

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The first real frost of the season did not help head greenkeeper Graeme Downie and his staff prepare Braehead GC for our final golf tournament of the season. But the sun did eventually break through and the course was in first-class order by the time the 50 section members and guests teed off.

The sun didn't last too long, however, and we ended up with a day of blustery showers. Nevertheless, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves, especially the winners:

Best nett agr spring and autumn - J Ellis, Glenbervie, 148; best scratch - W Whitfield, Stirling, 71; best nett - R Hadley, Pitreavie, 69; class 1 - 1, M Laing, Aberdour, 69; 2, N Morrison, Leven, 75; class 2 - 1, J Gray, Haggs Castle, 71; 2, F McNeill, Braehead, 71; Patron's Prize - K Brunton, Souters, 75; Guest's prize - A Morrison, Leven, 72; Braehead Presentation Glass - W Whitfield, Stirling, 71.

Our sincere thanks go to Braehead GC for extending us the courtesy of their club and for the presentation of a beautifully engraved whisky glass, to club captain Val Buchan and secretary Paul MacMichael for joining us on the day, and a special thanks to Val for presenting the prizes in the evening. The hospitality in the clubhouse was excellent, thanks to Dave and Janette who were kept going all day providing first class fayre and drink.

Graeme Downie and his staff deserve a special thanks for all the hard work they put in on the morning of the tournament getting the course ready, despite the frost. Well done lads!

The quiz night which followed the golf tournament was quite successful with everyone joining in the 'spirit' of things, which made some of the answers rather interesting. It is intended to hold a further quiz night during the winter months, when wives and partners will be most welcome.

The next major event will be the BTME at Harrogate next month, which more and more members of the section are making an event not to be missed, and where they can renew old friendships and make many new ones. As usual the Scottish Region is running a coach for this event, so if you wish to go and have not booked your place yet, get in touch with Elliott right away as there may still be a few places left.

A date for your '95 diaries is Thursday April 13 when the Spring Tournament/Hayter Challenge qualifying round will be held courtesy of Aberdour GC.

As we near the end of another year I would like to thank everyone who has supported the section in '94, with special thanks to all our friends in the trade for their assistance in organising lectures/demonstrations etc on our behalf and for their continued support of our golf tournaments.

Here's wishing everyone every success in '95.

JOHN CRAWFORD



## EVENTS DIARY

December 1: Scottish Region North Section one-day conference at Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

January 23-24, 1995: National Education Conference, Harrogate

January 25-27: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre

## SURREY

Unfortunately our Autumn meeting, due to be held at Burhill GC, had to be cancelled through lack of support.

Ian Kerry has very kindly supplied our section with a coach for members wishing to attend the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Members who are interested should contact Derek Walder on 0737 246088 as soon as possible.

Congratulations go to Euan Grant of Effingham GC upon winning the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, representing Plumpton Agricultural College.

A second winter lecture has now been arranged for February 13. The lecture, to be given by Watermation, will be held at Walton Heath Artisans Club.

A reminder to members wishing to receive an entry form for the annual Gentleman's Dinner - please return application slips as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

On behalf of the Surrey committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DAVID GIBBS

## DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our first meeting of the winter season was held at the excellent venue of Dainton Park GC by kind permission of the owner, David Wood.

The day started with our golfing members playing a stableford competition over the superbly presented course for the DO Hunt Trophy. Non-golfing members were treated to their customary course walk, guided by host greenkeeper Buster Lewer.

After an excellent lunch Don Hunt of Roffeys presented the prizes he had donated for the morning DO Hunt Trophy to: 1, Steve Milne (Exeter) 40pts; 2, Tony Gooch (Torrington) 33pts; 3, John Parr (Exeter) 31pts.

Our congratulations to Buster Lewer and his lads for having the course in excellent condition.

Our afternoon educational talk on 'Anthracnose and Take-All Patch' was presented by Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals. Neil's talk was most informative and has set a very high standard for our forthcoming meetings to follow. Our sincere thanks to Neil for making the long journey to Devon and for his superb talk.

The raffle rounded off a most successful day, with thanks to all the trade who donated prizes to the raffle table. Our thanks to Don Hunt and Roffeys for donating the morning's prizes and to Mr Wood and all Dainton Parks staff for making our day such a success.

