

and the faceless

rightness of providing rate-payers with golf a reasonable prices, green fees being a maximum £6.85 at weekends, with concessions for the unemployed mid-week. Even at these modest levels Thamesdown's golf makes a substantial contribution to the borough's income. Perhaps as a result, councillors are positive about the facility and willing to re-invest.

Thamesdown has invested £800,000 in golf in the last two years, the major projects being at Highworth and the extensions and improvements at Broome Manor. They also plan a further £250,000 for a substantial expansion of the Clubhouse. The authority's interest in golf stems from 1976 when the original 18 holes were laid out, the range coming in '82 and the additional 9 holes a year later.

Neither men claim that these courses are the country's best and are well aware of the problems, many of which stem from past work carried out while working to a budget, resulting in obvious deficiencies. Kelvin is acutely aware that the courses are over-used, adding that compaction required a lot more work to be carried out.

Soil at Broome Manor is predominantly clay, allowing the formation of several ponds and streams, and adding significantly to interest. While there is only limited under-drainage there have been few problems in recent dry years, though one specific area of more sandy soil is heir to compaction as it slumps in the wet. However, the complex has its own Verti-drain.

The golf side works autonomously within the parks department and they have their own machinery, which is relatively modern and well maintained by their own fitter.

Tractors are usually second-hand after Parks and Highways have finished with them, as they do no road mileage, nor is their duty onerous. Mainstays of the mower fleet are two trailed gangs for rough and fairways, changing duty being a matter of altering the height rollers. Rough is kept short to minimise searching for lost balls. For greens and tees they have a fleet of GreenKings and Tri-Kings at Broome Manor, whilst at Highworth, where the nine holer only opened this April, pedestrian mowers are used. Both sites have irrigation on all greens, but this is used fairly frugally, with water abstracted from the mains.

However, they are meeting popular demand with an annual 60,000 rounds at each of Broome Manor's two courses and an anticipated 40,000 at Highworth. Nor will Tom allow that the standard of play is sub-standard, for they have several county players and one junior national player (Gary Harris).

The atmosphere is one of relaxed, informal friendliness, though there are disciplines, with perhaps the biggest problem being slow play. A ranger is employed to keep matches moving, though no-one admits to being slow – they always have an excuse – was Tom's comment.

Tom's view on the expansion of golf courses was entirely consistent. He considers there should be more 'village' courses of nine holes, based (perhaps) in a redundant farm building and run by a village sports club. Such facilities, he suggests, could be set up for around £120,000 and would give the maximum amount of pleasure to the maximum amount of people.

Furthermore, obtaining planning permission would be easier.

**'They
are meeting
popular demand
with an annual
60,000 rounds'**

● The author, Hugh Tilley, is a journalist specialising in the field of golf course machinery and maintenance. He lives in Wiltshire.



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As the acceptance of – and demand for – benefits provided by the automatic watering of extensive sports turf playing surfaces gathers momentum, it is evident that the sourcing and conservation of viable water supplies are fast becoming major issues.

This is especially relevant to golf where, in addition to the numbers of new courses being constructed every year, more and more existing Clubs, faced by increases in traffic, are investing in automatic watering systems to help greenkeepers overcome maintenance problems created by wear and tear – and equally important, present courses on a par to those seen during televised tournaments.

In the south, the vast growth of residential development plus a big increase in the building of industrial estates requiring water has compounded the situation. These factors and the undoubted change in climatic conditions which we are experiencing is now reaching a point of real concern.

But all is not lost! The key to future sports turf irrigation and golf course watering in particular is the provision of large scale water storage facilities in the form of a reservoir or ornamental lake.

Utilising impounded water – out of season water supplies boosted by natural, winter rainfall – the storage facility, if designed to match the needs of an automatic watering system, could provide sufficient water to last through the bulk of most long, dry summers.

Examples of this far-sighted approach are already beginning to take shape. In Devon, the design for a new 27 hole golf course at Dartmouth, currently under construction, includes a lake capable of storing 1.5 million gallons of water.

Fed from boreholes for which an abstraction licence has been obtained, water will be pumped into the lake to service their automatic watering system, which, unusually, consists of 216 full circle pop-up sprinklers covering all 27 greens and tees.

