A recent visit to the STRI trial grounds sponsored by Barenbrug proved very interesting and our thanks go to N. Sheldon of Aldkn's Sportsurf for organising the event. Grasses need to be tested for wear and tear and re-seeding of waste oil legally. Clean empty pesticide containers are usually collected for you.

This year's autumn tournament is to be held at Fern-Bruce Burnell petition, followed by an evening meal and prize giving. All those wishing to take part should send a cheque for £14.30 together with their handicap to Mark Webb, 12 Line Road, Alresford, Hants SO 2 4GRL Tel: 01962 733061. All cheques to be made payable to BIGGA, South Coast Section.

May I offer my congratulations to the following greenkeepers for achieving their D32, D33 assessors course run by the GTC: Brian Anderson, Abergele & Pensarn; Fred Grundy, Harlech; Roger Kelly, Harlech; David Goodridge, Denbigh; John Edwards, Padeswood and Buckley; David Lewis, Conway and Diane Lythgoe, Rhos-on-Sea.

We now have the opportunity to offer both our services and knowledge to the young greenkeepers of today and I hope that it will go from strength to strength.

Many thanks to David Golding and Sue Gudgeon who have got the ball rolling and sown the seeds and it is now up to us to get them planted and produce quality greenkeepers.

It seems to be the month for congratulations as the following greenkeepers have completed their NVQ level 2:

- Darren Anderson, Abergele & Pensarn; Dary Davie, Flint; Daniel Hayes, Northop Country Park; William Jones, Bull Bay; Steven Jones, Pwllheli - also awarded the Monmersteeg Merit Prize; Trevor John- ston, Eastham Lodge - also awarded the Bafford Merit Prize and Simon Shakespeare, Denbigh.

Can I remind all members of our golf tournament at Chirk Golf and Country Club on October 11. Entry forms will be out shortly and I would appreciate prompt replies.

A point which has been raised on several occasions in the past is the policy of inviting guests to our day. You are allowed, indeed encouraged, to bring a guest when playing in any national or section tournament and this competition RS Bird Ltd who provided the prize of £575 was won by Matthew Price who was hot, too hot I heard setting for what is a super golf course, a good test of skill and a little bit of luck.

The autumn 18 hole competition will be held on September 28 - the first time we will have visited the course. Tee off times are from 10am to 11.30.

The matches against the Cleveland and South East Scotland sections have yet to have a date but they will probably be in October.

Paul Wilkin has moved from Stocksfield to Matfen Hall and Andy Bowes from Matfen Hall to Prudhoe. We wish them well in their new jobs.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, Head Greenkeeper at Whistleham GC on winning the Durham County Strokeplay Championship again.

All section secretaries have been informed that any member failing to inform the necessary persons of not being able to play at any national or section events will face disciplinary action from both regional and sectional levels.

North Wales

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Jimmy Richardson

South Wales

The section's summer competition was held recently at the Maesteg GC, where 22 players competed for the Duncan Cup. A typical, traditional and warm welcome was given by the members and £10 for non-members.

Our sincere thanks to our ever faithful sponsors of this competition RS Bird Ltd who provided the prize and to the company's representatives Gareth George, Huw Thomas and Steve Cliffford who were in attendance. George Beck made the presentations on behalf of Roger and Jeffrey who unfortunately missed the event for the first time in 10 years.

Results: Birdcup 1. Adrian Panks, Caerphilly GC, 78 (gross). President's Shield. Peter Edwards, Treffoyne GC, 67 (net). The winner of the John Duncan Cup was new member Dave Morgan of the Vale of Glamorgan G&CC.

Amazone Groundcare Equipment held an invita-
from B&B section played well. In fact we all played rubbish - none worse than me who travelled 250 miles to NRI! There's always next year.

There is a couple of changes on the committee. Firstly Dave Childs has resigned as Chairman. He has moved from our section to take up a new position at Sheringham GC in Norfolk. Dave has served on the committee for several years, the last few as Chairman. Good luck with the job and thanks for all the work that you have put in to keep the section together.

The second change is the resignation of Ray Clark as Secretary. Ray has just taken over as Course Manager at Marlow and fears that he has not got the time to carry on with the secretary's duties. Roy Wates has stepped into the Chairman's seat and I have taken over the Secretary's duties.

The next event in our area is the Saltex Show at Windsor Racecourse. See you all there. Once again any comments phone me on 01491 578147. Lindsay T. Anderson.

Devon and Cornwall

With the summer drawing to an end you can all look forward to the beginning of our excellent winter meeting programme which has something for everyone. The programme starts at St Mellion G&CC on Wednesday October 26 and I would like to remind you to send all your entries back to me with the correct money by the closing date on the entry form, as meals have to be booked in advance.

