

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON AND CORNWALL

As is usual in these section missives, it falls upon the scribe to offer thanks to the head greenkeeper of the club at which our meetings are held. This normally takes the form of congratulatory applause for the condition of the course and the splendid putting surfaces prepared for our pleasure and delight. Thus I must congratulate Mike Pike for what we all secretly know was his splendid effort at Elford Leigh Golf and Country Club on January 30th. It was only a covering of 'that white stuff' which prevented us from actually seeing the fruits of his labours, and our proposed Devon v Cornwall games from continuing, as the snow gathering golf ball got bigger and bigger and bigger ...

At the January meeting we were entertained by a lecturer from Cannington College who presented a seminar of the City and Guilds Phase III Management Course. This included a thoroughly enlightening 'generating a team performance' presentation.

It was, I promise you, guaranteed to generate enthusiasm for the City and Guilds Course and you could do worse that investigate the possibilities of entering such a worthwhile educational path.

Our day was sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery, Stanley West, AvonCrop, PJ Flegg, Monro, Greenlands, Fisons and LSF Groundcare, to whom we offer sincere thanks.

A few dates / memory joggers are: March 14th - East Devon Golf Club (ISEKI Qualifier), April 10th - Launceston Golf Club (Guest day) and May 1st - Westurf.

I hope to see you at them all.

RICHARD WHYMAN

EAST OF ENGLAND

In bringing our 1990 calendar to a close it would be remiss of me not to report on our last two competitions.

The Lamb Trophy was held at Middleton Golf Club, Kings Lynn, where winner David Salisbury played well to nett a creditable 69. Hard on David's heels with gross 75's were Charlie Macdonald and Richard Owens, all representing excellent play on this tricky new course.

On to Ely City for the Rigby Taylor Trophy. Our winner on this tight and very green course was Daniel Wells from Burghley Park. Daniel is a new BIGGA member and has just joined the ranks of greenkeeping. In second place was Gerry Healey from Girton Golf Club, Cambridge.

Our final fixture was a visit to the new Belton Woods Golf and Leisure complex, with its 45 golf holes and 150 bedroom hotel.

This was our best turn-out so far with 40 or more members and a green chairman, all eager to see this new and exciting project on the edge of Grantham.

We were shown around the course by head greenkeeper Paul Gale and his assistant Chris Squires, both of whom gave us an enlightening insight into the problems that can arise when taking over from the architects and contractors. Our grateful thanks to you gentlemen.

From here we moved to Belton Park Golf Club where our AGM was held and here again we were encouraged by fine member support. Our Chairman, Graeme Patrick, highlighted our year's past activities and thanked especially our sponsors for their support, together with those past captains and committees from the many Golf Clubs who have welcomed us so warmly - giving us courtesy of their respective courses.

COLIN SWINGLER

SURREY

There is precious little news coming to me at the moment, and I can't include that which I don't have! In this issue, therefore, I'll tell you a little about the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate, which I was fortunate enough to attend in January. I spent the first two days at the James Beard Education Workshop and learnt not only about turfgrass science, but also how far we have to go to reach American standards in research and development. This isn't a jibe at STRI, more an acknowledgement of the funding of sportsturf research in the USA. I also looked at the machine and accessory stands in the exhibition halls, all of which seemed pretty busy, and was impressed with some of the new equipment coming onto the market. These would have our forefathers thinking we have an easy time of it and though this obviously isn't true, the advances in technology have certainly improved our chances of keeping pace with the pressures placed upon us at our place of work these days.

Next I attended a lecture given by the dynamic Bobbie Gee. Bobbie is an American lady who lectures on Personal Image and Presentation and demonstrates how such an image can give a desired result. Most of what she said was pure common sense and made me wonder why I hadn't thought of it myself! Her main message was 'think how you want others to perceive you, then set about creating and setting standards by which this can be achieved'. This is so true for the greenkeeping profession that her words should be hung in a prominent place in every workshop in the land.

