BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

In Holland we presently have 12 BIGGA members, all of whom have received an invitation to attend our first ever meeting, which is organised to take place this month (September). Sponsorship will be arranged locally to cover expenses and whenever we feel payments need to be made these will be allocated - in order that we may operate on a professional basis. A report of our meeting will be sent to BIGGA HQ.

On a personal level, I have a visit to Scandinavia planned for October and will meet with Stig Persson, (journalist, member of the Swedish Golf Federation, Swedish Greenkeepers Association, and BIGGA), and visit his golf course in Sweden. David Golding (Greenkeepers Training Committee), has asked me to contact the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association to discuss and promote the GTC education programme, details of which were requested by the NGA via the Netherlands Golf Federation. I have spoken to the NGA chairman, Ties Straatam, offering him my assistance whenever it is needed.

FREDERICK ten HAGE

NORTH WEST

I have just returned from The Open at Royal St Georges, where volunteer greenkeepers assembled once more to form a greenkeeping support team. This gathering now appears to have taken on the role of an annual reunion, not only for greenkeepers from the British Isles, but also from Sweden and America. It also provides the opportunity to witness some of the finest golf one may ever expect to see - and from inside the ropes! The course was a credit to Derek Scarborough and his staff, who must be relieved that all their preparation is paid back. The usual arrangements apply, with soup and sandwiches served from noon 'till 12-30, and all rounded off with an evening meal and prize presentation. Your deposit of £10 must accompany an application to play, and the closing date for entries is 14 October. All applications to Paul Pearse, I, Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport. SK12 1HX. Smart dress is essential.

Please don't let me down lads, or I will have to take some stick from Mick Hannah following last year's comments. Any problems or queries please ring 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH WALES

This years Match Play Knockout competition, sponsored by PRO TURF Equipment of Carmarthen, has completed its first round, with the following results: Mike Jones beat Mike Norton, Malcolm Davies beat Philip Swain, Robert Johnston beat Gary Johnston (no relation), Laurence Walter beat Philip Huish, Nigel Owens beat Tyrone Garland, Douge Donne beat Peter Lacey, Robert Frater beat Julian Bartlett Jones, and Andrew Jenkins (father) beat Idwell Morris. Our thanks to PRO TURF for their continued support.

Our evening lecture programme for the oncoming winter is nearing completion and details will be with you shortly.

Congratulations to both Ceri and Joanna Richards on their tying of the knot on July 24th, also to Andrew Jenkins and Emma on the birth of their 8lb 4oz baby daughter, Laura Ashley. A warm welcome to all our new members, especially Judy Ann Weekes (our second lady member), Gary Johnston and James McKenzie.

A word of warning to those awaiting application forms for both the workshop and seminar at Cammington College on 12 October and 23 November respectively - demand will be great, so get those forms back as soon as possible in order to ensure your place is reserved. Any news or information will be greatly appreciated, 'phone me on 0792 233923.

PETER LACEY

EAST SCOTLAND

I again had the pleasure of being one of the support team at this year's Open Championship at Royal St Georges. A great week was had by all, with Neil and his staff certainly flying the flag where BIGGA is concerned. It was nice to meet up again with all the old faces and already we are looking forward to 1994 and The Open at Turnberry.

Our annual Committee Match was held on 10 June at Royal Burgess, again sponsored by Scottish Grass Machinery. Our grateful thanks go to them. The Eddie Holt Trophy was won for the first time by 'yours truly' with a nett 71, though only on count-back. Our thanks as always to Royal Burgess for the courtesy of their course and clubhouse facilities, and certainly not forgetting Roger and his staff for the excellent playing conditions - 'twas a pity the weather couldn't be kinder.

For forthcoming events are the Autumn Tournament on 14 September at Ratoth Park, the East versus North East match on 28 September at Goswick, and the Willie Woods Tournament on 19 October. Notification of these events will be issued shortly.

Don't forget to obtain your tickets for the annual Dinner Dance at Turnhouse on Friday 3 December. These are selling quickly, so don't be disappointed by booking late.

Winter lecture programmes are almost finalised and notification will be issued soon. The 'big one' this year is the Health & Safety lecture at Oatridge College and golf clubs and members alike will receive information concerning this, as Health and Safety is the one thing that affects us all - we are hoping for a large turn-out.

