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Around the Green

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SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd

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Central

The final golf tournament of '97 was held by courtesy of Auchterarder GC, on September 18, when 34 members and guests enjoyed a great day's golf in glorious sunshine and on a course in superb condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn and his staff. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Auchterarder, especially Secretary Bill Campbell, Club Captain Alex Murray for presenting the prizes and to Sandra, Dougie and staff for their first class fare and service in the clubhouse throughout the day. Prize winners on the day were as follows:- Ransomes Shield (Best Nett Aggregate Spring & Autumn Tournaments) – Kenny Stirling, The Dukes Course; AMP Trophy (Best Gross) – Stuart Smith, Lundin GC; Aitken Trophy (Best Nett) – Donald McAllister, Ladybank GC; Division 1: 1. Kenny Stirling, The Dukes Course; 2. Rod Hensby, Tulliallan GC; Division 2: 1. Andrew Crawford, Kinross GC; 2. Stuart Sime, Leven Links GC; Division 3: 1. Peter Finlay, Auchterarder GC; 2. Ronald Peat, Fife Council; Patrons – John Souter, Souters Sportsturf; Associate – Ailsa Wade, Milnathort GC.; Guests – Sandy Herd, Leven Links GC.

Thanks to the Scottish Region Patrons for contributing towards our trophies and prizes and to everyone who donated to the raffle. I am still trying to secure venues for next year's tournaments so if anyone has any thoughts on this matter please get in touch with me.

On October 1 a number of members enjoyed a visit to the Stewart's of Edinburgh turf farm at Kinnesswood on the shores of Loch Leven where we were given an extensive and educational presentation of the work and investment involved in producing high quality turf for our profession (it still won't stop me haggling over the price!). It was nice to see that, although he has retired, David Sword, formerly Head Greenkeeper at Bishopshire GC, is still supporting the Section and joined us on the day.

Our thanks go to Alan Miller, of



Stewart's, for arranging the visit and for the hospitality which he extended to us at the local hotel prior to the tour of the turf fields.

We extend a warm welcome to the Section to the following new members this month – Derek Scott, Scoonie GC; Halldor Svanbergsson, Neil Middleton, Angus Miller and Suzanne Corgan, all Elmwood College, and Gary Smith, of Stewart's.

I have eventually managed to get all Section trophies together and I will now have them valued and engraved in time for the Spring Tournament when we can present them to the winners.

The Inter-Club Tournament is yet again running behind schedule (so what's new?) due to games not being played by the given dates. As this Tournament is a way of keeping in touch during the summer months and meeting fellow greenkeepers from other courses would everyone please try and bring their respective ties up to date in order that we can present the trophy at the Spring Tournament in 1998.

A matter which is causing concern to the Section Committee is that at golf tournaments we have reached the point where patrons and guests are giving greater support than greenkeepers. Does this mean that the majority of members would not bother if we stopped these tournaments? When you consider that for less than £20 you can have a round of golf (sometimes two), meals and be competing for around £500 worth of prizes you would go a long way before getting better value for your money. SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR SECTION?

I will give you an update on the AGM in next month's issue, or perhaps everyone will have attended the meeting and know exactly what is going on. Ah well, I can always dream! Andy O'Hara had a dream which I may tell you about one day!

John Crawford

East

With the season nearing its end we had our last major of the season, the Autumn Tournament at Turnhouse GC, on September 25. A great day was had by all who attended but a very small turnout considering this was the first of the

two qualifying rounds for the Hayter Challenge (or whatever it is to be named). Only 44 people played and that included trade, guests and invited guests. So not a good turnout on a glorious autumn day. The weather couldn't have been better which provided us with some very good golf as the scores show.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, the clubhouse staff for looking after us – the meals were great and last but not least Gavin Ballantyne, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The course was in great condition, guys. You did yourselves proud and it was very enjoyable to play. We would also like to thank Mr Jim McColl, the Greens Convenor, for presenting the prizes and also joining us for the golf. The trophies were shared between Swanston GC (my club) and Glencorse GC as you will see from the scoreboard that follows. (Ian, you will have to try and regain your aggregate cup in 1998).

I was pleased to be the first winner of the new Scottish Grass Machinery Cup and I would like to thank SGM for presenting the cup to the Section. It is a superb looking trophy which is worth winning. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Outing in 1998.

The results were:- Gross:- D. Melville, Swanston GC, 72; Division 1:- 1. T. Murray, Ratho Park GC, 70; 2. I. Bell, Glencorse GC, 74; 3. J. Manuel, Goswick GC, 75; Division 2:- 1. C. Yeaman, Swanston GC, 73; 2. S. Halliday, Melville GC, 75; 3. G. Ballantyne, Turnhouse GC, 76; Division 3:- 1. A. Forrest, Swanston GC, 74; 2. S. Hall, Glencorse GC, 74; 3. J. Lumsden, Glencorse GC, 77; Veteran – R. Bullock, retired, 77; Trade – I. Thompson, Provan GC, 77; Guest – D. McGinley, Swanston GC, 73; Aggregate Cup Spring & Autumn – C. Yeaman, Swanston GC, 144; Best Nett of the Day – Douglas Melville, Swanston GC, 65. Turnhouse GC par was 69.

I would like to thank the trade members for providing the raffle prizes on the day, this is always much appreciated by the Section.

