Central

I hope you enjoyed last month's news as I thought I would give Andy O'Hara the big chance he has been craving for and let him write the Section report. (At least I think I told him it was his one and only chance!) Seriously though there hasn't been a big deal happening Section wise lately, hence the reason for missing last month.

Section committee member, Steve Ewing, is leaving the Dukes Course, at St Andrews, to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Letham Grange, in Angus, and Craig Stafford has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Balbirnie Park, at Markinch, taking over from Ian MacMillan. Our best wishes go to them all for a successful future.

The Leven Links Sporting Club is adding another sport to its long list of activities, this time it is Stuart Sime who is having a go at stock car racing. A CTI says that he shouldn't have to change from the way he drives the tractor around Leven Links so if you fancy sponsoring Stuart, or lending your car for the weekend, you can get in touch with him or the Leven Links Sporting Club.

The AGM will be held on the 28th of this month at Kinross Golf Club, forms for which have already been circulated. A CTI says that if we want to have the intention that we have to find a new course earlier in the year, which will, hopefully, make it easier for everyone during the busy summer months.

Here are some future dates for your diaries, in 1999 the Golf Tournaments will be held at Lundin Golf Club in the Spring and Balbirnie Park in the Autumn (Tuesday September 21), for the year 2000 I am awaiting confirmation of the venue for the Spring Tournament while the Autumn tournament will be held at Stirling Golf Club in December. It's been a while since I was able to welcome any new members to the Section, so we must be slipping up somewhere, there are still a great number of greenkeepers who are not members and also a fair number of lapsed members, WHY? If you know anyone who hasn't joined or rejoined please find out the reasons and we will try and rectify the situation if it is at all possible.

Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, has visited a number of clubs in the Central Section lately, encouraging potential new members to join, so if you know of a person who would be beneficial to your staff or committee just get in touch with him and he will be more than happy to oblige.

John Crawford

North

The Autumn outing at Alford took place in typical weather for this year. We have been lucky if you count the amount of rain, but the decision was taken to play. We are indebted to Wilson Morrison and his staff for keeping the green and fairways thoroughly manageable. Luckily the wind was going around and the wind got up a bit, so we were able to get all round.

Not surprisingly most of the prize winners were last year's starters. Scratch & Hampton Cup: 1. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 70; 2. Colin Forbes, Tarlair, 71. Class One: 1. Arthur Williamson, retired, 74-69-72 (also Veteran Toro Cup Winner); 2. Stephen Sullivan, Craigiehall, 73-70; 3. Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 75- 4-71 h/h Class Two: 1. Andrew Shade, Petterculter, 79-72-72; 2. Stewart McBain, Hazlehead, 80-8-72; 3. Stuart Robertson, Craigiehall, 82-10-72. Class Three: 1. Dougal Duguid (no this is not a mistake), Westhill, 90-25-65; Brian Cocker, Tollcross, 79-7-72. The Autumn outing at Alford took place in typical weather for this year.

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SECRETARY IS OFF NEXT MONTH TO ATLANTA TO REPRESENT THE SCOTTISH REGION IN THE HAYLER INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. I NOW SHOULDER HAVE STAKES IN THIS GOLF GAME. GOOD LUCK TO YOU, DEREK, I SAY THROUGH GRIFFIN TEETH. YOU WILL BE A GREAT AMBASSADOR FOR SCOTLAND, AND I SAY THIS NOT THROUGH GRIFFIN TEETH. DEREK SHOULD JUST ABOUT HAVE SOBERED UP BY THIS TIME AFTER HIS WEDDING ON SEPTEMBER 25 TO HIS LOVELY COLLEEN, JACINTA. THEY'RE TAKING THE US TRIP AS THEIR HONEYMOON. THAT WILL KEEP HIM ON HIS TOES!

I AM SURE EVERYONE IN THE SECTION JOINS ME IN WISHING THEM BOTH A HAPPY MARRIED LIFE. I AM SURE THE DAY WILL BE GREAT AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO IT AS I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF BEING DEREK'S BEST MAN. I REALLY MUST INTRODUCE THIS GUY TO SOME OTHER PEOPLE AS HE MUST HAVE BEEN HARD UP TO HAVE HAD TO ASK ME. I AM HONORED.

