



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

## North

Is it really Christmas time again already? This year seems to have flown by, or am I just getting older?

The Section AGM took place at Royal Aberdeen GC at the end of October preceded by the annual Chairman versus Vice Chairman golf match for the Daval Trophy. We had an eleven a side match with one pair and five four balls. Victory went to the Vice Chairman's team by four matches to two. Thanks to all who played and Dennis Slater, of Daval, for presenting the trophy. A big thank you to Robert Patterson and his staff for a lovely golf course, the front nine of which is as good as any course in the world as it winds its way through the high dunes.

The meeting passed off very smoothly. The new Vice Chairman is Stewart MacBain who takes over from Wilson Morrison. We must thank Wilson for his hard work on the committee over the years. Welcome to Robert Hardie who comes on the committee in Wilson's place. A full list of committee duties will be in next month's magazine (if I remember to do it).

The final four winners in the Section 200 Club are: September £30 No 67 Gordon Moir, St Andrews. October £30 No 41 Colin Forbes, Aboyne. November £30 No 63 Alex Cruickshank, Ayrshire. December £100 No 58 Iain Grant, Buckie. Thanks to all who bought tickets and McNabs Sports for being this year's sponsors.

I had the hard task of helping to select the two representatives from the Scottish Region to go to Canada next February courtesy of Bernhards. All five candidates were excellent and would have been good ambassadors for the Region, but only two could go, so congratulations to Archie Dunn and Andrew Forrest on their selection. Hard lines to the other three, especially our Section representative, Hugh MacLachlan. Your turn will come, I am sure.

Once again the Region is running a bus to BTME next month and anyone interested should phone Peter Boyd on 0141 6163 440 for further details. This is a great trip and is subsidised by the Region so as many members as possible can attend, so come and join us in Harrogate for the event of the year.

Following on from Gordon Moir's promotion at St Andrews to Links Manager, Gordon McKie has been made up to Head Greenkeeper of the Eden course. Well done Gordon and maybe you will come back to the North Section as you are moving back over the Forth bridge.

Finally a very Happy Christmas to everybody out there and I hope 2001 brings you all you wish for.

I A Macleod

## East

Since I last wrote a number of things have happened in the section. Firstly

we have won the annual Norrie Whittock trophy for the first time beating all the Sections in Scotland. We have been runners up a couple of times so this makes up for it. Well done to the lads and hopefully we can retain it next year. The Section also defeated the north east of England greenkeepers at Tyneside GC for the first time since 1988 to win the Stewarts Quaich in the annual Stewarts match which is sponsored by Stewarts of Dalkieth. Thanks again to Robert T Bruce and John Geddes who were our hosts for a very enjoyable day. Also Tyneside GC clubhouse staff who looked after us extremely well, and the greenstaff, whose course was in great condition considering the terrible weather we were having at the time. So thanks to everyone for a great day and we look forward to next year's match when hopefully we can retain the trophy.

The Annual General Meeting took place on November 1, at Kingsknowe GC where our sponsors for the day were Thomas Sheriff and Co who put on a good talk for us on the John Deere range of equipment which was very informative and also supplied us with a very nice buffet lunch. Thanks to Andrew Harkness and Willie Ness of T Sheriff and Co for a great day.

The AGM took place in the afternoon and passed very quietly. There are a few changes to the committee; Stewart Greenwood has now completed his time as Chairman and takes his place on the committee as Past Chairman. Well done to Stuart for his time in office as the Section is now even bigger and better than it was when he took over. His time in office done so well, and we look forward to having you on the committee, with us, Stuart.

The new Chairman is Tom Murray, Ratho Park. Tom is thoroughly looking forward to the job ahead and can't wait to get started, so all the best to Tom in his time as Chairman. Tom's Vice Chairman is yours truly, Chris Yeaman, West Linton GC. Tom asked me to be his Vice Chairman and I was delighted to accept his offer, and I am looking forward to the next few years. Graham Wood, Dunbar GC, has stepped down from the committee after a number of years with us, and we would like to thank Graham for all his hard work, and wish him all the best for the future.

Our new committee member who is making a welcome return is Peter Ormiston, Uphall GC. Well done Peter and we look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the new committee. The annual dance will have taken place by the time you read this slightly earlier than normal so a report next month. If you are going to BTME 2001 you had better get your entry forms back to Peter Boyd ASAP as we are getting more Scottish greenkeepers going each year so hurry and don't miss out.

Well that's it all this month - if you want to get in touch just use the usual phone numbers and email address. So, as this is the last column of the year, the section would like to wish all members and friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and I would like to extend that to all members of BIGGA

and all staff at HQ and also Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator and all the other administrators across the country. I hope I will speak to you all at BTME2001 in January.

Till then, bye for now,  
Chris Yeaman.

