On completion of the golf we had the AGM which ran smoothly. The Chairman emphasised the need for more fund raising within the Section.

After 10 years our Regional Administrator Gordon Child is standing down. Gordon, assisted by his wife Marion, has done a fantastic job for the Region and BIGGA as a whole. They will be greatly missed. If it was not for their hard work over the past 10 years the Region would not be in the healthy state it is today. A successor is being appointed and he/she will be a paid employee of BIGGA. This means there will be no more annual refunds from Headquarters and each event that we hold will have to make a profit or at the very least break even so we keep the Section solvent at all times.

As the AGM marked the Section’s 25th Anniversary Eric James, a founder member of the Section gave us a brief history of its progress. As I am sure you all know Eric has been Chairman of our Section for most of its existence.

Jim Fry has been President since our Section was formed. He has supported BIGGA at International, National, Regional and Section level. Before BIGGA he was a staunch supporter of BGGA and has sponsored a large number of events over the years. Thank you Jim on behalf of our Section for all the marvellous support you have given us.

The main item on the Agenda was the election of the Committee:- President - Jim Fry; Chairman - Allen Mitchell; Vice Chairman - Ed McCabe; Secretary – Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser – Mark Webb; Magazine – Ken Lodge; Sparsholt College – Bob Dennis; Regional Board – Keiran Daly, John York, Andy Hill, Tony Good, Fred Deacon, Trevor Smith. If you have any queries concerning the Section, Region or Association in general contact any of the above.

On completion of the AGM the catering staff provided us with an excellent Christmas Dinner. The wine was kindly donated by Jim Fry and once again our thanks go to him.

All that remains is to thank our main sponsors for the day:- Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Wilton and John Deere, represented by Nick Clarke. Mark and Nick have been attending our Turkey Trot for a number of years and we thank them both for their continued support. Our thanks also go to Avonmore Sporting Goods for their contributions.

By now you should have received details of the Regional/Section seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on February 18. There is still time to book in, contact Jeff Drake, 10 Cold Harbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PW. Telephone 01722 503938.

Preparations are being made for the Trophy since 1985. Please contact Alan Rideout for details of the Roffey Cup since 1985. The Roffey Cup is the best handicap score over 36 holes at the Spring Tournament. Alan is the present holder of the trophy and would like to update the names on the cup since they are sadly out of date. Anyone who has won the trophy since 1985 please contact Alan on 01202 394552.

Finally I am sure that the Section would like to wish William McKechnie good luck and good fortune in his new post in Scotland.

Ken Lodge
South West
Bleak conditions will now be rendering the courses deserted except for that strange sub species of the golfing family - the senior golfer. I always somewhat naively assumed that this particular genetic freak evolved over many, sometimes hundreds of years at golf clubs but having worked at a brand new course I realise they just appear almost overnight at the first sniff of a new course being constructed. It is almost as though they dig themselves out of the ground complete with a half set of “pin splitters” and 20 year old rubber shoes. It doesn't matter what the weather is like, the attire never changes. But there they are, the same fourballs everyday, consistently shooting scores of between one and two hundred with only a pot of tea and a piece of toast split four ways as the only visible form of nutrition. Don't get me wrong, they're a great bunch of people but why do they have to play every day. The fact that they have developed these blindingly quick prody golf swings guaranteed never to lose a ball would lead me to conclude they feel positively cheated if they do not play every day. This theory is further substantiated when I see them return after their round to scour the area should the initial search fail to find an errant golf ball. Even their tee pegs are crudely tied together to prevent the loss of a one penny investment. But enough of my ramblings and on to the Section news. A full house was present at the annual South West seminar at Cannington College and we were treated to some excellent speakers. Jim Arthur sitting in for Bill Lawson, who had to drop out through ill health, gave

SO DEDICATED, THEY EARN THEIR STRIPES EVERYTIME.

Whatever the season, whatever the weather, this greenkeeper cuts a fine swathe through thick, uneven turf to produce the perfect fairway.

For the new Reelmaster fairway mowers boast many new, innovative features resulting in a cut like never before.

