

Around the Green



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

East

A few things to get through so let's get going. We hope to find you all fit and well and your courses all in tip top condition for all the numerous competitions we all seem to have these days, considering the wet conditions we are having. For a change! But everything will be OK when summer comes around!

The Section recently had a visit to Muirfield, the venue for this year's Open Championship, in conjunction with Stewarts & Company. We had between 25 and 30 people on the day, which was good considering this is a busy time of year for all of us. I can reveal that it was a very informative day in the company of Course Manager, Colin Irvine, who gave up some of his precious time in the run up to the Championship. He took us through all the planning and work that goes into preparing a course, as well as all the other things associated with staging an event like this. Seeing the course with all the stands up etc gives you a sort of buzz as to what it is like playing and working on an event of this scale. Superb.

We also had a look around the Stewarts HQ at Mayfield, where they also laid on a nice lunch then bussed us down to Muirfield for the visit. So a big thanks to Colin Irvine and Stewarts & Co for a great day out and roll on the next visit like this, wherever it may be.

The Section presented Colin with an engraved tankard for giving us his time on the day. We wish him and his staff all the best for the Championship.

The Section would like to wish member Graeme Davidson all the best for representing Glencorse GC and Oatridge College in the regional final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. His interview was at the Jurys Inn Hotel at the end of June. So by the time you read this his interview will be passed and hopefully Graeme will have done well. I will report the result next month, here's hoping!

We welcome a new member to the Section this month and it is Glencorse GC apprentice greenkeeper, Neil Jacobs. Welcome to the Section, Neil and we hope to see you at future Section events. Thanks to Ian Bell, Head Greenkeeper at Glencorse, for these last two pieces of info. Cheers Ian, it is much appreciated.

Next event on the Section calendar is the Summer Tournament (Texas Scramble) on July 30 at Uphall GC. We hope to see a big turnout for this event as the date has been moved as not to clash with the Scottish National Tournament in June so you haven't any excuses this year. So you should all have your entry form as the spring, summer and autumn were all sent out together. So if you haven't got one give Steve Dixon a call and he will send you one out. We hope to see you there.

Well that's it all for this month. Coming up next month in this column are results of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award; Scottish National Tournament at West Linton Golf Club and any other news I can pick up on my travels over the next few weeks.

Chris Yeaman

Northern

Two new members to report this month, and they are Darren Ross, Boat of Garten Golf Club, and Graham Grant, Inverurie Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads. A member on the move is Dean Mitchell, who has moved from Peterhead GC to Cruden Bay GC. Another good Celtic man at Cruden Bay then.

Congratulations are due to Dale Robertson and his staff who entertained the Northern Open this year at Newmachar Golf Club. The course was well praised and is a great credit to Dale and his staff and highlights were shown on Sky television at the beginning of July. The weather which had been wet the previous week turned dry during the competition week and made life easier to present the course. But the workload is still immense and standards are high, so a lot of pressure to deal with. Congratulations are also due to Steven Brown, of Newmachar GC, whose wife had their first child at the end of June.

The National Championships at West Linton were a success for the North Section, with several prizes picked up. Robert Paterson, Course Manager at Royal Aberdeen GC, scored the lowest gross of the day to become this year's Scottish Champion. George Mitchell, of Newmachar GC, won the first class handicap section; Steven Brown, Newmachar GC, won the class 2 section, and also Ben Brookes won the apprentices trophy. The North team also won the St Mungo cup for the best team. The team was made up of Robert Paterson, George Mitchell, Steven Brown, and Graham Lornie, Royal Aberdeen GC. The results could not have turned out any better for our Section, Well done lads. This report is rapidly turning into the Newmachar News.

The entry forms for the outing at McDonald GC, Ellon, in September, should be arriving shortly and I hope we will get as good a turnout as we did at Elgin in May.

The Patrons' Awards for this year should be announced in next month's magazine, and the lucky winners get a trip to Harrogate to see the BTME, which is an excellent award, and well worth going to see.

