

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment  
from the regions

## SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd

Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

The Scottish Region

once again offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1998.

The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Cairn Hotel on January 20, 21 and 22. Package cost £135.

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For booking form call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel: 0141 616 3440

## North

Only one new member to report this month, but a few on the move. Gilbert Steven, Head Greenkeeper at Cullen, joins the Section while on the move we have Alick Mackay leaving the North to take up a position of Head Greenkeeper at Woodhall Spa and Robert Patterson leaves Royal Dornoch to become Head man at Royal Aberdeen. Gordon Leslie moves up to Head man at Duff House Royal. At the time of writing vacancies at Murcar and Golspie have still to be filled as the chain reaction of job movements in the area continues, watch this space. We wish all success in their new posts.

Sadly I have to report the loss of one of our members - Tom Simpson, formerly of Murrayshall, passed away recently. Tom was a regular at Section outings and had only retired a year or so ago. Our feelings go out to his family at this time.

The Hayter Competition has been replaced by the Ritefeed Competition from 1998 and the Section qualifiers are as follows:- Class 1 - Scott Williams, Peterculter; John Taylor, Forres; Michael Keay and Phillip Don, both Kemnay; Class 2 - David Marnoch, Peterculter; Gordon Mckie, St Andrews; Sean Jaffrey, Ellon;



John Morton, Alford; Class 3 - George Aitken and Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead; George Asher, Kemnay; Dougal Duguid, Westhill.

Anyone still thinking about going to Harrogate on the Region bus should get in touch with Regional Administrator Peter Boyd on 0141 616 3440 as soon as possible as time is running out. You won't regret it as the trip is really worthwhile and very reasonably priced at £135 for bus, three nights B&B and entry to all seminars.

Dates for your 1998 diary - August 3, 4 and 5 when the BIGGA National Tournament will be on in our Section at Letham Grange GC.

Last, but not least, I wish all a Happy Christmas and hope 1998 brings you all you wish for and more.

Iain Macleod

## West

Christmas is nearly upon us - will the weather be kind? So far yes, but what is looming round the corner? As usual the construction and drainage work is underway so everybody will be busy, busy and looking forward to a good festive season. By the time this reaches you the AGM come games night at the Claremont Bowling Club will be over as will the annual dinner. Hopefully everything will have run smoothly on the night, there will be a report next month to confirm.

BTME - remember all those wishing to go should contact the new Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. I hope to see a lot of you there.

What's happened and what's going to happen - firstly, the Autumn outing to Hilton Park. A super day although a very poor turn out with only 40 taking part mainly due to the time of year with people being busy coring and topdressing. The Section wish to thank John Robertson and his staff for an excellent venue which was thoroughly enjoyable. Please extend our thanks to the committee members and the catering staff for their hospitality and consideration. The results were:-

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## Around the Green



Scratch - J. Steadward, Douglas Park, 76; Division 1 - 1. G. Kerr, Gleddoch House, 78-9-69; 2. C. Goodall, Balmore, 77-4-73; 3. A. Bulloch, Ferenze, 78-4-74; Division 2 - 1. S. Brawley, EK, 86-16-70; 2. G. Shearer, Balmore, 88-13-75; 3. M. Corey, Balmore, 93-17-76; Division 3 - 1. D. Mowatt, Kelly, 90-20-70; 2. C. Fulton, Douglas Park, 99-28-71; 3. C. George, Lenzie, 99-20-79; Trade - D. Duthie, Aitken, 80-5-75; Visitors - P. Boyd, 74-3-71; Apprentice - S. McKittrick, Kirkhill, 90-9-81.

New members to the Section are:- Stephen Ramsey, Langside College; Donald Clark, Loch Lomond; Barry McCulloch, Langside College, and Stephen Nichol, Whitecraigs. As I keep saying to all new members I hope to see them at future events but very seldom do we hear from them, lets hope in future all will attend.

A question to all members. Are we, the Section Committee, doing enough to satisfy your needs? If not, how can we help. Write to me at Glasgow GC or contact the Secretary. At all the events the same core of 50 or 60 members attend so where are all the rest, please can we see some more faces.

A fixture card will once again be issued stating events with hopefully some more firm dates.

A football match, North of the River against South will be arranged so please come along. Details from Brian Hilton, Drumpellier GC, team manager for the football.

Finally we welcome back to the fold Steven Hogg, Scottish Grass, and Alistair Connell. Best wishes in your new chosen careers.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all members for their support and wish them seasons greetings.

Stuart Taylor

### Central

The AGM at Kinross GC on October 29 proved to be a very con-

structive meeting, with numerous ideas being put forward as to how we can attract new members, encourage more members to participate in events and how to improve communications between each other. (I won't tell you how many attended the meeting so that any of you who didn't will think you were the only one who missed! How's that for communication?)

Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, attended the meeting and gave us an up to date report on how he has settled into his post since taking over from Elliott and I have no doubt that he will not take long to stamp his mark on the continuing success of the Scottish Region. If CG reads this I will be getting a letter from him for using the "R" word! Honestly Cecil, I agree with you!

Your Committee for 1998 is:- Chairman - Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC; Vice Chairman - Andy O'Hara, Leven Links; Secretary - John Crawford, Stirling GC; Committee - John Bashford, Kinross; Elliott Small, Tulliallan GC; Stuart Sime, Leven Links; Ian Ross, The Dukes Course.

The golf competition prior to the AGM was won by Stuart Sime (he of Leven Links Sporting Club fame) with John McPhail, from Crieff, runner-up. There is a rumour circulating that a special cabinet is being constructed in the sheds of Leven to hold all the trophies won by the greenstaff. I'm beginning to wonder if they only work part-time at Leven as they find so much time to play golf/football/cricket/go-karting etc etc.

It's just a pity that we don't have more members like Andy and Stuart in the Section as they

find time to serve on the Committee, support all our events and they even take all the ribbing in good fun (so far anyway)!

Men on the move - Robbie MacMillan has moved from Balbirnie Park, Markinch, (where he worked with his Dad, Ian) to Thornton GC. Clark Birnie moved from Dunfermline GC, Crossford, to Bonnybridge GC and Rod Hensby moved from Tulliallan GC, Kincardine, to Lanhydrock GC, in Cornwall. We wish them every success in their respective new appointments.

Well, that's nearly another year over and on behalf of your Committee I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us in '97, especially the Scottish Patrons and the golf clubs who have given us the courtesy of their courses and facilities for numerous events throughout the year.

Here's wishing you all the best in '98.

John Crawford

### East

Since last month we have had our Section AGM at Swanston GC. I would like to thank our sponsor for the day Mike Dooner, Thorn-tree Landscapes, who provided the speaker. John McLauchlan gave a short lecture on "The use of humates and micro organisms in fine turf" which was a very interesting subject on which some good questions were raised. We also thank Mike for providing us with a nice buffet lunch. So thanks, Mike, for a good day.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Swanston GC for the use of the clubhouse and facilities and also to Dave and Irene, the Club Steward and Stewardess for keeping us fed and watered for the day. Again I have to report a very small turnout for our AGM this year. There were only about 20 people in attendance which out of 170 + members is very poor. If anyone knows the reason please let us know. You

can call any committee member if you have any comments. The committee remains the same as last year with the exception of Stuart Cruickshank, Deer Park, who was co-opted last year and was voted on a full member of the committee. Welcome Stuart, we hope you have an enjoyable time in your position as the Education Officer for the East Section.

There is not much to write about the AGM as it was quiet as usual. David Roy, Linlithgow, handed out two forms which he had produced with aims and objectives for the Section and a questionnaire about what you would like to see going on in the Section. These were welcomed with enthusiasm by the Committee and members that were in attendance. Copies will be sent out to each member soon so when you receive it fill it in and send it back as soon as possible then the Committee can act on any of the comments you make.

Now on to a different note, it was good to see Tom Murray, Ratho Park, as a nomination for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Tom tells me he had a great weekend in Harrogate at the finals where he met all the other finalists and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Well done Tom from everyone in the Section and also the other Scottish Sections.

By the time you read this the annual dance will have taken place so I will report next month and hopefully some pictures as well so anybody on the dance floor beware! The evidence will be shown!

If anyone is attending the Scottish Region trip to BTME return your forms as soon as possible as the closing date is December 15, so we hope to see you all there. I shall be attending the Patron's Dinner in December so I will be reporting on this next month along with photographs of this event.

At Scotsturf Mike Dooner, in conjunction with Sharpe's Grass



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Seeds, held a draw for a bottle of champagne for anyone that visited their Stand during the Show. This was won by Alan Aitken, Kilspindie GC, – if he needs a hand to drink it I'm only a phone call away!

Well, that's it for this month but before I go I would like to wish all our members plus all our friends in the trade including our Patrons who do so much for us every year a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. If I have missed anyone let me know and in the meantime, all the best to one and all from the Committee and myself. I look forward to writing the first column in the New Year and to seeing you all in January 1998.

PS – while at the Scotsturf Show and being on the Standard Golf Stand, I found out that Nat Beggs was retiring when the show finished so all I can say to Nat from all our members, the Committee, myself and all fellow trade friends is have a happy retirement – you deserve it and we hope to see you at some of our Section outings etc as you are most welcome. I will send you out a 1998 fixture card so you can keep track of what's happening in the Section once we have finalised all dates at the start of the year. So that's it for 1997, see you all next year.