## Central

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent death of one of the Section's Past Chairmen, Jimmy Lees. Jimmy was a founder member of the Section being the first Vice Chairman in 1980 and becoming Chairman in 1981. He served on the committee for a good number of years and was a strong supporter of section events even after his retirement as Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Course. He will be sadly missed and our sincere condolences go to his family at this very trying time.

Well, the Section AGM was held on October 31 at SGM House, Inverkeithing, when a whole 15 members took the time to attend! You don't know what you missed! Scottish Grass Machinery organised a visit to St. Andrews, a presentation on SGM and a tour of their facilities prior to the meeting. Our sincere thanks go to Steven McInroy and everyone at SGM for an excellent day. As far as the AGM was concerned we had a very successful meeting and YOUR committee for the coming year is Chairman, A. O'Hara, Vice Chairman, S. Sime. Past Chairman, A. Dunn, Sec/Treas. J. Crawford, Committee D. Scott, G. Mitchell, S. Cruickshank, A. Collier, Patron's representatives P. Langdon and K. Brunton.

Congratulations go to Past Chairman Archie Dunn on being selected to represent BIGGA at the CGSA Conference in Vancouver next year.

Archie will visit Canada in February next year along with the other selected members for what should be a memorable trip. Well done, Archie!

Joining the Section this month are Michael Romaszkiwicz, from Montrose Links; Brian Needs, from Towers of Lathandy, and Stuart Manattini, from Murrayshall Golf Club. Once again we extend a warm and welcome to the Section and we hope to see you at some of our events in the not too distant future. Membership of the Section is still on the increase and this year we welcomed new members every month. Let's hope we can do the same next year.

The Section's recipients of this year's Patrons' Awards are Kenny Thomson, from Tulliallan Golf Club, and James Seivwright, from Auchterarder Golf Club. Both will receive an expenses paid trip (not including liquid refreshments) to BTME at Harrogate in January. See what can be achieved if you support BIGGA events!

Remember your "Club 2000" tickets have to be sold or returned to me by the end of this month in order that everyone's number can be included in the January draw. The winner of this month's big draw is Alex Robertson - yes it's that man again! - from Grangemouth Golf Course, with ticket number 539. There must be something about that area which attracts winning numbers.

As we come to the end of another year. Where did it go? I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with special thanks to everyone who supported the Section, the Patrons of the Scottish Region and the numerous golf clubs who give us their support year in year out.

John Crawford.

## West

Thursday 26th October, the West Section's annual AGM and another disappointing show of members.

John Scott, on behalf of Claremont BC, stated, and quite rightly so, that if attendance is poor again, the use of their clubhouse facilities will cease forthwith! So, to the AGM, Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie GC, took over from Brian Hillen, Drumpellier GC as Section Chairman, for a two year term.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Brian, who breathed a huge sigh of relief after we exchanged our respective posts, for firstly his extended length of service as chairman - two years - for all his input and enthusiasm at meetings and the like. At least we have still got hold of you for a little while longer, eh, Brian! Upon taking the chair I proposed Brian Bolland as my vice. Brian was seconded from the floor and took up his new appointment.

There were two vacancies to fill on committee this year, John Scott Jnr, Scottish Chairman, and Stuart Taylor came off ending a lengthy service and dedicated hard work for the West Section. Thanks to both of you for your sterling efforts.

The lucky pair to join the committee were John Robertson, Hilton Park GC, and Gerry Bruen, East Kilbride GC. Welcome aboard to you both, I hope you enjoy your time serving on committee.

Ronnie Bunting announced at the AGM that there would be a Moderators' meeting in January at the Central Station Hotel, date to be confirmed.

Patron's Awards were offered this year to Brian Bolland, E. Kilbride GC, and Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie GC. Naturally, we both accepted and would like to thank the Patrons for this wonderful award. We both look forward to attending BTME in January 2001.

The games on this occasion were limited to four - snooker, pool, dominoes and bowls. The undisputed winning pair were John Scott Jr and Brian Bolland. Well done to you, guys. The last draw of the 100 Club was drawn with the winning ticket number 19 and the lucky holder for £50 was K. Collins, E. Kilbride GC. Thanks to those of you who made the effort to show up on the evening.

Friday October 31, the visit to Elmwood College and Elmwood Golf Developments (EGD), and unfortunately another poor turnout as only nine members appeared. I must say that the attendance at some of these outings is absolutely pitiful, considering the number of members in our Section. I would ask you to consider and offer the committee some positive feedback that may help us generate more interest in organising future

events and venues.

However, back to Elmwood. For the benefit of members who did not attend I can only say what an excellent day you all missed. John Quinn, Director of EGD, and Huw Parry, Deputy Principal of Elmwood College, gave us a talk in the morning and a look around some specific areas in the college. Later, we were taken up to EGD for a look at the greenkeepers' utility area. Thereafter we had a lovely lunch in the Fairways Clubhouse. After lunch seven members played 9 holes of golf and the remainder were taken to the Scottish National Golf Centre. An amazing complex that I would recommend to anyone, a must see.

