

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
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Ayrshire

The Section Autumn Outing was held at West Kilbride GC on September 24. The Committee would like to thank the Captain and the Committee of West Kilbride for the courtesy of the course. The weather held out quite well and everyone had a most enjoyable day. The prize winners were as follows:

Cat 1. 1. Wallace Mercer, 81-10-71; 2. Lee Blackburn, 78-5-73; 3. William McMeikan, 80-5-75. Cat 2. 1. Dougie Drain, 81-13-68; 2. Gordon Heron, 85-14-71; 3. Jimmy Johnstone 89-14-75. Cat 3. 1. David Nelson, 97-21-76; 2. Gary Crosbie, 102-21-81; 3. Jim Paton, 101-18-83. Scratch. George Brown 78 (Best last three). Trade. Kevin Brunton 75 (scr). Guest. Dan O'Connor 84-8-76. Texas Scramble. 1. Ian McNab, Roland Blackburn, William McMeikan and Gordon Heron, 59-4-55; 2. Jimmy Johnstone, Gary Crosbie, John MacLachlan and Dan O'Connor, 64-5-3-58.7.

At our recent committee meeting a discussion took place about one of our most esteemed members, Harry Diamond. Our Section Committee has requested from the Scottish executive its approval to put Harry forward for life membership.

Our Section lottery was a success and the winner was A. Groves, of Newton Stewart. Derek Wilson, Robert Bruce and I went down to The Open to do the draw and get the draw sheet completed. The draw was carried out with the assistance of Neil Thomas and John Pemberton and we would like to thank them for their time and I would personally like to thank Neil who pulled my name out with Nick Faldo and, hence, I won a prize. Thanks Neil. We also this year gave day prizes for the best score on each day if people had not been a prize winner in the main competition.

Our Section Social committee is arranging a car rally and a quiz later in the autumn.

We have decided to have a new method of collecting information for the magazine. We are going to use Robert Bruce on his travels to pick up any information which he can find. We will also use the direct method to me if anyone wishes. At the end of each month Robert will meet me and we will collate this information and I will then send it off to Aldwark after checking with our Chairman.

We have over 100 members now and one I would like to mention is Raymond



Burke, who has been residing in Arran for the past few years. It was nice to hear from you Raymond and we hope to see you attending a function soon to have a good chat.

On behalf of the Committee I would like, belatedly, to congratulate our Chairman Ian and his wife Pamela on the birth of their daughter Eildh. I have heard her little tonsils being exercised in the background and it is pleasing to report that she is behaving very well now and sleeping quieter than her father.

Jim Paton

East

Welcome to this month's report. Sorry there was not one last month but there wasn't a lot to write but everything will be here this month.

Firstly on a sad note is the death of one of our younger members Mark Johnstone who was an assistant greenkeeper at Muirfield. Mark was 20 years old and has been at Muirfield since 1992 he also attended Oatridge College. He died in a road traffic accident near his home on the August 24 and all our thoughts go to his family and friends at this time after such a tragic loss.

On a much happier note. Congratulations go out to two people on the move (These I know about if anymore please let me know) Firstly, George Purves who moves from Melville Golf Course and Driving Range to Kings Acre GC as Head Greenkeeper (Kings Acre which was featured in Greenkeeper International a couple of months ago) George who will be putting the final touches to the growing in process as they hope to open in June '97. So a fair bit of work to be done between now and then (shaping fairways, grading semi rough etc etc). Hope all this work affects his golf as I would like a chance of winning something in the 2nd class wishful thinking on my part I suppose. Secondly Steven Holiday, who is moving after a good number of years (14 I think he told me) from Royal Musselburgh GC where he was first assistant greenkeeper to Melville Golf Course and Driving Range as Head Greenkeeper. All the best to both of them from all the section. So don't forget lads a round of golf on your courses will cover you getting a mention in this column!

Some upcoming dates for your diary. The AGM is at Swanston Golf Club on November 21, sponsor TBA. Also the Christmas shopping trip to the Metro Gateshead. Any information on these and other activities you can call S. Dixon 0131 660 3965

Chris Yeaman 01875 870485 or Andy Forrest 01875 813670 for prices details etc.

Now on to the results service.

Firstly we had the Willie Woods, at Seahouses GC, what a great day was had by all but we could do with a lot more teams as there were only 14 teams which was very poor. So come on make the effort and play in the great tournament. Thanks to the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, John Stevens for organising everything for us, the steward and his wife for keeping the bar well stocked, the catering staff for the meals and last, but not least, big Alister Holmes and his staff. Well done the course was in great condition considering the dry spell that we were going through great stuff.

Results: (Greenkeeper first) 1. S. Dixon - D. Hastings, Kingsknowe; 2. G. Thomson - F. Rogerson, Goswick; 3. M. Kohler - I. Henderson, Swanston.

Also a big thanks to our sponsor of the day, Ian Henderson, of Ian Henderson Finance. I had the pleasure of playing with him and Martin we look forward to seeing Ian again at next year's event and future East Section events. Thanks again Ian.

Next year's event will be held by the courtesy of Kingsknowe GC, date TBA

PS. How S. Dixon won I don't know as the rumour has it he had his partner playing shots from places that the green staff haven't been. David Hastings Stevie's Partner has had back problems since carrying him round that day!