Surrey's own Clive Osgood gave an excellent presentation on

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'The Preparation and Fine Tuning of Walton Heath For Major Events', such as the Ryder Cup, European Open etc. Having witnessed the hassle and damage sustained it's a wonder any of the chaps who have major events on their courses have any hair left!

Harrogate also saw the launch of our new magazine - 'Greenkeeper International' - which is excellent and which thankfully is now our own publication. David White has returned as editor and doesn't live too far from us so maybe, if he can tear himself away from his word processor, we'll see him at a Surrey event or two throughout the year. (You can be sure of it - Ed).

All in all Harrogate was an excellent week thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. I would like to congratulate all those involved in organising the event - an arduous task no doubt - but one achieved very successfully.

Finally, if you have contributions for the magazine please call me on 025 125 4287.

PHIL BALDOCK

NORTH WEST

I have just returned from an excellent day spent at BTME in Harrogate and must express my pleasure at being able to walk comfortably around well staged displays of machinery on carpeted floors. What a change from facing the elements, up to your knees in mud in a semi-ploughed field! Members of the trade were all so helpful in answering enquiries and how nice it was to be able to arrange machinery demonstrations at our own convenience. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the organisers on the professional manner in which the whole exhibition was staged and I can only hope the attendance figures did the exhibition justice.

Howard McAddey, the North-West Treasurer for many years, has now taken on the role of Northern Regional Administrator and will relinquish his treasury post to Brian Moss at the February committee meeting. Howard has done sterling work for the section since he joined the committee some 13 years ago and we thank him and wish him well in this new post.

My 'hot' news line for magazine items is 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

MID ANGLIA

Our first lecture of 1991 began with a well attended presentation given by Mark Hunt of Sierra UK Ltd. Although not present myself I am reliably informed by chairman John Wells that the whole affair was very well received. Mr Hunt's talk was most informative and we thank him and Sierra for everything - including the delicious refreshments! I need hardly add how indebted we are to Beadlow Manor for once again allowing us to use their clubhouse and facilities.

Forthcoming events: March 20th, Beadlow Manor at 2.00 pm, a lecture by a representative of Lodgeway Tractors on 'Tractor Tyres, Selection and Maintenance'. April 17th is the 27 hole ISEKI qualifying event at Northampton County Golf Club. The fee is £16.50 and entries should be sent to Ken Bunting by April 1st. We will be running the Fourball Matchplay competition again this year, with entries again to Ken Bunting by April 17th. Ken's phone number is 044 284 3359, or in his absence you may call me on 0272 835984.

A reminder of this year's Mid Anglia Section officers:

Chairman: John Wells
Vice-Chairman: Paul Lockett
Secretary: Geoff Smith
Match Secretary: Ken Bunting
Treasurer: Les Wakerall

Paul Lockett and Geoff Smith will be regional representatives.

Finally, any member who has topical news or views, and would like them included in this column, please let me have them - preferably in writing - by the 15th of the month.

GEOFF SMITH

MIDLANDS

Edgbaston Golf Club was the venue for our recent AGM, which was attended by 22 members. Many interesting points were discussed and a good meeting was enjoyed by all. Those elected to office were:

President: Reg Pugh
Chairman: Alan Kite
Vice-Chairman: Mike Hughes

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Secretary: Dean Cleaver

Treasurer: Peter Richmond

Committee: Steve Wood and Peter Woodward

January saw the retirement after 28 years of W Pye, Head Greenkeeper, Lillishall Golf Club. He had been a member of our Association for over 20 years and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

February 13th gave us a rare opportunity to meet David Golding, BIGGA's Education Officer, when he attended Walsall Golf Club to address us on the progress made by the Association. As you might imagine, this was an ideal opportunity for us to quiz him and numerous questions were fired at him, which he answered in his humorous and affable manner. Thank you David.

March 11th will see Mark Hunt, from Sierra UK Ltd, lecture on the use of slow release fertilisers and their application on a variety of different golf course areas. This will be held at Telford Golf and Country Club.

