around the green

EAST OF ENGLAND REGION

On a lovely sunny Autumn day members played at Woodhall Spa Golf Club by kind invitation of Mr. N. Hatchin, enabling us to enjoy the delights of a heathland course.

Players competed for the Rigby Taylor Trophy and prizes donated by our trade friends.

Guests who joined us were from Sheffield and Nottingham and the visitors prize went to Billy Gray who had an excellent score. Runner-up was Alex Hall of Newark.

The Rigby Taylor Trophy was won by Colin Swingler with David Salisbury as runner-up.

The prizes were presented by Steve Dickenson who complemented Graeme Patrick on the condition of the course and for the experience gained by those who hadn't the pleasure of playing Woodhall before.

COLIN SWINGLE

KENT SECTION

UR autumn tournament combined with the regional tournament was a very good enjoyable day, even for those of us who spent most of our time spraying balls left and right, never to be seen again.

Much credit must go to Malcolm Grand and his staff on the fantastic condition of classic Littlestone links course after the very difficult Summer this year.

The morning round saw a great performance from the winner, Ian Rawlin with 42 points. Somehow I do not think that he will be playing off 12 in our next competition.

Second was Steve Suttle with 38 points, followed by Alan Sheppard, also with 38, but pipped on the back nine. Fourth was Alan Glazier of Cuddington with 36, and fifth was Duncan Keleso with 34 points.

For the trade competition our apologies must go to Bernard Oxborough, a worthy first prize went to David White, followed in second place by David Hawkins.

With all the morning prizes going to the Kent members, it was good to see the Surrey lads striking back with first and second places in the Short Course competition in the afternoon. First was Dave Barnes and Roger Glazier, with second Michael Marsh and Ted Bond, and third place going to the Kent duo of Bernie Sturdy and Nigel Stapley.

Also on the golfing front, Andy O'Coner, of Bexleyheath put in a good performance in the Iski Final at Moor Allerton.

The Regional team as a whole came second with the Sussex Section providing the overall individual winner. Apparently the conditions were very windy and difficult for all those who played, although Andy felt that he was a bit disappointed that with all the rest of us and helping to represent the Region so well.

We have arranged some lectures and demonstrations more details of which will be sent nearer the time.

On Tuesday January 9 at West Malling Golf Club there will be a talk by John Hinton, Regional Sales Manager for B.A.S.F., entitled "Fertilizers and the User's Perspective" which should be interesting and may arouse some conflicting feelings.

On Tuesday February 13 there will be a demonstration and talk by Colin Pyce on the Terrcomp machine for relieving compaction, at Canterbury Golf Club, and on Tuesday March 6 there will be a talk by Andy Godfrey of Inta-Seeds Ltd on grasses and their breeding and development for golf courses.

PAUL COPSEY

SURREY SECTION

MONDAY October 23, saw the Surrey Section Autumn Tournament, hosted by Worpleston Golf Club, just outside Guildford.

On the first full working day, after Surrey had been lashed by gale force winds, Head Greenkeeper Brian Turner and his staff had to prepare a course in difficult circumstances, with the odd fallen tree as an added problem.

But when 9 am came and the first Surrey members started the 27 hole stableford competition, they found a well manicured course and true, slick putting surfaces welcoming their golf.

The results were as follows:

1st J. Davison, 59; 2nd D. Woodward, 57; 3rd T. Hall, 54; 4th D. Shaw, 53.


With the exception of the Veteran's Trophy, all the prizes were kindly donated by Rigby Taylor and were all hand out crystal. The prizes are without doubt some of the best ever played for, and my thanks go to Regional Sales Manager and Secretary Major Jones for his continued support.

Also, my sincere thanks to Ron Jobson for his early morning help, without which, the day would not have run smoothly.

Finally a word of thanks to Worpleston Golf Club, Secretary Major Jones and all the club's staff, for the most courteous of welcomes, and the offering of such splendid facilities to all the Section members present. All through the day our members were met by professional and friendly staff, willing to make our day equal to that of a Club member's. I look forward to renewing our acquaintance in March, Walton Heath Head Greenkeeper Clive Osgood, took it upon himself to diet. After admitting that he was overweight, he entered the Jenny Craig Weight Loss Centre in Epsom.

But with their expert help Clive still had to draw on their golf. Clive was over-weight, Clive attended the Jenny Craig Weight Loss Centre in Epsom.

Many congratulations Clive on your new found health and look.

