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- There's still time to book a stand space - but you'll have to hurry! Call Debbie Savage on 03473 581.

The fine turf industries' premier event

BTME
BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme 1999

John Hacker: Passing on tips from extensive and practical knowledge of golf course agronomy

John Hacker, Senior Lecturer in Horticultural Mechanisation at the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

- A soil scientist, Mike Harbridge has specialised in sportsturf and golf course soils, rootzones and drainage for the past 16 years. As Senior Soil Scientist at Myerscough College and subsequent independent consultant, he has an extensive knowledge of the practical problems associated with aging drainage and construction systems which are taken beyond their limit by heavy play.

- After gaining his Diploma in Horticulture from Kew, John Hacker specialised in Applied Plant Physiology while studying in the USA. His interest in plant hormones led him to study growth regulators in turfgrass, whilst working at the University of Bath, and eventually to his becoming the Senior Sportsturf lecturer at Myerscough College. Together with Mike Harbridge, John now provides agronomy advice on the construction and maintenance of golf courses under the title banner of Professional Sportsturf Design Limited.

- Dealing with green committee personnel has never been the easiest of tasks for greenkeepers, many of whom express frustration at having perfectly reasonable proposals turned down! Graham Phillips is an experienced presenter with just the answer to those frustrations, with many major companies such as Shell UK testifying to the efficacy of his presentations. Graham's interest in golf has intensified over the past years, and he can and will provide a very practical and informed overview of the successes and failures of greens.

- Another dual presentation that promises to be hugely entertaining is the workshop on Irrigation, tutored by Robin Hume of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association and aided and abetted by David Hallford, Senior Lecturer in Horticultural Mechanisation at the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

- As Chairman of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, I look forward to welcoming you all to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme. Both on the exhibition stands and in the lecture rooms I'm sure you will enjoy renewing old friendships and making new ones. Harrogate is a welcoming and friendly town and those who have been before now look forward to returning each year.

- I hope to meet many of you during the week, either at the exhibition stands or at our social functions, which past experience indicates will once again be a forum for a forthright exchange of views and opinions on our great profession.

- Providing educational opportunities for greenkeepers is now very much to the forefront within the game of golf, and BIGGA has a leading role to play in developing training programmes which will produce well qualified and technically sound Course Managers. As knowledge increases and techniques improve, the golfer will be the ultimate beneficiary of better presented and maintained golf courses.

- In developing our training programmes, we do need support from our members' golf clubs and it is my hope that many Green Chairmen, Secretaries and club officials will take this opportunity to attend at Harrogate to see how much real and visible progress our profession is making.

- Finally, the week at Harrogate simply would not happen without the support of the many trade companies present at the Exhibition. To them BIGGA expresses its sincere thanks for backing the event which I feel sure will mark another step in BIGGA's development.

Having read about BTME in the pages of Greenkeeper International, I hope that you will follow the trail to Harrogate and I look forward to seeing you there.

GEORGE MALCOLM
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1991
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See us on Stand A9 at BTME '92
1992 will see the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition entering its fourth year. With an established date in the industry's calendar, the Exhibition is looked forward to by exhibitors, delegates and attendees alike.

From the outset, BIGGA saw the need for full consultation and co-operation with the industry if the Exhibition was to be properly planned and successfully mounted. For the 1991 Exhibition, three Steering Committee meetings were held and a further meeting during the Exhibition assessed relevant feedback. All four meetings were well attended and proved an excellent example of BIGGA and companies within the industry working together to mutual benefit. A similar consultation process is in place for the forthcoming event.

BIGGA has much appreciated the support and enthusiasm displayed by company representatives at these meetings and a wide cross-section of the industry is currently represented on the Committee. Exhibitors may wish to note that the Committee includes representatives of Ransomes, Iseki UK Ltd., Kubota (UK) Ltd., Supaturf, Lely (UK) Ltd., Toro Irrigation Ltd., ICI Professional Products and Farmura. All members of the Steering Committee will be pleased to receive views or representations from Exhibiting Companies at any time.

