

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON & CORNWALL

The Section would like to express its gratitude to PJ Flegg Ltd and Devon Garden Machinery, our main Iseki dealers, who once again provided transport and breakfast for members who played in the 1992 Iseki regional final, which was held at the splendid setting of the Isle of Purbeck GC. Our congratulations to Lauchlan Millar and Richard Hall who came second in the O-9 section, also to Dick Parr who finished third in the 19-28 section. We wish them all good luck in the final.

As defending section team winners, the boys battled hard to once again lift the prized shield, but were beaten this year by the very strong South team. Our thanks and good wishes go to Ed Simcox, 'Mr Jacobsen' in South West, who has recently left the area to take up the position of groundcare manager at Oakleys in Shrewsbury.

I have just finished finalising upcoming section meetings and look forward to meeting you all during the coming season, the dates of which are as follows: Oct 14th at Dawlish Warren for the DO Hunt Trophy, speaker to be arranged. Nov 11th at China Fleet for the Toro Trophy, followed by our AGM. Dec 9th at Oakhampton for the PJ Flegg Trophy, followed by comedian Tank Sherman. Jan 13th at Fingle Glen for the Devon versus Cornwall match, followed by speakers Jim Arthur and Nick Rigden. Feb 24th at Perranporth for the Avoncrop Trophy, followed by speaker M Jones. March 24th at Woodbury for the Supaturf/M&B sponsored event, speaker to be arranged. July 7th at Launceston for the Jacobsen Trophy, followed by speaker David Golding.

RICHARD WHYMAN

KENT

Just a few things to report this time. Firstly some rather sad news about the recent death of Cecil Maidment, the former head greenkeeper of Bexleyheath. Cecil joined Bexleyheath from High Barn, near Worthing, in 1953. He was not only head greenkeeper in his early years at Bexleyheath, but was also the Club steward, carrying out these duties with his wife. He was also a very good player, playing off a 7 handicap for many years and was well known for the help and instruction he gave to young junior golfers at the Club. He retired as head greenkeeper in 1985, but still enjoyed pottering about on the course, doing odd jobs on a part time basis and regularly acting as the starter for Club competitions. He also continued with other gardening jobs well into his retirement and it was during such activity that he sadly passed away. He was one of the great old characters of the game of golf and greenkeeping, active until the last and highly regarded by all the members at Bexleyheath. He will be sorely missed, but always remembered.

A few dates for your diaries for forthcoming events. Although we had originally hoped to have the Autumn Tournament at Mid-Kent it appears there was some confusion and the date double-booked, so now the Kent Autumn Tournament will be played at Holt. The date advised to me is 15th October, but I am sure you will receive more information by post nearer the time.

Two regional events are the Regional Tournament to be held at Wanstead GC on October 6th, and The Regional Seminar at the Colchester Centre on November 2nd. Obviously the organiser of these events at a regional level has a current fetish for Essex, what with the Iseki qualifier at Chelmsford as well, but next year I understand that the Regional Iseki qualifier will be in Kent, so eighty pence saved each way at the Dartford crossing next year!

A personal thanks and a plug for Howard Evans Financial Services, the man who is the special financial advisor to BIGGA. As some of you may know, I am in the process of moving house, a traumatic experience at the best of times, but I have received great assistance from Howard. I know a number of greenkeepers in Kent and the South-East have also gained from his expertise on many financial affairs, so do not forget that his services are offered to you free as members of the Association - a definite plus included in your membership package. Advertisements for his services regularly appear in the magazine so why not give it a try - his office number is 0792 791179.

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH WEST

Avoncrop Amenity are the generous new sponsors of the annual match against the South West secretaries. Not only did Avoncrop provide prizes and a brand new trophy, but also laid on transport for our team to travel to the Launceston GC in Cornwall for the match. Unfortunately, even with all this VIP treatment, the actual result of the match was a dismal defeat for our side and we left the secretaries toasting a rare win. This slice of bad luck did not detract from the day out and our thanks to Launceston GC for hosting this match on their fine course and to Rod Feltham, 'Mr Avoncrop', for his generosity.

Of course, it's not been all doom and gloom for the section players recently, thanks to some brilliant play from Jon Leigh, Simon Montacute and Paul Thorn in winning their handicap categories down at the Iseki Regional Final, with the South West walking off with the team prize for the first time. Well played all.

