

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Devon and Cornwall

Over 70 members and trade attended our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on December 13.

Our golfing members who competed for the PJ Flegg Trophy were treated to a pleasant dry day to test their skills against the excellently presented course which was a credit to head man Richard Wisdom and his staff.

Roy Battishill and Gordon Child, two members in the twilight of their golfing careers, paired up together to produce, with the Mullion boys, the best score of the day, as experienced campaigners Roy and Gordon came strong at the end to win on the back nine from Gordon and David. Also this year our President John Palfrey donated a bottle of port for nearest the pin on the short 12th which was won by D. Smith.

After an excellent Christmas dinner Des from P.J. Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's Green-some competition to: 1. G. Child, Churston, and R. Battishill, St Mellion, 39pts (on countback); 2. G. Tamblyn, Mullion, and D. Manley, Mullion, 39pts; 3. T. Blackburn, Crediton, and T. Clark, Crediton, 37 pts.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by comedian "Yan Dare" who kept us laughing up to the raffles which concluded a superb day. The first raffle was for two hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha and won by Dick Parr and Bill Mitchell. The second raffle contained over 40 prizes kindly donated by members and the trade.

Our thanks go to P.J. Flegg for donating the day's golf prizes. Also thanks to our President John Palfrey of Avoncrop for supplying the wine with lunch and the President's prize.

The section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton GC for allowing us use of its facilities once again.

Dates for your diary: February meeting Tuesday 21 at Newquay GC; March meeting on Wednesday 27 at Churston GC; Westurf Trade Show at Long Ashton GC Bristol Wednesday May 1.

Richard Whyman

East Anglia

Is this two reports in a row I ask myself? Now read on.

Our AGM was at Bury St Edmunds and we wish we had. It was raining and cold. Typical AGM weather really. The golf was off and so was the menu.

Never mind better luck next year.

About 40 of us turned up and sat around having a mardle (a what? Ed) as you do before bringing the AGM forward to 12 noon, as we had

done last year, which seemed a good idea at the time. Unfortunately those who came for the AGM in the afternoon missed it. Well, I suppose you can't please all of the people.

After 49 cups of coffee and one or two jars the AGM got on the way.

Uncle Sam stood up as Chairman for the last time as he has decided to step down after going on seven years. He has a style all of his own which will be missed, I'm sure.

I digress; we had a lively discussion about Essex man doing his own thing but in the end they decided that they would miss their day out with the "rusties" and decided to stay, much to the relief of their country cousins. Where is Southend anyway?

Then came the good bit, the election of officers. It must have been one of the quickest I can remember. We had Ernie Hart leading the way for this. He did such a good job that he overlooked his own position as President, but as we did last year, we decided to leave him there so the positions are as follows.

President Ernie Hart; Vice President Bob Chesham; Chairman Dave Wells; Treasurer Richard Pride; Secretary Andy Sheehan; Handicap Secretary Alan Carter; Scribe Mick Lathrope; Assistant Scribe Steve Millard; Regional Board Richard Pride, Dave Wells and Andy Sheehan.

You will notice that I have got an assistant scribbler. That's because he can spell and write joined up.

We had a little chat about regional training. They are going to make us jump through rings and stop us getting stabbed in the back. (I'd like to see that). Anyway, I'm sure Frank Newberry will be in touch.

Then we dished out the pots:- Spring Shield, Bill Chapman; Summer Shield, Mike Fance; Autumn Shield, Ian Willitt; Winter Shield, Steve Piggot.

Next year's fixtures are as follows:- Hayter Qualifier, Walderingfield, April 18; Caldecott, June 18; Stableford, Abbots, October 9. There is also a Colliers Seminar for Head Greenkeepers at Haverhill on August 22 and the Hayter Regional at Benton Hall on June 6.