Technical support/consultation is a vital area and a close working relationship has been established with both the Resort Services Department in Harrogate and the official Exhibition Contractor, Joe Manby Ltd., who are a company of national repute with the great benefit of being locally based in Harrogate. The technical support and expertise available has proved invaluable in ensuring a high standard of presentation within the Exhibition Halls. Any last minute problems experienced by Exhibitors can be attended to without delay by utilising 'in-house' resources. The Exhibitors Kit agreed by BIGGA in conjunction with Joe Manby Ltd and approved by the Steering Committee is geared to ensuring a minimum of 'red tape' for Exhibitors with advice and guidance easily accessible for those companies with queries to be resolved.

The policy from the outset of the Exhibition in 1989 has been to encourage a large European presence. In the future, the Steering Committee will be examining ways of achieving a greater European awareness and will be looking to establish links with European Greenkeeping Associations as well as seeking out local authority contacts. BIGGA now has a growing European membership and means will be sought to enable BIGGA members in Europe to promote their own Exhibition.

Internationally, the promotion of the Harrogate Exhibition is being taken on board particularly through an official BIGGA presence and stand at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Exhibition. All in all, the Steering Committee believes that the Exhibition has much scope for further development and looks forward with anticipation to the 1992 event.

• It's not too late to book your stand space for the 1992 event — but you'll have to hurry. Contact Debbie Savage, BIGGA's Exhibition Officer, on 03473 581/2 or fax 03473-8864.
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BY AIR: International flights from most countries now operate to Manchester Airport which is only 1½ hours drive away or use London Heathrow and take an internal flight direct to Leeds/Bradford Airport which is only 13 miles away and 20 minutes by taxi. There are flights every weekday between London Heathrow and Leeds/Bradford Airport. Direct flights are also available from Amsterdam, Belfast, Brussels, Canada, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey and Paris.

BY ROAD: Road access is equally convenient whether by car or coach - the motorway network incorporating the M1, M5, M6, M62 and A1 are all within easy reach of Harrogate.

BY FERRY: North Sea Ferries have regular crossings from both Rotterdam and Zeebrugge into Hull, 60 miles to the east of Harrogate.

BY RAIL: Due to Harrogate’s central location it is well served by British Rail connections from all over the country including direct Intercity services from London King’s Cross.

The week’s main social event is to be a sumptuous Exhibition Banquet on Thursday January 23rd – and following the meal will be entertainment from Norman Collier, one of Britain’s top comedians.

How to save time and money

Whether an exhibitor or delegate, you are urged to pre-register for the event.

Why should you bother? Quite simply, you will save time and money. A reply-paid pre-registration ticket can be found facing Page 36 of this magazine. If you complete and return this ticket to BIGGA, you will automatically be pre-registered, handed your exhibition catalogue and identification badge at the entrance and admitted to the Exhibition without charge or delay.

Otherwise, admission is by catalogue at a charge of £2.50 and you will have to await issue of your identification badge.

Comedian ends week with a laugh

The week’s main social event is to be a sumptuous Exhibition Banquet on Thursday January 23rd – and following the meal will be entertainment from Norman Collier, one of Britain’s top comedians.

Perhaps best known for his hilarious “chicken” routine in the 1970s, Norman has delighted thousands of people in a glittering showbusiness career which has taken him all over Britain – and into America.

Highlights of his career include many Royal Charity Galas.

Norman and his wife live near Hull. For relaxation, he enjoys an occasional round of golf.

Free accommodation booking

BIGGA has again nominated Inntel as the Association’s agents for accommodation booking during the 1992 Education programme and Exhibition.

Please take advantage of this service: it’s efficient, accommodation can be found for both exhibitors and delegates – and it’s FREE!

Contact Annie Moncrieff on 0206 211106 (fax 0206 210881) for more details.

Inntel have access to hotels and guest houses to suit all price ranges.