THANKS TO OUR SECTION REPRESENTATIVES AT THE NORRIE WHYTTOCK TROPHY HELD RECENTLY AT LEVEN LINKS IN KEEPING UP THE SECTION'S ABJECT FAILURE TO WIN THIS TROPHY. WE REALLY MUST STOP BEING SO SPORTING IN LETTING ALL THE OTHER SECTIONS WIN THIS TROPHY. WE WILL WORK HARD FOR NEXT YEAR. TRAINING STARTS SOON.

ONE SMALL POINT WHICH HAS BEEN MENTIONED TO ME ALREADY BY LAIN. HE IS NOT GETTING ANY INFORMATION TO PUT IN THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE GIVE HIM A PHONE OR WRITE TO HIM AS IT IS DIFFICULT WHEN YOU HAVE TO KEEP MAKING THINGS UP YOURSELF. HOPE THE YEAR HAS BEEN GOOD TO YOU AND YOU HAVE A DIGNIFIED ENTRANCE TO GET ON WITH THE WORK.

Jim Paton

NORTHERN REGION

NORTH WEST

THIS MONTH (AUGUST) THE N/W SECTION WON TWO MAGNIFICENT TROPHIES TO BE HELD FOR 12 MONTHS. THE FIRST IS THE "GREENKEEPERS VS GOLF CLUB STEWARDS". THIS TROPHY WAS WON AT WARRINGTON GC ON AUGUST 24, AND THE TEAM OF 16 HAD A GREAT DAY. I SUPPOSE IT IS FAIR TO MENTION THAT THE MATCH ENDED FOUR GAMES EACH, ALLOWING US TO RETAIN THE CUP AS LAST YEAR'S WINNERS.


WE HAD AN EXCELLENT DAY AS ALWAYS AND THE WEATHER WAS GREAT AS WAS THE RESULT. MANY THANKS TO WARRINGTON GC FOR COURTESY OF THE COURSE WHICH WAS IN GREAT CONDITION, THE GOLF CLUB STEWARDS FOR ORGANISING THE MATCH, AND OF COURSE GARY WORRALL GROUND CARE FOR ORGANISING THE PRESENTATION TO THE WINNERS AS GARY HAS FOR MANY YEARS NOW.

TWO DAYS LATER WE HAD THE 'BATTLE OF THE ROSES' AT SWINTON PARK GC WHERE WE NABBED THE Pattisson Cup BACK FROM THE NORTHERN SECTION. UNFORTUNATELY ALTHOUGH THE WEEK IS STILL WAS A BIT OF A FIX, THE N/W SECTION WON BY THREE AND A HALF, TO TWO AND A HALF. THE.Match Was played with Six Games Instead Of Eight, And The N/W Section Won By Three And A Half, To Two And A Half. The Course Was In Lovely Condition Considering That 24 Hours Earlier We Had Heavy Rain All Day. Alan Jones And His Staff Had Done A Great Job.

The one sour note was that the members who let us down the day before, giving us no time to get replacements, did not have to travel far, but Mike Hinch, Managing Director Of Pattisons, travelled up from Ellesmere Port, had a meal with us and presented the Pattisson Cup to the winning team before driving back to London. I would like to thank Mike and Pattisons for sponsoring this competition for the last 20 years and especially Mike for joining us on the day.

Bring your clubs next time Mike. I have just been informed that Thomas Byrne, a retired member of Ellesmere Port, has passed away in his seventieth year. Our thoughts are with his family.

THE NEXT GOLF WILL BE THE CHRISTMAS COMPETITION ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, AT WILMSLOW GC. WE WILL ALSO BE PLAYING FOR THE NEW "PRESIDENTS CUP". THE GOLF WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO ENTER IS, SEND A CHEQUE FOR £10 TO BILL MERRIT, 223 UTTING AVENUE, WATON, LIVERPOOL, L4 9RB, AND EVERYBODY BRING A BOTTLE, SO THAT WE ALL GO AWAY WITH A PRIZE. THEFeeET IS AVAILABLE FROM 10AM. THAT'S IT FOR NOW, BUT ANY NEWS OR VIEWS CONTACT ME ON 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

