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Years in charge. Graham was for-

Anthony, Duff House Royal; and

Wood, Hazlehead; Colin Burgess,

have had 41 new members this

year and Stewart Shaw

John Geddes, Ellon. Class 3: Keith

but it will soon come round.

Dougal Duguid tells me that we

been forgiven for thinking it was a

voted the best new course in

may seem along way off just now

Section qualifier for the 1997

Bradley Wood, Westhill. Class 2:

Elmwood; Iain Macleod, Tain; and

Grantown on Spey; Colin Mackay,

Hayter tournament, the following

.naird, Grantown on Spey; Derek

Waterloo Street, Glasgow, on Fri-

our Autumn outing was also the

section for the 1997 Hayter tournament, the following

members will represent us in the

Scottish finals: Class 1: Neil Sadler, 

Grantown on Spey; Colin Mackay, 

Elmwood; Iain Macleod, Tain; and 

Bradley Wood, Westhill. Class 2: 

Chris Cunningham, Fortrose; Ken 

Kinnaird, Grantown on Spey; Derek 

Anthony, Duff House Royal; and 

John Geddes, Ellon. Class 3: Keith 

Wood, Hazelhead; Colin Burgess, 

Forres; Stuart Hogg, Fortrose; and 

George Asher, Kemnay. May 1997 

may seem along way off just now 

but it will soon come round.

The last big north competition of 

1996 was the Northern Counties 

Cup at Tain and you could have 

been forgiven for thinking it was a 

greenkeepers outing, as there where so many greenkeepers 

representing their clubs. Forres led by 

Head Greenkeeper Mike Wilson 

made it through to the final where 

they were beaten by local rivals 

Elgin. The large amount of green-

keepers in attendance shows the 

quality of golfers in our profession 

today which, I believe can only 

help in producing good golf 

courses for our members.

In Golf World's latest standouts, 
The Carnegie Course at Skibo is 
voted the best new course in 

Britain, nearby Royal Dornoch is 

the 10th on the list of established 
courses along with Royal Aberdeen 

30, Cruden Bay 26, Nairn 54 and 

Murcar 85. There are many other 
good courses in our area for visi-
tors to play and some should fea-
ture in the top 100 also. Maybe we 

should invite the Golf World Panel 

top here to see for themselves what 

the North has to offer.

Finally as this is my last report of 

1996, I would just like to wish 
everyone a Happy Christmas and a 
good New Year and achieve all you 

yearn for in 1997.

Iain MacLeod

West

The Section AGM shall be held at 

Claremont Bowling Club, Mil-

ngavie, on Thursday, December 5 

1996 at 6.30 pm. The committee 

has arranged a social night which is 

always a very enjoyable evening 
to follow the AGM.

It is hoped each member will 

make every effort to attend in sup-

port in the Section and make their 

views heard.

Agenda: 1. Apologies 2. Minutes 
of previous AGM 3. Business aris-

ing 4. Secretary's report 5. Chair-

man's report 6. Election of office 

bearers 7. Education 8. AOCB

Tickets are now available from 

committee members for the annual 

dinner at the Admiral restaurant, 

Waterloo Street, Glasgow, on Fri-

day November 29 1996. Comedian 

Glen Dain has been booked to 

appear. Get your tickets early as 

this is always a very popular 
dinner.

A J Bulloch

Central

The final golf tournament of the 

season was held at Pitreavie GC in 

October when some 55 members 

and guests had a most enjoyable 

day "away from work".

Winner on the day were 

Ransomes' Shield (Best nett aggre-

gate Spring/Autumn Tournaments) 

Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; 

AMP Trophy (Best Scratch) Archie 

Dunn, Auchterarder GC; Aitken 

Trophy (Best nett) Alex Wallace, 

Dollar GC; 1st Class (All Net) 1. 

Robbie MacMillan, Falkland GC 2. 

Rodney Hensby, Tullichilan GC 2nd 

Class. 1. Joe Oliver, Pitreavie GC; 

2. David Smith, Aberdour GC 3rd 

Class. 1. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour 

GC; 2. Peter Finlay, Auchterarder 

GC. Two Ball Foursomes, Andy 

O'Hara and Anne Strathern, 

Prorons, Roy Auld, SGM and 

Guests, Ian Butcher, Elmwood Col-

lege. Our sincere thanks go to every-

one at Pitreavie GC for making it 
such a successful day, especially 

Joe Oliver and his staff for having 
the course in excellent condition so 
late in the season (and for delaying 
his hollow coring until after the 
tournament). Thanks Joe!

While we are on about golf, the 
date and venue for the Autumn 
Tournament in '97 is Thursday 
September 18 at Auchterarder GC. 

The date and venue for the Spring 

Tournament has not yet been con-

firmed but we are hopeful of secur-
ing an exciting venue for this one.

