Winner has lot to look forward to

Now that my reign as Premier Greenkeeper of the Year is over I thought it would be the right time to wish my successor good luck.

After that final nerve wracking interview he will have been announced (the final was held as this magazine went to press). I didn’t really feel nervous that day as I thought I surely couldn’t win... although I hoped I might. When the results were announced – in true Miss World reverse order fashion – and mine was the only name left I had won!

Of course everybody at the club was thrilled for me. The Managing Secretary was grinning from ear to ear, the lads were wondering what to do with their share of the money and there was handshakes all round. During the next few weeks and months there were photo shoots, interviews and the once in a lifetime experience of a trip to the States to take in the GCSSA Exhibition and Conference. If there is ever another opportunity to go I’ll be the first on the plane.

Gradually news of my win filtered through to the members who greeted me by saying “I knew you’d get it right in the end” or “Well, you’ve got a good team of lads, haven’t you.” It was nice to see my name in the papers but it was the acknowledgement of my fellow, long suffering professionals which meant most to me.

Everyone at Broadway fell a part of my success and we all benefited from it. The lads and I feel we’re getting somewhere and our own morale and self esteem has been lifted, although unfortunately the whole year has seemed to rush by too quickly. So all the best to this year’s winner and I hope he has as pleasant a time as I’ve had.

Cedric Gough
Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Broadway Golf Club.

Experience ‘Reel’ savings & make your course a ‘cut’ above the rest

Satisfied Customers:
"Every forward thinking Golf Club should have a Juno in their workshop, a truly excellent machine", Mr. Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramside Hall Golf & Country Club, County Durham.

"Hunter’s relief grinding is far superior to anything I have ever seen, each blade cuts true, the savings are substantial and the cost is minimal!", Mr. Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramside Hall Golf & Country Club, County Durham.

"Our sole plates/bottom blades are now lasting between 2-3 times longer than when we were spin grinding!", Mr. Philip Ballock, Head Greenkeeper, The Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, County Antrim.

"It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone!", Mr. John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate.

"A quality machine that gives a superb finish to our cylinders, and saves money!", Mr. Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

Cut service costs! Improve cutting standards! Reduce wasted downtime!
Both machines will grind both cylinder and bottom blade! Both have water coolant - No Heat, No Dust!
Both will accurately “Relief” angle grind! Both can ‘in-situ’ grind! Both guaranteed to grind cylinders totally parallel!
Salaries and conditions – recommendations

The following scale constitutes the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers’ Salaries and Conditions. The Committee comprises representatives from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, the Association of Golf Course Owners and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. The Chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee has attended in an advisory capacity.

The salaries quoted are the recommended minimum rate for each level of greenkeeper on appointment with effect from 1 January 1998 and represent an increase of 3.5% on the 1997 BIGGA recommended rates, this figure being the Retail Price Index figure at August 1997. Any changes in this figure should be taken into account at the time of implementation. These recommendations do not take into account annual increments or other bonuses as may be paid to staff.

Basic conditions of employment for all greenkeeping staff should include the following in addition to the recommended salary:
- Non contributory pension
- Death in service benefit
- Subscription to BIGGA
- Provision for continuous professional development which may include time off to attend BIGGA conferences and seminars

**NOTES:**
1. The recommended minimum starting salary is based on a 40 hour working week.
2. The “Qualified” figures shown in green include a 10% increment on the recommended rate for qualifying to N/SVQ Level 2. Using the 1998 scale, he should be earning a minimum of £8,736.
3. A Deputy Head Greenkeeper who is competent at N/SVQ Level 3 has just joined a 27 hole golf course. Using the 1998 scale he should be earning a minimum of £16,508.
4. A First Assistant who is competent at N/SVQ Level 2 is still working towards Level 3 should on appointment earn a minimum of £13,093.

