

# Around the green

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections



**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

### North

The rush of new members has begun in earnest as we welcome the following, from Downfield GC, Alistair Turnbull and Mark Ritchie; from Moray GC, Douglas Lambie, Peter Fisk, Kevin Thomson, Mark Cordell and Stuart Grant; from Royal Aberdeen, Graham Dawson, Alan Stewart, Steven Frost and Martin Fullerton; Andrew Leslie; from Forres GC; Richard Macintosh from Kingussie GC; Andrew Mellon from Stornoway GC, and, last but not least, Craig Campbell, a student from Thurso. Keep them coming.

Members please take note that to save on postage entries for Spring and Autumn outings will be sent out together this year, so put your Autumn entry in a safe place for when it needs to be returned. Please also note that a guest is only allowed to come to one outing per year now, and a guest greenkeeper only once as hopefully he/she will enjoy it so much and join the Association right after.

Two lucky members from the Section will be at Augusta for The Masters this month. Gordon Moir, St Andrews, who is travelling over with the ex North man, Charlie MacDonald, and Ian Carson, Nairn. I am sure they will have a great time as I did two years ago.

I am happy to report that the missing library books have turned up and we have a full complement of books again. Phone Dougal on 01224 740329 for details.

Finally, have you paid for your 200 Club ticket yet? Or at least informed Stewart that you will be paying for it either soon or at the Spring outing. The Spring outing will be at Fortrose and Rosemarkie on Thursday May 14, you better get your entry back quickly to ensure you are in the field.

Iain Macleod

### Central

We start this month's report with the terrific news that another 18 new members have joined the Section and we extend a warm welcome to Michael Doris, Allan Paterson, Scott Fenwick and Stuart Stenhouse all Gleneagles; Mark McLeish, Steven Martin, Mark Campbell, Gary Reid, Paul Keyworth, all Carnoustie Links; Ian Spence, Elmwood; Steven Turner, Alloa GC; Gary McLaren, Ian Smith, Leven Links; Shaun Pilling, Dunnikier GC; Lloyd Stevenson, Alva GC; Donal Burns, Brucefields GC; Donald Gardner, Scoonie GC and Darren Laing, from Drumoig GC. If we keep going at this rate we will have no problem of achieving our target of one new member every week, so keep up the good work of encouraging new members to join!

Last month over 30 members enjoyed a visit to the impressive

new premises of Scottish Grass Machinery at Inverkeithing, (this was a pleasant surprise, as only 12 had taken the bother to return their forms). It is the intention of SGM to construct a golf green, tee and fairway demonstration area adjacent to their premises, where machinery can be tested prior to purchase or following servicing. Our thanks and best wishes for a successful future go to David McInroy, Roy Auld and everyone at Scottish Grass for a most interesting day and excellent refreshments.

I recently received a letter from former Section member Stuart 'Sid' Mackie, who is now at Five Lakes G & CC in Essex, he sends best wishes to Kenny Duncan and everyone at Dunfermline GC and to all the greenkeeping staff at Elwood College especially Mike "Eat my doughnuts" Clark and Ian "I'll buy that club from you for £40, but pay you sometime" Butcher. Sid hopes to attend some of our events during the summer when I have no doubt there will be a lot of reminiscing done over a few drams.

A date for your diary is Monday, October 5, 1998, this is when the Autumn Tournament will be held at Crieff by courtesy of the directors of Crieff Golf Club.

I am looking for a venue for the Spring Tournament in 1999, so if anyone is willing to host this event, or has thoughts on where they would like it played, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Andy 'Pele Maradona' O'Hara

is hoping to organise a challenge football match against other sections during the summer, so all you budding stars better keep yourself in tip top condition, as you may be getting that long awaited 'phone call from Andy very soon.

Best wishes and every success for the future, from everyone in the Section, go to Janet Adamson, Janet has been Membership Services Officer with BIGGA for the past two and a half years and is leaving to take up a new position in London. Thanks for everything Janet, hope all goes well in your new employment.

John Crawford

### West

The season is here and all courses must be wet but full of growth due to the beautiful temperature over the last few months. Greens have to be good as nobody has been on them, well that's my story. Some dry weather is required but, wait a minute, just as I write this, winter has arrived, snow, frost and cold temperatures, why are we keeping on greens?

Let's get on with business, recently all members should have received a note of the different events and venues for the coming season. I hope this is to your liking. Our suggestion recently was organising a rugby match between Sections, so let's have some more ideas.

