

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

Ayrshire

The Section AGM was held in the Parkstone Hotel at the beginning of December and it proved to be an interesting meeting.

There were some changes on the committee this year. The Chairman is Ian McNab and two new committee members were elected they are Jimmy Johnstone, of The Turnberry Hotel Golf Course, and Brian Finlayson, a past Chairman, who is returning to the Committee. A full list will be published in the next magazine.

After the AGM Robert Bruce and Bob McKay presented a quiz this was well received although some of the questions would not have got lost in Mastermind. It was great fun and the one liners were good, but don't give up your day job Robert.

The results were as follows:

Third equal: The Snowmen and The Sick Notes; Second: The Gaffers; First: The Dunderheids

Names of team members are withheld to save embarrassment or vanity. The company then headed off into the night to sample the delights of the Prestwick Taj Mahal.

The snowy weather meant that Steven Knaggs and the Chairman could not get home that night and ended staying with Bob McKay in Prestwick. That's one they owe you Bob. The Breakfast will have to improve though.

Congratulations to John and Susan on the birth of their daughter, Chloe. John is a member of the greenkeeping team at Glasgow Gailes and Robert Bruce would like to pass on to the staff there the message to keep reading the magazine.

Jim Paton

West of Scotland

May I wish everybody a happy new year and best wishes, hopefully you all had an enjoyable time and aren't suffering too much from the new year Booze blues.

A few things to mention, firstly, on a very sad note, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Section and parents alike to



extend our heart felt sorrow to Campbell Wallace at Wishaw GC. The bereavement of any member of a family is a very saddening time, even more so when a young person is involved. The section can only express their sorrow at the untimely death of your son.

A Wildlife talk is arranged for January 28, at Finneston and I am sure all members would be welcomed.

New members to the section are Dennis Tweddell, Scott McKittrick, Kirkhill GC, we look forward to seeing them at future events.

A diary of events is being prepared and should keep members informed.

A football match (trial) will be arranged for January - North of River against West of River. Anybody interested please contact Gary Burns, at Lenzie GC. Brian Hill, at Drumpellier GC, or myself to let us arrange numbers.

BTME is approaching and unfortunately I cannot attend, but comments would be appreciated if you can pass them on.

Finally the annual dinner at the Admiral Bar on November 29. The turnout on the evening was poor but the majority attending seemed in high spirits. The comedian was slightly late but proved worth the wait. I would like to extend the Section's thanks to John Tainy and Kenny Hunter for the work they put into organise the event.

A report on the AGM and football will follow in next month's issue. Once again if anybody has an interesting fact please contact me on 0141 942 5554. It only takes a phone call.

Stuart Taylor

North

A sad note to begin this report with the tragic death of young Strathpeffer greenkeeper Gary Maclennan towards the end of last year. Our sympathies go to his family, friends and workmates at this time.

The Section AGM took place at Cullen GC. A small number of hardy souls participated in the Chairman verses Vice-Chairman golf match in the morning over this lovely cliff side course. Martin Dodds and his staff had the course in fine condition especially

as only recently it had been completely flooded. Martin had the photographs on display.

The Vice Chairman's team, led by Hughie Maclatchie, emerged victorious by 3-2.

The AGM passed off smoothly with Hughie Maclatchie taking over as Chairman from Andy Wilson, and myself becoming Vice Chairman. Dougal Duguid remains as Secretary with Sam Morrison taking on the Treasurer's job. Our two St Andrews committee men, the Gordon's Moir and Mckie stepped down and were replaced by Stephen Sullivan, Craigiehill and John Geddes, Ellon.

Gordon Moir has been a long time server on the North Committee having been Secretary for several years and, more recently, Treasurer - indeed he has served Section, Region and on the Board of Management, so he has earned a break from officialdom, although his input will be sorely missed.

Gordon McKie has also done his bit for the Section over the years and we must thank them both and look forward to seeing them at future outings with their feet up, so to speak.

Incidentally, I hope Gordon McKie has recovered now from his recent operation and will be fit to make use of his prize of a couple of days at BTME in Harrogate. Gordon maintains the Section record of winning in the magazine's BTME competition.