Chris Yeaman

#### NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433  
Sheffield



On October 2 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. The lecture was given by Mr Jay Dobson from PSD Agronomy Ltd. Our thanks go to Jay who gave an interesting lecture on thatch problems which was enjoyed by around 40 of our members.

My apologies go to Dave Norton who also qualified for the Hayter finals but unfortunately I wasn't informed – sorry Dave, and well done!

Congratulations go to Steve Nixon, from Wortley GC, who has recently won the Toro Student of the Year Award. Well done Steve! As part of Steve's prize he won an eight week course in America.

Only one new member this month and that is John Sunderland, of Rapler Barracks GC.

Anyone who has any news for these notes can contact me on 01909 480150.

Finally may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.  
John Lax

#### North Wales

Well lads and lasses, two months on the trot and you've got something to read. However, as stated last month I can't write much if no-one tells me anything. I'm not a reporter, I'm a greenkeeper just like you! News needs to come to me, not me to go out and find it, I ain't got time. 01824 710693 – I can't do any more than give you my phone number again!

The Autumn meeting was held at Abersoch, the weather was mixed as was the golf but everyone who played enjoyed the day and our thanks go to Abersoch for inviting us and especially to Arthur and his team for the preparation that went into presenting the course. I never got to see a lot of the course due to my own work commitments and arrived late but as the 40 plus who played must agree even if their golf was rubbish the views on the drive to Abersoch made for a delightful day.

Andy Peel, of Bull Bay, rang me (see, someone has) and informed me that he has just had a fully automatic irrigation system fitted using Toro heads and everything was done for under £30,000. He seemed very pleased with it and thought that other members should know and if you are thinking of a system get in touch with him for the low down on how it was done.

BTME – we are thinking of hav-

ing the the coach leave later this year to avoid all the morning traffic, get there in the afternoon and take in the AGM which is at 5.45, but the Committee needs feedback.

On the same note I attended the AGM this year (the only member of the North Wales Section to do so to my knowledge). It made me realise how the Association has progressed, I was at the BTME for three days and I came away feeling very proud of what BIGGA has achieved.

Ask your own clubs because the Seminars etc are all very educational and my club thought the package was excellent value for money. Remember if you don't ask you don't get. This year I will endeavour to make sure that every committee member attends the AGM but it would do you all good to go!

On the educational note, the Welsh College of Horticulture at Northrop is holding its annual Golf Greenkeeping Technical Seminar on Wednesday February 18. Subjects will include Health and Safety, Irrigation, Grass Seed Breeding, R and A Golf Research and Micro Organisms so make a date in your diary. The College is also holding one day courses on Machine Maintenance over five separate days in January/February. They will be held from 10 am to 3 pm with theory in the morning and practical in the afternoon. Dates to be confirmed.

Our last committee meeting was attended by Douglas Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator, it was good to meet him and he explained his role in the Association. He will attend our AGM – he is there to help and as with me, he is only a phone call away.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all your greens stay fuzz free. Now that would be a Happy New Year!  
Dave Goodridge

#### North West

October has been a great month

for greenkeeping and I am sure you all took advantage of the good weather to complete your hollowtining and top dressing. The dry conditions have also allowed scarifying fairways to be done without causing damage with wheel marks. This of course all adds up to a good start to your winter work programmes so let's hope a mild winter ensues and all programmes can be completed and targets reached. Not a lot happening in the Section in October, but in November we have the Section AGM and the first Regional Board meeting with the new Regional Administrator, Douglas Bell. At the moment I am awaiting replies from several golf clubs regarding permission to hold our tournaments for 1998 and as soon as all the fixtures are completed you will receive your fixture list for the year.

That seems to be it for this month so I will close by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Any news ring me on 0151 724 5412.  
Bert Cross

#### Northern

John Waite, our Section Chairman, represented the greenkeepers on behalf of the Northern Region in the 1997 Kubota Challenge event. Although he won both of his matches, the team finished third. John stated that it had been one of his ambitions to play The Belfry and that he was pleased with the presentation of both courses. Pat Murphy, our National Chairman also attended and once again brought the rain – this talent could earn him millions in the right location!

News has filtered back that Tim Blacombe, who was at Scarthingwell GC, is to return to greenkeeping in the New Year after taking care of his daughter, Kate, back in his native Canada.

On behalf of the Northern Section may I thank all sponsors who have very kindly donated money for prizes ➤ *Continued on Page 34*

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

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

► From Page 31 at all the golfing tournaments throughout the year. I hope this will continue in the future, as all help to generate funds and keep the Section going is much appreciated.

There has recently been a football match played between staff at Rigby Taylors and our Section greenkeepers. Unfortunately I do not have any details at present but will give a full report in next month's magazine.

Any news from within the Section can be passed on to myself by telephoning 01484 317813 or to John Waite on 0113 286 6432.