Also a reminder about our dress code at meetings which is jackets and ties for lunch and no jeans or shorts to be worn at all.

Venues and speakers for the forthcoming winter programme are as follows:

October 25, St Mellion, Speaker Roy Battishill; November 22, Manor House, AGM; December 13, Okehampton, After dinner entertainer; January 17, Fingle Glen, STRI Conference; February 21, Newquay, Speaker to be arranged; March 27, Churston, Speaker to be arranged. Richard Whyman

East Midlands

Our section was successful in retaining the Hayter Challenge Regional Trophy on July 5 at Erewash Valley. On behalf of all section members who competed on the day I would like to thank again our sponsors Hayter. Also thanks should be given to our host club, Erewash Valley for staging the tournament. I would also like to thank Roger Willars for organising the event. Good luck to the three members of our section who were successful in qualifying for the Final, Richard Aitken, assistant greenkeeper at Letcham Grange and Alexander Smith from Perth who starts a course at Elmwood College this month. Stuart Hogg has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose and Kevin Fowler returns there as an assistant. Also I believe George Paterson's brother is working on the course to keep the family name going there.

Unfortunately the one day seminar due to be held in the north in conjunction with the STRI has been put off until next year due to other commitments.

Good luck to the Scottish team in this month's Hayter finals especially North members Kevin Peace, Inveraray; Sandy Reid, Letham Grange and Patrick Wood, Newmacher and maybe Brian Cocker who is sitting as first reserve.

The GTC is proposing to run another D32/33 Assessor training course this October/November but need about 12 candidates so anyone interested please contact me to book a place or for more information.

I was lucky to be part of the Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open this year and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great meeting old friends and making new ones. An added bonus was my good friend Steve Cadenelli coming over from the USA for Arnold's last stand. It gave us a chance to catch up on all the news and I met a few of his friends who were also over. Hopefully next year I will be able to go over and meet them all again at The Masters in April (any contributions towards the airfare will be gratefully accepted?) The course was set up just like a true links course should be and with the wind blowing was a very great test for them all.

Finally I am sure everyone in the section would join me in wishing沃尔特・伍兹 a long and happy retirement as until the Central Section was formed he was a very active North member seen at all the outings and events. Iain Macleod

South West

The morning's short thunderstorm over Bristol may have signalled the start of some welcome rain for this parched section of the West Country but alas it only provided more humidity for what turned out to be a very sticky summer tournament held this year at Long Ashton GC on July 26. There were a few stories of 9s and 10s on some holes after the round but also some excellent scoring on an interesting course made more difficult by the dry conditions.

On a point of order several people neither made their tee off time nor appreciated who they were playing with. With this in mind please either turn up well before the first tee off time and find who you are playing with or ring me prior to the event for a start time. It helps the day run much more smoothly. With those problems behind us the day went very well with 46 people playing in the annual medal competition and prizes and trophies, among others, for the best Head Greenkeeper and best Assistant scores. Those in the winning frame were best Assistant and winner of the event outright, Paul Cunningham nett 66, back nine from Nick Perkins. Best Head Greenkeeper Marc Haring nett 67, Nick Perkins nett 66, back nine, David Bougen nett 66, Simon Shipley nett 68, Andy Parker nett 69, back nine, Ian McFarlane nett 69.

Many thanks to Long Ashton GC and Secretary Barry Manning for their hospitality and for allowing us course courtesy. To Ivor Scones and his staff for providing some extremely good putting surfaces and to Roy Garland, Clubhouse Manager and Bev Woods, the Stewards for a very good evening meal.

Trade members played a large part in providing prizes for presentation and thanks go to Avoncrop, B.S. Mowers, Miracle Amenity Care, Rigby Taylor, T.H. White and Vitax.

Anything that you feel requires discussion at this year's AGM should be put in writing and returned to me by the end of September for discussion by the Section Committee first.

Finally good luck to all South West Section members taking part in the Hayter Final this year at West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14. Kevin Green.

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**THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN**

**Redexim**

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition

**THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP**
Mid Anglia

The regional final of the Hayter Challenge tournament was held at Erewash Valley GC in early July. We had 13 players representing the section with the best 10 scores counting for the team prize. Although we had some good individual scores the best of which were Ronan McKeown and David Coleman we had some good individual scores the best of which seem to go up and down at will. Any alterations deemed necessary by the committee will be relayed to the members before any competition.

Gerald Bruc, Section Secretary has a new telephone number should you wish to contact him outside working hours. It is 01422 826454.

A fixture card for next year's events should be with you by the beginning of October plus an entry form presented the winner's shield (to his own greenkeeper I must add) and the prizes.

