

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

South Coast

The recent seminar at Sparsholt College was excellent being both well supported and of good information value. The speakers included Arthur King of the EGU, David Golding, Education Officer of the GTC, John Pierson and George Shields.

Our spring tournament was held at Covehampton GC on April 10. Played in delightful spring sunshine the 36 hole Hayter Qualifier was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mark Webb for running the event.

Results:

Gross. 1. Darren Miller 147, 2. Paul Fitzjohn 161 3. Tony Gadd 162. Nett. 1. Andy Doolan 143, 2. Phil Wentworth 143. NITA Simson Trophy. 1. Joe Newman, 2. Bob Walker. Under 25s Dave Wadkins.

We are grateful to our sponsors and Covehampton Golf Club for their support of this event. Also to the sponsors of the Sparsholt College seminar.

It is encouraging to note that membership of the section continues to grow rapidly.

BOB CULLY

Cleveland

Head Greenkeeper, Barry Lee, tells us that the new six holes at Chester-Le-Street were officially opened on April 1 by the Earl of Scarborough.

The first part of the March meeting was taken by Ian Webster from Houghall College in Durham and was on the National Vocational Qualification which has been introduced bring about common standards in the assessment of task, knowledge evidence and equipment presentation.

NVQ is achievable without going to college as creditation is given for prior learning. Assessment at work by Head or first assistant, who must be a qualified assessor.

To qualify to be an assessor we must attend a training day at a D32 Creditation Centre of Learning, and present a portfolio of evidence for assessment to verify NVQ competence in all units. Good Luck!

The second part of the March meeting was a talk by a Vitax technical rep, on disease control. Fusarium, active pathogen, environment - Turf Surface; Stress and how to manage it; Anthracnose - sealed surface and water on surface.; too many pin positions on the same area = severe compaction. Aeration in summer is vital and seaweed is of great value, avoid weak growth and reduce surface moisture.

BRUCE BURNELL

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The season's first golf event took place at Beaconsfield on April 5. However the turnout was less than expected with 25 entries including some trade members. From a membership of 250 this is poor. I have to say that it is very disappointing for everybody involved especially to trade members who provide excellent prizes for the events. So come on, let's make an effort for the remaining events of the season.

Those people who did play had a cracking day's golf on a superb course. An extra incentive to play was the chance to play in the Hayter Beaver Regional final. It's not the easiest event to host being so early in the season (a greenkeeper's nightmare) so thanks to Bill and his staff for presenting the course in excellent condition. Judging by the scores there were plenty of putts holed on

EVENTS DIARY

June 21: South Turf, Motpur Park, South West London

July 20-23: The Open Championship, St Andrews

July 31-August 2: National Tournament, St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Lytham

September 13-14: Hayter Challenge Tournament Final, West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands

the fast greens.

Results:

Gross 1. J. Texeira 73 (on count back) 2. S. Adby 73. Nett. 1. G. Butler 64 (on back nine) 2. L. Liliton 64 3. M. Shelton 67.

The wooden spoon was won by Andy Goodall - apparently he collects them. Ha! Ha! Only kidding Andy.

The following players qualified for the Hayter Beaver Regional Final to be play on July 6.

Cat 1. J. Texeira, S. Adby, L. Anderson, T. French.

Cat 2. M. Shelton, G. Walsh, G. Wheeler, D. Childs and B. Plain (reserve).

Cat 3. G. Butler, C. Lileton, J. Socket and J. Bevan.

If any of the above can't make it can they please contact me as soon as possible.

A special thanks to Risboro' Turf, Sta-Brite, CMW, Parkers, Standard Golf and Rigby Taylor for supporting the event.

Thanks also to Bill Lynch of BIGGA for a lively after dinner discussion.

Finally thanks to my playing partners Geoff and Mark for putting up with my boring golf (straight down the middle!). The next golf event is at Blue Mountain on July 5. See you all there. Anyone with points of view should contact me on 01491 578147.

Football results to be printed next month.

LINDSAY T. ANDERSON

North East

On April 27 we had our annual spring competition at Alnmouth village's nine hole course. What a pleasure it was to play there. The hospitality we received from the club was excellent and the course was a delight to play. Credit must go to Barry Weddell, the greenkeeper. Thanks also to the club committee for giving us the courtesy of the course and for coming to our rescue at such short notice and to the stewardess and the match secretary.

Donations were from Shorts, Rickerlys, Turf Care, Aitken's, Border Services, Boldon GC and Swardland Hall GC. Thanks to them and to Terry Charlton on the nearest the pin at the first short hole won by Barry Wilson.

Results:

Gross. M. Lathan, Hexham GC 74; Nett. D. Street, Boldon GC, 70 (86-16)

Assistant's Cup Nett 1. C. Parkinson, Slaley Hall, 71 (76-5) Better inward nine; 2. B. Wilson, Stockfield GC 71 (77-6); S. Quince, Alnmouth GC, 71 (76-5).

Qualifiers for Hayters Tournament.

Cat 1. B. Wilson, C. Parkinson, S. Quince. Reserves R. Black, M. Lathan.

