tion, and with a good suspension they are very comfortable. Attaching implements is easy, and the box is light enough not to need legs or complex jacking systems. The new machine is seen as offering several important improvements on previous models, such as wider lower ground pressure tyres, greater ground clearance and several other upgrades which add strength and reliability to the machine – and better looks in the Ransomes livery. Nevertheless the machine still scores at Salisbury on its simplicity, ease of use and overall efficiency for the job.

**Toro Workman 3300D - Highpost GC near Salisbury.**

Lauchlan Millar "inherited" the Workman when he moved to Highpost earlier this year, in this time he has become an ardent fan of it. Although only 18 months old the Highpost machine has clocked up 1,000 hours with few problems. A lot of the work has been hauling soil, sand and other materials around the 18 hole course during the winter when the ground was too wet to take a tractor and trailer. Lauchlan praised the brakes and surefootedness of the machine which allows the operator to back to the edge of a bunker and tip in the knowledge that the machine won't slide in. The hydraulic tip works even with a full load of over a tonne. Highpost has the full length cargo box which was considered the most useful option, a decision which not been regretted. Another option which has been appreciated is the cab, "the course is not called Highpost for nothing," Lauchlan added. It is possible to get the machine to spin its wheels, as like both the Jacobsen and Cushman only rear wheels are driven. This was not really a criticism just a reflection of the natural result of making a light-footed carrier which can be taken onto greens without marking them. The Workman mounts its 21hp Mitsubishi engine and transmission centrally and integrates them with the rear axle to give better balance. There are two short constant velocity joints on the transaxle and Highpost have had a problem with one.

The machine was bought with topdressing as a priority use and for this it has been "brilliant". "I was stunned how fast it works," Lauchlan said. "We can topdress all 18 greens in under a day including the brushing in. The machine has a fast transport speed and a topdresser which is wider than the loader bucket thus non-working time is minimised. Toro provides a key lock-out feature which prevents operators accessing 3rd gear unless it is unlocked by key. "We don't need that feature here, but I foresee a lot of clubs where it would prevent abuse," he commented - "members don't like to see greenkeepers racing around the course."

Other uses for Highpost's Workman include slitting, tineing and brushing. The brush is used on Saturdays and Sundays rather than switching, "and you can't see any marks."

Routine service and maintenance is carried out by Highpost staff themselves, but the machine did go back to Romsey Garden Machinery for a 1000 hr/pre season service this winter. There were no criticisms over access to the mechanicals which live under the body, props are supplied to hold the body up safely and servicing was rated as "easy". The considered user opinion on the Toro Workman at Highpost is that it is a well thought out machine, with a suspension which is "streets ahead" of the competition.

**Kawasaki Mules at Donnington Grove, near Newbury**

Two Mule 1000s on the Donnington Grove Country Club have a hard life and are putting a lot of miles under their wheels. Bought specifically because there is a lot of running around to do, it is over a mile to the furthest hole, and even the nearest is over half a mile from the ex-farm buildings used as the greenkeepers' base. Bought in March 1993, each has now clocked up about 7500 miles, and cost a significant sum in replacement parts. Course Manager, David Winterton, was happy that he received good recommendation for the Mule, David conceded that new models are likely to be better.

Donnington's experience with the Mules was that they need a skilled mechanic close by, fortunately they have one in-house, otherwise they might not have kept the machines. Apart from replacing parts there had been a regular need to re-tune the twin carburetors, however David conceded that new models are likely to be better.

Although on the face of it this does not appear an ideal recommendation for the Mule, David was happy that he received good value, particularly as they did a
Now it’s 92% sold for the 1996 BTME

The 1996 BTME at Harrogate on January 24-26 is already 92% sold - and that's including the additional space in Hall D which has been added for next year's show.

New companies which are showing for the first time or returning next year are Wood Graphics, Seward's, Broadside Publishing and Phoenix Sports Turf Services.

The BIGGA stand will have a new home for '96, moving to Hall D where you can find out all the usual information about membership, educational initiatives and Greenerkeeper International. You will also be able to purchase merchandise including blazers, rain suits and reference books.

Hall D will also feature expanded catering facilities.

