Seventeen fascinating talks are lined up for the National Education Conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10.

Speakers include top greenkeepers from both sides of the Atlantic as well as leading consultants.

Subjects to be covered include 'Top Dressing Successfully' (by Professor Paul E Rieke of Michigan State University), 'Everything You Will Ever Need to Know About Annual Meadow Grass Control' (by Kevin Munt, course manager at Buckinghamshire Golf Club) and the 'Restoration and Conservation of a Links Golf Course' (by Philip Baldock, head greenkeeper at Royal Portrush).

Joseph Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will present a paper entitled 'Golf Course Management Now and In The Future'.

Other speakers include Master Greenkeepers Gordon Irvine and David Whitaker, soil expert Dr Bill Adams, and David Oatis, director of the USGA's north-eastern region's green section.

Entertainment includes a quiz night and a banquet with an after-dinner speech by Stan Taylor, a former submariner and Life President of the Comedians' Golf Society.

The price for BIGGA greenkeeper members is £188 including VAT, £164.50 for spouses. This includes accommodation and meals.

For further information call Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581.
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How you choose to use a John Deere Gator utility vehicle is entirely up to you.

For some, a Gator is meant to roam on the delicate turf of a golf course. Others view it as the ultimate caravan park vehicle. And there are those who believe it belongs in the muck and mud of a construction site.

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Both Gators feature a low centre of gravity for better stability, plus hefty payload and towing capacities. Wet disc brakes and rack-and-pinion steering contribute to their smooth and low-effort operation.

For more on the most versatile utility vehicle made today, see your local John Deere dealer.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE
Around the Green
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

CENTRAL SECTION
The final social event of 1993 was held on December 10, at Alloa Golf Club, when some 70 members and guests enjoyed a great night at the annual dinner/trophy presentation. Guest speaker Tim Wharton was in fine form, proving that football referees are human and that they do have a sense of humour.

The dinner was followed by a disco, which was enjoyed by everyone into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Our sincere thanks go to the committee, members and staff of Alloa Golf Club, for granting us the use of their facilities. Here's looking forward to this year's dinner and another great night's entertainment. Section Chairman, Jim Easton, has even promised to learn some new jokes, so this will be an event not to be missed.

For those of you who wish to gain points towards your Master Greenkeeper Certificate, remember that they can be gained by attending section educational events, so make it a dual gain by giving your committee some support for their efforts in organising lectures etc., and gain yourself those vital points.

A list of some of the section events should be in your possession by now, but just in case you have not received it yet, here is note of the earliest ones: Tuesday February 8, visit to Scottish Grass Machinery premises in Edinburgh; Tuesday March 25, revisit the Monarch's Course at Cleevegales and Tuesday April 26, Spring Tournament/Hayter Challenge qualifying event. Where entry forms are required please ensure that they are returned in plenty of time prior to the event.

To end this month's report on a disappointment note, 85 members have failed to return their allocation of prize draw tickets, valued at some £50, which is quite a loss to section funds.

JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH WALES
On Wednesday December 15, the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club played host to our Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting. The whole day was well attended, but some 36 hardy golfers endured the freezing cold and gale force winds to "do battle" for the Vitax Shield.

The course was in as excellent condition as ever, with the weather making for an even harsher test of winter conditions. A number of the golfers were in fine form, proving that football referees are human and that they do have a sense of humour. The dinner was followed by a disco, which was enjoyed by everyone into the early hours of Saturday morning.

The four course Christmas dinner that followed was an absolute feast, this was a unanimous decision passed by the 51 present who indulged themselves - and why not?

So to the finale, an hour-long, non-stop, laugh-a-minute, by the ever-funny, Bryn Phillips. Bryn returning from last year by popular demand and who again kept us thoroughly entertained for a full 60 minutes.

Our thanks to Don Booth, Chairman of the green at Pyle & Kenfig who represented the club and presented the prizes, the Captain who in his absence, fuelled the top table with wine, the caterers and everybody associated with the golf club. Thanks also to all those individuals and trade members who furnished the prize table, namely: Barden (Wiseley), Alan Stone, Colin Murphy, Rigby Taylor, Tactil, Liquid Turf, Sisis, Peter Hampton, Birds, Avoncrop, Hayters, Ted Hopkins and Pro Turf. There were so many I apologise if your name's not mentioned.

