Please think about your teams and phone Mike Gould on 01342 712506 with your selection.

Also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, I would like to congratulate Austin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head GC who has been awarded Sussex County Greenkeeper of the Year by the Sussex Professional Golfers' Union. One last note. If anyone has anything to report and would like to see it in "Around the Green", please phone me on 01903 218675 or 0375 189785.

Gary Ogilvie

South Wales

High winds and heavy showers made most of us return to the 19th hole at Pyle & Kenfig GC on 8 December, although a few continued and battled their way around the course. Members were, as usual, treated to the guided course courtesy of the course and to the staff for the good condition of the course and thanks to P Robinson & his staff for their hospitality and to all the other agents' reps who attended, too many to mention, sorry. Lastly, thanks again to the Pyle & Kenfig for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to the Captain of P & K who attended the evening.

Nothing much more to mention, although on the 9th of this month, Peter Johnson gave us a lecture at Pencoed College. Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

With 1999 being one of the wettest years of the old millennium it was not surprising that members were greeted with heavy rain on arrival at our P J Flegg Christmas meeting held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 8. I wondered if we would be able to play any golf during the morning but the splendid effort put in by Richard Wisdom and his team meant that the greensome format competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy went ahead as scheduled.

Our non golfing members were, as usual, treated to the guided course walk by Richard. Both golfing and non golfing were delighted to seek shelter in the P J Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green. Inside, Patrick and his staff treated members to snacks and drinks which set the Christmas atmosphere for the day.

After an excellent Christmas lunch, the day continued with the morning's golf prizes for the P J Flegg trophy being presented by Patrick Flegg to: 1st, B. Lever, Dainton, & J. Stevens, West Cornwall, 36 pts. 2nd, M. Samuel, President, and T. Bennett, Trevoce, 33 pts back 9. 3rd, J. Mills, Taunton, & K. Yeoman, Dartmouth, 33 pts.

A special prize was donated by Laurence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton for the best triers and being presented by Patrick Hegg to: 1st, B. Lewer, Dainton, & J. Stevens, Hockity GC. The course was in superb condition thanks to the staff who, as always, had the non golfing were delighted to seek shelter in the P J Hegg refreshment tent by the 6th green. Inside, Patrick and his happy band of men. Well done Trevor.

The results were as follows: The overall match winner was Phil Nason, who is over here for his three months holiday. Sorry Phil, I had to get that in. Category 1 winner, Matt Blake. Category 2 winner, Alan Rideout, Category 3 winner, Peter Baynham, Nearest the Pin, Simon Austin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head GC. The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always, had the course in superb condition.

A big thank you to Patrick Flegg and PJ Flegg Ltd for sponsoring the day and providing the wonderful snacks and drinks on the course. Also, thanks to our President, Martin Samuel, who supplied the wine at lunch and thanks to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

Dates for your diary: Avoncrop Meeting, Thursday February 24, venue Trevoce G C. Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf Meeting, Tuesday March 28, venue Yelverton GC. Westurf Trade Show at Westpoint, Exeter on Tuesday April 12.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our Annual Turkey Trot AGM and Christmas Dinner was held at Hockity GC. The course was in superb condition thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Trevor Blythe and his happy band of men. Well done Trevor.

The results were as follows: The overall match winner was Phil Nason, who is over here for his three months holiday. Sorry Phil, I had to get that in. Category 1 winner, Matt Blake. Category 2 winner, Alan Rideout, Category 3 winner, Peter Baynham. Nearest the Pin, Simon Austin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head GC. The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always, had the course in superb condition.

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We could not get support for a small want from the section. There are nearly 300 members in our section.

South West
Kingsdown Golf Club was the venue for the Christmas Tournament held on December 8. The event was sponsored by Roffeys. Head Greenkeeper, Mark Ford, and his staff did a superb job in getting the course into great shape, especially when you consider that December had seen twice the normal rainfall. The greens really did put well, although eventually the steady rainfall slowed them up quite considerably.

