

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## CENTRAL SECTION

The final social event of 1993 was held on December 10, at Alloa Golf Club, when some 70 members and guests enjoyed a great night at the annual dinner/trophy presentation. Guest speaker Tim 'Tiny' Wharton was in fine form, proving that football referees are human and that they do have a sense of humour.

The dinner was followed by a disco, which was enjoyed by everyone into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Our sincere thanks go to the committee, members and staff of Alloa Golf Club, for granting us the use of their facilities. Here's looking forward to this year's dinner and another great night's entertainment. Section Chairman, Jim Easton, has even promised to learn some new jokes, so this will be an event not to be missed.

For those of you who wish to gain points towards your Master Greenkeeper Certificate, remember that they can be gained by attending section educational events, so make it a dual gain by giving your committee some support for their efforts in organising lectures etc., and gain yourself those vital points.

A list of some of the section events should be in your possession by now, but just in case you have not received it yet, here is note of the earliest ones: Tuesday February 8, visit to Scottish Grass Machinery premises in Edinburgh; Tuesday March 25, revisit the Monarch's Course at Gleneagles and Tuesday April 26, Spring Tournament/Hayter Challenge qualifying event. Where entry forms are required please ensure that they are returned in plenty of time prior to the event.



To end this month's report on a disappointing note, 85 members have failed to return their allocation of prize draw tickets, valued at some £650, which is quite a loss to section funds.

JOHN CRAWFORD

## SOUTH WALES

On Wednesday December 15, the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club played host to our Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting. The whole day was well attended, but some 36 hardy golfers endured the freezing cold and gale force winds to "do battle" for the Vitax Shield.

The course was in as excellent condition as ever, with the weather making for an even harsher test of golf over the normally demanding links.

Results: Overall winner Gareth Beck (Trade) 35 points, winner of the Vitax Shield Chris Thomas (34 points), 3rd our old favourite Ted Thompson 33 points, 4th Tony King 32 points, 5th Malcolm Davies 31 points.

Our thanks to Paul Robinson and his merry team (They were by 9pm)! for the condition of the course, it brought much praise and rightly so!

The AGM was held in the clubhouse at 3pm, after everyone had thawed out, with some 47 members in attendance, which was good to see. Vice Chairman Idwell Morris chaired the hour-long meeting and fine job he did, standing in for the Chairman Tony King.

The four course Christmas dinner that followed was an absolute feast, this was a unanimous decision passed by the 51 present who indulged themselves – and why not!

So to the finale, an hour-long, non-stop, laugh-a-minute, by the ever-funny, Bryn Philips. Bryn

## EVENTS DIARY

**March 5-8: Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta**

**March 8: Scottish Region Annual Conference, Elmwood College, Cupar**

**April 27: Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club**

**June 29: Southurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park**

**September 6-8: Saltex (previously IoG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.**

returning from last year by popular demand and who again kept us thoroughly entertained for a full 60 minutes.

Our thanks to Don Booth, Chairman of the green at Pyle & Kenfig who represented the club and presented the prizes, the Captain who in his absence, fueled the top table with wine, the caterers and everybody associated with the golf club. Thanks also to all those individuals and trade members who furnished the prize table, many were there: Alan Stowe, Colin Murphy, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Liquid Turf, Sisis, Peter Hampton, Birds, Avoncrop, Hayters, Ted Hopkins and Pro Turf. There were so many I apologise if your name's not mentioned.

To finish on a sombre note it is with great sadness that I must inform you of a sudden, untimely death of Mrs Pam Murphy, wife of Colin Murphy, who passed away on Sunday, December 19.

Both at the church service in Pentwrch and at Thornhill Crematorium, Cardiff, many friends and family gathered to pay their last respects. Pam's



kindness and popularity was plain for all to see, by the sheer numbers that were in attendance. Our sincere condolences go out to Colin and his family at this sad time.

PETER LACEY

## SOUTH COAST

At last the winter is well along but there are still treats in store in the form of our remaining two winter lectures at Alresford Golf Club. On February 2 we have Ken Barber for the East Sussex National Golf Club telling us about the maintenance of his courses. Then if that isn't enough to make us all green with envy over large budgets, David Whitaker MG is coming on March 2 to talk about the maintenance of the Wisley complex. Both meetings are at 7pm, don't miss them.

