

AND CHEMICAL CARE

canisters should be rinsed thoroughly and stored in a secure, designated storage bin awaiting proper disposal.

In certain cases the HSE recommends the use of closed transfer systems for moving undiluted pesticides into the sprayer tank. Equipment to ensure the safe transfer of chemicals is now available from most of the leading manufacturers and from ancillary suppliers.

The Chemical Transfer and Rinse from Martin Lishman is fitted easily to the sprayer tank. It consists of a bowl over which the inverted container is placed. Pressing down on the container forces a spear within the bowl through the foil seal on the container. Following the emptying of its contents, the container is rinsed automatically ready for safe disposal. Costing £185, the device can be fitted with a partial measure cap to allow part emptying of containers.

A chemical induction bowl with integral rinsing probe is available on Hardi's amenity sprayers covering tractor-mounted, trailed and de-mountable models from 200 to 800 litre capacity. Developed from its agricultural sprayer range, the 25 litre hopper includes a measuring scale and has a wash-down ring to rinse all residues from the walls of the hopper. The rinsing device has a multi-nozzle head over which the empty container is placed for a thorough rinsing, with washings going into the tank for safe disposal.

For anyone in doubt, advice on safe, correct disposal of empty containers can be obtained from the environmental health department of their local authority or the HSE. The law lays down a number of specific requirements regarding pesticide stores. Although it can be a separate structure or be situated within an existing building, in every case it must be:

- Sitably sited
- of adequate capacity and construction
- designed to hold spillage
- properly lit and ventilated
- resistant against fire and frost
- designed to allow containers to be safely stacked and moved in and out of store
- clearly identified with a cautionary warning sign
- kept locked except when in use.

One of the latest entrants to the purpose-built chemical store market is Go-Store, offering a range of free-standing walk-in units suitable for use outside or inside an existing building. All incorporate heavy-duty shelving, a 9" spillage retention sill, ventilation, thermostatically-controlled frost protection, lighting and high security locking. Typical price for a store measuring 8' x 6'3" x 6'3" is in the region of £1550. Smaller units are offered by Portasil. Its 'Chem-vaults' are totally waterproof and include ventilation, spillage retention and high security multi-point locks. A check list is required of all pesticides kept in the chemical store and this should be compiled and kept safely close at hand – but not in the store.

Health and Safety Executive guidelines say that greenkeepers should avoid storing more pesticides than are necessary and that a system of stock rotation be employed to ensure that older stocks are used first. Provided correct measurement has taken place, there should be little or no diluted liquid remaining in the sprayer's tank after treatment has been completed. However, there will be a low concentration of pesticide in the first rinsings from the tank which will need safe disposal. These can be applied to the turf provided there is no conflict with any previous treatment and they are within the label directions. Alternatively, the rinsing water can be combined with a fresh batch of



diluted pesticide for spraying on another part of the course.

If neither of these alternatives is suitable or acceptable, operators should seek advice from the environmental health department of the local authority, the HSE, or the chemical supplier. Automatic tank cleaning devices are recommended as an alternative to the hand held hose and scrubbing brush.

Nozzle specialist Lurmark has extended its Tankclean range with a new wash jet giving twice the flow rate of its stable-mate. Suitable for large capacity tanks and where thorough cleansing is vital to avoid chemical cross-contamination, the new unit offers a maximum water throughput of 109 litres/min at 3bar pressure. The unit is designed for permanent fixing through the top or lid of the sprayer tank, and uses a cluster of cone jets to cover the complete inside of the tank. It costs about £60.

Guidance on safe chemical handling and disposal can be found in the 'Code of Practice for the safe use of approved pesticides in amenity and industrial areas' This publication, available from BIGGA HQ at £12 post inclusive, gives advice on meeting the two principal regulations covering the use of pesticides. The most recent of these, entering the statute books in 1988, is the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations (COSHH). These lay down the essential requirements and clear procedures for the control of hazardous substances and the protection of anyone exposed to them. Under the regulations, employers are obliged to carry out a COSHH assessment to identify the possible risks to health on their premises and the precautions that will need to be taken to minimise or eliminate them.

Guidance is available from the local authority or HSE regarding compliance with COSHH and carrying out a risk assessment on your course. This spring, the HSE plans to publish a guide to the essentials of health and safety relating specifically to golf courses. The guide will encompass every working practice likely to be encountered and provide practical guidance on identifying, reducing and eliminating risks to employees and others. In the meantime, there is a comprehensive range of free leaflets and booklets currently available from the HSE relating to health and safety at work. Information and literature on these publications can be obtained from the HSE on any of the following numbers: 071 2210870 (London); 0742 752539 (Sheffield); 051 9514381 (Merseyside) or from BIGGA HQ.

