

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

In Holland we presently have 12 BIGGA members, all of whom have received an invitation to attend our first ever meeting, which is organised to take place this month (September). Sponsorship will be arranged locally to cover expenses and whenever we feel payments need to be made these will be allocated – in order that we may operate on a professional basis. A report of our meeting will be sent to BIGGA HQ.

On a personal level, I have a visit to Scandinavia planned for October and will meet with Stig Persson, (journalist, member of the Swedish Golf Federation, Swedish Greenkeepers Association, and BIGGA), and visit his golf course in Sweden. David Golding (Greenkeepers Training Committee), has asked me to contact the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association to discuss and promote the GTC education programme, details of which were requested by the NGA via the Netherlands Golf Federation. I have spoken to the NGA chairman, Ties Straatman, offering him my assistance whenever it is needed.



FREDERICK ten HAGE

## NORTH WEST

I have just returned from The Open at Royal St Georges, where volunteer greenkeepers assembled once more to form a greenkeeping support team. This gathering now appears to have taken on the role of an annual reunion, not only for greenkeepers from the British Isles, but also from Sweden and America. It also provides the opportunity to witness some of the finest golf one may ever expect to see – and from inside the ropes! The course was a credit to Derek Scarborough and his staff, who must be relieved that all their preparation is behind them, though they now have the nightmare job of getting things back to normal after thousands of trampling feet, tons of scaffolding and miles upon miles of cables have taken their toll on the course. But don't worry lads, you have about eight years before you start again!

Talking of well-presented courses, the NW section had the pleasure of playing their summer tournament on a well presented course at Warrington GC. recently. Les Kernott and his staff had the course in lovely condition and must be feeling pleased with all the kind comments, not only from greenkeepers but also from members of Warrington GC. I thank the club for their hospitality, the caterers for lovely meals, and Parker Hart, Rite Feed, and Rufford Top Dressing for helping to swell the prize table. The winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy was Neil Wolfrey with a gross 73 nett 70. May I also congratulate Anthony Davies, head greenkeeper at Prestbury GC, who passed his M.G.C. and will be presented with his reward

at the BTME in 1994. Well done, Anthony.

The next tournament will be the Autumn Tournament at Mere GC on Thursday 21 October. The usual arrangements apply, with soup and sandwiches served from noon 'till 12-30, followed by an 18 hole medal round, all rounded off with an evening meal and prize presentation. Your deposit of £10 must accompany an application to play, and the closing date for entries is 14 October. All applications to Paul Pearse, 1, Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport. SK12 1HX. Smart dress is essential. Preparing now to go to the National Tournament at Dunbar, I am hoping that whilst away the NW section will beat the Northern section in 'The Roses' match and retain the trophy.



Please don't let me down lads, or I will have to take some stick from Mick Hannam following last year's comments. Any problems or queries please ring 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

## SOUTH WALES

This years Match Play Knockout competition, sponsored by PRO TURF Equipment of Carmarthen, has completed its first round, with the following results: Mike Jones beat Mike Norfolk, Malcolm Davies beat Philip Swain, Robert Johnston beat Gary Johnston (no relation), Laurence Walter beat Philip Huish, Nigel Owens beat Tyrone Garland, Douge Donne beat Peter Lacey, Robert Frater beat Julian Bartlett Jones, and Andrew Jenkins (father) beat Idwell Morris. Our thanks to PRO TURF for their continuing support.

Our evening lecture programme for the oncoming winter is nearing completion and details will be with you shortly.

Congratulations to both Ceri and Joanne Richards on their tying of the knot on July 24th, also to Andrew Jenkins and Emma on the birth of their 8lb 4oz baby daughter, Laura Ashley. A warm welcome to all our new members, especially Judy Ann Weekes (our second lady member), Gary Johnston and James McKenzie.

A word of warning to those awaiting application forms for both the workshop and seminar at Cannington College on 12 October and 23 November respectively – demand will be great, so get those forms back as soon as possible in order to ensure your place is reserved. Any news or information will be greatly appreciated, 'phone me on 0792 233923.



PETER LACEY

## EAST SCOTLAND

I again had the pleasure of being one of the support team at this year's Open Championship at Royal St Georges. A great week was had by all, with Neil and his staff certainly flying the flag where BIGGA is concerned. It was

nice to meet up again with all the old faces and already we are looking forward to 1994 and The Open at Turnberry.

