North

A young greenkeeper on the move is Muir Ross, from Dingwall. Muir served his traineeship and worked with Gary Heather Golf Course in Inverness and is now on his way to the Isle of Man to work as an assistant greenkeeper. Good luck in your new position, Muir.

Also good to see Donnie Dingwall back playing golf again at Strathefpeffer. Donnie, who retired in 1990 from being the Head Greenkeeper at Strathefpeffer, is keeping much better and is enjoying life. Long may it continue, Donnie.

As I write this report the Elgin outing has not yet taken place so I will report on it in the next magazine.

The Scottish Championship is at West Linton Golf Club this month and I am sure it will be well worth the visit if anyone can make it down.

I have no one with any ideas on short courses for education then you can contact me on 01997 420 155 as there are courses available this autumn/run by BIG Greenkeeping.

Well, not much to say this month. I expect to report this month, so I hope the weather remains decent and your greens run true.

Iain Gunn

East
Welcome to this month's column. Well spring is well and truly here I am glad to say and it's the first decent sunny day we have had for a number of years, so hopefully this is going to be a good season right through 'til the autumn with the right growing conditions for everyone. I hope everyone has had their golf machines and their courses are coming on nicely with this good weather we're having.

The Section's season is well under way with the first tournament of the year having been played in late April, and what a good day was had by everyone who was there. We were limited to 56 people at Gullane which we thought was a bit of a problem due to the small number allowed but there was no problem as we had a small turnout of only 42 people which wasn’t unusual as we usually have a big turnout for the spring tournaments.

If there was a reason for this let us know as we are willing to hear from anyone as to why the small turnout. It is good to know that we can go along for the day and we hope you enjoyed yourself and look forward to seeing you at future Section events. Thanks must go to the Captain and Council of Golf Club of Scotland for the courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. As normal the course (No 3 ) was in superb condition so a big thanks to Course Manager, Paul Seago, Head Greenkeeper, Paul, and all the other greenstaff for a fine course. The clubhouse staff, Club Steward, waitresses etc, for looking after us superbly. The food was excellent. Also not forgetting the trade members thanks for bringing in those raffle prizes etc; the handicap committee for keeping things running smoothly.

Don't forget tournaments are now lining up and rolls, 12 noon first tee off. This is just a reminder from the committee as there were people turning up after 12 noon. With the draw being made the day before tee times being given, players not being on time names had to be juggled around to fit everyone in. So it is just a reminder for Uphall on July 30. Here is a list of the final leaderboard for the Gullane tournament on April 23. Best scratch (Boyd Trophy) K. Mail,66 bih. 1st Class. (Souters Cup) S. Nicol, 66-0-66; 2. J. Elliot, 76-4-66; 3. K. Mail, 66-3-69. 2nd Class. (Lothian Tractors Trophy) A. Russell, 75 -10 -65 ; 2. C. Yeaman 79 -11 -68 bih; 3. I. Watson, 80-12-68. 3rd Class. (Turf Cup) C. Walker, 84-14-69; 2. S. Mui, 102-26-76; 3. F. Forrest 106-25-81. Best nett of the day (Omis Cup) A. Russell 73-10-65. Veteran prize (New Holland Trophy) J. M. Aitken, 77-7-69. (Patrons' Trophy) Ian Henderson 76-10-66. New Members' prize R. Campbell 80-10-70. Highest score of the day. J. Dalrymple, 121. Well done to all the prize winners who took home one of the fabulous trophies which were on offer. I must say the match committee excelled themselves on the choice of the trophies and I think they have hit the right balance for the best trophies we've got given out to date. The old claret jugs that were for each of the classes look superb on my sideboard. The committee would like to thank Aitkens and SCM for the use of their facilities and course.

Coming up next month is a report on April 25 the Section's Spring tournament being held at Hayston GC. We look forward to meeting you and your partners and look forward to a good turnout.

West
Four new members to report this month's newsletter. On April 4 the Aitkens/SGM greenkeeper/convenors' match was hosted at Lenzie GC. Gavin and his team had the course well presented for a competition so early in the season, Mr Miles, from Helensburgh GC, must have thrived on the challenge as Ronnie's team won the competition for the second time in three years presenting him with the opportunity to host the held the next year. Runners-up on the day were Millport GC and the wooden spoon went to the club up the hill from Kirkhill GC. The committee would like to thank John Aitken and SGM for their continued support in hosting this event and the members and council of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities and course.

