Many thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the main prize table and to Mike Brear for presenting the prizes on their behalf.

Thanks to Acorn Equipment for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes and to Lindum Turf for setting up and sponsoring the prizes for the putting competition.


Congratulations to Phil Mitchell, of Shipley Golf Club and his wife on the recent arrival of their new baby. I was surprised to see how much hair he had lost due to the extra stress after only a week!

If anyone has any news from within the section, please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755 or at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v East of England Golf Match was hosted by Ramsdale Park Golf Centre on August 18. Despite a very heavy shower and some persistent rain to begin with, we were still able to play the match. All members from the East Midlands team were in fine form, winning four of the five matches by big margins and sharing the point in the fifth. The team was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Peter Billings, Pete Larter, Steve Goode, Dave Mitchell, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Antony Birdley, Gavin Robson and Steve Tolley. The result means that the Section has now regained the Toro shield. The East of England Section did, however, win the Longest Drive, Phil Wilkinson, and Nearest the Pin, Graeme Macdonald. Thanks to all those members who represented the Section at short notice.

I would also like to thank Ramsdale Park Golf Club for offering courtesy of their course and the catering staff for an excellent meal. Also thanks should go to Steve Levers and his staff for providing a fine feast of food for the tournament. Not forgetting our generous sponsors, Chandlers, for their support.

Unfortunately, our Pairs Tournament, which was to be held on 23 August had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Only six members entered, with ten members for the evening lecture.

This years Autumn tournament at Erewash Valley Golf Club on 6 September has only attracted 24 members. Scores and results will appear next month.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate Anthony Foult and Thomas on winning the Best Gross prize in the Telford Golf and Country Club Open. This year's AGM will take place at Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club at 4.30pm on November 3. If you have not received your entry form, please give me a ring and remember to send your form back before the closing date. Also, this year's Regional Seminar will take place at Mentmore Golf Club on 17 November. For further details contact our Regional Administrator for what promises to be a great day. Antony Birdley

Midland

There has been a trip arranged to the newly-formed Advantage Seed Houses at Sleaford, formerly Sharps, Meramasteg, at the end of October. ALS have sponsored the visit and will be providing transport and lunch.

The day will consist of a tour of the warehouses and laboratories and a look at the extensive trial plots. This will be interesting to see how cultivars, chosen from a brochure, finally look. Numbers are limited, therefore a first come first served basis will operate. Contact Andy Smith on 01676 530114.

The results from the Autumn Tournament will be in next month's report along with a full report on the Trafford Stonebridge Golf Day to be held at Maasstoke Park. Jonathan Wood

BB&O

First of all I would like to thank everyone who took time to visit us at Donnington Grove in July for the summer meeting. The results were as follows: 1. Nigel Eli, 36 pts. 2. Geoff Wheeler, 36 pts. 3. Lindsay Anderson, 35 pts.

I had the pleasure of playing with Lindsay and his fears about the length of the course never showed in his scoring. Thanks to Phil Sharp, from Pattisons, who sponsored the day and ETI and Richard Fontmeuller who donated the raffle prizes.

A welcome from the Section to Carl Small and Charles Wright. We hope to see you at the rest of the season's events.

Finally, the Autumn Meeting was held at The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford on 21 September and the results will be in the next article. Numbers for the golfing events appear to be steady but we appeal to those still not taking part. Please come along, it really is a good day out.

Any information within the Section would be gratefully accepted. You can contact me on 01635 821333.

Ross Wilson

Mid Anglia

Demonstration of the Juno and Jupiter grinders by Eric Hunter Grinders Limited is to be held at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sutton Park, Sandbach, Cheshire on 24 November 1999 at 10am.

Please ring Colin Robinson, Course Manager, on 01767 261416 regarding numbers or catering.

Colin Robinson

South East

Firstly I would like to draw to your attention the Regional Seminar due to be held at Writtle College, Chelmsford on 16th November. You should have, together with your copy of Greenkeeper International, a programme for the day which includes an application form for reservations. This seminar has been carefully put together by the Essex Section and promises to be a great day, and at £13 to include lunch and coffee, incredible value as well. This is due entirely to the generosity of our Sponsors (please see programme for the full list).

Should you have not received the programme with your magazine then please give me a ring on the above number.

