North

One new member to welcome to the Section this month, Ryan Ross from Royal Aberdeen. We look forward to welcoming him to future outings along with the other members of Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to Richard Ewan, of The Nairn GC, on the birth of his 10.35lb son at the end of year 2000. We hope the forthcoming baby grows strong and healthy.

Richard is also to be congratulated along with Stuart Hogg and Kevin Fowler of Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, who, with myself became the first students to complete the SVQ Level three on fast track satisfying the requirements for the OCNL and the Royal and Ancient endorsement and is a great way for us older members to try one year. The BIGGA Elmwood College for providing this course and Stuart Hogg and Allan Clark in particular for helping us through it. Hopefully we will be the first of many.

This year's 200 Club tickets should be sent out shortly and we are grateful to Ray Warrender and Barclay McBain, by sending your money in. This money be raised for the Section and helps to cover the costs of playing their courses.

Will the following members please offer our outings at lower prices, so that we don't want to make money out of them but to keep the outing going, putting together the fixture list for the year.

Congratulations to Richard Ewan, Richard is also to be congratulated on the birth of his son. I would like to thank Elmwood College for providing this course and Stuart Hogg and Allan Clark in particular for helping us through it. Hopefully we will be the first of many.


Hopefully 2001 will be just as successful if forward thinking club's continue to allow their staff to help in increasing both the competitions and about the Section committee to our newest members, Gary Anderson and James Muir McCann, and a further draw Award & Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm GC, extending his growing list of achievements by qualifying for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and Milngavie GC, on Scottish Award in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. I would like to offer both my congratulations and that of the Section committee to you both and look forward to hearing about your experiences during both the competitions and about Jonathan's visit state side as part of his prize.

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You can contact me at all the usual numbers (all in previous year's news) and the quality of speakers have been of the highest standard.

Well all that is left to me is to wish you all a successful season. I look forward to seeing all the usual faces at the outing and hope that a few new faces will come along to what is always very enjoyable days. All the best. If you have anything of interest to write in the column please phone me on 07778 537401.

Brian Bolland

Central

Will the following members please return their allocation of 'Club 200' tickets as they should have been sold or returned to me by December 31 2000.


The Committee is, at present, putting together a fixture list for the year 2001 and also reminding us that the Head Greenkeepers/conveners match to be played at Helensburgh GC on September 20. On behalf of the Section members, the Committee would like to thank both Kirkcaldy GC and Milngavie GC for the courtesy of playing their courses.

The 100 club will again be run this year with three draw's made throughout the year. The numbers drawn will be both the spring & autumn draws and also the draw at the AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM. Tickets will be on sale soon from committee members so book early to avoid disappointment.

One other golfing date to note is the Healc Greenkeepers/converters match to be played at Helensburgh GC on April 5. I am sure Ronnie Miles, last year's winner, will already be playing and the getting the course into fine condition to defend his club's coveted trophy.

As Gavin mentioned in December's Section news the Scottish Greenkeepers Conference will be held at Lancaster College, Dunfermline on March 6. All Section members who have the opportunity to attend this event should as in the past both the venue and the quality of speakers have been of the highest standard.

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Brian Bolland

East

Well nothing to report this month - as normal, everything is very quiet after Christmas, New Year and, of course, BTME at Harrogate.

Hopefully I will have some stories to report from BTME or maybe some photographs, or someone might send me something to put in my article next month.

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Brian Bolland

February 2001 Greenkeeper International
Competition. After lunch Tom Rickerby, Chairman of Greens Committee at Lancaster Golf Club, talked about the role of Chairman titled, "A Personal View" with good points raised.

Martin Jones, head of Turfgrass Science at Myerscough College finished the day with a talk on "Climate & Golf Courses." This subject is very topical at the moment because of the dreadful weather over the last 12 months. The weather changes so quickly, as I am typing these notes - from freezing to snowing, so at least it will keep the golfers off the courses. Many thanks to all the speakers, thanks to Penrith Golf Club, and to the caterers for a magnificent buffet. Not forgetting Doug Bell, the Regional Administrator, who arranged the day.

Some dates to remember: Mere Seminar, Thursday March 22; Spring Tournament, Mere Golf And Country Club - Monday April 23; Summer Tournament, Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club - Tuesday, June 12.

Once all the fixtures are finalised you will receive a fixture list for the year.

