SCOTTISH REGION
West of Scotland
Summer over and everybody should be hard at work starting renovation work. What a summer if it can be called that - been and gone in a flash. Let's hope winter is kind to us.

Apologies to Peter Cowan for omitting you in last month's issue with regard to your new appointment at Clydebank and District, as First Assistant. Congratulations and I hope you settle in well and encourage them to come along to West events.

I hope everybody has returned their questionnaire forms full of ideas. It will be interesting to find out what sort of response has been forthcoming.

Remember to return your entries for the autumn outing at Balmore. It is sure to be popular.

Last but not least best wishes to Brian Inglis of Souters on account of taking the plunge. His new wife Kathleen must have a big heart taking on such a challenge. No more golf for Brian. Apparently they had a beautiful honeymoon in St Lucia which means he'll be chasing orders from Duddingston GC in Edinburgh on Friday October 25.

First of all by the time you read this I hope everybody has returned their questionnaire forms full of ideas. It will be interesting to find out what sort of response has been forthcoming.

...Continued from last month's report

We arranged a shopping trip again for the Christmas Shopping (Already it's only September) (Exactly, and a yellow card from the Editor for being the first person to mention the "C" word) to the Metro Centre in Gateshead by coach with various pickup points in and around Edinburgh. The price will be £8 per person and the bus will be leaving Edinburgh on the morning and returning at night. The date for this is Sunday November 24. It's a great opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done and we hope to see a big turnout and support for your section.

Coming up in next month's report are the results and comments and possibly a few photos from the Autumn Tournament at Munnymead GC which is celebrating its centenary this year.

Next month we will also have the list of winners of the Patron's Prize for 1996 - look out as you could be one of the lucky ones as there are four chances available.

Also dance tickets are going fast with just over a quarter gone already as I write. The venue once again is Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady, Saturday December 7 at a cost of £18 per person and £20 B&B per person. Hurry they're going fast.

That's it all folks. Don't forget to support all your section's activities not just the golf! Social events as well because it is after all your section.

Also if you have anything of interest let me know or you would like to write an article give me a call - you pick the topic - and send it to me and we'll make every effort to get it into print.

Chris Yeaman

North
This month we return to Grantown-on-Spey to stage our Autumn outing, unfortunately, rained off last year. As usual there should be a social evening to play this course. At the outing we will draw the next four winning numbers in the 200 Club, so if anyone still has not paid for their ticket, please do so quickly. This is the Section's only fund raiser and all tickets need to be sold to help the Section thrive.

Anyone wanting to buy a ticket please phone Gordon McKie on 01334 653995 before September 11, the day of the outing.

Once again, I will mention the second Section Dinner/Disco (I am not trying to fill space honest). The venue this year is the New Inn Hotel, Ellon, the date Friday, November 29 and it will cost £12.50 per person with a double room available at the hotel for £33.00 bed and breakfast. Telephone Hughie McLatchie on 01779 470173 to book your tickets. Family and friends are welcome to come.

The Open Championship at Royal Lytham was a great success again. My only complaint was the heating being on in the hotel bedroom all week, with outside temperatures in the high 70s and 80s, although it gave us the perfect excuse to stay up all night as it was cooler outside. I won't name the people who took it a bit far and had an early morning dip in the sea! It was great meeting up with all my old friends again and making new ones. A special thank you to Paul Murphy for getting me to my train in Preston with a couple of minutes to spare after I misread my train in Preston with a couple of minutes to spare after I misread my ticket and missed the train at Blackpool! We had BiGGa members from Sweden, USA, Vietnam and all over Britain in the team to make it a really cosmopolitan group. Any of you who visited the STR1 tent and had a go at the putting competition might like to know that I won the prize for Friday, the new edition of the "Care of the Golf Course", very nice indeed.

Roll on Troon 1997.

Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION
North Wales
Later in the year our section will again be organising first aid courses. There will be a two day refresher course at £40 for those people who are already certificated and wish to keep their certificate valid. A four day certificated course at £80 and a one day Emergency First Aid course which should cost less than £25. I believe that as we work in an environment that involves both hazardous machinery and quiet isolation on the golf course it is in our own and our clubs' interest that we should each have at least the basic emergency first aid knowledge. An application form for the above First Aid courses will be posted along with the entry forms for our autumn competition which I can confirm will take place on October 16 at Chester Golf Club.

Our records of past prize winners seem to be a little bit lacking and I would ask anyone who knows the whereabouts of the Richard Campey Trophy, which was won in April 1995 at Abergele, to please contact me.