The Section's oldest retired 

member, Jim Harrison, formerly 

head man at Muthill GC, has been 
suffering from ill health for some 
time in hospital. Everyone sends 

their best wishes for a speedy 

recovery to him, as we miss the 
support of both Jim and retired 

Muthill Secretary Haig Gordon at 

our meetings.

The Section's nominees for this 

year's Patron's Awards are Andy 

O'Hara of Leven Links and Gordon 

MacRae of Ratho Park. These 

are awards for members of the 

Section who, in the opinion of the 

committee, give support to Section 

events, so if you wish to be nomi-
nated, come along to the events 

which are organised on your 

behalf.

By the time you read this the 

section AGM will have been held 

and hopefully a number of new 

members will have been elected to 

the committee with fresh ideas for 
getting more members to partici-
pate in the running of their own 

Section. While on the subject, if 

anyone has any thoughts for news 

items which may be of interest to 

other members - is a member 
moves job/is promoted/BIGGA or 
college achievements - anything! 

Please let me know and I will 

include it in the Section news.

As we near the end of another 

year I would like to thank everyone 

who has supported the Central 

Section, through what has been a 

particularly difficult 12 months, by 

attending the events which were 

organised - especially the golf 

clubs who gave so freely of their 

facilities to hold our golf tourna-

ments, to the Patrons of the Scot-

tish Region for the support which 

they gave in so many different 

ways and to my fellow committee 

members for the time and effort 

which they put into the running of 

the Section.

Here's wishing everybody "All 

the Best in '97".

John Crawford

East

Welcome to this month's article. So 
down to business. Congratulations 
to the two winners of the Patron's 
Award for 1996. I don't have the 
winners' names to hand so look out 
in next month's magazine.

I would like to take this opportu-
nity to welcome any new members 
to the Section, we hope to see you 

all at future events. The annual 
dance on December 7 at the Kil-

spindle House Hotel is as usual a 

complete sell out so the night is 
eagerly anticipated by everyone 
and I look forward to seeing you 

all there. (I hope everyone has paid 

for their tickets so the secretary 
can have a good night without hav-

ing to deal with money etc).

The Skittles' Night in October 

was cancelled yet again due to lack 
of interest from our members. 

There were only 11 people going 

on six of whom were greenkeep-

ers - the rest were guests. From 
a membership of in excess of 170 

that is pretty abysmal. What's the 

problem? Are we wasting our 
time on the social committee organ-

ising the events? You tell us. As I always 
say it's your Section. Come to the 

AGM and let us know. That's the 

third Skittles' Night to be cancelled 
at £40 per time. A total of £120 

has been wasted in two years.

It is your money so let's see you 
at the events or they will be lost 

forever. You don't see any golf out-

ings being cancelled due to lack of 

members. Does that speak for 

itself? Any ideas on this let me 

know - 01875 870485. Just give 

me a call.

By the time you read this we 

shall have had the AGM at 

Swanston GC - November 28 and 

the Christmas Shopping Trip to 

Newcastle City Centre - November 

24. We hope these were well 

attended.

There will be news from the 

annual dance in next month's mag-

azine - also news from the annual 
dance, and possibly a few pho-

tographs. I hope everyone has his BTME 

application forms because if it is 
your first time you won't be disap-

pointed. The week is one of the 

highlights of the year in the BIGGA
calendar so we hope to see you there. Let’s see a big turnout from the East Section. Don’t forget there is the BIGGA AGM at Harrogate during BTME. It is your opportunity to have your say. If you can make it we shall see you down there.

Winter lectures start early next year and you will be notified soon. There is actually one before our calendar so we hope to see you during BTME. It is your opportunity to have your say. If you can make it we shall see you down there.

Well that it for this year. We hope everyone’s winter programmes are going well while the weather is reasonably good, as it will change as it always does. It’s been a good year and I hope next year is the same. The Section is going from strength to strength with only a couple of minor problems ie social events.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members old and new a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from the committee of the East Section – have a great time.

Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

We are looking forward to the Section AGM on December 3 in the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick at 7.30pm. This will be followed by one of the now famous quizzes, hosted by Bob Holness and Magnus Magnusson, alias those Bobby boys, Bruce and McKay. They assure me that the questions will be fun and not too difficult so please come along and have fun with us.

One of employment front we would like to wish good luck to Kevin Hills in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Thornhill GC and Klaus Schiller on his appointment as Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Powfoot GC. Personally I hope the winter is kind to them and their courses come through this period in good condition. In fact, I hope everyone has this.

A lot of our Section members attended the IOG Show in Ingliston and everyone I have spoken to thought the show was good. It was nice to meet people you might not see during the year and this year I met Ian Taylor from Powfoot. It was good to see you looking so well Ian and I’m sure everyone joins me in hoping that you manage to come along to an outing next year for a longer chat.

