A warm welcome is extended to two new members - David Bates, an assistant from the Manor Golf Company. The section anticipates your future support with an invitation to forthcoming events.

As some people start their greenkeeping careers so it is time for others to take life a little easier. I am referring to Les Johnson from Saltford GC who reached retirement recently. Les joined Mangotsfield GC in 1974 where he assisted in its original construction before moving to Woodlands GC again helping in its setting out and establishment. He left in 1980 to join Lansdown GC where he spent 11 years before taking an assistant's position at Salford GC. On behalf of us all, I wish Les best wishes in his retirement and look to his continued contribution to section events as has been the case over the previous years.

By now, every member should have received information on, and application forms for, both the regional seminar at Cannington College on November 30 and the four-day visit to BTME at Harrogate in January. Both events take up a considerable amount of Gordon and Marion Child's time in organisation for the betterment of education throughout the region, and so it is up to everyone to show their support in attending, if possible. The BTME package is being offered at a heavily subsidised price (just £99 for members) compared to the figure for other regions, thanks to its sponsorship from funds from Westurf earlier this year.

The section's first five-a-side football tournament proved to be a huge success with 11 teams taking part. The football was fast and furious with everyone trying to prove that they were fitter than each other, but the games were played in the best of spirits and no yellow or red cards had to be used. The eventual winners were Aberdour Athletes who defeated Downfield GC in the final, with the other semi-finalists being Tulliallan Terrors and The Pars. Following the success of this tournament it is hoped to make it an annual event.

Congratulations go to Willie (Whitty) and Mairi Whitfield on the birth of their first child, son Jack. All three are doing well and Whitty is coping well with his new role as proud Dad.

With the news that the Open is returning to Carnoustie, congratulations are due to course superintendent John Philp whose efforts to present a course worthy of hosting the world's no1 tournament are at last being rewarded. There is no doubt that John and his staff will produce a course which will make the world's elite golfers realise what they have been missing by being away from Carnoustie for so long. Well done, John!

Two men on the move are Gavin Graham and Colin Wade, both from Haggs Castle GC. Gavin is going to the new course from Westurf earlier this year.

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(Green's)
At Loch Lomond and Colin is going to Alloa GC. Every success in the future, lad!

This is quite a busy month for events in the section with the British Seed House at Aberdeen on the 6th, the annual dinner/dance at Alloa on the 29th and the STS lecture and the AGM again at Aberdeen on the 29th.

Please remember that all prize draw tickets, sold or unsold, must be returned to me before the 29th.

JOHN CRAWFORD

SUSSEX

Our penultimate golf tournament saw us once again at Mannings Heath GC. Our last visit was some five years ago and, as the GC is only open to members, our group was well received. The prizes for all the events were kindly sponsored by Parker Hart.

Modal results: Greenkeepers - 1, Raymond Day, 69; 2, Bill Francis, 72; 3, Roland Hughes, 74; Trade/guests - 1, Jim Copper, 72; 2, Jeff Astolf, 77.

South Shields - 1, Jameson White, 41pts; 2, Jon Hill, 36pts; 3, Chris Reed, 36pts; Trade/guests - 1, Phil Clark 37pts; 2, Steve Darlington 35pts.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the course being a joy to play and the food provided by the catering staff was extremely good, the thirst was quenched by a generous donation from the committee of Mannings Heath for allowing us the use of their course, and to the Antoliks for doing all the donkey work.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and all members will be informed in due course (hopefully before the AGM)! This will be followed in December by the foremost event of the year, the Turkey Trot at Littlehampton GC. This ever popular event will once again be on a first come basis, so when the invites go out, book early - don't risk it. "I have told the committee of Mannings Heath for allowing us the use of their course, and to the Antoliks for doing all the donkey work."

Our winter lectures are now in full swing with the next one being on December 8. The speaker is David Stanforth of AGS Fodagro. There is another lecture on February 2. Please support our section in these talks by attending. Staff cannot only work safer but also more efficiently, ie in bad weather.

