



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**Annual Conference,
Business Learning Centre,
Lauder College,
Dunfermline.**

On March 5, 2002 BIGGA Scottish Region will be once again present their Annual Conference at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. In previous years we have had an interesting and varied group of speakers, this year is no exception. We are delighted that they have offered their services to us. A good representation from across the industry.

The speakers include Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses & Estates Director, Gleneagles Hotel; Dr Ruth Mann, Department of Turfgrass Protection, STRI; from Elmwood College we have Dr Paul Millar; the 'Director of Golf from Meldrum House, John Caven; Phil Langdon, Projects Director, Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd; Agronomist, Richard Millar, from Biotal Industrial Products Ltd, and finally a joint presentation from David Withers Textron and Brian Goudie Scottish Grass Machinery.

All of these speakers will present a talk that is both relevant and of interest to all in the greenkeeping industry.

The Conference has always been well supported, with first class facilities on offer and easy access from all parts of Scotland this is a first class venue and hopefully will attract greenkeepers, greens convenors and secretaries and indeed everyone associated with the golf industry to attend.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2002 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

East

First of all welcome to 2002 so a Happy New Year to you all. I hope this year is an improvement on the last one? Here's hoping. Well the Section held its annual dinner dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel in Aberlady on the December 1 and a great night was had by all. After having to cancel the event the year before at short notice it was good to get back to business and the atmosphere was superb. If you weren't there you missed a good night, because the 64 of us that were there did ... I think! So come on if you want a good night out and a weekend away join us this year. Details will be out in the next few months. PS. The Full Monty cabaret was good as well, and if anybody knows who they were, answers on a postcard please.

I attended the Patrons' Award last month to represent the Section along

with Jimmy Neilson and an enjoyable day it was. The East Section winners were Ian Aitchison, Duns GC, and Alan Campbell, Eyemouth GC. Well done to them and we look forward to seeing them at BTME at Harrogate, any of you making the annual pilgrimage at the end of this month.

Ian and Alan on your return could you please put pen to paper and give us a brief view into your Patrons' Award trip to BTME 2002 which will be in a future copy of Greenkeeper International.

Remember the Patrons' Awards 2002, it could be you so come on let's see you at all Section events this year.

I've had a few moans and groans about handicaps so this year as I said at the AGM last November, if you can get a handicap certificate from your club or the club you play at and you have got an official handicap your handicaps will be adjusted accordingly. It has to be an official handicap certificate not verbally or you will play off your present BIGGA handicap and this is a committee decision. Send them to me at Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN or fax, 01968 661721 asap. The usual nos are: Home 01968 661313 Work/fax 01968 661721, Mobile 07719 580449 or you can e-mail me on chrisjy26@aol.com. Come on let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman

North

Well, fellow North members, this is my first attempt at the magazine report, so please forgive any errors.

I would like to start off by thanking Iain Macleod, from Tain Golf Club, for all his efforts in writing for the North Section in the magazine, and also for all his considerable efforts in helping the North Section develop in the way it has, by way of his committee work. I am sure all members appreciate the work Iain has done and wish him all the very best. I hope to see him at future outings as he still owes me a fiver for that tremendous score at Keith.

There are no new members to report this month, but no doubt this will pick in the coming months of 2002.

As Iain said in his last report I will name the committee members who were elected to represent the North at the last AGM.

They are as follows: Chairman, Stuart McBain, 01224 733347; Vice Chairman & Raffles, John Geddes, 01358 723034; Secretary, Dougal Duguid, 01224740329; Treasurer, Steve Sullivan, 07760 191208; Education, Dave Marnoch; Trophies & Prizes, Hugh Maclatchie, 01779 470173 Outings, Handicaps and Magazine report, Iain Gunn, 01997 420155 Outings, Handicaps & 200 Club, Robert Hardie, 01224 783201.

Please feel free to phone any of the named people at any time, if

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there is a point that you would like raised at committee or you have any ideas to further develop the section.

The Patrons' Award this year, where Robert Hardie & Kenny Kinnaird will be representing the Section, will be reported on in next month's report.

Ingliston has come and gone again for another year, and seemed to be busy when I visited on the Thursday, it is good to see an event which has been going for many years now still thriving. Anyone travelling on the Thursday would have experienced the terrible driving conditions, caused by the snow, and I hope everyone who made the journey to Ingliston, got home safely.