As has been asked before please send through any items you would like in the magazine to me or speak to Robert Bruce on his travels.

To close, our Chairman Ian, myself and all the Committee wish all our Section members, all greenkeepers everywhere, all the staff at BIGGA Headquarters at Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Jim Paton

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750599

Sheffield

On October 3 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Bob Taylor from the STRI on a very interesting lecture on the ecological and conservation management of golf courses, which was enjoyed by a good number of our members. Following the lecture we held our Annual General Meeting. The attendance for the AGM was 32 members which to say we’ve got 197 members in our section it wasn’t that good. Also quite a few members left after the lecture without giving their apologies.

The following members were duly re-elected to the committee.

President K. Arnold; Chairman, N. Maltby; Vice Chairman/Treasurer D. Milbourne; Secretary R. Ullathorne; Competition Secretary B. Heaney; Committee members J. Duffield, S. Hurd, J. Lax, E. Mone and S. Currie.

It was also passed by the AGM that entrance fees to competitions be put up to £15 to cover the ever increasing cost of running the competitions may once again remind you that no late entry’s or telephone entries will be accepted from anyone.

Congratulations go to Phil Stain who was recently appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts GC. Good luck Phil!

Our next lecture will be on December 12 at Rotherham GC at 7.30pm and will be given Mr C. Peel, of ADAS.

Finally I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Lax

North Wales

The Section’s Autumn tournament was held on the October 16 at Chester GC. A total of 107 members and guests took part and although the weather could have been kinder to us it was a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Chester GC for providing us with such a superb venue and for making us feel so welcome.

Our thanks must also go to the trade sponsors for the day, Gem Professional, Major Owen, Acorn, Mommersteeg Seeds, Richard Campey, Walker Engineering, Martin Brothers, Ki - chem and to Rigby Taylor who have donated a most handsome trophy that we will starting to compete at our Christmas tournament at Portmadog.
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The winner of the Gem Professional Shield for the best net was Terry Evans with 38 points, the Major Owen Trophy for best gross went to Andy Peel with a score of 77, 36 points. The Acorn Shield for nearest the pin was won by Dave Parry. In all there were 34 prize winners which I am sure you will agree is quite an achievement.

Congratulations go to Gavin Clarke, of Eaton GC, who married his bride, Sharon, on October 11. Gavin and Sharon have known each other 10 years and were school sweethearts. Best wishes for your future happiness together.

Last month I received two requests from assistant greenkeepers who are looking for work. If anyone knows of any vacancies please contact me so I can pass on the information.

We have three new members to welcome into the Section they are Andrew Mitchell, of Frodsham GC; Neil Gilleland, of Eastham Lodge GC; and Jon Long, of Chashey GC. Our Section now stands at 135 members.

Trevor Johnston

North West

The AGM this year was attended by 21 members which was a definite improvement on last year's attendance prior to the AGM which was held at Wilsom GC. We had an 18 hole Stableford Competition and although the forecast for the day was not at all promising, the weather held out making it a very enjoyable day. As usual Steve Outram and his staff had the course in great condition and although Paul Pease was the overall winner everyone went home with a prize. I would like to thank Wilsom GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and Gwenn Chason, and her husband for a lovely meal and for keeping the bar open all day.

The golf was followed by the AGM and the election of committee members. The committee elected to stand for the committee members were voted on. Chairman, Chris Sheehan; Secretary, Bert Cross; Treasurer, Howard McAldey; Vice Chairman, Steve Outram; Committee, Bill Merritt, Alec Davies, Mike Davie, Paul Pease and Lyndon Smith.

Recently I have heard of so many Head Greenkeepers being sacked and made redundant, I think it is must be easier to keep a football manager's job than a greenkeepers. The last two years have been very difficult years for the industry due to the droughts of '95, and the cold winds and late start to '96 followed by very dry conditions once again. I can only assume that this is the cause of the unrest from golf club officials and members. I think it is about time they realised you cannot cheat nature and give the opportunity and the right conditions the Hay Greenkeeper and his staff will produce the goods. In the past we have tried to bring together, greenkeepers and golf club officials to educational seminars, but I wonder if the old saying a little knowledge is a dangerous thing applies.

I will close now by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. Any queries please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Paul Kellett celebrated his 40th birthday at Wynyard GC.

Charlie Hancock is the new staff member at Ian Holloran's Middlesbrough Municipal GC. The Nissan Primera tournament was also held there.

Chester Le Street GC has bought a Weidemann Terraspike for fairways, Head Greenkeeper, Barry Lee, tells me while Mark Sewell, Assistant at the club, won the Club Championship off a handicap of 2.

