The Scottish Region is delighted once again to present their Annual Conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline.

At this year's conference the speakers cover a wide range of greening topics with talks from Course Managers to a representative from the Scottish Golf Union - all with a positive viewpoint on the game of golf.

From Kilmacolm GC we have the Course Manager Ronnie Bunting, who will give a talk on "The Development of Golf in Kilmacolm".

From Turnhouse GC we have Alistair Holmes, who will give a talk on "The Environment and Kilmacolm Golf Club".

The General Manager of the Course Manager Ronnie Bunting, will be presenting his Annual Report and we look forward to seeing everyone at BTME 2000 in Harrogate in December.

On a sad note, Jimmy Paton, former Head Greenkeeper at Turnhouse GC, died recently after a long illness. He had the opportunity to work with Jimmy for nine years at Turnhouse and to know him. The Section's thoughts are with his family at this time.

The 1999 Patrons' Awards winners are Graham Wood, Dunbar, and Alistair Holmes, Seabouses. Well done to them both and we will see you at BTME 2000 in Harrogate in January. If you are going on the Scottish trip to BTME get your application forms back to Peter Boyd as soon as possible to avoid disappointment and I will see you there.

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North

Two new members to start off 2000. We welcome Ewan Cameron, from Elgin GC, and Shaun Macdonald, from Royal Dornoch GC. Welcome back to Carole Ross, who returns to work at Royal Dornoch after taking time off to have a baby.

Members might like to know who does what in our Section, so here is a list of your Committee and their duties. Chairman, Magazine and Education, Iain MacLeod, Iain 01862 894042; Vice Chairman and Treasurer Wilson Morrison, Alison 01224 826289. Secretary Doug Dugald, Westhill 01224 740329. Outings and Trophies Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead 01779 470173 and Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer 01467 420155. 200 Club Stewart McBain, Aberdeen 01224 735274. Raffles John Geddes, Ellon 01358 729054 and Kevin Peace, Inverurie 01467 625125 and last but not least Handicaps Stevie Sullivan, Craigie Hill 01738 632003.

Of course all are on hand at events to ensure smooth running and will help members if at all possible. The Section is in good hands and we all ask is that members support the outings and 200 Club so that we also remain financially solvent. Hughie McLatchie has some 50th Anniversary badges left from the Downfield outing and they are available at £4.00 each to anyone interested, a nice memento for members of the Section.

This month we have BTME at Harrogate and I look forward to seeing Section members there. John Geddes, Ellon, and Gordon Moir, St Andrews, are our two Patrons' Award winners and will be present as a result. Remember, support your Section and Association and next year it could be you. We must thank all the members of the Trade in Scotland who support the Patrons' Scheme and make this award possible. See you in the Majestys on the first night!
Ayrshire
A guid New Year and Millennium to all our members and friends. I hope everyone achieves their targets in 2000 and it provides good weather for successful greenkeeping after the recent difficult couple of years we have encountered.

The Section AGM was held recently in the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick. A small turnout was in attendance, surprise, surprise. Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, was also in attendance to see all the business conducted very smoothly. With no changes the following office bearers were elected to serve in 2000. Chairman, Duncan Gray, The Pines, Vice Chairman, Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, Secretary Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogie, a Committee, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, George Brown, William McMeikan, Jimmy Johnstone, All Turnberry, Brian Finlayson, Barassie, Harry Diamond, retired and Trade, Robert Bruce, Rítelhead.

There are still vacancies on committees and for the new year it will be essential to introduce new blood to the committee. If any member is remotely interested in joining the committee, please come forward. The decided outings were discussed for 2000 and arrangements are being made. We hope to confirm these venues at the next committee meeting which is on Monday February 7 at 7pm. Usual venue of the Parkstone Hotel.

News has reached me of a special public services award won by Troon Municipal Golf Courses, South Ayrshire Council. This award is a tribute to the fine work carried out by Head Greenkeeper, Billy Fletcher and his greensstaff, on the Fullerton, Oakley and Lochgreen courses. Congratulations to the Ayrshire Section on this award. Congratulations also to Bobby Bennett who takes up the new position of West of Scotland Sales Representative for Thorntrees. Bobby will take over from Mike Dooner who will move North and East to expand his empire.

All roads lead to Harrogate this month and I look forward to joining Peter Boyd with the Scottish Region party on this trip to meet friends old and new and take in the seminars and exhibition.

