

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.