

Pat starts work on new headquarters

As soon as the bells to welcome in the new year had died down work began on BIGGA's new Headquarters and training facility and it was on Monday January the 5th that Chairman, Pat Murphy, arrived at Aldwark Manor to perform one of his last official duties before BTME.

The cutting of the first turf on the ground which will house the new Headquarters marked the culmination of months and years of negotiation and planning.

The new building will be adjacent to the 16th hole of Aldwark Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, just north of York, and only 100 yards from the Association's existing rented accommodation. Once complete - the projected completed date being September of this year - it will offer superb facilities for Headquarter's-based training courses as well as accommodating 14 staff members.

"Today is a moment many of us have dreamed about for several years and I am extremely proud and fortunate to be the man to start off the building work," said Pat Murphy.

"The fact that we are in a position to build our own Headquarters is a measure of the success the



Left to Right: Pat Murphy; Project Manager, Stewart Broadhurst; Quantity Surveyor, Bridget Pearson; BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, and Contract Manager James Moody, of RBA Moody Brothers (Contractors Ltd).

Association has enjoyed to date, and with the excellent facilities the new building will provide, BIGGA is sure to go from strength to strength," he added.

Within hours of the first turf

being turned site preparation work began in earnest and a matter of days later the site was virtually unrecognisable as it had been fenced off and heavy machinery had been moved in.

Patron's receive their just desserts at Award dinner



The Scottish Region Patron's Award Dinner at the Terrace Hotel, in Stirling, saw an excellent attendance of Patron's, Regional Board and Section representatives.

The Region and Patrons congratulated all winners of the awards each of whom was presented with a scroll, books and given a three day trip to BTME.

The awards went to members who had devoted a great deal of

time to Section business.

Picture shows award winners L-R. Stuart Sime, Leven Links GC; George Morrison, West Kilbride GC; Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; Gordon Trotter, Glencorse GC; Dale Robertson, Newmarcher GC; Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC; John Morton, Alford GC, Robert Thomson, Peebles GC and John Scott, Kirkhill GC with Scottish Regional Chairman Sam Morrison.

Abbott wins holy water for Sunningdale

M J Abbott Ltd has begun work on the installation of a new irrigation system to both the Old Course and New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

The contract incorporates the design, supply of equipment and installation of the irrigation system to 36 golf holes, putting greens, practice area and turf nursery.

Rain Bird Europe has designed the system which incorporates the Maxi Nimbus Control System, Maxi Weather Station, Eagle, Falcon and R50 series sprinklers and PEB pressure regulating solenoid valves.

All staff working on the site are directly employed by M J Abbott Ltd which owns and operates a fleet of specially adapted machinery for use on golf courses.

M J Abbott Ltd are no strangers to working at prestigious Clubs. Their portfolio includes The Belfry, Celtic Manor Hotel and Golf Club, and Killarney Golf and Fishing Club among many others.

Members get Open invitation

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support team for the 1998 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale GC.

Those wishing to be considered must be Full Members of the Association and should be available from Wednesday evening July 15 to Sunday evening July 19. The opportunity to take part in the most important golf event of the year is open both to team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course maintenance.

Members may also be asked to co-operate with the gathering of information for distribution in the Press Centre which helps raise the profile of the Association at the Championship. All members of the Support Team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day and be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the Association but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the Championship and return.

Those members wishing to be involved should put their names forward in writing to John Pemberton, Administration Manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NE, to be received no later than March 16.

All names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected please do not hesitate to contact John. Tel: 01347 838581.

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It suits my course
Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC

Ken Richardson announces the launch of three new competitions...

Take up the challenge

Thanks to the continuing support of Ransomes, we were, once again, able to give an increased number of delegates a true Learning Experience.

