

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

CLEVELAND

Keith Lough has handed over the treasurer's job to Gary Munro and the following is an up to date list of officers for the Cleveland section: chairman: Bruce Burnell, secretary/treasurer: Gary Munro, regional chairman: Ian Holoran, golf organisers: Bob Lawton and Chris Fiddel, entertainment: Kevin Heslop. Other officers are Roger Shaw, Keith Lough, Philip Walshaw and Ian Pemberton.

During the March meeting, an NVQ discussion with officials from Houghall College took place. A full report will follow in next month's issue.

Gary Munro has two meetings arranged for this coming autumn and suggestions are welcome for February and March 1996.

The section has a request for an autumn tournament and venue and full details will appear in the July edition of the magazine.

A friendly match versus Eaglescliffe Greens Committee, eight people per team, is being planned for late July. All people interested, please contact Bob Lawton on 01740 650466.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members which mean, for the first time, we have over 100 members in the sec-

EVENTS DIARY

June 21: South Turf, Mootspur 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

tion. New faces are: Anthony Cheeseborough, Wearside Golf Club; Stuart Cook, Saltburn Golf Club; Robert Eversham, Hallgarth Hotel Golf Club and from Ramside Hall Golf Club, Jack Gash, Jason Stafford, Stephen Gott and David Robinson.

BRUCE BURNELL

SCOTTISH EAST

It's been a busy start to the season for me both on and off the course. I hope everyone received a form for the spring outing at the Glen Golf Club. If not, please do not hesitate to 'phone and let me know and I guarantee any problems will be sorted out. Membership of the section is now at an all-time high. Let's hope this trend continues. Sorry to hear

Willie Blair, our past secretary, has not been too well recently. Hope you're well on your way to recovery. In March we held a quiz night at the Black Bull in Dalkeith, which was won by Mike Williamson and his Torwoodlee terrors. A fine night was enjoyed by everyone. Well done to all the East Section members who have just completed the HNC course at Oakridge College - no easy feat, lads!

The committee at present are setting up a library for members. Watch this space for further details.

Congratulations to Stuart and Caroline Crawford from North Berwick West Golf Club and also Ronnie and Michelle Frame on the arrival of baby girls respectively. All the best from everyone in the East Section.

Date for your diary - a barbecue has been arranged at the Kilspindie House Hotel on Saturday, 10 June. Bring all the family.

And finally, thanks to Jimmy Neilson, Willie Blair, Andy Forrest and Elliott Small for helping me get on my feet as I take over as Section Secretary. Any news to 01721 722832.

ANDY FORREST
and ROBERT HOGARTH

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SCOTTISH NORTH

The North Section welcomes two more new members and two old members who have rejoined. The newcomers are Paul Teviotdale, apprentice at Arbroath and Alexander Campbell, a student at Elmwood College, who hails from Montrose. We welcome back Iain Gunn, now Head Greenkeeper at Strathpeffer and Mike Wilson who is in charge at Fraserburgh. Whilst on the subject of membership, it was most disappointing to see the amount of 1994 members who have not renewed their membership by the end of March. Hopefully this was an oversight and by the time you are reading this column, it has been rectified. We will never move forward if we lose more members than we gain each year, so have a word if you know someone who has not renewed and try to get them back in the fold.

The Scottish Conference in Glasgow was a great success as usual. Unfortunately with the distance involved, there were not many members from the North down. Nevertheless the hall was full and those that did travel found it very worthwhile.

I attended the Section Secretaries' annual get-together and found it very productive and informative. North members can look forward to more professional presentations at the outings, after all the tips picked up during the Presentation Skills seminar on Monday.

There has been a change of venue for next month's Scottish greenkeeping championships. Instead of being held at the Carnegie Club, Skibo, the championship has been moved five miles further North to Royal Dornoch. Unfortunately, Skibo felt unable to cater for the expected numbers, but will welcome any members in the area for the competition who would like to play the course. Thanks must go to Royal Dornoch for stepping in at such short notice and I can thoroughly recommend to anyone to make the

journey North to play this superb golf course. The date has changed to Monday, 19 June with the tee booked from 10.30am. Miss it at your peril!

