

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH CENTRAL

A message from your new Chairman: "In the 22 years I have been in greenkeeping, 1993 must rank as the best. Having my course at Stirling in good, consistent condition throughout the season, thanks mainly to an excellent staff, was the mainstay of my year. Playing host to the Scottish Region Final of the Hayter Challenge Golf Tournament in May added to my pleasure. In August I made many new and hopefully long lasting friends at the National Tournament at Dunbar - I think it is the first time I have ever played golf for three days in a row. During the year I attended Elmwood College, every Wednesday, studying for the HNC in Golf Course Management, receiving the Carnoustie Golf Links Award, as class winner. Another Central section success was David McCowat from Charlton House Golf Hotel in Fife, who gained the National Certificate in Greenkeeping.

The highlight for me was taking over as Chairman of the Central section. Being a relative newcomer to the section means it is a great honour to be elected to this position and I hope I can help to keep the section going from strength to strength. I was Chairman of the East section in 1988-89 and so I hope my experience will be beneficial. By the way, has anyone else been Chairman of two sections? I look forward to working with John Crawford in keeping up the standard of what is regarded as a well run section. Many thanks to the past Chairman for inviting me to be his Vice-Chairman - even if it was only 20 minutes prior to the AGM in 1991! Duncan has travelled the length and breadth of the country ensuring that the Central section was repre-

sented at various functions and I will endeavour to continue his example.

If anyone has any ideas for any type of social evening which you wish to see taking place either give myself or John Crawford a call. Remember we are trying to provide events in the section for you, the member.

Best wishes for '94 and I hope to meet you all during my term of office."

Jim Easton, Chairman

Central section news:

Best wishes and a 'Guid New Year' to everyone in '94. It's time to start off another year and hopefully one in which the section can continue to progress. We finished '93 having the highest membership of all the Scottish sections. This is quite an achievement considering the effort being put in by the other sections to increase their membership. Long may it continue.

At the AGM on 30 November 1993 the new section committee was elected as follows: Past Chairman - Duncan Peddie, Chairman - Jim Easton, Vice-Chairman - Joe Wallace, Secretary/Treasurer - John Crawford, Head Greenkeepers - Mike Clark, Graeme Downie, Norman Woods. Assistants - Fraser McNeil, Colin Wade. Apprentice - Stuart Riggs. Trade - John Yeats, Kevin Brunton.

Our sincere thanks go to John Souter of GTI for the excellent talk and demonstration which he presented prior to the AGM and also for the most enjoyable lunch which he provided.

Thanks are due to everyone who supported the section in '93 and we look forward to meeting friends old

and new in '94. Here are some dates for your diary: Tuesday 8 February: Visit to Scottish Grass Machinery in Edinburgh. Tuesday 15 March: Revisit the Monarch's Course at Gleneagles. Tuesday 26 April: Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Golf Tournament Qualifier at Monifeith Golf Club. Tuesday 4 October: Autumn Tournament at Braehead Golf Club. This list will be added to as events are arranged.



If you have any news, views or reviews you wish included in the section news, just post it to me and I'll make sure you see your efforts in print!

JOHN CRAWFORD

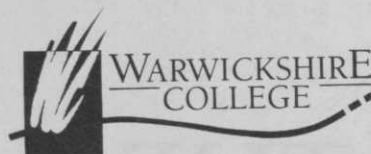
EAST OF ENGLAND

A happy New Year to all section members and I hope you have recovered from the excesses of the festive holidays.

Although January is usually a quiet month, I am taking this opportunity to remind section members that it is still not too late to book for the Hardi Sprayers trip. Full details about the trip will be sent to all section members who have returned the appropriate slip, but here is the agenda:

Sherrifs Amenity Services/Hardi Sprayers trip - Tuesday 8 February 1994.

9.45 am - 10.00 am: Arrival and Coffee. 10.15 am: Introduction to Sherrifs. 10.40 am - 12.00 noon: Introduction to Hardi UK, including: legislation, operator's obligations, machinery and equipment, retrofit systems, new developments. 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm: Lunch. 1.30



MIDLANDS REGION

Pesticides

Training and Education Programme

**Andy Cole, STRI; Richard Minton, ICI Professional Products;
Jeff Rees, Mike Sheldon, Chris Gray, Warwickshire College**

Venue: Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell

Date:

23 February 1994: FEPA Foundation Module

16 March 1994: Technical Seminar on Diseases, Pests and Weeds: Control and Identification

13 April 1994: FEPA Hand Held Applicator Module

20 April 1994: FEPA Tractor Mounted Sprayer Module



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for further details**



pm - 3.00 pm: Factory tour (demonstrations, calibration). 3.00 pm - 3.30 pm: Competition. Tea and depart.

