Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

East

The new Chairman of the East Section is Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager of North Berwick Golf Club, Stuart has been the Vice Chairman for the last two years and now takes over as Chairman from Jimmy Neilson.

Stuart has got some very good ideas for the future which he has already put into place, so all the best to you Stuart as Chairman of the section.

The Vice Chairman is Tom Murray, Course Manager Ruth Park Golf Club, not as previously printed in the January magazine that Tom Murray was the Chairman, but he will be Chairman in two year's time. So apologies to Stuart for any inconvenience caused by this last article.

Chairman S. Greenwood, Home/Fax: 01620 89 5074; Work: 01620 89 3765; Email: Stuart.Greenwood@btinternet.com; Vice Chairman T. Murray, Home: 0131 333 1403; Work: 0131 333 1425; Some: 0131 333 1425

S. Dixon, Home: 0131 660 3965; Work: 0131 433 0253; Past Chairman J. Neilson, Home: 0131 538 0742


Well, it's only a few weeks from the new season, so hopefully we will receive some good weather! Since my last article in this prestigious magazine, I have attended the BTME at Harrogate in January, which seems to improve year by year, which can only be attributed to everyone at BIGGA HOUSE. Well done everyone for making this an immensely enjoyable show and conference. It was good to see an improvement year on year, which can only be attributed to everyone at BIGGA HOUSE.

Well that's Harrogate past for another year. It just seems to be getting bigger and busier every year. It was good to see some new faces from our Section and the ones I didn't see I guess I have seen them first!

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The irrigation workshop was very informative and interesting for all the other delegates I spoke with, so a big thanks to David Halford, Secretary of the BTLIA, who delivered the workshop along with some other personnel from the irrigation industry.

At a recent committee meeting our golf events were planned for the forthcoming season. The Spring Outing is at Ballachulish Golf Club on Thursday 6 May with the Autumn Outing at the Pines Golf Centre on Thursday 30 September. The Spring Outing will be the new National Tournament Qualifier. More details to follow in next month's notes. It is planned to try and arrange a summer doubles knock-out competition, the format to be a team with at least one BIGGA member partnered with another club greenkeeper or official. All entries will go into a draw and be played either home or away. If there is sufficient interest, details will be finalised and the draw can be made at our Spring Outing. Contact Derek Wilson on 01792 767172.

Well, we can dream! If any other sections have any ideas for outings or events, please get in touch. Sorry, there's not a lot this month but everything seems to be quiet. If you have any ideas for outings or events, please get in touch.
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

unable to attend Hamgagate this year, instead recovering from surgery. Our communications go to you Charlie and we wish you a speedy recovery.

I was reliably informed by Cecil George that the BTME exhibition was an excellent event with some great companies. It was requested that I mention that Bob and his wife were in attendance at the show and I believe that Cecil may even have had a dram or two with Bob! I was informed also that there was a problem with Harry Diamon's legs, while attempting to vacate the coach! Something to do with lack of blood flow possibly after remaining seated for several hours! Who knows? Anyway, this is an event that every greenkeeper should attend if only once, a truly memorable experience, where greenkeepers can meet up with old faces and forge new relationships with people sharing an actual interest in this Grand Profession.

Other news now, a challenge match, between Head greenkeepers and Convener's, has been organised and will take place at Cowal GC. on Wednesday 31 March, entry forms will be in the post soon. The Spring outing is to be held at Berwick Castle G.C. on Thursday 29 April, tee off at 11.30am, entry forms will be sent out shortly, so be sure and return the entry slips as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We'll keep fingers crossed for some fine weather on the day.

Central

We are really moving on recruiting new members to the Section with 18 joining this month. Hopefully this trend will continue throughout the year. Those joining us are Callum Simpson, William Swan, Steven Howie and James Atherton from Lundin Golf Club; Neil Banner and Lloyd Stevenson from Alva Golf Club; David Simpson from Crieff Golf Club; Alexander Drummond from Callander Golf Club; Robert De Rose and Allan McCaughie from The Gareloch Golf Club; Matthew Baird, Patrick O'Sullivan, Christian Kitching, Gordon McFadyen and Patrick Brennan from The Dukes Course, St Andrews; Scott Mackintosh, Gary Todd and Alan Russell from St Andrews Links Trust. Once again we extend a warm welcome to them all and look forward to meeting them at some of our events in the near future.

