

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

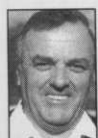
NORTH-WEST

The Northern Region seminar at Mere GCC was a well attended event, with 147 delegates being treated to an educational day not to be missed. The day started with Martin Hawtree (golf course architect) and John Greasley (golf course construction) talking and showing slides of the reconstruction of the greens at Royal Birkdale. It was most interesting to note that both speakers agreed it had been essential for the reconstruction to be carried out due to the poor quality of the rootzone mixture in the greens. Mike Sheehan, the course manager at Mere, talked about the water features he had constructed there. Mike showed a series of slides from the commencement of the construction to the finished features which harmonise neatly with the course.

The afternoon began with Derek Ganning talking about his five-year plan at The Belfry, and gave an insight into how the staff at The Belfry work as a well drilled team. Bob Taylor, who was responsible for setting up the "Conservation management for golf courses" at the STRI, spoke about the need to properly maintain the copses, ponds and ecological areas as well as the greens, tees and fairways on golf courses in order to look after the flora and fauna. Finally, David Golding spoke about greenkeeper training and how the Greenkeepers Training Committee, with the backing of the R&A and the golf unions, are working closely with the colleges for greenkeepers to gain NVQs. It was encouraging to know that the GTC and BIGGA work closely together.

This seminar, the first at Mere since 1989, appears to have been a success and thanks for this go to Mere for the use of the facilities, the speakers, the delegates who attended, and the companies who supported us financially – RJ & J Campey, Burrows (GM), Amenity Land Services, Jacobsen/Textron, Rufford Topdress, Acorn Equipment, Turner Groundscare, Sisis, Ritefeed, SF Hodgkinson (turf growers), Maxicrop, and Cheshire Light Tractors.

A trip to Ransomes was organised by Burrows (GM) and if you missed it you missed a treat. On the coach trip down we were entertained by Billy Connolly – on video. A mid-way stop for lunch, and press on to Ransomes. A cup of coffee and a few words of welcome from Richard the sales manager and then a trip round a brewery, with free booze. A quick trip to the hotel, shower, change and back to the bar before dinner. Day two was a trip round Ransomes' factory, which needs a couple of days to take everything in, and then the journey home. Many thanks to Burrows for organising the trip.



The next golf is the spring tournament on Tuesday May 24. This is the Hayter qualifier and all applications with £10 deposit to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX. Tel: 0625 859258 not

EVENTS DIARY

June 8-9: BALI Trade Show, Stoneleigh

June 29: Southturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park, south west London

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, Berkshire.

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

later than May 17. Soup and sandwiches 12noon to 1pm. Tee off 1-30pm.

BERT CROSS

SHEFFIELD

Our March winter lecture was given in the form of a demonstration and short film show by Jacobsen, luckily the weather was kind enabling members to try out the different machines on show. Thanks go to Michael Vjestica and Ivan Seaman of Jacobsen and to Les Purdy and Chris Bryden of Purdy's for an excellent afternoon with a super buffet thrown in too!

The trip to the Ransomes factory in April was postponed until later in the year due to only nine people wanting to go. When this trip is re-scheduled, hopefully we can raise the 20 people needed to go as this is a very interesting visit giving a good insight into Ransomes', so get your names down.

This year our annual tournament at Tankersley Park Golf Club on July 14 will be sponsored by Yorkshire Mowers and our autumn tournament, at Retford Golf Club on September 21 (tee off 1.30pm), will be sponsored by Purdy's.

On March 16 a committee meeting was held and it was agreed that from October 1994 members will have to attend at least two winter lectures to be eligible for the following year's golf tournaments. Also mentioned at the meeting was some members' dress – this has fallen below acceptable standards, please dress suitably. Remember we are guests of Rotherham Golf Club and should abide by their rules – please wear smart jacket, collar and tie at all lectures.



IAN COLLETT

EAST SCOTLAND

Tom Murray of Ratho Park GC is the section's nomination for the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year. Tom will be visited by representatives from ICI and BIGGA in the next few months and we all wish him well. Hopefully his course, like all of

ours, will have dried out by this time.

This has probably been the worst winter for many years. The very wet summer coupled with an equally wet winter has given all of us problems with courses flooding. Even the seaside courses are under water.

