As in previous years the Scottish Region offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME/ClubHouse 2003. The package includes: coach to Harrogate; entry to all Seminars and Exhibitions and three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on January 21, 22, 23 2003.

Package costs £160.
Partners are welcome at a cost of £135 for travel and accommodation.

For booking forms call or fax Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA.
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Peter Boyd

North

Two new members to report this month. They are Neil Young, from Kemnay GC, and Alan Anderson, from Hazelhead GC.

Scotsturf Exhibition is upon us again this month, and if the weather last year is anything to go by, then winter is not far away. The dates are November 6 and 7 and I hope the roads are a lot safer than they were last year. The show is a well established part of our working year and is a good chance to meet the companies involved with our industry all under the one roof. So hopefully it will be well attended.

The AGM has been and gone at Stonehaven GC but too late to include in this report. I will include it in my next report.

The proposed golf match which I had mentioned in a previous report is still planned for sometime in November, the layter part I think, and basically it involves the Aberdeen side of the North Section playing the North side. Anyone interested in playing for the Aberdeen side please phone Robert Hardie on 01224 783201 and anyone interested in playing for the North phone myself on 01997 420155. It is a bit late in the year and maybe short notice, but if it does not come off this year then maybe next year. There will be good hotel accommodation available and at a very good rate for those who want to stay over and make a full day of it.

The Northern Counties Cup was recently played over Tain GC and was won by Fortrose GC. It is a well supported event and the course at Tain was in excellent condition, and was well praised by the golfers, who are among the best players the North and North East has to offer.

The talented team from Strathpeffer were put out by last year’s winners, Inverness. A major shock there!

Well, nothing to report this month. I hope the weather holds up and allows everyone to get all their autumn maintenance work finished. The last month or so has been a lot better so I hope it lasts.

Iain Gunn

West

Welcome to this month’s newsletter. First a report on our Autumn outing held at Drumpellier GC on September 26. The winners on the day were Scratch. Dougie McIntosh, Cathkin Braes CC. 74. First Class. 1. Brian Hillen, Drumpellier GC, 66; 2. Sandy Balloch, Fereneze GC, 72; 3. Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC, 75. Second Class. 1. Drew McKechnie, Douglas Park GC, 66; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 68 (B/H); 3. Ian Wilson, Hamilton CC, 68. Third Class. 1. Kevin Bell, Balmore GC, 66; 2. Colin Keamey, Drumpellier GC, 76; 3. Chris Scott, Balmore GC, 77.

Visitors Prize. Peter Boyd, BIGGA, 76. Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, Atkens, 73. Nearest the Pin, Sandy Brawley, Straight Drive, J. Steadward, Douglas Park CC and the player who took more divots than any other player, Cecil George, who received some practice balls. Well done to you all. Thanks must again be passed on to the Council and membership of Drumpellier GC for the use of their facilities. A special thanks must also go to Brian and his team who had the course in fine condition on the day despite the awful summer we have all just experienced.

Two draws of the 100 club were also made at Drumpellier the winners being Cohn Scott and, would you believe it, Brian Hillen. Brian has promised to buy all the bar staff a big drink for drawing his ticket. Brian has also just recently got married, so congratulations and I am sure the wife will find a good use for the rest of your winnings. The final draw will have been made at our AGM held at Nairn & Brown on October 24.

A report on the AGM will be printed in next month’s letter but I am sure there will be no need, as you will all have attended on the day!

After the AGM the next date to be marked in your calendar is the Annual Dinner to be held at Victoria’s night spot on Friday November 29. If you do not already have your ticket then you are running out of time as these tickets sell like hot cakes. As always early payment for tickets would be much appreciated.

Well, that’s all I have to write about this month. As always if there is anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 013552 66682.

Brian Bolland

Central

This month we extend a warm welcome from everyone in the Section to Stuart Smith, Paul Wilt, John Jardine, Andrew Cruickshanks, Findlay Forbes and Scott Winton, all from St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa. Hopefully it won’t be too long before we get the opportunity to meet them at some of our events.

