OUR first winter lecture was held on 5 January at Beadlow Manor GC, when Duncan McGilvray (course manager at Letchworth GC) gave a presentation on "The Duties of the Golf Course Manager". Duncan's talk, which clearly laid out the goals a course manager should be aiming for, was well received by the 25 members who attended, producing some lively questions and debate. Many thanks to Beadlow for again providing such excellent facilities.

On 26 January at Oaklands College Richard Knifton of Fabrications and Mowers gave a pre-match warm-up in his Jacobsen M1IV Greens King. Sixteen members attended and some very useful information on maintenance and operation was supplied. Thanks to Richard for his time and excellent presentation, also to Chris Bishop of Oaklands College for allowing us to stage the workshop there.

By the time you read this you should have received entry forms for the spring, summer and autumn golf competitions. Due to the healthy financial situation of the section, the committee has decided to keep the cost of golf at the same rate as last year: £17. The Spring Tournament will be held at Mid Herts GC on Thursday 22 April and will be a 36 hole event as opposed to the 27 holes played last year (subject to confirmation). The closing date for entries is Monday 5 April. Anyone wishing to enter must send the appropriate form — with payment — to the competition secretary: Chris Brook, 15 Gibson Close, Hitchin, Herts. by the date stated. Telephone entries are not acceptable.

A trip to the Jacobsen factory (not, unfortunately, in Wisconsin USA, but in Kettering), is organised for 23 March. If you would like to attend, please call Gerald Bruce (secretary) on 0442 865832.

It was heartening to see so many section members at the BTME workshops and seminars at Harrogate in January — undoubtedly another success for BIGGA. The Duke of York opened the proceedings and made a most complimentary speech regarding the role of the greenkeeper within the great game of golf, and of the recognition that is now more frequently given to our contribution. If you have not yet been to Harrogate I urge you to go next year — it is well worthwhile.

Should you require any further details regarding any of the section events, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0582 490764 (work) or 0525 402550 (home).

PAUL LOCKETT

A games night was held at West Kilbride GC recently, the winning team being: Darts — Derek Wilson (Bogside), Dominoes — Gary Crosbie (Dumfries & County), Pool — Shahid Ali (Dumfries & County), and Carrom — Robert Bruce, John Bathie (Bogside) 11pts (best Kilbride score), B Ridgeway 10pts, J Linfoot 9pts.

The spring outing has been arranged for South Ayrshire GC on Tuesday 20 April, with transport to be arranged. Full details will be with members very soon, so let's see a big attendance at this excellent course. The section will run a monthly draw to help with the day to day running of our affairs, so please do your best to respond when details are sent out. The first draw will be at Southerness.

We are running a summer four-ball competition this year as the normal winter competition has not been successful, largely due to the miserable weather conditions. The event will be home and away, so let's have a go at involving more greenkeepers in the section and in getting everyone to play.

Our new committee has been elected, so to assist those who have news, views or ideas to pass on, here are the names: Derek Wilson (Bogside) chairman, Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) vice chairman, Jim Paton (West Kilbride) secretary. The committee — Bob McKay (Prestwick & Ayrshire), Steven Kruger (Dumfries & County), Robert Bruce (Trade), George Brown (Turnberry), Harry Diamond (Kyle and Carrick), and Duncan Gray (Prestwick).

To conclude, our congratulations to Andrew Kerr (Prestwick St Nicholas) on his recent marriage to Liz. May all their troubles be little ones!

DUNCAN GRAY

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first meeting of 1993, held once again at the superb venue of Fingle Glen on 13 January, was our section seminar. With weather conditions fine only for ducks, it was left to our more hardy members to take to their flippers to play 'water' golf for the nine hole ICI Devon v Cornwall match. As usual the trade supported us by taking eight stands in the reception area, and these proved especially successful in view of the awful weather outside. Our thanks to Avoncrop, Garden Machinery, Fisons, PJ Flegg, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Vitax and Willcocks for their most welcome presence. After an excellent lunch, Richard Minton of ICI presented prizes to T Pipe (Honiton) 17pts (best Devon score), S Evans (St Enodoc) 13pts (best Cornish score), B Ridgeway (Fingle Glen) 21pts (best overall score). As a repeat of last year, the Devon lads won the match.

Our afternoon seminar on construction and education was held in the ICI sponsored conference room, with Nick Rigden, head of horticulture at Cannington College, presenting a paper on the new National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and the partnership it has with the training manual (a document which every club should have for the future training of their greenkeepers).

Our second speaker, Jim Arthur, presented a paper on "Construction and the Analysis Fallacy", as usual keeping his audience riveted to their seats. A question time rounded off a highly informative and interesting programme. Our thanks to Nick Rigden and Jim Arthur for presenting excel-
NORTH EAST
Section events for the coming months are as follows: March - A visit to Abcon North East Ltd (Top Dress Supplies), Blaydon. April - Breaking with tradition, we are opting for an inland course rather than one on the coastline, and on 22 April will for the first time play our Spring Tournament at Ryton GC. July - Annual match against club secretaries, date to be advised. September - Autumn Competition, 16 Sept at South Moor GC. October - Annual matches, a) versus East Lothian, b) versus Cleveland.