Special rates at Exhibition hotel

Special room rates for the Old Swan Hotel have been negotiated for BTME exhibitors and delegates. They are £59 single or £72 double, including breakfast and VAT. For a stay of four nights or more, reduce the rate by £5.00 per night.

Again, Annie Moncrieff at Inntel is the person to contact for bookings, telephone 0206 211106.

The Old Swan will be the venue for pre-Exhibition workshops and the social programme. A hospitality room will be open in the evenings where everyone connected with the BTME can meet and relax.
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Section secretaries and correspondents should note that the closing date for 'Around The Green' copy is the first day of the month preceding publication – eg. copy for February issue to be received by January 1st. This means that section scribes must think ahead by at least one clear month and send relevant new copy before the appearance of the current issue. All out-of-date announcements will be rejected. Co-operation in meeting these deadlines will be much appreciated.

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

This column is so up-to-date I've decided to give it a title. Various ideas have been tossed around and my final choice is 'hot and fresh'. On that theme, we have another fine victory to add to our list of conquests in 1991, this time perhaps our most notable and dangerous, for we beat The Section Secretaries by 5 to 1 at Ellesborough GC on October 31st. This is something we would all like to crow about, but considering it is almost wage review time I think it's best that we just say how lucky we were and no doubt the secretaries will get their own back next year!

Thanks go to the Ellesborough staff, secretary Ken Flint, head greenkeeper Dave Childs, and Alma Cheshire for the marvellous catering. Also we thank Bob Stewart - for the secretaries - and Golf Turf Equipment for the magnificent shield donation.

Our other golf event in October was the Autumn Invitation at Sonning GC. It must be some sort of justice that over 30 greenkeepers, all of whom had been praying for rain over the past months, should get so thoroughly soaked throughout the day. Never again will I doubt The Great Greenkeeper In The Sky! Weather apart, the day was a resounding success, thanks in no small part to the sterling efforts of our section secretary, Bob Woodward, whose tireless work made this the smoothest run event we've had yet. RESULTS: 1st overall – Colin Vince and Andy Elme, 2nd – Phillip Slater and Paul Wakefield, 3rd – Bob Woodward and Terry Jackson. Best a.m. – John Bevan and Dennis Ellington. Best p.m. – Simon Robinson and Owen Cooper. Special thanks to Sonning GC, especially secretary Peter Williams, Club captain Derrick Howes, who presented the prizes, and course manager Alan Collins and his staff, for an excellent day. Finally, our trade friends from Parkers, Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, Pattissons, County Mowers, and Maxwell Hart, with a special word of thanks to Bernie Wall, who walked round with a score card when one of 'ours' decided not to play the second round.

Just a few reminders to tidy things up, with a gentle reminder not to forget our Gentlemen's Dinner at Frilford in Feb '92. Tickets are avail-

AROUND THE GREEN

COMING UP


January 20th-21st: BIGGA Seminar Programme – Harrogate, Yorkshire.

February 4th: STRI Ireland Seminar - As December 10th - Milltown GC, Dublin.

February 11th: STRI Wales Seminar - As December 10th - Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

February 12th-19th: GCSAA Exhibition and Convention - New Orleans USA.

March 27th-29th: BIGGA National Education Conference - Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

April 29th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

June 3rd-4th: BALI Trade Show - Stoneleigh, Warwick.

July 16th-19th: The Open Championship - Muirfield, Scotland.

August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament – Littlestone GC, Kent.

September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Show - Peterborough, Northants.

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A R O U N D  T H E  G R E E N

E A S T  S C O T L A N D

The section held its annual Autumn Tournament over the Peebles course on September 10th, with bright sunny weather shining kindly upon us. Our thanks as always go to the captain and council of Peebles for courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities and to the green staff and catering personnel for their respective excellence. A total of 46 members, guests and partners entered and played this year’s section Autumn Tournament and September 30th. George Whithy having prepared the course to his usual high standards. The competition was fiercely competitive, the battle that ensued eventually producing a worthy winner in S Cox of Abridge G&CC, with 40 Stanford points, closely pursued by M Storey of Hatfield G&CC with 39 points and Norman Exley of Northwood GC on 39 points. It seems that the administrator for the S.E. is making the collection of trophies some-what of a habit! Our playing guests were D Ede, John Davies, G Wilson, G Hurley, Berks.

