

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Scotland East Section

Welcome to this month's report. Hope everyone is well into their spring renovation work as the weather has taken a turn for the better. Well not a lot to tell you about this month but here we go.

We had a day out at Souter's of Stirling and a great day was had by all 16 members who made the journey – yet again a very poor turnout. What do we have to do to get our members interested in these days that we organise for you? If someone could let me know it would be much appreciated. So thanks again to John Souter and his company for a great day.

The East Section played host to the Scottish Conference at the Edinburgh Airport Stakis Hotel. I could not make it due to work commitments but I got all the details from Steve Dixon and Robert Hogarth who informed me of the good turnout, speakers etc. Also it was good to see our Chairman, Dean Cleaver, in attendance and our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, also made the trip north to be with us.

We hope to see a good turnout on April 11 at Longniddry GC for our first outing of the new season which is also the second round of our Hayter Qualifier, so you had better get some practice in if you wish to qualify for this year's Scottish Final.

You will soon have your fixture card and a social committee newsletter with all details of upcoming events for the first time this year.

Well that's it all for this month folks and I'll speak to you all next month. Chris Yeaman

Scotland North Section

Well it is April and next month at the superb links of Cruden Bay near Peterhead we have our Spring outing. You better get your entry in quickly as I am sure there will be a big demand for places. You have been warned!

While on the subject I must mention that the first four draws of the 200 Club will take place at Cruden Bay so it is imperative that all tickets are sold prior to the day to maximise the funds raised. Please buy the ticket sent to you to support your Section, or at least return it in good time so that it can be sold on to someone else. If you are going to pay for it on the day that is fine but let a member of the committee know to save time consuming and costly phone calls. There should really be no need to chase people in this matter. A simple yes or no as soon as the card is delivered is all that is required. 200 Club organiser Gordon McKie has moved into his new flat in Cupar now and can be contacted on 01334 653995.

As forecast last month here is the anticipated influx of new members to the Section. Royal Dornoch has two new trainees to welcome, Marcus Ross and Gary Gruber from Huntly; we have Stuart Angus, Alford's new

trainee John Morton joins us as does Boat of Garten's James Hutchison. From the new Craggan course at Grantown-on-Spey we welcome assistant Mark Brennan and finally, for this month anyway, joining us is Richard Cutler, assistant at Montrose Links. Keep them coming. The more the merrier.

Good times and not so good times for a couple of members to report. The good news concerns Westhill greenkeeper Bradley Wood who married his first love, Donna, at the venue of his second love (I hope that is the right order) Pittodrie Stadium, home of Aberdeen FC. We wish them all the best for the future. The not so good news is of Hopeman greenkeeper Stevie Dunn, who in his other role as goalkeeper of Rothes FC, just failed to help them reach their first cup final for many years when they went down 2-0 to Inverness Clach in the North of Scotland Cup semi-final. Better luck next time Stevie.

Congratulations to Mike Wilson on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at the newly privatised Forres GC.

Another group of North members went through their D32/33 training at Nairn recently and should be building up their portfolios for assessment now. All Head Greenkeepers should go through this so that they can assess their trainees in the future. Details are available from the GTC or by contacting Section Education conveners, Stewart McBain on 01224 733347 or Kevin Peace on 01467 623125. Iain Macleod

West of Scotland

On a sad note I must mention the recent death of Richard Aitken Snr, a respected businessman and life member of the Association. Richard Aitken started his business in 1963 when the company he worked for decided to uproot from the west and move east. The father of two, son Richard and daughter Grace, our best wishes and thoughts are with them at this time. Richard was a great supporter of the West Section and was well respected within the trade. I'm sure a good friend has been lost to all who knew him.