Well, now the World Cup is over and also Wimbledon, we have the golfing fortnight to look forward to, as the Loch Lomond event and the Open are played. The Open being at Muirfield is fairly close so, hopefully, some of the Section will be able to make the journey down. If so, try and visit the BIGGA tent, as it is usually busy and worth a look.

Have a good month and I hope the weather improves, and gives us at least some summer to remember 2002 by.
Iain Gunn

Central

It was pleasing to see a number of Section members among the prize winners at the recent Scottish Championships at West Linton Golf Club. David Leith, from St. Andrews, was runner-up in the Ransomes Trophy; Mark White, St. Andrews, won the STRI Trophy, with Albert Arnott, Lochore Meadows runner-up and Robbie Breingan, from Muckhart, winning the M&M Trophy. Not bad, four prize winners out of 15 entries! With nearly 300 members in the Section, 15 entries for the Scottish Championships is rather a poor percentage. Is there any particular reason why you are unable to attend? Are they held at the wrong time of the

year? Do you think they are only for the "better" golfer? Will your boss not give you time off? Do you only want to play on the more "prestigious" courses? If you have any views on why attendances are on the low side please get in touch with myself or Peter.

In last month's news we extended a warm welcome to Grant "Davidson" when in fact it should have been Grant Donaldson, Sorry Grant! What makes the matter even more embarrassing is that Grant actually works for me at Stirling. I'm convinced that this flaming computer can't spell properly!

It is intended to organise educational training courses throughout the winter months. Yes we are thinking about winter already, most of us are still waiting on summer arriving. The suggested dates so far are October 22 and 23 - Basic Computing Skills; November 27 and 28 - Manual Handling and Risk Assessment and February 11 and 12, 2003 - Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cutting.

It is imperative that these courses are fully supported as tutors have to be organised so if you are at all interested in any of the foregoing subjects, please give us some support. Further details will be circulated in due course.

A message for the six committee members who could not manage to attend the last committee meeting. Thanks Lads! I have been getting lasagne for my tea for the past fortnight. Still, it will soon be finished. The trifle didn't survive the night as Stuart was feeling slightly peckish!

As you will have surmised I am struggling for material for the Section news, so if you have anything you wish included in the October issue, please get it to me by the end of this month.

John Crawford



NORTHERN REGION
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Recently the John Deere Team Championship was played at Ponteland GC and the four man team from Whickham GC is heading for the famous Brabazon course at The Belfry, having won the north east regional qualifier in the inaugural 2002 John Deere golf tournament.

The team consisting of the Club Captain, Phil Byrne; Committee Member, Gary Macdonald; Head Greenkeeper, Tony McLure and Professional Graham Lisle beat off the challenge of 19 other teams.

The winners finished on 55 one shot clear of the field. Thanks go to Greenlay's for organising the competition on behalf of John Deere and on behalf of the Section we wish them the best of luck and hope they get to the world final in Arizona in November.

Don't forget the Autumn competition is at Longhirst Hall on September 19.

Recently the Great North Open was held at Slaley Hall GC and I reckon they deserve a mention. A lot of praise should go to Course Manager, Steve Cram, and his staff for the outstanding condition of the course. Comments have been exceptionally positive, not only from the players but also their greenkeeping colleagues on how the course was set up the best yet. Let's

hope they get the Northern Open again next year and perhaps even bigger tournaments in the future.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

August is here and time to take a holiday if you haven't already had one, time out from the greens tees and Green Chairman to relax and recharge the batteries before the autumn programmes kick in.

Talking of which, our Autumn tournament takes place on September 4th at Pwllheli Golf Club and your entry forms will be in the post shortly, so get them back to Jeremy as soon as you can. It would be nice to see a few new faces showing up as we try to spread the golf days across the region and if you are local to Pwllheli or not come and have a knock! We are always hopeful for someone to give Terry Adamson & Sean Pritchard a pasting, on the course as well as in the bar.

Also if there is anyone travelling from afar, and wants to stay the night before, I think the word is 'acclimatise' yourselves, Haven Holiday Centre has rooms for rent available (the old Butlins that is) just down the road, or Steve Jones tells me his missus makes a mean big breakfast. Anyone requiring more information on 'Haven' please phone Steve at the Golf Club.

