



Scottish Region  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**Annual Match v Secretaries' Association**

This year's annual match against the Secretaries' Association took place at Lanark Golf Course at the beginning of April. After last year's defeat at Glasgow Gailes we were looking for revenge.

The secretaries had certainly picked a very challenging course in Lanark GC one of the oldest golf courses established in 1851.

This year's BIGGA team had a mixture of youth and experience thus hopefully providing a winning blend and indeed this proved the case with us winning by 6 matches to 4.

Notable wins were by Duncan Gray & Andy O'Hara winning 7&5, Archie Dunn & Stephen Dunn by 5&4. Barry Gray & Colin McFarlane also recorded a fine victory by 7&5 wins for Alasdair McLaren & Chalmers Stillie, Colin Noble & Steve Sullivan and halved matches by Ian Bell & Sandy Bulloch plus Peter Boyd & Derek Scott completed our victory.

Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Lanark GC for the courtesy on the day. Unfortunately Course Manager, Jim Lyon, who was defeated along with his playing partner Stuart Greenwood could not put his local knowledge to good use but is to be congratulated along with his staff for providing an excellent course so early in the season.

After this victory we eagerly await next year's return match.

Peter J Boyd  
Regional Administrator.

**Central**

I must begin this month's news with an apology to Alistair Philp, St. Fillans Golf Club, in a previous issue I mistakenly said Alistair was Head Greenkeeper at Comrie Golf Club when in fact he is at St. Fillans GC and lives in Comrie.

Sorry Alistair! Never mind you got mentioned twice in the magazine. I hope it is right this time as Alistair's wife, Helen, is a lawyer.

Also in a previous issue, I reported the death of Jock Armstrong a former committee member of the Section. Along with Past Section Chairman Bobby Fleming and Elliott Small, I attended his funeral at Falkirk Crematorium when tributes were paid to a great friend of numerous greenkeepers, young and not so young.

The first golf tournament of the season was held in brilliant sunshine at Lundin Golf Club, in April, when 62 members and guests enjoyed playing over a course presented in excellent condition by Head Greenkeeper, Willie Swan, and his staff. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Lundin GC for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Secretary, Mr Thomson, and Club Steward, John Rae, for making sure everyone was well fed and "watered" throughout the day. Also the patrons of the Scottish Region for all their continued support.

Prize winners of the day are as follows:- Best Scratch K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 73; Best Nett. S. McMillan, Dunnikier, 70 1st Class 1. H/Cap C. Pollock, St Andrews, 73. 1st Class 2. H/cap A. Dunn, Auchterarder, 74. 2nd Class 1. H/cap D. Scott, Scoonie, 72. 2nd Class 2. H/cap A. Torrance, Green Hotel, 79. 3rd Class 1st H/cap I. Donaldson, St. Andrews, 77. 3rd Class 2. H/cap A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 78;

Stewarts Quaich C. Pollock/C. Mitchell, St Andrews, 148. Patrons J. Darling, Aitkens, 74. Guests D. Walls, Grangemouth, 74

Congratulations go to Kenny Stirling, Best Low Gross, and Sean McMillan, Best Low Nett, on qualifying for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship at Carden Park in

October. Disappointment on the new member front this month! No one to welcome to the Section this time, so far this year we have gained 35 new mem-

bers and if we really worked at it we could maybe reach 52 which would make it one new member for each week. So come on you must know some greenkeeper who is just waiting for that bit of persuasion to join us!

There has been a lack of news from the Leven Links Sporting Club recently. I don't know if they have disbanded, retired, gone caravanning, interior decorating or what! Maybe their manager is taking time out to write his memoirs. It's highly unlikely that they will be working too hard to have time to continue with their "sporting" activities.

John Crawford

**North**

Once again I start the column welcoming new members to the Section. This month we greet Scott Aitchison, Royal Dornoch; Justin Lochrie, Alyth; Keith Law, Forfar; Scott Barclay, Balmoral, and Neil Kidd, from Keith, the last three are rejoining us.

Judging by other Section reports, the Association is growing well this year. If we can retain last year's membership then there should be a significant rise throughout the country. Hopefully, at last, word is spreading just how good being in BIGGA is for greenkeepers everywhere and very reasonably priced too. I have just received my renewal for GCSAA dues and it is more than twice our fees, but that is still very reasonable I think.

This month we have the Scottish Greenkeeping Championship at East Kilbride. I hope we can have a big entry from the North and that we can come away with some silverware. I cannot make it myself as I have a meeting about then and my daughter's graduation the following week, so will be too busy but I intend to send some of my staff down.

