Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

West of Scotland

Winter is coming and everybody will be busy hollow coring, verti draining and topdressing after the summer, in readiness for winter rain. The nights draw in faster and members can start to relax, or so they say. The social events are nearly ready for notification, but two events require special mention.

The AGM is arranged for 14th November and a letter will soon be on its way with time and venue. A good turn out is required for a change, if only to let the committee know what is needed by the membership. So please come along and support your committee.

The second event is the Annual dinner, with a special speaker, comedian Gary Davis. The night should prove a great success with such a well known television comedian entertaining members. Don't miss the night and get your tickets early as only a limited number will be available at the special price of £12.50. The date is 24th November at the Admiral Bar, Glasgow, with a meal included, what great value

Football, the five-a-side tournament response has been very poor with only five teams entering so far. Another seven teams required for the Round Robin competition. The format would be four sets of three teams playing round robin, then semi finals, and final all in one night, so better get fit lads (remember its only for fun). Entries close at the end of October, with a view to playing some time in November. If you have five members interested, they don't need to be at the same club, then phone 0141 942 5554 at any time and leave a message.

Welcome to some new section members Andrew Wilson, and Alec Glaeham both of Cameron House Hotel, Ross McLeish (Eastwood GC) and Duncan Farrell. A warm welcome is extended and we look forward to seeing you at the various social occasions. Remember and notify me at the afore mentioned number if you have any interesting information. S Taylor

Mid Anglia

Our annual match against the Midland Section took place on August 3rd at Letchworth GC. After missing out last year, it was nice to renew ties with the Midland team, in what was a very closely contested match, on a very hot day. Our team came out on top 6.5-5.5 and we retained the Ashfield Toro Trophy. Thanks to all members who turned out, to Ronan for organising the event, and to Letchworth GC for allowing the event to take place.

Members of our section also had some success in the National Tournament held recently at St Annes Old Links. Robert Pearce, Mark Ellis and Mark Whittle won the Jubilee Cup together for the best team score of 661 over 54 holes. Robert also came 3rd in the Nett. (15-28) handicap competition with a score of 214. Well done lads, it was nice to see some familiar faces in last month's magazine holding trophies up!

Our Autumn Tournament is being held this month on the

26th at Brocket Hall, followed by the section's AGM. Closing date for entries is October 5th. Finally I would like to welcome the following new members to the section; W. Spencer, Briggens House GC; T. Cook, Beds & County GC; J. Winterbottom, Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands GC; S. Nightingale, Pavenham Park GC; M. Oakey, Pavenham Park GC; J. Stanley, Met Police Sports Club; L. Welford, Aylesbury Vale GC and M. Bosher; Kingsway Golf Centre.

South West

There have been mixed fortunes for Section members throughout a summer season now firmly registered in the history books as one of the hottest.

On a happier side, it has been a good golfing season for Shaun Richards from Taunton & Pickeridge GC who not only won the Hayter Regional Final at Carmarthen GC by coming first in Category 1 but then won the Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy for Best Gross for 54 holes with a score of 222. By the time this report reaches you he will also have competed in the Hayter National Final where hopefully he will have achieved further success.

Events this year however, have not been so fortunate for Derek Eves now formerly of Painswick GC. After 17.5 years as Club Steward including the last seven in a dual role with that of Course Supervisor. Derek was dismissed from the club after failing to agree to what he viewed to be unreasonable contract changes. At a subsequent industrial tribunal where he claimed unfair dismissal, Derek funded his own costs and accepted a financial settlement after half of the first day's hearing. The moral of this unfortunate story has to be — What price loyalty? On behalf of the Section we wish Derek every success in finding future employment.

This year's Regional Seminar will be held at Cannington College on 29th November. Barenbrug is sponsor of the event with speakers including Dr Anne-Marie Brennan, Ecology Advisor to the English Golf Union and John Linneker, Manager of the Royal North Devon GC. Good attendance from members has graced this educational day over previous years and your presence this year will help to continue the trend.

Congratulations to Robin Greaves of Thornbury Golf Centre who is the Section nomination for the Premier Green-keeper of the Year Competition sponsored by Miracle Professional. Robin now takes part in the Regional Final with the winner participating in the National Final at the end of the year.

As part of their ongoing educational programme, Headquarters and particularly Education Officer Ken Richardson has aranged some Management Courses at Section level this winter. See Education Update on Page 33. A venue and date are yet to be agreed but will be advertised on finalisation.

