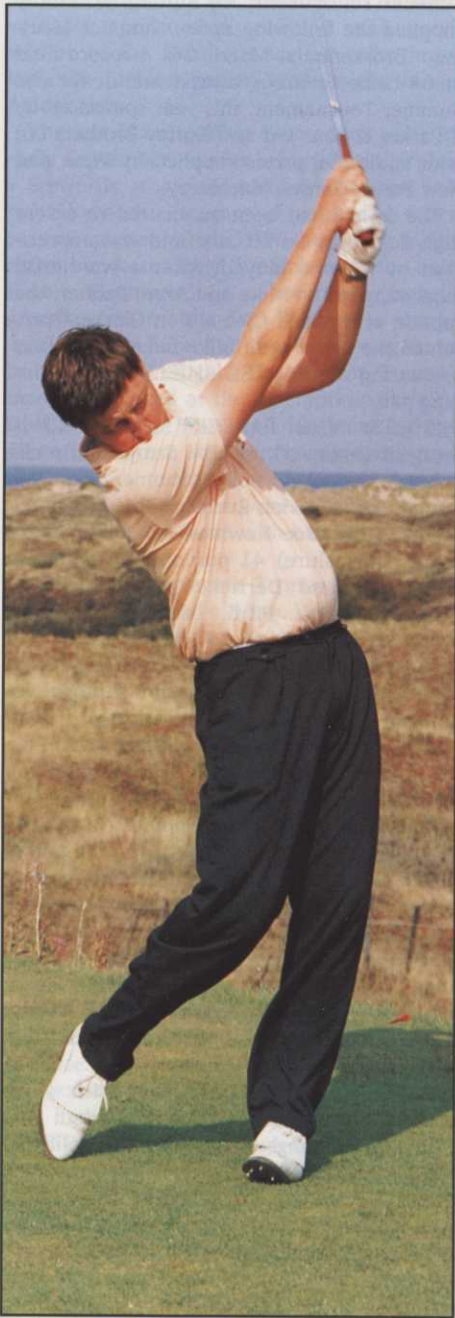


AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions



NORTH SCOTLAND

The section enjoyed a grand day at Peterhead GC on September 5th, thanks to the generosity of the Club council and their captain, Mr Ken Bennions, who kindly presented the prizes. The course was in excellent condition and a credit to Hugh McLatchie and his staff. Additionally, Peterhead was actually warm (well, almost!) for the first time this year and this was reflected in excellent scores. From the host Club Kevin Peace won the scratch prize with a level par score of 70, whilst in class one George Paterson scored 72-2=70. Class two

was won by Bob Hardie of Strathpeffer with a 76-7=69 and in the third class Wilson Morrison won the McLean Cup for best nett score, a highly creditable 63 off a handicap of 21. Allan Grant of Fraserburgh won the Vets with a nett 71, also retaining the M&M Products Trophy for the best nett score in the Veteran Section over both Spring and Autumn meetings. Barrie Cameron was best apprentice with a nett 69, whilst Alan Eastell of Barclay, Ross and Hutchison won the Trade Shield. The nett 67 of Kevin Peace (pictured left), added to his 74 from the Spring Outing enabled him to win the Meldrum Memorial Shield by one shot from Wilson Morrison.

Following prize presentation, Ken Bennions, Captain of Peterhead GC., made the draw for our lottery. Those lucky enough to have drawn a player in the World Matchplay Championship will be notified before the Match begins so that they may watch the progress with added interest.

On that score, the committee are most grateful to all members who sold tickets, thus making the event our most successful yet.

This year our AGM will be held at Letham Grange on November 26th, the tee having been reserved from 11am to 12.50. This will allow 48 players to compete and will be on a first come, first served basis. Letters with full details will be sent prior to the event.

As most of you know, I have left Fraserburgh GC to take up the post of Head Greenkeeper, The Eden Course, St Andrews. Although I shall remain a member of the North Scotland section it is my intention to stand down as secretary at the AGM and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the help given to me during my term of office.

GORDON MOIR

SURREY

On a glorious afternoon at Sunningdale GC we were lucky enough to play our annual McMillan Tankard over the Old Course, an honour not afforded to many.

