

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.

REASEHEATH
COLLEGE

See us
on Stand
C40 at
BTME

INVEST IN QUALIFICATIONS NOW... BANK ON SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE!

Expert staff, superb practical training facilities and an attractive environment make Reaseheath the best choice for YOUR training needs. Choose from a range of part time courses to suit your schedule:

- GREENKEEPING - NVQ Levels 2 and 3 (both as per GTC and IOG Training Manuals) - Day or Block Release
- GREENKEEPING - C&G Phase IV - Block Release
- TURF CULTURE - IOG National Intermediate Diploma and National Diploma - both on Day Release

Full time courses are also available, including an HND in Golf Course Management, and Sports Turf Options on BTEC First and National Diplomas, and Short Courses for Industry include FEPA Chemical Safety, Chainsaws, Safe Lifting and Manual Handling, and First Aid.

Reaseheath College facilities include a nine-hole golf course, bowling green and outdoor sports pitches, and excellent residential and social facilities complete the package - so find out more by contacting Dennis Mortram or Geoff Brereton.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF
Telephone: (01270) 625131 Fax: (01270) 625665