The National Education Conference and Workshops started the week off on a high note with some very high quality presentations and intellectually stimulating subjects. The use of a new liquid crystal projector and high quality slide projector ensured that all conference presentations could be seen and should ensure a better quality of video. Despite the problems that we had rearranging some early seminar sessions, due to a problem obtaining slides, the BTME Seminars gave all attendees something to ponder, with a record number attending the talk by Mr Ortiz Patino. With the Seminars returning to the Royal Hall, there was space for all those who wanted to attend and it was gratifying to see over 100 delegates still in the Hall at the end of the last session. Thank you to all those who presented papers at the Conference and Seminars and to those who organised and ran the three workshops. We are thinking about the programme for 1999, already, and if anyone can suggest speakers or topics that they would like to hear then please contact me as soon as possible. Written trans-

criptions and videos of all Conference and seminar sessions are available from BIGGA HQ.

Three major competitions were launched at Harrogate, the TORO Student of the Year, the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity. All registered training providers will be sent copies of the Student of the Year leaflet and entry forms in the near future. So make sure that your college submits an entry. Remember, the winning student wins the TORO Scholarship, including an eight week study tour to the USA and the winner's lecturer wins a trip to the GCSAA show, which will be held in Florida, in 1999. Leaflets for the Golf Environment and Greenkeeping Excellence Competitions were available at BTME and will be sent



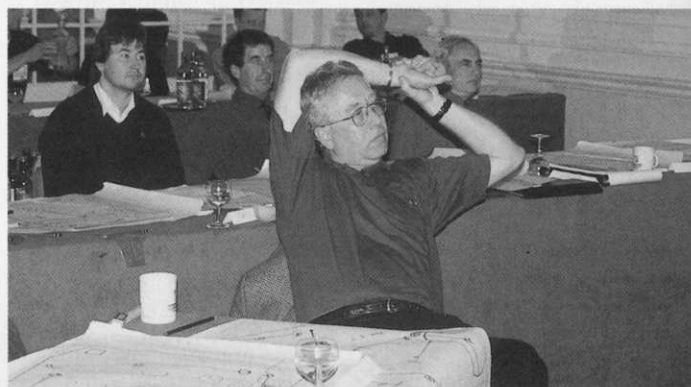
to all golf clubs and head greenkeeper/course managers during February and March. Judging for the Greenkeeping Excellence Competition has been changed and courses will be judged by a panel of judges comprising respected, retired greenkeepers, chaired by Walter Woods. Additionally, the Competition is open to Master Greenkeepers and/or winners of the previous Miracle/Zeneca/ICI competition.

The last local supervisory management course of the 1997/98 season will take place at the Courtyard Hotel in Bradford, on 16 and 17 February. There are still plenty of places left for anyone who wishes to attend.

The Refund of Education/Training Expenses Scheme started in January 1998. Application forms for a refund of fees can be obtained from BIGGA HQ.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Chris Carpenter and Andy Campbell on becoming the tenth and eleventh Master Greenkeepers in the United Kingdom, which added to the five Master Green-

keepers in the USA gives us a total of sixteen. The next Master Greenkeeper examination will take place on 28 and 29 March. Anyone wishing to sit the examination should contact me or Sami as soon as possible. Full details of the Master Greenkeeper Scheme can be obtained from BIGGA HQ.



Top: Billy McMillan thinks our sign which could do with a bit of levelling itself! **Above:** Concentrating hard during the golf course design workshop. **Below:** Our two latest Master Greenkeepers pictured here receiving their plaques from Chairman, Pat Murphy



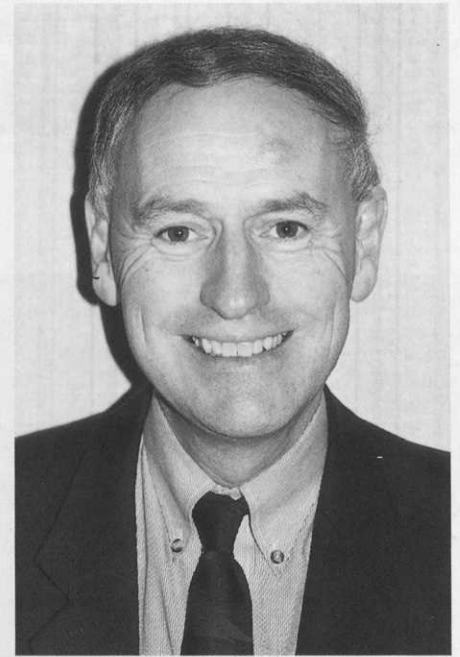
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The results were better than my expectations

