

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
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North

One or two movements in the Section to report, Stewart Shaw rejoins us after a couple years absence, Colin Mackay moves from Cruden Bay to become Deputy at the new course run by Elmwood College in Cupar and, returning to the Section, is Graham Mackie who leaves Gleneagles to take up the post of Head man at Edzell where Sam Watson is retiring after many years in charge. Graham was formerly at Murcar. Section Secretary Dougal Duguid tells me that we have had 41 new members this year, yet overall numbers remain similar to last year, a worrying situation which we must try to overcome if we can.

Our Autumn outing was also the section qualifier for the 1997 Hayter tournament, the following members will represent us in the Scottish finals: Class 1: Neil Sadler, Grantown on Spey; Colin Mackay, Elmwood; Iain Macleod, Tain; and Bradley Wood, Westhill. Class 2: Chris Cumming, Fortrose; Ken Kinnaird, Grantown on Spey; Derek Anthony, Duff House Royal; and John Geddes, Ellon. Class 3: Keith Wood, Hazlehead; Colin Burgess, Forres; Stuart Hogg, Fortrose; and George Asher, Kemnay. May 1997 may seem along way off just now but it will soon come round.

The last big north competition of 1996 was the Northern Counties Cup at Tain and you could have been forgiven for thinking it was a greenkeepers outing, as there where so many greenkeepers representing their clubs. Forres led by Head Greenkeeper Mike Wilson made it through to the final where they were beaten by local rivals Elgin. The large amount of greenkeepers in attendance shows the quality of golfers in our profession today which, I believe can only help in producing good golf courses for our members.

In *Golf World's* latest standings, The Carnegie Course at Skibo is voted the best new course in Britain, nearby Royal Dornoch is the 10th on the list of established courses along with Royal Aberdeen 30, Cruden Bay 36, Nairn 54 and Murcar 85. There are many other good courses in our area for visi-

tors to play and some should feature in the top 100 also. Maybe we should invite the *Golf World* Panel up here to see for themselves what the North has to offer

Finally as this is my last report of 1996, I would just like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year and achieve all you yearn for in 1997.

Iain MacLeod

West

The Section AGM shall be held at Claremont Bowling Club, Milngavie, on Thursday, December 5 1996 at 6.30 pm. The committee has arranged a social night which is always a very enjoyable evening to follow the AGM.

It is hoped each member will make every effort to attend in support in the Section and make their views heard.

Agenda: 1. Apologies 2. Minutes of previous AGM 3. Business arising 4. Secretary's report 5. Chairman's report 6. Election of office bearers 7. Education 8. AOCB

Tickets are now available from committee members for the annual dinner at the Admiral restaurant, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, on Friday November 29 1996. Comedian Clem Dane has been booked to appear. Get your tickets early as this is always a very popular evening.

A J Bulloch

Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Pitreavie GC in October when some 55 members and guests had a most enjoyable day "away from work".

Prize winners on the day were: Ransomes' Shield (Best nett aggregate Spring/Autumn Tournaments) Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; AMP Trophy (Best Scratch) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC; Aitken Trophy (Best Nett) Alex Wallace, Dollar GC; 1st Class (All Nett) 1. Robbie MacMillan, Falkland GC; 2. Rodney Hensby, Tulliallan GC; 2nd Class. 1. Joe Oliver, Pitreavie GC; 2. David Smith, Aberdour GC. 3rd Class. 1. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC; 2. Peter Finlay, Auchterarder GC. Two Ball Foursomes. Andy O'Hara and Anne Strathearn. Patrons, Roy Auld, SGM and Guests, Ian Butcher, Elmwood College.

Our sincere thanks go to every-

one at Pitreavie GC for making it such a successful day, especially Joe Oliver and his staff for having the course in excellent condition so late in the season (and for delaying his hollow coring until after the tournament). Thanks Joe!

While we are on about golf, the date and venue for the Autumn Tournament in '97 is Thursday September 18 at Auchterarder GC. The date and venue for the Spring Tournament has not yet been confirmed but we are hopeful of securing an exciting venue for this one.