To conclude, I wish you a successful autumn renovation period to put right what has been an extremely stressful five months for your courses, and yourselves the people

employed to maintain them. Kevin Green

Surrey

Looking back to August 3rd the Mcmillan Tankard was played at Sunningdale GC as usual there were maximum entries for this our most popular event. It was encouraging to see a lot of new faces present we hope this will be a regular thing in the remainder of the year's events as your support to such events is critical for their continuing existence as poor response in the past has led to cancellation, so please support all your sections events if possible as an awful lot of hard work and time goes into their organisation so don't make the McMillan Tankard and Sunningdale the only event you enter this year. All the courses we play over the course of the year are equally as good in their own way as well as the company you are likely to be in on the day. Results: 1st - Jim Russell (Lingfield Park GC), 2nd - Kevin Humphreys (Croham Hurst GC), 3rd - Mark Todd (Lingfield Park GC) all scored 36 points so the results were decided on a count

Thanks go to Sunningdale GC and the Artisans Section for accommodating us, to Jack McMillan for supplying the Tankard and to Lawson Bingham for as usual turning out the Course to its usual high standard, and Ron Jobson for doing the cards – thanks to you all.

Use of membership cards, please abide by the courtesy rules on the reverse of your membership cards as this will avoid disappointment upon visiting other clubs for a round of Golf and also shows good manners of which shouldn't spoil things for others in the future.

Tickets are now available for the Surrey Section Dinner Dance on November 10th to be held at Reigate Manor Hotel, tickets are priced at £18.00 and can be purchased from any of your committee members.

Venues for tournaments for the coming year and 1997 are still required so if you wish to host a BIGGA event please contact Derek Walder on 01737 246088.

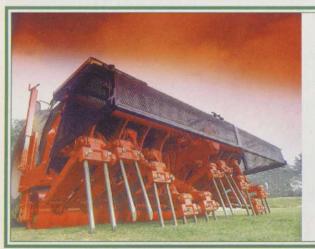
The first of our winter lectures has now been organised for November 13th where Gordon Jaaback has agreed to give us a talk at Kingswood G&CC 7-7.30pm.

Forthcoming events include the Autumn Tournament, October 12th Home Park GC 27 Holes Ploughmans/evening meal £22.00, the Turkey Trot December 6th Effingham GC followed by the AGM.

Derek Walder

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

There are two golfing events forthcoming the first is the Autumn Invitation to be played at Hadden Hill near Didcot on the 9th October. This event has proved very popular in the past so I hope to see a large turnout on the day. The second is the Rigby Taylor knockout competition, this is a fourball event which is going to run through the winter months. The first names out of the hat will receive home advantage



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(bribes welcome!), throughout the rounds up to the final which will be played on a neutral course to be decided at a later date.

Any member who has not received an entry form for the above events please contact me by phone immediately. I could do with some input from section members to help fill in these articles when news is quiet, so if you have anything to contribute to the articles I would appreciate it, ie. People on the move, births etc. Finally I think its about time we had another football match between the three counties so if you are interested then give me a call and we will organise an evening soon (don't be put off by the injuries to a few last time).

Lindsay Anderson

Northern Section

As you are probably aware August has been a very busy month for some of our section starting with the National Tournament. Our section team did very well but just got pipped into second place. I would like to thank those members of our section who took part and hope they enjoyed the three days as much as I did

The next event was the Roses Match held at West Bowling GC. Yet another scorching hot day but our lads, now accustomed to the heat, did the business and won back the trophy from the Lancashire team. Many thanks to Ben, the Head Greenkeeper, and his team for the superb presentation of the course and all the hard work put in on the day. Thanks also to the caterers and to Pattissons for sponsoring our event once again.

Invitation Day was next on the agenda. The tournament took place at Oakdale GC, Harrogate. As we passed through Leeds we experienced some unusual weather, torrential rain. "Wet weather gear" we thought, but as we approached Harrogate the sun came out and another hot day was in store. The course was in super condition and we all looked forward to the day ahead. The day went very well and the standard of golf was excellent, reflected by some of the scores that came in. The winners were as follows: - 1st - J. Baxter & Partner,

2nd - S. Dalton & Partner, 3rd - D. Storey & Partner, 4th - M. Hannan & Partner, 5th - K. Purdy & Partner, 6th - R. Smith & Partner, 7th - J. Waite & Partner, 8th - A. Baxter & Partner, 9th - M. Cordingley & Partner, 10th - S. Payne & Partner. The trade prize was won by N. Schofield & Partner, nearest the pin was won by S. Dalton.