Then what did we do? Ah yes. We thanked the trade boys for their support over the years and if I don't give them a mention they won't support us any more. So here goes. C.M.W, who incidentally sponsored the Turkey Trot which ended up being raffled and won by Colin Rushbrook - talk about sticking together. Where was I? SISIS, Kings, Rigby Taylor, Colliers, Rhone Poulenc, Doe's and anyone else who knows me.

Thank you Bury St Edmunds GC for your hospitality - your tea and coffee were good.

I can't go without one last mention of Uncle Sam Sylvester and, of course, his mother who is in her 90s and still takes phone messages in a manner that would put a lot to shame.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing Sam all the very best for the future and thanking him for all he has done for us in the past. Happy days Sam.

I think I'm going to cry...
Mick Lathrope

Midland

As we start his new year I would like to think that all the members are happy with the way the Section is running. During the last few months a few interesting comments have been put my way by Trade Members who say that they would like to see different things being organised for their benefit. The only thing that I can say from the Secretary's and Committee view point is that we can only do so much - and with the support of the members. If any member has a point of view to put forward, please write or telephone me so I can put them forward to the Committee for discussion. Without your comments we cannot improve on what we have already achieved.

If anybody has any interesting snippets of news eg births, marriages, achievements, etc please let me know so I can incorporate them into the column. The column is here for the use of our Section members, through me, to pass on such news and information.

New members to welcome to the Section this month are as follows:- Kenneth Baskerville, Dean Houghton, John Spiers, Ian Richards, David Richards, Tony Lloyd and Michael Green.

Finally my address is: 14 Croft Close, Winyates West, Redditch, Worcs, B98 0JT. Tel: 01527 524217.
Kim Blake

Scottish Region - North

Sad news has reached me about the untimely death of James Smith, formerly Head Greenkeeper of Hope-man Golf Club. James retired due to ill health but unfortunately passed away in November at the age of 63. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Question. Where do greenkeepers go on a Saturday in the winter?

Answer. Victoria Park, Dingwall, home of Ross County FC. I go fairly regularly, but at the County verses Caledonian Thistle local derby, I counted seven other greenkeepers from local courses present. Another regular was George Paterson until his move to Ireland last July, but I'm sure he is being kept up to date with results etc.

A word of warning for Section

members. The Scottish Region were so desperate for a final speaker for next month's Conference near Edinburgh that they asked me to make up the numbers. There being nobody else I accepted. I'm sure all the other speakers will more than make it worthwhile to attend, though, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our thanks must go to Richard Aitken Seedsmen who have agreed to sponsor this year's 200 Club printing and mailshot.

A few new members to welcome this month, three of Paul Murphy's staff at Downfield have joined us, Steven Banks, George Macphail and Paul Cunningham along with two apprentices, Steven Davie from Craigie Hill and Barry White (some career change!) from Stonehaven.

Finally as I write this in late December, winter has arrived with a vengeance. The snow started falling on Christmas Eve and continued on Christmas night giving us quite a covering. Fortunately we in Tain did not lose our electricity, but many further north did and with day time temperatures anything up to 20 below zero it must have been a cold time for these folk. I just hope you had your New Year stock of drink in early to keep the spirits up!

Iain Macleod

North West

Congratulations to Mike Goodhind, Course Manager at The Tytherington Club, who scooped the title of Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year. Mike moved to Tytherington from Cavendish and has made vast improvements to the course. Well done Mike, you certainly deserve the title.

By now you should all have received your fixture list for the year, which has been kindly sponsored once again by Rite Feed. Section events are open to all N/W members, and I hope they will be well supported.

The seminar at Mere on March 26 is aimed at everybody involved in the golf business including club officials so please try to interest them in attending the seminar with you. All applications for the seminar must be sent to Howard McAddey, 44 Rose-neath Rd, Urmston, Manchester, M41 5AU. Tel: 0161 747 3063 including your payment in full.

For golf tournaments a deposit of £10 will be required at least one week prior to the tournament in order to arrange meals and tee times. I would like to welcome all new members to the N/W section and hope you will come along to the section and national events and enjoy the company of your fellow greenkeepers.

