The Scottish Conference was a great success last month in Dunfermline with several North members present as usual. This venue is very good and well placed for people coming from all directions, so hopefully we can use it again.

My trip to the GCSAA Show in Orlando Florida was an amazing experience and one I would recommend to all members. My talk went well, and I would like to thank the BIGGA staff, and Chairman Gordon Child, for getting up early to attend and give me moral support. The hall had seating for 1600! With about 750 people in attendance, which at £30m is not bad.

I told them that at Harnagote some guys are just going to bed when the pre-programme breakfast was starting at 6am! My interview for Par For the Course on the golf channel went well but I await the tape to see how it actually came out.

One of many highlights was undoubtedly meeting Arnold Palmer at the Harvey B. Orloff Dallas. I was real-ly surprised that so many Brits were there and some seem to go often. I hope I convinced a lot of people to come to the North of Scotland for their holidays this summer.

It’s April now and hopefully the weather is dry, warm and even sunny. We need a good Spring to aid recovery on our saturated courses and give us a decent few weeks to work for the coming season. Let’s hope for a good Summer and happy golfers if that is possible!

I A Macleod.

North

Entries for the Spring outing will be out shortly. We visit Inverness GC on Tuesday May 18. Head Greenkeeper Brian Fraser and his staff will have the course in great condition as always, so get your entry form returned quickly to ensure participation. The first four draws of the 200 Club will be made on the day, so please send back your money for that as well.

No 1 is Newbee Golf to report this month, just a temporary lull though. The Scottish Conference was a great gift to North members present as usual. This venue is very good and well placed for people coming from all directions, so hopefully we can use it again.

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I A Macleod.

West

Question. How on earth has the Glasgow area managed to miss all the snowfalls seen recently on national TV and in newspaper publications? Alas, latterly the rainfall has been determined, I think, to make up for the lack of white stuff. Let’s hope that the rainfall doesn’t cause too much mischief during the coming period and work schedules and that we all have a sympathetic Committee and tolerant membership for the ’99 season! Did I hear laughter out there?

The latest Committee meeting took place at Claremont. Bowling Green, matters arising included the introduction of a new 100 Club. Tickets are on sale at £5 each and available from your Committee members. The first draw for £100 will take place at the Spring outing, the second draw again £100 at the Autumn outing. Have you got your entry form already? The third will be the AGM Games night for £50. One final reminder of the Spring outing being held at Bothwell Castle GC on 29 April. Check your mail for application forms.

The games night at Claremont Bowling Club went ahead as planned on the evening of Thursday 18 February. Not a large turn out by all accounts but enjoyable nonetheless. The results are as follows: Vectors were John Scott Jnr and his partner. Need I really mention my name as this has become rather habit forming the usual Stuart Taylor. Well done guys. Stuart, I think perhaps a handicapping system be introduced for you, what do you say to one arm up your back, blindfolded?

I am told that it was a fairly close contest with the final result from the outcome of one game, nail biting stuff! We thank Claremont. Bowling Green for use of their facilities, thanks also to the bar staff for keeping the boys well lubricated throughout the evening and, as ever, thanks to John Scott for providing the pies. As a final thank you we would like to thank Naim Brown for sponsoring the raffle prize of £50 won by George Nesbet of Kilmernon GC.

On 24 February, Rigby Taylor held a one day seminar at the Ibrox Stadium. Unfortunately I was unable to attend although I have been informed that it was a very informative and enjoyable day.

We attended the Education Conference at Lairder College on Tuesday 2 March I can only tell you what an informative and enlightening day it was. Anyone who attended should certainly return with plenty of food for thought (certainly bacterial or fungal). A most interesting selection of speakers with subjects on - COSHH, latest legislation, Architectural Golf Course Design, Archeology, That’s what I said, Ian McMillan, of Hanldey Common, Soil Bacteria, an excellent subject highly technical, Sir Michael Bonallack and last but not Least Supaturf on the subject of Wetting Agents.

The facilities at Lairder College were second to none with countless cups of coffee, an excellent choice of lunches. Very tasty too. Well done to all who organised and helped make the day the success that it was.

Stuart Taylor has informed me that two football matches are currently being arranged, one against the East Section and the other against the North Section, hopefully to be played some time in April. Anyone interested should contact Stuart on 0141 942 3551.

