The temperature is 90 degrees in the shade and I'm enjoying every minute of it. Yes, I am on holiday in central Africa (Zambia) and it just occurred to me that I had better drop you a line.

Now back to the holiday. My wife Marie and I are staying at the orphanage that we help to support deep in the bush about 30 miles from Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The only way to reach it is on a road cut through the bush about one and a half cars wide and riddled with pot holes. We use a four wheel drive Toyota pickup truck to go to Lusaka for supplies and driving in the town is similar to the dodgems at the fairground.

The orphanage, called Rasinji (which means little sister) is run by a Polish community of sisters and they care for about 130 babies and children from one week old to 13 and 14 year olds. Unfortunately many of the babies that arrive are HIV positive but they are all cared for as normal babies by the sisters. Amazingly in several cases as it was excellent. Many thanks to the greens staff for the course preparation prior to our event.

Although overall the attendance seemed a little down on last year, the BIGGA stand that shared room 16 with the IOG was kept ticking over quietly all day, with many general queries regarding greenkeeping as a possible career as well as membership queries. A valuable day and one which remains firmly on our calendar. Thanks to all those who gave up their time to help out.

Congratulations to our Education Chairman, Malcolm Davies and his wife Roberta on the birth of their second baby daughter, Rebecca Louise who weighed in at a healthy 7lb 11oz recently.

A belated happy 65th birthday wishes to our President, Mr Colin Murphy.

Our annual greenkeepers v secretaries match will take place as usual at the Southdown GC on August 17. Will all those who are able to attend and who wish to be a part of the team please contact me as soon as possible to confirm a place and hopefully help us to retain the shield.

PETER LACEY

East of England

Our second golf tournament of the year was held at the windless Sandlings GC - "A rare day," said one member. Thanks to Bob McGowan for courtesy and a super meal by the staff. The event also incorporated the Hayter Qualifier where the winners go on to the Midland Regional Finals at Erewash Valley.

The East of England Qualifiers were:


The only sour note on the day was that several members did not turn up. Please cancel early if possible, so that meals can be cancelled.

On happier matters Kevin Garffitt, Head Greenkeeper at Ely City GC was in a proud mood recently when I spoke to him because the Cambridgeshire County Championships were to be held at Ely GC – two days of scratch golf over 72 holes.

Kevin felt quietly confident that his course preparation was in good order and that the course would test the best of Cambridgeshire's scratch golfers. Kevin has been at the club for 18 months, moving from Pontefract and says he has settled well into the Fens lifestyle.

Please let me have your news.

GRAEME MACDONALD

East Midlands

Congratulations this month go to all those section members who successfully achieved their Assessor tests at Brooksby College. Good luck to all other greenkeepers who are taking the course.

A team has been selected to represent the section against the East of England section on August 15 at Market Harborough. Good luck to both
teams and let's hope everyone has a good day.

Some results have come in for the singles and pairs competitions. Antony Bindley & Martin Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, beat David Wright & David Marshall-Ramirez Park; Peter Billings & Tommy Foster, Cotgrave Place beat Anthony Foulds & Donald Blackler, The Manor GC. In the singles Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe beat Jeff Dickenson, Hucknall; Dave Mitchell, Springwater, beat David James, Scraptoft; Paul Tatlow, Kedleston Park, beat Roger Willars, Birstall; Ade Porter, Greetham Valley, beat David Wright, Ramsdale Park. A reminder to all entrants that semi-finals must be played before August 31.

This year's Autumn tournament will be hosted by Kedleston Park on September 11. All members should have received an entry form by now. If any member has not you can give me a ring and I will forward a copy to you.

ANTONY BINDLEY

Devon and Cornwall

This year's Hayter Regional final was held in Wales at Carmarthen GC. As usual Hennings our Cornish Hayter distributor, kindly helped to finance the mini bus which took the majority of our team on the 500 mile round rip to Carmarthen. It was a pity that we couldn't gain the help of a Devon Hayter dealer but there's always next year! A special mention and thanks must go to our driver Steve Evans who had the unenviable task of setting off from Cornwall before 4am and not returning home until midnight. As for the golf we were once again blessed with fine weather but a difficult wind kept scores higher than usual - at this point I won't mention my score as I am sure someone will within the Around the Green section. All I will say is that the team picked up Regional Shield for the third year out of five.

