



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Scottish National Tournament

The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Tuesday 27 June 2000 over the Hawkshill Course, Newnacher, Aberdeen by kind permission of the Captain and committee.

The cost of the event will be £16 which includes coffee/tea, filled rolls and an evening meal.

Entry will be restricted depending on the number of entries received. Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 18 June 2000.

Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Scottish Conference, Business Learning Centre Lauder College, Dunfermline.

Once again the BIGGA Scottish Conference returned to the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. The college offers everything, from superb facilities with helpful and courteous staff, to a central position with easy access from the motorway proving once again that this is an excellent location.

Our speakers were from a broad spectrum of the trade and brought a wealth of experience and this was evident in their talks. First speaker was Brian Robinson on 'Grasses into 2000' with a talk on new strains and grasses for the millennium. After Brian we had Neil Simpson of the Scottish Golf Union. Neil expanded on the role of the Scottish Golf Union and its splendid new facilities at Drumoig. Next up was John Quinn, Head of Golf Development at Elmwood College and one of only two Master Greenkeepers in Scotland. John talked about personal goals and how to achieve them and certainly left the audience with some ideas to think about. Last, but by no means least in the morning session, was Simon Barnaby who spoke about Integrated diseases. This was an excellent presentation that according to the audience was far too short.

The first speaker at the afternoon session was a well known greenkeeper in Scottish circles Ronnie Bunting from

Kilmalcom GC. Ronnie spoke about the Environment and his club. It was obvious from his talk that this is a subject close to his heart and showed he was very committed to good environmentally practices. Following Ronnie, was David Roxburgh, from Rangers Football Club, who had some very definite ideas on the role of the groundsman and left us in no doubt that the groundsman was on par with any Head Greenkeeper. He certainly proved his worth in promoting the groundsman side of things. Finally to round off the day we heard Alistair Connell, a person well known throughout the trade. He spoke on drainage and irrigation, a subject at present never far away from any greenkeepers thoughts especially if you are working in the West of Scotland. Alistair provided us with an insight into the work that goes into preparing golf courses and football pitches.

At the conclusion of the Conference it was clear that the needs of the members had been well met by the speakers throughout the day and this was reflected in numbers who attended.

The 150 who attended had obviously been attracted by the variety of subjects on offer and the quality of speakers.

It is hoped that that next year's conference can maintain the high standards set.

Peter Boyd

West

Welcome once again to another round up of Section news.

This month's news dominated by football. The following report, kindly produced by Stuart Taylor, on two matches played recently.

West Section v Central at Ibrox on 2nd April.

Team: B. Hillen, C. Scott, A. Smith, C. Goodall, B. Bolland, G. Burns, S. Taylor, G. Shearer, E. Devine, C. Davies, S. McGechie, and K. Hastings.

Nice to see all the boys could make the effort to come and I use the term boys very loosely as when the opposition appeared our team looked like the old crows, no offense meant. Yes, they were a youthful side, but we had experience on our side and this is what proved decisive. Some good football was played at times, with only 15mins on the clock the West were two goals up with Gary Burns and Steven McGechie finishing well. Brian Hillens inexperience in goal showed with two mistakes causing the equalisers although he denied the second was his fault. Before half time two more for the West and one from the

Central section meant 4-3 at the break. The second half was all the West with three more goals coming, the final tally 7-3 to the West with the goals being supplied by Steven McGechie (4), Colin Davies (2), and Gary Burns (1). Lets say a word of thanks to Andy O'Hara and his team for a good spirited and competitive game, thanks to everybody who played for making it such a good day. Next report the match against the Police, and still the East Section to play.

Please let me know if you wish a run out phone 0141-942-5554.

Police game report

Well here we are again on the winning trail as we achieved a good victory against the Police. Near enough the same team as played the Central Section with Sandy Brawley and Gerry Bruen replacing Graeme Shearer and Charlie Goodall. This time the West took first blood with an excellent 25 yard rocket shot from Steven McGechie, five minutes later however the Police equalised through a free kick. A few minutes later and Gerry Bruen slipped past the defence to place the ball beyond the keeper, 2-1 West. Shortly after the Police equalised a cross ball leaving Brian Hillen and Gary Burns to wonder what happened as they had the ball covered. Next Steve McGechie again scored through good skills and placed the fourth in after opening up the Police defence. The Police had a consolation goal through Stuart Taylor's lack of decision. Thanks to all who took part, Bob Graham for the challenge match and for supplying the strips. Well done guys, come on the East this should be easy meat. Once again those interested in playing contact me, Stuart Taylor.