To finish on a sombre note it is with great sadness that I must inform you of a sudden, untimely death of Mrs Pam Murphy, wife of Colin Murphy, who passed away on Sunday, December 19.

Pam's kindness and popularity was plain for all to see, by the sheer numbers that were in attendance. Our sincere condolences go out to Colin and his family at this sad time.

PETER LACEY

EVENTS DIARY

March 5-8: Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta
March 8: Scottish Region Annual Conference, Elmwood College, Cupar
April 27: Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club
June 29: South turf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park
September 6-8: Saltex (previously Log) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourses, Berkshire.

RETURNING FROM THE FUTURE

East Anglia
Our travelling band met at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club for the traditional Turkey Trot/AGM. We managed to pick a good day for the Trot and as everyone got a prize, even me, a good day was had by all. I'll mention the top four as it was Christmas: 1st Peter Howard - 41 points, Andrew Arbon, James Morton, Roger Plummer - 39 points each. Our thanks to CMW for the Turkey and Sisis, Rigby Tay- ler, Collier, Rushbrooks and Stabrite for the raffle prizes.

The AGM was quite lively. It was election time and few changes are in the pipeline. Sam and Mike who both do a great job, have given notice that they won't be doing so much in the future - winding down is the term.

Office holders for 1994 are as follows: President, Ernie Hart, Vice-President, Bob Cheswane, Chairman/Treasurer for new Sam Sylvestre, Vice-Treasurer Mike Peters, Secretary, Dave Wells. Regional Board: Dave Wells, Sam Sylvestre, Mike Peters, Handicap Secretary, Alan Carter. Scribe, Mick Lath- rope.

Devon Freezemoore is no longer Assistant Handicap Secretary as he's just popped over to Australia to get married. He said we could all go and hell he'll buy the first round. All we've got to do is get there. Good on ya cobber or did I say cobblers? He should be back soon.

It was also Toddy's birthday. Congratulations to him and at the other extreme one of the Bury team, Andrew Cooke became a father. Both wife Emma and daughter Marnie are doing fine. We've also got some new members, Messrs Collins, Hickford and Morgan.

Dates for 1994: Rochford, April 19, Raymeston, June 14, Thetford, August 10, Gog's, October 4. Thanks again Bury for a super day.

MICK LATHROPE

DEVON AND CORNWALL
Seventy-six members and trade members attending our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 8.

Despite the rain and gales over 40 members competed in the morning 18 hole golf competition for the P J Flegg trophy. With all the rain gripping the golf club got very difficult with Wyndham and yours truly having to climb trees to retrieve our partners, made our day even more enjoyable.

Our congratulations to Richard Wisdom and his staff who helped the course in excellent playing conditions despite the weather.

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GREAT GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL
ond raffle was for prizes kindly donated by members and the trade.

Our thanks to Patrick for donating and presenting the day's golf prizes, also thanks to our President, John Palfrey for supplying the wine with lunch.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton Golf Club for allowing us use of their facilities once again.

Our section seminar was held once again at the superb venue of Fingle Glen on Wednesday January 12, which attracted some 75 members and trade.

With the weather conditions still only being fit for ducks, only the more hardy members took to their flippers to play water golf for the morning's 9 hole Devon v Cornwall match.

As usual the trade supported the section by taking up eight trade stands in the reception area which proved very successful because of the awful weather outside.

Our thanks to Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Fisons, P J Flegg, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Virax and Willcocks for taking trade stands.

After an excellent lunch Richard Minton of ICI presented the golf prizes to: S Milne (Exeter) 22pts, E Barber (Teign Valley) 19pts.

With all the recent floods, the River Tamer was running high which prevented most of our Cornish members being able to bring their golf clubs across the border! When yours truly (a Cornish member) decided to cancel our annual Devon v Cornwall match, there was no truth in the rumour that the Cornish had forgotten their clubs due to three defeats in three outings!

Our afternoon seminar was held in the ICI sponsored conference room, with members being treated to two excellent papers being presented by Peter Winter of the STRI on "fertilisers and what the analysis means" and Richard Newman of Cornnington College on "Preparing your COSHH assessment".