Jim Smith, Ardeer GC

**BIGGA's Executive Director,
Neil Thomas reflects on BTME '98...**



Days to remember

Sunday, January 18

Another year has rushed by and I'm heading for Harrogate and the BTME. It's all of twelve minutes from home (the real reason why the exhibition is held in Harrogate!). As I drive in it has been raining through the night and morning and it is very mild for the time of year. No danger of that white stuff this year. 3.30pm and preparations for conference registration have begun. Ken and Sami are in control. Many members already booked into the Majestic - they clearly like it there. I welcome our international guests and an informal dinner is followed for many by a late night at the bar.

Monday, January 19

First job is to switch on the TV for the weather forecast. I don't believe it! Dr Peter Hayes gets the conference underway in his usual efficient manner. At the outset one is impressed by the quality of the speakers and particularly how well our members present themselves, beneficiaries no doubt of BIGGA's public speaking courses. The presentation of Master Greenkeeper Certificates to Andy Campbell and Chris Carpenter is a highlight - 16 Master Greenkeepers now since the inception of the certification scheme in 1990. Food and accommodation are again excellent in the Majestic and I'm feeling quite relaxed until the Chairman pointedly directs my attention through the window to the arrival of the white stuff. Heavy snow showers follow but it will all be gone before Tuesday, won't it? And so it proved... Conference dinner is very enjoyable with a return visit from David Kendal - 'the banker from York' as our after dinner speaker. Excellent delivery - our international visitors kept pace and laughed with the rest of us. Good to welcome Andrew Sunaway as our guest from Ransomes. I have to mention Peter Wilson's unavoidable absence on 'business in the city'. What can this be? Now we all know.

Some members retire from the bar at 6.30am!

Tuesday, January 20

Conference continues apace along with the three fully subscribed workshops. Comments would indicate that the Conference is the best yet. Noted that many members are now wearing BIGGA's 'brick' badge - the Headquarters building project is already very much to the fore. The exhibition is looking good and Amanda is in charge. Short Board of Management meeting to elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman and then off to beer and burritos (no - I didn't know what they were either!) gathering for the exhibitors. The fifth Hayter Dinner in the George Hotel follows superbly organised as usual by Kim Macfie and Barbara Garton. I really enjoy this dinner as I have nothing to say or do! Meanwhile the Past Chairmans' dinner takes place in the Majestic - a lively affair by all accounts - I can't decide whether to book a referee or comedian for this event next year!

Wednesday, January 21

This is it. Hall A is buzzing long before 9.00am when the Chairman cuts the ribbon. Queues are forming (half way up the hill to the Majestic at one stage) and a great atmosphere. The marquee in use for the first time meets with warm approval. Off to the Majestic for the Chairman's Luncheon. We are sorry that our President, Viscount Whitelaw, has been unwell and cannot join us but delighted to welcome the Secretary of the R&A, Michael Bonallack to make the Golden and Silver Key Company presentations. He speaks of the R&A's longstanding relationship with BIGGA and his pleasure at BIGGA's progress. Prepare for AGM. This goes smoothly with a sense that everything is in good order when Cecil George rises with his inevitable and inimitable questions. Most staff are then off to the Ritefeed Race Night but I find myself in a FEGGA Board meeting which ends just before midnight - what a way to enjoy yourself! Enough for one day!

Thursday, January 22

Early start. 7.30am meeting of BTME Steering Committee. Well supported and everyone seems well pleased with the Show even if brains are not fully functioning at this time of the morning. I'm able to savour the atmosphere in the halls for a couple of hours before the FEGGA AGM. This is well attended and the progress of FEGGA in twelve months is there for all to see. In mid afternoon I check on preparations for the banquet which this year is being held in the International Centre. The nightclub setting is quite stunning. One can sense the growing anticipation for the big social event of BTME. At 6.30pm I attend the Chairman's pre-banquet reception for our VIP guests and make an early departure to check the banquet arrangements. All is under control and soon the 650 guests begin to gather in the reception area. I meet with Lee Hurst to check details for his appearance - he is very friendly and easy going. Any worries about the catering are soon put to rest - it is excellent. The Chairman says a few words and then at 10.00pm I introduce Lee Hurst and the cabaret is underway. Very funny and well received.