Our annual Committee Match was held on 10 June at Royal Burgess, again sponsored by Scottish Grass Machinery. Our grateful thanks go to them. The Eddie Holt Trophy was won for the first time by 'yours truly' with a nett 71, though only on count-back. Our thanks as always to Royal Burgess for the courtesy of their course and clubhouse facilities, and certainly not forgetting Roger and his staff for the excellent playing conditions – t'was a pity the weather couldn't be kinder.

Forthcoming events are the Autumn Tournament on 14 September at Ratho Park, the East versus North East match on 28 September at Goswick, and the Willie Woods Tournament on 19 October. Notification of these events will be issued shortly.

Don't forget to obtain your tickets for the annual Dinner Dance at Turnhouse on Friday 3 December. These are selling quickly, so don't be disappointed by booking late.

Winter lecture programmes are almost finalised and notification will be issued soon. The 'big one' this year is the Health & Safety lecture at Oatridge College and golf clubs and members alike will receive information concerning this, as Health and Safety is the one thing that affects us all – we are hoping for a large turnout.

I am pleased indeed to welcome new members to the section and hope that they will attend our many tournaments, lectures etc. Over the past five years, membership in the section has been on the increase and it is hoped that this trend will continue. There are still vast numbers who are not members and we are working on these. It is in everyone's interest to be a member of the Association, with the advantages far outweighing the disadvantages – ask any member.

I don't have to tell you of the dreadful weather we have all experienced. This has been the coldest, wettest summer I can remember, with many courses flooded and more closures during this year than any other. At the beginning of '93 I put in a new automatic sprinkler system and have yet to use it! Lets hope we see some sunshine shortly.



I am always looking for news for the magazine, so anyone with information should contact me, no matter how insignificant.

WILLIE BLAIR

## SOUTH COAST

Details of our Autumn Tournament are as follows: – Venue: High Post GC., Great Durnford, Salisbury. Date: Tuesday 5 October. Format: 36 hole Greensome. Fee: £13 per person. Closing date: 25 September. Teeing off: 8.30 a.m.

Each member is requested to bring along

either a non-greenkeeper amateur partner from their own club, or a fellow greenkeeper from another club. Applications to play, with handicap details and fee, to Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset. DT11 8EA, Tel. 0258 861482.

Fixture cards listing all section and regional events for 1994 are available upon request. Please let me hear from you, so that you can fully participate in all of your Association's activities.

In the Summer Tournament held at Alresford GC, 46 players took part, with local knowledge ruling the day as members and guests of Alresford GC swept up nearly all the prizes.

Results: First – Bob Dennis and Brian Young 47 points, second – Derek Curtis and John Walden 45 points, third Eddie Fox and Peter Kimmins 45 points – all of whom represented the home club. Fourth were Martin Harper and Malcolm Taylor (Andover GC), with 44 points. The prize for nearest the pin was won by Joe Burdett, with the longest drive winner being Mark Webb.

The competition was played over the club's new 18 hole layout, conceived and planned by Mark Webb, head greenkeeper at the club, and his assistant Barry Young, with the assistance of club professional Malcolm Scott. Members I spoke to were impressed with the new arrangement and the quality of the greens.

Thanks are due to our sponsors, Parker Hart and Roffey Brothers, for providing the prizes. David Haskell and Peter Hampton represented the sponsors and they also enjoyed their afternoon of golf.

It was a pleasure also to have Bill Young, one of our honorary life members, in attendance. Bill has the distinction of having been both the head greenkeeper and club professional at Alresford in times past and has a fund of stories about golfers and their peculiar ways!

The connection between Alresford GC and BIGGA goes back a long way, which is much appreciated by members. I would like to place on record our thanks to all the officials at the club.

BOB DENNIS

## SOUTH WEST

The thunderstorms of last month have now largely died away, leaving another problem – flies. I've never seen so many of the little devils swarming around the course. There is, you'll be pleased to read, a remedy which can be particularly useful when playing golf. The flies are attracted to cheap perfume. The answer, therefore, is to purchase a bottle and sprinkle it over your opponent. This gives the immediate advantage of playing in a relatively fly-free zone, also of your opponent conceding after nine holes and heading for the showers in an effort to become separated from his personal troupe of little black friends.

