Scotland
The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Thursday 27 June 2002 at West Linton Golf Club, West Linton by kind permission of the Captain and committee. The cost of the event will be £20 which includes coffee, tea, filled roll and evening meal. Please let me know if you intend to go by Tuesday June 18th. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.
Peter J. Boyd

East
Welcome to a busy column this month, which is what we want to see, so let’s get started. The Section had a trip to Kingharrows Golf Club, Fife, on 20 May. A large group with local Toro dealer, Henderson Grass Machinery.
There were 20 plus members present on the visit, which was a very interesting and informative day. Everyone had a good look around the course, facilities etc. We would like to thank Course Manager, Stuart McColm for giving us his time throughout the day. We would also like to thank Beggie Jeffrey, Area Sales Manager, and everyone else at Henderson Grass Machinery for all the organisation of the day and for providing the bus to transport everyone up to Fife and everywhere behind the scenes to provide a trouble free trip. So a big thanks to everyone involved.
We have another visit planned for Monday, 15 September to the grounds at nearby Darlington Golf Club. The format of the day is as follows: Visit to Stewarts (Kilkhal) or the turf farm, then lunch and on to Muirfield to see what the course is not the same. Now if they were to take on extra staff. Well done Lewis, I hope you continued success, good luck to all the lads in your roles.

North
One new member to mention this month, and he is Allan Black from Inchmarlo Golf Centre. Welcome to the North Section, Allan.
Well, after probably one of the wettest winters for the past few years the recent dry spell has been very welcome and I am sure anyone who is behind with their winter work will be catching up rapidly. The weather for Easter was glorious and the golfers were out in droves, but with the usual comments that the course is a little bit behind last year in growth and quality of putting surfaces. But with Easter being earlier this year everyone seems to have short memories. But we cannot have it every way.
The entry forms for Elgin should all have been received and back by the time you will receive this report but just in case you receive the magazine early then you should get the entry form sent back quickly. I think the spaces will be at a premium.
Also a reminder for your 200 Club tickets which need to be back as soon possible. Each of the first 20 tickets drawn will receive a prize. Well done Barry. I am looking forward to defending our title next year. Thanks to Darlington Golf Club for their facilities and the pie and coffee etc.
The committee met last month, they discussed future events that would interest greenkeepers, many ideas were thrown forward and Ian Pemberton was put in charge of looking into organising events and trips. Anyone with any ideas should contact Ian Pemberton. Some events appeared in last month’s newsletter the first of which has been, 14 greenkeepers took a mini bus trip to Rolawn and had a very interesting and informative day looking around their turf fields, turf cutting machinery and turf washing facilities. Well done Pembo on your first successful event and thanks to Rolawn for looking after us.
The annual quiz organised by Section Secretary Barry Walker took place at Darlington Golf Club last month with 30 greenkeepers turning up. The quiz was won quite convincingly by the Wear Greenkeepers again (and no surprise) a cracking night had by everyone. Well done Barry. I am looking forward to defending our title next year. Thanks to Darlington Golf Club for their facilities and the pie and coffee etc.
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Ayrshire
As I type these notes Easter has just passed and the weather is good with the course drying up, by the time you read this the spring outing will have passed and who knows what the weather will be doing.
I have pleasure in introducing my new Vice Chairman, Martin Lothian. Martin is a very well known Greenkeeper on the Ailsa course at Turnberry. Like a good Vice Chairman, Martin was on the phone recently with some news to fill up this column. Did you know Martin found a Second World War Bomb in a bunker! Only joking, Martin called to say that two Turnberry members are on the telephone to Gareth Williams, assistant, to Wentworth and staying in the section, I am sure they will now be well prepared for the Spring outing. Congratulations and best wishes lads with your new positions.

Cleveland
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around the green

South

April has arrived and it will be interesting to see how the fairways are looking back from your reports.

