

Shutting down the system for winter

With tongue lodged firmly in cheek, Jack Wheeler, director of Watermation Maintenance Limited, suggested to editor White that the best possible tip he could give would be to provide his telephone number, thus saving readers the problems he describes as 'an endless list of pitfalls.' However, Jack insists that if you are going to undertake the shut-down task, the following are a few MUSTS.

- Start with the water supply. If you have a storage tank fed from the Water Authority main, turn off the stopcock and remove the plug from the base of the water meter. This item is often overlooked and an expensive error if replaced.
- The riser feeding the ball valve needs to be drained, and the arm and float removed. If this is not removed, when the tank freezes the float is forced upwards, causing damage to the valve seat or breaking the arm.
- Leave the tank full with water. If emptied, strong winds have been known to blow tanks off their concrete base. With a stream or lake as the water supply, remove the suction float and pipework.
- Pump House. Ensure that water cannot enter the pump house by shutting the suction valve. If this is inside the house and not underground, ensure that it is properly lagged, otherwise it will split and discharge the tank full of water. Remove both top and bottom plugs from the pump. There is a fair chance that corrosion or muck will block these, so rod them out. The pressure vessel needs draining of both water and air pressure. If the air remains in the vessel, undue strain will occur at the top and bottom flanges. Open all remaining pump house drain cocks. Obviously the pump must not run when drained, so remove pump fuses or open circuit breakers.
- On the course. Frost damage to pipework buried on the golf course in this country is rare. Manual hydrants should be opened at all the low greens and ditch crossings. Other than this, leaving the controller operating for a programmed one minute each week will ensure any water left in the pipes will be expelled through the pop-ups or auto drain valves. Furthermore, this will keep the solenoid pins from seizing up.

With all of the above completed, you should be able to relax for winter and enjoy Christmas.

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

On 28 October, ten BIGGA members met for their first official meeting, staged at De Hilversumsche, a club offering us a most hospitable welcome and the use of their board-room.

According to the agenda of about eight points, the meeting began with an explanation of the present situation within BIGGA, and of course the future, especially the Association's desire to become more active internationally.

A 'Master Plan' for Europe was brought forward and a proposal was made urging members to travel to Harrogate for BTME '94 in order to attend the next European Forum, where all kinds of ideas and good intentions will be discussed. Hopefully, some of these will be put into practice within a reasonable time-span.

On the subject of raising 'live' matters amongst members, one significant question was posed: 'what kind of relationship will there be between BIGGA Holland and the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association (NGA)'?

It must be made clear that this must be one of a positive and constructive nature. An invitation will be sent to the secretary of the NGA to meet and discuss such matters, whilst at the same time the Netherlands Golf Federation will be invited to meet BIGGA Holland members. Members will be kept up to date on these activities. We have agreed that our next meeting will take place in February 1994.

Further points discussed posed questions of 'how and where the Association might be of assistance to its members here. 1) The position of the course manager/head greenkeeper. 2) The level of maintenance of Dutch courses. It became clear that on education and training, we in Holland might benefit from UK programmes which have already proved their value in Britain.

At the time scheduled the first meeting came to an end, though with many things requiring further thought and planning. In the bar we enjoyed a few drinks, sandwiches etc. BIGGA Holland has been lucky to find local sponsorship so quickly, provided by Pro-Grass (Professionals in Grass service). Pro-Grass managing director, Jan van Mondfrans, (a BIGGA member), will support this foreign section in the immediate future and we are most grateful for his kind gesture.



My personal thanks to Rob Judels, who has provided me with the notes taken by him, vitally necessary if I am to make a full report, which will most certainly find its way onto Neil Thomas's desk at Aldwark Manor.

FREDERICK ten HAGE

KENT

September 15 saw our Autumn Tournament at Langley Park, a day blessed by a fine morning, though a dull afternoon, and all a welcome change from the very wet weather we seem to have had of late. The morning Stableford competition was a hotly contested affair, with Rob Lucas coming out on top with 33 points, just in front of Peter Biscoe and Neal Carter on 32. Peter, just second on back nine score, held up English pride and prevented a Welsh whitewash.

