



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

One new member to welcome to the Section this month, Ryan Ross from Royal Aberdeen. We look forward to welcoming him to future outings along with the other members of Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to Richard Ewan, of The Nairn GC, on the birth of his 10.5lb son at the end of year 2000. We hope all the family are well.

Richard is also to be congratulated along with Stuart Hogg and Kevin Fowler of Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, who, with myself became the first students to complete the SVQ Level three on fast track through Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife.

It was hard work, but also satisfying and is a great way for us older greenkeepers to gain recognised qualifications. I would like to thank Elmwood College for providing this course and Huw Parry and Allan Clark in particular for helping us through it. Hopefully we will be the first of many.

This year's 200 Club tickets should be sent out shortly and we are grateful to Ray Warrender and Barclay Ross for sponsoring it in the year 2001.

Please help our organiser, Stewart McBain, by sending your money back quickly, or if you really cannot buy it this year, let Stewart know as soon as possible so he can sell it to someone else. This is the only fund raiser for the Section and helps to keep the cost of the outings down, as we don't want to make money from them to run the Section. As long as we can sell all the 200 Club tickets, we can run the Section and offer our outings at lower prices, so please do your bit as it is much appreciated.

This month I am off to Dallas for the GCSAA Show, which I am really looking forward to and can thoroughly recommend to any member to try one year. The BIGGA package is good value and you will be amazed at the size and quality of the show and seminars.

Iain Macleod

Central

Will the following members please return their allocation of "Club 2000" tickets as they should have been sold or returned to me by December 31 2000.

A. Adams, T. Adamson, J. Aitken, J. Atherton, P. Atkins, M. Baird, S. Balfour, R. Balloch, R. Barron, S. Bayne, J. Beattie, A. Begg, W. Bell, J. Bone, M. Booth, P. Brown, D. Brown, M. Brunton, S. Bryceland, J. Campbell, M. Campbell, G. Campbell, A. Clark, J. Clowry, P. Murphy, J. Quinn, J. Colvin, T. Comerford, P. Conway, S. Crawford, R. Crighton, J.

Cunningham, H. Davidson, R. De Rose, J. Kidd, W. Swan, A. Touch, I. Menzies, S. Ewing, A. Drummond, T. Edwards, B. Durkin, A. Duncan, I. Donaldson, D. Deacons, M. Doris, I. Dye, J. Farrar, S. Fenwick, M. Gardner, G. Ferguson, A. Fleming, D. Gardner, A. Gibson, D. Gormen, V. Green, J. Grieg, A. Graham, M. Hall, D. Gray, J. Gowans, M. Geddes, L. Handyside, T. Harris, P. Harrison, K. Harrow, R. Hastings, B. Heggie, J. Henderson (Ballingry), J. Henderson (Kennoway), M. Herd, C. Hopkins, M. Horkan, S. Howie, I. Hunter, G. Innes, B. Irving, I. Jarvis, J. Jones, L. Kennedy, D. Key, P. Keyworth, I. Kinley, C. Kitching, I. Knight, D. Laing, M. Laing, C. Law, G. Logan, G. Lorimer, G. Lothian, G. Luke, C. MacDonald, A. MacFadyen, S. McGregor, S. MacIntosh, R. MacMillan, J. MacPhail, S. Manatini, R. Marshall, I. Marshall, K. Martin, S. Martin, D. McAllister, S. McAughey, G. McCandless, A. McCulloch, I. McIntosh, D. McKenna, C. McKenzie, G. McLaren (St. Andrews), G. McLaren (Buckhaven), J. McLean, M. McLeish, R. McLuckie, D. McNeil, W. McWilliam, T. Meenagh, R. Meikle, W. Milton, S. Mitchell, B. Mone, S. Muir, C. Mulligan, S. Newall, B. Nicol, W. Nisbet, T. O'Connor, J. Paterson, S. Patrick, A. Paterson, S. Pearson, A. Peggie, W. Philips, J. Philp, S. Pilling, C. Powrie, F. Prosser, A. Purdie, C. Purdie, S. Raeburn, T. Rawlinson, W. Redpath, S. Reid, G. Reid, M. Ritchie, S. Robertson, R. Robertson, A. Russell, I. Salmond, B. Samuel, M. Shanahan, R. Sharp, C. Simpson, R. Smith, D. Shearer, C. Shepherd, S. Simpson, D. Simpson, I. Sinclair, C. Smith, G. Smith, S. Smith, A. Souter, I. Smith, T. Spence, S. Stenhouse, C. Stafford, P. Stewart, G. Taylor (Glenrothes), G. Taylor (Leven), G. Todd, A. Torrance, S. Turner, D. Urquhart, C. Webb, H. Wei, M. White, C. Wilson, G. Winter, S. Wood, A. Wotherspoon, D. Wright, B. Young.

That's this month's Section news folks!

John Crawford

East

Well nothing to report this month - as normal, everything is very quiet after Christmas, New Year, and, of course, BTME at Harrogate.

Hopefully I will have some stories to report from BTME or maybe some photographs, or someone might send me something to put in my article next month.