The Section's oldest retired member, Jim Harrison, formerly head man at Muthill GC, has been suffering from ill health for some time in hospital. Everyone sends their best wishes for a speedy recovery to him, as we miss the support of both Jim and retired Muthill Secretary Haig Gordon at our meetings.

The Section's nominees for this year's Patron's Awards are Andy O'Hara of Leven Links and Gordon McRae of Ratho Park. These awards are for members of the Section who, in the opinion of the committee, give support to Section events, so if you wish to be nominated, come along to the events which are organised on your behalf.

By the time you read this the Section AGM will have been held and hopefully, a number of new members will have been elected to the committee with fresh ideas for getting more members to participate in the running of their own Section. While on the subject, if anyone has any thoughts for news items which may be of interest to other members - ie a member moves job/is promoted/BIGGA or college achievements - anything! Please let me know and I will include it in the Section news,

As we near the end of another year I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Central Section, through what has been a particularly difficult 12 months, by attending the events which were organised - especially the golf clubs who gave so freely of their facilities to hold our golf tournaments, to the Patrons of the Scottish Region for the support which they gave in so many different ways and to my fellow committee members for the time and effort which they put into the running of

the Section.

Here's wishing everybody "All the Best in '97".

John Crawford

East

Welcome to this month's article. So down to business. Congratulations to the two winners of the Patron's Award for 1996. I don't have the winners' names to hand so look out in next month's magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any new members to the Section, we hope to see you all at future events. The annual dance on December 7 at the Kilspindie House Hotel is as usual a complete sell out so the night is eagerly anticipated by everyone and I look forward to seeing you all there. (I hope everyone has paid for their tickets so the secretary can have a good night without having to deal with money etc).

The Skittles' Night in October was cancelled yet again due to lack of interest from our members. There were only 11 people going only six of whom were greenkeepers - the rest were guests. From a membership of in excess of 170 that is pretty abysmal. What's the problem? Are we wasting our time on the social committee organising the events? You tell us. As I always say it's your Section. Come to the AGM and let us know. That's the third Skittles' Night to be cancelled at £40 per time. A total of £120 has been wasted in two years.

It is your money so let's see you at the events or they will be lost forever. You don't see any golf outings being cancelled due to lack of members. Does that speak for itself? Any ideas on this let me know - 01875 870485. Just give me a call.

By the time you read this we shall have had the AGM at Swanston GC - November 28 and the Christmas Shopping Trip to Newcastle City Centre - November 24. We hope these were well attended.

There will be news from the annual dance in next month's magazine - also news from the annual dance, and possibly a few photographs.

I hope everyone has his BTME application forms because if it is your first time you won't be disappointed. The week is one of the highlights of the year in the BIGGA

calendar so we hope to see you there. Let's see a big turnout from the East Section. Don't forget there is the BIGGA AGM at Harrogate during BTME. It is your opportunity to have your say. If you can make it we shall see you down there.

Winter lectures start early next year and you will be notified soon. There is actually one before our AGM by Ocmis Irrigation.

If you want to tell me about anything let me know. You can write to me at 12 Craighelaw Cottages, Aberlady, East Lothian, EH32 0PY or phone me on 01875 870485 or Mobile 0802 623 065. Let's hear from you.

Well that it for this year. We hope everyone's winter programmes are going well while the weather is reasonably good, as it will change as it always does. It's been a good year and I hope next year is the same. The Section is going from strength to strength with only a couple of minor problems ie social events.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members old and new a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from the committee of the East Section - have a great time.
Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

We are looking forward to the Section AGM on December 3 in the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick at 7.30pm. This will be followed by one of the now famous quizzes, hosted by Bob Holness and Magnus Magnusson, alias those Bobby boys, Bruce and McKay. They assure me that the questions will be fun and not too difficult so please come along and have fun with us.

On the employment front we would like to wish good luck to Kevin Hills in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Thornhill GC and Klaus Schiller on his appointment as Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Powfoot GC. Personally I hope the winter is kind to them and their courses come through this period in good condition. In fact, I hope everyone has this.

A lot of our Section members attended the IOG Show in Ingleston and everyone I have spoken to thought the show was good. It was nice to meet people you might not see during the year and this year I met Ian Taylor from Powfoot. It was good to see you looking so well Ian and I'm sure everyone joins me in hoping that you manage to come along to an outing next year for a longer chat.