If we think golf is expensive here, how about this tale from one of my members just back from Switzerland. He went to play golf with his son-in-law at a local club and had to show his passport and a letter from our club before he got a game. After six holes they then had to pay a further fee and again after twelve! His son-in-law lives there and would like

to join the club but the entrance fee is £18,000! Mind you, he says the views of the Alps from all parts of the course are breath-taking. Apparently the cost of living is so high in Switzerland that most people rent property rather than buy as prices are so expensive.

I read in last month's Central Section news that a football match is being arranged with our Section. I didn't know about this, but I am sure we can rise to the challenge. All ex-footie pro's please step forward as we don't want to let the Southern Softies beat us - only joking boys!

Joking aside, this should be good fun if it can be organised and I look forward to reporting all about it in this column.

Iain Madeod

**West**

Thursday, 29th April. What. was that day like?

Spring has definitely sprung in all its glory. As the saying goes "The sun shines on the righteous".

Well, it was a good turnout and despite the delay caused by tee off times, I think it all went rather well.

As for my game, well with the benefit of hindsight, I wish now that I had dusted my clubs off a couple of weeks prior to this event, as my partner Ian Smith & Alan Jack, I am sure, will no doubt concur!! Thanks for the game anyway lads. We thank the Captain Mr Alan Winning of Bothwell Castle GC for courtesy of the course and facilities on the day.

Bothwell Castle was in great condition and our thanks go to Sam Morrison and all his staff for their hard work. Well done Sam.

Thanks also go to the bar and catering staff, Terry Latby and his wife Sandra, thanks for an excellent meal.

The sunshine brought out some good scores on the day, so without further ado here are the results:-

Scratch Prize Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC, scratch 70. 1st Class 1st Place Ian Smith, Drumpelieir GC 73-5(68). 2nd Place Peter Cowan, Clydebank GC 81-9(72)BIH. 3rd Place Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen GC 78-



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6(72)BIH. 2nd Class: 1st Place John Brown, Bearsden GC 80-13(67). 2nd Place Gary Semple, East Kilbride GC, 83-14(69). 3rd Place Alan Miller, Wishaw GC 83-13(70).

3rd Class: 1st Place Joe Bell, Kilmacolm GC, 94-20(74).

2nd Place Simon Murray, Douglas Park GC 98-21(77). 3rd Place Barry Brown Douglas Park GC, 104-25(79). The trade prize was won by none other than Derek Duthie 77-5(72). The visitors prize was won by Andy Pearce, Port Glasgow GC, 77-5(72). Nearest the pin was Peter Cowan winning a bottle of Vodka.

Thanks also to all the trade members for their help and support.

The 29th was also the first draw of the recently launched "100 club". "All 100 tickets sold successfully, weren't they Robert.

On such an occasion, I personally feel that a fanfare of trumpets or drum roll would have been in order, to build up to the moment that my ticket was drawn. Sadly though it was not to be, however the lucky number "21", the holder being Brian Bolland, well done Brian. Still, there's hope yet, two more chances one at the Autumn meeting and at one of the AGM. For the millennium Mike Dooner has kindly offered to sponsor the "100" club.

Please make a note in your diaries, Wednesday 22nd September, Autumn meeting at Windyhill GC

John Scott Jnr recently attended the Section Secretaries meeting, held at HQ and reported that the two day course was very good and most informative giving those who attended an insight into the workings of HQ. He also commented on the size of the new building and felt that it should be slightly larger, giving the number of people attending this particular event. Keep your eyes peeled for an article penned by Robert Hogarth. Robert has been asked to write an article for the magazine on the subject of, "The difficulties of an internal verifiers job". I must say I look forward to learning more about, what should be an interesting topic.

BIGGA have recently offered Sections the opportunity to provide "learning workshops", on any subject with the provision that it is in relation to greenkeeping. Subjects might include: Irrigation, Course Design, Construction, Soil Science, Using PC's, etc. The only requirement is that each course must have a minimum of thirteen bodies in attendance to justify the offer from HQ.

Anybody interested please write to, or contact S. Bulloch for further information. A date, to be finalised, in August has been arranged for a challenge match between Clubmaster V Greenkeepers. Numbers are restricted to 16, if you are interested and would like to take part contact S. Bulloch.

