**SCOTTISH REGION**

**Elliott Small**
Tel: 01259 731445

**North**
My first report of the summer yet, while I am writing this, there is a blizzard outside and I am wondering if I will make Stirling for the Scottish Executive Meeting tomorrow! After quite a good spring we do seem to have gone back to winter instead of forward to summer. Fingers crossed that this is just a blip and good weather is round the corner.

This month we have the Scottish National at Craigmillar Park in Edinburgh and the North is going for the Team Trophy for the third year in a row so a good turnout of members is needed. Talking of golf competitions, next year Scotland hosts the BIGGA National Tournament and they will be in our Section at Letham Grange so we can look forward to that in August 1998.

I have been organising some golf for a couple of friends coming over from the States and would like to thank the helpful colleagues that have fixed up times for me. In recent weeks I have played at Royal Birkdale, Royal Dornoch and Nairn which, if I had not been a BIGGA member, would have been a great strain on my wallet! Yet another great reason to renew membership to the Association.

A correction from my April notes - the Management Courses will cost £75 and not £50 - but this is still amazing value.

Last month I attended my first Board of Management meeting at Aldwark Manor in my capacity as Deputy Member for Scotland and I can honestly say I was really impressed how well the Association is being run by both staff and Board Members. We are in safe hands as long as they don’t call me in if Jim Paton can’t make a meeting!

Finally, members take note, last month’s outing at Duff House Royal (details to follow) was full up and some people did not get in! Make sure future entries are in quickly if you want to guarantee a place.

Iain Macleod

**West**
Talk about election campaigning. Who has been out for the West Section? Someone has obviously been pushing BIGGA. New members this month are Donald Robertson, Scott McLeod, both Ralston GC; Ken Siems, Loch Lomond GC; John O'Donnel, Kenneth Love, both Cowal GC; Stuart Taylor, Gleddoch CC; Stuart Pirie, Hagg's Castle GC; Colin MacFarlane, Mount Ellen GC; John Caldwell, Stewart Donald, both Renfrew GC; Stuart Crossan, Craig Winters, both Pollock GC; James McNicol, Blairbeth GC; Brian Forrest, Andrew Priestley, both Dunbarton GC; and finally Lee Jenkins, Kilmacolm GC. A couple of famous names there – nice to see such an encouraging intake of new members and long may it continue. Hope to see you all at future events and don’t forget we are open to activity suggestions.

The results of the Spring Meeting held at Eastwood GC are as follows:- Gross - S. Taylor, Killemont, 72; Cat 1. 1. C. Goodall, Balmore, 77-4-73; 2. C. Wyllie, Killermont, 81-8-73; 3. I. Smith, Drumpellier, 92-16-76. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 87-14-73; 2. I. Wilson, Hamilton, 90-15-75; 3. S. Brawley, East Kilbride 92-16-76. Cat 3. 1. R. Grainger.
Wishes to all at the Lochgreen with G. Dingwall, Crow Wood, and M. Corey, Balmore. Best wishes to all at the Lochgreen Course.

Many thanks are due for this recent outing – firstly to the catering staff and Club Master for the attention given and their ability to make everybody feel important; the Captain and Committee along with members for allowing courtesy of the course and for presenting the prizes on the day and last, but certainly not least, to Donald McLellan and his staff for presenting a course which was absolutely beautiful. You are all complimented on your presentation and hard work.

Remember to submit your entries for the five-a-side tournament as entries will close quickly this year. It is hoped 16 teams can compete. Certain rules apply, only two clubs can join forces, players are restricted to a maximum of seven players, strips must be worn, shin guards are to be worn and referees will control events on the pitch! Let's hope the weather is as good as last year. This time Campsie/Russells will have a fight on their hands for the trophy.

Remember all those people wishing to help at Loch Lomond should contact Cecil George or the Secretary to make sure you don't miss out.

Finally, can I wish all members a good season. Please don't forget to inform me of any interesting information – births, deaths, promotions or retirements. A note for future reference, Brian Hillan, Drumpellier, is now dealing with matters regarding 11-a-side football and Loch Lomond, I believe, are interested in a challenge!

Stewart Taylor

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

Sheffield

Yes, I am still doing the Section notes even though my name has not been appearing at the foot of the notes recently (apologies from the Editor).

