

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small  
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### North

A glut of new members to the Section to report, from Duff House Royal comes Lenny Thompson and Steven Mitchell; from Loch Ness Golf Club, Inverness, James Ross; John Bain from Thurso; Dean Mitchell from Peterhead, and James Howe from Arbroath. Two new Student members, Douglas Strang and Steven Myers join us and Neil Kidd, of Keith, rejoins the Section. Finally David Duggan, of Ullapool, but working at Corrstown GC, County Dublin, also joins us. We welcome you all and hope to meet you at Section events in the near future.

The Scottish Championships were not so successful for the Section this year, weather was great the course was very enjoyable, but our scores could not beat the field this time. Only a couple of minor placing's, I'm afraid. Mind you, the West Section certainly had some masked men present on the day and Stewart Taylor's 63 was a fantastic score to win the title.

This month at Tulliallan we have the Norrie Whytock Trophy and hopefully our team of Chairman Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead; Scott Williams, Peterculter; Chris Cumming, Fortrose, and Collin Burgess, Forres, will retain the Trophy won last year at Elie.

Steve Macintosh, Blairgowrie, on one of his regular returns to the North successfully defended the Ross-shire County Championships, but was beaten in a play off for the North District Championships.

In this last week we have experienced some horrendous wet weather and Morayshire was hit the worst. Turriff GC was one of the worst affected and had to close the course during what is probably the busiest time for them. We hope George Geddes and his team were able to get things sorted satisfactorily once the flood water had subsided. The job is hard enough without extra problems like this. Indeed we hope all courses in the area have recovered by now, and were not



to badly harmed. I am just glad that my course is on sand and the water drains away so quickly.

Finally we wish anyone from the Section going to Cooden Beach for the BIGGA Championships all the best.

Iain Macleod

### Central

The date for the visit to Stewart's Turf Farm at Grahamstone, near Kinross, has been arranged for Wednesday, October 1. Full details will be mailed out to those who returned their forms expressing an interest in attending, so if you wish to come along, but "forgot" to return your form, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. Anyone wishing to bring along a member of their club committee is most welcome to do so as it will give them a chance to see what is involved in taking turf from the seed in the bag stage right through to harvesting.

By the time you read this, the visit to Parkhead Stadium will probably have taken place - Friday, August 8 - so I will give you an update in next month's issue.

The Inter-Club Tournament is progressing well, with most of the matches being played within the given dates, at the moment Rangemouth A, Tulliallan A and Auchterarder are leading in their respective leagues. If anyone wishes, road maps can be supplied with the locations of the various clubs taking part as it appears there is a great wide world outside the East of Fife.

New members are rather thin on the ground this month with only one new one, nevertheless it's a warm welcome to Jeffrey Clark, from Gleneagles. Hopefully Jeffrey will attend some of our forthcoming events, and who knows, he may even encourage some of his work mates to accompany him. While I am on about membership, at the last count 24 had not renewed for 1997. This is causing some concern to the committee, so if you know of anyone who is in this category ask them their reasons and if there is anything we can do to rectify the situation, we will be only too happy to help.

Peter Brown, Head Greenkeeper at Falkland GC, in Fife, had been nominated to represent the section in the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and we all wish him well in the next stage of the competition. Hope all goes well for you, Peter.

From all accounts (The Andy O'Hara version) the football match between an Andy O'Hara select and the East Fife Supporters Club was some game, from here on you'll have to bear with me!

The star man was Andy O'Hara and the winning goal, in a high scoring game, was a fantastic solo effort from, you've guessed it, Andy O'Hara. This was his first of the season and it makes him the Section's leading scorer for greenkeepers, I'm beginning to wonder if he picks any other greenkeepers in the team. There's a strong rumour going around that he has to work on his own at the moment and that he is locked out of the bothy at break time, I wonder why? The final score remains a mystery, as I only heard about this fantastic goal scored by - Andy O'Hara! If I ever find out what really happened I'll let you know.

Anyway, the after match celebrations must have been even better than the match itself as that man Andy \*\*\*\*\* O'Hara failed to turn up for our committee meeting two days later! Andy, please give me the date of your next match against Dundee United ground staff, so that I can organise the committee meeting before it. Entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Auchterarder Golf Club on Thursday, September 18, could be with you now. If you wish to play, please return them to me, with the correct remittance, as soon as possible.