Finally congratulations to Steve Richardson, formerly Bothwell Castle GC, Steve's new appointment is at Wentworth. Good luck Steve, hope you settle in well. Congratulations also to David Huton who moved recently to Bothwell Castle from Hamilton GC Sam Morrison informs me that he and Ian Wilson are still good friends, despite employing one of Ian's men. Sam reckons that it was because he had plied him with drink to soften the blow!! (Which in its self is quite strange, you see I always thought Ian was teetotal?) Answers on a postcard please.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any news or anything you might think worthy of a mention.

M: 07050 173080 H: 0141 776-1532

Gavin Jarvis



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

#### Cleveland

Well the Spring Tournament was held at Seaton Carew. Many thanks to the Head Greenkeeper and staff for an excellent turn out of the course. Also thanks to the steward and staff for the great meal, last but not least a thank

you to the Club Secretary and Captain for allowing us to play the Course. The results are:- Cat 1 A. Wood J. Egglestone. Cat 2 N. Cain A. Cheesbough. Cat 3 T. Burge S. Jacques.



The lads who got through to the National Finals are A. Wood Best Gross T. Burge Best Nett. Many thanks also to our sponsors for the prizes.

Other Section news. Bob Lawton has been doing some construction around the course. Bob is Course Manager at Billingham Golf Club.

I know people get fed up of me repeating myself asking for news in the Section, but it is not all that easy to put together when you have nothing to go on, in fact one gets right p xxx ed off thinking of things to write. Don't forget I am as busy as any other greenkeeper.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

#### Sheffield

On 27 April we held our first golf competition of the year. It was held at Doncaster GC, who I would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. It was a glorious day compared with the weather we had recently. Doncaster was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Kevin Kelsall and his staff. Well done Kevin. Our thanks also to the catering staff for an excellent meal which I think was enjoyed by everyone.

There was some excellent golf played in some very tricky conditions. The eventual winner was Paul Neve who played some very good golf. Well done Paul.



Results were 1st P Neve; 2nd A Lomas; 3rd C Hopper. May I also thank all the trade members who provided prizes for the competition and raffle.

There was also two qualifiers for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship. They were: Best Gross, A Lomas, Well done Andy! Best nett: P Neve. Well done Paul and good luck to you both in the finals.

The qualifiers for the regional finals at

Macclesfield Golf Club are: 1 - 9 A Lomas, J Dorach. 10 - 18 C Hopper, M Knowles. 19 - 28 P Neve, T Simpson. Good Luck to you all.

Finally congratulations go to Paul Neve on his appointment as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Brough Golf Club. Well done Paul.

John Lax.

#### North West

I am so glad that we chose Fairhaven Golf Club for the "Spring Tournament," because the weather was so bad that I think most other courses would have had to close.

The day started off dull with possible showers forecast for later in the day. Once again the weather men had it wrong. By 11. 30am the rain started and continued for the rest of the day, becoming heavier as the day progressed. The last game, including myself, started at 3pm and we played in continuous rain for 18 holes. My feelings were not for myself or the other competitors, we have learned to accept wet weather in the last 18 months or so, but for Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper, and his dedicated staff who I am sure would have liked some decent weather so that the competitors could have appreciated more the superb condition of this very prestigious course. Despite all the rain the course did stay open and the competition did take place. I would like to thank Fairhaven Golf Club for allowing us to play their course, Peter and his staff for all their hard work in producing a great course in such difficult conditions, and the caterers and bar staff for looking after the hungry and thirsty.

The best results of the day were: Best Gross. Richard Castle, Denton GC; Best Nett. Michael Nolan, Bampton GC; Over 55. Bert Cross. Dave Cowhigg had the longest drive on the 9th and Paul Daley had the nearest the pin on the 10th, both of these prizes donated by Rufford. Nearest the pin on the 17th was won by David Leach, this prize was a colour television donated by Turfcare. The nett prizes went down to 8th place. I would like to thank N/W

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patrons, Burrows (GM)Cheshire Light Machinery, Acorn Equipment and Rigby Taylor for their support with the prize table, also White Moss Amenity, Gary Worrall, Greenkeeping Supply Co, Aitkens, County Crops, Richard Campey, for help to swell the prize table.

The two members who qualified for free entry to the National Championship sponsored by Scotts/Charterhouse are, best gross, Richard Castle, Denton GC, best nett, Michael Nolan, Brampton GC.

