

Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

The Scottish National Golf Tournament

The Scottish National Golf Tournament will be held at West Kilbride Golf Club, Ayrshire, on June 23, 1998 by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

The cost for the day will be £16 which includes coffee/tea, filled rolls and an evening meal. Entry forms can be obtained from the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA.

Closing date is Monday, June 15, 1998. Cheques must accompany the entry form and must be made payable to the BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

North

A couple of new members to welcome to the Section this month. Graham Scott from Brora - although unfortunately no longer employed by Brora GC, but that's another story! - and Mark Angus, from Newmachar. We wish them both well and hope to see them at Section events.

Retiring this month is John Mowat after 32 years working at Reay GC in Caithness. John intends to spend his extra time gardening and golfing, the latter which will take him back on to the golf course he has just left! Enjoy your retirement John, anyone who has worked on a golf course and with committees for 32 years deserves it.

The Scottish Conference was as

good as ever and it was great to see a good turnout from North members. George Brown was the star turn as usual and the overall standard of speakers was excellent. I hope we in the North can produce as good a day at our Conference this coming November.

Next month we have the Scottish Regional final of the Ritefeed Tournament at Royal Dornoch. The three qualifiers from each Section are as follows: Class 1 Scott Williams, Peterculter; John Taylor, retired; and Michael Keay, Montrose. Class 2 David Marnoch, Peterculter; Gordon Mckie, St Andrews; and Sean Jaffray, Ellon. Class 3 George Aitken, Peterculter; Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead; and George Asher, Kemnay. Apologies to Phillip Don, Kemnay, John Morton, Alford and Dougal Duguid, Westhill, who each finished 4th, normally good enough to qualify, but this year only three qualifiers from each Section were allowed as this is the format for the finals. These three are, of course, first reserves so may yet get in.

I hope to see some new faces along with the familiar ones at Fortrose this month. The Committee will be selling "bricks" in the shape of raffle tickets to raise funds to build the Association's new offices. This is your chance to help the future of our Association so please give generously and, besides, you might win a prize in the process!

Iain Macleod

Central

Has the bubble burst? I have no new members to welcome to the Section this month, which is a disappointment after having 18 last time. Never mind, your committee has faith in you to rec-

tify the situation in time for next month's magazine. There must be a number of greenkeepers in your area who are missing out on the benefits on offer from being a member of the association. If you don't feel like approaching them yourself, Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, will only be too happy to pay them a visit. Either give Peter a call or drop me a line and I will pass the information on to him.

The recent visit to Stewart & Co's premises at Dalkeith proved to be another enjoyable and informative day for everyone who attended. Our sincere thanks go to Graeme Forbes, Alan Miller and Peter Campbell for taking the time to organise and conduct the visit, provide their usual first class refreshments and also for the support which they give to the association throughout the year.

During the past few weeks I have attended several events which were not organised by the Section/Region and it was surprising how many members, who never attend any of our events, were there. Why is this? Are we choosing the wrong subjects, venues or time of the day? If you have any thoughts on this, please let me know and we will try and give you what you want (within reason!)

It was pleasing to read in the West Section's report last month that John Robb is still attending their events, John was Head Greenkeeper at Aberdour Golf Club for many years (he was my boss when I stated in greenkeeping, xx years ago!) before he moved back through to the west. I hope everything is going well with you and your family John, and send kind regards from all your "old" friends in the Central Section.

As everyone will be busy maintaining their course and trying to organise holidays to fit in with the ever increasing fixture lists, few section events, if any, will be organised over the next two or three months but no doubt you will be all "champing at the bit" waiting on news of what has been organised and your entry form for the Autumn Tournament to drop through your letter box. If we keep getting through events as quick as that I will be wishing you all a New Year shortly!

John Crawford

West

Firstly, may I say sorry to those members recently joined for omitting them from last month's issue of the magazine. The new members are John Garloch, Keith Maclean, both Hagsgs Castle; Stuart Jackson, Dunbarton Golf Club; James Gilchrist, Hamilton; Russell Abernethy, David Shearer, Edward Gibson, Phil MacFarlane, all from Williamwood; Alistair Read, Student member; Barry Brown, Douglas Park; Tommy Nisbet, Glasgow; John Cowan, Palacerigg Golf Club; Frank McGarvie, Linn Park. Welcome to you all on behalf of the Association and I hope you come along to organised days or events and enjoy yourself.

