



# AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## COMING UP

**April 8th:** BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel (immediately adjacent to York Railway Station), York. Commencing at 2.30pm.

**April 29th:** BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 - Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

**June 3rd-4th:** Landscape Industries '92. Trade Show - National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

**July 16th-19th:** The Open Championship - Muirfield, Scotland.

**August 10th-12th:** BIGGA National Golf Tournament - Littlestone GC, Kent.

**September 8th-10th:** IOG Trade Exhibition - Peterborough, Northants.

**September 24th:** ISEKI Championships Final - Coventry GC, Warwickshire.

**October 12th:** TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award - Aldwark Manor, York.

**October 14th-15th:** Kubota Challenge - The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

**October 26th-November 27th:** BIGGA Management Courses (five weeks) - Aldwark Manor, York.

**November 11th-12th** - IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh.

**November 12th-14th:** Golf Course Europe '92 Show - Cannes, France.

**December 7th:** ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals - Aldwark Manor, York.

## KENT

Our Spring Tournament at Darenth Valley on the 6th May will soon be upon us. Hopefully spring will also bring some welcome encouragement for some very tired looking turf. Mild winters may be good for maintaining a golf course's income, but they leave behind some very thin and worn turf. Looking ahead, we don't have a Summer Tournament arranged for this year as we are hosting the BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone. No doubt more detailed information will appear nearer the time, but I can give you some outline of the format in the hope that we in the Kent section can support this very important event.

The Tournament itself will take place on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of August, but a practice round will be available on Sunday the 9th August between 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm, with the registration for the main event taking place during the Sunday evening. As for the social side, we hope to have an informal barbecue in a marquee adjacent to the club house on Monday evening, with the banquet the following evening.

Much of the thanks for the organisation of the event must go to those at Littlestone Golf Club. Malcolm Grand always has this gem of a links course in tip-top order and a special thanks to Littlestone's 1991 Club captain, Brian Evans. It is great that Brian can lend his enthusiasm and organisational abilities to the event, for as some of you may know he is also secretary of the Kent Golf Union and EGU golf development officer for the South East. Perhaps he would rather I forget him as one of the Kent youth selectors many, many, many years ago - about as long ago as the last time I hit a decent shot!

Touching on the subject of club captains, we may have a BIGGA first in that our chairman, Chris Marden, is the captain at West Malling Golf Club this year. He brought his own special slant to the drive-in proceedings at the start of the year by arriving on the tee, in front

of the assembled galleries, dressed in overalls, boots, cloth cap and donkey jacket. In one hand he clutching his trusty driver and in the other a large bucket of soil and seed, with which he diligently began to divot the first tee. To the horror of the ladies present, he then began to strip off - thankfully to reveal more correct golfing attire. He then drew a ball from his pocket (apparently preferring to supply his own as those supplied in the past by supposed friends of the new captain had a habit of exploding!), tee'd it up and struck a remarkably straight shot some 164 yards. That is a good 164 yards further than I have seen some new captains attempt to drive, but I can't help but wonder that it was a relief he hadn't previously divoted another tee, as this may have only resulted in a drive of some 82 yards! Perhaps the policy of appointing the head greenkeeper to the position of Club captain should become more common practice at all Clubs, for it would surely result in an improvement in the general condition of the course, after exercising the "first decree" - the banning and dissolution of the green committee!

PAUL COPSEY

## SOUTH COAST

Members unable to attend the February lecture missed a very entertaining and interesting talk from our editor David White, who spoke of his annual visit to Augusta for the Masters Tournament and showed a number of slides covering the organisation and running of this prestigious event. This was followed by a talk on the Association's magazine, which resulted in a number of questions being voiced and with more bouquets than brickbats going in David's direction. It was pleasing to note that such is David's fame that a few greenkeepers from the Surrey section joined us for the evening.

The next section event is the Spring Tournament, which this year is being held at the Weymouth GC on Thursday, May 28th. The format



## CUCKMERE VALLEY TURF FARMS

TRUCK MOUNTED FORK LIFT SERVICE

SPECIALISTS IN QUALITY TURF FOR OVER 20 YEARS

- WIDE SELECTION OF GRADES AVAILABLE FROM ECONOMY TO GOLF GREENS TURF
- COMMERCIAL CONTRACT UNDERTAKEN
- LARGE ORDER DISCOUNTS
- DELIVERY OR COLLECTION
- RELIABLE PROMPT SERVICE
- ASK OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF FOR ADVICE

**ALFRISTON (0323) 870773**

COMMON LANE, BERWICK, POLEGATE, E. SUSSEX. **FAX: (0323) 870285**