

There is a diary change, with our game at Eaton GC now fixed for SEPTEMBER 23rd - not October 7th. I must thank Aldeburgh for their kind hospitality way back in December when we held the Turkey Trot. Unfortunately, I missed the publication deadline (again-I hear you cry!), sorry, lads.

Man on the move Paul Bertinshaw bids a fond farewell to Royal Norwich after eight years, moving to Delamere Forest in Cheshire. AGM's will never be the same! We all wish Paul and his family the very best for a successful future.

Now for the be-all-and-end-all of why farmers don't make good greenkeepers. One of the many fields with 18 flagsticks that have been described as 'golf courses' has an active farmer owner. He has a good head greenkeeper (for now) but over-rides everything the head man suggests. The greenkeeper, fed up with all the arguing, has decided to toe the line and do just what he is told - e.g. scarify and top dress in early February when there is a hard frost in the ground, never close the course, and if it snows the green staff will be laid off without pay! Not surprisingly, this course is going down hill even faster than Eddie the Eagle, and serves to highlight the enormous potential for 'quality' courses when one considers the vast numbers who play these 'mickey mouse' set-ups, simply because there is nowhere else to go.

MICK LATHROPE

SOUTH WALES

First, I must apologise to Celtic Mowers and their managing director, Mr Kim Davies, for not acknowledging in print the recognition they so rightly deserve. As a section we are indebted and thank them for their financial donations throughout 1991 towards both education and the new knockout competition, which was played last year for the first time. In my last report, I forgot to give the results of the above mentioned competition, played for throughout the season: Huw Morgan won the Matchplay Shield, the first prize of £75.00, and an engraved salver. Phil Swain was runner-up, winning £50.00 and also taking an engraved salver. Beaten semi-finalists were Idwal Morris and Anthony Iaffrate, both of whom won £20.00 and statuettes. It is hoped that the Knock-out Competition will continue in 1992 and that the generous sponsorship will again be forthcoming - I will publish details as soon as possible.

At the Christmas competition we presented Dennis Archer with an engraved clock - this in recognition for all his hard work done at both regional and national level before ill-health forced him to take things a little easier. Dennis will still be helping out at section level, and for that we are most certainly grateful. We also wish him well in the hope that future operations required for cataracts will be totally successful and that we shall see him back after the summer is over.

In the same vein, it was with regret that we learned of Ted Thompson's recent illness, the surgery required and the unfortunate relapse suffered of late. We hope Ted will be back to full strength before too long and will soon be strolling the fairways again with his fellow greenkeepers.

Movements within the section:

David James recently left Newport GC to take over at Glynneath GC, Paul Davies has moved from St Pierre to take over as deputy head greenkeeper at Tredegar GC, with Stuart Lindsay (who hails from West Lothian) having taken the deputy head greenkeeper post at Southern-down GC. We hope to see them at future section meetings and send them all our best wishes for success at their new Clubs.

I would like to urge as many members as possible to attend WESTURF '92 at Long Ashton GC, Bristol, on April 29th, 10am - 5pm.

FIXTURES FOR 1992

April 9th: St Mellons GC, Cardiff Cup and

Iseki Qualifier. 18 holes of golf, followed by an afternoon talk, meet 9.30am. April 29th: Westurf '92, Long Ashton GC, Bristol. May 14th: Cradoc GC, Jacobsen Cup and Brown's Shield, 18 holes of golf meet at 12.30am. May 28th: Match against Club secretaries. Southern-down GC meet at 11.30am. June 17th: Iseki Regional Qualifier at Isle of Purbeck GC. July 2nd: Southerndown GC, Birdie Cup. 18 holes of golf, meet at 12.30am. September 9th: St Mary's GC, Pencoed, for the Presidents Shield. Play over 18 holes, followed by a talk in the afternoon, details to follow. Meet at the Club at 9.30am. October 7th: Annual match against South-West at St Pierre G&CC. Tee time to be arranged. December 16th: Pyle and Kenfig GC. Christmas Competition and AGM. Playing for the Vitax Shield. Meet at the Club 9.30 am. A note from Huw Morgan, our handicap chairman: All members must produce their membership cards and handicap certificates at every meeting. Failure to do so could result in not being allowed entry. Will winners please return the relevant trophy to be played for on the respective days.

