West

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

We hope you have all completed your winter programmes and have your courses in pristine condition for the start of the season. What with all this fine weather we have been having since the middle of January! Hopefully we will all have a good season and be blessed with a fine Spring and Summer.

Football first. A second seven a side tournament was played at the Midlothian Golf Club Park GC. Nicky Barr, Whitriggs GC; Mark Cummine, Buchanan Castle GC; John Thorburn, Windyhill GC; Grisme Latto and Wilson Wallace, Milngavie GC, and Peter Robertson, Bothwell Castle GC. We hope to see you all at our up and coming social events.

Some dates for your calendar are April 6th when the duties of SGM Greensomes match will be held at Lenzie GC. This tournament was originally set up to give greenkeepers and their new conveners a chance to see the same number. If you do wish to retain your number please send your £5 onto Sandy as soon as possible or your number may be reallocated.

Well that's all folks. Again, if you have any questions please send your ticket back and we will answer within a few weeks to send you an extra few weeks to send in the money for your tickets obviously didn't work as there are still 179 members who have not done so. Guess what's going to take up most of next month's news? Answers on the back of a 'Club 2000 ticket please (paid for).

Our next announcements go to Alistair Philp, who is leaving St. Fillans Golf Club, to take up the appointment of Head Greenkeeper at Comrie Golf Club Alistair won't have to move house to take up his new post as he already lives in Comrie, that's what you call forward planning.

Now for the results.

On February 26 an educational visit to Stewarts was held at West Linton GC on June 27 and have your courses in pristine condition since the middle of February 18. The result was a 4-4 draw. Gerry tells me that the Ibrox boys were much fitter than they were in the first game and also had an extra team member which might explain the difference in the score line from the first game which ended 9-1 to the greenkeepers. Or could it have been the difference in the score line from the first game which ended 9-1 to the greenkeepers.

On February 26 an educational visit was arranged at Stewart's turf farm at North Linton. The head greenkeeper who attended were given an insight into the running of a turf farm and some of the problems which can occur. One problem they do share in common with most golf courses in Scotland is the amount of plant used in their composting process used in developing Kelpie Top Dressing Facility. I, and the committee, would like to thank everyone who attended the Section these being Paterson, from Scotscraig, and Neil Macleod, of Tain GC, recently left us due to ill health. All future events will be held at Midlothian Golf Club Park GC; Robert Laing, from Camperdown Golf Club; David Lawrence, from Kinloch Country Golf Club, and Eddy Paul Marshall, from Newburgh on Ythan Golf Club. Welcome to the Section and we will hopefully maybe see you at the golf outings.

North

Hello Section. Four new members to report to the Section, they are, David Jefford, from Prestwick Golf Club; Robert Laing, from Camperdown Golf Club; David Lawrence, from Kinloch Country Golf Club, and Eddy Paul Marshall, from Newburgh on Ythan Golf Club. Welcome to the Section and we will hopefully maybe see you at the golf outings.

Scottish Section went ahead on March 5 and was well attended. The members from the North Section who attended hopefully enjoyed their day out. The speakers were of their usual high standard and covered a variety of topics.

Congratulations go to Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, for organising yet another excellent Conference at the Dunfermline Business Centre last month. With top class speakers on various subjects the delegates were certainly given an opportunity to "further their education" and it was pleasing to see a good number of Central Section members giving their support and gaining point towards the annual Patron's Awards.

Winners of 'Club 2000' in January were Phil Langdon, £30; with No. 385 and S. McKnight, £20, with No. 108. February winners were E. Smuth £30, with No. 46 and B. Bone, £20, with No. 280 and finally March winners were A. Dunn, £30, with No. 138 and S. McMillan,£20, with No.033. That's us up to date with the winners so far this year. But giving you an extra few weeks to send in the money for your tickets obviously didn't work as there are still 179 members who have not done so. Guess what's going to take up most of next month's news? Answers on the back of a 'Club 2000 ticket please (paid for).

The forms for the Spring Tournament at Kingsbarns and your entry for the Interclub Tournament as time and spaces are running out fast!

John Crawford.
we go. Reading the local evening newspaper I came across an article you may find interesting, and I quote:

"A new technology could mean an end to waterlogged cricket pitches, tennis courts and golf courses. Researchers at Newcastle University are developing an element system called EKG that uses electricity to draw water out of soil."

Now this sounds interesting, and I am sure that if the University required some golf courses to practise on they would be inundated with volunteers. I personally feel this would be a damp squid, but I have heard greenkeepers suggesting the use of electricity on the course like wiring the flag poles, and buggies.

Back to reality, the Spring tournament will be held at Hurston Hall Golf Club on Wednesday, May 15, and lunch served at 12.30pm, tee available from 1.30pm. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool L4 9RB, Tel 0151 284 4416 no later than May 10 including a cheque for £20. The spring tournament is also a qualifier for the Regional final, which will be played at Whitehead Golf Club on Friday, August 9. The final will be held at Royal Liverpool GC on February 20, at The Wymeswold Ind. Est Race Track. Again the evening was booked to capacity, which shows that if you wish to attend any Section event, please book you place early. The evening started well until half way through the races there was a power failure, and all the results were lost. So the racing had to start once more from scratch. After some hard fought qualifying races we were ready for the grand final, which was extended by more laps. The eventual winner was Steve Levers, of Ramsdale Park, with Lingdale's, Gavin Robson, in second place.