Well, that's all for this month. If you have anything you would like added to the column don't hesitate to call me on 01355 266 682.

Brian Bolland
Ayrshire
The Spring tournament was played at Prestwick St Cuthbert's on Thursday April 25. The day was good to be playing a tough links course later on in the day. However the scores were in a good spring condition, pre-
courtesy.

Jim and I'll look forward to your turnover of the same faces. The course was in good condition too and the eating staff didn't let the side down either.

All in an excellent day was enjoyed and our sincere thanks go to Captain, Tom McAllindon, Secretary, John Rutherford, and the committee of Prestwick St Cuthberts for granting us courtesy of the course and the associated assistance in our day.

The prize winners on the day were as follows - Scratch - Brian Aitken, Turnberry. Category 1. 1. Duncan Gray, The Pines, 36pts; 2. Wallace Mercer, Skelmorlie, 35pts; 3. Alastair Stobart. Category 2. 1. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, 32pts; 2. Greg Paterson, Girvan, 33pts; 3. George Morrison, Largs Kelburn, 32pts

Category 2 1. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, 32pts; 2. Syd Mercer, Skelmorlie, 32pts; 3. Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride, 32pts, 4. Gordon Laughin, Southerness, 31pts; 5. Paul Dick, West Kilbride, 30pts; Trade: Derek Duthie, Aitbrens. Daval Industrial Products have kindly donated a trophy to be named in memory of Harry Diamond. This will be competed for over both Section outings to determine our champion for the year our St Albans points system. The committee would like to thank Alex, Sam, Brenda and all at Daval for this trophy and their continued support of our Section. Finally, this will be my last section notes as, after five years, I am handing it back to Jim Paton who needs no introduction. Best wishes to you Jim and I'll look forward to your notes then.

North West
On April 18 we had our Spring Comp. at Dunstanburgh Castle GC. It's been a lovely golf season so far, we've played there and what a delight it was playing a true links course. On behalf of the players we would like to thank the Head greenkeeper and his staff for the condition it was in and also to the committee for giving us courtesy.

Although the weather was not too good at first it turned out a beautiful day. We were southwesters not that good any ways who cares it was good to be playing a tough links course.

We would also like to thank the companies who kindly donated prizes. These are as follows: Kit Feek, Turf Care, Shorts, Aitkens, Greenlay, Border Turf Services, Rigby Taylor and Stratward Hall GC. 2nd Cat was gifted to Rigby Taylor represented by John Hot. We hope you enjoyed the day and thanks for the binoculars which were given as a prize.

For the fine condition it was in and the players we would like to thank John Rutherford, and the committee of Prestwick St Cuthberts for granting us courtesy of the course, the NAVales for their support. (Regional Qualifier) at Worksop Golf Club. The weather was

We would also like to thank the committee for their support. The results are as follows - 1. D. Chappell, 34pts; 2. T. White, 32pts; 3. A. Lomas, 30pts; 4. M. Lake, 27pts; 5. R. Tyson, 27pts; 6. B. Cooke, 26pts; 7. P. Neve, 26pts; 8. M. Knowles, 26pts; 9. S. Pickering, 26pts; 10. M. Crawshaw 25pts. Guest prize S. Clayton, 36pts.

The following people who qualified for the Northern regional final were - Harry Diamond. This was played at Pryors Hayes GC, on Friday, August 9 arc- Handicap 1-9 D. Chappell & A. Lomas. Reserve M. Knowles. Handicap 10-18. T. White & M. Lake. Reserve R. Tyson. Handicap 19-28 B. Cooke & P. Neve. Reserve M. Crawshaw.

Could all of you please contact me to arrange meetings if they can make it or not as details need to be sent to the organiser.

If anyone has any news please don't hesitate to contact me on 01709 548759 or by e-mail on chris.alee@btopenworld.com

PS entries for the next golf competition for Higton GC will be sent out 3-4 weeks prior to the competition.

Chris Astle

North Wales
Best wishes goes to Elwyn Owen, of Royal St David's GC, on his retirement this month. Elwyn, formerly Head greenkeeper at Dolgathus GC, is one of the proteges of great char-
acters, a keen golfer and a passionate supporter of golf. We will all miss him and his competitive nature. We wish him well in his new venture and don't be surprised to see him in a golf shop.