Any news call me on 01503 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

Well, I hope everyone has recovered from celebrating the start of a new millennium and are ready for the season ahead. At the time of writing, December 3, some of our courses are covered in frost and snow which is a change from last winter when it seemed to rain all the time. Still the course will get a rest and we will have to work harder in the next couple of months to catch up with the winter work before opening day comes around again.

We are up and running already on the new members front with Alun Watherspoon, Glenn Campbell, and new Clark, David Key, Malcolm Low and David MacGregor all from Murrayshall Golf Club, along with Charles Webb from Callander Golf Club joining the Section. As before, welcome to the Section lads and we look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Congratulations go to Albert Arnott, from Dunmikier Golf Course, on his recent achievements at Elmwood College. Albert is a strong supporter of the Section, which is much appreciated by the committee as he has to take a day from his holiday allocation to attend any events. Well done Albert.

The first draw for 'Club 2000' will take place this month and the name of the winner of the £50 first prize will be in next months magazine along with the names of all those who failed to sell or return their two tickets. Thanks to everyone, members and patrons who made the effort to support this venture, it is very much appreciated by your committee and the funds raised will be put to good use.

I know it is only January, but the first golf tournament of the season will be taking place at St Andrews on Tuesday, April 11, the scores from which, along with the Autumn Tournament scores will determine the Section qualifiers for the BIGGA National Championship, so if you wish to compete in this event, remember to get your entry in early.

Entry forms for the Inter-Club Tournament will be with you shortly and I would ask you to get your entries in as soon as possible in order that we can get the tournament underway before the Spring Tournament and completed before the Autumn Tournament. PLEASE.

I am looking for venues for next year's two tournaments, so if you fancy hosting one on your course, or there is a particular course you fancy playing on, let me know and I will make the necessary approaches. Hopefully there will be more to report next month.

John Crawford

North East

December 2 at South Moor Golf Club was again the venue for the AGM and the presentation of the years trophies. Well, what a turn out. Seeing was believing, I just could not get over it. The day went well, but very cold and windy; however, that did not stop Mal Lethan, of Hexham, knocking a round of 72 gross less 1 = 71 net, bottle of Bacardi and to runners-up, Mark Pagan and Alan Ainscough, both of the host club, a bottle of vodka each.

Just a memo to members that a party on this trip to meet friends old and new and take in the seminars and exhibition.

As before, welcome to the Section lads and we look forward to meeting you in the near future.

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John Crawford

Sheffield

Happy New Year and Millennium to you all.

On 29 November we held our Christmas competition at Rotherham Golf Club. It was a perfect late autumn day for golf, especially after the winds we had the day prior to the event. Our thanks go to Rotherham Golf Club once again for giving us the courtesy of the course.

Rotherham was again in excellent condition and our thanks go to Dave Brammer and his staff for an excellent job done. Well done Dave. Thanks also to Brian Booth from Rigby Tylers who was the main sponsor of the competition. Thanks to all other trade members who provided prizes.

Finally thanks go to the catering staff who provided an excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone.

There was some excellent golf played in very good golfing conditions.

The overall winner was Simon Brown, from Worksop Golf Club, who played some very good golf, eagle chipping in a couple of times for a par! Well done Simon, not bad for a new member.


Finally congratulations go to Rother Valley Golf Club and Head Greenkeeper Alan Halfyear, who were recently in Today's Golfer magazine, voted third best club in Great Britain in the category of £20 and under green fee, and for best overall venue.

Rother Valley has been open for three and a half years, June 1996, and Alan has been Head Greenkeeper for the past two years and has been improving the course and still has a further three years of his initial programme to carry on the progression.

Hopefully things will go from strength to strength. Alan and good luck in the future. Well done for getting Rother Valley on the golfer map. Keep up the good work.

John Lax

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North Wales

I hope you have all recovered from the effects of the millennium bug! The government didn't tell me it affected the eyesight and balance. It also made me talk rubbish - nothing new there then!

Back to the real world. The lecture at the college on pesticides and CDA sprayers was attended by over 40 delegates, those sorts of numbers makes it worthwhile. Excellent. Thanks go to Paul Clifton, of Rhone Poulenc, and Danny Jones, of ALS, also Graham Wright and the Welsh College for the use of their facilities.

A moderation meeting for NVQ assessors was also held at the college on the same day. Howard McCauley gave us all the updates and how the GTC are pushing forward after the TSC report. If any assessors need help or guidance, please get in touch with me.

