

# AROUND THE GREEN

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Section secretaries and correspondents should note that the closing date for 'Around The Green' copy is the first day of the month preceding publication - eg. copy for March issue must be received by February 1st. This means that section reporters must think ahead by at least one clear month and send relevant new copy before the appearance of the current issue. All out-of-date announcements will be spiked. Co-operation in meeting these deadlines will be appreciated.

### EAST MIDLANDS

The AGM meeting for the Maxwell Hart Shield was held on November 25th at Lingdale GC, Woodhouse Eaves. An enjoyable and well attended day resulted in honours going to Ian Marshall, with Adrian Porter and Maurice Emery second and third respectively. The trade section winner was Chris James. Well done and many thanks to all at Lingdale.

At the AGM, the following were elected to represent the section for the coming year: CHAIRMAN: Richard Barker, VICE CHAIRMAN: Dave Perkins, SECRETARY: Tony Howarth, COMMITTEE: Graham Arnold, Mark Bindley, Walter Cole, Steve Goode and Paddy McCarron. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: Richard Barker and Tony Howarth, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paddy Mc Carron.

The 1991 season saw considerable success for the section's golfers at both regional and national level. Congratulations to all those who contributed, especially Richard Barker, Steve Goode and Maurice Emery. Let's hope the coming season offers as much for us to look forward to!

Finally, it is with pleasure that I pass on the section's thanks to Gordon Mitchell, our retiring secretary, for the hard work he has done for us. Best wishes Gordon, and good luck in your new position at Leek.

TONY HOWARTH

### WEST SCOTLAND

The turn-out for the 1991 West Section AGM, at Renfrew GC, was attended by some 32 members, who came to learn how their elected committee had been faring on their behalf throughout the year. The year was an exceptional one, as the Spring and Autumn golf outings were supported by more than half of the total section membership. Lenzie and Cowal Golf Club's are to be thanked for their personal invitations to the section to come and play over their courses. It is a pleasure to us all to receive an open invitation and to know the hand of friendship extends to the greenkeeping fraternity.

The Annual Dinner was once again held at Sloans Restaurant and was well attended, though grumbles were heard concerning the venue and the quality of meals served that evening. Your committee will give this serious consideration well in time for next year. There was nothing but praise for the three guest speakers: Peter Lloyd, Assistant Secretary PGA Scottish Region, Stuart McCartney, Chief Reporter of The Daily Star, and our own Jim McKenzie, Head Greenkeeper, Wentworth Golf Club.

Alistair Connell, the section's new chairman for 1992, presented Cecil George with crystal glass on behalf of the section, whilst congratulating him on his recent retirement. Cecil is one of the few characters left in greenkeeping, as anyone who has ever attended any meeting he has chaired will vouch, for not only has he been a

great stalwart of the West Section but also to greenkeeping in general. He has served on the BIGGA Education Committee and quite recently was involved in the organising of the new HNC courses for greenkeepers.

I would point out to you all that despite Cecil's immense involvement in the Association, there is no truth in the rumour that he arrived on Monday morning to give instructions to his assistant for the week ahead and arrived back on Friday evening in the gentlemen's bar to discuss with the committee how difficult the week had been! Cecil did not 'get where he is today' without doing his fair share of hard graft, especially in trying to drain Lenzie over the past 37 years! On behalf of Cecil's many friends exiled in the South, Jim McKenzie presented a further gift to him.

Lectures for greenkeepers and students at Langside College Horticultural Dept. have been arranged as follows:

14th January: Kenny Hunter (Frews Grass Machinery) on Machinery for the Golf Course.

13th February: Robert D Bruce (Stewart & Company) on Turf Manufacture and Production. All lectures will commence at 2.15 pm at Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Glasgow.

Drew McKechnie, the new vice-chairman, arranged a games night at Claremont Bowling Club in December, claiming that if successful there is no reason why more of the same cannot be organised in the coming months.

As can be seen from this report, the West Section committee has been working hard on your behalf and ask for nothing more than your unswerving support. Happy New Year to you all.

GORDON KERR

### EAST ANGLIA

Our AGM on November 13th at Bury St Edmunds GC was well supported and ran fairly smoothly until someone decided to reduce the size of Norfolk! He was over-ruled because Norfolk has always been 'that big' and as he was a fellow 'foreigner', he didn't have a vote anyway!