There are still a few places left on the region's 1995 trip to Harrogate and BTME but you need

to hurry as places are going fast. To recap, the Westurf-sponsored trip includes return coach travel from your nearest pickup point, three nights b&b and entry to all seminar sessions for only £99 per member. Wives are welcome at only £75 excluding the seminar sessions. For more details please contact Gordon Child on 0803 844056.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I will hopefully see you all at Fingle Glen on Wednesday January 11.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON

Our Autumn Tournament at Temple GC once again proved popular. Unfortunately I could not make it on the day but judging by feedback the course was in excellent condition as usual. Thanks to all staff for preparing it and to the catering staff for the excellent food.

First overall were S Lamb and S Cook (Donnington Valley) with 87pts on countback from T Chester and M Fuller (Wimer Hill). Best am score came from C Mitchel and K Moddy (Maidenhead); best pm was P Clark and C Davis (Hillingdon). Longest drive - J Elton. Nearest the pin - N Edwards.

The final of the Rigby Taylor fourball was held at Mill Ride GC. Thanks to Gordon Irvine for hosting the event. Result: D Goodchild and I Rose (Ellesborough) beat R Wooten and B Payne (Burnham). Thanks to Roger from Rigby Taylor for organising the event and providing all prizes.

A football match between Bucks and Berks ended with Berks making berks of Bucks, winning 3-2. Thanks to Kimble cricket and football club for allowing a bunch of greenkeepers to hack up their pitch. Apparently the losing team has to return with Verti-drain and topdresser to return the pitch to some sort of normality.

Hopefully this match is just the start of a series between the three counties so anybody willing to represent Oxfordshire please contact me on 0491578147 (European rules do not apply - all nationalities welcome).

That's all folks, except to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy (hic!) New Year.

LINDSAY ANDERSON

## AYRSHIRE

Results from the Autumn Outing: Texas Scramble - 1, Kevin Brunton, Brian Inglis, Dale Norquay, David Wilson, 61-4.4= 56.6; 2, George Brown, Martin Lothian, Jimmy Johnstone, William McMeikan, 63-4.4= 58.6; Stewarts Trophy - New member, David Nelson 96-24=72; Visitor, Gordon Moir 83-6=77; trade, Brian Inglis 75-1=74; Rigby Taylor Trophy (class III) - 1, Jason Buxton 90-20=70; 2, Jim Paton 102-19=83; 3, Jimmy Johnstone 101-16=85; Scottish Grass Trophy (class II) - 1, Jim Devlin 86-11=75; 2, Derek Wilson 87-9=78; 3, Duncan Gray 89-10=79; Richard Aitken Trophy (class I) - 1, George Brown 77-5=72; 2, Harry Diamond 83-5=78; 3, William McMeikan 85-7=78; Scratch - Brian Finlayson 76.

## SOUTH WEST

Two more team wins over recent months have meant that the section has made a clean sweep in all team matches this season, something which is not normally achieved. Congratulations to team captain Dave Neale on his successes and team organisation for each event.

The first of the latest successes came at St Pierre against the South Wales section. Played in excellent weather on a picturesque course, victory was gained by a margin of six matches to two with some good golf being played by many to achieve this. It was pleasing to note that the after-match attendance was well supported for the presentation, so rounding off a very enjoyable day. Thanks to Peter Lacey for his organisation, to St Pierre for courtesy of the course, and to the Welsh lads for their hospitality. Future events against the Welsh section will be organised on an alternate basis with a venue not too far over the bridge being chosen in England for next year.

Our annual match against the South Coast, at Marlborough GC, was played in rather blustery cool conditions. The winning margin was somewhat closer at three matches to two. An enjoyable day included a first-class meal provided by the stewardess. Thanks to Dan Dobie and his staff for producing a course in fine condition, to Marlborough for course courtesy, and Bob Cully and his team for their participation. Next year's venue has been the choice of the South Coast and will be Lee on Solent GC.

The education continues throughout the winter with BTME in January and a lecture and round of golf to be arranged as a section event in the early months of the New Year. PA1, PA2, first aid and chainsaw instruction courses are all ongoing too. Interested? Then phone me on 0272 793127 for further details.

To round off it just remains for me to wish you a Happy Christmas and thank everyone who has supported the section in 1994 to make the year a success.

KEVIN GREEN

## SOUTH WALES

The weather was splendid and St Pierre was in good condition for the annual match, South Wales versus the South West section. Despite a few hiccups, the day went well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, but especially Kevin Green and his team from the South West, who cleaned up!

