

COMING UP

December 10th: STRI South of England Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Hatfield Lodge, Hertfordshire.

January 14th: STRI North of England Seminar – As December 10th – Askham Bryan College, York.

January 20th-21st: BIGGA Seminar Programme – Harrogate, Yorkshire.

January 22nd-24th: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition – Harrogate, Yorkshire.

February 4th: STRI Ireland Seminar – As December 10th – Milltown GC, Dublin.

February 11th: STRI Wales Seminar – As December 10th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

February 12th-19th: GCSAA Exhibition and Convention – New Orleans USA.

March 27th-29th: BIGGA National Education Conference – Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

April 29th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

June 3rd-4th: BALI Trade Show – Stoneleigh, Warwick.

July 16th-19th: The Open Championship – Muirfield, Scotland.

August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament – Littlestone GC, Kent.

September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Show – Peterborough, Northants.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Section secretaries and correspondents should note that the closing date for 'Around The Green' copy is the first day of the month preceding publication – eg. copy for February issue to be received by January 1st. This means that section scribes must think ahead by at least one clear month and send relevant new copy before the appearance of the current issue. All out-of-date announcements will be rejected. Co-operation in meeting these deadlines will be much appreciated.

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

This column is so up-to-date I've decided to give it a title. Various ideas have been tossed around and my final choice is 'hot and fresh'. On that theme, we have another fine victory to add to our list of conquests in 1991, this time perhaps our most notable and dangerous, for we beat The Section Secretaries by 5 to 1 at Ellesborough GC on October 31st. This is something we would all like to crow about, but considering it is almost wage review time I think it's best that we just say how lucky we were and no doubt the secretaries will get their own back next year! Thanks go to the Ellesborough staff, secretary Ken Flint, head greenkeeper Dave Childs, and Alma Cheshire for the marvellous catering. Also we thank Bob Stewart – for the secretaries – and Golf Turf Equipment for the magnificent shield donation.

Our other golf event in October was the

Autumn Invitation at Sonning GC. It must be some sort of justice that over 30 greenkeepers, all of whom had been praying for rain over the past months, should get so thoroughly soaked throughout the day. Never again will I doubt The Great Greenkeeper In The Sky! Weather apart, the day was a resounding success, thanks in no small part to the sterling efforts of our section secretary, Bob Woodward, whose tireless work made this the smoothest run event we've had yet. RESULTS: 1st overall – Colin Vince and Andy Elmey, 2nd – Phillip Slater and Paul Wakefield, 3rd – Bob Woodward and Terry Jackson. Best a.m. – John Bevan and Dennis Ellington. Best p.m. – Simon Robinson and Owen Cooper. Nearest the Pin – Alan Collis (a.m.) and Steve Craddock (p.m.). Longest Drive – Ian Pierce (a.m.) and Simon Robinson (p.m.) Special thanks to Sonning GC, especially secretary Peter Williams, Club captain Derrick Howes, who presented the prizes, and course manager Alan Collis and his staff, for an excellent day. Finally, our trade friends from Parkers, Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, Pattissons, County Mowers, and Maxwell Hart, with a special word of thanks to Bernie Wall, who walked round with a score card when one of 'ours' decided not to play the second round.

Just a few reminders to tidy things up, with a gentle reminder not to forget our Gentlemen's Dinner at Frilford in Feb '92. Tickets are avail-

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at BTME '92

able but are going fast, so ring Bob now and make a reservation. Last may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a fuss-free (or fuzz free) New Year. Please make a note of my new address and 'phone number, which is: Flat 1, Temple Golf Club, Henley Road, Hurley, Berks. SL6 5LH, Tel: 0628- 829208.

RAY CLARK

EAST SCOTLAND

The section held its annual Autumn Tournament over the Peebles course on September 10th, with bright sunny weather shining kindly upon us. Our thanks as always go to the captain and council of Peebles for courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities and to the green staff and catering personnel for their respective excellence. A total of 46 members, guests and traders enjoyed a splendid day, the winners being: Scratch - G D Thomson, Goswick, 1st Class - S Melville, Lothianburn, 2nd Class - A Wyllie, Newbattle, 3rd Class - N Stalker, Torphin, Veteran - G Stavert, Peebles, Aggregate - S Dixon, Newbattle, Fourball - R Thomson and G Stavert, Peebles.