Now then down to the Autumn Tournament at Murrayfield GC. who were celebrating their centenary this year. Thanks to the Captain and Directors of Murrayfield G.C. for the courtesy of the course, clubhouse staff for keeping everybody well fed and refreshed and also Jimmy Neilson and all his team for having the course in terrific condition. The course was a credit to each and every one of you. Thanks again to everyone who made this day possible.

Results: Scratch - A. Holmes - 74; Cat 1. I. Bell, 77-5-72; 2. T. Murray, 76-2-74; 3. G. Wood, 80-5-75. Cat 2. 1. R. Thomson, 77-15-62; 2. K. Anderson, 85-12-73 B.I.H; 3. S. Russell, 85-12-73. Veteran, J. Robertson, 87-20-67. Guest. B. Kenny Trade. I. Henderson, 79-12-67, Ian Henderson Finance. New Member, K. Kinnaird 90-7-83; Best Nett of the Day, R. Thomson, 62; Best Aggregate. I. Bell, 144, Spring/Autumn. Longest Drive? S. Dixon (AKA John Daly)

It was good to see Scott MacCallum the Editor of Greenkeeper International in attendance. I hope he had a good day and hopefully we will get him to some more events in the future. Our Chairman/Secretary presented Murrayfield

G.C. with a plaque to commemorate our playing there in their centenary year which was a nice touch.

Well I am sitting writing this at the side of the pool here in San Antonio in Ibiza where the temperature is 90+ degrees which is quite warm. So that's it for this month, I will be writing again next month if I stop drinking long enough (it's the heat you see - don't want to become dehydrated)! So anything you want to know or tell us let myself C. Yeaman, S. Dixon, A. Forrest or any Committee Member know and we will try to help you out.

Just one last thing. Your last chance for dance tickets for the annual dance on the 7th December at the Kilsplindie House Hotel, price £18 and not many rooms left if you want accommodation at £20 per person (B & B), so be quick as I think there are only about 12 tickets left. For any information call Steve Dixon on 0131 6600 3965 (so hurry).

P.S. To the Editor. I mentioned Christmas four times in this article this month. Don't tell me it means another yellow card or worse a red! That's it bye for now.

P.P.S. Committee day out won by yours truly Chris Yeaman - 78-12-66 Chairman v. Vice Chairman Match - won by Vice Chairman Team which I was a member of. Hard luck Steve. Thanks to sponsors Lothian Tractors, Haddington Golf Club Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course clubhouse, staff for keeping us well fed and very very well watered and also thanks to anybody I have missed this month.

Chris Yeaman (on location).

West of Scotland

Well, well, who would have predicted the finalists in the five a side tournament, obviously the ringers were brought in. Could be we have to revise the rules again. Congratulations to the eventual winners Campsie/Russells (on penalties I might add) and hard lines the losers Rigby Taylor. Well fought both semi finalists Clyde Bank/Windyhill and East Kilbride/Pollock. Most teams appeared to have enjoyed the day, as the weather was good and good company. The referees made all the difference, keeping play flowing and punishing any hefty challenges.

The Loch Lomond event had a good attendance and from the Greenkeepers I've spoken to they really enjoyed the experience.

The Autumn outing at Bulmore once again was excellent with the course presentation second to none. Well done Charlie and his team, thanks to mem-

bers, and Council for courtesy of the course. Thanks to the Bar staff and Catering Manager for the service through the day.

A few surprises in the winners circle and the Old Rule 19 will be thrown about, the results as follows: Scratch S. Bulloch, Fereneze, 66

Cat 1. 1. G. Bruen, East Kilbride, 4-6 = 68; 2. A. Bayfield, Buchanan Castle, 78-9 = 69 (B.I.H.); 3. S. Taylor, Glasgow, 70-1 = 69.

Cat 2. 1. J. Young, Douglaston, 74-17 = 57; 2. J. McCormack, Cawder, 79-16 = 63.3. S. Brawley, East Kilbride, 80-16 = 64.

Cat 3. 1. R. Grainger, Cawder, 77-20 = 57; 2. G. Skewer, Balmore, 91-22 = 69; 3.C. Fulton, Douglas Park, 98-28 = 70. Apprentice Trophy. G. Bruen, East Kilbride. Trade. D. Duchie, Aitkens, 75-4-71. Visitors.I. Murchison, Renfrew, 78-10 = 68. Well done everybody. Hope you had a good day.

A few dates to note. Annual Dinner. November 29, at the Admiral Bar; AGM/Games Night -December 5 at the Claremont.

If anybody has anything they wish to put into the magazine then please contact me at 0141 942 5554.

S. Taylor

North

It was second time lucky for the Section outing to Grantown-on-Spey as this year we had no problems during a wonderful day at the Speyside venue, and it was certainly worth the wait as Ken Kinnaird and his staff had the course in excellent condition. The lucky winners on the day were as follows: Scratch. 1. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 70; 2. and Committee Trophy, Iain Macleod, Tain, 74 bih Cat. 1. 1. Neil Sadler, Grantown, 66; 2. Colin Mackay, Cruden Bay, 70 bih; 3. Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer, 70. Cat 2. 1. and Head Greenkeeper Trophy Agg, Kenny Kinnaird, Grantown, 67; 2. Derek Anthony, Duff House Royal, 68; 3. John Geddes, Ellon, 71. Cat 3. 1. Chris Cumming, Fortrose, 61; 2. Keith Wood, Hazelhead, 67; 3. Colin Burgess, Forres, 70;

Veteran. 1. Allan Grant, 69 2. George Hampton, Pitlochry, 73. Apprentice. Ross Macleod, Forres, 73. Guest. Mark McAlpine, 62. Trade. Alex Cruickshanks, Daval, 69 bih. Consolation. Don Dingwall.