Not only did they manage to win back the trophy by winning six of the eight matches but with thanks to Paul Ferragut and Nigel Pring they won the longest drive and nearest the pin competitions as well.

My thanks to all who took part but especially David Gladwin/Adrian Panks and Windsor Marks/Julian B Jones who were our only winning pairs.

Our sincere thanks to all at the St Pierre Golf and Country Club for allowing us the use of the course, for their hospitality and for feeding us so very well, to Avoncrop and Rod Feltham for their support and sponsorship, and to the South West team for making this annual fixture so competitive and enjoyable.

The region's annual workshop at Cannington College was on Health and Safety at Work, with Jon Allbutt and Richard Newman. The attendance could have been much better than it was for this important topic, but nevertheless it was an enjoyable and very informative lecture. We thank both Richard and Jon for their efforts in this ever decreasing minefield of information.

# Around the Green



The South Wales section's winter evening lecture programme is well under way at Pencoed College, Bridgend. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the first lecture – Dr W Rees' paper on soil science: "To help or hinder?" – but I understand a very informative and amusing evening was had by all. I was also glad to note the attendance was good, hopefully though this can still improve.

It was good to see so many locals supporting Celtic Mowers' annual open day at Margam Park, despite the weather. Both Kim and Sue were very happy with the steady stream of people that showed interest throughout the day, despite the mad rush come lunchtime (some things never change). Celtic Mowers have broadened their horizons so to speak and now stock a large range of chemicals, fertilisers, grass seeds as well as their ever increasing machinery range, so if you haven't visited them for some time they're worth it.

Have you booked your seat on the coach to Harrogate yet? The region is again offering an unbelievable opportunity for you to attend the BTME at Harrogate for £99. You will all have received an application form for this offer, take advantage of it! Contact Gordon or Marion Child today and reserve your space.

Congratulations to Steve Price, formerly of St Mellons GC, Cardiff. Steve, who spent eight years there, took up his new appointment as course manager of Keith Morgan's Kings & Queens courses at Usk on November 14. We wish him well and look forward to him hosting one of our competitions in the near future.



If you have any queries or would like more information, call me on 0792 233923 or 0850 716403.

PETER LACEY

## CLEVELAND

Harry Lees has resigned from the committee of the Cleveland section. Harry is a founder member and has been a hardworking and active member. He has also been our chairman for three years. He remains, however, a member of the section.

George Malcolm, another founder member, is to end his long stand on the Board of Management. He has been the national chairman of both BIGGA and the old BGGGA and has served for 15 years on the national committee. He is a very active and energetic figure and is a valued member of the Cleveland section and committee. Well done, George.

Dinsdale Spa's pond at the 14th has been greatly deepened by Tony Mears and his staff, and Chris Powley has been made up to first assistant.

There will be a meeting on training, with the GTC's David Golding, and BIGGA's education officer Ken Richardson on February 16 at Darlington GC. On March 16 there will be a lecture on organic feeds at this club.

Once again Bowes and Raine of Darlington are sponsoring a coach to the BTME in Harrogate in January. See you all there!

Results from the Autumn Tournament at Middlesborough Municipal GC: 1, A Sussell, J Seaman 41pts; 2, B Walker, J Beresford 40pts; 3, M Callahan, A Goodchild 40pts; longest drive – Bob Lawton; nearest the pin – Alan Goodchild.

Event sponsor Alan Goodchild was presented with BIGGA inscribed glassware in appreciation of his support to the section.

Thanks to Ian Holloran and staff for excellent course presentation, to Norman Sheddon of Aitkens for marking the score cards and to the following for their support: Zeneca, Rhône-Poulenc, Ryton Sand Co, Aitkens, Middlesbrough MGC, Billingham GC and Alan Goodchild.



BRUCE BURNELL

## LONDON

The final of the summer knockout, played at Highgate GC, was between Richard Andrews/Russell Ling and Dick Dunne/me. The opposition were playing on home territory and the standard of golf was very good. We managed to take the match to the 20th hole but the pressure was too much for us with Richard and Russell jumping in to win the game. I might add that Richard played excellent golf and his score for the 18 holes was a gross 69 which was 9 under his handicap. I would like to thank Gem Professional for sponsoring the event and providing the prizes.