NORTH WEST

In closing I would like to wish Tom O'Brien a long and happy retirement and his successor, Chris Whittle, all the best in his new appointment.

BERT CROSS

Cleveland

Roon Butler at Worton GC now has a new £61,000 shed. This is an extra carport to our club. A very nice gift for a new chairman. We must all be pleased with the committee of Mannings Heath for allowing us the use of their course, and to the Antoliks for doing all the donkey work.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and all members will be informed in due course (hopefully before the AGM)!

Dates for your diary: November 30 - The annual South West and South Wales seminar at Carmarthen College. Bridge water, Somerset, sponsored by Levington Horticulture with talks by David Grindering and Jim Arthur. Wednesday, December 14 - Christmas competition and AGM at the Pyle & Kenfig GC with evening entertainment by comedian Colin Price.

BRUCE BURRELL

SOUTH WALES

Our winter lectures are now in full swing with the next one being on December 8. The speaker is David Stanforth of AGS Fodagro. There is another lecture on February 2. Please support our section in these talks by attending.

The weather remained dry, so with old acquaintances as the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year. Congratulations also to 27-year-old Neil Smith of the Royal Porthcawl GC. Neil was recently appointed head greenkeeper of the Clyne GC, and he will take up his new position in the New Year. We wish him well.

The event’s main sponsor was Purdy’s of Retford and we thank, in particular, Les Purdy and Chris Brady for an excellent welcome table. Contributions were also received from John Deere and John Deere’s fourth annual roadshow was held at Oakfield Farm, Retford. The golfers had a round of golf in shirt sleeves for a change, although the course was testing. There were a few good scores in: Colin Hopper, Towner Moor GC, 37pts; 2, Kevin Haxhurst, Lindrick GC, 35pts; 3, Ian Collott, Brough GC, 35pts.

We wish all the golfers good fortune in their respective careers. A three-handicap golfer, he is married with a family and a member of the East Section. We wish him well.

Although everybody got soaked through the scores returned were good and the main prizes were: best gross - Trevor Foster, 74 playing off 1; best nett - Chris Bell, over 55s - Bill Shepil, guest prize - Tony Cundall; Aggregate Trifecta - Paul Pearse, 216 nett; nearest the pin - Frank Platt; Longest drive - Trevor Foster.

The prize list went to 15th net to girls from the following clubs: a. Boys Light Travellers, Trudelwight, Burrows, Rite Feed, Turner Groundscare, Cheshire Stone, Richard Campie, Martin Bros, Acorn Supplies, Gem, Sisal, Hayters, Sharrock, Rigby Taylor, Turfmech, Gary Worrall Groundcare.

At the dinner and presentation, the NW section presented Tom O'Brien with an original watercolour painting of the view towards the clubhouse from the 18th fairway. One added attraction on the day was meeting Howard Keel who said to a group of us: "I have to have some kind of record."

At the end of the evening a presentation was made on behalf of the members of the section by our chairman, Idwal Morris to the retiring head greenkeeper of Clyne, Henry Fry, Henry accepted as a gift an engraved wall clock in recognition that the course is always in first-class condition. Set in a woodland area, its main feature is the clubhouse which stands majestically in the background. Tom has been at Ratho since leaving school. He started as an apprentice and worked his way up to head greenkeeper. A three-handicap golfer, he is married with a family and a member of the East Section. We wish him well.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and all members will be informed in due course (hopefully before the AGM)!
The autumn outing at Murrayshall was a great success. Glori- ous weather greeted the 71 golfers on the day and the win- ners were as follows: – Scratch: I. U. Urquhart, Tain 72; 2, G. Tough; Montrose 73; Class One: I. K. Peace, Inverurie 76; 2, W. Robertson, Blairgowrie 78-6=72 at Coltishall, a fantastic win, including lunch. It offers not only a good programme, but value for money. If you are not a BIGGA member – then you should be – you will have to pay £15 per person.