I had an e-mail from Gary Martin, working over at Westchester GC New York, maintaining the course over the playing of the Buick Invitational tournament and putting in over 108 hrs a week... or so he tells me. Is that dedication, or does he need to get a life?

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394 Fax 01925 269622 Mobile 07778 162162

e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

Northern

Well, we are already in August and, at the time of writing, we seem to have had very little summer, with a lot of cool and wet weather. Let's hope it improves somewhat.

President's Day was a great success with 44 competitors. We had several new faces, which is always encouraging to see. Otley golf course was in great condition on the day. A credit to Steve Heaton and his team. The weather gave us one of the few sunny and warm days we had in June so we were blessed there too. The food we all enjoyed after the round was fabulous and thanks must go to everyone at Otley for a truly great day out. The biggest thanks must go to our sponsor of the day, Rufford Soil Science. Without their continued support we would not be able to run this event. Special thanks to Paul Chadwick and Peter Jefford for coming along with the company and joining us for the day. The results from the day are as follows. 1st Div. Dave Collins, Richard Harris and Martin Heggie. 2nd Div. Phil Armitage, Andy Slingsby and Frank Stewart. 3rd Div. Dave Thackray, Steve Heaton and Ken Christie. The Bill Mountain Trophy was won by Tito Arana. Trade Prizes went to:- 1. Mel Guy; 2. Mike Brear. The Nearest the Pin was again won by Mel Guy and Longest Drive was won by Mike Doxy. The putting wizard of the competition was Richard Harris who won in fine style in a wig!

The night was rounded off with a presentation to Simon Heppenstall in appreciation for his services to the Northern Section.

The next Section golfing event is Invitation day at Bingley St Ives on Tuesday 10 September. £15 per person and cheques payable to BIGGA Northern section please.

That's all for now, but please try to give me some news or such like to help fill up these notes. Tel 01274 640739 Mobile 07976876264 E mail Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

North West

I have just returned from the hospital after visiting Doug Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator. Doug took ill while at BIGGA House on June 17 and was taken home a couple of days later by a member of staff, and a few days later was admitted to hospital. He is still quite ill but as yet it is still not known exactly what is wrong. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The summer tournament was played at Ulverston Golf Club on June 20 and what a nice day it turned out to be. The sun shone all day, and the course was in beautiful condition thanks to Colin Parish and his staff. I must mention that members commented that the course is always in beautiful condition, which is nice to hear. We had a good turnout of members including guests, which I was very pleased about owing to the fact that we were almost as far north as our Section reaches. The course is quite hilly, and a great test of golf as the scores showed.

The winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy was Colin Parish with a 78-6-72 and his prize was a microwave. The Guests' prize went to Bill Brownley. Nearest the Pin, Paul Smith, Longest Drive, Bill Merritt. There followed 10 prizes for the best nett but as I mentioned earlier the course is a great test of golf, and only eight more players completed their cards. This is the first time we have ever run out of competitors instead of prizes! I would like to thank Ulverston GC, for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for great food, and Colin and his staff for all their efforts.

The "Roses Match" will be played at Stand Golf Club on August 15 and I will require a team of 12 to play this lovely course, and help to take the Patisson Trophy" off the Northern Section. If you are available please contact me on: 0151 724 5412 or mobile 07761 583387.

Bert Cross



B,B & O

It has been a better month for greenkeeping and golf with a short period of warmth & sunshine. It must be bad weather generally when I hear of several courses with fusarium! Does this disease not know when to lay low? I, along with many others, have been able to dry the putting greens out properly for the first time in many months resulting in of golfers having to change their attack to the putting greens, giving me immeasurable delight.

I would like to highlight the fact that I have recently changed my surname to Haskell-Craig, a point which can be best explained sometime over a pint! Winterton is now officially history.