**RECOMMENDED minimum starting salary for trainee and apprentice greenkeeping staff working towards N/SVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf maintenance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age on appointment</th>
<th>16 Qualified</th>
<th>17 Qualified</th>
<th>18 Qualified</th>
<th>19 Qualified</th>
<th>20 Qualified</th>
<th>21 Qualified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary on appointment</td>
<td>£6,158</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£7,032</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£8,125</td>
<td>£8,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 6 months</td>
<td>£6,620</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£7,559</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£8,734</td>
<td>£9,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 12 months</td>
<td>£7,116</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£8,126</td>
<td>£8,939</td>
<td>£10,094</td>
<td>£10,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 18 months</td>
<td>£7,650</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>£8,736</td>
<td>£9,609</td>
<td>£10,694</td>
<td>£11,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 24 months</td>
<td>£8,224</td>
<td>£9,046</td>
<td>£9,391</td>
<td>£10,330</td>
<td>£10,851</td>
<td>£11,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 30 months</td>
<td>£8,841</td>
<td>£9,725</td>
<td>£10,095</td>
<td>£11,105</td>
<td>£11,664</td>
<td>£12,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 36 months</td>
<td>£9,504</td>
<td>£10,454</td>
<td>£10,852</td>
<td>£11,938</td>
<td>£12,509</td>
<td>£13,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 42 months</td>
<td>£10,216</td>
<td>£11,238</td>
<td>£11,666</td>
<td>£12,833</td>
<td>AT AGE 21</td>
<td>AT AGE 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 48 months</td>
<td>£10,938</td>
<td>£12,081</td>
<td>£12,541</td>
<td>£13,796</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 54 months</td>
<td>£11,606</td>
<td>£12,987</td>
<td>AT AGE 21</td>
<td>AT AGE 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 60 months</td>
<td>£12,692</td>
<td>£13,961</td>
<td>AT AGE 21</td>
<td>AT AGE 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
1. The recommendation shows that trainees and apprentices receive an additional 7.5% every six months as recognition of the valuable experience they are gaining as they work towards their qualification. This is in addition to any increment they may receive on achieving a recognised qualification.
2. The “Qualified” figures shown in green include a 10% increase on the recommended rate for staff having obtained N/SVQ Level 2 (or NC/ND plus two years experience).
3. Staff who have obtained qualifications on a full time basis should not receive the 10% qualification addition to their salary until they have completed two years satisfactory service as a working greenkeeper.
4. The rates apply for all sizes of golf club. NB Over the age of 21 greenkeepers remain on age 21 scale except for annual increments or bonuses which may be paid to staff. Further increments for qualified greenkeepers depend on promotion to supervisory and management positions.

**RECOMMENDED starting salary for supervisory and managerial level greenkeeping staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position/site of golf course</th>
<th>18 Hole</th>
<th>27 Hole</th>
<th>36 Hole</th>
<th>48 Hole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Assistant (Competent at N/SVQ Level 2 working towards N/SVQ Level 3)</td>
<td>£13,093</td>
<td>£14,402</td>
<td>£13,093</td>
<td>£14,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Head Greenkeeper (Competent at N/SVQ Level 3)</td>
<td>£15,111</td>
<td>£16,508</td>
<td>£18,475</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Greenkeeper (Competent at N/SVQ Level 3 working towards N/SVQ Level 4)</td>
<td>£21,010</td>
<td>£22,873</td>
<td>£25,616</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Manager (Competent at N/SVQ Level 4)</td>
<td>£23,111</td>
<td>£25,160</td>
<td>£28,177</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
1. The “Qualified” figures shown in green include a 10% increment on the recommended rate for qualifying to N/SVQ Level 3 (or HND/HNC plus two years experience).
2. Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers possessing D32 or D33 certificates should receive additional appropriate recognition.
3. The post of First Assistant is designed to recognise a third in charge. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Head Greenkeeper rate should apply.
Tough on turf disease

- Rapid contact action.
- Immediately effective against a wide range of turf diseases including Fusarium patch, Red thread, and Dollar spot.
- Will not scorch or damage turf.
- Unique rainfast formulation allows application all year round but especially useful during the cooler months.
- Available in 1 litre and new 5 litre containers.
- The No 1. choice for turf professionals for over 11 years.

Now available in 5 litre cans.

Roval Green
Contains 250 g/L (24.3% w/v) iprodione
A contact-acting broad spectrum fungicide for turf

Tender on turf

For details of your nearest Rhône-Poulenc distributor, call 01277 301116
THE FINAL GOLF TOURNAMENT OF '97

The final golf tournament of '97 was held by courtesy of Auchterarder GC, on September 18, when 34 members and guests enjoyed a great day's golf in glorious sunshine and on a course in superb condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn and his staff. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Auchterarder, especially Secretary Bill Campbell, Club Captain Alex Murray for presenting the prizes and to Sandra, Dougie and staff for their first class fare and service in the clubhouse throughout the day. Prize winners on the day were as follows:- Ransomes Shield (Best Nett Aggregate Spring & Autumn Tournaments) - Kenny Stirling, The Dukes Course; AMP Trophy (Best Gross) - Stuart Smith, Lundin GC; Aitken Trophy (Best Nett) - Donald McCallister, Ladybank GC; Division 1: 1. Kenny Stirling, The Dukes Course; 2. Rod Hensby, Tulliallan GC; Division 2: 1. Andrew Crawford, Kinross GC; 2. Stuart Sime, Leven Links GC; 3. Ronald Peat, Fife GC; Division 3: 1. Peter Finlay, Auchterarder GC; 2. Ronald Peat, Fife Council; Patrons - John Souter, Souters Sportsturf; Associate - Alisa Wade, Milnathort GC; Guests - Sandy Herd, Leven Links GC.