As you can see from the agenda, this promises to be a very enjoyable and interesting trip and it is hoped that as many section members will attend as possible.

In February, all section members should be receiving a fixture card with venues and dates for all 1994 events. Hopefully we will see a few new faces joining us for these enjoyable golfing days. Don't forget if you have any news, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

MIKE FINNEY

MIDLANDS

On Wednesday, 9 February we are holding the first of two lectures to be held this winter. The first will be held at Walsall Golf Club and starts at 4pm. Dr Mike Drinkall representing DowElanco will be speaking on the work and research that goes into launching new products. Also lined up is a representative of the NRA, who will be talking about abstracting using bore hole, together with costs and legislation involved. DowElanco have kindly offered to make refreshments available for this event.

The second lecture will be held on Friday, 25 March at Telford Golf and Country Club and will start at 2pm. Hardi Sprayers will be one of our topics when they will be talking on general application and dealing with fault finding. Bob Pilsbury from Alexanders has also offered his services and will be speaking on diesel engines and some of the pitfalls to avoid.

Finally, I have to tell everyone that little Amy Nonn, who has been in our thoughts since playing golf at Kidderminster last year, has sadly lost her battle with life and died on Sunday, 21 November. We send our condolences to all family and friends.

DEAN CLEAVER

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish region had their annual lunch with their patrons at Cawder in December and this year saw the first presentations of what is hoped to be annual Patron's Awards. These are presented to the member

from each section deemed to have been most supportive of his Association during the year. These first awards were made as follows:

Ayrshire: Ian McNab (Dumfries and County); Central: Colin Wade (Haggs Castle); East: Willie Blair (Kingsknowe); North: Paul Murphy (Caird Park); West: David Gall (Cardross).

ELLIOTT SMALL

SURREY

Our first winter lecture of the season attracted over 30 members to Walton Heath Artisans Club where David White gave an excellent presentation, including a slide show, reflecting his visits to Augusta for the Masters. It was particularly interesting to see the course maintenance facilities and also pictures of the Par 3 golf course. Thanks went to David, to Walton Heath Artisans for having us and to Ted Bond for pouring the beer!

There is a winter lecture planned for February so please contact a committee member if you are unsure of arrangements. Forthcoming fixtures also include the regional Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club on 11 March.

One of our members sadly died on 27 November (writes Terry Huntley). Hughie MacGillivray was course manager at Fulwell GC. He leaves a wife, Angela, and two children.

Hughie had an illustrious career in his earlier days, having held the posts of course foreman on the Old Course at St Andrews and course manager at Sunningdale, before moving on to Worthing and latterley Fulwell.

Hughie was very active in various greenkeeping associations over the years and his efforts are remembered by all of us in the Surrey section, of which Hughie was a founder member. He was without doubt a true gentleman and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

ROGER TYDEMAN

MID ANGLIA

Things are fairly quiet at the moment through the section, although we have one or two events of interest

coming up. The 11th of this month sees a talk from Symbio, a company developing a new, exciting product aimed at reducing thatch and using the organic matter available for uptake of the grass. This will be held at the Family Golf Centre Gravely, near Stevenage at 2pm.

Next month sees a first aid course being held at the same venue on the eighth. Places may still be available, so please contact Gerald Bruce if you wish to attend (all day course, lunch included).



I look forward to seeing section members at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate later this month, I'm sure it will be another successful programme of events.

PAUL LOCKETT

CLEVELAND

Result of Cleveland vs North East Section: North East won at Seaton Carew, the course being in superb condition for early November. Alec Russell of Middlesbrough Golf Club drove off the first tee straight through the windscreen of a Par 4 Irrigation service van. Have you paid the bill yet, Alec?

Gary Munro, apart from being elected as our new Secretary, is promoted to Course Manager at Bedale Golf Club and his contact telephone numbers are, home: 0642 785195, work: 0677 425357. Keith Lough, our new Treasurer, is Head Greenkeeper at Beamish Golf Club. Roger Shaw stands down from Secretary/Treasurer after years of sterling work. Regional representative continues to be Ian Holoran, a dedicated BIGGA man who is proving his worth at Middlesbrough Municipal Golf club. A big welcome goes to two new committee members, Philip Walshaw of Saltburn Golf Club and Bob Lawton of South Shields Golf Club.