Continuing on the whereabouts of the Section's Past Chairman, this month's five are as follows: 1960/2 - E. Small who was at Tulliallan GC and is still at Tulliallan GC. 1987/8 - J. Cameron, who was at Callander GC now unknown, can anybody help? 1989/2002 - I. Ritchie who was at Ladybank GC and is still at Ladybank GC now at Portmarnock GC. 1989/91 - W. Steele who was at Grangemouth GC, now at Golf Course Construction. 1990/17 - D. Reddie who was at Allonc G C, still at Allonc GC.

I met up with numerous former Section members during the BTME at Hamgagate in January and Ross Wilson (formerly Kinross) and Ian Ritchie (formerly Ladybank) send their regards to all their friends in the Section.

I won't go on about the BTME as the only way to appreciate it is to be there. The Spring Tournament is at Lundin Golf Club on Thursday 29 March so if you wish to compete in the Charterhouse Scots National Championship at Carden Park, in Cheshire, in October you had better get your entry in fast as the only places left are those who qualify from the Section's Spring Tournament.

Your committee are looking at ways of raising funds for the Section, details of which should be with you very soon and it is hoped that everyone will support our efforts and not the usual half doct in two whose efforts are really appreciated by the committee.

John Crawford

North East

On January 28 we had our first winter seminar at the City of Newcastle Golf Club, the subject was the history of John Deere from the beginning to the present day. Our thanks to Mr. Richard Charlton area sales manager and to Greenlay for sponsoring the evening.

Not a bad turnout as we had 25 greenkeepers attending from as far away as Whitley Bay and Shely Hall, a bit disappointing that there was only one person from the Newcastle area but at least there were apologies from Whickham and Hallgarth lads. Let's hope we have a better turnout at Tynside Golf Club.

Congratulations to Ian Hutton, of Shild Hall, on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Garestfield Golf Club, also to Geoff Mortimore moving from Haltwhistle to Hexham Golf Club. Captain's Day is expected to be played at Garestfield in July probably the third or fourth weekend all persons will be notified.

Jim Richardson.

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.
all have received your fixture lists for the year, and an application form for the seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club. The seminar should be of interest to all of you, and possibly your Chairman of greens, so please support the section and attend the seminar on 23 March.

The annual match against North Wales is on Thursday 8 April and I require a team of 16 to win the GEM Shield, and bring it back to where it belongs. Any members interested please contact me as soon as possible. The Spring Tournament will be played at Fairhaven Golf Club on Tuesday 20 April. Please send your applications plus a cheque for £15 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Liverpool, L9 9RB. Tel 0151 284 4416. No applications will be accepted after Tuesday 13 April.

One member on the move is John Turner who is moving from Keswick G.C. to Bramall Park G.C. John tells me that Keswick G.C. was closed a record number of days last year, due to the amount of rain we had. Hopefully he will be able to mow his fairways this year with a tractor with wheels instead of floats. We wish him and his family good luck. That's it for now. If any member has not received a fixture list please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

Sheffield

On 3 December we held our winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Our thanks go to Mr David Truby, from Scotts Fertilisers, who gave a lecture on fertilisers, which was enjoyed by everyone present.

On 3 February we held our winter lecture at Sitwell Park Golf Club, who I would like to thank for letting us use their facilities while Rotherham was out of action.

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.

The new Mustang joins the market-leading range of Verti-Drains that have outsold and outperformed all competitors for the past 20 years. And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it's the widest range available anywhere.

But one word of caution.

The new Mustang is fast; so fast that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further information or a demonstration of the new Verti-Drain Mustang on 01428 661222.

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Whether tackling thick summer season grasses or thinner winter turf, Toro's rugged and durable Reelmaster 6000 series of fairway mowers delivers power, agility, productivity and a quality cut time after time.

The 6500-D, with its five cutting units, and the 6700-D, with seven cutting units, offer an unrivalled quality of cut. The automated control electronics (ACE) system, which adjusts reel speed to mowing speed for a consistent rate of cut, is combined with Toro's exclusive floating suspension system, resulting in superb ground contouring.

For a perfect finish through thick and thin, you can trust Toro. Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.
Charlton, of Turfcare, for putting the free bus on to Harrogate and buying everybody a pint. Very much appreciated.

