

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON AND CORNWALL

With the summer drawing to an end we can now look forward to the beginning of our winter meeting programme which starts at Dainton Park GC on Wednesday October 26. I would like to remind you to send all your entries back to me with correct monies by the closing dates on the entry forms as meals have to be booked in advance. Also a reminder about our dress code at meetings – jackets and ties for lunch and no jeans or shorts to be worn at all. I look forward to meeting all my old friends and hopefully many new ones.

The section was saddened to learn through the magazine the passing of Ivor Scoones' wife Ann. Members would like to pass on their deepest sympathy to Ivor and his family.

RICHARD WHYMAN

LONDON

I would like to thank Barenbrug UK and RPK Turfcare Supplies for the visit to the STRI. Our group was welcomed by Michel Mulder and John Bradley from Barenbrug at Bingley. The tour started with an introduction from Dr Andy Newell and this was followed by a session in the laboratory. We were given the

EVENTS DIARY

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

chance to ask many questions on the analysis of soil and diseases and the associated problems. We also had the opportunity to see the trial ground and the tests that were in operation. The afternoon session was concluded with an excellent lunch and a chance to discuss turf problems amongst our group. The visit was very informative and beneficial.

Next month we host the regional seminar at Oaklands College on Wednesday 26th. You should have received the programme by now and I look forward to seeing you all at Oaklands. Attendance at the meeting will attract three Master Greenkeeper credits.



TONY DUNSTAN

NORTHERN REGION

The patrons scheme for companies wishing to support the region is going well. We have Highspeed (CourseCare) Ltd, Aitkens, Sportsturf and D&E Turf Maintenance as patrons. I hope members will support the companies who support us when ordering goods and services. Anyone who requires information about our scheme can call me on 0782 751851 or 0850 235554.



BOB LUPTON

MID ANGLIA

The Summer Tournament was held at Brampton Park GC, Huntingdon, and attracted an entry of 30 greenkeepers and trade members. A stableford format was played over 36 holes. This was a wise choice due to the difficulty of the course, which has many water hazards.

Although the hot weather had taken its toll on the fairways, it was good to see the greens in excellent shape and pleasing to play a course with so many interesting holes, particularly the 4th and 16th which provoked lively discussions in the clubhouse afterwards. Our thanks go to Brian Taylor, the course man-

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ager, and his staff for the course and to Brampton Park for looking after us so ably on the day. Boughton Loam sponsored the day for us – thanks again, Mike Franklin. Thanks are also extended to all other trade members who turned up on the day and donated prizes.

The results: 1, Jon Moorhouse, 74pts; 2, Tony Freeman, 71pts; 3, Dick Coogan, 66pts; best am score – Chas Ayres (Lodgeway) and Mike Franklin (Boughton Loam), 31pts, but because they are both trade members the prize went to Neil Whittaker with 29pts; best pm score – Gavin Simpkins, 37pts; nearest the pin – Chris Brook; longest drive – Jon Moorhouse.

Our next golfing event is the Autumn Tournament at Mentmore GC on October 12 – an 18-hole event followed by the AGM. Preceding this on October 7 is the final of the Lodgeway Fourball Knockout.

Would all members please note a change of date for the Christmas Texas Scramble at the Family Golf Centre, Stevenage. It will now be held on Tuesday December 6 and not Thursday as published in the July issue.



PAUL LOCKETT

NORTH SCOTLAND

The first greenkeepers to take advantage of half-yearly memberships, now available, are Donald Patience from Tarbat GC, Portmahomack, and Richard Muir from Inverurie GC. I hope they will be members for many years to come.

Older members that remember Steve Donachie, a stalwart of the section for many years, may be interested to learn that his grandson, Scott Barclay, has joined the greenkeeping staff of Steve's old club, Deeside. I'm sure that if Steve were alive today he would be a very proud man.

I recently had the opportunity to play the new Carnegie course at Skibo, Sutherland, venue for the 1995 Scottish Greenkeepers Championship. The course is superb with some holes looking as if they have been there for years. It was hard to imagine that this was the land I had walked over only 18 months earlier. The scenery is breathtaking with views over the loch and distant hills, indeed along the 5th hole is an SSSI area with some very rare lichen growing in abundance. The clubhouse is nearing completion and it seems likely that another course will be constructed inland to give real variety for the customer. Alick Mackay and his staff have built all the bunkers in the traditional revetting way and they look excellent, the sand is taken from banks on the course and is a pleasure to play out of. Although it is way up north, I thoroughly recommend that Scottish region members make the effort next June to come up and play Skibo. It will be worth the journey.