Our speaker following the AGM was Neil Baldwin, ex-STRI now Service Chemicals, whose talk was helpful to our future greens management and with new products to follow it should be an exciting period.

Our attendance of 28 is a record per meeting. Congratulations and thanks to all 79 members.

New faces to report this month are Jacobsens' new

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distributor, Brian Skeen of Billingham and Toro's new distributor, Dick Lawson of Darlington. Graham Pyle has moved from Chester Le Street to Burton on Trent. Barry Lee is new Head Greenkeeper at Chester Le Street. Kevin Heslop is the new Head Greenkeeper at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club.

Three golf clubs within the section celebrate their centenaries in 1994 - Bedale, Saltburn and Bishop Auckland.

Congratulations go to Tony Smith at Teeside Golf Club, who vertidraind fairways and slit his greens, with no disease visible on greens.

Our spring tournament is to be at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club on 12 May.

BRUCE BURNELL



SHEFFIELD

The first item report in this my first month of writing Sheffield's section news, is that our section Secretary Jane Ryan will be stepping down as she feels she can no longer commit herself to this position due to changing jobs. I would like, on behalf of the section, to thank Jane for all the hard work she has put into the Secretary's job. All the best to Jane and husband Paul in their new jobs and for the future. Also stepping down will be our Chairman, Ron Graham. Thanks to Ron for all the time and hard work he has put in to being an excellent Chairman. A new Chairman and Secretary will be voted in at the AGM.

There will be a trip to the John Deere factory on Wednesday 16 February, free of charge but limited to 25 people on a first come first served basis. If you're interested, get in touch with D Milbourne. Another trip is being planned to the Ransomes factory at Ipswich on 22/23 March, which includes an overnight stay. Maximum number of places will be 20 and those interested should contact Barry Heaney. This trip is also first come first served basis and the cost will be approximately £30 payable in advance.

On behalf of the Section and somewhat belatedly, I'd like to congratulate Martin Scothern of Woolerton Park Golf Club on his outstanding performance in the Hayter Final at Sandmoor Golf Club where he won the Best Gross Prize. Well done! Congratulations also to Mark Vodden of Brough Golf Club and John Lax of Worksop Golf Club - although a little late again - first to Mark with his wife Sharon who on 1 October gave birth to a 6lb 10oz Charlotte Rebecca. We wish them all the best. Well done to John who on 2 October got married to Carol. Best wishes for a happy future together.

Finally, Derek Neve would like to thank all section members who sponsored his son James on a cycle ride from Blackpool to Bridlington. With seven others they travelled 133 miles in 8 hours 22 minutes and managed to raise over £1000 for the British Deaf Association.

If anyone has any news, contact me on: 0430 441204.

IAN COLLETT



NORTH EAST

Due to heavy rain our autumn competition at South Moor had to be cancelled - the first time in our history we have had to do so.

The match against the East Lothian section this year at Goswick was won by the North East section. This again was postponed at the first date and had to be rearranged to late October. Well done the NE! It is hoped this annual match will be played once again at different courses in the near future.

Congratulations to Russ Black of Westerhope Golf Club on becoming a dad again.

Thanks go to SISIS and Parkside for the buffet after the SISIS demonstration at Gateshead Stadium, particularly as the weather was extremely cold. There was a good turnout by greenkeepers.

Thanks also go out to Rickerbys of Hexham on an excellent show and also for the buffet and free bar. This again was well attended by the local greenkeepers.

At last count we had 103 greenkeepers in the section. I'm sure this could be easily beaten in 1994 as several Head Greenkeepers are the sole member from their club. Come on lads get your assistants as members - the benefits are well worthwhile.

The Chairman and myself would like to welcome the new Head Greenkeeper, Ian Duncan at Arcot Hall Golf

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Club to the section and hope he has a long and happy stay.

Good luck to Clive Paterson on his move from Arcot Hall and his return to the Isle of Man. Congratulations to our Chairman, Richard Creane, on his new appointment as Course Manager at Burger Farm and to his understudy Eddie Crozier taking over at Parklands Golfing Complex.

Congratulations also to Alistair Holmes on his new appointment at Seahouses.

There is certainly a lot of movement in the North East at the moment!

JIMMY RICHARDSON

NORTHERN

To begin with, may I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year - and please don't forget to pay your subs as they are now due.

The visit to Supaturf and Hardi on 23 November had to be cancelled due to the fact that only four people actually phoned me and asked to go. I did make enquiries as to why the members did not wish to go on this venture. The general feeling was that firstly that it was too far and secondly that they were still too busy on the golf course, with maintenance operations and the cleaning-up of leaves.