MIK WELLS

SUSSEX SECTION

ROWLANDS Castle Golf Club, was the venue for our Autumn Tournament meeting.

Our thanks go to the committee for the courtesy of the course. In ideal conditions the morning round was a stableford. The results were:

1st. P. Negus, 70 nett back nine; 2. D. Coomer, 70 nett; 3. M. Bultrymowicz, 74 nett.

Thank go to the caterers for the evening meal, also to the trade, Rigby Taylor and Parker's for prizes.

Our next meeting is the Turkey Trot at Seaford.

DEREK COOMBER

MID ANGLIAN SECTION

ONLY 22 members attended our Autumn tournament at Binghamton G.C. Whether the price is not right, or members could be repairing their courses after the hot summer, I hope numbers increase next year.

The course was presented very tidily thanks to Brian Pigott and his staff.

Thanks also to the committee for their continuing support, and the facilities on the day.

P. FITZJOHN
AROUND THE GREEN

EAST MIDLANDS SECTION

Our thanks to all who helped, especially Uncle Sam. A merry Christmas to all our readers.

MICK LATHROPE

DEVON AND CORNWALL SECTION

UR first meeting of the season was held at Teignmouth Golf Club on Tuesday, 17th October.

With fine weather 30 members took to the course to play for the D.O. Hunt Trophy.

1st T. Farkins, 83 -16 = 67; 2nd N. Weller, 81 - 10 = 71; 3rd B. Ridgeway, 93 - 21 = 72.

Our thanks must go to Jack Moore and his green staff for the excellent condition of the course.

After a superb meal our guest speaker for the afternoon talk was Patrick Goldsworthy of ICI on Turf Disease, the subject raising some eyebrows and discussion.

Many thanks Patrick, an entertaining talk.

The second meeting of the season was held at Ellfordleigh Golf and Country Club, Plymouth.

The day’s agenda was as follows: Golf foursome format, followed by dinner and the section’s AGM.

On course the weather was raw and wet and only the low scores were possible. The 16th hole being the most popular of the day.

1st G. Child & P. Newcombe, 31 points; 2nd J. Lawton & R. Whyman, 28 points on count back; 3rd G. Hargrave & P. Connell, 28 points.

I would like to thank Mike Erbton of Robertson’s for donating the prizes.

After a superb meal we had our Section AGM. The agenda was as follows: Financial report showed that funds had slightly increased over the year.

2. Chairman’s report. The Chairman referred to our adminstrations. Jim Wood had left the section to take a post with the War Graves Commission in France. The Chairman on behalf of the members would like to thank Jim for all his hard work.

The Chairman also congratulated Paul Newcombe for winning the National Tournament and for winning 0-9 Section of the Ikeki finals at Moor Allerton Golf Club.

The Chairman hoped that support from the Section for Weststuff 90 would be much higher than last year. He also thanked the members and trade members for their support during the year.

3. Election of officers for the committee were as follows: Secretary R. Whyman; Chairman B. Pile; Committee B. J. Summers, S. Redman, J. Mitchell, S. Redman, R. Whyman, Vice President A. Dommett.

4. Venues and speakers for the next two seasons were discussed.

5. A match between Devon v Cornwall greenkeepers to be played in January on an informal basis.

Gordon Child gave the section an update on regional and national matters.

I would like to wish all members old and new a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH-WEST SECTION

OCTOBER has been a busy month starting with the Autumn Tournament at Lostock Park Golf Club Bolton.

The weather was very kind to us and the course was in superb condition thanks to John Bond and his staff.

The catering staff laid on a feast fit for a king, and the hospitality of the club members crowned the day.

As usual some good scores were recorded but none better than Paul Pearce.

The results were:

P. Pearce, best gross; C. Jordon, best nett; Paul Smith, 2nd nett; W. Merritt, 3rd nett; B. Cross, Vets prize; The guests prize, Captain Lostock G.C.

I would like to thank the trade for their contributions to the prize table.

Preparations for the Mere seminar had been going on for some time but as time drew near things became hectic.

I would like to thank John Lowery, the seminar chairman, and the rest of the committee for their hard work put in to bring about this annual occasion.

The day turned out to be very educational with the speakers leaving no doubt as to how professional they are in their own fields. The speakers were:

Derek Green, (Restoration of a golf course); David Stubbs (Conservation on golf courses); Danny Godfrey, (Grass for breeding); David Golding, (Education the BIGGA way); Tony Gentle, (Man management).

