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● From Page 50
EAST MIDLANDS

Playing our old rivals the Midlands Section, at Whittington Barracks Golf Club in October for the Rigby Taylor Challenge Shield, our plan of action was to play competitively and fair. The Midlands had other ideas!

Play was tight in the morning on a course in excellent condition (well done Trevor and his staff) but THEY stuffed us so full of food at lunch that we were obliged to let them borrow the shield for a year. If any Midland player can provide a course plan of the last five holes to Graham Arnold, he would like to see it, as he didn't manage to get that far all day! Our thanks go to Rigby Taylor for a marvellous time, together with gratitude to the steward and stewardess for superb service and dinner care.

Kirby Muxloe Golf Club was the venue for the Breakwells Tournament, with the winners spoils going to that crafty Leicestershire fox Richard Barker. In second place was Paul Loffman with Neil Woolfrey third. Many thanks to Breakwells for a super day out and likewise to those who provided such a lovely meal.

We held our AGM at Charnwood Forest Golf Club on November 26th and express thanks to the Club for course courtesy and use of the clubhouse, the greenstaff for an enjoyable course, and the caterers for 'inner care'.

Play for the Maxwell Hart Shield was won by J Bedford (One Up) with D Perkins 2nd, G Arn 3rd and M Emery 4th. The Trade and Associate's prizewinner was G Thurman.

The following were elected:

Chairman: Richard Barker; Vice Chairman: Dave Perkins; Secretary: Gordon Mitchell; Committee: Paddy McCarron, Graham Arnold, Nick Danvers, Nick Root, Walter Cole. Regional Reps: Nick Danvers and Gordon Mitchell.

Our thanks are extended to all traders who supported us throughout the year with prizes. We are most grateful and look forward in anticipation of your continued support for the coming season.

GORDON MITCHELL

KENT

We closed our 1990 activities with the Turkey Trot competition and AGM at Ashford Golf Club on November 29th. Despite some cold weather we had a fine day, made even more enjoyable by Willie and his staff preparing the course so well and the provision of a fine hot meal that was so welcome, thank you all.

This is one competition when we all take away a prize, but the leading players, not for the first time were D Kelso, North Foreland and C Lusher, Darenth Valley.

In giving thanks we must not forget Bernard Dibhams of Rigby Taylor for the extra prize of the all important turkey. I understand the voucher included a trip to Norfolk, at Bernard Matthews' expense, to select the bird. Only snag being you had to catch, kill, pluck and stuff it - in any order you saw fit!

The AGM followed golf, at which the present Committee were re-elected (no extra ballots needed here). One minor change sees the treasury duties passing from John Millen to David Wood. Echoing the sentiments of our last AGM, the point was raised about our section having a large membership - on paper - but that only a hard-core of 20/30 or so regularly attended our functions. The point was made that short of dragging individuals along there seemed little else that could be done to encourage better attendance. We have tried many ideas to appeal to our 'sleepers', but new suggestions would be most welcome. At the end of the day the Association is 'ours' and it is up to us all to put something in, in order to get the best out.

The question of the magazine, Greenkeeping Management, was also raised, namely the poor editorial quality, late delivery, and omissions and delays in articles appearing concerning our section. The point was made that the Association was more than aware of the problems and were actively involved in a complete overhaul of the publication.

As we enter a new year a reminder that our seminar at The Woodland, Swanley, is on February 27th. Also planned are our Spring and Autumn Meetings, respectively at Sittingbourne and Knowle Park. There is also a possibility of a visit to Ransomes factory, with the assistance of Paice and Sons. Members will receive details of these and other planned events nearer to the decided dates.

A New Year wish... may we please have some 'normal' British weather, and PLEASE, PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SECTION.
PAUL COPSEY

AROUND THE GREEN

SOUTH WEST

A very happy and prosperous New Year to all BIGGA members and officials. 1991 must be the year of opportunity for the Association, a golden chance to continue building success from the very firm base already achieved.

It cannot be done without the work and support of ordinary members and each and every one of us must try to make a contribution. This may perhaps be achieved by encouraging a wavering work colleague to join us, or by attending more meetings, lectures, seminars etc. Maybe you could volunteer to serve on your section committee if you have the available time and wherewithal. Any contribution, however small, will be welcomed with open arms by your section and region officials.

The SW Section AGM was held at Lansdown Golf Club, the Section headquarters, on November 21st. Our thanks to this busy club for allowing us the use of the course and monopolising the clubhouse during the afternoon lecture and our meeting.