On December 7 a most enjoyable day was held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club. The weather was much better for the golf than last year when the game had to be abandoned due to rain. At the AGM three committee members, Ian Greenfield, Ian Rickman and Joe Burdett did not seek re-election and we would like to thank them for the work that they have put into the section. A special mention must be made to Joe Burdett who has been untiring as the tournament organiser. Also Bob Dennis stood down as the Hon Secretary after nine splendid years. However, new faces appeared in the committee with Jeff Drake of the "Hampshire" Golf Club and Bob Cully of Lee on Solent being elected. Bob has come on as the new tournament organiser. Good luck Bob!

So on into spring with our spring tournament at the Test Valley Golf Club (polish up your sand wedges) on April 21. "Where is Test Valley"? you

all cry. It is near Basingstoke on the road between Micheldever and Overton.

See you all at Alresford!

ALAN MITCHELL

## EAST ANGLIA

Our travelling band met at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club for the traditional Turkey Trot/AGM. We managed to pick a good day for the Trot and as everyone got a prize, even me, a good day was had by all. I'll mention the top four as it was Christmas: 1st Peter Howard 41 points, Andrew Arbon, James Morton, Roger Plummer – 39 points each. Our thanks to CMW for the Turkey and Sisis, Rigby Taylor, Kings, Hayter, Collier, Rushbrooks and Stabrite for the raffle prizes.

The AGM was quite lively. It was election time and few changes are in the pipeline. Sam and Mike who both do a great job, have given notice that they won't be doing so much in the future – winding down is the term.

Office holders for 1994 are as follows: President, Ernie Hart, Vice-President, Bob Cheswane, Chairman/Treasurer for new Sam Sylvester, Vice Treasurer Mike Peters, Secretary, Dave Wells. Regional Board: Dave Wells, Sam Sylvester, Mike Peters, Handicap Secretary, Alan Carter. Scribe, Mick Lathrope.

Steve Freestone is no longer Assistant Handicap Secretary as he's just popped over to Australia to get married. He said we could all go and he'll buy the first round. All we've got to do is get there. Good on ya clobber or did I say cobblers? He should be back soon.

It was also Toddy's birthday. Congratulations to him and at the other extreme one of the Bury team, Andrew Cooke became a father. Both wife Emma and daughter Marnie are doing fine. We've also got some new members, Messrs Curtis, Hickford and Morgan.

Dates for 1994: Rochford, April 19, Raymeston, June 14, Thetford, August 10, Gog's, October 4. Thanks again Bury for a super day.

MICK LATHROPE

## DEVON AND CORNWALL

Seventy-six members and trade members attending our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 8.

Despite the rain and gales over 40 members competed in the morning 18 hole golf competition for the P J Flegg trophy. With all the rain gripping the golf club got very difficult with Wyndham and yours truly having to climb trees to retrieve our clubs, with all the banter we received from our partners, made our day even more enjoyable.

Our congratulations to Richard Wisdom and his staff who had the course in excellent playing conditions despite the weather.

After an excellent Christmas dinner, Patrick Flegg of P J Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's Greensome competition to:

1st, T Ramsden (Budock Vean) & A James (Tehidy), 41 points; 2nd, G Tamblin & D Manley (Mullion), 38 points; 3rd A Woolnough (Teignmouth) & W Potter (East Devon), 37 points.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by the superb comedian Graham Gadd, who kept us laughing to our raffles which concluded the day. The first raffle being for two hampers, kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha and won by Mike Pike and Wyndham Potter. The sec-



ond raffle was for prizes kindly donated by members and the trade.

Our thanks to Patrick for donating and presenting the day's golf prizes, also thanks to our President, John Palfrey for supplying the wine with lunch.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton Golf Club for allowing us use of their facilities once again.

Our section seminar was held once again at the superb venue of Fingle Glen on Wednesday January 12, which attracted some 75 members and trade.

With the weather conditions still only being fit for ducks, only the more hardy members took to their flippers to play water golf for the morning's 9 hole Devon v Cornwall match.

