

SECTIONAL News

SHEFFIELD

Hon. Sec: Frank Barratt,
46 Lister Avenue,
Sheffield S12 3FP.
Telephone: (0742) 399941

All members of the section, and indeed all greenkeepers will be saddened by the death of George Herrington. George was a good man in the broadest sense of the word, and will be greatly missed.

The Annual Slater Trophy match, Sheffield versus Northern Section was held this year at Heworth Golf Club, York. The Sheffield Section thank all concerned for a very pleasant day, even the weather was kind. There was of course a snag, the Northern Section won, yet again.

Six days after the debacle at Heworth, the Autumn Tournament was played at Hallowes Golf Club, and again the section thank all concerned for a pleasant afternoon.

The result was:-

J. McNickolas	(2 up)
R. Needham	(2 up)
K. B. Heaney	(2 up)

The opening talk of the winter series was a non event, our promised speaker Mr. M. Farrant of Farrant Chemicals (Soil Life) did not turn up. Although this had been a long standing date, asked for by Mr. Farrant, confirmed by letter and again at the Windsor Exhibition where Henry Gillespie, Barry Heaney and myself had a long talk with Mr. Farrant, he saw fit to cancel our arrangement by a phone call late the night previous to his proposed talk, this left the section without a speaker. I find this cavalier attitude difficult to understand, particularly when the people being so badly treated are potentially customers of a product not yet fully proven.

The November talk will be given by Mr. David Stansfield of The Sports Turf Research Institute; Hillsborough Golf Club, 2.30 p.m. November 6th.

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain,
6 Locke Street, Newport,
Gwent NP1 5HL

On Wednesday 9th October we held our annual match against the South-West at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club.

The match was a well-fought affair played with enthusiasm.

This year it was the year of the South-West yet again.

RESULTS:

P. Swain v. G. Wissett	Won 1 up
T. Thompson v. C. Lewis	Won 2 & 1
D. Jones v. L. Walters	Lost 4 & 2
H. Fry v. W. Jones	Lost 2 & 1
J. Walsh v. R. Kitcher	Lost 5 & 4
T. Gray v. D. Williams	Lost 4 & 3

The South-West won 4-2

Dates for 1986:

17th April: Wenvoe Castle Golf Club
10th July: Dinas Powis Golf Club

NORTH EAST

Hon. Sec: J. S. Richardson,
20 Aston Way, Clavering Park,
Whickham, Tyne & Wear
Telephone: 886765

On the warmest day of the year we held our annual Autumn Meeting at Arcot Hall Golf Club.

I would like to thank Peter Henderson and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, the committee for their courtesy and the steward for the excellent meals.

Thanks also to the trade for supporting the section and the donation of prizes.

TROPHY WINNERS:

Best Gross: (Salver)
C. Handyside (Gosforth G.C.) (7)
(Carriage Clock)
77 + 38 = 115

Best Nett: (Ransomes Cup & Watch)
J. S. Richardson (Whickham G.C.) (108½)
74 + 34½ = 108½

Greenlay Cup: (Wine Set)
J. Redhead (City of Newcastle G.C.)
76 + 33 = 109 Nett

Fewsters Shield: (Holdall)
I. Johnson (Stocksfield G.C.) (14)
76 + 33 = 109 Nett

Fisons Tankard (9 holes Competition):
J. S. Richardson (Whickham G.C.)
34½ Nett

Sisis Tankard:
I. Johnson (Stocksfield G.C.)
33 Nett

Our grateful thanks to the following:

Ryton Gravel Co. . Bland Short . Karsway
Parkside . Fewsters . Dixon Sports
Stewarts . Pattinsons . Bentleys
Supaturf . Fison . Sisis . Ransomes
Lloyds

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: S. Wood,
153 Dickinson Drive,
Bescot, Walsall,
West Midlands WS2 9DR
Telephone: (0922) 640291

On Wednesday 18th September we held our Autumn Tournament at Trentham Park G.C.

We would like to thank the committee and the members for giving us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse facilities.

Because of the International Exhibition that week our numbers were reduced to only 24 players, but a good day's golf was had by all.

A. Lewis won the gross competition with a fine one over par score for 27 holes, and also wins the best Gross Aggregate score from our three major Tournaments, for the second year running.

Best Nett:	67	25½	J. Humphries
Second:	69	34	M. Hughes
Third:	71	36	S. Wood
Fourth:	72	35	I. Toon

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

December 2nd:
Xmas Competition at Olton Golf Club, £9.00 each.
Contact A. Phipps-Jones (0684) 292892.

January 13th (Monday) - 7.30 p.m.):
Summer Golf Videos,
Moor Hall Golf Club.

February 10th (Monday) - 7.30 p.m.):
Lecture Moor Hall Golf Club

March 7th (Friday) - 2.00 p.m.):
Spraying and Chemicals
Telford Golf and Country Club:
Contact:
I. Toon (021) 308 7936 for details.

