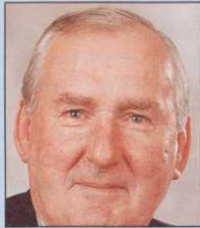


Drainage



Barry F Cooper, son of the nationally acknowledged drainage expert, the late Turner Cooper, inventor of the first trenchless drainage machine in 1954 and author of the seminal work 'Practical Land Drainage', has spent a lifetime in solving drainage problems. This feature is edited from a paper prepared by Barry Cooper for the BIGGA Education Conference at Cirencester. It offers timeless words of wisdom

In my opinion, the drainage of golf courses is no different from that of ordinary agricultural land. In most cases one is dealing with virgin land, and the principles of land drainage remain the same. This applies to both existing courses and courses under construction, with exceptions being those that have been constructed by Americans or Japanese, where wholesale earth moving is the norm.

I must be appreciated that it takes a very long time for a reasonable sub-soil structure to build up in land that has been subjected to massive earth moving, and no matter how many drains are installed the drainage will not work to full capacity until this sub-soil structure is restored. This fact is of paramount importance to the successful drainage of any course.

When I am asked to assess the drainage requirements of land that is to become a golf course, I approach it in the following way. Normally I am provided with a plan showing the proposed layout, but it will not be of much use in the initial stages of drainage design. My first requirement is a 1/2500 OS map of the area showing all the old field boundaries. If it is possible to obtain an OS map dating back to the early 1900s so much the better, because there are likely to be many more field boundaries shown than on later series, showing the original boundaries before farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture vandalised the area concerned in order to produce more food and facilitate the ever increasing size of farm machinery.

Having obtained the relevant OS maps, I can visualise how each original field was drained, and I have a starting point for designing my scheme. In the old days the hedgerows usually depicted differing sub-soil types, so that farmers knew exactly which field could be worked during which time. All of this skill vanished when farm machinery improved, but I still feel this knowledge is important to me, because my plan may call for different drainage designs dependent upon the nature of the sub-soil. I try also to obtain a copy of the Geological Survey map for the area, which denotes sub-soil changes fairly accurately. Thus equipped I can be on my guard when designing a drainage scheme in an area of ever changing sub-soil.

Having ascertained where old field boundaries were I check on the relevant outfall ditches. This will also give me an answer as to whether any more modern grant-aided drainage schemes have been installed over the last 40 years or so. My next task is to seek out the man who has been farming the land in previous years. Such information is invaluable, for he will be able to tell me almost to the metre where the wet areas are, or where an old main drain runs. This is particularly important in instances where the land is flat, main drains travelling some distance to find a satisfactory outfall.

As drainage is a very costly operation, I often come under pressure from constructors to cut drainage specifications to a bare minimum, this to encourage the client to proceed with the contract. I resist this vigorously, not only because it is false economy, but also it is like building a house without foundations. If the drainage is right, some of the surface requirements, eg. trees and bunkers, can be postponed until the following year to ease the cost, without any long term damage being done.

Having made my enquiries, I start my own field work: soil samples, level surveys etc. It is at this point that I turn to the proposed layout plan, because I can allow for larger diameter

pipes to accommodate greens, tees and bunker drainage, whilst designing my drainage scheme around any proposed tree planting.

I am often asked whether the drainage or irrigation should be installed first. Usually I would plump for drainage first. Drainage is purely hydraulic and has to rely on being laid to the correct falls, and as an advocate of deep drainage I like to operate without the restriction of irrigation pipes and cables.

On courses with a fairly uniform clay sub-soil, my usual design would be for a series of laterals laid at 15m centres and approximately 800mm deep, with porous fill to within 150mm of the surface, with the last operation taking place before seeding: a good sub-soil at 450mm deep. This sub-soiling is of prime importance, because during the construction work considerable compaction occurs, which must be overcome before seeding takes place. I like to bring the porous fill to within 150mm of the surface, so that lighter machinery can successfully carry out secondary treatment.

During 1989 I was asked to design and supervise a system for the Strathtyrum at St Andrews. The sub-soil was pure sand and most of the area was below the high water mark. I instituted a comprehensive level survey and ascertained that a pumping situation would be required. I am no expert on pumping schemes, so I set out to find the contractor who had worked on neighbouring land three years previously. I found him and learned more in talking to him for an hour than if I had toiled on my own for a month. He told me what water volume to expect, what pump sizes would be necessary and to make provisions for dealing with the dreaded 'red ochre'.

A series of very deep and large size concrete mains had been laid by the first contractor some seven years prior to our starting the new scheme, and upon inspection they were already beginning to block with 'red ochre'. We successfully jetted them all, and installed extra man-holes to facilitate future jetting work. A system of laterals was installed some 1.2m deep at 15m centres, which produced a staggering amount of water. The plastic pipes were all filter wrapped and I am keeping my fingers crossed that the wrapping does not become blocked. The end of every lateral was brought up to surface level and covered with a cap – also to facilitate jetting – which I calculate will be needed every five years.

In the past I believe that drainage was considered to be of little importance on existing courses, with green chairmen just shrugging their shoulders if any fairway was unplayable, with little concern to either take the affected fairway out of play or close the course until it was dry. Thank goodness these attitudes are changing now, as the realisation that if a course, or any part of it, is too wet for play a considerable amount of revenue may be lost. Many courses remain wet because people in power think they are impossible to drain. This usually comes about because 'the greenkeeper had a go at draining the fairway down by the stream and it did not work, therefore it is impossible to drain'. They do not stop to think that the drains hadn't been laid either deep enough (the usual problem) or in the correct location to achieve the best results. It amazes me that people who should know better still advocate shallow drains when draining fairways. I would rarely, if ever, recommend to a club that they lay any drains less than 750mm deep, and I shudder when I hear a supposed drainage contractor refer to a golf course as a

► 'sports turf situation'. This usually is an excuse to lay drains at 450mm deep, at about 5 or 6m centres. Not only is this very expensive, but it is not as effective as it should be, giving little or no room for secondary treatment.

When I am called to visit an existing course, I follow a similar procedure as when visiting a greenfield site, particularly as far as the old OS sheets are concerned, obviously with a course some 80 or 90 years old, there are unlikely to be any workers left who know anything about the land. If it is possible to obtain these old maps, at least then I have the old field boundaries to hand and can start my investigations accordingly. Some times construction work has been carried out during a dry time and ditches have been assumed to be dry, when in reality they were not what we know as dry ditches, and we all know the result of burying drain outfalls.

