

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Surrey

It is with regret that I have to report that Geof Hills, our South East Administrator has passed away, May 1, on behalf of the Surrey Section, convey our sympathies to his family. He will be sadly missed.

A big thank you to Driving Force Leisure and Andy Lofting for providing and organising the transport to Harrogate this year. For this we are most grateful. Thanks again.

A venue for this year's Turkey Trot is still required. Any club wishing to host this popular event should contact me on 01737 832015.

Forthcoming events include the Spring tournament, this year to be held at Foxhills GC on May 1. This event is over 18 holes only and will have a pm start. We hope this event will be well attended. Also Huxley Bowl forms should have reached you by now. A good response is expected.

Any type of topic that you feel may be of interest to other members of our Section please give me a call. David Gibbs

## Kent

It was with great sadness we learn of the sudden death of Geof Hills in Harrogate. Our sympathies go out to his family.

The Committee is producing a fixture list for all events. These will be circulated as soon as all dates are confirmed.

Good luck to Robert Lucas of Deangate Ridge who has been appointed Course Manager at Royal Blackheath GC.

Congratulations to Alan Page of Holtje GC, whose wife Sue gave birth to a boy, Alexander on January 31.

Congratulations also to Derek Gould, formerly of Langley Park. Derek was heavily involved in the old Associations and last year retired to Norfolk. At the AGM in Harrogate he was made a life member of BIGGA. We wish Derek and his wife well in their retirement.

For those who attended the First Aid courses held at the Weald of Kent GC your certificates have now run out. The committee is arranging some dates for more courses. If you are interested in doing the course again, or need to do it, contact Steve Johnstone Tel: 01795 427034.

Gem Professional are hoping to organise a trip to visit their quarry and factory for Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers. If interested contact Steve Johnstone. David Wood

## South West and South Wales Region

For the sixth year this Region's trip to the BTME at Harrogate was a great success, but my how things change. Just as in 1991 we encountered below zero conditions, this time, however, the coach did not break down and the heater was working well. The numbers have changed also from 29 in '91 to 62 in '96. We hope to top that in '97.

The exhibition and seminars were tremendous, and just as you think it cannot be improved upon it steps up into another gear – great credit to the organisers at HQ. I did receive a complaint about the BIGGA stand from one member of our party who went to buy a £14 training video. The girls hard selling, talking and fluttering of eye lashes cost him £56. His comment was "they should have bags over their heads". All in good fun of course. Janet and Vickie, both relatively new to the Association, worked like beavers and still came up smiling, as did all the staff. Walking around the halls, the smile seemed to be the theme of the week. Which says it all.

The Region's hotel base, where we receive such a warm welcome each year, becomes a second home for us all, and is the scene of much camaraderie and laughter, along with discussions of the day's events.

The journey home, although quiet, went without a hitch and we are all looking forward to next year. My thanks to everyone. Gordon Child

## South Coast

Our Spring tournament will be held at Crane Valley GC on Monday April 15. This competition will consist of a 27 hole Medal.

The cost for the day will be £21.50, all cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to Mark Webb, 12 Line Road, Alresford, Hampshire SD2 49LD Tel: 01962 733066. The closing date for entries is April 5.

Will all members holding trophies please ensure they are on the prize table at the end of the competition. This competition will be the Hayter qualifier for the regional final to be held at the Salisbury and South Wilts GC on June 12.

Please gentlemen, if you qualify, make every effort to attend the Regional Final. If you are not available let Mark know straight away so

that he can find replacements in good time. This is to ensure that we do not have to make last minute telephone calls to say sorry we can't make it.

As the regional final is being played in our own area this year it is important that we field a strong team, even more important that we field a complete team.

Westurf is on May 1 and not April 24 which was the date given on the Section Programme. Now that we all know the correct date let us have a big turn out this year. Any problems with transport please give me a ring on 01329 282362.

There are a number of improvements to the Show this year among them: a public address system; a free prize draw for all members who attend for a very worthwhile prize; instead of rows of stands this year they are being repositioned and the demonstration area will be in the middle making everything much more accessible.

Westurf this year has the makings of being better and larger than ever. I hope to see you all there on the day.

There is still time to book your seat for the South Coast Seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on March 20. We have some very good speakers lined up:- Billy McMillan and David Winterton, both Course Managers; Ken Richardson, our own Education Officer; Bob Taylor from STRI and Peter Jones a former Head Greenkeeper who now runs his own Consultancy Business.

By now you should have received your programme. For those who have not yet booked their seat send your booking form and cheque to: Jeff Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7PW. For members the fee is £12 and non members £15.

