Ayrshire
This column has been blank for the past couple of months with holidays and no news to report. Jim Paton, from West Kilbride, tells us that two greenkeepers had played the final of their club championship with Barry Crawford, of Old Prestwick, defeating defending champion local national winner. Is this a unique occurrence?!

A man on the move is my old apprentice from Beith, David Blair, who moves to Lochinwnoch Golf Club to join the Section as First Assistant. Congratulations and good wishes with your new job David. Over the town in Largs, at Routenburn, First Assistant Colin Sutherland, has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations and good wishes with your new job Colin also. That’s all the summer news. While I am, at least the weather has been good.

I was at St Andrews for The Open Championship with the Support Team which was again superb and a fantastic enjoyable event. The highlight for me was being drawn with Tiger Woods on the first day and apart from being and almost human rubber band wasn’t going in any bunkers which he repeated for the entire Championship. I would like to pay a tribute to Jimmy Neilson and Cecil George, who retired from the Support Team at St Andrew’s, where it was started in 1984 with Jimmy and Cecil, among others, in the days of SIGGA. They had been present ever since. Well done lads you have carried out a fantastic job and can now become full time ambassadors in the hospitality marque.

The Section held their Summer Tournament at Stirling GC on September 21. Please get your entries in as soon as possible. On August 24 we will have a football tournament at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling.

The proposed visit to the seed trial ground at Loch Lomond has had to be cancelled due to circumstances outwith our control. Sorry if you are disappointed, but there was nothing we could do about it.

Richard Walton, of Scots, is organising a visit to their fertiliser plant for next month and he is also hoping to include a visit to the STRI at Bingley on one of the two day programmes. Anyone interested should return their forms quickly as numbers may be restricted.

We are hoping to hold this years AGM in the St Andrews area, with a talk on golf course machinery prior to the meeting and a visit to the maintenance complex employed by the AGM. That’s another form for you to fill in!

The winning numbers in the ‘Club 2000’ draw for the past two months were No. 338, Joe Oliphant from Pittreavie GC and No. 260 which was sold by Alex Robertson from Grangemouth GC. This year’s ‘Club 2000’ tickets should by now have reached you and if you will notice a difference in the monthly prize, instead of one winner of £50 we are making one of £30 and one of £20. Once again your support in this venture will be very much appreciated by your committee.

As in previous years, the Inter Club tournament has finished behind schedule with a number of first round ties still to be played. It will be difficult for the committee to take any action on this one and four of them have teams participating in the event.

South of Scotland
This is a rather short column this month. Is it the time of the year, or is everyone being kept busy? If you have any thoughts on the aforementioned, please get in touch with any committee member or Peter Boyd on this number.

Another three members have joined the Section and we welcome Adam Head, from Auchterarder GC, Alan Green, from Dunblane New GC, and John Forrest from Camnmore GC. A man on the move this time is Abe Torrance. Abe has left the Green Hotel Golf Courses, at Ayr, where he was employed as an assistant and has taken up a similar position with Joe Oliver, at Pittreavie GC, in Dunfermline. Best wishes for the future Abe.

The entry form for the Autumn Tournament at Stirling GC, on September 21 should be with you soon. If you wish to play in the final golf event of this year, it is the first qualifying round for the 2001 National Championship, please get your entries in as soon as possible. On August 24 we will have a football tournament at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling.

The next tournament on the calendar is the Willie Woods Invitation at Winterfield GC on September 6, so hopefully you’ve got yourself a partner for this great tournament. If not, ask your Captain, Secretary, Vice Captain, Captain’s Representative or your committee along for the day. If they have not been before, they will be pleasantly surprised, so we hope to see you there.

Following on from that will be the autumn outing, first qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship 2001. So we hope to see a big turnout at West Linton GC on the 21 September.

Going back to the Willie Woods at Winterfield, having spoken to Craig, final preparations on the GC are now well underway for this tournament and he is looking forward to having us down in Dunbar.

People on the move this month are Ian Elliot, from Dalmaur G & CC, who has moved down to the Borders to join my team at West Linton GC as First Assistant, third in charge. And also along to our team and all the best for the future.

I will have details of the Annual Dance and Section Raffle shortly and immediately I receive them I will put them in print. Well, that’s all this month.

