Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

West of Scotland
Winter is coming and everybody will be busy hollow coring, verti draining and topdressing after the summer, in readiness for winter rain. The nights draw in faster and members can start to relax, or so they say. The social events are ready for notification, but two events require special mention.

The AGM is arranged for 14th November and a letter will soon be on its way with time and venue. A good turn out is required for a change, if only to let the committee know what is needed by the membership. So please come along and support your committee.

The second event is the Annual dinner, with a special speaker, comedian Gary Davis. The night should prove a great success with such a well known television comedian entertaining members. Don’t miss the night and get your tickets early as only a limited number will be available at the special price of £12.50. The date is 24th November at the Admiral Bar, Glasgow, with a meal included, what great value.

South of Scotland
Winterbottom, Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands GC; S. Nightingale, Ravenham Park GC; M. Oakey, Ravenham Park GC; J. Stanley, Mel Police Sports Club; L. Welford, Aylesbury Vale GC and M. Busher, Kingsway Golf Centre.

Surrey
Looking back to August 3rd the McMillan Tankard was played at Sunningdale GC as usual there were maximum entries for this our most popular event. It was encouraging to see a lot of new faces present we hope this will be a regular thing in the remainder of the year’s events so your support to such events is critical for their continuing existence as poor response in the past has led to cancellation, so please support all your sections events if possible as an awful lot of hard work and time goes into their organisation so don’t make the McMillan Tankard and Sunningdale the only event you enter this year. All the courses we play over the course of the year are equally as good in their own way as well as the company you are likely to be in on the day. Results: 1st – Jim Russell (Lingfield Park GC), 2nd – Kevin Humphreys (Cromham Hurst GC), 3rd – Mark Todd (Lingfield Park GC) all scored 36 points so the results were decided on a count back.

Thanks go to Sunningdale GC and the Artisans Section for accommodating us, to Jack McMillan for supplying the Tankard and to Lawson Bingham for as usual turning out the Company in its usual high standard, and Ron Jeobson for doing the cards – thanks to you all.

Use of membership cards, please abide by the courtesy rules on the reverse of your membership cards as this will avoid disappointment upon visiting other clubs for a round of Golf and also shows good manners of which shouldn’t spoil things for others in the future.

Tickets are now available for the Surrey Section Dinner Dance on November 10th to be held at Reigate Manor Hotel, tickets are priced at £18.00 and can be purchased from any of your committee members.

Venues for tournaments for the coming year and 1997 are still required so if you wish to host a BIGGA event please contact Derek Walder on 01737 246088.

The first of our winter lectures has now been organised for November 13th where Gordon Jaaack has agreed to give us a talk at Kingswood 66&GC 7-7.30pm.

Events include the Autumn Tournament, October 12th Home Park GC 27 Holes Ploughmans/evening meal £22.00, the Turkey Trot December 6th Effingham GC followed by the AGM.

Derek Walder

Bucks, Bucks & Oxon
There are two golfing events forthcoming the first is the Autumn Invitation to be played at Hadden Hill near Didcot on the 9th October. This event has proved very popular in the past so I hope to see a large turnout on the day. The second is the Rigby Taylor knockout competition, this is a fourball event which is going to run through the winter months. The first names out of the hat will receive home advantage

Around the Green

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- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
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The Unique Verti-Drain

Reduxim
Northern Section

As you are probably aware August has been a very busy month for some of our section starting with the National Tournament. Our section team did very well but just got pipped into second place. I would like to thank members of our section who took part and hope they enjoyed the three days as much as I did.

The next event was the Roses Match held at West Bowling GC. Yet another scorching hot day but our lads, now accustomed to the heat, did the business and won back the trophy from the Lancashire team. Many thanks to Ben, the Head Greenkeeper and his team for the superb presentation of the course and all the hard work put in on the day. Thanks also to the caterers and to Pattinsons for sponsoring our event once again.