Despite the fact that full circle sprinklers use 50% more water than the more conventional part-circle heads, the capacity of the lake is such that in the unlikely event of the boreholes drying up, the automatic watering system would be able to continue to operate daily for up to six weeks before supplies were exhausted.

In real terms, the lake, full of 'winter water' for use in say late March or early April onwards, would only require topping-up through the summer. If the watering programme was carried out over six months, the use of 'peak season water' could be reduced by up to 50% – a substantial saving.

In contrast, the specification for the nine-hole pay and play Thorney Farm golf course, being developed close to Heathrow Airport, includes the construction of a five million gallon lake.

From what Richard Skehan, director of the company developing what was



Lakes at The Belfry feature wind powered circulation/aeration Lake Aid Systems

Wise up to winter water

a waste disposal dump, tells me, fairway watering has been specified in addition to planning for pop-ups around greens and tees. In this instance, the lake – initially filled with 'winter water' – will be capable of supplying enough water to service the system without replenishment for up to three and a half months!

On the Solent coast, the Barton-on-Sea Golf Club – founded in 1898 – have embarked upon an imaginative, phased re-development of their existing 18 hole course which, when completed, will consist of 27 holes plus an ornamental lake featuring an island green.

As might be expected, the lake is not being created just to make the course look attractive – it will also serve as a reservoir for a pop-up system for greens, tees and approaches. The lake, capable of holding 1.25 million gallons, will be fed by two natural springs and possibly a stream containing treated water which runs from the nearby sewage treatment plant. Top-up supplies – mains water – will be piped into a break-tank and held, prior to being pumped into the lake.

Tony Gadd, course manager at Barton says that the treated water supply will most probably be used as an emergency source although tests may well prove its viability for everyday use on the course.

So how much is it going to cost members who, having an existing automatic system, appreciate the importance of the need to become relatively self-sufficient in terms of water supplies?

Surprisingly little. The provision of a reservoir – such as a large pond or lake – should, I'm told, be no more than £10-£15,000, depending on location, soil structure and ease of construction. When I asked about disposal of the resultant spoil, he replied to the effect that this could be used to build a feature somewhere else on the course – or as he succinctly put it; "sell it!"

Talking of costs, the provision of a reservoir can also reduce the price of water being piped onto the course. 'Winter water' is a far cheaper buy in volume than peak season water – if it is available both in time and quantity.

Safeguarding water supplies is one thing, managing its usage is just as important. In this context it is obviously of equal importance to realise that the automatic watering system can play a key role in water conservation.

It will do so, providing it is properly designed, correctly installed, operated thoughtfully and serviced regularly.

The greenkeeping team can contribute much to achieve consistency of operation by learning as much as they can about the system. Sensibly, one member of the green staff should be given the responsibility of keeping a daily eye on the equipment and carrying out relatively minor adjustments or repairs. This will entail some training – often provided by the irrigation contractor who installed the system.

As knowledge and experience is gained, these skills can be put to good use: saving time, (awaiting an outside engineer to arrive and solve what is often a simple fault) frayed tempers and the possible loss of thousands of gallons of precious water should a sprinkler malfunction or pipe joint fail.

Talking of maintenance, Clubs should also consider the importance of budgeting for at least one major inspection and service each year. This is best achieved by arranging a contract with the company responsible for installing the system originally, or where contact has been lost, by asking the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association to provide the name of a suitable alternative.

Footnote: Clubs should be aware that a licence to abstract water – be it from the mains, a river flowing through the course, a natural spring or by sinking boreholes is a mandatory requirement. Club secretaries should consult their nearest National River Authority office for details.

● The author, Cedric Johns, is an ex-Fleet Street columnist, a PR and advertising consultant, and editor of the irrigation newsletter 'Pipelines.'

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EDUCATION

The day when your editor can sit through a day of lectures, aimed at members of that much maligned and supposedly misunderstood group 'The Golf Club Committee' – and come out smiling – has finally dawned. At such a seminar, given recently by the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association, it gave me much pleasure not only to listen to three speakers, but to listen to those who listened. Each an expert in his own sphere: Keith Wright spoke on "The EGU/Club Partnership", our own David Golding on "The Need for Greenkeeper Training" and John Crowther on "The Responsibilities of a Golf Club Member when elected to a Committee".