Hopefully better and drier weather is on the way and things can get back to as near normal as possible.

Almost all section events have been organised for the year; and the fixture list should be in members' hands by the spring outing.

At section committee level things have been happening under the careful eye of our new chairman, Peter Ormiston. Peter, as we all know, is a go-ahead type of chap and has studied carefully the way forward for the section.

The committee has been split into various small committees: social, handicap and education being his main objectives.

On the social side, things have been happening already with the quiz and skittles nights all arranged for the full year. Peter, along with his committee, have done their part – all we require now is for the members to do theirs and come along and support us.

In the past the cry has always been 'Everything is on at the west side of the city.' Well, this has now changed: the skittles have been taken to the east of the city along with the quiz night. The "Right Wing" Willowbrae Rd is the skittles venue and the "Black Bull", Dalkeith, will stage the quiz. All we have to do now is sit back and wait for the east of the city members getting in touch. No excuses now.

The big change is the annual dance. It will now take place on a Saturday evening. A sit-down dinner instead of a buffet, a live band instead of a disco and a hotel instead of a golf club. The venue will be The Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady on Saturday December 3. Tickets are already printed and a super deal has been struck with the hotel, even for those wishing to stay the night. The cost of this fabulous night will be £15 per head including transport from the Edinburgh area; and again, this is in the east. So start saving as demand will be as usual.

Peter and his committee have started to show the way forward. I am sure you will do your utmost to support us.

Have you paid your subscription yet? If not, do it now or you will lose out. Membership in the east is at its highest ever; let's keep it that way. Remember the saying, "You'd Better Watch Out, BIGGA's About."

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH COAST

It is time to start thinking about the annual match between the South Coast and South West sections which will take place in the autumn. Paul Drodge will be organising the event for the South Coast. Let's make a good show this year! Those wishing to be considered for the team

should contact Paul on 0425 271954.

If anyone wishes to contact me, my home number is 0703 438808 and my office number at the Hampshire Golf Club is 0264 334269. An answer phone is always available on both numbers. Please feel free to ring, we are especially looking for feedback from the section on the constitution review which is taking place at headquarters. Where do you think BIGGA should be going in the future?

I hear David Hinks has found a new position at Southwick Park and I am sure that we all wish him well for the future.

We had good turnouts for our last two winter lectures at Alresford Golf Club. There were first-hand accounts of the East Sussex National and Wisley clubs and if you missed them then come along to our future events, the company and beer are always good.
ALAN MITCHELL

SURREY

Huxley Bowl entries reached a record 17 pairs this year. Draw sheets have been dispatched, with the first round to be completed by May 14. Please phone results in as soon as possible.

Venues for the 1995 season are being looked into. Members wishing to stage a BIGGA event should contact the committee.

Congratulations to Gavin Kyle, formerly of Ashford Manor under Terry Huntley, upon his appointment as head greenkeeper of Sutton Green GC near Guildford. Good luck.

Forthcoming events include the Hayter regionals at Banstead Downs GC on June 16. Members wishing to play in the England v Scotland match on July 13 should contact Derek Walder on 0737 246088.

The Southturf exhibition is around six weeks

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away now and Surrey can boast 382 members to date so please try to attend this event and make it really worthwhile – June 29 Motpur Park.

DAVID GIBBS

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

We start this month's news by reporting the finish of two members' working lives. Pat Differ of Dullatur GC and Ian Connell of Ladybank GC have recently retired from their respective clubs. Best wishes from everyone in the section go to Pat and Ian for a long and happy retirement, hopefully we will still see them at some of the section events during the year.

The visit to Scottish Grass Machinery was well supported and our thanks go to David McNroy and his staff for the hospitality which was extended to everyone. Likewise, the return visit to the Monarch's course at Gleneagles attracted a large turnout and with Jimmy Kidd and Ross Monahan giving a superb presentation of the Gleneagles set-up, everyone had an excellent day.

At the time of writing, we have over 50 forms returned for the visit to Ibrox Stadium. Three interesting names which are included are Fergus McCann, Brian Dempsey and Dominic Keene. I wonder if they will turn up?