Thanks to the Scottish Region Patrons for contributing towards our trophies and prizes and to everyone who donated to the raffle. I am still trying to secure venues for next year's tournaments so if anyone has any thoughts on this matter please get in touch with me.

On October 1 a number of members enjoyed a visit to the Stewart's turf farm at Kinnesswood on the shores of Loch Leven where we were given an extensive and educational presentation of the work and investment involved in producing high quality turf for our profession (it still won't stop me haggling over the price!). It was nice to see that, although he has retired, David Sword, formerly Head Greenkeeper at Bishopshire GC, is still supporting the Section and joined us on the day.

Our thanks go to Alan Miller, of Stewart's, for arranging the visit and for the hospitality which he extended to us at the local hotel prior to the tour of the turf fields.

We extend a warm welcome to the Section to the following new members this month - Derek Scott, Scoonie GC; Halidor Svanbergsson, Neil Middleton, Angus Miller and Suzanne Corgan, all Elmwood College, and Gary Smith, of Stewarts.

I have eventually managed to get all Section trophies together and I will now have them valued and engraved in time for the Spring Tournament when we can present them to the winners.

The Inter-Club Tournament is yet again running behind schedule (so what's new?) due to games not being played by the given dates. As this Tournament is a way of keeping in touch during the summer months and meeting fellow greenkeepers from other courses would everyone please try and bring their respective ties up to date in order that we can present the trophy at the Spring Tournament in 1998.

A matter which is causing concern to the Section Committee is that at golf tournaments we have reached the point where patrons and guests are giving greater support than greenkeepers. Does this mean that the majority of members would not bother if we stopped these tournaments? When you consider that for less than £20 you can have a round of golf (sometimes two), meals and be competing for around £500 worth of prizes you would go a long way before getting better value for your money. SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR SECTION?

I will give you an update on the AGM in next month's issue, or perhaps everyone will have attended the meeting and know exactly what is going on. Ah well, I can always dream! Andy O'Hara had a dream which I may tell you about one day!

John Crawford

AGM in next month's issue, or perhaps everyone will have attended the meeting and know exactly what is going on. Ah well, I can always dream! Andy O'Hara had a dream which I may tell you about one day!

John Crawford

East

With the season nearing its end we had our last major of the season, the Autumn Tournament at Turnhouse GC, on September 25. A great day was had by all who attended but a very small turnout considering this was the first of the
two qualifying rounds for the Hayter Challenge (or whatever it is to be named). Only 44 people played and that included trade, guests and invited guests. So not a good turnout on a glorious autumn day. The weather couldn't have been better which provided us with some very good golf as the scores show.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, the clubhouse staff for looking after us - the meals were great and last but not least Gavin Ballantyne, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The course was in great condition, guys. You did yourselves proud and it was very enjoyable to play. We would also like to thank Mr Jim McColl, the Greens Convenor, for presenting the prizes and also joining us for the golf. The trophies were shared between Swanston GC (my club) and Glencorse GC as you will see from the scoreboard that follows. (Ian, you will have to try and regain your aggregate cup in 1998).

I was pleased to be the first winner of the new Scottish Grass Machinery Cup and I would like to thank SGM for presenting the cup to the Section. It is a superb looking trophy which is worth winning! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Outing in 1998.

The results were:- Gross:- D. Melville, Swanston GC, 72; Division 1:- 1. T. Murray, Ratho Park GC, 70; 2. I. Bell, Glencorse GC, 74; 3. J. Manuel, Goswick GC, 75; Division 2:- 1. G. Yeaman, Swanston GC, 73; 2. S. Halliday, Melville GC, 75; 3. G. Ballantyne, Turnhouse GC, 76; Division 3:- 1. A. Forrest, Swanston GC, 74; 2. S. Hall, Glencorse GC, 74; 3. J. Lumsden, Glencorse GC, 77; Veteran - R. Bullock, retired, 77; Trade - I. Thompson, Provan GC, 77; Guest - D. McGinley, Swanston GC, 73; Aggregate Cup Spring & Autumn - C. Yeaman, Swanston GC, 144; Best Nett of the Day - Douglas Melville, Swanston GC, 65. Turnhouse GC par was 69.