Truly well-thought out, offering youngsters and even old duffers like me, an incentive to improve their handicap. I greatly appreciate the members who attended on the day.

The Scottish Region have organised a coach and accommodation package to BTME in January. Please contact Peter Boyd if you are interested and wish to make a reservation. The education conference will be on March 6, 2001 at Lauder College, hope to see lots of faces there.

Lastly, I would just like to wish all members a good year for the new season ahead.

Gavin Jarvis 07050 173080



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

**Northern**

The Christmas golf is at Huddersfield GC on 6 December at 10am. Please note that this is a bring and win a prize with a minimum value of £5. Also the AGM will follow the golf at 6.30pm.

A packed attendance for our autumn tournament at Hornsea GC with many new faces ensured an enjoyable day with the sun out as well. Thanks to F & G Adamsons for sponsoring the event and Head Greenkeeper, Roger Bielby and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course. Format for the day was 3/4 hcp and the prizes were dished out as follows:- Div 1. 1. Alan Baxter 34pts; 2. Mark Price 32pts; 3. Roger Bielby. Div 2. 1. Robin Smith 32pts; 2. Lee Garrad 30pts; 3. Tito Arna 27pts. Div 3. 1. Michael Gregson 23pts; 2. Jim Brown 19pts; 3. John Stuttard 17pts. The U40's went to Richard Barker and the trade prize went to Mel Guy.

The Longest Drive went to Michael Gregson, Nearest the Pin to Roger Bielby.

Thanks to Acorn for sponsoring the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin. There was only one winner in the 2' s club and guess who walked off with £30. Yeah, it was a certain Mr Bielby. Well done Roger. I would like to thank everyone for contributing to the raffle with all proceeds going to John Waite. You raised £100 on the day.

Last month was the Section Seminar which was well attended at Howley

Hall GC and I would like to thank Lubemaster, Amenity Technology, Aitkins, Barenbrug for sponsoring the event and John Dobson, Robert Laycock, Howard McAddy and Jim Croxten for speaking.

If you have any queries don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring. There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188 / mobile 07790 678572, or email: andy\_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

**North East**

On October 5 we had the annual match against our old friends from the East of Scotland Section and this time they came out the winners by 4-2. Rumour has it they brought in a few ringers - not to worry lads you only have a loan of the trophy for a year.

I would like to thank Steve Pope for re-arranging the game to Tyneside at very short notice as the venue was to have been at Gosforth GC but it was closed due to heavy rain.

Thanks also to Tyneside GC for coming to the rescue on the day and also to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the event.

Graham Chambers, of Longhurst Hall GC, has informed me that the new 11 holes are progressing very well and should equal the quality they already have by opening date next August. Work has already started on the remaining seven holes due for 2003 and this will give them 36 holes with planning for another 18 in the future.

Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, has also been busy as they bought adjoining land for extension to 20 holes and at a later date work it in to a challenging 18 holes with the odd alteration on the existing course.

As you can see, people are getting in touch with news. I can't print it if I don't get it!

Jimmy Richardson

**North West**

Almost the last day in October and the sun is shining brightly, giving the impression that all is well outside. Wrong; the ground is just about at saturation point after continual rain for what appears to be the last two months. Some parts of the country have had it much worse than the north west, but nevertheless we have certainly had our share of the wet stuff. I am sure that most of you are struggling to keep the courses open at the moment, apart from getting any winter work done, so lets hope for some good drying winds to enable you to get some drainage work done.

We had a poor response of applications for the free trip to the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Vancouver next February from the north west section. Only two applications came from the Section, and one of those withdrew at the last minute, but the six finalists (one from each Section in the Region) came over very well in the interviews, making it a difficult task to choose the final two. I am pleased to say that Anthony Davies, Prestbury GC, was

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one of the winners, and Jimmy Richardson, North East Secretary, was the second winner. The BIGGA delegation to the show has been sponsored by Bernhard & Co, ten members in all, and apart from enjoying the trip, they will be expected to represent BIGGA in a proper manner.

Well that seems to be all the news for now. I am just preparing for my 20 day trip to Africa, and the hot sunny days. In the meantime I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross Tel: 0151 724 5412

### Cleveland

This month at the Wynyard Club we have been putting the finishing touches to our ark and have been loading the animals in two by two, also life jackets have been issued as P.P.E. The irrigation system has been closed down as Course Manager Gary Munro decided that we probably wouldn't need it again till spring!

The autumn tournament took place at Durham City GC last month. I was unable to attend but my roving reporter informs me that the course was in excellent condition, so thanks and well done to course manager Stan Shotton and his staff for their efforts.