Out of the 250 questionnaires which were

sent out a couple of months ago, only 15 have been returned. Did the postman get lost when he was delivering them, or is everybody satisfied with the variety of events organised at the present time? (Fifty forms for Ibrox!)

Past chairman of the section, Duncan Peddie, has been a bit under the weather recently. Hopefully it's not a reaction to the beer consumed during his week in Harrogate. Whatever it is Dunc, I hope you have recovered by now, we missed you at the last committee meeting.

Ending on a high note this month, with another six new members joining the Association. Welcome to the Central Section, lads! Hopefully you will manage to get along to some of our events in the coming months. We look forward to meeting you.



JOHN CRAWFORD

AYRSHIRE

The typical Ayrshire greenkeeper's habit of walking with a pronounced lean forward into the wind has been tested to the limit this past few months, and with the addition of more than 50 per cent of our annual rainfall in three months this spring is proving more difficult than usual. Days when fertilising, spraying or top-dressing can be carried out are few and far between, then when a good day pops up, out come the golfers in their hordes, wondering why the course isn't in top playing condition. Hopefully by the time you read this, the waterproofs will be shed, the gait a little straighter, and the greens a little smoother.

George Brown tells me Turnberry is shaping up well for the Open, with hundreds of yards of snow fencing erected (to prevent sand blow) working very well.

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Around the Green



In March an excellent outing to Turnberry was supported by 40 greenkeepers. Well done to George Brown for an interesting and informative talk covering the shed area, machinery, clubhouse, hotel and course. Each aspect of the complex was fully explained and all our questions answered.

Finally, Ian Wilson, formerly of Blairbeth, has taken up the post of course manager at Hamilton GC where I'm sure he'll do well. Good luck, Ian!
SCOTT BALLANTYNE

NORTH EAST

The section would like to congratulate Terry Chareton of TurfCare for providing a superb field day at Beamish Park GC. The attendance spoke for itself with over 80 persons present. As for the speakers, they did their respective companies proud.

George Atkinson, head greenkeeper for 17 years at Consett GC, is due to retire in September. In recognition of his services to greenkeeping and to his hard work as a section committee member we will be holding a presentation dinner at Stocksfield GC in October. Any member interested in attending should speak to Barry Wilson at South Moor.



Congratulations to section chairman Richard Greane on becoming a grandad!
JIMMY RICHARDSON

SOUTH WEST

As highlighted in April's issue, a grant has recently been given by the R&A for use in putting together a central library for the benefit of members. Any suggestions for book purchases and/or donations or loans of relevant books would be productive. The intention to make them available to members attending courses at Aldwark or on a normal loan and return basis means that everybody can benefit. Anyone interested can contact me or headquarters direct.

Some interest is being shown in training courses, with, hopefully, a few more members now being aware of emergency first-aid procedures should the need arise.

The section golf matches between the secretaries on June 28, South Wales on October 5 and the South Coast on October 25 need teams. Interested in playing? Applications can be made by returning the slip in the recent section letter along with any suggestions for events for the 1995 fixture list.

Congratulations to Guy Woods on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Landsdown GC.

Finally, many new members have joined the section over recent months. We welcome you and look forward to meeting you at section events in the future, like the next one at Filton GC on July 27.

KEVIN GREEN

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Padbrook Park GC was the venue for our March meeting, which saw more than 60 members competing over the excellently presented nine-hole course for the Supaturf Trophy for head

greenkeepers and trade, and the Rhone-Poulenc Trophy for assistants. It was also the section's qualifier for the Hayter Beaver Challenge Trophy (results for this elsewhere in Around the Green).

Our congratulations to head greenkeeper Cary Rawlings for the condition of his new course. Executive director Neil Thomas and our non-golfing members were treated to the usual course walk by departing assistant greenkeeper Richard Hall before returning to the clubhouse for lunch. After an excellent lunch, John Palfrey on behalf of Supaturf, Paul Clifton of Rhone-Poulenc and Robin Boyes of Hayter Beaver presented the prizes.

Supaturf Trophy: 1, A Ramsden (Budock Veau) 34pts; 2, T Gooch (Torrington) 31; 3, C Rawlings (Padbrook) 31.
Rhone-Poulenc Trophy: 1, A James (Tehidy) 35pts; 2, S Evans (St Enodoc) 33; 3, C Bland (Dainton Park) 33.