I am pleased indeed to welcome new members to the section and hope that they will attend our many tournaments, lectures etc. Over the past five years, membership in the section has been on the increase and it is hoped that this trend will continue. There are still vast numbers who are not members and we are working on these. It is in everyone's interest to be a member of the Association, with the advantages far outweighing the disadvantages - ask any member.

I don't have to tell you of the dreadful weather we have all experienced. This has been the coldest, wettest summer I can remember, with many courses flooded and more closures during this year than any other. At the beginning of '93 I put in a new automatic sprinkler system and have yet to use it! Let's hope we see some sunshine shortly.

I am always looking for news for the magazine, so anyone with information should contact me, no matter how insignificant.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH COAST

Details of our Autumn Tournament are as follows:-- Venue: High Post GC., Great Durnford, Salisbury. Date: Tuesday 5 October. Format: 36 hole Greensome. Fee: £13 per person. Closing date: 25 September. Teeing off: 8.30 a.m.

Each member is requested to bring along
either a non-greenkeeper amateur partner from their own club, or a fellow greenkeeper from another club. Applications to play, with handicap details and fee, to Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Chard, Somerset, England. Tel: 0398 564872.

Fixture cards listing all section and regional events for 1994 are available upon request. Please let me hear from you, so that you can fully participate in all of your Association’s activities.

In last Summer Tournament held at Alresford GC, 46 players took part, with local knowledge ruling the day as members and guests of Alresford GC swept up nearly all the prizes.

Results: First - Bob Dennis and Brian Young 47 points, second - Derek Curtis and John Walden 45 points, third Eddie Fox and Peter Kimminick. Mark Webb, head greenkeeper at the club, and his assistant Barry Young, with the assistance of club professional Malcolm Scott. Members I spoke to were impressed with the new arrangement and the quality of the greens. Thanks are due to our sponsors, Parker Hart and Roffley Brothers, and having a handicapped son who needs my support, I am very grateful to the South West Section is very grateful to local greenkeepers enjoying full courtesy, and of course the club for their hospitality and the catering manager for providing an excellent meal. Our next golf event is at Broommans Park GC on 6 October – so get those entry forms in!

TONY DUNSTAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

Well, another Open Championship has come and gone. Paul Pagett, Lundie, in his true colours as the North members present, although ex North member Neil Metcalf was there also, as he is a member of the Sandwich staff. We flew down to Heathrow and fellow team member Ronan McKewen took us down to Sandwich. Everything ran smoothly, thanks to HQ staff and David Wood and the lads of the South Eastern region, whilst not forgetting the first tee ‘Generals’, Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson. One of the many highlights of the week was the Saturday evening football match against the Ring & Bymyer chefs. The greenkeepers ran out as 10-4 winners and if Dunedin United still seek a replacement for Duncan Ferguson, you can only look no further than Paul Murphy! All in all it was a great, if sleepless, week with much done to cement European relationships (private joke!). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate support team member, Paul Seago, on his appointment to Gullane Golf Club, we welcome him to Scotland and wish him well there.

A new competition launched in Ross-shire and Sutherland Counties to find the Champion of Champions reached its climax at Tain recently. The brain-child of Brora’s Robin Wilson, all Club Champions, County Champions and four-day Open winners were invited to the Scottish Open Championship, sponsored by T.H. Whites. Application forms will be posted during late September-October. The AGM will also be my swan-song, although I hope to have a complete failure and our instructors have been most impressed with the levels of knowledge of day of golf under pressure, which is much appreciated by my staff in BIGGA - and I’m working on the quality and pesticide contamination being extremely interesting and prompting many questions. Our special thanks to him for standing in at the last moment, also to Linda Exley and Sara Clarke for their help throughout the day. The support from the trade was, as always, appreciated and we thank CMW, G. Browns, Parker Hart, Riggby Taylor, Risboro’ Turf, and St-Brie for their contributions. Finally I would like to thank Muswell Hill GC for their hospitality and the catering manager for providing an excellent meal. Our next golf event is at Broommans Park GC on 6 October – so get those entry forms in!

