

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTHERN

Our lecture season has now finished and it was pleasing to see so many of our members attending. I trust you all found the presentations interesting and informative, whilst also enjoyed yourselves. Not many BIGGA members attended the quiz night, staged with our colleagues from the IoG, in fact it turned out to be a solo performance with Alan Gamble attending in isolation. I couldn't attend personally as I was at a secretaries meeting at Aldwark Manor, though Alan tells me he had a fine evening and did very well in the quiz. Thanks Alan, for waving the section flag.

Golf events are filling up quickly so don't delay in booking: £10.00 deposit to me at 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley, W. Yorkshire BD16 4RL. If you have not yet received information of our 1993 golf programme, please 'phone me on 0274 568128 and I shall endeavour to put it right.

Our friends in the trade are again being very generous, with Rocol Easyline Paints sponsoring our last mail-shot, Yorkshire Mowers again sponsoring our Invitation Day, Patissons the Roses Match and Chaplins our Autumn Tournament. Many thanks to you all, it is greatly appreciated.

The annual dinner took place at Shipley GC on Friday 19 March with some 70 members and friends attended, enjoying a first class meal and top rate entertainment. My thanks to those who helped make the night such a huge success.

As stated, our winter lecture series is over, the last being the Lloyds Workshop held at the STRI. I must thank Derrick Coad and his colleague Stan Duncan for presenting the workshop – very interesting with many pertinent questions answered. Thanks also to the STRI for the use of their premises at short notice.

Michael Lealman has become head greenkeeper at a new course being built near York, named the Forest of Galtres. We wish you well, Michael. It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that Ken Scruton, father of Gary Scruton of Greenkeeping Services, has passed away after a long illness. Condolences to his wife Mildred, and to Gary.



Are there any members who would like to attend a public speaking course and perhaps speak at BTME Harrogate, or even at the National Education Conference? Please contact me for further details.

PAT MURPHY

SURREY

'No news is good news' is a saying which often applies unless one is attempting to compile section notes with no golf events or lectures on which to report – together with zero information from within the section – then it becomes a 'no news is no news' situation!

By the time this appears our Spring Tournament

will have been played and the next section event, the Cresta Cup, will be looming. The Cresta is on Wednesday 8 June at West Surrey GC with entries closing on 25 May. Also please note that The Open is on our 'patch' this year and it would be good to see the Surrey section represented – either spectating or helping with the bunker raking etc.

Finally, would players in the Huxley Bowl try to play their matches promptly in order to keep the competition moving ahead throughout the summer.

ROGER TYDEMAN

AYRSHIRE

The first draw for the 200 Club, drawn at the Spring Meeting, means that results are not yet to hand as I write this in late March. However, winners will be announced in the next issue.

The Ayrshire Autumn Meeting will be held on 28 September at Old Prestwick GC, which should prove an excellent outing over this tremendous course. Also confirmed is a trip to the Stewarts of Edinburgh Turf Farm, for which a bus will be provided. This also should prove well worth while, for only today (Mar 31), Alan Miller told me that the recent weather had caused some of their newest turf to be literally blown away. They experienced very strong winds and with the ground being so dry the surface just disintegrated.

On the course maintenance side we are all busy

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getting our courses into immaculate order and right now I am preparing for the Scottish Boys Championship at the beginning of April. Imagine, 256 boys in the first round – who'd be a greenkeeper? But we all get there, so good luck to you all during the year.



Duncan is busy working down in England, so if anyone has anything for the magazine – fact or hearsay – call me instead on 0294 823210. I can just imagine the stampeede to get to the 'phone!

JIM PATON

CLEVELAND

Guy Longshaw gave a talk to our section on natural growth activators based on bacteria and fungi, which it is claimed will break down thatch into nutrients, thus reducing the need for nitrate fertilisers – we will wait and see. Temperature, which I think is vital, was not discussed. Another product is said to restore the natural balance of smelly or stagnant pools. Rex Kimberley also spoke, discussing organic fertilisers. Our thanks to Norman Sheddon for organising the meeting, which was well received by our members. In particular, we were pleased to welcome Brian Hall from the new course at Huntly Hall, Bretton, which is due to open in June. Another new course soon to open is Romanby, Northallerton.

Our section member Anthony Mears gave a slide show presentation to delegates at the National Education Conference recently, his subject being the Wild Side of Golf.

After the recent wet winter my club is programming a drainage policy, with a view to incorporating it into next year's budget. On heavy land, weakness in drainage is now so obvious.



Stuart Vickers is now acting as trainee first assistant at Brass Castle, Middlesbrough GC, working under George Malcolm's skillful eye.

