

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SURREY

The annual Scotland v England match was held at Lingfield Park GC on July 5th, the result being a three-all draw despite the Scottish Captain having only a week to muster a team. Sorry Robert, it wasn't deliberate, honest! In maintaining a drawn result the Scots retain the trophy yet again.

My thanks to both Robert Brewer for Scotland and Terry Huntley for England, for noble efforts of captaincy and to Jim Russell and his staff for preparing the course for the match. Additionally, a big thank-you to the new owners of Lingfield Park for their generosity in allowing us the use of their facilities.

The Cresta Cup was played at Ashford Manor GC on July 12th and proved to be quite a test of golf. The highest score was 37 points from M. Yorston, who was honest enough to tell us of his revised Club handicap, which was lower than his BIGGA handicap.* Second after a countback was Paul Weston with 35 points, narrowly beating Terry Edwards, also with 35. The Trade prize was won by M Luker with 38 points. The course was in great shape - thanks to Terry and his staff - and we were made most welcome by the Artisans Section. Finally our thanks to all our sponsors who are so generous throughout the year.

In mentioning Paul Weston I understand that he recently had his clubs stolen from his workshop at The Drift GC. The moral... don't be complacent and keep your clubs locked away, for it seems that thieves have a lot of nerve. On a personal note, I hope Paul's new weapons don't improve his game too much, for I have still to meet him in the Huxley Bowl!

News of forthcoming events now, with the Regional Tournament scheduled for Gog Magog GC on October 8th. Entry forms from Derek Walder on 0737 246088. These must be returned ASAP to S Silvester, 7 Park Rd, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5HL.

The Surrey Autumn Meeting will be held at Purley Downs GC on October 18th and forms should be returned as soon as possible.

Also planned for October is a lecture at Ashford Manor Artisans Section on October 1st, the lecture being given by Ruffords Top Dress. Your support will be most welcome - please!

The seminar on November 6th is approaching fast and with only 120 places it will be a case of first come, first served.

Please contact me, Phil Baldock, on 0251 254287 for tickets.

PHIL BALDOCK

* *Creditable certainly, but we would do well to remember how the greatest of all golfers, Bobby Jones, when praised for throwing the book at himself on one occasion, became indignant. 'There is only one way to conduct yourself in golf' he said. 'You might as well praise a man for not robbing a bank' - Editor.*

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section AGM will take place at Letham Grange GC on Tuesday November 26th, with 32 tee times reserved - prior to the AGM - on the new course, starting at 11am. Places will be on a first come, first served basis and competitors will be split into two teams on arrival. The new course at Letham Grange was opened in June of this year, has a par of 66 and will be in operation throughout the winter whilst the old course is undergoing essential maintenance.

Any section member wishing to enter the competition to win a trip to either BTME or the National Conference should remember that forms must be returned to Iain MacLeod, 21 Hartfield Street, Tain, by November 30th at the latest.

GORDON MOIR

SOUTH WEST

The prize for the most improved course in the country has just been won by Kevin Green of Filton Golf Club. Kevin joined this Bristol Club from Wentworth some three years ago and since then an amazing transformation has taken place. In fact, give him another three years and he'll probably have a seat on the board!

Filton was the venue for our 1991 Section Championships and in spite of recent heavy rain we were treated to a dry, bright afternoon on a very fine, fair golf course. As one might expect from such a good course, there were some good scores returned, though none better than Craig Fudge, with a 69 gross that included 4 birdies and a hole in one! This was a double first for Craig, 21, from Tracy Park GC - his first win in the Assistants Championship and the first hole in one recorded in this event.

There was also one notable disaster: Laughlan 'Jock' Millar stood on the 18th tee needing a par four for a highly respectable 74 and ended up taking a ten on this tricky hole which features OB on the right and the British Aerospace hangars on

the left, the roofs of which are also OB - ask 'Jock'!

The 1991 South West Section Championships:

1st C Fudge - Tracy Park - 69-4=65, Winner and Assistants Cup. 2nd C Kenyon - Shirehampton - 84-18=66. 3rd P Worster - Lilley Brook - 71-4=67 for the Head Greenkeepers Cup. 4th J Kane - Clevedon - 74-6=68. 5th M Powell - Filton - 96-28=68. 7th S Frankcom - Tracy Park - 93-23=70. Best first nine J Taylor - Tall Pines - 33. Best last nine S Paul - Chipping Sodbury - 34. Veterans Prize J Farley - Painswick - 95-19=76. Longest drive on the ninth Chris Light - Knole.