As has been asked before please send through any items you would like in the magazine to me or speak to Robert Bruce on his travels.

To close, our Chairman Ian,

myself and all the Committee wish all our Section members, all greenkeepers everywhere, all the staff at BIGGA Headquarters at Happy Christmas and a great New Year.
Jim Paton

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539
Sheffield



On October 3 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Bob Taylor from the STRI on a very interesting lecture on the ecological and conservation management of golf courses was enjoyed by a good number of our members. Following the lecture we held our Annual General Meeting. The attendance for the AGM was 32 members which to say we've got 197 members in our section it wasn't that good. Also quite a few members left after the lecture without giving their apologies.

The following members were duly re-elected to the committee.

President K. Arnold; Chairman, N. Maltby; Vice Chairman/Treasurer D. Milbourne; Secretary R. Ullathorne; Competition Secretary B. Heaney; Committee members J. Duffield, S. Hurd, J. Lax, E. Mone and S. Currie.

It was also passed by the AGM that entrance fees to competitions be put up to £15 to cover the ever increasing cost of running the competitions may once again remind you that no late entry's or telephone entries will be accepted from anyone.

Congratulations go to Phil Stain who was recently appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts GC. Good luck Phil!

Our next lecture will be on December 12 at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm and will be given Mr C. Peel, of ADAS.

Finally I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Lax

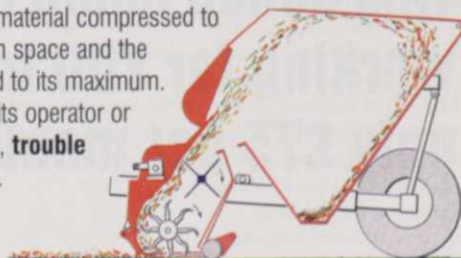
North Wales

The Section's Autumn tournament was held on the October 16 at Chester GC. A total of 107 members and guests took part and although the weather could have been kinder to us it was a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Chester GC for providing us with such a superb venue and for making us feel so welcome.

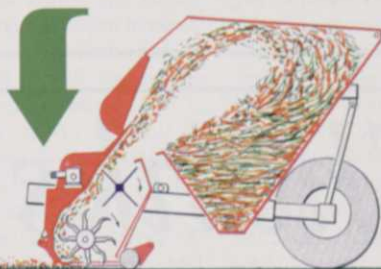
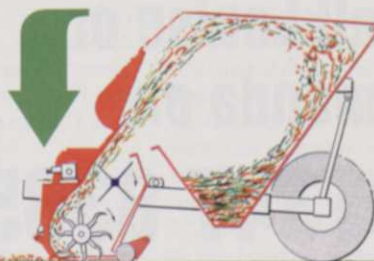
Our thanks must also go to the trade sponsors for the day, Gem Professional, Major Owen, Acorn, Mommersteeg Seeds, Richard Campey, Walker Engineering, Martin Brothers, Ki - chem and to Rigby Taylor who have donated a most handsome trophy that we will start to compete at our Christmas tournament at Portmadog.

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The winner of the Gem Professional Shield for the best net was Terry Evans with 38 points, the Major Owen Trophy for best gross went to Andy Peel with a score of 77, 36 points. The Acorn Shield for nearest the pin was won by Dave Parry. In all there were 34 prize winners which I am sure you will agree is quite an achievement.

Congratulations go to Gavin Clarke, of Eaton GC, who married his bride, Sharon, on October 11. Gavin and Sharon have known each other 10 years and were school sweethearts. Best wishes for your future happiness together.

Last month I received two requests from assistant greenkeepers who are looking for work. If anyone knows of any vacancies please contact me so I can pass on the information.

We have three new members to welcome into the Section they are Andrew Mitchell, of Frodsham GC; Neil Gilleland, of Eastham Lodge GC; and Jon Long, of Plassey GC. Our Section now stands at 135 members.

