

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SURREY

Another good turn-out of over thirty section members gathered at Epsom GC on 21 October for our Autumn Tournament, played over 27 holes. With a cold wind blowing over exposed areas of the course, plus Epsom's tricky undulating greens, a real test of golf ensued.

RESULTS: 1st overall R Christie 49 pts, 2nd D Fernie 48 pts, 3rd D Walder 45 pts. AM - J Roberts 37 pts, PM - M Haynes 17 pts. Trade B Willmott 46 pts.

Following a superb evening meal the club captain presented the prizes; kindly donated to the winners by Rigby Taylor. Thanks went to the club for having us, the catering staff, to Doug Fernie and all his staff for presenting the course so well, and to Ron Jobson for all his help on the day.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of qualifying players, the Veterans Cup has been held over until the Turkey Trot, which is our next golf event on 14 December at Ashford Manor GC. Following the golf, but before the evening meal, our AGM will take place - remember, this is your chance to air your views on any business - and to elect committee members for the new year.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all our section members and readers a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

ROGER TYDEMAN

## LONDON

The autumn meeting was held in October at Brookmans Park GC. RESULTS: 1st. Darren Burdis 42 points. 2nd. Jimmy Jay 34 points (back nine playoff). 3rd. Barry Moggridge 34 points. The longest driver was Craig Handyside, with nearest the pin prize going to Robert Washbrook. The course was in excellent shape and we thank Chris Carpenter and his staff for their hard work. I would also like to thank Brookmans Park for their hospitality and the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

Congratulations to Donal Penn-Howard and Paul Cooper on their recent win in the Summer Knock-Out. They defeated Chris Carpenter and Darren Burdis in a very exciting final. The match was played at South Herts, won on the first extra hole! I would like to thank South Herts for allowing us to use their course. Please contact me with any news on 081-959-5629.

TONY DUNSTAN

## KENT

October 27 saw the Kent section host the South East Conference at Hadlow College, a very popular venue which attracted some 110 delegates to listen and join in discussions on our topic of "Golf 365 Days A

Year". After the very wet weather experienced during the early autumn, some were perhaps looking for answers to their problems. Following introductions from a representative of Hadlow College and our SE Region chairman, Chris Mardon, the first speaker was Gordon Jaaback, with a very topical presentation on the influences of the weather in the southern part of the UK, the methods and benefits of recording details and how they apply to our situations. Mike Travers, Lamberhurst GC, followed, presenting his experiences of winter golf. Following Mike's article earlier this year, this generated great interest and debate. Our special thanks to Mike for coming along, especially as he is currently not in the best of health. The last speaker before lunch was the London Golf Club's soil scientist and irrigation expert, Colin Sainsbury, with a very interesting presentation on soil characteristics and conditions and their effects on plant growth.

A brief question and answer session preceded lunch, delegates then able not only to demolish a superb buffet and partake of liquid refreshment, but also to visit the assembled trade stands. Hadlow College again kicked off the afternoon session with an introduction to NVQ qualifications in greenkeeping, plus a brief outline of some of the very good courses they are running.

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➔ 35 The post lunch speakers were Jack McMillan and Brian Pierson. Jack's presentation could best be summed up as a cautionary tale concerning the detrimental effects of winter golf and general over-play and traffic on our courses, with well known golf course constructor and contractor, Brian Pierson, outlining some modern aspects in design and specification to try to cope with some of these problems. The rest of the afternoon was given over to a rather heated debate, the topic of which, once more, revolved mainly around our old friend *Poa annua*.

I think we all enjoyed our day, but to sum up my personal appraisal of the day would take more space than allotted here. At this point, I am still digesting it, but cannot escape the feeling that in general some of the attitudes discussed were somewhat defeatist and negative. I am still of the belief that given a certain set of problems, materials, machinery and techniques exist to solve them. Yes, some compromise and understanding is needed from our golfers during winter play, but the overriding problem appears to be higher up, with direction to our golf clubs and courses regarding adequate budgets to implement maintenance works desperately needed, plus congestion and pure bad planning of golf fixture lists, not enabling works to be carried out at the correct, optimum times of the year. A bit of give and take would go a long way.

