

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small  
Tel: 01259 731445

### North

The end of year Section Dinner/Disco was another great success with members attending from as far afield as Fortrose in the North and Perth in the South of the area. Numbers were not as high as hoped for but those present had a good enough time to ensure the continuation of this event.

The new Committee, their various tasks and contact numbers are as follows: Chairman – Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead, 01779 470173; Vice Chairman, magazine report and outings-day – Iain Macleod, Tain, 01862 894402; Secretary – Dougal Duguid, Westhill, 01224 740329; Treasurer, outings-prior to day – Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen, 01224 705083; 200 Club – Andy Wilson, Letham Grange, 01356 625902; Education – Stewart McBain, Nigg Bay, 01224 733347 and Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 01467 625125; Entertainments/Raffles – Wilson Morrison, Alford, 01224 826289 and John Geddes, Ellon, 01358 723034; Outings-day – Stephen Sullivan, 01738 643778. Anyone requiring any information on these subjects should ring the relevant person or, if in doubt, contact Dougal our Secretary.

As you can see Andy Wilson has the job of running the 200 Club this year and has already sent out the cards after securing Stewarts of Edinburgh as this year's sponsor. We are indebted to Stewarts for this sponsorship and with the help of all you members and friends out there let's make Andy's job easy by sending your cheques/postal orders back to him quickly so that by the time of the Spring outing in May all tickets are sold.



Nothing to report on the membership front just now, no new members or old members moving around that I have been informed of. Remember this is your opportunity to spread news around so get in touch if you have anything to pass on. I have a new mobile number now – 0374 642996, a phone that vibrates as well as rings, essential when you have ear defenders on!  
Iain Macleod

### Ayrshire

As I wrote in the last report I promised a full list of changes to the committee for 1997. I can now detail these as at the time of going to press for the last issue some of the office bearers wanted to ensure they could fulfil the positions before confirming their appointments.

As I said last month the Chairman is still Ian McNab, from Dumfries and County GC.

The first change comes in the Secretary's position. At the last Scottish Region Committee meeting a vacancy arose for a Board of Management representative, because the Deputy Steven Hogg had moved to a new appointment in Portugal. I was nominated for this position which made me extremely honoured. I wanted to make sure it was in order with my club to hold this position and this is why there was a delay in the announcement. I made the announcement at the AGM and resigned the Secretary's position.

Derek Wilson was nominated for the vacant position and he also wanted to check with his club that they had no objections to him holding the position. They did not and as from now Derek is your Section Secretary.

I thank you all for the honour of being your Section Secretary for the past 12 or so years and wish Derek the

best of luck and hope that he has as much fun and enjoyment as I have had representing you. I would also like to thank Ian and the rest of the committee for their support and perseverance in putting up with me for so long. I have seen a lot of changes in my time in office and have seen the Association through a very changing period, the culmination being the formation of BIGGA.

I now have the chance to be at the forefront of this, as we go into our second decade, as the representative for all of Scotland on the Board.

I promised that I would help Derek as much as possible as he finds his feet and I would urge you all to give him as much help as you can as well. Please contact him with any information for the magazine or anything else you need help with. If he cannot help you, he will know where he can go for help.

The full committee is now the three above plus Bob McKay, from Prestwick St Nicholas, Harry Diamond, George Brown, of Turnberry, Brian Finlayson, of Barrassie, Jimmy Johnstone, of Turnberry, and Robert Bruce, of Stewarts.

This is a big year in our Section with The Open at Troon and I hope as many of our Section members as possible will put their names forward for the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team. It is great fun and well worth the trying. While on the subject, can I, on behalf of all our members, wish Billy and his team at Troon the best of conditions weather wise to prepare his course. Congratulations also to Jim Devlin on his appointment as Billy's Deputy at Troon. Good luck, Jim.

By the time you read this the Section nominations for the Patron's Award will have been to Harrogate and I hope Lee Blackburn, from Southernness, and Jimmy Johnstone, from Turnberry,

enjoyed their trips.

To finish, I hope you all have a great year on your course and thanks again for your support.

Jim Paton

### West of Scotland

Just a couple of things to cover as the last month has been quiet due to the winter (Christmas shutdown). Hope everybody who attended the BTME had a good time. A report will be submitted for next month.

The AGM, games night was held on December 5, at the Claremont Bowling Club, with 37 people in attendance, which is excellent.

The meeting in general went without hitch until the matter was raised with regard to GTC assessorship and progress. Discussion was great and viewpoints expressed with hopefully some doubts removed. In all a fruitful meeting was experienced, the main point being increased numbers and support for the Section. The games night went well, eventual winners Kenny Hunter, Huxley's, and Gary Burns, Lenzie, although some doubt was expressed with regard to participation from one party. The whole evening was a resounding success and another games night is planned for February. So please come along and enjoy yourself.

Football. Once again the West are supreme. In a recent friendly against a mixture of players the depleted West side came out tops. The venue was Scotstown Leisure Centre which provided first class facilities allowing for light spirits after the game.

The result was 6-2 for the West. Another match is scheduled for February where I'm sure only the best side will win. From those who turned up at the trial on January 19 the best will be



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## THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS



selected for this big match where the select will want revenge. The time and the place is still to be advised.

The goal scorers at Scotstoun cannot be forgotten. They were Graeme Shearer, Peter Cowan (3) and Brian Tulan (2). So well done lads.

I hope those attending the conservation talk found the information interesting and decided to continue to the site visit.

A few things to note. The education conference at Isle of Skye Hotel, Perth, on March 4. A course visit is to be arranged for March, those interested contact a committee member for course, time and day. The games and football have already been mentioned. Last of all, a proposed visit to a turf producer, again those interested contact a committee member. The fixture card should have been received by people and this should give names for contact.

Remember please, any information for the magazine, births, deaths, promotions or just general interest please contact me on 0141 942 5554. So far only one person has passed on information. Stuart Taylor

### East

As this is the first magazine article of 1997 I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good New Year and hope you all had a good Christmas and enjoyed yourselves over the festive period.