Northern
A couple of new members to welcome to the Section this month. Paul Fraser, from Brechin GC, and Robert Duncan, from Royal Dornoch GC, and rejoining the Section, now working at Longside GC is Jonathan Lester. The Section continues to grow and grow and hopefully new members will remain with us for years to come.

The Open was another great experience at the home of golf, St Andrews. The Section was well represented as usual and full credit to Eddie Adams and his staff for the presentation of a fine links test for all.

The Sectional match on the Saturday resulted in another Scottish win. If we win again next year we get to keep them! Ex-Section member, Gordon Mckeie, nearly lost his gear when dropping off some of the London based lads at Edinburgh airport as they took his bags as well, but realised before boarding the plane Fortunately.

The Scottish Amateur Matchplay was held in the Section at Royal Dornoch recently and Bobby Mackay and his staff put up the course looking superb as usual. This was a double for the North as the Scottish Strokeplay was at Letham Grange earlier in the year.

As I was at the tournament sending in entries for in the Section’s autumn outing at the end of the month at Peterculter.

David Macintosh and his staff will be wanting to show off their lovely course to as many as possible, so let’s have a good turnout. We will have the next four draws for the November 200 Club when you’re there you pick up your cheque on the day, providing you win the course.

The two lucky members from the Section to win the year 2000 Patron Awards will be announced shortly with details in the next magazine.

So if you have been attending BIGGA events over the last 12 months, you could be one of the ones chosen for a trip to BTME next January.

Watch this space.

Iain MacLeod
Our next event is the Autumn Tournament, at Hornsea GC, 1.30pm, sponsored by F & G Adamson. All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £15 no later than seven days before the event. Cheques to be made payable to “BIGGA Northern Section.” Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We welcome this month new members:- John Burnside, Bingley St.Ives GC; Stuart Rogers, Philip Niven, Northcliffe GC; Andrew Slingsby, Hollins Hall H&GC.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any enquiries don’t hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring.

North West
I have just returned from The Open at St Andrews and feel completely jet-lagged, although we travelled by car. Long days without my evening’s nap, while ‘Neighbours’ is on, catches up in the end. Back to The Open and what a finish by Tiger Woods. When he thought he was going to be caught on the final day, he shifted into another gear and left them all standing.

The course was in lovely condition and on the Wednesday the greens were reported to be 11 on the stimpmetre and the fairways measured 8. The bunkers seemed to cause problems for some of the players and I must admit just peering into them made the mind boggle. Of course they posed no problem to Tiger who missed them all. I feel the reason for this is that he was able to out drive them all. As you all know, the weather could not have been better and it was a great week to remember, especially meeting up with old friends in the Support team.

Anybody interested in education can find plenty of information in the magazine about training courses at BIGGA HOUSE, also regional courses. If you require any further information, give me a ring.

The Cumbria Cup has been renamed ‘The Whitelaw Bowl’ and will be played for at Penrith Golf Club on Wednesday, September 13. Anybody wanting to play should ring Andy Vincent, of Course Care, on 07971 292 626. We have a match against Birkenhead Golf Club Stewards on Monday, October 2, at Stand Golf Club and I require a team of 16 players. If you are interested, please give me a ring and you don’t have to be the best golfer in the world. That seems to be it for now, but if you have any news or require any information, you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Midlands
On July 19 the summer tournament was held at Walsall Golf Club. The day proved to be a great success with the English weather being very kind to us for a change. Many thanks to Steve Wood for presenting the course in such splendid condition and to all his staff, also to all the associated golf club staff for making the day such a great success. The results are as follows: 1. Gross, Mike Hughes. 1. Net, Eddie Stant. 2. Alan Roberts. 3. A. Lang. 4. Brian Nuttall. Nearest the Pin was won by Peter Holtham. Martin Sowerby won longest drive. Peter McCrainer won the trade cup.

Jonathan Wood

East Midlands
It is with deep regret that I report the sad death of Gerald Darby. Gerald was a popular member of the Section during the 1970’s while working at Birstall Golf Club. He then moved South to the Surrey Section before retiring about five years ago. Our condolences go to Gerald’s wife and two daughters. The Section was represented by two of our members, Dave Leatherland and Richard Barker at this year’s Open held at St Andrews.

Finally, all members should be in possession of their autumn competition entry form. If you wish to play in this tournament please return your form before the closing date. If any members have not received a form, please contact me and I will gladly send you a copy.