Well Harrogate is coming up again this month, and I hope to be visiting for the first time this year. I must be one of the few who have not actually been, and judging by some of the stories I have heard, it is an event not to be missed. I will give a report on the event in a later magazine.

As I write this report the winter weather is beginning to kick in, and the temperatures at night are dropping well below zero, and if last winter is anything to go by, then a lot of patience is going to be required to get through the winter. I hope the weather is kind to everyone this time round and the New Year brings a successful season to all our members.

Iain Gunn

Central Section

Well. That's another year come and gone, hopefully everyone has recovered from the festive period and are easing back into work, with a bit of luck 2002 will start a bit drier than 2001 ended. We can live in hope!

Congratulations go to the Section's Past Chairman, Archie Dunn, on his election as Scottish Chairman no doubt Archie will carry out the business of the Scottish Board in the same professional manner in which he conducted Section matters. Enjoy your term of office, Archie!

The Turkey Trot, scheduled for December 1 last year, proved to be a huge success ... for the turkeys that is, as no one returned a form to play in it, so the turkeys are still trotting away happily. Can we deduce from your reaction to this competition that no one is interested in golf in December? Don't say that we don't try! As a matter of interest where does the Turkey Trot competition originate from and how did it get its name? Answers on a postcard please!

The December winners in "Club 2000" were D. Sutherland and D. Scott, both winning £50 each. I hate to keep on about it (honestly!) but if you still have not bought your tickets for the next 12 draws you will get personal reminder in next month's magazine.

The first golf competition of this year will be the Spring Tournament at Kingsbarns in Fife, details have yet to be finalised, as this is sure to be a

very popular venue, if you intend to participate please return your entry forms ASAP!

Your committee are in the process of coming up with a revised format for the now famous "Inter - Club Tournament", so if you have any ideas how it should be run, please get in touch with any committee member (Keep them clean please!).

Would all holders of Section trophies please arrange to have them returned to me by the end of March (this year) in order that I can have the engraving brought up to date and have them valued for insurance purposes.

Things are a bit quiet on the news front at the moment, so if you have anything you think other members might be interested in, just drop me a line and I will try to include it in future Section news.

John Crawford.

West

Well, let me start this newsletter by wishing you all a happy new year. Where did the last one go?

Football news first. Congratulations are to be extended to Brian Hillan and his team from Drumpellier GC who took part in the Central Section's football tourney. Brian's team were narrowly beaten into second place but playing away from home this was a very respectable finish. On November 19 a seven-a-side match was organised between a team from our Section and the grounds

staff at Ibrox. The team comprised myself, A. Taylor, S. Taylor, G. Bruen, K. Collins, B. Hillen & L. Smith. Some good team work and slick passing movements resulted in the greenkeepers coming out on top winning by nine goals to one. Our thanks to A. Taylor of Rigby Taylor for organising the event. Isn't it strange that the winning team all come from the East end of the town!

On November 30 our annual dinner was held in Victoria's nightclub. The event was very well attended this year and everyone seemed to enjoy the night if my memory which was somewhat dulled on the evening serves me right. I have certainly not heard any rumours to the contrary, yet! Once again young Gary caught the eye of Billy Porter. He's such a flirt! Hopefully we can have even more greenkeepers attend next year.

On a more serious note our AGM was held in Lenzie GC on November 15. Once again the attendance was abysmal for a Section of our size. The committee will be looking into alternative types of venue to try and encourage more of you to attend in the future however we do still require a little effort from our members to make such meetings a success. On the night Kenny Hunter was the only new member to come onto committee as a trade representative and we the committee would like to welcome him on board and look forward to seeing him at future meetings. Our thanks must also be extended to the



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committee and members of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities.

The committee would also like to congratulate Ronnie Bunting on winning a trip to the Golf Superintendents Show in Canada. I am sure BIGGA will be promoted in the best possible light by Ronnie as he has a great pride in everything the Association has achieved and is a great advocate of our CPD and further education programmes.

The committee would also like to wish John Scott Snr a long and enjoyable retirement. John has been a great supporter of our section and the Association for many years and we hope he will still come along to some of our section events to say hello and lend a hand if he so feels.

