Bark to basics

other parts. There are two contributory factors to this. Firstly because the majority of golfers slice the ball trees on the right hand side of a hole are always at greater risk.

Secondly trees which are positioned at 180 to 230 yards from the teeing ground are endangered, because they are more likely to suffer the effects of a ball travelling at near maximum velocity. Maximum velocity is achieved close after impact with the club head.

Therefore trees planted at such a distance on the right hand-side of the fairway are most certainly at imperil. If new planting is to occur on golf courses, damage to trees can be reduced by avoiding these areas.

Planting in such areas is not only detrimental to the health of the trees, but may also eventually adversely affect, the strategy of the golf course. The strong hazard a mature tree forms often results in the player having no choice but to "chip out" sideways. Whereas trees which are planted in a more sympathetic position, between the landing area and the green will allow the skilful player to manoeuvre the ball around the obstacle, making for a fairer and more interesting game and giving the player the choice as to whether to attempt the adventurous shot or to simply play safe.

Damage to trees can be further reduced, by correct species choice and by appropriate protection. Thin barked species such as Sycamore and Beech are more vulnerable than the thicker or spongy barked species such as Oak, Ash or Pine. The exception being Lime, although thin skinned its unique cell structure means that the damage incurred is not as critical as to most other species.

However all trees do suffer damage to some extent, the wound openings allow entry to fungal predators and the resulting stress further predisposes the tree to secondary pathogens.

Protection to new planting may be afforded in two ways, firstly physical protection by the use of guards and secondly protection through the rules of golf.

It is natural for golf clubs to have a reluctance to implement rules giving free drops from newly planted copes, as it disrupts play and is never popular with members. Tree planting is a long term strategy and therefore the implementation of a rule for the relatively short period, say 5-10 years would seem inconsequential. However the pressure committees are put under by members whose only interest is that their game is not disrupted is immense, this short term mentality is however detrimental to the long term management of the golf course.

It is therefore difficult for committees to implement rules for the protection of trees. One method may be to introduce dropping zones of long grass so that no advantage is gained and so that the player has to find his ball first. This resolves the argument that a ball can not be lost in ground under repair and allows the grass around the trees to be left long reducing maintenance for the greens staff and benefiting the trees growth as long grass is less competitive for water and nutrients than close mown sward.

It is however still a brave decision for a committee to make, but it will ultimately benefit the course, save the members money and is the right thing to do.

To summarise, if you are about to plant trees on golf courses then you should consider the following:

1. Plant trees which are resilient to damage in areas of possible contact.
2. Establish trees in suitably sized tree shelters for protection.
3. Avoid planting trees at drive length on the right hand side of the fairway.

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Typical die back semi mature rowan

4. Establish 'Dropping zones' away from newly planted areas.
5. Avoid planting between adjoining fairways where damage is likely to occur from both directions.
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D evon and Cornwall

Over 70 members and trade attended our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on December 13.

Our golfing members who com-

peted for the PJ Flegg Trophy were treated to a pleasant dry day to test their skills against the excellently presented course which was a credit to head man Richard Wisdom and his staff.

Roy Battishill and Gordon Child, two members in the twilight of their golfing careers, paired up together to produce, with the Mullion boys, the best score of the day, as experienced campaigners Roy and Gordon came strong at the end to win on the back nine from Gordon and David. Also this year our President John Palfrey donated a bottle of port for nearest the pin on the short 12th which was won by D. Smith.

After an excellent Christmas din-

ner Des from P.J. Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's Green-

some competition to: 1. G. Child, Churston, and R. Battishill, St Mel-

lium, 39pts (on countback); 2. G. Tamebury, Mullion, and D. Manley, Mullion, 39pts; 3. T. Blackburn, Credington, and T. Clark, Credington, 37 pts.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by comedian "Yan Dare" who kept us laughing up to the swing. Thanks to our President John Palfrey and David Mullion, for their donation. Our AGM was at Bury St Edmunds and we could not have had a happier day. Our thoughts go out to his family.

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Our golf presentation was really. The golf was off and so was the AGM. About 40 of us turned up and sat around having a mizzle (a what? Ed) as you do before bringing the AGM forward to 12 noon, as we had done last year, which seemed a good idea at the time. Unfortunately those who came for the AGM in the after-

noon missed it. Well, I suppose you can't all please all of the people.

