

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SHEFFIELD

Our winter (March) lecture was held at Thryburgh with a fine turnout of 35 members and including our President, Mr A.K. Arnold. The lecture was presented by Howard Evans, the BIGGA adviser on pensions, his address stirring much comment and causing him to still be talking individually with members some two hours later! Thank you Howard, for your time and patience.

Please note that players in any BIGGA golf tournament or competition MUST have paid the 1991 subscription. You may be asked to produce your membership card as proof, so don't put this matter off for another moment.

A chance to see before buying is the idea behind exhibiting all BIGGA merchandise at Sheffield Section functions with whatever takes your fancy being ordered through Tony Renshaw, Sheffield Section Secretary.

The new entry fee for competitions will rise to £10.00 from July 17th, this being necessary due to rising administration costs, postage and food prices at Golf Clubs.

Notes for your golfing diary are: July 17th – Annual Tournament at Hillsborough GC. September 9th – Autumn Tournament at Brough GC. (this is NOT as printed earlier – please correct your diary).

IAN COLLETT

SOUTH WALES

March 18th saw several members of both BIGGA and IOG gather at the comfortable Southerndown GC for entertainment in the shape of Bob Priddle, who gave a talk on Conservation. As one associated with the World Wildlife Fund, Bob's talk was most interesting and prompted much discussion and enquiry. In total some 31 people attended and it was nice to observe new faces in the audience, which we hope will be a continuing trend. Bob is to be thanked for turning out on such a dreadful night, as are the Club committee for their generosity; and our sponsors of the evening-Celtic Mowers-who have also donated a substantial sum for section upkeep. Perhaps this is a time when we can thank all our supporters, Celtic Mowers and all other traders, for past help, present support and future anticipation of generosity.

The news that Michael Harrison has been forced to give up his job at Southerndown, due to ill-health, is not good, but we hope that he will soon be recovered and may continue to participate in section events.

Neil Smith of Southerndown has left for Royal Porthcawl and Mike Wilson, who left these parts for Scotland, has returned and been successful in gaining a position at the Bowood Estates GC at Chippenham. We wish all three the very best in their different jobs and to Mike's wife, who by the time this newsletter reaches publication will have given birth to their first child, which will be even more precious after previous disappointments.

Colin Murphy thanks everyone who sent cards and good wishes during his recent illness. There is a good way to go yet before his recovery is complete, but it was good to see him at Southerndown.

FIXTURES: May 15th-Glamorgan GC., Jacobsen Cup & Brown's Shield. June 27th-Tredegar Park GC., Iseki Regional Qualifier (this is definitely 27th, not 17th as in fixture card) July 30th: Royal Porthcawl GC., Birdie Cup. Aug. 8th: Southerndown GC., Match, Greenkeepers V Secretaries. Sept 18th: Morrision GC., Autumn Comp. Oct 3rd: St Pierre G&CC., Match V South West. Dec.11th: Pyle & Kenfig GC., AGM and Vitax Cup Competition.

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

By the time this reaches print I'm sure everyone will join with me in wishing Peter Tait, head greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. a speedy return to his work after suffering a mild heart-attack in February. At the time of writing, good progress was being made and, who knows, maybe he'll appear at the Spring Outing with his camera?

There are certainly plenty of job opportunities going in the North

Section at the moment with Huntly, Buckpool and Rothes Golf Club's all currently seeking head greenkeepers and still more looking for first assistants. Whilst some of these vacancies have arisen through people moving to other Clubs, a disappointing trend is that many result through leaving the profession altogether for jobs outside, such as oil-rigs. Can there be an obvious reason for this?

May I make an appeal for magazine section news items? Please contact me on 0346-26931.

GORDON MOIR

SOUTH WEST

'Rain, rain go away, come again another day'. Miraculously it did! In the midst of the wettest spell for what seemed like years, our opening 91' fixture – The ICI TECHTURF sponsored day at Salford GC on March 21st – remained blissfully rain free. Despite the forecast, we were greeted on the first tee with bright, breezy conditions, a perfect morning for golf on the first day of spring.