Many thanks to Filton GC and in particular their Chairman, Ian Foulmer, for their welcome hospitality throughout the day. Thanks also to the steward for the excellent meal and finally to our sponsors who so faithfully support our tournaments: ICI, Roffey Bros., Avoncrop Amenity, Rigby Taylor, Synchemicals, Sta Brite Supplies and Daiwa UK. Thank you one and all.

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AROUND THE GREEN

43 ➔ sweaters, shirts, ties etc and if anyone would like to see before buying give me a ring – I'll do my best to arrange a fashion parade.

Please keep plugging away on the recruitment front and if you know of any greenkeepers who are not members please go and visit them. Half rates on subscriptions apply for the rest of '91, so there's never been a better time to join!

An autumn/winter lecture programme is being put together at the moment – watch this column for further details.

PAUL WORSTER

SHEFFIELD

Our annual Summer Tournament over 27 holes was played on July 17th at Hillsborough GC. The trophy winners were: Best gross (27 holes) M Scothern 107 1/2. Best nett (27 holes) I Whitehead (should be off single figures) 102. Best nett (18 holes) D Chappel 68. The top four prizes went to: I Whitehead – 102. N Maltby – 105 (on back nine). M Colts – 105. M Scothern – 107 1/2.

We thank Henry Gillespie and his staff for presenting the course in excellent condition and also Hillsborough GC for courtesies extended. Also to the catering staff for feeding us so well and so thoroughly. Finally, our thanks to the trade for donating to our prize table in such a generous manner. All in all a fine day enjoyed by everyone.

On now to the regional Iseki final at Keswick GC. The section congratulates B V Lax and J K Kirkham on reaching the pinnacle of greenkeeper golfing – the final at Hillside on September 12th. Good fortune to you both with a special cheer for Barry Lax, who will, I'm sure, be trying extra hard to keep an Iseki trophy in the family after son John's success last year.

Finally, on a sad note I have to report the untimely death, at the age of 46 years, of David Brown of Wath GC, who died suddenly at the end of May. David was a good friend and colleague who supported section winter lectures as well as tournaments and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

IAN COLLETT

NORTH EAST

July 24th saw our now traditional annual match against Club Secretaries held at Gosforth GC, courtesy of the committee, for which grateful thanks. The result was a resounding win for the greenkeepers by six to one! Our thanks especially to Jimmy Hayes and his staff for what proved to be an excellent course in great order.

Congratulations are again in order to 'that man' Craig Kilgour. Not only has he won the 72 hole stroke play County Championship but now adds the Durham County Match Play Championship to his formidable list of titles. This double was last achieved over 30 years ago – well done, Craig!

What more can be said about the North East qualifiers for Iseki honours at Keswick? From the field we have 4 of the 12 who go forward for major honours and just to add salt to the wound, we won the team prize as well! Now let's hope we do equally well in the final at Hillside.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

MID ANGLIA

Our Summer Tournament was played at Letchworth GC on July 17th with 'superb weather adding to the splendid course nicely manicured for us by Duncan and his crew.

I'm sure all those present will echo my sentiments in thanking the Club for attending to our every need and especially to the Letchworth GC Captain, who joined us for our evening of jollity and presented prizes to the following: 1st – P Raynor (Maxwell Hart Prize) 2nd – M Smith. 3rd – F Scullion. Best AM – P Robinson. Best PM – G Boulton.

Once again we were well supported by our friends in the trade, for which many thanks.

Our programme continues with a visit to Hanbury Manor CC on 8th October, beginning at 2pm. (please park at greenkeeping maintenance area).

This is followed on October 30th by 27 holes of golf at Woburn G&CC, the event being also the final of our knock-out competition. The programme will be sponsored by Lodgeway Tractors Ltd and entries may be made via Ken Bunting, telephone 044284 3359.

GEOFF SMITH

DEVON and CORNWALL

With the start of our autumn and winter meetings only weeks away, may I remind you to return entries to me as early as possible and certainly by the closing dates, as this makes arrangements with our Club hosts a lot easier. Hopefully by now you will have all received your diary inserts with all our sectional and national events for 1991/92 – this courtesy of sponsors, Devon Garden Machinery.

The region has put together an excellent package for the Harrogate BTME Exhibition and Seminar programme in January 1992 for a cost of only £95. If you haven't yet booked I urge you to do so now and avoid disappointment.