Question time finished the afternoon programme which was of great educational value to all who attended. Our thanks to Peter Winter and Richard Newman for presenting excellent papers and to Bill Pile, Course Manager and all the Fingle Glen staff who made our day so successful.

Our gratitude to Mr E Pugh and his management team for once again allowing our section use of their facilities, also to Richard Minton of ICI and to the trade companies who had sponsored the day.

On behalf of all the section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip.

Members please note: Our next meeting will be held at Padbrook Park Golf Club on Wednesday March 23, this will also be our Hayter qualifier, please make sure your entries are returned to me with correct monies by the closing date.

Your help is needed to promote this year's WESTURF trade show to be held on Wednesday April 27 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol. Many of you will know groundsman and committee members of your local sports club, so why not invite them to the show, anyone in the turf care industry will be most welcome.

We also need your support at WESTURF so I look forward to meeting you all on our stand.

RICHARD WHYMAN

CLEVELAND

David Cook now has City & Guilds Phase 2 and is now on Phase 3. Shaun Carmell has passed Phase 3 and is studying Phase 4. Nicky Dawson attended BIGGA management course Year 2.

Eaglescliffe Golf Club staff are thinning out trees in copies to aid cutting equipment, keep grass under control. The object is to keep major hardwoods ie. oak, ash beech with some Scots pine. After 10 years progress is satisfactory.

Spraying greens with soluble iron during winter months is beneficial. The grass leaves as strengthened against disease attack and greener colour is welcome. Frost seems to stop disease activity.

Stimulators would be more accurate if the 20°, was built in with a support at one end of to 20°, otherwise one is not consistent. Everyone can have a different reading.

Gary Munro is confirmed as new secretary, Keith Lough is treasurer, Ian Holoran, regional rep.

Outings pending, the Gem Professional new compost depot South Yorks, also to Jacobsen HQ at Kettering.

Spring golf to be at Dinsdale on May 12.

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Tony Mears, finalist in ICI/Premier Greenkeeper of the Year deserves our congratulations for doing so well. He is also a qualifier for Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

A quiz - Cleveland versus IoG Teeside sponsored by Turf Care Products (ie. Terry Charlton and Barry Clemwell) - was a great success and entertaining winners were IoG by a short head.

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Ian Harrison says he is holding his own against Take All Patch disease on his greens. He used a holecutter to remove diseased areas and brought in plugs of bent for surrounds. Alkaline soils encourage this disease. Nitrin Doyer installed, hope to hear more in 1 year.

Divoting of tees commences this month and aeration and top dressing of greens. April here is always a month of discontent. Players watch Augusta on TV and expect similar conditions. We have low soil temperature in April. I believe all we can do is very light verti cutting to remove coarse grass, ie. Yorkshire Fog. Short cutting is disastrous
when too early. We need to be patient, good tryers and hard skinned. Good results arrive in May. Alternative is returf the greens and golfers object to providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt it's many years since I last wrote the Section notes - Andy Campbell (Carden Park).

Chairman - Brian Anderson, Golf Admin - Terry Adamson, Administrator (Abergele), Treasurer - David Proctor (Barron Hill), Golf Admin - Tony Howorth for all the hard work he did whilst in office.

NORTH WALES

It's many years since I last wrote the Section notes and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt to rediscover the skills of successful scribe!

On December 6 the Christmas competition was held at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club. Many thanks to all at Llangollen and to the committee for providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners were: 1st - Aled Hughes (Portmadog) 33pts Brucra, 2nd Pat Valentine (Abergele) 33pts, Lee Hinks-Edwards (Wawarden) 33pts.

A special word of thanks to Terry Adamson who somehow managed to ensure that everyone present were: 1st - Aled Hughes (Portmadog) 33pts Brucra, 2nd Pat Valentine (Abergele) 33pts, Lee Hinks-Edwards (Wawarden) 33pts. Guest prize: H E Williams (Pwllheli) 40 pts.

Feedback to Terry and his staff, for the fine conditions of the course. A good result was had by all.

AYRSHIRE

In this first report of 1994 from Ayrshire I wish all our section members a happy, prosperous New Year, and hope to find the celebrations have loosened a few tongues and writing arms to send a few bits and pieces for the monthly report. It is meant to be your column, with your local news, so let's hear a little more from you in future.

