North

I open the final Section news of the year with another batch of new members to welcome. Dave McKay and Peter Cuiiter join us, and from Middldurm 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 David Cup Challenge. The result was a resounding victory for Vice-Chairman, Wilson Morrison, and his team by 4 1/2 to 1 1/2.

In defence all I can say is that my partner, Steve Sullivan, and I got the 1 1/2, and we had to finish eagle, birdie, par to get that. Thanks must go to Alex Cruickshank and Dennis Slater, of Davul, for providing the Cup, and a wee dram to go with it. The meeting followcd 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 29 George Bar, Ham Moron; October £30 29 George Bar, Ham Moron (no misprint); November £30 20 Brian Cooker Sm, Abyth; December £100 193 Keith Wood, Aberdeen.

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

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 be beneficial to 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 Caernarfon. Mike Wilson, from 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 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 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 01503 685778.

Iain Barr

Ayrshire

Firstly I must apologise for omitting the trade result from our autumn outing at the Pines. Brian Inglis, of Greeninch, 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 Rickett's of Carlisle. Alastair was formerly Sales Representative for A M Russell in the West of Scotland.

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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 Dalmally Country Club, Alex Peggie and Hugh Davidson from Charleton GC and Iain McIntosh and John Jones from Glenegedale. 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 tournament?

Congratulations are also due to Derek Scott, from Soonegie 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 £30 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 Shoon Barnaby, from Scots, 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. Chairman: A. O'Hara, Leven Links GC; V/Chairman: A. O'Hara, Leven Links GC; G. Mitchell, Sime, Leven Links GC; G. Mitchell,
The 425D Articulator® features four articulating 25" cutting decks combined with a unique hydrostatic drive unit, and a Kohler ultra-water-cooled diesel engine. The result is a revolutionary zero-turning radius, wide-area, contouring mower. The 425D is an advanced solution for the true freedom of constant maneuverability offering a new level of control and safety. The 425D Articulator® delivers the ultimate in maneuverability, safety and accuracy, allowing you to get close to the edge of your cutting area for a more precise and consistent cut EVERY TIME! This results in increased productivity and reduced fuel costs.

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 Raversoath GC to Seaton Care GC, and also to Craig Parkinson, Course Manager at Martden 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 Shild, 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 misunderstandings and embarrassment caused to all parties after I had left the meeting. Alan Lewis won the Gern Shield for best net.

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

The venue of the spring meeting has changed from Oswestry to Frochold 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 Whitchas 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 course for Hamrie will again run on the Wednesday of the BTME, 19th Jan, free to members, £10 for guests. Pick of the points are Slaley Abbergele 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 had a very interesting lecture on his 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 1.178%. 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 greening 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 blindening new year.

Just one final credit, apologies to my old mate, Andy Campbell. We all make mistakes, but remember, worse things happen to heroes 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 Nee for his efforts to branch out.

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Also please remember to return your Association at the end of November for forms before the closing date, as meals do need more members to support the another post.

Radcliffe-on-Trent on November 3 has unfortunately Peter will be leaving the Graham Arnold, Mark Bindley & very generous sponsorship.

The course was in excellent condition with a colourful backdrop of autumnal trees. Thanks to Andrew Carden Park was mostly under water and starting time have to be booked with the golf club. Results and information regarding the AGM itself will appear next month.

If you wish to make a new year’s resolution, make sure it’s to support more of our events.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and if you wish to make a new year’s resolution, make sure it’s to support more of our events.

Antony Bindley - East Midlands Section Secretary.

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 Ferrall 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 Hugo and Dave Goat. The day honours went to Barry Anderson, Russ Moody and Peter Fell with 62.1 total. They all won Textron Umbrellas.

The winners of the inaugural shield were John Scottney, Andy Thomas, Gil Oglen and Duncan Beal with 60.7 total, who all won Textron jackets. Second place went to Graeme MacDonald, George Verables and John Hewson with 61.3 total, who won Textron Umbrellas, and third place went to Barry Anderson, Russ Moody and Peter Fell with 62.1 total. They all won Textron jackets.

Just before the13th and Andy Thomas at the 4th.