IAN MACLEOD



WEST OF SCOTLAND

Well, the season has started and everybody will be busy cutting and preparing their courses.

On 5 March at Brox, a football match was arranged between the North and South of the River Clyde. A poor turnout on the day (only 16), was probably due to the snow elsewhere, but it did not hinder the enthusiasm. The eventual winners were the North, for a change, with a score of 11-7.

The best of the 16 then went on to represent the Section against Central. A good game was had by all, with a scoreline of four all. The return game has been arranged for Sunday, 2 April.

At the recent Scottish Educational Conference held at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, all speakers proved a great success. Particularly interesting talks were given by Ian McNab (Dumfries and County) on greens reconstruction, and Eddie Adams (St Andrews Old) on the 'Open' Championship preparation. A great deal of thanks go to all concerned, with particular mention to Steven Hogg and Elliott Small for their efforts.

If anyone has information of interest to

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our members, please pass this on to myself at 0141 942 5554.

JAMES S TAYLOR

NORTH-WEST

This year's North West seminar was attended by 104 greenkeepers, golf club officials and members of the trade. The venue for the event was the magnificent club house at the Tytherington Club, which is the headquarters of the Women's European Tour.

The seminar kicked off with Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer, speaking about the opportunities at colleges for greenkeeper training and also the plans for local training initiatives, by setting up one day training courses at locations around the country.

The main speaker of the day was Jon Allbutt with his theme on 'Health and Safety on Golf Courses'. This is a subject that involves everybody employed on golf courses, from the greens staff to the catering staff. Jon gently led us into the talk with the legislation, which can be mind-boggling, but with his 'overview and update', he managed to simplify things a little.

The afternoon session was 'Health and Safety Policies and Risk Assessment'. The message from this was to bring in the expert, and there was none better than Jon. Have your course assessed and work within the rules of Health and Safety. Many thanks to Ken Richardson and Jon Allbutt for a most interesting and informative day.

I would like to thank John Millen, the caterers, and the Tytherington Club, for allowing us to use their excellent facilities. Thanks also to Sisis, Rigby Taylor, British Seed Houses and Acorn Supplies for supporting us with advertising and also the patrons of the Northern Region who attended the Seminar.

In the Section events on your fixture list, at the bottom of the page, it reads 4BBB. I have had many enquiries about its meaning. It simply means Four Ball Better Ball and if anybody is interested in entering, get yourself a partner and ring Paul Pearse on 01625 859258 and he will arrange the knockout.

Any problems or queries please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

BERT CROSS



SOUTH WEST

After our members' approval at the last AGM, the Section trophy cabinet, formerly held at Tracy Park Golf Club, was taken to Headquarters for their use on a relevant basis.

This was moved up when I attended this year's Annual Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators' meeting, which proved very informative. Not only was there a very useful half day course on presentation and public speaking, but also a talk from Fenchurch regarding the insurance entitlements available to members as part of their membership package. Hambro Legal Protec-

tion also spoke on our legal advice opportunities. These subjects could well be the possibility of a forthcoming Winter lecture as I am sure the majority of Section members are unaware of their full entitlement.

The Section matches against the Secretaries on 27 June, South Coast on 21 September and South Wales on 4 October all need teams. If you would like to be considered for selection please return the form in the last circular letter and your name will be passed to Team Captain, Dave Neale.

The usual reminder goes out again for the enrolment in training courses, First Aid and in particular, PA1 and PA2. A few people have in the past expressed an interest in PA1 and PA2 but numbers have to be greater to warrant a course. If interested, please give me a ring on 0117 9793127 and specify whether the PA2 instruction day needs to be practiced on a tractor or Cushman mounted sprayer, as this is important at the time of examination.

Congratulations to Jon Scoones of Woodspring Golf Club who takes up a position as First Assistant at Studley Wood Golf Club in Oxfordshire. We wish him every success at his new club.

The summer tournament takes place this year at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol on 26 July.

I look forward to seeing you there in large numbers.