No news from around the block so I will highlight our next Section event. This is the autumn tournament to be held at Ellesborough Golf Club on Thursday, October 3, starting with the first tee off time at 12. noon. Please contact me well before the event to secure a place. The cost is £25 per person with cheques payable to 'BIGGA BB&O Section'. The cut off date will be Thursday, September 26. This competition will be a three ball Stableford with the event being sponsored by Headland. This will include coffee on arrival and a meal in the evening. Before the meal we will have the AGM so it would be great to see some support for this with any ideas you wish to raise getting the attention they deserve. I have received feedback from Headquarters on the first meeting of the Futures Sub-Committee that consists of a number of greenkeepers who will be reporting back to the Board of Management with various proposals. The 11 members have been split into three groups who will diversify with their chosen subject. These are 1. BIGGA Name & Development of the Profession, 2. Education & Training and 3. Communication with the industry and the game. I see we have John Ross from our section on Education & Training so I wish him well in his role. The outcome of these groups will only help to make the association stronger in the future world of Greenkeeping and help to entice more greenkeepers to take up membership for the added benefits. Remember folks, any noteworthy items for other members to know - let's 'av 'em!

David Haskell-Craig

East Midlands

Not a great deal to report this month. By now you should have received your entry for this year's Autumn Tournament, which is to be held at Horsley Lodge GC. on Tuesday, September 17. Please contact me if you have not received a form. Please also remember to return your entry slip and payment before the closing date of September 3rd. The annual East Midlands v East of England Golf Match will be reported on next month.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

A reminder to all members: There is a change of date and venue for the summer tournament, from the details listed on the fixture card. The new venue is John O'Gaunt Golf Club, and the new date is Tuesday August 27. It is a single round event, eighteen holes in the afternoon with a 2pm start. If you wish to play, please send your entries to Richard Saunders, at the usual address.

The Lodgeway competition, which was reduced this year to a singles event, has again met with a very poor response. After consultation with the sponsor, it has therefore been agreed to scrap the competition altogether. Apologies to those of you who did enter, but it is unrealistic to continue with such low numbers.

Paul Lockett

Midland

The spring tournament was held at Gay Hill on May 22, Nick Gilks took the net prize followed by Eddie Stant and Nigel Couchman respectively. The gross prize won by Paul Woodham; Trade. Tony Cheese; Nearest the Pin, sponsored by Ruffords, was won by Stuart Hall; Longest Drive, Darren Evans. Main sponsors for the day were Textron and Bathgates kindly sponsored the wine. Many thanks to Gay Hill Golf Club and all who attended.

Upcoming events are the Tri-Section challenge at South Staffs and Stewards v Greenkeepers at Harbourne Golf Club on September 9.

In addition to these events we have the opportunity to take advantage of the BIGGA training fund with a Pesticide Application training course organised for this coming October. If you or any member of your crew wish to make the most of this training please contact myself for details of dates and costs.

Peter Larter has organised the Regional seminar day to be held at Hinkley Golf Club in Leicestershire in November with a wide range of speakers attending. So be sure not to miss a good informative day.

All the Midland Section would like to pass on their best wishes to Roger Pullen, at Blackwell Golf Club, and to let him know they are all thinking about him.

Phil Gates



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Surrey

There are two congratulation paragraphs this month and the first is not for Mark Pennels, at the Draft Golf Club, but for his fiancée, Nickki, who had the courage to marry him on June 29. May you both be very happy and I look forward to a piece of the wedding cake.

The second is for Brian Turner who won the Frame Trophy at Worplesdon Golf Club recently. This scratch competition for the over 50's had 96 entrants and was played over three days. Brian's scores of 73, 65 and 71 beat the previous record by two shots. He is now looking for an experienced caddie to help him win the British

Seniors Amateur Championship at Woodhall Spa in August. All personal expenses will be paid for by the caddie except if Brian wins and then he will pay for Brian's as well!