The functions have been a success so far, with the game's night at Claremont Bowling Club on



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# Around the green

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Thursday, February 26. This was attended by 30 people some of whom were only observing. But what a surprise, Robert Bruce (crutches and all) arrived to enjoy some refreshments. Nice to see you on the mend (football at his age) a couple of golden oldies, Jim and John Robb, nice to see them in such high spirits and boy were they on high spirits, good to have a wee talk and see you in such good health. In all, 24 took part in a very enjoyable evening, with event winners, Charlie Goodall and Steven Hogg, winning five out of five events. Their opposites were Brian Hillan and Neil Gibb, we tried to discover what the fee was for such a white wash but no figures were disclosed. The prizes were donated and thanks to John Scotts for his contributions. Thanks to Claremont for once again holding the event, its a good quiet venue, pies and help and Gary Burns for the supply of games. A mention to Gavin Jarvis for preparing the publishing sheets and the tables for results, well done everybody concerned.

The other event attended was the Scottish Annual Conference at Dunfermline College. This proved a very worth while day and thoroughly enjoyable. I would recommend to anybody a full report will be included by the Region Administrator. Thank you Peter for your efforts and returning my wallet.

Remember gentlemen to return your Spring outing forms soon as this is sure to be well attend-

ed, a bus is being considered.

Once again if anybody has a problem or an interesting fact then please let me know on 0141 942 5554, I hope Bobby Granger is back to full health and see you soon.

S Taylor

### East

In January a number of Section members attended BTME at Harrogate and yet again this year it was a superb show well run, lots to see, some very interesting seminars with good speakers with very good topics that kept everyone interested. The nightlife was as usual superb with the chance to meet up with old friends and new and discuss things that have happened over the past year. Thanks to HQ for all the organising of the Conference, Show, Seminars well done and also to Peter Boyd, our new Regional Administrator, for his organising of the Scottish Region trip to BTME and I am glad to say he lasted the pace of a very hectic week. It was good to see Elliot and Edwa Small on the trip again this year the only thing I can't understand is why Elliot would not give me his room number in the hotel! (strange). Next month I hope to have a couple of articles from our two patrons award winners Gordon Trotter, Glencorse, and Robert Thomson, Peebles, about their trip to BTME 98, so just remember in 1999 it could be you.

The East Section would like to wish Tom Brannan, Hugh

Murray and Kevin Brunton all the best on their new business venture Greentech (Sportsturf) Ltd.

The first section tournament of 1998 will be at Royal Musselburgh Golf Club on Tuesday, April 28, 1998. Entry forms will be with you shortly so fill them in and get them back before the closing date as no entries will be accepted after this date and the Committee's decision is final. Also, remember this is the second qualifying round for the 1998 Ritefeed Classic. I would like to send the best wishes of the Section to Robert T Bruce, Ritefeed, who, on the Sunday before BTME, in January was playing football for the Scottish Greenkeepers v the English Greenkeepers in the annual match that Ritefeed sponsor yearly in Harrogate when he injured his knee (not even in a tackle). So Robert we hope to see you up and about soon in the East Section and all over Scotland. Subsequently Robert's £2.75 million transfer to Barcelona was withdrawn and he is staying where he is.

Well that's it all for this month the new season is just around the corner so I hope everyone has a good season ahead.

If anyone has any news I can let the Section know about give me a call on 01620 842037 (home) or 0131 4457105 (work) and I will put it in a future article.

See you all next month.  
Chris Yeaman

### Ayrshire

The Section goes into the new year with our biggest number of members ever - 135. Among the latest new members are Ian Campbell, Mark Campbell, Douglas Neilson, Robert Glasby-Locke, George Payne, Paul Tulloch and Scott McLean. It is also nice to see Charlie White, from Largs, joining again. I hope to see you all through the year.

our committee for the year is as follows: Chairman, Jim Paton, West Kilbride GC; Vice Chairman, Duncan Gray, The Pines Golf Centre; Secretary, Derek Wilson, Irvine GC; Committee, George Brown, Jimmy Johnstone and William McMeikan, all Turnberry Hotel, Harry Diamond; Brian Finlayson, Kilmarnock Barassie; Ian Barr, Beith GC and Robert Bruce, RiteFeed.

The committee will be working hard for you this year to provide a programme of outings, functions, and a seminar which we hope will provide something that you will be able to attend and gain some knowledge or fun at.

The first thing that I would like to address as Chairman is the lack of communication which you encountered last year and to this end I have asked our new committee member, Ian Barr, to organise a regular column in the magazine. Ian's address and telephone number are 50 Dennyholme Wynd, Kilbirnie Tel: 01505 683278.