A Stableford was again the format after lunch, the Sta-Brite Shield this time, bringing out the best in the Scots. The head and shoulders winner (in more ways than one), clear above the field was Malcolm Arthur with 35 points, whilst keeping it in the family in second place came Andy Arthur with 30 points. Sneaking into third was Langley Park's very own Derek Gould. The best trade score was that of Brian Willmot, whilst nearest the pin prize, kindly donated by Derek Gould, was won by Russell Judd. We all had a very enjoyable day and express thanks to our gracious hosts at Langley Park for looking after us so well. The catering staff put on a fine spread and those of us who took the hearty breakfast at 7.45 am certainly appreciate the stamina

exhibited in providing us with such a fine evening roast dinner. Many thanks to Derek and his hard working green staff. I think we can all appreciate it was a rather odd late summer period, although not too hot and sunny, very dry and then into early autumn and lashings of rain. Thanks to Langley's captain, Ian Russell, for presenting the prizes and to our trade friends for again supporting our events, especially Chris Sharp and Sta-Brite for donating the splendid afternoon prizes.

Let me recount some freak events of the day. On the first hole in the morning Andy Arthur managed to wrap a seven iron round a tree, snapping the shaft in two. If that wasn't enough to cause a major twinge in a Scotsman's pocket, on the same hole in the afternoon his tee shot saw not only the ball go flying up the fairway, but also the driver head, this time the shaft having snapped at the socket. This would not have normally been such a financial disaster, but it was one of those £100 carbon shafted jobs!

Pattison's Brian Willmot appeared to be on a bit of a 'small game shoot' in the afternoon: not content with almost knocking seven bells out of a duck as his ball plummeted into the pond at the 18th hole (our 6th), his topped tee shot at the next nearly decapitated a squirrel. The poor creature was somewhat startled, one minute playing with his nuts, the next almost a trophy attached to his bag. Brian suggested he could have quite adequately hung both the squirrel and the duck on his bag, only this might have provoked an anti-golf stand from those opposed to blood sports, also it made me thankful we were not playing at Knole Park. Just imagine, a deer would take some attaching to a golf bag, certainly some carrying.

Apologies were received from the depleted Mid Kent contingent, this from their absent, love struck young hot-shot, Ian Rawlins. It appears he had to take his young sweetheart, who was flying away on her holidays, to the airport. I seem to remember at the Spring Tournament Ian was eagerly awaiting her return from a foreign holiday. Then someone queried why she takes so many holidays and why she appears always to go without Ian?

To round-off, I must apologise for not reporting the event when a small group played an informal afternoon of golf, courtesy of Mike Smith, at the new Moatlands course. I understand numbers were slightly depleted, as many of us were snowed under with work at the time. Stories of sand, sand, and still more sand have filtered back to me from those trapped by Moatlands' bunkers (or was it the northerly extremes of the Sahara Desert?). Bernard Didthams said that it generally took five full shots to reach from one end of a bunker to another. Perhaps he spent so much time in the bunkers he forgot to tell me about the curious placement of the trees.



PAUL COPSEY

CLEVELAND

At the time of writing (23 Sept), greenkeeping students on C&G block release courses have not received results from their previous year of work. This is unreasonable for students and I hope to see considerable improvements next year. Students should enrol without delay for new courses. This means pressure on colleges.

A wet September meant irrigation finished earlier than usual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared by 10 September.

Acting as an assessor for candidates in the north east who entered for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award, I must tell you what a great pleasure it was to visit their golf courses. The interesting variations and superb conditions presented - from the north east to Cheshire and North Wales - indicated that applicants had worked hard on presentation, also on keeping records regarding pesticides, safety requirements and COSHH. Final decisions were made at the sheds, both

inside and out, i.e. concrete floors for washing vehicles, thus ensuring cleanliness upon entering: Cleanliness = Safety.

The candidate from North Wales came very close to winning, but in the event Tony Mears (Dinsdale Spa GC) won the northern region nomination by a single point. We wish him luck. Our visits revealed a shortage of trained and certificated spray operators, bringing the observation that training in all aspects of greenkeeping is essential.