Recently a football match was arranged between the West Section and a Kevin Brunton Select under the guise of Central Section. The West came out on top winning 7-3. The first half proved to be the battle for supremacy with a 3-2 lead to the West, although keeping errors were about due to myself. Finally the West's strong legs got the better of Central and goals came fast and furiously. The goal scorers were Brian Hillan, Peter Cowan, two from George Nisbet and a hat trick from "Mr Greed" Stevie McGeachie. Well done everybody and thanks to the opposition for a well contested and enjoyable game. Special mention to Ronnie Miles, Helens-

burgh, for refereeing the match so well and making the boys tow the line so to speak. Brian Hillan should be thanked for supplying the team with strips on the day, even if they had us worried. They looked the picture, maybe that helped them play better.

The Spring Outing forms will be issued by now so be sure and enter quickly. There's sure to be a large entry at such a good course. Remember the winners qualify for the Hayter Challenge in May with the opportunity to go south in September. Something to look forward to.

The Scottish outing looks as though Elie will be the host. So another good venue!

Balmore has confirmed the Autumn Outing and I'm sure it will be in great condition. I wonder if this year quick greens and nice pin placements will be the norm.

The proposed trip to Royal Lytham had to be called off due to difficulties with bookings and arrangements for the time.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of the Section: Gavin Rutherford, Strathendrick GC; Andrew Cairns, Drumpellier; Stuart Ferguson, Stuart McDonald, Alan Hay, Edward Dully and Colin Shanks, all Bonnyton. We wish them well and hope to see them at the Section events.

Remember please, if there is any information for the Section please phone on 0141 942 5554. James S Taylor

Scottish Region

Once again the Scottish Region Conference was a successful day, 160 including the speakers, enjoyed a varied and interesting programme. With the sun shining and a lovely dry working day, concern that some of the delegates might be tempted to stay on the course was expressed, but obviously all the hard work had been done in the good weather before the turn of the year.

We were delighted to have our National Chairman Dean Cleaver and Executive Director Neil Thomas with us for the day. Along with the fact that they might have learnt something, it gave many of our members an opportunity to speak with them as they mingled at coffee and lunch breaks.

It was a great turnout covering from as far north as Dornoch to Seahouses southward and from Fort William on the west to St Andrews on the east. As well as the greenkeepers we had the largest turnout of club officials ever, most of whom expressed how much they had enjoyed it. We also had a representative from the Scottish Golf Union and from the IOG. It is good to see more and more clubs appreciating that the golf course is the most important part of any club and that the continual improvement of the standards of their courses is essential.

It was not all plain sailing as firstly the room temperature soared and the heating had to be adjusted, the microphone developed a squeal now and again and when a workman in the next room started up with his drill I thought "Oh no. This is not going to be my day". However all these little things were sorted out as they arose. As to the speakers themselves, after a few words from the BIGGA Chairman we were off on the morning session under the chairmanship of Alasdair McLaren, Education Convener for Scotland. Our regular Education update was ably delivered by Steve Miller, from Oatridge College, and he was followed by Ken Gordon from Filpumps on Golf Course Irrigation with emphasis on the design of systems. Gordon Moir, Head Greenkeeper at the Eden Course, spoke next of how he and his staff reconstructed the pond on the Eden to give it a more natural look. The morning was finished off by David Roy, Course Manager at Linlithgow GC, on Conservation, how important it is, how it is not as difficult to implement as some may think and how it must fit the needs of the golfer.

The afternoon session was chaired by Stephen Dixon, Chairman of the East Section, and started with Iain MacLeod from Tain, on working on a big project with a small budget on a highland course. Ian Henderson of Ian Henderson Finance gave an interesting talk on financial leasing and how to achieve the optimum fleet. Buying Time, Buying Turf was the title of Graeme Forbes, MD Stewarts & Co, talk.

Explaining the problems of turf nursery production and also giving handy hints on how to look after your turf once it is in place. The last speaker of the day was John Souter MD, Grass Technology International, on Golf Course design and construction and with the use of slides of courses all over the world showed the difference between natural and artificial courses. All in all an excellent conference finished off by a vote of thanks from Jimmy Neilson, Vice Chairman of the Scottish Region. The Region wishes to thank all its patrons for their marvelous support, not just at the conference but through the year as well.

