GREENKEEPING

January '90

NORTH-WEST SECTION

I am writing to several golf clubs in anticipation of our 1990 tournaments, so once I have confirmation and dates they will be included in the section notes.

One date for your diary is Wednesday, February 7 at Bury G.C. Ian Proudler of Endfield Nurseries will give a talk on the choice of trees and shrubs for golf courses. It is important that the right choice is made when planting trees, not only for trees that suit your type of course, but also to enhance the aesthetic quality of your course. So come along at 2 pm and listen to the expert. Why not bring along your greens chairman? I would be glad to hear of any suggestions for winter lectures that members may have, so give me a ring on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

EAST MIDLANDS SECTION

Our section A.G.M. was held at Melton Mowbray Golf Club on November 13. Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Melton Mowbray for the courtesy of the course and the use of the clubhouse in the evening for our A.G.M.

Also thanks to the catering and bar staff for the hospitality shown to us. With a good thick blanket of 1st mist over the course, it looked as good a condition as any in the section, many thanks to my staff for their efforts.

Maxwell Hart presented us with a shield to be played for at our section's next 1990 tournaments, so once I have confirmation and dates they will be included in the section notes.

I would like to wish him, on our section's behalf, every happiness with their new home.

GORDON MITCHELL

SOUTH COAST SECTION

As mentioned in my last section notes, the South Coast Section is hosting a Regional Greenkeeper's Seminar on Tuesday, 13 March 1990 at Sparsholt College, Hampshire.

Your Chairman, Secretary and Eric James have met as a working group to plan the Seminar and, with the support of Speakers Committee and Regional Administrator, Gordon Childs, have finalised the programme.

Papers will be given on golf course conservation, 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 BAGGA members and £15 for non-members.

Please support this seminar by your attendance and by circulating details to club secretaries, chairmen of greens and any other interested members of your club. Members of other Sections and regions reading these notes are most welcome to attend. I will be circulating programmes to other Section secretaries.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation of attendance and by circulating details to club secretaries, chairmen of greens and any other interested members of your club. Members of other Sections and regions reading these notes are most welcome to attend. I will be circulating programmes to other Section secretaries.

A programme for 1990 was mapped out - more details of these events later.

COLIN SWINGLER

SCOTTISH REGION

The section A.G.M. was held at Stonehaven G.C. on November 30 with 26 members present. Chairman John Flint presided and was re-elected along with Dougal Duguid and Gordon Moir as Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. B. Anderson, N. MacLeod were re-elected and G. Campbell was elected as Membership Secretary.

Those present were informed of our intention to run another lottery next year and that the details of the package was explained was that it was fair value for money.

John Hinton from B.A.S.F. (Badische, Anilin and Soda Fabrik) who came to Beaconsfield Golf Club on November 21st to give an excellent lecture "Fertilisers - An Essential Management Tool" to our members.

His very informative talk was backed by slides which gave a background to fertilisers, their uses and effects and why they are necessary to plants. The evening was a big success and was enjoyed by all. Our thanks also go to Beaconsfield Golf Club for the kind use of their facilities, and to Bill Patterson, Head Greenkeeper, for organising the food and drink which was gratefully received. John has reached means that we offer our congratulations to Dave and Caroline Chil (Dave is currently Head Greenkeeper at Ellesborough Golf Club) on the birth of a son, Joshua David, weighing in at 8lb 6oz. Also to Dave and Jeanne Duke, also on the birth of a son, 4lb 13oz Anthony David. (Dave is currently Deputy Course Manager at Badgesmore Park Golf and Country Club). We wish them every happiness with their new arrivals.

We welcome to our section Gary Armstrong, who has left Woodington Golf Club to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Cherwell Edge Golf Club. We wish him all the best there.

I have just heard that David White has resigned his post as Editor of Greenkeeping Management, and I would like to wish him on our section's behalf, all the best for the future. From myself, I would like to say many thanks for all the help that you have given to me over the past months. Good luck, David.

Finally, by the time this edition reaches you, our Christmas Turkey Trot competition will have taken place, and Christmas itself will have come and gone, so a full report will follow in next month's edition.

HARVEY TRIBE

BERK. BUCKS. AND OXON SECTION

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Section would like to express their thanks to Mr John Hinton from B.A.S.F. (Badische, Anilin and Soda Fabrik) who came to Beaconsfield Golf Club on November 21st to give an excellent lecture "Fertilisers - An Essential Management Tool" to our members.

Mr John Hinton from B.A.S.F. Fertilisers gave a most interesting talk on "Fertilisers - A Tool To Management". Afterwards a lively discussion developed which was most enjoyable.

