Scotland

The Scottish Region is pleased to announce that we are returning to the Dundrum Golf Centre for our annual one day Conference on Tuesday 2nd March 1999. Since last year the College has undertaken a facelift and the new building is tailor made for our needs.

This year’s speakers cover a wide spectrum and we are delighted that they are able to present their papers at our Conference:

- Marcus Sim Sibald who is well known to BIGGA members for his various talks throughout the country who will be speaking on “Safety A Golf course green with a tall, entitled “Golf Greens - Above and below the Turf’.
- John Muir who has undertaken a facelift and the new building is tailor made for our needs.
- Jimmy for all his hard work. We will see this return to his base New York to speak to us on “Preparing for Golf in the 21st Century”.
- The R&A Secretary, Sir Michael Bonallack, with his vast experience of Open Golf, will talk about “How the Open Championship Benefits Golf”.
- From CSGA we have Gordon Holmes whose title will be “Risky Business and turf awareness and Golf Course Management”).
- Dr Iain Young from the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Dundee will try and give us an idea of what really goes on under a golf green with a talk entitled “Golf Greens - a micro-organism view”.
- Also from Dundee we have Liz Thomas, a qualified archaeologist, who will give us an insight into what treasures may be hidden below your feet and I’m sure there are some in this area!
- Finally from Superturf we have John Mullins who will give us his talk “Water Management on the Golf Course”.

In previous years, the Scottish Conference have been supported by all in the greenkeeping industry and we look forward to seeing everyone at Dundrum for what will be a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Peter I Boyd

East

The East Section had our AGM in October and a very successful day it was. The day started with a presentation on “COSHH and Health and Safety by CSGA of Perth and we would like to thank them for their sponsoring of the day which was very informative.

The meeting went very well, with everyone pleased with the way the Section is being run, and the financial position we have put ourselves in, which is down to a lot of hard work by all members of the committee. Jimmy Nelton finished second in the Annual Section Chairman, so we would like to thank Jimmy for all his hard work. We will see Jimmy at all Section events in his capacity as Scottish Chairman as he has just one year to run, so thanks again Jimmy and all the best from all of the committee.

Our new Chairman (who is the past-vice-Chairman) is Tom Murray, Ratho Park. Well done to you Tom, and all the best for the next two years. We have three new committee members: they are Ian Bell, Glenrothes to be treasurer, Gordon, Dintee, Glencorse, and Stuart Townsend, Munnymurla. So we hope you enjoy your time on the committee.

In December we held our annual dinner dance this year the Don Murray Hotel, Aberdeenshire, everybody who attended the dance enjoyed it yet again another great night. The meals and accommodation were once again first class, there was an auction to Mr and Mrs Binns and the rest of the hotel staff. Our thanks also go to the patrons and members who donated raffle prizes for our raffle. The band had the dance floor rocking once more this year, thanks ladies.

The social committee have some very good ideas in the pipeline, for social events in 1999 you will see them first in this column. You will be mailed of future events by early February so be sure to check.

1999 looks a very good year for the Section, so if you know of any people that are not members or have let their membership lapse, tell them the benefits of joining the East Section. We would love to join the association. They can also contact any member of the East Section committee.

If any of you are going to Harrogate BTME 1999, I will be on the bus on the 19th of this month. If this is your first time you will not be disappointed.

Two people who will definitely be in Harrogate will be Craig Pennycook, Wellingborough GC, and George Thomson, Goswick GC, as they are the winners of the Patrons’ Awards 1998. Well done to both of them. Thanks to all the patrons and members who donated raffle prizes for our raffle. The band had the dance floor rocking once more this year, thanks ladies.

The Section Conference was a great success, despite the poor turnout. There were 62 delegates present to listen to six speakers talk about various subjects, all very interesting. Our thanks to all who helped to make the day go so well, especially Secretary, Dougall, who even had a cake on the table for me to time the speakers. It is such a shame that all the hard work that went into putting on the day was marred by a good turnout at the GCSAA Show in Florida where I will be talking to American Superintendents, which I am really looking forward to.

