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 March issue must be received by February 1st. This means that section reporters 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 All out-of-date announcements will be spiked. Co-operation in meeting these deadlines will be appreciated.

EAST MIDLANDS

The AGM meeting for the Maxwell Hart Shield was held on November 25th at Loughdale GC, Woodhouse Eaves. An enjoyable and well attended day resulted in honours going to Ian Marshall, with Adrian Porter and Maurice Emery second and third respectively. The trade section winner was Chris James. Well done and many thanks to all at Loughdale.

At the AGM, the following were elected to represent the section for the coming year: CHAIRMAN: Richard Barker, VICE CHAIRMAN: Dave Perkins, SECRETARY: Tony Howarth, COMMITTEE: Graham Arnold, Mark Bindley, Walter Cole, Steve Goode and Paddy McCarron. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: Richard Barker and Tony Howarth, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paddy McCaron.

The 1991 season saw considerable success for the section’s golfers at both regional and national level. Congratulations to all those who contributed, especially Richard Barker, Steve Goode and Maurice Emery. Let’s hope the coming season offers the same quality for us to look forward to!

Finally, it is with pleasure that I pass on the section’s thanks to Gordon Mitchell, our retiring secretary, for the hard work he has done for us. Best wishes Gordon, and good luck in your new position at Leek.

TONY HOWARTH

WEST SCOTLAND

The turn-out for the 1991 West Section AGM, at Renfrew GC, was good. Thirty members attended by some 32 members, who came to learn how their elected committee had been faring on their behalf throughout the year. The meeting was an exceptional one, as the Spring and Autumn golf outings were supported by more than half of the total section membership. Lenzie and Cowal Golf Club’s are to be thanked for their personal invitations to the section to come and play over their courses.

It is a pleasure to us all to receive an open invitation and to know the hand of friendship extends to the greenkeeping fraternity.

The Annual Dinner was once again held at Sloans Restaurant and was well attended, though grumblings were heard concerning the venue and the quality of meals served that evening. Your committee will give this serious consideration well in time for next year. There was nothing but praise for the three guest speakers: Peter Lloyd, Assistant Secretary PGA Scottish Region, Stuart McCrory, Chief Reporter of The Daily Star, and our own Jim McKenzie, Head Greenkeeper, Wentworth Golf Club.

Alistair Connell, the section’s new chairman for 1992, presented Cecil George with crystal glass on behalf of the section, whilst congratulating him on his recent retirement. Cecil is one of the few characters left in greenkeeping, as anyone who has ever attended any meeting he has chaired will vouch, for not only has he been a great stalwart of the West Section but also to greenkeeping in general. He has served on the BIGGA Education Committee and quite recently was involved in the organising of the new HNC courses for greenkeepers.

I would point out to you all that despite Cecil’s immense involvement in the Association, there is no truth in the rumour that he arrived back on Friday evening in the gentlemen’s bar to discuss with the committee how difficult the week had been! Cecil did not ‘get where he is today’ without doing his fair share of hard graft, especially in trying to drain Lenzie over the past 37 years! On behalf of Cecil’s many friends exiled in the South, Jim McKenzie presented a further gift to him.

Lectures for greenkeepers and students at Langside College Horticultural Dept. have been arranged as follows:

- 14th January: Kenny Hunter (Frews Grass Machinery) on Machinery for the Golf Course.
- 13th February: Robert D Bruce (Stewart & Company) on Turf Manufacture and Production.

All lectures will commence at 2.15 pm at Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Glasgow.

Drew McKechnie, the new vice-chairman, arranged a games night at Claremont Bowling Club in December, claiming that if successful there is no reason why more of the same cannot be organised in the coming months.

As can be seen from this report, the West Section committee has been working hard on your behalf and ask for nothing more than your unswerving support. Happy New Year to you all.

GORDON KERR

EAST ANGLIA

Our AGM on November 13th at Bury St Edmunds GC was well supported and ran fairly smoothly until someone decided to reduce the size of Norfolk! He was over-rulled because Norfolk has always been ‘that big’ and as he was a fellow ‘for- eigner’, he didn’t have a vote anyway!

Most of the officers who were elected en-bloc, the exceptions being our faithful president of many years, John Moe, who has been replaced by Ernie Hart. We wish John well and thank him for all the hard work he did for us, especially in the early years. I am sure Ernie will carry on in the same vein.