It is with regret that I have to

inform you of the death of North West member Keith Harle who died sadly just before Christmas. He began his career aged 16 at Disley GC before moving on, two years later to Sandiway GC where his parents were Steward and Stewardess. Aged 21 he returned to Disley where he remained for 44 years, 25 of them as Head Greenkeeper.

He retired in 1992 at 65 and sadly only enjoyed two years retirement before his death.

He was a member of the BGGA and BIGGA for many years and is sadly missed by his son Paul, who is Head Greenkeeper at Crewe GC.

Once again I must remind you about the Mere seminar on Tuesday March 26. You will all have received an application form with your fixture list so please make every effort to attend and bring along your Secretary and Greens Chairman.

We are almost into the golfing calendar and the first event is the Annual Match against North Wales on Thursday April 11. I will require a team of 16 for the match so if you have the killer instinct and the will to win ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North East

Matfen Hall GC has appointed Vinny Price as Course Manager. Vinny was previously Head Greenkeeper at the Nick Faldo designed Charthills in Kent.

His first task is re-designing the bunkers and approaches on the 2nd and 3rd holes while another idea is replacing the fescue and bent aprons and surroundings with dwarf rye grass.

The spring competition will be held at Matfen Hall GC on April 25. The Autumn competition is yet to be announced.

Any members with information for section news please get in touch with me. Tel: 01661 886084.

Thanks to Terry Charlton again for providing the coach for the BTME. Jimmy Richardson

Northern

It is with some surprise that I find myself back at the helm of the Northern Section and once again penning the Section notes and I would like to begin by thanking all the Section Committee for their efforts last year. We have had some problems over the past 12 months and, on behalf of

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the Section, I must apologise to our members and friends in the trade. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible! I hope to be able to hand over to a new secretary in the near future and, in fact, may well have done so by the time you are reading this.

There is a foot of snow outside at the moment which fortunately arrived after the end of BTME in Harrogate (unlike last year!). Once again, it was an excellent show and I was delighted to see so many of you on the Region stand "chewing the fat", especially old friends like Brian Carr, Robert Gee, David Hannam, David Whitaker, Chris Raper and Ian Tomlinson who are now all scattered over Britain and Europe. It really is good to be able to catch up with people at Harrogate each year.

I would like to thank and congratulate Barry Heaney on an excellent year in office as our National Chairman, he has done a first class job and I know has also enjoyed himself. It is just a pity he had to finish his year on a pair of crutches!

Congratulations to Pat Murphy, our other Regional representative on the Board of Management who has just been made Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee. There are now very many opportunities for you as members to become better educated and better greenkeepers as a result. This improves you as people and also benefits your golf club. Why now ring Pat or HQ at Aldwark and see what is available. It costs now to ask!

Many thanks to everyone who helped us out at the show. I can always rely on Colin Garnett, Telford Jarvis, Ian Thomson, John Waite, Alan Gamble, Dennis Cockburn, Graham Oxley, Phil and Chris Sutton – thanks guys, you did a great job.

The first and most important event for your diary this year is the AGM to be held on Wednesday February 28 at 7.30pm at Roundhay GC, Leeds. This has been called as the AGM in December at Ganton was not in

accordance with the constitution. Please try to attend and I look forward to seeing a good turnout.

So what is in store for this year's golf then, do I hear you ask? First of all it is to the seaside for the Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier at Scarborough, South Cliff on April 24. Howley Hall is the next venue for President's Day on June 12. I am sure our President, Bill Mountain, will do his utmost to join us. For those of you not aware of the fact, Mrs Mountain suffered illness last year and is still recovering and our thoughts and very best wishes go to them both.

Wednesday August 15 is the annual Roses Match which will be at Whitefield GC. If you would like to take part in this fully sponsored event please forward your name to me. For many years now this match has been very kindly sponsored by Patissons who celebrate their centenary this year – congratulations to them and thank you for the support.

