

# 'Customers won't accept the advice of someone they don't trust'

45 → All are BASIS trained, constant updating in the light of new technology their way of staying ahead. Clive's thinking is summed up when he says 'customers won't accept the advice of someone they don't trust. Most of our selling is done by giving advice, therefore the advice must be utterly believable, true and honest, the client must believe in the man'.

Clive's a countryman at heart, never happier than when pottering in his lovely garden in the Cambridge village of Hardwick or when taking aim with a shotgun at clay pigeons, his second love. For all that, he covers 50,000 business miles a year in his car, so he must have some affection for the motorway system! He and Bernard are like twins when they talk of work.

To some this may be a dread disease, but to them it's a highly enjoyable experience from which they both get a positive 'buzz'. Bernard says that when he gets to his desk the adrenalin starts pumping and both liken their work to sport, a game they'd rather be winning than losing!

No interview would be complete without some discussion on the BIGGA connection. Rigby Taylor have become Golden Key supporters for one simple reason, they believe in the education of greenkeepers! As an investment in the future both Bernard and Clive see BIGGA as central to their thinking: they like their company to be involved both at section and region level and are glad that this new

way of saying thank you can be registered now on a national scale.

Asked what they would like to see for the greenkeeping profession if they could wave a magic wand, their reply in unison was for a greater awareness at club level – members, committees and green chairmen alike – of the professional qualities involved in caring for such a valuable asset as a golf course – the assets are massive, the recognition should be likewise.

Above all, they enjoy dealing with 'our' profession, expressing the view that it is populated by nice people with nice attitudes. From two nice people with nice attitudes, that's a very comforting statement.

## AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

### SHEFFIELD

A Happy New Year to you all! What a marvellous Christmas dinner we all had at Wortley Golf Club. Our thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event and providing the prizes, also to Rigby Taylor's Brian Booth, a very popular trade member whose support for BIGGA is very much appreciated. Thanks also to Barry Heaney for arranging the event and presenting us with a superb course (as always), and to Wortley GC for allowing us the courtesy of their course.

Congratulations to all the winners and don't worry, Barry Heaney is taking stock of your handicaps!

#### February Lecture \*

We are again privileged to have Mr Peter Greenhough, captain of Brough GC and a member of the R&A Rules Committee, to talk to us on the Rules of Golf. As examples, do you know why you cannot go back to retrieve a forgotten club, or why you cannot start a match anywhere you like, even if you both agree to start on the eighth tee? Please bring your questions for Peter to answer – it will be an evening not to be missed.

#### March Lecture\*

A trip to the GEM Fertiliser factory is planned – limited to 30 greenkeepers. Please contact me on 0298 813374 if you are interested – we are arranging a coach and Gem are providing lunch – please book early.

#### April Lecture\*

Howard Evans, (Howard Evans Financial Services), will talk to us about pensions, mortgages or any other financial problems we may have. Howard visited my club recently to advise and arrange pensions for our green staff, and I was very impressed with the professional service he offered. Nothing was too much trouble for him to explain, and we all know how most of us struggle with gobbledegook jargon. Please pose any queries or questions you may have on matters financial that you do not understand. Howard will also be holding a private clinic for any confidential matters.

\* Please note that all lectures are held on the first Thursday in the month.

JANE RYAN

### DEVON & CORNWALL

Happy New Year to you all! China Fleet G&CC was the venue for our AGM, held on Wednesday 11 November. The morning's golf was a foursome competition for the Toro Trophy, played over China Fleet's excellent new course. Our non-golfing members were treated to the customary 'course walk' by course manager Richard Shapland, who I hear had a few sleepless nights before our meeting. After lunch the prizes for the Toro Trophy were presented by Joe Turner of Lely and Alan Dommett of Devon Garden Machinery to: 1st A Woolnough (Teignmouth) & R Whyman (Bude) 29pts. 2nd D Manley (Mullion) & C Miles (DGM) 27pts. 3rd T Farkins (Dartmouth) & G Tamblin (Mullion) 26pts. Our thanks to Joe and Alan for donating and presenting the prizes, also many thanks to Richard Shapland, who had the course in superb condition and to China Fleet G&CC for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The section AGM followed, opened by our chairman, Bill Pile.

