Right: Phased water management of the water feature at Royal Porthcawl

The South - The Dyke Golf Club

The Dyke Golf Club by its presence has secured an important fragment of the downland, much of which, certainly that surrounding the golf course, is now being managed as intensive agriculture. Area of acidic grassland can be seen amongst the dominant chalk rich grassland. Round-headed rampion or Pride of Sussex is an interesting plant species to be found here, surviving only in one or two areas of the South Downs. Much of the greenstaff’s time in the winter is spent coppicing and controlling hawthorn regeneration. Glades have been created so as to maximise the grassland habitat for butterflies and other wildlife; the roughs are generally managed for their botanical interest, although several are left to facilitate overwintering.

Midland
Mid Herts Golf Club

The decision between Mid Herts and Burnham Beeches was very difficult, although Mid Herts was possibly slightly more ahead in terms of how much work has been undertaken on the course with regard to rough management. Emphasis is largely given to developing the grassland roughs providing attractive swathes throughout the summer period. Heather is present in one or two pockets and efforts are being made to encourage this further. A programme is also underway to conserve and increase juniper which is present on the course but is generally rare within the surrounding countryside. The Club maintains a regular liaison with the Middlesex Trust for Wildlife who often offer labour to assist with the project.

The North

The overall winner of the 1998 Environment Competition this year came from the North. Lindrick Golf Club have always been serious contenders, receiving Highly Commended and Regional Finalist awards. The judges were particularly impressed with the degree of commitment and enthusiasm that clearly runs throughout the Club towards ecological management. Areas of the course have been given Site of Special Scientific Interest status and as such are managed with guidance from English Nature and the local Wildlife Trust. Other areas outside the areas of SSSI are managed in a similar manner so as to maximise habitat and species interest. The work undertaken has included a substantial amount of gorse management and reinstatement of the rough grassland. The Club has also developed a wildlife pond which now forms an important feature on entering the course.

In response to winning the Regional Finalist award, David Ward, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club states that: “The winning of the award has certainly created a buzz through the Club and has helped considerably in highlighting our environmental profile. It has made members much more aware of what we are trying to achieve out on the course.” Similarly, David Ansell of The Dyke Golf Club says that: “Entering the competition has helped the role of communication between members, particularly given that the judging has been carried out by external groups, i.e. with no internal bias to the Club. The level of interest now present within the Club will allow more scope for the greenstaff to address those more sensitive areas that previously lacked positive management.”

Mr Richard Jourdan, Secretary of Mid Herts Golf Club pointed out that the Club was highly delighted with the award. The plaque has been placed within the Clubhouse and full coverage has been given to the award in the Mid Herts Golfer Newsletter. “One of the major attributes of the competition is to raise the awareness through the membership as to what we are trying to achieve out on the course.”

Above right: Swans at Loch Lomond perfect their bunker play!

Right: Reinstating gorse at Broadstone
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**East**

Well, we now have had our last tournament of the season. This was held at Peebles Golf Club down in the beautiful border country. On behalf of the members I would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course. Also, the Stewards for keeping us fed and well watered and Head Greenkeeper, Donald Munro and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course.

The weather could not have been better. Perfect sunshine from the first tee off to the last part. We had a good turn out from members. Nice to see some new faces, also the old trade was well represented. Our thanks to them for providing us with raffle prizes.

Resolute, we select - Stewart Quach. Winner: Kenny Mail, 73pts; HandicapA-Aggregation Cup 1. Ian Bell, 73 pts; 2. T Murray, 73 pts; 3. A Holmes, 79 pts; 2nd Class - GMC Ag. 1. C. Pennycook, 70 pts; 2. N Forgie, 71 pts; 3. P Atchison, 72 pts; 3rd Class - STS/Rigby Taylor. 1. S. Hayes, 68 pts; 2. L. Cowan, 73pts; 3. G. Stuvart, 75 pts Veteran Winner - Eddie Holt Cup.