I have just returned from the BTME at Harrogate. "What a Show", everything gets better each year. The Education Programme was good, there were more Trade Stands, more people and more space. I am told the consumption of Tetleys and John Smiths Ales were greatly increased on previous years. I must thank Mark Webb, Ian Boble, Jeff Drake, John York and Kerran Daly for giving up their late nights and early mornings to contribute to this "great achievement".

It was pleasing to see so many of the South Coast members at the Exhibition. I look forward to having the pleasure of seeing even more of you next year.

For this event next year it is hoped to alter the transport arrangements. To do this, it is important that those of you wishing to take advantage of the marvellous deals available ring me as soon as possible.

Arrangements can then be made to make hotel bookings and stipulate size of coach. So far I have 11 people who are interested. The more we get the cheaper it will be. Last minute bookings could mean disappointment on a good deal.

Lastly I must thank all those who had anything to do with the organisation of BTME this year. It was a marvellous show and we all look forward to BTME 97.

Thanks must also go to Gordon and Marion for the endless work they put into organising the hotel and transport and also the work they put into Westurf which makes the BTME such a good deal. Ken Lodge

## Devon and Cornwall

Fingle Glen was the venue for the section's seminar on Wednesday January 17. To try and increase the numbers from last year we decided to change the agenda from previous years and make it an all day seminar.

Numbers for the day did increase but still fell short of expectation as we had invited the STRI to provide the speakers for the day at great expense to the Section.

As usual the trade supported the Section by taking up trade stands in the reception area and without their support the event could not have taken place. Our thanks to all our trade friends who once again supported the Section, namely Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Levingtons, P. J. Fleff, MST, Rigby Taylor, Roffey's, Willcocks and to our conference room sponsor Barenbrug.

The day started at 9.30am with the introduction by Richard Whyman, Section Secretary, and John Bradley of Barenbrug. The morning programme of speakers all from the STRI included John Tucker, Golf Course Architect; Steve Baker, Senior Research Officer and Manager of Laboratory and Dr Kate York, Plant Pathologist. The morning session finished after question time at noon which allowed delegates time to look around the trade stands before lunch.

Unfortunately lunch ran over time which left delegates little time to have a second look at the trade stands before returning for the afternoon session which included Neil Hayward, of the EGU; Bob Taylor,

Ecologist and Peter Winter, Regional Agronomist. Question time concluded an excellent educational day.

With almost 180 members it was disappointing that only 72 members and guests attended this excellent day. Is it a case that all those who didn't attend already knew it all or that their clubs wouldn't let them attend. It couldn't have been the cost of the day which was only £10 per member including a three course lunch. I only hope that the fact there wasn't any golf didn't have a bearing on the attendance.

Our thanks to the STRI for providing the excellent programme of speakers, also to Fingle Glen for once again allowing the section use of their facilities.

On behalf of all the Section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip. Also thanks and congratulations to our staff who ran the show so professionally once again.

Members please note. Our last meeting of the season will be held at Churston GC on Wednesday March 27, this will also be our Hayter qualifier. Please make sure your entries are returned to me with correct monies by the closing date.

Your help is needed to promote the new look Westurf Trade Show to be held on Wednesday May 1 at Long Ashton GC, Bristol. Many of you will know groundsmen and committee members of your own sports club, so why not invite them to the show. Anyone in the turf care industry will be most welcome.

When you attend this year's show make sure you pop into the BIGGA stand and you could walk away with a weekend break for two in the region's free draw.

Richard Whyman

### South West

Once again the BTME Exhibition held in January at Harrogate proved to be a resounding success with over 160 companies and organisations exhibiting over three days. The increase in size from last year meant that an extra hall was required to accommodate everyone's needs. Fortunately, although a little snowy, the weather was nowhere near as severe as last year when several inches of snow fell during the week.

This exhibition and seminar programme is now firmly established as one of the major attractions in the greenkeeping calendar and once again it was well supported by the South West with a full coach travelling north from the region. As always everybody who took the opportunity of benefiting from the greatly subsidised package deal thoroughly enjoyed themselves and this, to a large degree, was due to the excellent organisation of the trip by Gordon and Marion Child. Looking ahead to BTME 97 judging by the

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popularity of this event it would be advisable to book early.

The Spring tournament and Hayter Section Qualifier will this year be at Oake Manor GC. It has been the intention of Nick Wilson as Fixture Secretary to organise fixtures around the Section as much as possible therefore giving a greater opportunity for all members to benefit. Please, therefore, give your support if possible but if you're not a golfer and would like to attend there is every possibility that a course walk could be arranged.