Finally, I'll sneak in details of our annual Turkey Trot and AGM at Darenth Valley GC on 16 December. Please bring along a prize between the value of £5-£10 (no bottles of booze please!). The cost will be around £14, with an 18 hole Stableford teeing off circa late morning, followed by Christmas dinner and our AGM. This is your chance to have your say – even get yourself elected to the committee and do your bit for our Association. Some of you must by now think that you could do this (scribes) job. All you need is the back of a fag packet, a broken Biro, a vivid imagination (no one ever provides information to enter in), no sense of humour, and a large chip on your shoulder. That could possibly



narrow the field down to 100 likely candidates – I wonder how many will turn up on the day?  
PAUL COPSEY

## SOUTH COAST

Although I was unable to attend our

Autumn Tournament in October, which had a record entry of 56 members and guests, I am pleased to include the following report provided by our chairman, Ken Lodge.

The Autumn Tournament was held at High Post GC on 5 October. Scheduled originally as a 36-hole greensome, due to atrocious weather only eleven holes were played in the afternoon. The stars of the show were Nick Weller and his staff, the course being in superb condition. The greens were out of this world and a number of members and guests said they were the best greens on which they had played this summer. Well done Nick!

Results: 29 Holes. 1st Prize & Jacobson Trophy – Don Friend and Roger Searle (High Post GC) 56 points (better p.m. score). 2nd Ian Rickman & R Allison (Basingstoke) 56 points. 3rd Bernard Emberley & Paul Hector (Knighton Heath & Broadstone) 55 points. 4th Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park) 54 points. Best Surviving Score a.m. Derek Cheatham & M Cummins (Knighton Heath) 34 points. Best Surviving Score p.m. (11 holes), Rob Bailey & Dave Reed (S Wilts & High Post) 21 points. Longest Drive: Graham Bungay (Wellow). Nearest the Pin: Paul Hector (Broadstone).

The weather did not deter members and guests from enjoying themselves. Thanks must go to the host club for making us so welcome; to the captain and committee who granted us the courtesy of their wonderful course; to Maureen Illingworth and her helpers who made sure we were well fed; and to Bill Goodwin, the club manager, who helped out with the score cards and in general looked after us all day.

Lastly, thanks to our main sponsors, Vitax Commercial and Amenity Products, represented by Alan Stow, and Avoncrop Amenity Products, represented by Brian Stephens. Also thank you to all other people who made donations to the prize table.

The next winter lecture will be on Wednesday, 12 January at the Dorset College of Agriculture. Our speakers are Ed McCabe and Arthur King from Brokenhurst Manor GC and the talk will commence at 2.00pm. Refreshments will be available.

The region is providing a 'feeder' coach from various points in the section to connect with a coach travelling to the BIGGA Turf Management Seminar and Exhibition on 17-21 January. Please take advantage of this facility and let Ken Lodge

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Finally, after nine years in the post, I shall be standing down as your secretary at the section's AGM. I would like to thank all members for their support and assistance.  
BOB DENNIS

#### NORTH WEST

In the October issue I asked members to give more support to section events, and with the Autumn Tournament coming up on 21 October, I expected the usual 25 to 30 members and guests. Well, what a surprise, I was completely gobsmacked when eventually 89 members and guest turned up to enjoy a superb day at Mere G&CC. I will admit it caused me some anxious moments and sleepless nights, as the numbers built up during the last two weeks and with the realisation that we needed a good bright day and possibly the use of two tees to get everybody back before darkness, especially as we were not teeing off until noon. No need to have worried, the weather was perfect, and with all the NW committee and the very professional staff at Mere working together, the day progressed very smoothly.

Mike Sheehan and his staff had the course, which is in some of the most beautiful Cheshire countryside, in pristine condition, the staff fully deserving all the kind comments uttered on the day. Many thanks to Mere G&CC for allowing us the courtesy of their fine course, also the catering staff for looking after us so professionally.

