

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445



The Annual Match between the Scottish Region and the Scottish Region of Club Secretaries on Monday April 1 at Lundin Links GC was played in sunny, if somewhat typical, East Coast links weather. A wee breeze as they say, blowing a gale to others! After the usual pre-match soup and sandwiches and plenty of inter-team chat the teams were led out by Jack Walker, Captain of the Secretaries, and Sam Morrison, Chairman of the Scottish Region, and a win to the Secretaries in this match seemed a bad omen. The next three pairs were wins for the greenkeepers but in the next five games the greenkeepers could only muster one and a half points and as on many past occasions it was 4 1/2 - 4 1/2 and all on the last match. The smiles on the faces of the two secretaries as they passed the window gave it all away and the secretaries had gained a rare and glorious win 5 1/2 - 4 1/2. It was a grand day enjoyed by all, the weather was good and the course was excellent thanks to Willie Swan and his merry men; the food first class, thanks to chef, John Rae, and, of course, the amber nectar revived the spirits of many. So who cares about the result?

Our thanks to Lundin Links for their hospitality and my thanks to Alex Berridge, the Secretary of the Secretaries Association for his organisation. We look forward to

next year gentlemen when we come to regain that trophy!
Elliott Small

North

There is a large influx of new members to welcome to the Section this month. From Downfield comes James Gowans, James Frearson and Colin Mullican from Craggan, Fergus Laing from Grantown-on-Spey, Graham Lornie from Newmacher and from Aigas Beaully Peter Masheter. Roy Becone joins us from Brechin, Kevin Scott, from Drumoig; Graham Mellis, from Muir of Ord; Brian Hunter, from Longside; Neil Young, from Kenney; Brian Scott, from Blairgowrie, and, last but not least, Ross Macleod from Forbes. The Section Secretary tells me there are still a few from last year that have not renewed, come on - what are you waiting for?

Last month I welcomed Neil Ballingall to Moray GC but failed to mention his predecessor. Some 20 years ago Mike Campbell volunteered to take on the job when Moray were struggling to get someone. A big chance for an ex-fisherman! History records what a good job he did and we wish him a long and happy retirement. Maybe we will see him playing golf at our outings. Come on Mike!

This month sees a big change in the North as Moray Tractors ceases to trade. We are sorry to lose our main dealer in the Highlands and hope all staff manage to find alternative employment. Thanks to them for all their sup-

port over the years. All is not lost though as Scottish Grass Machinery are going to bridge the gap with its range and will have full-time mechanics based in the area for quick response to breakdowns etc.

A word of caution to members with trainees at their course. If the Head Greenkeeper is D32/33 qualified there is no problem and your trainee can attend college for only five weeks instead of seven as you can assess him at the course on site while he is working. However if there is no D32/33 Assessor on your course and your club chooses to send the trainee to college for five weeks instead of seven remember to inform them that a D32/33 Assessor from a local college will have to come and assess your trainee in his workplace. This will cost £12 per hour plus 28p per mile travel expenses. So let them know this so as not to leave them thinking this service is free. Better still apply to get trained up yourself.

See you at Duff House this month for hopefully a great day out.
Iain Macleod

West

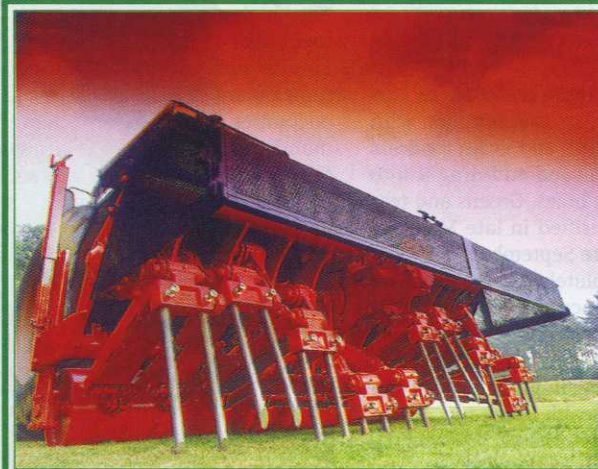
Welcome to summer, what great temperatures we've had and even growth - a big difference from last year. Long may it continue.

March was a fairly busy month so there are a few things to report. The Loch Lomond day visit was well attended with nearly 60 people turning up to be given an informative talk from Mike Watton and Ken Siems. The

itinerary involved a tour around the sheds and storage facilities followed by a walk of the course in the afternoon. All mod cons at Loch Lomond and the set up was first class even in the wash bay area. The Service Manager/Head Mechanic gave a very fruitful talk with many tips of the trade. Lunch followed and then it was out onto the course where the weather could have been kinder! A lot of discussion was raised with plenty to think over for our own situations, maybe some day the rest of us could emulate perfection as well. I hope everybody enjoyed themselves and if you are interested helping the Loch Lomond World Invitational support team then contact Cecil George.

