



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

West

Welcome to this month's news. Firstly I must apologise for the lateness of these notes and events, due to mis-scheduling. These items failed to materialise in the latter part of 1999.

The Autumn outing at Windyhill GC on 22 September was played on schedule. The day's weather started in an ominous fashion. However, by the time we teed off, the clouds gave way to broken spells of sunshine, although the wind was a touch breezy! A low turnout on the day with only forty three entries returned. Nevertheless some good golf, and some erratic golf, was played. Trust me on this. So here are the results of the day's play.

Scratch prize G. Bruen, East Kilbride 74-3 (71). First Class. First. L. Miller, Cowal GC, 80-9 (71). Second: B. Duncan, Drumpellier GC, 80-6 (74). Third: D. Gall, Cardross GC 84-9 (75). Second Class First. J. Brown, Bearsden GC, 78-11 (67). Second: T. Hindmarch, Erskine GC, 81-12 (69) Third: G. Semple, East Kilbride GC, 86-14 (72). Third Class, First: B. Brown, Douglas Park GC 94-25 (69) Second A. Donaghy, Erskine GC 91-20 (71) Third S. Murray, Douglas Park GC, 96-21 (75)

Trade Prize: B. Ingles, Greentech, 76-2 (74). Visitors prize: S. Harriet, Bearsden, GC 96-13 (83). The prize for nearest the pin went to L. Miller, Cowal GC. Longest drive went to S Harriet, Bearsden GC.

A big thank you to the Captain and members of Windyhill GC for allowing us to use their course and facilities. Thanks also to Head Greenkeeper Mark McBride and his staff for having the course in great shape on the day, considering the rainfall that week and finally thanks to the Clubmaster, Andy Falkner, and his staff for all their efforts. A personal thank you also to Joe Bell for volunteering to sell raffle tickets. Your help is much appreciated. Fancy a job on the Committee?

On now to the second draw of the 100 Club and the lucky winner was none other than Jim Smith. Well done to you Jim.

Five-a-sides at Scotstoun, Sunday 3 October turned out to be a big disappointment for the organiser Stuart Taylor.

Only 12 teams entered for the tournament. Two teams gave a few days' notice of cancellation and on the day two more teams cancelled at the last minute. After the preliminary rounds the qualifiers were Crow Wood v East Kilbride/Pollock and Rigby Taylor/Killermont v Souters. Into the final went Rigby Taylor/Killermont v Crow Wood, with Rigby Taylor/Killermont winning by 1-0.

I have been asked by Stuart to thank Martin Carey, from Balmore GC, for arranging his team so well

and also to apologise to Windyhill GC for the decision taken on the day of awarding the points in the fashion that he did.

As mentioned previously Stuart Taylor was very disappointed and disillusioned with the poor turnout. It takes a lot of time and effort to organise these events for your benefit! Additionally a considerable amount of Section funds have been needlessly wasted booking extra pitches and referees that weren't required on the day. In future, please have some consideration for the organiser of any such event and give them sufficient notice of your intentions.

Nairn Brown, with John Deere's machinery demonstration roadshow, at Haggis Castle GC 7 October. A good turn out, at least a hundred bodies turned out representing councils and golf courses alike. A great opportunity to see the machines in action and a chance to have your backside on the seat and try out the latest equipment for yourself.

It is time to say farewell to Robert Hogarth who, by the time you are reading this, will have taken up his new post at the new McKenzie Hotel complex. We wish you all the best in your new post, Robert, and hope everything goes well for you.

Best wishes and every success to Tom Hindmarsh on his appointment at Cathcart Castle GC.

Stuart Taylor will be trying to arrange an 11-a-side match against the Central and Northern Section some time in February. Anybody interested should contact Stuart Taylor. Once again, please send me any information you have regarding anything! Well, just about anything. 0141-776-1532 M:07050-173080 Gavin Jarvis

North

As I write this on my computer in early January, I am wondering what all the fuss about Y2K was all about, or was it just that we were all so well prepared. That makes a change! Anyhow, my computer did not crash so here comes another boring old North Section report.

I attended the Scottish Region Patron's lunch in Stirling during December along with my Vice-Chairman Wilson Morrison and our two Patrons' Award winners John Geddes and Gordon Moir. We had an excellent meal in the company of our friends from the trade and once again RA, Peter Boyd, provided us with a great after meal speaker. All the Section winners were in attendance, which is very good and a great time was had by all. A huge vote of thanks must go to Peter for his efforts.