Any news, views and complaints, you can contact me on, Mobile-07761583387 or 01517245412.

Bert Cross

Northern
Well done to Bob and Katie Harborne as they are now the proud parents of a little girl, Emily Rose who weighed in at 7lbs. Unfortunately she looks just like Bob, but never mind, I am sure it will be a passing phase!

Congratulations also to Jim Brown on his appointment as Course Manager at Penwortham GC, over in Lancashire.

We welcome Paul Marc, from Harrogate GC, and Roger Heeley, from Metheram GC, as new members.

There is no other news at the moment, but if anybody as 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

North Wales
Apologies for the following column being late and a month out of date, but there seems to have been a mix up at HQ. Please get in touch with me if you have anything I can write about as I am not on Committee anymore so I need to be contacted - all my contact numbers are on your diary of events leaflets.

Yet again it's rain, rain, rain - I wish I was in Spain instead I'm watching water going down the drain... pain!

The lecture at the College in November was attended by 73 delegates which was absolutely fantastic and made all the effort so worthwhile. Thanks go to Trevor Chard, of Lely UK, Andy Jones and Glyn Hughes, of Major R Owen, for an excellent overview of routine maintenance versus expensive breakdowns. An extra thank you to Majors for sponsoring the refreshments (the mince pies were great). Thanks also to Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool, who educated us on bunker construction. It also served to give warning to those members playing in our Christmas tournament the type of revetted faces awaiting the wayward shot. Never failing to get a locomotive engine into the talk, we were treated to a number of impressive South African sunset shots to end an excellent day. The next lecture is on Wednesday 10th January at the College, on Course Design and Plantings, starting 2.30 pm - see you there.

The annual coach to Harrogate was run again on Wednesday 24 January. This year things were different. Forms were be sent to the section and a £10 refundable booking fee was be requested, so if you booked and got on the coach you got your money back. However if you booked and didn't turn up, you forfeited the cash. This had to be done so we knew what size coach to book.

The Section would like to wish a very happy and long retirement to a man, who, I imagine, is one of the longest serving greenkeepers to single club in history. The man in question is Aneurin Hughes, of Rhos on Sea Golf Club, who had an article about him in G.I. not long ago. He has served the Club for an incredible 51 years, a fantastic achievement - all the best to you.

The Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool was played in lovely conditions and the course was a credit to Derek Green and his staff. All the work now being done is amazing and will hopefully get the course back into open reckoning. Our thanks go to the Captain, Council and members of the Club for allowing us the honour and pleasure of playing such an auspicious course and to the catering and bar staff for providing such splendid after game meals and refreshments.

The results were Shaun Pritchard, Llanymynech 38 pts, who retained both the Toro Trophy and the Bill Lawson Shield for the best under 21 (he is still only 19), Allen Lewis won.
Midland
Happy New Year to everyone and hopefully a drier one to boot.
Looking back to the Christmas Golf Day which was held at Sutton Coldfield, the course was in tremendous condition given the appalling weather, so all credit is due to Alan Kite and everyone at Sutton Coldfield.
The format for the day was Texas Scramble and the visitors with 63 points gross were Tony Cheese, Steve Wild, Mike Cash and Rob Jervis. The day was kindly sponsored by Burrows of Stafford and Steve Hanlon. Ruffords nearest the pin and longest drive with Rigby Taylor supplying the wine with the meal, many thanks to you all.

Phil Gates

East Midland
The final golf event for 2000 was the Christmas Tournament held at Oakmere Park Golf Club on December 7. On a fine dry day with rain forecast for later there were 32 golfers very keen to Tee-off and play in the dry conditions. The format for the day being a Singles Stb. The Winners were Category 1. 0-14 Flieap – 1. Adi Porter, Greet Heath Valley, 35pts. 2. Kim Kirkham, Sherwood Forest, 34pts; 3rd. Dave Leatherland, Kesstone Park, 34pts. Category 2. 15-28. 1. Chris Weir, Kirby, Musloe, 34pts; 2. David James, Scraptoft, 29pts; 3. Nick Root, The Leicestershire, 26pts.

Trade and Associate, 1. Simon Banks, Bank’s Amenity Products, 37pts; 2. Les Emery, Regional Administrator, 32pts.