Invitation Day is on September 4 at Bingley St Ives GC. This is a good opportunity to bring along your club Captain or Greens Chairman and to meet fellow greenkeepers.

Our final comp is at Malton and Norton GC on October 9. Last year our tournaments were generously sponsored by Martin Brothers, Bill Mountain, Yorkshire Mowers, Adamsons and Patissons. I would like to thank them and hope they will continue their support. It is very much appreciated.

If you would like to play in any or all of the golf days, please forward your name and deposits (10%) to me as soon as possible as numbers are limited so early booking is advisable. It would be nice to see some new faces this year as well as the old ones who fancy a knock.

On the social front the Annual Dinner this year will be on March 16 at Shipley GC. This dinner dance is open to all and is always a good night out. Why not get a few friends together and come and join us. Contact me for tickets.

Back to education now – the Northern Region is hosting a seminar entitled "Forward Together" at the recently refurbished Mere Golf and Country Club in Cheshire on March 26. There are some very good speakers and the cost is only £20 including lunch. You should already have received an application form so return it quickly if you want to go as

this event is always a sell out.

Don't wait to book for any of the events I have mentioned and if you have any news, gossip or even a complaint do contact me at 5 Lynam Way, Madeley, Nr. Crewe, Cheshire or on 01782 750539 or 0850 235554.

On a sad note, on behalf of the Northern Region I would like to pass my condolences to the family and friends of Geof Hills, my fellow Regional Administrator from the South East, who was taken ill as he left BTME and sadly died the following day in hospital.

Robert Lupton

South Coast

We had a good turn out for our Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner at the Royal Winchester Golf Club.

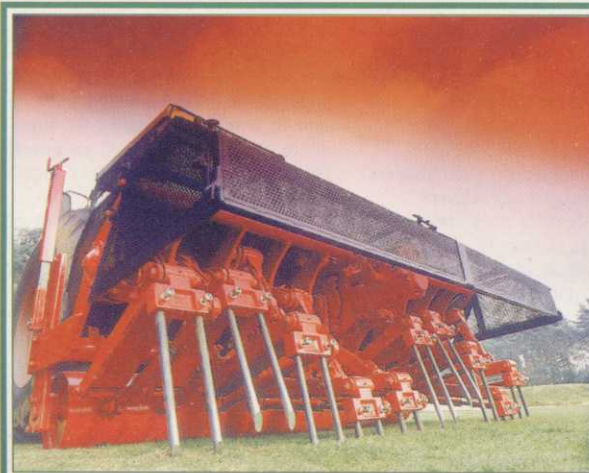
The Turkey Trot was won by Pat Bell with 40 points, 2nd was Phil Wentworth with 39 pts, 3rd was A. Stevenson with 38 pts and 4th Terry Patchin also 38 pts (decided on the back six).

On completion the AGM took place. Ken Lodge stood down from Chairman and was replaced by Allan Mitchell. Allan's position as secretary was filled by Jeff Drake. The section committee is now:- President Jim Fry; Chairman Allan Mitchell; Secretary Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser Mark Webb. Kerran Daley, E McCabe, Bob Dennis, Tony Gadd, John York and Ken Lodge.

Everybody at Royal Winchester once again did us proud. The course was in superb condition even though the greens were sprinkled with white top dressing. The food was of its usual high standard and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Everyone was very impressed with the new clubhouse – the previous one was destroyed by fire 18 months ago.

Thank you Royal Winchester for making us so welcome. Last but not least our thanks go to Rigby Taylor and John Deere, our sponsors for the day. They were once again represented by Mark Wilton and Nick Clarice.

Only one thing spoils the day. That was one of our members failing to return his trophy. Please, gentlemen, if you are not playing in the tournament make sure that someone brings the trophy along. There is nothing worse than someone going to the prize table and having no trophy to present.



