



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

I open the final Section news of the year with another batch of new members to welcome. Dave McAvoyn and Peter Culter join us, and from Meldrum House we have Kenneth Harper, David Stephen, John Sim, Alan Tennant, Alexander Duguid and Roderick Mess. As we head into the Millennium the Section is as strong as ever and hopefully will go from strength to strength.

Our AGM was held recently at Huntly Golf Club. In the morning we had a talk on Health and Safety from Gordon Holmes of CSC, before we ventured out onto the golf course for the annual Daval Cup Challenge. The result was a resounding victory for Vice-Chairman, Wilson Morrison, and his team by 4 1/2 to a 1/2.

In defence all I can say is that my partner, Steve Sullivan, and I got the 1/2, and we had to finish eagle, birdie, par to get that. Thanks must go to Alex Cruickshank and Dennis Slater, of Daval, for providing the Cup, and a wee dram to go with it. The meeting followed and resulted in the Committee all being re-elected en bloc, details of their duties and contact numbers with be in my next report. The final four winners of the 200 Club were drawn and are as follows: September £30 no. 28 George Barr, Ham Manor; October £30 no. 28 George Barr, Ham Manor (no misprint!); November £30 no. 20 Brian Cocker Snr, Alyth; December £100 no. 193 Keith Wood, Aberdeen.

Once again thank you to all who bought tickets this year and supported the Section. Thank you to all at Huntly, who made us most welcome and especially to Derek Green and his staff for the course.

A big highlight of this year in the Section must have been the holding of the Walker Cup in our area at Nairn Golf Club. Around 14 of us local greenkeepers assisted Ian Carson and his staff

during the competition along similar lines to the Open Championship Support Team. Despite some awful weather Saturday night into Sunday morning, all went well with Ian, the coolest man in town.

It was great to see the Nairn course get the praise it deserves and the visitors should be flocking to the North in the future, which can only benefit us all.

The match was played in the best manner possible in front of a very sporting and knowledgeable crowd, a pity the professionals could not match it a couple of weeks later. Well done all involved at Nairn.

The Section was well represented at the BIGGA National Championships in October at Carden Park. Mike Wilson, Forbes was our star man with two fine rounds, unfortunately the rest of us were not quite so good with yours truly bringing up the rear as I shot my two worst rounds for many years. However, it was a great two days and I will be back next year to do better and I recommend it to all interested.

Once again the Scottish Region is running a bus to BTME in Harrogate. The cost this time is £156 and covers the bus from Central Scotland to Harrogate on Tuesday 18 January, B&B at the Moat House Hotel for three nights, entry to all seminars and return bus on Friday afternoon. This is an excellent package and well worth considering. Closing date for applications is 8 December and anyone interested should phone Peter Boyd our RA on 0141 6163440.

Congratulations to Stuart Hogg on winning the Scottish Regional nomination for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Having played his course at Fortrose and visited his sheds, I would say he was a worthy winner. Well done to Brian Turner, Sunningdale, for the overall award.

Last but not least I would just like to wish all Section members a happy Christmas and prosperous New Millennium, and the same to all my friends throughout the greenkeeping world. I hope 2000 brings you all you wish for.

Iain MacLeod

Ayrshire

Firstly I must apologise for omitting the trade result from our autumn outing at the Pines. Brian Inglis, of Greentech, was the main man with Jim Smith of Ruffords close behind.

On behalf of our Section I would like to wish Alastair McRoberts all the best with his new job of Sales Manager for Rickerby's of Carlisle. Alastair was formerly Sales Representative for A M Russell in the West of Scotland.

The Scottish Region is again running a subsidised bus trip to Harrogate 2000. This includes travel, three nights bed and breakfast at the Moat House Hotel and entry to all the seminars and exhibition. This is on offer at a total cost of £156. This is a fabulous trip for anyone thinking about it. I can't recommend it highly enough. The entire trip will be expertly organised by our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, who will be able to supply any further information required. Peter can be contacted on 0141 616 3440.

Finally a Merry Christmas to all and remember any news, call me on 01505 683278

Iain Barr

Central

This month's news begins on a sad note with the recent death of Ann Strathearn. Ann, as you all know, worked for TIS Scotland and was a great supporter of the Section. You were always assured of a smile and a blether when you met her at our golf tournament and her cheery face will be sorely missed by us all. Our sincerest condolences go to Ann's family at this very sad time.