A presentation was made to one of our senior members upon his retirement, S Dixon presenting an inscribed clock to George Stavert from the section and wished him a long and happy retirement. George has been a member of the section since 1967 and although asked on many occasions, he always declined to hold office. There have, however, been few occasions when George has not appeared at our events and we all wish him well.

The William Woods Memorial Trophy took place at Swanston GC on October 3rd, a howling gale greeting us on arrival and remaining throughout the day. Needless to say, scores were on the high side and local knowledge helped in the end, with Swanston GC being the eventual victors. Our thanks to the captain and committee for course courtesy, Chris and his staff for the course preparation and the catering staff for grand food. Let's hope the weather can be better organised next year!

The last tournament of the year was the match of East Scotland v The North East of England. It is always a pleasure to meet our old friends and on this occasion victory went to the English. Our grateful thanks to Stewart & Co and to Goswick GC for making the event one to look forward to with keen anticipation.

On behalf of the chairman and committee, may I thank everyone for their support throughout the year and express the hope that you will continue to give us solid support throughout 1992. I am sure you will air your views at the AGM on December 4th at Kingsknowe. Always remember that this is *your* Association and we want to run it the way you would want it.

WILLIE BLAIR

LONDON

A good turn-out of 40 members and guests descended upon West Herts GC for the London section Autumn Tournament on September 30th, George Whitby having prepared the course to his usual high standards. The competition was fiercely competitive, the battle that ensued eventually producing a worthy winner in S Cox of Abridge G&CC, with 40 Stableford points, hotly pursued by M Storey of Hatfield G&CC on 39 and Norman Exley of Northwood GC on 38 points. It seems that the administrator for the S.E. is making the collection of trophies something of a habit! Our playing guests were D Ede, R Croci and R Drake.

A London team travelled to Ashridge on October 10th to inflict a 3-1 defeat on a representative Mid Anglian team. The game was arranged to foster closer relationships with our near neighbours and a return invitation was mooted for next season. The lovely course at Ashridge lent itself perfectly to the very friendly day and was

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thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. Our sincere thanks to George and his crew for a superbly turned-out course.

There will be a seminar at Aldenham on Feb 26th, and I hope to see many more of you at this and other 1992 scheduled events. Details will follow in the next newsletter. My sincere good wishes to all our members for Christmas and the New Year.

BRIAN KELLY

SOUTH WALES

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Morrison GC on September 18th, with numbers down on our annual average. The reasons for this drop are many and varied and, no doubt, are easily explained by the individuals concerned. The competition was medal play over 18 holes, with scores very 'up and down', though the winner of the Presidents Shield, Graham Cox, produced a very creditable nett score of 67. The best gross score was that of Steven Price with an 83. Second nett came Doug Donne with a 76 (on count-back), Gerwyn Price, also on 76, was in third place and Peter Lacey was fourth with 77.

A raffle was held to swell the coffers and resulted in Anthony Smyth winning golf balls, with Dennis Jones, Doug Donne and Henry Fry all taking away a bottle of something warming. This was followed by a lecture evening, first with Frank Chute of Modern Maintenance Products (MMP) giving a company sales presentation on lubricants, greases and fire extinguishers, complete with slides. He also touched on such items as industrial glues, adhesives and compounds that can be utilised in repairing irrigation piping. A sales package prepared specially for greenkeepers is available, those interested should let me know.

Next came Dr Paul Wilson from Agriland, who addressed us on the subject of Agrimaster and Agriland fertilisers, backing up his talk with revealing tests and trials successfully carried out by the STRI.

Our annual match against the South West was held at St Pierre on October 3rd, with a tied result at three games all resulting in our retention of the trophy for another year. Our thanks to St Pierre management for courtesies received and to course manager, David Jones, and his staff for making the day so enjoyable.

Pennard GC was the venue for our seminar on October 4th, attracting greenkeepers, local authority representatives and green chairmen. A total of 80 people attended the John Deere/Power Cut jointly sponsored event, enjoying the demonstration of Power Cut machinery on display and listened spell-bound to a presentation by Howard Storey of John Deere on the John Deere range and their applications.