I have no other news to offer you this month so I shall end it all here.

As usual, if you have any stories or snippets of information that you feel are worth my mention, then give me a call at H. 0141 776 1352 or M. 07050 173080.

Gavin Jarvis.

Central

Another eight new members join us this month and they are Richard McLuckie and Iain Marshall, from West Lothian GC, Darren McKenna and Mark McQuarrie from Galloway, Andrew Fraser and Alasdair Collier, from Stirling GC; Barry Monie, from Muthill GC and Blair Samuel, from Ladybank GC. We extend a warm welcome to them from everyone in the Section and hope to see them at some of our future events. I keep extending this invitation to everyone but very few take up the offer and miss out on the chance of meeting fellow members.

Past Section Chairman, Jimmy Lees, has not been too well lately and has been recovering from an operation for liver cancer. We wish him well in his recovery.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to Jimmy from everyone in the section. Hopefully it won’t be too long before he is back to full fitness again.

Best wishes for the future go to Alastair Philip, from Caronie Golf Club, and his new wife, who were married at Crieff Golf Club recently. (Sorry, I don’t know your wife’s name Alastair!)

Kenny Stirling is on the move from the Dukes Course at St Andrews to the new course at Kingsbarns, which is just along the road from St Andrews. Hope everything goes well for you in your new employment Kenny.

Related congratulations are also due to Alex Robertson on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth. Alex is that quiet bloke who attends and supports every BIGGA event, no matter where it is in the country and the surprising thing is that he doesn’t even have a car. Wish there were more members like you Alex!

It was gratifying to see a good number of Section members at the Scottish Conference at Dunfermline last month, but it was disappointing to note that none of the local clubs were represented. I will probably be able to give you an explanation next month. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a great day and event and when you add the value of qualifying to the value of the section prizes, you will be competing for prizes worth in the region of a £1,000, and that’s before you get to Carden Park! Changed days from when you won a £5 voucher to spend in the pro shop! Just another of the benefits you get when you are a member of BIGGA.

I’ll give you the final update on the Section’s Past Chairman next month, John Crawford.

Ayrshire

By the time this is published Easter will have come and gone so let’s hope Spring is well and truly in the air. As intimated last month our Spring Tournament will be at Ballochmyre Golf Club, 6 May 1999, with the afternoon medal rounds, best gross and nett scores, qualifying for the new National Tournament. The morning will be reduced to an optional 9 hole event of a to be arranged format. Your entry forms will be with you soon along with details of the doubles knockout tournament so get your team arranged, fill out your entry form and send it in to our secretary, Derek Wilson...

I was too pre-occupied with work commitments to attend the recent Scottish Conference in Dunfermline. The array of speakers and subjects looked very appealing and any reports I’ve heard was that it was an excellent and informative day. On behalf of our members thanks to Regional Administrator Peter Boyd for all his hard work in organising this successful day.

After receiving the support of my club committee, I was delighted to confirm my acceptance to be Duncan Gray’s Vice Chairman. My feelings at the time were there were other experienced and deserving greenkeepers more worthy of this position than myself but must seem unrealistic with the administration of our Section. There are presently vacancies within our committee so anyone interested in helping out or progressing to committee please say forward. Committee members please note that our next meeting will be on 19 April 1999 at 7.30pm with the Parkstone Hotel as our venue. See you next month.

North East

On 31st January we had another successful Winter talk given by Scots. Our thanks to Richard Walton of providing an interesting evening. Wood must be getting around as there was an excellent turnout of 50 greenkeepers present plus one or two committee members, even travelling from as far away as Worksehield. I reckon that the likes of Steve Cram of Slaley Hall, deserve a mention as he is the man responsible for arranging these talks. If anyone has...
any ideas for talks next winter have a word with Steve as we are always looking for new subjects.

Congratulations to Ian Hutton, formerly of Staly Hall, on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Garesfield G.C.

Anyone got a problem with moles? Try giving Steve Pope a ring as he is qualified to do something about it.

Future golf dates: August 5 at Beamish Park, match against Cleveland Section.

Early July we are hoping to have a summer comp. at Garesfield.

No doubt the next Section news will provide more moves from within the Section as there seems to be a few vacancies.

Jimmy Richardson.

