Scotland:
Scottish Region

Was there ever a saying so true as, "the sun shines on the righteous". On Tuesday May 28 it poured rain all day. On Thursday May 30 it poured rain all day, so what happened on Wednesday May 29? Of course it was the Scottish Region Final of the Hayter Challenge and what a grand day it was too. The sun shone, a reasonable temperature and just a light breeze, perfect! Royal Aberdeen Golf Club lies on Balgownie Links, a natural links which must rank high in the list of best links in Scotland.

Even though it was just a light breeze it was still a very stern test, in fact many found it rather more stern. The first criteria was to live south of the border to earn one's crust, Scotsman Kim Macfie (we'll accept that, Kim as long as you don't lose your accent !) It's a great tournament Kim it gives so many people a chance to compete, locally, regionally and nationally and we are indebted to Hayters for giving us this opportunity.

The next most important people are of course the players and we had a great mixture from far and wide, and I'm sure the Dumfries lads did not get home the same day they left. However it was a marvellous day as I said at the beginning "THE SUN SHINES ON THE RIGHTOUS" Out of all those good players the following were the best and they qualify to represent Scotland at Fairhaven in September:

Cat 0-9: George Mitchell, Newmacher, 73-5-70; Bob McKay; Prestwick St Nicholas, 80-9-71; Ian Bell, Glencorse, 78-6-72.


Cat 19-28: Graham Shearer, Balmore, 98-24-74; Gordon McRae, Rutho Park, 97-22-75; Garry Crosbie, Dumfries and County, 97-22-75.

Inter Section Prize: West Section.

Scottish Chairman Sam Morrison, yes we did think the sun shines on the righteous. The results were:


Amid cries of 'fix' Chairman Andy Wilson won the scorecard draw for the BIGGA Blazer. The winners of the first four draws of the 200 Club were: January £30 James Peace Newburgh GC, February £30 John Geddes Macdonald Ellon GC, March £40 Iain Macleod Tain (at last!) and April £100 Gary Urquhart Nairn GC. A big final thank you to Cruden Bay for making us so welcome, and we look forward to returning one day to see the new clubhouse shortly.

This month sees the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and I hope to be there with Downfield's Paul Murphy to represent the Section on the Greenkeeper Support Team. Let's hope for a good week. Also this month at the Carnegie Golf Club at Stirling, the Cumbria Cup was held, and in our section, we have the opportunity to see a challenge match in the Shell Wonderful World of Golf series. The match is between Greg Norman and Fred Couples and I believe, is the only one to be held in the UK, so if you have got the time spare on Sunday July 14 you know where to go.

Finally congratulations to Muir of Ord Assistant Stevie Macintosh on winning the North District Championship at windswept Tain with a 36 hole score of 142, just two over par which was excellent scoring as a cold North West wind gusted over the course all day. Iain Macleod

Northern:
North West

Pennrich GC, once again played host to the Cumbria Cup competition, sponsored by Course Care. This competition in its second year, is mainly for greenkeepers in the N/W section, who work in the Cumbria area, and are out on a limb as far as getting involved with most of the N/W competitions.

The course was in great condition thanks to John Berry and his staff and I must admit I was also pleased to see so much wildlife of the course. (The animals and birds of course).

The spring tournament on the 30th May, was played at Morecambe GC, and almost a record number of 60 played. Myself and many others not having visited Morecambe before, were pleasantly surprised to find, a not a large course, as expected, but a well established parkland course, in beautiful condition, with magnificent views of Morecambe Bay, and the lake district.

Mark Broughton, the Course Manager, whom I am happy to say, has gained his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, had the course in excellent condition considering the bad start to the season we have all had.

Many thanks to Morecambe GC, for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and to Ken Dean and his wife, Eileen for the fair banquet they gave us.

The results were:


Many thanks to the companies who supported us with the prize table. They were: SISIS, Acorn Equipment, Gary Worrall Course Care, Rhône Poulenc, Premier Turf, Miracle Grow, Gem, Hayter.

The competition was also a qualifier for the Hayter Regional Final, and the qualifiers are:


10-18. P. Simpson. C. Ball.