Cat 2. D. Street, S. Pope, D. Dalby. Reserves W. Holden, G. Atkinson.

Cat 3. B. Hughes, A. McDonald, T. Mooner. Reserves K. Rutherford, A. Wright.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

North West

Our spring tournament, held at Wilmslow GC on April 13, was attended by 38 greenkeepers and eight guests who, according to their comments, enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The course, built in 1889 and the second oldest in Cheshire, was in beautiful condition thanks to Steve Oultram and his staff. Steve said that the course was covered in frost when they arrived for work and had to wait sometime before they could cut the greens.

I would like to thank Tony Laurence, Secretary/Manager and the Wilmslow committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and also Mrs Chason for a great lunch and evening meal.

Results:

Best Gross, Paul Pearse; Best Nett, Mark Broughton; Veterans, Bert Cross.

The prizes went down to 13th nett thanks to the support of the following companies:- Acorn Supplies, Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, Henry Royle Ltd, Turner Groundcare, Sisis, Grow, High Speed Lubricants, Cheshire Light Tractors, Martin Bros, Strike Top Turf.

Your support is always appreciated.

Incidentally the 13th place was won by Arthur Moorey and the prize was an edging iron and a rake so I can assume that the bunkers will be in great condition at Didsbury GC when we play the autumn tournament there in September.

The spring tournament was also a qualifier for the Hayter regional final on the qualifiers are.

Cat 1. P. Pearse, C. Hulme, B. Merritt.

Cat 2. M. Broughton, P. Harley, T. Manning.

Cat 3. S. Mosley, N. Berry, J. Fitzgerald.

The regional final will be played at Middlesbrough on July 4 and I wish you all good luck. The next tournament will be the summer meeting at Hazel Grove GC on July 17. All entries to be sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX Tel: 01625 859258 with a deposit of £10 not later than July 12. Lunch will be served between 12-1pm and tee times are from 1-1.30pm. Tee times will be allocated on the day.

On a more serious note, approximately 120 members North West members have not renewed their membership for 1995 so if you are reading these notes in someone else's magazine, get your subs paid and read your own magazine. The whole membership package is value for money. Finally any queries or problems ring me of 0151 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

Northern

The first of this year's tournaments got under way on April 12 - the Hayter's qualifier. We could not have wished for better weather. It was as if summer had arrived early at Hessle GC.

Results:

Cat 1. A. Anderson, 2. A. Gerrard, 3. G. Potter;

Cat 2. 1. D. Collins, 2. R. Johnson, 3. R. Smith; Cat 3. 1. D. Cockburn, 2. A. Gamble 3. L. Kirkbright.

I would like to thank all the sponsors for their support our event. They were: Hayter, Martin Bros, Trident and Rhône Poulenc. Many thanks once again. I would also like to thank the green staff and catering staff of Hessle GC for making it such an excellent day.

I have been asked to inform you about two members who have recently moved to different

courses. John Waite has left Temple Newsome to take over as Head Greenkeeper at Scarthingwell near Tadcaster and Andrew Flemmings has taken over as Head Greenkeeper at Filey GC. John Heaton has taken over Andrew's position of assistant head at Filey. I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

Our next golf competition is President's Day at Woodhall Hills GC on June 8 at 2pm. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to take part. Tel 01274 601195.

MARCUS CORDINGLEY

London

The Hayter qualifier was held at Sudbury GC in April. The weather was excellent and the course was in fine shape. I would like to thank Jeff Robinson and his staff for preparing the course for our first event of the year. As we all know growing conditions have not been favourable since the start of the year and the course was a credit to Jeff.

The overall winner was Chris Carpenter with an excellent score and he also managed to win the nearest the pin. The qualifiers for the next round at Stockley Park are as follows.

Cat 1. 1. C. Carpenter 2. R. Phillips 3. M. Sheris 4. D. Burdis.

Cat 2. 1. A. Macindoe 2. P. Creeber 3. D. Badham 4. R. Washbrook.

Cat 3. 1. R. Elderfield 2. D. Smith 3. P. Gee 4. D. Dunne.

The longest drive prize was won by Mick Sheris on the 18th hole.

I would like to thank Sudbury GC for allowing us to use the facilities and a special thank you to the catering and bar staff for looking after us so well. I would also like to thank the club Captain Mr Mark Brazier for presenting the prizes, the General Manager Mr Alec Poole and the Greens Chairman Mr Graham Jones who all joined us for the day. It was nice to see such enthusiasm from club officials and we thank you for taking the time to join us. I would also like to thank the trade for its support and, in particular, Dennis Smith for acting as starter.

Any information regarding forthcoming events can be obtained from Don Wilson or myself. Please remember to keep me informed of any news which could be used in the magazine. Contact Don Wilson on 0181 440 3361 or me on 0181 959 5629.

TONY DUNSTAN

North Wales

Our Hayter qualifier took place at Abergele & Pensarn GC on April 19.