At St Andrews, apart from the greenfield site I mentioned earlier I had to design a pumping scheme in order to drain a 1200m landstrip that comprised the 2nd, 3rd and 4th holes of the Jubilee Course, which was also below the high water mark. Well, I thought I had seen an awful amount of water making out of the sand on the Strathtyrum Course, but it was nothing compared to what we hit on the Jubilee. The contractor installed the pump site and we started with the pipe reservoir at 3.5m deep at the pump site and 1m deep 1200m away at the 4th Green. Two laterals were installed, average depth 1m, parallel to the main and connected into it at intervals. We were suddenly removing in excess of 1 million gallons of pure clean water per day. I thought the water would be salty, but it was beautifully fresh and clear.

There are five courses at St Andrews and they have a 400,000 gallon reservoir that was kept going by pumped water from the Swilken Burn. This water was sparse and not as clean as it might have been and although all the courses at St Andrews have automatic sprinklers on greens, tees and fairways, water was so scarce that only the Old Course received the

'Many links courses could be sitting on a goldmine of untapped pure water...'

amount required to keep it fairly green.

Now with the water we had found, we connected it to the reservoir through a series of gate valves again and they had to install a 150mm overflow pipe to cope with the quantity of water. I was concerned that the water was forming an underground block against the encroachment of salt water, and with drawing so many million gallons of it away I felt the salt water may eventually become predominant. However, chemical tests are carried out regularly and during the last two years this hasn't happened and the quantity of water has only decreased slightly.

What was very interesting at St Andrews was that there were two main drains (stone drains) with manholes at every 150 yards that must have been at least 100 years old, laid by hand. They were around 300mm in diameter and, apart from their upper reaches, were working perfectly. I should mention that where our new main drain was at its deepest, we were drawing water from the sand over 150 yards away.

Having had these experiences at St Andrews, I can't help feeling that many other links courses could be 'sitting on a gold mine' of untapped pure water, which could save untold cost if harnessed properly. The same could be said for some inland courses, where there is a particularly sandy sub-soil and the topography of the area creates the correct circumstances.

I would just like to mention the drainage of greens and tees. These days greens are constructed on a 'stone carpet', with pipe drains laid under the carpet at approx. 300mm deep. The carpet

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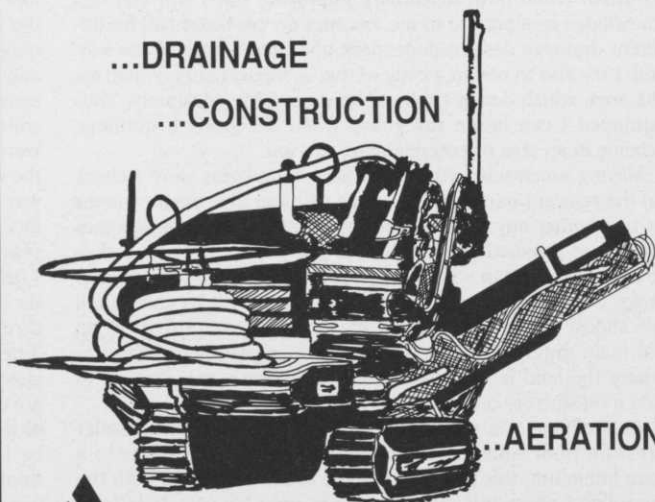
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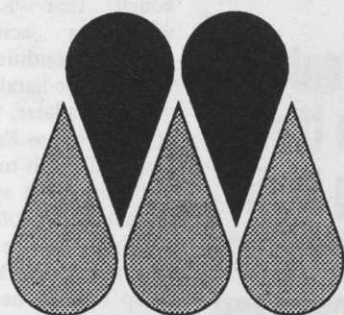
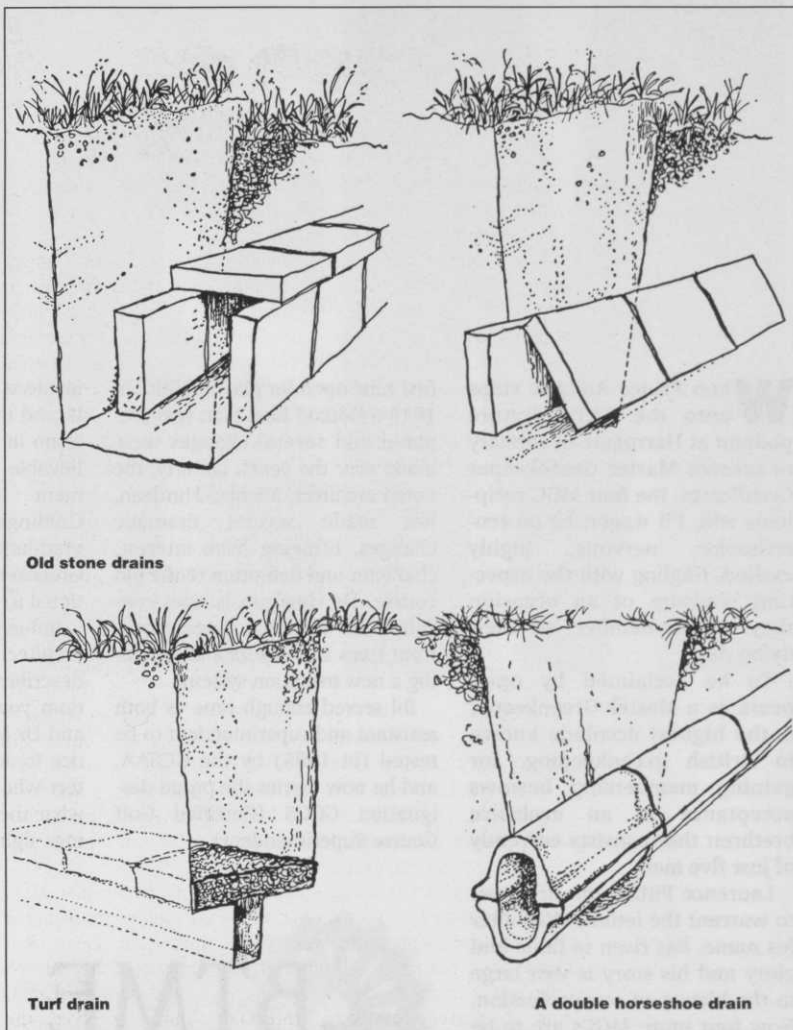
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is usually 40mm clean stone laid to a thickness of around 225mm. Newly constructed tees are drained in an identical manner. The only thing I fall out over regarding this is that if there is no general drainage scheme required or afforded, green and tee drains are usually led to a 'soakaway'. The use of soakaways always make me smile, because I believe that if water is expected to soak away just a few feet from the drained area, it is reasonable to expect it to soak away anyway and not require draining! Greens that were constructed many years ago have no stone carpets and present a variety of different problems, particularly the obvious ones arising from sunken greens or those carved out of the side of a hill. The only way to drain virgin greens is to install pipe drains to lower the water table therein. Sometimes with careful thought this object can be achieved without actually laying drains in the putting surface.

