

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTH WEST

June is drawing to an end as I write and the rainy season appears to have finally come to an end. I must admit that this month I am struggling to find something to report, as there seems to be very little happening in the North West. One date for your diary, however, is 25 August, when we have a visit to the GEM fertilizer works at Accrington. Unfortunately we are restricted to just 30 members, so it will have to be a case of first come, first served.

At the regional final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament at Worksop our section had only one qualifier make it forward to the grand final – Chris Hulme. We all wish Chris the best of luck in 'the big one'.

That seems to be it for now, though I am looking forward to The Open and then a few days at the National Tournament, where I hope to meet many section members and renew old acquaintances. Any news or views, please contact me on 051 724 5412.



BERT CROSS

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region National Tournament was held at Brunston Castle GC, Ayrshire, on 22 June, staged on a new course which has been open for only one year, though every player was fulsome in their praise for its condition. Congratulations and thanks to Gordon Heron and his staff and also to George and Anna Ferguson and their clubhouse staff for their kindness and hospitality – especially the catering organisation, who did wonders despite limited catering facilities. Our special thanks also to Mr Bob Low, owner of Brunston Castle, for his kindness in granting us courtesy of the course. Although he could not be with us in person he did not forget us and a 'phone call from Belgium came to wish us well – and to offer everyone in the club a drink, which added the final flourish to a great tournament and a fine course, one that will become even better as the years progress. Our best wishes, then, to everyone at Brunston Castle for every success in the future.

No less than 92 people attended, of whom 80 were players, and as will be seen by the scores, they found it a very tough course indeed. As usual, competitors were far flung, from Tain in the north to Goswick in the south (or should I say north of England?). Some people, including our intrepid editor, had a slow journey but still they come back – year after year. In mentioning the editor, does he realise that nearly every bad score was put down to the appearance of his camera on the 17th tee? Well, someone has to take the blame!

It was a bonus for us that BIGGA chairman John Crawford was with us to present the trophies, and it was nice also to see young Gordon Irving back in the promised land – popping along to see some old friends. A special thanks to Jim Paton, Willie Blair and Jimmy Neilson for their assistance – we worked Jim Paton so

hard that the poor fellow wasn't fit enough to walk round the course and was forced to take a buggy (auld age disnae come itsel' Jim), – nice drive at the first, though!

ELLIOTT SMALL

• *The full results of the Scottish Championship appear on Page 7, together with photographs of the major trophy winners – editor.*

KENT

Not much to report this time around, except perhaps to remind you of some of our events later in the year. Perhaps the most important will be our hosting of the Regional Seminar at Hadlow College on 27 October. The topic for our half dozen expert speakers will be the implications and practicalities of golf 365 days a year. The final line-up of speakers has yet to be finalised, but we intend to make it a topical, interesting, educational, and perhaps even stimulating day of discussion for greenkeepers, secretaries and golf club officials.

On the golfing front we have our Autumn Tournament at Langley Park on 15 September. Also to be pencilled in is our Christmas Turkey Trot, which may be staged at Darenth Valley.

At least one definite piece of news is that Andy Johnson, head man at Sene Valley, is once again a married man. This report will undoubtedly appear some time after the ceremony in May, so I deliberately omit the word 'happily'. Only kidding, of course, for where would we greenkeepers be without 'er indoors'? I have found they can also come in very handy as makeshift green staff and I remember a couple of years ago (at seven months pregnant) my wife was painting tee markers in the shed. I also know of one head greenkeeper who was known to send his wife out to switch the dew from the greens and move the tee markers at weekends – unpaid or course – when he was short of staff to cover! She was also a dab hand at bunker raking. Well, there we are Andy, a few useful tips for a happy and fruitful marriage. Oh yes, and when she has finished those chores out on the course don't forget she has also to wash your overalls and make the dinner. I think I had better shut up now, in case my wife reads this!



PAUL COPSEY



Bill Francis

SOUTH EAST REGION

Bright sunshine together with a refreshing north easterly breeze greeted the competitors of the South East region on 29 June, bent on qualifying to represent the region in the Hayter Challenge Tournament finals to be staged at Sand Moor in September. For this regional qualifier we were fortunate in having the new Weald of Kent

course at our disposal, and after a filling buffet lunch the competitors set out to try and master the terrain, truly in excellent condition when one considers that it has been open for just one year.