On the membership front we welcome five new members this month and they are John Brown from Dalmahoy Country Club, Alex Peggie and Hugh Davidson from Charleton GC and Iain McIntosh and John Jones from Gleneagles. This brings the total of new members for this year to 54, which beats our target of one per week, but there are still a number of non-members out there, so if you know any, encourage them to join.

Congratulations go to former committee member, Ian Ross, on his

appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Shetland Golf Club. Well done Ian and every success in the future. Will you still be coming to our golf tournaments?

Congratulations are also due to Derek Scott, from Scoonie Golf Course, who along with myself has been nominated for the Patrons Award. Well done Derek and thanks for all the hard work you put into supporting the Section.

At the moment there are still 228 of you with 'Club 2000' tickets in your possession. I sent out tickets to 260 members and only 32 have bought/sold theirs. I know you all intend to buy your tickets and that you have just forgotten to put your cheque in the post, well you have until the 18th of this month to do so before you miss out on the chance to win £50 per month plus a bonus in June and December. All this for less than 2p per day can't be bad! Just in case you have forgotten about your tickets, I'll remind you all next month by including a list in the Section report!

At the time of writing the final of the Inter-Club Tournament has not been played so it looks as though, once again, it will extend into another year. Hopefully it will be played in time to present the trophy at the Spring Tournament at St Andrews next year.

Once again the Scottish Region will be organising a coach to the BTME at Harrogate next month, so if you fancy attending this superb event, just get in touch with Peter Boyd on the usual number. The cost from Tuesday to Friday is £156 (excluding refreshments and entertainment) and is great value for money.

The section AGM, in conjunction with a presentation/talk by Richard Walton and Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, was held at the Scottish National Golf Centre at Drumoig last month and it was encouraging to see a number of new faces present. Your committee for the coming year is:

Chairman: A. Dunn, Auchterarder GC; V/Chairman: A. O'Hara, Leven Links GC; Committee: S. Mackie, Lochgelly GC; D. Scott, Scoonie; S. Sime, Leven Links GC; G. Mitchell,

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Piperdam GC; Sec/Treas. J. Crawford, Stirling GC; Patrons: P. Langdon, Wardle Consulting Engineers; K. Brunton, Greentech.

Following the talk and refreshments provided by Scotts, we were given a tour of the impressive facilities which are available at Drumoig and our thanks go to Richard and Simon, from Scotts, and Neil Simpson, from Drumoig, for an excellent day.

As we come to the end of another year/century/millennium I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Section over the years, with a special thanks to all the Patrons of the Scottish Region, without whose continued involvement we could not have achieved what we have.

Here's wishing everyone 'All the Best' for the year ahead and hope to see you all in the New Year.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

Last day of October, I wonder where the year has gone? It does not seem long since I was making arrangements for the golf fixtures for 1999, and now I am in the process of doing the same for the year 2000. Looking back on the year the Section had some great venues for the golf, even though the weather was not always kind to us. The courses we played were in lovely condition, and the hospitality at the clubs was second to none. The seminar at Mere was well attended and we had some great speakers.

We will have another seminar at Mere in March, and I hope once again you will support the Section by attending. A thought struck me that with all this modern equipment on golf courses, with parts controlled by mini computers, will they also have "bugs" in them. It would be strange if all the machinery ground to a halt at midnight on New Year's Eve. Just a thought!

The North West Section did well this

year in the three award schemes with one outright winner, and two regional finalists.

The winner of the "Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition" is Tommy Givnan, Myerscough College. Tommy works at Bowring GC on Merseyside.

Regional finalist in the Toro Excellence Award was Andy Campbell, Carden Park.

Regional finalist BIGGA Golf Environment competition, sponsored by Amazon Ground Care and Grass Roots, was Steve Oultram, Wilmslow GC, North West Section Chairman.

Congratulations to the three of you, you did our Section proud.

It has been suggested that I should include a Tip for the Month in the Section news, but nobody has come forward with one yet, so here is one I used to use in my greenkeeping days.

When repairing worn areas around greens and tees, hollow tine the areas several times. Once the cores are broken up, trodden and raked, oversow and tape off the area.