By the time the last of the golfers came in off the course, the rain had become cold and torrential. One drenched and shivering golfer even suggested holding next year’s Christmas Tournament in Trinidad & Tobago, but I don’t think BIGGA funds could stretch that far! Despite the weather, some really good scores were achieved. The winner of the event was: 1. T. Humphrey & Tony Crouch, 36 points and better half 9. - Dan Dobie & N. Wilson, 36 points.

A superb Christmas dinner was laid on by Les and the catering staff at Kingsdown, with all the wine kindly provided by Phil Greenway and Roffeys. A raffle was then followed with all the prizes donated generously from all the local companies.

The comedian then came on to entertain us. Now, greenkeepers are not always renowned for their sense of humour, but this must have been one of this comedian’s hardest ever outings. He really did have to work hard for his money, especially with Dave Begin, sitting on the front table, questioning every one of his jokes.

Anyway, we must once again thank everyone connected with Kingsdown for the smooth running of the day and Roffeys for their kind sponsorship. Let’s hope for better weather at this year’s event, the first of which is the Winter Tournament being held at Painshill Golf Club on the February 23rd.

South East
I’ll start these notes by wishing all our members a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. It’s a bit belated I know but better late than never. We apologise for a lack of notes at the tail end of last year as we were hit by a “M” bug in our system, but we are now 2000 compliant and ready to go. I hope you are all enjoying this glorious weather, all your winter work done and dusted, and not a mark on your courses from the hundreds of golfers that insist on playing through El Nino, gale force winds and inches of snow.

Anyhow down to business - the South-East Section AGM was held at Clandeboye Golf Club on Tuesday, December 7. The election of officers to last for the next 1000 years, sorry to take us into the next 1000 years, are as follows - Graham Wylie - Chairman/Treasurer, Jonathan McCabe - Vice Chairman, Ken Henderson - Secretary, Alan Strachan- Assistant Secretary, Terry Crawford - Matching Handicap Liaison Officer.

The main topic at the AGM was the amalgamation of the South-East and North-East Sections. A vote was taken that it would be beneficial for both Sections if we did get together, in which case an EGM would be held to select officers from both sections to form one committee. This would be a new committee with a larger membership and we feel this would certainly strengthen BIGGA in Northern Ireland and would entice more people to join. We have voted Yes for this merger and we are now waiting for feedback from the North-East section on how they feel on this matter.

A very well attended seminar on course preparation took place on December 2-3, ’99 in the Burnside Hotel. Brin Bandon presented this subject very well indeed and all who attended thought it was of great benefit to them. Some people travelled quite a distance to attend, such as Des Durragh, from Waterford; David Leonard and Karl Dooley both from Dublin.

An entertaining evening was had at Queens University playing fields on Monday 13th December when the Institute Of Groundsmanship invited us to join them at their Christmas Quiz. We fronted two teams, The McDivots and The Cunning Linguists. Needless to say the IOG team won hands down but between our two teams, The McDivots, my team finished streets ahead, stawards query. Many thanks to the IOG for their hospitality and friendly atmosphere and I’m sure this will be a definite fixture this year again.

Finally thanks to last year’s committee for all their hard work and giving up their own time to arrange all the various days that we all enjoyed throughout the year. Sterling works chaps and keep it up! Iain Harrison.

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**2653**
Superior performance on undulating terrain with a precision cut, hydraulic reel drive and 66 cm (26 in) ESP cutting units.

**1200A**
Excellent pulling and pushing power. Opens up a whole new era of bunker rake design. Many attachments available.

**RZI 700**
Effective, efficient and environmentally friendly. This root zone injection system injects liquids directly to the root zone.

**4000 Series**
Our new line of compact utility tractors have hitch lift capacities up 1,134 kg, high torque engines, excellent breakout force and 540 rpm PTOs.

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WHAT A WEEK!
Above: Visitors flood into Hall Q - new this year at BTME.

The feeling among those who attended was that BTME 2000 was the busiest they had ever experienced.

Top: Reliving that ‘Abbey Road’ experience.