On April 7 we held our Spring Competition at Wath GC which was also the qualifier for the Hayter Tournament which gave us a very good turnout of 56 players.

Wath was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Dean Abdy and his staff for all the hard work they have done on the course.

We would also like to thank Wath GC for the courtesy of their course and to the steward and his staff for providing an excellent meal which I think was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks also go to Alan Dyson, from GEM, for sponsoring the competition and providing an excellent prize table. Our thanks also go to Steve Burroughs, Peter Fell and Les Purdy who also provided prizes and thanks to Hayter for the prizes for the division winners.

Congratulations go to everyone who won prizes at Wath and well done to Kevin Lock, who won the competition with a very good score. Well done Kevin!

Results:
1. K. Lock; 2. B. Bonring; 3. D. Norton; 4. G. Marsh. The nearest the pin prize was won by G. Marsh and our guest prize was won by our President, Ken Arnold.

All the qualifiers for the Northern Region Final are:-
Cat 3:- 1. P. Neve; 2. M. Crawshaw; 3. I. Clark; Res. S. Hurd. Good luck to you all in the final.

Our next golf competition will be held at Silkstone GC on July 7 at 10 am.

John Lax

North Wales

Our annual North Wales v North West competition took place at Hill Valley Country Club on April 16 and our thanks are due to Andrew Mitchell and his father for providing us with a wonderful venue for this event. Thanks also go to Bert Cross for organising the North West Team and most especially to Terry Adamson for his hard work in supervising the day and to GEM for their sponsorship. The match resulted in a draw and therefore we get to keep the trophy for another year.

Over 80 members and guests took part in our Spring Tournament at Frodsham GC on April 30. Our thanks are due to Eric and Sheila Roylance for their generosity in providing us with a wonderful venue and courtesy of the course for the day.

The course, which is in a beautiful location on top of Frodsham Hill was in excellent condition and superbly presented, a credit to Paul Massey and his team.

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Around the Green

from The Plassey GC.
Trevor Johnston

Cleveland
A meeting of assessors was held at Middlesbrough Municipal GC in April, chaired by Internal Verifier, Tony Mears. In attendance was Tony Milan, lecturer at Houghall College, Durham, who was very helpful in explaining about training and assessment and how to judge your young trainees with evidence. He made it all sound so easy. We are now preparing for another assessor training day so if anyone is interested please contact Tony Mears.

Castle Eden GC are rebuilding a bridge at the par 3 6th hole. They have also reconstructed the 14th green on a porous base root zone and laid their own turf. They have also planted 800 trees, Glenn Baxter, Head Greenkeeper at South Shields GC, and his staff, have reconstructed the 3rd and 9th tees plus a number of greenside bunkers.

Hartlepool Head Greenkeeper, Alan Evans and his staff, have been busy improving paths using red track material which looks beautiful. He also told me that his greens have been disease free for the past seven years and he has used no fungicide. Congratulations Alan, I wish I could say the same!
Bruce Burnell

North West
Our annual tournament with the North Wales Section was played at Hill Valley GC on Wednesday April 16. The weather was great with sunshine from start to finish. The course was in lovely condition thanks to Andrew Minshall and his staff. The result was a halved match which means North Wales retain the GEM Trophy for a further year. I would like to thank Hill Valley GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and their excellent facilities. Thanks also to GEM for sponsoring the day once again.

The next golf competition is the summer meeting at Longridge GC, on Wednesday June 25, and all applications must be received by Friday June 20. Send your cheque for £15 made payable to BiGGA N/W to: Bill Merritt, 255 Uting Avenue, Chulmire, Liverpool L4 9RB, telephone 0151 284 4416. Soup and sandwiches will be served between 12 noon and 1pm and the tee is available from 1.30 pm. The evening meal will be followed by a prize presentation. The draw for the support team at The Open has now been done at HQ and obviously some will be disappointed but it was all done on a fair basis. To those of you who have been lucky enough to be picked out of the hat I am sure you will enjoy the experience and I will see you at Troon on July 16.

Anyone with any news, views or queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412.
Bert Cross

Northern
This year's Spring Tournament was held at Wakefield GC. Although the forecast was not too good, the rain held off apart from a quick shower around early afternoon.