The Section Conference has always been well supported by all members of the Region for providing us with the pleasure of visiting Alan Ferguson, Alan is now Course Manager at Ipswich Town Football Club, where his pitch was recently voted the best in the First Division, if the team can match the quality of the pitch then they will both be winners in the Premiership next season. Best of luck to Alan.

While I am on about former Section members I also had the pleasure of meeting Steve McKay, formerly at Fortrose, has taken Caroline’s position at Fortrose. He has worked with me at Dunfermline Golf Club before moving down south, where he is now Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Surrey and is back up at East Links. Steve is a great guy and working with him will be great. If Steve does not make it then I hope to see him next month at the AGM of the Scottish Region for providing us with the pleasure of visiting Alan Ferguson, Alan is now Course Manager at Ipswich Town Football Club, where his pitch was recently voted the best in the First Division, if the team can match the quality of the pitch then they will both be winners in the Premiership next season. Best of luck to Alan.

As happened last year, for forms of Section events will all be circulated at the same time to save on costs, you are welcome to attend, please contact me as soon as possible in order that numbers can be confirmed. This visit is being organised for the person who was brave enough to wear a Celtic scarf when we visited Ibrox Stadium a couple of years ago. I won’t tell you who it was as you will probably guess.

The final member to join the Section in ‘99 will be our new member, from St. Fillans Golf Club in Perthshire, and we extend a warm welcome to him.

The date for the Spring Tournament in 2000 is 13 April, this means that we now have a few months to think about tournaments for the next two years, so don’t you didn’t enough notice of them.

On a recent visit to Ipswich I had the pleasure of visiting Alan Ferguson, Alan is now Course Manager at Ipswich Town Football Club, where his pitch was recently voted the best in the First Division, if the team can match the quality of the pitch then they will both be winners in the Premiership next season. Best of luck to Alan.

Central

Well! that’s another year come and gone, hopefully this one will be a bit drier than last year and we will have some sunshine for a change.

I hope everyone has sobered up and is in fine fettle for the next big event on the calendar, the BTME at Harrogate. I hope you keep attending this rate golf club members will be impressed by the quality of the papers that keep life just a case of celebrating one event after the other, when in fact it is the pressure that some of them put us under that drives us to celebrate. I was going to say that we had a bit better when club members read the magazine.

At the time of writing I don’t have the exact date for the visit to Parkhead Stadium, this month, but you should have received notice of it by now. If not, and you want to attend, please contact me as soon as possible in order that numbers can be confirmed.

The Telford Golf Club is a new team, from the Patrons’ Awards 1998. Well done to you Tom, and all the best from all of the committee.

A guid New Year to all for 1999 and I hope everyone achieves their greenkeeping targets and ambitions. I am sure most of us are off to the States to learn more about better weather and a good growing season, surely it can’t get any worse.

The AGM was held recently at the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick with the usual usual turnout of the committee and a few. The meeting ran very smoothly with the only real change being Chairman, Jim Hilton, stepping down in favour of his Vice Chairman, Duncan Gray, who duly follows on from his promotion. Derek Wilson was re-elected as Secretary and the Vice Chairman’s position was left vacant to allow the Chairman time to make his appointment. The following members

January 1999 Greenkeeper International 33
were elected to serve on the Committee. Jimmy Johnstone, William McMelkan, Robert Bruce, Harry Diamond, George Boyd, Brian Finlayson, Iain Barr and Jim Paton.

There was a long general discussion on activities within the Section with some ideas being put forward for future assessment. The Committee would like to increase the amount and variety of the Section events, these, of course, will only be possible if they are supported, so tell us what you want and we will try our best to organise it.

We are also trying to plan our golf outings two years in advance. Some venues have been suggested with Derek Wilson inquiring as to their availability. We hope to confirm our meeting - Monday February 8 1999, Parkstone Hotel at 7.30 pm - any more suggestions, let us know.

BTME 99 at Harrogate is almost upon us again which I am looking forward to. I am attending the Irrigation Workshop but somehow I feel a Drainage Workshop would be more appropriate, but then maybe I'll get my New Year's wish. If there's anyone thinking of going, it's well worth the visit, even for a day or two. There should be a good few of our members going if you are looking for a rainy day or why not give Peter Boyd a call. He may have some late vacancies on the Scottish bus. Any news or views, give me a call - 01905 685278. Iain Barr.

