



Kent

At the recent AGM, several interesting points were raised - one such was that all events seem to be held in the eastern part of the county.

This is perfectly true, but the fact is that, at the moment, the vast majority of members are resident there and it is felt only right to hold meetings central to the largest membership area.

In a county as big as Kent, it will not be easy to please everyone all time, but we hope to please everyone sometimes and some people all the time!

The situation will, however, be monitored and when we get a few more members in the western part of the county, we can hold more meetings in that area.

A committee was press-ganged (sorry, elected!), with Peter Wisbey re-elected chairman and myself secretary. New to the committee are John Millen of Canterbury, Chris Mardon of West Malling, Steve Richardson of Cobtree Manor and Steve Suttle of Sene Valley.

This is the first time for a long while that we have been able to get so many people to volunteer their services. With a growing membership and a full committee, we will be able to organise some good events for the future.

In these Kent notes, we would like to publish any interesting happenings at your club or anything out of the ordinary that you greenkeepers get up to! "What interesting things do greenkeepers get up to?" I hear you ask.

Well, how about running in the London Marathon as Steve Suttle did in April. Steve raised money for Leukaemia Research, which he did to the tune of over £200. His time was 2hr 52min 29sec, which sounds to me a pretty good time to run 26 miles, but Steve said that he was hoping for ten minutes better! His final placing was 1,422. Well done, Steve.

Peter Wisbey managed to top

up all his bunkers recently with a few hundred tonnes of sand and then, a few days later, we suffered the highest winds on record for this area. Need I say more? Hard luck, Peter.

John Millen spent a week or so building a reinforced concrete road from the club entrance 300 metres along to the greenkeeping shed. This was built to full specification and saved his club some £6,000 over a contractor doing the work.

If you have any items of news like these, please contact me at the address below or John Millen.

Many Kent members attended the national EIGGA conference and all report that it was, once again, really excellent, with good speakers and a good atmosphere. Our thanks go to Danielle Jones and everyone else who put such a lot of hard work into making it a real success.

Talking of success, no prizes for guessing who won the conference team quiz - yes, it was the 'B Team' from Kent. Well done, lads.

*John Atkins, Branch Secretary,
134 Swalecliffe Road, Whitstable,
Kent CT5 2QA.*

South Wales

The branch will hold its summer golf tournament at Royal Porthcawl on July 29. To follow the day's golf, there will be a three-course dinner and a lecture by Mark Black, a top golf-course superintendent from Florida.

By now, members will have received their entry forms for this event, which should be returned, together with the correct remittance, to Mike Wilson, Golf Administrator, 18 Randall Square, Pembrey, Dyfed - all cheques should be made payable to 'EIGGA South Wales.' To ease the strain on branch funds, members are asked to donate prizes.

Congratulations and best wishes go to Robin Bryson, first assistant at Ashburnham GC, who is leaving the area to become head greenkeeper at The Warren, South Devon.

Raymond Hunt.

Surrey

As you may or may not know, April 19 was the Surrey dinner-dance date. Due to such a poor response from the membership at the Drift, it will probably be the last. I thank those who did attend and I'm sure you all enjoyed yourselves. I should like to convey my thanks to the committee for a superb job in organising the event.

To all members, I would like to say that if you will not support the committee in all the hard work that goes into organising seminars, lectures and socials, I can see the Surrey branch becoming just a golf society and that would be a shame.

Surrey used to be very active, but now it is embarrassing to attend functions as so many are made up of the trade and not greenkeepers.

And, finally, if you want to improve your image in golf clubs, when you turn up to play don't arrive wearing jeans and without a jacket and tie. Dress smartly, be well-behaved and proud to be greenkeepers. Let the club members see that you are responsible. Otherwise, you will always be looked upon as 'just grass cutters.'

Bert Watson

One of Surrey's longest serving members, H. Emery, died recently. His career included 20 years at Chipstead GC and 18 at Walton Heath. The sympathies of the branch go to his wife and family.

All members should have received entry forms for the Cresta Cup, McMillan Tankard and the MacGillivray Shield, as well as a fixture card for the year. If anyone has not, they should contact me.

The first-round draw for the Huxley Bowl is shown here. 'Home' pairings should arrange the matches, which are to be played by June 15. R. Morton and N. Roe or H. Brown and D. Wall v P. Smith and N. Damper, R. Johnson and D. Johnson v P. King and J. Jennings, K. McNiven and G. McNiven v I. McNiven and C. McMillan, I. Jennings and B. Tomlin v A. Davey and M. Lower,

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.

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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