RESULTS: Best Gross. Mike Sheehan. (Sisis Cup). Best Nett. C. Leeming. (Ransomes Cup). 2nd C. Hulme. 3rd N. Wolfrey. 4th W. Horvath. 5th A. Peel. 6th J. Pearson. 7th P. Pearse. 8th F. Platt. Over 55's B. Cross. (Wm Hargreaves Cup). Aggregate Trophy. N. Wolfrey (Superturf Trophy). Putting Competition. M. Sheehan (Acorn Trophy). Four Ball Knockout: P. Pearse, M. Davey (High Speed Lubricants Trophy). Once again we were blessed with a well stocked prize table, for which we thank our friends in the trade. It is hoped to visit the GEM professional factory in January. Members wishing to make this visit, please contact me ASAP on 051 724 5412, so that arrangements can be made for transport. That appears to be all for now, other than to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.  
BERT CROSS



#### NORTH WALES

On Wednesday 6 October the North Wales section held its Autumn Tournament at Pwllheli GC, with over 100 players taking part. RESULTS:- Members: 1st Jason Moody (79-10-69) - The Gem Shield, a tankard and a bottle of wine. 2nd Paul Jeffries (91-20-71) - a Major Owen Trophy and cut glass tankard. 3rd Dave Proctor (85-14-71) - a windproof top. 4th Chris 'the Socks' Davies, also 71, - a putter. 5th Pat 'Curly' Valentine, 73, his prize - a hair-net - sorry, I mean a putter. Guests: 1st Mr. P. Williams (77-10-67) - a golf bag. 2nd Mr. G. Perks (74-6-68) - bottle of whisky. 3rd Mr. N. Kelly, 68 - an umbrella. 4th Mr. E. Roberts, 69, a golfing hat. 5th Mr. D. B. Williams 71, a set of head covers. Low gross (members) Alan Lewis, 74, a Major Owen Trophy and set of waterproofs. Nearest the pin on the 12th hole, Mr. J. Fullard - bottle of whisky.

Many thanks to Pwllheli GC, its committee and members, for allowing the section to stage its Autumn Tournament, also special thanks to president Charles Jones, club captain, Dennis More, and club secretary, Eric Williams. The run up to our golf tournament was not an easy one for head greenkeeper Dewi Hughes and his staff, with heavy rain hampering work, but I know I speak for all those

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who played, the course was in excellent condition. Thanks also to the steward and stewardess, Wilf and Jane Childs, for an excellent meal and service.

A big thank you to our sponsors for all the prizes donated: GEM PROFESSIONAL, MAJOR OWEN, ACORN EQUIPMENT, RICHARD CAMPEY, MARTIN BROTHERS, RIGBY TAYLOR, BRUERA. PRO-TURF, JOHN OSMAN.

A special thanks to the 'Mighty Midget'; our Terry Adamson, for all the hard work he puts in to make our golf events successful. I hope that I have not missed any sponsors off the list, but if I have, my apologies.

On behalf of your committee, may I take this opportunity to thank all greenkeepers and guests who have supported our tournaments this season, especially our sponsors, without their kind donations to our competitions, it would be difficult to make them so successful. May we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Nadolig Llawen - Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.  
DAVID PROCTOR



#### BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

A great day was enjoyed by all who attended the Autumn Invitation at Calcot Park GC. Greenkeepers and their guests all had a fine time, none more than Terry Jackson, who walked off with two prizes, also head greenkeeper Simon Robinson, who with benefit of 'local knowledge', picked up third prize. Our many thanks to Simon Robinson and his staff, to secretary Alan Bray, and to the catering personnel, for a very well run and enjoyable event, also to our trade friends: County Mowers for donating the Toro Shield, plus Sta-Brite, Risboro' Turf, Rigby Taylor, and Driving Force (Europe) Ltd.