As with agriculture, drains alone do not keep a green dry. Good greenkeeping is essential, and things such as thatch and compaction must be kept under control at all times. Bunkers on clay based courses are also a potential trouble spot, and I usually recommend that drains be laid along the length of the bunker some 300mm below the level of the sand. I usually specify filter wrapped pipe, with a 6mm to 10mm backfill over, with a geo-textile membrane strip over the backfill or turves. I prefer this method to a sump in the bunker, because the sump tends to be like taking the plug out of a sink full of water and drains the sand into the porous fill and the pipe.

Another thing I feel strongly about is the timing of drainage work. Most clubs will try to insist that their drainage scheme is carried out at the end of the season so as not to interfere with tournaments, but what they don't realise is that not only are they taking a much bigger risk weather wise, in extreme conditions they could lose a further season's play on the affected areas. I always try to persuade clubs to allow the work to take place in mid summer, when disturbance to both club and soil is minimal.



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When Prince Andrew steps onto the BTME lecture podium at Harrogate in January to present Master Greenkeeper Certificates, the four MGC recipients will, I'll wager, be on tenterhooks: nervous, highly excited, tingling with the expectant pleasure of an occasion they will remember 'til their dying day.

To be acclaimed by one's peers as a Master Greenkeeper is the highest accolade known in British greenkeeping, for gaining membership bestows acceptance to an exclusive brethren that consists currently of just five men.

Laurence Pithie, the first ever to warrant the letters MGC after his name, has risen to fame and glory and his story is writ large in the history of our profession. Now four more MGCs are to be thus honoured, and in recognition of their 'Right Royal Acclamation', Greenkeeper International outlines their careers, Masters all!

WILLIAM (Bil) MONTAGUE, CGCS, MGC

Bil Montague is the first American to gain MGC status, and I am indebted to Thom Martinek, President, Northern Ohio Supt. Assoc., for his commentary.

'Bil started in the business in the sixties after serving in the US Army. Under the watchful eye of Walter Dean, Bil learned quickly, acting as Walter's most able assistant. He attended night school until the State of Ohio declared an austerity programme and laid off many of its employees, working then as a superintendent at a public course before returning to education, this time as a full time student at Ohio State University. Following his time at Ohio State, he worked for Leo Petronzio, gaining valuable experience of landscape layout and plant selection from one of the best known exponents of the art.

In 1972, Bil began working at the Oakwood Club, and he will soon be starting his twentieth season, having been named superintendent upon his predecessors retirement. The Oakwood Club was founded in 1905, with the

first nine open for play in 1906. In 1915 a Donald Ross plan was prepared and several changes were made over the years. Latterly, the noted architect, Michael Hurdzan, has made several dramatic changes, bringing back interest, character and definition to the old course. Dr Hurdzan is now consulted on all long range plans, from trees to bunkers and including a new irrigation system.

Bil served enough time as both assistant and superintendent to be tested (in 1985) by the GCSAA, and he now carries the proud designation CGCS (Certified Golf Course Superintendent).



Four greenkeepers have a particular reason to be looking forward to the 1993 BTME. They'll be collecting their Master Greenkeeper Certificates from Prince Andrew. We look at the careers of four more recruits to the profession's most exclusive club

In 1988 Bil was introduced to BIGGA and attended his first conference in Scotland. "I was so taken by the hospitality of the people I met", Bil told me, "I came home an avowed ambassador for BIGGA, keen to tell everyone of my experiences and of the great educational opportunities existing within the organisation".

Bil began his quest for MGC in 1990, "after having been in golf for over 20 years, and having been certified by GCSAA, I felt the need for a career orientated educational goal, which BIGGA fulfilled perfectly via its MGC programme. With the time

involved to complete Phases I and II, and the comprehensive written exam in Phase III, I had an unbelievable feeling of accomplishment upon reading David Golding's fax, which read: 'Congratulations! - the second Master Greenkeeper and the first International to achieve this status'...".

Influential in Bil's life have been architect Jack Kidwell, who he describes as "a man whose wisdom you can take to the bank", and Dr Michael Hurdzan, apprentice to Jack and a talented architect who "gives his clients exactly what they want, whilst never losing sight of the needs of the

story, for though he was born in the Kingdom of Fife, often acclaimed as 'The Home of Golf', in the 16 years he spent there he never once set foot on a Scottish golf course!

Kerran moved with his family to Hertfordshire and on leaving school at 18, started work at Berkhamsted Golf Club, home of the Berkhamsted Trophy and scene of early triumphs by the young Sandy Lyle. Some 18 months later he moved again, this time to Brighton's finest municipal golf course at Hollingbury Park and after just one year he was appointed their head greenkeeper. Two years at Hollingbury gave him the confidence to move into the private domain, and he became head greenkeeper at East Brighton Golf Club, then the home club of editor, David White, who recalls, 'though I was not at that time involved in greenkeeping journalism, I can readily vouch that East Brighton's windswept acres were in sparkling condition, obviously in very capable hands'.

Six years later, 'the rough edges knocked off' as Kerran puts it, he ventured north to Staverton Park Golf Club and spent five years learning about USGA spec greens and how to care for heavy clay fairways, 'greenkeeping at the sharp end' as he now describes the experience. Whilst at the Daventry club he attained the EIGGA Diploma in Golf Management and won the coveted EIGGA Course Manager's Gold Diploma.

The lure of the Downs brought Kerran back south, this time to the historic and welcoming Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club, and it is here that he cares for the needs of his members, producing turf that is, according to his peers, a pleasure to play upon.

Education has never been far from Kerran's mind, and mindful of the benefits such education brings in keeping greenkeepers 'on top of the game', he has completed Phases III and IV in Golf Course Management. His recognition as an expert saw him compete in the ICI Professional Product Premier Greenkeeper of the Year awards in 1990, placing a creditable third.

superintendent, who must maintain the end product".

Bil lives in Kirtland, Ohio, with wife Monica, son Jason (18) and daughter Amanda (10), together with several horses. In expressing his appreciation to his friends in BIGGA, Bil especially singled out fellow American, Jean Esposito, who introduced him to the Association. He also thanks his family for "all the times I couldn't be with you, 'because the grass was growing' and you all understood".

KERRAN DALY, MGC

There is a novel, some might say cruel, twist in Kerran Daly's career

In his 21 years of greenkeeping there has been no stronger supporter of BIGGA, in the past as chairman of the Sussex section, whilst now holding office on the committee of the South Coast section. Apart from this active participation in committee, Kerran is at ease on the lecture podium, and he has addressed both South Coast and Devon and Cornwall section meetings on several occasions. In January, greenkeepers will be able to see and hear him in action at our own BTME, when he will address the subject: Computers and Golf Course Management.