Application forms for the North section's conference in Aberdeen this December are now arriving at clubs all over, but anyone who does not receive one and would like to go, please get in touch with me as I have some spare.

Tain assistant Jocky Urquhart won the Tain Club Championship for the third year running recently, making it four years in a row that a greenkeeper has won it and the next day Fortrose greenkeeper George Paterson won the Tain 36-hole Open! In fact several greenkeepers from various clubs in Scotland were playing in the tournament this year which

Around the Green



ensured a pleasant chat over a few beers after the golf.



Finally, I must mention the Open. Great course, great organisation, great fun, what a week.
IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WALES

Congratulations to Steve Mills on his appointment as head greenkeeper at the newly-developed Gower golf course, Cefyn Goliau Farm, Three Crosses. Steve, a former head greenkeeper of the Morrision GC for 17 years, took up his new post on the Donald Steel designed, Brian Pierson constructed 9-hole course on July 18.

Steve will work with new owner John Richards and his son Adrian at the course that is due to open in late spring/summer of 1995 and will extend to a full 18 holes later when funds permit.

Congratulations also go to Huw Parry, formerly of Caerphilly and Bristol and Clifton golf clubs, on his completely new challenge of lecturer in greenkeeping at the Cannington College, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Huw, who took up his new position on September 1, will be sorely missed by the section for he has been influential for his decision-making throughout his many terms of office. These positions have been at all levels – section, region and national, and his present standings are regional chairman, Pencoed College liaison chairman and national education chairman, but I'm sure Huw would like to be best remembered for being instrumental in the establishment of the GTC's Training Manual. On behalf of the section I wish Huw good luck with his new vocation and thank him for all of the hard work and effort that he has put into the Association over the years.

Our Summer Competition was held at Mountain Ash GC amid glorious sunshine and near perfect golfing conditions. The course was presented in superb condition and in the words of their captain, John Davies, "The course is in the best condition it has ever been." We can only echo this statement and congratulate Ceri Richards and his staff for their marvellous efforts.

It was very gratifying to be in the company of a golf club official who not only speaks so very highly of his greenstaff but who went to the trouble of purchasing gifts and presenting them on the evening in question.

Results: Winner of the Birdie Cup with a best gross of 71 was Gary Johnston, Southern-down GC; 2, Andrew Roach, Haverfordwest GC, 74; winner of the Waycott Cup with a best nett of 65 (on back 6) was Gerwyn Price, Maesteg GC; winner of the John Duncan Cup was David Jenkins also of Maesteg GC; nearest the pin – Huw Thomas, Pontardawe GC; longest drive – Alan Richards, Neath.

Our thanks to all at the Mountain Ash GC for helping to make the day so very enjoyable, especially Mr Davies, secretary Geoff Mathews, the caterers and especially the greenstaff

– well done lads.

However, when all is said and done, the day would not have been possible without the support of the sponsors Birds of Cowbridge. Our sincere thanks to Roger and Jeff Bird for their continued support and generosity in providing the prize table, absolutely first class! We were informed that the superb range of Portcawl/Walker Cup '95 merchandise was extremely "hot off the press".

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that in the early hours of July 25, Stuart Lyndsey, head greenkeeper at Southerndown GC, took his own life. Single man Steve, 29, was a Scot and keen Rangers supporter. He had been at Southerndown for over two years following a short spell greenkeeping in Canada. On behalf of the section, condolences have been sent to Stuart's mother and sister who live near Linlithgow GC, West Lothian.
PETER LACEY

NORTH WALES

Firstly an apology from yours truly to High-speed Lubricants and their representative Paul Shaw for failing to convey our thanks for their kind donation to our prize table at the Spring Tournament. The company and Paul have always been staunch supporters of our activities and I hope that this omission has not harmed our relationship.

The Board of Management has now published a review document 'Towards 2000' and the section committee will shortly be considering the contents of it. Should anyone have any ideas or views as to the way they think the Association should progress, please contact a committee member as soon as possible. This review is a worthwhile exercise and needs your input. Any recommendations for change will be put before membership at the AGM during BTME.

All members will be circulated shortly with regard to future events.