Congratulations to Stewart McBain, Hazlehead, who came second in the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award at Aldwark Manor in December. Stewart has worked very hard in turning Hazlehead into one of the top public courses in Scotland so this is just reward for his endeavours. Well done. I believe old friend, Huw Morgan, came third. So well done Huw, You can buy the first round at Harrogate.

The final four draw's for the Section's 200 Club were made at Cullen with the following lucky people winning: September, £30, Steven Frost, Aberdeen; October, £30, Bryan Beaton, Aberdeen; November, £40, Mark Ross, Elgin and December, £100, George Asher, Kemnay.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who bought tickets and supported the Section last year and hope you will all do so again this year as the 200 Club is our only real fund raiser.

See you all at Harrogate!
Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

North East

The start of November brought chaos to the region with winds of over 90 miles per hour, Matfen Hall was one of the casualties losing an oak tree which was over 200 years old on the 13th hole. Also the 4th and 7th holes were hit with large branches breaking off - see the picture on Page 4 of this magazine.

Slaley Hall has been chosen again for the European Tour in 1997. Hopefully we will see some big names this time and perhaps more greenkeepers giving a helping hand when needed.

The annual match against The East of Scotland was recently played at Matfen Hall the Cup was retained once again by the home side winning by 4-2 our thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring both the prizes and meals, also to John Harrison, Director of Golf, for courtesy for the course.

January brings the BTME again no doubt someone will be providing a coach so keep in touch with your local reps.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

As you may already know Phil Davies, of Mommersteeg, due to work commitments, is standing down as our Vice President. Phil requested the following message be read at the AGM and for those that were not at the AGM I include it here:

"At the AGM in 1995 I was extremely honoured to be nominated as Vice President and it is with a great deal of regret that I must step down from that appointment. My new role and duties with Mommersteeg make it difficult to be present at Committee meetings and Section functions, this coupled with



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supporting BIGGA under the Golden Key circle does not allow time to support the Section in full.

I would like to thank the Committee and members for the support over the many years I have been involved. It is my intention to remain a Section member and provide assistance wherever possible.

My very best wishes for the future."

I am sure that I speak for all the members when we wish Phil the very best for his future and thank him for his services to the Section.

On Wednesday, January 22, 1997, the Section will once again be providing coach transport to the BTME at Harrogate. The coach will leave Llandudno at 7am, stop at Abergele GC at 7.20am, Welsh College of Horticulture at 7.45am and finally opposite the Little Chef at the 2 Mills traffic lights at approx 8am. The coach which will leave Harrogate at the end of the AGM is free for members and £10 for non members. However, members who reserve seats and subsequently cancel them on or after January 13 may be charged a £10 cancellation fee. Please reserve your seats by contacting me before January 13. Remember to pre-book your entrance to the show before January 13 or take your chances in the queues.

On February 26, 1997 the Welsh College of Horticulture will be hosting an Organics Seminar given by Rigby Taylor. Originally this seminar was aimed at golf courses and greenkeepers within Wales. Rigby Taylor have asked that any members of the North Wales Section, who did not receive a invitation, are cordially invited to attend.

There will be four speakers on the following topics:

10am Chris Peal, Agronomist, Soil conditioners, seaweed mineral supplements

and organic turf dressing; 11am Andrew Law, Martin Bros, New Organic turf top dressings; 12 noon Buffet Lunch; 1.30pm Dr Neil Baldwin, Service Chemicals, Wetting agents, dry patch, fairy ring and associated problems; 2.30pm Andy Cawley, Dow, Weed Control and organics; 3.30pm, Questions and answers; 4pm Close.

Please contact Rigby Taylor on Freephone 0800 424 919 and tell them whether you will attend

morning, afternoon or both, this will ensure that there will be adequate eatings and seatings.

Also at the Welsh College of Horticulture on March 27 '97 at 12 noon. Boughton Loam will be giving their "Little and Large Show" on grasses, top dressings and root zones. I understand, from people who have already attended these talks, that it is a most informative and interesting two hours. Please contact me by the end of January so we know how many will be attending.