Golf

North West
Beginning of April and the weather has been great this last few days with plenty of sunshine, but the ground temperature is still cold, with the finer grasses holding back for warmer weather. Most golfers of course do not realise this, and the pay per round courses will be watching the masters at Augusta, and wondering why their course is not the same. Now if they had attended the Mere seminar and listened to Alistair Beggs, from the STRI, who spoke of his visit to America. Including Augusta, they may understand a little better. The normal numbers of staff at Augusta are about 200, running the 18 hole course but for the Masters this is increased to about 80. The budget for the course is approximately $2.5 million, the workshops house vast amounts of machinery, which is maintained by their own highly trained mechanics. The beautiful display of magnolias, rhododendrons, and azaleas, are grown under glass to flower at the right time, and planted out to give this magnificent display in April.
Tony Mears, the greenkeepers representative on the GTC, followed Alistair, shedding some light on how the STRI works with BIGGA on the education side.
Stephen Bernhard gave an interesting talk on "Should the mower really murder grass". Stephen is the founder of Bernhard and company who manufacture and sell Anglemater grinding machines throughout the world. He showed how important it is to get a good cut, the blades should be kept sharp, but not too sharp, the bottom blade should not touch the bottom of the cutting cylinder and the bottom blade should not touch as this causes stress on your machine. It is interesting to note that at the 1997 Masters, the mowers were all daily sharpened with Anglemaster grinders to produce perfect playing surfaces.
The afternoon was taken up by four greenkeepers. Firstly Tony Smith Course Manager at Hurleston Hall GC was one of the two winners from the Northern Region to win a trip to Orlando, sponsored by Bernhard & Company, told us about the trip, and showed slides of the various courses he visited.

Andy Campbell followed with a talk entitled “Changing times/Changing jobs.” Andy is a Master Greenkeeper, and he also became the first UK based Greenkeeper to achieve GCSAA certification. Obviously to gain both of these prestigious awards has meant many hours of study, but the knowledge gained must be so rewarding. He talked of his early days in greenkeeping, and how health and safety has changed with proper washing facilities, keeping records, improved machinery, and working conditions. His job now entails looking after the De Vere Carden Park estate, which includes two 18 hole courses, a par 3 course, and if my memory serves me right, a herd of deer, all this run from a proper office.

The final speakers were Anthony Davies and Colin Denny. Anthony is Course Manager at Prestbury GC and is also a Master Greenkeeper. His talk was “Course Reconstruction & Renovation” One of the important things in winter work of course is renovation of bunkers and tees. Anthony has carried out a lot of this work and showed some of what was done before and after, amazing what a difference a reshaped bunker can make Colin Denny followed talking about the reconstruction of the 17th hole at Prestbury. You may have seen in one of the magazines how the banks and green itself had completely collapsed through the amount of rain we had during the year 2000. This meant bringing in heavy machinery to re-build the banks and green surrounds, plus 2000 tons of top soil, and having the job finished in time for the first competition the slides shown were impressive and showed the scale of the job, which was completed on time. I would like to thank all the speakers for giving us their time and Mere Golf & Country Club for the use of their wonderful facilities, and the delegates who attended the seminar.

The next event is the Spring Tournament at Hurleston Hall GC on Wednesday, May 15. Lunch 12.30 tce from 1.30pm. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool, L4 9R8. TEL. 0151 284 4416 Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA n/west and Walker Eng.

The Summer Tournament is at Ulverston GC on Thursday, June 20. All details as above. Any news or enquiries contact me on 0151 724 5412 or Mobile: 07761 583 387

Bert Cross

Northern

I must start my first around the greens notes by thanking Andy Smith on his tireless effort and dedication over the last few years in his role as Section Secretary. As most of you will be aware Andy decided to step down from his role so he could pursue other interests.

So, Andy on behalf of everybody in the Northern Section, thank you and I hope you can now enjoy at your leisure all the Section’s golf tournaments.