Still on the subject of the winter programme, 10 members have put their names down for the visit to Gem Fertiliser factory on 25 January. For the visit to Martin Brothers on Tuesday 22 February, 12 members have put their names down.

If you are thinking of going to any of these events don't think any longer, please let me have your name as soon as possible. Full details are in your winter programme which was sent to you by Martin Brothers. Thanks to Andy Law who represents Martin Brothers who arranged the sponsorship.

The golf venues for this year are: Bingley, St. Ives GC, Wetherby GC, Harrogate GC, Aldwoodley GC. The Roses Match venue is the pleasure of the North West section this time. Let's hope we can still retain the trophy away from home. Full details shall be sent out soon.

Any member requiring further information, or if you have any contributions to this column, please contact me on 0274 568128

PAT MURPHY



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Happy New Year!

Torquay Golf Club was the venue for our AGM, which was held on 17 November. The morning's golf was a foursome competition for the Toro Trophy and was played over their excellently presented course which is a credit to Jack Manley and his fine team. Jack was on hand to guide our non golfing members on the customary morning course walk. After lunch the prize presentation for the Toro trophy took place with Alan Dommert of Devon Garden Machinery & Joe Turner of Lely UK presenting the prizes to;

1st J Breyley (Churston) and C Pine (Churston) 32pts on back 9; 2nd T Gooch (Torrington) and J. Manester (Teignmouth) 32pts; 3rd G.Child (Churston) and R. Minton (ICI) 31pts.

Our thanks to Alan and Joe for donating and presenting the day's prizes, and to Mr B Long, Secretary of Torquay GC and his management committee for allowing the section use of their facilities.

The section's AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by section Chairman Bill Pile. The Secretary informed members on the breakdown of the balance sheet which shows a profit of £423.30 on last year's balance.

The Secretary thanked Chairman B Pile, Vice Chairman B Summers and President D Hunt for all their help

in continuing the success of the section and presented all three with a small gift to mark their retirement from office.

The Chairman opened his report by congratulating Laughlan Millar, head greenkeeper at the Warren GC, on reaching this year's national final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper competition. The chairman congratulated Gordon and Marion Child and the regional board for their continued success of Westurf.

Westurf's success has enabled the region to provide members with the cheapest regional seminar in the country and the opportunity for members to visit BTME at Harrogate for under £100. To continue the success of Westurf we need members' support most of all in turning up on the day. The Chairman also reported on the success of our team in this year's Hayter Regional final and congratulated Laughlan Millar, Brian Ridgeway and Neil Macintyre who all qualified for the final.

The Chairman also informed members of the new summer tournament and workshop which will replace the guest day event.

He explained that the section's committee feels that new blood is required throughout our Association on all committees and boards and this could only start when section committees change from time to time. With this in mind your committee has drawn up a programme for replacement of current committee members. On closing, the Chairman thanked R Whyman for all his hard work in looking after the section's interests, and thanked trade members for their continued support.

The following officers were elected: Devon committee member: L Millar. Cornish committee member: S Evans. Trade member: I Brown. Chairman: J Mills. President: J Palfrey. Regional Board member: J Mills.

Venues for meetings in 1994-95: October: Dainton, November: Landhydrock AGM, December: Okehampton, January: Fingle Glen, February: Tavistock, March:



Mullion, July: Launceston.

R Mitchell reminded all Head Greenkeepers of section meeting venues that they are expected to guide non golfers around their course during the morning.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH WEST

There is plenty happening on the education side in the north-west section. First, Reaseheath College are proposing on each Wednesday in February to run a series of one day courses tailored to the needs of golf courses, with health and safety in mind. These courses will include: first aid, chainsaw awareness, COSHH assessment, and safe lifting and handling. The college will require a minimum of 10 people for each course, each of which will be inexpensive. For further details contact, Dennis Mortram at Reaseheath College, or Paul Pearse on 0625 859258. These courses will be run for your benefit, so please support them fully. At Myerscough College greenkeepers are most welcome to attend seminars every Thursday afternoon from 2-4pm. All aspects of greenkeeping and groundsmanship will be covered by noted lecturers. On 8 March the north-west section will have a seminar at Mere Golf and County Club. The seminar will feature: course design, course construction, course maintenance, course presentation, and conservation on golf courses. Further details of the seminar will be in the February edition of the magazine. At the AGM, in November, 18 members attended on what must have been the worst night possible weather-wise. Freezing fog made travelling a danger and I would like to thank those who attended, and for the members who could not make it, I can assure you that the North-West section is still in good condition. All the committee volunteered to stay on for a further year, except Stephen Hartshorn who had to resign due to pressure of work. The vacant position was taken by Steve Outtram from Wilmslow GC. The North-West committee for 1994 are: Chairman - Paul Pearse, Vice Chairman - Nigel Potter, Secretary - Bert Cross, Treasurer - Brian Moss, members - Howard McAddey, Bill Merritt, Chris Sheehan and Steve Outtram. I still require some venues for the 1994 tournaments, so if you can accommodate us, please contact me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS



NORTH WALES

First off, on behalf of your committee, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing every member of the North Wales section a happy and prosperous New Year.

Unfortunately the month of November was not too busy regarding section notes, so not a lot to report.

Congratulations to Mike Turner on his promotion to assistant Head, and also to Aled Hughes of Porthmadog Golf Club for his contribution to yet another win by the greenkeepers in the Kubota Challenge, (oh, by the way Aled, the jacket looked very well on you!).



We have in our section a budding one man and his dog in Gareth Williams of Porthmadog Golf Club, who recently took part in some field trials and won. Congratulations Gareth.

DAVID PROCTOR

LONDON

Happy New Year to everyone in the section and I hope that by now you have all recovered from the festivities.

The results from the turkey trot competition held at Hadley Wood GC were as follows: 1st, David Matthews, 37 points; 2nd, Donal Penn-Howard, 36 points; 3rd, Tony Dunstan, 35 points.

Well done David for an excellent score and the 18th green will be remembered for your one putt and Don's four putts! The nearest the pin prizes were won by Robert Washbrook and Bruce Walsh and the longest drive of the day was hit by Donal Penn-Howard on the 12th hole.

I would like to thank Craig Handyside and his staff for presenting the course in such fine shape and also Hadley Wood for the excellent meal and hospitality shown throughout the day. I would also like to thank the trade for all their help last year – it has been greatly appreciated. The AGM followed the meal and the election of officers were as follows: Doug Smith – Chairman; Barry Moggridge – Education and Golf events; Tony Dunstan – Education and Golf events.

I would like to thank Martin Smith for all his help over the years serving on the committee.

We are planning a trip to the London Golf Club this spring and if anyone is interested in visiting this exciting new course then please contact me as soon as possible, on 081 959 5629.

Finally, I would like to wish David Mathews from Mill Hill GC all the best with his journey around the world which starts this month, and thanks for all your help at Mill Hill.

TONY DUNSTAN

SOUTH WALES

Hangovers should be subsiding now that the New Year is underway. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and I wish you all a happy New Year.

Fixture cards will be with you shortly, if you haven't had them already.

November saw the weather turn much colder with a gradual increase in wind speed to gale force on many occasions, this slowing work down considerably on the golf course.

The only golf that was played within the section was the final of the Pro-Turf sponsored matchplay competition. Mike Jones finally overcame a stern challenge from Robert Frater to win the 36 hole final. This closely fought encounter was nip and tuck all around the Southerndown course for the first leg, but saw Mike come from three down to win on the closing hole at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

Our sincere thanks to all of the golf clubs who allowed matches to take place at their courses, to the competitors, but mainly to Pro-Turf and Elwyn Thomas for sponsoring this event.

John Hinton provided last month's evening lecture at Pencoed College, giving a talk on the benefits of the Floronid range of fine turf fertilisers. Again the attendance could and should have been better for this interesting and debatable topic.

The Regional Seminar at Cannington College was again a huge success with more than 100 people in attendance. As always the quality of the speakers was exceptional and the captive audience were given plenty of food for thought. It was good to see a larger attendance from this section present at the seminar.

Our thanks must go again to Marion and Gordon

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Child for their efforts and splendid organisation.

Many thanks to Birds and Ransomes for their jointly organised trip to the Ransomes factory in Ipswich last November. It was splendidly organised by Jeff Bird and was truly fascinating and worthwhile. Our thanks also to all of those at the factory for going out of their way to make sure that a good time was had by all – nothing was too much trouble for any of them.

Spaces are still available on the coach trip to the BTME in Harrogate sponsored by our region – so come on, you lot! It's just £95 – a bargain, surely. YOU are putting this annual trip in jeopardy with your lack of interest and support!

Make sure Wednesday 27 April is scribed in your diary, for Westurf 1994 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol.

