



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Annual Conference. Business Learning Centre Lauder College, Dunfermline.

On March 6, 2001 BIGGA Scottish Region will once again be presenting their Annual Conference at Lauder College Dunfermline. This is the third year we have been at the Business Learning Centre which provides a ideal location for easy access from the motorway system and of course the facilities within the Conference Centre are first class.

This year's speakers are from a cross section of the industry and greenkeeping, all prepared to give their time and talents to providing us with an insight into greenkeeping related matters.

The speakers include Neil Baldwin, Omega Sciences, whose talk will be "Biology and Control of Black Layer in Fine Turf"; From the GTC we have David Golding whose talk is entitled "The GTC-Raising The Standards"; Peter Jefford, Rufford Soil Technology, his talk will be on "How to select top dressings and Root zones today"; Sandy Armit, from Double A Trading Company will talk about "Modern Machinery Maintenance"; From Wales and Celtic Manor, the Director of Golf and Courses Manager, Jim McKenzie, will provide an insight into the greenkeeping matters; and from Carnoustie, John Philp, Course Manager, whose talk and title will be on "Turf Quality. What it means to you"; Finally Joe Turner from Bernhards who will advise us on the Benefits of Sharper Reels".

As in the past we have tried to provide a variety of topics which hopefully appeals to the greenkeeping industry and this year we have tried to continue with this theme. The Conference has always been well supported throughout the years and hopefully this will continue. We look forward to seeing everyone at Dunfermline.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2001 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

North

Three new members to welcome to the Section in the New Year. Richard Cutler from Montrose GC, Barry Huydon from Braemar GC and Graham Mackie from Edzell GC, hopefully these will be the first of many this year.

Congratulations to Newmacher Golf Club who received an award in the Environmental Competition last year. The club get a trophy and £500 for their work on the pond that guards the 1st green. Well done to Dale Robertson and all at the club.

I recently attended the Annual Patrons' Lunch in Stirling, where we thank the members of the trade for their support throughout the year

and award the ten lucky members of the Scottish Region with a book and trip to BTME 2001. We had a great meal and once again Peter came up trumps with a quality speaker who had us in stitches with his stories. How will you top that next year?

Speaking of Peter, I hope he is enjoying his well earned break in South Africa just now.

As I mentioned last month, here is a list of the Section Committee, their duties and a contact phone number. Chairman & Magazine report - Iain Macleod 07788 923214; Secretary - Dougal Duguid 01224 740329; Vice Chairman & 200 Club - Stewart Mcbain 01224 733347; Treasurer - Stephen Sullivan 07760 191208; Education - Kevin Peace 01467 623125; Trophies & prizes - Hugh Maclatchie 01779 470173; Raffles - John Geddes 01358 723034; Outings & handicaps - Iain Gunn 01997 420155; Outings & handicaps - Robert Hardie 01224 783201.

I hope to see a lot of Section members at BTME in Harrogate later this month.

The football match is on the Tuesday evening now, so that the lads on the Scottish bus can play. See you all in the Majestic on the Sunday for what should be another great week.

Iain Macleod

West

Welcome to another round of West Section news. Firstly I would like to introduce myself, as Gavin Jarvis, on becoming Chairman, quickly delegated the duty of writing this column to me. My name is Brian Bolland and I am currently Head Greenkeeper at East Kilbride GC, having served my apprenticeship at Elderslie GC under Bob Scott before a brief spell as Deputy Head Greenkeeper under Donald Macleod at Pollok GC.

Having spoken to many of the previous writers of this column the main problem they have faced and I am sure I will to, is actually finding enough news to write about out with section outings and social events. (I am sure there was a smirk on Gavin's face at the meeting). I know you have all heard it before but if you do have news of any kind please give me a call on 01355 236335 or at home on 01355 266862 and I will be pleased to add your news to the column.

Now onto the serious business of reporting on the West Section dinner held in Victoria's in Glasgow on November 17. The night started sedately enough with a pleasant buffet style dinner washed down with a few light refreshments. Then on came the entertainment. Billy Porter the resident comedian prompted three distinguished gentlemen onto the dance floor to show off their abundant physiques. The dancing was of a high calibre but despite Gavin's frantic gyrations he could not pull Billy's attentions away from Gary Semple's perfect teeth. Mr. Porter's words not mine. After the cabaret there was a chance for all the greenkeeper's and trade to catch up on some gossip over even more

refreshments before moving into the various bars within the venue.

Victoria's again proved to be popular and everyone appeared to enjoy the night. Hopefully next year there will be more new faces to write about.

As Gavin mentioned in last month's column, Ronnie Bunting is arranging another moderator's meeting in January at the Central Station Hotel.

Well I am off to clean the webs between my toes before the next shower comes along.

Again I would like to emphasise that if you do have news or information you would like passed on to your section please feel free to call on the numbers mentioned earlier.

Brian Bolland

East

Well here we are into another year, where did the last one go? As they say it must be old age that makes the years go by quickly. Anyway on with this month's article.

I hope that everyone had a good festive season and you all got what you wanted. (I asked for some dry weather, but you can't get everything I suppose).

There's not a lot of news around at the moment but this is what I've got.