The first prize went to D Worsfold who came in with 39 points – that off a single figure handicap! Second was 'that man' Yorston again, who scored 35, with Ken Harding also on 35 taking third after a count-back. The trade prize was won by M Luker of Parkers with 30 points.

I must thank everyone who helped make the fixture a success, particularly Ron Jobson, who as always acted as starter before returning to help with the preparation of food etc. Also to Bernard Wall who helped with the unglamorous task of clearing up afterwards. Finally, thanks to the Sunningdale Artisans Captain, Bob Reynolds, who manned the bar for us.

Our trade friends again did us proud with raffle prizes, for which we are most grateful. Please show your appreciation of their support, for without their help our events would lack that certain something.

Finally, please don't forget the seminar at Merrist Wood on November 6th, tickets being available from either committee members or myself (telephone 025 125 4287.) Any news item will always be welcomed, so this is a 'phone number to remember.

PHIL BALDOCK

KENT

Even though you should all be receiving a newsletter shortly, I can give you a few dates for your diaries. As last year, the Turkey Trot will be held at Ashford on December 12th commencing at 11am, followed in the evening by our AGM.

The 1992 Spring Tournament will be held at Darenth Valley on May 6th with the Autumn Tournament planned for Mid Kent with a provisional date of October 13th pencilled in. For those with a 1993 diary, Langley Park will see our Autumn Tournament on September 15th and we are making overtures to Royal Cinque Ports to host the Spring Tournament.

It is now a fact of life, with demand as it is, that those booking meetings and society events must of necessity look far into the future. May I also add that as we tend to rely on the goodwill of our hosts in requesting courtesy of the course for golf – paying only for food and prizes – our choice has to be made with considerable tact and the full cooperation of the Club concerned. We do not have, or wish to have, a free hand to pick the supposed top courses in the county at the drop of a hat. I am sure that the likes of Royal St Georges would feel that a regular imposition both rude and arrogant on our part. We must also remember that with our 30 or so members playing a course for the day we are keeping a similar number of paying customers off and it could be argued that we are depriving our hosts of a potential income of around £1200+ for the day. All the more reason to treat our hosts with the utmost courtesy and respect.

Even though our Summer Meeting was abandoned there have still been some good golfing performances to report. First, congratulations to Willie McConville on a fine winning performance in the Sta-Brite day at Mid Kent. In the Iseki Regional final and moving to the final stage were Alan Sheppard with a 3rd place and gross 76 in category one, together with Phil Hurst, winner with a nett 71 in category three. Due to further misunderstandings at this regional stage and other incidents, it has been decided the region will adopt the existing R&A handicap system. Please → 36

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The pipe system

35 → remember that according to rule 6-2b players MUST play off their lowest allotted handicap or risk disqualification.

Also highlighted at a regional level and noted in Roger Glazier's letter (August) was the inexcusable and fraudulent practice of loaning or hiring BIGGA membership cards to golfing friends to enable them to play courses with courtesy.

This practice is not tolerated in any area and Clubs and secretaries have been encouraged to double check the identity of card holders. Any offenders will be dealt with in the severest fashion.

At all times we must respect the rules and etiquette of our Association and golf itself.

As I started in a forward planning manner this may be a good time to remind you that next year we will be hosting the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament at Littlestone and in 1993 The Open returns to Royal St Georges – so start practicing that bunker raking now!

PAUL COPSEY

NORTHERN

Summer draws slowly to a close with time to think about the pleasures of raking leaves or pushing hollow tine cores into rows.

But before that consider our Invitation Day, which was held on a boiling hot day at York Strensall GC., perhaps, dare I suggest it, too hot for our members and guests. The course was in lovely order though and thanks must go to Chris Martin and his staff.

Also a special thanks to our friends at Yorkshire Mowers, especially Tony Dodson, who gathered together a superb prize table and to the host Club for their hospitality and the kind words of encouragement for BIGGA, delivered by the green chairman in his speech. His words may have been forthcoming as a result of his winning the premier prize – along with his head greenkeeper Chris Martin!

I write this before the Roses Match so cannot with certainty announce that we have again retained the Trophy!