Diary dates: • 16 November at Darlington GC – AGM at 7.30pm followed by an address on turf diseases by Neil Baldwin. • 7 December, also at Darlington GC at 7.30pm, a quiz sponsored by Turf Care Products, plus free supper – don't miss either!



BRUCE BURNELL

WEST SCOTLAND

The Autumn Tournament was held at Drumpellier GC on 15 September, with home player Stephen Hogg taking the scratch prize with a score of 70. The day was sunny and dry with a healthy field of some fifty members, traders and guests taking part. Our thanks go to Stephen and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition and to the caterers and bar staff for a lovely meal and excellent service.

Other results: First class: 1st S Taylor (Killer-mont) 72-1=71. 2nd N Bulloch (Haggs Castle) 75-3=72 (BIH) 3rd G Kerr (Gleddoch House) 81-9=72. Second class: 1st S Cameron (Drumpellier) 84-18=66. 2nd B Hillen (Drumpellier) 88-18=70. 3rd A Brawley (E. Kilbride) 87-16=71. Third class: 1st A McDowall (Torrance House) 84-20=64. 2nd N Hendry (Langlands) 96-26=70. 3rd K McGuire (Drumpellier) 93-20=73. Apprentice Trophy: S Cameron (Drumpellier) 83+66=149. Trade: Richard Aitken 87-18=69. New Member: A Young (Dougalston) 111. Visitor: J Moylan (Gled-doch House) 104-27=77.

Our next section event is the Annual Dinner, held this year at the Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow, on Friday 26 November. Three excellent speakers have been confirmed and a good attendance is anticipated. Tickets are limited, so it must be a case of 'first come, first served'. Tickets may be obtained from any committee member, or call me on 886 3899.



SANDY BULLOCH

EAST SCOTLAND

Our annual Autumn Tournament was held on Tuesday 14 September at Ratho Park GC., when 55 members, guests and traders took part – despite very wet and windy conditions! All credit to Tom Murray and his crew for the excellent condition of the course, which everyone enjoyed. Ratho Park is always a very popular course and this day was no exception, despite the conditions. This was the second year running that the tournament had almost to be cancelled due to bad weather, and I'm inclined to think that perhaps next year we should change the date.

Results: Scratch: T Murray (Ratho Park). 1st class: P Bowden (Newbattle), 2nd class: R Thomson (Peebles), 3rd class: J Nisbet (Peebles). Veteran: J Lockerbie (Baberton), Aggregate: G Hobbs (Torphin), Trade: M Dennis (STS).

In the afternoon the final for the Richard Aitken Trophy took place, a knock-out tournament which begins at the start of each season, played in two-ball format. After a very thrilling game, R Frame and G Ferguson beat S Greenwood and G Wood on the very last green. Our grateful thanks go to all those who made this the excellent day it was, especially the captain and council for the courtesy of the course.

Only the day before we learned that Ralph Bullock, head greenkeeper at Seahouses GC, had retired – thus a small presentation was made to him. All our best wishes go to Ralph for a long and happy retirement, which he thoroughly deserves after all he has gone through this year.

Taking Ralph's place we have Alister Holmes, latterly first assistant at Goswick. Alister has been a very popular figure in the section for a number of years and we are all delighted that his chance has

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finally come. Certainly we wish him well in his new job.

Believe it or not, summer finally arrived in the east of Scotland at the start of September, when we enjoyed one full, glorious week. I even tried out my new irrigation system! However, the sunshine didn't last and it has rained solidly ever since. Well, there is always next year!

Weather-wise, in this part of the country we will be happy to wave good-bye to the year, hopeful that a mild winter may follow. There are still a number of important events to come and notification should be with you very soon. Let's not lose touch over the winter months, come along to every event and support your section to the utmost. Non-members will be made most welcome, especially as we shall do our best to persuade them into joining us as members in 1994.