NORTH SCOTLAND
The latest of our new members to be married is George Paterson of Fortrose. We wish him and his intended all the best. It's nice to see that his assistant, Stuart, has settled in well since his move from West Kilbride and I hope he has by now found suitable housing for himself and his family.

Another BTME has come and gone, getting better every year. I missed attending last year so saw a big difference since 1991. It will be difficult to improve next year but I'm sure the powers that be will manage it. It was great to renew old acquaintances and forge new friendships. I sometimes wonder if we don't learn more when chatting over a pint in the evening than during the day! Unlike last visit, when I was the only North member present, this time there were many fellow members amongst the large Scottish contingent. Let's hope this month's National Conference is as successful.

By now, the first of our spraying courses should have taken place, with the initial eight members having been put through their paces and (hopefully) succeeded in gaining their certificates. Should anyone else be interested in going on such a course please contact me. I have had a few enquiries concerning COSHH regulations with regard to golf courses, so members will be pleased to know that a book is to be published this month covering the subject. This will be an essential publication for greenkeepers as we try to keep abreast of new rules and regulations.

The section library is up and running now and members who wish to borrow a book should phone me on 0862 894402, or Gordon Moir on 0344 74021. No new memberships have been received this month, so how about a little recruitment drive? Are there any greenkeepers on your staff or at a club nearby that are not members? If so, tell them of the BIGGA benefits and persuade them to join. I have membership details and spare magazines that I can send out if you contact me.

Spring approaches, hopefully bringing with it early growth and warm weather, I trust the winter has not been too harsh on your course and that once your top-dressing programme begins, the greens will settle and keep your members happy - if that's possible! We have had our first bad winter for a while, so let's hope it will be followed by a good long summer.

Finally, following a request at the AGM for a dinner dance, the section committee have decided that if sufficient interest is shown, we will stage one in the near future. Interested? - please call Sam Morrison on 0224 705083.

NORTH WEST
The section's third winter lecture on Wednesday 20 January clashed with the BTME at Harrogate, yet we still had a reasonable turn-out. Pat Murphy, the Northern section secretary, gave us a most interesting talk and slide show based on his experiences when reconstructing a green and having it back in play in seventeen days. The talk was very well presented and judging by the questions fired at Pat, I feel sure that the audience felt more confident to attempt such a task after listening to him. On behalf of the NW section I would like to thank Pat for sharing his time and experience with us.

By now you should have received your fixture list of events for the summer months. Also included is an information letter regarding entry forms and deposit information for golf events. I have had a few queries at all, please contact me on 051 724 5412.

SOUTH WEST
Apologies for missing the last edition - pressures of work and all that. 'Christmas at Chipping Sodbury'- doesn't have much of a ring, does it? However, our last event of 1992 was a roaring success when 63 members and trade turned up for a day on 21 April at Long Ashton GC. It was a bad winter for a while, so let's hope it will be followed by a good long summer.

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Finally, following a request at the AGM for a dinner dance, the section committee have decided that if sufficient interest is shown, we will stage one in the near future. Interested? - please call Sam Morrison on 0224 705083.
I think this is also a good time to mention again the importance of first-aid training for greenkeeping staff. A knowledge of basic procedures or, even better, the presence of a qualified first-aider, may one day make all the difference. Short courses are available and organisations like the St. Johns Ambulance will arrange training on site for golf clubs if there are sufficient numbers. Paddy McCarron at the Leicestershire and Glen Miller at Ullesthorpe have both recently completed such training, and I believe it is something we should all consider. I can supply details to any interested parties.

Now, to the rest of the section business. I am pleased to offer congratulations to Chris Lewis on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Market Harborough GC, and to welcome the following new members to the section – Paul Brazier, currently studying at Cannington College, and Mark Caldwell, recently of Torksey GC. Lines. I hope to see you all shortly at the Spring Tournament – if I ever finalise the arrangements. Finally, please note that my secretarial ‘hot’ line is 0509 650140.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND
Unfortunately, this month’s report begins with some disappointing news regarding the 1993 Spring Tournament. Due to circumstances beyond our control, Gleneagles Hotel have had to cancel our booking for 6 April, though we are hopeful that another date may be arranged for accepting us at such short notice.

Due to this change of venue, both 1993 tournaments are scheduled to take place in virtually the same area of the section. Falkirk Tryst GC have granted us courtesy of their course on Wed 28 April, start 9.30 am. My sincere thanks to club secretary Don Wallace for his help and for accepting us at such short notice.