The six qualifiers for the N/W team to play in the Regional Final at Macclesfield Golf Club on Wednesday 25th August are 0-9 Richard Castle, Denton GC; Tim Nolan, Denton GC; 10-18 Michael Nolan, Bampton GC; John Coar, Blackpool NS GC; 19-28 Mike Hogg, Childwell GC, Paul Eddlestone, Fishwick Hall GC This competition is sponsored by R. J. Campey(Macclesfield).

The next meeting is the Summer Meeting at Longridge Golf Club on Thursday June 17. Lunch 12noon-1pm Teeing time 1.30pm. If you have left it late to enter ring Bill Merritt on 0151 284 4416. Any problems or queries ring me on 0151 724 5412

Bert Cross

**Northern**

The Annual Dinner dance was again held at Bradford Golf Club. Many thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy for the hard work in organising the event. This year we tried a carvery style meal which went down very well with everybody and once again a good time was had by all.

This year's Spring Tournament and Charterhouse/Scotts National Qualifier was held at Hornsea Golf Club. The weather was splendid, which enhanced the course presented to us.

Congratulations to Roger and his team for all the hard work in preparing the "track" to such a high standard so early in the year. The exceptionally warm welcome from the new lady Secretary, quality of catering and service from the bar staff made the day one to remember.

Many thanks to Adamsons for sponsoring the prize table, Turfcare for the donation of a colour TV for the nearest pin prize, Ritefeed for the picnic hamper for the longest drive and to the rest of the trade for their raffle prizes.

Division 1 D. Collins (best nett for national tournament), R. Bielby (best gross national tournament), R. Gee. Division 2 J. Platt, A. Baxter, A. Court. Division 3 J. Brown, D. Jordan, A. Gamble. Nearest Pin R. Bielby. Longest Drive A. Court. Trade Prize A. Dyson, Purdys.

Good luck to David and Roger when they compete in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament at Carden Park later this year.

A couple of people have been moving within the Section. Jonny Platt has moved to Cookridge Hall G&CC as Deputy Head Greenkeeper from Crow Nest Park and Richard Blackburn has gone to Outlane as Deputy Head Greenkeeper also from Crow Nest Park.

Finally a little bird has informed me that Alan Lofthouse, of Huddersfield Golf Club, has got married. Congratulations Alan, you can buy the boys a beer later in the year to celebrate!

Anyone who has any news from within the Section, please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or telephone 01484 317813 or 07788 442755. Don't forget to get your names & money to me in good time for any of the forthcoming golfing events.

Simon Heppenstall.

**North Wales**

May 4, weather brilliant! Shouldn't have said that, should I. May I offer my apologies to everyone, especially the committees that I sit on, well haven't sat on recently. If it seems I've been shirking my responsibilities, it's just that an awful lot has been going on in my private life which is not sorted, so I'm back on line, so to speak. I've been up to Aldwark with Howard McAddey to start the process of becoming I.V. for Wales, returned with half a rain forest neatly packaged in folders.

I also attended a course at the college on Basic H & S run by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Very illuminating. I just hope I passed. Which brings me on to the next thing, first aid courses. Did you know that any work place employing more than five people MUST have a qualified first aider who has taken the 4-5 day course. Well you do now! The college is running four day courses on 21 - 24 June and the 12 - 15 July, costing £100 per person. Other refresher courses have been run, but by the time you read this it will be too late. I hope we can organise more later in the year. Remember, it is not only important, it is the law.

I believe a cracking day was had at the sprint meet at Llanymynech. Thanks go to Alan and his team and also the club for giving us the courtesy.

Results, Best Gross - Alan Lewis 74 (nett 69) say no more! Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier, Carden Park. Best nett John Humphreys 68,

Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier Carden Park and Lesco Trophy. 2nd Andy Comes 3rd Don Ravlando 69, 4th C. Rogers 72, 5th R. Lewis 73, Longest Drive R. Lewis, Nearest the Pin, Haydn Jones 3'5", Guests I G. Fitzpatrick 68, 2nd E. Heaps 69, 3rd M. Jones 70, Longest Drive Llanymynech Lady Captain (Ladies tee 168 yards forward of men's). Nearest pin R. Owens 15'11", 2's Haydn Jones, Adrian Ellis, Marc Brute, P Farzay G Fitzpatrick (6 balls each).

Thanks again go to the Trade for their support. Acorn, Walker Engineering, John Osman, ALS, Oakleys, Rigby Taylor, Greenkeeper Supply Co. Aitkens, Charterhouse/Scotts. Regional qualifiers for Macclesfield will be notified Cat. 0 - 9, 10 - 18, 19 - 28.