What has happened recently then, firstly the Nature Conservation and Education talk at Hilton Park organised through the SGU and GTC. Although I was not present the night appeared to be successful, with a full house in attendance.

Next the SGM day at Gleneagles then, SGM House Inverkeithing, where 32 people attended a very enjoyable and informative day. Although James Kidd was unable to



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Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

give a presentation his administrative assistant gave a very interesting talk, thanks also to the Monarch's Head Greenkeeper for his compering on the conducted tour of the Gleneagles facilities. Thanks to Stuart Green and Robert Heath respectively for enlightening into what really goes on at one of our five star facilities. It give all of us food for thought, and something to aim for. After that delightful tour, off to SGM House for an inspection of the premises, a talk on the development of Scottish Grass Machinery as a Company, then a demonstration of equipment by Lang and Nedeman. I found the whole day very entertaining and the new set up at SGM House will go a long way to meeting the requirements of their future goals. Thank you to David McInroy and all his staff for the day.

Finally, the Head Greenkeepers/Conveners Day sponsored by Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery at East Kilbride. A delightful day was enjoyed by 16 teams from all quarters of the Section - again nice to see some new faces and some old friends. Well done the winners, Cawder, with Balmore as good runners up. Thanks are due to Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery for their combined support of the Section and this event, helping to bring committees and greenkeepers together creating greater understanding of our situations. Thanks to Brian Bolland and the green staff for his course preparation - also to Drew Adams and the house staff for the excellent meal. At the last moment Tony Merrill the Club Captain was asked to say a few words, sorry for the surprise and I hope you enjoyed the day. May I also say a big thank you to my committee for their

efforts on the day organising the event. Last, but not least, the members are to be given a mention for allowing the Association courtesy of the course.

The least mention for this month is on a very sad note conveying the death of a great past member of the Association and industry. Ian Fraser, ex Rothesay, Hayston, Sandyhills and Cathkin Braes passed away on March 28. The Section's condolences go to Elsie and her four daughters at this very sad time. For my own part it is sad to hear of the passing of a man I worked with for four years and learned an awful lot from the managing a golf course. He was a credit to his profession and I will remember him as a great mentor. Ian was a Past Chairman and Secretary of SIGGA and will be remembered by many.

Stuart Taylor

East

Sorry there was no report last month but it is the time of the year when there is not a lot of news to write about but we have a bit for you this month.

If anyone has any information that I may have missed drop me a line or call me on the usual address or phone numbers, I would like to hear from some of our Section members a bit more this year.

In March we had an open discussion forum on the 19th at Oatridge College, and the members who were in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the day, so we would say it was a total success.

We would like to thank our Chairman for the day, Graham Forbes, Managing Director of Stewarts & Company, who did a great job, also

our guest speakers, Paul Myrscough, Symbio, who gave a good talk and answered some very good questions from the body of the hall. Dr Ian Young, Research Soil Scientist, who also gave a very informative talk that kept everyone interested. Throughout his time at the stand he also answered all the questions that were put to him. We would also like to thank Oatridge College for the facilities they provided which were excellent and we will hope to use them again in the future.

Going back to the speakers, they were delighted to be able to come to speak to us and also with the questions they were asked and they would like to come back to speak to us sometime in the future. Look out for more days like this as we are looking to stage more of these types of forums over the coming year. Details will be in the magazine also the fixture list as soon as we agree on dates and get our fixture card printed out and sent out to our members (watch this space). In early March we had the annual Scottish Conference which was a great success with some good speakers and a big turnout of members off all sections. Thanks to the organisers, Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, Elliot & Edna Small, the two Chairmen for the day Alistair McLaren, Education Officer, in the morning and Jimmy Neilson, Chairman of the Scottish Region, in the afternoon who both kept the day running along smoothly. The speaker each gave a talk on various subjects and answered all the questions afterwards. Also thanks to Dunfermline College for the facilities which were great. It was also nice to welcome our new National Chairman to Scotland, Gordon Child, who attended the conference. We hope you

enjoyed your day and you are welcome back any time. If I missed thanking anyone let me know. PS Also our patrons who attended and had stands on show on the day.

Next on the agenda for the section is the Spring outing, Ritefeed Classic 2nd Qualifier, at Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. The report and results will be in next month's magazine. So hopefully we shall have some good weather for the first major of the season. The new fixture list should be available soon so look out for them with all the seasons events for 1998.