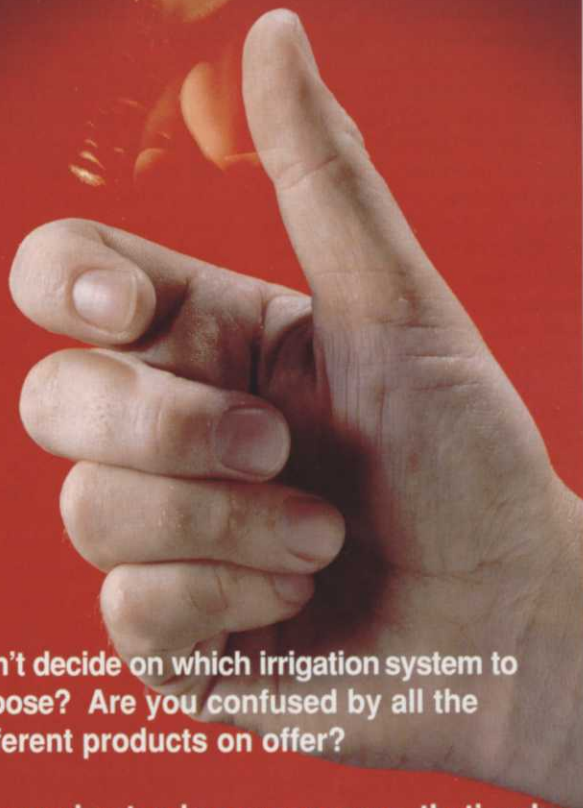
In October we also had the annual Stewart's and Co match with the North East of England Section at Haddington GC, East Lothian. A great day and night was had by all! Thanks to Haddington GC for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the great meals and even better refreshments! Also thanks to Norman Wood and his staff for having the course in good condition for the visit of all these greenkeepers. The result this year was another victory by the North East lads by 3.5-2.5 so they retain the trophy again! We are going to have to do something about this. Possibly if they don't bring passports next time they try and cross the border they won't be able to get into Scotland and we will win by just turning up! No, we are not that lucky, we will have to improve our performances if we are to win back the coveted "Stewart's Quaich".

The team is looking forward to next year's match already and once again well done to the North East lads on a winning performance. We would also like to thank the match sponsors Stewart's and Co and their Technical Sales Rep, John Geddes, for looking after us all once again. Your support for this match is much appreciated by everyone who plays in this match. Thanks for everything you do each year to make this match a success.

Next on the Agenda is the AGM at Swanston GC. I will report on this next month. I am echoing an article from the Devon/Cornwall Section news that when attending all BIGGA events and functions, please remember you are representing your profession and BIGGA so please ensure you are properly dressed with collar and tie on arrival for lunch and afterwards for evening meal. The standards in the Section seem to be dropping so let us ensure that it goes back up to where it has always been.

If anyone has not got their dance tickets by now for the annual dinner dance they should give Steve Dixon a call now on 0131 660 3965 to reserve the last few tickets available for the night of the year. The date if you do not know by now is Saturday December 6 at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady. So if you need to drop me a line

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Around the Green



you can do so at 74 Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian EH31 2HJ or phone 01620 842037. If you have any information let's hear from you, remember it is your Section and this is your chance to be heard.

Just one last thing before I go, the Patrons' Awards for 1997 are to the two people who have attended all BIGGA events and functions over the past year. This year they go to Robert Thomson, Peebles GC and Gordon Trotter, Glencorse GC. Well done lads, you both deserve the awards. The prizes are a trip to the BTME 98, in Harrogate in January, which will be presented in December at the Patrons' Dinner and we are looking forward to seeing you down in Harrogate which is a great three days and is well worth attending. If anyone is thinking of going next year BIGGA Scottish Region are running a trip to include coach travel, Bed and Breakfast and entrance to all seminars and the show. If you are interested give our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd a call on 0141 616 3440 for an application form and further details.

Well, that's it for this month, I hope to hear from some of our members soon!
Chris Yeaman

West

The first thing to report on is the result from the five-a-side tournament held on September 7 at Scotstoun Leisure Centre. The weather once again was fantastic, bright sunshine.

After a few hiccups the tournament got under way although the playing order was not quite what it should have been! Souters strolled through the first section then Windy Clyde secured their place

through a Campine player being sent off. East Kilbride as usual eased their way through from section three then a close fought battle in section four saw Rigby Taylor come out on top on goal difference. In the semi-finals East Kilbride beat Souters and Windy Clyde beat Rigby Taylor, both games being well contested.

Down to the final - Windy Clyde started well easing forward 3-1 with six minutes to go, then two quick goals saw honours even. It looked like penalties again but wait a minute, a pass back (or was it? Remember the ref's decision is final) and East Kilbride were awarded a penalty. The fourth goal came and a Windy Clyde man was sent off for disagreeing just slightly with the ref's opinion.

The whole tournament went, in the main, smoothly. A few words of thanks are extended to John Scott for presenting the prizes and for keeping control of the score board on the day. The referees are to be thanked. Everybody thinks it's so easy to control play but after watching and listening to play I think they have an extremely difficult job. Rigby Taylor were the main sponsors by presenting a magnificent trophy for the winners. We have to say thank you very much for their kind generosity and last but not least thanks to all the teams which took part. We are delighted the event is so popular and enjoyable.

A few things to remember for the coming months. The annual dinner is at the Admiral once again with the same format and it is booked for November 28 so please come along, tickets will be available shortly. The AGM come games night has been organised for December 11 again at the Claremont. This is a very good night, normally with free pies, so come along and enjoy the evening and if you wish, say a few words at the meeting!

The 11-a-side team have been in action recently against Allied Timber, a match Brian Hillam arranged

which will be a regular occurrence judging by the response. Plenty of activity on this front I would hope this year as a lot of interest has been shown.

Now the report, a good team was compiled even though it was a last minute fixture Allied proved good opposition. Our Section opened up the scoreline from Eddie Devine, Paisley GC. He apparently had an excellent game. Then disaster - they scored two goals to make half time 2-1 down. Next Graeme Shearer equalised and then they scored again - 3-2 with desperate action on both sides. However, with the last kick of the ball the equaliser and who was the scorer, yes Brian! We still remain undefeated, so well done.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to new member James McIntyre, Glasgow University Estates Manager. We hope to see you at some of the events.

Finally the Hayter report. This year three people represented the West Section and although an excellent time was had I'm afraid our performances left a lot to be desired. The course was long and tight which proved costly for any stray shots of which I had plenty. The event was extremely well run, very enjoyable and we should express our thanks to all those who are involved.

Thanks go to Ganton for holding the event, to Head Greenkeeper David Spurden for preparing the course in excellent condition, to BIGGA for running the tournament and last but not least Hayter for their support for sadly the last time.