Our secretary Gary has told me that no one replied for the N. Wales, N. West pitch so he had to phone around to get a team. Come on lads, in future pick up the

phone. Anyway, once again we won. As I've said before, the GEM Shield seems to be written in the wrong language as it spends all its time in Wales. Sorry Bert.

Last but not least, Autumn meeting is at Nefyn on 13 October. I'll buy you a drink Pat. The Christmas meet is at Royal St Davies, 7 December. Even my clubs will be coming out of retirement. See ya.

Dave Goodridge

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**Midland Region**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

**Berks, Bucks & Oxon**

The opening golf day of the season was held at Beaconsfield GC on April 20. The day was a great success with

around 40 entrants competing for two spaces in the national finals at Carden Park in October. The only problem was the continuous rain which I suppose was to be expected in April.

Our thanks go to Bill Patterson and his team who presented the course superbly, it was certainly a credit to all concerned. The meal was also very good, altogether a great venue and one I hope we will be able to return to. The

prizes for the day were supplied by Gem Professional, thanks to Bernie for his continuous support for the Section. Last but not least thanks to Richard Fontmeuller, and ETT, who supplied all the raffle prizes.



The results of the day were as follows: Best Gross R. Wilson 74.

Best Nett T. French 76-7-69. 2. C. Taylor 87-16-69. 3. G. Wheeler 90-17-73.

Congratulations to all winners the weather made the scoring very difficult. Tony French and myself will do our best at Carden Park to represent the Section.

Lindsay Anderson has now passed over the writing of this article to me but continues as Secretary. Thanks for the tips, Lindsay.



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Simon Austin who is Lindsay's apprentice at Badgemore had a hole-in-one last week at Badgemore Park on the par three 17th with an 8-iron. Hopefully the first of many Simon well done.

Finally I would like to welcome Colin Hutt into the section he has taken up the post as my Deputy at Donnington Grove. Any news for the article would be much appreciated and you can contact me on the number below.

Ross Wilson 01635-821333

### East Midland

I have just had news from an old friend of our Section, one of our former secretaries, Gordon Mitchell. Gordon has returned to his native Scotland, working at Piperdam Golf & Country Club, in Dundee.

Gordon formerly worked at Melton Mowbray GC and Westwood GC, in Staffordshire. If any member would like to contact Gordon he has passed on his address and telephone number to me and he would like to hear from his old friends from within the Section. On behalf of the East Midlands section I would like to wish Gordon all the best at Piperdam Golf and Country Club.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Market Harborough GC on September 20 and will again be generously sponsored by Banks Amenity Products. Results from this year's Spring Tournament will appear in next month's article.

Finally if anyone has any information they would like to see in this article please let me know.

Anthony Bindley

### Midland

The spring Tournament was held at Walmley Golf Club on a fine, sunny April day. The day was a real success and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Many thanks on behalf of the Midland section to all the staff at Walmley Golf Club and especially to Andrew Greenaway and his staff for presenting the course in such good condition. A big thank you to all the sponsors for the day who were as follows, E T Breakwells for the prizes, Ruffords for longest drive and nearest the pin and Bathgates for the wine with the meal.

I have all the results and they are as follows: Best gross - G Wallace. Best nett - P Loffman. 2nd M Gash. 3rd M Jones. 4th D Fellows. 5th T Cheese. 6th K Weston. 1st Trade N Tyler. 2nd Trade R Minton. Nearest the pin P Loffman. Longest drive G Wallace.

On a more serious note, on behalf of the Midland section I would like to send our best wishes to Neil Horton and his family as Neil has recently had a major operation and has been very ill. So, get well soon Neil.

Finally I would like to introduce you to some more new members - Thomas Moulds, Craig Souter, Justin Roberts, Mark Roche, Douglas Macgregor, Colin McBeth, Steven Heath, Adrian Harris and James Wicks.

Jonathan Wood

### East of England

The first competition of the year was held at Thorp Wood, Peterborough, where the small turn out played over a testing course set by David Walden. The course was in great condition and held up well to the atrocious weather conditions.

The sponsors Piboro Garden Machinery and Barenbrug seed pleaded for the golf day to be sponsored next year in a warmer month as they have been the April Competition for the last five years.

Thanks to Alisdair of PGM and Ben Petitjean of Barenbrug for their support in sponsoring the competition. They brought some great prizes and the raffle prizes which were donated by other trade members, were much appreciated by our members. The eventual winner was Graeme MacDonald of Newark G.C. 36 points. Second was David Welberry of Kirton Holme 31 points and Kevin Hodges of Ryston Park 30 points. Leigh Siddon of UAP took home the trade prize of 26 points.

On a much warmer day the Purdy's Cup and Charterhouse/Scotts Championship qualifier was played over Les Purdy's home course at Retford. This course was in excellent condition thanks to John Shan and staff. Les, as usual, produced some prizes which would befit any Captain's Day prize table. Thanks to Les, Annie and Andy for the sponsorship. Also thanks to the other sponsors, Tower Chemical (Gary you will hand out those hats/Cooper) Rigby Taylors, Aitkens, Greenpride and Roy's bottle of wine.

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifiers were G.A. MacDonald, Newark with 74 - 5 - 69 nett winner and Josh White, Belton Park taking the gross with an 84.

The Purdy's Cup went to G.A. MacDonald who has been cut again by Kevin Hodges with a score of 74 - 3 - 71.

Second was Nigel Marshall, Belton Park, 100 - 28 - 72. Third John Hewson 92 - 19 - 73 of Market Rasen. Trade prize went to Peter Fell 77 - 12 - 65. Any news or ideas from the section, do not hesitate to call me on 01636 626564.

G.A. MacDonald



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Surrey

After all the rain thank goodness for the recent spell of sunshine that made the end of April and beginning of May so warm and a pleasure to be in the open air.

Alec Bradshaw must have either sold his soul or spirit or spent all of the previous Sunday praying for fine weather for the Spring Tournament at Malden Golf Club. Well, whatever he did it worked. The sun shone and shone and made this first golf day an absolute

pleasure to be part of.

The course was in excellent condition, beautifully presented and we thank Malden Golf Club for their courtesy and the catering staff for the superb meal.

The day was sponsored by Turfcare and the prizes were presented by John Hobbs.

The results were as follows:- 1. Gareth Rogers, nett 63; 2. Brian Turner nett 68 on countback; 3. Steve Holmes, nett 68; 4. Alan McDougall, nett 70. Trade prize Brian

Bowles nett 74.

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifiers are Gareth Rogers, best net and Brian Turner best gross.

There have been a few changes in Surrey and we congratulate Terry Huntley who as most members know is now Course Manager at West Hill Golf Club and James Andrews who has been appointed First Assistant at Puttenham. Ron Christie and his wife have had their second baby, this time a daughter named Beth.

Richard Evans, also of Addington Place, it must be something in the air, is a proud father for the first time to a son named Evan.

To Ron and Rick our warmest congratulations and also to Simon Haynes, from Purley Downs Golf Club, whose son, Thomas, arrived five weeks early at the beginning of the year.

Brian Willmott.

### Essex

On April 13, 40 souls ventured over to Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club for the Spring meeting of the Essex Section. It was so cold and wet I'm surprised everyone finished. Thanks to Pattersons for sponsoring the event, the club for making us so welcome and Paul for having the course in such good condition, despite the wet winter. Raffle prizes were kindly donated by Rigby Taylor, UAP, Grass Roots, Avon Crop, CMW, Does, Tuckwells, Greenkeeping Supplies and Gem.

Onto the prize winners:-

1-9 Category: Jeff Robinson-78; Andy Sheehan-80; Carl Croucher-80. 10-18 Category John Winters-77, Richard Dunmow-78; Dave Wells-80. 19-28 Category Paul Copsy-74; Malcolm Smith-78; Martin Forrester-81: Guest Prize. Sandy Anderson. Trade Prize: Andy Church, Mark Day.

Greenkeepers Supply sponsored the Longest Drive, won by Andy Sheehan and Nearest the Pin, won by Richard Pride.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Section, Daniel Harvey, Three Rivers Golf Club, Andrew Miller, The Warren Golf Club, Martin Howard and Nicholas Kikkades, of Theydon Bois Golf Club.

A special thanks goes to Graham Paul for all the hard work he does for the Section.



Now for the important bit, qualifiers for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship, best gross score- Steve Cox-83, best nett score- Chris Ward-72.

Good luck to you both.

See you all at Colchester on June 23.

Dave Wells

### East Anglia

Well what a start to spring! Sun, rain, sleet, sun again and then snow, all coupled with winds from varying directions, has meant that soil temperatures have risen and then fallen, more often than a team of continental footballers in 90 minutes play!