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Almost a year has passed since our last National Education Conference, held in March at Cirencester College. Time enough to forget perhaps, yet whenever greenkeepers congregated throughout the year, conversation centred around the highly effective 'mix and match' presentations, greenkeepers and agronomists sharing the limelight at Cirencester in equal numbers, one learning from the other. The fifth conference, to be staged at Keele University, Staffordshire on 26-28 March, will again field a galaxy of international turfgrass specialists alongside our own increasingly professional home grown talent. It remains the one conference that greenkeepers should not miss, for though the essence of any education conference is learning, the BIGGA National Education Conference is as much one of learning through conversation, discussion, friendly argument and social intercourse. Why shouldn't education be fun - be there!

Speaker Profiles

Part One



Noel Jackson, a native of Yorkshire, attended Northallerton Grammar School and the University of Durham, Kings College, Newcastle

upon Tyne, where he gained an honours degree in Agricultural Botany and later a Ph.D. in Agronomy. From 1958 to 1965 Dr. Jackson was employed as a biologist at the STRI, where he established his interest in turf management, particularly in turfgrass diseases. In 1965 Dr. Jackson joined the faculty at The University of Rhode Island as assistant professor in Plant Pathology and is he is now a professor at that institution. The position involves teaching, research and extension duties in the area of turf, trees and woody ornamental diseases. Over the past 27 years, Dr. Jackson has worked closely with professional growers (sod farmers, golf superintendents, nurserymen and landscapers) and with homeowners to ascertain and research their plant disease problems and recommend appropriate control programmes, whilst teaching two undergraduate courses at the university, lecturing nationally and being published widely on the subject.

Dr. Jackson, co-author of the definitive work 'Fungal Diseases of Amenity Turf Grasses', (Pub. E&FN Spon, 11 New Fetter Lane, EC4P 4EE), will present two papers - 'Cool season turf diseases in the USA and the UK', and 'Patch diseases in cool season turf grasses'.



Ian Tomlinson, course manager at Lausanne Golf Club in Switzerland and vice-president of the Swiss Greenkeepers Association, wrote telling

us about his presentation, 'The problems associated with maintaining a golf course at 2800 feet

altitude in Switzerland', suggesting that it will be no ordinary paper reading exercise, rather an ad-libbing explanation (illustrated with slides) of the greenkeeping problems encountered in Switzerland with ice and snow and the damage that can be caused to trees by heavy snow falls. He promises that his presentation will not portray mere doom and gloom, though he'll follow this with explanations of other problems encountered at Lausanne, these being badly constructed greens and other intrinsic design faults: collapsed drainage, flooding, and rooting difficulties. He'll lift the tempo to a final high by describing the installation of a new drainage system and show the course at its prime, one which has hosted the European Amateur Championships, the World Amateur Championships and the European Seniors Championships whilst now being a regular venue on the PGA European Tour. Ian, whose career began as an apprentice at Scarcroft in 1976, has tended the course at Lausanne since 1984, prior to which he was at Moor Allerton in Leeds.



Gary Grigg, CGCS, will discuss 'Current and future issues in golf course management', a subject close to his heart. Gary became superintendent at Naples National Golf Club, Naples, Florida, earlier last year, following extensive experience in the construction, grow-in and maintenance of several fine clubs throughout the country. He holds a Bachelors degree in entomology from Utah State University and a Masters degree in agronomy from Michigan State University. Gary has attended many GCSAA seminars and has been a member of many committees including the certification, scholarship and research, nominating, fund-raising,

seminar planning and building committees. He is a member of the Everglades GCSA, Heart of America GCSA and the Florida GCSA. Gary belongs to several allied associations including the Florida Turfgrass Association, the Texas Turfgrass Association and the Southwest Turfgrass Association, over which he presided as president in 1981. He is also a member of the Florida Conservation Association. Gary has been a member of GCSAA for 22 years, is currently on the Board of Directors and serves on the finance, future education and conference planning committees.



Anthony Davies, pencil slim and athletic, is often seen pounding the pavement in his quest for fitness as a long distance runner, though he is perhaps better known to BIGGA members as the 1990 'ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year' than as a competitor in the London Marathon. The ICI accolade was by no means Anthony's first claim to fame, however, for college peers voted him 'Top Student' during his final Phase IV year of City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management and he has always been an education buff, holding a diploma in Turf Culture and the National Examination Board's certificate in Supervisory Management. For some 15 years Anthony has worked in the profession he loves, beginning his career in 1978 at the Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club and now at Prestbury Golf Club in Cheshire, where for the past four years he has been the club's course manager. Anthony is regarded as something of a progressive, and his presentation at Keele will centre around the way he engineered the change from old to new at Prestbury, under the beguiling title of 'Right or wrong - I did it my way'.