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Chris Astle

North West
The match with NV Wales was played at Pryors Hayes GC, on April 18. Although I could not be present, I am informed that the competi-
tors had a great day. I am delighted to say the NV won the match 3.5 to 2.5. Thanks must go to Pryors Hayes for allowing us the courtesy of their course, the NVWales Section for organising the venue and, of course, Gem Professional for once again sponsoring the match as they have done for many years. The next section event is at Steve Heaton's Golf course at Otley. This will be President's Day with sponsor-

North Ayrshire
The spring tournament took place last month at Darlington Golf Club. The weather was superb red hot with just a slight breeze and a full field of 30 participants and everyone enjoyed the day. The golf course was in fantastic condition on that everyone agreed. A huge thank you and well done to Paul Moore, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for their continued support of our Section.
hard work preparing the course and presenting it so well, and also a big thanks to Darlington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for the meals afterwards, they were excellent.


The spring tournament was organised by Barry Walker and Martin Woods, well done lads on another great success. Thanks for your hard work and thanks to the trade for their support also. The Autumn Tournament will be at Bedale Golf Club. Look out for details.

Any News contact me on 07719 193351

Steven Jacques

Midland Region

The first John Deere Championship Regional Qualifier in the UK was held at the Chiping Norton Golf Club on April 25, when Turner Groundscare hosted the day for 15 golf clubs. The day was a great success blessed with superb weather, and the scoring reflected the conditions. The home club won the day with an excellent net score of 51, 20 shots under par and 3 shots clear of the next best score. Chiping Norton Golf Club now progress to The De Vere Belfry for the National Final on August 9.

The Midland Region Golf Management Competitions, which were a great success last year, are being held this year at the

Hartsbourne Country Club; Bushley Heath on August 7 and Beeston Fields Golf Club, Nottingham on August 14.

Invitations have been sent to many golf clubs in the Midland Region. If you are interested in entering a team and have not yet received an invitation please contact Peter Larter, the Regional Administrator, and he will send you one.

Peter Larter

BB&O

Please Section readers - don’t faint when you see we have an entry this month! May I introduce myself, David Winterton MG, as the new Secretary for this Section. I hope to be able to do justice to the position, compared to my predecessor, Lindsay Anderson, who has been excellent in this role over the past 10 years. Lindsay has now become Chairman of our committee. Lindsay and I will be bringing you monthly news items to ensure this column comes alive.

The committee also have on board Adrian Cooper who has served wise counsel for 10 years, John Scoones and Robert Woodward. We finally have a printed fixture card which arrived too late to be included in the letter you received recently, giving details of this year’s fixtures. This will be sent to all at the end of May. Many thanks to Alan Wright, at T.H. White, for organising this card and thanks to T.H. White for sponsoring this handy reminder. May I give congratulations on behalf of the section to Alan for the loss recently of his father and wish he and his family great strength to recover.

May I welcome some new members to the fold who are about to receive benefits one can only dream of outside our Association. Tony Bates, Three Locks GC; Nathan Bond, Chiltern Forest GC; Michael Farner, Reading GC; Graham Gardner, Tadmarton GC; Peter Goodwin, Billinge Park GC; Danny Jones, Birds Hill GC; Roger Tustain, Chiping Norton GC; Matthew Weatherstone, Lambourge GC.

We had our first fixture for this year - The Spring Tournament - held at Stoke Park Golf Club. On site is the erection of a new health & fitness centre. What I did not realise was the extension of the Roman baths & spa pool around the Colt/Alison 18 holes we played on Tuesday, April 30. Most of the 36 field kinda swam the course and to say that a hot shower at the end and its correct enclosure was heaven itself is an understatement. The course in these conditions is hard to judge but I know I’m correct in saying that Alex Millar and his crew had done us proud and turned out an excellent course for play for which we owe a huge vote of thanks. Alex promises a next time and I for one will make sure I return to play in exquisite surroundings. The day was sponsored by Tacit and Tim was there in person to play and later hand out the prizes. On such a tough day the scores were more than acceptable with first prize going to Alan Wright of Richings Park with 33 points. The rest of the results are as follows: 2. Ian Robbins, Ellersborough GC; 3. Brian Benge, Harleyford GC; 4. Andy Law - Stoke Park GC.