Secondly on a personal basis, I would like to thank all of those Members, (Greenkeepers and Trade) who enquired after my health when I was "laid up for most of the summer. I am now on the road to recovery and hope to make up for all that lost golf, by attending the Turkey Trios! But thanks for your thoughts, it meant a lot to me, at a time when I felt very low.

Derek Farrington
Essex
Well gentlemen, after last month's feast of golfing reports, October has given us the chance to cover other items.

First of all, on behalf of all Essex members, I would like to welcome to the Section two new members from the London Club, Geoff Smith and from Manor of Groves, Adrian Blockley. Hope to see both Geoff and Adrian at one of our events in the near future.

On the South East Regional Conference to be held on Tuesday 16 November at Writtle College, Bishop's Stortford. Please give your support to this event. We have a great line up of speakers some you will know, others will be new names but we will guarantee you they will be raffle, once heard, never forgotten!

Alan Gange, Biostimulants; Tim Lodge, Top Dressing & Root zones; David Kidd, Architect, Mark Hunt, Fertilisers; Brian Robinson, Grass Seed Technology, and Giles Wardle, Irrigation.

Further information and costs will be sent through the post shortly.

During November, the first of a two day management course (second day in March 2000) with Uncle Frank Newberry and a two day computer course with Ken Richardson, Middle of February 2000, will all be held at the Burested Golf Club. Members who applied for these courses will be contacted. Any problems please telephone Martin Forrester 01245 603131.

Those who enjoyed the Go-Karting will be given the chance to challenge present champions Stapleford Abbotts GC on November 26. Details to follow. By the time you read this report both Steve Green and Chris Ward have attended the National Championship at Carden Park. Let's keep our fingers crossed that they both bring home plenty of prizes.

Our next meeting is at Wanstead G.C. 19th October sponsored by GEM. Hope to see you there.

Dave Wells
PS. When was the last time there were two West Ham players in the Full England squad? September 1999.

Kent

Before I go any further I would like to thank Geoff Rolstone for his hospitality and the trophy June Clark, the Secretary and David Rolstone and his staff for the presentation of the course. A big thank you also to the catering staff, bar and restaurant staff and the pro-shop staff and starters. Many thanks to our main sponsor, Barlett's, and all of our other sponsors who made this day possible.

During the last week or so we would have held our golf event at Tandridge GC on October 4. Hopefully everybody who attended this event enjoyed themselves and the results will be in the November issue along with any points of interest that arise from the next committee meeting which was held on 15 September at Witlease GC.

Any news or comments, please pass them on to me on 01474 579200 or 0402 573994. I have received a total of two calls as usual to the magazine, so if you would like to continue to read this then give me a call.

Krenae Diamond

South West & South Wales
The 1999 South West & South Wales Regional Seminar will be held at Cadogan - College House on 24th November and the theme will be RESEARCH. We have some tremendous speakers including Dr Mike Caswell of STRI, Dr Danny Thorogood of IGER, Prof Bill Allen, Stephen Bernhard, Dr Bob Daniels and Steve Jones of the London Club.

The speakers will be talking about genetically modified grasses, shortcut, rootzone formulations, impact of sharpening blades etc.

Do make the effort to come, it will be well worth it. Cost £15 members £22.50 non-members. Apply to Paula Humphries.

Devon & Cornwall
The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Manor House Golf & Country Club on Wednesday November 17. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Ley. As usual the non golfers course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1 pm onwards followed by the golf presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

I'd like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 24. Also, you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show and seminar at the very low price of £95 per member. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package and wish to attend, please contact our regional administrator, Paula Humphries, on 01288 352194 to reserve any places remaining.

Richard Whyman
South Coast
On the 10th November 1999 a trip to Hinkley Common Golf Club has been organised. A coach is provided and the day has been sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The programme for the day is as follows. Coach to Hinkley Common. On arrival Ian MacMillan, the Course Manager, will give an informal talk on his hole in heathland course. This will be followed by a tour of the green-keeper's complex. A light lunch is then provided. After lunch Ian will be taking us on a grand tour of the course. Having heard all the conservation work that has gone on I am really looking forward to the trip. This is definitely a visit not to be missed. All of you wishing to attend should contact Jef Drake our secretary on 01635 846575 as soon as possible. He can then book the coach, the mate pick-up points and times.