L O N D O N

A good turn-out of 40 members and guests demonstrated an interest in this format. The section Autumn Tournament was held at Ashridge GC on September 30th, George Whithy having prepared the course to his usual high standards. The competition was fiercely competitive, the battle that ensued eventually producing a worthy winner in S Cox of Abridge G&CC, with 40 Stanford points, closely pursued by M Storey of Hatfield G&CC with 39 points and Norman Exley of Northwood GC on 39 points. It seems that the administrator for the S.E. is making the collection of trophies somewhat of a habit! Our playing guests were D Ede, John Davies, G Wilson, G Hurley, Berks.}

south wales

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Morriston GC on September 18th, with numbers down on our annual average. The reasons for this drop are many, varied and, one day, are easily explained by the individuals concerned. The competition was medal play over 18 holes, with scores very ‘up and down’, though the winner of the President’s Shield, Graham Cox, produced a very creditable net score of 67. The best gross score was that of Steven Price with an 83. Second nett came Doug Donne with a 76 (on count-back), Gerwyn Price, also on 76, was in third place and Peter Lacey was fourth with 77.

A r a f f le was held to swell the coffers and culminated in Anthony Smyth winning golf balls, with Dennis Jones, Doug Donne and Henry Fry all taking away a bottle of something warming. This was followed by a lecture evening, first with Frank Chute of Modern Maintenance Products (MMP) giving a company sales presentation on lubricants, greases and fire extinguishers, complete with slides. He also touched on such items as industrial greases, adhesives and compounds that can be utilised in repairing irrigation piping. A sales package prepared specially for greenkeepers is available, those interested should let me know.

Next came Dr Paul Wilson from Agriland, who addressed us on the subject of Agrimaster and Agriland fertilisers, bucking up his talk with revealing tests and trials successfully carried out by the STRI.

Our annual match against the South West was held at St Pierre on October 3rd, with a tied result at three games all resulting in our retention of the trophy for another year. Our thanks to St Pierre management for courtesies received and to course manager, David Jones, and his staff for making the day so enjoyable.

Penrall GC was the venue for our seminar on October 4th, attracting greenkeepers, local authority representatives and green chairmen. A total of 80 people attended the John Deere/Power Cut jointly sponsored event, enjoying the demonstration of Power Cut machinery on display and listened spell-bound to a presentation by Howard Storey of John Deere on the John Deere range and their applications.

Dr W G Rees, BSc, MA, PhD, FRCS, a soil scientist and former Head of Agricultural Chemistry at Glasgow University gave a talk entitled ‘Grass Care Stars with Soul Care’, with Neil Squires, BSc, closing the meeting with a talk on agronomy before chairing a question and answer session.

Our thanks to the Penrall GC committee for granting us the facility for this seminar and to their secretary for his valuable help in organising the mailing of letters to golf Clubs. Additionally, thanks to Colin Murphy, Malcolm Rees and Pen-}

nor head greenkeeper, Colin Reilly, all of whom did sterling work behind the scenes.

Finally our congratulations to Paul Hopkins and Nigel Owens on additions to their family and we hope they are coping with the inevitable sleepless nights! Our final competition will be the Christmas thrash at Pyle and Kenfig on December 11th. We’ll play for the Vitax Shield and follow with our AGM. Arrive by 9.30am please. A very merry Christmas to you all.