Nearest the pin at the 16th, winning a trolley kindly donated by Titleist, Colin Mackay, Cruden Bay, and at the 8th, Bradley Wood, Westhill. Longest drives Class 1. Neil Hampton, Class 2. Gordon Mckie, St Andrews, Class 3. Brian Cocker, Alyth. The Meldrum Trophy for nett aggregate was won by Gordon Moir, St Andrews. Kevin Fowler, Fortrose, was the winner of the card draw for the BIGGA blazer. 200 Club winners were May £30 Brian Strachan, Auchmill, June £30 John Taylor, Forres, July £40 Steve Simpson, Fraserburgh, and August £100 Richie Ewan, Nairn. Overall a great day, thank you to everyone at Grantown-on-Spey.

Staying at Grantown briefly, Stewart Smith has been working on the course for the Summer and would like to pursue

a career in Greenkeeping, so if any courses in the area are looking for a trainee, Stewart can be contacted on 01479 872428.

George Rollo rejoins the Section, George is Greenkeeper at Gairloch.

The lucky winners of the Patron award for 1996 are Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, and Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill, who each receive £200 to be used for educational purposes, a course or trip to BTME at Harrogate. We are indebted to the members of the Trade who contribute to the Patrons Scheme and therefore make awards like this possible.

The AGM will be a Cullen GC on Thursday November 7, at 3.45 pm after the Annual Chairman, Vice Chairman's golf match, please attend and have your say in the running of your Section.

Finally the Committee are putting on a free bus from Aberdeen to Ellon for the Dinner/dance on November 29, phone Sam Morrison on 01224 705083 for details of pick up points. Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

North East

On September 19, the City of Newcastle GC hosted our Autumn competition. Congratulations go to Head Greenkeeper, Ken Rutherford and his staff, for excellent condition of the course. Our thanks to the following giving donations Shorts of Whitburn, Course Care, Billy Thompson, Amenity Technology and Rickerby's.

Best Gross. A. McSure, Whickham GC, 72; Ransomes Cup. J. Redhead, City of Newcastle GC, 83 - 11 72 nett ; Greenlay Cup. G. Sauder, Slaley Hall, GC 76 - 5 - 71; Feursters Shield. B. Hughes, Whickham GC, 93 - 20 - 73; D. Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall GC 75 - 3 - 72; Slaley Hall GC; A. Callan, Prudhoe GC, 78 - 4 - 74; S. Pope, Tyneside GC, 83 - 9 - 74; D. Street, Boldon GC, 90 - 16 - 74; T. Mooney, Boldon GC, 102 - 28 - 74.

Thanks to Stuart Ashworth, of Amenity Technology, for donating a Large Bottle of Champagne for the lowest scores on par 3. This was won by Mal Lathan, of Hexham GC, with a score of 1 under par.

The last golf event of the year takes place at Matten Hall G C for the annual 4BBB match against the S E Scotland section.

J. S Richardson

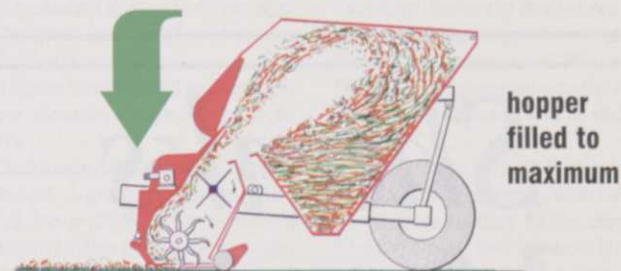
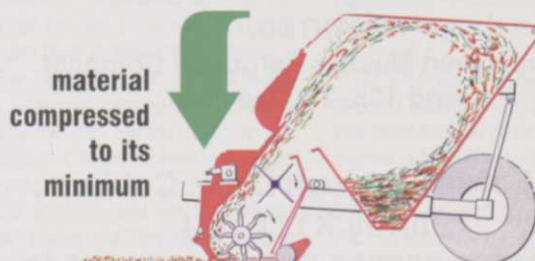
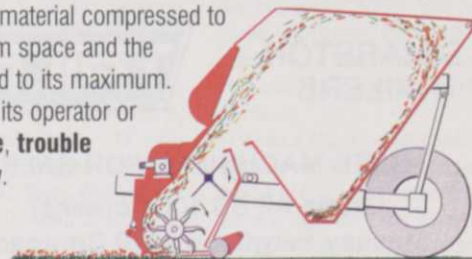
North West

Another busy month in the N/W calender, with friendly golf, serious golf and International golf. Firstly the friendly golf which was the annual match with the golf club stewards. This was played at West Derby GC with two teams of 16. The result was win for the N/W greenkeepers, with some good golf played which was reflected in the close scores. Chris Sheehan, the N/W Chairman, and his staff had the course in great condition and once again the greenkeepers were kindly sponsored by Gary Worrall Ground Care. This annual match will hopefully continue



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for years to come.

The serious golf started with the Autumn Tournament at Wilpshire GC. This course with some great holes, and tight lies, was in excellent condition, thanks to Bill Horvath and his staff. There was a stiff wind blowing on the day, which I am told is the norm for the course and listening to some of the stories in the club house, there were so many reloads on the water holes that floating golf balls might be a good idea. I would like to thank Wilpshire GC for allowing us the courtesy of their course, and the club facilities, Mike and Doreen the steward and his wife for the lovely meal, and Bill and his staff for producing the best greens that I have seen in a long time.