The regional seminar attracted a good attendance from our section, but it was very disappointing from the other sections around the area. I would like to thank our speakers and congratulate them all on their presentations. I would also like to thank Oaklands College for their hospitality and the excellent facilities that were on offer. The day could only be successful with the support from the trade and we thank you for your help and contributions that kept the cost to a minimum for all the delegates that attended.



We will be running a number of winter workshops and details will be sent out. Please remember to keep me informed – you can phone me in the evenings on 081 9595629.

TONY DUNSTAN

## NORTH WEST

In October I had the privilege of playing in the Kubota Challenge at The Belfry, as one of the BIGGA team. The Challenge comprises four teams – BIGGA, Golf Club Secretaries, Golf Foundation and the English Golf Union. The competition, played over two days, has been going 14 years with the greenkeepers winning 11 times. But this year, I'm afraid, we could only manage second place with the Golf Foundation scoring their first win since the inception of the competition.

The golf was played very competitively but in the friendliest of spirits, making the game most enjoyable. The course was in great condition thanks to Derek Ganning and his staff and, I must admit, not as frightening as I expected, but with some fantastic holes. I would like to thank Kubota for a most enjoyable two days, with never-ending meals, a very welcome watering hole on the 10th tee, for showering us with gifts but most of all for giving us the opportunity to play this magnificent course and to meet the other people involved in the golf business.

Now onto North West business. I think I should try to arrange some lectures for the section on map-reading. The reason is that only 13 greenkeepers turned up for our AGM at West Derby GC and seven of these are on the commit-

tee. I can only assume that the other 300 or so members got lost on the way as I received no phone calls offering apologies for not being able to attend. Seriously though, members are not obliged to attend the AGM but it is important that members take some interest in the running of the section, and the way to show it is to attend the AGM. The committee decided to serve on for a further year and were voted on en-bloc. The N/W section committee, therefore, is: Chairman – P Pearse; Secretary – B Cross; Treasurer – B Moss; Vice-chairman – C Sheehan; Committee – H McAddey; W Merritt; S Oultram.

Prior to the AGM, Clive Hegginsbotham of Zeneca gave us an interesting talk on problems caused by rodents on golf courses, and the way to eliminate them. Rats especially are the cause of damage to many buildings by chewing through electrical cables, causing fires and costly rewiring work. They also carry diseases which are harmful to humans. Blindness and death are possible. Perhaps we should spend as much time looking for traces of rats as we do for leather jackets and fusarium. Certainly food for thought. I would like to thank Clive for giving us his time and apologise for the poor response to his most informative talk.

No winter lectures have yet been arranged, but in March we will have a seminar at Tytherington GCC. Dates and times will be included in the 1995 fixture list. Little else to say other than to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.



BERT CROSS

## NORTHERN

The Autumn Tournament took place at our chairman's course, Aldwoodley GC. This event was sponsored by our friends FG Adamson's. Many thanks to them for their support. I must also thank our chairman, Phillip Taylor, and his staff for preparing the course for us. I was informed that the course was in superb condition and was enjoyed by all who took part. Unfortunately I cannot give you any results as my fellow committee man, Dennis Cockburn, has gone on holiday and did not leave the results. I can only say thank you to all the other sponsors on the day and I hope to see you all at the Christmas golf and AGM.

I welcome to the section new member Paul Sleight, the new head greenkeeper at South Cliffe GC, Scarborough. Any information you require, please phone 0274 568128. May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.



PAT MURPHY

## NORTH SCOTLAND

The final new member of the year to welcome is Barrie Edmond from Aberdeen, a student at Elmwood College in Cupar. The total section membership is 207 but we have lost quite a few from last year even allowing for natural wastage. We must try to hold onto everyone next year and increase with more new members.

We have just been through 'Demonstration Season' with some really good days out courtesy of our friends in the trade. I must mention Huntly's head greenkeeper, Derek Green, winning the golf part of the Morayshire Tractors day at Skibo. He also won the Inverurie Open earlier in the year. Not bad for a guy who reckons he must be the shortest hitting five-handicapper in golf. All I can say is he must be a heck of a good

# Around the Green



putter! Seriously though, these days are a great idea, giving us greenkeepers a chance to see all the new products in action and meet up with fellow members. By the time this article is being read many of us will have seen the new electric mower from Ransomes with no engine and no hydraulics. What next, we ask?