Our thanks go to Oakmere Park for hosting our competition and to Ryan Holden and his staff for presenting an excellent test in golf in such difficult weather conditions. The talking point in the clubhouse was how come the course was so dry. This was the first time our Section had visited Oakmere Park and we were all made to feel most welcome. Thanks also to the steward and stewardess for their wonderful hospitality and a fantastic prize he donated to the raffle. This was a most generous gesture and on behalf of all the members I think you deserve a special Thank You.

On December 12 the Section, courtesy of Les Emery, organised a soil science workshop. I would like to thank all those members for supporting the day, our lecturer Dennis Mottram (who was my lecturer at Reaseheath College), and Gavin Robson who helped in the smooth running of the day. According to the feedback that I received this was an excellent educational day, and, with your support, it is hoped that more workshops can be arranged.

Don’t forget the Go-Kart evening on February 21 at the Wymesswood Industrial Estate, anybody interested give me a ring or e-mail me. If you have any news for me which you would like to see published in this article, please pass on the information to me.

Antony Bindley
Mid Anglia
The final of the Lodgeway Four Ball competition was decided over 36 holes (old and new course) at Brocket Hall Golf Club. Alan Grew, Berkhamsted, and Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, won 4 and 3 against Steve Mason and Gavin is entirely intentional...

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Our thanks go to Brocket Hall for allowing the final to be played over a course that was in superb condition, by all accounts. Thanks also to Steve for organising the competition so well in difficult circumstances and to Chris Rook, of Lodgeway, for his continued sponsorship of the event. It has been agreed by the committee to change the format next year to a straight Fourball knock out, to overcome the problem of people not completing all their matches in time.

Our final golf event of the year was played at Chesfield Downs GC in early December, over 18 holes, using the usual Texas Scramble format. Entry for this event is always popular and once again we were over-subscribed. The 26 teams that competed enjoyed a fine round of golf over a course in exceptional condition for the time of year. Our thanks to Eddie O’Hanlon and his team for all their effort and to the club for allowing us use of the course for the day. Some excellent team scores were posted on the day, with nine teams scoring 60 or below. The full results were as follows:


Dave Hawkins, of Turf Care, kindly donated a television as the prize for an additional Nearest the Pin on the 3rd hole, which was won by Gavin Simkins of Mount Pleasant.

Barry McCloskey, representing Avoncrop Amenity Products, who kindly sponsored the prizes, made the presentations to the day’s winners. Thanks also to all the other trade members who have supported us over the last year.

Three other presentations were made: Chris Rook, from Lodgeway, gave prizes to the finalists of the Fourball mentioned above; Gerald Bruce made a presentation to Bob Goodwin who is retiring shortly and who was responsible for setting up the Mid Anglia Section in the late 70s. We all wish you a happy retirement, Bob.

Gary Boulton, of Dunstable Downs, was this year’s winner of the “Golfer of the Year” prize. This prize is based on results from the spring, summer and autumn tournaments, plus the Lodgeway Fourball. Our thanks go to Turner Groundcare for donating the prize of a weekend break to the value of £250.

Your greens’ quality is riding on it.

Greenkeepers' Day

Devon and Cornwall

The PJ Flegg Christmas meeting was held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday 6th December, after an early course inspection by Head Greenkeeper Richard Wisdom. We were once again able to play the full 18 holes which would have been impossible on many courses after the wettest autumn on record. As last year we used a two-tee start for the greensome format competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy. Our non-golfing members were treated, as usual, to the guided course walk by Richard, both golfing and non-golfing were once again delighted to see the PJ Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green. Inside, Patrick and his staff treated members to snacks and drinks which set the Christmas atmosphere for the day. After an excellent Christmas Lunch the day continued with the morning’s golf prizes for the PJ Flegg trophy being presented by Des to:

1. R. Parker, Ilfracombe, & T. Clark, Crediton, 41 pts; 2. G. Tamblyn, Mullion, & D. Manley, Mullion, 37 pts; 3. C. Rawlings, Padbrook Park, & D. Blake, Padbrook Park, 36 pts.

A special prize was donated by Lawrence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton for the best tippers and went to S. Evans and T. Newland.

After the afternoon entertainment our raffles concluded a really excellent day. The first raffle was for the Avoncrop hamper and a place on the Region’s BTME Trip. Congratulations to Steve Evans on winning the hamper and to Nick Moyse on winning the BTME prize. The final raffle of the day consisted of more than 40 prizes donated by members and trade.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton Golf Club and all their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always had the course in great shape.