DEAN CLEAVER

WEST SCOTLAND

The section held their Annual Dinner at Sloans in Glasgow recently, with special thanks reserved specially for our two stalwart guest speakers, both of whom were called upon at short notice. These were Douglas McClaren of the Scottish Golf Union and John Watson. If we reserve thanks for the above named speakers we feel that Alistair Connell deserved a medal, for he chaired the whole highly successful evening with a mere half-hour's warning before we sat down to eat!

The section AGM was held courtesy of Renfrew Golf Club and it was pleasing to see a rise in attendance when comparing previous figures. The section has suffered the loss of three prominent committee members over the past year and this curtailed the organising of certain events. Now it is felt that with our new structure and the election of our new committee things will almost certainly begin again in earnest in the West Section.

Cecil George, the Section Chairman and Course Manager at Lenzie Golf Club, has kindly offered the services of his Club at Lenzie on April 25th and will also use Lenzie as the location for the ISEKI Qualifier. Do please try and make these a success and make the turn-out a bumper one.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best for the coming golf season and offer personal congratulations to Stuart Taylor on his appointment as Course Manager to the Glasgow Golf Club.

Cecil has written especially to inform us about the ROBERT BELL MORRISON MCKILLOP MEMORIAL TROPHY, which was presented recently to the West section by Bob's daughter, Iris Cannon. This fine silver trophy is to be played for at our Autumn Tournament each year and was won for the first time by Ian Wilson of Vale of Leven Golf Club. In accepting the trophy in memory of Bob Mckillop, Cecil recalled what a fine and good friend and fellow Bob had been. He was a member of the Scottish Greenkeepers Association from the First World War and showed great interest in the new Association right up until his death at the age of 97. In thanking Iris for her generosity, Cecil assured her that her father's memory will forever be perpetuated wherever greenkeepers gather.

GORDON KERR



Ian Wilson, winner of the Robert McKillop Memorial Trophy

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pensions, planning etc. Nairn Golf Club have only recently completed the building of a new £700,000 clubhouse and are scheduled to stage the Vagliano Trophy, the bi-annual game between the Ladies of Great Britain and Europe, later this year.

GORDON MOIR

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Two events worthy of reporting are those held at Frilford Heath, the first being the Rigby Taylor Fourball Matchplay, which was won by Simon Edwards and Murray Long. In second place were Ray Clarke and Bob Woodward with Dave Childs and Nick Allen a deserving third. Also at Frilford, the Annual Turkey Trot was won by Philip Plater, whose 81 - 10 gave him a 71 best nett for the CMW Trophy and a turkey. The best gross score was John Teixeira's 78, which rewarded him with the John Deere Cup. Longest drive for the Toro prize - everyone's ambition is to drive a country mile - was recorded by Simon Robinson and the award given by County Mowers for nearest to the pin was taken by John Bevan. For these fine days we thank Rigby Taylor and especially Roger Bowles for his hard work in making the Matchplay so enjoyable, and on both occasions our heartfelt thanks to David Heads and Jaques Kaynhams, Head Greenkeeper and Secretary respectively at Frilford Heath, for doing what they both do best - produce good playing conditions and splendid clubhouse facilities. Thanks also to our sponsors: John Deere, Toro, CMW, County Mowers, Sta-Brite, Gem Fertilisers, Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart - and my apologies if I've missed any!

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the fine job that Ray Clark and Bob Woodward have done in producing the newsletter and to thank also our retiring Chairman, Bill Patterson, for all his sterling work.

Members should have fixtures lists, but as a reminder our first golf event, The Spring Tournament over 36 holes, will be at Goring and Streetley on May 22nd. In April a list of committee members will be published together with a full programme of events for 1991. Let's make this a year of growth and prosperity, where support is seen to come from all section members.

NORMAN FENWICK

NORTH SCOTLAND

A programme of events for 1991 is still in the final stages of preparation, with a couple of events still awaiting confirmation and, hopefully, the announcement of sponsorship. Other plans include the probability of a half-day conference in Aberdeen and another in Inverness, both in conjunction with the Scottish Agricultural College, sometime in mid March. The subject will be Grass Identification under Working Conditions. When dates are confirmed details will appear in the local press.

