

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTH SCOTLAND

Not much happening just now to report, either that or nobody is talking to me about it! Congratulations to the five lads from the North section who went to Dunbar for the BIGGA National Championships. They could make up only one team, so Gordon Moir elected himself non-playing captain (just as well, I hear) and the four proceeded to win the competition for our section. Well done Alick Mackay, Stephen Sullivan, Paul Murphy (he gets everywhere) and George Paterson. George merits extra praise for actually winning the individual prize (he was both low gross and low nett). George is enjoying a purple patch just now as he also retained the North Order of Merit, with fellow greenkeepers John Urquhart and Stevie Macintosh also finishing high up. Brian Fraser won his home club's 36 hole Open at Inverness – it's a pity he can't make our outings.....or is it? – and his 67 in the morning was a superb score. I'm told also that Gary Tough won the prestigious Edzell Club Championship Dalhousie Medal. With these and other greenkeepers performances people may wonder when the work gets done? The answer – get up very early if you want to see the green staff at work!

By the time this report reaches you the autumn/winter programmes will be up and run-

ning. I wish you all the best and if any of you have interesting jobs for this winter, please contact me and tell me about them.

Next month's report will carry a summary of our autumn jaunt to Kirriemuir (no balls or virgins, I'm afraid), which at the time of writing (August 31) has an entry of 80 – watch this space.

Three more new members to welcome: Barry Cueyne, Newtonmore GC, Alisdair Macleod, Stornaway GC, and Alan Kemp from Blair Atholl, who is a student at Elmwood College. All the best to Stuart Griffiths, who after working at Tain for the summer has gone to Elmwood College for a one year full-time course. I'm glad to report that Colin Mackay now has a full-time post over at Cruden Bay and will be starting college this winter – well done, Colin.



IAIN MACLEOD

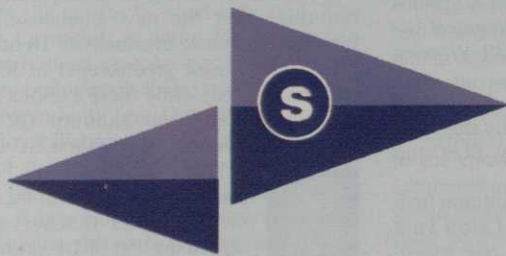
SOUTH WALES

On Tuesday 5 August at Southerndown GC the annual Secretaries v Greenkeepers match took place, with fine weather and a cool breeze blowing from the sea. The result was a win for the greenkeepers by four games to three – 'and about time too' – for this was the greenkeepers first win in six years! Yes, the last time we won

was back in 1987 and that also was at Southerndown. The winning pairs were: Mike Norfolk/Alan Richards, Gary Johnston/Patrick Jones, Tyrone Garland/Robert Johnston/Chriss Thomas. Our thanks to Southerndown GC, its staff, caterers and committee, also to Fred Crossman (from the secretaries) for his splendid organisation.

Royal Porthcawl GC hosted this year's Birdie Cup competition held on 17 August. Again the weather was kind, warm and sunny, and the course was as testing as ever. Our thanks go to Birds of Cowbridge for sponsoring the day and to Dave Ward and his staff and to all at Royal Porthcawl. Results: Best Gross, Birdie Cup-Mike Jones. Runner Up-Gerwyn Price. Best Nett, John Duncan Cup- Andrew Jenkins. Runner Up-Ted Thompson. It was great to see Ted back in action after two years in the wilderness (and taking second place as well) – we'll have to watch him! The semi-finalists in the PRO TURF sponsored matchplay competition are Mike Jones, Laurence Walter, Robert Frater and Douge Donne. Results will follow.

Good luck to both Tyrone Garland and Laurence Walter of Wenvoe Castle GC. Tyrone has been nominated to represent South Wales in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year, whilst Laurence is the only section entry to ➔ 30



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29 → make the Hayter Challenge Tournament final. (see *Hayter results*, this issue – editor).
PETER LACEY

MIDLANDS

On 9 August the Midlands played their Autumn Tournament at Copt Heath GC. The players found the course to be in great condition and expressed thanks to Harold Lewis and his staff.