Jim Paton.

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St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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## Keeping in touch with

### North West

What a strange month February has been. The month began with warm, dry weather, the grass still growing and the courses looking good with fairways striped, and every thing looking green due to the mild winter. Today, 27 February, the temperatures have dropped, snow, hail and rain seems to be the order of the day, and the wind chill factor is below freezing. Still I suppose we can count ourselves lucky we do not have to deal with hurricanes like those that just hit Florida.

I am glad to see that you have received your fixture lists at last. They were late and I do apologise but it was no fault of mine. After many hours writing letters to golf clubs for permission to play tournaments, time spent with graphic designers and printers to ensure the fixtures were right, folding cards and seminar applications, filling and sealing envelopes and addressing and stamping envelopes. Then came the easy part. I delivered 600 letters to the GPO sorting office on the February 9 and you guessed it,

they got lost. After many phone calls and visits to the sorting office I gave up hope and had to go back to the printers and start the whole process again. This now leaves me with claim forms to fill in hoping to claim back the £423 cost for the second lot of printing, stamps and envelopes.

Now that you are aware of the year's events you will see that we have the spring tournament at Childwall Golf Club on Thursday, May 14. This is also a qualifier for the Regional final of the RiteFeed Classic at Mere Golf and Country Club on Monday 29th June. You will need to register for the spring tournament not later than Friday 8th May. Any entries after this date will not be accepted. All entries including a cheque for £15 must be sent to: Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Lunch will be served between 12 noon - 1 pm. The tea is from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

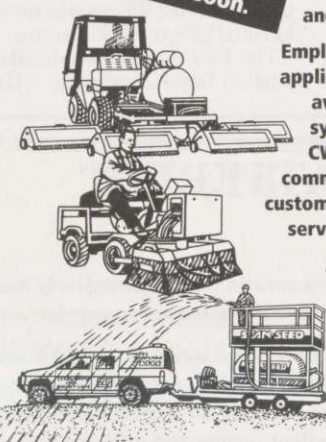
That seem to be it for now but any queries or news, contact me on 0151 724 5412

Bert Cross

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**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

**Northern**

All the 1998 golf tournament venues have now been confirmed. I am a little disappointed to hear that members are criticising the quality of some of the venues. If they would like to have a go at the difficult task of sorting out this part of the section secretary's workload, please feel free to offer some of your time. The venues, dates and start times are as follows:

Spring Tournament, Bradley Hall GC, Tues, April 14, 10.30 am; President's Day, West Bradford GC, Wed, June 3, 1.30 pm; Roses Match, Swinton Park GC, Wed, August 26, TBA; Invitation Day, Aldwark Manor GC, Wed, Sept 2, 1 pm; Autumn Tour, Bridlington GC, Tues, Oct 13, 1 pm; Winter Golf, Keighley GC, Wed, Dec 9, 11 am.

Anyone wishing to play in any of the above tournaments must

send full payment of £15 in at least one week prior to the event.

A ten pin bowling evening has been organised for May 13, 7.30 pm at Keighley Bowling Centre. Anyone wishing to come along must notify Phil Mitchell on 01535 681933 and send payment of £10/person to 5 Well Street, Keighley, BD21 2DU. This includes two games of bowling, food and small winners prizes. If the evening is a success, similar events will be arranged at different locations.

Congratulations to Alan Court on his new appointment at Bradley Hall GC as Head Greenkeeper. Alan takes up the position after more than twenty years at Huddersfield GC. This should be a challenge for you to get the place in good 'ackle' for this years Spring Tournament.

Anyone with any news from within the Section please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA at home on 01484 317813 or mobile 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

**Cleveland**

Thirsk and Northallerton GC

have a new 9 hole course built to USGA specification and 60/40 root zone. Also, after six months in play they are in perfect condition, said Head Greenkeeper Bill Rank! Thirsk are delighted with the popularity and claim visitors and income to date, are most satisfactory. Progress is being made with the forthcoming building of a new shed, with help from the lottery fund.

Sorry to learn that George Malcolm had slipped while out walking and has cracked two ribs, causing him a lot of discomfort. We do hope you improve George.

Bob Lawton, Billingham GC is pleased with multicore aerater which has made greens drier and firmer. Keep up the good work Bob.

Geoff Ward, First Assistant at Blackwell Grange GC, Darlington, has been appointed as Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager by Eaglescliffe GC. He takes over from Bruce Burnell in April and they both will work together for three months prior to Bruce's retirement in July.

Cleveland BIGGA Spring

Tournament is to be at Eaglescliffe GC on Wednesday May 6 at 1 pm. It is also the RiteFeed qualifier.