Now it's a new year and only three months until the new season so it's down to the hard graft to get our courses prepared for the new season. Since my last article in the magazine we have had a couple of events going on in the Section. On November 28 we had our lecture and AGM at Swanston GC with thanks to the Captain and Council for allowing us the use of the clubhouse facilities. Our thanks also go to the Dave and Irene, the Club Master and Mistress, for keeping everyone fed and watered and, last but not least, Nick Lawson, from Ocmis Irrigation, for giving a very good lecture on irrigation from start to finish including planning, installing, after sales, breakdowns and how to sort out a burst pipe yourself! Thanks also go to our two demonstrators, Peter Ormiston and Jimmy Weil-

son, who showed us how to repair two burst pipes in two different ways.

We held our AGM on the same day and with 30 members it was the largest attendance for some time. Craig Penny-cuick, Winterfield, and Stewart Crawford, North Berwick West, were elected onto the committee which now looks:- Chairman - J. Weilson, Vice-Chairman - S. Greenwood, Secretary/Treasurer - S. Dixon, Education Officer - P. Ormiston, Members - T. Murray, S. Crawford, G. Wood, A. Forrest, C. Pennycuick and C. Yeaman. The AGM went very well with no problems. Congratulations go to the two new committee members, I hope you have an enjoyable time on the committee.

Our planned Christmas shopping trip to Newcastle was cancelled due to not one member replying to the letters that were sent out. This is something I find quite amazing considering we have 170+ members in the East Section. I could say a lot more on this subject but the Editor would not allow it to be printed if I did. The bus was cancelled five days before the trip and luckily the company did not ask us for the £170 for a late cancellation. If this was a golf outing would it have been cancelled?

Our Annual Dance was held at the Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady, 82 members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the night. It was great to see out Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison and his wife, in attendance. Our thanks go to Mr R. Binnie and his staff at the Kilsplindie who looked after us so well and also to the band "Cool Reception" who were excellent. Thanks also go to the companies who provided us with raffle prizes including Willie Blair who provided a signed football from Livingston FC and Ronnie Blair who provided a signed ball and strip from Hearts FC. These were auctioned and raised a total of £170. Thanks also to anyone I have missed out! The numbers were down on last year due to us restricting the numbers to 90 and a few late cancellations. Sam Morrison bought the Hearts FC ball and was last seen trying to sell it at breakfast when he realised what he had done! The dance has been booked at the same venue on Saturday December 6 1997, details in future articles.

The Section would like to congratulate Steve Sinclair, Head Greenkeeper - Craigmillar Park GC, and his wife Joanne on the birth of their baby girl, Jordan. Congratulations also to Tom Brannan, Souter of Stirling, and his wife, Jana, on the birth of their identical twin girls, Chloe and Erin, who were born on Saturday January 4, 1997. Our best wishes for the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our friends in the trade for all the work they have done over the past year and we look forward to welcoming you to our Section events in the coming year.

I look forward to the rest of the year. You can contact me on 01875 870485 or mobile 0410 110253. If anyone has any photographs from the dance, Section events etc could we borrow them to publish them in the magazine. I will make sure they are returned. Chris Yeaman

### To all members of the Scottish Region

Have any of our members out there got any photographs from their section events such as outings, social nights, dances etc or even Scottish region events showing what BIGGA has to offer to potential new members and also any members that have not rejoined. If you could send me them and we will hope to publish them in future editions of Greenkeeper International. All pictures will be returned after use. Also if you have any stories of past events that would be of interest to our members please let me know and I shall try my best to get them into the magazine. Articles about work done at your golf course would also be interesting. So don't be afraid, write it down and send it to me and I will do all I can to get it into print. Send any photographs or information to Chris Yeaman, Magazine Liaison Officer, 12 Craigiellan Cottages, Aberlady, East Lothian, EH32 0PY or phone 01875 870485 or mobile 0410 100253. Do it now!

### Central

Apologies for there being no news last month but the publication deadline beat us following the AGM. Excuses out of the way, I hope all is going well with everyone at the start of another year

with the challenges which lie ahead.

Your committee for the coming year is as follows:- Chairman/Secretary - John Crawford, Stirling; Vice Chairman - Archie Dunn, Auchterarder; Committee - Andy O'Hara, Leven Links, John Bashford, Kinross, David Smith, Aberdeen, Ian Ross, The Dukes Course, Stuart Sime, Leven Links, Stuart Campbell, Stirling.

Hopefully now that we have new faces on the committee we will come up with fresh ideas for events which will come up with fresh ideas for events which will create a wider interest for more members to participate in.

A number of trade reps have offered to gather information for the Section news so if you have anything you wish to be included let me know or you can also let either Pat Allan, John Geddes or Allan Crawford know and they will pass it on to me.

Section member David Sword has retired from Bishopshire GC, a nine hole course at Bishop Hill, east of Kinross with superb views over Loch Leven. We all wish David a long and healthy retirement and now that he will have more free time on his hands we look forward to seeing him at more section events.

An invitation has been extended to us by Alan Miller, of Stewarts, to visit their turf farm near Kinross. This invitation has been accepted and a visit will be organised whether one or 101 wish to attend, so please let me know if you are interested. The visit will take place in either late March or early April this year.

The date and venue for the Spring Tournament have yet to be confirmed but I will be in touch as soon as they are to hand. If anyone fancies hosting any of our golf tournaments at their course please let me know and I will make the arrangements.

The Inter-Club Tournament will take place again this year (probably with a different format), details will be circulated soon.

For various reasons membership of the section dropped during 1996 so let's make every effort to reverse this slight hiccup and reach at least 250 members this year. This can easily be achieved if we all encourage one new member to join.

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Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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We extend a warm welcome to new members David McCormack, The Dukes Course, St Andrews, and Tom Rawlinson, Neil Henderson and Ross Anderson, all from St Andrews Links, and look forward to meeting them at some of our Section events in the not too distant future.