Congratulations to section committee member Andy Forrest, Oatridge College Golf Course, on winning one of the two Scottish places on the Bernhards & Co trip to the Canadian Greenkeepers Show in Canada in February. We all hope he enjoys this trip with the other nine winners from the UK. Well done to them all.

When he comes back we hope he will maybe give us a talk on his experiences in Canada and an insight into this show.

Well done to the winners of this year's Patrons' Awards for 2000 - they are Ian Bell, Glencorse GC and Richard Mullen, Swanston GC.

These awards are given to members of each Section who in the eyes of the Section Committee have attended all Section events such as lectures, AGMS, golf outings etc. Their prize for this award is a paid trip to BTME 2001, a book on greenkeeping and a presentation dinner. So if you attend all events next year you could be the winner of the 2001 Patrons' Awards.

So in the next couple of months I will get them to write a short article on their trip to Harrogate. Talking about BTME at Harrogate I hope Ian and Richard have been getting in some training for the week ahead. I look forward to meeting up with old friends at BTME and if any of you are going, we hope to see you there.

Well that's it all for this month.

If anyone out there has any news let me know asap on the usual numbers Home: 01968 661313. Office: 01968 661721. New mobile: 07719580449 as of 6/12/00 or you can email me at chriscej26@aol.com.

Chris Yeaman.

Central

I hope everyone has recovered from any self inflicted headaches over the

festive period and that you are all gearing up for the new season which lies ahead, let's hope it's a bit drier than the past 3 or 4 months!

We're up and running already on new members joining the Section with Gary Limes from Kingsbarns Golf Links being our newest member, Gary was formerly a student member, and we are glad to welcome to the section as a full member.

There is not a great deal of news at this time of the year what with holidays etc. no doubt a good number of you will be at BTME in Harrogate later this month for the annual "get together," after which I am sure there will be the usual newsworthy events to report on!

The Spring Tournament this year is being held by courtesy of Scotsraig Golf Club, Tayport, Fife in April, entry forms will be arriving with you in the not too distant future, and once again if you wish to compete in this event, PLEASE return your form as soon as possible.

If you can remember the forms which were sent out to every member last year, asking what type of events you wished your committee to organise, well out of nearly three hundred sent out twentyone members took the time to send them back, but unfortunately the three events we attempted to organise had to be cancelled due to the lack of support. Never mind we will keep trying again this year!

It is hoped to organise a football match against the West Section in the not too distant future, so if you fancy being involved you had better start training. With Andy O'Hara now being Chairman of the section he is looking for someone to relieve him of the duties of Team Manager, the wages are not great but if you fancy yourself as the next D.A. or M.O. you can make up your own mind what the initials stand for, just get in touch with Andy or myself and who knows what fame (or notoriety) you may achieve.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

I have just returned from a three-week trip abroad, and I expected to see a change in the weather, but things are just the same, cold and wet, and has been while I have been away so I am told. So the day after my return we were due to have the "President's Cup" and AGM at Wilmslow GC. Little chance I thought due to the amount of rain that we have had during the last two months. Steve Outtram, the Course Manager at Wilmslow rang me in the evening, and I fully expected him to tell me the competition was off, but he informed me everything was OK, and that was

a relief. The day did go well starting with bacon baps, and coffee at 9.30am, tee time from 10am, and 18 holes of golf in good conditions without any rain. The course although wet was in great condition, obviously due to the amount of work Steve and his staff have put in, and was a credit to them. Their hard work certainly paid off for them, as Steve Oultram won the "President's Cup", Andy Bennett, and Steve Johnson won the longest drive and nearest the pin, they are also on the greens staff at Wilmslow, so between them they cleared up on the day.

The golf was followed by the AGM, and a great evening meal. The committee had decided at the last meeting, that due to the fact that because Wilmslow Golf Club have been so good to the N/W Section over the last four years, allowing us to hold this competition, and AGM, we would show our appreciation by presenting the junior section with a cheque for £100. The cheque was presented to the Chairman of Green, who attended the dinner, and he informed the meeting that the money would be used to purchase a cup, to be called the "The North-West Greenkeepers Trophy", to be played for annually by the

junior section.

I would like to thank Wilmslow Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, Gwen and Dave Chason for great food and for keeping the bar open all day, and Steve and his staff for preparing a great course. That seems to be it for now, but don't forget the Mere Seminar in March. Any news or views give me a ring on 0151 724 5412.

Happy new year to everyone
Bert Cross

Northern

Unfortunately the Christmas Golf at Huddersfield GC was cancelled despite the best efforts of Alan Lofthouse and his staff, the weather beat us. The 15 who did turn up for the start of the day had an enjoyable day, down at the local Ten Pin bowling alley where we had three games. This was won by Simon Heppenstall and the bring and win was transferred to the bowling, so everybody was a winner with excellent prizes on offer.

The annual trade prize for the best trade golfer throughout the year went to Mike Brear. A prize to what we call the most 'dedicated' golfer went to Steve Heaton. I would like to thank Huddersfield GC for the day and for a superb meal enjoyed by all.

It was good to see John Waite looking so good and in good form giving everyone some stick for the meal and AGM.

