SOUTH WALES SECTION

RECENT Appointments: Colin Reilly recently took over at Pennard Golf Club. He was first assistant at Royal Birkdale before the trip to Wales. Huw Thomas took over from John Hopkins at Pontardawe Golf Club. He is a local lad who used to work for the council.

Another council worker who has taken over in the private sector is David Waters, who used to work for Newport Borough Council at Cefncoed. He is off to work for Newport as David Waters, who is due to retire and his wife who he married in October, and I hope they will be very happy together in whatever they will be doing in the future.

We would pass on our best wishes to all the above in their new positions.

On Wednesday, April 11 we held our spring meeting at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, where we were treated to a splendid meal from the indoor staff. The weather was good with the rain staying away long enough for everyone to enjoy the day. There was a good turnout once again and I would like to thank all those who sent their tickets.

Third was Lyndon Williams with a score of 109, he won a bottle of whisky donated by Avoncrop of Leeds. These were donated by the administrator of Wenvoe Castle Golf Club on June 14.


G. Cox and N. Owens were disqualified because they had not paid their subscriptions for 1990. Therefore their places went to the reserves P. Swain and M. Norfolk.

PHILLIP SWAIN

SOUTH WEST SECTION

The sun always shines on the righteous — well nearly always, it certainly did at Long Ashton on April 26th for the S.W. Isleki qualifier.

I would have thought that more than 13 out of 94 could have turned up, never mind at least we all qualified for the Regional Final.

The course was in first rate early condition, a true credit to our National Chairman Ivor Scoones and his hard working staff. 1st R. Mofill 83:12:71 on last 9, 2nd J. Kane 77:6:71; 3rd P. Worster 79:3:76; 4th L. Millar 81:4:77.

With many thanks to Morro’s, Browns, Avoncrop and Peter Hampton for the prizes.

The spring one day FEPA course had to be cancelled due to a clash of dates. Further days can be organised in the autumn, please advise numbers to me as soon as possible.

In the meantime I’ll look forward to welcoming you all to Lilley Brook on July 11 for the 18 hole summer tournament. (I expect we’ll be Verti Draining the greens or something.) If you all promise to turn up. I’ll promise to leave the Verti Draining and top dressing until the next day (Lady Captains Day).

Finally condolences to all at Filton Golf Club on the sudden death of Andrew Wilson, deputy head greenkeeper, after a short illness. Our sympathy in particular to his widow Lisa.

PAUL WORSTER

SURREY SECTION

HERE may be apathy surrounding, but it seems we are still attracting applications for membership from young greenkeepers.

At the last count Surrey had 226 members. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our events through the year, as

Cont. on Page 22

Aeration & Drainage Services

offer the following

1. AERATION

Verti Drain hire/Twose Turf Conditioner & Robin Dagger - we are, at present running 4 Verti Drains (various sizes) and can offer tine sizes from 1/2” diameter by 12” long at 2 inch centres. Also available Hollow tines. Therefore we can cater for any Verti Draining need such as Greens, Tees and Fairways, etc.

Twose - this machine operates by way of seven vibrating blades which are pulled through the ground in a similar fashion to small mole ploughs, therefore relieving compaction and improving surface drainage.

Robin Dagger - This very light and portable machine injects oxygen into the soil and around the roots.

2. DRAINAGE/SANDBLITTING

Wizz Wheel Trencher + Backfill sand/gravel hopper this is to be available on a weekly rate (min. hire 3 days) should you just require trenches excavated to be backfilled by yourselves, or, quotations can be submitted for complete sand slitting/ drainage programmes including ‘Hitek’ stripdrain.

3. CONSTRUCTION/ALTERATION

Should you find the work load too great on your own greenstaff regarding construction/alterations of greens tees and bunkers, etc., we would be pleased to submit a quotation for such projects.

Paul Wright, Aeration & Drainage Services, 20 Westminster Close, Eastbourne, Sussex BN22 0LQ

Tel: Eastbourne (0323) 506725 Mobile: (0860) 838241. Fax: (0323) 411980

June 90
join Orchard Lea Park in Bath as their new Course Manager. Filling his shoes at Hindhead is Tony Miley, Bobby's, former deputy.