As usual the trade supported the section by taking up eight trade stands in the reception area which proved very successful because of the awful weather outside.

Our thanks to Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Fisons, P J Flegg, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Vitax and Willcocks for taking trade stands.

After an excellent lunch Richard Minton of ICI presented the golf prizes to: S Milne (Exeter) 22pts, T Gooch (Torrington) 20pts, E Barber (Teign Valley) 19pts.

With all the recent floods, the River Tamer was running high which prevented most of our Cornish members being able to bring their golf clubs across the border! When yours truly (a Cornish member) decided to cancel our annual Devon v Cornwall match, there was no truth in the rumour that the Cornish had forgotten their clubs due to three defeats in three outings!

Our afternoon seminar was held in the ICI sponsored conference room, with members being treated to two excellent papers being presented by Peter Winter of the STRI on "fertilisers and what the analysis means" and Richard Newman of Canington College on "Preparing your COSHH assessment".

Question time finished the afternoon programme

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which was of great educational value to all who attended. Our thanks to Peter Winter and Richard Newman for presenting excellent papers and to Bill Pile, Course Manager and all the Fingle Glen staff who made our day so successful.

Our gratitude to Mr E Pugh and his management team for once again allowing our section use of their facilities, also to Richard Minton of ICI and to the trade companies who had sponsored the day.

On behalf of all the section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip.

Members please note: Our next meeting will be held at Padbrook Park Golf Club on Wednesday March 23, this will also be our Hayter qualifier, please make sure your entries are returned to me with correct monies by the closing date.

Your help is needed to promote this year's WEST-URF trade show to be held on Wednesday April 27 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol. Many of you will know groundsmen and committee members of your local sports club, so why not invite them to the show, anyone in the turf care industry will be most welcome.

We also need your support at WESTURF so I look forward to meeting you all on our stand.

RICHARD WHYMAN

### CLEVELAND

David Cook now has City & Guilds Phase 2 and is

now on Phase 3. Shaun Carnell has passed Phase 3 and is studying Phase 4. Nicky Dawson attended BIGGA management course Year 2.

Eaglescliffe Golf Club staff are thinning out trees in copses to aid cutting equipment, keep grass under control. The object is to keep major hardwoods ie. oak, ash beech with some Scots pine. After 10 years progress is satisfactory.

Spraying greens with soluble iron during winter months is beneficial. The grass leaves as strengthened against disease attack and greener colour is welcome. Frost seems to stop disease activity.

Stimpeters would be more accurate if the 20°, was built in with a support at one end of to 20°, otherwise one is not consistent. Everyone can have a different reading.

Tony Mears, finalist in ICI/Premier Greenkeeper of the Year deserves our congratulations for doing so well. He is also a qualifier for Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

A quiz - Cleveland versus IoG Teeside sponsored by Turf Care Products (ie. Terry Charlton and Barry Clemwell) - was a great success and entertaining winners were IoG by a short head.

Gary Munro is confirmed as new secretary, Keith Lough is treasurer, Ian Holoran, regional rep.

Outings pending, the Gem Professional new compost depot South Yorks, also to Jacobsen HQ at Kettering.

Spring golf to be at Dinsdale on May 12.

Ian Harrison says he is holding his own against Take All Patch disease on his greens. He used a holcutter to remove diseased areas and brought in plugs of bents for surrounds. Alkaline soils encourage this disease. Nitrin Doyer installed, hope to hear more in 1 year.

Divotting of tees commences this month and aeration and top dressing of greens. April here is always a month of discontent. Players watch Augusta on TV and expect similar conditions. We have low soil temperature in April. I believe all we can do is very light verti cutting to remove coarse grass, ie. Yorkshire Fog. Short cutting is disastrous

# STRENGTHEN



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when too early. We need to be patient, good tryers and hard skinned. Good results arrive in May. Alternative is return the greens and golfers object to work on greens but keep complaining. Club houses are like palaces and if £10,000 per green was spent, golfers would then have nothing to blame! or would they? When we are closed we should be open and visa versa. If in doubt keep the course closed.