On his own course Paul Loffman played great golf over 27 holes and won the event with a nett score of 98.5, whilst Mike Hughes shot the lowest gross, winning with a score of 111. We thank Copt Heath for the welcome extended to us and for excellent catering. Thanks also to our many trade colleagues for again sponsoring the tournament and for fine support so freely given.

After this event we travelled south the following day to Dunstable Downs GC, for a match against the Mid Anglia section. After last year's result Mid Anglia sought revenge and with a score I won't reveal... they certainly got it! Our thanks to Mid Anglia for organising such a wonderful day: it was a fine game on a nicely presented course, followed by an excellent meal – and enjoyed by everyone. The Midlands section extend special thanks to Bob Pilsbury, who kindly sponsored the day.
DEAN CLEAVER



SCOTTISH REGION

Members of the old SIGGA, especially members of the West section, will be saddened to learn of the death in July of Joe Braid, for many years head greenkeeper at Cawder Golf Club. Joe, in fact, only ever worked at Cawder – from young boy to head greenkeeper – and could boast a career in greenkeeping that spanned over 46 years. Joe was a keen member of the Greenkeepers Association, being both committee member and eventually chairman of the West section. Our deepest sympathies are extended to May, his wife, at this sad time.

Whilst talking to another old member of the West section, Johnny Bulloch (who, incidentally, was a great friend of Joe Braid), Johnny mentioned the recent BIGGA National Tournament at Dunbar, saying that it took him back some 54 years, when on 29 August 1939 he won a trophy at the British Tournament held at Ayr Belleisle. Johnny, along with all the trophy winners that year, held his trophy longer than anyone else, certainly for at least five years. Maybe it had something to do with the fact that two days after the British Tournament was staged, World War II broke out!
ELLIOTT SMALL



SURREY

Here I am on holiday in sunny Suffolk, writing what should have been written last week, but delayed in the hope of news arriving at the eleventh hour from within the section. However, all seems quiet over this holiday period with no births, deaths, marriages or career moves to report. I am fortunate under these circumstances to report on a splendid afternoon of golf enjoyed by nearly fifty section members at Sunningdale GC in mid-August. The old course was an impressive sight, with heather in flower and greens firm and true – only the golf played could spoil the occasion! This certainly wasn't the case for Ian Sutcliffe, who tallied 36 Stableford points to gain victory and thus was fittingly presented with the McMillan Tankard by Jack himself. Dave Langheim pipped Ronnie Christie on a count-back for second place – both on 35.

Around the Green



Following a superb spread of fare in the artisans clubhouse, our thanks were extended to Lawson Bingham and Robert Brewer, plus of course all the green staff at Sunningdale, for the fine condition of the course. In addition we acknowledged and thanked the Sunningdale Artisans Club for their hospitality, whilst not forgetting the caterers for a grand meal.

Please remember that the Autumn Tournament takes place at Epsom GC on Thursday 21 October – with closing date for entries being 7 October. The format is 27 holes Stableford, 7/8th stroke allowance. Please also note that a jacket and necktie must be worn in the clubhouse.

Following the success of last year's mini-bus trip to Harrogate for the BTME (run by the section in conjunction with Ian Kerry), we are considering a similar trip this coming January. Will members please contact a committee member if they are interested in this venture – thanks.
ROGER TYDEMAN

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Our thanks to Mark Barthelmie at Risboro Turf for organising the annual Jacobsen Tournament, held at Hazlemere G&CC on 4 August. Forty five greenkeepers from the area were invited, all of whom had the pleasure of playing a course in superb condition, thanks to Russell Lucas and his fine band of men. The event was Stableford off full handicap (max 18). RESULTS: 1st K Stevens Mentmore GC 44. 2nd S Edwards Whiteleaf GC 43. 3rd A Wells Chartridge Park GC 39. Wooden spoon John Witney 20.

Mark would like to thank all those that helped to make the day a success, particularly the trade – Jacobsen, Hardi, Iseki, Etesia, Saxon, BLEC and Lamborghini.