Dr W G Rees, BSc, MA, PhD, FRCS, a soil scientist and former Head of Agricultural Chemistry at Glasgow University gave a talk entitled "Grass Care Starts with Soil Care", with Neil Squires, BSc, closing the meeting with a talk on agronomy before chairing a question and answer session.

Our thanks to the Pennard GC committee for granting us the facility for this seminar and to their secretary for his valuable help in organising the mailing of letters to golf Clubs. Additionally, thanks to Colin Murphy, Malcolm Rees and Pen-

nard head greenkeeper, Colin Reilly, all of whom did sterling work behind the scenes.

Finally our congratulations to Paul Hopkins and Nigel Owens on additions to their family and we hope they are coping with the inevitable sleepless nights! Our final competition will be the Christmas thrash at Pyle and Kenfig on December 11th. We'll play for the Vitax Shield and follow with our AGM. Arrive by 9.30am please. A very merry Christmas to you all.

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

The decision to change our 1991 lottery format, running it on the World Match Play proved to be very successful. Almost all members sold their tickets and made it the best section money spinner thus far. This is vital for the continued running of the section, providing as it does the means to keep prices down and provide support in sending three delegates to BTME in January. For the first time since our lottery began, the major prizes were won by greenkeepers, with Robbie Allan of Hazlehead GC drawing Seve Ballesteros and winning £100 and Steven Sullivan of Craigiehill GC drawing Nick Price for second place. Other prize winners were: 3rd (£50) M Donald, 21 Windford Rd, Mastrick, Aberdeen. 4th (£40) I Ross c/o Tain GC. Others winning £20 each were S McPherson, c/o Mathew Gloag, Perth. S Hay, 4 Prunier Place, Peterhead. E Urquhart, 4 Ness Hs., Fortrose and I Thom c/o Westhill Inn. The £10 winners were: A Low, c/o Westhill Inn. J Sweeney, Birkenhill, Elgin. Katrina Foster c/o Donside Paper, Aberdeen, and I Phillips, 22 Harley St. Stoke.

Plans are afoot to stage a conference, similar to that of last year in Aberdeen. Our hope is that it will be staged at the Dundee College of Further Education around Nov/Dec 1992, with attendance fees again being held to a very reasonable level. The committee would welcome any fresh ideas for speakers.

GORDON MOIR

NORTH EAST

The now traditional four-ball matches against our arch rivals - the East of Scotland section - took place at Goswick GC on October 8th. The result was a close affair until the very last match, with our North East team finally making it with a 3 1/2 to 2 1/2 result. Our thanks to Goswick GC, George Thompson and his staff for splendid preparation and to the captain of Goswick for presenting the prizes. Finally a special thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the competition yet again. Results (S. E. players named first): G Lauder & I Johnson beat G Wood & G Thompson 2 & 1. B Wilson & G Atkinson halved with S Greenwood & W Blair. J Richardson & S Cram beat J Neilsen and R Dugan, 1 up. P Robinson & K Ruthford lost to R Bullock & S Melville, 5 & 4. C Parkinson & R Black lost to P Bowden & A Holmes, 5 & 4. S Pope & A Wright beat S Dixon & C Yeaman, 2 & 1.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

SHEFFIELD

May I apologise to section members for lack of news over the past two months. This was due to a misunderstanding over deadline dates, which I kept missing! Now this is sorted out I → 28

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27 ➔ promise to keep you well posted.

To bring you up to date with past happenings, I shall first congratulate myself on winning the Autumn Tournament at Brough. For this event we extend thanks to The Club and to John Price and Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event again. Let us wish them good fortune in their new venture in becoming Ransomes Agents. With immediate effect, and already having started with the Brough event, we shall run an optional putting competition to raise funds for the section. At Brough we raised £10.50 and thank Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor for donating a snazzy golf umbrella as first prize.

Now let me move on to a 'hearty congratulations' for the Northern team on winning Team Iseki for the second time in three years and lifting the individual prize for the second successive year. Well done, lads!