The Highland Golf Development Group ran an environmental seminar day at Nairn recently in conjunction with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It was good to see many Section members present for what was a very informative day, with a range of speakers covering all the areas. Two members, Alan Dobbie, Boat of Garten, and Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, gave talks on their plans and how they are implementing them.

Both were excellent and could be used by BIGGA in future for seminars. After lunch Nairn head man, Ian Carson, took us out onto his lovely course to look around and discuss with Jonathan Smith of Scottish Wildlife Trust, areas that could be changed for the benefit of golfers and wildlife alike.

The day was excellent and credit must go to the HGD and its Officers, Neil Hampton who, incidentally, is the son of Section member George Hampton, Pitlochry. Their next seminar is this month at Tain and is called Golf Course Management - Facts not Fiction. I have been invited to speak to committee members and officials of clubs in the Highlands to try and give them an insight into the ways a greenkeeper looks after a golf course and how the officials and greenkeeper can work together to achieve, what, after all, should be a common goal.

I will present two papers in the morning and take delegates for a course and shed visit in the afternoon. Hopefully, as a result of this day, club officials will respect their greenkeeper better and officials from smaller clubs with no full time staff will learn a little about the job and what it entails.

Finally, in December's report, you may have seen me welcome Peter Culter to the Section. I checked my report and can honestly say that the mistake was not of my making!

Iain Macleod

Central

Here's the news you have all been waiting for! The number of the first winning ticket in the Club 2000 draw is No. 00247 and the lucky ticket holder is A. Brown, from Auchterarder. A cheque for £50 is already in the post. The winner of the February draw will be in next month's magazine.

On the new members front we welcome Sharon Laurie, from Elie Golf Club, and Willie 'Whitty' Whitfield, from STS, who are both rejoining the Section and also William Bell, from Tulliallan Golf Club, I bet he doesn't see much of his boss this year, Duncan Wright, Paul Brown and Stuart Muir, all from Elmwood Golf Course. They all put on their forms that they play golf, so surely the numbers at the golf tournaments will increase this year!

Congratulations go to Section member Elliott Small on his appointment as BIGGA Chairman and to John Philp from Carnoustie on his recent award in the New Year's Honour List. Well done to you both.

The entry forms for the Spring Tournament at St Andrews in April will be with you shortly, as this is also the second qualifying event for the National Tournament. If you want to be one of the lucky ones to participate in this prestigious tournament, PLEASE return your entry form, along with the entry fee, as soon as possible, as places are at a premium. I know I keep harping on about this but some of you do leave it to the last minute, which totally up the perfect organisation of the event. You can put your own letters in the blanks.

At the last committee meeting, various ideas were put forward as to how we can get more of you to participate in some of our events. A form regarding this will be sent to you and can I ask you to take the time to put your thoughts/ideas down, keeping them clean, as it is your section which the committee are running on your behalf and for your benefit.

John Crawford

Ayrshire

The Patrons' Christmas lunch was held on December 8 at the Terraces Hotel, Stirling. It was, as usual, expertly organised by our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. The entertainment was provided by after dinner speaker, Ian McPherson, from East Kilbride, who kept the company well amused. The main event was the presentation of the Patrons' Award with our two winners, Roland Blackburn, of Southernness, and Scott McLean, of West Kilbride, on hand to collect their awards, including a trip to Harrogate 2000. Congratulations to Roland and Scott as well as all the other Section winners.

The Ayrshire Section wish to echo the sentiments of the Scottish Region by extending a big thank you to the Patrons for their continued support.

News has reached me that Wallace Mercer of Skermolie Golf Club has recently won best student at South Ayrshire College when completing his SVQ Level 3. Congratulations to Wallace for this fine achievement.

It is with regret that I have to report the sad news of the recent death of Harry Diamond after a long illness. Harry was a very distinguished character, well liked by all who knew him. He was a very prominent greenkeeper and was always very active within our Association, even after his retirement. On behalf of the Ayrshire Section I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Harry's family.

That's it. See you next month with news on Harrogate and anything else I hear. Any news please call on 01505 683278

Iain Barr

East

Well I hope everyone had a good start to the new Millennium and you are looking forward to the year ahead. The start of the new season is only a matter of a few weeks away so hopefully it will be a good start one. The Section held its annual dance at the start of December and a great night was had by everyone who was there. Hopefully we can get a few more along this year as numbers have dropped over the last couple of years. The Grand Draw was drawn at the dance and the top prizes were won by 1. TV/Video, name unknown, but it was a friend of Peter Ormiston, Uphall Golf Club. 2. CD Mini hi-fi, Richard Mullen, Swanston Golf Club. Various prizes were won by various other people, names can be obtained from Craig Pennyquick, Social Convener. A decision will be made soon if this is to continue this year. Watch this space.

