West
Welcome to this month's news.
Firstly I must apologise for the late-ness of these notes and events, due to mix-scheduling. These items failed to materialise in the latter part of 1999.

The Autumn outing at Windyhill GC on 22 September was played on schedule. The day's weather started off fairly dodgy but by the time we teed off, the clouds gave way to broken spells of sunshine, although the wind was a touch breezy! A low turnout on the day with only forty three entries returned. Nevertheless some good golf, and some erratic golf, was played. Trust me on this. So here are the results of the day:

Stuart Taylor. Once again, please send me any comments or ideas you may have regarding your efforts.

North
As I write this on my computer in conjunction with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It was good to see downtown on his return from visit with a great after meal speaker. All the winners present for an excellent meal in the company of our friends from the trade and once again, I ask you to take the time to put your ideas, comments and suggestions down on paper and be quick about it. I have received a few more along this year as numbers go up! That's it. See you next month with more news and comment from the Sections.

Ayrshire
The Patrons' Christmas lunch was held on December 8 at the Terraces Hotel, Stirling. It was, as usual, expertly catered for by our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. The entertainment was provided by after dinner speaker, Ian McPherson, from East Kilbride, who kept the company well amused. The main event was the presentation of the Patrons' Award with our two winners, Roland Blackburn, of Southerness, and Scott McLean, of West Kilbride, on hand to collect their awards. Congratulations to Roland and Scott as well as all the other Section winners.

The Ayrshire Section wish to echo the sentiments of the Scottish Region by extending a big thank you to the Patrons for their continued support.

News has reached me that Wallace Mercer of Skermolie Golf Club has been invited to speak at a seminar in Australia, followed by a machinery demonstration roadshow, arranged by the Central and Northern Section winners. We wish you all the best in your new post, Robert, and hope everything goes well for you.

Best wishes and every success to Tom Harries in his appointment at Cathcart Castle GC.

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People on the move this month are yours truly and I am on the move to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at West Linton Golf Club in January and I am looking forward to this as it will present a marvellous challenge and I look forward to working with the new team who have a very progressive attitude and a large membership.

What makes it more exciting is working at a club that has former Masters and British Open Champion Sam Bevan as a member! I have been at Swanston GC for nearly nine years, I must say I have had a great time over the years and have made a lot of friends in the club. I would like to thank the Captain, Secretary, committee and all the staff and members for making it a very enjoyable time. I would like to wish the club all the best for the future and may it continue to flourish. I will be back regularly for a game, so hopefully I'll see you all then.

At West Linton, I am taking over from Donald Fraser who is retiring after 30 years with the club. Donald has been a big asset to the club, members and staff wish Donald all the best in his retirement.

Moving back to Swanston, Richard Mullen, who was my deputy, has been promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. All the best to both of them in their new positions at Swanston and if either of them need any advice, don't forget my phone will always be switched off. All the best from the Section to both of them.

Committee member, Stuart Townsend and his wife Alison, have just had a baby, Rebecca. Both mum and baby are doing well. Everyone would like to thank the Captain, Secretary, committee and all the staff and members for making it a very enjoyable time.

On a sad note, one of our past Scottish Chairman Harry Diamond, from the Ayrshire Section, passed away in early December, after an illness. Harry, who was Head Greenkeeper at Ayr Bellisle for many years, will be sadly missed in the Scottish Region as he was one of the true characters of the region. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Next month we have our annual Dinner Dance at the Windmill Hotel to celebrate another successful year. We hope to see everyone present.

Finally, two dates to put in your diary. The President's Day tournament will be held at Wheatsley Golf Club on Tuesday May 9th tee off at 1.30pm and the Annual Tournament at Matlock Golf Club on Monday July 10th tee off at 1.30pm.

Northern

I would like to start off as your new Secretary by thanking Simon Heppenstall, Vice Chairman, John Waite, Secretary/Treasurer - Andy Smith, Committee - Dennis Cockburn, Gary Porter, Richard Smith for their hard work during last year. The committee would like to thank Sharron Crossen, Brough GC, and Darren Creaser, Brough GC, for their time and dedication.

The Winter Golf Tournament took place at Fulford GC. This was sponsored by The Greenkeeping Supply Company, which was represented by Liam Galway. Many thanks for this valuable sponsorship and all the other companies who sponsored our golf days during last year.