Our afternoon programme was altered slightly as our executive director Neil Thomas was invited to the section to discuss in an open forum recent occurrences within the Association. Many of the questions were about the AGM. The section would like to thank Neil for making the long journey to our section and for giving us the chance to hold this open forum.

Before the open forum, our educational talk was presented by Gordon Jaaback on water conservation. It was most informative and interesting. The section thank Gordon, who was presented with a small gift as a show of its gratitude. I will be sending out a brief paper of Gordon's talk and a more detailed question and answer paper on the open forum in due course.

The section would like to thank Mr Chard and all the staff at Padbrook for making our day so enjoyable.

Our next meeting will be the new summer tournament and workshop which has been sponsored by Jacobsen & MST and will be held at Yelverton GC on Wednesday June 22 with start times from 12.30-2pm. The workshop starts at 2.30pm and evening meal at 6.45pm, followed by the prize presentation and raffle.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section would like to welcome four new members: John Littlejohn, the deputy course manager at Newmacher, Aberdeen; also from Newmacher is assistant Patrick Wood; from nearby Alford we welcome Jonathon Lester; and from King James VI GC in Perth comes apprentice Kenneth Odonnell. Transferring into the area is Graeme Flett from Fife who is the new head greenkeeper at Newtonmore GC. It is good to see a regular monthly influx of new members but unfortunately we seem to have lost about 30 of last year's members. Hopefully they will be re-joining but if anyone knows of a colleague who has not taken up membership again then please ask them if they have a reason for it. Maybe we can solve any problems they have in joining. Obviously there are a few people lost each year due to retirement, change of career, relocation etc, but this year's figure seems a bit high!

Some news comes in from the North East. Firstly, Hughie Mclatchie at Peterhead is proud to announce that his female apprentice Aileen Snowden has finished her time and is now a qualified greenkeeper. Well done, Aileen. Hughie also tells me of someone's misfortune that became another person's good luck. A ship lost its load of newly cut timber and various links courses around the North East were able to pick up trailer loads of good planks!. New build-

Over the past few weeks I have had the pleasure of walking the new courses at Loch Lomond and Fota Island in Cork, both with creeping bent grass greens in excellent condition in mid-March. Fota Island in fact only opened in September and after a fair amount of play still looks good. Whatever has been said about creeping bent, it may well have a future in these isles.

Finally, if you see a huge yellow Ford Thunderbird with a red-haired driver waving at you, it's not Fergie, it's only our chairman indulging his fantasies.

DUNCAN GRAY

SUSSEX

The Sussex branch faired pretty well at the Annual Gentlemen's Dinner event at Walton Heath. Mr D Taylor, chairman of the green at Cooden Beach, came first in the guest section with 41 points, Stefan Antolik, from the same club, took second overall (9-16 handicap) with 40 points and George Barr of Ham Manor slogged a mere 287 yards to win the longest drive of the day. By the way, George told me it was a three wood and into the wind!

Twenty-four greenkeepers took part and passed a one-day first-aid course held at Ham Manor, organised in conjunction with BIGGA and Medical Training Services. Another course is planned for later in the year.

Lastly, two events for your diaries: April 28 - our spring meeting at Willingdon GC (why weren't you there?); June 29 - Southturf, Motspur Park.

MARK WITTON

LONDON

This month I would like to congratulate the following on their new appointments:

Paul McDowell, new head greenkeeper at Slinfold Park Golf and Country Club. Paul leaves our section and I would like to thank him for all his work on the committee.

Paul Cooper has been appointed head greenkeeper at Bushey Golf and Country Club.

Jeff Donovan has been appointed head greenkeeper at the new course at Barnet, Bridgedown GC.

Terry Colvill has been appointed assistant head greenkeeper at Mill Hill GC. Terry has also recently qualified for the TV gameshow 'Gladiators'.

I would like to wish all the lads the best of luck.