Overall winner: Ian Willlett, 36 pts.

0-9 handicap: 1. R. Plummer 34 pts; 2. A. Carter 33 pts 3. M. Virley 32 pts


Nearest the pin 1st hole: I. Willett; 3rd hole: T. Tyrell; 11th hole. A. Toomey 16th hole. A. Blackgrove.

Longest Drive. 13th hole. M. Day. 18th. G. Longshaw.

The Captain, by then joined by Colin WIlcox, the Vice Captain and Chris Wilkinson, the Manager, thanked the participants for returning to Thetford GC on his invitation in 1994. Sam thanked Ian and his staff for the "cracking" condition of the course and then introduced Tim Russell from Lakenheath in his first competition and Regional Administrator Geoff Hills who travelled up from the south coast to be with us for the day. Geoff will be helping both the section and individuals with admin matters - Sam will have details if needed. The final thanks went to the trade which supports us at these meetings with its presence as well as prizes! Many thanks to: Avonshop, Ben Burgess, C.M.W Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons, greenkeeper supply co, Kings, Lubrica Engineers, Mommersteeg Seed, Parker Hart, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooke & Sons, Sisits, St-Brite, Symbio, Turf Actant. Also Ian Harris, West Middlesex GC and Norman Arter, Thetford GC for their help.

All thoughts are with Roger Eade, Stowmarket, who has just undergone a major operation - hope your recovery is swift and complete. Lyndon Upham and Ian Willlett have gained their G32 Skills Assessor certificate enabling them to assist staff on NVQ courses. Ray Mitchell has moved on to Benton Hall GC.

The autumn trophy will be played for on Tuesday October 10 at Cromer GC. If you are not receiving a pint with their ploughman's lunch put some with early tee off times in good form. Dennis Smith kept everyone in good order on the 1st tee and a fine job he did as starter for the day. Very dry is the natural condition of this Breekland course and in mid summer heat very tight lies were the norm. The course was in superb condition and the greens putted well, fast, true and consistent. Ian Willett and his team should be very proud of their course. A lot of very hard work must, as you would appreciate, go into maintaining a golf course that is located on the driest soil type in what is arguably the driest region in Britain.

Richard Goodenough, Captain of Thetford GC presented the winner's shield (to his own greenkeeper I must add) and the prizes.

Mid Anglia

Summer of '95 is certainly proving to be a real scorcher! Wonderful for us but not for the course.

I would like to congratulate all the Midland section players who took part in the Hayter Challenge Tournament on July 5. I have been told that it was a very enjoyable day for all concerned. I also had a great day, laid out on the beach at Widemouth Bay, Cornwall enjoying the view.

The finalists were: P. Holtham, P. Richmond, R. Thomas and A. Roberts.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Midland Section: Simon Marshall, Michael Canning, Gregory Hunt and Ian Savage while a belated welcome to what must be one of our most far flung members Gordon Farringdon.

The Midland section would like to congratulate Mark Catner on winning the 54 hole Miracle Amenity Care Cup at the National Tournament.

East Anglia

Over 40 members took up the challenge of playing in the summer tournament at Thetford GC on August 9th. Early queuing at the bar brought reward for some - a few beers were7 partying.

kept to 40-45 people maximum on a first come, first served basis, using he appropriate entry form sent to Richard Saunders by NO LATER than October 5.

All handicaps are now being recorded by the committee as well as all cards handed in at section competitions so we can keep closer tabs on members' handicaps some of which seem to go up and down at will. Any alterations deemed necessary by the committee will be relayed to the members before any competition.

The qualifying event for next year's competition will be the spring tournament at John O'Gaunt GC on April 29. Our summer tournament, a 36 hole event, was held on July 18 at Brickendon Grange GC near Essendon, Herts. The event was sponsored by Boughton Loam so thanks to Nick Baldwin for taking part in the golf and for supporting our section with the very dry conditions the greens were rolling nicely with some lengthy putts dropping. Our thanks to all the green staff in their efforts and to the other staff at Brickendon for looking after us on the day so well.

The full results of the golf event were as follows:

1. John Wells, Brocket Hall, 74 pts; 2. Steve Cherry, Woburn, 73 pts; 3. John Moorhouse, Brocket Hall, 72 pts.


A total of 34 members played golf on the day and it was good to see some new faces taking part. I would like to thank Richard Saunders in particular for his organisation of the event which was excellent.

Occasionally an event occurs in our section of great interest and that can be said of John Wells' success in obtaining the prestigious Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

John is not only the first to obtain this qualification in the section but also the first in the whole Midland Region. He is one of only six British greenkeepers to hold this award. I'm sure everyone in the section will be behind me in congratulating John on his success.