Agenda & Minutes

1) Opening of the meeting.  
2) Approval of last year's minutes: Proposed by D Parr, seconded by W Potter - Approved.  
3) Financial report: the balance sheet showed a slight loss of £15.82 on the previous year, which now stands at £868.63. The approval of the balance sheet was proposed by G Child, seconded by T Pipe - Approved.

4) Secretary's report: The secretary thanked all members for supporting the section in such large numbers over the past year, also mentioning our two new meeting sponsors: Avoncrop (February) and C.R Willcocks (Guest Day). Thanks were expressed to our main Iseki dealers, Devon Garden Machinery & PJ Flegg, who once again provided breakfast and travel to the 1992 Iseki final.

5) Chairman's Report: The chairman opened by congratulating Tony Gooch, head greenkeeper at Torrington GC, on being runner-up in the 1992 Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition. The chairman also congratulated Gordon & Marion Child and the regional board on their continued success of Westurf, which is now the premier turfcare show in the south west. With the success of Westurf, members were offered an excel-

lent package to attend BTME, and this was very well supported. The chairman further reported that membership had passed the 100 mark and asked all members to promote our Association to those greenkeepers who haven't yet joined. On closing he thanked all our trade members for their continued support.

6) Election of Officers:

- i) Chairman – B Pile. Proposed T Pipe, seconded J.Mills – Approved.
- ii) Secretary/Regional Board member – R Whyman. Proposed G Child, seconded B Summers – Approved.
- iii) Vice-Chairmen. J Mitchell, S Redman and B Summers were all re-elected en block.
- iv) Vice President- A. Dommett. Proposed G Child, seconded T Pipe – Approved.
- v) Any Other Business – Suggested venues for 93/94 were: Oct: Tehidy. Nov: Torquay. Dec: (AGM) Okehampton. Jan: Fingle Glen (section seminar). Feb: Trevoze/Thurlestone/Looe. March: Padbrook. July: Launceston (guest day). B Mitchell asked if the committee could look into a less expensive menu for lunch at meetings, so that some of our younger members could afford to attend. The venue of our Christmas meeting was also raised, as numbers were limited to 80 at Okehampton. After some discussion it was agreed to keep this venue,

as Oakhampton GC always make us very welcome.

Gordon Child ended by congratulating and thanking the committee and secretary for running section affairs so efficiently.

RICHARD WHYMAN



### SOUTH COAST

Our winter lecture programme got off to a good start in November, well attended by both members and guests. Our speaker, Alan Betts from the Forestry Commission, gave an illustrated talk which included details of grants which are available when planting woodlands.

On 3 February our guest speaker is Jim Arthur, who will be talking on 'Commonsense Greenkeeping!' In view of the expected large audience, the venue will be at the Dorset College of Agri- → 48



46 → culture, Kingston Maurward. The college is situated approximately two miles east of Dorchester. Jim's talk will commence at 2pm and refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

Once again your support for these meetings is vital and both your committee and I look forward to a good turn out by the 'troops'.

BOB DENNIS

## KENT

It is good to report on the outstanding success of the Emergency First Aid course, held at the Weald of Kent GC, on 18 November. Although we had originally allocated 15 places, we had to include two more on the day, and such was the response to our mail shot that another course looks likely in the near future. The course was excellently presented by Ken Bick, Medical Training Services, and was a thoroughly enjoyable way of learning some simple, basic principles that one day may save a life. Although we are all now armed with our printed notes and, hopefully, our soon to be awarded certificates, micro surgery and transplant surgery may have to wait a few more months. Ken pointed out that we could perhaps try a bit of brain surgery on some of our golf club members, perhaps beginning with those on committee! Those in attendance were also very impressed by the venue, the Weald of Kent being an excellent example of what a new and modern golf facility should be when properly thought out and managed.

My personal thanks go to John Rootes and David Vidler of Mid-Kent for trying manfully to resuscitate my car at the end of the day, which appeared to have slipped into a comatose condition in the wet and windy car park. I can report that a 'high powered' back arrived an hour later, not in the shape of a paramedic, but a wet and tired RAC man. Also thanks to the members and staff at the Weald of Kent for making my unexpected stay in the clubhouse so pleasant.