Wishing for at least one settled day were 49 members of the Section who entered our first golf day of 1999, which was held at the Links Golf Club, Newmarket. Threatening skies through the competition was all the heavens offered but all around the neighbouring counties heavy downpours were the order of the day. Wind though was certainly not in short supply, as it was strong, with swirling gusts enough to test any high approach shot.

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier was played over 18 holes medal play.

Results: 1-9 handicap. 1. N. Brewster, 78 nett 72; 2. T. Morton, 76 nett 72; 3. A. Carter, 78 nett 73. 10-18 handicap. 1. G. McHugh, 85 nett 73; 2. S. Sylvester, 88 nett 74; 3. S. Curtis, 88 nett 74. 19-28 handicap. 1. T. Russell, 91 nett 72; 2. E. Hart, 95 nett 74. 3. K. Titchell, 99 nett 80. Guests. 1. P. Carson 87 nett 74; 2. Mrs D. Kerchiss 99 nett 74. Nearest the pin on 9th. P. Carson, Longest drive on 18th. G. McHugh; Loo Seat. M. Day, for ditching his van on the way to the meeting.

Qualifiers for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship are N. Brewster and T. Morton. Before the link Club Captain Mr D. Orwell presented the prizes. He thanked the club's Head Greenkeeper for his hard work on the course, and presenting it in such good condition. He then went to praise all Greenkeepers and Course Managers, on behalf of all the golfers around the world.

Ian Willett thanked the Captain and then thanked Rob Boyce and his team of greenkeepers for the excellent course. Also a big thank you to our trade sponsors for their support. They are, Atterton & Ellis, Barenbrug, Colliers Turf Care, Consult Clarkson, CMW, Grass Roots Trading Company, Hardley Tools, Patissons, Rhone-Poulenc, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Tomlinson Ground Care, Toro UK, Turfcare Ltd, UAP Ltd.

The collection that has now become part of all our meetings towards the Macmillan Nurses Fund raised £44.73.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th June at Ufford Park

Golf Club, sponsored by Bartram Mowers. The match against the Essex section on the 25th August will now be played at Thorpness Golf Club, not at RAF Lackenheath.

S. Millard



**South Coast**

I am sorry there was no report in last month's magazine. I just didn't have any news. If you have anything for the Section report, please give me a call.

All those I spoke to at Westurf thought the move to West Point was a good one.

The members of the trade seemed to be a lot happier this year. There were a lot more stands than previous years. A lot of the locals also attended the show. This included bowling green greenkeepers and groundsman from the local football and cricket clubs. This must be good news for Westurf. I noted a large increase in the numbers from the South Coast this time. Well done all of you who made the effort. Adam and his Axe Men was well worth the visit. Who needs a chainsaw when you have men like that around.

There seemed to be a lot more activity at the trade stands this year. This can only be good for all concerned. Before moving on from Westurf we must thank Paula for all the hard work in organising the show. Also all the work involved in moving to the new venue. Thank you Paula and we look forward to Westurf 2000 (The Millennium).

Our summer tournament will be held at Rowlands Castle Golf Club on Thursday 22 July. It will consist of a four ball better ball played over 18 holes. Pairing is to consist of a greenkeeper and a member from his Golf Club Committee or a golfing member of his club. A greenkeeper member may play with a greenkeeper member from another club. The cost of the day will be £15.50 per head. All entries to include you and your partners names and addresses, Golf clubs, current handicaps and cheques for £31 to be sent to:- Fred Deaman, Golf Club Bungalow, Alton Golf Club, Old Odiham Road, Alton, Hants. GU34 4BU. Tel: 01420 86679. All entries to be with Fred 10 days beforehand, that is Monday 12 July.

Kerran Daly has secured a new post at Gog Magog Golf Club at Cambridge as Course Manager. We will all be sorry to lose you Kerran, you have been a keen supporter of our Section for a number of years. I am sure the Section will want me to congratulate you on your new post and wish you all the best for the future.

Lastly, Fred is compiling a team of 12 to play the Secretaries. The date is the 8 July, the venue Parkstone Golf Club. Anyone wishing to play contact Fred. If my memory serves me correct the

Secretaries won last year! I am sure that Fred will be after the best team he can find to reverse last year's result.

Ken Lodge.

**South West**

A great day was had by all the members who attended the Spring Tournament, which took place at Wells GC on April 22. Torrential rain almost postponed the event, but the weather held back and some good scores were recorded. The results were as follows:-Mark Ford, 39 points; 2. Craig Fudge, 38 point; 3. A. Knight, 38 points.