Invitation Day was next on the agenda. The tournament took place at Oxendale GC, Harrogate. As we passed through Leeds we experienced some unusual weather, torrential rain. "Wet weather gear" we thought, but as we approached Harrogate the sun came out and another hot day was in store. The course was in super condition and we all looked forward to the day ahead. The day went very well and the standard of golf was excellent, reflected by some of the scores that came in. The winners were as follows:- 1st - J. Baxter & Partner, 2nd - S. Dalton & Partner, 3rd - D. Storey & Partner, 4th - M. Hannan & Partner, 5th - K. Purdy & Partner, 6th - R. Smith & Partner, 7th - J. Waite & Partner, 8th - A. Baxter & Partner, 9th - M. Cortingley & Partner, 10th - S. Payne & Partner. The prize money won was £150. Many thanks to Oxendale GC for allowing us to hold our tournament there and to the Head Greenkeeper and staff for all their hard work. The food was superb, thanks to the caterers and thank-you very much to Yorkshire Movers for sponsoring the event once again.

Any members wishing to take part in the Autumn tournament at Easingwold GC on 25th October please contact me asap as numbers are limited.

Marcus Cortingley

East of Scotland

Welcome to this month's report, I hope you have now started to get over the drought. Looking at the courses around Edinburgh everybody is suffering even with automatic systems, what can we do?

Well we had our annual Willie Woods Memorial Tournament at Kingskrole GC on 50th August and what a great day it was, with 20 teams competing for the silverware. The format was a fourball with a greenkeeper and a committee member of your club in each pairing. Thanks to the Captain and Council of Kingskrole for courtesy of the course also to Steve Dixon and staff for the condition of the course (considering the dry spell we have just gone through), and last but not least Huskys Grass Machinry the sponsor for the day, many thanks to them for providing lunch and the magnificent crystal on the prize table. Also to the sponsors of the sponsored holes, many thanks. Results: 1st - A Holmes/J Stevens - Kingscote 77/12/65.5, 2nd - S Dixon/D Hastings - Kingscote 70/15/59.5, 3rd - S Stewart/D Davidson - Ppees 77/17/60.

Tickets for the annual dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel on December second are selling fast so if you want to be there be sure to let the venue know the night of the year, give Robert Hogarth a call and also send back your forms with the money for the tickets.

Friday October 20th there is a skittles night at the Right Wing, Wilkinson Road, Edinburgh, tickets are £10.00 - £11.30, priced £4.50 with basket supper included, so give myself, Chris Yeaman, or Robert Hogarth a call asap with numbers and names. We have a menu to choose from so ask what you prefer as we have to let the venue know what everybody wants four days in advance.

The 100 Club has been withdrawn due to lack of interest from the members of this section. So if you have any comments give us a call because everything we try fails unless it is a golf tournament. So what is happening to this section?

The committee is working hard on your behalf, but you are not supporting. Everybody that sent money/cheques etc. (all eight of you) will receive them back shortly. Sorry, but what can we do?

We are starting to finalise winter lectures so details will be in your hands soon. (Winter already!)

Well that is about all for this month but I would welcome any comments or input from section members to help fill in these articles when news is quiet, so if you have anything to communicate to the board, e.g. problems on the move, births etc. Finally I think about time we had another football match between the three counties so if you are interested then give me a call and we will organise an evening soon (don't be put off by the injuries to a few last time).

Lindsay Anderson

Leeds

Our autumn tournament was held this year at Arkley GC in August and as usual the attendance was very good. The course was in excellent condition and as the first player approached the tee it started to rain. Everyone wished the rain would continue as we all needed it desperately, but the rain soon stopped as I took my umbrella out of the car, so you can see that things were a little cool at times. The second was the first three players all tied at 35 points and the result was decided on the back nine scores for the three players. The result was as follows: 1. Ronan McKeown with 20 points, 2. Edward Dickinson with 19 points, 3. John Jackson with 18 points. The guest prize was won by the club Captain, Duncan Munro with 31 points and I would like to thank Duncan for presenting the prizes and also for making us all feel so welcome. The longest drive was won by Ronan and the nearest the pin went to David Wall. I would like to thank the trades for all its support and once again a special thanks to Arkley GC for its hospitality.