Many thanks to County Crops for providing sponsorship for this event and to Glen Hardcastle for attending on their behalf.

Thank you to Wakefield GC for kindly hosting the event at a time when finding clubs that will give courtesy to greenkeepers is becoming more difficult to find.

Thanks also to Stewart Marston and his staff for presenting the course in such good shape and to the catering staff for feeding us so well.

The results for the day were as follows:

Well done to all the lads for qualifying and good luck in the Hayter Regional Finals at Matfen Hall on Wednesday July 9.

Again may I remind people wishing to play in future golf events that if I have not received their deposit at least seven days prior to the event we can not allow you to play. Unfortunately this is happening too frequently by people who put their name down with a rep or somebody else and expect to pay and play on the day. It will not be accepted any longer. At the Spring Tournament the section lost out by people who said they were going to come, then on the day sent an excuse along with a third party. Meals that have been booked still have to be paid for.

Finally anyone with any news or information that may be of interest for future magazine inserts please contact me on Tel: 01484 - 519829
Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands
This year's Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier was played on General Election day, May 1 at Cosby GC. On a fine Spring day 44 competitors competed for the Hayter Challenge Tournament with the successful qualifiers listed below.

Cat 1: 1. A. Duncan, Kettering, 76-8-68; 2. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 74-3-71; 3. A. Foulds, 74-4-70

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Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

B B & O
At the time of writing this article we had received 40 entries for the first golf day which was the maximum allowed. It looks like we are carrying on where we left off last season. A full report of all the day's action will be in next month's article.

The draw for the Rigby Taylor Fourball has been made and I will be posting every competitor a full copy of the draw in due course.

Having nothing to report this month I will tell you a strange but true happening at Badgermore recently. For those of you who are squeamish, read no further!

During the prolonged dry spell back in April I was carrying out some irrigation with hose-pipes and static sprinklers. On this particular morning I was watering the practice green. I connected the hose to the irrigation point and cranked open the valve which was about 100 metres from the green. As I went to inspect the sprinkler there was nothing coming out, not a drop. It had to be a blocked nozzle so I turned the valve off and inspected the sprinkler. As suspected it was a blockage but not with a stone or debris, but with a small frog! The poor little blighter had only crawled up into the hose pipe for some sleep only for me to blast a few hundred gallons of water up its rear end! Needless to say it did not survive!

Anyway, back to business. I will be attending a Regional Board Meeting soon so if anybody wants details of subjects discussed then give me a call and I will oblige.

Finally if you have changed your address recently then don't forget to inform Head Office so as not to miss out on any mail shots.

Lindsay Anderson

Mid-Anglia
A talk was given to around 20 members of the Section in early March by Bruce Jamieson, former Director of Agronomy with Acorn Equipment.

The talk was informative and our thanks go to Bruce. During the prolonged dry spell back in April I was carrying out some irrigation with hose-pipes and static sprinklers. On this particular morning I was watering the practice green. I connected the hose to the irrigation point and cranked open the valve which was about 100 metres from the green. As I went to inspect the sprinkler there was nothing coming out, not a drop. It had to be a blocked nozzle so I turned the valve off and inspected the sprinkler. As suspected it was a blockage but not with a stone or debris, but with a small frog! The poor little blighter had only crawled up into the hose pipe for some sleep only for me to blast a few hundred gallons of water up its rear end! Needless to say it did not survive!

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Lindsay Anderson
Around the Green

high standard. I would like to congratulate Tony Dyke and his staff for all their efforts and wish them the best of luck this month as they prepare the course for the Middlesex County Championship. The Tournament was well supported by our Section and the overall winner of the medal event was Chris Carpenter, from Brookmans Park GC. Runner-up was Peter Creeber and Darren Burdis was overall third. The guest prize was awarded to Johnny Johnson, from Wyke Green.


The longest drive was won by Johnny Johnson and the results for the King's nearest the pin event were 1. winning a £50 voucher, was Darren Burdis, 2. winning a £30 voucher was Johnny Johnson and 3. winning a voucher for £20 was Chris Carpenter. I would like to thank King's for their support in providing the prizes and also for kindly paying for all the postage etc for the event. I would also like to thank Hayter for providing the category winner medals and a big thanks to the Section staff for all their efforts and wish them the best of luck this month.