Last but not least, we all wish Dennis Archer good luck with his quest to join the elite ranks of Formula One go kart racing. Hopefully Dennis will surface unscathed having raised a great deal of money for Motability.

If you have any news or queries contact me on 0792 233923.

PETER LACEY

SOUTH WEST

This is the press report that all section members have been waiting for – my last!

For those who don't know, I have stepped down as section secretary, after ten years in the post.

We have enjoyed ten years of significant development, hugely increased participation and professionalism within, not just the section, but the Association as a whole and it has been a privilege to have been part of that.

Also stepping down at the AGM was Ivor Scoones after 30 years of representing the South West at both national and regional levels. Again, it has been a privilege to have worked with Ivor.

Briefly, from the AGM, the election of officers was as follows:

Chairman – John York, Vice Chairman – Peter Cox, Secretary – Kevin Green, Match Captain – David Neale, Vice Captain – Jon Leigh, Regional Board Officer – Robin Greaves, Reserve Regional Board Officer – J Cooper, Liaison Officer – Robin Williams (subject to Cannington approval).

Membership of the section currently stands at some 212 including associate members. The bank balance was £1622.22 at 31 October. It was generally agreed that these were very healthy figures and that the section was financially secure.

Thirty one members have successfully completed the FEPA spraying certificates, 29 had gained certification in emergency first aid and 12 had successfully completed a two-day chainsaw safety course.

Trade associate members had again been most supportive of the section with several companies regularly donating prizes at competitions. Their generosity had been most welcome and effusive thanks were due in particular to Avoncrop, Roffey Bros, Rigby Taylor, Vitax, Sisis, County Mowers, TH White and Handy Garden Machinery.

The section's autumn golf tournament was held on the same day at Kingsdown Golf Club. Cold and windy at the start, I noticed Robin Greaves sheltering miserably in the lee of a small bush by the first tee. I advised him to uproot the bush and carry it around for shelter. He declined, after due consideration, saying he didn't have a spade in his bag!

Fortunately, the weather relented and some half-decent scores were returned. The final result was as follows: 1st: J Leigh (35 points); 2nd: P Thorn (33 pts on last nine); 3rd: P Godwin (33 pts); 4th: D Eves (32 pts on last nine); 5th: P Worster (32 pts); 6th: P Jones (32pts).

The course at Kingsdown was in sparkling condition, an absolute tribute to its green staff and in particular, Head Greenkeeper Mark Ford. As our chairman remarked, "Old Bill Curtis would have been proud of it." Praise indeed.

Many thanks also to Gordon Jaaback, who gave us a very precise account of the role played by the weather in our work, and the relevance of recording and forecasting.

Altogether quite a day, with many thanks to Kingsdown Golf Club for their hospitality.

Finally, let me describe a typical scene at home on a Wednesday evening. The starship "Enterprise" noses delicately into orbit around the deserted asteroid, the ruined Com-Mine station comes into sensor range. Captain Kirk paces the bridge, Mr Spock scans intently into his scanning instruments, the garish blue light illuminating his strange features. Red alert sounds, Kirk leaps back into his chair and demands a status report when he is interrupted by a strange ringing noise. Dring-dring, dring-dring emanating from our hall. The kids fall about laughing, the wife doesn't even bother coming out from behind the newspaper. "It'll be for you," she says in a distracted tone, "it's always for you."

I stagger out, cursing about not switching on the telephone answering machine.

I spend the next ten minutes listening to some incredible story about lost entry forms, postal interruptions, holidays, illness, pressures of work, hungry dogs, disruptive children, unruly grandparents etc... and is it too late to book in for the tournament tomorrow?

I return just as the theme tune plays and the credits roll.

I'm going to miss all this. A happy New Year to all our members. Beam me up, Scottie!



Further entries and communications should be addressed to Mr K Green, 13 Baytree Close, Patchway, Bristol, Avon BS12 5EU, telephone 0272 793127.

PAUL WORSTER

EAST SCOTLAND

The section's AGM took place on 24 November at Kingsknowe Golf Club. Prior to the meeting we had an excellent lecture given by John Souter of Souters of Stirling; those of you who were not at the meeting missed one of the finest lectures we have had. Our grateful thanks go to John for his time and effort.

Chris Yeaman our Chairman could not take the meeting due to illness, but had a capable deputy in Peter Ormiston. Attendance was smaller than usual for some reason or another, but it was nice to see members from distant places, namely George Thomson all the way from Goswick and Mike Williamson from Galashiels.