Kerran is married and confesses to spending most of his spare time with his daughter, Shona, who is just three years old and the apple of her father's eye.

ROBERT MAIBUSCH, B.Sc., CGCS, MGC

Bob Maibusch is the second of our American Internationals, a man whose first experience with the game of golf was as a caddie. He writes: 'I was employed at the Oak Park CC from 1971 to 1976, fortunate to work at a club that cared enough about their caddies that they encouraged us to play. An outcome of this experience was that I attained a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship. The scholarship is based on a combination of grade point average, caddying experience, financial need, moral character, a written essay, and the recommendation of the members of your club. This scholarship allowed me to attend Michigan State University for four years, majoring with a B.Sc. in Turfgrass Management.

Another experience that I had caddying and which, more than anything else, convinced me that I wanted to devote my life to golf was that as the top caddie at my club I was qualified to caddy in the 1974 Western Open. By luck of the draw I chose Tom Watson, who had played well the previous week in the U.S. Open but had faltered in the last round in what has come to be known as the "Massacre at Winged Foot". Fate works in mysterious ways, and on the last day Tom Watson came from six behind to win his first ever tournament. Since then he

has gone on to win over 30 professional events including five British Opens. Throughout his career he has been an inspiration, we have stayed in touch and his encouragement has been a great motivation for me.

From 1976-'78 I was employed at Oak Park CC and got my first taste of how difficult this line of work really is, thereafter (1979-1981) I was assistant at Kenosha CC, Wisconsin. Working under superintendent David Ward, I learned some of the difficulties involved in managing a staff and projects. Dave Ward, now the superintendent at Olympia Fields CC, was and continues to be a great mentor for me. He gave me the opportunity to develop my management skills and much of the credit for my skills as a course manager can be attributed to his positive influence, and his willingness to let a 'wet behind the ears' assistant prove himself.

From 1981-'82 I was assistant at Ravisloe CC. This position came as a result of Dave Ward taking the job as superintendent. It was a new experience for me, because the course had many agronomic problems as a result of prior mismanagement. The experience I gained in seeing it transformed from its poor condition into one of the finest conditioned courses in the district helped to prepare me for the step up the ladder to superintendent.

Since 1982 I have been superintendent at Hinsdale Golf Club, fortunate in the past ten years to have worked with a board of directors and committee who were committed to the betterment of the course and were willing to allocate funds to see our goals achieved. Also, I have been blessed with an extremely dedicated and competent staff. I believe that these two factors, more than anything else, have been instrumental in whatever success I have enjoyed professionally.

Cheryl, my wife, is my biggest supporter and understands the long hours and dedication that it takes to be successful in this business. It helps that she was also a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship recipient and had worked on the

ground staff of three different golf courses.'

Bob and Cheryl have two youngsters, Alexandra, aged four and Kieron, three.

GORDON IRVINE, MGC

It struck me in writing about Gordon Irvine (27) that he is the youngest greenkeeper thus far to achieve MGC status. Further, he is the third Scot to be so honoured and I am eaten with curiosity – who will be the first greenkeeper born south of Hadrian's Wall to join the hallowed MGC Club?

Though still the youngster in the pack, Gordon has ten solid years of experience behind him, culled in the main on the championship links of Turnberry, Ayrshire. Joining Turnberry straight from school, his first assignment was on a Government Job Creation Scheme, a stint of just six months. The wisdom of his peers was shown when after those six months had expired he was offered a full time job on the course as a trainee greenkeeper, a fortunate decision for both parties.

Fortunate again, Gordon was sent on a day-release management course to Langside College in Glasgow. He spent four years at Langside studying Greenkeeping Management and passed through each year with Grade A results – four straight 'A's, as our American friends might say. At the end of this period, based on exam results and glowing tutor recommendations, he won the title: 'Young Scottish Greenkeeper of the Year'. It is his proud claim that during his time at Langside College he received on-course training from some of the finest course managers in the country, whilst working with a team of 'most highly skilled greenkeepers'.

Seven very happy years were spent at Turnberry, preparing the golf courses for club members and many thousands of visitors. Turnberry nevertheless plays host to many famous events, notably The Open, the Amateur Championship and the British Seniors, this exposure acknowledged as a huge bonus in the learning curve of any young greenkeeper. The time came, however, when Gordon

was ready for a new challenge and a chance, as he states 'to put back into greenkeeping all that I had been trained and educated to achieve'.

Luck fortunes the brave, and Gordon was successful in securing a position at Surrey's exciting new Mill Ride Golf Club, where in 1989 he came as clerk of works during construction and is now their course manager. His fortune continued during construction in being part of a fabulous team consisting of the modern-day triumvirate – architect Donald Steel, agronomist Jim Arthur and constructor Brian Pierson – who welcomed and encouraged his input and responded favourably to his ideas from the maintenance viewpoint. Opening the project eight months ahead of schedule, the course has received huge praise and has attracted some of the top golfers in the country as playing members.

"My studying has carried on over the years, Gordon told me, 'with added interest in the game generated through study of course design and a growing collection of books and literature on golf and greenkeeping. I have now achieved three of my targets in life: I have become a Master Greenkeeper and I have a golf course of my own to prepare in a way that will enable me to demonstrate what British greenkeeping is all about. Finally I am lucky enough to be married to a very supportive wife who understands the greenkeeper's lot. She insists my 'baby' is Mill Ride, though our first child is due in November." (Written in early November, readers may now assume that Gordon is adding the word DAD to his MGC title! – editor).

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON & CORNWALL

The section congratulates Tony Gooch, head greenkeeper at Torrington GC., on being runner-up in the 1992 Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year award, held recently at Aldwark Manor. Tony's prize includes a visit to Portugal for the 1993 PGA European Tour seminar for head greenkeepers/course managers, plus working with the PGA greenkeeping support team at two Tour events next year. Congratulations to Nick Rigden and his staff for the support they have given Tony and also to Torrington GC. Though Torrington is only a small nine hole club, the members have encouraged and supported Tony's greenkeeping education. Hopefully some of our larger clubs will follow suit.

Our first meeting of the season was held at the expertly prepared Warren GC., which I am sure all will agree is a credit to Lauchlan Millar and his staff. It was nice to see so many members at this meeting – and to welcome especially our most westerly located member, Peter Stringer, who is head greenkeeper on the Isles of Scilly. We hope you enjoyed your day, Peter, and we look forward to your next visit.

Following an excellent lunch, our president Don Hunt presented the prizes to our lucky winners, prizes he had kindly donated for the D O Hunt Trophy :- First: Buster Lewer (Dainton Park) 37 pts, Second: Norman Gagg (Churston) 33 pts Third: Trevor Pipe (Honiton) 32 pts. A mention now for Richard Minton of ICI who finished with 36 points. Richard declined a prize for a mere mention in this report, so here is a mere mention!