South Shields GC are having good results with fairway over-seeding on stressed areas using dwarm rye mixture. Best wishes also to Craig Wayman from the club who is recovering from a broken leg.

Congratulations to Mark Hodgson, Tony Cheesebrough and Alex Russell, the Beast of Bedale, for doing well in the Hayter Final.

Congratulations also to Bedale's Neil Austrwick and wife Adell on the birth of their first child, a baby boy.

Chris Fiddell, of Billingham GC, is making slow improvement after his motor cycle accident last January. We hope you are soon back to work Chris and feeling better. Best wishes to you.

Dinsdale Spa GC have done extensive drainage work on their 10th fairway, says Course Manager, Tony Mears. Tony is also our Internal Verifier and he recently called a meeting of assessors for an update and information which was a well attended evening. Thanks Ian for the room at the "muni".

Ramside Hall GC Course Manager, Roger Sharpe, has a surplus of 20,000 tonnes of clay.

In Cleveland we have had a wonderful autumn with grass so green and trees colourful. Some Fusarium which was difficult to control but we got there.

We are in the middle of leaf fall and having a busy time.

See you all at the Turf Care Quiz v the IOG team at Mount Oswald GC, Durham on December 11, 7.30pm when we all hope that Kevin Haslop excels in the general knowledge and TV questions. Also there will be the usual marvellous supper laid on by Terry Charlton and staff from Turf Care.

Evening lectures will be held on December 4, January 16, February 6 and 27 and March 20. All to be held at Darlington GC, Houghton Grange with a 7.30pm start with buffet to follow.

The next golf event is at the Wynyard Club, The Wellington Course, on December 12. The tee is reserved from 11am and there are a maximum of 30 places. Trade are welcome and a strict dress code applies.

Bruce Burnell

Northern

The weather has eventually changed, winter is with us and Christmas is just around the corner. Most of us will be trying their best to keep the course in as tidy a state as possible.

Our Autumn Tournament was this year held at Manton and Norton GC. Many thanks to the Adamsons for sponsoring the event. Thanks also to the greens staff for having the course in excellent condition and to the caterers for feeding us so well. The results for the day were as follows:-

Cat 1. 1. Dave (the bandit) Collins; 2. Steve Midgley; 3. Tony Gerrard.


Thanks as always to the committee for helping out on the day and to the trade "boys" for their appreciation of prizes.

I hope you have all received the latest newsletter which was kindly sponsored by Rolawn. The date for the Spring Tournament at Wakefield GC should read 23rd April '97 and not 23rd May '97.

Finally, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a drink (or two) for me and thanks to everybody for their support towards the Section over the last year.

Simon Hepperstall

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

At the beginning of last month I attended a secretaries' meeting at Leicester. This was an opportunity to meet other various section secretaries and also to discuss the future of the association from HQ. This proved to be a valuable exercise for those concerned with lots of good ideas thrown around the table. It was an eye opener for myself to find out how much work goes into the running of the Association on a national level. I don't envy their workload up to the BTME at Harrogate. Good luck to all concerned.

Although we had our last golf event several weeks ago you will have to wait until next months article for the results, also the result of the Rigby Taylor final. As yet the...
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels. The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting.

Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands, WS9 8NA, telephone 01347 838640.

**ASHKAM BRYAN COLLEGE**

Ashkan Bryan, York Y02 3PR. Contact Christine Biggin, registrar. Tel: 01904 702121.


**CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER**

Wythenshawe Park Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9QY. Contact Peter Riley/Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1526. Day Release and Full time courses leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with the Greenkeeping option.

**HOUGHAL COLLEGE**

Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 5SG. Contact Tony Millan. Tel: 0191 386 1351.

Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture; Greenkeeping and Greenmanship – 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option – 2.5 years; Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management Level II – Day Release; NVQ Level 3 and NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Health & Safety Legislation; Turfscare; Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ levels I and II.

**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE**

Myerscough Hall, Blisborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Martyn Jones. Tel: 01995 640611. Full time courses: BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management, National Certificate in Greenmanship and Greenkeeping – 3 years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management – 3 years (both these courses include one year’s paid industrial experience). Part time courses: NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; NVQ Level III Sports Turf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with RTLA). A range of short courses including FEPA, Pesticide and various technical modules.

**REASEHEATH COLLEGE**

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Contact Dennis Morris. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. Full time courses: BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management – 3 years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management – 3 years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management – 3 years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management – 3 years (both these courses include one year’s paid industrial experience). Part time courses: NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; NVQ Level III Sports Turf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with RTLA). A range of short courses including FEPA, Pesticide and various technical modules.

**KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE**

Ponteland, Northumberland (10 miles from the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne). Contact Mike Swinton. Tel: 01661 863808. Fox: 01661 860047. A wide range of full and part time Amenity and Commercial Horticulture courses including Greenkeeping and Sports Turf management and management.