Chris Pearson has re-joined the Section and has taken the Head Greenkeeper job at the Crathnostone course in Aberden. Steve Davey is on the move, leaving Craigwith GC Perth to work at King James GC also in Perth. Once again the Scottish Region are running a bus to BTME in Harrogate next month. The cost is only £142 for bus, three nights B&B, entry to all seminars and the exhibition, for further details contact Peter Boyd on 0141 6163440, miss it at your peril. Our two Patron winners, Stuart Hogarth and John Clouston will receive their awards at the Patron’s Lunch in Stirling this month and will be on the bus to BTME.

We finish the year with 239 members, our highest figure yet and on that note we try to gauge and find the Sections’ oldest surviving members, any help will be gratefully received. A happy Christmas and soberish New Year to one and all... Iain MacLeod.

**Central**

The final golf tournament of the season was held on October 5 by courtesy of Crieff Golf Club in Perthshire, when over 40 members and guests enjoyed playing on a course in superb condition on what must have been the only dry afternoon that month. Our sincere thanks to everyone at Crieff, especially the club committee. Charlie Macdonald and his staff for the course presentation, Club Captain, Jim Fordyce and Managing Secretary, Scott Miller, for all their help on the day.

It was also pleasing to see Haigh Gourdon, from Muthill Golf Club, at the tournament, many of you will remember Haigh and Jimmy Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Muthill, who both attended every event which was organised. It’s just a pity that we don’t get the same support from some of our younger members. Thanks for all your help Haigh and I look forward to seeing you on the spring trip.

Prize winners were as follows: Ransoms Trophy. D. McAllister, Ladybank; Best Scratch. D. McAllister, Ladybank; Best Nett. J. McPhail, Crieff; Small, Tulliallan, D. Scott, Sooconie; 2nd Class 1st H/Cap, C. Macdonald, Crieff; 2nd Class 1st H/Cap, C. Sime, Leven; 2nd Class 2nd H/Cap, D. Scott, Sooconie; Best Nett. D. McAllister, Ladybank; 1st Class 2nd H/Cap, C. Macdonald, Crieff; 2nd Class 1st H/Cap, S. Sime, Leven; 2nd Class 2nd H/Cap, D. Scott, Sooconie; Best Scratch. J. McCallister; Highest Nett. D. McAllister; Pat’s. P. Allan, Stewart’s; Guests. J. Fordyce, Crieff. The next big event was the section AGM which was held on October 28 at Kinross Golf Club. This time the grand total of eight members (representing five golf clubs) and four Trade members made the effort to attend, out with those who sent their apologies there must have been less than eight of us who are interested in the Section. WHERE ARE YOU ALL? The committees for 1998/9 are; Chairman, A. Dunn, Mchreanor; Vice Chairman, D. McAllister; Treasurer, J. Cowan; Secretaries, S. Hayes, Sooconie and S. Sime, Leven.

Our thanks for these events, here are some dates for the future. The date of the golf tournaments next year are: Spring, Lunlin Links on Thursday, April 29, and Autumn, Balbirnie Park on Tuesday, September 21. In the year 2000 the Spring Tournament will be held in April at St Andrews, date still to be confirmed and the Autumn Tournament will be on Thursday, September 21 at Stirling Golf Club. Another new member joining us this month is Derren Brown from Muckhart Golf Club. Derren is an assistant at Muckhart and I have no doubt that he will be very welcome. I would like to encourage him to join them at some of our events, when we look forward to meeting him.

Next month sees the annual pilgrimage to the BTME in Harrogate when, no doubt there will be the ever increasing number of Section members attending “educational” events, morning and night. Well, that’s what you’ve got to tell those in the week’s Learning Experience. If you haven’t booked yet and are thinking of going just get in touch with Peter Boyd on 0141 6163440 and he will give you all the details regarding travel and accommodation.

As we near the end of another year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in 1998, especially the number of section members who took part in the section in

**Ayrshire**

Nobody’s phoned any news this month. What a surprise, so I’ll report what I could collate myself.