A total of 94 competitors took part and it was fortunate that it will be the excellent condition of the course that the day will be remembered by and not the bad weather that members and their guests had to put up with.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to making the day such a success – the staff of Abergele and Pensarn, the members and guests, who took part and all the sponsors who donated prizes.

The nine who qualified will be given the opportunity to go forward to the next round which will be held at Middlesbrough Municipal on July 4.

They are P. Valentine, D. Davies, J. Hughes, K. Jones, R. Walker, K. Jones, H. Jones, J. L. Jones and P. Davies.

TP EVANS (Competition secretary)

Devon and Cornwall

As Chairman of our Region I would like to express the region's gratitude and congratulations to Gordon and Marion Child who organised and ran this year's Westurf trade show superbly. Also on behalf of all the members in our region I would like to thank all the companies which took trade stands at the show. The success of Westurf is vital to our region, so we are able to continue our commitment to greenkeeping education.

As you read this article I will be putting the fin-

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ishing touches to our fixture card for the forthcoming winter programme which should be with you shortly – once again our cards will be sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery. Before our winter programme gets underway members will have the opportunity, by kind permission of Mike Duval of WBB, to visit its sand works at Cornwood Quarry near Plymouth on September 27. Numbers are limited to the first 20. The agenda for the day is as follows:

9.30am-1pm. Visit Cornwood quarry sand plant, workshops and clay processing plant. 1pm-2pm. Lunch at Cornwood Inn provided by WBB. 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Visit Shaugh quarry sand plant. 3.30pm. Depart.

If you would like to attend and see behind the scenes please contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment Tel: 01288 353438.

In conclusion a reminder to all our Cornish members that the summer evening meetings are now well under way with the next venue being at Perranporth GC on June 20, followed by meetings at Lanhydrock GC on July 19, Newquay GC on August 23 and Bude GC on September 20. For more details contact organiser Steve Evans Tel: 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMAN

South West

A smaller attendance than last year visited the Westurf Exhibition at Long Ashton GC. Nevertheless, putting aside, the weather which was probably the reason for some absences the show again proved successful thanks to the meticulous preparation from Gordon and Marion Child. Thanks also to everyone within the section who contributed both before, during and after the day.

It was to Bowood Golf and Country Club on April 6 that we gathered for this year's Hayter Qualifying competition. This young course constructed on land owned by Lord Shelburne holds enormous potential on reaching full maturity and was prepared brilliantly on the day by Course Manager Duncan Bawcutt.

A good response of about 60 meant a busy time for the caterers who provided an excellent roast dinner to complete the day. An excellent course meant some good scoring with Marc Haring, Duncan Smith and Sean Sage all winning their categories. They, along with four others and a reserve from each category, play at Carmarthen GC, Wales in the Regional Final with the winners then competing in the National Final at West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14.

Thanks to Hayter for the day's sponsorship; to David Gwilliam of Gwilliam Kellands for presenting the prizes and to all at Bowood for their hospitality.

The qualifiers and scores for each category are as follows (all scores nett):

Cat 1. 1. Marc Haring 72; 2. Gary Cook 75; 3. Michael Fawcett 78; 4. Nick Perkins 81; 5. John Hogg 82.

Cat 2. 1. Duncan Smith 71; 2. Jon Scoones 75; 3. Anthony Knight 77; 4. Mel Dawson 78; 5. Paul Ferragut 78.

Cat 3. 1. Sean Sage 75; 2. Chris Sealey 77; 3. Martin Ford 78; 4. David Bateman 79; 5. Wayne Dunster 81.

KEVIN GREEN

East Anglia

Braintree GC hosted our first meeting of '95 with 50 greenkeepers playing for the "Winter Trophy"

and a place in the next round of the Hayter Challenge. Many thanks to Kevan Sharpe and his staff for their efforts and presenting the course so well. The competition was played over 18 holes Medal with the winner overall being Bill Chapman on countback with a score of 74 nett 69. The prizes were presented by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter Mowers.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. B. Chapman 74 nett 69; 2. A. Sheehan 80 nett 75 (countback); 3. M. Virley 84 nett 75; 4. & Reserve. P. Howard 82 nett 76; 5. & Reserve. R. Pride 83 nett 78.

Cat 2. 1. I. Willett 85 nett 69; 2. D. Wells 87 nett 71; 3. M. Peters 91 nett 74; 4. & Reserve. A. Jenkins 96 nett 77; 5. & Reserve. A. Day 91 nett 77.

Cat 3. 1. S. Curtis 90 nett 69; 2. E. Hart 91 nett 70; 3. L. Upham 98 nett 70; 4. & Reserve. T. Huddlesden 96 nett 72; 5. & Reserve. S. Millard 96 nett 77.

The first three in each handicap section have qualified through to the South East regional final of the Hayter Challenge to be played at Stockley Park GC, Middlesex on Tuesday June 6. The guest prize went to Dave Gaunt 82 nett 68. Many thanks as always to the members of the trade who support the section, not only with prizes but also with their presence on these enjoyable meetings.

Prizes from:- CMW, E. Does, Eastern Tractors, Hayter, Levingtons, Parker Hart, Patissons, Rushbrook and Sons, Sisis and Turf Actant.

