

COMING UP

The Greenkeeper International guide to forthcoming events

November 6th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Seminar – Cannington College.

November 6th: BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Merrist Wood College.

November 12th: STRI Scottish Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Hags Castle GC. Glasgow.

November 13th-14th: Scotsturf IOG exhibition – Ingleston, Edinburgh.

November 19th-21st: Golf International 2000 Exhibition, Sandown Park.

November 20th: BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College of Agriculture.

November 27th: ILAM Southern Region Seminar – Sparsholt College.

December 10th: STRI South of England Seminar – As November 12th – Hatfield Lodge, Hertfordshire.

January 14th: STRI North of England Seminar – As November 12th – Askham Bryan College, York.

January 20th-24th: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition & Seminar, Harrogate.

February 4th: STRI Ireland Seminar – As November 12th – Milltown GC. Dublin.

February 11th: STRI Wales Seminar – As November 12th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

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

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

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

Send entries for this column to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL or fax 0323 895593.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTH WALES

May I first say one thing – we do exist! Our second Autumn Tournament was held at Porthmadog GC on October 1st, and under quite difficult conditions too, though we did at least stay dry. I'm sure I speak for everyone in saying what a great time was had by all, especially me, as I won a bottle of scotch!

Thanks must go to everyone involved, especially Terry Adamson for all his hard work behind the scenes, and to our sponsors: Gem Professional, Sisis, Richard Campey, Mommersteeg, Fraser Turf, Major Owen, Ritefeed and Walker Engineering. Without these good folk, and of course Porthmadog GC and Gareth (Bronco), we would be the poorer and we are most grateful. We also enjoyed a bit of good fun, with our dinner interrupted by the splendid intrusion of helicopter rides, courtesy of Ritefeed!

RESULTS: 1st Mark Proctor 83-10=73 (on countback) 2nd Jason Moody 79-6=73. 3rd Roger Kerry 77-4=73. Guest Alex Clegg 93-22=71. Booby: John Osman 115 nett – yes, nett!

Our first AGM was held following the prize-giving and sadly Pat McAteer resigned as secretary, due to an ever increasing workload. Norman Pearce remains as chairman and David Proctor as treasurer, with yours truly now having taken the post of secretary. Final dates and venues for winter lectures will be available soon and I would ask you to note my numbers for any enquiries or information you may have: Mark Proctor: (home) 0829 733060 (work) 0829 732251.

We will be holding a Christmas golf day at Portal on December 11th, tee-off between 10-11.30 am, with cost at £12 for members, £14 for others.

This will include coffee and biscuits on arrival and an evening meal. Enquiries for this event to Terry Adamson on 0978 852908, and do remember that places are limited so early booking is advisable. Please no later than December 1st, and please do your best to support this event, even though it may not be the best time of the year.

Finally my thanks to all who made the Autumn Tournament a success by just turning out – 55 was an excellent number and we must strive to keep numbers up.

MARK PROCTOR

SOUTH COAST

I am pleased to inform members of our December Competition, as follows:

Date: Wednesday December 4th

Venue: Royal Winchester GC.

Format: 18 hole Stableford.

Tee off: from 12.30 onwards.

Fee: £13.00

Closing Date: November 25th.

All applications with correct fee to Joe Burdett, 40 Church St. FONTWELL MAGNA, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 ONY. Tel: 0747

811439. My thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Machinery for sponsoring this competition.

Following the above, at 4pm will be The Section AGM. A member of the BIGGA Board of Management from our region will be in attendance to answer questions and outline the work of the Board.

The section committee must be elected each year at our AGM and I would welcome nominations. Please ensure that each nomination has the consent of the nominee and a proposer and seconder. Resolutions and Agenda items are also invited – please submit before November 25th.

If you are unable to take part in the competition you can still attend the Christmas Dinner, which will be served at about 5.30pm. The cost will be £11.60 and your cheque should be sent to Joe at the above address.