Back to the golf and despite the bad weather leading up to the event, this had no effect on the course, everybody had a good time despite the wind and rain. Thanks go to the head greenkeeper Mark Mensal and his staff for the good condition of the course, the caterers for the meal and Fulford GC for the courtesy of the course. Teams of four were the order of the day with a few teams of three people not turning up for whatever reason. Results: 1. Robin Smith, Richard Harris, Telford Jarvis, Steve Dale; 2. Roy Spencer, Marcus Cordinley, Norman Schofield; 3. Les Kirkbright, Richard Pall, Mark Mensal.

One of the teams with three count-ed all three scores instead of the best two. Dennis is already sharpening his handicapping pencil for you, be warned!

The 1999 AGM followed with 31 members present. The main issue to come out is an increase to the golf entry fees. It was decided to have an increase to £17.50 with two courses, still good value for the day. Committee members are as follows - President, Mil Guy, for their work and time during their years of service. Liam has a hard act to follow.

The annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 11th March will again be held at Bradford G.C. after last years success. Tickets are on sale from committee members.

There is no other news at the moment and future events will be published at a further date. If any one has any news around the section that I could print would you please let me know at the following address: - 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds LS27 9QS or telephone on 0113 2383188. Andy Smith

Cleveland

Congratulations to Anthony (Titch) McGough. On New Year's Eve he got engaged to the beautiful Pipa. Titch is First Assistant at Richmond Golf Club. Good luck and
The 425D Articulator® features four articulating 25" cutting mowers: The 425D has a wider wheel base, and lower centre of gravity. The Kubota 38hp water-cooled diesel engine. The result is a revolutionary, zero-turning radius, wide-area, contouring mower: The 425D Articulator gives you the finest finish mower in the world.

April. Please contact Gary Edwards.

Wednesday 23 February. Confirmed

Speakers are Bob Taylor, Terry Charlton and Turf Care for the Greenkeepers beat the Groundsmen in the Annual Turf Care Quiz at Mount Oswald Golf Club. The event was a close battle with only a couple of points for the winning margin. Unfortunately those who attended the quiz probably can't remember much about this historic victory and it might be a long time until we win again. Many thanks to Terry Charlton and Turf Care for organising the event and providing drinks and the supper.

North Wales

A meeting was held on January 4 at the college. Bob Taylor, Aitkens, 30 pts. Frank Kempster, Head Greenkeeper from Burnham on Crouch. I wish to thank one and all.

East Midlands

This year's Christmas Tournament was held at Glen Gorse GC on Thursday December 9. The day was fine and dry, but with a very strong cold wind making conditions very difficult. The format for the day being a Singles 36 hole Matchplay. However, some very respectable scores were returned.

The winners were as follows: Category 1. Jeff Dickinson, Leen Greetham Valley 28 pts; 2. Richard Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 28 pts. Category 2. 1. Gavin Robson, Lingdale 27 pts; 2. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 27 pts; 3. Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 25 pts. Trade & Associate. Pete Fell, Abridge GC, 30 pts. I would like to thank Glen Gorse GC for extending courtesy of their excellent course and also to our sponsor Rigby Taylor for providing the prizes. Also I would like to thank Frank Kempster, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for a very well presented course, not forgetting the Steward & Stewardess for a fantastic Christmas meal. Next year's Tournament will be held at Oakmere Park GC. on Thursday, December 7 2000.

I would also like to thank all those who kindly took their time to fill in the recent questionnaire. The results of which will appear in next month's article.

Finally, I have now got my own e-mail address, so if any member should need to contact me via Email, the address is as follows: Antony-Bindley@beebe.net

Antony Bindley
certain mid-table London football team. Please let me have your views on what you consider my articles should contain, without your input they will end up as just a list of names and dates. I am confident that between us we can manage more than this. My number is 01376 551350, give me a call.

Steve Croisdale

East Anglia

Another year older, deeper in debt, such is life. One word describes our day at Bangay Wayback in December and that’s lively! Lively Day.

Lively grub, lively course and lively people, what more can you want? Sixty Nine turned up, what a number all rating it to be before it began. It was, of course, the Annual Turkey Scramble sponsored by CMW.

