

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

Ayrshire

After the driest January on record we have now had the wettest, windiest February on record. This must have had some effect on the communication links in our Section as no news has come to hand. We shall take it that no news is good news and everything in the area is going to plan and we can all look forward to a good start to the season ahead.

I am looking forward to meeting everybody at the Spring Outing on April 22 at the Wigtownshire County GC.

Derek Wilson



appear that the problems of last year may soon be resolved.

A challenge football match against the West Section was played in March (at the time of writing it has not been played so I can't give you the score!). It is hoped to arrange a return match and eventually an Inter Section Tournament so if you are interested just fill in the appropriate form and we will take it from there.

I have a complete list of what is available from the BIGGA Library so if anyone is interested in borrowing books or videos just get in touch and I will send you the list with the relevant forms.

John Crawford

West

Spring is upon us and courses are busy putting final touches to their season preparations and clearing up the winter work. Spring hasn't really been too good so far with high winds and plenty of rain, maybe next year we'll get a good start...

The Conservation Day was held at Kirkehill and East Renfrewshire GCs. There was a good turn out with various views expressed, differing ideas and new concepts and hopefully more and more clubs will look to the future and adopt some of these ideas. Our thanks go to Gordon for the day and also to Jonathan Smith for his interesting outlook.

The Game's Night arranged for February 27 saw 26 participants with a few late arrivals (no names mentioned!). Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves with the eventual winners on 80 points being John Scott and Robert Hogarth, pipping myself and John Scott Snr! Thanks once again to John Scott Snr for organising the pies and the facilities. Please convey our thanks to Claremont Bowling Club for accommodating us.

Remember to put your entry for the Spring Outing in quickly as numbers will be limited. Next month's issue will include the Perth Conference, the football match and the Loch Lomond Day so look out!

J S Taylor

North

The Scottish Region Conference

in Perth was a great success with a large turnout of delegates especially North members I am pleased to report. The morning and afternoon sessions were ably chaired by North men Alisdair McLaren and Sam Morrison, the latter having not quite recovered from his son's wedding reception a couple of days earlier. A vote of thanks to all who helped to organise the day. Just one request for next year, could the weather be bad on the day in 1998 as for the second year running the weather was lovely, dry and sunny, leaving a lot of greenkeepers sitting in the hotel and cursing missing the best day's weather for quite a while. Indeed as I write this the following day it is pouring with rain again here in Tain. It was good to see the BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy present and also James and Janet from Headquarters.

Congratulations to Neil Ballingall on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Moray GC, Lossiemouth. Welcome to the Section, we look forward to seeing you at outings etc if possible. Congratulations also to Richard Atkin Jnr on his recent marriage down in Hull.

Section Secretary Dougal Duguid is wondering if anyone has a spare kidney as he is experiencing problems with his, seriously we wish Dougal a speedy recovery from his problems.

Two reminders for members, firstly have you sent back your 200 Club money yet, time is running out as the first draw is next month at Duff House Royal. Secondly, but not quite so urgent, BIGGA are running management courses again this Autumn, probably at Falkirk, and I know they were not full up in Scotland last year. This is ridiculous when you consider the cost is only £50 as the remaining £150 per delegate is paid from the Golden/Silver Key Fund. Clubs should be more willing to send staff on these two day courses as they are so heavily subsidised so get working on your Committee now, I am sure you will both benefit.

Finally I have received a letter from a young man in Canada who after seven years experience in greenkeeping in Canada and USA is looking for a job in Scotland. Unfortunately we are not

currently looking for staff here at Tain, but I thought that maybe someone out there in Scotland might have a place for him. His CV makes good reading, he even has a degree in turf management. Anyone interested in finding out more about Mark Obee can contact me on 01862 894402 and I can send you his CV.

Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

North West

The vacancy of the North West Section Presidency that occurred through the retirement of Arthur Harrison has been accepted by John Walker, Director of Rite-feed. The North West Section Committee voted unanimously to offer John the opportunity to become President of the Section because of his genuine efforts in trying to better the cause/efforts of the greenkeeper. I was delighted that John accepted and know that we will see him at many of the Section events.

Some good news, North West Water assures us that the reservoirs are full and that this year there will be no water restrictions. I only hope we don't have a cold spring again giving a late growth on bent and fescue greens.

You will all see from your fixture lists that we have a full year of golf tournaments with the roses match and the stewards match requiring teams of 16. The Spring Tournament which is the Hayter Qualifier is on May 1 and you will need to register with Bill Merritt, 255 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L49 9RB enclosing £15 made payable to BIGGA N/W no later than Thursday April 24. Soup and sandwiches will be available from 12 noon to 1pm with tee off from 1.30pm.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On February 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Michael Palmer, from Supaturf, who gave a very interesting talk on water management which was thoroughly enjoyed by a good number of our members.



If there is anyone interested in taking a First Aid Course would they please contact Ron Ullathorne on 04105 765322. The course will be filled on a first come first served basis as there will be only 12 places available.

If anybody has got a trophy from a 1995-96 golf competition please return it to Barry Heaney for insurance valuation.

Golf dates: Annual Tournament - July 7, Silkstone GC at 10am; Autumn Tournament - September 22, Sickleholme GC at 1.30pm; Christmas Tournament - November 24, Rotherham GC. Ron Ullathorne

North East

Slaley Hall are having a busy winter extending the 8th and 13th holes in readiness for the European Tour event in July. Work has restarted on the new 18 hole championship course designed by Neil Coles and Associates and just another reminder that they are looking for volunteers again this year.

Tony McLure, Course Manager at Whickham GC, informs me that they are opening their new 8 acre practice area shortly. Paul Moore, from Lindum Turf, has just gained a valuable order from Tony for supplying turf on two new tees there.

Derek Cruddass, of Garesfield GC, informs me that they have now changed all their bunker sand to the white Levenseat monosand. Two of his staff are to be congratulated. Firstly, Gary Needham on gaining his Phase 4 and having the letters LCGI after his name and, secondly, it just shows you that you are never too late to go to college as Alan Harrison, aged 48, is studying for Phase 2. Well done to both of you.

Glen Barker, of South Shields GC, is obviously getting the course ready for the Spring Competition in April as they are having a new irrigation system installed by Par 4. Apparently David Jennings, of Morpeth GC, has moved further afield by going to Australia!

Hopefully in December this year we are having a competition at some course which will coincide with the Christmas dinner followed by an AGM and prize giving. The chosen course will be announced at a later date. Another idea we are thinking about is a knock-out, based on a pairs format. Members should have a club handicap and the entry fee will be approximately £10 per couple. The details will be announced later.

New members to the Section are as follows: Kevin Mould - Whickham GC; Andrew Tolly -

Beamish Park GC, David Neil - Consett GC.

New members elected on to the Committee are A McLure, D Cuthbertson and D Cruddass. Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

I am sorry to report that Bill Burt, the SISIS retired rep, died in January aged 80 years old. Bill was a perfect gentleman. He was our first President from 1979 for five years and was a regular attendee at events and loved to go to exhibitions to meet old friends. Our sincere condolences go to Elizabeth, Martin and Richard Burt.

Our February meeting was on trees and was presented by John Nicholson, from Eamon Wall of Durham. He advised on checking your local area to see which trees grow well there. He told us not to plant trees in straight lines, use kerb or glyphosate to treat one square metre around the base of the trees and plant small trees for the best results. He can also advise on grants available for golf clubs wishing to plant and can help with plans for copes of trees. John then introduced Peter Facey from Ouston, Chester-le-Street, who grows trees from seed on his tree nursery.

First Aid Courses are available regularly at St Johns Ambulance Cleveland Headquarters, 236 Marton Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, telephone 01642 218131. A 4-day course costs £120 and includes a free 1-day top up after 18 months to comply with growing changes in treatments. All my staff are now qualified, are yours?