**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**

Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Fossett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: Craft NVQ Level I, II and III. Day and Part time. Duration: Over two years, each of weeks duration (September – June).

**RODBASTON COLLEGE**

Morley, Ilkerton, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345.

NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks, or APL service.

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE**

Milton College, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridge CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 860701. Part time – Day release over two years leading to NVQ Level II and III (Greenkeeping courses), including the GTC Training Management requirements. Autumn: term commences September/October 1997.

**BRACKENHURST COLLEGE**

Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QQ. Contact Student Administration. Tel: 01636 817099. National Diploma in Horticulture (over two years) with options – NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release training to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping option) following the GTC Training Manual – also available short courses in Technical, Supervisory and Management Skills training appropriate to the Greenkeeping Industry.

**BROOKSBY COLLEGE**


**BROOMFIELD COLLEGE**


**MOULTON COLLEGE**


**BRINSBURY COLLEGE**


**HADLOW COLLEGE**

Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time courses with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Nottingham and Maidstone.

**NESCOT**

NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time. Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.
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Pending GTC approval for all courses

Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves.
Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided.
Contact the colleges direct for perspectives and comprehensive information.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE
Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0UA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Full-time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time: Courses leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping. Evening courses leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticides, Chainsaw, Fork Lift Truck, Greenkeeper Mechanics.

OTLEY COLLEGE

PLUMPTON COLLEGE

WRITTLE COLLEGE

MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE

CANNINGTON COLLEGE

HARTPURY COLLEGE

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

ELMWOOD COLLEGE
Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Bothwell. Tel: 01334 658800 Fax: 01334 658888. Craft Level courses. Full-time, block and part time courses. NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, NVQ Level II, Block day and distance learning. HND/HNC Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. PEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW
Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 0141 647 6300. SCOTVEC National Certificate – 3 years day release or 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management – 2 years day release. NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G IVO Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

GOSTA TRAINING LTD
Unit 2B, Clydeeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 246 2453. NVQ II in Amenity Horticulture will all options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available Day/Block Release from November to February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses. NVQ III in maintaining sports turf to be offered from early 1997.

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE
Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Henry Shaw. Tel: 01849 426666. Day release courses leading to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision.

TEAGASC COLLEGE
Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Patuttle. Tel: 003531 8374 388. Phase II Amenity Horticulture – Block release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Amenity Horticulture – Block Release, one week, three times per year.

PENCOED COLLEGE
Midland

Due to a mix up between myself and Headquarters, these notes did not appear in the November magazine. Every member should have received a letter stating the date and time of the AGM and other information regarding the winter lectures.

As some of you may be aware the Golf Day at Fulford Heath GC was cancelled due to lack of support. Only 24 greenkeepers entered. Martin Brothers, Rigby Taylor and Barenbrug are hoping to put on another similar event next year and we hope enough support will be forthcoming.

The Autumn Tournament was played over 27 holes at King's Norton GC. The results were as follows: Best Gross, R. Jones. Nearest the pin, R. Woodham. Longest Drive, D. Shortridge. Trade Prize, D. Shortridge, Toro Irrigation.

The Committee would like to thank the main prize sponsor Abbey Mowers and all the other trade people for their prizes. We thank King's Norton GC for their courtesy of a fine course, which Mick Reece and his staff presented magnificently. Thanks to the Captain of the club for presenting the prizes and also to Supaturf for supplying the wine which proved to be as good a wetting agent as Primer 604.

The Ritefeed singles, semi-final and final were played at Southport. The winner was M. Butler and runner-up P. Loffman. The other semi-finalists were N. Couchman and A. Roberts.

A great day was had by all and we all wish to thank John Walker and Richard Lawrence from Ritefeed for their support and hope it continues next year.

Congratulations to R. Thomas and his wife, Steph, on the birth of their son. The first of many.

We have to report the very sad death of our President Reg Pugh. I hope everyone read the article in the August magazine, which featured Reg and some of his memories of when the Midland section started.

Reg had not been well for some time but did manage to get to the Christmas tournament last year, where we had the privilege of talking to him. His memories and stories of greenkeeping etc were so good you could write a book.

Reg will be sadly missed by all of the Midland Section who knew him. We send our condolences to his family. The Midland Section has made a donation to Reg's requested charity.

The next item of news is one Reg would have been proud of - the annual team match against the East Midlands Section. It was played on October 10 at Longcliffe GC and was won by the Midland team 11 points to 3. The Midland Section would like to thank Rigby Taylor for their support and hospitality and also for the help received from David Morgan and Steve Blakeman. Thank you to Longcliffe on the East Midlands Section for a good day. Well done to our team for getting their early and winning in style.