The attendance figures for the seminar were very low compared with previous years and in my opinion this was because the date had been brought forward to October instead of the usual March date.

Comments on this would be much appreciated.

On 25th October John Hinton Field Support Manager for B.A.S.F., entertained us with a very interesting talk on fertilisers and their use. This talk was highly appreciated by the members present.

After the talk refreshments were served compliments of B.A.S.F., and we went directly into the Annual General Meeting.

The number of members attending the A.G.M was 18 and considering the NW section have 286 members, I can only assume that most members are satisfied with the way the section is functioning. Although various items were heatedly discussed by some members, eventually everybody departed on friendly terms.

It only leaves me now to take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

BERT CROSS

MIDLANDS SECTION

Our thanks to all who helped, especially Uncle Sam. A merry Christmas to all our readers.

MICK LATHROPE

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GREENKEEPING

December '89
the excellence of the course and considered it to be one of the best he has ever played on.

Thanks are due to Steve Blakeman and Ken Chatwin for their time and effort in organizing both of these events.

A good time was had by all who attended the Burrows Golf Day at Brocton Hall on October 17th with Barry Wood emerging the victor. Thanks to Harry Johnson and his staff for all the entertainments.

The following day, October 18th, the finalists from our years tournaments teed up at Copthorne Golf Club with their counterparts from the East Midlands to compete for the Len Breakwell Rose Bowl which was won by Nick Hughes.

Several members are due to Len Breakwell and Keith Fitzherny, who are very pleased to hear is making an excellent recovery from his recent illness.

I hear the course was in fine fettle and Harold Lewis and his staff earn congratulations for the fine condition.

Looking ahead to 1990, on October 19th, 12th Mr. John Hinton from BASF will be giving a talk on fertilizers during the evening and time to be arranged - but do endeavour to keep the date open.

Finally may we wish Tony Luckman well on his recent promotion to Deputy Head at Harborne Golf Club.

Christmas Greetings and the very best for the New Year to all our members.

IVAN TOON

NORTH EAST SECTION

O
N September 21 we held our Autumn Competition at the City of Newcastle G.C. After suffering gale force winds for the previous three days, we were glad of the relief of the wind to give us a beautiful day of sunshine.

I would like to thank Ken Rutherford and his staff for the excellent condition of the course considering the weather we had over the past few months.

Also thanks to the committee of the club for granting the courtesy of the course, the Captain Mr. G. Cairns for presenting the prizes and the steward for the meals.

Thanks also to the sponsors, The Ryton Sand and Gravel Co; Bland-Short; TurfCare Supplies; Karsway; N.E. Chemicals; Stewarts of Edinburgh; Eco, Roger Forestry Group and TACIT for supplying flagpoles.


There was a good turnout of members and all the 31 competitors who played the 27 holes competition received a prize.

A special mention to David Jennings of Newbiggin G.C. who had a hole in one at the second hole 142 yds. He also received a special prize for this feat.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation of attendance and participation for this event.

A very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON SECTION

O
UR Autumn Tournament took place on 2nd October 1989, at Flackwell Heath Golf Club, Nr High Wycombe, Bucks.

On a day with near perfect playing conditions, the competition started with four foursomes after playing conditions, the committee informed the members of the new sub. This was met by the disapproval of several members who signed a petition which will be sent to HQ.

JOE READING

SOUTH COAST

A
S mentioned in my last section notes, the South Coast Section is hosting a regional greenkeeper's seminar on Tuesday, March 13, 1990 at Sparsholt College, Hampshire.

Your Chairman, Secretary and Eric James have met as a regional group to plan the seminar and, with the support of your committee and Regional Administrator, Gordon Childs, have finalised the programme.

Papers will be given on golf course conservation, turf machinery, golf course construction and a viewpoint from a golf professional.

Programmes are available from me and other Committee members, and the fee for the day, which includes lunch, will be £10.00 for BIGGA members and £15 for non-members.

Please support this seminar by your attendance and by circulatting these details to club secretaries, chairmen of greens and any other interested members of your club.

May I wish all BIGGA members and H.Q. staff a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

GORDON MITCHELL

Notice to members; The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th March 1990 at 2.30 p.m. in The Royal York Hotel, York.
AROUND THE GREEN

NORTHERN REGION

The Autumn work is now well under way with sitters, hollow-tiners and verti-drainers going like the clappers.