The Committee is, at present, putting together the fixture list for this year so you should have your Fixture Cards soon. Let us know if there is anything you would like to see us doing. As you will all know the annual dinner dance was cancelled last year due to lack of numbers but we all hope we can resurrect it in some form this year, maybe at a different time or a dif-

ferent format. Please let us know what you want because it's your Association. If you don't, the dance will bite the dust just like our skittles nights and summer matchplay competitions. Come on, the Committee needs to hear from you!

You can contact me at all the usual numbers (all in previous magazines). So don't forget we are waiting for your call.

Chris Yeaman

West

First of all let me wish you all a belated happy new year and I hope you have all enjoyed the holiday period.

The year 2000 has been a very successful one for West Section members with Jonathan Cleland, of Helensburgh GC, winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award & Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacollm GC, extending his growing list of achievements by qualifying for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and winning the Scottish Award in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. I would like to offer both my congratulations and that of the Section committee to you both and look forward to hearing about your experiences during both the competitions and about Jonathan's visit stateside as part of his prize.

Hopefully 2001 will be just as successful if forward thinking club's continue to allow their staff to further their education within the industry.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome from the Section Committee to our newest members, Gary Anderson and James Muir McGowan, and look forward to meeting you at the up and coming West Section events.

Confirmed venues for the West Section outings are Kirkhill GC on April 25 and at Milngavie GC on September 20. On behalf of the Section members, the Committee would like to thank both Kirkhill GC and Milngavie GC for the courtesy of playing their courses.

The 100 club will again be run this year with three draw's made throughout the year. The numbers will be drawn both the spring & autumn outings and a further draw will be made at the Section AGM. Tickets will be on sale soon from committee members so book early to avoid disappointment.

One other golfing date to note is the Head Greenkeepers/conveners match to be played at Helensburgh GC on April 5. I am sure Ronnie Miles, last year's winner, will already be practising and getting the course into fine condition to defend his club's coveted trophy.

As Gavin mentioned in December's Section news the Scottish Educational Conference will be held at Lauder College, Dunfermline on March 6. All Section members who have the opportunity to attend this event

should as in the past both the venue and the quality of speakers have been of the highest standard.

Well all that is left for me to do is wish you all a successful season. I look forward to seeing all the usual faces at the outing and hope that a few new faces will make the effort to come along to what are always very enjoyable days. All the best. If you have anything of interest to write in the column please phone me on 0135266862.

Brian Bolland



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

Boxing Day, full of turkey and Christmas pudding, nothing to do, so I have decided to write the Section notes. This is not a chore I enjoy, because, other than the weather conditions, I find very little to write about, not having any news sent to me. However, we did have an excellent seminar in the North West on the 7th December at Penrith Golf Club. The Seminar was well attended with 70 Delegates and six speakers.

The first speaker was Alistair Beggs, turf grass agronomist with the STRI, his talk was on Pest and Disease Management, highlighting the problems of controlling pests and disease, due to the lack of chemicals available, many of which have been taken off the market because of Health & Safety Regulations. It looks as though we are going to have to revert to old methods, so I suggest that you get some of your old books out and look for some of the old timers' remedies.

Bill Powell, Business Development Manager with Marks & Spencer, then told us we all needed to know about stakeholder pensions, which was more interesting and which more young greenkeepers should look into.

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, then updated us on greenkeeper education, and what is new. Some of the education courses aren't that new, like regional courses which are not so well attended. Apart from these courses there are many other things to organise. Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping; Golf Environment competition; Toro student of the year competition, and much more. Ken also reminded us about the library at BIGGA HOUSE, where you can borrow books free of charge, posted to your home. There are also six videos you can purchase at £14.95 each.

Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist with the STRI, gave an interesting talk about the benefits of being environmentally friendly. Bob is also ecologist to the R&A undertaking ecological assessments on the Open Championship courses and also judges the BIGGA Environment

Competition. After lunch Tom Rickerby, Chairman of Greens Committee at Lancaster Golf Club, talked about the role of Chairman titled, "A Personal View" with good points raised.

Martin Jones, head of Turfgrass Science at Myerscough College finished the day with a talk on "Climate & Golf Courses." This subject is very topical at the moment because of the dreadful weather over the last 12 months. The weather changes so quickly, as I am typing these notes - from freezing to snowing, so at least it will keep the golfers off the courses. Many thanks to all the speakers, thanks to Penrith Golf Club, and to the caterers for a magnificent buffet. Not forgetting Doug Bell, the Regional Administrator, who arranged the day.

Some dates to remember: Mere Seminar, Thursday March 22; Spring Tournament, Mere Golf And Country Club - Monday April 23; Summer Tournament, Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club - Tuesday, June 12.

Once all the fixtures are finalised you will receive a fixture list for the year.

Any news, views and complaints, you can contact me on, Mobile-07761583387 or 01517245412.

Bert Cross

Northern

Well done to Bob and Katie Harthorne as they are now the proud parents of a little girl, Emily Rose who weighed in at 7lbs. Unfortunately she looks just like Bob, but never mind, I am sure it will be a passing phase!

Congratulations also to Jim Brown on his appointment as Course Manager at Penwortham GC, over in Lancashire.