Skibo's Alick Mackay is on the move to become head man at Macrihanish down on the Mull of Kintyre. We wish him well. His place will be taken by Andrew Mackay from Royal Dornoch, whose father is the current deputy at Skibo.

Next stop BTME at Harrogate. Section members will note that I have been persuaded to speak at one of the seminar sessions. What other excuse do you need to come along, if only to heckle? Seriously though, I hope to see as many of you as possible at Harrogate for what I'm sure will be a great week.

Finally, I would like to wish all members and friends everywhere a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Let's hope 1995 is another great year for BIGGA and everyone involved with the Association.



IAIN MACLEOD

## EAST OF ENGLAND

My apologies to you all for the lack of reports this year. Our secretary, Michael Finney, was getting married and also changing jobs to Rigby Taylor. Early November I took the job on temporarily until elections at the AGM. I would like to thank Michael for his work this year and good luck in his new job.

That brings me on to the AGM which takes place at Toft GC, near Bourne on December 7. You should have received your minutes by now and I look forward to a good turnout this year.

Quite a lot to report on the competition side. Events were attended fairly well considering some late notifications. The Peterborough Garden Machinery Trophy at Burghley was won by M Finney (Elton Furze). The Purdey Trophy at Stoke Rochford and Rigby Taylor Trophy at Woodhall Spa were won by C Macdonald (Newark). The Lambs Lawnmowers Trophy at Belton Woods was won by S Cogan (Belton Woods).

The East of England against Secretary's Association match ended in a 7-1 defeat for us due to a weakened side of 11 greenkeepers to 16 secretaries because of late notification. All who took part in the competition enjoyed themselves. The one win came from myself.

Section members Fred Cobb (Newark) and myself (Eyebury) qualified for the Midland team playing at Pannal in the Hayter Final. The team finished a respectable second and I came second in category 1 and missed the gross prize by one shot. The Midland team have done well over the last few years, winning it once and coming second twice.

My thanks go to all the clubs and staff involved in the above tournaments for allowing us courtesy for the season's competitions and

thanks to all the sponsors, especially for our last event at Belton Woods where there were some superb prizes thanks to Lambs Lawnmowers, De Vere Hotel Group, Chandlers, Aitkens and Rigby Taylor.

The only new member to welcome to our section is Ian Ross from Scotland who has joined Newark GC.

For our winter lecture programme we are hoping to organise a trip to John Deere and hold a seminar at Kenwick Park with guest speaker John Hacker. More details soon.

And, finally, if you have any information of interest to other members please contact me on 0733 260297 or write to me at 9 Loder Avenue, South Bretton, Peterborough PE3 9AB  
GRAEME MACDONALD

## MID ANGLIA

The Lodgeway fourball final was played over 30 holes, once again at Brocket Hall GC. A perfect autumnal day ensued, much to the relief of the finalists, contrasting with last year's downpour. It was a pleasure to witness the majestic splendour of Brocket Hall once again, and the closely contested match which went to the wire. With the match all square after 18 holes, the afternoon play saw Ronan McKeown of Arkley GC and Ken Bunting of Ashridge GC overcome the two Marks, Whittle and Ellis of Mentmore GC by a margin of 3-1.

Thanks go to Brocket Hall for courtesy of the course and to John Wells and his team for a course in superb nick. Also, we must thank Chas Ayres and Lodgeway for laying on a superb day and for their continued support of an excellent competition. We look forward to next year's event, eagerly. It also looks hopeful that we can secure Brocket Hall for our Autumn Tournament in 1996, so everyone can have a chance to play this superb course.

Our Autumn tournament this year was played over the 18-hole Rosebury Course at Mentmore GC. Our thanks go to David Murphy and his company, Driving Force Leisure, for sponsoring the day and providing the prizes. Thanks to other members of the trade who supported us on the day and donated prizes for the raffle. The course itself held no fear for most of the 30 players, as high stableford points were scored. Four players managed 37 points and, after a count-back, this was the final outcome: 1, Gavin Simkins (Mount Pleasant GC); 2, Mark Whittle (Mentmore GC); 3, Robert Pearce (Welwyn Garden City GC). Chas Ayers also had 37 points.

Thanks to Phil Quarby and his team for providing us with excellent greens and course, and although the weather was murky the whole day this did not detract too much from enjoying the setting and golf course. We appreciate the hospitality shown to us by Mentmore and thank the catering staff for the excellent meal.