TONY DUNSTAN

WEST SCOTLAND

Not a lot to report this month unless you count wind, rain, snow, sleet and hail, which brings me onto the subject of the annual North v South of the river football match. Picture the scene, it's Sunday at Ibrox community football pitch. It's cold, very cold, snow intermingled with icy rain and yet they still turned up. Earlier the snow had been cleared from the lines so that play could go ahead. Nevertheless, 9.50am and the whistle blows to start a game that gave new meaning to slide tackles. Joe McKean (referee) kept tight control on the proceedings and has to be congratulated on suffering the elements and the volley of abuse and calls for offside he received from both teams.

The game was finally brought to an end at 11am with the score standing at 3-1 in favour of the South. Although Pollock man Stephen McGeachy should have been playing for the South, he was given to the North after turning up late and scored their only goal.

ings are going up as a result. It's a pity it didn't quite make it over to Tain.

The Scottish Conference at Elmwood College, Fife was a great success with a full house and quality speakers. I, along with my deputy Gordon Mckie, attended the workshops on the previous day and found them excellent as well, with much learnt.

Finally, are there any members interested in first-aid courses? If there is sufficient demand, I can set up some training days in the area.

Remember, by law all courses must have at least one first-aider who has been trained in the last three years! Contact me on 0862 894402



IAIN MACLEOD

NORTH ENGLAND

Our annual dinner, at Northcliffe GC, was a very pleasant, enjoyable evening. All were mesmerised with the outrageous illusionist comedian Madman Burnette (aptly named) for an hour. After a short break he continued to entertain us with some pleasant singing and dance music. Some 60-plus members attended. The food and wine enhanced the evening even more. My thanks to all members who helped on the evening especially Sara and Bob Lupton, Ken Christie, Roy Fenton, Phillip Taylor and all the staff at Northcliffe GC where we were made most welcome.

I am pleased to welcome to our section the following new members: Derrick Redhead, Marshall Gordon Monkhouse, Richard Longstaff, Stephen Awde, all from Penrith GC, David Crampton of Hatfield Hall GC, Benjamin Turner of Outlane GC, Philip Simpson of Oakdale GC, Gary Potter of Skipton GC, Simon McIlwaine of Wetherby GC, Christopher Williamson of Keighley GC, and Andrew Ivel of Moor Allerton GC.

If any new member requires any information please contact me on 0274 568128.

There are still a few places left on our golfing events, if you have not booked yet please do so immediately by sending your name and £10 deposit to me, to avoid disappointment.

PAT MURPHY

SOUTH WALES

With the weather remaining as wet as ever into March, a few days away from the course were possible without suffering too much of an attack of conscience.

On March 10, Ted and Chriss Hopkins of Ted Hopkins & Son, Newport, took us to Massey Ferguson's headquarters at Stoneleigh. The attendance should have been better but, as usual, a few failed to turn up (mind you, it was the finest day of the year upto then). So, with this playing on our minds, we headed up the M5 Coventry-bound.

After first visiting the tractor museum and then watching the 'History of Massey Ferguson' video, we entered the factory. Boy, what a factory! I've had the pleasure of visiting a number of major machinery manufacturers' premises over the past few years, but this was the largest so far and can only be described as enormous!

Hang on a minute, could this be right? Blue tractors rolling off the assembly line?. Does that say Iseki on the side of it? For those of you who haven't heard, Massey Ferguson UK have entered into an agreement with Iseki Japan whereby Massey Ferguson UK now produce Iseki tractors over 40hp for the expert market, ie Japan, and Iseki Japan produce Massey Ferguson compact tractors for export, ie Great Britain. Clear? Good.

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With this having been explained, it was off to the Stoneleigh test centre for a spot of lunch and a machinery demonstration. A number of machines were demonstrated as well as the complete range of Massey Ferguson compact tractors varying from 17-35hp turbo. An excellent range of tractors with just too many good, new features to mention.

Thanks to all at Stoneleigh, Massey Ferguson UK and Ted and Chriss Hopkins for a splendid day out, even if the bus did break down on the way home.

On March 15, at Sandfields, Bristol, Avoncrop invited many greenkeepers to their premises for a factory visit and seminar. The seminar was based on an update of new chemicals from the Rhone-Poulenc stable, presented by Paul Clifton. These included Twister Flow, Castaway Plus and Vitesse. There was also a talk on top-dressings with the STRI's south-west adviser, Peter Winter, covering the whys, whens and if you should. The day was extremely well attended and exceptionally well organised and we thank Avoncrop and especially Rod Feltham for his hospitality and look forward to future visits for, despite a recession, Avoncrop have expansion in mind.