No such problems, however, at Enmore Park for the annual Summer Tournament, where a good turn-out in deepest, darkest Somerset saw a most enjoyable day of golf under bright and breezy conditions on a very well prepared course. Our thanks go to Robin and his staff, the catering staff, and of course the club for their hospitality. In this day and age it is quite a commitment for a golf club to shut its course while local greenkeepers enjoy full courtesy, and the South West Section is very grateful to all those clubs prepared to do so.

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The results of the Summer Tournament are: 1st P Baynton 95-24=71 (on last nine), 2nd S Shipley 82-11=71. 3rd M Powell 98-24=72. 4th A Johnson 101-28=73. 5th C Jack 101-28=73. The Head Greenkeepers Cup was won by M Pearce 93-18=75, and the Trade Prize by M Samuel 99-28=71. Two's were scored by D Neale and P Worster. Prizes were generously donated by Messrs Avoncrop, Roffey Brothers, Barenbrug, and Rigby Taylor – Thanks to them all.

It is hoped that we can continue with training programmes through the autumn and winter, with Pesticide Application, Chainsaw Maintenance & Operation, First Aid, and Health & Safety at Work all subjects which the average greenkeeper needs to be conversant with. Please indicate your interest to me in writing or by telephone (but beware of the answering machine), as soon as possible. The sooner the better, as it makes forward planning much easier. I should point out that we have yet to have a complete failure and our instructors have been most impressed with the levels of knowledge and understanding. No one need feel afraid to come forward – you can only do yourselves good by taking this training.

It is also hoped to run 'information' days on pest control (i.e. rabbits, moles etc.), and the accurate recording of weather. We are indebted to Fairways Pest Control, and Gordon Jaaback BSc. Agric., for these days. Dates will follow shortly, please indicate your interest.

The next full section meeting is the AGM at Kingsdown GC on November 18, this preceded on November 10 by a visit to Ransomes factory, sponsored by T.H. Whites. Application forms will be posted during late September-October. The AGM will also be my swan-song as section secretary, for I will be standing down after ten years, due to pressure of work and having a handicapped son who needs my attention more than you lot! Finally, my elder son was rebuked by his teacher for saying "Oh Christ!" in class. When asked what it meant exactly, he replied 'it usually means that Daddy can't find a space in the car park!'



PAUL WORSTER

## LONDON

The Summer Tournament was held at Muswell Hill GC on July 12, and following a cloudy start to the day, the afternoon by all accounts developed into a splendid affair. The field of 37 competitors enjoyed a course that was in excellent shape, this clearly reflected in the high standard of golf witnessed. The Sta-Brite Shield was presented to Stuart Green, who scored 39 points. In second place with 37 points was Paul Cooper, this including a back nine score of 22 points. In third place was Mick Sherris, also with a score of 37 points. The nearest the pin prizes went to Doug Smith and Dick Dunne, both hitting excellent shots, with the longest drive being struck by David Paterson on the 16th.

Our after-dinner talk was given by Graham Paul from Sta-Brite, his presentation on water

quality and pesticide contamination being extremely interesting and prompting many questions. Our special thanks to him for standing in at the last moment, also to Linda Exley and Sara Clarke for their help throughout the day. The support from the trade was, as always, appreciated and we thank CMW, G. Browns, Parker Hart, Rigby Taylor, Risboro' Turf, and Sta-Brite for their contributions. Finally I would like to thank Muswell Hill GC for their hospitality and the catering manager



for providing an excellent meal. Our next golf event is at Brookmans Park GC on 6 October – so get those entry forms in!

TONY DUNSTAN

## NORTH SCOTLAND

Well, another Open Championship has come and gone. Paul Murphy and 'your's truly' were the North members present, although ex North member Neil Metcalf was there also, as he is a member of the Sandwich staff. We flew down to Heathrow and fellow team member Ronan McKeown took us down to Sandwich. Everything ran smoothly, thanks to HQ staff and David Wood and the lads of the South East region, whilst not forgetting the first tee 'Generals', Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson. One of the many highlights of the week was the Saturday evening football match against the Ring and Brymer chefs. The greenkeepers ran out as 10-4 winners and if Dundee United still seek a replacement for Duncan Ferguson they need look no further than Paul Murphy! All in all it was a great, if sleepless, week with much done to cement European relationships (private joke!). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate support team member, Paul Seago, on his appointment to Gullane Golf Club, we welcome him to Scotland and wish him all the best.