The Christmas tournament and AGM was held at Royal St Davids, to the Secretary, David Markill, for presentation of undoubtedly one of the best TSC report. If any assessors need help or guidance, please get in touch with me.

The college seminar is taking place on 20 February, I will inform you of speakers next month.

At our AGM your committee has been re-elected, the faces are the same, however, Jeremy Hughes will be taking over the duties of Match Secretary from Trevor Johnston during the year. Our Education Officer, Phil Davies, would appreciate any ideas from you as regards lectures for the coming year. If there is any subject you would like, let us know and we'll try our best.

One final note, my ex boss, the man who put up with me from 1973 - 1979, Len Sproxton has just had a hip replacement operation. Knowing Len as I do, he'll be chomping at the bit to get back to work. Take it easy, OK. Watching the Reds will take your mind off it (bet that can be painful at times).

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Back to education. Remember the lecture on Soil & Water Management on Wednesday 12th January, 2.30 - 4.30 at the college. If you didn't go last time, make sure you do this time. It's an eye opener. Honest!

Coach to BTME 19 January, Slaters Abergale 7am, Welsh College (Northop) 7.30 am. Sainsbury's Petrol Station Cheshire Oaks 8am, free to members, £10 to guests.

The college seminar is taking place on 23 February, I will inform you of speakers next month.

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Dave Goodridge

Cleveland

This is my first column and I would like to thank Kevin (Scoop) Heslop for writing the column for the last couple of years. He has made very little news into a very amusing and informative feature. Highlights from Kevin's past columns can be found at www.scoop.co.uk!

Richmond Golf Club have a new space cadet on their staff. Oliver Shepard started straight from school in August. He's a mad Star Wars fan and has seen the new film ten times. His first Cleveland Section Golf Tournament was at Wynyard in October. He came second, winning a CD player. So Richmond also have a new handi.

The Autumn tournament at the Wynyard Club seems a long time ago now but here are the results. 1. Martin Woods, Wearside GC; 2. Oliver Shepard, Richmond GC; 3. Steven Jaques, Wynyard. Longest Drive, Martin(Tiger) Woods, Wearside GC. Nearest the pin, Barry Walker, Wearside GC. The boozy prize was highly contested but was eventually won by Craig of Bedale GC.

Thanks to Gary Munro, Course Manager at Wynyard, for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The event was a big success. Good
The weather, good food and good company helped in this success, but good organisation from the section Golf Committee was the key. They are already on to the spring tournament. Watch this space for more details. Hopefully the spring event will be well supported by greenkeepers. If you have never been to a tournament or haven’t been for a while, an extra effort to attend would be appreciated. You will be made welcome and remember, a bad day’s golf is better than a good day’s work.

On the 11 November at Darlington Golf Club, Andy Veltman of Par 4 Irrigation gave a talk on new and future developments in irrigation technology. It was an interesting and informative talk. Thanks to Andy for coming to see us.

If you have any news contact me on 07808 196558.

Steven Jaques
North West

On 25 November we had the AGM, Christmas dinner and played for the President’s Cup at Wilmslow GC. The weather this time was dry and sunny and the golf was good. The course which is a great test of golf was in superb condition, thanks to Steve Oultram and his dedicated staff who had been out mowing greens by hand in the early hours of darkness. This has become a popular tournament over the last few years with more members turning up each year. This year we had 33 members playing and of course 53 members attending the AGM which is a great improvement over recent years. The winner of the "President’s Cup" was Mike Davie, the N.W. Chairman for the next two years. The longest drive was won by Paul Pearse, and the nearest the pin was won by Mike Bottomley. The two beautiful cut glass bowls were donated by Rufford Soil Technology, so at last Mike Bottomley got to take home a prize for his wife. All competitors had to bring a bottle for the prize table, so that everybody left with a prize.

The golf was followed by the AGM and that did not take long as all members seemed happy with the accounts etc. Steve Oultram, who had been Chairman for the last two years, handed over the Chairmanship to Mike Davie who will hold office for the next two years. The committee chose to serve for a further year and Mike Bottomley was voted onto the committee.

The AGM was followed by the Christmas dinner which was beautifully prepared by Gwen Chason who had just returned from a holiday in Florida and the bar kept everybody well watered. I would like to thank Steve and his staff for getting up so early and preparing the course, the caterers for keeping us well fed and Wilmslow GC for allowing us courtesy of the course.

