EAST ANGLIA
Reymeston Golf Club, Norfolk was the venue for the happy wanderers and a good day it was too. Non-stop sunshine on a lovely course prepared by Paul Gould and his team.

Reymeston is a new course which has been done properly (a rarity these days). A lot of money must have been spent and the course was allowed time before the happy hackers were allowed out. The result being a course that will still be there in years to come. Well done to all concerned. Meanwhile back at the ranch the day's golf went as follows: in the 0-20 section Alan Carter was first with 38 pts, and Roger Plummer second with 37 pts. There were, however, some unkind comments about the 21-28 section as Richard Mitchell (Eaton) was first with 33 pts and yours truly (Eaton) was second with 28 pts. They are now calling us Butch and Sundance and questioning our parentage. Guest prize was won by K Taylor (35 pts). Prizes were presented by Steve Hand 'el capitano', and donated by Messrs Collier’s, Sisis, Rushbrooks, Kings, Rigby Taylor and CMW. Thanks to all at Reymeston for a super day.

By the first tee (just digressing) I saw a really rare sight. So rare it could be compared with snow in the Sahara. It was a greenkeeper unwrapping a new ball! after severe interrogation Lyndon said he didn’t actually buy it, he won it in a raffle. I think he was showing off in front of his lady captain guest. Once a poser always a poser.

Talking of posers, did anyone see big Bobby Che-sham? Not only is he trying to find a brimmed hat that will protrude further than his bread basket (something like a sombrero might make it) but he has also bought himself a set of Pings. He is quick to point out, however, that they are secondhand, rather like saying I’ve got a ‘Roller’ but it’s an old one. Hydromain 25s must be going like hot cakes. Enough banter, Uncle Sam is looking for venues for next year’s golfing exploits. Is anyone kind enough to give a golf day to the few whose expertise (and hard work) gives enjoyment to so many?

MICK LATHROPE

CLEVELAND
The Cleveland Spring Tournament at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club produced the following winners and Hayter Challenge Trophy qualifiers: Cat one – A Partridge, T Mears, D Crocher; Cat two – A Reed, R Lawton, A Naisbit; Cat three – C Fiddell, C Powley, B Walker.

Winner of the Hi Speed Trophy was C Fiddell with 47 points. The Assistants Trophy was won by C Powley (39 points), the longest drive by T Mears and nearest the pin was Bob Lawton.

Thanks to the trade for prizes and helping on the day, especially Norman Sheddon of Atikens, Henry Blanchard of Vitax, Clive Higginbotham of ICI and Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc. Visitors included BIGGA’s new education officer Ken Richardson and membership officer Clare Douglas.

New section sponsors are Carburol Oil and Plant Harris.

New members include Raymond Mathers of Billingham Golf Club and Alex Russell of Bedale Golf Club.

Phillip Tones is now first assistant at Chester-le-Street. Harry Lees has left Billingham Golf Club after 21 years service.

BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH-WEST
Not a lot of news this month as we have not had

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any tournaments since the last section news, and September, at Fishwick Golf Club, so if you fancy a good day out give me a ring on 051 724 5412.

Wednesday was a great day according to our president, Bill Mountain. There was good weather, new clubhouse is excellent. The club's president lent course for our members. I must also thank greenkeeper mechanic at Foxhills Golf Club. Also, the first winter lecture by Bill Oliver of Hardi Sprayers is to be held at Kingswood Golf Club on November 9.

The great news from Duddingston, venue for the Jacobsen Trophy over 27 holes. After an excellent evening meal our raffle went well attended and interesting day, for many of us it is the first chance to see this much publicised Nick Faldo course. Details will no doubt be sent to you nearer the date.

On the Kent Committee front, we anticipate the arrival of Deregate’s Rob Lucas to our smaller band. Rob perhaps brings a unique dimension to the committee – as its only volunteer! February ’95 will see us stage a seminar/workshop for junior courses. Should anyone wish to arrange NLVQ courses in greenkeeping, your attendance at all seminars and work-related courses can be invaluable and a record of attendance can count as evidence of learning in particular topics. Although there is a one-off payment to cover costs, the club has approached Kent County Council towards greenkeeping qualifications, much of the course requirements are largely based on previously gained skill that can easily be assessed or proven by previous written evidence.

A golf day is also planned for November and the club hopes to introduce greenkeeping in the country beginning the latest training programme and to this end now has greenkeepers that are recognised as being competent to “assess” those in the NVQ levels 1-3. At present played in our college towards greenkeeping qualifications, much of the course requirements are largely based on previously gained skill that can easily be assessed or proven by previous written evidence.

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Around the Green

Marion Child and didn’t Huw Parry do a good job the venue for this year’s Hayter regional final. As always this event was superbly run by Gordon and Marion Child and didn’t Huw Parry do a good job the National final, but the section’s team couldn’t hold on to the sectional shield, which was won by the South West for the second time. During the days running up to this event I had the pleasure to meet the “Hayter support team” consisting of Robin and John, with Hayters back-up service as good as the team running it, it is no wonder Hayters have become leaders in our market.