Thoughts are turned to the BTME in Harrogate in January 1996. This year's popular course trip and package deal spo-.sored by Westport is offered again at £99 per person. Wives are welcome at a reduced rate and for non-members the cost is £125 per person. This will include travel, three nights bed and breakfast, seminar programmes and entry to the exhibition. Please ring 0800 8440552 for further details of both events.

GORDON CHILD

NORTH SCOTLAND

The autumn outing at Murrayshall was a great success. Glori- ous weather greeted the 71 golfers on the day and the win- ners were as follows: – Scratch: I. U. Urquhart, Tain 72; 2, G. Tough; Montrose 73; Class One: I. K. Peace, Inverurie 76-5=71; 2, W. Robertson, Blairgowrie 78-6=72; 3, E. McLaren, Blairgowrie 74-7=71; Class Two – I. Reid, Letham Orange 79-11=68; 2, S. Griffs, Tain 77-9=68; 3, S. Mclain, Nigg Bay 82-10=72; Class Three – I. L. Rae, Montrose 92-24=68; 2, P. Wood, Newnham 89-20=69; 3, S. Rodgers, Fraserburgh 96-23=73; Veteran – I. Grant, retired 86-7=57; 2, W. Forsyth, Fraserburgh 90-12=78; 3, A. Appleyard, L. B. Cameron, Inverurie 82-10=72; 2, P. Cocker Jnr, Airth 89- 16-73; Trade – P. Allan, Stewarts 73-5=68; Guest – M. Brown, Newnham 74-6=69 (apologies for missing you out on the day, price in the post); Booby – G. Asher, Kemnay; Longest Drive – G. Tough; Nearest the pin – G. Burrell, Formis; Aggregate scores – Championship Trophy – J. A. Oldham, Fife 100-11=89; 2, G. Burrell, Forres; 3, M. Mclain, West Kilbride 89-11=77. The BIGGA Bazaar was won by Morris Rodgers, Fraser- burg, who was making his last outing appearance before moving south to a new job, we wish him well.

The 200 Club winners were as follows: May 30 – Jim Hamilton; Inverness; June 30 – Isobel Walker, Stonehaven; July 40 – Colin Delton, Aberdeenshire; August 100 – Steve Simpson, Fraserburgh. It was great to see a lot of new faces at the outing and thanks must go to all at Murrayshall for helping to make the day so good.

AGM notices should be out and about now. The format for the day is the annual golf match in the morning, free lecture and lunch in the AGM at 3pm. Anyone wanting to stand for committee must have the nomination in to me no later than 14th of the AGM.

There may be a few places left for next month's one-day conference in Aberdeen so if you have nominated and still want to go, give Alisdair McLean a ring on 0479 873205 to check availability.

Finally, the two section recipients of the 1994 Patrons Award are I. MacLeod, Tain, and D. Duguid, Westhill. Each will receive £200 to be used to finance an educational course or a trip to Harrogate in January.

IAN MACLEOD

SURREY

The Parker Saver was played at Purley Downs GC. Congratu- lations to David Andrews and his staff for presenting the course so superbly. After a bad start to the day with fog and light rain, the competitors then played in brilliant sunshine for a change. Unfortunately entries were very low but those who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to Purley Downs GC and Ron Jobson for his usual valuable services.

Results: 1. Derek Walder, 37pts; 2. K Bovall, 37pts; 3. David Wyborn, 35pts.

A belated congratulations to Robert Brewer, previously of Sunningdale GC, upon his appointment as course manager of Dukes Dene GC.

Any members wishing to attend the BIGGA Turf Manage- ment Exhibition in January at Harrogate, please contact your section secretary as numbers are needed to warrant a coach.

For the first time in his life Richard was stuck for a change. Unfortunately entries were very low but those who played therughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to Purley Downs GC and Ron Jobson for his usual valuable services.

Results: 1. Derek Walder, 37pts; 2. K Bovall, 37pts; 3. David Wyborn, 35pts.

Our AGM this year will be held at Edgebaston GC on December 15 at 3pm and not at our Xmas tournament. As I said previously, we are looking for a new secretary as from the AGM. If you are interested and would like further information please give me a ring on 0709 792912. Minutes from the last AGM are available to our members and will be issued on the day, however if you would like a copy forwarding to you please contact me.