This is a business and should be run so. Decisions regarding closure of open of the course should be by one man and respected by all.  
BRUCE BURNELL

#### NORTH WALES

It's many years since I last wrote the Section notes and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt to rediscover the skills of successful scribe!

On December 6 the Christmas competition was held at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club. Many thanks to all at Llangollen and to the committee for providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners were: 1st - Aled Hughes (Portmadog) 33pts Brucra Trophy (back nine), 2nd Pat Valentine (Abergele) 33pts, Lee Hinks-Edwards (Wawarden) 33pts. Guest prize: H E Williams (Pwllheli) 40 pts.

A special word of thanks to Terry Adamson who somehow managed to ensure that everyone present went home with at least one bottle. The work that this man does on behalf of the section should never be underestimated and he epitomises all that is good about committee work.

Following the golf the AGM was held and the committee re-elected en bloc. Officers for the next year are as follows: Chairman - Brian Anderson (Abergele), Treasurer - David Proctor (Barron Hill), Golf Admin - Terry Adamson, Administrator - Andy Campbell (Carden Park).

Congratulations to Len Sproston on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at the new Eaton Golf Club. It's good to see you back Len and wish you every success.

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Members will be circulated shortly with details of functions and events, but in the meantime, if you have any ideas or comments to make I can be contacted on 0829 250556 or 0836 785751.

I look forward to serving you and would only ask for your support both in recruiting new members and attending the functions already planned.

It only remains to wish you all the best for the New Year and here's to a slightly drier one.

ANDY CAMPBELL

#### AYRSHIRE

In this first report of 1994 from Ayrshire I wish all our section members a happy, prosperous New Year, and hope to find the celebrations have loosened a few tongues and writing arms to send a few bits and pieces for the monthly report. It is meant to be your column, with your local news, so let's hear a little more from you in future.

Congratulations go to Ian McNab, Head Greenkeeper at Dumfries and Galloway Golf Club and Section Vice Chairman, on winning this year's award for services to the section, the prize being a trip to the Harrogate Conference. This is a new award which will be given annually, so let's see some fierce competition in '94.

Looking back over '93, one trend that many in our profession are becoming more and more disturbed about is that of these advisory bodies springing up all over the country, many giving greatly conflicting advice, particularly the construction specifications, this year which will most certainly

result in serious long term problems. It is time BIGGA got involved in this area! I am also concerned about the fact certain golf course architects are running our profession down by advising their clients that greenkeepers are overpaid.

In Ayrshire we are looking forward to the Open at Turnberry this year which I am sure will be one of the courses in excellent order. We hope to meet you all in the tent as usual.

Please phone me with anything for next month on 0292 70929.

DUNCAN GRAY

#### SURREY

In the absence of Roger Tydeman who stood down from the Committee at the AGM I am writing this month's article.

May I take this opportunity of thanking Roger and other members of the committee who also stood down at the last AGM; Robert Brewer for his work as Treasurer and Terry Huntley who has been Chairman for the past two years and was on the committee prior to that.

Our Turkey Trot and AGM were held at Ashford Manor Golf Club. Both were well attended.

I would like to thank the Captain, Committee and Secretary of Ashford Manor for allowing us to use the facilities. Many thanks also to Terry and his staff, for the fine conditions of the course. A good time was had by all.

All Surrey members will shortly receive a list of this year's golfing fixtures and other events. I hope these will be well attended and hopefully we will see a few new faces.

Our next winter lecture is at NESCOL college on March 2 at 7.30pm. Hope to see you there.

DAVID ANDREWS

#### EAST MIDLANDS

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new secretary for our Section, and to say thanks to our retiring secretary, Tony Howorth for all the hard work he did whilst in office.

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Our Section AGM was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicestershire on 18 November with the winner in our bogey competition being P Forshaw 5 up, then on to the serious business of the AGM with the following members duly elected: Chairman: S Goode, Vice-Chairman: T Allard, Secretary: A Bindley. Committee Members are: G Arnold, P McCarron, R Barker, A Porter, D Leatherland and G Robson. Regional Representatives: R Barker and A Bindley.

Thanks to Glen Gorse Golf Club for their kindness and hospitality.