I would like to thank the trade members for providing the raffle prizes on the day, this is always much appreciated by the Section. In October we also had the annual Stewart's and Co match with the North East of England Section at Haddington GC, East Lothian. A great day and night was had by all! Thanks to Haddington GC for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the great meals and even better refreshments! Also thanks to Norman Wood and his staff for having the course in good condition for the visit of all these greenkeepers. The result this year was another victory by the North East lads by 3.5-2.5 so they retain the trophy again! We are going to have to do something about this. Possibly if they don't bring passports next time they try and cross the border they won't be able to get into Scotland and we will win by just turning up! No, we are not that lucky, we will have to improve our performances if we are to win back the coveted "Stewart's Quaich".

The team is looking forward to next year's match already and once again well done to the North East lads on a winning performance. We would also like to thank the match sponsors Stewart's and Co and their Technical Sales Rep, John Geddes, for looking after us all once again. Your support for this match is much appreciated by everyone who plays in this match. Thanks for everything you do each year to make this match a success.

Next on the Agenda is the AGM at Swanston GC. I will report on this next month. I am echoing an article from the Devon/Cornwall Section news that when attending all BIGGA events and functions, please remember you are representing your profession and BIGGA so please ensure you are properly dressed with collar and tie on arrival for lunch and afterwards for evening meal. The standards in the Section seem to be dropping so let us ensure that it goes back up to where it has always been.

If anyone has not got their dance tickets by now for the annual dinner dance they should give Steve Dixon a call now on 0131 660 3965 to reserve the last few tickets available for the night of the year. The date if you do not know by now is Saturday December 6 at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady. So if you need to drop me a line...
you can do so at 74 Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian EH31 2HJ or phone 01620 842037. If you have any information let's hear from you, remember it is your Section and this is your chance to be heard.

Just one last thing before I go, the Patrons’ Awards for 1997 are to the two people who have attended all BIGGA events and functions over the past year. This year they go to Robert Thomson, Peebles GC and Gordon Trotter, Glencorse GC. Well done lads, you both deserve the award. The prizes are a trip to the BTME 98, in Harrogate in January, which will be presented in December at the Patrons’ Dinner and we are looking forward to seeing you down in Harrogate which is a great three days and is well worth attending. If anyone is thinking of going next year BIGGA Scottish Region are running a trip to include coach travel, Bed and Breakfast and entrance to all seminars and the show. If you are interested give our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd a call on 0141 616 3440 for an application form and further details.

Well, that’s it for this month, I hope to hear from some of our members soon!

Chris Yeaman

West

The first thing to report on is the result from the five-a-side tournament held on September 7 at Scotstoun Leisure Centre. The weather once again was fantastic, bright sunshine.

After a few hiccups the tournament got under way although the playing order was not quite what it should have been! Souters strolled through the first section then Windy Clyde secured their place through a Campfire player being sent off. East Kilbride as usual eased their way through from section three then a close fought battle in section four saw Rigby Taylor come out on top on goal difference. In the semi-finals East Kilbride beat Souters and Windy Clyde beat Rigby Taylor, both games being well contested.

Down to the final - Windy Clyde started well easing forward 3-1 with six minutes to go, then two quick goals saw honours even. It looked like penalties again but wait a minute, a pass back (or was it? Remember the ref’s decision is final) and East Kilbride were awarded a penalty. The fourth goal came and a Windy Clyde man was sent off for disagreeing just slightly with the ref’s opinion.

The whole tournament went, in the main, smoothly. A few words of thanks are extended to John Scott for presenting the prizes and for keeping control of the score board on the day. The referees are to be thanked. Everybody thinks it’s so easy to control play but after watching and listening to play I think they have an extremely difficult job. Rigby Taylor were the main sponsors by presenting a magnificent trophy for the winners. We have to say thank you very much for their kind generosity and we should express our thanks to all those who are involved.

Finally the Hayter report. This year three people represented the West Section and although an excellent time was had I’m afraid our performances left a lot to be desired. The course was long and reasonable flat and then they scored again - 3-2 with desperate action on both sides. However, with the last kick of the ball the equaliser and who was the scorer, yes Brian! We still remain undefeated, so well done.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to new member James McIntyre, Glasgow University Estates Manager. We hope to see you at some of the events.

