The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Tuesday June 12 by kind permission of the management of Druim Reuldig Hotel and Golf Club. The cost of the event will be £17 which includes 18 holes, valuable prizes and an evening meal.

Entry will be restricted depending on the number of entries received. Entry forms will be available at all Section meetings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries, with remittance, must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meacowburn Avenue, Northfield, Ayrshire, so please send your entries in quickly to make sure they get in on time. If you are interested in playing Helensburgh as much as I was in the past, please get in touch with Andy and he will give you a full “job description.”

John Crawford

Ayrshire

The final arrangements for this year’s outings have still to be confirmed as I type these notes. The committee meeting has been delayed because of the snow and is now well past the deadline for this month’s notes. Derek Wilson has made preliminary arrangements with Bridgehouse Bay for May 10 for our outing on Monday. The usual arrangement will be sent out in due course and I will confirm arrangements in next month’s notes.

Any news call me on 01305 683278
Iain Barr

West

Welcome to this month’s West Section Notes. By the time this magazine reaches you we will all have dug ourselves out of the snow drifts of February, probably experienced a false spring and be in the midst of a cool, uncharacteristic, usual Scottish spring. As I write this report many of you will be preparing for your March matches by clearing four foot of snow from your access roads. Do we start the season too early? Enough small talk.

The Greenkeeper’s/Convenor’s match will probably have been played at Helensburgh GC by the time you read this magazine. The results of the day will be printed in the June edition of Greenkeeper International.

The West Section spring outing will be played at Kirkhill GC on April 25. Two football matches will be played during March, one against the Central Section the other against Maryhill Police. Stuart Taylor after many years of sterling service eventually cracked under the tremendous pressure! The management and the section football team put up a man and has handed over the running of the football team to Gerard (Houllier) Bruin. Gerry would like anyone who is interested in playing in future matches to contact him at East Kilbride GC on 013552 36335.

On an educational note, Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Landscapes, has kindly offered a West Section assistant/trainee the opportunity to visit BTME at Harrogate next year. In order that all eligible BIGGA West Section members have an opportunity to win this great award the committee are considering an essay competition. Details of the competition have still to be finalised but the essay will be on an environmentally related subject. So get your thinking caps on and watch this space for competition details. The committee again would like to thank Mike for this very generous offer.

During a recent committee meeting it was brought to our attention that due to the rather poor response to recent BIGGA run regional training Programmes the content or venue of such events was wrong. To gain a clearer picture of what you the Section member’s want from such regional training Programmes we ask that you use us with any suggestions you may have for the improvement of such events. What areas of training can we improve on? Is the venue right? Is the cost right? What particular subject is of interest to you? If you do have any suggestions feel free to contact me on the number given below.

North

New members continue to roll in. This month we welcome the following: Norman Rose from Hazelhead, Graham Donaldson from Stonehaven, Rodolfo Alzate, Allan Hay from Aberdeen and Richard Johnstone from Nairn Dunbar, while re-joining the Section is Robert Allan from Hazelhead.

I really enjoyed my trip to the USA for the GCSAA Show in Dallas and the following week went to South Carolina and Atlanta to play some golf. While visiting East Lake, Bobby Jones’s home course, I met a great chap who was working there. Kevin roomed with me at the Open when it was at Royal Troon and is a student of golf at Elmwood College then and is currently doing a year as an intern at East Lake, sampling greenkeeping USA style. A great opportunity for young greenkeepers today and he recommends it to anyone back home thinking about a change.

I attended the Scottish one day conference in Dunfermline last month and was delighted to see a large contingent of North members in the 180 or so filled conference hall. It was an enjoyable day re-joining the Section is Robert Allan from Hazelhead.

It was a great day and very informative, congratulations to Peter Boyd and the committee for putting it all together. Congratulations to Peter J. Boyd, lOMeadowburn Avenue, Northfield, Ayrshire, so, if you fancy going, please get in touch with me ASAP!