March also saw the winter lecture programme coming to an end with Lyn Davies of Pencoed College presenting a paper on 'Conservation on the Golf Course'. An interesting and informative evening was again had by all in attendance, even though the title was a little misleading, or was it that the subject deviated slightly?

Our sincere thanks to Lyn and to all those who presented papers throughout the winter and made the programme such a success. I hope that this year's programme will be as varied and enjoyable.

Many new members have joined the section this year and we look sure to break the 150 barrier. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can throughout the year, whether it's at our golf days or the educational evenings. Meanwhile, if you have any queries, please contact me on 0850 716403 or 0792 233923.

PETER LACEY

NORTH WALES

Firstly, congratulations and best wishes to the following members on their appointments: Ain Buckley who has joined the new development at Northop Country Park as first assistant; George Whitby who is moving into the area from Pontefract GC to take over as head greenkeeper at Chirk GC; Craig Wheeler who has moved from Delamere to Frodsham GC to become assistant head; Tony Wellings on his move from Carden Park to the new Eaton course at Waverton, Chester; and our old friend Mark Proctor on his appointment as course manager at St Pierre Chepstow after a spell working in Germany.

The committee would like to welcome all new members and look forward to seeing you at our functions.

On a slightly different note, what about you retired members out there? With so many new courses being built and with it the influx of young people into the profession would you feel

able to share your experience at practical workshops? If so, please call me on 0829 250556.

To finish this month, a public thank-you from our chairman, Brian Anderson, to the Welsh Golf Union for very kindly making a presentation to him in recognition of the quality of the Abergele course on the occasion of the Over-35s Championship.

ANDY CAMPBELL

SCOTTISH REGION

Even though most of the rest of Scotland was suffering under torrential showers, Dunbar lay sunny and bright for the Scottish Region annual match against the secretaries. However there was a 'slight breeze', actually it was a full scale gale and the beach proved to be a popular place for golf ball hunting. One look at the gale and a quick word with Graham Wood, "let us play off the front markers, Graham". So ably led by chairman Gordon Moir, off we set to retrieve the Trophy. Was it a wise move by the selection committee to put one links greenkeeper in each pairing? Well, all but two. Surely in this gale their experience would be invaluable. And so it proved as the first two pairings returned a win. However the next five matches were won alternately by the secretaries then the greenkeepers. So with one match to go it was 4-3 in favour of us, but we need an outright win. Everyone anxiously watched for Jimmy Neilson and Norman Wood coming in. Ah, big beaming smiles and the Trophy is ours.

Well done lads and you all get a game next year. Well maybe some names will have to be looked at. To let you know how windy it was, Graham's men were out divoting fairways and they were walking down the 6th fairway and filling the divot marks on the 17th which runs parallel. The course was, as usual, in great condition and the inner man was extremely well catered for, so thanks to all at Dunbar Golf Club for a most enjoyable day. One of my opponents on spotting the Bass Rock Offshore reckoned 'it must be windy, Ailsa Craig's been blown round to this side'.

Our annual conference was held at Elmwood College. Eight speakers gave a varied and comprehensive programme in many aspects of golf. Norval Black, principal of Elmwood College, gave us a warm welcome to the college and set the pace for an interesting day. Our morning chairman was Jim Paton, West Kilbride Golf Club. Elmwood's own head of greenkeeping section, Carol Borthwick, started the day off with an up to the minute report on greenkeeping education, with special reference to SVQs. By the title of Steve Isaac's from STRI talk, Grooming the Green, we could have been forgiven for wondering if our greens would look better with a short back and sides. He certainly made us think about the use and overuse of groomers. Very diplomatic Steve spoke of the red, orange or green machines.

In the capable hands of ex-rugby referee Eddie Sheret, Lothian Golf Association, the title 'Course Rating Review' was brought into reality and not just another piece of legislation that the authorities want and no-one else cares about. Kevin Stables, well respected Scottish club professional at Montrose Links, told us what he thought of Scottish golf courses and what he looks for in a course whilst playing on the Tartan Tour. It was nice to hear good commonsense views from Kevin and I'm sure he will be welcome on all our courses this year.

