Seeds, held a draw for a bottle of champagne for anyone that visited their Stand during the Show. This was won by Alan Aitken, Kilspindie GC, if he needs a hand to drink it I’m only a phone call away!

Well, that’s it for this month but before I go I would like to wish all our members plus all our friends in the trade including our Patrons who do so much for us every year a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. If I have missed anyone let me know and in the meantime, all the best to one and all from the Committee and myself. I look forward to writing the first column in the New Year and to seeing you all in January 1998.

PS – while at the Scotsurf Show and being on the Standard Golf Stand, I found out that Nat Beggs was retiring when the show finished so all I can say to Nat from all our members, the Committee, myself and all fellow trade friends is a happy retirement – you deserve it and we hope to see you at some of our Section outings etc as you are most welcome. I will send you out a 1998 fixture card so you can keep track of what’s happening in the Section once we have finalised all dates at the start of the year. So that’s it for 1997, see you all next year.

Chris Yeaman

NORTHERN REGION
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Sheffield
On October 2 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. The lecture was given by Mr Jay Dobson from PSD Agronomy Ltd. Our thanks to Jay who gave an interesting lecture on thatch problems which was enjoyed by around 40 of our members. My apologies go to Dave Norton who also qualified for the Hayter finals but unfortunately I wasn’t informed – sorry Dave, and well done!

Congratulations go to Steve Nixon, from Wortley GC, who has recently won the Toro Student of the Year Award. Well done Steve! As part of Steve’s prize he won an eight week course in America.

Only one new member this month and that is John Sunderland, of Rapier Barracks GC. Anyone who has any news for these notes can contact me on 01909 480150.

Finally may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Lax

North Wales
Well lads and lasses, two months on the trot and you’ve got something to read. However, as stated last month I can’t write much if no-one tells me anything. I’m not a reporter, I’m a greenkeeper just like you! News needs to come to me, not me to go out and find it, I ain’t got time. 01824 710693 – I can’t do any more than give you my phone number again!

The Autumn meeting was held at Abersoch, the weather was mixed as was the golf but everyone who played enjoyed the day and our thanks go to Abersoch for inviting us and especially to Arthur and his team for the preparation that went into presenting the course. I never got to see a lot of the course due to my own work commitments and arrived late but as the 40 plus who played must agree even if their golf was rubbish the views on the drive to Abersoch made for a delightful day.

Andy Peel, of Bull Bay, rang me (see, someone has) and informed me that he has just had a fully automatic irrigation system fitted using Toro heads and everything was done for under £30,000. He seemed very pleased with it and thought that other members should know if you are thinking of a system get in touch with him for the low down on how it was done.

BTME – we are thinking of having the the coach leave later this year to avoid all the morning traffic, get there in the afternoon and take in the AGM which is at 5.45, but the Committee needs feedback.

On the same note I attended the AGM this year (the only member of the North Wales Section to do so to my knowledge). It made me realise how the Association has progressed, I was at the BTME for three days and I came away feeling very proud of what BIGGA has achieved.

Ask your own clubs because the Seminars etc are all very educational and my club thought the package was excellent value for money. Remember if you don’t ask you don’t get. This year I will endeavour to make sure that every committee member attends the AGM but it would do you all good to go!

On the educational note, the Welsh College of Horticulture at Northrop is holding its annual Golf Greenkeeping Technical Seminar on Wednesday February 18. Subjects will include Health and Safety, Irrigation, Grass Seed Breeding, R and A Golf Research and Micro Organisms so make a date in your diary. The College is also holding one day courses on Machine Maintenance over five separate days in January/February. They will be held from 10 am to 3 pm with theory in the morning and practical in the afternoon. Dates to be confirmed.

Our last committee meeting was attended by Douglas Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator, it was good to meet him and he explained his role in the Association. He will attend our AGM – he is there to help and as with me, he is only a phone call away.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May all your greens stay fuzz free. Now that would be a Happy New Year! Dave Goodridge

North West
October has been a great month for greenkeeping and I am sure you all took advantage of the good weather to complete your hollowining and top dressing. The dry conditions have also allowed scarifying fairways to be done without causing damage with wheel marks. This of course all adds up to a good start to your winter work programmes so let’s hope a mild winter ensues and all programmes can be completed and targets reached. Not a lot happening in the Section in October but in November we have the Section AGM and the first Regional Board meeting with the new Regional Administrator, Douglas Bell. At the moment I am awaiting replies from several golf clubs regarding permission to hold our tournaments for 1998 and as soon as all the fixtures are completed you will receive your fixture list for the year.