The team prize went to the Larter team. Yes, you’ve guessed it, Peter graced us with his presence on the day though he might have thought he was sailing! Mark Sugwell, from Rigby Taylor, won the Trade prize, with nearest the pin won by Peter Helps, of Turner Groundscare, and the longest drive won by Ross Wilson, of Parampia G&CC Hotel. Can I thank all those who participated and were not deterred by the weather? A final note of gratitude to Tacit for their superb prizes and commitment to making it a great day. Let’s hope our next fixture in August is a great improvement from the skies above. It leaves me to wish all our Section members a great start to the summer, one that will be remembered for all the right reasons of course!

David Winterton

Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place at Ashridge Golf Club in April, over 36 holes. The obvious appeal of the venue generated a good interest, with forty people entering: our best spring tournament turnout for many years. Our thanks to Jim Cassidy and his team at Ashridge for an excellent course, so early in the year. The greens were certainly quick! Our thanks also to Ashridge for their hospitality, bearing in mind the changes in person to play and later hand out the prizes. On such a tough day the scores were more than acceptable with first prize going to Alan Wright of Richings Park with 33 points. The rest of the results are as follows: 2. Ian Robbins, Ellersborough GC; 3. Brian Benge, Harleyford GC; 4. Andy Law - Stoke Park GC.

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David Winterton

East Midlands

Not a lot to report on this month. In The Blankeney Open on April 22 Alan Roberts and I finished sixth in a Better-Ball Bogey competition, and Steve Levers and I finished with 35pts in The Ramsdale Park Captain’s invitation on April 14. Thanks for the invite, Steve.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson and Gavin Robson for making The Greenkeeping Support team at this year’s Open.

This year’s East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22. Tee-Off 3.45pm. Any member who wishes to play in this match should contact me as soon as possible as we only require 10 players, Greenkeepers members only.

This year’s Spring Tournament will be reported on next month, but may I once again remind all members that if you wish to attend any Section event, your entry form and payment must be received before the Closing dates.

Antony Bindley
East Of England

The first golf fixture of the season got under way at Louth Golf Club. The course was in good condition considering the lack of rain for this time of year.

The competition was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Brian Booth and Stuart Jeffs were on hand to present the superb prizes.

First prize went to the New Chairman of our Section, Adrian Kitchinson, Torksey, with 33pts. Robert Welford, Cliftonorpe, was runner-up with 34pts, and Ian Batty, Steaford, lost out on count-back also with 34pts. The trade prize was won by Stuart Clayton, Mid-Lube, with 32pts. Longest drive went to Russ Moody, Torksey. The Lambs Cup for nearest the pin on 17 with a glorious tinkle of vodka in the raffle. It was great to see some other guys from Kent there too and, of course, Duncan Kelso won a prize for 3rd in his category 0-6. It is always a pleasure playing Walton Heath and it was nice to see how much work they had been doing throughout the winter with tree removal and heather management. The BBQ at the 11th tee was most appreciated with thanks going to Neil Pullen and his colleagues at Sheriff Crop Care. The bacon roll and beer must have helped me get 18 points on the back 9. The highlight of the day was when the after dinner speaker was late and Derek Farrington stood in for him. I think Derek was much funnier and probably much cheaper too. Once again a well organised day. Derek, thanks.

The golf days for the coming year are now in place with the first being at the fantastic Kings Hill Golf Club on June 18. So I had better pull my finger out and get the place looking good for you lot. Other dates are set after the committee meeting and will be announced next month by which time you should have had your fix card. I hope all the events are supported this year and we will see some new faces. There have been some great donations from the trade for prizes, etc. so I expect there will be some great golf to win them. And don't worry Duncan as our special 17th hole has been cut to 5 so there might be a chance someone else can win a prize this year. Thank you.

Jason Bean.

East Anglia

Tour BIGGA found its way to Thetford GC and what a lovely day it was. Birds singing, sun shining. Oh to be in England. It's rained ever since. There was a good turnout, 63 in all and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Paul Gould and his men.

The golf went as follows: 0-10 Category 1. Alan Elliott, 71 (net); 2. Mark Keyesell, 74; 3. Peter Howard, 74, 11-16 Cat. 1, Ian Willett, 76; 2. Steve Millard, 76; 3. David Childs, 76, 17-28 Cat. 1. Ian Atterton and Ellis.

