Annual Conference Business Learning Centre Lauder College, Dunfermline. On March 6, 2001 BIGGA Scottish Region will once again be presenting their Annual Conference at Lauder College Dunfermline. This is the third year we have been at the Business Learning Centre which provides a local ideal location for easy access from the motorway system and of course the facilities within the Conference Centre are first class.

This year’s speakers are from a cross section of the industry and greenskeeping, all prepared to give their time and talents to providing us with an insight into greenskeeping related matters.

The speakers include Neil Baldwin, Amega Sciences, whose talk will be “Biological and Control of Black Layer in Fine Turf”; From the GTC we have David Golding whose talk is entitled “The GTC-Raising The Standards”; Pete Jelford, Rufford Soil Technology, his talk will be on “How to select top dressings and Root Zones today”; Sandy Armit, from Double A Trading Company will talk about “Modern Machinery Maintenance”, From Wals and Celtic Manor, the Director of Golf and Courses Manager, Jim McKenzie, will provide and insight into the greenskeeping matters, and from England and this year we have three distinguished gentlemen onto the stage to talk, Bob Heron to talk on “Turf Quality. What it means to you”; Finally Joe Turner from Berhards who will advise us on the “Benefits of Sharper Reels”.

As in the past we have tried to provide a variety of topics which hopefully appeals to the greenskeeping industry and this year we have tried to stick to the theme of the past three years. The Conference has always been well supported throughout the years and hopefully this will continue. We look forward to seeing everyone at Dunfermline.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2001 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

North

Three new members to welcome to the Section in the New Year. Richard Cutler from Montrose GC, Barry Huydon from Braemar GC and Graham Mackie from Edzell GC, hopefully these will be the first of many this year.


Central

I hope everyone has recovered from any self inflicted headaches over the festive period and that you are all gearing up for the new season which lies ahead, let’s hope it’s a bit drier this time around.

We’re up and running already on new members joining the section with Gary Limes from Kingsbarns Golf Links being our newest member. Gary was formerly a student member, and we are glad to welcome to the section as a full member.

There is not a great deal of news at this time of the year what with holidays etc. no doubt a good number of you will be at BTME in Harrogate later this month for the annual “get together,” after which I am sure there will be the usual newsworthy events to report on.

The Spring Tournament this year is being field by courtesy of Scotscair Golf Club, Tayport, Fife in April, entry forms will be arriving with you in the not too distant future, and once again if you wish to compete in this event, PLEASE return your form as soon as possible.

If you can remember the forms when you fill them in please add your club name and some training for the week ahead. I hope that everyone had a good Xmas break and you all got what you wanted. (I asked for some dry weather, but you can’t get everything I suppose).

There’s not a lot of news around at the moment this is what I’ve got.

Congratulations to section committee member Andy Forrest, Oatridge College Golf Course, on winning one of the two Scottish places at the Bermuda Open. I hope the rest of you I秒钟 have been getting in touch with Andy or myself and fancy yourself as the next D.A. or fancy being involved you had better say it must be old age that makes the years go by quickly. Anyway on with this month’s article.

Well done to the winners of this year’s Patrons’ Awards for 2000 - they are Ian Bell, Glencorse GC and Richard Mullen, Swanston GC.

These awards are given to members of each Section who in the eyes of each of the Section Committee have attended all Section events such as lectures, AGMs, golf outings etc. Their prize for this award is a paid trip to BTME 2001, a book on greenskeeping and a presentation dinner. So if you attend all events next year you could be the winner of the 2001 Patrons’ Awards.

So in the next couple of months I will be sending you a questionnaire with a trip to Harrogate. Talking about BTME at Harrogate I hope Ian and Richard have been getting in some training for the week ahead. I look forward to meeting up with old friends at BTME and if any of you are going, we hope to see you there. Well that’s it all for this month.

If anyone out there has any news that you would like to add to the usual news columns please let me know asap on the usual number. As I mentioned last month, here is a list of the Section Committee, their number, name and specialisms.

East

Well here we are into another year, where did the last one go? As they say it must be old age that makes the years go by quickly. Anyway on with this month’s article.

Well I am off to clean the website but my name is Brian Bolland and I am the deputy head greenkeeper under Mr. Huydon from Braemar GC and Cutler from Montrose GC, Barry Golding whose talk is entitled “The GTC-Raising The Standards” from the Scottish Region.