Short News Letter this month as I have not had any news. If you have anything at all to tell us, give me a ring or next month I will be forced to tell you about our bunker reshaping at Brancepeth G.C.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

East Midlands

This year’s BTME again proved to be a highly enjoyable event. From visiting Trade stands, attending seminars, meeting old friends and listening to Showaddywaddy, all helped to make this a great week for everybody who attended. However as a Section we would still like to see more of our members supporting this fantastic event. At the AGM, Paddy McCarron was elected to the Association as a Life Member. Paddy has served the Association at Section, Region and National level with great professionalism, and he is still involved with the Association through his work in the Midland’s Region Greenkeepers’ Support Line, and I am sure all members will agree that he fully deserves this honour.

This year’s golf fixture list is now complete, and all members should receive their entry forms, four or five weeks before the date of each tournament. If you do not receive a form please contact me and I will gladly post a copy to you. When returning your entry form please ensure that the correct payment is made and it is returned before the closing date, which is usually two weeks prior to the competition.


Finally if any member is interested in a visit to Aldwark in Mid-April, which will include an overnight stay in a local hotel, and either a game of golf or a lecture, could you please let me know as soon as possible. This will require sufficient numbers before anything can be finalised. So it is hoped that as many members as possible will support the event, to help make it successful.

Antony Bindley.

Midland

I hope the majority of you were able to get to the BTME and experience what a great event this really is. Every year it just gets better and great credit must be given to the staff at BIGGA and everyone who is involved in the exhibition for making it the most prestigious week for greenkeepers in the year and something to look forward to year after year.

There has been some movement in the Section which I will now report on. Andrew Smith has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Shirley Golf Club and John Ganley has taken over from Andrew at North Warwickshire. Good luck to you both in your new positions.

If there are any of you that are interested in doing the NVQ Level 3 and cannot give the time during the day, the Warwickshire College at Morton Morrel are looking to run an evening class, depending on the interest shown. So if you are interested, please contact the college or Andrew Smith on 01676 530114. Finally I would like to introduce you to some new members of the Section - Dean Waldron, Sean Smith, Duncon Underhill and Lee Hitchman.

Jonathan Wood.

Mid Anglia

A visit has been arranged to the new course at Brocket Hall on 30 March. All are welcome to attend; we’ll be meeting at the Greenkeeper’s compound at 1.00 pm.

The entry fee for our three golf tournaments (Spring, Summer and Autumn) has remained at £20.00 for the last four years. Due to increased costs, however, this will rise to £23.00 from April 1999.

The Spring qualifier next month will be a thirty-six hole medal event, with the overall winner and best gross score going forward to the newly formatted National Tournament. Details of this have been sent to all members via the magazine.

The Lodgeway four ball tournament, which goes ahead again this year, will be drawn at the Spring Tournament to be held at Aldwickbury Golf Club next month.
Bucks, Berks Oxon
At last the golfing season is upon us, time to dust all the cobwebs of golf clubs and get a good airing. It always amazes me how many hardy souls continue to thrash it round during the bleak winter months regardless of the weather. My own guideline for getting the clubs out is our Turfcat, strange but true! If I can cut rough in shortsleeves without getting goose bumps then it must be warm enough to play golf!

Simple system, no need to refer to teletext, works every time, except that is when we hold a greenkeepers golf day because it always rains! Getting down to more serious business, the first committee meeting of the year was held at the Springs Golf Club on 3 February. This proved a lively affair with some good healthy discussions taking place as to the forthcoming season. Thanks to Ross and Robert for their contribution in what was their first meeting. The main topic discussed was the forthcoming golf fixtures. The venue dates are as follows: Spring - Beaconsfield G.C., Summer - Donnington Grove G.C., Autumn - The Springs G.C., Winter - Lambourne G.C.

Confirmation of the above venues, along with fixed dates will be sent out with the first entry forms at the end of March.

Please make sure that all membership lists come direct from HQ, so any lapsed membership will result in you being taken off the list. It did happen a couple of times last year so please take care.

With regards to payment for golf days, if you wish to play in any event then you must pay before the date. This allows us to bank the cheques for all arrived at their locations on the correct coach and with the correct suitcase. How about that?

The South West & South Wales Region is indebted to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the coaches to Harrogate and also for the excellent food and entertainment provided for all arrived at their locations on the Wednesday evening Everyone had a wonderful time.

Thanks also are due to Rigby Taylor who part sponsored five greenkeepers over from the Channel Islands. For many of them it was their first visit to the mainland and they thought BTME was just wonderful. It was great to have them with us.

Paula Humphries

South Wales
January's meeting with Richard Dixon at the Welsh College with more than 30 attending was very informal but very interesting on course preparation and the rules of golf. Thank you for your time Richard and I am sure every one who attended would agree.

