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SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

The Scottish Region once again offers its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1998. The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Cairn Hotel on January 20, 21 and 22. Package cost £135.

Partners are welcome at a cost of £100 for travel and accommodation.

For booking form call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel: 0141 616 3440

From Edna and Elliott Small

We would like to express our thanks to everyone in the Scottish Region for the marvellous gifts given to us on the occasion of relinquishing our posts in the Scottish Region Office and as Regional Administrator respectively.

Since January 1, 1990 when we first started we have been privileged to be part of the growth of the Region and Association, and although it has been a lot of hard work, especially in the latter years it has been immensely satisfying. We feel we have made many new friends along the way and look forward to keeping and renewing these friendships in the years ahead.

There is no doubt in our minds that the Association is good for greenkeepers and greengreening as a whole and we hope that the new Administrator, Peter Boyd, will enjoy the challenge as much as we did.

The Scottish Region held its Annual Tournament for the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August at Tulliallan GC. The event was sponsored by Rhone Poulenc. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Club Captain Phil Mawhood and his Committee for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the meals and refreshments on the day and also Elliott and his staff for the condition of the course which was excellent, as were the bunkers. I was in just about every one on my way round! Last, but not least, thanks to McKenzie Munro and Rhone Poulenc for the sponsorship of the day. Well done to the North Section and their Captain, Hugh Mclatchie, who retained the trophy for the second year in a row. They will be looking for the hat-trick next year so we will all need to improve (some more than others) if we are to stop them.

The results were as follows:- 1. North Section (H. McLatchie, S. Williams, C. Cummings, G. Burgess) 88 pts; 2. Central Section (A. Dunn, D. McAllister, A. O'Hara, G. McRae) 87 pts; 3. Ayrshire Section (H. Diamond, D. Wilson, S. McLean, J. Paton) 84 pts; 4. West Section (J. Scott, S. Bulloch, G. Dingwall, C. George) 82 pts; 5. East Section S. Dixon, S. Crawford, C. Yeaman) 71 pts.

Also in attendance on the day were Phil Mawhood, Captain of Tulliallan GC, Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator Elect and Elliott Small, Regional Administrator. Once again, thanks for a great day and we look forward to seeing you in 1998.

Chris Yeaman

East

Firstly, could I express my thanks to Elliott and Edna Small for all their hard work over the years. Elliott has been the Regional Administrator for almost eight years and his tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. I hope you and Edna enjoy your spare time away from the administrative hassles and look forward to playing more golf. You will be dearly missed. Thanks from all the West of Scotland Association members and best wishes for the future.

A couple of things to be mentioned or brought to mind – the date for the annual dinner at the Admiral Bar will be notified in due course along with the date for the AGM in December. A men only night full of entertainment is new and good attendance is looked for on October 31 at the Tally Rand outside Barrhead. A warm welcome is extended to Sam Morrison, who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Bothwell Castle. This means no more jokes about the North Section! The Section wishes Sam well and I am sure he will enjoy his new position.

At the time of writing this the five-a-side tournament was not played but information will be forwarded next month.

That's all until next month, so if there's any information for the
next issue then call me on 0141 942 5554.

Stuart Taylor

North

Congratulations to Hughie McLastie, Peterhead, and his partners Scott Williams, Peterculter, Chris Cumming, Fortrose, and Colin Burgess, Forbes, who successfully retained the Norrie Whytock Trophy for the Section recently. Maybe if we win it next year for the third time we will get to keep it!

If you are finding things difficult then spare a thought for another member even worse off. Willy Rusk was running the six hole course on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides when they had to close as a crofter built a house on the 5th green. For their Annual Tournament the members had to take the ferry over to Oban and play over the Taynuilt course there. Rumour has it that first prize was to be an Eriskay pony which had been recently born on the Island!