KEVIN GREEN

SURREY

The Greenkeepers Annual Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club was, as usual, a huge success, not only were we blessed with brilliant sunshine but also a superb golf course - condition-wise - to match. It would have seemed to any visitor to the course that Walton Heath hadn't had a poor winter. The course was as dry as a bone and the greens putted true. Congratulations therefore must go to Clive Osgood and his staff, who were amongst the winners. Thanks also, to members of the trade for their support, and the South East Regional Committee for organising the event. Finally, thanks to Walton Heath Golf Club for hosting the event.

Results are as follows: 1st prize: M Haynes, Walton Heath GC, 39pts. Handicap 0-10, 1st: A Donlevy, Walton Heath GC, 37pts; 2nd: M Smith, 37pts; 3rd: G Brown, 32pts. Handicap 11-15, 1st: R Ling, 38pts; 2nd: M Kirkham, 34pts; 3rd: J Robs. Handicap 16-24, 1st: D Smith, 37pts; 2nd: I Sutcliffe, 33pts; 3rd: G Speller, 32pts. Guests, 1st: G Winkless, 33pts; 2nd: J Russell, 32pts; 3rd: D Maltby, 32pts. Putting competition, 16 putts over 9 holes: Tony Dunstan won on countback. Longest drive, 1st: M Moss, 247yds; 2nd: I Warn, 241yds; 3rd: D Gibbs, 240yds. Nearest pins: E Dickinson: 3'1" 2nd hole; D Violer: 7'7", 6th hole; I Sutcliffe: 3'3", 10th hole.

Forthcoming events: Southturf Exhibition, Motspur Park - 21 June; The McMillan Tankard - Sunningdale Golf Club - 3 August - (Maximum 40 spots); The Parker Salver - Tyrells Wood Golf Club Invitation - (Club Secretary, Greens Chairmen etc) - 25 pairs only.

I would appreciate any items of news that may be of interest to members of our Section. Please contact me on 01737 832015.

DAVID GIBBS

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Mullion Golf Club was the venue for our March meeting.

With the sun shining and only a light breeze, our golfing members enjoyed probably the best golfing conditions you could possibly ask for in March on the country's most southerly course, which is situated on the Lizard in the depths of Cornwall.

Our thanks go to John Bradley of Barenbrug Seeds and Martin Samuel of Rigby Taylor who kindly provided transport to our most easterly Devon members. Our golfing members competed for the Supaturf trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade, Rhône Poulenc trophy for Assistants and this was the Section's qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament. Our congratulations to Head Greenkeeper Gordon Tamblyn and his team who provided us with an excellent test of golf.

After an excellent lunch, John Palfrey, on behalf of Supaturf and Paul Clifton of Rhône Poulenc, presented the prizes to the following members: Supaturf Trophy: 1st: T Pipe (Honiton), 36pts; 2nd: B Lewer (Dainton), 34pts; 3rd: M Samuel (Rigby Taylor), 33pts. Rhône Poulenc Trophy: 1st: A James (Tehidy), 40pts handicap reduction 22 to 20; 2nd: J Mitchell (Perranporth), 37pts; 3rd: W Potter (East Devon), 35pts.

Congratulations and good luck to all who qualified. Our thanks to John Palfrey and Paul Clifton for presenting the prizes.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge, to be held at Carmarthen Golf Club on Thursday, 15 June are: 0-9: J Mitchell, T Ramsden, R Whyman, C Bland, G Aycliffe. 10-18: T Pipe, W Potter, B Lewer, M Parrish, K Piper. 19-28: a James, C Edwards, T Clark, T Ellis, T Martin.

Our thanks for the continued support and attendance of Cornish Hayter distributor, Martin Hennings. Prizes have now been despatched to the winners.

Our afternoon educational talk was presented by Peter Winter from the STRI. Peter's talk centred on the problem our host club have with the infestation of nematodes on their course. Our thanks to Peter for his excellent presentation, also our thanks and good wishes are extended to Mullion Golf Club – who are celebrating their centenary year – for kindly allowing us use of their facilities.

The Cornish get-together evenings start this month with the usual format of walking the course with host clubs, Head Greenkeeper, followed by a pint and pasty. For dates and venues, please phone Steve Evans on 01208 863647.

Was it all worth it?