There was unfortunately a nasty accident on the night, but the good news is that there was no serious injury to Nigel White and I'm sure he will be fit and ready for the Spring Tournament on May 2. I would like to thank our very generous sponsors Tom Leitch, John and Paul Manders who subsidised the evening and brought along the prizes. Remember if you wish to race next year return your entry slip and payment before the closing date.

Antony Bindley

Midland

Firstly, I would like to extend a big thank you to Bernhard & Co, for their considerable commitment to sponsoring ten fortunate members to visit the GCSAA in Orlando, of whom I was lucky enough to be one. The quality of the week was second to none with every day jam-packed full of events. Being part of the delegation also ensured more doors were opened that normal on a trip of this nature. My thanks also go to the nine other delegates and GCSAA who all contributed so much to make such a memorable week. Having been privileged enough to have experienced this opportunity first hand, I would encourage anybody who is contemplating entering for a place on a future tour to do so and support strongly such an excellent commitment executed so well by Bernhard & Co.

Back home now, and I have been asked to explain the £5 rise in golf day entrance fees. This has come about firstly to ensure the Section covers all costs of the day and, secondly, some clubs now are asking for a donation per head to the green gees. I trust you will still support what is still an excellent day's golf and socialising in the future. The next golf day is May 22 at Gay Hill. Entrance fees as usual to Kim Blake please.

Interest has also been expressed as to organising a trip to Ireland or Scotland, which will be towards the end of the year. This may be in conjunction with the North Wales Section, playing golf against Greenkeepers of the opposing nation over a two-day period. Initially, numbers need to be gathered of those interested before cost and possible sponsorship is sought, if you have an interest please contact myself on 97876-546638.

Also you may have seen Andy Smith, of Shirley Golf Club, on Zoe Ball's class of 1979 in March. Well done, Andy.

Phil Gates

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**Section Event?**

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html
South East

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia

Two Seminars this month given by Prime Irrigation went off very well. Eastern College near Norwich was the first held on February 6 and Otley held the second on February 13. I missed the first as I was with the delinquent with Bernhards in Orlando, more about that later. The Otley seminar certainly gave those attending a lot to think about. Robin and Rupert dealt with the practical side—gripping, set-up, installation and repairs and Graham and John dealt with design and the electronics. I understand that 20 greenkeepers attended Eastern and 30 came to Otley, this did include 10 students, but still we must be proud of ourselves for such a large turnout. Our thanks go to Prime Irrigation for a great presentation.

On February 3 I flew out to Orlando with the delegation from Bernhards and BIGGA heading for the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. While we were there we visited four courses and the Disney Wilderness Centre, 37,000 acres of habitat recreation area.

(Here's a tip if you visit Florida and there's a lake near by Do Not go for a paddle, you may end up an alligator’s breakfast.)

The unmatched The high productivity A better price than any mower with it’s maintenance of a Premiership pitch.

South West

Surrey

All members by now should have received the Surrey programme for this year together with the application forms for the first golfing venue at Foxhills and the Biospeed Bowl knockout competition. Please add the following dates, the McMillan Trophy is at Windingsgate will be on August 8 and the England vs Scotland match at Henley Common is on August 30.

This is all there is to report apart from a happy event that occurred on February 15. Lorna Tedder the wife of Peter, Head Greenkeeper at Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club, gave birth to a son, Daniel Alfie, 8lbs. 6oz. We wish them both our warmest congratulations.

Please let me have your news so that next month's Surrey Around The Green is not read so quickly.

Brian Willmott

Essex

This, as you may know is the first report on the announcement of the fact he will become a father in August. Coincidentally Gary has announced his engagement as well and I'm sure everyone will wish them all the best for the future.

News of any interest from the Gentleman's Dinner and what prize I won will be in next month's issue along with any funny stories of the day.

As you may know here at Kings Hill we don't like to blow our own trumpets but we have recently received an award from the Country Land and Business Association in recognition for our conservation and wildlife management work carried out on our course. With works ranging from heather management and establishment to bird boxes. We have been quite busy during the Autumn/Winter months with our self funded projects with the advice of the Kent Wildlife Trust. If any other clubs have done such work or would like any information on it, drop me a line and let me know what you have been up to.

Sorry I have not got any other news but I guess my new e-mail address has not got through to you yet. JRBATICHGOLF@AOL.COM or call me on 01732 875020 with any news, however small.

Jason Bean.

Kent

Congratulations to Gary Dekenham for winning the Winter Knockout competition held at West Wills Golf Club. Anybody who would like to help should contact Derek Farrington ASAP.

This just leaves me to wish you all a successful and enjoyable year's golf with our Section and hope to see you all at each of them in turn.

