



Scottish Region  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**East**

I hope this season has got off to a good start for everyone as the weather is being a bit kinder to us all now, with courses drying out after the very wet spell this past winter.

I heard some comments about the Scottish Conference in early March and was told there were some very good speakers on the day. I had to miss out due to work commitments but will be in attendance next year.

Well done to Peter Boyd and everyone, who helped organise this year's event. So, by the time you read this we will have held our Spring Tournament at Goswick Golf Club which will also be the qualifier for the new National Tournament at Carden Park in Cheshire. Results and comments next month.

You should also have received your 1999 fixture cards and again, our thanks to Greentech Limited for sponsoring these for us. As everyone now knows the dates of fixtures etc, we hope to see a good turn-out at the Section events. After all, it's your Section, so support it! If you did not receive a fixture card, give Steve Dixon a call on 0131 443 0235 and he will get one out to you.

If anyone is on the move or has any births, marriages or photographs of interest, give me a call or drop me a line and I will be only too pleased to put it into a future edition of Greenkeeper International. We are arranging another football match, this time against Mid Lothian District Council and a report will be done after this game, hopefully with better results!

On March 24 we visited Stewart of Dalkeith's Top Dressing and Kelpie plants.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend but feedback from members was very positive. Our thanks to Graham Forbes and everyone at Stewart's from all attending, for an informative and enjoyable afternoon. This was the last of the winter lectures for 1998/99, the committee are putting together an itinerary for Winter 1999/2000, so keep an eye on this column.

Well, that's it for this month, sorry if there is not a lot, but we seem to be in a quiet period.

Usual numbers, 0131 445 7165 work phone/fax; 01620 842037 home or 07901 846 194, so come on, let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman

**North**

Congratulations to Iain Grant on his move to Head Greenkeeper at Strathlene GC, Buckie. I am sure Brian Cocker and all at Alyth will miss Iain, who was Deputy to Brian for a number of years. One of our Trade members is excelling in another sport. Andy Menmuir, of Rigby Taylor, is fishing for Scotland next month. We wish him success and tight lines!

More new members to the Section. This month we welcome Donald Mackinnon, Barra G C, and Fabrice Tournier and James Middleton, from Royal Aberdeen GC. I think that must be the full staff of Royal Aberdeen as members now. John Milne also rejoins the Section but has just moved from East Aberdeen GC to Gleneagles, so may move into the Central Section as a result.

One of my Club members came to see me with some news which might be of interest to North members. He has just returned from New Zealand, and while having a drink in a pub in the South Island, was approached by someone and asked if he was from Tain as he was wearing a Tain GC jersey. It turned out that the gentleman in question was Steve Macdonald, formerly a greenkeeper at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC. Last I heard of Steve he was working in Holland and was in an article in this magazine about working in Europe. He is now working on a golf course in New Zealand, thoroughly enjoying life down under and is applying for Citizenship. We wish him all the best. If he ever gets up to the North Island, he should call on another Scotsman, Willie Carnegie, Head Greenkeeper at Redwood Park GC in Swanson, Waitakere City. I met Willie a couple of years ago at The Open and he came up to Tain for a game a couple of weeks later. He is a BIGGA member and so will see this. I hope all is well down under Willie.

Have you paid for your 200 Club ticket yet? The first draws are this month at the Spring outing in Inverness on the 18th. A big entry is expected, so see you there.

Remember, this is your chance to win an expenses paid entry into the Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Championship at Carden Park on October 3 - 5. The best scratch and overall best net score on the day will win these trips. Next year, qualification will be combined Spring and Autumn scores, meaning you have to play both events and score well twice.

All D32/33 Assessors note there will be a Moderation meeting this month. Please try to attend, even if you are not assessing yet as we need to keep everyone informed of matters concerning education and the GTC, so these meetings are the

ideal opportunity to do just that and hopefully answer any questions you might have.

Anyone with news items or who wants to get in touch with me please note my new phone number: 07788 923214 and yes it still vibrates!

I A Macleod

**Ayrshire**

I pen these notes on a dull dreary Easter Monday evening which has seen the recent short spell of good weather come to an end. My only consolation is that the rain is washing in my Spring fertiliser.

