North
Several new members to welcome to the Section this month and they are as follows:
Michael Grant, from Reay GC; Gregor Norrie, from Letham Grange GC; James Swanson and Michael Macleod, from Spey Bay GC and, last but not least, Barry Macdonald, from Forrest GC. Rejoining the Section are Charlie Mackay, from Aberdeen Petroleum GC, and Dougie Boyle and Colin Forbes, from Tainland GC. We hope to see you all at future Section events.
The Scottish Greenkeeping Championships at Newmacher in late June were a great success with lovely weather and a superb golf course presented for us by the team of Mr. Paul Thomson and the staff. The only downside was the size of the field, especially from other Sections.
I know that Aberdeen is way up North, but I travelled down to the event in good numbers when it is South and George Thomson and his lads from Goswick in North East England managed to make the journey up, in fact, despite it being in our Section, my staff and I had a three hour journey to attend.
A lot less than coming up from Glasgow or Edinburgh I bet!
Not surprisingly, North Section members featured heavily in the prize list, with the main winners being Steve Frost, Royal Aberdeen, overall handicap winner. Robert Thorsen, Ra Aberdeen, best Head Greenkeeper, Ian Cowper, Tain, best Apprentice, James MacCormack, Kirriemuir, best in Class 1 and Gavin Neill, Tain, best in Class 2. The Section also won the team Trophy for the condition of the course, John, the caterers was much appreciated especially by the winners.
Congratulations to John Waite for his hole-in-one on the 15th. A bottle of whisky was presented to John who then filled everybody’s glasses up, as is the measure of the man. Many thanks to Ian Pullen and his team for the condition of the course, it was much appreciated by all concerned.
The breakfast for the day was a full hcp. Stableford, the results are as follows:- Div 1. John Waite 39pts (1st Div Cup); 2. Richard Harris 36pts (Scratch Cup); 3. Alan Baxter 36pts Div 2. The Bill Mountain Trophy went to Tito Arana with 33 points. 1. Roy Armitage 29pts; 2. Andy Smith 29pts; 3. Richard Smith 27 pts. Div 3. 1. Joe Baxter 35pts; 2. Nigel White 24pts; 3. Jim Brown 24pts. Longest Drive went to Alan Court and the Nearest the Pin on the 13th went to John Waite. Trade Prize went to Mel Guy.
The team to represent the Section in the Regional Final at Fiswick Hall GC on August 10 at 1 pm are as follows. Div 1. Richard Harris and Dave Collins. Div 2. Alan Baxter and Brian Hudson. Div 3. Jim Brown and Nigel White. This was decided on medal play. Thanks go to Dennis and Gary for sorting the two formats out from the cards on the day.
Qualifiers for the National Championship are Best Net, John Waite 68, Best Gross, Richard Harris 76.
Due to low numbers at golf days it was decided at the last committee meeting to lower the price to £15 to include golf, prizes and food. This starts from Invitation Day.
Our next event is Invitation Day at Cookridge Hall Golf Club on Wednesday 6 September. Please note that Invitation Day is for inviting club officials (eg Captain, Greens Chairman etc) All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £15.00 no later than 7 days before the event. Cheques to made payable to BIGGA Northern Section. Entries will be on a first come first basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.
We welcome this month a new member, Robert Boyle, of Brae Ghyll Golf Club.
You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any queries don’t hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring. There is no other news at the moment, if anybody has any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188/mobile 07790 678372.
Andrew Smith

North West
The Summer Tournament was played at West Derby Golf Club on 28 June and we could not have picked a better day weather wise.
A good turnout of 40 members enjoyed an excellent day’s golf on a fine course. Chris Sheehan and I, along with his staff had the course in lovely condition, as always, and this was no easy course sorted out the men from the boys.
The summer tournament is played for the Reg Vickers trophy and this was won by Jeremy Quirk. Runner up was Peter Cross. Guest prize Andrew Cornes, Nearest the Pin, Andrew Russell, Longest Drive. Peter Cross and the prizes went as far as 10th place. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin prizes were sponsored by Rufford Top Dressing.
I would like to thank West Derby Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of their fine course, John, the caterer, for excellent food, the bar staff for keeping us well watered, and of course the NW/GI fabulous stewards who elected to create the prize table. I should remind you that the Autumn Tournament is at Denton GC on Thursday, September 7. All entries must be in by Monday, September 4. Also the Whitewall Bowl will be played for at Penrith GC on Wednesday, September 13. As usual the occasion such as lottery wins, marriages, births or other information, ring me on 0151 724 5412.
Bert Cross

Cleveland
Congratulations go to Phil Hardgrave who is moving to pastures new. He is leaving Wearside to take up the position of First Assistant at South Shields GC. I’m sure the whole Section will join me in wishing Phil good luck in his new post.
Also taking on a new role is Barry Walker, Head Greenkeeper at Wearside. He is taking over as Secretary of the Cleveland Section.