Our winter lecture programme continues, meeting on the first Thursday of each month at Thrybergh GC, Rotherham. Come on, lads, let's support these lectures and have a large turn-out, they are meant just for you. May I finally wish Steve Burroughs (formerly of Hutchins Ltd) all the best on setting up in business. Good Luck, Steve. That's it for this month, though I hope I'll see you all at the Wortley Christmas Competition. A very Merry Christmas and New Year to one and all.

IAN COLLETT

DEVON & CORNWALL

The first meeting in our Autumn and Winter programme was held at Carlyon Bay Hotel on October 23rd, the golfing 'set' tackling the challenging course in quest of the Hunt Trophy, whilst our non-golfing members enjoyed their now customary course walk. The results were: 1st - B Ridgeway, Fingle Glen GC, 40 points. 2nd - S Dymond, St Enedoc, 39. 3rd - T Martin, Torquay, 36.

Our thanks to Don Hunt of Roffeys for kindly donating and presenting the golfing prizes, also to Brian Summers and his team, who prepared the course to such excellence. A special thanks must go to the Brend family, who kindly allowed us the use of their hotel and golf course.

The water diviner, Don Wilkins, was our after lunch speaker, entertaining us in an intriguing fashion with his delightful Cornish humour and tales of water divining over many decades. Don brought with him a selection of divining rods and many of our members tested their skills - with varying degrees of success! Don's talk was a resounding success, our best ever, and we again thank him most sincerely.

Our first new year meeting will be the Section Seminar at Fingle Glen (near Exeter) on Wednesday Jan 15th. The format will begin with nine holes over Fingle Glen, followed after lunch by Neil Baldwin of the STRL, who will present a paper on Wetting Agents and Dry Patch. I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and successful new year.

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

Rounding off our year, we must give heartfelt thanks to the generosity of Woburn's Alex Hay, along with the Club's fine team of greenkeepers so ably master-minded by the irrepressibly

enthusiastic Neil Whittaker, for providing the perfect ending to our golfing season on October 30th. The great attraction of playing both the Duke and Duchess courses proved irresistible to a full field of greenkeepers and was undoubtedly a most fitting season finale. Woburn was at its autumnal best, wreathed in the colourful tints that only Mother Nature can provide, and in a condition that would have brought reams of praise in the golfing press had ours been a PGA Tour event. Though we are not Tour players, we can and do appreciate such excellence and our vote is clearly stamped - NEIL WHITTAKER. Casting an expert eye over both courses, one could not fail to admire the architectural excellence of the late Charles Lawrie, whose design career spanned an all-too-brief span, cut short by his untimely death at the age of 53. There is little doubt that the Duke & Duchess courses were his greatest legacies.

So another year of fixtures is over, a new committee has been elected, and I am bowing out gracefully by taking this opportunity to thank all those who have made my spell as secretary so very enjoyable. Throughout the year we have been very well supported by so many members and traders that to thank them individually would take up too much space. I would be bound to miss someone out and rather than risk unintentional omission, I give a hearty thanks to one and all for continued support, which is much appreciated.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a happy Christmas and to ask that you continue to support YOUR section, which belongs to you, you know.

GEOFF SMITH

MIDLANDS

The warm welcome given to us at the recent Open Day of Brockton Golf Club was much appreciated, with many Midland section members commenting on how much they enjoyed the event.

During the winter we plan to hold two lectures, in January and March, and members will be advised more fully in our new fixture list, which is due in December. May I take this opportunity of reminding you all of the all important AGM, which will take place at Edgbaston Golf Club on December 16th, starting at 3pm. Please try and attend.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

How are things in the North West? One can only assume that there are no problems, and that everyone is happy. How do I arrive at this assumption? Simply by recalling the North West Section AGM, which was held at Bury Golf Club on October 24th, which called for our membership of 335 greenkeepers to attend. From this figure of 335 only 16 people turned up, eight of which were members of the committee! Whilst being delighted that the committee appear to be running the section to the satisfaction of our members, this was by every standard a very poor attendance.

Prior to our AGM, Peter Jefford of Ruffords Top Dress Supplies gave us an interesting and most informative talk on top dressings and how to choose the right product. How nice it would

have been to see more members present, especially as Peter had given freely of his own time to be with us.