Dunstan

East of England

The first match between East of England and East Midland Greenkeepers for the Toro Shield was played at Market Harborough GC. The outcome saw EOE take the shield home with a 3-2 victory over our neighbours. A close match with the outcome being decided by the last pair going down the 19th. EOE pair John Scott and Phil Wilkinson winning 1 up to secure the win. Other EOE scores were: Captain G A Macdonald 1 up, Mike Waight 1 up, K. Hodges/Wright won 2\(\frac{1}{2}\)\(\frac{1}{2}\), Ross/F Cobb lost 1 down, P. Down/D Welbery lost 4\(\frac{1}{2}\), J. Scottney/P Wilkinson won 1 up (19th). Three games to two. Thanks to Market Harborough for courtesy and a great condition of the course.

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A Durstan

Midland

Where has all that lovely sunshine gone? It's hard to remember what the temperature was like all those weeks ago.

The summer tournament was a sizzler. The temperatures were in the 80s by the afternoon, with 47 players finding the course easier than its reputation due to some of the water hazards being dried up, allowing players to play from the muni. One such player had bad luck and turned into a mud monster, due to playing a very thick wedge. Better luck next
time. Drinks were most welcome by the half way stage, our thanks to John Hammond (Bathgate Sand). We would like to mention man - 111, 5th Nett - T Evans - 111 back 9, 6th Nett - M Cutler - 112, 7th Nett - C Macthias - 113. The trade prize was won by Tim Webb - Tacit 100.

It was nice to see so many friendly faces at Saltex, I enjoyed my day immensely, but I found I would really need to make my Capital Budget four times larger than is that.

I hope to see you at the Regional Seminar on the 29th November 1995. Details will be sent through the post. If members would like to be a coach to be provided to take part in the Seminar, please could they contact myself as soon as possible.

If enough are interested it may be possible.

Will you please note that the next golf tournament is a World Cup qualifier on the 7th December 1995. The closing date is the 5th November. All monies and entrance sheets must be with R. Thomas by the 6th November, as late entries will not be accepted. Also, will you all provide a prize to the value of £50, or keep the prizes.

The AGM will be held at 5.30pm at Worfield GC. Any non golfers wishing to attend are most welcome, and could attend the evening meal, the cost to be advised.

Kim Blake

Cleveland

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ian Macleod

Scotland North

Well what a summer that was, long hot sunny days, no rain and water restrictions even in the Highlands! Unfortunately those without water systems or inadequate ones would have had to keep their courses under very difficult conditions, I just hope we were patient and appreciated the circumstances that their green staff were under. I have worked at Tain for 19 years and cannot remember a summer like it. In fact older members at the club cannot remember one either. Someone once said that the weather has a way of equalising itself out so be prepared for a long cold winter!

No new members to report this month but there is a drive on to increase membership and past members back into the Association. Letters have been sent to them with a questionnaire for them to fill in giving reason for not rejoicing to try and find out if we can improve things and get them back into the fold. Anyone who knows someone who falls back into this category could help things by speaking to them and try to persuade them to rejoin, the more members we have the better to help the Association go from strength to strength.

Leading this recruitment drive is our Membership Services Officer Janet Atkinson who joined us back in mid August and we hope has settled in now.

Retired member Donny Dingwall from Strathpeffer is still swinging well as he hear he hole in one at the Strath recently.

Unfortunately for us, two past members have been short lived and two lucky Section members will receive £200 grants for educational purposes. They could use it to go to Harrogate on the Regions bus trip. The cost this time will be £135.00 to include travel, B&B accommodation, and entry to all seminars, a ticket for the banquet (recommended) is optional extra.

The slight increase this year is because it was felt better to go to a slightly better hotel, Grants Hotel being booked this year. Going by last year's trip early booking would be advisable.

This month sees the Kubota Challenge at The Belfry and your's truly, as Scottish Champion, will be a part of the BIGSA team, I hope to play well and bring the trophy back to Aldwark Manor once more.

Iain Macleod

North Wales

The following Greenkeepers are on the move: Dave Proctor from Baron Hill is going to Stoneyes Benefilet GC, Goofrey, David Panks, our team Captain, collected the Shield from the International team Captain Alan Jefford after a convincing win by seven games to two.

This year we tried a running buffet, perhaps a bit of a shock for those expecting the renowned Southdowns gammon steak, but nevertheless a success and a little more appropriate because it was good to see new members Mark Doyle and Ray Eversen turning out for the first time. We hope to see them and others more often.

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