It is proposed that in June '97 the section we will organise another trip to Holland. The trip will take in a visit to the Gem quarries at Wroot, the Mommersteeg facilities at Vlijmen, a golf course and also a turf producer. There would be a one night stay in Amsterdam followed by a free morning before returning. Typically the trip would start at 10am on Thursday, returning to Northop at 12 noon on Sunday. In order that we can judge the requirement please contact me if you are interested in going.

We were sorry to hear the sad news that one of our members Francis Jones died suddenly on Thursday, November 14.

Please ring me on 0151 336 6675 if you have anything that may be of interest to your fellow greenkeepers.

Trevor Johnston

Cleveland

Darren Crang, assistant greenkeeper at Darlington GC was married in September.

Philip Laws, 19, apprentice, also at Darlington GC, is training at Hanghall College Durham.

Head Greenkeeper Paul Moore, Darlington GC, has a problem with tree roots getting to close to some greens bunkers. He has to root prune these. He and his staff have completed some red laid core paths which his members are happy with.

Recent wintry weather is slowing the grass growth and giving us a chance to finally clean up fallen leaves which had blown into ditches and hedge rows.

Winter greens do come in useful on heavy land in wet frosty weather conditions.

Bishop Auckland Head Greenkeeper, David Crocher and staff, have relaid two more greens to USGA specification.

He first did two a year ago and is delighted with the results. Originally the old greens had a serious drain and thatch problem. Congratulations to James Braithwaite from Hallgarth Hotel and Country Club Darlington on his move to Long Ashton GC in Bristol.

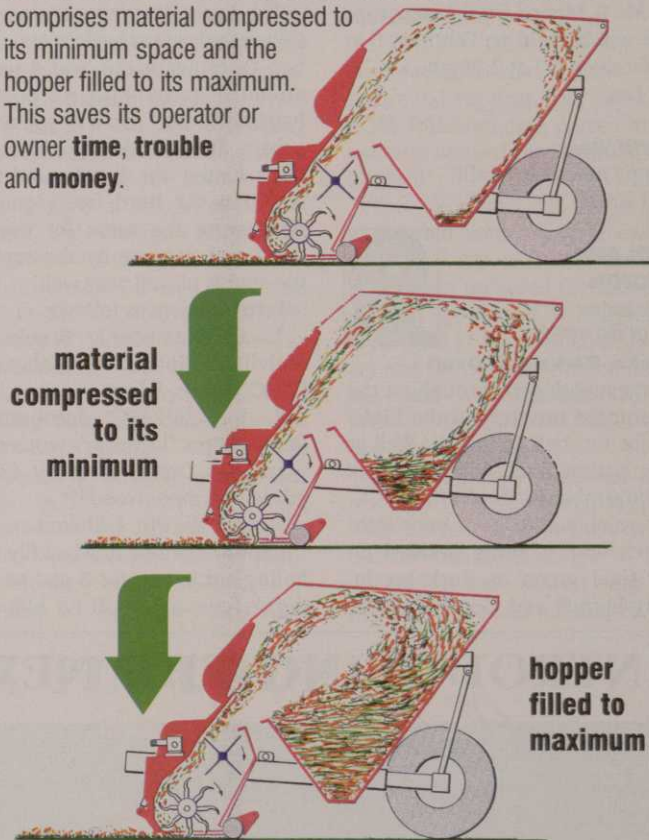
Bruce Burnell

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AD REF 130

Sheffield

Happy new year to all!

On November 7 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Mr John Le Mar from Bio - Lube Uk Ltd on an interesting lecture which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather, our Christmas competition which was to be held at Wortley GC had to be cancelled but will hopefully be played later this year if possible.

Our next lecture will be given by Mr R Moore from Levingtons and will be held on February 6 at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm
J V Lax

North West

Happy new year to all!
Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507



Bucks, Berks and Oxon

I have mentioned throughout the season the progress of the Rigby Taylor fourball knockout. Well at long last the final took place back in November at Castle Royal GC. It turned out to be a very tight match with it being decided on the final green as dusk set in. Tony French and Geoff Wheeler,

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Lambourne GC, were triumphant over Peter Critchley & John Thorne, Three Locks GC. Thanks to Rodger Bowles for sponsoring this tournament it's much appreciated by all the people who participate.