WILLIE BLAIR

NORTH SCOTLAND

Congratulations to Wilson Morrison on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Alford GC and every success in his new job. Also to be congratulated is Paul Murphy, who is the North section's recipient of the Scottish Patrons Award. This award is in the form of a grant, which will take him to Harrogate in 1994, or on an educational course. He wins the nomination by having supported most BIGGA events during 1993 – from section outings to regional events, plus events of a national nature. Next time it could be you! To reiterate, every member in the section is eligible, so you now know what must be done. Our special thanks to our Patrons for this excellent prize.

Our Autumn Outing to Kirriemuir was a great success, for even the weather was good. We had 83 in attendance, with all bar two venturing onto Jim McCormack's excellently manicured course. Everybody at the club made us most welcome and nothing was too much trouble.

RESULTS: Scratch 1st George Paterson 71, 2nd Kevin Peace 75. Class One: Gary Tough 71-1=70, 2nd Andrew McRae 77-6=71, 3rd Stephen Sullivan 77-5=72. Class Two: 1st Sam Morrison 77-10=67, 2nd Eoin Riddell 77-7=70, 3rd Robert Hardie 77-7=70. Class Three: 1st (plus the Maclean Trophy for best nett score) Robert Allan 91-26=65, 2nd Steven Simpson 85-18=67, 3rd Stuart Hogg 98-26=72. Veteran: (Toro Trophy) Alisdair McLaren 76-6=70, 2nd Tom Simpson 92-20=72. Apprentice: 1st John Milne 76-5=71, 2nd Kevin Fowler 83-11=72. Trade Shield: Kevin Brunton 74. Guests: Equal first R McRae and R J Taylor (both 69). The Meldrum Trophy (spring and autumn aggregate) and Committee Glass: Sam Morrison. The M&M Trophy: (veteran aggregate) Arthur Williamson.

Thanks to George Hampton for the donation of a trophy for the Best Scratch score at the Autumn Meeting, won this year by George Paterson. Longest drive was Gary Tough, nearest the pin Steven Simpson and Paul Ross. Finally, the booby prize went to Duncan Adams! The BIGGA blazer was won by Gordon Moir and the four lucky winners in our latest 200 Club draw were (May £30) Keith Beaton of Turriff, (June £30) James McCormack of Kirriemuir, (July £40) Peter Tait of Inverurie, (August £100) Alick Mackay of Skibo by Dornoch. The final four monthly draws will take place at the AGM, along with two extra draws for education vouchers worth £150 each, for members to use towards either a trip to Harrogate, the National Conference, or a course held at BIGGA HQ or an approved college.

Later this month our AGM will be held, courtesy of the council of Nairn Dunbar GC, and sponsored by Souters of Stirling. We hope to start the day with talks by John Souter and Ian Hume of the

Scottish Golf Union, followed by a tour (weather permitting), of the new holes constructed by Souters, in turn followed by a light lunch. The annual Chairman versus Vice Chairman Match will then take place, and for those who want it, high tea will be available. The AGM will begin at 5.00 pm. It should be a great day.....and all it will cost is the price of your high tea (if you want it)! Let's have a good turn-out, so get your entries in now. This is your chance to have a say in the way things are run, so don't miss out.



IAIN MACLEOD

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The date set for the section AGM is 30 November, to be held at Alloa GC. If you have constructive ideas on what you would think should be happening in the section, or indeed in the Association, come along and put them to the committee. Prior to the AGM, John Souter will give a presentation on rootzone trials for greens and tees. The programme begins with Mr Souter's presentation at 11.00 am, followed by lunch at noon, the AGM starting at 1.45 pm.

Please note, the date of the annual dinner has been changed from Friday 3 December to Friday 10 December, again at Alloa GC. The guest speaker will be Tom (Tiny) Wharton OBE, FBIM, former top-class football referee. Tickets, £12.50 each, (including the presentation of 1993 golf trophies, plus a prize draw and followed by a disco), are available now – if you don't want to be disappointed, get your ticket(s) by contacting me (Tel 041 429 6499) or a member of the committee.

Congratulations to section member Alex Wallace of Dollar GC., who triumphed in the 'Over 55's' section of the Hayter Challenge Tournament at Sand Moor. Everyone who participated in this tournament had a great time and our special thanks go to Kim Macfie and everyone from Hayters for their help and support.