Peter Ormiston was elected Chairman with Steve Dixon his Vice Chairman. Robert Hogarth was not standing for re-election due to change of job. Robert has decided on pastures new in the form of a sales rep with H Sheach of Kirkcaldy. No doubt we will be seeing a great deal more of him in this capacity. He was thanked for his excellent work over the years. The committee now reads: Chairman – P Ormiston, Vice-Chairman – S Dixon, Secretary – Willie Blair; and Graham Wood, Stuart Greenwood, Jimmy Neilson, Tom Murray, Chris Yeaman and Andy Forrest.

The annual dance returned to Turnhouse Golf Club on 3 December and a great time was had by all. Our thanks go to Turnhouse for the facilities and to the catering staff for the excellent food. If anyone went away feeling empty it was their own fault as there was enough to feed an army!

The committee over the years have tried to put on various social events, such as skittles and quiz nights, but they are not being supported by the members to any great extent. We will have to look at this to find out why. It would seem that the members are looking for golf outings only. Suggestions would be welcome from any member on this subject. This is your association – tell us what you want.

The recent tournament versus the North East of England was held over Goswick GC. This resulted in a loss for the section. Don't ask me how it happened, but on the way down Tom Murray somehow lost his teeth out of the coach window. The coach returned to try and find them and would you believe it, ran over them! We are glad to say that Tom has now had them replaced.

The BTME is the next on our calendar and → 62
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51 → all tournaments have been arranged for 1994. The spring outing will be held over Gunnane number 2 on 12 April. This of course is also the Hayter qualifier. We go to Uphall GC in the autumn. A full list of events will be available shortly.

Please remember your subscriptions are now due – you could miss out by paying them late. Why not this year endeavour to recruit at least one new member each? I am sure you all must know someone who is not a member. The Association is strong, let's make it stronger.

WILLIE BLAIR

NORTH SCOTLAND

A welcome to the section to Bruce Forsyth, (no, not that Bruce Forsyth) who has come up to be Assistant Head at Peterhead after 13 years at Gleneagles, where he worked on the Kings and Queens courses. Bruce also attended Elmwood College.

The section AGM took place, with thanks to Nairn Dunbar GC, at the end of November. During a week of terrible weather it was heartening to see 24 worthy souls make the journey through frost and snow to attend. After our coffee a convoy of cars took us out to view the new holes, which our sponsor for the day, Souters Sportsturf, had constructed. They are superb and I can't wait until they are open for play later this year. The short par three, 129 yards, is a beauty but beware the deep bunker in front of the green, go in it and a three will be hard to get.

We then moved inside to the warmth for a very informative talk by John Souter on rootzones for tees and greens and then a look at some great slides of golf courses around the world. After lunch 15 brave men ventured out into the mist and frost for nine holes to contest the annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman match. The more sensible settled things on the pool table! The end result was a tie, so two matches of dominoes were played and Chairman Sam's team triumphed. The AGM passed smoothly ending with the final 1993 200 Club draws, the winners of which are as follows: September £30 no. 109 – Elliot Small, Kincardine. October £30 no. 167 – David Henderson, Ardgay. November £40 no. 94 – Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir. December £100 no. 51 – Steven Frost, Aberdeen. The two £150 education grants were won by no. 103 John Milne, Elgin and 141 Eric Pickard, Ellon. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. 1994 tickets will be out soon and I hope you will support the section again this year. If anyone does not want their ticket then please send it back immediately. Unfortunately last year we were let down by six members who said they would buy but never paid and it cost us unnecessary time and money in letters and phone calls. Eventually we had to sell them at a reduced price after the first four draws.

To remind members, the section library has the following books available: Turf Management for Golf Courses by James Beard, Turf Management Handbook by Freeborg, Golf Course Presentation by John Hacker and George Shiels, All Year Round Golf by Jim Arthur, Greenkeeper Training Manual, COSHH Pesticide Regulation Books, and Greenkeeping by John Campbell. Phone me on 0862 894402 or Gordon Moir on 0334 74021. All donations to the library gratefully received.

Finally, I hope to see as many North members as possible at Harrogate this month for what I'm sure will be a great week.

IAIN MACLEOD

SUSSEX

How time flies! It only seems like yesterday that we

Around the Green



were playing the links at Littlehampton GC for our annual turkey trot. With another year passed, 59 brave guys and one brave lass weathered the worst storms since the '87 hurricane and what better place to be battered by 70mph winds than by the sea in Littlehampton!