I reported last month on Laurence Pithies' move from Minchinhampton GC. Well, it's an ill-wind as they say, for I am leaving Lilley Brook GC, Cheltenham, to take over from Laurence at Minchinhampton - now there's a tough act to follow! Through the pages of this journal, I would like to thank Lilley Brook staff, committee and members for happy times and for being such a super Club to work for - I wish them well for the future.

PAUL WORSTER

EAST MIDLANDS

This month I would like to pay a tribute to initiative. A strange sight has recently been seen at Mickleover Golf Club - namely the head greenkeeper, Peter Downing, crawling around the course on his hands and knees listening to the ground like a lost Apache. Apparently, Pete has found that by connecting up the course irrigation

wiring to his car and starting the engine, an audible signal passes down the line, and where the signal stops, breaks can be identified and repaired. Well worked out, Pete! Who needs hi-tech equipment anyway?

The East Midlands Pairs Knock-Out this year has been won by Anthony Bindley and Martin Hopkins of Kirby Muxloe G.C. Congratulations to them both and commiserations to Dave Flavelle and Alan Bayley, the runners up.

I have a couple of dates for you to note. The Autumn Tournament this year will be held at Willesley Park on Monday 7th September and entry forms will be sent out shortly. Also a date has been fixed for the Annual Regional Seminar which will be held on 25th November at Warwickshire College of Agriculture. I trust this will be well supported in the usual way by the East Midlands section.

Finally, welcome to a new member, Maurice Barnes, who is currently studying at Broomfield College.

TONY HOWARTH

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Question: What is guaranteed to bring on rain in the middle of a long hot summer? Answer: A BB&O golf day at East Berks GC! As luck would have it, that's exactly what happened. Out of the clubhouse trotted our fine members and down came the rain, but did it dampen the spirits of our merry band? Certainly not! They still managed to put together some fine scores with top of the pile being Andrew Ryan of Ellesborough with 32 points on count-back from John Bevan of Frilford Heath. In third place was Pat Wheelerhan with 31 points and he also won the prize for nearest the pin, just 39 inches away.

Question: Who eats raw meat, can drive the ball 305 yards on a wet day to win the longest drive and lives at Calcot Park? Answer: Simon Robinson - which comes as no surprise to anyone who has played with him (only kidding Simon). Thanks from the section to Mark Piggot, the headman, for a quite stunning course and to the secretary, members and catering staff of East Berks GC for allowing us to play and for feeding us so well (a particularly important part of a greenkeeper's golf day!). Last but by no means least thanks to Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor and Maxwell Hart for their continued support in these difficult times. Thanks also to Roy Kates, our national chairman, for presenting the prizes - even though we still await the arrival of the phantom red jacket with bated breath. Maybe next time Roy!

A couple of reminders for your diary: Our Autumn Invitation meeting is at Burford GC on 8th Oct. If you would like to play, please reply promptly (ie. as soon as you receive your entry form) as there are only a limited number of places available for this very popular event. Also, if you have entered the Rigby Taylor Knock-Out Tournament may I remind you that the finals are at Frilford Heath on Oct 16th. If you know now that you cannot make it, please let me know in order to avoid unwanted hassle nearer the time.

RAY CLARK



SURREY

A fine sunny day saw the Cresta Cup return to its traditional venue – the New Zealand GC – on June 8th. Dave Wyborn beat Ronnie Christie on a count-back with 36 points, with Paul Weston third and Brian Wilmott once again taking the trade prize. Thanks were extended to David and Marilyn Johnson for the preparation of the course and buffet respectively, and to New Zealand Artisans Club for the use of their facilities.

Unfortunately, despite a good attendance of 38 players, less than 20 players had applied by the entry closing date. As you must all be aware, Clubs usually extend the generosity of courtesy of the course, and caterers especially need to be aware of numbers in advance. As entry forms are always available well before an event, it is vital that members plan their golf in the same astute manner as they plan their work – late entries may well have to be refused in the future.

An event taking place in August is the McMullan Tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 6th (probably this should read 'which will have taken place' by the time this magazine reaches you), and the Parkers Salver takes place at Surbiton GC on September 24th (entries close Sept 11th).

Finally, would all members who have recorded good scores in regional events recently please check their very latest current handicap with Robert Hook. It is the duty of every golfer to play off a correct handicap at all times.

ROGER TYDEMAN

MID ANGLIA

The first round results of the Lodgeway Four-Ball Tournament are as follows: R McKeown and K Bunting beat D Mathews and S Mason by 5 & 3, B Piggott and C Wright beat D Piggott and I Jones by one hole, C Brook and E O'Hanlon beat T McCreadie and M Hall by 4 & 3, A Grew and G Boulton beat P Robinson and N Primett by 8 & 7, S Boyes and J Whiting beat T Stanton and R Laurence at the nineteenth. P Simmons and J Wells beat P Lockett and R Cougan by 3 & 2 and D Croxton and I Oliver beat G Bruce and G Smith by 2 & 1.