North

The Section outing to Alyth was a good day out on a superb golf course in lovely sunshine. Thanks are extended to John Scott for presenting the prizes and for listening to play I would hope this year as a lot of interest has been shown.

Now the report, a good team was compiled even though it was a last minute fixture Allied proved good opposition. Our Section opened up the scoreline from Eddie Devine, Paisley GC. He apparently had an excellent game. Then disaster - they scored two goals to make half time 2-1 down. Next Graeme Shearer equalised and then they scored again - 3-2 with desperate action on both sides. However, with the last kick of the ball the equaliser and who was the scorer, yes Brian! We still remain undefeated, so well done.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to new member James McIntyre, Glasgow University Estates Manager. We hope to see you at some of the events.
BIOSTIMULANTS & MICRONUTRIENTS

Professional Solutions for the Green Environment
123 Premix™

123 Premix™ is an easy to use pre-mixed formulation of three of the Amenity Technology micronutrient, biostimulant and wetting agent range. Contains 1 part AGRIplex™, 2 parts ironROOTS2™ and 3 parts NoburN™. Available in 10 lt. containers. Apply at 20 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks, or as Drencher 123 pellets for spot treatment of damaged areas.

AGRIplex™ Micronutrient for Greens and Tees
AGRIplex™ is a fully chelated micronutrient feed that provides specific, secondary and micronutrients necessary for the correction of nutrient deficiencies in turf plants. AGRIplex™ is designed to supplement all fertilizer programmes, especially on sand greens where nutrient leaching is a major problem. An application of 6 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks will provide all the necessary micronutrients for fine turf.

NoburN™

NoburN™ Natural Wetting Agent
NoburN™ natural wetting agent and soil penetrant is a non-scouring organic surfactant made with yucca plant extract. NoburN™ is used to increase water retention and percolation in dry, hydrophobic or compacted soils. NoburN™ will not burn or discolour turfgrass or plants, even when not watered in.

NoburN™ should be applied at 10 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks.
ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™
New second generation concentrated biostimulants
- Cold water kelp extract (giving 40ppm plant hormones)
- Proven blend of humic acids, vitamins and sugars
- Choice of iron for added green up
- Over 10 years of university research and development

ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™ offer the best in seaweed and plant biotechnology. Tried and tested formulas have been proven to give increased stress and salinity tolerance. Tests have shown that with ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™ you can achieve increased root growth and better plant development with reduced fertiliser levels, saving both time and money in costly fertilizer applications. Use ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™ at any time during the growing season. For optimum results combine this with AGRIplex™ micronutrients and NoburN™ wetting agent for the complete nutrient supplement programme for fine turf.
AMTEC™ IRON RANGE

The long cold autumn and winter months can leave sports turf looking pale and discoloured, especially if the sward contains a high percentage of annual meadow grass. The patented iron chelates and sulphur in the Amenity Technology range can help achieve a deep sustained green up of the playing surface, along with an increased hardiness against disease and stress, until such time as spring feed can be applied. Designed for a quick response with a greener, longer lasting colour.

SOLUplex™

WATER SOLUBLE IRON
SOLUplex™ soluble iron is available in 1 hectare bags. SOLUplex™ is extremely soluble and very economical to use, making it ideal for bulk spraying of fairways and outfields.

LAWNplex™ & Fe8%™

LIQUID IRONS
LAWNplex™ and Fe8%™ offer advanced patented chelated iron formulas designed to give maximum iron uptake during reduced plant activity. LAWNplex™ has been specially designed with sand greens in mind, with the inclusion of 2% nitrogen for increased nutrient iron uptake, along with all the advantages of 7% sulphur.

Fe8% and LAWNplex™ should be applied at 10-20 lts. per hectare for corrective treatment of iron deficiency, or at a maintenance rate of 10 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks.
The tragic death of Ganton’s, David Spurden, in an accident on the course recently. He was a good friend and I will miss seeing him at BIGGA events. My condolences to his family.

The Section patron winners are Dale Robertson, Newmacher, and Bradley Wood, Westhill, who won a trip to BTME 1998. Thanks to the Scottish Patronage Scheme.

All the best to Sean Jaffrey, who moved from Strathmore to Ellon recently. Congratulations to Steve Sullivan, Craiglie Hill, for sweeping the roses through the world. Steve would like to start a Four Ball Better Ball Knockout in the Section next Spring. Early rounds will be regional to cut down on travel to start with. For more information and to enter phone Iain on 01738 643778.

