

45 manner how he was always open-minded about all greenkeeping practices and how what was good for one course might not be suitable for another. There was an intriguing insight into George's ideas of bunker renovation and also the exasperation and delights of working a links course on the West coast of Scotland after winter storms and on beautiful summer days. All in all it was a good day.

My thanks go to all the speakers and Cecil George and John Crawford who chaired the two sessions. To Langside College in allowing us the use of the facility and to the catering staff. I especially thank Colin Urquhart and Margaret Hamilton from Langside for their assistance, and Willie Blair, Chris Yeaman, Andrew Forrest and Fraser Ross for their assistance at registration. This was the first time a conference had been held at Langside and there were a few problems, most of which were overcome. The main problem was probably the lack of parking spaces at and around the college. That aside, the day was very successful and we look forward to the 1993 conference, which will probably be held at Oatridge College, again in March.

The annual Match Scottish Region v the Secretaries Association, took place at Elie Golf House Club on Wednesday 18th March. After extremely heavy rain all morning throughout Scotland everyone was a bit apprehensive, but as usual Elie was dry and mud free. Mind you, there was a gale blowing and when Brian Lawrie, Elie head greenkeeper told us that play was off the medal tees, visions of another win for the greenkeepers seemed acceptable, due to our being used to working in such conditions. When our leading couple, the vice-chairman of the Scottish Region, Gordon Moir and his partner Cecil George, strode to a flour-

# AROUND THE GREEN



ishing 5/4 victory the writing was on the wall and the second match also finished at the 14th – another win for the Region ?? Well someone forgot to tell the secretaries that they're not supposed to win and except for Sam Morrison and Joe Wallace, the match was a rout: Secretaries 6 Greenkeepers 2.

There will have to be some serious selection before the '93 match and many of the regulars should be shaking in their shoes. Well done all you gallant secretaries, ably led by captain Gilbert Dempster from Longniddry. Just in case our captain for the day Gordon Moir and Cecil get carried away with themselves with their win, I would remind them that their opponents were approximately 50 years older (combined) than them. All in all it was a fine day, finished with a blether, a dram, a guid meal and stories from the respective captains. Our thanks to Sandy Sneddon, secretary at Elie and all the Elie staff for their hospitality and to Brian Lawrie and his men for the excellent condition of the course. Next time Brian, put us off the ladies tees – maybe we will then have a chance.

ELLIOTT SMALL

## NORTH SCOTLAND

Following on from last month, here are the four remaining speakers. Our fifth and final speaker in the morning of our one-day conference will be David Golding, his subject naturally being education, with particular reference to the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Maybe this will provide the spur needed for North Scotland section members to enrol – for so far we have no participants. I believe this will be David's first seminar in Scotland and we are indebted to Neil Thomas for taking over his duties to allow him to come north. Following David's talk will be a question and answer session, followed by lunch. This will be followed by Peter Lloyd, assistant secretary of the Scottish PGA. Peter is to give us a light-hearted look at life SPGA style. We welcome a speaker from the professional body just as we welcome a member of the IOG, Mr Andrew Mur-

ray, as our seventh speaker. Andrew was parks manager of Kirkaldy DC until retirement and he will be addressing us on golf course maintenance in the public sector.

Last but by no means least, we have Eric Shiel, executive consultant of the JGCC. The Joint Golf Course Committee was set up by the R&A, aimed at giving golfers a better deal and improving conditions on courses. Its birth was the direct result of "The Way Forward" document, which was published a few years ago. Mr Shiel's talk will be "The Way Forward – An Update", with the JGCC telling me that by conference time they hope to have a significant message to impart – we look forward to hearing it!

Following all this will be a lively question and answer session, wrapping up what we hope will be an interesting and educational day. There are 180 seats available in the college lecture theatre, so when you get your application, return it quickly to avoid disappointment.

Congratulations to ex North Scotland chairman John Flint, who after 50 years of golfing has recently recorded his first hole in one. Well done, John, there is hope for us all! On a more serious note, congratulations are due to John Geddes, who is leaving Kintore GC to become head greenkeeper at Ellon GC., and to Derek Lithgow, a Scot who is returning north from London to become head greenkeeper at Banchory GC, taking over from Jeffrey Herd, who after 30 years as head man is stepping down to the quieter role of assistant. Other movements are David Sinclair, assistant at Royal Aberdeen, moving to a similar post at Cruden Bay and Graham Mackie, assistant at Murcar, moving to Gleneagles. Martin Orawe, newly qualified Dornoch greenkeeper, is joining the Scottish takeover at Wentworth. We wish them all well in their new jobs, along with any other members on the move.

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## COMING UP

- 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.