Well, that's all for this month, don't forget if you have any info about anything that would be of interest to our members let me know as soon as possible and we will get it into print. Next month I will have a list of all our new members who have joined in 1998. If you have not re-joined yet hurry up as you are missing out on all the benefits of membership of BIGGA. If you are a member and you know of someone that is not explain what they would get out of being a member of the Association. We in the East would like to take our membership total through the 200 barrier, as we are only 20+ short of this target. If every club got one more member we would top this number.

More news and views next month.
Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

Thanks to Chairman, Jim Paton, for my introduction last month, I will endeavour to forward news, information and any points of view in this column throughout the coming months.

Congratulations go to George Brown, Turnberry, on his appointment as Gordon Child's Vice

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

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Chairman. I'm sure the whole section will be a worthy and respected Chairman of our Association when his time comes.

The Section waves Bon Voyage to Bob McKay who returns to his native land and the position of Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch. Replacing Bob in the vacated Head Greenkeepers seat at Prestwick St Nicholas is John McLauchlan who moves up from Brunston Castle. Also on the move to Prestwick is an old college mate of mine from the hazy days at Woodburn House, Stephen Frazer, who takes up the Head Greenkeepers position at St Cuthberts which has resulted with his First Assistant, Paul McMair, being promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Caldwell. Best wishes to all with their new jobs.

It was nice to see Robert the Bruce well on the road to recovery at our recent committee meeting. He insists his football career is over but on a return from the gents he was striding out rather well without his walking stick. Super medicine that Calder's liquid Robert. Never say never!

By the time you read this hopefully we will have had an enjoyable and successful spring outing at Stranraer Golf Club. If you have missed out make sure you don't miss the next event. I will keep this notice board posted. It's the ideal way to meet new and old

friends, keep in touch with greenkeeping and support your Section into the bargain because with the loss of the Section's subscription's percentage we need it more than ever.

Any information please call me on 01505 683279 (home/evenings) or 0498 634122 (mobile).

See you next month.

Ian Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Since I asked for news from any golf club a couple of months ago response has been very poor, only one member has phoned me. If the members want Section news let's hear from you.

Steve Cram and Robert Bell, of Slaley Hall, have been doing bunker construction on the following holes: 1st, 2nd 7th and 16th holes in readiness for the Compaq European Competition in June.

The new course at Slaley will be open for play in Spring 1999, hopefully it will be open for members only in September for a short while.

Various members have asked me to thank Rickerbys for taking them down

to Ransomes factory at Ipswich. I hope all went well for those lucky persons perhaps in the future more people will get the chance of a visit.

On March 4 we had our first winter lecture at Whickham Golf Club. Rickerbys of Hexham were the visitors giving us a slide show on their range of Kubota tractors followed by a meal.

Our thanks to Roger Stewart and his associates for giving us time and providing the buffet. This was much appreciated by all who attended.

The Carburol Trophy this year will be played in a different format, instead of foursome it has now changed to 4 ball better ball.

Entries can be sent to David Cuthbertson tel: 01207 233474 the closing date is the 23 April the same day as the spring comp. Good luck to all entrants.

Congratulations to Steve Arnott on his recent appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Stocksfield GC also to Graig Kilgour moved from Hexham to Ponteland GC as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

The second winter event was held recently at Prudhoe GC this again was well attended our thanks go to Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, for arranging the speakers and for providing the buffet and the raffle prize.

A special thanks to Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, for arranging both of

these events, bear in mind they do not just appear, a lot of hard work has been going on by Tony in the past few weeks. I expect that members will support Tony and the section in winter months by attending any events. All members will be notified when they are arranged.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

The recent Annual Dinner Dance held at Bradford Golf Club was another excellent function although a little thin on the ground in comparison to last year's mammoth turnout. Thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy for their help in arranging the event. If anyone is needing a group of people to liven up a party, please contact Mike Brear and his barmy followers. They really know how to enjoy themselves.

Another dinner dance has been arranged at Northcliffe Golf Club on July 4 this year. Anyone interested in going please contact Ken Christie on 01274 405596 for further details.

I have been informed that a surprise birthday party was held for Phil Dickerson, of Shipley Golf Club. Apparently the "surprise" included a stripper. A belated happy birthday Phil and I hope your glutus maximus is back to normal!