That seems to be it for now, so I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

See you at Harrogate.

Bert Cross.

North East

As the Autumn competition at Carlisle was cancelled due to heavy rain, it was played at Tyneside GC on October 14. Our thanks to the committee for coming to the rescue.

The best nett was won by B. Wilson and I. Rourke with a score of 61 on the front nine, putting D. Cuthbertson and C. Parkinson into second place.

The Section would like to thank the following sponsors: Terry Charlton, Greenlay and Bill Thompson.

The result of the final of the Carburul Trophy were D. Cuthbertson and C. Parkinson, winning against B. Wilson and I. Rourke. Apparently a very good game of golf was played. As there is a lack of competitors playing in this competition we are dropping it from the fixture list and also going back to Spring and Summer competitions only.

The annual match against East Lothian was played at Eyemouth GC on October 6, resulting in the North East retaining the trophy as the match was drawn.

Congratulations are in order for Mark Bowman on his move from Ravensworth GC to Seaton Carew GC, and also to Craig Parkinson, Course Manager at Matfen Hall on his recent marriage.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

The autumn meeting was held at Nefyn and what a glorious day it was. It was my first visit and I was astounded by the sheer beauty of the place. What a course! Our thanks go to the club for having us, to all the officials, members, and mostly to Pat and his team for the preparation of the course (I wouldn't want to be out there when the wind blows!).

The results were Bert Cross (member), Jeremy Hughes-Major Owen Shield, associate member, Adrian Ellis. Can I take this opportunity to firstly thank Andy Jones, of Major R Owen, for donating the shield at such short notice, and apologies for the misunderstanding and embarrassment caused to all parties after I had left the meeting. Alun Lewis won the Gem Shield for best net.

Can I also thank all the trade who contributed to the day: Aitkens Acorn, ALS, Barenbrug, Bathgate, Major Owen, Maxisrop, Rigby Taylor, Sportsworld, Walker Engineering, and finally our own Jeremy Hughes, who donated a pair of mitts.

The venue of the spring meeting has now changed from Oswestry to Frodsham on Wed. April 5. The autumn meeting will be at Vicars Cross, and Christmas 2000 at Royal Liverpool. Good eh?

At the Northern Region Board meeting attended by myself and Gary Edwards, Ian Holoran informed us that the Cumbria Cup has now been renamed the Whitelaw Bowl and will become a Regional meeting which will be held at Penrith GC either the 6th, 13th or 20th Sept. 2000. I will keep you informed.

The coach for Harrogate will again run on the Wednesday of the BTME, 19th Jan, free to members, £10 for guests. Pick up points are Slaters Abergele Northop College and Cheshire Oaks. Remember, no alcohol!

On Wednesday, January 12 starting at 2.30 at the college we have a lecture on soil and water management. If you weren't at the last one make sure you come this time, and if you did attend, I bet you'll be there again. It was brilliant!

At the Northern Region Meeting Doug Bell revealed the Section membership numbers. Since October '96 our Section's membership has increased by well over 30% and is still on the increase. The nearest to us was the North West with an 11% increase against a regional increase of 6.82% and a total BIGGA increase of 11.78%. So tell your colleagues.

I will take this opportunity to thank Doug Bell for all his work. He has one helluva area to cover, is always available, and has helped me no end - and all this on a part-time basis! Thanks go also to my fellow committee members for all the effort put in to make this THE up and coming Section (we will get it right one day); to all our trade members and sponsors; The Welsh College, especially Graham Wright, the WGU for their initiative and dedication to greenkeeping; and lastly but definitely not least, to you the members for your support. Here's to the next 1000 years. Have a great Christmas and a blinding new year.

Just one final credit, apologies to my old mate, Andy Campbell. We all make mistakes, but remember, worse things happen at sea. See ya.

Dave Goodridge

Sheffield

On November 4 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club, whom I would like to thank once again for letting us use their facilities.

The lecture had a good turnout - although not as many as usual - and was enjoyed by everyone present. Our thanks go to Chris Pye who gave a very interesting lecture on pesticides and their development.

Congratulations go to Paul Neve for

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finishing third in the second round at the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championships and for being part of the winning regional team. Well done Paul!

Our AGM will be held on December 9 at Rotherham Golf Club after our lecture at 2.30 pm. I hope as many people as possible will turn up for the AGM.