After 49 cups of coffee and one or two jars the AGM got on the way. Uncle Sam stood up as Chairman for the last time as he has decided to step down after going on seven years. He has a style all of his own which will be missed, I'm sure.

I digest; we had a lively discus-

sion about Essex man doing his own thing but in the end they decided that they would miss their day out with the "rusties" and decided to stay, much to the relief of their country cousins. Where is Southend any-

way?

Then came the good bit, the elec-

tion of officers. It must have been one of the quickest I can remember. We had Ernie Hart leading the way for this. He did such a good job that he overlooked his own position as President, but as we did last year, we decided to leave him there so the position is as follows.

President Ernie Hart; Vice Presi-
dent Bob Chesham; Chairman Dave Wells; Treasurer Richard Pride; Sec-

tary Andy Sheehan; Handicap Sec-
master Alan Carter; Scribe Mick Lathrope; Assistant Scribe Steve Mil-

lard; Regional Board Richard Pride, Dave Wells and Andy Sheehan.

You will notice that I have got an assistant secretary. It was only because he can spell and write joined up. I think I’m going to cry...

Mick Lathrope

Midland

As we start his new year I would like to think that all the members are happy with way they have been treated for the Section is running. During the last few months there have been a number of interesting comments have been put my way by Trade Members who say that they would like to see different things being organised for their benefit, the only thing that I can say from the Secretary's and Commit-
tee view point is that we can only do so much – and with the support of the members. If any member has a point of view to put forward, please write or telephone me so I can put them forward to the Committee for discussion. Without your comments we cannot improve on what we have already achieved.

If anybody has any interesting snippets of news eg births, mar-
riages, achievements, etc please let me know so I can incorporate them into the column. The column is here for the use of our Section members, through me, to pass on such news and information.

New members to welcome to the Section take month are as follows:

Kenneth Baskerville, Dean Houghton, John Spiers, Ian Richards, David Richards, Tony Lloyd and Michael Green.

Finally my address is: 14 Croft Close, Winyates West, Redditch, Worcs, B98 0JT. Tel: 01527 524217. Kim Blake

Scottish Region – North

Sad news has reached me about the untimely death of James Smith, for-

merly Head Greenkeeper of Hope-

cman Golf Club. James retired due to ill health but unfortunately passed away in November at the age of 63. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Question. Where do greenkeepers go on a Saturday in the winter?

Answer. Victoria Park, Dingwall, home of Ross County FC. I go fairly regularly, but at the County verses Caledonian Thistle local derby, I counted seven other greenkeepers from different local courses present. As the regular was George Paterson until his move to Ireland last July, but I'm sure he is being kept up to date with results etc.

A word of warning for Section

I can't go without one last mention of Uncle Sam Sylvester and, of course, his mother who is in her 90s and still takes phone messages in a manner that would put a lot to shame.

I'm sure you will join me in wish-

ing Sam all the very best for the future and thanking him for all he has done for us in the past. Happy days Sam.

I think I'm going to cry...
inform you of the death of North West member Keith Harle who died sadly just before Christmas. He began his career aged 16 at Disley GC before moving on, two years later to Sandiway GC where his parents were Steward and Stewardess. Aged 21 he returned to Disley where he remained for 44 years, 25 of them as Head Greenkeeper. He retired in 1992 at 65 and sadly only enjoyed two years retirement before his death.

He was a member of the B&GA and BIGGA for many years and is sadly missed by his son Paul, who is Head Greenkeeper at Crewe GC. Once again I must remind you about the Mere seminar on Tuesday March 26. You will all have received an application form with your fixture list so please make every effort to attend and bring along your Secretary and Greens Chairman.

We are almost into the golfing calendar and the first event is the Annual Match against North Wales on Thursday April 11. I will require a team of 16 for the match so if you have the killer instinct and the will to win ring me on 0151 724 5412.

North East

Matfen Hall GC has appointed Vinny Price as Course Manager. Vinny was previously Head Greenkeeper at the Nick Faldo designed Charrhills in Kent.

His first task is to redesign the bunkers and approaches on the 2nd and 3rd holes while another idea is replacing the fescue and bent aperons and surroundings with dwarf ryegrass.