On a sad note less than a week after the event the David Spurden was shot and died in an accident and we send our sincere thoughts of condolence at this time.

That's all folks, remember if you have something of interest then please contact me on 0141 942 5554.

Sorry, I nearly forgot, welcome to Peter Boyd, our new Regional Administrator - I hope we don't

give you too many headaches!
Stuart Taylor

North

The Section outing to Alyth was a great day out on a superb golf course in lovely sunshine. Thanks to Brian Cocker, his staff and all at Alyth who made us very welcome. Prize winners were as follows:- Scratch, G Hampton Cup - 1. John Urquhart, Tain, 68; 2. Colin Forbes, Tarland, 73; Division 1 - 1. Bruce McLaren, Blairgowrie, 72; 2. Neil Kidd, Keith, 72; 3. Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 74; Division 2 - 1. (MacLean Trophy) Ross MacLeod, Tain, 67; 2. Scott Williams, Peterculter, 70 (also winner of Spring/Autumn Aggregate for the Meldrum Trophy with 132); 3. John Taylor, retired, 73 (also winner of M & M Trophy for Veteran Aggregate on 142); Division 3 - 1. Brian Cocker, Alyth, 69; 2. David Marnoch, Peterculter, 75 (also winner of Head Greenkeeper Aggregate Shield); 3. Michael Reid, Newmacher, 79; Veteran Toro Trophy - 1. Robert Napier, retired, 71; 2. Arthur Williamson, retired, 73; Apprentice - 1. Calum Faulkner, Strathpeffer, 70; 2. John Morton, Alford, 77; Guest - A. Fiddes, Alyth, 69; Trade - Pat Allan, Stewart's, 71; Longest Drive - Division 1 - Neil Sadler, Grantown; Division 2 - Gordon McKie, St Andrews; Division 3 - David Marnoch; Nearest the Pin - John Morton; Committee Trophy - Ian MacLeod, Tain, 75. The BIGGA Blazer was won by Willie Robertson, Elenisla GC. 200 Club winners were May £30 - Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch, June £30 - Kevin Fowler, Fortrose, July £30 - Murray Gordon, Braemar, and August £100 - Sam Morrison, now of Bothwell Castle. The final four draws will be made at our AGM this month at McDonald GC, Ellon.

Colin Mackay, Elmwood Golf Club, got a late call up to the Hayter Team at Grantown but unfortunately was unable to inspire them to victory.

I would just like to say how upset I was to hear the news of the



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tragic death of Ganton's, David Spurden, in an accident on the course recently. He was a good friend and I will miss seeing him at BIGGA events. My condolences to his family.

The Section patron winners are Dale Robertson, Newmacher, and Bradley Wood, Westhill, who win a trip to BTME 1998. Thanks to the Scottish Patronage Scheme.

All the best to Sean Jaffrey, who moved from Strathmore to Ellon recently. Congratulations to Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill, for sweeping all before him at the BIGGA Championships at Cooden Beach in August. Steve would like to start up a Four Ball Better Ball Knockout in the Section next Spring. Early rounds will be regional to cut down on travel to start with. For more information and to enter phone Steve on 01738 643778.

Finally have you got a library book from the Section? There are three missing. Contact Hugh McLatchie on 01779 470173 or Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 if you know where they are.

Iain MacLeod

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell

Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

This month's news unfortunately starts with some sad news. John Lennard, a member of the North West Section for many years has died after a long illness. John, who worked at Prestbury GC some years ago, moved on to Northenden GC and then on to Shrigley Hall where he carried out some major construction work. Eventually he made his final move to Merriydale GC where he constructed 9 holes before becoming ill.

More sad news is the death of David Spurden, a member of the Northern Section. David was Head Greenkeeper at Ganton GC for 17 years and had just hosted the Hayter Challenge Final at Ganton one week before his untimely death. Many of the North West

members will have known David from the Roses matches and the Greenkeeping Support Team at the Open.

The weather just before the Autumn tournament at Keswick GC on September 9 had been continual rain for days and John Turner, the Head Greenkeeper was anxious to say the least as to how the course would be on that day. No problems! The sun shone, the course was in great condition and thanks to John and his staff everyone enjoyed the day. The views from the course of the surrounding mountains are breathtaking and we were even treated to the sight of a buzzard flying up the valley. The prize table took us through to 11th nett but the main prize winners were:- Best Nett - Peter Rainey; Best Gross - John Berry; Over 55s - Bert Cross; Aggregate Trophy - Alec Davies. We were fortunate to have a very special guest with us on the day. Lord Whitelaw came along and presented the prizes to the winners before joining us for dinner. I would like to thank Lord Whitelaw for allowing us the pleasure of his company, Keswick GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, John Turner and his staff for their hard work in preparing the course, John Fleet and his wife for the lovely meals and bar service and the companies who helped to swell the prize table, namely Rigby Taylor, Supaturf, Ritefeed, GEM, Martin Brothers, Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, Cheshire Turf Machinery and Bathgate Top Dressing.

The Hayter Challenge Final at Ganton GC was played on September 18 with 63 competitors who had won through from their various spring tournaments and regional finals. The course was immaculate thanks to David Spurden and his staff and it is easy to see why this course is classed as one of the best and most difficult courses around. The course is heavily planted with gorse and trees and there are plenty of bunkers waiting to catch the way-

ward short. I think the bunkers were designed by Adolf Hitler and constructed by this war planes with landmines they were so deep! The competitors had plenty to play for with prizes but also with places for next years Rest of the World team to play in America. Unfortunately we had no winners from the North West.

This year's Christmas competition is at Wilmslow GC, on Thursday November 27. The Section AGM will take place immediately after the golf and will be followed by a Christmas Dinner. The tee will be available from 10 am and all entries must be in by Saturday, November 22, with your deposit of £10 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. All competitors will be required to bring along a bottle so that everybody takes home a prize.

