SCOTTISH CENTRAL
A message from your new Chairman: "In the 22 years I have been in greenkeeping, 1993 must rank as the best. Having my course at Stirling in good, consistent condition throughout the season, thanks mainly to an excellent staff, was the mainstay of my year. Playing host to the Scottish Region Final of the Hayter Challenge Golf Tournament in May added to my pleasure. In August I have been in greenkeeping, 1993 must rank as the best. My course at Stirling was the mainstay of my year. Playing host to the National Tournament at Dunbar - I think it is the first time I have ever played golf for three days in a row. During the year I attended Elmwood College, every Wednesday, studying for the HNC in Golf Course Management, receiving the Carnoustie Golf Links Award, as class winner. Another Central section success was David McCowan from Charlton House Golf Hotel in Fife, who gained the National Certificate in Greenkeeping.

The highlight for me was taking over as Chairman of the Central section. Being a relative newcomer to the section means it is a great honour to be elected to this position and I hope I can help to keep the section going from strength to strength. I was Chairman of the East section in 1988-89 and so I hope my experience will be beneficial. By the way, has anyone else been Chairman of two sections? I look forward to working with John Crawford in keeping up the standard of what is regarded as a well run section. Many thanks to the past Chairman for inviting me to be his Vice-Chairman - John Crawford in '91 having the highest membership of all the Scottish sections. It's time to start off another year and hopefully one in which the section can continue to progress. We finished '93 having the highest membership of all the Scottish sections. This is quite an achievement considering the effort being put in by the other sections to increase their membership. Long may it continue."

At the AGM on 30 November 1993 the new section committee was elected as follows: Past Chairman - Duncan Peddie, Chairman - Jim Easton, Vice-Chairman - Joe Wallace, Secretary/Treasurer - John Crawford, Head Greenkeepers - Mike Clark, Graeme Downie, Norman Woods. Assistants - Fraser McNeil, Colin Wade. Apprentice - Stuart Riggs. Trade - John Yeats, Kevin Brunton.

Our sincere thanks go to John Souter of GTI for the excellent talk and demonstration which he presented prior to the AGM and also for the most enjoyable lunch which he provided.

Thanks are due to everyone who supported the section in '93 and we look forward to meeting friends old and new in '94. Here are some dates for your diary.
Tuesday 8 February: Visit to Scottish Grass Machinery at Edinburgh. Tuesday 15 March: Visit the Monarch's Course at Gleneagles. Tuesday 26 April: Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Golf Tournament Qualifier at Monifeith Golf Club. Tuesday 4 October: Autumn Tournament at Braehead Golf Club. This list will be added to as events are arranged.

If you have any news, views or reviews you wish included in the section news, just post it to me and I'll make sure you see your efforts in print!

JIM EASTON, CHAIRMAN
Central section news:
Best wishes and a 'Hogmanay' to everyone in '94. It's time to start off another year and hopefully one in which the section can continue to progress. We finished '93 having the highest membership of all the Scottish sections. This is quite an achievement considering the effort being put in by the other sections to increase their membership. Long may it continue.

If anyone has any ideas for any type of social evening which you wish to see taking place either give myself or John Crawford a call. Remember we are trying to provide events in the section for you, the member.

Best wishes for '94 and I hope to meet you all during my term of office."

Jim Easton, Chairman

EAST OF ENGLAND
A happy New Year to all section members and I hope you have recovered from the excesses of the festive holidays.

Although January is usually a quiet month, I am taking this opportunity to remind section members that it is still not too late to book for the Hardi Sprayers trip. Full details about the trip will be sent to all section members who have returned the appropriate slip, but here is the agenda:

Sheriffs Amenity Services/Hardi Sprayers trip - Tuesday 8 February 1994.

9.45 am - 10.00 am: Arrival and Coffee. 10.15 am: Introduction to Sherrifs. 10.40 am - 12.00 noon: Introduction to Hardi UK, including: legislation, operator's obligations, machinery and equipment, retrofit systems, new developments. 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm: Lunch. 1.30 pm: Departure to Hardi. 2pm: Inspection of Hardi demonstrations, Drew's. 4.30 pm: Return to Stratford. 6.30 pm: Arrive and check into hotel. 7.15 pm: Dinner.

If you have any news, views or reviews you wish included in the section news, just post it to me and I'll make sure you see your efforts in print!