Competition results were:

1st: C Fudge (4) 33 points; 2nd: N Pring (3) 33 points; 3rd: P Worster (4) 32 points; 4th: N Wilson (9) 32 points; 5th: S Frankom (23); 32 points; V Lewer (12) 32 points.

Our grateful thanks to Maxwell Hart, Monroe's and Peter Hampton for the prizes, also congratulations and thanks to head greenkeeper John Thomas and his staff for preparing the course.

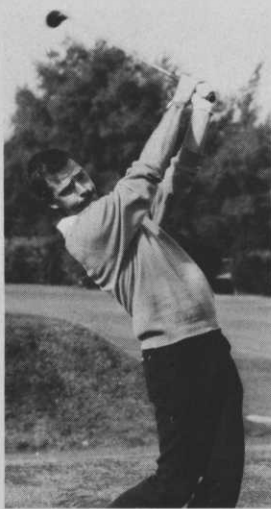
With 24 members in attendance at the AGM, the following officers were elected to serve in 1991.

Chairman: R Gates; Vice Chairman: J York; Secretary: P Worster; Match Captain: D Everett; Regional Board: R Williams and I Scoones; Committee: P Cox and L Millar.

FIXTURES FOR 1991

25th May: Iseki Qualifier, Bristol and Clifton Golf Club; 29th May: Greenkeeper/Amateur, Westbirton Golf Club; 25th July: Summer Competition, Filton Golf Club; 3rd October: Match V South Wales, St Pierre Golf Club; 11th December: Christmas Luncheon, Shirehampton Golf Club.

PAUL WORSTER



Richard Barker, winner of the Breakwells Tournament at Kirby Muxloe.

MIDLANDS

Our Christmas Tournament, played in December at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, was made all the more pleasurable by the great job that Alan Kite and his staff had done in presenting his course in such nice condition.

The weather, bright and sunny all day, made for some excellent scoring and it was good to see Steve Wood, who has not had the best golfing year, putting matters to rights. His winning score of 40 points was sealed following an outward nine of 24 points.

After a most enjoyable day of golf we sat down to an excellent meal, for which we must thank the catering staff. Sutton Coldfield Golf Club have allowed us to use their course and facilities twice during 1990 and we thank them very much.

Mike Hughes was the overall aggregate winner for 1990 in both gross and nett placings and we offer him our hearty congratulations.

I know a lot of people will join with me in saying how nice it was to see Bob Pilsbury back playing golf with us again following his accident earlier in the year.

Finally may I wish everyone much success and happiness in 1991.
DEAN CLEAVER

SUSSEX

Our Turkey Trot held at Littlehampton in December was a great success, being blessed with a fine sunny day and a good turnout of both members and guests.

Our thanks go to Littlehampton Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and to the caterers and stewards respectively for excellent food and sterling work behind the bar. Opinion had it that the head greenkeeper and his staff must have worked very hard to present the course in such good condition after such an extremely dry summer. Many thanks Dave.

The event was a Stableford team event with four players in each team, the best three scores counting, the results being:

BEST TEAM: G Barr, 34 points; R Day, 33 points; R Short, 32 points

TRADE/GUESTS: C Sutton, 39 points; D Sutton, 38 points; P Ward, 36 points

Longest Drive: 7th Fairway: R Day; 17th Fairway: G Ogilvie

Nearest the Pin: 6th green: M Butrymovicz; 8th green: R Jones; 16th green: R Elderfield

Best Out: G Barr; Best In: C Sutton; Worst Out: A Ford; Worst In: Yours Truly

DICK BULL

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire AGM has just passed, almost unnoticed, with our membership seemingly happy with the efforts of the 1990 Committee. Before handing over the chair, outgoing Chairman George Brown thanked the Section for sending him to such far-flung places as Florida, Japan and Portugal to spread the word about new greenkeeping standards being set in our area. He wished the new chairman Charlie (Chic) White every success in his travels during his time in office and welcomed Derek Wilson, Bogside, who was elected as Vice-Chairman, together with Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, who was elected to the Committee.

The Ingleston Show (SCOTSTURF) once again proved to be a great success. Our section had a tremendous turnout, with 75% of Golf Clubs represented.

The Ayr College continues to produce excellent greenkeeping students, but is it not time for BIGGA to provide a certificate for those who successfully complete the required number of modules to a high standard?

