canisters should be rinsed thoroughly and stored in a secure, designated storage bin awaiting proper disposal.

In certain cases the HSE recommends the use of closed transfer systems for moving undiluted pesticides into the sprayer tank. Equipment to ensure the safe transfer of chemicals is now available from most of the leading manufacturers and from ancillary suppliers.

The Chemical Transfer and Rinse from Martin Lishman is fitted easily to the sprayer tank. It consists of a bowl over which the inverted container is placed. Pressing down on the container forces a spear through the bowl through the foil seal on the container. Following the emptying of its contents, the container is rinsed automatically ready for safe disposal. Costing £185, the device can be fitted with a partial measure cap to allow part emptying of containers.

A chemical induction bowl with integral rinsing probe is available on Hardi's amenity sprayers covering tractor-mounted, trailed and de-mountable models from 200 to 800 litre capacity. Developed from its agricultural sprayer range, the 25 litre hopper includes a measuring scale and has a wash-down ring to rinse all residues from the walls of the hopper. The rinsing device has a multi-nozzle head over which the empty container is placed for a thorough rinsing, with washings going into the tank for safe disposal.

For anyone in doubt, advice on safe, correct disposal of empty containers can be obtained from the environmental health department of their local authority or the HSE. The law lays down a number of specific requirements regarding pesticide stores. Although it can be a separate structure or be situated within an existing building, in every case it must be:

- Suitably sized
- of adequate capacity and construction
- designed to hold spillage
- properly lit and ventilated
- resistant against fire and frost
- designed to allow containers to be safely stacked and removed
- clearly identified with a cautionary warning sign
- kept locked except when in use.

One of the latest entrants to the purpose-built chemical store market is Go-Store, offering a range of free-standing walk-in units suitable for use outside or inside an existing building. All incorporate heavy-duty shelving, a 9 litre spillage retention sill, ventilation, thermostatically-controlled frost protection, lighting and high security locking. Typical price for a store measuring 8' x 6'3" x 6'3" is in the region of £1550. Smaller units are offered by Portasilo. Its 'ChemVaults' are totally waterproof and include ventilation, spillage retention and high security multi-point locks. A check list is required of all pesticides kept in the chemical store and this should be compiled and kept safely close at hand - but not in the store.

Health and Safety Executive guidelines say that greenkeepers should avoid storing more pesticides than are necessary and that a system of stock rotation be employed to ensure that older stocks are used first. Provided correct measures are taken, there should be little or no diluted liquid remaining in the sprayer's tank after treatment has been completed. However, there will be a low concentration of pesticide in the first rinsings from the tank which will need safe disposal. This can be applied to the turf provided there is no conflict with any previous treatment and they are within the label directions. Alternatively, the rinsing water can be combined with a fresh batch of diluted pesticide for spraying on another part of the course.

If neither of these alternatives is suitable or acceptable, operators should seek advice from the environmental health department of the local authority, the HSE, or the chemical supplier. Automatic tank cleaning devices are recommended as an alternative to the hand held hose and scrubbing brush.

Nozzle specialist Lurmark has extended its Tankclean range with a new wash jet giving twice the flow rate of its stable-mate. Suitable for large capacity tanks and where thorough cleansing is vital to avoid chemical cross-contamination, the new unit offers a maximum water throughput of 109 litres/min at 3bar pressure. The unit is designed for permanent fixing through the top or lid of the sprayer tank, and uses a cluster of cone jets to cover the complete inside of the tank. It costs about £60.

Guidance on safe chemical handling and disposal can be found in "The Code of Practice for the safe use of approved pesticides in amenity and industrial areas" This publication, available from BIGGA HQ at £12 post inclusive, gives advice on meeting the two principal regulations covering the use of pesticides. The most recent of these, entering the statute books in 1988, is the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations (COSHH). These lay down the essential requirements and clear procedures for the control of hazardous substances and the protection of anyone exposed to them. Under the regulations, employers are obliged to carry out a COSHH assessment to identify the possible risks to health on their premises and the precautions that will need to be taken to minimise or eliminate them.