Many thanks to Oakdale GC for allowing us to hold our tournament there and to the Head Greenkeeper and staff for all their hard work. The food was superb, thanks to the caterers and thank you very much to Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event once again.

Any members wishing to take part in the Autumn tournament at Easingwold GC on 25th October please contact me asap as numbers are limited. Marcus Cordingley

East of Scotland

Welcome to this month's report, I hope you have now started to get over the drought. Looking at the courses around Edinburgh everybody is suffering even with automatic systems, but the rains have arrived in the last few days and things have started to green up again so all the prayers have been answered, (roll on winter)

Well we had our annual Willie Woods Memorial Tournament at Kingsknowe GC on 30th August and what a great day it was, with 20 teams competing for the silverware. The format is a fourball with a greenkeeper and a committee member of your club in each pairing. Thanks to the Captain and Council of Kingsknowe for courtesy of the course also to Steve Dixon and staff for the condition of the course (considering the dry spell we have just gone through), and last but not least Huxleys Grass Machinery the sponsor for the day, many thanks to them for providing lunch and the magnificent crystal on the prize table. Also to the sponsors of the sponsored holes, many thanks. Results: 1st - A Holmes/J Stevens Seahouses 68/11.5/56.5, 2nd - S Dixon/D Hastings -Kingsknowe 70/10.5/59.5, 3rd - G Stavert/G Davidson - Peebles 77/17/60

Tickets for the annual dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel on December second are selling fast so if you want to be there be quick and don't miss out for the night of the year, give Robert Hogarth a call also send back your forms with the money for the tickets

Friday October 20th there is a skittles night at the Right Wing, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh from 7.00 - 11.30, price £4.50 with basket supper included, so give myself, Chris Yeaman, or Robert Hogarth a call asap with numbers and names. We have a menu to choose from so ask when you phone as we have to let the venue know what everybody wants four days in advance.

The 100 Club has been withdrawn due to lack of interest from the members of this section. So if you have any comments give us a call because everything we try fails unless it is a golf tournament. So what is happening to this section? The committee is working hard on your behalf, but you are not supporting us. Everybody that sent money/cheques etc; (all eight of you) will receive them back shortly. Sorry, but what can we do?

We are starting to finalise winter lectures so details will be in your hands soon. (Winter already)!

Well that is about all for this month but I would welcome anything from members so I can put more into these reports. So come on give me a call on 01875 870485 or drop me a note about anything, that includes other sections like football matches as the champs of the East are ready and waiting, so come on let's hear from you.

The Autumn Tournament results from Prestonfield GC will all be in next month's report, so keep an eye out.

So that's it for October see you in November. Your roving

(P.S. Stuart Greenwood - Hope the ankle's on the mend and we see you at the Hirsel GC, to take on the lads from the North-East of England Section this month and we hope it hasn't affected the right arm!) Chris Yeaman

Devon & Cornwall

With the nights now well and truly drawing in our thoughts turn to winter meetings which start only days away on Wednesday 25th October at St Mellion with golf being played over the course that Jack built, non golfing members will have their usual guided tour of the course and after lunch retiring Head Greenkeeper, Roy Battishill, will be speaking on his management of the complex. If you haven't booked yet you could be too late as golfing numbers are limited.

Our November meeting will once again be the section's AGM meeting which this year will be held at The Manor House Hotel and Golf Complex, Moretonhampstead on Wednesday 22nd November, as usual the mornings foursome competition will be for the Toro trophy with prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery & Lely non playing members will have the usual guided tour of the course during the morning, with the AGM following lunch.

As usual our Region will be holding a Seminar at Cannington College on Wednesday 29th November, also on the regional scene a reminder that the region has again organised a trip to the 1996 BTME held in Harrogate with the coach

leaving our area on Tuesday 23rd January and returning on Friday 26th January. Included in the price: three nights B&B with entry to the exhibition and all seminars for the cost of only £99, if you haven't booked your place yet for either the seminar or the BTME trip contact Gordon Child on 01803 844056

Richard Whyman

London

Our autumn tournament was held this year at Arkley GC in August and as usual the attendance was very good. The course was in excellent condition and as the first players approached the tee it started to rain. Everyone wished the rain would continue as we all needed it desperately, but the rain soon stopped as I took my umbrella out of the car, so you can all blame me! The first three players all tied on 35 points and the result was decided on the back nine scores for the three players. The result was as follows: 1. Ronan McKeown with 20 points, 2. Edward Dickinson with 19 points, 3. John Jackson with 18 points. The guest prize was won by the club Captain, Duncan Munro with 31 points and I would like to thank Duncan for presenting the prizes and also for making us all feel so welcome. The longest drive was won by Ronan and the nearest the pin prize went to David Wall. I would like to thank the trade for all its support and once again a special thank you to Arkley GC for its hospitality. A Dunstan