Our educational talk was on 'Medical emergencies on the golf course', presented by Dr Peter Stanley. The talk was most informative and posed many questions from the audience. The raffle rounded off a most successful day and our thanks to all the trade who donated prizes for the raffle, especially to Maxwell Hart, who donated £30. The section thank the Warren GC for allowing us use of their facilities and their staff for making us feel so welcome. Our thanks finally to Don Hunt for donating the prizes and to Dr Peter Stanley for his excellent talk. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. See you all at Fingle Glen on Wednesday 13 January.



RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH WALES

Our Autumn Golf Tournament held at Chirk G&CC on 14 October was a great success, with 103 players (must be a record for any section?) attended. The winners were: 1st Peter Gabriel (The Gem Professional Shield & Tankard, an umbrella and a bottle of whisky) 96-28=68. 2nd A. Kift (Hayter sweater) nett 75. 3rd D. Rowlands (body warmer) nett 75. 4th C.M. Davies (putter). 5th N. Tower (holdall). 6th Gareth 'Bronco' Williams (holdall). Best Gross Alun Lewis 80. (ski coat donated by Major Owen). Guests: 1st Colin Bather nett 75 (Rolrake). 2nd Ted Roberts (holdall). Nearest the pin on the 12th, John Humphreys 11'6", (stainless steel spade + shield). Two's sweep: three people shared 20 golf balls: A. Lewis, J. Westcott, J. Humphreys. First raffle prize (a golf bag) went to John Moss. There were many other prizes, too numerous to mention.

We now have our own flags, poles and tee markers with BIGGA N. Wales Section printed on them, donated and supplied by A. Cornes of ACORN.

Many thanks to all the sponsors: Gem Professional, ACORN, Major Owen, Mommersteeg, R.J. Campey, I.C.I., Martin Brothers, Walker Engineering, P. Hughes (Mowers), J. Osman, High Speed Oils and Hayter, plus many more prizes donated – apologies if any name has been omitted from the list.

A very special thanks to Chirk G&CC for allowing the section to stage the Autumn Tournament on such an excellent course, prepared so well by Chirk course manager Alan Sharp and his staff, plus the catering staff for a superb meal.

I had the privilege of playing with Alan and 'friends' and have no doubt that the jokes told over 18 holes were enough to make me forget why I was out there in the first place (but the jokes were very good)!

A Christmas venue has been kindly offered by Abergele & Pensarn GC on 9 December 1992. Our thanks to secretary Mr. E Richards, Mr. D Prys-Jones (green committee) and course manager Mr. B Anderson.

DAVID PROCTOR

NORTH SCOTLAND

As we near the year end it is pleasing to report a healthy increase in section membership. Total membership is 186, of which 162 are greenkeepers. Next year, let's aim for 200 greenkeeping members, and if staff at your club are not yet part of BIGGA, let them know the benefits and get them to join – the more the merrier.

All section events have been well attended and the last for 1992, our AGM, takes place this month. Royal Aberdeen is the venue and prior to our annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match we have a talk on top dressing by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress. We welcome him and look forward to his words of wisdom.

We are currently in the seminar/demonstration season. This gives members the opportunity to learn of new products or machinery and also meet old and new friends in the business. One I attended recently gave us details of a new herbicide that will kill just about all weeds in fine turf, even when turf is at the seedling stage. The sooner it gets approval, the better!

Next month sees BTME at Harrogate. I have enrolled and hope to see plenty of North members present, as well as friends from other sections. The attendance of a member of the Royal Family is quite a coup and H.Q must be congratulated on this achievement.

Any greenkeeper now deep in salary negotiations may care to know that I have copies of BIGGA wage scales for 1993. I will post these to anyone interested. I am currently trying to put together Pesticide Spraying Courses of two days tuition, followed by a third day of examination at a college in our area. The package will include accommodation and course fees. Interested?, please call me on 0862 894402, for by the time you receive this magazine I hope to have something organised. A minimum of ten will be required for each course.

Well, all that remains is for me to wish all members a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

I hope 1993 brings you all you wish and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the year.



IAIN MACLEOD

CLEVELAND

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Brass Castle GC, Middlesborough, on 29 October, the format being a Fourball, Betterball Stableford. Prizes were presented by the captain to the winners, Graham Pyle and H Wilson, with second place going to David Crocher and R Derby. Twenty four players took part. Our thanks to Norman Shedd of Aitken's for making the score cards.

We offer a warm welcome to the latest new member to join our section, Paul Millward, greenkeeper at Bedale GC.

A Christmas Social and Quiz, sponsored by Turf Care of Consett, Co. Durham, will be staged on 15 December at Billingham GC, starting at 7.30 pm. I close by extending my personal Christmas greetings to you all.

BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH WEST

The final golf fixture of 1992 was held at Dunham Forest GC on 8 October, and proved to be the biggest turn-out of the year with no less than 50 competitors. I must admit I was pleasantly surprised at such a large attendance until I realized the reason. Dunham Forest are at present without a head greenkeeper and this was a perfect opportunity to reconnoitre the course. I don't think there will be a shortage of applicants when the job is advertised, and with such a good attendance it might be advisable to choose our golf venues from the Sits. Vac. columns! The day was a great success with everybody enjoying the course and the hospitality. The winners were: Best Gross. P. Pearce. 72. Best Nett. M. Sheehan 76-6=70. 2nd. J. Pearson 80-10=70. 3rd. J. Farrimond 76-2-74. 4th. F. Platt 84-9=75. 5th. M. Davey 87-12=75. 6th. P. Solski 90-15=75. Vets Prize J. Wright. 98-20=78. Guests Prize 76-8=68. Aggregate Prize J. Pearson. 215.

Many thanks to our trade friends for helping to swell the prize table; the caterers for a superb meal and Dunham Forest for allowing us the courtesy of their lovely course.

A series of winter lectures has been arranged during the coming months and all members will now have received a newsletter with lecture titles, dates etc. Please make every effort to attend and support your section. The Toro workshop at Reaseheath College on 16 October was very poorly attended, with only nine of an estimated forty attending, despite every effort being made to advertise this in your section news and at Haydock Park. The day turned out to be excellent value for money; and I would like to thank Robin Hume and the Toro team for their presentation.

That appears to be all, other than to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BERT CROSS



BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

'In the bleak mid-winter', or so the song goes, is about right for some of the weather we have been experiencing at the moment, but have no fear for you can still rely on the trusty greenkeeper to go out and toil against the elements for a meagre crust (send donations for the Ray Clark Appreciation Fund to the usual address!).