The next day proved a cracker, beautiful sunshine, glorious golf and a lovely golf course. Kirkhill was the venue and the day was a Green Conveners/Head Greenkeepers Tournament which saw 17 teams compete. John Scott and his team are to be congratulated on the course presentation and condition, well done lads! The sponsors, Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery, are to be given a vote of thanks for their continued support for this event. This is very much appreciated by all in the Section. Richard Atken said a few words on the day which adds a nice personal touch to the event.

The eventual winners were East Kilbride on 40 points. Well done to them but winning is only part of the day, mixing and expressing views with committee men and fellow greenkeepers is



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the main goal. I hope everybody will enter next year and thanks to the people involved for organising the day. Sorry, I nearly forgot to mention, Gordon Kerr, Gledoch House, won the booby prize with 29 points. John Scott said to be sure to put that bit in!

On the agenda the next football is against the Central Section in Stirling when you eventually find the place. Nothing to do with your directions John (Crawford), just me! I was on the correct road only to turn off 15 minutes late! A very entertaining game was well fought, well behaved and there was a well deserved victory for the West Section. 4-3 was the score with goals coming from Stevie McGechie, Brian Hillam disputed, Graeme Shearer and a toe bash from Gerry Bruen for the winner. Scoring wins matches, being there, mixing and playing is what counts – supporting the Section and creating a greater bond between Sections and greenkeepers alike.

Brian Hillam will be arranging a match against the East Section and Loch Lomond this summer so those interested please contact him on 0420 610160 or 01236 434323.

Last year we had 10 teams competing in the five-a-side tournament and this year we are hoping for 16. Those interested should contact me on 0141 942 5554. Teams can consist of up to seven players, two clubs can join forces but no ringers, strictly greenkeepers (with the exception of trade of course). The cost is £15 per team, entry forms will be sent to everybody but the closing date is June 30. Last year the weather was super and sandwiches were provided. All attending enjoyed the day, even the referees. The teams which took part last year were Winners:- Campsie/A M Russells, Runners-up:- East Kilbride/Pollock, Semi-Finalists:- Rigby Taylor and Clydebank/Windyhill. The other teams which competed were

Bishop Briggs/Lenzie, Hilton Park, Drumpellier, Douglas Park, Glasgow and Souters.

Any interesting information please phone on 0141 942 5554. Remember, this is your Section. Stewart Taylor

East

Firstly people on the move – Neil Ballingall, Assistant Course Manager at Muirfield GC, has moved after four years at the East Lothian course to become Head Greenkeeper at Moray GC, Lossiemouth, and Craig Gilholm has taken over as Assistant Course Manager at Muirfield where he was previously Assistant Greenkeeper.

The Section would like to wish them both best wishes for the future in their new jobs. Section membership has dropped over the last few months which we don't like to see. So if you know anyone who has not rejoined find out why, they can call any committee member to discuss any problems they may have with the Association as we would like to see them back in the Section. Also if anyone knows of any person that is not yet a member tell them the benefits of joining BIGGA. They can call our Secretary, Steve Dixon, at home on 0131 660 3965 or at work on 0131 443 0235 for a membership form or call Headquarters at Aldwark Manor.

The aim of the East Section is to have all greenkeepers in our area members of BIGGA and with your help we can do it, so come on, give it a try. The social committee have just completed a list of functions, outings etc for the Section. A fixture list and details of all the events will be with you shortly. Having spoken to people who attended the Scottish Conference they said it was an excellent day and congratulations go to the Central Section and the North Section who jointly organised this years conference. A small word from Steve Dixon,

who had two of his club officials at the Conference and they commented on the high calibre of the speakers, the professional way the Conference was run and that it was a very informative day. Well done to all. It was just a pity that I could not make it due to work commitments so roll on next year. So by the time you read this the good weather should be with us, hopefully it will not turn out like the Spring of '96 and we hope everyone has a good golfing season.

Don't forget if you have any photos of information for the magazine let me have them. You can contact me at home on my new number 01620 842037 or office 0131 445 7165 to discuss anything we could put in the magazine.