That seems to be it for now; so I wish you all a happy new year and will see you on the Northern Region stand at Harrogate.

Bert Cross

Midland Region

East Midlands

This year’s AGM and Golf Tournament was hosted by Radcliffe-on-Trent GC on November 3. The day was blessed with pleasant Autumn sunshine, with the format for the day being a three ball Texas Scramble. All seven teams were able to produce very respectable scores in the conditions and once again, this proved to be a very popular format for all those who participated. The eventual team winners were Gary Thurman, Gavin Robson and Brian Booth. Gross 69 Nett 64. Second Ian Needham, Pete Larter and Darren Moody.

I would like to thank Radcliffe-on-Trent GC for extending courtesy of their excellent golf course and also to our very generous sponsors Vitax Ltd for providing a grand prize table. Also I would like to thank Richard O’Hara, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for a very well presented course, not forgetting the Steward & Stewartess for a fantastic evening meal.

Moving onto the serious business of the AGM, there is very grave concern about the lack of numbers that are now attending Section events and the committee will be sending a questionnaire to all members to find out what comments and opinions they have on this matter. I would like to thank our retiring Chairman, Dave Leatherland, who during the last two years has done a lot of sterling work for our Section, and I would also like to welcome our new Chairman, Gavin Robson.

The rest of the committee is as follows, Vice-Chairman, Adie Porter; Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Richard Barker; Committee Members, Dave Leatherland, Ian Needham, Tim Allard and Jeff Dickinson. Regional Board
Members, Richard Barker & Antony Bindley. May I once again remind all members that if they wish to attend any Section event, your form and remittance must be returned to the Secretary before the closing date.

If any members are interested in a four day chainsaw course at Ramsdale Park GC next March, please contact Course Manager, Steve Levers on 0115 965 5600 for further details.

Three dates for your diary. May 10 Spring Tournament, Chilwell Manor GC; 20 September, Autumn Tournament, Market Harborough GC; and 1 November AGM Tournament, Park Hill GC. Also the section hopes to organise the following activities in the near future. A visit to Pride Park, home of Derby County FC. A trip to Toro Lely UK and a Go-Kart evening.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

The Midland Regional Seminar was held in our Section once again at Mentmore Golf Club towards the end of November. It was good to see an improvement in numbers attending this year, with 60 members on the day.

A number of interesting topics were covered by the speakers, notably bio-organics, computer-aided greenkeeping and rules of golf relating to greenkeeping. The Course Manager of the Buckinghamshire, Phil Chiverton, also gave an excellent presentation on the maintenance of a high profile golf course. Neil Thomas, the Executive Director of BIGGA and Gordon Child, Chairman were welcome guests for the day.

Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator, organised the day superbly. It is disappointing that the Region will be losing Peter shortly, but we wish him well in his new appointment and thank him for his hard work over the last three years. Our thanks go once again to Mentmore, for providing us with excellent facilities during the day.

Our last golf event of the millennium was our ever popular Texas Scramble event, which this year took place at the exceptional Brocket Hall in early December. As ever, the event was oversubscribed. Twenty-six teams competed over an immaculately presented golf course. Course Manager, John Wells, and Head Greenkeeper, John Moorhouse, along with all the staff at Brocket Hall, should be thanked for their efforts in making an enjoyable day for all concerned. The hospitality shown by Brocket Hall was superb and our thanks for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The top three teams are as follows: 1. M. Whittle, R. Howson, B. Healy, S. Coulson, Woburn, 59.5; 2. S. Aiston, N. Pestle, G. Shield, A. Males, Mid Herts, 59.3; 3. J. Moorhouse, L. Cant, J. Hatton, D. Wright, Brocket Hall, 60. Nearest the pin: J. Woodward. Longest Drive: C. Yeomans.

A presentation was made to Chris Brook, who won 'Golfer of the Year' as well as Frank Scullion and Duncan Seiling, who were victorious in the Lodgeway Four Ball final.

Chris Rook, from the Lodgeway Company, was in attendance and pledged his support for the competition next year. Avoncrop Amenity products were the main sponsors for the day, along with a number of other companies who once again supported the Section. Many thanks to you all.

Finally, I'm sure we are all looking forward to Harrogate once again, whether attending workshops, the National Conference, seminar programmes or the trade show. Hope to see you there!