On a more serious note I must report that long-standing member and employee of Bradford GC., Ralph Smith, has been ill recently. I'm sure all his many friends will join with me in wishing him a speedy return to good health and the hope that he will soon be back in action. His very able assistant, David Thackray, has been doing an admirable job in deputising for Ralph, a task made more difficult in this, the Club's centenary year.

The structure of election of officers has been reviewed by the present committee and will work as follows: nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee must be submitted to the Secretary ONE MONTH prior to the AGM in December.

Members present at the AGM will then vote for a committee of eight from nominations received. The Chairman will then be elected from within the new committee.

BOB LUPTON



SUSSEX

As August drew to a close 20 or so stalwart golfers gathered at Eastbourne Downs GC to battle in the last of the Sussex Summer meetings, competing for handsome crystal donated by sponsors Maxwell Hart Ltd. Perhaps the first observation must be how disappointing it is for both organisers and sponsors that only a handful of members – and these almost always the same faces – attend these heavily subsidised events, this from a section boasting a membership of 100+. The loss is shared not only by the section itself, whose honorary workers often despair at such apathy, but certainly by those who choose not to support such events, missing the opportunity to enjoy both good golf and a worthwhile exchange of ideas and opinions.

The event itself was a grand opportunity for Les Shrubbs (pictured), better known nationally as the Iseki winner of 1989, to reassert his mark on the Sussex opposition and his score of 35 points was just sufficient for him to take first place (his first win in 1990) from Eastbourne Downs head greenkeeper Les Teague, who demonstrated local knowledge on such 'mountain goat' country, where ball placement is paramount. Third, and

enjoying a welcome break from the arduous task of bringing in the new and as yet unplayed West Hove course, was the solid and dependable left-hander, Roland Hughes. Following a sturdy meal and some light-hearted 'joshing' of Les Teague (whisper 'rubber tee-mat' in his ear and you'll understand what I mean) the event closed with all present vowing to meet again for the Christmas Turkey Trot.

DAVID WHITE

SOUTH COAST

Although I was unable to take part in the Summer Tournament, Joe Burdett has kindly supplied the following notes: Summer Meeting – Brockenhurst Manor GC. A record field of 64 came to Brockenhurst Manor for the Summer Tournament, this year sponsored by T Parker & Sons Ltd and Roffey Brothers Ltd with additional prizes supplied by Vitax and New Forest Garden Machinery.

The course had been manicured to a very high degree by Ed McCabe and was appreciated by all who played. After a wonderful meal supplied by Mike and Anne Palmer, the captain of the host Club – Don Clarke – presented the prizes with Mike Luker of Parkers presenting the PARKER SHIELD to the winning pair.

RESULTS: THE PARKER SHIELD, Chris Sturgess (Andover) and Bill Sturgess (Brockenhurst Manor) 43 points. Runners Up, Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett (The Army) 42 points. Third, Joe Newman and Bob Woodward (Downshire) 41 points. Fourth, Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park) 41 points. Fifth, Terry Patchin and Diana Bryon (Hockley) 39 points.

The section's first Winter Lecture will be on Wednesday November 13th at Alresford GC at 8pm. Our speaker is the Alresford PGA Professional, Malcolm Scott. Malcolm will be giving an illustrated talk on enlarging an existing course from 12 to 18 holes, an exercise currently undertaken with Malcolm, head greenkeeper Mark Scott, and the green staff all involved in the detailed planning, design and construction for this private members Club. The construction of additional holes at any existing course can cause problems and many of you will have been involved in similar exercises. Malcolm's talk will be an opportunity to learn how one Club have carried out this challenge.

Please support this meeting with your attendance, you will not be disappointed.

Further meetings arranged are as follows: Wednesday Dec. 4th: Section AGM/Christmas Dinner 4pm at Royal Winchester GC. Wednesday Jan 15th: Peter Jefford on Top Dressings 2pm at Came Down GC. Wednesday Jan 5th: David White – editor of our magazine – on The Masters + Magazine Open Forum 7pm Alresford GC. Wednesday March 5th: Ken Barber, East Sussex National on Golf Course Maintenance 7pm Alresford GC.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH WEST

It started in 1455 and the history books state that it finished in 1485 at the 'Battle of Bosworth Field'. What was it? The Battle of the Roses! Those crusty historians should now be rewriting history, for the battle continues to this day – on an annual basis.