We welcome Paul Marc, from Harrogate GC, and Roger Heeley, from Meltham GC, as new members.

There is no other news at the moment, but if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy.smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

North Wales

Apologies for the following column being late and a month out of date, but there seems to have been a mix up at HQ. Please get in touch with me if you have anything I can write about as I am not on Committee anymore so I need to be contacted - all my contact numbers are on your diary of events leaflets.

Yet again it's rain, rain, rain - I wish I was in Spain instead I'm

watching water going down the drain... pain!

The lecture at the College in November was attended by 75 delegates which was absolutely fantastic and made all the effort so worthwhile. Thanks go to Trevor Chard, of Lely UK, Andy Jones and Glyn Hughes, of Major R Owen, for an excellent overview of routine maintenance versus expensive breakdowns. An extra thank you to Majors for sponsoring the refreshments (the mince pies were great). Thanks also to Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool, who educated us on bunker construction. It also served to give warning to those members playing in our Christmas tournament the type of revetted faces awaiting the wayward shot. Never failing to get a locomotive engine into the talk, we were treated to a number of impressive South African sunset shots to end an excellent day. The next lecture is on Wednesday 10th January at the College, on Course Design and Plantings, starting 2.30 pm - see you there.

The annual coach to Harrogate was run again on Wednesday 24 January. This year things were different. Forms were sent to the section and a £10 refundable booking fee was requested, so if you

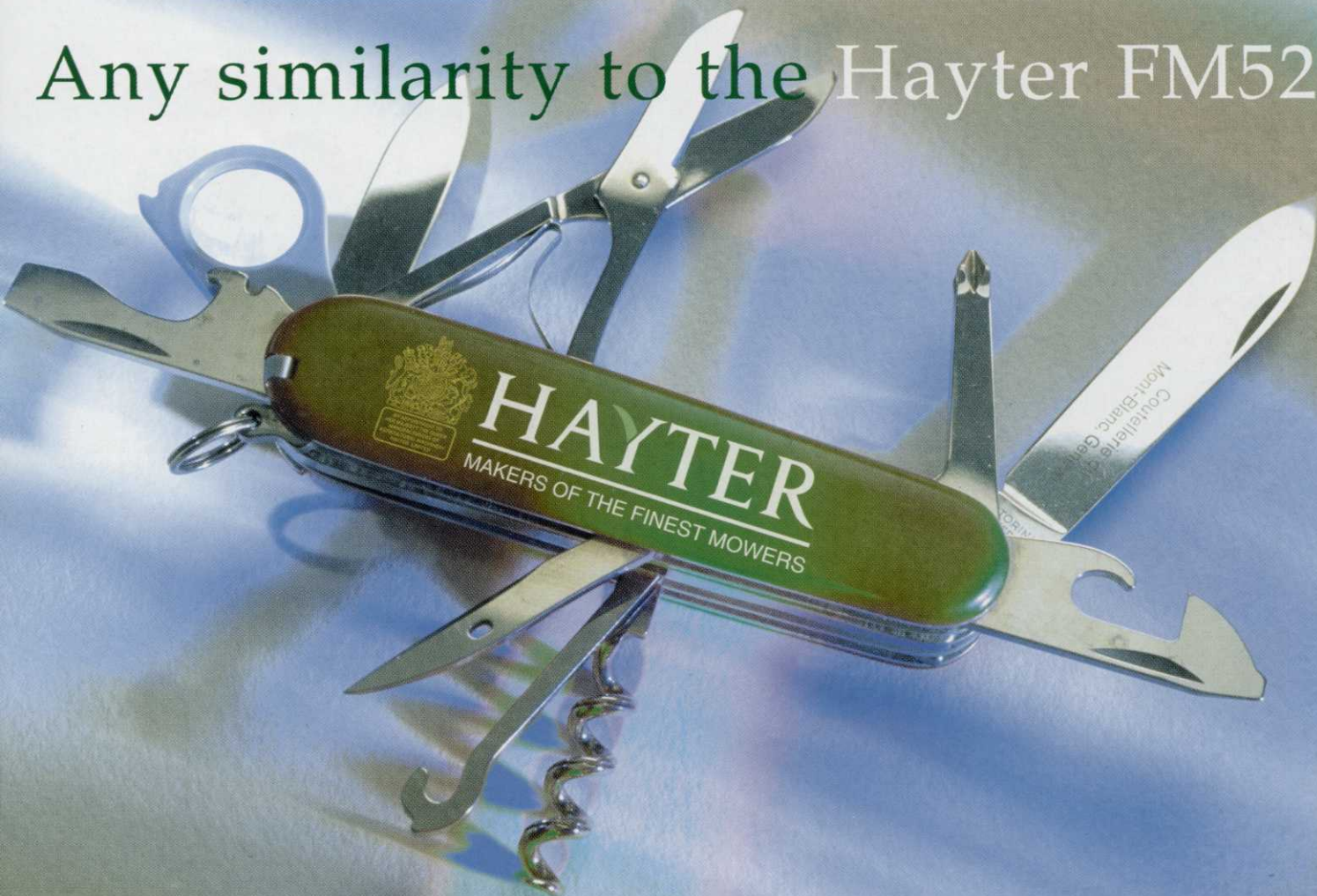
booked and got on the coach you got your money back. However if you booked and didn't turn up, you forfeited the cash. This had to be done so we knew what size coach to book.

