Ayshire

There have been a couple of vacant columns during the summer months because there has been absolutely no news or views and really nothing much has changed.

The autumn outing is scheduled for the Piper Golf Centre in Dumfries where our Chairman, Duncan Gray, will welcome us to his course. This is on Thursday 30th September with the usual format for our golf outings. Secretary, Denis Wilson, will have letters out soon with all the arrangements and an entry form so get it returned in plenty of time to let him confirm the numbers with the Pines for tee times and caterers etc. News has reached me of one member on the move, Michael Byrne is leaving West Kilbride to join the turfing industry with local company Total Turfing. Our best wishes go to Michael with his new job.

Any news or views can be obtained from our social convenor, Stuart Crawford, on (home) 01620 893 765 or (work) 07979 452 097.

North

More new members to welcome to the Section this month, numbers are now standing at 257 for this year. Rejoining us and now working at Peterhead is Steve Simpson, and new members are Greg Smith, Fortrose; Maurice Haddow, Brechin; Alistair Scott, Montrose for not mentioning him in an earlier report of North members in the Support news at Aberdeen, came out on top of the leaderboard on the Pines Golf Centre in Dumfries where our Chairman, Duncan Gray, will welcome us to his course. This is on Thursday 30th September with the usual format for our golf outings. Secretary, Denis Wilson, will have letters out soon with all the arrangements and an entry form so get it returned in plenty of time to let him confirm the numbers with the Pines for tee times and caterers etc. News has reached me of one member on the move, Michael Byrne is leaving West Kilbride to join the turfing industry with local company Total Turfing. Our best wishes go to Michael with his new job.

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Central

How long did you search for last months news? There is never a lot to report at this time of the year with everybody too busy on their course or on holiday, hence the reason for the blank month. Members keep promising me they will put something in but I'm still waiting on them to arrive, so you just will have to put up with my rambling on. No comments please!

Forms for the Autumn Tournament, at Balgownie Park, Markinch, have been circulated along with your allocation of tickets for "Club 2000". It is important that every member supports this venture in order for it to be successful, so please try and sell your tickets. If anyone needs extra tickets please just get in touch with me and I will send them out to you. There is a deliberate mistake on the "Club 2000" letter, that's my story and I'm sticking to it! So the first person to sell their tickets and write to me with this mistake will receive a prize mystery.

The proposed football match against the West Section failed to take place for a couple of reasons, but it will be organised for later in the year. Speaking of football, has anyone seen A.OHL, you know who he has missed the last two Section committee meetings and there have been reports of him being spotted in Blackpool. I am led to believe, by another member of the Leven Links Sporting Club, he of the cananning fame, that he has taken up "synchronised swimming". Maybe that's why he was in Blackpool.

Congratulations go to Ian MacMillan on his appointment as Course Manager at Murrayshall in Perthshire. Every success for the future Ian. Hope everything goes well for you.

Andy Fraser has left Stirling for pastures new, and we wish him well for the future.

Former Section committee member, John Bashford, from Kinross, has not been keeping too well lately and has spent some time in hospital. Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to John from everyone in the Section.

Secretary, Archie Dunn, spent a week in America working at Firehurs during the US Open and from all accounts it was an experience that he will never forget. I'm trying to get him to give a talk about it at a seminar sometime in the near future.

The winners of last years Inter Club Tournament are Leven Links B team, who have been awarded the tie as they won the first leg, and their opponents Tulliblan A team failed to agree on a date for the second leg.

Next month sees the National Tournament, at Garden Park, and we send best wishes to our two representatives, Kenny Stirling and Sean McMillan for a successful tournament and hopefully they will come home with some silverware, if not, I am sure they will have a great time. Next year qualifying will be based on scores from both the Spring and Autumn Tournaments.

John Crawford

East

We are running a Section prize draw at our annual dance on the 4th of December at the Kilspindie House Hotel. Tickets are on sale now and we need you to sell them for us. There are some very good prizes available so hopefully we (members of the East Section) friends, family, etc can sell all some before the draw in December. So come on it's you, the member, and the Section who will benefit from the money raised.

