The Scottish Region is once again offering its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2002. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibitions, three night's bed and breakfast in en-suite rooms on January 22, 23 and 24 in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate.

The cost of the package is £189 with partners welcome at a cost of £129 for Harrogate.

Further information from Peter Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Peter Boyd

Central

We extend a warm welcome this month to Lorraine Paterson, from Callender. (Shann at Eile won't feel so lonely now); Eric Wilson, Murrayshall, and Kevin McColm, from St Michael's. I've already met Eric as he attended our Autumn meeting, entry to all didn't have far to go right enough, as the tourna-

2001 Autumn Tournament on September 27 and what a superb new course the Lynedoch is, with views over nearly half of Scotland - that's a bit of an exaggeration but on a clear day you can see for miles in every direction.

For a new course it was in great condition and the greens were really excellent with some very subtle borrows, well that's my excuse for taking so many putts! Our allotted tee times were over subscribed well before the closing date (so we must be doing something right) and everyone who attended had a really enjoyable day even the weather was kind to us for a change.

Before any of you say there was a bit of confusion regarding the closing date on some of the forms. I always make at least one "deliberate" mistake just to make sure you are all paying attention!

Prize winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch
G. Campbell, Murrayshall, 68+3-71;
Best Nett
D. Gillon, Tulliallan, 75-9-66
Best Nett S&A
K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 69-1-68
Category 1
1. A. Philp, St Fillans, 70-2-68 th;
2. K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 69-1-68
Category 2
1. D. Scott, Soconie, 63-15-68
2. D. Smith, Glenalmond, 67-1-73
Cat 3
1. S. Cruickshank, Deer Park, 99-23-76
Patrons' Prize
Guests' Prize
J. Harley, Murrayshall, 80-10-70
Longest Drive
D. Simpson, Crieff.
Nearest the Pin
A. Philp, St Fillans.

We had a slight hiccup with the prize giving which has been rectified. I will withhold the name of those concerned to protect the innocent. Well, everyone said "It wasn't my fault" so I presume that they were innocent!

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Murrayshall for looking after us so well on the day with special thanks to General Manager, Jon Brynn, Liz Mitchell, all the clubhouse staff, especially Donald for his very warm welcome, the Pro, who cut the price of a buggy to £10, a real deal on wheels, and I must give a special thank you to Course Manager, Ian McMillan, and all his staff for the excellent condition of the course (that should really be courses) and for the very generous gesture of donating the green staff gratuities back into Section funds.

Well done to the greenstaff at Murrayshall! Also a big thank you to all the Scottish Patrons, without whose support our tournaments wouldn't be the same. I nearly forgot to mention the lads who sold the raffle tickets. Once again they did a superb job in raising funds to help fund our tournaments. Thanks everyone.

The winner of the August draw in Club 2000 were Bobby Fleming, from Dolatur, winning £50 and Sharon Lawrie, from Eile, winning £20. September winners were Alex Cruickshank, from Daval, with £30 and Andrew Crawford, from Kinnross, who wins £20. A special mention and thank you to Alex Cruickshank, from Daval, for donating his winnings back into Section funds.

Tickets for next year's lottery are going quite well at the moment. Only a few members have returned them, some have even put them in an envelope anonymously, but don't worry lads we know who you are! Remember all monies and unsold tickets must be returned to me by the end of December. As this is the only fund raising venture which is run by the Section I hope that not too many tickets are returned.

I will give you an update in December's news on the Grand Football Tournament and the Section AGM which were held last month (too late for this issue) and I may also have snips on an issue which has been quite a talking point at recent committee meetings with snap being the operative word. Watch this space.