The Section would like to wish a very happy and long retirement to a man, who, I imagine, is one of the longest serving greenkeepers to single club in history. The man in question is Aneurin Hughes, of Rhos on Sea Golf Club, who had an article about him in G.I. not long ago. He has served the Club for an incredible 51 years, a fantastic achievement - all the best to you.

The Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool was played in lovely conditions and the course was a credit to Derek Green and his staff. All the work now being done is amazing and will hopefully get the course back into open reckoning. Our thanks go to the Captain, Council and members of the Club for allowing us the honour and pleasure of playing such an auspicious course and to the catering and bar staff for providing such splendid after game meals and refreshments.

The results were Shaun Pritchard, Llanymynech 38 pts, who retained both the Toro Trophy and the Bill Lawson Shield for the best under 21 (he is still only 19). Allen Lewis won

Any similarity to the Hayter FM524



the best aggregate for the season again with 33pts. Llanymynech seems to be the place for good golfers. Andy Cornes won the Trade Cup, completing a clean sweep of trophies for the season. Nearest the Pin: member Terry Adamson, guest Dave Austin. Longest Drive: member Andy Peel, guest Dave Austin. Thanks go to Acorn, ALS, Bathgate, Osmans, North Staffs Irrigation, Walker Engineering, Gem, and Richard Campey.

Your Committee for 2001 will be S. McCall, Chairman; C. Price, Vice Chairman; G. Edwards Secretary; T. Johnston, Treasurer; J. Hughes, Match Secretary; G. Whitby, T. Adamson, A. Cornes and S. Robert. A good turnout was achieved at the AGM where the Committee was finalised.

Keep up the good work lads and keep our Section the envy of others.

Dave Goodridge

Sheffield

Very little to report this month except to remind members that our third winter lecture is on the 1st of March at Rotherham Golf Club with normal start time of 2.30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Symbio. Anyone wishing to place information

in this column may do so by contacting me on 01142477976

Alan Sampson



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Midland

Happy New Year to everyone and hopefully a drier one to boot.

Looking back to the Christmas Golf Day which was held at Sutton Coldfield, the course was in tremendous condition given the appalling weather, so all credit is due to Alan Kite and everyone at Sutton Coldfield.

The format for the day was Texas Scramble and the victors with 63 points gross were Tony Cheese, Steve Wild, Mike Gash and Rob Jervis.

The day was kindly sponsored by Burrows of Stafford and Steve Hanlon. Ruffords nearest the pin and longest drive with Rigby Taylor supplying the wine with the meal, many thanks to you all.

Phil Gates

East Midland

The final golf event for 2000 was the Christmas Tournament held at

Oakmere Park Golf Club on December 7. On a fine dry day with rain forecast for later there were 32 golfers very keen to Tee-off and play in the dry conditions. The format for the day being a Singles Stb. The Winners were Category 1. 0-14 H/cap - 1. Adi Porter, Greatham Valley; 35pts, 2. Kim Kirkham, Sherwood Forest, 34pts; 3rd. Dave Leatherland, Kedlestone Park, 34pts.

Category 2. 15-28. 1. Chris Weir, Kirby Muxloe, 34pts; 2. David James, Scraftoft, 29pts; 3. Nick Root, The Leicestershire, 26pts.

Trade and Associate, 1. Simon Banks, Banks Amenity Products, 37pts; 2. Les Emery, Regional Administrator, 32pts.

Our thanks go to Oakmere Park for hosting our competition and to Ryan Holden and his staff for presenting an excellent test in golf in such difficult weather conditions. The talking point in the clubhouse was how come the course was so dry. This was the first time our Section had visited Oakmere Park and we were all made to feel most welcome. Thanks also to the steward and stewardess for an excellent Christmas meal. Finally a special Thank You should go to Rigby Taylor for providing the prizes on the day.

Also I would like to thank Russell Latham of Boughton Loam for the

fantastic prize he donated to the raffle. This was a most generous gesture and on behalf of all the members I think you deserve a special Thank You.

On December 12 the Section, courtesy of Les Emery, organised a soil science workshop. I would like to thank all those members for supporting the day, our lecturer Dennis Mottram (who was my lecturer at Reaseheath College), and Gavin Robson who helped in the smooth running of the day. According to the feedback that I received this was an excellent educational day, and, with your support, it is hoped that more workshops can be arranged.