The last golf day took place at Calcot Park again back in November. Once again this was a well-attended event with 42 people battling it out for the splendid prizes. The weather could have been kinder for Simon and his staff but the hard frosty conditions were the same for everybody and judging by the scores the course played very well.

Prize winners as follows:

1. G. Patience/J. Brooks/B. Melville, 95pts; 2. V. Riches/N. Ely/C. Riches, 84pts

3. R. Clarke/C. Jacobsen/P. Reeve, 80pts (last year's winners)

Longest Drive, S. Adby (310 yds with a three wood?)

Nearest the Pin, I. Holton

Congratulations to Nigel Ely for holing out in one for 5 pts! As he didn't have any cash on him he

has promised to buy us all a drink at the next event - That should boost the numbers.

Thanks to all at Calcot for making the day a success it was much appreciated by all. Thanks to all the trade support as usual not just for this event but for your continued support throughout the season.

The golf was followed by the AGM which was carried out without any problems. The present committee was voted back on en bloc for another term of office. The newly appointed Regional Administrator Peter Larter attended the golf and meeting, giving us a brief insight into his role with the Association. Thanks for attending, Peter.

Venues for 1997 are as follows: Castle Royal, Badgemore Park and Lambourne as yet no firm dates are fixed. Fixture lists will be posted in time for the first event.

Lindsay Anderson

East Midlands

This year's AGM and Texas Scramble golf match was played on November 6 at Hinckley GC. Despite some very heavy showers and strong winds some excellent golf was played. The winning team consisted of the following members A. Porter, C. Chamberlain & C. Bates; 2. C. James, G,

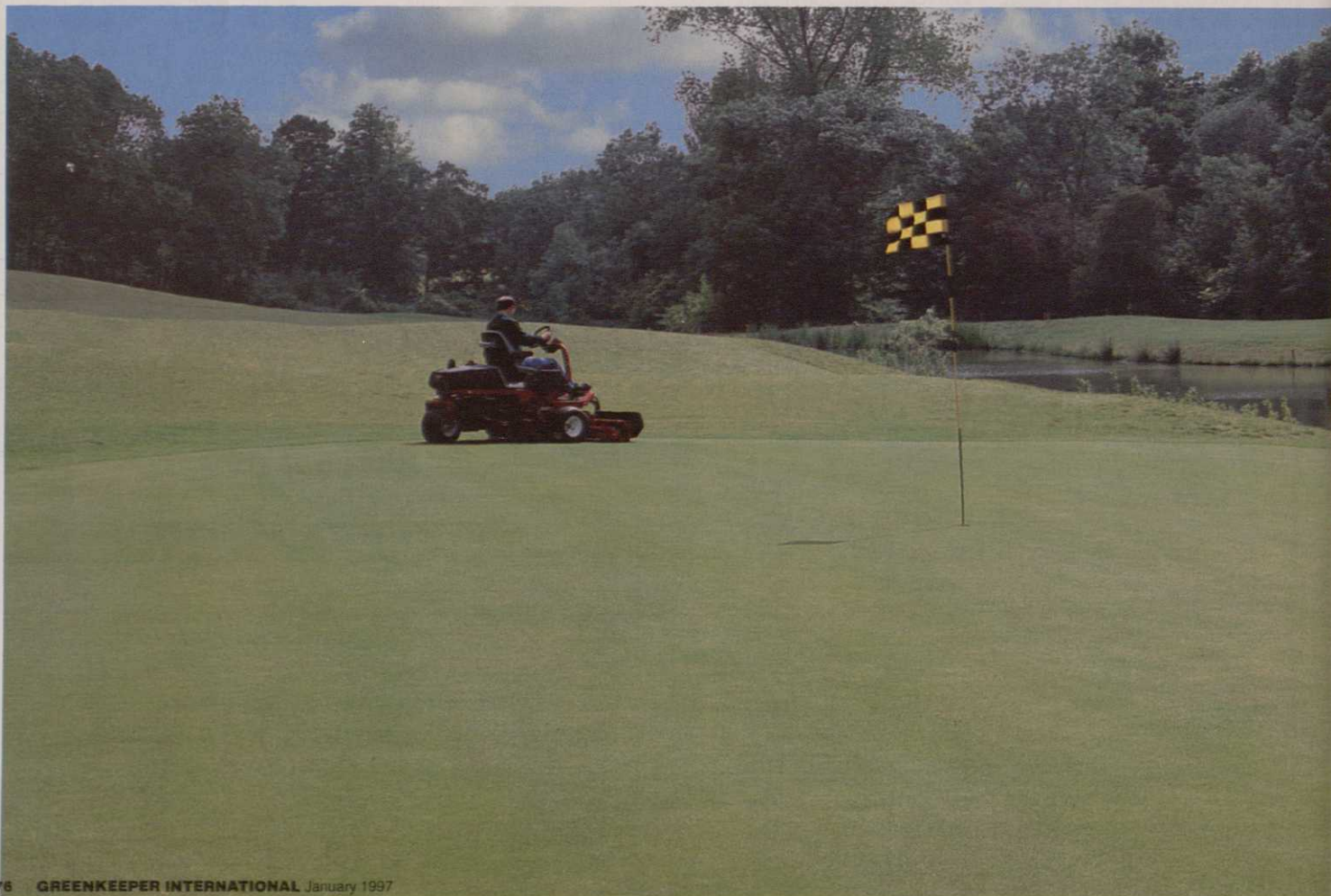
Thurman & M, Johnson; 3. R. Barker, K. Sissins & T. Allard.