I am still looking for venues for future golf tournaments anywhere within the section, so if you fancy hosting one in April or September/October please let me know.

This year just seems to have flown by and we have reached the time when nominations are required for the annual Patron's Awards. These are given to two members, who in the opinion of

the committee, have done most to promote the section at events throughout the year at both national and local level. The prize for each member is an expenses paid trip to the BTME and seminars at Harrogate in January. If you have any thoughts on who should be given this award, please let me know as soon as possible.

You will notice that there are a few "please let me knows" throughout this month's news, but nobody ever does, (except ANDY O'HARA aaaaaaahhhhhh) so if you get fed up reading the same stuff every month DON'T BLAME ME!

John Crawford

### West

What's happening may be the question you ask with an empty column last month. Well at this time of the year very little is going on so why write about nothing. Wait a minute! I just did, and who says the art of writing is dead.

Just a couple of things to mention, the recent outing at Craigmillar Park proved a great day with a lot of success from our Section. The West Section won the team prize and congratulations to all present for contributing towards our victory. Sam Morrison (Chairman) always hates other sections to win.

Well done to Graeme Shearer and Martin Gorey both of Balmore for their scores 56 and 60 respectively. Questions have been asked already. May I also mention that I to had a good day with a net 63. Thanks to all concerned for the tournament, green staff, catering, members and officials for making the day so enjoyable.

New members, we must be a popular Section some six new members, lets hope they make the effort to support the Section events. Steven Weir, Cawder GC, Ian Nichol and Alan Jack, Caithcart Castle; Hugh Docherty, Mount Ellen); Allan Hainan, Elderslie, and last but not least David Rae, Wiedenmann UK Ltd. Welcome, all to the Section.

Management Courses have been organised for October at Airth Castle Hotel, Falkirk. These

are well run and expensive to arrange. Your support for these is required, courses involve: 1) Golf course design, construction and establishment (Howard Swan and Simon Gidman) 2) Recruitment, selection and interviewing (Brin Bendon, Vector Training).

These are all essential in today's working environment to aid the manager and assistant with staff employment and construction projects, so make a point of contacting Elliot Small or Ronnie Bunting to book a spot or two. Prices are £75 for each two day course including meals accommodation and tuition. What better value can you get?

The Hayter competition recently at Lochgreen saw three qualifiers from the West section to represent Scotland. Graeme Shearer, Stuart Taylor and Alex Wilson, Kirkhill. Well done and all the best. The outing to be held at Hilton Park is sure to be busy so make a point to sent your entry. John Robertson and his staff will have the course in tip top order, of that you can be positive. The results of the five a side tournament and any football arrangements will be in next month's issue.

J Stuart Taylor

## **NORTHERN REGION**

Bob Lupton  
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### **North West**

"I could have done without this today, the grass is growing like mad." This was the greeting I received from John Berry as I arrived at Penrith for the annual Cumbria Cup Tournament on June 18. Needless to say the course was in immaculate condition thanks to John and his staff, who like everybody else have been flat out trying to keep the grass down. Once again Course Care sponsored the tournament which is open mainly to the North West members who work in the Cumbria area. The weather was a little mixed but we managed to complete the days golf before the rain arrived, the day was completed with a lovely meal and the prize presentation.

The prize winners were:- 0-9 J. Berry; 10-18 G. Forbes, C. Clark, M. Heading, B. Cross; 19-28 S. Thompson, P. Stikzaker, J. Davenport, M. Doano. The top scorer of the day was G. Forbes with 37

points. Many thanks to Penrith GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, Ian Holoran for organising the day, and to Course Care for once again kindly sponsoring the day.

Wednesday June 25 just a few days after mid-summer's day, Longridge Golf Club was the venue for the Summer tournament. Summer; the rain came at us like stair-rods for most of the day, the wind helping to make things more difficult (that's my excuse) but good scores were recorded. The course which is situated on a long high ridge, was in excellent condition thanks to John Nicholson and his staff. The finishing hole on this course must be one of the steepest climbs in golf, and certainly made me feel my age. Perhaps John could replace a couple of the ball washers with oxygen bottles, before our next visit?

