

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SURREY

On what seems to have been the best day of the year so far, The Surrey Spring Meeting/Iseki Qualifier was held at Richmond Park GC. Everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed the day and expressed grateful thanks to The Club and their staff. We wish them a successful centenary year.

ISEKI Qualifiers were: Handicap 1-9: I.Hogg; R.Glazier; D.Worsfold; reserve: A.Donlevy. Handicap 10-18: G.Kyle; P.Main; T.Huntley; reserve: K.Harding. Handicap 19-24: J.Hunter; G.Jukes; A.Last; reserve: D.Andrews. Our thanks also to Ron Jobson who again acted as our starter and to all our trade sponsors who kindly supplied prizes.

The Cresta Cup will be held at Ashford Manor GC on Friday July 12th starting at 3.00 pm. Cost will be £13.00 per player.

Now a warning: apparently some members have been lending BIGGA membership cards to others, thus allowing them illegal access to playing facilities at golf courses. If YOU are guilty, or are aware of others who might be guilty, understand that this is a very serious offence which at best could damage all our reputations and at worst result in expulsion of the culprit and perhaps the withdrawal of this facility for ALL members. Don't ruin something we all appreciate!

We have two trips on offer, one to Jacobsen's factory in July and another to Rolawn in October or November. If these appeal, contact a committee member or myself. Also items of news or interest for inclusion in this column, please call me on 025 125 4287.

PHIL BALDOCK

SUSSEX

Our match on April 17th was held at The Nevill, on a course in good condition despite a very cold wind and even some snow! Brighter by far than the weather was the reception meted out to all within the clubhouse - our grateful thanks. Results: Morning Stableford - (greenkeepers) 1st R.Day; 2nd C.Reed; 3rd R.Hughes. (trade and guests) 1st B.Wilmott; 2nd D.Wood. Afternoon medal - (greenkeepers) 1st M.Butrymowicz; 2nd P.Ray; 3rd C.Tate. (trade and guests) 1st B.Diddams; 2nd J.Coppen.

Our thanks go to John Shaw for the Stableford prizes and to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the Medal, together with best wishes to the following qualifiers for the ISEKI Regional Final at Ham Manor on July 3rd: G.Barr; R.Day; R.Short; C.Wakeham; C.Reed; M.Priviet; A.Cale; P.Negus; P.Ray; D.Coomber; M.Butrymowicz; C.Tate.

DICK BULL

SOUTH WALES

April 24th saw our Spring meeting off to a fine start with players competing for the Cardiff Cup over the testing Pontypool course. This 18 hole event was the section qualifier for the ISEKI Championship, the regional final to be held at Tredegar Park on June 27th.

Fighting it out and making respectable scores was made possible for the 24 competitors by a pleasant day, though the wind was blowing fiercely over the mountain top! Every credit then to Hugh Parry, (pictured left), who took the Cardiff Cup with a 69, a crystal tankard donated by SISIS and an additional tankard for winning category two. Winner of the first category was Mike Jones with a 73, Anthony Millar win-



ning the third category with a score of 70. Both players also won tankards which, along with the winner's tankard, were all generously donated by Celtic Mowers of Swansea.

Meetings such as these owe much to the generosity of Golf Clubs and our friends in the trade and we acknowledge with thanks our gratitude to: Pontypool GC; Munro's; ICI; Avoncrop; Stabrite and SISIS. Also our thanks to Brian Roberts and his green staff for an excellent course and to the steward and stewardess for 'inner satisfaction'.

ISEKI qualifiers: (0-9) John Carter; Gerwyn Price; Graham Cox; Huw Morgan; reserve: Dennis Jones. (10-18) Hugh Parry; Tony King; Malcolm Davies; Julian Bartlett-Jones; reserve: Philip Swain. (19 and over) Anthony Millar; Brian Price; Leslie Hallett; Mike Norfolk. reserve: David Roberts.