JOHN CRAWFORD

MIDLANDS REGION
Pesticides Training and Education Programme

Andy Cole, STRI; Richard Minton, ICI Professional Products; Jeff Rees, Mike Sheldon, Chris Gray, Warwickshire College

Venue:
Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell

Date:
23 February 1994: FEPA Foundation Module
16 March 1994: Technical Seminar on Diseases, Pests and Weeds: Control and Identification
13 April 1994: FEPA Hand Held Applicator Module
20 April 1994: FEPA Tractor Mounted Sprayer Module

Cost: £45 each day, inclusive of buffet lunch

Please contact Sue Robbins on 0926 651367 ext. 250 for further details
pm - 3.00 pm: Factory tour (demonstrations, calibration).
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm: Competition. Tea and depart.

As you can see from the agenda, this promises to be a very enjoyable and interesting trip and it is hoped that as many section members will attend as possible.

In February, all section members should be receiving a fixture card with venues and dates for all 1994 events. Hopefully we will see a few new faces joining us for these enjoyable golfing days. Don’t forget if you have any news, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

MIDLANDS

On Wednesday, 9 February we are holding the first of two lectures to be held this winter. The first will be held at Walsall Golf Club and starts at 4pm. Dr Mike Drinkall representing DowElanco will be speaking on the work and research that is going into launching new products. Also lined up is a representative of the NRA, who will be talking about abstracting using bore hole, together with costs and legislation involved.

These enjoyable golfing days. Don’t forget if you have any news, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

MIDLANDS

On Wednesday, 9 February we are holding the first of two lectures to be held this winter. The first will be held at Walsall Golf Club and starts at 4pm. Dr Mike Drinkall representing DowElanco will be speaking on the work and research that is going into launching new products. Also lined up is a representative of the NRA, who will be talking about abstracting using bore hole, together with costs and legislation involved.

MIDLANDS

On Wednesday, 9 February we are holding the first of two lectures to be held this winter. The first will be held at Walsall Golf Club and starts at 4pm. Dr Mike Drinkall representing DowElanco will be speaking on the work and research that is going into launching new products. Also lined up is a representative of the NRA, who will be talking about abstracting using bore hole, together with costs and legislation involved. DowElanco have kindly offered to make refreshments available for this event.

The second lecture will be held on Friday, 25 March at Telford Golf and Country Club and will start at 2pm. Hardi Sprayers will be one of our topics when they will be talking on general application and testing with fault finding. Bob Pilshury from Alexanders has also offered his services and will be speaking on diesel engines and some of the pitfalls to avoid.

Finally, I have to tell everyone that little Amy Nonn, who has been in our thoughts since playing golf at Kidderminster last year, has sadly lost her battle with life and died on Sunday, 21 November. We send our condolences to all family and friends.

DEAN CLEAVER

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish region had their annual lunch with their patrons at Crawder in December and this year saw the first presentations of what is hoped to be an annual Patron’s Awards. These are presented to the member from each section deemed to have been most supportive of his Association during the year. These first awards were made at the AGM on 10 February.

Colin Wade (Haggs Castle); East: Willie Blair (Kingsknowe); North: Paul Murphy (Caird Park); West: David Gall (Cardross).

ELLIOTT SMALL

SURREY

Our first winter lecture of the season attracted over 30 members to Walton Heath Artisans Club where David White gave an excellent presentation, including a slide show, reflecting his visits to Augusta for the Masters. It was particularly interesting to see the course maintenance facilities and also pictures of the Par 3 golf course. Thanks went to David, to Walton Heath Artisans for having us and to Ted Bond for pouring the beer!

There is a winter lecture planned for February so please contact a committee member if you are unsure of arrangements. Forthcoming fixtures also include the regional Gentlemen’s Dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club on 11 March.

One of our members sadly died on 27 November (writes Terry Huntley). Hughie MacGillivray was course manager at Fulwell GC. He leaves a wife, Angela, and two children.

Hughie had an illustrious career in his earlier days, having held the posts of course foreman on the Old Course at St Andrews and course manager at Sunningdale, before moving on to Wentworth and latterly Fulwell.

Hughie was very active in various greenkeeping associations over the years and his efforts are remembered by all of us in the Surrey section, of which Hughie was a founder member. He was without doubt a true gentleman and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

ROGER TYDEMAN

MID ANGLIA

Things are fairly quiet at the moment through the section, although we have one or two events of interest coming up. The 11th of this month sees a talk from Symbio, a company developing a new, exciting product aimed at reducing thatch and using the organic matter available for uptake of the grass. This will be held at the Family Golf Centre Gravely, near Stevenage at 2pm.

Family Golf Centre Gravely, near Stevenage at 2pm.

On 11 March.