An afternoon talk – by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd, on 'Top Dressings, Applications and Materials' – has been arranged at Came Down GC, Dorchester, on Wednesday January 15th, starting at 2pm. This will be the second year that a presentation has been arranged at Came Down and your support will be most appreciated. Refreshments will be supplied by Ruffords at 3pm. For further information call Stephen Hall, Head Greenkeeper, Came Down GC, at the course on 0305 820289.

BOB DENNIS

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

It is with great relief that I can at last report BB&O have won a golf match! We took on the Mid-Anglia section in a titanic struggle at the superb Berkhamsted course and came away with three wins and two halves, the nearest to defeat coming from our answer to Calcavecchia, myself and Dave Goodchild, going from 3 up with 5 to play to a shaky halved match! The match was played in excellent spirit and we look forward to a return in '92. Thanks especially to Gerald Bruce and his staff at Berkhamsted and to our Captain, Dave Childs.

May I also offer apologies to Mid-Anglia and the Club for any misunderstanding in play format, which may have meant that our presentation was not all it might have been.

Apart from the Mid-Anglia match, our events calendar has been quiet – for the better perhaps – for we have almost a congestion of fixtures coming up. Topping the list is the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath combined with the AGM. We are out to beat the 1990 turnout of 75 and will be especially pleased to welcome candidates for committee – come on, join the merry band! Entry forms should be with you by now, but if these are missing from your desk, call Bob Woodward on 0628 664512.

May I remind you all to attend the regional seminar at Warwick College on Nov 20th. Don't miss this seminar – it will surely be a

huge success.

News filtering through reveals none other than our illustrious editor, David White, as guest speaker for the Gentlemen's Dinner in March '92. Those who enjoy fermented brew - David included - will appreciate that a minibus can be made available to pick up and drop revellers, but this will only be available if you want it. Ring Bob or speak to committee members at the AGM. Finally, good wishes to Dave Childs and his family, who leave for N.Z. in early December for six weeks. We shall probably need a translator when he returns to committee!

RAY CLARK

EAST MIDLANDS

The results of the Autumn Tournament, played on September 19th at Rushcliffe GC on a grand course in sparkling condition (thanks to Phil Bett and the Club) are as follows:

Winner: Ian Marshall 70-3=67. Class results (all nett) Handicap 1-9, Phil Reffin 68, Richard Barker 75, Paul Sewell 76. Handicap 11-18, Phil Jennings 68, Paul Malia 70, Graham Arnold 73. Handicap 19+ Anthony Bindley 69, Mark Bindley 71, Mike Billings 77. Trade/Associate, Joe Barsby 64, Len Atewell, 68 (green chairman). Longest drive - 645 yards! Dave Leatherhead. Hole in one - Dave Bagshaw. Dave is head greenkeeper at Stanton On The Wolds and if you want a drink on him, call in!

Forthcoming events not to miss include the Regional Seminar at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, on November 20th, the Section AGM at Lingdale GC on November 25th and a Christmas Bring and Win at Birstall GC on December 18th.

GORDON MITCHELL

EAST OF ENGLAND

The Rigby Taylor Trophy was played for recently at Sleaford GC, a warm welcome being extended to us by the Sleaford committee representatives - Club captain, Brian Harris and green chairman, Ted Lake. Ted is a retired businessman and a tireless unpaid worker on the course, having always shown a keen interest in our affairs. The Rigby Taylor rep. was Stewart Jeffs of the East of England area.

The torrid summer has been a difficult time in this area for those courses built on sand, but John Scotney has done a great job at Sleaford, especially on his greens and other areas where he has been permitted to apply water.

The winner was Paul Cole, who is a newcomer to us as a golfer. His handicap was reduced by six shots between his entry and the

AROUND THE GREEN

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competition and I am sure we shall hear more from this fine player. David Hornsey tied with Paul on 39 points but lost out on back nine countback. Also-rans were D Wells, C Macdonald, G Dolan and R Owens. Guest prizes went to Mick Key and Ted Lake.