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Dullatur Golf Club, Cumbernauld, in September, when some 35 members enjoyed golfing on one of the very few days we have had this year when there wasn’t any rain! A welcome return to the tournament scene was made by Joe Oliver, from Pitreavie GC. Joe was a founder member of the Central Section and was in fact our very first Chairman. Perhaps Joe’s return will encourage some more of our "older" members to make a return to the golfing scene and we could start a Seniors’ category.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Dullatur for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Lachlan, Bobby and staff for the excellent condition of the course despite the atrocious summer we have experienced, to the clubhouse staff for keeping us fed and refreshed throughout the day. Club Captain, Charlie Flochard, who did us the honour of presenting the prizes and to Club Secretary, Carol Miller, for all her assistance in making the day possible.

Prize winners were as follows: Best Combined Nett Spring and Autumn. A. Crawford, Green Hotel GC, 142; Best Scratch. D. Leith, St. Andrews, 69; Best Nett. A. Crawford, Green Hotel GC, 75-9-66; Cat 1. C. MacDonald, Crieff GC, 73-4-69; 2. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 78-5-73; Cat 2. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 84-11-73; 2. S. Pearson Aberdour GC, 85-11-74 (B/H); Cat 3. J. Oliver, Pitreavie GC, 95-20-75; 2. A. Arnott, The Meadows GC, 102-19-83; Patrons. G. Howat, Souters, Sportsturf, 86-10-76; Guests. J. Campbell, Murrayshall, 85-10-75.

We had a slight “hiccup” with the prize giving, which has since been rectified, and our sincere apologies go to David Simpson, from Crieff GC, for this mistake. (I will withhold the name/s of the person/s responsible!)

Following my plea for where to purchase roofing shingles I received a call from Craig Stewart who informed me that “the man down the road from his course could supply them”.

Unfortunately, Stirling Golf Club wouldn’t pay my travel expenses. Craig lives in Germany! He is another founder member of the Section and sends his regards to all his friends in Scotland.

I hate to go on about “Club 2000” tickets but why send them back anonymously? I have the names and number of every member who received tickets. So E. Grant thanks for returning your tickets!

The proposed football tournament planned for Forthbank Stadium last month had to be cancelled led due to the lack of support, so what happened to all you budding football stars? Even the holders of the trophy failed to enter a team or will be stuck with the same “old” faces!

John Crawford.

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John Crawford.
Around the Green

Northern Region

Sheffield

On September 23 the Sheffield Section held their Autumn golf competition at Doncaster GC. Although I was unable to attend myself I believe that there was some very good golf played from all those who competed. The results were as follows: 1. S. Pigott, 36 pts; 2. G. Wells, 36 pts (BHI); 3. R. Needham, 33 pts; 4. A. Lomas 31 pts; 5. S. Brown 29 pts; 6. S. Currie, 28 pts; 7. T. Simpson, 28 pts; 8. A. Whittington, 27 pts; 9. T. White 27 pts; 10. A. Bunting, 27 pts.

Nearest the Pin G. Wells. Best trade score I. Gravel 35 pts.

Thank you to our main sponsor for the day S. Chapman, of Ransomes Textron, for donating the prizes for our prize table and to all other trade members for their support.

The next competition will be our Christmas comp held at Rotherham GC on Monday, November 25.

See you all soon.

Chris Astle.

North Wales

Dave Goodridge wishes to thank John Osman on behalf of all those who attended the practice days of the Ryder Cup at The Belfry, courtesy of John Deere. A good time was enjoyed and an unmissable chance to see the top 24 golfers in the world on matchplay knockout. It just doesn't get any better than that.

On one occasion on the Tuesday someone in the crowd shouted to Colin Montgomerie, as he had missed the green on the par-3 12th, that he could play better than that. Colin turned round and said "Come on then. What club do you wish to book in?

As mentioned in last month's notes, the Christmas tournament will be at Caldy GC on Dec 5. Your entries will be out shortly and this one is sold out very quickly, so don't delay. This also is our Section's AGM and your chance to air any topics (questions on paper beforehand please) a great day's golf and everyone goes home with a prize.

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

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

North East

September 19, was the date for our autumn comp. This year it was played for the first time at Longhirst Hall GC and what a pleasure it was to be there, water hazards all over the place from small ponds to large lakes. A true test of golf.

Thank goodness we were not off the back tees as I think everyone would have struggled to get around.

Thanks should be given to Graham Chambers and his staff for the excellent condition of the course especially as it's only been open four to five years.

The committee would like to thank Dave Cryan, from Rolawn, for sponsoring most of the prizes. It was a nice change to see some golf gear for prizes and also to Scotts who also kindly donated several prizes. Turf Care again come up trumps with a good prize of a portable TV, and not forgetting the rest of the sponsors either. They were Border Turf Services, Shorts, Atkins and Greenlay.