Now, once your heads have stopped nodding in

AROUND THE GREEN



ing, and new EEC Directives concerning such issues as lifting of heavy loads and articles at the work place. Obviously, all were concerned by the implications of these requirements, and I feel it is important that we all bear in mind that though somewhat complicated and intrusive, they are all directed towards a safer working environment and are for our protection and benefit – not something to be frightened of.

It perhaps highlights the past unwillingness of some golf clubs to invest in the proper training, education, staffing, delegation of staff job descriptions and facilities, that these matters seem to touch such a raw nerve. However, as Jon suggested, we are all playing our part by simply keeping abreast of requirements, by attendance at seminars, reading articles in our magazine and grasping opportunities to take proper instruction, etc. Perhaps if you do feel in difficulty and sense the hot breath of the Inspector over your shoulder, it may help to pass the legal responsibilities for such matters up the club committee ladder, simply by photocopying the articles that appear in our magazine, even Jon Allbutt's own 'News & Information' leaflet (tel 0959 575575) and making sure that the club is aware of such matters and that your presentations are recorded in committee minutes. As Jon pointed out, the inspectors are not adverse to prosecuting every serving member of a committee. After all, it is the club that is responsible for financing proper training and safe working conditions. If they require a member of their staff to be responsible he must be properly trained, and have this position of responsibility properly recognised by his employer.

Jon also touched on the safety of some of the rather old machinery still seen in use. I would suggest that if every club had a proper capital machinery replacement budget, perhaps on a five year cycle, more modern equipment featuring the latest safety features would become more common. Perhaps when looking to replace a machine, it may be wise to highlight not only the machines performance, but also safer features such as power steering, interlock switches etc.



Any way, far too much rambling this time, perhaps next I will recount the sorry tale of our Iseki star, Nigel Stapley, and his fall from the heavens – into a pint glass! Merry Christmas to you all.
PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH WEST

The historic city of Wells, in deepest darkest Somerset, was the venue for our annual match against the South Coast section. The day dawned fair, and with a course in good condition under the recently appointed head greenkeeper, Maurice Pearce, a close result seemed on the cards. After a number of matches going 'to the wire' the eventual result was a very diplomatic halved match, largely thanks to our 'super-sub', gleaned from the Wells green staff at the very last minute. Many thanks to this friendly club for hosting this match, and thanks also to the steward & stewardess for the superb meal.

Diplomacy was far from the minds of the Welsh team for the final match of the season at St. Pierre. There has always been a great sense of friendly rivalry at this fixture and this year was no exception. The final result was a win for Wales by four matches to two. Many thanks to St. Pierre, yet again, for selflessly playing host to the Association: I cannot overstate our gratitude for their courtesy. Thanks also to Steve Gent and Sierra U.K. for their very generous contribution by way of drinks at the bar.

The first 'customers' on our Pesticide Training Scheme are now becoming qualified and we have received nothing but compliments from all concerned. I find the numbers taking this training, and the interest shown, extremely gratifying. Some dozen Clubs in the area have also been able to take advantage of our COSHH assessment offer. This sensible practice is available at a very reasonable cost, care of our resident expert, Mr. Noel Stevens. Noel is available for consultation, Tel: Gloucester (0452) 526111.

We have also 'broken the ice' by running our first extended Emergency First Aid Training course. Again, this was found to be an extremely useful day, with the potentially difficult subject being well put over. We hope to repeat this in the Bristol area early in the New Year.



The full fixture list for the coming year will be circulated very soon. In the meantime, I'll wish you all 'Warmest Seasonal Greetings and Happy Green-keeping in 1993'.

PAUL WORSTER

SHEFFIELD

The section would like to thank our chairman, Mr Roy Kates, for coming along to present Rotherham Golf Club with a gift from the Sheffield section in appreciation of their support for BIGGA. The Rotherham Golf Club has hosted our winter lectures for the past five years and the gift, an antique barometer, was received by the club captain at a special presentation made to them on their Invitation Day.

The Autumn Tournament was held at Sitwell GC. and was well supported by 30 competitors. Thanks must go to Barry Heaney for his arrangements. Thanks also must go to Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event and presenting the prizes. The course was in fine condition, thanks to head greenkeeper, Chris Colton and green chairman, Mr George Barnett – many thanks to you both. Lastly, thanks to Sitwell Park GC. and their vice-captain, Mr Mike Greaves, for making us so welcome – the day was a tremendous success and very much appreciated by the Sheffield BIGGA section. Winners: Yorkshire Mowers Trophy, Mrs Jane Ryan 32 points. Second: A Rhodes, Sherwood Forest G.C. 30 points. Third: M Coultas, Grange Park G.C. 30 points. Fourth: P Stain, Notts G.C. 30 points. Congratulations to all fourteen prize winners.

Many thanks to all the trade members who have supported the Sheffield Section events: Steve Boroughs (Amenity Turf Supplies), Les Purdy (Purdy's Machinery), John Price (Yorkshire Mowers), Brian Booth (Rigby Taylor) and Peter Fell (Atkins). A Happy Christmas to you all.
JANE RYAN



SOUTH COAST

Although I was unable to attend our Autumn Tournament, the following report is from notes kindly supplied by Ken Lodge.

The format was, as in previous years, a morning 18 holes Foursome and an afternoon 18 holes Greensome Stableford. Forty four members and their guests played over the Bulberry Woods course and the winners were: First – Phil Wentworth and Phil Ryan, Army GC. 67 points. Second – Shaun White and Eddie Robertson, Ferndown GC. 65 points. Third – Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd, Woodcote Park GC. 65 points. Best surviving Foursome round: Alex McCombie and P Jeffries, Parkstone GC. 35 points. Best surviving Greensome round: Derek Cheetham and A Jones, Knighton Heath GC. 33 points

As on all of these occasions, thanks must go to our sponsors, which this year were Vitax Commercial Products and Jenman Engineering representing Jacobsen. Club officials were most helpful and our thanks to club directors, David Holdsworth and John Sharkey; green staff, Eric James and Tim Neighbour; and Dawn of the catering staff for an excellent meal. Section officials were thin on the ground for this tournament and I must thank Ken for all his efforts in checking cards and posting the scores as well as all the other duties he carries out on these occasions.

Congratulations to Bernard Emberley on ➤ 38

agreement, we can get down to the real business. Congratulations to all competitors who have made it through the tough qualifying rounds to reach the grand finals day of the Rigby Taylor Fourball Trophy at Frilford Heath GC. Having played on this stage myself, I can guarantee all qualifiers a great day out – may the best partnership win! The finalists are: J Nudds & S Horwood, D Childs & D Goodchild, J Teixeira & D Buckley, and S Edwards & P Wright.