Guidance is available from the local authority or HSE regarding compliance with COSHH and carrying out a risk assessment on your course. This spring, the HSE plans to produce a guide to the essentials of health and safety relating specifically to golf courses. The guide will encompass every working practice likely to be encountered and provide practical guidance on identifying, reducing and eliminating risks to employees and others. In the meantime, there is a comprehensive range of free leaflets and booklets currently available from the HSE relating to health and safety at work. Information and literature on these publications can be obtained from the HSE on any of the following numbers: 071 2210870 (London); 0742 752539 (Sheffield); 051 9514381 (Merseyside) or from BIGGA HQ.
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Almost a year has passed since our last National Education Conference, held in March at Cirencester College. Time enough to forget perhaps, yet whenever greenkeepers congealed throughout the year, conversation centred around the highly effective 'mix and match' presentations, greenkeepers and agronomists sharing the limelight at Cirencester in equal numbers, one learning from the other. The fifth conference, to be staged at Keele University, Staffordshire on 26-28 March, will again field a galaxy of international turfgrass specialists alongside our own increasingly international home grown talent. It remains the one conference that greenkeepers should not miss, for though the essence of any education conference is learning, the BIGGA National Education Conference is as much one of learning through conversation, discussion, friendly argument and social intercourse. Why shouldn't education be fun - be there!

Speaker Profiles

**Noel Jackson**, a native of Yorkshire, attended Northallerton Grammar School and the University of Durham, Kings College, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he gained an honours degree in Agricultural Botany and later a Ph.D. in Agronomy. From 1958 to 1965 Dr. Jackson was employed as a biologist at the STRI, where he established his interest in turf management, particularly in turfgrass diseases. In 1965 Dr. Jackson joined the faculty at The University of Rhode Island as assistant professor in Plant Pathology and is he is now a professor at that institution. The position involves teaching, research and extension duties in the area of turf, trees and woody ornamental diseases. Over the past 27 years, Dr. Jackson has worked closely with professional growers (sod farmers, golf superintendents, nurserymen and landscapers) and with homeowners to ascertain and teach reading exercise, rather an ad-libbing explanation (illustrated with slides) of the greenkeeping problems encountered in Switzerland with ice and snow and the damage that can be caused to trees by heavy snowfalls. He promises that his presentation will not portray mere doom and gloom, though he'll follow this with explanations of other problems encountered at Lausanne, these being badly constructed greens and other intrinsic design faults: collapsed drainage, flooding, and rooting difficulties. He'll lift the tempo to a final high by describing the installation of a new drainage system and show the course at its prime, one which has hosted the European Amateur Championships, the World Amateur Championships and the European Seniors Championships whilst now being a regular venue on the PGA European Tour. Ian, whose career began as an apprentice at Scarcroft in 1976, has tended the course at Lausanne since 1984, prior to which he was at Moor Allerton in Leeds.

**Gary Grigg**, GCGS, will discuss 'Current and future issues in golf course management', a subject close to his heart. Gary became superintendent at Naples National Golf Club, Naples, Florida, earlier last year, following extensive experience in the construction, grow-in and maintenance of several fine clubs throughout the country. He holds a Bachelors degree in entomology from Utah State University and a Masters degree in agronomy from Michigan State University. Gary has attended many GCSAA seminars and has been a member of many committees including the certification, scholarship and research, nominating, fund-raising, seminar planning and building committees. He is a member of the Everglades GCSA, Heart of America GCSC and the Florida GCSA. Gary belongs to several allied associations including the Florida Turfgrass Association, the Texas Turfgrass Association and the Southwest Turfgrass Association, over which he presided as president in 1981. He is also a member of the Florida Conservation Association. Gary has been a member of GCSAA for 22 years, is currently on the Board of Directors and serves on the finance, future education and conference planning committees.