Congratulations to Len Sproston on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Dumfries and Galloway Golf Club and some fierce competition in '94. Looking back over '93, one trend that many in our profession are becoming more and more disturbed about is that of these advisory bodies springing up all over the country, many giving greatly conflicting advice, particularly the construction specifications, this year which will most certainly result in serious long term problems. It is time BIGGA got involved in this area! I am also concerned about the fact certain golf course architects are running our profession down by advising their clients that greenkeepers are overpaid.

In Ayrshire we are looking forward to the Open at Turnberry this year which I am sure will be one of the courses in excellent order. We hope to meet you all in the tent as usual.

Please phone me with anything for next month on 0292 70929. DUNCAN GRAY

SURREY

In the absence of Roger Tydeman who stood down from the Committee at the AGM I am writing this month's article.

May I take this opportunity of thanking Roger and other members of the committee who also stood down at the last AGM, Robert Brewer for his work as Treasurer and Terry Huntley who has been Chairman for the past two years and was on the committee prior to that.

Our Turkey Trot and AGM were held at Ashford Manor Golf Club. Both were well attended.

I would like to thank the Committee, Captain and Secretary of Ashford Manor for allowing us to use the facilities. Many thanks also to Terry and his staff, for the fine conditions of the course. A good time was had by all.

All Surrey members will shortly receive a list of this year's golfing fixtures and other events. I hope these will be well attended and hopefully we will see a few new faces.

Our next winter lecture is at NESCOT college on March 2 at 7.30pm. Hope to see you there.

DAVID ANDREWS

EAST MIDLANDS

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new secretary for our Section, and to say thanks to our retiring secretary, Tony Howorth for all the hard work he did whilst in office.

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Around the Green

Our Section AGM was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicestershire on 18 November with the winner in our bogey competition being P Fortshaw 5 up, then on to the serious business of the AGM with the following officers: Chair: S Goode, Vice-Chairman: T Allard, Secretary: A Bindley. Committee Members are: G Arnold, P McCarron, R Barker, A Porter, D Leatherland and G Robson. Regional Representatives: R Barker and A Bindley.

Thanks to Glen Gorse Golf Club for their kindness and hospitality.

Then on to Longcliffe Golf Club for our Christmas tournament which was held on 17 December (sorry I was unable to attend). The eventual winners being P Tatlow in the 0-9 and B Gostinski in the 10-18 stableford competition. Thank you again to all at Longcliffe Golf Club.

A特种 note, we welcome the following new members to our Section: Richard Johnson and Michael Fitzgerald, both from Rugby GC; Christopher Clarke, Simon Poyner, Matthew Seabrook and Frank Allsop, all from Branston Golf and Country Club; Hector Muir from Mickleover GC; Neil Swift, Frank Allsop, all from Branston Golf and Country Club; Maria Lawrence, a student at Moulton College; Kevin McAdams from Purley Chase GC; David Bevan, Collingtree Park GC; Jacob Barrington, Rykn Hill GC; Pete Bright, Westwood GC and Danny Brown, from Longdale GC.

It is hoped the new members will introduce themselves at Section events, where they will be made welcome and enjoyed.

On March 16 we will be holding our first winter lecture at Longdale GC. It is hoped that as many members as possible will come along. Speakers will include Mark Hunt and Valerie Holt.

Anybody who can give information for me they can reach me on 0533 890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

KENT

A celebrated 'Happy New Year' to all our members and many apologies from yours truly for not getting around to entering our news for a short while, but suppose I can still smile as at this time I have no option to play. Yes rain, rain and a bit more rain. I suppose we could give Nigel some credit as well. The only disappointing part of the day not only for the golf, but also the AGM that followed was the poor turnout, bearing in mind that we have some 170 members. Two reasons immediately spring to mind, one, that they are all wimps and not many of them can run in near freezing conditions from the Poralakabin housing the showers to the one containing the changing room with no more on than a smile, or two, that they are so pleased and happy with the way our Section and our AGM run that they do not feel the need to voice their opinion on any subject whatsoever. Apologies for absence were gratefully received for the meeting by Tenterden's Jim Cameron. We wonder what happened to the other 150 or so.