A tasty meal was provided in the clubhouse, followed by presentation of prizes by the captain, who is having a sabbatical year from his usual duties as club secretary. In his speech, Mr Harris outlined how he saw BIGGA as an essential part of the Club set-up, with everyone working as a team.

Christopher Squires, who was assistant head at Belton Woods has moved up to head greenkeeper status at Rutland County G&CC, a new development where seed has just been sown. Congratulations Chris., may the job go well!

COLIN SWINGLER

SOUTH WEST

It was a pleasure to return to Salisbury and South Wilts for the annual 'crunch' match against the South Coast last month. Despite a thunderstorm (which just missed us) and a spell of heavy rain (which didn't), the blend of ten new holes and eight old ones made for an extremely interesting and enjoyable afternoons' golf. It really is "hats off" to the architect and constructors, who have made the very best of the available ground.

The S.W. captain, David Everett, was so confident of the result that he didn't bother to bring the trophy and was left to sweat it out as the very last game came down the wire, resulted in our favour to give a halved match - Phew!

Many thanks to this Wiltshire Club for once again giving us not only the courtesy of the course but also making us feel so welcome. Thanks also to the steward for an excellent meal and to Kerran and his staff for preparing the course.

The Winter Lecture Programme will be announced next month, but in the meantime I'll look forward to seeing you all at Shirehampton Park for the Veals Lawnmowers Christmas Tournament.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTH WEST

Our Autumn Tournament over 27 holes of medal play was held on Sept. 19th at my own home course of Whickham GC. On this occasion it was a case of George Atkinson thanking me and my staff for the excellent condition of the course, also the committee for granting us courtesy and to Rose and Bob for a superb meal - it was all good stuff!



Jimmy Richardson:
First Division winner
of the Greenlay Cup

Thanks extend beyond us mere locals to the following sponsors: Ryton Gravel Co., Shorts of Whitburn, Maxwell Hart, Sisis, Stewarts of Edinburgh, Thompson Quarries, STS and Karsway and to Jim Crombie of Whickham GC. Also a special thanks to Peter Little of Dixons of Hexham for providing a barbecue as prize for nearest the pin on the 13th. also to local Clubs: Whitley Bay, Alnmouth, Northumberland, Wearside, Prudhoe, Stocksfield, Consett, Arcott Hall, Newcastle United. Finally, thanks to our chairman for BIGGA North East, Richard Crane.

Results: Winner and low gross - Tony McLure (Whickham GC) 69+33=102.

Nett and winner of Ransomes Cup- Glen Baxter (South Shields GC., hcp 15) 69+32.5=101.5. First division and winner of the Greenlay Cup - Jimmy Richardson (Whickham GC, hcp 6) 68+35= 103. Second + division and winner of Fewsters Cup - Brian Hughes (Whickham GC, hcp 24) 66+36=102. Other scores: M Simpkin (Parklands GC) 104. C Parkinson (Tyneside GC) 104.5. I Patterson (Gosforth GC) 105. R Bell (Slayley GC) 105. K Monaghan (Gosforth GC) 105. Thirty five players took part and the weather was excellent, which made us Whickhamites well pleased, along with our scintillating play and a demonstration in 'local knowledge makes good' - Howay the lads!

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AROUND THE GREEN

details direct (we normally send details only to head greenkeepers in order to reduce administration costs), please call me on 0288 353438 and I'll see to it.

RICHARD WHYMAN

AYRSHIRE

An excellent turn-out of members enjoyed a grand day of golf at our Autumn Meeting over Ayrshire's answer to Augusta National - Largs Kellburn! Head greenkeeper Chick White certainly did his best to produce the same conditions and sincere thanks must be expressed to him and his staff, together with the caterers for some delicious food and Club members for giving us their course to enjoy. Results: Scratch - Gary Bryden (Turnberry) 69. Handicap - First class, 1st Charlie White (Largs) 71-2=69. 2nd Robert Johnstone (Ardeer) 72-1=71. 3rd Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) 75-4=71. Second class, 1st Sid Mercer (Skelmorlie) 87-14=73. 2nd Ian Campbell (Belleisle) 91-17=74. 3rd Jim Devlin (Seafield) 86-12=74. Texas Scramble, Brian Finlayson, Ian Robertson, David Carson = 59.6. Trade - Derek Duthie (Aitkens).