Then on to Longcliffe Golf Club for our Christmas tournament which was held on 17 December (sorry I was unable to attend). The eventual winners being P Tatlow in the 0-9 and B Gostinski in the 10-18 stableford competition. Thank you again to all at Longcliffe Golf Club.

A thank you should also go to all of the trade for their kind support throughout the year.

It is with regret that I report the death of Len Wood, a popular Section member who had worked at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club in Leicestershire for 22 years. Our condolences go to all his family.

On a brighter note, we welcome the following new members to our Section: Richard Johnson and Michael Fitzgerald, both from Rugby GC; Christopher Clarke, Sion Poyser, Matthew Seaborn and Frank Allsop, all from Branston Golf and Country Club; Hector Muir from Mickleover GC; Neil Swift, from Rushcliffe Borough Council; Maria Lawrence, a student at Moulton College; Kevin McAdams from Purley Chase GC; David Bevan, Collingtree Park GC; Jason Barrington, Park Hill GC; Peter Higton, Westwood GC and Danny Brown, from Lingdale GC. It is hoped the new members will introduce themselves at Section events, where they will be made most welcome.

On March 16 we will be holding our first winter lecture at Lingdale GC. It is hoped that as many members as possible will come along. Speakers will include Mark Hunt and Valerie Holt.

Finally if anybody has any information for me they can reach me on 0533 890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

## KENT

A belated 'Happy New Year' to all our members and many apologies from yours truly for not getting around to entering our news for a short while, but to say things have been a bit hectic on the work and home front would be an understatement. I trust that by the time you read this your course has at least the high spots and mounds rising as islands from the sea. I dare say that if the waters subside to expose just one green your members will be clamouring to play. Yes rain, rain and a bit more rain. I suppose I can still smile as at this time I have no members and being on gravel the course has been open for play - proper greens and all.

Well back in the far off days of early December 1993, 50 or so members took the opportunity to make a follow-up visit to the London Golf Club to view the progress made during the growing in period when we last visited in March. The results were very impressive and we thank the staff at the LGC for their time and hospitality during our visit, especially Joe Paulin, the Course Manager and his assistant, Steve Marsden. Steve, if you ever need a reference to join the London Transport as a bus

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driver, just give us a call. Finally thanks to Liquid Sod for laying on the lunchtime spread, it was most welcome and enjoyable.

December 16 saw our AGM and Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley Golf Course. The course was in fine fettle and we were blessed with bright, although cold blustery conditions. I must admit that this is my favourite competition of the year, as it is the only one at which I ever win a prize, but first pick of the prize table went to that bandit from Haynes, Chris Dale with 38 points (more points than he ever scored runs)! The chasing pack, hot on his heels, with more realistic tallies in the 30 point bracket, were David Wood, John Millen, Peter Biscoe, Gary Ogilvie and Paul Copsey. The catering staff did us proud once more by serving us a superb Christmas dinner. I hope that Nigel Stapley will pass on our thanks to them once more and to his Greens Staff for their sterling efforts on what is a very busy course in what has become one of the wettest winters for years. I suppose we could give Nigel some credit as well. The only disappointing part of the day not only for the golf, but also the AGM that followed was the poor turnout, bearing in mind that we have some 170 members. Two reasons immediately spring to mind, one, that they are all wimps and not man enough to run in near freezing conditions from the Portakabin housing the showers to the one containing the changing room with no more on than a smile, or two, that they are so pleased and happy with the way our Section and Association are run they feel no need to voice their opinion on any subject whatsoever. Apologies for absence were gratefully received for the meeting by Tenterden's Jim Cameron. We wonder what happened to the other 130 or so.

Anyway, the long and the short of it, for those of you interested, is that two new members have been press-ganged onto the Kent Committee, namely Peter Biscoe and Chris Sharp, with Andy Arther having his arm twisted to make a return. A brief run down of the past and forthcoming year's activities was given by our Secretary, David Wood, with much attention paid to the hosting of the Southturf show to be held at Motspur Park on June 29. With the organising of this event and his other Regional Administration activities eating into his time, I understand that David is keen to off-load his Section Secretary load onto a willing volunteer. It will probably take at least a year to find one!

