Welcome to the Section, William, keeper at Kirriemuir Golf Club. In William Craig, who is a green-keeper at北部, your greens come out unscathed. Northern

The weather can have an effect on your golf course. The weather is Allan Grant, formerly of Dunfermline, will be in the post by then. There are many members who have any particular views on this please feel free to contact me on 01997420135 as your thoughts would be very welcome. It is due to be discussed at a Board of Management meeting this month and I will report on this in a future magazine.

200 Club renewals will be going out shortly and as it is the Section’s only real way of making money and therefore keeping section outing costs down, it will be as well supported as usual.

Iain Gunn

Ayrshire

Tambited New Year to everyone and I hope you all had an enjoyable time over the festive period and 2002 is already treating you well. After a blank couple of months I will start writing my column again next month. Lastec’s revolutionary patented belt-drive system allows all cutting decks which deliver a cut-path eleven feet wide. The unmatched The high productivity A better price than usual.

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.

Northeast

A recent seminar for the Northern Region was held at Longhirst Hall, North East England. Congratulations to Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride, and Wallace Mercer, Skelmorlie, on winning the Patrons’ Award for Ayrshire. They received their award at the Patrons’ lunch in Harrogate and, by the time this is printed it will all be over, so I hope you enjoyed your trip. Any news or views please call me on 01505 683278, see you next month.

Iain Barr

Central

We are up and running again with new applications for membership of the Section and this month we extend a warm welcome to Iain Wilson, Colin McKay, John Henderson, Nicholas J-Torsfield, John Watson and Michael Petrie who are all from Crait Golfing Society, in Fife. Six new members from the one club can’t be bad although I don’t know what Allan will do if they all want to attend the Spring Tournament!

The date for the Spring Tournament, which is being held courtesy of Kingsbarns Golf Club, is Wednesday, May 16, and this is sure to be a very popular venue. Please return your entry forms in plenty of time. The date for the Autumn Tournament, courtesy of Duluth Golf Club, has yet to be confirmed but it will be in late September.

I know I keep going on about “Club 2000” and the number of members who do not buy their allocation of tickets (I or 2 maximum), but this fund raising venture is the only means of income for the Section. As we do not get any funding from HQ it is vitally important that we generate our own sources of income so please try and give us some support by buying your allocation of tickets. To this end I will wait until next month before asking you individually to return your unsold tickets. I’m all heart really!

Remember all trophy holders please arrange to return them to me as soon as possible.

That’s all for the moment, not much I know but I am sure there will be a much longer column next month.

John Crawford

North

Coming up later this month is a seminar at Howley Hall GC. On Wednesday, February 27. You should have already got the details about the day in the mail shot. If not, then get in touch with me and let me know if there is any subject you want covering either as part of a seminar or as an intensive one day course.

Other dates for your diary includes: Spring Tournament, Wednesday, April 24, Bedale GC; President’s Day, Wednesday, June 19. Otley GC; Invitation Day, Tuesday, September 10, Bingley St. Ives GC; Autumn Tournament, Thursday, October 17. Thirsk & Northallerton GC; Winter Golf, Tuesday, December 3, Croxden Heath GC.

That’s all for now, if anybody as any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9Q5; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile (07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk Andy Smith

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- A better price than any mower with it's quality and capacity

42 Greenkeeper International February 2002

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Fax: 0141 616 3450

Iain Gunn
North Wales

A big thanks to Dave Goodridge for the last 2 years of writing the Section notes. Dave is taking a well earned break and we wish him well.

Hope all those of you who took the trip up to the BTME 2002 show had a good time, both on the educational side and, all the new products on display around the stands. Also not forgetting Hannogate's vast range of local hosteries where many of you were spotted enjoying the cups of tea in Betty's tea shop?

On to business. The AGM was held after the Christmas Golf Tournament at Conwy (Caernarfonshire) GC and thanks once again to David Lewis and his team for preparing the Links course to a high standard. The newly elected Committee is as follows:

Stuart McCall, Chairman; Andy Campbell, Secretary; Trevor Johnston, Treasurer; Terry Adamsom, Education; Andrew Acorn, Press; Jeff Hughes, Match Sec; Steve Roberts & Don Pemberton, Members.