Chris Yeaman

Central

We start this month's news with the result from the football match played again the West Section at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling in March. Unfortunately we lost by four goals to three and this was after being three up at half time. The half time team talk in the visitor's dressing room certainly had its effect, but Andy O'Hara has assured me that he will change the tactics for the next game so that the training in the bar is done AFTER the game! By all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves during and after the match so if you want to be involved in the forthcoming matches get your forms back to me as soon as possible.

Our last mailshot was sent out to some 240 members and patrons and at the moment I have had 16 completed forms returned. Please give your committee some support. After all we are organising events for everyone's benefit. If you cannot take five minutes to complete and return a form then don't complain that BIGGA does nothing for you. Perhaps it may be the

other way round. Right, that's the moaning out of the way!

The Section was well represented, both on the programme and in the audience at the Scottish Conference in Perth and I am sure that everyone, including the National Chairman, Pat Murphy, who attended was impressed by the quality of all the speakers and the various topics on which they spoke.

We extend a warm welcome from the Section to Ronald Peat, from Dunfermline District Council, and Jim Ellis, of Glenbervie GC. Jim was always a familiar face at our golf tournaments and hopefully we will see him at many more now that he has rejoined.

On the form for the Inter-Club Tournament the format should have been Two Ball Foursome and not a Two Ball Better Ball as stated. This will be confirmed when the draw is circulated.

The Scottish Final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament is due to be hosted by the Central Section in 1998 so if you fancy having this prestigious tournament at your course please get in touch with me as soon as possible and I will start the ball rolling regarding arrangements.

Well, that's it for this month, not a lot I know but hopefully I will have more news for you next time!

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

Northern

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

A total of 113 people attended the dinner which I believe is the best turnout to date. Many thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy



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

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

for their help in arranging the function and to everyone who contributed towards the raffle prizes. Plenty of effort went into the organising but I'm certain all who attended agreed it was worth while.

May I thank Pat Murphy, our National Chairman, and his wife, for attending in a year which I'm sure is exceptionally hectic. Thanks are extended also to Ian Holoran and his wife and Bob and Sara Lupton for coming.

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

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

Tim Balcombe, Assistant at Scarthingwell GC, sadly left us to seek his fame and fortune in his native Canada. Best wishes to Tim and his family from all members who knew him. Hope he finds employment in greenkeeping over there, as he truly loved his work on the golf course.

Earlier this year Roy Spencer, a former Section Chairman, retired having reached the "required" figure of 65. Roy had been Head Greenkeeper at Hanging Heaton GC for the past eight years, previously at Fulneck GC for 14 years and Calverly GC for four years. Best wishes in your retirement Roy.

In June this year Adrian Robertshaw, a former Section Secretary, retires after nearly 50 years in greenkeeping. Having started at Bingley St Ives Research Station he then became an assistant at Shipley GC, First Assistant at Leicester GC, Head Greenkeeper at Otley GC and then to his final "resting place" at Ilkley GC as Head Greenkeeper for the past 28 years.

Retirement will not mean rest for Adrian, whose hobbies include gardening, golf, woodwork and walking. The latter involving the company of his wife Marlene and faithful friend Toby the dog. Best wishes in your retirement Adrian.

Forthcoming section golf events include:

President's Day, Wed, June 25, South Leeds GC. Tee off 1pm.

Invitation Day, Wed, September 3, Skipton GC. Tee off 1pm

Autumn Tournament, Wed, October 8, Brid' Links GC. Tee off 10.30am

Winter Tournament, Wed, December 10, Scarcroft GC. Tee off 10.30am

Anyone wishing to book a place for any of the above events please send your deposit to: 1 Cockley

Around the Green



Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA. Or ring me on 01484 - 519829 to book a place, then send the deposit to the above address.

Simon Heppenstall

North West

The North West Seminar, at Mere Golf and Country Club, was once again well attended after a slow start to the applications coming in. We started the day with a well presented talk from Graeme Francis, Marketing Manager of Toro Irrigation, explaining the advantages of having your own water supply from a borehole and the management of your irrigation system. Graeme only had 45 minutes to attempt to cover a vast subject and was only able to briefly touch on the red tape involved in getting permission to carry out the sinking of your own borehole. If you wish to receive further information Graeme can be contacted on 01425 476261.

Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool GC, followed with a very interesting and knowledgeable talk on bunker construction. This is a never ending job on the golf course, either links or parkland. Derek also showed the BIGGA video on bunker construction in which he starred, and if you wish to purchase the video, it can be bought from BIGGA Headquarters.

