



Ayrshire

The section held a joint seminar with the West at the Inverclyde Sports Centre, Largs recently. It proved a successful venture and the question sessions were very stimulating.

The morning talk was provided by Billy Lockie, professional at Kilmarnock Barassie GC, and Robert McLaren, who represented the Ayrshire Golf Union. Our own Harry Diamond and Cecil George joined the panel for questions and all have to be thanked for their contributions.

A film presentation and a display of products formed the afternoon session by a team from Century Oils by arrangement with D.G. Allan Oils, our local distributor.

We would like to thank Don Hamilton for his assistance in setting up the day. D.G. Allan Oils also put on display the trophy they have provided for the best student at Woodburn House. It should prove a big incentive for students to work hard.

Thornhill GC at Dumfries proved to be a good choice for the section's spring golf outing. The course was in excellent order and we thank Harry Kerr and his staff for the hard work they put in and the club committee for the courtesy of the course.

We had 50 at the outing - among the number was the SIGGA president and we thank Walter for taking the trouble to travel so far. We also welcomed seven greenkeeping friends from Northern Ireland and their company was greatly enjoyed by everyone, especially when it came to harmonising and storytelling!

Congratulations to all prize-winners and thanks to our friends from the South-West who turned out in excellent numbers.

Scratch C. White (Largs CG) 78, 1st-Class D. Wilson (Turnberry Hotel) 83-7-76, Runner-Up R. Burke (Irvine CG) 86-9-77.

2nd-Class M. Power (Troon

Darley) 86-14-72, Runner-Up B. Semple (Dalbeattie GC) 86-10-76.

3rd-Class G. Heron (Turnberry Hotel) 92-22-70, Runner-Up T. Parker (West Kilbride GC) 94-18-76.

Visitor F. Ainsworth (Northern Ireland), Senior H. Diamond (Ayr Belleisle), New Member K. McCarty, (Dumfries and Galloway), Trade R. Bruce.

Two-Ball Foursomes C. White and A. Anderson (Largs GC).

Tickets for the Open prize draw should be with you by the time this magazine is distributed. Please work hard at selling the tickets as this has proved a great success in boosting the section's funds and the SIGGA education fund.

For the first prize, we are giving a weekend in Paris, by arrangement with A.T. Mays (Travel Agents). This is a tremendous prize and well worthy of a 50p ticket. Second prize is a pair of composite tickets for next year's Open Championship at Muirfield. Third prize is a more instant package of composite tickets, for two, for the Glasgow Open at Hags Castle in August.

Other prizes will also be provided in relation to the amount taken in ticket money to satisfy the Lotteries Act. If any members not in SIGGA (Ayrshire) wish to take part in the draw, please contact me by letter and I will send them tickets.

You will have had an application form for bunker-raking at the Open. This again provides an opportunity for greenkeepers to obtain access to the Open and gives the possibility this year of following one match for a round. You could be drawn with Ballesteros or Lyle, so please send the forms back quickly!

Recently, we had corres-

Obituary

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Stevie Donnachie on Saturday May 10. Stevie, a past president of SIGGA, had recently retired as head greenkeeper of Royal Deeside Golf Club, Aberdeen.

A fully obituary will appear in the next issue.

pondence with the Californian branch of the USGA regarding twinning with them. This started when Harry Diamond, our chairman, met the president of the California Course Superintendents at St Andrews and we will keep the section informed of further progress.

J. Paton, Section Secretary, Glenhaven, 1 North Road, West Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9AQ. Tel: West Kilbride 823210.

East

The East section held its annual spring tournament at North Berwick, CG - 54 members, guests and trade attended on a cold and windy day.

Despite the weather, everyone enjoyed themselves and we are very grateful to the captain and council of North Berwick for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse, head greenkeeper Willie White and his staff for the condition of the course and Mr and Mrs Turnbull for the excellent catering.

We were honoured to have with us SIGGA president Walter Woods, past president Jimmy Neilson and general secretary Joe McKean. It was also a delight to see life member David Brown completing 18 holes, despite the conditions, and we hope to see him at many more outings.

Joe McKean presented prizes to the following: Scratch J. Paton (Turnhouse GC), 1st-class R. Bullock (Seahouses GC), Runner-Up I. Menzies (Thornton GC), 2nd-class D. Flynn (North Berwick GC), Runner-Up C. Yeaman (Turnhouse GC), 3rd-class R. Blair (Thornton GC), Runner-Up E. Holt (Dunakeir Park GC), Veteran J. Neilson (Murrayfield GC), New Member S. Pearson (Shawpark GC), Trade M. Dennis (S.T.S.).

It was certainly a nice gesture of Jimmy Neilson to fill his trophy with whisky - of course, the whisky didn't belong to him! I am sure young Chris Yeaman will have it replaced by Jim in the near future.