May I remind everybody that our Autumn Invitation Tournament is being held at Calcot Park GC on 11 October. The format is one greenkeeper and one guest invited from your golf club. If you have any queries, please contact me, though you should have already received the information by post.

The section will be running a mini-bus to BTME in January, so if you are interested in attending this important and informative function, please let me know ASAP so we can organise numbers.

After the go-karting we need more ideas for social events that you would like us to stage next year, also ideas for the '94 lecture programme. Write to me with your input or call me on 0628 829208.

Good luck to our chairman, Dave Childs, who is running the Dublin Marathon at the end of this month. We all hope to see him hobble forth at the AGM in December
RAY CLARK



EAST MIDLANDS

At the time of writing, the singles and pairs knock-out competitions are reaching a climax, despite my inability to remember where I have written down the results! Congratulations to Jamie Bedford and Adey Porter on already having reached the singles final. Double congratulations, in fact, to Adey, who will soon be taking

charge of the Crocketts Manor G&CC, a new development at Henley-in-Arden. Although technically out of our area, Adey will be staying with the East Midlands section.

I would like to give an early reminder for the 1993 Regional Seminar, which this year is to be held in the East Midlands. The venue is the Sketchley Grange Country House Hotel, situated at Burbage, Leicestershire, and it takes place on 24 November. In addition to the speakers, Hardi Sprayers have invited all those attending the seminar for coffee and a tour of their establishment – they are situated only a few hundred metres from the conference centre. Booking forms are available from Roger Willars. Tel: 0455 283053. It is hoped that section members will again support the event strongly.

This month we are, as ever, pleased to welcome new members: Mark Stanbrook of Springwater GC, Anthony Foulds of Manor GC., Uttoxeter, and David Sankey of The Leicestershire. With all The Leicestershire's staff now being members, Paddy McCarron could realise a long-standing ambition to manage a BIGGA five-a-side football team – if he could find anyone willing to play against Maurice Emery!
TONY HOWORTH



CLEVELAND

Roger Shaw, latterly course manager at Brancepeth Castle GC, has moved to a new course development at Romside Hotel, Carrville, Durham City.

George Malcolm, tells me the new course layout at Brass Castle is fully operational, six new holes having been built 'in-house' by George's own staff. Also at Brass Castle, Stuart Vickers is confirmed as first assistant – congratulations.

Brian Hall, head greenkeeper at the recently opened Hunley Hall GC at Brotton, East Cleveland, is busily turfing over large mounds (anti ram-raid) near the new clubhouse. The view from the clubhouse overlooks all 18 holes.

Ron Cole, head greenkeeper at Kirby Moor-side, has retired, while Steve Parsons has moved to Hunley Hall from Saltburn GC and Nick O'Grady has moved from Wilton GC to Saltburn GC.

The next meeting will be at Darlington GC on 21 October, a talk presented by Par 4 Irrigation Systems entitled 'Modern Control Systems'.
BRUCE BURNELL



SOUTH COAST

A new venture has been arranged for Wednesday 3 November – a golf game in the morning, followed by buffet lunch and an afternoon talk. East Dorset GC and British Seed Houses have kindly agreed to assist the section with this venture, a departure from our normal winter evening lecture, and I trust members will give the event their full support.

The date, let me remind you, is 3 November, with golf starting at 8.30 am. A buffet lunch will be available from 12.30 pm and the talk begins at 2.00 pm. Members wishing to take advantage of either golf, or lunch, must contact me on 0962 797288 (day) or 0962 733574 (evening) before 24 October, though no advance notice is required if you are coming only to listen to the lecture. East Dorset GC is situated at Hyde, Wareham, and the lecture will be given by Jonathan Franks.

Our other winter lectures are: • Tues. 7 Dec: Royal Winchester GC, 4.00 pm – AGM. • Wed. 12 Jan: Dorset College of Agric. 2.00 pm – Ed McCabe and Arthur King on 'Communications within a Golf Club'. • Wed. 2 Feb. Alresford GC, 4.00 pm. – Ken Barber, East Sussex



National GC. • Wed. 2 March.
Alresford GC, 7.00 pm. – David
Whitaker, Wisley GC.
BOB DENNIS

EAST OF ENGLAND

Kenwick Park GC, Louth, was the venue for the Rigby Taylor Trophy and our thanks are extended to head greenkeeper Ian Morton and his staff for the super conditions we enjoyed at this new course. Thanks also to Brain Booth and Stuart Jeffs, representing our sponsors, who presented some great prizes.