Our secretary, Derek Wilson, had an enjoyable and enlightening time at the Hayter International Cup, although the links lifted the silveryware. He has been keeping steady since then, one of which is the greens aeration system. It has a network of perforated pipework under the green, to which a connection is made to a portable compressor and a nozzle. Air is pumped through the pipework which greatly reduces the green’s surface area, after which the green is lightly rolled and there is no disruption to play. This system can also be reversed and if you were unsuccessful you... I wish him and his committee a successful year.

After the AGM there was a games night and 16 people took part in what was described as entertaining and action packed. Amongst the games were skittles, darts, bowls, snooker, pool and dominoes with the cream coming to the top. On the last game two tied on wins, only the points from snooker separated the winners and eventually Gavin Jarvie and I came out on top after the nail biting

December 1998 Greenkeeper International 33
North East

Firstly let me congratulate Tony Mcure and John Surtees on winning the Carbulo Knock Out Cup for the second year running in beating Craig Paterson and David Hatton 3/2 in a closely fought match at Tynside Golf Club. Both finalists will collect their prizes at the AGM date and venue will be announced soon. The annual match against East of Scotland took place at Tynside GC. recently. Our thanks to the club President, Geoff White, on coming to the rescue for this game at such short notice as the original game was to be at Staley Hall but due to the excess amount of rain that fell 48 hours prior to the game, we had to find another course very quickly. So, on behalf of the Section, we would like to thank Tyneside GC.农民. Also let's not forget the Head Greenkeeper, David Simpson and his staff, for having the course in great condition. Both teams were very impressed considering how much rain had fallen. East Section retained the trophy again. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better. Sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you can do better.
Cleveland

Well, this will be the last bit of Section news before Santa pays us all a visit. Quite a bit of news this month, I'll start with the Autumn Tournamentfirst. The turn out was atrocious. Ten greenkeepers, two from the trade. The winners as follows: 1. Martin Woods; 2. Tony Burge; 3. Barry Walker; 4. Steve Jacques. The prize once again went to Alan Cordingley Well done. We've also had our first lecture which was on environmental conservation. Again, poor turn out. I myself did not get to the above lectures but all members should make an effort to attend. The committee put a lot of time and effort into booking these speakers.

Pat on the back this month, Eaglescliffe GC, greenkeeper, Nick Davison, has been awarded Ashkan Bryan Student Greenkeeper of the Year. The college presentation of a new trophy was handed over to Nick by no other than HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York at a ceremony in October. Nick has been promoted to Phase 4.

Also successful at passing Phase 4 was Geoff War, Course Manager at Eaglescliffe GC. This club now has four staff qualified up to Phase 4. A very good achievement.

Well, don't forget the Christmas Quiz December 16, 7:30 Mount Oswald. I have had a word with Terry Charlton, from Turfcare, who puts on a very good quiz. If you have any greenkeepers questions, we would like them to be from the Salvation Army's Young Soldier Quiz Book. At least we might be able to answer half the buggers. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.

Midland

On October 21 I attended the opening of the new BIGGA Headquarters, appropriately named BIGGA HOUSE. The new building is a great step forward for the Association and a facility worthy of bringing this event and to Russell Allen, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for presenting a superb golf course.

East Midlands

Having just returned from the official opening of BIGGA House, I would like to take this opportunity to inform our members what superb facilities we now have and what a credit it is to all those members, Golf Clubs, Companies, etc., that have so generously donated to our members, Golf Clubs, Companies, etc., that have so generously donated to our subscription paying members. The annual committee cup was held at Ross-on-Wye Golf Club and was won by Rhys Thomas, our Competition's Manager at Longcliffe G.C. on October 8. The day started cool and breezy and thankfully, dry and bright. The morning Greensomes saw the two sides locked on 12.1/2 points each, our winning pairs being Jeff Dickinson & Anthony Foulds and the number 5 pairing of Antony & Mark Blacker, with Dave Leatherland and Carl Chamberlain at Longcliffe G.C. on September 28. After a very close fought match Dave eventually ran out as the 2SC winner. Thanks should go to Longcliffe G.C for hosting the final and to all those members who took part in this competition. I would also like to thank E T Breakwells for their golf day at Evesham G.C. on October 7, sorry I have no details on scores etc.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors of our Section for their continued support. Miracle-Firs provided the golf clubs, T-Barbreaks the tournament book, and to all the staff who took part in this competition. I would also like to thank E T Breakwells for the day and the AGM will follow. They have had a word with Terry Charlton, our Competition's Manager at Longcliffe G.C. on October 8. The day started cool and breezy and thankfully, dry and bright. The morning Greensomes saw the two sides locked on 12.1/2 points each, our winning pairs being Jeff Dickinson & Anthony Foulds and the number 5 pairing of Antony & Mark Blacker, with Dave Leatherland and Carl Chamberlain at Longcliffe G.C. on September 28. After a very close fought match Dave eventually ran out as the 2SC winner. Thanks should go to Longcliffe G.C for hosting the final and to all those members who took part in this competition. I would also like to thank E T Breakwells for their golf day at Evesham G.C. on October 7, sorry I have no details on scores etc.