Chris Fiddell is back at work one year after his serious motor cycle accident. We wish you well Chris.

The Spring Tournament is to be held at Bedale GC on Thursday May 8 at 9.30 am.

New member Mark Aspden, from Northallerton, has successfully completed his Diploma in turf science and will be learning his trade from the Americas as he will be travelling to Shoal Creek GC in Alabama to work. Bruce Burnell

North Wales

A bit of news, contrary to my report in last month's issue of this magazine the entrance fee for members wishing to play in our golf competitions this year will be £11. This is due to the fact that the Section will be receiving our subscription refund for this year after all.

By now you should have received your entry forms for our Spring tournament at Frodsham,

please ensure that you return them to Terry Evans by the closing date of Sunday April 13. Our teeing times are between 0900 and 1300hrs and it is expected that "locals" will take the earlier times, leaving the later starting times for those that have further to travel.

Please note that all trade representatives that are not playing golf but who wish to attend our tournaments are requested to contact Terry Evans on 01352-720692.

It is provisionally hoped that our Autumn tournament will be at Abersoch GC on 8 October.

Finally, a welcome to two new members, Gareth Wyn Jones, from Henllys Hall GC, at Beaumaris, and Paul Drennan, of Maesdu GC. Gareth is our 14th member with the surname of Jones which represents exactly 10 per cent of our Section membership - can any other Section better this?

Trevor Johnston.

Northern

Our annual dinner dance was held at Bradford GC and what a superb evening it was. The food was excellent. Thank you to all the staff at the club for their hospitality and making it a very enjoyable event.

A total of 113 people attended the dinner, which I believe is the best turnout to date. Many thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy for their help in arranging the function and to everyone who contributed towards the raffle prizes. Plenty of effort went into the organising but I'm certain all who attended will agree it was worthwhile.

May I thank Pat Murphy, our National Chairman, and his wife for attending in a year which I'm sure is exceptionally hectic. Thanks are extended also to Ian Holoran and his wife and Bob and Sara Lupton for coming. Sara always puts a smile on the face of a certain small stout rep's face! I wonder who that could be?

An excellent event and I hope we have as much support from greenkeepers, trade and friends at future dinner dances. Finally thanks to you all for your support to the Section.

Spaces are rapidly decreasing for the Hayter qualifier at Wakefield GC. Some people will be disappointed for not booking earlier.

I hear down the grapevine that things are happening out there in the Section, but unfortunately nobody gets in touch so that I can put it into the magazine. Please let me know of retirements, promotions, change of

club etc so that I can let everyone know.

My numbers are Home 01484 519829 (answer machine); Work 01977 690117 (12-1pm) and Mobile 0585 268136. Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01480 437507

East of England



The Section's winter education seminar seems to go from strength to strength. The turnout was excellent for our small area nearly half our membership. The informative talks were from John Hacker on soil sampling, Jay Dobson on thatch and a talk on Ecology and Conservation from Mike Schofield.

The afternoon session was a tour of the course with Mike Schofield assessing the conservation and ecology at Kenwick Park GC.

Many thanks to Ian Morton of Kenwick for providing the venue and helping to organise the successful event.

A warm welcome to new members of the Section: Philip Oldman, Newark; Colin Hutchcraft, Oasby; Graham Millard, Lawnmower Services; James Cuthbert, Boston, Craig Knight, Gedney Hill and Mathew Francis, Oundle. Retirement Members, Fred Cobb and George Knowles.

Dates for your diary:

April 9, Thorney Lakes GC, PGM Cup; May 1, Holme Hall GC, Rigby Taylor/Hayter Qualifier; June 17, Rutland County GC, Purdy's Cup and July 24, Boston GC, Lambs Cup.

People on the move. Phil Belton, Ramsey GC to St Neots GC and Kevin Hodges, Northshore to Cambridge Lakes.