A new competition launched in Ross-shire and Sutherland Counties to find the Champion of Champions reached its climax at Tain recently. The brain-child of Brora's Robin Wilson, all Club Champions, County Champions and four-day Open winners were invited to compete in a matchplay tournament. The winner was Muir of Ord greenkeeper, Steven MacIntoch.

Robert Hardie of Strathpeffer was the man on form in his club's one round Open. He aced the tenth hole on his way to a 69-8= 61 and first prize. This month sees our Autumn Tournament at Kirriemuir. We look forward to visiting Jim McCormack's course, where I'm sure there will be the usual large turn-out. Let's hope for a decent day weather-wise. I'll see you all there.

Good luck to the Scottish Team in the Hayter Challenge Tournament, to be staged later this month at Sand Moor, Leeds.

One new member this month, Stuart Griffiths of Tain. That's four out of five members of my staff in BIGGA – and I'm working on the other one!

Finally, congratulations to Dundee College for, at last, gaining approved status for Greenkeeping Education. It's good that the the North section has an approved college within its area and we wish Graham Carr and the staff all the best.

IAIN MACLEOD

## NORTH WALES

First, I must apologise to Mr P Shaw of High Speed Oils for failing to include High Speed



Oils in my notes for the June issue, the winner of their prize being A Hughes of Portmadoc GC – once again my apologies.

Dates for your diaries: On September 29 or 30 we hope to run a coach to Haydock Park for the trade show. Those interested in attending should contact Terry Adamson or me.

On October 6 our Autumn Golf Competition will be held at Pwllheli GC, the cost being £11.00 for members and £14.00 for guests. I plead yet again, get those forms back early!

A First Aid course will be held at Northop College during the winter months – providing we have enough people willing to attend. For further details phone me, or B Anderson on 0745 826695.



DAVID PROCTOR

### EAST MIDLANDS

First of all, I would like to apologise to all section members who may have thought I had emigrated – it's just that having had little to report, I have refrained from troubling the editor with my usual banal prose.

The section's Autumn Tournament this year is scheduled to take place on 21 September at Ruddington Grange GC., Ruddington, Notts. and entry forms/details should be with you by the time you read this. If not, and you wish to enter, please call me on 0509 650140. As usual, this competition will be the qualifier for the Breakwell's match and, along with the results from the Spring Tournament, also for the annual East versus West Midlands game sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Regarding the latter, we are 'at home' this year and well overdue a win.

Well done to all those members who represented the East Midlands at the Hayter Challenge regional final in July. We finished third in the team event, with Russell Allen coming second in his group and Mark Bindley fourth (on count-back) in his, just out of the prizes.

The section is pleased to welcome new members – Dean Cooper and Steven Heap, both of Rothley Park, Anthony Russell of Lingdale, and as an associate member, Nicholas Birch, currently working at Ramsdale Park Golf Centre. I am proud to report that the section's greenkeeper membership has just passed one hundred!

See you all at Ruddington.

TONY HOWARTH

### BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

July has been a hectic one for the section, with two very enjoyable golf matches having been played. The first match was held at Harewood Downs GC on 20 July, though unfortunately the Mid-Anglia section had to pull out, so a Committee v Section event was held instead. I'm very glad to say the committee ran out winners, though no thanks to me, as I lost my match five and four! Our thanks to Harewood Downs GC and to club secretary, Mick Cannon, for all his help, also to Steve Bryant and his staff for producing a stern test for us all and not forgetting Nora Davis and her catering crew for providing us with an excellent buffet.