Paul Lockert

Midland

On December 8 at Little Aston Golf Club the Christmas Tournament and AGM was held. The results were as follows:

Winning team were: Nigel Couchman, Alan Cutler, Eric Thomas, John Walker.

Nearest the pin was David Brazier with a fantastic hole-in-one. Longest Drive was won by Tony Cheese.

Many thanks to Steve Hanlow from Burrows who was our main sponsors. Congratulations on behalf of the Section to Little Aston Golf Club and especially to Andrew Borraston for presenting the course in excellent condition.

The new committee elected at this AGM will be as follows: President, Alan Kit; Chairman, Peter Richmond; Secretary, Jonathan Wood; Members of Committee - Paul Lockett, Rhys Thomas, Eddie Stant, Peter Holham, Andrew Smith.

Finally I would like to wish Tony Cheese all the best in his new role as Rugby Taylor Representative for the Midlands Section.

Jonathan Wood

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

The Turkey Trot was held at the Lambourne Club on November 25 and was a superb day.

The sun was shining like it was July and incredibly the majority played in shorts sleeves.

Congratulations to everyone connected with the Lambourne, especially to Tony, Geoff and the team. The course was in excellent condition. Thanks also go to the catering staff who provided a lovely meal, the members who gave us courtesy of the course for the day and also to the Avoncrop Team who sponsored the event.

The committee would also like to thank FTT, Richard Fortmüller has attended the majority of this seasons events and the company have donated raffle prizes throughout the season.

The results of the day were as follows: 3. 81 points, D. Goodchild, C. Wright & C. Small; 2. 83 points, V. Riches, M. Ely and C. Evans; 1. 86 points, J. Brooks, D. Scillachi & L. Bishop.

L. Bishop also won nearest the pin and, thanks to his new driver. J. Bowens won the longest drive. To think we used to call him Nancy Lopez. Well done to all the winners, the scoring was excellent. The AGM followed the golf day and was pretty painless as far as AGM's go, although there were a couple of important points brought up. Some members are still not receiving invites to the events and some are not receiving magazines. It was explained that the mailing lists come direct from HQ and enquiries on these points will be made before

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the next meeting. Some of the members are also having difficulty finding event locations, including myself, so it was suggested that it may be an idea to put a contact number at the given Club on the competition application form. The trade have been a big help financially this year and this is showing in the end of year closing accounts and we as a Section value your continued support. Last, but not least, congratulations to Ray Clarke on two counts.

Firstly on his marriage the day after the Turkey Trot and secondly, for keeping it a secret from the whole Section. We wish you and your new wife all the best Ray. Happy New Year to you all.

Ross Wilson.

South East Region
Due to the generosity of sponsors, the Region was able to keep fees extremely low for this event held at Writtle College, Chelmsford in November. This coupled with the impressive array of speakers arranged for the day accounted for such good support with around 120 members and associate members attending.

The theme of the Seminar was "Greenkeeping - The next Millennium" and covered aspects of greenkeeping, past, present and future.

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January 2000 Greenkeeper International
future. Chaired by Regional Chairman, Raymond Day, the Seminar opened up with Dr Tim Lodge speaking on Top Dressings and their effects on Grass Seed Technology. Tim was followed by Mark Hunt, on Fertiliser Requirements and the morning closed with an interesting paper from Giles Wardle on Golf Course Irrigation.

Dr Alan Gage kicked off the afternoon session with a Biostimulation paper that was still stimulating. Tom Smith was from Brian Robinson on Grass Seed Technology. There then followed a lively question and answer session.

Our Region is most grateful to Martin Forrester, Carl Crocher and the Essex Committee for their work which contributed to this event and, of course, to our speaking guests. We really hope that this year's, Avoncromat Amenity, Bailey's of Norfolk, Driving Force Leisure, Payne and Sons, Rigby Taylor, P. Tuckwell Ltd, UAP Ltd and Ernest Doe and Sons.

Derek Farrington

**Essex**

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope you all enjoyed the hectic festive season, indulged in the ritual of Christmas food and drink, something like? V V V Sounds like a TV programme? If you need help see you in the near future at one of our events.

Well that's all from me now. See you at BTME.

Dave Wells

**London**

Since the retirement of my boss, Fred Plumeride, in the spring life has been very hectic and I have not had time to chase enough news for a monthly column. However, there has been some news to report and this is a brief summary of the Section in 1999.

Mervyn Downing of Aldenham, had a good day at the Regional Championship and won the Gentleman’s Prize. Mr. John Kerr, of Enfield, successful completed Level 3.

