North
First new member to be welcomed in 1998 is Ross Farmer, apprentice at Stonehaven GC. We hope he is the first of many to the Section. The first new appointment of 1998 that has come to my attention is Brian Anderson, who this month takes over at Murray GC, in Aberdeen. Brian, originally from Scotland, has been working down in Wales for a number of years so we welcome him and wish him well in his new position.

Stewart McKean has the task of running the 200 Club in 1998. Souters of Stirling are this year’s sponsors and we thank them for their assistance. The cards should be out soon so please help Stewart by returning your payment as soon as possible so that we can sell all the tickets by the Spring Outing in time for the first draws. Remember, this is the first year that we will receive no subs refund from Headquarters as this money now helps to pay for the Regional Administrator so we must start to be self-sufficient and the 200 Club will be our major earner in that respect. If we want to keep the costs of outings etc down we must make the maximum possible from the 200 Club and besides you could win up to £100 in the process.

I have not had any ideas from anyone about the possible Section Conference we plan to hold at the end of the year. We need to start securing speakers soon if we are going ahead with the project and this is your chance to tell us what you want to listen to or about. I await your ideas!!

Finally, anyone interested in the Section Four Ball Better Ball knockout competition that has not already entered please do so now as Steve Sullivan needs to decide if the numbers entered are good enough to run the tournament starting in the Spring. As mentioned before early rounds will be regional to cut down on travelling.

Steve’s number is 01738 643778.

Iain Macleod.

West
Well done everybody who attended the AGM at Claremont Bowling Club on Thursday December 11. In all 40 people attended which is an excellent turnout, mainly the same regular faces with one or two new ones but thank you all for helping make the evening a success. The main area of controversy was wages, no different from any other industry you might say. We missed the usual points of order raised by Cecil, making the meeting run a tad shorter than usual. Elected onto the committee was Robert Hogarth, from Cuthcart Castle. The committee consists of: Chairman - J Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC; Vice Chairman - Brian Hillan, Drumgellier GC; Secretary - Sandy Balloch, Fereneze GC; Past Chairman - John Scott, Kirkhill GC; Committee - Scott Bullantyne, Cowglen GC, Drew McKechnie, Douglas Park GC, Ronnie Burnett, Kilmakolm GC, (Education), Greg Burns, Lenzie GC; Robert Hogarth, Cuthcart Castle GC, Derek Duthie, Aikens and Kenny Hunter, Hooleys. May I express my thanks to John Scott for his chairmanship, he did an excellent job under difficult circumstances.

I look forward to having an interesting year and as new Chairman one of my first duties is to thank those who had a hand in organising the game’s night.

First of all thanks to Claremont Bowling Club for allowing us the use of their excellent socialising facilities and to our barmen on the evening, Graham. Thanks to John Scott once again for organising the Club venue, pies at half time and for clearing glasses, selling raffle tickets and just being that cheerful personality. Gary Burns has to be given thanks for running the games of which the eventual winner was Drew McKechnie, there’s a surprise! The raffle was won by myself, Simon Murray and Gary Burns. Once again our gratitude to all concerned for their assistance.

The next event was the 11-a-side game of football, north of the river against the south. What an exhibition of how to play football. The south slaughtered us 10 goals to 2. In all some 19 people turned out so what happened to the others? Well done the south, maybe next time.

A few things to note - The Convenors match at East Kilbride for March and a football game against either the East or Central Section will be organised. Those who took part at Scottown will be considered. The Scottish Education Conference will be held the first week in March.

Stuart Taylor.

Central
There’s not a great deal to report at this time what with the new year holidays and the BTME at Harrogate everyone appeared to be easing themselves towards the golfing season which lies ahead. With a bit of luck the Spring will be as kind to us as the Winter appears to have been up to now as up to the time of writing (January 3) we have yet to have any snow.

We extend a warm welcome to new members Stuart Raeburn, Tulliallan, Scott Macgregor, The Dukes Course, Thomas Meenagh, Coatbridge, Thomas Adamson, Dullatur, and Michael Goode, Carol Borthwick and Francis Gallagher all from Elmwood College. Hopefully we can keep up this fine start to ’98 with new members so if you know of any greengr compounders who are not in the Association encourage them to join or invite them along to some of our events as your guest.

Entry forms for the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed Qualifier at Ladybank in April should be with you by now or arriving soon. If you want to be sure of competing in this event please return your forms well before the closing date. Also, the Autumn Tournament will be held by courtesy of Crieff GC in early October, the exact date has yet to be confirmed. You may think that notice of some of our events is being sent out rather early. The reason for this is that you will be informed of as many events as possible with the one mail shot in an effort to reduce Section running costs.

