



President's Report

Since the last executive, I have visited Elmwood College to give a talk to 24 greenkeepers. I feel that we, as head greenkeepers, with the experience of management, should get more involved in the teaching of younger greenkeepers.

Mike Taylor, head of the horticultural department, welcomes comments from greenkeepers about alterations to the course's context and would be delighted to have more experienced head greenkeepers who are prepared to talk to students on these courses.

I recently attended the STRI seminar at Dunfermline Golf Club. The lecturers were of exceptional quality, the organisation was first-class and the wine one of my

favourites!

I went to a meeting of the International Golf Tournament and symposium committee at St Andrews and am pleased to report that good progress is being made. Walter Woods, as chairman of the committee, has to be congratulated, along with his committee members, for the way things are being organised.

This is a very important fixture in the SIGGA calendar this year. For the first time, it is to be held in Scotland and we, as an association, in conjunction with Ransomes, must make it a success.

Walter, my vice-chairman, will give a full report on the event's progress later on.

Jimmy Neilson, SIGGA President.

East

A total of 52 members, guests and trade entered the annual spring tournament at Peebles GC.

A circular has been prepared and given out to members. It asks for suggestions on how they would like to

see the section run and ideas on how to improve it. The committee would particularly like to know what kind of events and lectures are wanted.

The annual match against the North East of England, sponsored by Stewart & Co, will be played over Turnhouse GC in early October.

The committee has decided that the section AGM will revert back to the usual time and place—at the end of the autumn tournament, at Newbattle GC on Tuesday September 10.

George Dollichen, ex-head greenkeeper at Livingston, had a slight heart attack recently. He is now all right and back at work.

Central

The section held its fifth spring outing courtesy of the Crail Golfing Society at Balcomie when 50 members and guests had a most enjoyable day.

The weather was kind for a change, with sunshine and just a slight sea breeze. The course was in excellent condition, which reflected in the

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scores returned: best net—Ian Ritchie (75-10) 65; best scratch—Ron Christie 72; first-class, 1st handicap—Graeme Hampton (78-8) 70, on best inward half, 2nd handicap—Brian Inglis (75-5) 70; second-class, 1st handicap—Mike Hanlon (89-23) 66, 2nd handicap—Joe Oliver (84-14) 70; new members' prize—Craig Small (107-21) 86; visitors' prize—Joe Dalling (70-4) 66 and two-ball foursomes—W.Lyon and R.Taylor 30½ points net.

Our thanks go to Jim Donaldson and his staff for having the course in excellent condition, to the bar and catering staff for the service and meals provided and to the council and members of the Crail Golfing Society for their courtesy.

At present, we have 67 paid-up members as well as a number of enquiries about membership.

Ayrshire

The spring outing was held at Southernness Golf Club in dry, but windy, conditions. Because of the distance involved in travelling to the venue, the section hired a bus and 30 members took advantage of this

facility. A further ten members from the local area joined us.

Southernness is a great venue and a traditional links course, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. Our thanks to Southernness GC, its clubhouse and greenstaff for their warm welcome.

The scoring was good on a difficult course and a special mention must be made of J.Robertson who, at the age of 81, had a net score of 69. He was pipped by S. Devlin for the best score of the day—a net 68. D.Gray (Lahinch) and J.Grainger (Largs) will compete in a play-off for the Scottish team place at St Andrews in October.

Results: Scratch—J. Grainger (Largs); 1st Class—D.Gray (Lahinch), runner-up R.Burke (Irvine, Bogside); 2nd Class—S.Devlin (St Cuthberts), runner-up J.Robertson (Troon); 3rd Class—G.Heron (Turnberry), runner-up T.Parker (West Kilbride) and Two-ball foursomes—D.Graham and I.Douglas (Kilmalcolm).

The section is now in a healthy position financially and with an ever-increasing membership. This year, we have gained 14 new members and the committee is working hard to see that this trend continues.

J.Grainger, Secretary.

West

Since the last report, the West section has held a committee meeting and formed new sub-committees. The chairman has asked the convenor of the committees to be more actively involved in the running of the section this year.

The SISIS pairs trophy for greenkeepers and convenors was held courtesy of West Kilbride GC. The golf was played in cold, but dry, conditions that seemed to help the general low scoring but, mostly, this must be put down to the excellent condition of the course, for which the West section thanked Jim Paton and staff.

Prize-winners were: 1st—A.Hastie and A.Meechan (Bellshill) 65; 2nd—D.Fleming and I.Ferguson (Hilton Park) 67 and 3rd—J.Paton and B.Gossman (West Kilbride) 69.

Fifteen teams from different clubs took part in the competition. This, added to the excellent attendance at the AGM, has given the West section an encouraging start to the year's activities which, hopefully, will continue throughout the season.



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