NORTHERN

This year's Roses match was held at Swinton Park Golf Club. The previous day saw plenty of rain, leaving puddles around the course in addition to the "legitimate" water hazards! Disappointingly both sides were down in numbers. I cannot understand why people are only too willing to put their names down but then pull out at the last minute, or do not even have the courtesy to say they will not be attending. Everyone who played seemed to enjoy themselves and on this occasion the North West team were victorious by 3.5 games to 2.5. Thanks to Bert Cross for organising the event and to the North West boys for their hospitality. Pattissons once again sponsored the day, with Mike Hinch their Managing Director doing a magnificent round trip to attend the event and make the presentation after the meal. I hope this event continues, but it would be nice to see a little more support from out golfing members to raise a full team for next year.

Another ten pin bowling evening has been arranged on Thursday November 12, at the LA Bowl in Leeds. Anyone wishing to put his name down please contact Phil Mitchell at 3 Well Street, Keighley, BD21 2DU or phone 01535 681933. The cost of the evening is

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Without doubt, the new Verti-Drain Mustang is the fastest, most effective aerator on the market today.

Whilst it still features the unique, patented 'heave' action, there are many new improvements, including single point arm adjustment, a stronger tine support system and fewer working parts.
£10 per person to include food and
two games. Places are again limited
so send your names and money in as
soon as possible. Partners and friends
are all welcome.
The only other event left in this
year's calendar is the winter golf.
This is to be held at Keighley Golf
Club on Wednesday, December 9.
The Section AGM will follow the
golf and meal at approximately
5.30pm. Even if you cannot attend
the golf, please try and support the
AGM. Congratulations to Jim Brown
on his new appointment as Head
Greenkeeper at Cookridge Hall GC.
Jim moved from Crow Nest Park in
Brighouse, where I believe Bob Gee
is taking over.
Anyone with any news from within
the Section please contact me at 1
Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton,
Huddersfield. HD5 0LA or phone
on either 01484-317813 or 0411-
601420.
Simon Heppenstall
Cleveland
A little bit of news this month sup-
plied by Bill Thompson of Border
Sports Services. Barry Walker, Head
Greenkeeper at Wearside Golf Club
and his Club Pro won a trip to
Portugal. Very well done.
Graham Boarder, Course Manager
at Castle Eden Golf Club, won the
Durham match played at Billingham
plus he has been picked for the coun-
ty. Good luck.
If I am to keep putting a news let-
ter in to the magazine I must have
something to write about. Please if
you have any news do let me know.
Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

It can drive its 6” tines, solid or
hollow, at a faster rate than any other
aerator, which makes it the perfect
machine for high speed runs down the
fairway and for even shorter work on the
greens.
The new Mustang joins the market-
leading range of Verti-Drains that have
outsold and outperformed all
competitors for the past 20 years.
And, with an aerator to suit
virtually every application, it’s the widest
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But one word of caution.
The new Mustang is fast; so fast
that you may get done in a flash.

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Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.
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Charterhouse
E-Mail: ctm@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: http://www.redexim.com
October 1998 Greenkeeper International
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Midland
Firstly, I would like to thank everybody on behalf of the Section who attended the funeral service for Trafford Stonebridge. There was great support from many greenkeepers on this very sad day and this goes to show what great respect and appreciation Trafford had within the greenkeeping industry.

On a lighter note I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham on his recent wedding announcement and all the best for your future together.

As a committee we have decided to cancel the proposed trip to Turnberry until the spring of '99 because there has been insufficient interest in the trip.

The Autumn tournament will have been played at Edgbaston by the time you read this report so I will give you all the results in my next report. The same will happen with the results of the Rigby Taylor doubles which is also due to be completed in the next few months.

With winter fast approaching can I remind you that you need to get your entries in early for the Christmas tournament which is to be played at Aldwark Manor over the years to attend various courses will be pleased to note that the much awaited Headquarters of the Association will be officially opening at the end of this month. This is a huge step forward for the Association and we are indebted to those people who have pushed this project through. I look forward to my first visit to the Official Opening.

The next event in the Section is the Turkey Trot and AGM which will be held at Whiteleaf on November 26. I hope for once the weather is kind to all competitors. Entry forms will be posted soon. Please ensure that your membership is up-to-date, as the mailing list comes directly from HQ.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to some more new members - Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin and Mark Allen.