John Crawford

North

The Autumn Outing to Keith GC was a great success, with reasonable weather fortunately, as rain fell either side of the day. The downsides was our lowest turnout for a while with only 53 members, trade and guests in attendance. This was possibly due to the date being earlier in the month than usual, which had come about because the club had a double book-

ing and moved us to the earlier date. We must thank Keith GC for their hospitality and congratulate Neil Kidd and his staff for presenting the course in wonderful condition. The winners on the day were as follows:

1. G. Campbell, Murrayshall, 68+3-71;
3. A. Philp, St Fillans, 70-2-68 th;
4. K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 69-1-68
5. D. Smith, Glenalmond, 67-1-73.
Getting right up to the bunker or water's edge without them crumbling, or mowing in safety under an overhanging tree is perfectly possible when you're operating Toro's unique Sidewinder™ version of the new Reelmaster® 3100 triple mower. Its innovative system of shifting its cutting units to left or right increases overhang by up to 56cm (22in). Leading edge technology not only results in a superb cut and higher productivity, but puts safety at the forefront with out-front driver position for good vision and manoeuvrability, plus unrivalled stability and slope-climbing. For a close, up-to-the-rim cut without fear of driver or machine topping over the edge, choose Toro.

Simply telephone 01480 226800 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.
Ayrshire  
Result of Autumn Meeting at Brighead Bay Golf Club 27/09/01.

Best scratch and winner of the new Harry Diamond Shield  
John Mair, Beith.
Category 1.
1. Dennis Tweedell, Turnberry  
2. Duncan Gray, The Pines  
3. Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside

Category 2.
1. Colin Murray, Brighead Bay  
2. Dole Norquoy, Irvine Bogside  
3. Paul Tullock, West Kilbride

Best Veteran Gordon Hughey, Southeens
Best Guest. Peter Boyd, BIGGA.

Wooden spoon – Last Autumn’s Champion Jim Patton, West Kilbride. Where did it all go wrong, Jim?
After one of our driest Septembers for years, our luck didn’t hold and the bad weather was to return with a vengeance on the above day with strong to gale force winds and persistently heavy rain. The event was cut to nine holes mid-stream in the atrocious conditions and most players batted valiantly to complete their round. At the prize giving the Complex owner Tom Gillespie was thanked for allowing us courtesy of the facilities along with Club Secretary, Ken Mercer, for arranging tee times. Head Greenkeeper, Colin Murray, was congratulated on the golf course and although the weather marred the day it didn’t beat the course as it remained playable. Mr and Mrs Starfield were also thanked for providing the catering and refreshments throughout the day and finally our Secretary, Derek Wilson, was thanked for all the organising of the event. Ironically when I returned home 90 miles north, I was to discover that it had remained dry all day. Sods law!

By the time this reaches you it will be Scotsturf again, maybe I’ll see you there. Any news call me on 01305 685278. See you next month.
Iain Barr

West  
Welcome to this month’s news letter.
First a report on the Section Autumn outing held at Milngavie GC on September 20. The weather turned out beautiful to match the condition of the course so congratulations must first go to Bob Hindmarch, Wallace Wilson and all the other members of the greens staff. The committee would like to wish Bob all the best when he retires next year but I am sure he will miss working in such a beautiful place just a little. Thanks must also be extended to the committee and members of Milngavie Golf Club for the courtesy of the course.


Category 2.

Category 3.

Visor E., Wood, Killearn GC, 71-1-70.
Winner of 100 club draw: J. Scott Snr.

Well done to all the winners - and a good turnout on the day. On November 30 our Annual Dinner will be held in Victoria’s night club. Tickets are available from committee members, paid in advance of the actual dinner date. This has always proved an enjoyable and entertaining evening in the past with a choice of bars to suit all tastes and ages. Congratulations are to be extended to Joe Bell, Millport Golf Club, and his wife who have been blessed with their second child Louise. Congratulations also to John Hart, (who replaced Joe as Deputy Head at Kilcrelton GC) on the arrival of his baby son Callum. We are sure both of you and your wives are very happy with the new arrivals and are looking forward to the sleepless nights. Have they no television west of Houston?