Just a word to all you sponsors. Thanks for everything, the spring and autumn competitions could not go on without your help. Also to the following golf clubs Bellingham, Gosforth, Hexham, Stocksfield, South Shields, Tyneside and Workworth, who mostly donated courtesy golf for four persons.

Next year we may play the Spring competition inland instead of travelling up the coast. Autumn Comp. Best Nett. K. Dinsdale, Northumberland GC, 95-28=67; Best Gross. S. Quince, Parklands GC, 75; Best Nett for 9 and under. J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 80-7=73; Fewsters Shield. I. Johnson, Stocksfield GC, 88-16=72; 2. R.Black, Westerhope GC, 80-7=73; 3. M. Latham, Hexham GC, 78-2=76

At a recent Section meeting it was decided from this year's Autumn competition to change the prize allocation. The best nett of the day has a choice of any prize, then next its the best gross who has the next pick followed by who ever has the lowest nett between the 9 and under and the Fewster's Shield. The same will apply to the Spring competition.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

What a month September has been weather wise, certainly in England, although when I met the members from Scotland at the National Championship they were concerned about the yellow grass had come from. September has mostly been dry and sunny here but Scotland have had a considerable amount of rain making their courses lush green. It is just as well the weather has been good because we had plenty of section golf to be played. The first was the Whitelaw Bowl on September 4 at Penrith Golf Club, and the weather was superb. This annual tournament is sponsored by Course Care and we had a good turnout of 35 members. Once again we were made very welcome by the club and the course was as good as I have ever seen it. The Whitelaw Bowl was won by David Forsyth, the Head Greenkeeper, with a score of 43 points. The match against the golf club stewards was played on September 9 and unfortunately during the afternoon the heavens opened and the match could not be completed. We agreed to call it a half and as we had won last year we retained the trophy.

The Autumn Tournament was played at Didsbury Golf Club on Thursday, September 12 and the weather was fantastic. It was an eventful day for Alex Davies, the Head Greenkeeper, as this was to be his last greenkeepers' tournament, at least in this part of the world. In October he and his family will be emigrating to start a new life in New Zealand (at last). Alex has been threatening to go to New Zealand almost as long as I have known him and at last he has taken the plunge. We all wish Alex and his family good luck in their venture.

Back to the golf day, and that course which can flood as quickly as any I know, was in beautiful condition thanks to Alex & his staff. We had 40 members playing and everybody enjoyed the day. I would like to thank Didsbury Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a nice lunch and a magnificent meal.
in the evening, and Andy Comes for providing refreshments at the 10th tee. Many thanks also
to the North West Patrons and other companies for
their support in helping to swell the prize
table.

The next get together will be the presidents
cup & AGM at Wilmislow on December 5th. Get
your entries in early, including a cheque for
£20, to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue,
Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Bill’s telephone
number – 01512 844416. All competitors
to bring a bottle so everybody wins a prize.
That’s it for now, but any news or queries
contact me on 01517 245412
or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern
What a fantastic day we had at Bingley St Ives
for our Invitational Golf Day, sponsored by
Rigby Taylor. Sixty competitors played for some
fantastic prizes on a well set up course. The
weather on the day was just perfect for golf.
Joe Baxter and his team must be praised for the
condition of the course as the day before we
had a deluge. Another big thanks must go
to the caterers, as the food was some of the
best I have had at a golf event. Thanks to
everyone at Bingley for the good time had by
all. The results were as follows:-
1. I. Pullan & A. Slingsby, Hollins Hall, 43 pts; 2. M.
Gumeniuk & J. Whalley, Bingley, 42 pts. 3. A.
Baxter & A. Taylor, Bingley, 41 pts (BIH); 4. J.
Baxter & A. Scarborough, Bingley, 41 pts.
Nearest the pin A. Taylor 18th. Nearest the
Line S. Wild. As you can see Bingley had a great
day as we all did!

A week or so after the golf event the section
was challenged to a football match by Rigby
Taylor at Syngenta sports fields in Huddersfield.
A total of 12 greenkeepers turned up with
thoughts of glory on the field of battle. Well,
what can I say in our defence, except I don’t
think we had one! We were soundly beaten 12-
0! Thanks to all the lads who came as we all
had a good time though my legs ache for
a week after. Thanks to Mike, from RT, for
organising the event - we will try harder next
year.