A couple of dates for your diary: The 22-24 January BTME Harrogate and March 5 Scottish Conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline.

Well that's all folks, again if you would like anything added to the column please do not hesitate to call on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

Gleneagles Chapter

Here are the names, nationalities and a brief intro to the Second BIGGA Gleneagles Chapter, sponsored by Textron.

Ingmar Wolbert, Netherlands, worked on the t'Zelle Golf Course, Holland for six years; Koert Donkers, Netherlands, worked at the Prize

d'eau Tilbury Course Holland for two years; Agust Jenson, Iceland, Nine years as greenkeeper, five of which were at the Reykjavik Golf Club; Rosalia (Rosa) Garcia, Spain, worked the last two summers at the Atalaya Golf Course and the Almenara Golf Course; Pablo Morain, Spain, six months at the Almenara Golf Course; Thomas B. Corrigan and Fearghal Carolan, both from Southern Ireland, and both industrial year students studying HND Sports Turf and Golf Course Management at Writtle College; Jesse Kaan, Finland, eight years greenkeeping experience, five at Pictala Golf Club, Helsinki.

The Students are intending to take turns in keeping you up to date with their progress.

You can contact Fearghal Carolan e-mail fearghalcarolan@hotmail.com for any further information.

Keith Walton



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

Once again not much information coming in so I will waffle on as usual. As you have probably noticed in the magazine Steve Oultram Head Greenkeeper at Wilmslow GC won the Regional final of the Environment

competition, but unfortunately lost out on the grand final. Well done Steve, I am sure it will come your way soon.

Andrew Bennett has moved from Wilmslow GC to Styal GC as Head Greenkeeper. Knowing Andy I am sure he will cope well with the position, and we wish him well. The N/Wales Section is running two coaches to the BTME in January, and they have kindly offered to pick up anybody from the N/West Section en-route for a small fee. If you are interested contact Trevor Johnston on 0151 336 6675 or Mobile 07866 126723. Arrangements can also be made, if you are staying overnight to get a return coach the following day.

Can I remind you once again that one and two day seminars can be arranged in the Region, and these are regularly advertised in the education pages of the magazine. There has been suggestions from other Sections for Spring courses and these cover many subjects but if you feel the need for any courses please let me know as soon as possible. All education is subsidised by gold and silver key sponsors which helps to keep the costs down. Finally, congratulations to David Leach on receiving his certificate for Master Greenkeeper.

That's it for now, but any news or requests contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 0776 1583387. Happy New Year.

Bert Cross

Northern

The Seminar at Howley Hall GC was again well attended with 39 greenkeepers making an appearance. The speakers were Jim Croxton, PGA; Bob Taylor, STRI; Sam McLean Bernhard's and Martyn Jones, Myerscough College.

Many thanks to the speakers and the following sponsors who made it all possible; Amenity Technology; Bob Wild Machinery; Scotts UK. There will be another seminar once again at Howley Hall GC on Wednesday, February 27 which will once again be free and include food.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Annual Dinner Dance at Bradford GC, although I understand an excellent time was had by all.

The winter golf as just taken place at Headingley GC despite the horrendous weather as winter hit us in style. Many thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Andy Fowler, and his team for getting 12 holes open for us, when many courses were closed. The format was teams of four with the results as follows:-

1. Paul Wood, Clayton GC; Richard Harris, Elland GC; Mel Guy, Farmura; Ed Carter, Alpha Amenity, 49pts;
2. Ken Christie, Northcliffe GC; Alan Baxter, Bingley St. Ives; Bob Turner, Halifax GC; Mike Brear, Rigby Taylor, 48pts;
3. Tony Gerrard, Halifax GC; Joe Baxter, Bingley St. Ives; Robin Smith, Leeds City Council, 47pts

Longest Drive on the 18th Richard

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Experienc



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,800 visitors were present at the Show in 2001 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.



The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course on display, The Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

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Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green. This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.

Harris, Elland GC. Nearest the Pin on 13th Dave Collins, Temple Newsome GC. Trade Prize (for the year) Mike Brear, Rigby Taylor.

Thanks to Graham Greenwood and Liam Galway, from Amenity Technology and Greenkeeping Supply respectively, for supplying the excellent prizes and ensuring everybody had a good day. Many thanks also to Andy Fowler and his team for the course and also to all the staff at Headingley GC for their hospitality and food.

That's all for now, if anybody as any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk
Andy Smith

North Wales

Welcome to new members Jonathan Gamble, Welshpool Golf Club and Gary Parker, Prenton Golf Club. A belated congratulations to Ethan Moses, Maesdu Golf Club, whose wife Krissy had a baby boy named, Eligh, on October 16, weighing in at 8lb 4oz.

Best wishes to Allen Lewis and everyone at Llanymynech Golf Club after the mindless vandalism that occurred there, it's your worst professional nightmare, all the years of care and attention wiped out by an idiot, I believe two greens have been rebuilt already. What a waste of valuable time.

The seminar given by Hardi at the college was attended by 26 delegates, we all learnt about LERAP and watched demonstrations a very good afternoon. Thanks go to the college for having us.

Our Christmas competition and AGM was held at Conwy Golf Club, 74 played and an excellent day was had. Our thanks go to the club for having us. The course was superb and was made for one of the most enjoyable rounds of golf I have had in years (I was still rubbish). Thanks to Dave and the team for the preparation and you said the greens were soft?

It was good to see Bert Cross playing from the North West Section as a guest, I think that we will see more of him in the future because he only went and holed-in-one on the 2nd and pushed up half the balls in the sweep. Nice one Bert.

Results 1. Andy Peel, 35pts; 2. Ian Buckley, 34pts; 3. Steve Roberts, 31pts Bill Lawson Shield went to Mark Brute, 32pts. Aggregate Cup for year went to Shaun Pritchard.

Guests:- 1. Berwyn Lewis, 37pts, 2. Peter Jones, 34pts, 3. Mike Brute, 30pts Trade Cup, Malcolm Mitchell, Osmans, 26pts. Nearest the Pin member, Tom Fowles, Guest - Bert Cross (Hole-in-one) Thanks go to the sponsor, ALS, Acorn Golf, John Osman, Sportsworld and Walkers.

Eight people didn't turn up and six hadn't paid, come on lads you can seriously mess up the day if you don't let the committee know, all entry

sheets must be accompanied with a cheque or postal order, no cash. No pay no play. It's hard enough to organise as it is without being let down, it's called etiquette.

We are always after venues to play so if any of you fancy holding one of our Golf Days, please contact your committee.

This will be my final column for the magazine. I am handing over the pen to Andy Cornes or Andy Acorn as we all know him, I feel this will be a far better arrangement as he gets to see most of us so can pick up information on his travels, you will all have his phone number as well so it shouldn't be hard to give him a ring. Here's to 2002 when the sun shines, it rains at night and the golfers never moan about anything, see I told you I needed a rest.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

Mid Anglia

As the new Chairman of the Mid-Anglia Section I would like to wish all members a Happy New Year and hope that your courses are coping with the vagaries of the British weather. January is a turning point of the year with the daylight getting a little bit longer each day and many green-

keepers looking forward to renewing old friendships and learning at BTME.

To take your minds off the winter your committee has arranged a series of events to continue your thirst for knowledge.

January 17 - Course visit to Queenwood Golf Club, Surrey.

Queenwood is a David Mclay Kidd designed course in a superb setting, only recently opened and managed by Ian McMillan. I'm sure those lucky enough to visit will find it a very special golf course. Numbers are limited to 25

Early in February, date to be advised - Soil science study. Venue: Ashridge Golf Club Max. 15 delegates. Cost: £30

February 19 & 20 - Computer training. Venue: John O'Gaunt golf club. Max. six delegates. Cost: £30

February 26 & 27 - Computer training. Venue: Berkhamsted Golf Club. Max. six delegates. Cost: £30

February March - Chainsaw course (Five day). Venue: Ashridge Golf Club. Only four places available. Cost: £250 (half price)

The above events have been heavily subsidised by Headquarters and I do hope you will give your support, all places can be reserved through me by telephone on 01442 842627 Fax 01442 843770 or E-mail jim.cassidy@ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk

Remember, the more you learn the luckier you become.

