Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

KENT

The Kent Section had one of its biggest ever turnouts on May 10, with over 40 players participating in the Spring Tournament at the Mid Kent Golf Club. The morning Rigby Taylor Stableford was won by Peter Biscoe with 36 points closely followed by Paul Rudkin and Shaun Donovan with 35 and Richard Hopgood with 34.

The afternoon medal and Hayter Qualifier was again a hotly contested event with everyone eyeing a place in the Regional Final at Banstead Downs. The overall winner was Derek Keen, nett 68, followed by David Wood, 70, and Vince Clegg and Paul Copsey, 71. Best scratch score went to Steve Suttle, 79. The successful qualifiers for the next round were, in the 0-9 category, Steve Suttle, Huw Morgan, lan Rawlins, and John Wakelin. In the 10-18, Derek Keen, David Wood, Paul Copsey and Paul Rudkin. In the 19-28, Vince Clegg, Haydon Hayes, Phil Hirst, and Richard Page.

I think we all had a very enjoyable day, we were blessed with fine weather, a superbly kept golf course and great food. Many

EVENTS DIARY

July 14-17: Open Championship, Turnberry

August 1-3: National Tournament, Dartmouth Golf Club. Devon

September 6–8: Saltex (previously IoG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Revisaire

September 22: Hayter Challenge Final, Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate

November 9-10: Scotsturf, Ingleston, Edinburgh

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

January 25–27, 1995: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre

thanks go to all our hosts at Mid Kent Golf Club, especially to John Rootes and his lads for their preparation of the course. As always we are very grateful to our friends from the trade for attending all our functions and supporting with raffle prizes, and especially on this occasion to our main competition sponsors Rigby Taylor and Hayter.

It was certainly very pleasing to see many

new faces at the event and the reappearance of some old ones, many of us having to make a special effort to attend due to pressure of work, after a late spring and a slow start, now the flood – not only yet more rain, but grass growing like the clappers.

We are still trying to finalise our summer and autumn golf programme and trying to prepare a series of educational winter workshop courses. Details will appear at a later date or will be sent to you in due course. If there are points you wish to raise, things you feel unhappy about, things you would like to add, concerning the Association at

national or local level, or items and information for "Around the Green", please contact David Wood on 0342 850875, or myself on 0831 115139 or 0322 664547.

PAUL COPSEY

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual skittles night was held at the Right Wing, Willowbrae Road. Twenty-two people turned up to this very enjoyable



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I had the pleasure of being present at the North Section outing at Forres. What a great day this was: the weather was perfect; the course was in excellent condition and the North's hospitality was second to none. I thank them all for a wonderful day.

The Hayter Regional Finals were played over Duddingston Golf Club on May 24; I went down to cheer on the East team but, alas, we only had one qualifier for the National Finals. This was our old friend Dick Dugan from Glencourse. You can always rely on Dick to keep the East flag flying. Congratulations Dick; and you won't be alone on your trip to the finals, hopefully I will be down beside you.

By now you should all have your new fixture card; you will see by it the work that has gone into this year's events. The one change is the Willie Woods Tournament. This will be held at Murrayfield GC on August 17; letters will be out in plenty of time, but we are limited to 40 players.

Tickets are going fast for the annual dance. Don't be caught out, get yours early. Kilspindie Hotel is the venue, and a great night is in store, especially for those from the east who have not been before.

I said in an earlier issue that courses in the east were under water after a very wet winter. Now the opposite has happened - at the time of writing we have not had rain for four weeks and the very cold east wind has completely dried the courses up. Yes, it's a hard life being a greenkeeper.