Last month I said I would report on the BTME. Once again it was an excellent exhibition with a good attendance from our Section. The feedback is that everybody enjoyed their trip to Harrogate, and that congratulations must go to the organisers for the Exhibition and Educational Seminars and to anyone who assisted in the show that gets better each year.

This month's meeting will be held at Fencroft College on Wednesday 17 by Derek Edwards, of Inturf, his presentation will be on the turf for the new National Stadium Cardiff.

Our Golf days will be starting shortly and we, being members of BIGHA, will be playing like a professional body that we are, if all golfers wore BIGHA shirts and would be encouraged to do so at a low cost of £14.95 as shown in the new collection of clothing in the last month's magazine.

Congratulations are in order for Tony Bull with his new official title of Head Greenkeeper of Clyne Golf Club. Also to Henry Fry for 1st prize in his local Horticulture Competition. Well done Henry.

Westurf is only a month away at its new location at Westport in Exeter on 27 April. The new location means we are undercover although there will be outside demonstrations. Also the new look Westurf brings Seminars and Educational Studies so it's going to be bigger and better so don't miss it or miss out. A coach will be running from S. Wales to Exeter for delegates and their wives at a nominal charge.

Contact Peter Lacey for details and to reserve a seat.

Richard Hatcher (01636) 742761.

Devon & Cornwall
The first event of the New Year for many was to attend this year's BTME held as always in the lovely town of Harrogate. The Region's new annual trip to the show took on a new look as the trip was sponsored by Amenity Technology & Westurf which allowed the Region to offer an unbelievable price of only £99 per person. With this it was nice to see so many of the Section's membership taking advantage of the package.

The show itself just seems to get better each year and is now one that you can't afford to miss. On Wednesday afternoon, Amenity Technology put on an evening for delegates which was simply buzzing with atmosphere. Before attending, a few of us raised the kettle evening get-together, which was also superb, especially for John Mitchell as he won second prize in the raffle, a colour TV.

Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula, and Stuart Ashworth, of Amenity Technology, who had organised the superb trip. Also I would like to commend the hostesses at head office for all their hard work in organising BTME.

The Section's first meeting of the year was sponsored by Barenbrug Seed which was held at North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday 27 January. The day started with golfing members competing over the links hole course for prizes kindly donated by Barenbrug UK, our non-golfing members were treated to a morning of looking at and operating the latest computer software which included the excellent Quest mantenance and management programme presented by Guy Coleman, of Wessex Software, and the RainBird computer software covering irrigation systems to irrigation design which was presented by Ross and North RainBird, and Roger Davy, of Omnis Irrigation.

After operating the software our non-golfing members were treated to a course walk by yours truly before returning for lunch.

After an excellent lunch, members were again invited to try out the computer software before our own computer programme by Darren Wilding, of Barenbrug UK. 1. Alan Gwamn, St Mellion, 39 pts; 2. Gary Foster, livestock, 38 pts; 3. Perry Parkins, Dartmouth, 37 pts on back 9.

The Section would like to thank Guy, Mark and Roger for setting up their excellent software programmes for our educational presentation. Also, our thanks and appreciation to our generous sponsors, Darren and Barenbrug, for without them this meeting would not have taken place.

Thanks also to my crew of Jason,olly and Craig who always work so hard to present the course at its best. Last but not least our thanks must go to Bude & North Cornwall Golf Clubs and their staff for the use of their facilities and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly. Our last meeting of the winter programme will be the Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf meeting which will be held at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 24 March. The day will start as always with golfing members competing for the Supaturf Trophy (Head Greenkeepers) and Rhone Poulenc Trophy (Assistants). This event will also be the Section qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts Golf Championship with the best net and gross score going through.

Westurf is now just around the corner. With the show moving to Westport at Exeter this must be a show you can't afford to miss, so let's see big attendance from the Section and support the Region so the region can support you.

Remember that Westurf is now at Westport, Exeter on Tuesday, April 17th.

Richard Whyman

South West
The "Cream" of the South West gathered at Pencoed College on 28 April. This month's meeting to be held at Wells G.C., on Wednesday 17 May by Mark, from Pencoed College on Wednesday evening. Everyone had a wonderful time.

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Richard Whyman.
in Exeter on 27 April. For any informa-
tion please contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.