Finally, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Millennium!

J.V. Lax

Midland Region

East Midlands

The 1999 Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship played at Carden Park on attracted nine Section members. Despite some very testing weather conditions the course was well presented by Andy Campbell and his staff, and at least the weather improved for the two days competition. Unfortunately none of our Section were on form with their golf. The best score being 153 from Richard Barker and myself. Our other six members present were Dave Leatherland, Gavin Robson, Ian Needham, Steve Tolley, Lee Hughes, James Tudor & Edward Daubrah. On behalf of all our Section members who attended the tournament I would like to thank Scotts, Charterhouse and Softspikes for their very generous sponsorship.

On October 7 in the Rigby Taylor East Midland v Midland Section golf match held at Copt Heath GC the Section after a hard fought match lost by the narrowest of margins - one point. Losing the morning Greensomes three games to two, we needed six points from the 10 singles matches. Unfortunately we won only three games and halved four. The team for the day consisted of the following members; Alex Hawkes, Jeff Dickinson, Russell Allen, Dave Leatherland, Adi Porter, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Graham Arnold, Mark Bindley & Gavin Robson. Congratulations should go to our Section Chairman Dave Leatherland who was our only player to win both his matches. I would like to thank Copt Heath GC for courtesy of their fine course and a special thank you to our generous sponsors, Rigby Taylor for organising a great day.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to wish Peter Larter our best wishes for the future. Unfortunately, Peter will be leaving the Association at the end of November for another post.

This year's AGM tournament held at Raddcliffe-on-Trent on November 3 has only attracted 21 members. We really do need more members to support the events, if we are to remain successful. Also please remember to return your forms before the closing date, as meals

and starting time have to be booked with the golf club. Results and information regarding the AGM itself will appear next month.

Finally I would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous support to the section throughout the year, especially our main sponsors; Spring tournament - E.T. Breakwells, Autumn tournament - Banks Amenity Products, AGM tournament - Vitax Ltd, Christmas tournament - Rigby Taylor, East Midlands v East of England golf match - Chandlers. Also, I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and if you wish to make a new year's resolution, make sure it's to support more of your Section's events.

Antony Bindley - East Midlands Section Secretary.

East of England

The last golf event of the year took place at Rutland County Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and thanks must go to Chris Squires and his team for making our day very enjoyable.

This year and for many more, the Texas Scramble will be sponsored by Lawn Mower Services, of Lincoln. Thanks to Chris Overtop and Dave Hampshire who have donated the LMS/Texton Shield. Other sponsors on the day were Aitkens, Tower Sports and GreenPride.

The winners of the inaugural Shield were John Scotney, Andy Thomas, Gil Ogden and Duncan Beall with 60.7 total, who all won Texton jackets. Second place went to Graeme MacDonald, George Venables and John Hewson with 61.3 total, who won Texton Umbrellas, and third place went to Barry Anderson, Russ Moody and Peter Fell with 62.1 total. They all won some wine.

"Nearest the pin" prizes went to John Hewson at the 13th and Andy Thomas at the 4th.

Straight after the meal the Section AGM took place and the Committee was unanimously voted in with no changes from last year.

The Order of Merit this year was won by D. Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, who will receive a BIGGA blazer as his reward.

Forthcoming events are the computer course at Newark and an Education Seminar on 1 December, also at Newark, sponsored by County Crops.

Graeme MacDonald

Midland

The Rigby Taylor Foursomes Knockout final was held at Woburn Golf Club. The winners were Rod Hunter and Alan Roberts who defeated Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris in what I believe to have been a very enjoyable final. Many thanks on behalf of the finalist and the Midland Section to Rigby Taylor for supporting this event.

The other final that has been held recently was the Rite Feed Singles

Knockout. This was held at Stokes Poges Golf Club and was won by Mike Hughes who defeated Rod Hunter in the final. Many thanks to Rite Feed for their continued support of this event.

Back in the October report I gave information on a trip to the newly formed Advantage Seed Houses organised by Andy Smith. This went ahead and proved to be a great success, and on behalf of the Midland Section I would like to thank Andy Smith for organising the trip and Ivan Toon from ALS for the sponsorship of the day.