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

Bert Cross

North East

The Autumn Competition was held at Boldon GC, on Thursday, September 25. Forty members turned up to play which for me as Secretary was very gratifying considering there were a few familiar faces missing. Steve Miller and his staff had the course in excellent condition and we thank the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and also to the Stewardess for a great meal. Donations were received from The Ryton Gravel Co, Aitkens, Boldon GC, Stocksfield GC, Greenlay, Border Turf Services and Turf Care Supplies and on behalf of the Section I would like to thank all the sponsors. The results were as follows:- Best Nett (Ransome Cup) - B. Wilson, Stocksfield, 73-6-66; Best Nett, Greenlay Cup 0-9 handicaps - R. Reid, Prudhoe, 75-7-68; Best Nett (Fewster Shield) 10-28 handicaps - G. Wright, Crook, 85-15-70; Best Gross Salver - A. McLure, 75. Other scores were B. Walker (guest), 83-14-69; M. Woods

(guest), 80-10-70; A. Mooney, 91-20-71; D. Sharkey, 76-4-72; G. Baxter, 78-6-72; J. Redhead, 84-12-72; D. Dalby, 82-10-72; D. Street, 83-11-72; K. Mould, 87-15-72.

The annual match against SE Scotland will have taken place by now, hopefully we shall regain the cup at Haddington.

Both Brian Hughes and Kevin Mould, of Whickham, have done well this year in passing Phase 4 and Phase 2 respectively, better late than never with that news. May I remind you that some of the players who played in the knockout competitions have not paid their entry fee. Please get in touch with David Cuthbertson, we need the money for the prizes.

Sometime in December we are having a competition at South Moor followed by the AGM presentation of all the trophies played for in 1997 followed by a meal. All members will be sent a letter asking if they would like to attend. The President of the Section Mr Tony Chambers of Shorts will present the trophies.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

The Turfcare sponsored quiz versus the Institute of Groundsman takes place at Mount Oswald GC, Durham at 7.30 pm on December 10. The brilliant two Kevins from Brancepeth GC need help to defend the greenkeeper's record, so turn up lads and show your talent!

Our Secretary, Gary Munro, has been busy as Manager of the Wynyard GC. His course was host to the European Tour "School" recently in a 54 hole event. 150 entered with passports into the final qualifying stage on the Costa del Sol up for grabs.

George Salabank, Student Greenkeeper, at Eaglescliffe GC has, after three months employment, been taken on for a further year. Earlier he completed a two year course at the Scottish College where he obtained a HND in Sport and Leisure. He plays off a handicap of 11.



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

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Around the Green



Shaun Carroll is to attend a machinery training course in an effort to help out at his Club with machinery troubles in the future. Machines are getting more and more sophisticated, and costly!

The dry weather in September is great for treatment of greens and tees and there's no sign of worm casts yet!

There will be more news in the members' newsletter from our Secretary.

Bruce Burnell

North Wales

Well, it has been a long time hasn't it? May I first introduce myself - I am David Goodridge and Acting Chairman and Press Officer of your Section and Head Greenkeeper at Denbigh GC. The last 12 months have seen a turbulent time at committee level with resignations flying about and all the gossip and innuendoes that go on. Most of us have to deal with committees in our working life and know all the inherent short falls etc. However it is democratic even though things don't always go the way you would

want or expect. Remember it is YOUR Section and it needs YOUR input. I am available on 01824 710693 for your views, news and basically anything to do with golf and greenkeeping including births, deaths, weddings... I sound like a register office!

But seriously we are looking for a Secretary as Trevor Johnstone finds he hasn't got the time to do both the Secretary's and Treasurer's job. The position does take time and you will find your ear has to be surgically removed from the phone at times but there must be one of you out there that would love to know everything that's going on as well as contributing a hell of a lot to the Section.

The AGM will be held at the Christmas meeting, on December 3. More details will be available from me soon.

Onto a more sombre note, it is my sad duty to inform you that Ken Hawkins passed away on August 8 after spending some time in hospital after suffering a stroke. Any of you who played in the meetings at Cardon Park, Porthmadog or Frodsham will remember Ken as a starter who made sure everything ran smoothly, always had a laugh and a joke and showed such enthusiasm that starting a round of golf and the clubhouse afterwards will never be the same.

It is always best to finish things

on a high note and for one of our members I suppose a few thousand feet over the Atlantic next October is pretty high. The said member is Russell Lewis, of Northop Country Park. Russell who plays off 3 is representing Wales in the Hayter International Challenge Cup after winning his way through Frodsham, Maften Hall and Ganton and he finds himself on his way to Atlanta, Georgia. Nice one Russ, let's hope it's the Dragon that flies top of the pile. I'm sure the whole Section will be willing you on.

Anyway, it's Friday, it's 7.30pm, now where's that beer?
Dave Goodridge

Sheffield

On September 22 we held our autumn competition at Sicklehome GC. It was a perfect day for playing golf and was enjoyed by the 38 members who played. Our thanks go to Sicklehome for giving us courtesy of the course. Thanks also go to Mike Lake and his staff who presented the course in such lovely condition. Well done, Mike!

Thanks also go to the stewardess and her staff for the excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks go to Tony Dobson, of Henton 7 Chattells, who were the main sponsors of the competition and for providing the excellent prize table. Other trade members who provided prizes were Glen

Hardcastle, County Crops; Alan Dyson, Gem; Brian Booth, Rigby Taylors; Steve Burroughs, Amenity Turf Supplies; Peter Fell, Aitkens, and Les Purdy, Purdys.

Congratulations go to all the prize winners at Sicklehome and well done to Craig Duncan who, with an excellent score of 38 points, won the competition. I think local knowledge helped Craig. Well done.

Results: 1. C. Duncan, 38pts; 2. M. Coltas, 37 pts; 3. P. Neve, 36pts; 4. P. Docherty, 36pts (I heard you had a bit of fun on the 18th, Paul!)

My apologies to Paul Neve who also qualified for the Hayter Final. Unfortunately, Mick Coltas and Paul didn't have any luck in the final.

At the National Tournament Paul had better luck because he won his Handicap Division thus qualifying for the Kubuta Challenge. Well done and good luck Paul.

