DEVON AND CORNWALL
Westurf will be with us any day now and your support will be vital to its continued success. With Westurf's success, the region will be able to keep its fees on educational events down to cost price.

Westurf has helped the section purchase a secondhand photocopier which will allow your truly to supply all your committee members with minutes of regional and national board meetings, so if you have any queries about recent events within your Association, your local committee member will hopefully now be able to update you with all the relevant details.

With the winter programme complete, I would like to thank all of you who attended meetings. The section is always looking at ways to generate an even higher membership subscription, so if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the local committee member. New members are always welcome, and they will miss out on all the benefits.

With the golf season about to start, I would like to wish all greenkeepers a successful year, and hopefully a drier one than last year.

With the winter lecture produced a good turnout (32), but please try to send your forms back to me before the closing date in future. A thank you to Tony James of Rushcliffe GC on his excellent talk, and to Lingdale GC for their hospitality and marvelous buffet meal, which made this a great night.

ANTHONY BINDLEY
CLEVELAND
Clive Higenbotham from ICI Professional Products gave a talk/slides on the management of a golf course. His technical knowledge and enthusiasm was inspiring. He covered fertilisers, fungicides, selective weedkillers etc and ensured us that good turf management was the key factor in producing a healthy sward. The new fungicide Greenshield sounds interesting as it lasts 6-8 weeks and has worm repellent quality. For empty pesticide containers, which are called special waste, ICI will collect empty, clean ICI containers free of charge through their environmental disposal service.

RICHARD WHYMAN
EAST MIDLANDS
There's not a lot to report on this month as I have just come back from a golfing holiday in the Algarve. Congratulations go to Chris Lewis this month on his appointment as deputy head greenkeeper at The Leicestershire Golf Club and to Kevin James of Rushcliffe GC on his promotion to head greenkeeper.

This month we welcome Paul Redding of Rugby GC and Warren Barker of Ansty GC to our section. We have certainly made a promising start this year with new members to our section – 22 in all. Let's hope this increase continues. Any members who have not paid their subscriptions should do so straight away, or they will miss out on all the benefits.

With the golf season about to start, I would like to wish all greenkeepers a successful year, and hopefully a drier one than last year.

Our winter lecture produced a good turnout (32), but please try to send your forms back to me before the closing date in future. A thank you to our two speakers, Valerie Holt and Mark Hunt, for their excellent talks, and to Lingdale GC for their hospitality and marvelous buffet meal, which made this a great night.

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RICHARD WHYMAN
NORTH EAST
At last the message is getting around about joining BIGGA. I'm happy to welcome the following new members to the section:

John Walton and Kevin Walkinshaw from Heworth GC; Ashley Marshall, Matfen Hall GC; Jason Campbell, Whitley Bay GC; David Coulson, Morpeth GC; Derek Cruddas, Garsfield GC; James Stoney, Alnwick GC; Shaun Collier, and Martin Donavand, students at Haughall College; and John Hogg, student at Elmwood College.

Providing all 1993 members pay their '94 subs, we shall be over the hundred mark, that's up 500 percent since 1984.

On the move is Parklands' Andrew Bowes who has gone to Matfen Hall GC as first assistant. Eddie Crozier, formerly head greenkeeper at Parklands, takes over at Burgh Farm. Golf dates: April 14 – Spring Competition, South Moor GC; July 12 – Match v Secretsaries, Seaham Harbour GC; October 6 – Match v East Lothian, Westerhope.

JIMMY RICHARDSON
**AYRSHIRE**

This season’s outings have now been finalised with the spring meeting at Thornhill GC in Dumfriesshire on April 19 (also a Hayter Qualifier) and the autumn meeting at Glasgow Gailes on September 22.

As with BIGGA, our section membership is steadily growing but I am sure most of you know of someone who is not a member, so please let them know what is being missed.

Scottish Grass and Kubota have both issued invitations for our section to visit their showrooms and workshops. If anyone is interested, please inform Jim Paton, our secretary, to enable him to organise this.

On the move is David Whiffen, assistant at Dumfries and County GC who is going to Wittenbacher GC in Germany. We wish him the best of luck.

The first winners of our lottery this year are R Stewart and N Carruthers, who win £30 each, and G Haughie with £40. The big £100 winner is Jill Paton. Congratulations to them.