Results. 1. The Barnham Bloom Trio of Lemon, Elliot and Brown, 58.9.3. Three Nomads, of Lemon, Elliot and Brown, 58.4; 2. Bird, Nash and Bartram, 59. All pret-

Scramble sponsored by CMW distributed by: Leiy (UK) Limited, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH.

No, I won’t do that Alan). from Greg McHugh (Pugh, Barney, McGrew, said, no waffle. All offices elected en

blinked you would have missed it - Hawaii. He’ll miss the frost and the fog. I’m told the grass over there grows on the pavement. Seriously, we all wish him the very

best, he’s a smashing bloke and will be missed.

More prizes than a Miss World contest, well nearly, were presented and蚊子 are so bad it was like being in the jungle. But the good news is we all rared to go before it rained.

One comes, one goes, our adopted cousin from over the pond Greg McHugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Curtis Winter. Finally, the President’s Prize was presented to our Secretary, Ian Willitt, for the tremendous work he puts in to keep our Section at the top.

Then came the AGM, if you could believe it you would have missed it - 25 minutes start to finish. Enough said, no waffle. All offices elected en block with Paul Gould taking over from Greg McHugh (Pugh, Barney, no, I won’t do that Alan).


Let’s not forget the trade lads who look after us so well throughout the year. I’ll try to remember all, as I for-

to pick up the list. Here goes - CMW’s Sissis, Rushbrook, Rhone Paulenc, Colliers, Righy Taylor, Consultant Clarkson, Toro, Bartians, Ben Burgess, Wilmot Pertwee, Greenkeeper Supply Co, Pattersons, Hayter and anyone else who knows me. And finally as another round of pay talks have come to an end, does any-

one think that some clubs assume that there is an honour attached to working for them which negates the need for payment?

Mick Lathrope

Sussex

Firstly, I would like to wish Happy New Year to all the members and hope that everybody had a great Christmas.

Our Turkey Trot was once again held at Littlehampton. I would like to thank David Wood and all his staff. The course was, as usual, in exceptional condition considering it was the middle of December. I would also like to thank the kitchen staff, bar staff and the Secretary for their hospitality this year and every year. Now the results of the Texas Scramble; This was played in teams of four with a few 3 balls, each player having to use three drives and all the scores counting on two of the holes. Results: 1. (On count back) 58 pts, Chris Allen, John Luckhurst, handie, Peter Bearmore. 2. 58 pts. John Hill, David Haskell, Nick Beadle, Peter Hammond, 3rd with 57 pts. Mark Day, Billy Martin, Richard Vetich.

The team with the longest wack was Tony Brenner, Mike Ring, John Davidson and their influential cap-

tain Brian Willmott! Nearest the pin prizes were won by Ian Semple, Andy Cloud, Stefan Antolik, David Ansell, Chris Allen, Richard Vetich and Mike Ring.

Thanks to everyone who attended and thanks to George Barr for the organisation.

Also it was great to see a good turnout by the Sussex Section for the James Beard Seminar on January 6 at Wentreight. Everyone who attended will agree it was a very worthwhile exercise and thanks to Scots for putting up a great day at a great venue.

Now some dates for your diary in 2000. May 4, Spring Tournament at Royal Eastbourne GC. July 20 Summer Tournament at Cotphorne GC and some time in the summer there will be a special Club Teams Challenge Fourball event at Cooden Beach Golf Club. eg. Head Greenkeeper, Club Captain, Green Chairman, Stewards.

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Please think about your teams and phone Mike Gould on 01342 712506 with your selection.

Also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, I would like to congratulate Austin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head GC who has been awarded Sussex County Greenkeeper of the Year by the Sussex Professional Golfers' Union. One last note. If anyone has anything to report and would like to see it in "Around the Green" please phone me on 01903 218675 or 0375 189785.

Gary Ogilvie

South Wales

High winds and heavy showers made most of us return to the 19th hole at Pyle & Kenfig GC on 8 December, although a few continued and battled their way around the course and thanks to P Robinson & his staff for the good condition of the course.