Lectures and golf meetings are currently being arranged for next year, with the Spring Tournament scheduled for Mid Herts GC and the Summer Tournament at St Neots. Dates will be confirmed later. The 1992 Autumn Tournament will once again be held at Woburn GC, again subject to confirmation. A match against the London section will be played at Porters Park GC later in the year and there is also a possibility of a week long spraying course being arranged in the autumn, when greenkeepers can take both PA1 and PA2 tests. Details, once confirmed, will be available shortly.

PAUL LOCKETT

NORTH SCOTLAND

Section members should note that application forms for the one day conference at Dundee in November will be dropping on their doorsteps later this month, shortly before they go around Scotland. Early booking is advised for what we are sure will be a very interesting and successful day.

Flying the flag for the North at the Scottish Championships at Kingsknowe were the Peterhead pair – Kevin Peace and Hugh McLatchie – who won the scratch and third class handicap sections respectively, along with Gordon Moir of St Andrews, winner of the Head Greenkeeper Trophy – Well done, lads. This was the first 'Scottish' I had missed since 1982, though I understand the main talking point of the day was not golf – rather the mysterious illness that has befallen our chairman Dougal, which has meant his taking the drastic measure of giving up the drink. We all hope for his rapid recovery, as do all the pubs in the vicinity of Westhill!

This year the North Golf Union has set up an order of merit, with certain 'Open' events in the

AROUND THE GREEN



area having points awarded for high finishes. At the time of writing (June 30th), greenkeepers George Paterson (Fortrose) and Stevie Macintosh (Muir of Ord) are in first and second places.

Congratulations to Gerald Stewart on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Montrose, and a welcome to another Montrose man, Gary Tough, our newest member. Rounding off a trio of Montrose happenings, Steve Macdonald is leaving Montrose for a similar job at a course in Amsterdam – we wish him well.

Next month our autumn outing will be held at Kingussie, so get your entries back as soon as you receive them. For those who have not played at



Kingussie, I can tell you that it is highly enjoyable with some lovely holes, especially the par three's – as for the fourth, getting on the green in two is a major achievement! I am expecting a good turn-out, so enter without delay.

IAIN MACLEOD

NORTHERN

As most of you are aware, I am new to the position of section secretary/reporter, having taken over from former secretary, Bob Lupton, who has been promoted to higher places as regional administrator. We wish Bob well in his new venture.

As I am new, I would like to hear from any members with any constructive ideas, news or any suggestions that they think will benefit the section or BIGGA. Please contact me by writing to 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley BD16 4RL, or 'phone me on 0274 568128.

Presidents Day at Bradford GC was played in rather showery weather but this did not deter our stalwart members. The results were: Div. 1: 1st M Lealman, 2nd D Collins, 3rd M Hannan. Div.2: 1st T Jarvis, 2nd M Bryant, 3rd C Garnett. The Jubilee Cup was won by L Kirkbright and the best visitor was P Marshall. Highest scores were achieved by D Thackray, A Smith and B Carr. Congratulations to you all.

On behalf of all who attended I would like to thank our president, Bill Mountain, for his hospitality and continued support for our section. Our thanks also to Ralph Smith, D Thackrey and their staff for a first class course and also to the secretary and committee for so kindly allowing us courtesy of the course.

There are still a few places left for our golf competition at Scarborough South Cliff on Wednesday September 30th. if you require an entry form please contact me. The event is being kindly sponsored by John Chaplin (Machinery) Ltd. Roseville Road, Leeds.

Just a reminder to members that the very popular management courses at Aldwark Manor get under way in October and November. If any member is apprehensive about going on these courses, be they young, old or even middle aged, I can assure them that they will be pleasantly surprised. The professional tutors make listening an enjoyable pleasure. Don't forget also that there are no tests or examinations at the end of the courses.

The winter lectures are still in the process of being formulated – more details later.

Last but not least, I would like to welcome the following new members to our section: A Ger-

rard, R A Smith, C Dalby, R M Pilgrim, J Wood and S P P Drum. I hope they will all take full advantage of their membership by taking part in our section events.