P H I L I P  S W A I N

NORTH SCOTLAND

The decision to change our 1991 lottery format, running it on the World Match Play proved to be very successful. Almost everyone had their tickets and made it the best section money winner thus far. This is vital for the continued running of the section, providing as it does the means to keeps prices down and provide support in sending three delegates to BTME in January. For the first time since our lottery began, the major prizes were won by greenkeepers, with Robbie Allan of Hazlehead GC drawing Seve Ballesteros and winning £100 and Steven Sulli- van of Craigielhill GC drawing Nick Price for sec- ond place. Other prize winners were: 3rd (£50) M Donald, 21 Windsor Rd, M astrick, Aberdeen, 4th (£40) I Ross/c/o Tain GC. Others winning £20 each were S McPherson, c/o Mathew Glou- ser, Firth S Hay, 4 Furnier Place, Peterhead. E Urquhart, 4 Ness Hs., Forroase and I Thom c/o Westhill Inn. The £10 winners were: A Low, c/o Westhill Inn. S Sweeney, Birkenhull, Ellen. Kat- rina Foster c/o Donside Paper, Aberdeen, and I Phillips, 22 Harley St. Stone.

Plans are afoot to stage a conference, similar to the one in Chester last year in Aberdeen. Our hope is that it will be staged at the Dundee College of Further Education around Nov/Dec 1992, with attend- ance fees again being held to a very reasonable level. The committee would welcome any fresh ideas for speakers.

G O R D O N M O I R

NORTH EAST

The now traditional four-ball matches against our arch rivals - the East of Scotland section - took place at Goswick GC on October 8th. The result was a close affair until the very last match, with our North East team finally making it with a 3 1/2 to 1 1/2 result. Our thanks to Goswick GC, George Thompson and his staff for splendid preparation and the captain of Goswick for presenting the prizes. Finally a special thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the competition yet again. Results (S. E. players named first): G Lauder & I Johnson beat G Wood & G Thompson 2 & 1. B Wilson & G Atkinson halved with S Greenwood & W Blair. J Richardson & S Cram beat J Neilen & R Dugan, 1 up. P Robi- son & K Rutherford lost to R Bullock & S Melville, 5 & 4. C Parkinson & R Black lost to P Bowden & A Holmes, 5 & 4. R Pepe & A Wright beat S Dixon & C Yeaman, 2 & 1.
27 promise to keep you well posted.

To bring you up to date with past happenings, I shall first congratulate myself on winning the Autumn Tournament at Brough. For this event we extend thanks to The Club and to John Price and Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event again. Let us wish them good fortune in their new venture in becoming Ransomes Agents. With immediate effect, and already having started with the Brough event, we shall run an optimal number of tournaments this season for the section. At Brough we raised £10.50 and thank Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor for donating a snazzy golf umbrella as first prize.

Now let me move on to a 'hearty congratulations' for the Northern team on winning Team Iseki for the second time in three years and lifting the individual prize for the second successive year. Well done, lads!

Our winter lecture programme continues, meeting on the first Thursday of each month at Thrybergh GC, Rotherham. Come on, lads, let's support these lectures and have a large turn-out, they are meant just for you. May I finally wish Steve Burroughs (formerly of Hutchins Ltd) all the best on setting up in business. GOOD LUCK, Steve. That's it for this month, though I hope I'll see you all at the Worle Christmas Competition. A very Merry Christmas and New Year to one and all.

IAN COLLETT

DEVEN & CORNWALL

The first meeting in our Autumn and Winter programme was held at Carlyon Bay Hotel on October 23rd, the golfing 'set' tackling the challenging course in quest of the Hunt Trophy, whilst our non-golfing members enjoyed their fashion with his delightful Cornish humour and special thanks to the generosity of Woburn's Alex Hay, for providing the course to such excellence. A special thanks can and do appreciate such excellence and our care spanned an all-too-brief span, cut short by his untimely death at the age of 53. There is little doubt that the Duke & Duchess courses were his greatest legacies.

So another year of fixtures is over, a new committee has been elected, and I am bowing out gracefully by taking this opportunity to thank all those who have made my spell as secretary so very enjoyable. Throughout the year we have been very well supported by so many members and traders that to thank them individually would take up too much space. I would be bound to miss someone out and rather than risk unintentional omission, I give a hearty thanks to one and all for continued support, which is much appreciated.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a happy Christmas and to ask that you continue to support YOUR section, which belongs to you, you know.