Trevor Johnston

North West

The AGM this year was attended by 21 members which was a definite improvement on last year's attendance prior to the AGM which was held at Wilmslow GC. We had an 18 hole Stableford Competition and although the forecast for the day was not at all promising, the weather held out making it a very enjoyable day. As usual Steve Outram and his staff had the course in great condition and although Paul Pearse was the overall winner everyone went home with a prize. I would like to thank Wilmslow GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and Gwen Chason, and her husband for a lovely meal and for keeping the bar open all day.

The golf was followed by the AGM and the election of committee members. The committee elected to stand for the committee members were voted on. Chairman, Chris Sheehan; Secretary, Bert Cross; Treasurer, Howard McAddey; Vice Chairman, Steve Outram; Committee, Bill Merritt, Alec Davies, Mike Davie, Paul Pearse and Lyndon Smith.

Recently I have heard of so many Head Greenkeepers being sacked and made redundant, I think it must be easier to keep a football manager's job than a greenkeepers. The last two years have been very difficult years for the industry with the drought of '95, and the cold winds and late start to '96 followed by very dry conditions once again. I can only assume that this is the cause of the unrest from golf club officials and members. I think it is about time they realised you cannot cheat

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nature and given the opportunity and the right conditions the Head Greenkeeper and his staff will produce the goods. In the past we have tried to bring together, greenkeepers and golf club officials to educational seminars, but I wonder if the old saying "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" applies.

I will close now by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. Any queries or ideas ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Paul Kellett celebrated his 40th birthday at Wynyard GC.

Charlie Hancock is the new staff member at Ian Holloran's Middlesbrough Municipal GC. The Nissan Primera tournament was also held there.

Chester Le Street GC has bought a Weidemann Terraspik for fairways, Head Greenkeeper, Barry Lee, tells me while Mark Sewell, Assistant at the club, won the Club Championship off a handicap of 2.

South Shields GC are having good results with fairway overseeding on stressed areas using dwarf rye mixture. Best wishes also to Craig Wayman from the club who is recovering from a broken leg.

Congratulations to Mark Hodgson, Tony Cheesebrough and Alex Russell, the Beast of Bedale, for doing well in the Hayter Final.

Congratulations also to Bedale's Neil Austwick and wife Adell on the birth of their first child, a baby boy.

Chris Fiddell, of Billingham GC, is making slow improvement after his motor cycle accident last January. We hope you are soon back to work Chris and feeling better. Best wishes to you.

Dinsdale Spa GC have done extensive drainage work on their 10th fairway, says Course Manager, Tony Mears. Tony is also our Internal Verifier and he recently called a meeting of assessors for an update and information which was a well attended evening. Thanks Ian for the room at the "muni".

Ramside Hall GC Course Manager, Roger Shaw, has a surplus of 20,000 tonnes of clay.

In Cleveland we have had a wonderful autumn with grass so green and trees colourful. Some Fusarium which was difficult to control but we got there.

We are in the middle of leaf fall

and having a busy time.

See you all at the Turf Care Quiz v the IOG team at Mount Oswald GC, Durham of December 11, 7.30pm when we all hope that Kevin Heslop excels in the general knowledge and TV questions. Also there will be the usual marvellous supper laid on by Terry Charlton and staff from Turf Care.

Evening lectures will be held on December 4, January 16, February 6 and 27 and March 20. All to be held at Darlington GC, Houghton-grange with a 7.30pm start with buffet to follow.

The next golf event is at the Wynyard Club, The Wellington Course, on December 12. The tee is reserved from 11am and there are a maximum of 30 places. Trade are welcome and a strict dress code applies.

Bruce Burnell

Northern

The weather has eventually changed, winter is with us and Christmas is just around the corner. Most of us will be trying their best to keep the course in as tidy a state as possible.

Our Autumn Tournament was this year held at Malton and Norton GC. Many thanks to the Adamsons for sponsoring the event. Thanks also to the greens staff for having the course in excellent condition and to the caterers for feeding us so well. The results for the day were as follows:- Cat 1. 1. Dave (the bandit) Collins; 2. Steve Midgley; 3. Tony Gerrard. Cat 2. 1. Keith Lumb; 2. Roy Armitage; 3. Mick Bryant. Cat 3. 1. Les Kirkbright; 2. Colin Garnett; 3. Alan Gamble. Trade Prize. Mel Guy.