Middle: Some guests really entered into the 60s groove.

Above: Can you name the famous Course Manager who is the centre of all the attention?
Above. "Paul" and "John" had everyone a twistin' and a shoutin'.

Right: "Ringo" enjoys his evening

Below: The Cavern Club or BTME Banquet? Who could tell the difference?

Left and Below: Simon Weston held the attention of the large audience with his moving account of the incident which changed his life and how he has emerged from it a better person.

Above: BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key supporters were thanked at the Chairman's Lunch which was attended by Sir Michael Bonallack and Simon Weston.

Above: Textron's Nigel Church passes on some valuable advice during the Machinery Workshop in the Majestic Hotel.

Above: The Design and Construction Workshop saw some wonderful plasticine models produced.
Saturday January 15
An early start this year meeting with Bill and Monica Montague at Aldwark Manor. They’ve just flown in from the USA and it’s a real pleasure to show them around BIGGA HOUSE. Bill is one of BIGGA’s greatest supporters and flies the flag for us in his homeland where he is a regular on the BIGGA stand at the GCSSA Show.

Sunday January 16
I reflect that I am driving to Harrogate for BTME number 12. Where have the years gone? It takes me all of 15 minutes and its proximity to home is one sure reason for the BTME remaining in Harrogate. There are many more compelling ones. This year the weatherman is making all the right noises and I reach the Majestic comfortably and it’s a science, not something that is practised on a weekly basis but it’s not up to scratch. ‘I explained. Steve travels to New Orleans later this month to receive his award.

One welcome visitor to the show on Thursday was last year’s Ryder Cup Captain, Mark James, who visited the Rigby Taylor stand with his Golf Design and Management Partner, Andrew Matt, and Brian Robinson of Grass Science. Mark, who lives just a short distance from Harrogate took time to walk round the rest of the show.

Swiss award
Steven Tienney, a British greenkeeper based in Switzerland, has won a prestigious Environmental Steward Awarde with the GCSSA - the first time a European based greenkeeper has won such an award.

Learning manager, who is Course Manager at Golf Park Nuolen, Walgen, one of Switzerland’s 70 golf courses, only discovered the competition after he discovered that the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition was open to everybody. “My golf club is only four years old but as Switzerland is not in the EC our own regulations are extremely strict. For example every six weeks our water is tested by the Government and they have the power to close us down if we are not up to scratch,” he explained. Steve travels to New Orleans later this month to receive his award.

Sharpe’s and Mommersteeg - Advanta
Amenity grass seed breeder Advanta Seeds UK, took the chance to announce that they had completed a year of corporate restructuring, combining the operations of the two well-known seed suppliers, Mommersteeg and Sharpe’s International, under the one new company name. Sharpe’s was previously owned by Booker Seeds, while Mommersteeg International was a part of the Dutch based Royal Van de Heve group. The latter merged with Zeneca in January 1998 to form Advanta Seeds.

For the past two years, Mommersteeg and Sharpe’s have been operating autonomously under the Advanta banner, but since 1 Jan 2000, the two separate companies ceased to exist. Advanta is the fifth largest seed business in the world - breeding and growing a wide range of amenity and agricultural crops, through 35 operating companies in 20 countries.
New degree from BIGCA

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects used the show to announce the formation of a degree course in golf course architecture to be established at Heriot-Watt University in conjunction with the University and its specialist college, Edinburgh College of Art, as well as Merrist Wood and Elmwood Colleges. The course, which will take the form of a two month diploma in golf course architecture, which will lead to a full time residential three month Masters' Programme and will parallel, first stage, the present part time and distance learning diploma operated by the Institute at Merrist Wood College. The two year diploma course will be expanded to take in a two-centre field course in golf course architecture to be established at Heriot-Watt University and the Institute at Merrist Wood College. The numbers are excellent pouring into the halls and another busy day is in prospect. The seminars are in full flow and it is clear all European applications for Ohio State. Michael checked out Allen's CV and told him that if he passed his Cannington College course a place was his! As he is progressing well at Cannington and passing all his exams to date he is as good as there. Now that's service! The Careers' Clinic was a great success with Brin and Frank handling 120 cases over the course of the two days.

