South West and South Wales Region

For the sixth year this Region's trip to the BTME at Harrogate was a great success, but my how things change. Just as in 1991 we encountered below zero conditions, this time, however, the coach did not break down and the heater was working well. The numbers have changed also from 29 in '91 to 62 in '96. We hope to top that in '97.

The exhibition and seminars were tremendous, and just as you think it cannot be improved upon it steps up into another gear – great credit to the organists at HQ. I did receive a complaint about the BIGGA stand from one member of our party who went to buy a £14 training video. The girls hard selling, tailing and flucturing of eye lashes cost him £56. His comment was "they should have hogs over their heads". All in good fun of course. Janet and Vickie, both relatively new to the Association, worked like beavers and still came up smiling, as did all the staff. Walking around the halls, the smile seemed to be the theme of the week. Which says it all.

The Region's hotel base, where we receive such a warm welcome each year, becomes a second home for us all, and is the scene of much camaraderie and laughter, along with discussions of the day's events.

South West and South Wales Region

Our Spring tournament will be held at Crane Valley GC on Monday April 15. This competition will consist of a 27 hole Medal.

The cost for the day will be £21.50, all cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to Mark Webb, 12 Line Road, Alresford, Hampshire SD2 49LD Tel: 01962 733066. The closing date for entries is April 5.

Will all members holding trophies please ensure they are on the prize table at the end of the competition. This competition will be the Hayter qualifier for the regional final to be held at the Salisbury and South Wilt's GC on June 12.

Please gentlemen, if you qualify, make every effort to attend the Regional Final. If you are not available let Mark know straight away so that he can find replacements in good time. This is to ensure that we do not have to make last minute telephone calls to say sorry we can't make it.

As the regional final is being played in our own area this year it is important that we field a strong team, even more important that we field a complete team.

Westurf is on May 1 and not April 24 which was the date given on the Section Programme. Now that we all know the correct date let us have a big turn out this year. Any problems with transport please give me a ring on 01329 262362.

There are a number of improvements to the Show this year among them: a public address system; a free prize draw for all members who attend for a very worthwhile prize; instead of rows of stands this year they are being repositioned and the demonstration area will be in the middle making everything much more accessible.

Westurf this year has the makings of being better and larger than ever. I hope to see you all there on the day.

There is still time to book your seat for the South Coast Seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on March 20. We have some very good speakers lined up: Billy McMillan and David Winterton, both Course Managers; Ken Richardson, our own Edu- cation Officer; Bobble, our Hon. Secretary, and Peter Jones a former Head Greenkeeper who now runs his own Consultancy Business.

By now you should have received your programme. For those who have not yet booked their seat send your booking form and cheque to: Jeff Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wilshire SP2 7PW. For members the fee is £12 and non members £15.

I have just returned from the BTME at Harrogate. "What a Show", everything gets better each year. The Education Programme was good, there were more Trade Stands, more people and more space. I am told the consumption of Tetleys and John Smiths Ales were greatly increased around the trade stands before lunch. Unfortunately lunch ran over time which allowed delegates time to look around the trade stands before lunch.

The day started at 9.30am with the introduction by Richard Whymann, Section Secretary, and John Bradley of Barenbrug. The morning session included John Tucker, Golf Course Architect; Steve Baker, Senior Research Officer and Manager of Laboratory and Dr Kate York, Plant Pathologist. The morning session finished after question time at noon which allowed delegates time to look around the trade stands before lunch.

Unfortunately lunch ran over time which left delegates little time to have a second look at the trade stands before returning for the afternoon session which included Neil Hayward, of the EGU; Bob Taylor,
**Around the Green**

Ecologist and Peter Winter, Regional Agronomist. Question time concluded an excellent educational day.

With almost 180 members it was disappointing that only 72 members and guests attended this excellent day, is it a case that all those who didn't attend already knew it all or that their clubs wouldn't let them attend. It couldn't have been the cost of the day which was only £10 per member including a three course lunch. I only hope that the fact there wasn't any golf didn't have a bearing on the attendance.

Our thanks to the STRI for providing the excellent programme of speakers, also to Fingle Glen for once again allowing the section use of their facilities.