On concluding this report I would like to inform you that two of our members, Peter Stringer and Tony Ramsden, have recently spent time in hospital. We wish both of you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you fully recovered at a meeting during the winter programme, also we would like to wish Steve Dommert of DGM a speedy recovery from his broken leg.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH COAST

We were all very sorry to hear of Royal Winchester’s clubhouse being destroyed by fire. The section has for many years enjoyed the hospitality of the club and the support and encouragement. Also from Royal Winchester I hear that Kevin Unsworth has left to take up a new position at the new Paul Ours Golf Centre.

Sparsholt College has established a bursary to assist students pursuing financial difficulties. This has become a problem at the college over the past few years of recession and some students would have to discontinue their studies without help. The committee have therefore felt it appropriate that the section make a donation of £200 towards the fund.

A section seminar is to be organised during March 1995 at Sparsholt College. All members should therefore look forward to this meeting, it is the committee’s intention to give them the opportunity to suggest possible subjects for the seminar. If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, please do so as this will enable us to tailor the seminar to the section needs. A working party has been established to organise the seminar and is due to meet during September.

Eric James, a familiar face in the section for many years, has retired. Eric was one of the founder members of the section in 1969 and has served on the committee ever since. He has been chairman and vice chairman as well as twice serving as national chairman. He assures me that he is still playing and enjoys the courses that he knows so well. I am sure that we all wish Eric a long and happy retirement.

It was sad to learn that Paul Drodge has decided to leave Highcliff Castle after 14 years due to problems with the club.

During June 1 was able to visit the Isle of Wight for a morning lecture programme and visit Sandown and Shanklin Golf Club during the afternoon. The tour of the course was led by Paul Knight, the head greenkeeper. Fiveways is a long standing member of BGGA having been involved in greenkeeping all his working life. He was involved in a serious road accident on his motor cycle a year ago and is making a good if slow recovery. The accident though has not dampened his enthusiasm for his course. The only let down of the day was the weather for after days of fine sunshine the rain came down and the wind blew while I was there. The committee is looking into the possibility of staging one of the section tournaments on the island during either 1995 or 1996.

ALAN MITCHELL

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Section chairman Jim Easton is on the move from Scotland to Surrey. Jim is leaving Stirling Golf Club to take up the appointment of head greenkeeper at Royal Blackheath Golf Club. (There is a strong rumour that he is moving, rather than to find a new joke to tell at this year’s annual dinner. Is this true, Jim?) Best wishes and every success for the future to Jim, Margaret and family from everyone in the section.

Everyone should have received the entry forms for the five-a-side football tournament which is taking place next week. If you intend entering a team, please return your forms as soon as possible.

If you would like to enter a team, but cannot get five players from your own club, then you may make up a team from other courses as long as everyone is a member of the Scottish Section. With patrons of the Scottish Region, teams may be made up of players from more than one company, as long as they are all patrons of the Region, this could create some interesting combinations.

Details of some future events: Tuesday November 2 – Lecture by British Seed Houses, time and venue to be confirmed; Tuesday November 29 - Section AGM at Abersour Golf Club and a talk on course presentation by Jimmy Kidd, director of turfgrass management at Glenegals, at Burntisland Golf Club, date and time to be confirmed. A full list of section events for the winter period will be circulated shortly.

Response to the questionnaire sent out earlier this year was dismal, to say the least, but at least some members took time to return them with the outcome as follows: Health and safety 12, first aid 14, education 11, chemicals 11, fertilisers/irrigation 10, grass seeds 7, course construction 16, machinery 12, course presentation 15, thanch and compaction 10, additional golf tournaments 8, man management 1, quiz night 1, chain saw training 1, machinery repairs maintenance 1.

Efforts will be made to organise as many of the above subjects as possible during the coming months.

JOHN CRAWFORD

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual Summer Tournament, held over Lothian GC, was very well attended which makes you wonder if it is worthwhile holding it at all. However, our grateful thanks go to head greenkeeper Stuart Melville and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, despite the recent very dry condition; to the captain and committee for the courtesies extended to them; and to the catering staff for the meals etc.

Chris Whittle, course manager at Muirfield, has decided on pastures new. Chris is leaving later this year to take over Royal Birkdale and the section wished him all the best. Another on the move is Robert Harrison, Peeling 1 who, after a short spell as a salesman; has returned to the greenkeeping profession as head greenkeeper at Interlachen GC. We all wish Robert the best and will hopefully see him again at our next section events which he has supported in the past.

A change has taken place to the qualifying for this year’s Hayter Finals. Qualifying will take place over two tournaments - the Autumn and the Winter with the best aggregate scores going for the section team shield, which was won by Paul Legg with a nett 68. With an overall section result such as this the section Shield was presented to the South West by last year’s holders Devon and Cornwall.