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Our last winter lecture will be held at Arlesford GC at 7pm on Wednesday, March 6. The speaker will be Tony Gadd, the Course Manager at Barton on Sea GC. Barton on Sea has seen some major changes over the past few years and Tony's talk will be about these changes. This has all the prospects of being a very good talk. Don't miss it.

Westurf will be with us again on May 1. There are some alterations to the show this year. They layout of the show is being improved and the BIGGA stand is being enlarged. More details next month. Please lads, make a big effort to support Westurf this year. If transport is a problem contact me on 01329 282362. I look forward to your calls.

The Section is holding a seminar at Sparsholt College on Wednesday March 20. All those wishing to attend please forward your names to Jeff Drake on 01722 330277. Some very good speakers are being contacted.

Make sure you don't miss out.
Ken Lodge

Northern

The annual Christmas golf competition followed by the AGM was held at Ganton Golf Club on Tuesday December 12. The winners were as follows:- 1. R. Johnson 40pts; 2. T. Jarvis 39pts; 3. J. Waite 38 pts; 4. A. Gamble 37 pts; 5. D. Collings 36 pts; 6. A. Baxter 35 pts.

After the meal the Chairman thanked Ganton GC committee for allowing the courtesy of the course which was in excellent condition thanks to David Spurden and his staff. Thanks were also expressed to the catering staff for an above average meal.

The meal was followed by the AGM at which 27 members were present. The following officers were elected:- President W. Mountain, Acting Chairman Alan Gamble, Acting Secretary Marcus Cordingley. Committee T. Jarvis, J. Waite, R. Smith, D. Cockburn, A. Lofthouse and C. Garnett.

A permanent Chairman and Secretary are to be elected at an early committee meeting.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year although due to printing deadlines you will not read this until February.

Alan Gamble

Surrey

Due to snowfall in early December this year's Turkey Trot had to be cancelled but thanks must go to Effingham Golf Club for allowing us still to hold our AGM and traditional Christmas dinner later on in the month.

There are two new faces on our committee this year, Grant Dooley from Walton Heath and Roger Glazier from Foxhills. Also we see David Andrews step down as Chairman after doing our Section great service over the last few years. A thank you to David and also James Watson who steps down as treasurer. A thank you for your services.

Taking David's place as Chairman will be Derek Walder, who in the past has been Section Secretary. This responsibility will now be shared within the committee.

Congratulations go to Peter Broadbent and his wife upon the birth of baby Tilly. She was born on December 8. Hope all are well.

Please don't forget to return gentlemen's dinner ballot forms if you wish to receive an entry form.

Our second winter lecture is due to be held at Walton Heath Artisans on February 12. British Seed Houses are the speakers and it begins at 7.30pm.

Any greenkeepers interested in a visit to Ransomes Ipswich on February 14 please contact Derek Walder on 01737 246088. Transport has been provided by Prices/Ransomes. Please support this excursion.
David Gibbs

East Midlands

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Birstall GC in Leicestershire on December 13, (sorry I was unable to attend the day). Thanks to all committee members who rallied round to make sure the day was such a success. The winners in the Stableford competition were as follows. Category 1 1. P. Tatlow, Kedleston Park, 33 pts; Category 2 1. M. Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, 33 pts.

Thanks should go to Birstall GC for courtesy of the their course and to the kindness and hospitality shown to us - and for a great Christmas meal. Not forgetting Roger Willars and his staff for presenting the course. Also I would like to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day.

On November 22 the Midland Region visited Sketchley Grange for the annual seminar. This was well

supported by Section members and again I would like to thank Roger Willars for organising a great day.

A snooker evening has been arranged for members on February 28 at the Willie Thorne Snooker Centre in Leicester. Any member who has not received a form can give me a ring and I will forward them a copy. Please remember to send your form and a cheque for £8.50 to The Secretary before the closing date should you wish to attend.

