AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will reporters please note that ‘Around The Green’ copy for August MUST reach the editor before July 1st.

LONDON
The Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier was held at Highgate GC. The response to this first event of 1993 was encouraging with a field of 41 players – the weather was superb and the course was in excellent condition. I would like to thank Derek Mason and his staff for preparing the course and Highgate GC for making us so welcome. RESULTS: 1st overall, Colin Forde 40 points. Qualifiers for the next round: 0-9: Mick Sherris, Glenn Gibbons, Darren Burdis, Robert Phillips. 10-18: Russell Ling, Doug Smith, Peter Preston, Don Penn-Howard. 19-28: Colin Forde, Terry Colville, Dick Dunne, Pat Swinn. Nearest the pin, Derek Mason and Colin Forde. Longest Drive, Craig Hardy-side. Good luck to all who qualified and a special thank you to the ‘trade’ for their support – your help is always appreciated.

The next tournament will be on 12 July at Muswell Hill GC, commencing at 3.00pm. The cost is £8.50 and entries are required before 7 July.

Congratulations to Don and Lu Penn-Howard on the recent birth of their baby son, Jack. We send our best wishes for the future.

Finally, will members attending The Open make sure that they call into the BIGGA tent for refreshments and, of course, a chat.

TONY DUNSTAN

NORTH EAST
Over 40 members attended our annual Spring Competition at Ryton GC on April 22. Despite all the rain experienced recently, Paul ‘Pop’ Robison and his staff had the course in excellent condition and our thanks therefore must go to the club committee for courtesies extended, to the stewards for an excellent meal, and to Paul and his crew for great golfing surfaces. At a mere £6.00 (including the meal, raffle tickets and sweep entrance), that’s what you might call good value.

Our thanks also to the captain of Ryton GC for presenting our prizes, to Steve Hitchcock from Hayter for taking time to travel from Mansfield to present the leading scores for the qualifying round of the Hayter Challenge Tournament, and to all those companies listed here for their donations. Hayter, Ryton Gravel Co., Wm. Thompson’s of Prudhoe, Shorts of Whitchurch, Inturf, Sisis, Fisons, Rickerby’s, Frewster’s, Atkin’s, Stewarts of Edinburgh, David Dixon’s, Bill Thompson (Top Dressings), and Turf Care Supplies. Last but not least, my thanks to Bill Lynch, sales and marketing manager of BIGGA, for attending our day out – I hope you enjoyed yourself.

Bill – you know you can’t beat Geordie hospitality!


JIMMY RICHARDSON

SOUTH WALES
Our first competition of the season got underway on 15 April at Llanishen GC, where 32 golfers fought for the Cardiff Cup and a place in the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional finals. The attendance was good and the weather even better, producing some excellent golf over a short but superb and well maintained course. Congratulations to Colin and his staff for their efforts, we were told ‘they have’...
of 1993 on 22 April, a 36 hole event attracting an entry of 40 greenkeepers and trade members. As a qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, scheduled for play over Harewood Downs in the week commencing 29 June, we hope you do well in the regional finals.

This event was also the qualifying round for the Hayter Challenge Tournament and the following qualified in their respective categories: (3-9) D Langheim, B Glazier and P土豆 (161) - J Hobbs (163).

RESULTS: Winner R Hook (147), Runner-Up S Haynes (150): 3rd I Hogg (151) 4th D Langheim. Scratch R Jacks (161) Best am - R Glazier (73) Best par - D Glazier (78). The first section match is against the BB&O at Harewood Downs on Tuesday 20 July starting at 2.30pm - N Whittaker (71) Trade - J Hobbs (161). The format being ten each side. Anyone wishing to play should contact me before 5 July as I am on holiday from that date, away for two weeks.

Our main sponsor was Rigby Taylor, and our other sponsor was Gem Trip. Thirty greenkeepers attended the outing to Gem Chemicals, Accrington, Lancs. The outing was most worthwhile and interesting. Thanks to Graham Walker, Gem's area representative, for arranging the day. 1993/94 LECTURES: If any members have a suggestion or interest in the next lecture programme, will they please call me. We are hoping to print a fixtures leaflet and email shot in order to keep them informed. If you don't let me know your views, I cannot arrange things for you. Tel: 0298 813374 anytime.