The tickets are available from Craig Petts at 0131 654 2913. As I have already mentioned the annual dance is at the Kilspindie House Hotel, more details will be available shortly or details can be obtained from our social convenor, Stuart Crawford, on (home) 01620 893 103 (work) 01620 893 765.

People on the move this month are Gordon Trotter who is leaving Glenbeg to take up an appointment in Canada at the Royal Toronto Golf Club. Gordon has been a member of the East Section for a number of years, so the tournament and the rest of your friends in the Section would like to wish yourself, your wife, Nicole, and son, Blair, all the best for the future and don't forget to drop me a line if you come across anything of interest let me know or you could send me an email when I get my modem working currently.

The Section presented Gordon with an engraved quaich to remind him of all his friends in Scotland when he is in Canada.

Other people on the move are Frank Forrest who has joined my team at Swanson as assistant Greenkeeper. Frank joined us from a temporary position at Newbattle. All the best to him.

When you read this you will have received your entry forms for the Willie Woods tournament at Glencourse and the autumn tournament Newbattle at the end of September. Get them back before the closing date as no entries will be accepted after these dates. You have been warned.

Also, don't forget BIGGA code of dress must be adhered to at all times while attending these tournaments.

Chris Yarman

North West

I have recently returned from The Open and what an eventful time it was. The course had been set up beautifully and was a credit to John Philp and his staff. It was tough with narrow fairways, and plenty of rough, but had been set up to test the best professional golfers, and it certainly did that. Some of the pros whinged about the tough but they had thousands of ball spotters lining the fairways, so they should not have had any problems.

The Frenchman gave us all a laugh with his antics in the water, (I think he should have taken out a bucket and spade, instead of a set of clubs) but the winner Paul Lawrie showed them how to play the final holes with two magnificent birdies.

The Support Team all enjoyed their involvement even though this year we were not required to send in an early team, or a flight arranger with narrow fairways, and plenty of rough, but had been set up to test the best professional golfers, and it certainly did that. Some of the pros whinged about the tough but they had thousands of ball spotters lining the fairways, so they should not have had any problems.

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drought team in the evening. I would like to thank all the Support Team for being punctual at the 1st tee, making my job easier.

On September 9th we have the Autumn Tournament at West Lancashire and if you have not already registered give me a ring and I will see if I can fit you in. September 15th is the Cumbria Cup at Penrith sponsored by Cotswold Cams and I sbi invitation. The match against the Golf Club Stewards is at Burnley on 27th September and I need a team of 16 for what is always a great day. That seems to be the NV because nobody has got married, no babies born, changed their job or won the lottery at least if they have, they have not told me, but if anything like that happens to you, give me a ring 0151 7245412.

Ben Cross

North Wales

Hey, I've got something to write about The Open. John Philip and team, R&A Championship Committee and the 'best' here. That should be fine because they don't like it, that was the best tournament we've seen in 25 years in the game, hats off to the Scots they organised it, prepared it and won.

John Philip did greengrass putting with his comments in the press and the R&A gave him their full backing. How many of you reading this get the same from your committee? I said.

Our Education Officer, Phil Davies, is in the process of organising our series of Autumn Winter lectures. Subject matter will include, Research and Development in the Chemical industry, Noise Pollution, Rules of Golf and the Greenerkeeper, Soil Science and Management, and CDA. Sprayers on the Golf Course. These will take place between September and April and the full list will be sent when dates and venues have been confirmed. If any of you out there did like certain subjects to be covered please ring Phil on 01745 865447 or 0966 466731 and he will do his best to organise it.

I would like to remember, the Autumn meeting is at Nefyn GC on 13 October, entry forms will be sent to your shortly If, for any reason, you don't receive one please get in touch with me on 01492 593646 or 0961 806519. Gary Edwards.

Cleveland

At last we have had a bit of sun. Here at Binbeckery we are running around like bronze gods.

I think we should congratulate two greengrowers from Wearside, Phil Hargreave, Assistant Student of the Year at Hoaghill Golf Club and Richard Wood, a former student of Torco Student of the Year. Very well done.