As I write these notes we are about a week
away from the Autumn Tournament and AGM
at Thirsk and Northallerton, sponsored by Glen
Farrow, the irrigation and total water company.
A full report of golfing and AGM matters will be
in my next report.

Congratulations to Simon Heppenstall in
his new job as area representative with Rigby
Taylor.

Our last golfing event of the year is the
Christmas tournament taking place at Crosland
Heath Golf Club on Tuesday, December 3. The
cost of this event is the usual £15 with
the normal format on the day.

I am at present trying to arrange a factory
visit to Textron in Ipswich in late Feb or early
March of 2003. It will be open to any Head
Greenkeeper or Course Manager interested. It
will involve a tour of the factory and an in-
depth look at the full Textron range of
machinery. If you are interested please get in
touch with either Theo Wilson or myself.
I hope your autumn has been kind to you so
far.

David Thackray, 16 Woodside Ave, Eccleshill,
Bradford, West York’s, BD2 2NI, Tel No ; 01274
640739, Mob No: 07976876264 E mai.
Dthackray@aol.com

David Thackray

The Midland Region Educational Seminar will
be held at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday 27
November 2002. Open to all - Non Members
welcome. Cost: £25 including lunch etc.
Speakers include: Peter McEvoy - Walker Cup
Captain; Daniel Binns BSc STRI - Green
Reconstruction; Richard Minton - Spraying
Legally; Toby Morel - Grass Seed Production;
Peter McCraine - Lubricants Made Easy plus
BIGGA HQ staff and others. Invitations have
already been posted to all BIGGA members.
If you haven’t had yours contact Peter Larter,
Midland Region Administrator on
01476 550115.

Peter Larter

BB&O
What an incredible month September has
turned out for us all. My course, like most in
this area, has the colour of the Kalahari Desert
with about as much moisture as an oven baked
cheesecake! It certainly leads to firm putting
greens but any slight problem with the
watering system becomes a blight on the
course very quickly.

We have just played our autumn competition
at Ellesborough Golf Club. This proved a very
challenging course, set in the Chilterns with
superb views to look at when trekking the hills
and downs of the terrain. A good hike for
strengthening the leg muscles. No wonder Bill
Clinton chooses to play here when staying at
Chequers - it works off the calories and worries
of life all in one sweep. Thanks to Dave
Goodchild and his team for presenting a fiery
test for our day. The greens were very fast
indeed, which had a few of us putting beyond
the three mark. Also thanks to Bob Weed, the
Cub Manager, for helping to organise the set-up
for the day. The competition was sponsored
by Headland with Ian Richardson ensuring we got
off to a good start. Later we had beverages at
the 6th hole, kindly provided by Johnny Beck.
How good does bacon taste out in the open?

The Autumn Tournament was held at The
Forest of Arden. It was great having the
opportunity to play this championship course
on a pleasant sunny day, and as would be
expected it was in great nick. Our thanks to the
prize sponsors Avoncrop, who were
represented on the day by Mark Raynor and
Chris Briggs, and John Hammond of Bathgate
for the most welcome array of liquid
refreshment at the halfway house. We should
also like to thank Scotts, in the guise of Nick
Martin, for their sponsorship of this year’s
doubles knockout Tournament and their
proposal to repeat the operation next year.
Devon & Cornwall
I start my report this month with the news that our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries has had to return to hospital for treatment. I am sure all members wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to meeting her again very soon.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Bud & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday, November 13. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfers' course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season then by attending our PJ Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday, December 10. Please note that the meeting will this year take place on Tuesday and not Wednesday. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing players competing for the PJ Flegg Trophy with the format being greensomes. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret and raffles will conclude the day.

The Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College will this year take place over two days from Wednesday 20th November to Thursday, November 21. The theme for day one will be back to basics with day two being set against the backdrop of the Ryder Cup magic, where Irishman Paul McGinley holed the winning putt, our Section arrived at Hayling Golf Club, a club with an Irish connection in Course Manager, Ronan McKean.

The superb links were the venue for our autumn tournament sponsored by Tacit. Our tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, has given us a superb fixture list this year and Hayling was playing at its best, even the wind stayed away although the course was tough enough without it! The standard of golf was excellent as we all tried to master the art of links 'bump and run' and overall winners on the day were:- Tacit Trophy Winner. Sid Cutler, 40 pts (B'H); 2. Alan Magee, 40 pts; 3. Kevin Hills, 38 pts; 4. Kevin Glass, 38 pts; Trade Prize. Trevor Simmonds; Longest Drive, Shane Hodgkins; Nearest the Pin, Lauchlan Millar.