Prize draw tickets have been circulated and hopefully everyone is making an effort to sell their allocation, as this is the biggest fund-raiser for the section. From the 1992 draw £200 was donated to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, £250 to the Sunshine Coaches for Kids Appeal, whilst three section members gained an all expenses paid trip to the BTME at Harrogate – not bad for a section with under 200 members!

By popular demand, further social evenings at the ten-pin bowling centre at Falkirk will be organised during the winter, so get practicing! Thus far we have had zero response to the idea of an evening at Glenrothes Bowling Alley!

Details of events finalised thus far have been circulated to all members, but if you have not received them, get in touch with me (041 429 6499) and I will forward a list to you. If you wish to bring a member of your golf club committee to any of our events (except the AGM), they will be made most welcome.



JOHN CRAWFORD

AYRSHIRE

We had an excellent turn-out of 35 for the Autumn Outing at Old Prestwick on 28 September, a lovely autumn day, better than most of this year's summer, with golf played of the highest calibre. Indeed, it had to be, as Old Prestwick is a very stern test of golf played the old-fashioned way. We have to sincerely thank the committee and caterers at Old Prestwick for helping to make the day special, and course manager Murray Stewart for the fine condition of the links.

RESULTS: Scratch: I McNab (Dumfries and County) 73. First class: 1st S Higgins (Ardeer) 74-7=67, 2nd G Brown (Turnberry) 75-4=71, 3rd S Ross (Troon Municipal) 81-10=71. Second class: 1st J Johnstone (Turnberry) 87-16=71. 2nd S Mercer (Skelmorlie) 87-13=74, 3rd J Paton 92-18=74. Trade: K Brunton (Souters) 76-1=75.

The monthly draw has begun, with the first big win going to Steven Knaggs of Dumfries & County, gaining £100. Other winners are Keith Hardy, Neil Turner, Keith Erskine, David Knaggs, Brian Taylor and Andrew Gibson. Anyone wishing to enter can do so by sending a cheque to Jim Paton at West Kilbride.

Good luck messages to Brian Findlayson on taking over the reins at Kilmarnock Barrassie, and Jim Smith on moving to Ardeer from Kilmacolm, plus congratulations to Charlie Pickthall from Gatehouse of Fleet on winning the Best Student Award at Kyle and Carrick Training Centre, then failing narrowly to qualify for the TORO/PGA European Tour Student of the Year award. More on this elsewhere.

I have the sad duty to report the death of Harry Diamond's wife, Greta, after a long and brave fight against illness. Harry has asked me to pass on his deepest gratitude to those in the Association who have supported him and Greta over these times, and to give sincere thanks for the many expressions of sympathy received. Harry, our thoughts are with you and your family.

Finally, on a lighter note, spotted over the West Kilbride course the other week was a big red balloon filled with hot air (no, not Jimmy!), and carrying half a dozen German tourists. Apparently they find it easier to describe where they are on the radio if they land on a golf course rather than a



field. When last seen, they were heading for Turnberry and courses beyond. Our next get together will be at the AGM and the Christmas games night, details of which will be sent out soon.
DUNCAN GRAY

MIDLAND REGION

On 15 September the final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament was played at Sand Moor GC. Although the day stayed fine for us, some 2-3 inches of rain fell during the previous day, leaving the course very wet. This did not affect Mike Hughes however, who dropped only three shots over 27 holes on his way to overall victory and receipt of the Hayter Challenge Trophy - well done, Mike. The team award was won by the Northern Region, with our own Midlands Region team coming a close second. Congratulations to all of my team - you played well and represented your region with golf of the highest calibre. I thank Sand Moor GC for making us feel so welcome and the staff at BIGGA for organising such a grand event over two days.

SECTION NEWS:

A visit to the Jacobsen factory has been organised for 9 December, sponsored by Abbey Mowers in conjunction with Jacobsen. Numbers will be limited to about 25, with visitors being driven to the venue in a coach. Members wishing to go on this trip should contact me, not later than 28 November, Tel: 0789 762912.