Also, please, please, can we have a photograph on our membership cards and a business card supply service?

Finishing this month, it seems to me that we are in for a spell of weather much colder than over the past few years, which might just give us a bit of peace sufficient to get on with the renovations necessary after yet another heavy year of playing pressure. On that subject, I find it most annoying to read of our greenkeeping profession being slated by yet another golf professional, especially one who, in my opinion, cannot play to a high standard and has no understanding of the modern day pressures with which the greenkeeper must contend.

Month after month I issue the plea for material for this report, if only to prevent my own ramblings, and again I ask you to please contact with any snippet that will be of interest to our members.

DUNCAN GRAY

NORTH SCOTLAND

The one day conference held by the Section on December 5th at The Agricultural Hall, Aberdeen, must surely go down in history as one of our most successful.

With an extremely high class field of speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics, every one of the 160 attendees must have left feeling they had reaped considerable benefit. A breakdown of those attending revealed 95 greenkeepers, though NOT all BIGGA members I fear, 25 from the trade and 40 others, made up of club officials, golf professionals and other interested parties.

The conference began with Dr Tom Kavanagh of Dublin University, who gave his usual witty, entertaining and informative address, on this occasion featuring developments of golf courses in Ireland under construction or of those recently completed and of the mistakes that had been made.

From the STRI, Dave Boocock followed with a very interesting talk on golf course maintenance in the North of Scotland, paying particular attention to the timing of some of the remedial work necessary.

Following coffee, Roy Brighton of Time Manager International left his audience with a realisation of how easy it can be to improve the quality of life with just a little more planning and effort. In turn Roy was followed by Stig Persson, immediate past President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Federation, who gave us an insight into the development of golf in Scandinavia, together with pertinent comments on the importance of good maintenance sheds.

Lunch over, Dr Neil Baldwin of the STRI spoke of a number of the more common disease problems encountered in Britain and of the results of trials carried out by The Institute. It was to his credit that he turned a subject which might have become very technically orientated into something that was easily understood, absorbing and interesting to all delegates.

Cecil George, course manager at Lenzie and BIGGA

● Continued on Page 62

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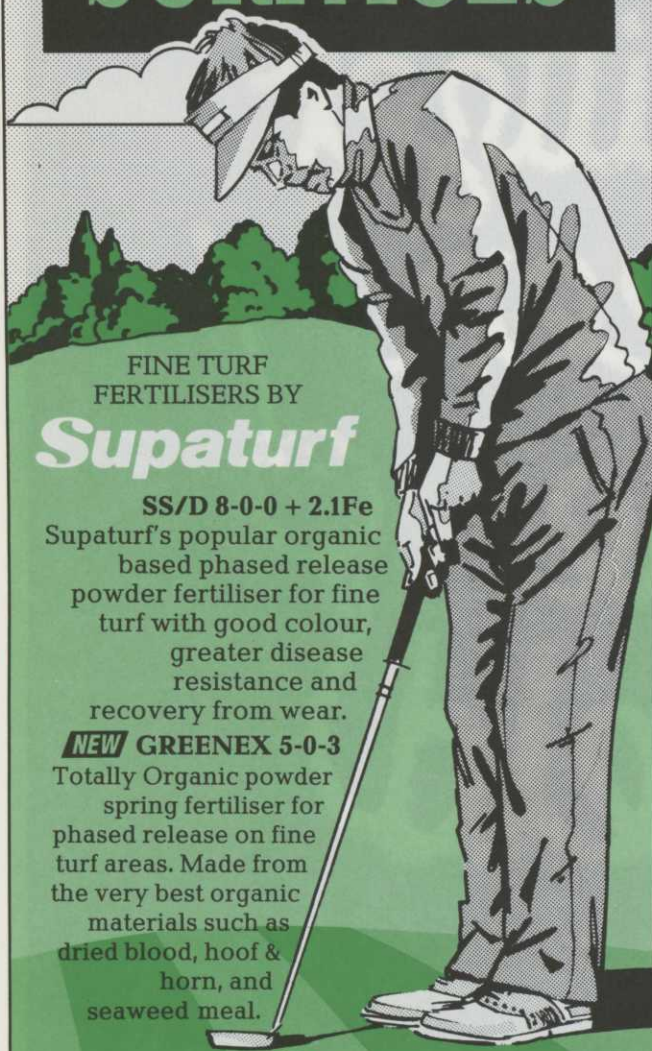
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A pre-spring primer

Traditional greenkeeping practices have changed, or to say the least conditions prevailing on golf courses are changing, and this is encouraging greenkeepers to look toward greater scientific application; including the types of fertilisers applied.