It's all change at Royal Aberdeen just now. First Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Janice Florence, left to become Head Greenkeeper at Inchmarlo Golf Centre and then Head man Sam Morrison tells us that he is leaving to take up a similar post at Bothwell Castle GC, south of Glasgow. We wish them both success in their new positions and take this opportunity to thank Sam for all his hard work on the Section Committee where he has held just about every position over the years, more recently as Treasurer and outings organiser. We will certainly miss him. Also on the move is Charlie Mackay leaving Forres to become Head Greenkeeper at the British Petroleum GC in Aberdeen.

Bonar Bridge and Ardgay GC has just opened up its three new holes, replacing three holes that shared fairways. They have land to extend to 18 when finance allows. Also work is well underway at Alness on its 9 hole extension in a lottery funded project with work done by a Welsh company, their first project in Scotland I believe.

Have you got your ticket for the Section dinner/disco yet? Time is running out. Iain Macleod

Central

The Leven Links Sporting Club is continuing on its world tour of Fife and following the football match against East Fife Supporters Club they have been in action on the cricket pitch at a tournament in Freuchie. This time Stuart Sime captained the team as I think Andy O'Hara is writing a book about that "famous" goal of his. Anyway, this time they were up against a team of "Lady" cricketers named the Crooked Stumps – or was that what the ladies named the Leven boys? The end result was a resounding defeat for Stuart and his team but all was not lost as it appears that they are the most popular team in the tournament as they have yet to win a match and anyone who is drawn against them is guaranteed to go through to the next round. A video is available of both the football and cricket matches and at the moment Andy is negotiating with Neil to have it screened at Harrogate in January!!

Congratulations go to Section Vice Chairman, Archie Dunn and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their first son, Jonathan. Karen and the baby are both doing fine. Archie is still on Cloud Nine at becoming a Dad and just to keep him on a high he was chosen to represent Scotland in the BIGGA Team for the Kubota Trophy at the Belfry. This month should also see Archie take over as Chairman of the Section so he has a very busy time ahead of him.

Congratulations also go to that man Walter Woods again, this time on his election as President of Tillicoultry GC. Walter has a long association with his home town club and this is a fitting honour for all he has done for them over the years. He must be busier now than when he was at St Andrews!

David Leith, of St Andrews, and Stuart Sime, of Leven Links, are the Section nominees for this years Patron's Awards (an expenses paid trip to BTME at Harrogate in January). Well done lads and thanks for the support which you give to Section events.

New members this month are Ian McLellan, Hayston GC, Simon Freeman, Crieff Hydro GC, John Paterson, Polmont GC, and Steven Richardson, Bothwell Castle GC. A warm welcome to the Section is extended to them all and we hope to see them at our future events.

It is intended to organise lectures/presentations during the forthcoming winter months and it would be appreciated by your Committee if they were given a bit more support than in the past. With over 200 members in the Section it gets rather embarrassing when only half a dozen turn up at an event. After all it costs companies time and money to put on a lecture or demonstration etc for our benefit, so come on, let's give them some support in return!

The new Regional Administra-tor for Scotland is Peter Boyd. Peter is a retired Police Officer

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

Design Installation Maintenance
from Glasgow and on behalf of the members of the Central Section I extend a warm welcome to him and wish you every success in his new appointment. No doubt many of you will have the pleasure of meeting him at some of our forthcoming events.

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East
The new knock-out cup sponsored by Carbural is now well supported by Carbural and on behalf of Douglas Bell. The final will be Douglas Bell/A McLure. The final will be chaired by Douglas Bell.

Gunn/D Thompson and D Stocksfield to Hexham and yours truly to welcome John Barr, formerly of Bristol and Clifton, on behalf of the Section.

North West
In the words of Cilla Black—"Surprise, Surprise!" Once again nobody has contacted me with any news that might be of interest to Section members. I can only assume that everybody is happy with their lot and the population growth in the North West has come to a standstill. Please if you have any news or advice or funny stories to tell ring me and I will print them in the Section news.

The Annual Match against the Golf Club Stewards was played on Monday, August 4, at Saddleworth GC. Many phone calls were received from the team who enjoyed the day. The course was in great condition and the day was completed with a win. Many thanks to the Golf Club Stewards for organising the venue and thanks to Gary Worrell Ground Care for sponsoring the greenkeepers once again.