The prize table was once again a fine display thanks to our friends in the trade and these were supplied by Richard Campey, Miracle Professional, Sisis, Pattissons, Gem, Premier Turf Dressings Ltd, Martin Bros, Farmura, Rhone Poulenc, Aitkens Sports Turf, Burrows, Acorn Equipment, Bathgate Top Dressings, Strike Top Turf.

The results were:- Best Gross. Tim Nolan. Best Nett. Nathan Berry, Over 55's. Bert Cross, Aggregate. Bert Cross, 2. Nett Bert Cross 3. Mark Haines 4. Chris Leeming 5. Tim Nolan 6. Paul Bertenshaw 7. Stephen Johnson.

The International golf was of course the Hayter International played between the Americas and The Rest of the World. This competition required a first class true links course and was played at West Lancashire GC which fitted the bill perfectly. John Muir and his staff had produced a course second to none, for this the first of the Hayter International Tournaments played on the same lines as the Ryder Cup. I had the pleasure of meeting all the competitors and many friendships were formed. I am sure you will have seen all the reports in the recent issue of Greenkeeper International so I will leave it at that and hope that this competition will continue for many years to come.

Next was the move to Fairhaven GC for the Hayter National Tournament where the qualifiers from five regions plus teams from Eire and Northern Ireland played for the National Trophy plus many other prizes. The winner was Steven Heap from Midland Region. The team prize of £500 was won by the Northern Region.

An educational evening sponsored by British Seed Houses has been arranged at Mere G&CC on Tuesday December 10 commencing at 7pm to be followed by a supper. The speaker is Mike Robinson, President of the seed research of Oregon and the subject is seed breeding. There is no cost and your club officials will be welcome. If you are interested please contact me no later than December 3 with names to allow for seating and catering on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Northern

At our invitation day at Bingley St Ives we had an excellent turn out. Thanks to Joe Baxter and his gang for turning the

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course out so well. Also many thanks to John Walker, of Ritefeed (UK) Ltd, for putting up full sponsorship of the prizes, many comments were made on the high standard of prizes on show. The results for the days better ball competition were as follows: 1. Alan Baxter & Mary Welch; 2. Peter Thompson & David Brook; 3. Tony Gerrard & G Gerrard; 4. Steve Midgley & P Hancock; 5. Colin Garnett & D Croll; 6. Alan Dyson & C Bottomley; 7. Dave Collins & W Murgatroyd; 8. Robin Smith & J Peacock.

Many thanks to Mel Guy, Dennis Cockburn and the rest of the committee for their help on the day. Thanks also to the trade lads for bringing raffle prizes along.

On behalf of the Northern section I would like to welcome Mr Melvin Guy, of Greentech, on being newly elected as the section's President. I am sure Mel will continue to serve the section well and carry on his hard work and effort for the section.

Dates for your diary: Winter Golf - Selby GC, December 11, '96. Limited places book early. Annual Dinner - Wetherby GC, March 15, '97.

Any member wishing to volunteer for helping out at the BTME on the 22nd - 24th January 22-24, '97 please contact myself at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA. Tel: 01484 519829.

Finally I would like to congratulate Phil Batsey, from South Bradford GC, on recently getting married to Amanda in Gretna Green. Simon Heppenstall

Sheffield

In September three of our members played in the Hayter Final at Fairhaven GC, they were Allan Allsop, Colin Hopper and Paul Neve.

Paul Neve did very well by coming second in his handicap division and he came second in the overall competition. Well done Paul!

All three of them were members of a winning team as the Northern Region team won the regional team prize, well done lads!!

Also in September Derek McJannet played in the Hayter International Cup at West Lincs GC. Derek halved his four ball match and won his singles match, but the team just got beaten by the Americas. Well done Derek.

Our congratulations also go to David Milbourne who was recently elected to the BIGGA Board of Management.

Our Christmas competition will be held at Wortley GC on November 27. Please return entry forms early! Thank you.

Our next lecture is on December 12 at Rotherham GC at 2.30 pm and will be

given by Mr C. Peel from ADAS. J.V. Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's autumn Golf Tournament was held at Ramsdale Park on September 12, with a turnout of 35 members (which was surprisingly less than normal). Despite difficult windy conditions some excellent golf was played with the category winners as follows.

Category 1: 1. P. Forshaw, Ramsdale Pk, 77 - 6 -71; 2. P. Billings, Cotgrave Place, 82 - 7 -74; 3. P. Tatlow, Kedleston Pk, 80 - 6 - 74. Category 2. 1. I. Needham, Beedles Lake, 86 - 14 - 72; 2. T. Foster, Cotgrave Place, 89 - 16 - 73; 3. M. Smith, Ramsdale Pk, 91 - 17 - 74. Category 3. 1. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91 - 21 - 70; 2. C. Bates, Willesley Pk, 106 - 28 - 78; 3. T. Allard, Charnwood, 119 - 28 - 91. Trade and Association. 1. G. Thurman, Charnwood, 81 - 8 -73. Nearest the pin: D. James, Scarptoft. Longest Drive: R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe.

The highlight of the day was seeing our Chairman chasing his scorecard across the 12th Fairway and only just retrieving it before it blew out of the bounds.