As this was the Club's centenary year we presented Club captain Pat Innes with a plaque as a memento of our visit.

Only movement to report is that of Gordon Heron taking over the reins at the new B? Castle course, which is just over the hill from Turnberry. Gordon had a baptism by fire for within moments of accepting the job he found that vandals had spent a busy night digging up new saplings and planting them on the 18th green. Hopefully this won't happen too often as they could be difficult to cut down to three sixteenths! Good luck anyway, Gordon.

I'm just back from an enjoyable trip to Southern Ireland, where I met up with those exiled Scots, David McIndoe at Killarney and 'King Billy' Semple at Trallee. Over a few pints of the 'black stuff', Davie told of the changes made for the Irish Open - which were most impressive - and of the pro's playing from the ladies tee! Billy is now well on top of the problems created by American building of a golf course on this side of the Atlantic, seemingly with scant regard or understanding of the vastly different varietal conditions. For those not familiar with the south of Ireland, make a visit - it's well worth it.

DUNCAN GRAY

WEST SCOTLAND

The West section, as reported in the August issue, continues from strength to strength, with the Autumn Tournament at Cowal attended by some 40 members and guests. Sorry weather could not dampen the spirit of those who strapped on their golfing gear and took to the Cowal course and it was a great pleasure for us all to meet Tom Hindmarsh, who put in a tremendous effort to present his course in sparkling order. Tom comes from a long line of greenkeepers stretching back to his grandfather Archie (who was greenkeeper at Airdrie), who will no doubt be remembered by older members with affection. The invitation to play Cowal was particularly enjoyable coming in their centenary year, with Club captain Keating commented at the prize-giving on the grand turn-out of greenkeepers and extended an open welcome to return to see Cowal in better weather. The day ended in usual high jollification at the Club, with certain members almost left on the ferry ➤ 38

MIDLANDS

A reminder first: The Regional Seminar at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell on November 20th. Details appeared in October edition of Greenkeeper International and you should have received application forms. Can't find it? Want to attend? Ring me!

Steve Wood and Tony Jesson have done it again, reaching the final of the Rigby Taylor Greensomes and are scheduled to meet 1990 winners, Rhys Thomas and John Wood. Hope you have a successful day lads.

Please remember entries close on November 15th for the Christmas Tournament, scheduled to be played at Stratford on Avon GC on December 10th. This is a bring-and-win event and you are asked to bring a prize with a value of at least £5.00.

Our AGM will be held at Edgbaston GC on December 16th, starting at 3pm. Please try and attend this important occasion, remembering that it's your section and your views really do matter.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

As the year draws to a close the North West committee are in the process of drawing up a programme of events for 1992, which will likely include a monthly lecture, a seminar in March and golf events galore throughout the year. On reflection, 1991 has been a busy year in our section with involvement in The Open at Royal Birkdale and the Iseki finals at Hillside, quite apart from the busy normal programme. The Iseki final ended on a sweet note with the Northern region winning the team event and virtually sweeping the board on prizes - congrats to them all!

I must again raise the issue of members not paying their subscriptions. I have received many enquiries from greenkeepers in the N.W. who thought that their Club automatically paid their subs, but who as individuals were aggrieved at not receiving Greenkeeper International. Let me set the record straight: Greenkeeper members are invoiced individually each year - NOT their Club employers. If your Club has agreed to pay your subscription, you must hand the invoice to your Club secretary. Following payment you will then receive a membership card and regular copies of the magazine.