The second match was held at Calcot Park GC on 26 July and was our annual 'needle' against the club secretaries. The weather held true, the course was in excellent condition, and we were lucky enough to have a very tight result go our way, three to two with one halved match. That includes Simon and Steven from Calcot, who very tactfully lost their

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matches against the secretary and past secretary respectively! As always the company was great, the match being played in the very best of spirits, and I have no doubt this will continue to be enjoyed for a long time to come. For the time being the secretaries will have to lick their wounds, waiting until next year at Sonning GC to (maybe) getting their own back (anyone would think I was gloating!). By the way, I won my match this time! Thanks to Calcot Park and secretary Alan Bray for organising the secretaries team, Simon Robinson and his staff for the excellent course, and the catering staff for a wonderful meal.

The section will be running a mini-bus to BTME in January, those interested should let me know ASAP so that numbers may be organised – please! After the go-karting session we need more ideas for social events that



you would like to see staged next year, also ideas for next year's lecture programme. Either ring me (0628 829208) or write with your input.

RAY CLARK

### KENT

Perhaps just time to remind you that our regional seminar on the topic of '365 Days A Year Golf' is taking place at Hadlow College on 27 October. We hope for a good attendance, not only from greenkeepers but also from golf club officials, and that everyone participates in what we believe will be a lively afternoon of debate. Already we have seen some heated response to Mike Travers' article in Greenkeeper International, so hopefully this will continue as a sensitive topic. For my part, I think that much of the criticism and comment levelled at the article was unfair and unjustified. Perhaps to stir things up a bit more, I will state that I am a believer in the 365 days a year ideal, in all but the very extremes of weather. I am very lucky that my course over lays gravel, and knowing my site for nearly 20 years I am confident that I can achieve my aims.

I sometimes question the commitment of others, especially the short-sightedness of management at many private clubs, when they fail to adequately invest in the manpower, skills, materials and machinery for varying tasks or to tackle on-going problems, also the failure to allow maintenance tasks to be carried out at correct times due to 'that very important autumn fixture'. Finally, the undue and ill-considered meddling of some green committees in pressurising greenkeepers, especially with regard to the over-watering of greens in summer – don't we all know that this leads to stinking, diseased 'bogs' in winter and ultimately to temporary greens?

I feel that our management practices should be progressive, professional, and most of all positive. For some of you 'young uns' here are some wise old words to ponder: 'You do not get good greens out of a bag of fertiliser or a hose pipe', 'Go into the winter with your greens as dry as possible' and 'Avoid watering

in September'.

On a lighter note, it was good to see many familiar faces at The Open at Royal St. Georges. I'm sure those attending thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and the experience. On separate days, David Wood and I raked bunkers for the group comprising Tom Kite, Peter Fowler and Mark Roe. May I say, "Thanks Tom, you're a real nice chap, a thorough gentleman, and thanks for the golf ball". As for Roe and Fowler...!

Hopefully another visit to the now open London Golf Club is imminent. The interest in the last visit was almost as staggering as the project itself.

You may already know that secretary David Wood now doubles as our regional administrator. Rumours abound as to whether he will have to cut out three games of golf a week to find the time. And talking of rumours, with many companies pulling out of the IoG Peterborough Show, could we all be trekking back to a race course near a well known royal castle next year?

As for me, well the name remains the same, although we must now say 'Course' and not 'Club', and it is great to be back doing some positive work for a professional, golf-based,



company. The course is coming along nicely, and THERE IS NO GREEN COMMITTEE, just me! Have I died and gone to heaven?  
PAUL COPSEY

### SHEFFIELD

To begin, I have been asked by David Golding to pass on his sincere thanks to the committee and members of the Sheffield Section of BIGGA for the beautiful, engraved rose-bowl which Barry Heaney presented to him at The Open Championship. David wrote to me, saying "Whilst the recent changes with the GTC resulted in me having to choose between BIGGA and GTC, I trust that anyone who knows me well enough will always understand that the greenkeeper and his or her future remains at the forefront of my mind." We wish David all the best and look forward to working very closely with him at section level in the future.

Winter Lectures: I am pleased to inform you that permission to hold our monthly meetings at Rotherham GC, starting on 7 October and ending on 7 April 1994, has been granted. The lectures will be on the first Thursday in the month, starting at 2.00pm. Please make every effort to support your section. Dates for your diary: October 7, November 4, December 2, February 3, March 3 April 7.

Congratulations to Martin Scothern (Wollaton Park GC) in qualifying at Worksop GC for the Hayter Final to be played at Sandmoor GC, Leeds. Good luck Martin, keep the flag flying for Sheffield.