Blizzard hits Harrogate

Allen Blizzard couldn't believe his luck when he visited the BIGGA Career's Clinic, run by Brin Beadon and Frank Newberry, during BTME 2000. Having gone in for advice on the presentation of his CV Allen left with a conditional place at Ohio State University. In the ultimate case of being in the right place at the right time Allen, whose ambition had always been to attend that particular university, found himself chatting to Master Greenkeeper Bill Montague who had popped in to see how a CV differed from the American Resumio. Bill, who is from Ohio, revealed that he lectured at the University and tracked down Michael O'Neil, who was also attending the show and viewing it as is to clear all European applications for Ohio State. Michael checked out Allen's CV and told him that if he passed his Cannington College course a place was his! As he is progressing well at Cannington and passing all his exams to date he is as good as there. Now that's service! The Careers' Clinic was a great success with Brin and Frank handling 120 cases over the course of the two days.

BTME - BEING THERE MEANS EVERYTHING

talking with Simon Weston. A fellow Welshman, we talk of rugby and many other things Welsh. He is an impressive man in so many ways. His talk receives rapt attention from a large audience and not a few tears along the way. It ends with a standing ovation. Simon surely sets a supreme example of how to cope with adversity and to get the very best out of life. Quickly to the Majestic to set up the presentations at the Chairman's luncheon to our Golden and Silver Key company supporters. A special pleasure to meet our new President, Sir Michael Bonallack, who seem to thoroughly enjoy his visit.

Back to the halls for a busy afternoon and then to the AGM. Wonder of wonders, Cecil does not ask a question - quite extraordinary! The Chairman thanks Gordon for all his work for the Association in the past two years and for a job well done. He welcomes Clive as Vice Chairman and says farewell to Pat Murphy, George Barr and Robin Greaves who are standing down. Ian Semple and Paul Jenkins are welcomed to the Board. There is no peace for the wicked and I am quickly off to Rotlawn's 25th Anniversary Dinner in the company of Terry Ryan and fellow guests. This proves a pleasant, relaxing evening in the middle of the week.

Thursday January 20

The numbers are excellent pouring into the halls and another busy day is in prospect. The seminars are in full flow and a buoyant atmosphere prevails. The Chairman and I attended a Press Conference and I am soon on my way to the FEGGA AGM where it is all change. Claus Detlef Ratjen from Germany is now Chairman with Joe Bedford of the GCSAI as Vice Chairman. Board members are Jean-Michel Hérissé from France, Pirjo Hotti from Finland, who maintains the ladies' input, and Hans-Peter Thaller from Italy, Dean Cleaver takes over as FEGGA administrator. The afternoon sees me linking up with Sami as our major social event, the BTME banquet, draws nearer. This year it's the Bootleg Beatles to entertain and the set up of the banqueting hall is tremendous with a 'balloon' expert having been engaged and with pictures of the original Beatles adorning the walls. The sense of the 60s prevails and a great night is in prospect. At 6.30pm I make a brief visit to the Chairman's reception for VIP guests and then to the banquet. Guests are arriving in hordes and some of their 'gear' is drawing attention. Upstairs the bar area is a hive of activity and noise. The announcement of dinner is ignored not once but many times with claims that the announcements were not heard above the din. Dining eventually commences some 20 minutes late. However, we start catching up and at 10.10pm I am able to introduce the Chairman to say a few words and then the moment has come and the Bootleg Beatles take to the stage. Simultaneously our intrepid members take to the dance floor. I am told that the Bootleg Beatles voted it their best corporate show in 20 years. As they finally take their leave, the Funtime Music disco takes over with hits from the 60s and 70s all the way through to 1am before the dancers depart for further revelry at the Majestic bar. Indeed a night to remember.