Jonathan Wood

B.B.&O

Once again summer slips into Autumn and the never ending job of clearing leaves is upon us. It really is the only time I wish I was back on a Links Course. Despite the miserable weather that awaits us there are some things to look forward to especially on the Education front. I have been informed that Berkshire College are to continue with their Winter Lectures possibly structured as a Seminar. At present there are no confirmed dates but if you contact Steve Gingell at the College he will be able to assist.

By the time this goes to press the New Training Academy at the College will be finished, this will prove beneficial to all students attending courses in the future. Those of you who have travelled to Aldwark Manor over the years to attend various courses will be pleased to note that the much awaited Headquarters of the Association will be officially opening at the end of this month. This is a huge step forward for the Association and we are indebted to those people who have pushed this project through. I look forward to my first visit to the Official Opening.

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Lindsay T Anderson

East Anglia

Fifty odd members turned up at the Norfolk in August. Not 50 odd members well not all of them. Perhaps 50 plus members sounds better. Not that they are over 50 years old just more than 50 in number. Anyway there was a lot and a jolly good time we had too, thank you. The whole thing went like clockwork only it was a long clock four and a half rounds in searing Norfolk heat. Luvly Bubbly There is a new old face there now: The gaffer at the Norfolk is Michael Peters, good to see him doing his stuff. Our thanks to him and his men on presenting a good course for us to hack up.

The Harry Hacker score board is as follows; Overall winner was Greg McHugh (Alias John Wayne) 40 Points; 0-9 cat; 1. R. Writing, 35pts; 2. A. Carter, 34pts; 3. A. Kirwan, 33pts; 0-18 cat; 1. G. McHugh, 40pts; 2. G. Bird, 36pts; 3. G. Nash, 35pts; 19-28 cat; 1. D. Farrington, 30pts; 2. D. Ireson, 30pts; 3. T. Russell, 29pts, Guest/Trade; 1. T. Reynolds, 38pts; 2. J. Earl, 34pts; 3. K. Timms, 33pts. Bringing up the rear so to speak A Arbon whose name is added to the toilet seat. Prizes were donated by Rhône-Polenc (Main Sponsors), TORO, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Moorfoot Ltd and one of the guests, Mr Reynolds, donated a Toyota jacket. The prizes were presented by the Club Captain, Mr Fletcher.

Our thanks to Ian, Brian and the BBC, for seeing after us and thanks to all at the Norfolk for a splendid day.

Mick Lathrope
East Midlands
This year’s AGM will take place at Lutterworth G.C. on November 12 at 4.30pm all members should have received their letter, if you have not please contact me and I will send you your form. This year’s Section golf match against the East of England Section as held on August 20 courtesy of Oundle G.C. After a very hard fought match in difficult windy conditions, the East of England Section were victorious by 3 games to 2.

Some consolation for the section was John Barr winning nearest the pin on the 3rd and Mark Bindley and Frank Kempster winning by the highest margin of 7 and 6. Congratulations should go to the East of England section. The Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Gary Thurman, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Jamie Bedford, Rob Wall, Jonathan Barr, Frank Kempster and Mark Bindley. I would like to thank Oundle GC for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the course in good condition, especially having just vertidrained the greens a couple of days before our match. An excellent meal was had and I would like to thank Oundle GC for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the event and Leigh Siddon, Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 32pts; 19-18, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Greg McHugh, 34pts; 3. Ray Clark, 32pts; 19-28, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 28pts; Trade, Neil Peachey, 35pts; Guest, Richard Watson, 43pts. Longest Drive, Antony Kirwin, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 1st, Graham Long, 37pts. 2. Andy Toomey, 36pts 3. Mick Fance, 34pts; 10-18, 1. Richard Durnow, 35pts; 2. Greg McHugh, 34pts; 3. Ray Clark, 32pts; 19-28, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 28pts; Trade, Neil Peachey, 35pts; Guest, Richard Watson, 43pts. Longest Drive, Antony Kirwin, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 1st, Steve Townsend, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 1st, Graham Millbank, Sponsored by Consult Clarkson.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Stoke By Nayland GC for donating some raffle prizes. Nearest the pin went to John Barr, winning team, Ian Willett, was presented with the Cup by Neil Peachey of P. Tuckwell Ltd.