On behalf of all the Section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip. Also thanks and congratulations to our staff at our HQ at Aldwark Manor for their superb organisation of the section as much as possible therefore giving a greater opportunity for all members to benefit. Please, therefore, give your support if possible, if you're not a golfer and would like to attend there is every possibility that a course walk could be arranged.

Everybody will be receiving application forms for the team matches this year but due to the difficulties experienced last year in obtaining teams from lists of people originally indicating that they would play, could you please ensure that you will definitely play on the dates of your choice if you are selected.

The final request is that if you are not receiving correspondence from the section then please contact me as this may be due to several things including your affiliation with the wrong section or recent change of address.

The BTME Exhibition on May 1 at Long Ashton GC is fast approaching. This year will see many changes to this regional event including reorganisation of the show ground; representation on the day of the Association by Heads of Departments in the form of an open forum; a demonstration ground in the middle of the arena and a prize draw for those people who hand in their entry slips on the day. The success of this show and its subsequent continuation depends on your support so please make every effort to attend.

Finally, the Section's silverware has now been valued and insured so enabling the winner of each golfing fixture throughout the season to receive the appropriate trophy and retain it for the forthcoming year.

Kevin Green

**South West**

Once again the BTME Exhibition held in January at Long Ashton was a resounding success with over 160 companies and organisations exhibiting over three days. The increase in size from last year meant that an entry hall was required to accommodate everyone's needs. Fortunately, although a little wetter, especially in the south-west corner (I hope so because I'm freezing), the unprepared.

Our winter competition, Christmas dinner and AGM was held recently at Pyle and Kenfig GC near Portcawl.

Although numbers were down slightly on previous years, 38 hardy golfers took to the course to remind themselves of the testing challenge that Pyle and Kenfig has in store for the unprepared.

The weather, albeit cold and windy, remained dry and bright - the making of good golf. As usual faults could be found with the course. The greens were running firm and true and were a credit to Paul Robinson and his staff.

Our thanks to Allan Stow and Vitax Ltd for their continued sponsorship of the Christmas golf day, the cut glass crystal prizes that were on offer were exceptional.

Thanks also to Kim Davies and Celtic Mowers for their continued sponsorship of the longest drive and nearest the pin competitions.

Results: Winner of the day and the Vitax Shield, Ian Crichton, Kingston GC, 40 pts; 2. Andrew Cosh, Creigiau, 37 pts (Back six); 3. Peter Lacey, Bigourdan, 37 pts (Front). For the pin was Doug Sonne, of Inco's, while Robert Frater, Creigiau, won the longest drive (by the narrowest of margins, beating the young at heart 76 year-old Ted Thompson).

The AGM followed on from the golf with some 50 or so members in attendance. With only four apologies having been received and a membership total of nearly 170, this really should be much more. A minute's silence was given in remembrance of two former Southerndown greenkeepers, namely John Walsh and Chris Thomas.

The remainder of the meeting went relatively smoothly and was rounded off with a note being made that we are indebted to the trade for its continued support and also to the Principals of Pencrefn and St. Andrews for their superb organisation of the Christmas golf day, the AGM and the committee of the Region's coach trip. We thank our Chairman Ildaw Morris to thank you.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Roger Thomas and the committee of the Pyle and Kenfig GC for the kind courtesy of their facilities for this annual event. Their warmth and hospitality is second to none and always makes for an enjoyable day. To the Steward and catering staff for an excellent Christmas dinner thanks once again.

At our last education evening Gordon Jaabback made a presentation "Dispelling myths in golf course drainage and overcoming problems".

Gordon, a South African consultant in agronomy and soil science who has worked all around the world, now lives in Tontbridge in Kent.

Gordon attracted an audience of well over 30 and his hour and a half presentation was based on his opinion that there are six major myths relating to drainage and its principals and how, in his opinion, he would like to rectify these problems. An interesting and topical evening. Thank you Gordon.

Congratulations are in order to the staff at our HQ at Aldwark Manor for their organisation of the recent BTME exhibition. By far the biggest show to date and I expect to hear that numbers are well up on last year. I won't dwell on the show but it would not be right if I did not take this opportu
nity to thank Gordon and Marion Child for their superb organisation of the Region's coach trip. We thank you both.