Chairman D Ward opened the AGM and gave his report for the year. P Lacey gave his secretary’s report and ran through the finance report. Election of officers: Chairman, M. Davies; Committee: Officers - Angus MacLeod, A. Hatcher, J. B. Jones; Secretary, P. Lacey; Education Chairman, M. Davies; Committee: Officers - Angus MacLeod, A. Hatcher, J. B. Jones, R. Patterson, R. Hatcher and D. Ward. Our President C. Murphy gave good words during the meeting, thanks Colin. Finally, David Ward ended his term for Chairmanship and closed the meeting.

Our Christmas dinner followed, which was outstanding. The presentation of the Vitax Shield went to M. Jones. Well done! Thanks to Vitax Ltd who were the main sponsors of the day and to Celtic Mowers who sponsored nearest the pin and longest drive competition. Thanks to all the other agents’ reps who attended, too many to mention, sorry. Lastly, thanks again to the Pyle & Kenfig for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to the Captain of P & K who attended the evening.

Nothing much more to mention, although on the 9th of this month, Peter Johnson gave us a lecture at Pencoed College.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

With 1999 being one of the wettest years of the old millennium it was not surprising that members were greeted with heavy rain on arrival at our P J. Flegg Christmas meeting held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 8. I wondered if we would be able to play any golf during the morning but the splendid effort put in by Richard Wisdom and his team meant that the greensome format competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy went ahead as scheduled.

Our non golfing members were, as usual, treated to the guided course walk by Richard. Both golfing and non golfing were delighted to seek shelter in the P J. Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green. Inside, Patrick and his staff treated members to snacks and drinks which set the Christmas atmosphere for the day.

After an excellent Christmas lunch, the day continued with the morning’s golf prizes for the P J. Flegg trophy being presented by Patrick Flegg to: 1st, B. Lever, Dainton, & J. Stevens, West Cornwall, 36 pts. 2nd, M. Samuel, President, and T. Bennett, Trevose, 33 pts back 9. 3rd, J. Mills, Taunton, & K. Yeoman, Dartmouth, 33 pts.

A special prize was donated by Laurence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton for the best triers and was presented by Patrick to M. Tucker and T. Blackburn. Our afternoon entertainment this year was by the one and only Tank Sherman who kept us all laughing well into the evening. Our raffles concluded a really excellent day. The first raffle was for two Christmas hampers, kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrews, with our final raffle of the day consisting of more than 40 prizes donated by members and trade.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always, had the course in superb condition.

A big thank you to Patrick Flegg and PJ Flegg Ltd for sponsoring the day and providing the wonderful snacks and drinks on the course. Also, thanks to our President, Martin Samuel, who supplied the wine at lunch and thanks to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

Dates for your diary: Avoncrop Meeting, Thursday February 24, venue Trevoze G C. Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf Meeting, Tuesday March 28, venue Yelverton GC. Westurf Trade Show at Westpoint, Exeter on Tuesday April 12.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our Annual Turkey Trot AGM and Christmas Dinner was held at Hockity GC. The course was in superb condition thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Trevor Blythe and his happy band of men. Well done Trevor.

The results were as follows: The overall match winner was Phil Nason, who is over here for his three months holiday. Sorry Phil, I had to get that in. Category 1 winner, Matt Blake. Category 2 winner, Alan Rideout. Category 3 winner, Peter Baynham. Nearest the Pin, Simon...
We could not get support for a small want from the section. There are Common.

30 seater coach to go to Hanldey nearly 300 members in our Section.

deadly silence. Please pick up the attract more support, there was a

tures. What really concerned me was the dwindling numbers at our lec-
es that were presented by Tony. I was

everyone for the lovely crystal glass-

bloomed over the years. I will still

would like to take on these posts,

AGM. The Chairman, Tony Gadd,

mittee was Chris Stuigess. Welcome

leave two large holes. Anyone who

they would not be seeking re-election

and Secretary Jef Drake, stated that

Wilton and New Forest Farm

Water Leisure represented by Mark

To round off the day we had the AGM. The Chairman, Tony Gadd,

and humour, but this must have been

not always renowned for their sense

entertain us. Now, greenkeepers are

generously from all the local com-

lowed with all the prizes donated

and Roffeys. A huge raffle then fol-

kindly provided by Phil Greenway

Our next winter lecture is at Crane

Valley GC on Wednesday 8 March 8

at 10am. A representative from Scotts

will be talking about their products

and applications. This will be fol-

lowed by lunch and 9 holes of golf.