PAUL LOCKETT

CLEVELAND

Result of Cleveland vs North East Section: North East won at Seaton Carew, the course being in superb condition for early November. Alec Russell of Middlesbrough Golf Club drove off the first tee straight through the windscreen of a Par 4 irrigation service van. Have you paid the bill yet, Alec?

Gary Munro, apart from being elected as our new Secretary, is promoted to Course Manager at Bedale Golf Club and his contact telephone numbers are, home: 0642 785195, work: 0767 423537. Keith Lough, our new Treasurer, is Head Greenkeeper at Beamish Golf Club. Roger Shaw steps down from Secretary/Treasurer after years of sterling work.

Regional representative continues to be Ian Holohan, a dedicated BIGGA man who is proving his worth at Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Club. A big welcome goes to two new committee members, Philip Walshaw of Saltburn Golf Club and Bob Lawton of South Shields Golf Club.

Our speaker following the AGM was Neil Baldwin, ex-STRI now Service Chemicals, whose talk was helpful to our future greens management and with new products to follow it should be an exciting period.

Our attendance of 28 is a record per meeting. Congratulations and thanks to all 79 members.

New faces to report this month are Jacobsen’s new RAIN BIRD!

In 1933, Rain Bird invented the impact sprinkler. Since that time, Rain Bird has been dedicated to serving the needs of modern irrigation worldwide.

We began with innovation.

Something new, something better. Water devices that supply water in a responsible manner. Rain Bird continues to lead the industry by launching the most sophisticated and comprehensive water management strategies.

Maintaining its pre-eminence in irrigation technology, Rain Bird will continue to address the critical issues of water and energy resource conservation, and provide efficient, creative solutions.

Rain Bird products are dependable. They are high in value. They incorporate a selection of engineering features designed for optimum performance and maximum water efficiency.

An ongoing commitment to the highest calibre of advanced design and engineering, a dedication to producing top-quality, reliable products, and an unparalleled devotion to the earnest service of its customers distinguishes Rain Bird as the recognized world leader and authority in irrigation, providing industry professionals with responsive, diverse products for today and the future.

Come and discover the RAIN BIRD product line for sports field and golf irrigation at BTME Stand B28.

RAIN BIRD EUROPE S.A.R.L.
B.P. 72000-13792 AIX EN PROVENCE CEDEX 3 – FRANCE
Tel: (with International code): (010-33) 42-24-44-61 Fax: (010-33) 42-24-24-72
distributor, Brian Screan of Billingham and Toro's new distributor, Dick Lawson of Darlington. Graham Pyle of Brough Golf Club and John Lax of Worksop has moved from Chester Le Street to Burton on Trent. Barry Lee is new Head Greenkeeper at Cheeky Spa Golf Club on 12 May. BRUCE BURNELL

SHEFFIELD

The first item report in this my first month of writing Sheffield's section news, is that our section Secretary Jane Ryan will be stepping down as she feels she can no longer commit herself to this position due to changing jobs. I would like, on behalf of the section, to thank Jane for all the hard work she has put into being an excellent Chairman. A new Chairman and Secretary will be elected in the AGM.

There will be a trip to the John Deere factory on Wednesday 16 February, free of charge but limited to 25 members, to take the first and us on their new trucks. If you're interested, get in touch with D Milbourne. Another trip is being planned to the Ransomes factory at Ipswich on 22/23 March, which includes an overnight stay. Maximum number of places will be 20 and those interested should contact Barry Heaney. This trip is also first come first served basis and the cost will be approximately £30 payable in advance.

On behalf of the Section and somewhat belatedly, I'd like to congratulate Martin Scott of Moorland Golf Club on his success in the Harry Hill Trophy Final at Sandmoor Golf Club where he won the Best Gross Prize. Well done! Congratulations also to Mark Vodden of Brough Golf Club and John Lax of Worksop Golf Club - although a little late again - first to Mark with his well-deserved win on 1 October gave birth to a 6lb 10oz Charlotte Rebecca. We wish all them well. Well done to John who on 2 October got married to Carol. Best wishes for a happy future together.

Finally, Derek Neve would like to thank all section members who sponsored his son James on a cycle ride from Blackpool to Bridlington. With seven others they travelled 133 miles in 8 hours 22 minutes and managed to raise over £1000 for the British Deaf Association. If anybody has any news, contact me on: 0430 441204.

IAN COLLETT

NORTHERN

To begin with, may I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year - and please don't forget to pay your subs as they are now due.

The visit to Supturf and Hardi on 23 November had to be cancelled due to the fact that only four people actually phoned me and asked to go. I did make enquiries as to why the members did not wish to go on this venture. The general feeling was that it was too far and secondly that they were still too busy on the golf course, with maintenance operations and the cleaning-up of leaves.