Talking of the AGM, there were 26 members present and I would like to thank Ian Holoran from the Board of Management for coming down and answering the members questions put to him. There were quite a few points raised about the Association which will be taken further.

The committee for 2001 is as follows President - Dennis Cockburn; Chairman - Simon Heppenstall; Vice-Chairman - Jim Brown; Secretary/Treasurer - Andy Smith. Committee members - Richard Smith, Tito Arna, Steve Heaton, Dave Thackery. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank John Waite, Gary Potter and Liam Galway for all the work they have done this year and previous years for the Section on the committee.

Look forward to seeing you at future events.

The venues for next year are Spring Tournament - Filey GC; President's Day - Harrogate GC; Roses Match - Sand Moor GC; Invitation Day - Howley Hall GC; Autumn Tournament - Woodsome Hall GC; Winter Golf - Headingley GC.

On top of this there are plans

to hold 2 further section seminars this year.

Congratulations to Matt Booth, from Howley Hall GC, on passing his PA 2. On the movement front Gary Potter has left Woodhall Hills GC to go to Vitax as a rep. Jim Brown and all the lads from Cookridge Hall G&CC wish John Studdard all the best on his move to Wyke Ridge GC.

Looking forward to seeing you at Harrogate for the show. In the meantime, if you have any queries, don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving me a call.

There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has anything then please let me know.

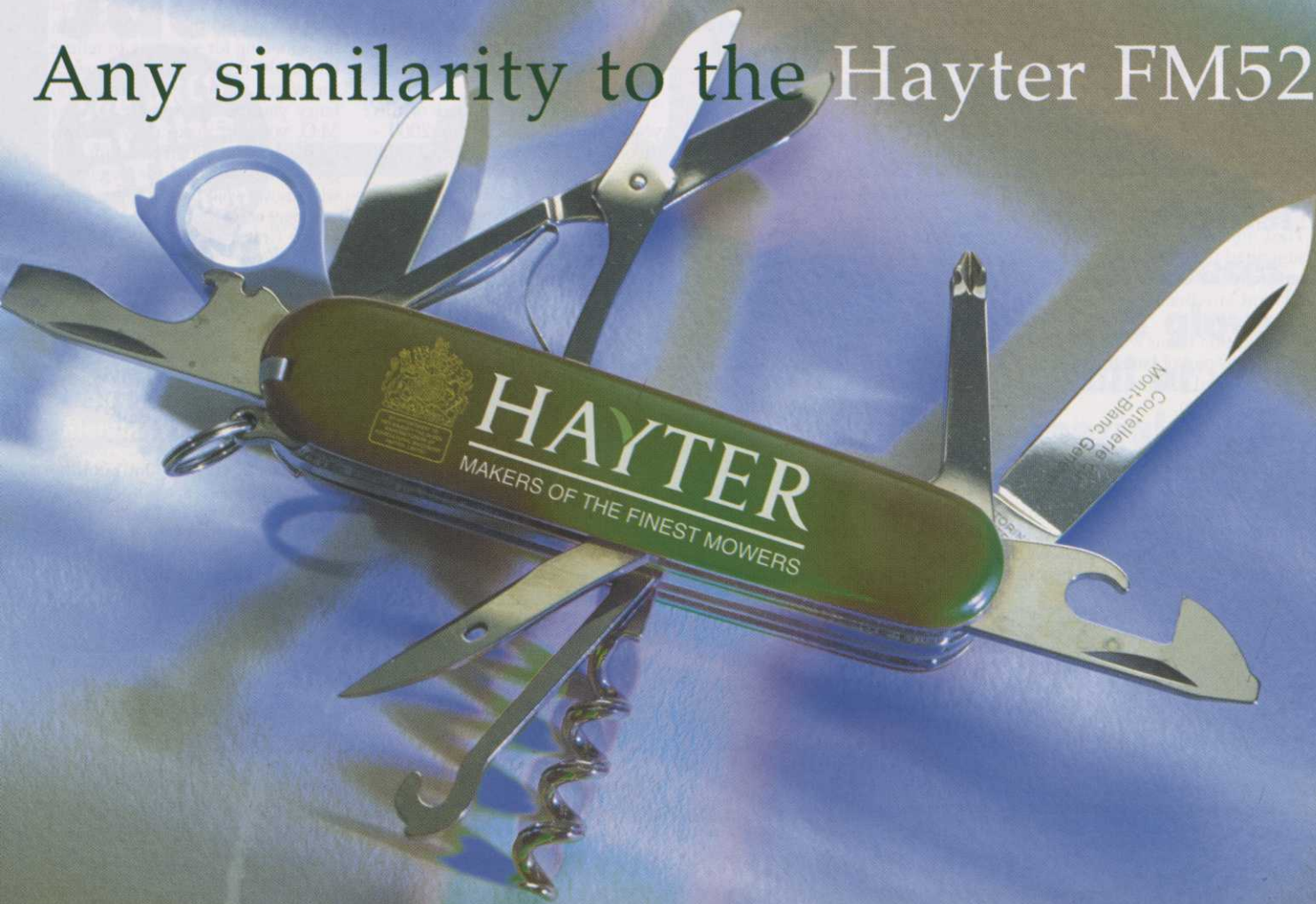
My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188. My mobile is 07790 678572, and my email address is: andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Sheffield

I would like to start by catching up on events missed over the last few months. On November 2, Farmura was our guest speaker for the first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Thank you to Alan Dyson and Farmura for a very interesting talk.