At the beginning of February, I received an invitation to attend the 1995 Regional Administrators' and Section Secretaries' meeting to be held at Aldwark Manor on 12 and 13 March.

I was delighted to find out that this year the meeting would be held on a Sunday and Monday, with a 3.45pm start on the Sunday. This meant I would only have to take one day's holiday.

Then, I rang British Rail to find out train times from my nearest rail station at Exeter, some 60 miles away. With disbelief, I was informed that the first train North was not until the afternoon, arriving in York late

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that night. After some discussion, I was informed that I could arrive in York at 3.45pm, if I travelled via London.

The arrangements were set. I had to catch the 8.40am train from Exeter on Sunday morning, which meant I had to leave home at around 7am. On drawing back the curtains that morning I saw to my horror an unknown car blocking my garage entrance. After trying the doors and with time ticking by, I phoned the police, hoping they could unlock the car so I could push it back a few yards. Within ten minutes a WPC arrived and because it was locked, she couldn't open it without the owner being present. She then proceeded to wake the neighbourhood. After nearly an hour, she found the owner.

With the time at 7.50am, I realised I would miss the train at Exeter, so I decided to cut across to Tiverton, but I had to be quick. On arrival at Tiverton at 9am, I was informed that I had missed the train by four minutes and the next train wasn't until 11.58am, but if I went down to Exeter, I may be able to catch the 9.32am Waterloo train. On arrival at Exeter, I saw the back end of the train disappearing out of the station.

With the next train leaving some two hours later, I had to decide whether to continue the journey or not, as I would miss most of Sunday's meeting. With all the problems I had encountered, I decided to continue and arrived at Aldwark around 7pm to catch the last half hour of Sunday's meeting, but in time for dinner and a few beers.

Monday morning arrived very quickly. It seemed like only four hours' sleep, but after breakfast it was down to work with Brin Bendon, our course tutor on presentation skills. This turned out to be an excellent workshop which took us up to lunch. After lunch, we had a nose around the offices before returning to the hotel for the open forum, which concluded the meeting. Unfortunately, I had to leave before the end to catch my last direct train home, leaving York at 4pm. I arrived home at 10.30pm, tired but satisfied. The two days were worth it.

My thanks to Hambro Legal Protection and Brin Bendon for their excellent presentations and to all the BIGGA staff and hotel staff for making me so welcome.

RICHARD WHYMAN

BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON

I hope by now all Section members have received the fixture cards with all Section and National events. If there is any member still without a card, please contact me and I will post one off to you.

Because of the publishing deadline, there are no results of the Hayter Tournament at Beaconsfield or the five-a-side football competition. These will be posted in next month's article.

At the last committee meeting the idea of organising a package deal for the BTME Show

next January was discussed. I have been making enquiries with local companies to get an idea of prices. The package would include travel and accommodation for three days and two nights around the Harrogate area. The cost is looking like £100 per head, all inclusive. I know January is a long way off, but because of the Show's success, if we leave it too long to book, trying to find accommodation will be very difficult. The sooner we get definite numbers the sooner we can make a booking. A deposit will be required to confirm your place. It's a long way to drive, so don't leave it late to book your place.

Our very own Secretary, Ray Clarke, is on the move this month. He has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at a course under construction near Marlow. Good luck to Ray from the Section.

Golfing venues to look forward to this year are Blue Mountain, Hadden Hill and Frilford Heath.

Any news or views, please contact me on 01491 578147.

LINDSAY T ANDERSON

KENT

I suppose that after three months it was time for the Kent Committee to get together and have a meeting. This duly took place on 28 March in the Rifleman Pub, Sevenoaks.

The main outcome for me was that it has given me something of interest to write about. The first item on the agenda was Greenkeeper education and specifically what courses we would like the GTC to run during 1996. This is always a subject guaranteed to cause a debate and so feedback from you – with suggestions for course content – would be most helpful.

The next subject for discussion was the golf days organised by this Section. Two more dates have now been confirmed. Firstly, at Herne Bay on 19 June in the afternoon. This date coincides with Herne Bay's Centenary celebrations and will include an evening buffet. The second date is our autumn meeting on 27 September at Birchwood Park, and I would like to thank in advance, all those involved in the organisation of these dates. Whilst on the subject of venues, the Kent Section is organising a fixture list for 1996 which will be sponsored by Sta-Brite Supplies Ltd. Our thanks go to Chris Sharpe for this, but it will be of no use unless we have some venues to put on it, so we need as many varied venues as possible please.