Cleveland

A very good lecture was held at Darlington G.C. on Thursday 18 February. The speaker was Phil Brathwaite, from First Response, who talked on Health & Safety. The meeting was attended by 19 greenkeepers, a good turnout. A very special thanks must go to the Steward, of Darlington GC, for putting on an excellent supper at very short notice.

We have four new members to the Section. They are Robert (Nobby) Massa, Assistant at Richmond G.C.; Neil Rogers and Mathew Robbins, both from Dinsorle Spa GC; Jonathon Eggelstone, from Brancopeth Castle GC.

Dress rules - I know I keep going on but Head Greenkeepers must inform younger members of staff that when attending lectures etc, shirt, ties and jackets are mandatory.

I do not want to discourage younger members of the Section, but rules are there to be obeyed. Association ties are not the answer.

Last but not least, Golf Day at Seaton Carew on 20 April 1999. Please have your membership cards with you and if you cannot play, please let Barry Walker or any of the lads in the section newsletter know in good time as this is a popular venue.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.

Sheffield

Firstly, may I apologise for the lack of news in the recent editorial, this mainly being down to the Royal Mail and breakdown in communications.

This is a bit late but Happy New Year to you all.

On 30 November we held our Christmas Competition (which now seems a long time ago) at Rotherham Golf Club, who I would like to thank for the courtesy of the course and facilities once again.

It was a very pleasant day for golfing and the day was enjoyed by everyone who played. Rotherham was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Dave Chappell and his staff. Well done Dave! Thanks also go to the catering staff for an excellent meal.

Thanks go to our main sponsors of the day who were Rybig Taylors and Brian Booth. I think this was probably one, if not the best, prize table we have ever had with 28 prizes. Thanks also to other trade members including, Aitkens, Henton and Chattells, Purdys and Steve Burrough.

May I thank all our trade members for the support they gave us all year round with the prize tables and raffles.

Some very good golf was played but, the winner with a very, very, good score was Alan Samson with 31 pts. Well done Alan.


Finally a very belated congratulations go to Steve Hulme on his appointment as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Muxburyfield Golf Club, Steve moved from Worleby Golf Club. Congratulations Steve, even though by now you’ve probably settled in very well.

John Lax

North West

I start this month’s Section news, sadly reporting the sudden death of Neil Ewelh a NW Greenkeeper. Neil was Head Greenkeeper at Hale Golf Club in Cheshire, and although I do not have all the details, I understand that he died in his sleep due to a massive brain haemorrhage. Neil was only 38 years old, and had been at Hale Golf Club for some years. Our thoughts are with his family.

On a brighter note Chris Sheehan, Head Greenkeeper at West Derby CC, is happy he visited the RTME this year. He entered a competition on the Oliver Seeds stand, and had his winning ticket drawn out. He wins a trip for two to Amsterdam. I wonder what he stood in on arrival at Harrogate.

I hope you have registered for the Spring Tournament by now, if not you only have until Tuesday 13 April. There will be plenty to play for: eg best gross and best nett scores qualify for a free entry to the National Championship, to be played at Garden Park on 3 - 5 October saving you £95 in registration fees. Also the best six scores will qualify to play for the NW team in the regional final at Macclesfield GC on Wednesday 29 August, which is being sponsored by R.J. & J. Campey. All this beside an excellent day with a good prize table, and a great course to play on.

If you are late to register contact Bill Merritt on 0151 284 4416. While preparing the fixture list for the year, I had to meet Peter Jeford a couple of times at the Tilcon quarry where Rufford make their top dressing. Rufford sponsored the fixture list this year, and I was taken down the quarry, and shown the whole process of how the top dressing is completed. I feel some of you might like to be taken on a guided tour of the quarry, and if so ring me, so that I can make arrangements. I think you will find it very interesting.

For the members in the far northern reaches of the NW section, we have the Cumbria Cup competition to be played at Penrith G.C. on Wednesday 12 May. This is sponsored by Course Care, and is by invitation only. That seems to have covered it for now, but any queries or news please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

North Wales

March 4, two weeks till spring, the qualifying competitions have started, my course is closed. I look out of my window and yes, its snowing! Isn’t life great, NOT!