PHILIP SWAIN

EAST OF ENGLAND

Our 1991 season began with two lectures, the first delivered to a well attended audience by Jon Allbutt - Technical Consultant to the Leisure and Amenity Industry - his topic being The New COSHH Regulations. This proved to be a real 'eye-opener' for those who had not given much heed to these new and important laws. Hopefully it jolted them into action after hearing of the penalties that can be imposed. Thank you, Jon, for an absorbing evening and our thanks to Mike Shepherd, who organised the lecture.

The second lecture, also well attended, was on Soils, Sands and Ph for use in Top Dressing, given by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. Peter has a way of putting his subject over well and when followed by a question and answer session it proved to be both informative and entertaining. Refreshments were much appreciated, with a raffle won by Eric Berridge.

So, into the fresh air we go for our first golf meeting, which will have been held at Blankney, Lincoln, by the time this June issue is printed. This ISEKI qualifier, sponsored by Purdy's of Retford, will be reported in the next issue.

DIARY DATES: June 24th - ISEKI Regional at Belton Park; July 10th - Visit to Collingtree Park. Sept. 11th - Rigby Taylor Cup at Sleaford. Oct. 30th - Lamb Trophy at Burghley Park. November - Visit to new Greatham Valley GC. December - AGM and Lecture.

COLIN SWINGLER

SOUTH WEST

Spring was cancelled this year. At least that's what it's been feeling like out on the greensward. Never mind, the members are an understanding lot aren't they...? "My lawn's OK, what's up with your greens? They looked great at Augusta!" Whilst on the subject of Augusta, hearty congratulations to 'Wee Woosie'; and to the European Tour for providing the last four Masters winners. It's worth remembering that the best players in the world now play on our courses, so let's keep the standards high.

Our Spring Meeting was played on another very un-Spring like day at the Bristol and Clifton GC. Cold, damp weather at the start hardly made for good scoring; but congratulations to Robin and his staff for preparing the course for us. I'm sure Robin has his sights set on the County Championship and our best wishes go with him. Our thanks go to everyone at Bristol and Clifton, with special thanks to Club Captain, Ted Jackson, for presenting prizes and for his great hospitality ➤ 36



Roger Glazier - a qualifier for ISEKI honours



Ian Woosnam, the '91 Masters Champion

33 ➔ towards us, including his waiving of the dress rules in order to accommodate those amongst us who had NOT BROUGHT JACKETS! HONESTLY, I was ashamed. Please remember that not only are we guests in the Clubs we visit, but also ambassadors for greenkeeping and greenkeepers. This means dressing correctly and projecting a professional image. I certainly felt the standard of dress at lunch left a lot to be desired, never mind expecting to be allowed into the Club at evening time without a jacket. Please remember to dress correctly at all times in future.†

Results of this ISEKI qualifier were: 1st P Worster (4) 71. 2nd J Taylor (2) 72. 3rd T Crewe (9) 72. 4th P Connett (11) 73. 5th J Leigh (24) 74. 6th J Millar (5) 75. The ISEKI Team is: (0-9) P Worster; J Taylor; T Crew; K Millar. Reserve: C Rawlings. (10-19) P Connett; S Rattenbury; D Everett; J York. Reserve: J Farley. (20 -28) J Leigh; R Gates; D Pople; P Baynton. Reserve: P.Cox. All team members are expected to play in the Regional Final at Tredgar Park on June 27th.

Another diary date is the Section AGM – Tracy Park G and CC, November 21st – which will be sponsored by Maxwell Hart and will hopefully feature a display of the 'Terralift' deep aeration machine. Richard Danter and his staff will be along to answer questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who assisted at Westurf, making it the success it was. In particular, Robin Greaves and Chris King, who did a deal of 'leg work' for us, and those who took turn on the gate. I cannot close without thanking Gordon and Marion Child (hope the nervous breakdowns are better!), also Ivor Scoones, who as usual has managed to cram in about three different full time jobs in his life whilst also finding time to nurse his wife through her recent illness. Our thoughts are with her and our hopes are for her complete recovery.