It just remains for me to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a fruitful New Year, and I will report again in the next millennium! I do hope to see the majority of you at the AGM or at Harrogate in January.

Jonathan Wood



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Mid Anglia

The Lodgeway Four Ball Competition reached its conclusion when the final was played over 36 holes at Woburn G&CC in October. Frank Scullion and Duncan Seiling, of Dunstable Downs GC, were victors over Darren Mugford and Stephen Hesk, of Aldwickbury Park, by a margin of 4 and 3. Our thanks to Woburn for allowing the final to take place and to Steve Mason for organising everything. Also thanks to Chris Rook, of Lodgeway, for sponsoring the event once again.

We were lucky to have a warm dry day for our autumn tournament, played at Knebworth GC, over 18 holes. It was a pleasure to play a wonderfully mature course in superb condition, with a colourful backdrop of autumnal trees. Thanks to Andrew Kennet and all his green staff for their efforts in making the day a memorable one for us all. The full results for the day were as follows: 1. Chris Brook, Chelfield Downs, 39 pts, 2. Paul Greenhalgh, Berkhamstead, 38 pts, 3. Neil Whittaker, Arkly, 37 pts (on a countback).

The Longest Drive was won by Gavin Simkins, of Mount Pleasant GC, and Nearest the Pin by Gerald Bruce, of Berkhamstead. Driving Force Leisure provided the prize table, so thanks to Dave Murphy for supporting the event so well. Sheriff's Amenity provided burgers and sausages by the 10th tee, which I'm sure was appreciated by all players during the break in their round. A final thank you to all other members of the trade for supporting us.

Knebworth Golf Club also accommodated our Annual General Meeting, following the golf and presentations. The following people were elected to serve the Section for the next year: Chairman - Colin Robinson; Secretary/Treasurer - Gerald Bruce; Regional Representative -

Paul Lockett; Handicap Secretary - Neil Whittaker; Match Secretary - Richard Saunders; other committee members - John Wells, Steven Mason, Mark Ellis.

Mark has resigned his post as Vice Chairman, but will continue as an active committee member. John has resigned his position as Treasurer and we welcome his continuing input to the Section.

The Secretary explained the role of the Committee, both at Section and Regional level, and reported that membership is currently at 248. In the Treasurer's absence, he also presented the balance sheet and explained the anticipated costs of golf events for the coming year.

Richard Saunders reported on the golf events of the past year and was pleased to announce Chris Brook as "Golfer of the Year". One motion from the floor was voted on, being the proposal to allow full handicap for competitions played from yellow tees. The motion was carried and will apply to the Summer and Autumn meetings.

Following the success of last year's Open Forum, it is planned to hold another during the winter. We are also planning to arrange a presentation by Mark Hunt, on understanding fertilisers. Watch this space for more details next month.

Finally, I would like to wish Phil Belton, of St. Neots, a speedy recovery from a recent illness.

A Happy Christmas and enjoyable millennium to you all!

Paul Lockett

Berks Bucks & Oxon

October saw the National Championship at Carden Park. Tony French, Lambourn, Ross Wilson, Donnington Grove, Barry Holt, Burford, and Sid Arrowsmith, Frilford Heath, were representing the BB&O. The team score was pretty poor and individual scores were no better. Carden Park took its toll on us and we struggled from the word go.

We shared the hotel with the Japanese Rugby Team who had somehow managed to recruit three Kiwis. Their captain is ex-Kiwi Jamie Joseph. One of the most frightening moments of the three days was when our own Tony French decided to have a go at Joseph for his stamping incident on Kieren Bracken a couple of years ago. Luckily we managed to escape without bruises!

Carden Park was mostly under water when we arrived and Andy Campbell had pumps going everywhere to get rid of the rainwater. The greenstaff did manage to get the Nicklaus Course ready for play on the Tuesday which was a great feat but our golf never really lived up to the designer's intentions. Perhaps whoever qualifies for the Section next year will put up a better show.

The Turkey Trot took place in November at the Lambourn. The results will be in January's edition.

There is still not much feedback for these articles from the Section, so any news would be much appreciated.

Ross Wilson

Essex

In November we would have seen the last big football match of this century with England v Scotland fighting it out for a place in 'Euro 2000'. The highly probable result will be a disaster for our friend Douglas (Mc)Smith, so the next time he pays your course a visit, "do not" mention where will he be spending his holidays this summer.