Our new vice president is big Bobby Chesham, who is also vice chairman (how many more vices has he got?), and our chairman is again the evergreen Sam Sylvester, who is also the treasurer. We’ve got more double acts than the Crazy Gang and come to think of it, we are the Crazy Gang. Our secretary is Mike Peters and the handicap secretary is Steve Freestone, a man it is wise to keep in with!

The scribe, yours truly, tried to lose his job by being late, but it didn’t work.

DIARY DATES FOR 1992:
- April 22nd, Burgay GC, Iseki Qualifier. June 3rd, Iseki Regional at Chelmsford. August 9-12th, ICI/BIGGA National at Littlestone (accommo-

datation list from Sam.)

MICK LATHROPE

MID ANGLIA

though David White reported in December on the Autumn Meeting at Woburn, he was unaware that a competition within the competition was taking place, this being the final of the four-ball sponsored by Lodgeway Tractors. The event, now part of the rich history and lore of Mid Anglian golf, revealed Geoff Smith and Gerald Bruce as the eventual winners at the fifth extra hole, finally winning a fine battle waged against Ronan McKeen and Ken Bunting.

Our AGM took place recently, which was preceded by a lecture on Top Dressing given by Peter Jeford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. At the meeting, Geoff Smith, Ken Bunting and Les Wackeral all retired from office and we must thank them for all the work they have done for the section. John Wells was elected as chairman, Paul Lockett as vice-chairman, Chris Brook as match secretary, Gerald Bruce as secretary and Richard Saunders joins the committee. We offer a warm welcome to all.

The committee have decided that to aid in the smooth running of our golf competitions we will issue entry forms for each event. I know that the match secretary will be overjoyed when he receives entries from at least two weeks before the competition, as opposed to a frantic ‘phone call 24 hours prior to tee off! If you haven’t already had these forms, they will soon be dropping through your letter box.

To golf again now, with hot-off-the-press results of the Christmas Turkey Trot held at South Beds GC: WINNING TEAM: J Champion, J Norman, C Midgley and P Robertson (winners of Sta-Brite Turkey Vouchers). SECOND: P Robinson, E O’Hanlon, J Marvel and F Marvel. THIRD: J Wells, C Brook, C Snell and C Apery. Nearest the Pin was won by Stuart Boyes, who rode away with a mountain bike presented by Kingston House Mowers!

Finally, may I remind all section members that subscriptions are due and you know how much the staff at Aldwick HQ like receiving your cheques... so if you haven’t yet done so, pop your cheque in the post, you know it’s worth it. A happy New Year to you all.

GERALD BRUCE
Scientific assessment of climate change notes that the world is indeed getting warmer. Taking to one side the reasons why, IAN BARRIE and DAVID HEMSTOCK consider the implications for the greenkeeper and the necessary changes for golf course irrigation.

Few of the world’s climatologists would now disagree that our Earth is warmer than it was 150 years ago – and that the trend is still upwards (see figure 1). The 1980s set several world records for the warmest years over the past couple of centuries. However, the cause of this global warming is still the subject of intense debate amongst scientists. Some consider that it is little more than a continuing recovery from the Little Ice Age, which affected Europe in the 16th and 17th Centuries, whilst others argue that it is principally the cause of mankind upsetting the natural chemical balance of the atmosphere by releasing vast quantities of carbon monoxide and other greenhouse gasses, such as CFCs and methane.

Rainfall records display a greater level of variability than those of temperature and accordingly it is harder to identify any trends, either by region or globally. At this stage it would be not be fair to say that just because the UK and large areas of mainland Europe have had three consecutive dry summers that this is due to global warming.

Whatever the outcome of the scientific debate, those among us who have to plan for the longer term must consider the implications for a warmer world in the future. One of the best ways to do this is to look back and assess the irrigation need for past years before going on to speculate on the consequences for the future.

Assessing irrigation need

Over the past few years a new method of assessing irrigation need has been developed. Put simply, it involves calculating (from weather records) the daily evaporation losses from a turfed surface, this loss then being balanced against daily records of local rainfall. As the ‘soil’ dries out there will come a point when irrigation is required.