RESULTS: 1st Dave Hornsey 33 pts, 2nd Josh White 30 pts, 3rd Graeme MacDonald 27 pts, 4th Ian Morton 26 pts, 5th Mike Finney 26 pts.

It is hoped to organise a trip to Hardi Sprayers, Hinkley, Leicester, the proposed date being 18 November. Section members should now have received information regarding this trip, but if for some reason you've been missed – please contact me.



Finally, if you have any news, views, opinions or problems – get in touch.
MIKE FINNEY

NORTH WEST

It is with regret that I report sad news. Graham Teasdale, head greenkeeper at Swinton Park GC, has died after a long illness. Graham moved to Swinton Park from Dean Wood GC two years ago, though unfortunately he only enjoyed about one year of good health after his move. Our thoughts at this sad time are with his wife and two daughters.

Mike Goodhind, the head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC Buxton, is on the move and is going over the 'Big Hill' to take responsibility for managing the course at Tytherington GC. Mike has been at Cavendish for nine years and tells me they are a great club to work for. I'm sure that Cavendish will be sorry to lose him as he always kept the course in good condition. The vacancy at Cavendish is being filled by Julien Snape, latterly head greenkeeper at Marple GC. Good luck to both men in their new posts.

Talking recently to Tom O'Brien, head greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale, he tells me that re-construction of the remaining 13 greens starts in September (five have already been completed). I am sure he is now hoping for summer (the one we missed!) while this work is undertaken.

Now, how about some support for North West section events? A team of 16 was required to play a match against the Northern section, the event kindly sponsored by Patissons, who picked up the tab. After mentioning this event in section notes and still failing to get sufficient volunteers, I spent a small fortune in 'phone calls attempting to gather a team of 16, which eventually I managed, though unfortunately, despite promises of attendance, only 13 members turned up! The result (obviously) was a win for the Northern section, although I understand it was a close match and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Similarly, a visit to GEM was organised for 25 August and this was publicised in the section notes on two occasions. Three days before the event I had the embarrassing task of ringing Andy Hardy, who had made arrangements for catering etc, cancelling the trip. Only three members (plus me) applied to go! I know there can be problems with getting time off, but with nearly 500 members in the North West section I would expect better support.

On a better note, the Autumn Tournament at Mere G&CC on Thursday 21 October will begin with soup and sandwiches at noon, the 18 hole medal round teeing off at 1.00pm, followed by an evening meal and presentation. All applications to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton,

Around the Green



Stockport. SH12 LHX. Please include your deposit of £10. Latest date for entries 18 October. Any complaints, news or enquiries, please call me on 051 724 5412.
BERT CROSS

SOUTH WEST

August is the holiday month and I'm on mine – currently enjoying some rare sunshine in the Lyme Regis area of East Devon. The weatherman has just appeared on the TV screen, he smiles confidently, but half way through his forecast we realise that he is cunningly standing directly in front of a large area of low pressure and the smile is looking more apologetic by the minute. As he finishes – is that a bead of perspiration on his brow? – the kids start squabbling, the wife bad-temperedly packs away the beach gear and starts thumbing through country house brochures. I can hardly wait. Still, we did manage a game of golf last week. I played a reasonable shot to the first green and affluently marked the ball with a pound coin. My elder son looked horrified as I carried my bag to the edge of the green and bellowed "Dad, you're not going to leave that pound there, are you?"

May I take this opportunity to welcome the dozen or so new members who have taken advantage of the half-year discount and recently joined the section. Entry forms for the autumn – winter programme will be in the post soon, and there should be something for everyone: golf events; lectures; a visit to the Ransomes factory, and training days. I hope you will all feel able to join in as active section members.

