

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

KENT

The Kent section seminar held in February at The Woodlands was an outstanding success on all counts, with 120 delegates in attendance addressed on the vitally important subject of DROUGHT - SOLUTIONS AND REMEDIES. Outlining the current and near future situation regarding actual water supply, Steven Oakes of the National Rivers Authority expressed the view that if predicted trends are taken as an accurate barometer the greenkeeper might do well to consider either installing storage ponds or sinking bore wells, this to avoid any restrictions or bans that are likely to be imposed.

Graeme Francis presented what many saw as a very technical presentation into the efficient use of water, using modern irrigation systems. In this he highlighted the need for correct installation, maintenance and usage, in order to achieve the best results. That entertaining character Danny Godfrey followed with his "Grass under stress" presentation, outlining the many factors that can contribute to poor turf performance during drought and how the use of some varieties of seed mixtures can perhaps give better resistance. A touch of controversy crept in as the subject of Poa annua and Rye grass were introduced.

Lunch was followed with an address by Derek Green of Royal Liverpool, who discussed the experiences he has at Hoylake with a severe Dry Patch problem and the management undertaken. Currently it seems to be the case of pursuing varying manage-

ment techniques in an effort to mount an attempted control. This is a problem known to us all and, as pointed out by Derek, one which requires still further research if a lasting solution is to be found. Rounding off the lectures, Steve Auckland from the East Sussex National gave a presentation on the practical aspects of overseeding and the correct usage of overseeding equipment.

A question and answer session rounded off the day, with that old argument of Poa annua and Rye grass on golf courses coming to the fore in spirited fashion, with one speaker describing Poa as "rubbish" grass and another suggesting that it had a rightful place. Our thanks as usual go to the speakers who entertained and educated us so well, to the traders who set up mini exhibition areas and to those who support us in these ventures.

Without wishing to over simplify the summary of the lessons learned, we should perhaps be praying for rain, digging a pond or bore hole, hoping that a miracle cure for dry-patch is marketed one day, look for a watering system that covers perfectly, requires zero maintenance and never breaks down, and that a plant breeder discovers a very fine leaved grass that withstands wear, gives good year round performance and has roots that go down six feet! The name of this species shall NOT contain the words Rye, Meadow or Annual. Grass may be acceptable.

On a different note, our Spring Tournament and ISEKI qualifier is at Sittingbourne on May 14th. Successful players will progress to the Regional Final at Ham Manor on July 3rd and possibly continue to the final at Hillside, near Southport.

Finally, congratulations to Anthony Davies on receiving the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year Award. Many will remember Tony as a section member when he was at Cobtree Manor a couple or so years ago.

PAUL COPSEY

BUCKS, BERKS and OXON

The Spring Tournament will be held at Goring and Streatley on May 22nd, the format being medal play over 36 holes. Please have your entries in by May 1st otherwise we cannot guarantee a place. The Rigby Taylor Fourball Matchplay Trophy will again be held this year and again we urge that you send your entry in without delay. A social night will be held on August 15th and will include such delights as skittles, snooker, pool and some good food. More details will appear later.

NEW COMMITTEE: Chairman - D Heads. Vice-Chairman and Treasurer - D Childs. Assistant Treasurer - S Edward. Golf Admin. - L Morrison. Secretary - B Woodward. Assistant Secretary and newsletter - R Clark. Handicap Secretary - B Holt. Lectures and Education - A Collis. Magazine contributions - N Fenwick. Advisers - B Paterson and R Kates.

NORMAN FENWICK

EAST SCOTLAND

The skittles match was held on February 22nd at the 'Silver Wing', with some 30 or more members and trade guests enjoying another great night. This is the second year of the event and it was encouraging to see so many ladies present. The winning lady was Val Neilson with Anne Ormiston as runner-up. Our Vice-Chairman, Chris Yeaman, took honours for the best male performance. Some three days later a group of 30 members enjoyed a lecture and machinery demonstration given by Sports Turf Services. Our thanks go to Mike Eddington, Mike Dennis and his staff and to those who spoke on such an interesting subject. We must not forget the kind provision of soup and rolls at Ratho Park G. C.

The first tournament of our year takes place on April 9th at

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Baberton G.C., which will also be a qualifier for the ISEKI championship. Forms are already out and if you find yourself without one, first check to see if your subscription is fully paid. As we all should know, these tournaments – indeed all BIGGA Section events – are open only to paid-up members and if you wish to enter this tournament – pay the subscription! Failure to do so will mean a loss of benefits of BIGGA membership.