A series of lectures has been arranged courtesy of Brooksby College for the benefit of all greenkeepers - the dates and speakers are as follows:- Thursday February 22, 7pm. John Bradley, Barenbrug UK Ltd. Cultivar development and modern seed mixtures.; Thursday February 29, 7pm. Stuart Rich, Hewitt Sportsground. Aspects of modern sportsground and golf course construction; Thursday March 7. Howard Storey, John Deere UK. Machinery developments and mowing trends.

If anybody requires any further information on any of these lectures they can contact Ann Hurt at the college Tel: 01164 434291.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Stan Fretter. Stan was a life member of the Association and was Section Secretary of the section for many years. He also worked at the following golf clubs, Kirby Muxloe, Kibworth, Leamington Spa and Lingdale. Our condolences go to all his family, especially to his wife, Grace, who is a keen supporter of the Association herself.
Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Firstly my apologies for no write up in last month's magazine but with no events there was nothing of importance to report. However this month's should make up for it.

The Turkey Trot was played at Frilford Heath in December. This was followed by the AGM in the evening. This proved to be a popular venue with 13 teams taking part (only 12 finished - read on for details). The format was teams of three with two scores counting combined - a fun format. Results: 1. R. Clark, C. Jacobsen and P. Reeve, 86 pts (Personally I think the newly appointed Chairman should hand back his prize as he drafted in a couple of bandits to pick up the silverware, desperate as they

were for decor in their new mess room - points of view on a postcard.)
2. R. McNiven, P. Young and M. Rodgers, 79 pts. Nearest the Pin. D. Goodchild. This proved popular with his team mates as they received a prize as well. So well done I. Rose and G. Butler.

The above results could have been so different if only Russell Lucas and team mates had played the correct last three holes. For those of you not familiar to Frilford is is made up of three courses and yes, you've guessed it, old Russ became confused when walking to the 16th tee on the Green course and somehow played the last three holes on an adjacent course - instant disqualification. To make matters worse one of the trade sponsors was a partner. Oops! It was all taken in good spirit and a few laughs were had by all at the bar. Sorry Russell, but I'm sure you will get me back for writing this.

Many thanks to all at Frilford for their hospitality on the day especially to J. Kleynhans, Secretary; Sid Arrowsmith, Course Manager, and his dedicated team. Also thanks to the catering staff for a superb meal. Thanks also to all the Trade members for the wonderful prizes provided. Without your support throughout the season these events would not be possible.

The AGM went ahead without any problems - nothing major to discuss. P. Helps and S. Irvine resigned from the committee. Thanks to them for all their work this past year. Their places were filled by T. French from Lambourne and B. Wall - the return of the Messiah! Only kidding Bernie. Ray Clark was appointed Chairman and G. Butler, treasurer.

Please give your support at events this coming year. Even if you can only attend one event that would be great. We need all the members support to make the season a success.
Lindsay T. Anderson

South West

Puckrup Hall Hotel & Golf Club played host to the Christmas Tournament for 1995, sponsored by Roffey Brothers. On arriving we were confronted with a very grand complex which, as the day progressed, provided some excellent facilities for the event.

After familiarising ourselves with the essentials, it was onto the 1st tee to spend the next three hours trying

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

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to keep warm in an extremely cold wind. The weather may have been cool but the atmosphere was good and the golf speedy – thanks to an extension of the foursomes format now accepted each year for this event. All this, combined with a young course in excellent condition with many interesting features made for a good morning's golf. Thanks are given to Trevor Williams and his staff for their efforts in preparing the course so well.

After a few drinks in the bar and most people having been pranged into buying raffle tickets on at least three occasions it was into the restaurant for the meal. Over an hour and three courses later everyone was in full agreement as to the excellent food and service that they had received.

As previously mentioned Roffey Brothers were the sponsors for the event and thanks go to them and to Phil Greenway for not only providing trophies and prizes but also supplying the wine for the meal.

Mike Woods, Secretary of Puckrup, presented the prizes to the top five pairs with scores as follows: 1. Wayne Vincent and Phil Greenway, 48 pts; 2. Paul Legg and Nick Wilson, 38 pts; 3. Peter Cox and Mark Freeman, 36 pts (back nine); 4. Richard Minton and James Williams, 36 pts; 5. Matthew Hawker and Steve Mitchell, 32 pts.