Sam Sylvester's crusade to get all members wearing official BIGGA ties stepped up a gear when he demanded a 50p fine from everyone not wearing one. It was such a shock I think all concerned paid up.

The next meeting will be June 6 at the Warren GC, playing for the "P. Tuckwell Cup" and "Spring Trophy". This unfortunately coincides with the Hayter Challenge but I am sure we will have a good turn out. On the subject of dates you should all have received a fixture card for '95 sponsored by P. Tuckwell/John Deere. If you have not received one and you are a member of the East Anglia section please contact Dave Wells and I am sure he will get one in the post to you.

Geoff Shelton became a father before Christmas and wife Yvonne and daughter Alice are both well. Another new arrival is William, the latest offspring of Andrew Cooke, also born just before Christmas.

Welcome to John Shurvell of Bury St Edmonds who has recently joined BIGGA.

The West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge was won by Gog Magog GC (Lyndon Upham, Julian Hill and Peter Mallows), the Atterton & Ellis/Toro Trophy was presented by Roger Denson of Atterton & Ellis in the company of David Cole, Sales Manager and Larry Pierman, Area Manager of Toro UK.

Finally Turf Actant is looking to hold a seminar morning followed by a cricket match in early August. Anybody interested in either of these events please contact Edward Clarkson of Turf Actant for further details.

STEPHEN MILLARD

Midland

As we are getting the courses ready for a busy season ahead, some sad news has been given to me. Richard Clarke, Course Manager of Trentham Park GC has died suddenly. May we all send our sincere condolences to his family and friends, from all at the Midland section.

The first golf tournament of '95 was held at Kenilworth GC, on April 26. Forty-two greenkeepers and seven trade members played. The weather was a trite windy, with the north easterly wind chilling us in the morning but the sunshine in the afternoon gave us a little welcome warmth. This was to reflect in my golf, being a little poor am and average pm. Mind you, I needed some of the trees pruning around the semi-rough, with my ball finding them a magnetic force!

Keith Weston and his staff did a wonderful job in preparing the course, with the fairways and greens looking excellent. Some very good golf was played by the competitors, and the keenness and enjoyment was plain to see with the good humour in the clubhouse later on. One competitor was so keen he started playing another player's ball, just to be like Nick Faldo.

Thanks to John Hammond for starting us off, Burrow's for supplying the wine at dinner, Mike Lucas from FootJoy, and all the other trade members for their donation of prizes. A big thank you to Kenilworth GC for the use of the course and the clubhouse facilities, with a mention to Keith, John Lee, Peter and Lisa for the drink and food.

It was nice to see all the new faces playing and supporting the section. New players are welcome. We now have the new handicapping system up and running which means they can play two tournaments and receive a BIGGA handicap. So come along to the Warwickshire on August 17.

The results:

1. (Gross) P. Woodham 111; 1. (Nett) V. Lee 101; 2. P. Richmond 106; 3. P. Holtman 108.5; 4. T. Livingstone 109; 5. M. Hughes; 6. K. Davies (on count back) 111; 7. J. Palmer 111; 8. K. Blake 111.5 9. A. Roberts (on count back) 112.

Rufford Top Dress Supplies Nearest the Pin. T. Cheese. Longest Drive M. Cutler.

Trade Cup was won by I. Toon with (on count back) 112.

The draw for the single and doubles matches was done by Brian Booth from Rigby Taylor. The qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be notified and the names will be in next month's magazine.

Finally our thanks to R. Thomas for organising the event.

This month we welcome new members Peter Whitworth, Neil Orton and Darren Homer.

If any member wishes to write about events or any topical information for the magazine then contact myself on 01527 524217 or Scott MacCallum at Aldwark Manor.

KIM BLAKE

East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month and I'm sure you will find this article about the smallest I've ever written.

This month sees the move of Adie Porter from Crockett's Manor GC to Greatham Valley GC. I'm sure all members would like to wish Adie well in his new position.

A reminder to all entrants of this year's pairs and singles competitions. Please make sure your match is played before the closing date for each and every round.

This month we welcome the following new members to our section. Stephen Mackie of Wellingborough GC; Kenneth Payne and Scott Purdy of Ashbourne GC and Bryan Paton of Melton Mowbray GC.

If any member has any news they would like to see in this column they can contact me on 0116 2890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

South Wales

At our last winter evening lecture Jim McKenzie, Course Manger of Celtic Manor Golf and Country Club, gave an up-date on the multi million pound developments going on at the Newport site since his presentation last year.

The first course, the 7028 yard championship "Roman Road", will open on August 1 with the second course, a 4132 yard par 3/4 short course "Coldra Woods" opening on September 1.

The development is causing quite a buzz around the Newport area and we as a section look forward to an arranged visit to view the complex and its facilities first hand shortly.

Our thanks to Jim for finding the time to make his presentation and who, for the second time in succession, brought in the largest attendance of

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the series with nearly 40.

The recent South Wales Seminar "Mechanisation on the Golf Course" held at the St Mary's Golf and Country Club was hailed as a great success by all those who were in attendance.