The afternoon spot was to be filled by Guy Longshaw and Paul Hartley from Symbio. Unfortunately Guy Longshaw was taken ill on the morning of the seminar making a hurried change to the programme. Martin Ward, the Executive Director of Symbio, briefed us on the way he started the Company with his knowledge of Biology. He was followed by Stella, one of his technical team, who covered the highly technical chemistry side of the Company. Paul Hartley was the final speaker and he covered the practical side of the Company in the North West.

I would like to thank all the sponsors for sharing their time and knowledge with us, Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing us the use of their superb facilities and the four companies who supported us by paying to advertise their products. These were SISIS, Rolawn, British Seed Houses and Burrows GM.

I have been asked by Les Kernott, past Head Greenkeeper of

Warrington GC and a very respected member of BIGGA, to make a statement on his behalf. Les would like it to be known that he retired from Warrington GC on the grounds of ill health by mutual agreement with the golf club. Les has suffered from angina for the last 12 months and on the advice of his Doctor asked for early retirement from the club which the club agreed to and pensioned him off.

Longridge GC, Preston is the venue for the summer meeting on Wednesday June 25. Applications including the payment of £15 must reach Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB no later than June 18. Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1pm. The tee off time is from 1.30 pm and tee times will be allocated on the day. An evening meal and presentation of prizes will follow in the evening. Please note that proper dress is essential.

Any news, views or otherwise then please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

The early March Spring weather is enabling work outdoors to progress provoking the questions will the ground be firm enough for the machinery and is this our normal false start or is it an early spring? Time will tell!

The March meeting was postponed because of a double booking at Darlington GC, however the Toro event will be rearranged for next winter's programme. We did have an enjoyable talk held at Darlington GC though from Mark Hunt from Scotts Fertilisers.

The Spring Tournament will be held at Bedale GC on May 8 starting at 9.30 am. The Beast of Bedale is looking for revenge following his poor showing at Wynyard Hall!

Thirsk and Northallerton GC will open their new nine holes on July 13. The full 18 hole course will be 6600 yards long, SS71, Par 72. Bill Rank and his staff are working very hard on the preparation and we wish them well.

Bruce Burnell

Sheffield

On March 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Phil Davies, from Mommersteeg, who gave a very interesting lecture on grass seed, which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

On April 3 we held our final winter lecture again at Rotherham GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Rotherham GC for letting us use their facilities again this winter.

Our final lecture was given by Mr Mike Franklin and Mr Danny Godfrey from Boughton Loam Ltd. Our thanks go to Mike who gave a very interesting lecture on Rootzones and Top Dressings and our thanks also to Danny who gave a very interesting lecture on grass seed and grass seed mixtures. The two lectures were enjoyed by the members who were present but unfortunately there wasn't our usual good turnout.

Just two new members this month. They are John Fowler, from Roundwood GC, and Paul Hude, from Hickleton GC.

John Lax

North East

Tom Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Stocksfield GC, would like to wish one of his assistants, Clifford Bunn, well on his recent move to nearby Hexham GC. The questionnaire we sent out was well received and only a handful failed to send them back. On looking them over the committee can decide what you the members are looking for. May I remind all those persons who said that they would send Section news in to get cracking.

One definite suggestion which will be going ahead with was the most popular time and that was between 7pm-9pm.

Plans will be going ahead on looking for various companies and golf clubs to hold the seminars during the coming months.

Other suggestions to come out were to have a winter target golf competition, and a quiz was mentioned several times.

Golf days are to remain the same except that we are going to have a Christmas comp, followed by a Christmas dinner, then on to an AGM and a prize giving. A golf club venue has been suggested and hopefully we will hold it at the start of December.

Jimmy Richardson

Editor's Note: A special mention for Jimmy who is the first member to send his Section Notes in by E-mail.

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's pairs competition took on a different format with the trial of a better ball Stableford tournament in an attempt to attract more members. Unfortunately this did not work out as only six pairs entered. However all those who participated enjoyed an excellent day sponsored by Scotts UK and ALS. The results were: 1. A Bindley & M Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 40 pts; 2.



D Leatherland & P Tatlow, Kedleston Park, 40 pts; 3. P Forshaw & R Fletcher, Ramsdale Park, 36 pts.

Thanks go to Lingdale GC for hosting the Tournament and to Gavin Robson and his staff for setting up a fine course. Also thanks should go to the Steward, Barry Dunstan, for an excellent meal.

It was a great honour for the Section to be joined on the day by Eric Taylor, Greens Chairman of Lingdale GC who presented our prizes at the evening presentation. Finally I would like to thank Scotts UK and ALS for the generous sponsorship and to appeal to more members to participate in next year's event.