Everybody will be receiving application forms for the team matches this year but due to the difficulties experienced last year in obtaining teams from lists of people originally indicating that they would play, could you please ensure that you will definitely play on the dates of your choice if you are selected.

The final request is that if you are not receiving correspondence from the Section then please contact me as this may be due to several things including your affiliation with the wrong section or recent change of address.

The Westurf Exhibition on May 1 at Long Ashton GC is fast approaching. This year will see many changes to this regional event including reorganisation of the show ground; representation on the day of the Association by Headquarters in the form of an open forum; a demonstration ground in the middle of the arena and a prize draw for those people who hand in their entry slips on the day. The success of this show and its subsequent continuation depends on your support so please make every effort to attend.

Finally, the Section's silverware has now been valued and insured so enabling the winner of each golfing fixture throughout the season to receive the appropriate trophy and retain it for the forthcoming year. Kevin Green

### South Wales

Our winter competition, Christmas dinner and AGM was held recently at Pyle and Kenfig GC near Porthcawl.

Although numbers were down slightly on previous years, 38 hardy golfers took to the course to remind themselves of the testing challenge that Pyle and Kenfig has in store for the unprepared.

The weather, albeit cold and windy, remained dry and bright – the making of good golf, especially as no faults could be found with the course. The greens were running firm and true and were a credit to Paul Robinson and his staff.

Our thanks to Allan Stow and Vitax Ltd for their continued sponsorship of the Christmas golf day, the cut glass crystal prizes that were on offer were exceptional.

Thanks also to Kim Davies and Celtic Mowers for their continued sponsorship of the longest drive and nearest the pin competitions.

Results: Winner of the day and the Vitax Shield, Ian Crichton, Kington GC, 40 pts; 2. Andrew Cosh, Creigiau, 37 pts (Back six); 3. Peter Lacey, Pennard, 37 pts. Winner of the nearest the pin was Doug Sonne, of Inco's, while Robert Frater, Creigiau, won the longest drive (by the narrowest of margins, beating the young at heart 76 year-old Ted Thompson).

The AGM followed on from the golf with some 50 or so members in attendance. With only four apologies having been received and a membership total of nearly 170, this really should be much greater. A minute's silence was given in remembrance of two former Southerndown greenkeepers namely John Walsh and Chris Thomas.

The remainder of the meeting went relatively smoothly and was rounded off with a note being made that we are indebted to the trade for its continued support and also to the Principal of Pencoed College, Mr J.D.B. Thomas for allowing us the use of the college as our educational base. For the smooth running of the AGM we have our Chairman Idwal Morris to thank.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Roger Thomas and the committee of the Pyle and Kenfig GC for the kind courtesy of their facilities for this annual event. Their warmth and hospitality is second to none and always makes for an enjoyable day. To the Steward and catering staff for an excellent Christmas dinner thanks once again.

At our last education evening Gordon Jaaback made a presentation "Dispelling myths in golf course drainage and overcoming problems".

Gordon, a South African consultant in agronomy and soil science who has worked all around the world, now lives in Tonbridge in Kent.

Gordon attracted an audience of well over 30 and his hour and a half presentation was based on his opinion that there are six major myths relating to drainage and its principals and how, in his opinion, he would rectify these problems. An interesting and topical evening. Thank you Gordon.

Congratulations are in order to the staff at our HQ at Aldwark Manor for their organisation of the recent BTME exhibition. By far the biggest show to date and I expect to hear that numbers are well up on last year. I won't dwell on the show but it would not be right if I did not take this opportunity to thank Gordon and Marion Child for their superb organisation of the Region's coach trip. We thank you both.

Former "Birds" representative Huw

Thomas has taken a similar position with John Deere agent power Cut of Carmarthen. We wish him well.

Our good wishes to Colin Murphy. Colin recently underwent surgery to remove varicose veins. He should be back on his feet my now and we look forward to seeing him up and about soon.

Our latest winter evening lecture was presented by John Mosedale, a water resource manager for the National Rivers Authority. John, a local to Pencoed College delivered an interesting talk, albeit to a rather small audience and covered such topics as measuring water flow, boreholing, water storage and the process of applying for an abstraction licence. An interesting evening with many tips along the lines of water to do, what not to do and when to do it!

Our thanks to John for making the effort, unlike most of our members, to the NRA and also to Pencoed College.

Dates for the diary. April 17, South Wales Seminar at Pencoed College entitled "The management of weeds, pests and diseases. Details/Application forms will be with you soon. May 1 Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton, Bristol.

Peter Lacey

### Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Once again the golfing season is upon us with spring just around the corner (I hope so because I'm freezing).