Again with the Scottish Agricultural College we hope to hold one or two spraying courses at the end of 1991. Those interested in attending should contact me and I will arrange venues and times. Of great importance in these matters is a firm commitment, so please give this your best shot.

Our Spring Outing will be at Nairn West Golf Club on May 16th. As our guest at Nairn we shall have Howard Evans, pensions adviser to BIGGA, who will give a short talk and be available for personal discussions on such things as life assurance,

SHEFFIELD

Our AGM in December was preceded by an interesting talk given by Mark Hunt from Sierra, together with a slide presentation. This was followed by the election of officers, in which

A K Arnold remains as Section President and Ron Graham takes on the new post as Chairman, replacing Barry Lax who has retired from this position. Barry has spent the last 20 years on the section committee, eight of which have been spent as secretary and the past two as chairman. This fine record cannot go by without recording our thanks for all of Barry's hard work. Other officers re-elected were Tony Renshaw (Secretary), Barry Heaney (Competition Secretary), Derek Neve, Paul Unwin and Eric Palmer. New officers elected were John Lax and myself.

The committee has decided to scrap the idea of petrol subsidy for members travelling together in a shared car to Harrogate, this replaced in favour of hiring a coach to Peterborough for the IOG Show in September. Twenty five people will be the minimum to make this viable so please indicate your interest at an early date.

The 1990 Christmas competition, which was cancelled, is unlikely to be re-scheduled and therefore those who paid at Sicklingholme will have payment carried over toward the Spring Tournament; the date of which is still to be confirmed. Dates for your diary are July 17th, Annual Tournament at Brough Golf Club. Finally, belated congratulations to John Lax, from all friends in the Sheffield section, on becoming the 1990 ISEKI Champion.

IAN COLLETT

EAST SCOTLAND

Good news announced is that the Willie Wood Memorial Tournament will be sponsored. Gillies and Henderson, known to us all, have taken over the Jacobsen Sales Department for the East and have kindly offered to sponsor this popular tournament by way of prize donations each year. Our thanks go to Harry Bond and Allan Ronaldson for this kind gesture.

Lest you may have missed it - the next meeting on schedule is the visit to the Whisky Bond on March 20th - cheers!

The Spring Outing and ISEKI Qualifier will be at Baberton Golf Club on April 9th. Entry forms will be sent in good time.

We were sorry to hear that Jimmy Neilson was injured in a car accident in late November though can report that he is doing fine and is now back in action. The same cannot be said of his car, and we know that Jimmy will miss the old steed - which he worshipped. There are some who believe that Jimmy kept it because it knew it's own way home - and he had no time to train another!

We should be aware that subs were due on Jan 1st, so if you haven't paid, DO IT NOW. The first list of 'paid-up' members will soon be in my hands and only those marked paid will receive invites to golf outings etc.

WILLIE BLAIR

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NORTHERN ENGLAND

Just returned from the BIGGA show in Harrogate and I was pleased to see so many of our members there. Everyone agreed that the show and the seminars were an outstanding success.

Many thanks to all section members for their time and help on the door and at the seminars, it was very much appreciated.

Our winter lectures continue. The last was a general discussion evening when a good turnout made it a success. On the panel was Chairman Philip Taylor, Alan Gamble, Education Officer, David Golding, BIGGA Vice-Chairman, George Malcolm, BIGGA Pension Adviser, Howard Evans and myself.

The next lectures will be on Wednesday 6 March at Cleckheaton Golf Club at 2.30 pm by Chaplins on aeration equipment, and they have kindly agreed to provide us with some tea.

Iseki and EFG will provide speakers on Wednesday, 20th March at 2.30 pm at West Bowling Golf Club and show us their range of equipment. They also will provide us with a bite to eat.

Please remember that golf club dress rules will apply on these occasions, so no working clothes please.