Well, that’s it for this month, not a lot I know but hopefully there will be more next time!

John Crawford.

East
Before we get started I would like to wish all our members, patrons and

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**THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN: Redexim**

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition

**THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES**
friends a very happy and prosperous new year and hope everyone has a good 1998. Now down to business - since I last wrote in the column we were celebrating our ruby wedding anniversary. GC, Secretary, Paul Dixon said a few words on Andrew's behalf then they were presented with a basket of flowers and a bottle of champagne. We would like to wish them both all the best for the next 40 years.

PS - the East Section Patrons Award winners were Gordon Trotter, Gleneagles, and Brian Elphick, Peebles. They were presented with certificates and books along with a trip with the Scottish party to Harrogate 98. Well done folks from the Section, you will enjoy your trip in Harrogate. On your return I hope you will write an article about winning your award and your trip to Harrogate.

The section committee are putting the final details to the fixture list for the coming season. We have an exciting range of events coming up this season so let's all get behind the Section and support all events this year and make it a very successful year for the Section.

In December we had our annual dinner dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady, where 75 members and guests enjoyed a great night out and also early morning as all but a few stayed in the hotel that night which we totally booked up and also another hotel a minutes away in the village. In future we would like to see more greengrocers at the dance as it is your night out. We had one or two call-offs at the last minute so that is why the numbers were down.

I would like to thank everyone that brought along a raffle prize and also the social committee for organising everything so well this year. The meal was excellent and so was the drinks so I have been told! Next year let us see some new faces along as it is a very good weekend out. There were one or two moans and groans on the night but these will be ironed out by next year.

We had a presentation on the night by Andrew Forrest to his parents who were celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary. GC, Secretary, Paul Dixon said a few words on Andrew's behalf then they were presented with a basket of flowers and a bottle of champagne. We would like to wish them both all the best for the next 40 years.

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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

February 1998 Greenkeeper International 33
On the construction and maintenance side, the drainage of wet areas is in full swing following a mild Autumn. They have even cut a new green beyond a natural looking pond which now blends in very well.

Local drainage contractor, Cliff Anson, kindly sponsored the summer knockout competition, where 29 members attended. On behalf of the course and the Secretary of the Committee, a big thank you to the stewards and all others who were engaged in the course playing. So much rain had fallen in the past couple of days. Tony Chambers, the President of the Section presented all the sponsors on the day as everybody who sponsored the summer knockout event was thoroughly enjoyed a new course and to the stewards and the caterers and the bar staff. Finally, the Secretary to the stewards and the committee has tow new changes. The election of officers onto the committee has now stood down from the committee.

Any other business covered a financial report. The fixture list of regional funds. The fixture list of the new competition, which was sponsored by Burdens Holmes, the main sponsor for bringing some machinery along for every-thing the course and the Secretary to the stewards and the committee has tow new changes. The election of officers onto the committee has now stood down from the committee.

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their individual courses for the flood of golfers keen to blow the cobwebs of the clubs.

Looking back to last season the weather was kind to all of us with just enough rain to prevent the course turning into deserts. I hope this coming season is just as kind (is that too much to ask for?). At present we are putting together the future list for golf dates and venues and these will be posted as soon as possible.

On the education front remember that two local colleges are still running evening lectures. Berkshire College - Golf Course Design on February 4 and Irrigation on March 4; Warren Farm - Irrigation and Conservation on February 25 and USGA Specification on March 25.

I know from experience it is difficult to go to all of the lectures but if you could try and make a couple of the above that would be great. A lot of the work that helps to make the Section run smoothly is carried out by the Committee and they tend to remain anonymous, well not any more below is a list of this years committee:
Chairman - R. Clark; Secretary - R. Lucas; Golf Admin - A. Cooper & R. Wall; Handicaps - C. Vernon; Administration - T. French and R. Kates.

Personally I would like to make a plea to all members for some information to fill these articles. Anything that you would like to share with us maybe a humorous or embarrassing story please let me know.

Lindsay Anderson

Essex

Well, the first month of the year and Hoylake has passed and a report will appear in the March column.

Our first event of 1998 will have been held at Writtle College on February 3 with guest speaker, Frank Biscoe, discussing the future of the clubs and going into some detail on the Essex Section fixture card for 1998 and for their sponsorship which has been held at Royal Mid Essex Golf Club.

At the end of the meeting £25 was collected from those not wearing ties and these will be donated to the McMillan Cancer Fund.

This year's venues are as follows - in March we are at Lakenheath. Please can you get your reply slips back to Martin Forrester on 01245 603131. The others are Stowmarket, The Essex Section back in BGGA days and he had a lot to do with that breaking away. It is good to see him back.