The spring competition will be held at Matfen Hall GC on April 25. The Autumn competition is yet to be announced.

Any members with information for section news please get in touch with me. Tel: 01661 860064.

Thanks to Terry Charlton again for providing the coach for the BTME. Jimmy Richardson

Northern

It is with some surprise that I find myself back at the helm of the Northern Section and once again penning the Section notes and I would like to begin by thanking all the Section Committee for their efforts last year. We have had some problems over the past 12 months and, on behalf of the Section, I must apologise to our members and friends in the trade. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible! I hope to be able to hand over to a new secretary in the near future and, in fact, may well have done so by the time you are reading this.

There is a foot of snow outside at the moment which fortunately arrived after the end of BTME in Harrogate (unlike last year!). Once again, it was an excellent show and I was delighted to see so many of you on the Region stand "chewing the fat", especially old friends like Brian Carr, Robert Gee, David Hannam, David Whitaker, Chris Raper and Ian Tomlinson who are now all scattered over Britain and Europe. It really is good to be able to catch up with people at Harrogate each year.

I would like to thank and congratulate Barry Heaney on an excellent year in office as our National Chairman, he has done a first class job and I know has also enjoyed himself. It is just a pity he had to finish his year on a pair of crutches!

Congratulations to Pat Murphy, our other Regional representative on the Board of Management who has just been made Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee. There are now very many opportunities for you as members to become better educated and better greenkeepers as a result. This improves you as people and also benefits your golf club. Why not ring Pat or HQ at Aldwark and see what is available. It costs nowt to ask!

Many thanks to everyone who helped us out at the show. I can always rely on Colin Garnett, Telford Jarvis, Ian Thomson, John Waite, Alan Gamble, Dennis Cockburn, Graham Oxley, Phil and Chris Sutton - thanks guys, you did a great job.

The first and most important event for your diary this year is the AGM to be held on Wednesday February 28 at 7.30pm at Roundhay GC, Leeds. This has been called as the AGM in December at Ganton was not in accordance with the constitution. Please try to attend and I look forward to seeing a good turnout.

So what is in store for this year’s golf then, do I hear you ask? First of all it is to the seaside for the Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier at Scarborough, South Cliff on April 24. Howley Hall is the next venue for President’s Day on June 12. I am sure our President, Bill Mountain, will do his utmost to join us. For those of you not aware of the fact, Mrs Mountain suffered illness last year and is still recovering and our thoughts and very best wishes go to them both.

Wednesday August 15 is the annual Roses Match which will be at Whitefield GC. If you would like to take part in this fully sponsored event please forward your name to me. For many years now this match has been very kindly sponsored by Pattinsons who celebrate their centenary this year – congratulations to them and thank you for your support.

Invitation Day is on September 4 at Bingley St Ives GC. This is a good opportunity to bring along your club Captain or Greens Chairman and to meet fellow greenkeepers.

Our final comp is at Malton and Norton GC on October 9. Last year our tournaments were generously sponsored by Martin Brothers, Bill Mountain, Yorkshire Mowers, Adamsons and Pattinsons. I would like to thank them and hope they will continue their support. It is very much appreciated.

If you would like to play in any or all of the golf days, please forward your name and deposits (10%) to me as soon as possible as numbers are limited so early booking is advisable. It would be nice to see some new faces this year as well as the old ones who fancy a knock.

The social fun for the Annual Dinner this year will be on March 16 at Shipley GC. This dinner dance is open to all and is always a good night out. Why not get a few friends together and come and join us. Contact me for tickets.

Back to education now – the Northern Region is hosting a seminar entitled “Forward Together” at the recently refurbished Mere Golf and Country Club in Cheshire on March 26. There are some very good speakers and the cost is only £20 including lunch. You should already have received an application form so return it quickly if you want to go as this event is always a sell out.

Don’t wait to book for any of the events I have mentioned and if you have any news, gossip or even a complaint do contact me at 5 Lynam Way, Madeley, Nr. Crewe, Cheshire or on 01782 750539 or 0850 235534.

On a sad note, on behalf of the Northern Region, I would like to pass my condolences to the family and friends of Geof Hills, our fellow Regional Administrator from the South East, who was taken ill as he left BTME and sadly died the following day in hospital. Robert Lupton

South Coast

We had a good turn out for our Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner at the Royal Winchester Golf Club.