**Anthony Davies**, pencil slim and athletic, is often seen pounding the pavement in his quest for fitness as a long distance runner, though he is perhaps better known to BIGGA members as the 1990 'ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year' than as a competitor in the London Marathon. The ICI accolade was by no means Anthony's first claim to fame, however, for college peers voted him 'Top Student' during his final Phase IV year of City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management and he has always been an education buff, holding a diploma in Turf Culture and the National Examination Board's certificate in Supervisory Management. For some 15 years Anthony has worked in the profession he loves, beginning his career in 1978 at the Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club and now at Prestbury Golf Club in Cheshire, where for the past four years he has been the club's course manager. Anthony is regarded as something of a progressive, and his presentation at Keele will centre around the way he engineered the change from old to new at Prestbury, under the beguiling title of 'Right or wrong - I did it my way'.

**Ian Tomlinson**, course manager at Lausanne Golf Club in Switzerland and vice-president of the Swiss Greenkeepers Association, wrote telling us about his presentation, 'The problems associated with maintaining a golf course at 2800 feet altitude in Switzerland', suggesting that it will be no ordinary paper reading exercise, rather an ad-libbing explanation (illustrated with slides) of the greenkeeping problems encountered in Switzerland with ice and snow and the damage that can be caused to trees by heavy snowfalls. He promises that his presentation will not portray mere doom and gloom, though he'll follow this with explanations of other problems encountered at Lausanne, these being badly constructed greens and other intrinsic design faults: collapsed drainage, flooding, and rooting difficulties. He'll lift the tempo to a final high by describing the installation of a new drainage system and show the course at its prime, one which has hosted the European Amateur Championships, the World Amateur Championships and the European Seniors Championships whilst now being a regular venue on the PGA European Tour. Ian, whose career began as an apprentice at Scarcroft in 1976, has tended the course at Lausanne since 1984, prior to which he was at Moor Allerton in Leeds.
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ith the forthcoming publication of the R&A's Joint Golf Course Committee's specification for recommended methods of constructing putting greens, based on three alternatives, with no compromising mixing from one to another, the whole vexed question of soil analyses re-emerges.

There is no point in setting out standards controlling the materials to be used unless those materials are readily available and their quality can be checked by reliable analysis against the stated criteria. Equally, it is pointless exercise if analyses take so long that the start of construction would be seriously delayed; if the results were so erratic or illogical that no one could trust them, or if the cost were so high as to prohibit their use in any save very expensive contracts.

The sad fact is there is absolutely no consistency between the results of physical analyses on the same material when analysed by different laboratories.

To be believed, results must be believable! Illogical results, which cannot be either defended or repeated, bring the whole system into disrepute. This problem is by no means confined to laboratories in Britain — nor indeed in Europe. If the USGA Green Section claims that it can rely on only a bare handful of soil laboratories throughout the length and breadth of the States to report consistently accurate results, even when they are working to published standard methods of analysis, we are unlikely to be any better here, more especially because work on standard methods of analysis is by no means complete — and furthermore even when it is it will harm a great deal that many more of these analyses are not peer reviewed and stipulated by one lab. will be disputed by others.

Matters have come to a pretty pass when check samples sent to a number of laboratories are returned not just with mild variations, but unbelievable ones! In one recent and obviously anonymous case, samples were analysed three times, the first time having results being so wildly 'out' that they could not be believed and the last, not much better, was sent back in desperation at the delays together with a huge bill (which was never paid) showing variations on the same sample of over 3000%! In another equally well authenticated case, showing quite illogical and indefensible results, the suggestion was made that the first (illogical) report was scrapped and a new start made — presumably analysing again and again until the desired or expected figures turn up. This may be dismissed as teething troubles, to be overlooked by those who know what they are talking about, but it is much more serious than that. In our increasingly litigious society, any dispute capable of being settled a decade ago by getting round a table or knocking heads together goes with minimum delay to the lawyers, who have never been known to suffer from any inability to make decisions, however little they may know about the technicalities.

It is a far from fanciful possibility for a contractor and/or architect to be sued for supplying unsuitable material in a golf course construction contract, based on soil analyses of samples sent to a given laboratory by the dissatisfied employer. Then fresh batches of the same material are sent to another laboratory — or worse still, to the first one which then show satisfactory figures. Aggrieved parties will take the view that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander and the first laboratory, in an indefensible position, can at best hope to settle out of court for a million or more!