Arrangements are in hand for the preparation of a 1992 calendar of events, and once dates are finalised all members will receive a complete fixture list. That's it for now, save wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

BERT CROSS

CLEVELAND

The start of our autumn fixtures began on October 1st with the Autumn Invitation at Woodham G&CC, Our thanks to the management of Woodham for the use of the course and to Mark Hodgeson and his staff for presenting the course in such good order - especially so following a season of heavy play. RESULTS: 1st - A Naisbitt and M Ruddick, 40 points. 2nd - D Croacher and D Darby, 36 points. 3rd - M Hodgeson and K Watson, 34 points. 4th - R McCabe and D Telford, 32 points. Thanks to our main sponsor, Mr Alan Goodchild, and to all trade and golf Clubs who contributed prizes. Please continue to support future events.

ROGER SHAW

EAST ANGLIA

This report will start in the summer and finish with a merry Christmas, such is the time span to catch up. First to Stowmarket GC in August, a lovely course and a record turn-out. Warm welcome from John Daul, Stowmarket Captain, who also presented prizes and won nearest the pin on the 18th (8'3"). Bob Chapman was actually 2' away, but his shot was off the 1st tee - good old Bob! The longest drive was won by Peter (John Daly) Howard. RESULTS: (handicap 0-18) 1st Alan Carter (32 on countback), 2nd Sam Sylvester 32, 3rd Ranald McNeil 31. (handicap 19-28) 1st Paul Fletcher 38, 2nd Steve Pigott, 3rd Richard Mitchell. Guest: John Riches 36. It was nice to see a few more players from Norfolk and our thanks to Stowmarket GC for a grand day out.

Our congratulations to Ranald McNeil on his course management appointment at Quietwaters and on fathering a baby girl. Also to Steve Denton and Mike Fance, both with new babies, Steve a daughter and Mike a son.

Next to Gog Magog in October, a record breaking turn-out of 70, players coming from as far afield as Sussex and Surrey. The course was in good 'nick', as was the meal, and the awards went as follows: RESULTS - Scratch, Peter Howard 78 gross. Handicap 0-18 - 1st Stephen Patison 37, 2nd Stephen Cox 36, 3rd Stephen Freestone 34. Handicap 19-28 - 1st Stephen Pigott 41, 2nd Richard Mitchell 39, 3rd Ernie Hart 33. Longest Drive - Steve Dickinson (300 yards) Nearest the Pin - Dave Wilkinson (4'6"). Guest prizes: 1st John Jackson 42, 2nd Harry Shelley 39. Prizes donated by Rhone Poulenc, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Cowies, Ransomes, Colliers and Ernest Doe. Our thanks to all the trade members for their support.

There were reports of slow play and in future a penalty will be imposed on offenders (docked shots). The captain of Gog Magog offered a good closing speech, welcoming us back and saying he had never stood before so many greenkeepers before - except at the Club's AGM! Nice one, captain, and our thanks for a grand day out.

I said I would end with a merry Christmas, so to all East Anglian section members, wherever you are, a merry Christmas.

MICK LATHROPE

KENT

It is always a great pleasure to play Knole Park, and our Autumn Tournament played there on October 8th was once again a fabulous day. I have to admit that for many years it has been one of my personal favourites. The course was

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prepared to the very highest order by Andy Arthur and his merry men and I hope he will pass on our thanks to the staff for their exceptional hospitality.

The morning play produced some pretty unspectacular scoring, due perhaps to the super slick putting surfaces. Our thanks to Sta-Brite and Chris Sharp for donating the new Sta-Brite shield and handsome trophy, awarded to the medal winner, John Rootes with a nett 69. John was followed closely was Steve Phillips with 70 and Malcolm Arthur with 71. The scratch prize was won by Ian Rawlings.