SOUTH COAST

Hon. Sec: J. R. Dennis,
Hampshire College of Agriculture,
Sparsholt, Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 2NF.
Telephone: (096) 272441 Ext. 288.

Over fifty members and guests took part in the Section's Autumn Tournament in September. This was a 36 hole Greensome Stableford Competition, held at Waterloo Golf Club. As usual, the Section is indebted to the Club officials for their hospitality, in particular to Laurie Carless and his staff for preparing the course to such a high standard. Thank you Laurie, and we were pleased you could join us for the evening meal and presentation.

Our thanks also to trade members for their contribution to the Prize Table.

Prize Winners were:-

1st	J. C. Newman (7)	79 pts.
	D. Grove (7)	
	DOWNSHIRE GOLF CLUB	
2nd	B. Emberley (7)	78 pts
	P. Hector (11)	
	KNIGHTON HEATH GOLF CLUB	
3rd	R. Walker (9)	74 pts
	J. Lister (20)	
	QUEENS PARK GOLF CLUB	
4th	J. Stimston (14)	74 pts
	R. Trim (Hon)	(11)
5th	C. Mitchell (9)	74 pts
	R. Lawrence	
	MAIDENHEAD GOLF CLUB	
6th	B. Forder (4)	72 pts
	W. Brackstone (15)	
	SOUTHAMPTON GOLF CLUB	

In the Annual match play Tournament between our Section and the South-West, our team had a handsome win of 5 matches to 1.

However, most games almost went to the 18th hole, so it was a very tight and hard fought match. Our thanks to Derek Cheetham, Head Greenkeeper at Knighton Heath Golf Club for arranging the competition.

I am pleased to report that Derek and his partner Bob Walker were 1 up at the end of their game.

New members since my last report:

Stephen Longyear
Phillip Ryder

(Both with Pennyhill Golf and Country Club)

NORTH WEST

Hon. Sec: David F. Golding,
Telephone: (061) 748 8592

The North-West Committee are unanimously agreed. Please study the reports etc., and if anybody has any views, please write to me as we on the Committee would like as many opinions as possible.

We feel that:-

- All Greenkeeping Associations should be 'united' under one Association in the future with a paid full-time Administrator.
- We do not accept the P.G.A. report in its present form and even in another form, we do not think it is in the interest of any Greenkeeper to be linked with the P.G.A.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES:

December 11th, 1985	'Trees on Golf Courses'
January 8th, 1986	'ICI/Maxwell Hart, Slow Release Fertilizers
February 12th, 1986	'SISIS Equipment'

Usual venue, The Old Cock Hotel, Stretford, at 8.00 p.m.
Junction 8 off the M63 towards Old Trafford.

DEVON & CORNWALL

Hon. Sec: Bill Pile,
33 Knowle Drive,
Exwick, Exeter EX4 2DF.
Telephone: 214053

Our Section were certainly blessed with good fortune on the day of our first meeting at Truro Golf Club on Wednesday October 16th. After several days of thick fog and mists causing havoc on the roads and delayed starts for golfing events, our day dawned clear and everyone had a good run down to Truro with the golf starting right on time.

Forty-two members attended the meeting and thirty went out on the course, kept in fine fettle by Dick (sorry, Richard) Parr and his staff, to contest for the Stanley West cup and Ransomes watch. The others were given a conducted tour of the course and work sheds which proved most interesting.

After a first class meal the cards were checked and the results were announced as follows:-

1st R. Whyman (Hcp 13)	40 pts.	Bude G.C.
2nd P. Bullen (Hcp 20)	20 pts.	Newquay G.C.
3rd C. Burgess (Hcp 18)	33 pts.	Droitwich G.C.

Keith Stuart kindly presented the prizes which had been donated by Stanley West Ltd.

The afternoon had been set aside for a discussion on greenkeeping practices, but although a lively debate took place it was on the various merits of the amalgamation of the B.G.G.A. with the P.G.A. and the alternative offer of assistance from the R & A and the golf unions. Our section were unanimous in support of more information on these propositions in the magazine. Certainly the P.G.A. offer should be printed in full also the minutes of all meetings with the R & A golf unions and other greenkeeping associations with any relevant comments from the B.G.G.A. executive.

MID ANGLIA

Hon. Sec: L. Wakerell,
26 Loxley Road, Berkhamsted,
Herts. HP4 3PS

The Autumn Tournament was held over 27 holes at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday 24th September.

Once again the weather was kind to the 33 competitors and Andrew Burden, a young assistant from John O'Gaunt Golf Club scored 23 points over the morning 9 holes and although steadying down in the afternoon with 33 points, the total 56 points was good enough to take the President's Watch and Trophy.

Second with 54 points (17 + 37) was Cyril Stevens, and third, playing his first Tournament was Steve Denton on 53 points, (17 + 36).

The morning prize was won by Bill O'Hanlon, with 18 points and the afternoon's best round (73 gross) for 43 points was easily good enough to win the Tea Set for young 'Loc' Millar, who we are pleased to welcome from the South West Section.