Anyway, the long and the short of it, for those of you interested, is that two new members have been pressed-against onto the Kent Committee, namely Peter Biscoe and Chris Sharp, with Andy Archer having his arm twisted to make a return. A brief word down the post of the past and present year's activities was given by our Secretary, David Wood, with much attention paid to the hosting of the Southdown show to be held at Motspur Park on June 29. With the organising of this event and his other Regional Administration activities I do not know how he finds the time. I sincerely understand that David is keen to off-load his Section Secretary role onto a willing volunteer. It will probably take at least a year to find one!

John Millen gave a brief insight on developments within the Association at National level and the educational field. Our warmth: good wishes go to him when he takes on the prestigious honour and mantle of BIGGA Chairman.

The meeting wound down in its usual speedy manner, the lure of the bar and the welcome hospitality of our Scotch comrades buying a drink being too great.

Finally congratulations to Willie McConville as he succeeds Derek Gould as Head Greenskeeper at Langton Green, in Norfolk and we wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

A特种 congratulations to Donal Penn-Howard for winning the day trip to the BTME and I hope you enjoyed the day.

Finally, Neil Thomas, the Executive Director of BIGGA visits our Section on March 8 at the Family Golf Centre, Graveley, Stevenage. This is the last of our sponsorship events. Please remember to call me with any questions about BIGGA and especially Ian Merrick for his help in the organisation.

The trade as always supported us and we thank G Browns, CMW, Gem, Parker Hart, Rjk, Bigga and Bgga and Systems for providing the go-kart entertainment that followed. Everybody that attended enjoyed the day, well done.

Please remember to call me with any questions on 081 559 5629.

TONY YATES

MID-ANGLE

Our last golf fixture of the year took place on November 3rd at Ashridge Golf Club. The format was the same as a Texas Scramble, but the venue was changed after seven consecutive years at South Beds Golf Club. The weather was kind to us, so we could enjoy the full the superb setting at Ashridge.

Jim Cassidy and his team must be congratulated on the condition of the course and our thanks go to Ashridge for their courtesy and hospitality. A great day was had by all. The results were as follows; best Nett score - down for the received £20 vouchers each, 2nd £15 and 3rd £10.

1st, B Wright, J Wright, T Lucas, M Bird; 2nd, R Saunders, J Burton, N Stewart, C Hardwick; 3rd, C Brook, J Wells, R Archer, G Snell.

Our thanks once again to our main sponsors of the day Kingson House Mowers, and to all the other trade members who donated prizes and supported the occasion.

John Glyn-Davies of Kingston House Mowers presented the 'Morning House Cup' to Jon Moorhouse of Brocket Hall Golf Club. The cup was donated last year, to be awarded to the player with the best result over the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments, combined. Congratulations Jon!

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many I feel judging by their enthusiasm at Ingliston last November. Also we welcome Fraserburgh Apprentice Mark Maclean and Granton's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Alexander Fowler. I hope to see them at more events this year.

Anyone venturing onto the Links at Dornoch or Nairn this year had better be hitting the ball true and straight. Major bunker revetting has taken place over the winter at both courses. I have witnessed some of the finished articles at Royal Dornoch and superb they look, especially as you walk past to your ball safely on the green! I may be biased but there is no finer sight than a revetted bunker.

The revetting programme at Nairn is in its second year and the project is a legacy for this year's British Amateur Championship to be held there in June. We wish Ian Carson and his staff all the best for the tournament on a course which I'm sure will be tested and being pleasant to all who enter.

I recently went to visit Alick Maclean at Dornoch's Carnegie Course, Skibo Estate. The course is setting in well and should be opening this summer. It looks likely that the 1995 Scottish Greenkeepers Championships will be held at Skibo so everyone will get the opportunity to play there next year.

It is February now and members will be thinking of spring and the opening of the golf seasons. It has certainly been the worst winter up here I can remember. As I write this I have no signs of thawing. Let us just hope for a good early spring and some warmth to get the grass growing.