The educational programme is all but finalised and with speakers travelling from USA, Canada, Switzerland and Portugal it will be the most comprehensive programme found anywhere in Europe. The National Education Conference, the specialist workshop programmes and the Seminars which run in conjunction with the exhibition are second to none.

BTME '96 will be the place to be next year but don't just take our word for it. Here's what Andie Hardie, Sales Director of Gem Professional said about it: "The show goes from strength to strength and is an absolute must for any organisation active in the amenity market today."

AUGUST QUESTIONS

1. Name one of the countries from which National Education Conference speakers are coming.

   Normal competition rules apply

   First prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions.

   Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

   Third prize: One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

   August questions are still running for your chance to win an expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. There is a huge £800-worth of prizes to be won! We will pay your rail fare, put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and give you a free pass to the outstanding education seminar programme.

   All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of THREE superb prizes is answer six questions - two in this issue, two more in September's magazine and the final two plus the entry form in October's issue. When you have the answers to all six questions complete the form and return it to us by October 31, 1995.

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use is as lightweight runabouts with ability to carry a significant payload. The Wootton Bassett's machines are in constant use every day and Laurence Pithie, Director of Maintenance UK, said because of the drainage problems inherited on the course they were about the only machines which could be used this winter. Two of the machines are 4x2 models - four wheels with two driven while one is a 6x4. The latter carries a greater load and is more comfortable to ride, but is also more difficult to steer. However according to Mark Silk, course superintendent, once you have the knack of using the throttle to assist the turn it is no more difficult than the normal two wheel drive machines, although there is less manoeuvrability.

Mark admitted that the machines were often overloaded, nominal capacities are 408kg and 544kg, but at Wootton Bassett they pile the box as high as they can. With the soil, sand and gravel which so often are the payload this has had the local distributor, John Miller Ltd at Chippenham, wincing. Nevertheless there has been very little downtime for the machines, the main replacements have been two king pins and an exhaust on the two 4x2s which are now almost eighteen months old. Drive belts have also been replaced once, more as routine than necessity, as the cost is only £20. The six wheeler is a year younger than the four-wheelers.

Options specified on the machines include the plastic bed liner, electro-hydraulic box tip, heavy duty air filters and a tow hitch. The standard knobbly tyres have been retained, but when questioned about any damage to the turf, Mark was adamant that there was very little even with the machines fully laden. Although the engines are petrol driven Wootton Bassett has found them very economic, tanks are normally filled about once a week, and "filled" means three quarters full as there can be some leakage from the cap breather when filled right up. The club has a licensed petrol store which is kept locked and complies with local authority and fire brigade requirements, although storage quantities probably don't need this. Thus there were none of the problems often levelled against petrol machines.

ALAN SHEPARD PLAYED GOLF ON THE MOON

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Acid theory: controversial top needs exploring

I am pleased that Jim Arthur and I are in agreement that many old greens do not need the addition of phosphorus for healthy growth of turf (You say, June issue). There are two reasons for this. There is the belief, generally held, that many already have very high phosphorus levels in the soil. Secondly, where old greens are healthy but have extremely low "available" soil phosphorus levels it may be that they can sustain growth because the grasses and other plants growing in them have mycorrhizal fungi growing symbiotically with their roots to help them absorb phosphorus from the soil. The simple chemical extractants used in laboratories cannot simulate the beneficial effect of these fungi so it appears that the grasses need less phosphorus than they are actually getting. On new greens with low phosphorus levels these kind of microscopic relationships have not developed and fertiliser containing phosphorus should be added if analyses so indicate.

On the subject of the acid theory, how can Jim Arthur say that the ideal pH is the one you have got when the acid theory which he seems to be espousing involves by the use of acidic materials? The acid theory has always been a very controversial topic and has damaged many greens over the years I suggest that, to get a balanced view of the theory, the "students and starters" which Mr Arthur wants to protect from modern thinking on nutrition go to their college libraries and read some of the old literature on the subject. I suggest "Turf" by Lewis, published by Faber in 1948 and "Lawns and Sports Greens" by A.J. Macgill for starters.

Robert Laycock

A fair day’s pay

Congratulations to BIGGA who in the last seven years have created a new image and professional status of our greenkeeping workforce. These initiatives have given us better guidelines for working conditions, recommended salary-wage scales and further education programmes. This professional approach will manifest itself at club level with well trained dependable staff being available when needed.