Finally, congratulations to Phil Davies of Mommersteeg, a friend of longstanding, on successfully completing his national diploma in turf culture. This is quite an achievement considering Phil's workload and the award will be formally made during the Saltex show at Windsor.

ANDY CAMPBELL

MIDLAND

Members of our section will have received a questionnaire regarding future lectures recently. If you have not returned it yet, please do so as this will enable us to put on the lectures you want.

Congratulations to Vince Lee on his move to Great Barr as assistant head greenkeeper. We also wish Vince the best of luck in the regional finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

It is with much regret that I have to inform members of the sudden death of Tom Kelsall. Tom, aged 63, was head greenkeeper at Stratford Oaks GC where he had been for the last seven years. Tom was always a keen supporter of greenkeeping and of BIGGA, serving on the Midlands committee. We send our condolences to his wife and family.
DEAN CLEAVER



EAST ANGLIA

Tree-lined fairways, tight lies and nippy greens welcomed 48 East Anglian greenkeep-

ers to Thetford GC for the August meeting. With the predicted storms failing to reach East Anglia, golfing conditions were good. But with such a testing course suiting the straighter hitters, scores were not exceptional except for one or two hitting the 40-point mark.

Thetford GC captain Ron Hewick and vice-captain Richard Goodenough joined in the day and at the prize giving the captain expressed his delight at being able to join in with the section, and commended the Association before, with everyone's agreement, giving praise to Ian Willett, head greenkeeper, and his staff for the condition of the course and the hard work in bringing the course round since he joined the club 18 months ago. Also, thanks Ian and Sam for the organisation.

Results: 0-9 cat - 1, A Carter; 2, M Fance; 3, R Plummer; 10-18 cat - 1, P Gould; 2, J Timms; 3, S Sylvester; 3, 19-28 cat - 1 E Hart; 2, S Millard; 3, T Huddleston; nearest the pins - 1st P Gould, sponsor RE Rushbrooks; 3rd R Plummer, sponsor Colliers; 11th S Pigott, sponsor Ben Burgess; 16th A Arbon, sponsor Sisis; longest drives - 8th M Peters, sponsor Bennets-Kubota; 13th A Turbin, sponsor Bennets-Jacobsen; guest prize won by Martin Preston. Further prizes donated by Kings, Thurlow Nunn, CMW, Patissons, Turf-Actant, Parker Hart and Rigby Taylor.

Thanks also to club professionals Norman Auther of Thetford, Ian Harris of West Middlesex and Roger Mace of Shillingly Park for their cooperation and for making contributions, along with the above, to the 27 raffle prizes.

Welcome to P Vincent, J Reluga and Golf Maintenance Ltd for becoming new members of the section.

M McGeoch has moved to head greenkeeper at Abbotsley GC and S McGeoch to head greenkeeper at Cambridge Lakes GC. Congratulations to Martin Mison and wife Tracey on the birth of their first child, Nathan.

The next meeting will be held at Gog Magog GC, Cambridge, on October 4. The Turkey Trot and AGM will be held at Aldeburgh on Thursday December 8. This is the day when everyone in the section has the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Venues for '95 are still required. If you would like to put your club forward for a June or August meeting, please contact Sam Sylvester. Finally congratulations to Sam for qualifying for the final of the Hayter Challenge at Pannal this month.

STEPHEN MILLARD

SUSSEX

Our Summer Tournament took place at Ham Manor GC. As I recall, it was the first time that our branch has had the pleasure of playing such a fine course. (Now is this due to the location or the skills of George, Jon and co? Probably the latter.)

The day started as a medal round, kindly sponsored by Farmura, followed by an afternoon stableford with prizes donated by Driving Force.

Unfortunately, due to one thing and another, I could only attend the afternoon round, and only then complete nine holes, so my apologies for the brief report. I gather from Stefan that the day went extremely well with hot sunshine from dawn to dusk (too hot for some judging by the number of no returns in the afternoon!) The food, I understand, was absolutely fabulous. Many thanks to the caterers for their excellent service and display. A

Around the Green



thank you must also go to Sue Antolik for doing the score cards and other 'small' jobs which help make the day run so smoothly. Refreshments at the halfway stage were gratefully received, thanks to Ross for the service.

Now for the results. Stefan mentioned that the winner of the medal - a bandit from Cooden Beach whose handicap has now been chopped - won a BIGGA blazer which, to the section's knowledge, is the first to present such a prize.