Our congratulations are extended to the qualifiers for the final from our section who took a clean sweep of the 10-18 category - 1. Trevor Pipe 2. Kevin Piper and 3. Buster Lewer. On behalf of the section would like to thank Marion and Gordon Child for organisng and running a superb day. Also to Robin Byes and Kim Macpie of Hayters for their support and friendliness shown to everyone on the day. Long may it continue.

Belated congratulations to Tony Blackburn on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper Credenhit GC where Tony has been First Assistant for many years. Two new members have joined our section after taking up posts of Head Greenkeeper and our congratulations go to Steve Peters, Yelverton GC and Nick Rouke, Dawlish GC on their appointment.

Our good wishes to Ivan Brown, formerly of P.J. Flegg Ltd and Vice President of our section on his appointment in the Virgin Islands.

Cornish summer evening meeting dates to remember are August 23, Newquay and September 20, Bude. If you would like to attend these meetings please contact organiser Steve Evans 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMUM

South Coast

The annual match against the South West section will be played at Lee-on-Solent GC on Thursday September 21. The team will consist of 10 players and all those eager to take part should phone me on 01489 782976. Last year we not only provided a team but also came quite close to winning. This year could be our turn to trouble the South West.

Congratulations to Ed McCabe and Alan Mitchell on recently qualifying as NVQ assessors. With the recent introduction of National Vocational Qualifications within our industry there is still a need of additional people to become qualified assessors, particularly in the Dorset area.

For further information on this worthwhile subject, contact Kerran Daly on 01722 742898.

BOB CULLY

North

The North section welcomes two more new members, Christopher Till, Assistant Greenkeeper at Pillocky GC and Alan Joss, Club Secretary at Portlethen GC. Ken O'Donnell has rejoined and last month he got married so all the best to him.

The Scottish Greenkeeping Championship was held in the north in June at Royal Dornoch and I'm pleased to report that section members were very much to the fore at the prize giving, with the following major winners.

Scratch. I.A. Macleod, Tain; Cat 1. E. Riddell, Royal Dornoch; Cat 2. S. Stevenson, Royal Aberdeen; Cat 2. R. Napier, Camperdown; Head Greenkeeper Trophy R. Patterson, Royal Dornoch.

There were numerous second and third placings and it was no surprise that we won the St Mungo Cup for the best four scores from each section.

Double congratulations to Robert Patterson, firstly along with his staff for the excellent condition of the course and secondly for his recent victory in the Royal Dornoch Club Championship.

On the eve of the Scottish Championship 24 greenkeepers played over Tain in a hastily arranged Stableford competition. Two Stewarts lad were present and volunteered a sweatshirt for the winner. They then played their hearts out to keep it in the company with the north rep, Pat Allan winning it! A big thank you to Tain GC for granting courtesy of the course to everyone.

Remember that tickets for the dinner/disco are available now at £12 each. The venue is the Westhill Hotel, Aberdeen on Friday November 24 and accommodation is available at £20 per person per night. So come on book now, you won't regret it.

The section is looking into the possibility of staging a one day seminar win conjunction with the STRI this December with Elgin being a possible venue. More details when available.

Next month will see our autumn outing at lovely Granton-on-Spey. Entry forms will be out about now so get them back quickly to ensure your place in the field.

IAN MACLEOD

South West

Some outstanding views and one of the hottest days so far this year greeted those who playing in the annual match against the secretaries on June 27. Lyme Regis GC was where it all took place with two matches of 12 enjoying a social and competitive afternoon of golf. After our victory last year at Clevendon in the same event team captain Dave Neale was keen to carry on in winning form and was duly rewarded with a final result of five matches to one in the greenkeepers' favour. Well done again Dave.

Dave Everett and his staff had the course, and particularly the greens, in excellent condition. They were fast, true and hardly and visible dry patches to be seen. Quite commendable bearing in mind the recent weather conditions.

After was was a first class evening meal it was time for the prize giving and our thanks go to Avoncrop Amenity Products, the sponsor of the event, and to John Palfray who joined us for the meal. Not only did Avoncrop provide a prize for each member of the winning team but also the wine for the evening meal.

So to the moment Secretaries' team captain Jackie How hadn't been looking forward to - the shield presentation to the West South. If Jackie it gets easier each time, this year is Jackie's last year as captain and we thank her for her organisation over the years and wish her successor well.

Finally, thanks to the Secretary of Lyme Regis GC for making us most welcome.