The Trade prizes went to Phil Greenway with 38 points. The sponsors of the event were Ocmis who provided some excellent prizes which were greatly appreciated. Thanks were also given to Wells GC Head Greenkeeper, Maurice Pearce, and his staff for getting the course into great shape considering the adverse weather conditions and also Ray and Pauline and the rest of the catering staff for the superb meal afterwards.

The next meeting is the Summer Tournament, which will take place at Lilley Brook GC on July 22. This event is sure to attract a large amount of interest.

I have been asked to make some enquiries as to the whereabouts of the team strip. The six shirts seem to have gone missing and are needed this year. If you know where they are, please telephone the Team Captain, Dave Bougen, on 01285-720112.

The region will donate one ticket for the BTME in January 2000. The ticket will be raffled and sold at golfing events through the rest of the year, and will be picked at the AGM or the Christmas Tournament. The price will be £1. A ticket can be obtained by contacting Peter Baynton on 01275-855321.

Turning to Education and Training, I have arranged a number of courses for the Summer and Autumn. A one day First Aid course will take place on August 17th at Cumberwell Park GC, PA1 course will take place on September 22. PA6 will take place on October 13.

Other training courses for chainsaw and abrasive wheels have been provisionally booked for late October onwards, at Hartpury, Lackham and Canmington Colleges. If you have already put your name down on the waiting lists during the last year, there is no need to contact me as I still have your name. New applications for any of the courses shown above should contact me on 01249-783382.

If you would like to go on PA2 courses, you should contact Noel Stevens on 01452 526111 and he will arrange a convenient training date.

Westurf again was excellent, with very good attendance at the event which was held at Westpoint for the first time. Thanks to Paula for her organisation.

Paul Cunningham.

**South Wales**

The new look Westurf, I must say was well worth the longer journey to Exeter for what was an excellent day. Congratulations must go to the organisers for the trade Exhibition especially to Paula Humphries. From those who attended the show it was far better being indoors, I'm sure you would agree even though it was a dry day. Thanks must also go to the Axe man who gave us superb entertainment.

The day would not have been a success without the vital time that exhibitors gave. So on behalf of the South Wales Section thanks to all and the trade for an enjoyable day.

I'll give you the update on the Spring Tournament and the golf match BIGGA versus Pencoed College next month.

A date for your diary: BIGGA versus the PGA to take place at St. Mellons Golf Club Cardiff on August 17.

Richard Hatcher 01656 742761

**Devon and Cornwall**

Westurf 99 took on a new look and a new venue which proved to be a great success as the show moved into the purpose built arena at Westpoint Exeter located just minutes off the M5 motorway. The indoor arena created a superb atmosphere very similar to BTME, allowing visitors to catch up on the latest development within our industry. Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator and the Regional Board for taking such a positive step in moving the show to Westpoint which turned out to be a great success.

Visitors also had the chance to sample the hospitality in the BIGGA stand and to meet our Chairman Gordon Child, Executive Director, Neil Thomas, and Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, who were on and to answer any questions. Educational seminars were run throughout the day with the highlight of the day being the Adam Axe men demonstrating their skills.

With all the hard work Paula has put into Westurf and the Region over the last few months with the added pressures of moving house to sunny Bude, I hope she has time to read this article while listening to the waves gently lapping against the Cornish coast line.

Richard Whyman.



**South East**

At the end of March we had our section qualifier at Royal County Down GC, Newcastle. There was a great attendance on the day appreciating the sunny weather. The championship course itself is in magnificent condition and all praise to Alan Strachan, Course

Manager and to Walter Beattie and the team for the presentation of the course.



Congratulations to our two qualifiers Noel Crawford and his brother Eamon Crawford, both greenkeepers at Royal County Down.

Also thanks to Scotts for the prizes of cut glass decanters to the winners. I would also like to thank Terry Crawford, our handicap secretary for overseeing the competition as well as chairman Graham Wylie and secretary Ken Henderson and especially to Royal County Down GC for allowing us to run the section qualifier on their course and for the courtesy they showed to BIGGA members.

I would like to welcome further new members to the section, David Lenhan, Head Greenkeeper at Milltown GC Dublin, also Michael King, Eamon Crawford, Noel Crawford and Patrick Brady all from Royal County Down GC.

One more thing to mention is a summer golf competition which will be held in early June and members will be notified.

Jonathan McCabe

See you all next month!

**THE CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY**

Redexim Charterhouse Scotts

Congratulations to the qualifiers so far in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

Keep those results coming in, and we'll highlight the qualifiers every month.