North

The Section AGM was held recently at Garmouth and Kingston GC. We started the day with the annual Chairman's visit and the Vice Chairman golf match for the Dalvi Trophy. I am pleased to report that my team emerged victorious, but only after a play off as it was a tie, so I am happy to announce now the top 3 charities. I would like to thank you all for putting up with my efforts over the years and ask you to support your Section Committee whenever you can. At the AGM you will all have a Happy Christmas and the hope that 2002 brings you all you wish for.

Tain MacLeod

East

Here we go then the last column of the year and where the year gone?

The Section held its AGM on October 31 with the kind sponsorship of local Toro dealer Henderson Grass Machinery in Haddington, who can talk on Toro equipment they sell and the big range of products they have. They then showed us around their premises and where a big range of equipment is taking place at the moment to make them even bigger and better. They then took us to Haddington Golf Club for a demo of Toro equipment and then lunch with a big thank you to Hendersons for a great day and we wish them all the best for the future.

The AGM was held in the clubhouse, with all our outings having been confirmed as Elgin GC in the spring on May 16 and Meldonald GC, Ellon in the autumn in September, date not yet finalised. From my last report, I would just like to thank you all for putting up with my efforts over the years and ask you to support your Section Committee whenever you can. At the AGM you will all have a Happy Christmas and the hope that 2002 brings you all you wish for, Thank you.

Chris Yeaman

Central

We extend a warm welcome to our final new member for 2001, Brian Mansons, from Thistle Golf Club, in Fife. Brian is Assistant Greenkeeper at Kirkcaldy and a former member of the Association.

The Grand Football Tournament held in Stirling on Sunday, October 14 attracted an entry of 12 teams, travelling from as far afield as Dundee, Coatbridge, Livingston and places in between. Unfortunately the weather couldn’t have been much worse with constant rain throughout the whole tournament. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed the day with the eventual winners being the team from Tulliallan, led by their non playing captain, Kenny Thomson. There’s going to be a stewards’ inquiry into the authenticity of some of their players due to the fact that they were hardly out of puff at the end! Downfield were narrowly beaten finalists and I’m sure everyone enjoyed the day with the non playing captain, Kenny Thomson. There’s going to be a stewards’ inquiry into the authenticity of some of their players due to the fact that they were hardly out of puff at the end! Downfield were narrowly beaten finalists and I’m sure everyone enjoyed the day with the non playing captain, Kenny Thomson. 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North Wales

Welcome to new members Paul Alcock, Head Greenkeeper, Chester GC; Cope, Robert Galloway and Paul Farrell; Carden Park; Paul Roberts, North Wales GC; Gwylim Jones, Aberystwyth GC; and Richard Barnes, Hartford GC.

Not a lot to write about again. The college machine maintenance course is on Dec 17, well worth going to so contact the college. But to Harrow as they have it firm details as yet, but contact committee members so they have some idea as to what numbers are involved. More info next month.

Well that's it folks except to wish you all Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year - Dave Goodridge

Northern

The Autumn Tournament took place at Woodsome Hall GC, sponsored by Scotts UK. Everybody was impressed with the course, views and of course the clubhouse. Well done to Head Greenkeeper Jeremy Eastwood and his team for the course.


Once again, thanks to the officials and staff of Woodsome Hall for allowing us courtesy and looking after us so well on the day. Thanks also to Scotts UK for supplying the excellent prize table.

The AGM took place in the morning with 15 members present and thanks to Ian Holoran B.O.M and Doug Bell, Regional Administrator, for coming. The present committee was voted back, on bloc with the addition of Mike Brear. Your committee in full is as follows: President: Dennis Cockburn; Chairman: Jim Brown; Vice Chairman: Dave Thackray; Secretary: Andy Smith; Treasurer: Steve Heath; Members: Tito Arana, Mike Brear.