Most of the officials were elected en-bloc, the exceptions being our faithful president of many years, John Moyce, who has been replaced by Ernie Hart. We wish John well and thank him for all the hard work he did for us, especially in the early years. I am sure Ernie will carry on in the same vein. Our new vice president is big Bobby Chesham, who is also vice chairman (how many more vices has he got?), and our chairman is again the evergreen Sam Sylvester, who is also the treasurer. We've got more double acts than the Crazy gang and come to think of it, we are the Crazy Gang. Our secretary is Mike Peters and the handicap secretary is Steve Freestone, a man it is wise to keep in with!

The scribe, yours truly, tried to lose his job by being late, but it didn't work.

DIARY DATES FOR 1992: April 22nd, Bungay GC, Iseki Qualifier. June 3rd, Woodbridge GC. July 6th, Iseki Regional at Chelmsford. August 9-12th, ICI/BIGGA National at Littlestone (accommo-

dation list from Sam.) August 14th, Colchester GC. October 7th, Eaton GC. Watch out for an editorial invasion on October 7th, for David White is threatening to bring his unpredictable left-handed swing to these parts! Happy New Year!

MICK LATHROPE

### MID ANGLIA

Though David White reported in December on the Autumn Meeting at Woburn, he was unaware that a competition within the competition was taking place, this being the final of the four-ball sponsored by Lodgeway Tractors. The event, now part of the rich history and lore of Mid Anglian golf, revealed Geoff Smith and Gerald Bruce as the eventual winners at the fifth extra hole, finally winning a fine battle waged against Ronan McKeon and Ken Bunting.

Our AGM took place recently, which was preceded by a lecture on Top Dressing given by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. At the meeting, Geoff Smith, Ken Bunting and Les Wackeral all retired from office and we must thank them for all the work they have done for the section. John Wells was elected as chairman, Paul Lockett as vice-chairman, Chris Brook as match secretary, Gerald Bruce as secretary and Richard Saunders joins the committee. We offer a warm welcome to them all.

The committee have decided that to aid in the smooth running of our golf competitions we will issue entry forms for each event. I know that the match secretary will be overjoyed when he receives entries from you two weeks before the competition, as opposed to a frantic 'phone call 24 hours prior to tee off! If you haven't already had these forms, they will soon be dropping through your letter box.

To golf again now, with hot-off-the-press results of the Christmas Turkey Trot held at South Beds GC: WINNING TEAM: J Champion, J Norman, C Midgley and P Robertson (winners of Sta-Brite Turkey Vouchers). SECOND: P Robinson, E O'Hanlon, J Marvel and P Marvel. THIRD: J Wells, C Brook, C Snell and C Asprey. Nearest the Pin was won by Stuart Boyes, who rode away with a mountain bike presented by Kingston House Mowers!

Finally, may I remind all section members that subscriptions are due and you know how much the staff at Aldwark HQ like receiving your cheques... so if you haven't yet done so, pop your cheque in the post, you know it's worth it. A happy New Year to you all.

GERALD BRUCE

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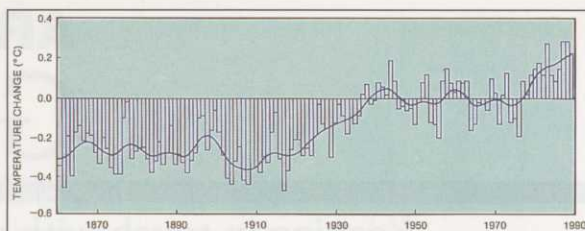
Scientific assessment of climate change notes that the world is indeed getting warmer. Taking to one side the reasons why, IAN BARRIE and DAVID HEMSTOCK consider the implications for the greenkeeper and the necessary changes for golf course irrigation

**F**ew of the world's climatologists would now disagree that our Earth is warmer than it was 150 years ago – and that the trend is still upwards (see figure 1). The 1980s set several world records for the warmest years over the past couple of centuries.

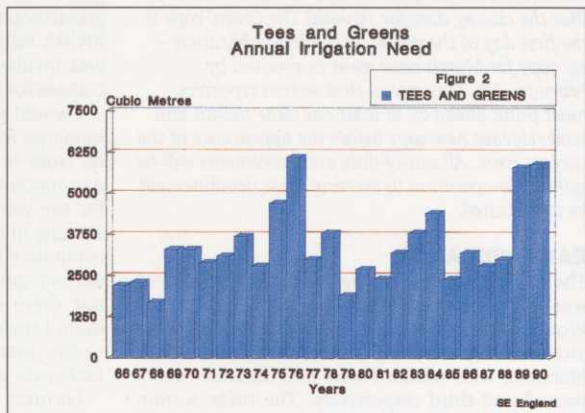
However, the cause of this global warming is still the subject of intense debate amongst scientists. Some consider that it is little more than a continuing recovery from the Little Ice Age, which affected Europe in the 16th and 17th Centuries, whilst others argue that it is principally the cause of mankind upsetting the natural chemical balance of the atmosphere by releasing vast quantities of carbon monoxide and other greenhouse gasses, such as CFCs and methane.

