Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

West of Scotland
Well hello again, and after a few months of nothing, I'm back. Sorry about the absence but there wasn't a lot happening out there. There are a few things to bring to your attention this month though.
At the recent Scottish Outing over West Kilbride, the West Section tried in vain to retain their team trophy and I applaud their efforts. It was evident, their performances were distinctly below par. Ayshire came out easy winners, so maybe next year.
Jim Paton and his staff produced a very fine course, plenty of rough and I hope it is out-of-bounds to which I fell foul. Thanks are extended to him for his efforts and the clubhouse staff for attendance to the members. I hope it will continue.

North
Yet another three new members to the Section this month. We welcome Michael Carson, Caird Park; Ian Cowper, Tain, and George Chubb from Royal Dornoch. That is all five of my staff as members now, so anyone with non-members at their club get working on them as I did, they don't know what they are missing unless you tell them.

North West
I am thoroughly looking forward to the Autumn Match at Dean Wood GC, on Thursday September 17. You will need to register no later than September 10. Any entries after this date will not be accepted. All entries including a cheque for £13 must be sent to Steve Hopkins, 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool L4 9RB. Lunch will be served between 12noon-1pm. The tee is available from 1.30pm and tee times will be on offer if there is any need to book your tee space. I hope to see you all.

Cedarwood
Once again very little news for last month. Branchepce GC Green keepers' shed was broken into and £9,000 of gear was stolen. The thieves stole a day's work before they were caught the following afternoon. Of course, the police said you can forget about getting any of it back. Now there's faith in the system. UCGC is looking at offering a day at a different venue and format is likely. A game's night will follow as a special event. More news on this in due course.

Ayrshire
The Autumn outing has been confirmed for Loudoun Golf Club on Tuesday September 23 at a cost of £16.00. The day will consist of the usual format of morning coffee, Texas scramble, lunch, afternoon medal completed with high tea and presentation of prizes. Derek Wilson is on hand to accept your entry; he can be contacted on 01294 276177 so get your entry in for an enjoyable day.

I'm sure Murfield will continue to further develop the course at Beith and our best wishes go to him in his new position. I am moving back over to the B740 road this time to the Kelburn course with Largs Golf Club. I am thoroughly looking forward to meeting some old and new acquaintances in Largs and the challenge that awaits me in my new position.

I would like to thank the Greenkeeping Support Team for their help, especially the guys who turned out early for raking bunkers and the guys who stayed late for divoting.

Steve Hopkins is on the move from Knutsford GC. Steve will be taking over as Head Greenkeeper at Stand GC in September when Eric Palmer retires after, I believe, about 35 years.

Ayrshire
In line with GTC policy for personnel development the college will be offering guidance and support to mature experienced greenkeepers wishing to progress to Level 3 to enable a higher level of work place assessment. This course would be specifically designed for the individual greenkeeper to bring forward evi
Preparing Wimbledon; Billy & Lawn Tennis

Head Groundsman at Wimbledon and subjects will be; Eddie Seaward, Regional Administrator. The speakers Region inside this issue of dance applications will be sent to at 9am. The programme and attended. November 18, 1998 will be held at wishing to book a place please contact 317813.

Contact me at 1 Cocldey Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 OLA from within the section please.

Anyone with any information for their hospitality shown on the day. The course was fantastic as always which is great credit to David Gowar and his team. The food was first class.

Many thanks to the Oxfordshire for their hospitality shown on the day. The course was fantastic as always which is great credit to David Gower and his team. The food was second to none, thanks to Penny for organising the menu, it really was first class.

Finally, many thanks to Colin White from Avacrop Amenity for providing all the fabulous prizes, not only to the winners but every competitor was given a keepsake to remember the day, that was a nice touch indeed. Next event is at Harleyford (Marlow) on October 1. Lindsay Anderson

Midland

The summer tournament proved to be a great success, held at the Wrekin Golf Club which was a very demanding course with, in some cases, amazing undulating countryside and views over Shropshire to match. The course was in great shape and many thanks go to all the greenkeeping staff. The evening meal was a real feast and I could safely say it was the best meal the Midland Section has received in a very long time. Again many thanks to all the members of staff.

The results are as follows - 1. (Gross) Mike Hughes; 1. (Net) Vince Lee; 2. Rod Hunter; 3. John Hooper; 4. Mike Gash, John Mullins, of Supaturf, won the nearest the pin - he was the only person to get the ball on the green!

The planned trip to the Massey Ferguson went ahead and 19 green-
keepers went along and I am told a very good day was had by all. A big thanks to Mitchell’s who sponsored the food at lunch time especially to John Eaves and John Profit. I will take this opportunity to remind you that anyone who wishes to play in the Christmas tournament on the 10th December must get their entries in by November 9. You may think this premature but there is always a full entry very early for this tournament.

It is with great sadness that I have to inform all the members of the Midland Section and anyone who knew Trafford Stonebridge of his sad death on Saturday August 8. Trafford passed away in his sleep after a fight against cancer.