A big thanks to Patrick Flegg and PJ Flegg Ltd for sponsoring the day and providing the wonderful snacks and drinks on the course. Also thanks to our President, Alan Dommett, who supplied the wine at lunch. Also to all of you who donated prizes for the...
day. Please note I shall be attending the Canadian Conference and will not be attending the Avoncrop meeting at Thurlstone Golf Club on March 1, so please make sure your entries for this meeting have been returned to me by 19th February.

Dates for your diary; Westurf Trade Show at Westpoint Exeter, Wednesday March 14, Aventis & Supaturf Meeting at Rorresrow Golf Club Wednesday March 28.

Richard Whyman

South West

The Millennium Tour had its last competition at Henbury Golf Club and the weather did not stop anybody from enjoying an extended foursome, sponsored by ALS. The winners presented themselves with prizes, as they were the Greens Chairman of Henbury and the Chairman Chris Sealy. A big thank you and applause were given to Mark Lehman and his staff for making the course playable, and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. The raffle followed and staff at Kendleshire would like to thank everyone who donated prizes as they won 90% of them! They all bought tickets in hope of winning the trip to BTME, and they succeeded!

Most of the talk was about Robin Greaves leaving Thornbury Golf Club. He is entering a new career with E.T Breakwells, and we all wish him well for the future.

Wendy Jones

South Wales

The Winter Tournament, AGM and Christmas dinner were held recently at the Pyle & Kenfig GC and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who were in attendance. Despite the awful recent weather the golf course remained open and in great shape for the time of year. All credit to Ray Hunt, Paul Robinson and the greens staff team.

South Coast

Christmas is now and well and truly over, and the bright days of spring are only around the corner, I wish! To start with this month I've a few reminders for you. First of all is the Section Seminar, which is to be held at Sparsholt College on Wed Feb 21, the cost of the day is £15 for members, and £22 for non-members. Cheques can be sent to Fred Deamen at Golf Club Bungalow, Alton G.C., Oldiham Rd, Alton, Hants, GU34 4BU. All cheques are to be made payable to BIGGA.

Everyone is requested to be there at 9.30am for a 10am start.

The second is a reminder, and an apology. Westurf is to be held on Wed 14 March, not April 12. Although this is earlier than usual, I have been

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reliably informed that the luxury of heating is to be provided this year! Information for the day will be sent out with the magazine, but if you do require extra info, then contact Paula on 01288 352194.

The third is to just jog your memory. The Tournament is only a couple of months away, May 3 to be exact. So get your chequebooks out again next month! The cost of the day will be £21, I’ll give you Chris Stump’s address next month.

There are three lucky people who deserve a mention this month.

The first is Sid Cutler who was the lucky winner of a free trip to BTME, this year’s last day’s AGM and was provided by the South Coast Section. I should have mentioned ‘Spawn of the Century’, are Ed McCabe and Carl Horrax. They’re going on a spying mission funded by New Forest Farm Machinery and John Deere. Their mission, check out new machines on the market from a greenkeepers point of view. I could’ve done that!

Does anyone have any interesting ideas or topics that could be used for winter lectures, or are you are viewing lectures. Any comments can be made to Tony Gadd, he can be contacted on 01425 618807, or see him at the seminar. That’s the one at Sparsholt on February 21.

And finally if you don’t know anything mentioned in this column, then you can phone me on 07939 868041... Just remember that I go to bed at a sensible hour though.

Mike Cartwright

Kent

The Section Turkey Trot was held at Darenth GC on December 7. I would like to thank all those that supported and well done to the winners.

A huge thank you to Nigel Stapley and his staff for the condition of the course and Mrs Cross and the clubhouse staff for their hospitality in the clubhouse. We had one of the best Christmases ever and I could have wished for. Thank You.

I would like to thank all the club members for their continued support throughout the year and their sponsorship.

I’d like to wish everybody all the best for 2001 and look forward to seeing you at your year’s golf events (as announced).

G Debenham

East Anglia

A good day was had by all at Thorpeness. 70 people turned up for the annual turkey bash/AGM. Once again the course was in good nick thanks to Ian and the lads, and his work behind the scenes ensured all ran smoothly throughout the day.