The course was in fine condition, and the greens absolutely superb, as they always are at Verulam thanks to Geoff Smith and his green staff.

We were delighted to have Mr. Peter Cooper, the Verulam Captain join us

LETTERS to The Editor

You may be aware that I had the honour to speak at the 5th International Greenkeeping Conference at St. Andrews, on behalf of the B.G.G.A. on the 8th October. This 4 day event was very well organised by S.I.G.G.A., and I personally was very well received, as I am sure was the Chairman, and the two members of the B.G.G.A. who, along with two members from E.I.G.G.A. made up the England team.

I attended all events on all four days, including walking 27 of the 36 holes played by the team. The support of the E.I.G.G.A. board was very much in evidence, in fact one member caddied for 36 holes. It was my pleasure to add my support to the team. So you will understand my feelings on Conference day that the support of your Chairman was missing, preferring by all accounts to leave St. Andrews and play golf elsewhere. The two members of the team, who also went to play golf that day at least came to me and apologised later.

It was at this Conference that the offer from the R.&A. to all Greenkeeping Organisations in Britain was made, but was missed by the B.G.G.A. officials.

This Conference was an eye-opener. To hear the true facts of the proposed merger with the P.G.A. is just one example. Ask yourselves, what do we get out of it? The answer is, a better organised administration, which would be welcome. A central headquarters, again very much a plus. So what has the P.G.A. to gain? Greenkeeper training, so they can take over your jobs? Well, that has got to be a possibility. They get much more strength, for a greenkeeper is a very important member of a golf club staff, and one which is hard to do without, but a club can run without the professional. I am not suggesting it should, but you must see my point.

They point out that more cash will be available. This may be true, but you should also be aware that most of this cash will come from your pockets. So what are the alternatives? I would like to see us make a move to the R.&A. for help, which will be given, and not at the cost of jobs.

The information passed down the line to B.G.G.A. members, that E.I.G.G.A. and S.I.G.G.A. are no more than splinter groups and struggling to get by is rubbish. That was evident at the Conference where they were very well organised and represented.

I listened to many comments made by different members of greenkeeping groups, as well as the press, and one cannot help feeling that unless we are very careful, the B.G.G.A. could end up very much the poor relations. This must not be allowed to happen.

It is my view that the past must now be forgotten, and a big effort made to bring the groups together as soon as possible. I realise that personality problems exist, which are difficult to overcome but if we are to look after the greenkeepers of the future, we cannot afford to let them stand in the way. So I beg all of you to find the common ground that must be there, and end this mess before it is too late. Working with the R.&A. has got to be better than the P.G.A. and no doubt will be taken up by both S.I.G.G.A. and E.I.G.G.A. so just for once we must be together.

I do not apologise to anyone this letter may offend, because I believe that all members of the B.G.G.A. should know what goes on, and if it brings to life some reaction then my letter has done some good. By the time you read this, it may be that some decisions have been taken on your behalf. I only hope they prove to be the right ones.
G. F. CHILD

NORTHERN

Hon. Sec: D. C. Hannam, 12 Moorfield Avenue, Menston, W. Yorks.
Telephone: (0943) 72008

Our Autumn Tournament this year visited yet another of Yorkshire's golfing jewels; Alwoodley.

With conditions comparable with the ideal summer, a keen group of speculators sampled and thoroughly enjoyed the delight of Hugh Marshall's magnificent course.

Our thanks to Hugh, his staff and Alwoodley Golf Club for permitting and providing such a super experience.

As this was the final fixture in our 1985 golf calendar we offer thanks to all clubs and greenkeepers responsible for making our year's golf such a success.

for dinner in the evening and present the prizes. We were also pleased to see the Vice-Captain, Mr. Len Beardow, our President, Don Reeder, and indeed many of our Vice-Presidents throughout the day.

The meals were most enjoyable thanks to Veronica Bentham, while husband Ben had a good supply of liquid refreshment on hand for those in need.

We thank the Captain and Members at Verulam for the warm welcome extended to us and of course thanks to the prize donors:

Mr. Don Reeder, our President.	
Supatuff Ltd	Rigby Taylor Ltd.
Pattissons Ltd	T. Parker and Sons Ltd.
Maxwell Hart Ltd	Ransomes Ltd.
Bentley's Ltd	Mr. Ben Bentham
Mr. Geoff Smith	

Another Section evergreen Tom Burns suffered a heart attack during September.

He lays the blame on stress, pointing out the needless tension created by people in "authority". Judging by what is known and heard, Tom could have a very valid point, worthy of further investigation. Who knows, perhaps our winter meetings might be better taken up by Yoga, Meditation or some other form of mind relaxation!

Tom, we are pleased to hear is on the mend.

Talking of winter meetings:-

November 14th
The British Association of Landscape Industrial
December 5th
Thatch, Irrigation, Nutrition and Aeration
From the S.T.R.I.
Moor Allerton Golf Club, 7.30 p.m.