We give a very warm welcome to all new members and hope to see them at the various tournaments etc. Any information they reguire - just give me a ring and I will do everything I can to help. There are still a number not yet members and they are the



ones who are missing out. If there is someone on your course not yet a member, give them a push; we will be delighted to have them aboard. WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WEST

A different venue from last year awaited the competitors for the recent Greenkeeper/ Amateur Greensomes event held on May 11. Minchinhampton Old Course was our destination, not to be confused with Minchinhampton Golf Club as was the case with a few who turned up at the wrong clubhouse. Those who got it right first time were confronted with a course with a difference. There was no intensive manicuring here, just rough and more long rough. The reason for needing plenty of balls in the bag was because the course of some 100 years of age is situated on common ground and restrictions are placed on the use of herbicides and indeed on the frequency of cutting throughout the year. This led to a naturalists' paradise with a wide variety of wild plants growing and flowering undisturbed.

Around the Green



But this took nothing away from what was a highly enjoyable day both socially and competitively, with 58 people taking part. Any club that allows that number of courtesies over an afternoon is of an extremely generous nature and our thanks are extended to Bob Clarke, the administrator of the Old Course, for his kindness. Thanks also go to the greenstaff and the caterers.

The day's results are as follows: 1, C Tozer and M Savage 38 points; 2, R and T Greaves 37 points; 3, M Haring and P Hampton 36 points (won on back 9); 4, P Baynton and G Dacombe 36 points, 5, K Green and G Fuidge 35 points (won on back 9); 6, J Taylor and S Mulraney 35 points.

As of May 25, there are now 249 members in the South West section. The next opportunity to meet some of them will be at the Summer Tournament, Filton GC, July 27. If your application has not already been sent, please contact me immediately to secure a

KEVIN GREEN

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Not a lot to report this month as we are all cutting grass like mad. I would like to remind you that your views on the Association's review are now due. If you haven't put pen to paper yet, please do so today or call me so I can forward your suggestions to HQ who need your input so we can continue our

I am nearing completion of next season's fixture card which will be winging its way to you soon. Our thanks once again to Devon Garden Machinery who have kindly sponsored the fixture card again.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

It's finally happened! A section outing with glorious weather. Eighty-four golfers played In the Spring Outing at Forres with another nine members present for the day. Shirt sleeves were the order of the day, and those that benefited most were: scratch - 1, Alan Dempster, Strathlene 75bih; 2, George Paterson, Fortrose 75; class one - 1, Kevin Peace, Inverurie 70bih; 2, George Mitchell, Royal Aberdeen 70; 3, John Taylor, Forres 73bih; class two - 1, Gordon Mckie, Tain 65; 2, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen 68bih; 3, Colin Mackay, Cruden Bay 68; class three -1, Colin Burgess, Forres 71bih; 2, Bruce Forsyth, Peterhead 71; 3, John Geddes, Ellon 72; veteran - 1, Tom Simpson, Murrayshall 70; 2, Arthur Williamson, Craigie Hill 72; apprentice - 1, John Milne, Elgin 71; 2, Mark Ross, Elgin 72; Trade Shield -Tom Brannan, Souters 71bih; and guest - R Bruce, Aboyne 71.

Off the course winners were Colin Burgess, Forres, who won the free draw for a BIGGA blazer, and 200 Club winners: January £30 - John Urquhart, Mansfield Estate, Tain; February £30 - Gordon Fraser, Sutherland Cres, Tain; March £40 - James Whyte, St Combs, Fraserburgh; April £100 - Linda Harkiss, Craig Cres, Tain. Three winners from Tain and still I miss out! We thank everyone at Forres for a great day, especially Charlie Mackay and his staff, the course was

Five more new members to welcome: Martin Cameron, head greenkeeper Buckpool; Richard Hendry, assistant at Forres; Mark Cordell, assistant at Moray; Scott Mackenzie, apprentice Royal Aberdeen and Paul Conway, apprentice at Caird Park, Dundee. Gordon Fraser is leaving Tain to become an assistant at Wentworth, whilst also on the move is Alan Strachan who has left Royal Dornoch to become assistant links superintendent at Carnoustie. Moving up is Michael Clark, who has taken over the head job at Kingussie, vacated by Mike Wilson who has moved to Fraserburgh.

Despite the horrendous winter, both Nairn and Nairn Dunbar were in super condition for the recent Amateur Championships. Hopefully, more major competitions will be held in the section in the near future, we certainly have many fine courses and the travelling is much easier than before.