I was asked by the committee to step in to the role of Section Secretary and am slowly getting to grips with the ins and outs of the job. If I can be of any assistance regarding any Section matters please do not hesitate to get in touch through any of the mediums at the end of this report. I am writing these notes pre-spring tournament at Bedale golf club which is sponsored by Scott’s UK. A full report and list of results will appear in the next magazine.

Our next Section event will be President’s Day sponsored by Rufford Soil Technology. The event is taking place at Otley Golf Club on Wednesday, June 19. All players wishing to test out Steve Heaton’s course must get their £35 to a member of the committee at least a week prior to the event. As this is my first stab at putting together these notes, I must urge anyone with any news, views or gossip from our Section, to relay them on to me so I can print them in the notes. We must all remember that the committee is working for all of the Northern Section members and if you would like to see other events let us know and we will try to arrange them.

Lastly, I hope you’re not all under too much pressure and the grass is steadily coming out of the ground. Happy Greenkeeping.

I can be contacted at 16 Woodrow Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West York’s, BD2 2Nj Tel No - 01274 640 739 Mob No – 07976 876 264 E mail - Dbthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

North Wales

The spring tournament was held on April 10 at De-Vere Carden Park Golf Complex, a strong field of 80 players set out on a sunshine blessed day to try and tame the Cheshire Course, which plays host to the Pre qualifiers for the European Tour. The course was presented in a prestigious manner by the green staff team fronted by Martin Thompson and Jamie Poole and headed by Andy Campbell. A big thank you to Carden Park for the organisation of the course for the food and drink served and their help in the smooth running of the day’s event and a special thank you to Mal Edwards for the cards.

The results are as follows. 1. John Astles, 24, Sutton Hall GC 36pts; 2. Phil Bowler, 12, Carden Park GC 35pts; 3. Darryl Davis 4 Northop GC 34pts. Trade. Terry Adamson (again) 36pts. Nearest the pin went to Danny O’Neill, of Northop CC. Our thanks also to the Sponsors ALS, John Osman, Bathgate, Carden Park, Sportsworld and Acorn Golf and Walker Eng.

Carden Park also host the European Seniors Event this year July 31 to August 4 if there are any members of the Northern Section who would like to compete please contact me.

For full details, or a demonstration, of the SISIS Rotorake 600, combined deep thatch remover, scarifier and linear aerator, please contact

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Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2LZ
Tel: 01625 503030 Fax: 427426 E-mail: info@sisis.co.uk


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wishing to volunteer their services for green keeping duties, raking bunkers and general help over these days please contact Andy Campbell on 01829 73110.

South West
So, spring has sprung, the grass is growing and all is well in the golf course world. It’s the season of mass technical representative attack, Head Greenkeepers, be easy on them, they’re only doing their job.

Our next event is the Greenkeeper Amateur, to be held at Yeovil Golf Club on May 15. There will be great prizes, don’t forget to come along, invite a club member and enjoy a day away from your own course. MW Associates has done a report for the National Board, on the direction of BIGGA in General, and on specific areas of BIGGA activities. Some of this has been reported in the magazine, Paul Jenkins, our National Board member is keen to hear your thoughts and views. One area highlighted is the structure of BIGGA Sections, Regional, and National. Also, the geographical areas of the Sections and Regions if you have any thoughts, please contact Paul - he is your link to Aldwark and he needs to know your views. Following on from this, a new sub committee has been formed, called the Futures Sub Committee. James Braithwaite, from Long Ashton, is serving on this new body, it is to look into a way of widening membership participation in all areas of BIGGA work. So again, call James with your thoughts.

Reminder to qualify for the National Tournament, you have to play in our section summer competition which is on July 3 at Bath Golf Club. Be there or be square!

Ron Greaves

Devon & Cornwall
For the Aventis and Supaturf March section meeting over 50 members and a raid on the caddy house! Nothing to be worried about Fred. Not many to play, and if he puts anything better than he can play, then it all goes a bit quiet now when I call round? I just thought I’d say there’s nothing to be worried about Fred (unless you’re hiding something?)