Apart from that the Section is quiet. If anyone would like to take over the news section please see the Secretary as I am stepping down in December.

On a final note David Jobey, Deputy Head Greenerkeeper at Binbeckery, had the snip done and was very proud to show off his very swollen bits to anyone, male or female, who wanted to look.

Kevin (Scoop) Heaslop

Northern

There has been much happening this month. Probably due to everyone being too busy at work. The weather during July has been extremely hot and dry, testing out even the most efficient of irrigation systems.

Dave Bottomley has moved to Acorn Equipment as their 'mobile' sales representative. Acorn are a well established company in other areas, but are new to Yorkshire and the surrounding parts. Most of you will remember Dave as the equipment rep for Riggby Taylor.

Scotts have been enquiring within the Section to see if greengrowers would be interested in a day trip to their fertiliser manufacturing plant. If there is sufficient interest, then a trip may be arranged for later in the year. Travel and food would be provided by Scotts.

Anyone wishing to book places in the two remaining golf events must do so quickly as places are running out. The Autumn Tournament is to be held at Bradford (Hawskworth) on 20 October and the Winter Golf at Fulford on 8 December. Entries will only be accepted with payment of £15, no later than two weeks prior to the event date.

If anyone has any news from within the Section, please contact me at 1 Cooley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA or telephone on either 01484 317813 or 07888 442755. Simon Hepplestar

The 1999 Midland Region Seminar will be held once again at Mickleover, an excellent venue, on 17 November. Frank Newbury will be speaking along with Cedric Gough, Course Manager, Broadway Golf Club and former Greengrower of the Year, Denis Nuttall, Golf Rules Expert and former PGA Regional Secretary, Jonathan Carr, Amenity Land Services, and a BIBCA Headquarters representative. Application forms for attendance at the Seminar are inside this issue of Greenerkeeper International, and can also be obtained from the Midland Regional Administrator, Peter Larter 01480 457307. Members of the Midland Region, please make an effort to attend what promises to be a very interesting day.

Peter Larter

Midland

The summer tournament took place on 8 July. We seem to be blessed with very good weather conditions for our summer tournament and this day was no exception, very hot and the 18 holes felt like 36.

Many thanks on behalf of the Section to the all the greengrowers who provided us with a good test of golf and well presented course. Many thanks also to the catering staff who provided the evening meal. The winners were as follows: 1. Gross T. Cheese; 1. nett D. Fellows, 2. nett A. Roberts; 3. N. Bird; 4. M. Hughes; 5. R. Thomas; 6. M. Jones.


Thank you also to our main sponsors Rokokan, Graham A. Macle. Prizes and wine and Sunset, J. Mims, of Superturf.

Our next tournament will be held at Ross On-Wye on 15 September. If there is anyone who has any news or information please contact me on 01562 861 434 and I can get it put into this article and make more interesting reports with the information that you the members require to hear and see.

Jonathon Wood.

East of England

David Hornsey of Woodhall Spa, had a day to remember at Lincoln, Tonksley. David took home the prize, the longest drive and the nearest pin.

Dale Gazda, from Kentwick Park, and Graeme Macdonald, Newark, both lost on countback to David, also on 35 points.

The competition was sponsored by Burslers Groundcare and it was nice to see Norman Burden playing and presenting some superb prizes. Other sponsors on the day were Greempride, who sponsored the nearest pin. Also Ricky Taylor, Tower Sports which were Tower Chemicals, Roy Harrison, Bob Hewitt and Graham Bell, John Deere.

It was a pity that Head Greenerkeeper Derek could not make the dinner, but it was his 60th birthday! But his work colleagues Adi and Andy Lou, Lou and Greens Chairman Keith Whaley were praised by all who played. Graeme Macdonald.

South East

Derek Farrington

Tel: 01039 230995

Essex

For those of you who have had your holidays you hope you had a relaxing, stress free time away from work and for anyone with their holidays still to come, keep our fingers crossed that the weather holds out for you.