For those of you who read last month's article you will be pleased to know that Russell is still speaking to me (Phew)

I have a good feeling about this coming year – Let's be honest It can't be any worse than last year with the summer golf day having to be cancelled because of lack of support.

There is a real positive buzz within the committee so let's hope it rubs off on the 300 members within the section (yes that's right 300). For those of you who don't know already Ray Clark from Harleyford is our new Chairman. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Ray then don't worry you soon will because he is planning to visit each golf club in our area – "Ray's Road show" (A bit like the Radio 1 Road show without the music.) The reason for this is to get feedback from all members, especially the invisible ones. What do you want from your section? We are at present putting together a questionnaire which should help with the gathering of information. Hopefully this will be posted with the first golf entries.

Speaking of golf days. The first is to be held on April 30 at Southfield, nr, Oxford. this will be an afternoon event over 18 holes. This is also the Hayter Qualifier so lots to play for with a chance to represent your section at national level.

Note: Please remember that all golf days are to be subsidised this year to keep costs down. Remember

to return all entry forms as soon as possible to avoid being balloted out.

I would like to leave you with this thought: Why does it always rain after you have raked the bunkers?

Lindsay Anderson 01491 578147

### West of Scotland

In the last issue mention was made of the AGM and how much of a success this proved to be. An omission was made on my part with regard to election of office bearers – that of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Steven Hogg takes over the reins as Chairman and John Scott as Vice. The Section wishes them a successful year.

Thanks to Ronnie Bunting for his efforts as past Chairman and for all his good work. Thanks also to Ray Auld and Gordon Kerr both of whom put a lot of work in over the years.

The first meeting of new committee has been held and the office bearers are as follows; Chairman Steven Hogg, Drumpellier; Vice Chairman, John Scott Jnr, Kirkhill; Secretary, Sandy Bulloch, Ferenze; Match and Handicap, Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen, Fraser Ross, Renfrew, and Derek Duthie, Aitkens. Finance, Steven Hogg and Sandy Bulloch; Education, Steven Hogg and Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm; Social, Kenny Hunter, Huxley's, and John Young, Dougalston; Magazine, J.S Taylor, Killermont; Assistants Representative, Gary Burns, Lenzie.

If any problems arise throughout the year please contact the above persons relevant to the problem.

At the first meeting various points were discussed and a note for concern was a lack of information being given to two clubs, Greenock and Ralston. Both have raised the matter with past Chairman Ronnie Bunting and a letter should have been received apologising for the problems. I hope they are now rectified.

The education conference is to be held in March at Edinburgh Stakis Hotel near the airport. Be sure to apply early.

Information will be forwarded by the Scottish secretary, price approximately £25 including lunch.

By the time you read this a trip to Royal Lytham and St Annes should have been concluded. I hope all has

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gone well and will look forward to informing people of events in the next issue.

Events for the year.

March: Football against Central Section; Games Night, Claremont Bowling Club; Greenkeepers/Conveners match at Douglas Park GC. To be confirmed. This will be a popular event so enter quickly – that is if you like your convener!

April: The spring outing at Cawder, to be confirmed.

September: Balmore, the autumn outing, to be confirmed.

One problem exists with all these events – the same core of people attending. Out of 144 members the same 30 or 40 are present each time and that's excellent but where are all the rest? Please let us know what you want and we will try to provide.

New members to the Section. Colin Black, Assistant, Blairbeth GC; Craig Black, Assistant, Strathaven GC; Donald McLennan, Course Manager, Eastwood GC; Neil Lindsay, Assistant, Eastwood GC; James Walker, Head Greenkeeper, Hollandbush GC; Gavin Campbell, Head Greenkeeper, Machrie GC; Brian Duguid, unattached.

Welcome to the Section on behalf of all members and I hope to see you at the events.

Congratulations to Sandy Bulloch on his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Ferenze GC, Barrhead. We wish him well.

It is sad to report the recent death of Chick Hamilton, who worked at Frews in Clarkston for many years then at Hags Castle with Chris Kennedy and finally with Hamilton Bros. Chick was well known in the west and attended many of the events. Our thoughts are with family and friends left behind.

I look forward to hearing your comments and seeing you at the various events. Remember if you have

any interesting information please phone 0141 942 5554.

J.S. Taylor

### North of Scotland

A lack of new members to report this month, but I'm assured that next month there will be a big influx. All you members with staff that are not in BIGGA, then get recruiting, the more the merrier. My latest recruit should have joined by now, Shaun Berry from New Jersey in the USA was hoping to join at the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA show in Florida last month.

This time next month I should be in America with Shaun and Steve Cadenelli to play some golf and visit Augusta for the US Masters. My fund did not go too well but what the heck. When you gotta go you gotta go! Watch this space.