Don't forget the Go-Kart evening on February 21 at the Wymeswold Industrial Estate, anybody interested give me a ring or e-mail me. If you have any news for me which you would like to see published in this article, please pass on the information to me.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

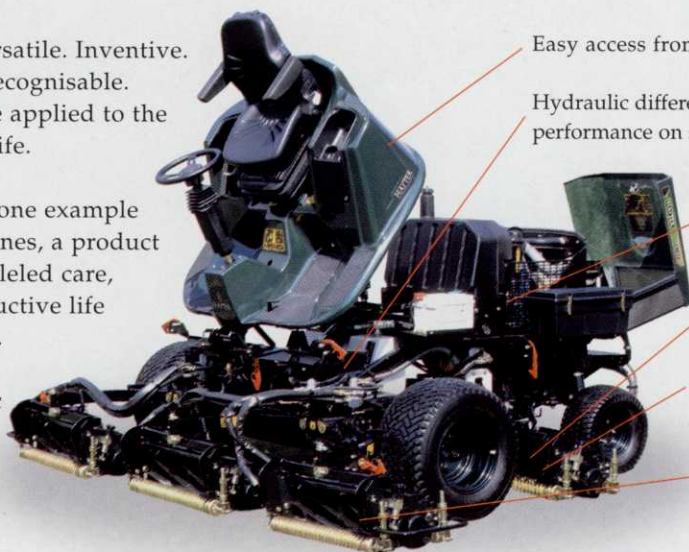
The final of the Lodgeway Four Ball competition was decided over 36 holes (old and new course) at Brocket Hall Golf Club. Alan Grew, Berkhamsted, and Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, won 4 and 3 against Steve Mason and Gavin

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Simkins, both Mount Pleasant.

Our thanks go to Bocket Hall for allowing the final to be played over a course that was in superb condition, by all accounts. Thanks also to Steve for organising the competition so well in difficult circumstances and to Chris Rook, of Lodgeway, for his continued sponsorship of the event. It has been agreed by the committee to change the format next year to a straight Fourball knock out, to overcome the problem of people not completing all their matches in time.

Our final golf event of the year was played at Chesfield Downs GC in early December, over 18 holes, using the usual Texas Scramble format. Entry for this event is always popular and once again we were over-subscribed. The 26 teams that competed enjoyed a fine round of golf over a course in exceptional condition for the time of year.

Our thanks to Eddie O'Hanlon and his team for all their effort and to the club for allowing us use of the course for the day. Some excellent team scores were posted on the day, with nine teams scoring 60 or below. The full results were as follows:

1. R. Perry, N. Robson, D. Houseden, M. Hendry - 55.4 net; 2. N. Pestle, A. Males, G. Shield, S. Alston - 57.6 net; 3. M. Ellis, D. Brown, B. Goodwin, C. Parnell - 57.8 net. Nearest Pin 18. Mark Hendry. Longest Drive. J. Hartley

Dave Hawkins, of Turf Care, kindly donated a television as the prize for an additional Nearest the Pin on the 3rd hole, which was won by Gavin Simkins of Mount Pleasant.

Barry McCloskey, representing Avoncrop Amenity Products, who kindly sponsored the prizes, made the presentations to the day's winners. Thanks also to all the other trade members who have supported us over the last year.

Three other presentations were made: Chris Rook, from Lodgeway, gave prizes to the finalists of the Fourball mentioned above; Gerald Bruce made a presentation to Bob Goodwin who is retiring shortly and who was responsible for setting up the Mid Anglia Section in the late 70s. We all wish you a happy retirement, Bob.

Gary Boulton, of Dunstable Downs, was this year's winner of the "Golfer of the Year" prize. This prize is based on results from the spring, summer and autumn tournaments, plus the Lodgeway Fourball. Our thanks go to Turner Groundcare for donating the prize of a weekend break to the value of £250.

The day was rounded off nicely by Bob Butfoy, Greenkeeper at Mount Pleasant Golf Club. Bob brought his guitar along and gave us a sample of some of the songs he performs in his

spare time.

Finally, Jim Cassidy, of Ashridge Golf Club, has been seconded on to the full Section committee.

Paul Lockett



Devon and Cornwall

The PJ Flegg Christmas meeting was held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday 6th December, after an early course inspection by Head Greenkeeper Richard Wisdom. We were once again able to play the full 18 holes which would have been impossible on many courses after the wettest autumn on record. As last year we used a two-tee start for the greensome format competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy. Our non-golfing members were treated, as usual, to the guided course walk by Richard, both golfing and non-golfing were once again delighted to see the PJ 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 PJ Flegg trophy being presented by Des to.

1. R. Parker, Ilfracombe, & T. Clark, Crediton, 41pts; 2. G. Tamblyn, Mullion, & D. Manley, Mullion, 37pts; 3. C. Rawlings, Padbrook Park, & D. Blake, Padbrook Park, 36pts.

A special prize was donated by Lawrence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton for the best triers and went to S. Evans and T. Newland.

After the afternoon entertainment our raffles concluded a really excellent day. The first raffle was for the Avoncrop hamper and a place on the Region's BTME Trip.

Congratulations to Steve Evans on winning the hamper and to Nick Moyses on winning the BTME prize. The final raffle of the day consisted of more than 40 prizes donated by members and trade.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton Golf Club and all 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 great shape.

A big thanks 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, Alan Dommett, who supplied the wine at lunch. Also to all of you who donated prizes for the

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



day. Please note I shall be attending the Canadian Conference and will not be attending the Avoncrop meeting at Thurlstone Golf Club on March 1, so please make sure your entries for this meeting have been returned to me by 19th February.