The AGM followed the prizegiving which I presided over, being my last duty as chairman of the section. A healthy balance sheet was submitted by John Wells, our treasurer, and the secretary, Gerald Bruce, reported that membership was still rising both at section and national levels. The current figure for the Mid Anglia section is 222 members and 5,548 nationally. I'm sure that you all must know of other greenkeepers who are not members of BIGGA, so I would suggest you encourage them to join. The more members we have, the stronger the Association will become as a force to be reckoned with in the game of golf.

The following officers were elected to form the committee for next year: Chairman – Chris

# Around the Green



Brook; Vice chairman – Stewart Boyes; Secretary – Gerald Bruce; Fixtures Secretary – Richard Saunders; Treasurer – John Wells; Regional representative/magazine – Paul Lockett; Regional representative – Ronan McKeown.

All these appointments run to the next AGM with the exception of the chairman which is a two-year post. Please note the change in fixtures secretary to Richard Saunders, and ensure all entry forms for golf events are sent to him and not Chris Brook. Richard's address will be printed on the forms for next year.

I will continue to represent the section at regional board level, along with Ronan McKeown. The regional board consists of five sections – Mid Anglia, Midland, East Midlands, East of England and BB&O. It also has two representatives who sit on the Board of Management of BIGGA. If any member of the section has anything they wish to raise about BIGGA or related issues, then the facility is provided to take anything all the way to the top, if it is sent to me in writing first.

Finally I would like to thank all my committee for their support over the last two years during my reign as chairman – Gerald, John, Chris, Steart, Ronan and Richard. When I first took over as chairman it was my desire to provide the members with as many different and varied courses for golf events, and I hope I have succeeded in that. A priority was to maintain the excellent way the section has been run to date and again in that I hope I have been successful. It has been an honour to serve as chairman and I wish my successor, Chris Brook, good luck for the next two years.

The section is in very capable hands and its success and strength is not just based on vocational circumstances, but by friendships which have developed and will, I'm sure, continue in the future.

PAUL LOCKETT



## EAST MIDLANDS

Congratulations to our ten members who represented our section in the annual East Midlands v Midlands tournament. This was only the second time we have won the trophy in ten years. I would like to thank our sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor, and Leek Wooton GC for their hospitality. Our winning team was: Richard Barker, Pete Forshaw, Paul Tatlow, Dave Leatherland, Steve Goode, Stuart Swann, Jamie Bedford, Antony Foulds, Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson.

I would also like to thank all our sponsors for their support to our section throughout the year and to all the golf clubs for their courtesy and hospitality towards us.

Three dates for next year's diary – Spring Tournament May 16 at The Notts GC, Hollinwell; Autumn Tournament September 11 at Kedleston Park GC; and snooker and social evening March 1 at Willie Thorn's in Leicester. Anybody who would like to attend this evening can ring me on 0533 890301 and I will forward them a form.

I would also like to wish all section members a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

ANTONY BINDLEY

## SOUTH COAST

Numbers were a bit down for our Autumn Tournament at Dudsbury GC but it was a fine sunny day and a good time was had by all. Results: 1, Paul Jackson; 2, Mike Yorston; 3, Shaun White, 4, Martin Woodrow. As always we are very grateful to our sponsors Vitax and Avoncrop for their sup-

port and to the staff at Dudsbury for the condition of the course and looking after us so well.

Our annual match against the South West, played at Marlborough GC, ended in defeat, 3-2. Our thanks go to the staff at Marlborough for looking after us so well and especially to Kevin Green for organising the event. Next year the match will be held in Hampshire at Lee-on-Solent GC.

Our next event is at Brockenhurst Manor GC on Thursday January 12. Gordon Child, our regional administrator, will be coming in the afternoon at 2pm to talk about training in the modern greenkeeping industry. This is a very important subject and everyone interested in the future of the industry should be there.

The section is organising a workshop to be held on Thursday February 16. Entitled 'Working Together' it is being run by Frank Newberry who is one of the country's top management training consultants. Some of you may know him from work he has done for BIGGA at Aldwark Manor. The purpose of this workshop is to train greenkeepers in the arts of team building and dealing with people (committees etc). The committee feel that this is particularly important in view of recent events within the section. We are very limited on the number that we can take for this workshop so please register early. Send for details by writing to me at 45 Constable Close, Sholing, Southampton SO19 1EN.