By now you should have all received the information on the 'Rec' in Seminar. This is to be held at Cannington College on November 24 1999. Looking through the list of speakers that Paula has put together we are in for a real treat. All the speakers to be done is for you to get your cheques and forms in and put the date in your diaries. See you all at Cannington.

Our Section AGM and turkey trot this year is to be held at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday December 8. Hockley always used to be known for its long rough. However, I have been told it has been cut down to a reasonable height. There will be 18 holes of golf (first tee off at 9am). This will be followed by the Section AGM. On completion of the AGM we will sit down to our Christmas dinner and prize giving.

If you would like to attend the dinner please let Jef Drake know as soon as possible. We are also putting together a list of speakers which you would like to hear, get in touch with Jef, he would love to hear from you.

As some of you may know, Paula has not been too well of late and has had to go into hospital. I am sure that the whole of the Section would like to wish her a speedy recovery. We all hope all goes well for you Paula.

Kem Lodge

South Wales
This year's summer tournament was held at Whitechurch GC Cardiff, on July 8. Match results, Best Gross A. Rea with a 78, Best Net P. Willacy with a 69 and over 18's N. G. Evans with a 73.

The Match v Golf Club Secretaries held at Pontardawe GC on August 12 was successfully retained by returning three matches out of five. Match results as follows: A. Panks/A. Richards & J. Probert/B. Smith lost their matches with P. Lacey/B. Handford. Don R. Patterson winning their matches. The longest drive and nearest the flag was sponsored by Alan Able of Complete Weed Control. Thank you, with the prizes going to A. Panks - Longest Drive and Near Stockholm to the Pin - D. Fellows, H. Probert & K. Vin Hopkins.

A fantastic day was had by all and thanks must go to the secretaries for their continued support during the day. Thanks to J. Probert and his team for the superb condition of the course and not forgetting the kind words from the captain of Pontadawe Mr. Norman Hopkins.

Our sincere apologies to St. Mellion GC for the lack of support from the Section and the PGA for postponing the match on August 17.

On August 25 the Golf Management Trophy was held again at the Celtic Manor GC. Although this time we played the new Wentwood Hills course which held up superbly to the volume of rain that fell during the day.

25 teams had taken part with Llanwen GC coming up trumps to repeat their win last year. Thanks to Scotts for sponsoring the day and to Jim McKenzie and his staff for the condition of the course in such horrendous weather.


Up and coming events; Match v Golf Club Secretaries at Royal Porthcawl GC, a theme of research, with the cost of £15 to members and non-members £22.50.

Winter Tournament/AGM/Xmas Dinner to be held at Pyle & Kenfig GC 8:30 am on December 8th. Just a reminder that you might like to start thinking of planning your visit to the BTME 2000 at the Harrogate International Centre from the 19th to the 21st January 2000.

Congratulations to Julian Bartlet who has taken up the position of Course Manager at Drinas Powys GC Cardiff.

Some unfortunate news. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been unwell. Paula all hope you get well soon.

Richard Hatcher
What is the nature of your business?
Contract spraying of all turf areas including golf courses, football pitches, racetracks, parks, private estates and any other expanse of amenity turf.

The company provides the complete service incorporating the application and supply of pesticides and turf care products, the disposal of empty chemical containers and all paper work to comply with current spraying regulations. We also provide training courses on amenity spraying.

What Major Changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last 10 years?
The single most significant change has been the introduction of shrouded booms into the UK three years ago. The importance in terms of safety can not be over estimated. Not only do the booms ensure that the chemical remains within the target area but the potential hazard of drift during high winds has been minimised. With the addition of Baby Mantis and Mini Mantis to join the Spraying Mantis, the company's spraying fleet all employs shrouded booms.

How do you believe the industry as a whole has changed over the same period?
Compared with 10 years ago, there is now general recognition and compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation, spreading from the Golf Course Secretary downwards. Increased media coverage has resulted in greenkeepers losing their cloth cap image, and in 90% of cases they are now seen as professionals.

With greater sports sponsorship and television coverage, everyone now sees the condition of the turf as well as the game played.