If you have any ideas about the dance/grand raffle, or anything else

going on in the Section, drop me a line or give me a call on the usual numbers. Come on, let's hear from you because it's your section.

People on the move this month are yours truly. I am on the move to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at West Linton Golf Club in January and I am looking forward to this as it will present a marvellous challenge and I look forward to working with the club who have a very progressive attitude and a large membership.

What makes it more exciting is working at a club that has former Masters and British Open Champion Sandy Lyle as a member. Having been at Swanston GC for nearly nine years, I must say I have had a great time over the years and have made a lot of friends in the Club. I would like to thank the Captain, Secretary, committee and all the staff and members for making it a very enjoyable time. I would like to wish the club all the best for the future and may it go from strength to strength. I will be back regularly for a game, so hopefully I'll see you all then.

At West Linton I am taking over from Donald Fraser who is retiring after 30 years with the club, so I, the club, members and staff wish Donald all the best in his retirement.

Moving back to Swanston, Richard Mullen, who was my deputy, has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper and Frank Forrest who was assistant greenkeeper, has been promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. All the best to both of them in their new positions at Swanston and if either of them need any advice, don't forget my phone will always be switched off. All the best from the Section to both of them.

Committee member, Stuart Townsend and his wife Alison, have just had a baby, Rebecca. Both mum and baby are doing well. Congratulations to both of them from everyone in the East section. If anyone else knows of any births, etc., or any other information, let me know.

On a sad note, one of our past Scottish Chairman Harry Diamond, from the Ayrshire Section, passed away in early December, after an illness. Harry, who was Head Greenkeeper at Ayr Bellisle for many

years will be sadly missed in the Scottish Region as he was one of the true characters of the region. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Well, that's it all for this month. Next month we will have a report on BTME 2000 and any other news from around the Section. As I am moving I will have new phone numbers and address which will be published in next month's magazine for anyone who has any stories etc, to get in touch.

See you all next month.
Chris Yeaman.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Sheffield

Firstly, on behalf of the Section our sincere thanks to Martyn Jones,

Senior Lecturer at Myerscough College for giving us a first class talk on microbiology. Martyn's reputation precedes him as a lecturer who is able to make even the driest subjects interesting and this was vindicated on the day. Our next lecture on the 4th of March at Rotherham Golf Club is by Mr. Simon Barnaby, of the Scotts Company, and I'm sure his talk will also be of the highest standard.

Our AGM was held on the same day and some developments transpired. Firstly, both Jeremy Duffield and John Lax resigned from their respective posts on the committee. The Section would like to thank Jeremy and John for all their endeavours over the last few years and naturally we wish them well for the future.

Ken Arnold also relinquished his position as President. Ken held this post for over 30 years and during that time has seen the Section rise from small beginnings to one of the most successful in the country. He is an Ex Councillor and Lord Mayor of Sheffield and at over eighty years old still retains an enthusiasm for Greenkeeping which can only be described as amazing. On the day of his resignation he was presented with a suitable commemorative award and was installed as immediate Past

President, bestowed as a life member and co-opted back on to the committee, which clearly illustrates how valuable he has been and continues to be to our Section. All at Sheffield would like to thank him for his council over his many years as President and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Out with the old and in with the new as they say! Congratulations to Barry Heaney, Past Chairman of our association on his appointment as President of our Section. Barry has been the hub of the Section for many years and in being appointed as President will ensure he remains integral to the continued development of our requirements.

Congratulations also to Alan Samson on his appointment as committee member.

Alan, who works at Wortley Golf Club, is seen as an enthusiastic and active individual who will no doubt benefit our Section.

We would also like to welcome some new members to our Section. They are: Andrew Fenn, Alferton GC; Adam Kendall, Brough GC. Andrew Billings, Brough GC; David Creaser, Brough GC, and Darren Thomas, Rother Valley GC.

Finally, two dates to put in your diary. The President's Day tournament will be held at Wheatley Golf Club on Tuesday May 9th tee off at 1.30pm and the Annual Tournament is at Matlock Golf Club on Monday 10th July tee off at 1.30pm.

John Coleman

Northern

I would like to start off as your new Secretary by thanking Simon Heppenstall for his time and dedication to this position over the years. Enjoy your retirement with your new family.

The Winter Golf Tournament took place at Fulford GC. This was sponsored by The Greenkeeping Supply Company, which was represented by Liam Galway. Many thanks for this valuable sponsorship and all the other companies who sponsored our golf days during last year.