Finally, I look forward to meeting you all at Carlyon Bay on Wednesday October 23rd.

RICHARD WHYMAN

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

To those members of BB&O who have just collapsed at the sight of this epistle in Greenkeeper International, I apologise... whilst reminding you all that I'm not worth much so it's not worth trying to sue me!

While on the subject, there are probably many rumours and/or theories as to the reasons for the lack of BB&O reports in the magazine, so I will take this opportunity to put the record straight.

First, it was felt that with the inception of

our own newsletter the need for national reports would be less, especially as these tended to be submitted late and were – in effect – little more than out of date golf results. Due to communication problems, what few reports that might have been became none, so after a minor re-shuffle within the committee I've somehow managed to land the 'plum' job of communicating to all of you out there in greenkeeper-land.

My first aim is to write reams of boring rubbish so that you will never feel the need to read anything pertinent to your section again. Unfortunately, this could be seen as self indulgence.

As usual, we have a rich and varied calendar of events planned – yes, you've guessed it, golf, golf and more golf! This starts with our matches against other sections, as well as the real 'crunch' match against Club secretaries within the section. These are always highly entertaining, so don't just sit there thinking about it, get involved by ringing our Captain, Dave Childs, on 0296 624068 and see your name is forward. On that point, if there are other BIGGA sections that fancy a thrashing at golf, give Dave a call and we'll try to organise a raiding party.

On the horizon is our Autumn Invitation at Sonning GC on October 16th and a later date – November 5th – for our day at The Berkshire. These are both sure to be over-subscribed so enter early and look for details in your newsletter.

Our Summer Fourball Competition for the Rigby Taylor Trophy is well under way now, with a few notable early victors in Heads and Porter from Frilford Heath and Childs and Goodchild from Ellesborough, together with dark horses Collis and Reeve from Sonning. All will unfold as the season progresses, climaxing with the final at Frilford Heath in November, a great Rigby Taylor day. Our thanks to Roger Bowles for his hard work in making the event possible and if last year is a yard-stick, it will be another great day.

A reminder that our 1992 Gentlemen's Dinner will be at Frilford Heath in February, cost about £20, with D.J.s or lounge suits the dress order of the day. Interested? send a £5 deposit/reservation to Bob Woodward, 19 The Green, Burnham, Bucks. SL1 7BG.

That just about wraps up my first G.I. report, but if anyone has any comments they would like me to ignore – sorry, consider – please do not hesitate to contact me. The name is Ray and the number is 0628 34095.

RAY CLARK

KENT

It is rather sad that our Summer Tournament, scheduled for play at North Foreland on July 17th, was cancelled.

It would perhaps be simple to say that its demise was due to lack of interest, although we may have more detail at a later date. Though that particular meeting was cancelled, you may rest assured that the Autumn Tournament at Knowle Park will positively go ahead.

For those who feel the need for summer golf, why not contact your fellow greenkeepers at other courses and arrange a visit combined with a spot of competition? From past experience, if approached in a correct and proper manner, most Clubs are very hospitable to greenkeepers. Always remember to take your BIGGA membership card with you and remem-

ber to behave in a manner that reveals an ambassador for greenkeeping and the Association.

May I welcome Neil Turner, the new head greenkeeper at Bexleyheath following two years at Effingham, into our section and wish him well in his new post. If you haven't yet met him, you may detect a wee hint of the Scottish burr.

Without too much to report this month, may I say how pleased I was to read David White's editorial comment in our defence in the July issue, which concerned an article appearing in another trade journal by a supposedly expert agricultural agronomist who played golf to a handicap of 8 and played four times a week. Like David, I also read this article and whilst I'm normally a calm and good natured sort of chap, I can tell you that this piece threw me into a blinding rage. In essence, this 'expert' trashed the British greenkeeper as some sort of ignorant rabble; laying the blame for all the problems of condition and presentation of courses in this country only at our door! He paid little attention to the real problem – the average Club management structure and the appalling attitudes found within the game. Thankfully, the golfing bodies are addressing this problem and I can only hope that they have the teeth to actually bite!

To the 'expert', I would suggest that every greenkeeper wants to present his course in peak order 365 days a year, barring remedial work or atrocious weather, but in the majority of cases is prevented from doing so by financial restraints that cut back on manpower, training, machinery and material needs.

Personally, I am not prepared to carry the can for these deficiencies, especially when we expend so much time and energy at our own courses just fighting for changes that will improve our budgets (and their courses!).