I have been Head Greenkeeper of Eaglescliffe GC since April 1964 and I retire in July 12/98 aged 65

As this is my final news report, I want to say thank you to all our Section members for their cooperation over the years. We have a happy section and I wish you all every success for the future. Thank you.

The new reporter is to be Kevin Heslop of Brancepeth GC, Durham. His home address is: 1 Scampton Farm, Brancepeth, Durham, DH7 8DB, telephone number 0191 378 1912.

Bruce Burnell.

**Sheffield**

On 5th February we held our winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. The lecture was attended by around 50 of our members. Our thanks go to David Evans, from Maxicrop, who gave a very interesting lecture on Seaweed, which was enjoyed by everyone present.

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## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

On May 12, Brian Booth, from Rigby Taylor, is running coach trip to the STRI. Anyone who is interested in going would you please contact Ron Ullathorne on 01405 765322. The coach will be leaving from Tankersley Park Golf Club at 9.30 am.

**Golf Dates:** Spring Competition and RiteFeed Classic Qualifier: Notts GC on April 27, Tee Off at 2.20 pm; Summer Competition (which will be 18 holes only): Worksop GC on July 1, Tee Off at 1 pm

Please note that people booking meals only for golf days and do not turn up will still have to pay for the meals!

Finally, congratulations go to Jeremy Duffield and his wife on the birth of their son recently.

John Lax

### North Wales

The first snow of the year has arrived as I write, it makes a change to have some normal weather, I've been cutting fairway rough, well everywhere really, not bad weather for June! At least it looks like a golf course, unusual for this time of

year and yes the competitions have started.

An excellent day was had at the Welsh College on 18 Feb with some very informative speakers, it was well supported by the trade and there was a good turnout of greenkeepers etc, nice one Graham. Keep up the good work.

Your committee would like to know if there are any of you whose club would be willing to hold one of our golf days, they are always well supported and will put quite a bit of money over the bar because we all know greenkeepers are a thirsty bunch after a hard day on the course. We are looking for dates in April/October/December, anyone who wants about 100 greenkeepers hacking, oops, I mean playing around your course please contact me on 01824 710693.

Finally on a sad note Mal Westcott who was the Mechanic/Greenkeeper at Northop Country Park passed away on January 31 aged 60. Our condolences go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midlands

On February 18 the Section paid a visit to The Oxfordshire GC running a free bus for all members. The day was well supported with 35 members attending a very enjoyable and educational day. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank David Gower, Course Manager, for allowing us to visit his fine golf course and a special thank you to Deputy Course Manager, Brian Benzie, for showing us around The Oxfordshire. Also I would like to thank The Oxfordshire GC for their hospitality. Finally I would also like to thank Graham Arnold for his work in organising the coach. If any members have any ideas for future venues I would be pleased to hear from you.

On a sad note, I was extremely sorry to hear of Bob Holt's recent illness and would like to wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Hopefully we will see Bob very soon at Section events, as the days are not quite the same without him.

Brooksby College has again arranged a series of lectures for all greenkeepers. On May 21 the subject is Conservation on the golf course, by Sally Mowsley. The following week, May 28, we visit Leicester City Football Club for a tour of the Filbert Street ground by Head Groundsman, Chris Parry. Both Lectures start at 7 pm and for further details you can contact Paul Greene at Brooksby College.

I would also like to remind all members to ensure that their entry forms arrive back to me before the closing date for any Section event. This is because numbers, meals and Tee-Off times have to be confirmed with golf clubs, therefore late entries cannot be accepted.

The Region has set up a phone line for all greenkeepers who would like to discuss any issue relating to greenkeeping and work related matters, members can either call Paddy McCarron on 0116 273 9189 or Peter Larter on 01480 437507.

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AD REF 510

Finally, if you have not received your entry form for this year's Spring Tournament to be held at Beeston Fields GC on May 13, could you please give me a ring and I will gladly send you a entry form. Please remember if you wish to play in any Section golf your form must be returned to the Secretary before the closing date. Also to all those attending the day, may I thank you for your support and wish you a most enjoyable day.

Antony Bindley

**Midland**

Well it's that time of year again, everybody still has the hangover from BTME and the season is almost on us. BTME always gets better every year, I am sure you will agree. For those of you who went to the show you will be aware of the launch of the grand raffle to raise money for the building fund for the new offices at HQ for those of you who are not aware of this raffle then you will be interested in this next information. I have now got tickets which are available to buy and you can then be entered into the prize draw which will take place on the June 22 at the

Annual Golf Day. When buying a ticket you will also receive a badge depending on the value of your ticket purchased, the prices are as follows: £1 per ticket, £5= 1 bronze badge, £25= silver badge, £50= gold badge.