The results of the Reg Vickers Trophy are as follows:- 1. J. Coar 81-67; 2. M. Broughton 87-69; 3. A. Davies 89-69; 4. P. Simpson 83-70; 5. M. Davie 84-72; Guest J. Walker 72. A great day was had by all, and I would like to thank Longridge GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the Captain for presenting the prizes, Pauline and Roy for a fantastic meal and service and Barbara for making us so welcome. I would also like to thank Gary Warrall Ground Care, Rigby Taylor, Rite-Feed and Cheshire Turf Machinery for helping to swell the prize table.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the Spring Tournament at Didsbury GC, on May 1 so therefore unable to see the prize table, but from what I understand so many companies supported us that almost everybody left with a prize. I would like to thank the following companies for their support: Strike Top Turf, Sharrocks, Richard Campey, Bathgates, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Gary Worrall Ground Care, Trident, Peter Barber, Martin brothers, Turner Ground Care, Construct Golf, Burrows, Farmura, British Seed Houses, Rufford Top Dress, RiteFeed, Aitkens, Gem and Acorn Equipment.

In a few days from now I will be taking the N/W qualifiers up to the regional final at Matfen Hall GC, Newcastle, by mini bus, the qualifiers are; Paul Pearse, Sean Moon, Frank Plat, Lee

McAndrew, Andrew Bennett, Brian Turner, Scott Moseley, Stephen Oultram, Alec Davies. Let's hope in my new report that they have all qualified for the grand final at Ganton GC in September. Any news, view, or queries give me a ring on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

## **Northern**

President's Day this year was held at South Leeds GC. The weather was not too good, but everyone turned up and braved the rain. Mel Guy, our Section President, did an excellent job in arranging the catering and the prizes for the day, many thanks to Mr Richard Kay, of Greentech, for sponsoring the prizes. A very unusual sight on the day was to see our National Chairman, Pat Murphy, playing a few holes. I was informed that the ten holes he played were the first for about 20 years! Thanks Pat for coming along to the event and kindly presenting the prizes after the meal.

The results for the day were as follows:- Cat 1 - 1. R. Harris; 2. S. Midgley; 3. D. Collins. Cat 2 - 1. R. Smith; 2. J. White; 3. A. Court. Cat 3 - 1. T. Arana; 2. R. Smith; 3. A. Gamble. Trade Prize - C. Hill.

Thank you to all of the trade lads who brought along a raffle prize and to the committee for their help in making the day run smoothly. Finally, thanks to Mel for the beer provided to us all at the half way point. Hope you enjoyed "your" day as much as the rest of us.

At our recent section meeting held at Bradford GC a few matters were discussed. The 1998 Annual Dinner Dance is once more to be held at Bradford GC. This is due to the 1997 event being such a success and also central for the majority of the people who attend.

Ideas for social events would be greatly appreciated from members, possibilities suggested at the meeting were ten pin bowling, go-karting, football matches and clay pigeon shooting. If anybody has any good ideas, please let me know.

This year's Invitation Day Tournament is to be held at Skipton Golf Club on Wednesday September 3 at 1pm. The closing date for this event will be two weeks

before the event. This will give me time to organise fully the event before I go on holiday. So please send in your deposits along with your partner's name well in advance to prevent any problems prior to the event.

Places for the annual "Roses" match against the North West Section are now filled. The team for this year is:- Dave Collins, Simon Heppenstall, Mick Harris, Richard Harris, Tony Gerrard, Ken Purdy, Alan Baxter, Gary Potter, Colin Garnett, Telford Jarvis, Marcus Cordingley, Richard Smith, Ken Christie, Peter Thompson, Robin Smith, Dennis Cockburn, Res: Keith Lumb.

Rigby Taylors are organising a trip to Tillers Turf of Brigg sometime in September. Anybody wishing to go on this visit must contact Mike Brear on 01943 863856. There is a limit of 30 and applies only to Head Greenkeepers. Book early to avoid disappointment.

If anyone has any news from around the section please do not hesitate to contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA. Please note my telephone number has changed to 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall

## **Cleveland**

Neil Austwick of Bedale GC, is now the new Head Greenkeeper at Masham GC and Kevin Scarce has started at Bedale on a youth training scheme.

Dr James Beard, from Texas USA, was the speaker at a seminar sponsored by Scotts Fertiliser, held at the Ramside Hotel GC, Durham, in May. The many subjects covered like hydrophobic dry patch, organic root zones, composed organic matter, and problems mainly associated with root zones, of high sand content. Good husbandry, ie. do not cut too short, combined with regular brushing, scarifying, aeration and top dressing, as and when required. A lot of good sense was said, which will relieve young Head Greenkeepers.