I suppose I can now finally report on how our lone Iseki finalist fared in last summer's final at Coventry. I could sum it up simply by saying 'none to well', but this would not be in keeping with the tradition of tall golfing stories or of Nigel Stapley's equally long excuses. Apparently his problems started on the practice day, when heavy rain, or was it a freak monsoon of epic proportions, prevented his early arrival at Coventry and allowed him to complete only nine holes of practice in the late afternoon. However, Nigel still maintains at this point that he was playing the best golf of his life, confident of a high finish. Problems continued that evening with the 'chronic irresponsibility' of Iseki in providing excellent hospitality to competitors by way of a sumptuous meal and the odd drink. Although determined to show restraint, with the final commencing early the next morning, Nigel assures me that his defences crumbled and he was wickedly led astray into an evening of excessive merriment and over indulgence by two of our northern greenkeeping colleagues.

Came the dawn, Nigel found himself slightly the worse for wear and suffering a chronic hangover. The format of the final again did not favour poor Nigel, with nine holes played in the morning, followed by a full round after lunch. The morning nine, played in something of a blur, was a surprising success, still leaving him in contention... but as the effects of the alcohol began to wear off after lunch the wheels also fell off Nigel's golfing wagon. I need say no more – the result was a mega, nay, three figure disaster. (Only kidding Nigel, you did very well and went much further than the rest of us in the competition).



PAUL COPSEY

## NORTH WALES

We held our first winter seminar at Northop College of Horticulture on 18 November, with a very good turn-out by the greenkeepers. First to the platform came Mr David Golding, BIGGA Education Officer, who explained the role of BIGGA, the basis and format of the Greenkeeper Training Committee, and NVQs. David Jones of Whitbread Breweries was next, speaking of the reconstruction of sixteen greens and tees at the Forest of Arden Hotel G&CC, Coventry, ready for the next Murphy's English Open in August. Nick Park of Lindrick then spoke on the document 'The Way Forward', explaining

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how it came about and where it was going. At this point we decided to have a break, allowing members and guests to stretch their legs and air their views.

After the break John Hacker of Sports Turf Design (NW Ltd) spoke on greens construction, followed by Derek Green, course manager at Royal Liverpool, on the preparation and organisation that went into the 1992 Curtis Cup, a winning formula if ever I saw one, (and not a mention of Dry Patch, very strange). On behalf of the North Wales section I would like to thank all our guest speakers for a very interesting and educational afternoon.

An important date for your diary is 11 February, when the STRI will be holding a seminar at the Welsh College of Horticulture. Please come and support us and bring along your green chairman or club secretary – all will be most welcome.

Congratulations to P Gabriel (Curzon Park GC), J Cheung (Caldy GC), and A Heslop (Oaklands), all of whom are moving to Cardon Park GC, the latter as deputy head.

Any member requiring further information on section affairs may call me on 0248 713490.

DAVID PROCTOR

## AYRSHIRE

Well, I'm back, this after premature reports of my defection to the 'deep south'. I'm writing this during yet another wet and windy day, a day which seems almost the norm since July last, leaving many of the Ayrshire and Galloway courses looking like boating lakes. Several of our hillier courses could even be used as ski runs, due to a severe increase in the 'squidge' factor, and broken arms and legs are becoming common – however, on with the report.

The section AGM was held on 26 November, with a reasonable turn-out and, for a change, some welcome new faces. Derek Wilson from Irvine Bog-side GC was appointed chairman for the next two years, Derek nominating Ian McNab from Dumfries and County GC as his vice-chairman.

A strong plea was made for all members to seek out and encourage many more greenkeepers to join our section of BIGGA, the feeling being that there are still far too many greenkeepers unaware of the benefits of membership – this in such a strong golfing area.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Ian McNab on the addition to their family of a son, Duncan Gordon, also good luck to St Nicholas greenkeepers, Donald Kerr and David Shanks, on their sponsored parachute jump in aid of cancer research. Our best wishes to Kyle and Carrick D.C. on taking over the role of greenkeeper training in our area, and finally from myself and all members of the Ayrshire committee, we hope you enjoyed a merry Christmas and we wish you all a 'guid new year' in this great industry of ours.