Finally may I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Do not forget the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday March 4 1998 - £16 per person payment is required to book a place. Simon Heppenstall

#### North East

The Barburial Foursomes Knock-out Cup has now been played at Tyneside GC and the winners were John Surtees and Tony Mclure who defeated Michael Gunn and David Thompson 5&4. The presentation will be made at South Moor GC on December 11 after the AGM. An 18 hole competition will be held in the morning and all members will be notified.

The annual match between the North East and the South East of Scotland was recently played at Haddington GC for the Stewart's Cup. The winners were the North East Section, our thanks to Stewarts for sponsoring the event and we look forward to the return match next year. Hopefully we could be playing at Slaley Hall.

Alan Parkin, Assistant Greenkeeper at Whickham GC, has taken over the Head Greenkeeper's job at Beamish Park Golf Academy. We wish him well in his new appointment.

The first green at Whickham is busy being altered again and put back to its original design of a two tier but on a larger scale.

Askham Bryan College is doing well out of the North East Sec-

## Around the Green



tion, John Surtees and Brian Clark are doing Phase Two and Craig Parkinson and Craig Wyman are doing Phase Three.

Brian Hughes passed Phase Two and is now taking Phase Four.

Stocksfield's Head Greenkeeper, for 18 years, Tommy Harrison, has now taken over at the Bridle Path course at Gosforth, the Section wish him well on his new appointment. Ian Hutton, formerly working in Austria is now working at Slaley Hall GC. The golf fixture is almost complete for 1998 and the match against the South East of Scotland will be played at Slaley Hall in the first week in October. Jimmy Richardson

#### Cleveland

John Chanthill, ex Teesside GC, has moved to Lilleshall GC, in Staffordshire, and is very happy in his new appointment. His old boss, Tony Smith, has now completed mound building and tree planting as a sound barrier close to the A19 and A66 and Parkway motorways. Over the past two years 10 new tees have been built and bunkers altered at four greens at Teeside GC.

At Bedale, Ian Pemberton, the Head Greenkeeper moved house from Middlesbrough but his wife has not settled in Bedale so they are to return to Middlesbrough to live and he will travel daily, while Kevin Scarce, the Assistant at Bedale is on a training course at Askham Bryan College, York. Bedale are to install irrigation to six tees and have started an extensive tree planting programme. The 6,000 trees will certainly create interest to the golfers in the future!

Dinsdale Spa GC have re-laid two greens to USGA specifications using their own greenstaff. The surrounds and mounds have been newly shaped and turfed to complete the job.

SISIS held a machinery demonstration at Eaglescliffe GC in October. Sixty greenkeepers attended a successful day of excellent equipment. Two courses have also been arranged at Houghall College this winter, NVQ 3 and NVQ 4.

George Malcolm, at Brass Castle GC, Middlesbrough has replaced his sand in the bunkers with one which is firmer for both the player's stance and for the ball to sit on the sand rather than sink in. Bruce Burnell

#### MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507



#### East of England

The annual match again the Secretaries Association took place at Market Rasen. Head Greenkeeper John Hewson and his staff had prepared the course in its usual excellent condition. The result went in favour of the Secretaries 5-3. There was talk around the dinner table that the Secretaries had had their Spring meeting at Market Rasen to practice in preparation for this match as they lost to the Greenkeepers last year. The event was sponsored by Chandler's Machinery, thanks to Jim Carr for the company's help. The longest drive was sponsored by Phil Wilkinson, of Fieldcare, and was won by the big hitting Jim "Daly" Carr! Nearest the pin was won by Eric Coombes, of the Secretaries Association.

While I am on the thank you trail one must thank John Brown, Secretary of Market Rasen, for allowing us all courtesy of the course and thanks to the caterers for an excellent meal (but get some port in stock!).

The East of England Section results were:- Jim Birkett & Phil Wilkinson lost 3&1; Dave Griffin & Andy Richardson lost 1 down; John Scotney & Les Purdy lost 3&2; Peter Fell & Dave Hornsey won 3&2; Ted Lake & Fred Cobb lost 2 down; Norman Hewson & John Hewson won 7&5; Richard Smith & Graham Bontoft lost 2&1; Graeme Macdonald & Jim Carr won 3&2.

Next year's match has been provisionally booked for Toft GC.

Anybody interested in attending a Chainsaw Course at Woodhall Spa on February 2, 3, 4 and 5 then contact me on the number below.

That's all for this month apart from saying hello to Jim Brown, a Northern BIGGA member, who always reads this Section.