The event was sponsored by Sportlands. Many thanks to them for their support. Their representative Allen Kellady won the guest's prize in his first greenkeepers' event. Also winning a prize in his first event was Liam McGeough, stealing the booby prize from his younger brother Titch. Chris Powley, of Dinsdale Spa GC, won the event and nearest the pin and Tony Burge, Head Greenkeeper at Richmond GC, came second and got the longest drive. No comment!

Any news contact me on: Mobile - 07719 193381

Steven Jaques

### North Wales

Greenkeeping, what a profession! Water, water, everywhere and a huge headache for all of us, winter programmes finished before they have even started, stress, stress and more stress.

Our autumn meeting was eventually played at Bull Bay, with 37 players in attendance. A bright but windy day made for testing golf. In the nearest the pin competition, not one member hit the green. However Bob Bolland, of ALS did, and claimed the guest's prize.

The rest of the prizes were; Best Gross Allen Lewis, 77pts Stableford 1. Andy Peel, 34pts; 2. Shaun Pritchard, 33pts. Guests 1. John Burns (pro Bull Bay) 29pts; 2. Ken Baker 27pts. Trade yet again, Andy Cornes, Acorn Equipment, with a storming 27pts. Longest drive, member, George Whitby and guest, John Burns (again). Thanks go to Bull Bay for offering us the use of their splendid course; to Andy Peel and his team for the preparation and presentation of the course; the bar staff for the liquid refreshment and the caterers for an excellent meal.

Thanks also go to our trade sponsors Paul Walker, ALS, John Osman, Acorn, Gem, Sports World, Aitkens and Major R Owen, without who, the prize table would not be anywhere near as good.

Terry Adamson drove in as captain at Northop Country Park in October. Wishing you an excellent year with better weather than this year mate. Congratulations go out to Gavin Clarke and Sharon on the birth of a baby boy and Paul Massey and Janice also a baby boy, both couples having called their sons Thomas.

Finally it is with regret that I am not standing for committee this year due to increasing pressures in my private life. I would just like to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Section as Chairman. I thank all of you as members for your support and my fellow committee members for making everything go as smoothly as possible. So, the election papers are sent to your house, please think about serving on committee. You will get something out of the experience, honestly. Here's to a Happy Christmas and a dry New Year!

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region  
Les Emery  
Tel: 0116 287 9036

### Midland

I hope everybody has dried out from the deluge of rain that closed most of our courses during late October and early November. At the time of writing this report most of the courses in our area have been closed for over a week. Records show that in the region of 20mm of rain has fallen during October. Is this the shape of things to come?

Anyway, on with the news. The Rigby Taylor Doubles Final has been played and the eventual winners were Mike Gash, from Moseley GC, and Rob Shaw, from Gaudet Luce GC, who defeated Julian Chesson and Richard Thwaites, both from Three Hammers Golf Complex. The Final was played over the Duchess course at Woburn. Many thanks go to Steve Blakeman, who organised the day, and also Tony Cheese, who helped with the smooth running of the day.

The Committee Cup has also been played and the winner this year was Eddie Stant from Penn GC. The Cup was played at Shirley GC and many thanks to Andrew Smith and his staff for presenting the course in such good condition.

Finally, it remains for me to remind you of the Christmas tournament and AGM to be held at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on Wednesday 6th December.

On October 26 the Midland Section held an informative talk at Fulford Heath GC. The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor, Grass Science & Abbey Mowers (TORO). The numbers were limited so the representative of the sponsors delivered the information as they were going around the golf courses. The committee would like to thank Steve Blakeman, Tony Cheese, Andrea Fleetwood from Rigby Taylor, Andy Cole from Grass Science, Mick Shaw, Bob Pilsbury, Mike Corbett from Abbey Mowers for all their help and financial sponsorship.

The event started at 3pm with 36 delegates being split into two groups with group one having a talk by the practice putting green by Andy Cole and group two going onto the practice area where TORO had 4 machines (Toro 550 Fairway Mower, Toro Sidewinder, Toro 3250D Greensmower, Toro 2100 Utility Vehicle) and Dave Watson, from Lely/Toro, gave a talk on the various machines. Each talk lasted 30 minutes with the groups changing places and completing the outside talks. On returning to the Clubhouse all the delegates sat down for the talks by the Rigby Taylor Speakers. Peter Gower, Amega Sciences, gave a talk on black layer and the use of Blockade. A talk was given by Chris Pye, of Dow Agrosociences. Chris gave a brief talk about Dow Agrosociences and their links with Rigby Taylor. Then the talk went on to discuss integrated pest management with the delegates answering questions on how they managed pest and disease, whether Biological, Cultural or Chemical ways worked or whether a preventive management approach was better.

Peter Richmond thanked all the people involved and the delegates for taking time to come along. After the formal proceedings there was a hot buffet which was free to the delegates. Our thanks go to Simon Gibbs, the Steward, for all his help in the Clubhouse, also the committee would like to thank Fulford Heath GC for allowing us the use of the Club's facilities.