What a great day was had at our Autumn Invitation, held at Burford GC. All the greenkeepers and their guests had a great time and our thanks for this go to head greenkeeper, Barry Holt, the captain, Mr J Shepherd, and the secretary and catering staff for a very well run and enjoyable day. The results: 1st nett-L.Robinson & C.Clifton. 2nd nett- B.Holt & J.Shepherd. 3rd nett- J.Bevon & D.Eagleton. Nearest the pin- (am) B.Woodward, (pm) M.Fuller. Longest drive (am) P.Snell. (pm) N.Fenwick.

Last but not least, thanks to the trade, especially for the TORO Shield donated by County Mowers; and Sta-Brite, Risborough Turf, Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart and Patissons.

Congratulations to the Midland region on winning the team event at the ISEKI National Tournament and to Barry Holt for representing us at the Kubota Challenge, which as you all know resulted in the greenkeepers triumphing yet again.

On a sad note, it is with regret that the section committee says goodbye to our secretary, Bob Woodward, who has decided to call it a day after two years at the post. He leaves us in a strong position and his presence and organising skills will be sorely missed by the section. Unfortunately, this means he now has a chance to concentrate on his golf, and I think we are going to get sick of the sight of him picking up prizes! Good luck, Bob, and we look forward to seeing you back on committee once you have filled your trophy cabinet.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas indeed. The section would like to thank 'The Trade' for their support this year and look forward to continued friendships next year – Merry Christmas.

RAY CLARK



KENT

The first frost of the autumn greeted competitors for our tournament at Holtye on 13 October. Despite an early chill, we were blessed with a brilliantly sunny day and the privilege of playing on a gem of a course. Those of us with previous Holtye experience were to find it a little on the 'tight side', whilst those without found it somewhat tricky. During the morning we competed for the Sta-Brite Shield, and, as with our Spring Tournament, the competition seemed a little one-sided and we should have realised, by the choice of venue, that the result here was also to be inevitable with our host, David Wood, picking up the first prize with 39 points. The margin of victory calls into question both the degree of local knowledge needed and the shortcomings of the handicap system, as back in second was Mike Smith of Moatlands with 32 points, followed in third by Alan Page from Holtye (surprise, surprise!). The p.m.11 hole Texas Scramble was most enjoyable, but the winning team were Malcolm Arthur from Knole Park, Sandy Anderson from Moatlands, and, once again, David Wood. The only prize that seemed to elude David was nearest the pin, which was picked up by 'Big' Malcolm Arthur. The morning version of this prize was cancelled as a big, blonde, American bloke called Mr John Daly, who happened to be passing, said that he felt the target to be "somewhat out of range".

Thanks for a super day to our hosts at Holtye, the caterers did us proud, from the fine cooked breakfast through to a hearty evening meal, David and his staff for the presentation of a wonderful, well respected little course, and to our friends in the trade for again supporting our events, especially Chris Sharp from Sta-Brite, for supplying the shield.

We had a guest speaker in Jon Allbutt, who outlined to a somewhat uncomfortable audience the implications of the latest requirements of legislation regarding Health & Safety, COSHH, Pesticide Spray-

37 * representing the region in the Annual Kubuto Tournament. Bernard was the sole region representative and I look forward to a full report when we next meet. Please support our January Meeting at Came Down GC on Wednesday 13 January. Our speaker is from Lloyds of Letchworth and the talk will start at 2.00pm with free refreshments at 3.15pm. Finally, to all Section members, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from your secretary and committee.

BOB DENNIS

EAST MIDLANDS

Congratulations are due to Ian Dunmore, Steve Goode and Russell Allen, who were members of the victorious Midlands team at the Iseki National Final held at Coventry GC in September.

The winner of the annual Breakwells match on 15 October was Matthew Buckley, who continues his storming start in section/region events. Thanks to Breakwells as ever for sponsoring and organising this event.

The Rigby Taylor East v West Midlands match was held at Whittington Barracks GC on 21 October. A promising start saw East Midlands leading after the morning greensomes, but the afternoon singles took their toll and we finished losers by ten matches to five. Notwithstanding the result, many thanks to Steve Blake-man and Brian Booth for organising the event. I am currently seeking a course for next year on which the East Midlands might stand a chance of winning. Please let me know if you can think of a venue that fits the following description: (i) all fairways at least 80 yards wide (ii) course devoid of trees, heather, gorse, long grass and water hazards.

Our singles knock-out competition was won by Mark Bindley, who triumphed over Dave Leatherland by five and three at Willesley Park in October. The successes of both Mark and Anthony this year have given rise to a new expression. No longer do you say you've been beaten, the word is you've been 'BINDLEYED'.

I can also report some success for us on the academic front, with Andre Woodings gaining a special award in the TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper evaluation. His prize is a trip to Harrogate for BTME.

This month the section is pleased to welcome Frank Kempster, course superintendent at Glen Gorse GC.

Our next event is the Christmas Bring & Win competition at Birstall GC on 16 December - entry forms already supplied. I hope to see many of you at Birstall, and to the rest of my colleagues (and to greenkeepers everywhere) I send best wishes for Christmas and 1993.



TONY HOWARTH

SURREY

Yet another first class day of golf was enjoyed by section members on 29 October at Worpleton GC. Scoring was good on such a fine day and even the bulging waistlines caused by a sumptuous luncheon did little to sabotage afternoon scores. The results: (over 27 holes) - Winner Jim Russell 57 pts. Second Steve Kirkham 50 pts. Third Doug Fernie 50 pts. Scratch prize Brian Turner. AM prize Ronnie Christie, PM prize Kelvin Reay. As ever, thanks went to the club for their first class hospitality and courtesy of their fine golf course, also to Brian Turner, Mike Yorston and all the green staff for presenting the course so well.

Members are reminded that our final golf event of 1992, the Turkey Trot, is at Effingham GC on 10 December, the event paired with the AGM in the evening. All members are urged to attend, if not for the golf then please try for the evening AGM, where views on running the section may be aired.

Please remember that any news for publication in this column should be sent swiftly to me - surely some interesting things must occur amongst a membership of 300 greenkeepers?

Finally, a reminder to contact a committee member ASAP if you are interested in complimentary coach travel to BTME Harrogate, along with subsidised accommoda-

AROUND THE GREEN



tion in Harrogate. A local travel company has expressed interest in helping cover travel costs, but the interest shown thus far has been extremely disappointing.

Having covered the 'heavy stuff', I wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. ROGER TYDEMAN

MID ANGLIA

The Autumn Tournament took place once again at the Woburn G&CC on 27 October, and I'm sure all of the 53 entrants were looking forward to playing the excellent Dukes course. When play commenced the weather was fine, and one could really appreciate the autumnal appearance of the course. Then the rains came! It didn't really stop all day and the afternoon nine holes scheduled for play over the Duchess course had to be cancelled.

