Devon and Cornwall

Over 70 members and trade attended our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on December 13.

Our golfing members who com-
peted for the P. J. Flegg Trophy were treated to a pleasant dry day to test their skills against the excellently presented course which was a credit to head man Richard Wisdom and his staff.

Roy Battishill and Gordon Child, two members in the twilight of their golfing careers, paired up together to produce, with the Mullion boys, the best score of the day, as experienced campaigners Roy and Gordon came strong at the end to win on the back nine from Gordon and David. Also this year our President John Palfrey donated a bottle of port for nearest the pin on the short 12th which was won by D. Smith.

After an excellent Christmas din-
er Night from P.J. Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's Green-
some competition to: 1. G. Child, Crediton, and R. Battishill, St Mel-
liou, 39pts (on countback); 2. G. T. Blackburn, Mullion, 39pts; 3. T. T. Crediton, and T. Clark, Crediton, 37 pts.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by comedian "Yan Dare" who kept us laughing up to the raffles which concluded a superb day. The first raffle was for two hams donated by members and the trade.

Congratulations to Mike Goodhind, Course Manager at The Tytherington Club, who scooped the title of Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year. Mike moved to Tytherington from Cavendish and has made vast improvements to the course. Well done Mike, you certainly deserve the title.

Midland

As we start our new year I would like to think that all the members are happy with the way the Section is running. During the last few months a few interesting comments have been put my way by Trade Members who say that they would like to see different things being organised for their benefit, the only thing that I can say from the Secretary's and Commit-
tee view point is that we can only do so much – and with the support of the members. If any member has a point of view to put forward, please write or telephone me so I can put them forward to the Committee for discussion. Without your comments we cannot improve on what we have already achieved.

I can't go without one last mention of Uncle Sam Sylvester and, of course, his mother who is in her 90s and still takes phone messages in a manner that would put a lot to shame.

I'm sure you will join me in wish-
ing Sam all the very best for the future and thanking him for all he has done for us in the past. Happy days Sam.

I think I'm going to cry...  
Mick Lathrop

Scottish Region – North

Sad news has reached me about the untimely death of James Smith, for-
merly Head Greenkeeper of Hope-
man Golf Club. James retired due to ill health but unfortunately passed away in November at the age of 63. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Question. Where do greenkeepers go on a Saturday in the winter?

Answer. Victoria Park, Dingwall, home of Ross County FC. I go fairly regularly, but at the County verses Caledonian Thistle local derby, I counted seven other greenkeepers from local courses present. As expected, regular was George Paterson until his move to Ireland last July, but I'm sure he is being kept up to date with results etc.

A word of warning for Section members. The Scottish Region were so desperate for a final speaker for next month's Conference near Edin-
burgh that they asked me to make up the numbers. There being nobody else I accepted. I'm sure all the other speakers will more than make it worthwhile to attend, though, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our thanks must go to Richard Aitken Seedsmen who have agreed to sponsor this year's 200 Club print-
ing and mailshot.

A few new members to welcome this month, three of Paul Murphy's staff at Downfield have joined us, Steven Banks, George Macphail and Paul Cunningham along with two apprentices, Steven Davie from Craigie Hill and Barry White (some career change!) from Stonehaven.

Finally as I write this in late December, winter has arrived with a vengeance, the snow started falling on Christmas Eve and continued on Christmas night giving us quite a covering. Fortunately we in Tain did not lose our electricity, but many fur-
ther north did and with day time temperatures anything up to 20 below zero it must have been a cold time for these folk. I just hope you had your New Year stock of drink in early to keep the spirits up!

Iain Maclreed

North West

Congratulations to Mike Goodhind, Course Manager at The Tytherington Club, who scooped the title of Mirac-
le Professional Greenkeeper of the Year. Mike moved to Tytherington from Cavendish and has made vast improvements to the course. Well done Mike, you certainly deserve the title.

By now you should all have received your fixture list for the year, which has been kindly sponsored once again by Rite Feed. Section events are open to all N/W members, and I hope they will be well sup-
ported.