Ken Lodge

South West

Kingsdown Golf Club was the venue for the Christmas Tournament held on December 8.

The event was sponsored by Roffeys. Head Greenkeeper, Mark Ford, and his staff did a superb job in getting the course into great shape, especially when you consider that December had seen twice the normal rainfall. The greens really did put well, although eventually the steady rainfall slowed them up quite considerably.

By the time the last of the golfers came in off the course, the rain had become cold and torrential. One drenched and shivering golfer even suggested holding next year’s Christmas Tournament in Trinidad & Tobago, but I don’t think BIGGA funds could stretch that far!

Despite the weather, some really good scores were achieved. The winner of the event was:- 1. T. Humphrey & Tony Crouch, 37 points. 2 - G. Cook & A. Knight. 36 points and better back 9. 3 - Dan Dobie & N. Wilson, 36 points.

A superb Christmas dinner was laid on by Les and the catering staff at Kingsdown, with all the wine kindly provided by Phil Greenway and Roffeys. A huge raffle then followed with all the prizes donated generously from all the local companies.

The comedian then came on to entertain us. Now, greenkeepers are not always renowned for their sense of humour, but this must have been one of this comedian’s hardest ever venues. He really did have to work hard for his money, especially with Dave Begin, sitting on the front table, questioning every one of his jokes.

Anyway, we must once again thank everyone connected with Kingsdown for the smooth running of the day and Roffeys for their kind sponsorship.

Let’s hope for better weather at this year’s events, the first of which is the Winter Tournament being held at Painswick Golf Club on the February 23.

Following last month’s article in which I asked for suggestions at getting more BIGGA South West members to turn up for events, I have received several ideas on how this can be achieved. I will pass these ideas on to the other committee members.

If you’re thinking about doing a training course, it’s not too late to join the one day first aid course at The Southern Ambulance Training College on February 15. I still have places for a PA2 Tractor mounted Sprayer course on March 2 and PA6 Knapsack spraying course on March 8. Telephone me on 01249 783382 for more information.

Paul Cunningham

South East

I’ll start these notes by wishing all our members a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. It’s a bit belated I know but better late than never. We apologise for a lack of notes at the tail end of last year as we were hit by a “M” bug in our system, but we are now 2000 compliant and ready to go. I hope you are all enjoying this glori- ous weather, all your winter’s work done and dusted, and not a mark on your courses from the hundreds of golfers that insist on playing through El Nino, gale force winds and inches of snow. Anyhow down to business - the South-East Section AGM was held at Clandeboye Golf Club on Tuesday, December 7. The election of officers to last for the next 1000 years, sorry to take us into the next 1000 years, are as follows - Graham Wylie - Chairman/Treasurer, Jonathan McCabe - Vice Chairman, Ken Henderson - Secretary, Alan Strachan - Assistant Secretary, Terry Crawford - Matching Handicap Secretary, Iain Harrison - Magazine Liaison Officer.

The main topic at the AGM was the amalgamation of the South-East and North-East Sections. A vote was taken that it would be beneficial for both Sections if we did join together, in which case an EGM would be held to select officers from both Sections to form one committee. This would be a new committee with a larger membership and we feel this would certainly strengthen BIGGA in Northern Ireland and would entice more people to join. So we have voted Yes for this merger and we are now waiting for feedback from the North-East section on how they feel on this matter.

A very well attended seminar on budgeting took place on December 2-3, '99 in the Burndale Hotel, Brind Bergen presented this subject very well indeed and all who attended thought it was of great benefit to them. Some people travelled quite a distance to attend, such as Des Murtagh, from Waterford; David Lennan and Karl Dooley both from Dublin.

An entertaining night was had at Queens University playing fields on Monday 13th December when the Institute Of Groundsmanship invited us to join them at their Christmas Quiz. We fronted two teams, The McDivots and The Cunning Linguists. Needless to say the IOG team won hands down but between our two teams, The McDivots, my team finished streets ahead,-stewards enquiry. Many thanks to the IOG for their hospitality and friendly atmosphere and I’m sure this will be a definite fixture this year again. Finally thanks to last year’s committee for all their hard work and giving us their time to arrange all the various days that we all enjoyed throughout the year. Sterling works chaps and keep it up Iain Harrison.