Trafford will be remembered as a great man with a massive sense of humour to match. He was serving Chairman of the Section and had given many years of service to the Midland Section and to Moxstoke Park where he has left behind many dear friends. Everyone who knew him will find this news a great loss and on behalf of the Midland Section I would like to send our sympathy to his family and friends at this time. Thank you Trafford for all the amusement and commitment you have given greenkeepers of the Midland Region.

Finally, I will introduce some more new members- Michael Milinczuk, Stephen Marsden, Michael James, Trevor Smith, Terence Finney, Shaun Sutton, Sally Doherty and Christopher Stilgoe.

Jonathan Wood
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Devon & Cornwall

With the summer drawing to a close, our thoughts turn to our Autumn and Winter meeting programme which starts with the Roffey’s meeting at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, October 14. The morning’s golf competition will be a singles Stableford for the D.O. Hunt Trophy. For our non-playing members there will be the usual course walk which will leave the club house at approximately 10:30am. Lunch will be from 1pm followed by our afternoon educational talk with the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Roffeys, our day’s sponsor, concluding the day.

As in previous years the Section will hold raffles at its October, December & March meetings with the first prize at our October raffle being a pair of Hi-Tee golf shoes. Please note the changes to our meeting programme listed below: 1. Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced to avoid same old groups playing together. This will be done for all meetings including foursome competitions etc. 2. Company & Golf presentation to conclude the day; 3. A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date; 4. As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date.

Any member who doesn’t attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Regional educational dates; November 25, Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College. For more details contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.

December 8-9, Golf Course Design to be held at Borringdon Hall Hotel, Plymouth. For more details contact Ken Richardson, BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581. January 19-22, Region’s trip to BTME at Harrogate. For more details contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777. You should have received our new fixture card which has once again been kindly sponsored by P J Flegg. The fixture card has dates of all our forthcoming events.

If you haven’t received yours yet please let me know.

Richard Whyman.

South Coast

Our Summer Tournament was held at Bramshav on Thursday, July 23. The results were as follows; 1. Phil Wentworth and I. Hoppe; 2. John York and Joe Cooper; 3. Bill Davis and Steve Pollat. Thanks must go to Bramshav Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and granting us the use of all their facilities. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Adrian Wilshtire, the Course Manager. Also thanks to Clive Lovell the Head Greenkeeper of the Manor Course. His team did a superb job in preparing the course for us. Our main sponsors for the day were John Deere, New Forest Garden Machinery. They were represented by Nick Clarke. They presented us with an excellent prize table. To our sponsors we thank you for your support. Last but not least, a big thank you to Trevor Smith our tournament organiser. He did a great job in organising the event.

At the prize giving a presentation was made to Gordon Paine. Gordon has recently retired as Head Greenkeeper at Maidenhead Golf Club. Gordon has been a keen supporter of the South Coast Section for a great number of years. I think I can safely say he was one of the Founder members. We have received a letter from Gordon thanking all members of the South Coast Section for the Tankard that was presented to him. On behalf of the South Coast Section I would like to wish Gordon a long and happy retirement.

Another reminder for the Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington on Wednesday November 25.

The main speaker will be Frank Newbury, who will be speaking on Communications, in particular “Making Committees Work For You.” He will also be conducting a Workshop. All applications and enquiries to; Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Creden, Devon, EX17 6DF. Tel: 01363 82777.

Paula would also like applications and deposits for BTME as soon as possible. As I said in last month’s report, “If we can get the support we will run a coach from the South Coast Section.”

Our Autumn Tournament will be held at Tidworth Garrison Golf Club on Thursday October 15. It will consist of an 18 hole Stableford. The price for the day will be £15 per head. This will include an evening meal. All applications along with current handicaps, cheques for £15, name and address and telephone number to our Tournament Secretary. 

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Organiser; Trevor Smith, Manet, Horton Road, Horton Heath, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 6SB, Tel: 0410 835242. Closing date will be 10 days before the Tournament date ie: Monday October 5. To finish with, I have news of another retirement. Bob Parsons of Barton on Sea Golf Club has decided to call it a day after 45 years. I hasten to add, that is, 45 years at Barton on Sea Golf Club. I wonder if that might be a record. Bob has been a staunch supporter of the Section for a number of years. Hopefully we will still see his friendly face at some of our meetings. On behalf of the section I would like to wish you a long and happy retirement Bob.

Ken Lodge.

South West

Yet more wind and rain greeted the South West Greenkeepers for the summer tournament at Filton GC. This event was particularly well supported with nearly 50 of us turning up to indulge in the delights of this Bristol course which was in totally immaculate condition thanks to Nick Wilson and his team. We then had an especially fine meal and diverted our gaze from the young waitress fong enough for Chairman Chris Sealey to read out the winners. (Just for the record our team captain Matt Hawker tried to chat up the waitress but was unsuccessful).