BTME! What can I say. I'm sure most of the other Section reports will be carrying great reports about the best week so far. From the outdoor football match on a snow covered pitch on the Sunday night right through to Friday lunchtime it was all go. What I did attend was first class and what I could not attend, I am reliably informed, was equally as good. The banquets were not to be missed with the entertainment laid on exceptional – and no doubt hard to better next year. It is good to see so many of the Scottish trade at the show these days, which just shows how big it has become. Even my train got me home on time this year. Roll on BTME 97. Just who did organise that football match?

While at BTME it was great to meet up with ex North Section members who have moved on to better things. Congratulations to one of them Neil Metcalf who is now Head Greenkeeper at Royal St Georges in Sandwich.

Well Spring is just round the corner, I hope everyone is ready for it and I trust it will be a good growing one to help us bring on the courses for the the coming season. This must be the time of the year that top dressing suppliers enjoy as we in the North have to pile the top dressing on until sufficient growth arrives to ensure smooth surfaces for the golfers. Who would be a green-

keeper!

Iain Macleod

### East of Scotland

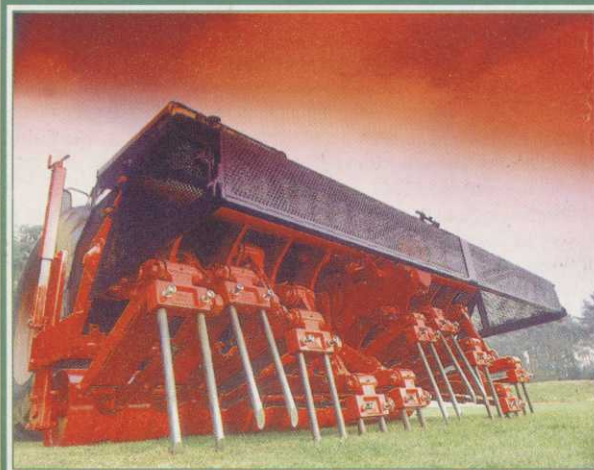
So here we go for this month's report and first of all I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the well wishers who have written and called about my son Christopher who had a serious accident after Christmas while out sledging. He is now out of intensive care and into a ward in the "Sick Kid's" in Edinburgh on the road to recovery. He has just gone through his fourth operation and hopefully he will need no more. The doctors have told us he will make a full recovery but he will be in hospital for some time yet and won't be back at school till after the summer holidays – Autumn '96. So I would like to thank everybody from my wife Carol, daughter Amy and myself.

Well, I hope the weather's going to improve as I'm sure you all will still have some work to do on your courses as I know I have. Let's hope it improves soon!

What's been happening in the Section. First of all we played a soccer match against a team from Galashiels and we ran out worthy winners by nine goals to one with a peach of a goal by yours truly Chris "Van Vossen" Yeaman. But it was a great team performance by everyone especially on a night when the temperature was minus five. Roll on our next match especially against the West Section as we are now coming into form – a statement Walter Smith would be proud of.

I took four days break from being with my son in hospital to attend BTME at Harrogate. This show just gets better and better every year so congratulations to HQ. Keep up the good work. The seminars were very interesting again this year so I'm glad I could make it. And, of course, the nightlife was as good as ever and it was good to meet some old friends from past years. Our secretary Robert Hogarth is seeking sponsorship from Anadin for next year.

Our Chairman Steve Dixon attended this year for the first time and really enjoyed it commenting that more people should take the time and attend one of the best shows for our industry. Stevie visited



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Trotters on the Thursday night but says he will not go next year unless he gets two lollipops and a bag of sticky marshmallows. Stevie, they're in the post as we speak. Harrogate must be the cheapest place for drink as it cost us £9.20 for four bottles of Chinese beer when having a meal. I would like to thank Richard Webb from Tacit who was at the next table with his wife who also bought us four of these costly items. Also thanks for the prawn crackers.

Our February afternoon lecture at Swanston GC was one of the best we have had for a long time. I found it very interesting but sad to say we had only 20 people in attendance including the four speakers and one company representative. Apologies to Mike Dennis and Rigby Taylor, our hosts for the day, for the small turnout. Also thanks for the buffet they provided for us. Also to Swanston GC for use of the club and Dave/Irene for keeping us fed/watered.

So come on lads support your local companies when they go to the trouble of setting up these days for you and support your committee who are working hard for all our members.

Up and coming events in '96.

Russells Toro Visit, March 27, 11am; Quiz Night, Swanston GC, March 27; Spring Outing, Longniddry, April; Annual Dance, Kilsplindie House Hotel, Dec 7. Details will be with your shortly of all these Section events.