Back to the golf and despite the bad weather leading up to the event, this had no effect on the course, everybody had a good time despite the

wind and rain. Thanks go to the head greenkeeper Mark Mennal and his staff for the good condition of the course, the caterers for the meal and Fulford GC for the courtesy of the course. Teams of four were the order of the day with a few teams of three people not turning up for whatever reason. Results: 1. Robin Smith, Richard Harris, Telford Jarvis, Steve Dale; 2. Roy Spencer, Marcus Cordingley, Norman Schofield. 3. Les Kirkbright, Richard Pull, Mark Mennal.

One of the teams with three counted all three scores instead of the best two, Dennis is already sharpening his handicapping pencil for you, be warned!

The 1999 AGM followed with 31 members present. The main issue to come out is an increase to the golf entry fees. It was decided to have an increase to £17.50 with two courses, still good value for the day. Committee members are as follows: President- Liam Galway, Chairman- Simon Heppenstall. Vice Chairman- John Waite, Secretary/Treasurer - Andy Smith; Committee- Dennis Cockburn, Gary Potter, Richard Smith, Jim Brown.

The committee would like to thank David Thackery, Telford Jarvis, Richard Gamble, Phil Mitchell, and also the outgoing President, Mel Guy, for their work and time during their years of service. Liam has a hard act to follow.

The annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 11th March will again be held at Bradford G.C. after last years success. Tickets are on sale from committee members.

There is no other news at the moment and future events will be published at a further date. If any one has any news around the section that I could print would you please let me know at the following address :- 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone on 0113 2383188

Andy Smith

Cleveland

Congratulations to Anthony (Titch) McGeough. On New Year's Eve he got engaged to the beautiful Pippa. Titch is First Assistant at Richmond Golf Club. Good luck and

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best wishes go to both of them.

Oliver Shepard, also of Richmond Golf Club, did not get engaged. In fact he's still looking for a partner. If anyone knows of a suitable girl, contact Richmond Golf Club.

Congratulations also to Kevin Scarce, of Bedale Golf club. He reached the National Final of the Toro Student of the Year Award. Unfortunately he did not win, but to get to the final is still a great achievement. Well done.

It's been a long time coming, but the Greenkeepers beat the Groundsmen in the Annual Turf Care Quiz at Mount Oswald Golf Club. It was a close battle with only a couple of points for the winning margin. Unfortunately those who attended the quiz probably can't remember much about this historic victory and it might be a long time until we win again. Many thanks to Terry Charlton and Turf Care for organising the event and providing drinks and the supper. Any news contact me on 07808 196558.

Steven Jaques

North Wales

A meeting was held on January 4 and it was decided that at all our future golf events the prize and trophy structure will be: Greenkeeper members can win trophies and prizes; guests (golf related only) can win prizes and, as an appreciation of the trade, trade members will now have trophies to play for at each of our events donated by the Section. I hope this will be to everyone's satisfaction. Entrance fees will also be pegged to the same cost as last year and a review taken to see how much it has eaten into our funds at the end of the year. The annual North Wales - North West match will take place at Hazel Grove GC around the 20 April. Please contact Gary Edwards. Gary is also in discussion with Peter Lacey of the South Wales Section about a match around June - July to be held at a mid Wales venue. Again, any interest, get in touch.

Remember our spring tournament and regional qualifier is on April 5 at Frodsham Golf Course.

The annual College Seminar is on Wednesday 23 February. Confirmed speakers are Bob Taylor,

Conservation; David Stansfield, The Role of the Agronomist, and my own Chairman of Greens, Jim Wren.

A full itinerary will be sent to all clubs. Please try to get chairmen, secretaries, captains etc, interested. There's a lot happening out there and golf clubs need to know. The event will be chaired by Mike Cole, President of the WGU.

On March 22 we have a lecture again at the college on the rules of golf and the greenkeeper and noise levels. Please come along, free to members, £1 to guests. Starts 2.30 - 4.30 pm.

Finally, welcome to one new member David Michael Gavin of Holywell GC. Hope to see you at our events some time.

That's all folks. See ya,
Dave Goodridge



East Midlands

This year's Christmas Tournament was held at Glen Gorse GC on Thursday December 9. The day was fine and dry, but with a very strong cold wind making conditions very difficult. The format for the day being a Singles Stb 3/4 H/Cap. However, some very respectable scores were returned.

The winners were as follows: Category 1, 1. Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley, 30 pts; 2. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 28 pts; 3. Richard Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 28 pts. Category 2, 1. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 27pts.; 2. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 27pts; 3. Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 25 pts. Trade & Associate, Pete Fell, Aitkens, 30 pts.