Rugged, powerful and durable, they have the lightest of touches. Their new L-I-N-K-S™ system of floating linkage and individual lift arm dampers hug the turf to get into dips and hollows for a close, all-over cut with no "bobbing", even at speeds in excess of 7mph.

The Reelmaster 6500D, with its 5-gang mower, and the 6700D, a 7-gang mower, both offer impressive cutting technology with all-interchangeable variable speed, automatically controlled reels to handle fast-growing, tough seasonal grasses.

Quiet in operation thanks to Toro's advanced noise reduction, the powerful 38hp and 42hp diesel engines will help these machines reach inclines other mowers can't.

To win your stripes, give us a call and we'll walk your course with you and recommend the best machine for your needs.

You too can trust Toro expertise and quality. Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.
Turf-Care Supplies:
- Fertilisers
- Soil Conditioners
- Wetting Agents
- Pesticides
- Grass Seeds
- Turf
- Line Marking Materials
- Sports Equipment
- Top Dressings
- Soils & Sands
- Composts
- Bark
- Tools

Engineering Services:
- New Machinery
- Reconditioned Machinery
- Service
- Repairs
- Overhauls
- Spare Parts
- On Site Servicing and Repairs

Hire and Contract Services:
- Specialist plant hire
- Verti-draining
- Aerating
- Top Dressing
- Over-Seeding
- Water Injection Aeration
- Grass Cutting
- Spraying

For all your Turf-Care needs
PARKER HART
T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Limited,
Malden Green Farm, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF
Tel: 0181-337 7791  Fax: 0181-330 7392

Job Shop is a new service provided by Greenkeeper International which will give greenkeepers:
★ the opportunity
to let potential
employers know about them for only £19.95

Don’t forget to include details of qualifications, experience and perhaps award wins. You can fit approximately 50 words into your advertisement.

Just send your details with a cheque for £19.95 made payable to BIGGA, to Job Shop, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF

WILL YOU BE READING NEXT MONTH’S EDITION OF GREENKEEPER?
International

If your membership was due for renewal in December or January and you STILL haven’t sent in your subscription, then you’ll miss out on the March edition and all following magazines.

To ensure you receive your copy, send off your renewal form today!

If you haven’t received a renewal form, ring Janet on 01347 838581
Around the Green

do believe that's nearly it except to say a big thank you to Aldeburgh GC for putting up with us yet again. They really do look after us. Thanks also to Mick Moss (CMW) for yet another turkey. Long may the tradition continue.

I'll just end by saying, come on East Anglia, let's get this show on the road. It's your Section. Support it! Mick Lathrope

Sussex

The Turkey Trot for 1996 was once again held at Littlehampton GC. We were lucky with the weather this year, no frost, no snow, just the sea breeze that went through rather than round you. After a hearty breakfast and a brandy we set out to do battle. All was fine until we arrived at the halfway bar (provided by miracle). After more brandy, beer and mince pies the golf deteriorated some what, but who cares as it's Christmas. After 18 holes we were all ready for a hot shower and our Christmas dinner. The food and the service were to their usual high standard. Then to the prize giving. All scores have been verified by George Barr:- 1. George Barr(1), Paul Ward, Bob Watters, Mark Day, 54 points; 2. Rob Short, Les Templeman, Brian Finn, A. Finn, 54 points. The turkey vouchers were provided by Avoncrop. On behalf of the Section could I thank Keith Palmer, Secretary of Littlehampton, and Dave Wood and his greenkeeping staff for presenting the course so well. Rumour has it that we have been invited back again this year.

For those of you who do not already know two of our Section managed to find brides last year. Congratulations to Raymond Day who married Jill on October 16th and to Alistair Cain who married Dee also in October. After partnering Alistair in the Turkey Trot I don't know whether to send congratulations or sympathy to Dee (only joking Alistair).

Well that's it for now, don't forget I need your input for future articles. Contact me on (01403) 731567.

Colin Cathie

Surrey

As we are in a change over period on the committee it has fallen my lot to keep you up to date as to what has been going on in the Section.