GEORGE SMITH

MIDLANDS

The warm welcome given to us at the recent Open Day of Brockton Golf Club was much appreciated, with many Midland section members commenting on how much they enjoyed the event.

During the winter we plan to hold two lectures, in January and March, and members will be advised more fully in our new fixture list, which is due in December. May I take this opportunity of reminding you all of the all important AGM, which will take place at Edgbaston Golf Club on December 16th, starting at 3pm. Please try and attend.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

How are things in the North West? One can only assume that there are no problems, and that everyone is happy. How do I arrive at this assumption? Simply by recalling the North West Autumn AGM, which was held at Hoylake Golf Club on October 4th, which called for our membership of 335 greenkeepers to attend. From this figure of 335 only 16 people turned up, 18 of which were members of the committee! Whilst being delighted that the committee appear to be running the section to the satisfaction of our members, this was by every standard a very poor attendance.

Prior to our AGM, Peter Jefford of Ruffords Top Dress Supplies gave us an interesting and most informative talk on top dressings and how to choose the right product. How nice it would have been to see more members present, especially as Peter had given freely of his own time to be with us.

Arrangements are in hand for the preparation of a 1992 calendar of events, and once dates are finalised all members will receive a complete fixture list. That's it for now, save wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

BERT CROSS

CLEVELAND

The start of our autumn fixtures began on October 1st with the Autumn Invitation at Woodham &CC. Our thanks to the management of Woodham for the use of the course and to Mark Hodgson and his staff for presenting the course in such good order – especially so following a spell of heavy rain! RESULTS: 1st – Alan Goodchild and M Ruddick, 40 points. 2nd – D Croacher and D Darby, 36 points. 3rd – M Hodgson and K Watson, 34 points. 4th – R McCabe and T Telford, 32 points. Thanks to our main sponsor, Mr Alan Goodchild, and to all trade and golf clubs who contributed prizes. Please continue to support future events.

ROGER SHAW

EAST ANGLIA

This report will start in the summer and finish with a merry Christmas, such is the time span to catch up. First to Stowmarket GC in August, a lovely course and a record turn-out. Warm welcome from John Daul, Stowmarket Captain, who also presented prizes and won nearest the pin on the 18th (839). Bob Chapman was actually 2 away, but his shot was off the 1st tee – good old Bob! The longest drive was won by Peter (John Daly) Howard. RESULTS: (handicap 0-18) 1st Alan Carter (32 on countback), 2nd Sam Sylvester 32, 3rd Randal McNeil 31. (handicap 19-28) 1st Paul Fletcher 38, 2nd Steve Pigott, 3rd Richard Mitchell. Guest: John Riches 36. It was nice to see a few more players from Norfolk and our thanks to Stowmarket GC for a grand day out.

Our congratulations to Randal McNeil on his course management appointment at Quietwaters and on fathering a baby girl. Also to Steve Denton and Mike Fance, both with new babies, Steve a daughter and Mike a son.

Next to Gog Magog in October, a record breaking turn-out of 70, players coming from as far afield as Sussex and Surrey. The course was in good 'nick', as was the meal, and the awards were presented by Mr Alan Goodchild. Thanks to Peter Howard 78 gross. Handicap 0-18 – 1st Stephen Pattison 37, 2nd Stephen Cox 36, 3rd Stephen Freestone 34. Handicap 19-28 – 1st Stephen Pigott 41, 2nd Richard Mitchell 39, 3rd Ernie Hart 33. Longest Drive – Steve Dickinson (300 yards). Nearest the Pin – Dave Wilkinson (46 yards). Guest prizes: 1st John Jackson 42, 2nd Harry Shelley 39. Prizes donated by Rhone Poulenc, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Cowies, Ransomes, Colliers and Ernest Doe. Our thanks to all the trade members for their support.

There were reports of slow play and in future a penalty will be imposed on offenders (docked shots). The captain of Gog Magog offered a good closing speech, welcoming us back and saying he had never had so many greenkeepers before – except at the Club's AGM, a time for the course, the captain, and our thanks for a grand day out.