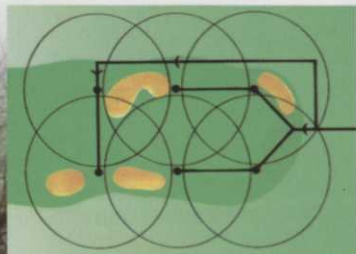
Congratulations go to Jeremy Duffield who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Dore and Tootley GC. Jeremy moves to Dore from Howley Hall in Leeds. Good luck, Jeremy.

A few dates for your diaries .

Golf:- November 24, Christmas competition at Rotherham GC.

Lectures. December 4, Mr R. Laycock, Turf Consultant; February 5, Mr N. Baldwin, Service Chemicals, ex- STRI and March 5, Mr A.

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Around the Green



➔ Morton, Maxicrop. All at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

Finally, Barry Heaney recently retired from Wortley GC due to ill health. I hope you have an easy and happy retirement, Barry. Barry has done a lot of work for the Association and is still doing it so you deserve a happy retirement. Good luck.

John Lax

Northern

This year's Winter Tournament which is at Scarcroft GC is to be held on Wednesday December 3 and NOT Wednesday December 10 at previously advertised. The tee off time will remain the same at 10.30 am. The AGM will follow the golf and meal with a start time of 6.00 pm.

This year's Invitation Day Tournament was held at Skipton GC. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but reports have filtered back that the day was a success. Many thanks to committee members for sorting out the proceedings on the day. Thank you to Ritefeed for sponsoring the prizes and to

Alan Cordingley for attending on their behalf. The greens were apparently in excellent condition so thanks to Gary Potter and his boys for their hard work preparing the course. Results for the day were as follows:- 1. A Baxter & M Collins; 2. A Court & J Oxley; 3. K Christie & T Jackson; 4. C Hill & A Cooper; 5. K Purdy & I Summersgill. Nearest the pin:- 1. P Kavanagh; 2. G Potter.

Congratulations to three of our lads within the Section on recently reaching Head Greenkeeper status. Firstly to Telford Jarvis, at Scarcroft GC, secondly to Tito Arana, at Riddlesden GC, and finally to Gavin Hawker, at Silsden GC. I hope you all settle in your new roles.

At a recent section committee meeting a couple of things were agreed upon. Firstly that the golfing events for 1998 will have to be paid in full at least one week before the tournament - no name and money before hand means no play on the day. This will hopefully prevent problems we have encountered in the past.

Secondly that the Annual Dinner Dance is again to be held at Bradford GC at the date agreed upon, March 14 1998. The agreed price is £16 per head to include the meal, wine on the table and entertainment.

It was nice to see our new

Regional Administrator, Doug Bell, attend our meeting. Doug stated that everything was a little strange to him at the moment but I am sure that he will soon get into the swing of things. No doubt many of you will be seeing Doug at your golf clubs - maybe he will even be able to persuade some to pay the recommended rates!

Again, if anyone has any news from within the Section please do not hesitate to contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA, telephone 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was played at the excellent venue of Chevin GC on September 3. Although heavy rain had been falling for several days prior to the Tournament and on the day, the course was presented in pristine condition by Mike Billings and his staff. In difficult conditions some respectable scores were posted with the winners as follows:- Category 1: 1. P. Billings, Cotgrave Place, 82-8-74; 2. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 78-3-75; 3. A. Foulds, Manor, 84-9-75. Category 2: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-16-75; 2.



K. Davis, Lutterworth, 92-15-77; 2. D. James, Scraftoft, 94-16-78. Category 3: 1. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-21-70; 2. S. Heap, Rothley, 102-22-80; 3. M. Billings, Chevin, 104-22-82. Trade and Associate: G. Thurman, Charnwood Forest, 86-8-78.

The Section's gratitude should go to Chevin GC for courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward for an excellent meal. Also I would like to thank our very generous sponsors for the day, Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services who unfortunately could not be with us on the day because of the Saltex Show. Also I am most grateful to all those committee members who helped to run this event.

This years Supaturf K/O Cup was won by Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, who defeated Dave Mitchell, Springwater, by 6&5 in the final held at Lingdale GC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale GC for hosting the Final on their excellent course.

In the Cosby Am-Am Richard Barker, Adie Porter, Roger Barker and myself finished with a 2-over-par score of 144 with the highlight of the round on the par 3, 185 yard 14th hole. After hitting a 5-iron onto the green Roger then knocked in a 30 foot putt for a birdie 2 giving the team a share in the 2s sweep. Antony Bindley ➔ Page 36

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Around the Green



BB&O

At the time of writing this article the Lambourne golf day was approaching, unfortunately the deadline fell before the event so for those of you who did not participate you will have to wait until next month for the results. The long running Rigby Taylor fourball knockout is finally taking shape with the favourites easing through the field towards yet another final. I am referring to Tony French and Geoff Wheeler, having disposed of R. Fletcher and D. Parrish, from Henley, with ease 5&4 they are fairly confident of brushing aside their next opponents in the same manner. R. Clark & C. Jacobsen, from Harleyford, will have other ideas after thrashing B. Holt & N. Wheedon 6&4 and then coming through a tough encounter with G. Austin & M. Rapley by one hole. I have a feeling home advantage may prove decisive for the Harleyford boys. Unfortunately in the bottom half of the draw things have been a little slow with several teams unable to arrange a suitable date to play their matches thus leading to a couple of walk-overs! This has been a big disappointment to the sponsors. I would stress that in future if you are planning to play in this event please make every effort to play your matches!

The next Golf day is in a few weeks time at Richings Park, this is also our AGM.

Finally the Regional Seminar is on Wednesday, November 19, at Northampton Rugby Club. It would be nice to see a strong contingent from our section.

L. T. Anderson

Mid Anglia

This month our annual Regional Seminar takes place on the 19th at

Northampton Rugby Club. All members should have received an application form from Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator, a few months ago listing speakers etc and how to apply.