PAUL WORSTER

†Perhaps this might call for a rigorously enforced new rule. No proper dress – no play? There is, in my opinion, too much sloppiness both on and off the course these days; with standards once relaxed difficult to re-impose. – Editor.

LONDON

The London Section held its ISEKI qualifier and Spring Meeting on April 24th at Hadley Wood GC. The event was supported reasonably well but considering that nine guests came from a total of 36 players, this was disappointing to say the least. However, it was good to see some old and some new faces and the weather was most kind. The eventual winner of the Spring Meeting was Daniel Branson from Porters Park, with 35 Stableford points. Runner-up was Don Wilson, also on 35, Daniel scraping through by courtesy of a better back nine holes.

The qualifiers for the ISEKI South Eastern Final, to be played at Ham Manor on July 3rd, were: (0-9) 1st Craig Handyside, Hadley Wood; 2nd Ray Howlett, Dyrham Park. 3rd Martin Smith, Porters Park. 4th Darren Burdis, Hadley Wood. (10-18) 1st Malcolm Storey, Hatfield and London. 2nd Robert Washbrook, Hadley Wood. 3rd Andrew Phillips, Hadley Wood. 4th Barry Webster, Pinner Hill. (19-28) 1st Robert Kendall, Hatfield and London. 2nd Gary Speller, Abridge. 3rd Jeff Fowler, Sandy Lodge. 4th Brian Kelly, Hainault Forest.

The staff at Hadley Wood, especially the kitchen girls, looked after our every need and served a delightful meal, with our trade members supporting us tremendously yet again, excelling themselves with superb prize donations. Our thanks to them all.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

MIDLANDS

April 8th saw us playing our Spring Tournament at Kings Norton GC on a day that was bitterly cold, though this was more than compensated for by the enjoyable time had by everyone. The nett prize was won by Steve Wood and gross by Tony Cheese. Players qualifying for the ISEKI regional final will be notified in the near future. Our thanks to Ray Hayhurst and his team for excellent course conditions and to the catering staff

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who provided us with a fine meal to seal a successful day.

The Midlands Section committee played for the Officers Cup at Walsall on April 24th, this again resulting in a tie between Mike Hughes and Peter Richmond; Mike eventually winning on a back nine count. Our thank to Walsall GC, especially their chairman of green, his wife, and the Club secretary who joining us for our evening and to Steve Wood and his team for a fine, well presented course.

DEAN CLEAVER

KENT

Not too much to report this month. Section members should have received a newsletter with dates of all this year's fixtures. I hope these will all be well supported.

I do know that two familiar faces will be missing however, although this may result in some of us standing a better chance of finishing in the prize winners circle. I refer to Andy Toomey, who has recently left his head greenkeepers post at Bexley Heath to move back to Essex at the new Hanover development near Hullbridge. Duncan Kelso is also on the move from North Foreland to join one of Howard Swan's projects. Although Duncan is leaving the county, Howard Swan seems to be very active in our region with his involvement in projects at Sandwich and, believe it or not, my own course, humble Barnehurst. It will be interesting to see how things develop.

Before finishing, may I thank the lads at West Malling for leaving the Invicta Motors Verti-Drain in such good condition for me, the next user. Apart from the back window on the cab being smashed (just my luck, for the days I used it we had wind and rain a-plenty), I had only made a single run to set it up before the clutch went. Thankfully it was fixed the next day.

PAUL COPSEY

MID ANGLIA

Our golfing fixtures began on April 17th at the Northampton County GC on what was a fairly cool day for the time of year. This was an ISEKI qualifying event. David Low and his staff had the course in fine condition considering the awfully cold weather and our thanks go to him and the house staff for making our day so enjoyable. Following dinner our chairman John Wells thanked the Club for the courtesy and use of facilities, the prizes then being presented by the Club's secretary, Mr Morley. Once again our friends in the trade supported us well, Maxwell Hart donating the premier prize.