Rainfall records display a greater level of variability than those of temperature and accordingly it is harder to identify any trends, either by region or globally. At this stage it would be not be fair to say that just because the UK and large areas of mainland Europe have had three consecutive dry summers that this is due to global warming.

Whatever the outcome of the scientific debate, those among us who have to plan for the longer term must consider the implications for a warmer world in the future. One of the best ways to do this is to look back and assess the irrigation need for past years before going on to speculate on the consequences for the future.



**Fig. 1: Annual deviation of global mean temperatures for the period 1861-1989 (shown by bars), relative to the average for 1951-1980.**  
Source: United Nations Environment Programme Report 1990



**Fig. 2**

### Assessing irrigation need

Over the past few years a new method of assessing irrigation need has been developed. Put simply, it involves calculating (from weather records) the daily evaporation losses from a turfed surface, this loss then being balanced against daily records of local rainfall. As the 'soil' dries out there will come a point when irrigation is required.

An example of this would be to say that on successive dry days the evaporation losses were 2.5mm, so after three days this moisture deficit would be 7.5mm. Therefore the follow-

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# Too HOT to handle

ing day, when the deficit reached 10mm, would be a good time to apply, say, 5mm of irrigation. In short, 5mm of irrigation was applied when the moisture deficit reached 10mm. Now follow this plan in day out for 25 years and you should have a pretty good idea of not only the average water use, but also the water need in hot dry months and seasons.

Luckily our computer does most of these calculations for us, as it is linked directly into the Met Office's computer.

## A strategic irrigation plan

A plan similar to the one described above can be formulated for each area of the course, and indeed was formulated for a typical course in the South East of England. For example, applications of 5mm at a moisture deficit of 10mm may be suitable for most tees and greens, but with deeper rooting on surrounds a moisture deficit of 20mm would be reasonable, whilst if fairways have to be irrigated a moisture deficit of 40mm could be allowed before moisture stress became serious.

## Esates of seasonal irrigation need

From year to year both evaporation and rainfall rates will vary, with the variation in rainfall being the greater. In SE England, summer rainfall (ie. April to September) has been as low as 185mm (1990) and as high as 500mm (1968).

The effect on the calculated irrigation need is dramatic. Figure 2\* shows the total seasonal need over the period from 1966 to 1990. For a long time 1976 stood out as a freak year, with irrigation near double the long term average. However, 1898 and 1990 have cast a new light on the chances of prolonged drought. Whereas not too many people would have planned to cope with such a dry period previously, there is now a more apparent need to cope with a situation which has risen three times in 25 years.

Using typical acreages for tees, greens and fairways, a similar calculation reveals that if fairways are also to be irrigated then the average irrigation need would have been 12,000 cubic metres against the 3,100 cubic metres needed for tees and greens alone. In a dry season the numbers increase to 42,000 and 6,100 cubic metres respectively. In other words, fairways would account for 80 to 90% of the total water need.

\* An additional allowance has to be made for wastage due to uneven applications, overlapping and wind drift.

## Peak irrigation demand

A necessary planning value for the sizing of pumps, pipes and reservoirs is the maximum short period – or peak – irrigation demand. In the chosen example shown this occurred in July 1990, when tees, greens and fairways would have needed 15,200 cubic metres. Figure 3 illustrates the difference between this peak and the average monthly demand. Roughly speaking, peak rates are double the average.

## A plan for the future?

Please accept that neither crystal balls nor seaweed will produce the information needed to form a sensible plan for the future! Scientifically, it is also clear that if temperatures continue to rise then evaporation rates will also increase. If this is accompanied by a reduction in summer rainfall then the need for irrigation will rise markedly. At our disposal is a range of options which will help redress the balance.

Specific sowing of drought tolerant species is a sound first step. This would allow an increase in the moisture deficit at which irrigation is applied. If irrigation was applied at a deficit of 15mm, rather than the 10mm taken previously, in an average year a water saving of 15% would result. If a deficit of 20% could be allowed then the saving increases to 26%. Logically, in a wet year the savings would be larger.