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions
C. Stanley, Reserve. J. Conn.

The regional final to be played at Abergele & Pensarn July 5.
Finally the Roses Match will be played at Whitefield GC, on
Wednesday 14 August. A team of 16 will be required so anybody
interested please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Northern

Well, it's well into the year and
most courses seem to be strug-
bling to get any kind of growth in
the right places. But at least every-
body seems to be in the same
boat, so that's not too bad.

With regards to our Spring
Tournament held at Scarborough
South Cliff Golf Club, may I thank
Nick Gray, Managing Director of
Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd, for
their kind sponsorship of the
prizes and Mel Guy who repre-
sented them on the day.

I would like to welcome the fol-
lowing new members to our sec-
tion and look forward to meeting
them at one of our forthcoming
events: Kevin Alderson, Shipley
Northcliffe G.C; Steven Slator,
Beverley & East Riding G.C; Ben-
jamin Pearson, Shipley Northcliffe
G.C; Eric Garlick, Redhall Ser-
vices; Stephen Dwaris, Swingtime
GC; Stephen Couzens, Flambor-
gough Head G.C; Roger Bielby,
Hornsea G.C; Leslie Bunker, Filey
GC.

Anyone who has any problems
or wishes to put their name down
for any golfing days, please con-
tact me Tel: 01484 519629.
Finally, I am pleased to
announce that Andrea and I were
married in the Caribbean on the
13 May 1996.

Simon Heppenstall

Sheffield

Firstly, good luck to Paul Unwin
who after 21 years at Hallowshire
GC is leaving. He is to run his own
pub in Sheffield called The Hal-
lowshire Hotel which, I am told,
has nothing to do with the golf club!

Just a reminder of a couple of
dates - our annual competition on
July 9 at Abbeydale GC and our
autumn competition at Hickleton
GC on September 2.

Finally it is with regret that I
have to report that Tony Wadkins
passed away recently. May I, on
behalf of the Sheffield Section
convey our sympathies to his fam-
ily.

John Lax

North Wales

The Section's Spring tournament
and Hayter qualifier was held on
May 14 at the Bull Bay Golf Club,
Amlhy, Anglesey. Given that we
have had such a cool start to the
year it was an unusually sunny
day with temperatures into the
high 70's and hardly a cloud in the
sky, at least one member was
sighted wearing regulation shorts
and for one was suffering from
sunburn the following day. Eighty
five members and guests took part
in the competition and for those
members who did not play, you
missed a real treat. We have quite
a few thankyous to say for what
was a wonderful and most pleas-
ant day out. Firstly to Bull Bay
Golf Club, which at short notice
provided us not only with cour-
tesy of the course for the day but
also with a splendid venue and a
good challenge of golf, also to the
caterer and his staff who provided
a beautifully prepared and pre-
vented meal and not forgetting the
splendid job done by the bar
staff in Re-hydrating us on such a
hot day. Our thanks must also go
to Andy Peel and his staff for pre-
senting the course in such fine
condition, especially the firm, fast
and true greens. Last but by no
means least our thanks must go to
our sponsors for the day who pro-
vided all the prizes: Hayter, Acorn
Equipment, Gem Professional,
Grovesnor Nurseries, John Osman
Machinery, Ki-Chem, Major Owen,
Martin Brothers, Mommersteeg
International, Richard Campy,
Rigby Taylor and Walker Engi-
neering.

The results of the competitions
were as follows:

The best scratch score was
achieved by R Cowell 68 - 5 - 63
a little bit of local knowledge
might have had something to do
with this, he is Captain of Bull
Bay. Very well done.

The following qualify to repres-
ent the section in the next round
of the Hayter Competition.

Cat 1 Pat Valentine 76-6-70,
Darryl Davies 81-6-75. Ian Buck-
ley 83-7-76.

Steve McCabe 90-17-73. Andrew
Jervis 89-16-73.

Don Rowland 96-24-72. Stuart
McCall96-24-72.

We are pleased to welcome two
new trade sponsors for the sec-
tion: Aitken Sportsturf (Nigel
Prestwick) and Strike Top Turf
(David Robertson).