The battle – on a much more friendly basis

- is held between the North West section (Lancs) and the Northern section (Yorks), with this year the battle taking place at Crosland Heath GC on August 22nd. A nicer battlefield could not be chosen, for head greenkeeper Philip Haigh and his staff produced a course second to none, with not a blade of grass out of place and putting surfaces that were in perfect condition - a veritable gem with surprises at every hole and well worth a visit.

The result was a halved match, after a cliff hanging final game produced a result on the 18th green. Our thanks to Crosland Heath GC for their hospitality and to Patissons for their valuable sponsorship, coupled with good wishes to the Northern section, who must have the luckiest golfing team in the whole Association.

The last of our golfing events took place in early September, results being: Greenkeepers v Stewards, a win for us of 6 to 1 with one halved match. Pressure of work and other reasons prevented the NW mustering a full team, but fortunately 3 members of the host Club - Birchwood GC - became 'honorary' greenkeepers for the day. Birchwood was in sparkling condition and proved once again to be a great test of golf. The Autumn Tournament was played at the magnificent Shrigley Hall GC, Brian Moss and his team having given the course some extra treatment and producing a touch of magic coupled with tough conditions that were reflected in the course favouring those with handicap strokes to spare.

RESULTS: Aggregate Trophy: John Pearson. Best Gross: Dave Berry. Vets: Bert Cross. Best nett: Trevor Davies. Others: (all nett) 2nd: Ernie Stewart, 3rd: John Pearson. 4th: Peter Cross. 5th: Neil Woolfrey. 6th Frank Platt.

This year's AGM will take place on Thursday October 24th at Bury GC starting at 7pm. Peter Jefford, Managing Director of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd will open the evening with a talk on the use of top dressings, followed by the AGM. Please make every effort to attend, bringing those ideas for winter lectures with you.

BERT CROSS

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

Greetings greenkeepers and a big 'thank-you' to those who turned out for our games night at Wexham Park GC. An enjoyable evening was had by all and our congratulations to Geoff Butler of Ellesborough GC who was victor in the pool competition. Unfortunately for Geoff he beat his head greenkeeper Dave Childs in the final, thus not only winning the sweep money but a free ticket to rake bunkers for the next month!

The darts board was monopolised by the Temple GC contingent for most of the night, the final including a titanic struggle between Martin and Serena Gunn and won with a bullseye from Martin to finish the deciding leg. In skittles the dominating force came from Ellesborough and Whiteleaf and one is left questioning what dietary wonders go into their meals - a high proportion of raw meat, I don't doubt? The section thanks Roy Kates for organisation and Wexham Park for provision of excellent facilities.

Congratulations to Barry Holt of Burford GC on winning the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament. In winning both the premier award

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and several other trophies this leaves him in a predicament, for as section handicap secretary he may need to look at his own handicap (rule 19 and all that) and we will look with interest at the end result.

A few reminders now on golfing matters, first that our Autumn Tournament is scheduled for November 5th at The Berkshire (look out for fireworks) and an unmissable opportunity to play one of our premier courses. If you have not yet received a form contact Bob Woodward on 0628 664512. Next is the Turkey Trot, combined this year with our AGM, to be held at Frilford Heath in mid December. I hope to see a similar good turnout as last year and details will be sent in mid November, so no panic necessary yet!

Last but not least, the match against BB&O Club secretaries is scheduled for the end of October and there may be need of late replacements - if interested call Dave Childs on 0296 624068.

In finalising this epistle I'm happy to report a healthy 30% growth in membership for 1991 and hope that many more of you will join in our programme of events.

RAY CLARK

MID ANGLIA

There is little news to report this month so I will use the opportunity to broadcast dates for upcoming meetings: October 30th, Autumn Tournament - Woburn G & CC. November 20th, Regional Seminar - Morton Morell College, Warwickshire. November 27th, 2pm at Beadlow Manor Hotel G&CC, a lecture on Top Dressing Materials by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. This will be followed by the section AGM. December 5th, Christmas Texas Scramble at South Bedfordshire GC.