If you have any news, ideas etc please telephone 01733 260297. Graeme Macdonald

Midland

I would like to start by informing you of two members making moves to new golf clubs, the first being Michael Green who has left his position at Evesham GC. Congratulations! The second being myself, I have now moved to be Course Manager at Ross-on-Wye GC from my position at Enviu, so the future for both of us is a busy one.

By the time you read this report all of you who intend playing in the Spring competition should have sent your applications along with those intending playing in the singles or doubles knock out.

There has been a steady return of people who are interested in the trips to championship

courses, I will contact those people involved.

Toro, along with Alexanders, are holding an Open Day and demonstration at Perton GC on June 11. This will start at 9am and there are also a limited number of places to play golf so the first to apply will take priority. This should be a good chance to see all the new Toro range.

I would like to welcome our new members to the section – Simon Ingham, Trevor Asken and Adrian Howells.
Jonathan Wood

East Midlands

By now all members should have received their entry forms for this year's Spring Tournament which will be held at Cosby GC, on Thursday May 1. Anyone who has not received a form can contact me on 0116 289 0301 and I will gladly forward a copy. Please remember that to enable you to play in this competition (which is also the qualifier for the Hayter Regional Final) you must have paid your yearly membership and your form must be returned to me before the closing date.

This month we welcome the following new members to our Section – Paul Norton, Longcliffe GC; Richard Saunt, Birstall GC; Lee Baines, Lingdale GC; Ross Wallace, Kettering GC; and Paul Roe, Tony Penty, Steven Wheelton and Andrew Baker, all of Kedleston GC.

Brooksbury College have arranged two lecture evenings and all members are welcome to attend these lectures. They include a talk from David Bibble on "Dealing with Stress" on Thursday April 17 and on Thursday April 24 the weather is the subject of Dave Mutton's talk. Both talks begin at 7.00 pm. For further details contact Paul Greene at the College.

The Betterball Stableford competition on March 5 at Lingdale GC was very poorly supported by members with only six teams tak-

Around the Green



ing part. Hopefully the next Tournament will attract a better turnout. Results will appear in next month's article.

Finally if any member has anything they would like to see in this report please do not hesitate to contact me.

Antony Bindley

Berks, Bucks and Oxon

Once again a new season beckons, I wonder what's in store for us all this year? As we enter Spring my thoughts go back to before I entered this profession when my only interest was to play golf. I used to look forward to the US Masters on the telly, the sight of that manicured playing surface was something to behold. Not anymore! This one tournament causes so much grief for many of us as we approach the start of another season. The sight of those lush fairways and fast true greens causes comments in many clubhouses to the effect of "How come our course is not to that standard?" Do we really have to explain?

Despite my comments I will still be glued to the television on the Sunday evening watching the drama unfold once again.

I mentioned in last month's article that we were putting together the Fixture Card. This has actually gone to print with all the dates and venues confirmed: Spring – Castle Royle; Summer – Badgemore; Autumn – Lambourne; Turkey Trot – Richings Park. As well as confirming the venues we have lined up sponsorship for the first two events and are in the process of tying up the remaining two.

We have appointed a Handicap Secretary for the coming season

so be warned, please leave the sombreros and guns at home!

As well as the golfing events we have been approached by a local company who wish to sponsor a family fun day in the summer. This will be a social event with food and drink, probably a barbeque on a Saturday or Sunday evening. Details of this event will be posted soon, in the meantime if you have any ideas about events you would like us to hold then contact myself or Ray Clark.

I have recently attended a Regional Board meeting at Northampton. If anybody wishes to glance over the minutes of this meeting then please contact me by telephone.

I look forward to seeing many new faces this coming season at the various events.

Lindsay Anderson

Mid-Anglia

Our first golf tournament of the year takes place on April 17 at Wellingborough GC. All entries should have been sent in by now. This will be a 36 hole event with one round counting as the qualifier for the Regional Final of the Hayter Tournament.