We welcome the following as new members Scott Pavis, York GC; Daniel Secker, Loffthouse Hill GC; Andrew West, Ganton GC; Lee Richardson, Ganton GC; James, Ganton GC. The Autumn Tournament was held last month at Teeside Golf Club. The event was well attended and a great day was had by everyone. The golf course was in immaculate condition and congratulations to Course Manager, Tony Smith, and his staff for preparing the course so well for us. The meal after the game was also superb, everyone stayed near or beyond full. Ian Holoran especially recommends the garlic mushrooms. A massive well done to Teeside Golf Club and thanks for allowing us to use their facilities.

The trade supported the event very well again by both playing and donating prizes. Thanks for your generosity and continued support.

The winners were: 1. Gary Shaw, Ramside, 37 pts b/b; 2. Dave Bickerstaff, Teeside, 37 pts. 3. Richie Hood, Mount Oswald, 36 pts. 4. George Salabank, Eaglescliffe, 35 pts; Martin Woods, Wearside, 33 pts; 6. Anthony McGog, Richmond, 32 pts; 7. Tony Smith, Teeside, 31 pts; 8. Neil Rodger, Southport & Ainsdale GC. The Autumn Tournament was sponsored by Copt Heath GC on October 11.

The forecast for the day was fine and dry which we didn't get the case. Despite some worry of competitors and competitors late due to traffic congestion, the day ran very smoothly. After the morning Greenkeepers did the morning singles matches. Despite being in front in several games, we could not quite maintain the pace and our only winner was David James, with a 3 & 2 victory. Jeff Dickinson and Ian Needham halved their games, with the other seven all resulting in defeats. Unfortunately the match was between Ian Needham and Alan Roberts which involved playing plenty of jokes and tricks on one another, (all in good fun I might add). Perhaps the best one being, Ian chasing his electric trolley, across another fairway after Alan had set it going. So the eventual winners once again by a margin of 11 points to 4 were the Midland Section.

I would like to thank Copt Heath GC for courtesy of their fine course and the Steward and Stewardess for an excellent meal, the Midland Section for helping to make this a successful day and, of course, our very generous sponsors Rigby

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Taylor. Our own Section was represented by following members: Russell Allen, Jeff Dickinson, Ian Needham, Adi Porter, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, David James, Chris Wei, Jamie Bedford and our Chairman, Philip Gates.

Finally, I would like to thank all the companies who have supported our Section throughout the year especially the following. Greenkeeper Supplies (Spring Tournament); Barenburg (East Midlands v East of England); Banks Amenity Products (Autumn Tournament); Vitax Ltd. (AGM Tournament); Rigby Taylor (Christmas Tournament and East Midlands v Midland Section golf day) and finally Alpha Amenity (Stationery). Also I would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

Antony Bindley

Midland

Annual Tournament for the Rigby Taylor Salver. Midlands v East Midlands, held at Copth Heath Golf Club on October 11. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for the continuous sponsorship of this event. In particular Steve Blakeman ably assisted by Tony Chess for the organisation on the day. Thanks also to the groundsman for allowing us courtesy of the course, arranged through Paul Loffman. Thanks to the lads from the East Midlands, some of whom travelled considerable distances to attend the saga. The Midlands led by one point after the morning fourballs on what, weather-wise, turned out to be a glorious day. The Midlands included: two greenkeepers and five afternoon singles to finish eventual winners 1-4.

Congratulations also to the winners of the Rigby Taylor doubles competition: Eddie Pin, Eddie Seabold and Mark Cutter. It was also good to hear David Fellows, of Cocks Moors Woods Golf Club on the Ken Bruce Radio 2 Popmaster quiz. Well done.

By a quick reminder to please send in your passport photos to HQ for next year’s membership cards.

The AGM will be held on Thursday, December 13 at Broomhall Golf Club at approx. 4.15pm, following the golf.

Philip Gates

Mid Angola

The Section’s Autumn golf meeting was held at Letchworth in early October, including the final of the Lodgeway Four Ball tournament, played over 18 holes. In the Lodgeway event, Mark Ellis and Darren Brown, of Stocks GC, came out winners by three and one, over Philip Gates and Mark Cutter of Bingham GC. Our thanks to Robin Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, and his team at Letchworth, for an excellent course, and to the club for their kindness.