Each in his own way proved highly entertaining and, of greater importance, each had a message to put across. That they succeeded in winning 100% approval from the audience would be almost too good to be true, but the overriding

message I received, in both eavesdropping and in discussion with green chairmen and secretaries, was of how those greenkeepers who had attended BIGGA management courses returned as changed men. Words hitherto taboo in committee-speak, like employee training; job progress; course excellence and college education, were no longer whispered. I even heard, and dare repeat it, 'greenkeeping management autonomy'!

I can read your mind, and anticipate your quizzical 'what's all this got to do with me?' The answer is simple. BIGGA's management training courses, a feast of which are scheduled for October and November at Aldwark Manor (see insert card for application), are planned specifically to take the heat off those who, perhaps like you, think education is not for them. BIGGA management courses are entertaining. Sure they're educational, but not at the expense of being boring

and never at the expense of technobabble, of talking over your head.

Still not quite convinced? Talk to anyone who has already attended, ask about the courses and what they gained from them, ask about the spirit of informal good fellowship that pervades throughout the whole period – the exchange of ideas and the sheer good fun of it all. If that doesn't convince, look hard at the sits. vac. columns and see how the better educated command higher pay!

The BIGGA management courses, I repeat, are meant just for you. Tell your Club secretary I said so and show him this column.

● **Book your place at one of the BIGGA management courses – see the card facing Page 2 for details.**



Elmwood 'top college in Britain'

Jack Humphries, Chairman of the Midlands Golf Union and President of The E.G.U. Executive Committee, which, amongst other things, is concerned with the training of greenkeepers, paid a visit to Elmwood College, saying: 'There is no doubt that Elmwood is the pinnacle of them all – it is the top college in Britain for training greenkeepers'.

A personal opinion, naturally enough, but doesn't that sound like fighting talk? I predict it will be viewed as red-rag-to-the-bull by other approved colleges, hell-bent, proud, and fiercely competitive in their education of future generations of greenkeepers.

Good jobs for first full-time students

The value of a full-time education course for potential greenkeepers has been amply demonstrated by news of four young men who attended the first such course ever held in Britain, all of whom have been appointed to good positions.

It was four years ago that a three year B Tech National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management started at The Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, near Preston, under the direction of John Hacker.

Seven young men from around the country started the course, part of their first year being spent in college and 20 weeks – one term – at a variety of placements where they gained practical experience. The All-England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Cardiff Arms Park, Guernsey Golf Club and Grimsby Leisure Centre were among the organisations that took the budding greenkeepers.

The second year was spent solely at the college, whilst in the third most students went to golf courses for 32 weeks – in Florida.

Now comes news that Chris Harvey, one of the students on that path-finding course run by John Hacker (now running his own consultancy), has been appointed course manager at Isle of Purbeck GC in Dorset, where he is in charge of the 27 hole complex. Chris, who had previously worked as groundsman for Portsmouth FC, incidentally married an American girl whilst in the US last year.

Another, John Huntington from York, has recently been first assistant at Farnham GC and on June 11th took over as deputy head greenkeeper of the Kings Course at Gleneagles.

Graham Wallace, a third group member, is deputy head greenkeeper on the Monarch Course at Gleneagles.

whilst Geoff Allison, from Peterlee, is an assistant on the new Wisley Course due to open in August.

It is good to learn that their hard work is paying off and equally gratifying that similar courses have been running successfully at The Lancashire College each year thereafter.

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■ Five Scottish colleges have formed a consortium to write units for a SCOTVEC Higher National Certificate course in Greenkeeping with Management.

This will be the first advanced greenkeeping course developed in the country and indicates the importance of carving a real career in such a vibrant industry through further education.

The five involved are Ayr and Dundee College of Technology, Elmwood in Fife, Langside in Glasgow and Oatridge near Edinburgh, with the consortium chaired by BIGGA's own Cecil George.