Any similarity to the Hayter FM524



Following this was our AGM from which the Section welcomes two new faces onto the committee. Paul Docherty, of Wheatley Golf Club, takes on the role of Competition Secretary and Chris Astle, also of Wheatley, takes over from Ron Ullathorne as the Section Secretary.

On behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Ron for all his hard work over the years as Secretary and to wish him all the very best in the future.

On November 27 we returned to Rotherham Golf Club for the Winter Golf Day and Christmas meal. Unfortunately the day was a wash out but the day went very well on the Snooker tables and once again the meal was excellent. Thank you to all the trade members for their support on the day and throughout the year, to the catering staff for a superb meal and to Rotherham Golf Club for use of their facilities.

Next meeting is on February 1 at Rotherham Golf Club where John Deere Machinery is our guest speaker. Start time 2.30pm

Lastly I hope everyone had a very good Christmas and wish you all a prosperous New Year.

A Sampson



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Berks Bucks and Oxon

I thought for one mad minute that a score of 80 points, based on two players from three playing reasonably well and scoring 40 points each around Frilford Heath which is never a pushover, would comfortably see my team somewhere in the prizes. How wrong could I be. 93 points, no that's not a mistake 93 points won the event I must be in some sort of dream world. Seriously though, fair play to the guys that won and if their handicaps are correct they must have played some decent golf, unlike myself and partners Alun 'ricochet' Wright and the young Ms Bell. Frilford was of course in magnificent condition and my congratulations to Sid Arrowsmith and his staff.

The results of the day are: 1. T. Brown, J. Davies, P. Small 93pts; 2. A. Masters, V. Riches, M. Ely 85pts (back 6); 3. L. Anderson, S. Austin, W. Nunn 85pts. Nearest pin: John Eggleton, longest drive: Lee Bishop.

Thanks to Bernie Wall, from Gem, for sponsoring the event

and also to Frilford Heath Golf Club for staging the event.

Not much other news about to report on I'm afraid except I'd just like to congratulate Peter McFadden who for the last year or so has been my First Assistant at Caversham Heath. As from December 1 he became Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Well done Pete and thanks for the hard work.

As this is coming out in January and I forgot to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year (because I am writing this in December) I hope you all had a good one and see you all in the new year, let's hope we get some more rain, the course is just too dry at the moment. Oh well back to the clinic!

Jon Scoones. Tel: 01189 723334

East Midland

This year's AGM Golf Tournament was held at Park Hill GC in Leicestershire on November 1. The weather leading up to the tournament saw us have rain nearly every day for several weeks, and it really is a credit to Dean Cooper and his staff for presenting us with a fine golf course played over 18 dry greens. The format for the day was a three man Texas

Scramble with a minimum of four drives per person. Not surprisingly the winners were: 1. Derek McJannet, Adrian Rhodes, both Sherwood Forest, and Les Emery, Regional Administrator, with a score of 63-0.9-62.1; 2. David Smith, Mansfield Sand, Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, and Nick Root, The Leicestershire, 68-4.7-63.3;

3. Carl Chamberlain, Kilworth Springs, Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, & Andy McGreal, Lingdale, 70-4.8-65.2.

Moving on to the serious business of the AGM it was pleasing to see a much increased turnout for this event and it is hoped that numbers will now be on an incline. No real serious matters were brought up at the AGM and the committee is as follows for next year. Chairman - Gavin Robson; Vice Chairman - Adi Porter; Secretary - Antony Bindley, Treasurer - Richard Barker; Additional Committee members - Ian Needham, Andy McGreal, Jeff Dickinson, Derek McJannet, Chris Weir. I would like to thank two of our retiring committee members for all their hard work while in office, Dave Leatherland and Steven Heap.

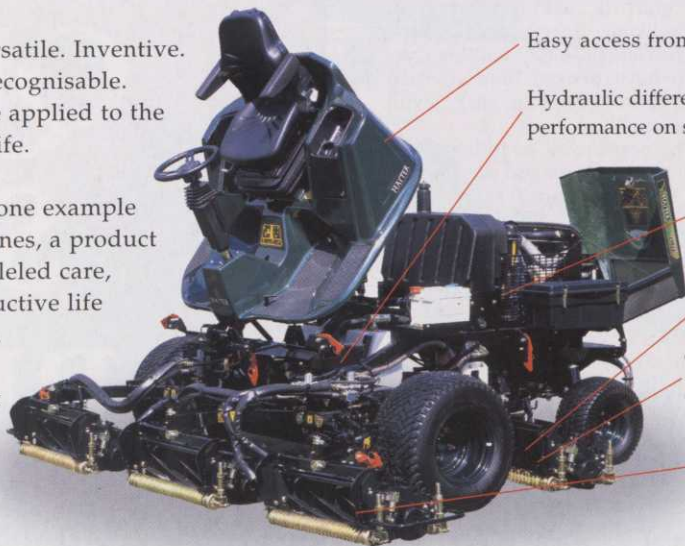
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Park Hill GC for their hospitality,

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especially to Claire Hutson for all her help in organising every day, The Steward for a marvellous meal and our very generous sponsors Vitax for providing the prizes.