An example of this would be to say that on successive dry days the evaporation losses were 2.5mm, so after three days this moisture deficit would be 7.5mm. Therefore the follow-
ing day, when the deficit reached 10mm, would be a good time to apply, say, 5mm of irrigation. In short, 5mm of irrigation was applied when the moisture deficit reached 10mm. Now follow this plan day in day out for 25 years and you should have a pretty good idea of not only the average water use, but also the water need in hot dry months and seasons.

Luckily our computer does most of these calculations for us, as it is linked directly into the Met Office's computer.

A strategic irrigation plan
A plan similar to the one described above can be formulated for each area of the course, and indeed was formulated for a typical course in the South East of England. For example, applications of 5mm at a moisture deficit of 10mm may be suitable for most tees and greens, but with deeper rooting on surrounds a moisture deficit of 20mm would be reasonable, whilst if fairways have to be irrigated a moisture deficit of 40mm could be allowed before moisture stress became serious.

Estates of seasonal irrigation need
From year to year both evaporation and rainfall rates will vary, with the variation in rainfall being the greater. In SE England, summer rainfall (ie. April to September) has been as low as 185mm (1990) and as high as 500mm (1968).

The effect on the calculated irrigation need is dramatic Figure 2 shows the total seasonal need over the period from 1966 to 1990. For a long time 1976 stood out as a freak year, with irrigation near double the long term average. However, 1898 and 1990 have cast a new light on the situation which has risen three times in 25 years.

Using typical acreages for tees, greens and fairways, a similar calculation reveals that if fairways are also to be irrigated then the average irrigation need would have been 12,000 cubic metres against the 3,100 cubic metres needed for tees and greens alone. In a dry season the numbers would be smaller, but also the water need in hot dry months and seasons. The more novel forms of irrigation which have been the subject of much discussion would also have a role to play.

Peak irrigation demand
A necessary planning value for the sizing of pumps, pipes and reservoirs is the maximum short period - or peak - irrigation demand. In the chosen example this occurred in July 1990, when tees, greens and fairways would have needed 15,200 cubic metres. Figure 3 illustrates the difference between this peak and the average monthly demand. Roughly speaking, peak rates are double the average.

A plan for the future?
Please accept that neither crystal balls nor seaweed will produce the information needed to form a sensible plan for the future! Scientifically, it is also clear that if temperatures continue to rise then evaporation rates will also increase. If this is accompanied by a reduction in summer rainfall then the need for irrigation will rise markedly. At our disposal is a range of options which will help redress the balance.

Specific sowing of drought tolerant species is a sound first step. This would allow an increase in the moisture deficit at which irrigation is applied. If irrigation was applied at a deficit of 15mm, rather than the 10mm taken previously, in an average year a water saving of 15% would result. If a deficit of 20% could be allowed then the saving increases to 25%. Logically, in a wet year the savings would be larger.

More obviously, superior design and operation of an irrigation system reduces the amount of wastage due to overlap areas, uneven application and wind drift. The more novel forms of irrigation which have been the subject of much discussion would also have a role to play.

The wider picture
Realistically all the above has to be set in a global picture. It cannot be overstressed that we must consider ourselves an integral part of the world as a whole. If the gloomier forecasts are proved right - that the world warms by 2 degrees centigrade and sea levels rise by 50cms or more - then London and half the coastal cities in the world will be under sea water; drinking water will be in short supply and famine will be on an unprecedented scale.

This argues strongly for the type of actions which will hopefully be agreed at the Earth Summit Meeting in Brazil this year. They will call for large scale forest planting, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and more efficient use of energy. Only the very brave - or the very foolish - would totally ignore the signals which have been evident over the past few years.

The managers of golf courses will have their part to play along with everyone else and a more efficient water use management policy will be as important as any.
**COMING UP**

**January 14th:** STRI North of England Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Ashkan Bryan College, York.

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

**February 4th:** STRI Irish Seminar – As January 14th – Milltown GC, Dublin.

**February 10th-17th:** GCSAA Exhibition and Convention – New Orleans USA.

**March 24th-26th:** BISGAM (Sports Council) Conference and Exhibition – National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

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

**April 8th:** BIGGA Annual General Meeting, The Royal York Hotel, York.

**April 23rd-26th:** The World of Golf, Olympia, London.

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

**June 3rd-4th:** Landscape Industries ’92.

**NORTH WALES**

First may I wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year, with the hope that you have all recovered from the festivities by now! My wife and I extend thanks to the staff at HQ for the support (and the flowers) which followed our recent car accident. Thankfully, everyone is now well on the mend.