Despite a few minor hiccups early on the day got off to a grand start with Howard Storey of John Deere UK Ltd giving a very informative talk on "Maintenance Vehicle v Compact Tractor". Howard's presentation was based on an unbiased view in selecting the right machine for the job - costings, purchase options etc.

John Deere tries to bring out six new products every year and we at the seminar were in the privileged position of being the very first in the UK to view the new John Deere 1200 A bunker rake.

Greenkeeping Support is still required for the Walker Cup to be played at Royal Porthcawl on September 9-10. Anyone available and willing to help over the period September 6-10 or part of that time should contact Peter Lacey, telephone: 01792 233923.

John Turner of Toro Lely UK Ltd followed on with his lecture "Developments in Fairway Mowers". Joe took every one on a trip back through time and the history behind the birth of fairway mowers from the first horse drawn to the first motorised gangs - claimed to be Toro - up to today's ultra modern marvels such as the Reelmaster 5100 with "ACE" Automated Controlled Electronics - a diagnostic computer which not only controls reelspeed ensuring cuts per yards but also registers faults and leaks etc.

After lunch Paul Watson of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd made his presentation "Diesel v Petrol v Electric Mowers", a fitting title for the only company which at present makes all three types of ride-on mowers. The E Plex all electric greens ride on mower is causing quite a sensation at the moment and Ransomes claims that it cuts running costs by up to 50%. Also the newly launched G Plex range, that Ransomes claims to have developed in consultation with greenkeepers.

Lastly a sincere thanks to Keith Morgan, our local Jacobsen dealer, who came to the rescue when Paul Withers of Jacobsen UK Ltd, could not attend as a result of circumstances beyond his control.

Keith delivered Phil's excellent lecture "Triplex Mowers v Pedestrian Mowers" admirably and amusingly. Again the presentation was packed with technical information, facts and figures. Did you know that in 1832 the first cylinder mower replaced scything?

To all our speakers thank you and our sincere thanks to the sponsors, Toro Lely UK Ltd, Ransomes/R S Bird Ltd, Jacobsens/Keith Morgan Mowers Ltd and John Deere UK Ltd/Frank Sutten & Power Cut for your continuous support. Thanks also to St Mary's Golf and Country Club and to Peter Gillard and Pencoed College for their help in making the day such a success.

The Welsh Golf Union seminars which took place recently at the Morriston and Pontypridd Golf Clubs were thoroughly worthwhile if a little poorly attended.

A panel consisting of representatives from the WGU, the GTC and the STRI covered most topics

relating to greenkeeping and provoked many comments and questions from the floor. An enjoyable session and long may they continue.

Our spring competition and Hayter qualifier took place over the Creigiau course near Llantrisant. The weather ranged from warm sunshine through to thunder and lightning, hail stones and snow. This was my first visit to the course and I was pleasantly surprised. It is excellent, in a beautiful setting with a blend of natural features, including water, presented to an extremely high standard.

Congratulations to Robert Frater and his team but also to Bill Malcolm, Chairman of Green at Creigiau, for his support of the greenstaff which undoubtedly helps Robert to maintain high standards. Thanks to all at the club for making us so very welcome, the Secretary Mike O'Dowd and the Captain, Graham Joseph, for their hospitality and the caterers, headed by Sally Baxter for a superb dinner.

A huge thanks to Hayters for sponsoring the day.

Results:

The winner on the day, winning the Cardiff Cup on home turf with the best nett was Robert Frater. Winner of the Browns Shield for best gross was Gerwyn Price of Maesteg GC.

Hayter Category winners were: Cat 1. Robert Frater; Cat 2. Andrew Hatcher; Cat 3. Alan Critchton.

Congratulations to Ceri Richards, formerly of the Mountain Ash GC, on his appointment as new Head Greenkeeper at Worcester GC, near Evesham. Congratulations also to Steve Elms, formerly of the Parc GC, Newport who recently flew out to Switzerland to take up his new position as Head Greenkeeper of Mittelland GC near Oberentfelden. We wish them both well for the future.

Another congratulations, albeit for something entirely different, to David Gladwin who completed the London Marathon in a time of four hours 20 minutes - despite taking more than 20 minutes to cross the start line.

Lastly, thank God I hear you cry, (I don't think I've ever written such a long report) our good wishes to the Richardson family of Cefn Golleu Farm, Three Crosses, Gower on the opening of their new venture the Gower Golf Course this summer. The 140 acre course has splendid views overlooking the Louchor estuary, Carmathen Bay and the Black Mountains. It was designed by Donald Steel an is looked after by former Morriston Head Greenkeeper Steve Mills.

PETER LACEY

Mid Anglia

Royston GC was the venue for our first tournament of the year - a 36 hole event. An 18 hole medal was played in the morning, which was the qualifier for the Hayter-Beaver national tournament, followed by an 18 hole Stableford in the afternoon for those who were up to it!