The Regional Final, should you qualify, will be held on Thursday June 26 at the Warwickshire GC.

There have been several new appointments at golf club's in the Section recently. Good luck to Phillip Belton, the new Course Manager at St Neots GC, and Neil Whittaker, who has moved from Woburn to Arkley. Also, Andrew Trainell takes over as First Assistant at St Neots.

The Lodgeway fourball will have been drawn by now and you should all know which league you are in. I know April and May are particularly busy times on our golf courses but please do not leave your matches to the last minute as this only causes problems with arranging times to play and can disrupt the final league tables.

Paul Lockett

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

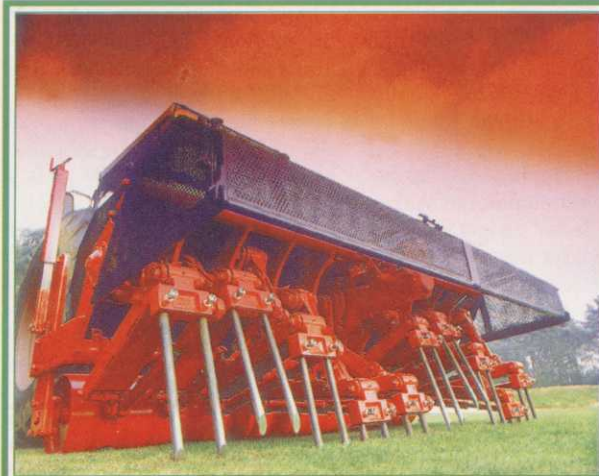


South East Region

The Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath is often beset with weather problems, in the past it has been known for players to tee-off in snow. This year however the weather was very kind to us, being very pleasant even if turning a little chilly towards the end of the day.

It is comforting to know that a Golf Club with the stature of Walton Heath can make Greenkeepers and their guests so welcome, with Administrative, Bar and Catering Staff doing all that they possibly could to make the day a success.

The course, as usual was in prime condition for which Clive Osgood and his team should be justifiably proud. The New Course however is not easy and this tough test of golf was reflected in the scores, with even scratch players struggling to achieve respectable scores. Of the 76 starters 13 managed to play to their handicaps or better. Nigel Stapley, Darenth Valley, and Graham Winckless, Secretary, Abridge Golf Club, each managed 40 points, a fine effort from both of them. The Trade, as ever, gave the event wonderful support both by taking part and contributing to the prize fund and some fine prizes were won by Members, Guests and Trade alike. Prize Winners were: 0-9 Handicap: Winner (and The Shulockie Putter) 1. Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor; 2. Mike Smith; 10-17 Handicap: 1. John Hill Birch Grove; 2. George Booker; 18-24 Handicap: 1. Nigel Stapley, Darenth Valley; 2. David Howells, Coombe Wood. Guests and Associates: 1. Graham Winckless, Abridge; 2. Mark Day, CMP Equip. Nearest the Pin. 2nd Bill Machin, Home Park; 6th, Huw Morgan, Wilderness, 10th John Vivers, Bentley.



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After an excellent meal enjoyed by all, the Membership were welcomed in a humorous speech by Michael Simmonds Captain of Walton Heath GC and then Joe Goodman, a "bandit" off 18 but a Comedian "Par excellence" entertained all present with his hilarious 45 minute act. The event although a great success was undersubscribed this year.

If you would like to attend next year, contact your Section Secretary to make sure that you get a chance to apply for tickets. Derek Farrington

Essex

First of all we would like to thank those who returned the questionnaire. It is vital in these early days to have your views on how you would like to see the Essex Section run.

We would also like to thank Kings Horticulture for sponsoring the questionnaire and especially Graham Paul for all his hard work he has put into the project.