Our Chairman Brian Anderson
wishes to thank our Section Presi-
dent Terry Adamson and Vice
President Phil Davies for the effort
and hard work that they have
given to the section over the years
and especially in the last few
months, it is only with support
like theirs that we have such a
active and successful section.
Brian also wishes to thank Andy
Campbell for his support and ser-
vise. Andy resigned as Section
Secretary in May and has trans-
ferred to the North West section.
It has been decided that all future
section competitions will have
properly organised starting times.
This will entail a bit more work
for our Match Secretary (MS)
Terry Evans. Entry forms will
require you to indicate at what
time you would wish to start your
game and will need one person to
act as the contact for the MS to
advise you of your allocated start-
ing times. To make life easier for
the MS entry forms will also
require you to indicate for each
entrant whether they are guest or
member. Completed entry forms
will of necessity have to be
returned to the MS approx. one
month prior to the competitions.
Please remember that first come
will be first served and the earlier
you return your entry forms the
more likely you are of teeing off
when you want to. It should also
be noted that as we are granted
courtesy of the host golf clubs our
guests are expected to be golf club
related ie. Captains, Vice Capitans,
Secretaries, Green Chairman etc.
Our Match Secretary, Terry Evans
would like the winner of the '95
Christmas Cup at Prestatyn and
the cup winner of the Autumn '95
Chirk competition to contact him
on 01352-720692 as soon as pos-
sible.

With over 130 members in our
section I am sure there must be
some news out there or someone
with an idea for a new activity or
event. Remember that this is your
magazine and if you have any-
thing that may be of interest to
the rest of your colleagues please
feel free to phone me on 0151-
336-6675 or write to me at 11
Ashtrree Close, Little Neston,
South Wirral, L64 9QS.

Trevor Johnston

Cleveland

Our Spring Tournament was held
for the first time at the new course
at Ramside Hall Hotel golf com-
plex, Durham City. This magnifi-
cent 27 hole centre is now fully
open to all.

Our congratulations must go to
the owner Mike Adamson, for the
wonderful layout and to Roger
Shaw, Course Manager and staff
for the fine rescue greens and fair-
ways and the tee mix of Bent
grasses. The condition of all was
superb.

The regional final to be played
at Abbeydale GC and our
autumn competition at Hickleton
GC on September 2.
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
tourney.

Details for the next competition at Wilderness will be sent out soon with start times.

I would also like to with John Roots a speedy recovery from his car accident recently. Get well soon, John.

Watch this space for further information.

Huw Morgan

Surrey

The Spring Tournament this year had a very good turnout with 51 Surrey members entering. The event was played at Foxhills GC over the Longsorbie course. Thanks firstly must go to Foxhills for accommodating us in such great numbers and to Neville Shade, the Course Manager, and his staff for turning the course out in such great shape. Also a big thank you to Hayters for their sponsorship and all the rest of the trade’s generosity.

Results:

Surrey

We had a great day for our Hayter Regional Final at Salisbury & South Wilts GC on June 12. Everything was perfect and we had a great day for all the golfers. Our thanks to the Golf Club and all the staff for making us feel so welcome.

Wales Region

South West and South Wales Region

A brilliant sunny day with a course in superb condition – we couldn’t ask for more… but we got it in the form on excellent food. Everyone recommends the treacle bread and butter pudding.

Results and our Hayter Team for Fairhaven on September 18.

The Section Shield was won by The South West with a score of 924 while the three category mugs are C. Tozer, B. Jones and J. Breyley.


Marion Child

South West

Despite a later date for this year’s Westurf, again held at Long Ashton Golf Club, we were once again subjected to some poor weather with heavy rain greating visitors to the show. This year’s events had many new ideas with a number of shows held having a central demonstration area, a public address system to publicise demonstrations and products and a major draw prize. There was also a question and answer forum organised by the region with the Association’s Executive Director, Chairman, Editor and Membership Officer in attendance. Despite the publicity for this last item it was disappointing to see so few people attending what could have provided some interesting discussion.

