



The East Midlands Section has donated £500 towards the BIGGA Building Fund out of Section Funds. It is the second consecutive year that the Section has made a donation to the Fund. Last year it was £300. The picture shows Tim Allard (right), Chairman of the Section, presenting John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration Manager, with the cheque.

It's 25 not out for loyal golf course personnel

In modern times 25 years in the same job is quite a rarity and it says much for the loyalty of both employer and employee that it happens at all.

However two golf clubs not too many miles apart have recently celebrated such an anniversary. Lyndon Upham, Course Manager at Gog Magog, just south of Cambridge, and Roy Alderton, Head Greenkeeper at Flempton, just outside Bury St Edmunds, have an unblemished combined 50 years service.

For Lyndon it was a double celebration with he and his wife Denise enjoying their silver wedding anniversary also in 1996.

"There have been many highlights during the 25 years. The most memorable was being introduced to Prince Edward on his visit to the club to present Duke of Edinburgh Awards."

He was presented with a watch by the Club Captain and a Ship's



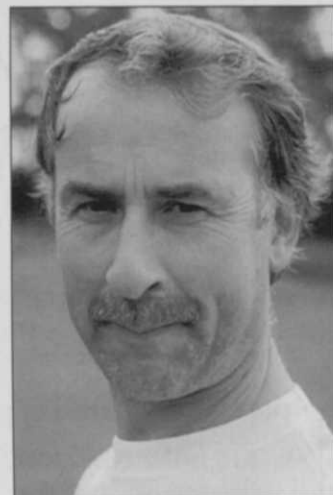
Decanter, on behalf of the staff, by the Chairman of Greens.

Roy arrived at Flempton as First Assistant at the age of 20 and has never regretted moving to the course, which has been described as one of the finest nine hole courses in the country – it boasts 80 pot bunkers.

"The committee will tell me what they want and then let me get on with it in my own time and in the way I wish to do it," he explained.

The Club presented Roy with an inscribed gold watch and a wall clock.

● Pictured above, centre, Lyndon Upham with colleagues of Gog Magog Golf Club



Roy Alderton of Flempton Golf Club

JUST A THOUGHT

If you work for an organisation that makes its decisions by committee, make sure that you are on the committee.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Taken from Life's Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr. published by Harper Collins

BIGGA RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY SCALE 1997

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary scale in line with the latest Retail Prices Index Figure available which is 2.1% for 1996. The quoted rates apply from 1 January 1997 but any variance from the above RPI figure at the time of implementation should be taken into account. Figures in brackets are 1996 rates.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£20,300 (£19,850)	£22,100 (£21,600)	£24,750 (£24,200)
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£14,600 (£14,300)	£15,950 (£15,600)	£17,850 (£17,450)
First Assistant	£12,650 (£12,376)	£12,650 (£12,376)	£12,650 (£12,376)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 21 and over	£11,900 (£11,648)	£11,900 (£11,648)	£11,900 (£11,648)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 20	£10,413 (£10,192)	£10,413 (£10,192)	£10,413 (£10,192)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 19	£8,925 (£8,736)	£8,925 (£8,736)	£8,925 (£8,736)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 18	£7,438 (£7,280)	£7,438 (£7,280)	£7,438 (£7,280)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 16/17	£5,950 (£5,824)	£5,950 (£5,824)	£5,950 (£5,824)

The First Assistant post is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where relevant to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

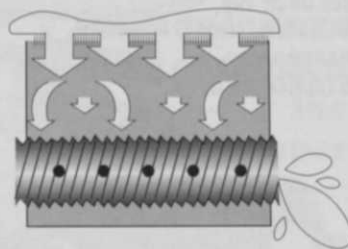
Basic conditions of employment should include:

- Overtime where appropriate, to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and bank holidays.
- Retirement Pension Scheme.
- Time off to attend training courses, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
- Appropriate professional training – fully funded.
- Mileage allowance in respect of club business.

It has been agreed that the Association will form a working party to review the salary scale in general for 1998.

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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
Taken from L.A.'s Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown Jr. published by Harper Collins

greens and sports turf with suitable compact tractors.

Extremely quick, the Junior can solid tine to 12" depth and hollow core to 10", leaving a clean surface finish across the 48" working width.

As with the larger 60" and 80" Soil Relievers, the Junior has two separate crankshafts, each half being driven from the centre. This reduces torque and vibration, allows the machine to turn faster and increase tine speed, so that turf disturbance is minimised. The Junior's frame design adds leverage and places more weight at the tine heads. Together with the fast crankshaft turn, this gives a bigger and faster "hammer action", resulting in deeper soil penetration.

Huxleys say that customers with suitable small tractors, capable of handling the Junior's 1100 lb weight, will find that they can achieve similar operating speed and depth of penetration to that of the larger Soil Reliever Models 60 and 80. This may avoid the

expense of purchasing a new larger tractor.

The Soil Reliever Junior costs £12,500 plus VAT, and is offered with optional hydraulic top link (for depth control from the operator's seat) and a wide variety of solid and hollow tines.

For further information: Tel: 01506 856968.

Miracle Professional (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) has launched "Invigorator", the latest addition to its "Longlife" range of amenity turf fertilisers. "Invigorator" is a true compound mini-granular feed and general turf conditioner with an analysis of 408 (+4% Fe + 2% Mg + 7.5% S + Seaweed Extract). The Iron and Magnesium help to give Rapid greening and hardening of the turf, while



the sulphur helps in controlling soil pH.