My thanks to Robert Hogarth, East Section Secretary and his team of helpers and especially to Edna for all her work before, during and after the event.

I will just close the conference with one point. Lunch will definitely be seated next year.

The Hayter Region Final will be held this year at Royal Aberdeen GC on Wednesday May 29. The Scottish National Tournament will be held at Elie Golf House Club on Tuesday June 18.

Northern: Sheffield

Our Spring competition will be held at

Sherwood Forest GC on April 15 at 2pm. This will be the Hayter qualifier and Hayter will be the main sponsor at Sherwood.

I would like to congratulate Barry Lax on the completion of 25 years service as Head Greenkeeper at Workshop GC in February. The club presented Barry with a watch as thanks for his loyal service. Barry also received a commemorative plaque from the English Golf Union in recognition of his 25 years service after an EGU event at Workshop last autumn. One EGU official was amazed that Barry had been the Head Greenkeeper for 25 years. He had never heard of anyone serving that long at the same club.

New members this month include Darren Hayes and John Wilson of Oakmere Park; Gary Marsh, Hickledon GC; Andrew Lomas, Matlock GC and Gary Chafer Ashby Derooy GC - formerly known as Scunthorpe GC. J.V. Lax

Northern

At our AGM last month the following officers were elected. President Bill Mountain (reelected); Vice-President, Mel Guy; Chairman, Alan Gamble (reelected), Vice Chairman, Robin Smith; Secretary/Treasurer, Simon Heppenstall. The rest of the committee is made up as follows:- Telford Jarvis, Denis Cockburn, Ian Thomson, Mick Hannon, Colin Garnett, David Thackray, John Waite, R. Harris and P. Mitchell. Thank you to all members who attended. It was a good turnout.

As you may have noticed we have a new Secretary and very best wishes and good luck to Simon, Course Manager at Pontefract GC, in his new post. I am sure he will do an excellent job.

Our annual dinner dance at Shipley GC recently was a great success with 92 members and guests present. Thanks to our colleagues in the trade who provided prizes for the raffle, Martin Brothers, Henton & Chattel and also Ken Christie. The raffle raised £84 which was given to Bert Cross, Secretary of the North West Section towards the Kasisi Orphanage he supports in Zambia.

On to the golf now and a reminder that the Hayter Qualifier is on April 24 at Scarborough South Cliff. All bookings, together with £10 deposits must be received a week before the event.

We were sorry to hear that Bill Mountain's wife has unfortunately been taken ill again and our best wishes from all in the Section to them both.

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On a happier note, it was very good to see Alan Gamble looking fit and sprightly at our dinner dance after his recent illness.

In future all queries, news correspondence, bookings for golf etc should be addressed to Simon Heppenstall, at 2 Newby Walk, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LQ Tel 01484 519829. Do give him a call with any information or gossip for him to pass on. I am sure he will be pleased to hear from you. Bob Lupton

Cleveland

The Annual General Meeting took place on February 15 at Darlington GC. Reports were given and we have a healthy balance sheet. Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Gary Munro and Regional Representative Ian Holoran for sterling work during the past year. Thanks to Bob Lawton for being golf event organiser. We hope to have better attendances at meetings and request help before arranging speakers for next autumn. We have over 100 members which is very good but we want to have your presence gentlemen.

We are to have only one golf event in December for greenkeepers, which you can all afford. Gary will announce the venue in a newsletter.

We send best wishes to Alan Gamble and hope he gets fully fit and active again.

One vacancy on our Cleveland committee was taken by Tony Mears. Welcome Tony and thanks for your teaching efforts at Houghall College, Durham, on a part-time basis.

See you at the Spring Golf Tournament at Ramside Hall Hotel GC, Durham on Wednesday May 15. Bruce Burnell

North East

The Autumn competition has now been confirmed and will be played at the City of Newcastle GC on September 19.