After Lee we look forward to Linda Nolan - a return visit after the 1995 Show by popular demand. And we are not disappointed. She is highly professional. Now I have often wondered what it is like to be picked on at an event of this magnitude. Now I know. I had been set up. Suddenly Linda is at my side and I am whisked away to the stage. It's now or never. One choice is to die a death in front of all and sundry, the other is to get on with it. I wisely choose the latter and surrounded by her curvaceous charms I ham my way through the 'ding-a-ling' song. This can, I assure you, prove quite daunting given the natural level of eye contact with Linda sitting on your lap. I return weak-kneed to my chair. I am overwhelmed with congratulations from

members - this simply hasn't happened in ten years so I determine to enjoy it. A great night and certainly one I'll never forget!

Friday, January 23

Tired but happy seems to sum up the mood of all present in the halls. Those who arrived on Sunday evening are still with it - just. Stamina is a prime requirement for the week. It's been a great Show and a good start to the year for members and exhibitors alike. The Show closes at 1.30pm and the evacuation of personnel and equipment goes smoothly. One Board member tells me that he wishes it could carry on - I think I know what he meant. Thanks to everyone who contributed to and supported the event and particularly to the exhibitors without whom there would be no BTME.



And finally...

Once again an abiding memory is of the audience at the banquet linking arms and singing with Linda Nolan "we'll meet again don't know where don't know when". But we do, don't we? It will be in Harrogate from 18th-22nd January 1999. Be seeing you.

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for my course**
Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC

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On the construction and maintenance side, the drainage of wet areas is in full swing following a mild Autumn. The grass is still so green, is this a danger sign? Wearside GC have reconstructed 21 bunkers at their Sunderland course. Head Greenkeeper, Barry Walker, is also to install a bore hole for future irrigation use. Brancepeth Castle GC have extended the 1st and 14th tees and also made a new path round to the 15th tee and have planted over 1000 tree whips and standards.

Blackwell GC, Darlington have 2 adjoining tees and at one side a retaining stone wall and steps was built to support it which looks beautiful. They have also recently built a new green beyond a natural looking pond which now blends in very well.

Local drainage contractor, Cliff Addison from Yarm-on-Tees did all the mechanical work on the reconstruction work on two greens at Dinsdale GC. Drainage on the porous base root zone was all carried out before the greenstaff relaid the original turf.

Bruce Burnell

North East

On December 11 we had our first Christmas competition at South Moor GC followed by a dinner and then the AGM. The results were:- 1. George Wright, Crook, nett 64; 2. David Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall, 67; 3. Darren McGee, Crook, 67; 4. Alan Harrison, Garesfield, 67; 5. Tony McLure 69. Our thanks to the committee for the courtesy of their course and also to Tommy Fenwick, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff, for getting the course playable considering how much rain had fallen in the past couple of days. Tony Chambers, the President of the Section presented all of the 1997 trophies to the winners.

Brendan Brown, of Carbural, kindly sponsored the summer knock-out competition and he presented the winners with their trophies and prizes. Hopefully we shall have more couples entering this new competition.

The AGM was attended by only 23 people and quite frankly it was a pretty miserable turnout by the members considering we have over 100 members in the Section and it's still growing. Let's hope we have more next year. Three extra members were required to join the committee and those who volunteered their services were Alan Harrison, Ian Hutton and Russ Black. The committee would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, and Tony Chambers, of Shorts, for the drinks given to all members who were there.

