

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

■ Pictured at the recent GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans are GCSAA outgoing President, Steve Cadenelli and BIGGA Chairman, George Malcolm. Neil Thomas reports that: "BIGGA's booth at the Exhibition was exceptionally busy with much interest in membership, magazine subscriptions and exhibiting at the 1993 BTME. Relationships with the GCSAA were further strengthened and productive discussions were held with both Steve Cadenelli and the GCSAA's Executive Director, John Schilling. The event proved to be an excellent marketing and public relations exercise for the Association."



COMING UP

March 11th: British Institute of Golf Course Architects Seminar, 'The Positive Face of Golf Development', Institute of Engineers, London.

March 24th-26th: RECMAN (Sports Council) Conference and Exhibition - National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

March 26th-29th: Golf Asia '92 - World Trade Centre, Singapore.

March 27th-29th: BIGGA National Education Conference - Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

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

April 23rd-26th: The World of Golf, Olympia, London.

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.

● Will section reporters please note that final copy date for inclusion of *Around The Green* material in the May issue is April 1st.

NORTHERN

I hope everyone enjoyed the show at Harrogate, where it was good to see so many Northern section members present. Special thanks to those who gave up their time to man the doors and perform special duties.

With spring quickly approaching, now is the time to tell you of the golf events planned for 1992: SPRING TOURNAMENT over 27 holes, Wed. 15th April at Kirkbymoorside GC (Iseki Qualifier). PRESIDENTS DAY Wed. 3rd June at Bradford GC. INVITATION DAY, Wed. Aug 19th at Northcliffe GC (Shipley) n.b. guests must be officials from your Club. AUTUMN TOURNAMENT Wed. 30th Sept at Scarborough (South Cliff) GC.

The Roses Match for '92 will be in Lancashire and details will follow when available. Please note that all bookings must be accompanied by a 10% deposit and that entries close one week before the event. Most venues have a 40 limit so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. Unfortunately the proposed trip to Lloyds of Letchworth has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

The Annual Dinner Dance will take place at Tinos Restaurant/ Wharfedale Public House, Arthington, Otley on Friday 3rd April, commencing at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £15.00 and the event is open to members and guests. Please call 0274 590463 for reservations.

BOB LUPTON

SURREY

The winter lecture held recently proved to be a huge success, with over fifty members present. A superb presentation on chainsaw safety was given by Brian Mills and Alistair Scott from Brinsbury College. Thanks were extended to them, along

with gratitude to the Walton Heath Artisans Club for the use of their clubhouse and to Ted (James) Bond for manning the bar!

Congratulations are due to David Whitaker of Wisley GC on his election as Greenkeeper of the Year and a warm welcome is extended to new member, Gary Martin of Ashford Manor.

Our Spring meeting will be held on Thursday April 23rd at Foxhills GC. Entries are limited so please apply promptly.

ROGER TYDEMAN

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

Thanks to all who attended our first winter lecture at Sonning GC., featuring what may have been a long-winded and boring subject - COSHH - but which actually turned out to be one of the finest lectures I have ever attended. Those who were present now realise just how important the subject is and our sincere thanks go to Jon Allbutt for his excellent presentation, along with gratitude to Alan Collis and Sonning GC for the smooth running of the event. Whilst on the subject of lectures, do not forget the third lecture in the series: Conservation on the Golf Course, again at Sonning GC on March 17th. The speaker is from the National Conservation Council and the topic is indeed most topical - so I hope to see you all there!

Not too many reminders this month (I can visualise the sighs of relief!) but a prompting that we will be looking for entries for the Rigby Taylor Fourball Trophy soon, so sort out a good partner before they all get snapped up and keep watching this column for details. That wraps it up for this month, but I hope to see you all at Sonning.

RAY CLARK

MID ANGLIA

The BTME at Harrogate goes from strength to strength and congratulations must go to all concerned. It was particularly good to see our section so well represented, with many members supporting the event. The section has been relatively quiet since Christmas, though we have had one lecture - being entertained by Chris Brook who talked of his experiences in bringing a new golf course into play from seed. It was an extremely interesting talk (even though there wasn't a projector!). Well done, Chris. Elsewhere in 'Faces & Places' you'll see the news of Andrew and Ann Kennett's new addition (Elizabeth Helen) and I'm sure you'll join with me in wishing them lots of happiness together.

Finally, you should have all received your entry forms for forthcoming competitions. Chris Brook would be very grateful if you send the appropriate form and entry fee back to him at least 2 weeks before the competition. If you haven't yet received forms - or have any query - please do not hesitate to contact me.