Work is under way on extending Invergor-



don GC from nine to 18 holes. The job, being done by local firm Morrisons, will take under two years with opening scheduled for summer '96.

IAIN MACLEOD

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire representatives in the Scottish finals of the Hayter Challenge made a good run at the prizes, with Ian McNab and Steven Knaggs qualifying, and myself a first reserve. The team was second, despite being two men short, but made up for that by outlasting even the East section hardies in the evening. Our thanks to Hayter and to Duddington GC for an excellent day out.

Gordon Heran at Brunston Castle tells me his greenkeeping sheds are going up now after two years of next weeks that never came. Even though the receivers are in, they have allowed Gordon to build 15 new tees forward from the championship tees to allow for more enjoyable golf for the higher handicapper. Hopefully a buyer will be found shortly to enable this project to fulfil its potential.

Further to last month's report on the babies being waited for at the spring outing, Bob McKay, Paul Rae and Jock McLauchlan are now proud fathers of Heather, Jodie and Jemma respectively. Best wishes to them all. **DUNCAN GRAY**

SURREY

A date has now been set for our Surrey section dinner dance. It will be held at Reigate Manor Hotel on Friday, November 11. We have organised our own function room and tickets will be available from committee members at a price of £18 per head, which includes a three-course meal and a disco until 1am. Accommodation is being looked into at present for those of you wishing to stay overnight.

The first winter lecture has now been organised and will be given by Bill Oliver of Hardi Sprayers on Wednesday November 9. Venue will be announced later. Other forthcoming events include the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale on August 11 and the Parkers Salver at Purley Downs GC on September 21. DAVID GIBBS

NORTH WEST

Trying to find a venue for the Spring Tournament each year is far more of a problem than any other tournament. The reason is, and it's understandable, the greenkeeper wants his course at its best, and he would prefer to stage a tournament later in the year, when there is some growth.

One greenkeeper who took a chance and gave me the OK was Chris Hulme, course manager at Sale GC, and I am sure he must have been regretting his decision at times. No need to have worried, Chris, your course was a credit to you and your staff, with greens that could not be faulted and the course was presented to perfection. Many thanks go to Sale GC for allowing the courtesy of the course, to the greenkeeping staff for all their hard work, to Graham Barber, the caterer, for a lovely meal, and to the following companies for supporting us with prizes: Fletcher Stewarts, Richard Campey, Burrows, and Groundcare.

The winners were: best nett – James Hutchinson; best gross – Paul Pearse; over-55 – Bert Cross; guests – Ian Vernon, Sale captain. The qualifiers for the Hayter Regional Final are: cat 1 – C Leeming, P Pearse, S Moon; cat 2 – C Hulme, P Simpson, B Cross; cat 3 – J Hutchinson, A Holt, A Davies.

The Regional Final will be at Worsley GC on July 20. The next section golf is the summer meeting on Monday July 25 at Stockport GC. Soup and sandwiches between 12 and 1pm and tee off from 1.30pm. Applications to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX, enclosing £10 deposit by July 18.

I still require a team for the Roses match at Mottram Hall on Wednesday August 10, and also for the stewards match at Fishwick GC on Monday September 5. Both of these matches are sponsored with no cost to the competitor. If you are available, please ring me on 051 7245412.

The Autumn Tournament is at Royal Birkdale on Monday September 12, and we have split tee times – 10.30am-12noon and 1.30-3pm. Your applications for this tournament have to be in by Monday August 15 with your preference for am or pm, and your deposit of £10 (apply to Paul Pearse). The tee-off times must be strictly adhered to.

Congratulations go to Bob Janovskis who has become a grandfather for the first time. His daughter gave birth to a son, Robert Michael, a few days before the spring tournament, and Bob kindly donated a bottle of

'fire water' for the prize table because, he said, it would be complicated to treat everybody to a drink.