Our section would like to thank the Centre Manager of Ramsdale Park, Brian Jenkinson, for allowing us courtesy of their course and also to Course Manager, Martin Smith, and his staff, for preparing such a fine course.

A special thanks should go once again to our sponsors Charnwood and Highmeres

Lawnmower Services for supplying us with such a grand prize table. Also I would like to thank all the committee members for their help on the day, especially to Gavin Robson who, despite being unable to play, was willing to make the long journey to be starter for the day.

Congratulations to Steven Heap, of Rothley GC, for winning this year's Hayter National Final at Fairhaven GC with a nett score of 74.

Two dates for next year's diary Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier May 1, Cosby GC; September 3, Autumn Tournament, Chevin GC. Thanks again to both golf clubs for allowing us to stage tournaments.

Finally I would like to wish both Robert Coulter and Mark Huthwaite of Ramsdale Park speedy recoveries after their recent car accidents.

Antony Bindley

East of England

The East of England Section took home the Chandlers Challenge Cup when they defeated the East Midlands Club Secretaries at Blankney GC.

It was the first win by the triumphant greenkeepers, having narrowly lost on the last green last year.

The result was 51/2 -21/2, but the secretaries got their own back by winning every ticket in the raffle.

Thanks to Jim Carr for sponsoring the

event and supplying the raffle prizes.

Greenkeeper names only:

Mick Wood and Alan Buckley, lost 2/1; John Henson and Barry Anderson won 4/3

Charlie Macdonald and George Venables lost 1 down; Peter Down and Peter Fell, won 5/4; Josh White and Jim Burkett, won 1 up; David Welberry and Les Purdy, won 4/3; Graeme Macdonald and John Scotney won 3/2; Phil Wilkinson and Ted Lake, halved.

The Lambs Lawnmowers Cup was won by Barry Anderson, of Toft GC, with 37 points. He was a very late entry, only hours before the competition started, but his impressive points tally was four ahead of Charlie Macdonald on 33 points. Third was Allan Buckley, Peter Fell and George Venables all on 32 points.

It was a pity our main sponsor Robin Lamb could not take part as he was on holiday in Egypt, but thanks for donating some prizes. The other sponsors were Fieldcare, Aitkens, Collier Turfcare, Banks Topdressing, Purdy's and Chandlers. Thanks to them all for making it a super day.

The day was held over one of my favourite courses - Luffenham Heath. This must be one of the most natural courses in the country and manicured to a superb quality by Head Greenkeeper, Dick Fogg, and his staff. The course winds gradually uphill through testing individual holes lined by Hawthorne, Gorse and Heather and you finish with a superb par three - one of the most picturesque views in Rutland. This hole was our nearest pin sponsored by Rhone Poulenc and won by Michael Wood.

My last thanks go to the Secretary, Ian Davenport and Luffenham Heath GC, for extending us courtesy for the day and providing a super meal and wine.

The Hayter National Finals at Fairhaven saw John Henson and Graeme Macdonald represent the Midland Team. Graeme fared well in testing conditions and picked up best gross overall -all four and fives, keeping six off his card - and second nett in Category one and the Midland Team finished second. Fairhaven

GC was in great condition with the fastest greens I have played on this year. The course played exceptionally long off the back tees and to cap it off the wind was blowing a gale over the 6883 yards course.

Many thanks to Kim Macfie and Hayter for making our stay and the tournament a memorable occasion and such a success.

Please ring 01733 260297 if you have anything that may be of interest to your fellow greenkeepers.

Graeme MacDonald

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Well it had to happen some time, a golf day that was over subscribed. We originally booked our Autumn Golf Tournament for a maximum of 40 people with strong reservations about hitting the magic number. Although we were cutting it fine when sending out the entry forms

(the phone never stopped ringing) Almost as soon as they were posted they were returning through my letter box to the point that I had to disappoint one or two people who left it late. The final total squeezed in was 50. Thanks to Studley Wood for allowing the extra players to participate.

The weather forecast for the day was a bit dodgy (me without waterproofs again) But thankfully it turned out fine. It had to be said the standard of golf was outstanding, with the adjudicators requiring calculators to add up the Stableford points. Results: 1. D. Schillaci & M. Jones (47am & 43pm = 90 pts); 2. T. Hookham & T. Strange (48am & 41pm = 89pts); 3. J. Scoones & I. Scoones (50am & 38pm = 88pts)

NOTE: I think its about time we appointed a handicap secretary. Any volunteers phone me.

Wooden Spoon: P. Gethin & M. Gethin 59pts

Many thanks to Studley Wood for their hospitality on the day. Congratulations to Ian and his staff for preparing the golf course, all comments from those who played were that the greens were superb. I certainly holed a few putts. Thanks to all the trade support as usual especially Richard Haynes, Avoncrop, for taking charge of the scorecards and Steve Denton, Patissons, for breaking into my partner's car to retrieve his keys! Definitely a sign of misspent youth.

The Rigby Taylor Final is between T. French & G. Wheeler and P. Critchley and J. Thorne. Good luck to both. Next golf day is the Turkey Trot & AGM to be held at Calcot Park GC (Reading) on Thursday, November 28. Entry forms will be arriving through your letterbox soon.

Lindsay T. Anderson

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child
Tel: 01803 844056

South West and South Wales Region

The Region's Seminar, in partnership with Rhone Poulenc, at Cannington College on November 27 will include talks by Paul Clifton of Rhone Poulenc, Bill Lawson, George Brown, Gordon Irvine, an HND student and the BIGGA Roadshow. Among the topics are the 50s and the year 2000.