Our Chairman, Brian Anderson, and our Treasurer, Dave Proctor, will both be standing down from committee at the end of this year. So, if you can spare four or five evenings per year and you wish to take a more active role in your association, please contact me or any of the following committee members that you might know personally: Brian Anderson (Abergele), Dave Proctor (Stowes Wen), Stuart McCull (Chester), Justin Cheung (Eaton), Terry Adamson (Gem), Phil Davies (Mommersteeg), Terry Evans (Nine Clubs), Neil Toner (Wirrel Ladies) or Dave Goodridge (Denbigh).

MY IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION IS:

"North West coast of Scotland or, abroad, Bermuda"

Elliott Small, Kincardine GC

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL, September 1996 29

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions
Our congratulations go to Andy and Sarah Peel on the birth of their second son on July 19.

The Welsh College of Horticulture advise us that three students have achieved their NVQ4 and they are almost certainly the first in Wales to do this. They are Robert Wilkinson of Bargoed Golf Club, Matthew Horton of Buirht Wells Golf Club and our own Alan Cefn of Carden Park. Awards day in July at the College saw various trade prizes being awarded for meritorious achievements. The Gem Professional prize went to Cefn Owen of Convay, the Hortiplay prize to Alwyn Jones of Bull Bay, the Rufford prize went to Tudor Owen of Llanidloes and the Mommersteeg prize was won by Carl Price of Northop Golf Club.

I am sure as a section we would like to wish Ray Cotgreave of Bromborough every success in the forthcoming Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the year award.

Please ring me on 0151 336 6675 if you have anything that may be of interest to you fellow greenkeepers.

Trevor Johnston

Northern

The Open at Royal Lytham & St Anne’s is over and all the lads on the support team had a great time, me included. It is nice to meet up with “boys” from all over the British Isles and even a couple from Augusta. The vacant sponsorship place for our invitation day at Bingley St Ives on September 4 this year has been kindly taken over by the Ritefeed liquid fertiliser company. This position being vacant due to Yorkshire Mowers going into liquidation.

May I take this opportunity in welcoming the following new members to our section: John Edmund, Cottingham Golf Club; John Crowhurst, Howley Hall Golf Club; Christopher Peel, ADAS (Associate member).

A couple of dates for your diary: Christmas golf at Selby Golf Club on December 11 and Annual Dinner Dance at Wetherby Golf Club on March 15, 1997.

Around the Green

Finally, anyone wishing to purchase a caravan please contact Dennis Cockburn. But be sure to check out the stability of the bed before purchasing!

Simon Heppenstall

North West

I have just returned from The Open at Lytham as part of the greenkeeper support team and once again met many old friends and some new ones. It was interesting to see again some international representatives from Sweden, Thailand and the USA. The two greenkeepers from the States work at Augusta and although Lytham and Augusta are as different as chalk and cheese, they were very impressed with the condition and the design of a true links course. I would like to congratulate Jim MacDonald and his staff on the fine condition of the course. To produce a course to the standard that Lytham is, takes many hours of hard work and dedication and Jim and his staff fit the bill perfectly and are a credit to our profession.

A funny thing happened while out divoting after the second day’s play which just shows how gullible people can be. I happened to comment while removing a large divot, “This must be one of Woosnam’s” and five or six passing spectators stopped to gaze at the divot. Alec Davies quickly responded that the divot he had removed was one of “Seve’s” and another one was one of “Daly’s”. We soon finished up with a crowd around us, asking for the divots to take home. I feel sure that had we set up a stall and labelled the divots we could have been in business.

Now back to reality, and a reminder to get your entry for the Autumn Tournament at Wilsfieh Golf Club. The details are in the August section notes.

Not often do I receive any news from section members but John Nicholson, Head Greenkeeper at Longridge Golf Club, passed me a letter which I think is well worth a mention. On June 22 at Longridge Golf Club after the President’s prize presentation, the Club presented John with a silver tray, decanter and glasses. John gratefully accepted the gift and in thanking them decided to enlighten them on what is a greenkeeper. To some he is, “The guy who cuts grass in the summer and plays cards in the winter, fails to cut the grass where the ball has landed, puts the hole in bad places and alters things when they have just got it right.” However, a greenkeeper is, “A machine Operator, Mechanic, Botanist, Weather Forecaster, Architect, Constructor, Gardener, Zoologist, Irrigation Engineer, Manager and above all a Diplomat.” John once again thanked the club for their gift and left them with a parting thought that the greenkeeper is also their friend (I think John might be right). I would like to finish by thanking the Northern Region and particularly Ian Holohan and Bob Lupron for the donation of £75 which was raised by two raffles and will be used to help the children at KASISI orphanage in Zambia to purchase much needed medical supplies. Any queries, please ring on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Bill Rank, Head Greenkeeper at Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club is moving fairways and rough on a new 9 hole extension. Turf will be laid this autumn on greens and tees which will be open in spring 1997 for play.