The course was in fine condition for so early in the year and our thanks go to Tim McCreddie and all his staff. Thanks to Royston GC for the courtesy of the course and for looking after us so well on the day. Rigby Taylor was once again the sponsor so thanks to Rodger Bowles for providing the prizes and to all the other companies which supported the event in which 45 golfers took part.

Results:

Morning Round.

1. P. Briars, Chesfield Downs, 68; 2. D. Coleman, Leighton Buzzard, 69; 3. S. Cherry, Woburn, 69

Afternoon Round.

1. C. Toms, Woburn, 40; 2. K. Cheshire, Tilsforth, 38; 3. J. Blair, Brocket Hall, 38.

Nearest the Pin was won by P. Judd, Buckingham, and the Longest Drive by A. Grew, Berkhamsted. The Trade Prize went to C. Ayers, Lodgway Tractors, with 39 points.

The regional final of the Hayter-Beaver will be held on July 5 at Erewash Valley GC. The quali-

fiers are as follows.

Cat 1. S Cherry, Woburn; G. Boulton, Dunstable; R. McKeown, Arkley; J. Moorhouse, Brocket Hall. Reserve. J. Burton, St Neots.

Cat 2. P. Briars, Chesfield Downs; P. Judd, Buckingham; E. O'Hanlon, Chesfield Downs; R. Lawrence, Berkhamsted. Reserve. A. Barker, Tilsforth.

Cat 3. D. Coleman, Leighton Buzzard; P. Lockett, South Beds; M. McLoughlan, Woburn; D. Hand, Chesfield Downs. Reserve. T. Louch, Chesfield Downs.

If for any reason any player cannot make the regional final you MUST let me know so the reserve can be drafted in. Roger Willars, the regional administrator will send you starting sheets and directions nearer the time.

Next month sees our summer tournament which this year is being held at Brickendon Grange. The section has not visited before so it will be a good chance to play a new course. Entry forms should be sent to Richard as usual. The meeting will be 36 holes and is on July 18. Get your entries in nice and early please.

Finally Brocket Hall is confirmed as the venue for the autumn tournament on October 26. This will be 18 holes followed by the AGM in the afternoon.

PAUL LOCKETT

Central

April saw the first of the season's tournaments with the spring outing being played at Aberdour GC. We were honoured to have Association Chairman Barry Heaney and his lovely wife, Joan, and Scottish Chairman Gordon Moir as guests. The weather was superb and with the course in excellent condition, the food and drink just as good, we could not have asked for more.

Everybody enjoyed themselves and our sincere thanks go to all at Aberdour GC for their help and to everyone who contributed to the prize table.

Results:

Best scratch. D. McAllister, Ladybank, 72

Best Nett, A. Wallace, Dollar, 68 (On count-back).

Cat 1.1. G. Wallace, Westerwood, 70 (On count-back); 2. R. Hensbey, Tulliallan, 70.

Cat 2. 1. K. Duncan, Dunfermline, 68; 2. J. Oliver, Pitreavie, 71

Cat 3. 1. G. McRae, Aberdour, 78; 2. A. Nimmo, Alloa, 94.

Stewart's Quaich A. Dunn, J. Sievwright, Auchterarder, 146.

Patrons. K. Brunton, Souters, 73

Guests. J. Rudigan, Kirkcaldy, 74

Two ball foursomes. A. McGregor and J. Clark 27.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge. Cat 1. S. McAllister, G. Wallace, R. Hensbey, C. Powrie.

Cat 2. J. Oliver, K. Duncan, A. Wallace, S. Syme.

Cat 3. G. McRae, A. Nimmo

Match Report by "The Selector". On March 12

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the first football match between Central and West sections was held at Dalgety Bay Sports Centre. Honours were shared with West scoring with the very last kick of the game to tie the score at 4 all. The Central team was selected on the day with all shapes and sizes forming a formidable outfit. Ian Menzies and Kevin Brunton made up the back four (there wasn't room for anyone else) with some young talent up front.

The match was played in great spirit (not the liquid kind) and everyone enjoyed themselves with not a cross word being heard – until that last goal went in!

The return match was played at the all weather pitch at Ibrox on March 20 and a very even game was expected. Unfortunately due to some late call-offs by our top players we were left with our young colts to do their utmost. Playing into a very strong wind (almost too strong to spray) we quickly went two goals down but we improved when playing with the wind and only conceded one more goal. West were therefore comfortable winners at 3-0 so well done to them and bring on the next challengers.

Membership of the section is still increasing at a steady rate and we extend a warm welcome to John Stewart, Stephen Oliver, Stuart Cribbes, Alexander Barlow, Hamish Buchanan, Bruce Wedderburn and Michael Ewan.

Congratulations to Kevin and Lindsay Brunton on the recent birth of their first baby, Lindsay and Alice are both doing well with Kevin discovering times of the night he never knew existed. He will probably be putting on the "Hard Sell" act now that he has a family to support.

Committee member Norman Wood has resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Burntisland GC after 18 years to take up a similar post at Haddington in East Lothian. Billy Easton has left Stirling GC and moved down south to Royal Blackheath GC. Best wishes for a successful future go to them and everyone else who has moved or gained promotion in the past couple of months.