Thanks go to Mike and Golf Professional Kevin Pickett for their organisation and participation and to Puckrup for their hospitality.

Again this year we were entertained for the next hour or so by a comedian who, thankfully, proved much funnier than last year's thanks to a continuous stream of near the mark jokes and stories.

The day was completed with the drawing of the raffle and a special thanks must go to the many trade members, too numerous to mention, who provided prizes for the table. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The first event of 1996 is on Wednesday February 28 at Stinchcombe Hill GC, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

Kevin M. Green

Mid Anglia

Our last golf event of the year, at Texas Scramble, was held at Ashridge GC on December 1. One hundred people played on the day and by all accounts, the course was in superb condition. Our thanks go to Jim Cassidy and his team and to Ashridge GC for letting us stage the event.

Thanks to Colin White of Avoncrop, our new sponsor, for all his help on the day, and for making the event a success. The results are as follows. 1. R. McKeown, Al Wilkin, C. Querin and M Squire, Arkley GC, 55.3; 2. A. Grew, E. Thompson, J. Clarke and S. Giardina, Berkhamsted GC, 58.3; 3. G. Simkins, C. Ayres, S. Mason and S. Smith, Mount Pleasant GC, 59.4.

It must be noted that the winning team from Arkley had an incredible 14 birdies in their round! The longest drive was won by Alan Grew (No surprise there). Nearest the Pin was S. Giardina.

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On the Wednesday before the Texas Scramble, our Regional Seminar was held at Hinckley once again. All the speakers were excellent and the range of topics covered were diverse. Jim Cassidy's talk on construction of a new putting green and Bob Taylor's Ecological Perspective session were particularly good.

I'm sure everyone in the Section will be behind me in congratulating Chris Brook of The Family Golf Centre who came runner-up in the Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year award. Chris spent two days at Aldwark Manor for the competition and said he enjoyed the experience immensely. All I can say is the greenkeeper who won must have been exceptionally good to beat Chris into runner-up spot.

It is the Midland Region's turn to host the National Golf Tournament this year. The event will take place at Seacroft GC, Skegness, Lincolnshire on August 5, 6, & 7.

Finally I would like to mention our next section event, a course visit to Ashridge GC in the company of Jim Cassidy. This takes place on March 6 at 1pm.

Sheffield

On December 14 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Nick Bissett from Askham Bryan College for a very interesting lecture on the structure of education in greenkeeping which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

I hope it's not another 25 years until we see Nick again!

Our next lecture will be on March 7 and will be given by Mr Bill Oliver, Amenity Sales Manager of Hardi Sprayers Ltd at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

Just one new member this month – Andrew Williams from Forest Pines GC.

One more amazing thing happened recently. Carlisle United beat Hull City 5-2. That is quite amazing wasn't it Derek!

John Lax

South West and South Wales Region

If you have not booked your stand space at the "new look" Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday May 1 you are strongly recommended to do so.

This year more emphasis will be put on machinery demonstrations in the central area, backed up by a public address system to announce trade information on every type of turf care product, whether it is being demonstrated or not. Let us spotlight your company's news, snippets, updates etc. It's up to you.

As you are probably aware, Westurf is organised by the South West and South Wales Region of BIGGA and a lot of the proceeds go towards

educational events within the region. Our regular colleges, Pen-coed, Sparsholt and Cannington will be joined this year for the first time by Hartpury College. These colleges are each given a grant to provide some form of benefit for our greenkeeper trainees. You will find their stands alongside the IOG and STRI.

Westurf is a service provided for everyone connected to or with an interest in the fine turf industry. It is the ideal opportunity to see, in this part of the world, the most up to date technology available for the care of grass – your grass! Don't waste this opportunity and support your region. Drop in on the Association's stand for membership details or just to rest your legs and have a chat. During the day our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, along with Board members will be holding a forum to answer your queries.