The scores were as follows, Head Greenkeepers; 1. Gary Cook, 77; 2. Nick Wilson, 78; 3. Marc Haring, 79. Assistants; 1. James Braithwaite, 67; 2. Craig Fudge, 68; 3. Peter Baynton, 70.

You will notice that the assistants' scores are appreciably better than the Head Greenkeepers. I can only put this down to the extreme strain we Head Greenkeepers are under and also to the fact that we get no time to practice our golf compared to the assistants.

Special thanks are due to Scotts UK who sponsored the day's event and who provided all the prizes and of course to Pilton Golf Club who allowed us the use of their course and facilities. Don't forget the match v Secretaries which was postponed at Cregieu GC – a new date has been arranged on Wednesday September 2. Please phone Peter Lacey if you are available.

Sounds early but it may be in your interest to contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777 to book your place on a coach to the BTME, at a cost of only £95 per person with an assistant from the same club going for £55. Cannot be bad for three nights B&B.

Up and coming events include, the Regional Seminar featuring Frank Newberry & Ian McMillan at Cannington College on November 25.

A Regional training course is to be held again at the Marriott Hotel Swansea on December 10/11, on Golf Course Design Construction & Establishment.

Last but not least congratulations are in order for Meryl and Neil Smith and D. Thomas on the arrival of their baby girls. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any information on 01656 742761.

Marc Haring

South Wales

Firstly thanks to Chris Solman for his around the green notes. Unfortunately Chris has other commitments so you now have me to bring you up to date. The Spring Competition results played at Southerndown GC:- The Cardiff Cup, Richard Patterson; Browns Shield, D. Gladwin; John O'Gorman Cup, David Jenkins.

Thanks also to Gary Johnstone and his team for the excellent course conditions.

The matchplay results so far; Kerry Jones beat Angus Macleod, Mike Jones beat Adrian Panks, Dave Gladwin beat Andrew Hatcher, Malcolm Davis beat Andrew Phillips, J. B. Jones beat Richard Patterson, Rob Frater beat David Morgan, Peter Lacey beat Idwall Morris, Daryl Bray beat John Borga, Russell Anderson beat Gary Johnstone, Mike Norfolk beat Peter Edwards.

Another excellent Open day was held at Pencoed College on Saturday June 27 with a large attendance. This also was a good opportunity to view one of the colleges latest ventures, their newly constructed 9 hole Golf Course. Hopefully an annual match versus the college is being arranged, watch this space.

Rain on June 24 decided that the match v Secretaries was postponed at Cregieu GC – a new date has been arranged on Wednesday September 2. Please phone Peter Lacey if you are available.

Richard Hatcher September 1998 Greenkeeper International 41
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

South East

Date: Tuesday November 16, 1999
Time 9am. Place: Writtle College
No. I have not gone completely mad, well not quite yet. But this will be when we, the Essex Section, will have the honour of hosting the first Golf Club, East Region Seminar and the committee are looking for ideas, topics, helpers and sponsors for this important event in next year’s diary. So Andy Sheehan needs please contact Martin on 01245 603131. Over the last few months we have had two committee members stand down from their posts. Andy Sheehan and Reg Hooker, Vice Chairman and Education Officer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their services, especially Andy who has held a number of positions for many a year. Anyone interested in helping on the committee please contact Martin (01245 603131).

On that note, we would like to congratulate the Essex Greenkeepers on several counts. Firstly, we would like to thank them for their work and support in the Essex Section, and their staff and all the committee for their kind hospitality. To Barry Brown/Stuart Jenkins and Lee Adams/Gary Speller. While Jon Selwood and Steve Cox wait in the other semi final for the winners of the Andy Sheehan Knockout. Jack Shotton/Nick Horsewell match.

The Essex Captains held their annual match against the Greenkeepers at Romford Golf Club with the Captains winning their usual close fought encounter. The winner of the Greenkeepers competition was Weald Park Golf Club’s Doug Mackison. "Well done, Doug," we would like to add... In other news, Amanda Town has left her position as the job as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club - Simon had been at Enfield for nine years and his boss John Kerr and the ladies wish "Monty’s Mad Marauders," as part of the North London Greenkeeping conditions seemed to keep everyone out and the erection of security lights completed the project.

A few years ago it was ‘Ally’s Barmy Army," but during this summer’s World Cup, it has been more like "Monty’s Mad Marauders," as part of the North London Greenkeeping competition. The “Tartan Hordes." Pub in Barnet waited in fearful anticipation and anxiety to see whether it would win the World Cup prior to the Scotland World Cup games. Landlords were not worried about violence, nor were they worried about profits (quite the reverse), no, it was Money and Don’s interpretation of Braveheart for which they waited in trepidation. I am told by a shocked survivor that the Highland holocaust of Braveheart for which they waited was their turn to be invaded by claymores, flags, faces painted with tartan. Remember the North London Greenkeeping conditions seemed to keep everyone out and the erection of security lights completed the project.

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