On a final note, the committee are always looking for ideas for future events. If you have any ideas etc. then please write to K. Blake 10 Dinmore close, Winyates West, Redditch Worcs, B98 0JT and we will give them an airing.

Jonathan Wood

### East of England

The last golf day of the year was held at Boston GC. Bruce Hicks and his staff produced an excellent course, considering the downpour prior to the competition. The sponsors for this competition were Lawn Mower Services, and we thank Chris Overton and Dave Hampshire for their prizes on the day. Also thanks to John Cook for presenting the prizes on the night.

Other sponsors on the day were Aitkens, Greenpride, Barenbrug, Alpha Amenity and Rigby Taylor.

The winners in the Texas scramble who took home the LMS Trophy were:- N. Hewson, M. Smith, P. Fell. Second were M. Wood, T. Luffman and G. McDonald. Nearest to Pin went to Nick Smith and Longest Drive was won by Russ Moody (Shortest Drive went to Adrian Kitchinson)

The first of the evening education seminars sponsored by Lawn Mower Services was held at Newark GC. Unfortunately John Neil of Supreme Grinding had to pull out the day before the seminar. We thank Sam McLean for standing in at short notice. Sam who works for Bernhard and Company Grinding talked about grinding techniques and was followed by a practical demonstration on grinding. Gerry Solthgate of Textron spoke on the

importance of preventative maintenance of grass cutting machinery.

Graeme McDonald

### BB&O

The evening of October 6 saw the BB&O AGM at Springs GC.

Amazingly, in a Section that boasts in excess of 375 members, the number of member who turned up could be counted on two hands. However, the meeting itself was remarkably successful. Questions that were raised from the meeting ranged from the content and quality of the magazine to the dates of next year's events and meetings. All answers I will try to get printed as soon as I get them. Also the current committee have agreed to stay on although Bernie Wall will step down in August. John Lister of Sonning GC has also been elected onto the committee. It is important that the committee changes more regularly, say on a three yearly basis. That way we have fresh ideas as well as fresh people.

The section itself is financially doing very well. This is mainly due to the support at golf days. We are very fortunate in being able to cap the prices of golf days to £20, and in the past years we have played on some superb golf courses, and we cannot thank these clubs enough for their support.

The reason we are able to cap the price for golf days is because of the support we receive from trade members who pay for postage, trophies and raffle prizes as well as helping out on the committee. Since HQ stopped funding the Sections, to pay the regional administrators we had to become self-sufficient and without trade support it would cost us more money.

So there you go, a brief insight into the AGM. I must admit, on a personal note, that since I've been on the committee I have seen the work, time and effort that Adrian, Lindsay, Bernie etc. put into organising events for you, the members, and it must be very disappointing for them when no-one turns up or seems interested. If you don't like the way that the Section is being run, then AGMs are your chance to tell us. That's one of the reasons why we have them.

Anyway, time to get off the soapbox. The Rigby Taylor Pairs final has been played and won by Ian Robins and Carl Small, beating Gordon and Peter Critchley 5&4. The golf played by both pairs was superb. I've heard that the BBC are putting a quote in for coverage next year in place of the PGA matchplay. Seriously though, I do think that it's time for a review of handicaps - any volunteers? Many thanks to Mark Stidwell, of Rigby Taylor, for his help organising this event and for the trophy and prizes. Let's hope next year's pairs competition is as equally successful. Ian Roberts seemed to have had a very good month, not only being a part of the winning team in the aforementioned, but he has also been promoted from First Assistant to Deputy Head at Ellesborough GC. Well done Ian! Also, congratulations to Alun Wright, of T.H. Whites, for being named Textron European Salesman of the year, for the second year running. Before I sign off I'd just like to thank

Thames Valley Police for catching the little sods that broke into my sheds, and for letting me off for speeding last Sunday, There is hope! See you all soon.

Jon Scoones Tel: 01189 723334

**East Midlands**

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was held at Coxmoor GC on October 9. The day started misty but then cleared into a fine sunny morning, before heavy rain ruined the day. The morning greensomes match was won by four games to one, with Pete Billings and Dave Leatherland winning the one game for our Section. The afternoon singles matches were started before the course was closed with the East Midlands ahead in many games. However, the match was quite rightly decided on the Greensomes results, with the Midlands Section again the victorious side. Congratulations should go to the Midland Section who have now won the shield on nine of the 12 occasions.

I would like to thank Coxmoor GC for hosting the event and to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for providing us with an excellent course and to the Steward for a really great meal - not forgetting our sponsors for the day Rigby Taylor. Also I would like to add my own thanks to all the members of both teams. Our own Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Russell Allen, Pete Billings, Dave Leatherland, Ian Needham, Adi Porter, Antony Bindley, Steve Levers, Chris Weir and our Chairman, Gavin Robson.