The section would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rotherham GC for their generous support. The club are well known for putting out on the eighteenth. The talks, food, accommodation and entertainment, together with the welcome and hospitality shown to all delegates, were all excellent.

Those lectures that stayed in my mind were: the one given by George Brown on 'Being Open Minded'. George was so natural with his delivery. I think he talked the same attitude about public speaking as when using his new computer. It didn't work, but it looked good, and a few in the audience seemed to get the joke. The second lecture I found most informative, was an insight into Turf and the way the club operates, with all the pluses and minuses that go into running an Open Championship course. George's slide presentation and humorous delivery was commendable, and entertaining, with some humorous anecdotes, which reminded me of a joke David White told me: a speaker noticed that a delegate had fallen asleep on the front row and asked the gent sitting next to him if he had noticed. The delegate replied, 'No way - you sent the bugger off, you woke him!'

Well done to all the speakers; especially our own members, who did us proud. The atmosphere, compared with the first section, was more relaxed. I felt the Shayes of characters would have found it difficult to join in the fun. Speaking of fun reminds me of another joke told by the after-dinner speaker - that Neil Thomas had streaked through a flower show and won first prize for the dried flower arrangement.

On a more serious note, thanks to Neil, David Golhe, and the three organisations, with magnificent views and some fantastic golf holes. The course was in great condition considering how early in the year it was, the ground having not warmed sufficiently for much growth. During my game, and as usual seeing more of the course than most players, I was amazed at the wealth of wild flora in the semi-rough and further afield. I counted five types of orchid and many more plants, with magnificent views and some other species. I admit to being a great supporter of encouraging wild flora on golf courses and, lets face it, if your ball is a little wayward, you're a lot more likely to find a group of wild orchids in flower while searching for your ball. Many thanks to the North Wales section and Llanymynech GC for a great day.

Our next tournament will be the summer meeting at Warrington GC on Monday 5 July. All entries must be in by Tuesday 29 June, sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport. SH12 HX, enclosing the fee of £15. The entry fee will be available from 1.30 pm and tee times will be allocated on the day. Smart dress is essential. If you require any further information or updates on the events please contact me on 051 724 5412.

GEM TRIP: Thirty greenkeepers attended the outing to Gem Chemicals, Accrington, Lancs. The outing was most worthwhile and interesting. Thanks to Graham Walker, Gem's area representative, for arranging the day.

SURREY

Our Spring Tournament was held at Coombe Hill GC on Tuesday 20 April. Despite fine, sunny weather and a well presented golf course, the 36 hole format proved quite a strain on some, with only 15 of the 112 entrants finishing the second 18 holes. The first section match is against the BB&O at Harewood Downs on Tuesday 20 July starting at 2.30pm - N Whittaker (71) Trade - J Hobbs (161). The format being ten each side. Anyone wishing to play should contact me before 5 July as I am on holiday from that date, away for two weeks.

A match against the London section is arranged for an August date, and we will play the Midlands section at Dunstable Downs GC on 19 August. Details of entry and arrangements for travel details will be published nearer the time.

PAUL LOCKETT

ROGER TYDEMAN
AYRSHIRE
Our Spring Outing was staged at Southerness on 20 April. The trip down from Ayrshire to Galloway, normally a delight and most enjoyable with lovely scenery, was made a nightmare by torrential rain and although not too bad on arrival, it was an effort to get a few hardy teams out for the morning scramble. Thankfully the rain eased after an early soaking and before the 'main event', the sun actually allowed its face for the first time in months (or so it seemed)!