Next month our last golf event of the year takes place at Family Golf Centre, Chesfield Downs, Gravely, on Thursday December 4.

It is the usual Texas Scramble format, so please organise your teams and make sure your entries are sent to Richard in good time as this event is sometimes oversubscribed.

The final of the Lodgeway Fourball Competition took place in early October between Gavin Simpkins and Steve Mason of Mount Pleasant GC and Rupert Lawrence and Eddie Thompson, of Berkhamsted GC. Eighteen holes were contested in the morning at the end of which Rupert and Eddie were seven up (local knowledge an obvious advantage!).

However, Gavin and Steve fought back during the afternoon round at neighbouring Ashridge, but eventually lost by 4&3.

Congratulations to the finalists and our thanks to Berkhamsted and Ashridge golf clubs for allowing the final to take place and also to Gerald Bruce and Jim Cassidy for the fine condition of both courses.

Once again, Chas Ayres, from Lodgeway, our sponsor, has organised the event well and I'm sure everyone who entered this year's event will be looking forward to next year's competition. Paul Lockett

Midland

On October 2 the Autumn Tournament was held at North Worcester GC. A great day was had by all and many thanks go to the greenkeepers who presented the course in superb condition and to the catering staff on the excellent meal. The results were:- Gross - M. Hughes, 69; Nett - 1. M. Jones, 65; 2. M. Hughes; 3. J Wood; 4. D. Fellows, 67. Trade Cup - R. Minton, Mira-

cle; Longest Drive - R Minton; Nearest Pin - T Cheese. We would like to thank our main sponsors for the day who were Burrows of Stafford.

The Christmas competition will be held on December 8, at Druids Heath. This will also be the venue for the AGM. It has been decided by the committee that the current officers will serve for two years so they have another year to serve. The other members of the committee are up for re-election so anyone wishing to stand must be put forward to me before December 1 with a proposer and seconder. We have decided to change the AGM in this way as to save any confusion on the night as there was last year. This will mean that there will be no nomination on the night. The same procedure will stand for questions to the committee. You will need to send me them before the above date but we do anticipate there will be some questions asked on the night. I would appreciate your commitment and support at this AGM as it is your Section and you have the opportunity to wish Andrew Parker Smith a very speedy recovery from a terrible accident. Andrew works for Soil Systems and mainly covers the south of our region so there will be a small number of you who will be familiar with him. Let's hope you make a speedy recovery and a full one - best wishes from the Section.

The Committee Cup was held at Walsall GC on September 17 and was won by myself. Thanks to Eddie Stant for organising the competition and to Walsall GC.

Jonathan Wood

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South East Region

What a difference this year! The similarity between Blackpool (last year's venue) and Scarborough is that they are both by the seaside. Scarborough however does not have the distractions of Blackpool,



doesn't stay open until the early hours, there isn't a bar every 25 yards and most significant of all does not have a 'Brannigans', which were some of the reasons for the South East's lack of success last year!

This year, as those of you who failed to qualify in a rain soaked 9 holes at Ham Manor for the Hayter Finals will be glad to know, the South East Team made the best of their good fortune in qualifying in such conditions and had a most successful few days at Ganton.

The course which was in superb condition is a most attractive inland links with practically every hole being a potential "card destroyer" and Ganton have done a superb job in converting what appeared to be old open-cast mining sites and disused quarries into bunkers!

For the first time in a long while the South East got into the money being narrowly beaten into second place by first time winners SW & SW, but were more than compensated by the success of Dave Murdoch, Liphook GC, taking the best gross prize and Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC, playing superbly to level par taking the 2nd best net and the coveted English place in the International Match to be held at Atlanta, Georgia next year. Barry Jackson, Broke Hill GC, played very steadily to make the 3rd spot in the 19-28 Handicap Section.

As non-playing Team Captain (I didn't have enough golf balls to play Ganton!) my thanks are due to Dave Murdoch, Andy Sheehan, Neil Gilham, Jon Selwood, Jon Hill, Ian Sutcliffe, Martin Mison, Barry Jackson and Trevor Hindmarsh for applying themselves so well and for being a great bunch of lads and making my trip so enjoyable.

The Region's thanks are also due to Kim Macfie and Hayters for their generosity in sponsoring this event for the last five years and Kim - if you promise to improve the joke you can take this as an invitation to be the Region's guest at the Gentle-



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men's Dinner which will be held at Walton Heath Golf Club on March 6 1998.

Derek Farrington

Essex

On September 25 the Essex Section met at Writtle College to hear Dr Tim Lodge give us an insight into the use and misuse of top dressing and gave us an update on recent research into golf greens construction and maintenance. Our thanks go to Chelmsford Grass Machinery and Nigel Cornwell for sponsoring the lecture and to Patissons, Pearl, Avoncrop, Kings and Parker Hart who provided raffle prizes. Thanks also to the 28 people who turned up for the meeting. If you require notes to this meeting please contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

Our best wishes for the future go to Di Edwards and Tony Filbee who have both recently retired from Writtle College. We welcome Stuart Brown as a new member of staff at Writtle.

Dates for your diary - Presentation Dance on November 14 at Langdon Hills and the AGM on December 3 at Orsett GC.

Following two days of rain we were greeted by strong winds on October 9 when we visited Stock Brook Manor for our latest golfing challenge, sponsored by Grass Hopper. The course was in excellent condition and for a course so young Michael Fance and his greenkeeping team must be very proud. We would like to thank Mr Peachey, the owner, for making the club facilities available to the Essex Section. We would also like to thank Kevin and Alison in the Pro's Shop for marking the cards and to Gerado, Fernando and all the catering and bar staff. The results for the day were as follows:- 0-9 handicap:- 1. A. Toomey, 38 pts; 2. M. Fance, 31 pts; 3. J. Cook, 31 pts; 10-18 handicap:- 1. S. Townsend, 37 pts; 2. C. Ward, 36 pts; 3. J. Morgan, 35 pts; 19-28 handicap:- 1. G. Speller, 33 pts; 2. J. Barnard, 23 pts; 3. M. Forrester, 23 pts; Trade prize - S. Denton, 32 pts; Guest prize - B. Wallace, 38 pts; Booby prize - B. Speller; Nearest the pin on the 7th sponsored by the Greenkeepers Supply Company - M. Fance; Longest drive on the 18th sponsored by the Greenkeepers Supply Company - S. Cox; Putting competition:- 1. S. Townsend and A. Toomey; 3. M. Fance.