John Millen gave a brief insight on developments within the Association at National level and in the educational field. Our warmest good wishes go to him when he takes on the prestigious honour and mantle of BIGGA Chairman. The meeting wound down in its usual speedy manner, the lure of the bar the extraordinary possibility of one of our Scottish comrades buying a drink being too great.

Finally congratulations to Willie McConville as he succeeds Derek Gould as Head Greenkeeper at Langley in Norfolk and we wish him and his wife all the best for the future. Also congratulations due to Gary Mills as after five years as First Assistant he succeeds John Atkins as Head man at Chestfield. Sadly John has had to finally retire from the post through ill health after 26 years with the club. I am informed that John's condition is slightly better at

present and we wish him all the best. The Atkins' tradition lives on at Chestfield, however, as John's son has joined the staff. As far as the course is concerned I understand that there is still no news on the Thanet Way ploughing its way through the course. With typical planning, they have built each end of the road, but still cannot decide on where the middle bit should go.

PAUL COPSEY

## LONDON

It is with regret that I inform members of the recent death of Hugh MacGillivray. He will be remembered for his efforts over the years and our condolences are passed on to his family.

The winter seminar was held at Oaklands College in December and 132 delegates attended. The day proved to be a great success and I would like to thank all the speakers for presenting excellent papers. Various subjects were covered and the response from the delegates afterwards was encouraging. I would like to congratulate Donal Penn-Howard for winning the day trip to the BTME and I hope you enjoyed your visit. I would also like to thank Oaklands College for all the support and especially Ian Merrick for his help in the organisation. The trade as always supported us and we thank G Browns, CMW, Gem, Parker Hart, Rpk, Rigby Taylor and Turf Management Systems for digging deep and helping the day run so well.

The first chainsaw course was held in December and Oaklands College was the venue. Over two consecutive Saturdays, four local lads trained for chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting modules and it proved to be extremely beneficial. Finally, I would like to thank Rpk Supplies for the recent presentation by Dr Neil Baldwin on Service Chemical



Products and for providing the go-kart entertainment that followed. Everybody that attended enjoyed the day, well done.

Please remember to call me with any news or ideas on 081 959 5629.

TONY DUNSTAN

## MID-ANGLIA

Our last golf fixture of the year took place on December 3 at Ashridge Golf Club. The format was the same as a Texas Scramble, but the venue was changed after seven consecutive years at South Beds Golf Club. The weather was kind to us, so we could enjoy to the full the superb setting at Ashridge.

Jim Cassidy and his team must be congratulated on the condition of the course and our thanks go to Ashridge for their courtesy and hospitality. A great day was had by all. The results were as follows; (the winners received £20 vouchers each, 2nd £15 and 3rd £10):

1st, B Wright, J Wright, T Lucas, M Bird; 2nd, R Saunders, J Burton, N Stewart, C Hardwick; 3rd, C Brook, J Wells, R Archer, G Snell.

Our thanks once again to our main sponsors of the day Kingston House Mowers, and to all the other trade members who donated prizes and supported the occasion.

John Glyn-Davies of Kingston House Mowers presented the 'Kingston House Cup' to Jon Moorhouse of Bocket Hall Golf Club. The cup was donated last year, to be awarded to the player with the best result over the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments, combined. Congratulations Jon!

Finally, Neil Thomas, the Executive Director of BIGGA visits our Section on March 8 at the Family Golf Centre, Graveley, Stevenage. This begins at 2pm, so let's have a good turn out for Neil, as I'm sure you all have questions about BIGGA and where it is going in the future.

PAUL LOCKETT

## NORTH SCOTLAND

The first new members to welcome to the Section for 1994 are Alexander James Reid from Pitlochry - a full time student at Elmwood College, the first of



## SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

on March 8th, 1994 at Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife, 9am to 4pm

Speakers: Carol Borthwick, Elmwood; Steve Isaac, STRI; Eddie Sheret, Lothians Golf Association; Kevin Stables, Professional, Montrose; Douglas Dalgleish, Scottish Golf Union; Ian McMillan, Balbirnie Park GC; Douglas Shearer, Consultant Agronomist; Keith McKee, Fisons. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £14 BIGGA members, £16.00 non-members.

