



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

**Central**

Regretfully, I begin this month with the sad news of the recent death of one of our members, Steve Devlin. Steve was assistant greenkeeper at Drumoig GC and died at the age of 31. (See Letters Page). Our sincere condolences go to Steve's family and fiancée, Hayley, at this very trying time.

Past Chairman, Jimmy Lees, was in hospital recently for an operation on his hip. Hopefully everything went well and he is now on the road to recovery. Best wishes from everyone in the Section Jimmy! The operation prevented him from competing in the final of the Inter Club Tournament, which meant that the team from Tulliallan were awarded a walk over. There's a joke in there somewhere, but with Jimmy recovering from a hip operation perhaps I had better kick it into touch.

This year's Inter Club tournament should now be into the second round, with ten teams competing. The plan is to have the final played

before the Autumn Tournament at Crieff in October.

The Autumn Tournament for '99 is provisionally booked for Tuesday, September 21, at Balbirnie Park GC. Confirmation is awaited on this as is the date for the '99 Spring Tournament. As soon as I have them I will let you know.

Another new member joins us from East of Fife this month and it's a warm welcome to the Section to Thomas Band, from Scoonie GC. Is this another member for the Leven Links Sporting Club? While I am on about this famous Club, their chief coach! Star man! you know who, has offered (actually he has threatened) to write the Section news sometime. As he is Section Vice Chairman at the moment, perhaps I had better agree to this, as life may be rather difficult when he becomes Chairman!

A man on the move is Abe Torrance. Abe is leaving King James GC in Perth and moving to the Green Hotel Golf Courses at Kinross, where he will be an assistant with Section committee member, John Bashford.

I had a visit recently from past BIGGA Chairman, Barry Heaney, and his wife Joan. You may recall they attended our Spring

Tournament at Aberdour, when Barry was Chairman in '95 and they send their regards to everyone in the Section.

The next main event will be the National Tournament at Letham Grange next month and hopefully I will have some favourable reports of Section members' exploits.

John Crawford

**North**

Four more new members to welcome to the Section this month. Paul Sharp joins us from Stonehaven and from Garmouth and Kingston come Andrew Shade, Richard Roy and Marcus Grant.

A lovely sunny day greeted us at Fortrose and Rosemarkie for our Spring outing in May.

Stuart Hogg and the boys had the course in superb condition to match the weather. Prize winners were as follows: Scratch. 1. Gary Tough, Carnoustie, 71; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 72. Cat 1.1. Stephen Sullivan, Craighill, 73-3-70; 2. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 76-4-72 (bih); 3. Neil Sadler, Grantown-on-Spey, 75-3-72. Cat 2. 1. Gordon Mckie, St Andrews, 81-11-70; 2. Doug Boyle, Tarland, 80-9-71 (bih); 3. Sean Jaffrey, Ellon, 81-10-71. Cat 3. 1. George Aitken, Peterculter, 89-

19-70; 2. Brian Cocker Jnr, Drumoig, 90-18-72; 3. Andy Wilson, Carnoustie, 90-18-72. Veteran. 1. George Asher, Kemney, 96-24-72; 2. George Hampton, Pitlochry, 74-scr-74. Apprentice. 1. Calum Faulkner, Strathpeffer, 83-14-69; 2. Alan Stewart, Royal Aberdeen, 77-5-72. Trade. Pat Allan, Stewarts 74-5-69. Guest G. Mckie 82-11-71. Nearest the pin, donated by Fortrose GC, Neil Kidd, Keith. Longest drives, Class 1. Neil Sadler, Grantown; Class 2. Gordon Leslie, Duff House Royal; Class 3 Michael Reid Montrose.

The Captain of Fortrose kindly picked Stuart Hogg's card out of the bag for the BIGGA blazer amid cries of "fix". The 200 club winners will be printed next month as will the reason why.

As if the weather, great course and great food wasn't enough some of us got to see the Moray Firth dolphins performing behind the 5th tee as well. The day finished off with an almighty thunderstorm, thankfully with all in the clubhouse safe and dry. Unfortunately the barman's car was surrounded by a lake in the car park after the rain had finished, he was last seen drowning his sorrows at the bar before walking home!

This month we have The Open

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Championship at Royal Birkdale and along with myself, the Section will be represented by Stewart Hogg and Paul Murphy. Once again I will be driving one of the mini buses. Watch this space!

I A Macleod



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

### Cleveland

The new Cleveland Section Committee met on Wednesday, April 25, with a good turn-out. The golf committee are T. Burge, S. Jaques, B. Walker and M. Woods. Volunteers to attend regional meeting alongside Ian Holoran and Bob Lawton are T. Smith and I. Pemberton. (B. Walker will stand in should anyone become unavailable) Well Done - three volunteers are better than ten pressed men! Two of Brancepeth Castle GC greenkeepers, David Jobey, Deputy Head, and Andrew Welsh, assistant, attended a course on the use of strychnine for the control of moles and committee men. The course was run by ADAS in Edinburgh, both men found the

course very interesting and both passed exams to use the poison - Well done. The spring tournament was held at Eaglescliff GC which was in very good condition - Congratulations to Bruce and his staff. The winners were as follows: Cat 1. 1. A. Russell 2. R. Shaw 3. J. Thompson. Cat 2. 1. M. Woods. 2. B. Walker. 3. T. Smith. Cat 3. 1. T. Burge. 2. M. Brown. 3. S. Jaques.

The tournament was sponsored by Ritefeed and Alan Cordingley, Ritefeed's rep, was there to give out the prizes. Each player was given a ball marker and pitch repairer by Peter Marshall who has just joined Turfcare from Pattisons. Good Luck in the future Peter. The day's golf was enjoyed by all who played and for those of us who had to sit in the bar socialising we must thank the Cleveland Golf Committee for a very well run day, plus raffle. Poor Alan Cordingley was hit on the buttocks by David Jobey which resulted in David losing his ball - shudder to think where it went!

The golf day also concluded with Bruce Burnell's retirement as Head Greenkeeper at Eaglescliff GC after 34 years. The Cleveland members presented Bruce with a pair of bookends in the style of a shepherd beside a dry stone wall. This was

presented by Cleveland Chairman, Roger Shaw, who went on to thank Bruce for the many years given to the Section, being a founder member along with Roger Shaw and George Malcolm.

George then got up and thanked Bruce for his service and proposed a toast. Everyone stood and raised their glasses to Bruce wishing him the very best for the future. Then Bruce himself got to his feet and thanked everyone for attending. Even after 34 years his attention to detail from the first day at Eaglescliff was brilliant. Other speakers included Ian Holoran and Norman Shedden. Many thanks also to Norman for doing the cards. From the trade Bruce was wished the best by Terry Charlton, from Turfcare, Maurice, from Claytons, and Phil Newton, from Aitkens. Roger Shaw thanked the clubhouse staff for an excellent meal and good friendly service. Douglas Bell, Regional Administrator, turned out to play golf and everyone had a good day.

Moving on, congratulations are in order for Steven Jacques, First Assistant at Richmond GC, who married Tracy Metcalf on June 6 and then jetted off on honeymoon to the Dominican Republic. Also

thanks are in order to our new secretary, Bob Lawton, who is doing a really good job in keeping us up to date with the fixture list and news letters. It was nice to read in the news letter how young Bob is trying to get himself fit and in shape. Well Bob, you can borrow my diet sheet and rigorous training schedule anytime - the buggers are no good to me!

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

### North West

The spring tournament at Childwall GC, on May 14, was enjoyed by an almost record number of members for any N/W Section golf events with 56 playing. The course was in lovely condition, with slick greens, and presented beautifully. This, of course, was due to Dave McEvoy and his staff, who had their hands full trying to keep on top of the flush of growth due to the perfect growing conditions. Nevertheless the course was a credit to them. Some excellent scores were returned with Dave Cowhig a member of a tough course. The top results were: Best Gross. Sean Moon, 74-6-68, Best Nett. Dave Cowhig 70-5-65 (won gross & nett) nett competition. Over 55s Bill Shipley 90-12-78, Guest Prize

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John Walker, (must check his handicap)

There was a special result also, with Paul Bertenshaw scoring a hole-in-one on the par 3 6th. I believe this is the first hole-in-one in N/W Section tournaments, certainly in my 25 years, as far as I can remember. Paul needed a bit of luck as the week before he was made redundant as Course Manager from Delamere Forest GC, Paul had been there for a number of years, and, as I understand, it came as some surprise. This is not the only case I have heard of recently, and I think when applying for Head Greenkeeper jobs, applicants should insist on Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper being written into their contract, to protect them from employers making one or the other redundant at the whim of a disgruntled committee member. Back to the spring tournament, I would like to thank Childwall GC for allowing use the courtesy of the course, and their warm hospitality, the caterers for a lovely meal, the numerous companies who supported us and helped to swell the prize table, Dave McEvoy and his staff for an excellent course.

A reminder that in August we have two matches. Stewards match on August 24 and Roses match on August 26. I will require a team of 16 for each of these matches, both being played on great courses, and both sponsored so there is no cost. If you are interested, and you should all be, contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross.

#### North Wales

Recently I attended the ALS Barenbrug seminar at the Welsh college, it was another excellent day, very informative and thought provoking, however, it is only myself and the others who attended that know that, remember if you're not there you won't know.

While I was there I walked the three holes of the new course that

have been completed along with Phil Davies of SDA Training Limited. I was impressed and felt it showed the colleges commitment to getting it right and remain at the forefront of greenkeeper training in Wales.

This has further been further endorsed as on May 14 there was a visit from Dave Golding, of the GTC, and Mike Cole, of the WGU, which coincided with the opening of the holes. They were both very pleased with all aspects of the delivery of training, in particular the close liaison with the industry and the short course programme, which as mentioned before was superb. Remember when the short courses are next offered - get on them. Future courses will involve computers and environmental conservation, among others.

Future plans include the establishment of grass species and mixture trial grounds.

All greenkeepers are extended a warm welcome and courtesy of the golf course, but please contact Graham Wright before on 01352 84100.

At our last committee meeting on May 12, the Spring meeting at Porthmadog was discussed and a few issues were raised including dress code, punctuality and general etiquette. These events don't just happen, they have to be organised so please, help your committee to help you. Get forms back in plenty of time, reading them first and representing our association, arrive in plenty of time, enjoy your round, jacket, collar and tie afterwards, simple, perfect, you know the score.

Oh ay, the Autumn meetings at my place - Denbigh - Wednesday October 14.

Our next committee meeting is September 8 so if anyone has anything that needs discussing please contact me on 01824 710693 or Gary Edwards 01492 593646.

Now where's my silage bailer?

Dave Goodridge

#### Northern

Peter Thompson, from FG Adamson & Son, has recently moved to a smaller domestic machinery sales company to enjoy his last few working years at a more leisurely pace.

Peter Thompson (another one) has recently retired as assistant greenkeeper at Huddersfield GC. Knowing Peter he will probably be doing more in his retirement looking after Castlefields GC - the "jewel" of Brighouse!

Sam Wardill has moved from Outlane GC to become assistant greenkeeper at Huddersfield GC. Ben Turner also takes on his new role as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Good luck to both lads in their new positions.

A recent ten pin bowling evening was well attended by Section members and friends. Held at Keighley Bowling Centre, 20 or so competitors battled it out for the booze. But, looking at the results, it seems the contest was a little one sided - winning the male prize was Gary Potter and the ladies' prize went to Beverly Potter! Prizes for the event were kindly sponsored by County Mowers of Leeds. Due to the interest in the event, similar evenings are being considered for the near future.

Anyone wishing to put their names down for the forthcoming Invitation Day Tournament at Aldwark Manor on Wednesday September 2 must send names and payment of £30 as soon as possible. This will cover both greenkeeper and guest. Places are limited so please book early.

Please contact me if you have any news from within our Section at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

#### North East

Ted Brachtvogel, a mechanic at Slaley Hall, died suddenly at the end of May. He had been a member of the Section for many years.

Jimmy Richardson



#### East of England

The Ritefeed/Purdys Cup was held at Sleaford Golf Club at short notice as Torksey had to reschedule the date to 1999.

Thanks to John Scotney, the EOE Treasurer, for accommodating the Section event at Sleaford as we did visit the course two years ago in a match against the Secretaries' Association. The fairways have come on great after our last visit, due to the past dry summers and the course was in excellent condition throughout. The turn out of members was the best for some time and the trade members kept us supported with the usual super prizes. Thanks to Les Purdy, the main sponsor of the day. Others were Ritefeed, Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Colliers, Fieldcare, Chandlers, Roy Harrison, and Duncan Beale and Multi Core for the Machinery Demonstration.

The evening meal was graced for the first time by two ladies. Annie Purdy (Les's daughter) and Cath, from Multi Core, so the usual jokes were kept to a minimum.

The Purdy's Cup went to Kevin Hodges, who will be cut two shots for the rest of the year, the other scores were:

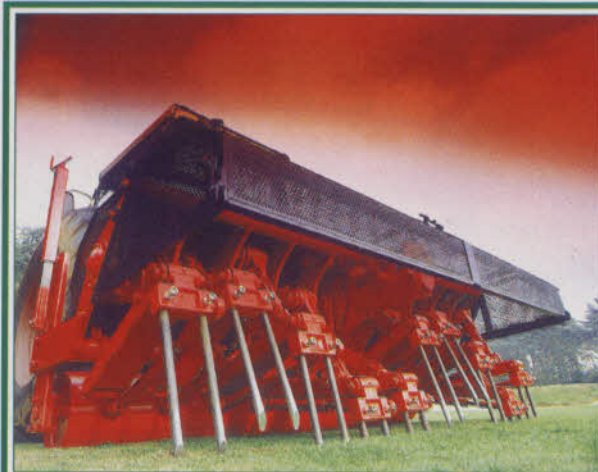
Cat 1. J. White, Belton Park, 72; G. Macdonald, Newark, 73; B. Anderson, Martin Moore, 74.

Cat 2. K. Hodges, Ryston Park, 70; D. Welberry, Kirton Holme, 74; T. Fox, Blankney, 75.

Cat 3. J. Scotney, Sleaford, 75; J. Hewson, Market Rasen, 75; N. Marshall, Belton Park, 75.

Longest Drive went to Tony Fox. Nearest the pin went to Josh White. Trade Prizes: 1. L. Siddon, 2. P. Larter, 3. P. Fell.

GA Macdonald



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## THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

**East Midlands**

This year's Spring tournament was held at the delightful venue of Beeston Fields GC. It was presented in its usual good condition by David Ellerby and his staff. The weather conditions were ideal for some good scoring, although surprisingly no-one posted a great score. However the scores were as follows.

Cat 1. 1. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 77-3-74 and Best Gross; 2. M. Hume, Stanton, 83-9-74; 3. C. Chamberlain, Scraftoft, 82-7-75

Cat 2. 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 87-16-71; 2. A. Porter, Greatham Valley, 88-13-75; 3. K. Davis, Lutterworth, 90-15-75.

Cat 3. 1. F. Kempster, Glen Gorse, 87-19-68; 2. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 90-21-69; 3. G. Arnold, Erewash Valley, 94-19-74.

Trade and Associate winner Nick Webb, Tacit, 86-17-69

Our thanks go to ET Breakwells who for the fourth consecutive year sponsored the day. Also I would like to thank everybody at Beeston Fields GC for allowing us to stage our Tournament. The generosity of all golf clubs like Beeston Fields is appreciated by all BIGGA members. Finally I would like to thank the steward for an excellent meal. Next year's Spring tournament will be held at Longcliffe GC on Thursday May 13.

Hope to see all at the Autumn Tournament which will be held at Scraftoft GC on September 2.

This year's annual East Midlands v East of England golf match will be held at Oundle GC on Thursday August 20. Tee-off 3.45pm, the cost for the day is £9 which will include your evening meal. Any member who would like to represent the Section for this match can give me a ring and I will send them an entry form. After last year's tied match we will need to field a stronger side to enable us to retain the Toro Shield.

In the Cosby Men's Invitation Alan Roberts, of Handsworth GC, and I finished second on the day with a nett 66, and scored two 2s in the 2s sweep.

Finally if any member is interested in attending a Go-Kart evening to be arranged later in the Summer, Kevin Davis would be interested to hear from you. You can phone Kevin on 01203 691160 for further details.

Antony Bindley

**Midland**

The Autumn tournament proved to be a great success with everybody enjoying themselves, the course was in great condition and many thanks on behalf of the Midlands Committee to all the staff at Ingestre Golf Club.

The winners were as follows;

1. Paul Loffman 2. Alan Roberts 3. Alan Cutler 4. R Ganley 5. G Hunt. The best trade went to Richard Minton, of Scotts UK Professional. Well done to you all.

With regard to the remaining tournaments please get your entries in early as they seem to be very popular.

I have two new addresses to give to you, Rhys Thomas has now moved to South Staffs GC and his new address is Greenkeeper's Cottage, Dannes Court Road, Tetenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 9BH Tel 01902743391.

The other address change is mine, to 9 Manor Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6EA. At this moment in time I have not got my new telephone number so you can contact me on my mobile which is 0370 956238.

Jonathan Wood

**BB&O**

The never ending rain through April and May created a few problems for everybody involved with maintaining turf. I know in the past I have moaned about the lack of rain but does it really

have to come all at once! I am sure most of you were in the same position, all geared up and ready to go and conditions were so wet at times the machinery was unable to get out of the yard (unless you had a boat). If anybody can recommend a quality waterproof that is guaranteed 100% then please let me know because my staff are getting fed up with getting drenched on a regular basis.

On a brighter note the much awaited golf day at The Oxfordshire approaches. The date is Monday, August 3, so pencil it in your diary now and remember if you want to play please return your entry form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. I for one am looking forward to tearing the course apart (in my dreams!) Actually if I manage to break 100 I will be happy! I am sure the few volunteers who assisted David Gower and his team with bunker raking are relishing the prospect of playing the course. On this note thanks to all the staff at The Oxfordshire for making us welcome while assisting in course preparation.

I was one of the volunteers at Wentworth for the Volvo PGA Championship, and was fortunate to be allocated Bernard Langer and Darren Clarke. Neither player produced the fireworks but were still a joy to watch. It was a most enjoyable experience and would recommend anybody interested in golf to volunteer next season.

Moving away from golf there is going to be a few places up for grabs on the Committee at the end of this year so if anybody is interested in becoming involved with the running of the Section please contact myself as soon as possible. If the Section is to continue to flourish then a fresh injection of enthusiasm is required.

Lindsay T Anderson



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

**London**

As I write South Herts Golf Club is currently in the middle of a very busy period and a look at what went on might be of interest to members.

Last month the Herts County Championship was held over three days. The following Saturday/ Sunday Fixture was Captain's Weekend, and the following weekend is the Club Championship.

These important dates also signalled the run up to the most hectic week of the season for Course Manager, Colin Hamilton, as the course is made ready for what amounts to another three day tournament. Saturday July 4 is the date for the Vardon Rees Trophy held for Amateurs under 5 Handicap. Sunday, July 5, is the day for the Vardon Rees Mixed Trophy and Monday, July 6, the most nerve racking of all - the day of the Prequalifying Tournament for the 1998 Open. South Herts GC hosted this event for three years in the '70s and after a gap of some years, have held the Pre-Qualifier again since 1989.

Liaison between South Herts and the R&A begins in December, when the R&A confirm that the Club will host the Pre-Qualifier. A course inspection is held in May by a Member of the R&A Tournament Committee, when local rules are discussed and adjustments are made to those rules where required, in order to fall in line with the Tournament perception of rules, and therefore avoid any controversy on the day.

Six weeks before the Pre-Qualifier, the greens are given their last feed and weekly verticutting begins. A weekly light top dressing is also applied (about 12

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

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**COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

tonnes per week) weather permitting. Extra car parking is provided with an adjacent field hired and close mown to give parking for an additional 200 cars. The week leading up to the Tournament is non-stop mowing, with the staff working 12 hour days - fairways are cut at 14mm and the greens are gradually reduced to a height of 1/8th for the Tournament. The 9 hole course is completely taken over as a practice area, in fact all entries are extended courtesy of the course for two weeks before the day, but Tournament Tees are roped off to prevent use. All machinery to be used is duplicated to cover breakdowns and also to increase productivity, machines are loaned by local dealers and local neighbouring clubs (thanks to Finchley, North Middlesex Hadley Wood, Dyrham Park and Bush Hill Park). Thanks also to David Montgomery and Craig Handyside for the help over the last two years, - Colin promises you will get your "curry" this year!

Peace of mind is also helped by the fact that if there is heavy rainfall, the local Head Greenkeepers will loan staff to Colin to restore washed out bunkers to playable conditions in record time.

During the three day Tournament, the greens are cut once on Friday morning and twice in the evening; on Saturday, they are double cut both morning and evening, the same is repeated on Sunday with a final double cut on Monday morning. A turf iron is also employed three times during the weekend and all this will ensure a minimum stimpmeter reading of 10ft 6 ins and often more. On at least eight of the sloping greens at South Herts, this gives the players some frightening downhill putts. To complete this work schedule, the green staff work till 10pm and are back the following morning by 4pm and they will be either at work or on stand-by throughout the three days. Hole positions are picked by Colin and a Senior Tournament Official from the R&A on Sunday evening, with new flags, poles and cups installed. The teeing positions are also chosen and set up with markers right at the back so that the full length of the course is played. Sunday night also sees Colin and Senior Assistant, Mark Gray, patrol the

course to prevent any chance of vandalism.

The Pre-Qualifier entries start arriving on Monday morning by 3am with all the facilities at the Club already in full swing. A total of 150 players compete for 14 possible places for the final qualifying rounds - play starts at 7am and often continues until dusk.

Next day the work resumes to restore the 27 holes to top condition for the membership. Greens are fed and watered and all tees divoted and the 9 hole course, which has been subjected to the extra punishment of two weeks intensive practising, will be divoted using 8-10 tonnes of top dressing.

After the busiest month of the year, Colin would like to pass on his thanks to all his staff, Paul Byrnham, Mark Gray, Chris Little, Barry Jennings, young James Morris and very young, Ben Nurnham, for all the help given in order to make the event a very successful one.

Date for your Diary - Brookmans Park Golf Club, August 20, 1998.

Peter Hopkinson

### Essex

With 60 of us turning up for our summer tournament held at Channels GC shows how successful the Section is growing day by day. Despite morning rain and strong winds for the golf the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Over the past few months we have all endured hard work and stress trying to keep our courses under control and it was some comfort talking to others with the same problems.

Now on to the day, first, congratulations to Ray Clark and his staff on how good condition the course was in. Thank you to Richard and Tony Stubbings for making their facilities available to us, the kitchen and bar staff on their hospitality and excellent meals., to our sponsors Toro and Grasshopper (Larry Pyromania and D.C. Barnard).

Andy Sheehan from category one with 38pts (on count back) was the overall winner and received the Rigby Taylor/Parker Hart Decanter.

Cat 1. 2. R. Pride, 38pts; 3. A. Toomey, 36pts; 4. S. Crosdale, 33pts

Cat 2. 1. J. Morgan, 34pts; 2.

R. Clark, 33pts; 3. J. Winters, 29pts

Cat 3. 1. M. Forrester, 38pts; 2. B. Brown, 30pts; 3. N. Horsewell, 29pts

Trade Larry Pearman 36pts; Guest J Wade 36pts; Longest Drive. R. Pride Nearest Pin, P. Chalk

Thanks to the following:

Bourne Amenity, Banks Amenity, Avoncrop, Hadley Tools, Tuckwells, Driving Force Leisure, Ernest Doe, Willmot Pertwee who also sent out the invitations.

Our next event is August 7 Thorpe Hall GC price for the day £18 Course Managers, guest and trade £15 assistants and trainees. Please phone Richard Pride for any enquiries 01268 752281.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Christopher Wood, Five Lakes Hotel Golf and Country Club, and Graham Gallimore, Benton Hall GC, as our newest members.

Finally, we would like to thank Trina Fance: No, not for putting up with Michael, but helping with the score cards for Channels on Monday night

By the time you read this, England will be on their way to winning the World Cup

Dave Wells

Editor's Note. If England win the World Cup I'll personally donate £20 to Essex Section funds!



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

### South West

Woodlands was the venue for the annual members/guests tournament. I am afraid I was not able to make this one myself but I have been reliably informed by Peter Baynton that it was very successful. Thanks are due to Cliff Chapman the course owner for allowing everyone courtesy of the course and also to Supaturf for sponsoring the event. The course that is managed by one person was in excellent condition which is bit worrying when you think about it. The scores were as follows:

1. C.Tozer and D. Reynolds 42pts; 2. W. Vincent and T. Smith 40pts; 3. M. Hawker and T.

Cubley 39pts.