DEAN CLEAVER

WEST SCOTLAND

Ferrrene GC was the venue for the autumn outing. Once again it was well attended with more than 50 greenkeepers and trade. Congratulations go to John Scott and his staff for presenting the course so superbly.


Members are reminded that the ever popular BIGGA annual dinner fast approaches and the date has been set for Friday November 2 at the Admiral Hotel. Four fantastic speakers already lined up it’s sure to be a great night, so book your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Section secretary Sandy Bulloch has a new address: 82 Dumbreck Road, Glasgow G41 4SN. Tel: 041 4274701

SCOTT BALLANTYNE

NORTH WALES

The autumn outing held at Golwgog was a great success. All the members who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to Purley Downs GC and Ron Jobson for his usual valuable services.

Results: 1. A. Hughes, 72; 2, I. A. Grant, retired 86-25=71; 3, A. Hughes, 72; 3 - Terry Adamson, 34pts; Guest prize – W. F. Ireland, 35pts; 2, G. Burrell, 33pts; 3, M. H. Jones, 33pts.

Our section events. Many thanks also to Robin Hood GC for making it through to the Hayter Final.

During the presentations it was announced that our old friend GORDON MUIR has never missed the opportunity to attend the Hayter Final again. He has missed only one or two of our section events. Many thanks also to Robin Hood GC for making it through to the Hayter Final. A personal thanks from Ray at Temple for assistance during the event.

If you have anything to contribute to this column please call me on 0491 578147.

LINDSAY ANDERSON

MIDLANDS

Our last tournament, played at Robin Hood GC, produced some very low scoring. Mike Hughes was the eventual winner with a score of 103 nett over 37 holes, six under par. Second was Trevor Morris and in third place was Vince Lee. Mike Hughes also won the gross prize with a score of 109 over 27 holes and Troy Toon won our trade prize which still remains as competitive as ever.

Many thanks to the many trade reps for again supporting our section events. Many thanks also to Robin Hood GC for allowing us the use of their facilities and course which was prepared in such good condition by David Brazier and his staff.

Our next tournament is our Xmas tournament and will be held on December 7 at Little Aston GC. Closing date for entries is November 7.

Our AGM this year will be held at Edgbaston GC on December 15 and at 3pm and not at our Xmas tournament. As I said previously, we are looking for a new secretary as from the AGM. If you are interested and would like further information please give me a ring on 0709 792912. Minutes from the last AGM are available to our members and will be issued on the day, however if you would like a copy forwarding to you please contact me.

DEAN CLEAVER

NEW ZEALAND

The next event on the calendar is the Turkey Trot at Maple- dumpre GC on December 6 followed by the AGM in the evening. It would be nice to see some new faces so please make the effort to attend.

Congratulations to G Butler and D Jones of Gerrards Cross for making it through to the Hayter Final.

Our AGM this year will be held at Edgebaston GC on December 15 at 3pm and not at our Xmas tournament. As I said previously, we are looking for a new secretary as from the AGM. If you are interested and would like further information please give me a ring on 0709 792912. Minutes from the last AGM are available to our members and will be issued on the day, however if you would like a copy forwarding to you please contact me.

DEAN CLEAVER

GREAT KEEPER INTERNATIONAL

November 1994

27
Around the Green

The Christmas Competition will be held at Llangollen GC on December 1. The cost is £11 for members and £16 for non-members. All entries should be sent to Terry Adamson, 27, Berynyn Ave, Penyffordd, Chester by November 25.

Finally, congratulations to Norbridge Country Park on the success of the Welsh Open held there earlier in the year.

ANDY CAMPBELL

MID ANGLIA

The section had three representatives in the Midland Regional team which came second in the Hayter Challenge Tournament final at Pannal GC. These were Jon Moorhouse and John Blair of Brocket Hall GC and David Forsyth of Mid Herts GC. Jon also managed to win his handicap category (D-9) and finished second overall on the day. Well done, lads!