IAIN MACLEOD

NORTH WEST

Not a lot to report this month but I would like to welcome any new members to the North-West Section and remind all members that membership fees should now be paid for 1994. If your fees are paid by your golf club you must pass your invoice into your Secretary, as the golf club is not invoiced. On 10 February the Section is holding a seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club, and with the list of speakers we have available, we are in for a good day. The programme for the day is:

9am: Registration and Coffee; 10am: The Reconstruction of the Greens at Royal Birkdale, by Martin Hawthorne, Course Architect, John Greasley, Course Construction; 11.20am: Construction of Water Features, by Mike Sheehan, Course Manager, Mere Golf and Country Club; 12noon Lunch; 1pm: The Belfry Five Year Plan, by Derek Ganning, Course Manager, The Belfry; 2.40pm: Through the Green Management, by Bob Taylor, Sports Turf Research Institute; 3.20pm: Greenkeeper Training, by David Golding, Association of Greenkeepers Training Committee; 4pm: Question Panel; 4.30pm: Close.

Cost for the day is £20 and due to a limited number of places being available, you are advised to apply early. All applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3HU, telephone 051 724 5412. I am at the moment in the process of completing the golfing calendar for 1994 and this, when completed, will be in the May newsletter.

Please remember the Section needs your support for the seminar and any other organised events.

BERT CROSS

SHEFFIELD

On December 1 our Christmas golf competition was held at Wortley Golf Club. A fine day was had by all and the weather wasn't so cruel. 1st place went to Pat Smith and P Merriam (Hiveley); 2nd was Rick Nuttall and M Lake third.

In January 9 I had the honour of returning to Dunbar Golf Club, the scene of the 1993 National Tournament. This invitation, from the Captain of the club, was extended to John Crawford, Chairman, BIGGA, Alisa, and myself, to attend an opening dinner and the opening ceremony.

After meeting with Graham Wood, the Head Greenkeeper, and his charming wife Helen, we took our places at the top table. Our Chairman made a presentation to Dunbar on behalf of BIGGA to commemorate their staging of the National Tournament.

Next stop was BTME where I and many others spent a great week. I was one of the lucky ones who took in the Health & Safety workshops and COSHH regulations - Jon Albert certainly made me sit up and think. The show itself was its usual well-organised event and yes, we have a great deal to thank Neil Thomas and his staff for. The speakers were simply excellent and this is a show which I for one would never miss.

Not a lot of new speakers coming on going from the Section's point of view, although this will change shortly.

Our annual spring tournament and Hayler qualifying will take place on April 12 over Guisnee number 2. Notice will be out in plenty of time for this event so don't miss out - make sure your subs are paid and we'll keep you up to date.

As I have said in past reports - let's make a big effort this year to attract new members. There are many clubs in the East that have staff who are not members - let them know what they're missing. If they wish me to come along and explain this to them, just give me a call.

My number is 031 443 3214 and I'll be delighted to give the reasons why all greenkeepers should become members.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WEST

A new greenkeeping year begins and with it a new change of Secretary for the South West. After ten years as Section Secretary, Paul Worster stood down at last year's AGM and handed the responsibility to myself. It would be foolish of me to let this opportunity pass without thanking him on behalf of everybody connected with the South West for his immense efforts over his time as Secretary. A lot of the success of the Section (now nearly 230) can be attributed to Paul's organisation and drive when it comes to organising section events and education courses. It will be a very hard act to follow, particularly regarding the very original and amusing monthly reports but despite less responsibility now, we look forward to his continued presence and valuable advice to myself at forthcoming fixtures.

Talking of fixtures if it hasn't already reached you a full list of fixtures courtesy of T H Whites should be arriving through your letter box in the near future with many events listed for the coming season. The Section's success depends on your support so please try and attend as many as possible.

Wednesday, November 10 saw a visit to Ransomes factory at Ipswich. Many thanks go to Pat Smith and T H Whites, Tettbury for their sponsorship and hospitality on the day and to Ransomes themselves who provided a very informative day on the production of their machinery, ranging from the original planning to a tour of the factory floor and inside as to how the machinery is constructed.