The National Tournament as you will have seen in last month's magazine unfortunately came to an abrupt end on the third day due to torrential rain, thunder and lightning. This was a shame because after playing poor golf on the first two days I felt that I would murder the course on the third day! The course, which was well below sea level, was in good condition even though it must have been a very difficult course to maintain with dykes and sluice gates to control. No wins for the North West but there is always next year in Scotland.

The annual "Battle of the Roses" was played at Halifax GC and do the Northern Section pick them tough. I think the course should be called Halifax Climbing Club! The first 12 holes seem to be all uphill with four then dropping gradually until the 17th which is a sheer drop to the green without any fairway. The weather could have been better, the result could have been better (we were beaten 5-3) but the company and the condition of the course could not have been any better. Thanks to Simon Heppenstall for arranging the venue and many thanks once again to H Pattisson and Co Ltd for sponsoring the Tournament and for presenting a new cup to be played for.

The Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting will take place some time in mid-November and once again all competitors will be required to bring along a bottle in order that everybody wins a prize. Watch out for the details in next month's Section news and if you are playing contact Bill Merritt on 0151 284 4416 as soon as possible.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

The Midland Regional Seminar will take place in the Sturrridge Pavilion at the Northampton Rugby Club on Wednesday, November 19 beginning at 9am and finishing around 4.15pm.

Registration is from 8.15am and the speakers include Jack McMillan, on Progressive Greenkeeping; Danny Godfrey, on Breeding, Production and Selection of Grass Seed; David Powell, Northampton RUGBY Club; Head Groundsman, on the Development of the Saints' Rugby Pitches; Noel Green, on his experiences since becoming Toro Student of the Year runner-up; Mike Wadley, on Communications with the Golf Club; Andrew Lawrence, Pencnfrom Insurance, on Members' Insurance Cover; George Brown of Turnberry; Peter Jones, Budgeting for Greenkeeping and Roland Taylor, on the Merits of a Mechanic on the Greenkeeping Staff.

Tickets cost £25 including lunch and further information can be obtained from me.

Peter Larter

East of England
The Annual Match with our friends, the East Midlands Section took place this year at Melton Mowbray GC. The result was a pleasing draw especially after last year's hammering. Alan Buckley and Sheamus Coggin could have snatched it for us but lost the last hole for a half. The worst thing is the East Midlands retained the Toro Trophy but I am sure we will take it back next year when it will be on our own soil, though the venue is still to be decided.

Thank you to the Melton Club, greenstaff and caterers for their courtesy on the day and for the green staff for presenting a testing course. Results—(East of England names only) Josh White/Les Purdy—Lost; Phil Wilkinson/Gill Ogden—Lost; John Barr/David Wellberry—Won; Alan Buckley/ Sheamus Coggin—Halved; Graeme MacDonald/ Julian Bamout—Won.

For any information, please phone 01636 626564. Graeme MacDonald

Midland
On August 12 the Annual Match against the Mid-Anglia Section was held at Harpenden GC. The match was won by the Midland Section for the first time since 1993. A great result! Many thanks to the victorious team who were as follows; Mike Hughes, Trafford Stonebridge, Peter Richmond, Peter Holtham, David Fellows, Mark Cutler, Michael Bryan and Graham Summerfield. They had a long and tiring day and our thanks are extended to the Captain, Mike Hughes, and to Graham Summerfield, who represented Alexanders Toro, who won the day's sponsor.

For those members who applied to go on the educational visits to the championship courses we now have dates to be discussed at our next committee meeting so you will probably hear from me before you read this report.

We will also be discussing the possibility of sending out voting forms prior to the AGM so that we can conduct a more organised vote for officers and members of the Committee but this will need your commitment for it to have any benefit to the Section.

The results of the Autumn Competition to be held on October 2 at North Worcestershire GC will be reported in next month's issue.