Finally, as this won't appear until October, I'll wish everyone the best of luck during the period of autumn maintenance. I'm probably preaching to the converted when I say 'keep the lines of communication open'. A little consultation can go an awful long way toward smoothing over some of the potential problems this trying time can bring. I remember being stopped by a member of my last club, half way through a green with the Ryan Greens Aire, only to be asked "why, when this green is so good, do you have to wreck it by doing that?" He was one of many who genuinely did not appreciate that the greens would not stay in top class condition for very long if basic maintenance was neglected. A brief explanation on the notice board in the 'Captain's Newsletter' helped a lot in this respect. Happy hollow coring!
PAUL WORSTER



NORTHERN

I am pleased to report that there were no problems in raising a team this year to play in the 'Battle of the Roses'. Only two members were unable to accept the invitation, as they were playing in the National at Dunbar. I am also pleased to report that the Northern Team looked splendid in their beautiful white sweaters, given to each player (see photo). Do you recognize the member without a white sweater? It is our chairman, Phillip Taylor, who was not playing golf. I must thank those who accepted the invitation to play for Yorkshire versus Lancashire and I am delighted also to inform of our team's success, winning back the Shield from Bert Cross and his

team. It was four years since Lancashire last won, in 1992, so lets hope it's at least another four years before they win again! Well done the North, represented by Messrs Midgley, Lealman, Storey, Jarvis, Smith, Collins, Kirkbright, Gamble, Gee, Johnson, Waite, Spencer, Linley, Oxley, Potter and Mennell. I must thank Fulford Golf Club for extending the courtesy of their course to us, also our colleague Mark Mennell and his team for preparing the course. Everyone who played was complimentary about the conditions and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Further thanks must go to Peter Marshall and his employer, Patisson's, for their continued sponsorship of the above event and support for our association.

Invitation Day was held at Pannal GC on 17 August, a great success, with the sun shining (as it did last year) all day. Everyone attending enjoyed the event, which again was sponsored by Yorkshire Mowers. Our thanks to John Price and Tony Dodson for making all the arrangements and getting the prizes in place. Incidentally, in conversation with John Price it came to light that since his involvement with the sponsorship (over five years), it has always been sunny – all I can say is, long may you continue sponsoring this event. I must thank our colleague Allan Gamble and his team for preparing an excellent course, also Pannal GC for making us welcome and extending courtesy of the course to us.

The Results:- 1st M. GUY – C. THOMPSON 62, 2nd J. WAITE – D. HARTIGAN 69, 3rd R. SMITH – J. SAMUEL 70, 4th R. GEE – F. MALLINSON 70, 5th K. CHRISTIE – R. BELL 70, 6th G. HOPE – R. ELLIS 70, 7th M. HANNAN – M. BAXTER 71, 8th R. EMSLEY – J. NEWTON 71.

Last month I had nothing to report, but this month has certainly made up for it. First of all, congratulations to Mr & Mrs John Waite, who are expecting their first baby after five years of marriage. Johns current handicap is 16 and I wonder if it will go higher or lower after the event? Best of luck to you both. I've also heard that Bob Raistrick, head greenkeeper at Queensbury GC, is retiring and that Martin Shaw is taking over. I wish you both good fortune and may all your problems be little ones. I also learned that Ron Gaul at Kirkbymoorside GC retired recently. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Some news of 'the trade': Graham Walker (GEM) has been promoted (he's been given a new car) and the new GEM rep is Alan Dyson. Congratulations to you both. Whilst writing about GEM, I am in the process of organising a trip to Gem's plant in the winter, details later. Glen Hardcastle, who many will know from his days at Trident, has now parked his car and returned to greenkeeping, taking the post of course manager at Leeds Golf Centre, Wike Ridge GC. I wish these folk all the best and look forward to meeting them during our winter lecture series.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome the following new members: Barrie Darsley, Grimsby GC, Alistair Cobbett, Mid York GC, Christopher Berry, Allerthorpe Park GC, and Alan Speight, Michael Stockhill, Richard Revell and Wayne Briggs, all of Redhall Services, Redhall Estate. If any new member requires any information please call me on 0274 568128
PAT MURPHY



Northern Golf Team

The emergency first aid course, our first training course in 1993, was staged on August 20 and was a great success. We thank the staff of St. John Ambulance Brigade for the valuable information so expertly given. A better response for such training events is, I believe, required of section members in order that their education may be further improved and to also comply with current legislation. Remember, you are never too old to learn!