The Surrey Section AGM took place on November 14 at Thorpeness Golf Club and hopefully a coach will be laid on, but more details later on in the year.

A little reminder from Ian Willett to make a note in your 2000 diary that the Annual Go-Karting event held at West Hill in November is a great success with 120+ people attending the day and as a Section I would like to thank the guest speakers, sponsors and Weitlere College for their hard work and contributions to the day.

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Devon & Cornwall
A happy new Millennium to you all. I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season.

The Section's first meeting of the new century will be the Barenburg Section. Our Christmas Party was a massive success and an ideal change with start times between 8.30am-10am. For non-golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. After lunch there will be an optional talk, please make sure your entries have been sent back to me by Monday, January 17, as I will be at BTME that week.

Our Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored meeting was held at Manor House Hotel on Wednesday, November 17, this meeting was also one of the Section's AGMs. The day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Course Manager, Mike Symonds. After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett, from Devon Garden Machinery, presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to: 1. Andy Parker, Crediton, & Tony Vokes, St Austell, 27pts; 2. Tony Gooch, Torrington, & Billy Spratt, Phoenix Nursery, 26pts; 3. Simon Combes, Dainton & Gerald Ayliffe, Wratton, 26pts. The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsor Devon Garden Machinery for its sponsorship and for the excellent lunch which was sponsored by Farm Industries Ltd, a Textron dealer to Devon Garden Machinery, PJ. Flegg, Devon Garden Machinery; P. J. Flegg, Rhone Poulenc, Roufels and Section's AGMs. This financial year also saw a change in sponsorship of the fixture cards after the two year agreement with P. J. Flegg was completed. The Section would like to mention to everyone that for his company's sponsorship and further development of our fixture cards over the past two years. As you are aware our new sponsor for the coming year is Rigby Taylor who has continued the further development of the cards bringing colour onto them. The Administrator thanked Martin Samuel for his support in securing the sponsorship and development of the cards. He also informed members that the Section made a profit of £279.22 compared with a slight loss of £50 from the previous year. Although the Section made a profit, the administrator felt that members must keep membership participation at section meetings as possible to ensure the section can continue to secure sponsorship of our section meetings & fixture cards.

He asked members to make every effort to attend as many meetings as possible and add that every member present could help the section by contacting a member who you know doesn't attend and invite him or her along.

Approval of accounts proposed A. Parker seconded D. Blake.

The Chairman opened his report by informing members that it had been a pleasure and an honour to serve as Chairman over the past year. He continued by congratulating Mike Bush, Deputy Superintendent at St Mellion, and William Collins, Head Greenkeeper at Trelidy Park, on winning the Charterhouse & Scots National Championship held at Garden Park.

The Chairman's final congratulations were passed on to Gordon Child who is commencing his second year as National Chairman a position that he thoroughly deserves for his contribution to greenkeeping over the last two years. The 1999 Westurf trade show this year was a massive success and an ideal venue for our members and hopes that all members will support the show next year as it will be bigger and better than this year, the Chairman congratulated the Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, who has re-directed Westurf into a show with a future. Her hard work and enthusiasm for greenkeeping is a big asset to our Region. The Chairman thanked Paula on behalf of the section for all her hard work and wished her a speedy recovery from her radiotherapy treatment. As you can appreciate the Chairman is closing his report passed on the Section's thanks to all the trade companies who have supported the Section's AGMs over the last year they are very much appreciated and he thanked members for helping the Section to be so successful. He thanked Richard Wisdom for repre- senting the Section to the Regional Board, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Whymar who is without doubt the best Section Administrator in the country.

Our Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored meeting was held at Manor House Hotel on Wednesday, January 28, the day will be once again sponsored by Barenburg Seed. The day will start with our golfing members competing for the event which will hopefully make it an enjoyable stay. I would also like to mention to everyone that Neil Gilham, who I shared a room with, kept we awake with his snoring.

In November there was the Regional Seminar at Writtle College, which was very informative and interesting and a credit to all present.

Next up was the AGM at Wildernesse. There are several points to note for those who did not attend (which happened to be of the ever present Huw Morgan, who is sadly stepping down. It could be said that everybody will miss the hard work Huw has put in over the years. So from all concerned thanks for all your efforts and best wishes for the future.

The last golf day was the Turkey Trot and Christmas Dinner at Darent Valley GC in early December. The winner was D. Wood with 39pts (handicap) and nearly 900 yards on the par 5s.