The Section is holding a Machinery Maintenance Course at ET Breakwells of Shirley, Solihull, on Wednesday, November 5, and will include a "hands on"
demonstration followed by a local pub lunch. As a large response is anticipated please contact Andy Smith on 01676 523020 as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

Jonathan Wood

Mid Anglia

Our annual golf match against the Midlands Section took place at Harpenden GC in early August. By all accounts it was a very close match with the Midlands just coming out winners at 7-5. Thanks to all those players who represented the Section and to Harpenden GC for allowing us to stage the event.

Next year's event will be held at a course in the Midlands region and we are looking forward to getting the trophy back!

Our summer tournament was held this year at Arkley GC, on August 22, over 27 holes. As it was held on the Friday before the Bank Holiday Weekend the number of entries was affected with only 25 playing including six trade members.

However, a great day was had by all on a tough nine hole course which was in superb condition thanks to Neil Whittaker and his staff. We were certainly made to feel very welcome by the Club and our thanks for an excellent lunch and evening meal.

It was nice to see the Arkley Greens Chairman, Mr Munro, playing in the event as well as Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator.

After 9 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon, the results were as follows: 1. Jon Moorhouse, Brocket Hall GC; 2. Neil Whittaker, Arkley GC; 3. Gavin Simkins, Mount Pleasant GC; Best am – Eddie Thomson, Berkhamstead GC; Best pm – Jason Hatton, Brocket Hall GC; Longest Drive – D. Munro, Arkley GC Greens Chairman; Nearest the Pin on the 14th was won by Steve Goode. The unfortunate setback was that one member of the Section failed to turn up which meant that Jeff Dickinson had no partner.

The other eight members to represent the Section were Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Ian Needham, Roger Willars, Antony Bindley, Martin Smith, Jamie Bedford and David James. Nearest the pin on the 14th was won by Steve Goode. Next year's fixture will be hosted in the East of England Section.

This year's AGM will be held at Greetham Valley GC at 4.30 pm. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the day which starts at 10.30 am with a Texas Scramble Golf Tournament and concludes with an evening meal.

All members should have received their entry forms for the AGM and Christmas Tournament, if you have not then please contact me.

At the BIGGA National Tournament the Section was represented by Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Roger Willars. Despite only two days of golf due to some appalling weather conditions Richard and Roger were still able to come home with a prize each.

Finally if anybody has any information that they would like to see in this column then please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

East Anglia

The Autumn Trophy was played for at the Yarmouth and Caister GC, on August 13, and a good turnout ensured that an enjoyable day November 19. The programme is packed with interesting speakers and topics including Jack McMillan and George Brown from Turnberry so please make every effort to support the event.

Paul Lockett
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and Trade prize - J. Humphreys. Thanks to the trade for their generosity in giving prizes - Collier's Turfcare Golf Day, at Ely City GC, on August 21. It was a fine day and a very enjoyable occasion made possible by Andrew, Lee and Darren, of Collier's, along with Mommersteeg International, Miracle Professional, Barenbrug Seed, Amenity Technology, Vitax and Supaturf who sponsored various prizes. Thanks to Kevin and his band of greenkeepers for preparing the course for us. The prizes were shared pretty well around the Plummer household as is seen in the results: - 1. Richard Plummer; 2. Roger Plummer; 3. Chris Slimm; 4. Kevin Bunn; 5. Stuart Plummer.

Our next Section Meeting will be at Gog Magog GC, on Thursday, December 10. The format for this day will be a Texas Scramble in the morning followed by lunch and the AGM. All members are welcome to any event and if you did not elect to receive entry forms for events or maybe are just not getting them for some reason but would like to attend any of the competitions or the AGM then please ring the Secretary Ian Willet on 01728 452759 or Stephen Millard on 01284 725515 for more information.

Stephen Millard

Kent

Our Summer Tournament was played at West Malling GC on a sunny, warm day. The course was in great condition despite being short staked - well done Bryn and the lads. Our sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and the results were as follows:- Nett: 1. J. Cocker; 2. I. Sayers; 3. S. Jones. Gross: 1. N Gillham; 2. J. Duncan. Trade Prize: G Ogilvie. Many thanks to West Malling and to Rigby Taylor for the excellent prizes.