Pictured: Representatives from each college, together with Cecil George, at a recent development day.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTHERN IRELAND

This was my first visit to Northern Ireland and my thanks to Peter Powell of Iseki for transporting and hosting me. It really is a beautiful part of the world. Portstewart GC, now with an additional nine holes of distinguished linksland added to the original fabulous 18, was the venue for the Iseki Northern Ireland regional qualifying event, under the expert management of Bernard Findlay. The wind was at gale force but golfers are hardy in these parts and without exception all those participating enjoyed the day and the excellent hospitality and catering. Results were: First class: 1st Patrick Devine, Carrickfergus GC; 2nd Sidney Arrowsmith, Royal Portrush GC; 3rd Godfrey Clarke, Dungannon GC. Second class: 1st Alec Lafferty, Royal Portrush GC; 2nd Ray McMaith, Royal Portrush GC; 3rd Tony Bradshaw, Malone GC. Third class: 1st Eric O'Neil, Portstewart GC; 2nd Paul McBain, Royal Belfast GC; 3rd Joe Millar, Knock GC. We look forward to welcoming them at Hillside on September 12th. This was a successful first event in this part of the world and I am sure the Northern Ireland round will go from strength to strength.



Northern Ireland Iseki category winners at Portstewart, from left, Neil Thomas, BIGGA, Alec Lafferty, Pat Devine, Eric O'Neil, Peter Powell, Iseki

NEIL THOMAS

SOUTHERN IRELAND

The course at Forrest Little, for the Iseki regional qualifier under the expert management of Owen O'Connor (pictured), was in sparkling condition and an excellent day's golf ensued. The warmth of welcome at the club is something special - nothing is too much trouble and the catering throughout the day was excellent. BIGGA is now developing close relationships with greenkeeper members and non-members alike 'across the water' and in this connection the Iseki tournament makes a great contribution. My thanks to all concerned for a truly Irish welcome. Results were: First class: 1st Frank Donlon, Malahide GC; 2nd Paul Fitzgerald, Beech Park GC; 3rd Gerry Byrne, Westmanstown GC. Second class: 1st Edward Donlon, Rush GC; 2nd Frank Larkin, Castle GC; 3rd Owen O'Connor, Forrest Little GC. Third class: 1st Sean Murphy, Stackstown GC; 2nd Joe Walsh, Beavertown GC; 3rd Chris Nolan, Forrest Little GC. We shall look forward to meeting them all at Hillside on September 12th.



NEIL THOMAS

NORTH WEST

The Spring Tournament at Saddleworth GC was attended and enjoyed by 40 greenkeepers on May 15th. The day started with weather best suited to winter underwear and ended with much needed but bitterly cold rain. Nigel Potter had done a grand job on the course even though the temperatures on Saddleworth are always considered to be at least 10 degrees lower than low lying areas. Despite the inclement weather some good scores were returned and as this was our Iseki qualifier it certainly brought out the best from competitors.

The results were: Best gross: P Pearce 77-2=75. Best nett: F Platt 80-10=70. Other nett scores - 2nd: J Pearson 90-18=72. 3rd : T Lyons 90-18=72. 4th: G Jarvis 82-10=72. 5th: S Hartshorn 88-15=73. 6th: A Peel 79-5=74. 7th: E Stewart 93-18=75. 8th: B Turner 93-18=75. 9th: D Berry 82-6=76. Vets Prize: B Cross.

Out thanks to Saddleworth GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, Mr Marner and his staff for the first class catering; and our trade friends who as usual helped to swell the prize table. The next tournament will be the 'Roses Match' at Crossland Heath GC, Huddersfield, on Thursday August 22nd. I will require a team of 16 stalwarts to bring the trophy back to its rightful place, so please contact me if you are interested on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH COAST

Details of the Section Summer Tournament are as follows:

Venue: Brockenhurst Manor GC. Date: Thursday 1st August 1991. Time: teeing off from 1.00 pm Closing date: 22nd July 1991.

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The competition, consisting of a member and guest, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four-ball better ball.

Following a recent committee decision it was agreed to define a guest as either a member from our members own Club, or a greenkeeper from a different Club to their own.