The Section welcomes the following new members - Garry Batson, Burgham Park GC; Garry Bolton, Crook GC; Cliff Bunn, Stocksfield GC;

Edward Curry, Bellingham GC; Simon Dobson, Prudhoe GC; Neil Irvin, South Moor GC; Thomas Moore, Allendale GC; Simon Reid, South Shields GC; George Wright, Crook GC and Ian Kerr, Tynemouth GC.

Congratulations to Craig Kilgour on his recent appointment and move from Ponteland GC to Hexham GC. Jimmy Richardson

North West Section

The theme of the N/W Seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club "Forward Together" was planned to involve everybody in the golf business. It was an excellent day with 100 delegates in attendance and six very knowledgeable speakers. The seminar started with Neil Thomas taking us from the inception of BIGGA in 1987 to the present day, sharing with us some of the teething problems that occur when starting a new association. David Golding, of the GTC, spoke on the need for education and NVQs. David left little doubt that the GTC is doing everything possible to educate, not only the greenkeeper but also the golf clubs in allowing their staff to attend the colleges.

The role of the Course Manager was the title for the following speaker, and Duncan McGilvray spoke on this subject admirably. Speaking as a Course Manager, Duncan referred to his own position and how forward planning, budgeting, communicating and training, are all part of the job, as well as the most important thing - maintaining the course.

The first part of the afternoon was shared by, Peter Dutton and Dr Frank Harkins, who are both involved with the English Golf Union. Peter Dutton spoke of the role of the EGU and their involvement with the GTC. Dr Harkins spoke about training junior golfers through the EGU and how difficult it is for those young golfers to eventually become professionals.

John Hacker was the final speaker and the subject was Communication on the Golf Course. John, who is a former lecturer at Myerscough College and is now an agronomist spoke well on the subject and how important it is for greenkeepers, club officials, and members to communicate with each other and eradicate the us and them ideas of the past.

I would like to thank all the speakers for giving us an excellent educational day, Bob Lupton for chairing the seminar, Mere Golf and Country Club for use of their marvellous facilities, members of the trade for their

support and the delegates who make you feel it is worth all the hard work.

The N/W Section has gained many new members since the BTME and I would like to welcome you all into the Section. Any new members who have not received a fixture list for the year, please contact me on 0151 724 5412 and I will send you one immediately.

The Spring Tournament this year will be played at Morecambe GC on Thursday May 30. This is also a qualifier for the Hayter Regional final and the closing date for entries is May 24. So send off your entries to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 284 4416 including your deposit of £10. That's it for now and I hope you have a good golfing season. Bert Cross

Midland Section

To start with this month all Midland Section members should have received their entrance sheet and fixture list for the coming season's tournaments. If anybody has not yet received theirs, then please contact me so I can send one to you.

The first winter lecture was held at Walsall GC on February 14. Unfortunately, it was not very well supported with only 22 members in attendance. The talks were given by David Golding, of the GTC, and Peter Jefford, of Rufford Top Dress Supplies. Both were very informative. The committee would like to thank both speakers for given up their time to come and speak to us.

The next item of news is the sudden illness of David Franks, formerly of Avoncrop Amenity Products. Dave had a heart attack and has been very poorly. As of writing these notes he has greatly improved and is hoping to leave hospital in the foreseeable future. From all the members who know Dave we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Still on a sad note, I have informed of a sudden death of fellow greenkeeper Darrell Cooper. May we send our condolences to his family and friends.

On a happier note, Steve Mucklow is now a proud father. Congratulations to both Steve and his family on the new addition.

And finally, I have been asked to attend liaison committee meetings at the Warwickshire College. At the last meeting it was felt that a questionnaire should be circulated around the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers asking what levels of training they



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would like to see the college provide. If you receive one please fill it in and return it to the college.

Kim Blake

East of England Section

The final event of our winter programme before the golf season commences was a visit to the John Deere factory at Nottingham. A good turnout of 27 was greeted by Howard Storey of the organisation. We then had a guided tour through the various sections of the John Deere Company. We examined the running of the stores and parts division and were shown how quick it was to order a part. I must say, the back up is second to none.