In August we tried something different in the shape of a green-some-foursomes at the Wildernesse Club. Despite a poor turnout everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Parker Hart for sponsorship and to my staff for their hard work and to the club for their courtesy. The results were:-


Our Autumn Tournament was at Langly Park. The course was in great condition and thanks must go to Willie McConville and Langly Park for courtesies. Our sponsor for the day was Gem Professional and the results were as follows: - Nett: 1. W. McConville; 2. S. Jones; 3. A. Arthur. Gross: 1. S. Sutcliffe; 2. S. Johnstone.

Our next tournament is in December with the AGM. Please attend because we need help on the Committee to organise next year's tournaments. We also need venues for next year, please contact Steve Johnstone if you are interested in hosting an event on 01795 410927.

Huw Morgan

Surrey

Although Ted Stiles is still working hard on the Surrey Section Committee I am sure we all wish him well in his retirement from his day job as Chief Mechanic, Greenkeeper and General Dog-body. To think that never again, when I call the Drift GC, will I hear that heartfelt welcome "what do you want!" emit from somewhere deep beneath a thick covering of axle grease and facial hair! Ted - enjoy your retirement and your golf.

Effingham GC was the venue of the Parker Salver on August 14 and we thank Peter Broadbent and his staff for a course in excellent condition. The results were:- 1. D. Wyborn, Foxhills, 43 pts; 2. A. Freeman, Roehampton, 41 pts; 3. R. Christie, Addington Palace, 40 pts. For the first time a mystery team prize was presented and the winning team turned out to be Steve Johnson, Roger Glazier and John Davidson with 106 points.

The next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament, 18 holes at Kingswood GC, on October 29 when the sponsor will be Sendmarsh Tractors.

Ian McMillan has been nominated by the Surrey Section for the Toro Award of Excellence. We wish him luck, the weather of his choice and a result that will send all Greenkeepers rushing to play at Hankley Common GC.

It is a well known fact that Surrey Section members are noted for their intelligence and knowledge and so a quiz night is in the process of being organised for November. The quiz will be a team event of probably four members per team, answering questions (we hope) on general knowledge and a light sprinkling about greenkeeping - venue to be advised.

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL October 1997 47
The Turkey Trot and AGM will be on Friday December 12 at the Drift GC and if Ted uses his retirement time practising, he is the odds-on favourite. We all send our deepest sympathy to Prince William and Prince Harry for the very sad loss of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Region's Special Express to BTME.

1. Luxury Coach Travel - various pick up points starting from Exeter.
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**South West**

Call me unpatriotic but as a stressed out Course Manager I would love to see a systematic and complete annihilation of the European Ryder Cup team by the Americans. This is in the hope that it will induce a prolonged spell of depression and subsequent apathy among my members thereby reducing the amount of winter golf to an almost non-existent trickle. Anyway when you read this the outcome will be known and besides such a slaughter would probably in reality simply increase the golf played as my members see a greater chance of making the next team themselves.

Hopefully everyone will be well into their Autumn/Winter programmes and the growth rapidly diminishing by the time you read this and so will be able to think about going on one of the upcoming courses that we will be organising for you in the ensuing weeks. The first two, namely a first aid course at Cumberwell Park on October 7 and a PA1 at The Kendleshire on October 15 will already be behind us by this time but we will be running others as soon as we get enough people together on the list. We have also arranged a chainsaw course hopefully at Minchinhampton starting on November 3 and running for five days. This will be a very comprehensive course that will include assessment on the last day and if successful the student will be issued with a chainsaw certificate. I think it is important that every club has at least one person and preferably two qualified in the safe use of chainsaws in the interests of the health and safety of the staff and also for insurance purposes. So put your name down for this course, if you cannot get on the one in November we will soon organise another one when we have the demand.

The other course that we are still waiting to organise when we get sufficient numbers is one for abrasive wheels. When you realise that these things, if not correctly fitted, can come off the bench at about the speed of a bullet then you can understand that it's best to have your mechanic or a member of staff qualified in the use and fitting of them especially as it is a legal requirement to be qualified before you attempt to fit them.