Written entries, giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the current fee, should be sent to: Joe Burdett, 948 Castle Lane East, Bournemouth BH7 6SP. Tel: 0202 483017.

I hear that Phil Nason has taken a greenkeeping job in Norway. Good luck Phil, perhaps I could book you for a winter lecture when you are under 3ft of snow next year! Maybe our editor would like an article on your greenkeeping experiences once you have settled down.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH SCOTLAND

May 16th was the day for our Spring Outing at Nairn GC, the event turning out to be one of the best supported ever with over 70 members, traders and guests playing and another handful enjoying the general good fun. Our sincere thanks to everyone concerned at Nairn GC for hospitality and friendliness and for granting us the courtesy of the course. Although a light drizzle hung around for most of the day, it did little to dampen the spirits of golfers as they enjoyed playing a splendidly prepared championship course, ably presented by Ian Carson and his staff.

The successful players were: Scratch 1st Ian McLeod, Tain, 75. 2nd Kevin Peace, Peterhead, 76. Handicap 1-7: 1st Derek Roy, Nairn Dunbar, 79-7=72. 2nd Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch, 80-6=74 (BLH). Handicap 8-14: 1st Gordon Leslie, Duff House Royal, 82-11=71. 2nd Kenny Anderson, Newmarcher, 86-14=72. Handicap 15-28: 1st Stuart Donald, Newmarcher, 90-23=67. 2nd David Sinclair, Royal Aberdeen, 94-16=78.

Trevor Mackay of Royal Dornoch was best apprentice with a nett 71 off 8 whilst John Taylor of Forres won the Vets with a fine nett 78 off 5. Steven Frost of Royal Aberdeen succeeded again in the division for members without official handicaps by turning in a 92-26=66, duly being allotted a 20 handicap! John Robertson retained the Trade Shield whilst Ian Carson used local knowledge (and his hole cutter!) to win nearest-the-pin at the 4th.

Howard Evans addressed members prior to prizegiving with an informative talk on the benefits of a pension plan. The committee's thanks to Howard for making the long journey to help us. We hope he enjoyed this part of the world.

Members should note that our August outing at Peterhead has been brought forward one week to Thursday Sept. 5th, thus avoiding a clash with the Iseki finals. The lottery will also be drawn on that day. There is little truth in the rumour that Peterhead has snow in mid-September and I hope as many members as attended Nairn will make the journey.

At this time the section has 130 members, though it is disappointing to note that around 20 have not yet re-joined.

GORDON MOIR

EAST MIDLANDS

May 16th saw the start of the East Midlands golfing programme with a bonny day of golf at Kibworth GC, a grand course delightfully prepared. As is often the case with these events the play was quite outstanding, the food delicious and the company just perfect. Thanks to all concerned. The best score was 74 from Paul Sewell, with the best nett being a staggering 61 from Craig Watt. Other scores were: (0-9) R Barker 75-4=71. P.Sewell 74-2=72. M Emery 88-8=80. (10-18) C Hare 81-14=67. S Fretter 86-18=68. S Goode 82-12=70. (19-28) C Watt 84-23=61. M Bindley 92-24=68. M Billings 93-22=71. Trade and Associates: I Toon 80-9=71. P.Fell 83-10=73. J Barsby 91-18=73. Well done all you winners and remember if you did not win something this time there is still the Autumn meeting at Rushcliffe GC on September 19th.

May I make my continuous appeal for news or gossip for this column, no matter how insignificant. Please call me on 0664 61642.

Paul Sewell

GORDON MITCHELL

DEVON and CORNWALL

Third year unlucky was how the weatherman caught us at Westurf '91, though such inclement stuff doesn't stop the Devon and Cornwall members from attending in force and enjoying themselves! The whippers are reaching roaring pitch as the good word gets around about this excellent show and our thanks to all who make it thus, especially Gordon and Marion Child.

Our Iseki qualifiers tested their skills against the Tredegar Park course

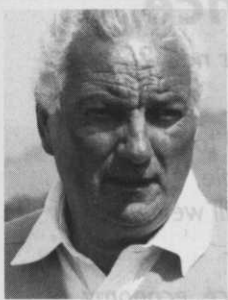


(results later), with a special thanks to P J Flegg and Devon Garden Machinery for driving members to and from the venue – it was much appreciated.