Getting back to this year's golf days, it was decided to run an Eclectic Competition across the first three competitions of this year (Littlestone, Herne Bay and Birchwood Park). All cards will be collected at the end of each day and scores allocated accordingly. This will also enable us to run a proper handicap system and handicaps will be allocated on the basis of your last card unless you have a bona-fide club handicap, which you can present on the day of the competition. I don't think that this system will effect the lower handicaps too much but should even out some of the more outlandish examples of banditry. The Eclectic Competition will be split into two categories (0-15 and 16-28) and we are looking for a sponsor. If you are willing to put up a prize etc, please contact me on 0181 464 8828 (Shortlands Golf Club).

Finally, Steve Johnstone of Gillingham Golf



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Club would like to thank his Captain, Len Snow and his Committee for their ongoing support which will continue through his period as Section Secretary and Regional Board member.

RICHARD PAGE

SHEFFIELD

On 6 April we held our final winter lecture, given by Mr Will Adamson of ADAS, who works on construction of golf courses. He gave a very interesting talk on the elements of a good course, the condition and presentation, the beauty and attractiveness and the qualities of the course. In particular, it was interesting to learn the construction of golf greens.

On 12 April, we held our first golf tournament at Phoenix Golf Club, which was in excellent condition. Thanks to Keith and his staff. The winner of the President's prize was Paul Unwin, of Hallamshire Golf Club. The following qualified for the Regional Final of the Hayter Tournament, to be played at Middlesbrough Golf Club on 4 July: Division 1, 0-9: Derek McJannet (Sherwood Forest), 72-0-72; Stephen Currie (Hicklehen), 82-9-73; David Chapple (Thrybergh), 82-9-73. Division 2, 10-18: Colin Hopper (Town Moor), 86-13-73; Neil Maltby (Wheatley), 88-15-73; Antony Whittington (Worksop), 92-18-74. Division 3, 19-23: Paul Unwin (Hallamshire), 81-27-71; Barry Lax (Worksop), 98-23-75; James Hall (Bondhay), 98-22-76.

Many thanks to our trade members who donated prizes – President, K Arnold, Les Purdy, Rhône-Poulenc, P Fell – Aitkens, Steve Burroughs – Amenity Turf Supplies, A Dyson – Gem, M Brears – Trident.

Our next golf tournament will be held at Cavendish Golf Club on 3 July at 10.30am.
RON ULLATHORNE

What



The number and range of greenkeeper training courses continue to expand as the demand for high quality training increases. This variety of provision can lead to confusion as to who

does what, where and how.

BIGGA education officer Ken Richardson, pictured, lists training providers and outlines the courses and schemes available for greenkeeper training.

TRAINING POLICY

Training policy for all greenkeepers is set by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC). The Committee comprises representatives from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), the English Golf Union (EGU), the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI), the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A), the Scottish Golf Union (SGU) and the Welsh Golfing Union (WGU) and thus has connections with all aspects of golf in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The GTC headquarters at Aldwark Manor is staffed by two officers – David Golding, the Education Director and Sue Gudgeon, the Administrative Officer. The GTC is, currently, mainly involved in the introduction of National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications. This work includes membership of the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture, liaison with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications and the Scottish Council for Vocational Qualifications, identifying and training of Industry competent assessors (D32) and advisers (D36), monitoring the review of N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping), production, sale and updating of the GTC Training Manual and translation of the Training Manual into French, German and Spanish, monitoring standards of greenkeeper training by colleges and other training providers and ensuring that all greenkeepers have access to good quality education and training as part of their terms and conditions of service.

TRAINING PROVIDERS

Many organisations have an influence on training policy as members of the GTC and some, for example BIGGA, have a major impact on greenkeeper training by acting as training providers. The following list is not exhaustive but does, hopefully, cover the main contributors to the provision of greenkeeper training and education.