We would like to take this opportunity to thank Stoke By Nayland GC and their staff, Kevin King, Head Greenkeeper and green staff, for having the course in excellent condition, John Barr, East Midlands. The results were as follows; 1. G. Macdonald, Newark, 37pts; 2. Steve Townsend, 36pts; 3. Andy Toomey, 34pts; 4. John Barr, Newark, 33pts.

East of Anglia
The annual match for the Toro Shield between the East of England Section and the East Midlands Section took place at Oundle Golf Club. The result was 3 - 2 to the home section (EDE). Thanks to Gary Nimmo and staff for presenting the course in good condition, especially having just vertidrained the greens a couple of days before our match. An excellent meal was had and I would like to thank Oundle G.C. for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the event and Leigh Siddon, Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 32pts; 19-18, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Greg McHugh, 34pts; 3. Ray Clark, 32pts; 19-28, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 28pts; Trade, Neil Peachey, 35pts; Guest, Richard Watson, 43pts. Longest Drive, Antony Kirwin, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 1st, Steve Townsend, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 1st, Graham Millbank, Sponsored by Consult Clarkson.

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East of England Section
On August 26 the Essex and the East Anglia Sections got together for the first time since the formation of the new Essex Section at Stoke By Nayland G.C. The two teams competed for the 'Tuckwell Cup' with the result very close, Essex 272pts, East Anglia 275pts. The Captain of the winning team, Ian Willett, was presented with the Cup by Neil Peachey of P. Tuckwell Ltd.


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Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections


Thanks to Tuckwells, Bourne Amenity, Avoncrop, Willmot Pertwee, Jen, Dog for the raffle prizes and last but not least, Greenkeeping Supply Company for donating the prizes for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

We have a new member, Matthew Allen, Braintree Golf Club. There is an evening lecture on Wednesday, November 4 at Writtle College, 7.30 start, Main Building, Room 437. A talk by David Senior, of Vitax. Do you really understand how to get the best results from your fertiliser applications? We also have a regional training programme at Lakeside Moat House, Grays, November 10-11 on Golf Course Design. The second of two one day Management Seminar courses at Stock Brook Manor Golf Course on November 17. The next committee meeting is at Thorndon House, Grays, November 10-11 on Golf Course Design.

The Autumn Tournament for the London Section was this year hosted with the kind permission of Brookmans Park Golf Club. During a period of changeable weather, we were lucky to have a warm, dry day, and the tee times started at 2.30pm.

The course was in excellent condition and although one of the two lakes on the course is in the process of being dredged, there was no noticeable interruption to the golf. The first lake was dredged in 1976 and work on the second started on August 10 this year. Approximately half a million gallons of water had to be drained before removal of the silt could start and an estimated 6000 cubic metres will have been moved over a period of 13-16 days. The project has been handled by Vic Wagland Contractors, with all the spoil dumped and levelled on an area of waste ground between the two lakes.

Some tree surgery will take place on the mature woodland surrounding the lake to try and reduce leaf drop into the refurbished area. The next project immediately following this will be a reconstruction of the 5th green also carried out by Vic Wagland.

The overall winner of the Stableford was Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, with 38 points with Kenny (plus two) Mackay, of Hanbury Manor, a close second on 37 points and A. Pipe, one point further back on 36 points in 3rd. Ian put together a round that included seven Birdies and reversed July’s results at The Buckinghamshire, by piping Kenny to the post. Nearest the pin was sponsored by Willmot Pertwee and in the absence of Mark Pyrah, who had to leave early, Ian Semple was called on to say a few words and present the prizes. Results: 1. Ian Semple; 2. Roger Mace; 3. Craig Handside. The trade were pretty disappointing again, as no-one managed to hit the Green! Come on Olively Thanks again to Willmot Pertwee who sponsored the postage of all the entry forms for the event.

Finally thanks to Course Manager, Chris Carpenter, Darren Burdis and the rest of the team for all their hard work and also to the catering and bar staff for their courtesy. Ian Semple would also like to congratulate BIGGA on securing a deal with Stylo Matchmaker, who will be marketing golf wear and work wear, which will enable greenkeepers to order, via direct mail, jackets, boots, golf shoes, fleeces etc, at reduced rates.