I would like to thank Glen Gorse GC for extending courtesy of their excellent course and also to our sponsor Rigby Taylor for providing the prizes. Also I would like to thank Frank Kempster, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for a very well presented course, not forgetting the Steward & Stewardess for a fantastic Christmas meal. Next year's Tournament will be held at Oakmere

Park GC, on Thursday, December 7 2000.

I would also like to thank all those who kindly took their time to fill in the recent questionnaire. The results of which will appear in next month's article.

Finally, I have now got my own e-mail address, so if any member should need to contact me via Email, the address is as follows. Antony-Bindley@beeb.net

Antony Bindley



Essex

Easy, I thought, take over the job as scribe for the Essex Section, jot down the winners' names, include a few thank you's for the trade and that's that. But, as the pile of crumpled paper containing failed efforts begin to overflow out of the bin, it dawned on me just how much we all take the work done by the committee for granted. When members step down they are very hard to replace, especially when they are as professional as David Wells who stands down as scribe and as enthusiastic as committee member Steve Cox. They will both be missed, but hopefully myself, Steve Crosdale and Andy Sheehan will be able to fill their shoes.

Firstly allow me to welcome new Section members Robert Cox, South Essex G&GC and Michael Walsh, from Burnham on Crouch. I hope to see you both at future events.

My first golf day report comes from Rochford Hundred GC which, despite freezing conditions, was on all main greens and very well presented, thanks to Head Greenkeeper David Wells, Deputy, David Rand, and all the green staff at Rochford GC who braved the conditions early in the morning to make the course playable. These thanks are extended to the catering department who laid on a fantastic carvery enjoyed by all. The winner on count back from two others was Dave Wells who scored 34 points just beating Mark Stopps and M.Allen respectively. Nearest the

Pin went to H. Wilson and Longest Drive to S. Tovey, Orsett GC. Thanks to Greenkeeping Supply Company for supplying the prizes. The trade prize went to H. Wilson, from Greenkeeping Supply Company, with 28 pts.

Main sponsors for the day were Ernest Doe & Sons who along with Sherriff Crop Care, CMW, Rigby Taylor, Gem Professional, Grass Roots, Driving Force Leisure, Grasshopper, Greenkeeping Supply Company and Bishop Brothers ensured that every golfer taking part received a prize of some description. Thanks one and all.

Golfer of the Year went to Chris Ward, of Abridge Golf Club, who won the Burnham On Crouch and Thorndon Park golf days. Well done Chris.

Following the golf the AGM was held and the committee installed. They are:- Chairman: Carl Croucher, Orsett GC; Treasurer: John Selwood, Abridge GC; Secretary: Martin Forrester, Stapleford Abbots GC; Education Officer: John Sinclair, Thorpe Hall GC; Competition/Handicap Secretary: Dominic Rogers, Orsett GC, Scribe: Steve Crosdale, Great Hadham G&CC, Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC also joined as committee member.

If you want to know what else happens at the AGM and where your money goes, come to the next one, or give the relevant committee member a call, numbers are in the BIGGA Directory.

The fixture card for 2000 should be with you by the end of February, if yours isn't contact Martin Forrester, 01245 603131. Martin also tells me that the Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath this year is to be held on March 10. Invitations will be sent to members who have supported the golf days throughout 1999.

Two more dates for your diary, this time from Mr Sinclair: Thursday 3rd February, although this may have passed before you receive the magazine and Thursday March 23, both dates are booked for lectures at Writtle College. Details of lecture topics will follow shortly.

That about wraps up my first report, and without a mention of a

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certain mid-table London football team. Please let me have your views on what you consider my articles should contain, without your input they will end up as just a list of names and dates. I am confident that between us we can manage more than this. My number is 01376 551350, give me a call.

Steve Crosdale

East Anglia

Another year older, deeper in debt, such is life. One word describes our day at Bungay Way back in December and that's Luvly. Luvly Day.

Luvly grub, Luvly course and Luvly people, what more can you want? Sixty Nine turned up, what a number all raring to go before it rained. It was, of course, the Annual Turkey Scramble sponsored by CMW. Results. 1. The Barnham Broom Trio of Lemon, Elliot and Brown, 58.4; 2. The Caldecot team of Davidson, Bun and Holiday, 58.9. 3. Three Nomads, Bird, Nash and Bartram, 59. All pretty tight. Longest Drive, Mat Gill. Nearest the pin Alan Elliot. The loo seat was nearly won by Sam for going into the wrong loo. His "Handlebars" gave him away. The loo seat was actually won by Mike Taylor, of Tomlinson, but I don't know why.