GERALD BRUCE

MIDLANDS

Following our AGM held at Edgbaston GC our committee remains the same; as follows: President: R Pugh. Chairman: A Kite. Vice Chairman: M Hughes. Secretary: D S Cleaver. Treasurer: P

Richmond. Committee: P Woodward, S Wood, I Beetlestone. Section Representatives: D S Cleaver and P Woodward. We thank Edgbaston GC for allowing us the use of their clubhouse for the AGM.

Thanks are due to Walsall GC for providing the venue for our first lecture, with Peter Jefford giving an interesting and informative talk on top dressings, followed by a second speaker from M.M.P., who gave us a very interesting insight into how their products can be used with small machinery repairs. We thank both speakers for their time and knowledge.

Our next lecture will be at the Telford G&CC on March 20th, again with two speakers and beginning at 2pm with a talk on Trees by Martin Ford, followed at 3.15 pm with a talk on Machinery Maintenance by John Franklin.

Our first golf tournament will take place at Stourbridge GC on Tuesday April 7th. Please remember the closing date for this event is March 11th. If you have not received an entry form and want to play – please contact me on 0789 762912

DEAN CLEAVER

KENT

As we gear up for the coming season, I would first like to offer comment to Gary Mills letter which appeared in January Greenkeeper International. I think we all appreciate that not all green staff play golf or indeed wish to play golf, but nevertheless the term 'apathetic' could most certainly be levelled at the response received for other events we attempt to organise within the section.

I well remember the very poor response we received two years ago when we organised a series of three informal afternoon educational lectures throughout the winter. The numbers attending the final lecture were almost as embarrassingly small for the speaker -Danny Godfrey of Inter Seeds – as they were for those who took the time and effort to organise the lecture. That is why we have no winter educational programme, favouring in future the repeat of a seminar (every other year) of the type and scale successfully held at Woodlands, Swanley. The same argument could be applied to the attendance at our section AGM last December, when all members were welcome to come along, indeed even to participate in the running of their section, but again the response came from only about 20% of our registered membership.

If Peter Biscoe dares venture over to Barnehurst I can assure him that our resident thieving crow is not so obliging as to drop the ball it steals. Our specimen undertakes a brief game of teasing the golfer, urging him to come and retrieve the ball, before disappearing with it into the nearest field. Its record so far is five balls in one afternoon, all of varying colours!

Best of luck to David Goodhew as the new man in charge at Lullingstone. David left Gillingham to fill the position for Golf Landscapes Ltd, whose maintenance division won the recent round of competitive tendering to secure the maintenance contract for Lullingstone. It will be interesting to hear of the different challenges created by working in this way, as opposed to those of a normal private club.

A reminder that our Spring Meeting and Iseki qualifier will be held at Darenth Valley GC on May 6th. The normal format will prevail: 18 hole medal AM and Stableford PM, plus the usual arrangements for meals. With the need to give more definite numbers to our hosts – and to assist in catering requirements and tee reservations – you will shortly receive a letter outlining the event, with a tear-off slip. Those who wish to participate should return this, along with a cheque. Naturally, we understand this means committing yourself somewhat in advance and calls for some

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effort in returning your reply, but many courses now require a more definite indication of numbers for groups and societies and we will be most grateful for your full co-operation. As an extra note I can announce that we will be playing for some very nice cut glass prizes, courtesy of Rigby Taylor. Please also bring your BIGGA membership card, complete with photograph, to all future events. We will be upholding the right of the host Club to refuse courtesy of the course to any person failing to produce his card.

Finally a note from our recently returned Welshman, Neal Carter of Birchwood Park. I recently visited his course and all seems to be progressing well. As you may know, he is a keen indoor cricketer and asked if any other Kent members would like to help in forming a team. Unfortunately the team consists of just two at the moment – Neal and his former assistant at Cobtree Manor. The minimum number required is eight and Neal would be glad to hear from anyone interested. His number (evenings) is 0622 750564.

PAUL COPSEY

EAST MIDLANDS

Our Spring Tournament will be held this year at Wollaton Park GC on Tuesday April 28th. Entry forms have already been sent out and I would appreciate an early response to help with catering arrangements.

For any section members wishing to undertake training for PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates, the course at Brooksby Agricultural College, Melton Mowbray, has been scheduled for March 23rd. Please contact Brooksby direct if you are interested.

As has already been published in Greenkeeper International, the enrolment fee for the "Master Greenkeeper Certificate" has been reduced to just £10. It has come to my attention that at the time of writing (Jan 31st) our section has only one member signed up for MGC – me! I am therefore appealing to you all, especially younger members, to support the scheme and enrol.

Finally, the section is pleased to welcome Peter Forshaw of Ramsdale Park GC within our ranks.