Many thanks to Hayling Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, in particular, the Captain who was a superb host during the day and rightly very proud of the very impressive new clubhouse; to Ronan and his hard working team for presenting the course in such magnificent condition and to the catering staff for a superb meal. As ever, a huge vote of thanks go to our sponsor, Tacit, without whom the day would not be possible. We were all saddened to hear that our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been taken ill again. We certainly missed Paula's company on the day and as a Section our thoughts are with her and her family and we wish her a speedy recovery. Take care Paula!

The Section AGM was held before the dinner, which ran smoothly. The committee remains the same as last year although Chairman, Tony Gadd, reported to the floor that two more committee members were needed. Any interested parties please contact Tony or any of the committee members. We only meet four times a year, so a high level of commitment is not required, but we are looking for people to put something back into our Association and industry.

The main theme that kept repeating itself during the AGM was the apathy among our very large Section, particularly regarding educational events. Providing quality training is one of BIGGA's priorities as the 'Continue to Learn' programme continues. We all have a duty to continue our personal professional development if we are to change our image and people's perception about our industry. We can all make excuses about not attending seminars and other educational events but we need you all to make the effort. As a committee we endeavour to make these events as interesting as possible and it is soul destroying that so few of you can be bothered to turn up. So let's see some more faces next time. If you want particular speakers or courses run then let me know and we will try to arrange it.

Our next port of call will be the High Post Golf Club on Thursday, December 5 for the Turkey Trot. Please forward your cheques for £15 to Chris Sturgess. High Post is the home club of Don Friend who has recently retired after 15 years service. We hope you have a long and happy retirement Don!

As I said before, if you have any news for next month's column or a course you would like to see run in the Section then give me a ring. 01202 661106. I'm waiting for that first call until next month.

Alex McCombie

Kent
At last someone has replied to my begging for some news. Mark Smith from St Augustines GC where I started playing golf as a junior back in 1983. He e-mailed me with news about his eye. Those who know Mark will know he
injured himself while striking at work about eight years ago. A piece of metal from the striker blade shot up under his eye protector and seriously damaged his eye. Mark has had 11 operations over the years and now I'm afraid he has lost his eye and will have a false one fitted soon. Those of you who know Mark know what he has been through but we all hope he can now get his career and life back on track. Some good news from Mark is that his wife, Jo, is expecting their fourth child soon. It is good to hear Mark that your third eye is working well though! I wish you and your family all the best for the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Turkey Trot at North Foreland on the November 27. I'm sure Steve and Graham will have a fine course set up for us and hope there is not a cold north east wind blowing over the cliff tops. Any news or views please drop me a line at JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM or call my office on 01732 875020.

Jason Bean

London

I know, I know, it's been a while since I wrote a report but it appears to have been a very quiet period here in the London Section, so I decided to sum up any news I had and report it in one big hit!

Going back to our Spring Meeting at Wyke Green, in April, it produced the sort of weather, which we could probably do with a drop of now. Torrential rain meant that we had to abandon our round at the Halfway House (good timing or what), the sausage rolls and coffee softening the blow somewhat. The Spring Meeting Trophy and all the prizes, kindly supplied and sponsored by Mark Day, of Tacit, were carried over to our next meeting. Our sincere thanks go to Tony Dyke and his staff for producing a course of very high quality and to Wyke Green golf club for their hospitality.

So on to our Summer Meeting held at Hendon Golf Club. We were blessed with good weather and Phil Garroad from Aldenham Golf Club took a belated Spring Meeting trophy and also qualified for the National Championship with the best Gross score of the day. Ben Knowles-Jackson also qualified with the best Nett score. Well done to both. Once again thanks to Mark Day for all the hard work, not only with the prizes carried over from Wyke Green but also for organising the nearest the pin, longest drive and all the flags for the day. Our raffle was sponsored by Barry McCloskey, of Avoncrop, with some fabulous prizes. Thanks Barry. The course was in fine condition and provided a very good test of golf and our appreciation goes to new Course Manager Bobby McMillan and his staff and also to Gavin Kyle, who has moved onto pastures new as Course Manager at Knowle Park, for all his hard work leading up to the event, not only on the course but in helping me to set it up in the first place. We welcome Bobby to the Section and wish both he and Gavin the very best in their new posts.