Among those we would like to congratulate this month are Ivor Scoones, Long Ashton Golf Club, who represented the Region in the Kubota Challenge at The Belfry last month; Paul Jenkins, Lilley Brook GC, who won the Regional nomination for the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper. We wish him luck in the National Final and we express our thanks to all those who took part in a very close contest; the students who won the college nominations in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and we wish the eventual winner from the Region good luck in his achievements. Finally staying with education we would like to thank all those who have achieved their D32 and D33 NVQ Asses-

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sor certificates on recent courses.

Hayter Challenge Report – When the Region's team of nine travelled to Blackpool for the Final at Fairhaven GC our success on the course was limited with the exception of Phil Wentworth who did us proud by winning first prize in Category 2 and Bob Walker (Rock on Tommy) who somehow won the longest drive. The trip was excellent full of good food and enjoyable things. I did thank them all for their support and acting as fine ambassadors for the Region.

BTME Special Express January 21-24 1997 – Once booked you will be hooked on going to the main greenkeeper event. Take advantage of our bargain offer, and don't forget those fortunate enough to win the £100 voucher draw can use these towards payment to the Region's Special Express. You can ring for a reservation now. Don't leave it too long as bookings are well on the way at only £125 for members. Please don't forget that your other half is very welcome at £100. Give her a break! The banquet entertainer is Bobby Davro supported by Laine Kennedy and tickets are £28 each.

Westurf at Long Ashton Golf Club on April 30, '97 – Looking ahead to 1997 any ideas or comments for improving this already popular event will be most welcome. Further details will be available at a later date.

The Hayter Challenge Regional Final will be at Burnham & Berrow GC on June 11, '97.

Into the distant future the BIGGA National Tournament for 1999 falls to the Region to host and we are pleased to announce that his will be held at Royal North Devon GC, Westward Ho! on August 1-3, 1999, the oldest links course in England.

Marion Child

South Coast

Our Christmas Turkey Trot will once again be held at Royal Winchester GC on December 2. This will be followed by our AGM – by the way the AGM is not December 3 as stated in the section programme. On completion of the AGM there is the Christmas dinner and prize giving. All members wishing to play should send their handicaps and a fee of £15 to Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road Arelsford, Hants SO24 9LD Tel: 01722 330277 to be received no later than three weeks before the AGM.

A last reminder for the Regional Seminar at Cannington College on November 27 for those of you who have not booked in contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056. Please make a big effort to attend as some very good speakers have been arranged for you.

On September 12 the South Coast Greenkeepers played the Secretaries at

Lee on Solent Golf Course the result 4-2 to the Greenkeepers well done lads and a good time was had by all. The day's events were well organised and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves, so much so that it is hoped that this will become an annual event, in fact Mark is already making arrangements for next year – possible venue Arelsford Golf Course. A trophy was supplied by Course Care who we thank for their generosity. I am told the course and especially the greens were in excellent condition – well done Steve and staff. A big thank you to the catering staff who provided a superb meal and last but not least, the Captain, Committee and Members for making everybody so welcome, their hospitality was second to none.

Arrangements are at present going ahead in organising our Section Seminar at Sparsholt College on February 18, 1997. The cost will be £15 for members and £20 for non members; this includes lunch. One speaker has confirmed, that is Scott MacCallum, our Editor. Last year speakers were of a very high calibre this time we hope to give you even better value for money. Up to now we have four sponsors Huxleys Grass Machinery, Its, Gem and Driving Force Leisure. These companies will be showing off their products, more details will be published when known.

Lastly, I have one more name to our list of assessors that is Simon Pickett, the Course Manager at Blacknest GC, this is North Hampshire. Anyone wishing to be assessed for their NVQ's or has any queries you should contact Simon, who I am sure, will be only too pleased to help you. While on the subject of NVQ's all our assessors in the section tell me their telephones have been quiet. All the assessors in our section are qualified to examine you on various stages of your NVQ's – make use of them and contact them. NVQ's are our recognised qualifications – they are what our employers will be looking for on our CV's when seeking new positions.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

Over the summer months the Section conducted a survey on aspects of working conditions and BIGGA. I'm pleased to inform you that the survey has now been completed and results will be available at all our sections meetings this winter. On behalf of your section committee I would like to thank all of you who spent a few minutes to complete and return the survey.

Our last summer meeting was held at St Mellion International on Wednesday September 18. Course Manager, Robert Brewer, gave members present a detailed guided walk around the Nicklaus course and his maintenance compound which has seen a few changes over the last year. Our thanks to Robert and his staff for the excellent evening. Also, I would like to thank Steve Evans for his organisation of our summer meetings.

Once again Christmas is approaching fast and with it our Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton GC on

Wednesday, December 11. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with the correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members competing in greensome format for the P. J. Flegg Trophy with non golfers having a guided walk of the course with Head Greenkeeper Richard Wisdom. Lunch will be followed by our afternoon cabaret and the day will conclude with raffles.

The Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 27 by now you should have all received details of the seminar programme if you haven't and would like to book your place or wish to know more about the programme please contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056.

Places on the Region's package to BTME 97 which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show & Seminars are going fast. To avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible.

Richard Whyman

South West

With the busy season now over more time can be devoted to education with the report this month containing three reminders for education at National and Section level.

The yearly educational seminar at Cannington College takes place on November 27. Many members will have received application forms for the day but if you still wish to register then please contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056.