The next fixture is the Summer Tournament at Letchworth GC on July 17th. This will be held over 36 holes, will cost £16.50, and entries should be sent to Ken Bunting by June 30th. Tel: 044 284 3359.

GEOFF SMITH

NORTH SCOTLAND

The opening of the picturesque Peterculter GC on the southern outskirts of Aberdeen has taken place. From an idea begun in May 1989 by village residents the project has developed into an attractive setting on the banks of the Dee. Designed and funded by members and aided by various sponsors and the R and A, the work has been carried out by local contractors under the supervision of head greenkeeper Allan Walker and his assistant, Craig Mackay. Specifications were provided and checked by Greens of Scotland, who are based in Aberdeen and the nine holes, sown in September 1989, are now in play. A second nine, sown 12 months ago, are scheduled for opening in September '91. BIGGA members should note that whilst they will be welcomed as observers of the project, play is restricted to Club members at present.

Royal Dornoch are pressing ahead with plans to upgrade and improve their second 18 holes, titled the Struie course. Their long term plan is to bring it to a standard where visiting parties will play one round on Struie and a second on the main course, thus relieving pressure on the championship course.

Iain MacLeod, head greenkeeper at Tain GC, has been selected as our representative for the Scottish Team in the Ransomes International Tournament. Iain, handicap four, has been a 'regular' at section events over the years and the committee feel this is just reward. He will, we are sure, prove an excellent ambassador for our area and our hopes are that he will emulate George Paterson of Montrose, who was our representative ➔ 45

RECRUITMENT

● Continued from Pages 37 - 40

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requires a

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Bristol & Clifton Golf Club**

Beggar Bush Lane, Failand, Bristol, BS8 3TH

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**Mr P. Dawson, Dunwood Manor Golf Club,
Shootash Hill, Romsey, Hants, SO51 0GF**

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36 → in the victorious team of three years ago at Ipswich.

Muir of Ord greenkeeper, Steven MacIntosh, came extremely close to having a dream start to his golfing season. Wielding a Torrance style putter, he was only beaten at the first extra hole play-off for the 72 hole Scottish Champion of Champions Tournament at Leven. Entry is by invitation only with players qualifying by winning either a district or national title in 1990.

I sincerely hope that by the time this report is published members everywhere will have something to celebrate, with grass actually growing. Although things looked promising for a while, strong winds and falling temperatures throughout April sent the grass positively diving for cover! With the season a month or so old I'm sure Club members fail to understand our problems and wonder why our courses - some of which are not too far from the Arctic Circle - are not quite in the same condition as Augusta National during Masters week.

GORDON MOIR

NORTH WEST

How are you all managing with this weather? April is drawing to a close, the sun is shining, the spring shrubs are flowering and even the birds are nesting. Yet the grass refuses to grow! These dry springs with cold northerly winds are not helping at all, tending to create a late start to the year. However, I'm sure that once the ground has warmed and the grass begins to shoot you will read these notes in June and wonder what the Hell I'm rabbiting on about! So to other business.

The inaugural annual tournament between the North West and North Wales Sections has just taken place at Llangollen GC, finishing as a halved match. Eight matches were scheduled but our 'three musketeers', Andy Peel; Howard Roberts and Ken Ramsbottom, attempted to get to Wales in a clapped-out old banger and broke down. Two of the Welsh team turned up at the wrong course and were late, the results being taken from just five matches. The day was sponsored by Alan Birch of A C and M Birch Golf Signs, who not only donated a trophy for annual play but also paid for all meals on the day. Thanks, Alan, your generosity is much appreciated.