That seems to be it for this month so I will close by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Any news ring me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

Northern
John Waite, our Section Chairman, represented the greenkeepers on behalf of the Northern Region in the 1997 Kubota Challenge event. Although he won both of his matches, the team finished third. John stated that it had been one of his ambitions to play The Belfry and that he was pleased with the presentation of both courses. Pat Murphy, our National Chairman also attended and once again brought the rain – this talent could earn him millions in the right location!

News has filtered back that Tim Blacome, who was at Scarthingwell GC, is to return to greenkeeping in the New Year after taking care of his daughter, Kate, back in his native Canada.

On behalf of the Northern Section may I thank all sponsors who have very kindly donated money for prizes. — Continued on Page 34

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Put your free guide to our courses at your course in the mail! If you require details of our courses in the USA contact: Gary Northrop, 120 Village Green, Ligonier, PA 15658. Tel: 0151 724 5412.
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses.

This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels in the 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 Aldwick Manor, Aldwick, Aline, York Y06 2NF, telephone 01347 838640.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE
Ashkam Bryan, York Y02 3PR. Contact: The Registry Tel: 01904 772211.


CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER
Wythenshawe Puk Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9BQ. 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.

HOUGHLALL COLLEGE
Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 3151.


MYERSCOURGH COLLEGE

REASEHEATH COLLEGE

KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE
Ponteland, Northumberland (10 miles from the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne). Contact Mike Swinton. Tel: 01661 860808. Fax: 01661 860047. A wide range of full and part-time Amenity and Commercial Horticulture courses including Greenkeeping and Sports Turf maintenance and management.

SHIPLEY COLLEGE

BRACKENHURST COLLEGE
Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QF. Contact Student Administration. Tel: 01636 617099. BTEC First Diploma. C&G National Certificate, BTEC National Diploma, RHS Diploma BTEC HND in Landscape Design and BSc (Honours) in Urban and Rural Open Space Management both in conjunction with The Nottingham Trent University. Part time courses include: GTC & RHS day release, evening and short courses.

BROOMFIELD COLLEGE
Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Office. Tel: 01332 813345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks, or APL service.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE
Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridge CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 860701. Part time - Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture and NVQ Level III (day release), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1998.

RODBASTON COLLEGE
Rodbaston, Penknife, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 721209. Courses offered: NVQ Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 by Day Release. FEPA and chainsaw training.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE
Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Graham Martin. Tel: 01926 651367. Greenkeeping courses - day release - NVQ Level I; NVQ Level II; NVQ Level III; 16 courses (evening classes); National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture; Full time two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (with option in Turf Culture); Professional updating courses include: Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hazard Paving, First Aid. FEPA Spraying Courses. Chainsaw Courses.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE COLLEGE
Warren Farm Centre, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX33 1BY. Contact: Alan Brown. Tel: 01865 351794. BTEC First Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, NVQ Levels 2 and 3 Greenkeeping (based on the GTC Training Manual) - day release or evening. Short courses include: Chainsaw; FEPA Spraying; Machinery Maintenance and Health and Safety.

BRINSBURY COLLEGE

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

NESCOT
North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3220/3049. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.
Cannington College
Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Decland Gallagher: 01278 655083/Hugh Parry: 01278 655084.

ELMWOOD COLLEGE
Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 658910. Fax: 01334 658918. Craft Level courses. Full time, evening and day courses. Day release up to Supervisory courses up to all courses.

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 – 2 years day release. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and NVQ Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Horticulture 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, Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 246 2453. SVQ III in Amenity Horticulture will allow options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available day/week release from November-February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses. SVQ III in maintaining sportspots to be offered from early 1997.

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE
Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Henry Shaw.

COLAISTE STIOFIAN NAOFA
Tramore Road, Cork. Contact Paul O'Neill. Tel: 00353 (0) 21961020. National Certificate in Greenkeeping NVCA Level III one year full time course. Also one year full time courses offered in landscape design and construction and amenity horticulture general.

MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

HARTPURY COLLEGE

GALEWOOD COLLEGE

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

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 NVQ Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Horticulture 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, Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 246 2453. SVQ III in Amenity Horticulture will allow options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available day/week release from November-February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses. SVQ III in maintaining sportspots to be offered from early 1997.

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE
Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Henry Shaw.