Having spoken to many of the previous writers of this column the main problem they have faced and I am sure you have faced is getting enough news to write about out with what should be another great week. I hope to see a lot of Section members at BTME in Harrogate later this month.

The football match is on the Tuesday evening now, so that the lads on the Scottish bus can plan. See you all there, but what should be another great week.

Jain Macleod.

Welcome to another round of West Section news. Firstly I would like to introduce myself, as Gavin Jarvis, on becoming Chairman, quickly delegated the duty of writing this column to me. My name is Barry Golding and I am currently Head Greenkeeper at East Kilbride GC, having served my three-week trip abroad, and I hope the rest of you I秒钟 have been getting in touch with Andy or myself and fancy yourself as the next D.A. or fancy being involved you had better say it must be old age that makes the years go by quickly. Anyway on with this month’s article.

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North West

I have just returned from a three-week trip abroad, and I expected to see a change in the weather, but things are just the same, cold and wet, and has been getting in touch with Andy or myself and who knows what fame (or norosity) you may achieve! John Crawford.

Well that’s it all for this month. Please return your form as soon as possible.

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North West

I have just returned from a three-week trip abroad, and I expected to see a change in the weather, but things are just the same, cold and wet, and has been while I have been away so I am told. So the day after my return everything was OK, and that was expected to see a change in the weather, but things are just the same, cold and wet, and has been getting in touch with Andy or myself and who knows what fame (or norosity) you may achieve! John Crawford.
a relief. The day did go well starting with bacon baps, and coffee at 9.30am, tee time from 10am and 18 holes of golf in good conditions without any rain. The course although wet was in great condition, obviously due to the amount of work Steve and his staff have put in, and was a credit to them. Their hard work certainly paid off for them, as Steve Oultram won the “President’s Cup”, Andy Bennett, and Steve Johnson won the longest drive and nearest the pin, they are also on the greens staff at Wilmslow, so between them they cleared up on the day.

The golf was followed by the AGM, and a great evening meal. The committee had decided at the last meeting, that due to the fact that because Wilmslow Golf Club have been so good to the N/W Section over the last four years, allowing us to hold this competition, and AGM, we would show our appreciation by presenting the junior section with a cheque for £100. The cheque was presented to the Chairman of Green, who attended the dinner, and he informed the meeting that the money would be used to purchase a cup, to be called the “The North-West Greenkeepers Trophy”, to be played for annually by the junior section.

I would like to thank Wilmslow Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, Gwen and Dave Chason for great food and for keeping the bar open all day, and Steve and his staff for preparing a great course. That seems to be it for now, but don’t forget the Mere Seminar in March. Any news or views give me a ring on 0151 724 5412.

Happy new year to everyone

Bert Cross

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Bert Cross

Northern

Unfortunately the Christmas Golf at Huddersfield GC was cancelled despite the best efforts of Alan Lofthouse and his staff, the weather beat us. The 15 who did turn up for the start of the day had an enjoyable day, down at the local Ten Pin bowling alley where we had three games. This was won by Simon Heppenstall and the bring and win was transferred to the bowling, so everybody was a winner with excellent prizes on offer.

The annual trade prize for the best trade golfer throughout the year went to Mike Brear. A prize to what we call the most ‘dedicated’ golfer went to Steve Heaton. I would like to thank Huddersfield GC for the day and for a superb meal enjoyed by all.

It was good to see John Waite looking so good and in good form giving everyone some stick for the meal and AGM.

Talking of the AGM, there were 26 members present and I would like to thank lan Holoran from the Board of Management for coming down and answering the members questions put to him. There were quite a few points raised about the Association which will be taken further.

The committee for 2001 is as follows President - Dennis Cockburn; Chairman - Simon Heppenstall; Vice-Chairman - Jim Brown, Secretary/ Treasurer - Andy Smith, Committee members - Richard Smith, Tito Arna, Steve Heaton, Dave Thackery. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank John Waite, Gary Potter and Liam Galway for all the work they have done this year and previous years for the Section on the committee. Look forward to seeing you at future events.

The venues for next year are Spring Tournament - Filey GC; President’s Day - Harrogate GC; Roses Match - Sand Moor GC; Invitation Day - Howley Hall GC; Autumn Tournament - Woodhouse Hall GC; Winter Golf - Headingley GC.

On top of this there are plans to hold 2 further section seminars this year.