The results were as follows:
- Afternoon Round 1 – Mike Gould (again!) 2. Laurie Tremlit 3. Alistair Cale. Guest Prize; John Davies. The prize for the longest walk was won by Darren Davis. The summer meeting will be held at Haywards Heath GC on July 3. 

Finally I would like to send best wishes to Chris Allen who was taken seriously ill and is in St Georges Hospital, Tooting. We're all thinking of you Chris. Colin Cathie

Kent

On April 29 we held the Hayter Qualifier at The Ridge GC. We had a reasonable turnout of 39 golfers including seven trade members and on a breezy, sunny day we played a course that is only four years old. Despite drought conditions the course was in excellent condition. Congratulations must go to Ray Malt and his staff for presenting the course in such good condition.

The scores for the Hayter were:
- Cat 1. D. Brown; 2. H. Morgan; 3. N. Gillham. Cat 2. 1. R. Malt; 2. M. Mewett; 3. D. Brown. Cat 3. 1. J. Waterman; 2. M. Haver; 3. B. Abbott. The two guest prizes were won by Grant Elliott, a new greenkeeper from Wildernesse. The Kings nearest the pin results were:
  - 1. J. Wakelin; 2. M. Haver; 3. H. Morgan. The Driving Force Leisure longest drive results were:

Many thanks must go to Hayter for their continued sponsorship and to The Ridge and their catering staff for the hospitality inside.

The Section would also like to thank the following for their kind offers and help them out a little on that side. I have been told it was a good day. The weather was glorious and Mike Gould has the course looking great.

The results were as follows:
- Afternoon Round 1 – Mike Gould (again!) 2. Laurie Tremlit 3. Alistair Cale. Guest Prize; John Davies. The prize for the longest walk was won by Darren Davis.

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Surrey

At last something to write about, and to crow about.

In last month's magazine you all read about the Regional Match at Princes GC in Sandwich. What Derek did not put in the report was the fact that the teams had to be in Sandwich at 8am and that the cost was £30. Well the committee decided to help them out a little on that score which I hope you will agree was the right thing to do. The team was captained by Roger Tydeman and consisted of Kevin Boxall, Jimmy Russell, Dave Murdoch, Gareth Roberts, Richard Cockett, Chris Allen, Gavin Kyle, Dave Langhieum, and John Mathis, I know that there are many of you out there saying why wasn't I picked? Well I say to you your turn will come. But the two teams that have gone out are a hard act to follow, plus the other sections will now be "gunning" for us.

The next event is the Cresta Cup at West Surrey on June 10, followed by the McMillan Tankard, at Sunningdale, on July 31, which brings me nicely on to the talk given by Jack McMillan after the match at Dukes Dene.

This is the first time that we...
Around the Green

Ted Stiles

very informal just the right tone

Ted Stiles

for his time and trouble for

Ted Stiles

speak for all there that it was

Ted Stiles

have tried this and I am sure I

Ted Stiles

Essex

Tuesday April 22, 1997, saw the

Ted Stiles

the Secretary's Office who acted

Ted Stiles

As starter, the presentation of the

Ted Stiles

the quality of the catering

Ted Stiles

We were pleased to welcome

Ted Stiles

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Ted Stiles

and a commitment to support Greenkeepers.

Ted Stiles

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Organiser. His place has been taken by Tony Gadd. Our thanks to Mark who has done a grand job over the past two years.

Our next golf meeting will be the Summer Tournament at Bramshaw GC on Wednesday August 6. All applications along with current handicaps should be sent to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants, SO41 OQJ, telephone 01590 643746. The format for this Tournament will be a Four Ball Better Ball Stableford. Members may play with anyone from Bramshaw GC on Wednesday June 11. Once again it will be with Tony 10 days before the Tournament ie first post on Monday July 28. Details of Mr price for the day are not known as yet.