By the time you are reading this report you should all have received your fixture cards and applications forms, if there are any problems please contact me on 01384 292396.

On behalf of the Midland section and his friends at Little Aston Golf Club I would like to wish Alan Borraston a speedy recovery from his recent ill health. Alan is always a keen member of the Section and is known to a great number of the members. Get well soon Alan.

I would like to finish by introducing a long list of new members to our section: Martin Sowerby, Nicholas Bird, Jason Cunningham, Colin Foxhaff, Simon Finch, John Miklausie, Darren Yates, Paul Freeman, Graeme Couchman, Ian Beech, Steven Edwards, Barry North, Anthony Duffy, David Bevan, Paul Quinn and Anthony Weekes.

Jonathan Wood

**East of England**

Not much to report this month apart from the Section does now have a computer/printer and your secretary will hopefully get to grips with it, so you may see some changes in the format of your notices.

The Section is looking for trade members to sponsor the postage for communications for the section so anybody interested please contact Graeme MacDonald.

The Midland Region is to set up a Greenkeeper Support Group. Anybody who wants to talk to a fellow greenkeeper with any problems contact 0116 2739189.

The fixture list for 1998 is as follows: April 8, Burghley Park - PGM and Barenbrug Seeds; May 5, Lincoln GC (Torksey) Purdeys and RiteFeed Qualifier; June 11,

Tyston Park - Rigby Taylor; June 24, Stoke Poges - RiteFeed Regional Final; July 15, Northshore - Burdens Groundcare; August 20, Oundle - EOE v E Midlands - Toro Shield; September 15, Toft GC - EOE v Secretaries Association, Chandlers Cup; October 26, Belton Woods GC - Fieldcare Texas Scramble, AGM

The Section has a Smith Corona Word Processor/typewriter for sale if any members are interest please contact Graeme MacDonald 01636 626564.

Graeme MacDonald

**B B & O**

The first golf event of the season takes place at Reading Golf Club on Thursday 16th April, hopefully everybody received their invitation (if not please inform asap). The tournament is also the Ritefeed Qualifier for the Regional Final. Fortunately for us the Regional Final is to be played at Stoke Poges which is just down the road. This means anybody qualifying will not have to travel hundreds of miles to participate. This actually means that the old excuse of teams in the past about being "too tired" after travelling will no longer apply, so hopefully the B B & O can seriously compete for the major honours at last!

I mentioned briefly, last month, that The Oxfordshire was looking for some volunteers to assist with bunker maintenance during the week of May 14-17 at the Benson & Hedges. At present we have a list of volunteers organised but David assures me that

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they could accommodate a few more helpers. If you would like the opportunity to assist in setting up a course for a prestigious PGA European Tour event then please contact myself asap.

Remember we are holding our Summer Competition there in August so this would go some way to thanking them.

Also, Chris Kennedy is looking for volunteers to rake bunkers during the Volvo PGA at Wentworth, this will be run similar to the scheme at The Open where you are allocated a group to follow. Imagine walking inside the ropes alongside Woosie or Seve!

I recently attended a Regional Board meeting at Northampton along with our Chairman R. Clark. The main thing to come out of the meeting was the proposal to set up a Greenkeepers Support Line. This will give Greenkeepers in our Section the opportunity to discuss in the strictest confidence any problems which are causing them sleepless nights. Working with mother natures brings its own stresses as we all know, so I'm sure this line will be busy. The scheme will run for a 6 month spell at which point it will be assessed, with the possibility of it becoming permanent. The number to phone is 0116 2739189.

Lindsay Anderson 01491 578147



**South East**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### London

At Hadley Wood GC, a massive earth moving operation began back on September 10, 1997, in order to create a new irrigation reservoir. The existing lake had 9,000 cubic metres of silt removed and a further 27,000 cubic metres of soil was dug to extend the lake area, giving approximately five million gallons of water when full.

The new reservoir area threatened to alter the natural flow of the feeder stream, so a by-pass ditch was dug to divert the watercourse around the lake and rejoin downstream. The diggers moved out at the end of October and the Green staff had hardly time to draw breath before the Irrigation Contractors had rolled in to install a full greens, tee, approach and fairway sprinkler system. Due to the hard soil conditions, a chain trencher had to be used throughout the installation, which meant an extra arduous task for the Greenkeepers of removing the excess soil from the trench lines. The Contractors finished

at the end of February and Course Manager, Craig Handyside, is, and I quote, "dead chuffed" with the result. He would like to thank his Deputy, Rob Washbrook, and all the rest of the staff for the work done and help given, but most of all for preserving his sanity during all the upheaval.