PAT MURPHY

EAST OF ENGLAND

The Eastern Region final of the qualifying rounds for the Iseki Competition was played in conjunction with our Purdy Machinery Trophy. This trophy was donated by Les Purdy when our section started and our thanks must be given for his continued support. Les joined us for the game this year at Belton Woods Country Club and stayed on for the meal and presentation in the hotel after play.

The course has now been open for two years and to quote our chairman, Graeme Patrick, "the hard work that has obviously been put in by Paul Cale and his staff over two trying years is now showing excellent results".

Competition on the day was fierce with close results. Michael Finney of Elton Furze GC was the trophy winner, followed by David Griffin of Belton Woods and Kevin Hodges also of Elton Furze.



Members now through to the Iseki finals are Michael Finney, David Griffin, Kevin Hodges, C. Macdonald, D. Hornsey, G. Macdonald, P. Wright, M. Woods, D. Wells, G. Patrick, M. Macklin and J. Scotney.

COLIN SWINGLER

NORTH WEST

The Iseki Regional final at Bury GC on Monday June 29th proved to be a good day for the North-West section. Firstly, we had three qualifiers to go to the final at Coventry, and secondly, the North-West won the team prize, with each player receiving a small shield and 'yours truly' taking charge of a bottle of 'champers'. The course was in first class condition, thanks to Dave Berry and his staff, the weather was perfect and the standard of golf was good – followed by an excellent meal. Our three qualifiers are Bill Horvath, Ernie Stewart and Craig Wheeler and we wish them good fortune in the final.

On reflection, I suppose that apart from the BIGGA National Tournament this is the only time that members from all corners of our region get together, so let us hope the Iseki Tournament will continue for many years to come.

The next match in the N.W. calendar will be the Roses Match at Stockport GC on Friday August 28th. I will require a team of sixteen players, so if you are available please contact me on 051 724 5412. In the meantime I will be keeping myself busy at The Open at Muirfield and the National Tournament at Littlestone – I



hope to see you there.

BERT CROSS

EAST ANGLIA

Two events to catch up on, folks, so pay attention. The first was a lovely day out, sponsored by Fisons and Rushbrooks at Diss GC. Head greenkeepers and first assistants were invited, but I'm not sure which player from which group won. I think this was a first time in our section when a company (or companies) sponsored such an event and I understand the golf was followed by a superb meal and a short promotion by both Fisons and Rushbrooks. I hope it will not be the last and thanks to both companies for an excellent day.

Taking sponsorship one stage further – now that we have greenkeepers versus first assistants – we could have greenkeepers versus captains, greenkeepers versus secretaries etc. etc. Local companies, please take note.

The second event was in early June at Woodbridge, a nice part of the world. Unfortunately, there was what in polite circles would be called a 'slip-up'. Woodbridge have a limit on ➔ 62

52 → society numbers, but did not tell us first – the result: a huge 'phone bill and a lot of disappointed would-be players. Fortunately, Ufford GC were able to take some of the overspill, for which we were most grateful.

With all that behind us we set off round Lyn Arbon's track, which was in superb condition, and fielded two handicap sections: First in 0-15 was Dave Wilkinson (Cromer) with 36 pts, 2nd Peter Howard (Aldeburgh) with 34 pts and 3rd Roger Plumber (Cromer) with 32 pts. In the 16-28 section Steve Freestone (Eaton) was first with 37 pts, followed by Steve Piggot (Cromer) on 33 pts and Dave (HG) Wells (Stockbrook Manor) on 29 pts. Stockbrook Manor? Where's that? Billericay! The guest winner was Ron Maidstone (Eaton). Who said Cromer crabs don't come inland! Well done lads.

Prizes were presented by the Woodbridge captain, Mr Watt, and donated by Sisis, Rushbrooks, CMW, ICI, Doe's and Turf Actant. Our thanks to Woodbridge for a great day out – we won't send quite so many next time.

A message from Steve Freestone – will prizewinners pick their own prizes please – why would he say that I wonder?

There are two limited number events coming: Colchester on Aug. 12th has a limit of 36 and Eaton GC on Sept. 23rd has a limit of 40 (unless you want dinner on your lap!).

The AGM will be at Aldeburgh in December after the Turkey Trot – don't say I didn't give you enough notice.

MICK LATHROPE

MIDLANDS

On Thursday June 18th the Midlands section held their Summer Tournament at Handsworth GC. The weather was breezy but warm and this made for good golf on a well prepared course – for which we thank John Hughes and his staff. Congratulations to Paul Loffman, who played some superb golf and won both the gross and nett prizes.

Thanks to Handsworth GC for the courtesy extended to us once again, which made for a most enjoyable day. In addition, thanks are due to the many companies that once again sponsored our event and helped us during the day.