Congratulations to Matt Booth, from Howley Hall GC, on passing his PA 2. On the movement front Gary Potter has left Woodhall Hills GC to go to Vitas as a rep. Jim Brown and all the lads from Cookridge Hall G&CC wish John Studdard all the best on his move to Wyke Ridge GC.

Looking forward to seeing you at Harrogate for the show. In the meantime, if you have any queries, don’t hesitate in picking the phone up and giving me a call.

There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has anything then please let me know.

My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188. My mobile is 07790 678572, and my email address is; andy_smith21@hotmail.com Andy Smith

Sheffield

I would like to start by catching up on events missed over the last few months. On November 2, Farmura was our guest speaker for the first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Thank you to Alan Dyson and Farmura for a very interesting talk.

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especially to Claire Hutson for all her help in organising are day. The Steward for a marvellous meal and our very generous sponsors Vitax for providing the prizes.

Five dates for your 2001 Diary. Go-Kart evening-Wednesday, February 21, Wythenshawe Ind. Est. Spring Tournament, Wednesday May 9. Birstall GC; East of England Golf Match Cotgrave Place August 13; The Autumn lous meal and our very generous all her help in organising are especially to Claire Hutson for prizes.

Tournament at Lingdale GC on Diaries. Go-Kart evening-sponsors Vitax for providing the Golf Match Cotgrave Place by Toro Lely UK, please get in touch with me and I will gladly have an email address please let me know for my membership records, as this will enable me to get in touch with you, and send you any entry forms. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Antony Bindley

South West

I am writing this after returning from another day of wind and rain. I have been told the members from the Bristol area have taken up carpentry, and have started the search for Noah's original plans!
The Section's seminar at Cannington College was well supported and our thanks go to the speakers and to Paula for arranging it.
The Magic Bus will once again be heading North to BTME if you have not booked, please contact Paula to see if there are any places left.
West Devon this year, so make a note in your diary Wednesday, March 14. There is going to be a social gathering the night before in an Exeter hotel, again contact Paula for cost and arrangements.
The first event of 2001 is the Winter Tournament, at Stinchcombe Hill GC, on Wednesday, February, kindly sponsored by G Tinkler. Application forms will be sent out along with the year's fourth meeting of the new year is the Devon Garden Machinery for their support and to the sponsor of the first train- ing day going into liquidation.

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season. The Section's first meeting of the new year is the Barenbrug Seeds meeting which will be held at The Royal North Devon GC on Wednesday, January 31. The day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 9.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 11am. After lunch our educational talk will cover golf rules. Our Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Birstall GC on Wednesday, November 15. This meeting was also the Section's AGM. As always the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members walked the course and met up with Head Greenkeeper George Bailey and his team.

After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to 1. Shaun Getson, Tavistock, and Garry Foster, Tavistock, 33pts; 2. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, and Neil Turner, Ilfracombe, 29pts; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton, and J.Mills, Taunton, 28pts.
The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors Devon Garden Machinery for their support and to Launceston GC for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Launceston GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to George Bailey and his crew who have worked hard to keep the course open in such awful weather.
The Sections AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Terry Farkins. The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending 30th September 2000. This year end balance of £1463.02 showed a profit of £193.05 compared with last year's balance sheet, but does not include the £200 outstanding to be paid for the fixture cards. In real terms the Section made a slight loss of around £3 for the fixture cards. In real terms the Section made a slight loss of around £3 for the year-end. Over the last year the Section held three very successful pesticide training days which saw all members achieving passes, unfortunately the courses made a slight loss of £17.83 due to the sponsor of the first training day going into liquidation.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our Section meetings over the last year namely: Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys and Supatuf.

For the second year Rigby Taylor have sponsored our fixture cards and must be congratulated on the excellent quality of the cards.

Unfortunately during the last year one of our Cornish committee members stood down from committee. The committee decided to invite Bill Mitchell to serve as a Cornish member on the committee and were delighted when he accepted.

On closing his report the Administrator congratulated the Chairman Terry Farkins whom this year reached the final of the Toro Award and his excellent achievement in finishing runner-up. Also the Administrator thanked all the members who have attended meetings for their support over the last year. Hopefully the Section can get even more members to attend meetings over the
coming year.

Last but not least the Administrator thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Cary Rawlings for looking after the golf scores.

The Chairman opened his report by thanking everyone for attending the AGM meeting. He informed members that it had been a pleasure and an honour to serve as Chairman of the Section over the past two years and felt it was time for someone else to take over as Chairman.