The seminar at Mere on March 26 is aimed at everybody involved in the golf business including club officials so please try to interest them in attending the seminar with you. All applications for the seminar must be sent to Howard McAdie, 44 Rose-
neath Rd, Urmston, Manchester, M41 5AU. Tel: 0161 747 3063 including your payment in full.

For golf tournaments a deposit of £10 will be required at least one week prior to the tournament in order to arrange meals and tee times. I would like to welcome all new members to the N/W section and hope you will come along to the sec-
tion and national events and enjoy the company of your fellow green-
keepers.

It is with regret that I have to
inform you of the death of North West member Keith Harle who died sadly just before Christmas. He began his career aged 16 at Disley GC before moving on, two years later to Sandiway GC where his parents were Steward and Stewardess. Aged 21 he returned to Disley where he remained for 44 years, 25 of them as Head Greenkeeper.

He retired in 1992 at 65 and sadly only enjoyed two years retirement before his death.

He was a member of the BGGCA and BIGGA for many years and is sadly missed by his son Paul, who is Head Greenkeeper at Crewe GC.

Once again I must remind you about the Mere seminar on Tuesday March 26. You will all have received an application form with your fixture list so please make every effort to attend and bring along your Secretary and Greens Chairman.

We are almost into the golfing calendar and the first event is the Annual Match against North Wales on Thursday April 11. I will require a team of 16 for the match so if you have the killer instinct and the will to win ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North East

Matfen Hall GC has appointed Vinny Price as Course Manager. Vinny was previously Head Greenkeeper at the Nick Faldo designed Charrithills in Kent.

His first task is to redesign the bunkers and approaches on the 2nd and 3rd holes while another idea is replacing the fescue and bent aprons and surroundings with dwarf ryegrass.

The spring competition will be held at Matfen Hall GC on April 25. The Autumn competition is yet to be announced.

Any members with information for section news please get in touch with me. Tel: 01661 860084.

Thanks toerry Charlton again for providing the coach for the BTME. Jimmy Richardson

Northern

It is with some surprise that I find myself back at the helm of the Northern Section and once again penning the Section notes and I would like to begin by thanking all the Section Committee for their efforts last year.

We have had some problems over the past 12 months and, on behalf of

accordance with the constitution. Please try to attend and I look forward to seeing a good turnout.

So what is in store for this year’s golf then, do I hear you ask? First of all it is to the seaside for the Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier at Scarborough, South Cliff on April 24.

Howley Hall is the next venue for President’s Day on June 12. I am sure our President, Bill Mountain, will do his utmost to join us. For those of you not aware of the fact, Mrs Mountain suffered illness last year and is still recovering and our thoughts and very best wishes go to them both.

Wednesday August 15 is the annual Roses Match which will be at Whitefield GC. If you would like to take part in this fully sponsored event please forward your name to me.

For many years now this match has been very kindly sponsored by Pattissons who celebrate their centenary this year – congratulations to them and thank you for your support.

Invitation Day is on September 4 at Bingley St Ives GC. This is a good opportunity to bring along your club Captain or Greens Chairman and to meet fellow greenkeepers.

Our final comp is at Walton and Norton GC on October 9. Last year our tournaments were generously sponsored by Martin Brothers, Bill Mountain, Yorkshire Mowers, Adamsons and Pattissons. I would like to thank them and hope they will continue their support. It is very much appreciated.

If you would like to play in any or all of the golf days, please forward your name and deposits (10%) to me as soon as possible as numbers are limited so early booking is advisable.

It would be nice to see some new faces this year as well as the old ones who fancy a knock.

On the social front the Annual Dinner this year will be on March 16 at Shipley GC. This dinner dance is open to all and is always a good night out. Why not get a few friends together and come and join us. Contact me for tickets.

Back to education now – the Northern Region is hosting a seminar entitled “Forward Together” at the recently refurbished Mere Golf and Country Club in Cheshire on March 26. There are some very good speakers and the cost is only £20 including lunch. You should already have received an application form so return it quickly if you want to go as this event is always a sell out.

Don’t wait to book for any of the events I have mentioned and if you have any news, gossip or even a complaint do contact me at 5 Lynam Way, Madeley, Nr. Crewe, Cheshire or on 01782 750539 or 0850 235534.