The regional seminar is at Hadlow College this month, so do try to attend. The winter seminar will be on 2 December at Oaklands College and the cost for the day is £8.50, including lunch. Please come along and invite your secretary or chairman to attend also. You will, I am sure, gain considerable benefit from listening to the excellent speakers, all of whom will speak on subjects that are of importance to our industry.

The Turkey Trot will be held at Hadley Wood GC on November 11 commencing at 11.00 am. Entry forms will be sent to you for this last golf event of the year and members should note that the AGM will follow the meal. Nominations or propositions for the agenda are required (in writing) and should arrive 14 days prior to the meeting. Please forward such details to our secretary: Barry Moggridge, Flat 3, Hadley Wood GC, Beech Hill, Barnet, Herts. EN4 0JJ.



TONY DUNSTAN

EAST ANGLIA

I've always said that greenkeepers would end up in Happy Valley....well our lot ended up in Fynn Valley, which is pretty close. Being there, it was hard to believe that two years ago we would have been walking in a cornfield. Praise was given to 'Toddy' for the layout and condition of the course, this coming in particular from the owner, Mr Tony Tirrell, who was there to welcome us. Praise must also go to Mick Offord, the head greenkeeper, for presenting the course in such excellent condition.

The results: (0-18) 1st Peter Howard 38 pts, 2nd Sam Sylvester 37pts, 3rd Richard Pride 36 pts, (19-28) 1st Steve Davison 40 pts, 2nd Kevin Bunn 39 pts, 3rd Steve Millard 38 pts Guest prize: Cyril Fuller 42 pts. Prizes were donated by CWM, Toro, CWM, Does, CMW, Hayter, CMW, Rushbrooks, CMW, and Parker Hart. That should make up for all the times I've left CMW off the list in the past - sorry Mike! Our thanks once again to all at Happy - sorry - Fynn Valley!

Our second report is from Sam, reporting from Thorndon Park (as I was again on holiday). An excellent day was enjoyed by a band of 32 players. Weather good, hospitality superb (they're a good lot, those Essex boys). The course was in super 'nick' and Sam reports 'the greens were too fast', though he wasn't complaining and, of course, was in amongst the prizes again.

The results: (0-17) First and winner of the Vic-tor Autumn Cup, Andy Sheehan (on countback) 34 pts, 2nd, Sam Sylvester 34 pts (I bet he was sick, nevertheless well done Sam), 3rd Richard Pride 33 pts. (18-28) 1st Toddy Huddleston 32 pts, 2nd Glen Rayfield 30 pts, 3rd Gerry Steggalls, 29 pts, Guest - Eddie Cottage 34 pts. Nearest the pin sponsors were: 2nd Parker Hart, won by Mike Peters. 5th Parker Hart won by Andy Sheehan (under four feet and he missed the putt!). 12th Rigby Taylor won by Frank Daniels, 15th Parker Hart won by Jim Timms. The longest drive, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, was won by Roland Hughes. Other trade prizes from CMW, Synchemicals, Rhone Poulenc, SISIS, Does, ICI, Sta-Brite and CMW.

Our next meeting is at Yarmouth & Caister on 6 October, See you there.

MICK LATHROPE



Around the Green



DEVON & CORNWALL

Five candidates competed for the honour of representing Devon and Cornwall in the forthcoming ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. In scoring, the section committee decided to use the Master Greenkeeper assessment paper to mark each of the five courses, and these were visited by Jeff Mills and Steve Redman.

Only half a point separated first and second place and our congratulations go to Lauchlan Miller, head greenkeeper at Dawlish Warren GC, who went forward to represent the section in the regional final, selected subsequently to represent the region in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year finals, to be held on Dec. 6-7 at Aldwark Manor. I am sure Laughlan will be an excellent representative for our region and we wish him good luck in the final.

