

NORTH SCOTLAND

We welcome two new members to the section, Ian Wakeman from Brora GC and Caroline Ross (our second lady member) from Royal Dornoch. In writing of Dornoch, now that Robert Patterson and his staff have the famous links back in top condition, major work is under way on the second course – The Struie. The greens are being returfed, with fairways Vertidraind and overseeded. Remaining in the area, work has begun on Peter De Saveray's course at Skibo Castle, just south of Dornoch. The main problem here, perhaps, will be the control of a large rabbit population.

Congratulations to George Paterson, head greenkeeper at Fortrose, who has won the inaugural North Order of Merit for his consistently high places in competition throughout the area this season.

Older members will be saddened to learn of the death of retired member George Cranna, of Kemnay, near Inverurie. Our thoughts are with Mrs Cranna at this time and we wish her well.

IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH COAST

In pride of place this month is Kerran Daly, head greenkeeper at Salisbury and South Wiltshire GC. Kerran successfully gained the Master Greenkeeper Certificate this summer and is the first member of the section to obtain this prestigious award. Congratulations, Kerran – no doubt other members will be inspired to follow your example.

Your secretary needs a response from section members! First aid training, now a vital part of staff development, can be provided by the section, this taking the form of (from) a half day to four days of training. Please let me know if you are interested, so that a programme of training can be provided.

Secondly, the provision of coaches to BTME at Harrogate in January and Westurf in April. A coach to both these events could be provided if required. Again, let me know if you are interested in making a trip to these events.

Summer Meeting – Basingstoke Golf Club

The South Coast section should be proud indeed of the support from our greenkeepers and their guests, for a field of 56 came to Basingstoke GC to participate in the Summer Tournament. Again, this year the prize table was sponsored by T Parker & Sons (Turf Management Ltd) and Roffey Brothers Ltd., with additional prizes supplied by Avoncrop Amenity Products, Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, ICI Professional Products and through the personal generosity of Ian Rickman, head greenkeeper at Basingstoke. Ian had manicured the course to a very high degree, which was appreciated by all who played and showed in the very high scores attained. The captain of the club, James Buchanan, joined the members for a wonderful meal supplied by Val Keddie and prizes were presented by chairman Ken Lodge and representatives of the sponsors with David Haskell of T Parker & Sons presented the Parker Shield to the winning pair.

Results: Parker Shield – John Flavell and Alan O'Neill (Parkstone) 47 points. Runners-up: Bob Dennis and Henry Janes (Alresford) 46. 3rd: Shaun White and Eddie Robertson (Ferndown) 46. 4th: Ian Rickman and Chris Maltby 44. 5th: Phil Wentworth and Barrie Pemberton (The Army) 44. 6th: Darren Miller and Steven Stroud (Alton) 44. 7th: Adrian Archer (Broadstone) and Eddie Hadgkiss (East Dorset) 44. 8th: Paul Jackson and Basil Oakley (Ferndown) 44 points. Nearest the pin (3rd hole): Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park), Ditto (17th hole): Fred Deamen (Alton). Longest drive (4th hole): Barrie Pemberton (The Army).

Section programme for winter lectures:

• 4 November '92 at Alresford GC (7pm) Mr A Betts on Trees and Grants. • 2 December '92 at Royal Winchester GC (4pm) Section AGM. • 13 January '93 at Came Down GC (2pm) Lloyds Grass Care Equipment. • 3 February '93 at Dorset College of Agriculture (2pm) Mr Jim Arthur on Commonsense Greenkeeping. • 3 March '93 at Alresford GC (7pm) David Harrison on 'The Way Forward'.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH WEST

Once again the Patisson Trophy is in its rightful place – with the North West section! The reason?

AROUND THE GREEN



The section beat the Northern section at Stockport in what has become known as the 'Battle of the Roses'. Not only did we win, we whitewashed 'em, and as the results poured in I do believe I could hear the ghostly sounds of Mick Hannam sobbing his heart out in the upper reaches of the M62!