At Northwood GC, the second phase of a tee renovation programme has been completed which involved four tees being remodelled. Construction work was carried out by Course Manager, Colin Fairley, and his staff with final levelling and turfing by Steve Pask using Inturf. Work continues with the renovation of ten existing bunkers. Colin has now been at Northwood for twenty eight months with wife Jeannie and young son Calum, having previously been in charge of a new course in Holland.

A new bore-hole has been drilled at Finchley Golf Club under the eagle eye of David Montgomerie, who estimates he will be able to extract up to 10 cubic metres per hour. Simultaneously a further ten bunkers are being constructed by Contractors C J Collins.

Date for your Diary - The RiteFeed Classic will be held at Highgate GC on Tuesday, April 21, 1999

Peter Hopkinson

### East Anglia

On February 10 five members of our Section were invited to Eastern College near Norfolk. We were asked to give some advice on setting up college courses at NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in amenity horticulture. Steve Millard and myself managed to arrive without mishap but on meeting Roger Plummer, David Childs and Ernie Hart we discovered that Ernie had managed to direct Roger and David down roads where as Roger explained you might meet a stagecoach or the odd Highway man was in hiding.

We were met by Paul Metcalf and had a chat about NVQ course and how the college was working towards certification with City & Guilds. Bryan Clarke then took us all on a tour of the college grounds and showed the group the new facilities that were going to be in place in the autumn of this year. Another meeting is due to be held late in March and I will report on further developments later in the year.

On Thursday, February 26, Collier Turf Care put on their annual seminar at the Hotel Norwich, as usual John and Andrew and the team made the day go very well and the displays and presentations were of a very high standard.

The presentations were given by Justin Smith - ASE Solutech Ltd on "Soil and soil water movement" followed by Stuart Ashworth - Amenity Technology Ltd on "Nutrients cycling in the soil system" these concluded the morning lectures. In the afternoon Dr Tim Lodge, Agronomist with the STRI in East Anglia, spoke on "Irrigation strategies for fine turf". I found the presentations very informative and very poignant as this area of the British Isles has the lowest amount of rainfall in the country, and also managing irrigation systems along with fertiliser application is so important to us all. Once again all my thanks to Collier Turf Care for an excellent day hope to see you all next year.

Ian Willett

### Essex

With our membership now reaching 185 we would like to take this opportunity to give a warm welcome to the following new members:

Dean Ricci, Gosfield Lakes; David Gibbons, Langdon Hills; Terence Blowers, Burnham on Crouch; Graham Saunders, Orsett; Stuart Jenkins, Romford; David Bush, Stoke By Nayland; Neil Cordery; Gordon Hadley; Thomas Baird and Eric Mead, Ilford Golf Club.

Once again the main playing season is upon us with our first golf competition, the South East Regional Qualifier, to be held at Burnham on Crouch GC on April 22. For further information contact Richard Pride on 01268 752281.

A note for all committee members the next meeting is to take place on April 14 at 2 pm at Bentley GC.

If anyone has any news from around the section please contact me on 01702 522202.

Wishing you successful green-keeping and good golfing.

Dave Wells



**South West  
and South Wales**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

### South West

A beautiful spring like day greeted 42 greenkeepers for the Lawson Trophy at an immaculate Bath GC at the end of February. The course was in amazingly good condition thanks to Guy Woods and his crew and, even more amazing, Michael Fawcett did not win. That particular honour went to our Chairman, Chris Sealey, after taking the course apart with his own particular brand of power golf and coming in with a very impressive 39

points. 2nd went to J Bryne on the back nine with 35 points and third was Nick Wilson showing a welcome return to form. Nearest the pin was Nick Perkins and not a Mr M. Mouse as some wit had put down. The nearest the pin competition raised a splendid £50 for the golf clubs charity; research into Parkinson's Disease. A special mention must be made of Phil Greenway who also managed a superb 39 points but being a trade member was not allowed to receive a prize. Sorry about that Phil but thanks for coming anyway.

Huge thanks to George Sinker, from Lawson Products, our sponsors for the day, for providing all the prizes. Thanks also to all at Bath GC, including Paul Ware the Secretary, Wendy and Peter for the food and David behind the bar for such a great day which was rounded off with a scary talk from Duncan Stewart, of Envirogreen.