WILLIE BLAIR

AROUND THE GREEN

MIDLANDS

Our Spring Tournament will take place at Kings Norton Golf Club on April 8th and will be the qualifying event for the ISEKI Championship. We will make the draw for the Rigby Taylor Pairs event and our new Singles Knockout, based on the first four placed competitors in each event from 1990.

Members should note that it is essential when attending lectures or Golf Clubs during golf events that a high standard of dress be maintained. This means that you should ALWAYS wear a jacket and necktie and be aware that jeans are best left for work. Indeed, many Golf Clubs now quite rightly ban jeans, both on and off the course.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTHERN

All section members should by now have received details of golf fixtures for 1991. If by some chance you have been missed, please let me know and I'll put matters right. You should also note that a deposit is NOT required for the Roses Match or Presidents Day and would-be entrants should contact Mountains of Morley, who are responsible for invitations. Indeed, most of the tournaments are filling up fast and you would do well to get your entry in with some haste.

I am sorry that it is now considered necessary to impose a £10.00 deposit on booking but many people have failed to turn up after making reservations – leaving the section with a deficit when it comes to settle for clubhouse meal dues.

A date for your diary is the AGM, which will be held at The Royal York Hotel, York, on April 25th at 2.30 pm. Finally may I remind any member wishing to join the BIGGA team at Royal Birkdale for The Open support team to please contact me for further details.

BOB LUPTON

AYRSHIRE

Contrary to what may have been announced elsewhere, the Spring section outing will be held at Irving Bogside on Monday May 20th, beginning at 8.30.am. Entry forms will be issued shortly and a prompt reply will be essential. Please remember, this event is an ISEKI qualifier.

At the February committee meeting a decision was made to form a Dumfries and Galloway sub-section, to keep members in closer touch. More details in the next issue.

DUNCAN GRAY

SHEFFIELD

Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress was the guest speaker at our winter lecture and gave what proved to be an entertaining and informative talk which was much appreciated by the less than normal numbers usual at such a gathering – victims as we all were of the snowy conditions. Photocopies of the slides used by Peter in his lecture are obtainable from him at Rufford's offices.

Our spring tournament is now finally confirmed for April 3rd at Coxmoor. Please note that in order to play in this and other BIGGA events it will be necessary to produce your paid-up 1991 membership cards. On April 4th we shall have a lecture given by Ian Misselbrook of Tillers Turf Co Ltd. and I would urge you to support this and other educational events in the same way as you do our golf competitions.

Finally our thanks to Henton and Chattell and especially James Robson for arranging the trip to Ransomes in February. The staff at Ransomes made us feel most welcome, especially



David Royle, and we were most impressed by the hospitality and the excellent evening meal on the first evening at Ipswich. The tour of the factory was itself most enlightening and is to be heartily recommended. Andrew Roscoe cannot escape mention, for he managed to by-pass some 33 pubs on the forward and return journeys – thanks Andrew!

IAN COLLETT

SURREY

The lecture given by Mark Hunt of Sierra UK Ltd on slow release and controlled release fertilizers proved to be a most entertaining and informative evening and we are most thankful to Mark for his presentation, and Sierra for providing the excellent buffet. The buffet was prepared with Marilyn Johnson's usual panache and her efforts were once again delivered out of the kindness of her heart – thanks Marilyn, it is much appreciated.

Our March scheduled Dinner-Dance was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of support. Whether this can be blamed on the current economic climate I'm not sure, but in any event the cancellation cost the section £200, being the non-refundable deposit paid. Whilst we will look favourably at any similar future events that may be mooted, consideration would need to be taken as to the degree of genuine commitment for quite clearly we cannot afford to lose money in this fashion.

On a brighter note, we hope to run a full winter lecture programme with subjects already proposed being: Health and Safety. Chainsaw use and maintenance. Conservation and Rights of Way through Golf Courses. First Aid. On this topic, would members care to indicate if these are the sort of subjects which appeal, or perhaps make other suggestions.

We've been offered the opportunity to visit Jacobsen UK at their Kettering location, however numbers are limited to a maximum of 25. Interested? Let me know and if we go over the 25 mark we'll select by ballot. The trip is proposed for June /July.

PHIL BALDOCK

NORTH WEST

A Greenkeeper Training Forum was presented at the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Myerscough, on February 21st, this being a joint venture between BIGGA North West section and the Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs. Some 70 people attended, made up of a cross section of greenkeepers, club secretaries and green chairmen. Opening the proceedings was the President of The LUGC, Mr Caton, who gave a brief introduction before Nick Hardman (Secretary of the LUGC) discussed "The

Members of the Sheffield section seen here at Ransomes headquarters in Ipswich

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Jim Fry - President of the South Coast section - who has presented a new trophy for their Spring Tournament.