Dates for your diary; Westurf Trade Show at Westpoint Exeter, Wednesday March 14, Aventus & Supaturf Meeting at Rorresrow Golf Club Wednesday March 28.

Richard Whyman

South West

The Millennium Tour had its last competition at Henbury Golf Club and the weather did not stop anybody from enjoying an extended foursome, sponsored by ALS. The winners presented themselves with prizes, as they were the Greens Chairman of Henbury and the Chairman Chris Sealy. A big thank you and applause were given to Mark Lehman and his staff for making the course playable, and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. The raffle followed and staff at Kendleshire would like to thank everyone who donated prizes as they won 90% of them! They all bought tickets in hope of winning the trip to BTME, and they succeeded!

Most of the talk was about Robin Greaves leaving Thornbury Golf

Club. He is entering a new career with E.T Breakwells, and we all wish him well for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all venues and sponsors of 2000 events. Please do not forget the first competition of the 2001 tour is at Stinchcombe on the 28th of February. This will be a three-man team event Bowmaker. Please send your completed forms back A.S.A.P.

Westurf is fast approaching so please try and visit Westpoint in Exeter on March 14. On the 13th there has been a social event organised for your benefit in a hotel in Exeter, for more details and booking enquiries please contact Paula on her usual number.

Views, news and info. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01285 720112. A very happy New Year to all the second members.

David Bougen

South Wales

The Winter Tournament, AGM and Christmas dinner were held recently at the Pyle & Kenfig GC and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who were in attendance.

Despite the awful recent weather the golf course remained open and in great shape for the time of year. All credit to Ray Hunt, Paul Robinson and the greenstaff team.

A sincere best wishes to Paul from everyone in the Section on his retirement from P & K. Paul has been a greenkeeper at the club, man and boy with too many years under his belt to mention. He will be sorely missed, by all those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Best wishes in retirement also to former Head Greenkeeper at the Langland Bay golf club, Ken Payne from the Section.

Some 36 hardy souls took to the course at P & K and over 50 were treated to a first class traditional Christmas feast by Jan and her catering team.

Our sincere thanks to Steve Anthony and the committee at Pyle who continue to support the Section and allow us back each year to enjoy their warm hospitality!

Results:

Winner of the day and the Vitax Shield from Pennard GC - Peter Lacey. Second place from Morrision GC - Daryl Bray. Third place from Morrision GC Leigh Davies and Fourth place from Pennard GC - Dean Thomas.

A sincere thanks to the sponsors of the day Vitax Ltd and their local distributor Celtic Mowers and to all those who donated prizes for the day.

Congratulations to Golf Team Captain Andy Roach on winning the

best aggregate salver for the year, based on the three seasonal medal rounds. Andy has won this for the third time in succession!

Fixture cards will be with you shortly, you might have even received them by the time you read this! They are being sponsored by "Complete Weed Control" South Wales Ltd - Alan Abel. Thank you Alan for your continued support.

Don't forget Westurf at Westpoint on Wednesday, March 14.

Richard Hatcher

South Coast

Christmas is now and well and truly over, and the bright days of spring are only around the corner, I wish!

To start with this month I've a few reminders for you. First of all is the Section Seminar, which is to be held at Sparsholt College on Wed Feb 21., the cost of the day is £15 for members, and £22 for non-members. Cheques can be sent to Fred Deamen at Golf Club Bungalow, Alton G.C., Oldham Rd, Alton, Hants, GU34 4BU. All cheques are to be made payable to BIGGA.

Everyone is requested to be there at 9.30am for a 10am start.

The second is a reminder, and an apology. Westurf is to be held on Wed 14 March, not April 12. Although this is earlier than usual, I have been



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reliably informed that the luxury of heating is to be provided this year!

Information for the day will be sent out with the magazine, but if you do require extra info, then contact Paula on 01288 352194.

The third is to just jog your memory The Spring Tournament is only a couple of months away, May 3 to be exact. So get your chequebooks out again next month! The cost of the day will be £21, I'll give you Chris Sturgess's address next month.

There are three lucky people who deserve a mention this month.

The first is Sid Cutler who was the lucky winner of a free trip to BTME, this was won at last year's AGM and was provided by the South Coast Section. I should have mentioned this last month, sorry!

The other two, who also win 'Spawn of the Century', are Ed McCabe and Carl Horrax. They're both off to America this month to visit the GCSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. They're going on a spying mission funded by New Forrest Farm Machinery and John Deere. Their mission, check out new machines on the market from a greenkeepers point of view. I could've done that!

Does anyone have any interesting ideas or topics that could be used for winter lectures, or what are your views on lectures. Any comments can be made to Tony Gadd, he can be contacted on 01425 618807, or see him at the seminar. That's the one at Sparsholt on February 21.

And finally, if you would like anything mentioned in this column, then you can phone me on 07939 860841... Just remember that I go to bed at a sensible hour though.

Mike Cartwright.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

The Section Turkey Trot was held at Darenth Valley GC on December 7. I would like to thank all those that supported and well done to the winners.

