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 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.

Chairman Tony King chaired the hour-long meeting and fine job he did, standing in for the Chairman Idwell Morris, which was good to see. Vice Chairman Idwell Morris chaired the hour-long meeting. 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 some 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 Glenegles 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 disappoiting 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.

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 the Vitax Shield — and why not!

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 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, namely: Agent: Alan Stowe, Colin Murphy, Rigby Taylor, Tact, 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.

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.

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 also go to Joe Burdett who has been untried 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 Cleave 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

EVENTS DIARY

March 5–6: Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta
March 6: Scottish Region Annual Conference, Elmwood College, Gpur
April 27: Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club
June 29: Southsurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park
September 6–8: Saltex (previously log) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

WEST 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 prizе, 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, 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 will not return next year. It is a difficult decision — wind-down is the term.

Office holders for 1994 are as follows: President, Ernie Hart, Vice-President, Bob Cheswaine, 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 Latham.

Dave Freeman 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 cobber or did I say cobblers? He should be back soon.

It was also Toddys'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 course 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 led 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 (Teignhead), 41 points; 2nd, G Tamlyn & D Manley (Mullion), 38 points; 3rd A Woolnough (Teignmouth) & W Potter (East Devon), 37 points.

All our golf presentations were entertained by the superb comedian Graham Colman, who kept us laughing to our raffles which concluded the day. The first raffle being for two hammers, kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewrathwa and won by Mike Pike and Wyndham Potter.

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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 presided over a presentation by Richard Newman of 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 Culti- nington College on “Preparing your COSHH assessment”.

Question time finished the afternoon programme 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 the trade companies who had sponsored the day.

On behalf of all of 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 WESTURF 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 copies 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 holecutter to remove diseased areas and brought in plugs of bent for surrounds. Alkaline soils encourage this disease. Nitrin Doyer installed, hope to hear more in 1 year.

Divoting 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.
when too early. We need to be patient, good tryers and hard skinned. Good results arrive in May. Alternative is returf the greens and golfers object to providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners thanks to all at Llangollen and to the committee for and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt It's many years since I last wrote the Section notes - Andy Campbell (Carden Park).

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 and 2nd Pat Valentine (Abergele) 33pts, Lee Hinks-Edwards (Wawarden) 33pts. 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 some fierce competition in '94.

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 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 Tornberry 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 NESCOT 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.

**Around the Green**

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

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**AD REF 80**
Our Section AGM was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicester 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.

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Thank you to Glen Gorse Golf Club for their kind- ness and hospitality.

Then on to Longcliffe Golf Club for our Christ- mas tournament which was won by T 17 under (sorry I was unable to attend). The eventual win- ners being P Tlato in the 0-9 and G Bostinski in the 10-18 stableford competition. Thank you again to all at Longcliffe Golf Club.

A brief reminder to go to all of their kind support throughout the year.

With that regret I report the death of Len Wood, a popular Section member who had worked at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club in Leicester 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, Sian Poyner, Matthew Seabron and Frank Allison, all from Brandon Golf and Crazy 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; Jacob Barrington, Friars Hill GC; Peter Briggs, 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 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.

Anybody requiring 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 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 front would be an understatement. I trust you to pass on your congratulations to me and at least the high spots and moulds to the other 130 or so. We have some 170 members. Two reasons immedi- ately spring to mind, one, that they are all wimps and not man enough to run in near freezing condi- tions from the Porakabin 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 conference 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 150 or so.

Anyway, the long tail in short of it, for those of you interested, is that two new members have been press-ongaged onto the Kent Committee, namely Peter Biscoe and Chris Sharp, with Andy Archer having his arm twisted to make a return. A brief run down of the past and running years' activ- ities was given by our Secretary, David Wood, with much attention paid to the hosting of the South- turff show to be held at Motspur Park on June 29. With the organising of this event and his other Regional Administration activities it is hard to believe that he finds time. Finally I understand that David is keen to off-load his Sec- retary Section load onto a willing volunteer. It will probably take at least a year to find one!

John Milen gave a brief insight on developments within the Association at National level and in the educational field. Our warmest wishes go to him when he takes on the prestigious honour and maddle of BIGGA Chairman. The meeting wound down in its usual speedy manner, the lure of the car park and the sea. It was a pity we could not see more of our Scot- tish comrades buying a drink being too great.

Finally congratulations to Willie McConville as he succeeds Derek Gould as Head Greenkeeper at Lan- gley in Nottingham. We wish him and his wife all the best for the future. Also congratulations due to Garth Dickson who 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 con- cerned I understand that there is still no news on the Thaxer Way planting 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 remem- bered for his efforts and our condolences are passed onto his family.

The winter seminar was held at Oaklands Col- lege 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 at Don. I hope you enjoyed the golf. I would also like to thank Oaklands College for all the support and especially Ian Merrick for his help in the organisa- tion. The trade as always supported us and we thank G Browns, CMW, Gem, Parker Hart, Rjk, Rjk Taylor and Turf 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 the chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting modules and it proved to be extremely beneficial. Finally, I would like to thank Rjk Supplies for the recent pre- sentation by Dr Neil Baldwin on Service Chemical Products and for providing the go-kart entertainment that followed. Every- body that attended enjoyed the day, well done.

Please remember to call me with any new ideas on 081 599 5629. TONY SMITH

MID-ANGLE

Our last golf fixture of the year took place on Christmas Eve 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 the full the superb setting at Ashridge.\n\nJim 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; 1st (£100): Charlie Maguire and John Gibbons; 2nd (£80): John Woolcock and John Lavery; 3rd (£60): Chris Dale with 38 points (more points than he ever thought about).\n\nCongratulations due to John Gibbons for winning the day trip to the BTME at Don. I hope you enjoyed the golf.\n\nCongratulations to Chris Dale, Chris Clarke, P Tatlow in the 0-9 and B Gostinski in the 10-18 stableford competition. Thank you again to all our sponsors for their time and hospitality during our visit, especially Ian Merrick for his help in the organisation. The trade as always supported us and we thank G Browns, CMW, Gem, Parker Hart, Rjk, Rjk Taylor and Turf Systems for digging deep and helping the day run so well.\n\nThe first chainsaw course was held in December and Oaklands College was the venue. Over two consecutive Saturdays, four local lads trained for the chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting modules and it proved to be extremely beneficial. Finally, I would like to thank Rjk 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 new ideas on 081 599 5629. TONY SMITH

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...
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 and 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 Malby; Vice-Chairman: David Milbourne; Secretary: Ron Ullerton; 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 1.15pm with soup and sandwiches courtesy of Supreme Mowing, followed by the lecture at around 2pm.

IAN COLLETT

SOUTH WEST

A new greening year begins and with it a change in the 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 to Pat Smith and T H Whites, Tupton for their sponsorship and hospitality on the day and to Ransomes themselves who put on 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 bitterly cold day at Westonsuper 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 Fourosomes Stableford competition go to Peter Connett (Lyme Regis Golf Club) and Derek Eves – a prize winner again! (Painswick Golf Club) with 41 points. Second place to David Neal (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 Harrington were fourth with 34 points. As previously mentioned Roffeys were this year's spon- sors 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 to the catering staff.

Last but by no means least congratulations to Neil Turner from Yemen 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 551517.

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, Alisa, and myself, to attend their annual dinner 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 – Jan. Albert certainly had 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 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 Hayler qualifying will take place on April 12 over Guillemite number 2 Notice 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 that 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