Perhaps, as in other areas of business, our 'expert' should take a look higher up the golf Club management ladder... and then go back to advising farmers!

PAUL COPSEY

EAST OF ENGLAND

For our July outing 20 members boarded a 'charabanc' (you think I jest) for a visit to the 'Pencross sward' of Collingtree Park.

A warm welcome was extended on our arrival by host, Peter Jones, and refreshments were well received by those who had missed lunch.

Peter showed us around the Pro's shop with all its television and video equipment installed to 'sort out' a player's swing. This was followed by a slide show giving us an insight into Peter's previous greenkeeping experience, then slides of the construction of the course at Collingtree Park. Many of us would, I feel, benefit by taking photographs of work in progress at our own courses.

Next, an outside demonstration of the Toro Hydroject 3000, conveniently delayed from the planned morning demo by the inch or more rain which fell in Northampton over the previous night. This proved an interesting extra for our group and was followed by a golf buggy tour around the course, with Peter showing us both his successes and his troubles. Our route ended at the workshop area, where it is always fascinating to see the machinery used by others. As you might imagine, many questions were fired at Peter and Phil, his right-hand man.

AROUND THE GREEN

Our thanks for a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon were voiced by our chairman, Graeme Patrick and echoed by us all.

One thought about Collingtree – if the golf isn't going too well the trip round the buggy track will compensate.

Our next fixture is the Rigby Taylor Trophy to be held at Sleaford GC on September 11th.

COLIN SWINGLER

SOUTH COAST

Little news of association members has come my way since our Summer Tournament so just a reminder regarding our Autumn Tournament: Venue: Hockley GC, Winchester. Date: Tuesday October 15th (please note, this is a change from the date published in the fixture list). Format: AM 18 hole Foursome. PM 18 hole Greensome. Each member is requested to bring along either a non-greenkeeper amateur partner from their Club, or a fellow greenkeeper from another Club. Fee: £16.50 per person. Closing date: October 5th.

Applications, together with handicap details and fee to: Joe Burdett, 40 Church St. Fontwell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0NY. Telephone: 0747 811439.

Fixture cards listing all sectional and regional events for 1992 are available upon request. Please let me hear from you so that you can fully participate in your Association's activities.

BOB DENNIS

EAST ANGLIA

Our travelling band gathered at Royal Cromer on a damp day in June. 'An improvement already', I hear you cry, for this was only rain and our last was a monsoon!

I must say that everyone at Royal Cromer made us extremely welcome with Roger and his men preparing the course to an excellent standard. There was wine on the table – courtesy of the Club – and a liqueur from the president. The Club captain said it was a pleasure for them to entertain us, for which we thank you sir, recognition at last.

Needless to say, the locals 'cleaned up' in the golf with even their steward playing yet still finding time to prepare the grub. Good lad!

Someone remembered to bring back the Kings Shield, so we thought we'd play for it and the results are as follows: 0-18: 1st Dave Wilkinson 36. 2nd Michael Fance 35. 3rd H G Wells 35. 19-28: 1st Steve Pigott 39. 2nd Tony Tyrell 38. 3rd Mike Kenyon 26. Guest results: 1st Dave Sego 41. 2nd G Smith 41.

Someone was taking orders for tee shirts with a suitable lowering of tone, for – honestly – the caption was "greenkeepers like a bit of rough!" Anyone want one? shh... see me. Steve Piggotts wore one but it was his birthday and we all sang for him.

On a serious note, Ernie Hart was missing from Cromer, his wife having sadly passed away. Our sympathies are with you at this time, Ernie, and we hope we shall see you at

our gatherings again ere too long.

We took an unprecedented step by giving Toddy a stroke back for age... poor devil couldn't climb up one of the tees and we musn't be too heartless. Prizes were donated by Rigby Taylor, CMW, Ransomes, Colliers, DOE, Pattissons, Chris Toolbrook and Olcock. Thank you sincerely, especially Royal Cromer, it was our pleasure and privilege.

Some dates for '92 – yes 1992 – are Woodbridge in June, Colchester in August and Eaton in October (might have some greens by then, might I add). Trying to get Bungay for April but have yet to phone Mick to pave the way.

Nice to have a cheer for one of ours at The Open. Who? Robin Mann of course. Robin is son of Wally Mann, head greenkeeper at Rushmere, who is currently waiting to have a hip operation. Hope all goes well for Wally and well done Robin, keep up the good work.