One final thank you to the stewards of South Moor GC for the barrel of beer donated to all the golfers - it was much appreciated.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

In the December magazine insert, the date for the annual dinner dance had been incorrectly printed. The actual date for the 1998 dinner dance is the 14th March and not the 4th March as quoted. Please make sure you get your names and money in as soon as possible as places are running out rapidly.

Our 1997 Winter golf tournament

was held at Scarcroft GC. The weather was not brilliant but at least the rain held off apart from a few spots now and then.

May I thank Messrs Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the excellent prize table and to Mike Brear and Norman Schofield for joining us on the day on their behalf. Thanks Mike for presenting the prizes and taking the time to help me choose to them.

Thank you also to Telford Jarvis and the lads for preparing the course so well in a period when the elements are not at their most pleasant.

The results for the day were as follows: 1. S. Hardwick, 2. D. Collins, 3. A. Court, 4. A. Baxter, 5. G. Potter, 6. T. Arana, 7. S. Marston, 8. D. Lindley, 9. Robin Smith, 10. F. Hurd. Nearest Pin: Richard Smith

Following the golf we had an excellent Christmas dinner which everybody seemed to enjoy. Thank you to the caterers and the bar staff.

Our 1997 AGM followed the tournament, where 29 members attended the short meeting.

The elected committee for 1998 were: President, Mel Guy; Chairman, John Waite; Vice-Chairman, Dave Thackray Secretary/Treasurer Simon Heppenstall.

Members: Telford Jarvis, Richard Gamble, Dennis Cockburn, Phil Mitchell, Ian Thompson and Gary Potter

Pat Murphy congratulated the 1997 committee for producing such an excellent year end balance and hoped this would continue.

The Chairman, John Waite, thanked Alan Gamble for his 25 years service to greenkeeping and to the Northern Section Committee, after standing down from the committee.

Congratulations to Mick Hannan on his recent engagement. You certainly kept that one quiet, Mick.

On behalf of the Northern Section may I thank Pat Murphy for his year in office as our National Chairman. I think he may well be glad to settle back down at work and enjoy the 'odd' night in his own bed!

The President's Day Tournament for 1998 has been confirmed. The venue is to be West Bradford Golf Club on June 3. The tee has been booked from 1.30pm to 3pm.

Congratulations to Richard "Jaffa" Gamble - on eventually getting his wife pregnant again. I think all the offers from the lads to do the job for you Richard must have made you get your act together!

If anyone has any news from around the Section please contact me at I Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0IA. Tel: 01484 317813 or 0411 601420

Simon Heppenstall

East of England

Another year over which ended with a Texas Scramble at Kirton Holme followed by the AGM. All who played thoroughly enjoyed a new course cared for by David Welberry. The scramble was sponsored by Burdens Groundcare and thanks go to David Holmes, the main sponsor for bringing some machinery along for everybody to look at and demonstrate.

First in the team prize was Nigel Marshall, George Venables and

Graeme Macdonald who pipped Kevin Hodges, Peter Larter and David Holmes. Nearest the Pin was sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds, thanks to Ben Petitjean. Thanks to all the sponsors on the day as everybody who played received a prize.

The AGM followed on from a superb meal which had a poor turn out of members. The Chairman, David Walden, welcomed all and apologies were read and the previous minutes were passed. The Secretaries report covered the 1997/98 programme of events and the Secretary took the opportunity to thank all clubs for allowing us the courtesy of their courses and thanked all sponsors for the years excellent prizes. The Treasurer then explained the healthy financial report.

The election of officers onto the committee has tow new changes. George Venables and David Welberry were unanimously elected and all other posts were duly elected. Thanks go to Ian Morton and Phil Belton who have now stood down from the committee. Any other business covered a range of discussions that left the Secretary with plenty of ideas for 1998. The Section also agreed to purchase a computer with the help of regional funds. The fixture list of events will be posted to you as soon as possible.

Finally I close by wishing you successful greenkeeping and good golfing for the forthcoming year.