West of Scotland

Happy New Year to everybody, I hope you weren't too drunk. If you were as good as me, then I'm sure nobody got into trouble. Can I wish all members good wishes for the new season, hoping the spring and summer are better than 1998.

Only a couple of things to mention. Firstly, BTME: I hope everybody has booked their seats; if not then do try to book as far as all those who attended are concerned. Secondly, the football match previously mentioned, I have been contacted from the Ayreshire Section for a game, so those folk interested please phone me; that's one call, rather than me having to phone 15 people, otherwise no game will be played.

Finally the annual dinner, or Victories, last but not least, anybody with information for the Section phone 0141 942 5554. S. Taylor

North West

I am sitting in front of my computer wondering how to start the Section notes, and finding it difficult because nobody has volunteered any information. So I will just report on the Christmas competition/Presidents day. The competition was played at Wilmslow GC on 26 November and apart from the weather we had a great day.

The day previous had been one of the better days, no rain and a nice drying wind, so with the forecasters promising a similar day on the 26th. I felt happy we had the night day for the competition. Wrong! the rain was hammering down, and it looked as though the day would have to be cancelled, but when we arrived at Wilmslow I was greeted with the sight of Steve Oultram, the Course Manager, just completing mowing the 11th green by hand. Steve and his men were soaked through but, being the dedicated crew they are, they had hand cut all the greens. The fairways were holding puddles of water, but all the greens were in good condition with no water lying on them. About an hour after the rain commenced the rain ceased, and the competition finished without any more rain.

I would like to thank Steve and his staff for all their hard work in having the course in great condition, and for all their efforts in keeping the course open. Many thanks also to Wilmslow GC, for allowing us courtesy of the course, and Gwen Claxton, Catering Manageress, and her husband, David, for a lovely Christmas Dinner, and keeping us supplied with drinks.

The President's Cup was presented by the President, John Walker, to Andrew Bennett the first winner of the trophy. Andrew, one of the Wilmslow staff, had just about dried out by then, and then decided to give himself a good soaking inside. The longest drive, and nearest the pin prizes, donated by Rufford Topdress, were both won by John Berry. Everybody had brought a bottle along on the day, so we all left with a prize. I would like to thank the members of the trade who donated prizes for the table, which were taken before the bottles by the winners.

The AGM went smoothly. Best wishes from all who know you.

Finally I can give the Section's good wishes to Ronnie Bunting, Kilmalcolm GC, I hope you recover quickly from your illness and hope to see you around soon.

Last but not least, anybody with information for the Section phone 0141 942 5554. S. Taylor

North Wales

The Christmas golf meeting and AGM was held at Prestatyn Golf Club. Our thanks once again to the Captain and Committee for allowing the use of their fine club. The course according to the players was excellent as was the weather, so praise must go to Dave Parry and his staff. The results were: 1. Shaun Pritchard 38 pts who was also nearest the pin, 2. Haydn Jones 37 pts, 3. D. Fitzgerald.

Best aggregate for the years competitions went to Ian Buckley. Thanks go to our trade sponsor, Rigby Taylor, Amenity Technology, Acorn ALS, John Osman.

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

North East

THE NEW VERTI-DRAIN MUSTANG

You’ll quick see the benefit

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

Whilst it still features the unique, patented 'heave' action, there are many new improvements, including single point arm adjustment, a stronger tine support system and fewer working parts.
Martin Bros and Walker Engineering - your support is much appreciated.

The AGM that followed was attended by 26 members including the committee and our Regional Administrator, Doug Bell. The committee will remain the same again this year, no one else put themselves up for election so the status quo remains. The issues that were raised at the meeting will be discussed and acted upon, again if any of you out there have any suggestions, criticisms, news etc please contact me on 01824 710693.

The Section has had 30 new members this year, bringing the membership up to 185, when I get the revised list I will welcome all of you and hope to meet you at various functions. As I write these notes on December 3rd I am attending the management course at the Queen Hotel in Chester, yet again it is another superb benefit of being a member of BIGGA. However only three members of the North Wales section have attended. The same can be said of the short courses put on at the college, only six have attended.