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Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

**East of England**

The Rhyg Taylor Cup was played at the second attempt at Ryston Park as the first was washed out in June. The course was a little dryer this time and in excellent condition. Thank you to Kevin Hodges and Merv Codling for presenting a testing course for our competition. Also thank you to the Ryston Golf Club for allowing us courtesy second time around. The eventual winner was myself (G.A. Macdonald) not surprising because I used to work there as a lad. Last year there was no more members playing, because we had a fantastic meal afterwards and thanks to Eric Greg for that. Other sponsors were: Lioner Chemicals, Willmot Pernree, Charles Atkins, Gremprire, Barenbrug and Mascoir. The section would also like to congratulate the Head Greenkeeper of Ryston Park, Kevin Hodges on the birth of his second baby boy. Hope you don't have too many sleepless nights. Also congratulations to Newark's Alan Buckly on becoming Askham Bryan's NVQ3 Student of the Year. G.A. Macdonald.

**South West**

A crisp autumnal day greeted the competitors for the annual match against our friends from across the Bristol Channel at a very impressive St Pierre. Following the humiliation of our last defeat at the hands of the Welsh side, we had the great pleasure of playing them again. With a warm and bright day we won the guest prize. Longest drive went to J Carr "Chandler" and the Lamb's Caps for nearest the pin went to G.A. Macdonald. Everybody who played took home a prize and we thank our main sponsor Stuart Jeffs of Rigby Taylors for some superb prizes. It was a pity that there was no more members playing, because we had a fantastic meal afterwards and thanks to Eric Greg for that. Other sponsors were: Lioner Chemicals, Willmot Pernree, Charles Atkins, Gremprire, Barenbrug and Mascoir. The section would also like to congratulate the Head Greenkeeper of Ryston Park, Kevin Hodges on the birth of his second baby boy. Hope you don't have too many sleepless nights. Also congratulations to Newark's Alan Buckly on becoming Askham Bryan's NVQ3 Student of the Year. G.A. Macdonald.

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**South Wales**

With a warm and bright day we returned to the St Pierre Golf & Country Club to play the seventh match versus the South West. What a delight to be back after a short break, with the course in good condition and excellent food, a superb day was had by all. Congratulations to the South West team captain Matthew Hawker and his team on their 4 games to 2 win. Our thanks also to Richard Minton and Scotts Ametry for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes. Nearest the pin: 2nd hole - Douge Donne, 6th hole - David Gladwin, 13th hole - Kerry Jones, 18th hole - John Keenaghan. Longest drive on 17th - Andy Cobb. Sincere thanks also to our Regional Administrator, Paula, who travelled up to become the official starter and saw everyone off on time. A mention again and congratulations to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and Course Manager, David Ward and his staff on winning the Regional finals of the Arstrong Environmental award 1998.

Although this time it has to be mentioned that on behalf of the club David received a plaque and a cheque for £250 by the HRH Duke of York at a presentation held at the Askham Bryan College near York. On October 21 both P. Lacey and D. Ward had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the new BRIGA HQ. The building was officially opened by the HRH Duke of York followed by a reception at Aldwark Manor Hotel where they had the great pleasure of meeting the Duke in person. What an event of which Peter and David must be proud and privileged to have attended. Recently a number of people attended a tour of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth with British Seed Houses. IGER has been in the news lately for developing the Stay Green Grass.