Douglas Dalgleish finished off the morning

session in his own inimitable fashion. Douglas, the president of the Scottish Golf Union, has his own ideas on how golf clubs should be managed and operated. His description of different types of amateur golfers brought many laughs and thoughts of 'I've got some of them in my club'. Communication and co-operation between all parties involved in running golf clubs were points which came through in his talk. We went off happily to lunch and it must have been a good morning as, come 1pm, the hall was filled again. Our afternoon chairman was Willie Blair from Kingsknowe GC. Ian McMillan, course manager at Balbirnie Park, took us through his life and times at Balbirnie. 'Thru Flood and Fire' was the title of his talk and these were only some of the problems he has encountered over the years. Well done Ian, now which Scottish greenkeepers can we tempt up on to the platform next year? You get a free lunch you know! Some subjects can be very difficult to make interesting and our last two speakers had this dubious task.

Douglas Shearer, consultant agronomist, brought us up-to-date with pesticides, that is if it is possible to be completely up-to-date. I'm sure the powers that be wait until we have nearly caught up and then make new rules. However back to Douglas who is one of the few that can make pesticides regulations sound interesting and also put the fear of death into you. Now what do I do with these contaminated gloves again? No, not your teeth you fool!

And finally, what did we know about fertilisers? Well, after Keith McKee, amenity manager for Fisons, had finished we knew a lot more. Again a difficult subject ably covered by an obvious expert. Gordon Moir, Scottish Region chairman, proposed thanks to all the speakers and chairmen and everyone else involved in making

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the day so successful. His special thanks went to the Scottish Region patrons who sponsor the conference every year.

ELLIOTT SMALL

EAST MIDLANDS

Congratulations go to Richard Parker who, along with his Longcliffe pro and two members, has returned from a pro-am tournament in Spain with first prize.

Gavin Robson of Lingdale GC has been nominated to represent the section for this year's ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award. I'm sure all our members would like to wish him all the best.

This month we welcome three new members to our section: Paul Knowles of Overstone Park GC, Northampton; Nicholas Dowman of Belton Park GC; and Paul Holmes of The Notts GC, Hollinwell. It is hoped that all these members will attend section events as they will be made most welcome.

With this year's singles and pairs K/O about to begin, may I remind all entrants to make sure matches are played before the closing dates.

Finally, if any member has any news they would like to see in this column, they can contact me on 0533 890301.

ANTHONY BINDLEY

MIDLAND

For our final lecture of the winter, at Telford Golf and Country Club, the speakers were Bob Pilsbury from Alexanders and Bill Oliver from Hardi Sprayers. The numbers were a little disappointing with only 20 people turning out for what was a most enjoyable afternoon. Many thanks to our two speakers and their respective companies for supporting our section event.

We would like to welcome the following new members to our section and look forward to meeting you at our future events - Wayne Broadway, Vincent Gilroy, Craig Roberts, Graham Rushton, Neil Turner, Paul Adams, Trevor Stone and Paul Underhill.

On April 13 we finally played our spring tournament after being cancelled the previous week due to adverse weather conditions. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. The tournament played at Trentham GC was eventually won by Peter Holtham with Paul Loffman winning the gross prize. Mike Hughes, in the absence of our chairman, presented the prizes and thanked everyone for making our day so enjoyable.

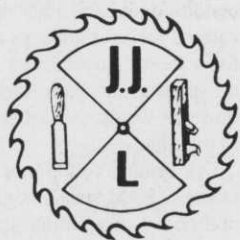
Date to remember: June 6 - summer tournament, Fulford Heath GC (closing date for entry is May 11). If you haven't got a form and would like to play, call me on 0789 762912.

DEAN CLEAVER



HAYTER CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT

The following golfers from the Devon and Cornwall section have qualified for the regional final at Bude and North Cornwall GC on Wednesday June 15: 0-9 handicap - T Ramsden, C Bland, C Rawlings, M Gilbert, J Mitchell; 10-18 - B Ridgeway, T Pipe, T Gooch, M Bosley, W Potter; 19-28 - A James, S Evans, S Milne, J Barr, J Bullen.



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