Still on golf tournaments the Rigby Taylor Greensome Double Tournament final was played at Hoylake (Royal Liverpool) on October 14, the winners were J. Chesson and R. Thwaites. The runners-up were A. Roberts and R. Hunter. Again we would like to thank Rigby Taylor for all their hard work and support in helping to run this competition.

In next month's magazine will be the results of the Christmas Tournament and also the names of the Midland Section Committee - this will have the name and telephone number of the new Secretary.

Finally it was disappointing at the Regional Seminar to see so few members. I did meet Andrew Smith from North Warwickshire GC who told me of a five-a-side football match against Stonebridge GC which they won 10-0. Well done Andrew and team.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kim Blake

Mid Anglia

The match which was due to be played against the London Section in early September had to be cancelled as they could not get a team together, it being the same week as Saltes.

The annual Texas Scramble event takes place on Tuesday December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC over 18 holes.

On behalf of the Section and Committee I would like to wish our Chairman, John Pemberton and Neil Whitaker every success in the future following their recent departure from their respective clubs.

The final of the Lodgegow four-ball tournament was played of 36 holes at Mentmore GC in early October.

John Wells and John Moorhouse defended their title, overcoming Gary Boulton and Alan Grew by 3 & 2 after a very close match.

Our thanks go out to Mentmore for allowing the final to take place, and to Mark Ellis and his team for preparing the course so well.

Chas Ayres has once again organised the event superbly, Lodgegow Tractors, will continue to sponsor the competition in the future.

There were a few problems this year mainly caused by entrants not playing their matches within the time limits.

This can only be solved next year by people being more responsible about getting their matches played and not leaving it to the last minute.

If anyone reading this has not entered the competition before I would certainly recommend it as it is a good opportunity to play other golf courses and to mix with other members of the section. Our Autumn Tournament this year was held at Collingtree Park GC in late October. It attracted an entry of nearly 50 members, all of whom I am sure enjoyed playing the attractive course.

There are certainly some very testing holes throughout the course with lots of water hazards are rough to contend with.

Our thanks to to Alistair Connall and all his staff for preparing the course and to Collingtree for their hospitality shown to us during the day.

A very popular winner was received by everyone, Neil Whitaker with 40 points, Mark Whittle, of Mentmore GC, was second with 38 points, and Chris Brook was third with 37 points after a countback.

Mark Ellis, of Mentmore GC, won nearest the pin and Keith Allen, of Hertfordshire, the longest drive.

Driving Force Leisure sponsored the day and our thanks go to David Murphy for donating the excellent prizes, and helping on the day.

Also many other trade members attended so thank you all for supporting the Mid Anglia Section so well.

Following the prize giving the annual general meeting was held. The officers were elected to form the committee for next year; Chairman, Stewart Boyes; Vice Chairman, Mark Ellis; Secretary, Gerald Bruce; Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders; Treasurers, John Wells; Regional Officer, Paul Lockett; Committee member, Chris Brook; Handicap Secretary - Ronan McKeeown.

My personal thanks go to Chris Brook, our outgoing Chairman, for the way he has continued to advance the Section forward and to Gerald and Richard for their hard work during the year. I'm sure Stewart Boyes will be a worthy Chairman in succeeding Chris, and continue to steers the Section on to continued success.

The business discussed during the AGM as follows. Gerald reported that our membership had risen to 239 members, out of a national total of 6, 097. New sponsors had been appointed for the fixture list, George Browns.

Richard gave a report on all the golf fixtures played during the year, listing all the winners etc.

Our treasurer John Wells reported the section to be in a very healthy state, with over £2000 in the bank.

Some of this money will be used towards office equipment (a compatible printer for our existing computer)

Only one item was raised from the floor during A.O.B. This was a proposal that no professionals should be permitted in Texas Scramble teams at the Christmas Tournament, which was raised by Gavin Simkins.

After discussion the proposal was voted on and defeated. The meeting was then closed. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Paul Lockett

SOUTH WEST

SOUTH WEST

AND SOUTH

WALES REGION

Gordon Child

Tel: 01803 844056

South West

There has been mixed success for the Section in the two recent team matches against the South Coast and South Wales Sections. On October 2 the team met at Wells

Southport.
GC for the annual match against the South Coast Section. Unfortunately for the second year running we were beaten in this fixture. Although not there on the day I understand that the course was in great shape and thanks go to Maurice Pearce and his staff for their efforts and presentation and to Wells GC for their hospitality. A week later it was our turn to be victorious with a 5-0 victory, this time against the Welsh Section at Tregor Park. Thanks go to Welsh Secretary, Peter Lacey, for his organization of the event, and to both the South Coast and South Wales Sections for making these events possible.