More obviously, superior design and operation of an irrigation system reduces the amount of wastage due to overlap areas, uneven application and wind drift. The more novel forms of irrigation which have been the subject of much discussion would also have a role to play.

## The wider picture

Realistically all the above has to be set in a global picture. It cannot be overstressed that we must consider ourselves an integral part of the world as a whole. If the gloomier forecasts are proved right – that the world warms by 2 degrees centigrade and sea levels rise by 50cms or more – then London and half the coastal cities in the world will be under sea water; drinking water will be in short supply and famine will be on an unprecedented scale.

This argues strongly for the type of actions which will hopefully be agreed at the Earth Summit Meeting in Brazil this year. They will call for large scale forest planting, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and more efficient use of energy. Only the very brave – or the very foolish – would totally ignore the signals which have been evident over the past few years.

The managers of golf courses will have their part to play along with everyone else and a more efficient water use management policy will be as important as any.

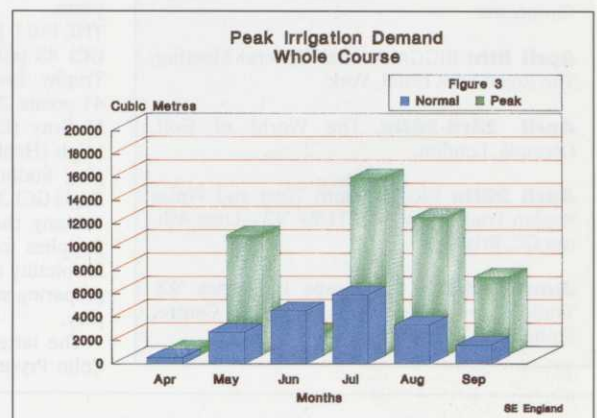


Fig. 3

● The authors are both with ADAS (Agricultural Development and Advisory Service) a division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Ian Barrie is Head of the National AgroMeteorology Unit and David Hemstock is the National Leisure Projects Consultant.

## COMING UP

**January 14th:** STRI North of England Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Askham Bryan College, York.

**January 20th-21st:** BIGGA Seminar Programme – Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

**January 22nd-24th:** BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition – Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

**February 4th:** STRI Irish Seminar – As January 14th – Milltown GC, Dublin.

**February 10th-17th:** GCSAA Exhibition and Convention – New Orleans USA.

**February 11th:** STRI Welsh Seminar – As January 14th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

**March 24th-26th:** RECMAN (Sports Council) Conference and Exhibition – National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

**March 27th-29th:** BIGGA National Education Conference – Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

**April 8th:** BIGGA Annual General Meeting, The Royal York Hotel, York.

**April 23rd-26th:** The World of Golf, Olympia, London.

**April 29th:** BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

**June 3rd-4th:** Landscape Industries '92. Trade Show – National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

# AROUND THE GREEN

## SOUTH WEST

The morning dawned fair and frosty for our Autumn Tournament at Tracy Park, with play accordingly starting on temporary greens. But... let's hear it for Steve, for after the first few holes members of his staff appeared – as if by magic – and most of the pins were replaced. Maxwell Hart had adopted this tournament from 1991 and thanks to their generosity the prize table was bursting at the seams.

My playing partner, James Taylor from Tall Pines, was finding the mix of greens to his liking, firing six birdies in a round of 67 gross (or 41 points). Not quite good enough, however, for a protege of mine – Philip Newton from Lilley Brook – came in with the best score of 43 points off a highly dubious 28 handicap. Philip is an extremely likeable young man who has been in greenkeeping and playing golf for just under two years.

THE FULL RESULTS: Philip Newton (Lilley Brook GC) 43 points and winner of the Maxwell Hart Trophy. Division 1: 1st, J Taylor (Tall Pines GC) 41 points. 2nd, C Fudge (Tracy Park GC) 39, 3rd, M Gray (Clevedon GC) 37. Division 2: 1st, J Leigh (Henbury GC) 35 points. 2nd, S Earl (Chipping Sodbury GC) 34. 3rd, R Wellman (Lyme Regis GC) 34.

Many thanks to Maxwell Hart and Sta-Brite Supplies for the prizes, to Tracy Park for their hospitality and to Steve Francom and his staff for preparing such an excellent course upon which to play.