The Turkey Trot was held at Guildford GC on December 3. The weather for once held fair, my thanks to all who attended and my apologies to those who were too late with their applications - for once the start sheet was full up! My thanks to the Management and to Chris and his merry men for a job well done. Results:- 1. J Mathis, Northams GC, 40 pts; 2. B. Mitchell; 37 pts; 3. J. Le Mar – 38 pts (trade prize).

After the golf we held the fastest AGM ever - 15 minutes with no complaints! After a superb meal and the speeches the committee provided everyone with a festive bottle of wine to show thanks for their support during the year. Thanks must go to Norths Valley and sponsors, Scott and Avoncrop, and Nigel Stapley and his staff for the course.

For 1997 we have some new tournaments lined up. Firstly, there is a foursomes knock-out to be played between March and September and a greensome at Wilderness in the summer. Further information will be sent to all the members. All members will be sent out a letter with a slip attached and if the slip is not returned by the closing date you will not be included on the golf mailing list for the rest of the year.

If you have any news etc please call me on 0860 260240.

Huw Morgan

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260596

East Anglia

Quite an eventful day I think - that's how December 1996 will go down in history. A day when Essex man decided to set up on his own and call himself, surprise, surprise, the Essex Section. A day of mixed emotion for me being an Essexian but nevertheless he kept us very entertained and gave us a very good laugh. The Section carried on and had a very good time in some pubs. We all thought that we would be back again this year.

The Hirkey Trot was held at Guildford GC on December 3. The weather for once held fair, my thanks to all who attended and my apologies to those who were too late with their applications - for once the start sheet was full up! My thanks to the Management and to Chris and his merry men for a job well done. Results:- 1. J Mathis, Northams GC, 40 pts; 2. B. Mitchell; 37 pts; 3. J. Le Mar – 38 pts (trade prize).

After the golf we held the fastest AGM ever - 15 minutes with no complaints! After a superb meal and the speeches the committee provided everyone with a festive bottle of wine to show thanks for their support during the year. Thanks must go to Norths Valley and sponsors, Scott and Avoncrop, and Nigel Stapley and his staff for the course.

For 1997 we have some new tournaments lined up. Firstly, there is a foursomes knock-out to be played between March and September and a greensome at Wilderness in the summer. Further information will be sent to all the members. All members will be sent out a letter with a slip attached and if the slip is not returned by the closing date you will not be included on the golf mailing list for the rest of the year.

If you have any news etc please call me on 0860 260240.

Huw Morgan
MADE-TO-MEASURE PRO-TEE COURSE MARKERS

- High quality cast construction
- Range of colours
- Durable & maintenance-free
- Standard or tailor-made designs
- Installed on metal posts or free standing

These elegant GRC markers are tailor-made to include not only hole information, but also your club name and motif, plus any other details.

LINKS LEISURE
Links Leisure Limited,
Unit 22, Civic Industrial Park,
Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1TT
Tel: 01948 663002 Fax: 01948 666381

BARENBRUG
Great in Grass
Tel: (01948) 270788 Fax: (01948) 271021

*** MISSION FOR THE 1990’S - ROOT OUT ALL COLONIES OF DRY PATCH - SEARCH AND DESTROY ***

alleviate
tenside hydrophobe technology

Whilst wetting agents treat the symptoms, alleviate uses innovative tenside hydrophobe technology to attack and treat the cause of DRY PATCH

alleviate breaks down the hydrophobic barrier coating the surface of soil particles, allowing water to penetrate the rootzone

unsurpassed technology

SERVICE CHEMICALS

Developed and manufactured by:
Service Chemicals plc, 17 Lanchester Way, Royal Oak Industrial Estate, Daventry, Northants, NN11 5PH.
Tel: 01327 706444; Fax: 01327 871154
email: servchem@aol.com
web pages: http://members.aol.com/servchemuk
Hugh Tilley examines the field of fertilisers and looks at the developments which have taken place.