The conference is sponsored by the Scottish Region patrons.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 731445

many I feel judging by their enthusiasm at Ingliston last November. Also we welcome Fraserburgh Apprentice Mark Maclean and Grantown's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Alexander Fowler. I hope to see them at Section events this year.

Anyone venturing onto the Links at Dornoch or Nairn this year had better be hitting the ball true and straight. Major bunker revetting has taken place over the winter at both courses. I have witnessed some of the finished articles at Royal Dornoch and superb they look, especially as you walk past to your ball safely on the green! I may be biased but there is no finer sight than a revetted bunker. The revetting programme at Nairn is in its second year, part of the preparation for this year's British Amateur Championship to be held there in June. We wish Ian Carson and his staff all the best for the tournament on a course which I'm sure will both test and bring pleasure to all who enter.

I recently went to visit Alick Mackay again at the Carnegie Course, Skibo Estate. The course is settling in well and should be opening this summer. It looks likely that the 1995 Scottish Greenkeepers Championships will be held at Skibo so everyone will get the opportunity to play there next year.

It is February now and members will be thinking of spring and the opening of the golf seasons. It has certainly been the worst winter up here I can remember. As I write this we have not seen the grass here for a fortnight and the snow is showing no signs of thawing. Let us just hope for a good early spring and some warmth to get the grass growing.



IAIN MACLEOD

#### NORTH WEST

Not a lot to report this month but I would like to welcome any new members to the North-West Section and remind all members that membership fees should now be paid for 1994. If your fees are paid by your golf club you must pass your invoice into your Secretary, as the golf club is not invoiced. On 8 March 1994 the North-West Section is holding a seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club, and with the list of speakers we have available, we are in for a good day. The programme for the day is: 9am: Registration and Coffee; 10am: The Reconstruction of the Greens at Royal Birkdale, by Martin Hawtree, Course Architect, John Greasley, Course Construction; 11.20am: Construction of Water Features, by Mike Sheehan, Course Manager, Mere Golf and Country Club; 12noon: Lunch; 2pm: The Belfry Five Year Plan, by Derek Ganning, Course Manager, The Belfry; 2.40pm: Through the Green Management, by Bob Taylor, Sports Turf Research Institute; 3.20pm: Greenkeeper Training, by David Golding, Education Director, Greenkeepers Training Committee; 4pm: Question Panel; 4.30pm: Close.

Cost for the day is £20 and due to a limited number of places being available, you are advised to apply early. All applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3HU, telephone 051 724 5412. I am at the moment in the process of completing the golfing calendar for 1994 and this, when completed, will be in the March section news.



Please remember the Section needs your support for the seminar and any other organised events.

BERT CROSS

#### SHEFFIELD

On December 1 our Christmas golf competition was held at Wortley Golf Club. A fine day was had by all and the weather wasn't so cruel. 1st place went to P Lyons, W Bagshaw was second and M Lake third.

Our thanks go first to B Heaney, our Competition Secretary for organising the day and with his staff preparing the course. Also our thanks go to Wortley Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course. Our thanks go to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor who was our main sponsor. Other contributions were made by Peter Dell of Aitkens, Steve Burroughs of

## Around the Green



Sports Turf Services and John Price of Yorkshire Mowers. Sorry if I missed anyone out, but without you all our prize table would be very small. Thank you all again. Finally a big thank you goes to the steward and his staff for feeding us all so splendidly with our Christmas meal.

The following day we had our December winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding our lecturer didn't arrive but has now been re-scheduled for April 1994. Without a lecture we went straight into our AGM where the Committee was elected:

President: Mr Arnold; Chairman: Neil Maltby; Vice-Chairman: David Milbourne; Secretary: Ron Ullerthorne; Competition Secretary: Barry Heaney. Other members of the Committee are: Ian Collett, Derek Neve, Ron Graham, Steve Hird and John Lax.

Dates forthcoming in your diary are Thursday March 3 when Purdys of Retford will be organising a demonstration of Jacobsen equipment at Rotherham Golf Club. Then on Thursday, April 7 our lecture will be given by Paul Wakefield of Supreme



Mowing on cylinder and bottom blade maintenance. This meeting will begin at 1pm with soup and sandwiches courtesy of Supreme Mowing, followed by the lecture at around 2pm.