Finally, at long last, I can publish the results of our Questionnaire and I would like to thank all our members who took the time to complete the form. 133 forms were sent out and 48 were returned. Five thought Section events were too expensive; 42 said that they were value for money; 20 paid their own subscriptions and 27 did not. Of the 27 who did not, 14 said they would pay their own and 13 would not. 14 members would like more golf tournaments and 29 did not; 15 wanted more lectures/seminars and 23 did not; 10 would like more social events and 38 would not. 34 were aware of their membership benefits and 10 were not. If you would like any further information on the questionnaire results, please give me a ring.

Next year's Go-Kart evening has been arranged for Wednesday, February 21 at the Wymeswold Industrial Estate. This again has been generously sponsored by Toro. For further details please read future Around the Green articles.

Finally I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and on behalf of all the members I would like to thank all those companies who sponsored the section over the last 12 months. Toro-Go-Kart evening, E T Breakwell's Spring Tournament, Barenbrug, East Midlands v East of England Golf Match, Banks Amenity Products - Autumn Tournament, Rigby Taylor - East Midlands v Midlands Section Golf Match and Christmas Tournament and Vitax Ltd - AGM Tournament.

Antony Bindley



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

**East Anglia**

It was a very windy and rainy day when our small band of wanderers went to play at Waldringfield Heath GC. Despite the heavy rain during the previous night, Keith Titshall and his greenkeeping team had made a splendid effort to produce a course of high quality. This has become the rule rather than the exception with all our meetings. I would like to thank Keith and all the staff at Waldringfield Heath GC for their help in making the day a very successful one. I would also thank Matt Bartrum and Toni Nelli, from Bartrum Mowers, for their sponsorship of the day and their continual support of the section. Although only 26 members turned up for the match, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves very much. On to the winners: 0 - 9 H/cap 1. P. Howard 33 points; 2. M. Virley, 31 points; 3. N. Brewster 28 points, on countback. 10 - 18 H/cap 1. M. Broughton 39 points, and overall winner of the day; 2. I. Willett 27 points o/c; J. Timms 27 points 19 - 28 H/cap 1. K. Titshall 36 points; 2. A. Hollins 31 points; 3. J. Pymer 29 points. Guest and Trade 1. S. Ayles 36 points; 2. R. Baker 31 points; 3. C. Savage 30 points o/c. Longest Drive P. Howard, Nearest the Pin 2nd. J. Pymer, Nearest the Pin 10th R. Barney.

Our thanks go out to our main sponsor Bartrum Mowers and our other sponsors Rushbrook & Sons, Greensports, Sisis, Atterton & Ellis Ltd.

Ron Goldsmith, the Golf Club Vice Captain, welcomed us to the club and helped to present the prizes. Thank you Ron for helping to make the day.

By the time you read this the Regional Seminar will have taken place. I do hope it went well. The AGM and Turkey Trot will take place at Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club on December 19. It will involve a Texas Scramble in teams of three, followed by Christmas Lunch and then the AGM. On a personal note I have been informed that I shall become a Grandad next May. Christine and I are very happy about the prospect.

Hope to see you all at the AGM  
Ian Willett

**Mid Anglia**

The autumn golf meeting was held in September at Mid Herts GC, over 18 holes. It was disappointing to note that only 22 people entered and supported the event, which must be one of our lowest turnouts ever. Those who did attend, however, enjoyed a fine day's golf over an excellent course in super condition. Thanks to Dave Forsyth and his team for all their efforts. The golf was followed by a superb meal, and bearing in mind the refurbishment going on in the clubhouse, we were looked after very well. So thanks to Mid Herts for their hospitality.

Our main sponsors, Driving force Leisure, represented by Dave Murphy,

provided the prizes which went to the following people: 1. Wayne Tysoe, Mid Herts GC 36 points; 2. Tim Houghton, Pytchley Golf Centre 34 points; 3. Paul Greenhalgh, Berkhamsted 33 points.

Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were both won by Steve Mason, from Mount Pleasant Golf Club.

The Section's Annual General Meeting followed the presentation and the resulting elected members of the committee were: Chairman, Colin Robinson - Secretary/Treasurer, Gerald Bruce - Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders - Regional Representative, Paul Lockett - other committee members, Steve Mason, David Forsyth, John Wells.

Gerald Bruce reported that the Section has a total of 256 members and thanked the sponsors of our fixture card - George Browns and Turner Groundcare.

The following golf clubs have been booked for next year's four seasonal events - Overstone Park, Harpenden, Letchworth and Dunstable Downs. Gerald also submitted a balance sheet which shows the Section to be in a healthy financial position. Richard then gave a report on all the golf days completed this year and mentioned the winners.

Two items were put to the vote in "any other business." (1) That there should be at least two greenkeepers per team entered for the Christmas Texas Scramble event. (2) That the cost of next year's spring, summer and autumn tournaments for members under 25 should be £15. Both were approved.