I will be reporting soon on the subject of the winter programme, 10 members have put their names down for the visit to Gem Fertiliser factory on 25 January. For the visit to Martin Brothers on Tuesday 22 February, 12 members have put their names down.

Thank you for being to any of these events don't think any longer, please let me have your name as soon as possible. Full details are in your winter programme which was sent to you by Martin Brothers. Thanks to Andy Law who represents Martin Brothers who arranged the sponsorship.

The golf venues for this year are: Bingley, St. Ives GC, Wetherby GC, Harragge GC, Aldwoodley GC. The Roses Match venue is the pleasure of the North West section this time. Let's hope we can still retain the trophy away from home. Full details shall be sent out soon.

Any member requiring further information, or if you have any contributions to this column, please contact me on 0274 561 088.

PAT MURPHY

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Happy New Year!

Troway Golf Club was the venue for our AGM, which was held on 17 November. The morning's golf was a foursome competition for the Toro Trophy and was played over their excellently presented course which is a credit to Jack Manley and his fine team. Jack was on hand to guide our non golfing members on the customary morning course walk. After lunch the prize presentation for the Toro trophy took place with Alan Dommett of Devon Garden Machinery & Joe Turner of Lely UK presenting the prizes to:

1st J. Barley (Churston) and C. Pine (Churston) 33pts on back 2; 2nd T Gooch (Torrington) and J. Maneser (Teignmouth) 32pts; 3rd G Child (Churston) and R. Minton (ICJ) 31pts.

The Secretary thanked Jan and Joe for donating and presenting the day's prizes, and to Mr B Long, Secretary of Torquay GC and his management committee for allowing the section use of their facilities.

The section's AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by section Chairwoman Carol. The Secretary informed members on the breakdown of the balance sheet which shows a profit of £423.30 on last year's balance.

The Secretary thanked Chairman B Pile, Vice Chairman B Summers and President D Hunt for all their help in continuing the success of the section and presented all with three a small gift to mark their retirement from office.

The Chairman opened his report by congratulating Laughlin Millar, head greenkeeper at the Warren GC, on reaching this year's national final of the ICI Premium Greenkeeper competition. The chairman congratulated, Gordon and Marlon Child and the regional board for their continued success of Westurf.

Westurf's success has enabled the region to provide members with the cheapest regional seminar in the country and the opportunity for members to visit BTME for under £100. To continue this success Westurf needs members' support most of all in turning up on the day. The Chairman also reported on the success of our team in this year's Hayter Regional final and congratulated Laughlin Millar, Brian Ridgeway and Neil Maccormac for their fine work in looking after the section's interests, and thanked trade members for their continued support.


R Mitchell reminded all Head Greenkeepers of section meetings venues that they are expected to guide non golfers around their course during the morning.

RICHARD WHITMAN

NORTH WEST

There is plenty happening on the education side in the north-west section. First, Reaseheath College are proposing on each Wednesday in February to run a series of one day courses tailored to the needs of golf courses, with health and safety in mind. These courses will include: first aid, chainsaw awareness, COSHH assessment, and safe lifting and handling.

The college will have courses for under £100. To continue the success of our team in this year's Hayter Regional final, the following officers were elected:

Chairman - Paul Pearse, Vice-Chairman - Nigel Potter, Secretary - Bert Cross, Treasurer - Brian Moss, members: Howard MacDaid, BL Merritt, Chris Sheehan and Stuart Outram. I still require some venues for the 1994 tournaments, so if you can accommodate us, please contact me on 051 726 5412.

BERT CROSS

50 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL January 1994
NORTH WALES
First off, on behalf of our committee, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone the very best of luck in your golfing endeavors. I am sure that many of you will be looking forward to the upcoming season with great anticipation.

Unfortunately the month of November was not too busy regarding section notes, so not a lot to report. Congratulations to John Hinton, who provided last month's evening lecture at Cannington College. As always the quality of the speakers was exceptional, and the audience were given plenty of food for thought.

NORTH EAST
South Wales
Hangovers should be subsiding now that the New Year is underway. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and I wish you all a happy New Year.

Further entries and communications should be addressed to Mr K Green, 13 Baytree Close, Patchway, Bristol, Avon BS8 7EU, telephone 0272 793127.

PAUL WORSTER

EAST SOUTHD
The section's AGM took place on 24 November at Kingsknowe Golf Club. Prior to the meeting we had an excellent lecture given by John Souter of Souters of Stirling; those of you who were at the meeting missed one of the finest lectures we have had. Our grateful thanks to John for his time and effort.