Contact me if you have any news from around the Region or Section on 01636 626564. Graeme Macdonald

#### Midland

The much awaited educational trip to Sunningdale and Wentworth took place on October 13 and proved to be very enjoyable for all of the members who took part. To be able to see behind the scenes of these two well documented courses was of great interest and the time given to us by Brian Turner and Chris Kennedy was much appreciated. The timing of our visit to Wentworth was not the greatest being the day after the World Matchplay and many thanks go to Chris for

his co-operation.

I would also like to thank Richard Minton, of Miracle/Scotts, and Nigel Tyler, of County Crops, for their sponsorship of the day and mainly the meals and drinks at lunchtime, thank you.

We are also looking to organising another trip to Turnberry but this will involve an overnight stop and there could be a round of golf. There would obviously be a small cost but if we can get enough numbers there would probably be some kind of sponsorship. If you are interested please contact me on 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope every greenkeeper has a successful 1998.

Welcome to these new members - Michael Bratton, Robert Coxall, Steven Lloyd, Adrian Haddock, Michael Gash, Robert Mason and Michael Trotman. Jonathan Wood

#### BB&O

The golf day at Lambourne was a great success with a full field yet again. The weather was a bit on the miserable side but this didn't affect the enjoyment on the day. Sadly there were no surprises when it came to the winner again! He must be in the running for sports personality of the year! The results were:- 1. S. Putt & M. Timms, 61 pts (boring!); 2. T. French & P. Walker; 3. L. T. Anderson & T. Smith (a prize at last!); Longest Drive - P. Walker; Nearest the Pin - M. Timms; Wooden Spoon - B. Wall & D. Winterton. I won't embarrass them by revealing their score as neither of them would speak to me again... on second thoughts I'm sure it was approximately one point per hole!

The day was sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products which was much appreciated by all. My special thanks to Richard Haynes for his organising on the day and also to Joe Feltham for presenting the prizes on behalf of the company. Thanks to Tony French and his team for providing an excellent test of golf and many thanks to all concerned at Lambourne for their hospitality on the day.

One other golf tournament is drawing to a close at last and that is the Rigby Taylor Fourball Knockout. B. Benzie and C. Millard have coasted into the final having disposed of P. Plater and J. Lee with ease. They will play R. Clark and C. Jacobsen who knocked out last year's winners T. French and G. Wheeler 3&2. The results of the final will be posted in next month's magazine. There are some Winter Lectures

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Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle G C

approaching so please make a note of the following dates in your diary:-

Berkshire College; January 14 – Communications, February 4 – Golf Course Design, March 4 – Irrigation. These all commence at 7 pm and run until 9 pm when refreshments will be served.

Warren Farm College; January 28 – Health and Safety, February 25 – Irrigation and Conservation, March 25 – USGA Specification. These also commence at 7 pm with refreshments to follow.

Please try and attend as many of the above as possible, the colleges need to see some support from our Section.

I would like to end by wishing all of you a Happy Christmas and a drunken New Year! See you in 1998.

L. T. Anderson

### Mid Anglia

Our Autumn golf tournament was held at the end of October at South Beds Golf Club over 18 holes. Although the first frost of the year arrived prior to the tournament, it quickly disappeared in the autumn sunshine and didn't spoil the day.

The golf attracted an entry of 32 people, seven of whom were trade members. This was down considerably on last year's corresponding fixture at Collingtree Park. Those who did enter however seemed to enjoy a good round, with good scores evident on the day. The results were as follows:- 1. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 41 pts; 2. Leon Cant, Broucket Hall, 39 pts; 3. Eddi O'Hanlon, Chesfield Downs, 39 pts; Longest Drive – Jon Moorhouse, Broucket Hall; Nearest the Pin – Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs; Trade Prize – John Donaldson, 44 pts.

Our thanks go to our main sponsors for the day, Driving Force Leisure, represented by David Murphy, and also to Kings Horticulture who sponsored Nearest the Pin.

Thanks also to the other trade members who supported us on the day and participated in the golf. My personal thanks to South Beds for the excellent choice of meals and hospitality shown and also to my staff for preparing the course.

The AGM of the Mid Anglia Section was held after the prize giving and in the absence of our Chairman, Stewart Boyce, Vice Chairman Mark Ellis chaired the meeting. The Secretary, Gerald Bruce reported that the Section now had 242 members and that the Hayter National Tournament will in future be sponsored by Ritefeed. He also thanked Chris Brook, who is standing down

from the Committee this year for his efforts over a number of years of service to the Section.

The Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders gave a report on all the golf matches throughout the year and complimented Jason Hatton, of Broucket Hall, on reaching the National Final of the Hayter Tournament.

The Treasurer, John Wells, submitted a balance sheet and gave a verbal report on the financial situation which is most satisfactory at the present time. No rise in the cost of golf events is anticipated.