Our Annual Golf Tournament was held on 21 July at Lindrick GC., with a splendid turnout of 50 players competed for the 27 hole medal competition. The day ran very smoothly and a fine time was had by all. Sincere thanks to Lindrick members for allowing us courtesy of their course, also to Kevin Hazlehurst (course manager) for presenting us with a superb course – the rough certainly sorted the men from the boys! It was very much appreciated to be graced with the presence of Lindrick green chairman, Mr John Boddy. Mr Boddy welcomed us to the club, played golf with us, dined with us and kindly presented the prizes – marvellous.

→ 36

31 → Prize Winners: Gross – Martin Scothern 106, Nett – L Mason 100, P Lyons 104.5, A Whittington 107, C Hooper, 108.5, K Kirham 109.5, P Heaney 112. Guest prize – Brian Booth (Rigby Taylor). Our thanks to the trade who contributed prizes: Atkins Sports, Steve Boroughs, Rigby Taylor, Parker Hart and Purdey's, and a special vote of thanks to Nancy Park (Lindrick) for her kind contribution to the prize table. Lastly our thanks to Barry and Joan Heaney for making the arrangements on our behalf.

I am pleased to announce that the new rep. for Trident in Yorkshire is Mike Brear. Mike was a greenkeeper at Abbeydale GC for some 15 years. We wish him well in his new venture.



JANE RYAN

## SURREY

Walton Heath GC recently hosted the annual England versus Scotland match, and on a course in fine condition the trophy was retained by England by six games to four, many matches going to the last green. Thanks to the club for again hosting a section golf fixture and to Clive and the Walton boys for the hard work carried out on the course.

On the subject of hard work, who saw Dave Andrews on the TV Open highlights, raking the massive sleeper-faced bunker on the fourth? Well done to all section members who helped out, I understand a good time was enjoyed by all.

Derek informs me that this year's Huxley Bowl has progressed (at the time of writing) extremely smoothly to the semi-final stage – well done to all competitors for getting their games played on time and notifying Derek of the results.

On the education front, the committee has been looking at the North East Surrey College of Technology with a view to it becoming a 'recognised' college for Surrey. Currently they are running NVQ courses in greenkeeping.

A fixture for your diary is the Autumn Tournament at Epsom GC on Thursday 21 October – closing date for entries 7 October. This will comprise a 27 hole Stableford, ploughman's lunch and three course evening meal, all for the incredibly low price of just £27.00. Also make note that David White will be our guest speaker at Walton Heath on Wednesday 3 November.

ROGER TYDEMAN

## MID ANGLIA

It was Mid Anglia's turn to host the regional final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament in July, Northants County GC being selected as the venue. Although I was unable to attend, the course was by all accounts in superb condition – so thanks to David Low and his staff, who obviously beavered away before the event!

The event was particularly successful for the section, the team prize being won outright and three players qualifying for the final at Sand Moor this month, these being John Gentles (Griffin GC), John Moorhouse (Brocket hall GC) and Dave Piggott (Leighton Buzzard GC). Congratulations to you all and I hope you do well in the final.

The section's Summer Tournament, a 36 hole medal, was held on 27 July at St Neots GC. Thirty members attended and found the rain and windy conditions difficult, producing some quite high scores and several 'no-returns'. However, the weather improved for the afternoon and the day was enjoyed by all. Full credit must go to the top three, who produced the fol-

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lowing scores: 1st John Moorhouse (Brocket Hall) 70+72=142. 2nd Tony Freeman (Northants County) 70+73=143. 3rd David Forsyth (Mid Herts) 69+77=146. Best a.m. score Leon Cant (Brocket Hall), best p.m. score Neil Whitaker (Woburn). Our sincere thanks to the officers of St Neots for the courtesy of their course and for the hospitality shown to us, also to Martin Lay and his team for producing excellent playing surfaces. Our sponsors were Boughton Loam, represented by Mike Franklin, and we acknowledge with appreciation Mike's efforts and help during the tournament.