With typical greengrocers eye for the weathet, cars began to roll into the car park, eventually giving us one of the best entries in recent years. After an excellent round, Ayrshire chairman Derek Wilson thanked the club for granting us courtesy of the course, the steward for an excellent 'feed', and especially the greengrocers eye for the course in such great order. RESULTS: (scratch) Ian McNab (Dunmurry & County) 77, (1st Class) Stephen Higgins (Ardeer GC) 81-7=74. William McMenamin (Turnberry Hotel GC) 83-9=74. (2nd Class) David Whiffin (Dunmurry & County) 84-11=73. Derek Wilson (Irvine GC) 84-10=74. (3rd Class) Paul Rae (Brunston Castle) 93-19=74. Jim Paton (West Kilbride GC) 95-19=76. (Trade) Derek Duruthie (Aitken's) 85-7=76. (Veterans) George Brown (Turnberry Hotel GC) 81-5=76. (New Member) Kevin McGuire (Drumpellier) 101-20=81. (Trade) - David Duthie (Aitken's) 80-5 = 75. (New Member) Kevin McGuire (Drumpellier) 101-20=81. (Trade) -

Cleveland
The Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier was staged at Bedale GC, to whom we offer thanks for use of their fine course. We also must thank Gary Munro and his staff for the fine condition, and to head greenkeeper Peter Hall and his committee for the courtesy of their delightful clubhouse staff and to our sponsors. RESULTS:- Members - 1st. A. Golding 79-12-67, 2nd. J. Westcott, 3rd. J. Humphries. Guests 1st. Mrs. Val Mee 91-27-64, 2nd. B. Dickens, 3rd. D. Lomas. Best gross went to Aled Hughes of Porthmadoc with a score of 73-74. Nearest the pin on the 8th was Peter Pattison. The evening was won by P. Gabriel. The Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifiers were (0-9) A. Hughes, J. Hughes and J. Moody. (10-18) A. Golding, J. Westcott and J. Humphries. (19-28) J. L. Jones, H. Jones and P. Jeffries.

NORTH WALES
Once again Curzon Park GC was the venue for the North Wales Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier. RESULTS: - Members - 1st. A. Garding 79-12-67, 2nd. J. Westcott, 3rd. J. Humphries. Guests 1st. Mrs. Val Mee 91-27-64, 2nd. B. Dickens, 3rd. D. Lomas. Best gross went to Aled Hughes of Porthmadoc with a score of 73-74. Nearest the pin on the 8th was Peter Pattison. The evening was won by P. Gabriel. The Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifiers were (0-9) A. Hughes, J. Hughes and J. Moody. (10-18) A. Golding, J. Westcott and J. Humphries. (19-28) J. L. Jones, H. Jones and P. Jeffries.

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DAVID PROCTOR

NORTH SCOTLAND
The section's membership drive must now be in full flow as we welcome the following new members, Andrew Tait, Ellon GC, Douglas Boyle and Colin Forbes, Aboyne GC, Neil Kidd, Keith GC, Colin Mackay, Forres GC, Barry Britton, Caird Park, Dundee, George Rollo, Gairloch GC and Scott Cruickshank, Murcar GC, Aberdeen. It is great to see so many new members joining and we hope they will play an active part by attending section meetings and activities.

Tony Howarth

GREENEKEEPER INTERNATIONAL June 1990 33
We especially welcome Colin Mackay, who contacted me in January to see if I could help him in his quest to get into greenkeeping. Unfortunately, I was unable to help but I can confirm that I have heard, presumably, to see that he has managed to get himself a job at Forres. In addition we welcome Gary Blyth, latterly of the Central Scotland section, who has transferred to take up head greenkeeper’s post at Blair Atholl GC, Perthshire.

I attended this year’s AGM in York and must say I was disappointed by the turnout. Considering we now have 5,000 members I would have thought there would be more than 36 at the AGM. Maybe holding it during BTME next year will ensure a better turnout. Congratulations to John Crawford on taking over as chairman – we wish him all the best during his year in office. I certainly enjoyed the train journey home!

Unfortunately our trips to the Stewart Turf Farms were not a success. I suppose there was insufficient time for people to be involved. Unchallenged, we plan to run them later in the year, when we hope to fill a couple of buses. It did not help that spring was a bit late this year and some severe weather had left inland courses with fallen trees to clear up. Perthshire courses with severe flooding; and some links courses with tons of sand covering them. It can only get better, can’t it? Greenkeeping certainly is not a dull job!