Finally, Hugh Parry, our section chairman and national board representative, has asked me on his behalf to send congratulations and thanks to the staff at HQ for their hard work at Harrogate, which made BTME such a success.

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

On behalf of the section, I would like to congratulate our very own member, Gordon Moir, on his election to the post of vice-chairman of the Scottish Region, and of course to John Crawford, who has taken over from Harry Diamond as chairman. Harry is a hard act to follow but I'm sure that John will prove a very able replacement. Thanks finally to Harry for all his hard work.

As promised last month, here are brief profiles of the first four speakers at our conference later in the year. First will be Simon Gough, the amenity and industrial manager for the Chemical Spraying Company, Perth. Mr Gough will talk on "Health and Safety for Golf Courses". This is quite a poignant subject in these days of certificates and pesticide laws. Second will be Dr. Neil Baldwin, plant pathologist at the STRI, who will discuss "Turf Diseases in Scotland". Mr Baldwin was a speaker at our conference last year and we shall look forward

to another informative session. Following coffee, we shall hear from John Souter, of Souter of Sterling, who is to talk on the setting up of a new golf course in the north of Scotland. Next we are fortunate to have the secretary of the Royal & Ancient, Michael Bonallack, whose talk will be "The Role of the R&A in Greenkeeping Education". The remaining four speakers will be profiled next month.

Finally, have you bought (or sold) your 200 Club ticket, or failing that, returned it for resale? I look forward to seeing some of → 58

CLASSIFIED And there's more on Page 57

Tenders



CHRISTCHURCH ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE DIVISION LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1988

TENDERS FOR GROUND MAINTENANCE

The Council intends to let the following grounds maintenance contracts as two separate packages to run for a period of 5 years from 2 November 1992.

1. Contract No. 1 (General) comprising of wide variety of work to include open spaces and general amenity areas throughout the Borough, allotment gardens, woodlands, highway shrub beds and roundabouts plant containers and the Grounds of Highcliffe Castle.
2. Contract No. 2 (Sports/Fine Turf) comprising of two individually located Bowling Greens and Hum Bridge Sports Ground housing Christchurch Football Club, football pitch and high quality cricket pitch. The contracts will be output performance based.

Specifications will be available for inspection on purchase at £50 each by the end of May 1992 at the Civic offices.

Contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion on the select list must write to The Manager, Environment & Leisure Division, Christchurch Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, christchurch, Dorset BH23 1AZ by April 24, 1992.



MILTON KEYNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

MILTON KEYNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

TENDER FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKS: STAGE 4

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1988, the Council will be inviting tenders for Grounds Maintenance in parts of the Borough. The work will comprise:

Complete Landscape Maintenance of the Council's two municipal golf courses situated at

1. Windmill Hill, Bletchley and
2. Abbey Hill, Two Mile Ash Milton Keynes.

The works will be of a specialist fine turf nature associated with the maintenance of golf courses.

Specimen Contract documents and indicative plans will be available for inspection from Wednesday 22nd April, 1992.

Applicants wishing to be included on the select tendering list should be of a sufficient size to undertake the work and have a proven history of fine turf maintenance relating to the maintenance of Golf Courses.

Applications for a copy of the questionnaire for Contractors should be made to:

Assistant Director (Services Administration)

Milton Keynes Borough Council

PO Box 113 Civic Offices

1 Saxon Gate East

Milton Keynes MK9 3HN

Telephone (0908) 682454 (Questionnaires) or (0908) 682574 (Appointments).

Completed Questionnaires must be returned to the above address by Friday 15th May 1992.

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