Thanks Stuart for that detailed account of the matches, a good result for the West.

Please make a note in your diary regarding the autumn outing at Lenzie GC, the date has been altered to Thursday 21st September, previously Thursday 14th September.

Any news or information please contact me on Mobile: 07050-173080, Home: 0141-776-1532.

Email Ryrug@Lineone.net

Gavin Jarvis

Central

We extend a warm welcome to Michael Booth from Dunblane New Golf Club who joins the section this month, Michael is an apprentice at Dunblane and hopefully we will see him at some of our forthcoming events. If you can play football Michael

get in touch with Andy O'Hara fast!

In the recent football match against the West Section at Ibrox, well across the road from it, the Central Section went down narrowly by seven goals to three, I am still waiting on the full match report from the team manager Andy "maybes aye maybes naw" O'Hara, but by all accounts our goalkeeper played a blinder, with blind being the operative word! Still, just wait until the return match on home soil.

The winner of the Club 2000 draw for last month was Colin Buchanan with ticket number 00185, congratulations Colin, you owe Kevin Brunton a drink for selling you the ticket.

Anyone who missed the Annual Conference at Dunfermline recently missed excellent presentations by all the speakers who covered a variety of subjects and once again our thanks go to Peter Boyd for organising another first class event. The Central Section was well represented at the conference, but amazingly, as last year, not one of the three local clubs were represented, I wonder if they know where the Lauder Tech is?

With regard to the survey form which was sent to you all recently I would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill them in and return them, your committee will endeavour to organise a number of your suggestions during the current year. A special thanks to Owene Brown from the Dukes Course, Simon Freeman from Machrie, Mike Dennis from Rigby Taylor and Richard Walton from Scotts who have all offered to become involved in organising some events for our benefit.

At the time of writing the entry for the Spring Tournament at St Andrews is fully subscribed, I hope this is a sign of things to come for future events, there will be a full report in next months news.

The draw for this years Inter Club Tournament should be with those teams who entered and hopefully we will manage to get this tournament finished in the same year as it was started and not like last year's which has carried over to another millennium!

John Crawford

North

New members to welcome to the Section this month are as follows: Nick Mackay from Kemnay, Grant Clark from Caird Park, Donald Meldrum from Taymouth Castle and from Blairgowrie we welcome back Stevie Macintosh and Bruce Maclaren.

On the move are Chris Cumming, leaving Fortrose after many years service to go to Peterculter and Andrew Shade who leaves Peterculter to take over the head job at Spey Bay. Andrew has the task of restoring this lovely course back to its natural links state.

Andy Menmuir, our Rigby Taylor rep who married Cordelia last year is now expecting the pater of tiny feet as Cordelia is expecting a baby in August. Congratulations to both.

I should have kept quiet about the weather, it is early April as I write this report and it has been snowing over the last couple of days, hopefully this is the last of the winter weather.

I am in possession of the portfolios of all the newly qualified D32/33 Assessors in the Section and we hope to have a Moderation Meeting this month where I will hand them out. All Assessors should attend this meeting to hear the latest news and air their views.

The Section outing at Buckpool, Buckie this month will decide who from the North will win the expenses paid trip to the BIGGA National Tournament in the Autumn and also the first four winners of the 200 Club, so get your entries in quick and please pay for your 200 Club ticket, thank you and good luck.

Iain Macleod



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

Nothing much to report this month. The Spring Tournament at Bradley Hall GC sponsored by White Moss/Sports World will be reported on next month. Our next Golfing event is President's Day at Hollins Hall GC on Wednesday 21 June. This is being sponsored by Greenkeeping Supply.