The other event to take place recently was the Hayter Regional Qualifier at Carmarthen GC where there was more success for our South West section. Congratulations to Shaun Richards for Taunton & Pickardidge GC on winning the day's event by coming first in Category 1 with a net 72. Well done also to Sean Sage from Thornbury Golf Centre and Chris Sealey from Chippenham GC both with a net 71 in Category 3 and to Les Johnson with a 72 and a reserve for that category.

Congratulations to the Devon and Cornwall Section for winning the team Shield for this year's best team performance. Well done lads. The above mentioned people will go on to the final to be played at the West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14. Thanks to Hayter for its continued support; to Carmarthen for its hospitality and to Gordon and Marion Child for the enviable task of organising the event for the four sections in our Region.

The next section event for everybody is on November 9 at Selford GC but prior to that is a dinner match against the South Coast on September 21. As mentioned in last month's report to Lee-on-Solent by minibus is hopefully to be arranged so if interested please get in touch.

KEVIN GREEN

Surrey

The Cresta Cup held at Kingswood GC this year was enjoyed by 30 competitors in what proved to be testing conditions. On reflection the 37 points achieved by Ian Succilffe were exceptional as the course played its true length.

Thanks go to Ken Cooper and the rest of his team for all the hard work but into setting up the course for our enjoyment. Also thanks to Tom Hilliard for allowing us to use the course and a thank you to Gerry Doughty of Gerry's of Wimbledon for donating a voucher for £25 to be spent in Kingswood's pro shop which went to the winner.

Results:
1. Ian Succilffe 37 pts; 2. Bev Eyre 33 pts (on countback); 3. A. Garlands 33 pts.


Also a big thank you to Ron Jobson for his valued assistance with the scorecards.

Interested parties for the dinner/dance at Reigate Manor Hotel this November should contact the committee for tickets - priced £18.

Southturf was again a great success and thanks to the South East regional committee's hard work and the trades continued support, an estimated 6-700 bodies past through the gates and in general most enjoyed the exhibition.

An item of personal news for those of you who know me. I am now the proud father of a baby daughter. She was born in the 10th June (Derby Day) and weighed in a 7lbs 11.5 oz. We have named her Danielle and mother and baby are...
doing well – dad's shattered.

Forthcoming events include August 3 – McMil-
lan Tankard; September 5 – Parker Salver; Octo-
ber 4 The Autumn Tournament and November 10
Dinner/Dance.

DAVID GIBBS

East of Scotland

I am afraid I must open this month's report on a
sad note. Norman Whystock of Rhône-Poulenc has
died at the age of 49. Norman was a man who
would help any greenkeeper young or old at great
length with any problem he might have. I am
sure that I speak with every member of the section in
extending our sincerest condolences to his family.

On a happy note I have just returned for the
Scottish Tournament at Royal Dornoch GC and this
has to be the best kept course I have ever had the
pleasure of playing. Well done to Robert Pat-
terson and his staff who worked tirelessly to have
the course in first class condition for us (even on
Sunday afternoon I might add). And thanks to
Elliott and Edna Small for all the work they put in
to make the tournament the great success that it
was. Thanks again.

On Saturday June 10 we had a family barbecue
at the Kilspindie House Hotel which was well
attended with 48 members, wives, children and
guests all enjoying a good night. Pity it was on
the cool side but it was dry so we hope to have
another during the summer so keep a look out for
the next date soon to be arranged. The annual
dance is at the same venue as last year (as
above). Tickets on sale now at a price of £18 per
person. Rooms are also available at £18 per per-
son per night bed and breakfast. Letters regarding
this will be with you soon or give me a call.

Tickets for the 100 club are going slowly so
come on get entering and don't miss out of the
first draws to be made soon. So hurry.

The East section football team is on the look
out for some more games so come on other Scot-
tish sections how about some challenge games
home or away against the boys from the East.
Give me or Chris Teaman a call on 01875 870
485. In Glasgow you may have Gazza and Hooy-
donk but in the East we have Stevie (Bergkamp)
Dixon and Roberto (Baggio) Hogarth so let's get
arranging some fixtures.

A mistake in the last issue, the library that is
being set up is being done by Chris Yeaman and
Andrew Forrest with the money they received
from their Patrons Awards earlier this year, and
not the committee as previously said. the library
will be situated at Swanston GC in the Course
Manager's office when the new sheds are built
later this year. A small fee will be charged from
anyone wishing to borrow any. Money collected
will go towards buying more books.

Best wishes to all the lads who have just had
their results. They have all passed their HNC.
Well done to you all.