Moving on to the serious business of the AGM, which was a lot longer than usual (34 minutes), there were no major changes to the Committee so you will have to suffer my reports for another year. However, there is concern over the lack of numbers in attendance, at the AGM only 23 Greenkeeper members. The Committee consist of the following people. Chairman, T. Allard; Vice Chairman, D. Leatherland; Secretary, A. Bindley; Treasurer, R. Barker; Committee Members, P. Tatlow, A. Porter, P. Forshaw, G. Arnold and G. Robson.

Thanks should go to Hinckley GC for hosting our AGM and providing us with an excellent golf course for our tournament and to Andy Sharpe -Steward - for a great meal. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank Vitax for sponsoring the day.

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 K/O tournament. The tee has been reserved from 11am and is restricted to full 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 entry form.

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

Antony Bindley

Midland

Firstly the Midland Section would like to congratulate Cedric Gough and his greens staff at Broadway GC, on the achievement of winning the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year. As mentioned in an earlier magazine I have known Cedric for around 21 years working for him in my formative days.

Also I would like to congratulate Noel Greene for his achievement in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, and the golfers of the Midland Section who have done so well individually and as a team.

As these are my last notes for the magazine, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during my two years as Secretary. After the AGM the new Secretary will be appointed and will appear in the February magazine with a list of new section committee members.

I hope you will have a good year's greenkeeping and still hope to keep in touch with the members.

Kim Blake

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child

Tel: 01803 844056

South West and South Wales Region

In spite of the inclement weather the South West & South Wales Regional Seminar at Cannington College on November 27 was a pleasant few hours of different learning. We were unfortunate enough to lose one of our speakers – Bill Lawson at the 11th hour due to illness, but our old friend Uncle Jim stepped in and presented a super paper on the last 50 years of greenkeeping on golf courses. We hope that Bill makes a speedy recovery.

Our thanks must go to our sponsors for the day Rhone Poulenc and the paper given by Paul Clifton, really informative and out of the ordinary. Our student speaker Simon Fearson has had quite a few exciting experiences in his 22 years, and he held the attention of us all. George Brown and his Turnberry picture show – his words were not mine – was extremely interesting. Thanks for coming down George.

After lunch Gordon Irvine gave us an insight into his role as General Manager/Greenkeeper at Mill Ride GC. A role in which his determination opened up a new



world for him. Finally our own BIGGA Road Show with "the team" to run through BIGGA and how it can work for you.

It was a super day, a good turn out, shame about the weather. Gordon Child

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all.

I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season which has recharged your batteries for another challenging season ahead.