BRUCE BURNELL

DEVON & CORNWALL

The section's March meeting was held at Woodbury Park GC, with lunch and an afternoon talk taking place at the Kings Arms, Otterton. Both venues are owned by the Carter family. Jeff Mills and his staff had the course in splendid condition and it was a pleasure to play our golf tournament over such a well designed new course.

Our golf comprised three competitions: The Supaturf Trophy for head greenkeepers & trade, the May & Baker Trophy for assistants, and the section's qualifier for the new Hayter Challenge Tournament. The results were: Supaturf Trophy 1st A.Ramsden (Budock Vean) 35pts. 2nd L.Millar (Warren) 34pts. 3rd A.Woolnough (Teignmouth) 33pts. May & Baker Trophy 1st M Scott (East Devon) 35 pts (results decided on back nine) from J Mitchell (Perranporth) 35 pts second and A James (Budock Vean) 35 pts third.

Qualifiers for the regional final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament to be held at Clevedon GC, Bristol on Friday 11 June are: (0-9) J Mitchell, A Ramsden, L Millar, J Welsford and R Whyman. (10-18) A Woolnough, B Ridgeway, E Barber, B Lewer and W Potter. (19-28) M Scott, A James, D Parr, N Macintyre and C Browning. Congratulations and good luck to all who qualified.

The section offers thanks to John Palfrey of Avoncrop for presenting the Supaturf prizes and to Paul Clifton of Rhone Poulenc for donating and presenting the May & Baker prizes.

Following lunch our educational talk was presented by Herbie Aarons on 'Golf Rules and Etiquette', his talk being most informative and one from which I am sure many of our higher handicap members gained valuable tips. I'd like to thank members who attended meetings during winter – as usual, you turned out in large numbers.

Our next meeting will be the section Guest Day on Wednesday 7 July, with tee times from 12 noon and a course tour and inspection for non-golfers starting from the club house at 4pm. Our evening meal will commence around 7pm with the new GTC education director, David Golding, our after-dinner speaker.



RICHARD WHYMAN

AROUND THE GREEN



LONDON

Congratulations are in order to all those who attended the recent pesticide course run by Jon Allbut Associates at Dyrham Park CC, for a 100% pass rate on PA1 and PA2a was achieved. Thanks to Dyrham Park for the friendly atmosphere and to Don Wilson for all his help.

Any members interested in training courses, especially tractor driving, chainsaw competence or COSHH, should contact me on 081 959 5629.



Finally, all those players who win our section golf events will go forward to represent the section versus Mid Anglia later in the year – thus giving everyone something extra to aim for – go for it!

TONY DUNSTAN

MID ANGLIA

The second winter lecture held on 2 February saw Jon Allbut presenting an update on recent developments relating to both Health and Safety and Pesticide regulations. Forty two members were entertained – the highest attendance figure for a meeting to date! Many thanks to Jon for a most informative talk and to all those who attended.

Our last lecture on 2 March was given by David Golding, the education officer of BIGGA. David gave an extensive talk on the topic of greenkeeper training in the past and gave some positive pointers as to its development in the future. Many thanks to David for his presentation, although it was disappointing to see only 19 members attending. Once again we must thank Beadlow Manor for the excellent facilities offered to us over the course of the lectures.

Section matches have been arranged against the London, Midlands and BB&O sections for later in the year, details to follow shortly. The final of the four ball knock-out competition will be played at Brocket Hall GC on 30 September and is once again being sponsored by Lodgeway Tractors.



Lectures for later this year and into 1994 are currently being arranged, as are other golfing fixtures. As soon as full details are available these will be published.

PAUL LOCKETT

NORTH WEST

Wednesday 24 March saw the last of our winter lectures staged at Bury GC, an interesting evening with David Furnival and Derek Hatton (No, not that Derek Hatton, the other one!), discussing lubricants. Some interesting information was divulged on how to get more miles out of your engine with lower maintenance costs. Unfortunately, the attendance figures were low, the reason being that Manchester United decided to play a home game just a few miles down the road on the same night – kicking off at the same time as our arranged start. I must write and ask them to liaise with me over next year's programme. That stated, I am sure Gary Worrell was delighted with the poor attendance as he managed to consume most of the sandwiches, prepared for thirty people!

May I remind those course managers and head greenkeepers who have received ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award application cards to complete and return them to me as soon as possible, our section nomination is required by 31 July.

The Spring Tournament will be played at Birchwood GC (Warrington) on Monday 10 May, this being a qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Trophy regional final to be played at Worksop on 9 June. The tee is available from 1.30 pm and tee times will be allocated on the day.

I will finish this report by thanking Bury GC for

allowing us the use of their facilities for our winter lectures, also head greenkeeper Dave Berry for organising the buffet on each occasion.