The following people were elected to serve on the committee for the next year:- Secretary – Gerald Bruce; Fixtures/Match Secretary – Richard Saunders; Chairman – Stewart Boyce; Vice Chairman – Mark Ellis; Treasurer – John Wells; Regional Representative – Paul Lockett. Three other new members were voted on to the committee:- Colin Robinson, John O'Gaunt GC; Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant GC, and Neil Whittaker, Arkley GC.

One of these newly elected officers will become the Handicap Secretary. In "Any Other Business" several questions were asked concerning spread of prizes, fixture lists, handicaps and reduced levels of attendance to golf events. Most of the questions were answered at the time but they will also be discussed in depth at the next full committee meeting.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing Section members at BTME in Harrogate next month.  
Paul Lockett

### East Midlands

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was played at the delightful venue of Whittington Heath GC on October 16. Despite a wet start to the day things eventually improved, not long into the greensome matches, with the Section taking a 3-2 lead. The afternoon format of matchplay singles started very badly for us with us losing five of the first seven games with the only winners being Anthony Foulds and Adie Porter.

Needing to win the final three games was left to Steven Heap, Mark Bindley and myself and all of us managed convincing wins, to finally win the competition 8-7. I would like to thank all the members of the Midland Section for participating in a great game of golf, and for playing in the correct spirit. Also I would like to thank Whittington Heath Golf Club for their marvellous hospitality. Finally a special thank you

should go to Steve Blackman and the rest of the Rigby Taylor team for sponsoring a really enjoyable day.

The Team on the day consisted of the following members:- Pete Billings, Dave Leatherland, Anthony Foulds, Dave Mitchell, Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Mark Bindley and Steven Heap.

As Chairman of the Region I was fortunate enough to represent the Greenkeepers Team at the Kubota Golf Challenge, held at the Belfry GC on October 14 and 15. After losing in the semi-final to the eventual winners, the EGU the team performed well in the third place play-off defeating the Golf Foundation by 6.5-1.5 points. Thanks should go to Kubota for sponsoring an excellent two day competition.

This month I would like to wish all members of the Section a Merry Christmas and a Happy 1998. Remember this year starts off with the BTME at Harrogate, where hopefully as many members as possible will attend.

I would also like to thank all the companies who sponsored the Section throughout the year:- Spring Tournament – E T Breakwells, Autumn Tournament – Charnwood & Highmeres Horticulture, AGM Tournament – Vitax Ltd, Christmas & East Midlands v Midlands Section – Rigby Taylor and Scotts and ALS for sponsoring the Pairs Tournament, your support is greatly appreciated.

Two dates for next years diary, Spring Tournament – Beeston Fields on May 13 and the Autumn Tournament at Scraftoft GC on September 2.  
Antony Bindley

### SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Surrey

The sun was up, the sky was blue and Kingswood GC on October 29 was the venue for the Autumn Tournament. The course was in superb condition and with lush green fairways and fast greens, the promise of a great day's golf was fully realised. The results were:- 1. D. Langhiem, Foxhills again!, 38 pts; 2. A. Freeman, Roehampton, 36 pts; 3. T. Edwards, Lingfield Park, 34 pts; Nearest the Pin – R. Christie, Addington Palace; Longest Drive – R. Glazier, Foxhills; Trade Prize – P. White, 40 pts.

Congratulations to Ian McMillan on winning the 1997 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the 1997 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Rhone Poulenc and Amazone Ground Care. A

truly excellent achievement to win them both in the same year. Perhaps a Golf Day at Hankley Common will inspire other Surrey members to take up the challenge.

And now a bit of local news from our roving reporter. Gavin Kyle has moved to Hendon GC as Course Manager, Ray McClatchie is the new Head Greenkeeper at Blackmoor and Bill Lowe, Head Greenkeeper at High Elms GC, has just become the father of a bouncing baby named Jason. All three have moved to courses in adjacent Sections but can we get rid of them? Fortunately not!  
Brian Willmott

### East Anglia

Our travelling band went to Gog Magog GC on October 9 and played the Wandlebury Course which is very new and was in excellent shape due to the high standards set by Lydon and his team. It was also a Captains and Greenkeepers competition – my fourball played some excellent golf but failed the orienteering! The Captain/Greenkeeper prize went to D Childs and his Captain D Bram from Sheringham with a combined total of 73 points. The other results were:- 0-9 Handicap – 1. Alan Carter, 38 pts; 2. M Brewster, 38 pts; 3. Roger Plummer, 35 pts; 10-18 Handicap – 1. I Semson, 38 pts; 2. I Hill, 37 pts; 3. P Mallows, 37 pts; 19-28 Handicap – 1. Tim Russell, 41 pts; 2. Steve Davidson, 36 pts; 3. Ernie Hart, 34 pts; Guest Prize – 1. T Winter, 40 pts; 2. D Bram, 40 pts; 3. I Skellon, 38 pts; Longest Drive – James Gemun; Nearest the Pin – Brian Lemmon.