Thanks to the trade for their generosity in giving the raffle prizes:- Avoncrop, Collier's, Grass Roots, Kings, Parker-Hart, Pearl, Rigby Taylor, Scotts/Miracle and Tuckwells. We have already mentioned our sponsors for the day but a special thanks must go to Dill Barnard, from Grass Hopper, who

joined the 45 players throughout the day.

Our next function is on Friday, November 14. The disco and buffet evening will give us all a chance to bring our other halves! It will be held at Langdon Hill GC at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £8 each, for more information ring Carl Crocher on 01375 892354.

The Essex Section's first AGM will be held on December 3 at Orsett GC, please try and attend. More details will follow, if not please contact Andy Sheehan on 01277 215765. If you have any news or information you want to go in the magazine, call me on 01702 522202.

Dave Wells

Sussex

The autumn meeting was held at Birch Grove which is a course I had heard a lot about but never had the pleasure of playing before, and what a pleasure it was. The layout, setting and presentation was first class. Can I pass on our thanks to Jon Hill for arranging the day for us and to him and his team for presenting the course so well? As many of you know, the aim of the day was to raise money for the Brighton General Renal Unit where Chris Allen has his treatment. As there are no clubhouse facilities at Birch Grove, Jon arranged for his local publican to do the bar and catering for us. This was a great success with bacon rolls on arrival, a ploughmans lunch and a barbecue to end the day. After all costs were taken out we managed to raise around £500 with which we will be purchasing some colour TVs for the unit. Ray Day will be arranging the presentation. Before I get on to the results of the competition there is one more thank you to the sponsors for the day, that is Parker Hart for providing all the prizes and Miracle for the half way house. Without support from companies like these the cost of golf days would be far more. The results are as follows:- Morning Stableford - 1. Jon Hill, 36 pts; 2. Chris Reed, 34 pts; 3. Shaun Sturrock, 32 pts. The longest walk was Johnny Beck, of Miracle (sorry Justin, you can't win all the time!). Afternoon Stableford - 1. Neil Cleverly, Gary Ogilvie, Mike Butrymoyicz; 2. George Barr, Colin Cathie, Paul Ward.

The next meeting is the Turkey Trot on December 12, at Littlehampton. Don't forget to return your entry form as soon as you receive it as there is usually a big response to this event.

Since staging the National Tournament at Cooden Beach, Stefan Antolik has been invited to play in the Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. Good luck Stefan and have a great time.

By the time you read this article you will have received notification of this year's AGM. We want as many members as possible to attend as it still seems to be the same old faces every year. I also understand that some of the committee who have worked hard for the Section over the years would like a rest so some posts will be becoming vacant.

Colin Cathie

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries

Tel: 01363 82777

South Coast

Our Christmas Turkey Trot will be held at Royal Winchester GC on December 1. This will be followed by the AGM. On completion of the AGM there will be the Christmas Dinner and prize giving. All members wishing to play golf should send their names complete with current handicaps and a cheque for £12.50 to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hampshire, SO41 0QL, telephone 01590 643746. All cheques should be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section. All entries should be with Tony by Friday November 21. Anyone who just wants to attend the AGM and the Christmas Dinner are most welcome. Please contact Tony in the usual way. Anyone wishing to be nominated to serve on the committee or if you have any items for the agenda then please contact our Secretary Jef Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PN, telephone 01722 503938.

Our Region/Section seminar will be held at Sparsholt College on February 26 1998. The speakers will include Janet Adamson, from BIGGA Headquarters; Allan Mitchell, our Section Chairman; John Noyce, from Scott Fertilisers, and John Wells, the Course Manager from Bocket Hall. There will also be two students who will be talking on a greenkeeping subject of their own choosing. The cost for the day will be £15 for members and £20 for non-members which will include lunch. All entry forms should be filled in and returned complete with cheques to our Secretary Jef Drake. Previous years' seminars have been a great success. This is all down to our education sub-committee who have been responsible for the organisation and the choosing of some very good speakers.

BTME will soon be with us again. I am told that the regional coach is filling up fast. Hurry up and get your completed forms and cheques to our Regional Administrator Mrs Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF, tele-

phone 01363 82777. All of you who are travelling on the coach and wish to make use of the South Coast Section feeder catch, contact me on 01329 282362. I will then know what size coach to book and also be able to arrange the various pick-up points.

I have just heard that Brian Gauntlett, who is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Romeşy GC, has just become the proud father of a baby daughter. Megan was born on Saturday September 20. Congratulations to Brian and Natasha on their happy event.

One last piece of news - I have just had a telephone call from Tony Gadd who informs me that the South Coast have retained the trophy in the annual match against the South West Section. The score was three games to two. It sounds like it was a very close fought game - well done lads! One thing Tony did not tell me was whether he won his match or not!

Ken Lodge

South West

Winter is here and everyone will be well into their Autumn and Winter programmes. The professional has started his money counting operation and so will be busy until Christmas while the greenkeeper is getting the blame for everything from the captain's hernia to the Bosnia crisis.

Image becomes a real problem for the greenkeeper at this time. Gone are the heady days of summer where we could take on a God-like persona as the men responsible for the lush fairways and superb greens. It is now that a low profile is adopted or better still a long vacation is taken, preferably in a different hemisphere. I have always envied the professional at this time. Image for them has never been a problem. After all they are the ones that have what every club golfer longs for, the ability to play golf. They are there at the hub of the golf club with their bouffant hair styles and designer couture selling magic wands to the gullible masses while occasionally disclosing snippets of information on the latest swing techniques. Is it any wonder that when a nubile young female accidentally strays into the confines of a golf club it is the assistant professionals that get their grubby little mitts on them long before any greenkeeper gets so much as a sniff in the relevant direction?