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Stuart Thomson, from West Lothian Gauges to meet some of you at our forthcoming conference in Dunfermline last month and we even managed one from a local club! Well done Kenny Duncan, from Dunfermline Golf Club, sorry Fraser! One member who was unable to attend was “Deek” from Scoonie who (and I have this on good authority) was too busy searching for “lost” treasure on Scoonie Golf Club, sorry Fraser! One member who possibly.

A visit for us to the new course being built with an engraved crystal decanter to mark his recent retirement.

Any member who has not received their entry form for this event should get in touch with me ASAP!

I think the last month’s Club 200 draw are Archie Dunn with ticket number 008 and Vice Chairman of BIGGA, Richard Barker, with ticket number 157. Your cheques are in the post.

Thanks to those who got in touch following the Section report in the February issue of Greenkeeper International. S. Coman, T. McCreadie, Iain Barr, A. Howie, A. Gibson and a special thanks to I. Knight and S. McGregor.

It was pleasing to see so many Section members at the Scottish conference in Dunfermline last month and we even managed one from a local club! Well done Kenny Duncan, from Dunfermline Golf Club, sorry Fraser! One member who was unable to attend was “Deek” from Scoonie who (and I have this on good authority) was too busy searching for “lost” treasure on Scoonie Golf Club. I was sure all who attend this day will enjoy playing Helensburgh as much as I have in the past. A report and the results of the day will be printed in the June edition of Greenkeeper International.

During a recent committee meeting it was brought to our attention that due to the rather poor response to recent BIGGA run regional training Programmes the content or venue of such events was wrong. To gain a clearer picture of what you the Section member’s want from such regional training Programmes we ask that you use us with any suggestions you may have for the improvement of such events. What areas of training can we improve on? Is the venue right? Is the cost right? What particular subject is of interest to you? If you do have any suggestions feel free to contact me on the number given below.

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North West

Very little to write about this month other than a snippet of news from Wilmshurst Golf Club. Steve Outram tells me that one of the staff from Wilmshurst has just officially retired. He is Ernie Bartlett who is 84 years old, and has worked at Wilmshurst for 32 years.

He retired from full time employment at 65, and since then he has worked three days a week. Steve tells me that until he was 74 years old he was cutting fairways with a tractor and trail gangs, and then he took on the job of driving tees and fairways, while keeping the clubhouse areas clean and tidy.

I am sure we all wish him the best in his retirement years (perhaps he will take up golf).

The Spring Tournament is at Mere Golf & Country Club on Monday, April 23, and you need to apply to Bill Merritt, 223, Utting Avenue, Clubmoore, Liverpool, L4 9RB enclosing a cheque for £15. Lunch is 12:30pm to 1pm, and the tee is available from 1:30pm till 2:30pm. Get your applications in quick because we are restricted to 50 in number.

The match between the Northwest and North Wales is to be played on Tuesday, May 1, at Aberygele GC. The tournament is sponsored by Gem Professional, and I require a team of 16 to retain the Gem trophy. If you are available please contact me as soon as possible on mobile 077615 833387 or 0151 7245412

Best Cross

Editor’s Note:

Apologies for the fact that Bert and Billy Merritt’s addresses were printed incorrectly in the March magazine.

Cleveland

It’s time to dust the cobwebs off your golf clubs, polish your golf shoes because the Spring Tournament is upon us and this year it will be played at Wareside Golf Club on April 24. There are still a few places left so to book call Barry Walker on mobile 07968 308929 or home 01915 650691. The entry fee is £10 including meal and remember a bad day’s golf is better than a good day’s work.

This year’s summer knockout, The Cleveland Shield, is again sponsored by Carrs. Many thanks to them for their very generous and continued support.

To enter again call Barry, the fee is £2, the first round draw will take place at the Spring Tournament so make sure you enter before then. If you are unable to attend, Jim Thompson will be entering to get past the first round this year!

Jim is leaving the Wynyard Club and is moving to join Paul Moore, Course Manager at Darlington Golf Club, and his team. He has been at Wynyard for five years the first six months of which he worked without pay! Everyone at Wynyard wishes him good luck in his new role.