East of England

The first match between East of England and East Midland Greenkeepers for the Toro Shield was played at Market Harborough GC. The outcome saw EOE take the shield home with a 3-2 victory over our neighbours. A close match with the outcome being decided by the last pair going down the 19th. EOE pair John Scotney and Phil Wilkinson winning 1 up to secure the win. Other EOE scores were: Captain G A Macdonald/M Wood won 1 up, K Hodges/P Wright won 2/1, I Ross/F Cobb lost 1 down, P Down/D Welberry lost 4/3, J Scotney/P Wilkinson won 1 up (19th). Three games to two. Thanks to Market Harborough for courtesy and a great conditioned course. The food was excellent and thanks to Jim Carr of Chandlers of Grantham for sponsoring the event

Our summer meeting saw EOE visit Carholme GC, Lincoln, for the Rigby Taylor Cup. The walk away winner was James Birkett 41 points. (Handicap adjustment Kev). Nigel Marshall broke his duck of never winning a prize and was second on 38 points. The rest of the scores were: 3rd Simon Piggot -37 points c/b, 4th lan Ross - 37 points, 5th Fred Cobb - 36 points, 6th Ian Morton - 36 points. Guest prize - P Wilkinson. Thanks to Carholme for courtesy and Ian Morton for organising the day in my absence. A special thanks to Stuart Jeffs of Rigby Taylors for the usual excellent prize table and the other sponsors.

Two events to go, Spalding - 28th September and match versus Secretaries Association at Sleaford on the 12th October. AGM in November and the EOE Education Conference at Kenwick Park. All for now. G A MacDonald

Where has all that lovely sunshine gone! It's hard to remember what the temperature was like all those weeks ago.

The summer tournament was a sizzler. The temperatures were in the 80's by the afternoon, with 47 players finding the course easier than its reputation due to some of the water hazards drying up, allowing players to play from the muddy areas. One such player had bad luck and turned into a mud monster, due to playing a very thick wedge. Better luck next

Sour free guide to comparison enjet send this coupon so therestoone fund. The property of the send of the send this coupon so there and the send of t ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING Charterhouse Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive. We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts. Comment From Walter Woods Postcode: St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor OURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

time. Drinks were most welcome by the half way stage, our thanks to John Hammond (Bathgate Sand). We would like to thank Ivan Toon (A.L.S), for the wine with the meal, Bridgestone for the prize and all the people concerned at the Warwickshire for making the day a great success.

The results were as follows:- 1st Gross - M Hughes - 106.5, 1st Nett - A Roberts - 106.5, 2nd Nett - R Thomas - 110.5 back 9, 3rd Nett - J Wood - 110.5, 4th Nett - P Loffman - 111, 5th Nett - T Evans - 111 back 9, 6th Nett - M Cutler - 112, 7th Nett - S McDade - 113, 8th Nett - M Jones - 113. The trade prize was won by Tim Webb - Tacit 106.

It was nice to see so many friendly faces at Saltex, I enjoyed my day immensely, but I found I would really need to make my Capital Budget four times larger than it is!

I hope to see you at the Regional Seminar on the 29th November 1995. Details will be sent through the post. If members would like a coach to be provided to take them to the Seminar, please could they contact myself as soon as possible. If enough are interested it may be possible.

Will you please note that the next golf tournament is a Worfield GC on the 7th December 1995. The closing date is the 6th November. All monies and entrance sheets must be with R. Thomas by the 6th November, as late entries will not be accepted. Also, will you all provide a prize to the value of £5.00 or more, so that everyone can win.

The AGM will be held at 5.30pm at Worfield GC. Any non golfers wishing to attend are most welcome, and could attend the evening meal, the cost to be advised. Kim Blake

Cleveland

lan Pemberton, Head Greenkeeper at Bedale GC, has a new baby son named Samuel James. Congratulations.

Future events — 19th October Norman Sheddon on Fertilisers, 16th November Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc on food additives also our Annual General Meeting. 20th December Quiz vs Institute of Groundsmanship (sponsors Turf Care of Consett). Quiz at Mount Oswald GC, Durham City. 18th January 1996 Chris Peel of ADAS. All meetings at Haughton GC, Darlington at 7.30pm.