In your recent article in Greenkeeper International you explained that the published salary-wage scales were "recommendations" and not mandatory. This statement will assist Green Chairmen when dealing with their individual club wage negotiations. Salaries can now be paid which will be commensurate with staff qualifications and their workload.

The Association of Golf Club Secretaries (North West) recent survey revealed a wide variation in salary-wage scales, hourly rates, overtime rate, staffing levels and hours worked. The findings of these clubs from the North West were so varied it was evidence that no positive guidelines had previously been available and an ad hoc system had prevailed.

Often neighbouring clubs would compare their course and staffing levels and make pay awards accordingly. Pay awards and conditions for house staff does not often promote such lengthy discussions. Green budgets have been reduced to ensure staff remain who provide food and drink. That I suggest is not the main function of a golf club.

The initiatives of Ken Richard- son, BIGGA Education Officer, and the Greenkeepers Training Committee will in the long term benefit clubs.

The educational qualifications can be drawn up and included in all green staff terms and conditions of employment.

Further education will benefit both the profession and golf clubs and will provide us with staff who can advise us on all specialist matters which currently most clubs have to seek from "Advisory Services" at considerable expense. We will soon be able to pay a "Fair Day’s Pay for a Fair Day’s Work".

TM Yates
Hon Secretary, Dunscar Golf Club

Well-aimed boot

All of us are aware that in certain circumstances we would benefit from a friendly push, or indeed a good kick up the backside. This awareness however often comes after the event and is in most cases regrettably too late. I would therefore like to thank Neil Thomas for his far reaching ‘boot’ in the July edition of Greenkeeper International.

Reflecting on the various stages of BIGGA's development can possibly help to show the way to a more integrated international or at least European membership.

In short, numerous localised groupings run by volunteer organisers progressing to a regional association ultimately reaching a national level with one central base. The local and regional organisers playing a major role not only in the initial stages but also in the continual development and recruitment of members.

And so I feel that BIGGA should be looking for European members who have the time and commitment and are prepared to organise local Greenkeepers with a view to eventual BIGGA integration. Six 'local organisers' could certainly support a monthly column and if Neil Thomas keeps his boots well polished he may even persuade twelve.

David Abercrombie
Hattstatt, France

PS: I have great respect for the traditions of the game and of the job title greenkeeper as opposed to any other variation.
The temperature is 90 degrees in the shade and but I'm enjoying every minute of it. Yes, I am on holiday in central Africa (Zambia) and it just rising. The grass has not been cut this year and is not rained since January. Everything is dust dry to remind you about the autumn tournament at Didsbury GC on September 7. Soup and sandwich including a £10 deposit must be sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12.

Now back to the holiday. My wife Marie and I are staying at the orphanage that we help to support deep in the bush about 30 miles from Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The only way to the orphanage is on a road cut through the bush about one and a half cars wide and riddled with pot holes. We use a four wheel drive Toyota pickup truck to go to Lusaka for supplies and driving in the town is similar to the dodgems at the fairground.

The orphanage, called Kasini (which means little sister) is run by a Polish community of sisters and they care for about 130 babies and children from one week old to 13 and 14 year olds. Unfortunately many of the babies that arrive are HIV positive but they are all cared for as normal babies by the sisters. Amazingly in several cases after about 12 months further tests prove they are negative. No medical cure has been found for HIV so I can only assume that the never ending love and care that these children receive from the sisters can be the answer.

Since we arrived two weeks ago we have travelled extensively and we have visited Livingstone and the Victoria Falls, the Musi-o-tunya Game Park and the Kafue National Park photographing rhino, hippo, giraffe, elephants, crocodiles, monkeys and many other animals. The national parks are thousands of square miles of thick bush burnt brown by the sun and the lack of rain. It is a beautiful country totally unspoilt.

Greetings from Zambia.
BERT CROSS

Northern

Our President's Day golf tournament at Woodhall Hills GC got underway amid breezy conditions but even so the standard of golf was very high. The condition of the course helped tremendously

as it was excellent. Many thanks to the greens staff for the course preparation prior to our event. The winners on the day were: Div 1: 1. M.A Cordingley; 2. R. Smith; 3. D. Collins. Div 2: 1. A Baxter; 2. S. Dalbon; 3. D. Cockburn.