I said I would end with a merry Christmas, so to all East Anglian section members, wherever you are, a merry Christmas.

MICK LATHROPE

KENT

It is always a great pleasure to play Knole Park, and our Autumn Tournament played there on October 8th was once again a fabulous day. I have to admit that for many years it has been one of my personal favourites. The course was
prepared to the very highest order by Andy Arthur and his merry men and I hope he will pass on our thanks to the staff for their exceptional hospitality.

The morning play produced some pretty unspectacular scoring, due perhaps to the super slick putting surfaces. Our thanks to Sta-Brite and Chris Sharp for donating the new Sta-Brite shield and handsome trophy, awarded to the medal winner, John Rootes with a nett 69. John was followed closely was Steve Phillips with 70 and Malcolm Arthur with 71. The scratch prize was won by Ian Rawlings.

The afternoon saw a three man Texas Scramble played, with much better golf and won (not unsurprisingly by the rest of us) with a gross 67 by the Rootes, Rawlings, Stapley combination. Personally, I feel the man responsible for the –hang-‘ing the teams has much to answer for and I am still pressing for a stawards enquiry. Why did nearly all the teams have a combined handicap of around 50, with my team on 64? A credit here to John Fitchett and Bernie Stanley and Barry Hams for a battling 73. I must apologise for the initial confusion over handicaps and the missing raffle tickets, but as some may know, these were in John Millen's hands and he was away on Joint Golf business. I have recently seen such an expression of relief as that on David Wood's face when the mislaid cheque book finally surfaced! Perhaps the highlight of the day was the presentation of awards by Knole Park's Wood College, graced by the presence of two Northern section members in the old BPGA and EPGA days and as some may know, these were already listed for this one, a booking now may save later disappointment. Cost about £10.

On a serious note, the misuse of a BIGGA membership card has been brought to the committee's attention. Members MUST realise that this will not be tolerated and action will be taken to stop any repetition. Please keep your cards to yourselves.

I am happy to finish with some good news – Nick Faram, long serving assistant at Baldon GC, finally tied the knot in November. Very best wishes to Nick and Betty, and to all our members a merry Christmas.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH EAST REGION (Surrey Section)

It was the Surrey Section's honour to host the 4th S.E. Region Seminar recently at Merriot Wood College, graced by the presence of BIGGA's National Chairman, George Malcolm, and Executive Director, Neil Thomas, together with splendid contributions from seven lively greenkeepers. All is not lost however, for with the established course and its environment. That was won by Graham Wilson, with Edwin Walsh second. In the second division Les Nelson, Graham Oxley and Mick Bryant collected prizes, with Philip Palmer and Derrick Batty victors in category three. The Eclectic Trophies, played for our Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments, went to Mick Bryant for the over-50s and Mick Leaman for the under-25s. Very many thanks to all at Garforth for extending such a warm welcome to us all.

Our lecturing evenings are now underway, the first being an informative talk by Eddie Sims and his team from Par 4. A good audience attended, which included some very welcome new young faces. Thanks to everyone for coming and I hope to see many of you again in the future. The next lecture is on January 15th – Munro's on Spraying – and a Quiz and Social Evening with colleagues from the IOG at Headingly Cricket Club on February 11th.

We are again having a trip this year – to Lloyds of Letchworth – and with many names already listed for this one, a booking now may save later disappointment. Cost about £10.

As a Bigga member, this trip involves a night out at the pub, followed by a trip to the pub and then a trip to the pub. This is an opportunity for members to meet other members and guests will be most welcome. We shall be returning to this part of England for our Spring Tournament, which is at the Weymouth Golf Club on Thursday, May 28th.