DEAN CLEAVER

SURREY

Yet another highly successful section golf event was held when the Drift GC hosted the Parker's Salver on 8 September. Despite heavy rain on preceding days, the course was in first class shape and played as tight as ever! Ian Sutcliffe won his second consecutive section event, pipping Terry Edwards on a count-back with 36 Stableford points. Furthermore, I welcome the opportunity to name myself as placing third! Thanks went, as usual, to the club for first class hospitality and courtesy of the course, to Paul Weston and his team for the hard work required in presenting the course so well, and to Ron Jobson - who not only helped with the cards but brought along the prizes as well!

The Huxley Bowl has passed, with games being played promptly and in the usual friendly spirit expected. In the final, Dave Gibbs and Roger Glazier triumphed over Barry Robertson and R Halland. Well done to all finalists. Congratulations also to Mark Todd of Lingfield Park on achieving a double distinction in his Phase II City & Guilds at Plumpton College.

Our second winter lecture of the season will be a presentation by British Seed Houses on 6 December at New Zealand Artisans Club - please support these evenings. The trip to BTME is also worthy of support and anyone interested in taking advantage should contact Derek Walder for final details (not available at time of writing).

Finally, we bid farewell to two members of the Surrey committee who have left the area. Treasurer Robert Brewer has taken up his new position at

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Naunton Downs, whilst Mike Yorston, the man responsible for section handicaps, has moved to Bottley Park Hotel. I take this opportunity to not only wish them all the best, but also to thank them for the hard work they put in for the section. I also welcome Tony Iafate, who has recently joined our committee.

ROGER TYDEMAN

SOUTH WALES

The Ashburnham GC hosted this year's competition for the Presidents Shield, with weather that was warm, sunny, and made for golf - ideal conditions for this long and demanding course. Our thanks to Paul Hopkins and his green staff, for the course was in super condition. The day was sponsored by Kubota UK Ltd and our thanks go to them, especially our Kubota area representative, Colin Hennah, who had his work cut out keeping us entertained for two hours due to a faulty video recorder. His splendid efforts were greatly appreciated.

The winner of the Presidents Shield, with a low nett of 71 was Chris Thomas (Kubota tracksuit), runner-up Tony King 73 (overalls), low gross Gary Johnston 79 (Kubota umbrella and golf balls), runner-up Stephen Price 80 (overalls).

The winter evening lecture programme at Pen-coed College, Bridgend, will have started by the time this appears, but is as follows: (all on Wednesday's except November).

Thursday 11 November, John Hinton on Floronid fertilisers. 12 January, Richard Minton giving a chemical update. 9 February, Jim McKenzie on the Celtic Manor Golf Course and its development. 9 March, Lyn Davies on Conservation Management. 13 April, A seminar featuring Mechanisation on the golf course.

The format is the same as last year, using the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November, which is on Thursday. Each lecture will commence at 7.00 pm. Please make every effort to attend these events, for if they are to continue, they must have YOUR support!

Many of our local dealers have been holding Open Days and Demonstration Days this month (September). Ted Hopkins held his on the 23rd, at Wentloog, Newport. The day being well attended (so good to see) with many participating in the clay pigeon shoot. Many top brand names were on show, including Amazone, Iseki, Massey Ferguson, Dori, Hardi, Stihl, Hayter Beaver and many more.

On the 28th, Power Cut held their annual John Deere Roadshow, this year for the first time holding it at their own premises, Oaklands Mansion, Cwm-frwydd. Again the day was well attended, with around eighty viewing a vast array of machinery and attachments. An excellent demonstration of new and well established John Deere machinery took place, with the ever-efficient Howard Storey on hand to answer any queries.

On the 29th, Pyle & Kenfig was the venue for a Toro Workman demonstration day. Pro-Turf Equipment and Lely UK put together an excellent exhibition of the Workman 3200 and 3300D, together with a vast array of attachments. Around forty people attended and everybody was well impressed with the Workman truck. The truck's sturdiness, operator comfort and excellent manoeuvrability was plain for all to see. We wish Toro well and thank them for their support and sponsorship of our Matchplay Knockout Competition in 1993.