The course, whilst suffering muddy, sticky pathways, (along with most of us) was in excellent early condition, for which our thanks to Ian and his staff- and not forgetting the redoubtable Leslie Johnson- for preparing it for us. The results were: 1st: Vion (Buster) Lewer, Wells GC., 37 points. 2nd: Cary Rawlings, Wells GC., 34 points. 3rd: John York, Wells GC., 34 points. 4th: James Taylor, Tall Pines GC., 33 points

It is possible to discern certain similarities between the top three places, though rest assured they did not all play together. I'm certain the handicap chairman will be watching future results very closely and probably dish out the first ever group handicap at this rate! Our thanks go to ICI and Avoncrop Amenity for prizes and a worthy mention for Richard Minton of ICI. His 37 points put him amongst the prizes but he nobly refused, saying he was overpaid as it was!

After lunch, generously provided by ICI., it was over to Gordon Rolfe and his Techturf Team for an interesting and enlightening talk featuring this exciting new product. Thank you gentlemen, for your time and trouble, and may I say how we were particularly impressed by the calm manner in which you parried the awkward questions at the end. On a personal note, I was very pleased with the overall turn-out, which vastly improved on this time last year when an audience of just seven listened to John Hinton. Thank you all.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTHERN

With another season underway after a hard winter, it's all hands on deck everyone hoping for another nice summer. As the Spring Tournament approaches the golf competitions are filling up well. Invitation day at York is now full, though places for the Roses Match and the Autumn Tournament are still available. The 'Roses' will be held at Crossland Heath GC on August 22nd (no deposit for this one -just send me your name!) with the Autumn Tournament at Garforth GC on October 1st. Those wishing to play in the Presidents day at Lightcliffe GC on June 11th are advised to contact Bill Mountain on 0532-533230.

Our winter lectures ended at a wet West Bowling GC with the ISEKI Roadshow, for which thanks to both ISEKI and EFG of Halifax for kind support. Once again the turn-out was poor, with our past two lectures attracting just twenty people between them! Can you imagine how embarrassing this may be for the speakers? – it certainly is for me. Do you – the members -want lectures? We've tried different venues, different times, so please let me have your ideas on what you want and when the timing would be best.

● Continued on Page 47



Vion (Buster) Lewer

● From Page 45

The main social event of our year – the Dinner & Dance – took place at Baildon Rugby Club in March, where a grand time was enjoyed by all. Here once again, just as it is in the lecture programme, the turn-out was pathetic with just 40 members and guests attending, this from a section with nearly 300 members! Come on all you guys, support your section. Everyone at BIGGA is working hard on your behalf but, **UNLESS YOU ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE YOU WILL NOT GET MAXIMUM RETURN.** You know it makes sense.

BOB LUPTON

EAST ANGLIA

There has not been much going on lately, except for a rather disturbing letter from a fellow head greenkeeper in our region about an over-enthusiastic member. Apparently this fellow had been sending notes to the committee about how he thought the course should be run, how the litter bins were never emptied etc.etc. ad nauseam... I'm sure we've all got one in our Club, recognised a mile off by a copy of "Be your own Lawn Expert" under the arm and a know-it-all attitude.

This is all very well until these know-alls get elected to the green committee, when the fun really starts. Then the greenkeepers every move is questioned. Three quotes needed before you buy a tin of paint and half your working time spent trying to prove that you already have the best system – one which works! It is not enough that the course has never looked better and that you've been at the job for twenty years and never lost a green!

I recently heard his suggestion that two experienced men could run an 18 hole course with – just maybe – an extra hand in the summer. Why not have three animals, say a goat for the rough, a sheep for the fairways and a goose for the greens. At Christmas he could kill the goose. Then, when spring comes he'll say 'The greens are getting long, where is the goose? Ah yes, I remember, I killed him last year'. Exactly Mr Know-it-all, exactly.

I wonder how many good greenkeepers have said 'I don't need this', and left the profession because of a Barrack Room Lawyer? Too many, I would guess. I remember when I was a young greenkeeper (many years ago) reading the definition of a committee which read: **THE COMMITTEE: THE UNFIT, APPOINTED BY THE UNWILLING, TO DO THE UNNECESSARY.** That seemed to sum it up nicely.