And now to Liphook on June 26 and the Cresta Cup. Forty excited Surrey members had been looking forward to playing this renowned course for we had heard from so many different greenkeepers about its excellence. We were not disappointed, for what Dave Murdoch and his staff had told us over the past years about its condition was true, Liphook Golf Club is a gem. Only one criticism was heard by me and that was that most players would have preferred more difficult pin position. The results were as follows:

1. Dan Lightfoot, 37pts; 2. Dan Wheeler, 36pts;. 3. . Dave Langhiem, 32pts; Best Gross, Gareth Roberts, 78. Longest Drive, Paul Bacon; Nearest the Pin, Peter Craig. Longest Walk. Dangerous Dave Delderfield even after a magnificent 30 foot putt at the last witnessed by many from the clubhouse. I still wonder the meaning of his digital sign directed at the players in the bar.

Brian Willmott

Sussex

Tuesday July 2. Welcome to Ham Manor Golf Club! So Mr Barr and myself know that we already have a moist course in the winter so we have managed to adapt ourselves to presenting the course in top condition throughout the winter. So why should we still have to be using the "Damp" skills in July?

Especially as we were hosting the Sussex Team Challenge. Still it started off being fine weather as Mr Barr can tell you, being first off and having a 25mph tail wind for the Longest Drive Competition.

As for myself, by the time I got to the turn the wind had dropped, yippee, only to be replaced by a deluge of persistent rain coming in at a right angle!

Not only was that bad enough but I was also handcuffed to Robert (Laughing Boy) Short. Now no-one deserves that all in one day.

The only bright side about my round of golf was that my third member was the lovely Rose.

Anyway the day was not a total loss as 45 greenkeepers and guests seemed to have a very enjoyable afternoon.

First of all, a big thank you to the sponsors, Sheerwater.

Results. Nearest the Pin, Gary Oglive; Longest Drive (with tail wind), Simon Adby; Best Individual, Ray Day (also Best Dressed Man); Runner-Up Team, on countback, Ray Day, Phil Horsfield and Richard Burden, 97pts. Winners. Guess Who? George Barr, Peter Way and Alan Duffield, 97pts.

Well, that takes care of that. Next year the Challenge will be held at Liphook GC. Dates to be Confirmed.

Just a last note. By the time you read this the next meeting will be at Mannings Heath on Wednesday September 25. This will be 27 holes, including bacon rolls, lunch and evening dinner.

See you there
Jon Budd

Kent

I'm writing this days after I returned from Italy where I spent two sunny weeks in Venice and missed all this lovely English rain. So I hope this gets in this month.

The golf day at Kings Hill on June 18 was a great day out for the 36 of you who turned out. After a slight delay for the thunder to ease a fine day transpired. It was nice to see some new faces and a few old ones too when I was out and about round the course. I would like to thank all the greenstaff for producing such a well presented golf course. Can I say that about my own course? Well, I did get a lot of positive feedback from the people I spoke to. I'm glad you all enjoyed your day with us. Onto the winners: 1.

Jay Motta, from Sene Valley; 2. Andrew Pearson, from The London Club, who both qualify for the national tournament, 3. (but by no means least was a very nervous) Jo Silcock, from St George's.

I did see Jo on the 6th hole par 3 and he nailed a glorious 3 wood 155 yards to a couple of feet to make a nice par. The trade prize went to Tim Webb from Tacit. Nearest the Pin was Mike Shields, from Greenkeeper Services, and the Longest Drive went to Tony Julian from Broke Hill. A big thank you to all the days sponsors for some excellent raffle prizes. I hope to see you all at Wilderness on August 19 for the summer competition and have the couple of beers with you I missed at Kings Hill.

Any news or views contact me on
01732 875020 or
E-Mail JRBATKHOLF@AOL.COM
Jason Bean

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East Anglia

Nice weather and a golf course perfectly set up greeted us at Stowmarket Golf Club. Roger Bade and his staff presented their course in excellent shape, running fairways, tight rough and good putting surfaces, gave us a testing round of golf.

Toro UK were the major sponsors for the day, supplying the prizes for the winners of the competition, Nearest the Pins and Longest Drive. Also a number of par-3s offered the entrants chances to win something more substantial. But alas no one could quite manage a hole-in-one.

Thanks to Larry Pearman, of Toro UK, for his support, and Kevin Leach, of K B Leach Garden Machinery, and Richard Fulford of Norfolk Garden Machinery our local Toro Specialists.