Hopefully you should have received BIGGA Education and Training sheet, which outlines the various courses that we can offer. This includes information on course content and prices. If you would like to attend one of these courses, please telephone me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

South Coast

Our January lecture at Canterbury Magna went off very well. There were just over 50 members in atten-
dance. It was very gratifying to see so many there. It was also nice to meet up with Eric James again. Well done to all those who attended.

The day started off with a talk by Stuart Ashworth, from Amenity Technology Products Ltd. Stuart gave us an insight into the uses of all the latest technology into the biologi-
cal and organic approach to reducing the bacteria in the soil. In so doing, reducing the use of fungi-
cides. This does seem to be the way forward. Judging by the questions and answers there still seems to be a long way to go. None the more for that, it was a very interesting subject and gave us plenty of food for thought.

This was followed by a talk from Ian McMillan who I am sure needs no introduction. His talk was "Tak ing Golf Courses Into The Year 2000 And Beyond". Ian showed us some brilliant slides of his golf course at Hanley Common. This included all the conservation work that has been done to his heathland course. A lot of the heather has been revege-
nated, and a number of trees have been removed. This has brought back a lot of the wild life and improved the golf course. No end. Once again the question and answer session was very lively. Two very good talks. Those of you who didn’t make it were the losers.

On completion of the talks we sat down to lunch. This was provided by Amenity Technology and Sheerwater Leisure. We would like to thank them both for their kind hospitality.

The afternoon was a bit of a wash-out. We were supposed to have gone out for a game of golf. However the weather was atrocious. I’m not sure whether there were any brave ones among us. There was no other word for it, it was just “chucking it down”. Once again thank you to our spon-
sors and our speaker for a wonderful day.

Unfortunately I could not make it to the trip this year. By all accounts the weather was atrocious that I have had it was better than ever. However Kerran Daly has made a report on the Region’s trip. The South West region trip to BTME was once again a roaring suc-
cess. Ninety six people signed up for the trip, the highest number ever, and two coaches were required. The coaches were sponsored by Amenity Technology and we thank them very much for their hospitality and sup-
port. One of the most exciting things was the number of new faces present and it was particularly pleasing to have eight members from the Channel islands along for the ride. I hope they did not find us mainlander-
toos strange!

Delays on the M1 due to road works and accidents, combined with geographical difficulties for one of the drivers led to the abandonment of the scheduled visit to the new HQ building at Aldwark. This was a shame but most were relieved to get to the hotel in time for a shower and some refreshment before hitting the town for the food and entertainment which Harrogate has in abundance.

The BTME show was very busy with attendance up on last year. The highlight of the seminars was the opening address by Frank Dick OBE which was truly inspirational. The AGM passed off relatively quietly with Gordon Child elected for another year as Chairman and Kerran Daly replacing Robin Greaves as the South West’s repre-
sentative on the national board. The banquet on the final evening was enjoyed by all who attended. The dance floor was very crowded with all sorts of unlikely rockers strutting their stuff to some rock and roll classics.

All too soon the exhibition was over and it was time to take the long trip home. The South Coast Section wish to thank all involved in the organisation of the show and a spe-
cial thank you to Paula Humphries for all her hard work arranging the trip and the excellent hotel accom-
mmodation. Highlight of the week was surely the Imperial Hotel breakfasts. They alone will ensure that I will be visiting Harrogate again next year. I urge all who have not yet been to put it down in your diary for next year. It is planned to be a special millennium BTME. You will not be disappoint-
ected.

Kerran Daly

One more reminder for Westurf. I mentioned in last month’s magazine that a coach will be laid on for all of you who wish to attend. At the time of writing this report we have not had a lot of calls. The coach is spon-
sored. All you have to do is phone Jeff or your Secretary, myself or any other member of the committee to book your seat. Westurf has a new venue, and it looks very exciting, it is an enclosed venue, so no matter what the weather, the show will go on. There will be seminars during the day on Water Management. It should be a very busy day and plen-
ty to see.

Date for your Diary: 4 May 1999

Spring Tournament Canterbury Magna Golf Club.

Ken Lodge

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Surrey
Surrey Section committee’s last meeting was on 11 January 99 and there are some changes which all members should be aware of.

Firstly, we must thank our good friend Ted Stiles for the magnifi-
cent job he has done over the past years as Section Secretary.

Unfortunately for us he has decided to step down and really get to grips with his retirement. Ted, we wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you at the Gentleman’s Dinner in March.

Other changes to the committee include Dave Delderfield’s appointment as the new Chairman and Ian Sellar’s has taken over Ted’s role as Secretary.