Five dates for your 2001 Diary. Go-Kart evening-Wednesday February 21, Wymeswold Ind Est; Spring Tournament, Wednesday May 9. Birstall GC; East of England Golf Match Cotgrave Place August 15; The Autumn Tournament at Lingdale GC on September 14th, and The AGM at Mapperley GC on November 8. If you would like to attend the Go-Kart evening which again has been kindly sponsored by Toro Lely UK, please get in touch with me and I will gladly send you an entry form.

Finally would all members who have an email address please let me know for my membership records, as this will enable me to get in touch with you, and send you any entry forms. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Antony Bindley



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West

I am writing this after returning from another day of wind and rain. I have been told the members from the Bristol area have taken up carpentry, and have started the search for Noah's original plans!

The Region's seminar at Cannington College was well supported and our thanks go to the speakers and to Paula for arranging it.

The Magic Bus will once again be heading North to BTME if you have not booked, please contact Paula to see if there are any places left.

Westurf is earlier this year, so make a note in your diary Wednesday, March 14. There is going to be a social gathering the night before in an Exeter hotel, again contact Paula for cost and arrangements.

The first event of 2001 is the Winter Tournament, at Stinchcombe Hill GC, on Wednesday 28 February, kindly sponsored by G Tinkler.

Application forms will be sent out along with the year's forthcoming fixtures, if you do not receive one let the Secretary know.

The Sections best wishes go out to Steve Britton and his family of Thoulstone Park GC after he suffered a heart attack. We hope for a speedy recovery. Any news or views please contact me on 01285-720112.

D Bougen

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season. The Section's first meeting of the new year is the Barenbrug Seeds meeting which will be held at The Royal North Devon GC on Wednesday, January 31. The day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 9.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 11am. After lunch our educational talk will cover golf rules. Our Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Launceston GC on Wednesday, November 15. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

As always the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members walked the course and met up with Head Greenkeeper George Bailey and his team.

After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to: 1. Shaun Getson, Tavistock, and Garry Foster, Tavistock, 33pts; 2. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, and Neil Turner, Ilfracombe, 29pts; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton, and J.Mills, Taunton, 28pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors Devon Garden Machinery for their support and to Launceston GC for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Launceston GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to George Bailey and his crew who have worked hard to keep the course open in such awful weather.

The Sections AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Terry Farkins. The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending 30th September 2000. This year end balance of £1463.02 showed a profit of £195.05 compared with last year's balance sheet, but does not include the £200 outstanding to be paid for the fixture cards. In real terms the Section made a slight loss of around £5 for the year-end. Over the last year the Section held three very successful pesticide training days which saw all members achieving passes, unfortunately the courses made a slight loss of £17.83 due to the sponsor of the first training day going into liquidation.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our Section meetings over the last year namely. Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden

Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys and Supaturf.

For the second year Rigby Taylor have sponsored our fixture cards and must be congratulated on the excellent quality of the cards.

Unfortunately during the last year one of our Cornish committee members stood down from committee. The committee decided to invite Bill Mitchell to serve as a Cornish member on the committee and were delighted

when he accepted.

On closing his report the Administrator congratulated the Chairman Terry Farkins whom this year reached the final of the Toro Award and his excellent achievement in finishing runner-up.

Also the Administrator thanked all the members who have attended meetings for their support over the last year. Hopefully the Section can get even more members to attend meetings over the

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coming year.

Last but not least the Administrator thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Cary Rawlings for looking after the golf scores.

The Chairman opened his report by thanking everyone for attending the AGM meeting. He informed members that it had been a pleasure and an honour to serve as Chairman of the Section

over the past two years and felt it was time for someone else to take over as Chairman.