COLAISTE STIOFIAN NAOFA
Tramore Road, Cork. Contact Paul O'Neill. Tel: 00353 (0) 21961020. National Certificate in Greenkeeping NVCA Level III one year full time course. Also one year full time courses offered in landscape design and construction and amenity horticulture general.
I hope this will continue in the tournaments throughout the year.

The ball match played between staff funds and keep the Section going is much appreciated.

at Rigby Taylors and our Section but will give a full report in next month's magazine.

Any news from within the Section can be passed on to myself by telephoning 01484 317813 or to John Waite on 0113 286 6432. Finally may I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Do not forget the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday March 4 1998 – £16 per person payment is required to book a place.

Simon Heppenstall

North East

The Barburial Rousomes Knock-out Cup has now been played at Tyneside GC and the winners were John Surtees and Tony Mclure who defeated Michael Gunn and David Thompson 5&4. The presentation will be made at South Moor GC on December 11 after the AGM. An 18 hole competition will be held in the morning and all members will be notified.

The annual match between the North East and the South East of Scotland was recently played at Haddington GC for the Stewart's Cup. The winners were the North East Section, our thanks to Stewart's for sponsoring the event and we look forward to the return match next year. Hopefully we could be playing at Slaley Hall.

Alan Parkin, Assistant Greenkeeper at Whickham GC, has taken over the Head Greenkeeper's job at Beamish Park Golf Academy. We wish him well in his new appointment.

The first green at Whickham is busy been altered again and put back to its original design of a two tier but on a larger scale. Ashkam Bryan College is doing well out of the North East Section.

Cleveland

John Chanthill, ex Teeside GC, has moved to Lilleshall GC, in Staffordshire, and is very happy in his new appointment. His old boss, Tony Smith, has now completed mound building and tree planting as a sound barrier close to the A19 and A66 and Parkway motorways. Over the past two years 10 new tees have been built and bunkers altered at four greens on Teeside GC.

At Bedale, Ian Pemberton, the Head Greenkeeper moved house from Middlesbrough but his wife has not settled in Bedale so they are to return to Middlesbrough to live and he will travel daily, while Kevin Scarcie, the Assistant at Bedale is on a training course at Ashkam Bryan College, York. Bedale are to install irrigation to six tees and have started an extensive tree planting programme. The 6,000 trees will certainly create interest to the golfers in the future!

Dinsdale Spa GC have re-laid two greens to USGA specifications using their own greenstaff. The surrounds and mounds have been newly shaped and turfed to complete the job.

SISIS held a machinery demonstration at Eaglescliffe GC in October. Sixty greenkeepers attended a successful day of excellent equipment. Two courses have now taken place at Houghall College this winter, NVQ 3 and NVQ 4.

George Malcolm, at Brass GC, Middlesbrough has replaced his sand in the bunkers with one which is firmer for both the player's stance and for the ball to sit on the sand rather than sink in. Bruce Burnell

It's right for me.

Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle G C

Around the Green

John Surtees and Brian Clark are doing Phase Two and Craig Parkinson and Craig Wyman are doing Phase Three. Brian Hughes passed Phase Two and is now taking Phase Four.

Stocksfield's Head Greenkeeper, for 18 years, Tommy Harrison, has taken over at South Moor GC. Path course at Gosforth, the Section wish him well on his new appointment. Ian Hutton, formerly working in Austria is now working at Slaley Hall GC.

The golf fixture is almost complete for 1998 and the match against the South East of Scotland will be played at Slaley Hall in the first week in October.

Jimmy Richardson

Midfield

The much awaited educational trip to Sunningdale and Wentworth took place on October 13 and proved to be very enjoyable for all of the members who took part. To be able to see behind the scenes of these two well documented courses was of great interest and the time given to us by Brian Turner and Chris Kennedy was much appreciated.

The timing of our visit to Wentworth was not the greatest being the day after the World Matchplay and many thanks go to Chris for his co-operation.

I would also like to thank Richard Minto, of Miracle/Scotts, and Nigel Tyler, of County Crops, for their sponsorship of the day and mainly the meals and drinks at lunchtime, thank you.

We are also looking to organising another trip to Turnberry but this will involve an overnight stop and there could be a round of golf. There would obviously be a small cost but if we can get enough numbers there would probably be some kind of sponsorship. If you are interested please contact me on 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope every greenkeeper has a successful 1998.

Welcome to these new members for the season. Brian Coxall, Steven Lloyd, Adrian Haddock, Michael Gash, Robert Mason and Michael Trotman.