If you have any queries regarding any event or if you are not receiv-
ing information through the post and wish to be included in the list please let me know.

We had a very interesting talk from Billy McMillan on his views and experiences on Golf Course Management sponsored by Gem. Thanks to John Sinclair for organis-
ing this event and to Writte College for the use of the room.

The 35 members present had a good evening. The next evening lecture at Witley College is on 23 March: Jon Allutt talking on Health and Safety. One not to miss.

We have six new members: Gordon Scott, North Weald G.C., Peter Cannon, Colchester G.C., Mark Singleton, Abridge G.C., Jamie Steele, Chelmsford G.C., Kevin James, Chelmsford G.C., and James Winslade, Chelmsford G.C.

We have a confirmed date of 19 October 1999 for Wanstead Golf Club.

I’d like to thank Mick Fance all the best in his new job with the Greenkeeping Supply Company.

Better go and see how the fairway cutting is going. See you soon.

Dave Wells.

Kent
In December we held the annual Christmas Turkey Shoot at Darenth Valley G.C. I’d firstly like to thank Darenth Valley for the courtesy of the course and for the Turkey they donated as first prize in the raffle. Secondly I’d like to thank Nigel Stapley and his staff for the excellent condition of the course which we greatly appreci-

The AGM was held at Royal C Down on 19 September 30100 and the new “sidewinder” and Alan Strakon spoke about the changes at Royal Co Down since he commenced his position there.

David and Dolway Johnston were keen to launch their agency for Toro machines and their back up. Many thanks to Graham Wylie, S.E. Chairman, and David Johnston for organising the event and to all the speakers and Cyril Johnston Co Ltd. for an excellent day and lunch.

The speakers were Dave Sturgess, Hatfield, who held a seminar at Stakis Park to launch his new range of Scotts Products. The event was very well attended by all sectors of the Amenity Market. We would like to thank John for inviting all BIGGA members and for letting us use Cyril Johnston Ltd. for an excellent day and lunch.

Other news is our first golfing event of 99 which will also be the qualifier for the BIGGA challenge. This will be held at Royal C Down G.C. on the last week in March 1999 and letters will go out to members with the exact date of that day.

Jonathan McCabe.

North East
At present we are enjoying quite a mild spell and getting plenty of work done. Things here have been fairly busy for the first few months of 1999. In early January we enjoyed a day out courtesy of John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf, who held a seminar at Stakis Park to launch his new range of Scotts Products. The event was very well attended by all sectors of the Amenity Market. We would like to thank John for inviting all BIGGA members and for letting us use Cyril Johnston Ltd. for an excellent day and lunch.

The following week NIGGA invited us to a computer seminar at Greennmount College. This was also very well attended. Shandon Park GC won £1000 worth of software for which there was a section for any comments or recommenda-
tions you would like to make.

It was nice to see a few of you at Harrogate and I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. Hopefully it might stop raining soon and we might be able to get out on the course again. If you know of anybody on the move or have any news or comments, then contact us on 01474 879200.

Kneale Diamond.

Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland's first outing was in November when we enjoyed a day out courtesy of John for the BIGGA charity Shield. Surrey Section

By the way, for any event or if you are not receiv-
ing information through the post and wish to be included in the list please let me know.

Charlie Shield. Surrey Section's committee's last meeting was on 11 January 99 and there are some changes which all members should be aware of.

Firstly, we must thank our good friend Ted Stiles for the magnifi-
cent job he has done over the past years as Section Secretary.

Unfortunately for us he has decided to step down and really get to grips with his retirement. Ted, we wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you at the Gentleman’s Dinner in March.

Other changes to the committee include Dave Delderfield’s appointment as the new Chairman and Ian Sellar’s has taken over Ted’s role as Secretary.

If you have any queries regarding any event or if you are not receiv-
ing information through the post and wish to be included in the list please let me know.

We had a very interesting talk from Billy McMillan on his views and experiences on Golf Course Management sponsored by Gem. Thanks to John Sinclair for organis-
ing this event and to Writte College for the use of the room.

The 35 members present had a good evening. The next evening lecture at Witley College is on 23 March: Jon Allutt talking on Health and Safety. One not to miss.

We have six new members: Gordon Scott, North Weald G.C., Peter Cannon, Colchester G.C., Mark Singleton, Abridge G.C., Jamie Steele, Chelmsford G.C., Kevin James, Chelmsford G.C., and James Winslade, Chelmsford G.C.

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