We must most sincerely thank John for coming as the weather was terrible and the forecast even worse. John travelled from Suffolk to give the lecture. Refreshments were provided by B.A.S.F. - our grateful thanks.

The evening was disappointing in as much as the attendance was poor. Maybe members were deterred by the weather conditions.

Our A.G.M. followed and Mr Graeme Patrick was elected as Section Chairman replacing John Donaldson who has retired. Mr David Waldren has become Vice-Chairman and John Scothey has joined the committee.

A programme for 1990 was mapped out - more details of these events later.

OSWALD SCOTT
The morning was concluded in a breathtaking 45 minutes. Our thanks go to Stonehaven G.C. for the use of the course and also granting us the courtesy of the course for those who played in the morning.

The Section offers their congratulations to Donald McDonald and Seonser on the Isle of Skye, Steven McDonald of Fortrose and Martin Fraser of Inverness who took the first 3 places respectively from 18 YTS students on a 1st year course at Elmwood College. Well done lads and a continuation of this in future years will open up a great career for you.

Also congratulations must go to Bob Hardie for being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Streethpeffer G.C. where Donny Dingwall is due to retire and congratulations and welcome to the North of Scotland to James Ogilvay of Lanarkshire who takes over at Kingussie where Malcolm McDonald is also retiring.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with items for the magazine and please keep the information coming and the Section hopes all its members had a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

The region organised its first Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club in May, and your presence at the event was much appreciated. The Region will have a new event to look forward to on March 22. This will be known as the Westurf '90, on May 2.

Well, hopefully that's the end of 1989. The region organised its first Westurf '90, on May 2. Our thanks to the trade for their help and support, and we look forward to an even more successful year to come. With a number of exhibitors already coming in, and a much wider publicity campaign, I am sure Westurf will become 'bigga and better'.

June saw our Iseki Regional Tournament at East Devon Golf Club on a glorious day. There was a friendly atmosphere for which we have East Devon and Iseki to thank.

The nine golfers all took part in the national final at Moor Allerton Golf Club in October.

In August the region hosted the National Tournament at Lyme Regis Golf Club. After a bumpy start on the first day, due to the weather everyone got into the swing of things, and it became a very enjoyable occasion.

The coach tours were a great success, and also the skittles 'nite'. As for the golf, the standard of play was very good, and we as a region are proud to have the National Champion, and also the winner of the best gross at the Iseki Final in Paul Newcombe. Well done Paul!

The seminar at Somerset College on November 1 was very enlightening for those who attended, but we hope to see more members in the future.

For 1990, a seminar on March 13 will take place at Sparsholt College. This has been arranged by the South Coast Section, who have produced an excellent programme. Your support is much appreciated.

The Region will have a new event to look forward to on March 22. This will be known as the Westcountry Greenkeeping Championship, which is to be hosted by the Region. The event will be followed by a day's golf and putting competition, for members, trade and guests.

For the ladies there will be a "mystery tour" leaving the golf club at 10.30 am, including a light lunch. The three-course dinner will be followed by coffee and after dinner speakers, namely Mr. Ray Reardon, ex-World Snooker Champion, and Mr. Philip Parker, President of the Devon Golf Union. Dress will be lounge suits or blazers. For further information please contact your Regional Administrator.

Finally, thanks to the sec-
associations has proved beyond doubt that it was the right decision for the future of British greenkeeping, and you now have an Association that three years ago was only a pipe-dream. 

GORDON CHILD

SOUTH WALES SECTION

We held our annual match in October at St. Pierre against the South-West Section and there was glorious weather for the competition. The games were well fought out with the result being a draw, three points apiece. I am led to understand this is the same result as last year and the South-West retain the shield as they did last year.

Having just completed in the finals at Moor Allerton Golf Club, I would like to say how nice it was to be part of it. Although being apprehensive at taking part and being the sole qualifier from our section, the boys from the South-West soon dispelled all the fears I had.

The three days started with the coach arriving late, but we finally got to the golf club in time for nine holes practice after which we moved to our "digs" at Ashkam Bryan College, where food and accommodation were provided.

The day of the final was sunny but cold with the wind getting up and proving difficult to one and all. Everybody enjoyed the golf on a course in excellent condition. Many thanks to Moor Allerton Golf Club and Iseki UK for making my three days very enjoyable. PS Congratulations to Les Shrub, winner of the final—one of my playing partners.

Cardiff Golf Club played host to the first seminar on drainage of golf course and sportsturf surfaces jointly organised by BIGGA and Pencoeo college.