Have you any news to report? Why not contact me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

NORTH SCOTLAND

A welcome to Iain Bell who moves into the area as first assistant to Alan Dobbie at Boat of Garten. Iain has come up from Duddingston GC, Edinburgh. We also welcome new members William Morrison and Michael Nicol of Huntly and David Henderson of Bonar Bridge and Ardgay GC. David's club is currently a nine-hole layout midway between Tain and Dornoch on the old road. Last year they purchased some land adjacent to the course and I understand will soon begin constructing twelve new holes to go with six of those existing. It is an ambitious project as they are proposing to do much of the work themselves, raising funds through various ventures and obtaining grants from the region etc. We wish them every success and look forward to playing the new course in the future.

What with Bonar, the new course at Skibo and the upgrading of the Struie course at Dornoch we are certainly going to have plenty of variety for golf in the Dornoch Firth in the near future. Work has begun again on the Carnegie Course at Skibo. Over the winter Alex and his assistant Stuart Shaw have been putting in fairway bunkers and cutting back bushes for the contractors. I plan to go over sometime to see the progress being made. Perhaps I will report on it.

This month sees our Spring Meeting staged at Murcar Golf Club, Aberdeen and I hope to see a large turn-out of members. Chris Pearson is in charge and I'm sure he'll have the course well prepared for us. A forward date for your diaries is November 23 when we will have our AGM at Nairn Dunbar. I am hoping to arrange a tour around the three new holes to see how they are coming along with (maybe) a talk by the constructors.

Finally, if anyone has news which they would like to see in Around The Green, please call me on 0862 894402.



IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WALES

The last talk in our winter lecture programme was held on 10 March, with Huw Morgan discussing 'Spring Preparation at Southerndown Golf Club', his last presentation as a member of the South Wales section. I trust he will now join the Kent section of BIGGA. Our 15 April Spring Competition incorporating the Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier will have been held at Llanishen GC by the time this appears, but anticipated successes will (I hope) see a large attendance at Clevedon GC Bristol on 8 June for the regional finals.



Our sincere good wishes go to Dennis Archer, who in the near future will be re-admitted to hospital for a series of operations – come back fighting, Dennis!

PETER LACEY

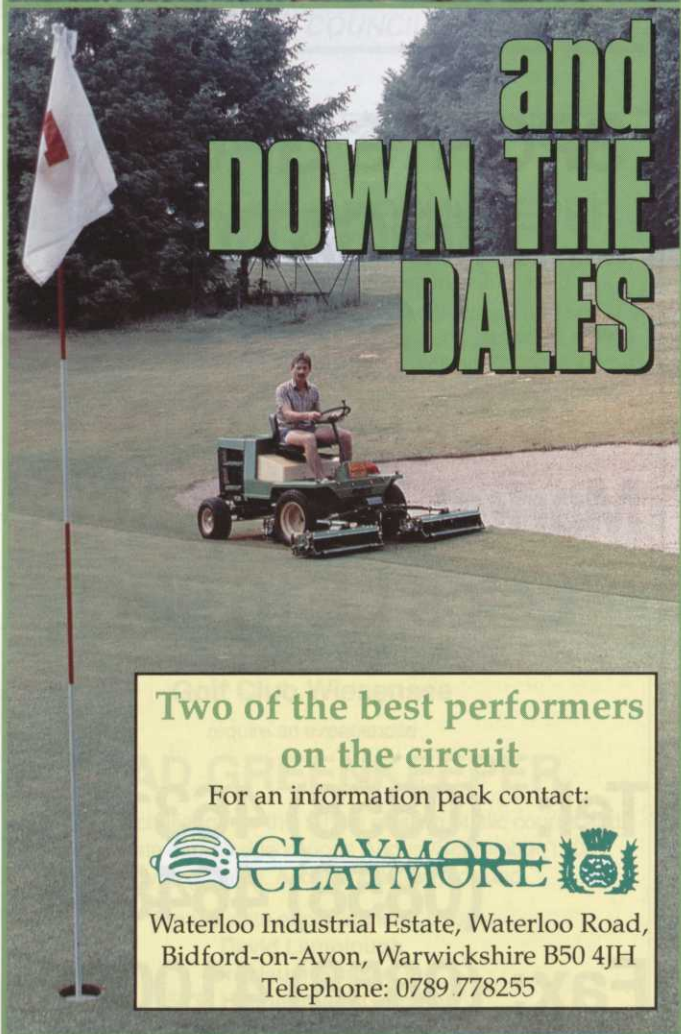
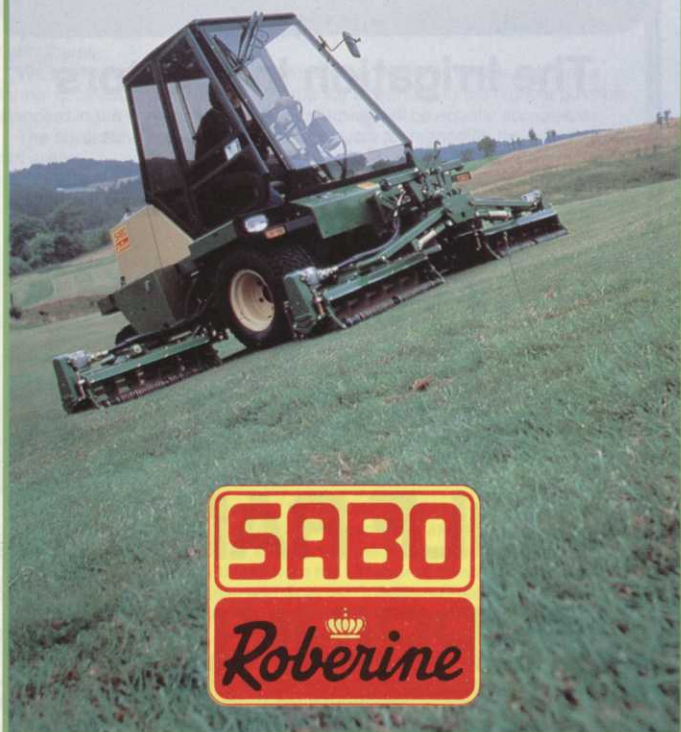
SOUTH WEST