Congratulations to David Cook Assistant Greenkeeper at Eaglescliffe GC, on passing Phase 4 Management Course at Askham Bryan College.

Bruce Burnell

Scotland North

Well what a summer that was, long hot sunny days, no rain and water restrictions even in the Highlands! Unfortunately those without watering systems or inadequate ones would have had a torrid time trying to keep their courses good in very difficult conditions, I just hope members were patient and appreciated the circumstances that their green staff were under. I have worked at Tain for 19 years and cannot remember a summer like it. In fact older members at the club cannot remember one either. Someone once said that the weather has a way of equalling itself out so be prepared for a long cold winter!

No new members to report this month but there is a drive on from Headquarters to try and recruit past members back into the Association. Letters have been sent to them with a questionnaire for them to fill in giving reason for not rejoining to try and find out if we can improve things and get them back into the fold. Anyone who knows someone who falls into this category could help things by speaking to them and trying to persuade them to rejoin, the more members we have the better to help the Association go from strength to strength. Leading this recruitment drive is our Membership Services Officer Janet Adamson who joined us back in mid August and we hope has settled in now.

Retired member Donny Dingwall from Strathpeffer is still swinging well as I hear he holed in one at the Strath recently.

The Annual Patrons awards will be announced shortly and two lucky Section members will receive £200 grants for educational purposes. They could use it to go to Harrogate on the Regions bus trip. The cost this time will be £132.50 to include travel, B&B accommodation, and entry to all seminars, a ticket for the banquet (recommended) is an optional extra. The slight increase this year is because it was felt better to go to a slightly better hotel, Grants Hotel being booked this January. Going by last year's trip early booking would be advisable.

This month sees the Kubota Challenge at The Belfry and your's truly, as Scottish Champion, will be a part of the BIGGA team, I hope to play well and bring the trophy back to Aldwark Manor once more.

Iain Macleod

North Wales

The following Greenkeepers are on the move: Dave Proctor from Baron Hill is going to Stoneys Benellech GC, Geoffrey

Around the Green



Whalley from Sandiway is going to Mobberly GC. Steve Edwards from Llanfairfechan is going to Baron Hill and Richard Walker from Mile End is going to Royal Liverpool and into the capable hands of Derek Green. We wish them Good Luck for the future. Our congratulations, although we will require a blood test, go to Haydn Jones of Chirk GC whose wife had a little girl and Noel Hynes of Northop Country Club whose wife had a little boy. Both babies were born in August and it is quite obvious to me that far too much celebrating is going on at our Christmas get together. All members who participate are asked to take the necessary precautions.

Congratulations must also go to one of my staff, Andrew Gwilliam, who passed his level 2 at Northop College and who I am sure is eager to go on to the next stage.

A last reminder now of our Autumn meeting at Chirk GC on the 11th October, anybody who is not participating and who wishes to come will be made very welcome. Everything is organised and George and his staff are doing a tremendous job. It is showing all the signs of a good day out.

Our Christmas meeting will be at Prestatyn GC in December and more news should follow in the November issue. Also our AGM will be taking place after the presentation. Forms will be sent to anybody wishing to sit on the committee next year. See you all soon.

T P Evans

North West

I must apologise for not having any section notes in the last month's magazine, this was due to being too busy with jobs at home, involvement with The Open, and the National Tournament at St Annes Old Links. In any case no news was received so nothing to write about.

With regards to the National Tournament, I would like to say a few thanks to the people who helped to make the tournament a success. Firstly, many thanks to St Annes Old Links for allowing the tournament to be played on their course at short notice, and for making us so welcome. Thanks to Peter Ray, the Secretary, for being so patient with us. Thanks to Geoff Whittle and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, especially during the difficult conditions greenkeepers have had to endure this summer. (although I would like to suggest that the pot hole bunker front right of the first green is filled in - for personal reasons). Many thanks also to the Miracle Profesional boys, Clive Heginbotham, Richard Minton, and Roger Mossop, for their help and sponsorship for the tournament. Thanks to Mike Sheehan for his help with the score cards, and I would like to thank Tom, the club Steward, for his help, especially for the Lancashire evening which was very entertaining, with an excellent group and even better food. Finally I would like to thank the competitors who made it all worth while.

The results of this year's team matches for the N/W are N/W vs N/Wales. (Win for the N/W). N/W vs GC Stewards. (Halved match). N/W vs Northern Section. (Win for Northern Section). The game against the Northern Section was poorly attended with a team of 16 required and only 13 turned up in future if you are down to play and you find you cannot make it, ring me in plenty of time so that a reserve can play. It can by very frustrating waiting for players who do not turn up, and very unfair on those who do.