The afternoon saw a three man Texas Scramble played, with much better golf and won (not unsurprisingly by the rest of us) with a gross 67 by the Rootes, Rawlings, Stapley combination. Personally, I feel the man responsible for 'arranging' the teams has much to answer for and I am still pressing for a stewards enquiry. Why did nearly all the teams have a combined handicap of around 50, with my team on 64? A credit here to my partners Bernie Sturdy and Bernie Dibhams for a battling 73. I must apologise for the initial confusion over handicaps and the missing raffle tickets, but as some may know, these were in John Millen's hands and he was away on Joint Golf Course Committee business. I have never seen such an expression of relief as that on David Wood's face when the mislaid cheque book finally surfaced! Perhaps the highlight of the day was the presentation of awards by Knole Park's greatest son, Sam King. Sam is a pro from the great days of golf and played in the Ryder Cup during the 30s and 40s. His list of achievements are legendary and best listed by David White, who spent an hour with Sam in totally spell-bound admiration. All I can say is that it was a great honour to be at his table during dinner and to listen to his recounted tales of an illustrious golfing career.

I was delighted to read that the winner of the GCSAA Trip to New Orleans was John Atkins, head greenkeeper at Chestfield GC. I dispute the term 'lucky' winner, for there is none more deserving of this splendid trip of a lifetime. John was a former Kent section secretary in the old BGGGA and EIGGA days and as some may know, does not enjoy the best of health and fitness that we take for granted. John is not one who would wish me to elaborate, but I must add that he and his staff do a superb job at Chestfield and my artisan members, who make regular visits, always speak highly of the condition.

On the subject of Chestfield, this prompts the view that many courses in Kent are under threat of alteration and perhaps those working on the courses might elaborate on the changes. We have Chestfield and Herne Bay at threat from dual carriageways and re-routing of the Thanet Way, Gillingham threatened from an Isle of Grain relief road and now Rochester and Cobham from the 'good old' Channel Tunnel Rail Link, not to mention Sittingbourne and Cobham Manor that are already making way for larger road routes – and they say that golf courses damage the environment! I would include Barnhurst on the casualty list after seeing the proposed alterations (desecrations) of the course, submitted to the council by a well known architect/constructor, supposedly to speed up play and 'modernise'. Granted the course requires playing in a different order, some enlargements to tees are necessary and some reconstruction and reinstatement is required to many of the bunkers if it is to withstand the rigours of modern golfing traffic. All this work was already planned, in sympathy with the established course and its environment. That stated, many Barnhurst players see the new proposals as vandalism, amounting to wiping the slate clean and starting again. To put the 'alterations' into perspective, the current nine holes are all that remain of the original 18, a ladies championship course laid out by James Braid for £12,000 in 1903. For many years it was regarded

as the sister course to Royal Blackheath. Rather than being lost to tarmac and steel, Barnhurst may well be lost to bureaucracy, the quick buck and the USGA spec!

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH COAST

This year it was again our privilege that Jacobsen Limited, with Jenman Engineering and Vitax Home and Garden Products, provided the generous prizes for our Autumn Meeting at Hockley Golf Club. The meeting proved very successful, with 45 players battling for honours. An additional prize was donated by New Forest Garden Machinery, and handed to Terry Patchin, the head greenkeeper of the host Club. The coveted Jacobsen Trophy was on display for most of the day, with members keen to get good scores on the board in their efforts to win the event.

The morning Greensome provided excitement, with Joe Newman and Robert Woodward (Downshire) scoring 40 and Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett (The Army) scoring 39. This left no doubt in the minds of other players as to the eventual winners. However, following similar scores from different players in the afternoon Foursomes, Jeremy Norris and Mark Walker (The Army) and Brian Forder and George Gale (Southampton/Romsey), the outcome was far from settled. Soon it became apparent that Joe and Robert had 'done enough' with their afternoon 34 to clinch the trophy by just three points. How nice it was to see some of 'The Trade' playing with greenkeepers – Dave Rogers of Sta-Brite, David Haskell of Parkers and Mark Wilton of Rigby Taylor – with representatives of our sponsors remaining for the dinner and presenting prizes to the worthy winners. RESULTS: The Jacobsen Trophy to Joe Newman and Robert Woodward 40+34=74. Second: Brian Forder and George Gale 32+39=71. Third: Jeremy Norris and Mark Walker 30+40=70. Other prizes were awarded for 'surviving' scores from the morning and afternoon rounds as follows: Greensome: Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett, 39. Foursome: Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd, 34. Our thanks to Joe Burdett for the above report and for organising our tournaments in such a professional manner.