A huge thank you to Nigel Stapley and his staff for the condition of the course and Mrs Cross and the clubhouse staff for their hospitality in the clubhouse. We had one of the best Christmas Dinners we could have wished for. Thank You.

I would like to thank all the trade members for their continued support throughout the year and their sponsorship.

I'd like to wish everybody all the best for 2001 and look forward to seeing you at this year's golf events (to be announced).

G Debenham

East Anglia

A good day was had by all at Thorpeness. 70 people turned up for

the annual turkey bash/AGM. Once again the course was in good nick thanks to Ian and the lads, and his work behind the scenes ensured all ran smoothly throughout the day.

The format was a Texas scramble, and the winners were, R Nicholson A. Lincoln, & I Wright 61.2. Second went to M. Gill, M. Darmant & G. Rayfield, 63.

Nearest the pin on 2nd was M. Day, on the 7th K. Timms, 10th A Lincoln, and 16th, J. Jackson. The sponsors were, Rushbrooks, Scotts, Tomlinson Ground Care Adams respectively. The longest drive was I Wright sponsored by Tacit. The prizes were presented by Robin Ellis, Club Captain and the main Sponsors were C.M.W.

As usual Bob Chesham was making headlines again. Firstly he was within a whisker of a nearest the pin and then he broke his club and he's only got one. Apparently it didn't like being wrapped around a tree.

There was also a young lady playing well, she chipped in on the 13th from 75 yards, I don't know for how many mind, but she did get excited! Stand up Deborah Curtis (I wish I had a camera).

Roger Plumber picked up the Ernie Hart Greenkeeper of the Year award for his tireless recruitment drive on the North Norfolk Coast. Well done mate! The shields for the year were presented to James Wright, S. Pring, Ian Willett summer, Steve Cram - autumn (wasn't he a runner?) winter was missing (wish it was) so no presentation. So please can we have it back whoever you are.

The East Anglians beat Essex man again and our Section is going from strength to strength. You only have to look at how the AGMs and Golf Days are run to see why.

We also have terrific support from our friends in the trade and here they all are. (Take a deep breath) Rushbrooks, Sisis, Aventis, CMW, Nicholsons, Bartram Mowers, Tacit, Ben Burgess, Scotts, Collier Turf Care, Rigby Taylor, Adams, Turf Care, Tomlinson Ground Care, Consultant Clarkson, Atterton & Ellis, Prime Irrigation & Sherrif.

Well that's your lot, except to say we've got all the fixtures for the year somewhere. I know you're at Eaton in August, but I can't remember the rest, one of my rare mistakes. You will be informed. We have got four fixtures for 2002, They are, Thetford, Gorleston, Stowmarket and Ufford Park.

Don't forget. See you in the spring. Mick Lathrope

Sussex

December 15 was the day which was chosen for George Barr's Annual Wine Festival (sorry, I meant the turkey trot). Held as usual at Littlehampton GC, the format was slightly different this year, being that there was no golf.

This was due to the horrendous weather conditions we have experienced over the winter, which

sometimes literally left us all in the same boat, to coin a phrase.

Still it was not all doom and gloom as we arrived to find the course-closed sign in the middle of the car park. As the resourceful Mr Barr managed to organise a team and individual putting competition and if we had enough time a 12 round quiz hosted by a semi - pro quiz master!

The day was sponsored by Ernest Doe and Avoncrop whom we thank very much for all their support. The results are for the team event, I. Dustin Houghton, Simon Lambert, Robert Short, Richard Elderfield and for the individual round this was won by Ray Day. Well done to you all.

We would like to thank Littlehampton Golf Club for their hospitality.

Also congratulations to Ronan McKeown, Head Greenkeeper at Hayling Island, on his recent marriage to Sue, and also to David Ansell and his staff at the Dyke Golf Club for their recent success in the environment competition, held in conjunction with BIGGA and Amazone UK.

By the time you read this, some of you will have attended BTME at Harrogate, which I am sure will be as excellent as usual, and as for those of you who do not attend you are certainly missing out on a great event.

Well, I hope by the time you read this you are all finally drying out and getting back to some green-keeping.

If anyone is interested in getting in contact with me concerning matters to do with greenkeepers or greenkeeping you can e-mail me on jonboy69@ukonline.co.uk

Jonathan Budd

Surrey

Christmas, New Year and BTME have all been and gone since I wrote last month's Around The Green and at this time of year it gets harder to find bits and pieces to tell you about. However one or two changes have taken place and I am pleased to report that at Liphook Golf Club, Spencer Hawkins has been promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. At Walton Heath Golf Club, Mick Haynes has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper and at Leatherhead Golf Club, Stuart McMillan is now the General Manager and Peter Goodbun has taken over as Head Greenkeeper.

Congratulations and a successful New Year to them all. Simon Haynes although, now the Head Greenkeeper at Skipton Golf Club somewhere North of the Thames, is still a member of Surrey Section and therefore I am delighted to congratulate him and his wife on the birth of a daughter on Christmas Day.

The golf venues for 2001 include: Farnham, Hindhead, Malden and Sunningdale. And dates will be with

you soon together with an entry form for the Sisis Bowl. Please let us have your support to ensure that the turnout in 2001 is as good as it was in 2000.