All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the full amount of £17.50 no later than seven days before the event. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We welcome this month as new members:- Matthew Winn & Andrew Powell, Cookridge Hall G&CC; David Mulholland & Colin Mulholland, Pontefract & District GC; Craig Hustwit, Calvery GC; Peter Delannoy, Hessler GC; Gareth Potts, Howley Hall GC; Andrew Percival, Masham GC; Richard Hall, Calvery GC; Darren

Hargreaves, Nigel Wood, Jeffery Holmes, Adam McCallum, Skipton GC; Scott Lambert, Wensleydale GC.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any enquiries 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 information or ideas for Section events either Educational or social then let me know. It is your Section. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

North West

Many thanks to Martin Gunn, Jonathan Tucker, Bob Taylor and Alistair Beggs. These of course were the speakers at the seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club on 16 March. We had an excellent day with 75 delegates in attendance including Greenkeepers, Golf Club Secretaries, Chairmen of Greens and members of the Trade. Martin Gunn, Course Manager, at Temple Golf Club, and winner of the BIGGA Environmental Award, gave us an insight into the management of running his course and gaining the interest of his members in becoming environmentally friendly. His hard work and dedication to his profession, plus the help from a strong committee and advice from the STRI has paid off making the course a "Temple of Excellence".

Jonathan Tucker, STRI Golf Course Architect, spoke on what to do and what not to do when designing a course. The improvement in the quality of the golf ball and the golf club has certainly brought great changes into the design of the course. The positioning of fairway bunkers has certainly seen major changes and Jonathan suggested bunkers on wheels might be an improvement. After seeing some of his slides on DIY Greens Design. I think it advisable to call in the expert every time.

After an excellent lunch, Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist, spoke on Practical Assessments on Golf Courses throughout Europe, with the aim being to improve environmental/ecological management and awareness on golf courses. He is also Ecologist to the R&A and is responsible for undertaking ecological assessments on all the Open Championship courses. Bob has written widely over the past few years and one book especially "A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the

Golf Course" which is an excellent book available from BIGGA house at a cost of £3 for members and £7 for non members.

The day was rounded off by Alistair Beggs STRI Agronomist, North West. Alistair's talk was 'Pest and Disease Management - What does the Future Hold'. The future seems rather bleak, as Alistair explained there are so many pesticides and insecticides becoming banned because of health and safety regulations that the control even of the 'Fuss' will become a major problem. This is worrying, even now the control of worms and leather jackets is becoming more difficult with the banning of well proven pesticides. I think we will have to revert to some of the old remedies. I might mention that the three speakers from the STRI can be contacted at Bingley Telephone 01274 565131.

The Summer Tournament will be played at West Derby GC on Wednesday 28 June. Lunch will be served between 12.00 and 1.00 pm. The tee will be available from 1.30pm. All applications including a cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N/W. Applications to be sent to Peter Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU no later than Friday 23 April. Evening meal and prize presentation to take place once the golf is completed. Smart dress in the evening please.

In any case any members do not know, we have an excellent library at BIGGA House and all books are available for loan for a 6 week period at no cost.

Any news or views you can contact me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

North East

On behalf of members who made the effort, we would like to thank Terry Charlton of Turf-Care for the recent outing at the local ten-pin bowling, a rather disappointing turn-out considering we had unlimited bowling and it did not cost the member anything, but that seems to be the norm these days. The winner, if any of you are interested, was Barry Walker of Wearside Golf Club who goes onto the grand final with Garry Batson of Burgham Park in second place, please note the distance these people travelled to support the Section!

Another event took place at Tyneside Golf Club on the 23 March, again sponsored by Terry Charlton - the subject Health and Safety - OK not the most popular subject but wouldn't it be nice to turn up or like some of us, send apolo-

gies. I could not believe that no-one turned up at all! If you found that the lectures we have had are boring at least get in touch with us and tell us what you want to have, I bet we get a better turn-out at the golf meetings!

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

A committee meeting was held on March 7 to organise our spring meet and sort out a few things. We do need feedback on certain suggestions made.

Harrogate - options 1. Stay with same coach format. 2. £10 returnable deposit to save being out of pocket. 3. Run mini busses, find trade sponsorship or offer a package which includes overnight stay on Wednesday, so we arrive late Wednesday afternoon, can take in the AGM and all the other excellent night life attractions, spend Thursday at BTME, leave Thursday afternoon. WE DO NEED FEEDBACK!

Our final winter lecture at the college on laser levelling and the rules of golf was again superb and the attendance was brilliant. All the lectures have been a complete success. Our thanks go to the college, our education officers, ALS for providing the refreshments and all of you for attending. If there is anything you would like on the agenda for next winter's lectures, please contact Phil Davies and put the ball in motion.

Windsor: any of you wanting to attend the IOG Show, please contact Stuart McCall; If there is enough interest, an overnight package could be arranged, pick up that phone. Call numbers are on your events card. My mobile has changed: 0778 7586084 and I now have an e-mail: dgoodridge@talk21.com.