Paul Jenkins, from Lilybrook GC, is at the moment obtaining details of a fire safety course to be run by Gloucestershire Fire Service and so if anybody is interested then please give me a ring. We are also running a First Aid course in the very near future, I do not know exactly when but contact me on 01380 828380 if you will be needing to save any lives and I will get you down for that one.

The Section has now received a batch of badges for the Buy a BrickFund for the new HQ, so all donations of a fiver receive a badge and free entry into the grand raffle in which prizes include a night out with Janet Adamson and Sami Collins or something like that. So please all donations are gratefully received. Please contact Peter Baymon about that one.

Coming up we have the RiteFeed Classic at Isle of Wedmore on April 21 and then Westurf on the 29th at Long Ashton. This is Paula's first Westurf and it promises to be a very good one so please, please come along and bring all your colleagues, Greens Chairmen, committee members, Ladies Captain etc etc with you and hopefully we will see you there.

Marc Haring

### South Coast

Our Quiz Night was held at Bramshaw Golf Club on February 4. Unfortunately it was not very well attended. We managed to muster three teams. Not very good. I would like to say thank you to the people who did turn up. They were Fred Deamon and his team from Alton, Tony Gadds team and Adrian Wiltshires team from Bramshaw Golf

Club. Yours truly was the Quiz Master. It was an enjoyable evening, but would have been a lot better with more support.

Our Seminar was held at Sparsholt College on Feb 26. We had quite a good attendance. However, the numbers were down on last year. Tony Gadd, our chairman, started the proceedings by welcoming us all. He thanked the sponsors and the college for their support. He then handed over to our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, our Chair Person for the day. Our first speaker was our National Chairman, Gordon Child. Gordon kindly stepped in for Allen Mitchell who has been ill for the last couple of months. Gordon gave us a talk on his career in greenkeeping spanning over 50 years. He mentioned some of the great golfers Henry Cotton, Bobby Locke, Arnold Palmer and his idol, Sam Snead. Some of the courses he had worked on, his first, Royal Birkdale St Georges Hill, Moor Park and his last course Churston. You could listen to Gordon all day. Our next speaker was Janet Adamson our BIGGA Membership Secretary. Her talk was an update on BIGGA. This proved to be very interesting and opened the gates for lots of questions and discussions. After coffee we had our students presentation. James Braithwaite is the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Long Ashton GC. James' talk was about how BIGGA had affected his career in greenkeeping. He is also a Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. A lot of his talk was about his trip to the USA. He then went on to talk about his present post at Long Ashton. After lunch we had a very well presented talk on fertilisers from David Truby, of Scotts Fertilisers. David covered just about everything from NPK various forms of Nitrogen, Slow Release, Trace elements to very beneficial to our young students at the seminar.

Finally, Robert Brewer, Course Manager and General Manager at St Mellion Golf Club, gave a talk about managing his club. Robert started his career as a greenkeeper. He then progressed right to the top of the tree. He covered a lot of the skills that he puts into practice in managing such a large complex. One point Robert did mention was that all greenkeepers who wish to go all the way, have all the facilities available to them, ie NVQ's, Master Greenkeeper and the management courses that are available from BIGGA.

Tony Gadd once again thanked Sparsholt College for continued support. The sponsors for the day, namely, Huxleys Grass Machinery, Driving Force Leisure, ISS Aquaturf, Gem Professional and Winchester Garden Machinery for all of their support. He then thanked all of the speakers for taking time out to make it such a successful day. Tony then went on to thank Paula for taking on the task of chairing the seminar. Last but not least our thanks to Gordon Child our National Chairman who conned me into buying Jim Arthur's book on Practical Greenkeeping. No, seriously it is a good book. It is as it says Practical Greenkeeping. It should be on everyone's bookshelf for all to read.

This is the last call for the 10th Westurf. Paula mentioned this at the seminar. A lot of things are on offer: Competitions, BIGGA hospitality tent, free glass of wine with a slice of anniversary cake and a panel of experts to solve all your problems. There is also a competition for members of the trade and a demonstration area. As I said before it will be a fine sunny day. Bring along your Club Captains, Committee Members, Secretaries and Club Proprietors. Make it a good day out for everyone. See you all on April 29 at Long Aston.

Ken Lodge

#### Devon and Cornwall

The Section's first meeting of the year was sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and held at Bude & North Cornwall GC on Wednesday, February 4. The day started with golfing members competing in a St Andrews foursome format for the Barenbrug cup, our non golfing members were treated to an excellent workshop on Business Management for Greenkeeping which was presented by Robert Brewer, Course Manager and Golf Director at St Mellion International.