Jonathan Wood

BB & O

The golf day at Lamberoue was a good success with a full field yet again. The weather was a bit on the miserable side but this didn't affect the enjoyment on the day. Sadly there were no surprises when it came to the winner again! He must be in the running for sports personality of the year! The results were: 1. S. Patt & M. Timms, 61 pts (boring); 2. T. French & B Walker; 3. L. T Anderson & T Smith (a prize at last); Longest Drive – E Walker; Nearest the Pin – M. Timms; Wooden Spoon – B Wall & D Winterton. I won't embarrass them by revealing their score as neither of them would speak to me again... on second thoughts I'm sure it was approximately one point per hole!

The day was sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products which was much appreciated by all. My special thanks to Richard Haynes for his organising on the day and also to Joe Feltham for presenting the prizes on behalf of the company. Thanks to Tony French and his team for providing an excellent test of golf and many thanks to all concerned at Lamberoue for their hospitality on the day.

One other golf tournament is drawing to a close at the moment that is the Rigby Taylor Fourball Knockout. B. Benzie and C. Millard have coasted into the final having disposed of P. Plater and J. Lee with ease. They will play R. Clark and C. Jacobsen who knocked out last year's winners T. French and G. Wheeler 3 & 2. The results of the final will be posted in next month's magazine. There are some Winter Lectures
approaching so please make a note of the following dates in your diary:-

Berkshire College; January 14 – Communications, February 4 – Golf Course Design, March 4 – Irrigation. These all commence at 7 pm and run until 9 pm when refreshments will be served.

Warren Farm College; January 28 – Health and Safety, February 25 – Irrigation and Conservation, March 25 – USGA Specification. These also commence at 7 pm with refreshments to follow.

Please try and attend as many of these as possible, the colleges need to see some support from our Section.

I would like to end by wishing all of you a Happy Christmas and a drunken New Year! See you in 1998.

L. T. Anderson

Mid Anglia

Our Autumn golf tournament was held at the end of October at South Beds Golf Club over 18 holes. Although the first frost of the year arrived prior to the tournament, it quickly disappeared in the autumn sunshine and didn’t spoil the day.

The golf attracted an entry of 32 people, seven of whom were trade members. This was down considerably on last year’s corresponding fixture at Collingtree Park. Those who did enter however seemed to enjoy a good round, with good scores evident on the day. The results were as follows:- 1. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 41 pts; 2. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 39 pts; 3. Eddi O’Hanlon, Cheshfield Downs, 39 pts; Longest Drive – Jon Moorhouse, Brocket Hall; Nearest the Pin – Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs; Trade Prize – John Donaldson, 44 pts.

Our thanks go to our main sponsors for the day, Driving Force Leisure, represented by David Murphy, and also to Kings Horticulture who sponsored Nearest the Pin.

Thanks also to the other trade members who supported us on the day and participated in the golf. My personal thanks to South Beds for the excellent choice of meals and hospitality shown and also to my staff for preparing the course.

The AGM of the Mid Anglia Section was held after the prize giving and in the absence of our Chairman, Stewart Boyce, Vice Chairman Mark Ellis chaired the meeting. The Secretary, Gerald Bruce reported that the Section now had 242 members and that the Hayter National Tournament will in future be sponsored by Ritefeed. He also thanked Chris Brook, who is standing down from the Committee this year for his efforts over a number of years of service to the Section.

The Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders gave a report on all the golf matches throughout the year and complimented Jason Hatton, the Fixtures Secretary, for Brocket Hall, on reaching the National Final of the Hayter Tournament.

The Treasurer, John Wells, submitted a balance sheet and gave a verbal report on the financial situation which is most satisfactory at the present time. No rise in the cost of golf events is anticipated. The following members were elected to serve on the committee for the next year:- Secretary – Gerald Bruce; Fixtures/Match Secretary – Richard Saunders; Chairman – Stewart Boyce; Vice Chairman – Mark Ellis; Treasurer – John Wells; Regional Representative – Paul Lockett. New members were voted on to the committee:- Colin Robinson, John O’Aunt GA; Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant GC, and Neil Whitaker, Arkley GC.

One of these newly elected officers will become the Handicap Secretary. In “Any Other Business” questions were asked concerning spread of prizes, fixture lists, handicaps and reduced levels of attendance to golf events. Most of the questions were answered at the time but they will also be discussed in depth at the next full committee meeting.