Then on to the service section and then a detailed breakdown of the latest machinery in the turfcare range and finishing off with a hands on practical demo on the front lawns.

A thank you presentation was made to Sharon Hornbuckle, Company Secretary for our work on behalf of our section. When we were all fed and watered our Chairman, David Walden, thanked Howard and staff for a great day.

A lot of orders were placed.

New members this month are Adam Britton, Gedney Hill, Keith Fletcher and Ross Tomblin, Belton Woods and on the move is Alan Buckley coming from North Wales to Newark.

Diary Dates: April 23, Ramsey GC, PGM Trophy; May 21, Market Rasen GC, Rigby Taylor/Hayter Qualifier; June 26, Newark GC, Purdy's Cup; July 16, Peterborough Milton, Hayter Regional Final.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month as not a great deal is happening. I will start this month by informing all members that as well as being your Section Secretary I have now been appointed as your Region's Chairman.

Congratulations this month go to Chris Butlin on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cosby GC.

I would like to remind all members that their entry forms for this year's Spring Tournament must be returned to me before the closing date of April 11 along with a cheque should you wish to attend this day. Also on offer is a chance to qualify for this year's Hayter Regional final, held at Peterborough Milton on July 16.

I keep seeing Richard Barker's name appearing in the magazine.

Sorry to have to say this Tim but I think Richard has made more appearances in this year's Greenkeeper International than yourself so far. Keep trying though.

Finally I would like to appeal to all Section members to phone or write to me if they have any snippets they would like to see in this column.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

In early March a course visit to Ashridge GC was arranged and was well attended with 25 members turning up. Jim Cassidy, the Course Manager, gave us a short tour of the course followed by a look around the workshop and staff facilities which, it must be said, were of an exceptional standard. Gerald Bruce, our Section Secretary, presented Jim with some wine to show appreciation for his time and effort. It was certainly an interesting time spent there and let's hope that the standards set by Ashridge GC, particularly the staff facilities provided, become the norm in the future.

Just a short reminder about our Spring Tournament on the 29th of this month.

All entries should be in by now, by form and cheque only please.

This event is the Sectional qualifier for the Hayter Tournament, the regional final of which will be held on July 16 at Peterborough Milton GC.

The Lodgeway fourball Tournament should be underway by now, would all players ensure their matches are played by the date shown, it helps Chas run things smoothly if this is done. Many thanks.

Paul Lockett

Bucks, Berks and Oxon Section

It's been a long hard winter and I'm glad that spring has arrived at last to wipe the cobwebs off the golf clubs. That's if I can remember where I dumped them. I expect the wife has sold them at the local car boot sale.

The first event of the season is at Southfield GC on April 30. This is also the Hayter Qualifier. I hope everybody has received their entry forms for this event along with the Rigby Taylor Knockout form and fixture card for the season. What about the launch of the newsletter for the Section? I'm sure everybody has an opinion to share on this new venture.

I hope this proves to be a successful way of keeping all you members informed of what's going on in our area.

Also if you have a point of view you would like to share then put pen to paper and who knows your letter may find its way into the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Russell Lucas whose name came out of the hat at Harrogate for a free holiday.

Finally as we approach the start of yet another season I think it's a good time to remember an old friend. My last memory of Bob Plain was at last year's Spring Tournament.

His old friend John Nudds has written this tribute which I'm sure you will agree is very fitting.

He walked the path of righteousness
He walked the path of good
This man who knew his destiny

This man who understood
Well liked and well respected
Well thought of on the green
His humour not forgotten
His golf swing never seen (too quick)
This man Bob Plain has left us
But our memories linger on
As work mates are indebted
For the knowledge he's passed on
And all of us who knew him
Will quietly offer prayer
Hoping we'll be lucky
Seeing more Bob Plains appear
Lindsay T. Anderson

South East Region: East Anglia

On February 29 a seminar was held at Bury St Edmunds GC (and the previous day at Channels GC), sponsored by Turf Actant Products. Richard Davies and Edward Clarkson welcomed 30 greenkeepers and grounds-men, before introducing the speakers who had travelled to give us a further insight into their companies' development work and the products they supply. Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals gave an interesting talk on the subject of "Dry Patch" and, with the help of slides, explained some of the trials that had been carried out on golf greens to combat this problem.