MICK LATHROPE

DEVON and CORNWALL

East Devon GC. was the venue for our March meeting, with members taking to the course in sunny conditions to play for the SUPATURF and MAY & BAKER Trophies. At the same time, players were trying to qualify for the regional final of the ISEKI Championship. Our thanks and congratulations to Paul Newcombe and his green staff for a course in excellent condition. Also thanks to John Palfrey of Avoncrop and Mike Berriman of Monro for donating and presenting prizes as follows: SUPATURF (Head Greenkeepers and Trade) 1st: J.Mills (Woodbury) 37 points. 2nd: T.Pipe (Honiton) 36 points. R.Minton (ICI) 36 points. MAY & BAKER (Assistants) 1st: A.Woolnough (Teignmouth) 37 points. 2nd: C.Pine (Churston) 36 points. 3rd: N.Gagg (Churston) 35 points.

The ISEKI qualifiers were: (0-9) N.Gagg, R.Hall, P.Newcombe, N.Pring. (10-18) J.Mills, A.Woolnough, T.Pipe, S.Dymond. (19-28) C.Pine, T.Blackburn, J.Breyley, N.Clark.

Unfortunately Roy Battishill was unable to attend and make his presentation on 'The Ups & Downs of Holding a Major PGA Event',

AROUND THE GREEN

due to the tented village arriving without notice! At very short notice Richard Minton of ICI agreed to step in – good stuff and our thanks Richard.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH WEST

On March 20th, in the magnificent clubhouse overlooking the well-manicured course of Tytherington GC., an 'Educational Afternoon' was presented jointly by the N.W. Section and the Cheshire Golf Union. Brian Moss, a N.W. committee member welcomed 44 attendees and introduced the speakers and our President, Arthur Harrison, who was attending his first event in this new capacity.

David Golding, BIGGA's Education Officer, chaired the afternoon session and also spoke of the Association's progress and the importance of education and its availability at recommended colleges. David was followed by Peter Dutton, past President of the C.G.U., speaking on 'The Role of a Green Chairman'. Peter is well qualified on this subject, having been a green chairman himself and stressed the importance of working closely with the greenkeeper in order that a first hand report may be made to the green committee.

John Hacker, Consultant Agronomist, gave an interesting talk on 'Coping with Play' and of how increased rounds played is causing compaction problems. He also spoke about the recent and widespread problem of Dry patch and of ways to tackle the problem.

The M.D. of Tytherington GC., Patrick Dawson, then addressed us on 'The Golf Business' and explained how he had designed the course, was present throughout construction, and now runs both the golf and other sports facilities at Tytherington, together with his managerial staff. Some interesting points which came to light were: no green committees; no house committees; no captains, yet 2500 members enjoy facilities of the highest order.

Anthony Davies, Course Manager, Prestbury GC., then gave his "Oscar Winning", or should I say "Greenkeeper of The Year" award winning talk on 'Where the greenkeeper fits In'. he related various aspects of greenkeeping and forward planning at Prestbury, again stressing the importance of close communication between greenkeeper and green chairman.

● Continued on Page 54



Jeff Mills: winner of Supa Turf Trophy 1991

4

GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD USE COCKLESHELL FOR ALL YOUR PATHS

1. No damage to your mowers – saving you time and money
 2. It always looks clean – especially after rain
 3. It can be used on all paths – right up to the edge of the grass
 4. You can put it directly onto sand – and it stays on the surface
- ...and if you want a 5th... over 150 golf clubs already supplied can't be wrong!
(Including Sunningdale, St Georges, North Hants, Knole Park, and Gerrards Cross).