There is still plenty of time to join up, so let's be having you. If you're not in, you can't win.

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**NORTH WALES**

Firstly, a reminder that all entry forms for the Hayter Challenge Spring Tournament should be completed and returned to Terry Adamson at his new address (27 Berwyn Ave, Penyffordd, nr Chester) by April 14. No entries will be accepted after this date. Any members who have not received an application form should contact me on 0836 785751.

Any members wishing to attend a first aid course at the Welsh College of Horticulture should also let me know so appropriate dates can be booked.

Finally, all nominations for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award should be forwarded to me c/o The Estate Office, Carden Park, Chester CH3 9DQ by April 30.

**ANDY CAMPBELL**

**LONDON**

The second RPK supercart challenge was held in February at Bracknell indoor circuit – and it was an excellent evening. I would like to thank RPK Supplies and especially Jamie Bennett for organising the event. The overall winner was the undefeated Cameron McMillan.

I would also like to thank G Brown Implements for organising the day trip to the Massey Ferguson factory. Everyone that went along enjoyed the excellent hospitality and were all suitably impressed with the set-up.

Another date for your diary – June 28, the summer golf tournament at Old Ford Manor. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

**TONY DUNSTAN**

**NORTHERN**

Our Christmas Golf Competition was held at Shipley Golf Club, in December. There were 35 entrants on the day and I am pleased to say that all entrants did receive a prize, which they richly deserved. It rained heavily all day, in fact at night on Calendar it actually announced that the largest recorded rainfall in the area was Bingley where 3 inches fell. Despite the weather MOST people enjoyed it.

Our AGM followed the Christmas golf and a brief resume of that meeting being that the following members were duly elected to office: President – Bill Mountain; Chairman – Phillip Taylor; Vice Chairman – Allan Gamble; Secretary/Treasurer – Pat Murphy; Committee – Dennis Cockburn, Ian Thompson, Colin Garnett, Michael Hannan, Telford Jarvis, Robert Gee, Robin Smith, and David Thackray.

I thank those members who attended and voiced their opinion on various matters relevant to our section. President Bill Mountain informed the meeting that this would be his 34th year in office, all I can say is keep up the good work.

May I welcome the two new committee men who have joined us this year. I am sure you will enjoy your term in office.

On behalf of the Northern Section I’d like to thank Andrew Smith for the time and effort that he put into the Northern Section during his time in office.

The visit to Gem Fertilizers was a huge success. I thought it was marvellous how everything was put together on such a huge scale. If you get the chance to visit it, I recommend you go. My thanks on behalf of the Northern Section to John Harris, Andy Hardy, Duncan McCalfe, and Alan Dyson for making us so welcome. The visit to Martin Brothers was also

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Aldwoodley GC. The Roses Match venue is the August 10. by invitation - the date being Wednesday the trophy away from home. The Roses Match will be run on the same format as last year - by invitation – the date being Wednesday August 10.

All members should now have in their possession the notice for the above golf venues - please fill them in and return to me with your deposits as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Any member requiring further information, or have any contributions to this column, please contact me on 0274 568128 or 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4RL.

New members this month include: Paul Thresh, Normanton GC; Richard Smith, Shipley GC; Stephen Dalton, Knaresborough GC; Neil Horton, Moorstown GC; Michael Roocks, Pulneck GC; Christian Martindale, Halifax GC; Melvyn Guy, Mountains Mowers; Robert Barnes, Mark Campbell, Paul Gavthorpe, Gary Dangerfield all from Sand Moor GC; Raymond Jackson, Bradford Moor GC; Stephen Capel Selby GC; John France, Garforth GC; Robin Oxendale, Pike Hills GC; Simon Payn, Northcliffe GC; Mark Dangerfield at the biggest golf club development in any member requiring further information, or have any contributions to this column, please contact me on 0274 568128 or 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4RL.

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I will give my usual 100% to our cause.

I have just returned from a two-day secretaries meeting at Aldwark Manor and again this proved to be a very enlightening affair. These meetings give the secretaries the opportunity to put their sections views across; and for one was delighted with the response.