May I make a plea to all who are tardy with subscription payments, reminding you that 34 people are still unpaid and seemingly do not consider the matter important. DO IT TODAY.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH WEST



Bob Gates (pictured) is getting sick at having his leg pulled. It seems that being chairman of the section counts for nothing when mischief is in the air. Indeed, he told me only yesterday that if one more greenkeeper offers a tongue in cheek 'congratulations Bob, I've never seen your course looking so good' only for Bob to have to grudgingly admit that he retired last Christmas, then we may be one member short for some considerable time!

Seriously, the course at Westonbirt, considering the awful spring weather, was looking very tidy and playing well. Out thanks to the bursar of Westonbirt School for allowing us the use of the course for our annual John Ireland Greensomes on May 2nd. This event, which combines greenkeepers playing with amateur partners, has proved very popular over the years since its inauguration in 1976. This year was no exception with prizes keenly contested from the start. The bright idea is to find the biggest bandit in your Club and make him an offer he can't refuse...

The nett results were: 1st R Greaves and T Reaves (Bristol and Clifton) 60. 2nd D Dobie and M Coburn (Marlborough) 61. 3rd T Roberts and C Middleton (Lilleybrook) 62. 4th P Baynton and J Scoones (Long Ashton) 65. 5th I McFarlane and J Cooper (Saltford) 65. Best front nine: D Eves and W Smith (Painswick) 37. Best back nine: C Tozer and D Rendell (Bridport) 34.

Thanks to Sta Brite Supplies and Monro's for prizes and to mine hosts Ken and Pauline at The Carpenters Arms for catering to inner needs.

It seems that some of you did not receive entry forms before the competition and if this should happen again; please feel free to telephone (0285 651908) and ask for one. One thing – don't leave it until the night before an event – give me a week's notice otherwise I cannot guarantee a place.

PAUL WORSTER

SURREY

May I first apologise to you for the lack of Surrey section news in the last issue. I missed the copy deadline date. So far no one has contacted me regarding the two trips mentioned in previous issues of Greenkeeper International. What is the matter with you? Again I say – if you wish to visit Jacobsen's factory in July or Rolawn's turf farm in October you can still do so, but... you MUST contact me (025 125 4287) very soon or these events will have to be cancelled through lack of support.

You should have received entry forms for the Cresta Cup and The MacMillan Tankard and may I now request that you return them PROMPTLY. This enables food etc to be organised. May I further remind you that the rule still applies: once booked, if you then fail to play you will be required to pay for food ordered on your behalf.

The regional seminar is in Surrey this year, at Merrist Wood College on November 6th, and numbers are limited. If you are interested in reserving places please contact a committee member.

I'm off to Canada on holiday – tough life isn't it? I hope it rains steadily for the next two weeks, purely for the sake of your golf course – naturally!

PHIL BALDOCK

KENT

Our Spring Tournament and Iseki qualifying round was played on May 14th at Sittingbourne GC, our qualifying representatives at Ham Manor will be: 0-1 category Ian Rawlings, Alan Sheppard, George Brown and Steven Suttle, with David Goodhew in reserve. 10-18 category: Jason Bean, Peter Briscoe, Michael Love and John Millen, with Malcolm Arthur in reserve. 19-28 category Phil Hurst, John Roots, Steve Philips and Nigel Stapley, with John Waterman in reserve. Well done, and the best of luck for the next round.

In the morning medal there was a tie on 73 nett, with a count-back revealing Phil Hurst as winner with Peter Briscoe and Jason Bean in second and third. The scratch prize, as usual, went to Alan Sheppard with a 79. In the afternoon we chose to play a Stableford competition over the front nine, which is why I chose to play my best golf on the back nine in a friendly skins game. The results were David Vidler 19, John Millen 17, George Brown 16. The trade prize winner and undoubted star of the afternoon was Bernard Dibhams with 20 points.

Our thanks to David Horne and his staff for their hard work on the course. I understand David has had a long period of staff shortage and his work load increased by having the extra responsibility of maintaining the newly laid areas on the new part of the course. We could all appreciate his need to crack on with his top-dressing programme with an ever busy fixture list.