RESULTS: (nett) 1st R Woodward & T Jackson. 2nd D Goodchild & K Benton. 3rd S Robinson & J Leach. Nearest the pin: T Jackson. Longest Drive: P Clark.

Winter Lectures: May I remind members of our winter lecture programme, as follows: Dec 14: "Use of modern turfgrasses on a golf course" - Jonathan Franks. Jan 11 'Use of chemicals in the environment' - Graham Pawl. Feb 8: 'It's here, 'weather' we like it or not!' - Gordon Jaaback. Any queries, contact me on 0628 - 829208.

Rigby Taylor FourBall Trophy: Once again the section would like to give sincere thanks to Roger Bowles and Rigby Taylor for providing an excellent day of golf for our finalists.

Never having heard other than good things said about this event, praise was again heaped upon Roger for his masterful handling of a hugely popular tournament. RESULTS: Semi-finals (a.m) D Childs & D Goodchild beat G Irvine & P Wier. B Payne & R Wooton beat J Teixeira and P Clark. Finals (p.m) B Payne and R Wooton beat D Childs and D Goodchild.

Thanks to Frilford Heath GC, and David Heads of course, for producing wonderful playing conditions.



Finally, a 'get well soon' message to Bob Morton of The Berkshire. We all look forward to seeing your colourful self at our next event.

RAY CLARK

#### MIDLANDS

On 14 October our section travelled to Willesley Park GC to play against East Midlands, an event generously sponsored by Rigby Taylor, now in its ninth year. This year's match was no different from others, both teams being highly competitive. Our team displayed some new faces, however, with some 'old faithfuls' being disappointed not to qualify for this enjoyable event, organised so capably by Rigby Taylor.

The morning matches were close, but events took a change in the afternoon - with our lads doing 'the business' in convincing style. The evening once again proved to be most enjoyable, an excellent meal fully backed up by 'entertainer' Dave Leatherland. Our many thanks go to Willesley Park GC and their staff for looking after us so well, in particular Tony Howorth, who presented the course in such good condition under difficult weather conditions.

The following week saw the final of the Green-somes Knockout, contested over the delightful Coxmoor Park GC, Nottingham. Mike Hughes and I took on the very strong pairing of Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris, the match a tremendous battle going to the final hole, Mike and 'yours truly' winning the match by a single hole. Again, a superb day was enjoyed by the players. Many thanks to Rigby Taylor (and staff) for sponsoring this event, also for working hard to support BIGGA. Also many thanks to Coxmoor Park GC and their staff for making our day so enjoyable.

The final of the Singles Knockout, played over the Walsall GC course during October, was won by Mike Hughes, who beat Paul Loffman in a close match. Many thanks to Walsall GC for allowing us to use their course for this important final.

Finally, you may remember a couple of months ago my mentioning the raising of money (at our Autumn Tournament) for little Amy Nonn, whose grandfather is head greenkeeper at Kidderminster GC. Amy's mum and dad wrote a lovely letter, thanking us for our generosity. The money raised will be used to purchase a talking computer that hopefully will aid Amy in her education.  
DEAN CLEAVER



#### SUSSEX

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Autumn Meeting at Cooden Beach GC, though I understand from 'the lads' that the course, looked after by Stefan Antolik, was in superb condition, with the weather - surprisingly - staying dry for most of the day (all save the last group, who got rained upon!).

The meeting, sponsored by Parker Hart, was a 36 hole event. RESULTS: (medal round a.m.) 1st Roland Hughes 69 nett, 2nd Robert Short 77 nett (back nine), 3rd Robert Hudson 77 nett. Trade & Guests: 1st C Myers, 2nd D Taylor. (Stableford p.m.) 1st Andy Ford 30 points. 2nd Alistair Cale 28 points. 3rd Chris Reed 27 points. Trade & Guests: 1st B Willmott 37 points, 2nd D Taylor 30 points. A nearest the pin competition was also held, winners being Chris Reed (7th), Jim Coppin (16th) and Stefan Antolik on the 18th (after three shots). The section wish to thank sponsors, Parker Hart, the green staff, committee and caterers of Cooden Beach GC - all contributed toward making the event a memorable one.