Thanks to Scotts, Aitkens and Roger Shaw, Course Manager at Ramside GC.

Lush growing weather is keeping me very busy in the Cleveland area. George Salabank (student) temporary employment at Eaglescliffe GC.

Bruce Burnell

# Around the Green



## MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter  
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### East Midlands

This year's Trade 'v' Greenkeepers golf match was again played at Morley Hayes Golf Club on June 17. The format for the day being Four Ball Better-Ball, consisting of five pairs. Some excellent golf was played by both teams which resulted in some very close games, with the Greenkeepers eventually winning 3 games to 2. I would like to thank all members for making up the sides especially all the following Trade member, Kevin Kinzer, ET Breakwells; Keith Sissins & Richard Greatorex, Charnwood & Highmeres, John Burnham, Sisis, and to our Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, for helping to make up the Trade side. However we shall need more Trade members to support the match next year if it is to be a success. Finally a special thank-you should go to Dave Leatherland for helping to organise the day. This year's Hayter regional final played at The Warwickshire on June 25 was unfortunately played in dreadful weather conditions, and had to be restricted to nine holes. The Section, however, finished in third place with four of our members qualifying for the National Final, this year held at Ganton. The region will be represented by the following four Section members, Andrew Duncan, Antony Bindley, Ian Needham and Mark Bindley. May I also take this opportunity to wish all members and the Region the very best of luck in the Final. This year's annual East Midlands versus East of England Golf match will take place on Wednesday August 20 at Melton Mowbray GC. The 1st Tee has been reserved from 3.45pm, and the format for the day is a Four-ball Better-Ball match play. A team of 10 members will be required and anybody wishing to represent the Section can contact me, and I will forward you an entry form. Before the end of the month all members should have received their Autumn Tournament entry form. Any member who has not can contact me, and I will gladly post a copy onto you. The Tournament is hosted by Chevin GC on Wednesday September 3.

Antony Bindley



## Midland

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the members who qualified for the Hayter finals from the regional final at a rather wet Warwickshire GC, the round was forced to be cut to nine holes due to the server weather. The qualifiers were as follows - Tony Cheese, Dartmouth GC; Julian Chesern, Three Hammers Golf Centre; Martin Jones, Bridgnorth GC, well done!

The summer tournament is to be played on July 7 at the Worcester Golf and Country Club and the results from this will be listed in next month's report. The closing date for entries for the Autumn tournament is the September 1 and this will be played at North Worcester GC on the October 2. The annual greenkeeper of the year as you are probably aware is now sponsored by Toro and each section has to submit there entry, last year the entrant from our Section eventually won this title. He, of course, was Cedric Gough from Broadway GC. The nomination has now been sent from our Section to be assets by the national board, I will keep you informed and give you the name of the lucky person once the assessing has taken place.

I would like to remind members of our regional seminar for 97 this will be held at Northampton Rugby Club on November 19 further information regarding speakers and itinerary will be sent to all members nearer the date. Jonathan Wood

## Mid Anglia

The Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament was held at The Warwickshire, towards the end of June.

The weather, unfortunately, took its toll on the competition as it had to be curtailed after nine holes due to heavy rain making the course unplayable. Ironically the greens, which were built on a sand construction were fine, but the rest of the course could not take the downpours.

Jason Hatton, of Brocket Hall GC, was the only Section member to qualify for the National Final, but the Mid Anglia team came second overall, so it was a great effort bearing in mind the conditions. Our thanks go to Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator for organising the event so effi-

ciently, and it was pleasing to see Neil Thomas and the National Chairman, Pat Murphy in attendance.

A match against the Midland Section has been arranged for the August 12, the venue being Hammonds End GC. The format will be eight a side, and it would be nice to keep the cup again, so good luck to everyone who participates.

It seems that some members are unaware that they can claim tax relief on their membership fees. For tax purposes, these subscriptions are regarded as professional fees, and a substantial amount can be claimed back. Full details of how to do this can be obtained from Peter Larter, our Regional Administration. Give him a call if you need more information.

Finally, our Summer Tournament is being held this month at Arkley GC on the 22nd. Entries should be in by now, and please note that it will be played over 27 holes, not 36 as listed in the fixture card.