Jim Cassidy

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National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses
Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist, International Turfgrass Institute

Global Warming and the Golf Course
Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell, Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd, Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features
Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

Preparation for Winter Play
Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC; Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels, Consulting Agronomist

Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management; Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. All workshops run concurrently with Conference Sessions

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker: Roger Black M.B.E. represented Great Britain at the highest level in the world of athletics, both as an individual 400 metres runner and as a member of 4 x 400 metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows:

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf - MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos, Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass Management, Training and Professionalism go Hand in Hand.

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety, Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay, the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of Golf Course Management.

Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is an exciting new concept which will enable golf club industry personnel of all disciplines to research and meet their product and service needs under one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and continues to be eagerly anticipated by exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

JANUARY 22-24, 2002

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East Midland

This year's AGM and golf tournament was held at Mapperley GC, on November 8. The day was extremely cold with sleet showers, which was a stark contrast to our previous visit there in 1989 when we suffered sunstroke. Unfortunately some members failed to arrive on the day, which resulted in letting their playing partners down, and some teams had to play with only two players. However after some great golf the eventual winners were, Jamie Bedford, Birstall; Andy McGreal, Lingdale, and Steve Coyne, Mapperley, with a nett score of 65.2. was Kevin Kinzer, E.T.Breakwells; Pete Fell, Aitkens, & Chris Weir, Scraftoft, Nett 68. 3. Steve Levers, Ramsdale Park; Richard Barker, & Geoff Little, Rigby Taylor.

Moving on to the serious business of the day. The AGM ran very smoothly, lasting only 23 minutes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Chairman, Gavin Robson, for all his valuable work while in office, and welcome our new Chairman, Adi Porter. The rest of the committee is as follows Vice-Chairman, Ian Needham; Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Richard Barker. Seven members were proposed for the remaining places on the committee, and the following were duly elected. Gavin Robson. Derek McJannet, Jamie Bedford, David James, Jeff Dickinson & Andy McGreal. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Weir who as now retired from the committee for all his hard work.

I would like to thank Mapperley GC for courtesy of their fine course which was presented in pristine condition by John Goddard and his staff. Also thanks should go to the Stewardship for an excellent meal. Finally I would like to thank are very generous sponsors Vitax Ltd. for the great prizes which were awarded to the winners. Also could I please remind all members, if you wish to attend any section event please return your entry slip and payment, before the closing date.

Last but not least I would like to wish on behalf of the Section a very happy retirement to John Goddard of Mapperley GC and it is hoped that we will see him as a regular at Section events.

This year's fixture list is almost complete, Go-kart evening, The Wymeswold Id Est. 20-2-02; Spring Tournament, The Leicestershire GC.; 2-5-02; Autumn Tournament

17-9-02 at Horsley Lodge; AGM Tournament, Sherwood Forest GC 14-11-02. Christmas Tournament, 10-12-02 at Greetham Valley GC Please try to support your Section as often as possible by attending these days.

Antony Bindley

Midland

Hello again and a very Happy New Year to all members. It's that time of year once more where we can start the countdown to Spring, and BTME is just around the corner.

As ever this year's event promises to be as prosperous as ever with the new format for the trade show in place, and the continued educational opportunities available. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Other news from the Region sees our President, Alan Kite, stepping down. As I am sure you are aware, Alan has served the Midland Section for some 35 years at Committee level, a contribution for which we are all extremely grateful - thank you Alan.

A couple of dates to pen in your diaries are the Spring and Summer Tournaments to be held at Gay Hill on 22nd May and Bloxwich GC on 11th July respectively. See you there. Phil Gates



Kent

Welcome to another year and yes I'm still writing this column. I hope you all had a great Christmas and a great New Year so far. I'm please to say I have actually got a response from my months of pleading with you for some feed back. One in particular grabbed my attention from Nick Knight down at Chestfield GC who sent a rather interesting picture of a youngish lady on their 7th tee. If you would like to see the picture I will e-mail to anyone who is feel-

ing rather desperate or lonely. Still it must keep the rabbit damage to a minimum.

No reports of any Christmas booze ups yet but I hope to report on any interesting items you might like to send me next month along with the news from the Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley and the AGM.

I did get some feed back from a couple of guys on why they were not coming to the golf days. It seems from their point of views anyway that it was the Head Greenkeeper stopping them from going and getting no good reason for their exclusion, but the Head Greenkeeper was going anyway without his staff. There might be more to these stories than I have heard but I hope this year more people will be able to attend our meetings and golf days or get given a reason why they can't support our Section.