How then have we managed before? Simply because most of those at all levels building golf courses up to the last few years before the advent of American inspired extravaganzas, knew good materials from bad, could judge suitability by 'finger and thumb' methods and knew where reliable materials could be found — materials previously analysed on simple chemical and physical standards, which dealt with such uncomplicated but still important values as 

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pH \text{ as well as low phosphate levels (high levels are inimical to fine turf).}
\]

This meant that they knew where the best materials — previously checked and of consistent reli- able quality — could be found, which avoided costly delays. If they did not have that ability themselves 'they knew a man who did.'

Today we are faced with an increasing number of people at all levels, employers, contractors and even architects, who have no clue as to what is good or bad and who rely on irrelevant standards (more suitable for hot arid or tropical zones than for northern European temperate site conditions). As a result they need and demand rigid guide lines. This leads to confusion, extra costs, delays and often disaster. As an example, the specification for the sand to be used on one of those famous links, show 1500 ppm of phosphate, ever? (pH figures when links greens can show 8.0 and more and heathland turf below 4.0. Attempts to 'manipulate' soil nutritional levels to meet the material bulk-mixed centrally on site, clearly it is the analysis technique which is to blame. The one is equivalent to a concrete slab and the other a capital brain — i.e. indefensible and illogical!

There is no point in drawing up detailed specifications and in laying down performance criteria if these cannot be checked speedily and cheaply by reliable analysis. There have been too many cases of wild and inexplicable variations in the results on the same samples sent to different laboratories, for anyone to be able to have any faith in them. The first step must be to lay down methods which must be followed and then to check on all the laboratories offering soil analysis services. I venture to suggest that it will be a long time before laboratories can be trusted to produce consistently logically believable and reliable physical soil analyses. (Chemical ones are no problem but are limited use) and if they want to prove me wrong, let them offer to demonstrate and compete with each other for veracity if not cost. Because, believe me, when laboratories demand £150 or thereabouts per sample and we may need scores of samples before the best materials are identified, then we are talking money — and the national golfing body which should be the regulator have not thought, it would seem, about financing their recommendations or actions, e.g. in checking and comparing soil laboratories.

So where is this likely to lead us? Frankly, I can see little real value to any reasonably experienced and educated adviser in using soil analyses except to check on their own results and to report any differences to the laboratories to which I have never been given any (let alone a satisfactory) reply by soil chemists, fertiliser salesmen, or even most advisors is 'at what level of phosphate should it be? do we apply any phosphates? What? Pleas that these pundits should consult the enormous bibliography on this subject, starting with Dr. Murray in 1903 in South Africa (who first reported any phosphates) . . . or who. (to which I have never been given any) for a contractor and/or architect to be sued for supplying unsuitable material in a golf course construction contract, based on soil analyses of samples sent to a given laboratory by the dissatisfied employer. Then fresh batches of the same material are sent to another laboratory — or worse still, to the first one which then show satisfactory figures. Aggrieved parties will take the view that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander and the first laboratory, in an indefensible position, can at best hope to settle out of court for a million or more!

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You do not need soil analyses to very modest demands of finer tears. Built - and my opinions on raw materials from different (and even the same) sources is it all too clear that we have a long way to go before any reliance can be placed on the results.

My advice is to keep your hands in your pockets (analyses are very expensive) and let the grass tell you what to do. Rubbing a soil sample between finger and thumb is, I regret, a far more accurate way of analysing than taking it to many testing laboratories.

The secret is to follow austere greenkeeping: minimal fertiliser and nitrogen only, strictly controlled irrigation; intensive deep aeration and the use of compatible top dressings to the existing root zone. Then, as night follows day, you will succeed in proving that you do not have to live with annual mushroom grass; though it may take time if you are combating years of previous mismanagement. Frankly you do not need soil analyses to implement such a programme.

There is a parting message, let me recount a story with a warning. Some years ago, in the West Country, a new course was being built - and my opinions on raw materials grew. This ideal sand grew

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will reporters please note that Around The Green copy for April must reach the editor on or before March 1st.