Anything I have missed will be in the April report so if you have anything to let me know give me a call: Home 01875 870485 or Mobile 0802 623005. Anything about anything or any ideas about Section activities.

Congratulations to David (First Assistant at Kingsknowe GC) and Jackie on the birth of baby Amy (8lb 12oz) who was the first baby to be born in Scotland in 1996. Mother and baby are doing well.  
Chris Yeaman

#### Scottish Region

All members of the Scottish Region were saddened to hear of the death of Dick Aitken, probably the last of the original trade members of his era who were wholehearted supporters of greenkeepers and the respective

associations throughout the years.

The Region extends its sincerest condolences to Richard and Grace and all their family.

Elliott Small

#### North Wales

Once again I find myself penning the Section notes - what goes around comes around! Anyway, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Section recently held a one day Turfgrass & Seed Identification Seminar which was well attended and prove very popular. Our thanks go to Phil Davies of Mommersteeg and the Welsh College of Horticulture for all their help.

Future Events: March 14-17 Trip to Holland (Places still available); April 11, North Wales v North West Match; May 14, Spring Competition Bull Bay GC Anglesey. Members will be circulated with details shortly.

Finally, as most of you are now aware the purchase of Carden Park by St David's Hotels Ltd has now been completed. All of the existing greenstaff including myself as Course Manager will be remaining and look forward to the exciting times ahead. Hopefully this should "put to bed" the numerous - some damaging, some ridiculous and some downright amusing rumours that have surrounded both myself and others during what has been a difficult period.

Should any members have news or need help I can be contacted on the following numbers: Home 01352 780602; Office 01829 731176; Mobile 0802 310576 or at 7 Cae Helyg, Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Clwyd CH8 8AJ.  
Andy Campbell

#### Sheffield

Firstly, on behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Barry Heaney for representing the Section in a successful year as BIGGA Chairman. Barry even finished his year in office on one leg for a month as he broke his leg on New Year's Day. That was a good start to the year. Wasn't it Barry?

I asked Barry to sum up his year as Chairman and he said. "The friendliness I received everywhere and from everyone was amazing. The past year

has been the quickest year of my life. When I came my final speech at Harrogate I just couldn't believe it was the end of my year in office. I couldn't have done the job as well without the support of Wortley Golf Club and my staff which have both been behind me 100%"

On February 1 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC which was attended by 68 of our members which was a record for our Section.

Our thanks go to Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth GC for a very interesting talk on communications within the golf club.

Congratulations go to Kevin Kellsall on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Doncaster GC. Kevin returns to the Section after working at Burnham on Crouch in Essex. Good luck Kevin.

Our next lecture will be on April 4 and will be a machinery demonstration given by Amazone at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

A few dates to note. Our annual competition will be held at Abbeydale GC on July 9 at 10.30am. Apparently the last time we held a section competition at Abbeydale was July 1978.

Our Autumn competition will be held at Hickleton GC on September 2 at 1.30pm.

New members this month include Mark Dresser and Tony Spencer, Forest Pines GC; Timothy Gittans and Andrew May, Notts GC; Stephen Wheeler, Brough GC; Ian Rathbone, Fore and Todley; Billy Cooke, Wheatley GC; Gary Marsh, Hickleton GC; Roger Naylor, Phoenix GC; Martin Liversedge, Sickleshome GC; Pat Duff, Sherwood GC and Trade member George Brown, Tarmac.  
John Lax

#### North West

Nine inches of snow outside and Bert Cross is in sunny Zambia for a month. Bert and his wife Marie are heavily involved in charity work for the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia and he has asked me to ask you all for donations of, would you believe, tea bags or coffee which is very expensive in Zambia. You can bring all your tea and coffee to the Spring tournament to be held at Morecambe

GC on Thursday May 30. This is also the Hayter Qualifier or to the Mere Seminar on March 26. You should all have had an application form for this event.

The closing date for the Spring tournament is May 24 so send off £10 deposit to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool, Tel: 0151 284 4416.

Bert has also asked me to remind you that improper dress will not be tolerated at any BIGGA event. So be warned.

On a personal note I thought that the BTME was the best yet. Well done to everyone concerned and good luck for '97.

Chris Sheehan

#### Cleveland

The annual quiz verses the Institute of Groundsmen Teeside branch resulted in a narrow victory to the IOG. Thanks to sponsors, Turf Care for Conset, County Durham. There was a disappointing turn out of three Head Greenkeepers and eight assistants.

Bishop Auckland GC has relaid two greens to full USGA specification and Head Greenkeeper David Crocker is very pleased with their progress. This example will be helpful to other golf clubs locally also based on clay soils.

