

Around the Green



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.