Looking into your crystal ball what major developments do you envisage over the next 10 years in your sector?
As an ex groundsman, I can see an urgent need over the next ten years to educate the public on the importance of pesticides as a vital management tool. With more and more people playing, the pressures on greenstaff are enormous, and although I personally applaud the health and safety legislation to date, we must guard against measures from the EC in particular which could lower the standards of maintenance, currently achieved on our amenity turf. Pesticides used with moderation at the appropriate time by qualified operators should not be seen in the future as hazardous, but more as a cost effective and safe means of achieving the desired results.

And in the industry as a whole?
I can see fewer big companies at the top of the industry as the current trend towards large monopolies continues. I predict a greater demand for British greenkeepers abroad, as the popularity of golf grows worldwide and more control for those at home, as respect for the profession grows.

The emergence of corporate owned golf clubs, look likely to point the way to the future development of the sport, with many more companies following suit.

What contribution do you believe BIGGA has made to the industry since the Association is in a very strong position to represent greenkeepers. Weed Free's Silver Key membership shows our commitment to furthering the cause of greenkeeping.

Why are you pleased to be associated with BIGGA?
I have seen BIGGA grow and improve over the years to reach a point where the Association is in a very strong position to represent greenkeepers. Weed Free's Silver Key membership shows our commitment to furthering the cause of greenkeeping.

What do you believe to have been your company's greatest contribution to the fine turf industry?
Weed Free was one of the first contract spraying companies to employ shrouded booms and the first to commission specialised spraying units to carry them. We have led the industry in the concept of applying pesticides safely in windy conditions. We are one of the few companies to pass on our knowledge through our training courses.

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Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper of Kilmacolm Golf Club, gives the story behind his success in the recent Green Apple Awards

The apple of Kilmacolms's

On a cold wet Saturday in February I was sitting doing the wife's crossword. The letter box rattles and it's the local free newspaper. The wife reads out the requirements to enter what was described as the prestigious Green Apple Awards Competition etc. "Why don't you send some of that gibberish you've been typing for the last month," says, "Anything for a bit of peace."

I had just completed my Environmental Summary for the club in the hope it would be a start for the club to get enrolled on to the European Golf Ecology's new programme 'Committed To Green'. I typed out the reason behind my submission, addressed an A4 brown envelope and set off to post it. I was sitting doing the wife's crossword and I whisper, "We have either won the big one or our name isn't in the hat."

Then the compere announces that the Crystal Award of Excellence in the small business category goes to Kilmacolm Golf Club. We get the biggest cheer of the ceremony. I remember leaving my seat and going up to receive the Green Crystal Trophy, some pictures are taken, I return to my seat totally over awed.

Needless to say Kilmacolm Golf Club is very pleased with all the good publicity. As for Jonathon Smith and the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife group, without his enthusiasm and encouragement the experience would never have happened.

As it turns out it is not over yet for the press release is just being given out and the recognition by the buffet served with more excellent wine.

The awards are introduced and the method of presentation described in detail.

There are three categories small business, medium business, and large business. We are in the small business class and there are four awards in each class - the highest being crystal would be announced last.

As the ceremony progresses and all trophies are presented except the Crystal the wife and I look at each other and I whisper, "We have either won the big one or our name isn't in the hat."

My good Lady and I sit at one of the 20 or so enormous round tables with floral displays that covered 50% of the table surface. The palatial method of presentation described in detail. The name tags we're given seems to be business types and the hostesses seem offended if you don't accept a glass of wine from them, I certainly wouldn't offend anyone. The nametags we're given seem to attract attention because it was a private golf club and not a council or something more important. I'm asked the same question a couple of times, "What could a small golf club be doing for the environment to justify their presence at such an important ceremony?"

Rather than enter into any lengthy discussion I smile and play the daft laddie, (that has never been difficult for me). Another glass of wine is forced on me and I can feel the confidence swell and before I realise it I'm tapping one of the enquirers on the shoulder and proceed to explain that... I have produced a Course Management Policy Document, and an Environmental Management Plan, but that the submission I put forward was an Environmental Summary of Good Environmental Practice. This consisted of mission statements concerning, Planning Nature Conservation, Natural Cultural Heritage, Water Resource Management; Sound Turfgrass Management; Energy Efficiency; Education Within the Working Environment, Communication and Public Awareness, and Waste Management. Also under these headings we have highlighted actions that have been implemented, and identified projects we are investigating for their environmental value and how cost effective they are. There were more than a few impressed glances amid the number of listeners. More went on.