Antony Bindley
East of England

The Purdy's Golf Day took place at Kenwick Park Golf Club, Louth. As usual the organiser was late, but eventually the competition got under way.

Head Greenkeeper Geoff Henderson, and his staff, were praised for the excellent condition of the course.

The winner of the Purdy’s/Toro Cup was David Horsey, of Woodhall Spa - 33 points; 2. Graeme MacDonald of Newark with 32 points; 3. Simon Gazda of Kenwick, - 31 points. The main sponsors of the day were Andy Hardie and Toro Woodhall Spa - 33 points; 2. Toro Grass Machinery, and thanks to them for the usual excellent prizes for the winners.

Everybody went home with a prize even if it was only a raffle prize.

The day was also capped off with a super donation from Toro towards a cheque for £23.

Purdy's Golf Day took place on Thursday, August 6. Airton Limited, East of England would welcome input from the members on how the Section is run at present and would consider any new ideas for the future.

The golf event will be followed by the usual address should you wish to attend.

The golf event will be followed by the Section AGM, which is open to all BIGGA members of the section, so please feel free to attend.

I'm sure the Section Committee would welcome input from the members on how the Section is run at present and would consider any new ideas for the future.

Now onto the coveted Tuckwell Cup, where it was agreed to take the eight best cards from greenkeepers from each Section. Essex accured 274 points and East Anglia 299. It gave me great pleasure to accept the trophy as Captain of the East Anglia Team. Many thanks to all those who took part in the competition and well done to all the East Anglia Team. A splendid effort.

Ian Willett

Kent

The Section's second golf day was held on July 25 at Brocket Hall Golf Club. A total of 60 members, members of the trade and guests

Toro's Greensmaster® ride-on greens mowers are renowned for their superb finish, reliability, productivity and ease-of-use. And it's quality that lasts, for they also have a reputation for durability and a high residual value. Now, a new improved Greensmaster® is available - the 3250 with a larger, more powerful engine to give even higher productivity. And if it's a pedestrian mower you require, our classic Greensmaster® 1000 greens mower is just one of a superb range guaranteed to build your reputation for quality greens. Simply telephone on 01480 226800 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

Nearest the Pin - J Moir.

It has come to our attention that the tee shot of J. Moir finished approximately five feet from the hole, beating the previous nearest (held by Gary Ogilivie, a four handicapper from Avoncrop) by only a few inches. Congratulations on a fine shot Mr Moir, but Gary, would like you to talk us through the three putts!

Out thanks to Barry Jackson and the rest of the staff at Broke Hill for a great day.

The course was in excellent condition and the evening meal was first class.

A big thank you also to Alistair and Bernie for their help on the day, starting people and organising the nearest the pin and longest drive.

The next golf day will be held at Kings Hill in October, hope to see you all there.

Congratulations to John Noyce, of Scotts Fertiliser Company, on his forthcoming wedding. A lot of you will know John from his time at Parker Hart and I am sure you’ll join us in wishing them future happiness. Sorry John, but we don’t know the name of your good lady.

As always, the Section is open to offers for courses for next year’s golf events.

If any of you would like to put your club forward or if you have any information for this Section, please contact me on 01277 750281.

James Duncan

South Coast

Autumn will be upon us by the time you read this. Several excellent golf days have been enjoyed by the Section this year. Firstly, the match against the secretaries was played at Basingstoke Golf Club with the greenkeepers winning easily 5-1. Thanks to Course Care for sponsoring the day and Basingstoke for allowing courtesy. Well done to Harvey and his team for the excellent course conditions.

The summer tournament was our guest day played at High Post Golf Club sponsored by Rigby Taylor and again Course Care. Well done to Lauchlan Millar and his team for the super conditions.

Winners with an obscene 48 pts was Joe Newman and his guest, from Downshire GC. Second was Ian Noble and guest, from Moors Valley GC, 45 pts. Third was Alan Rideout and guest, from Bournemouth Services, 44 pts.

The second Course Manage-
I start my report this month by wishing Mick Oliver, of Oliver Seeds, a speedy recovery from his recent operation. We hope to see him back to full fitness shortly. Also I would like to report that Bill Pile, Course Manager at Fingle Glen Golf Club, will be retiring from his position during September. Bill was a founder member of the Section and was Section Secretary, taking over from Brian Summers, way back in the 70s, until handing over to Jim Wood in the late eighties.