As we have now entered our 10th year in BIGGA would any member be interested in attending a "Gentleman's Dinner" to mark the occasion. This would probably be organised towards the end of the year with guest speakers etc. If not please let me have your ideas on how you think we should mark the occasion, if at all.

Hopefully the Central Section will be well represented at the Scottish Annual Conference at Perth next month when a varied and interesting programme of speakers covering a wide range of subjects have been brought together for your benefit. See you at Perth.

John Crawford

## NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton  
Tel: 01782 750539

### Cleveland

We welcome new members Mark Blueman, Richmond GC; Ian Christie, Northern Aggregates Ltd; Alistair Rowell, Carrs Agriculture; John Nicholson, Eamon Wall & Co; George Smith, Woodham GC, and Paul Kellest, Wynyard Club (East) to the Section.

Rejoined members are Kevin Heslop, Andrew Welch, Mark Brown and Kevin Bush all from Brancepeth GC, Durham with colleague, Neil Stoker, joining them as a new member.

Ian Holloran, Middlesbrough Municipal GC, has a special project for Ian White for his college NVQ 3 with four new ladies tees on the 4th, 5th, 9th and 12th.

The Turf Care quiz at Mount Oswald GC, Durham, was won by Teeside IOG. The greenkeepers team of Barry Walker and his staff plus Kevin Heslop and staff fought magnificently but lost in the last round. Many thanks to sponsors Terry Charlton and Barry Clennell and staff for a great evening and the best steak and kidney pie and peas to finish. The Shield is now called the David Pearson Memorial Shield.

Bruce Burnell

### Northern

By the time you read this many of you will have visited BTME '97 at Harrogate. No doubt, I will have seen quite a few while on the Northern Region stand.

Our winter golf was held at Selby GC. Many thanks to the greens staff, caterers and clubhouse staff for looking after us so well. The weather was very kind to us for the time of year and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. For many of us, we had the novelty of playing off astro-turf mats through the green. I wish I could get as much backspin normally.

Many thanks to certain members of

# Around the Green



the committee for their much appreciated help on the day and as always to the trade for supplying the many prizes on show.

Our AGM followed the golf and passed very smoothly. The new committee for 1997 is as follows. President - M. Guy, Greentech; Chairman - J. Waite; Vice Chairman - D. Thackray; Secretary/Treasurer - S. Heppenstall; Members. T. Jarvis, D. Cockburn, I. Thompson, R. Harris, P. Mitchell, G. Potter, A. Gamble and R. Gamble.

Robin Smith, Colin Garnett and Mick Hannan have decided not to stand for the committee this year. May I thank them all for their support during the previous year.

Tickets are now in circulation for our annual dinner dance at Bradford (Hawthorn) GC on Saturday, March 15, 1997 priced at £14 per person to include carvery meal, wine and entertainment. This should be a good night out so please purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Also book early for the forthcoming golf events with deposit of £10, the first of which is the Hayter qualifier at Wakefield (Woodthorpe)GC on Wednesday April 23.

Anyone with any news or problems please contact me on 01484 519829. I also hold a few dinner dance tickets, but will be able to put you on to someone else if mine have run out.

Simon Heppenstall

### Sheffield

Firstly, a late thank you to Adrian Ellis, from Barenburg UK Ltd, for his lecture in November.

On December 12 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC and we had two very interesting lectures. Our thanks go to David Stephenson, from D & E Turf, for his lecture on Aerification which was prepared at very short notice and to Chris Peel, from Grass Science, for his lecture on Annual Meadow Grass.

After the lectures which were attended by 75 members (which I think is a record attendance) we had a buffet which was enjoyed by everyone.

We also presented our President, Ken Arnold, with a commemorative plaque and some books on gardening with thanks for his 30 years and service as our Section President which is very much appreciated by us all.

We also presented Barry Heaney with an engraved glass tankard in recognition of his services as BIGGA's National Chairman.

Our congratulations go to Derek McJannet and his wife on the birth of their daughter recently, all the best to all three of you.

Our next lecture will be given by G.

Brady, from Rhone Poulenc, and will be held at Rotherham GC on March 6 at 2.30pm.

John Lax

### North West

On Tuesday December 10 a seminar at Mere G & CC was enjoyed by 64 member of the North-West Section and several members of the trade. The presentation was given by Mike Robinson, President of Seed Research of Oregon, who has spent many years developing and refining varieties of grasses, especially Providence Creeping Bentgrass. Mike outlined the breeding programme, production aspects and the issues of establishing and maintaining "Providence" in the UK. Mike claims that "Providence" can be used on greens, tees and fairways and has a good resistance to fungal disease and good colour throughout the year. The seminar was followed by a hot supper and the costs for the evening was sponsored by British Seed Houses.

The President of the North-West Section, Mr Arthur Harrison, Sales Director of SISIS, retired in December and the Section presented Arthur with a barometer as a retirement gift. Arthur has been President of the North-West Section for some years and now feels that he should hand over to someone else, possibly in the trade. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Arthur many happy years' retirement and many thanks for his efforts in preaching the cause of greenkeepers at all levels.

We still require courses for this year's spring and summer tournaments so if you would like to suggest any course please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### North Wales

The Section's Christmas competition took place on December 5 at Porthmadog GC. Seventy five members and guests took part on a bright clear day. The course was presented in beautiful condition, which considering the time of year was a credit to "Bronco" and his team. Our thanks to Porthmadog GC for providing us with courtesy of the course for the day and for looking after us so well. For anyone who has not played Porthmadog you are missing out on a treat, the course which is both part parkland and part true links is set in beautiful, peaceful surroundings.

The winner of the TORO Cup for the Best Net was Andy Peel. Ken Cooke won the Nine of Clubs Golf Club "Nearest the Pin" trophy. Craig Wheeler, of Frodsham Golf Club, won the "Best Aggregate Trophy". This trophy donated by Rigby Taylor will be awarded each year to the player with the best aggregate score from our Spring and Autumn competitions. Our thanks to Rigby Taylor and the Nine of Clubs Golf Club for these two new handsome trophies.