I won't say anymore on the subject, please let me know the reasons why turnout is so poor. Still on the educational front I'm sorry about the lack of contact on the NVQ assessor front but at the moment there is only what I can call a state of flux going on. However when I know you'll know, promise!

Again remember the coach trip to BTME, I hope to see you there I will be attending the liaison meeting at the College on December 8th so hopefully I will be able to give you the details of the seminar being held at the College in February in next month's column. Dave Goodridge.

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It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

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And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it's the widest range available anywhere.

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January 1999 Greenkeeper International 35
East Midlands
This year's AGM and Golf Tournament was hosted by Lutterworth G.C on November 12. The AGM itself was nearly completed in the record time of 17 minutes but failed by the narrowest margin of three minutes.
The Chairman, Dave Leatherland, was returned to office as was the Vice-Chairman, Gavin Robson. Treasurer, Richard Barker, and Secretary Antony Bindley, Steven Hoop and Ade Porter were returned as members of the committee.
I would also like to thank the three retiring committee members Graham Arnold, Tim Allard and Kevin Davis for all their hard work while serving on the committee. The Chairman did ask for more members to put themselves forward for next year's AGM, as all committees require new faces which bring in new ideas.
Moving on to the day’s golf which consisted of a team of three, Texas Scramble format. There was only one Cares score under par which came as a surprise to everyone, this was achieved by Richard Barker, Gavin Robson and Kevin Kinzer. 66 Gents, 4.7 HCP, 61 Net, 2. Another Cares score was also recorded by Gary Han and Gary Leatherland with 69-68-62.
I would like to thank Lutterworth G.C, for courtesy of their fine course and also to congratulate Gary Jukes and his staff for presenting an excellent course in such wet conditions. Thanks should also go to the stewed for a really great meal and to all our very generous sponsors Vitax Ltd. Thanks to our sponsor, Rigby Taylor, P J Flegg, Rhone Poulenc, Roffs, Sepaturn. Also be expressed special thanks to P J Flegg who not only sponsored the Christmas tournament but also provided the prizes which have already the two year agreement. The administrator informed members present that the Section made a slight loss on the year of £395.33 compared with a slight profit of £1,174.72 last year. On the back of this the Section made a slight loss on the year he felt that with the continued sponsorship of Section meetings and future cards by the trade, the balance sheet can improve. Also the hope is to receive support at section meetings from the membership to make it succeed.
The Chairman’s report was presented by Vice-Chairman, Terry Farlins.
It opened by congratulating Richard Whytrian on reaching the national finals of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping award and for his tremendous achievement in finishing joint runner up. Also, the Chairman congratulated Jeff Mills on his tremendous achievement in reaching the national finals of the Toro Student of the year finals.
The Chairman considered that the Section is still one of the strongest in the country. This is due to the continued support of the trade without which we wouldn’t be able to survive. He thanked all the trade who had generously sponsored the section meetings, although the section is one of the strongest in the country he felt that it was up to Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to keep support for Section meetings by attending and also not forgetting their staff to attend. With all the work that goes on behind the scenes, it needs your support to make it work.
The Chairman, in his report congratulated our Regional Administrator for being a key member from the Section to become our National Chairman and thanked him for all the hard work he had done over the years. He concluded his report with the information that the AGM will also be held at West Point near Exeter. This is an exciting venture for our Region and again needs the support of our members to make it succeed. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has put a substantial amount of work into this...
project and wished it every success.

The Regional report was presented by Richard Wisdom who opened his report by congratulating Paula on her very successful first year in office which included the magnificent organisation of Westurf 1998, the BTME trip and regional seminar. If you haven’t had a visit from Paula yet you should expect one shortly.

This year’s Westurf was once again far from being a business success, but many exhibitors felt that the event was poorly attended. Because of this, the Regional Board have decided to change the venue to West Point near Exeter. This will provide a larger undercover facility which will hopefully create a greater number of stands.

Richard concluded his report by informing members that the Region’s accounts were in a very healthy state and that poa greens were inevitable no matter what you sowed them with. Thanks go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event and also Saltford’s Gary Greenway who all gave very informative talks. The star of the show was Frank Newberry who made quite an impact on the audience.