The Midland regional seminar will be held on November 30 at the same venue as last year, Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Conference Centre, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Speakers include David Golding and David Stansfield, and the cost is £20 which includes a meal.

By now all section members should have received a fixture list for next year, and an entry form for the Christmas Texas Scramble. If, for any reason you haven't, please get in touch with Gerald and I'm sure he'll send you one.

Events for next year include a safe handling course with Jon Allbutt in January and a course visit to Brocket Hall, hosted by John Wells, course manager, in February. The spring and summer tournaments are at Royston and Brickendon Grade respectively, both over 36 holes. The former is the qualifier for next year's Hayter Challenge Tournament, with entries in early and ensure all committee members for all their hard work on the day.

Our section's Autumn Tournament, held at Wellingborough GC, was won by Richard Saunders in early and ensure all your section are heard.

ANTONY BINDLEY

SOUTH COAST

The section AGM is only a month away at 4pm on Tuesday December 6 at Royal Winchester GC. Could anyone wishing to stand for the committee please contact me as soon as possible at 45 Constable Close, Sholing, Southampton S019 1EN. My home telephone number has changed to 0703 360195 or you can try 0264 334269 or 0564 400229.

The Christmas Stableford will be held on the same day as usual. All entries to Bob Cully, 83 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton S03 4LS or telephone 0489 782976.

The Hampshire GC opened a new 9-hole par 3 course in addition to the 18-hole course and driving range already open. Pop in if you are near Andover.

ALAN MITCHELL

EAST MIDLANDS

Our section's Autumn Tournament, held at well maintained Wellingborough GC, attracted 38 competitors. The category winners were: P-9 – R Barker, Kirby Muxloe GC, 79-5=74; 10-15 – A Foulds, Uttoxeter GC, 85-10=75; 16-20 – A Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 88-20=68; best nett and gross – C Stansfield, and the cost is £20 which includes a meal.

By now all section members should have received a fixture list for next year, and an entry form for the Christmas Texas Scramble. If, for any reason you haven't, please get in touch with Gerald and I'm sure he'll send you one.

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ANTONY BINDLEY

EAST ANGLIA

A cold and frosty morning gave way to a pleasant afternoon with a light breeze. And this was the scene that greeted East Anglia section members at Gog-Magog Golf Club near Cambridge.

Head Greenkeeper Lyndon Upham and his trusted staff produced an excellent course and also a difficult putting competition, which was highly praised by the captain of the Gogs, Norman Benton and the rest of the group during the excellent evening meal.

As usual the trade were there in force and donated many prizes.

Hanbury Manor in Hertfordshire was once a convent school. Now seven years and £28 million later there is a luxury hotel, restaurant, conference, country club and clubhouse complex with a challenging 18-hole golf course. But the work (and expense) hasn't finished yet... the greenstaff are embarking on a massive tree-planting programme.

There are 16 greenstaff at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole golf course near Ware in Hertfordshire. This is down from a summer high of 22.

But golf course superintendent Simon Klauser, 36, needs every one of them as they strive to bring perfection to the three-year-old Jack Nicklaus Jr designed course, tweaking it here, replacing poorer quality turf there, extending a water hazard here, reshaping a green or fairway there.

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But golf course superintendent Simon Klauser, 36, needs every one of them as they strive to bring perfection to the three-year-old Jack Nicklaus Jr designed course, tweaking it here, replacing poorer quality turf there, extending a water hazard here, reshaping a green or fairway there.

But, at the moment, the main thing on their minds is trees. They have started a programme that will see them planting 38,000 trees and shrubs on the 7,011-yard par 72 course over the next two years. The project will cost about £20,000 but they hope to get a half to two-thirds of this back in the form of grants.

Believed to be the biggest planting scheme of its kind, the trees are necessary to fulfil a dream. It was in 1985 that Hertfordshire businessman Paul Leach and local developer Jim Anderson had the idea of turning a convent school into a top-class leisure and golf resort, a London version of Gleneagles.