Our golf venues for this year, spring at Andy Campbell's Carden Park Golf Complex (Southport) and autumn is at Steve Jones's Pwllheli GC and the Christmas Tournament is at Ian Farrell's Cadby GC.

We are also pleased to have Bill Lawson as our official starter for the competitions. This may be scrutinised at our first event by official Carden starter, Mal Edwards. However, we look forward to the 'crack' anyway.

The delegation of Section members visiting the GCSAA show in Florida this month 3-10 was Pat MacAtee, Ken Melyns, Ewen Fyfe, Andy Campbell, Terry Adamsom & myself and we do see any of you there we will buy you a waffle.

Next month we will focus on the trials and tribulations Allen Lewis, at Laverneyle GC, went through when 'sodium chlorine' was poured on his greens.

Any news, views or information you have please contact me on Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162 E-mail: acornagolf@supanet.com.

Job's a good'n.

Andrew Acorn

North West

December 6 was the date we had the AGM and the President's Cup Tournament at Wilmcote Golf Club. Once again we must thank Steve Oultram and his staff for preparing the course. The day started with a hard frost, and when we arrived at Wilmcote at 10am the whole of the course was solid white with frost, and the greens staff where standing by with warmed up hand mowers ready to cut the greens by hand as soon as the frost abated. Well, the frost did melt shortly after 10am and true to form the staff cut the greens before we commenced play. The rest of the day was very enjoyable, with a warm winter sun all day, and the last of the 56 players finishing just before the sun dipped and the night enveloped the course. The golf was followed by the AGM which was short and sweet, and that was followed by the Christmas dinner. The Presidents Cup was won by Paul Walker, and was presented by the new NW President, Peter Jeofford, and of course everybody took away a bottle of something. I would like to thank Wilmcote Golf Club for once again allowing us the courtesy of the course, day, and evening, and all the help and work doing for work in the dark and having to hang about in freezing conditions until the frost melted. Also many thanks to Gwen and David Chason for a lovely Christmas dinner and keep the bar open all day & night. Gwen and David retire in early spring and we all wish them a long and happy retirement.

John Wright, from Southport Municipal Golf Course, has just retired and tells me he has worked for the council for 44 years. He told me he does not know what he will do to pass the time. We will all be seeing him around the course.

The Section AGM was held at Darlington Golf Club recently. The meeting was reasonably well attended but could have been better. Minutes of the meeting will be sent to all members in the near future. Thanks to Darlington Golf Club for use of the clubhouse and providing the supper.

The annual quiz against the groundsman was held at Mount Oswald Golf Club before Christmas. We were beaten by just one point this year and a great night was had by everyone. Thanks to Mount Oswald for allowing us to use their facilities and a special thanks to our President, Terry Charlton, and all at Turf Care for organising and running the event. Speaking of quizzes Section secretary, Barry Walker, has organised a general knowledge quiz at Darlington Golf Club on February 21 at 7.30pm. The quiz was great fun last year and was won convincingly by a team of three very intelligent people and I am sure they will do well again.

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Midland

Welcome to the New Year everybody. I trust you all had a great festive period.

Looking back to last year's winter tournament which was held at Brocton Golf Club on December 13 the format of the day was Texas Scramble with 12 teams of four competing for the honours. Winners on the day were M. Gilkes, H. Grant, N. Tyler, M. Sanders with a net score of 58.9, closely followed by R. Hayhurst, R. Thomas, C. Lanchbury and Tony Cheese with a net score of 60.4. Our thanks go to Ray Hayhurst and his team for producing an excellent golf course (and blessing us with the weather) and much gratitude to the Captain, and Brocton Hall Golf Club, for allowing us to play their course and the excellent hospitality shown to us throughout the day.

Following the golf, the AGM was held and Alan Rite, our President and Committee Member for the past 35 years, was presented with a gift for his dedication to the Section and industry throughout this time.