Finally have you got a library book from the Section? There are three missing. Contact Hugh McLatchie on 01779 470173 or Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 if you know where they are.

Iain MacLeod

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

This month’s news unfortunately starts with some sad news. John Lennard, a member of the North West Section for many years has died after a long illness. John, who worked at Prestbury GC some years ago, moved on to Northernen GC and then on to Shrigley Hall where he carried out some major construction work. Eventually he made his final move to Merseyside GC where he constructed 9 holes before becoming ill.

More sad news is the death of David Spurden, a member of the Northern Section. David was Head Greenkeeper at Ganton GC for 17 years and had just hosted the Hayter Challenge Final at Ganton one week before his untimely death. Many of the North West members will have known David from the Roses matches and the Greenkeeping Support Team at the Open.

The weather just before the Autumn tournament at Keswick GC on September 9 had been continual rain for days and John Turner, the Head Greenkeeper was anxious to say the least as to how the course would be on that day. No problems! The sun shone, the course was in great condition and thanks to John and his staff everyone enjoyed the day. The views from the course of the surrounding mountains are breathtaking and we were even treated to the sight of a buzzard flying up the valley. The prize table took us through to 11th net but the main prize winners were:- Best Nett – Peter Rainey; Best Gross – John Berry; Over 55s – Bert Cross; Aggregate Trophy – Alec Davies. We were fortunate to have a very special guest with us on the day. Lord Whitelaw came along and presented the prizes to the winners before joining us for dinner. I would like to thank Lord Whitelaw for allowing us the pleasure of his company, Keswick GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, John Turner and his staff for their hard work in preparing the course, John Fleet and his wife for the lovely meals and bar service and the companies who helped to swell the prize table, namely Rigby Taylor, Supaturf, Ritefeed, GEM, Martin Brothers, Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, Cheshire Turf Machinery and Bathgate Top Dressing.

The Hayter Challenge Final at Ganton GC was played on September 18 with 63 competitors who had won through from their various spring tournaments and regional finals. The course was immaculate thanks to David Spurden and his staff and it is easy to see why this course is classed as one of the best and most difficult courses around. The course is heavily planted with gorse and trees and there are plenty of bunkers waiting to catch the wayward short. I think the bunkers were designed by Adolf Hitler and constructed by this war planes with landmines they were so deep! The competitors had plenty to play for with prizes but also with places for next years Rest of the World team to play in America. Unfortunately we had no winners from the North West.

This year’s Christmas competition is at Wilmislow GC, on Thursday November 27. The Section AGM will take place immediately after the golf and will be followed by a Christmas Dinner. The tee will be available from 10 am and all entries must be in by Saturday, November 22, with your deposit of £10 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. All competitors will be required to bring along a bottle so that everybody takes home a prize.

Any news, views or complaints please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North East

The Autumn Competition was held at Boldon GC, on Thursday, September 25. Forty members turned up to play which for me as Secretary was very gratifying considering there were a few familiar faces missing. Steve Miller and his staff had the course in excellent condition and we thank the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and also to the Stewardess for a great meal. Donations were received from The Ryton Gravel Co, Atkins, Boldon GC, Stocksfield GC, Greenlay, Border Turf Services and Turf Care Supplies and on behalf of the Section I would like to thank all the sponsors. The results were as follows: Best Nett (Ramsome Cup) – B. Wilson, Stocksfield, 73-6-66; Best Nett, Greenlay Cup 0-9 handicaps – R. Reid, Prudhoe, 75-7-68; Best Nett (Fewster Shield) 10-28 handicaps – G. Wright, Crook, 85-15-70; Best Gross Salver – A. McIure, 75. Other scores were B. Walker (guest), 83-14-69; M. Woods (guest), 80-10-70; A. Mooney, 91-20-71; D. Sharkey, 76-4-72; G. Baxter, 78-6-72; J. Redhead, 84-12-72; D. Dalby, 82-10-72; D. Street, 83-11-72; K. Mould, 87-15-72.

The annual match against SE Scotland has taken place by now, hopefully we shall regain the cup at Haddington.

Both Brian Hughes and Kevin Mould, of Whickham, have done well this year in passing Phase 4 and Phase 2 respectively, better late than never with that news. May I remind you that some of the players who played in the knockouts competitions have not paid their entry fee. Please get in touch with David Curthbertson, we need the money for the prizes.

