be a lot more positive about the future. That's it lads, so get qualified and keep listening. MICK LATHROPE MIDLANDS The Midland section held their Christmas Tournament on 7 December at Beau Desert GC., the course playing remarkably well considering the very wet weather. The event was won by Mike Hughes with a fine 39 points - we thank Beau Desert and their staff for a wonderful day. We would also like to thank the many people - individuals and compa- nies - who have supported us through 1992. Combined with our Christmas Tournament came the BIGGA AGM which was attended by some fifty or so people. All went well and we welcome Rhys Thomas, Steve Blakeman and Brian Nuttall to the committee. Remaining places are filled thus: President - R Pugh, chairperson, Smithers, secretary - D Cleaver. The remaining committee - S Wood, P Woodward and I Besletone. DEAN CLEAVER
Our winter lecture series is now at the half way stage. Many thanks to the secretary, treasurer and all involved. If you have any ideas on the subject just drop me a line.

Ideas are being sought for social events throughout the year: events in which wives/girlfriends/friends can get involved. If you have any ideas on the subject just drop me a line. JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH WALES

We held our Christmas competition on 16 December at Pyle and Kenfig GC, 18 holes of golf in truly poor conditions. The competition was won by Alan Stow, with only 20 players venturing out on a cold day, though fortunately without the showers that so often go with it. The competition was well fought, with only 12 points separating first from last and the winners were: John Sheepstone (Trophies donated by Alan Stow) with 35 points was Andrew Jenkins, with M Jones (34) runner-up and H Morgan (31) third. Thanks to the membership of Pyle and Kenfig, especially secretary Roger Thomas and the catering staff, for looking after us during the day. Also to Paul Robinson and his crew for the condition of the course — once again in fine fettle for this time of the year and finally to the caterers for taking care of our hungry Christmas feast.

The chairman, H Parry, along with administrator elect H Morgan, presented replica awards to the following: L Hallett; A Panks and T King (medals) for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks 46 for representing the section in the Iseki championship.
Wishes to the King for a full recovery following his
Illness; Farmura; Proturf; Peter Hampton; Roffey's;
Turf; Phillips the first prizewinner of fourteen.

The section extends its sympathy to R Kitcher on
the recent death of his father; whilst sending good
wishes to T King (chairman), I Morris (vice chairman), H Morgan (section administrator), committee P Lacey, D Archer, M Davies, M Jones, L Hallert and A Panks, with
regional board representatives being H Morgan and
P Lacey. Messrs Parry and Swain were thanked by
the members for all the hard work they have done
since taking office. A raffle was held, with Bryn
Phillips the first prizewinner of fourteen.

On behalf of the committee and members I
would like to thank the many traders who have
made donations, not only for our Christmas compe-
tition but throughout the year. Without generosity
from the following companies the section could not
survive: ICI; Avoncrop; Rufford's; Liquid Turf;
Liquid Lawn; Sisis; Rigby Taylor; F Sutton's; M Keeling; C Mur-
phy; C Frost; Vitax; Nomix-Chipman; Jacobsen; K
Morgan (John Duncan Cup), T Garland (Waycott Cup) I Ellis (President's Shield), A Jenkins (Vitax Shield). Aggregates- M Davies (Nett) and H Mor-
gan's team, four matches to two. Nearest the hole
went to Stuart Donald, who also won the first raffle
prize, thus preventing a committee clean-up, as
Andy Wilson, Sam Morrison and Dougal Duguid
picked up second, third and fourth respectively.

Dugald finished his stint as chairman but was unan-
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chosen as vice-chairman. Section members were told
of a library to be set up by the committee, with vari-
ous books on greenkeeping to be purchased by the
section and loaned free of charge (except postage,
of course) to members.

We welcome two Nairn greenkeepers to our
Association, Richard Ewen and Martin Cuming,
and wish Wilson Morrison all the best in his new
post at Alford GC. Just before Christmas I attended
the Patrons Luncheon at Calder GC, a really worth-
while meeting which provides the opportunity to
meet and talk with friends in the trade.

The final draw for the 200 Club was made in
December, the winner being Inverurie greenkeeper
John Hay, who won the October £30 and the
December £100 draw. Other winners were No 198
Niall McGill, (September) £30, No 148 TD Elder,
(November) £40. This concludes the 200 Club for
1992 and my thanks to everyone who bought tick-
etts, thus helping to raise section funds. The 200
Club for 1993 is now launched and I ask all mem-
bers to sell cards as soon as possible, or return them
during my nine years as section secretary, including
those good folk at HQ and at section level through-
out South Wales.

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section AGM took place in December, preceded
by an informative talk on top dressing given by
Peter Jefford, Rufford Top Dress Supplies, for
which our thanks. Following a light snack our
annual golf match Chairman v Vice Chairman was
held, with the first match a head to head between
chairman Doug and vice-chairman Sam - resulting
in a half. The end result was a victory for the chair-
man's team, four matches to two. Nearest the hole
went to Stuart Donald, who also won the first raffle
prize, thus preventing a committee clean-up, as
Andy Wilson, Sam Morrison and Dougal Duguid
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Club for 1993 is now launched and I ask all mem-
bers to sell cards as soon as possible, or return them
in order that we may sell them all this year. As an
added incentive, greenkeeper members buying a
ticket will be placed into an extra draw with prizes available as grants towards a trip to BTME '94, or any training
course at college or Aldwark Manor. Require tickets? Details, 0662 894402.

IAIN MacLEOD