On a sad note, on behalf of the Northern Region I would like to pass my condolences to the family and friends of Geoff Hills, my fellow Regional Administrator from the South East, who was taken ill as he left BTME and sadly died the following day in hospital. Robert Lupton

South Coast

We had a good turn out for our Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner at the Royal Winchester Golf Club.

The Turkey Trot was won by Pat Bell with 40 points, 2nd was Phil Wentworth with 39 pts, 3rd was A. Stevenson with 38 pts and 4th Terry Patchin also 38 pts (decided on the back six).

In completion the AGM took place. Ken Lodge stood down from Chairman and was replaced by Allan Mitchell. Allan’s position as secretary was filled by Jeff Drake. The section committee is now:- President Jim Fry; Chairman Allan Mitchell; Secretary Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser Mark Webb; Kerran Daley; E McCabe; Bob Dennis, Tony Gadd, John York and Ken Lodge.

Everybody at Royal Winchester once again did us proud. The course was in superb condition even though the greens were sprinkled with white salt for some unexplained reason. It costs nowt to do this but it sure paid off.

Back to education now – the previous one was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Everyone was very impressed with the new headquarters and also benefits your golf club. Why not get a few friends together and come and join us. Contact me for tickets.

Thank you Royal Winchester for making us so welcome. Last but not least our thanks go to Rigby Taylor and John Deere, our sponsors for the day. They were once again represented by Mark Wilton and Nick Clarke.

Only one thing spoilt the day. That was one of our members failing to return his trophy. Please, gentlemen, if you are not playing in the tournament make sure that someone brings the trophy along. There is nothing worse than someone going to the prize table and having no trophy to present.

THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN Redexim

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

THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP GREEN
Our last winter lecture will be held at Arlesford GC at 7pm on Wednesday, March 6. The speaker will be Tony Gadd, the Course Manager at Barton on Sea GC. Barton on Sea has seen some major changes over the past few years and Tony’s talk will be about these changes. This has all the prospects of being a very good talk. Don’t miss it.

Westurf will be with us again on May 1. There are some alterations to the show this year. Their layout of the show is being improved and our BIGGA stand is being enlarged. More details next month. Please, ladies, make a big effort to support Westurf this year. If transport is a problem contact me on 01329 282362. I look forward to your calls.

The Section is holding a seminar at Sparsholt College on Wednesday March 20. All those wishing to attend please forward your names to Jeff Drake on 01722 330277. Some very good speakers are being contacted.

Make sure you don’t miss out.

Ken Lodge

Northern

The annual Christmas golf competition followed by the AGM was held at Ganton Golf Club on Tuesday December 12. The winners were as follows:- 1. R. Johnson 40pts; 2. T. Jarvis 39pts; 3. J. Waite 38 pts; 4. A. Gemble 37 pts; S. D. Collings 36 pts; 6. A. Baxter 35 pts.

After the meal the Chairman thanked Ganton GC committee for allowing the courtesy of the course which was in excellent condition thanks to David Spurdien and his staff. Thanks were also extended to the catering staff for an above average meal.

The meal was followed by the AGM at which 27 members were present, the following officers were elected:- President W. Mountain, Acting Chairman Alan Gamble, Acting Secretary Marcus Cordingley, Committee T. Jarvis, J. Waite, R. Smith, D. Cockburn, A. Leithou and C. Garnett.

A permanent Chairman and Secretary are to be elected at an early committee meeting.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year although due to printing deadlines you will not read this until February.

Alan Gamble

Surrey

Due to snowfall in early December this year’s Turkey Trot had to be cancelled but thanks must go to Eppingham Golf Club for allowing us still to hold our AGM and traditional Christmas dinner later on in the month.

There are two new faces on our committee this year, Grant Dooley from Walton Heath and Roger Glazier form Foxhills. Also we see David Andrews step down as Chairman after doing our Section great service over the last few years. A thank you to David and also James Watson who steps down as treasurer.

A thank you for your services.

Making David’s place as Chairman will be Frank Walker, who in the past has been Section Secretary. This responsibility will now be shared within the committee.