Sheffield
A roundup of all Section events is on page 60
**East Midlands**

On June 3, Steve Levers and Adi Porter represented a Greenkeepers team in the Ramsdale Park Charity Golf Day and finished a very respectable third place. Thanks should go to Alpha Amenity who sponsored the day.

If any member would like to play in this year’s clash with the East of England section on Tuesday 15 August, Tee-off 3.45 pm, please inform me as soon as possible and I will send you the entry form. A team of ten is required, so it will be a first come, first served basis.

By now all members should have received their entry form for this year’s Autumn Tournament, to be held at Market Harborough GC on September 20. If you have not, please contact me as soon as possible so I can rectify the matter.

Antony Bindley

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**Midland**

With a report absent from the July issue due to insufficient news, the results from the Spring Tournament held on April 28 will be included in this report.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham and family on the birth of their first child, a baby girl that hope that mother and baby are doing well. Paul has also been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Gay Hill Golf Club. We all wish him well for his future.

The scheduled match against the stewards to be played on August 2 at the Wrekin Golf Club requires more greenkeepers to make the team up. Anyone wishing to play should contact Rhys Thomas on 0777 5581615 or 01902 743381.

The Spring Tournament was a great success with Rhys Thomas presenting the course in excellent condition. Many thanks to Rhys and his staff.

The results are as follows: Nett - 1. W. Bird; 2. Dave Fellows; 3. Eddie Stant; 4. Peter Holtham; 5. Steve Mucklow.


Longest Drive, Peter Holtham. Nearest Pin, Eddie Stant. Trade Prize. A. Southam.

Many thanks to E T Breakwells who were the day’s main sponsor. Jonathan Wood

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**East of England**

The Section Golf Day at Belton Park was also combined with the retirement of Colin Swingler. Head Greenkeeper, Colin, was a past Midland Region Board Member and Section Secretary and had been at Belton Park nearly 23 years.

Over 70 people turned out, which included past Greens Chairman and Committee Officials Colin had worked with over the years. The presentation was followed by speeches, one of which the present Greens Chairman, Alan Bishop, did a life story of Colin, which everybody found very entertaining.

Burdens Groundcare sponsored the Golf Day and other donated prizes were by Scotts, Tower Sports, Chandlers, Boughton Loam, Greenpride, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor and Bourne Amenity. Thanks to Norman Burden and his staff for putting on a great day at Belton. The winner of the main prizes was Graeme Macdonald, Newark Golf Club. Second was Kevin Hodges, Ryston Park, third was Michael Love, Seacroft. Longest Drive Alick McKay, Woodhall Spa.

The new Head Greenkeeper at Belton Park is Gary Poole who moves from Northshore. Good Luck in your new post.

Also new to the area to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper is Steve Peters at Blank. Other new members are: Dean Akerman, Belton; Dean Johnson, Northshore, Luke Bates and Tom Luffa from Boston West. Graeme Macdonald

---

**East Anglia Section**

It was the first meeting the Section has had on a Friday, and 45 eager competitors made sure they were up early to sort out their golf courses, so they could take part in what proved to be a successful day. Rushmere Golf Club was the venue and the course was in great condition and there was nothing but praise for Course Manager, Pat Swinn, and his staff Andy, Gerry, Mike and Dave. Toro UK were the main sponsors for the day, and what a fantastic prize table we had, not only did Toro UK supply goodies for all the prize winners, they also sponsored four
par-3 holes, with hole-in-one prizes as follows:- two holidays for two in Barbados, one caddiematic cart and one Toro Workman.

Alas none of the competitors managed the magical feat of a hole-in-one, and as you can imagine the expectation on members faces as they pondered the thought of being taken to the airport in the back of a fellow greenkeepers Toro Workmen to catch their flight to the exotic Caribbean, soon changed to the 'I'd have settled for just hitting the green' look!