We were able to publish his number etc next month after he's had time to find his way around the job a bit.

A quick mention that the gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath was attended by 144 people, of whom 125 sat down to a marvelous meal and saw Jack McMillan presented with a statuette by the South Coast region, as a token of all our appreciation of sterling work in furthering the cause of greenkeepers and greenkeeping.

Also at Walton Heath, the spring meeting was a great success. Our thanks go to ICI, the main sponsor, and to the Parkers, the local iseki dealer along with all our other trade friends who help with prizes etc. The winners of those prizes are as follows: 1st L. Hogg 138 net; 2nd D. Woodward 139 net; 3rd T. Hall, 140 net; 4th S. Haines 141 net.

This was an iseki regional qualifying event, and the final takes place at Sudbury on July 4. More news as it happens! The next event on our golfing calendar is The Cresta Cup at New Zealand on June 11 at 3:30 p.m. The cost is £12.50 for 18 holes stableford and a buffet supper.

There is no start sheet, so turn up, team up, and enjoy your golf! The annual England v Scotland match is to be played at Hindhead on August 13. Captains are Clive Cogood for England and Stuart Macmillan for Scotland.

Talking of Hindhead, a few changes in personnel. Firstly Bobby Macmillan has left to

A R O U N D   T H E   G R E E N

NORTH EAST SECTION

O n April 26 we made our first visit to Alnmouth G.C. to play the spring competition. The weather was perfect and made a change of not playing in the wind that's been hampering this forgotten part of England for the past three months.

Thanks is in order to the committee of Alnmouth for the courtesy of use of course and to the steward for meals provided. Thanks also to the greenkeeping staff for the fine condition of the course. We were surprised to find not only were preferred lies on fairways but in the semi rough! Apparently they always do this.

Thanks to Mr Barry Poole, the Publishing Director of the greenkeeping magazine for giving an update on how BIGGA is progressing and for presenting prizes.

Our thanks go to the sponsors: Stewart's, Ryton Gravel Co., Bland Short, and Turfcare Supplies. I shudder to think how we would survive without these four companies who help us, out immensely, and also to Fewsters, Hayter, Patinsons and finally R. Allken.

RESULTS:


JIMMY RICHARDSON

DEVON AND CORNWALL SECTION

T his year's guest day meeting was held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday April 3. With the weather being more like a winter's day 26 pairs of hardy souls ventured out on to the course to compete for the best combined stableford scores.

The prizes were kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery, Parkins and Ed Simcox of Jacobsen.


Our thanks must go to George Bailey and his greenstaff for the superb condition of this course. Also the Launceston Golf Club for allowing the section use of their club and course.

With this being our last meeting until the autumn I would like to wish you all a successful season and look forward to seeing you all next autumn.

RICHARD WHYMAN

LONDON SECTION

F irst of all the London Section sends its regards and best wishes to Jim Cameron who takes a new post as Head Greenkeeper at Tanderton Golf Club in Kent. Also congratulations to Christopher Granestock who replaces Jim at Grys Dyke Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper. Talking of Grys Dyke our spring meeting was held at the club on April 28, although the day was poorly attended, Phillips who did play enjoyed themselves, and some good scores were recorded.

The iseki Tournament qualifying competition was played in the morning and the qualifiers and scorers were as follows:

Category 0-9 handicap: 1st Darren Burdis, Porters Park, net 68 off 9 handicap. 2nd Craig Handside, Hadley Wood, net 70 off 4 handicap. 3rd Gareth Roberts, North Middlesex, net 71 off 4 handicap. 4th Martin Smith, Porters Park, net 76 off 5 handicap.


Well done to all the qualifiers and good luck at Sudbury in the South East region final. Let's see a good contingent of our lads in the national final at Fulford later in the year. The
AYRSHIRE SECTION

T'S been all go this past few weeks, what with trying to fight the usual Ayrshire spring weather and the hordes of hackers digging their clubs out of the attic at the first hint of sunshine.