Former "Birds" representative Huw Thomas has taken a similar position with John Deere agent power Cut of Carmarthan. We wish him well.

Our good wishes to Colin Murphy. Colin recently underwent surgery to remove varicose veins. He should be back on his feet my now and we look forward to seeing him up and about soon.

Our latest winter evening lecture was presented by John Mosedale, a water resource manager for the National Rivers Authority. John, a local Whitchurch man, gave an interesting talk, albeit to a rather small audience and covered such topics as measuring water flow, boreholeting, water storage and the process of applying for an abstraction licence.

An interesting evening with many tips along the lines of water to do, what not to do and when to do it.

Our thanks to John for making the effort, unlike most of our members, to the NRA and also to Pentec College.

Dates for the diary. April 17, South West Section at Pentec College entitled "The management of weeds, pests and diseases. Details/Applica

on forms will be with you soon. May 1 Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton, Brisol.

Peter Lacey

**Bucks, Berks and Oxon**

Once again the golfing season is upon us with spring just around the corner (I hope so because I'm freezing). For those of you who read last month's article you will be pleased to know that Russell is still talking to me (Phew)

I have a good feeling about this coming year - Let's be honest It can't be any worse than last year with the summer golf day having to be cancelled because lack of support.

There is a real positive buzz within the committee so let's hope it rubs off on the 300 members within the section (yes that's right 300). For those of you who don't know already Ray Clark from Harleford is our new Chairman. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Ray then don't worry you soon will because he is planning to visit each golf club in our area - "Ray's Road show" (A bit like the Radio 1 Road show without the music.) The reason for this is to get feedback from all members, especially the invisible ones. What do you want from your section? We are at present putting together a questionaire which should help with the gathering of information. Hopefully this will be posted with the first golf entries.

Speaking of golf days. The first is to be held on April 30 at Southfield, nr, Oxford. This will be an afternoon event over 18 holes. This is also the Harvey Qualifier so lots to play for with a chance to represent your section at national level.

Note: Please remember that all golf days are to be subsidised this year to keep costs down. Remember...
West of Scotland
In the last issue mention was made of the AGM and how much of a success this proved to be. An omission was made on my part with regard to election of office bearers - that of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Steven Hogg takes over the reins as Chairman and John Scott as Vice. The Section wishes them a successful year.

Thanks to Ronnie Bunting for his efforts as past Chairman and for all his good work. Thanks also to Ray Auld and Gordon Kerr both of whom put a lot of work in over the years.

The first meeting of new committee has been held and the office bearers are as follows: Chairman Steven Hogg, Drumpellier; Vice Chairman, John Scott Jnr, Kirkhill; Secretary, Sandy Bulloch, Fereneze; Match and Handicap, Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen, Fraser Ross, Renfrew, and Derek Duthie, Aitkens. Finance, Steven Hogg and Sandy Bulloch; Education, Steven Hogg and Ronnie Bunting, Killearn; Social, Kenny Hunter, Huxley's, and John Young, Dougalston; Magazine, J.S. Taylor, Kilmacolm; Assistants Representative, Gary Burns, Lenzie.

If any problems arise throughout the year please contact the above persons relevant to the problem.

At the first meeting various points were discussed and a note for concern was a lack of information being given to two clubs, Greenock and Ralston. Both have raised the matter with past Chairman Ronnie Bunting and a letter should have been received apologising for the problem. I hope they are now rectified.

The education conference is to be held in March at Edinburgh Stakis Hotel near the airport. Be sure to apply early.

Information will be forwarded by the Scottish secretary, price approximately £25 including lunch.

By the time you read this a trip to Royal Lytham and St Annes should have been concluded. I hope all has gone well and will look forward to informing people of events in the next issue.

Events for the year.
March: Football against Central Section; Games Night, Claremont Bowling Club; Greenkeepers/Convener matches at Douglas Park GC. To be confirmed. This will be a popular event so enter quickly - that is if you like your convener!
April: The spring outing at Cawderv, to be confirmed.
September: Balmoral, the autumn outing, to be confirmed.