While there are various views on the need for fertiliser on golf courses, particularly on fairways, most greenkeepers accept a need for fertiliser on greens and tees which are regularly mown with clippings boxed off. Greenkeepers are also recognising that more rounds over an extended season require the grass to be kept growing for longer and for it to be strengthened.

There is also an increasing requirement for courses to look good throughout the year. As a result there are several pressures to apply fertilisers, perhaps in increasing amounts, and to increasing areas of the course. There are also differing thoughts over the use of organics, turf conditioners and growth stimulants, and perhaps there is now a realisation that applying the major nutrients without a balance of minor nutrient and trace elements is a recipe for disease etc, and, talking to Course Managers, greater use is being made of analysis.

Most fertilisers are supplied through a local agent, who also often supplies other services such as soil and tissue analysis. The most usual scenario on most courses appears to be to apply a “complete” fertiliser in the spring and then to top up with nitrogen once or twice later in the season as needed – often using the later dressings to include other products such as iron and/or a fungicide. The last few years have seen many changes in the manufacturer supplier chain, the golf course and its manager has become more important while agriculture has declined in importance and this change has led to greater importance being attached to meeting the requirements of golf. Other changes have been in the composition of greens, which are the areas which receive most fertiliser, as more and more are built or re-built to USGA Guidelines with under-drains, stone and mainly sand root zones. Composition of the root zone has considerable bearing on fertiliser use. There have also been several critical changes in supplier and manufacturer with changes of name – ICI became Miracle, via Zenica and Fisons became Levington Horticultural while US based Scotts and Mascot, both marketed by UK companies, have made a significant impact on the UK golf course. Miracle is now wholly owned by Scotts, but both will continue to run as two separate operations while it is seen how they marry together.

Few changes in product are envisaged. BASF now market their turf fertilisers through Kings Horticulture. The term “fertiliser” has a precise meaning in law - analysis of the product must be stated. But as one maker stated the exact method of analysis can vary between US, UK and Europe – thus “like” need not be “alike”.

Greenmaster Autumn leaves the others behind

Greenmaster Autumn is a unique five-way fertiliser for perfect autumn and winter performance on all fine turf. The lightweight, uniform, easy to see granule ensures even coverage. It quickly breaks down for maximum efficiency and minimal pick-up.

- Provides 35kg/ha of potash to harden soft growth and prepare turf for winter.
- Low nitrogen level will not encourage disease.
- Balanced level of phosphate promotes root development and strengthens the sward.
- Contains 6% iron for moss control and colour enhancement.
- High sulphur, acidifying formula helps control soil pH.

ALTOGETHER AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION

If you would like to know more please call our Technical Services Manager on 01473 203143 or contact your local Area Sales Manager:

South - Chris Briggs
Tel: 0378 603103 (mobile) or 01273 675966

Midlands and Wales - Roger Moore
Tel: 0378 603052 (mobile) or 01832 710076

N. England, Scotland & N.I. - Richard Walton
Tel: 0378 603091 (mobile) or 01977 662187

Read the label before you buy; use pesticides safely.
The main plant nutrients are Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potassium, normally abbreviated to N, P and K after their chemical symbols. In addition many fine turf fertilisers have added iron - Fe - for its ability to induce deeper green into the grass and to help suppress moss, they may also have other elements such as sulphur (S) and Magnesium (Mg) plus trace elements.

Techniques such as resin coating have been proven and from a single exponent (Sierra) there are now several makers offering coated products. Didin (a nitrification inhibitor), IBDU and Methylen Urea (MU), the latter two urea nitrogen, have to be broken down before becoming available to the plant and this is another way in which nitrogen release can be extended and these are well proven for those who want to make their nitrogen uptake extend into the mid-summer period - but not all manufacturers are agreed how effective this is. Resin coating is claimed to be able to extend the release season by up to six months.