Shortly you will all be receiving a fixture card for 2002 detailing the golf and education days. We hope you will continue to support and enjoy the section as in the past. I hope you managed to attend BTME and enjoy the opportunities available. I look forward to seeing you all at Gay Hill for the Spring Tournament. Regards.

Phil Gates

Mid Anglia

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Phil Gates
GC, and Nearest the Pin by Gerald Bruce, of Berkhamsted GC. Mark Ellis was presented with the Bruce, of Berkhamsted GC. Mark to the catering staff for an excellent course; to Dunstable Dancer won “Golfer of the Year”. Lodgeway Four Ball prize and Adrian represented by Barry McCloskey, for trade members for their support. like to wish Dick Coogan, who was due to play in the Christmas tournament, a speedy recovery from a recent mild stroke.

Paul Lockett

East of England

2001 golf season finished off with a Texas Scramble at Boston West Golf Club. A good turn out of members played over a excellently presented course, maintained by Head Greenkeeper Richard Owen and his staff. Thanks to all at Boston West for an enjoyable day.

The day was sponsored by Lawn Mower Services and we were delighted to have Chris Overton, from LMS, to present the prizes. Other trade companies donated many other presents to the prize table. Richard Owen’s team consisting of Peter Fell and S. Boy faired well in the windy conditions to take first prize. Second was Tim Jones, Russ Moody, Adi Kitchener and John Scotney.

After the presentation of prizes the AGM took place with a new committee being voted in for 2002. The resignation of John Scotney will be a hard act to follow, as John has been treasurer of the Section since BIGGA was formed. We wish John all the best in his new venture. The winter seminar took place at Newark GC with John Nicholson and Ken Moodie talking on golf landscapeing and architecture. The Section would like to thank the Golden and Silver Key education fund for allowing us to put on such a good education day. Without the fund we would not have been able to afford the calibre of speaker such as John and Ken. The fixture cards and seminars are being put together and should be with you soon. Happy New Year to you all.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

This year’s Christmas Tournament held at Wollaton Park GC was played on 4th December on a fine dry day, 27 members turned out for the competition, which was a Singles Stableford. Several good scores were returned with the winners in each category as follows:

Category 1. 1 Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 35pts; 2 Guy Boyd, Greetham Valley, 32pts; 3 Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley, 32pts

Category 2. 1 Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 36pts; 2 Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 27pts; 3 David James, Luffenham Heath, 27pts

Trade & Associate. 1 Russell Latham, Mansfield Sand, 36pts; 2 Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 32pts

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wollaton Park for hosting our event. The course was closed for several months due to Foot & Mouth, but it was still presented in excellent condition by Roger Buchanan and his staff. I would also like to thank the Steward & Stewards for a great meal and to our very generous sponsors, Ruby Taylor. May 1 once again remind members that if you wish to attend any Section event your entry slip and payment must be returned to the Secretary before the closing date.

Antony Bindley

Devon & Cornwall

The P. J. Flegg Christmas meeting was held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. Members arriving were delighted to find the course frost-free as many had driven through heavy frost before reaching the club. As last year, two starting points were used for the P. J. Flegg greensome format competition. Our non golfing members were treated, as usual, to the guided course walk by Richard Wisdom. Both golfing and non golfing members were once again delighted to see the new traditional P. J. Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green, where 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 P. J. Flegg trophy being presented by Paul Watson to

1 G. Tamblyn, Mullion, 36pts
2 D. Manley, Mullion, 36pts
3 S. Getson, Tavistock, 36pts
4 R. Shapland, Chance Fleet, 36pts
5 P. Parker, Ilfracombe, 35pts
6 T. Clark, Crediton, 35pts

A special prize, donated by Laurence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton, for the best effort went to T. Martin & G. Calvert; the President’s Prize for Longest Drive on 18th was won by Richard Parker, and the Nearest the Pin on 12th went to Steve Worrall.