Brian Willmott

London

This is my first Around the Green report so to start I feel it's only right to wish not only all London Section members but all BIGGA members a happy new year. Let's all hope and pray that the weather for once, is "happier" than it was last year.

Our Turkey Trot took place on Thursday, November 30 at my home club, Sandy Lodge. An enjoyable day was had by all despite the fact that we played a reduced course due to the extensive redevelopment that took place here in August. I hope it didn't spoil anyone's day. My thanks to the golf club for giving our members courtesy of the course and for looking after us so well when the golf had finished.

The day was won by guest, and father of mine, Peter Phillips (must be local knowledge!) with 37 points. Winner of the green-keeping prize of a Christmas Turkey kindly donated once again by Rigby Taylor was Aldenham's Bob Smart with 36 points.

Our AGM took place on the same day and we welcome James Lomas, Larry Eden and David Kirk into the bosom of the committee. Remaining as members are myself and Tony Dunstan, with Ian Semple as Secretary and Craig Handyside as Treasurer.

The main focus of the AGM revolved around non - shows and low attendance figures for golf events. An increasing frustration is the fact that many members who confirm they are coming and pay on the day simply do not turn up. It was decided that those who did not send an entry form and their payment before the closing date would be charged an extra £5 if they turned up on the day. This will hopefully encourage members to pay in advance and give not only the organisers a definite idea of numbers but also the hosting club with regard to catering.

A request also from members of the London Section to those Golf Clubs who expect their staff to take a days holiday to attend golf days. Can you please think about allowing members the time to play in these events. Without sufficient numbers these days cannot take place - and they are important!

Stop Press from around the Section takes us to Wyke Green where Ray Wilder has left, Stuart Bedford has been promoted to Deputy Head and Warren Partridge has joined the team.

Good luck to all in the future. Still at Wyke Green congratulations to Course Manager, Tony Dyke and wife Pat, who are celebrating 25 Years of marriage.

Watch this space for news of coming events and remember that this column can only exist with your input. If you have any news from around the Section, however small, give me a call on 01923 835549. If I don't get any news I'll be forced to write about myself and trust me, that would be very boring! Possible dates and venues are being looked into for a London Section seminar and also for summer and autumn golf days. Our spring Meeting will be at Stockley Park in May. Let's look forward to a good turn-out and an enjoyable day in more clement weather. Wishing you all a successful greenkeeping year.

Robert Phillips



Northern Ireland

The first day of the new year and the snow and frost has disappeared I am glad to report. We had six inches of snow throughout Northern Ireland the previous week with temperatures plunging to minus 16. Parkland courses closed for the entire week and golfers were unable to try out the new clubs and equipment they received at Christmas - all very depressing.

Well, on to the Section news over the last month. We held our AGM at Greenacres GC in Ballyclare on December 6. I would like to thank Stephen Crawford and his wife for giving us the use of a room to hold the meeting and also the excellent buffet they laid on for us. To the 20 members who came along to the meeting many thanks indeed for making the effort.

Section Chairman, Graham Wylie, has decided to stand down after three years of sterling work, two with the South East Section and one with the new N.I Section. Graham's leadership, drive and enthusiasm rubbed off on everyone and as a result the Section has gone from strength to strength. We have now reached 100 members.

The Committee elected for 2001 is as follows: Chairman, Jonathan McCabe; Vice Chairman, Irwin Robinson; Secretary, Allison Sloan; Assistant Secretary, Alan Strachan; Treasurer, P. Baillie; Magazine Liaison Officer, Ken Henderson; Assistant Magazine Liaison Officer, P. Mathieson; Education Officer, E. Curran; Assistant Education Officer, C.

Edgar; Match and Handicap Secretary, E. Crawford; Assistant Match and Handicap Secretary, Terry Crawford.

The Committee will meet in January to formulate the new agenda for spring and summer golf days so members will be informed during January of the arranged dates and venues.

The next educational event has been arranged for March 27 with nine holes of golf at Downpatrick GC with a start time of 1.30pm followed by talks on grass seeds and seed dressings by Liz Wilson, of JA Humpreys. It is also hoped to have an STRI agronomist present to give a talk after Liz.

On December 11 the Section

entered two four man teams at the annual quiz night held by the NI Section of the IOG in Belfast. The two BIGGA teams performed admirably and on the night tied with 55 points each. The IOG A team moved in front early in the competition and accumulated a total of 65 points. Well, better luck next time lads, we will just have to improve our general knowledge. Our main excuse is that the IOG in NI have been competing in this type of quiz for many years, being awarded the national championship in their history.

Many thanks to John McFarland

for inviting us along and providing the excellent buffet on the night.

I would like to welcome two new members this month to the Section. George Fitzpatrick, from Crossgar GC and Roddy McGlading, from Malone GC.

Congratulations also to Warren Burnside, who is moving from Malone to take up the Head Greenkeeper position at Moyola Park. If you have any news that could be included in the Around the Green notes please contact me at Allen Park on 94429001

Ken Henderson

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