One final point: Once you have received your programme of events - be they lectures, seminars or golfing days - do your level best to support the events, thus making the hard work of your committee worthwhile. Any queries or points of interest, please contact me on 051 724 5412

BERT CROSS

NORTHERN

Let me begin by offering commiserations to our colleagues in the North West who (again, I'm afraid) lost to the Northern section in our annual match at Crosland Heath. The actual

result was a draw, but we retained the trophy as holders from 1990. Well done lads! Grateful thanks to Patissons for their continued sponsorship, Crossland Heath for courtesy of the course and especially Phillip Haigh and his team for a superb course in excellent order.

Our section also did well in the 1991 Iseki at Hillside, with the Northern region winning the team prize and Telford Jarvis (Scarcroft's very own champion, and ours too) taking the premier trophy. Well done Tel!

You should all have received details of our winter lecture programme and should this not be the case, or if your address has changed, call me. All our lectures are held at West Bowling GC commencing at 7.30pm with the following scheduled: November 6th - Chairmans Forum. December 4th - Ruffords on Top Dressing. January 15th - Munro on Spraying and CDA's. February 11th - Quiz and Social evening with IOG colleagues at Headingley Cricket Club - 7.30pm.

Also on December 11th - Winter golf at South Leeds GC - names and deposits to myself or Mel Guy (0532 523739) please.

Our last winter event will be a trip to Lloyds of Letchworth, with places being limited and filled on a first come first served basis. Likely cost will be around £10-£15.

The Northern section will again be heavily committed at BTME in Harrogate during January 22nd-24th. If anyone can spare an hour or two for stewarding, please let me know.

The section AGM will be held at South Leeds GC., following the above mentioned Winter golf on December 11th, starting at 7pm. This year there will be a change in committee election procedure, with all nominations for president, secretary, treasurer or committee to be sent to the secretary - that's me, Bob Lupton - one month prior to the AGM.

Local news now, with the good news being that Richard Sharrock of Keighley GC has gone into partnership with EFG of Halifax. We wish him every success in this venture. The not-so-good news is that long-standing committee member Colin Garnett of Garforth was taken ill whilst on holiday recently. I understand he is on the way to recovery and I'm sure you will echo my wishes for his speedy return to good health.

BOB LUPTON

DEVON & CORNWALL

The venue for the Christmas Meeting this year is the ever popular Okehampton GC., though with ever increasing numbers, your committee has decided that a limit of 80 must be placed on this event. This suggests that it is wise to return your entry form to me as soon as possible and certainly NOT after the closing date!

On the day itself, let's see some different pairings from normal for the A.M. Greensomes competition, this to help new members feel more at home and become an integral part of our happy section.

If any member feels he should be receiving

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AROUND THE GREEN

30 quayside to cross The Clyde, a quantity of usquabae having been consumed from prize winning bottles of the nectar.

The hiring of a bus was a great success, the pleasure heightened by listening to passengers in full voice belting out ditties that have been associated with greenkeeping since the formation of our association. This was certainly a section meeting which will long be remembered by all those present, especially for its friendliness and camaraderie.

May we remind members that the West Section dinner looms just around the corner and is open to all greenkeepers, their friends and colleagues. Sloans Restaurant is the place to be on November 8th, with tickets still available from committee men, some trade members or direct from the secretary.

No date yet fixed for our section AGM, but members are reminded that an AGM is where your voice may be heard, where you may vote changes to administration and where your grievances may be put to all present and discussed. Most of all, it is the one place where all members of the West Scotland Section of BIGGA should attend.

Cowal results: Scratch - Scot Ballantine (Torrance Castle). First class 1st - Jack Stedward (Douglas Park). 2nd - Sandy Bulloch (Mount Ellen). 3rd - Stephan Hagg (Drumpellier) Second class 1st - Tom Hindmarch (Cowal). 2nd - Ian Wilson (Blairbeth). 3rd - Sandy Brawley (East Kilbride). Third class 1st - Alistair Frazier (Renfrew). 2nd - Cecil George (Lenzie). 3rd - Brian Hiller (Drumpellier). Apprentice Trophy - Alistair Frazier. Trade - Alan Stevenson (Souter's of Sterling). Visitors - Andrew Peace (Port Glasgow).

GORDON KERR
and CECIL GEORGE

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