Thanks must be extended to John Millen for helping to arrange the tournament; and to all the staff at Weald of Kent for their unfailing courtesy and professionalism. Thanks also to Hayters plc for their help and generous sponsorship of the day, which must be voted a great success.

RESULTS 0-9 handicap 1st W Francis 76-5=71. 2nd H Morgan 80-8=72. 3rd M Smith 78-5=73 (countback). Reserve M Sherris 80-7=73. 10-18 handicap 1st P Preston 87-18=69. 2nd G Kyle 81-10=71 (countback). 3rd D Keen 83-12=71. Reserve C Reed 83-10=73. 19-28 Handicap 1st J Roberts 94-24=70 (countback) 2nd C Forde 90-20=70. 3rd S Millard 90-19=71. Reserve D Sullivan 96-24=72.

Good fortune to all qualifiers at the National Finals at Sand Moor.

DAVID WOOD

SOUTH WALES

The Hayter Challenge regional final held at Clevedon GC on 8 June was played on a glorious day, the weather being warm and wind free, in fact perfect golfing weather. Before the competition I rather fancied our chances, as some good scores had been registered at section monthly meetings and most of the lads were playing consistently well. So what went wrong? The only player from our section to qualify for the final was Laurence Walter of Wenvoe Castle GC. Two other competitors came away with something: 'yours truly' as mug of category two and Philip Huish as mug of category three! Just in case he forgets to mention it in his column, Richard Whyman (Devon & Cornwall) won the mug of category one! Our thanks to Hayters, especially Kim Macfie and Robin Boyes, for their splendid support and for presenting a magnificent prize table, also to all at Clevedon GC for their hospitality and to Barry Reeves and his staff for course presentation. Last but not least, our thanks to Marion and Gordon Child for their hard work and splendid organisation.

Dennis Archer is recovering from an operation in which he has had a leg amputated and I'm sure everyone will join with me in wishing Dennis the very best of good luck. Our thoughts are with you Dennis, and we all hope that everything turns out well.

Andrew Jenkins has yet to open the bottle of bubbly he won in Westurf, for he is (or was, at the time of writing) still waiting to become a father. Any news for the summer newsletter will be greatly appreciated. Contact me on 0792 233923.



PETER LACEY

NORTH WALES

June has been a quiet month in North Wales, so there is little to report save that of Chris Davies

(Abergele GC) moving house. All the staff wish him well in his new home and Chris, don't forget your socks, the new owners will not want to pay for a fumigation expert to clear them up!

Dates for your diary: on 29 or 30 September (if enough people show interest), a coach will be travelling to the Haydock Park Show. If you are interested please contact either Terry Adamson or me. On 6 October our Autumn Golf Tournament will be held at Pwllheli GC. When the entry forms come out make sure they are sent back A.S.A.P., along with the entrance fee, as forms returned after the closing date will not be accepted.



Finally, if any members are interested in attending a first aid course at Northop College during the winter, please contact me.

DAVID PROCTOR

NORTHERN

Our Presidents Day Tournament was held at South Leeds GC on 10 June, by kind permission of the management committee. The course was in fine condition, reflecting all the hard work put in by Graham Hope and his staff. Thanks must also go to Mr. Terry Hughes, Captain of the Rabbits, for presenting the prizes, and to the bar and catering staff for an admirable job.

The results:- Division 1 - Jubilee Cup D. Spurden, 1st S. Midgley, 2nd D. Collins, 3rd R. Johnson. Division 2 - 1st G. Hope, 2nd A. Smith, 3rd L. Kirkbright.

Our grateful thanks - as always - go to our president, Bill Mountain, (who by the way is in his 33rd year of office) for putting on such a splendid prize table, and last but not least our thanks to our friend Mel Guy for being the president's right hand man on the day, arranging all the score cards etc. Everyone had a grand time.

The Invitation Day at Pannal GC on 17 August is fully booked and no further entries can be taken. There are, however, still a few places for the Autumn Tournament at Kirkby-moorside GC on 6 October. Any member wishing



to book should send a deposit of £10 to me at 49 Cornwall Road, Bingley, W Yorks. BD16 4RL, or call me on 0274 568128 for further details.