Following our first golf day on April 22 at Chigwell GC, the next meeting will be held at Writtle College, Chelmsford. The date is Wednesday May 14 (note the change of our usual Tuesday night) starting at 7.30pm in the Main Building Room L60. The two lectures "The Life Circle of the Grass Plant" by Roger Levitt and Jeff Taylor of Johnsons Seed and "Fungicides Functions - All You Need to Know" by Andy Crawley.

See you all at the golf, lectures or both!
Dave Wells

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child
Tel: 01803 844056

South Coast

On Wednesday February 5 the



Section held its quiz night at Bramshaw GC. Unfortunately I was not able to make it but our Chairman informed me afterwards that it was quite successful with seven teams of four competing. It would be nice to see a few more attending next time with perhaps a few more ladies, and don't worry, the questions were on general knowledge, not greenkeeping! Congratulations to the winning team who were from High Post.

Our Regional/Section Seminar was held at Sparsholt College on Tuesday February 18 and was very well attended with around 100 delegates. The Education Committee once again has done us proud and arranged some very good speakers for us. Our first speaker was Duncan McGilvray who spoke on "Greenkeeping - A Developing Industry". Duncan discussed the titles Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager and illustrated this with some very good slides. The question of "working head greenkeeper" also came up, I'll leave you to think about that one! He then went on to talk about education and NVQs as Duncan is solely committed to educating greenkeepers.

Next we listened to an interesting presentation by Scott MacCallum, our Editor. He spoke about his past appointments in the golfing world which was very amusing and then talked about the magazine and what he had in mind for the future.

We then came to the first of our student presentations. Mike Cartwright from Salisbury and South Wilts GC gave us a talk on the environmental programme at his golf course. As soon as he had cracked his first joke there was no stopping him!

Our second student was Steve Privett from Hampworth GC. His talk was about the autumn/winter programme at his golf course and he also gave

his own views on the future of the industry.

Both students prepared themselves well and should be congratulated on their presentations.

After lunch John Le-Mar from Bio Lube spoke on "The Green Alternative". John's firm specialises in bio-degradable oils. These are to replace mineral oils that can do so much damage to a green when a hydraulic pipe bursts. He gave us a good insight into all his products and showed us how effective the cleaning agents were along with how water and oil separate.

Our final speaker was Joe Paulin who spoke about his club, The London GC. Joe has been there from the beginning and has two 18 hole courses. All the greens are a bent mix, hence at the peak of the summer there is a staff of 35. Joe illustrated his talk with some excellent slides. When he tells us that on one of the courses there are 179 bunkers you can see why he has such a large staff. The whole complex is a real eye opener. Joe is very keen for the Section to visit The London GC and if there is a large enough interest we will book a coach.

Please let your committee member know if you are interested and we will make the necessary arrangements.

At the end of the day our Chairman thanked the speakers for giving up their time and providing us with some very good papers. He also thanked Sparsholt College for allowing us the use of their facilities. Our thanks also go to the sponsors of the day: Huxleys Grass Machinery, Driving Force Leisure, Gem Professional, ISS Aquaturf Systems Ltd and Winchester Garden Machinery for their support. On a personal note I would like to thank all of you who attended. Without you the Seminar would not have

been the success that it was.

A final reminder for Westurf 97 to be held at Long Ashton GC on April 30. As I said in the March Report this will be Gordon and Marion Child's last Westurf so lets make a big effort and give them all the support we can. We are looking for a record attendance this year. There are new stands, a new layout, plenty of demonstrations and an improved PA system! Anyone who has any spare seats please let me know, likewise anyone who requires a lift please contact me on 01329 282362.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

April has arrived and at last those dark winter nights are starting to fade in our minds as our thoughts turn to presenting our courses in the best possible condition during the season ahead. What better way to help you achieve your goal than to visit Westurf on April 30 at Long Ashton GC, Bristol where you will be able to see all the latest products and technology at your local turf care show. On arrival just pick up and complete Westurf's short questionnaire and you could walk away with a travel voucher for £200. This will be Gordon and Marion's last show in charge so what better way to thank them for all their efforts over the years, then to all of you who attend the show to make the day unforgettable.