The new course at High Throston, Hartlepool will open the first 9 holes in September, Farmer Owner, Fred Sturrock told me.

Wyndham is now open which is near Billingham on the A689 road.

Our Autumn Tournament to be held here. See newsletter from Gary Mann.

Nick Bissett at Askham Bryan has been promoted to Head of Horticulture, Stephen Prinn is the new head of Greenkeeper Training. Now is the time to enrol for college courses. Work based assessors are helping colleges. Verification is becoming more time consuming. Further work needs to be done here. Liaison committee is useful in taking feedback to the College from industry in order to meet the requirements.

Graham Scott has moved from Billingham Golf Club to a course north of Inverness. Colin Graham is now with D & E Stephenson, local Toro Dealers.

Bruce Burnell

Sheffield

On July 3 the Northern Region Final of the Hayter Competition was held at Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club in North Wales. This was attended by seven of our section members.

It was a good day of very different weather conditions. It started with heavy rain and strong winds and finished the day with glorious sunshine.

Congratulations go to three of our members who qualified for the Final. They were Allen Allsop, 2nd in 10-18 division, Colin Hopper, 3rd in 10-18 division and Paul Neve 2nd in 19-28 division. Well done to you all and good luck for the Hayter Final at Fairhaven Golf Club in September.

The following week we held our annual competition at Abbeystead Golf Club on July 9. The course was in very good condition and our thanks go to John and his staff. We would also thank Abbeystead Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and to the Steward and his staff for an excellent meal and thanks to all the trade members who provided the prizes for the competition. Congratulations go to all the prize winners. Well done to Paul Neve who continued his good form of the previous week and won the overall 27 hole competition. Paul also won the
9 hole competition in the morning and well done to Steve Currie who won the scratch competition: 1. P Neve, 2. S. Currie, 3. M. Colares, 4. R. Needham, S. R. Browning, 6. R. Ward. The nearest the pin competition was won by Allan Alliso. The prize presentation was a bit disappointing for Paul and Steve as the trophies were not there to be presented as last year's winners had not managed to return the trophies on time.

A date has been fixed for our Christmas competition. It will be held on November 27 at Wortley Golf Club.

It is with regret that I have to report that Cyril Chappell has died. Cyril spent nearly all his life in greenkeeping and was Head Greenkeeper at Phoenix Golf Club for 30 years. He retired from greenkeeping 10 years ago and enjoyed his retirement very much. May I, on behalf of the Sheffield Section, convey our sympathies to his family.

Finally, a message to our Chairman - keep practising your darts Neil!
John Lax

MIDLAND REGION
East Midlands
This year's Hayter Challenge Tournament Regional Final was held on July 16 at Peterborough Milton Golf Club. Unfortunately, we could not make it a hat trick of wins, narrowly missing out to the Midland Section. Congratulations should go to Dave Leatherland, Redlestone Park, and Steven Heap, Rothley Park, on qualifying for the National Final to be held at Fairhaven Golf Club. Thanks should go to Peterborough Milton for courtesy of their course and once again a special thank you to everyone from Hayter.

I was sorry to hear of the recent illness of John Stonebridge of Glen Gorse. On behalf of all the members we would like to wish John a speedy recovery.

Congratulations go again to Richard Barker on winning himself a trip to America in a prize draw.

Finally, good luck to all members in this year's Autumn Tournament, held at Ramsdale Park Golf Club on September 12. Our next section event will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on November 6, this being the AGM.

Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon
I can't believe we are approaching the end of yet another season. When it gets to autumn I start to wish I was back working on a links course. No need for a leaf sweeper there.

Never mind we will have them all cleared up by January.

The last golf day was back in July, and what a day it was – an absolute scorcher. The venue was Henley, a delight to play all day of the year. The field was a small one but this did not prevent those taking part from having an enjoyable day. There were a couple of surprises in that two new members picked up the main prizes (how dare they, I've been trying for years). 1. Phil Cushnie, 37pts; 2. Tony Brown, 36pts; 3. Adrian Cooper, 34pts (on countback from myself). Nearest the Pin, Home Boy Richard Fletcher with some help from his partner Bernie; Longest Drive, Dennis Edwards – there was talk of him having to submit a sample for a drugs test but saying he only scored seven points overall we thought better of it.