The retiring President, John Palfreyman, spoke on behalf of the trade by thanking members for their support. He felt that the Section meetings had the right balance of golf and educational talks taking place. John moved on to Westurf which will be held in the Section at Westpoint next year. He suggested that members knew of other people who are involved within the turf industry and who would be interested in joining the Section. John concluded his report by thanking the section administrator Richard Whyman for all his hard work and support over his term in office which he had enjoyed.

Sections Committee elected. T. Farkins, Chairman & Regional Board member; C. Rawlings, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board member; C. Gosby, Secretary; M. Morgan, M. Samuel, President, (two year term); R. Guntrip, Vice Member; A. Downnett, Vice Member; R. Whyman, Section Administrator; Richard Whyman.

South West

A very happy New Year to all members of the Section. I have taken over the running of Education and Monthly reports from Mac Hare. Mac’s ‘witty’ style of writing developed a small but loyal fan club who will sorely miss him. However, I’m sure he will make the odd guest appearance in future editions of this magazine. All of the hardest members braved the stormy winds and dark rain clouds which descended on Saltford Golf Club for the Autumn Tournament. It was a remarkable feat by Head Greenkeeper Ian McMillan, Tony Rees and Phil Humphries for organising the event. Many thanks go to Paula Humphries for viewing the event and also Supaturf for sponsoring it and Cannington College for hosting it.

The Winter Tournament will take place at Lansdown Golf club in the last week of February. All members will receive a slip that will give them the choice for receiving future invitations or not. This should help reduce postal costs. A new and improved Westurf will take place at the new venue of Westpoint near Exeter on April 27. Anyone requiring further information should contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777. With tougher European Health & Safety laws coming into effect shortly the need for better trained staff is becoming more and more important. Demand for courses next year is expected to be extremely high and the costs of training are likely to rise. It is therefore advisable to get onto a training course now while you still have time to spare. I am compiling lists for the following courses: First Aid, Spraying (PA1, PA2 & PA3), Aggressive Wheel, and Chainsaws. Please contact me on 01249 783382 to add your name to the list. If you are considering a PA2, please state whether you want a tractor mounted spraying course or a Cashman one. If you want me to investigate the possibility of running any other course, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Paul Cunningham.

South Coast

Here we are again, into yet another year. The one before the big one, when all the computers are supposed to go on the blink. A Happy New Year to you all. Let’s hope it brings success to everyone.

To start with I must apologise for no Around the Green report for November of last year. It was sent in good time, but did not arrive at Headquarters. So it has...
to be down to the Postal Service.

Our trip to the Oxfordshire Golf Club went very well. A total of 25 members attended. We were met by David Gosser, the Course Manager, and Brian, the Deputy Course Manager. We were then taken to the Clubhouse, where David and Brian gave us a talk on the history of the course, and the maintenance pro-
grammes that are carried out. This was then fol-
lowed by a Question and Answer session.

We were then given a guided tour of the golf
course. The course was well main-
tained and gave us the chance to see what well
laid out with some very interesting holes.

For the type of course it is, David requires all the staff he has, to maintain it to the high standard that is required. It would like to thank David and Brian for giving us the chance to play such a course.

For reference, the plans of the layout it does
deservably look very inviting. It could be seen as a

Looking at the plans of the layout it does

It's definitely the last call for the

Our Regional/Section Seminar will be held at Sparsholt on 23 February.

For booking forms should be with you shortly. Some very good speakers have been arranged, and questions are welcome. All members are welcome to attend.

Our Section is: Chairman, Carl Croucher; Vice Chairman, Mick Fance; Secretary, Andrew Patel; Handicap Secretary, The Honorary Secretary; Treasurer, Graham Pertwee; and Simon Gidman.

Happy new year! On November 17 we held a seminar on Water Management at the Burrendale Hotel. The seminar was well attended and the following members were invited to the seminar: G. O'Neill 1. S. McGure 2. and 3. N. Weaber. We would like to thank Jim Gillan the course owner, for making us welcome. The seminar included a good insight into the maintenance of the machinery. Last but not least, thank you to all the guests of the course who allowed us to visit The Oxfordshire.

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It's AGM time again. Doesn't time fly

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