Chris Yeoman our Chairman could not take the meeting due to illness, but had a capable deputy in Peter Ormiston. Attendance was smaller than usual for some reason or another, but it was nice to see members from different areas, namely Bob from Goswick and Mike Williamson from Galashiels. Peter Ormiston was elected Chairman with Steve Dixon his Vice Chairman. Robert Hogarth was not standing for re-election due to change of job. Robert has decided on pastures new in the form of a sales rep with H Sheach of Kirkcaldy. No doubt we will be seeing a great deal more of him in this capacity. He was thanked for his excellent work over the years. The committee now reads: Chairman - P Ormiston, Vice - Chairman - S Dixon, Match Captain - David Neale, Secretary - Willie Blair; and Graham Wood, Steward; Peter Ormiston is the club's President.

The annual dance returned to Turnhouse Golf Club on 20 December and a great time was had by all. Chris thanks go to Turnhouse Golf Club for the excellent catering for the food. If anyone went away feeling empty it was their own fault as there was enough food for everyone.

The committee over the years have tried to put on various social events, such as skittles and quiz nights but they are not being supported by the members to any great extent. We will have to look at this to find out why. It would seem that the members are looking for something quite different; something which would be acceptable to any member on this subject. This is your association - tell us what you want.

The course at Kingsdown was in sparkling condition, an absolute tribute to its green staff and in particular, Head Greenkeeper Mark Ford. As our chairman mentions, old Bill Curtis would have been proud of it. Praise indeed.

Many thanks also to Gordon Jankab, who gave us a very precise account of the role played by the weather in our work, and the relevance of recording and forecasting.

Altogether quite a day, with many thanks to Kingsdown Golf Club for their hospitality.

Finally, let me describe a typical scene at home on a Wednesday evening. The starship "Enterprise" noses delicately into orbit around the deserted and the ruined Com-Mine station comes into sensor range. Captain Kirk paces the bridge, Mr Spock stares intently into his scanning instruments, the garish blue light illuminating his strange features. Red alert sounds, Kirk leaps back into his chair, the captain, where he is interrupted by a strange ringing noise. Ding-dong, ding-dong emanating from our hall. The kids fall about laughing, the wife doesn't even bother coming out from behind the newspaper. "It'll be for you," she says in a distracted tone, "it's always for you." I stagger out, cursing about not switching on the telephone answering machine.

I spend the next ten minutes listening to some ineptitude about lost entry forms, postal interruptions, holidays, illness, pressures of work, hungry dogs, disruptive children, unruly grandparents etc., and is it too late to book in for the tournament tomorrow? I return just as the theme tune plays and the credits roll.

I'm going to miss all this. A happy New Year to all our members. Beam me up, Scottie! Further entries and communications should be addressed to Messrs Peter K Green, 13, Baytree Close, Patchway, Bristol BS8 7EU.

DAVID PROCTOR
The spring outing will be held over Gunnane number 2 and will be available shortly. We go to Uphall GC in the autumn. A full list of events you could miss out by paying them late. Why not this year? I am sure you all must know someone who is not a member. The Association is strong, let's make it stronger.

WILLIE BLAIR

NORTH SCOTLAND

A welcome to the section to Bruce Forsyth, (no, not that Bruce Forsyth) who has come up to be Assistant Head at Peterhead after 13 years at Gleneagles, where he worked on the King's and Queens courses. Bruce also attended Elnwood College.

The section AGM took place, with thanks to Nairn Dunbar GC, at the end of November. During a week of terrible weather it was heartening to see 24 worthy souls turn up. The section had a past membership of 129, yards, is a beauty but beware the deep bunker in front of the green, go in it and a three will be hard to get.

We then moved inside to the warmth for a very informative talk by John Souter on rootzones for tees and greens and then a look at some great slides of golf courses around the world. After lunch 15 brave men ventured out into the mist and frost for nine holes to contest the annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman match. The more sensible settled things on the pool table. The end result was a tie, so two matches of dominoes were played and Chairman Sam's team triumphed.

The AGM passed smoothly ending with the final 1993 200 Club draws, the winners of which are as follows: September £100 no. 28 - Scottie Wilson, £80 no. 6, £50 no. 52 - Alexander McCall, £40 no. 167 - David Henderson, Ardross, November £40 no. 94 - Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir. December £100 no. 51 - Steven Frost, Aberdeen. The two £150 education grants were won by no. 103 John Milne, Elgin and 141 Eric Pickard, Ellon. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. 1994 tickets will be out soon and I hope you will support the section again this year.

Elgin and 141 Eric Pickard, Ellon. Thank you to every-