All prizes were presented by Miles James. I think that's the right way around, Bungay Captain. A special thanks to Mike And James for presenting the course in fine nick.

There was a warm welcome for the new Head Greenkeeper at Purdis Heath, Norman Fredrick. I am sure he will build on the foundations laid by his much respected predecessor Steve Noye.

One comes, one goes, our adopted cousin from over the pond Greg McHugh, Pulh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert Dibble and Grub is off to some horrible place - Hawaii. He'll miss the frost and the fog. I'm told the grass over there grows on the women. Hope he's got some shears. Seriously, we all wish him the very best, he's a smashing bloke and will be missed.

More prizes than a Miss World contest, well nearly, were presented by Ernie Halt to Nick Brewster, Spring; Steve Davidson, Summer; Greg Hash, Autumn and Steve Curtis Winter. Finally, the President's Prize was presented to our Secretary, Ian Willitt, for the tremendous work he puts in to keep our Section at the top. We have it on good authority that we are the largest, the best organised and the best behaved of the lot and that has much to do with Ian's leadership. Cheers mate.

Then came the AGM, if you blinked you would have missed it - 25 minutes start to finish. Enough said, no waffle. All offices elected en block with Paul Gould taking over from Greg McHugh (Pugh, Barney, no, I won't do that Alan).

A few dates for 2000 Haverhill April

27. Rushmere June 9 Norfolk v Essex. Stoke by Nayland July. Royal Cromer 15 August 15. Waldringfield October. Thorpeness, December 19 AGM. Also a seminar at Thorpeness on November 14.

Let's not forget the trade lads who look after us so well throughout the year: I'll try to remember all, as I forgot to pick up the list. Here goes: CMW, Sisis, Rushbrook, Rhone Poulenc, Colliers, Rigby Taylor, Consultant Clarkson, Toro, Bartams, Ben Burgess, Wilmot Pertwee, Greenkeeper Supply Co, Pattersons, Hayter and anyone else who knows me.

And finally as another round of pay talks have come to an end, does anyone think that some clubs assume that there is an honour attached to working for them which negates the need for payment?

Mick Lathrope

Sussex

Firstly, I would like to wish Happy New Year to all the members and hope that everybody had a great Christmas.

Our Turkey Trot was once again held at Littlehampton. I would like to thank David Wood and all his staff. The course was, as usual, in exceptional condition considering it was the middle of December. I would also like to thank the kitchen staff, bar staff and the Secretary for their hospitality this year and every year.

Now the results of the Texas

Scramble; This was played in teams of four with a few 3 balls, each player having to use three drives and all the scores counting on two of the holes.

Results: 1. (On count back) 58 pts. Chris Allen, John Luckhurst, bandit, Peter Bearmore. 2. 58 pts. John Hill, David Haskell, Nick Beadle, Peter Hammond. 3rd with 57 pts. Mark Day, Billy Martin, Richard Vetch.

The team with the longest wack was Tony Bremer, Mike Ring, John Davidson and their influential captain Brian Willmott! Nearest the pin prizes were won by Ian Semple, Andy Cloud, Stefan Antolik, David Ansell, Chris Allen, Richard Vetch and Mike Ring.

Thanks to everyone who attended and thanks to George Barr for the organisation.

Also it was great to see a good turnout by the Sussex Section for the James Beard Seminar on January 6 at Wentworth. Everyone who attended will agree it was a very worthwhile exercise and thanks to Scotts for putting on a great day at a great venue.

Now some dates for your diary in 2000. May 4, Spring Tournament at Royal Eastbourne GC. July 20 Summer Tournament at Coptorne GC and some time in the summer there will be a special Club Team Challenge Fourball event at Cooden Beach Golf Club. eg. Head Greenkeeper, Club Captain, Green Chairman, Stewards.

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Please think about your teams and phone Mike Gould on 01342 712508 with your selection.

Also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, I would like to congratulate Austin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head GC who has been awarded Sussex County Greenkeeper of the Year by the Sussex Professional Golfers' Union. One last note. If anyone has anything to report and would like to see it in "Around the Green" please phone me on 01903 218675 or 0378 189785.

Gary Ogilvie



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

South Wales

High winds and heavy showers made most of us return to the 19th hole at Pyle & Kenfig GC on 8 December, although a few continued and battled their way around the course and thanks to P Robinson & his staff for the good condition of the course.

Chairman D Ward opened the AGM and gave his report for the year. P Lacey gave his secretary's report and ran through the finance report. Election of officers: Chairman, Adrian Panks; Vice Chairman, J. B.

