September, rain, the two have been inseparable in 2000 and the old saying that the weather will change with the month is definitely not right this year. As I write this Monday October 9, it has been non-stop heavy rain since 10am. It is now 8pm and the forecast says same again tomorrow. Anyone trying to get golf courses done has its sympathy. It's a case of trying to catch a dry day between all the wet ones. I was lucky to catch one of those days on September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section ladies at their autumn meeting and tea with the Central Section, also at their autumn outing. September 29 when I had lunch with Andy Vincent have to be congratulated itself simply magnificent. The sponsors, when I was invited to join the Northern Section, also at their autumn outing. September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section ladies at their autumn meeting and tea with the Central Section, also at their autumn outing. Thank you to both Sections, it was a grand day, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you also to the Central Section, of which I am a member, for the lovely hospitality and especially to Geoff Walker, Captain of Old St Annes and Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven, for all their staff for the excellent condition of both courses.

Lastly, but only because I saved them for last, our sponsors, Charters house and Scotts, who made it all possible. Once again a big thank you for your support.

By the way, if Richard Minton tells anyone that I don't pay my debts - he beat me easily at Old St Annes and he did play well - anyone who drops the bet to 1- after seeing my first drive has no courage of conviction.

Guess what? Tuesday and it poured down again but it did not stop our intrepid competitors - glad I wasn't playing - who battled through to the end. Well done to our 2000 Champion David Houghton and also to Noel Crawford whose 73 scratch, one over par, round Fairhaven was tremendous given the appalling conditions. It was another great tournament for which we thank all at Old St Annes and Fairhaven for their hospitality and especially to Geoff Whittle, Course Manager at St Annes and Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven and all their staff for the excellent condition of both courses.

Well, summer is over and it's time to encourage their staff to improve them-selves in either learning new skills or adding to what they already know. Recently a Club Manager told me they have a great Head Greenkeeper, but unfortunately he lacked some managerial skills. Why not send him on one or two BIGGA courses, I said, Brin Bendon or Frank Newberry will certainly help him to add these managerial skills to his already considerable skills as a green-keeper. Surely it's better to let a man or appoint someone over him if all he needs is some specialist training to help him and also help the club.

Most greenkeepers start off as apprentices and work their way up and have not had the chance to learn managerial skills as such management, budgeting work allocation, report writing and other skills like these. In this day of educational enlightenment where the governments are always encouraging us to learn new skills it sadly behoves the clubs to set aside monies to each year purely for education and training. If you do not have this in your budget, put it in this year, it makes sense.