PAT MURPHY

DEVON & CORNWALL

With the sun shining for the first time in weeks, our sectional qualifiers travelled to the Hayter Challenge regional final held at Clevedon GC on Tuesday 8 June. The Hayter agents for the section, Devon Garden Machinery and Hennings Ltd., kindly sponsored mini bus travel to the final and Alan Dommett of DGM drove the Devon qualifiers, though Martin Hennings unfortunately was unable to attend, due to his company's involvement with the Cornwall County show, which started only days later. With this, the Cornish qualifiers nominated Dick Parr to drive their bus and though perhaps it would be better to draw a veil over the trip, I understand that many now regard it as the journey of a lifetime! As to the event, our qualifiers had both good and bad fortune, with 'yours truly' collecting the mug of the category, although I wasn't the only section secretary so to do.

Our congratulations to Lauchlan Millar, who returned a nett 69 to win the 0-9 category, also to Brian Ridgeway (73) & Neil Macintyre (72) in finishing third in their categories - we wish them well in the National final. With the help of these players the section won the team prize for the second time in three years, so congratulations are in order to all team members who took part. In closing, I would like to thank Hayters for sponsoring this superb event, also



Gordon & Marion Child, who as usual ran the day so smoothly.

RICHARD WHYMAN

CLEVELAND

Two of our members have qualified for the Hayter Challenge final at Sand Moor GC, Graham Pyle and Chris Powley - congratulations and good luck to them.

Whilst driving a Greens King on a gravel path, Ian Holloran found two golfers blocking his path and he was forced to brake hard. As he was on a side-sloping path he slid broadside into a beck, causing minor damage to the machine. Fortunately he was unhurt.

On heavy land, temporary winter greens offer the advantage of protecting normal greens during the worst of winter, so that from springtime onward the finer grasses are in better condition and are better able to provide good putting surfaces. It is important at this time of year to make provisions to harden off the greens and have stocks of fungicide available in case of fungal attack. Scarifying, aerating and drying off by reducing irrigation application during September will help enormously.

The new course at Yafforth, Northallerton, opened in July, whilst the new course at Brotton, near Saltburn, according to head greenkeeper Brian Hall, is now fully operational and 'doing well'. Darlington Borough Council's course at Stressholme is to add an ambitious driving range to complement the popular 18 hole course, whilst Jim Webster (head greenkeeper) advises that he is busy setting up a nine hole course, complete with driving range, at the Hallgarth Hotel complex near Darlington.



BRUCE BURNELL

LONDON

Congratulations to Pat and Tina Swinn on the recent arrival of their new son, Sean Francis. We wish them all the best and hope they don't have too many sleepless nights. Congratulations are also in order following the triumphant win of Doug Smith and John Jackson at the recent guest day event held at Thorpe Hall GC. Although staged on Doug's home territory, this win amongst the members must surely be all the more satisfying, whilst the rock solid performance of John, as always, was impressive.

The summer league is progressing towards an interesting climax and the final rounds certainly promise to be entertaining. I will keep readers informed when the final stage results come to hand. The winter seminar venue has been decided, with Oaklands College kindly offering us some dates in early December. A programme is currently being drawn up. Keep the news coming in, all ideas are welcome. Don't hesitate to call me on 081 959 5629.



TONY DUNSTAN

SURREY

The sun always seems to shine on Cresta Cup day and this year was no exception as players sweltered on the course at West Surrey GC. Despite the heat Simon Kirkham returned a remarkable score of 41 Stableford points off a handicap of eight. RESULTS: 1st D Kirkham 41. 2nd D Sullivan 40. 3rd G Holland 38. Trade 1st D Wall 34.

Thanks went to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course and to Mike Kirkham and his staff for the good playing conditions. Other people deserving of mention are chairman Terry Huntly and secretary Derek Walder who, I

know, spend much of their own time organising our golf days - always well run, enjoyable events. With this in mind, I would again like to tackle the old problem of late entries.....and if you are getting fed up with reading about this matter then maybe it is starting to sink in!