Way Forward". This was followed in turn by Dr Richard Gibbs, representing the college, who spoke of greenkeeper training at Myerscough and of the encouraging increase in figures of those being recruited to the ranks of college life, well up on previous years.

A subject dear to our hearts - COSHH regulations - was dealt with by another college representative, Brian King, and touched upon the subject of safety in the work environment - prompting many audience questions. The final speaker, North West BIGGA Chairman David Berry, presented a talk on the Master Greenkeeper certification plan and green-keeping policy in general.

We now have a date and venue for the North West v North Wales Golf Tourna-

ment, this being Tuesday 23rd April at Llangollen Golf Club, with a tee-time of 2.00 pm. A team of 16 is required and anyone interested in playing should call me on 051 -724 -5412. The Spring Tournament will be played this year at Saddleworth on Wednesday May 15th, with a tee-time of 1.30 pm. This is also our ISEKI qualifier and prospective players should note the closing date, which is May 8th, due in part to a need for advanced catering arrangements.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH COAST

Even with temperatures dropping to minus 9 degrees C, a good speaker and topic can encourage members to attend a winter lecture. Section member Kerran Daly, Course Manager Salisbury and South Wilts GC, was the speaker and his topic was 'The use of computers in greenkeeping management'. Over thirty members were in attendance and heard how Kerran was using his home computer and word processor in assisting him as a course manager.

Members were delighted with Kerran's address and I am sure that a few more greenkeepers will now also be considering the use of a computer to assist them in their work.

Congratulations are also in order to Kerran on coming third in the BIGGA / ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year Competition.

Details for our first section tournament are as follows:

Venue - Blackmoor GC. Date - Wednesday 29th May. Competition - 36 hole medal. Entry fee - £15.50. Members wishing to play only 18 holes will be entered for an 18 hole medal and members over 50 years can compete for the Nita Stimson Trophy. There is a new trophy to be played for, presented by our President, Jim Fry, and this will be awarded at the Spring Tournament for the best nett over 36 holes by a competitor under the age of 25. Closing date for entries will be May 19th. Written

entries giving name, handicap, age and including the correct fee should be sent to Joe Burdett, 948 Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, BH7 6SP. Tel: 0202 483017

Finally a reminder that WESTURF 91 will be held at Long Ashton on Wednesday May 1st and I would urge you to support this regional event. Offers of assistance before the event will also be most welcome and I would also like to hear from those planning to attend in order that I can co-ordinate travelling.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH SCOTLAND

All members will be saddened by the death of Ed. Stuart, one of our Honorary Life members, who died on Feb 7th after a lengthy illness, aged 82. Ed was an enthusiastic and keen member who joined the old North and Midlands section of SIGGA in 1964 attending practically every event - even after his retirement in 1974 - until failing health caused his absence.

For close on 50 years he worked on the Golf Course and within the gardens of Balmoral on Royal Deeside, many as the head gardener, a position he took after his brother died. A past Captain of the Royal Household Golf Club at Balmoral, he was held in high regard, with both The Queen and Prince Philip being regular visitors to his cottage. Following retirement, golf continued to play a large part in his life and he was a member at both Ballater and Braemar as well as Balmoral. Despite all this he still maintained an active interest in gardening - his other love - and also made several visits to Bermuda where he assisted a friend in building and landscaping a golf course.

Ed. tried extremely hard to get the section to arrange a golf outing to Balmoral, an offer we unfortunately never took up. His friendliness, kindness and great enthusiasm will be missed by all who were fortunate to have known him and we extend our sympathy and kind thoughts to his wife Edith at this sad time.

The Spring outing is to be held at Nairn on May 16th and I take this opportunity of reminding members that Mr Howard Evans, BIGGA's pensions and financial expert, will be in attendance and available to discuss matters in private consultation from 12.30 pm onwards until he addresses the group for 15 minutes before the evening prize presentations. The cost for the day is £12 and a limited number of guests can be accommodated at £14. Those in greenkeeping who have attended as guests in the past should note that if they wish to continue to enjoy our promotions they will be expected to join our association.

Although this year's AGM has been arranged to follow a golf match at Letham Grange in November, it is being considered that in future we will hold it in conjunction with a 'gentlemen's' dinner. The committee will be pleased to hear your views on this matter and an indication of support for the evening.

To finish on a happy note, we offer congratulations to Bob Hardie, head greenkeeper at Strathpeffer, who got married in early February.