NORTH WALES

First, I must apologise to Mr P Shaw of High Speed Oils for failing to include High Speed Oils for failing to include High Speed Oils.
Oils in my notes for the June issue, the winner of their prize being A Hughes of Portmadoc GC – once again my apologies.

Dates for your diaries: On September 29 or 30 we hope to run a coach to Haydock Park for the trade show. Those interested in attending should contact Terry Adamson or me.

On October 6 our Autumn Golf Competition will be held at Pwllheli GC, the cost being £11.00 for members and £14.00 for guests. I plead yet again, get those forms back early!

A First Aid course will be held at Northop College during the winter months – please contact the club secretary if you are willing to attend. For further details phone me, or B Anderson on 0745 826695.

DAVID PROCTOR

EAST MIDLANDS

First of all, I would like to apologise to all section members who may have thought I had emigrated – it's just that having had little to report, I have refrained from troubling the editor with my usual banal prose.

The section's Autumn Tournament this year is scheduled to take place on 21 September at Ruddington GC. The tournament, North and entry forms/details should be with you by the time you read this. If not, and you wish to enter, please call me on 0509 650140. As usual, this competition will be the qualifier for the Breakwell's match and, along with the results from the Spring Tournament, also for the annual tour versus West Midlands sponsored by Rhygi Taylor. Regarding the latter, we are 'at home' this year and well overdue a win.

Well done to all those members who represented the East Midlands at the Hayter Challenge regional final in July. We finished third in the team event, with Russell Allen coming second in his group and Mark Bindley fourth (on count-back) in his, just out of the prizes.

The section is pleased to welcome new members – Dean Cooper and Steven Heap, both of Rothley Park, Anthony Russell of Lingdale, and as an associate member, Nicholas Birch, currently working at Ramsdale Park Golf Club, who very tactfully lost their place. Everyone will be pleased to know that the section's greenkeeper membership has just passed one hundred!

See you all at Ruddington.

TONY HOWARTH

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

July has been a hectic one for the season, with two very enjoyable golf matches having been played. The first match was held at Harewood Downs GC on 20 July, though unfortunately the Mid-Anglia section had to pull out, so a Committee v Section event was held instead. I'm very glad to say the committee ran out winners, though not without a match. Eighteen from each was the agreed total. Our thanks to Harewood Downs GC and to club secretary, Mick Cannon, for all his help, also to Steve Bryant and his staff for producing a stern test for us all and not forgetting Nora Davis and her catering crew for providing us with an excellent buffet.

The second match was held at Calcot Park GC on 26 July and was our annual 'needle' against the club secretaries. The weather held true, the course was in excellent condition, and we were lucky enough to have a very tight result go our way, three to two with one halved match. That includes Simon and Steven from Calcot, who very tactfully lost their matches against the secretary and past secretary respectively! As always the company was great, the match being played in the very best of spirits, and I have no doubt this will continue to be enjoyed for a long time to come.

For the time being the secretaries will have to lick their wounds, waiting until next year at Sonning GC to (maybe) getting their own back (anyone would think I was gloating!). By the way, I won my match this time! Thanks to Calcot Park and secretary Alan Bray for organising the secretaries team, Simon Robinson and his staff for the excellent course, and the catering staff for a wonderful meal.

The section will be running a mini-bus to BTME in January, those interested should let me know ASAP so that numbers may be organised – please! After the go-karting section we introduced more ideas for social events that you would like to see staged next year, also ideas for next year's lecture programme. Either ring me (0628 829208) or write with your input.

RAY CLARK

KENT

Perhaps just time to remind you that our regional seminar on the topic of '365 Days A Year Golf!' is taking place at Hadlow College on 27 October. We hope for a good attendance, not only from greenkeepers but also from golf club officials, and that everyone participates in what we believe will be a lively afternoon of debate. Already we have seen some heated response to Mike Travers' article in Greenkeeper International, so hopefully this will continue as a sensitive topic. For my part, I think that much of the criticism and comment related to the article was unfair and unjustified: Perhaps to stir things up a bit more, I will state that I am a believer in the 365 days a year ideal, in all but the very extremes of weather. I am very lucky that my course over lays gravel, and knowing my site for nearly 20 years I am confident that I can achieve my aims.