At the end of the meeting £25 was collected from those not wearing ties and these will be donated to the McMillan Cancer Fund.

The Turk's Trot was held at Littlesh Hampton GC again this year. As usual we had a terrific day. David Wynn's team had the course in great condition and the clubhouse staff once again gave us a first class service. The committee have asked me to pass on our thanks to Littlehampton GC for their hospitality.

Our next evening lecture at Writtle College will be held on Tuesday March 17 at 7.30 pm in the main building. The cost, including lunch etc will be £12. Places are limited to 12 on a first come first served basis. For further information, please contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

The winning team from Royal Mid Essex was led by their Course Captain, Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

Sussex

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Our thanks must go to Darenth Valley, East Sussex Golf Club for their generous hospitality.

After all that there was the AGM which was held at Royal Winchester GC for once again allowing us to use their excellent clubhouse for our first quiz night in November. The turnout was not as large as hoped for but all who did come had an enjoyable evening. The winning team from Royal Mid Surrey was led by their Course Captain, Allan McDougall. Allan has promised to defend his victory in the next event and we are looking forward to it.

The Surrey Turkey Trot was held at the Drift GC on December 12 and we thank Paul Weston and his team for a well organized event. The winning team from Royal Mid Surrey was led by their Course Manager, Allan McDougall. Allan has promised to defend his victory in the next event and we are looking forward to it.

The final of the Ritefeed Matchplay was held at Sandridge Park. We are currently looking at our venues for this year. The fixture card is now complete and we are looking forward to another successful season.

The Kent Section would like to thank all the companies who agreed to sponsor the event. Without your support we would not have been able to survive.

In May it is the Kent Section's turn to host the Regional Seminar. This will be held at Hadlow College on May 19. Please attend. You might learn something.

South Coast

Our Christmas Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner was once again held at Royal Winchester GC. The weather was great for the time of year with just a little nip in the air, in other words a nice December day. The weather also as ever in its usual immaculate condition all thanks to Phil Hanks and his staff. Unfortunately I was not able attend the day however I am told that the Christmas Dinner was very good with a good carvery. Thank you to all of the catering staff for making the meal so delicious.

We would also like to thank Mike Ring, of Rigby Taylor, and Nick Chapman, for their generosity in providing the security reasons before we can enter the base! This promises to be a memorable day (and probably a nice one).

The others are Stormarket, The Nutmeg and The Ritefeed. The winning team from Royal Mid Surrey was led by their Course Captain, Allan McDougall. Allan has promised to defend his victory in the next event and we are looking forward to it.

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Ed McCabe: 4. Steve Kitty, 37 pts. Steve caused quite a bit of excitement on the course. He managed to get a two on a par 4 hole so well done Steve. After the Turkey Trot we held our AGM. This was attended by 66 members with the Turkey Trot having 57 members competing, the maximum the club could accommodate so well done all. Ken Lodge was the Chairman who also attended the AGM. At the AGM we were greeted with the presence of our local Administrator, Paula Humphries. This was a good opportunity for a lot of the members to meet Paula for the first time.

The AGM went well, there were one or two changes to the committee. Our Chairman, Alan Mitchell stood down from Chairman and decided to leave the committee. This is a sad loss to the Section. Alan has done some stirring work on education and he has been mainly responsible in keeping our Section solvent. I hope in some position it is in. Thank you Alan for all the hard work you have put in, we wish you well in the future. As a lot of you know, Ed McCabe was the Chairman of the education of greenkeepers at all levels and is working closely with Sparsholt and the GTC.

Our newly elected Chairman is Tony Gadd. Tony has been a long serving member and does an excellent job as our Tournament Organiser and fully deserves the honour of holding the position as our Chairman. We wish him all the best.

Ed McCabe also stood down from his position with us. Once again Ed is very committed to the education of greenkeepers. He has done a lot of work in organising our seminars and pushing for more members to attend. We wish Ed well for all your effort. Two new members were elected to the committee - Phil Wentworth, from The Army GC, and Ian Noble, from West Moors GC. We wish them both well.

Mention must be made of Tony’s excellent job, as the Chairman of the Section. He has done a lot of hard work over the years to keep the Section going. As you can see by his address. Jeff has taken up the position of Deputy Head at Okehampton. for the years ahead.

Most of the members to be held at Cranage GC on Wednesday March 4. Did you sport the deliberate mistake on the programme? The speaker will be Gary Parker from ISSA Airways. He is a very interesting talk since so much depends on irrigation and its correct usage and it should create a good discussion platform.

At this point I must inform you that Steve caused quite a bit of excitement out on the course. He managed to get a two on a par 4 hole so well done Steve.