The Autumn meeting was held at Porter's Park Golf Club on August 21. Much to my disappointment I was unable to attend but I know a good day was had by all. Overall winner was Dave Fish, from Stockley Park Golf Club, with Hadley Wood’s, James Lomas, runner-up, My thanks go to Rob Washbrook for stepping into the breach and organising everything on the day and also to Alan Percival and Turner Groundcare for their kind sponsorship. Course Manager, Martin Smith, and his staff once again presented the course in superb condition although I did hear a rumour going round that it's never been quite the same since I left! Thanks Martin and Porter’s Park Golf Club for a successful day.

News from around the Section over the past few months has seen John Merriman leaving Batchworth Park to take up the Course Manager’s position at Mid-Herts Golf Club and Roy Halder returning to Wyke Green Golf Club to work with Tony Dyke and his team after a two year absence. Good Luck to both.

Paul Clark

Essex

Firstly, we would like to wish Dominic Rodgers a speedy recovery after being taken into hospital two days before our golf day at Upminster GC. (Hurry up Dom, the scorecards are a nightmare). Secondly, congratulations to Jon Selwood and Anthony Kinwin found both courses very tough but were complimentary, particularly regarding Hillside, which they rated along with some of the best in the world.

Our last golf competition was held at Upminster Golf Club on 2nd October. Our main sponsors were Gem Professional and our thanks go to Richard Haynes. The day started on of a damp note but despite the dark clouds hovering the rain kept at bay for the competitors. A big thank you to Upminster Golf Club and John Collintine, the Club Secretary, for providing the venue; to Josie and all the staff for their friendly hospitality and a superb meal. Lastly thank you to the new Headman, Doug Fermie, and his green staff on producing an excellent track despite the recent long dry spell (Hope to see you all at the next golf day).


Finally, thank you to the following Rigby Taylor (guest prize), Sheriff Amnesty, D.F.L, Tacit, Banks Amenity and Avoncrop for providing the raffle.

Our next event is an evening lecture at Writtle College on November 26. We need your support, bring a member of your club and they may learn something too. On the last two occasions the numbers have been very poor. John Sinclair puts a lot of hard work into getting guest speakers so please support him. Further details will follow soon and if you have any problems please call John 01702 589063.

Please put a note in your diary for our AGM/Christmas Golf Competition and the Golfer of the Year award, to be held at Stock Brook Manor on Thursday, November 28. Please would all overall winners for 2002 make a big effort to attend, not only to collect their trophy or cup but Arnold, from Stock Brook, has kindly offered to take a group photograph to be published in the magazine.

It was nice to see some new faces at Upminster, hope you enjoyed yourselves. Let's finish the year with a good turn out for the last two events. Finally if you are not receiving the flyers or have any problems or comments, please contact me on 01245 603131 or on my new mobile 07984 867939.

Martin Forrester

Sussex

Wednesday, September 25 turned out to be a beautiful warm and sunny day.

How am I so sure you say, because it was the Autumn meeting. This was held at Mannings Heath which is always a popular venue with us. The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor who were represented by Mike Ring, who amazed us with his new golf swing, (one day soon he is going to win a prize).

So on this beautiful day 35 Greenkeepers and guests turned up to take full advantage of Mannings Heath’s hospitality and we started off with a 9 hole Texas Scramble held on the Kingfisher Course. With my team leading the way. Then 10 minutes later Billy picking us up as I’d managed to miss the 2nd tee but found the 18th. Yet again thanks for the lift Billy.

After lunch an 18 hole Stableford on the water full course, which I found just a little too hard. As always the course was in excellent condition due to the hard work of Billy McMillan and his team. I would also like to pass our thanks on to the Clubhouse staff who made the day run very smooth.

So onto the results: The morning round winners were R. Short, C. Whybourne, G. Ogilvie & N. Beadle. In the afternoon – Nearest the pin: M. Sommerfield. Longest Drive – R. Short. Guest prize was picked up by C. Allen. 1. R. Day. 39pts; 2. R. Kanel, 37pts; 3. M. Sommerfield, 36pts. Well onto the Turkey Trot which will be on Friday, December 20 at you know where.

Remember, any information you have which may be of interest to us you can contact me on 07876 232353.

Jon Budd

Greenkeeper International 43