Many thanks to Henley GC for their hospitality on the day. The course was superb and food delicious. Thanks to Tim Webb, Tacit; Bernie Wall, Gem; and Johnny Beck, Miracle. Johnny provided refreshments at the halfway house which was very welcome. It's a shame he couldn't have followed me around (maybe next time).

Congratulations to our very own Ray Clark, Chairman, for flying the flag at the Hayter final. He came first in category two. Thanks to all who supported this event from our section.

The next event is the invitation at Studley Wood on October 7. If anyone is not receiving their entry forms. Please phone me on 01491 578147.

Lindsay T. Anderson

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES
South Coast
Our autumn golf meeting will be held at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club on Thursday, October 10. The competition will consist of 36 holes.

The cost for the day will be £15. All cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to: Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road, Alresford, Hants; SO24 9LD. Tel: 01962 733061. The closing date for entries is Monday, September 2.

Once again, please make sure that last year's winners retain their trophies and make sure they are on the prize table at the end of the day.

By the time this report gets to the magazine you should have received all the details for the regional semi-final at Canterbury College. It would be nice to see a few more faces from our section there this time.

Transport can be arranged. All you have to do is contact me on 01329 282362. By the way, on the Section Programme Fixture Card, it reads November 29. This should read Wednesday, November 27. More details next month.

As I said last month I would give you a list of the assessors we now have in our section, they are as follows:

Alan Mitchell, Hampshire Golf Club; Jeff Drake, Hampshire Golf Club; Ed McCabe, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club; Mark Webb, Alresford Golf Club; Adrian Archer, Broadstone Golf Club; Trevor Smith, Canford Magna Golf Club; Matt Maryon, Canford Magna Golf Club.

As you can see, the whole of the section is well covered. One weak area we are being West Dorset. Anyone who wishes to be assessed for their NVQs may contact any of the above. I am sure they will be too pleased to give you all the information you require.

Our annual match against the South West Section this year will be held at Wells Golf Club on Wednesday, October 2. All those wishing to play, forward your names to Mark. At the present time the South Coast Section hold the trophy.

BTME will soon be with us again. The region will be running a coach the same as last year. The only difference is that a larger coach has been booked. This is due to ever increasing demand. A coach will also run from the Section to meet up with the main coach. I strongly advise you to book early so that you are not disappointed. Initial enquiries to our Secretary, Jeff Drake (Tel: 01722 330277).

Finally, if anyone would like any news item included in the magazine, give me a ring. It could be births, retirement, marriage, pensions new or any other interesting topic.

Ken Lodge

At Writtle College on Tuesday, September 24, two lectures will be given. Starting time 7.30pm in the main building; room L60. Contact Andy Sheehan (Tel: 01277 215765) for further information.

Martin Forrester

South West
As with last year's Summer Tournament at Long Ashton, the weather played a large part in this year's event held at Mendip Golf Club on July 25. Although perhaps not as humid as last year, the temperatures were certainly in the high 70's which led to some thirsty souls at the 19th and in most cases some high scoring as was with last year some 9s and 10s on the cards being common place. The course itself was playing very short due to the prolonged dry spell and fairway accuracy was demanded on a course with some tight holes. Head Greenkeeper, Richard Flower, however, had the course in excellent condition with the speed of the greens causing problems for a high percentage of the field.

Forty people played in what was a very successful day for two first prizes, these being for the best...
Head Greenkeeper’s score and the best Assistant’s score. Michael Fawcett from Marlborough Golf Club won the event outright and the Best Assistant’s trophy with a nett 71 on the back 9. Ivor Scoones, Long Ashton Golf Club, had the Best Head Greenkeeper’s score with a nett 74; 2nd Steve Pert, Dyrham Park nett 77; 3rd Adam Turner, Woodbury Park, nett 74; 4th Simon Shipley, Henbury, nett 75 (back 9); 5th Dunstan Smith, Cotswold Hills, nett 76. There was also a prize for the best guest, that being Club Captain, Tony Taylor, with a nett 75. Thanks to all who came along to Mendip Golf Club, and Secretary Jackie Howe, for their hospitality and granting of course courtesy and to Club Captain, Tony Taylor, for finding time in his busy day to participate in the day’s events. Thanks once again to Richard Flower and staff for course presentation and to the Steward and Stewardess for feeding us so well.

Trade members donated several prizes for the prize table, these being Avoncroc, B S Movers, T H Whites and Miracle Professional and thanks are given for your continued support of the Section.