DUNCAN GRAY

## EAST OF ENGLAND

The choice of the Toft Hotel GC as the venue for the Lambs Lawnmower Trophy proved an excellent one. The course, built on farmland in 1970, has matured into a real test for golfers, with the natural contours of this 'anything but flat' part of Lincolnshire having been used to good advantage.

To the owner, Mr Derek Lees, go our thanks for allowing us courtesy of the course, with personal thanks to Graham Dolan for making the arrangements. The evening meal proved to be one of the best we have ever experienced.

Robin Lamb joined us for the golf and presentation of prizes, which went to eighth place. The trophy winner was a surprise, as he had to search for his clubs the night before, it having been so long since he played. Nevertheless, Roy Harrison from

Stoke Rochford proved a popular winner, with the long straight driving of David Hornsey taking him to second place and Mick Key placing third.

On 25 November the Regional seminar was once again well organised by 'our' man, Roger Willars, and ably chaired by our section chairman, Graeme Patrick. The turn-out from our section was rather poor, with some members taking the view that Warwick is a long way to travel – but my own feelings are that the speakers get better each year and it is an event well worth making the effort to attend. On that score, the talk is of a venue nearer to home for 1993, so let's hope for a better show from the East of England section members.



On a personal note, I shall be retiring from my secretarial post at the section AGM. To all those people who have helped me – sincere thanks.

COLIN SWINGLER

## CLEVELAND

The Cleveland AGM was held at Darlington GC on 17 November with 26 members present. The previous year's minutes were read and accepted, these followed by the report of chairman, Harry Lees. The regional report followed from Ian Holloran, who was especially thanked for his hard work. Secretariat and treasury reports were given by Roger Shaw, the secretary being the man who always gets the hard work. Roger is a 'worker' and has kindly indicated his willingness to continue in the post, which was a great relief to us all! Stan Shotton stood down from committee and Keith Lough (Beamish GC) was newly elected.

Ian Holloran congratulated Ian Harrison, head greenkeeper at Darlington GC., on reaching the finals of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year, Ian replying by saying that he was delighted to be representing Cleveland in this prestigious competition.

George Malcolm proposed a vote of thanks to the section for their support when he received his plaque, presented to Middlesbrough GC, in recognition of George's service and for the club's generosity in allowing George time off work during his term of office as national chairman.

The golf match against the North East section at Slaley Hall GC, near Hexham, was won by the North East by a margin of four to one. Thanks to Robert Bell at Slaley for having the course in such beautiful condition and to the club for the courtesy extended to us all.

BRUCE BURNELL

## MID ANGLIA

The AGM of the Mid Anglia section was held on 25 November at Arkley GC, Barnet. The meeting was preceded by nine holes of golf and 20 members took the opportunity to play this lovely nine hole course. Many thanks to Ronan McKeown for organising tee times and arranging food, this in addition to presenting the course in fine condition, especially the greens, which were excellent.

The AGM was attended by some 30 members, including representatives from the trade. These were thanked by our chairman, John Wells, for all their support throughout the year, especially at our golf events. Secretary Gerald Bruce reported an increase of 30 new section members over the past 12 months. The treasurer's report showed a healthy balance of £2333 at 31 October 1992.

Our match secretary, Chris Brook, submitted his report and drew particular attention to a few problems involved in the sending out of competition entry forms. Although forms were introduced for the Spring Tournament at Verulam, some members are still returning entries far too late. It was agreed for 1993 that a closing date will be published and strictly enforced, all late entries being returned. This will make Chris's job easier and enable him to inform clubs well in advance of numbers attending, details that most clubs now demand as a matter of course. Please help all concerned by returning entry forms on time!

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Paul Lockett. Vice Chairman and Match Secretary, Chris Brook. Secretary, Gerald Bruce. Treasurer, John Wells. Committee members, Ronan McKeown, Richard Saunders and Stewart Boyes.

Our thanks must surely go to Les Wakeril, our retiring treasurer, for all his hard work and support over the many years that he has been associated

with our section.