A good few members are on the move to new jobs. I'll start with nearest to home by introducing George Morrison as my new Deputy Head Greenkeeper. George moves to Largs from West Kilbride where he has worked from apprenticeship. Staying in Largs, this time at Routenburn, Ian Donaldson has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper after Marshall Sloss's departure to Beith GC. Jim Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Ardeer GC, is moving to the trade Section as a representative for Ruffords. Jim's job will be filled by Steven Higgins who receives internal promotion. The much sought after position of Head Greenkeeper at Western Gables GC is to be filled by Jim Devlin, who moves from Royal Troon where he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

This position has become available due to Stewart Barr's imminent retirement after approximately 27 years service. The Section wishes Stewart well for his retirement and also congratulations and good luck to all the aforementioned greenkeepers who are moving to new jobs.

I will bring reports from the Committee Meeting and the Spring outing at Ballochmyle GC next month along with any other news. If you have any, call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

**Central**

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent death of one of our former committee members, Jock Armstrong. Many of you will remember Jock as the jovial rep from Souter's of Stirling who went out of his way to help many a greenkeeper, even if they were not one of his customers and nothing was too much bother to him. He was appointed to represent the Trade on the Section committee at its inauguration on Thursday, 20 November, 1980 and served us well until 1989, when he felt it was time a younger person should have a chance. To say the

committee meetings were never the same after he retired is putting it mildly. As his successor (KB) never managed to organise the coffee and biscuits as well as Jock did.

The sincere condolences of the committee and members of the Central Section go to Jock's wife May and family at this very sad time.

This month sees another three new members joining us and they are Brian Heggie, from St. Andrews; Vincent Green, from Bridgend and District GC, and Kevin Wilkie from Stirling GC. Once again we extend an invitation to them to join us at some of our future events. This brings the number of new members this year, so far, to 32 which is very encouraging and hopefully we can keep the numbers increasing.

Bringing the Section Past Chairmen up to date this month they are: 1993/4, Jim Easton, who was at Stirling GC, and now at a club in London. 1994/7, John Crawford, who was at Stirling GC and is still at Stirling. 1997/to date Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC.

Best wishes for the future from everyone in the Section go to members Simon Freeman, who is leaving Crieff Hydro Golf Centre to take over at Machrie Golf Club on Islay, and Steven Ewing, who takes over as Course Manager at Letham Grange, where he was Deputy Course Manager.

In the annual match against the Golf club Secretaries held at Lanark last month, the Scottish Region of BIGGA regained the trophy and I'm glad to report that three members of the section, A. Dunn, A. O'Hara and D. Scott played their part in the winning team. If any member is interested in representing the Section in this annual match, which is held at a different venue each year, please get in touch with me and I will keep you in mind for the next match.

Ten teams have entered the Inter Club Tournament and drawn into two leagues of five with the winners of each league meeting in the final. Would team captains please ensure that each round is played within the given dates!

John Crawford.

**West**

Just a few items to report on this month. Firstly the West Section's Education Seminar held at Crow Wood GC. Chaired by Paul Brannan the topics included an overview of COSHH and what it means to us all and how we will be affected by changes now and in



the near future. Secondly, the effects of microbial activity within the soil profile and how to sustain these precious life forms for the long term benefit of the grass plant. Lastly, Steven Hogg, Head Greenkeeper of Crow Wood GC, spoke about the basic uses of the Weather Station. The emphasis with this apparatus is the potential to record and store data over given periods of time. Such records could enable us to predict the best time at which to apply pesticides and fertilisers, thereby reducing the costly expense of misjudged applications. Thanks go to Steven Hogg and Crow Wood GC for allowing us use of their clubhouse and facilities. Many thanks to CSC for their time and effort in presenting and organising this seminar. Well done.

On now to the Conveners' match held at Cawder GC. I understand that the day went very well and that the weather even managed to behave itself. The results for the day are: Winners, Cowglen GC, 38 pts. Scott Ballantyne and partner, runners up Balmore GC, 36 pts. Charlie Goodall and partner.

Thanks to Neil and all the staff for preparing the course, to Cawder GC for allowing us to share their facilities and thanks also to the bar and catering staff in attendance. Thanks also to the two sponsors of this event, Aitkens and SGM. Both Richard Aitken and David McNroy, in attendance on the day.

Now a report on a football match played last Thursday, April Fools Day no less. An 11-a-side game held at the University Science Parks, a sportsmanlike group of Greenkeepers v East Kilbride YM. Word has it that the game was quite a toughie. Despite Stuart Taylor's rallying cries of "Come on the Greenies" and with the astro turf surface playing havoc with limbs etc, the E. Kilbride boys took an early lead with Gerry Bruen scoring the equaliser and, alas, the only goal for the Greenkeepers. Finishing with only ten men after Sandy Brawley's sending off under mitigating circumstances!! the final score was 4-1.

Rumour has it that on the day some of the Greenkeepers may have been carrying extra baggage under their shirts! Ah well, at least you will all be in shape for the next match won't you?

Thanks to Stuart Taylor for arranging the game and please remember to contact him of you wish to partake on 0141 992 5554.

Finally, if anyone has any news of interest, ie. promotions, births, deaths etc., please contact me on 0141 776 1532 or 07050 173080 (mobile).

Gavin Jarvis



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

#### North

Congratulations to Jonathan Leach on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Queensbury Golf Club. Jonathan has moved from Outlane Golf Club, where he had been Deputy Head Greenkeeper for the past four years.

Congratulations to Andrew Clarke who has taken the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Hollins Hall Golf Club near Bradford. Andrew has moved from Settle Golf Club where he was Head Greenkeeper.

All of this year's golfing venues and dates have now been finalised. Anyone wishing to book a place at any of the events must let me have their names and money at least one week before the date. Spring Tournament; Hornsea G.C. 4 April, sponsored by F.G. Adamson; President's Day; South Leeds G.C. 8 June, sponsored by Greenpride; Invitation Day; Shipley G.C. 4 August, sponsored by County Crops/Biotol; Roses Match; Howley Hall G.C. 18 August, sponsored by Pattissons; Autumn Tournament. Bradford G.C. 20 October, sponsored by RiteFeed. Winter Tournament; Fulford G.C. 8 December, sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

If anyone has any news or information from within the Section or wishes to place their names and money down for one of the above events, please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755. Alternatively by post at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

#### North East

Just to remind members of what's happening this year on the golf competition. We are now having a summer competition on July 22, at Garesfield GC. Tee off time is between 2.30pm-4pm. All cups that were normally played for in the Autumn competition are to be brought forward for this event in the future.

The Autumn competition will still be played but in a different format. Just to remind members that it will be played at Carlisle and if there is enough interest we shall be laying on a coach for the day.

Graham Chambers, of Longhirst Golf Club, informed me that work is to commence on a further nine holes starting in May.

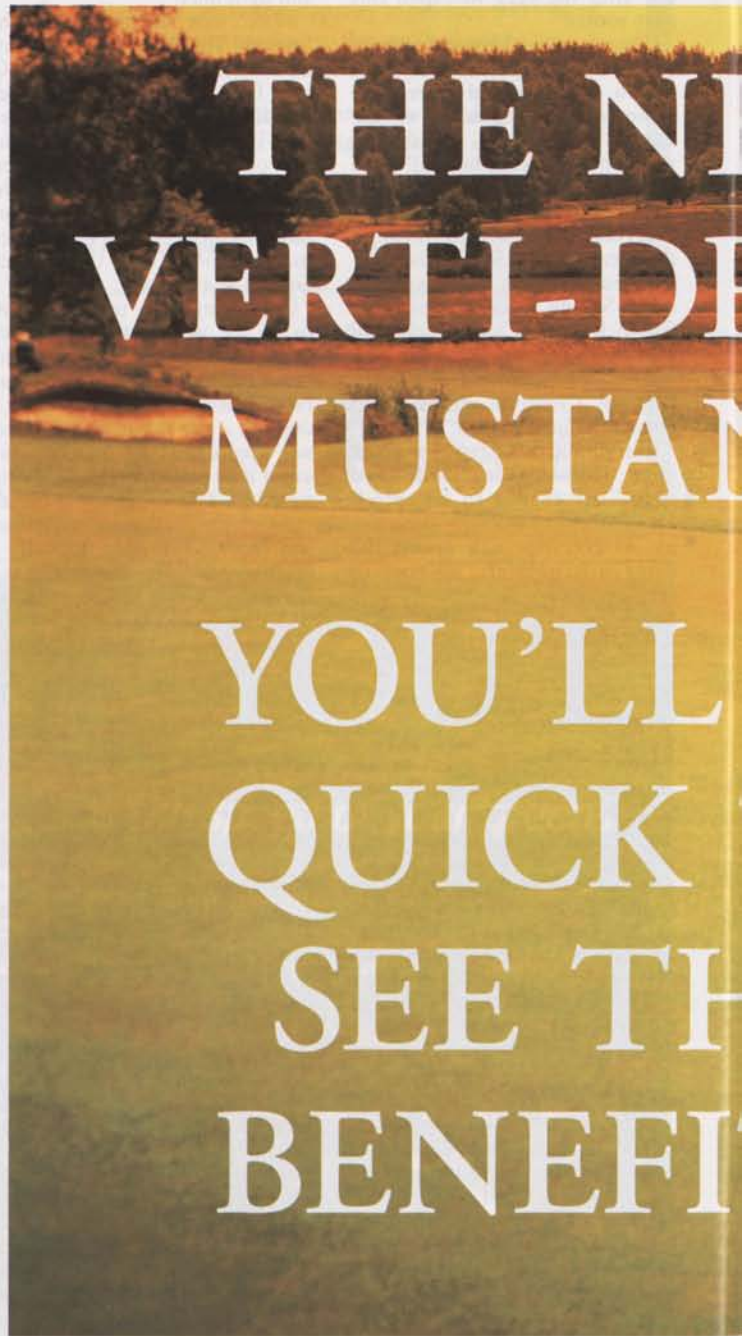
Alan Harrison of Garesfield has recently been promoted from assistant to the position of First Assistant.