This final note to close, I wish all members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BOB DENNIS

NORTHERN

The final golf event of 1991 was held on a blustery day at Garforth GC, the more pleasant by the appearance of two Northern section members who have been ill recently: Mick Hagerty of Cobble Hall and Garforth's very own Colin Garnett. Both looked fit and well. The contest was won by Graham Wilson, with Edwin Walsh second. In the second division Les Nelson, Graham Oxley and Mick Bryant collected prizes, with Philip Palmer and Derrick Batty victors in category three.

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BOB LUPTON

AROUND THE GREEN
29 - Phil's talk concentrated on the practical side of conservation, and with the help of slides Phil showed the sound results achieved at Hankley Common following a calculated conservation programme over the past years.

A substantial roast luncheon followed, with Jack McMillan opening the post prandial session by telling us of his experiences in Europe, with emphasis on his recent 'French Connection'. This did not stop Jack from hopping back across the channel occasionally, expounding upon his well known views of winter play and the stress factor involved for both course and greenkeeper!

The final speaker of the day was our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who presented a comprehensive paper on the present and possible future prospects for our Association. Stressing the need to 'get out and generate more support', this was seen as the way for us to capitalise on the terrific progress made over the past few years, years in which BIGGA has taken the initiative in greenkeeper training and education, whilst other golfing bodies have been content to talk a lot and do very little.

The seminar closed with Chris Marden, the SE Region Chairman, thanking all speakers and sponsors and giving no small praise to those members who by their attendance had made the day successful.

The Surrey Section committee acknowledges and thanks the following sponsors for their generous support, each in their way contributing to our success: CMW, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, T Parker & Sons Ltd, Ian Kerry, Huxley's, RFE Turf Machinery Ltd, SISIS and Watermation Ltd.

Forthcoming events for 1992 include a winter lecture on Chainsaw Use and Safety, to be held at Walton Heath GC on Jan 15th, the Regional Gentlemen's Dinner, also at Walton Heath, on March 13th and the Spring Tournament at Foxhills GC on April 29th. Finally, a most welcome return to New Zealand GC for the Cresta Cup on June 8th.

Our annual 'knock-out' competition for the Huxley Bowl has been concluded with a fine win (for the third time!) by Alex Armitage and Paul Weston, beating Paul Myame and Mike Oram on the last green after 36 closely contested holes. The winners afterwards celebrated with champagne in the clubhouse of Richmond GC. May I take this opportunity to wish ALL members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

CLIVE OSGOOD

SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION

None can deny that the now well established annual S.W. & Wales Regional Seminar, staged recently at Cannington College and master-minded by Gordon Child, is anything but a great success. The simple fact that the event was a complete sell-out speaks volumes for both organisational ability and regional enthusiasm, each complementing the other.

The event was sponsored by Modus "T" Systems, whose sales director must have been gratified to have such a large and captive audience to view the system machinery on display in the college grounds, and it was a Modus 'T' presentation which opened the proceedings. This was followed by an enthusiastic slide presentation - marred perhaps by a less than perfect projector more suited to a smaller and darker room - but nevertheless showing some marvellous slides of flora and fauna, with the presenter making an impassioned plea to keep the rough rough and for greenkeepers to conserve wild life. If I may make one minor comment, Allan Mitchell should qualify his plea with sound reasons, for example what might happen if the rough is cut back drastically or how one might convince a green committee of the merits of such conservational acts. After all, too much rough and dense under-growth rapidly increases the probability of already tiresome four hour plus rounds!

Eric Shiel is thoroughly enjoying his job of promoting the Joint Golf Course Committee and the new way forward, and it is heartening to learn that golfers will have to buckle under in order that the new generation of greenkeeping specialists may be thoroughly and competently trained. That he was preaching to the converted might have seemed apparent, yet it was depressing to learn from a show of hands that only a handful had even heard of 'The Way Forward' document and even fewer had actually read it! From the floor came a comment that because of the critical comments in the document regarding archaic Club committee methods, many secretaries had seen that it was effectively suppressed, this giving food for much thought.

At his fire-eating best, Jim Arthur was to have presented an uncontroversial paper but was prompted to re-write, telling us that having been brain-washed earlier at the week-end into a 38

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