Well that’s it for this month hope to see as many of you as possible at the annual dinner, as always if there is anything you would like added to the column please give me a call on 01355 266862.
Brian Bolland

North Wales  
Our autumn meeting was held at Llangollen GC. There was a much reduced entry this year which was a shame because the course was in excellent condition. Thanks go to Jeremy Hughes and his team, the Captain committee and members for having us, the stewards and definitely the catering, after the amount of shots I took and the amount of walking I did, I was starving!

The results were;

Our thanks go to the sponsors Paul Walker, ALS, Gem, Acorn, Sportsworld, John Osman. Our next event is in the college on 14th Nov 13:30-1600 by Hardy sprayers.
The Christmas tournament and AGM is at Conway GC on Tuesday, Dec 4. One final mention, the retirement of a man who made greenkeeping that interesting to me that I’m still doing it nearly 30 years later, not only me but many others including Andy Campbell and his own son, Peter.

I will always be indebted to Len Sproston for helping to make something out of me and giving me the encouragement and confidence to be a Head Greenkeeper.

Thanks Len here’s to a very long and happy retirement.
Dave Goodridge

Northern Region

Golf Club Show

The most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green.

This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with BTME, providing an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.

The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course industry, the Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

The Golf Club Show

BTME 2002

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,000 visitors are expected at the show in 2005 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.
North East

On September 20, we paid our first visit to Hesham GC for the Autumn Competition, as always Head Greenkeeper, Mal Latham and his staff, had the course excellent condition, considering they had hollow cored and dressed the greens only three weeks prior to the competition.

Thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy and to Gary Finn, the Catering Manager for providing us with an excellent meal. Other thanks go to the trade for providing donations and prizes they are Thorntiee Landscapes, Turf Care, Cropwise, Shorts, Atkins, Greenlay, Amenity Technology, Border Turf Services, out of the sponsors there were only four on the doorstep who gave us courtesy and to Gary Finn, the execellent meal. Other thanks go to Greenkeeper, Mai Lathan and his staff.

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Next year’s Autumn Comp, will hopefully be at Longhirst spring comp. Not decided yet. Jimmy Richardson

North West

I am writing this month’s Section notes as the greenkeepers are competing at Birkdale in the National Tournament, and they must be having a fair battle against the weather. The wind has today been almost gale force, and knowing how open Birkdale is, I would imagine that like the professionals, none of the competition will be finding the course easy. I called in at Birkdale a couple of weeks ago for a sneak preview, not to play, and the course is in great condition as always so I hope everybody enjoys playing what I understand to be probably the best Open Championship Course in the country.

The autumn tournament was played at Ashton & Lea Golf Club on September 3, and although we had mixed weather the day stayed mainly dry allowing everybody to enjoy their golf. We had only 23 members playing which is a poor turnout considering the venue is just about central to the North West section area, but September is a busy time for greenkeepers, so maybe the timing was wrong. I would like to thank Ashton & Lea Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and also the caterers Wendy & Ian for a lovely lunch and evening meal. The results were as follows:

Best Gross. Paul Pearse, 72 p/o scratch
Best Nett. Paul Walker, 60

Guest Prize. Andy Cows, 74.

The aggregate trophy was won by Paul Walker with 72 + 68 = 140 total.

The nett prize down went to 7th nett thanks to our patrons and other trade members. At last, I have received some news from members, some good, some not so good. The good news is that Paul Worsencroft, Head Greenkeeper at Knutsford Golf Club, who was injured in a car accident last February is making good progress, and is slowly getting back to work. His golf club has been a great help to him and his family.

The not so good news is that Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven Golf Club, is not in the best of health at the moment, but I understand that the treatment he is undergoing is showing good progress. All our good wishes go to Peter for a speedy recovery. Finally, I am informed that Paul Pearse, Head Greenkeeper at Penwortham Golf Club, has taken over at Captains of Gove Golf Club this year. Quite an honour, I hope you have a good year Paul.

In the Northern Section, this time the competition was held at Heppenstall Golf Club on Thursday, September 12

Keynote speaker: Roger Black M.B.E.