And finally, Tony Bunge, Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club, the man who never leaves anywhere without a prize strikes again, he won a girdle at this year’s BTME in a draw put on by Course Care. Any news call 07719153838

Steven Jaques

The rest of the fixtures are President’s Day, Harrogate GC, 19 June; - Roses Match, Sand Moor GC, 22 August; - Invitation Day, Harrogate GC, 12 September; - Autumn Tournament, Woodhouse Hall GC, 18 October; - Winter Golf, Headingley GC, 5 December.

It is with regret that after six years on the committee, four as Secretary and one as Chairman, Simon Heppenstall has decided to step down from the committee. The committee would like to thank Simon for his hard work in keeping the Section going over the years. I would like personally to thank Simon for his help and advice in helping me settle into my role.

Your new Chairman is Jim Brown, and Vice-Chairman is Dave Thackray. Speaking of Jim, you may have read of Jim’s departure in February’s magazine. I can now report that Jim couldn’t leave his beloved Yorkshire and is now staying at Cookridge.

We welcome Jason White, Halifax Bradley Hall GC; Joseph Cassell, Neil Clarke, Oakdale GC; Alistair Bolch, York GC.; Graham Wilson, Boothferry Park GC; Roger Mackerell, Gary Anderson, Moortown GC; Andrew Cox, Ilkley GC; Gary Mackerell, Lychdale. Lightcliffe GC; Robert Turner, Halifax GC; David Kendall, Craig Finnegan, West Bradford GC; Alan Martin, Heworth GC; Martin Green, Bradford GC; Brian Kirkby, Grimsby GC; David Chadwick, Moor Allerton GC; Stefan Jones, Pike Hills GC; Christopher Barnacle, Fulford G.C.; Tom Bennett, Bradford Moor GC.; Steve Townsdale, North Cliff GC; Gary Dyson, Pontefract & District GC; David Sayer, Branshaw GC; David Bateman, Odey GC as new members.

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; Tel: 0113 2383188: mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Sheffield

Let’s start this month with a little bit of good news. Congratulations are in order to Gary Marsh, of Luckton Golf Club, on receiving the runners-up prize in the BIGGA England competition. The prize was presented at BTME by Sir Michael Bonallack. Well done Gary.

On February 1 we held our second Winter Lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Thank you to James Morley and Richard Tyns for their informative presentations on John Deere equipment.

Entry forms will soon be sent out for our first golf day at Bondhay Golf Club on May 15. Please try to return these forms before the stated closing date. Any information regarding golf days may be obtained by contacting the competitions secretary on 01302 831665

A Sampson
North Wales

Not a lot to write about this month. Firstly, though, my apologies to Sportsworld for omitting them from the list of sponsors for the Xmas comp.

The Section wishes Desi Hughes, Head Greenkeeper at Pathwell Golf Club, a long, healthy and happy retirement.

By the time you read this you should have heard about our Meeting at Ruddian Golf Club. However I write as the Foot and Mouth epidemic is rampant so God only knows. Access to the countryside is being curtailed and it seems that most of our courses are surrounded by farmland it can only be a matter of time before our industry is affected. I know it is nothing compared to the terrible hardship that the farming community is suffering and our thoughts must be with them. However on the back of so many course closures due to the wet weather this is the last thing our industry needs with revenues so badly hit. Let’s just hope that by the time you read this it has been eradicated.

The annual match against North West was played in April at Abergale and if you are interested in winning our Shield back get in touch with Jeremy Hughes.

The college seminar was held in February and had a very reduced number. Again I think that the smaller turnout than normal was due to the weather, as we all try to catch up on our winter programmes. Everyone I have spoken to who attended said it was very interesting, so thanks go to Graham Wright, the college and the liaison panel for putting it on.

If you have anything of interest please get in touch. See ya!

Dave Goodridge

Mid Anglia

All members should, by now, have received a fixture list for the forthcoming events being held within the section for 2001. Entry forms for golf competitions and the Lodgeway Four Ball should also have been received. Should you wish to enter more than one event, please photocopy the form.