MICK LATHROPE

SOUTH EAST REGION

A regional golf tournament will be held at Gog Magog GC, Cambridge, on Tuesday October 8th. Entry is £16 (pay on the day) and entrants should send name, membership number and handicap to: Sam Sylvester, 7 Park Lane, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5HL.

MICHAEL PETERS

NORTHERN

As summer passes quickly by we are almost at the end of our golf fixtures, though there are still some places left for the Autumn Tournament at Garforth.

Your committee are endeavouring to locate the whereabouts of a trophy presented to the section by Jeff Mawson, formerly of Scarcroft. Can anyone shed light on the location of this silver salver? Please call me if you have any information.

I am sure you will be saddened to hear that long standing Northerner, Mick Hegarty of Leeds GC, has suffered a heart attack. The best wishes of all section members go to Mick in the hopes of a speedy recovery.

BOB LUPTON

EAST SCOTLAND

Dunbar GC was the setting for the first committee game, playing for the 'Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy', donated by Eddie's daughter Rosemary. Eddie, who passed away suddenly in April '89, was on the East Scotland committee for many years and thus it seemed fitting that this trophy remain within the committee. Our grateful thanks will always go to Rosemary and her family for such a kind gesture.

Once decided on date and venue, our search widened for a sponsor. Word was put round and in stepped our faithful friends, Frew & Co. of Edinburgh. It was they who provided transport, lunch, tea and 'light refreshments', with Colin McGeorge and Kenny Hunter designated 'teetotal' drivers, as well as ➡ 54

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45 joining us for a round of golf. I'm sure these lads enjoyed the day as much as we. Frew & Co. have always been good friends of the Association and this kindness only served to increase the bond between us.

Players from the committee were: S Dixon (chairman), C Yeaman (vice chairman), W Blair (secretary) and committeemen P Ormiston, S Greenwood and G Wood. It was sad that Jimmy Neilson couldn't play due to his broken leg but he was adamant that he could have done better with one pin than most of us with two! I'm inclined to put this down to 'light refreshments' and although a non player, he came in very handy running around in the buggie - supplying still more 'refreshments' at the tees.

The lucky winner was none other than Steve Dixon, although it could be said that the rest of us lay down for him and it was most fitting that the first recipient should be one who enjoyed such a long relationship with Eddie. In his speech, Steve spoke highly of our dear friend and was, I'm sure, moved and delighted when the trophy was presented to him by the vice captain of Dunbar GC, proud to be the first named winner.

Another celebration (head wetting, as the saying goes) was the birth of daughter Amy, born a few days earlier to Chris and Carol Yeaman. To them both we send congratulations, along with long life and happiness to Amy.

Thanks are especially due to Graham Wood for the excellent condition of the course (although the holes were set in the wrong place for me!), the captain and council of Dunbar GC for courtesies extended, the caterers for bonnie meals and the vice captain for presenting the trophy. Finally, I cannot close without again saying thanks to Frew & Co for sponsorship. We really did appreciate it.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WALES

On July 30th we held our annual Summer Competition for the Birdie Cup at Royal Porthcawl GC. The section acknowledges with thanks the generosity of Royal Porthcawl members and committee for use of their clubhouse and facilities and the steward and stewardess for greatly enjoyed services to the 'inner man'.

The competition was well supported, with over 30 players enjoying a course in super condition. To this end, thanks to head greenkeeper, David Ward, and his staff for their hard work put in over the past 12 months since our last visit. The results were: The Birdie Cup (best nett) - Mike Jones nett 71. The Duncan Cup (best gross) - Tony King 85. The John O'Gorman Cup (2nd nett on countback) Brian Price 78. Each received an engraved tankard and hootch with which to fill it!

A raffle followed which helped to boost section funds and winners were: Hugh Morgan (putter) P Robinson (camera) Colin Murphy (Wine) Phil Swain (wine) Richard Minton (sherry). Thanks to Colin Murphy for sterling work in selling tickets.

Our sponsors were Birds, for which grateful thanks, and other trade supporters in the raffle were Peter Hampton, Avoncrop, Stabrite, Rigby Taylor and ICI, for which many thanks. Your continued support - both physically and financially - is most worthy.

Congratulations to Hugh Parry on his appointment at Bristol and Clifton GC. We all wish him good fortune, even if it is 'over the water'.

PHILIP SWAIN

A reminder...

The editorial address for contributions to

GREENKEEPER

International

is 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL