

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440



Central

Well, we are into another year and hopefully everyone has recovered from the festive activities and getting ready for another season on the course... or are you stuck in the shed painting things for the umpteenth time because of the weather? There's not a great deal happening with regards to Section activities at the moment but it won't be long before we are back into the swing of things.

Everyone should have received notice of the visit to Scottish Grass Machinery's new premises at Inverkeithing next month and the visit to Stewart's top dressing plant and premises at Dalkeith in March. As both these companies are making their facilities available to us on those days please give them and YOUR Section some support. If you wish you are welcome to bring along a member of your club committee and it will give them an insight into a side of the golf course which they probably give little thought to.

Another date for your diary is the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed qualifying event which will be held by courtesy of Ladybank GC on Tuesday April 28 so if you wish to participate in this event please return your form as soon as possible. At the time of writing I have not had confirmation of the venue for the Autumn Tournament but as soon as I know I will let you know.

We extend a welcome return to the Section to Duncan Peddie, of Alloa GC, and we also welcome new members Ethna Canniffe, Stephen Hain and Callum Munro, all from Elmwood College.

No doubt there will be a large contingent of Central Section members descending the BTME at Harrogate this month when I am sure everyone will enjoy the seminars and exhibition, not to mention the nightly tours of the Harrogate refreshment areas! Section members Stuart Sime and Kenny Duncan will be attending as part of their Patron's Award and with a bit of luck they may share their experiences with us in next month's magazine, that's if they can remember what happened

during the week there.

It would appear that a certain Andy O'Hara has gained nationwide fame (or is it notoriety?) regarding his exploits in the sporting world as everywhere he goes he is asked if he is THE Andy O'Hara whose name keeps appearing in the magazine! Well this may be the last you will hear of him (for a while anyway) as he has vowed to get revenge on me for making him the topic of conversation across the country, but if you wish to join the Andy O'Hara Fan Club he can be contacted c/o Leven Links, Fife!

Well, that's all folks! See you next month unless I happen to meet up with a certain Section member before then.

John Crawford

North

The Section AGM was held at Macdonald GC, Ellon preceded by the annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match. The weather was good and 25 members contested a close fought match with Chairman Hugh McLatchie's team triumphing by 3 matches to 2 with one match halved. Thanks to John Geddes and his staff for the great condition of the course and the bar and catering staff for fulfilling our inner needs. Thanks also to Alex Cruickshank, of Daval Products, for presenting a trophy to the winning team at this competition.

There were two committee members stepping down this year, Sam Morrison and Andy Wilson. Sam, as you already know, has left the Section and Andy has also moved on. He has left Letham Grange to work at Carnoustie. We wish both all the best and thank them for their contribution to the Committee over the years.

Ian Gunn, Strathpeffer, has joined the committee. The committee and their duties etc are as follows:- Chairman - Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 01779 470173; Vice-Chairman, Magazine and Education - Iain Macleod, Tain, 01862 894402; Secretary - Douglas Duguid, Westhill, 01224 740329; Treasurer - Wilson Morrison, Alford, 01224 826289; Raffles - Kevin Pearce, Inverurie, 01467 625125 and John Geddes, Ellon, 01358 723034; Outings and Handicaps - Stephen Sullivan, Craigie Hill,

01738 643778 and Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer, 01997 421219 and last but not least 200 Club - Stewart McBain, Aberdeen, 01224 733347.

The Section is in a good financial position and running smoothly. We have decided to donate £1000 to the new BIGGA Headquarters fund and plan to have Hugh McLatchie hand over the cheque at BTME this month. Patron Winner Bradley Wood, Westhill, was unable to take up the offer of a trip to BTME so John Morton, Alford, will take his place.

We had to cancel the Section dinner due to a poor response and lost our deposit. Next year's outings are Fortrose and Rosemarkie in May and Alford in September, more details to follow.

We are also planning a bus trip to the Stewart's turf farm, anyone interested get in touch with Douglas now. There are still some library books missing, anyone who can help find them please get in touch.

We are planning a conference for November this year, anyone with ideas for speakers please let me know as soon as possible. This is your chance to choose the programme that you would like to see on the day.

Congratulations to Andrew Macrae, who moves from Royal Dornoch to be Head Greenkeeper at nearby Golspie where he hails from.

The final four winners in our 200 Club were as follows:- September £30 - Gordon Mackie, Edzell; October £30 - Michael Clar, Kingussie; November £30 - Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer; December £100 - Alex Cruickshank, Ayr. The 200 Club was a great success again with all tickets sold so let's keep the trend going this year to raise funds for the Section.

Finally, I hope to see as many Section members as possible at BTME this month as well as all old friends for what promises to be another great week. One of the highlights must surely be David MacIndoe's talk during the Seminar programme. I can hardly wait.

See you all at Harrogate.
Iain Macleod

West

A Happy New Year to all West Section members - may we have as

good a season as last year. For my sins (of which there are plenty) I now take over the reins as Chairman of your Section. I hope everything runs smoothly. I would like to thank all the committee members on behalf of John Scott for their help last year and to John we would like to say a big thank you for your efforts during the year. A lot of John's time was spent on the phone smoothing things over and getting people to commit themselves in different ways. Well done John we wish you well.

Now I have your attention - where are all the members, are you speechless or just not interested with what is going on. We as a committee try to organise events to satisfy a need but the reaction are less than enthusiastic. Feedback would be appreciated for suggestions, comments, complaints or even just a good argument then contact me at 0141 942 5554. Last year I received not a single call about individual personal points of interest, thank god for trade members. Well, now I've said my piece.

A report on events recently - the Gentlemen's night was a success from all accounts with some 35 people from our Section in attendance being entertained by two very pleasant young ladies. Derek Wilson, from the Ayrshire Section, has to be thanked for his efforts, glad the night went well. Our apologies to those who didn't get enough of the finger food - we will endeavour to rectify the savagery in future.

Now for the Annual Dinner at the Admiral Bar. On the night a poor turn out was in evidence but other than the short delays the evening was successful. The comedian, Mike Cash, spoke fast and furiously - if you turned your head the punchline was gone - we thank him for his one liners. The meal was well presented - home style cooking and very enjoyable. Thanks to the main organisers for the evening, Brian Hillan and Sandy Bulloch for their efforts. Thanks also to the sponsors of raffle prizes, this was much appreciated helping towards the funds for the eventing and for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Next year a change could be in the offing, suggestions are welcome.

Within the next few weeks it is intended to supply, 'as with last year, a note on all events run by the Section. All football connections are to be organised by Brian Hillan, of Drumpellier GC – those interested should contact him on 01236 434323.

That's all folks – please contact me with your information or ideas.

Stuart Taylor

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

The Christmas golf competition was played at Wilmslow GC, on November 27, and was well attended with 44 competitors including one or two guests. After a wet start to the day the light rain stopped before the first game out at 10am and although the day remained overcast everybody completed their game in dry conditions. The course was in great condition for the time of the year thanks to Steve Oultram and his staff and although he had us playing off the "Open qualifier" tees some reasonable scores were returned. The first and second places were won by Andrew Cornes and Bill Merritt but everybody collected a prize even if it was their own bottle. Many thanks to the trade who kindly donated prizes for the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive competitions. These companies were Farmura, Burrows, Pattissons, Ritefeed, Richard Campey, Martin Bros and Acorn UK. The golf was followed by the Annual General Meeting which was attended by 27 members. The statement of accounts was accepted by the membership and the committee who had pledged to stand for a further year were voted on en-bloc. Chris Sheehan stood down from being Chairman for the last two years and handed over the chairmanship to Steve Oultram. The North West Section committee are Chairman – Steve Oultram, Vice Chairman – Alec Davies, Secretary – Bert Cross, Treasurer – Paul Pearce, Committee members – Chris Sheehan, Bill Merritt and Lyndon Smith.

The day was rounded off with a lovely Christmas dinner, mince pies and Christmas pudding. I would like to thank Wilmslow GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and their facilities, Steve Oultram and his staff for starting work in the dark, Gwen Chason for a lovely meal and David for providing a great bar service and being so patient with the late gang.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and any news, please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



Sheffield

Happy New Year to you all!

On November 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC followed by our Annual General Meeting.

Our thanks go to Robert Laycock, Turf Consultant, for giving us a very interesting lecture on grass tissue analysis which was enjoyed by all our members present.

After the lecture we were introduced to our new Regional Administrator, Douglas Bell, who gave a short speech on what he hopes to achieve for the Northern Region. Then we held our AGM which was attended by quite a lot of our members but not everyone who attended the lecture.

It was passed that the committee stayed the same, apart from Steve Hurd who stood down. I would like to thank Steve on behalf of the Section for all the work he did on the committee. It was proposed and passed that David Chappell be elected to the committee. The committee is as follows:- President – Ken Arnold, Chairman – Neil Maltby, Treasurer/Vice Chairman – David Milbourne, Secretary – Ron Ullathorne, Competition Secretary – Barry Heaney, Committee Members – Steve Currie, Jeremy Duffield, David Chappell and John Lax.

Thanks also to Amenity Turf supplies for providing the raffle prizes, thanks Steve.

Congratulations go to Paul Neve who recently played in the Kubota Challenge and won both of his matches but unfortunately the greenkeepers came 3rd, well done Paul.

On November 24 we held our Christmas competition at Rotherham GC and our thanks go to Rotherham for giving us courtesy of their course. It was a very cloudy day but fortunately it stayed dry and was enjoyed by everyone who played. Our thanks go to David Chappell and his staff for the excellent condition of the course in such wet weather – well done Dave! Our thanks also go to the Steward and his staff for providing an excellent Christmas dinner which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks also to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylors for being the main sponsor of the competition and providing some excellent prizes. Thanks also to the other trade members who provided prizes including Gem, Purdys, Aitkens, Henton and Chattels and Amenity Turf supplies. Some good golf was played and congratulations go to Colin Hopper who with 22 pts won the competition, well done Colin! The results were:- 1. C Hopper; 2. C Jessop; 3. S Currie; 4. D Chappell; 5. N Maltby.

The winner of the trade prize was Peter Fell, well done Pete!

Our next lecture will be on February 5 at Rotherham GC at 2.30 pm and will be given by Neil Baldwin, from Service Chemicals, (ex STRI).

John Lax

North Wales

Well this month has been very quiet, yet again. We must all be very content in our work and lives and nothing must have happened in the whole of the Section as again no-one has phoned with any information.

The Christmas competition and AGM was held on December 3 at Northop Country Park. Once again there was an excellent turnout with nearly 80 members and guests taking part in the golfing festivities, however I can't give you the results because of a stewards inquiry – too much Christmas spirit was it Terry?

I would like to express our thanks to Northop Country Park for inviting us, Ian and his team for the presentation of the course, after what had been atrocious weather conditions in the lead up to the event, and the Captain for presenting the prizes.

The AGM was attended by 33 members as well as Doug Bell, our Regional Administrator. I took the Chair in my role as acting Chairman and spoke about the events of the past 12 months. We have a situation in our Section where our golf and educational events are very well supported compared to most other Sections considering our membership is relatively small, but we didn't get one single form returned for standing for committee work. At the meeting Gary Edwards, of Old Colwyn, put himself forward to take on the Secretary's duties and he can be assured of all the help possible from the rest of the committee. However, we still need other members willing to take on committee roles, basically we need a Vice Everything to keep continuity. It is hugely important or the Section could, in a worst case scenario cease to exist! As I have stated before it is YOUR Section and it needs YOUR input.

The committee as it stands is David Goodridge, Chairman; Gary Edwards, Secretary; Trevor Johnstone, Treasurer; Terry Evans, Match Secretary; Stuart McCall, Vice nearly everything!, Carl Price and Alan Kift. Jeremy Williams and Simon Shakespeare have also stated that they will serve to learn the ropes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry Adamson for everything he has done for the Section over all the years, he has effectively been the main contact

point for all the membership and nothing has every seemed too much trouble. Without him the running of the Section would have been an awful lot harder. Once again thanks Terry.

Trade members are invaluable to us as representatives get around all the clubs and can pick up and relay information quickly and are a genuine asset so if any one of you out there fancies adding to your workload the committee would love to hear from you.

I would just like to finish by thanking the rest of the committee for all the work done over the past difficult 12 months and Doug Bell who, since his appointment has done an excellent job, and helped guide me especially, because God, I need it!

Dave Goodridge

Cleveland

B Skeen, Horticultural Machinery Ltd, has gone out of business. Brian and Freda have been main agents and distributors for grass machinery companies for 30 years and have built up the biggest and most modern business in the North East. A major new development some years ago was followed by local authorities having to go out to contractors for tenders and these contractors took over a lot of councils maintenance work. This reduced the company's annual turnover and with increased market competition eventually led Brian and Freda to decide that enough was enough and ceased trading in October 1997. We greenkeepers have a lot to thank Brian and Freda for, they were always willing to support us and give us technical information about equipment before purchase and after. Our sincere thanks go to Brian and Freda for not only support but help. We wish you both good health and hope you do enjoy the retirement you both so richly deserve.

Ian White, from Middlesbrough Municipal GC; Geoff Ward, from Blackwell Grange GC, and Mick Dawson, from Eaglescliffe GC, are all on Level 4 NVQ Greenkeeping at Askham Bryan College and we wish them well.

See you all at Harrogate.
Bruce Burnell

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

I would like to start by wishing everybody all the best for the New Year ahead and trust all of you had an enjoyable Christmas. We can now look ahead to the annual trip to Harrogate and BTME and the usual high quality of the show and hospitality.



Around the Green



appeared with the scores although every score was just below par, the results were as follows:- 1. S. Goode, G. Robson, P. Fell, 64.4; 2. A. Bindley, D. Leatherland, T. Allard, 64.8; 3. K. Davis, G. Arnold, A. Mellow, 64.8. Our gratitude is owed once again to Vitax Ltd for providing again an excellent prize table. Thanks also should be extended to Greetham Valley for courtesy of their fine golf course which was in super condition. Also thanks to the steward and stewardess for a great meal.

Next year's AGM will be held at Lutterworth GC, on November 13, at 4.30 pm.

This year's Regional Seminar, held at The Saints Rugby Club, Northampton, was very well supported with over 80 delegates attending an excellent day. I would like to thank all the companies for their support to the seminar and to thank our Regional Administrator for all his great work on the day.

My two years as Regional Chairman have now elapsed and this position will go to the Vice Chairman, David Walden, at the Region's next meeting. I have had two really enjoyable years in this role, firstly being involved in the appointment of our Regional Administrator, judging greenkeepers and their courses for the 1996 Miracle award and representing the Region in the 1997 Kubota Golf Challenge at the Belfry. I would like to wish David well in his role as Chairman.

Anthony Bindley

BB & O

The last golfing event of the season was held at Richings Park GC back in November. Although the

weather was miserable the day was enjoyed by all with some very good scores posted. There were 13 golf clubs represented in teams of three but unfortunately the prizes were shared by only two clubs, Burnham and Beaconsfield:- 1. N. Storey, J. Brooks & D. Manning, 83 pts; 2. B. Payne, B. Payne (jnr) & D. Schillaci, 79 pts; 3. C. Lillitou, M. Skelton & B. Paterson, 79 pts. Nearest the Pin - B. Payne; Longest Drive - M. Skelton.

Thanks to GEM Products for providing the wonderful prizes and thanks to Bernie for his contributions once again. Many thanks to Richings Park for their hospitality on the day - the food was first class!

Congratulations to Phil Russell and his team for providing a superb test of golf, all who played were very complimentary.

The AGM was supposed to follow the golf but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. It is planned to send out a Chairman's report in the coming weeks with a balance of our account to date. In the meantime if anybody has any comments please put pen to paper to phone me on 01491 578147.

I would like to thank all on the committee for their continued support this past year, all of whom have given up their valuable time to attend various meetings.

Finally we would like to spread the golf days around the Section so if you fancy hosting one of these prestigious events then please let me know as soon as possible.

Lindsay T Anderson

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Sussex

Well, Christmas is over and the lucky ones are looking forward to a week in Harrogate, which if it is anything like last year, it will be a week to remember.



The AGM was held at Haywards Heath GC again on Wednesday, November 19. A total of 29 members attended which is an improvement on last year but still low considering there are 190 members. As stated in the last write up there are a few changes to the committee. Regretably, Chris Allen has decided to step down as Vice Chairman due to ill health. Raymond Day has also asked to be replaced after six years as Secretary. Stefan Antolik has vacated the position of minute/match secretary.

Members voted in are Jon Hill as Vice Chairman, Stefan Antolik as Secretary and Neil Cleverley as Match Secretary. There have been other members voted on to the committee and I will let you know their names next time. Can I pass on our thanks to committee members past and present for all their efforts and hard work. Special thanks to Sue Antolik for all the work and support she has given to Stefan and the Section over the past years.

There were some interesting discussions during the meeting including ideas for different types of social events to include non-golfing members of the Section, plus a possible open forum on education to be attended by representatives of local colleges. You will be notified of these when they are arranged. Hopefully we can attract some new faces to these events.

During the meeting Daniel Negus, of Wellington GC, informed us of the tragic death of Ben Deacon in a road accident. Ben, who was only 21, had worked at Singing Hills and Hassocks. Can I pass on our sympathy to Ben's family and friends, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

By the time you read this article, the Turkey Trot at Littlehampton will have been held. The results will be printed next month. The two best eclectic scores for the season, qualifying for free

There are some final winners of 97 which I need to mention and congratulate them on their achievements, these are as follows:- Ritefeed single's winner is Rob Shaw who beat Paul Loffman in the final at Little Aston. Rigby Taylor double's winner's are Steve Wood and Mike Hughes, who beat Nigel Couchman and Rob Shaw in the final at Woburn. The Gross Cup was won by Tony Cheese and the Nett Cup was won by Martin Jones.

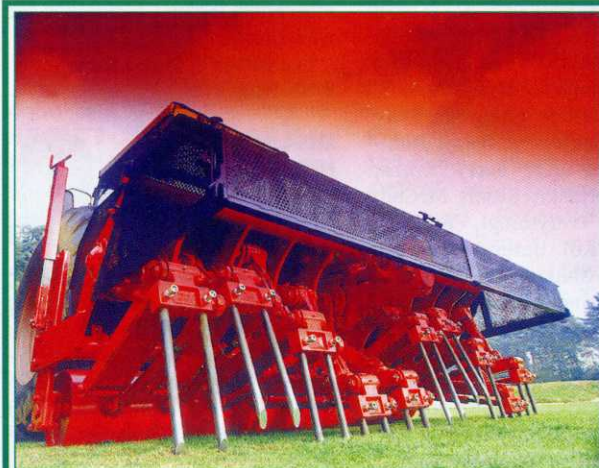
As this report has been written in November I have no details of new committee members and of the tournaments for 98 so I will keep you informed on these matters and indeed any other matters of interest in future reports and again I would appreciate any news or stories which you have which I can put into this report, my home number is 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to introduce some more new members - Ronald Wheeler, Benn Chamberlain, Malcolm Mitchell, Stephen Bernhard, Simon Hardman, Lee Mole, Matthew Turner, Nicholas Clarke and Jason Molesworth. Jonathan Wood

East Midlands

This year's AGM was held at Greetham Valley, in Rutland, on Bonfire night. Although only 25 greenkeepers were present the meeting was one of our longest at 57 minutes. I would like to thank our retiring Chairman, Tim Allard, for his two years in office and also welcome our new Chairman, Dave Leatherland. The Vice Chairman is now Gavin Robson and Richard Barker and myself remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Section also welcomes Kevin Davis and Steven Heap to the committee and would like to thank our retiring committee members Pete Forshaw and Paul Tatlow for all their work.

Before the AGM the day started with a Texas Scramble format golf competition. No fireworks



SEE US
ON STAND
B32
AT BTME

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition

THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN

Redexim



THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

entry to the competition are Jon Hill and Chris Reed.

If there are any Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers not at the AGM who are interested in gaining their D32/33 Assessor Training Award they can get more information by ringing 01323 763817.

The Spring meeting will be held at the Dyke GC and Slinfold Park GC will host the Summer meeting. We still need a venue for the Autumn meeting. If you can help us with this or have anything you want included in this column, please contact me on 01403 731567 (home) or 0589 531630 (mobile).

Colin Cathie

Essex

The Essex Section held their golf day and AGM on December 3, at Orsett GC. Thanks to Carl for the course and the golf club for allowing us to play – after snow the day before the course was in good condition. Thanks to Banks Amenity for the prizes for the day. Richard Price won first prize on a countback from Andy Sheehan, both having 39 points, but every player won a prize including: Guest Prize – John Taylor; Trade Prize – Edward Clarkson; Longest Drive – Richard Pride; Nearest the Pin – Lee Adams; Booby Prize (1 point!) – Andrew Wharton. Thanks to the trade who donated raffle prizes namely Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop Amenity, Tuckwells, Parker Hart, Grass Roots Trading, Edward Clarkson, Bourne Amenity, CMW and the Greenkeeping Supply Company. After the golf and prize giving we had a splendid dinner thanks to the caterers.

The AGM started at 6 pm. It was a very well organised affair and thanks go to the Chairman. A new committee was formed which is:- President – David Wells, Vice President – Andy Sheehan, Chairman – Carl Crocher, Secretary – Martin Forrester, Treasurer – Richard Pride, Education Officer –

Reg Hooker, Handicap Secretary – Mick Fance, Scribe – David Wells, Committee members – John Selwood and Steve Cox.

With a healthy bank balance we should have a good year. The golf days for next year are:- April – Burnham-on-Crouch GC; June 2 – Channels GC; August 7 – Thorpe Hall GC; August 26 – Stoke-by-Nayland GC (with East Anglian Section); October 7 – Maylands GC; December – Orsett GC and AGM. Our four major winners for last year were Richard Pride, Chris Ward, Andy Sheehan and Andy Toomes. The Golfer of the Year was John Selwood – well played you lot!

Just a few words about education in the Essex Section. Writtle College held its second meeting of the Sportsturf and Greenkeeping Industrial Advisory Panel on December 1 1997. The set up of the Panel has given vital feedback to Writtle College from us, the industry, on how we would like to see education progress. Topics for discussion included improvements to increase the success of the NVQ Level Two and the new HNC Sportsturf Science which can include NVQ 3 Sports Turf Maintenance.

For those who are looking to widen and increase their knowledge in grass science the HNC is ideal. You can join at any time as it is broken up into modules. For more details phone Stewart Brown, at Writtle College, on 01245 420705.

The education dates for 1998 are Tuesday February 3, Tuesday March 27 and Wednesday November 4, all at Writtle College in the main building, room L60 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There is also a one day supervisory course with Frank Newberry (limited to 12 places) on Tuesday March 10 at Stock Brook Manor GC.

That's about all for 1997. Hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Wells

London

Our Turkey Trot and AGM was held at Porters Park GC in November. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank Martin Smith and his staff for preparing the course. The rainfall did however cause a few problems for some of us! The overall winner for the event was Darren Jones with 39 points. In second place with 37 points was David Badham and in third spot with 35 points was Roger Mace. The result of the King Pin Challenge was Paul Burnham in first place with Peter Creeber in second and Roger Mace in third. I would like to thank Kings for their support throughout the year and for all their help at our events. The management at Porters Park GC must be congratulated for their hospitality and excellent catering and bar facilities. The golf events have all gone well this year with excellent support from the trade and indeed our members. Our fixtures for the coming year will be posted as soon as possible.

The AGM went very well with the committee being voted back en bloc. Our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, was present and I would like to thank him for attending. This year I will be handling over the Around the Green Section report to Peter Hopkinson, from Browns. He has kindly come forward to take over this duty.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year from the committee and look forward to seeing you all in the coming year. Tony Dunstan

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777



Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all.

I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season which has recharged your batteries for another challenging year ahead.

The Section's first meeting of

the new year will be the Barenbrug Seeds meeting and will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC, on Wednesday, February 4. The day will be sponsored by Barenbrug and hopefully the day will have something for you all. In the morning there will be a choice of 18 hole golf competition with the format being St Andrews foursomes or a workshop on Business Planning for Greenkeeping. Our afternoon seminar will continue on the theme of the morning's workshop.

Our Devon Garden Machinery sponsored meeting was held at Woodbury Park GC, on Wednesday, November 12. This meeting was also the Section's AGM. As always the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Course Manager, Jeff Mills, nice to see you again Jeff!

After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett, from Devon Garden Machinery, presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM and gave a short presentation on his Company. The results were:- 1. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, & Andy Parker, Crediton, 36 pts; 2. Jonathan Mansell & Chenery, Woodbury, 34 pts; 3. Eric Barber & Nick Rourke, Warren, 34 pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support and to Mr Mansell for allowing our Section use of his excellent facilities and to all the staff at Woodbury for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to my old friend, Jeff Mills, and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

The Section's AGM followed the presentation. The Secretary opened his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30 1997 and advised member present that the Section had made a slight profit over the

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse



Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

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

For your free guide to compaction relief send this coupon to Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., FREEPOST, (G1/2283), Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1DW.
Tel: 01428 661222 Fax: 01428 661218

Name: _____
Position: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

G1.1.98

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

financial year of £116.16. The Secretary felt that the balance sheet was self explanatory and invited any questions from members present, there were none.

The approval of the balance sheet was proposed by A. Parker and seconded by C. Gadsby and approved by those present.

The Secretary continued his report by informing members that he had resigned as Chairman of the Region with effect from November 11 1997. He also informed members present that he did not wish to hold any political position within BIGGA for the foreseeable future, but if the membership present wished he would like to continue to administer the Section affairs. He continued by thanking Section Chairman, Bill Mitchell, for his support over those difficult months and for his shoulder to cry on and to the many members who have supported him.

The Secretary felt that the Association must continue to go forward to achieve its main aim, which is education for all greenkeepers from Course Manager to trainee. This can only help greenkeeping to continue to become more professional and he pleaded with members present not to allow our Association to become just a golfing society as we would quickly lose our credibility.

The Secretary welcomed the Region's Administrator to the meeting. He explained that Paula had taken on the difficult task of continuing the excellent work Gordon and Marion Child had achieved over the last ten years but was glad to say that Paula has continued the good work and with her part-time appointment Paula has had more time to visit golf clubs to meet members at their place of work. He hoped Paula would receive the support that members had shown to Gordon and Marion.

The Chairman opened his report by congratulating T. Pipe on representing the Section in

Around the Green



this year's Kubota competition at The Belfry. He expressed his disappointment that no summer meetings took place and with the input of the Section Committee.

The Chairman moved on to the Section Administrator and recommended to members present that they should vote R. Whyman back into office. The Chairman informed members that R. Whyman is without doubt the finest Section Administrator and is held in high esteem by HQ. The Chairman then turned to the sad part of the report for him as he informed members present that he had resigned from his position on the Regional Board and as Chairman of Section due to the dispute which the Secretary had mentioned in his report. It had been a great honour for him to hold these positions within BIGGA. He wished BIGGA and the Section the very best of luck for the future and hoped that his successor will gain the same satisfaction he had. The Chairman informed members that he had always tried to represent the Section's membership and hoped he had done some good along the way.

Section Committee elected:- S. Evans, Chairman; T. Farkins, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board member; C. Rawlings, C. Gadsby, S. Getson, A. Parker, Reserve Regional Board member, J. Palfrey, President 1 year term, R. Guntrip, Trade member 2 year term, M Samuel, Trade member three year term, R. Whyman, Section Administrator. Richard Whyman

South Coast

Here we are again at the start of yet another year. I would like to

wish all our members and all at Head Office a happy and prosperous New Year.

Last year was quite a good year for the Section. We had a good attendance at our Section seminar which was held at Sparsholt in February. The golf meetings have been well attended and the winter lectures were quite successful and attendance was up on last year. I would like to say thank you to all our sponsors and all the golf clubs who have allowed us the use of their facilities over the past year. Without these people the Section could not have been as successful as it has. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Turkey Trot and AGM. I will give a full report of the proceedings in the February report.

Unfortunately after the up-side there has got to be a down-side. I am referring to Westurf. Our support of Westurf is not as good as it should be. Westurf is the one event of the year that keeps our Region one of the most stable Regions within BIGGA. If we do not give Westurf our full support things could change quite rapidly. Some of you are saying it's the wrong time of year, others it's too far to travel. The travelling part is no problem - a coach can be arranged. The time of year - whether this can be changed or not I don't know. A lot of things have to be taken into consideration. There are a lot of other events that have to be considered when a date for Westurf is being made. If you have any constructive ideas please let one of your committee members know. The whole object of the exercise is to get as many people to Westurf as possible. By more of you attending it is hoped to attract more members of the trade. We would also like you to bring along members of your committees, secretaries/managers and golf club owners. Please make a note in red in your diaries for Westurf on April 29 at Long Ashton.

On Wednesday, February 4, at

7pm we are holding our Quiz Night at Bramshaw GC. It was quite successful last year. Having said that we would like to see a few more faces there as there are quite a lot of new members in the Section. What better time to meet everybody! It should be a good evening so bring along your wives, girlfriends etc. If you can produce a team from your golf club, great. If you come on your own, don't worry, we will soon fix you up. You don't have to be mastermind - it's just a good night out. By the way, to put your minds at rest the questions will not be on greenkeeping!

On November 6 we went on our visit to The London GC which was quite an experience. The coach started off from Bournemouth, travelled through the Section and on to the notorious M25. Then it was on to Sevenoaks in Kent and our first introduction was the security at the gate, not the place where you drive in and pay your green fee. The coach then made its way along the road through the golf courses, the International and the Heritage, both long courses. There are 179 bunkers on the International and 79 on the Heritage. They are all steeply mounded and call for a lot of Flymo work. We were met by Steve Jones, the Golf Course Superintendent, who gave us an introductory chat while we had our coffee. This included a brief history of the courses and introduction of his staff of 29 in the winter and increasing to 40 in the summer. We then had a tour of the greenkeeping complex and when I say greenkeeping complex that's what I mean. A far cry from the greenkeepers sheds that we all know so well. The machinery complex was so vast that they could play basketball in there! We then moved on to the mechanics workshop and store where there was all the up-to-date equipment plus two apprentices. Next was the irrigation mechanics workshop and store. When we saw the irri-

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

1154 MELTON ROAD • "ASHFIELD HOUSE" • SYSTON • LEICESTER • LE7 2HB

SEE US
ON STAND
C20
AT BTME

John Greasley

SPECIALISTS IN • GOLF COURSE • CONSTRUCTION •
ROYAL BIRKDALE • RUDDING PARK • GOG MAGOG • DEESIDE • SPRINGS •

Telephone: 0116 269 6766
Mobile: 0836 553899
Fax: 0116 269 6866



gation system and the pump house we realised just why an irrigation mechanic is required. Also in this complex was a laboratory where a young lady was employed carrying out soil tests and various experiments. We then visited the offices, all part of this vast complex. Here were the Golf Course Superintendant, two Head Greenkeepers and the golf courses Foreman. All the offices had up-to-date equipment for keeping accurate records.

We then moved out on to the Heritage course. The greens were sown with Providence Bent and were doing very well. Steve has two men for two hours every day Poa Picking to keep the Poa at bay! Two different men each day I hasten to add – nice if you have the staff to do it though I must admit it was paying dividends. It was very hard to find any Poa on the greens as they were in excellent condition. We then broke for lunch at the clubhouse which we virtually had to ourselves. After lunch we had a grand tour of the clubhouse including restaurants, card rooms, sauna, locker rooms, private function rooms and a whole host of other attractions too numerous to mention. We left the clubhouse and donned our wellies and ventured on to the International course. The greens were once again in excellent con-

Around the Green



dition. I could go on and on but there just isn't the space so it was back to the rest room for a chat and coffee. We then boarded the coach and were homeward bound. Everybody who went on the trip said what an excellent day out it was. Firstly I must thank Joe Paulin for inviting us there in the first place and also thanks to Steve Jones who spent the whole day giving the guided tour. Last, but not least, thanks to Huxleys Grass Machinery who sponsored the cost of the coach.

Just a last reminder for our Section Seminar to be held at Sparsholt College, on Thursday, February 26. Those of you who have not booked in it's not too late. Send your cheques and booking forms to:- Jeff Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PN, telephone 01722 503938. The cost for the day is £15 for members and £20 for non-members. If you have not received your booking forms contact Jeff who will post one off to you. Try to persuade your Secretaries, members of committee and golf

club owners to come along.
Ken Lodge

South West

November saw the South West greenkeepers visit Shirehampton GC in Bristol for our Autumn tournament and AGM. Shirehampton is a delightful course that has cleverly been shoe horned into a very small area. It especially suited my form of golf as I found I could drive with my usual military precision (ie left, right, left, right) and could not only find my ball but actually find myself on another fairway with a shot onto a distant green. Not that it made much difference to my final tally as I was, as usual well off the mark.

The scores were as follows:- 1. Michael Fawcett, 38 pts; 2. P Godwin, 35 pts (on the last 6); 3. P Garland, 35 pts, 4. M. Hillman, 34 pts (on the back 9); 5. K. Green, 34 pts who was making a welcome comeback to the greenkeepers tour. Nearest the pin was Niel King. The nearest the pin prize managed to raise £34.00 for our sponsor Rigby Taylor's charity. Our thanks to Martin Samuel for representing them. Our thanks also go the rest of the trade for their support, to Club Secretary Jeff Reece, to the Cornelius caterers and to the Steward, Harry Roberts. Also well done Head Greenkeeper, Chris King, and his staff for providing us with such excellent conditions on the day.

Chairman, Ivor, then gathered us all together for the AGM. This was a very quick and efficient affair. After the usual readings we were given our annual talk by Robin Greaves on what's been happening at Headquarters and there followed a small discussion on how we can save or even raise some funds to try and keep our finances in their present healthy condition. We then went on to the election of officers and unlike last year most of the committee was re-elected. However with Matthew Hawker taking over as Team Captain, Vice Captain was taken by Dave Bougen. Also, our Secretary, Peter Baynton, decided to relinquish his regional duties and so Ivor had decided to take on these but has had to step down from his position as Section Chairman. His spot was filled by Vice Chairman Chris Sealey and Chris's position was filled by the election of James Braithwaite. Confused? Well if you are then the new fixture cards will reveal all.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all the Section on thanking Ivor for all he has done for us in his role as Chairman over the years. Well done Ivor, we all owe you a great debt of thanks. Don't let's all panic though. Ivor will still be with us in his regional role and

who knows we may yet see him re-elected to something when he has finished his NVQ studies.

A quick note now on the superb seminar at Cannington. Thanks to Paula on her organisation of this and also to Huw Parry of Cannington for chairing the seminar. There were some great talks, especially from Jack McMillan and his son Cameron with some slides on how to build a rubbish tip and call it a golf course and in the case of Cameron, how to take a rubbish tip and build a golf course.
Marc Haring

NORTHERN IRELAND

North East

Our first joint section meeting held at Greenmount College went extremely well last month. We had an excellent turnout of 107 attending the Fine Turf Management seminar sponsored by John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to Robin Blackford, Technical Support Manager, Hayter speaking on Safe Mowing Practices, Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush GC and North East Section Chairman speaking on Pests, Problems and Diseases, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer speaking on Reasons for Education and David Garland, Director of Operations at the PGA European Tour speaking about Life on the Tour and also having a look at some of the rulings that he and his colleges have been involved with. I must say that everyone found this most informative and entertaining. I would like to thank on behalf of both BIGGA Sections in Northern Ireland all the speakers for giving their time to speak to us and making the day an enjoyable one. I would also like to thank Pat Murphy, BIGGA Chairman and Janet Adamson, Membership Services Officer for helping us to organise our first ever Seminar. Finally I would like to thank John Lindsay for sponsoring the event helping to make it such a success.

At the Seminar, Greenmount College took the opportunity to award the NVQ Level II and GTC Supervisory Management certificates which were presented by Pat Murphy. This has been the first time that Greenmount College has run this course. Students study one day a week on day release for two years. "It was a demanding course and required the student to input a lot of his own time, but it was very enjoyable to do. All of us built up a good rapport with each other and made lasting friendships. The college lecturers are dedicated to the students and were prepared to do anything to help" said Eamonn Farrell.
E Farrell

**FOR ALL YOUR TRACTOR,
GRASS CUTTING & TURF
MAINTAINANCE MACHINERY,
NEW, EX DEMO & S/HAND CONTACT**

Richard Campey Ltd

**LARGE SELECTION OF MACHINES BY:
RANSOMES, SISIS, TORO, JACOBSEN,
HARDI, SABO ROBERINE, NEW
HOLLAND, KUBOTA, ISEKI, MASSEY
FERGUSON DENNIS, LONG-EQUIP, BLEC
& HAYTER/BEAVER.**

**FOR UP TO DATE LIST &
PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACHINES WHICH
WE HAVE AVAILABLE,**

TEL: 01260 224568

FAX: 01260 224791

**MARTON, MACCLESFIELD,
CHESHIRE. SK11 9HG**