The President would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing Section members at BTME in Harrogate next month.

Paul Lockett

East Midlands

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was played at the delightful venue of Whittington Heath GC on October 16. Despite a wet start to the day things eventually improved, not long into the greensome matches, with the Section taking a 3-2 lead. The afternoon format of matchplay singles was relatively even, with all our members playing well. The results were:- 1. Alan Carter, 38 pts; 2. M Brewster, 38 pts; 3. Roger Plummer, 35 pts; 10-18 Handicap – 1. D Bram, 36 pts; 2. I Hill, 37 pts; 3. P Mallowes, 37 pts; 19-28 Handicap – 1. I Semson, 38 pts; 2. I Hill, 37 pts; 3. I Skelton, 38 pts; Guest Prize – 1. T Winter, 40 pts; 2. D Bram, 40 pts; 3. I Skelton, 38 pts; Longest Drive – James Gemsun; Nearest the Pin – Brian Lemmon.

The prizes were donated by Kings, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Rushbrookes, Partisons (Longest Drive), Tomlinsons (Nearest the Pin), Barenbrug (Captains and Greenkeepers) and Does (main sponsor). Thanks lads yet again. The prizes were presented by Mr T. Winter, Captain of the Wandlebury Course. Our thanks to all for a super day and I truly excellent achievement to win them both in the same year. Perhaps a Golf Day at Hankley Common will inspire other Surrey members to take up the challenge.

And now a bit of local news from our roving reporter. Gavin Kyle has moved to Hendon GC as Course Manager, Ray McClatchie is the new Head Greenkeeper at Blackmoor and Bill Lowe, Head Greenkeeper at High Elms GC, has just become the father of a bouncing baby named Jason. All three have moved to courses in adjacent Sections but can we get rid of them? Fortunately not! Brian Willmott

East Anglia

Our travelling band went to Gog Magog GC on October 9 and played the Wandlebury Course which is very new and was in excellent shape due to the high standards set by Lydon and his team. It was also a Captains and Greenkeepers competition – my fourball played some excellent golf but failed the orienteering! The Captain/Greenkeeper prize went to D Childs and his Captain D Bram from Sheringham with a combined total of 73 points. The other results were: 0-9 Handicap – 1. Alan Carter, 38 pts; 2. M Brewster, 38 pts; 3. Roger Plummer, 35 pts; 10-18 Handicap – 1. D Bram, 36 pts; 2. I Hill, 37 pts; 3. P Mallowes, 37 pts; 19-28 Handicap – 1. Tim Russell, 41 pts; 2. Steve Davidson, 36 pts; 3. Ernie Hart, 34 pts; Guest Prize – 1. T Winter, 40 pts; 2. D Bram, 40 pts; 3. I Skelton, 38 pts; Longest Drive – James Gemsun; Nearest the Pin – Brian Lemmon.

The prizes were donated by Kings, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Rushbrookes, Partisons (Longest Drive), Tomlinsons (Nearest the Pin), Barenbrug (Captains and Greenkeepers) and Does (main sponsor). Thanks lads yet again. The prizes were presented by Mr T. Winter, Captain of the Wandlebury Course. Our thanks to all for a super day and I

It works.

Neil Whitaker, Arkley Golf Club

use RiteFeed because

GROUNDEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1997 35
Around the Green

South Coast
By now you should have all received your programmes for the Section and Regional events for 1997/98. If you have not received a programme, please contact Jef Drake who I’m sure will get one to you. I do hope that the programme meets with your approval. The Winter Lecture Programme is slightly different this year. For example there was the trip to the London GC in November. I shall be reporting on how the trip went in the next month’s report. Also we have made the venues more central so that the amount of travelling has been cut to a minimum. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our lecture programme please let us know.

Talking about winter lectures, our next meeting will be held at Bramshog GC on January 7 at 7pm. Our speaker will be Mrs Susan Oldage-Deacon. Susan will be talking about Conservation on the Golf Course. Susan gave a talk to the members of Alton GC to a full house a few months ago. I am told that her talk went down very well with the members. I feel sure that with conservation becoming such an important aspect of course management, Susan’s talk will be well received. Please gentlemen let’s give Susan our full support.