We recently had our committee outing to
Craigillar Park GC. Thanks go to Captain and
Council, Tom, Stevie and staff. The course was in
excellent condition and the weather pure sun-
shine – 80 degrees. The winner on the Eddie Holt
Trophy was our Secretary Robert Hogarth and he
also accepted the shield from the Chairman's
team serves the Vice Chairman's team as the
Chairman could not attend.

Better luck next time Stevie.

ANDREW FORREST 0131 339 1315 or ROBERT
HOGARTH 01721 722 832

Midland

Sitting in the garden sunbathing as I write this
month's note must mean that summer has finally
arrived. My family and I headed off down to
Richard Whyman's neck of the woods for our
annual dip in the sea on July 1. It must be a joy
this time of year to be on the coast with the sands
just a few minutes away.

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Jenkins on his
marriage. Paul has given me advice over the years
and it's nice to know Paul has joined the ranks of
the biggest institution known to man. How does
the song go – "another one bites the dust"? Seri-
ously, we all wish they both a happy future.

The next golf tournament is on September 25
at Maxstoke Park GC. that day Reginald W.T.
Stonebridge will be celebrating his retirement and
would like to see new and old friends alike join
in. If you would like to attend the evening meal,
contact Rhys Thomas on 0121 357 5378. All
entries to the tournament must be with Rhys by
August 25.

Finally I would like to congratulate all the
Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers who have
become NVQ Assessors. It hasn't been an easy
ting to do, especially as we have had to learn
what seemed to be a new language altogether. So
we all now know what PC stands for. No it's not
Police Constable!

KIM BLAKE

Kent

Three months ago at the excellent Littlestone GC
Andy Arthur and his brother won the Rigby Tay-
lor Shield and being Bromley's answer to "Marvo
the Memory Master" I forgot to mention it. So
congratulations to Andy and Malcolm and thanks
to Bernard Dibbins of Rigby's who put up the
prize.

Herne Bay was the venue for our second golf
day of the year. It was made all the more special
as the club had invited us down to help celebrate
its centenary year. Phil Hirst and his team worked
extremely hard on the course to give us a great
day and special mention should also go to Mr Bre-
aly, the Owner, and Mr Westlake, the Captain, for
donating the prizes and making us all so very wel-
come. I must also mention the catering and bar
staff for their patience, good humour and fine
evening meal. One of the most enjoyable parts of
these golf days is the opportunity to meet with
one's peers, develop friendships and discuss the
weighty issues facing greenkeeping today. That is,
of course, unless you are John Roots who enter-
tained the whole gathering with a non stop barrage
of jokes, all of which, as you can imagine, were
politically correct, clean and bereft of sexism.

Unfortunately there is no room here to print
these jokes but for anyone interested John will be
busking outside BTME next year. On a more seri-
ous note the newly reinstated Parker Hart Trophy
was won by Stewart Smith of Denigate Ridge
with an excellent 65. Congratulations to him and
thanks to John Noyce of Parkers for the trophy.

Finally a day for your diaries. Birchwood park
GC September 25. Among other things this is the
last round of the Eclectic competition and even if
you are yet to enter a card you are still in with a
chance of winning.

RICHARD PAGE

Sheffield

On July 3 we had our 27 hole National tourna-
ment at Cavendish GC. Our thanks go to Pat
Heaney and his staff for having the course in
excellent condition. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed
the course and we look forward to playing it
again.

Results: Nine Hole Morning Comp.
1. R. Birns 20 pr; 2. B. Heaney 19pts.
18 Hole Afternoon Competition.
1. M. Clegg 68 (nett) 2. M. Coultons 69; 3. R.
Needham 69; 4. C Hopper 70.

Our thanks for the prize table go to our trade
members Rhone Poulenc, G. Brady; Barenburgh
UK, A. Elliss; Alexanders, S. Chapman and E.
Sommerfield; Amenity Sports Turf, S. Burrows;
GEM, T. Adamson and S. Dyson; Rigby Taylors,
B. Booth, Aitkens Sports Turf, P. Fell; Trident, M.
Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of the Glasson Golf and Country Club for making the event such a success. Our thanks also to Bert Cross for starting and driving the mini bus, Howard McAddey and Ian Holoran for all their help on the day. Some very good scores emerged and as we know very well, the Golfers are well provided for in the East Midlands section.

The only point I have to raise is that there is a point of redundancy in the reference to Head Office. I have not been made aware of any other news around the area so I can only presume all is well in the North Wales section.

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