This month's report is dominated by a hectic golfing period. During July we saw the annual Essex Captains v Greenkeepers match held at Romford. For the first time in many a year the greenkeeping team were victorious, well done all who attended. Individual greeninghkeep prize: 1. Paul Copsey, Burnham, 45 pts; 2. John Jackson, South East, 38 pts; 3. Andy Sheehan, Bentley, 35 pts; 4. Richard Pride, Thornton, 33 pts. On behalf of all the attending greengrowers I would like to thank Romford Golf Club and staff, the Essex Captains for their kind generosity and Binnie Brown and his staff for having the course in excellent condition.
The month of August saw the Section hold its Autumn tournament at Thornham Park Golf Club on the 4th. The sponsor for the day was Tooting Golf Club and we had over 100 golfers to go to Richard Lewis and our thanks goes to Richard Lewis and the company for donating the prizes.


Our next golf competition is on the 19th October to be held at Wanstead golf club. Please do not forget the south east regional seminar at Writtle College November 16th, details will be sent out shortly.

Bob Chesham has used since 1963 has finally gone to Richard Lewis and the company for donating the prizes.

As some of our members are aware, Cuddington have for many years had a problem during winter with extremely wet greens. This was apparently caused by their original construction being on a day base, lime when there was very little winter play but unacceptable now that club members want to play all year round. Stuart Sheppard, the Course Manager, informed me that work would start on replacing all the old greens on August 2 to be replaced with new greens built to USGA specification and that the turf was already being grown in Lincolnshire.

The expected completion date is to be early November and this includes a new irrigation system to tees, greens and approaches. There will be 20 new greens and play is estimated to start June 2000. Stuart would be pleased to show his fellow greenkeepers how his work progresses.

On 5 August, Surrey Section played the annual competition at Sunningdale for the McMillan Tankard. We all thank Sunningdale for courtesy of the course, the arrangements of their clubhouse and an excellent buffet, but special thanks to Brian Turner for presenting the Old Course in such magnificent condition. The results were 1. John Rows 39 pts.; 2. Brian Turner 38 pts.; 3. Peter肺炎 37 pts.; 4. Nigel Colley 37 pts. Thanks to Jack McMillan for presenting the prizes and to Ted Stiles for starting and chairing the day. Sponsored by Grass Roots Ltd. The next golf competition will be at Royal St David's , Barry on 14 September. Cost £16, followed by the Autumn Tournament at Richmond on 17 September. Remember to contact Ian Selars if you have not received an application form for both days. 0978 719 46.

Brian Willmott

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East Anglia

On August 10 61 members descended on Bury St Edmunds for our Autumn Meeting. The Secretary, John Sayer made us most welcome and Steve Millard, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff had worked hard to provide us with a very testing and well presented golf course. Thanks for the pin placements, Martin. May I take this opportunity to thank John Sayer, John Cook, the Club Captain, all the Clubhouse staff and Steve Millard and his greenkeeping staff for an excellent days golf, thank you all. Larry Pearmain and Eddie Scale, from Toro, were our main Sponsors for the day and they supplied a splendid prize table, again our thanks go out to you for sponsoring the day and the event on an annual basis.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we all had a very enjoyable day and it was nice to see some old friends Chris Crimin, Captain from Titchford and Pat Swann the new Head Greenkeeper from Rushmere who joined us for the first time.

I also would like to thank Bury's Captain, John Cook, for his company on the course and, during the proceedings of the meal and the speeches, he helped make the day.


We had Mike Taylor, a trade member from Tomlinson Groundcare, turn up to his first golf meeting, it was his first 18 holes and he never lost a ball and scored a creditable 11 points. On to a sad note. The golf ball that goes to Richard Lewis and the company for donating the prizes.

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We had Mike Taylor, a trade member from Tomlinson Groundcare, turn up to his first golf meeting, it was his first 18 holes and he never lost a ball and scored a creditable 11 points. On to a sad note. The golf ball that Bob Chesham has used since 1963 has finally fallen apart, it had been out of shape for a few years and Bob had become quite an expert at putting, allowing at least two yards either side of the hole so it could arc its way to the cup. After telling his tale to a friend he was given a new ball, which has given him another problem, his putting has gone down hill and he says it will take at least six months of practice to get it going again. In November the Essex Section will be holding the Regional Seminar at Writtle College. Could we have a good turnout from the Section for this event.