As is usual at our Christmas competition, each player received a prize. Our thanks for their continued support and prizes must go to our sponsors of the day who were: ALS, Andy Acorn,

Cheshire Sand, Gem, Ki-Chem, Major Owen, Martin Bros., John Osman, Rigby Taylor, Strike Topturf, Toro and Walker Engineering.

Thirty members attended our AGM that followed our Christmas Competition. Our outgoing Chairman Brian Anderson and Treasurer Dave Proctor were thanked for their many years devoted service to the section. The committee for 1997 is as follows:- President - Terry Adamson, Chairman - Pat Valentine, Vice Chairman - Dave Goodridge, Match Secretary - Terry Evans, Treasurer - Neil Toner and Secretary - Trevor Johnson. Stuart McCall, Justin Cheung, Carl Price and Alan Kift make up the rest of your committee.

This year the Section's funding will be reduced by approximately £2000. This will be caused by the ending of the membership rebate scheme whereby each section received a rebate on each member's membership fee. This undoubtedly will have an effect on the running of the Section. Your committee will be looking at ways to make up this shortfall of funds and would appreciate any points of view from yourselves. If you have any thoughts of ways to improve the running of your section please contact myself or any of the committee.

Our Spring Competition, that is also the Hayter qualifier, will be on Wednesday, April 30 at Frodsham GC. This is a new venue for our Section competition and I hope that it will be fully supported, please remember that guests for our competitions should be golf related such as Secretaries, Green Chairmen, Captains and Committee members.

Do not forget the seminar and lecture at the Welsh College of Horticulture on February 26. Rigby Taylor will be giving an "Organics" seminar from 10 am to 4 pm and then on March 27 at 12 am for the "Little and Large" show given by Boughton Loam.

I would also like to welcome three new members - Russell Lewis and Gareth Roberts of Northrop Country Park GC and Andrew Roberts, of Caldycy GC.

Finally an apology to Gareth "Bronco" Williams, of Porthmadog, who may have been surprised to see himself referred to as Gareth "Bronco" Roberts in the Section Newsletter. Sorry Gareth. Trevor Johnson

### MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midlands

The last event of 1996 was the Sections Christmas Tournament held on December 12 at Charnwood Forest. On a cool but calm winters day 33 members participated in the Stableford competition with the winners as follows:- Category 1: 1. P. Tatlow, (Kedleston Park, 32 pts); 2. C. Chamberlain, Scraftoft, 29 pts; 3. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 28 pts. Category 2: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 33 pts; 2. C. Taylor, Willesley Park, 27 pts; 3. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 27 pts.



Trade and Associate Winner – Ivan Toons, 28 pts.

Thanks go to Charnwood Forest for hosting our Christmas Tournament and to Tim Allard, Head Greenkeeper and his staff, for providing us with an excellent golf course. I'm sure all members would agree that the greens especially were a pleasure to putt on. Unfortunately it was another day for being Bindleyed not only in the golf but also the Quiz, organised by Dave Leatherland, as Mark's and my own team finished first and second! Also thanks should be extended to the Stewardess for providing everybody with a great Christmas meal. A special thanks should be extended to Rigby Taylor for again sponsoring the day and to all Section members for supporting the event. Again the committee members pulled together to help in the smooth running of the Tournament and I would like to thank them all for their valuable help.

Also the Section would like to thank our Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, for making the long journey to support our Section's day and answer any queries for our members.

On March 5 a new fixture has been arranged at Lingdale GC. The format for the day is a Better Ball Stableford competition. This will replace the old pairs knock-out tournament. The tee has been reserved from 11 am and is restricted to full greenkeeper members only. No entry forms will be sent out so should you wish to attend please give me a ring and I will forward you a form.

This year's AGM will be held at Greatham Valley, on November 5, at 4.30pm.

I would also on behalf of all members of the Section like to wish Brian Harding, of Birstall GC, a long and happy retirement. Brian has been at Birstall for 23 years.

Finally if there are any members who have not been receiving their entry forms over the past 12 months, could they please give me a ring so we can sort out the problem.

Antony Bindley

### Midland

I would like to start by introducing myself as your new Secretary as I have taken over from Kim Blake and I would like to thank Kim on behalf of the Midlands Section for his continuous work and commitment to the Section.

The AGM was held at Whittington Heath GC, on December 9. There was a good representation of members and those present elected the following officers and members of the committee: President – Alan Kite, Chairman – Trafford Stonebridge, Secretary – Jonathan Wood. Other members include Rhys Thomas, P Richmond, T. Morris, D. Fellows, P. Holtham, K. Weston, A. Smith and E. Stant. At this point you will obviously realise the absence of Mike Hughes name from the above committee. He has given time and a great deal of effort to the Midlands Section at committee and as Chairman for a number of years so on behalf of the Mid-

lands Section I would like to thank Mike and ask for his continued support of the Midland Section.

The Christmas Tournament was also held at Whittington Heath GC on December 9. It was a Texas Scramble format which created an enjoyable days golf with some great scores and the results are as follows:- 1. T. Cheese, A. Kite, B. Nuttal, A. Southam; 2. R. Hayhurst, D. Brazier, P. Jefford, J. Wideson. Thanks to Burrows of Stafford who were our main sponsors and to Whittington Heath GC for hosting the tournament.

The tournaments and venues will be in next month's report along with the education programme. To finish with I would like to ask any member who has information which they think of importance to be put into future months reports to contact me on 01384 292396. I would also be keen to help with any other secretarial matters which you have.

Jonathan Wood

### East of England

Another year over, which ended with a Texas Scramble at Belton Park GC, followed by the AGM. The scramble was sponsored by Groundcare and John Deere Ltd and won by David Welberry, Barry Anderson and John Kircock who took first place with a birdie, eagle, birdie finish. The course was in good condition and it was nice to see the hard work put in by Colin Swinger and his staff on the fairways is now paying off.