As there is no qualification requirement for the Fixture list, it is contactable at Coft Heath and would welcome anyone interested in investing in a new facility of their own.

Sports World has once again been kind enough to arrange an excellent day at the Hardi factory in Hinckley. Tours were taken by Ann who managed to be informative and light hearted while maintaining the discipline (must be the army training!).

Regional Turf Management Workshop held at Hittington Heath Golf Club on March 1 was also very informative with contributions from Andy Cole, of Grass Science; Mike Finney, of Grass Science; Chris end of Dow Science, and Mike Higgins, of Rufford.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all at Great Barr for the Spring Tournament on May 14 so please post that entry form as soon as possible.

Phil Gates

East Midlands

This year’s Go-Kart evening was held at The Golf Club, Sutton, some time this year, details to follow.

Draws for the Lodgeway Four Ball will be made at the Spring Tournament, so please ensure that Steve Mast receives your entries by May 3. As mentioned previously, this will now be a straight knockout competition.

The Regional Management Trophy will be held at Venulum Golf Club this year; the date is yet to be confirmed. Teams representing each club must be made up of: Head Greenkeeper, Captain, Section Secretary and (a) Committee member – preferably Greens Chairman. Our Regional Administrator, Les Emery, who is organising the event, will forward invitations for entry to clubs.

Paul Lockert

Essex

In this month’s very brief report we welcome a host of new members, they are:- Stuart Wren, Great Hartham Golf and Country Club; Steve Jackson, Ilford GC; Ben Scriver, Stock Brook Manor GC; Ian Wood, Romford GC; Boyd Evans, Trent Park GC; Mark Kiff, Bishop Stortford; Scott Colegate, Bishop Stortford; James Pickess, Chelmsford GC; Michael Dillway, Three Rivers Golf and Country Club.

As for the latter, not only are you going to be in the company of a bunch of lads who share interests, whether it be greenkeeping, or golf, you get the opportunity to have a go at one on the trade, whether it be a new fertiliser or a new machine which someone has bought, all good information.

So to the money side. Well, being that we normally give clubs free entry, we give you our advice to all considering any design work, thanks to David and also to Rigby Taylor’s Turf Management who sponsored the evening.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all at our next Section event which will be at Frinton Golf Club on April 25. A seminar covering all aspects of Golf Course Design and Layout will be held at Writtle College last month. Thirty members ventured out to hear David Kidd hand out valuable advice to all considering any design work. Thanks to David and also to Sherriff Crop Care (Graham Paul) who sponsored the evening.

Another thank you, this time to Neil Peachey and Tuckwells for sponsoring the production of our fixture cards which you should all have by now. If not contact Martin Forrester (01245) 603313. One amendment to the new cards has to be made. The Frinton fixture cards which you should all receive a fixture list containing the other dates.

The thanks are organised for the benefit of all greenkeepers who are members of BIGGA.

I sometimes hear people saying that it is too expensive and how would benefit me?

Well, as for the latter, not only are you going to be in the company of a bunch of lads who share interests, whether it be greenkeeping, or golf, you get the opportunity to ...
Surrey

Monday March 5, about 11:15 and only a few days away from the Gentleman’s Dinner at Walton Heath on the 9th. My mobile phone rings and, from Royal Epstein, Mr. Deuce and one is the bearer of bad tidings, Foot and Mouth precautions close and our annual South East Section Golf Day and Dinner at our new Chairman’s course is postponed. Derek Farrington will let us know as soon as possible if Walton Heath can fit us in at a later date.

Happier tidings now with the news that Mark Bellamy, from the Drift Golf Club, and his wife, Deborah, have a second child, a baby boy born on December 26 2000 and weighing in at 8 pounds 7 ounces (Don’t stop me now, I’m on a roll). Ralph Trustees Ltd, who own the prestigious Athenaeum Hotel in London and the Runnymede Hotel in Surrey, bought The Grove in 1996. The building of a golf course to complement what I’m sure will be a fantastic hotel is underway. The best of luck to Phil Chiverton and his staff.