The next Tournament will be at Hanbury Manor in November.

Peter Hopkinson

Sussex

Firstly let me apologise for a misprint in the account of the Sussex Section’s day at Slinfold Park. The sponsors were Scatts Agricultural Machines! Now on to the last day at Mannings Heath Golf and Country Club, where we played the Waterfall Course in the morning and the newer Kingfisher Course in the afternoon.

Those Greenkeepers who know Mannings Heath and with the prospect of 36 holes in heat wave conditions very sensibly booked buggies for the day. The morning round over Mountain Goat country was an extreme test of golf with some very intimidating tee-shots. A most beautiful golf course with stunning views and of course in superb condition. Roy Jones, the Course Manager, and his Staff should be justifiably proud of both of these courses.
The morning was sponsored by Farmura, represented on the day by Bob Cook, who provided some great prizes. Results: Category 1. 1. Shaun Sturrock; 2. Ray Day; Category 2. 1. Stefan Antolik; 2. Les Shrub; Category 3. 1. John Budd; 2. Carl Wylborne; Trade and Guests, Winner, Tony Englefield; Nearest the Pin, Winner, Roland Hughes; Longest Drive, Winner, Peter Bearmore.

For those without buggies and could make the long climb from the 5th green to the magnificent Clubhouse a superb lunch was made available and with sufficient liquid replacement taken on board the Section tackled the equally daunting Kingfisher Course, remarkably mature considering its newness and beautifully prepared by Michael Leggett. The afternoon was sponsored by Pattissons represented by Brian Willmott who provided the prizes. Results: 1. Tony Bremer, 2. John Budd, 3. Ronan McKeown; Trade and Guests, 1. Phil Grave, 2. Damion Simpson; Longest Drive, Ray Day; Nearest the Pin, Ronan McKeown.

I should add that for those who weren’t lucky enough to have won anything or clever enough to have pre-booked a buggy the highlight of the day was probably the magnificent Steam Room and Power Showers that enabled us to feel at least a little less than exhausted and able to drag ourselves to the dining room for the evening meal, the quality of which as well as the two golf courses, is a trademark of Mannings Heath.

Derek Farrington
Surrey
Welcome back to all of you who have had a holiday in August or September and to those who have decided to take a late break in October and November please have a really great time.

As you may have guessed there is very little to write about at the moment except to remind all that as Bert Watson has at last said bon voyage to his son James. Anyone looking for good cheap digs should contact Bert ASAP By the time you read this Surrey Section will have played for the Parker Salva at Reigate Heath Golf Club and will be looking forward to the Autumn Tournament at the Drift Golf Club on October 15. The results of both will appear in the November edition. Good news for Andy Pullen, North Hants Golf Club, whose wife Michelle recently gave birth to a bonny daughter and to whom they have given the unusual but charming name Amber.

From joy to sadness. Dave Dolderfield’s wife died recently after a long illness and all from Surrey Section send their deepest sympathy.

Brian Willmott
South Coast
By now you should have received the details for our Regional Seminar at Cannington, on November 25, 1998. To refresh your memories, Ian McMillan will be talking on his “Achievements at Hankley Common”. John Mullins, of Superturf, will be talking on “Water Management”. We then have Frank Newbury who will be telling us “How to make the Committee work for you”.

After lunch, Phil Greenaway, from Rotteys, will inform us about “What goes on Top”. We then have Dave Phillips, of Mommersteg on, on “Seed Selection and its Implications”. To round off the day, Frank Newbury will be giving one of his not to be missed Workshops.

As you can see a very good selection of speakers has been organised for you.

If you have not received your programme, contact our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Credon, Devon, EX17 6DF, Tel 01363 82777.

For those of you who have made up your mind to attend, Paula requires your name, Club/Company, address and telephone number.

Oh yes, and a cheque made out to BIGGA South West and South Wales Region for £15 for members and £22 for non members.