A few changes in competition format are likely in 1993. It was suggested that the Spring Tournament be changed to 36 holes, the Autumn Tournament to 18 holes. The Lodgeway Fourball will be removed from the Autumn Tournament in order that it may be played over a top class course, thus allowing members to watch the final. In addition, the Texas Scramble could be moved from South Beds, as we have played there for the past eight years. If any members can offer their course for the 1993 Texas Scramble, please contact Gerald of myself so that the matter may be given consideration.

All members should have received a fixture list for 1993. If you are not in receipt of such a list, please contact Gerald.

Finally, the question was posed at the AGM, 'could more material be included in this column'. I would be grateful for any contributions which members think worthy of inclusion. Either 'phone me or, better still, put pen to paper and send contributions to me at 72 Russell Drive, Ampthill, Beds. MK45 2TU.

PAUL LOCKETT

## SURREY

To begin, may I wish every member a Happy New Year. Please do not forget to pay your BIGGA subscriptions and make a concerted effort to encourage all new members of your staff to join the Association.

We had a very good attendance at our first winter lecture, held at Walton Heath Artisan's clubhouse. We thank them for the use of their facilities. The lecture was on 'First Aid on the Golf Course', given by Neal Harrison of the Ambulance Service. Neal gave a most interesting lecture with demonstrations of basic first aid skills and resuscitation. Let us hope that some of our greenkeepers will now go forward to take a full 'Health and Safety First Aid at Work' course, progressing to become recognised 'first-aiders' at their respective clubs.

The next winter lecture is on 14 January at New Zealand Artisans clubhouse, the presentation being given by the company, Envirogreen.

Congratulations to Brian Turner and his lady partner on winning the Worpleston Mixed Foursomes.

If you have any contributions for this column, please contact either Roger Tydeman or myself.

DAVID ANDREWS

## MIDLANDS

During the winter period we will be running two lectures and a trip to Ransomes. The first lecture will be held on 14 January at Walsall GC, starting at 5.00pm. The speakers will be Andy Cole from the STRI, talking on advisory visits, followed by a representative from British Seed Houses (who will also provide refreshments during the interval).

The second lecture will be held on 26 March at Telford G&CC, starting at 1.30pm. Representing Oakleys, the local Jacobsen dealers, will be Mr E Simcox, his talk centred on machinery maintenance. The second speaker will be Carl Crome, whose talk will be on the Envirogreen service and how it works. Following the lectures, refreshments will be provided by Oakleys and Jacobsen.

On 24-25 February we are running a two day trip to Ransomes, the cost being £20 per person with numbers limited (probably) to twenty. If you would like to go, please contact Ivor Beetlestone on 0952 50509. Finally, may I wish everyone a prosperous New Year.



DEAN CLEAVER

## SOUTH WEST

'Who'd be a greenkeeper?'. That must have been the question Bob Burkin, head greenkeeper at Bath GC, was asking himself last month.

One moment everything is fine, the next moment half his staff hand in a weeks' notice & leave. To make matters worse Bob contracted a nasty cold which led to an almighty Asthma attack, and just when he thought things couldn't possibly get any worse, the South West Section turned up for the Maxwell Hart Autumn Golf Tournament & AGM Beat that! Seriously, we all wish Bob our best for a speedy recovery and hope that his staff problems are soon resolved. It was, by the way, sheer coincidence that the mass exodus took place, and had

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nothing to do with either Bob or the club.

On to the Tournament.....The day dawned fine and bright, but it was not to last and several people, myself included, were completely caught out as the temperatures plummeted and the torrential rain arrived. Who'd be a weather forecaster either, come to that.

Despite the gruesome conditions, there were some very good scores returned, (and some very bad ones) none better than Maurice Pearce, who won with the best score of the day, an almost unbelievable 40 points. The full result was: 1st M Pearce (Wells GC) 40 pts. 2nd N Wilson (Filton GC) 39 pts. 3rd D Eves (Painswick GC) 36 pts. 4th C Fudge (Tracy Park GC) 35 pts.

Many thanks to Bath GC for their hospitality, to the stewardess who looked after us so well and to all the companies that so generously donated prizes. Our major sponsor of the day was Maxwell Hart, other sponsors being Avoncrop Amenity, Rofey Bros., Rigby Taylor, County Mowers of Witney and ICI Professional Products. Thanks to you all.