One of the latest products on the market Alleviate was discussed in depth and a look at the unique way it works on "Dry Patch" contaminated soil particles. "It is not a wetting agent," said Neil. Guy Longshaw, who then took us through the Symbio products. These are a range of growth activators used in a biological maintenance programme. The aim? To produce quality, healthy turf without the use of high levels of fertilisers and fungicides. Following this Guy was joined by Neil Baldwin in a joint effort to answer questions from the floor.

After a short break for coffee, Chris

Davy, of MB Bark Supplies, gave us an idea of the type of products MB supply. These include the Hepworths Minerals Pro-Sport range of rootzones and top dressings.

John Pemberton, the Administration Manager of BIGGA, gave an informative talk on the Association, "All you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask!" Following questions and lunch, a round of golf was played by those keen to take advantage of the spring-like weather.

Many thanks to Turf Actant Products for a very interesting day.

Welcome to Reg Pooley, Bury St Edmunds, who has recently joined the Association.

The list of known fixtures for 1996 for those of you who many not have seen the list in February's issue of Greenkeeper International are, April 18, Waldringfield; June 18, Caldecot Hall; October 9, Stableford Abbots.

Anyone wishing to play in any of these competitions who fails to receive an entry form around two weeks before the competition date should contact David Wells 01702 522202 or Andy Sheehan (I don't have his number at present) to register. ALL SECTION MEMBERS WELCOME. Make a note in your diary of the dates and be prepared to make that call. "It's good to talk."

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing away of Geof Hills, South East Regional Administrator. Those who met Geof when he visited us at Thetford GC last August will know how much he had to offer the Section with his friendly approach to the tasks in hand. On behalf of the East Anglia Section we send our deepest sympathy to all his family.
Stephen Millard

Surrey Section

The last of the winter lectures was held back in February at Walton Heath Artisans Club. The speaker was Jonathan Franks, from British Seed Houses, and a big thank you to him for a most informative lecture and slide show.

Also a big thank you to Paices for supplying a coach for the Section to attend a tour of the Ransomes works in Ipswich. Eighteen greenkeepers from the Section attended and from all reports it was a most enjoyable day. Thanks again to all those involved in the day's organisation, especially Paices, Ransomes and Clive Osgood.

Congratulations to Paul Weston upon his promotion to Course Man-

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*Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

ager at the Drift GC and to Mark Bel-lamy, also of the Drift for his appointment as Head Greenkeeper.

Upon speaking to Terry Huntley, providing numbers of would-be assessors come forward, the GTC are prepared to run an assessor training day in the not too distant future. There is room for up to 15 Head Greenkeepers or First Assistant and the day will be free and will contribute towards obtaining D32/33 Assessor Awards. Please consider this proposition as Middlesex and Surrey are in great need of qualified assessors.

Contact either the GTC or Terry Huntley on 0181 337 1395 ASAP.

Forthcoming events include the Spring Tournament on May 1 at Fox-hills -pm only 18 holes. The Cresta Cup at Croham Hurst GC, June 10, also pm, 18 holes only. Please support these events to ensure their continued existence.

David Gibbs - 01737 832 015 for any relevant information.

London Section

This month is the start of our golfing events and our tournament will be held at Hendon GC on Wednesday April 24 starting at 11am. This is the Hayter qualifier and a good turnout is expected.

Our summer tournament will be held at Mill Hill GC in June and the date will be finalised soon. This is an alternative to the venue that was booked previously, because of problems with the advanced booking arrangement.

The Autumn Tournament will be held at the London and Hatfield G&CC on Wednesday November 13.