See you at the Open! BERT CROSS

NORTH WALES

This month our congratulations go to the Royal St Davids GC, Harlech, who are celebrating their centenary, and a distinguished 100 years it has been. Our best wishes also go to Justin Cheung, deputy head green-

Around the Green



keeper at Eaton GC, Waverton, and we hope he has a 'speedy' recovery from his recent car accident, the moral being, Justin, that if you were still at Carden, you wouldn't have had time for any accidents.

Northop Country Park also deserve our best wishes on their opening. I am sure we all look forward to playing what looks like a delightful layout.

There is a paucity of news this month, perhaps you are all too busy or maybe we all lead boring lives. Whichever, without your views (good, bad or indifferent) journalistic artistry becomes a nightmare so please contact me with any info regardless of how small.

Lastly, are any members interested in taking part in social events, eg bowls, fishing etc? If so, contact me on any of the following numbers: 0244 676022 (home); 0829 250556 (office); 0374 685879 (mobile). ANDY CAMPBELL

WEST SCOTLAND

Sixty-eight greenkeepers and trade members attended the ever-popular first outing of the year, at Dougalston GC. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind and credit must go to Sandy Young and his staff for getting the course ready for play. Close inspection of the following scores may indicate that more than one ball was lost.

Scratch – R Bunting 81bih; cat 1 – 1, D McLoren, Cathcart Castle, 81-6=75; 2, J Steadward, Douglas Park 89-9=80bih; 3, D Gaul, Cordross, 89-9=80; cat 2 – 1, D Montgomery, Cawder 86-11=75bih; 2, J Mathew, Dougalston, 91-16=75; 3, J Young, Dougalston, 95-17=78; cat 3 – 1, S Murray, Douglas Park, 101-21=80; 2, A Young, Dougalston, 106-22=84; 3, AJ Young, Cawder, 109-24=85. All the above have qualified for the Hayter Challenge.

Donald Ferguson, first assistant at Cowglen GC, has taken early retirement due to ill health after 13 years of service with the club. His experience of the course will be missed by myself and the rest of the staff. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

The above position was soon filled by J McGoldrick, also of Cowglen. I'm sure he will prove to be an able replacement for Donald.

SCOTT BALLANTYNE

SOUTH COAST

Our Summer Tournament approaches now and will be held at Southwick Park GC on August 15, teeing off from 13.06. The format will be a fourball better ball consisting of member and guest. A guest may be either a member from your own club or a green-keeper from another club. The entrance fee is £10 per person to include a ploughman's lunch on arrival and the evening meal.

As Southwick Park can only cater for a maximum of-40 persons, a closing date of August 5 is being set and you are advised to

contact Bob Cully, the tournament organiser, early as entries will be on a first come first served basis. Bob will need names, handicaps and a cheque for both members



and guests. Entries should be sent to Bob Cully, 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 OLS. Tel: 0489 782976 ALAN MITCHELL

SOUTH WALES

Our annual Greenkeepers v Golf Club Secretaries match at the Southerndown Golf Club was marred by the fact that 16 greenkeepers failed to turn up for what is normally a well supported fixture.

After personally contacting each team member a few days before the event, I confirmed with the organiser that we, the green-keepers, would have a team of 26 – 13 pairs. By far our largest team for a number of years.

Well, on the morning in question, 10 people turned up. Enough for only five team matches. Thank you lads! Not only did you portray us, the greenkeepers, in a bad light, you made me as your organiser look a right fool.

However, I would like to thank those who did make the effort to turn up, especially as we were victorious by three games to two and therefore retain the shield. Winning pairs were: Steve Mills/Mike Norfolk 5+4; Chriss Thomas/Gerwyn Price 3+2; Idwal Morris/Daryl Jones 4+3. Both P Lacey/S Price and JB Jones/L Walter lost on the 18th.

I thank the Golf Club Secretaries, who were prepared to accept the result on the five matches that took place, especially Fred Crossman and Digby Lloyd for their splendid organisation. I'd also like to thank Keith Wilcox and all at Southerndown GC for their hospitality and Jan Williams and the catering staff for what can only be described as the largest gammon steak I have ever had the pleasure of eating.