Headingley Golf Club was our last venue of the golf season. Everybody enjoyed the day as always and our sincere thanks to Head Greenkeeper Peter Blacker and his staff for their hard work, the caterers for an excellent meal, members of the trade who donated prizes and last but not least Headingley Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course.

I am writing this having just returned from the ISEKI National Tournament at Moor Allerton. Northern section members in that team were Edward Walsh, Dave Collins and Mick Hannan. The hospitality shown by Iski was tremendous and thanks go to them for the support they give to BIGGA.

Don't forget our Winter lectures and please ring me to book the Christmas golf and the trip to Ransomes.

Two of our reps moving around are Alan Bullah striking out on his own with Greenkeeping Services. Also changing companies is Steve Burroughs who has moved from GEM to horticulture and amenity specialists N. Hutchings Ltd. Good luck to you both.

News reaches me of the retirement of a former chairman and secretary of our section John Scott of Wetherby G.G. On behalf of the section we all wish you a long and happy retirement.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH COAST SECTION

Encouraged to Joe Bu Benedict for the following notes on the Section’s Autumn Tournament, played at the Isle of Purbeck Golf Course, on Thursday, October 6.

The weather forecast was forever true, and the morning round was played during much needed rain, but unwelcome for our tournament the afternoon round was played in much nicer conditions.

A ‘field’ of 47 players took part in the event sponsored by Roffey Brothers Limited and Frys of Gosport and the prize table was a credit to their interest in golf greenkeepers.

J.T. Lowe Limited put up two bottles of Champagne for the longest drive on the 2nd hole, which was won quite convincingly by Mark Webb of Alresford with a drive of some 292 yards.

Synchelastics/Vitax put up a bottle of whisky as first prize in the draw, which was organised by Ian Greenfield during the evening meal.

Eric James officiated on behalf of Ken Lodge, who was unable to be present, and thanked the Host Club Directors for their generosity in permitting the Courtesy of the Course to the Greenkeepers, to the Co-Sponsors Roffey Brothers Limited and Frys of Gosport for their generosity in providing the prizes on display (Peter Hampton of Roffey Brothers further supplemented the prize table with 2 navy jumpers).

Mr James then requested the sponsors to present the prizes and sweeps to the winners:

Overall winner 36 hole foursome/greensome points: The Trophy and a pair Crystal Rose Bowls: Bernard Emberley and Paul Hector, Knighton Heath; 64 points.

Runners-up: pair leath writing cases: Mark Diment and Derek Cheetham, Knighton Heath; 58 points. Third - pair 12 piece China Coffee Sets: Charles Burke and John Walker, Boscombe; 56 points.

Surviving best scores morning foursome points: Joint winners - pair navy blue jumpers: Dave Norman and Alan Mousley - Isle of Purbeck; 30 points - pair ‘waisted’ crystal tankards: Adrian Panks and Eric Jennings - Dowstairs; 30 points.

Surviving best score afternoon greensome points: Bob Walker - Boscombe and Joseph Burdett - Brokenhurst Manor; 34 points.

Congratulations to Joe and his partner, Bob Walker, for their victory in the main event sponsored by the referee having to be called after a short putt was given, the ball appearing to be blown into the hole before it could be picked up.

The ruling was that the concession stood.

One new appointment in the section this month sees Bob McKay arriving as Head Greenkeeper at St Nicholas via Dumfries and County then Douglas in Cork.

Congratulations are in order to Chris Kennedy on his appointment as Golf Course Manager at Wentworth.

DUNCAN GRAY

SOUTH WEST SECTION

The annual match against the Welsh Section at St. Pierre is over with a diplomatic half. Heartily congratulations to the match captain Adrian Stiff for bringing the team through the season unbeaten. The first time this has been done in the last five years.

Ten greenkeepers from the South West recently attended a one day course on the P&EA (Pesticides) Foundation module. Another such course could easily be arranged at Cannington College if sufficient numbers come forward, greenkeepers do not necessarily have to be Association members to attend this one.

Two dates for your diaries:

Christmas competition and luncheon, Weston Super Mare G.C. on 14th December.

New Year’s Meeting, Bath Golf Club, Sham Castle, Bath, 18 holes morning and tour of course for non-players then lunch followed by afternoon speakers. This is on January 10. In the event of the course being closed by snow the afternoon lectures will still go ahead. We look forward to full support.

PAUL WORSTER