It's very difficult to get the immediate, perfect conditions every golfer seems to expect at the start of each season. I had a most enjoyable visit to London early in April for the BIGGA conference. The speakers really sparked off some great discussions. It's a pity the food didn't quite match up, but I suppose we can't have everything. After seeing the drought conditions down there, I'm not sure if I prefer too much rain or not enough. It would be nice to be able to share it.

Talking about London, sincere congratulations to Bob Bennet from the Glasgow Golf Club who has landed the task of looking after Sunnyside in the footsteps of Jack McMillan. Knowing Bobby, I'm sure he will make a great job of it.

Our spring outing was a great success. It makes a change to hear complaints of too much heat, rather than the cold and rain but temperatures were up around 80°F all day giving rise to the dilemma of whether to pour the evening beer over the throat or over the poor feet.

Our thanks go to Kyle and Carrick District Council for giving the use of their local pitch and Darley courses for the outing, both of which were in excellent condition due to the efforts of Head Greenkeeper Brian Finlayson and Assistants Billy Fletcher and Pat Power.

In fact Brian and Billy both suffered for their efforts. Billy having to retire with sunstroke after eight holes in the afternoon, and Brian retreating at 12.45 a.m. for some reason he can't quite remember.

Just one last thing before the outing results, please, please can I have some news from around the area to give me some help with this column.

It is to keep you all informed, and if I don't know, I can't write here. Telephone 0292 70929 any lunchtime or late evening.

Outing results: Three Man Scramble on Darley: Par 71 6450 yds Chic White (1), Kirk Campbell (4), Billy Fletcher (14), 57 Gross (this is '14' under par, who says greenkeepers can't play golf)

Singles on Loch Green: par 73 - 7050 yards. Scratch - Chich White, Largs Kelburn 77, 1st Class 1st Duncan Gray, Kyle-Carrick 81-8-73, 2nd Alan Forest, Western Gales, 79-4-75.


JIM WYLIE

EAST ANGLIAN SECTION

O UR first tournament of the '90's was at Felixstowe Ferry on April 10.

A dry but cloudy day saw 40+ going in roughly the same direction.

George Newson had the course in its usual pristine condition. It was the first round of the Iseki Tournament but as there wasn't a representative of the company to be found we played for the Rushbrook Salver and guess who won it? Hot Toddy Huddleston, 38pts and no passes.

First and second in the 0-9 section were Alan Carter and Peter Howard, 34 and 33 pts.

First and second in the 10-18 section were Dave Wells and Sam Sylvester 35 and 33 pts. Mr. B. Millhard with 34 pts won the guest prize.

I have a list of reserves for the tournament.


Our thanks to Mr. Jim Cowan the club captain and members of Felixstowe Ferry for allowing us courtesy of the course and making it a memorable day. Thanks also to our 'trade' members for valued support and prizes they were as follows: Rigby Taylor, Patisions, SISIS, Town and Country, Rushbrook's, Toro and Colliers.

MICK LATHROPE

EAST OF ENGLAND SECTION

O UR first meeting of 1990 was held on April 5 at Belton Park G.C.

I am eternally grateful to my own captain and committee for their help on this occasion.

The lecture was delivered by Jeff Taylor of John's Seeds. The subject was 'Golf Course Grasses and Wild Flowers'. This proved a most interesting topic to the members present.

Our thanks to John's Seeds who also provided the refreshments for the evening - these were laid-on by Jim Fulton our local representative.

Membership of the section has now risen to 52. As our area is very spread-out we would appreciate venues for meetings in the south of our area.

Our section chairman Graeme Patrick and myself, accompanied by our wives attended the international education conference at Egham. The lectures were varied, interesting and very well delivered making the three days fly by.

Our wives were given a very well planned tour of Windsor and London keeping them very content (house points scored). Many thanks to BIGGA from the wives.