The latter part of the day was given over to Colin Pryce and his Terralift for a very informa-

tive and interesting couple of hours, giving us a full insight into how this versatile machine can help with the maintenance of greens and tees etc., and also how it can be adapted to maintain and improve the health of trees.

Colin's talk was followed by our AGM, with Bob Gates formally retiring from the Chair after some 22 years! Bob, who built up the section from virtually nothing to its present lofty heights, was presented with an inscribed crystal vase by Ivor Scoones, who also paid tribute to Bobs' great efforts to further the cause of greenkeepers and greenkeeping.

Elected Officers: CHAIRMAN – J York, VICE CHAIRMAN: P Cox, SECRETARY: P Worster, MATCH CAPTAIN: K Millar, REGIONAL BOARD: I Scoones & R Williams. Also elected to served on the committee was S Earl, with David Everett elected to the college committee at Cannington.

FIXTURES 1992: Jan 8th- Cirencester GC, Lecture on Modern Maintenance. Feb 27th- Yeovil GC, Lecture by Huxleys.

March 11th- Stinchcombe GC, Lecture by Ruffords. Apr 13th- Swindon GC, Iseki Qualifier. Apr 29th- LONG ASHTON GC, WESTURF '92. May 27th- Westonbirt GC, Greenkeepers V Amateurs. June 9th- Launceston GC, Match V Secretaries. July 15th- Cotswold Hills GC, Summer Tournament. Sept 17th- Wells GC, Match V South Coast. Dec 10th- Chipping Sodbury GC, Christmas Luncheon.

A full list giving details etc., sponsored by T H Waites, will be circulated soon.

At the meeting it was decided that all players participating in team events will be required to stay for the meal afterwards – as part of the day. It was also stressed that the most important event in the calendar is WESTURF '92 and that all members should make an effort to attend.

Finally I would like to wish all members a happy New Year and good greenkeeping for 1992.

PAUL WORSTER

## NORTH WALES

First may I wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year, with the hope that you have all recovered from the festivities by now!

My wife and I extend thanks to the staff at HQ for the support (and the flowers) which followed our recent car accident. Thankfully, everyone is now well on the mend.

The November lectures had a reasonable attendance and our thanks to those who responded to the call; with a question for the rest: where were you?

Speakers were Stuart Pierson on COSHH, Tony Gush on Fuels and Gordon Wright on Ecology on the Golf Course. To them we extend our thanks for their time and effort in supporting our section. We are working on one more lecture this winter, covering the subject of Practical Welding, and I'll keep you all posted on this one, which should prove most interesting.

The Christmas Golf Day at Abergele & Pensarn GC was a tremendous success with over 70 players turning out. RESULTS: 1st David Law 35 points (winner of the Bruera Shield). 2nd Terry Adamson 34 points, Guest – Paul Pearce. Special thanks to sponsors Bruera, Turf Mech, Richard Campey, Walkers, Gem, Cheshire Light Tractors, Fletcher Stewart, Martin Brothers, Hunters of Chester and Mommersteeg and most grateful thanks especially to Abergele & Pensarn GC, who at the eleventh hour took such a greenkeeper invasion!

Finally, I know all our members will join with me in wishing Cliff Lunt, formerly of Vicars Cross GC, all the best on his retirement, albeit a little early.

MARK PROCTOR

## EAST OF ENGLAND

What a glorious day we picked for our Lambs Trophy in October, with the course at Burghley Park like a green carpet and manicured to perfection – as usual – by David and his team. A gathering of twenty four players returned some excellent scores, and I suppose that when you prepare the course to your liking, you are allowed to win. And that was how it happened, with David Salisbury returning 41 points to retain the trophy once again. Tied in second place with 37 were C MacDonald, G Dolan and F Cobb. Prizes were donated by our generous sponsors, Robin Lamb and Colin Sangster, and we were delighted that they both joined us for an excellent meal in the clubhouse. Our thanks also to our other friends in the trade, who also joined us and gen-

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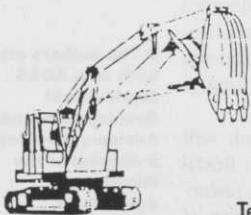


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November 27th was our AGM at Stoke Rochford, where sixteen members attended and the standing committee were returned en bloc. Ideas for next season were discussed and these will be notified to you all later. Our thanks to the Stoke Rochford committee for allowing us the use of their clubhouse. Seasons greetings to you all.