To be fair, the Northern section was unable to field a full team, but we made up five matches and everyone enjoyed a good day of golf. The course, a magnificent parkland creation, was in perfect condition – thanks to Paul Pearse and his staff.

I would like to thank Stockport GC for allowing us the courtesy of their course, also the catering staff for looking after us so well. Last but not least, thanks must go to Patissons for sponsoring this tournament each year, as indeed they have for many years.

In August I managed a few days away to compete in the BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone on the south coast. I had a great time and can heartily recommend participation in the next one (at Dunbar GC) if you get the opportunity. The North West was well represented and Peter Solski (Daveyhulme GC) found himself deservedly amongst the winners.

The section AGM will be in late November and full details will appear in the November issue.

BERT CROSS

KENT

You will all probably have read the report of the National Tournament at Littlestone in Greenkeeper International. No words are adequate to describe the quite horrendous weather conditions on the last day. I can quite honestly say that I hope never again to venture on a golf course – if venturing means I must play under such howling gales and torrential rain!

The gales of the first two days seemed to pale into insignificance compared to the final day. The course was superbly presented by Malcolm Grand and his staff and many felt it was quite possibly the highest quality turf they had the privilege to play on.

The golf from our meagre band of Kent stalwarts was in the main fairly unremarkable, though we all completed card scores every day – some achievement. To put this into perspective, the first (and probably easiest) day of blustery conditions saw seven 'no returns' from other competitors. Many of us cringed as Lord Deedes informed us at the dinner that 'mere slips of gels' playing in the Ladies Amateur Stoke Play Championship the week before were shooting gross 66's!

There was considerable success for two former Kent members however, from George Brown (formerly of Prince's and Broome Park) and Andy Toomey (formerly of Bexleyheath).

If putting up with the weather conditions on the course during the day was not bad enough, Andy, yours truly and our families had to put up with it overnight too – in a caravan on a wet and windy site at Dymchurch – what fun!

On the whole it was a super event and our thanks to our gracious hosts.

Our AGM and Turkey Trot will this year be held on 9 December at West Malling, commencing at 11.30am. When you receive entry forms do please come along and air your views – or just for the pleasure of a meal and good fellowship. With this in mind we also hope to send a questionnaire in order that we may establish some idea of the needs of our 'sleeping' membership. At the last count we had 116 members. A First Aid course to be held at Weald of Kent GC on 18 November. Full details are available by phoning David Wood on 0342-850875.

Many have pulled my leg over the 'plugging' of BIGGA Financial Services man, Howard Evans, but was it my imagination, or did I see photographs of

David Wood advertising tee mats and Willie McConville astride a motorised fine turf roller? I wonder if they receive royalties for such appearances? Finally, I have now moved house and would ask that you note my new 'phone number – 0322 664547.

PAUL COPSEY



SHEFFIELD

The season is now coming to a close, with skies looking ominous and the leaves beginning to fall. We shall all be soon Vertidraind and hollow tined and, no doubt, incurring the wrath of our members.

The greenkeepers have seen yet another year of competitions pass – and all credit to the teams of dedicated staff who make such events possible. Hallamshire G.C. have been host to the first Sheffield Amateur Scratch Open, with a full field of 72 top players from around the country. The competitors were complimentary about the course and condition – well done Gordon Brammah and his team.

The section welcome new members and look forward to meeting them at the winter lectures held on the first Thursday of each month at Rotherham GC (from Oct-April) at 2pm. Please try to support these lecture meetings, for they offer an opportunity to meet other greenkeepers and trade members in a very relaxed atmosphere.

The Committee are very impressed with the effort our members have made in conforming to the dress rules – especially the younger members who have excelled themselves.

If any Trade member is interested in sponsoring a mail shot to the members – please get in touch with me 0298- 813374.

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and John Holt for arranging a most enjoyable day of golf at Whitefield GC, Manchester, in August. The day was a tremendous success with good company; good food and a superb course. The bloody par threes were hard? Thanks to Brian Booth for his invitations.

JANE RYAN



COMING UP

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 24th-26th: **Golf International 2000 – Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey**

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**