The Turkey Trot was won by Pat Bell with 40 points, 2nd was Phil Wentworth with 39 pts, 3rd was A. Stevenson with 38 pts and 4th Terry Patchin also 38 pts (decided on the back six).

On completion the AGM took place. Ken Lodge stood down from Chairman and was replaced by Allan Mitchell. Allan’s position as secretary was filled by Jeff Drake. The section committee is now: President Jim Fry; Chairman Allan Mitchell; Secretary Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser Mark Webb; Kerran Daley, E McCabe, Bob Dennis, Tony Gadd, John York and Ken Lodge.

Everybody at Royal Winchester once again did us proud. The course was in superb condition even though the greens were sprinkled with white top dressing. The food was of its usual high standard and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Very impressed with the new clubhouse previous one was destroyed by fire 18 months ago.

Thank you Royal Winchester for making us so welcome. Last but not least our thanks go to Rigby Taylor and John Deere, our sponsors for the day. They were once again represented by Mark Wilton and Nick Clarke.

Only one thing spoilt the day. That was one of our members failing to return his trophy. Please, gentlemen, if you are not playing in the tournament make sure that someone brings the trophy along. There is nothing worse than someone going to the prize table and having no trophy to present.

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Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

the above results could have been so different if only Russell Lucas and team mates had played the correct last three holes. For those of you not familiar to Frilford is is made up of three courses and yes, you've guessed it, old Russ became confused when walking to the 16th tee on the Green course and somehow played the last three holes on an adjacent course - instant disqualification. To make matters worse one of the trade sponsors was a partner.Oops! It was all taken in good spirit and a few laughs were had by all at the bar. Sorry Russell, but I'm sure you will get me back for writing this.

Many thanks to all at Frilford for their hospitality on the day especially to J. Kleynans, Secretary; Sid Arrowsmith, Course Manager, and his dedicated team. Also thanks to the catering staff for a superb meal. Thanks also to all the Trade members for the wonderful prizes provided. Without your support throughout the season these events would not be possible.

The AGM went ahead without any problems - nothing major to discuss. P. Helps and S. Irvine resigned from the committee. Thanks to them for all their work this past year. Their places were filled by T. French from Lambourne and B. Wall - the return of the Messish! Only kidding Bernie. Ray Clark was appointed Chairman and G. Butler, treasurer.

Please give your support at events this coming year. Even if you can only attend one event that would be great. We need all the members support to make the season a success. Lindsay T. Anderson

South West

Puckrup Hall Hotel & Golf Club played host to the Christmas Tournament for 1995, sponsored by Roffey Brothers. On arriving we were confronted with a very grand complex which, as the day progressed, provided some excellent facilities for the event.

After familiarising ourselves with the essentials, it was onto the 1st tee to spend the next three hours trying...
Around the Green

On the Wednesday before the Texas Scramble, our Regional Semi-
nar was held at Hinckley once again. All the speakers were excelle-
nt and the range of topics covered were diverse. Jim Cassidy's talk on
construction of a new putting green and Bob Taylor's Ecological Perspec-
tive section were particularly good.

I'm sure everyone in the Section will be behind me in congratulating
Chris Brock of The Family Golf Cen-
tre who came runner-up in the Mir-
cle Professional Greenkeeper of the
Year award. Chris spent two days at
Aldwarke Manor for the competition
and said he experienced the pleasure
immensely. All can say is the green-
keeper who won must have been
eXceptionally good to beat Chris into
runner-up spot.

It is the Midland Region's turn to
host the National Golf Tournament
this year. The event will take place at
Seaforth GC, Skegness, Lincolnshire
on August 5, 6 & 7. Professional Kevin Pickett for their
organisation and participation and to
Phil Greenway for not only providing
funds to the raffle and a special
drawing of the raffle and a special
prize for the table.

Again this year we were entertained
by Hartpury College. These colleges
are each given a grant to provide
educational events within the region. Our regular colleges, Pen-
coed, Sparsholt and Cannington will host the event for the first
time by Harpurpy College. These colleges are each given a grant to provide
for the care of golf grass - your grass! Don't
waste this opportunity and support
your region. Drop in on the Associa-
tion Executive Committee for information
or just to rest your legs and have a
chat. During the day our Executive
Director, Neil Thomas, along with
Board members will be holding a forum to hear your
views.