At a time so soon after the two day jubilee bank holiday, and the grass growing at such a rate, the entry for this competition was pleasing, with 41 players and a number of non playing participants, and the prize winners where as follows:- Overall winner G Rayfield 37 pts. 0-11 handicap, 1. N. Brewster 35 pts.; 2. M. Virley, 33pts. 3. M Gill 32pts. 12-17 handicap, 1. N Worger, 36 pts.; 2. J. Wright, 28pts; 3. I. Willett, 28pts.

18.28 handicap, 1. C. Rayfield 37 pts; 2. M. Mison, 22pts; 3. R. Mitch, 20pts
Greenkeeper/Captain 1. M. Gill/P. Jacklin 62 pts; 2.= 1. Willett/S. Robson, 61 pts. 3. P. Gould/M. Ayres, 61pts. Guest prize 1. M. Ayres, 34 pts. 2. S. Robson, 33pts. Longest Drive. A. Sharp. Nearest the Pin. I. Willett.

It is blue & mighty bright

It's noticeable across the course,

It looks less rigid as the round goes on

And sags well down after nine holes have gone,

Supported on a trolley the clubs stand upright

but the shafts are exposed, it's an awesome

sight,

It needs pulling up after each hole is done

It's the golfing equivalent of a builder's bum!

Dedicated to Robert Tomlinson's golf bag, which earned him the Loo Seat.

Thanks to the trade for their continued support; Toro (main sponsor) Atterton & Ellis, Bartrum Mowers, Bauwer, Ernest Dowes, Driving Force Leisure,

K B Leach, Norfolk Turf Machinery, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & sons, Sisis, Tacit, Textron, Tomlinson Groundcare, Turfcare.

M Turner from The Suffolk Golf Club became a father on March 14 2002 to 71b 14oz Joe Michael

Turner, congratulations.

Next meeting is at Ufford Park on Wednesday, October 9, see you all there.

Steve Millard



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352 194

Devon & Cornwall

The Rigby Taylor sponsored summer meeting was held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 18. On arrival members were welcomed with Bucks Fizz to celebrate Trevor Bennett's retirement from greenkeeping after 50 years of service at Trevoze Golf Club. As usual our golfing members played a Stableford competition for prizes kindly donated by Rigby Taylor. Trethorne's owner Mike Davey treated our non-golfing members to a guided tour of the course.

After an excellent meal Ceri Richards on the behalf of Rigby Taylor presented the golf prizes as follows:- 1. Simon Coombes, Dainton; 2. Trevor Bennett, Trevoze; 3. Joe Cole.

The Section would like to thank Mike Davey for allowing the Section use of his facilities and to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. Special thanks to Ceri Richards who was starter and for administrating the Nearest the Hole.

The Section would like to congratulate Dave Manley on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Cape Cornwall; Jamie Stevens on his appointment as Assistant Head at Mullion and Chris Bland for his appointment outside the Section.

The Vitax match play competition has now reached the last eight. Congratulations to T. Bennett, T. Vokes, K. Dymond, G. Tuckett, N. Williams, G. Fitzpatrick, D. Harding, C. Rawlings, one of whom will win the weekend away in London.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter and one summer meeting, which are listed as follows:- October 16, Roffeys Meeting, Portmore; November 13, DGM Meeting, Bude; December 10, P.J. Flegg Meeting, Okehampton; January 16, Barenbrug Meeting, East Devon; February 23, Avoncrop Meeting, Mullion; March 26, Aventus & Supaturf Meeting, Yelverton; June 17, Rigby Taylor Meeting, Trethorne.

Please note the following booking terms & information listed below for Section meetings; Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners; For our foursome & greensome events you may enter with a partner with your opponents being drawn; Company & golf presentation to conclude the day; A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date; As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date and any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

It seems incredible that as I write this we are over halfway through the year. How time flies! I'm not quite sure how far through the summer we are though, as it certainly doesn't feel like it's started yet! What is certain is that the current weather is keeping most of us very busy as we try to keep on top of the growth on our courses. On the Section front, June 19 saw our Section's annual match against the Wessex Secretaries, which was kindly sponsored by Course Care. The Secretaries were looking to avenge last year's defeat and the two teams met at Romsey Golf Club. The matches were fiercely contested and the standard of golf was excellent as the Secretaries won 3-1. Many thanks to Romsey Golf Club for their superb hospitality, to Michael Osman- Wheeler and his team for preparing the course beautifully for us and a huge vote of thanks for Course Care's valued sponsorship.