Many nutrients do not bond to sand - thus N and K in particular may be leached out, nor may there be any nitrification bacteria to breakdown urea into nitrate for uptake by the plant - thus the form of N become critical for sand based greens. Mark Hunt, of Scotts, admitted that their range was particularly geared to this type of green. Of course the whole idea of slow release is to save time and labour (on application) as well as levelling out the growth curve. Drought in the last season has only partly affected grass growth on greens because many courses now have irrigation removing lack of water as a controlling factor allowing nutrient to be utilised. High summer temperatures increase bacterial activity and so increase the rate of nitrification. On non-irrigated fairways differing thinking may be needed, although perhaps fertiliser can be used to promote drought resistance - with longer stronger root growth which can pick-up soil moisture better. Special fertiliser formulations are available for the turf market with both liquid and solids on offer, however a past ploy on most golf greens in early season to put on courses has been to use a mini-granule in order to provide a total feed - and to meet greenkeepers' requirements, few greener keepers subscribe to the muck and mystery theory that it is organic and includes 'everything' it must be good for the grass.

Just what is the correct level and analysis of the major nutrients which should be applied is far too complex a matter to discuss here - it should be a matter of soil analysis and discussion between greenkeeper and supplier. There are a wide variety of differing compounds on the market offering an almost infinite range of differing ratios of N, P and K, perhaps with Fe, S and/or Mg, so the greenerkeeper can take his pick. Many head greener keepers and course managers have very decided opinions of what their course needs, and greater education has allowed them to base these views on science. Unfortunately for the greenerkeeper, plant and soil science is extremely complex and subject to an infinite range of variables and conditions, ask any agronomist - so that what works well one year, in one soil, in one management may not produce the same results the next year or consistently. Nevertheless the main objective of most greener keepers is to keep the grass looking healthy and growing so that it can be cut. Perhaps the greater truth is that grass growth really enables turf to be kept at its pristine best - and that this is the nub of the greenerkeeping art.
SIERRABLEN®
For use on tees, fairways, approaches, surrounds, wear areas and new course 'grow in'.
Features:
- Scotts unique resin and Poly S coated technology
- Temperature controlled release mechanism
- Choice of longevities from 3 to 9 months
- Coarse or fine granules to suit cutting height
- High analysis – low application rate
- Safe to use and easy to apply
- Wide range of analysis available.

Coarse Granule
39.0.0
28.5.5+Fe
27.5.5+Fe
15.0.22+Fe

Fine Granule
38.0.0
25.5.12
21.0.20
15.0.29

SIERRAFORM®
For use on golf and bowling greens.
Features:
- Scotts unique methylene urea technology
- Homogeneous, fine granule formulations
- No carrier added to bulk down
- Quick granule breakdown, less pick up
- Flexible application rates from 15-25gms/m²
- Safe to use and easy to apply
- Wide range of analysis available.

Minigranular
40.0.0
19.0.17+Fe+Mn
18.9.18+Fe+Mn
15.0.30

26.3.12+Te
19.26.5
16.0.0+5Te

For more details contact Scotts UK Ltd, 61 Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7LA Tel: 0115 9455100 Fax: 0115 9455311

The Scotts company is a leading researcher, manufacturer and marketer of products for consumer, do-it-yourself lawn care and gardening, professional turfcare and commercial horticulture
All the advantages of dealing direct with the manufacturer

SISIS DIRECT

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD, Hursfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2LZ
Tel: 01625 503030  Fax: 01625 427426  Spares Hotline: 01625 503020
SISIS Centre in Scotland: The Roundel, Middlefield Ind.Est, Falkirk, FK2 9HG Tel: 01324 629635 Fax: 632894

EUROPE'S LEADING DESIGNERS & MANUFACTURERS OF SPORTS TURF MAINTENANCE MACHINERY
Greenkeeper awarded MBE

Jimmy McDonald has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. It topped off a wonderful year for Jimmy, who ensured that Royal Lytham & St Annes was in magnificent condition for last year's Open, the final major championship of his illustrious career.

“It was a wonderful surprise and reflects well on the work that the entire greenkeeping staff put in during the run up to and the week of the Open itself,” said Jimmy, who receives the award for “Services to Golf”.