The next tournament is our 'Reg Vickers Memorial' at Birchwood → 46

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45 ➤ GC on July 4th. Soup and sandwiches will be served between noon and 1.00 pm, with tee-off at 1.30 pm. Cost is £15.00, with dinner and presentation taking place in the evening. Smart dress is essential. Any enquiries please ring me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

NORTHERN

It must be Spring at last, for our golf is underway. Forty members turned up at Wetherby to play Ian Thompson's well turned-out course on what was a grand day for golf. One of the stalwarts of our section, Colin Garnett, had a magnificent day in winning the morning Stableford including a hole-in-one, making it a clean sweep in the afternoon by winning the Medal with a 62! The qualifiers for the ISEKI Regional Finals are: E. Walsh; M Hannan; G Wilson; R Johnson; D Spurden; M Bryant; M Lealman; R Smith; C Garnett; G Hope; D Anderson and L Kirkbright. Well done everyone. Regional Administer, Howard McCaddey, will be in contact with full details of the final.

Many thanks to everyone at Wetherby for making this such a splendid day and to Aitkins, Patissons and Maxwell Hart for filling our prize table. Members should note that the Yorkshire Mowers sponsored invitation day is fully subscribed but places are still available for the Autumn Tournament and the Roses Match. The Roses, incidently, is still free thanks to the generous support of Patissons.

BOB LUPTON

SHEFFIELD

The President's Prize held at Coxmoor GC on April 3rd was a great success, with 36 members and four traders present on a sunny though windy day. The winners were: 1st - Ian Whitehead (Hallamshire GC) 40 points. 2nd - P Unwin 38 pts. 3rd - E Marsh 36 pts. 4th - K B Heaney 36 pts. 5th - P Lyons 35 pts. 6th - J Kirkham 34 pts. This competition was also an ISEKI qualifying round, the qualifiers being: (0-9) K B Heaney; S Currie; J Ryan. (10-18) I Whitehead; E Marsh; P Lyons. Reserve J K Kirkham. (19-28) P Unwin; P Stain; B V Lax. Reserve T Wadkin. These players will compete at Keswick GC on June 19th in the Northern Regional Final.

We thank Coxmoor GC for courtesy of their course at short notice, the steward and staff for a lovely meal and Kevin Atherton and his staff for the super condition of the course. Additionally a special thank you to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor for

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supplying beautiful glassware as prizes and to other trade members who donated so generously to our prize table. Finally thanks to Barry Heaney for his organisation of the event, without which it wouldn't have been possible. Last year's ISEKI champion, John Lax, has been knocked out early this year, no doubt due to playing with Derek, who brought John down to his level!

Following golf just one day later came our winter lecture, which was disappointingly attended by only 18 members, a reduction of 50% on the previous day's turn-out. The talk was given by Ian Misselbrook from Tillers Turf, to whom we offer thanks for a fine presentation and apologies for the lack of member support. The next date for your diary is our 27 hole Annual Tournament at Hillsborough GC on July 17th

IAN COLLETT

DEVON and CORNWALL

Our Guest Day meeting was held at Launceston GC on April 10th, with a bonus of witnessing so many Club secretaries and green committee officials as our members guests. The results of a combined Stableford score competition were: 1st - T Bennett and R Harris - 62 points. 2nd - E Barber and P Pearman - 61 points. 3rd - C Kitto and L Grindley - 60 points. Following an excellent meal the prizes were presented by our sponsors, Mr A Dommett of Devon Garden Machinery and Mr F Parkin of Mitchell, the Jacobsen dealers for Devon and Cornwall. An additional prize was given by Mr E Simcox of Jacobsens. Our thanks to them all and a special thanks to George Bailey and his staff, who prepared the course in their usual fine style, to the catering team for a superb meal and to Launceston GC for their generosity.

I would like to wish those who qualified for the ISEKI Regional Final the best of good fortune at Tredegar Park on June 27th - come back with winning smiles.

RICHARD WHYMAN

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