After a visit to the field to see the trail plots of grasses being grown and the breeding programmes that are taking place, a tour of the laboratories took place to see the science behind the breeding. This look into the Genetic Engineering and Genetic Mapping along with the techniques that are being used and the scientific methods involved are of what is happening and what could happen in the near future.
Sincere thanks to the Institute from all who attended for their insight into plant breeding programmes taking place on behalf of BSH and especially to Dr Danny Thorogood for his explanations. And to all at British Seed Houses but especially Alan Sinclair, Simon Taylor, John Hughes and Roger Saunders for their wonderful hospitality. Despite the horrendous weather, gale force winds and flooding, a good time was had by all.

On October 28 the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Finals were held at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Kerry Jones of Garnant Park and Mike Norfolk of Southerndown Golf Club were battling it out in gale force winds that almost made their golf impossible. The pair were assisted by Roy Barker and David Carver, Rigby Taylor representatives for South Wales. Mike Norfolk led 1 up after 9 holes, the back nine resumed after a healthy lunch with the strong winds continuing, they did well stay on their feet! A spirited fight back by Kerry Jones took place. During the back nine Kerry became 1 up and at the par 5, 17th his long hitting proved an advantage as he parred this hole to a bogey from Mike to win the match 2 and 1. A great day was had by all despite the weather.

Our sincere thanks to Rigby Taylor, Roy Baker and Dave Carvey for sponsoring this competition (and who will sponsor the competition for the next 9 years). Only a few seats left for the BTME Express so avoid disappointment, send your application to P. Humphries as soon as possible. Remember, £95 per person and £85 for the second travelling from the same club!

It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

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Web Site: http://www.redexim.com
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

South East

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01444 26966

South Coast

The Festive Season is with us once again. How time flies! A Happy Christmas to all our members, all the staff at Headquarters, all our Members of Trade and all our sponsors over the past year. By now you should have received your programme for the Section and Region events for 1998-1999. If you have not received one yet, get in touch with Jeff, our secretary, straight away. Our first event for 1999 is at Canford Magna Golf Club on Wednesday January 13.

The proceedings start at 10am. We start with a talk by David Whitaker, from The Wisley Golf Club. This will be followed by a talk from Amenity Technology. Then 9 holes of golf or a course walk, whichever you prefer. Everyone is welcome.

By now bookings for the Region's trip to BTME should be full. However, there may still be some vacancies, so if you have left it to the last minute, contact our Regional Administrator, Paula, straight away. On February 23 we are holding our seminar at Watford College. The speakers include: Howard Swan, Jim McKenzie, Jack McMillan and Sandy Wilson. Booking forms should be with you shortly, along with a cheque, so you can enter the golf tournament. Our President, Paul Lockett, asked to play for the Norfolk County side.

Marrying his wife Jan in 1957, the first tournament he entered was the Senior Championship, which was won in 1969, played over 36 holes at Welwyn. Thirty-six people entered the tournament and enjoyed the course which was in good shape. Our thanks go to Mark Root and his staff and to the club, for allowing us courtesy and looking after us on the day. As the course was fairly short and the weather conditions reasonable, high scores were posted with Gary Boulton and Tony Edwards just edging out Richard Saunders of St Neots on a countback, both with 38 points. Gavin Simkins of Mount Pleasant was third with 38 points. The 'longest drive' and 'nearest the pin' competitions were won by the same person, Nolan Whitehead of Aldwickbury Park. Peter Owen of Pattinsons picked up the Trade Prize, with the best green performance and also to David Murphy of Driving Force Leisure for providing prizes and to other trade members for their continued support.