Fitton GC is the venue for the Summer Tournament on July 22. I believe this is Nick Wilson's first greenkeeper tournament while at the helm of Fitton and the talk is he has got that course in very good condition. So come along and enjoy the delights of this superb parkland track and bring all of your colleagues if you can.

On a slightly different note I must point out how privileged we all are to be allowed to play other courses without having to part with any of our hard earned wads. My staff and I recently had the pleasure of travelling to Hankley Common to see Toro Excellence Winner, Ian McMillan's, handiwork. It really was a delight to be able to experience such a classic golf course in near perfect condition and we were made thoroughly welcome by everybody there as soon as we arrived. I am not suggesting everyone flee off to Hankley but there are so many other fascinating courses out there that are only too willing to welcome us. Personally speaking, I always believe it is one of the best ways to learn about the job and one can never stop learning.

Marc Haring

### Devon and Cornwall

I start my report this month with details of the Region's now annual trip to BTME between 19-22 January 1999 the cost of the trip covers three night's B & B with coach travel to and from Harrogate and entry to all seminars for only £95 per person with an assistant from the same club paying £85, there will also be 20 places available to greenkeepers under 21 years of age at a special rate of £45. The Region has been able to reduce the cost of the package due to Amenity Technology kindly sponsoring the coach to the event. To make your booking or for more information call Paula Humphries.

As in previous years the Section will hold six meetings during the winter the dates and venues are nearly complete with dates and venues being printed in next month's article. The committee has decided for the winter's programme to introduce a few changes following problems encountered during are last programme of meetings which are as follows: Golfing members to



receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced to avoid same old groups playing together, this will be done for all meetings include foursome competitions etc. Company and golf presentation to conclude the day. A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date. As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced, if no payment is received the committee will take the necessary action.

Richard Whyman.

**South Coast**

For those of you who have not entered for the Summer Tournament there is still time if you hurry. To refresh your memories, it will be held at Bramshaw GC on July 23. Applications along with current handicaps and cheques for £15 per person should be forwarded to Trevor Smith, our Tournament Organiser.

While at Westury this year I was given the details for the Region's trip, three night's bed and breakfast, and entry to all seminars. If you are a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager and take along one of your assistants, it will cost £85 for your assistant. On top of that there are 20 places for greenkeepers under 21 on December 31, 1998 on offer. The cost for the young greenkeepers is £45 You may say July is a bit early for BTME. At these ridiculously low prices the coach is going to fill up very quickly. All applications and queries to our Regional Administrator: Paula Humphries, Truant Cottage, Zeal, Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF.

Due to the success of the visit to The London Golf Club in November 1997 it is hoped to arrange another visit to a top golf club as part of our Autumn/Winter programme. We are also trying where possible to arrange a golf fixture to coincide with our Educational Programme. It is hoped that this will be more attractive to you the member. One of the most important things is to get the right speakers. If there are any speakers you would wish to

hear, let one of your committee members know. Your input is invaluable to us. When the trip to one of the top golf clubs has been finalised, we will be asking for names so that the coach can be booked.

Ken Lodge



**South East**

Since the set-up of Northern Ireland Region, the South East Section has steadily grown. Nine new members have joined in the past two months, they include:

Emmett Curran has also affiliated to the South East Section and congratulations to both him, on his recent position as Head Greenkeeper at Down Patrick GC, and also to Ken Moore on his recent position as Head Greenkeeper at Scrabu GC.

May's event was a visit to the grass breeding station at Loughgall (Co. Armagh) where Davis Johnston showed us some of the differences between turf grass and forage grasses and how they grow, monitor and evaluate new cultivars.

After that we paid a visit to the new 18 hole golf course under construction in Loughgall, where they showed us some of the early stages of construction.

Following that we had lunch and 9 holes at Armagh GC. Many thank again to David Johnston and Sam McCausland (HAFFY'S) for an informative and enjoyable day.

Members will be notified about a golf day at Malone in July, following that will be out BBQ at Groomsport Golf Centre on Saturday, August 1, sponsored by Boyd Golf course accessories this will be at 6pm and again letters will go out. Hope to see you there!

Jonathan McCabe



See you all next month!

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