Westurf has been and gone again. It was good time for meeting old friends again from the other Sections. Our National Chairman was there along with Neil Thomas and some of the attractive ladies from Head Office. However this day belonged to Gordon and Marion as this was their last Westurf. A presentation was made to them by the Chairman of the Region, Richard Whyman. This was in recognition of all the hard work they have put in over the years. Without them Westurf would never have existed. They are Mr and Mrs Westurf. Thank you Gordon and Marion. Enjoy your retirement and put your feet up, you deserve it.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall
Westurf was the place to be on Wednesday April 30 as visitors to the show were greeted with a lovely warm sunny spring day. It was nice to see so many of you at Westurf to support the Region and wish Gordon and Marion a happy and enjoyable retirement from their post of Mr and Mrs BIGGA in the South West & South Wales. Westurf is an important event for all greenkeepers within the South West and South Wales Region as it not only gives us the opportunity to view all the latest products available to maintain our courses in first class condition, it gives the Region the opportunity from the proceeds of Westurf to offer you its members a subsidised Regional seminar and trip to the BTME show and educational seminars at Harrogate. The Region has also given grants to all our GTC approved local colleges and grants to members to complete their college course.

Unfortunately the English Golf Union held a workshop in Cornwall for Secretaries, Chairman of Greens and Head Greenkeepers on the same day as Westurf which could have jeopardised the show, so we are grateful to all who attended the show in your bumper numbers. Hopefully in the future BIGGA can work more closely with the EGU so events such as Westurf, Regional Seminar and Section events do not clash with the excellent workshops put on by the EGU. Surely it makes sense not to duplicate on educational talks, but work together to achieve the best greenkeeping education available.

Back to the show which saw an increase in exhibitors on last year. Many of the exhibitors were offering prize draws and of course there was the Region's holiday voucher to be won. Visitors to the show also enjoyed watching all the latest maintenance equipment being demonstrated in the brilliant sunshine.

There was a big Westurf welcome for our Chairman, Pat Murphy and the Executive Director, Neil Thomas and not forgetting the hard working HQ girls Janet and Jenny who helped in the BIGGA tent all day. Also we welcomed Paula Humphries, our new Regional Administrator to her first of many shows.

All in all Westurf 97 continued to consolidate its position as a superb local turfcare show with most of the trade delighted with enquiries on the day.

To mark Gordon and Marion’s last Westurf in charge I presented them with a matching decanter and biscuit barrel as a thank you from the Region for all the hard work they have put into running the Region over the last 10 years.

Finally I would like to wish our Hayter Qualifiers the very best of golfing luck at this year’s Regional Final to be played at Burnham and Berrow GC on Wednesday June 11. Richard Whyman

South West
The Hayter Challenge took place at the magnificent Orchardleigh GC on a pleasant Monday afternoon. A small but select group took part in this annual fixture to see who could reach the next round which takes place at Burnham and Berrow on June 11. With five people qualifying from three handicap groups, it was a keenly contested affair with some people displaying a superb golfing prowess despite their handicaps. The said handicaps will of course be reviewed. The winners of the three divisions are:- Cat 1: J. Keenaghan, 68; Cat 2: A. Knight, 67; Cat 3: J. Coverdale, 61. James collected his prize without a hint of shame!

Our thanks must go to Sally Jane Coode, of Orchardleigh, for allowing us the use of their course and to Gary Cashman and his staff for presenting the course in its usual superb condition, with the pencies greens especially coming in for a great deal of praise. Our thanks also go to Hayters for their sponsorship and donation of the first prizes and to BS Mowers for providing the other prizes. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Education now and anyone wishing to do a PA2 spraying course please could you contact Noel Stevens direct on 01452 526111. Noel, the course tutor, will arrange a time and location convenient to yourself and will also sort out the examination to follow.

Westurf took place on April 30 on a delightful day and reports were generally encouraging. There appeared to be quite a good turn out although greater numbers would always be appreciated. Congratulations to Marion and Gordon Child for their superb organisation of this, their last Westurf. Their expertise and experience will be sadly missed although let’s hope their smiling faces will be seen at future shows. Gordon has helped the South West Region hugely over the years with his tireless enthusiasm and we are all greatly indebted to him. We wish him and Marion all the best for the future and hope to see them regularly.

The trade appeared to be very pleased with the way things went. It may not be quite as busy as Saltex or the BTME but there were many genuine enquiries about their products and future support looks assured.

Before closing and still on the subject of retirement, Peter Cox from Long Ashton, a stalwart of the greenkeepers tour and section committees retires after 25 years of loyal service. We all wish Peter a long and happy retirement and look forward to seeing him on a regular basis at future tournaments.

Marc Haring

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