The annual greenkeeping technical seminar was held at the WGH in February and was attended by over 80 people including 11 trade stands. All the staff of my club attended including the secretary and Chairman of Greens who found it a very useful day indeed. When this event is organised we try to cover every aspect of the industry so there is something for everyone. The reaction sheets handed back were positive, we will be discussed at the next liaison panel meeting, especially the PA. My Chairman wrote a full report on the day to show our executive committee what an excellent day it was. I would also like to thank the staff for supporting this event. I hope it was a success for you too.

Still at the college, the NVQ courses finish this month, coming to a successful conclusion with five students nearing completion of their Level 4. The college is also taking delivery of the machinery package from Textron which includes the electric grassmower so now the students will have state of the art equipment to use, again more partnerships forged!

Our Section is going from strength to strength. I would like to welcome these new members, Timothy Coombs, David Wennall, Caldy GC; Russell Weston, View Cross GC; Darren Moore, David Smith, Northop Golf & Country Club, Bryn Edwards, Maesdu G C; Dale Butterworth, Heswall GC, and James Bebbington, Eaton GC. Welcome to our Section, I look forward to meeting you at future events.

Section Secretary, Gary Edwards, informs me that a lot of clubs are interested in hosting our golf events, a couple are even Royals. The distribution of the clubs also covers the whole of our Section, so hopefully no one will feel left out. I’ll give you names as the dates are officially fixed. Remember Llarynynech on 2 April (National Championship Qualifier).
I've approached Jerry Hughes, of Llanvollan GC, to ask whether he would serve on our committee, I'm glad to say that he accepted. (He's still trying to get his arm back to normal). Only joking, I feel that Jeremy is a good addition to our committee with his enthusiasm for every aspect of the game. Thanks for taking up the offer.

Our Education Officer, Phil Davies, recently suffered a rather nasty viral infection of the spinal cord, which laid him low for a few weeks. However, I'm glad to report that he is on the road to a full recovery and I'm sure most of you will see him on his travels. Take it easy Phil.

Here's to a dry warm Spring, now where's me snow scooter. See ya.

Dave Goodridge.

East Midlands

The Section, for the first time on 11 February, held a Go-Kart evening at Wymeswold. This attracted 14 members who thoroughly enjoyed a great and competitive evening of races. After some close fought racing and one minor collision between Richard Barker & Kevin Kinzer, the winner was Paul Bertenshaw, with Adie Porter taking second place. This, after 14 races, two semi-finals and a grand final.

I would like to thank all members who supported the evening, especially our two reps Mike Shepherd, of Vitax, and Kevin Kinzer, of T Breakowells. Also thanks should go to Gavin Robson who organised this most enjoyable evening. Another Go-Kart night may be organised later in the year so if anybody else is interested and would like to see if they can become the East Midlands champion, please let Gavin or myself know. If anybody has any other ideas for social outings, could you please forward them to the committee.

On behalf of BIGGA and Kirby Muxloe GC I, would like to congratulate Mark Bindley on completing 20 years service at Kirby Muxloe straight from school and is a well respected member of the Section.

Congratulations should go to Chris Bates, of Kirby Muxloe, and his wife Jane, for the latest addition to their family, a healthy daughter named Lucy Antony Bindley.

Midland

The fixture list and various information has been received. If you have any ideas please contact me on 01562 861834.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Peter McCraine, of Carburul, for his help and commitment to getting the letters and fixture list printed and posted.

I have one piece of news regarding the committee: Nigel Couchman has been co-opted onto the committee and will serve for the year. Finally, as from next month, Ross Wilson, from Domington Grove, will be taking over the article writing (good luck Ross). If you can provide any information to assist Ross I am sure he will be grateful.

Lindsay T Anderson.

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The first golf event of the season takes place at Beaconsfield Golf Club on Tuesday 20 April. This event is also the qualifier for the new National Championship to be held at Carden Park in October. There are two qualifying places up for grabs within the Section and these are for the best gross and best nett. Full details will be given on the day with regards to competition rules. If you have not already entered this event please phone me as there may be a cancellation slot available.

On a personal note I travelled up to Headquarters last month to attend a Secretaries' meeting giving me an opportunity to see at first hand the new building. The building is very impressive, money well spent, as this represents our profession. It has great training facilities using the latest technology to assist with lectures and presentations. Anybody attending future training courses will be impressed with the set up. Despite the three hour drive it was worth the journey, it gave me the chance to put faces to the people I have dealt with on the phone.