Now you can see what happens when you guys don’t get in touch with any info from the Section! You have been warned.

Here at Sandy Lodge we say goodbye and good luck to Assistant Greenkeeper Steve Nicholson, (the only man who can produce a gherkin jar from his sleeve), who moves onto pastures new. We will miss all your magic! We also welcome Scott Walker, who joins us from Grimsdyke Golf Club.

A date for your diary has been confirmed. The Spring Meeting will take place at Stockley Park Golf Club on Tuesday, May 1. It’s also looking promising for a new venue sometime in August, hopefully I’ll have more to reveal in my next report.

Don’t forget to give me a call with any news, however small on 01923 835549
Robert Phillips

London

I am sure you have all seen either in newspapers, or on the television, the utter devastation caused to agriculture by the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease and even in our modern industry much higher pressures can only begin to imagine the impact on each farm around the country. Those directly affected, or indirectly, depending on how you look at it are Jim Cassidy, at Ashridge Golf Club, Gerald Bruce, at Berkhamstead Golf Club, and Steven Deucharst, at Harpenden Common Golf Club. All these courses have been closed over the past week to protect cloven hooved animals on the golf course and I write this in early March there may well be more as you read this.

Congratulations to Phil Chiverton, formerly Course Manager at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club, who takes up a new post at The Grove Estate just outside Watford. Welcome to the Section, Phil.

Interestingly for the historians among you The Grove was an Elizabethan Country Estate, circa 1924, and was sold to the hon. Thomas Villiers in 1753 who went on to become the Earl of Clarendon. Now you may think on to become the Earl of Chiverton, formerly Course Manager at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club; Gerald Bruce, at Berkhamstead Golf Club, and his wife, Deborah, have a second child, a baby boy born on December 26 2000 and weighing in at 8 pounds 7 ounces (Don’t stop me now, I’m on a roll). Ralph Trustees Ltd, who own the prestigious Athenaeum Hotel in London and the Runnymede Hotel in Surrey, bought The Grove in 1996. The building of a golf course to complement what I’m sure will be a fantastic hotel is underway. The best of luck to Phil Chiverton and his staff.

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South Coast

It’s been a very quiet month, so there is very little to report. It’s still not too late to enter the Spring Tournament, which is on Thursday, May 3 at the Army Club in Aldershot. Contact Chris Sturgess on 02380 494084 for more details.

The only other item to mention this month is Ken Lodge’s retirement. Ken rang me to ask if I could let everyone know that he is retiring in May. He is having a get together on Friday, May 11 at Atherley Bowls Club, Southampton, at lunchtime.

Everyone is welcome to go along and have a drink or two with Ken. I’m sure that everyone in the Section would like to wish Ken a long and happy retirement, and thank him for all the work he has done for BIGGA in his time. Cheers Ken.

I put my phone number in the column a couple of months ago and asked anyone to phone me if they had something they wanted put in it. I had one call from Ken, and they had something they wanted to put in the column a couple of months ago and asked anyone to phone me if they had something they wanted put in it.

Every Wednesday at lunchtime.

So don’t be shy if you want something printed! Phone me on 07939 866841. It will go in.

Well, that’s it for another month. Mike Cartwright.

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**South West and South Wales**

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01795 201594

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Well, that’s it for another month. Mike Cartwright.
South Wales

As our evening lectures come to close and the first part of this month with the Annual Quiz BIGGA versus IOG. I think you would agree that they have been very successful. As a reminder, the combined evening of Adams & Birch held on 14 Feb, was well attended with Jim Foulton of Advanta describing seed formation, diseases and pests. The section's Bernard Cuncliffe, of Cardiff-based Biotal, gave a talk on how their products help turf propagation with the use of micro-organisms specifically for use in soil.

Thanks to you both for your time and Pencoe College for the use of the facilities - not forgetting our sponsor of the evenings Avoncrop.