What is the worst thing that could happen to a Course Manager at work? No, it's not having the worst greens in the country, it's having a member of staff seriously injured because they have not been properly trained. So
please give me a ring on 01380 823380 and enrol on the above courses.

Remember the Autumn Tournament at Shirehampton on November 13. This will be followed by the AGM so if anyone has some original thinking particularly as regards to raising money for the Section or would like to put themselves forward for a place on the committee then be there.

Marc Haring

South Coast

Our summer golf meeting was held at the Army GC, Aldershot. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Phil Wentworth and his team. The weather was dry but very humid, so humid in fact you could see the grass growing. By the time everyone got to the 18th we were gasping. The halfway house hole and the three water holes which all had the course were more than welcome. The results were as follows:— 1. Phil Wentworth and B Wilcox, 47 pts. Yes, you have read it correctly we have put it down to local knowledge this time! 2. Eddie Fox and T Curtis. At this stage we must thank the Captains and Committee for allowing us the use of their marvellous course at such short notice and for making us so welcome. Thank you to the caterers who gave us a real treat, the meal was excellent. I will remember those delicious spare ribs for a long time to come. As usual Tony has done a grand job of organising the afternoon and evening’s events. The directions he gave us on how to get there were spot on. At least everyone who should have been there was there! Thank you Tony. Let’s hope it won’t be too long before we pay another visit to the Army GC.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section and Regional AGM will be held at Woodbury Park G & CC on Wednesday, November 12. The morning's golf will be in foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am. Lunch will be from 12.30 pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section’s AGM will conclude the day. After the recent resignations from the Section Committee and Regional Board of Section Chairman Bill Mitchell and Regional Chairman Richard Whymann with J. Parr standing down from Committee, the AGM will need to elect at least two Cornish Committee members and one Devon member to serve on the names down now. The AGM will have to elect a representative to serve on the Regional Board. In the past members have inquired what their roles and responsibilities would be if they stood for office. With this I have drawn up below a brief summary of what is expected from a Committee Office and Regional Representative. The Section Committee Officers will be required to attend Section Committee meetings (approximately two per year). The Officers will also be expected to attend as many if not all of our Section meetings and Regional meetings as they can. The Regional Representative is expected to fulfill the duties of a Section Committee Officer and to attend the Regional Board meetings (usually four per year). Also our Representative should be available to help with Regional events which include the Regional Seminar, BTME and Westurf. The Regional Representative should also be aware that they may in future be required to serve the Region on the National Board.

I hope the above doesn’t put you off from standing for office as you will find great rewarding helping to promote your profession as I have over the last eight years on the Regional Board.

I would like to remind you that the Region’s Annual Seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. Also you should all have received your entry forms (for the Regional Greenkeepers at Harrogate for the BTME show and seminar programme. If you haven’t already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package and wish to please contact our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.

Richard Whymann

South Wales

Our summer tournament was held at the Glyneath GC recently. A reasonable turnout attended this annual fixture kindly sponsored by R S Bird Ltd of Cowbridge. Our thanks to both Roger and Jeffery Bird for their continued support. It was pleasing to note that among the attendees there were some new faces participating and I hope that they had as an enjoyable day as we did.

The golf course was in excellent condition, a tribute to David James and his staff, for not only has he got his work cut out on maintaining the course (it’s a grass factory!) but he has to contend with bringing the newly acquired land into some sort of reasonable condition, but please, please cut the rough!

As far as the prize table went it was a case of local knowledge winning. The local teams would have won the Birdie Cup was (local man, on his own course, working out his notice!) Daryl Jones with a nett 71 and second nett with a 73 was local hero, Doug Donne. Best gross and winner of the President’s Shield was Idwal Morris, the form of the Head Greemkeeper at Glyneath and winner of the John Duncan Cup was Kingston’s Gareth Evans.