It was a day neither of us will ever forget.

October 1999 Greenkeeper International 47
BIGGA will once again be exhibiting at Scotsturf giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities.

Should you wish information about becoming a member there will be someone on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership.

If you are already a member information can be obtained about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as about that highlight of the greenkeeper’s year - BTME at Harrogate.

From a company perspective, stand space is filling up quickly and from an individual’s, spaces on the workshops and Education Conference need to be booked early to avoid disappointment.

Executive Director: Neil Thomas
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Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd
Eric Hunter Grinders Limited are exhibiting two new machines at Scotsturf for the first time.

The Jupiter 2000 has been developed from the well established range of Jupiter models in order to meet an increasing demand to be able to grind pedestrian hand mowers fully ‘in-situ’.

An integral hoist has been incorporated into the design of the Jupiter 2000 with capacity of 200kg, allowing it to handle the largest hand mowers.

The Orion bottom blade grinder has been uprated to be fully automatic on both traverse and ‘in-feed’. Again developed from the well proven Orion bottom blade grinder.

Both machines have liquid coolant systems.
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Ocmis were British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association Award of Excellence winners in 1997 and 1998. For more information and a free no obligation survey and design contact Ocmis Irrigation Scotland on 01312202102.

Weidenmann

Weidenmann UK Ltd. have secured a prime stand in the new hall on which the company will display a cross section of their popular machinery range.

Having its UK base in Paisley, Weidenmann values Scotsturf highly and the company’s staff look forward to meeting existing and new customers who visit the show.

On display will be the versatile Terra Spike deep aerator which will be fitted with a range of tines. A range of terra Spikes are available from 1.35m wide to 2.6m wide providing machines for a wide variety of applications from golf to playing fields. Terra spikes have unique features such as quick set heave control and power pack which make the machine easy to use and reliable.

Other machines on display will include the new Terra Top tractor mounted Top dresser which is particularly efficient at spreading wet top dressings and tractor mounted Triplex 4.2 finishing rotary mower with bat wings.

Weidenmann invite all to visit the stand to view their latest products and enjoy the usual hospitality.

Sportsgrounds Limited

Now that Sportsgrounds are Scottish Stockists and distributors for EPIC driving range equipment the company will be using Scotsturf to display a cross section of the extensive EPIC range including tee mats, ball dispensers, ball washers, ball collectors, synthetic range surfaces and accessories.

The company’s large stand in the new hall will also illustrate the comprehensive range of services available which include design and construction of playing fields, golf courses, bowling greens and tennis courts in either natural or synthetic grass. Sportsgrounds continue to specialise in drainage, sand slitting and groundwork maintenance.

1999 has proved to be a very successful year with the completion of many prestige projects including the construction of new playing fields for Glasgow University, the design and build of a new bowling green at Mount Vernon and the construction of a synthetic multi sports pitch at HUPE (Glenochil). Earlier in the year Sportsgrounds completed the construction of a multi pitch 5-a-side complex near Wembley and have received an order to build a similar complex at Dagenham. Everyone will receive a warm welcome when visiting the stand.

Scotsturf '99 Preview

See us at Scotsturf

Groundsman Industries

Groundsman Industries, Europe’s leading manufacturer of Turf Aerators will be at Scotsturf with their very latest range of equipment. This range spans through 5 models of pedestrian machines from the low budget model 345MD 18” swath vertical action aerator priced below £3,000 to the 46” and 72” swath tractor mounting units.

New launches include the Flexplate Surface Iron attachment to smooth out the playing surface behind the aerator. This implement may well become as essential to aerating as the extremely successful Flexblade Core Collector which enables aeration and core collection in one pass rendering the old windrow attachment redundant.

The other new launch from the Groundsman camp is a 4ft and an 8ft swath Disc Slitter. These units incorporate groups of spraying discs with follow-up rollers. Pictured from top (a) Model 345HD coring with windrow. (b) Model 460S0R aerators in circles and has power steering and rapid transport. (c) Model 8120CTM 4ft swath tractor mounting aerator with Flexblade Core Collector attached. (d) Model 12180TM 6ft swath tractor mounting aerator needle tining to 5” depth with Flexblade Surface Iron attached.

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