It must be nearly Spring as I am now able to inform you of our golf programme for the year, which is as follows:

SPRING TOURNAMENT – Wetherby Golf Club, Wednesday 24 April. This is a qualifier for the Iseki finals and is limited to 40 only I am afraid and because of the restricted numbers it has been decided that this one is for greenkeeping members only.

PRESIDENTS DAY – Lightcliffe Golf Club, Tuesday, 11 June. This is also restricted to 40. Please contact Bill Mountain at Mountains to book for this one, not me.

INVITATION DAY – York Golf Club, Thursday, 1st August. Again restricted to 40.

AUTUMN TOURNAMENT - Barforth Golf Club, Tuesday, 1st October

As you see Golf Clubs are limiting the number of players so it is important to book early and all bookings must be accompanied by a £10 deposit for each event (cheques made payable to BIGGA). Bookings are made on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Last, but not least, is the Section's annual dinner dance date, which is Friday, 22nd March at 7.30 pm at Baildon Rugby Club (off Jenny Lane). Last year's event was well supported and I hope this year will be the same, especially as we are trying something a little different. We are having a Gourmet Buffet, provided by BBC TV's Masterchef, so a treat is in store. This will be followed by a disco. Tickets are priced at £10 per head. Please contact me to book and please remember this is open to members and guests.

BOB LUPTON

SCOTTISH REGION

1990 was a very busy year in Scotland, fairly successful too. Membership wise we had a good percentage increase, keeping up the gradual build up of the Association. Financially it was a

successful year, no small thanks to all our generous Patrons who supported us, and hopefully who we also supported during 1990.

In March the Region Conference was very successful. Nine speakers on a large variety of subjects kept the full house well entertained.

At Turnhouse Golf Club in April the annual match Greenkeepers v Golf Club Secretaries, saw the greenkeepers reclaim the trophy in a very exciting match, the result hingeing on the last game of the day. The Iseki regional final held at Cawder Golf Club in May was a splendid day on a very tough course.

In June the Scottish National Championship, held at Moray Golf Club, was another great day over another very tough course. Young Kevin Thomson from the club was a proud lad that day on winning the Championship. On to July and The Open at St Andrews, where the Scottish Committee was responsible for a smooth bunker raking operation. It can be a long and tiring day but what a way to watch the world's greatest golfers, walking a few yards behind them with unobstructed views while all those poor punters are stuck behind the ropes!

The BIGGA National Tournament was held at Ganton in August. I believe there were only two Scottish members there, Gordon Moir from the North and Duncan Gray from Ayrshire. I'm sure they enjoyed it as much as I did the year before.

In September a team of nine greenkeepers from the Region travelled to Moortown to play in the Iseki finals and they did us proud. They came second in the team tournament bringing back a cheque for £250 to be used for educational purposes in the Region. Team Captain John Flint, North Section, won the Veteran's prize and Jim Ellis, Central Section, the under 21's prize.

In November it was Scotsturf and the chance to see old friends and new equipment, the BIGGA stand was very busy and if only half the applications for membership taken away are returned our membership in 1991 will carry on the steady growth of the last two years.

Section wise, membership numbers are obviously up but some sections are struggling to encourage members to support their activities. The East Section, after having a rough time a few years ago, must be congratulated on the excellent support they are receiving for their events and their committee must be pleased with their hard work; keep up the good work lads. Unfortunately on the other side of the country what used to be the best supported and most active section, the West, are going through a sticky spell and now is the time for their members to rally round and support their committee in 1991.

Scottish Region dates for 1991:

Conference at Elmwood, Monday 10th March, Elmwood College, Cupar; Iseki Regional Final, Tuesday 28th May, Fraserburgh Golf club; Scottish National Tournament, Tuesday 25th June, Alloa Golf Club.

ELLIOTT SMALL

SOUTH COAST

Most winter lectures, as members will know, are held at Alresford Golf Club. However, to encourage participation for those members in the West of the Section an extra lecture was held in January at Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester.