Overall winner for the Jubilee Cup for the best gross was S. Hall of Woodhall Hills with a 78. Many congratulations. Nearest the Pin winner was G. Potter.

Many thanks to Woodhall Hills GC for allowing us to hold our tournament there and also thanks to the catering staff for an excellent meal and first class service.

All members and friends would like to send their kindest regards and best wishes to Bill and Emma and hope that Emma is feeling much better after her recent stay in hospital following a stroke.

MARCUS CORDINGLEY

South Wales

It was our section's turn to host the Hayter Regional Final and Carmarthen GC, Dyfed, West Wales was the venue – slightly awkward to find but definitely worth the effort. A typical Welsh welcome awaited all – we even arranged the weather, glorious sunshine with a cooling breeze (gale force 3).

The course, not overlong but narrow and demanding of a thinking game of golf, proved tricky as the scores will no doubt reveal.

Our thanks to the green staff, and especially David Gladwin, for their hard work and effort in presenting the course for what was an extremely enjoyable day.

Conratulations to our section members who did so well and therefore progress to the Hayter Challenge Tournament Finals at the West Lancashire GC on September 13-14, namely John Borja, Vale of Glamorgan GC, and Andrew Roach, Haverfordwest GC, second and third respectively in category 1 and to one of our newest members Alan Crighton, Kington GC who was the category 3 winner.

A sincere thanks to Kim Macfie and Robin Boyes of Hayter's for their generosity, hospitality and continued support. To Marion and Gordon Child for their super organisation and to all at the Carmarthen GC for contributing to making the day such an enjoyable one.

Please let me have your news.

GRAEME MACDONALD

East Midlands

Congratulations this month go to all those section members who successfully achieved their Assessor tests at Brooksby College. Good luck to all other greenkeepers who are taking the course.

A team has been selected to represent the section against the East of England section on August 15 at Market Harborough. Good luck to both

Although overall the attendance seemed a little down on last year, the BIGGA stand that shared room 16 with the IOG was kept ticking over quietly all day, with many general queries regarding greenkeeping as a possible career as well as membership queries. A valuable day and one which remains firmly on our calendar. Thanks to all those who gave up their time to help out.

Congratulations to our Education Chairman, Malcolm Davies and his wife Roberta on the birth of their second baby daughter, Rebecca Louise who weighed in at a healthy 7lb 11oz recently. A belated happy 65th birthday wishes to our President, Mr Colin Murphy.

Our annual greenkeepers v secretaries match will take place as usual at the Southernend GC on August 17. Will all those who are able to attend and who wish to be a part of the team please contact me as soon as possible to confirm a place and hopefully help us to retain the shield.

PETER LAGEN

East of England

Our second golf tournament of the year was held at the windless Sandlings GC – "A rare day," said one member. Thanks to Bob McGowan for courtesy and a super meal by the staff. The event also incorporated the Hayter Qualifier where the winners go on to the Midland Regional Finals at Erewash Valley.

The East of England Qualifiers were:


The only sour note on the day was that several members did not turn up. Please cancel early if possible, so that meals can be cancelled.

On happier matters Kevin Garffitt, Head Greenkeeper at Ely City GC was in a proud mood recently when I spoke to him because the Cambridgeshire County Championships were to be held at Ely GC – two days of scratch golf over 72 holes.

Kevin felt quietly confident that his course preparation was in good order and that the course would test the best of Cambridgeshire's scratch golfers. Kevin has been at the club for 18 months, moving from Pontefract and says he has settled well into the Ems lifestyle.

Please let me have your news.

GRAEME MACDONALD
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Valves lost their verve?  
Controller lost control?

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BOURNE AMENITY
teams and let’s hope everyone has a good day.

Some results have come in for the singles and pairs competitions. Antony Bindley & Martin Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, beat David Wright & David Marshall-Renwick Park; Peter Billings & Tommy Foster, Cotgrave Place beat Anthony Foulds & Donald Blackler, The Manor GC. In the singles Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe beat Jeff Dickenson, Hucknall; Dave Mitchell, Springwater, beat David James, Scraptoft; Paul Tatlow, Kedleston Park, beat Roger Willars, Birstall; Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, beat David Wright, Ramsdale Park. A reminder to all entrants that semi-finals must be played before August 31.