Next on our busy calendar is the Spring outing on April 12 over Gallane No.2. By now you should all have your entry forms; providing your subscriptions are up to date. This is also the qualifying for the Hayter Challenge and a big entry is anticipated. The regional finals this year will be held at Duddington Golf Club on May 24.

A full calendar of all section events will soon be in all members' hands very shortly. It is hoped that this year everyone will make a special effort to attend these events and only a handful turn up. We as a committee have always said 'tell us what you want and we will do it (within reason)'.

In conclusion, may I wish everyone another successful greening season; hopefully, the weather and golf club committees will be kind to us all again this year. I would also be grateful for news of any kind; this is your magazine and Association, so let us use it. Also remember to get these non-members to join our ever-growing BIGGA. WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH COAST

Our winter programme of lectures concluded last month with a talk by David Whitaker from the Wisley Golf Club. His subject was course maintenance. The February lecture was delivered by Paul Hobden as Ken Barber was unable to attend. Paul is the assistant course manager; he has been involved in the theatre, 'it was alright on the night'.

April is a busy month for the section with the spring tournament at the Test Valley Golf Club on the 21st and the Hayter Challenge and all enquiries should be directed to our tournament organiser Bob Cully on 0489 782976.

Westurf is now well established on our calendar and we are hoping for a record turnout from the industry this year. Call Ken Lodge, our chairman, on 0329 282362 for travel information. Be there!

With education becoming more industry led and the GTC and BIGGA being in place and geared, the section is looking to be more involved with the training of our young greenkeepers. Already several course managers in the section are undertaking training as NVQ assessors. With levels 1-3 of the Training Manual in place and level 4 aimed at head greenkeepers in production, greenkeepers are well placed to lead their industry. Level 5 giving general manager status will be available to those wishing to take their careers that far in the future.

ALAN MITCHELL

MID- ANGLIA

A full day's first aid course was held in February at the Family Golf Centre. It was a great success for the Greenkeepers and will certainly benefit the section in the future. It will be held again on May 29 using the appropriate form. The final will be played once again at Brockett Hall on October 7.

There is still time to enter the Spring Tournament at Harpenden GC on Tuesday April 26. Tees are booked from 8.30am and this will be a section qualifier for the Hayter Challenge. Entry is by the usual form with an enclosed cheque for £20.

PAUL LOCKETT

KENT

Our Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier will be taking place at Mid-Kent Golf Club on May 10, you should shortly be receiving more details and your entry forms through the post. The other notable date for your diaries is June 29, the South Turf Exhibition at Motspur Park. We expect the event to be well attended and it will give you a chance to meet your greening colleagues and your local dealers and suppliers.

We will be arranging a summer afternoon's golf and an Autumn Tournament, although both the dates and places have yet to be finalised. We will be looking for a venue towards the east of the county for at least one of the events. Any suggestions or willing hosts? On to perhaps more important matters, the section is now in possession of the long awaited career video, "Keeper of the Green". This is an excellent presentation and an ideal introduction to career opportunities for your young members of staff, junior golfers and local schools. The video is available to you on loan, or if you feel you can collect a small band of budding course managers together for an evening's viewing and a brief talk, please contact me on 0322 664547 (eves) or 0322 523746 (days). Further to educational matters, next winter we will be looking to promote monthly, one day/afternoon/morning seminars or "teach-ins". Perhaps there are some topics you feel should be covered. Should we, for instance, be running more first aid courses, health & safety courses, would this be of benefit to you, your staff and your club? Never forget that this is YOUR Association and your input is most welcome. Like most things you must put something in if you are to get the best out of it. With this in mind, we will all be required to comment on the national BIGGA five-year plan. You may have read about this in Neil Thomas' article in the February magazine. There are some very tough decisions to be made and you will be given the chance to make them. More details at a later date.

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH WEST

Ever played 18 holes, come off the 18th and it's felt like 36? That's what my legs were telling me and I should think many others felt the same way after playing in the recent winter competition at Castle Combe Golf and Country Club. One or two contemplated using one of the fleet of available buggies but soon found the prospects of disapproval from the majority, that not wanting to seem the odd ones out any thoughts of an easy round were soon forgotten.

Anyway, whoever heard of a greeningkeeper using a buggy?