TONY HOWARTH

SOUTH WEST

It was a case of "there's no place like home". How well I remember my old home Club. All those rows with the secretary. The first letter of warning. The sack. Happy days! Seriously, it made a very pleasant start to the '92 season to return to Cirencester GC for the Modern Maintenance International Golf and Lecture day.

Talk about lucky with the weather. No sooner had the last competitor come in from the course than the heavens opened, with two inches of rain falling over the next twelve hours. It was certainly nice to see the Cirencester course in such good condition, and so hard to think that in less than three years there will be a four lane by-pass cutting right through it, causing the loss of four holes and shattering the peace and tranquillity for ever. Our thanks to the Club for their hospitality and the staff for their hard work.

Thanks also to Frank Chute and his team from Modern Maintenance International for their very interesting presentation on 'Terra-technology (or something) – the art of repairs'. Frank managed

to talk his way through a long list of different products, also demonstrating quite a few which could be of help in an emergency, or in routine in the greenkeepers workshop.

Congratulations to Steve Francom and Paul Thorn of Tracy Park on coming first and second in the morning round, narrowly beating Ivor Scoones into third place.

I'll take this opportunity to remind you all that nominations for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award are now due. Send nominations to your section committee no later than April 30th: we are looking for a name and a reason for the nomination.

Finally, don't forget WESTURF on April 29th. If you manage turf in the West, you can manage WESTURF! But don't just come alone – bring your staff and Club officials for a rewarding day out.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTH WEST

The programme of events for 1992 has now been completed and all members in the North West section should have received a fixture list. The committee would especially like to thank BIGGA North West President, Arthur Harrison, and SISIS for sponsoring us with the printing and postage for the programmes. You will see from the fixture list that our first golf event is the annual match against the North Wales section. This is to be played at the Caldycott GC on Tuesday April 14th, tee off time 1.30 pm. I will require a team of sixteen trusty men (on the basis of first come, first served), so any interested persons – get your name in early by calling me on 051 724 5412. If any members, especially those new to the section, are without a fixture list please call me on the aforementioned number.

BERT CROSS

NORTH SCOTLAND

A conference update for our November seminar in Dundee is that three further speakers have been found, bringing the total to eight. By the time you read this report in March the brochure will have gone to print, final details having been ironed out at a meeting with the sponsors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chemical Spraying Company, Frews, and M&M Turf Products for assisting us in this project. In the next two reports I will profile the conference speakers.

Although I did not make it to Harrogate, I got a full report from one of our competition winners, my assistant, Gordon McKie. It was good to hear that quite a number of North Scotland members attended this year, as I believe I was the only one in 1991. It sounds as though it was another successful week and I'm glad that Gordon had such a good and educational time, especially as he was sharing a room with our illustrious chairman, Dougal Duguid.

Our first outing this year will be to Montrose GC on Thursday May 7th and I urge as many members as possible to enter. I hear that Montrose is a fine links course and well worth a visit. Entry forms will be sent out in early April – so enter quickly!

Finally I would urge all members to send any snippets of news from within the section: career movements, births, marriages etc., so that I can vary my reports a little and spread news of our section activities to all members countrywide. I don't want you to get bored with my reports just yet!

IAIN MACLEOD

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Some 68 members and 21 students attended the Devon & Cornwall section seminar, held this year at the excellent venue of Fingle Glen Golf Com-

plex, near Exeter. The morning started with Devon taking on Cornwall in a nine hole match, the winning team (as usual) being Devon, returning six cards totalling 110 points to beat Cornwall with 103. The best score from Devon was John Breyley with 21, this gaining him a pair of cut glass goblets donated by Rigby Taylor and the best Cornish score was that of Richard Minton – also with 21 – but declaring himself out of the prizes and allowing J Bullen to collect the prize of a video presented by – guess who? – Richard Minton! As is usual, the course was presented in excellent condition by our chairman, Bill Pile, and his staff.

Following a superb lunch the 'Dry Patch and Wetting Agents' seminar got underway, with Dr Neil Baldwin presented his paper on Dry patch. Neil, who is a plant pathologist with the STRI, told of his research into this problem, funds for which are being provided by the R&A.

Neil's talk was most informative and I am sure he has made all of us more confident when dealing with Dry patch. We thank him for presenting his paper and for making the long journey West. In addition, the section thanks Mr Breeding and Fingle Glen GC for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities.

Special thanks to all our trade friends who took stand space, these being Avoncrop and ICI, PJ Flegg and Ransomes, Devon Garden Machinery and Toro, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Fisons, and Willcocks. We hope they found the day successful.

RICHARD WHYMAN

S. WEST AND S. WALES 'ARCTIC EXPEDITION'

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach arrived promptly at 9am to begin our 'journey into the unknown'. All seemed well at the first pick-up point – Exeter G&CC – and with half our party on board we proceeded to the M5.