SUSSEX

Without doubt the most enjoyable golf day of the year saw us at our usual stamping ground, Littlehampton GC, for our Christmas Turkey Trot. What is considered our premier meeting was endorsed by the excellent turn-out of nearly sixty greenkeepers and guests, many thanks.

For the second year running play was in the highly enjoyable Texas Scramble format, with teams of four bunting over a very well presented course, especially when taking consideration of the 'slightly' wet weather of late. Our heartfelt thanks to Dave Wood and his team for working so hard over the past weeks in 'claiming back' the course - not only from the English Channel but from the five-seam! While the festivities were in progress, the annual long putts competition was won by Tony Barr; C Allan; R Hughes and B Wilmot, with longest drives won by the 'pluggers', S Shelpford and P Ray.

Special thanks must go to Littlehampton GC for their hospitality yet again and to the catering staff for a superb meal, also to George Barr as MC (or stand-up comic?) and to all who attended this most enjoyable day. I'm sure the section would like to wish both Raymond Day and Dennis Ayling all the very best in their new appointments at Sundridge Park and Rowlands Castle respectively, also to Nick Beadle, who is 'in-between' courses at present. Finally, congratulations to Leigh Bennett and his wife on the birth of Rosie.

MARK WILTON

DEVON & CORNWALL

Seventy nine members and trade guests attended our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 9 December, which was again held at Okehampton GC. Richard Washington and his staff had the course in excellent playing order for our Greensome competition for the PJ Fleeg trophy. Our non-competitive 'entrechat' walk before lunch, this highlighted with an inspection of the two new greens under construction. After an excellent Christmas dinner we were entertained by the superb 'Tank Sherman'.

Our thanks to Jerry Fleeg for presenting the golf prizes to M.Shoobridge & P.Bond (Sidmouth) 42pts (1st). A.James & A.Ramsden (Budock Vale) 40pts (2nd). A.Hayes (Ches Flee) & R.Hughes (St Mellion) 38pts (3rd).

Our thanks to Patrick for both donating and presenting the golf prizes and to our president Don Hunt for supplying the wine at dinner. Our raffles concluded the day with the first draw, which Hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrews, won by two of our Cornish members, J Stevens and J Mitchell. The second raffle was for the prizes kindly donated by members and the trade. The section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton GC for once again allowing us the use of their facilities.

Our best wishes to Peter Winter, formerly with Fisons, as he embarks on his new career.

Dates for your diary: February meeting on Wed. 24 at Perranporth GC. March meeting on Wed. 24 at Woodbury Park GC. WESTURF Trade Show on Wed. 28 April at Long Ashton GC.

RICHARD WHYMANN

SURREY

Effingham GC hosted our final golf event of 1992 on 10 December on a course that was a credit to Peter Broadbent and his staff. Scoring was good with Brian Eastman 'stuffing' the rest and taking the turkey with 41 points. Thanks as ever to the Effingham club for their excellent hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Following prize presentations the AGM was held and in his chairman's report, Terry Hutny announced that 1992 had been a good year for the Surrey section with winter lectures and golf events very well attended. In addition, despite the generous donation of £1000 to the Surrey Junior Golf Foundation, the section was made virtually self-supportive. Darlington GC should be very proud of 'their' man - good luck in the future, lan.

Our December meeting took the form of a quiz - Clevedon BIGGA v Teenie log - sponsored by TurfCare of Co. Durham and chaired most ably by quiz-master Terry Charlton, TurfCare's managing director. The quiz victors were the log, though it could be said that the overall winner was the friendly atmosphere that pervaded throughout.

Congratulations to David Cook of Eaglescliffe GC on his FA2 sprayer test.