The January Winter Lecture will be at Came Down GC on January 15th, the speaker being Peter Jefford, addressing the subject of top dressing treatments. The talk will begin at 2pm and refreshments will be available with the speaker's compliments. Stephen Pell, head greenkeeper at Came Down, will welcome you and is eager for a grand turn-out. This is an opportunity for members in the west of our section to meet other members and guests will be most welcome. We shall be returning to this part of England for our Spring Tournament, which is at the Weymouth GC on Thursday, May 28th.

Finally, as 1991 draws to a close, I wish all members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BOB DENNIS

NORTHERN

The final golf event of 1991 was held on a blustery day at Garforth GC, made the more pleasant by the appearance of two Northern section members who have been ill recently: Mick Hegarty of

Cobble Hall and Garforth's very own Colin Garnett. Both looked fit and well. The contest was won by Graham Wilson, with Edwin Walsh second. In the second division Les Nelson, Graham Oxley and Mick Bryant collected prizes, with Philip Palmer and Derrick Batty victors in category three.

The Eclectic Trophies, played for over our Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments, went to Mick Bryant for the over-50s and Mick Lealman for the under-25s. Very many thanks to all at Garforth for extending such a warm welcome to us all.

Our lecture evenings are now underway, the first being an informative talk by Eddie Sims and his team from Par 4. A good audience attended, which included some very welcome new young faces. Thanks to everyone for coming and I hope to see many of you again in the future. The next lecture is on January 15th – Munro's on Spraying – and a Quiz and Social Evening with colleagues from the IOG at Headingley Cricket Club on February 11th.

We are again having a trip this year – to Lloyds of Letchworth – and with many names already listed for this one, a booking now may save later disappointment. Cost about £10.

On a serious note, the misuse of a BIGGA membership card has been brought to the committee's attention. Members MUST realise that this will not be tolerated and action will be taken to stop any repetition. Please keep your cards to yourselves.

I am happy to finish with some good news – Nick Faram, long serving assistant at Baildon GC, finally tied the knot in November. Very best wishes to Nick and Betty, and to all our members a merry Christmas.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH EAST REGION (Surrey Section)

It was the Surrey Section's honour to host the 4th S.E. Region Seminar recently at Merrist Wood College, graced by the presence of BIGGA's National Chairman, George Malcolm, and Executive Director, Neil Thomas, together with splendid contributions from seven lively speakers – all of whom contributed towards an enjoyable and highly educational day, made even better by an encouragingly high turn-out of members.

The morning session concentrated mainly upon the matter of ecology and conservation, opening with a combined address given by Jonathan Adey and Desmond Hobson of Environmental Golf Services, this followed by ICI's Dr David Riley, who opened our eyes to the huge investment made in order that pesticides may be safely available.

This was followed by Dr Rob McGibbon, whose concern for the vanishing heathlands and disappearance of heather was shared by many greenkeepers. All is not lost however, for with the odd bulldozer and chainsaw the heather seed (which has been in the ground for 50 years or more) will still germinate if given the right conditions.

One good talk deserves another, and this led to the last public appearance in England for some time of our own Phil Baldock, soon to join Royal Portrush as their head greenkeeper. ➔ 30

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29 ➤ Phil's talk concentrated on the practical side of conservation, and with the help of slides Phil showed the sound results achieved at Hankley Common following a calculated conservation programme over the past years.

A substantial roast luncheon followed, with Jack McMillan opening the post prandial session by telling us of his experiences in Europe, with emphasis on his recent 'French Connection'. This did not stop Jack from hopping back across the channel occasionally, expounding upon his well known views of winter play and the stress factor involved for both course and greenkeeper!

The final speaker of the day was our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who presented a comprehensive paper on the present and possible future prospects for our Association. Stressing the need to 'get out and generate more support', this was seen as the way for us to capitalise on the terrific progress made over the past few years, years in which BIGGA has taken the initiative in greenkeeper training and education, whilst other golfing bodies have been content to talk a lot and do very little.

The seminar closed with Chris Marden, the SE Region Chairman, thanking all speakers and sponsors and giving no small praise to those members who by their attendance had made the day successful.

The Surrey Section committee acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their gener-

ous support, each in their way contributing to our success: CMW, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, T Parker & Sons Ltd, Ian Kerry, Huxley's, RFE Turf Machinery Ltd, SISIS and Watermation Ltd.