PETER LACEY

SHEFFIELD

Rain, rain go away... It didn't! Nevertheless, 27 stalwart Sheffield members braved the elements to

participate in the Autumn Tournament at Stocksbridge GC on 14 September. Derek Cheetham and his staff had been busy the day before, replacing the many tons of sand which had been washed out of the bunkers and working strenuously to present the course in fine order, despite horrendous weather conditions. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our thanks also to the Stocksbridge management for permission to hold the tournament, also to in-house staff for their hospitality and to Mrs Cox, the caterer, for a splendid meal.

The prize table was excellent - thanks to trade support from Yorkshire Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Aitken Sports and Amenity Turf Supplies.

Congratulations to all prizewinners, in particular to Ian Batty (deputy head at Stocksbridge). One wonders how he found the energy to play 18 holes after working so hard? Ian won the competition with 36 points, with Craig Batty second and Robin Grayson in third place.

Finally, our thanks go to all the members who took



part for making the competition a success. CALENDAR NOTE: Christmas Competition, 1 December, at Wortley GC, tee-off 10.30 am, followed by what is always a superb Christmas meal.

JANE RYAN

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting will again be held at Oakhampton GC on Wednesday 8 December, and in a repeat of last year, numbers for this event will be limited to eighty. The day will commence with a Greensome Stableford competition for the P J Flegg Trophy, while our non-golfing members will partake in the now traditional 'course-walk' before returning to the clubhouse for some festive 'spirit'! Our comedian this year will be Graham Gadd, a comic who comes to us on the recommendation of last year's entertainer.

Our congratulations to Jeff Mills, course manager at Woodbury Park GC, on his election to the National Board. I am sure that Jeff will serve our Association well.

To finish, the 'grapevine' informed me that Laughlan Miller had been so busy preparing his course for the assessment toward entry in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award that he forgot the date of the Hayter Challenge Tournament final. To his credit, upon discovering his error he jumped into his car and arrived in Leeds in time to compete - without once breaking the speed limit!

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

All members should have received a fixture card, listing all the events planned for the rest of this year and into 1994. Currently we are in the process of approaching golf clubs with a view to booking for 1995.

Section matches were played during August and September against the Midlands and London sections - and we were fairly successful. Dunstable Downs GC hosted the Midlands match and we managed a convincing win, while Knebworth GC was the venue for the London match, which resulted in a draw. Well done to all those who took part, and thanks to the clubs concerned for allowing the events to take place. A match against Bucks, Berks and Oxon was also arranged, but unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last moment.

Our good wishes to Jim Cassidy (Ashridge GC), who has been nominated as the section's representative in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. We can all sample the delights of Jim's course in December, when on Friday 3 December our Texas Scramble takes place. The form enclosed with the fixture card should be used to enter your team - send it to Chris Brook. The cost is £20 for members, £30 for guests, and numbers are limited, so get your entries in quickly! Teams entering should be aware that every player must bring a prize (value £5.00). Last year, for some reason, several players failed to do this.

The Midland Regional Seminar will be staged at Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Confer- ➔ 50

39 → ence Centre, situated just off junction 2 of the M69 in Leicestershire. The cost is £20 per delegate and a broad spectrum of topics, including Health & Safety, Education and Lubrication, will be covered by the speakers, together with greenkeepers talking about developments on their courses. When the seminar is over, Hardi Sprayers invite all delegates for coffee and a guided tour, their premises being just a few hundred yards from the conference centre.

Finally, as you will see from the fixture card, the Family Golf Centre at Graveley will be used this year for the section's lectures and talks. The centre is situated just off the A602 (Stevenage) junction of the A1. Our thanks to Beadlow Manor for the facilities provided in the past.
PAUL LOCKETT



LONDON

The match against Mid-Anglia in September at Knebworth resulted in a draw. The four-ball better-ball format was very enjoyable and I would like to thank the Mid-Anglia section and Knebworth GC for their hospitality and help throughout the day. I would also like to congratulate all our members who qualified for the Hayter Challenge Final at Sand Moor GC. Well done to Colin Forde (Mill Hill GC), Peter Preston (Wanstead GC), and Mick Sherris (Muswell Hill GC). Congratulations also to Richard Andrews (Highgate GC) on winning the regional nomination for the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper award. Results of the final will no doubt appear in this issue. Richard attended Oaklands in 1992/3 and passed all his exams to very high standard. He is continuing his education programme this year by attending Oaklands for the management course. Richard, we wish you well for the future.