Our AGM will be held at Torquay GC on Wednesday November 17 and, as usual, this day will commence with golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, with prizes kindly donated by DGM and Lely. The section's AGM will follow lunch, and this year we will be seeking three new committee members as our current serving chairman (Bill Pile), vice-chairman (Brian Summers), and president (Don Hunt) will not seek re-election. On behalf of all section members I would like to thank these gentlemen for all their hard work, put in over many years. The section will require one member from Cornwall, one from Devon, and one from



RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH EAST

On 20 July we held our annual match against the North East secretaries at Foxton Hall GC, the result being a halved match at three all, thus giving the greenkeepers retention of the salver! Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of the course, and to the head greenkeeper and his staff for excellent playing conditions. A personal observation, I hope the Foxton hall secretary takes heed next time he sees swallows swooping low on the fairways, for this action means it is going to rain, not what he thought!

Well, there are quite a lot of people on the move in the section, starting with me. I've moved to a new 18 hole development at Matfen Hall and can be con-

tacted on 0661 886084. Needless to say, any member who wished to visit Matfen Hall will be most welcome. Congratulations to Clive Patterson, formerly of Arcot Hall, who has returned to the Isle of Man, also to David Jennings, formerly of Newbiggin, who is now first assistant at Morpeth. Finally, I believe Glen Barter, latterly of South Shields, has taken the job of head greenkeeper at Seahouses - best of luck to you, lads. May I also congratulate Caroline Malone, who worked at Alnwick in the past, on joining the greenkeeping ranks once again. Caroline, I wish you well in the future.

The match against Cleveland will probably take place this month (October) - details to be advised. Finally, congratulations to Tony McLure (Whickham) on representing his country in the two-man team event staged in August, England v France.



JIMMY RICHARDSON

EAST SCOTLAND

Dunbar Golf Club was, as you all know, the venue for the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament, played on a course presented to the highest order in true Scottish links fashion. Our grateful thanks go to the captain & committee of Dunbar GC, and in particular to Graham Wood and his staff for wonderful playing conditions. A great number of people left with fond memories, for believe it or not, Dunbar is the driest part of the country and boasts the highest sunshine record in Scotland. This was certainly the case during the championship, with the wind cutting the grass and continually drying the course. Many of Graham's staff worked through the night, watering the greens constantly, though this all came to no avail when the winds rose at dawn, drying them out again. As Graham said: "That's sods law."

The tournament certainly was well run, → 46




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Please phone for more details

35 → and thanks must go to Neil, Edna & Elliott for their organisation – and of course to our main sponsors, ICI, for three great days.

On the social side everything appeared to go very well: the skittles and whisky tasting evening attracting a good number and the banquet on Tuesday evening was first class. All of these 'events within an event' have to be organised well in advance and the social committee from East Scotland worked hard over the year to make them happen. Day trips for the ladies were also organised, but for one reason or another these fell by the wayside – a pity, as we're sure the ladies would have enjoyed them. Grateful thanks then to the following, for making the social side the success it was: Alan Ronaldson the piper, Cecil George for his 'Address to the Haggis'; Kirsty Greenwood, the excellent dancer; plus Fiona & mum Agnes Greenwood for their assistance, and comedian Gary Dennis. The social committee consisted of 'yours truly', Stewart & Agnes Greenwood and Steve Dixon. To all who took part in the tournament we say 'haste ye back.'

With this event behind us we can now concentrate on section events: The Willie Woods Memorial event this month (19 October) sees us again returning to Dunbar, with the AGM taking place on 24 November, followed by the annual dance on 4 December (at Turnhouse). Returning to the Willie Woods event, we are delighted to have a new sponsor – Huxley's Grass Machinery – who have kindly offered to donate the prizes. I've met the local agent, George Brown, and the final details are almost to hand. Information regarding all events (including the winter programme), will soon be posted to section members.