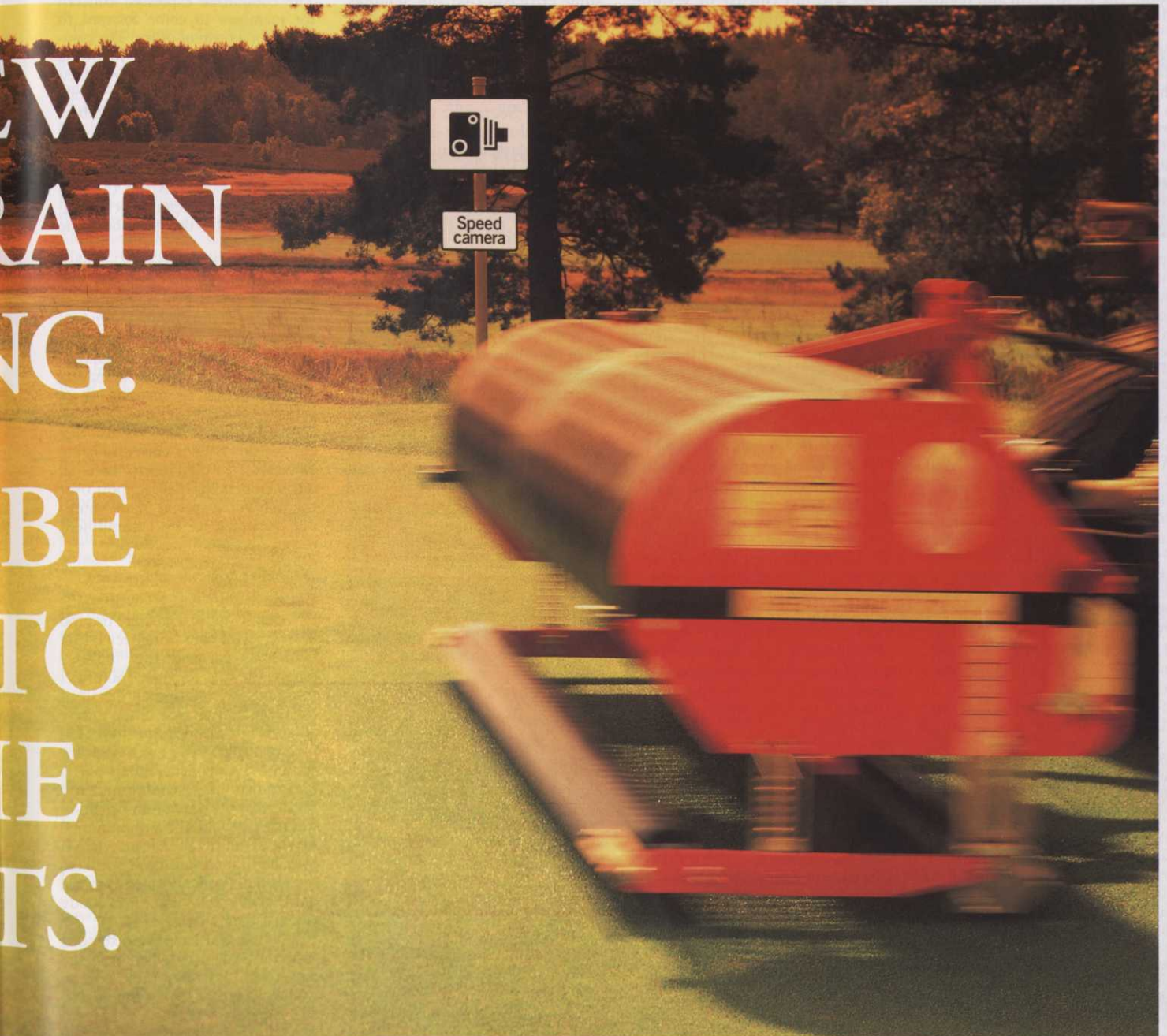
He continued by congratulating Tony Vokes, of St Austell Golf Club, on his tremendous achievement on reaching the national finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Also, congratulated Richard Whyman of Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on being selected to represent BIGGA at the Canadian International Turf Conference

and Trade Show in Vancouver next February.

The Westurf trade show this year was once again a success and West Point is an ideal venue for our members and hoped that all members will support the show next year. The Chairman congratulated the Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, for all her hard work over the last year and the Regional Board members who continue to promote our industry.

The Chairman informed members of the sad loss of Mike Oliver who was a great supporter of the Section and past on the section's condolences to his family.

The Chairman on closing his report passed on the Section's thanks to all the trade companies who have supported the section over the last year this was very much appreciated and he thanked Section members for helping the Section to be one of



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the most successful in the Country. The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for representing the Section so well on the regional board, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Wisdom, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Whyman who has continued to do an outstanding job as Section Administrator.

Richard Wisdom opened his regional report by congratulating the Regional Administrator Paula Humphries for her outstanding efforts, which included the organisation of Westurf 2000, the BTME trip and regional seminar.

This year's Westurf was once again financially a success. Richard advised members that their support in attending Westurf is needed to allow the show to grow. The Region's trip to BTME 2000 was once again sponsored by Amenity Technology with two 55-seater coaches departing the Region, Richard also mentioned the planned trip to BTME 2001.

The President, Martin Samuel, opened his report by thanking members for their support over the last two years and wished the next president an enjoyable term in office. He thanked members on behalf of the trade for their support over the last year, he felt that the sections meetings had the right balance of golf and educational talks.

C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board. J. Mills, B. Mitchell, R. Shapland, T. Farkins, Regional Board, R. Whyman, Section Administrator, A. Dommett, President J. Palfrey, Trade; C. Ralph, Trade.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

Very little to report this month. Hope you had a good Christmas and New Year celebrations. Bring you up to date with the info on the Christmas tournament and AGM next month as this would have gone to press before the day. Our Evening Lectures sponsored by Avoncrop continue on Wednesday, February 14 with John Foulton, of Advanta, talking on fine turf and Gerrard Cuncliffe, of Biotol, on Micro-organisms. Looking ahead to March 14 we have a Health & Safety update to keep up with changes and legislation. You might already have received a booking form for our Seminar to be held at Pencoed College on February 28. If you have, fill it in quick. It only costs £15 for BIGGA/I/OG members and £20 for non-members. Dr Bill Adams, of Aberystwyth University, Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, and Jim Arthur are confirmed speakers. Just to remind you on the 23 - 26 of this month it's the BTME show at Harrogate.