I'm sorry for any delay in passing on any news but I do have to send articles in before the 5th of every month so this article is being writing on the 3rd December for the January issue. So please bear with me and I will get all the news to you as soon as possible. Once you start sending me loads of it that is.

I did hear a very disturbing piece of news at the end of November that a certain Head Greenkeeper has been writing to golf clubs offering his services as a Head Greenkeeper when the golf clubs concerned already have and are quite happy with their Head Greenkeepers. I think this is very unprofessional and down right out of order. So if the culprit would like to have his say on the matter or indeed make an apology to anyone affected by his actions then feel free to drop me a line and I will print it next month.

So if you have any news, good or bad, that you would like to share with the rest of the county let me know on the usual lines of communication-e-mail jbatkhgolf@aol.com or my office number on 01732 875020.

Once again I hope and look forward to a great year for everyone in the Kent Section and hope for a better response to my pleas for news and your views. I can't rely on the reps for my news and gossip, now can I?

Jason Bean

London

Our Annual Turkey Trot was held on Wednesday, November 21 - at Hampstead Golf Club. Mercifully we enjoyed clement weather on the day and also an excellent Golf Course and after match hospitality. Our thanks go to the Club for looking after us so well and especially Course Manager, Alan Lewis, for his presentation of the course and his help in getting the event off the ground. For next season if there are any Course Managers out there who are prepared to put their club forward to host an event please let me know as soon as possible.

The competition was won on the day by Mark Stidwell, from Rigby Taylor, with 37 points. The Christmas Turkey, once again generously supplied by Rigby Taylor, was won by the highest scoring greenkeeper on the day, this being James "the raffle" Lomas, from Mill Hill Golf Club, with 36 points. James has been a consistent performer all season on the London Section circuit, so he'll be the man to beat next year. No pressure James!

Our AGM followed the pleasantries and after many years of unstinting service Ian Semple has decided to step down as Secretary of the London Section. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say thanks for all your hard work over the past few years. Certainly our Section would never have moved forward without you. Stepping into the chasm left by Ian is Paul Clark, from Mill Hill Golf Club. Our thanks to Paul for making himself available for what can sometimes be a thankless task, though I'm sure we'll all give him our full support in the coming year. Craig Handyside was re-elected as Treasurer with Tony Dunstan, Ian Semple and myself making up the rest and better looking side of the committee.

Keep an eye out for confirmation of venues for next season. We already have a provisional date of August 21 at Porter's Park Golf Club for our Autumn Meeting.

Slow off the mark as I am this report will probably not make it into the December issue, but if it does then can I wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If it doesn't then I hope you had a merry one and a happy one!

Robert Phillips

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Surrey

On November 30 Surrey Section held its annual Turkey Trot and AGM at Malden Golf Club. Alec Bradshaw and his greenkeepers must have really worked hard this year, for to get their course in a condition able to take the amount of rain we have received over the past weeks and still be able to present Malden in such a playable way they deserve all our heartfelt congratulations. We also thank Malden Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and the catering staff for an excellent Christmas feast.

The Stableford competition ended with the following results:

1. Billy McMillan, sponsored by Nike and Mannings Heath Sporrans Repairers, 38pts; 2. James Partridge, Footjoy and Sunningdale Knitting Circle, 37pts; 3. Ted Holland, Boots and Ockley Nude Ornithologists, 37pts; 4. Peter Craig, Stringfellows and Sunningdale Mormons, 36pts. Guest Prize. Jon Hill, Birch Grove Members and Artisans, Gary and Chris.

Front 9 Andy Gatland, River Mole Angling and Line Dancing Society, Back 9 Darren Lee, Sunningdale All Male Lap Dancers and his Auntie Mable.

Nearest Pin Peter Craig, See above. Longest Drive Dave Goddard, No reported information available.

The AGM was conducted in a concise and correct manner and minutes will be available soon. David Murdoch was elected to replace John Mathis as Handicap Secretary.

Rob George, from Silvermere Golf Club, and his wife Jill have recently celebrated the birth of their daughter Libby and we all wish them a happy and prosperous future.

Jack Street, after 34 years at Tyrells Wood Golf Club, is retiring shortly and is to be presented with a 12' sailing dingy by the club. I am also informed that Jack is taking driving lessons and this I assume will enable him to get the aforementioned boat to the water. The camper van he intends to buy, on passing his test, will be the haven he will return to after the sun sets over the yardarm.