Most fixtures for 1997 are now in place. Th Whites have once again offered to provide a fixture card for Section Members and our thanks go to them for their continued support.

Lawson Products Limited are now sponsors for the Winter Tournament which is held around February each year. They have offered to provide a winning trophy and prizes for the top scores on the day. Burnham and Berrow GC will host the Havyard Cup Final for 1997 which no doubt will be a tough challenge for those members who qualify from the respective Section event.

A reminder once again that BTME is now just around the corner. If you have not booked there may be a few places left on the coach. Gordon and Marion Child can ensure you place at a cost £125 for members.

This is my last report for the magazine as Section Secretary for the South West and I thank you for your support over the last three years. It just remains for me to say that our Christmas Dinner which took place on Christmas Day at Worlebury GC was a huge success. The winners were 1. Paul Coles, 45pts; 2. Bob Parnell, 43pts; 3. John Farkins, 40pts; 4. Robert Lake, 37pts; 5. Tony Gadd, 33pts. Nearest the Pin was Chris Greest and the Longest Drive was none other than our host Ed McCabe.

On behalf of our Section I would like to thank our generous sponsors, Scats, Vitax and Avoncrop. Any last minute bookings for BTME, contact Gordon or Marion Child. I would thin that by now the coach is either full or getting very close to it. For those of you who will be travelling on the Region's luxury coach, I will be contacting you all as to travel arrangements to pick up the main coach.

Here we are again another year gone. They seem to fly by (mine's a pint when I see you Ed). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, sponsors, members of the trade and all our friends a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all at BTME.

Ken Lodge

South East Region

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

A big thank you to all the Surrey section members who attended the Autumn Meeting at Effingham GC for kindly putting their hands in their pockets for the children of Romania. £25 was raised and will be put towards Christmas treats for the less privileged children whose only present is a single chocolate bar, I'm sure your generosity will be much appreciated. Thank you very much.

As this will be the last time I write our Section's news I'll take the opportunity to say thank you for your support and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the Surrey Section committee.

David Gibbs

South Wales

This year's annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA recently took place at the Tregor Park GC near Newport. Each side was represented by a full team of 12 golfers, the course I am told was in good condition, the weather was excellent and the new format of meals served on completion of the round worked well.

I would personally like to thank our team Captain, Mike Jones, for running the day on my behalf as work commitments prevented me from being present.

However, a good job was done of the course. But on the course, a different story well what can I say or how can I put this. We lost! Every match. We lost by 6 matches to 0. A strong looking team on paper was literally blown away on the day. So the South West retain the Shield, well done!

Our winter evening lecture series is under way at Pencoed College. We have been designated a new room, which is the old library room. Totally refurbished with excellent facilities that include a bar, yes a BAR! Hopefully this new addition will bring in a few more attendees.

The series kicked off with an entertaining presentation from comedy duo little and large, otherwise known as Danny Goffrey and Mike Franklin of Boughton Loams. Mike's presentation was primarily on Top Dressings for turf their compositions and analysis. While Danny's presentation for grasses for use in fine turf, covered such topics as genetic engineering /molecular biology and the creating of new cultivars.

An excellent evening that could have gone on all night (and nearly did) thoroughly enjoyed by all 17 attendees.

Our thanks to both Danny and Mike for their presentations and also to Boughton Loam who made it possible.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their support during 1996 and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 1997.

Peter Lacey

South Coast

Seasons greetings to you all.

Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was held at Bournemouth Golf & Country Club on Wednesday October 9. The day started with our golfing members competing over the excellently presented course for the Don Hunt Trophy, as usual our non golfing members had a guided tour of the course and greenkeeping complex by host Course Manager Terry Fitzjohn. We were delighted to see Don looking so well.

After an excellent lunch we moved to the club's President's suite for the presentation of the Don Hunt Trophy and prizes. After Don's recent illness members were delighted to see Don looking so well and to hear he is back on the road with Roffey's.


All three winning greenkeepers scored 37 points with the results being decided on back nine. With the trade prize going to Martin Samuel who scored 40 points. The section would like to thank Don for donating and presenting the prizes, our thanks to Terry Farkins and his crew who had the course in superb condition, also to all the management staff who made our day run so smoothly.

Our afternoon educational talk followed the golf presentation with course manager Terry Farkins presenting his excellent paper on "The development of Dartmouth Golf & Country Club from construction to present day". Many thanks Terry. Our raffle concluded an excellent day. Pity some of the raffle winners weren't around to receive their prize!

Our first meeting in the New Year will be held once again at Fingle Glen on Wednesday January 15 and sponsored by Barenbrug seeds. The theme this year will be on Irrigation with Ocmis Irrigation presenting a workshop on irrigation maintenance during the morning and after lunch a seminar on irrigation design from extra tees to complete course design. Golfing members don't worry we will hold a nine hole competition for you during the afternoon.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 97, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show and Seminars. There are only a few places left, so hurry!