BRUCE BURNELL

SOUTH COAST

For the first time ever a section tournament had to be cancelled due to poor weather. After days of heavy rain, including the day itself, the December Turkey Trot was cancelled, with players stranded in the clubhouse. Fortunately the bar remained open and with cable TV and several video games available members still had

SCOTTISH REGION CONFERECE

on March 9th, 1993 at Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, 9am to 4pm

Speakers: Alasdair Wellwood, Roy Auld, John Philp, BIGGA's Education Officer David Golding, Eddie Connaughton, Jon Allibutt, Steven Miller from Oatridge College and Jim Grainger. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £10 BIGGA members, £12.50 non-members. The conference is sponsored by the Scottish Region patrons.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 31445

GRIEKENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL February 1993 35
KENT

Our Annual Turkey Trot was staged at West Malling GC and, as it turned out, happened to be 'turkey less'. Our gracious host did us proud with a fine roast beef carvery meal, a fine change with the Christmas festivities rapidly approaching. Many thanks to the committee, the clubhouse, Andy Arthur, who somehow managed to arrive on time, and Chris Mardon, and his staff for presenting the course to such a fine standard, especially as we have all had such a dreadful time this winter with the continual weather. Many of us shot admiring glances at Chris's rye, but as we all know the more you play, the better you play. So well as for the golf, not too serious as everybody went home with a prize on this occasion (for some of us the only time!). The winner and first pick of the assorted prizes went to Knoville Paul. But I hope all the players enjoyed themselves so well. As for the golf, not too serious as everybody went home with a prize on this occasion (for some of us the only time!). The winner and first pick of the assorted prizes went to Knoville Paul. But I hope all the players enjoyed themselves so well.

Our final winter lecture will be on Wednesday 3 March at Aldeburgh at 7.00pm. The venue is Aldestone GC and our speaker is Paul Baxter, deputy secretary of the English Golf Union. Mr Baxter will be talking on the R&A document, 'The Way Forward', which contains a number of proposals on the future of golf. This should prove a lively meeting and I would urge all members to support this winter finale.

BOB DENNIS

Our AGM was, for us, fairly well attended, with numbers topping the 30 mark, though this still only represented about 25% of our registered Kent members. David Wood outlined our activities over the past year, with John Davis of Kingston House, who additionally donated a trophy to be presented to the greenkeeper with the best scores in our 1993 spring, summer and autumn tournaments. The scramble itself was won by John's team of Mike Hughes and A Glyn-Davies, Ian Clark & S Proudfoot (Berkhamsted), A Beaton & G Bruce.

Our thanks to the committee of South Beds for allowing us to stage the competition and for the courtesy of their course, also to the steward for providing an excellent meal. In addition, our thanks to all members of the trade both for attending and donating prizes: Colin White (Bigga), David Hughes, secretary - D Cleaver. The AGM was very interesting and all the officers were re-elected.

Midlands

The Midland section held their Christmas Tournament on 7 December at Beau Desert GC, the course playing remarkably well considering the very wet weather. The event was won by Mike Hughes with a fine 39 points - we thank Beau Desert and their staff for a wonderful day. We would also like to thank the many people - individuals and companies - who have supported us through 1992.

Combined with our Christmas Tournament came the AGM. A good number of greenkeepers turned up, as usual, to present reports from their home turf. We had a record number of 50 members attending and attended by some fifty or so people. All went well and we welcome Rhys Thomas, Steve Blakeman and Brian Nutall to the committee. Remaining places are available.

The Midland section is chaired by Mr R Pugh,pager secretary - C Massey, treasurer - D Hughes, secretary - D Cleaver. The remaining committee - S Wood, P Woodward and I Betts.

DEAN CLEAVER

EAST ANGLIA

The Turkey Trot/AGM was held at Aldeburgh GC early in December when about 40 members attended and a good time was had by all.

The CMW turkey voucher was won by Peter Howard (37 pts) with Mike Moss (35 second). Andy Turbin won the longest drive and Alan Carter won nearest the pin.

The prizes were donated by CMW; Russellbrooks; Pattisons and Rigby Taylor. Our thanks to Aldeburgh GC for having us - it is an honour to be granted the use of such a lovely old clubhouse for our annual general meetings and we greatly appreciate it.

The AGM was very interesting and all the officers were re-elected.

I would like to record a big thank you to our chairman, Sam Sylvester, who does so much work for us in a style that is quite unique, coupled with endless patience. Sam Sylvester and Michael Peters are a grand double act and we would be in a mud-

What must you do to get on Bigga Minimum Wage Scale? I've got a mate who started greenkeeping as a 16 year old and served three years as an apprentice, followed by five years as a first assistant. He gained IOG exams (only exams available in 1967) and an EIGG Gold Diploma. For twenty years he's been a head greenkeeper and last year he managed for the first time to get minimum rate.