COLIN SWINGER

Cont. on Page 24
Cont. from Page 23

SOUTH COAST SECTION

Details of the Section’s summer tournament are as follows: Venue - Highcliffe Castle Golf Club; date - Tuesday, 31st July; time - Tearing off from 1 p.m.; fee - £10 per person; closing date - 21st July.

The competition, consisting of a member and partner from their club, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four ball better ball. Written entries giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the current fee, of a member and partner from South Coast Section being formed. I believe volunteers are required to assist with the event, so if you would like to offer your services please contact me.

The twelve who qualified for the Autumn Tournament at Malton Golf Club, who attended the American greenkeepers convention in Orlando recently were: First Division - A. Leech, E. Walsh, G. Wilson, M. Han.

We thank Coventry Golf Club for making us so welcome and allowing us the use of their course and Clubhouse facilities. We also thank the steward and his wife for the excellent meal provided in the evening.

The tournament was won by J. Hooper and the scratch prize was won by N. Woofrey - well done both players. Many thanks to trade and trade members who donated both time and prizes which go towards running a successful tournament. John Hammond and Jim Guest did a very slick job in getting people started on time both morning and afternoon.

Finally, I must thank Mike Hughes and Steve Wood, who organised and ran the tournament so efficiently. It was mentioned that we might arrange to run a coach certainly seem to be shaping up well down there and I am sure that he will find the travelling a lot more to his liking, as you can see his house from the course, some 10 minutes away, rather than his former hour or so trip to Canterbury (road works permitting).

I understand that we are soon to be joined by another Scotsman who will be taking over at Tenterden. Perhaps we will soon be able to play England vs SCotland matches in the section on our golf days.

Of course I am only joking - we would probably have trouble scraping together a team, especially if the weather is very poor attendance at the last Spring Lecture by Inter Seeds at West Malling last month, the support for which certainly calls into question whether we will be organising any educational lectures for next year.

Paul Cospes has returned to Barnhurst Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper, with more than one or two problems to sort out, certainly no question of place of origin here as he was born in a maternity home overlooking the 2nd green 26 years ago.

On the subject of information I seem to be in competition with Andy Johnson at Sene Valley as to who is the last in the county to receive his magazine, if one arrives at all, that is.

Fortunately I have been able to borrow a copy to read for the past couple of months, although I would like my own copy of the Ransomes Group magazine, if one arrives at all, especially in view of the very poor attendance at the last Spring Lecture by Inter Seeds at West Malling.

It is for YOU. Don’t forget to put pen to paper and let me know the things that are happening in your neck of the woods.

P. COPSEY

Editor’s note . . . Point taken Paul about the distribution problem. I have spoken to the appropriate sources to rectify the problem - let me know if my actions are ineffective. As for the Ransomes quip . . . ouch! Below the belt. But serious greenkeeping management is climbing aboard the low wage bandwagon in a big way. Watch this space in the months to come, as they say. In the meantime if you feel the magazine’s balance is unfair pick up the phone and let me know. Better still why not throw a few stories my way I’d love to hear from you, and, in fact all the members.

Section secretaries please note . . . The Around the Green section is for YOU. Don’t forget to put pen to paper and let me, and everyone else know what’s going on in your neck of the woods.

NORTH-WEST SECTION

Soaking up the Florida sun - and learning a lot about greenkeeping in the United States - was Chris Rother, pictured, of Loch Lomond Golf Club, who attended the American greenkeepers convention in Orlando recently.

NORTHERN SECTION

The spring tournament took place in glorious sunshine at Selby Golf Club.

The twelve who qualified for the Autumn Tournament at Malton and Norton Golf Club on Wednesday, October 10 - £5 deposit please.

BOB LUPTON

KENT SECTION

We seem to be entering the silly season again when staff are on the move, which seems to come about every couple of years as members seek pastures new.

The most notable move is that of John Millen from Canterbury to the new development at the Weald of Kent Golf Club near Headcorn. Under John’s guidance things certainly seem to be shaping up well down there and I am sure that he will find the travelling a lot more to his liking, as you can see his house from the course, some 10 minutes away, rather than his former hour or so trip to Canterbury (road works permitting).

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