Every member has received entry forms for our next three events, forms which clearly indicate the closing date for entries. Therefore, Derek should not have to cope with 'phone calls two or three days prior to golf days from members who want to play. Forthcoming golf fixtures are the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale on 12 August, the Parker's Salver at the Drift GC on 8 September, and the Autumn Tournament at Epsom GC on 21 October.

Finally, if any greenkeeper can offer their club as a section event venue would they please contact Derek. It is nice to vary the venues we visit each season.

ROGER TYDEMAN

EAST OF ENGLAND

A beautiful mid-May afternoon provided ideal golfing conditions at Belton Park GC, Grantham, the venue for the Purdey's Grass Machinery Summer Trophy, played on a course presented in excellent condition by ex-section secretary Colin Swingler and his staff. Thanks must go to Purdey's, our main sponsor, and to all other sponsors for their generosity.

RESULTS: 1st C A MacDonald 74-4=70. 2nd D Griffin 97-26=71. 3rd M Key 97-24=73. 4th D Hornsey 85-11=74. 5th C Swingler 83-7=76.

The next section event will be the Autumn Golf Tournament at Kenwick Park GC, Louth, Lincs., sponsored by Rigby Taylor, on Wednesday 24 August.

Congratulations are in order to greenkeepers from Thorpe Wood GC, Peterborough. First, Graeme MacDonald has been nominated by Askham Bryan College for the TORO-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Second, superintendent Dave Walden won the recent Rhone Poulenc competition featured in The Groundsman magazine. He has now returned from a whistle-stop tour of France.

Finally, if you have any news, views or problems that you would care to see aired (in this publication), please contact me.

MICHAEL FINNEY

MIDLANDS

It is with deep regret that I inform members of the sudden death of Jeff Smith, whose career spanned some 25 years at Walmley Golf Club, plus a period of time spent at Blackwell Golf Club. Jeff, always a keen supporter of BIGGA, will be sorely missed and our thoughts at this sad time are especially with his three daughters.

On 17 June we played our Summer Tournament at Kidderminster GC. The course played long after the recent wet period and with growth at a peak this made for tough scoring. Mike Hughes was not to be put off though, for he won both gross and nett prizes, his nett score being 107 over 27 holes. The Trade Prize was again well contested, with Ivan Toon eventually coming in the winner. We would like to thank everyone for supporting our tournament, in particular the many trade reps who support our section so well. Thanks also are due to Kidderminster GC for allowing us the use of their facilities and for the warm welcome we received, and to Roy and his staff for a well turned-out course prepared during very difficult conditions.

During the evening the section presented Roy (the head greenkeeper at Kidderminster) with a cheque for £150 for his granddaughter, who had recently lost her sight due to an illness. Roy, we hope this gift, raised by our

49 → members on the day, will provide a suitable toy for your granddaughter.

Dates to remember: Autumn Tournament, Copt Heath GC, Monday 9 August – entries closed. Christmas Tournament, Enville GC, Tuesday 7 December – entries close 7 November.



DEAN CLEAVER

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Congratulations to Kevin Munt, who won the Parker Harts Summer Tournament at Stoke Poges GC. I know that those present were impressed with the course and we thank Stoke Poges GC for their generosity. In particular, we thank the secretary, steward and catering staff and, of course, Alec Millar and his green staff for producing such excellent playing conditions. Thanks also to Richard Gooding and Parker Harts for their generous support.

Has every BB&O member received this year's fixture card? If you are minus this vital information, call me and I will send one to you straight away. Do you want to try go-karting? Same thing applies, i.e. if you haven't received the information contact me ASAP and I will send etc. etc. – this event is an open invitation and friends and families will be most welcome.



We need your ideas for social events that you would like to see staged next year, also your ideas for the 1994 lecture programme – ring me or write to me with your valued input.

RAY CLARK

NORTH SCOTLAND

Section members may like to tell non-BIGGA members on their staff that half-yearly memberships are now available for a much reduced fee,

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making it a great opportunity to join the Association for the remainder of 1993. New members this month are Andrew Bain from Inverness and one of my assistants, John Urquhart, who rejoins after a couple of years away.

