

SHEFFIELD

More than 60 members attended our March meeting. If it takes a woman speaker to bring members to lectures, maybe I should look into booking more females. On the serious side, thanks to those of you who did turn out on such a bad day to hear Valerie Holt of the National Rivers Authority.

Seems I just about got it right to have a lecture about water as many of our courses seem to have been closed more than open this winter. But not those in and east of the Doncaster area which seem to have missed most of the bad weather as up to March this year my course has only been closed four days.

Getting back to the lecture, my thanks to Valerie – we all learned a lot from her talk and slides about rivers, ponds, conservation, bore holes and dykes on courses. One could tell by the questions and reception she got at the end of her lecture how popular her talk was.

New members include: Giles Brackenbury (Chesterfield GC), Michael Clegg and Paul Mason (Hallamshire GC), Leigh Platton (Lees Hall GC), Stephen Currie and Steven Lacey (Hickleton GC) and Christopher Sims (Scunthorpe GC).

RON ULLATHORNE

SOUTH WALES

Firstly, members who went to Harrogate on the Westurf-sponsored trip have asked me to pass on many compliments to the organisers, Marion and Gordon Child. Once again, it was superbly organised and a thoroughly enjoyable four days. However, there were a few minor hiccups. No names mentioned, but there were four members who went to the wrong hotel to attend the AGM and by the time they realised that they had made a mistake they were snowed in! But if there was a prize for the best gaff it would go to the gent (you know who you are) who, in a hurry, made a mad dash to the toilet, to relieve himself of the previous night's curry, only to realise after a few min-

Around the Green



utes that he had dashed into the wrong toilets – yes, the ladies. It was a further few minutes – 35 in all – before he plucked up the courage to make a dash for the exit, with fingers crossed that he wouldn't come face to face with a female.

A marvellous exhibition and a superb trip – get your names down early to secure a place on the coach next year.

At Cowbridge, Mid Glamorgan, RS Bird Ltd launched the new Ransomes E-Plex and G-Plex before a crowd of well over 150 who had gathered in the firm's newly revamped premises. Courage provided the liquid refreshment and BBC commentator Alex Hay provided the entertainment. It was a marvellous evening and our sincere thanks go to all at RS Bird, especially Jeff and Roger Bird.

A few days later at Pencoed College, Amenity Land Services presented a day's 'turf conference'. Topics included overseeding of golf greens, contract spraying, fertilisers and new products, including Farmura's Inhibitor and Rhone-Poulenc's Spearhead. The attendance should have been a lot better for this enjoyable, informative day. Our thanks to Farmura, Sharpes, Atlas Interlates, Rhone-Poulenc but mostly to ALS.

The following evening at Pencoed, David Ward, course manager at Royal Porthcawl, gave a talk entitled 'Course preparation prior to the 1995 Walker Cup.' It was so good to see not only so many people but so many new faces in attendance. An enthralling presenta-

tion was given regarding the great links of South Wales, where planning started some five years ago. David covered the building of a £6million sea defence, bunker rebuilding (all 96), tee enlargements and re-positioning, as well as an ongoing intensive coring and aeration programme. A thoroughly educational and enjoyable evening, thank you David.

On the move: Andrew Jenkins, formerly of the Southerdown and Langland Bay golf clubs, has taken up his new position of first assistant at the Clyne GC where Anthony Bull has been promoted to deputy head greenkeeper.

Dates for your diary: April 19 – Spring Competition/Hayter qualifier, Creigiau GC, 1pm prompt; April 26 – Westurf, Long Ashton, Bristol.

PETER LACEY

HAYTER CHALLENGE

The 1995 Hayter Challenge Tournament gets into full swing this month with 20 of the 25 sections holding their qualifiers.

The greenkeeping golfers are playing for a place in the regional finals and, ultimately, a place in their region's team competing in the final at West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands on September 13-14.

Last year, once again, the Northern team came out on top, narrowly beating the Midland team.

Dates of regional finals: Scottish: May 30, Cardross Golf Club; Northern: July 4, Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Club; Midland: July 5, Erewash Valley Golf Club; South East: June 6, Stockley Park Golf Club; South West: June 15, Carmarthen Golf Club; Northern Ireland: August 18, Clondeboy Golf Club; Eire: May 25, Glasson Golf Club.

Don't miss Westurf, the biggest little show in the west country

Here's a golden opportunity to view the very latest merchandise to be shown for the first time in the west country. 1995 has seen the launching of various new products and many of them will be at WESTURF on April 26.

Lindum, in addition to its existing range of turf, will have the new StrathAyr BAyr Rooted Washed Turf on display, so find out what the advantages are apart from a faster root development. Fleet is exhibiting its new range of line forming Xylene-free aerosols, and the new Sprayliner will be demonstrated. Terralift Fertilisers' top product for 1995 will be Year Round 4:2:8 crumble and the new product is Greens Start 11:1:1 Pencils, ideal for regular use on newly constructed greens and tees. Also new is Barkoel Crested Hairgrass, Barenbrug's biggest research project yet.

Two new products for the spring season come from Roffey Bros. Gypronit is a mini granular turf fertiliser and Eco-Dress is a topdressing derived from full composted and graded green waste. Since last year Gwilliam Kellands has been appointed main distributors for Hayter-Beaver cylinder machines, for Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Devon. Claymore will be showing the new Sabo Roberine C800, a 60in rear discharge or side discharge out front rotary.

Sisis Equipment is bringing some additions to Westurf: Supa-Rotorake, a heavy duty scarifier; Variseeder, a new tractor mounted 4ft seeder; Technicore, a pto driven vertical aerator; and Osca, an oscillating brush unit.



New products added to the Mascot range from Rigby Taylor will be on display, and Zeneca has two new mini granular products for 1995, Cleanrun (weed + feed) and Renovator (weed + feed + mosskiller). The new herbicide Touchdown LA will also be featured. British Seed Houses has recently launched Providence Creeping Bentgrass which has been bred for European conditions, and Scotts UK has two new ranges of fertiliser.

The English Golf Union will be making its debut at the

show, exhibiting alongside various colleges, the IoG and the STRI. Farmura has a major new addition to its range – Inhibitor for the natural management of fusarium. And there's lots more! So why not start your season positively and come to the show that's in the right place at the right time. Bristol's Long Ashton Golf Club, the hosts again this year, is an ideal venue for this prestigious "little" show. Ring 01803 844056 if you would like a catalogue or further information.