GEOFF SMITH

EAST SCOTLAND

Another season is almost at an end with many sharing my view that it is good to see the back of it! The season started with a dry spring and cold easterly winds, followed by a very wet summer and finishing with one of the driest August's on record. This of course did nothing to deter the golfers, who were out in their usual force.

The section had a good year with all events being well attended. The golf outings to Babberton and Haddington were over-subscribed but this was good to see. The first Committee Match for the Holt Trophy was a great success, being sponsored by Frew & Co. and our next event will be the Autumn Tournament at

Peebles GC followed by the W.Woods memorial on October 3rd at Swanston. The grand match East Scotland V North West is also in October - sponsored by Stewart & Co. at Goswick. The highlight of the year - The AGM and the Annual Dance will both be held in November, so there are still a number of events left for you to attend. May I also remind you that dance tickets are already on sale and moving fast. With a limit of 100 you are urged to reserve places now and avoid disappointment.

Two of our senior members are retiring soon: Jimmy Paton from Turnhouse and George Stavert from Peebles. The section wishes them well and a long and happy retirement and though this news will reach you in October, they will both have received a presentation from the section.

The committee have spent a great deal of time organising this year's winter lectures and it is hoped that their time and effort will be rewarded by good attendances.

Graham Wood, Dunbar GC, will be the East Scotland representative at the Ransomes International at Fulford GC in early October and we send to both him and the Scottish team our sincere good wishes.

It has been noted that a slight fall in membership has taken place over the year. Some of this is due to the movement of greenkeepers to other areas, the rest almost certainly due to non payment of subscriptions. I feel this section can do a lot better, for there is no doubt that BIGGA is working, so may I encourage you all to urge fellow workers to join the cause. There are undoubted advantages to be gained from membership and, like any professional association, more can be achieved with greater numbers.

Congratulations to all at Peebles on their progression from municipal to private status, which can only be beneficial to the green staff. Other Clubs soon to be privatised are Lauder, The Glen and Haddington. ➔ 46



RECRUITMENT

LEASOWE GOLF COURSE

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will have experience of modern greenkeeping techniques as applicable to a links course.

The abilities to motivate staff and operate within a planned budget are essential, along with an eye for attention to detail.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Leasowe Golf Club, Leasowe Road,
Moreton, Wirral L46 3RD**

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to take charge of our recently constructed 18 hole course situated in the Swiss Alps. (Altitude 1700m)

To commence 1st April 1992.

Applicants should be fully qualified with experience in all aspects of Greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery.

Knowledge of the French language would be an advantage.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**Mr M Nicollier, Golf Club Verbier, 1936 Verbier, Valais,
Switzerland**

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37 ➔ My telephone has been very quiet recently. What's wrong? Has no-one any complaints? Is the section running too smoothly? If I don't get information from you I cannot report upon it, so please keep the information coming in – no matter how insignificant – I shall be glad to hear from you.

WILLIE BLAIR

MIDLANDS

The delightful Edgbaston GC was the scene of our Autumn Tournament on August 20th, played in perfect weather on a course honed to perfection by Mike Hughes and his staff. Tony Cheese won the gross award with Steve Wood winning the nett prize. Our thanks to all concerned.

The team to play East Midlands in the Rigby Taylor sponsored meeting on October 31st is: T Evans (Captain), S Wood, T Cheese, P Loffman, M Hughes, J Hooper, P Holdham, D Wood, H Middlebrooke and R Hayhurst.

Our Matchplay Singles have reached a crucial stage with the semi's being played as follows: T Evans v T Cutler and M Hughes v P Loffman.

In the Rigby Taylor sponsored Greensomes Knockout the semi's will be played as follows: S Wood and T Jesson v T Stonebridge and D Brazier. T Cheese and M Hughes v J Wood and R Thomas.

The section send greetings to Peter Marnoch on the occasion of his retirement following 27 years at Coventry Hearsall GC. We wish him long life and happiness.

DEAN CLEAVER

See us
on Stand 17
at Scotsturf



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