The AGM followed on from the golf and saw a fairly good turn out of members.

The Chairman welcomed all and apologies were read. The previous minutes were passed. The Secretaries report covered the 1997 programme of events and the Secretary took the opportunity to thank all the clubs for allowing us courtesy of their courses and thanked all our sponsors for the excellent prizes. He outlined the winter Education programme and asked for topics from the floor. The Treasurer then explained the healthy financial report. The election of officers has no change and so all committee positions remain the same. Any other business covered a range of discussions which left the Secretary with plenty of ideas for 1997. The evening should have finished with Michael Wood, of Thorpe Wood GC, being presented with the Order of Merit Blazer but it is still on order!

The fixture list for 1997 EOE Section events are almost completed and will be posted to you as soon as possible.

Finally I close by wishing you successful greenkeeping and good golfing for the forthcoming year.

Graeme A Macdonald

### Mid Anglia

Our last golf event of the year took place in early December at a very windy Dunstable Downs GC. Not the sort of conditions you need really at such an exposed course, still I'm sure most peo-

ple enjoyed the day.

The Texas Scramble format was used once again which enabled non-greenkeepers to participate, giving it a more social feel.

Our thanks go to Frank Scullion and all his staff for the excellent condition of the course and to Dunstable Downs GC for their hospitality. Twenty four teams entered the competition, sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products, and the results were:- 1. J. Moorhouse, J. Hatton, L. Cant, D. Wright, 59.7; 2. S. Giardani, R. Lawrence, A. Grew, J. Clark, 60; 3. A. Dancer, J. Elborn, C. Carson, A. Dance, 61.8. Nearest the pin was won by Ken Bunting and the longest drive by Mark Whittle.

Our thanks go to Colin White, of Avoncrop, for sponsoring the event and all other members of the trade who supported us on the day.

It was also nice to see Peter Larter, our newly appointed Regional Administrator, in attendance and I am sure he got a good impression of the Mid Anglia Section. Thanks for attending Peter. Although I could not stay for the after-dinner comedian from what people have said he was very good.

On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Derek Prior, formerly of Rogers Engineers, a happy retirement and Ronan McKeown all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Hayling Island GC. Ronan leaves our Section to join the South Coast Section and over the past few years he put a lot of effort into making our Section successful so thanks for that Ronan.

Our next Section event a talk by Andy Cole, the STRI Agronomist, on February 18 has been cancelled since Andy is unavailable. The next talk is to be held on March 11 and will be given by Bruce Jameson, who was formerly Director of Agronomy for the European Tour. This event will be held at Mentmore G&CC and begins at 2pm.

Paul Lockett

### SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child

Tel: 01803 844056

As dawn broke on January 21 the Region's trip to the BTME got under way, although a few from the extreme edges of the Region had already started to make their way to the pick up points. Everyone was on time as indeed was the coach itself much to the disappointment of the jokers on board. On our arrival at Harrogate we were received with the usual warm, friendly welcome by the staff of the hotel.

What do we say this time about the one and only BTME? The bustling crowds said it all. Another record broken for our tenth anniversary and the year has only just started. The excitement of the last few days has generated more warmth within every aspect of the industry from worldwide friendships. Long may it continue.

Nearer to home we, the Region's organisers, are blessed with some very

good friends who took us out for a meal and bought us presents and flowers. It is very gratifying to know how much they appreciate the efforts. While on the subject of organisation the exhibition was extremely well run and put together. We are all going to miss you Louise. The seminars were very well received as were the social events. We must make a special mention about the banquet, it was just superb and our thanks to Ransomes for the gift they sent to our table to mark Marion's and my own retirement as Regional Administrator. It was a very nice thought.

Our thanks must go to the entire BIGGA staff for all the hard work put in on our behalf. It is easy to forget the problems and emergencies which always seem to happen and have to be dealt with at big events. They did all this and still came up smiling. Well done!

On a personal note, I wish Pat all the very best for his year as Chairman and I thank him for inviting me to serve as his Vice Chairman. I am very honoured and proud to do so.

Gordon Child

### Devon and Cornwall

The Section's congratulations are extended to David Harrison on his new appointment within SISIS. David would like to express his thanks to all the Section's members for making his time working in our area so enjoyable.

Our Christmas meeting was a sell out with more than 80 members attending the day which started as always with our golfing members competing in a greensome format for the P J Flegg Trophy. Our non-golfing members were as usual treated to the guided course walk by head man, Richard Wisdom.

After an excellent Christmas lunch Patrick Flegg presented the morning's golfing prizes to some outstanding pairs:- 1. J. Mitchell, Perranporth, & R. Whyman, Bude, 39 pts; 2. G. Tamblyn, Mullion, & D. Manley, Mullion, 39 pts; 3. T. Ramsden, Budock Vean, & T. James, Tehidy, 38 pts.

The Chairman and President presented the prizes for nearest the pin on the 12th and 15th holes and for the longest drive on the 10th: 12th (Presidents Prize) M. Gilbert, Launceston; 15th (sponsored by Links Leisure) K. James, West Cornwall; Longest Drive (sponsored by Links Leisure) T. Gooch, Torrington.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by Chris James, with his incredible mind reading act. Following our entertainment we held two raffles the first being for Hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha and won by K. James and T. Pipe. The second raffle of 50 prizes concluded our day.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and all their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his crew as they seem to improve the course each year.

A big thanks to the day's main spon-



sor Patrick Flegg, of P J Flegg, to our President John Palfrey, who supplied the wine at lunch and to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

Dates for your diary; February meeting on Wednesday 26 at Perranporth GC; March meeting on Thursday 20 at Honiton GC; Westurf Trade Show, at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday April 30.