New members are as follows:- Neil Austwick, Bedale GC; Kevin Dyson, Seaham GC; David Briggs, Saltburn GC; Colin Thompson, Saltburn GC; Harry Stevenson, Brass Castle, Middlesbrough GC and Martin Woods, Nearside GC.

The January meeting was a talk by Chris Peel of Adas on Poa Annua. There are 17 annual and nine perennial varieties. Natural soils suit poa annua. To reduce it continue with sound management practices, 1. Avoid phosphate 2. Potassium usually enough in clay soil, 3. Do not overfeed, 4. Aim for lower PH 5-5.5, 5. Care with watering, 6. Care with height of cut and verticutting as keen verticutting can let in poa annua as seed bed, 7. Care with chemicals, 8. Distribute wear to avoid bare patches and keep height of cutters up to avoid scalping. 9. Try not to overlap with fertilisers.

Future subjects for discussion are Thatch Depth, Type of Thatch,

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Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Wear.Compacted, Depth of Compaction, Black Layer, Thatch Fungus.

Thanks were expressed to Chris.

He then outlined Adas services for golf courses 1. Feasibility studies for new courses, 2. Detailed design work on new courses, 3. Existing Courses. Improvements, extensions and upgrading.

Our March meeting is Bob Twaddle of British Seed Houses and there is a change of venue. The meeting will be at Eaglescliffe GC on March 21 at 7.30pm.  
Bruce Burnell

### Northern

First of all I would like to welcome the following new members to our Section: Christopher Hill, Leeds Council; Craig Norford, Temple Newsam GC; Richard Hartas, Aldwark Manor GC; Adam Basnett, Woodsome Hall GC; Edward Nutt, the Oaks GC; Kevin Lee, Crownest Park GC; Neil Burnley, Beverley GC; David Chadwick, Moortown GC; Neil Tootle, Bridlington Links; Alastair Cobbett, Mid Yorkshire GC; Brian Carr (recognise this chap from somewhere!), Chapel Allerton Lawn Tennis Club; Steven Kitchen, Elland GC; Daniel Lindley, Hanging Heaton GC; Derek Jackson, Garforth GC; David Kirk, Moorview Golf Centre; Richard Hollingworth, Ridding Park GC and Sam Wardill, Outlane GC. I hope you will participate in the golf and social events in the area.

On the education front, the first of the Regional Management Courses were held in the last month. I attended one in Chester and found it to be interesting, informative and also great fun. It was also an opportunity to meet many members of the Association attending this type of event for the first time. The delegates ranged from the more mature to the up and coming whizz kids. I understand the course in York had been just as successful and it is hoped to develop these further next year.

For those of you interested in the NVQs, Pat Murphy is drawing up a waiting list of people who wish to be trained as assessors. This is funded by the GTC.

While on the subject of education I would remind you of the North West Seminar at the Mere Golf and Country Club on March 26. There are some very interesting speakers and the price is only £20 including lunch. Contact me if you wish to book.

Golf events now and the tee off times for this season's comps: April 24, Scarborough South Cliff, tee off 1pm; June 12, President's Day at Howley Hall, tee off 1.30pm; September 4, Invitation Day at Bingley St Ives GC, tee off 12.30pm; October 9, Autumn Tournament at Malton & Norton GC, tee off 1pm. A £10 deposit is required for each event and as these are restricted I would advise booking early to avoid disappointment. The Roses Match is on August 15 at Whitefield GC and will again be fully sponsored by Pattis-

## Around the Green



sons. All you have to do is get there. A team of 16 is required so please forward your name to me if you would like to play on the winning team. Members wishing to play in any of the golf events must book and pay their deposits at least one week before each competition.

Congratulations to Nick Bissett at Askham Bryan College who has recently been promoted to Head of Horticulture.

I would like to convey the Section's best wishes for a speedy recovery to Alan Gamble, our Chairman, who has been ill recently. Look forward to seeing you at the Dinner Dance on March 16, Alan.

Please contact me if you have any news or gossip. Tel: 01782 750539 or 0850 235554.  
Bob Lupton

### Midland

Here we go again, another season just about to start. After the cold weather and snow, it will be nice to have a bit of good old sunshine.

I spent a very enjoyable and educational week at Harrogate. There were some very good speakers at the National Conference, and I would like to congratulate Dean Cleaver on his becoming the Chairman of the Association. It was good to see a fellow Section member achieving this position.

On March 29 at 2pm we have the second winter lecture at Telford Golf and Country Club. Arrival time is between 12.30 and 1pm and the bar will be open to welcome you.