The November lectures had a reasonable attendance and our thanks to those who responded to the call; with a question for the rest: where were they?

Speakers were Stuart Pieron on COSHH, Tony Gush on Fuels and Gordon Wright on Ecology on our Golf Course. To them we extend our thanks for their time and effort in supporting our section. We are working on one more lecture this winter, covering the subject of Practical Welding, and I’ll keep you all posted on this one, which should prove most interesting.

The Christmas Golf Day at Abergele & Pensarn GC was a tremendous success with over 70 players turning out. RESULTS: 1st Stuart Adams 35 points (winner of the Bruera Shield). 2nd Terry Adamson 34 points, Guest – Paul Pearce. Special thanks to sponsors Bruera, Turf Mech, Richard Campey, Walkers, Gem, Cheshire Light Tractors, Fletcher Stewart, Martin Brothers, Hunters of Chester and Monmeersteg and most grateful thanks especially to Abergele & Pensarn GC, who at the eleventh hour took such a greenkeeper invasion!

Finally, I know all our members will join with me in wishing Cliff Lunt, formerly of Vicars Cross GC, all the best on his retirement, albeit a little early.

**MARK PROCTOR**

**EAST OF ENGLAND**

What a glorious day we picked for our Lambs Festival in October, with the course at Burghley Park like a green carpet and manicured to perfection – as usual – by David and his team. A gathering of twenty four players returned some excellent scores, and I suppose that when you prepare the course to your liking, you are allowed to win. And that was how it happened, with David Salisbury returning 41 points to retain the trophy once again. Tied in second place with 37 points were C MacDonald, G Dolan and F Cobb. Prizes were donated by our generous sponsors, Robin Lamb and Colin Sangster, and we were delighted that they both joined us for an excellent meal in the clubhouse. Our thanks also to our other friends in the trade, who also joined us and gen-

**SOUTH WEST**

The morning dawned fair and frosty for our Autumn Tournament at Tracy Park, with play accordingly starting on temporary greens. But... let’s hear it for Steve, for after the first few holes members of his staff appeared – as if by magic – and most of the pins were replaced. Maxwell Hart have adopted this tournament from 1991 and thanks to their generosity the prize table was bursting at the seams.

My playing partner, James Taylor from Tall Pines, was finding the mix of greens to his liking, firing six birdies in a round of 67 gross (or 41 points). Not quite good enough, however, for a protege of mine – Philip Newton from Lilley Brook – came in with the best score of 43 points off a highly dubious 28 handicap. Philip is an extremely likeable young man who has been in greenkeeping and playing golf for just under two years.

**THE FULL RESULTS:** Philip Newton (Lilley Brook GC) 43 points and winner of the Maxwell Hart Trophy. Division 1: 1st, J Taylor (Tall Pines GC) 41 points. 2nd, C Fudge (Tracy Park GC) 39, 3rd, M Gray (Clevedon GC) 37. Division 2: 1st, J Leigh (Henbury GC) 35 points. 2nd, S Earl (Chipping Sudborough GC) 34. 3rd, R Wellman (Lyme Regis GC) 34.

Many thanks to Maxwell Hart and Sta-Brite Supplies for the prizes, to Tracy Park for their hospitality and to Steve Francom and his staff for preparing such an excellent course upon which to play.

The latter part of the day was given over to Colin Pryce and his Terralift for a very informative and interesting couple of hours, giving us a full insight into how this versatile machine can help with the maintenance of greens and tees etc., and also how it can be adapted to maintain and improve the health of trees.

Colin’s talk was followed by our AGM, with Bob Gates formally retiring from the Chair after some 22 years! Bob, who built up the section from virtually nothing to its present lofty heights, was presented with an inscribed crystal vase by Ivor Scoones, who also paid tribute to Bobs’ great efforts to further the cause of greenkeepers and greenkeeping.

Elected Officers: CHAIRMAN – J York, VICE CHAIRMAN: P Cox, SECRETARY: P Worster, MATCH CAPTAIN: K Millar, REGIONAL BOARD: I Scoones & R Williams. Also elected to serve on the committee was S Earl, with David Davers elected to the college committee at Cannington.