Seven hardy souls made the long trek to Ayrshire for the Scottish Greenkeeping Championships at Brunston Castle, and it is good to report that Caird Park's Paul Murphy picked up the major trophy for the best scratch score. It was certainly worth the journey as Brunston is a superb course and was in great condition, especially as it had only been open for a year. We had good weather, a great time, a big entry, and many old friendships were renewed. The North section is due to hold this competition in 1995, so anyone who would like to put their course forward, please 'phone me and the committee will discuss it at the next meeting.

New member Colin Forbes of Aboyne was fairly burning it up in a competition at Braemar recently. He raced to the turn in 29 and came home in 32 for a three under standard scratch 61 which equals the course record. I wonder if Colin will be at Kirriemuir next month to challenge the scratch boys.

We wish Hughie McLatchie all the best as North representative in this year's JCI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition. Fine recognition for the work he has done at Peter-

head, which is in fine condition. Hugh has contributed a couple of items this month, first to wish Kevin Peace all the best in his new job as head greenkeeper at Inverurie. A sad loss to Peterhead, but maybe Hugh's new deputy will be able to keep up with him at the bar. His second bit of information concerns another of his staff, Aileen Snowden. She started on the course 18 months ago and has been attending Elmwood College, where she is making good progress. Hugh says she is turning out to be a good apprentice on the course, is a good worker and gets on well with the rest of the staff and members of the club. He advises other greenkeepers not to be frightened of employing female staff.

I recently went to see Alick Mackay at Skibo to see how the new golf course is progressing. Greens and tees are currently being turfed and fairways seeded. All the bunkers are in place and look superb. They have been constructed, using the traditional revetting method, by Alick and his staff. I look forward to seeing the finished article and hopefully playing it in the



future. It will be the sort of course where if the golf is bad there is always the views across the loch or west to the hills, a perfect setting for a golf course, with much wildlife as well.

IAIN MACLEOD

AYRSHIRE

Highlight in June was the Scottish National Tournament held in our area at Brunston Castle, near Girvan. Brunston Castle is a new course designed by Donald Steel and is well set to complement the existing first class golfing facilities in Ayrshire. Although open for less than a year the course was in excellent condition, the fairways in particular → 62

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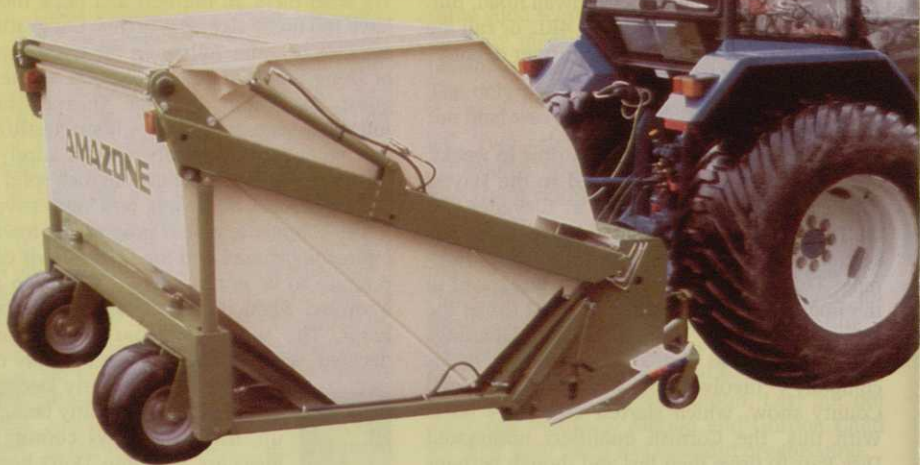
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50 ➔ being very mature looking. As it is very long, the club's course manager, Gordon Heron (ex Turnberry), is adding some forward tees to make it more playable for visiting societies, of which I am sure there will be many, once the quality to be found gets around. Anyway, well done Gordon, and thanks to owner Bob Law for doing Ayrshire proud!

Ayrshire chairman Derek Wilson was in fine form in the Irvine Links Championship this year, getting to the semi-final. His opponent was suitably dismayed upon seeing Derek walk on to the first tee with a hole cutter under one arm and clubs over his shoulder – bad luck on not being allowed to use it, Derek!

John Kinder at the Dumfries and Galloway club tells me they had four hole-in-one's over one weekend of competition in June, one at the sixth, one at the eighth and two at the ninth. Try telling these guys the holes are too small! 'Till next month.