Improved afternoon weather helped in the success of the day with thanks as ever to Gordon and Marion Child for their organisation and to everybody in the section who helped in the event’s setting up, running on the day and clearing up afterwards.

The annual Greenkeeper/Ama-tour Tournament was this year held at Erlestoke Sands GC. This enjoyable competition was always well supported with this year being no exception as over 50 people played on the day. Don Southey and his staff worked extremely hard to have the course in excellent condition despite the sloveness of the growing season. The course itself provided a good test of golf with most of us returning average scores. However one or two pairs did come in with the now familiar rugby score! Thanks go to Secretary Mike Pugsley and Erlestone Sands for allowing us and our guests course courtesy, to redesigned show around having an excellent buffet meal and once again to Don and his staff for the time spent preparing the course.

The results are as follows: 1. Jason Cooper (Saltford) and Paul Evans 48 points (back 9); 2. Robin Greaves (Thornbury) and Tim Greaves 46 points; 3. Chris Sealey (Chippenham) and Doug Maddison 45 points (back 9); 4. Anthony Knight (Kingsdown) and Robert Pyaz 45 points; 5. Gary Cook (Emmore Park) and Kevin Budd 43 points.

This year’s match against the secretaries will be held on the July 30 at Holsworthy GC. Team Captain Terry Humphreys may well have been in contact with you for selection by the time you read this report.

Another reminder that Supervisory and Management Courses are being run by Headquarters between October 7 and November 8. Contact Ken Richardson at Headquarters for more details.

Finally I look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Tournament at Mendip GC on July 25.

Kevin Green

Devon and Cornwall

I start my report this month by wishing Don Hunt of Roffeys a speedy recovery from his sudden illness, Don’s commitment to our section has been second to none, we all look forward to seeing Don at our meetings in the very near future.

Congratulations to Michael Rosco of St Enodoc who has been nominated by Cannington College to represent them in this year’s Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Good luck Michael.

The summer meeting pro-gramme is now well under way, unfortunately I was unable to attend the first meeting held recently at Vyelton Golf Club. Our organiser for these meetings Steve Evans reported that the meeting went well. Our thanks to Head Greenkeeper Steve Peters and Vyelton GC for allowing us use of their facilities. Our next meeting will be held at Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 17 July. The agenda will be as usual, arrive and meet in the car park at 6.15pm prompt, course walk with host Course Manager Jeff Mills returning to the Clubhouse at approximately 8pm for a bite to eat. If you would like to attend please call Steve Evans on 01208 863647 by Wednesday 10 July.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our Summer Golf Meeting will be held at Stoneham Golf Club on Wednesday August 15.

Members may bring a guest from their Golf Club or a Greenkeeper colleague from another Club. The cost of the day will be £11.50 each. All Cheques to be made payable to BIGCA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to: Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road, Aylesford, Hampshire, SO24 9LD, Telephone 01962 733061. The closing date for entries is Monday 5 August.

Once again I must ask all the Trophy holders to make sure the Trophies are on the prize table at the end of the Competition.

Westurf has been and gone again. The re-vamping of the show seemed to have met with every one’s approval whom I spoke to. Personally I thought it made a big improvement to the show. The Demonstration Area in the Centre was a great success. A number of the Members of the Trade took full advantage of this facility and this allowed dem-onstrations of their machinery.

We must not forget Gordon and Marion who do so much for Westurf and all the other regional events. Without them these events would just not happen. So thank you both.

It is very sad that I have to finish on a low note as regards to Westurf. “South Coast Section where were you?” You were very conspicuous by your absence. Walking around the show I could count the numbers of you on my hand, Westurf is the main sup-port of our region and we should support it a lot more than we do.

Incidently I do not consider the weather as a reason for not attending. For those few who do make the effort I thank you for your support.

Ken Lodge

COULDN’T WORK WITHOUT IS:

Members may bring a guest from their Golf Club or a Green-keeper Colleague from another Club. The cost of the event is £15. All Cheques to be made payable to BIGCA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to: Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road, Aylesford, Hampshire, SO24 9LD, Telephone 01962 733061. The closing date for entries is Monday 5 August.

Finally I look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Tournament at Mendip GC on July 25.