The speakers are Richard Minton, Miracle Professional, talking on nutritional requirements of a golf course and Simon Hannah, Inturf, talking about Turf Production and he would also debate Dwarf Ryegrass v Non Ryegrass mixtures.

There will be a buffet after the lectures, please could members dress appropriately.

The fixture list will be sent to all members ASAP. Ritefeed are sponsoring a new Singles competition open to all members and the entrance sheets will be sent accordingly.

The Committee had a meeting on January 17 where it was decided not to put on a Skittles Evening at the moment as only six members had telephoned me to express their wish to attend.

Finally we welcome the new members for this month. They are as follows:- Michael Bryan, Ian Underhill, Roy Whatmore, Michael Wade, Robert Tomlin, Anthony Tysall, Stuart Hall, Colin Wood and Robert Jervis.

Kim Blake

### East Midlands

While you are all reading this month's article I shall be sunning myself in the Sates and playing plenty of golf - hopefully Bindleying the Americans.

Congratulations to Carl Chamberlain on his appointment as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Scraftoft GC. I'm sure all members would like to wish Carl all the best in his new position. Also congratulations are extended to Gavin Robson for the addition of a baby son to his family.

I'm sure all members must have enjoyed this year's BTME. It was nice to see a few more Section members there. It just goes to show that things get BIGGA and better every year.

By the end of this month all members should have received their entry forms for the forthcoming Spring Tournament and the annual singles and pairs K/O competitions. Please try to support your section by entering as many as you possibly can. Also enclosed is this year's fixture card, which has again been kindly sponsored by Amenity Land Services and Scotts UK. Any member who has not received their form can give me a ring and I will gladly forward a copy.

Finally this year's AGM has been arranged at Hinckley GC on November 6 followed by the Christmas Tournament on December 12 at Charnwood Forest GC.  
Antony Bindley

### East of England

I have just returned from BTME at Harrogate and the exhibition seems to get better every year.

It is the ideal showcase for the products of the manufacturers and to talk at first hand with product representatives. For myself it was the bumping into so many friends that makes the show. Then there are the seminars, at one of which our East of England Chairman, David Walden, took to the stage with his experiences in winning the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition and what differences winning had made to his career. I asked him what the differences were and he said, "I was on cloud nine for two to three months, there was lots of fuss which died off. The US trip was a good experience and it's been good for my career."

The total membership for our section now stands at an all time high of 119 due to a recent influx of students from Riseholme. May I welcome all the new members to our Section who are:- R. Cresswell, S. White, D. Anderson, A. Wire, R. Hepworth, J. Morrall, D. Reeves, M. Gamble, L. Bradsell, D. Garfitt, D. Clee, M. Anderson, C. French and A. Eaton.

Any more information on job moves, promotions etc or if I can help with anything call me on 01733 260297.

Graeme Macdonald

### Mid Anglia

A Health and Safety update was

given by John Allbutt to the Section in January which was very useful to members. He gave information with regards to the use of carbaryl which has been restricted in certain aspects. If anyone needs more information on this please phone John's company, I'm sure they'll fill you in fully on the changes.

Harrogate was once again successful and if was good once again to see so many members in attendance and to hear John Wells speaking at the conference. John was also presented with his Master Greenkeeper Certificate and I'm sure you all saw the picture in last month's magazine.

You should have all received by now an entry form for the fourball tournament which must be completed by March 15, and a separate form for the usual tournaments. Please photo copy this second form so you have enough for the Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments should you wish to enter. If you have not received the necessary forms please check with BIGGA HQ to make sure you are included in the Mid Anglia Section. Gerald Bruce, our Secretary, can only send the appropriate details to those members who are actually registered on the computer printout from headquarters.

Our first golf event is on March 29 at John O'Gaunt GC. Entry forms should be sent to Richard Saunders in the usual way enclosing a cheque for £20.

The Texas Scramble this year has been arranged for December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC.

A match against the Midland Section has been scheduled for September 2 and will take place at Whittingham Heath GC, Lichfield, Staffs - the format being 10 a side.

Lectures/Course Visits are currently being arranged for 1997 as are golf fixtures.

I would like, on behalf of the Section, to wish Jim Burton, every success in his new position with Kings Horticulture and Kevin Todd, good luck in his new position at Beds & County Golf Club as Deputy Course Manager.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members from Mentmore GC to the Section. They are Daniel Gilbert, Daniel James, David Edwards and Eamon Slattery  
Paul Lockett

**THE ONE THING WHICH WOULD MAKE THE JOB SO MUCH EASIER IS**



"If it only rained at night"  
- Alan Rowney, Gay Hill GC