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to establish an education committee for the section consisting of the NVQ industry assessors. This committee will co-ordinate the assessing of NVQ level 2 candidates and will be working closely with Sparsholt College who are represented on the committee by Bob Dennis and Bob Young. The committee consists at present of Kieron Daly, Ed McCabe, Martin Summers, Jeff Drake, college representatives and myself. Anyone with sufficient experience wanting to train as an industry assessor is more than welcome to contact the committee.

At the same meeting Peter Marsh, Eric James and John Payne expressed a desire to stand down from the committee. Between them they have devoted many years tireless work to the section and nationally and we are greatly indebted to them.

ALAN MITCHELL

## NORTH EAST

Our autumn competition at Tyneside GC was a great success despite a few regulars who couldn't make it. On behalf of the section I would like to thank Steve Pope and his staff for preparing the course and also the committee for granting us the courtesy.

A big thank-you to the following golf clubs which provided donations to the prize table – Whitburn GC, Newcastle Utd GC, Whitley Bay, Ponteland, Beamish Park, Arcot Hall, Warbworth, Alnmouth Village, Consett, Swarland Hall and Stocksfield – and to the trade: Rigby Taylor, Stewarts, Border Services, Turfcare, Ryton Gravel, Rickerbys and Greenlay.

The winners were: best gross – D Sharkey, South Shields, 71; best nett – C Parkinson, Ponte-

land, 74-5=69; Greenlay Cup for best nett 0-11 h'cap – G Baxter, South Shields, 79-9=70; Fewsters Shield for best nett 12-28 h'cap – A Wright, City of Newcastle, 94-21=73. Other leading scores: M Gunn, Tyneside GC, 77-6=71; J Hutton, Consett, 74-3=71; S Pope, Tyneside, 82-10=72.

Congratulations to M Harvey who has been appointed head greenkeeper at Heworth GC. He was formerly first assistant at Tynemouth GC. Glen Baxter has been promoted from first assistant to head greenkeeper at South Shields GC.

David Sharkey, formerly an assistant at Ryton GC, has been appointed first assistant at South Shields GC. Tony McLure, who shares the over-35s Mid-English Amateur Championship title, has been appointed head greenkeeper at Whickham GC.

And what about Mal Lathan regaining the Nelson Trophy at the National Tournament at Dartmouth? Well done!

On behalf of the section I would like to wish George Atkinson all the best on his retirement. George was an active member of our committee for the past 12 years. A dinner was held recently at Stocksfield GC for him and it was nice to see some of the younger greenkeepers there as well as the local trade. It was agreed that George would be made an honorary member of the section and be made more than welcome at future competitions.

October saw the clash of the NE against the old enemy, the East Lothian section, at Westerhope GC. Again thanks to Russ Black and his staff for the presentation of the course. The greens were beautiful. Although we had only ten men it meant that the last two matches were going to be difficult, one against two, but Russ Black and David Dalby didn't get hammered. A special mention to young Paul Heinlin and Alan Harrison, four down with four to play and gaining a half. The overall result was in the North East's favour, 3.5-2.5, so we regained the Stewarts Cup.

A special mention also to Stewarts for not only providing the meals but also the prizes both to the winners and runners-up. Thanks to Alan Miller and John Geddes of Stewarts, Edinburgh.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

## MIDLANDS

Following the survey carried out some months ago with regard to section events, in particular winter lectures, Ivan Beetstone has now arranged our first winter lectures using the subjects that came out top. The lecture will take place at Walsall GC on January 12 and start at 6.30pm.

The programme is as follows: 6.30-7.15pm – Thatch and compaction by Andy Cole of the STRI; 7.30-8.15pm – Installing, maintaining and updating irrigation systems by Graham Francis and John Sheppard of Turf Irrigation Services.

I must say that the response to this survey was very poor, specially when considering that members only had to tick off the subjects they felt important and send back using a self-addressed envelope. 350 were sent out and only 50 returned.

The annual match took place recently between the East Midlands section and ourselves, sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The match was played at the Warwickshire, of which everyone spoke very highly. Many thanks to Howard Middlebrooke and his staff and also to the Warwickshire as well for a wonderful day. The day was slightly spoiled by the fact that the East Midlands beat us, well done lads!

Mike Hughes beat Paul Loffman in the singles knockout recently. The match, played over 36

holes, was a close fought battle with Mike eventually winning 2&1.