The Section's first meeting of the year will be held at Fingle Glen Golf Complex on Wednesday January 15 the day will be sponsored by Barenbrug seeds. Hopefully the day will have something for you all. In the morning there will be a choice of 9 holes of golf or workshop on irrigation maintenance, our afternoon seminar on irrigation will follow lunch.

Launceston GC was the venue for the Section's November meeting and AGM held on Wednesday November 6.

As always the day started with golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy which was played in a foursome format. Our non golfing members were treated to the course walk by Head Greenkeeper, George Baily. Nice to see you again George!

After an excellent lunch Alan

Dommett, from Devon Garden Machinery, presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM.

1. Chris Bland, Dainton, & Tim Martin, Torquay, 36pts; 2. Richard Daly, Exeter, and Steve Milne, Exeter, 33pts; 3. Trevor Reynolds, Saunton, & Tony Gooch, Torrington, 32pts

The Section would like to thank Launeston GC for allowing us the use of their facilities and to all their staff who made us so welcome. Special thanks to George and lads who worked hard to make the course payable after all the recent rain.

Our thanks also to Devon Garden Machinery and Toro for their continued support. The Section's AGM followed the presentation and was opened by Chairman Bill Mitchell.

The Secretary in his report mentioned some notable events that has happened over the last year which included the section's seminar sponsored by Barenbrug seeds held at Fingle Glen in January and the Section's March meeting held at Churston GC as members bid Gordon Child a long and happy retirement.

The Secretary thanked the trade for their continued support over the year and for their donation towards Gordon's gift.

The Secretary moved onto the regional front and mentioned the

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changes that had taken place to Westurf '96 and continued with the regional Hayter final held at Salisbury & South Wilts GC. He informed members that all who attended enjoyed the hospitality shown to them by the club and Hayter. The Secretary thanked the Section's President, John Palfrey, for kindly driving the mini bus and helping with the organisation of the trip.

The Secretary moved on to the recent review of the Association's constitution and informed members that after consultations with Sections and Regions the new constitution was recommended to the AGM at Harrogate and approved.

He advised members that with regret he had to inform them that Regional Administrator, Gordon Child, would be retiring from office next summer after 10 years, and continued by saying all good things come to an end, and extended the sections good wishes to Gordon & Marion for the future and thanked them both for all their efforts.

He thanked the members who had returned the Section's recent survey forms and informed members that the results are now available for viewing at section meetings or by contacting one of the Section Committee members.

Members were presented with

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the financial report, the Secretary explained that the Section accounts were over an 11 month period as the year end was now September. The approval of the balance sheet was by proposed R. Parr and seconded by E. Barber and approved.

The Chairman opened his report by informing members that the last 12 months had been very successful for BIGGA. The Chairman thanked the Secretary, R. Whyman, the Region's Administrator, Gordon Child and Marion Child, for all their hard work put into BIGGA over the year. He also thanked Steve Evans for his administration of these events the only concern he had was the number of non members attending these meetings. On closing his report he informed members he was tinged with a little sadness with the announcement that Gordon and Marion would be standing down after next year's Westurf trade show, after 10 years at the helm of our Region. He continued by informing members that Gordon and Marion had started the

show and asked every member to attend and to make their last show in charge the most successful yet.

The President opened his report by thanking the Chairman and Secretary for all their hard work put into the Section and Association over the last year, on a personal note, the President thanked Gordon Child, who had helped him in his early days in the industry. He continued by wishing Gordon and Marion a long and happy retirement and thanked them on behalf of all the trade for their help and understanding shown to the trade over the years.

Election of Officers. Chairman. B. Mitchell; Secretary & Cornish Member, R. Whyman; Vice Chairman, S. Evans; Devon Members: J. Parr, R. Wisdom & C. Rawlings; Trade Member - three year term - R Guntrip; Regional Board Member - two year term - Bill Mitchell Richard Whyman

South Coast

Here we are again the start of another year. Firstly, I would like to wish all our members a very happy and prosperous new year. What's better than starting the year on a high note.