Finally, we have two new greenkeepers which have joined the Section

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from Crow Nest Golf Club near Brighouse. They are Jonny Platt and Graham Blackburn. Hope you can attend some of this year's events.

Anyone with any news from within the section please contact me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

Cleveland

Firstly, my name is Kevin Heslop, Head Greenkeeper at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club and I have taken over the Section newsletter from Bruce Burnell, who has for many years kept us well up-to-date with news and who will be a very hard act to follow.

The Section now has a new Secretary, Robert Lawton, Course Manager at Billingham Golf Club. We wish Bob all the very best in this post. Our Chairman is Roger Shaw and Vice-Chairman is George Malcolm, I will list the committee members in the next newsletter.

We had our AGM on March 12 at Darlington Golf Club where all our lectures will take place. The AGM was attended by 26 members of the Section; the Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary, Garry Munro for four years dedicated service.

We have had two very good lectures this month. The meeting on March 5 was Robert Laycock, Turf Agronomist, who gave an interesting talk with

slides. He advises not only soil analysis but samples from the turf tissue.

The second talk was on March 12. This was on Trimmers Computer systems. The speaker was Fred Robinson. This proved a very interesting talk with lots of questions coming from the floor.

Next it's congratulations to Chris Powley, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Dinsdale GC who will be marrying Kerry at Darlington on May 8, followed by a honeymoon in Florida.

We also have two new members, David Bird and Mark Chapman, both from Durham City Golf Club.

Our Spring tournament is to be held at Eaglescliffe Golf Club on May 6. Times etc will be in Section Newsletter.

Last but not least, dress code rule is jacket and tie at evening lectures and meals after golf days. Please try and remember this.

Kevin Heslop

Sheffield

On March 5 we held our final winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. I would like to thank Rotherham for letting us use their facilities once again this winter, it is very much appreciated by us all.

The lecture was given by Terry Ryan, Marketing Director of Rolawn. Our thanks go to Terry who gave a very

interesting lecture on Turflands and washed turf which was enjoyed by everyone present.

Our lectures this winter have been very well attended by our members averaging around 50, but I'm sure there room for a few more next winter!

Congratulations to Ron Ullathorne who won a prize in a BIGGA Competition at Harrogate and Ron won a pair of Hi-Tech golf shoes, I'm sure they will get plenty of use Ron!

Our next golf will be our summer competition at Worksop Golf Club on July.

John Lax

North Wales

Firstly, I would like to welcome new members to our Section, they are: John Morris, Francis Cripps, Ken Williams and Phillip Davies, all of Rhuddlan; Owain Aerow, Porthmadog; David Booker and Stephen Edwards, Baron Hill; Daniel Fitzgerald, Easthan Lodge, David Coates, Eaton Golf Club; Neil Saunders, Heswall; and finally Lee Morgan and Mark Roberts, of Woolton. Welcome on board I hope to meet you at any of our events.

Emyr Price starts his 25th year at Royal St Davids, congratulations, now that must be job satisfaction.

I recently went on one of the short courses on Machine Maintenance at

Northop College they were held over four weeks on Mondays in February, I thought they were excellent, they included such things as ignition systems, clutch and brakes and cylinder grinding, with tuition in the morning and practical hands on in the afternoon and at £40 were brilliant value for money.

I would like to thank Tim and Andy for the concise and totally understandable way in which the subjects were covered. So when the next series of courses are available make sure you're booked in. Remember you're never too old to learn.

They even learnt how to get into a Vauxhall Belmont. Didn't we, Colin! Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's Pair's competition was held at Kedleston Park on March 9. After the heavy rain of the previous week the weather was set fair for the day, with all members eagerly waiting for their turn to tee-off. The winning pair was home player, Dave Leatherland, and Adie Porter, Greatham Valley, with 37 points.