MARK WILTON

#### MID ANGLIA

The Hayter Challenge national final was held in September at Sandmoor GC, Leeds and produced a good performance from Jon Moorhouse of Brocket Hall GC, who finished third in the individual event, category one. The Midlands region (of which the Mid

Anglia section forms a part) came second overall in the team event.

I was lucky enough, with my partner Dick Coogan of Stockwood Park GC, to reach the final of the Lodgeway Fourball final held in October at Brocket Hall. We were matched against Tony Freeman and David Low from Northants County, both of whom played the more consistent golf and came out worthy winners by three and two. Unfortunately the weather was appalling, which probably accounted for only two spectators turning up for the final nine holes! The bad weather could not however detract from the enjoyment of the whole day, which was superbly arranged by Chas Ayres of Lodgeway. Many thanks, Chas. It was a sheer pleasure to play on such a superb golf course, which under John Wells' guidance is developing into something very special indeed. Thanks to John and his green staff for their efforts.

Woburn Golf and Country Club was once again the venue for the section's Autumn Tournament. With the chance to play one of the country's top golf courses, the entry list was obviously full with fifty members attending. The course was in first class condition and our thanks go to Neil Whittaker and his team for their efforts. This year the golf was reduced to eighteen holes on the Dukes, followed by a superb meal, finishing in the afternoon with the section AGM and the presentation of prizes. The top three places all went to Woburn players, Lee Murdoch being first with 38 points, P Squire second with 36 points, and on a count-back, Chris Toms third with 36 points also. Our thanks to Woburn for the hospitality afforded us. Also thanks to David Murphy of Driving Force Leisure for sponsoring the day and donating the prizes and to all other trade members who attended and donated raffle prizes.

The AGM followed and it appears from what was heard that the section continues to flourish. The balance sheet is healthy and membership has gone up from 151 last year to 180 this year. To succeed as a section, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee; Gerald Bruce, Chris Brook and John Wells in particular, for their sterling efforts, as well as support from Stewart Boyes, Ronan McKeown and Richard Saunders.

Finally I would like to wish all members a happy Christmas. I hope that 1994 will be a successful and happy new year for all.

PAUL LOCKETT



## DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first meeting of the season was held at the excellent venue of Bowood Park GC, by kind permission of the owner, Mr Ross Cobbledick. Also our thanks to club secretary, Tony Japes, and all the staff at Bowood Park, for making our day such a success.

The day started with 40 golfing members playing a Stableford for the D O Hunt Trophy over the superbly presented course, whilst non-golfers took their usual walk before lunch.

After an excellent lunch our president, Don Hunt, presented the prizes he had so kindly donated, the winner of the D O Hunt Trophy being Malcolm Bosley (St Enedoc) with 38 points, 2nd Kevin Piper (Holsworthy) 37 (on back nine) 37 points, 3rd Chris Pine (Churston) 37 points. Our congratulations to Clive Browning and his team, who had the course in excellent condition.

Our afternoon educational talk on 'The first steps to preparing a course policy document' was given by regional administrator, Gordon Child, who gave a 'hand-out' of his club's policy document before explaining each section. I'm sure in years to come we all will be called upon to deliver such a document to our own club, and after listening to Gordon's talk

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I'm equally sure we now can set out the basis of a policy for our committee to consider.

The raffle rounded off a most successful day, with our thanks to all the trade for donating prizes to the raffle table, also to Don Hunt and Roffeys for donating the golf prizes, and to Gordon Child for his excellent talk.

As many of you will know, head greenkeepers of venue courses are asked not to play golf on the day, as many of our non-golfers enjoy looking around their course, suitably escorted by the head greenkeeper.

With this, the last section report David White will receive from me before he leaves his job as editor, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing him every success in the future, also of wishing members and friends a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I hope to see you at Fingle Glen on Wednesday 12 January 1994.