Richard Wnyman

South Coast

On Wednesday January 15, 1997 at 2pm a visit to Roffey Bros at Bournemouth has been arranged. Roffeys, as I'm sure you all know, is one of the largest distributors of top dressing in the country. You will be able to see how all the various top dressings that Roffey's produce are mixed and used. The visit should prove to be a very interesting and informative afternoon. Roffeys are expecting a large turn out. So let's not let them down.

Our annual match against the South West Section on October 2 was held at Wells GC. Mark tells me the match was halved. The golf was good, the food was good, the course was in excellent condition and the weather was fine and sunny. Thanks to all concerned. I'm sorry I have not got the names of the people involved.

Finally, thanks to the Captain, committee and members of Wells GC for allowing us to hold the event on your course. We look forward to doing battle with the South West Section on our patch next year.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Autumn Meeting which was held at Brockenhurst Manor GC on October 10. However Mark kindly forwarded the day's events to me.

Thanks must go to the Captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. All the staff at Brockenhurst made the Section very welcome. Martin and his staff, gratifying the inner man in the clubhouse and Ed McCabe and his crew for presenting the course in the best condition I have seen it (mine's a pint when I see you Ed). Ed even managed to organise a wonderful sunny day as well.

The winners were: 1. Paul Fitzjohn, 39pts; 2. Shaun Hodgkins, 37pts; 3. Brian Wilmot, 36pts; 4. Bernard Emberley, 34pts; 5. Tony Gadd, 33pts. Nearest the Pin was Chris Greest and the Longest Drive was none other than our host Ed McCabe.

On behalf of our Section I would like to thank our generous sponsors, Scats, Vitax and Avoncrop. Any last minute bookings for BTME, contact Gordon or Marion Child. I would thin that by now the coach is either full or getting very close to it. For those of you who will be travelling on the Region's luxury coach, I will be contacting you all as to travel arrangements to pick up the main coach.

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David Gibbs
Meeting the challenge head on

Mentmore Golf and Country Club is a new golf club with a big future if Mark Ellis and his team have their way. Scott MacCallum came away convinced.

You could almost hear the “Mission Impossible” tune in the background as Mark Ellis described his job at Mentmore Golf and Country Club. All that were missing were the words. “Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to turn Mentmore’s two golf courses into one of the finest golfing developments in the country; solve the acute drainage problems; improve the design and keep the membership, who have paid significant membership fees, happy while the work is being done... this tape will self destruct in ten seconds.”

If Mark is daunted by the job he took on as Head Greenkeeper in March of this year he conceals it very well and in his own mind it is not so much “Mission Impossible” as “Mission Extremely Difficult But We’ll Get There in the End”.

“The lads are doing a tremendous job and we are all striving for high standards every time we go out and do work. I’m never going to leave this place. I’ve invested so much time and effort into it,” explained Mark.

The main problem at Mentmore and its two courses the Rothschild and the Roseberry is the heavy clay soil.

“The fairways are heavy clay and you can imagine how compacted they get. When we first opened up they were so muddy that we had to put in drainage. We put in so many drainage channels that it works too efficiently and it dries out now. This causes the fairways to crack open. The more we filled them in the more they cracked open. It was just like an hour glass. Last year we used more than 700 tonnes of sand but when we seeded over the top by the time the seed had come through it had sunk again. It was a never ending cycle.

“Now we have moved on from using pure sand to an 80/20 or a 50/50 mix but we have got to be careful that we don’t cap over what we’ve already done because the drainage is working.”

With the benefit of hindsight Mark feels the job would have been tackled a little differently.

“We should have waited and let the water find its own forms of moving away and then worked on the areas which needed drainage but the commercial pressures of getting the course ready meant a lot of sand bagging had to be done,” explained Mark who joined Mentmore as Deputy Head Greenkeeper in early ‘92, when construction was under way.

The Director of Golf at Mentmore is ex-European Tour player Pip Elson who has been on site since day one.

“I worked out of a Portakabin at the entrance and initially I spent all my time giving people a feel of the course and around a 4x4 giving people an idea of how the course would eventually look,” explained Pip, from the splendid clubhouse which is currently being extended to take in a leisure complex.

The course is owned by Invicta Leisure, a major company which also owns Maple Durham, near Reading, built the same year as Mentmore, and Chelsfield Lakes in Orpington.

“The 36 holes here were built by CJ Collins in the space of seven months but much of the work was beset by weather problems. We had an inch of rain a week midweek for four consecutive weeks. The men had to be sent home on the Tuesday. The rain actually tore out the rootzone.”

It is a time both men obviously remember vividly and the lows they describe then mean that the pride in what they have achieved...