Richard Whyman

### South Wales

Our latest winter evening lecture was presented by Guy Longshaw, of Symbio Ltd, and was entitled "The Biological Approach to Sports Turf Management". A dozen or so hardy soles braved the freezing temperatures to attend an excellent intriguing presentation. Many topics were covered including the breakdown and reduction of thatch, disease resistance, ward development, black layer removal and improved drought resistance. The presentation provoked many questions and much audience participation and could have gone on all night. It was a thoroughly worthwhile evening, a pity about the attendance but it was definitely your loss. Our sincere thanks to Guy Longshaw and Symbio.

Our winter competition, AGM and Christmas Dinner were held recently at the Pyle and Kenfig GC. The day as always was sponsored by Vitax and their local distributor, Celtic Mowers. Our sincere thanks go to both Allan Stowe and Kim Davies for their support

## Around the Green



and continued sponsorship.

Some 47 golfers took to the course armed with six layers of clothing, a hip flask (each) and of course some golf clubs. The weather on the whole remained bright despite the sub-zero temperatures and as always the well presented but tricky links course made for a challenging round of golf. Thanks to Pyle and Kenfig GC for allowing us the courtesy of their facilities and to Paul Robinson and his team for their sterling work in presenting a course in such good condition despite the inclement weather last year. The AGM also witnessed an excellent attendance of some 50 or so despite the absence of Ted Thompson (who sent his apologies) through ill health who missed only his second AGM in 32 years – a record surely!

Many of the changes that occurred during 1996 were highlighted such as the constitutional changes, the introduction of part-time paid regional administrators, the introduction of both retired and student membership and an update on a new BIGGA Headquarters.

In concluding his report the Chairman, Idwall Morris, thanked both the committee for their support during his

term of office and also the trade for their sponsorship and support of which we rely on and helps make the section tick. He then went on and paid tribute to retiring Regional Administrator Gordon Child and his wife Marion for their 10 years of service and echoed all our wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The Secretary in his report gave an explanation in greater detail of the changes and how they would affect both individuals and the section. He then went on to give facts and figures of both the section and total BIGGA members at present.

The Secretary paid tribute to the education committee for their sterling work during 1996 and especially Malcolm Davies who, along with Peter Gillard, organised all educational events and saved the Secretary an enormous amount of work.

In summing up the Secretary stated that the Section needs to get greater numbers of greenkeepers to its events, whether they be at Section, Regional or National level. All events are organised for your benefit, please support them!

The committee again were thanked for their support with special tribute to Idwall, who fronted the Section admirably for longer than his elected term.

Section Committee:- President – Colin Murphy; Vice President – Ray Burrows; Chairman – Gerwyn Price; Vice Chairman – David Ward; Secretary – Peter Lacey. Golf and Social:- Chairman – Mike Jones; Douge Donne,

Adrian Panks. Education:- Chairman – Malcolm Davies; David Ward, Mike Williams. Regional Board:- Peter Lacey, David Ward, David Jenkins. Liaison Representatives:- Malcolm Davies, David Ward, Mike Williams, Peter Lacey.

Fixture cards will be issued as soon as confirmation has been received from all parties.

The Section wishes to pass on their congratulations to Huw Morgan, of the Wilderness Golf Club in Sevenoaks, for his recent success in coming third in the Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Well done Huw!

Peter Lacey

### South Coast

On December 2 we held our Christmas Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner at Royal Winchester GC. We have been made welcome at Royal Winchester for more years than I care to remember and our thanks go to the Captain, Committee and everyone at Royal Winchester for another memorable day.

Our Turkey Trot this year took a different line. Instead of the usual Stableford Mark organised a Texas Scramble which was a great success. The results were:- 1. Ed McCabe, Keiran Jaques, Simon White; 2. Adrian Archer, Phil Nason, Steve Ridland; 3. Matt Blake, John York, Pat Bell; Nearest the Pin: Mark Webb, Mark Wilton, Neil Cleverly. Congratulations to all the winners. The weather this year was ideal and thanks go to Phil Hanks and his team who as usual presented the course in excellent condition.

## PRESENTING THE POWERFUL NEW REELMASTER SERIES.





On completion of the golf we had the AGM which ran smoothly. The Chairman emphasised the need for more fund raising within the Section.

After 10 years our Regional Administrator Gordon Child is standing down. Gordon, assisted by his wife Marion, has done a fantastic job for the Region and BIGGA as a whole. They will be greatly missed. If it was not for their hard work over the past 10 years the Region would not be in the healthy state it is today. A successor is being appointed and he/she will be a paid employee of BIGGA. This means there will be no more annual refunds from Headquarters and each event that we hold will have to make a profit or at the very least break even so we keep the Section solvent at all times.

As the AGM marked the Section's 25th Anniversary Eric James, a founder member of the Section gave us a brief history of its progress. As I am sure you all know Eric has been Chairman of our Section for most of its existence.

Jim Fry has been President since our Section was formed. He has supported BIGGA at International, National, Regional and Section level. Before BIGGA he was a staunch supporter of BGGGA and has sponsored a large number of our events over the years. Thank you Jim on behalf of our Section for all the marvellous support you have given us.

The main item on the Agenda was the election of the Committee:- President - Jim Fry; Chairman - Allen Mitchell; Vice Chairman - Ed McCabe;

Secretary - Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser - Mark Webb; Magazine - Ken Lodge; Sparsholt College - Bob Dennis; Regional Board - Keiran Daly, John York, Andy Hill, Tony Gaod, Fred Deacon, Trevor Smith. If you have any queries concerning the Section, Region or Association in general contact any of the above.

On completion of the AGM the catering staff provided us with an excellent Christmas Dinner. The wine was kindly donated by Jim Fry and once again our thanks go to him.

All that remains is to thank our main sponsors for the day:- Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Wilton and John Deere, represented by Nick Clarice. Mark and Nick have been attending our Turkey Trot for a number of years and we thank them both for their continued support. Our thanks also go to Avoncrop, Parker Hart and Diamond Products for their contributions.