Welcome to new members Andy Roberts - Caldry, Stuart Mason and Alex Cochran - Padeswood and Buckley, Ken Smith - Rhuddlan, Barry Rogers and Paul Lowe - Eastam Lodge, Mark Richards - Welshpool, Mathew Pooley and Tom Fowles - Chester and Steven Leg - Vicars Cross.

The spring meeting was held at Frodsham. The weather was fantastic as was the golf course. Full praise must go to Paul Massey and the team for the amazing condition of the course considering we had just come out of such a wet winter and snow just two days before the event. Everything about it was first class, whichever way you looked at the course it was a picture. The members at Frodsham are very lucky indeed. Tees, fairways, the whole shooting match top

notch!
Our thanks go to Frodsham for having us, a very enjoyable day indeed.

Also our thanks go to the trade, Acorn, Aitkens, ALS, Amenity Technology, Burrows, Major R Owen, John Osman, Rigby Taylor, Sportsworld and Walker Engineering and of course Scotts and Charterhouse.

The results were: Best net Allen Lewis 71. Best Gross Andy Peel 79. Craig Wheeler net 73, Darryl Davies net 74, Paul Massey net 75, Mathew Pooley net 75. The first two qualify for the National and the next four for the Regional.

The winner of our new trade shield went to Andy Cornes of Acorn Equipment and the best guest was Eric Roylance. 77 players took part in the event, again a fantastic turn out. My apologies for not being able to stay for the presentation, so I will take this opportunity to explain that the price of entry this time was kept low as it was the first meet of the new millennium. However, prices will now revert back to the normal rates. Please remember meals cost £10 or more. Whilst I'm on

about meals, the food at Frodsham matched everything else at the club. Top notch!

See ya
Dave Goodridge.



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Midland

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of a long serving member and friend of the Midland Section. Alan Cutler of Edgbaston Golf Club died tragically on March 15.

Alan had worked at Edgbaston for some 33 years and was the longest serving member of staff at the Golf club. He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues at the Golf Club, he was an ever present at all of the Midland section events and many National events and his absence will be very apparent to everybody who had the pleasure of meeting him. On behalf of the Section I would like to convey our deepest sympathy to Alan's family and friends.

The results from the spring

tournament will be available for the next report and all the qualifiers for the National Championship.

Finally I would like to report on the success of Adam Throssall, of Gaudet Luce Golf Club, who recently became the National Under 21 champion for table tennis, congratulations Adam.

Jonathan Wood



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Welcome to this month's news from the Section.

Over the past few months your committee has been hard at work arranging events for the forth-coming year.

By now you should all have received a fixture card and covering letter. If anyone has not received their fixture card please contact me.

Again this year the Section has been well supported, through sponsorship from the following companies: Avoncrop Amenity,

Barnonset Limited, CMW, Ernest Does, Farmura, Gem Professional, Godfreys, Bournes, Rigby Taylor Limited, Mobile Mower Services, John Shaw Machinery Limited, Scotts UK, Sherriff Crop Care, Greenkeeping Services, Palmers Agricultural, Sheerwater Leisure Limited, UAP, Grassroots and European Turf Technology - our thanks to them for their generosity!

The number of new members joining the section this year is on the increase and we extend a warm welcome to them and hope to see them at this years events.

Congratulations go to Philip Belton on his new job at Westerham Golf Club - good luck Philip.

Congratulations also to Clive Pearson, of Gem Professional, and his wife on the birth of their new son Jack, who weighed in at 10lbs 2oz. A little birdie tells us Clive is planning on employing an Italian nanny to assist Jack's chances of making the Chelsea team - Bella! Bella!

A request has also been made for Richard Haynes to help Clive out by donating some of

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



his old clothes to Jack (please, not your old Arsenal shirt!).

Please call me if you have any news or views you would like put in the Section "Around The Green".

James Duncan

London

Since taking over as Course Manager at Hartsbourne Golf & Country Club, David Stenton and his team have undertaken project after project. During the winter of 1998/99, 3,500 metres of land drainage pipe work was installed on the Hunt Course and five greens were also drained. During the winter months, David also oversaw the planting of 5,000 trees aided by the Contractor, Eamon Wall. A small matter of eight tees were also built during this time. The summer of 1999 was a testing time as an aged and temperamental irrigation system was coaxed to perform for one last season, causing many hours of evening overtime.