The putting surfaces were in excellent shape - true and fast - until the rain took its toll during the latter holes and made putting tricky, to say the least!

Many thanks to Neil and his staff for their efforts. The Woburn staff filled four of the first five places, so local knowledge was an obvious advantage. Results: 1st Charlie Harris (Woburn) 39 pts. 2nd Steve Cherry (Woburn) 35 pts. 3rd Lee Murdoch (Woburn) 34 pts. 4th Stewart Boyes (Hammonds End) 33 pts. 5th Neil Whitaker (Woburn) 32 pts.

Many thanks to Sta-Brite Supplies for sponsoring the main competition and to Dave Murphy for his time and effort during the day.

The 27 hole final of the Lodgeway Fourball Tournament was also played on the same day, with Chris Brook and Eddie O'Hanlon (Family Golf Centre) victors over Ronan McKeown (Arlley GC) by five and four. Unfortunately for Ronan, partner Ken Bunting was on holiday and couldn't make the final, resulting in Ronan taking on both players single handed. Well done anyway, Ronan! The prizes for each competitor was a portrait oil painting of themselves in golfing action, these provided by Chas. Ayres of Lodgeway. They certainly looked very good. Many thanks, Chas.

A special mention must be made of Lee Murdoch (Woburn) who achieved an ace at the sixth - only the second person to achieve this feat during our competitions. Also a mention for John Blair (Brocket Hall) who, having scored only four Stableford points, still submitted his card, when he could so easily have ripped it up. Finally, a thanks to all the staff at Woburn for making us so welcome and providing such a wonderful meal, also to the trade: Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart and Patissons for providing prizes for our raffle.

A match against the London section was played on 29 October at Porters Park. Unfortunately, all the matches save one were lost, our saving grace being a half. Still, it was a great day out on a magnificent golf course and we thank the London section for their hospitality. Maybe in the future we might actually win a match against another section, so to all good golfers in Mid Anglia we ask - where are you? We need you!

PAUL LOCKETT

MIDLANDS

It is with regret that I have to inform members of the sudden death of George Dolloch, head greenkeeper at Trentham Golf Club, who died following a heart attack,

aged 47. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

On a much happier note, the Midlands section beat their old rivals, the East Midlands, in the annual match sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Having gone in to lunch one match down, we certainly came out firing on all cylinders in the afternoon to win the match convincingly. It was good to see our old friend Trevor Morris again and we thank him and his staff for the fine condition of the course, with the greens being particularly excellent. Thanks to Rigby Taylor and indeed also to Steve Blake-man, who I know puts in a lot of time and energy into making this annual fixture the success it is today.

Greenkeepers recently had a nice day at Brockton GC, where Boroughs held their Open Day. The golf was won by Richard Quine, his inside knowledge believed to be the key, as Richard is a member of Brockton.

Steve Wood and Tony Jesson have once again got their hands on the Pairs Knock-Out Trophy sponsored by Rigby Taylor, beating Peter Holtham and Ted Evans in an entertaining final played at the Northamptonshire County Golf Club.

Following our last tournament, the winners of the Aggregate Shields were announced: Mick Hughes won the gross award and Steve Wood the nett award - well done to both players!

During October the Gay Hill GC played host to the Champion of Champions competition, sponsored by Breakwells and organised by Keith Fitzhenry. Players represented both East Midlands and Midlands and the winner, with a fine round of 69 off three handicap, was Matt Buckley.



DEAN CLEAVER

NORTHERN

Our first winter lecture was held recently at West Bowling Golf Club, and I am pleased to report that it was well supported, with an excellent turn out attending a superb presentation given by Eddie Seaward (Wimbledon head groundsman) on the year to year running of the Wimbledon complex. This was a joint meeting with our friends from the LoG and, yes, we did have the quiz as usual, though nobody told me who won. I am not going to give my opinion, as I may be accused of bias. My thanks to the LoG for running the quiz - we all had a good night. Your Christmas golf competition takes place at South Leeds GC on 9 December 1992. This is followed by our section A.G.M.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

PAT MURPHY

EAST SCOTLAND

It is with sadness and regret that I announce the death of a well known and respected greenkeeper from Scotland, George Dolloch, who passed away in early October following a history of heart trouble. George, ex head greenkeeper at Ratho Park and Livingstone, left his native Scotland in 1983 to take over as head greenkeeper at Trentham GC in Staffordshire, though for many years he was chairman of the East Scotland section, as well as serving on the committee. He was the brains behind one of the first seminars we held, at Stirling University prior to our Scottish golf match, and though this was not well supported he certainly put a lot of work into it. Many meetings were held in his home at Livingstone and I often wonder how his wife, Nancy, put up with it. Here in his native Scotland, George's many friends are devastated by the news of his passing, for he was just 47 years old, a man in his prime. He will be sorely missed by us all and our thoughts are with Nancy and her three sons, Kevin, Grant and Neil, at this sad time.

I reported that the wife of Duncan Herd (head greenkeeper at Longniddry) was doing fine after her illness. Thus it is on another sad note I now must report that Mrs Herd died in October. Our deepest sympathies go out to Duncan, due to retire at the end of this year. On a personal note, I know just how Duncan, Nancy and her sons must be feeling, having lost my own dear wife at the start of this year. On a lighter note, I am pleased to

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IRRIGATION CHECKLIST UPDATE Additional guide to manufacturers, dealers and distributors in the UK (not included in last month's checklist)

Company Name	System/s Supplied	Manufacturer	Dealer/Distributor	Area UK	Other Countries	Spares	Repair/Service Maintenance	Telephone/Address
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Watermation	Watermation	✓	✓	All areas, Scotland, Ireland	Malaysia plus Agents and Distributors worldwide	✓	✓	0252 336838 (England) Tongham Road, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4AA; 0786 70252 (Scotland) 30 Bannockburn Road, St Ninians Stirling; (0103531) 2885504 (Ireland) Waverley Lodge, 61 Craysford Ave, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
		Pop-up sprinklers, 2-wire control	Hunter Richdell sprinklers Aqua-Master Pool aerators Imperial valves Nelson Controllers					

The information above and in our November checklist was supplied by the industry and for this reason we cannot take personal responsibility for its accuracy.

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today - and spot the symbol!

BIGGA

Deadline for entries has been extended to allow for the Christmas mail, therefore the winner will be announced in February's magazine. Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.



There was a fantastic response to November's competition and the first correct entry pulled out of the hat, winning £50 cash, came from eagle-eyed Michael Connors, from Knaphill, Surrey, a greenkeeping member at the Drift Golf Club. Michael's winning entry was drawn at BIGGA HQ by Roger Evans, senior agronomist of the STRI. It could be YOUR turn to win this month!

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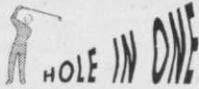
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