IAN COLLETT

#### SOUTH WEST

A new greenkeeping year begins and with it a change of Secretary for the South West. After ten years as Section Secretary, Paul Worster stood down at last year's AGM and handed the responsibility to myself. It would be foolish of me to let this opportunity pass without thanking him on behalf of everybody connected with the South West for his immense efforts over his time as Secretary. A lot of the success of the Section (now nearly 230) can be attributed to Paul's organisation and drive when it comes to organising section events and education courses. It will be a very hard act to follow, particularly regarding the very original and amusing monthly reports but despite less responsibility now, we look forward to his continued presence and valuable advice to myself at forthcoming fixtures.

Talking of fixtures if it hasn't already reached you a full list of fixtures courtesy of T H Whites should be arriving through your letter box in the near future with many events listed for the coming season. The Section's success depends on your support so please try and attend as many as possible.

Wednesday, November 10 saw a visit to Ransomes factory at Ipswich. Many thanks go to Pat Smith and T H Whites, Tetbury for their sponsorship and hospitality on the day and to Ransomes themselves who gave us a very informative day on the production of their machinery, ranging from the original planning to a tour of the factory floor and inside as to how the machinery is constructed.

It was a very windy and latterly very wet Weston Super Mare Golf Club that we gathered for 1993's Christmas tournament, sponsored once again by

Roffey Brothers. A good attendance saw first place in at Extended Foursomes Stableford competition go to Peter Connett (Lyne Regis Golf Club) and Derek Eves – a prize winner again! (Painswick Golf Club) with 41 points. Second place to David Neale (Henbury Golf Club) and Peter Baynton (Long Ashton Golf Club) with 38 points. Third place to Ron Barrett (Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club) and Steve Gallier with 35 points. Myself and Peter Hampton were fourth with 34 points. As previously mentioned Roffeys were this year's sponsors providing trophies, the main prizes and wine for the meal. Their participation is much appreciated along with other trade members who donated prizes. Many appreciative comments were made about the excellent quality of the course and thanks are extended to Kevin Wroe and his staff in its preparation and also to the catering staff.

Last but by no means least congratulations to Neil Turner from Yeovil Golf Club and his wife on the birth of their son Larry – many disturbed nights' sleep await, I am sure!

On a final note, if you have any queries you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me on 0272 793127.

KEVIN GREEN

#### EAST SCOTLAND

On January 9 I had the honour of returning to Dunbar Golf Club, the scene of the 1993 National Tournament. This invitation, from the Captain of the club, was extended to John Crawford, chairman of BIGGA, Ailsa, and myself, to attend their annual presentation of prizes and social evening.

After meeting with Graham Wood, the Head Greenkeeper, and his charming wife Helen, we took our places at the top table. Our Chairman made a presentation to Dunbar on behalf of BIGGA to commemorate their staging of the National Tournament.

Next stop was BTME where I and many others spent a great week. I was one of the lucky ones who took in the Health & Safety workshops and COSHH regulations – Jon Allbutt certainly made me sit up and think. The show itself was its usual well-organised event and yes, we have a great deal to thank Neil Thomas and his staff for. The speakers were simply excellent and this is a show which I for one would never miss.

Not a great deal going on from the Section's point of view, although this will change shortly. Our annual spring tournament and Hayter qualifying will take place on April 12 over Gullane number 2. Notices will be out in plenty of time for this event so don't miss out – make sure your subs are paid and we'll keep you up to date.

As I have said in past reports – let's make a big effort this year to attract new members. There are many clubs in the East who have staff who are not members – let them know what they're missing. If they wish me to come along and explain this to them, just give me a call.

My number is 031 443 3214 and I'll be delighted to give the reasons why all greenkeepers should become members.

WILLIE BLAIR



# SOUTH TURF

Not only will companies be able to exhibit from **only £75** at Motspur Park on 29th June 1994 ... but visitors will be able to enjoy the benefits of an education pavilion including a "turf clinic" where recognised agronomists will be on hand to discuss problems and examine samples. **Call or fax David Wood on 0342 850875 for more details.**