Our annual match against the South West section has been moved to Wednesday, August 13, with the venue still being Long Ashton Golf Club.

July saw the retirement of one of our Section's founder members. Ted West has been both a valued part of Broadstone Golf Club's greenkeeping team for 40 years and long-standing supporter of our Section. Broadstone holds Ted in such esteem that they have presented him with honorary membership of the club as well as holding a golf benefit day in his aid.

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The golf day was attended by members of Broadstone and many of the greenkeepers that Ted has become friends with over his long career in greenkeeping. Those of us who were fortunate to be part of such a special day for Ted and the club had a thoroughly enjoyable day and it was wonderful to hear so many tributes paid to him by the members. Ted will be extremely busy playing golf and trying to keep to a busy fixture list, which has lengthened as many members have asked him to join them. As a Section we wish Ted well and look forward to seeing him at our golf days. If anyone has any news they wish to include in next month's column then please contact me.

Until next month,
Alex McCombie

South Wales

Our Spring Tournament was held at Pennard Golf Club on the Gower Peninsula and it was the first visit to the club for many of our members, me included. Having heard how good it was we were all looking forward to the visit and at the end of the day, nobody was disappointed. Some of the views are quite simply breathtaking. The condition of the course equalled the scenery and is a credit to Peter Lacey and his staff. We were well catered

for after the golf, in the new clubhouse, and enjoyed an excellent meal. The results of the Stableford comp were: 1. Steven Lloyd, Amenity Technology Shield; 2. Gareth Evans, Cardiff Cup 3. P. Hondy; Longest Drive, Alan Abel; Nearest the Pin, Bob (local knowledge) Hanford

Fairwood Park was the venue for our match against the Golf Club Secretaries and after a stiff talking to by Captain, Julian Bartlett Jones, the team of Greenkeepers went out and beat the Secretaries 4-2. Well done lads. Thanks to Phil Williamson and the staff, for the excellent condition the course was in and the sponsor for the day, Alan Abel, who flew back from Scotland the day before to be with us.

Nearest the Pin prizes went to. Kerry Jones, 6th; Peter Lacey, 12th; Leigh Davis, 16th and Tony Mears on the 8th.

The next competition will be held at Dinas Powis Golf Club and results will be in the next magazine.

Congratulations to Huw Morgan. Not content with winning the Toro Greenkeeper Award, he has just achieved Master Greenkeepers status. If you read this Huw, very well done from the South Wales Section.

Adrian Panks

South West

We all enjoyed our summer competition at Bath Golf Club and everybody was very impressed by the condition of the golf course. Our thanks go to Guy Woods, Head Greenkeeper, and his team.

The results were Head Greenkeepers comp. 1. Craig Fudge, 36 pts; 2. Steve Chappell 28 pts. The assistant comp. 1. John Jarvis, 39 pts 2. Paul Godwin, 35 pts. Nearest the pin was won by Dan Harding.

All the players were tested by the strong winds, but it was a very good day.

Our thanks go to Irritec who sponsored the day and supplied the prizes. It was good to see Paula Humphries at the event, flying the flag for the Region.

The next event is the Scotts Management Trophy on August 7. If you would like to enter a team call Paula.

Robin Greaves.