Forms for BTME 1997 have now been distributed to all Head and Deputy Head Greenkeepers in the Section with the intention that they inform their staff of the event. If you do not have access to one of these forms then please once again speak to Gordon or Marion Child on the above number to reserve a place on the coach. The cost for members is £125 for three nights bed and breakfast in York which includes entry to all seminars and the exhibition. The cost of the banquet ticket which is optional is an extra £28.

As always educational courses at section level are available with some being arranged at present to cover PA1, PA2 First Aid etc.

The Hayter Final took place at Fairhaven GC on September 18 and although there were no outright winners for the South West Section everyone who participated enjoyed the event. Thanks once again to Hayter for their continued sponsorship.

This year's AGM at Bristol & Clifton GC takes place on the November 14 with Rigby Taylor sponsoring the day. A morning round of golf will be followed by a short talk from a guest speaker before completing the day with the section AGM. There will be vacancies on the section committee so any of you who feel

you could contribute some time to running the section please ensure that you attend.

Finally the Christmas Tournament takes place this year at Worlebury GC on December 12. Please find time to attend this popular seasonal event.

Kevin Green

South Wales

Our recent annual match versus the Golf Club Secretaries took place over the Southerndown golf course near Bridgend, the weather was superb the course could not have been better, altogether an excellent day!

A good equal attendance this year of 8 teams a piece resulted in a 4 1/2 to 3 1/2 win for the secretaries.

Results: Gerwyn Price/Ceri Jones v P. Plumb/R. Bennett Lost 3/2; Andy Roach/Malcolm Davies v D. Peak/D. Roderick Won 2/1; David Gladwin/Daryl Bray v J. Graham/G. Rees Halved; David Jenkins/Mike Norfolk v B. Player/H. Edmond Won by 1hole; John Phillips/Alan Richards v V. Davies/ D. Lloyd Lost; Herbie Probert/ Peter Edwards v K. Thomas/E. Evans Lost; P. Lacey/G. Johnstone v J. Whitaker/B. Jones Won by 2 holes

My sincere thanks to everyone for making the effort to turn up and ensure that this annual event is such an enjoyable and keenly fought competition. My thanks also to Fred Crossman for his organisation of this fixture, it was so good to see Fred in attendance despite his recent misfortunes of health and in such good spirit. Lastly I would like to thank everyone at the Southerndown GC for their part in ensuring that an enjoyable day was had by all. Gary Johnstone and his green staff for the course, Ann Fletcher for the feast, Jim Graham and the Executive Committee of Southerndown for their courtesy.

Peter Gee, 36, is the new Course Manager of Langland Bay GC, near Swansea. Peter, a Kent man, comes to Langland having been previously at the Ridge GC, Maidstone. We wish him well in his new position.

Double celebrations in the home of Mr and Mrs Chris Solman at present, firstly on the news that Chris has been appointed the new Head Greenkeeper of the Cardiff GC and secondly on the arrival of his new baby daughter 6lb 5oz Emily Jane. Well Done!

On Thursday, September 12, the Pontardawe GC played host to our Autumn Competition and Jacobsen Cup.

The day was sponsored by Keith Morgan Mowers of Usk. Our sincere thanks to Keith for his continued support. Again the weather was glorious and the course was in superb condition. A credit to Jamie Probert and his staff. 21 Golfers took to the course.

Results: Jacobsen Cup – Nett 67 – Alan Critchton – Kington GC; Waycott Cup – Nett 67 – Richard Patterson – Cradoc GC; Presidents Cup – Andrew Roach – 70 – Haverfordwest GC.

Our thanks to all at the Pontardawe GC for their hospitality and course courtesy, to John and Ben Morgan for the presentations.

Around the Green



At the Orangery, Margam Park, near Swansea, recently, Celtic Mowers/ Kubota held an open day.

The agenda was a presentation/slide demonstrations of the new Kubota range machinery, including the superb range of compact tractors and an explanation / insight into what Celtic mowers have to offer – machinery hire, sales, repairs, as well as a full range of turf maintenance products ie fertilisers, seed, tools, etc. Then practical demonstrations of the presented machinery followed by a buffet lunch, including the Grandell range ST 30 and super b 2400.

An excellent event made all the more so by the fact that I won first prize in the raffle draw, a ghetto blaster! The only downside being the RSVP's were made by some 75 or so people and only 40 or so turned up! Thanks to Kim Davies, of Celtic Mowers, and Colin Hennah of Kubota for their sterling work, Well done!

Amenity Land Services recently held a seminar day at Usk. The day being primarily to promote a new range of Organic turf fertilisers and soil conditioners.

An excellent presentation and explanation of soil science and the reactions of organics was made by Belgium Agronomist and soil specialist Frans Pauwels.

This was followed by an explanation of each product and its function/benefit to the soil. This presentation was given also by a Belgian, soil specialist, Dirk Creve.

An excellent informative day that was well supported with over 40 people in attendance from as far afield as Worcester and Haverfordwest.

Many thanks to all at Amenity Land Services Limited but especially, John Reynolds for their hospitality.

Finally we would like to congratulate Course Manager, Mark Proctor and his staff at the Marriott St. Pierre Hotel Golf and Country Club, for the success of the recent Solheim Cup.

Both courses have recently undergone many changes and improvements including larger reservoirs, refurbishing of the 11 acre lake, overlooking the 17th and 18th holes and a completely new irrigation system which has been extended to include both aprons and fairways.