Sometime in December we are having a competition at South Moor followed by the AGM presentation of all the trophies played for in 1997 followed by a meal. All members will be sent a letter asking if they would like to attend. The President of the Section Mr Tony Chambers of Shorts will present the trophies.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

The Turfcare sponsored quiz versus the Institute of Groundsmans takes place at Mount Oswald GC, Durham at 7.30 pm on December 10. The brilliant two Kevin’s from Brancepeth GC need help to defend the greenkeepers record, so turn up lads and show your talent!

Our Secretary, Gary Munro, has been busy as Manager of the Wynyard GC. His course was host to the European Tour “School” recently in a 54 hole event. 150 entered with passports into the final qualifying stage on the Costa del Sol up for grabs.

George Salabank, Student Greenkeeper, at Eaglescliffe GC has, after three months employment, been taken on for a further year. Earlier he completed a two year course at the Scottish College where he obtained a HND in Sport and Leisure. He plays off a handicap of 11.

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we 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

Greenkeeper international November 1997 27
Who's coming to dinner?

The Full Monty!

It's almost here and BIGGA will be showing the lot!

Seminar success
Ken and Sami report that the education programme is rapidly filling up. Hardly surprising when you see this year's programme! See The Learning Experience or phone Sami for details.

The banquet
Have you booked your ticket yet for the most sensational night of the year? Due to ever growing demand, the venue this year will be Hall D of the Exhibition Centre and tickets are selling like hot cakes.

Exhibitors galore
More exhibitors than ever will be revealing all at this year's show. Over 175 companies to date have staked their place for the 1998 event of the year!

You've seen the film of the year – now see the show of the year!

So, if you haven't seen BIGGA in all its glory, then make a date for the event of '98!

Find out more in next month's
Around the Green

Shaun Carroll is to attend a machinery training course in an effort to help out at his Club with machinery troubles in the future. Machines are getting more and more sophisticated, and costly!

The dry weather in September is great for treatment of greens and tees and there's no sign of worm casts yet!

There will be more news in the members' newsletter from our Secretary.

Bruce Burnell

North Wales

Well, it has been a long time hasn't it? May I first introduce myself - I am David Goodridge and Acting Chairman and Press Officer of your Section and Head Greenkeeper at Denbigh GC. The last 12 months have seen a turbulent time at committee level with resignations flying about and all the gossip and innuendoes that go on. Most of us have to deal with committees in our working life and know all the inherent short falls etc. However it is democratic even though things don't always go the way you would want or expect. Remember it is YOUR Section and it needs YOUR input. I am available on 01824 710693 for your views, news and basically anything to do with golf and greenkeeping including births, deaths, weddings... I sound like a registry office!

But seriously we are looking for a Secretary as Trevor Johnstone finds he hasn't got the time to do both the Secretary's and Treasurer's job. The position does take time and you will find your ear has to be surgically removed from the phone at times but there must be one of you out there that would love to know everything that's going on as well as contributing a hell of a lot to the Section.

The AGM will be held at the Christmas meeting, on December 3. More details will be available from me soon.

Ono a more sombre note, it is my sad duty to inform you that Ken Hawkins passed away on August 8 after spending some time in hospital after suffering a stroke. Any of you who played in the meetings at Cardon Park, Porthmadog or Frodsham will remember Ken as a starter who made sure everything ran smoothly, always had a laugh and a joke and showed such enthusiasm that starting a round of golf with him was pretty high. The said member is one of you out there that would love to know everything that's going on as well as contributing a hell of a lot to the Section.

Anyway, it's Friday, it's 7.30pm, now where's that beer?

Dave Goodridge

Sheffield

On September 22 we held our autumn competition at Sicklehome GC. It was a perfect day for playing golf and was enjoyed by the 38 members who played. Our thanks go to Sicklehome for giving us courtesy of the course. Thanks also go to Mike Lake and his staff who presented the course in such lovely condition. Well done, Mike!

Thanks also go to the stewardess and her staff for the excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks go to Tony Dobson, of Henton 7 Chattells, who were the main sponsors of the competition and for providing the excellent prize table. Other trade members who provided prizes were Glen Hardcastle, County Crops; Alan Dyson, Gem; Brian Booth, Rigby Taylors; Steve Burroughs, Amenity Turf Supplies; Peter Fell, Aitkens, and Les Purdy, Purdys.

Congratulations go to all the prize winners at Sicklehome and well done to Craig Duncan who, with an excellent score of 38 points, won the competition. I think local knowledge helped Craig. Well done.

Results: 1. C. Duncan, 38pts; 2. M. Coltas, 37 pts; 3. P. Neve, 36pts; 4. R. Docherty, 36pts (I heard you had a bit of fun on the 18th, Paul!)