One problem exists with all these events - the same core of people attending. Out of 144 members the same 30 or 40 are present each time and that's excellent but where are all the rest? Please let us know what you want and we will try to provide.

New members to the Section. Colin Black, Assistant, Blairbeth GC; Craig Black, Assistant, Strathaven GC; Donald McClenan, Course Manager, Eastwood GC; Neil Lindsay, Assistant, Eastwood GC; James Walker, Head Greenkeeper, Hollandbush GC; Gavin Campbell, Head Greenkeeper, Machrie GC; Brian Dugald, unattached.

Welcome to the Section on behalf of all members and I hope to see you at the events.

Congratulations to Sandy Bulloch on his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Fereneze GC, Barrhead. We wish him well.

It is sad to report the recent death of Chick Hamilton, who worked at Frews in Clarkston for many years then at Hagg's Castle with Chris Kennedy and finally with Hamilton Bros. Chick was well known in the West and attended many of the events. Our thoughts are with family and friends left behind.

I look forward to hearing your comments and seeing you at the various events. Remember if you have any interesting information please phone 0141 942 5554.

J.S. Taylor

North of Scotland
A lack of new members to report this month, but I'm assured that next month there will be a big influx. All you members with staff that are not in BIGGA, then get recruiting, the more the merrier. My latest recruit should have joined by now, Shaun Berry from New Jersey in the USA was hoping to join at the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA show in Florida last month.

This time next month I should be in America with Shaun and Steve Cadenell to play some golf and visit Augusta for the US Masters. My fund did not go too well but what the heck. When you gotta go you gotta go! Watch this space.

BTME! What can I say. I'm sure most of the other Section reports will be carrying great reports about the best week so far. From the outdoor football match on a snow covered pitch on the Sunday night right through to Friday lunchtime it was all go. What I did attend was first class and what I could not attend, I am reliably informed, was equally as good. The banquets were not to be missed with the entertainment laid out on exceptional - and no doubt hard to better next year. It is good to see so many of the Scottish trade at the show these days, which just shows how big it has become. Even my train got me home on time this year. Roll on BTME 97. Just who did organise that football match?

While at BTME it was great to meet up with ex North Section members who have moved on to better things. Congratulations to one of them Neil Metcalf who is now Head Greenkeeper at Royal St Georges in Sandwich.

Well Spring is just round the corner, I hope everyone is ready for it and I trust it will be a good growing one to help us bring on the courses for the the coming season. This must be the time of the year that top dressing suppliers enjoy as we in the North have to pile the top dressing on until sufficient growth arrives to ensure smooth surfaces for the golfers. Who would be a greenkeeper!

Iain MacLeod

East of Scotland
So here we go for this month's report and first of all I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the well wishers who have written and called about my son Christopher who had a serious accident after Christmas while out sledging. He is now out of intensive care and into a ward in the "Sick Kids" in Edinburgh on the road to recovery. He has just gone through his fourth operation and hopefully he will need no more. The doctors have told us he will make a full recovery but he will be in hospital for some time yet and won't be back at school till after the summer holidays - Autumn '96. So I would like to thank everybody from my wife Carol, daughter Amy and myself.

Well, I hope the weather's going to improve as I'm sure you all will still have some work to do on your courses as I know I have. Let's hope it improves soon.

What's been happening in the Section. First of all we played a soccer match against a team from Galashiel and we ran out worthy winners by nine goals to one with a peach of a goal by yours truly Chris "Van Vossen" Yeaman. But it was a great team performance by everyone especially on a night when the temperature was minus five. Roll on our next match especially against the West Section as we are now coming into form - a statement Walter Smith would be proud of.

I took four days break from being with my son in hospital to attend BTME at Harrogate. This show just gets better and better every year so congratulations to HQ. Keep up the good work. The seminars were very interesting again this year so I'm glad I could make it. And, of course, the nightlife was as good as ever and it was good to meet some old friends from past years. Our secretary Robert Hogarth is seeking sponsorship from Anadin for next year.