I hope you all have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season.

Congratulations to Mark Evans who has become the Captain of Devon County Golf Union.

The Section's first meeting of the new year will be held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16, the day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a Singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 8.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. After lunch our educational talk will be presented by Dave Brewster on golf course construction.

The Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

The day started with Rob Guntrip, of DGM, starting our golfing members for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. After an excellent lunch Rob Guntrip from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to treated our non-golfing members to an excellent tour of the course.

1. Alan Gawman & Simon Clark, St Mellion, 37pts; 2. Tony Gooch, Torrington, & D. Hunt, 34pts; 3. Terry Clark & Richard Daly, Crediton, 33pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsor, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support, and to Tavistock Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Tavistock GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go Shaun Getson and his crew who had the course in excellent condition.

The Section's AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Cary Rawlings

The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30, 2001.

The balance for the year end was £1642.44 showing a profit of £179.42 compared with last year. As with last year this does not include the sum of £289 outstanding to be paid on the fixture cards, so in real terms the Section made a loss of around £110 for the year.

This amount is the identical amount paid out extra this year to cover the travelling costs of our Chairman to attend the Aldwark Manor meeting. The Section committee have decided only to send a representative if all the expenses are covered by Head Office in future.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our section meetings over the last year.

The Administrator went on to thank all the companies who have generously sponsored our Section meetings namely: Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys and Supaturf.

The Administrator thanked Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship of the fixture cards over the last two years and was please to announce that Rigby Taylor would be sponsoring the new summer meeting at Trethorne GC.

The Administrator continued by thanking Phoenix Irrigation for kindly taking over the sponsorship of the fixture cards for the next two years.

The Administrator informed members that over the last ten months the Region had proposed that each Section within the Region should join the patronage scheme they wished to set up. This would have meant that all the present sponsorship deals would have to end. After talks with our current sponsors your Section committee have decided not to join the Regional patronage scheme and continue as present. This can only continue with the active support of the Section's members.

On closing the Administrator thanked all the active members of the Section for their support over the last year, he also thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year, especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Bill

Mitchell and the Chairman, Cary Rawlings, for their help during meetings.

The Chairman started his report on a sad note as he informed members present that Jack Moore who was formally Head Greenkeeper at Teignmouth GC had passed away. The Chairman moved on to the difficult year many clubs had faced with Foot & Mouth and record rain levels which as usual we all have just got to grin and bare it. Also the year saw the cancellation of Westurf.

On a brighter note the Chairman congratulated Jeff Mills on reaching the English final of the Toro Award and for also being selected to represent the Association on the USA trip sponsored by Bernhard & Co.

The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for all his time and effort put into representing the Section on the regional board for the last four years, Richard has decided to step down this year. The Chairman thanked Shaun Getson on the excellent way he had to cancel the February meeting at short notice due to Foot & Mouth, also for his efforts in finding speakers for our meetings.

The Chairman continued by thanking all the trade for their help and support of the Section and he welcomed the new summer meeting, which he feels, will become a good annual fixture and with the proposal of a new match play competition he felt that there is something for all members to participate in.

On closing the Chairman thanked Richard Whyman for his continued hard work in administrating the Section.

Terry Farkins open his report regional report by thanking Richard Wisdom for his excellent contribution over the last four years as our representative on the regional board.

The Region started the year with a change in Chairman as Robin Greaves stood down due to a change in his career. He was replaced with Chris Sealey from the South West Section. He reported on the difficult year the Region has had financially due to the cancellation of Westurf show because of Foot & Mouth. Westurf could be a thing of the past with the Region looking at other events to raise money to fund the

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Region. During the Foot & Mouth Outbreak the Region put on a two day Health & Safety Course at Bude. This was to provide greenkeepers whose courses were closed to meet up with other members. The National Chairman, Clive Osgood, attended the course.

Terry informed members that from February 1, 2002 the new two-tiered membership scheme would come into effect, this will not affect any current member but any new member will be put into one of two categories. Terry also informed members that Bill Pile has been nominated for life membership, which will be approved at the AGM.