The prizes were donated by Kings, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Rushbrooks, Pattisons (Longest Drive), Tomlinsons (Nearest the Pin), Barenbrug (Captains and Greenkeepers) and Does (main sponsor). Thanks lads yet again. The prizes were presented by Mr T. Winter, Captain of the Wandlebury Course. Our thanks to all at Gog Magog for a super day and I



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## Around the Green



spouses (excluding seminars) £110, non-members £160. All inclusive. Further details from Paula Humphries Tel: 01363 82777

### South Coast

By now you should have all received your programmes for the Section and Regional events for 1997/98. If you have not received a programme, please contact Jef Drake who I'm sure will get one to you. I do hope that the programme meets with your approval. The Winter Lecture Programme is slightly different this year. For example there was the trip to the London GC in November. I shall be reporting on how the trip went in the next month's report. Also we have made the venues more central so that the amount of travelling has been cut to the minimum. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our lecture programme please let us know.

Talking about winter lectures, our next meeting will be held at Bramshaw GC on January 7 at 7pm. Our speaker will be Mrs Susan Oldale-Deamon. Susan will be talking about Conservation on the Golf Course. Susan gave a talk to the members of Alton GC to a full house a few months ago. I am told that her talk went down very well with the members. I feel sure that with conservation becoming such an important aspect of course management, Susan's talk will be well received. Please gentlemen let's give Susan our full support.

Our Regional/Section seminar is fast approaching. This will be held at Sparsholt College on February 26 1998. Jef will be sending out details of the speakers very shortly. The last few years we have had some very successful seminars. Some very good speakers have been approached and agreed to come along. One or two points have yet to be finalised. As I said last month there is no reason why this seminar should not be as successful as the last ones have been.

I don't know whether there are any seats left on the Regional Coach for BTME. If you have not booked and still wish to go get your booking forms in to Paula Humphries, our Regional Administrator or contact her on 01363 82777. You might be lucky! Just another reminder regarding those of you who wish to make use of the feeder coach. Please contact

me with your names so that I can arrange pick-up points and the size of the coach to book.

It just doesn't seem possible that we are close to ending another year, they seem to fly by. Still they do say as you get older time goes by a lot quicker. All that remains for me to say is for everyone to have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.  
Ken Lodge

### Devon and Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all.

Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was the Roffey's October meeting held at Bowood GC on Wednesday October 8. On the morning of the meeting members awoke to find the rain coming down in bucket loads so it was a credit to Bowoods greenstaff who managed to have the course playable for the mornings reduced golf competition for the DO Hunt Trophy which was played over the front nine holes. Only the hardy or mad played golf and walked the course during the morning. Our sponsors for the day Roffeys kindly rearranged our afternoon talk to start earlier and lunch was brought forward to prevent members hanging around too long.

After an excellent lunch Don Hunt, on behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford golf competition for the D. O. Hunt Trophy:- 1. Buster Lewer, Dainton Park; 2. Eric Barber; 3. Chris Bland, Dainton Park.

The Section would like to thank Roffeys and Don Hunt for their support in sponsoring the day. Also we would like to thank Mr Ross Cobledick and all his staff who made our day run so smoothly.

Our afternoon educational talk followed the golf presentation and Company presentation by Roffeys with our friends from Cannington College presenting their talk on "Winter Golf and Courses at Cannington". Our thanks to Brian and Huw for their informative talk.

Our raffle concluded an excellent day, pity about the rain!

Our first meeting in the new year will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC on Wednesday February 4 and sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds, the morning will start with a St Andrews foursome golf competition with starting times between 9.30 am and 10.30 am. For our non-golfing members there will be a workshop running between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm on "Business Planning for Greenkeeping" presented by Robert Brewer, Director of Golf at St Mellion G & CC.

After lunch our sponsor for the day Barenbrug Seeds will present the golf prizes and Company pre-

sentation which will be followed by our afternoon seminar on "Business Planning for Greenkeeping".

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 98 which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME Show and Seminars. There's only a few places left so hurry!

Richard Whyman

### South West

I am sometimes reminded of that well known Channel 4 "Cutting Edge" documentary in which the viewer was taken into the fascinating world of the old established golf club in which a group of the finest of Britain's managerial minds get together and succeed in running the club in the most haphazard, discriminatory and out of touch way imaginable. It was hilarious to see the total lack of diplomacy, the political bickering and all the many little factions within the golf club all convinced they had total knowledge when it comes to the management of their club. Now I am not saying that Kingsdown GC comes into that category but if it did then their Head Greenkeeper, Mark Ford, would undoubtedly rise well above it. Regardless of the reputation Kingsdown may or may not have they can be very proud in listing the 1997 Premier Greenkeeper runner-up as among their assets. Congratulations Mark, you've deserved it and have done the Section and your Club proud.