REMEMBER - APRIL 30 - LONG ASHTON GC, BRISTOL.

The Section's February meeting was held at Perranporth GC on Wednesday 26 on a cool and very windy day. Our golfing members played over the excellently presented links course for the Avoncrop Trophy. The playing conditions got a lot tougher when the hail showers arrived early on in the day. As usual our non-golfing members had a

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

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

guided tour of the course and the club's new greenkeeping complex by the host Head Greenkeeper and Section Chairman Bill Mitchell.

After a superb lunch our President John Palfrey presented the Avoncrop Trophy and prizes on behalf of Avoncrop Amenity: 1. Gordon Tamblin (Mullion GC), level; 2. Michael Child (Saunton GC), -4; 3. Gary Hargrave (Sidmouth GC), -5. Congratulations to all the prize winners especially Gordon who returned a superb level round in such difficult conditions.

It felt just like one of those Monday mornings regarding our afternoon speaker as our original speaker was taken ill just 24 hours before the meeting so we decided to use the new BIGGA ecology video as back up but to our horror the video machine didn't work either. So we approached Gordon Child to see if he could speak on NVQs. Gordon agreed and with some five minutes to prepare gave an outstanding talk. The Section would like to thank Gordon for standing in at the last minute and John Palfrey of Avoncrop for sponsoring the prizes. We would also like to thank Perranporth GC for allowing us the use of their facilities and all the staff

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at Perranporth for making our day run so smoothly. Also thanks go to the Head Greenkeeper

Bill Mitchell and his Assistants John and Fred who always have their links in magnificent condition.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

Well spring is truly upon us and I'm sure that you're all busy hollow tining or verti draining and the like. Let's hope for a warm wet season and no prolonged dry spells.

Our latest Pencoed College evening lecture failed to take place due to the untimely withdrawal of the lecturer to be! To the rescue came our Education Chairman and Timekeeper, Malcolm Davies with his Assistant and Quizmaster, Peter Gillard. A quiz to beat all quizzes was based on general knowledge, greenkeeping, football and trivial pursuit. Six teams of three competed for the honours (a bottle of Scotch!) and the win-

ners were my team, the Arsenal! Well done to the lads from Aberdare GC and commiserations to the other teams, the Spuds, the Vikings, the Crays, the Thugs and the Poas. An excellent evening with a difference, thoroughly amusing and enjoyable.

A sincere thanks to both Malcolm and Peter for hastily arranging the evening and doing such a grand job.

Peter Lacey

South West

February saw about 30 greenkeepers turn out for the Lawson Trophy at Clevedon GC. This was quite encouraging considering the forecast which was nothing short of horrific.

However Mr Fish and Mr Kettle etc were a bit wide of the mark and we got away with some light winds and a bit of scotch mist just to keep us on our toes.

Clevedon is in the throes of some major rebuilding work at the moment and so we were on a bit of a cross country race trying to find the 18 holes in the correct order but the new greens, particularly those that had recently been built by the greenstaff themselves were in quite exceptional condition.

Almost perfect fescue dominated swards are difficult to find during the best of times but in the middle of February, well I can only conclude that Barry Reeves and his crew must have a magic wand or something. Anyhow, enough of my petty envy, thanks are due for all their hard work and obvious expertise.

Having got back to the clubhouse safely we were then given an excellent late lunch followed by the sharing of the spoils, all of which were presented by Lawsons. First place with 36 points was Michael Fawcett of Marlborough with Maurice Pierce of Wells in second with 34 points on a countback from our beloved Secretary Peter Baynton. A sterling performance considering the pressure he is under. Thanks to Lawsons for their sponsorship and to Clevedon Golf Club for allowing us the pleasure of their course for the day.

Remember the short courses. We have recently held a First Aid course and a PA1 and PA6 all of which appear to have been successful. If there are any others you would like to go on please give me a ring on 01380 828380.

Marc Haring

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