Jimmy Richardson

#### Sheffield

On 14 March we held our final Winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club and I would like to pass on my thanks for once again letting us use their facilities. The first lecture was given by Mr Crowther from Glenside Organics on organic fertilisers and the second

lecture was given by Mr Hodgkiss from Perryfields Holdings, formerly Johnsons seeds, on grass seeds. I would like to express my thanks to the two gentlemen for an excellent lecture and also thanks to Roy Ullathorne for organising the Winter lectures once again.



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On the golfing scene our annual competition will be held at Abbeydale Golf Club on Monday 12 July.

John Lax

**Cleveland**

The Section had two lectures on 16 March. Turfcare had an Open

Day at Ramside GC. It was very well attended by both greenkeepers and groundsmen. The speakers were very interesting and everyone came away a bit wiser. As usual Terry Charlton put on a very good day. The meal was excellent. Our thanks to Roger Shaw and his staff for letting us

loose on his course with the demo gear.

The second lecture was on the night at Darlington GC. The speaker was Gordon Holms from CSC on Risk Assessment. About 20 greenkeepers attended.

All seemed to enjoy it and our thanks to the Darlington Steward

for a first class supper.

Once again any news, let me know at work 0191 378007 or home 0191 3781912. Next Section news will have the latest from our Spring Tournament.

That should make riveting reading!

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.



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### North Wales

Easter is upon us and, wow, the weather's lovely. This time last year we had about nine inches of snow. Oh, the British weather - don't you just love it!

On March 10 we held a seminar at the college on Water Management and the movement of water through the soil and the effects of wetting agents. It was very educational and I'm glad to say, very well supported. I never got the exact figures but suffice to say if we can get that many members interested in future lectures etc., then it will certainly be worthwhile organising them. If any of you out there have any suggestions, please let me know.

I am now starting to go through the process of becoming the Internal Verifier for Wales with the GTC (at long last) and, hopefully, by the time all you assessors read this, you should have had your first moderation meeting with Howard McAddy and myself. Fingers crossed.

I haven't got any college news this month as they are on their Easter break as I write, and to be quite honest, I haven't got anything else to write about either, so if there is anything you want mentioning, please get in touch.

Membership News. It's welcome back to Dave Proctor of Storws Wen Golf Club and also Nicholas Pearson, Nigel Barton, Damian Isado and Stuart Macdonald, all of North Wales Golf Club. Hope to see you all at our future events.

That's all folks.  
Dave Goodridge.

### North West

The Seminar at Mere G&CC on March 23 was attended by 64 delegates who enjoyed an excellent day's education. The day started with an excellent talk and slide show by John Nicholson of Eamon Wall & Co. The subject of his talk was "History of Trees in Golf

Course Architecture" and this man knows his trees. John has worked for Eamon Wall for a number of years and has advised over 150 golf courses ranging from new courses to long established courses, covering all aspects of woodland design and management. The talk was very interesting and also the advice on the availability of grants for tree planting.