The first round of the sections Inter-Club tournament has been played and the winners will now move onto the next round. In an effort to keep as much interest as possible in this competition the first round losers will form a second league to play through to a final as in the main draw.

JOHN CRAWFORD

Surrey

Any members wishing to participate in the England v Scotland match should contact either myself for the England team on 01737 832 015 or Dougie Fernie for the Scotland team on 01372 740516. Numbers are limited to 12 a side and a venue has still to be decided.

Congratulations to Drift GC's greenkeeper/mechanic Ted Stiles upon reaching 65 although Ted assures us he is not yet ready for retirement. On behalf of the section I would like to wish Don Major of Betchworth GC all the best on his retirement.

Members interested in the dinner/dance should contact their committee members for tickets which will soon be on sale. The venue is to be the Reigate Manor Hotel on Nov 18. Tickets priced £18.

John Hardy celebrates 70 years employed with West Surrey GC. Born in 1910 John joined West Surrey when he was 14 and went part time when he reached 65. It was a slight stroke last year which convinced him to retire and his immediate plans in full time retirement are to sleep and smoke. Well done John.

The Huxley Bowl showed good support again with 34 pairs entered. Forthcoming events include the MacMillan tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 3; the Parker Salver Invitational at Tryells Wood GC on September 5 and the Autumn tournament at Home Park GC on October 4.

DAVID GIBBS

Ayrshire

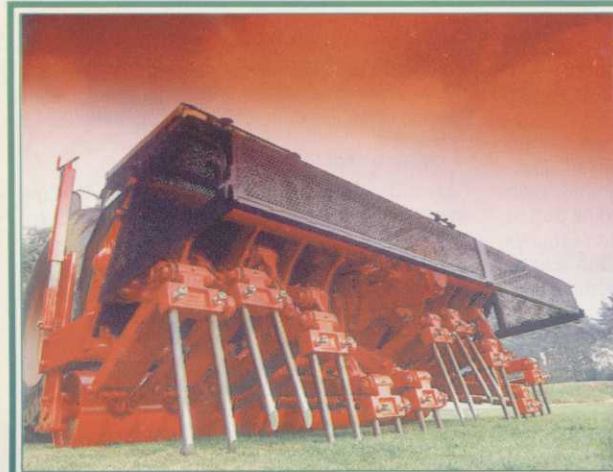
There have been no reports for the past two months as nothing has happened in the section area – or so it would seem from the deafening silence from the members.

There has, however, been a couple of events over the past month, the first being a quiz night held in the Parkstone Hotel in Prestwick. This was an excellent form of entertainment especially from some of the answers and some of the team names. The winners were "I'll have a Pee Bob" which gives some indication of how seriously the evening went and how much everyone enjoyed it. Don't miss the next one as I'll even make sure the quiz masters have the right answers.

Our second event of the month was the spring outing at Kirkcudbright GC which was held in lovely spring weather for a change. The Kirkcudbright course has gained immensely in stature over the past few years since expanding to 18 holes and this was our first visit for an outing. The general consensus among a large turn-out of members was that we would certainly love to go back some time soon.

Our thanks to the club committee, secretary John Sommerville, caterer Mary and her merry crew and last, but certainly not least, to Sammy, Peter and the boys on the green staff for giving such good conditions to enjoy the golf.

The competition was intense especially with the



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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

Hayter qualifying places up for grabs.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. Keith McCartney; 2. George Brown; 3. Derek Wilson; 4. Kevin Hill.

Cat 2. 1. Steve Farrish; 2. Duncan Gray; 3. Jimmy Johnstone 4. Kenneth Haddow.

Cat 3. 1. Jim Paton; 2. Gary Crosbie; 3. Steve McWhan; 4. Sam McConnell.

Hopefully we are in for a good summer, both from a greenkeeping and the weather point of view, so I hope to hear a few snippets of news (even one would help) to put in the column.

DUNCAN GRAY

East Scotland

Bright sunshine, no wind! What a day to pick for our spring outing at Glen GC. I hope you all enjoyed the day as much as I did.

Special thanks must go to the Captain and council of Glen GC for giving us courtesy of the course at such short notice. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes. They were very much appreciated. Congratulations to George Paterson and his staff for an excellently turned out course.

Results:

Best Scratch. G. Ferguson, Duddingston, 75 (on countback)

Best Nett. M. Pagan, Goswick, 75-6-69. 2. S. Greenwood, N. Berwick, 81-7-74.

Cat 2. 1. C. Yeaman, Swanston, 87-12-75; 2. A. Gordon, Duddingston, 94-17-77; 3. R. Thomson, Peebles, 91-13-78.

Cat 3. 1. A. Russell, Torphin Hill, 88-18-70 (on countback); 2. J. Thow, Gubeon, 88-18-70; 3. R. Hogarth, Innerleithen, 92-21-71.

Veteran. R. Smith, Harburn, 83-8-75. Trade Winner. I. Thomson, Provan Chemicals 90-18-72. Guest Winner. T. Ross, Uphall, 74-5-69.