Our Chairman Steve Dixon attended this year for the first time and really enjoyed it commenting that more people should take the time and attend one of the best shows for our industry. Stevie visited...
Trotters on the Thursday night but says he will not go next year unless he gets two lollipops and a bag of sticky marshmallows, Stevie, they're in the post as we speak. Harrogate must be the cheapest place for drink as it cost us £9.20 for four bottles of Chinese beer when having a meal. I would like to thank Richard Webb from Tactix who was at the next table with his wife who also bought us four of these costly items. Also thanks for the prawn crackers.

Our February afternoon lecture at Swanston GC was one of the best we have had for a long time. I found it very interesting but sad to say we had only 20 people in attendance including the four speakers and one company representative. Apologies to Mike Dennis and Rigby Taylor, our hosts for the day, for the small turnout. Also thanks for the buffet they provided for us. Also to Swanston GC for use of the club and Dave/Irene for keeping us fed/watered.

So come on lads support your local companies when they go to the trou-

ble of setting up these days for you and support your committee who are working hard for all our members.

Up and coming events in '96.

Russells Toro Visit, March 27, 11am; Quiz Night, Swanston GC, March 27; Spring Outing, Longrid-
dry, April; Annual Dance, Kilspindie House Hotel, Dec 7. Details will be with your shortly of all these Section events.

Anything I have missed will be in the April report so if you have any-
thing to let me know give me a call: Home 01875 870485 or Mobile 0802 623005. Anything about any activity or any ideas about Section activities.

Congratulations to David (First Assistant at Kingsknowe GC) and Jackie on the birth of baby Amy (8lb 12oz) who was the first baby to be born in Scotland in 1996. Mother and baby are doing well. Chris Yeaman

Scottish Region

All members of the Scottish Region were saddened to hear of the death of Dick Aitken, probably the last of the original trade members of his era who were wholehearted supporters of greenkeepers and the respective associations throughout the years.

The Region extends its sincerest condolences to Richard and Grace and all their family. Elicit Small

North Wales

Once again I find myself penning the Section notes – what goes around comes around! Anyway, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosper-

ous New Year.

The Section recently held a one day Turfgrass & Seed Identification Seminar which was well attended and prove very popular. Our thanks go to Phil Davies of Monmerstee and the Welsh College of Horticul-
ture for all their help.

Future Events: March 14-17 Trip to Holland (Places still available); April 11, North Wales v North West Match; May 14, Spring Competition Bull Bay GC Anglesey. Members will be circulated with details shortly.

P.S.Billy, as most of you are now aware the purchase of Carden Park by St David's Hotels Ltd has now been completed. All of the existing greenstaff including myself as Course Manager will be remaining and look forward to the exciting times ahead.

Hopefully this should "put to bed" the numerous – some damaging, some ridiculous and some downright amusing rumours that have sur-

rounded both my office and yours during what has been a difficult period.

Should any members have news or need help I can be contacted on the following numbers: Home 01352 780620; Office 01829 731176; Mobile 0802 310576 or at 7 Cae Helyg, Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Clwyd CH8 8AJ.

Andy Campbell

Sheffield

Firstly, on behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Barry Heaney for representing the Section in a successful year as BIGGA Chairman. Barry even finished his year in office on one leg for a month as he broke his leg on New Year's Day. That was a good start to the year. Wasn't it Barry?

I asked Barry to sum up his year as Chairman and he said, "The friendli-
ness I received everywhere and from everyone was amazing. The past year has been the quickest year of my life. When I came my final speech at Har-
rogate I just couldn't believe it was the end of my year in office. I couldn't have done the job as well without the support of Wortley Golf Club and my staff which have both been behind me 100%".

On February 1 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC which was attended by 66 of our members which was a record for our Section.

Our thanks go to Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letch-
worth GC for a very interesting talk on communications within the golf club.

Congratulations go to Kevin Kell-
sall on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Doncaster GC. Kevin returns to the Section after working at Burnham on Crouch in Essex. Good luck Kevin.

Our next lecture will be on April 4 and will be a machinery demonstra-
tion given by Annazone at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

A few dates to note. Our annual competition will be held at Abbey-
dale GC on July 9 at 10.30am. Appar-
tently the last time we held a section competition at Abbeydale was July 1978.