The seminar was opened by the principal of the college who set out his views and future plans for the involvement of his college in greenkeeper education and training. The lectures began with Peter Gillard who is lecturer in turf culture at Pencoeo College who gave a speech on Soils and Drainage, his views were followed up by a joint talk by Mr. Albert Francis Grounds Manager, Cardiff Athletic Club and Mr. Graham Cox, Head Greenkeeper Cardiff Golf Club telling us the problems of sport ground and golf course drainage.

The final speech was given by Mr. Derek Clarke of the D.W. Clarke group of companies who is also Chairman of the land drainage association who was telling us about modern drainage techniques and practices which also included a slide show to support his views.

In the afternoon Mr. Clarke gave a demonstration using one of his company’s tractor mounted pipe laying machines. Also on show was a Twose soil conditioner which is vital in relieving soil compaction in turf.

Both the demonstration and lectures while being educational were not too technical as to confuse those attending, making it a very enjoyable and interesting day.

May I take this opportunity to pass on the section’s congratulations to John Walsh and his wife after their marriage, this was tinged with a bit of sadness as John has recently undergone surgery for cancer and I am led to believe that his family have taken him back to Ireland to see his family over there.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to John and his wife at this time. 

P. SWAIN

NORTHERN SECTION

A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Chairman and Committee of the Northern Section. I hope to see many of our Section members at the forthcoming European Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate from January 24 to 26. Forthcoming lectures feature Patrick Crowley on Thursday, January 18 at Moor Allerton who will speak on "Conservation Gardening at Home and Work" and on Thursday, February 22, Keith Boyce of Headingly Cricket Ground will speak on cricket groundsmanship. Feel free to bring a guest along.

The trip to Ransomes in Ipswich looks like being cancelled due to lack of interest.

BOB LUPTON

MID ANGLIA SECTION

A November lecture was held at St Neots GC. This was given by Danny Godfrey of Inter Seeds Ltd. The very foggy weather prevented a large turnout, many members missing what proved to be a very interesting and informative talk. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Godfrey.

The annual general meeting of the section was held at St Neots on November 14. In the absence of the Chairman/Secretary Paul Fitzjohn, the meeting was chaired by Gerald Bruce. The first item of business was to read a letter from Paul Fitzjohn in which he tendered his resignation as Chairman/Secretary. This he explained was due to his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Parkstone GC. Paul was thanked for his services to the section, who sent him best wishes for the future.

The secretary’s report was read. This itemised the achievements of our members in competitions, both local and national. The treasurer’s report was presented in the form of a balance sheet. A vote of thanks was proposed to Les Wakereal for his efforts as treasurer. The match secretary informed us that 1990’s fixtures are being finalised and will be published soon. Ken Bunting was thanked for his continued hard work as match secretary.

The following members were elected to office: Chairman Gerald Bruce, tel. 0442 69094, Vice-Chairman/Regional Rep John Wells, tel. 0707 321663, Secretary Geoff Smith, tel. 0727 65964 and Treasurer Les Wakereal. Match Secretary is Ken Bunting, tel. 044 284 3359, Regional Rep Paul Lockett, tel. 0604 700368 and committee member Bob Goodwin, tel. 0442 84 2434. The above six will form the committee.

Two main items arose from

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AROUND THE GREEN

"any other business": Firstly, there was concern that the number of members attending competitions was falling, it was felt this was caused by poor communication and rising prices. The committee promised to look into both these matters at the first opportunity. Secondly the section is in possession of an old trophy presented by Bob Plain and David Craig. This trophy is to be played for an inter club fourball better ball. The details have yet to be finalised. A vote of thanks was made to St. Neots GC for providing the use of their clubhouse enabling us to hold both a lecture and the A.G.M. The meeting closed at 3.35 pm.

GEFF SMITH

EAST ANGLIAN SECTION

Our A.G.M./golf day took place at Bury in November. Not a very big turn out. The meeting was chaired by "Uncle Sam" with his usual wit and charm. There is a slight change in the officers, who are as follows: President: John Moyle, Vice President: Bob Chesham, Chairman: Sam Sylvester, Vice Chairman: M. Peters, Handicap Competition Liaison Officer: Mick Clarke.

We are now in the "stay at home" time of year. If you have anything you want putting in this section send it to me please, care of Eaton Golf Club, and I'll willingly pass it on.