In the coming months the Oxforshire are going to be looking for some volunteers to assist with daily bunker raking during the Benson & Hedges tournaments. If you have not taken part before then I would recommend you apply to help out. It gives us an opportunity to watch at first hand the intense preparation required in setting up a golf course for a European Tour event. I am sure David Gower would welcome a few extra helpers this year.

Finally, as from next month, Ross Wilson, from Domington Grove, will be taking over the article writing (good luck Ross). If you can provide any information to assist Ross I am sure he will be grateful.

Lindsay T Anderson.

East of England

Sorry for the lack of reports in the magazine recently, but it has been quiet around the Section this year so far. The AGM took place at Belton Woods and the same committee was elected. Do you think that nobody wants to stand or are we getting it right for you at Section level?

The Fieldcare Texas scramble at Belton was won by Phil Wilkinson's team and the course was in great shape thanks to the hard work of Sheamus Cogan and his staff. BTME has passed and I hope you all had a chance to see the new products on show or take in some of the education seminars. I have just come back from the new BIGGA headquarters and was very impressed by the design and layout, much more professional that the previous building.

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, would be willing to run training courses if we can get enough numbers in our Section, i.e. computer training, health & safety etc, so let me know if you have any ideas.

The fixture cards are at the printers and should be with you shortly.

The cards this year are being sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and Atikens, thanks to Ben Petjean and Peter Fell. We have some fantastic venues this year and hope we get better support for all the events organised.

Let me know if you have any information or ideas. That's all for now.

Gaeme Macdonald.

Mid Anglia

An 'open forum' discussion was held in February at South Beds Golf Club on the following subjects: Annual Meadow Grass, Better Methods and Conservation. Ten people attended, contributing to an interesting afternoon's debate on topics which are relevant to all greenkeepers.

The Spring Tournament is to be held on Thursday 29 April (not the 28th as published in last month's magazine) at Aldwickbury Golf Club. Entries are by the appropriate form, enclosing a cheque for £23 made payable to Richard Saunders, Fixtures Secretary. This event is the qualifier for the new Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship, the final of which is to be played on 4 and 5 October at Carden Park, Cheshire.

The Lodgeway Foursball will be made at Aldwickbury, so please make sure you bring along your entry form. Alternatively, you may post it to

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Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Steve Mason if you wish to enter. Finally, I would like to welcome the following new members to the Section:

Paul Cook, Buckingham Golf Club; Glen White, Brampton Park; Paul Herbert, Aylesbury Park; Russell Elms, Cheshfield Downs; Mathew Ruff, Windmill Hill; Paul Coles, Brampton Heath; Alistair Sword, Redbourn; Phillip Hutchings, Beadlow Manor and Peter Dear, Brocket Hall.

Paul Lockett.

Essex

It’s Spring time, with the first quarter of the year flown by. As we are now fast approaching the hectic golfing calendar, let’s hope the cutting season is kinder to us during 1999 than last year, with stress put not only on the machinery side but all our staff as well.

Our Secretary attended a meeting held at BIGGA House on 25 February along with all the Secretaries and Staff from H.Q. of the year flown by. As we are now fast approaching the hectic golfing calendar, let’s hope the cutting season is kinder to us during 1999 than last year, with stress put not only on the machinery side but all our staff as well.

Our Secretary attended a meeting held at BIGGA House on 25 February along with all the Regional Administrators, Section Secretaries and Staff from H.Q. to discuss the future of the Association. Items on the agenda included the new "Style" Leisure and Work Wear range which are both of good quality and reasonably priced and which you will be able to see for yourselves at our section events.

The meeting was very productive for all the staff at H.Q. not only for their professionalism but for all their hard work to make our Association so successful. On the Membership front we would like to welcome our new members: Michael Franklin, Ilford GC; "Tryst", Leisure and Work GC; William Bywaters, Basildon GC; Michael Oakes, Rochford Hundred GC. This brings our membership total in Essex up to 175. Let’s make a big effort to reach 200 by the year 2000 with us all encouraging other greenkeepers to join the Association and inform them of all the benefits that are open to them. On the education front, we would have held our second evening lecture at Writtle College, with Jon Albott as our guest speaker, sponsored by Grass Roots. For those who are still interested in attending the Autumn/Winter courses either on computers or management skills contact Martin on 01245 603131, who will give you more information or add your name to the list.