Frank Scullion, from Dunstable Downs, expressed his disappointment that entries for the Lodgeway Four Ball were down and that some people had failed once again to play their matches. Why do these people bother entering? The whole competition will be reviewed by the committee, to see if it is worth running next year, or possibly changing the format. Watch this space!

Paul Lockett

**Sussex**

A blustery day welcomed us at the Worthing GC for the BIGGA Sussex autumn meeting on September 27. The day was sponsored by Sheerwater Leisure, so thanks to Mark Wilton for their prizes. Also I would like to thank Ian Evans, the Secretary at Worthing for their hospitality and a special thanks goes to Rob Short and all his staff for producing a very fine course with very fast greens.

Although George Barr and Raymond Day won't thank Robert for the long rough! They managed to lose 15 balls between them.

My playing partner, Derek Farrington, BIGGA's South East Regional Administrator, must have drunk too much brandy out of his hip flask as he was disqualified for not signing his card. Only joking Derek!

Now the results. Div. One. 1. Mark Thistleton 36 pts; 2. Mike Ground, 32 pts. On count back. Div Two. 1. Matt Crossley, 37 pts; 2. Stefan Antolik 35 pts. Trade/Guest 1. Mark Reed 35 pts. 2. myself 29 Pts. The longest walk went to Mark Wilton with 16 Pts.

Thanks to everybody who made the effort to turn up, the numbers were a little disappointing but I hope to see a few more greenkeepers at the Turkey Trot on Friday 15 December at Littlehampton GC. I will be reporting on this in the January issue, along with details of our AGM and Texas Scramble, which was held at Haywards Heath GC on 2 November. So let me be the first to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2001. Thanks.

Gary Ogilvie

**Surrey**

Although there is not much to write about this month I am pleased to report from Chipstead GC the birth of Andy Davey's first child, a daughter, Laura. Laura was eight weeks premature and weighed in at 4lb 2ozs. Stuart Woods from Roehampton Club is also now a proud father of a little girl called Megan Michaela. Congratulations to them both.

From Puttenham Golf Club the news of a wedding, Nicola has made an honest man of James Andrews. Let's hope it does not affect his swing!

Brian Willmott



**South West and South Wales**  
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**South Coast**

Tony Gadd's given up the Around the Greens report in the magazine, so it falls upon me to have a bash at it, and I would like to start by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas. Yes it really is that time of year again, where did the summer go I hear you all ask? All I know is that it certainly didn't visit Salisbury.

Three new members were welcomed onto the committee at the November meeting, those were Carl Horrax, Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts; Trevor Simons, from Gem, and myself, Mike Cartwright, Deputy Course Manager from Salisbury.

All the year's events are over now, so I'll just remind you of a couple of things happening early in the New Year. The first is the Section seminar at Sparsholt. Speakers include Jim Arthur; Stella Inglethorpe, from Grassroots, and Mark Hunt, from Headland. The cost of the day will be £15 for members and £22 for non-members. Please could everyone get there for 9.30 am for a 10am start.

The first Golf Day in 2001 will be held at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot. The cost for the day will be £21, the price includes morning coffee, lunch, dinner and 27 holes of golf. A bargain! People who fail to turn up for the day, or cancel close to the day will still have to pay the full amount to cover the costs charged by the club. This will apply for all future Golf Days as well. Westurf will take place on April 12. This will be held at West Point again, with it being held a little later in the year the weather should be better, so we hope to see more of you there. Watch this space next month for the cheapest night out in Exeter, £40 for a Banquet Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

Mike Cartwright

### Devon & Cornwall

Season's greetings to you all. The Roffey's meeting was our first of the autumn and winter programme which this year was held at Dainton Park GC on Wednesday, October 25. The day started as usual with golfing members competing for the D.O Hunt Trophy. The non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course & clubhouse facilities by Head Greenkeeper, Buster Lewer. After an excellent lunch Don Hunt, on behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford golf competition for the D.O Hunt trophy. 1. Andy Parker, Crediton, 38pts on back 9; 2. Gerald Ayliffe, Wrangaton, 38pts; 3. Kevin Dymond, Morteohoe & Wollacombe, 38pts. After the prize presentation Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education & Training Manager, gave an excellent talk on the new BIGGA website and the internet. Ken also answered questions on current educational issues.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Roffeys and Don Hunt, for their support and to David Wood, the owner of Dainton Park GC, for allowing the Section use of his excellent facilities, also our thanks and congratulations to Buster and his team who have kept the course playable during the wettest October on record. Special thanks to Ken for making the long trip down to the Section and presenting an excellent talk. Thanks also to all the staff at Dainton for making the Section feel so welcome.

The Barenbrug Seeds meeting will be our first meeting in the New Year and will be held at Royal North Devon GC on Wednesday, January 31. The morning will start with a singles Stableford golf competition with starting times from 9.30am. The usual course walk for non golfers will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 2001, which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show & Seminars, There's only a few places left so hurry.