I have received a letter from Nigel Potter informing me that his wife Pauline gave birth to a baby girl called Olivia on 22 July, who weighed in at 6lb 14oz, a sister for Jamie. Best wishes to you all. Nigel goes on to tell me that he has just attended a GTC/NVQ, awareness day at Askham Bryan College, and is now doing the D32/D33 greenkeeper assessors training. More greenkeepers are required to train as assessors, and if you are interested please give me a ring (0151 724 5412), and I will advise you on who to contact.

Finally the North West section AGM will be held on Thursday 12th October at West Derby GC, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool, commencing at 7.30pm, with a talk by Clive Heginbotham of Miracle Amenity Care. Please make every effort to attend.

Bert Cross

South Wales

The annual match verses the GC Secretaries was held, as always, at the Southerndown GC during August and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Gary Johnston and his staff.

The Greenkeepers had a team of 22 – their largest for good number of years and a marvellous achievement after last year's dismal turnout, and it was good to see new members Mark Doyle and Ray Everson turning out for the first time. We hope to see them and others more often.

Adrian Panks, our team Captain, collected the Shield from the Secretaries' team Captain Alan Jefford after a convincing win by seven games to two.

This year we tried a running buffet, perhaps a bit of a shock for those expecting the renowned Southerndown gammon steak, but nevertheless a success and a little more appropriate because of the hot weather. Our thanks to Jan Williams and her staff for a superb spread.

The day ran smoothly without a hitch and for this we have to thank Fred Crossman, Secretary of the secretaries, for his splendid organisation. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Lastly, a sincere thanks to the committee at the Southerndown GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course for this eagerly awaited and contested annual match. Peter Lacey

South Coast

On August 11th our summer tournament was held at Parkstone GC. This proved to be an excellent venue and our thanks go to all concerned at Parkstone.

The results were as follows:

1. Ian Noble and Toney Stevens, Moores Valley GC, 49 pts; 2. Alan Rideout and Ray Rideout, Solent Meads GC, 47 pts; 3. Paul Brine and David Brine, Crane Valley GC, 44 pts.

Parker Hart and Roffey Bros kindly sponsored this event and we very much appreciate their continued support. Bob Cully

East Midlands

I'm sure all greenkeepers will be glad this season has finished with all the problems the dry summer weather brought. Still, looking on the positive side we must have been the envy of many inside workers who were unable to enjoy all the sunshine that we were privileged to have.

All eyes will be on the television sets this coming winter with section members cheering on Dave Leatherland in the BBC Great British quiz programme. Dave has had to pass an interview where he was told he is a quiet character. Is this the Dave we know? I'm sure all section members would like to wish him all the best and hope that he has a great day.

Our golf match against the East of England section was a great success, apart from us losing the Toro Trophy. The last match of the day was halved leaving both teams on 2.5 pts each but unfortunately for us we lost the extra hole. Despite our loss it did not stop the East of England for being Bindleyed with Mark and I winning the fourth game 4&2. Our section was represented by Gordon Mitchell, Steve Goode, Dave Mitchell, Adie Porter, Roger Willars, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Mark Bindley, Gavin Robson and Tim Allard. Our thanks go to Market Harborough GC for its courtesy and hospitality and to our sponsors for the day. Hopefully we will fare better next year on East of England soil.

This year's annual match against the Midland section will be hosted at The Warwickshire GC on October 12, courtesy of Rigby Taylor. Good luck to all those members who qualified successfully and please do try to arrive in good time.

All members should have received their entry forms for the two remaining fixtures of this year – the AGM and Christmas Tournament. Anyone who has not can give me a ring and I will gladly forward them a form. See you all next month.

Antony Bindley

Northern Region

After two successive victories this year the Northern Region were kind enough to allow someone else to win the annual Hayter Challenge Tournament and Scotland were the lucky team we chose. I must admit they did play well and congratulations to Elliott and his conquering team. Everyone had a thoroughly good time at the West Lancashire GC and our thanks to them and our hospitable sponsor, Hayter.

I would also like to mention that the Northern Region will be holding two two-day management courses in different parts of the region. They will be at Chester on February 12 and 13 and York on February 14 and 15. The cost, including accommodation, will be £50. Places are limited to 12 on each course only and as I already have some provisional bookings I urge you to contact me as soon as possible if you are interested. Tel: 01782 750539.

Bob Lupton