Slow release nitrogen fertilisers have been around for quite a while – for example Ureaformaldehyde and Dicyandiamide have been around since the 1920's and organic products with some slow release properties for even longer. So the products themselves are not new, though the way they are used and the results now expected from them most certainly are.

Basic plant growth conditions need temperature and moisture. Moisture we can control to some extent with irrigation and drainage; but temperature is out of mortal control. This means we have to select products that will react to as many growth stimulants as possible.

The organic products, D.C.D. (ICI's Didin), Ureaformaldehyde (Azulon), and the coated products (Sierra's Osmacote) rely on temperature to release the nitrogen to the plant. BASF's Isodur and Crotadur (IBDU and CDU) need both temperature and moisture to release the nitrogen to the plant. Thus it is vital the greenkeeper makes the correct decision in choosing which of the many products to use by deciding which factors are important to him and his course

The principle of slow release nitrogen has always been to limit the availability of nitrogen for leaching, because this is costly, environmentally undesirable, and just plain inefficient. At certain times of the year shortage of water can cause scorch problems,

and this also has to be avoided. Irrigation can help but what if you have none? Most golf fairways have no irrigation so winter fertilisation becomes a necessity.

It is in these out of the normal uses that slow release fertilisers excel, but as already indicated the method of release varies from product to product and care needs to be taken in selecting the right one.

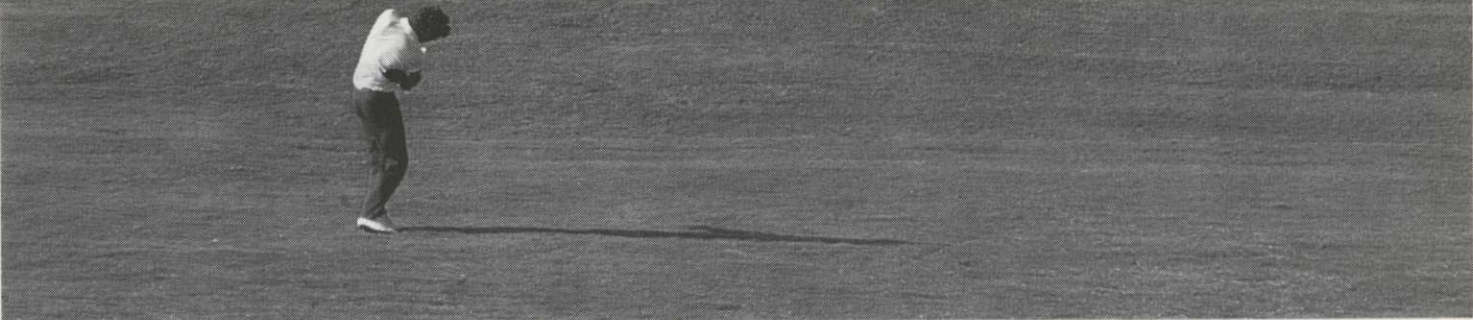
As intelligent men – ask for advice from the manufacturers. All companies have a desire to sell their products with an ultimate aim to secure long-term business. It is in their interests to ensure the customer gets the results he expects.

The slow release manufacturers have all been around for a long time with products that are both cost and application effective. Theirs is no double-glazing type industry, for it is the long-term interests of the market and the demands made upon it that is uppermost in their minds. Every golf course is different, often with big variances across individual courses and when the changes in climate – from year to year, or even day to day – are taken into account there is a place for virtually every product somewhere.

By asking for help from the manufacturer, the greenkeeper can make a measured decision which ultimately benefits everyone, even the golfer, providing he gives the greenkeeper a chance!

Plants need nutrients – thirteen in total – plus light, warmth, water and air if they are to survive. Slow release nitrogen can help supply one of the major nutrients efficiently and economically but care must be taken to ensure the correct product is used – make certain you get it right.

JOHN HINTON



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The Secretary
Royal Dornoch Golf Club
Golf Road
Dornoch
Shetland IV25 3LW



FRASERBURGH GOLF CLUB

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Salary negotiable according to experience

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Crail Golfing Society
 Balcomie Club House, Crail, Fife KY10 3XN

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 Surrey CR5 2LL
 081 660 0468

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