The Order of Merit this year was won by D. Horsey, of Woodfall Spa, who will receive a BGA’s 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 Fouromes Knockout final was held at Woburn Golf Club. The winners were Rod Hunter and Alan Roberts who defeated Paul Lockett and Trevor Morris in the 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 House organised by Andy Smith. This event 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 arranging 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 Treasurer’s absence, he also presented the balance sheet and explained the anticipated costs of golf events for the coming year.

October saw our tournament - Banks Amenity Products, which was attended by 24 clubs.

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

We would like to thank Andy Smith for arranging the prize table, so thanks to Andy Smith for making our day very enjoyable.

We were lucky to have a warm dry day for our autumn tournament, played at Knockworth 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 Kerney 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 Whitaker, Aikley, 37 pts (on a countback).

The Longest Drive was won by Gavin Simkins, of Mount Pleasant GC, and Average Drives was won by 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 buggies for our engagements 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 staff for supporting this event. Knockworth 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 Whitaker; 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 member attendance at our monthly meetings is low. We do have the 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 Oxted Inns weekend we are planning 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 regarding the AGM.

The Turkey Trot took place in November at the Lambourough. 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

Paul Lockett; Handicap Secretary - Neil Whitaker; 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.

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Essex

In November we would have seen the last big football match of this century with England vs. 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 he be spending his holidays this summer."

Now on to more serious matters, our winter golf tournament held at Warstein GC, kindly sponsored by General Insurance, 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 combined to go (and his staff for preparing the course. We would also like to thank Warstein GC and their staff for their kind hospitality, and Ray Driver for an excellent meal.

Results:

Overall winner: Ray Clark 37 pts
1st John Jackson 34 pts
2nd Matthew Allen 28 pts
3rd Dave Croudale 25 pts
4th: Dominion Rogers 24 pts
5th: Mark Spook 32 pts
6th: Malcolm Smith 25 pts
7th: Jack Shelton 24 pts
8th: Steve Thorrsgood 36 pts
9th: Andy Church 32 pts
10th: Longest drive: Steve Croudale (hticic 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, Avoncup, Bourne Amenity, Does, Driving Force Leisure, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor and Bishop Brothers for their donations towards the nuzzle prizes.

Overall these golfers combined with the important AGM at yours truly, "Rockford hundreds", on 15 December. This is your Section so please come along and pass on your views. "We do not bite. As a matter of fact, details are in the post, any problems telephone Martin 01245 605131.

Our next meetings, Pent 189, Ilford GC, and Malcolm Jervis, Chipstead 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, White College, Derek, and his committee (and anyone I have forgotten, no offence) for their continuing support in making this section successful. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dave Wells.

East Anglia

Rookery Park GC was the venue for our October meeting sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds, with thanks to the chairman for excellent hospitality 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 and quite a lot of bugs, but even the greets looking on the trity side.

Many thanks must go to John Beanish 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, the Assistant Captain, and Mr Kely, Rookery Park Secretary.


Thanks to all the trade for their company and for their help with the prize table: Rhone Poulenc (main sponsor), Ben Burgess, CMW Ltd, Collers, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sors, Sisst, Torrison Groundcare and Irons. A big thank you to all. A believed thanks to Collers for the prize at the August meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6 November, 7.30 p.m. in the Baneg Golf Club, the format will be as in the past, three man team Texas scramble (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 01284-452759, 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. The section would like to express its gratitude to the clay's sponsors, Roffeys of Camberley, Trethorne Golf club on Wednesday 20 October. The day started as usual with Roger Parry, Charterhouse/Scotts National Championships at Carden Park in October. The South West and South Wales Section's AGM, December 8 at Bungay Golf Club, the format will be as in the past, three man team Texas scramble (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 01284-452759, or me on 01284-725515. The Texas scramble has shown to be a popular event, so get your entries in early.

Steve Millard

Devon & Cornwall

South West

Not a lot to report this month except to pass on information 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 tournament 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 Garden Park in October. The South West and South Wales Section's AGM, December 8 at Bungay Golf Club, the format will be as in the past, three man team Texas scramble (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 01284-452759, or me on 01284-725515. The Texas scramble has shown to be a popular event, so get your entries in early.

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