The one and only Tark Sherman, back by popular demand, had us all laughing during his after dinner cabaret aided by Des, from P. J. Flegg, who spilled a pint of beer over Alan Dommett. After the afternoon entertainment, our raffles concluded one of the best ever Christmas meetings. The first raffle was for the Avoncrop

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   - The Honda “Dual Lube” dipper and cam belt oil transport system maintains lubrication for the most demanding slopes.
   - Power to cut and hover provided by stable high torque for capable cutting in dense growth.
   - Excellent power to weight ratio comparable to 2-stroke but with the advantages of 4-stroke.
   - No messy mixing of fuel and oil
   - No cloud and smell from wasteful 2-stroke oil.
   - Low mechanical engine noise due to the innovative use of overhead cam belt in oil and “unblock” combined bore and head design.
   - Easy start provided by a reliable automatic cylinder decompression starting mechanism.

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New pram style handlebars give more comfortable and hence less tiring grip, and are easier for side to side mowing.
Kent
A fair hit to report on this month with the turkey trot and the AGM in December and the election of new committee members. I'll start with the golf news and a big thank you to all who made the effort to play at Royal Darenth Valley on December 6. I think it was one of the best turnouts for ages with 43 taking part. So someone must be reading this column and taking notice. The weather was superb with some people even playing in short sleeved shirts, it was that warm. It was a little wet under foot but Nigel and his team had made an effort for us and shaved the greens and the temps for some tricky putts. The facility in each hole cup, a little more cleaning fluid maybe, Nigel. I think everyone had a good time even if their scores didn’t reflect the smiles on their faces and laughs from around the course. It was nice to see a woman Greenkeeper playing in the form of Sarah Mardon. Hope we will see you next time and haven't put you off coming. Also a big thank you to you for your ponds. Congratulations to you and Renn."
Mike Virley. Longest Drive. 4th A.
Sutcliffe, 18th I. Wright.

It was great to see Toddy Huddlestone again and sad not to see Ernie Hart who we understand has not been too sharp but is on the mend. Get well soon mate.

Our thanks as usual must go to Thorpeness Golf Club, especially Robin Baker (he’s my mate after that speech), the Club Captain. We must never forget our trade members who support us so generously over the years. They are Bartram Mowers; C.M.W; Rigby Taylor; Rushbrooks; Sisis; Aventis; Ben Burgess; Consultant Clarkson Nicholsons; Toro; Prime Irrigation; Collier Turfcare; Tacit; Greenkeeping Supply Company and Turf Care. Anyone else who has supported us, who is not listed, let me know I’ll include you in the next list.

As we missed several reports last year this is where we went. April, Felixstowe Ferry with the rain, George worked hard but could not stop it, otherwise a good day and thanks to Mr Scuser for presenting the prizes. Then there was Purdis Heath in October. A lovely course well presented by Norman and his staff. All prizes were presented by Allan Busser, the Captain.

Our thanks once again to all the clubs that put up with us last year and I’m sorry that reports did not reach print. Hope to see you all in the spring.

Mick Lathrope
Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland
Our AGM was held at Rockmount Golf Club, Garry Duff on November 29. Before commencing the meeting, Secretary Allison Sloan had organised a quiz. Many of the questions, especially those on Roman Numerals proved too difficult for the majority of us.

The team of Terry Crawford, Michael O'Neill and Emmett Curran came out on top with a three point winning margin.

The following committee will represent the section in 2002:
Chairman, Jonathan McCabe; Secretary, Allison Sloan; Treasurer, Michael O'Neill; Magazine Officer, Kenneth Henderson; Education Officer, Andrew Kerr, and Match & Handicap Secretary, Terry Crawford. Many thanks to Rockmount Golf Club for letting the Section hold our AGM in their clubhouse.

I would like to remind members that the Section is organising another autumn seminar in 2002 which will be held on November 6, the venue being Massereene Golf Club, Antrim. An interesting list of speakers is presently being formulated so I will keep everyone informed on further developments in the months ahead. At present our golf days are being finalised for the year. The Secretary will be sending out a letter soon confirming dates and venues.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Chairman, Jonathan McCabe on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Carnalea Golf Club, Bangor. Jonathan is moving from Malone Golf Club to take up his new position at Carnalea in February. Our best wishes go to him.

Well, that’s about all my news for this month, I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year and wish you all good Greenkeeping in 2002.

Ken Henderson

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