September brought a welcome respite when David married Sue and whisked her off on honeymoon.

The programme for winter 1999/2000 is equally impres-

sive with forty bunkers having been reconstructed on the front nine of the Hartsbourne course, with the remainder on the back nine scheduled for next winter. There has also been another tee constructed.

A new irrigation system is currently being installed by Dave and Doug Mansell (DDM Irrigation Installations) on greens and tees with fairway hydrants, new controllers and pumps. To top it all, footings have been dug and the concrete foundations laid for a new machinery shed, again all undertaken by David and his team.

This in readiness for conversion of the old workshop into a buggy store.

The London Section Qualifier for the BIGGA National Golf Championship was held at Hanbury Manor Golf Club on Wednesday 22 March. The day was fine and sunny with temperatures unseasonably high, and the course was in immaculate condition. With a field of forty plus, play commenced at 10.30 am and with such favourable conditions, play was brisk and good scores were achieved.

Results for the day were: Lowest nett, Ian Semple, level par from Old Fold Manor GC. Lowest Gross, Richard Andrews, Highgate GC, Runner up, Rob Washbrook, Hadley Wood GC. Nearest the Pin, Derek Farrington, Regional Administrator. Longest Drive, Rob Phillips, Sandy Lodge GC.

Many thanks to Hanbury Major Golf Club for offering their magnificent facilities and also to the catering staff for a first class evening meal. Thanks also to Kneale Diamond, Hanbury's Acting Course Manager and his team for preparing the course and not forgetting the Tournament Sponsors, Charterhouse Turf Machinery and Scotts Fertilisers who are funding the Grand Final.

Also our best wishes to Hanbury's Course Manager, Kenny McKay, with his new appointment, taking over the Forest of Arden Course in Warwickshire.

Peter Hopkinson

Essex

Hellos, Good-Byes, etc: Firstly a belated congratulations to Deputy Head at Abridge Golf

Club, Steve Cox and his wife who gave birth to a baby girl last month, hope everything is going well for all three of you.

Secondly good-bye and good luck to Ian Mitchell who leaves the Essex Section to further his career in Austria, he will be missed by friends and work colleagues alike. Lastly a welcome back into the stress free, sun tanned life of greenkeeping to Mick France who has returned after far too long to take over at Ilford Golf Club. See you soon Mick.

New Members: Geoffrey Lewis, Orsett Golf Club, Adrian Darnell, Bentley Golf Club, Christopher Wright, South Essex Golf and Cricket Club and Gary Bullock from Briggens House Golf Club.

Golf Days: The annual Gentleman's Dinner and Golf Day at Walton Heath proved a huge success for the Essex section as three of its members finished top of their categories, Ray Clark who is Head Greenkeeper at Channels Golf club won the 10 - 18 handicap category and, not to be outdone, Malcolm Smith who looks after the 9-hole Regiment Way course at Channels won the 19



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**BRINGS QUALITY TO
THE SURFACE**

- 28 category, these positions will come as no surprise to all those who regularly attend our golf days. Finally Carl Croucher won the combined score event of greenkeeper plus club official with his Greens Chairman. Congratulations to all those mentioned above.

A new date has been arranged for the Summer Tournament this year at Theydon Bois Golf Club, it has changed from Wednesday 14 June to Tuesday 13 June, details will be in the post shortly.

This report comes just too early for the Forrester Park qualifier but I trust everybody enjoyed themselves, results will appear just two months after the competition has been played and probably after the next round.

Education:

A busy last two months has seen greenkeepers attend a two day beginners course in Information Technology, (computers to the laymen) on the 15 and 16 February. Ken Richardson endured two days of teaching six of our guys, thanks. For those interested a second day has been planned, dates to be arranged. The second day of the Frank Newbury Management Course got under way at the Burstead Golf Club on the 21 March dealing with such matters as Stress Management, Employment Law and Issuing Contracts of Employment.

Thank-yous should not only go to Frank but to all the staff at the Burstead for the food and hospitality. An evening seminar held at Writtle College by Steven Bernard of Bernard and Co and sponsored by Grasshopper Limited was well attended, the subject title was "Should The Mower Really Murder Grass?" it elucidated the concept and benefits of flat grinding, keeping the blade sharp with no contact to the bottom blade. Further details can be obtained from John Sinclair.