But enough of my bitter envy, what has been happening within our Section? Well, two matches have recently taken place and it has become clear that Tim Dabernett's departure from greenkeeping was in fact a desperate ploy to relinquish his captaincy as we complete a 100% record in all three



Around the Green



matches this year ie losing the lot! Following on from Tim, vice captain Matt Hawker took over the reins in a four matches to one loss against the South Wales greenkeepers at Thornbury. Thanks to Robin Greaves and his crew for their usual high quality course preparation for that one. I must apologise to the rest of the team for not being able to attend the meal which I have been informed was excellent, but I made the mistake of taking the only set of house keys with me to the match and as my locked out wife likes to punish such misdemeanours with justice based on Islamic principles I felt it necessary to return home quickly. Matt, following his traumatic experience against the Welsh, gave the job of captain to Terry Humphries at High Post against the South Coast greenkeepers. Unfortunately the South Coast like their South Wales counterparts continued the unsociable habit of playing good golf and so came out three matches to one victors in that one. But we all enjoyed the excellent course maintained by Lauchlan Millar and his team and a very pleasant meal to follow. Getting the team together once again proved to be very difficult so please could everyone try and make themselves available for these fixtures as they are great fun and help keep the links between all other greenkeepers going.

There is however some good news on the golfing front as congratulations must go to Anthony Knight, from Kingsdown, who showed his true form in taking Ganton apart and coming second overall in the Hayter Final as well as winning his handicap category.

Best wishes must also go to Terry Humphries, our long serving committee man on his retirement from Filton and also to John Barr from Bristol and Clifton who is travelling North of the border again for a new project up there.

So what events are coming up? Well, actually quite a lot. Firstly we have the annual South West regional seminar at Cannington on November 26. Everyone should have had their forms for that by now and as you will be able to see it promises to be a good one. We also have the Christmas Tournament at Minchinhampton on December 10. This is always quite popular and great fun so please go along to that to support the Section and to enjoy yourselves. Then in January we have the BTME at Har-

rogate and the Region's coach party so if anyone wants to go along and I am sure there will be many, then give Paula Humphries a ring.

Marc Haring

Devon and Cornwall

Could members please note the change of date for the Avoncrop sponsored meeting which will now be held on Tuesday March 3 1998?

Once again Christmas is approaching fast, what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 10? As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date. The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf the now customary course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 with Head Greenkeeper Richard Wisdom showing members his fine work. Lunch will be followed by our afternoon cabaret and the day will conclude with the raffles.

I would like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. Places on the Region's package to BTME 98 which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are going fast so to avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package don't delay, call our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries today on 01363 82777. Richard Whyman

South Wales

Our Autumn Tournament was played for recently over the Tenby Links, a super golf course that breathes character and tradition, the only downfall being that it lies far west, certainly too far west most people must have thought. That was a pity and certainly their loss for we were greeted with warmth and hospitality and were made to feel at home by each and everyone at the club. Where else does the Secretary buy you a drink on arrival and the Captain buy you a drink with your meal? The weather was glorious, warm sunshine with a stiff breeze (gale force 3) - the Captain informed us that it was considered a gentle breeze for Tenby and ideal golfing conditions. The course itself was in excellent

condition and the greens were just a little on the quick side, a tribute to the dedication of Head Greenkeeper Chris Jenkins and his staff. Chris incidentally dusted down his clubs and joined us playing his first 18 holes in let's just say a long while! We hope that we will see a lot more of him in the near future, he's still got the swing you know!

Winner of the day and the Jacobson Cup was Daryl Bray of Morriston GC with a nett 73 winning a golf bag. Second, winning the President's Cup was Andy Roach of Haverfordwest GC winning a trendy long handled putter. Winner of the Waycott Cup was Langland Bay's Ian Harwood who also won a Ryder Cup sweater.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors, Keith Morgan Mowers and to both Ben and Jon Morgan for their continued support. A special thank you to the Tenby GC for granting us the courtesy of the golf course and to their Secretary Jeff Pearson who really did make us feel welcome. Thank you to the caterers and Roger Phillips for a wonderful feast and to the Captain, Mr Howard Griffiths for his kind words. All in all we had an excellent day!

At the Thornbury GC, Bristol the Annual Match South Wales versus the South West was recently contested. The South Wales Section were out to avenge the white washing they received at the hands of the South West team at Tredegar Park GC last year. It very nearly didn't happen for at 3.00 pm on the evening before the match was due to take place we had registered only 4 players! 6 hours of frantic phone calls later we had a team of 9, would they all turn up? Yes they did and I'd like to thank them all for doing so. For the match that very nearly didn't happen turned out to be our best win for a number of years.

The results were:- Match 1 - Peter Lacey/Adrian Panks won 3/2; Match 2 - Daryl Bray/Dennis Jones won 3/2; Match 3 - Vince Northey/Ray Everson lost 4/2; Match 4 - Laurence Walter/Lee Carter won 3/2; Match 5 (singles) - Kerry Llewellyn won 6/4. A sincere thanks to all those who turned up and helped in bringing the Shield back across the water. Hopefully we can keep it this side for at least a few years! Thanks also to Matthew Hawker and his team for the spirit in which the matches were played and to all at the Thornbury GC who contributed in making the day such an enjoyable one.

Please book early for the Winter Tournament, Christmas Competition and AGM at Pyle and Kenfig GC on Wednesday December 10 since I've a feeling we are going to be a bit stretched! Peter Lacey

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star...



Name: **Alan Buckley**
Club: **Newark GC**
Position: **Assistant**
Age: **47**

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Five years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Hoping to continue NVQ III at Askham Bryan

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

All types of construction and setting the course out for the larger competitions

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Divotting

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Burglar alarms service engineer.

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My brother Ian at Rhuddlan GC.

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

Alert the golfer that our work is done to improve their golf if given time to do it

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, DIY and gardening.

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Information on all aspects from course to machinery and education

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

I would like to be Deputy or Head Greenkeeper.