It was gratifying to see so many happy faces on the day. I am sure that the troubles of last year are

Continued on page 13...

R. Thompson and A. Lomax v A. Armitage and P. Weston, A. Watson and I. Huggett v A. Bradshaw and P. Jordan, K. Munt and Partner v S. McMillan and P. Pearse, W. Martin and J. Noble v B. Turner and D. Shaw.

Belated congratulations go to Cameron McMillan for winning The Golfer Of The Year Trophy for 1985.

Finally, the subject of this winter's series of lectures was raised at the last committee. It's hoped that we can have an evening when the 'branch entertains the branch.' If any Surrey member would like to give a half-hour talk or has any ideas for suitable lectures, please contact me as soon as possible.

Paul Pearse

North-West

The North-West was very well represented at Warwick for the EIGGA conference.

All of those in attendance would like to express their thanks to the board of management, especially Danielle Jones, for all the hard work and excellent organisation that went into the conference.

Among the many good papers delivered were two excellent ones by Derek Green of Royal Liverpool GC and Dave Lucas of

Macclesfield GC, both of whom we all thought did the North-West proud.

The committee has arranged an evening at Watmore's Turfland on Tuesday June 24 at 6.30 pm. A tour of the turf-nursery, a demonstration of machinery and slideshow should make an enjoyable and interesting evening.

All members are invited and they should contact Terry Adamson (administrator) on 0978 83 2908 or Rick Fletcher (chairman) on 051-625 9898 for further details. *Guy Cannings.*

The Chairman's View Of Warwick

A resounding success is the only way to describe the recent EIGGA conference at Warwick. This can only be due to the superb organisation of EIGGA's general administrator Danielle Jones.

Having attended the previous conferences at Brighton, Cambridge and at Warwick in 1985, some things have struck me. First, the enthusiasm of the first year has not diminished.

My background is a green-keeping one and, as far as I remember, there was not a lot of sharing of knowledge previously. The answer to a question regarding fertiliser or top-dressing was usually "a bit of this and a bit of

that." But during these residential conferences, and this is where the biggest step forward has taken place, greenkeepers have communicated more openly with each other - even mistakes are admitted.

Papers presented in the lecture theatre spark off discussion over a meal or a drink, sometimes into the "wee small hours."

One point of note is that greenkeepers themselves are delivering well-presented papers and not only the senior members of the profession.

The session that involved the three younger members, namely David Merills, Cameron McMillan and Raymond Hunt, was an eye-opener. Nervous they no doubt were and, as the chairman of the first session of conference, I certainly know what they were going through, but the preparation was obvious.

The quiz, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, was a chance to show that we are knowledgeable about general subjects, too.

At the end of this, and previous conferences, I have returned to Hartsbourne rejuvenated. The club realises that attendance at an event like this is to their benefit, as well as mine, and I am extremely grateful for their support.

What do I look forward to now? the 1987 EIGGA conference - see you there!

David Low, EIGGA chairman.

SIGGA NEWS & VIEWS - CONTINUED...

forgotten and that the section will be stronger than ever. There are still some subscriptions to come in - if you have not paid, please do so now or your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

There are three dates for your diaries - Wednesday June 4, an outing to Prestonfield starting at noon; the Scottish outing at Downfield on Thursday June 19 and Wednesday September 24, an outing to Royal Musselburgh.

Bunker-rakers are required for the Open Championship at Turnberry from Thursday to Sunday, July 17-20. If you would like to help, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. Free lunches will be available, plus an admission ticket. It is expected that demand for this will be high, so don't delay.

W. Blair.

Central

The section's golfing season began with the spring outing at Lundin Links and, once again, the weather was against us.

Undaunted, some 40 members and guests turned up and those who braved the elements to play should all have been given an award. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed themselves and the prize-winners were: Best Nett J. Kidd 83-11-72, Best Scratch W. Woods 77, First-class 1st Handicap D. Mackinson 81-3-78, 2nd Handicap C. Stewart 84-4-80, Second-class 1st Handicap G. Blyth 114-24-90 (best inward half), 2nd Handicap J. Park 109-19-90, Visitors' prize A. Jack 87-7-80, Trade prize G. Brown 95-9-86, Two-Ball Foursomes D. Peddie

and F. McNeil 48-16½-31½.

Our thanks go to George Suttie and his staff for having the course in such excellent condition, Mr and Mrs Stewart for the excellent meals and service and to the council and members of Lundin GC for the courtesy they extended to us.

Membership of the section now stands at 92, which is an increase of 17 over last year. To all members of the section who have taken up new posts over the past few months, we offer our congratulations and wish them every success for the future.

Would any members who have moved recently, please inform me - failure to do so will result in no mail or magazine.

John Crawford