Driving Force Leisure sponsored the day, represented by David Murphy. Thirty members attended.

The results were as follows: 1. Robin Jackson, Letchworth GC, 36 pts; 2. Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant GC, 36 pts; 3. Nigel Phelan, St Andrew’s Hospital GC, 34 pts. The Longest Drive was won by Nigel Phelan and Nearest the Pin by Bob Butfoy.

The AGM presented the meal and the presentations was being made by members being elected to serve the section for the coming year. Chairman, Jim Cassidy, Vice Chairman, Steve Mason, Secretary / Treasurer, Gerald Bruce; Match Secretary, Richard Saunders. Regional Representatives: Bill Thurlow and Paul Lockett. Committee Members: Stephen Hesk, Frank Scullion, Colin Robinson, John Wells.

Colin Robinson stepped down as Chairman this year and Steve Mason steps down as Lodgeway Four Ball organiser. Gerald Bruce reported the Section to be in a good financial situation, although numbers of golfers entered the event fell slightly on the previous year. The section has 257 greenkeeper members out of a national total of 7,252. Gerald thanked our main sponsors, Rigby Taylor for another year again this year, namely George Brown’s, Turner Groundcare, Avon Crop Amenity, Driving Force Leisure, Rugby Taylor and Boughton Loam.

Look out for dates for our educational days in January’s magazine. They will be held at golf clubs within the Section, on February and March, the topics being Basic Computing and Soil Science.

Finally, a sad note to end on. Harry Hartrington, who was Head Greenkeeper at John O’Gaunt GC, to Colin, and an active member of BIGGA in its infancy, has died. On behalf of the Section, I would like to extend our sympathy to his family.

Paul Lockett

Kent

I would like to start by congratulating Steve Suttle on a remarkable feat. Back in September Steve ran the London to Brighton race which is 53 miles of hard slog and in quite awful conditions of high winds and rain, the worst in the last 51 years of the race. Steve finished the race in a superb 7th place and a personal best in a time of 7 hours 30 minutes. 165 runners entered and only 117 finished in the 10 hour deadline. So a big well done to you Steve and if any of you see Steve don’t call his running jogging or you will never hear the last of it.

It is with much sadness that I report the death of my companion this week, Mrs Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Pin. She had been diagnosed with cancer in May and was greatly missed by her husband, Eddy and his family. It was a shock at the time and I have now been doing this for five months. Pretty poor wouldn’t you say. So please make a New Year’s resolution and call me with some news of how you are.

I would like to welcome Barry Bradshaw back to Kent after spending 18 months working out in the USA at Bellrieve Club, St Louis, where the World Golf Championships was to take place in September until the New York disaster accrued. Anyway Barry learned a lot about tournament set up and the American way of life. So a big welcome back to the miserable English rain. By the way Barry it is called petrol not ‘gas’.

I see from the last greenkeeper magazine that their are a few new members to the Kent section and I hope we will be seeing you all at next year’s golf days. Our club now has all its eight staff joined to BIGGA so therefore feel free to join so if there is someone at your club who is not a member get them to join. You get out of the Kent Section and BIGGA what you put in yourselves so please let’s make a big effort to support our Section next year and make it one of the best supported Sections and not the worst as it is at the moment.

I did witness something quite unusual the other day. Vic Maynard left speechless when he saw his son, Tim, hoovering the mess room and offices of the Greenkeeper building. Vic has never believed this or she didn’t.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and once again, as every month, my contact details are offered at the end of the last paragraph.

Season’s greetings to you all.

Gareth Roberts

South West

South West and South Wales

Paula Humphries

Surrey

Surrey Section’s visit to the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon on October 17 was most enjoyable. It was a cold day and Eddie Seaward the Head Groundsman for a fascinating guided tour. There are so many alterations and new projects under construction at the club that have to be finished before the Championships in June that it was indeed most kind of Eddie to find time to fit out our visit in.