The Annual General Meeting followed, with the following officers elected to serve the section: Chairman, Colin Robinson; Vice-Chairman, Mark Ellis; Secretary, Gaynor Hatcher; Treasurer, John Wells; Regional Representative, Paul Lockett; Other Committee Members, Steve Mason and Neil Whittaker. Gerald Bruce reported that membership of the Section has increased to 250. Richard Saunders gave a summary of the golf events during 1998 and Steve Mason reported on the Lodgeway Four Ball Competition. A balance sheet was submitted and although things are reasonably healthy, a rise in price for golf events is expected next year, to cover costs.

South

London

An era ends in December 1998, after 45 years in Greenkeeping. G errards Cross Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, John Nudds, is retiring. John was born in the village of Brancaster Staithes in 1933 and his lifelong interest in golf was sparked off at the age of 13, when he caddied at Royal West Norfolk GC. After two years in National Service in the REME, he accepted the job and moved his family down to Norfolk, to the village of Brancaster Staithes, where he has played his course with telling effect. John's greenkeeping skills on seaside links transferred extremely well to the lush parkland course at Royal West Norfolk and he has contributed a great deal to the club. In particular he has kept the course in superb condition over the years.

His career in greenkeeping started after getting his first job at Royal West Norfolk GC. After two years National Service in the REME, he soon achieved success by winning six cups shortly after his demob, despite having previously no experience. He went on to become a long-handicap player and was asked to play for the Norfolk County side.

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Moor Park Golf Club on reaching the final of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge held at Woodhall Spa Golf Club - home of the English Golf Union. Stuart and John won through to the final of 15 competing clubs from an initial entry of 500 clubs.

The first day's play was on The Hotchkin Championship Course and with its narrow fairways and cavernous bunkers, provided a stern test of golf. The second day's play was on the new 'Braehead Course' and although providing totally different characteristics to the Championship Course, it was equally demanding. Accommodation was at the notable Petwood Hotel which, during the war, was the billet for the RAF Officers serving with the famous Dambusters Squadron. Thanks must be given to Kubota UK for organising the Golf Club Challenge and for their generosity hosting the Finals at such a prestigious venue. Also thanks to Rik Orban and Mr Miyake, of Kubota UK, for presenting the prizes. Congratulations also to David Montgomery of Finchley Golf Club on his engagement to Kay Dowley. It's nice to see a chap floating into the landing net with a smile on his face!

Peter Hopkinson.

Surrey

The Surrey Section Autumn Tournament was played at the Drift Golf Club on Thursday October 15. Paul Weston the Course Manager and the rest of his enthusiastic team had presented the course, despite an extremely wet spell, in excellent condition and we all thank him and the management of the Drift for the golf, the delicious food and the warm welcome. The result was: Nearest pin 3rd: Dave Murdoch; Nearest the pin 16th: Ken Harding; Longest Drive: Paul Robinson; 1. David Jones, 37 pts; 2. John Davidson, 37 pts; 3. Michael McLaughlin, 36 pts. Well, I'm afraid that's it for this month, except to welcome back to Surrey Section notes in the November issue as I was on holiday in Greece, where the weather was a complete contrast to here, sunshine and heat were unfamiliar after the year we have had. I know everyone is in the same 'boat', literally! With the amount of rain over the last two months alone even the best drained courses have had to close on some occasions, but look on the bright side, it's nearly Christmas!

Surrey Section Secretary, Ken Henderson, representing Northern Ireland, flew over to England to attend the opening of the BIGGA headquarters, BIGGA HOUSE where he was warmly received.

The new Headquarters were opened on October 21 by the Duke of York. Ken would like to thank everyone who helped raise money for The Building Fund, especially club donations from Edenmore GC, Malone GC, Royal Portrush GC. New members; Clive Richardson, Horta Soils has become an Associate member of the South East section.

We also have our first member from the South of Ireland: Tim McGrath from Ballybunion GC, County Kerry has affiliated to our Section. Merry Christmas to all! Speak to you in January. Jonathan McCabe.

South East

Apologies for no South East Section notes in the November issue as I was on holiday in Greece, where the weather was a complete contrast to here, sunshine and heat were unfamiliar after the year we have had. I know everyone is in the same 'boat', literally! With the amount of rain over the last two months alone even the best drained courses have had to close on some occasions, but look on the bright side, it's nearly Christmas! Merry Christmas to all! Speak to you in January. Jonathan McCabe.