The second speaker was Alan Gibbons, of Physio Control, whose talk was entitled "The need for Early Defibrillation." A defibrillator, for those who do not know, is a machine that can re-start the heart by means of electric shock treatment.

Alan had brought along a portable machine which could become an essential part of the first aid kit on golf courses. After an excellent lunch the seminar continued with Richard Stillwell, Director of Greenkeeping PGA European Tour, whose talk was "Preparing Golf Courses for European Tour Events." Richard has been greenkeeping for 34 years and has been Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl and Royal Dublin before starting his own advisory company. For the past 12 years he has been consultant to the PGA European Tour, preparing for over 300 tournaments including three Ryder Cups, the Volvo Masters and has travelled to every country in Europe. A folder on "Course Preparation Guidelines" was given to all delegates and Richard spoke on all aspects of the paper starting with preparation months in advance to the final things like out of bounds markings, Hazard markings, GUR etc. This was an excellent talk and he stressed that the tournament director and agronomist will work closely with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. The final speaker of the day was Jim Croxton, Regional Secretary PGA North Region, and his subject was "Rules of Golf

Related to Greenkeeping." This was obviously a very interesting subject for a greenkeepers' seminar and of course many questions were asked and answered.

The old question of bunker rakes was raised and argued about, where do you leave the rake, in the bunker or out. The answer appears to be as close to the bunker without interfering with play.

I would like to thank all the speakers for making this an excellent seminar, Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and caterers and all the delegates who attended.

The next golf tournament will be the "Summer Tournament," at Longridge GC, on Thursday June 17. All applications to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RB, including a cheque for £15. Applications must be in by Saturday 12 June. Any news or queries, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midlands

This year's Better-Ball Pairs Tournament will be hosted by Charnwood Forest GC on August 23 and will be played over 9 holes. This will hopefully be followed by an evening lecture. Anybody interested in playing or attending the lecture will find further details in future editions of this column. This year's Regional Seminar will be held at Mentmore GC on Wednesday, November 17 and promises to be full of high profile speakers. Further details will follow in future editions, but it is hoped that many more members will sup-

port this annual event.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Steve Goode all the best in his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Kilworth Springs GC. Steve formerly worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Lingdale GC.

Antony Bindley



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Essex

Risk assessment. Two words that put fear into most people, but Jon Albutt put us right on a Health & Safety evening at Writtle College. It was an eye opener for me and the 30 greenkeepers present. An interesting evening. Thanks Jon and thanks to Doug, at Grass Roots Trading Company, for sponsoring the evening.

My Greens Chairman and I had a great day out at Walton Heath at the Gentleman's dinner. Good to see some Essex boys there. None of us won anything but it was a good day out with Clive having the course in pristine condition as usual. Derek, you owe me a glass of red wine. Don't leave the country!

New Members: Bob Spurway, Richard Linnen, Colin Robinson, Richard Wood, Tony Goddard all of Upminster GC; Andrew Taylor, Bishop Stortford GC; Steven Tovey, Jay Clark of Orgett GC; Ian Morrison, Saffron Walden GC and Michael Oakeg of Rochford Hundred GC.

The draw for the singles match play is as follows: R. Pride versus M. Forrester, R. Hughes versus M. Allen, D. Wells versus I. Mitchell, W. Wingfield versus S. Reeves.

That's all for now. Risk Assessment, where do I start?  
Dave Wells. 01702 522202

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**South West and South Wales**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352194

**Devon & Cornwall**

Dartmouth Golf & Country Club was the venue for the Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf March meeting held on Wednesday March 24. Unfortunately, on arrival, the rain started to fall which made playing conditions over Dartmouth's excellently prepared course, very difficult. Our non-golfing members departed the clubhouse on the now customary tour of the course, but with the weather closing in, they headed for the greenkeeping compound before returning to the warm dry clubhouse. After a superb lunch Paul Clifton, Rhone Poulenc, and John Mullins, Supaturf, representing our sponsors for the day, both gave a short presentation on their respective companies before presenting the golf prizes.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade 1. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion, 33 pts on back 9. 2. Tony Ramsden, Budock Vean, 33 pts. 3. Jonathan Bullen, Staddon Heights, 31 pts. Rhone Poulenc Trophy for Assistants. 1. Tony James, Tehidy, 36 pts, 2. Alan Gawman, St Mellion, 35 pts. 3. Terry Pascoe, Budock Vean, 34 pts.