Our Autumn competition will be held at Hickleton GC on September 2 at 1.30pm.

New members this month include Mark Dresser and Tony Spencer, For-
est Pines GC; Timothy Gittens and Andrew May, Norths GC; Stephen Wheeler, Brook GC; Ian Rathbone, Fore and Totley; Toby Cooke, Wheat-
ley GC; Gary Marsh, Hickleton GC; Roger Naylor, Phoenix GC; Martin Liversedge, Stickhole GC; Pat Duff, Sherwood GC and Trade member George Brown, Tarmac.

John Lax

North West

Nine inches of snow outside and Bert Cross is in sunny Zambia for a month. Bert and his wife Marie are heavily involved in charity work for the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia and he has asked me to ask you all for donations of, would you believe, tea bags or coffee which is very expen-
sive in Zambia. You can bring all your tea and coffee to the Spring tournament to be held at Morecambe GC on Thursday May 30. This is also the Hayter Qualifier or to the Mere Seminar on March 26. You should all have had an application form for this event.

The closing date for the Spring tournament is May 24 so send off £10 deposit to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool, Tel: 0151 284 4416.

Bert has also asked me to remind you that improper dress will not be tolerated at any BIGGA event. So be warned.

On a personal note I thought that the BTME was the best yet. Well done to everyone concerned and good luck for '97.

Chris Sheehan

Cleveland

The annual quiz verses the Institute of Groundsmen Teeside branch resulted in a narrow victory to the 10G. Thanks to sponsors, Turf Care for Conset, County Durham. There was a disappointing turn out of three Head Greenkeepers and eight assis-
tants.

Bishop Auckland GC has relaid two greens to full USGA specification and Head Greenkeeper David Crocker is very pleased with their progress. This example will be helpful to other golf clubs locally based also on clay soils.

Name of people are as follows:- Neil Austwick, Bedale GC; Kevin Dyson, Seaham GC; David Briggs, Saltburn GC; Colin Thompson, Saltburn GC; Harry Stevenson, Brass Castle; Mid-
dlesbrough GC and Martin Woods, Neareside GC.

The January meeting was a talk by Chris Peel of Adas on Poo Annua. There are 17 annual and nine peren-

nial varieties. Natural soils suit poa annua. To reduce it continue with sound management practices, 1. Avoid phosphate 2. Potassium usually enough in clay soil, 3. Do not overfeed, 4. Aim for lower PH 5-5.5, 5. Care with watering, 6. Care with height of cut and verticutting as keen verticutting can let in poa annua as seed bed, 7. Care with chemicals, 8. Distribute wear to avoid bare patches and keep height of cutters up to avoid scalping. 9. Try not to overlap with fertilisers.

Future subjects for discussion are Thatch Depth, Type of Thatch, 

ITS 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

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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Around the Green

Wear.Compacted, Depth of Compaction, Black Layer, Thatch Fungus.

Bruce Burnell

Northern

First of all I would like to welcome the following new members to our Section: Christopher Hill, Leeds Council; Craig Norford, Temple Newsam GC; Richard Haritas, Aldwark Manor GC; Adam Bannett, Woodsome Hall GC; Edward Nutt, the Oaks GC; Kevin Lee, Crownest Tootle, Bridlington Links; Alastair Park GC; Neil Burnley, Beverley GC; Derek Jackson, Garforth GC; David Hollingworth, Rudding Park GC and Sam Wardill, Outlane GC. I hope you will participate in the golf and social events in the area.

On the education front, the first of the Training Management Courses were held in the last month. I attended one in Chester and found it to be interesting, informative and also great fun. It was also an opportunity to meet many members of the Association attending this type of event. The delegates ranged from the more mature to the up and coming whiz kids. I understand the course in York had been just as successful and it is hoped to develop these further next year.

For those of you interested in the NWC, Mike Murray is in the process of compiling a waiting list of people who wish to be trained as assessors. This is funded by the GTC.

While on the subject of education I would remind you of the North West Seminar at the Mere Golf and Country Club on March 26. There are some very interesting speakers and the price is only £20 including lunch. Contact me if you wish to book.