No tournaments to report on this month but we have been running a few courses. Unfortunately we have had to cancel the chain-saw course due to a last minute negative availability situation but will be running one as soon as we get a couple more people on the list. It will be run over five days and will lead to a certificate of competence in the safe use of chainsaws. We are still open for places on the abrasive wheel course. I was hoping to arrange one for November 26 at Chippenham College but as this clashed with the Regional Seminar I am trying to find another venue and date for that one. The incorrect use of an abrasive wheel can lead to a fine of up to £8,000 if caught, so it's probably best to give me a ring on 01380 828380 to book your place. Remember the other courses we can sort out, namely all the spraying courses and the first aid course. Anyone interested, just give me a ring.

I recently had the pleasure of attending one of the BIGGA regional courses down at Bournemouth. These are very well organised and highly informative courses that are being held locally

must just mention Brian and Colin from Canvey, Essex who made golf what it should be - fun, thanks lads!

Bartram Mowers sponsored a great day at Barnham Broom in early October. Ian told me to mention it, I think its because he won first prize on the day with 37 pts! Longest Drive was the Plum and Nearest the Pin was Cyril Stammer. Brian set up a first rate course and a good day was had by all thanks to Barnham Broom and Bartram Mowers.

What's next? We desperately need some Head Greenkeeper to assess young greenkeepers to pass their D32 and D33 exams themselves. Anyone interested please contact Ian Willett. We need about a dozen (or ten if you're metric!).

The next meeting is on December 10 - the AGM at Thorp Ness, Loch's brother.

Mick Lathrope

### Essex

As we are now fast approaching the end of our first 12 months as a new Section together, we can be pleased with the success of the 5 golf days and the 3 evening lectures held at Writtle College.

By the time you have read this the Essex Section will have held its first AGM on December 3 at Orsett GC and new from the above will appear in next months publication.

On a disappointing note, the lack of support for both the presentation dance, which had to be cancelled and the two day regional supervisory course at Maldon had only two members from the Essex Section attending giving some cause for concern. These events are for all our benefits and without your attendance they will never be a success.

On behalf of all the members I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trade for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1998.

See you at BTME.

Dave Wells

### SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777



### South West and South Wales

The Region's Special Express to BTME includes the following:- Luxury Coach Travel - various pick-up points starting from Exeter; three nights bed and breakfast in an en-suite hotel; entry to all seminars; spouses welcome - a trip to York will be arranged; payment by instalment accepted.

The cost for members is £135,

so as to attract and educate as many people as possible. So please try and attend them if at all possible so as to ensure their continuation and also to put yourself in a well informed position when dealing with the above mentioned committees.

Finally may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and may your greens be perfect throughout the next year.

Marc Haring

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

##### North East

It's now official - BIGGA is in Northern Ireland and judging by the interest shown at the BIGGA Stand at the IOG Show on October 2, it can only go from strength to strength. Northern Ireland has now its own Region with two Sections - North East representing Counties Antrim and Derry and South East representing Counties Down and Armagh. Members in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh will be given the choice which Section is most convenient for them. Each Section has a strong grouping of clubs thus creating two strong sections. The members who attended the meeting in early September have elected Philip Baldock of Royal Portrush as Chairman with Henry Farrell as Vice Chairman, Mark Farrell of Allen Park as Secretary with Mar-

tin Laverty as Vice Secretary and Eamonn Farrell of Cairndhu as Liaison Officer for the North East Section. Any inquiries on BIGGA membership and the benefits for greenkeepers, any of the aforementioned Committee members will only be too happy to help.

A joint section meeting will be held at Greenmount College on Monday December 1. BIGGA will give a talk on membership and its benefits, Philip Baldock of Royal Portrush will also be speaking on pest problems and diseases, other speakers have yet to be confirmed. The seminar will last for no more than three hours, buffet included. All attendees will be charged a nominal fee of £5 to cover expenses. Details of times and speakers will be forwarded to all golf clubs closer to the venue date.

Anyone with relevant information in the North East Section that would be suitable for printing in Greenkeeper International would you please contact me on 01574 276001.

BIGGA would like to congratulate Frank Ainstworth on his new position at Templepatrick, we all wish him the very best.

On closing may I congratulate Bob Walker BEM of Cairndhu GC who is celebrating 50 years service to Cairndhu. The man is a legend in golfing circles. E Farrell

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Dates of next courses in 1998

Venue	Rabbits (1 day)	Moles (1 day)
Bristol	January 13	January 14
Manchester	February 18	February 19
Edinburgh	(not available)	March 6
York	March 17	March 18

For further details and to register contact:  
Ed Allan on 01303 863948 or Jan Pullen on 01626 892639

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