By now you should have received details of the Regional/Section seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on February 18. There is still time to book in, contact Jeff Drake, 10 Cold Harbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PW. Telephone 01722 503938.

Preparations are being made for Westurf 97. The Regional event of the year will be held at Long Ashton GC on Wednesday April 3. We have asked for a dry, sunny day this year! I look forward to seeing you all there. Anyone who has transport problems please let me know along with anyone who has empty seats

in their car. I have room for 3 to start the ball rolling so give me a call on 01329 282362.

Unfortunately our speaker for the March Winter Lecture William McKechnie has left Parkstone and returned north of the border to Scotland. However British Seed Houses have agreed to fill the gap and Bob Scott will be giving us a talk on grass seed, in particular British Seed Houses new creeping bent. Whether you are a supporter of creeping bent or traditional fescue come along to Crane Valley GC on March 6 at 10 am. It should prove to be a very interesting topic. Lunch will be available and 9 holes of golf has been arranged, though the format of the golf is still to be decided.

Alan Rideout has asked me for a list of all winners of the Roffey Cup since 1985. The Roffey Cup is the best handicap score over 36 holes at the Spring Tournament. Alan is the present holder of the trophy and would like to update the names on the cup since they are sadly out of date. Anyone who has won the trophy since 1985 please contact Alan on 01202 394552.

Finally I am sure that the Section would like to wish William McKechnie good luck and good fortune in his new post in Scotland.

Ken Lodge

#### South West

Bleak conditions will now be rendering the courses deserted except for that strange sub species of the golfing family

- the senior golfer. I always somewhat naively assumed that this particular genetic freak evolved over many, sometimes hundreds of years at golf clubs but having worked at a brand new course I realise they just appear almost overnight at the first sniff of a new course being constructed. It is almost as though they dig themselves out of the ground complete with a half set of "pin-splitters" and 20 year old rubber shoes. It doesn't matter what the weather is like, the attire never changes. But there they are, the same fourballs everyday, consistently shooting scores of between one and two hundred with only a pot of tea and a piece of toast split four ways as the only visible form of nutrition. Don't get me wrong, they're a great bunch of people but why do they have to play every day. The fact that they have developed these blindingly quick proddy golf swings guaranteed never to lose a ball would lead me to conclude they feel positively cheated if they do not play every day. This theory is further substantiated when I see them return after their round to scour the area should the initial search fail to find an errant golf ball. Even their tee pegs are crudely tied together to prevent the loss of a one penny investment.

But enough of my ramblings and on to the Section news. A full house was present at the annual South West seminar at Cannington College and we were treated to some excellent speakers. Jim Arthur sitting in for Bill Lawson, who had to drop out through ill health, gave

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us the benefit of his views on a variety of subjects. George Brown educated us on the preparation of Turnberry for the British Open and also on the nocturnal habits of Scottish greenkeepers and there were also some excellent talks from Gordon Irvine and the BIGGA Roadshow team among others. Thanks must go to Rhone Poulenc for their sponsorship.

Later in the month we gathered together for the Christmas Tournament at Worlebury GC and once again this proved to be very popular. The course was presented superbly and our thanks must go to Chris Stabbings and his crew for this. As at the previous meeting it was local knowledge allied to a touch of banditry that took the honours with Derek Mogg, the host club's Captain and John Kane of Clevedon winning first prize with 39 pts. Les Johnson, our retired Salford member, and Trevor Cleverley, of Elestoke, took second place. Our thanks go to Worlebury GC for the use of their course and the sponsors, Roffey Bros, for providing the wine on the table which was very much appreciated. A superb Christmas lunch was followed by the raffle with all the prizes being provided by other local sponsors. We were then entertained for an hour or so by a comedian. Although he might have heard of the phrase political correctness I would not recommend him to a convention of black Irish lesbians but nevertheless he kept us very much amused!

We are now getting together a couple of courses on first aid and spraying etc. If anyone is interested in attending any of these please contact either Peter Baynton or myself on 01380 828380. Marc Haring

## SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### East Anglia



Quite an eventful day I think – that's how December 12, 1996 will go down in history. A day when Essex man decided to set up on his own and call themselves, surprise, surprise, the Essex Section. A day of mixed emotion for me being an ex-Essex man myself I shall miss the linn of my old haunts and "HG" Wells who was always good for a laugh as we shared the Cockney wit and humour.

Life must go on however and while we wish Essex man all the best for the future the East Anglia Section must look at recruiting from within, especially North Norfolk greenkeepers who many now be more interested now that there is now quite so much travelling involved.

If the Section is to survive which I am sure that it will now that it is truly East Anglia, we must all relate to it as our Section, take pride in it and support it as much as possible.

Ian Willett is our new Secretary and anyone who wants to know anything at all about the new East Anglia Section can contact him on 01842 754241 or through Thorpe Ness GC. If anyone wants me to put anything in the maga-

## Around the Green



zine contact me on 01603 432120 or through Eaton GC.

Back to that history making day at Alderburgh, a game of golf did precede the AGM and the top three were Ian Willett, Andy Sheehan and Sam Sylvester, all on 32 pts (that's points not pints).

Three other people are also worthy of a mention. They are Lyndon Upham, who thought he'd take the tiger line off the temporary first tee but put his ball through the clubhouse window. He tried to look the other way but could not keep a straight face. Not that breaking the window was funny but the sight of the spectators hitting the deck like someone had just thrown a hand grenade was.

The second person is Roger Plummer, who scored 19 points. He only "played nine" he said as the other nine were blobs.

Your scribe, to score more points than Roger, was always going to get a mention. The third person is Andrew Kersey who scored eight points. Full marks Andrew for handing your card in. As the song goes things can only get better.

The four desperados, Curtis, Chesham, Richardson and Rushbook played the nine hole and came 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

We also had the men in green coats from BIGGA Palace to oversee the pantomime. They were John Pemberton and Derek Farrington, who is our area officier from on high. We shall all see him in due course.