Now on to more serious matters, our winter golf tournament held at Wanstead GC, kindly sponsored by Gem Professional, with thanks to Richard Haynes.

Despite the strong winds, the weather was mild and the course was in excellent condition, as one would expect with Reg at the helm, and our thanks go to Reg and his staff for preparing the course. We would also like to thank Wanstead GC and their staff for their kind hospitality, and Ray Driver for an excellent meal.

Results: Overall winner: Ray Clark 37 pts, 0-14: 1. John Jackson 34 pts; 2. Matthew Allen 28pts; 3. Steve Crosdale 25pts; 4. Dominic Rodgers 24pts, 15-28: 1. Martin Forrester 32 pts (back 9); 2. Mark Stopps 32 pts; 3. Malcolm Smith 25 pts; 4. Jack Shelton 24 pts, Guest: Steve Thorogood 36 pts, Trade: Andy Church 32 pts, Longest drive: Steve Crosdale (bionic man), Nearest the Pin: John Jackson. Thank you to Greenkeeper Supply Company, Mick, Bill and Liam for the two marvellous prizes, a driver and putter.

Not forgetting the trade, Avoncrop, Bourne Amenity, Does, Driving Force Leisure, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor and Bishop Brothers for their donations towards the raffle prizes.

Our next golf day is combined with the important AGM at yours truly, "Rochford Hundred", on 15 December. This is your Section so please come along and pass on your view. "We do not bite", promise. Details are in the post, any problems telephone Martin 01245 603131.

On to our new recruits, Perry Lowe, Ilford GC, and Malcolm Jervis, Chelmsford GC. We hope to see you both at one of our functions in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone, golf clubs, trade, guests, Writtle College, Derek, members and committee (and anyone I have forgotten, no offence) for their continuing support in making this section successful. Merry Christmas!

Dave Wells.

East Anglia

Rookery Park GC was the venue for our October meeting sponsored by Rhone Poulenc, with 48 members taking advantage of the glorious sunshine and the above average temperature. The course was in fine condition and had that Autumnal feel, little roll on the ball making each hole play long, and the greens putting on the tricky side. Many thanks must go to John Beamish and his staff for the presentation of the course, and the secretary and committee of Rookery Park for their hospitality. They certainly made everyone more than welcome.

Before the presentation the Club Captain, Mr Goldsmith, welcomed the association in the presence of Mr Rees, the Club President, Mr Fisher, Past Captain, and Mr Kelly, Rookery Park's Secretary.

The overall winner of the Rhone Poulenc sponsored competition, S. Curtis with 39 pts. Results: 1-9 handicap 1. R. Plummer 32, 2. P. Howard 30; 10-18 handicap 1. S. Curtis 39; 2. K. Bunn 35; 3. I. Willet 35; 19-28 handicap 1. J. Wright 34, 2. S. Davidson 30; 3. A. Hollins 26; Nearest the Pin P. Howard; Longest Drive C. Fisher; Toilet Seat M. Taylor (he wore it well!) low score.

Thanks to all the trade for their company and for their help with the prize table: Rhone Poulenc (main sponsor), Ben Burges, CMW Ltd., Colliers, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare and Toro UK. Thanks to you all. A belated thanks to Colliers for the prize at the August meeting.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday December 8 at Bungay Golf Club, the format will be as in the past, three man team Texas scramble 1/10 combined handicap. Team entries are fine, all other members will be drawn to decide their playing partners. The golf will be followed by lunch and then the Section's AGM. All members are welcome, and if you do not receive an entry form by early December, do not hesitate to contact Ian Willet on 01728-452759, or me on 01284-725515. The Texas Scramble has shown to be a popular event, so get your entries in early.

Steve Millard

Surrey

Date: Friday 28 October. Venue: Epsom Golf Club, Code Name Royal Epsom, War. England, Code Name Seller's Southerners versus Scotland, code name Russell's Rangers. Weather conditions: dry, sunny spells and freshening wind. Time: 11am the first battle commences. Every eight minutes another four go over the top. Some later, somewhere in the Clubhouse, code name the 19th, concern and anxiety! Some of our golfers are missing.