Rushmere Captain, Andy Langston, welcomed the Association, and commented on the quality of the golf played, this goes without saying as he played with Ian our secretary. He made comment on the Mizuno driver, and the Cobra 5 wood that Ian was using, as they apparently only cost him £10 from a car boot sale, but had done the trick when it came to 'taming' the course!

I. Willet was the overall winner with 41 Stableford points, and Ian along with his Captain, P. Bevin came first in the Greenkeeper/Captain Challenge, sponsored for the fourth year by Toro UK.


Roger Eade, as everyone knows loves to walk round with his trusty camera around his neck, (although I've never seen him take a picture yet!) and he never has any problem finding someone to caddie for. So imagine the surprise when he put it about that he was playing in the competition. Shock all round!

When he put his card in it was apparent that it had been a wind-up, probably due to the 30 and 49 points he and his supposed playing partner, Kevin Leach, had accumulated, for this it was decided that the toilet seat should be awarded to him for over exaggeration!

Thanks must go to the trade for their support, main sponsor for the day Toro UK, plus Atterton & Ellis, Aventis, Consult Clarkson, Grass Roots, K B Leach, Rushbrook & Sons, Scotts UK, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare.

Finally many thanks to Ian for his hard work in making it a successful day, especially as Lady his pet Jack Russell passed away that very morning; she was regularly at our meetings guarding Ian's vehicle, the ankle biter will be missed by all.

Sec you all at Royal Cromer on the 15 August. Steve Millard

Surrey

All playing members will, I am sure, join with me in congratulating John Davidson and his team for presenting Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club, the venue for the Cresta Cup on June 30, in such magnificent condition. John, will you please thank your directors for the courtesy of their course and also the catering staff for a delicious curry.

The results: 1, with 44 points, Rob (Gonzales) Schofield. 2, with 37 points, Rick Kenneal. 3, with 36 points, Bob Rogers. Nearest the Pin, Tony Bremer. Longest Drive, John White.

Congratulations also to David Munro, Surrey's sectional champion. Good luck.

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A big thank you also to all at Faversham for all their efforts in making the day very enjoyable.

Our second tournament for this year was held at Brokehill Golf Club on July 25. Results to follow next month.

**Essex**

The 2000 Summer Tournament sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd - thanks Simon - was staged at Theydon Bois GC on 13 June. Head Greenkeeper Jonathan Barnard, along with Dep. Head James Morgan and Assistants Martin Howard, Stephen Heritage and Nicholas Kikkides should be congratulated for their efforts in delivering a well presented course for the 30 or so greenkeepers, trade and guest participants who rose to the challenge of negotiating their way round one of the tightest courses in the Essex Section.

It was decided by the powers that be, to divide the handicap categories into two rather than the usual three groups, these being 0-15 and 16-28. Overall winner of the tournament was, yes, you guessed it, Andy Sheehan, with a very credible 35 points. Andy picked up some more crystal glasses donated by Steve Denton of Rigby Taylor. The top three places in the 0-15 category were 1. Ian Duncan, a new face in our Section with 33 points; 2. Ray Clark, of Channels GC, also with 33 points and 3. Anthony Kirwan, of Colchester, with 31 points.

The 16-28 category results were as follows: 1. D Banks with 26 points, 2. Theydon's own James Morgan, also with 26 points and 3. Peter Cannon, the second of our prize winners from Colchester, who scored 25 points.

Longest Drive went to Stephen Tovey, of Orsett fame. Nearest the pin went to Advanta Seeds new boy, Matt Gresty, who also took the Trade prize with 32 points and finally the Guest prize went to Theydon's greens Chairman, Phil Bowden.

Thanks should be extended to Theydon Bois GC, their catering and clubhouse staff for ensuring our day was as enjoyable, both on and off the course.

Additionally, Avoncrop Amenity, Driving Force Leisure, Sherriff Crop Care, Grass Roots and CMW for sponsoring raffle prizes and the like.

I received many comments about my last report and from what was heard in the clubhouse it would suggest that you phoned each other also. This means that the quips made at certain people's expense actually got members within the Section talking at times other than golf days and as far as I am concerned, that is what it's all about. Only three things to comment on really. John & Hor-ses, Carl & Dakooks, Stephen & Shirts.

Our next day is at Abridge Golf and Country Club on Friday, August 18, playing for the Autumn trophy. I'm sure John and Steve will have it in tip top condition as usual.