It might be an idea to get your golf clubs out and dust them out as our first tournament begins at Southerndown Golf Club on May 9th and sponsored by Road Grading for the Spring Tournament. The Summer Tournament then will be held at Llanwern GC on July 11 so there are some dates for your diaries. By the way, everyone should please would last years' tournament winners return their trophies 28 days prior to these events.

The Welsh Golf Union held a seminar at the Vale of Glamorgan G&CC on March 5 with 19 Golf Clubs in attendance with guest speakers Howard Swan, Education & Training Manager of BIGGA; Ken Richardson, and Peter Winter, Head Agronomist of the STRI. Also Rigby Taylor set up Road Shows in our Section, one at Park Howard Llanelli and the other at Royal Porthcawl GC. Thank you to them.

Unfortunately our seminar had to be postponed on February 28 as a result of the Foot and Mouth agricultural trade. Thanks to Scotts for their support and for holding it on another day; look out for the new dates.

Must mention the return of secretary Peter Lacey and Richard Whyman, of the Devon and Cornwall Section, on their trip to Canada to the CGSA Golf Course Conference and Trade Show in Vancouver 24-27 February sponsored by Bernard & Co. - they have too much info for me to mention but I am sure they will let you know what it was like.

Lastly, during our evening lectures in conjunction with the IOG it is my pleasure to announce that the Queen in her New Year Honours list awarded Bill Hardiman of the South Wales Branch IOG an MBE for his lifetime service to sports turf management. Excellent!

Richard Hatcher

Devon and Cornwall

This year’s February-sponsored Section meeting had to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth crisis which has swept the country. Hopefully we can rearrange the meeting for later on in the year.

As most of you are aware, I was lucky enough to have been one of ten BIGGA members selected to represent the Association on the Bernhard-sponsored trip to the Canadian Conference and Show held in Vancouver.

This was a trip of great educational value to all of the delegation.

The visit consisted of course visits to North View Golf and Country Club, the host of the PGA Tour Vancouver Open and to the private members’ clubs at Point Grey and Marine Drive. During the visits we were able to discuss with the Superintendents their maintenance practises which included budgets, staffing, machinery used, materials used, working practises, unions, members, etc.

The seminar programme was very well attended with the conference room full for every seminar. This was a reflection on the high standard of speakers presenting papers at the conference which included our Chairman, Clive Ogwood.

The new friendships made during the visit with the Canadian Superintendents and our own delegation, will, I am sure, continue for many years to come.

I would like to thank BIGGA and Bernard and Company for selecting me to represent British greenkeeping in Canada, I would also like to thank Sam Mclean and Peter Hampton for their hospitality and knowledge shown to the whole delegation, hopefully many more BIGGA members will be able to benefit in the way I have from such a visit in the future.

Richard Whyman

South West

I was hoping to give the results of the Section’s first tour event to played at Stinchcombe but the weather curtailed any chance of the event taking place. The snow that fell did not deter about 20 members attending, it was the one that got the better of the event. Thanks go out to all the Stinchcombe staff for all their efforts to accommodate us. Some members’ hosts would not have let the weather stop them from playing a round of golf. They made their way off Stinchcombe Hill to play at the Manor House to find a welcome warm welcome of course in excellent condition. If you have not been recently it is well worth the effort, Paul Bishop and his staff are doing sterling work.

Speaking of which, Chris Jack is leaving the Manor House to become not a rep, but a house husband. He will be replaced at his house. He would like to thank the Keengahan. The Section wishes them both luck in their future careers. I feel Chris has the harder role! Nathan Marsh, Section chairman, is leaving the Manor House to find a new home. As Nathan is having a year’s training from March 2001 in the sunshine state of Florida. Anyone going can get in touch with Nathan at Bonita Bay Golf and Country Club, Naples, Florida. Good luck from all the Section.