He continued by congratulating Tony Vokes, of St Austell Golf Club, on his tremendous achievement on reaching the national finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Also, congratulated Richard Whyman of Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on being selected to represent BIGGA at the Canadian International Turf Conference and Trade Show in Vancouver next February.

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The Westurf trade show this year was once again a success and West Point is an ideal venue for our members and hoped that all members will support the show next year. The Chairman congratulated the Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, for all her hard work over the last year and the Regional Board members who continue to promote our industry.

The Chairman informed members of the sad loss of Mike Oliver who was a great supporter of the Section and passed on the Section's condolences to his family.

The Chairman on closing his report passed on the Section's thanks to all the trade companies who have supported the Section over the last year this was very much appreciated and he thanked Section members for helping the Section to be one of

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the most successful in the Country. The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for representing the Section so well on the region- al report. With the Chairman’s final thanks going to Richard Wisdom, with the Chairman’s final thanks going to Richard Whynan who has continued to do an outstanding job as Section Administrator.

Richard Wisdom opened his regional report by congratulating the Regional Administrator Paula Humphreys for her out- standing efforts, which included the organisation of Westurf 2000, the BTME trip and regional seminars.

The Harper’s Westurf was once again financially a success. Richard advised members that their support in attending Westurf is needed to allow the show to go on. Richard went on to say that the Westurf trip to BTME 2000 was once again sponsored by Amenity Technology with two 55- seater coaches departing the Region, Richard also mentioned the presence of the trade for the first time.

The President, Martin Samuel, opened his report by thanking members for their support over the last two years and wished the next year to be an enjoyable term in office. He thanked members on behalf of the trade for their support over the last year, he felt that the sections meetings had the right balance of business and social activities and thanked C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board; J. Mills, B. Mitchell, R. Shapland, T. Fowles, P. Cook, R. Thomas, R. Whynan, Section Administrator, A. Dommett, President J. Palfrey, Trade; C. Ralph, Trade. Richard Whynan

South Wales

Very little to report this month. Hope you had a good Christmas and New Year celebrations. Bring your golf clubs to the green for the Christmas tournament and AGM next month as this would have gone to press before the day.

Our Evening Lectures sponsored by Avoncrop continue on Wednesday, February 14 with John Foulton, of Advanta, talking on fine turf and Gerrard Cunicliffe, of Biotal, on Micro-organisms. If February 14 is a washout, March 14 we have a Health & Safety update to keep up with changes and legislation. You might already have a booking form for our Seminar to be held at Pencoed College on February 28. If you have, fill it in quickly. It only costs £13 for BIGGA/IOG members and £20 for non-members and Dr. Bill Adams, of Aberystwyth University, Simon Barnaby, from Scolls, and Jim Arthur are confirmed speakers. Just to remind you on the 23-26 of this month it’s the BTME show at Harrogate. Richard Hatcher

South Coast

The Bishop’s Tufton 2000 show held at Thorpeness Golf Hotel in November and many of the delegates took advantage of the Hotel’s generous special offer and turned up on Monday for 18 holes on their very fine course. Surprise, surprise it stayed dry!

Before the event there had been some criticism that the Seminar, with the theme of “The Future of Greenkeeping” was too “trade orientated”. These fears, however, proved unfounded as all those who attended (and there was 74 from all Sections within the Region) thoroughly appreciated the Seminar content and a sincere vote of thanks was recorded to Ian Wellett and the East Anglia Committee for such a good day.

Derek Farrington

South East

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The first was the annual seminar at Cannington College, the day was well attended, and the quality of speakers was the best we have heard at any seminar.

First, and last up was the familiar face of Frank Newbury. The morning session was all about miserable people in the workplace, (and we all know one) and how to try and put a bit of happiness back in their lives without the use of Valium. The last session of the day was dedicated to presenting yourself, with very helpful tips on letter writing, CV’s, and interviews.

The second speaker was Steve Ashworth from Amenity Technology. The subject was Soil Sampling and Interpretation. A very interesting topic, it was nice to see what happens with samples that they receive, and to find out what they actually test for.

The third speaker of the day was a visit from Jim Arthur. Jim shared with us his views on traditional methods of greenkeeping, opposed to the methods being brought over from the other side of the pond. A topic, which I don’t think, will ever be resolved.