Our Regional/Section seminar is fast approaching. This will be held at Sparsholt College on February 26 1998. Jef will be sending out details of the speakers very shortly. The last few years we have had some very successful seminars. Some very good speakers have been approached and agreed to come along. One or two points have yet to be finalised. As I said last month there is no reason why this seminar should not be as successful as the last ones have been. The programme will be quite packed with many seats left on the Regional Coach for BTME. If you have not booked and still wish to go get your booking forms in to Paula Humphries, our Regional Administrator or contact her on 01363 82777. You might be lucky! Just another reminder regarding those of you who wish to make use of the feed coach. Please contact me with your names so that I can arrange pick-up points and the size of the coach to book.

It just doesn’t seem possible that we are close to ending another year, they seem to fly by. Still they do say “get older” and it goes by a lot quicker. All that remains for me to say is for everyone to have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall
Sessions greetings to you all.

Our next meeting of the autumn and winter programme was the Roffeys October meeting held at Bowood GC on Wednesday October 8. On the morning of the meeting members awoke to find the rain coming down in bucket loads so it was a credit to Bowoods greens staff who managed to have the course playable for the mornings reduced golf competition for the DO Hunt Trophy which was played over the front nine holes. Only the hardy or mad played golf and walked the course during the morning. Our sponsors for the day Roffeys kindly kind
so as to attract and educate as many people as possible. So please try and attend them if at all possible so as to ensure their continuation and also to put yourself in a well informed position when dealing with the above mentioned committees.

Finally may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and may your greens be perfect throughout the next year.

Marc Haring

NORTHERN IRELAND
North East

It's now official - BIGGA is in Northern Ireland and judging by the interest shown at the BIGGA Stand at the IOG Show on October 2, it can only go from strength to strength. Northern Ireland has now its own Region with two Sections - North East representing Counties Antrim and Derry and South East representing Counties Down and Armagh. Members in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh will be given the choice which Section is most convenient for them. Each Section has a strong grouping of clubs thus creating two strong sections. The members who attended the meeting in early September have elected Philip Baldock of Royal Portrush as Chairman with Henry Farrell as Vice Chairman, Mark Farrell of Allen Park as Secretary with Martin Laverty as Vice Secretary and Eamonn Farrell of Cairndhu as Liaison Officer for the North East Section. Any inquiries on BIGGA membership and the benefits for greenkeepers, any of the above mentioned Committee members will only be too happy to help.

A joint section meeting will be held at Greenmount College on Monday December 1. BIGGA will give a talk on membership and its benefits, Philip Baldock of Royal Portrush will also be speaking on pest problems and diseases, other speakers have yet to be confirmed. The seminar will last for no more than three hours, buffet included. Details of times and speakers will be forwarded to all golf clubs closer to the venue date.

Anyone with relevant information in the North East Section that would be suitable for printing in Greenkeeper International would you please contact me on 01574 276001.

BIGGA would like to congratulate Frank Ainstworth on his new position at Templepatrick, we all wish him the very best.

On closing may I congratulate Bob Walker BEM of Cairndhu GC who is celebrating 50 years service to Cairndhu. The man is a legend in golfing circles.

Problems with rabbits and moles?

Why not get training in the use of Part 1 poisons, and tackle the problems efficiently and effectively

Training includes: Use of Strychnine, Aluminium Phosphide, Hydrogen Cyanide, Non-chemical methods

There are also practical sessions, examinations and certificates issued.

The training satisfies the requirements of MAFF and suppliers to buy, store and use the above pesticides.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Rabbits (1 run)</th>
<th>Moles (1 run)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>January 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>February 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>March 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>March 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further details and to register contact: Ed Allan on 01303 863948 or Jan Pullen on 01626 892639

ADAS

AD REF 289

Feeding solutions from Vitax

Vitax Seaturf soluble
Vitax Tank mixing agent
Vitax 50/50 soluble iron

SUCCESSFUL TURF MANAGEMENT

I x 750g container
I x 1.2kg container
I x 6 x 4kg case

RESULT

A highly concentrated seaweed plus iron tank mix, sufficient to spray one hectare (approx 2.5 acres) with major cost saving benefits as well

ADDED BENEFITS

No bulky containers for disposal, an environmental plus factor.

All three products may be tank mixed with two of the three new formulation Vitaturf water soluble feeds [eg; High 'N'(35-0-10) High 'K' (10-0-35)]

Vitax Ltd, Owen Street, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3DE Tel: 01530 510060 Fax: 01530 510299

AD REF 139

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1997 37
Most industries have their own night of nights. The Oscars are the most famous of them all. They are occasions to celebrate excellence and reward people who have reached the top of their chosen field.