At the AGM the election of officers was as follows: Chairman, John York. Vice Chairman, Peter Cox. Secretary, Paul Worster. Match Captain, Robin Greaves. Vice Captain, John Kane. Liaison Officer, Robin Williams. Regional Board Officers, Ivor Scoones and Robin Williams.

Handicaps

All members are reminded that they will need an official handicap certificate from their club in order to gain entry into Association events in 1993. Only in the case of members without a home club will certificates be provided. This is a direct result of blatant dishonesty in the past at certain events, the committee's view being that members of this section will at all times display honour and integrity when representing themselves or their section.

The same applies to cases of card abuse. If the privilege of courtesy golf continues to be abused it can only be a matter of time before such privileges are withdrawn entirely.

The committee wishes to congratulate Guy Woods, both on his excellent paper presented at the recent Cannington College seminar and on his appointment as deputy head greenkeeper at Castle Combe GC.

Pesticide Application Training, First Aid Training and Training in the Safe Use of Chainsaws will continue to be available in 1993, as will COSHH assessments, supplied by our resident expert, Mr Noel Stevens. Further details are available from the secretary on 0285 651908.

With section membership now standing at 169, the work of the officials, particularly the secretary, can be made a lot easier with a little co-operation from all.

The committee wish all members a Happy New Year, with good golf and good greenkeeping in 1993.

PAUL WORSTER



## WEST SCOTLAND

The section's autumn outing was held at Hags Castle GC on 23 September. It must be a true saying that the sun shines on the righteous, for this must have been the first dry sunny day for a month (that guy St Swithen has a lot to answer for) and it is for that reason that a special vote of thanks must go to the course manager, John Crawford, for having the course in such good 'nick'. Thanks also to Hags Castle GC for the courtesy of their course and to their secretary, Ian Harvey, who joined us on the day and stayed to present the trophies and prizes in the evening.

The day was well supported by members, trade and visitors alike, and, for the record, the placings were as follows: Scratch (Austin McCauslin Trophy) AJ Bulloch (Mount Ellen GC). 1st class

(Richard Aitken Trophy) 1 - G Kerr (Gleddoch House GC), 2 - S Ballantyne (Torrance House GC), 3 - A Connell (Cawder GC). 2nd class (Scottish Grass Machinery Trophy) 1 - D Montgomery (Cawder GC), 2 - G Miller (Cardross GC), 3 - S Perston (Renfrew GC). 3rd class (Souter Trophy) 1 - A McDowall (Torrance House GC), 2 - C George (Lenzie GC), 3 - N Hendry (East Kilbride GC). The New Members Prize was won by D McLaren (Linn Park GC) with a scratch score of 72, the Trade Prize by Kevin Brunton of Souter's of Sterling, and the Visitors Prize by S McDonald of Refrew GC.

The section annual dinner was held at the Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow, and was again well attended. Thanks must go to our guest speakers, Sandy Sinclair of the Lanarkshire Golf Union, Dan McCann, past captain of Crow Wood GC, and Elliott Small, the BIGGA regional administrator for Scotland. Also thanks to our friends in the trade: A M Russells (Toro), Stewarts of Edinburgh and Scottish Grass Machinery for donating prizes for the raffles.

The section AGM was held at Renfrew GC on 2 December, running smoothly under new chairman Drew McKechnie (Douglas Park GC), who handled his first task quite admirably. Also held at Renfrew GC was a course rating evening, in the shape of a slide show and talk given by Bill Mitchell of the Renfrewshire Golf Union. - thanks Bill, for a very informative evening.

Cecil George, our education administrator, has arranged several winter seminars, some of which will have already taken place, e.g. A Question Panel at Langside College on 30 November, with students from Langside College firing questions at a panel of experts made up from the greenkeeping fraternity. On 1 December a talk was given by Paul Miller, assistant agronomist with Souters of Sterling, on 'Sportsground Drainage'. On 26 January a talk will be given by Ian Bridges of Jacobsen on 'Supplying Sports Turf Equipment', and on 23 February the ICI representative, David Morrison, will discuss 'Developments in Environmental Management in the Sportsturf Industry', both these to be staged at Langside College.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has supported the section throughout 1992 - I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for 1993.