This year’s Autumn tournament will be hosted by Kedleston Park on September 11. All members should have received an entry form by now. If any member has not you can give me a ring and I will forward a copy to you.

ANTONY BINDLEY

Devon and Cornwall

This year’s Hayter Regional final was held in Wales at Carmarthen GC. As usual Hennings our Cornish Hayter distributor, kindly helped to finance the mini bus which took the majority of our team on the 500 mile round rip to Carmarthen. It was a pity that we couldn’t gain the help of a Devon Hayter dealer but there’s always next year! A special mention and thanks must go to our driver Steve Evans who had the unenviable task of driving off from Cornwell before 4am and not returning home until midnight. As for the golf we were once again blessed with fine weather but a difficult wind kept scores higher than usual – at this point I won’t mention my score as I am sure someone will within the Around the Green section. All I will say is that the team picked up a Regional Shield for the third year out of five.

Our congratulations are extended to the qualifiers for the final from our section who took a clean sweep of the 10-18 category – 1. Trevor Pipe 2. Kevin Piper and 3. Buster Lewer. On behalf of the section would like to thank Marion and Gordon Child for organising and running a superb day. Also to Robin Bayes and Kim Macfie of Hayters for their support and friendliness shown to everyone on the day. Long may it continue.

Belated congratulations to Tony Blackburn on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper Credition GC where Tony has been First Assistant for many years. Two new members have joined our section after taking up posts of Head Greenkeeper and our congratulations go to Steve Peters, Velverton GC and Nick Rouke, Dawlish GC on their appointments.

Our good wishes to Ivan Brown, formerly of P.J. Flegg Ltd and Vice President of our section on his appointment in the Virgin Islands.

Cornish summer evening meeting dates to remember are August 23, Newquay and September 20, Bude. If you would like to attend these meetings please contact organiser Steve Evans 01208 863547.

RICHARD WHYMAN

South Coast

The annual match against the South West section will be played at Lee-on-Solent GC on Thursday September 21. The team will consist of 10 players but also came quite close to winning. This year is Jackie’s last year as captain and we thank her for her organisation over the years and wish her successor well. Finally, thanks to the Secretary of Lyme Regis GC for making us most welcome.

The other event to take place recently was the Hayter Regional Qualifier at Carmarthen GC where there was more success for the South West section. Congratulations to Shaun Richards for Taunton & Pickardridge GC on winning the day's event by coming first in Category 1 with a nett 72. Well done also to Sean Sage from Thornbury Golf Centre and Chris Sealey from Chippenham GC both with a nett 71 in Category 3 and to Les Johnson with a 72 and a reserve for that category. Congratulations to the Devon and Cornwall Section for winning the team Shield for this year's best team performance. Well done lads. The above mentioned people will go on to the final to be played at the West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14. Thanks to Hayter for its continued support; to Carmarthen for its hospitality and to Gordon and Marion Child for the unenviable task of organising the event for the four sections in our Region.

The next section event for everybody is on November 9 at Selsey GC but prior to that is a two day match against the South Coast on September 21. As mentioned in last month’s report to Lee-on-Solent by minibus is hopefully to be arranged so if interested please get in touch.

KEVIN GREEN

Surrey

The Cresta Cup held at Kingswood GC this year was enjoyed by 30 competitors in what proved to be testing conditions. On reflection the 37 points achieved by Ian Sutcliffe were exceptional as the course played its true length.

Thanks go to Ken Cooper and the rest of his team for all the hard work but into setting up the course for our enjoyment. Also thanks to Tom Hilliard for allowing us to use the course and a thank you to Gerry Doughty of Gerry’s of Wimbledon for donating a voucher for £25 to be spent in Kingswood’s pro shop which went to the winner.

Results: 1. Ian Sutcliffe 37 pts; 2. Bev Eyre 33 pts (on countback); 3. A. Gardlet 33 pts.


Also a big thank you to Ron Jobson for his valued assistance with the scorecards.

Interested parties for the dinner/dance at Reigate Manor Hotel this November should contact the committee for tickets - priced £18.

Southturf was again a great success and thanks to the South East regional committee’s hard work and the trades continued support, an estimated 6-700 bodies pass through the gates and in general most enjoyed the exhibition.