Programme includes: Health and Safety.

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel


Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is an exciting new concept which will enable golf club industry personnel of all disciplines to research and meet their product and service needs under one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and continues to be eagerly anticipated by exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday, January 24th by the BTME Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet starts the comedy duo Brahmns and Llist supported by the Nightjars.
To guarantee your place as numbers are limited and for the catering, the deadline is November 15. In December on the 5th is the Christmas Golf at Healdsley GC. This is a free entry, and with a minimum value of £5. There will be other prizes on offer making it into a fun day. If for some reason the golf is cancelled, something else will be arranged. The deadline is Wednesday November 28 for booking for the Christmas Golf at £13 (cheques made payable to BIGGA Northern Section).

Congratulations to Dennis Cockburn on becoming a Great Granddad again. All those grandkids must be what keeps Dennis looking so young! That's all for now as this gang is organising some ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383158: mobile 07790 678352. Email: andyrnorthsection.co.uk

Andy Smith

Mid Anglia

Teams wishing to enter the Christmas Texas Scramble event on December 6 at Dunstable Downs, should get their entries in as soon as possible (if you have not already done so). Congratulations to Brian Lovatt of Toro for £25 for BIGGA members and £35 for non-BIGGA members, guests etc. Please ensure that your team players pay the appropriate rate if they are not BIGGA members. Tim Forsyth is organising some educational days for early next year. These include Basic Computing, Soil Science and a Chainsaw course. Should any members be interested in attending any of these events, please contact Tim for further details on 01422 842627. Once dates and venues are confirmed, they will be published in January’s “Around the Green”.

Midland Region

Peter Larter (01 845 437570)

I would be very happy to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale GC for courtesy of their fine course, the Steward and Staff for a great meal, and to those new members who joined us for the first time, Robert Duvall and Chris Brown. Also a special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products who generously sponsored the prize table for those who supplied prices for the raffle. Also on September 21, Banks Amenity Products sponsored a team of Greenkeepers in the Market Harborough AM-AM. Unfortunately the team did not score too well on the day finishing with a score of 139, I under par. On behalf of the three Greenkeepers who played I would like to thank you. Tim and Simon Banks for a wonderful day.

Antony Bindey

East Midlands

The match between the East Midlands Section and Cotgrave Place Golf Club, and once again our rivals took home the trophy. The competition was sponsored by Ben PettitJan, of Bank Amenity Products. Thanks to all who entered for the East Of England Section, before luck next time on our home fixture.

The other matchplay fixture in the calendar was against the Secretaries’ Association, with an outstanding victory to the East of England Section. The match was played over an excellent Seacroft course and thanks goes to Michael Love and his staff for the hard work over the past year. In this match was put forward by Chancellors and by Nigel Lovett of Tory. G A Macdonald

BBO

The annual bringing a long a band, sorry. Invitation Day, took place at Tory Harborough Golf Club on October 4. At last, a golf day with no rain! A field of 34 took part and results are as follows:

2. J. Soones & D. Keenmay, 46 pts.
3. B. Smith & S. Scott, 44 pts.

I had the very great pleasure of partnering Carl and Lee as they tore the course apart, and it’s not the first time I have seen them do it. Last year they were level par around Caversham after 14 holes, and for those of you who have played the course you know that is good golf. Many thanks to Ray Clark and his staff at Harborough. The course was in superb condition and also to Tim Webb and Mark Day of Tacit, for sponsoring the day.

Also as promised: more news on the Rigby-taylor pairs. The semi-finals have been played with Ian Robins & Carl Small beating D. Goodchild & C. Wright and L. Anderson & S. Austin beating Chris Richmond & Les Wallace. The final is to be played at The Berkshire between L. Anderson & S. Austin against Ian Robins and Carl Small on October 22. Apparently this is something of a grudge match because the latter beat the former in last year’s semi-final.