GORDON KERR

## NORTH WEST

The North West AGM, held at Bury GC on 25 November, was well attended with 28 members present. The evening began with a talk given by Clive Heginbotham of ICI Professional Products on 'Turf Nutrition and Diseases'. This was very well presented, with slides and plenty of good sound advice, followed by a question time that might have gone on all night if time had allowed. I thank Clive for his time and advice.

Following some light refreshments, the AGM took place. In addition to the existing committee being re-elected for a further year, two members were voted on to committee, the full committee complement for the NW being: Chairman, W Merritt, Vice Chairman, P Pearce, Secretary, B Cross, Treasurer, B Moss, Committee members: D Berry; N Potter; S Harthorn; H McAddey and C Sheehan.

The next lecture, on Wednesday 20 January at 7pm, will be given by Pat Murphy, the Northern section secretary, on 'Golf Course Maintenance and Construction of a Green'. In addition, Anthony Wilde of Acre Landscapes will talk on 'Trees for Golf Courses'. Please make every effort to attend.

A couple of days before the AGM I rang Bill Merritt, the NW chairman, to arrange transport to Bury GC. He told me that he would be going but would have to travel in my car, as he had run into a 'give way' sign and was suffering from whiplash and a cut head. I enquired if the car was badly damaged, and he replied 'No, I was jogging at the time!' I think Bill had better take notice of 'give way' signs in future.

I have been informed that Graham Teasdale is not in the best of health at the moment, so we send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Any news, views or ideas - please contact me on 051 724 5412.



BERT CROSS

## NORTH SCOTLAND

Fourteen months of meetings, correspon- ➔ 58

49 → dence and preparations finally came to fruition with the staging of our one day conference at Dundee College. Despite one or two hiccups – like a power failure seconds before the first speaker began – the day was a great success. Almost 150 people packed into the Dundee College Lecture Theatre to listen to some really excellent speakers, with special thanks singled out for Bob McLaren, who stepped in at the last minute following Eric Shiel's withdrawal due to his wife's hip injury – it was like having an International player on the 'subs' bench! We wish Eric's wife a speedy recovery and hope that Eric will address us at a future conference.

Alasdair McLaren and Sam Morrison ably chaired the proceedings, whilst Sam Ellacott and especially Graham Carr kept things running smoothly on the college side.

Thanks also to David Golding, for not only did he address the conference but also closed the festivities – I hope by this time, David, that the 'Frenchman' has settled in. Finally, heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors, M&M Turf Products; CSC Amenity and Scottish Grass Machinery – without their assistance the day would not have been a success.

We welcome our first new member in 1993, Simon Reekie of Reekie Grass Machinery, Arbroath, who joins us as an Associate.

Following an earlier story concerning the new course at Skibo Castle, Alick MacKay has left Boat of Garten and joined Skibo Castle as head greenkeeper – we wish him success, knowing that work on the course is to be resumed in February, with the rest of the fairways being shaped and seeded in the spring and tees and greens to be turfed. In addition, a rabbit protection fence has been installed around the whole perimeter, a must for this area. Alan Dobie, previously assistant at Boat of Garten, takes over as head greenkeeper and, like Alick, we wish him success in his new job.

I hope Ian Carson is settling down in married life and wish him and his wife every good fortune.

IAN MACLEOD



# AROUND THE GREEN



## BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

The Turkey Trot took place at Frilford Heath on 2 December, with the following players in the winning frame: 1st John Scoones, 40 pts (The John Deere Trophy + voucher for £25 from CMW). 2nd Dave Goodchild, 40 pts. 3rd John Teixeira 33 pts.

Our sincere thanks to secretary Jacques Kleynhans, to the catering staff for a superb meal and, of course, to Dave Heads and his staff for a wonderfully presented course – yet again! In addition, our gratitude to Bernie Wall of Sta-Brite and Roger Bowles of Rigby Taylor for official scoring efficiency and to Richard from Parkers, Mark and his gang from Risboro' Turf and Mike Moss from CMW. The Rigby Taylor Fourball

A normally exciting and enjoyable day at Frilford was marred by the unfortunate involvement of semi-finalists John Teixeira and Peter Austin in a motor accident. Luckily they were not seriously hurt, but they were unable to take part in their match. This led to a few headaches for Roger, but as usual he managed to sort things out and the rest of the day progressed with ease.