Thanks must go to the sponsors, Hayter, for their continued support, to Richard Whyman for the unwavering task of producing a first class event for scrutiny by so many fellow professionals and to Bude Golf Club for their hospitality. The below mentioned officials will play in the final. We wish all our section members well and hope for a good result.

The next big event on our calendar is the “Willie Woods”. This will be held on August 17 at Murrayfield GC. Entry forms will be out in plenty of time, and all forms are returned early as we are limited to 40 people.

Another change this year will be the AGM on November 23. Instead of the usual morning lecture there have been suggestions that this could be replaced by a social event. The AGM will be held in the afternoon. Further details will follow. It is hoped by the introduction of this more members will attend.

All winter lectures have now been organised and will hopefully be rubber stamped by the committee for next year’s AGM.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WEST

Excellent individual and team performances on two occasions throughout June has meant that South West greenkeepers have triumphed in two events recently.

The first success was in the Hayter regional final held at Bude Golf Club. A full strength team produced first places in each of the three categories, a second place in category 1 and a third place in category 3. Best score of the day was achieved by Paul Legg with a nett 68. With an overall section result such as this the section team shield was presented to the South West by last year’s holders Devon and Cornwall.

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WILLIE BLAIR
Club, Harrogate, was Chriss Thomas. Chriss, a 14 handicap golfer, works out of the Southerndown Golf Club. Mike Jones of the INCO Golf Club and David Gladwin of Carmarthen both qualified as reserves for their respective categories.

On Saturday June 25 Pencoed College hosted its annual open day, BIGGA was in attendance with stand space displaying merchandise such as the “Keeper of the Green” and “Setting the Standard” videos and magazines, and section committee members were present all day to answer questions regarding membership, training etc. The weather was warm and sunny and the attendance was exceptional, a most interesting and entertaining day, definitely a date to remember for next year’s diary. Thanks to Peter Gillard of Pencoed College for his help and to the principal, Mr JDB Thomas, for affording us the opportunity.

PETER LACEY

EAST MIDLANDS

Firstly a reminder to all entrants of the pairs and single K/O. Semi-final matches must be played by the 15th of this month.

Not a lot to report, only to say congratulations to Richard Barker for his sponsored golf day in which he returned £1,700 for the manager of the town’s library. All your entries for August are welcomed and to ensure a smooth running of the competition, entries should be returned to me one at a time (after each proceeding tournament) and before each closing date.

ANTONY BINDLEY

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Renfrew Golf Club June 21 1994

At 4am it was raining so heavily in the West of Scotland I had visions of a flooded Renfrew. However lady luck was with us and by 9am all was set to go. Fraser Ross and his merry men had the course in great condition and 110 stout men and true (sorry 109 men and a lady) set out in pursuit of glory and honours. Gary Lewis and his team of caterers produced excellent food all day long and the bar staff looked after all our other needs. The vice-captain, Bobby Ferguson, and green chairman David Love joined us on the course during the day and captain Jack Bill presented the prizes.

This is Renfrew's centenary year and Gordon Moir, Scottish Region chairman, in his speech thanked the captain and the council in allowing us the use of the club in such a busy year and presented him with a plaque from the Scottish Region.

And as for the results, everyone seemed to think the scoring should have been better in the conditions, may be too many underestimated Renfrew's trees, there are many of them and most of them in very strategic places. Definite winners during the day were those with their cameras ready when the club's resident fox, a vixen, strolled across the putting green amongst everyone at lunch time and stopped to have her lunch from the hands of chef Gary Lewis, now we know why they have a stone model of a fox in the middle of the putting green.

Our special thanks go to all the Scottish Region patrons who sponsor this event every year, we are most grateful. Our thanks also go to Kenny Hunter (Huxleys) who performed above and beyond the call of duty in selling all the raffle tickets and to Ian McKay (SIDIS) who donated the much coveted bottle of Laphroaig to the raffle.

Results: Scottish Champion – Stuart McClusdie, 74 scratch; Best Net – George Brown (Turnberry) 74-5-69; 1st Class – 1, Archie Dunn (Auchterarder) 76-6-70; 2, Alister Connell (Cawder) 77-6-71; 3, Sany Ballech (Haggis Castle) 74-3-71; 2nd Class – 1, Ian Wilson (Hamilton) 84-15-69; 2, Paul Rae (Brunston Castle) 90-17-73; Andrew McDowall (Torrance House) 89-16-73; 3rd Class – 1, Neil Henry (Langlands) 100-25-75; 2, Graham Hobbs (Torfin Hill) 95-20-75; 3, Hugh McLauchlan (Peterhead) 96-21-75; Best net greens – John Young (Dougalston) 87-17-70; Best assistant – James Sievertwright (Auchterarder) 78-5-73; Best apprentice – Kevin Fowler (Fortrose) 85-11-74; Veteran – Alex Wallace (Dollar) 81-11-70; Trade/guests – 1, Kenny Hunter (Huxleys) 85-14-71; 2, Pat Allen (Stewarts) 77-5-72; Team prize – West Section.

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