GORDON MOIR

MID-ANGLIA

This month I would like on behalf of the section members who attended BTME at Harrogate to thank those at HQ for all the fine work and effort put in to make the week such a success. We are all proud to be members of the Association.

February 20th saw us once again attend Beadlow Manor as their guests, this time to listen to Danny Godfrey of Inter Seeds Ltd and be entertained by his topic of golf course design. As on previous visits, Danny manages to both inform and amuse and we find learning is fun, though how many budding architects he may have made of us is something of which I am unsure. Thank you Danny, for all the time and effort you put into helping greenkeepers.

The Summer Tournament will be held at Letchworth GC on July 17th, the cost being £16.50 and the entries to be in Ken Bunting's hands by June 30th. There is a change of venue for the Autumn Tournament from that published in the fixture list, as Woburn G and CC, in the person of Mr Alex Hay, invites us to return this year. In his letter of invitation he states "I feel that our Club gives greenkeepers the opportunity of playing golf in convivial surroundings where they can discuss various aspects of these courses compared with their own, at which time the offering of ideas is beneficial to everyone concerned with the game

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of golf'. This is, I'm sure you will agree, a generous invitation from a busy club and one we are happy to accept.

GEOFF SMITH

DEVON and CORNWALL

Our February meeting was held on the 13th at Royal North Devon Golf Club, the event being a Stableford for the Stanley West Trophy. Whilst our golfers were golfing the rest were treated to an interesting 'course walk' with Dr Stewart. Following play we were well fed and watered before Keith Stewart of Stanley West Ltd presented prizes to the following: 1st K Piper - Holsworthy GC 39 points. 2nd T Gooch - Torrington GC 35 points. 3rd J Parr - Exeter GC 35 points. Thanks to Keith for both donating and presenting the awards.

Our afternoon speaker was Dr Stewart, who gave us an in-depth look at his research findings relating to salt affected turf. Whilst appreciating all that Dr Stewart had to say, we equally appreciated that he had travelled some considerable distance to attend and are truly grateful to him on all counts. And in giving due acknowledgements, we must also thank RNDGC for allowing us the use of their splendid historic links and Ted New for preparing them in such fine fashion.

Members should note that the section is hoping to run a coach to the WESTURF exhibition and trade show at Long Ashton, Bristol, on May 1st. Those interested PLEASE contact me as soon as possible on 0288 35438, and may I urge you all to make every effort to attend.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH EAST

The Spring Competition is to be held at Bamburgh GC on April 25th, this also being the ISEKI qualifying event for 1991. I would like to welcome the following new members to the North East section: C Bamford - Bolden GC. G Baxter - South Shields. R Bell, S Cram and G Lauder - Slaley G and CC. R Griffiths and L Wilkinson - Whitley Bay GC. C Irvine - Gosforth GC. G Rycroft - Wallsend GC. C Thompson - Haltwhistle GC. R White - Stocksfield GC. Finally congratulations to M Lathan on his new job, moving from Tyneside GC to Hexham GC.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

NORTH WALES

The North Wales section has got off to a flying start since the inaugural meeting at Prestatyn GC. At this event the prizes were donated by Gem and Terry Adamson and made us feel most proud.

Our first section lecture was given by Derek Green of Royal Liverpool GC., and was held at the Welsh College of Horticulture at Northop. Apart from greenkeepers, we were pleased to see a representative of the Welsh Golfing Union in attendance and we all enjoyed Derek's enlightening revelations of life as Course Manager, Royal Liverpool GC. On behalf of the section I thank Derek and also Graham Wright, who arranged the college venue.

A golfing day has been arranged by Terry Adamson at Abergele and Pensarn GC on May 23rd. Qualifiers from this event will then travel to Tredegar Park, South Wales, to compete in the ISEKI regional finals. Cost for Abergele is £10 for BIGGA members, £11 for non-members and it should be noted that only members may qualify. Good luck to you all. May I make a plea that you support this to the full and make this, our first ISEKI competition, a great success. Incidentally, Brian Anderson has arranged the venue for us at his home course and this seems a good opportunity to both thank him and welcome him to North Wales. He has already been elected to our committee and I am looking forward to sharing time in his company in the near future - Croeso i Cymru, Brian.

A match is arranged between North Wales and the North West, scheduled for April 23rd at Llangollen. This in response to the challenge thrown down by Bert Cross when he last attended a North Wales meeting. We know the dragon is down in the nation's first game at the moment, but I'm sure it will be breathing fire once more during this match.

Finally may I convey our thanks to PROTURF from S. Wales for donating liquid gold - whisky - as prizes for future meetings - cheers!

PAT McATEER



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