What devious plan was afoot? Had the Southerners been nobbled. Had the Head Greenkeeper, Code Name Wee Dougie, spiked their cocoa? The next episode of this exciting saga will appear in the January edition of the Dandy but for those unable to contain their impatience, the result was another rare defeat for England, with Scotland four and a half points, England two and a half. Thank you Epsom GC for the courtesy of the course and the catering staff for a delicious meal. Thanks to Dougie Fernie and his team for the excellent condition of the course.

Chipstead Golf Club has had a number of break-ins and the Course Manager, Andy Davey, reminds all Clubs to regularly check their security and insurance. It is very easy to purchase expensive new equipment and then in the event of a claim find that

the club is under insured.

Update on the improvements to Cuddington Golf Club: The irrigation system is almost complete. The construction of all greens is now complete and they should be turfed by the second week in November. All haulage routes and tee banks have been seeded and the whole project has progressed in a smooth and satisfactory manner. For a visit contact Stewart Sheppard.

Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West

Not a lot to report this month except to remind you that there may still be just enough time to book your place for the Christmas tournament taking place at Kingsdown GC on 8 December. The comedian has already been booked for this event, but I can assure that it will not be the same one which appeared a couple of years ago at a previous Christmas tournament.

Congratulations must go to Nobby Knight who finished third in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championships at Carden Park in October. The South West and South Wales came second overall in the Regional Team Cup concluding an excellent tournament for this Region.

If you would like to go on a training course next year then take note because I have arranged a number of courses and dates to put in your diary.

Firstly we will be running a one day first aid course at the Southern Ambulance Training College in Chippenham on 5 February 2000. The overall cost of the course will be about £44. Incidentally, it may well be worth checking your present certificates because a number of these will expire in February.

I have also arranged a PA2 Tractor mounted spraying course for Thursday 2 March. I will also be running a PA6 Knapsack spraying course on Wednesday 8 March.

All these courses still have spaces that need filling, so if you haven't already put your name on the waiting list, just telephone me on 01249-783382 for more information.

Paul Cunningham

Devon & Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all.

The Roffeys meeting was our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme which this year was held at Trethorne Golf club on Wednesday 20 October. The day started as usual with golfing members competing for the D O Hunt trophy. Our non golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course, after an excellent lunch. Joe Turner, of Bernhard & Company, presented our afternoon educational talk covering the subject of

"Keeping your Edge". After Joe's excellent talk, Don Hunt, on the behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford golf competition for the D O Hunt trophy. 1. Mark Tucker, Saunton, 38 pts on back 6; 2. Tony Gooch, Torrington, 38 pts; 3. Harry Robberts, Crediton, 36 pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Roffeys and Don Hunt, for their support and to Mike Davey the owner of Trethorne Golf Club for allowing the Section use of his excellent facilities and to all the staff at Trethorne for making the Section so welcome.

Our first meeting in the year 2000 will be held at The Warren Golf Club on Wednesday 26 January sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds. The morning will start with a singles Stableford golf competition with starting times between 8.30am-10am. The usual course walk for non golfers will leave the club house at approximately 10.30 am.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 2000, which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars. There's only a few places left, so hurry.

Richard Whyman.

South Wales

The sun was shining and a great day was had by all at St Pierre G&CC for the match, S. Wales versus S. West. We shone by winning 4 points to 2. Many thanks to St Pierre for courtesy of the course and to all from BIGGA's West who made the day possible.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay finals held at Royal Porthcawl GC had considerably better weather than last year. It was great to see a large support following the group which consisted of two teams being Daryll Bray and Leigh Jones who beat Mike Jones & Douge Donne 8 & 7. Despite the large win, both teams battled around the course which was in tip top condition. Well done David Ward and the lads and not forgetting myself of course. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for the prizes and their continued support.

Some movement in the Camp again with Neil Harris from the Royal Porthcawl being appointed First Assistant at Glyn Abbey GC. Kidwelly and Alan Walker becoming Head Greenkeeper at Caerphilly GC.

Our evening lectures beginning on 12 January at Pencoed College with guest speaker Tony Horne giving us an insight into the millennium stadium.

I'll bring you up to date with the gossip at Pyle & Kenfig with the winter tournament/Christmas Dinner in the New Year, so without further ado I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Richard Hatcher