Help, Write Back!: Thanks to the greenkeepers who replied in response to my article of two months previous, whilst most of them arrived too late to be answered this month I will endeavour to return your requested information as quickly as possible. Unfortunately I cannot reply to the letter asking for marital advice!

Steve Crosdale

Surrey

The date for the McMillan tankard competition at Sunningdale has now been confirmed as the 21 August and the venue we have all been waiting to play, the East Surrey International at Laleham is on the 28 September (only joking John!).

Good-bye to Simon Hayes who has left Purley Downs Golf Club as First Assistant to take up his new post as Head Greenkeeper at Skipton Golf Club - somewhere north of the Watford Gap!

The Surrey Artisans Golf Union individual knockout competition for the Bob Hall Trophy was won by Alan McDougal of Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club.

Congratulations to Alan and a request from me to all other members of Surrey Section to let me know about any events or information that can be included in "Around The Green"

Brian Willmott

Sussex

Firstly I would like to start on a very sad note, the passing away of a great stalwart of the Sussex Section, Mike Butrymowicz, who sadly passed away on Saturday March 28, 2000. I am sure I speak on behalf of every member of the Sussex Section in saying that Mike will be sadly missed and that our deepest sympathy goes to Violet, Mike's wife of 48 years, and son Alan.

Mike Butrymowicz was involved in greenkeeping for 25 years, starting at Cottesmore Golf club, then moving to Lingfield Golf Club where he helped build the course. His banter at the Golf Days will be sadly missed.

Anyone wishing to make a donation, please sent to St Peter and St James Hospice, Wivlesfield Green, Nr Haywards Heath, West Sussex, where Mike spent his last few days.

Now to the forthcoming golf events of the year. The first event of the year is the Spring meeting at Royal Eastbourne Golf Club on 4 May 2000. This is a 36 hole tournament.

AM-Medal with best gross and net scores to qualify for the National Tournament. PM is a Stableford. Summer meeting to be held at Copthorne Golf club on 11 July 2000, and is a four ball better ball.

Team challenge to be held at Cooden Beach Golf club on 16 August 2000 and is a Greenkeeper/Club Office team event.

Autumn meeting to be held at Worthing Golf Club on 27 September 2000. This event is a Stableford competition.

Turkey Trot to be held as usual at Littlehampton Golf Club on 15 December 2000 and is a Texas Scramble format.

Other dates for the diary are as follows: 25 and 26 September 2000, The National Championships to be

held at St Annes Old Links, Fairhaven Golf Club. Tuesday, 14 November 2000, the Regional Seminar at Thorpeness Golf Club.

November 2000, Sussex AGM at Haywards Heath Golf Club, date to be announced.

Finally, I would like to finish on a much happier note in congratulating Robert Short and his wife on the birth of their second child, a little boy

who was born on 31 December 1999, just in time for the new millennium.

Well done! All the best from everybody in the Sussex Section.

Don't forget, anything you want saying in 'Around the Green', please telephone me on 0378 189785 or 1903 218675. Remember it's your Section!

Gary Ogilvie

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South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West

Not too much to report on this month. However many people have shown an interest in learning more about computers, so I have provisionally arranged two

courses to be taken by Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager from BIGGA. The first course will be a two day Introduction To Computers, focusing on getting started and learning the basics. This will take place at the beginning of November. A second course will be taken in the following spring and will be more advanced lesson. The cost of each course will be around £30.

Other courses coming up shortly, include a PA1 Foundation Module Spraying Course on Thursday 11 May. A PA6 Knapsack Spraying Course will also take place on the 8 June.

On the 11 October we will be running another one day first aid course at the Southern Ambulance College, Chippenham.

To join the above courses, telephone me on 01249 783382
Paul Cunningham

South Wales

First of all, hopefully by now you all should have received your fixture cards which are sponsored by Ted Hopkins, with the events for the rest of the year. If not, please contact section secretary Peter Lacey and I am sure he will send you one hastily, otherwise I will do my best to keep you informed. It is worth mentioning it is important that 1999 trophy winners

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should return them 28 days prior to tournaments they won. Also, if you are wishing to play in events, please could you remember to bring along your membership cards and handicap certificates on the day of each tournament.

The next tournament is to be held at Ashburnham GC on 5 July, our summer tournament with a tee off time of 1.00 pm. Then, on 11 August at Tredegar Park GC, with the section versus the Golf Club Secretaries, again a tee off time of 1.00 pm.