An item of personal news for those of you who know me. I am now the proud father of a baby daughter. She was born in the 10th June (Derby Day) and weighed in at 7lbs 11.5 oz. We have named her Danielle and baby are in mind the recent weather conditions.

After was a first class evening meal it was time for the prize giving and our thanks to Avocorp Amenity Products, the sponsor of the event, and to John Palfry who joined us for the meal. Not only did Avocorp provide a prize for each member of the winning team but also the wine for the evening meal.

So to the moment Secretaries’ team captain Jackie How hadn’t been looking forward to – the shield presentation! Fortunately it gets easier with time. This year is Jackie’s last year as captain and we thank her for her organisation over the years and wish her successor well.

Bob Cully

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ANTONY BINDLEY

North

The North section welcomes two more new members, Christopher Till, Assistant Greenkeeper at Pillocky GC; Alan Joss, Club Secretary at Portlethen GC. Ken O’Donnell has rejoined and last month he got married so all the best to him.

The Scottish Greenkeeping Championship was held in the north in June at Royal Dornoch and I’m pleased to report that section members were very much to the fore at the prize giving with the following major winners.

Scratch. I.A. Macleod, Tain; Cat 1. E. Riddell, Royal Dornoch; Cat 2. S. Stevenson, Royal Aberdeen; Cat 2. R. Napier, Camperdown; Head Greenkeeper Trophy R. Patterson, Royal Dornoch. There were numerous second and third placings and it was no surprise that we won the St Mungo Cup for the best four scores from each section.

Double congratulations to Robert Patterson, firstly along with his staff for the excellent condition of the course and secondly for his recent victory in the Royal Dornoch Club Championship.

On the eve of the Scottish Championship 24 greenkeepers played over Tain in a hastily arranged Stableford competition. Two Stewarts lad were present and volunteered a sweatshirt for the winner. They then played their hearts out to keep it in the company with the north rep, Pat Allan winning it! A big thank you to Tain GC for granting courtesy of the course to everyone.

Remember that tickets for the dinner/disco are available now at £12 each. The venue is the Westhill Hotel, Aberdeen on Friday November 24 and accommodation is available at £20 per person per night. So come on book now. You won’t regret it.

The section is looking into the possibility of staging a one day seminar win conjunction with the STRI this December with Elgin being a possible venue. More details when available.

Next month will see our autumn outing at lovely Grantown-on-Spey. Entry forms will be out about now so get them back quickly to ensure your place in the field.

IAIN MACLEOD

South West

Some outstanding views and one of the hottest days so far this year greeted those who playing in the annual match against the secretaries on June 27. Lyme Regis GC was where it all took place with two matches of 12 enjoying a social and competitive afternoon of golf. After our victory last year at Clevelon in the same event captain Dave Neale was keen to carry on in winning form and was duly rewarded with a final result of five matches to one in the greenkeepers’ favour. Well done again Dave.

Dave Everett and his staff had the course, and particularly the greens, in excellent condition. They were fast, fine and hardly and visible dry patches to be seen. Quite commendable bearing in mind the recent weather conditions.

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So to the moment Secretaries’ team captain Jackie How hadn’t been looking forward to – the shield presentation! Fortunately it gets easier with time. This year is Jackie’s last year as captain and we thank her for her organisation over the years and wish her successor well. Finally, thanks to the Secretary of Lyme Regis GC for making us most welcome.

The other event to take place recently was the Hayter Regional Qualifier at Carmarthen GC where there was more success for the South West section. Congratulations to Shaun Richards for Taunton & Pickardridge GC on winning the day's event by coming first in Category 1 with a nett 72. Well done also to Sean Sage from Thornbury Golf Centre and Chris Sealey from Chippenham GC both with a nett 71 in Category 3 and to Les Johnson with a 72 and a reserve for that category. Congratulations to the Devon and Cornwall Section for winning the team Shield for this year's best team performance. Well done lads. The above mentioned people will go on to the final to be played at the West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14. Thanks to Hayter for its continued support; to Carmarthen for its hospitality and to Gordon and Marion Child for the unenviable task of organising the event for the four sections in our Region.