Steve Crosdale

South Coast

Spring edges its way ever closer and most of us are finishing off our winter programmes. The Section has been quiet apart from our seminar, which was held at Salisbury & South Wilt's Golf Club on February 13. The day started with an interesting talk from Rex Kimberley on soil nutrition. This was followed by an excellent presentation from Adi Archer and Terry Elbourne from Broadstone Golf Club. We were given an excellent insight into the ecological work that earned them first prize in the BIGGA Environmental Award.

After an excellent lunch Kath Jenkins, 30pts; 2. J. Keenan, 28pts. (Countback on the last 4); 3. S. Capern, 28pts. Nearest the pin, D. Smith. It was also his birthday, so well done to him and everybody. The prizes were fantastic, yes, outstanding. First was a Television, second was a Microwave and third, a Stereo. Our next event is at Burnham & Berrow Tuesday, April 16.

You will very soon receive a form with all of our events listed, please read and return to Kevin telling him which events you would like to attend and play in remember events are interesting and informative also there are great prizes.

Robin Geaves

The 721XR articulator features seven individual 21" (53.3cm) cutting decks which deliver a cut-path eleven feet wide.

Lastec's revolutionary patented belt-drive system allows all seven cutting decks to articulate independently, but without messy, power-robbing hydraulic drives.

The 721XR articulator brings you the best of three worlds:

- The unmatched cut quality of small push mowers
- The high productivity benefits of a wide area mower
- A better price than any mower with it's quality and capacity
was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd and our sincere thanks go to them.

It was good to see Simon Banks present particularly after his beloved Ipswich had been thrashed the previous weekend. There were a number of Liverpool fans present that I understand forgot to mention this to Simon. Once again many thanks to Banks for their valued sponsorship, to Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club for their superb hospitality, to all the speakers who made it such an enjoyable day and a huge vote of thanks to Fred Deamen for organising the day.

As our golf meetings begin, we must give a vote of thanks to tournament organiser Chris Sturgess, for arranging such a good year for us. We are to be treated with some excellent courses to play this year and we will start at Blackmoor Golf Club on Wednesday, May 1. The spring tournament will be a 27 hole event and is sponsored by Avoncrop and Vitax. The cost for the day will be £18 and please forward your entries to Chris Sturgess. We have arranged a course walk for those non golfers who wish to come along. Again the price is £18 to cover the cost of the food. We hope this will encourage our non playing members along to our events.

One last piece of news. We must pass on our congratulations to Chris Sturgess, and his bride Maggie, who had their wedding on March 23. We wish them a long and happy life together!

If anyone has any news that they wish to pass on please contact me on 07813841714 or email me at amcormick@hotmail.com.

Until next month,
Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

After last year's Avoncrop-sponsored February Section meeting being cancelled due to the Foot & Mouth crisis it was nice to be able to hold the event at last year's scheduled venue of Thurlstone Golf Club, which saw an attendance of 56 members. Once again the strong winds and rain, which had been the norm for February, gave way to very calm and sunny conditions. Thirty-three golfing members played a bogey competition for the Avoncrop Trophy and Head Greenkeeper, Stuart Freeman, treated our non-golfing members to a tour of the excellently presented course.


Robert Brewer, of American Golf, presented our afternoon talk on moving from greenkeeper to management. Robert's talk was most informative, hopefully we will see more greenkeepers go into club management. The Section would like to thank the members and committee of Thurlstone GC for allowing the Section use of their facilities for the day and to Robert Brewer for making the long journey southwest to present his excellent talk.

Our congratulations go to Stuart Freeman and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

The Section, in association with Omcis Irrigation, presented a workshop on Irrigation at Fingle Glen GC on Tuesday 5th May. 46 members and guests attend a superbly run workshop covering Irrigation design, sprinkler and sole-noid servicing, control systems & pumping equipment. The Section would like to thank Roger, Vic and Ray for presenting the workshop and to Omcis for sponsoring the day which was of great educational value.

Richard Whyman

Northern Ireland

Well, I am going to begin this month's notes by having a good moan about the weather. As I write this in early March, February 2002 is a month that we will be glad to see the back of. The majority of our inland golf courses have had prolonged amounts of snow that have closed for three to four weeks causing frustration among the golfing members and greenstaff alike. We seem to have our entire Autumn and Winter rainfall in the space of a couple of weeks. We can only look forward and hope for some nice warm and sunny days ahead.

Our latest Section event will be held at Lisburn Golf Club on March 14. A talk on grass seed and fertica will be presented by Jo Gladwin, from Ocmis Irrigation, plus a talk on greenkeeping for the non-golfing members, golf details, golf rules etc are to be arranged, with the intention that all golfers, not just Section members, attend the event. Another report from Wood-Mizer Products, Inc.

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Northern Ireland

Best wishes to Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd, who have taken over the Textron Dealership in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the year. Broderick's commitment to the Textron brand has won them the award as European distributor of the year by Textron Golf Turf and Specialty Products at the BIGGA show in Harrogate. I would like to welcome the following new members to the section this month, Alistair McEwen, Head Greenkeeper at Spa Golf Club, Robert Patterson, Rockmount Golf Club, Brian McConway and Chris M'to, The Hilton Temple Patrick, and Steveen Henry, Royal Portrush Golf Club.

Ken Henderson

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Ken Henderson

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ken@bigga.co.uk

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