This year's Regional Seminar sees a change in venue from Sketchley Grange to Northampton Rugby Club on November 19. For this year a high calibre of speakers have been chosen so it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend. For further details contact our Regional Administrator, Peter Larter.

At the Longcliffe Quiz Night the Section was represented by three members, Richard Barker, Mark Bindley and myself and also the former President of the Golf Club, Roger Barker. Under the title of BIGGA & Better the team, after leading the first two rounds,

Around the Green



eventually slipped down into third place.

Antony Bindley

BB & O

Hopefully by the time this article goes to print you will all have received the entry forms for the first golf event of the season at Castle Royle on May 13. If there is anybody still not receiving post then please contact myself as soon as possible.

I am personally looking forward to the first event as it doubles as the Hayter Qualifier so plenty of incentive to get some practice in. If you are successful at qualifying through to the Regional Final a day at The Warwickshire awaits. In all, the years of this event I don't think as a Section we have had much success, in fact we normally compete for the wooden spoon! I think it's about time we sent a team capable of winning the event, we certainly have enough good golfers in the Section.

The second of the winter lectures took place at Warren Farm

back in March. this was an evening with Martin Jones of The Oxfordshire on the subject of tournament preparation. I was unable to attend myself but the reports were all positive. The expectations of the professionals on tour are frightening with nothing short of perfection acceptable. Is perfection attainable I wonder? Thanks again to the College for putting on this evening. I am sure everybody looks forward to next winter's programme with anticipation.

Moving on nicely to the next item, Martin is looking for volunteers to assist in course preparation prior to this years Benson and Hedges Tournament which kicks off on May 8. I was involved with the work party last year and found it quite enjoyable to be involved for such a prestigious event. There are a couple of incentives for any volunteers taking part ie free passes to view the tournament and the possibility of the Oxfordshire hosting one of our golf days in 1998. If anybody wants to help out then please contact myself as soon as possible.

I would like to thank GEM Products for sponsoring our fixture card. Once again this was due to the stern efforts of Bernie Wall. I am sure you will all agree he is a gem, cheers Bernie!

One last point, the last two golf

events were oversubscribed last season so please send your entries in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Lindsay Anderson

Midland

Let me start by clearing up a misunderstanding. In the report for the March issue I listed our new members and one of them had the name Steve Blakeman and many of you thought Steve Blakeman, of Rigby Taylor, had made a return to our membership. In fact he had never left and this Steve Blakeman was genuinely a new member. Sorry to you both.

The trips to Championship courses which I have mentioned in previous reports are now fully booked and are in the final stages of preparation. Thank you for your support. On the Education side Andrew Smith, from the North Warwickshire, has some ideas for future events, such as a mechanics' day about which I will give you information in future reports. I would like to remind you again to get your entries for the summer tournament in early as we are getting lots of interest for our tournaments. So first come first served. This tournament will be held on July 7 which is a Monday, at the Worcestershire GC.

It would be a great help to me if anyone with news or ideas can

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contact me – Tel: 01384 292396 – so I can put them into the report. I can only report things which I personally hear and would like to put things in which you also know or have news on which you think is of interest.

Let me leave you with this. When you get this report you will probably have or being involved in lots of arguments with members about the condition of Augusta and why your course is not like that. This is just the Annual Augusta Blues. A post Augusta Disorder!
Jonathan Wood

East of England

The first competition of the season was held at Thorney Lakes GC, a new course with plenty of water hazard (hence the name). Thanks to Head Greenkeeper Sid and his staff for an excellent course under the demanding conditions.

The turnout was extremely good for the first competition of the year and hopefully you will show the same support for the rest of the events. All standards of golfers play, so new members are always welcome.

The Thorney competition was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery and it was nice to see sponsor, Alister get off his sick bed to come and support the

event. Other sponsors were Fieldcare, Atkins, Rigby Taylors, Barenburg and Purdys, with some wine from Roy Harrison.

It was also nice to have the Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, supporting our event. Peter outlined some forthcoming events and donated some raffle prizes.

Results: (Order of Merit for BIGGA Blazer Points in brackets)

1. David Welberry, Kirton Holme GC, 37 Pts (10 Pts);
2. Peter Larter, Reg Administrator, 36 Pts;
3. Richard Smith, Immingham GC, 34 Pts, (8 Pts);
4. Graeme Macdonald, Ryston Park GC, 33 Pts, (6 Pts);
5. George Venable, Hemingford GC, 33 pts, (4 Pts);
6. Kevin Hodges, Cambs Lakes GC, 33 Pts, (2 Pts)

Nearest the Pin: Richard Owen, Boston West, 6 metres

Best wishes to Charlie Macdonald, of Newark GC, who has been appointed the new Course Manager of Crieff GC. Charlie has been a great supporter of the East of England and will be sadly missed.