It is a fitting tribute to the success of the ‘96 Open and, with him due to visit Buckingham Palace in the next few months to receive the Award, makes his quote in the lead up to the Championship all the more fitting.

“If your dear old aunt was visiting you’d make a damn good tea but if the Queen were coming you’d do it a wee bit differently, wouldn’t you,” he said at the time when discussing the meticulous work which went into preparing for the Championship.

The effort paid off and during and since the Championship praise for the course has been unstinting.

“The feedback I've had is that the genuine links with burnt up grass was just what was wanted. Ironically just a few weeks prior to it I was worried because it was still pretty green.”

As ever Jimmy has some thoughtful views on the country's great links courses.

“They should be treated like listed buildings and not tampered with. Ideally, on the Open venues play should be restricted and the clubs compensated. They are like pieces of antique furniture and should be treated as such.”

Since July's Championship much work has been done to return, particularly the spectator walkways and tented village area, to what it should be.

“Because we had two dry summers in a row the sward wasn't as thick as it should be and the damage was quite considerable on the walkways and the nine hole course but John Mallinson, of Ormskirk, who we used after the last Open, has done a great job in repairing the areas.”

The recognition Jimmy has received reflects well on the entire greenkeeping profession and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director paid tribute to him.

“The Award is richly deserved and reflects a lifetime's commitment to the greenkeeping profession. Many greenkeepers have worked with Jimmy and been trained by him over the years and a good many have gone on to manage their own golf courses having benefited greatly from the time spend with him.

“As well as being a personal award it is pleasing to see the recognition of greenkeeping as a profession and today the profession offers excellent opportunities. This is of no small measure due to the efforts of the older generation such as Jimmy who has set standards and through the year's enhanced the status of greenkeeping and greenkeepers,” said Neil.

Jimmy's CV is the envy of most. He has been Head Greenkeeper at four Opens, four Senior Opens, been Deputy at another Open and has Ryder and Curtis Cups under his belt. He also helped to rebuild the nine hole course at his home in Traigh in the West Highlands.

“The first congratulatory fax came from Traigh. I was chuffed by that,” said Jimmy.

A zero phosphate feed and turf conditioner

- A mini-granular true compound fertilizer with a 4:0:8 analysis
- Contains 4% Iron, 2% Magnesium and Seaweed Extract
- Contains 7.5% Sulphur which can help in controlling the soil pH
- Low application rate (35 g/sq. m) for use on fine turf and other amenity areas
- For all year round use - early spring programme, cosmetic use in season, late autumn application

Longlife and Invigorator are trade marks of Miracle Garden Care Ltd.
BARCROWN
King of the Greens

We may be biased but we believe that our Bar 2 mixture is rightly regarded as the very best for golf and bowls greens.

The major reason is that it contains Barcrown, the outstanding slender creeping red fescue coupled with the brown top bents Heriot and Bardot. Barcrown is tolerant to close mowing, has good shoot density and disease resistance - there's nothing else like it.

As with all Barenbrug mixtures, it contains varieties consistently rated in the top banding of the STRI Turfgrass Seed booklets.

BARENBRUG
Great in Grass

Tel: (01359) 270766 Fax: (01359) 271021

SURE STEP
THE GOLF COURSE PATHWAY SOLUTION

SEE HOW YOU CAN TRANSFORM YOUR GOLF COURSE!
SURE STEP is a patented sand filled synthetic carpet system which provides a tough pathway surface, while maintaining a natural green sward appearance.

The Way To Combat Ground Erosion
To request your product information pack please contact:

DURA-SPORT
Also suppliers of: Synthetic Golf Mats, Golf Course Driving Platform, Synthetic Golf Putting/Pitching Greens.

BRINGS YOUR SOIL BACK TO LIFE NATURALLY

Healthy grass, trees and plants need a healthy soil. So you need ALS Premier Bio-Organic Fertilisers.

Containing essential long-lasting micro-organisms and trace elements ALS Premier Bio-Organic Fertilisers promote stronger root development and greater resistance to disease.

ALS Premier Bio-Organics. The natural solution to your turf care and soil problems.