The speaker was Mark Hunt of Sierra UK who gave an excel-

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lent talk on Plant Nutrition, Shrub Planting and Tree Maintenance.

Over 30 members were in attendance which delighted Section Chairman Ken Lodge and Committee Organiser Paul Drodge. However, special thanks must go to Stephen Fell, Head Greenkeeper at Came Down who rallied the troops in that part of the Section to make the afternoon meeting such a success.

Sierra UK kindly provided refreshments and Ken ended the session by giving members present an update on the affairs of the Section.

Following the December Stableford Competition, the following members will represent the Section in the ISEKI Regional Tournament on 27th June at Tredegar Park Golf Club, Gwent:

E McCabe, J Newman, P Summers, L Anderson, M Blake, J Llewellyn, P Marsh,

T Neighbour, J Norris, S Phillips, M Wheeler-Osman and S White.

Reserves are M Webb, B Port and A Archer.

The full list of Section Tournaments for 1991 are:

Spring Tournament, Blackmoor Golf Club Wednesday 29th May; Summer Tournament, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club Thursday 1st August; Autumn Tournament, Hockley Golf Club Tuesday 15th October. (This is a revised date from that published in the Section Programme card.); December Turkey Trot, Winchester Golf Club Wednesday, 4th December. All enquiries to play in our Tournaments to be directed to Joe Burdett, 948 Castle Lane East, BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6SP, Tel: 0202 483017.

BOB DENNIS

SOUTH WEST

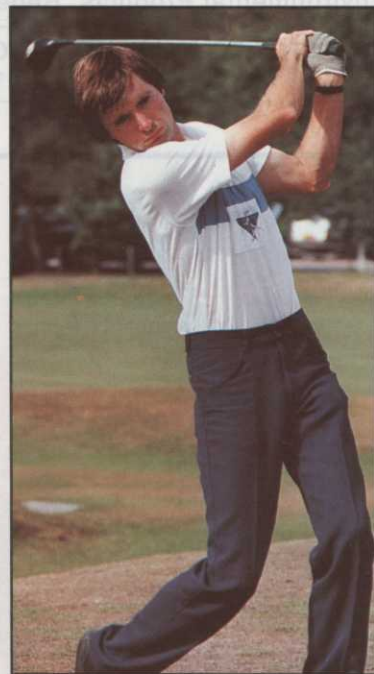
A bright crisp sunny morning awaited us at the Mendip Golf Club for our 1990 Christmas Tournament with the day appearing deceptive when viewed from the car and clubhouse. On arrival at the first tee however it was obvious that a howling gale and ground frozen solid were both likely to present problems.

The sub-zero temperatures were more than compensated for by the warm hospitality given us by this expanding Club which nestles in the hills above the City of Wells and the course, despite the frozen conditions, was in excellent condition and a true credit to Richard Flower and his staff.

The results of this Veals Lawnmowers sponsored event were: 1st Peter Connett (Lyme Regis) 35 points, 2nd Paul Worster (Lillybrook) 32 points, 3rd Jock Millar (Burnham) 29 points and 4th John Kane (Clevedon) 29 points.

Prizes were gratefully received from Veals, Monro, Avoncrop, Vitax, T H Whites, Ransomes and SISIS. Special thanks go to Peter Hampton, who not only provided a prize but purchased wine for us all. Also worthy of praise were Peter Cox and Robin Williams who were 'plucked' from the gathering to run the raffle and collect the entry fees. We South West-erners are never short of praise for a good meal and acknowledge the good folks at Mendip who did us proud - thank you again.

Forthcoming events are: April 25th, ISEKI Qualifier at Bristol and Avon, May 29th, July 23th, Greensomes at Westonbirt, Summer meeting at Filton, October 3rd, South West versus Wales at St Pierre, and December 11th our Christmas meeting at Shirehampton Park. Regional events include Westurf at Long Ashton on May 1st, ISEKI Regional Final at Tredegar Park on June 27th and the Cannington College Seminar on November 6th.



Paul Worster was again among the prizewinners at Mendip Golf Club

PAUL WORSTER