Among the exhibitors will be Avoncreek Amenity Products with its
large pavilion accommodating Lev-
ington Horticulture, Farmers, Maxi-
crop, Roffey Bros, Supaturf, Scotts UK,
Amenity Technology and Headland
Agrochemicals.

Other early birds to book in for
this great show with the friends of the
atmosphere include Ocmis Irriga-
tion, Roffey Bros, Symbio, Turf Irri-
gation Services, Rhone Poulenc,
Bioseed, Bowcom Ltd, Better Meth-
ods, Western Turf, Rhone Poulenc
YK, H. Pattisson and Co, Sisis and
Eneco Leisure.

Put this date in your diary – May 1,
56. Some of our long standing exhibitors will be well represented when
Westurf was last in May. We had a
bust wave. Here's hoping!

For information ring 01803
484567
Marion Child

West of Scotland

We start a new year with every-
thing looking fine. The season loom-
ing around the corner and all the
work is finished - or so we
hope. News to-date covers the AGM
and games night with mention of a
football trial.

This year's event Chris Mardon had closed  West
further details will follow

Six events are being held and
numbers, The two games were
of younger members present - long
c詹tan.

It proved to be a success and the
the Scrupulous pies

Even more shocking was the
while the two games were

Unfortunately the weather was
the most up to
to work with them.

John Scott needs a special
mention for the arrangements and
the facilities that will host the
event at half time. A mention is required
for aiding with the provision of pies
and Drew McKeech for running the
event.

The annual small trial was arranged
for December 3 at Brom but only 14
people turned up which was very
disappointing. These people are now
the nucleus of the team to play against Section. A report will be
given in the next issue.

Congratulations are to be
extended to Jim Easton who has
recently been appointed Course
Manager at the Dallaturra
Complex. The Section wish him
well and look forward to seeing him at
the section events.

The election of committee members as a result of the AGM. Retiring
members were Ray Auld of Scottish Grass
and Gordon Kerr. New members are
Kenny Hunter of Huxley's and Gary
Burns. The Section welcomes them
and thanks them.

We are, once again, looking
for golfers. Any Course Managers
who think that it may be possible
to arrange something at their club,
please let me know.

David Wood

Jim Cassidy and his team and to
Ashridge GC for letting us stage the
event.

Thanks to Colin White of Avon-
croft, our new sponsor , for all his
help on the day, and for making the
event a success. The results are as
follows. 1. R. McKeown, Al Wilkin,
Minton and James Williams, 36 pts;
2. A. Grew, E. Thompson, J.
Clarke and S. Giardina, Berkhamsted
GC, 59.4; 3. G. Simkins, C. Ayres, S.
Askham Bryan College for a very
interesting lecture on the structure
of education in greenkeeping which
was enjoyed by a good number of
our members.

I hope it's not another 25 years
until we see Nick again!

Our next lecture will be on March
7 and will be given by Mr Bill Oliver,
Amenity Sales Manager of Hardi
Sprayers Ltd at Rothemham GC at
2.30pm

Just one new member this month
– Andrew Williams from Forest Pines
GC.

One more amazing thing hap-
pened recently. Carlisle United beat
Hull City 5-2. That is quite amazing

This suffered with regard to time
scale as a result of the increased dis-

The Annual Gentlemen's Dinner is
on March 8 at Walton Heath. Entry
is invited and if you have not yet been
sent out to members who support the
section the most. If you want to play
in this event in the future be
sure to attend events held this year.

The local management courses are
this month. There are still some
places left so phone Ken Richardson
at HQ for more details.

Anyone with any newsworthy items
may be included in our questionnaires
for the first of each month for inclusion in the
following month's magazine.

We are, once again, looking
for golfers. Any Course Managers
who think that it may be possible
to arrange something at their club,
please let me know.

David Wood
Bark

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Judge's decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

Neil Oliver was the lucky winner of January's Note the Notes competition - a handy £50 is on its way directly to you, Neil. Could you be our next winner? Get searching straight away!

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Tel: (01777) 817410