Friday January 21

It's Friday morning and you know the feeling well. The pace in the halls is sedate yet this is a good day to visit for those who want easy access to the stands and to get their business done. They won't get trampled in the rush but at least they will be able to talk with whomsoever they are seeking. The seminars end on a strong note with Dr Joe Vargas. The Chairman makes a grand draw with proceeds going to the Imperial Cancer Fund. Farewells on all sides for another year. I thank my exhausted staff who have done a fantastic job. The years roll on but BTME remains very special. It is unsurpassed as a gathering for greenkeepers from all over the world. It is now a truly international show anticipated eagerly by companies and members alike. There is a unique atmosphere and already we look forward to 2001. I would urge members to be strong in their determination to be there for they will most certainly be better for the experience and feel very much a part of the great community of greenkeepers.
Toro's new Workman 2100 utility vehicle offers a big payload capacity and the Toro-exclusive 'twister' Active In-Frame Suspension. This consists of a unique rubber joint that attaches the front operator platform to the rear section containing the engine and cargo bed. The "twister" suspension allows 15 degrees of flex in both directions, so the vehicle can travel over uneven terrain and still keep all four wheels on the ground.

These features and more make the vehicle ideal for use in a host of different working environments such as golf courses. The vehicle has a roomy operator platform with excellent leg room. There's also more storage space in the Workman operator platform than before, including a centre tray for storing items such as hand-held radios, clipboards and tools. A 12-volt outlet allows for the recharging of radios and other equipment.

The front axle of the Workman uses independent front suspension which allows for the tight turning radius of just 2.9m with 70-degree steering. The Fuji rear axle is powered by an automatic, constantly variable transmission. A pedal-start accelerator and pedal-stop brake make the vehicle as easy to drive as a golf car.

The Toro Groundsmaster Contour 66 is a new version of the Groundsmaster rotary. But this time it is fitted with the company's ground-breaking Sidewinder system that enables all three cutting decks to shift from side to side up to 61cm. It follows on from the Reelmaster Sidewinder fitted with cylinder cutting units, which is receiving outstanding universal acclaim after its introduction to UK golf courses last season.

All three rotary decks can shift from side to side up to 61cm by the use of a joystick control. Shifting the cutting units to the sides means they can mow bunker overhangs, fringes, approaches and edgings that might otherwise need tackling with a push-mower or strimmer. Such a greater mowing range substantially increases productivity on all fronts. Additionally, jobs that traditionally needed follow-up mowing can be completed by the Groundsmaster Contour 66 because the operator can shift the mowing deck positions without leaving the seat. The ability to shift the decks sideways also varies the tracking of the mower's wheels so reduces tyre tracks and turf damage.

Developed by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers, the new Intake Range of Foliar Feeds offers the perfect complement to existing granular and liquid feed programmes. It will be distributed in the UK by Amenity Technology, based on proven research in the United States by Gary Grigg, Master Greenkeeper and former President of the GCSAA, and is backed up with over 20 years of research. The "organic facilitators" or chelates used in each of the Intake products mimic the plants' natural chelating actions and increase nutrient penetration into the plant's cells.

The foliar action of the range has shown to be of dramatic benefit on low cut turf where a poor root system can be an inherent problem. Intake bypasses root uptake and delivers readily available nutrients direct to the leaf blade, rapidly correcting nutrient deficiencies.

The latest development from the Koro Design and Manufacturing Centre in Holland is being shown for the first time on the Richard Campey Ltd stand. The new established Recycling Dresser has given birth to a Mini' version for specific work on Golf Greens and Tees. The GT model, RD130KR has been produced to provide the same remarkable benefits to surface management in the Golf sector, as in the general sports and amenity areas, already transformed over the past few years. As with its father' version, the "son" alleviates the need for top dressings by recycling the original soil. The equipment is 3 PT linkage mounted for attachment to 30 35hp Compact tractors. In addition to Richard Campey Ltd in the UK, the machine will be available on an international basis from Hummer Sports Turf (USA), Mow Mow Pty (Australia) and Barthela Motorgerate (Germany).