Paul Lockett

## SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

## Sussex

The summer meeting was held at Haywards Heath GC, although those who played might of been forgiven for thinking it was March. It was pouring with rain when we arrived at 7am and was still pouring after the morning round. Thankfully it cleared up by the time we set off for the afternoon round, but by this time the weather had taken its toll on all the competitors. Before I give the results I must congratulate Peter Ray and his staff for presenting the course so well, having three weeks of rain prior to holding a BIGGA event is not what you need.

The results of the morning round sponsored by Farmura were as follows:- 1. Rob Hudson - net 73; 2. Chris Reed - net 74; 3. Paul McDowell - net 79. Third place was won on count back from Derek Coomber, Tony Bremmer and Mike Ring. The trade prize was won with net 71 by Phil Chalk. As you can see by the score the weather had its effect.

The afternoon Stableford was sponsored by John Shaw



(Machinery) Limited and the results were as follows:- 1. Jon Hill; 2. Charlie Messenger; 3. Tony Bremmer; Trade prize Ian Smith. Thanks to Brian Hughes, Club Captain, for presenting the prizes and all the staff of Haywards Heath for making it a successful day despite the rain. Lastly, it was nice to see Chris Allen at the lunch and let's hope its not too long before you are back playing Chris.

Colin Cathie

## East Anglia

The sun shines on the righteous which probably explains why it was persisting with rain at our Felixtowe bash. Bartram Mowers were the sponsors for the day which baled out as follows:- 0-9 1. A. Carter 38; 2. R. Boyce 36; 3. P. Howard 38. 10-18 1. D. Charles 35; 2. M. Hulley 31; 3. I. Willett 29. 19-28 1. E. Hart 29; 2. R. Mitchell 28; 3. T. Hudleston 26. Guest 1. K. Cutting 37; 2. C. Rushbrook 35; 3. K. Flaig 34. Nearest Pin - I. Willett. Longest Drive - I. Skellon. Loo Seat - Sam Sylvester, Nearest Bar - Everyone else.

I must mention Colin Rushbrook who swam ever so well upon receiving his prize. He thanked his mentor Bob Chesham, his caddy Roger "Fanny" Eane and David Bedwetter for the use of his video.

Our thanks must go to Uncle George for presenting a first rate paddy field, the Captain of Felixtowe ferry, whose name escapes me, the food was good, (rice) wonder who grew that?

Seriously, it was a good day and a lot of effort went into it, our thanks to Mr Cutting the CPT for presenting the prizes which were donated by:- Bartram Mowers, Collier Turf Care, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Rigby Taylor, Turf Actant, CMW, and Mr Cutting. Thank you George and Felixtowe for a super day out.

The Hayter Challenge Regional Final took place at Ham Manor and our lad Martin Myson won his Section. The match was abandoned after nine holes and Martin was already five under par with a net 31 well done my son (excuse the pun) next stop Ganton. Just to finish of way back in May Rushbrooks, Sisis, Levingtons and Rhone Polenc sponsored a terrific golf day at Brett Vale GC. On behalf of all who went I would

like to say thank you. It was appreciated.

Our East Anglia Section is doing nicely thank you and if there is anyone just over the borders like, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk who would like to join our happy band just give Ian Willett a ring on 01842 754241. It is a good day out at a reasonable price, but you must have a sense of humour and a good set of waterproofs.

Mark Lathrope

#### Essex

A rather quite month in Essex Clubhaus Plc. now own Bentom Hall, Staplefort, Abbots and Three Rivers Golf Club, course manager Ray Mitchell at Beliton hall tells me he is holding a seniors tour event with highlights on Sky TV.

On the education front Writtle College are now offering two new courses, NVQ as a series of short courses, inviting students to attend as few or many of the courses they require Higher National Certificates in Horticulture Sports Turf Science. This course will be held mainly in the winter months, for more details contact either Mark or Brenda at the college. BIGGA Regional Supervisory and Management two day course 14th-15th October at the Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon. For further information contact Ken or Sami on 01347838581.

Dates for your diary:- Friday December 12, Dinner Dance - Details to follow. Thursday August 14, Golf Day - The Warren GC, sponsored by P Tuckwill Ltd. Thursday September 25, Seminar - Writtle College. Thursday October 9, Golf Day - Stock Brook Manor GC.