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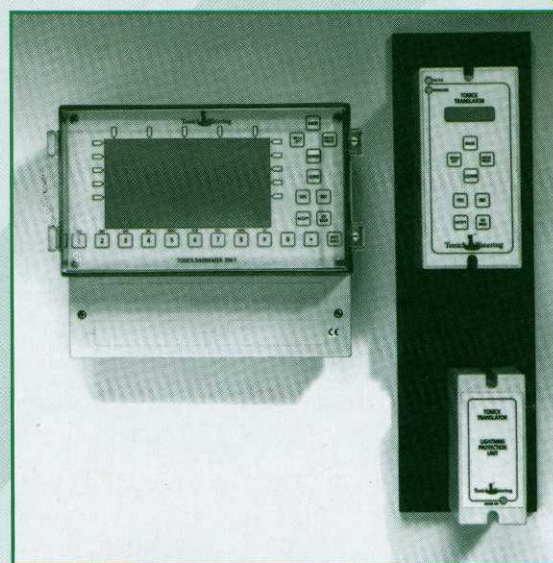
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Keeping in touch with news &

Second was Frank Kempster, Glen Gorse, and Carl Chamberlain, Scraftoft, 36 points, the evening finished with a very entertaining lecture by Craig Cook and Peter McEvoy on USGA Spec greens, for which the Section were most grateful.

I would like to thank Kedleston Park for allowing us courtesy of their great golf course, which was excellently presented by Dave Leatherland and his staff, also thanks should be extended to the Steward for a really great buffet. A special thank you should go to our sponsor for the day, Scotts UK Ltd.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who have supported the Buy a Brick Building Fund, the Section has supported this idea for our new Headquarters in a very generous way.

On a sad note I was extremely sorry to hear of the death of Chris James. Chris had been a very keen Trade Member of the Association for many years before becoming an Associate Member, after finishing work at Erringtons. Our condolences go to his wife and son David and to the rest of his family.

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

Anthony Bindley

Midland

By the time you read this report our first tournament will be over and I hope everyone who took part enjoyed themselves and had a great time.

All the entries for the singles and doubles should all be in by this time and the entries for the summer tournament should be on the way as the cut off date is June 8. This tournament will be held at The Wrekin Golf Club on the July 9. There has not been a great deal of response to the proposed trip to Turnberry, so if you are interested please contact me on 01384 292396 or if you have any other news or information that I may be interested in.

Again we have had a good number of new members join the Section and they are as follows: Richard

Molyneux, Alan Strange, Joseph Miller, James Pearson, James Rodgers, Matthew Axton, Anthony Hill, Nick Blackshaw, Mark Clewes, John Meers and Paul Dixon.

Johnathan Wood
 01384 292396



South East
Derek Farrington
 Tel: 01903 260956

London

They say charity begins at home and in this case it certainly did before travelling 6064 kilometres to Romania and back. Tony Dyke, Course Manager of Wyke Green Golf Club in West London, was one of a team of volunteers who drove lorry loads of clothes, toys and present out to orphanages and Children's Hospitals in aid of the Romanian Children's Appeal. The trip took ten days and Tony's share of the driving was 46 hours, while his co-driver, Len Jones took the wheel for 48 hours. Three lorries and seven good guys delivered 44 tonnes of greatly appreciated supplies. Tony would like to thank all the BIGGA Members and others whose generous donations helped to fund the trip.

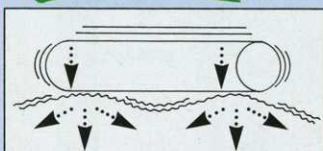
While still at Wyke Green we would like to wish Greenkeeper, Stewart Bedford all the best in his new job. After seven years at Wyke Green, Stewart has moved to Wentworth Golf Club to gain further experience.

Congratulations to Gordon Arnott, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Finchley Golf Club and his partner Donna, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Hope, born on 27 February 1998 at Barnet General Hospital and weighing in at 6lb 9oz. Mother and baby are doing well and Gordon cannot stop smiling.

Robert Phillips, of Sandy Lodge, and Rob Washbrook, of Hadley Wood, are members of The Shenley Carpet Bowls Club, who have won the Herts 1st Division Team Championship, losing only one match all season. Rob Washbrook is not only County Secretary but reigning Eastern Counties Singles Champion and Herts Singles Champion for 1997, but is also through to the Herts Singles semi-finals this year after narrowly defeating, yes, his old mate, Rob Phillips in the quarter-finals.

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BIGGA IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCOTTS/MIRACLE

Letham Grange. August 3-5, 1998.

comment from the Sections

Well done to Chas Gobie on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper at West Middlesex Golf Club. Having formerly worked at Hampstead Golf Club as Assistant to Alan Lewis, Chas took over the helm on 6 April when Bob Moffat steps down.