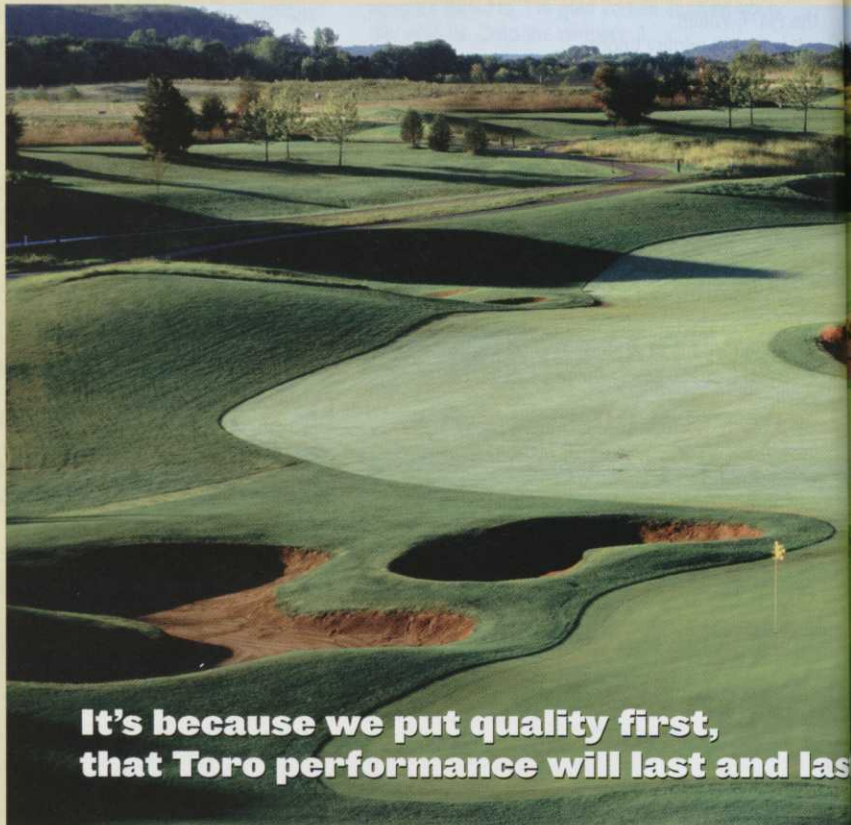
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NORTHERN IRELAND

Let me start this month's news by wondering how can we call this summer? On the first day of July the hailstones were pelting down and it felt like winter had come early. We haven't had any decent dry weather since April. As for sun cream, forget it, just put it away in the suitcase and head for Spain. I have one simple remedy. Organise a Section Golf Day somewhere in North Down, preferably near Bangor, for the sun always shines when we head for the seaside town.

The date was July 5 and Carnalea Golf Club just outside the town of Bangor was the venue. The sun shone throughout the afternoon which lifted everyone's spirits. While you play this picturesque course you can enjoy the views across the Irish Sea to the West of Scotland. However this distraction affected my concentration on the day and my playing partner was once again Mr Bogey.

Nevertheless everyone enjoyed playing the course and many thanks to Carnalea GC for giving us courtesy golf. Course Manager, Jonathan McCabe and his staff had the course in very good condition which added to the day.

Many thanks also to our competition sponsors Coburn's of Barnbridge. Sales Representative, William Eastmill was on hand to present the prizes.

The prize winners were as follows:

1. Paul Lappin, Kirkistown GC, 35pts;
2. Andrew Sloan, 34pts;
3. Martin Easement, Crossgar GC, 33pts;
4. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 32pts.

A warm welcome to Michael Norman who has been appointed Course Manager at Malone GC. Michael has moved to Northern Ireland from Lee Park GC in Liverpool. And congratulations also to Damien Docherty, who has been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Malone.

Well, that's all my news this month. I will hope to see another good turnout at Massereene GC on July 25. Members will be notified soon of the Championship qualifier which will be played in late August, early September.

Ken Henderson

TIME TO TALK

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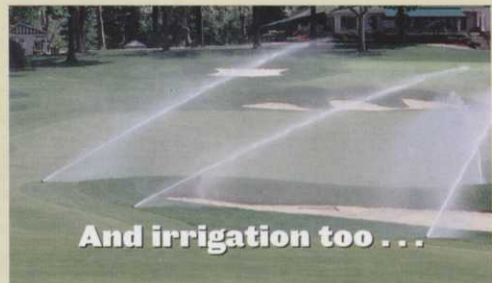
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