DUNCAN GRAY

SOUTH WEST

Thunderstorms. Has anyone else had trouble with thunderstorms? 35mm of rain fell in just 20 minutes at Minchinhampton last Thursday. Simon Perry of Whites, who was in the shed fitting new hydraulic motors to the gangs, watched in amazement as flood water came rushing in and various small items, later followed by some much larger items, began floating out (indeed, our mechanic had to be forcibly restrained from opening the double doors to let the Sisis Varicore float away.) Still, we didn't have to worry for long, for a lightning strike on the clubhouse set off the automatic fire alarm and before you could say 'man the hose-

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reel', half the County Fire Brigade turned up.

Another rather bizarre thing happened this week on a Cotswold golf course. Four members were happily playing the sixteenth hole (appropriately nicknamed the Holy Apostles) at Cirencester, when one of them looked casually up at a high flying aeroplane only to see, to his horror, what appeared to be a body falling from the sky and crashing to the ground somewhere on, or very near, the course. Well, eight fire engines, six police cars, two helicopters, a spotter plane with thermal imaging equipment, and a mobile incident room later, a cargo net belonging to a Hercules Transporter was found in an adjoining field. Never a dull moment!

Robin Greaves found out what team captaincy was all about when the section team entertained the South West Secretaries team at Minchinhampton New Course last month. The secretaries, ably captained by Matt Sullivan of Clevedon, were well organised and well practiced, and won by three matches to two, getting their names on the Avoncrop Shield for the second year running. David Padfield of Avoncrop Amenity was on hand to present the shield and prizes to the worthy winners, recalling as he did the origins of the competition, right back from the days of the Brown's Bowl to the present time, and pointing out that the greenkeepers have yet to get their name on this new trophy. There's always next year...

Thanks to Minchinhampton New Course for their hospitality, thanks to my staff for preparing the course against all odds during the torrential storms, to the stewards for the most marvellous meal, and last but by no means least, to Avoncrop Amenity for their sponsorship.

Congratulations to Guy Woods of Castle Coombe on winning the section nomination through to the regional final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition. Fierce competition came from Ivor Scoones and myself, also nominated, but Robin Greaves' patent scoring method was put to good use and Guy came out a worthy winner by just two points, from a possible 150. I'm sure that we



have a good chance of a national finalist for the third year running. Good luck Guy. PAUL WORSTER

SOUTH COAST

In the regional qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, held at Clevedon GC in June, three of our section members qualified for the national final, which will be held at Sand Moor GC next month. Congratulations to Brian Newcombe, third in division one, and Shaun White and Paul Jackson, first and second respectively in division three.

The day was marred only by the non-appearance of four of our team, though some with good reason, especially Rob Bailey, who suffered a hernia only the day before! Had a full team been fielded it seemed very likely that the section would have won the Section Shield.

Next year's Hayter Challenge Tournament regional qualifier will be held at Bude GC and because of the distance involved your committee have decided to provide some assistance, possibly by providing a mini-bus and helping financially towards overnight accommodation.

Congratulations also to Mark Webb on being chosen as the section's nomination for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. Mark will now be visited at Alresford GC this month by regional representatives of ICI and BIGGA. Members who played in the Summer Tournament at Alresford will know how his course has changed since being extended to 18 holes.

Alan Mitchell, recently at Test Valley GC, is moving to pastures new – literally – for beginning this month Alan will be head greenkeeper at The Hampshire GC, presently being constructed just outside Andover. His assistant at Test Valley, Andy Blackwell, is taking over as head greenkeeper. We shall be able to see Andy's course next April, as our Spring Tournament is due to be held there.

Finally, members who would like to represent the section in the annual match against the South West in September can contact Paul Drodge on 04252 71954 for further details. BOB DENNIS



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COMING UP

August 18-19: The Walker Cup, Interlachen, Minneapolis, USA

September 7-9: IoG Show, Peterborough, Northants

September 14: Supreme Mowing seminar on maintenance of cutting cylinder, Irvine Golf Club, Irvine. Details from Linda Adams: 0709 873436.

September 14-15: The Hayter Challenge Tournament Final, Sand Moor Golf Club, Leeds

September 24-26: Ryder Cup, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

October 11-12: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.

October 12-13: Kubota Challenge, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.