Dates to remember: Midlands versus Mid Anglia on August 26th at Blackwell GC. Autumn Tournament on September 9th at Harbourne GC.



DEAN CLEAVER

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish National Tournament was held this year at Kingsknowe Golf Club in Edinburgh on 23rd June. It was a glorious day with a stiff breeze and a field of 82 players did battle for the many trophies. Willie Blair and his staff had the course in great condition even without an automatic watering system and after a month with no rain. Dennis and Dorothy Maddison and their

AROUND THE GREEN



catering staff looked after the the inner man in first class style and the captain Matthew Anderson, vice-captain Tom Dow and secretary Bert Wallace made us more than welcome and even invited us back again. To all those people our thanks for a great day. Even though it was sunny and hot the strong wind and dry conditions made for some interesting and testing golf shots but the lads had obviously been practising hard and some excellent scores were handed in. And for one of our friends from the Trade a nett 59 gave rise to some 'interesting' comments. Needless to say his name and a few others have been circulated to the section secretaries for handicap reviews before the autumn outings. Results were as follows: Scratch 1st – Kevin Peace – Peterhead 70. Nett 1st – Colin Scott – Killermont 63. Best Head greenkeeper – Gordon Moir – St Andrews 73-5=68. Best Assistant greenkeeper – Ross Wilson – Kinross 72-6=66. Best Apprentice greenkeeper – Donald Campbell – Galashiels 80-13=67. Best Veteran greenkeeper – Jimmy Neilson – Murrayfield 85-17=68. 1st Class 1st – Richard Sharp – Kinross 72-7=65. 2nd James Duncan – Aberdour 73-6=67. 3rd Jim Wilson – Torrance House 78-9-69. 2nd Class 1st Chris McLeod – Ratho Park 77-11= 66. 2nd Chris Yeaman – Swanston 82-12=70. 3rd Stephen Massam – Leven 85-15=71. 3rd Class 1st Hugh McLatchie – Peterhead 89-21=68. 2nd Andrew Forrest – Swanston 92-24=68. 3rd George Stavert – Peebles 97-27=70. Section team prize – East section. Associate member/trade/guest – John Robertson – Aitkens 83-24=59. Special Prize – Kevin Brunton – Souters 69 off scratch.

ELLIOTT SMALL

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

A super day was had by all at the Iseki Regional Final, on the 17th June. The venue of the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club turned out to be not only spectacular to view, but very demanding to play, especially with the strong winds. Many a ball was lost in the rough, but undaunted, the strong minded battled on. There were one or two that excelled themselves, and others that fell by the wayside, but the very excellent meal provided made up for any disappointments.

Ian Pogson, area sales manager for Iseki UK Ltd, presented the prizes, and as usual kept the laughter flowing. Our thanks to him and the Iseki company for sponsoring the day. Also to their

traders for their support. Ian presented our Regional Shield to the South West Section who were in fine form. Our thanks to all who gave prizes for the raffle, it is very much appreciated.

We would like to thank all the staff at the Isle of Purbeck, and especially Mr and Mrs Robinson, chairman and managing director, who joined us for the dinner and presentation.

The day was made complete by a comment from one of the guests: "What a pleasure it has been to be with you all today, you are a credit to the greenkeeping profession." How true that was.

The results were: Category 1 – 1st P Thorn (S West) 72; 2nd L Millar Jun. (D&C) 72; 3rd R Hall (S Wales) 74. Category 2 – 1st S Montague (S West) 71; 2nd A Panks (S Wales) 76; 3rd T King (S Wales) 76; 1st reserve A McCombie (S Coast) 76. Category 3 – 1st J Leigh (S West) 68; 2nd L Hallet (S Wales) 69; 3rd R Parr (D&C) 75; 1st reserve B Price (S Wales) 78. Winning section for the regional shield: South West Section.

Many thanks to you all and good luck to the qualifiers in Coventry on the 24th September.

GORDON CHILD

COMING UP

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: **BIGGA Northern Region Seminar – Askham Bryan College**

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

October 16th: **BIGGA Northern Region Seminar, Reaseheath College**

October 19th-November 27th: **BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York**

November 2nd: **BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Colchester Centre, Essex**

November 3rd: **BIGGA South West Region Seminar – Cannington College**

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

November 12th-14th: **Golf Course Europe '92 Show – Monte Carlo, France**

November 25: **BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College**

November 27: **BIGGA North Scotland Section Conference – Dundee College**

December 7: **ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York**

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