This month we shall be running a chainsaw competence course at Oaklands, though the date has not been finalised. Anyone interested should contact me ASAP as places will be limited. The programme for our winter seminar at Oaklands College on 2 December has been agreed. The day

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will commence at 9.45am and the speakers are as follows: • Ed McCabe – Developing a course management policy. • Gordon Jaaback – The benefits of weather recording in golf course management. • Kevin Munt – Agrostis Stolonifera – The Facts. • Jack McMillan – Grass species – The Reality. A buffet lunch will be served and various suppliers will have information and products on display. The cost will be £8.50 per head and places may be reserved by contacting me or by returning an application form before 25 November. A draw will take place for the delegates attending and the winner will receive a day at the BTME in 1994. So come along, it's well worth it! Call me on 081-959-5629, evenings or weekends.
TONY DUNSTAN



SOUTH COAST

In the annual match against the South West section, held at Dunwood Park GC in September, the South Coast section was beaten by three games to two. Congratulations to Paul Worster and his team and our thanks to Mr Tingey and the officials at Dunwood Manor for their help and support.

I am pleased to inform members of our December competition, as follows: Tuesday 7 Dec at Royal Winchester GC, an 18 hole Stableford, teeing-off from 10.30 am onwards. The fee is £15.00 and the closing date is 27 November. Applications to me, please: BOB DENNIS, SPARSHOLT COLLEGE, SPARSHOLT, HANTS SO21 2NF. Be sure to include handicap details and enclose the correct fee. My

thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Farm Machinery Ltd., who are sponsoring this competition.



SOUTH WEST

I'm afraid I have a serious complaint concerning 'Setting the Standard', the video recently distributed by the Association. Having left the cassette lurking on the video shelf at home, I became aware that my family were watching it regularly, with the result that my wife now knows more about spray application than I do. Imagine the scene: we are lying together in bed, all is dark & still, the kids are asleep. I snuggle a little closer, my wife turns and breathes into my ear "Tell me the precise spray volume rate for Rovral?" I retreat, harbouring dark thoughts of dire consequences for BIGGA HQ.

The section team had a great day out in Hampshire in September, visiting the Dunwood Manor course at Romsey, the opposition being our friends from the South Coast section. Despite rainfall during the latter part of the round, Paul Legg and I had a super game around a tricky course and thanks to a couple of brave putts over the final holes won by the slenderest of margins: one-up. This obviously inspired the team, helping the South West to a rare victory by three games to two. Many thanks to the



South Coast and Dunwood Manor for the day. Please keep those applications for sprayer tests & tuition coming in, also note that further first aid & chainsaw training can be organised on demand.
PAUL WORSTER

NORTH WEST

At the Hayter Challenge Final at Sandmoor GC in September the Northern Region won the team prize and a cheque for £500. Also successful was Chris Hulme, the only NW qualifier, who won the 10-18 handicap section. Very well done all of you. How about the Ryder Cup? Europe may have lost the cup but Derek Ganning and his staff won where course presentation is concerned. Unfortunately I was unable to scrounge a ticket so I had to watch the matches on telly, seeing the most exciting golf possible. But I also enjoyed seeing the course, which was prepared and presented to the highest standards possible. Well done Derek, you did us proud.

News has just reached me that John Lowrey has been appointed head greenkeeper at Marple GC.



Welcome back into the game, John. The North West AGM will be held late in November, though date and venue have yet to be arranged. Any news, views, or complaints – ring me on 051 724 5412.
BERT CROSS

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IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE RING 0446 700130 or write to: Pro-Am Golf Services Ltd., Unit 20, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, South Glam., CF63 6RF

EVENTS DIARY

December 1-3: Golf Course Europe Conference and Exhibition, Paris.

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

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

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

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

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