I have received a letter from Derek Farrington thanking us all for the get well card. He said he was on his feet recovering from his operation. But the summer is only so long and is now slowly drawing to a close which means autumn is once again around the corner and with it the start of our Autumn and Winter meeting programmes which will start this year at Titchborne on 20 October.
The morning's golf competition will be a single's Stableford competition for the D.O. Hunt Trophy, for our non playing members there will be the usual course walk which will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1 pm followed by our afternoon educational talk by Bernard & Co on keeping your edge all year round.

Golfing members please note entry details for our forthcoming meetings: After receipt of your completed entry form which will have been sent out to you or your course manager - Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced, pairings will be accepted for our foursome and greensome competitions - A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date - As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Regional educational dates to note, 24 November Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College, 18 - 21 January, Region trip to BTME at Harrogate. For more details on regional events contact Paula Humphries. You should have received your new fixture card which has this year been kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor, the fixture card has dates of all our forthcoming events, if you haven't received yours yet please let me know.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Another reminder for our Autumn Tournament. It is to be held at Shanklin and Sandown on the Isle of Wight. The date, 14 October. All details were in the August report. What we ask for more than anything, is that all those wishing to play contact Fred.
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Ian Harrison, Course Manager at Bangor, and his team had the course in excellent condition on the day. Unfortunately many of the players struggled in the intense heat, but a few managed to put together respectable scores.

Nick Webber, from Portstewart, had a fine gross of 72 to give him 49 points and claim the visitors prize. The South East Section first prize was a colour TV, which went to Paul Lapin with 33 points; second prize a portable CD sound system went to Terry Crawford with 31 points; Ian Harrison claimed 3rd prize, a radio cassette player.

Once again thanks to Derek for providing excellent prizes. Derek specialises in all types of metal fabrication and engineering work, such as railings, gates, grills, modifications and fabrication work to order, for many of the local clubs. He can be contacted on 02891 471703 or 07801 289170.

South West
A magnificent total of 49 section members turned up for the Summer Tournament held at Lilley Brook on July 22. On arrival at the club many of us were struck by the superb appearance of the course and the wonderful variety of trees which were enhanced by the sunny weather.

The competitors were sent on their way off the first tee by Paula Humphries, along with Martin Townsend who handed out Scotts caps, which became very useful in the glare of the sun.

The actual playing of the course lived up to its initial appearance. Everyone who played the course was in agreement that the greens were in excellent condition and extremely fast. Indeed the club captain of Lilley Brook, Mike Allcot was so worried about the weather that he shut the club. Fortunately many of the players struggled in the intense heat, but a few managed to put together respectable scores.

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109074. Thanks also to Bangor for the courtesy of the course on a most enjoyable day. The Section would like to welcome some new members, Paul Mathison, Head Greenkeeper at Holywood; James Hankins, Malone; David Wilson, Conway Murphy and Michael Haughian, all from Silverwood.

Due to members lack of response the August BBQ was cancelled.

Jonathan McCabe
North East

Stanley Emerson held his North versus South Golf Greenkeepers match at Stakis Park in July for the "Stanley Emerson Trophy". The match finished in a three all draw with the Southern Greenkeepers winning the tie-hole. There were also a number of four ball matches, best score was by Joe McBride with 37 points, second was Mark Cassidy with 34 points. The weather was glorious and the day was finished of with a few drinks and a very enjoyable meal.

Emerson's would like to thank all the Greenkeepers who turned up, many of them travelled a distance to take part. Also to Stakis Park for hosting the event and all the Green staff for having the course in such good order. Many who played said it was an excellent course with first class facilities.

Special thanks to the Course Manager Frank Ainsworth and Joe English for organising the event and making everything run so smoothly.

Eamonn Farrell

See you all next month!

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