Bill also served the Section on the Regional Board and on the old national committee of BGGA. Bill’s hard work over the years has made our Section what it is today a strong and active section, without his effort I wonder where we would be today? Thanks Bill.

Summer 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 programme which will start this year at Dainton Park Golf Club on Wednesday, October 25. The morning’s golf competition will be a singles Stableford competition for the D.O. Hunt Trophy. Our non-playing members will be able to enjoy the usual course walk which will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1pm followed by our afternoon educational talk.

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:
22 November Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College
23 - 26 January Regions trip to BTME at Harrogate

For more details on regional events, please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194. You should have received your new fixture card which 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.

Devon & Cornwall
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South Wales
The summer tournament on July 5 was held at the picturesque Ashburnham GC. The day was glorious and the course in excellent condition thanks to Paul and his team. Thanks to Ashburnham GC for allowing courtesy of the course and to Birds of Cowbridge Grass Machinery for sponsoring the day and also to the caterers for the wonderful food.


Peter Lacey returned for his second assistance at the Open Championship held this year at St Andrews. Peter again showing the world what we Welshmen are made of. Well done I’m sure it was great to be

Washing turf is a job for experts. Rolawn’s expertise in turf washing has been built up over twenty five years. This coupled with a substantial investment in a state of the art turf washing plant has made the company European leader in turf washing technology.

Rolawn’s turf washing plant is operated by expert staff to produce top quality turf that is 100% clean and soil free. Our unique process leaves the turf roll intact with a healthy aggressive root system on one side and a first class dense healthy sward on the other. Any roll format produced by the company is available washed, i.e. Standard roll, Budget roll, 1066 roll.

Rolawn Washed Turf is faster and easier to lay, saving time and money. And with no rootzone problems to overcome it establishes rapidly. Therefore your greens and tees will come into play much sooner.

So don’t hang about – choose Rolawn Washed Turf.
Around the green

In January I took the opportunity, through the pages of Around the Green, to thank those responsible for supplying Section Notes for all the great work that you do. As I said there is some leeway but generally the pages do provide more than enough news and gossip 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 September issue. Notes due mid-month are most welcome butS. 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 deadline I would appreciate it. You may wonder why it is so early as normally the magazine arrives on your door mats in the first few days of the month of issue. At our end to enable this to happen, and in the past as early in the month as possible, our printers have to be supplied with the entire contents — editorial and advertisements — two weeks before then, which takes us into the end of the month of the previous month. Then to give David, our designer, a chance to lay-out all of the pages in an attractive fashion he needs at least a full working week. This takes us back to around the 12th of the month.

Also, Christine types up your notes which takes up additional time, but don't forget, those of you who use email, can send them to me on scott@bigga.co.uk thus saving on the typing time.

Invariably there are elements of the magazine that require me to work close to that deadline so it is beneficial to have bits that are not particularly time sensitive cleared early. Section Notes are one such element.

I hope this explains how we can use the 5th of the month as your deadline.
be holding an educational seminar at Greenmount College. A great line up of speakers has been attained, with the likes of Jim Arthur, Chris Kennedy, from Wentworth; David Garland, the European Tour Director of Tour Operations; John Quinn, from Elmwood College; David MacIndoe, Joe Paulin, of Golden Eagle Agronomy and our own Frank Ainsworth.

This seminar is open to all, from Greenkeepers to Secretary Managers and anyone else involved in the Golf Course Industry. An approx. cost will be £25 for members and £30 for non-members. Booking forms will be sent to every club in the next few days. Don’t leave booking your place to the last minute as this, I’m sure, will be very well attended. Lunch is included in the price and it is requested that a respectable dress code is adhered to.

We also have secured sponsorship from all the main suppliers of machinery and fertiliser in the province who will be showing their wares on the day. Also sponsorship from the GUI and enormous help from BIGGA headquarters will no doubt make this a great day and one definitely not to be missed.

Finally, Head Greenkeeper at Shandon, Jeffery Lamb, got married on August 5. I was at the reception and it was pleasing to know that your new wife has a better singing voice than you Jeffery. Congratulations and best wishes to you both for the future.

Iain Harrison.