COLIN SWINGLER

## BUCKS BERKS & OXON

Hi there, all you fat people stuffed on turkey and Christmas pudding, and no doubt still fighting the effects of one or two 'sherberts' too many! Well, wakey, wakey, for it's 1992; and if the year is half as successful as '91 we are in for a great year in the BB&O.

Less of this frivolity, now let's get down to business. Have you bought your tickets for the Gentlemen's Dinner on March 6th yet? If the answer is NO, why not? Remember that the incredibly measly price of £20 also includes 18 holes at Frilford Heath (surely an offer not to be missed?) and I urge you to contact me now (0628 829208) for the few remaining places.

It gives me great pleasure to report another success, this time at The Berkshire for our recent Golf Day, with the results being: First and winner of the SISIS Trophy - Andrew Thompson, nett 69. Second- John Teixeira, nett 71. Third- Peter Helps, nett 73. The Berkshire Bottle Winner: Mark Hancock. (5 Par 3's out of 6). Our thanks to the secretary and staff at The Berkshire for a fine course and for an equally fine meal. Also to Bob Marton for his tremendous support and encouragement and to the trade, who as usual were most generous. We acknowledge Sisus, Euroturf, Maxwell Hart, Pattissons, Rigby Taylor, Sta-Brite, Vitax and also not forgetting The Berkshire - for the whisky!

THE RIGBY TAYLOR FOUR-BALL FINALS.  
(a report by Bob Woodward)

8am on November 8th saw eight greenkeepers take to their final challenge around the impressive Frilford Heath course, with the draw revealing Simon Edwards and Lee Edwards (Whiteleaf) v Dave Heads and Andrew Thompson (Frilford Heath), and Alan Collis and Paul Reeve (Sonning) v John Teixeira and Darren Buckley (Hillingdon), the matches being staged over the green course.

The Whiteleaf v Frilford Heath match proved a close affair, with never more than a two holes in it at any time, the match eventually going to the 18th all square. Deadlock was broken with Thompson chipping in from greenside for a 3, leaving Lee Edwards a 20 footer to halve the match, but it was not to be and Dave and Andy were finalists!

The second semi-final was altogether a different story, when an amazing game of golf unfolded. Teixeira and Buckley were three up after ten - with monster putts being holed from everywhere - but the Sonning pair were undaunted and by combining well came from behind to be one up with two to play. The 17th was halved in uncharacteristic fours, and the stage seemed set for a Sonning victory. But we all know nothing is certain in golf, for the 18th was lost by Collis and Reeve and a play-off ensued. This resulted in halved holes at 17 and 18 and a return again to 17 for sudden death. This also was halved in dramatic fashion and repeated again at 18 for a deadlock situation. Turning to the 1st on the red course for a fifth extra hole, the titanic battle finally finished with a par from Teixeira and Buckley beating a five from Collis and Reeve, the finalists were at last decided!

In the playoff for third and fourth places, play continued into near darkness and was eventually declared halved, as 'light stopped play' so to speak. Finalists Teixeira and Buckley got off to a flying start in their battle against Heads and Thompson by winning the first four holes and being five up after six, the game then ding-donging with the Frilford Heath pair making a fine

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rally and pulling back somewhat. However, the upper hand never deserted the Hillingdon couple and the result eventually finished in their favour at five and four.

A meal of culinary delight followed, with Roger Bowles of Rigby Taylor presenting the hard earned trophy to the victorious couple and splendid prizes to the worthy runners-up. Credit must first go to Rigby Taylor for generous sponsorship, and to Frilford Heath for their kindness in letting this final be held on their fine course, the superb condition of which is a huge credit to Dave Heads and his staff.

(Editors note - BB&O members will enjoy reading the unabridged shot by shot version of Bob Woodward's match report in their own section publication. Space limitations here, however, result in his story being severely condensed.)

I'm sure you'll all agree that golf over the past season has been the best organised for many a long year, a fact reflected in huge turn-outs. For this our thanks to the committee and to Bob Woodward in particular. As a rider to all this may I warn members that it is now essential to return entry forms promptly, as we are having to turn players away. Entries work on a very strict first-come-first-served basis. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

My thanks to Bob Woodward for the above report on the Rigby Taylor Four-Ball Trophy Final.