One of the stalwarts of the industry, Bob Moffat was born into greenkeeping in 1933, his father combining the jobs of Greenkeeper, Pro and Steward at Lanark Golf Club. His first job, aged 15 was on the staff at Sandy Hills Golf Club and there he joined the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association (SGGA). In time he became Secretary of the SGGA when then evolved into SIGGA, one of the forerunners of your organisation, with a Committee comprising of Bob, John Campbell, Head Greenkeeper of St Andrews, and Donald Harradine, a Golf Course Architect. He held the post of Secretary of the Association for 14 and a half years. During this period in the early '70s, Bob was one of the instigators of The City & Guilds Certificate, combining with Head Greenkeeper, Cecil George and the Principal of Woodburn House College in Glasgow, Charlie Crossan, to set up the first recognised training standard. In 1972, while attending the BGGGA Dinner at Blackpool, Bob and Ransomes Sales Manager, John Wilson, decided to resurrect the Greenkeepers' International Golf Match which had been played up until the war. The following year in 1973, teams from eight countries competed, with Bob playing for the victorious Scottish Team. The Moffats moved south to England in 1976 and Bob was awarded Honorary Life Membership to SIGGA at the 1977 AGM. Continuing his support for young greenkeepers, Bob became an examiner for Practical Greenkeeping at Burchetts Green College in Maidenhead, casting his eagle eye over young fellows such as Kevin Munt, of the Bucks Golf Club, and Derek Mason, of Highgate Golf Club, when they were first starting out.

He was a founder member of the BB&O Section along with Bob Plain and Gordon Payne and was its first Chairman in 1977.

Bob has been Head Greenkeeper at West Middlesex Golf Club for seven and a half years, but now, after 50 years working in the trade has decided to take things a bit easier. I am sure all of us wish him and his wife good luck for the future.

Peter Hopkinson

Essex

Despite the FA Cup clash between West Ham v Arsenal, with the Minnows winning by a post, 47 people turned up for the March lecture given by Dr Alan Gange titled "Biological Methods for Pest and Disease Control in Golf Turf". The subject gave for hot conversation with plenty of thought taken away for the future.

It was also nice to see so many new faces and old names on the night and let's hope it continues.

We would like to thank Dr Gange for giving up his time, our main sponsors Rigby Taylor, especially Dennis Smith and Steve Denton, Writtle College and the Caretaker for all his running around on the night and the following companies Avoncrop, Headland Amenity, Willmot Pertwee, Kings, and Grass Roots Trading for supplying the raffle prizes.

Continuing on the education front, 11 Greenkeepers attended the first day of two Management Seminars at Stock Brook Manor with our lecturer Frank Newberry covering the following topics: Learning Styles, Time Management, Motivation, Leadership, Discipline Issues and Basics of Negotiation to say "NO".

The second day will be held in November, to give the 11 a chance to try between now and then to put the topics into practice, to give feedback and sort out any problems.

Anyone interested in attending one of these courses, a second list has been formed, with 6 names already put forward. When we reach 12 the second course will run. For further information contact Martin Forrester 01245 603131.

Our next event is a golf competition to be held at Channels Golf Club on June 2, price £18 Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers, Trade and Guests with £15 for Assistants and Trainees. Please telephone Richard Pride 01268 752281 for entry.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member Ian Mitchell from Thordon Park.

That's about it for now, see you at Channels, any queries please ring me on 01702 522202.

Dave Wells - "Hammers for Europe"

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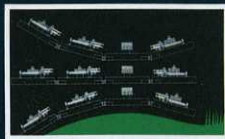
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Keeping in touch with news &



South West and South Wales
 Paula Humphries
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South West

May is now upon us and we can all wallow in the delights of summer. I hope this year's Augusta syndrome has not been too hard on you all and that you are now reaping the benefits of the winter and spring work.

It is more a case of looking forward this month as opposed to delving into the past. Hopefully you all will be reading this before the Greenkeeper/Amateur Tournament which this year is to be held at Woodlands Golf Club in Almondbury on May 13. I believe this is a first visit to Woodlands for the South West Greenkeepers Tour and so it promises to be a worthwhile one.

We also have the annual match against the South West Secretaries coming up at Ilfracombe Golf Club. If you do want to play in that one then please put your name down with Peter Baynton and ensure that you will be available when the time comes. All the matches are a delight to play in and this year we can look

forward to some witty after dinner anecdotes from our Captain, Matt Hawker, or in his absence some pure stand-up comedy from Captain of Vice Dave Bougen.