Thanks as always to the committee for helping out on the day and to the trade "boys" for their appreciated raffle prizes.

I hope you have all received the latest newsletter which was kindly sponsored by Rolawn. The date for the Spring Tournament at Wakefield GC should read 23rd April '97 and not 23rd May '97.

Finally, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a drink (or two) for me! and thanks to everybody for their support towards the Section over the last year.

Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

I would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Don't forget we start the New Year with the BTME in Harrogate which will hopefully be supported by as many members as possible.



Also I would like to thank all the members who have supported the Section throughout the year, especially the following companies. A L S & Scotts - for sponsoring our fixture card;

E T Breakwells - Spring Tournament; Charnwood & Highmeres Lawnmower Services - Autumn Tournament; Vitax - A G M Tournament; Rigby Taylor - E Mids V Midlands Section Tournament & Christmas Tournament; Chandlers - East of England Section Golf match

Dave Leatherland was this year's winner of the singles K/O beating Paul Tatlow in a very well fought final. Dave & Paul were also partners in the pairs K/O final losing to Frank Kempster, Glen Gorse, and Carl Chamberlain, Scraftoft, in another hard fought match. I would like to thank all competitors who supported these two competitions, but we desperately need more support from members next year.

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was played at Longcliffe GC on October 10. The day started with fine Autumn weather, but ended rather sadly as we were on the wrong end of the 11 1/2 - 3 1/2 points defeat. Congratulations to the Midland Section on a fine performance and we shall hope to put the record straight next year. Our thanks go to Longcliffe GC for hosting the day and to our sponsors Rigby Taylor for again providing us with a great tournament. The Section's team was as follows, R. Barker, P. Tatlow, P. Billings, D. Leatherland, A. Porter, I. Needham, M. Smith, J. Bedford, M. Bindley and C. Bates.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Warren Bevan, First Assistant at Greetham Valley GC, on achieving top honours at Myerscough College where he was presented with the Ernest Jones Award. Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

At the beginning of last month I attended a secretaries' meeting at Leicester. This was an opportunity to meet other various section secretaries and also some key members of the association from HQ. This proved to be a valuable exercise for those concerned with lots of good ideas thrown around the table. It was an eye opener for myself to find out how much work goes into the running of the Association on a national level. I don't envy their workload with the run up to BTME at Harrogate. Good luck to all concerned.

Although we had our last golf event several weeks ago you will have to wait until next months article for the results, also the result of the Rigby Taylor final. As yet the

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only confirmed venue for 1997 is the Autumn Tournament which will be held at Lambourne GC. Trying to find venues for our golf days is becoming increasingly difficult so if there are any members out there who feel the club who would like to host one of our events in the future then please contact myself and I will approach the club in official manner.

I have mentioned in the past that we are looking at running a series of lectures in the winter months, well hopefully I will have some positive news on that aspect soon. I have been approached by Chris Viner from Warren Farm College, the new GTC training centre, with the idea of using their college as a venue. I will keep you informed of any progress.

Finally I would like to thank all who have taken an active roll in the section events this past year to make them a success, I look forward to seeing more of you next year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Lindsay T. Anderson

Midland

Due to a mix up between myself and Headquarters, these notes did not appear in the November magazine. Every member should have received a letter stating the date and time of the AGM and other information regarding the winter lectures.

As some of you may be aware the Golf Day at Fulford Heath GC was cancelled due to lack of support. Only 24 greenkeepers entered. Martin Brothers, Rigby Taylor and Barenbrug are hoping to put on another similar event next year and we hope enough support will be forthcoming.

The Autumn Tournament was played over 27 holes at King's Norton GC. The results were as follows: Best Gross, P. Loffman; Best Nett P. Holtham, 2. P. Loffman, 3. M. Bryan, 4. M. Hughes, 5. A.E. Cutler, 6. M. Cutler, 7. R. Hunter, 8. R. Jones. Nearest the pin. P. Woodham. Longest Drive. D. Shortridge. Trade Prize. D. Shortridge, Toro Irrigation.