Golf events now and the tee off times for this season's comps: April 24, Scarborough South Cliff, tee off 1pm; June 12, President's Day at Howley Hall, tee off 1.30pm; September 4, Invitation Day at Bingstow Ives GC, tee off 12.30pm, October 9, Autumn Tournament at Malton & Norton GC, tee off 1pm. A £10 deposit is required for each event and any golf club rates are restricted. I would advise booking early to avoid disappointment. The Roses Match is on August 15 at Whitefield GC and will again be fully sponsored by Pattissons. All you have to do is get there.

East Midlands

While you are all reading this month's article I shall be sunning myself in the Sates and playing plenty of golf – hopefully Bindleying the Americans.

Congratulations to Carl Chambers on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Scraptoft GC. I'm sure all members would like to wish Carl all the best in his new position. A number of congratulations are extended to Gavin Robson for the addition of a baby son to his family. I'm sure all members must have enjoyed this year's BTME. It was nice to see a few more Section members there. It just goes to show that things get BIGGA and better every year.

By the end of this month all members should have received their entry forms for the forthcoming Spring Tournament and the annual singles and pairs K/O competitions. Please try to support your section by entering. As usual as you possibly can. Also enclosed is this year's fixture card, which has again been kindly sponsored by Amenity Land Services and Scots UK. Any member who has not received their form can give me a ring and I will gladly forward a copy.

Finally this year's Autumn Tournament has been arranged at Hinckley GC on November 6 followed by the Christmas Tournament on December 12 at Charnwood Forest GC. Antony Bindley

East of England

I have just returned from BTME at Harrogate and the exhibition seems to get better every year.

It is the ideal showcase for the products of the manufacturers and to talk at first hand with product representatives. For myself it was the bumping into so many friends that makes the show. Then there are the seminars, at one of which our East of England Chairman, David Walden, took stage with the experience of winning the Miracle Professional and Greenkeeper of the Year competition and what differences winning had made to his career. I asked him what the differences were and he said, “I was on cloud nine for two to three months, there was lots of fuss which died off. The US trip was a great experience and it has been good for my career.”

The total membership for our section now stands at an all time high of 119 due to a recent influx of students from Riseholme. May I welcome all the new members to our Section who are:- R. Cresswell, S. White, D. Anderson, A. Wire, R. Hepworth, J. Morrell, D. Reeves, M. Gamble, L. Bradwell, D. Garffit, D. Glee, M. Anderson, C. French and A. Eaton.

Any more information on job moves, promotions etc or if I can help with anything call me on 01733 260297.

Gaeane Macdonald

Mid Anglia

A Health and Safety update was given by John Allbutt to the Section in January which was very useful to members. He gave information with regards to the use of carbaryl which has been restricted in certain aspects.

If anyone needs more information on this please phone John’s company, I’m sure they’ll fill you in fully on the changes.

Harrogate was once again successful and it was good once again to see so many members in attendance and to hear John Wells speaking at the conference. John was also presented with his Master Greenkeeper Certificate and I’m sure all you saw the picture in last month’s magazine.

You should have all received now an entry form for the fourball tournament which must be completed by March 15, and a separate form for the usual tournaments. Please photo copy this second form so you have enough for the Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments should you wish to enter. If you have not received the necessary forms please check with BIGGA HQ to make sure you are included in the Mid Anglia Section. Gerald Bruce, our secretary, can only send the appropriate details to those members who are actually registered on the computer printout from headquarters.

Our first golf event is on March 29 at John O’Gaunt GC. Entry forms should be sent to Richard Saunders in the usual way enclosing a cheque for £20.

The Texas Scramble this year has been arranged for December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC.

A match against the Midland Section has been scheduled for September 2 and will take place at Whittingham Hearth GC, Lichfield, Stuffs - the format being 10 a side. Lectures/Course Visits are currently being arranged for 1997 as are golf fixtures.

I would like, on behalf of the Section, to wish Jim Burton, every success in his new position with Kings Horticulture and Kevin Toddi, good luck in his new position at Beds & County Golf Club as Deputy Course Manager.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members from Montmore GC to the Section. They are Daniel Gilbert, Daniel James, David Edwards and Eamon Slattery.