The Tour’s next event is on May 24, A Greenkeeper/Amateur at WoodSpring Golf Club, fee by phone to Kevin James ASAP. Anyone who has not received a booking form can contact Kevin on 07788 327677. The committee, at the last meeting, have decided that people can now turn up to events on the day and to pay Kevin a £2 administration fee which will be added to the entry fee for the day. It would be appreciated if you could telephone at the earliest point in time to let us know you will be attending the event. Guy Woods is arranging a seminar. People who are interested and want more details please contact him on 01225 339328.

Knobby Knight can be contacted on 01225 760634 for more information on team matches. The next one is on the 3rd of May 2001 at the Manor House in Castle Coombe and is against the Secretaries. Good Luck lads!

David Bougen

Northern Ireland

The Section held an irrigation talk during January at Allen Park Golf Club Antrim which proved very successful. Alastair also invited Gary and Gilbert Maddison from England along to give talks on the Rainbird range of irrigation equipment and the Heron irrigation controllers.

Many thanks to Maddison Irrigation who made the journey over from England and Alastair Wilson of Drilling and Pumping Suppliers Ltd. who provided a lunch for all the members present. Thanks to the caterer Paul Corrigan for the very enjoyable lunch and Antrim Borough Council for making the course available.

Also like to thank Sam McLean of Bernhard and Company for their hospitality and knowledge shown to the whole delegation, will, I am sure, continue for many years to come. Many thanks to the members attending, it was the one that got the better of the event. Thanks go out to all the Stinchcombe staff for all their efforts to accommodate us. Some members’ hosts would not have let the weather stop them from playing a round of golf. They made their way off Stinchcombe Hill to play at the Manor House to find a welcome warm welcome of course in excellent condition. If you have not been recently it is well worth the effort, Paul Bishop and his staff are doing sterling work.

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David Bougen

YOU’VE GOT MAIL!

If you’ve got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we’ll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We’ll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we’ll do the rest.

Ken Henderson

Northern Ireland

The Section held an irrigation talk during January at Allen Park Golf Club Antrim which proved very successful. Alastair also invited Gary and Gilbert Maddison from England along to give talks on the Rainbird range of irrigation equipment and the Heron irrigation controllers.

Many thanks to Maddison Irrigation who made the journey over from England and Alastair Wilson of Drilling and Pumping Suppliers Ltd. who provided a lunch for all the members present. Thanks to the caterer Paul Corrigan for the very enjoyable lunch and Antrim Borough Council for making the course available.

Also like to thank Sam McLean of Bernhard and Company for their hospitality and knowledge shown to the whole delegation, will, I am sure, continue for many years to come. Many thanks to the members attending, it was the one that got the better of the event. Thanks go out to all the Stinchcombe staff for all their efforts to accommodate us. Some members’ hosts would not have let the weather stop them from playing a round of golf. They made their way off Stinchcombe Hill to play at the Manor House to find a welcome warm welcome of course in excellent condition. If you have not been recently it is well worth the effort, Paul Bishop and his staff are doing sterling work.

Speaking of which, Chris Jack is leaving the Manor House to become not a rep, but a house husband. He will be replaced at his house. He would like to thank the Keengahan. The Section wishes them both luck in their future careers. I feel Chris has the harder role! Nathan Marsh, Section chairman, is leaving the Manor House to find a new home. As Nathan is having a year’s training from March 2001 in the sunshine state of Florida. Anyone going can get in touch with Nathan at Bonita Bay Golf and Country Club, Naples, Florida. Good luck from all the Section.

The Tour’s next event is on May 24, A Greenkeeper/Amateur at WoodSpring Golf Club, fee by phone to Kevin James ASAP. Anyone who has not received a booking form can contact Kevin on 07788 327677. The committee, at the last meeting, have decided that people can now turn up to events on the day and to pay Kevin a £2 administration fee which will be added to the entry fee for the day. It would be appreciated if you could telephone at the earliest point in time to let us know you will be attending the event. Guy Woods is arranging a seminar. People who are interested and want more details please contact him on 01225 339328.

Knobby Knight can be contacted on 01225 760634 for more information on team matches. The next one is on the 3rd of May 2001 at the Manor House in Castle Coombe and is against the Secretaries. Good Luck lads!

David Bougen