RICHARD WHYMAN



## CLEVELAND

Irrigation closing down and draining of pipework, valves, pumps, etc. is necessary, indeed vital, as a frost precaution here in the north east. Potential weaknesses in pump and/or motor need testing after five years. Winter is the time for tests, for we don't want failures next summer. I feel happier with a main agent carrying out servicing.

With the return of wormcasts, fairway gang mowing is virtually impossible on banks after rain. We really do need an effective and lasting worm control. The course is becoming messy, with tractors skidding on grease-like surfaces.

Paul Moore is confirmed as head greenkeeper at Darlington, whilst Stuart Vickers is now first assistant at Brass Castle GC. We also welcome Anthony Hodgson and Geoff Ward, both at Blackwell GC. Brian Skeen of Billingham is now dealing in Jacobsen and Massey Ferguson compacts, also Sabo Roberine, whilst Dick Lawson of Piercebridge is confirmed as the Toro main dealer.

The October meeting, presented by Par 4 Irrigation, featured modern irrigation techniques. They suggest a three-wire system, with controls of various programmes tailored to suit. We live in a modern world of technology and must admire the kit available for golf course maintenance. Thankfully, a good installation can last many years.

The Autumn Tournament staged at Castle Eden GC in September was a great success, with members coming from as far afield as Bedale, N. Yorkshire and Carlisle. Gary Munro reported the course as 'immaculate', with warm, sunny weather and hospitality second to none. Thanks to all at Castle Eden, especially David Crocher and his staff, and to Allan Goodchild, Par 4 Irrigation, Aitkens and Claytons for valued support.

RESULTS: 1st D Crocher and P Robinson (Castle Eden) 66 nett. 2nd R Ord and G Watson (Castle Eden) 68 nett. 3rd K Dyson and P Docherty (Seaham) 68 nett. 4th G Munro and G Wellens (Bedale) 69 nett.

BRUCE BURNELL



## EAST ANGLIA

Once again, Sam is our correspondent for the day out at Yarmouth & Caister GC. This time I wasn't on holiday or fishing, rather my absence was due to a full field, me being number 44 in a field of 37! Apparently you all had a good (or better) day without me, so I'll go fishing next time.

High wind and threatening rain greeted 37 bandits as they battled their way around our 'Enery's patch, which was in excellent condition. No one hit a horse or jockey, as someone had the good sense to call off the racing. Another 'someone', however, ran a 'book' on how long it would be before one of a constant stream of helicopters landed on one of Henry's temporary greens and just to liven things up, someone took long odds and painted an 'H' in the middle of Henry's white circle!

The results, amidst all the shenanigan, were: (0-18) 1st Mike Virley 35 pts, 2nd Ian Willett 31 pts, 3rd Roger Plummer 31 pts. (19-28) 1st (winner of the Parker Shield) Kevin Bunn 36 pts, 2nd Steve Piggett 35 pts, 3rd Steve Davidson 33 pts.

Many thanks to Yarmouth & Caister for their kind hospitality and Henry Stead for the excellent course condition. The day was slightly marred, however, by people not turning up and not notifying the secretary (I could have come after all - ML). The culprits will be billed for the day and I hope it doesn't happen again - You haff bin varned!

Steve Millard has sent me a report on the West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge. Now in its second year, it consists of teams of three from Gog Magog, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, and Newmarket, playing home and away evening games, each teams' Stableford points added together over the season. The winners this year were Gog Magog, represented by Lyndon Upham, Julian Hill and Peter Mallons, who amassed 718 points to beat second place Haverhill, with 679 points.

The Atterton & Ellis-Toro Trophy will be presented by Roger Denson (Atterton & Ellis) and David Cole (Toro) at an evening to be arranged.

Finally, our best wishes to Paul Seago on his appointment at Gullane. Paul must be one of the last real apprentices, from an age when 'blessed were they that knew not what to say, but knew what to do instead'. Well done, Paul, and all the best to you and your family.

Goodnight Cockneys, wherever you may be.