Graeme Macdonald



East Midlands

This year's Christmas Tournament hosted by Kilworth Springs GC attracted 28 members. Played in arctic conditions the competition had to be reduced to 9 holes as the course was becoming unplayable with all the snow! The winning scores were as follows:- Category 1 - 1. S. Goode, Scraftoft, 16 pts; 2. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 16 pts; 3. A. Porter, Greatham Valley, 13 pts. Category 2 - 1. D. James, Scraftoft, 15 pts; 2. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 12 pts; 3. G. Robson, Lingdale, 11 pts. Trade and Associate Winner - G. Thurman, Charnwood Forest, 17 pts.

Our thanks go to Kilworth Springs GC for allowing us courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward and Stewardess for providing us with an excellent Christmas meal. Also I would like to thank Tony Burgoine and his staff for setting up a most challenging course. Finally our appreciation must be extended to our generous sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor.

The day finished with a presentation of £750 to the Executive Director of BIGGA which will go towards the building fund at Headquarters.

This year's Better Ball Pairs Tournament will be held at Kedleston Park on Monday March 9. After the days golf an evening lecture will be presented. A free buffet is provided for anybody attending this day. If you have not received your entry form

please contact me and I will gladly forward you a copy.

Anthony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Our last golf event of the year took place in December at Chesfield Downs GC. The usual Texas Scramble format was used which attracted an entry of 23 teams of four comprising greenkeepers, professionals, trade members and guests. The course was playing very long on the day but some good team scores were posted, the results of which are as follows:- 1. C. Derham, D. Mason, R. Andrews, P. Bunn; 2. A. Grew, J. Clarke, E. Thompson, G. Bruce; 3. R. Howson, L. Rance, M. Dunleavy, C. Parnell. Nearest the Pin - Gary Snell, Welwyn Garden City GC; Longest Drive - Roland Perry, Harpenden GC.

Our thanks go to Chesfield Downs for the courtesy of the course and for looking after us so well on the day. The course was in excellent shape so thanks to Chris Brook and Eddie O'Hanlon for their efforts in making the day so enjoyable. Also thanks go to our main sponsors of the day, Avoncrop Amenity Products represented by Colin White and to all the other trade representatives who supported the Section event.

Midland

This report is probably the hardest to put together as we have not got much news to report on and the start of the new year always brings changes to the Section regarding the committee and future events. All of these events and the news on the AGM will be reported on in the following months.

As a committee we would hope to continue to give our members new venues for trips and competitions but we would also ask you to support your section and make these events worth the effort of organising.

We have had many new members join us last year and expect this trend to continue. With that I would like to introduce the first new members of 1998 - Alan Dickson, Derek Smith, Steven Tipper, Alan Shore, Timothy Earley, Shaun Pritchard and Richard Adlington.

Jonathan Wood

BB & O

Once again the main playing season is approaching fast, hopefully everybody has managed to complete their winter programme and are preparing

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Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC

their individual courses for the flood of golfers keen to blow the cobwebs of the clubs.

Looking back to last season the weather was kind to all of us with just enough rain to prevent the course turning into deserts. I hope this coming season is just as kind (is that too much to ask for?). At present we are putting together the fixture list for golf dates and venues and these will be posted as soon as possible.

On the education front remember that two local colleges are still running evening lectures:- Berkshire College - Golf Course Design on February 4 and Irrigation on March 4; Warren Farm - Irrigation and Conservation on February 25 and USGA Specification on March 25.

I know from experience it is difficult to go to all of the lectures but if you could try and make a couple of the above that would be great. A lot of the work that helps to make the Section run smoothly is carried out by the Committee and they tend to remain anonymous, well not any more below is a list of this years committee:- Chairman - R. Clark; Treasurer - R. Lucas; Golf Admin - A. Cooper & B. Wall; Handicaps - C. Vernon; Administration - T. French and R. Kates.

Finally I would like to make a plea to all members for some information to fill these articles. Anything that you would like to share with us maybe a humorous or embarrassing story please let me know.

Lindsay Anderson

Essex

Well, the first month of the year and Harrogate has passed and a report will appear in the March column.