Richard Whyman

### South West

This is unfortunately my last monthly report for the magazine as I am stepping down from my position as monthly report writer and Education and Training Officer. Fear not however, as a replacement for the monthly reports have already been found. Dave Bougen will take over next month, and I'm sure that Dave's usual tactful and diplomatic style will make for interesting reading.

As I'm stepping down from Education and Training Officer, no more courses have been arranged, so if you're thinking of going on a course you will have to wait until my successor is in the hot seat.

Autumn may appear as a distant memory now, but as I write this report, the wind and the rain are still battering everything outside. Earlier, on November 2, these same conditions led to the cancellation of the autumn tournament, due to take place at Weston-Super-Mare. Despite the prospect of difficult travelling conditions, a healthy turnout of 35 members

attended the meal and AGM. Thanks go to Karen and her catering team, and to Kevin James and his greenkeeping staff for attempting to get the course playable, but alas finally beaten by the weather.

The AGM turned out to be a lively and vociferous affair with many issues and concerns being raised, some of which are too hot to be printed on this page. With myself and Secretary Chris Jack stepping down from our positions, two places on the committee needed to be filled. Members of the committee went on the search for fresh faces, and within a short space of time, a number of victims could be seen cowering in the dark corners of the clubhouse pinned down by the committee, with arms twisted behind their back.

Hopefully, new faces on the committee will include Kevin James, taking over as Secretary, and John Jarvis, taking over Education and Training. Anthony Knight was elected as Team Captain, John Keenaghan, as Vice-Captain, and Martin Samuel as Trade Representative. Dave Bougen will also take over as Fixtures Secretary from Terry Humphrey. The Committee thanked Terry for all his hard work in what is an often-thankless task trying to persuade clubs to let us have courtesy of the course and provide us with good food at low cost.

Terry was able to announce the venues for next year's golfing calendar. This will start of with the Winter Tournament at Stinchcombe on February 28, followed by events at Thoulstone Park; Woodspring; The Manor House; The Kendleshire; Cumberwell Park and Cotswold Hills.

John Keenaghan also announced plans to introduce more varied competitions including Texas scrambles and also an inter golf club competition for greenkeepers.

Finally, with BTME coming up, it is important to contact Paula Humphries if you are thinking of booking a place for the trip.

Paul Cunningham.

### Northern Ireland

#### Northern Ireland

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference was held on Wednesday, October 25 at Greenmount College and was undoubtedly a rip-roaring success. A great line up of speakers and BIGGA Headquarters' help really ensured the success of this day before it had even started.

Including sponsors, we had approximately 150 people in attendance, which was a full house - so many thanks to all who attended. Forgive me if, in this article, I sound a bit like Barry McGuigan thanking people for their help, but sterling work from Sami Collins, Elliott Small, all the speakers, Greenmount College, Graham Wylie and the sponsors made it the day it was.

Elliott Small and Graham Wylie wel-

comed everyone to the conference, with Elliott introducing the speakers during the day. Our first speaker was David Garland, Director of Tour Operations on the PGA European Tour, who talked on how the Tour expect a course to be turned out for an event. There were some interesting tips to be had on how a course should be cut etc. and in particular, that the Tour didn't demand greens to be shaved, as long as they were smooth and consistent.

Chris Kennedy, Course Manager from Wentworth, then spoke on what is required from the course and Course Manager when the Tour hold an event at Wentworth. This paper was quite amazing as I am sure no-one thought there was just as much work involved: from course presentation, to setting up TV camera stands, to weather conditions, to someone having a heart attack on the course.

David MacIndoe, Course Manager from Killarney Golf and Fishing Club, gave his account of traditional greenkeeping and the problems he has encountered with weather and massive land slides. While building the course, thousands of tons of earth completely engulfed a new green and tee, which not only involved a lot of hard work to clear, but also a lot of heartache.

John Quinn MG, Director of Golf at Elmwood College, talked on how other people in the club perceive you and your staff; and how important it is to

create a good impression of yourself and to be prepared to change your ideas on how golf courses can be run.

Our own Frank Ainsworth talked on a career in Greenkeeping, which was very enjoyable and funny. He also touched on some of his experiences on courses which he had helped build or worked at.

Gordon Child reflected on a lifetime in greenkeeping contrasting the past with the present day before Jim Arthur took to the platform with his forthright and pungent views. The golf bodies in turn were the subject of critical comment and Jim left little doubt where he stood in relation to both golfing politics and greenkeeping practice.

The last speaker was Peter Jones, who delivered a very sensible guide to Greenkeeping. From this paper there was definitely something to learn and take away thoughts to digest later.

A final word for our sponsors. Your support was greatly appreciated and we hope that we'll see you back sponsoring our next conference. It was indeed a day that I'm sure will be talked about for a very long time.

Iain Harrison

Around the green

See you all next year!

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