The next section event for everybody is on November 9 at Selsey GC but prior to that is a two day match against the South Coast on September 21. As mentioned in last month’s report to Lee-on-Solent by minibus is hopefully to be arranged so if interested please get in touch.

KEVIN GREEN

Greekeenkeeper International August 1995 37
doing well - dad's shattered.

Forthcoming events include August 3 – McMil-lan Tankard; September 5 – Parker Salver; Octo-ber 4 The Autumn Tournament and November 10 Dinner/Dance.

DAVID GIBBS

East of Scotland

I am afraid I must open this month’s report on a sad note. Norman Whystock of Rhône-Poulenc has died at the age of 49. Norman was a man who would help any greenkeeper young or old at great length with any problem he might have. I am sure that I speak with every member of the section in extending our sincerest condolences to his family.

On a happy note I have just returned for the Scottish Tournament at Royal Dornoch GC and this has to be the best kept course I have ever had the pleasure of playing. Well done to Robert Pat-terson and his staff who worked tirelessly to have the course in first class condition for us (even on Sunday afternoon I might add). And thanks to Elliott and Edna Small for all the work they put in to make the tournament the great success that it was. Thanks again.

On Saturday June 10 we had a family barbecue at the Kilspindie House Hotel which was well attended with 48 members, wives, children and guests all enjoying a good night. Pity it was on the cool side but it was dry so we hope to have another during the summer so keep a look out for the next date soon to be arranged. The annual dance is at the same venue as last year (as above). Tickets on sale now at a price of £18 per person. Rooms are also available at £18 per person per night bed and breakfast. Letters regarding this will be with you soon or give me a call.

Tickets for the 100 club are going slowly so come on get entering and don’t miss out of the best draws to be made soon. So hurry.

The East section football team is on the look out for some more games so come on and don’t miss out of the first draws to be made soon. So hurry.

The next golf tournament is on September 25 at Maxstone Park GC. That day Reginald W.T. Stonebridge will be celebrating his retirement and would like to see new and old friends alike join in. If you would like to attend the evening meal, contact Rhys Thomas on 0121 357 5378. All members Rhone Poulenc, G. Brady; Barenburgh UK, A. Elliss; Alexanders, S. Chapman and E. Sommerfeld; Amenity Sports Turf, S. Burrows; Rigby Taylors, T. Adamson and S. Dyson; Rigby Taylors, R. Binns 20

Midland

Sitting in the garden sunbathing as I write this month’s note must mean that summer has finally arrived. My family and I headed off down to Richard Whyman’s neck of the woods for our annual dip in the sea on July 1. It must be a joy this time of year to be on the coast with the sands just a few minutes away.

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Jenkins on his marriage. Paul has given me advice over the years and it’s nice to know Paul has joined the ranks of the biggest institution known to man. How does the song go – “another one bites the dust”? Seriously, we all wish they both a happy future.

The next golf tournament is on September 25 at Maxstone Park GC. That day Reginald W.T. Stonebridge will be celebrating his retirement and would like to see new and old friends alike join in. If you would like to attend the evening meal, contact Rhys Thomas on 0121 357 5378. All entries to the tournament must be with Rhys by August 25.

Finally I would like to congratulate all the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers who have become NVQ Assessors. It hasn’t been an easy thing to do, especially as we have had to learn what seemed to be a new language altogether. So we all now know what PC stands for. No it’s not Police Constable!

KIM BLAKE
Briers; Purdy's, L. Purdy.

The next golf tournament is at Coombe or September 25 and the first winter lecture on October 5.

RonalD ULLATHORNE

Sussex

On the premise that "no news is good news" Sussex must be doing very well. However, things have been happening in the section with our spring meeting at the Nevill GC in April at which Bruce Cruickshank educated us on the many and varied uses of hollow cores on the course. And they say the Scots are mean! The winners in the morning were Matt Saunders, Chris Reed and Carl Whyborne with Alan Wickens taking the Guest Prize. The afternoon winner was Chris Allen and Raymond Day with Sean Sturrock as Guest winner. Thanks are offered to the sponsors of the day, Culverwells and Rigby Taylor. Congratulations also go to those who qualified for the next round of the Hayter Challenge but more especially to Chris Allen and Raymond Day who have made it through to the Final - good luck!