We would also like to say a big thank you to all the sponsors for their generosity, who made the day possible, as they did throughout the year, and we look forward to your continued support for the coming year - which looks prosperous.

We are also looking for new venues for the coming season so if your club would be interested then please contact us with details. Next month I shall have some new ideas for the coming year which hopefully make it more interesting and appeal to a wider audience.

Anyway I hope everybody had a Happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year and I hope that you all enjoy yourselves at Harrogate.

Any news, views or gossip give us a call on 01474 879200 or 0402 573994.

Kneale Diamond
ing to attend, return your cheques and entrance slips to Jef Drake as soon as possible. This is to make sure they have an idea of how many will be attending. Jef has put a lot of hard work into organising this seminar. It is up to all of us as members of the section to make every effort to attend and get the seminar our total support.

Looking ahead to March 8, a talk from a representative of Scotts Fertilisers at Crane Valley Golf Club. This will be followed by lunch and 9 holes of golf.

Ken Lodge

South Wales

Looking back on Wednesday, November 17 our Section seminar was a great success and well attended, thanks to Derrick Cashmore who, on behalf of the Principal, welcomed members to Pencoed College huge thank you to the speakers of the day Graham Francis, Tony Webster of TIS, Len Dixon of Field Capacity, Peter Hampton of Bernard & Co Ltd and David Shelton of Sheltons Sports Drainage Solutions. Also thanks to Ken Richardson who travelled down to be at the seminar I’m sure like us you enjoyed the day Ken has promised to support the Section. Thanks to the caterers for the spread which was delicious. A presentation was made on the day to Peter Gillard for his commitment and to the South West Region for being one of the first to support raising the profile of the region in the Golf Industry. Once again thanks to everyone who made the day a success.

On November 24 the Regional Seminar held at Cannington College was well attended. The speakers consisted of our Section Chairman to start STR; Dr Bob Daniels, of Scotts; Dr Danny Thorogood, of IGER; Dr Stephen Bernard, of Bernard & Co Ltd and Prof Bill Adams, of the University of Wales. Lots of relevant and useful information gained in attending the day. Thanks to the host of the day Richard Whyman from the Devon & Cornwall Section what a splendid job.

Bring you up-to-date with the results of the golf, AGM and the sectional points. The presentation was made on the day to Tony Home for his second retirement. Last but not least our compile for the day was none other than the legendary Malcolm Davies who made the day run smoothly.

Northen Ireland

Northern Ireland

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you responsible for supplying Section Notes for all the great work you do.

I know it must seem like a thankless task when you have a deadline approaching and you’ve got nothing to write about but generally the pages do provide more than enough news to keep everyone interested.

I’d also like to remind long time Section Note contributors, and inform those who have been handed the task, of those deadlines.

The cut off point has always been around the 5th of the month - eg for the January Notes the deadline was December 3. There is a little leeway as I know there are sometimes events you wish to include and you hold the Notes back. That’s fine but if you could use the 5th of the month as your regular deadline I’d appreciate it.

I don’t mind why it is so early in the month as, with no space to play with this month, I’ll take the chance to explain.

Normally the magazine arrives on your door mat in the first few days of the month of issue - January magazine will have arrived with you in the first week of the month. At our end to enable this to happen, and in the post as early as possible, our printers have to be supplied with the entire contents - editorial and advertisements - two weeks before then, which takes us into the middle of the previous month.

To give David, our designer, a chance to lay-out the pages in an attractive fashion he needs another full working week. This takes us back to around the 12th of the month.

Invariably there are elements of the magazine that require me to work close to that deadline so it is ideal to have those parts of the magazine that are not particularly urgent, or from previous meetings, have early deadlines. This way Section Notes are one such element. Bearing in mind that they also have to be typed onto our computers by Christine when they come in.

I hope this explains to you how we can need a full month to process your Notes. As I said there is some leeway but the earlier you send them in the more it will help.

It is also helpful if you can have them typed or in clear handwriting, to reduce the number of misspelt names we print, while a recommended word count for each Section will be around 500. This column is 300 words long to give you a measure. Obviously if you’ve had a particularly busy month, don’t feel you have to miss anything out just to keep it under 500.

The Section Notes are a valuable element of the magazine - often the first read after the Recruitment pages - and I do appreciate the work you put into producing them.

Thanks a lot and keep up the good work.