I sometimes question the commitment of others, especially the short-sightedness of management at many private clubs, when they fail to adequately invest in the manpower, skills, materials and machinery for varying tasks or to tackle on-going problems, also the failure to allow maintenance tasks to be carried out at correct times due to that very important autumn fixture. Finally, the undue and ill-considered meddling of some green committees in pressurising greenkeepers, especially with regard to the over-watering of greens in summer – don't we all know that this leads to stinking, diseased 'bogs' in winter and ultimately to temporary greens? I feel that our management practices should be progressive, professional, and most of all positive. For some of you 'younguns' here are some wise old words to ponder: 'You do not get good greens out of a bag of fertiliser or a hose pipe' 'Go into the winter with your greens as dry as possible' and 'Avoid watering in September'.

On a lighter note, it was good to see many familiar faces at The Open at Royal St. Georges. I'm sure those attending thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and the experience. On separate days, David Wood and I raised funds for the group comprising Tom Kite, Peter Fowler and Mark Roe. May I say, "Thanks Tom, you're a real nice chap, a thorough gentleman, and thanks for the golf ball". As for Roe and Fowler...!

Hopefully another visit to the now open London Golf Club is imminent. The interest in that last visit was almost as staggering as the project itself.

You may already know that secretary David Wood now doubles as our regional administrator. Rumours abound as to whether he will have to cut out three games of golf a week to find the time. And talking of rumours, with BGA due to become the B&G, it is said that the company is coming along nicely, and THERE IS NO GREEN COMMITTEE, just me! Have I died and gone to heaven?

PAUL COSEY

SHEFFIELD

To begin, I have been asked by David Golding to pass on his sincere thanks to the committee and members of the Sheffield Section of BIGGA for the beautiful, engraved rose-bowl which Barry Henney presented to him at The Open Championship. David wrote to me, saying "Whilst the recent changes with the GTC may prove confusing, they are in having to choose between BIGGA and GTC, I trust that anyone who knows me well enough will always understand that the greenkeeper and his or her future remains at the forefront of my mind." We wish David all the best and look forward to working very closely with him at section level in the future.

Winter Lectures: I am pleased to inform you that permission to hold our monthly meetings at Rotherham GC, starting on 7 October and ending on 7 April 1994, has been granted. The lectures will be on the first Thursday in the month, starting at 2.00pm. Please make every effort to support your section, especially with regard to the over-watering of greens as dry as possible' and 'Avoid watering in September'.

Congratulations to Martin Scottorn (Wolla-ton Park GC) in qualifying at Worksop GC for the Hayter Final to be played at Sandmoor GC, Leeds. Good luck Martin, keep the flag flying for the section.

Our Annual Golf Tournament was held on 21 July at Lindrick GC., with a splendid turn-out of 50 players competed for the 27 hole medal competition. The day ran very smoothly and a fine time was had by all. Sincere thanks to Lindrick members for allowing us courtesy of their course, also to Kevin Hazelhurst (course manager) for presenting us with a superb course – the course certainly sorted the men from the boys! It was very much appreciated to be graced with the presence of Lindrick green chairman, Mr John Boddy. Mr Boddy welcomed us to the club, played golf with us, dined with us and kindly presented the prizes marvellous.

GREGG KEPTER INTERNATIONAL September 1993 31
ever, the weather improved for the afternoon.

The section's Autumn Tournament at Woburn G&CC in late October. The exact date will be published in October, the day planned to combine golf with our section AGM.

The autumn programme is being prepared. The officers of St Neots for the courtesy of their greenkeeping support and for the hospitality shown to us, also to Martin Lay and his team for producing excellent playing surfaces. Our sponsors were Boughton Loam, represented by Mike Franklin, and we acknowledge with appreciation Mike's efforts and help during the tournament.

The next golf fixture is the Autumn Tournament at Woburn G&CC in late October. The exact date will be published in October, the day planned to combine golf with our section AGM.

The autumn programme is being prepared. The section's guest day was held again at Ely City GC for allowing us the use of their facilities, and we acknowledge with appreciation Mike's efforts and help during the tournament.

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