Our first winter lecture which was held at Bramshaw GC was a great success. Our speaker was none other than our Executive

Director, Neil Thomas, and around 50 of our members were there to hear Neil update us all with what is going on at headquarters. The question and answer session that followed proved very interesting. It covered a wide variety of subjects, they included NVQ's, Membership, BTME, Staffing, Magazine, proposals for new headquarters, The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association, the Legal Helpline and a host of other subjects. The discussion could have gone on till the early hours of the morning, however the Chairman eventually had to call a halt. I think that all the members that attended found it to be very informative and a well spent afternoon. I know that Neil was well pleased and took a number of comments back to Headquarters with him. For those of you who attended I would like to say thank you Neil for making it a successful afternoon.

Our next winter event will be held at Bramshaw GC on Wednesday February 5. At 7pm your committee has organised a quiz and social evening, this will be a chance to bring your friends, wives, girlfriends etc. Hopefully this will turn out to be an enjoyable evening. There will be prizes for the winning team we look forward to seeing you all on the night. The more the merrier.

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Our education committee has managed to find some very good speakers for us for our seminar at Sparsholt College, to be held on Tuesday, February 18. The speakers include Duncan McGilvray, the Course Manager at Letchworth, Duncan has spoken at a number of seminars, he has also written a number of articles in the magazine and always attracts a good audience. We also have Scott MacCallum, our Editor. This is a good opportunity to put forward your views, and also ideas to improve the magazine. We then have two students from Sparsholt. They will be talking about a greenkeeping subject of their own choice. Bio Lube will be giving a paper.

Details of the speaker are not yet known. More news next month. To round of the proceedings we have Joe Paulin from the London Golf Club. Joe has also spoken to a number of seminars and is a very popular speaker. The cost for the day £15 for members and £20 for non members. This includes lunch. Programmes should be through your post box within the next week or so. All applications along with cheques to: Jeff Drake, 10 Cold Harbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PW.

By the way Jeff's new telephone number is 01722 503938. Jeff is eagerly awaiting your enquiries. He is preparing himself for a flood of applications.

At the time of going to press we have 11 members making use of the Region's coach trip to BTME. A small coach has been arranged and I shall be in touch with you all with details of times pick up points etc shortly.
Ken Lodge

South West

November has been a busy month for the South West greenkeepers with our autumn meeting, followed by the AGM taking place on the 14th at Bristol and Clifton GC and the annual seminar taking place at Cannington College on the 27th.

An excellent turnout of 60 people gathered to do battle at Bristol and Clifton on a calm but somewhat overcast day and the first impressions of the course were somewhat surprising. How can a course be presented in such immaculate condition in mid November? That's what I would like to know. But perhaps I am just talking for myself. Anyway thanks must go to John Barr and his crew, one of whom judging by the scores must spend most of his waking life on the practice ground.

The results were as follows: 1. James Coverdale, Bristol & Clifton, 43pts; 2. Maurice Pearce, Wells GC, 36pts; 3. James Braith-

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waite, Long Ashton GC, 33pts; 4. P. Godwin, Tracey Park GC, 33pts. Best Guest. D. Cryer, Bristol & Clifton GC Captain, 35pts.

Thanks must go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event, Bristol & Clifton for allowing the courtesy of their course, their secretary Bob Bennett for his help and caterer Sue Ritchings for providing the excellent cuisine.

Following the work we were given a short and informative talk by Andrew Lawrence, of Fenchurch Insurance, followed by Frank O'Malley, of Hambro Legal Protection. We then tackled the AGM in which there was a friendly discussion on education within the region and the election of officers. After some gentle persuasion by Chairman Ivor Scoones the following people were elected:

Chairman – Ivor Scoones, Vice Chairman – Chris Sealey, Secretary – Peter Baynton, Regional Board Officer – Robin Greaves, Vice Regional Board Officer – Paul Jenkins, Team Captain – Tim Dabernett, Vice Team Captain – Matthew Hawker, Fixture Secretary – Terry Humphrey, Section Education Officer and Magazine Reporter – Marc Haring.

Undoubtedly the bravest of volunteers was Peter Baynton who follows Kevin Green who has to stand down as Section Secretary after several years because of career commitments. Everyone within the section has the greatest thanks and admiration for the work he has done for us and we all wish him well at his present and new establishment The Kendleshire GC.