The course seen by millions of viewers recently certainly looked the part. Superb in fact, well done!

Peter Lacey

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

September has been quite an eventful month as far as golfing events are con-

cerned. First, the inter country charity event which was organised by C. J. Collins Construction Ltd was not only a very enjoyable but also a hugely successful day C. J. Collins managed to raise in the region of £1400 to be donated to St Catherine Hospice. The man who takes the credit for this most successful event is Barry Pace, from Collins, who organised teams of 10 players from Kent, Surrey and Sussex to compete for the inter country charity trophy of which I am proud to say as captain of the Surrey team this year we returned victors by 12 clear points from the opposition which goes to prove which section has the best golfers. Extra thanks go to Birch Grove House Golf Course which was built by Collins and proved to be a real hard test of golf. Thanks to Course Manager, John Hills, for his extra efforts for the day.

The Huxley bowl came to a close with Epsom Golf Club's David Jones and Mark Harvey beating myself and Roger Glazier 5&4 over 36 holes. Well done to the both of you.

The Rigby Taylor Autumn Tournament was held this year at the Effingham GC. Thanks firstly to Effingham for allowing us to hold the event at the club, and also to Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship and to Sendmarsh Tractors for their co-sponsorship thanks to both of you for your generosity not forgetting Peter Broadbent and his staff for turning the course out in such great shape the course is a real credit to you all.

Results: 1. Kevin Boxall 56pts; 2. John Mathis 55pts on court back; 3. Dougie Fernie 55pts; Nearest the pin am Mike Wells, pm Steve Johnson. Longest Drive Terry Edwards

Forthcoming events include the first winter lecture which is to be held at Kingswood GC on Nov 20. The lecture will be given by Liquid Sod on the subject of nutrition amongst other things please try and support the evening 7 - 7.30pm. Dress smart and casual.

The turkey trot on December 3 at Guildford GC this also includes the AGM.

David Gibbs

East Anglia

This was the last golf meeting of the season. So on the Wednesday, October 9, 40 of us gathered at Stapleford Abbots GC in the heart of Essex to do battle. Our thanks to Phil Newman for letting us use the course. The captain Ken Taylor for presenting the prizes, Martin for the course being in such good nick, John the Chef and his staff, especially, Joe.

Special thanks to Rigby Taylor and Tuckwells for sponsoring the event. Thanks Mark and Neil.

On with the prize winners:

Cat 1. 1. Alan Carter, 41 pts; 2. Andy Sheeham, 39 pts; 3. Richard Pride, 38 pts. Cat 2. 1. Tim Russell, 44 pts; 2. Ian Willett, 43 pts; 3. Sam Sylvester, 38 pts. Cat 3. 1. Keith Tittshall, 40 pts; 2. Wayne Chapman, 35 pts; 3. Todd Huddleston 34 pts. Guest Prize sponsored by Bourne Amenity. N. Howard, 39pts,

Longest Drive sponsored by Turf Actant and Oliver Seeds, Greg McHugh. Nearest Pin – 2nd sponsored by Scotts Company. Nearest Pin – 3rd sponsored by Barenbrug – Ian Willett. Nearest Pin – 4th sponsored by Fen Turf Dressing – Morris Smith.

Thanks to: Green Keeping Supply Company, Parker Hart, Grass Hopper, Kings, Colliers Turf Company, Avoncrop for the raffle prizes.

Thanks to Michael Virley for checking the cards and Ian Willett once again for selling all those raffle tickets. Good luck with the new job Ian.

A seminar was held at Writtle College on September 24 where 33 greenkeepers and trade gathered to listen to Ian Fear, of Atterton and Ellis, talking about the benefits of golf clubs having their own grinding machines, and with some good slides he made it very interesting.

The other speaker was Ivan Miller, of John Deere, talking about servicing machinery. He also had some good slides about the company.

The meeting closed about 10.30 and we retired to the bar for our raffle.

Thanks to: Dennis Smith, of Parker Hart; Clive Pearson, of Gem Professional, Graham Paul, of King's Horticulture and Colin White, of Avoncrop, for the prizes

That's about it for this time. Just to say I hope we can arrange an annual match between Essex and East Anglia in the future.

Don't forget the AGM at Aldburgh.

See you all there.

David Wells

Kent

First of all, apologies for missing last month's magazine. Believe it or not I have been very busy.

Our last tournament was held at Knole Park in Sevenoaks. On a sunny day at a very picturesque golf course a good day was had by all. Our thanks must go to Mr. Hoppe, the Secretary, for arranging courtesy of the course and to the caterers for a fine meal. However, the two biggest thank you's should go to Andy Arthur and his staff for presenting a fine course and to Bernard Diddams and Rigby Taylor for superb prizes again.

The winners were as follows: Overall Winner, N. Gillham; Best Gross, J. Bean; 2. Gross – D. Kelso; 2. Nett – M. Arthur; 3. Nett. C. Latham; Longest Drive. J. Askew; Nearest Pin. N. Pullen.

Details of our next tournament including results will appear next month.

Our best wishes go to Callum Arthur who has left Knole Park to go back to Scotland.

Your Committee are considering starting a foursomes knock-out for 1997. Please let me know if you are interested. We also have an opportunity to visit the Ransomes Factory at Ipswich. Again, let me know if interested.

Our next tournament is the turkey trot at Darenth Valley in December. Letters will be going out in November. Happy autumn maintenance.

Huw Morgan