Graeme Macdonald

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South East Region

The inaugural Regional Challenge



Around the Green



Shield was held at Princes Golf Club, Sandwich, on Maundy Thursday. Perhaps an unfortunate choice of date as London, Essex and Kent Sections were unable to raise a team to challenge for this Shield being so close to Easter. East Anglia, Surrey and Sussex however each raised a team of 11 members together with a team made up from trade and guests and enjoyed a marvellous day at this classic links venue.

The event was the brainchild of Chris Allen, Lewes, who is keen that all the Sections within the Region should get to know each other and what better way than a golf match! It is hoped that with a more suitable date this event will become a regular fixture in the Region's calendar.

Generous sponsorship by John Deere and Avoncrop Amenity Products provided a fine array of prizes, John Deere donating a Princes Club Chrystal Decanter to each of the 11 members of the winning team with other prize winners picking up prizes courtesy of Avoncrop Amenity Products.

The Regional Challenge Shield and decanters for hte team competition was decided on a Stableford with the best ten scores in each team to count with Surrey winning with 301 points.

Best Individual Scores were: 1. Gavin Kyle, 37 pts; 2. Matt Allen, 36 pts; 3. Danny O'Rourke 35 pts; 4. Mark Day, 34 pts. The two nearest the pin prizes were won by Roger Tydeman and Terry Bent. Guest Prize winner, Mike Smith.

The Region's thanks are due to, not only Chris Allen for organising the event, but to the teams who supported it – particularly East Anglia who travelled such a distance to be there – and last but not least to Princes Golf Club for providing such a wonderful links golf course, bar and catering. Derek Farrington

Essex

I recently enjoyed a day at Walton Heath GC for the Gentlemen's Dinner. The course was in good condition ad the organisation was first class as usual. I didn't see many Essex winners, only me! I won the putting competition so thanks to SISIS for the prize.

The Section held a seminar at Writtle College on March 18 when, at very short notice, Edward Clarkson gave a talk on Symbio. Thanks for stepping into

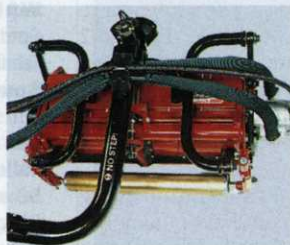
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the breech Edward. Twenty five members were present and we retired to the bar for a few beers. The prize winner of the sponsored questionnaire was Robert Williams of Gosfield Lakes. We received 54 completed entries. Thank you Graham for your work in collating the replies, the results will be available after May 14.

Martin Hucklesby, of Five Lakes, gave a career talk to sixth formers and further education students at Southend Leisure Centre to help promote the industry in our area and show how professional we all are.

Anyone interested in playing in a summer golf league should contact Mike Fance at Stockbrook Manor GC, Billericay.

It was good to hear from Douglas Parmenter who tells me he is a Jim Arthur fan and at 77 years of age is still reading *Greenkeeper International*, a wonderful magazine. Thanks for your good wishes and keep reading the magazine Douglas.

We have a few movers and shakers this last couple of months. Martin Dumbrill has moved from Rochford Hundred GC to a course in Austria, as Head Greenkeeper, to be nearer his fiancée. Steve Lawrence has moved from Channels to Suffolk G and CC as Head Greenkeeper. Keith Chinnery, Head Greenkeeper at Colchester GC was married on March 7, congratulations!

We have our first golf meeting on April 22 at Chigwell. This is the Hayter Qualifier. Our next meeting at Writtle College is on May 14 when we have two speakers, Roger Levitt, of Johnson's Seeds, talking on the Life Cycle of the Grass Plant and Andy Cawley, of Dow Elanco talking on Fungicide Functions.

That's all for this month, don't let the grass grow too long under your feet!
Dave Wells

East Anglia

Milton College, Cambridge, was the venue for an Education Seminar on March 19. Some 30 people attended the lectures and all heard something of interest to them. Mike Franklin, from Boughton Loam, gave an insight into the companies operating procedures from the types of top dressings and rootzones they supply through to the screening, grading and distribution. The importance of the correct types and use of grass species was the subject of Andrew Hodgekiss, from Johnsons Seeds. With the use of slides showing various trial plots and full planting schemes, a good presentation

Around the Green



was given and certainly left all those attending with something to think about the next time they have reason to seed a particular area of their course.