This year we will be running on a trial basis a team inter club challenge which will be held at Dyrham Park G&CC in the June/July period. This event is organised for local Course Managers and their club officials. The club will provide a team of four players to include, for example, the Secretary, Chairman or Ladies Captain and the Course Manager. The tournament will be sponsored by Miracle Professional and the main team prize will be one tonne of fertiliser or goods to the value for the club. Other prizes will be available and the cost for the day will be £62 per team. The golf will be followed by an evening meal with a prize presentation. The main purpose of this event is to increase the harmony of local clubs and to improve the communication between all Course Managers and club officials. If you are interested in this event then please contact Don Wilson on 0181 440 3361 ASAP.

We are currently in the process of organising our golf fixtures for 1997/8 and if anyone is interested in hosting an event would they please contact Don with the details. Barry Moggridge

Kent

Firstly I would like to thank David Wood for filling in as scribe for the last two magazines.

Secondly by now you should all have had your letters for Sene Valley, as well as an information sheet for the next few months. Please read it and take note about behaviour and dress. You all have a duty to uphold the standards of the Association.

In March the Gentleman's Dinner was held at Walton Heath on a very

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cold wet day and our Section was well represented. On a well presented course scoring was very good. Most embarrassing the winner was yours truly with 40 pts off 8 handicap. My Captain, Kevan Dougal won the guest prize with 39pts off 9 handicap. Other prize winners were Callum Arthur and Mike Smith. Well done lads.

I would like to thank Walton Heath for a wonderful day and George, Ray, Ian, Don, Rob, Mike and Mike for inspiring me to the win via those £5 notes. Cheers lads.

If anyone has any news or comments please contact me on 0860 260 240 or 01732 465363. Huw Morgan

South West and South Wales: Devon and Cornwall Section

In the past our February meetings have been renowned for their inclement weather conditions - just ask our Executive Director about his visit six years ago to Newquay.

This year members were treated to a glorious Cornish day with just a slight nip in the air at our venue of Newquay GC on Wednesday February 21.

During the morning our golfing members competed for the Avoncrop Trophy with our non golfing members having their usual guided tour of the excellently prepared links course by Head Greenkeeper Paul Bullen. We were delighted to have the company of our afternoon speaker David Ward on the walk. David was recovering from being a passenger of our advance driver's short journey to Newquay!

After an excellent lunch John Paley of Avoncrop presented the Avoncrop Trophy and prizes for the morning's bogey golf competition. Results: 1. Tim Ellis, Mullion, level; 2. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion, -2 on back nine; 3. Tony James, Tehidy, -2.

To conclude a most successful day our afternoon educational talk was presented by David Ward, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl on his preparations for the Walker Cup. David's talk was most interesting as he covered revetting work carried out on bunkers, tee construction, width and height of fairways including semi rough, rough, green speed for the tournament and the problem of disease just before the event. Many thanks, Dave, for your excellent talk.

The Section's thanks and gratitude are extended to Newquay GC and Secretary Mr Binney for allowing our Section use of their facilities. Also our thanks to Paul and John Bullen and the crew who had the links looking great and to Mr Boyle and the catering/bar team who looked after us so well.

Don't forget May 1 is Westurf Day. The Day when you could win £200 worth of travel vouchers just for attending!

Westurf should be in the minds of all greenkeepers in our Region as this local turfcare show is put on for you.

This year the layout of the show has been changed which sees the demonstration area moving into the middle of the showground, with announcements being made over the PA system about demonstrations and products. Don't forget to pop into the Region's tent and enter the free raffle, you could be walking away after the show with £200 worth of travel vouchers. Westurf will be held once again at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday May 1. Just follow the RAC signs from the motorway and when you arrive parking and admission is free.

All the main local and national dealers will be there to answer questions and take your orders, with all the latest turf care products on show. You can't afford to miss Westurf '96 I look forward to meeting you all at Westurf.