A further thank you goes to John Osman for taking Section members on a John Deere Golf Day and night’s stay in Nottingham. The day was a huge success and there was some confusion over rooms in the hotel. But Jeremy Hughes sorted it all out.

On a regional level we would like correspondence back from you, (our members) on the course condition. Please let us have of what you want from your section and indeed what you want from BIGGA as a body in general. Please contact any of the committee.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394 - Fax 01925 260622 - Mob 07778 162162 e-mail acornigol@supanet.com - Job’s a good’n

Andrew Acorn

East Midlands
Congratulations should be extended to Kristian Hibberd, Kirby Musloc; Mark Huthwaite, Ramsdale Park, Andy Megreal and Danny Brown both Lincolnshire Greenkeepers completing their Chainsaw Maintenance and cross-felling course, which was held at Beedles Lake Golf Centre on March 12 and 13. I would also, on behalf of the Section, like to thank Beedles Lake GC for allowing us to use their clubhouse and Golf Course for training course. Special thanks should be extended to Ian Needham, Head Greenkeeper, and Les Emery, Manager, for their help over the two days and also to Ken Richardson and BIGGA for setting-up the course.

On March 26 also at Beedles Lake Golf Centre we held our Winter Lecture, this year we welcomed Richard Minton, of Complete Weed Control, who spoke to us on the benefits of a contractor and also Jody Hibboton, of John Deere, who spoke to us about the history of John Deere. Unfortunately the turnout of 21 members was disappointing, but your committee will not be deterred, and we will try harder next time to increase the numbers.

Thanks once again should be extended to Les Emery, Richard Minton and Jody Hibboton. Also thanks to Beedles Lake Golf Centre for hosting this evening and all you members who supported the lecture. Finally I would like to thank Complete Weed Control and also John Deere for supplying the buffet meal. This year’s East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22nd. Tee-Off 3:45pm

Antony Bindley

Ken's paper was called “Rough Cuttins” and covered some excellent management skills which both old and young could relate to and implement themselves and their personal development. After Kerran’s excellent talk the Section had an open forum covering Cantington College on greenkeeping training and the college’s future development of greenkeeping courses.

The Section would like to thank the day’s sponsors Supaturf & Aventis for their continued support and Taunton & Pickerdge Golf Club for allowing the section use of their excellent facilities, also our thanks to all of Taunton & Pickerdge’s staff who made our day run so smoothly, thanks to the Club Manager, Jeff Mills, and his crew.

Finally our thanks to Kerran for his excellent presentation and for travelling over 300 miles to be with us.

Next meeting will be the Ribby Taylor summer event to be held at Tiethorne Golf Club on June 18, 2002.

Richard Whyman

Northern Ireland

Our latest event at Lisburn Golf Club on March 14 went as planned. Many thanks to Jo Griffith, from Nickerson UK Ltd, and Elizabeth Wilson from JA Humphrey Agriculture for making the evening a success. Jo gave a talk on the Top Green Amenities and Greenkeeping courses. She also had a demonstration CD, please contact OnCourse for your link to Aldwark and he needs to know your views. Following on from this, a new sub committee has been formed, called the Futures Sub Committee. James Braithwaite, from Long Ashton, is serving on this new body, it is to look into a way of widening membership participation in all areas of BIGGA work. So again, call James with your thoughts.

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OnCourse

The powerful organiser keeping your golf course green!

Golf Club members and owners are continually demanding better quality playing conditions, which brings the roll of Golf Course Managers into sharp focus. Not only are they expected to keep the course in play condition, but also to have been developed to make all of these things easier.

As usual our non golfing members have a raid on the caddy house! Nothing to be worried about Fred. Not many to play, and if he puts anything better than he can play, then it all goes a bit quiet now when I call round? I just thought I’d say there’s nothing to be worried about Fred (unless you’re hiding something?)

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