Jones; Secretary, P. Lacey; Education Chairman, M. Davies; Committee Officers - Angus Macleod, A. Hatcher, J. B. Jones, R. Patterson, R. Hatcher and D. Ward. Our President C. Murphy gave good words during the meeting, thanks Colin. Finally, David Ward ended his term for Chairmanship and closed the meeting.

Our Christmas dinner followed, which was outstanding. The presentation of the Vitax Shield went to M. Jones. Well done! Thanks to Vitax Ltd who were the main sponsors of the day and to Celtic Mowers who sponsored nearest the pin and longest drive competition. Thanks to all the other agents' reps who attended, too many to mention, sorry. Lastly, thanks again to the Pyle & Kenfig for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to the Captain of P & K who attended the evening.

Nothing much more to mention, although on the 9th of this month, Peter Johnson gave us a lecture at Pencoed College.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

With 1999 being one of the wettest years of the old millennium it was not surprising that members were greeted with heavy rain on arrival at our P.J. Flegg Christmas meeting held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 8. I wondered if we would be able to play any golf during the

morning but the splendid effort put in by Richard Wisdom and his team meant that the greensome format competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy went ahead as scheduled.

Our non golfing members were, as usual, treated to the guided course walk by Richard. Both golfing and non golfing were delighted to seek shelter in the P. J. Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green. Inside, Patrick and his staff treated members to snacks and drinks which set the Christmas atmosphere for the day.

After an excellent Christmas lunch, the day continued with the morning's golf prizes for the P. J. Flegg trophy being presented by Patrick Flegg to: 1st, B. Lever, Dainton, & J. Stevens, West Cornwall, 36 pts. 2nd, M. Samuel, President, and T. Bennett, Trevose, 33 pts back 9. 3rd, J. Mills, Taunton, & K. Yeoman, Dartmouth, 33 pts.

A special prize was donated by Laurence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton for the best triers and was presented by Patrick to M. Tucker and T. Blackburn. Our afternoon entertainment this year was by the one and only Tank Sherman who kept us all laughing well into the evening. Our raffles concluded a really excellent day. The first raffle was for two Christmas hampers, kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha, with our final raffle of day, consisting of more than 40 prizes donated by members and trade.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always, had the course in superb condition.

A big thank you to Patrick Flegg and PJ Flegg Ltd for sponsoring the day and providing the wonderful snacks and drinks on the course. Also, thanks to our President, Martin Samuel, who supplied the wine at lunch and thanks to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

Dates for your diary: Avoncrop Meeting, Thursday February 24, venue Trevose G.C. Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf Meeting, Tuesday March 28, venue Yelverton GC. Westurf Trade Show at Westpoint, Exeter on Tuesday April 12.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our Annual Turkey Trot AGM and Christmas Dinner was held at Hockley GC. The course was in superb condition thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Trevor Blythe and his happy band of men. Well done Trevor.

The results were as follows: The overall match winner was Phil Nason, who is over here for his three months holiday. Sorry Phil, I had to get that in. Category 1 winner, Matt Blake. Category 2 winner, Alan Rideout. Category 3 winner, Peter Baynham. Nearest the Pin, Simon



Bell- TYE: The Longest Drive, S Hooker.

On completion of the golf we all sat down to Christmas dinner. There was plenty of it, so there was no excuse for anyone going hungry. At this point we must thank the catering staff for all their hard work, also thanks to Jim Fry, our President, who once again provided the wine. Thank you Jim.

Before the meal, the captain of Hockley Golf Club said a few words and made us very welcome. To the Captain, Committee and Members, thank you for a lovely day and allowing us the courtesy of your superb course and the use of your Clubhouse. The Clubhouse is a little larger than the last time I was there. The sponsors for the day were Sheer Water Leisure represented by Mark Wilton and New Forest Farm Machinery, John Deere, represented by Nick Clarke. Thank you Mark and Nick for your continued support.

To round off the day we had the AGM. The Chairman, Tony Gadd, and Secretary, Jef Drake, stated that they would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM. This is going to leave two large holes. Anyone who would like to take on these posts, please let the committee know. The only new member to join the committee was Chris Sturgess. Welcome aboard Chris. Yours truly has stood down after nearly 14 years. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the years. I will still be around but I feel we need new blood and new ideas. Some of you youngsters should be filling the gaps and pushing us forward. Thank you everyone for the lovely crystal glasses that were presented by Tony. I was taken aback and lost for words.

Moving on to a more serious note. Our Chairman was very concerned at the dwindling numbers at our lectures. What really concerned me was that when he asked the floor for suggestions as to what we should do to attract more support, there was a deadly silence. Please pick up the phone and let us know what you want from the section. There are nearly 300 members in our Section. We could not get support for a small 30 seater coach to go to Hankley Common.