This month sees the Scottish National Tournament at Brunston Castle, Ayrshire. I know it is a long trek to Ayrshire but I nevertheless hope to see a good turnout for the section. I’ll be told it will be well worth the trip, as Brunston is a fine new course.

Finally, I have a request to make on behalf of Neil MacDonald of M&M Turf. At this year’s Scottish conference he kindly offered us golf clubs for the Scottish section to use during the upcoming Northern conference. He placed this at the back of his stand and at the end of the day it had vanished. I’m sure somebody picked it up by mistake, perhaps thinking it was a prize for one of the members of staff standing there. May there be some embarrassment about returning it and if this is the case, send it to me at 21 Hartfield St., Tain, Ross-shire, IV19 1DE.

IAN MacLEOD

NORTH

Sand Moor GC was the venue for our Spring Tournament on 21 April. Our thanks to the captain and committee for the courtesy of play on their delightful course and to Robert Barnes and his staff for preparing the course for us. The competition was held over 27 holes, nine holes Stablesford in the morning and an 18 hole Stableford in the afternoon. The winner of the Stablesford was A Smith. Other results: Scratch Cup winner – S Midgley. Division 1 – S Midgley, M Lealman and R Gee, Division 2 – J Jarvis, R Smith and D Cockburn, Division 3 – L Johnson and A Smith. The 18 holes played in the afternoon was also for the Hayter Challenge Tournament (which used to be called the Isek).

We all got a well earned sponsor’s drink on the day, we are very grateful. The sponsor of which we have stones to all the day, was Tom Hunter, who sponsored the first prize in each division, these being cut glass bowls. The sponsors of the second place prizes were Martin Brothers, who supply us with some sand, course turf, J Riding, R Smith, D Cockburn and A Smith. The 18 holes played in the afternoon was also for the Hayter Challenge Tournament (which used to be called the Isek).

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

A big thanks to all who made our recent Gentleman’s Dinner at Beaconsfield GC such a great success. To secretary Peter Anderson, to head greenkeeper Bill Paterson and his talented staff for preparation of a fine course in such excellent condition, and in particular to our guest speaker, David White, who made sure that everyone had a marvellous evening.

We would still like to see more eager members represented the BB&O in golf matches, specifically against Mid-Anglia and the big grudge match against the secretaries! If you are interested please contact our match captain, David Goodchild, on 0292 415337. These matches are scheduled for Tuesday 20 July and Monday 26 July respectively and there is no handicap limit – so all are welcome.

Westfield GC were held on Wednesday 27 April, again at Long Ashton. Pencil the date in your diary today.

Our next meeting will be the Guest Day on Wednesday 7 July, with tee times reserved from 12.00 noon. Non-golfers are most welcome, with the traditional buffet lunch and an opportunity to visit Westurf before the main event at 4.00pm. The evening meal will begin at approx. 7.00pm, followed by David Golding, education director of the GTC, who will present his after-dinner speech ‘Greenkeeping Education’. As many of you may know, David has taken up the position of education director with the Greenkeeper Training Committee, which is backed by the R&A and the Home Golfing Unions. A large turn-out would be most appreciated.

Finally, may I wish all those players who have qualified for the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final the best of good luck.

RICHARD WHYMAN

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The second ten pin bowling night was held at Falkirk on 3 April and again everyone enjoyed a great night. With six teams competing there was keen competition for the ‘superb’ trophy.

Where are all the ten pin bowlers in the east of the section? So far there has been no response to the challenge from the Falkirk teams – to stage an East vs West match at Grangemouth – so come on lad’s, let’s see some good bowling and a good crowd to watch it.

The Spring Tournament at Falkirk Testy on 29 April saw our highest attendance yet, with 70 members and guests attending. An excellent day with dry weather (for a change!) and a warm welcome – a a complete contrast to the many previous weeks of rain.

Head greenkeeper Charlie Fotheringham and his staff had the course in splendid order. The groundstaff and catering staff continuing the same high standard, Falkirk Testy really did us proud. Our sincere thanks to everyone at Falkirk for making us welcome, especially club captain, Jim Mclelland and secretary Don Wallace for joining us and also for accommodating us at short notice. Thanks also to everyone who donated raffle prizes.