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Flashing lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lone-ranger (waiting in a lay-by), and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'.

After a 150 minute delay a second coach was commissioned and we continued our great adventure, having been adequately fed and watered in the pub, setting off for the M5 once more. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in this package deal. However, the regional administrator was determined to take his party to the hinterland and having made Bristol and our last pick-up safely, we continued our trek to the BTME.

Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by a Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windscreen clear for the driver. Finally arriving at our destination – some three hours late – those able bodied members of the group still capable unloaded the coach, while others tried to free themselves from the refrigerated container.

At breakfast the following day an amazingly good humoured party ate heartily in readiness for

the opening of the 1992 exhibition, showing no signs of their endurance test ordeal. Having taken-in the seminars, walked the exhibition hall and met old friends, we were able to enter first class teams in the quiz night, though in being so young at heart our team was just beaten by failing to remember Max Bygraves! Some then decided to take Harrogate by storm and one talented trio won the Karaoke at a night club, the name of which cannot be remembered, whilst others drowned their sorrows, with some sad results.

Rising next morning bright and early, we were once again greeted with sub-zero temperatures. Undaunted, we sallied forth to the exhibition halls and another excellent day of looking and learning. Continuing extreme cold in the evening suggested that taxis be laid on for those who were banquet bound and a superb meal and top class entertainment gave us a night to remember – or for some a night which cannot be remembered, though a good time was had by all.

The final day proved no less exciting than the others, with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to leave at 12.30, with everyone ready and on time. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded – leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last – even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.

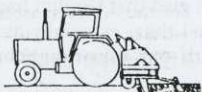
With time to reflect on the disasters of 'modern' transport, it has been suggested that we may have to resort to horse drawn carriages for 1993, these seeming more reliable. However, stops will have to be made at Bristol and Birmingham for a change of horses, though this should not → 62

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54 → add unduly to the time taken in '92. As numbers will be limited for this adventure, preference will be given to those prepared to take an active role in feeding and mucking out and a duty roster will have to be drawn up. Comments and suggestions will be appreciated, as this annual event is destined to continue.

On a more serious note and on behalf of the entire party, I would like to congratulate the staff on a superb job in organising the whole week. The exhibition was excellent and the seminar programmes better than in previous years. You have set a standard which you may find hard to sustain. Well done! We look forward to next year.

PS: The writer wishes to appeal to the person who took his suitcase – perhaps by mistake? Please, please return it.

GORDON CHILD

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Hi folks, at long last some news from the Central section. At the first meeting of your new committee, held recently, a great deal of time was taken in discussing ways in which more of you can be encouraged to participate in section events. So watch this space in the coming months.

Dates already confirmed for your diary are the Spring Tournament at Crail GC on April 14th, the Autumn Tournament at Kinross GC on October 8th and the Annual Prize Draw Dinner at Stirling on December 4th. The Spring Tournament will be the

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ISEKI qualifying round and numbers at Crail are limited to 40 players. When forms are circulated, be sure to return them early.

It has been decided to continue with the Prize Draw, which is the biggest fund raiser for the section – notwithstanding some £300 worth of tickets not being returned, despite reminders! How many of these were sold and not returned? Those of you who failed to make returns will know the answer to that question.

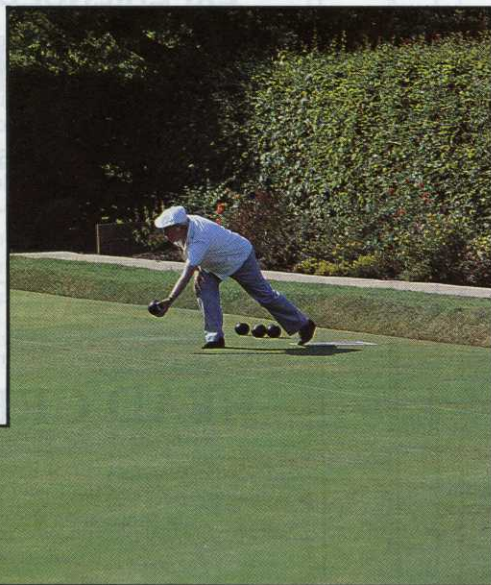
It was pleasing to see so many Central section members at BTME and I'm sure everyone who attended voted the event a great success and will be looking forward to Harrogate and BTME in '93.

As we approach another season, the committee send best wishes for a successful year, especially to those who have recently moved to new positions.

Finally, if any member has ideas for what might or should be happening in the section, please contact me or any other member of the committee and we shall try to fit such ideas into the programme. Please also remember that 1992 membership cards will be asked for at ALL section events – so be sure to carry your card with you.

JOHN CRAWFORD

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