The second event this month was the Turkey Trot and Autumn Tournament at Tyrells Wood Golf Club. Our committee met on Tuesday 28th November to preview a number of written questions that were discussed at the AGM on November 14.

All members that attended the golf and AGM will agree that the turnout of nearly 80 was excellent and we all thank Burt Watson and his team for providing us with a golf course in a condition that was amazingly dry and so well presented, the weather was dry, which was a miracle, when one considers that it was raining the day before. Thank you also to Tyrells Wood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and to the catering staff for a splendid meal.

The winners were as follows; 1. Tony Bremer, 42 pts; 2. John Davidson, 40 pts; 3. Steve Gudge, 40 pts; 4. Paul Weston, 40 pts; 5. Gareth Roberts, 39 pts; 6. Doug Perry, 39 pts.

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Ian Semple – Secretary; Tony Dunstan – Chairman, Craig Handyside – Treasurer, Robert Taylor for providing the annual turkey for the event for the best score on the day by a greenskeeper. Billy Smart, from Akenham GC, was the worthy winner.

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The AGM was held prior to the meal and the accounts for our section were discussed in great detail. The committee expressed concern for members to come forward to stand for a term of office. The committee now consists of the following members.

Ian Semple – Secretary; Tony Dunstan – Chairman, Craig Handyside – Treasurer, Robert Taylor for providing the annual turkey for the event for the best score on the day by a greenskeeper. Billy Smart, from Akenham GC, was the worthy winner.
December 5 for the last tournament of the year. So did 35 other members, guests and trade golfers obviously hoping for a game on what was reputedly the driest golf course in the area and although we played on five temporary greens the rest of the course was indeed surprisingly dry, was this down to great greenkeeping or the fact that they had over a foot less rain than most other courses in the area? Judging by the high standard of presentation over the whole of the course I would say it was a bit of both but Head Greenkeeper, Carl Croucher, would in his usual modest way put it down to being fortunate with the weather.

The high scores also reflected the condition of the course with the winners in all being around their handicap. Overall winner was Ray Clark, of Channels GC, with yet another great round coming in at 37 points one clear of 15 – 28 category winner Martin Guy and 2 clear of D-14 winner Andy Sheehan, Richard Dunmow and Pete Blackaby came 2nd and 3rd behind Andy with Keith Chinnery and Martin Forrester finishing in the same positions behind Martin.

Trade winner by divine intervention was Richard Lewis with 34 points, a very popular winner from Drive Force Leisure (nice to see you properly Rich). Greenkeeping Supply Company sponsored the Longest Drive, which went to Richard Dunmow and Nearest the Pin, Keith Rowley. Guest prize went to a new name and hopefully next time a new handicap for S. Colgate who managed to notch up 40 points. Other trade sponsors included Sheriffs, Vitax, Banks, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Driving Force Leisure, Avoncrom and Tacit who sponsored the breakfast. The strong trade presence at our golf days is part of the reason our days go so well, their support is greatly appreciated.

At the end of the prize giving Andy Sheehan was presented with a trophy for finishing up as Player of the Year. Andy won the Forrester Park and Theydon Bois golf days earlier in the year. Well done mate. Thanks to all the staff at Orset Golf Club for making our day so enjoyable, especially Martin Forrester’s niece who fended off a very amorous Ray Rodgers is so far up... to date with all the handicaps giving most of us shot backs. The AOM went smoothly and all thanked Chairman Carl Croucher and rest of committee for all work done throughout the year.

See you all at Harrogate.

Steve Crosdale.

Well here we are in early December and the rain just keeps on coming. The last ten weeks have been difficult for most of us with flooded courses resulting in disruption for the golfers and greenkeepers alike. I am hoping that the weather will turn a little drier for the rest of the year and give us a chance to carry out improvement works on the course before the busy spring period comes along.

At Allen Park in Antrim we have long lost and a half days play up to early December so the top dressing of fairways with sand and extensive drainage work carried out by Head Greenkeeper Glenn Beattie and the greenkeeping team with assistance of Clive Richardson and Horta Soils has really improved playing conditions. Many parkland courses throughout the North and Ireland are carrying out similar programs of improvements and hopefully the golfers will appreciate the effort greenkeepers and their respective clubs are making.

The Section had an educational visit to very beneficial. I would like to welcome four new members to the Section this month. Paul McEadden Head Greenkeeper, at Strabane Golf Club; Fintan Ward and John Ward, from Downpatrick GC, and Paul Johnston who has just moved from Downpatrick GC to Malone Golf Club.