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON


Another score worthy of note was that of Martin Samuel of Rigby Taylor. As an associate member Martin was not eligible for the Hayter team, but his nett score of 71 (off 28) was good enough to win a BIGGA tie bar as a memento. Well played, Martin!

Thanks also go to Messrs Hayter, Roffey Bros., Avoncrop, Farmura and Rigby Taylor for prizes.

Finally, many thanks to all our dedicated helpers before, during and after Westurf. Robin Greaves, Chris King, Kevin Green and Robin Rattenbury spring to mind, to name but a few.

Well done also to those who made the effort to attend, it was a super show and we all have a day out. Thanks for your support.

PAUL WORSTER

DEVON & CORNWALL

This year’s Westurf Trade Exhibition, held at the popular venue of Long Ashton GC, Bristol, broke all previous records. The 90 exhibitors – with a wide range of products and services on offer – were welcomed by a record number of visitors, with visitor numbers well in excess of last year.

The section would like to thank Marion and Gordon Child for all their hard work in running Westurf so successfully, for yet another successful conclusion to the Westurf the region will be able to continue to subsidise its educational programmes for you! Only your support of Westurf has made this possible. Westurf ‘94 will be on Wednesday 27 April, again at Long Ashton. Pencil the date in your diary today.

There are still a few places left for our match captain, David Goodchild, on 0292 415337.

RICHARD WHYMAN

EAST SCOTLAND

Seahouses GC was the setting for our annual Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifying event. We arrived on a cold April day to find the hospitality arrangements excellent. Many thanks go to secretary John Stevens, head greenkeeper Ralph Bullock, and chairman Ron Bewley for making this such a successful day.

This event was first mooted for Seahouses it was thought that the long distance may have deterred many from going, though this certainty was not the case – with 47 members, guests and trade attended. We especially want to thank Don Child for all their hard work in running Westurf over the years and a presentation was to be made have been made ‘For services to the Industry’. This however will be made at a later date. Another great piece of news for Duncan is that at the AGM he was elected a life member of the Association.
With the course in excellent condition, thanks to Trevor, who recently worked for Maxwell Hart and was a good friend and colleague to all of us, as well as a true supporter of BIGGA and, especially, the Midlands section. He will be sadly missed, though more important will be remembered by the fine person he was. Our thanks are with his wife and family and we send our sincere condolences.

On 14 April we held our Spring Tournament at Moseley GC and, as normal, played this over 27 holes. The weather was kind after the recent wet period and made for good scoring. We thank Bob and his staff for a well turned-out course and also Moseley GC for the use of their fine facilities and for such good catering. The winner of the nett prize with a score of 102.5 was V. Lee, second P. Holdham (106) and third A. Luckman (106). The gross prize was won by M. Hughes with a score of 115.

DEAN CLEAVER

ON 14 April we held our Spring Tournament at Moseley GC and, as normal, played this over 27 holes. The weather was kind after the recent wet period and made for good scoring. We thank Bob and his staff for a well turned-out course and also Moseley GC for the use of their fine facilities and for such good catering. The winner of the nett prize with a score of 102.5 was V. Lee, second P. Holdham (106) and third A. Luckman (106). The gross prize was won by M. Hughes with a score of 115.

DEAN CLEAVER

STRICT Merit Lists - to give you not only the best information about turf, this in gratitude for all his work as our section secretary over many years.

RESULTS: John Shaw Machinery Medal: (Greenkeepers) 1st William Francis, 2nd Paul Kimber, 3rd Adam Ervis. (Trade & Guests) 1st Bert Merriot; 2nd Brian Wilmott. Rigby Taylor Stableford: (Greenkeepers) 1st Roland Hughes, 2nd George Barr, 3rd Brian Finn. (Trade & Guests) 1st Nick Silva.

In closing, we thank the following for their generosity and hospitality – the directors, professional, green staff and caterers at Wildwoods GC, and the co-sponsors, John Shaw and Rigby Taylor.

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