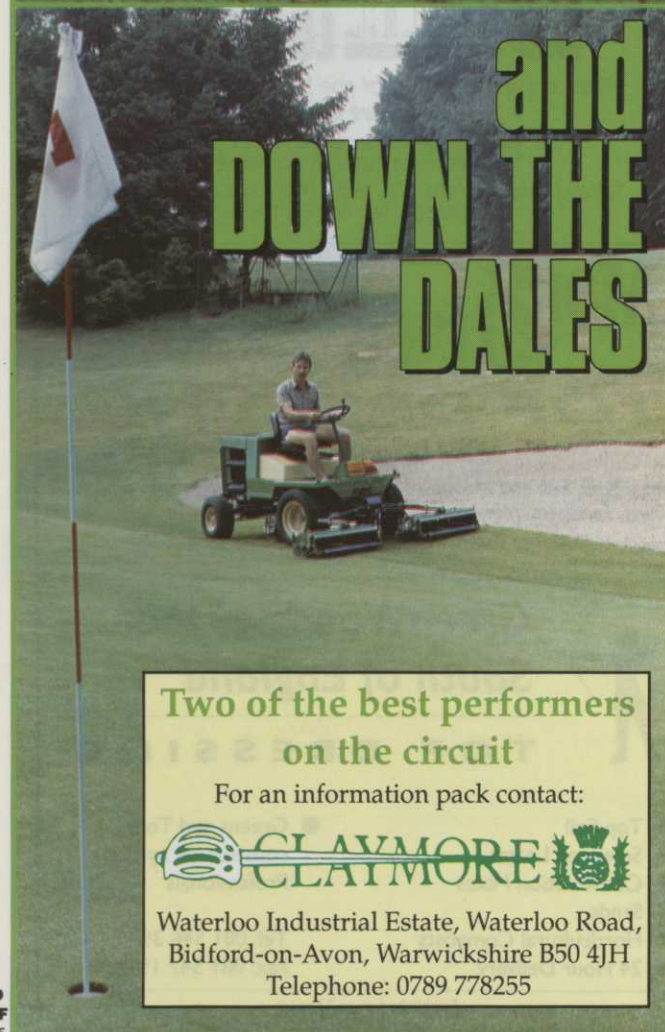
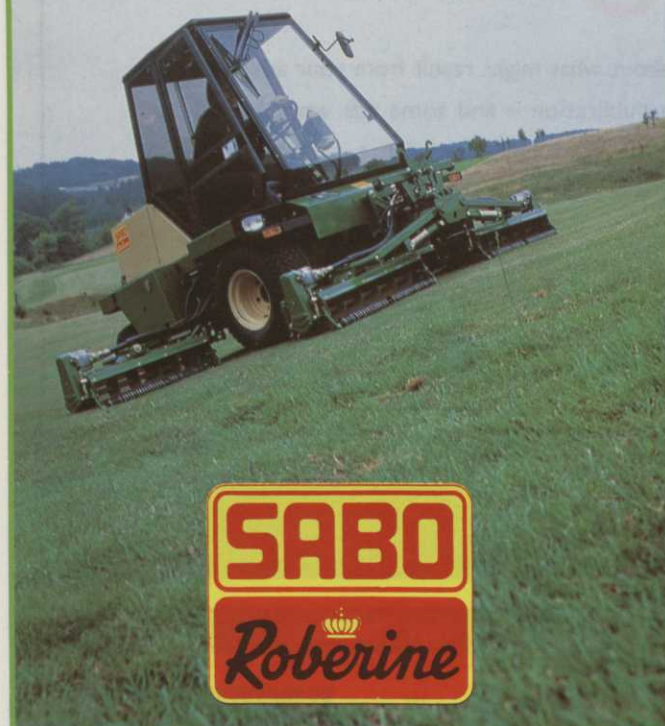
COCKLESHELL:
The 'natural' choice for paths

Contact us today for a leaflet and a sample – or you can do it tomorrow, because we've been in business for over 100 years so we'll still be here! Deliveries nationwide.

DEVENISH LTD suppliers of shell sand and top soil
60 Hambro Hill, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8DH Tel: (0268) 743866/7

AD REF 307

UP THE HILLS



and DOWN THE DALES

Two of the best performers
on the circuit

For an information pack contact:



Waterloo Industrial Estate, Waterloo Road,
Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire B50 4JH
Telephone: 0789 778255

AD
REF
315

AROUND THE GREEN

● From Page 47

Attended by greenkeepers, secretaries, and green chairmen, all concerned accepted and realised the importance of all pulling together in order to gain the best from facilities available. I am pleased to report the afternoon appeared to be a great success.