On closing Terry outlined the main aims of the Association is to educate its members and hoped all present would attend the regional seminar and BTME.

Election of officers: C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman, R. Wisdom; J. Mills, Regional Board, B. Mitchell, R. Shapland, T. Farkins, Regional Board; R. Whyman, Section Administrator; J. Palfrey, President; C. Ralph, Trade, D. Hunt.

Richard Whyman.

South Coast

As we start a new year only time will tell what the elements will challenge us with this year. Last year will be a year many will wish to forget as it severely tested our skills and patience as greenkeepers. To start with we had to endure record rainfalls followed by long dry spells that then lead to an unusually long warm autumn with its associated disease problems. Who'd be a greenekeeper? Lets hope for an easier year then.

Firstly we have several results to catch up with.

June saw our annual match against the Secretaries take place at Upaven Golf Club kindly sponsored by Course Care. The course was beautifully prepared for the matches, which were keenly contested. After some excellent golf we managed to edge out the secretaries beating them 3-2. Many thanks to Upaven GC for making us all so welcome; to Bob Burkin and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course and a huge thanks for Course Care for their support. Next year's match will be played at Romsey

Golf Club.

August saw our annual match against the South West take place at Andover Golf Club, sponsored by T.H. White and Weedfree. Again the course was beautifully prepared by Chris Sturgess and his team. There was some excellent golf played on the day and we managed to win 3-2. Our thanks go to Andover GC for their excellent hospitality; to Chris and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course and of course to T.H. White and Weedfree for their valued support. Petersfield Golf Club was the venue for our Autumn tournament in October sponsored by Gem. It was a glorious day and a joy to play the course, which had been prepared so well for us. Paula Humpheries was present to start us and was treated to a variety of opening tee shots. The overall winners were:

1. Phil Wentworth, The Army Golf Club, 39 points (on count back); 2. Alan Magee Parkstone Golf Club, 39 points; 3. Tony Gadd, Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, 38 points

Once again many thanks to Phillip Bennett and his team for their hard work in preparing the course for us, to Petersfield for their excellent hospitality and to Gem who produced an excellent prize table.

December saw our Turkey Trot played at Barton-on-Sea, sponsored by New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater. They say the sun shines on the righteous, and how right they were on this day. The weather was glorious and we were able to enjoy the spectacular views across to the needles and beyond. Bees were buzzing around the course and there was not a breath of wind. The course as ever was in superb condition and was a credit to Tony Gadd and his team. Under such good conditions it was no surprise that the standard of golf was excellent and the scoring reflected this.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the longest drive, which was won by Matt Smith. I recall standing on the tee and being told this was the longest drive hole only to reach for my binoculars to see where his ball had finished. At 320 yards it truly was a great golf shot. Let's hope he made birdie! Following an excellent meal we held our Section AGM which ran

smoothly. I will report about that next month. Many thanks to Barton-on-Sea for their superb hospitality, to Tony Gadd and his team for their hard work in preparing the course and to our valuable sponsorship from New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater. Winners on the day were Div 1. Phil Mason 41pts; Div 2. Chris Bitton 40 pts; Div 3. Paul Cooper 40 pts

The South Coast Seminar, sponsored by Banks Amenity Products, will be held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club on Wednesday, February 13. Our excellent line up of speakers is yet to be confirmed but will include Dave Roberts, Head Groundsman from Southampton Football Club. Adrian Archer will also talk about the continuing work that enabled Broadstone Golf Club to win this year's environment competition. Full details will be in next month's issue and will also be posted to you all. To those of you venturing to Harrogate I look forward to seeing you at what I'm sure will be a great week.

Alex McCombie

South West

This year's AGM was held at Cumberwell Park GC. After a very good day's golf which was played on an outstanding course. Many thanks must go to Marc Haring and his team for preparing the course and the clubhouse staff for their hospitality and fantastic meal.

There was no change in the committee apart from Dave Bougen standing down as Section reporter. Until we can persuade someone else to do it I will carry on doing the reports.

As some of you know I am no longer working at Weston GC I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past four and a half years I have been in this Section. I will still continue as Secretary for the foreseeable future and look forward to seeing most of you at our events. The next one by the way is at Cotswald Hills GC on December 12 so I will see you there. If I don't see you there have a good Christmas and I will be in touch in the New Year

Kevin James

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