The next golf fixture is the Autumn Tournament at Woburn G&CC in late October. The exact date will be published in October; the day planned to combine golf with our section AGM. Fixture cards, listing events for the remainder of '93 and into '94, will be with you soon.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their help and support, particularly Gerald Bruce, John Wells and Chris Brook, all of whom put much time and effort into ensuring the smooth running of the section.



PAUL LOCKETT

## CLEVELAND

The autumn programme is being prepared. May I remind student greenkeepers that they should be contacting their colleges NOW, in order to book courses for 1994 – don't leave it too late.

Some thoughts on preparing winter greens: start a programme of winter work, i.e. drainage, renovation or construction, as soon as possible, as next year arrives all too soon. It is wise to complete construction work before Christmas if greens or tees are to be in play from May next – early planning is essential.

The new course at Romanby, Northallerton, opened late in July.

Players are required for the match against the N.E. section, a team of 12 being needed for the game scheduled to take place on 27 September. Contact G Munro on 785195 or G Pyle on 784491.

The annual match Greenkeepers versus Eaglescliffe (green committee) ended in a draw. Thanks to all for an enjoyable evening



BRUCE BURNELL

## DEVON & CORNWALL

The section's guest day was held again at Launceston GC on Wednesday 7 July, the format being fourball better ball for the Jacobsen Trophy, sponsored this year by MST, Jacobsen dealers for the section. We thank Launceston GC for allowing us the use of their facilities, also the club staff who made our day so successful, with special thanks to George Bailey and his team, who had the course in excellent condition.

Following the evening meal, Mr D Bassett, managing director of MST, presented the prizes to the lucky winners: 1st T Martin & B Long (Torquay) 41 pts. 2nd M Gilbert & R Japes (Launceston) 40 pts. 3rd B Ridgeway & K Mitchelmoor (Fingle Glen) 39 pts.

To conclude the day our after-dinner speaker, David Golding (now education director with the GTC) spoke on NVQ's and the role the GTC has to play in greenkeeper training. Our thanks to David for making the long journey to Cornwall.

The section's first meeting of the winter season will be at Bowood Park GC on Wednesday 27 October, playing a Stableford in the morning for the D O Hunt Trophy, followed by an educational talk by Gordon Child on his management policy at Churston. Please make sure you return entries to me before the closing date, as meals must be booked in advance. Note also that there is a likelihood of limited tee times at meetings this season, as many more are entering our competitions – avoid disappointment by returning entries (with the correct payment) as soon as possible.

Regional dates for your diary are 12 October for the first regional workshop at Cannington College, where Jim Arthur, Donald Steel and Mark Pierson will present papers on golf course construction, design and maintenance. Also the regional seminar on 23 November at Cannington,



where speakers will be Derek Green on Dry Patch, Derek Ganning on The Belfry, Barry Cooper on Drainage, and Master Greenkeeper, Kerran Daly. Please book early.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## EAST OF ENGLAND

All section members should now be in receipt of details concerning the fourth competition of the season, to be staged at Peterborough Milton GC during the last week in September. It is also planned to hold a winter meeting this year, in conjunction with the AGM, in December – watch this column for details!

Congratulations to Fred Cobb (Newark Park GC) and Daniel Wells (Burghley Park GC) in qualifying at Church Brampton Golf Club for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, to be staged later this month at Sand Moor. We wish them both good fortune.

Congratulations must also go to Mark Jones (Ely City GC), who has been nominated as our section representative for the ICI Premier



Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Should any members have any news, or views that they would like to see aired, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

MIKE FINNEY

## MIDLANDS

Following news from The Belfry, I have to inform members that The Belfry have decided they no longer need the greenkeeping support team, requested some months ago, for this year's Ryder Cup. I can but apologise to those members of BIGGA who were prepared to give freely of their time, many making firm commitments and even giving up holiday time in order to be available on the day's requested.

News came to me recently of the sudden death of Sam Hagen, course manager at the Vale GC. Sam, aged 35, was well known to members of several sections within the region, working at Kibworth GC for some time before moving to The Belfry, where he played a big role in the success of the last Ryder Cup. Sam then undertook the challenge of constructing a new golf course at Lynham in Oxfordshire, leaving when construction was drawing to a close to take up what was to be his final challenge, management of the Vale Golf Club, where he remained for the past two years. Our thoughts go out to his wife and three children at this sad time.

DEAN CLEAVER