WILLIE BLAIR

SUSSEX

The weather forecasters said 'warm with a few showers'. Fact – torrential rain and blowing a 'hooli' from tee-off until conclusion of the first round! Anyway, our mid-summer (?) 36 hole tournament saw us at the newly opened Singing Hills GC, near Brighton..... and how well course manager Richard Quelch and his team have done. The greens, sown with pure creeping bent, have been a struggle, but on the day they looked and putted superbly. The tees and fairways were well manicured and the general feeling of our forty-plus members was that Singing Hills, once matured, will be one of the best courses in the south. Certainly it is hoped the section will be invited back – not only to try our hand again on the existing 18, but to sample the new nine holes, opened in August.

The morning round was sponsored by Farmura, with Jim Coppin in attendance to present the prizes: Results – 1st Stefan Antolic, 2nd Les

Around the Green



Shrubb, 3rd Bruce Cruickshank. Trade & Guests: David Eastland.

The afternoon Stableford got off to a better start, for not only had the weather improved dramatically but everybody was well satisfied with the superb lunch provided by the club. We tee'd off from both first and tenth, due to the popularity of the course, the round kindly sponsored by Turf Iron of Australia. Jim Coppin again presented the prizes, telling us also that he was leaving Farmura to join the Australian company – in order to fully pursue their interests in the UK – we wish him every success. Results: 1st Martin Broomfield, 2nd Chris Allen, 3rd Roland Hughes. There was a special prize for Steve Voguls, who came in with just one point. As they say, 'it's the taking part that counts.'

The section is indebted to Singing Hills for their generous hospitality, with special thanks to Derek Howe and his staff (the caterers of three superb meals), and to Richard and his boys for all the effort put into the course -thank you.

Finally, we welcome Jon Budd, a new first assistant to George Barr at Ham Manor, and offer congratulations to Dave Ranger on his new appointment as head greenkeeper at Horscham Park GC.



MARK WILTON

NORTH WALES

On 18 August a group from the North Wales section visited the Gem Professional factory in Oswaldtwistle, witnessing the process and production of top dressings, fertilisers, and many other products made at the Gem factory. On behalf of those who made the journey, our thanks to Terry Adamson for organising the trip (especially the coach!), and to John Harris and Andy Hardy, for their hospitality and for providing an excellent and interesting tour. Also a big thanks to the coach driver for a most enjoyable journey.

In December (date still to be decided) we

will be holding our Christmas competition at Llangollen GC, so once again, when these forms come out, get them filled in and sent back as soon as possible – don't forget the entrance fee!

With winter nearly upon us we hope to organise seminars for the winter period. We would also like to present a first aid course at Northop College, but as you will appreciate, we need to



know how many people are interested before we set a price and date. Please, if you have an interest in first aid, give me a call on 0248 713490.

DAVID PROCTOR

MID ANGLIA

The Autumn Tournament will again be staged at Woburn G&CC, this year on 26 October. The format has been changed slightly to accommodate our AGM – with 18 holes in the morning, followed by lunch, the AGM itself being held in the afternoon. The meeting will start at 3.00 pm approx., though this time may be altered depending on starting times for the golf. Because of the slight delay in confirmation of this event, entries will be accepted until 15 October – by form only and with cheque – to Chris Brook.

By the time you read this column the Lodge-way Four-Ball final will have been played – over 27 holes at Brocket Hall GC. Results will be published in November. The semi-finals produced the following results: D Low & A Freeman (Northants County) beat I Oliver & D Croxton (Cold Ashby). P Lockett & R Coogan (South Beds) beat R McKeown (Arley) & K Bunting (Ashridge). David Low and Tony Freeman were eventual winners over the Cold Ashby pair, but it took an incredible 40 holes of golf to separate them! Thanks to Chas Ayres for again organising the event and to his company – Lodgeway Tractor Co – for its continued support.

One piece of news concerns David Murphy, who many of you will know as the rep for Sta-Brite. David has left to join a fairly new company – Driving Force Leisure – which started last year. Good luck David.



PAUL LOCKETT

EVENTS DIARY

- October 10-11: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.
- October 12-13: Kubota Challenge, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire
- November 4-5: Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association Trade Exhibition, Ballsbridge, Dublin.
- 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.

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