RAY CLARK

## SURREY

Guildford GC hosted our final golf event of the season, the Turkey Trot. After a count-back the results were: 1st: M Todd 38 points, 2nd: M Kirkham 36, 3rd R Tydeman 36. Veterans Cup: A Armitage 32, Trade prize: H Wilson 37. Due to late entry some players completed their rounds in near darkness, the smell of cooking finally guiding them to the clubhouse where an excellent meal was served. Our thanks to Guildford GC for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to Robert Denning and his staff for their course presentation.

Our AGM followed, at which Phil Baldock stepped down from the chair due to his impending departure to Royal Portrush and we all wished him every success in his new challenge. Terry Huntly was duly promoted to chairman. Another section stalwart, David Johnson, also retired from committee at this time and received well earned applause for all his many years of service to the section. Credit and thanks must go to Southern Soils for their generous donation of £200 toward greenkeeper training.

Some notes for your diary, with a plea for your full support of the following. Jan 15th: Winter Lecture at Walton Heath Artisans Club. Jan 20th-24th: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme at Harrogate.

Please note that future section news and views are now my responsibility (Roger Tideman, 19 Foxearth Rd, Selsdon, S. Croydon. CR2 8EH) and should be passed either to me or D Andrews.

ROGER TIDEMAN

## DEVON & CORNWALL

Bude and North Cornwall GC was the venue for our AGM meeting on November 20th. During the morning our golfing members waged battle for the TORO trophy, with non-golfers enjoying the treat of a guided tour of the course with yours truly. After a superb lunch, the golf prizes (generously donated by Alan Dommert and Joe Turner) were presented by Alan Dommert of Devon Gar-

den Machinery to the following: 1st J Parr and C Rawlings 33 points, 2nd T Pipe and B Summers 29, 3rd J Breyley and N Pring 29.

Following the presentation, members moved to the committee room for the Section AGM, where the chairman opened the meeting and the previous AGM minutes were approved. In his own report, the secretary thanked members who attended meetings over the year, indicating that without such support the section would be the poorer. A special mention went to Bill and John Mitchell, who have worked so hard over the year in promoting the Association in Cornwall. Turning to regional fronts, the secretary congratulated Gordon Child and the regional board, for with their success at WESTURF they have been able to put funds back into the region for education. This followed with a financial report and presentation, duly passed by the membership.

In his own report, the chairman congratulated the Iseki team for winning the team trophy, whilst on the education front he congratulated Terry Farkins on being the first member from the section to represent the region in the TORO/PGA European Tour Student greenkeeper awards. In summary, the chairman asked members to play with different partners whenever possible - this to give encouragement to new members and engender the feeling of being part of the section more quickly.

Following the chairmen report, the following were elected to office: Don Hunt, president. John Palfrey, vice president and Jeff Mills as vice chairman. There being no other business, the meeting closed. May I wish you all a Happy New Year, with the hope that I shall be seeing you all during the coming season.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## MIDLANDS

On October 31st the Midlands section defeated their old rivals, the East Midlands, in a Rigby Taylor Match played at Coxmoor Park. The match was played in good spirit and we thank the East Midlands section for a most enjoyable day. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of Steve Blakeman and Rigby Taylor and we thank them most sincerely and look forward to a repeat performance in 1992. Needless to say, our thanks also to Coxmoor Park GC for most generously granting the use of course and clubhouse, all presented in excellent condition.

The section send congratulations to Mr and Mrs Mike Hughes on the birth of their new baby daughter, with the hope that both mother and baby are well. Finally, may I wish you all a happy New Year.

DEAN CLEAVER

## SHEFFIELD

Our first winter lecture of the season was given recently by Mark Radford of Ransomes, a most entertaining talk and interesting video show. On November 27th our Christmas Golfing Competition was held at Wortley GC, where an excellent turn-out of 40 players battled away over a thirteen hole Stableford, with the principal prize winners being: 1st D Chappel (27). 2nd P Unwin (26 on count-back). 3rd M Scothern (26 off a +1 handicap!) and 4th S Hird (24). Even our new assistant competition secretary, P Heaney, won a prize, ha! ha! The putting competition was again won by I Lilley, with the section able to add £14 towards its funds.

We would especially like to thank Wortley GC for courtesy of the course, along with Barry Heaney and his staff for presenting excellent

# AROUND THE GREEN

playing conditions. Additionally, to the trade members for donations to the prize table and especially to B Booth of Rigby Taylor for the excellent crystal glasses etc. At this point we must give an extra special mention to the catering staff at Wortley GC, who did us so proud with a six course dinner, so thoroughly enjoyed by all. In fact, the whole day was a complete success in every way!