The Committee would like to thank the main prize sponsor Abbey Mowers and all the other trade people for their prizes. We thank King's Norton GC for their courtesy of a fine course, which Mick Reece and his staff presented magnificently. Thanks to the Captain of the club for presenting the prizes and also to Supaturf for supplying the wine which proved to be as good a wetting agent as Primer 604.

The Ritefeed singles, semi-final and final were played at Southport. The winner was M. Butler and runner-up P. Loffman. The

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other semi-finalists were N. Couchman and A. Roberts.

A great day was had by all and we all wish to thank John Walker and Richard Lawrence from Ritefeed for their support and hope it continues next year.

Congratulations to R. Thomas and his wife, Steph, on the birth of their son. The first of many.

We have to report the very sad death of our President Reg Pugh. I hope everyone read the article in the August magazine, which featured Reg and some of his memories of when the Midland section started.

Reg had not been well for some time but did manage to get to the Christmas tournament last year where I had the privilege of talking to him. His memories and stories of greenkeeping etc were so good you could write a book.

Reg will be sadly missed by all of the Midland Section who knew him. We send our condolences to his family. The Midland Section has made a donation to Reg's requested charity.

The next item of news is one Reg would have been proud of – the annual team match against the East Midlands Section. It was played on October 10 at Longcliffe GC and was won by the Midland team 11 points to 3. The Midland Section would like to thank Rigby Taylor for their support and hospitality and also for the help received from David Morgan and Steve Blakeman. Thank you to Longcliffe an the East Midland Section for a good day. Well done to our team for getting their early and winning in style.

Still on golf tournaments the Rigby Taylor Greensome Double Tournament final was played at Hoylake (Royal Liverpool) on October 14. The winners were J. Chesson and R. Thwaites. The runners-up were A. Roberts and R. Hunter. Again we would like to thank Rigby Taylor for all their hard work and support in helping to run this competition.

In next month's magazine will be the results of the Christmas Tournament and also the names of the Midland Section Committee – this will have the name and telephone number of the new Secretary.

Finally it was disappointing at the Regional Seminar to see so few members. I did meet Andrew Smith from North Warwickshire GC who told me of a five-a-side football match against Stonebridge

GC which they won 10-0. Well done Andrew and team.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kim Blake

Mid Anglia

The match which was due to be played against the London Section in early September had to be cancelled as they could not get a team together, it being the same week as Saltex.

The annual Texas Scramble event takes place on Tuesday December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC over 18 holes.

On behalf of the Section and Committee I would like to wish Martin Lay, Don Pemberton and Neil Whittaker every success in the future following their recent departure from their respective clubs.

The final of the Lodgeway four-ball tournament was played of 36 holes at Mentmore GC in early October.

John Wells and John Moorhouse defended their title, overcoming Gary Boulton and Alan Grew by 3&2 after a very close match.

Our thanks go out to Mentmore for allowing the final to take place, and to Mark Ellis and his team for preparing the course so well.

Chas Ayres has once again organised the event superbly and his company, Lodgeway Tractors, will continue to sponsor the competition in the future.

There were a few problems this year mainly caused by entrants not playing their matches within the time limits.

This can only be solved next year by people being more responsible about getting their matches played and not leaving it to the last minute.

If anyone reading this has not entered the competition before I would certainly recommend it as it is a good opportunity to play other golf courses and to mix with other members of the section. Our Autumn Tournament this year was held at Collingtree Park GC in late October. It attracted an entry of nearly 50 members, all of whom I am sure enjoyed playing the attractive course.

There are certainly some very testing holes throughout the course with lots of water hazards are rough to contend with.

Our thanks to Alistair Connall and all his staff for preparing the course and to Collingtree for their hospitality shown to us during the day.

A very popular winner was received by everyone, Neil Whittaker with 40 points Mark Whittle, of Mentmore GC, was second with 38 points, and Chris Brook was third with 37 points after a countback.

Mark Ellis, of Mentmore GC,

won nearest the pin and Keith Allen, of Hertfordshire, the longest drive.

Driving Force Leisure sponsored the day and our thanks go to David Murphy for donating the excellent prizes, and helping on the day.

Also many other trade members attended so thank you all for supporting the Mid Anglia Section so ably.