Just a few dates for 1990. All golf: Feltham - Apr 1, Gorleston - June, Bently - Aug, Quietwaters - October. Venues please for 1991. Possibilities are Eaton, Gogs and Bishop Winterfield and Stuart Greenfields. Any other business? Ian McNab drove from Dunfries which meant he was on the road longer than the duration of the meeting. A bit more of this type of enthusiasm would be very welcome!

AYRSHIRE SECTION

The highlight of this month has been the Inglis visit. 'Scotsstuff' just gets better and better, being as much a social occasion as a working day.

Our section has to run two buses this year, taking 74 passengers. I just wish some of these would attend our section AGM, which always has the same old faces, with just an odd new man to help on committee.

DUNCAN GRAY

EAST SCOTTISH SECTION

A number of important events have taken place since the last report. The W. Woods Memorial Trophy was played for over Winterfield G.C. The winner of this trophy which brings together the greenkeepers and members of their club councils were P. Bowden and K. Fairrieve of Newbattle G.C. with a nett score of 65. Our thanks go to all competitors the council of Winterfield and Stuart Greenwood and his staff for the first class condition of the course.

The annual match against the North East of England sponsored by Stewart and Co was played over Kingsknowe G.C. This resulted in a great win for the Scots by five games to one. It is always a pleasure to see the lads from the North East and we are already looking forward to the return match in 1990. Our thanks go to Stewart and Co for their continued sponsorship and to Kingsknowe for the courtesy of the course.

Our annual general meeting was held on November 22 at Gogarburn. A lecture and slide show prior to the A.G.M. was presented by T. Sherriff of Dunbar and 35 members sat through an enjoyable talk on the John Deer Company. This lecture was of the highest quality. The A.G.M. started at 11 am and we were delighted to see so many members in attendance. Chairman J. Easton retired after two years service and was replaced by his Vice-Chairman S. Dixon. Jim's two years has helped put this section back on its feet. Chris Yeaman is the new Vice-Chairman.

The annual dance was held at Turnhouse G.C. We were very proud to have as guests the Scottish President Elliot Small and his wife Edna. The I.O.G. exhibition at Ingleston was another great success. There are two centenary celebrations next year in the East. Both Glencorse G.C. and Goswick G.C. are 100 years old. An article on both of these well known clubs will appear in one of the issues of the magazine in 1990.

W. BLAIR

SURREY SECTION

The "Huxley Bowl!" has long been a section event. The tournament begins early in the year, as members pick their partners for a competition which will hopefully carry them through to the final in November.

The 1989 "Huxley Bowl!" received a total of forty entrants, comprising twenty pairs who form the first round draw. The home drawn pair then hold the responsibility for arranging the fixture, to be played by a set date. Following the match all results are then forwarded to the secretary, and this procedure continues through the year.

This year's final was contested over 36 holes, between Michael Lower (Chipstead GC), his partner Andy Davey (RAC Country Club), and Jeff Chambers and Colin Sopp, both of Leatherhead GC.

The first leg was played on Saturday, November 4, at Chipstead GC. Although on home territory, Head Greenkeeper Michael Lower found himself and partner Andy Davey two down after the 18 holes.

On Saturday, November 11, the finalists renewed their duel on the concluding 18 holes at Leatherhead GC. On a glorious sun soaked afternoon, it was Andy and Michael, approaching in his third consecutive final, who drew first blood, winning the opening hole. But it was to be a steady performance by Colin and Jeff, along with some local knowledge, that saw them finally pull clear to win 5 and 4, and become the holders of the 1989 "Huxley Bowl!".

As the entries start to come in for the 1990 "Huxley Bowl!" I would like to thank all those who took part in '89, for their quick reports of matches and results, which enabled me to run a smoother tournament with their help. It is good to see many of Surrey's members taking part in a year-long competition, which sees them playing as many different courses throughout the County, and I look forward to the 1990 "Huxley Bowl!". Once again congratulations to the 1989 winners, Colin Sopp and Jeff Chambers.

MIK WELLS

AYRSHIRE SECTION

The highlight of this month has been the Inglis visit. 'Scotsstuff' just gets better and better, being as much a social occasion as a working day.

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IAN MCNAB

MIDLANDS SECTION

Our winter meetings start on February 12th at Walsall G.C. at 7.30. Mr. John Hinton from BASF will give a talk on grass nutrition, please support the section by attending.

Congratulations to Peter Woodward on his appointment as Course Manager at Moor Hall GC. Also to Arnold Phipps-Jones on his appointment as Course Manager at a Belgium GC. Roger Williams has taken over from Arnold as the new Regional Administrator and I am sure will do an excellent job.

IVAN TOON