Hotfoot back from the conference at Keele, I must again report on very high standards all round. A very professional show from the Association, its members, and especially its officials. Keele University turned out to be an excellent choice of venue, being accessible, clean and comfortable. The towels in my room were so fluffy I could hardly get my suitcase shut! The auditorium was likewise comfortable, with all the latest high-tech viewing equipment.

It would be very unfair to single out one speaker, but again, as last year, our American colleagues were superb. High-brow technical knowledge was liberally mixed with grass-roots greenkeeping with which we could all identify. I certainly look forward to next year, when at Warwick University I would hope to see more members of this section.

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AROUND THE GREEN



45 → overestimated: the Environmental Health Officers are on the move.



COSHH Assessments are also still available from our resident expert, Mr. Noel Stevens. This service can be arranged through me, or by contacting Noel direct on 0452 526111. In the meantime, I'll wish you a successful summer of greenkeeping, and look forward to seeing many of you at Enmore Park on 6 July.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTH EAST

On 24 March section members were invited by Abcon Top Dress Supplies to visit their plant and witness production of their top dressings. A full tour of the plant, under the guidance of Alan Taylor and his son Gavin, gave us a full run-down on the process from start to finish – and the ten greenkeepers who attended were most impressed by it all. Our sincere thanks to Abcon for providing a most enlightening tour, an excellent buffet lunch, and to everyone on their staff for ensuring that we had an enjoyable day.



Congratulations to Brian Hughes, assistant greenkeeper at Whickham GC, on becoming the proud father of a baby daughter.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

MIDLANDS

During February a group of our members visited Ransomes factory in Ipswich, where they were shown around and were able to see how machinery is designed – from raw steel to design and through to assembly. The section would like to thank both Ransomes and ET Breakwell for sponsoring the two day visit and for entertaining us so well.

On 26 March we held our final lecture of the winter series at Telford Country Club. Subjects covered were Jacobsen machinery and its maintenance, and Envirogreen and how it works. Both subjects prompted good discussion and made for an enjoyable afternoon. The section extends thanks to both Jacobsen and Envirogreen and especially to Oakley's, who provided refreshments and also a prize for the informal golf played in the morning. On a personal note thanks to Ivan Beetlestone, who did a fine job in organising the lectures during the winter.



The Summer Tournament is to be held at Kidderminster GC on Thursday 17 June with entries due in by 17 May. Anyone wishing to play but without an entry form may contact me on 0789 762912.

DEAN CLEAVER

MIDLANDS REGION – RYDER CUP 1993

Derek Ganning, course manager at The Belfry, has requested the help of a support team during the Ryder Cup, to be held over 24-26 September. A total of 24 members are required to assist from 20-26 September and though you'll get to see something of the action at this world-class match, unfortunately no accommodation is available. Anyone interested in attending should contact Dean Cleaver on 0789 762912.

COMING UP

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

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

July 5-8: Royal Show, NAC, Stoneleigh park, Warwickshire

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

July 18-24: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Palm Beach, Florida, USA

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