Our first event of 1998 will have been held at Writtle College on February 3 with guest speaker, Frank Newberry giving us a taste of his expertise on supervisory management. Following on from the above, Frank will be our course tutor for our one day course to be held at Stockbrook Manor GC on March 10. The cost, including lunch etc will be £12. Places are limited to 12 on a first come first served basis. For further information please contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

Our next evening lecture at Writtle College will be held on Tuesday March 17 at 7.30 pm in the main building, room L60 with Dr Alan Gange, of the Royal Holloway University of London, as our guest

speaker explaining micro-organisms and recent research.

We would like to thank Neil Peachy, Tuckwells and John Deere for producing the Essex Section fixture card for 1998 and for their sponsorship which helps to continue the success of the Section. If you have not yet received your fixture card please contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

With our membership fast approaching 150 we would like to welcome the following new members and hope to meet them at one of our events in the near future:- Stuart Mackie, Five Lakes, Luke Robbins, Three Rivers, Eric Sherris, Canons Brook, Christopher Baldock, Romford, David Arter, Epping Forest, Tony Thrower, Burstead, and Wayne Chapman, Darren Dowsett and Michael Delue all from Stapleford Abbots.

I am always on the look out for information and news to write about so if you have any to pass on please contact me on 01702 522202.

Dave Wells



Sussex

The Turkey Trot was held at Littlehampton GC again this year. As usual we had a terrific day. David Woods and his team had the course in great condition and the clubhouse staff once again gave us a first class service. The committee have asked me to pass on our thanks to Littlehampton for continuing to hold this Christmas event. We were extremely lucky with the weather as it turned out to be a bright dry day. The competition was played as a Texas scramble in teams of four. The results are as follows:- 1. Ray Day, Colin Cathie, Richard Elderfield, Dustin Houghton, 60 pts; 2. George Barr, Stephen Blake, Bob Watters, Nigel Bailie, 59 pts; 3. Neil Cleverley, Carl Whyborne, Jon Budd, Eddie Docherty, 58 pts. Being part of the winning team was great fun, we laughed and joked through the whole round with all of us playing our part. Many thanks to our sponsors for the halfway bar and the prizes.

Well, that's all for now, I hope to have more news next month.

Colin Cathie

East Anglian

At last I hear you cry. Did I miss Crimble again and New Year? I'll have to stop eating the beef! Well, I hope you all enjoyed it.

Our last meeting was our AGM at Thorpness way back in December and what a day it was. It was a day that 3 desperados namely Virley, Kennedy and Lathrope (that's me) won the first prize in the Texas Scramble with a nett 51. Brian had to make do with a lemon, sorry mate. Other prizes were:- Longest Drive - Mr Witing, Nearest Drive - E. Hunter. Last year's shields were presented as follows:- Spring - Tim Russell, Summer - Alan Carter, Autumn - Ernie Hart, Winter - Tim Russell. The prizes were presented by Mr Duckworth, Vice Captain of Thorpness, and were donated by

CMW (main sponsor), Rushbrooks (Nearest the Pin), Kings (Longest Drive), Turfactant, Rhone Poulenc, Atterton and Ellis, SISIS, Headland, L F Engineering, Rigby Taylor, Colliers and Bob Chesham. There was also a presentation made to Ian Willett, our long suffering Secretary, for steering us through some very difficult times and now we are one of the strongest Sections in the Country. Our thanks also go to Ian and his men for presenting an excellent course (my team single putted 14 greens!).

After all that there was the AGM and the motley crew were re-elected on block. As AGMs go this was pretty quick at 20 minutes. One or two points were made namely trying to get more apprentice greenkeepers to come along. Last year we had two. I didn't think there were two in the whole country so the future is now secure! There was also the new/old face of John Carey among us. A long time ago when we had proper money and feet & inches John was the first Chairman of the East Anglian Section when we broke away from the South East Section back in BGGGA days and he had a lot to do with that breakaway. It is good to see him back.

At the end of the meeting £25 was collected from those not wearing BIGGA ties and this was presented to the McMillan Cancer Fund.