MICK LATHROPE



## SOUTH WEST

What a peculiar October has been. For the first ten days, rainfall was sufficient to break yet another record, leaving us all wading around our courses (and in some cases, our homes). Just when we thought all was lost, along came the high pressure, leaving the remainder of the month so dry that watering systems were hastily re-commissioned, construction and maintenance programmes re-commenced, and everything in the garden was lovely.

Back to the floods. The section's annual match versus S Wales at St Pierre on 6 October foundered for the first time. Repeated torrential storms caused extensive flooding, and although the old course looked in excellent condition (thoroughly inspected by Merv Gray and myself in the afternoon), exactly the right decision was made to keep it closed. The Welsh team went off and played somewhere else, (thanks, lads), while the South West team went home in dribs and drabs to lick their wounds. There's always next year!

On a sunnier note, the section First Aid Training day at Saltford was a great success. The good offices of Medical Training Services, combined with the bonhomie of Dick Burleigh, made a difficult subject very palatable indeed, all nine candidates ➔ 50

39 → passed the course and will collect certificates in due course. Our thanks to Saltford GC for their hospitality, also thanks to our delegates, who were well turned out and did their profession much credit.

I would like to extend sympathy and support to Robin Williams in his employment problems at Enmore. The course was in fine condition when the section played it in July and I can't believe it has deteriorated in such a short time to the extent that the club feels it had to dispense with Robin's services. Robin has been with the club for nineteen years and must surely warrant better treatment than that.

Congratulations to Mark Silk on his recent move to Wootton Bassett GC as deputy head greenkeeper, and best wishes to Anne, Ivor Scoones' wife, for a recovery from her recent set-back in her illness.



Finally, I would like to close by wishing all readers seasonal greetings and sincere best wishes for successful green-keeping in 1994.

PAUL WORSTER

### SOUTH WALES

Our annual match against the South West section had to be cancelled, due to an horrendous amount of rainfall on 5-6 October. On arrival at St Pierre G&CC, both courses had been closed because of standing water (we offered to squeegee them, but they wouldn't have it), though there was a possibility of the old course re-opening if the rain held off. It didn't, a 40 minute shower putting paid to that hope at 11am. However, this event is confirmed for next year, 5 October, when we hope conditions will be more favourable and we can thank St Pierre G&CC for again allowing us courtesy for this annual fixture.

On Wednesday 13 October our winter evening lecture programme kicked off at Pencoed College. John Bradley from Barenbrug (UK) Ltd., gave an informative insight into Barenbrug's seed production, soil preparation and production techniques. A truly enlightening evening was enjoyed by all, definitely your loss if you didn't attend.

Both of the PRO-TURF sponsored Match-Play semi-finals were staged recently over Pyle & Kenfig GC, the course as always in excellent condition. Two hard-fought matches took place, Mike Jones (INCO) held off an excellent come-back from Laurence Walter (Wenvoe) to win by two and one. In the other match, Robert Frater (Creigiau) won by five and four from Doug Donne, thus preventing an all INCO final. Results of the 36 hole final will appear in the next issue and we wish Mike and Robert well in what promises to be a tough contest.



The Christmas competition and AGM is on Wednesday 15 December at Pyle & Kenfig GC. This is always an excellent day, so please attend and bring a bottle.

PETER LACEY

### NORTH SCOTLAND

Three more new members to welcome, all Associate, two of which are the North section's new regional financial advisers. Donald Macdonald is the proprietor of Ian Macdonald Insurance and Financial Ser-

# Around the Green



vices, based in Inverness, while Graeme Nicol is a director of Hanson and Robinson Life Pensions Ltd, based at Dyce, Aberdeenshire. Our third new member is Mr R O Blair of Stonehaven.

As we approach Christmas, I hope the weather has been kind to all, enabling aeration and rebuilding programmes to be completed. This month sees Tain assistant, John Urquhart, setting off on his attempt to travel around the world by land and sea in under 100 days. I hope all goes well and he makes it back in time for the spring rush!