This year he's below minimum again, his club refuses to go for a 5% increase. He does his policy in the hope of getting a higher level, with regard to the strides BIGGA is making within the golf industry: the formulation of our greenkeeper image and how to improve it. Qualifi-

Paul Copsey

Our final golfing event of 1992 was held on 3 December at South Beds GC, the format being the now usual Texas Scramble. The event attracted 22 teams - 88 golfers in total - with teams comprising greenkeepers, trade members, guests and professionals. A Texas Scramble is an ideal competition to stage in December as it enables golfers of all abilities to take part in the fun - and it was great to see so many trade members 'having a go'. Most courses in the area were closed at this time so it was lucky that we could play at all. Fortunately, South Beds GC is situated on chalk and drains well. Thanks to all my staff for a wonderful day. We would also like to thank our annual general meetings and we greatly appreciate it.

That's it lads, so get qualified and keep listening.

MICK LATHROPE

Midlands

The Midland section held their Christmas Tournament on 7 December at Beau Desert GC, the course playing remarkably well considering the very wet weather. The event was won by Mike Hughes with a fine 39 points - we thank Beau Desert and their staff for a wonderful day. We would also like to thank the many people - individuals and companies - who have supported us through 1992.

Combined with our Christmas Tournament came the AGM. A good number of greenkeepers turned up, as usual, to present reports from their home turf. We had a record number of 50 members attending and attended by some fifty or so people. All went well and we welcome Rhys Thomas, Steve Blakeman and Brian Nutall to the committee. Remaining places are available.

The Midland section is chaired by Mr R Pugh, pager secretary - C Massey, treasurer - D Hughes, secretary - D Cleaver. The remaining committee - S Wood, P Woodward and I Betts.

DEAN CLEAVER
which considering the change of venue and at such short notice, was an excellent turn out - thanks for staff for an excellent meal. We had over 50 playing, busy building his ark, or was it a new garage?)

On 16 December last at Bury GC, John Hacker of Professional Sports turf Design gave 28 members a very interesting talk on 'Construction of British Golf Greens'. This was aided by a series of slides collected by John since his days as a tutor at Myerscough, showing the step by step construction of standard and sand greens and differing varieties of drainage systems. His talk generated many questions and talking points and made for a good educational evening. On behalf of the NW section I thank John for his time and expertise.

The first golf fixture of 1993 will be the North West versus North Wales match on Monday 26 April at Llanymynech GC. We will require a team of at least sixteen, so if you are interested in playing, please contact me on 051 724 5412, BERT CROSS.

In December we had an excellent day out when Richard Purves and Keith Millington (Mitchells) arranged a visit to the John Deere plant at Frickley. We were delighted when Nefyn GC offered us courtesy of their course.

The only news I have from the section is that 81 members are still holding onto the Iseki trophies - which means a loss of £400 to the section education fund. If members have not already asked to return tickets if they had no intention of selling them! Please give your committee and your section some support.

The annual prize draw was held also and our sincere thanks go to Leslie Walker, described by the chairman as 'my friend Ernie's beautiful daughter' (he had only met Ernie 30 minutes earlier!), who made the draw on our behalf. Thanks to everyone who donated to the prize table - eighteen prizes in all.

The prize draw is the largest fund-raiser for our section and we need your continuing support to continue this worthwhile venture. As you are all aware the Christmas golf was cancelled, due again to inclement weather. The AGM did however take place, though not too many members turned up for this. I do say to those who made the effort and voiced their opinions on various matters relevant to our section. I think the furthest travelled was George Elsom, all the way from Hull.

Our winter lecture series is now at the half way stage, May I thank Jeff Linley and his team from Na-Trel Products, who gave us an in-depth look at the way to fertilize through the use of soil and plant tissue analysis, also to John Hannah of Boral Lytag, who presented a very informative slide show on manufacturing of their products and showing the various uses of Boral Lytag material for drainage purposes.

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