Surrey

Surrey Section's committee had a meeting on April 10 and the agenda was: (1) Bioseed Bowl (2) South East Regional Board Meeting 21/02/02 (3) Regional Seminar 2002 (4) Any other Business.

(1) We thank David Smart, of Bioseed, for sponsoring our Pair's Knockout competition, the final of which will be played over 36 holes at a neutral course with lunch and an evening meal followed by the prize giving. Queries concerning handicaps should be addressed to Tony Bernier Tel: 01306 889071 and Tony will contact all members if their handicap changes after an event.

(2) Geoff Woodward our regional representative will be reporting to the South East Regional Board of the committee's preference that the BTME Exhibition be changed back to the original Wednesday to Friday.

(3) The original venue for the regional seminar was Merritwood College but this has now had to be changed and it is hoped that it can take place at Roehampton Golf Club. We have approached a number of speakers and you will be informed as soon as we have confirmation. The provisional date for the seminar is November 27.

Please note that the Golf Day at Liphook and Shirley Park have had to be changed. Liphook Golf Club will now be on June 26 and Shirley Park on July 23.

Congratulations Paragraph in this edition goes to Dan Wheeler from the Roehampton Club for competing in and completing this year's London marathon in three hours 34 minutes. Dan has so far raised £1200 for the Spinal Injuries Association and would be grateful for any further donations.

Unhappily Epsom Golf Club is about to lose one of the best Head Greenkeepers in Surrey and as Dougie Fernie has told me this on many occasions, it must be true. Royal Epsom's loss is Upminster's gain and so this Surrey downland course says goodbye and an Epsom parksland course opens its arms in warm welcome. Fortunately Mark Harvey, Epsom's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, is taking over. So we wish him all the rain and sunshine when and where he wants it.

Surrey Section's member Gavin Kyle is leaving Hendon Golf Club to take up a new position at Knole Park Golf Club in Sevenoaks. We wish Gavin every success as he takes over this excellent parkland course and ask him to remember that the Surrey Section does not mind playing golf away from home.

Unfortunately Andy Davey has decided to leave greenkeeping and his position as Course Manager at Chipstead Golf Club. This cannot be good for the profession to lose experienced and qualified personnel, but we hope Andy enjoys his new career. Mike Boreham, who has been at Chipstead for many years, takes charge and as with Mark Harvey, may the force be with you both.

Brian Wilmott
South West

The new season really kicked off to a good start, things can only get better. We went from North Wilts GC in the hills, sponsored kindly by Avoncrop and Terralift - apologies to you both for not recognising your generous sponsorship earlier. Rex gave a very informative talk, which went really well before the meal. With both companies sponsoring this event we were able to award some fantastic prizes such as a television, microwave and a portable cd/radio and cassette player to the winners. Just goes to show you don’t know what to expect at our meetings.

Our spring tournament on April 16 was held at Burnham & Berrow GC on the fantastic links course. There was a course walk before the golf began where our education officer, Guy Woods, and Head Greenkeeper, Paul McDowell, took a dozen or so members out and showed them around the sheds and the excellent course. Being a busier than usual time for the year the numbers for the golf was slightly lower than previous events with only 25 members wishing to participate in the golf, or in my case, taking a good look at all aspects and corners of this wonderful course while looking for my ball. With no wind and a clear blue sky ideal for a golfing writer with good results were I. G. Cook, 37pts; 2. D. Reeves, 36pts; 3. P. Godwin, 35pts. With nearest the pin going to D. Reeves and the longest drive going to P. Godwin. Sheriff Amenity, with Martin Samuel, donating the prizes kindly sponsored the event. Thanks, Martin. These were presented by the Captain of Burnham & Berrow GC, Trevor Hicks, who attended the meal. A big thank you to him, and also thank you to Burnham & Berrow for the catering and hospitality while we were there. Last but not least a very big thanks to Paul McDowell and his team for having the course in tip top condition. We wish you all the best for the rest of the season.

The next event will be the greenkeeper/amateur held at Yeovil GC on May 15. Details will be sent to those who have sent a newsletter at the beginning of the year. Anyone else wishing to attend please contact me for an application form on 01934 627 143 or 07799 388 372. This is an annual event and is open to a friend or member of your club, so please support your Section and come along. If you require any information on educational courses or future course walks please contact Guy Woods on 01255 333 928.

So will we or won’t we see you at Yeovil GC? Go on be a devil, have some fun, come and see what you have been missing out on.

Kevin James