The semi-finalists were J Nudds & S Horwood, D Childs & D Goodchild, S Edwards and P Wright, J Teixeira & P Austin. Match one was a walk-over, with the aforementioned accident giving Edwards and Wright automatic victory. In match two Nudds and Horwood won 2/1 against Childs and Goodchild. Thus the final was played: Nudds and Horwood versus Edwards and Wright.

The match itself finished in splendid style with

John Nudds producing a fine birdie at the 18th to win, this after being all square at seventeen. Everyone present enjoyed another great day of match play and for this our thanks go to Rigby Taylor, our much appreciated and generous sponsors, especially when considering the difficult times experienced at the moment. Our thanks also to Roger Bowles, who worked tirelessly to make it all happen, especially as he had one or two scares along the way. Finally, to all our friends at Frilford Heath for again making us so welcome.

It is the time of year when ideas are needed for possible winter lectures. If you have any, please talk to Mark Chesman on 0734 313479.

Members should have received details of the 1993 programme of lectures, all of which will again be held at Sonning GC. I hope to see all of you in attendance, especially our younger and less experienced greenkeepers – if you require further information please let me know.

If anyone is interested in visiting BTME '93 at Harrogate we are going to run a minibus. Please let me know – pronto – and we will see what can be arranged (e.g. days and times, according to demand).

The Gentlemen's Dinner will again be staged in March – watch this column for details or call me, Ray Clark,

on 0628 829208. Congratulations to Risborough Turf on becoming Gold Key members, contributing



to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. This is an extension of the support they already show for the BBO section and we look forward to welcoming Mark, Peter and Jim to our functions in 1993.  
RAY CLARK

## EAST SCOTLAND

The annual skittles event took place on 6 November at the Silver Wing, Edinburgh and proved to be another great night. A similar event is planned for early in the year at the same venue.

The East Scotland AGM took place at Kingsknowe GC on 25 November, with a larger turn-out than usual. Before the start of the meeting chairman Mr C Yeaman asked that a minute of silence be observed in memory of those who had passed away so suddenly during 1992: Mrs W Blair, Mrs D Herd, Mr G Dollochian and Mr W Shepherd.

Various relevant questions were asked at the AGM and these were dealt with by the chairman in his usual confident way. Needless to say, the committee was given a total vote of confidence by the members and was re-elected en bloc.

The year of 1993 looks to be every bit as busy as last year with my diary filling up already: I have the BTME at Harrogate in January; the secretaries outing at Aldwark Manor in February; The Scottish Seminar at Oatridge in March, followed by the National AGM at York. I also am still involved in the setting up of the British Tournament to be held at Dunbar in August, plus working toward the success of all of our own tournaments.

Here are some of the dates for section golfing events: Tuesday 6 April, Spring outing to Sea-houses GC, (a coach will be organized for this). The Autumn Tournament will be held at Ratho Park GC. on Tuesday 14 Sept and the W. Woods Tournament at Dunbar on 19 October. No Summer Tournament will be held this year due to the BIGGA Championship being held in the East. A full list of section events will be sent to all members.

One thing more – please ensure that your subscriptions are paid on time. They are due at the end of this month and you may miss out on events if subs are late. Please remember also to herald the advantages of membership and to pass on the good news to those who are not yet members.

WILLIE BLAIR



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## COMING UP

**January 18-22: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, Harrogate, North Yorkshire**

**January 23-30: GCSAA Show, Anaheim, California, USA**

**March 9: BIGGA Scottish Region Conference, Oatridge College, Glasgow**

**March 26-28: BIGGA National Education Conference, University of Keele, Staffordshire**

**April 21: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel, York**

**April 28: Westurf Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton, Bristol**

**May 25-30: Amateur Championship, Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland**

**May 25-30: Amateur Championship, Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland**

**June 9-10: Landscape Industries '93, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire**

**July 15-18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Kent**

**August 2-4: BIGGA National Golf Tournament, Dunbar Golf Club, Scotland**

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

**September 7-9: IoG Show, Peterborough, Northants**

**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, York**