On a brighter note, Falkirk Tryst GC have been able to offer congratulations to Chris Lewis on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Market Harborough GC, and to welcome the following new members to the section – Paul Brazier, currently studying at Cannington College, and Mark Caldwell, recently of Torksey GC. Lines. I hope to see you all shortly at the Spring Tournament – if I ever finalise the arrangements. Finally, please note that my secretarial ‘hot’ line is 0509 650140.

TONY HOWARTH

NEXT MONTH IN EUROPE’S PREMIER GREENKEEPING MAGAZINE

The start of a monthly column to keep you up to date with all the news, as it breaks, of the 1994 BTME! And look out for details of a magnificent BTME ’94 competition...!
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- Location of the fountain wherever it is needed - in the tee area or by the clubhouse.
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AROUND THE GREEN

MIDLANDS
On 14 January we held our first lecture of the winter period, with some 35 people in attendance. The subjects were STRI advisory visits, given by Andy Cole, and a talk on grass seeds given by a representative of British Seed Houses. We thank them both for their valued time, also British Seed Houses for the refreshments.

Our next lecture will take place at Telford G&G on 26 March, starting at 1.30pm. Representing Oakleys, the local Jacobsen dealers, will be Mr E Simcox, whose talk will be centred around machinery maintenance. The second speaker, Carl Crome, will discuss the Environgreen service and how it works. Refreshments will be provided by Oakleys and Jacobsen.

It was sad to hear that Matt Williams, assistant greenkeeper at Moorhall GC for some years, was made redundant in January. We all wish him well in finding a new position soon.

Our first tournament will be played at Moseley GC on 14 April. If you have not received an entry form, contact me on 0789 762912.

DEAN CLEAVER

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON
Would anyone like to do battle for the BB&O in matches against the Surrey section, the Mid-Anglia section and the section secretaries? The last match, of course, must not be seen as a 'grudge' match, but let's say that any member of a losing team will have their name printed in the section news - leaving them open to ridicule! These matches will be held over the summer, starting on 1 June at Stoke Poges. There is no handicap limit, so all are welcome. If interested please contact our match captain, David Goodchild, on 0296 415337.

Gentlemen's Dinner. After the success of our inaugural event, this year should be even better. So don't miss out, get all of your friends together and bring them along for a round of golf, a three course meal and the opportunity to listen to David White, the flamboyant editor of Greenkeeper International, all for £25 a head. Demand is expected to be heavy, so please contact me ASAP with numbers required - Black tie or lounge suits only. Date: 17 March, Venue: Beaconsfield GC, Time: tee-off approx. 12.30 pm.

The 1993 Spring Tournament will be held at Burnham Beeches GC on 28 May over 36 holes. This is also the Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier. Your entry form will be with you soon. Due to the section sustaining heavy losses on golf day meals, anyone who does not pay before the deadline will NOT be permitted to take part - you have been warned!

We have a selection of BIGGA ties (light blue and red) at a special price of £4, so if you want to look the part, ring me to place an order - now.

RAY CLARK

KENT
Our forthcoming Spring Tournament is to be held at Rochester & Cobham GC on Monday 10 May. This event will also incorporate the initial qualifying round for the Hayter Challenge Tournament. I understand that it will run on the same format although sponsorship details are to be finalised. The regional qualifier will also be held in Kent, during early summer at Weald of Kent GC.

Finally, may I thank all those who helped me to maintain Barnehurst Golf Course over the past 14 months or so, by the loaning of materials, machinery, man power and tools. As you may have been aware, times were a little tough; with the impending demise of the club and a natural unwillingness to provide some of the bare essentials for proper maintenance. So to all of our machinery and material suppliers, local golf clubs and greenkeepers - a heartfelt thank you. You have all contributed to Barnehurst being in probably the best shape it has ever been (he wrote more than he meant). Well, a very complimentary report from the STRI is proudly displayed in the club house. So this may be my last report as head greenkeeper of Barnehurst Golf Club, a place where I have been associated for nearly 20 years. I can perhaps look forward to performing the same (expanded) role when Barnehurst is renamed Mayplace Golf Course.

PAUL COPSEY

COMING UP

March 9: BIGGA Scottish Region Conference, Oatridge College, Glasgow
March 26-28: BIGGA National Education Conference, University of Keele, Staffordshire
April 21: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel, York
April 28: Westorf Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton, Bristol
May 25-30: Amateur Championship, Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland
June 9-10: Landscape Industries '93, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
July 5-8: Royal Show, NAC, Stoneleigh park, Warwickshire
July 15-18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Kent
July 18-24: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
August 2-4: BIGGA National Golf Tournament, Dunbar Golf Club, Scotland
August 18-19: The Walker Cup, Interlachen, Minneapolis, USA
September 7-9: Iota Show, Peterborough, Northants
September 24-26: Ryder Cup, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire
October 11-12: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor, York
December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor, York