Joking apart, in an idyllic setting, with brilliant sunshine, the course was in excellent condition and a credit to course manager Guy Woods and his staff. Thanks are also due to general manager Paul Ware and Castle Combe for their hospitality, to Lords of Letchworth for their afternoon lecture and last but not by no means least to the caterer for some excellent home-made steak and kidney pies!

The event results are as follows: 1, Paul Godwin, Tracey Park; 2, Ian Hazel, Clevedon; 3, Marc Haring, Cumberwell Park, 4, Andrew Johnson, Saltford.

If you are keen, be seen at Westurf this year. April 27, Long Ashton Golf Club, 10am-5pm to be precise. Your presence is invaluable and there are even opportunities for a stint on car park gate duty! Interested? Give me a ring to secure an hour session.

As reported in the February edition of Greenkeeper International, a five-year plan to review and improve the Association's continued growth is to be formulated this year. The opportunity for any section member is there to voice his/her opinions and submit ideas. If you feel you have something to raise, either put it on paper and send it to me or give me a ring on 0272 793127.

Congratulations to Martin Townsend of Avoncrop Amenity Products and his wife Lesley on the recent birth or their son Roger Martin.

Finally, Chippenham Golf Club is the venue for the Hayter Challenge Regional Qualifier on April 21 – book early and I'll see you there.

KEVIN GREEN

BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

Only a few reminders to report this month. The Spring tournament and Hayter Qualifier is at Mill Ride GC on June 1. You should have received your fixture cards for 1994 by now, if not let me know.

If anyone has any ideas for this year's win-

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL April 1994 33
R.S. CLARK

SURREY

It was nice to see the winter lecture so well attended. The lecture, on Surrey heathland, was presented by Dr McGibbon and Ian McMillan – thanks to both of them for a most interesting and beneficial lecture.

Thanks also to Clive Osgood and Steve Shaw, head of greenkeeping at NESCOT, for organising the event.

The South East Region’s Annual Gentlemen’s Dinner at Walton Heath was also well attended. Thanks to Doug Smith and David Wood for all their hard work. Thanks also to all members of the trade for their involvement in the day’s proceedings and to Clive Osgood and everyone at Walton Heath GC.

The winners were: Gross – J Jackson, 39pts; Handicap 0-8 – 1, S Haynes, 38; 2, J Tixeire, 37; 3, L Bingham, 36; Handicap 9-16 – 1, D Wilson, 41; 2, S Antolk, 40; 3, B Walsh, 40; Handicap 17-24 – 1, J Millen, 33; 2, M Mewett, 27; 3, D Coomber, 27; Guests – 1, D Taylor, 41; 2, C Town, 41; 3, R Elderfield, 39; Longest drive 13th – G Barr, R Pride, T Dunstan; Nearest pins – S Haynes, R Glazier, R Watts; Putting – J Jackson, 32 putts.

Is anyone interested in a dinner-dance in the near future? If you are, please contact any of the committee members listed on the front of your fixture lists. An amended telephone number on this list – David Gibbs – 0737 832015.

A belated thank you to lan Kerry for supplying our section with a coach to the BTME.

Any member with any news, please contact Roger Glazier (081 394 1493) or me.

Two forthcoming events: June 1 – the Cresta Cup, Laleham GC; June 29 – South Turf, Motspur Park.

DAVID GIBBS

HAYTER QUALIFIER

The Scottish Region North Section held their Hayter Qualifier during the Autumn Outing at Kirriemuir last September. The reason for this is that the North members felt that qualifying at the Spring Outing in May is only a couple of weeks prior to the Scottish Final and some could not get the time off. The following members qualified:

Class 1 (Scr-9) – 1, George Paterson, Fortrose; 2, Alisdair McLaren, Abernethy; 3, Gary Tough, Montrose (BIH); 4, Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch (BIH).

Class 2 (10-18) – 1, Steve Simpson, Fraserburgh; 2, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen; 3, Kevin Fowler, Fortrose; 4, Stuart Robertson, North Insh, Perth.

Class 3 (19-28) – 1, Robert Allan, Hazelhead; 2, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose; 3, Tom Simpson, Murrayshall; 4, Colin Burgess, Forres.

These 12 will represent the North Section in the Scottish Finals in May at Duddingston Golf Club.