Congratulations to Gordon Tamblin on his successful defence of the Supaturf Trophy after yet another strong challenge from Tony Ramsden who finished second again! Also, congratulations to Tony James on winning the Rhone Poulenc Trophy. It was nice to see so many Cornishmen in the prizes.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day with Billy Spratt, of Phoenix Irrigation Services, presenting his excellent talk on "Starting your Irrigation System for the Season Ahead."

The Section would like to thank Billy for his superb presentation. Also, the Section would like to thank the day's sponsors, Supaturf and Rhone Poulenc for their continued support and to Dartmouth Golf and Country Club for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities, and to all of Dartmouth's staff who made our day run so smoothly with special thanks to our Chairman, Terry Farkins, and his crew who had the course presented in superb condition.

Your attention is drawn to the pesticide courses the Section will be holding over the forthcoming months as the grandfather's clause for operators being withdrawn in the very near future. For more information please contact me on 01288 353438.

Richard Whyman



**National Championship**  
Qualifiers: Gross score Alan Gawman, St Mellion, Net score Tony James, Tehidy.

**South West**

The hot and sunny month of May has now arrived and it's time to rummage through the cupboards and wardrobe and grab those essential summer items of the modern greenkeeper. These include an ill-fitting pair of tight shorts and a cheap and dodgy looking pair of black sunglasses picked up on a day trip to Western-super-Mare.

Hopefully by now the post August syndrome will have faded away and most of your members will be appreciating your efforts and hard work over the Winter and Spring months with a big improvement in the condition of the golf course.

The better weather should allow for some excellent golfing days this

Summer. The next tournament is the Greenkeeper/Amateur event which will be held at Tall Pines GC on 18 May. All entries must be received by the 14 May. In June there is a match against the South West Secretaries which will take place on the 16 June at Enmore Park GC.

Congratulations go to Dave Bougen on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cirencester Golf Club. Dave, who has moved from Bath GC, is also Team Captain for the South West Section. Anyone who needs to contact him about team affairs should telephone him on his new number which is 01285 720112.

Now, turning to Education and training. I am still building up a list of names for each course which BIGGA can run. Many of these courses just need a few more places to be filled before the course can actually be arranged and run. In February we ran a Fire Safety for Greenkeepers day at Gloucester Fire Station which was a big success. I am also hoping to run a one day First Aid course in June. If you would like to add your name to this list or to any other course we can run, then please contact me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

**South Wales**

Unfortunately there is very little to bring you up to date with this month, which leads me to explain that our fixtures have not yet taken place when these notes go to press. Hopefully you all should have received this year's fixture list, but if not, please contact our Section Secretary, Peter Lacey, who I'm sure will be of assistance in sending you one.

I'm sure everything went well at WESTURF this year but I'll bring you up to date next month with the ins and outs.

You would also have played the Spring tournament at Southern-

down GC, so I'll also bring you up to date with that next month. A date for your diary: BIGGA versus Pencoed College Golf Match on 2 June at the College golf course with a 5.30 pm tee off time. After, weather permitting, we may have a barbecue. Anyone with any information please contact me Tel: 01656 742761

Richard Hatcher

**Northern Ireland**

**North East**

On 25 March we had our Section qualifier for the National Championship on 3 to 5 October to be held at Carden Park, Chester. The qualifying was held at Royal Co. Down. We would like to thank all who turned up on what was a very enjoyable day. The course was in excellent condition with very fast greens. Our thanks to all at Royal Co. Down.

Finally, we would like to welcome our newest member Connor McLaughlin from Donegal who is currently working at Stakis Park. Congratulations to Mark Cassidy who is leaving Stakis Park to take up the job of Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Lurgan GC.

We wish you all the best in your new position. Mentioned twice in two months, Mark is this a sign of things to come?... Good Luck.

Eamonn Farrell



The best net was Nick Webber and the best gross was Alison Sloan. First reserve is Pat Devine and second reserve is Mark Farrell.

See you all next month!

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