All in all an excellent day was had by all apart from Daryl Bray who retired hurt after losing seven, yes seven, golf balls! Our thanks to all at the Glyneath GC for contributing to the day and allowing us the courtesy of the course.

Our annual match Greenkeepers versus Golf Club Secretaries recently took place over the Langland Bay GC near Swansea. We managed eventually, after some gentle persuasion to raise a worthy team to do battle with the Secretaries over this tricky seaside course. The weather was super and we found the course to be in excellent condition and well done to Peter Gee and his team of merry men. Again it was pleasing to see some old faces reappearing, hope to see some new faces before we see them again! A keenly fought match it was, nip and tuck all the way to the wire and ending with a very friendly half. Therefore the Secretaries, winners last year, retain the Shield. Well done to the Secretaries and their Captain, Mr David Peffer.

Once again thanks for an enjoyable day. We very much look forward to doing battle again next year.

A sincere thank you to both John Jenkins and John Weekes and also the committee of the Langland Bay GC for their support and allowing us the courtesy of the green.

The results were as follows:— Dennis Jones/Andy Roach v Jim Graham/Dil Roderick – Won; Ray Everson/David Jenkins v Paul Keneally/Leon Adler – Won; David Gladwin/Allan Crichton v David Peak/Ray Howell – Lost; Fred Smyth/Mike Norfolk v Dick Richards/Fred Ireland – Lost; Mad Davies/Brian Jones v Brian Player/Kelvin Housely – Lost; Adrian Panks/Ron Parker v John Jones/John Jenkins – Half; Peter Lacey/Laurence Walter v John Weekes/Ian Donald – Won.

Thank you also to our President, Colin Murphy, who joined us for the meal and evening meal and who appropriately reminded us of the sad loss this last year of Fred Crossman, former Secretary of Creigiau GC, Secretary of the Secretaries Association and the organiser of this annual event for many years. A minutes silence in remembrance of Fred was asked of before the meal. Finally, thanks also to David Gladwin for his summing up and after dinner speech.

If you know that you will be available to take part in the Annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA at the Thornbury GC on September 23 please let me know as soon as possible.

The programme for the Regional Seminar at Cannington College, on November 26, has been finalised and details will be with you shortly. Please book your place promptly as places will no doubt be in demand. Also be aware that the Secretaries will be available to take part in the Annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA at the Thornbury GC on September 23.

Booking forms for the Express Trip to the BTME 98 on January 20-23 are also available. If you haven’t received yours then give me a ring. Despite the larger coach, tickets will be in high demand so book early to avoid disappointment.

Peter Lacey

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Hugh Tilley judges some of the mowers for rough currently on the market.

Rough going is getting less rough; it would seem, as greenkeepers reduce the length and extent of their "rough" in order to speed play. The word itself now has many interpretations, from grass cut as low as two inches to some which is never cut at all.

Justification for no or minimal cutting is conservation — of wildlife habitat and natural flora, but not all golfers are happy about long grass as once a ball goes in it can take a lot of time to find it.

In talking to greenkeepers about mowing "rough" the general preference for reel or cylinder mowers is obvious, and while my initial expectation was that all rough would be cut with a rotary, the reality is that some clubs prefer to use gang mowers.

In addition, the tidiness requirement at most clubs is against a rotary which can leave the grass on the top in swaths, thus some clubs have resorted to flail mowers despite their greater power requirement and slower working speed.

The advent of mulching or recycling mowers — where the grass is recut and powered to the ground — was not very evident. However, some rotary mowers spread the cut grass better than others and this should be considered. Roller mowers — rotaries with a roller at front and/or rear produce a neater looking finish because of the stripes but this is mainly cosmetic and, in wet conditions, wheel marks may soon appear too. Also cut grass can be left in a thick swath which is both untidy and may kill the underlying plant.

In contrast to a cylinder mower the rotary is simple in design, use and maintenance. Flail mowers are also easy to use although their maintenance may be slightly more expensive.

While most options utilise a conventional or compact tractor, there are many purpose built self-propelled out front rotaries which offer specific advantages such as exceptional visibility and manoeuvrability.