This year’s AGM takes place on Thursday, November 14 at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club and anything that you feel requires discussion at that meeting should be put in writing and returned to myself by the end of September for discussion by the Section Committee prior to the day. Another reminder that if you wish to take on the responsibility of the Secretary’s position from myself at the AGM then please contact me immediately.

Finally, we wish competitors from the South West Section taking part in the Hayter Final at Fairhaven on September 18 the best of luck.

Kevin Green

Devon and Cornwall

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club was the venue for our summer meeting on Wednesday, July 17 which saw 30 members attending. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to work commitments. Our Chairman, Bill Mitchell, reported that the evening went very well and thanks to Club Manager, Jeff Mills, for guiding members around his impressive course. Our last meeting of the summer programme will be held at St Mellion Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, September 18. The agenda will be as usual with meetings member in the car park at 6.15pm prompt, course visit at approximately 7pm with Club Manager, Robert Brower, returning to the Club house at approximately 8pm for a bite to eat. If you would like to attend, please call Steve Evans on 01208 863647 by Wednesday, September 11.

With summer meetings drawing to a close, thoughts turn to autumn and winter programme which start at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, October 9.

Dartmouth has kindly allowed the section 17 start times which will allow a maximum of 51 members the chance to play their tremendous course together. Starting times will run from 7.30am-9.44am. With the early start, I intend to send out starting times the week prior to the meeting as I did last year for St Mellion. The early return of the entry form is suggested to avoid disappointment.

You should have all received your fixture card sponsored by Devon Golf. Please be ready with your forthcoming events on. If you haven’t, please let me know and I will make sure you receive one.

To reduce postage, we have decided to send details of our meetings to one member per club (Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper) as in previous years. If you don’t receive details and would like to, please let me know so I can put you on the mailing list.

Finally, a reminder that your local Regional Supervisory Management course will be held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter on October 23 & 24. For more details, ring Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

The section’s summer competition was held at the Caerphilly Golf Club near Cardiff. The course has recently been extended to a full 18 hole layout due to the lack of good growing conditions, the new layout has yet to be brought into continuous play. However, the original layout that we had the pleasure of playing proved enough of a challenge (indeed too much for some) and was in excellent condition thanks to the sterling efforts of Head Greenkeeper, Adrian Panks, and staff.

We were blessed with good weather, indeed glorious sunshine all day. This made the going tough, especially up on the top holes high above the clubhouse. The return to the lower holes and the 12th was welcomed by all and saw most people dash to the pro shop to take on board refreshments.

The winner on his home course was A Panks with a nett 71 winning the Birdie Cup and cut glass decanter. 2nd nett was Daryl Bray of Morriston Golf Club winning a carriage clock. Best gross and winner of the President’s Shield was Andy Roach with a 78. Winner of the John Duncan Cup was Cradoc’s Richard Patterson.

The sponsor of the day was R S Bird Ltd, “Birds” of Cowbridge, and Managing Director Roger Bird made the presentations along with the section’s President, Colin Murphy. Our sincere thanks to Birds for their continued support, to the Captain of the Caerphilly Golf Club, Mr David Edwards, who joined us for our evening meal and presentations, to Ann Fletcher and her staff for an excellent four course meal and to the Committee of the Caerphilly Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course for this annual competition.

The annual match versus the Secretaries is fast approaching and will take place at the Southern Down Golf Club on Wednesday, August 14. Last year we had our best attendance ever and we are again hoping for a team of at least 20. Please make every effort to attend this competitive and enjoyable day.

This year the event will be held at Hadley Wood Golf Club, had the Best Head Greenkeeper’s score and the challenge trophy was donated by the president of the section, Mr Blackstone, for pre-

South East

Kent

Sorry members but Huw has gone on holiday so you have to put up with me, your secretary, writing the column this month.

The recent greenskeepers golf day held at the Wildernesse club proved to be a great success. Many thanks to Huw Morgan and staff for the course thanks also to the club for their efforts for making it a memorable day. Thanks to Parker/Hart for sponsoring this event and to trade members for their support.

Congratulations to the eventual winners Lee Sayers taking first prize on a comeback with Trevor Hindmarsh being runner-up. Well done Lee. Best gross H. Morgan, second best gross M. Arthur and winning the trade prize, G. Ogilvie.

Please note any member wishing to play a golf event must send a cheque with their return form. Thankfully Huw will be back writing next month. Watch this space. Best wishes to all Section members.

Steve Johnstone

Harry Bolt, Burford GC