Thinking back to 7 March, yet again a well attended and also supported by the IOG was our evening lecture we had Phil Davey, a Paramedic from the Welsh Ambulance service. Phil gave us a quick update on some new techniques and recapping on general first aid. I have to say that for a serious matter of first aid, which Phil did portray, he also had an ability to make it interesting and humorous with his stories. On behalf of the section, it was a very good evening. Thank you Phil and all from the Welsh Ambulance Service for their good work. Thank you also to all at Avoncrop for sponsoring the section again this year.

Next month's article I will bring you up-to-date with our final evening lecture, this year which was our annual quiz held on 5 April. Also on 12 April the goings on at Westurf. I finish by saying please contact me on 01656 742761 with any interesting news that can benefit other members.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

Yelverton Golf Club was the venue for the Aventis & Supaturf March meeting held on Tuesday 28.

Our golfing members competed for the Supaturf (Head Greenkeepers & Trade) Trophy and the new Aventis Trophy for assistants over the excellently presented Moorland course.

As usual our non-golfing members course walk left the club house at 10.30 am and enjoyed a most enlightening guided tour of the course by Head Greenkeeper Steve Peters.

After a superb lunch Paul Clifton (Aventis) and John Mullins (Supaturf) representing our sponsors for the day presented the golf prizes as follows:-

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers & Trade (1) Terry Farkins (Dartmouth) 29 pts (2) Jeff Mills (Taunton) 27 pts (3) Cary Rawlings (Padbrook Park) 26 pts.

Aventis Trophy For Assistants (1) Martin Parrish (Holsworthy) 35 pts (2) Chris Bland (Dainton Park) 34 pts (3) Neil Williams (Stover) 34 pts.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day, with Melvyn Taylor of Turfdry presenting his excellent talk on "Golf Course Surveys using Satellites" the section would like to thank Melvyn for his superb presentation.

Also the section would like to thank the days sponsors Supaturf & Aventis for their continued support and to Yelverton Golf Club for allowing the section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Yelverton's staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Steve Peters and his crew who had the course presented in superb condition.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

An eventful month on the sunny south coast, we all thought spring was here!

Jeff Drake has resigned as our Section Secretary. Many thanks Jeff for your input over the last four years. After a committee re-shuffle, Fred Deamen has taken over as Secretary with Chris Sturgess moving into the role of Tournament Organiser. Fred will continue to run the Spring Event and the match against the Secretaries at

Basingstoke in June. From then on all entries to Chris Sturgess please (address at end).

Thanks to Crane Valley Golf club, venue of our March lecture sponsored by Swan Machinery Hire and supported by Avoncrop.

Forty-two members attended, many of whom played golf in the afternoon, followed by an excellent lunch.

Anyone interested in the Section Committee please let me know, preferably in writing. Entries for the Summer Tournament to Chris Sturgess at 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, SO19 6HB. Telephone 0777 3138409 before 8.00 pm please.

See you at Alton!
Tony Gadd

Links and Fairhaven Golf Club on the 25 and 26 September. Members are advised that they must play in the two Golf Days prior to the Qualifying Round. This not only keeps all handicaps correct but lets us field our strongest possible team.

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This year's committee has tried to incorporate golf with education, keeping golf for the summer months and education for the winter evenings.

A seminar will be run by our Region in October/November on Turf Management and some of the finest and most interesting guests will be speaking. More details will follow closer the time.

Finally a plea to you all; if you have any information that you think may be of use to anyone else and not necessarily Greenkeeping news, funny stories or something unusual that's happened to you or your staff give either me a call on 0771 8914072 or Charles Edgar on 07771 5092972.

Iain Harrison



I hope the weather finds you all well and that things are rolling at your course. What a month March was; it was very nearly sun-tan material, swiftly followed by a bitterly cold wind that would have cut time the first two weeks in April. Typical weather, I suppose, and we can't complain.

New members to the association this month are Justin Waddell from Fortwilliam and Sam Hall, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, also from Fortwilliam. Alastair Logan also joins us from Galgorm Golf Club. Once again lads, please feel free to come along to any event, as you are more than welcome.

The National Qualifier will be at Castlerock Golf Club this year on the 2 August. As our two sections have joined together we now have four places to fill to send over to the final, which will be at St Anne's Old



See you next month!



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