Richard Hatcher

South Coast

It's been a busy month here in the South Coast, with two major events taking place within two weeks.

The first was the annual seminar at Cannington College, the day was well attended, and the quality of speakers was the best I have heard at any seminar.

First, and last up was the familiar face of Frank Newbury. The morning session was all about miserable people in the work place, (and we all know one) and how to try and put a bit of happiness back in their lives without the use of Valium. The last session of the day was dedicated to presenting yourself, with very helpful tips on letter writing, CV's, and interviews.

The second speaker was Stuart Ashworth, from Amenity Technology. The subject was Soil Sampling and Interpretation. A very interesting topic, it was nice to see what happens to all the core samples that they receive, and to find out what they actually test for.

The third speaker of the day was the infamous Jim Arthur. Jim shared with us his views on traditional methods of greenkeeping, opposed to the methods being brought over from the other side of the pond. A topic, which I don't think, will ever be resolved.

The second event this month was the Turkey Trot and AGM. 54 players enjoyed a rare break in the lousy weather we've all been enduring. The venue was Hockley GC, which it has to be said, was in fantastic condition! Well done to Trevor and his team of professionals. Many thanks also to the bar and catering staff for a very enjoyable meal. And last, but by no means least, thanks to the members for allowing us courtesy of their course.

Thanks must also go to the sponsors of the day, Sheerwater Leisure and New Forest Farm Machinery. And well done Carl Horrax for organising an excellent raffle, I'd like to name all the prize givers, but unfortunately I don't have enough room. But everyone knows who you are.

Winners on the day were; Div 1. 1. Darren Miller 41pts; 2. James Krzanowski 39pts;. Div 2. 1. Andy Macdonald 41pts; 2. Kevin Glass 38pts. Div 3. 1. Alan Ridout 44pts; 2. Rob Crouch 38pts. Alan Ridout was also awarded 'Golfer of the Year', who else could it be?

There will be a report on the AGM next month, as I've run out room this time.

See you all next month.
Mike Cartwright.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

The South East Regional Seminar was held at Thorpeness Golf Hotel in November and many of the delegates took advantage of the Hotel's generous special offer and turned up on Monday for 18 holes on their very fine course. Surprise, surprise it stayed dry!

Before the event there had been some criticism that the Seminar, with the theme of "The Future of Greenkeeping" was too "trade orientated". These fears, however, proved unfounded as all those who attended (and there was 74 from all Sections within the Region) thoroughly appreciated the Seminar content and a sincere vote of thanks was recorded to Ian Willett and the East Anglia Committee for such a good day.

Derek Farrington

Surrey

Prior to the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club your committee met on Tuesday 28th November to preview a number of written questions that were discussed at the A.G.M on November 30.

All members that attended the golf and AGM will agree that the turnout of nearly 80 was excellent and we all thank Burt Watson and his team for providing us with a golf course in a condition that was amazingly dry and so well presented, the weather was dry, which was a miracle, when one considers all the rain that we have had this Autumn. Thank you also to Tyrrells Wood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and to the catering staff for a splendid meal.

The sponsors for the day were Tacit and we thank them for the generosity that ranged from first prize, a portable colour T.V. to the sixth prize an electric sandwich toaster.

The prize winners were 1. Tony Bremer, 42 pts; 2. John Davidson, 40 pts; 3. Steve Gudge, 40 pts; 4. Paul Weston, 40pts; 5. Gareth Roberts, 39 pts; 6. Doug Fernie, 39 pts.

London

The Turkey Trot along with the AGM was held at Sandy Lodge Golf Club in late November. The course was in excellent condition and in remarkable shape considering all the major refurbishment work being carried out on the course. Robert Phillips and his staff did a wonderful job and I would like to thank the management at SLGC for allowing us courtesy of the facilities.

The overall winner for the day was Peter Phillips, ex sec/man of Porters Park Golf Club. Family connections coupled with a good local knowl-

edge of the course resulted in winning score of 37 points. In second place was Billy Smart with 36 points closely followed by Ben Knowles - Jackson also with 36 points.

I would like to thank the trade for their support and in particular, Mark Day representing Tacit, for paying for the bacon rolls on arrival. Rigby Taylor for providing the annual turkey for the event for the best score on the day by a greenkeeper. Billy Smart, from Aldenham GC, was the worthy winner.

The AGM was held prior to the meal and the accounts for our section were discussed in great detail. The committee expressed concern for members to come forward to stand for a term of office. The committee now consists of the following members. Ian Semple - Secretary, Tony Dunstan - Chairman, Craig Handyside - Treasurer, Robert Phillips - golf events coordinator/around the green article, Tony Dyke - Elected on the day, Larry Eden - Elected on the day, James Lomas - Offered to help occasionally! With the sale of raffle tickets etc.