Congratulations go to Peter Broadbent and his wife upon the birth of baby Tilly. She was born on December 8. Hope all are well.

Please don’t forget to return gentlemen’s dinner ballot forms if you wish to receive an entry form.

Our second winter lecture is due to be held at Walton Heath Artisans on February 12. British Seed Houses are the speakers and it begins at 7:00 pm.

Any greenkeepers interested in a visit to Ransomes Ipswich on February 14 please contact Derek Walder on 01737 246088. Transport has been provided by Prices/Ransomes. Please don’t report this excision.

David Gibbs

East Midlands

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Birstall GC in Leicestershire on December 13, (sorry I was unable to attend the day). Thanks to all committee members who rallied round to make sure the day was such a success. The winners in the Stableford competition were as follows. Category 1 J. T. Patlow, Kedleston Park, 33 pts; Category 2 J. M. Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, 33 pts.

Thanks should go to Birstall GC for courtesy of the their course and to the kindness and hospitality shown to us - and for a great Christmas meal. Not forgetting Roger Williams and his staff for presenting the course. Also I would like to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day.

On November 22 the Midland Region visited Skegness Grange for the annual seminar. This was well supported by Section members and again I would like to thank Roger Williams for organising a great day.

A snooker evening has been arranged for members on February 28 at the Willie Thorne Snooker Centre in Leicester. Any member who has not received a form can give me a ring and I will forward them a copy. Please remember to send your form and a cheque for £8.50 to The Secretary before the closing date should you wish to attend.

Our lecture series has been arranged courtesy of Brooksby College for the benefit of all greenkeepers - the dates and speakers are as follows; Thursday February 22, 7pm, John Bradley, Barenbrug UK Ltd. Cultivar development and modern seed mixtures; Thursday February 29, 7pm, Stuart Rich, Hewitt Sportsground. Aspects of modern sportsground and golf course construction; Thursday March 7, Howard Storey, John Deere UK. Machinery developments and mowing trends.

If anybody requires any further information on any of these lectures they can contact Ann Hunt at the college Tel: 01164 434291.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Stan Fretter. Stan was a life member of the Association and was Section Secretary of the section for many years. He also worked at the following golf clubs, Kirby Muxloe, Kibworth, Leicesterina Spa and Lingdale. Our condolences go to all his family, especially to his wife, Grace, who is a keen supporter of the Association herself.

Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Firstly my apologies for no write up in last month’s magazine but with no events there was nothing of importance to report. However this month’s should make up for it.

The Turkey Trot was played at Frilford Heath in December. This was followed by the AGM in the evening. This proved to be a popular venue with 13 teams taking part (only 12 finished - read on for details). The format was teams of three with two scores counting combined - a fun format. Results: 1. R. Clark, C. Jacobson and G. Butler, 86 pts. (Personally I think the newly appointed Chairman should hand back his prize as he drafted in a couple of bandits to pick up the silverware, desperate as they were for decor in their new mess room - points of view on a postcard.)

The above results could have been so different if only Russell Lucas and team mates had played the correct last three holes. For those of you not familiar to Frilford is is made up of three courses and yes, you’ve guessed it, old Russ became confused when walking to the 16th tee on the Green course and somehow played the last three holes on an adjacent course - instant disqualification. To make matters worse one of the trade sponsors was a partner. Oops! It was all taken in good spirit and a few laughs were had by all at the bar. Sorry Russell, but I’m sure you will get me back for writing this.

Many thanks to all at Frilford for their hospitality on the day especially to J. Kleynhans, Secretary; Sid Arrowsmith, Course Manager, and his dedicated team. Also thanks to the catering staff for a superb meal. Thanks also to all the Trade members for the wonderful prizes provided. Without your support throughout the season these events would not be possible.

The AGM went ahead without any problems - nothing major to discuss. P. Helps and S. Irvine resigned from the committee. Thanks to them for all their work this past year. Their places were filled by T. French from Lambourne and B. Wall - the return of the Messiah? Only kidding Bernie. Ray Clark was appointed Chairman and G. Butler, treasurer.

Please give your support at events this coming year. Even if you can only attend one event that would be great. We need all the members support to make the season a success.