It was a very windy and laterly very wet Weston Super Mare Golf Club that we gathered for 1993's Christmas tournament, sponsored once again by Roffey Brothers. A good attendance saw first place in the Stella Artois Stableford competition go to Peter Connett (Lyme Regis Golf Club) and Derek Eves - a prize winner again! (Painswick Golf Club) with 41 points. Second place to David Neale (Henbury Golf Club) and Peter Baynton (Long Ashton Golf Club) with 38 points. Third place to Ron Barrett (Mitcham and West Somerset Golf Club) and Steve Gallier with 35 points. Myself and Peter Harrowton were joint fourth with 34 points. As previously mentioned Roffeys were this year's sponsors providing trophies, the main prizes and wine for the meal. Their participation is much appreciated along with other trade members who donated prizes. Many appreciative comments were made about the excellent quality of the course and thanks are extended to Kevin Wroe and his staff in its preparation and also to the catering staff.

Last but by no means least congratulations to Neil Turner from Wenvil Golf Club and his wife on the birth of their son Larry - many disturbed nights' sleep await, I am sure!

On a final note, if you have any queries you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me on 0272 793127.

KEVIN GREEN

SOUTH WEST

Not only will companies be able to exhibit from 9am to 6pm, but also have the opportunity to test and bring pleasure to all who enter. Not only will companies be able to exhibit from 9am to 6pm, but also have the opportunity to test and bring pleasure to all who enter.

Talking of fixtures if it hasn't already reached you a full list of fixtures courtesy of T H Whites should be arriving through your letter box in the near future with many events listed for the coming season. The Section's success depends on your support so please try and attend as many as possible.

Wednesday, November 10 saw a visit to Ransomes factory at Ipswich. Many thanks go to Pat Smith and T H Whites, Tettbury for their sponsorship and hospitality on the day and to Ransomes themselves who provided a very informative day on the production of their machinery, ranging from the original planning to a tour of the factory floor and inside as to how the machinery is constructed.

It was a very windy and laterly very wet Weston Super Mare Golf Club that we gathered for 1993's Christmas tournament, sponsored once again by Roffey Brothers. A good attendance saw first place in the Stella Artois Stableford competition go to Peter Connett (Lyme Regis Golf Club) and Derek Eves - a prize winner again! (Painswick Golf Club) with 41 points. Second place to David Neale (Henbury Golf Club) and Peter Baynton (Long Ashton Golf Club) with 38 points. Third place to Ron Barrett (Mitcham and West Somerset Golf Club) and Steve Gallier with 35 points. Myself and Peter Harrowton were joint fourth with 34 points. As previously mentioned Roffeys were this year's sponsors providing trophies, the main prizes and wine for the meal. Their participation is much appreciated along with other trade members who donated prizes. Many appreciative comments were made about the excellent quality of the course and thanks are extended to Kevin Wroe and his staff in its preparation and also to the catering staff.

Last but by no means least congratulations to Neil Turner from Wenvil Golf Club and his wife on the birth of their son Larry - many disturbed nights' sleep await, I am sure!

On a final note, if you have any queries you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me on 0272 793127.

KEVIN GREEN

EAST SCOTLAND

On January 9 I had the honour of returning to Dunbar Golf Club, the scene of the 1993 National Tournament. This invitation, from the Captain of the club, was extended to John Crawford, Chairman, BIGGA, Alisa, and myself, to attend an opening dinner and the opening ceremony.

After meeting with Graham Wood, the Head Greenkeeper, and his charming wife Helen, we took our places at the top table. Our Chairman made a presentation to Dunbar on behalf of BIGGA to commemorate their staging of the National Tournament.

Next stop was BTME where I and many others spent a great week. I was one of the lucky ones who took in the Health & Safety workshops and COSHH regulations - Jon Albert certainly made me sit up and think. The show itself was its usual well-organised event and yes, we have a great deal to thank Neil Thomas and his staff for. The speakers were simply excellent and this is a show which I for one would never miss.

Not a lot of new speakers coming on going from the Section's point of view, although this will change shortly.

Our annual spring tournament and Hayler qualifying will take place on April 12 over Guisnee number 2. Notice will be out in plenty of time for this event so don't miss out - make sure your subs are paid and we'll keep you up to date.

As I have said in past reports - let's make a big effort this year to attract new members. There are many clubs in the East that have staff who are not members - let them know what they're missing. If they wish me to come along and explain this to them, just give me a call.

My number is 031 443 3214 and I'll be delighted to give the reasons why all greenkeepers should become members.

WILLIE BLAIR

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL February 1994 47
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