There is something for everyone at this Seminar, so get those applications in as soon as possible.
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Around the green

Each month is getting nearer to BTME. Don't go leaving your bookings to the last minute. If you do, you may be unlucky, as the coaches will be fully booked. Also Paula needs your names so that she can organise the accommodation. Remember a coach will be running from the South Coast. So get your names and deposits into Paula as soon as possible. Any queries don't hesitate to phone any of your committee members or Paula. We can then point you in the right direction.

As I am sure you are all aware the year 2000 is the start of another century "The Millennium". I would like you all to think about what we can do to celebrate the Millennium. So get your thinking caps on and let us have some ideas. Your committee has been discussing the subject, but we would like to hear from you the members with your suggestions. Ken Lodge

Devon & Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Lanhydrock Golf Club, on Wednesday, November 11. The morning's golf will be of the foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lyle. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day. I would like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25. Also, you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show & seminar at the very low price of £95 per member, if you haven't already booked your place for the seminar of BTME package and wish to attend, please contact our Region Administrator Paula Humphries on 01363 82777 to reserve any places remaining.

Richard Whyman

South West

Not too much to report on this month. I hope you have all had a good summer of mowing. At least the irrigation system has not required too much maintenance. Looking ahead, we have the Autumn Tournament and AGM at the resplendent St Cross Golf Club. Please, please try and make this one if you can so as we can get a representative sample of the membership for voting purposes. Saltford, under the expert hands of Ian McFarlane and his team, will I am sure be in excellent condition and the course itself is a delightful parkland layout reminiscent of Augusta, of the flowers, or white sand.

Remember also the Southwest seminar at Cannington. This will take place on November 25 and promises to be very informative and with speakers of the quality of Frank Newberry and Ian McMillan it should also be very entertaining. If anyone who hasn't attended then please give Paula a ring; we need to see as many faces as possible for this one.

Looking back in time we may have a little bit of time on our hands and so please give a thought to the courses that the Section can run. There are a few people ready for a refresher first aid course, so if you think you may be one or would like to take it for the first time then please give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will arrange everything for you. In addition we can arrange for spraying courses and chainsaw courses if required.

Talking of chainsaw courses, I recently had an enquiry on the setting up of a course on advanced chainsaw use, such as tree climbing and felling of larger diameter trees. Having made enquiries at colleges I was informed by the experts that unless you are involved in this work full time it is not worth taking the course as without constant practice in these techniques the skills that are gained in the course would be quickly lost. So the general advice would appear to be in doubt, get the experts in.

If anyone has any information on the Section; appointments, weddings, new babies etc, then please, please let me know about them so as I can get them in this slot to keep everyone informed. For instance I recently read in the BB&O section of the impending retirement of my old friend John Nudds, from Gerrards Cross GC. John, a former BB&O county captain, was one of the old school, five minutes of water a week in a drought and one application of 8/10 a year. Marvellous, and he ended up with some of the best putting surfaces you can get. You couldn't pitch on the greens but the surfaces were superb.

Marc Haring

Around the green

North East

We were very disappointed by the number who attended our AGM at Allen Park at the end of August. A lot of time and effort by committee members in particular in organising this event. Members did not even take the time to fill in a small slip of paper out of common courtesy to say whether or not they would attend. This is no way for us to try and organise events. It's about time the members in Northern Ireland showed some consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took the time and effort to attend our AGM and golf competition at Allen Park, also to Allen Park for the use of their facilities. Members will be asked to come along twice yearly to a meeting in which they will be able to participate in a feedback session, they will have a chance to have some input into what events they would like to see taking place.

If anyone has any ideas or there is something in particular they would like to see taking place please feel free to phone on 01574 276001. Members are reminded that they must not turn up at committee meetings and participate in committee decisions.

Eamonn Farrell

South East

BIGGA are holding a workshop seminar on November 24 & 25, on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment, based on successful projects in the past including some in particular in Northern Ireland. The seminar will be held in the Burndale Hotel, Newcastle, (Co Down), for two days including all meals and one night's accommodation with full use of hotel facilities. The information will be beneficial and of interest to a lot of us and we would encourage members from both sections to attend. For more details on the seminar contact BIGGA Education and Training or contact our Chairman, Graham Wylie at Malone Golf Club.

Jonathan McCabe

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Northern Ireland

See you all next month!