Hope to see you at Burnham-on-Crouch G.C. for our Spring Tournament, one not to miss, where there are two prizes up for grabs for entry to the National Championship at Carden Park 3 - 5 October.

Dave Wells 01702 522202.

Kent

There have been several requests for a list of the new and current committee members, so they are as follows. H. Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer, sponsored by Grass Roots. For more information or add your name to the list. Membership, Education and BTME 2000. Martin said the meeting was very productive for all the staff at H.Q. not only for their professionalism but for all their hard work to make our Association so successful.

On the Membership front we would like to welcome our new members: Michael Franklin, Ilford GC; "Tryst", Leisure and Work GC; William Bywaters, Basildon GC; Michael Oakes, Rochford Hundred GC. This brings our membership total in Essex up to 175. Let’s make a big effort to reach 200 by the year 2000 with us all encouraging other greenkeepers to join the Association and inform them of all the benefits that are open to them. The fixture list will be mailed out in early April to those who replied to the mail shot. If any new members join the section during the year and would like a copy of the fixture list, then contact either myself or H. Morgan on 0403 207622.

The fixture list is as follows; Chart Hills 24 May, Broke Hill 26 July, Tandridge 4 October and Darenth Valley 1 December.

The price of the golf days will be a consistent £22 at all of the venues and all the events will be on a first come first served basis as we are expecting a busy schedule. The date for the AGM will be brought forward this year to November time, date clarified nearer the time.

I would like to thank all of the companies who have supported our section this coming year with their sponsorship. If anybody has any news or recommendations then please contact me on 01474 879201, as I would rather make this a more interesting article. The only news I have for you is that B. Farnham has left the LGC since the last edition, he has returned to the construction trade and we would all like to wish him the best in the future. Kneale Diamond.

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40 Greenkeeper International April 1999
The new contact address for Paula is: Riverview, 2 Granville Terrace, Bude, Cornwall.

**South West**

There were two sad events which occurred during the month of February in this region. The first was the death of Jamie Brunton-Reed, who had been working at my club, Cumberwell Park Golf Club, for the past four months. Jamie, who was only 20, suffered from a rare genetic blood disorder, and had been ill for some time. Jamie had also been studying on a part-time greenkeeping course. He will be sadly missed by everyone at the club.

The second sad event was the tragic death of John Thomas, from Lansdown Golf Club. John had given 18 years of hardworking and loyal service to the club and will be deeply missed by all those connected with the club. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

The death of John left an air of sadness as greenkeepers gathered for the Winter Tournament held at Lansdown on 25 February. Despite the trauma of the previous week, Head Greenkeeper Steve Pell and his staff got the course into immaculate condition for the event, with particular praise being given for the "quite remarkable greens." The results of the tournament were as follows:


Nearest the pin was won by Nick Perkins, and the trade prize went to Phil Greenway from Roffey Bros. The event was sponsored by Lawson Products, so many thanks to George Sinker for his support. Thanks also go again to Steve Pell and his team, Rachel and Gary in the catering department and also the secretary of Lansdown for allowing us the use of the course.

For any other enquiries, please write to me or telephone on 01363 82777.

Paul Cunningham.

**South Coast**

The Section Seminar was held at Sparsholt on Tuesday 23 February, and it was well attended with 70 delegates in attendance. It was very encouraging to see so many members there. The Speakers, as always, were of a very high calibre and we are indeed very grateful to them for giving us their time to talk to us. However, it did not go unnoticed that there was a good representation from North of the Border!

Thanks to Jef, our Secretary, who did a grand job in organising the event. Also thanks to all those who helped out on the day. We must not forget our Sponsors for the day, they were: Gem Professional, Grass Roots Trading Company Ltd, Huxleys, Grass Machinery of Alresford, and Winchester Garden Machinery. Thanks to you all for supporting us and helping to make the day go so well. Last but not least, thank you to Sparsholt College who provided us with lunch, the hall and all the little extras that were required.