The other matchplay fixture in the calendar was held on October 4 at Three Rivers Golf Club. Thirty-onedeed in lovely conditions and played a course that although a bit wet in places due to obvious reasons held up well and played to my expectations. How will the other teams do? I don’t think I will find out as they haven’t sent me their scores yet. It was not to be the case however as the majority of the scores were too low to be published especially after my earlier comments regarding how good the South East region is.

Results for the day were as follows:

Overall winner of the Winter Trophy was Arnold Phillips, of Stock Brook Manor GC, with 36 points.
Category 1 (1-14)
1. Jon Selwood, Abridge GC, 35; pts
2. Doug Bagot-Smith, Bentley GC, 35; pts

South East

Derek Farrington (01 908 29659)

If the author could offer you the chance to mingle with the stars, have sex on the beach and then play golf on two of the finest courses in the country you would probably jump at the chance, so why don’t you. This all awaits if you enter the BIGGA National Championships as Tony Kirklin of Colchester Golf Club and myself did this year.

We were truly blessed with the stars standing in the same bar as Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard, on the Monday before the England v Greece game; we also had seas on the beach (plus many other exotic and alluring sounding cocktails).

Then to top it off we had two days of golf at Royal Birkdale then Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club. After nearly passing out on the 1st tee a few times, the first aid team, many spectators and photographer I really enjoyed my round. Tony on the other hand emulated his great feat of finishing third overall last year by finishing third overall in the scratch and fourth overall proper. Tony put his success down to getting to bed early the night before, (I think not), and not using a single wood all the way round Birkdale which had winds averaging at 55mph and gusting up to 70mph. You will be pleased to hear that the Southest yet again proved saving the rest of us from realizing that we are undoubtedly the finest golfing greenkeepers around.

I must mention Mark Penny, of Sheriff Croft, the Secretary of the Secretaries’ Association and Lenny Taylor, David Murphy, of Driving Force Leisure, and Simon Banks, of Banks Horticulture, who agreed to sponsor me during my participation in the event.

To all Greenkeepers and their staffs here I can only say keep up the good work, it’s going to be a great one to start with. Come on celebrate Christmas early with us at Channels, Crockdole
Kent

Dark, miserable and wet and I'm not talking about my ex-girlfriend. Yes it's raining again and quite likely we have a lot more on the way so don't get depressed. Well not yet anyway.

...just got back from two glorious weeks in the Maldives and I was torn between going and playing in the Boughton Golf Day on September 13. The turnout for the day as put by one correspondent was 'Niharis everywhere'. A total of 33 turned out, but when you consider it was a guest day, it looks a little bleak.

As we all suffer with drainage problems, selling is the name of the game and certainly the weather isn't helping. The sun is up there somewhere, but the clouds are just too thick.

...in my next column.

South West

A long awaited victory by the team on Welsh soil was achieved in South West last month. The team of Chris Manton, Mike Outten and Tony Sharman were unable to attend the day due to other commitments so his duty of presenting the prizes went to Paul Flegg who presented the prizes to 1. Nathan O'Sullivan, 40pts; 2. Tony Gooch, 39pts; 3. Richard Daly, 38pts.

The Section would like to thank China Fleet G&CC for allowing the use of their excellent facilities, to the catering and bar staff and to Course Manager, Richard Shapland and his team, who had the course in superb condition. Also our thanks to Don Hunt and Roffeys for their cooperation with the Section's Roffeys meeting was held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes for the top four and Tammy's kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual, on the non-golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 1:30pm, the Section's AGM will take place on Wednesday, November 21 at 1:30pm. The day will start as usual with golf at the St Pierre resort for making us so welcome. The day will end as usual with golf and a guided course walk. A happy hour will be arranged at the end of the course.

The Annual match versus the South West of BIGGA was held as is traditional, at the Marriott St. Pierre & Golf Resort. The day was sponsored by Amenity Technology and our thanks to Martin Humphries, chairman of the Section for his efforts.

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