Brian Willmott.

Essex

The Essex Section held an educational evening on November 4 at Orsett Golf Club. We have a new member, Ian Wright from Romford Golf Club. Welcome Ian. Can I wish all Essex members and Trade members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you at the AGM December 1 at Orsett Golf Club. David Wells.

and Willmot Pertwee, Vitax, Rigby Taylor and Grass Roots for the raffle prizes.

We have a new member, Ian Wright from Romford Golf Club. Welcome Ian. Can I wish all Essex members and Trade members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you at the AGM December 1 at Orsett Golf Club. David Wells.

See you all next month!
I noticed this week that the Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf and Specialty Products is only 435 days away which must mean that the Learning Experience 1999 is 70 days away.

Thankfully, the programme is set for 1999 and applications are flooding in. If you have not booked your choice of Workshop, National Education Conference, Secretaries/Chairman of Green Course, Seminar and or accommodation package then contact Sami on the BTME hotline 01347 833833 as soon as possible.

Back to basics

New for 1999 will be a workshop on Basic Machinery Maintenance, complementing the successful Irrig-ation and Golf Course Design Workshops which make a welcome return.

The National Education Conference will again be held in the Majestic Hotel, with speakers from all parts of the industry sure to offer something for everyone. Please note that David Oats from the United States Golf Association will not be able to attend and give his talk at the Conference nor on the Seminar Programme. However, Mr Stan Zontek has agreed to attend in his place.

Seminar Programme update

The Seminar Programme will again be held in the Royal Hall, beginning with a keynote speech by Mr Frank Dick, commencing at 11 am on Wednesday 20 January. Frank Dick is well known for his prowess as an international athletics coach and for his work as an expert in motivation. Fee to anyone who wants to attend, this seminar should give all levels of greenkeeper an insight into how to motivate themselves and their staff.

Master Greenkeeper credits

All three workshops, the National Education Conference and Seminars will, once again, attract Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS Continuing Professional Development points. Please ask for details at the Conference Office or at Seminar Registration in Hall G.

Competition update

October was a very busy months for all of us at BIGGA HQ as you have read elsewhere in this magazine. Not only did we have the arduous task of moving to our new headquarters building, packing and unpacking, sweeping, polishing, creating furniture, recataloguing the library and a host of other jobs needed to make the new facility workable but we also had the finals of three major competitions. Firstly, the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity. Following the final stages of judging by Dr Peter Hayes and Bob Taylor from the STRI, Lindrick Golf Club were selected as worthy winners, receiving a cheque for £5000 and the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Trophy from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, at the Ashkam Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment. Runners up cheques for £250 each were presented, by His Royal Highness, to Loch Lomond Golf Club, Mid Herts Golf Club, the Dyke Golf Club, Broadstone Golf Club and Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. The next week saw the finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions won by Sally Doherty and John Coleman respectively. I am sure that, as Scott says in his column, that they will both make worthy winners, enhancing their own reputation that of their golf clubs and the reputation of the profession of greenkeeping. It was pleasing to see that they have both been formally educated and trained as greenkeepers and see themselves having a long term career in the industry.

Sally wins the TORO Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts and John also wins a trip to the USA as well as the TORO Triplex Mower for his club.

Available soon...

The Develop your Potential Booklet, listing the full range of education and training opportunities available through BIGGA should be reaching you soon. Contact HQ if you need further copies or pick up a copy at BTME from the BIGGA Stand in Hall G.

Nineteen ninety eight has been even busier for Sami and me. We continue to strive to provide the training and support that greenkeepers need and we get immense satisfaction from seeing greenkeepers improve their knowledge, skills and confidence. Remember, training courses, competitions and other training opportunities are staged for your benefit. Why not make a New Year’s resolution to become more involved, attend courses and improve your status.

Sami and I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and an educational New Year.

Golf Course Preparation Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book £3.00 to BIGGA members £7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members