After an excellent lunch John Bardley, on behalf of Barenbrug, presented the morning's golfing prizes to the winners of the Barenbrug golf competition. John then gave a short presentation on Barenbrug.

Results: 1. Kevin Yeoman, Dartmouth, & Craig Earnshaw, Dartmouth, 39pts on back 9. 2. Shaun Getson, St Mellion, & Andy Parker, CREDITON, 39pts on back 9

3. Tony Gooch, Torrington, & Peter Bond, Sidmouth, 39pts  
To conclude the superb day

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## 29TH APRIL, 1998

LONG ASHTON GOLF CLUB 10AM - 4PM

### MEET THE EXPERTS

Company	Speakers	Subject	Yes/No
Symbio	Jason Hoolahan & Stella Inglethorpe	Biotechnology in sportsturf	
Astara	Dr Brian Clifford	Diseases and pests	
Scotts	Chris Briggs	Fertilisers	
Supaturf	John Mullins	Water Management	
EBA	David Bracey	Bowling green maintenance	
STRI	Peter Winter	Any relevant subject	
Terralift	Rex Kimberley	Organic Products	
Breton Precast	Lee Weir	Above ground fuel storage	
BIGGA	Ken Richardson	Education, Training etc	
Books available	Jim Arthur	Golf Course Maintenance	


To allow our experts to schedule their day, please send your name, club details and seminars you are interested in, with your completed form to: Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, CREDITON, Devon EX17 6DF


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Robert Brewer, Course Manager and Golf Director at St Mellion International presented our afternoon seminar on Business Management for Greenkeeping.

The Section would like to thank Robert for his excellent educational presentation, also our thanks must go to the day's sponsor, Barenbrug, for without them this meeting would not have taken place, also to my crew of Jason, Polly and Greg who always work so hard to present the course at its best, last but not least our thanks must go to Bude & North Cornwall for allowing the Section use of their facilities and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly.

April has arrived at last and those dark winter nights are starting to fade in our minds with our thoughts turning to presenting our courses in the best possible condition during the season ahead. What better way to help you achieve your goal than to visit Westurf on April 29 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol where you will be able to see all the latest products and technology at your local turf care show.

Remember the Date April 29 at Long Ashton, Bristol.

Richard Whyman

Northern  
Ireland

North East

BIGGA would like to congratulate Emmet Curran, formerly of Foyle International, on his recent move to Downpatrick GC. We wish Emmet the very best in his new position. We would also like to wish Mickey O'Neil, of Fort William GC, a speedy recovery after his recent operation, I know Mickey will be looking forward to enjoying a game of golf.

Our North East Section would like to thank everyone who attended our recent social event held at Allen Park GC Centre. Many travelled a fair distance to attend that night. We all enjoyed a great night's entertainment of chipping competitions, a quiz and a talk by the evening's sponsor Maxi Crop.

The Chipping competition was won by Paul Lapplin of Royal Portrush (famous at last Paul) and the table quiz was won by Emmet Curran, John People and John Shields. Thanks also to Allen Park for

the use of their facilities and Martin Laverty for setting the questions for the quiz. At least we think we mean thanks.

Our Section will be holding a Golf Day on April 16 at Green Acres GC. This is an ideal opportunity for members to get involved in the game and get a handicap to enable them to take part in competitions you may even be eligible to play in the RiteFeed Classic at Malone GC. Anyone wishing further information please contact our secretary, Mark Farrell on 01849 429001.

Finally Greenmount College is keeping up its excellent tradition of Greenkeeper training by purchasing a new Kubota 2150 compact tractor and six Allett mowers. "We are committed to the highest possible standards of training in our industry, these new machines represent a substantial investment in that training" said Neil McLoughlin, a College Lecturer.

Eamonn Farrell

South East

I'll begin by welcoming the new members to the South East Section who are, Terry Crawford, Course Manager, Clandeboye GC, Richard Capes and James McCready, Bangor GC.

Further to our first meeting the proposed agenda is as follows:

March/April Jacobsen Work Shop Day, May/June Golf Days, July The RiteFeed Classic open to all BIGGA members, with the final at Gleneagles, August BBQ exact dates for our agenda are to be confirmed so I'll keep you posted. Members will be notified of Golf Days.

In case anyone didn't know, our Section meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at a different location throughout County Down and Armagh in order to make each meeting accessible to all members.

Finally, I would like to thank Janet Adamson once again for her help in establishing the Northern Ireland Region and wish her every success in her new job.

Jonathan McCabe

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