This is the last call for Westurf. Jef has had a few calls about seats on the coach. However, at the time of writing this report there are still seats available, the coach is being sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

If you haven't already done so, phone Jef on 01635 846575 without delay. Paula has done a lot of work in moving Westurf to Westpoint. It is now up to us to give her and the members of the trade our support. I am told the stand space has more than doubled. This means more members of the trade in attendance, more machinery, and more people to see.

See you all on the coach - The Day - Tuesday 27 April 1999 - The
Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Place - Westpoint

Our Spring tournament will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club on Tuesday 4 May. Play will consist of a 27 hole medal, please ensure that all trophies are at Canford Magna on the day. It is up to all of you who won last year to see that the trophies are returned. The cost of the day is £16.00, this is to include lunch and the evening meal. All entries complete with current handicaps, names, addresses and cheques for £16.00 to be sent to: Fred Deamon, Golf Club Bungalow, Alton Golf Club, Old Didham Road, ALTON, Hants, GU34 4BU. Tel: 01420 86679. Numbers are limited to 30, so get your entries in as soon as possible. Fred has taken over as the Tournament Organiser, Trevor Smith has stood down from the committee. We would like to thank Trevor for all the work he has done in the past in organising the previous tournaments.

Lastly, the players with the best gross score and the best nett scores will go forward to the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship. This will be held later in the year.

Good Luck to Everyone!

Ken Lodge.

Devon & Cornwall

Eighty members attended the Section's Avoncrop-sponsored meeting held at St Enodoc Golf Club on Wednesday 24 February. Many members had to travel through heavy rain and a lot of road works to arrive at St Enodoc GC, but on their arrival the weather cleared to give them perfect conditions to compete for the Avoncrop Trophy over St Enodoc's superbly presented Church and Holywell courses which are in superb condition. A big thank you to Stuart Dymond and his staff who, as always, had the course in excellent condition. A big thank you to Avoncrop for sponsoring the day.

Your attendance is required at this year's Westurf at Westpoint, Exeter on 27 April. For the first time ever all the trade stands have been taken, so you'll be able to view all the latest machinery and products available. Also, this year, the region has put on a seminar programme starting at 9.30am and you can watch the Adams Axie men perform their tree felling act.

Richard Whyman.

South Wales

Summer is just around the corner after our mainly wet Winter. Shortly, or by now, the irrigation systems will be primed ready for a hot spell, if there is ever such a thing. On the subject of water, that meeting on Wednesday 10 February was by John Mosedale, of the Environment Agency.

John's presentation on where, how much and what abstracting water can entail was and will be of benefit to those who attended the lecture. Thank you to John and also our friends from the IOG who also came along to a very interesting evening.

This month is our last evening meeting and in conjunction with the IOG it is our annual quiz of general knowledge and a couple of greenkeeping questions thrown in. To be held at Pencoed College on Wednesday 14 April, it's a great night of our own humour and entertainment, so please come along.

On the 27 April at its new location at Westpoint in Exeter, is WESTURF This is a day that must not be missed. Standing out in the rain is now a thing of the past as we are under cover. You can also bring your wife along so she can shop in the nearby Exeter town centre. This year the day will be dry now we are under cover, but every eventuality has been thought of and there will also be outdoor demonstrations to see.

You all by now should have received a fixture list for this year's golf tournaments, but if not, our first day is to be held at Southerndown Golf Club on 5 May. That date rings a bell with me, yes that's right, I'm on my honours court day Anyone with any information please contact me on 01666 742761.

Richard Hatcher.

North East

A few events just taken place here this month. First, an evening held at Greenacres GC and sponsored by J E Coulters Ltd, introducing us to the TEXTRON Company and its many facets, also some of Coulters own workshop techniques. The evening was rounded off with a quiz where our team: T. Crawford, J. McCabe, K. Henderson and P. Johnston, white-washed the opposition and although some of the questions set by Neil McClauglin would have been more at home on University Challenge. Thanks to Greenacres Golf Club for the use of the facility and indeed to Martin Hinch from J E Coulters Ltd for his presentation. Jonathan McCabe.

S.N.VQ.II qualification and maybe now we will see some work instead of running away to Scotland every couple of months. Good luck Mark.

Finally congratulations to Mark Cassidy and his wife Kathy on the birth of their second child, a baby girl. You will have to work very hard now to earn brownie points to get a night out.

Eamonn Farrell.