Finally, can I thank everyone for their support during the last 12 months and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

DEAN CLEAVER

#### SHEFFIELD

Firstly I would like to wish David Milbourne all the best in his new position as head greenkeeper at the new Waterton Park GC near Wakefield which is due to open next year, and to Pat Heaney who has taken up the position at Cavendish GC. We hope you enjoy your new challenge.

Our November lecture was given by Rufford and our thanks go to Peter Jefford of Rufford for an interesting and informative afternoon which was enjoyed by all. This lecture was also the section's AGM which was well supported. I hope we can keep up the numbers for the remainder of the winter. The section AGM was quite an eventful one this year.

The committee is: President - AK Arnold; Chairman - N Maltby; Vice chairman/treasurer - D Milbourne; Secretary - R Ullerthorpe; Comp secretary - I Collett; other members - R Graham, J Lax, S Hird and E Monie.

Barry Heaney has had to stand down from the committee this year to undertake the great honour of being chairman of BIGGA in '95. We wish Barry a very successful year and offer any help he might need.

Also at the AGM it was passed that any members wishing to play in section golf competitions next year must attend at least two winter lectures or give reasonable cause for not attending to secretary R Ullerthorpe. Please also remember to wear a jacket, collar and tie at all times while we are guests at Rotherham GC.

For October's lecture I must thank Graham Walker and Gem for the talk. Unfortunately I was unable to attend as I was on holiday but I understand it was an interesting afternoon.

Stan Quinn, chairman of green at Rotherham GC, would like to express how impressed he was by the high standard of applicants for the head greenkeepers job at Thrybergh and wishes to thank everyone who applied and to congratulate BIGGA.

Our February lecture on Thursday the 2nd will be given by Neil Thomas and BIGGA's new education officer Ken Richardson, so please let's have a full house and support our chairman Barry Heaney.

A Happy New Year to you all.

IAN COLLETT



## Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



# Developing success of management courses for 1995

#### Supervisory and Management Courses

The 1994 series of Supervisory and Management courses is now complete. From the feedback that we have received from delegates, we feel that we have got the format of the courses about right.

Andrew Barber said: "Even though the subjects were new to me, I enjoyed the course. The speaker, Brin Bendon, was excellent. The way he approached the subject seemed to bring the best out of the delegates. His skill and manner were much appreciated."

Hamish Stephen said: "I can honestly say I have learnt a lot from the course."

Stuart Dent told us: "I thought the subjects were well thought out."

Peter Gee concluded: "Brin gave a very good course with some very good handouts. I think it is a very good idea to bring in high profile greenkeepers into the last session. David McIndoe gave a well presented and informative session. The day on computers was also very useful."

To hear greenkeepers discussing 'Belbins Team Role Inventory' and to watch and join in role playing exercises was also an educational experience for me. With some slight modifications, we will be running another series of 4 weeks courses next October.

Delegates to this year's courses have expressed a strong interest in attending management courses at a regional level, to reinforce the knowledge gained at Aldwark, and we are looking at setting these up for February/March '96. Additionally, we will be offering regional Health and Safety courses during the first two weeks of October 1995 (see BIGGA in Focus for details) and we are looking at holding a level 4 management course.

The 4th module of next year's course - Managing Information - already has seven delegates registered. If you wish to attend next year or send a member of your staff make a note in your diary for 1995 that the Aldwark Manor courses will start on October 23 or, better still, contact me and reserve a place.

#### National Education Conference

Details of some of the speakers at the National Education Conference and BTME seminars are given on pages 13-19 of this issue. The programme has been designed to be topical and, hopefully, slightly controversial. Places are selling fast so make sure that you send in your application TODAY, to make sure of your place.

#### National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications

The GTC are continuing to have discussions with the Industry Lead Body, the Council for National Vocational Qualifications, the Scottish Council for Vocational Education and other related industries to refine the content and standards for greenkeeper qualifications. N/SVQs give recognition that a candidate can 'do the job' at work and that he/she knows the reason for doing the job (underpinning knowledge). To make the system work, there needs to be a network of assessment centres and a pool of trained assessors. Currently, both can mainly be found in colleges but, gradually, more greenkeepers are being trained as assessors and the GTC have asked a number of golf courses to become assessment centres. N/SVQs will not go away, but to make them work needs your involvement and support. If you wish to become a work based assessor or require more information, either contact me or David Golding at the GTC.

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