Good luck to Philip Huw Thomas of Pontardawe GC who is representing our section in this year's ICI Master Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

PETER LACEY

EAST MIDLANDS

This month we welcome the following members to our section: Robert Myatt of Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Ian Needham of Beedles Lake GC, Graham Gilson of Market Harborough GC and Justin Aley of Stoke Rochford GC.

Here are the results of our singles and pairs KO tournaments. In the singles first round D Cooper (Rothley Park) lost 4&2 to J Bedford (Birstall), and G Miller (Ullesthorpe) lost 3&1 to D Leatherland (Kedleston Park). In the first round of the pairs KO, A Bindley and M Hopkins (Kirby Muxloe) beat G Robson and A Mcgreal (Lingdale) 6&5, whilst D James and C James (Wollaton Park) beat S Swann and M Smith (Ramsdale Park) 2&1. Second round matches must be played by July 15.

Finally, we hope to circulate a list of all section members telephone numbers to



members who would like a list. If, however, any member wishes their number to be omitted, please inform me as soon as possible.

ANTONY BINDLEY

MID ANGLIA

This month sees the regional final of the Hayter Challenge at Birstall Golf Club, Leicester. Good luck to all the finalists and let's hope we can retain the team trophy we won last year. The reward for qualifying for the national final is a trip to Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, on September 22.

The Lodgeway fourball competition is well under way and I would remind all participants that they have until the end of this month to complete all their league matches.

The Summer Tournament at Brampton Golf Course on the July 26 will be a stableford competition. The Autumn Tournament is confirmed for October 12 at Mentmore Golf Club and this will be followed by the

The Christmas Texas Scramble will be held at the Family Golf Centre on Thursday December 8.

Good luck to two members who have recently taken up new positions: Don Pemberton, who is moving from Brocket Hall to a new course at Pavenham as course manager, and Jon Moorhouse, who has been promoted to deputy course manager at

Brocket Hall.



Finally, Ronan McKeown from Arkely Golf Club will join me in representing the Mid Anglia section on the regional board. PAUL LOCKETT

MIDLANDS

The Midlands Section's Summer Tournament at Fulford Heath GC was played over 27 holes on a warm and sunny day, which seems quite rare these days. The course



played very well and was presented in excellent condition thanks to Kim Blake and his staff. The nett prize was won by Tony Livingstone, closing with a fine 66 nett in the afternoon. The gross prize was won by Mike Hughes. Sisis' John Burnham, who's having weekly lessons, won the trade prize by too many shots to remember. A truly enjoyable day was rounded off with a most enjoyable

Many thanks to everyone for supporting this event and especially to our trade friends for once again pledging their support to our

I have decided with my regional and now board of management commitments to retire as section secretary at the end of the year.



The section is now looking for a replacement and anyone interested in taking the job on should contact me on 0789 762912. DEAN CLEAVER

Ten players are required for the Cleveland v North East section match at Whickam GC on July 27, 3pm tee off. If you are interested, please contact Gary Munro on 0642 785195 (home) or 0677 425357 (work).

Around the Green HAYTER

HAYTER CHALLENGE REGIONAL

Hospitality is a feature of the Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club. With perfect weather the South West and South Wales Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge went without a hitch, and was certainly a day to remember.

Our thanks must go to Richard Whyman and his greenstaff for the excellent presentation of the course. In spite of all the ribbing, he did a grand job. Thanks also go to all the catering staff for looking after us, and the club captain, Derek Davey, who made us most welcome. Most of all the Hayter "boys" who made it all possible.

Category 1 - 1, Robert Barrett, nett 69; 2 Paul Godwin, 71; 3, Cary Rawlings, 72; reserve, Mike Jones, 72; Category Mug - E West; Category 2 -1, Robin Greaves, 69, 69; 2, J Cooper, 70; 3, C Thomas; reserve, D Gladwin, 71; Category Mug - P Ferragut; Category 3 - 1, P Legg, 68; 2, S Milne, 69; 3, P Saviour, 71; reserve, J Chidley, 74; Category Mug - S Sage.

The winning section for the Regional Shield is the South West section.



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