We have just run another first aid course and before that a chainsaw course. These courses always go very well and are extremely worthwhile, so if there is anyone out there who would like to attend these or any other courses then remember, just give me a ring and we will get you on the relevant list.

Available at this year's fixtures are badges for the building fund. If anyone would like to give a donation then it is £5 for a Bronze Badge, £25 for a Silver Badge and £50 for a Gold Badge. See Peter for the details.

If you have qualified for the Ritefeed Classic at St Mellion on the June 4 then here are a couple of tips for this fine course. Firstly, resist all temptations in the weeks leading up to the event and secondly, understand your water hazard rules.

Marc Haring

South Coast

The last of our Winter Lecture meetings was held at Crane Valley Golf Club on Wednesday March 4.

Unfortunately, Gary Parker from ISS Aqua Turf Systems Ltd could

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comment from the Sections

not make it. However, he sent along two of his team, Richard Parsons and David Driver. They both gave us an excellent insight into how ISS is coping with the reduction in the number of golf course being built. Richard started by talking about ISS and how they have branched out into Garden Irrigation Systems. There was a general discussion on how we can save water and the old old topic of over-watering. He then went on to talk about the various systems on offer. This was followed by a general discussion on these systems. Next, David Driver spoke to us about the new Contract and Renovation Service that is on offer. Once again a lot of questions and discussion. We had 30 members in attendance which was quite good. However, there were some empty seats. A few more of you would have been very welcome. On completion lunch was provided, courtesy of ISS Aqua Turf Systems Ltd. After lunch a number of the members had nine holes of golf. Some even managed to get round 18 holes. Our thanks to Garry Parker, Richard Parsons and David Driver for a very interesting and enjoyable day. Also thanks to Crane Valley for the courtesy of the course and the use of the clubhouse.

For all of you who have qualified for the Ritefeed Regional Final, I would like to wish you all the very best of luck. It is being held at St Mellion Golf Club on June 4. If for any reason you cannot make it please let Trevor Smith or our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, know in plenty of time. This will then enable us to organise a replacement.

Last, but not least, our secretary Jef Drake, as I'm sure you all know, is now the Deputy Course Manager at Newbury and Crookham Golf Club. His new address and telephone number is:

9 Villiers Walk, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 6SJ.

My apologies for not including Jef's new address in last month's magazine report.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

The Section's Avoncrop meeting was held at Staddon Heights Golf Club on Tuesday, March 3, unfortunately the weather was awful with heavy rain and gale force winds, it was a credit to Head Greenkeeper, Johnathan Bullen, and his team, who some how had 11 holes open so our golfing members could get their fix for the day. They must have been mad! More than 25 members battled against the elements to compete for the Avoncrop Trophy. Even more amazing was that many of our non golfing members went for the customary course walk.

After a superb lunch our

President John Palfrey gave a short presentation on Avoncrop before presenting the golf prizes for the Avoncrop Trophy.

1. Tony James, Tehidy, +3;
2. Buster Lewer, Dainton, -2;
3. Brian Ridgeway, Fingle Glen, -2.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day, with Turf Consultant Robert Laycock presenting an excellent talk on grass leaf tissue analysis necessary or not. The Section would like to thank Robert for his superb presentation.

Also the Section would like to thank the day's sponsors Avoncrop for their continued support and to Staddon Heights and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Jonathan Bullen and his crew.

Richard Whyman

Northern
Ireland

South East

Our Section's open workshop seminar on the March 31 was held at Cyril Johnston's, Carryduff, there was an excellent turnout at this event of over 80 people.

The speakers were as follows: Commencing with Richard Comely, of a Jacobsen/Iseki, who formally announced the take over of Ransomes by Jacobsen Textron inc followed by an informative discussion on the benefits of relief/spin grinding and a lecture on the operation and maintenance of hydrostatic systems.

Robin Blackford, of Hayter, guided us through the concept, design, manufacture, testing and marketing of a new idea (eg Mowers).

Roy Allett, of Allett Mowers, gave us biography of his company from his grandfather through to the present day. D. Johnston presented us with two speakers from his company on the subjects of equipment hire, parts distribution and back up.

The BIGGA stand was well received and quite a number of application forms distributed.

Many thanks to all the speakers and those who made the effort to attend at the busy start of our season. Special thanks to Cyril Johnston Ltd for their hospitality.

Jonathan McCabe

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