Lindsay T. Anderson

South West

Puckrup Hall Hotel & Golf Club played host to the Christmas Tournament for 1995, sponsored by Roffey Brothers. On arriving we were confronted with a very grand complex of which, as the day progressed, provided some excellent facilities for the event.

After familiarising ourselves with the essentials, it was onto the 1st tee to spend the next three hours trying...
On the Wednesday before the Texas Scramble, our Regional Semi-
nar was held at Hinckley once again. All the speakers were excellent and the range of topics covered were diverse. Jim Cassidy's talk on con-
struction of new putting green and Bob Taylor's Ecological Perspective
session was particularly good.

I'm sure everyone in the Section will be behind me in congratulating Chris Brock of The Family Golf Centre who came runner-up in the Mir-
cle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year award. Chris spent two days at
Almdorke Manor for the competition and said he enjoyed the experience
immensely. All I can say is the greenkeeper who won must have been
extremely good to beat Chris into runner-up spot.

It is the Midland Region's turn to host the National Golf Tournament
this year. The event will take place at Seacroft GC, Skegness, Lincolnshin
on August 5, 6, and 7. Please do like to mention our next section event, a course visit
at Ashridge GC in the company of Jim Cassidy. This takes place on
March 6 at 1pm.

Sheffield

On December 14 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Nick Bissett from Ashham Bryan College for a very interesting lecture on the structure of education in greenkeeping which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

I hope it's not another 25 years until we see Nick again!

Our next lecture will be on March 7 and will be given by Mr Bl Miller, Amenity Sales Manager of Hardy Sprayers Ltd at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

Just one new member this month - Andrew Williams from Forest Pines GC.

One more amazing thing happened recently. Carlisle United beat Hull City 5-2. That is quite amazing wasn’t it Derek!

John Lax

South West and South Wales

Region

If you have not booked your stand space at the “new look” Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday May 1 you are strongly recommended to do so.

This year more emphasis will be put on machinery demonstrations in the central area, backed up by a public address system to announce trade information and advertising. Westurf will be keeping a close eye on turf care product, whether it is being demonstrated or not. Let us spotlight your company’s news, snippets, up-to-date contacts etc.

You are probably aware, Westurf is organised by the South West and South Wales Region of BIGGA and a lot of the proceeds go towards educational events within the region. Our regular colleges, Pen-coed, Sparsholt and Cattinson will be holding a unit day for the first time by Hartpury College. These colleges are each given a grant to provide some form of benefit for our green-
keeper trainees. You will find their stands beside the IOG and STIR.

Westurf is a service provided for everyone connected to or with an interest in the fine turf industry. It is the ideal opportunity to see, in person, the whole of the world, the most up to date technology available for the care of grass – your grass! Don't waste this opportunity and support your region. Drop in on the Association and have a chat with Board members or just to rest your legs and have a chat. During the day our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, along with Board members will be holding a forum where you can air your views.

Among the exhibitors will be Avoncrop Amenity Products with its large pavilion accommodating Lev-
ington Horticulture, Farmura, Maxi-
crop, Nitto, Ocmis Irrigation, Supaturf, Supaturf, Scotts UK, Amenity Technology and Headland Agrochemicals.

Other early birds to book in for this great show with the friendly atmosphere include Ocmis Irriga-
tion, Roffey Bros, Symbio, Turf Irri-
gation Services, Rhoulenc, Bioseed, Bowcom Ltd, Better Meth-

Put this date in your diary – May 1. Some of our long standing exhibitors will be well represented when Westurf was last in May. We had a blast wave. Here's hoping!

For information ring 01803 844056
Marion Child

West of Scotland

We start a new year with every-
thing looking fine. The season loom-
ing over the horizon and the winter
work is finished – so we hope. News to-date covers the AGM and games night with mention of a football trial.

The AGM was arranged at Claremont Bowling Club on December 7 was, for a change, very well attended. Some 33 people attended with var-
ed views expressed and relevant dis-
sussion raised.

Nice to note the increased number of younger members present – long
may it continue – although I feel this was in part due to the games night which immediately followed.

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