Dave Wells

#### SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

#### South West

June saw the South West area host the regional final of the Haytor challenge for the South West and South Wales at Burnham and Berrow. All the competitors were greeted by Scott MacCallum and our Chairman Pat Murphy who visited all the Regional finals. Just as welcoming was the weather which turned out to be one of the



few sunny and calm days in the so called month of June. Despite the near perfect conditions our region didn't come up with the usual plethora of scintillating performances. Nevertheless A. Knight in category 2 and J. Cooper in category 3 have qualified for the trip to Ganton and may the best of luck go with them. The secret of playing Ganton is to hit the ball very long and very straight and to hole all of your putts. So I hope that bit of advice will give you confidence. The greens at Burnham were their usual perfection thanks to Jock Millar and his staff. I don't care where one plays in this world, you won't get better surfaces than those with their blend of bent, fescue and that type of fine poa that the likes of Barenbrug et al would kill to be able to grow and market. One sees the developed creeping bent monocultures of America but after a days play the greens we played on were as sure, fast and as unspiked us as they were in the morning and that's something you do not see at Augusta.

An excellent meal and the prize giving rounded off a very enjoyable day although it was tinged with a degree of regret that Haytor's will not be sponsoring next year's event. Our thanks must go to Gordon and Marion for their starting, checking in, score counting and organisation etc. for which we are all very grateful.

Later in the month a hand picked, highly select team of the finest golfers of the South West greenkeepers were amassed to take on a group of elderly, slightly arthritic secretaries carrying about 40 stone of beer gut between them. We lost two matches to three. However, the ensuing post mortem concluded that the secretaries won by way of their low stress jobs, the inordinate amount of time they spend playing golf and also the fact that they can choose their own handicaps to suit the condition of their liver on any one particular day. Despite this humiliation a delightful day was had by all and sundry on Ivor Scoones' immaculate course at Long Ashton. So good was the condition that I actually overheard some of the long standing members in the bar remark that the greens were the best they had ever known them and these members looked like they had been playing them for a good 90 years.

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AD REF 130

# Around the Green



This match was our Captain, Tim Dabernets, last as he is leaving the industry to follow a different career. Everyone wishes him the best of luck for the future and would like to thank him for all his past help. We would also like to thank Awoncrop for providing the wine on the table and the prizes for this match, all of which is very much appreciated.

It was interesting listening to the secretaries during our excellent dinner reflecting on how their job has changed over the years and how gone are the days when the secretary was an ex-military type who would spend his days hurling abuse at the members. A great pity that, after all someone's got to do it.

Marc Haring

## South Coast

Our autumn golf meeting will be held at Barton on Sea GC on Thursday, October 9, not as shown in your programmes, as October 3. The competition will be an 18 hole Stableford, all entries complete with current handicaps, should be addressed to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lyminster Road, Millford on Sea, Hants, SO41 0QL. Tel: 01590 643746.

The cost of the days events will be made known later, all entries to be with Tony by first post Tuesday, September 30, also on September 3 we have our annual match against the South West Section. Last year we only managed to halve the match. However, we still retain the trophy, lets have a good win this year lads, and make sure of retaining the trophy. This year we're on home ground at High Post GC, all those wishing to be selected for the team contact Tony.

The Regional Finals of the Hayter National Tournament were held at Burnham and Berrow on June 11th. By the reports I have had, everyone had a good day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The South Coast did not fair too well this year I'm afraid, the only qualifier we had was Phil and the very best of luck in the National Final at Ganton GC on September 18. On behalf of the section qualifiers I would like to thank Hayter's for their support, the Captain and Committee for allowing the tournament to be held at Burnham & Berrow, the caterers, who I am told provided a superb meal, the man above for providing a perfect sunny day. Thanks also to the organisers from the Region. Every-

thing was spot on and no hiccups. Last but not least Jock Millan and his staff, who presented the course in fantastic condition – the greens were out of this world, it just goes to show that experience really does count. Well done Jock.

Jeff Drake has asked me to give another mention about the trip to the London Golf Club, as I said in last month's magazine, Jeff requires names as soon as possible so that he knows the size of the coach to book. At the moment there is no restriction on numbers, however we do need your names so that we can get things organised in plenty of time. To refresh you memories the trip will be on November 6, all of you who wish to make the trip contact Jeff on 01722 503938. I would imagine the coach would start in the Bournemouth area, up through Southampton across Hampshire, Sussex on to Seven Oaks in Kent. If we get good support further into Dorset then we will have to reconsider our start point, it will be a good day out, I have no doubt there will be a stop on the way for refreshments (liquid or otherwise).