My apologies to Paul Neve who also qualified for the Hayter Final. Unfortunately, Mick Coltas and Paul didn't have any luck in the final.

At the National Tournament Paul had better luck because he won his Handicap Division thus qualifying for the Kubuta Challenge. Well done and good luck Paul.

Congratulations go to Jeremy Duffield who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Dore and Totley GC. Jeremy moves to Dore from Howley Hall in Leeds. Good luck, Jeremy.

A few dates for your diaries:

Golf: November 24, Christmas competition at Rotherham GC. Lectures. December 4, Mr R. Laycock, Turf Consultant; February 5, Mr N. Baldwin, Service Chemists, ex- STRI and March 5, Mr A. Hawkins.

Turf Irrigation Services (TIS) are specialists in providing irrigation and water quality management systems to the golf course, sports turf and landscape industry. As authorised Toro irrigation and Otterbine water aeration dealers, each company provides a wide range of design, installation and maintenance services undertaken by a team of experienced staff and engineers.

When you have a need to discuss irrigation or water quality management, call the experts.

Design • Installation • Maintenance

Turf Irrigation Systems (TIS) are specialists in providing irrigation and water quality management systems to the golf course, sports turf and landscape industry. As authorised Toro irrigation and Otterbine water aeration dealers, each company provides a wide range of design, installation and maintenance services undertaken by a team of experienced staff and engineers.

When you have a need to discuss irrigation or water quality management, call the experts.

You can't beat the system
Around the Green

Morton, Maxicrop. All at Rotherhithe. I hope you have retired from Wortley GC due to ill health. I hope you have a happy retirement. Good luck.

John Lax

Northern

This year's Winter Tournament which is at Scarcroft GC is to be held on Wednesday December 3 and NOT Wednesday December 10 as previously advertised. The tee off time will remain the same at 6.00 pm.

This year's Invitation Day Tournament was held at Skipton GC. Many thanks to Committee members who helped to run this event.

Firstly to Telford Jarvis, at Scarcroft GC, secondly to Tito Arana, at Riddlesden GC, and finally to Gavin Hawker, at Sibson GC. I hope you all settle in your new roles.

At a recent section committee meeting a couple of things were agreed upon. Firstly that the golfing events for 1998 will have to be agreed upon. Firstly that the golfing events for 1998 will have to be agreed upon. Secondly that the Annual Dinner Dance is again to be held at Bradford GC at the date agreed upon, March 14 1998.

Appreciation and is still doing it so you deserve a happy retirement. Good luck.

Finally, Barry Heaney recently retired from Wortley GC due to ill health. I hope you have

Regional Administrator, Doug Bell, attend our meeting. Doug stated that everything was a little strange to him at the moment but I am sure that he will soon get into the swing of things. No doubt many of you will be seeing Doug at your golf clubs - maybe he will even be able to persuade some to pay the recommended rates!

Again, if anyone has any news from within the Section please do not hesitate to contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HDS 6LA, telephone 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was played at the excellent venue of Chevin GC on September 3. Although heavy rain had been falling for several days prior to the Tournament and on the day, the course was presented in pristine condition by Mike Billings and his staff. In difficult conditions some respectable scores were posted with the winners as follows: Category 1: 1. P Billings, Crogavere Place, 82-8-74; 2. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 78-3-75; 3. A. Foulds, Manor, 84-9-75. Category 2: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-16-75; 2. K. Davis, Lutterworth, 92-15-77; 2. D. James, Scraptoft, 94-16-78. Category 3: 1. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-21-70; 2. S. Heap, Rothley, 102-22-80; 3. M. Billings, Chevin, 104-22-82. Trade and Associate: G. Thurman, Charnwood Forest, 85-8-78.

The Section's gratitude should go to Chevin GC for courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward for an excellent meal. Also I would like to thank our very generous sponsors for the day, Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services who unfortunately could not be with us on the day because of the Saltex Show. Also I am most grateful to all those committee members who helped to run this event.

This years Supaturf K/O Cup was won by Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, who defeated Dave Mitchell, Springwater, by 6&5 in the final held at Lingdale GC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale GC for hosting the Final on their excellent course.

In the Cosby Am-Am Richard Barker, Adie Porter, Roger Barker and myself finished with a 2-over par score of 144 with the highlight of the round on the par 3, 185 yard 14th hole. After hitting a 5-iron onto the green Roger then knocked in a 30 foot putt for a birdie 2 giving the team a share in the 2s sweep.

Antony Bindley

Page 36