I attended a machinery presentation day at Gle-neagles recently, courtesy of Scottish Grass Machinery, a great opportunity to see a wide range of machinery in operation and to meet with fellow greenkeepers to discuss the machinery merits and exchange views. Thanks to David MacInroy and Company for a very worthwhile day - one that hopefully will be repeated.

Work has already started on the planning of the North section's One Day Conference, to be staged in Aberdeen next year. The date is Thursday 1 December 1994, venue the Scottish Agricultural College. Eight potential speakers have been contacted and their replies are awaited. Watch this space for further news - as it breaks.

On a personal note, may I say how sad I am to learn of the resignation of David White, our editor. David was always ready to help me with any request I might have and I will miss our little chats and exchange of letters. I wish him every success in whatever the future may hold for him, whilst hoping that the magazine will not suffer by his departure.

Finally, may I wish friends and colleagues everywhere a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, especially my American friends reading this across the Atlantic: Ed Walsh, Steve Cadinelli and Max Maxwell. Maybe we will meet up next year. Next stop Harrogate.



IAIN MACLEOD

### NORTHERN

By now you should have received a copy of our winter programme for 1993/94. If you do not have one, or want an extra copy, please give me a call and I'll send you one.

The Autumn Tournament took place at Kirkbymoorside GC, though unlike our Invitation Day at Pannal GC, where the sun shone, we had cloud cover and heavy showers all day. However, despite a wet rainy day everyone who took part had a most enjoyable time. This event was again sponsored by our friends Chaplins, and our thanks to John Chaplin and Bob Mitchell for their continued support to our

section. I must also thank our colleague Alan Frost, who has just taken over as head greenkeeper, and his staff, for preparing the course for us under such difficult conditions, also the captain of Kirkbymoorside GC for making us warmly welcome and presenting the prizes.

RESULTS: Division One, Scratch S Midgley, 1st M Hannan, 2nd M Lealman. Division Two, 1st D Collins, 2nd M Cordingley, 3rd D Spurdin. Division three 1st A Gamble, 2nd L Kirkbright, 3rd D Cockburn. Under 25's Shield M Lealman. Over 50's Cup A Gamble, Bottle of Pop, A Smith. V.P.s: 1st Allan Dyson (Gem) 2nd Norman Schofield (Trident/Rigby Taylor).

Once again, thanks to Norman Sheddon (Aitkens) for looking after the cards for us, and for donating a prize for the table, also to Norman Schofield, Allan Dyson, Graham Walker, and Pattissons for their donations to the prize table. Thanks additionally to Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc, who braved the elements on the 15th hole, measured for nearest the pin prize, which he donated.

Andrew Smith, formerly of Woodsome Hall GC, has now taken up the post of first assistant at Old Fold Manor GC, Hertfordshire. Andrew has also resigned from the committee of our section. Andrew, we wish you well in your new venture and thank you for the time and effort you put in while performing your duties in the section.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 8 December 1993: Christmas Golf and AGM at Shipley GC., Beckfoot Lane, Bingley, W. Yorkshire. Tuesday 25 January 1994: A visit to the Gem Fertiliser Plant. Please phone me, as I will need numbers for catering purposes. Tuesday 22 February 1994: A visit to Moneystone Sand Quarry (Martin Brothers). Bus leaves West Bowling GC car park at 10.15 am. Please phone me to book seats. Saturday 12 March 1994: Our Annual Dinner takes place at Northcliffe GC, High Bank Lane, Shipley, W. Yorkshire. Live entertainment on stage following dinner.



Tickets available at the AGM, price £14.00.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

PAT MURPHY

## EVENTS DIARY

January 19-21, 1994: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Trade Show and Educational Seminar Programme, Harrogate

January 19: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, 5.15pm. Membership cards must be produced.

February 4-7: GCSAA Conference and Show, Dallas, Texas

March 5-8: Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta

April 27: Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club

June 29: Southurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Mottspur Park

September 6-8: Saltex (previously IoG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berks.

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