The annual England v’s. Scotland Golf Match took place at Hanley Common Golf Club on October 25. We thank Gareth Roberts and all partners of the Section for allowing us to play on a golf course in such excellent condition. The match Shield has resurrected itself and the last result engraved on it was 1992. The results from the matches played in 1998, 1999 and 2000 can now be added. No matches were played in the intervening years.

As the result from this year is probably not known to you all but if you have your head in the sand or your Head Greenkeeper originates from the more northern land of England I wouldn’t want to lose. The Gentleman’s dinner was postponed from March because of the Foot and Mouth outbreak took place on October 22 at Walton Heath Golf Club. Its original venue was as always in pristine condition and many thanks to our current Chairman, Clive Osgood, his Head Greenkeeper Mick Haynes and four legged friend, Lottie, the Regional Raffles concluding the day.

There is a bit of a disaster accrued. Anyway Barry it is called petrol not ‘gas’.
North Coast

Firstly, many apologies for the lack of Section notes for the last couple of months. The problem has now been rectified and normal service has been resumed. As you read this many of you will have played in the winter tournament at Barton-on-Sea and been to the Section AGM. I know your committee work extremely hard on your behalf trying to make the Section a success, so it would be nice to see more people supporting the coming events. We, as greenkeepers, are always busy but we should put time aside to attend Section events. As the New Year approaches our minds turn to BTME. For those who have not attended the journey to Harrogate then Humphries can be contacted for information in South Wales and was renowned for his wit and sense of humour. Just being in his company was fun itself!

He was an ardent supporter of BIGGA and was the treasurer of the Section for over 14 years. It is said that Paul took only one holiday in his entire working life, many years ago, to Malta for a week! From then on in he took his holiday entitlement in half days as he couldn't bear to be away from the course that he tended to and cared for so very much.

A lovely gentleman, generous and humorous, he will be sadly missed.

The final of the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles Competition was held recently at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, where Daryl Bray and Steve Mills took on Jamie and Herbie Probert.

The match was a tight affair with the conditions making for an exciting finale to the competition. The high winds eventually overcame the driving rain and the sun shone for the remainder of the match, which saw Jamie and Herbie triumph on the 16th green.

The golf course was in excellent condition and those who weren't playing but who supported the match were lucky enough to be treated to a what's what and what's happening to the course in time for the British Amateur Championships next year, from Course Manager David Ward.

The AGM will have been held at Rockmount Golf Club on November 29. The structure of the new committee for 2002 will be detailed in the January magazine notes.

I would like to congratulate Alan Strachan, Course Manager at Royal Co Down Golf Club on winning the Irish final of the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award which is sponsored by Toro and Lely Ireland. Alan will go forward to compete in the Great Britain Finals later this autumn.

Our three members who travelled over to the National Championship at Royal Birkdale at the beginning of October enjoyed the experience immensely and would like to thank BIGGA for organising the event. – Noel Crawford, Andrew Wray and Michael Feeney came in with reasonable scores in the difficult conditions but didn’t feature in the prizes this year. Greenmount College in Antrim moved their annual prize day from June to September because of the Foot & Mouth crisis. This year, congratulations go to Jane Beattie on becoming the top student on the NVQ Level II course. Jane is the first female greenkeeper to complete the NVQ course at Greenmount College.

Another training option, which is now offered to greenkeepers in Northern Ireland, is the fast track Level II & Level III Greenkeeping courses, run by Myerscough College in Preston. The two courses are currently taking place at Malone Golf Club in Belfast. The advantage of the fast track system is that each level can be completed in 12 months with classroom attendance reduced to six to eight days. The College Tutor presenting both courses, is Owen Mulhins from Dublin. Owen is a final year student at Myerscough completing a degree course in Turf Science. If anyone would like further particulars on the fast track NVQ’s ring Bernard at Myerscough College on 01995642205.

Lastly, I would like to welcome William Black from Tandragee Golf Club to the Section this month.

Ken Henderson