The format was a lexas scramble, and the winners were, R Nicholson & Lincoln, and J & Wright 61.2. Second went to M. Gill, M. Darmant & G. Rayfield, 63.

Nearest the pin on 2nd was M. Day, on the 7th K. Timms, 10th A. Lincoln, 16th, 1, lacquar. The sponsors were, Rushbrooks, Scotts, Tomlinson Ground Care Adams respectively. The longest drive was I Wright sponsored by factex. The prizes were presented by Artin & Club Captain and the main Sponsors were C.M.W.

As usual Bob Chesham was making headlines again. Firstly he was within one, but I couldn’t get him then and he broke his club and he’s only got one. Apparently it didn’t like being wrapped around a tree.

There was also young lad Innovation who has been chipped in on the 13th from 75 yards, I don’t know for how many mind, but she did get excited!

Stand up Deborah Curtis (I wish I had a camera).

Roger Plumber picked up the Ernie Hart Greenkeeper of the Year award for his tireless recruitment drive on the North Norfolk Coast, Well done again! The shields for the year were presented to James Wright, S. Pring, Ian Willett summer, Steve Cram – autumn (wasn’t he a runner?) winter was missing (wish it was) so no prize was presented.

The prizes were presented by Artin & Ellis, Prime Irrigation & Sheriff.

The day was sponsored by Ernest Doe and you can’t resist the temptation to advertise some of our sponsors. The format was a Texas scramble, as usual and was run smoothly throughout the day.

The golf courses for 2001 include:-

- Kent
- East Anglia
- Surrey
- Sussex
- London

The golf venues for 2001 include:-

- Earsenhed, Hindhead, Malden and Sunningdale.
- The Greens at Westerham and those at Liphook, which sometimes literally left us all in the same boat, to coin a phrase.

Still it was not all doom and gloom as we arrived to find the course closed sign in the middle of the car park. As the resourceful Mr Barr managed to organise a team and individual putting competition and we had enough time a 12 round quiz hosted by a semi – pro quiz master!!

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Good luck to all in the future. Still at Wood Green congratulations to Course Manager, Tony Dyke and wife Pat, who are celebrating 25 Years of marriage.

Watch this space for news of coming events and remember that this column can only exist with your input. If you have any news from around the Section, however small, give me a call on 01923 835549. If I don't get any news I'll be forced to write about myself and trust me, that would be very boring! Possible dates and venues are being looked into for a London Section seminar and also for summer and autumn golf days. Our spring Meeting will be at Stockley Park in May. Let's look forward to a good turn-out and an enjoyable day in a more clement weather. Wishing you all a successful greenkeeping year.

Robert Phillips

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Northern Ireland

The first day of the new year and the snow and frost has disappeared I am glad to report. We had six inches of snow throughout Northern Ireland throughout the previous week with temperatures plunging to minus 16. Parkland courses closed for the entire week and golfers were unable to try out the new clubs and equipment they received at Christmas - all very depressing.

Well, on to the Section news over the last month. We held our AGM at Greenshores GC, in Ballyclare on December 6. I would like to thank Stephen Crawford and his wife for giving us the use of a room to hold the meeting and also the excellent buffet they laid on for us. To the members this month to the Green notes please contact me McGlading, from Malone GC.

Golfers were unable to try out the new grass seeds and seed dressings by Liz Wilson, of JA Humpreys. It is also hoped to have an STRI agronomist present to give a talk after Liz. On December 11 the Section entered two four man teams at the annual quiz night held by the NI Section of the IOG in Belfast. The two BIGGA teams performed admirably and on the night tied with 53 points each. The IOG A team moved in front early in the competition and accumulated a total of 65 points. Well, better luck next time lads, we will just have to improve our general knowledge. Our main excuse is that the IOG in NI have been competing in this type of quiz for many years, being awarded the national championship in their history. Many thanks to John McFarland for inviting us along and providing the excellent buffet on the night.

I would like to welcome two new members this month to the Section. George Fitzpatrick, from Crossgar GC and Roddy Mcdalig, from Malone GC. Congratulations also to Warren Burnside, who is moving from Malone to take up the Head Greenkeeper position at Movilla Park. If you have any news that could be included in the Around the Green notes please contact me at Allen Park on 94429001 Ken Henderson

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