The Hayter Qualifiers were:

Cat 1. M. Pagen, G. Ferguson, T. Murray, A. Homes. Reserve S. Greenwood.

Cat 2. A. Gordon, C. Yeaman, C. Pennicuik, P. Ormiston.

Cat 3. R. Hogarth, A. Russell, G. Hobbs, W. Hudson.

Finally if anyone has any information that he or she thinks might be useful for this column please do not hesitate to call me on 01721 722832.

ROBERT HOGARTH

North

Welcome to Scott MacCallum, the new editor of the magazine. We hope Scott, who hails from up here, will keep up the standards of our great magazine and even make it better... as long as he allows my articles. (*Flattery will get you everywhere! Ed*)

The section welcomes two more new members, Bradley Wood, assistant greenkeeper at Deeside GC and Paul MacKay, apprentice at Banchory. While on the subject of membership I recently heard of a member last year who did not receive his magazine for three months so

Around the Green



did not renew his membership this year. I have copies of magazines in case this happens, so anyone who has this problem please contact me for a magazine and then I can inform Head Office to get it sorted. Hopefully I can persuade this person to rejoin now that I am aware why he left.

I bumped into Robert Hardy recently back from a year in Malaysia and looking really tanned. He is working at the Kings Links in Aberdeen. Welcome back Bob. Still in Aberdeen George Mitchell has left Royal Aberdeen to take up a similar position at Newmacher. We also wish Paul Murphy all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Downfield GC, Dundee.

Having missed my D36 Advisor Assessment in Edinburgh, along with Alisdair McLaren, Nethybridge and Alan Holmes, Blairgowrie, I had to go to Aberdeen Airport to do it and be assessed in the departure lounge with airline passengers filing by all the time. Seriously it wasn't that bad and thanks must go to Margaret Ashby for flying up from Manchester in the morning, assessing and flying back at 2pm. That's my D32 and D36 completed only D33 to go, so if anyone needs advice or assessment you know where to come.

Finally I have been warned not to mention the weather again, some people think it's my fault for that all the bad weather we had after I went on about how good it was early winter. My forecast for the next month is \$*^~@&L\$^ . . .
IAN MACLEOD

West of Scotland

Since the last article a couple of things have happened of interest. The return football match against Central section at Ibrox turned out to be less exciting than the first encounter. Central missed their midfield muscle men and as a result went down 3-0 to a superior West section on the day.

A tournament for five-a-side is being considered for later in the year depending upon an interest. If your club wishes to put forward a team (greenkeepers only), then please contact me on 0141 942 5554.

The secretaries verses greenkeepers match on April 3 over Cowglen was a very enjoyable day. The greenkeepers were eventual winners 5-3 thanks to the old timers. The section wishes to

thank Scott Ballantyne and his staff for their efforts in preparing the course. Considering the weather it was in very good condition.

The committee is considering running a mini bus to the summer outing at Dornoch. The arrangements, provisionally, would be to travel up on Sunday evening, stay overnight, then travel back either on Monday night or Tuesday morning. Those interested should contact the secretary as early as possible.

Finally, I hope everybody has a good season and may I extend a warm welcome to the new members - Henry Farrell, Colne Valley; Martin Miller, Gleddoch House; Edmund Magee, Gleddoch House; James McCann, Gleddoch House; Douglas Murray, Gleddoch House.

Remember if anyone has interesting information please phone the aforementioned number.
STUART TAYLOR

Kent

April 20 found the section at Littlestone GC for the Hayter Qualifier. The weather was fresh to see the least but the course was in excellent condition which given the amount of rain that we had had this winter is due testament to the skill and professionalism of Malcolm Grand and his staff.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. M. Smith 71; 2. M. Morgan 73; 3. S. Suttle 74; 4. I. Rawlins. 80. Reserve. J. Wakelin 86.

Cat 2. 1. J. Bean 67; 2. N. Rourke 69; 3. M. Arthur 73; 4. J. Fuller 74 Reserve. S. Anderson 75.

Cat 3. 1. W. Banks 69; 2. P. Hiest 76; 3. M. Mewitt 76; 4. M. Grand 77 Reserve. J. Roots 79.

Congratulations to the winners and good luck in the following rounds. Thanks should also go to the members and committee of Littlestone GC as well as all the bar and catering staff who worked so hard on our behalf.

As I mentioned in last month's piece Steve Johnstone of Gillingham GC has taken over as our section secretary and at last month's meeting he allocated the committee jobs. Rob Lucas is the section treasurer, Andy Arthur is administering the handicap system and Peter Biscoe will be moving among you all with a questionnaire aimed at finding out exactly what you require of this section.

I understand Rob Lucas' first job was to open up new bank accounts closer to his home and I have it on good authority that he has lodged all monies in an ultra safe account held at William Hill's.

The only other change in personnel is that we have a new regional administrator in the shape of Geoff Hills.

The next golf day will be held at Herne Bay GC and all members will be contacted soon with dates and times etc. I am sure that this will be an excellent day with a high turnout.

RICHARD PAGE

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St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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