For use on all amenity turf, the application rate of 35g per sq.m provides a bag coverage of 710 sq.m.

The recommended user price is £14.95 per 25Kg bag and is available from all Miracle Professional Main distributors.

For further information: Tel: The Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on 0990 301010.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has introduced two new reels for use with their range of Rotorakes:

The Verticutting Reel - Reel comprising close pitched, straight, triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season. Regular use removes thatch as it accumulates.

The Combined Reel - Thatch removal blades are pitched 20mm (3/4in) apart and interspersed with brushes. This reel removes thatch efficiently with

the added benefit of a brushed finish and improved collection of debris. Used prior to mowing, it raises the grasses for a better cut.

A brand new spraying concept from Weed Free (Bracknell) promises to revolutionise customer service.

Flexible operating hours and the ability to perform in adverse weather conditions will enable spraying jobs to be tackled at off-peak playing times.

JUST A THOUGHT

Worry makes for a hard pillow. When something's troubling you, before going to sleep, jot down three things you can do the next day to help solve the problem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Taken from Life's Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr published by Harper Collins

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Falling victim to Iceland's booby traps

Eric Hunter and his wife visited Iceland to install an new grinding machine at Reykyavik and stayed on for a holiday. Perhaps they should have come straight home!

It all started well enough with a visit to The Blue Lagoon a well known attraction in Iceland. There is a chemical reaction which turns the water bright blue and is a constant 75° throughout the year. Very pleasant to swim in until you meet a cool spot which makes you shiver and occasional hot spots which give the impression you are being boiled alive. However after nearly three hours your skin is turning wrinkly, so we figured it was time to move on.

It was then that things began to go wrong.

"We decided to tour the S.W. corner of Iceland from Grunduvik to Kissivik about 20 miles away but as soon as we left the road deteriorated into a rolled dirt track similar to a forest road in UK.

"After 10 miles or so, cracks across the road caused by melting snow were getting wilder but not impassable. We hit one 'rut' which was filled with orange coloured water which clung to the glass and, could not be cleared by the washer jets and wipers. Consequently the car ran into a deeper rut and 'bottomed'. We were well and truly stuck in the Icelandic wilderness.

"We had passed a farm about seven or eight miles back, but as it was getting darker by the minute, we decided to place our faith in the scale of the map which showed a community about three to four miles east. Abandoning the car, we stumbled along the muddy track up a hill. Silently praying we climbed up yet another hill and gratefully saw some distant lights. Salvation! Struggling through a field of snow we approached a building which was well lit, on both sides of the central doorway ran corridors with numbered doors. No sign of any life!

"Eventually we climbing into the building and saw about 20 men sitting round reading or watching television. Approached by a female attendant, we discovered that we were in an Institution for alcoholics and drug abusers! The manager, who was



When life can be a grind: Eric Hunter in Iceland

Dutch, offered to put us for the night.

"Having reached safety and being well received by our Dutch hosts, the next morning we returned to extricate our hired Astra from the mud which overnight had frozen solid! Case, the name of our saviour easily pulled us out with his four-wheel drive Lada, thus improving their rotten reputation at once!

"Back at Case's farm, his wife Tinneka had coffee on the go and suggested that we stay a while and investigate the area. It was beautiful but strange. The colours in the hillside were not the traditional browns and greens that we are used to, on show were blue, purple, grey, brown, black, white

but the white was not snow!

"With a couple of ski sticks for assistance my wife and I set off up to the nearest hillside. About a mile up, we found the geysir which had been capped to provide hot water and heat for Case's farm and the alcoholic's Institution, a pressure gauge showed 200 psi. and this was natural! A little further up we could see a stream of water flowing downhill, from which I could swear steam was rising. Curiosity aroused I approached slowly, prodding the grey coloured ground with the ski stick. It did not penetrate. However when I stood on this peculiar surface it collapsed under my weight - the hard surface was just a hardened crust under which

was whiteish hot mud and I was in it up to the knees. Flinging the cameras away, I managed to extricate myself but not without getting both my hands into the hot mud. Luckily there was plenty of grass around to wipe the hands and quite a bit of snow to cool the flesh but, too late, blisters on the hands and wrists were rising.

Carrying on up the hill and approaching the same stream by firmer ground and rocks, I was amazed to find that this stream was running with warm water. Quite an amazing experience to be found outdoors and something never found in the UK.

The hands and wrists by this time were starting to smart somewhat, even with the regular immersion in piles of snow. So we started back down the hill to the farm but on another slope. Stepping out with the intention of returning quickly, I failed to notice that the colour of the grass was changing from green to a darker green until again without warning the ground collapsed under me again. This time it was not hot mud but a bog into I had descended full leg length deep. Having this strange slowly sinking feeling, the cameras were hurled safely away for the second time that morning and by leaning forward, spreading my girth across the surface I practically swam and pulled myself to firm ground.

By this time I was fairly traumatized by these happenings and according to the 'other half' I was repeating myself. It really felt like a bad dream, but not one from which I could wake up. The principle consoling thought being that at least we only had one more day, then back to good old Glasgow. We drove back to Reykjavik by putting my hands in polythene bags filled with snow to cool the flesh.

All in all an interesting experience, which I would not like to repeat.

JUST A THOUGHT

Keep a diary of your accomplishments at work. Then when you ask for a rise you'll have the evidence you need to back it up.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Taken from Life's Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr. published by Harper Collins