Following the prize giving the annual general meeting was held. The officers were elected to form the committee for next year; Chairman, Stewart Boyes; Vice Chairman, Mark Ellis; Secretary, Gerald Bruce; Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders; Treasurer, John Wells; Regional Representative, Paul Lockett; Committee member, Chris Brook; Handicap Secretary – Ronan McKeown.

My personal thanks go to Chris Brook, our outgoing Chairman, for the way he has continued to advance the Section forward and to Gerald and Richard for their hard work during the year. I'm sure Stewart Boyes will be a worthy Chairman in succeeding Chris, and continue to steer the Section on to continued success.

The business discussed during the AGM as follows. Gerald reported that our membership had risen to 239 members, out of a national total of 6,097. New sponsors had been appointed for the fixture list, George Browns.

Richard gave a report on all the golf fixtures played during the year, listing all the winners etc.

Our treasurer John Wells reported the section to be in a very healthy state, with over £2000 in the bank.

Some of this money will be used towards office equipment (a compatible printer for our existing computer)

Only one item was raised from the floor during A O B.

This was a proposal that no professionals should be permitted in Texas Scramble teams at the Christmas Tournament, which was raised by Gavin Simkins.

After discussion the proposal was voted on and defeated. The meeting was then closed. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Paul Lockett

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child
Tel: 01803 844056

South West

There has been mixed success for the Section in the two recent team matches against the South Coast and South Wales Sections. On October 2 the team met at Wells



GC for the annual match against the South Coast Section. Unfortunately for the second year running we were beaten in this fixture. Although not there on the day I understand that the course was in great shape and thanks go to Maurice Pearce and his staff for their efforts and presentation and to Wells GC for their hospitality. A week later it was our turn to be victorious with a 5-0 victory, this time against the Welsh Section at Tredger Park. Thanks go to Welsh Secretary, Peter Lacey, for his organisation of the event, and to both the South Coast and South Wales Sections for making these events possible.

Most fixtures for 1997 are now in place. TH Whites have once again offered to provide a fixture card for Section Members and our thanks go to them for their continued support.

Lawson Products Limited are now sponsors for the Winter Tournament which is held around February each year. They have offered to provide a winning trophy and prizes for the top scores on the day.

Burnham and Berrow GC will host the Hayter Regional Final for 1997 which no doubt will be a tough challenge for those members who qualify from the respective Section event.

A reminder once again that BTME is now just around the corner. If you have not booked there may still be a few places left on the coach. Gordon and Marion Child can ensure you place at a cost £125 for members.

This is my last report for the magazine as Section Secretary for the South West and I thank you for your support over the last three years. It just remains for me to say that the Christmas Tournament this year takes place at Worlebury GC on December 12, for which a comedian is booked for the afternoon. Any late applications for this event can be booked through myself. For those who won't be there on the day I wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1997.

Kevin Green

South Wales

This year's annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA recently took place at the Tredegar Park GC near Newport. Each side was represented by a full team of 12 golfers, the course I am told was in good condition, the weather was excellent and the new format of meals served on completion of the round worked well.

I would personally like to thank our team Captain, Mike Jones, for running the day on my behalf as work commitments prevented me from being present.

However, a good job was done

of the course. But on the course, a different story well what can I say or how can I put this. We lost! Every match. We lost by 6 matches to 0. A strong looking team on paper was literally blown away on the day. So the South West retain the Shield, well done!

Our winter evening lecture series is under way at Pencoed College. We have been designated a new room, which is the old library room. Totally refurbished with excellent facilities that include a bar, yes a BAR! Hopefully this new addition will bring in a few more attendees.

The series kicked off with an entertaining presentation from comedy duo little and large, otherwise known as Danny Goffrey and Mike Franklin of Boughton Loams. Mike's presentation was primarily on Top Dressings for turf their compositions and analysis. While Danny's presentation for grasses for use in fine turf, covered such topics as genetic engineering /molecular biology and the creating of new cultivars.

An excellent evening that could have gone on all night (and nearly did) thoroughly enjoyed by all 17 attendees.

Our thanks to both Danny and Mike for their presentations and also to Boughton Loam who made it possible.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their support during 1996 and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 1997. Peter Lacey

Devon and Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all.

Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was held at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club Wednesday October 9. The day started with our golfing members competing over the excellently presented course for the Don Hunt Trophy, as usual our non golfing members had a guided tour of the course and greenkeeping complex by host Course Manager Terry Farkins.

After an excellent lunch we moved to the club's President's suite for the presentation of the Don Hunt Trophy and prizes. After Don's recent illness members were delighted to see Don looking so well and to hear he is back on the road with Roffey's.

Don presented the prizes to: 1. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion; 2. Carry Rawlings, Padbrook Park;

3. Roy Battishill, now enjoying life.

All three winning greenkeepers scored 37 points with the results being decided on back nine. With the trade prize going to Martin Samuel who scored 40 points.

The section would like to Don

for donating and presenting the prizes, our thanks to Terry Farkins and his crew who had the course in superb condition, also to all the management staff who made our day run so smoothly.

Our afternoon educational talk followed the golf presentation with course manager Terry Farkins presenting his excellent paper on "The development of Dartmouth Golf & Country Club from construction to present day". Many thanks Terry. Our raffle concluded an excellent day. Pity some of the raffle winners weren't around to receive their prize!

Our first meeting in the New Year will be held once again at Fingle on Glen on Wednesday January 15 and sponsored by Barenbrug seeds. The theme this year will be on Irrigation with Ocmis Irrigation presenting a workshop on irrigation maintenance during the morning and after lunch a seminar on Irrigation design from extra tees to complete course design. Golfing members don't worry we will hold a nine hole competition for you during the morning.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 97, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show and Seminars. There are only a few places left, so hurry!

Richard Whyman

South Coast

On Wednesday January 15, 1997 at 2pm a visit to Roffey Bros at Bournemouth has been arranged. Roffeys, as I'm sure you all know, is one of the largest distributors of top dressing in the country. You will be able to see how all the various top dressings that Roffey's produce are graded and mixed. This should prove to be a very interesting and informative afternoon. Roffeys are expecting a large turn out. So let's not let them down.

Our annual match against the South West Section on October 2 was held at Wells GC. Mark tells me the match was halved. The golf was good, the food was good, the course was in excellent condition and the weather was fine and sunny. Thanks to all concerned. I'm sorry I have not got the names of the people involved.

Finally, thanks to the Captain, committee and members of Wells GC for allowing us the courtesy of doing battle with the South West Section on our patch next year.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Autumn Meeting which was held at Brockenhurst Manor GC on October 10. However Mark kindly forwarded the day's events to me.

Thanks must go to the Captain and committee for allowing us

courtesy of the course. All the staff at Brockenhurst made the Section very welcome. Martin and his staff, gratifying the inner man in the clubhouse and Ed McCabe and his crew for presenting the course in the best condition I have seen it (mine's a pint when I see you Ed). Ed even managed to organise a wonderful sunny day as well.

The winners were: 1. Paul Fitzjohn, 39pts; 2. Shaun Hodgkins, 37pts; 3. Brian Wilmot, 36pts; 4. Bernard Emberley, 34pts; 5. Tony Gadd, 33pts. Nearest the Pin was Chris Greest and the Longest Drive was none other than our host Ed McCabe.

On behalf of our Section I would like to thank our generous sponsors, Scats, Vitax and Avoncrop.

Any last minute bookings for BTME, contact Gordon or Marion Child. I would thin that by now the coach is either full or getting very close to it. For those of you who will be travelling on the Region's luxury coach, I will be contacting you all as to travel arrangements to pick up the main coach.

Here we are again another nearly gone. They seem to fly by and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, sponsors, members of the trade and all our friends a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all at BTME.

Ken Lodge

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

A big thank you to all the surrey section members who attended the autumn tournament at Effingham GC for kindly putting their hands in their pockets for the children of Romania. £25 was raised and will be put towards Christmas treats for the less privileged children whose only present is a single chocolate bar, I'm sure your generosity will be much appreciated. Thank you very much.

As this will be the last time I write our Section's news I'll take the opportunity to say thank you for your support and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the Surrey Section committee.

David Gibbs



JUST A THOUGHT

Buy a used car with the same caution as a naked man uses to climb a barbed wire fence.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
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