Summer found us at Ifield on a blisteringly hot day. Thanks must be given to Alistair Cale and his team for their efforts in preparing the course for us - pity about the pin placements! The winners in the morning were Jon Hall, Raymond Day and Colin Martin with Gary Ogilvie taking the Trade prize. The afternoon winners were Andy Paynter, Lawrie Tremlett and Duncan Haste with Norman Kennard and Peter Stuart collecting the Guest prize. Thanks again to the sponsors, Farmura and John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd.

Special thanks must go to both clubs and their catering teams for looking after us so well.

While handing out the accolades, I would like to thank the Steering Committee of the Southturf Show for putting on another great event. However, one has to wonder at how sincere the support is for the Association when two of the South East Region manufacturers were not only absent but held private display days on either side of the show. It has been noted who they are. On the other hand support from Head Office was outstanding and I personally noted some "heavy-weights" among the crowd.

And now to the future. The autumn meeting takes place on September 27 at Worthing GC. Are you ready for us, Rob? Please don't forget that if you have been unable to attend the last two meetings this is your last chance to be eligible for the Turkey Trot (some time in December at Littlehampton GC)

STEFAN ANTOLIK

North Wales

I was saddened to hear that Peter Gabriel, the Head Greenkeeper from Carden Park, was made redundant recently. If anyone can help him out with either casual work or a permanent position please contact him on 01978 266284.

I have not been made aware of any other news around the area so I can only presume all is well in the North Wales section.

The only point I have to raise is that there is a required standard of dress for all greenkeepers who attend BIGGA Greenkeeper days and the committee would be grateful if all members would do their best to comply. If anybody has difficulty in obtaining the correct standard of dress please get in touch with me and I will do all I can to help.

Can I say well done to all the boys who took part in the Hayter Qualifier at Middlebrough and my congratulations to Darren Davies of Flint and Ian Buckley of Northrop Country Park who I believe got through to the Final.

Congratulations to Haydn Jones and Richard Taylor of Chirk GC in passing their Level 2 Greenkeeping this month. There goes the myth that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well done to both of you.

T.P. EVANS

Southern Irish Section

The Glasson Golf and Country Club in Athlone Co Westmeath was the venue for the Southern Irish Section of the Hayter/BIGGA Challenge.

Fine weather greeted the protagonists who managed to record some very healthy scoring. The event was contested by 48 players which reflects a substantial increase in numbers from last year. Everyone agreed that the Glasson Golf and Country Club was a perfect venue being in the heart of Ireland and therefore within reach of all participants. The course itself provided a mix of challenging holes and superb scenery although not everyone enjoyed the 15th hole were both tee and green were islands on Lough Ree which adjoins the course.

Stan Mitchell of Dublin Grass Machinery played as a guest and his score of 70 would have equalled that of the winner.

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T.P. EVANS

Midland Regional Final

The Midland Regional Final was held on July 5 at The Erewash Valley GC, Stanton by Dale, Derby.

Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Erewash for allowing us to stage the event and to Graham Arnold and his staff for getting the course in such superb condition under very trying weather conditions and to Doreen and her inside staff or an excellent meal.

Some very good scores emerged and as we know in the East Midlands we were Bindleyed again. It was nice to see Neil Thomas and Barry Heaney attend our event.

Special thanks go to Hayter for sponsoring the event (long may they do so) and to Kim Macfie and his entourage for all their help on the day. Thanks also to Bert Cross for starting and driving the mini bus, Howard McAdiey and lan Holohan for help with the scoring and everyone at Middlebrough GC for making the event such a success.


Cat 2. 1. P. Harley, North West, 66; 2. R. Johnson, Northern, 66; 3. M. Broughton, North West, 68.


HAYTER CHALLENGE

The Northern Regional final of the Hayter Challenge was held at the Middlesbrough GC in early July.

Thanks to Hayter for its generous sponsorship and especially Kim and Hamish Macfie for their help on the day. Thanks also to Bert Cross for starting and driving the mini bus, Howard McAdiey and lan Holohan for help with the scoring and everyone at Middlesbrough GC for making the event such a success.

Results: Cat 1. 1. C. Powley, Cleveland, 71; 2. K. Bush, Cleveland, 68; 3. D. Cockburn, Northern, 69.


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Comment From Walter Woods

St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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