John Pemberton presented the prizes to Doug Smith, Spring Shield, Steve Millard, Summer Shield, Ray Mitchell, Autumn Shield, and Tim Russell, Winter Shield.

After the presentation our thanks went to all the trade for their support over the years. They include, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Rhone Poulenc, CMW, King's Toro, Ransomes, Doe's, Colliers, Rigby Taylor, Turf Actant, Ben Burgess and Bartrams.

If I have missed anyone out I am sorry but it should not happen in future!

The next stage was the election of the officers who are as follows.

President, Ernie Hart; Vice President, Bob Chesham; Chairman, Steve Millard; Treasurer, Martin Mystow; Handicap Secretary, Alan Carter; Secretary, Ian Willett; Scribe, Mick Lathrope; Regional Members, Michael Peters, Sam Sylvester, David Childs, Roger Plummer; Liaison Officer, Colin Rushbrook.

Next year's dates are Finn Valley, April 9 (Hayter Challenge), Next Round Ham Manor; Felixstowe, June 25; Yarmouth and Caister, August 13 (30 limit); Gog Magog, October 9; Gentleman's Dinner (Don't tell the wife) Walton Heath, March 7; National Tournament August '97 Cooden Beach.

I do believe that's nearly it except to say a big thank you to Aldeburgh GC for putting up with us yet again. They really do look after us. Thanks also to Mick Moss (CMW) for yet another turkey. Long may the tradition continue.

I'll just end by saying, come on East Anglia, let's get this show on the road. It's your Section. Support it!  
Mick Lathrope

## Sussex

The Turkey Trot for 1996 was once again held at Littlehampton GC. We were luckier with the weather this year, no frost, no snow, just the sea breeze that went through rather than round you. After a hearty breakfast and a brandy we set out to do battle. All was fine until we arrived at the halfway bar (provided by Miracle). After more brandy, beer and mince pies the golf deteriorated some what, but who cares as it's Christmas. After 18 holes we were all ready for a hot shower and our Christmas dinner. The food and the service were up to their usual high standards. Then to the prize giving. All scores have been verified by George Barr;- 1. George Barr(!), Paul Ward, Bob Watters, Mark Day, 54 points; 2. Rob Short, Les Templeman, Brian Finn, A. Finn, 54 points. The turkey vouchers were provided by Avoncrop. On behalf of the Section could I thank Keith Palmer, Secretary of Littlehampton, and Dave Wood and his greenkeeping staff for presenting the course so well. Rumour has it that we have been invited back again this year.

For those of you who do not already know two of our Section managed to find brides last year. Congratulations to Raymond Day who married Jill in October 1996 and to Alistair Cale who married Dee also in October 1996. After partnering Alistair in the Turkey Trot I don't know whether to send congratulations or sympathy to Dee (only joking Alistair).

Well that's it for now, don't forget I need your input for future articles. Contact me on (01403) 731567.

Colin Cathie

## Surrey

As we are in a change over period on the committee it has fallen my lot to keep you up to date as to what has been going on in the Section.

The Turkey Trot was held at Guildford GC on December 3. The weather for once held fair, my thanks to all who attended and my apologies to those who were too late with their applications – for once the start sheet was full up! My thanks to the Management and to Chris and his merry men for a job well done. Results:- 1. J Mathis, Northants GC, 40 pts; 2. Billy McMillan, 37 pts; 3. Ian (Sooty) Sutcliffe, 35 pts. Trade prize:- I. Sellars, 40 pts.

The AGM was held after the golf, again my apologies to those who arrived at the correct time but after the meeting had started. This was due to events beyond by control. Four members of the committee have decided to

stand down this year – Clive Osgood, Derek Walder, D. Gibbs and Roger Glazier. Our sincere thanks to all the hard work they have put in over the years. We did manage to recruit one screaming and kicking volunteer, our singer and expert golfer, Johnny Mathis! Any more recruits would be welcome.

The lecture by British Seed Houses, held at Reigate Heath GC on December 12, was a great success and very well attended with excellent food and the American speaker being well worth the trip.

I will get the 1997 diaries out as soon as possible but we still have a couple of venues to fill. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all of you "regulars" that have supported our events throughout 1996. We have been playing to full houses but new faces are more than welcome.

The Parker Salver is open to suggestions, give me, or any committee member, a ring and let us have your ideas. Hopefully someone else will take on the newsletter in 1997 so I will wish you all the very best for the New Year.

Ted Stiles

## Kent

First of all I hope you all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year, and no doubt a successful Harrogate.

I have got some long overdue results from last year's golf tournaments. At Sundridge Park we played for the Gem Professional Shield on a very nice day with the course in excellent condition. The results were:- Overall winner – J. Fullager; 2nd Nett – R. Lucas; Best Gross – H. Morgan; 2nd Gross – P. Rudkin; Trade Prize – G. Ogilvie. Many thanks must go to Gem, Sundridge Park and Raymond Day and his staff for the course.

Secondly the Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley was played on a beautiful, but frosty, morning. The course was in excellent condition with the best prepared temporary greens in the South-East. The golf scores were a credit to the course and the results were:- 1. B. Abbott – 40 pts; 2. S. Grand – 38 pts; 3. D. Wood – 37 pts; 4. J. Fullager – 37 pts; 5. J. Le Mar – 38 pts (trade prize). After the golf we held the fastest AGM ever – 15 minutes with no complaints! After a superb meal and the speeches the committee provided everyone with a festive bottle of wine to show thanks for your support during the year. Thanks must go to Darenth Valley, the sponsors, Scott and Avoncrop, and Nigel Stapley and his staff for the course.

For 1997 we have some new tournaments lined up. Firstly, there is a four-somes knock-out to be played between March and September and a greensome at Wilderness in the summer. Further information will be sent out soon. All members will be sent out a letter with a slip attached and if the slip is not returned by the closing date you will not be included on the golf mailing list for the rest of the year.

If you have any news etc please call me on 0860 260240.

Huw Morgan