BIGGA has had such nights in the past – separate events covering both the greenkeeper and student greenkeeper of the year titles but only this year have they been combined and under the titles of Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and Student of the Year to become known as “The Toros”.

It has come about due to Toro adding the new Excellence Award to the Student of the Year.

To be known as a Toro winner, or indeed a finalist, now means entry to a select club for both students and established greenkeepers.

**Notes from a small island**

Walter Woods visited the courses of all five finalists and what he found gladdened his heart

The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping certainly conjures up all sorts of factors in your mind – how do you measure good greenkeeping or good greenkeepers? These were some of the thoughts which went through my mind many years ago when I first set foot in Elmwood College to talk to students who were taking their first ambitious steps into a greenkeeping career. During that period the only education available was a one year course to achieve a City and Guilds certificate. Fortunately, owing to the dedicated effort of many, mainly greenkeepers themselves, education has advanced considerably even almost to a University Degree in Agronomy.

The Toro Company based this award on Course Managers’ ability to organise their affairs both in maintenance and management. The philosophy was the more encouragement greenkeeping education receives the more that golf clubs with their golf courses will improve.

The ’97 competition got going in earnest in April when nominations were accepted at BIGGA Headquarters. Each entry was vi-
The final five Section winners were Tom Murray, Ratho Park, Edinburgh; Philip Stain, Nottingham Golf Club; Mark Ford, Kingsdown Golf Club; Ian MacMillan, Hankley Common Golf Club and William Sparrow, East Herts Golf Club - all spread out across the length and breadth of Britain. The Competition had a high judging criteria right through every part of their golf course maintenance, taking into account the level of resources available. Other judgments on the individuals were their role in the golf club management coupled with their ability to set policies throughout the daily work programmes either on the golf course or in the maintenance building.

Ken Richardson, the Association’s Education Officer, is certainly a perfectionist, with military precision on train journeys, golf course locations, time of arrivals - this made me wonder why trains are always late when I organise them. However, my first golf course was Notts Golf Club, Hollarwell, where at one time I was employed. What a majestic golf course this is, organised in a traditional manner with a large history spanning over a 100 years. Philip Stain is the Course Manager and what a super job this young man is doing - with tidily kept maintenance buildings housing the most up-to-date machinery. Philip has been at Notts Golf Club for a number of years but this has been his first one in total charge. He has taken it in his stride and has hosted a top amateur event to the complete satisfaction of players and members.

Next on the list was Kingsdown Golf Club, near Bristol, a very progressive golf club with recent acquisition of land on which to build a practice ground and perhaps extend the golf course. Mark Ford has worked at the golf course for 20 years and been the Course Manager for the last seven. Kingsdown is a parkland course but was in very good condition. Mark is also very enthusiastic in education on all aspects of club management.

The following day it was organised to visit Hankley Common, a heathland golf course with outstanding natural beauty and what I would say is an example for every golf club to follow. About 10 years ago the Club Council drew up policies in every department of golf club organisation. Their first priority was to employ a Course Manager who they did with Ian MacMillan, son of Jack, coming on board. The golf course was in magnificent condition with perfect playing conditions. Heather was in abundance making it into an environmentalist’s dream.

Travelling from Hankley Common to East Herts Golf Club is two train journeys, numerous tube rides then miles of twisting roads through traffic lights and traffic jams bringing you to a lovely parkland golf course with mature trees where deer and pheasants roam undisturbed, making me think what would happen to them if they were on a municipal course. Kingsdown, near Bristol, is also a very good staff. Bill is also a very good golfer and knows what a golfer’s requirements should be. Back to Scotland to visit Ratho Park, a private golf club not far from Edinburgh Airport, and what a surprise confronted me. A beautiful parkland golf course in perfect condition with fast firm fairways and greens along with tees perfectly cut and presented. Tom Murray, the Course Manager, has worked at Ratho, I believe, all his working days taking charge in the last ten years. Tom is a product of Elmwood College and certainly a credit to his club who encourage him.

On completion of the golf course visits and assessments all of the five finalists still had to go through the mental barrier with a vigorous interview session to a selected Panel which was organised in Harrogate on October 27. Each of the candidates were asked like-for-like questions to create consistent answers on a similar pattern. This was terrifying for the individual and it could be detected on their faces. However a winner had to be chosen and this was Ian MacMillan making it a remarkable double for the golf club having won the BIGGA Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc only two weeks before.