Congratulations to Royal County Down Golf Club who have now been voted the number 2 course in the UK and Ireland by Golf World. Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping team can be immensely proud of this achievement.

Our next event will be a talk on irrigation systems by drilling and pumping irrigation at Allen Park Golf Club on 9/1/2001 with a start time of 7.30pm. Hope to see you all there.

Ken Henderson.

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Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries

**SCOTLAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR</th>
<th>Regional Administrator</th>
<th>Tel/Fax: 041 616 3440</th>
<th>E-mail: <a href="mailto:biggascotland@aol.com">biggascotland@aol.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**AYRSHIRE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Administrator</th>
<th>Tel: 01294 276177 Mobile: 07973 630323</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**CENTRAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Crawford</th>
<th>Stirling GC</th>
<th>Tel: 07866 464098</th>
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**EAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stephen Dixon</th>
<th>Kings Knowe GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01314 433 023</th>
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**NORTH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Douglas Duguid</th>
<th>Westhill GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01224 740329</th>
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**WEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alexander Bulloch</th>
<th>Fenerese GC</th>
<th>Tel: 0141 881 1519</th>
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**NORTHERN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Administrator</th>
<th>Tel/Fax: 01431 043 0433</th>
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**N EAST**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jimmy Richardson</th>
<th>Hexham GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01434 602057</th>
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**N WEST**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bert Cross (Retired)</th>
<th>Tel: 01724 724 5412</th>
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**NORTH**

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<tr>
<th>Andy Smith</th>
<th>Oulton Park GC</th>
<th>Tel: 0133 264 5624</th>
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**CLEVELAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barry Walker</th>
<th>Wearside GC</th>
<th>Mobile: 0858 655816</th>
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**SHEFFIELD**

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<tr>
<th>Ronald Ulathorne</th>
<th>Hirst Priory GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01724 71619</th>
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**N WALES**

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<tr>
<th>Gary Edwards</th>
<th>Old Colwyn GC</th>
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**MIDLAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Administrator</th>
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**E MIDLAND**

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<tr>
<th>Antony Bindley</th>
<th>Kirby Muxloe GC</th>
<th>Tel: 0161 289 0301</th>
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**MIDLAND**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jonathan Wood</th>
<th>Ross on Wye GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01989 720808</th>
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**E ENGLAND**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graeme MacDonald</th>
<th>Newark GC</th>
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**BERKS/BUCKS/OX**

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<tr>
<th>Lindsay Anderson</th>
<th>Badgemore Park GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01491 772206</th>
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**MID ANGLIA**

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<tr>
<th>Gerald Bruce</th>
<th>Berkhampstead GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01442 865382</th>
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**SOUTH EAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Derek Farrington</th>
<th>Tel/Fax: 01903 260956 Mobile: 07850 162401</th>
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**SURREY**

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<tr>
<th>Ian Sellers</th>
<th>Gom Professional</th>
<th>Tel: 01767 703945</th>
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**KENT**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Gary Debenham</th>
<th>Boughton GC</th>
<th>Tel: 02277 752227</th>
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**SUSSEX**

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<tr>
<th>Stefan Antolick</th>
<th>Coombes Beach GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01424 846360</th>
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**LONDON**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ian Semple</th>
<th>Old Fold Manor GC</th>
<th>Tel: 020 8441 2077</th>
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**E ANGLIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ian Willard</th>
<th>Thorpeness GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01728 452176</th>
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**ESSEX**

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<tr>
<th>Martin Forrester</th>
<th>Stapleford Abbotts GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01245 603331</th>
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**SOUTH WEST / SOUTH WALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paula Humphries</th>
<th>Tel/Fax: 01288 352194 Mobile: 07773 664563</th>
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**S WEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chris Jack</th>
<th>Manor House GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01249 782982</th>
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**S COAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fred Deanon</th>
<th>Alton GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01420 82042</th>
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**DEYON C/MALL**

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<tr>
<th>Richard Whyman</th>
<th>Bude &amp; N C Mall GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01288 352006</th>
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**S WALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peter Lacey</th>
<th>Pennard GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01792 23923</th>
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**NORTHERN IRELAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ken Henderson</th>
<th>Allen Park GC</th>
<th>Tel: 01294 420901</th>
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