Golfing dates for 1992: May 11th- Spring Tournament at Wheatley GC, tee-off at 2.00 pm. Sept 7th- Autumn Tournament at Sitwell Park GC, tee-off at 1.30pm.

All this leaves me with just one happy task, that of wishing everyone in the Sheffield section a happy and prosperous New Year.

IAN COLLETT

## NORTH SCOTLAND

Our section AGM took place on November 26th at Letham Grange GC, the day starting with a very interesting talk given by a representative from Modern Maintenance Products. Twenty eight hardy souls then played golf in a Chairman V Vice Chairman match over the new course at Letham Grange. Amidst tales of bribery and nobbling, chairman Dougal Duguid accepted defeat and presented Sam Morrison with the trophy, which we sincerely hope will become an annual award. Our thanks to Jim Grainger and his staff at Letham for the condition of the course.

Following a lovely meal the AGM took place, with a main issue being the resignation of Gordon Moir from the secretariat, and of yours truly taking his place! There followed a presentation to Gordon in gratitude for all his hard work, with best wishes extended for his new job at St Andrews. Our competition to send greenkeepers on educational trips resulted in Gordon McKie and George Patterson of Fortrose each winning and receiving a cheque for £150 toward expenses when travelling to the BTME in January. A rousing Scottish New Year to you all.

IAIN MACLEOD

## LONDON

The past year saw some fine golf played by various individuals from around the London section, and although at the ISEKI finals at Hillside our three qualifiers did not come away with silverware, they kept the London interest alive and flew the flag with great pride. Well done to Martin Smith from Porters Park, and Darren Burdis and Robert Washbrook, both from Hadley Wood.

Simon Woolley of Brickendon Grange was a winner in the National Tournament at Royal St Davids, taking the Maxwell Hart Cup with a gross 77 (off 8), whilst the London Section Summer League final was won by Robert Phillips and Martin Smith, securing a 2 and 1 victory over local rivals, Darren Burdis and yours truly. This was a match played in great spirit and our thanks to Ronan at Arkley GC for allowing us to play on a 'neutral' course. Still more winners in the section include Ted Dickinson of Hatfield & London G&CC, who won at Porters Park during the summer, and Steve Cox of Abridge who took the Autumn Trophy at West Herts.

At present we have two fixtures arranged for 1992, these being at Panshanger and Hatfield & London, with dates to be finalised. The 1991 South East Regional Seminar at Merrist Wood was well attended and I and my greenkeeping team were fortunate to be present and found it of great educational benefit. Environmental topics have really come to the fore at many courses and are a constant source of conversation.

Your committee are still finalising the seminar scheduled for Feb 26th at Aldenham: we'll keep

you posted. To all members, a happy 1992.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

## SOUTH COAST

It was very pleasing to see such a good turn-out for the first section Winter Lecture in November. Over 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent talk from the professional Malcolm Webb, ably assisted by head greenkeeper Mark Webb, both of Alresford GC, on the subject of enlarging an existing course.

Topics covered included acquiring extra land, planning permission, preparing detailed plans with a relief map and drawing up detailed specifications for tender documents. The main message to members was the need for team work from all those involved with the project. This meant club members, various committees, green staff and club professional all working together, an excellent exercise in communications.

Our fourth Winter Lecture, commencing at 7pm at Alresford GC on Wednesday February 5th, sees our editor, David White, visiting our section for the first time. David will talk about Greenkeeper International - providing ample opportunity for an open question time - and will also discuss (with a small clutch of slides) his annual pilgrimage to Augusta in the spring, where The Masters Tournament is held.

BOB DENNIS

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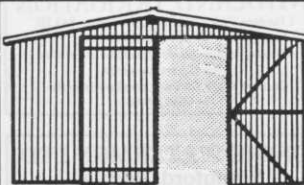
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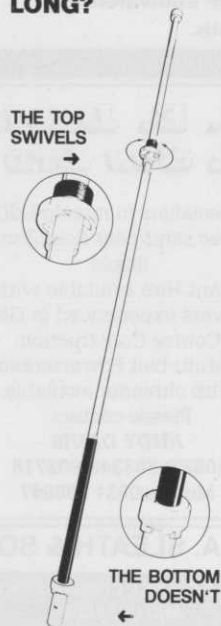
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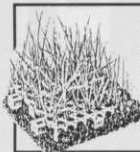
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See Page 17 of December's Greenkeeper International for a review of the book.