I hope David will pass on our extra thanks to the Club's staff for their hospitality and a great evening meal. It was a shame that some were not present to appreciate it at first hand, but those who missed it also missed the chance to pick up prizes – if you miss the prize giving, you miss your prize!

I would like to thank my partners, David Goodhew and Ian Rawlings, for an enjoyable day and though we didn't feature in the prizes – playing golf that ranged from dire to exceptional – it's the taking part and comradeship that counts.

Last – thanks to our usual trade members for their continued support and a reminder that our next event is the Summer Tournament at North Foreland GC on July 17th.

PAUL COPSEY

NORTHERN

Not a great deal happening around our section at the moment, which gives me a chance to mention education.

I recently attended a regional board meeting, where we were informed that each Club in the region had been sent a letter regarding greenkeeper education, outlining what is available to BIGGA members. Our administrator has asked me to ask you to find out your Clubs views and opinions about such greenkeeper training. I try to attend as many seminars and exhibitions as I can, as well as the management courses at Aldwark Manor, and they are really excellent. Members who do not attend are really missing out. I realise some Clubs do not support their staff on education, but PLEASE take the trouble to ask their opinions regarding the letter mentioned. Then let me know.

Finally, there are still a few places left for the Roses Match and the Autumn Tournament.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH WALES

Our annual competition for the Jacobsen Cup and Browns Shield was held on May 15th, the day being glorious, which in this job is a bonus when playing, but not when working.

The competition was well attended with 24 players contesting for glory and a mere handful falling by the wayside. The results were: 1st (Jacobsen Cup and Tankard) Dennis Jones – nett 69 on countback. A gross 81 was sufficient for Graham Cox to take the Browns Shield and Tankard and a nett 69 won Anthony Miller the Waycott Cup and Tankard.

A raffle was held to swell funds and Dennis Jones was again a winner, this time a shirt donated by SISIS. Anthony Jones won a bottle of scotch donated by Munro's and Les Hallett won a bottle of sherry donated by Avoncrop. Our thanks to sponsors, Munro's Horticulture and Keith Morgan of Usk, (Jacobsen Dealers) together with contributions to the prize table from Munro's, Keith Morgan, SISIS and Avoncrop. Without their help our section would not be thriving as well as it is.

Thanks are due to Glamorgan GC for their unfailing courtesy to us and to Michael Williams and his crew for the splendid course preparation.

PHILIP SWAIN

AYRSHIRE



The Ayrshire group at Bogside Golf Club

Our Spring Meeting was held at Irving Bogside on May 20th, where an excellent days' golf was enjoyed, though by a disappointingly small turn-out. Could this possibly be due to the very difficult greenkeeping conditions 'enjoyed' in our area over the past few weeks? What we lacked in quantity was replaced by quality, both in standard of play and the Bogside course, ably presented by head greenkeeper Derek Wilson, who did wonders when one considers the vagaries of recent weather. Results were: Scratch: Gary Briden, Turnberry, 1st Class: D Gray, Kyle and Carrick. A Patterson, Powfoot. G Brown, Turnberry. 2nd Class: C Taylor, Powfoot. R Bruce, Stewarts. G Heron, Turnberry. New member: J Johnstone, Turnberry. Trade: D Duffy, Stewarts.

Will all section members make sure that lottery tickets are returned in good time (early July) to ensure they all get into the draw for The Open.

I'm just back from the Iseki Scottish finals at Fraserburgh and must tell you what a delight it was to play on such a natural old links course. Even the new holes being built have been kept in tune with the natural terrain. Architects please take note. Those of you who missed out this year on the Iseki Championship will just have to try harder in '92, otherwise you'll not get to play on gems like Fraserburgh.

DUNCAN GRAY

EAST ANGLIA

Channels GC saw our first medal round for many a year and disaster is the word that springs to mind. Must have been a force ten blowing and it was always against us!

I managed a ten on one hole to equal Simon, who was playing equally scintillating golf. Hot Toddy managed several 'Barnes Wallace's' across ➔ 41



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