The Essex Section v East Anglian Section playing for the Tuckwell Cup at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club on July 25 will already have been played for and undoubtedly won by our boys. The report will follow in the next issue.

Finally, on a more serious note, I was informed of a few members deserting BIGGA, presumably because they are of the opinion they do not get much out of it. Like everything else, you will only get the most out of them if you are prepared to put a little in. If any club is debating whether or not to affiliate their greens staff to BIGGA and you need convincing as to its benefits, just give me a ring. 01378 551350

Steve Crosdale

**Devon & Cornwall**

The Section would like to congratulate Steve Evans who is moving from St Enodoc GC to take up his new post as Head Greenkeeper at Yelverton GC after many practice runs and his visa clearance to work in Devon. Steve knows he will be with many of his friends at Yelverton and I am sure he will keep the course in a spick and span condition.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter as follows: October 25, Roffeys Meeting, Dainton Park; November 15 DGM Meeting, Launceston; December 6, P J Flegg Meeting, Okehampton; January 31, Barenbrug Meeting, RND; March 1, Avoncrop Meeting, Thurlestone; March 28, Aventis & Supaturf Meeting, Roserrow.

Please note the following booking terms and information listed below for Section meetings.

- Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners.

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**Devon & South Wales**

South West

Paula Humphries

Tel: 01268 552794
South West

I didn't quite have enough time to receive and publish the results of the Summer Tournament held at Weston GC on November 2. A match against the South West Section will probably take place in October.

Wales Section will probably take place in October. Wales Section will probably take place in October. A match against the South

Wales Open. Although it would have been great to have seen the event live on BBC TV some of us have not got Sky you know. The Rigby Taylor Qualifying rounds should have taken place towards the end of last month, even I am having a knock this year so look out, myself and David Ward should not be taken lightly, ha ha probably will not make it through the first stage. Catch up with the stats of the qualifier next month. Richard Hatcher

Richard Whyman

Closing Down Sale

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For further details please contact Robert Joy on 0374 700383 or email to robert.joy@scats.co.uk

August 2000 Greenkeeper International
Northern Ireland

When I was young, the summers lasted forever, now it seems in Golfland the summers go past in a blink of an eye, so I know I'm getting old.

From the first competition in March to the last one in September. Saturdays just seem to be consecutive days.

Probably by now most of you will have had your Captain's Day and I hope the weather was kind and that the day went well for you. This was the first year for many a year at my club that it didn't rain on Captain's Day; also the sun put in an appearance for an added bonus, so I was especially pleased.

Friday 30 June saw us at a Charity Golf Day at Clandeboye GC. We had a mixture of Greenkeepers, Golf Convenors, Secretary Managers, members of Clandeboye and folk from our trade in attendance.

It was good to see so many turn up, around 80 to support a Charity Day.

Many thanks must go to the Captain and Council at Clandeboye GC for giving us the course for the day, and also the catering and bar staff, who looked after us so well.

I was rather disappointed in the condition of the course; I thought Terry would have had his team out to at least tidy the course up a bit. Old habits don't die, you know Terry!

The course was, as ever, in immaculate condition and yourself. Aaron Small and team must be commended on producing a high quality course through difficult weather conditions, especially on the morning of the event.

Our main sponsor was Clive Richardson, of Horta Soils, also WD Irwins and Spa Golf Club. Many thanks to all of the above; supporters, comedians and gathering up as many greenkeepers as possible.

Thanks Terry for a great day and for your obvious hard work that went into it; and we all know it will be a success again next year.

Congratulations to Paul Lappin, who moves from Bangor to Kirkstown as Course Manager.

Good luck Paul and from all the staff at Bangor we wish you the very best.

Russell Graham, First Assistant at Castlerock finally got married on June 23 to his bride Susan. Russell was engaged for nine years, which shows he doesn't rush into anything. Very best wishes to you and your new wife and good luck for the future.

Paul Mathieson, Head Greenkeeper at Holywood, wins the top student award at NVQ Level 3. Also Alistair Hamilton, Head Greenkeeper at Gilnahirk wins top student at NVQ Level 2 at Greenmount College. Outstanding work lads, keep it up.

New members to the region are Adrian McStraw from Lugan GC and Allister Irvine from Bright Castle.

Hope to see you all at the forthcoming events. Catch you later. Iain Harrison

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