Morning medal - 1, Carl Whyborne, 68; 2, Bill Francis, 69; 3, Stefan Antolik; guest prize - Richard Elderfield, 65. Afternoon stableford - 1, Doug Powell, 41; 2, Mik Butrymowicz, 40; 3, Roland Hughes, 38; guest prize - Jim Spence, 35.

MARK WILTON

SHEFFIELD

Our 27-hole annual tournament, held at Tankersley Park GC, was sponsored by Yorkshire Mowers. The competition was played in glorious sunny, calm weather, the course was in excellent condition and we would like to thank Ron Graham's greenstaff who, in Ron's absence, prepared the course to a high standard. We would also like to extend our thanks to Tankersley Park GC for allowing us courtesy of their course and for making us all feel welcome. Also special thanks go to the steward and his staff who fed us well after a hard day's golf.

The winners: Foundation Trophy for best gross - S Currie, Hickleton GC, 120; Sutton Cup - M Clegg, Hallamshire GC; Taylor Cup - P Neve, Brough GC.

I would like to thank everyone who played and Barry Heaney for organising the day, though it was a poor turnout of only 22 players. I would like to thank again our main sponsor Yorkshire Mowers, as well as Brian Hurtle, sales director of Kubota, Brian Booth, Mike Brear, Steve Burroughs, Les Purdy and Peter Fell (sorry if I missed anyone) for contributing to our prize table which would look very bare without your support. A special mention also goes to Peter Fell and David Milbourne for checking the scorecards.

Our next event is on September 21 at Retford GC, tee off 1.30pm. This Autumn Tournament will be sponsored by Purdy's. Please get your forms back promptly to Barry Heaney as this makes life a lot easier for him. Finally, nobody from our section qualified at Worsley GC in the Hayter regional qualifier. Let's hope we do better next year!



IAN COLLETT

CLEVELAND

New members to welcome are DC Jobey from Brancepeth Castle GC and D Hoyle from Billingham GC.

The Autumn Tournament is at Middlesbrough Municipal GC on October 5, starting 11.30am. Meetings being arranged for October and November are on pest control. In

December there is a quiz with Turf Care of Leadgate.

George Atkinson, head greenkeeper at Consett, has retired.

Bob Lawton is the new course manager at Billingham GC. Glen Baxter, first assistant at South Shields, is acting as temporary head greenkeeper.

Gary Munro, secretary of the Cleveland section, has moved house to 514 Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Cleveland.

Harry Lees is working at Ramside Hall Hotel Golf Club, Durham.

The Cleveland v N/E section match at Whickham GC was a 4-1 win for N/E. Thanks to Colin McClure for an excellent golf course.

BRUCE BURNELL



NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Congratulations to Brian Hughes of Whickham GC on being promoted to deputy head greenkeeper and marrying Clare.

The Secretaries match was a complete failure as we could not provide a full team. In fact only five turned up - most embarrassing for all concerned. In future reliable players will be chosen to represent the section; cancellations at the 11th hour are no good at all.

The match against the Cleveland section was better attended with the result being 4-1 in our favour. Our thanks to Tony McLure and his staff for the presentation of the course and thanks to Whickham GC for granting courtesy of the course.

New members to date have increased this year by 20 altogether - it's nice to have the Bedlingtonshire lads back in. There are still clubs in the area who have no members.

These are: Westerhope, Morpeth, Burgher Park, South Moor, Tynemouth, Arcot Hall, Northumberland, Ryton City of Newcastle, Parklands, Haltwhistle, Rothbury.

JIMMY RICHARDSON



NORTHERN ENGLAND

The Hayter Regional Final was held at Worsley Golf Club and I am pleased to inform you that four players from the Northern Section have qualified for the final at Pannal this month.

Cat 1 - Gary Potter, Skipton; Cat 2 - Allan Baxter, Bingley St Ives, David Spurdin, Ganton, John Waite Temple Newsam.

Allan Baxter was the winner of category 2. I hope you continue to be successful in the final.

I welcome to the section the following new member:

Richard Ruston of Camblesforth, Selby.

Any information you require please ring 0274 568128.

All golfing venues are fully booked except for a few places on our Autumn Tournament at Alwoodley Golf Club on Wednesday October 12.