John obviously sets himself very high standards on his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course and we will all have the opportunity to see his course.

TS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

URSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
Removing barriers to help potential golfers

Feet on the ground

Regarding the article on "Ditching the relics of the past - say Americans" in the July issue you asked, do you feel the title "greenkeeper" is insufficient for today's responsibilities? To some extent this is true. But let's not get carried away with the notion that everything in the garden is gold. There are many greenkeepers in Britain - approximately 10,000 - and out of these many earn more than the average wage. Not many.

Let me finish by saying that BIGGA has made big strides, as has greenkeeping. But let's not get carried away with ourselves. Golf clubs dictate to us what our wages and conditions are. So we can call ourselves Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers... whatever we like but in reality we have a long way to go before the word "greenkeeper" will be obscured from Britain's golf courses.

Duncan Peddie
Head Greenkeeper
Alloa GC

Vote of thanks

On behalf of everybody at St Andrews Links, I would like to thank all the BIGGA members for their valuable contribution to the 1995 Open. Their presence provided confidence with the knowledge that support would be available in any circumstance.

On a personal note, I was very proud to be part of an association which has progressed in such a dramatic fashion over the years and is such a credit to the Board Members and staff.

Walter Woods
St Andrews Links Supervisor

Oz connections

I am working on Pinehurst No 2 course through a programme organised by Ohio University. I used to work as a demonstrator/sales rep for Andrews of Sunningdale, then Gibbs of Bedford, selling Ram-somes and Kubota around the London area.

While working on the course a few weeks ago I met a group of Australian superintendents who were doing a tour of the States.

John P. Odell, Superintendent of Royal Sydney GC told me that Gary Miller, who used to work at Stoke Poges GC in Bucks was killed in a boating accident at the beginning of 1995. John wondered if anyone knew him back in England.

He was also interested in organising an England/Australian Superintendent Exchange Holiday.

If you are interested or could help in any way contact the Australian equivalent of BIGGA or John P. Odell himself at Kent Rd, Rose Bay, NSW 2029. Fax: 02 371 5024.

Peter Morrison
Pinehurst, North Carolina, USA

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864

entry forms for the competitions contact Dave Wells - 01702 522202. Dennis Smith is hoping to organise a coach to the Cromer meeting departing from Southend then moving up through the region. Anyone interested should contact Dennis (Parker Hart).

Finally if you are thinking of playing in a competition beyond the East Anglia section take note.

I have just read with interest your piece "Small is beautiful" and agree entirely with the content. The article asks "So where can you find the young and, indeed, the old learn the game" and also quotes: "There is nowhere in this country where a beginner can feel comfortable and have all the facilities available to become handicapped golfers."

Well now there is!

I have just seen a 24 bay golf driving range in 1992, we became aware of a gap in the market that was not being catered for, and we have addressed this problem with our new nine hole Academy course which opened last month. Designed specifically as a short course by Martin Hawtree of golf course architects Hawtree, and with greens constructed to USGA specifications to allow play year round, it is, we believe, the first course of its kind in Britain - not necessarily in construction terms, but in concept.

We are committed to removing the barriers in front of prospective golfers, whether young, old, male or female. What we offer is Golf for All - somewhere for all the family to play, but this is not your average Pitch & Putt either as we attract many club golfers and professionals.

The site indeed the course is small - built on only seven acres) but our investment in this development is not. Architect designed and supervised throughout construction by a reputable contractor, fully drained and with full greens irrigation all that is missing is yardage or fairway. We have two full time greens staff looking after the course and what we lose in quantity we aim to gain in quality.

This is a new and alternative concept in golf in the United Kingdom.

David Moss
Proprietor
Adlington Golf Centre
Macclesfield

AROUND THE GREEN

Stephen Millard

Kent

I mentioned last month that the Birchwood Park golf day would be on September 25. This is wrong, the correct date is Wednesday September 27. We have the tee booked from 8.30am then again from 2.30pm with dinner being served from 7.30pm onwards. Steve Johnstone will have to confirm numbers two weeks prior to the day so it is important that you all return your booking slips along with all money as soon as possible. I have also been informed that Birchwood's Head Greenkeeper Neil Carrter is moving on and that his number two Mark Drake is taking over. Congratulations and good luck to both of them.

Prompted by an inquiry from Tenterden GC the Kent section has decided to organise a one day First Aid Course. These have been very successful in the past so any player booking will be advisable once all the details have been sorted out. We have also decided to try and organise a day trip to France which will include a round of golf, dinner and either ferry or rail crossing. If you are possibly interested please let me know.

Richard Page