This year's venues are as follows - in March we are at Lakenheath. Please can you get your reply slips back quickly as we all have been checked for security reasons before we can enter the base! This promises to be a memorable day (and probably a nice one). The others are Stowmarket, The Norfolk and Sheringham. Looks like being a good season again.

We are also trying to sort out a match against the Essex men, probably on August 26 but watch this space. Our team came second in the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge so well done lads.

Well, I think that's it except to say thanks again Thorpness, Hello Frank and see you on the first tee.

Mick Lathrope

Surrey

Many thanks to Walton Heath Artisans for allowing us to use their excellent clubhouse for our first quiz night in November. The turnout was not as large as hoped for but all who did come had an enjoyable evening. The winning team from Royal Mid Surrey was led by their Course Manager, Allan McDougall. Alan has promised to defend his victory in the next round, the date and venue to be announced.

The Surrey Turkey Trot was held at the Drift GC on December 12 and we thank Paul Weston and his team for a splendid game on a course they can be proud of. We also thank the Drift for their wonderful hospitality and delicious food. The results were:- 1. John Mathis, 40 pts; Nearest the Pin on 3rd - John Ross; Nearest the Pin on 9th - John Hobbs; Nearest the Pin on 16th - Dave Wyborn; Longest Drive - John Mathis.

All matches in the Huxley Bowl competition have been played and the final results are:- Winners - John Mathis and Robert Schofield;

Runners-up - Kevin Boxall and Gareth Roberts.

Brian Willmott

Kent

The Christmas AGM/Turkey Trot was called off due to snow and was rearranged the week after.

Despite it snowing as we started everybody got round and enjoyed the day. The course was in excellent condition considering the weather and thanks must go to Darenth Valley, Nigel Stapely and his staff. The food was, as usual, plentiful and I hope everyone had a good day.

Results: 1. L. Sayers, 43 pts; 2. P. Biscoe, 37 pts; 3. E. Elliott, 36 pts; 4. R. Purl, 36 pts; 5. H. Morgan, 35 pts; 6. D. Clements, 34 pts; 7. C. Moor, 34 pts; 8. E. Grant, 34 pts; 9. J. Fullager, 32 pts; 10. T. Hindmarsh, 32 pts.

Trade Prize. G. Sidders. King's Nearest the Pin. H. Morgan. Longest Drive. N. Gillham.

Sponsors on the day were Scotts and Avoncrop Amenity.

The Kent Section would like to thank all the companies who agreed to sponsor us last season. Without your support we wouldn't be able to survive.

The final of the Ritefeed Matchplay was played at Sundridge Park.

Results: 1. P. Biscoe and J. Edwards; 2. D. Clements and J. Cocker; 3. S. Ellis and J. Fullager; 4. T. Hindmarsh and R. Jackson.

We are currently looking at our venues for for this year. The fixture card will be sent out in March.

In May it is the Kent Section's turn to host the Regional Seminar. This will be held at Hadlow College on May 19. Please attend. You might learn something.

I have a request to all the people who moan that there is nothing in the magazine for Kent. Please send me a few lines or phone me with any news. I cannot report on nothing.

Our thanks must go to Ray Day and Sundridge Park for courtesy and to Ritefeed for their generous hospitality on the day.

Huw Morgan

South Coast

Our Christmas Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner was once again held at Royal Winchester GC. The weather was great for the time of year with just a little nip in the air, in other words a nice December day. The course was as ever in its usual immaculate condition all thanks to Phil Hanks and his staff. Unfortunately I was not able attend the day however I am told that the Christmas Dinner was out of this world consisting of a carvery. Thank you to all of the catering staff for making the meal so delicious. We would also like to thank Mike Ring, of Rigby Taylor, and Nick Clarke, of New Forest Farm Machinery, for their generosity in sponsoring the days events. Last, but not least, we must thank the Captain, committee and members of Royal Winchester GC for once again allowing us the courtesy of the course and the clubhouse facilities. To this we are very much indebted.

The results of the Turkey Trot were very close. The first three were all on a countback on 39 points, the results being:- 1. Joe Newman; 2. Ian Noble;

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