South West

Despite the somewhat suspect weather forecast we enjoyed a Christmas competition in relatively dry but windy conditions around delightful Minchinhampton GC. on December 10. This was a great success to our winter tournaments as despite everywhere else being closed or waterlogged, Minchinhampton remained playable and enjoyed by all. The pleasure to play. I managed to team up with our new Chairman, Chris Sealey and we were given a lesson in how to play golf by Course Manager, Paul West and his Secretary, Jim and Georgina. They managed to go round in a gross 72 as a foursome and not surprisingly took the top honours with 38 points. Second equal were J. Keen, C. P. Green, M. F. Ford and D. Dobbie, 3rd were A. Parker and N. King and joint 4th were K. Green and M. Freeman and P. Bayonine and D. Calvert. Thanks to the caterers Jim and Georgina, the Secretary Dave Calvert and of course Paul and his galant band of men and indeed women for presenting the course in such fine condition. A special mention must be made of the start of the course, who did a good job of support us at these events year in and year out. On this occasion it was Ruffys who very kindly supplied us with a selection of cheeses and wines, including the prizes. Other prizes were also given to us by Avoncrop, B S Mowers, Rigby Taylor, T H Whites and Vitas. Thanks to you all, it is very much appreciated.

Devon and Cornwall

Our P J Flegg Christmas meeting was held at Okehampton GC, on Wednesday December 10, and was once again a sell out. The day started as a buy a box of wine at lunch and also to all or you who have a ring, I always welcome a few! Please be there as we need all the support we can get. Robin Greaves, of Thornbury Section report then just give me a ring, I always welcome a bit of help!

The next event to take place is our Regional Dinner to be held at Sparsholt on Thursday February 26. You should all have received the list of speakers for the day. For those of you who have returned your cheques and booking forms there is still time if your hurry. Contact- Jeff Drake, 9 Villiers Walk, Newbury, Berkshire. Alternatively you can contact Ken Lodge on 01329 288 660 or Tony Gadd on 01390 643746.

At this point I must inform you that Jeff Drake has moved to pastures new as you can see by his address). Jeff has taken up the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Newbury and Crookham GC. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him the best of luck in his new role. His new telephone number continued you may contact Tony or myself and we will try and point you in the right direction.

Another reminder for Westurf at Long Ashton GC on Wednesday April 29. This year we must be due for a nice sunny day. The last few years we have been sat on the damp side but to put the record straight I must say when Westurf first started the weather was glorious. My prophecy for Westurf 1996 is a fine sunny day with all attendance records smashed. Please don’t prove me wrong. Bring along you Club Captains, Chairman of Greens, Club Owners etc. See you all on the day.

Ken Lodge

The summer tournament is to be held at Sham Castle GC on February 20. This is the re-arranged one from November. I will contact anyone that was previously booked but also if you would like to join this essential course then give me a ring on 01380 825380. The Winter Tournament is to be held at Sham Castle GC on February 25.

February 1996 Greenkeeper International 39

North East

Seventy-seven year old Bob Walker BEM has now completed 30 years service to the game. Bob is one of the oldest active professionals in the world of golf. At a dinner held in Bob’s honour the Club marked the occasion by presenting him with a plaque. The dinner was attended by a number of local professionals including Peter Hanria-Fortwilliam, Colin Farr-Whitehead, Jim Rothonin-Ballhead and Bob’s playing partner, Dan Stevenson, Royal Portrush. Five years ago he was awarded the BEM medal in recognition of his services to the Club. Jim Robinson also presented Bob with a special award, honorary membership of the PGA.

Bob received the award for 30 years long service having joined in 1936. Bob started with Cairndhu GC in 1947 as the professional of Lame Town GC as it was known then based at Craighill. After about ten years the club moved to its present site at Portrush. It was only a nine hole course when I started initially. I only came here for a week or two, I was hoping to progress in the game but being given the position it was to special said Bob. Until a few years ago Bob was Jack of all trades. Besides the golf he was also the Head Greenkeeper and part-time porter. Bob has also been a part of the Professional Section for many years. He wishes to retire at the moment. I don’t feel like retiring at the moment. I have been given another year or two or three or four” he added laughing.

In his younger days Bob played on the professional circuit and played in the 1956 British Open at Hoylake. He recalls it was won that year by Peter Thomson. It is a great achievement for Bob Walker to have spent 50 years service with one club. Cairndhu GC members young and old know what a great character Bob Walker is.

Finally, congratulations to Clem Beattie and his wife on the birth of their first child, a boy named Jamie, 7lbs, 6ozs.

Eamonn Farrell

THE FACTS

"HAVING USED PRIMER 604 ON OUR GREENS FOR TWO YEARS, AND SEEN THE RESULTS, I WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO ANYBODY - IT'S OUTSTANDING!"

Northern Ireland