Richard Whyman

South West

Stinchcombe Hill GC was the venue for the first golfing fixture of the year together with an afternoon talk, and was well supported with approximately 35 people in attendance. The weather for this event is normally a lottery as last year's snow at Lansdown proved. However, this year we were treated to glorious sunshine with perfectly still conditions which made for a very enjoyable morning's golf. For those who had not visited Stinchcombe before the course proved somewhat difficult to find but on arrival we were made to feel most welcome, with Lawson Products, the day's sponsor presenting everyone with three complimentary balls. As well as these there were some excellent prizes to be played for which led to some tough competition.

Victorious on the day were: 1. Mark Powell, nett 63; 2. Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC, nett 64 back nine; 3. Steve Francome, Tracey Park GC, nett 64; Best gross Paul Worster, 71. Price for best hidden nine holes, Paul Worster.

The afternoon talk was given by Michael Dyer from the National Rivers Authority who gave us an interesting insight into the procedure required for application for a bore hole licence.

Thanks are given to Stinchcombe GC and in particular Secretary Ken Johnson for their hospitality, to the Steward and Stewardess for lunch and to Lawson Products for its generous sponsorship.

The management course held in February at Thornbury Golf Centre was well supported with eight people attending the two day course. I understand from those present that the presentation from Brin Bendon was extremely informative.

Miracle Professional is once again sponsoring the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition this year. Those who attended at Stinchcombe will have been given an application form. However, if you require one please contact me. The success of this event depends on our support so please send your nominations to Headquarters by May 31. The winner of the final in December will win a trip to Las Vegas for the 1997 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference. A prize of £500 will also be awarded to the winning Head Greenkeeper's staff.

As mentioned last month, Westurf at Long Ashton GC on May 1 is just around the corner. Help is always

required for its preparations, running and dismantling. If you can spare some time for helping at this event then please contact me in advance. But most importantly, be there on the day.

A pesticide application foundation course (PA1) was held on February 28 at Filton GC for six people who will hopefully have passed their subsequent examination by the time you read this report. A reminder again that legislation has changed recently meaning that anybody in the last 18 months who has received their (PA2) qualification is not now qualified to use a knapsack sprayer legally and needs to take a separate training day and examination (PA6). If anyone requires training then please contact me so that a course can be arranged.

Finally, Oake Manor GC on Wednesday April 17 is the venue for the Spring Tournament/Hayter Qualifier. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day. Kevin Green

South Coast Section

February's winter lecture was held at Alresford GC. Taking into account the bad weather, and the reports from the radio to stay indoors, we had quite a good turnout.

Ed McCabe, the Course Manager from Brockenhurst Manor gave us a presentation on Communications. Ed started off by telling us about the Club Policy Document. He then went on to talk about Communications between the golf course staff, the committee and the members. He then told us about the seminar that he and his staff presented to the club members.

Judging by the questions after the presentation it was felt that lessons had been learnt. It was satisfying that Communications were working at Brockenhurst and that this can be followed by other golf clubs.

The South Coast Section is looking for speakers for the forthcoming Autumn/Winter meetings and if anyone would like to give a presentation on their course or any other greenkeeper topic please let me, or any other committee member, know.

A suggestion for a meeting is a Quiz Night when members can bring along guests. If there are any other items which you have please let us know.

A final reminder for Westurf 1996 on May 1. Westurf has been revamped to attract a larger attendance and this is the ideal time to encourage your Greens Committee members to attend this exhibition.

This year a new public address system is being installed, the stands are being repositioned and the demonstration area will now be in the middle so that everything is more accessible. Also a free draw is being held for all attending members and the prize will be well worth having.

The South West and South Wales Region is funded mainly by the proceeds of Westurf and this is how we are able to subsidise events such as the coach fare to BTME and the Regional Seminars. Without this funding these events may not take place due to the cost.

Please, gentlemen, make a big effort to attend this year and, as stated previously, if there is a problem with transport please ring me on 01329 282362. Ken Lodge