A request from David Kirk with reference to winter seminars was taken on board by the committee and will be actioned ASAP. Our secretary appealed for forthcoming golf days for 2001 and asked members to contact local course managers with reference to securing three venues. Concern over members not appearing on the day was also discussed; this issue is currently being addressed. I would like to thank all our members for their support over the year and a special thank you to our Secretary, for his commitment to our Section.

Tony Dunstan.

Essex

Hopefully most of you are not too blurry eyed or hungover from Christmas to read this month's report, the first for three months. I must start by offering on behalf of the Essex Section committee sincere apologies to Bishops Stortford Golf Club who were the holders of our Autumn Tournament. Illness plus a breakdown in communication meant that the relevant information was not passed to the author in time for the details to go to print (thanks spice boy), sorry lads I was not there myself but I was informed that the day went well and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Apologies must also be extended to all the trade that helped make the day possible. Without these guys we would not have had any golf days at all. The only details still in my possession are the overall winner, Pete Blackaby, Head man at Manor of Groves Golf Club and Trade Winner, Simon Banks, of Banks Horticulture, your obviously both in the premierships, (Harrogate) as far as the golf goes. As mentioned previously I was unable to attend the Bishop Stortford day but did go to the UAP sponsored winter Stableford at Orsett GC on

December 5 for the last tournament of the year. So did 35 other members, guests and Trade golfers obviously hoping for a game on what was reputedly the driest golf course in the area and although we played on five temporary greens the rest of the course was indeed surprisingly dry, was this down to great green-keeping or the fact that they had over a foot less rain than most other courses in the area? Judging by the high standard of presentation over the whole of the course I would say it was a bit of both but Head Greenkeeper, Carl Croucher, would in his usual modest way put it down to being fortunate with the weather.

The high scores also reflected the condition of the course with the winners in all being around their handicap. Overall winner was Ray Clark, of Channels GC, with yet another great round coming in at 37 points one clear of 15 - 28 category winner Martin Guy and 2 clear of 0-14 winner Andy Sheehan. Richard Dunmow and Pete Blackaby came 2nd and 3rd behind Andy with Keith Chinnery and Martin Forrester finishing in the same positions behind Martin.

Trade winner by divine intervention was Richard Lewis with 34 points, a very popular winner from Drive Force Leisure (nice to see you can drill some paperwork in properly Rich). Greenkeeping Supply Company sponsored the Longest Drive, which went to Richard Dunmow and Nearest the pin, Keith Rowley. Guest prize went to a new name and hopefully next time a new handicap for S. Colgate who managed to notch up 40 points. Other trade sponsors included Sheriffs, Vitax, Banks, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Driving Force Leisure, Avoncrop and Tacit who sponsored the breakfast. The strong trade presence at our golf days is part of the reason our days go so well, their support is greatly appreciated.

At the end of the prize giving Andy Sheehan was presented with a trophy for finishing up as Player of the Year, Andy won the Forrester Park and Theydon Bois golf days earlier in the year. Well done mate. Thanks to all the staff at Orset Golf Club for making our day so enjoyable, especially Martin Forrester's niece who fended off a very amorous Ray Clark.

Golf Days for next year are as follows: - Frinton On Sea, Bentley, Hanbury Manor, Three Rivers and Channels, five fine golf courses.

New members this month are Steven Levemore and Alan Smith, both from Clacton Golf Club. The annual AGM followed a lovely meal. All members of the committee who stood last year are remaining in their positions, the Section lost money last year but this was mainly down to the Go-Karting Day which has been cancelled. Derek Farrington indicated that the Section was still going strong. The Section is looking for golfing venues for 2001, Martin Forrester is a great bloke, Carl

Croucher talks funny and Dominic Rodgers is so far up... to date with all the handicaps giving most of us shot backs. The AGM went smoothly and all thanked Chairman Carl Croucher and rest of committee for all work done throughout the year.

See you all at Harrogate Steve Crosdale.



Well here we are in early December and the rain just keeps on coming. The last ten weeks have been difficult for most of us with flooded courses resulting in disruption for the golfers and

greenkeepers alike. I am hoping that the weather will turn a little drier for the rest of the winter and give us a chance to carry out improvement works on the course before the busy spring period comes along.

At Allen Park in Antrim we have only lost one and a half days play up to early December so the top-dressing of fairways with sand and extensive drainage work carried out by Head Greenkeeper Clem Beattie and the greenkeeping team with assistance of Clive Richardson and Horta Soils have really improved playing conditions. Many parkland courses throughout Northern Ireland are carrying out similar programs of improvements and hopefully the golfers will appreciate the effort greenkeepers and their respective clubs are making.

The Section had an educational

visit to very beneficial.

I would like to welcome four new members to the Section this month. Paul McFadden Head Greenkeeper, at Strabane Golf Club; Fintan Ward and John Ward, from DownPatrick GC, and Paul Johnston who has just moved from DownPatrick GC to Malone Golf Club.

Congratulations to Royal County Down Golf Club who have now been voted the number 2 course in the UK and Ireland by Golf World.

Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping team can be immensely proud of this achievement.

Our next event will be a talk on irrigation systems by drilling and pumping irrigation at Allen Park GC Antrim on 9/1/2001 with a start time of 7.30pm. Hope to see you all there.

Ken Henderson

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