During the month of June I had the proud task of visiting a number of golf courses in our Section, this was part of the selection process of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. After the write up in the magazine regarding the award, there were seven nominations in our section, out of the seven nominations three Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers filled out the application forms. At the three courses I visited I found the applicants to be very proud of their courses and their achievements. This made it very difficult to select the winner as each course was in excellent condition on the day of my visit and was all extremely well managed, however at the end of the day your committee decided that Trevor Smith, the Course Manager from Canford Magna, should be our nomination from the South Coast Section.

Trevor will now go through to the regional selection finals and hopefully to the national finals at Aldwark. Congratulations, Trevor and all the best in the remainder of the competition. At this point on behalf of the Section I would like to thank Toro for sponsoring this award, the overall winner will travel to the States for a visit to the Toro factory and the American

Trade Show. The overall winner's club will receive a Toro Greens Machine, courtesy of Toro, so as you can see gentlemen those of you who did not fill in your application forms have missed out on a hell of a lot.

Ken Lodge

## Devon & Cornwall

I'd like to start my report this month by congratulating Robert Brewer on his recent appointment as Director of Golf at St Mellion International, also congratulations and good luck go to Terry Farkins of Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on being nominated the Section's representative for the regional final of the new Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping award. As promised last month I can now give you details of our forthcoming winter meetings:- The Roffeys meeting, October 8, Bowood GC; The Devon Garden Machinery meeting, November 12, Woodbury G & CC; The PJ Flegg meeting, December 10, Okehamton GC; The Barenbrug meeting, February 4, Bude GC; The Avoncrop meeting, March 4, Staddon Heights GC; The Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf meeting, April 1, West Cornwall GC.

The golfing format for these meetings will stay the same as previous years, with the sponsor of the day giving a ten minute presentation on their products. Once again the Section is indebted to all our sponsors for their support.

I have also finalised our educational speakers for our winter meetings:- Roffeys meeting speaker – Cannington College, subject Winter Golf; DGM meeting, AGM; PJ Flegg meeting, Entertainer; Barenbrug meeting, Robert Brewer, subject, Business Planning for Greenkeeping; Avoncrop meeting, Robert Laycock, Grass Leaf tissue analysis – Necessary or Not; Rhone Poulenc and Supaturf meeting, Cornwall Wildlife, Ecological Management Plan.

Richard Whyman

## South Wales

It is with great sadness that I should inform you of the tragic loss of one of our oldest and most respected members, Ted Thompson. Ted, formerly of the St Pierre Golf & Country Club, was an ardent supporter of BIGGA and all we stand for. Those with good memories will remember that he sent his apologies to last year's

AGM, with a footnote stating that his absence was only his second in 33 years of supporting BIGGA and the earlier associations. Ted will be sorely missed by all those who knew him. He was a true gentleman and a friend to everybody. My personal thanks to Phil Swain who attended the funeral on our behalf not only to represent the association, for Phil was one of Ted's nearest and dearest friends.

I was one of the lucky ones invited by my local Dealer "Power Cut" of Carmarthen who had the pleasure of attending the first ever John Deere European Feedback '97 programme, held in Bruchsal, Germany last month. At the Bruchsal GC we were asking by John Deere to assess 34 pieces of machinery at five different stations, around the golf course and give unbiased feedback via questionnaires relating to build quality, ease of use, ease of adjustment, comparison with others, etc. of each machine. An excellent trip, despite the early starts, was it really only two days, it felt more like a week. My sincere thanks to both Malcolm Rees, proprietor of "Power Cut" and also Huw Thomas for their hospitality. To Steve, the bagman! For the entertainment and especially the how to create your very own DIY picnic! (He knows who he is.) A good time was had by all, some new friends made and some old acquaintances renewed. Many thanks John Deere!

Congratulations to our only qualifier for the Hayter Finals to be held at Ganton GC on September 18. Good luck Darly, do us proud. Good luck also to Steve Price, Steve has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at the new Garnant Park GC near Ammanford. The new council owned, Parkland Course has been challenge to all categories of golfer. Our thanks to Mr JDB Thomas and Pencoed College for inviting us to take part in their College Open Day, last month. At the college we had on display, BIGGA merchandise, videos, books, etc. As well as a highly trained team of BIGGA promotional personnel, although not as pretty as the Miracle Professional Lady. Ready and willing to answer questions regarding the association and relating to membership, worthwhile event, never the less. My thanks to those who helped out, namely Mike Williams and David Ward.

Peter Lacey