Once again Dave and the boys did a grand job in preparing the course and setting up the alcohol and mince pies at the halfway stage.

The morning started well at 8.30am with a cooked breakfast and coffee, with the first teams teeing off at 9.45.

The format was the ever popular Texas scramble and considering the appalling conditions, the teams of four all came in with respectable scores.

The results were as follows: 1st: C Allen, M Ring, P Wright, C Tate. 2nd: M Chalmers, M Dale, T Collier, L Bennett. 3rd: P Ray, J Warner, P Wright, C Tate. 4th: W Francis, D Lawlor, D Haste. 5th: G Barr, P Negus, T Jones, E Docherty. Nearest the pin(s): Chris Allen, Jon Budd, Duncan Haste and P Dunbar. Longest drive(s): Raymond Day and M Saunders.

The day was rounded off with a superb turkey dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by the caterers of Littlehampton GC. The prizegiving and raffle were presented by the comedy double act of Barr and Day (I think this is going to be a regular spot lads!) with impromptu comedy routines by Brian Gazard and the captain of the club. The prize giving and raffle took just over an hour and a half, which is not surprising considering that nearly 200 bottles of wine and spirits were handed out!

The section would like to thank the captain and committee of Littlehampton GC for allowing courtesy of the course, to the caterers and bar staff and last but not least to Dave Wood and his boys for the preparation of the course. Once again a memorable day was had by all and it is on this note, that at the last AGM, the committee decided that in order to "qualify" to enter the 1994 turkey trot, members have to play in at least one of the other three tournaments played throughout the year – so get your entries in for the spring meeting which will be held at Willingdon GC on 28 April.

It was nice to see Andy Fillery, over from his course in Norway, playing, and it was mooted that Andy is exempt from having to "qualify" for next year's Christmas competition as it's just a bit too far to come each time!

It is with sadness that I have to report the sudden and untimely death of Hugh MacGillivray.

Hugh was a past member of the Sussex section and a founder member of EIGGA. Hugh was best known for his role as course manager at Worthing GC before leaving to join Fulwell in 1992. Although dogged by ill health, in 1990 he overcame those problems to continue an active lifestyle outside the golf course, namely pursuing canoeing, sailing and rock climbing. Our condolences go out to his wife, Angela, and his two children Kirstie and Louis.

On a happier note, congratulations to Alan Butrymovicz and his wife on their marriage last October.

Finally, with legislations as they are concerning

health and safety, George Barr is organising three separate first aid courses at Ham Manor Golf Club. Each module will consist of 15 participants and the cost of each session will be £25, which will include lunch and certification (if you pass!). Further details will be available shortly. Happy New Year!

MARK WILTON

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

The South West and South Wales regional seminar at Cannington College on November 23 turned out to be another arctic expedition for some members. Winter wonderland came early to Somerset and looking out of the window, one almost expected the reindeers appear. All but a few delegates arrived to enjoy a very full and successful day.

We thank our speakers for braving the elements and giving us an educational treat, also our sponsors, Rugby Taylor for their support. It must have been gratifying for them to see, along with students, 150 delegates present.

The day opened with Kerran Daly's paper on the "Taking of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate", followed by HND student Graham Martin on his views of greenkeeping from a student's point of view. No-one would have known that this was Graham's first paper – a measure of his fine delivery.

After a break for coffee, the excellent start was maintained by Hugh Murray, Head Greenkeeper at Cannington College, who spoke about the maintenance of "Training Golf Course". He fully justified the region's policy of introducing first time speakers. The final speaker of the morning was Barry Cooper, who somehow made a talk on drainage very interesting. After a lively question time, lunch was served.

The afternoon session was always going to be informative with an excellent paper on The Belfry, which has become known in recent years as the home of the Ryder Cup. Derek Ganning's first class description of the work of his team in the preparation of major events kept everyone awake – a no mean feat after a lunch break!

Last but certainly not least was Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. He had an amusing twist to Dry Patch, interspersed by the inevitable steam engine story. This was followed by questions.

The day was closed by Huw Parry, who presented Ivor Scoones, the retiring Regional Chairman, with a clock barometer for his services to the region. In his closing of the seminar Huw gave thanks to everyone concerned.

GORDON CHILD

EVENTS DIARY

January 17-21: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Trade Show and Educational Seminar Programme, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

January 19: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, 5.15pm. Membership cards must be produced.

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

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

March 8: Scottish Region Annual Conference, Elmwood College, Cupar

April 27: Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club

June 29: Southurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Mottspur Park

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

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