After a good lunch was had by all Lyndon Upham, Course Manager of Gog Magog GC, made a presentation taking us through the various stages of the construction of the new 18 hole course at Gogs. With some splendid slides we were shown the work from the initial removal of the top soil through the laying of the greens, tees and fairways and on to the irrigation installation. We were then taken through the maintenance which has brought the course up to the highest standard. John Beck, from Miracle Professional, finished the day with an interesting look at some fertiliser surveys. John gave some explanations to the statistics which in some instances threw up some surprises.

March 27 saw the first South East Region team challenge match. Four of the regions sections managed to raise an 11-man team at quite short notice and had the honour of playing Princes GC at Sandwich in Kent. This true links course with not a tree, gorse bush or sprig of heather was certainly a challenge for all playing on the day and a fair breeze blew which meant the narrow fairways became even harder to hit. The East Anglia team came fourth out of four teams, but only just! This did not matter too much as I am sure for many it was their first taste of links golf and this taking place at the club where Gene Sarazen won the 1932 Open Championship. Surrey came through as the winners and it is hoped the competition can be played as an annual event.

April 9 was a beautiful spring day and 31 competitors took full advantage of the balmy weather and played a medal round at Fynn Valley GC to see who would be progressing through to the South East regional final of the Hayter Challenge. The course was in superb condition and all credit to Tony and his greenstaff for making it so. The prizes were presented by Ron Sargent, the Fynn Valley Captain. Results:- 1. T Russell, nett 68; 2. M Mison, nett 69; 3. S Millard, nett 70. Qualifiers

through to Ham Manor on June 27 are:- 1-9 - P Howard, A Carter, M Keyse, R Boyce. 10-18 - S Millard, J Timms, M Virley, D Childs. 19-28 - T Russell, M Mison, T Huddleston, J Holliday.

Anyone who is unable to attend on this date please contact Ian Willet as soon as possible so a reserve can be contacted.

The loo seat (!) trophy went to T. Tyrrel for his 17 on the first hole. The best trade score was nett 75 by Brian Richardson. This, he tells us, is the first prize he has ever won at golf. He seemed to be reasonably happy with his prize which was a golf trolley and visions sprang to mind of Brian riding it like a cowboy, travelling west towards the setting sun! John Humphreys came second also with a nett 75.

Thanks once again to all the greenstaff, bar staff and kitchen staff at Fynn Valley GC who made the day so enjoyable, not forgetting the trade who supported us so well. They were CMW Equipment, Colliers, Hayter, Pattisons, Rhone Poulenc, Rushbrook and Sons, SISIS and Turf Actant. Apologies for anyone I have left out!

The next golf meeting will be at Felixstowe Ferry GC on Wednesday June 25. There will also be an education seminar to be held at Milton College, Cambridge in June, details to follow in the near future.

Finally, many thanks to Ian Willett who this year started the difficult and demanding job of Section Secretary in such a fine and enthusiastic manner. I trust all members will show their gratitude to him by attending the golf competitions and seminars when possible.
Stephen Millard

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child
Tel: 01803 844056

South Coast

On Thursday March 6 we had our final winter lecture at Crane Valley GC where between 40 and 50 members were present. Bob Scott and Alan Sinclair of British Seed Houses gave us a very interesting talk on the British Seed Houses set up. They touched on the new seeds that are being produced and the genetic engineering that is involved in producing these seeds and also spoke about the new creeping bent grass, providence. Providence has been sown on some new golf courses and is giving good results. The talk was very well illustrated with some very good slides. We



enjoyed a splendid lunch courtesy of British Seed Houses and on behalf of the Section I would like to thank Bob and Alan for an excellent presentation and a very nice meal.

After lunch we played 9 holes and I would like to thank Crane Valley GC for allowing us the use of their clubhouse and courtesy of the course. Thanks to Martin Summers and his staff for presenting the course in pristine condition. The day went very well and was well attended so thank you to all of you who were there.

For all of you who have qualified for the Hayter Regional Tournament please ensure that you are there on the day. If you cannot make it let Mark Webb know in plenty of time so he can get replacements. We want a winning team this year however a winning team cannot be achieved without a complete team. The venue this year is Burnham and Berrow GC on June 11. Good luck!

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

I would like to start my report this month by welcoming the Region's new Administrator, Paula Humphries, to her post within our Association. I am sure Paula will prove to be an excellent Administrator for the Region continuing on from Gordon and Marion's splendid work.

The Section's last meeting of the winter programme was held at Honiton GC on Thursday March 20. With the sun on their backs our golfing members played over the excellently prepared course for the Supaturf & Rhone Poulenc Trophies. This was also the Section's qualifier for the Hayter Tournament with qualifiers going forward to the Regional Final which will be held at Burnham and Berrow GC on June 11.