The stork has been busy again - Brian Carr and his wife have had their first baby, a boy. Not much time for golf now, Brian.

PAT MURPHY

SOUTH COAST

The year marches on and we are nearing our penultimate golf meeting. This is to be held at Dudsbury Golf Club on October 6. The format

is an 18-hole stableford with tee times from 12:30. Please remember that the closing date for entries is 10 days prior to the meeting. As always, Bob Cully is the organiser and can be reached on 0489 782976 or in writing at 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton, 503 4LS.

The annual match between the South Coast and South West sections is due to be held on October 25 at Malborough Golf Club. If you want to be included in the team then contact Bob Cully, the captain, on the above telephone number.

The new section fixture list for 1994/95 will soon be sent to all members. If you do not receive your copy then please contact me on 0264 334269 or mobile no 0585 400529 as you may be inadvertently missing from the computer and we can then correct this.
ALAN MITCHELL

NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

Perfect weather and a great course greeted the 46 competitors at Stockport GC for the summer meeting. The course was in fine condition thanks to Paul Pearse and his staff, who must take solace after hearing the words of the winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy, Bill Merritt, who said, if you cannot play good golf on this course you may as well pack up. I think we can only assume that Bill was in a state of euphoria after having shot a 72 gross playing off 9 handicap.

The day was enjoyed by everybody, and the winners were: Bill Merritt 72-9-63; Adrian Holt 89-24-65 and Paul Pearse 71-2-69.

Many thanks to Stockport GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and the catering staff for a fantastic meal. Thanks also to Ruf-

Around the Green



ford Topdress, Martin Brothers, Sisis, Rite Feed, Cheshire Light Tractors, Acorn Supplies, and Garry Worrall Ground Care for helping to furnish the prize table.

Despite the Hayter regional final being

played on home ground for the north-west, I am afraid we had no qualifiers for the final at Pannal GC this month. The regional final was played at Worsley GC, where Howard McAddey and his staff had prepared an excellent course for the occasion, and the weather was first class. Unfortunately only eight instead of nine of the N/W team turned up, which is bad news when reserves were ready to fill any vacant places.



Let's hope this does not happen in the future. Any queries or news please ring me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

NORTHERN REGION

Phew, what a scorcher for the regional final of the Hayter Challenge at Worsley near Manchester. The players who qualified for the final at Pannal this month were: Tony Mars, Ian Hutton, Garry Potter, Alan Baxter, John Waite, David Spurden, Chris Powley, Chris Fiddell, John Jones.

I hope they can repeat last year's effort and retain the Hayter Trophy (and the £500!). I must thank everyone at Worsley GC for hosting the event in their centenary year, especially course manager Howard McAddey and his team for presenting a course in superb condition. On a sour note I was disappointed with the qualifiers who didn't turn up without the courtesy of a phone call. I hope they realise meals had to be paid for and mementoes purchased and that they also denied someone else the chance of qualifying.

BOB LUPTON

MID ANGLIA SECTION

The Hayter Challenge regional final was held at Birstall GC, Leicester. Many thanks to Roger Willars, our regional administrator, for obtaining Birstall (his home club) at such late notice, as the BB&O section failed to secure a venue for the event. Taking into consideration the weather, the course was in fine condition. Our team had some good individual scores but just failed in

HAYTER

defending the team trophy, coming second. John Blair from Brocket Hall qualified for the final in the 19-28 handicap section and Jon Moorhouse, also from Brocket Hall, is first reserve in the same section. We must thank all the team for representing the Mid Anglia section so well. They were: Jon Moorhouse, David Forsyth, Gary Boulton, Chris Brook, John Elbourn, Brett Cox, Chris Toms, Stewart Boyes, Dave Coleman, Don Pemberton, John Blair and Richard Saunders.
PAUL LOCKETT

JOHN DEERE



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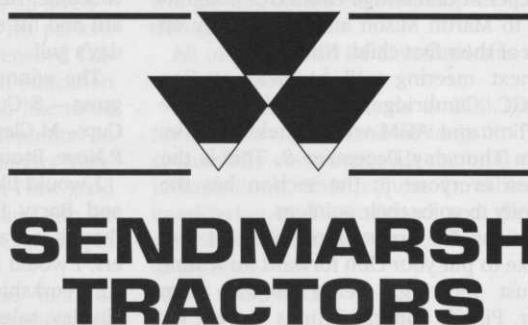


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