Ian receives a two week trip to the USA taking in the Superintendents’ Convention, in California, which is the ultimate in learning. He will also be taken to the machinery and irrigation Toro factories. His golf club, Hankley Common, also benefit being presented with a new Toro Greensmaster Greens Triplex.

The other four finalists were also presented with cheques and gifts. The Toro Company has been outstanding in their contribution towards greenkeeping education and encouragement. Bob Buckingham and Graham Dale along with their colleagues should be congratulated.
Hankley Common's Ian McMillan set himself and his golf club two goals at the beginning of the year. On each occasion he scored the winner.

How many of us set goals at the beginning of each year? One, two, three four... Yep! I make that most of us. How many of us actually achieve them? One, two... any more? No, I'm afraid that's about it.

One of the guys who should by rights have had his hand up is Ian McMillan, Course Manager at Hankley Common in Surrey who, like so many of us, set himself some goals in January. They were to win both the inaugural Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA Golf Environmental Award, in association with Rhône Poulenc. Ten months, and a great deal of hard work later both trophies sit together proudly in a little corner of Surrey.

If the name is familiar perhaps it should be because Ian belongs to perhaps the best known family in the world of greenkeeping. Dad, Jack, was Course Manager at Sunningdale for many years and is a Past Chairman of BIGGA. He is now a respected consultant. Ian's oldest brother Stewart is Course Manager at Leatherhead, Bobby at Burhill, Billy is General Manager of both Wildwood and Lamerwood golf clubs and younger brother Cameron at Stockley Park – all are top golf courses and it's a dynasty unrivalled in golf.

"I don't know how or why it is that I'm the one who has gone for the awards. I enjoy entering into things that are competitive but I certainly wouldn't look forward to the prospect of competing against them," laughed 36 year-old Ian. It certainly isn't a male only family sister, Heather, now a nurse, has also spent time working with Cameron and mother, Rita, has probably picked up enough knowledge to be a dead cert if she were ever to sit a Master Greenkeeper exam.

Ian had previously entered both competitions in their old formats in the past and had been runner-up in each of them – in the Premier Greenkeeper in '92 and the Environment Competition in '95.

"That basically made us feel that we could win them both and we worked very hard at putting both documents together," said Ian, using the plural to reflect the input he received from his three Course Members - Hankley's version of a Chairman of Green – John Harris, Peter Green and the present incumbent, Alan Kerr; the Club Secretary, John O'Brien; his team and his family.

"The competitions complemented each other. Both entries were fairly weighty documents - about 60 pages each – and there was a considerable amount of thought put into them. I started work on the Environment entry in January, completed it, then started on my entry for the Toro award.

"Inevitably we thought it would be a bit of a fairy tale to win them both."

Asked if winning one and finishing runner-up in the other would have been seen as a failure Ian paused before smiling and saying slowly.

"We do set our goals high. We like to achieve."

Winning was not without its pressure and Ian freely admits to feeling nervous as he sat in the St George's Hotel, Harrogate, waiting for the result of the Toro Award to be announced.

"I could certainly feel the tension in the room and I didn't really realise just how tense I was myself," he explained.

No-one who watched Ian make his victory speech could have doubted just how much winning the award meant to him and it was clear that his unique pedigree, a desire to learn and many years of hard work had combined to make him an outstanding winner.

"My father never wanted any of us to be greenkeepers but it was a desire of mine from fairly early on. I enjoyed the game, I liked the hard work involved with mowers... and tending our gardens... and taking care of our pets... and all the rest of it."

Ian grew up at Cardross Golf Club in Scotland and it was there that he picked up his love of golf.

"We moved south to Bush Hill Park, North London, and that's were I started work as an apprentice under my father." Remarkably four out of five of the McMillans worked on the course at the same time. Jack, Stewart, Ian and Bobby before Jack moved to Effingham Golf Club and Stewart took over as Head Greenkeeper at Bishill.

"I was there for four years then moved to Datchet which was my first job as Head Greenkeeper. It was 1981 and I was 20. After three years I moved to Finchley and spent a couple of years there before going to Hankley as Course Manager in 1986."

"Hankley was a real magnet. I'd played the course before and I was very fond of the area but I really had a desire to work on a heathland golf course."

"When I was at Datchet I lived at Sunningdale and gained lots of heathland experience helping my father and I certainly appreciated the finer aspects of it," he explained.

Ian's 12 years at Hankley have, by his own admission, been exciting and very progressive times.

"The whole club is run by very professional people, many of them company directors, and through dealing with these peo-