Forthcoming events for 1992 include a winter lecture on Chainsaw Use and Safety, to be held at Walton Heath GC on Jan 15th, the Regional Gentlemen's Dinner, also at Walton Heath, on March 13th and the Spring Tournament at Foxhills GC on April 29th. Finally, a most welcome return to New Zealand GC for the Cresta Cup on June 8th.

Our annual 'knock-out' competition for the Huxley Bowl has been concluded with a fine win (for the third time!) by Alex Armitage and Paul Weston, beating Paul Mayne and Mike Oram on the last green after 36 closely contested holes. The winners afterwards celebrated with champagne in the clubhouse of Richmond GC. May I take this opportunity to wish ALL members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

CLIVE OSGOOD

SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION

None can deny that the now well established annual S.W. & Wales Regional Seminar, staged recently at Cannington College and masterminded by Gordon Child, is anything but a great success. The simple fact that the event was a complete sell-out speaks volumes for both organ-

isational ability and regional enthusiasm, each complementing the other.

The event was sponsored by Modus 'T' Systems, whose sales director must have been gratified to have such a large and captive audience to view the system machinery on display in the college grounds, and it was a Modus 'T' presentation which opened the proceedings. This was followed by an enthusiastic slide presentation - marred perhaps by a less than perfect projector more suited to a smaller and darker room - but nevertheless showing some marvellous slides of flora and fauna, with the presenter making an impassioned plea to keep the rough rough and for greenkeepers to conserve wild life. If I may make one minor comment, Allan Mitchell should qualify his plea with sound reasons, for example what might happen if the rough is cut back drastically or how one might convince a green committee of the merits of such conservational acts. After all, too much rough and dense undergrowth rapidly increases the probability of already tiresome four hour plus rounds!

Eric Shiel is thoroughly enjoying his job of promoting the Joint Golf Course Committee and the new way forward, and it is heartening to learn that golfers will have to buckle under in order that the new generation of greenkeeping specialists may be thoroughly and competently trained. That he was preaching to the converted might have seemed apparent, yet it was depressing to learn from a show of hands that only a handful had even heard of 'The Way Forward' document and even fewer had actually read it! From the floor came a comment that because of the critical comments in the document regarding archaic Club committee methods, many secretaries had seen that it was effectively suppressed, this giving food for much thought.

At his fire-eating best, Jim Arthur was to have presented an uncontroversial paper but was prompted to re-write, telling us that having been brain-washed earlier at the week-end into ➤ 38

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AROUND THE GREEN

30 ➔ believing that the professionals are making overtures to eventually take over from the R&A in controlling British and European golf, he was spurred by such convictions into making an impassioned plea for the grass roots to at least be aware of the situation. He was equally passionate in condemning invidious attempts by Club professionals to take over the 'management' of golf courses, without getting their hands dirty of course, (there were a couple of vocal Club professionals/managers in the audience) suggesting that their essentially commercial interests would have dire consequences. Above all he urged greenkeepers – interspersing his comments with documented case histories of those 'warm climate' methods that had proved both disastrous and costly in our colder climate conditions – to remain ever vigilant and to learn from past mistakes and avoid repeating them. His address was loudly applauded.

It could be said that safety regulations and The Law is a subject guaranteed to be about as exciting as watching AstroTurf grow, but this is never the case when the speaker is the hugely entertaining Jon Allbutt. Jon has the skill and personality to cut through the gobbledegook of official government publications and ministerial edicts, with the wit to interpret even the most tiresome of regulations and make them appear almost as interesting as The Ryder Cup. There is none finer than Jon and his warnings of the consequences, should one be tempted to flaunt the law on such diverse subjects as chainsaws and pesticides, held the audience spellbound and he quite rightly drew both loud acclamation and the bulk of questions at question time.

From the floor came one question from an eminent head greenkeeper, Ivor Scoones, which brought both wry smiles and a silence in which one could hear the proverbial pin drop. 'Why', he asked, 'since 'The Way Forward' condemns large committees and favours their abolition, does the Joint Golf Course Committee have such an indefensibly large committee?' The question remained unanswered.

DAVID WHITE

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