Our non-golfing members were joined for the course walk by our guest speaker, David Everett. We would like to thank John for guiding members around the course and sheds.

After a superb lunch our President John Palfrey presented the prizes on the behalf of Supaturf and Paul Clifton presented the prizes for the Rhone Poulenc Trophy.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade:- 1. Buster Lewer (Daignton), 41 pts; 2. Tony Gooch (Torrington), 40 pts on back 9; 3. Tony Ramsden (Budock Vean), 40 pts.

Rhone Poulenc Trophy for Assistants:- 1. Steve Worrall (Stover), 44 pts; 2. Tony James (Tehidy), 41 pts on back 9; 3.

Peter Gross (Ashbury), 41 pts.

Hayter Qualifiers:- 0-9 Category - C Bland, R Daly, T Gooch, T Ramsden, C Rawlings; 10-18 Category - M Child, B Lewer, D Manley, M Parrish, S Worrall; 19-28 Category - T Clark, P Gross, T James, S Saunders, N Turner. Our congratulations are extended to all who have qualified for the Regional Final.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off an excellent day with Dave Everett, Head Greenkeeper at Lyme Regis, presenting an excellent talk on the effects of chemical vandalism to his course and the steps and decisions he has had to take on the long road to recovery. The Section would like to thank Dave for his superb talk.

Also the Section would like to thank Supaturf and Paul Clifton, of Rhône Poulenc, for their continued support and to Honiton GC and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Trevor Pipe and his crew who had the course in excellent condition.

Richard Whyman

South West

With no tournaments to report on this month now is the time to say a few words about education and other events in the pipeline.

In the last few months we have held a first aid course, a PA6 and a PA1 spraying course. All have been fairly well attended and resulted in everyone achieving their desired qualifications thanks to the likes of Noel Stevens, our regular tutor, for pesticide application. These courses are held when sufficient numbers are available so please if anyone is interested let me know by giving me a ring on 01380 828380. As well as being held locally and with other greenkeepers they provide a small revenue for the area's funds, all of which help to subsidise other events, so your support is very much appreciated.

The PA2 courses and tests will be held throughout the next few months on a very local basis. I will be contacting people whose names are on my list and trying to arrange them at the candidate's home club or, if possible, get them arranged at a neighbouring club so as to keep the costs down. Either way it is only two candidates per spraying machine and so will be done on a very low candidate to tutor ratio. Once again if you are not sure if you are already on my list give me a ring and I will start to get things sorted out.

Numbers on the chainsaw waiting list are growing to the point where we have sufficient to

run a course. However, after some discussion it was felt we should leave this until the early autumn when greenkeepers will have a bit more time and it is more relevant to the type of work we will be doing.

I am indebted to my friend and colleague Mark Ford, from Kingsdown GC, for enquiring about the possibility of running a course for abrasive wheels, their use and maintenance. I am sure practically every club has one one but unless you are qualified you are not allowed to change an abrasive wheel. You can use it, but it can only be changed by someone who is qualified to do so. So it should be of great benefit to Course Managers, mechanics and First Assistants to attend such a course which we will be running when we have sufficient numbers. Once again give me a ring and we will get one going, probably at Chippenham College, but other venues may be possible.

Anyone interested in becoming an NVQ assessor should ring Kevin Green on 01179 793127. Kevin has asked me to point out, however, that the courses now being run are only open to Course Managers who have a candidate waiting to be assessed on their staff. If there are any questions regarding this then do not hesitate to give Kevin a ring. He normally gets home from work before 10pm.

The GA Greensomes is coming to Chippenham GC on May 21, so get your names down for that. I have been doing some industrial espionage and can confirm that Chris Sealey's greens are so sickeningly good it should be worth looking forward to. The next event will be the match against the Secretaries at Long Ashton. Please put your name down for this crucial match and try to keep your handicaps as high as possible. Remember that if you have, or intend, to put your name down for these matches you must make yourself available on the day. There is nothing worse for our secretary and team captain than having desperately to find a team at the last minute after being let down.

My apologies for omitting the preview for Westurf in last month's article. I can only put it down to youthful inexperience.

Last, but not least, can I congratulate Robin Greaves on his election to the Board of Management at Headquarters. Having shared a room at Harrogate with Robin I feel sure that his enthusiasm and abilities as a communicator will contribute a great deal to the progress of the Association.

Marc Haring

WET...

But not behind the ears!

Ocmis Irrigation 01460 241939