Marc Haring

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia

What a good choice of venue Aldeburgh turned out to be for the last meeting of the East Anglia Section under its present constitution as, following the AGM, Essex left East Anglia to become a Section in its own right.

On a grey damp and misty day Mike Peters should not only be justifiably proud of the condition of his course but should be equally proud of his Club in the manner in which they received us, providing not only a superb course but good bar service, great food and excel-

lent meeting facilities.

Without a doubt the "Star of the Day" was Lyndon Upham, whose tee-shot at the 1st removed the plate glass picture window of the clubhouse! After that hard luck stories about the gorse, bushes, tight fairways and missed putts were an anti-climax.

The result of the Turkey Trot was a three-way tie between Ian Willett, Andy Sheehan and Sam Sylvester with Ian just pipping Andy on countback.

The prize giving and raffle turned out to be a bit of a cabaret show under the direction of David Wells and put everyone in a festive mood for the serious business of the last AGM of the existing East Anglia Section.

It should be made clear at this point for any readers not involved in the South East Region that the events leading up to Essex forming its own Section and the transitional stage have been very amicable throughout. You can't get much more amicable than agreeing to split the money 50/50 without any argument!

The new Essex Section will be Chaired by Doug Smith with Andy Sheehan, Secretary, while East Anglia will now be Chaired by Stephen Millard with Ian Willett as Secretary.

Both Sections have arranged a full golf and education programme for this year – including a challenge match against each other!

Derek Farrington

London

I would like to wish all members of the London Section on behalf of the Committee a happy and prosperous new year.

Our Turkey Trot competition and AGM was held in November at the London and Hatfield Golf and Country Club. The day was a great success and the weather was excellent. I would like to thank Peter Creary and his staff for the excellent presentation of the course. I would also like to thank the management of the club for their hospitality and the donation of the various prizes. The overall winner of the event was David Badham with 39 points. In second place was Ian Semple and third spot went to David Montgomery. The Nearest the Pin prize, which was a trial run for the new sponsorship deal from Kings Horticulture, was won by Peter Creeber. His prize was £60 worth of Argos vouchers. In second place was Ian Semple, who won a £35 voucher, and in third spot was David Wild, who won a £15 voucher. This sponsorship deal will continue this year and will be called the King Pin event. I would like to thank Mark Pyrah and James Burton

from King's for their help throughout the day.

Once again Johnny Beck, from Miracle Professional, provided the half way refreshments and his barbecue was most welcome.

I would like to thank all the trade for their help and support last year and look forward to seeing you all this year.

The AGM was well supported and I would like to thank our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington for attending the meeting. The committee was voted in en bloc and the minutes were approved from last year. Reports from the committee allowed a good feedback from the membership and the committee finished the session by thanking the membership for their support throughout the year.

Notice of golf events this year will be forwarded shortly by Don Wilson.

Tony Dunstan

Sussex

Sussex is back in print! Unfortunately Mark Wilton is unable to carry on with our Section's editorials due to increased work commitments. Thanks for all your past endeavours, Mark.

The Sussex Section AGM took place at Haywards Heath GC on Thursday December 5. This is the second year it has taken place at this venue, thanks once again to Haywards Heath for their hospitality. Again it was a very poor turnout with only 20 members attending and apologies from three others. It would be nice if you could give your committee better support for the efforts they put in. The members who did attend all added to a lively debate which kept Chris Allen, Vice Chairman, on his toes as he chaired his first AGM. There was a lot of ideas about new events and how to encourage more members to join us in the future. You will hear of these early in the New Year. Some new blood has been voted onto the committee for 1997. Names will be printed in future articles.

BTME at Harrogate is fast approaching and I hope to see some familiar faces there. Good luck to Dave Ansell, The Dyke GC, who will be giving a speech "Looking beyond the Trees".

Finally, are there any clubs in our Section which could host future events? We seem to be taking advantage of a limited number of venues. If so contact me or any other member of the committee. Could I also ask members for any items of interest to be included in future articles? Contact me on 01403 731567 evenings or weekends.

Colin Cathie