Among the exhibitors will be Avoncrop Amenity Products with its large pavilion accommodating Levington Horticulture, Farmura, Maxicrop, Rocol Safety Products, Miracle Professional, Supaturf, Scotts UK, Amenity Technology and Headland Agrochemicals.

Other early birds to book in for this great show with the friendly atmosphere include Ocmis Irrigation, Roffey Bros, Symbio, Turf Irrigation Services, Rhone Poulenc, Bioseed, Bowcom Ltd, Better Methods-Europe, Western Trailers, Gannon YK, H. Patisson and Co, Sisis and Encore Leisure.

Put this date in your diary – May 1 '96. Some of our long standing exhibitors will well remember when Westurf was last in May. We had a heat wave. Here's hoping!

For information ring 01803 844056.

Marion Child

West of Scotland

We now start a new year with everything looking fine. The season looming around the corner and all the winter work is finished – or so we hope. News to-date covers the AGM and games night with mention of a football trial.

The AGM arranged at Claremont Bowling Club on December 7 was, for a change, very well attended. Some 33 people attended with varied views expressed and relevant discussion raised.

Nice to note the increased number of younger members present – long may it continue – although I feel this was in part due to the games night which followed.

This suffered with regard to time scale as a result of the increased discussion at the AGM.

Two events were placed and as time progressed the matches were restricted in time to accommodate the numbers. The two games were snooker and bowls with John Scott and Bob Stevenson winning the snooker and Gary Dingwall and Stuart Breakwell winning the bowls. Everybody appeared to enjoy themselves with plenty of amber nectar consumption.

The event was successful due to the facilities provided by the Claremont Club and thanks should be extended for stepping in at the last

minute. John Scott needs a special mention for arranging the facilities and providing the scrumptious pies at half time. A mention is required for two other helpers, Robert Bruce for aiding with the provision of pies and Drew McKechnie for running the events.

A football trial was arranged for December 3 at Ibrox but only 14 people turned up which was very disappointing. These people are now the nucleus of the team to play against East Section. A report will be given in the next issue.

Congratulations are to be extended to Jim Easton who has recently been appointed Course Manager at the Dullatur Golf Complex. The Section wish him well and look forward to seeing him at the section events.

Election of committee members as a result of the AGM. Retiring members were Roy Auld of Scottish Grass and Gordon Kerr. New members are Kenny Hunter of Huxley's and Gary Burns. The Section welcomes them onto committee and I look forward to working with them.

Any information members may have of interest can be given to me on 0141 942 5554

Stuart Taylor

Kent

This is the 10th year of BIGGA and the Kent Section has now over 200 members. If your subscription was due on December 31 this is the last magazine you will receive, so renew now to take advantage of all the benefits and be able to take part in all the activities that your committee is planning for 1996.

Unfortunately due to ill health and holidays the Turkey Trot and the AGM were cancelled – in any event Chris Mardon had closed West Malling due to snow. The AGM was rearranged to be held on January 16 with 13 members in attendance. The old committee was voted in again with the addition of Huw Morgan of Wildernesse GC.

The Hayter Qualifier is due to take place on April 16 at Sene Valley GC. In the past this has been combined with the Rigby Taylor Shield to make a 36 hole event but it proved too much for some of the golfers! Now the Rigby Taylor Shield will be contested during the summer, reducing the Hayter day to 18 holes. Further details will follow in March.

The Annual Gentlemen's Dinner is on March 8 at Walton Heath, Entry forms are limited and as such are sent out to members who support the section the most. If you want to play in this event in the future be sure to attend events held this year.

The local management courses are this month. There are still some places left so phone Ken Richardson at HQ for more details.

Anyone with any newsworthy items please report them to me before the first of each month for inclusion in the following month's magazine.

We are, once again, looking for golf venues. Any Course Managers who think that it may be possible to arrange something at their club, please let me know.

David Wood