Our next winter lecture is at Crane Valley GC on Wednesday 8 March 8 at 10am. A representative from Scotts will be talking about their products and applications. This will be followed by lunch and 9 holes of golf.

Ken Lodge

South West

Kingsdown Golf Club was the venue for the Christmas Tournament held on December 8. The event was sponsored by Roffeys. Head Greenkeeper, Mark Ford, and his staff did a superb job in getting the course into great shape, especially when you consider that December had seen twice the normal rainfall. The greens really did putt well, although eventually the steady rainfall slowed them up quite considerably.

By the time the last of the golfers came in off the course, the rain had become cold and torrential. One drenched and shivering golfer even suggested holding next year's Christmas Tournament in Trinidad & Tobago, but I don't think BIGGA funds could stretch that far!

Despite the weather, some really good scores were achieved. The winner of the event was:- I. T. Humphrey & Tony Crouch, 37 points. 2 - G. Cook & A. Knight, 36 points and better back 9. 3 - Dan Dobie & N. Wilson, 36 points.

A superb Christmas dinner was laid on by Les and the catering staff at Kingsdown, with all the wine kindly provided by Phil Greenway and Roffeys. A huge raffle then followed with all the prizes donated generously from all the local companies.

The comedian then came on to entertain us. Now, greenkeepers are not always renowned for their sense of humour, but this must have been one of this comedian's hardest ever venues. He really did have to work hard for his money, especially with Dave Begin, sitting on the front table, questioning every one of his jokes.

Anyway, we must once again thank everyone connected with Kingsdown for the smooth running of the day and Roffeys for their kind sponsorship.

Let's hope for better weather at

this year's events, the first of which is the Winter Tournament being held at Painswick Golf Club on the February 23.

Following last month's article in which I asked for suggestions at getting more BIGGA South West members to turn up for events, I have received several ideas on how this can be achieved. I will pass these ideas on to the other committee members.

If you're thinking about doing a training course, it's not too late to join the one day first aid course at The Southern Ambulance Training College on February 15. I still have places for a PA2 Tractor mounted Sprayer course on March 2 and PA6 Knapsack spraying course on March 8. Telephone me on 01249 783382 for more information.

Paul Cunningham



South East

I'll start these notes by wishing all our members a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. It's a bit belated I know but better late than never. We apologise for a lack of notes at the tail end of last year as we were hit by a "M" bug in our system, but we are now 2000 compliant and ready to go. I hope you are all enjoying this glorious weather, all your winter's work done and dusted, and not a mark on your courses from the hundreds of golfers that insist on playing through El Nino, gale force winds and inches of snow.

Anyhow down to business:- The South-East Section AGM was held at Clandeboye Golf Club on Tuesday, December 7. The election of officers to last for the next 1000 years, sorry to take us into the next 1000 years, are as follows:- Graham Wylie - Chairman/Treasurer, Jonathan McCabe- Vice Chairman, Ken Henderson- Secretary, Alan Strachan-Assistant Secretary, Terry Crawford- Matching Handicap

Secretary, Iain Harrison-Magazine Liaison Officer.

The main topic at the AGM was the amalgamation of the South-East and North-East Sections. A vote was taken that it would be beneficial for both Sections if we did join together, in which case an EGM would be held to select officers from both sections to form one committee. This would be a new committee with a larger membership and we feel this would certainly strengthen BIGGA in Northern Ireland and would entice more people to join. So we have voted Yes for this merger and we are now waiting for feedback from the North-East section on how they feel on this matter.

A very well attended seminar on budgeting took place on December 2-3, '99 in the Burndale Hotel. Brin Bendon presented this subject very well indeed and all who attended thought it was of great benefit to them. Some people travelled quite a distance to attend, such as Des Murtagh, from Waterford; David Lenham and Karl Dooley both from Dublin.

An entertaining night was had at Queens University playing fields on Monday 13th December when the Institute Of Groundsman ship invited us to join them at their Christmas Quiz. We fronted two teams, The McDivots and The Cuning Linguists. Needless to say the IOG team won hands down but between our two teams, The McDivots, my team finished streets ahead, stewards enquiry. Many thanks to the IOG for their hospitality and friendly atmosphere and I'm sure this will be a definite fixture this year again.

Finally thanks to last year's committee for all their hard work and giving up their own time to arrange all the various days that we all enjoyed throughout the year. Sterling works chaps and keep it up!

Iain Harrison.

See you all next month!



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