The Spring Tournament will be at Saddleworth GC., on May 15th and is an ISEKI qualifier. Entries close on May 8th. The ISEKI Regional final will be held at Keswick GC on June 19th and the Reg Vickers Memorial at Birchwood GC., on July 4th. Finally, a move south is taking place by Julian Covey; who was a N.W. committee member for some time. We thank you Julian, for all your help, and wish you well in your new job. Members can contact me on 051 724 5412 if queries arise.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH EAST

The annual 'Gentlemen's Dinner' held at Walton Heath GC. on March 15th was once again a resounding success. This was due in no small way to the very many volunteers who gave freely of their time and thus made for a 'smooth ride'. To mention a few: John Edwards and Ron Jobson for ticketing and score board; Dennis Smith for acting as starter; Alan Stow for ball spotting and raffle ticket sales. My thanks to those noted and to many others I may have missed.

Mr Norman Dampney, CEO of Walton Heath and D.G.Barber, Captain of The Club, must be thanked for allowing us the privilege of playing such a hallowed course, which, thanks to the efforts of Clive Osgood and his team, was in really tip-top condition.

There were so many prizes awarded that space prevents inclusion of all, thus category winners/ runners-up are listed: GREENKEEPERS (1-12) 1st- Roger Glazier (hcp 9) 40 pts for gold watch and putter, also best gross score. Runner-up-D. Wood 38 pts. GUESTS (1-12) 1st - M. Redding 36 pts. 2nd- J. Holmes 36 pts. GREENKEEPERS (13-24) 1st- T Couill 37 pts. 2nd-D. Coomber 36 pts. GUESTS (13-24) 1st R Elderfield 37 pts. 2nd H.J.O'Neil. Nearest the Pin: D.Wall, D.Walder, S.Collingridge, A. Cale, H.J.O'Neil. Longest Drive: Steve Suttle- 299 yds. 2nd: Barry Webster -297 yds.

All prizes are purchased through the prize fund, which is donated by the trade. Without such support it would be impossible to continue this event and to them we owe a debt of gratitude. Finally, may I offer our thanks to the chef for preparing such a wonderful meal, the staff for efficient and friendly service, and to the very funny Dave Lee for entertaining us in his inimitable way.

NORMAN EXLEY

MIDLANDS

March 11th saw Mark Hunt of Sierra UK at Telford G&CC, giving a most entertaining and interesting talk on 'Slow Release Fertilisers'. We appreciate Mark's time and effort and thank him for coming, whilst at the same time expressing disappointment that so few people came to support this feature in our calendar. Whilst on the subject, if anyone has any good ideas for future subject matter, please let me know. Peter Woodward has been arranging our lecture programme over the past few years and the mantle is now to pass to Tom Kelsall. We thank Peter for his splendid efforts and wish Tom good fortune in his quest to entertain us.

Golf Dates to Remember: June 4th-Summer Tournament, Great Barr GC. August 20th-Autumn Tournament, Edgbaston GC. December 10th-Xmas Tournament, Stratford-on-Avon GC. Those wishing to play but without entry forms should contact M.Hughes-Competition Secretary, Tel: 021 422 2615.

DEAN CLEAVER

MID ANGLIA

The winter series of lectures concluded with that given jointly by Lodgeway Tractors Ltd and Zetor Tractors. This was well received by a good turn-out of members. As has been the case throughout the year, this lecture was held by kind permission of Beadlow Manor G&CC., with the section acknowledging the kindness of Mr Minashi and his staff for allowing us this privilege and for making us so welcome. There is no doubt in my mind that the use of Beadlow Manor ensures a good turn-out for our lectures.

Twenty members were present at the Appointed Persons First Aid Course run at the St. John Ambulance HQ. From all reports, this was most worthwhile and is something we shall consider repeating next year.

The next golf event is the Summer Tournament at Letchworth GC on July 17th. This will be over 36 holes and the total cost is £16.50. Entries/enquiries should be made to Ken Bunting, tel: 044 284 3359.

GEOFF SMITH