A full list giving details etc., sponsored by T H Waite, will be circulated soon.

At the meeting it was decided that all players participating in team events will be required to stay at the host club as accommodation. It was also stressed that the most important event in the calendar is WESTURF ’92 and that all members should make an effort to attend.

Finally I would like to wish all members a happy New Year and good greenkeeping for 1992.

**PAUL WORSTER**

**AROUND THE GREEN**

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Trade Show – National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.
A meal of culinary delight followed, with Roger Bowles of Rigby Taylor presenting the hard earned trophy to the victorious couple and splendid prizes to the worthy runners-up. Credit must first go to Rigby Taylor for generous sponsorship, and to Frilford Heath for their kindness in letting this final be held on their fine course, the superb condition of which is a huge credit to Dave Heads and his staff.

(Editors note - BB&O members will enjoy reading the unabridged shot by shot version of Bob Woodward's match report in their own section publication. Space limitations here, however, result in this story being severely condensed.)

Do you all agree that golf over the past season has been the best organised for many a long time, a fact reflected in huge turn-outs. For this our thanks to the committee and to Bob Woodward in particular. As a rider to all this may I warn members that it is now essential to return entry forms promptly, as we are having to turn players away. Entries work on a very strict first-come-first-served basis. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

My thanks to Bob Woodward for the above report on the Rigby Taylor Four-Ball Trophy Final.

RAY CLARK

GUILDFORD

Guildford GC hosted our final golf event of the season, the Turkey Trot. After a count-back the results were: 1st: M Todd 38 points, 2nd: M Kirkham 36, 3rd R Tydeman 36. Veterans Cup: A Armitage 32, Trade prize: H Wilson 37. Due to late entry some players completed their rounds in near darkness, the smell of cooking finally guiding them to the clubhouse where an excellent meal was served. Our thanks to Guildford GC for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to Robert Denning and his staff for their course presentation.

Our AGM followed, at which Phil Baldock stepped down from the chair due to his impenetrable handicap, but the sonning pair were undaunted and by combining well came from behind to be one up with two to play. The 17th was halved in uncharacteristic fours, and the stage seemed set for a Sonning victory. But we all know nothing is certain in golf, for the 18th all square. Deadlock was broken with Thompson chipping in from greenside for a 3, leaving Lee Edwards a 20 footer to halve the match, but it was not to be and Dave and Andy were the winners.

The second semi-final was altogether a different story, when an amazing game of golf unfolded. Teixeira and Buckley were three up after ten — with monster putts being holed from near darkness, the smell of cooking finally guiding them to the clubhouse where an excellent meal was served. Our thanks to Guildford GC for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to Robert Denning and his staff for their course presentation.

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playing conditions. Additionally, to the trade members for donations to the prize table and especially to B. Booth of Rigby Taylor for the excellent crystal glasses etc. At this point we must give an extra special mention to the catering staff Andrews. Our competition to send greenkeepers V Vice Chairman match over the new course at Wortley GC, who did us so proud with a six best wishes extended for his new job at St Letham Grange. Amidst tales of bribery and nobbling, chairman Dougald Guguid accepted defeat and presented B. Sam Morrison with the trophy, which we sincerely hope will become an annual award. Our thanks to Jim Grainger and his staff at Letham for the condition of the course.

Following a lovely meal the AGM took place, with a main issue being the resignation of Gordon Moir from the secretariat, and of yours truly taking his place! There followed a presentation to Gordon in gratitude for all his hard work, with best wishes extended for his new job at St Andrews. Our competition to send greenkeepers on educational trips resulted in Gordon McKie and George Patterson of Fortrose each winning a happy New Year everybody, and a special welcome to all new members in the North West.

NORTH SCOTLAND

Our section AGM took place on November 26th at Letham Grange GC, the day starting with a very interesting talk given by a representative from Modern Maintenance Products. Twenty eight hardly souls then played golf in a Chairman V Vice Chairman match over the new course at Letham Grange. Amidst tales of bribery and nobbling, chairman Dougald Guguid accepted defeat and presented B. Sam Morrison with the trophy, which we sincerely hope will become an annual award. Our thanks to Jim Grainger and his staff at Letham for the condition of the course.

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