NATIONAL
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE
26-28 March

With the forthcoming publication of the R&A's Joint Golf Course Committee's specification for recommended methods of constructing putting greens, based on three alternatives, with no compromising mixing from one to another, the whole vexed question of soil analyses re-emerges.

There is no point in setting out standards controlling the materials to be used unless those materials are readily available and their quality can be checked by reliable analysis against the stated criteria. Equally, it is a pointless exercise if analyses take so long that the start of construction would be seriously delayed; if the results were so erratic or illogical that no one could trust them, or if the cost were so high as to prohibit their use in any save very expensive contracts.

The sad fact is there is absolutely no consistency between the results of physical analyses on the same material when analysed by different laboratories.

To be believed, results must be believable! Illogical results, which cannot be either defended or repeated, bring the whole system into disrepute. This problem is by no means confined to laboratories in Britain – nor indeed in Europe. If the USGA Green Section claims that it can rely on only a bare handful of soil laboratories throughout the length and breadth of the States to report consistently accurate results, even when they are working to published standard methods of analysis, we are unlikely to be any better here, more especially because work on standard methods of analysis is by no means complete – and furthermore even when it is I will hazard a guess that methods produced and stipulated by one lab. will be disputed by others.

Matters have come to a pretty pass when check samples sent to a number of laboratories are reported not just with mild variations, but unbelievable ones! In one recent and obviously anonymous case, samples were analysed three times, the first two batches of results being so wildly 'out' that they could not be believed and the last, not much better, was sent back in desperation at the delays together with a huge bill (which was never paid!) showing variations on the same green of over 3000%! In another equally well authenticated case, showing quite illogical and indefensible results, the suggestion was made that the first (illogical) reports should be scrapped and a new start made – presumably analysing again and again until the desired or expected figures turn up!

This may be dismissed as teething troubles, to be overlooked by those who know what they are talking about, but it is much more serious than that. In our increasingly litigious society, any dispute capable of being settled a decade ago by get-



Soiled again

ting round a table or knocking heads together goes with minimum delay to the lawyers, who have never been known to suffer from any inability to make decisions, however little they may know about the technicalities.

It is a far from fanciful possibility for a contractor and/or architect to be sued for supplying unsuitable material in a golf course construction contract, based on soil analyses of samples sent to a given laboratory by the dissatisfied employer. Then fresh batches of the same material are sent to another laboratory – or worse still, to the first one – which then show satisfactory figures. Aggrieved parties will take the view that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander and the first laboratory, in an indefensible position, can at best hope to settle out of court for a million or more!

How then have we managed before? Simply because most of those at all levels building golf courses up to the last few years before the advent of American inspired extravaganza, knew good materials from bad, could judge suitability by 'finger and thumb' methods and knew where reliable materials could be found – materials previously analysed on simple chemical and physical standards, which dealt with such uncomplicated but still important values as 'freedom' from clay (fines) or lime (pH) as well as low phosphate levels (high levels are inimical to fine turf). This meant that they knew where the best materials – previously checked and of consistent reli-

able quality – could be found, which avoided costly delays. If they did not have that ability themselves 'they knew a man who did'.

Today we are faced with an increasing number of people at all levels, employers, contractors and even architects, who have no clue as to what is good or bad and who rely on irrelevant standards (more suitable for hot arid or tropical zones than for northern European temperate conditions). As a result they need and demand rigid guide lines. This leads to confusion, extra costs, delays and often disaster. As an example, the specification for the sand to be used on one of those extravaganzas was so precise that the only source was going to cost six or seven times as much as an equally satisfactory, relatively local source, the total cost adding nearly £1 million to the contract. This kind of pedantic insistence on unproven standards leads to all manner of evasions and cost cutting – or, if obeyed, to huge and unnecessary extra costs.

Laboratories will naturally (but unsuccessfully) try to defend their results. They will blame sampling errors, variations in raw material sources, even on one occasion unbelievably blaming illogical variations because of differences in the day of the week that the samples arrived – anything but their analysis methods. Analyses are only as accurate as the sampling, I admit, but such sampling variations are on quite a small scale. When samples tested for hydrological conductivity are reputed to vary between 0.1" hr and 28" per hr on the same green with

the material bulk-mixed centrally on site, clearly it is the analysis technique which is to blame. The one is equivalent to a concrete slab and the other an open drain – ie. indefensible and illogical!

There is no point in drawing up detailed specifications and in laying down performance criteria if these cannot be checked speedily and cheaply by reliable analysis. There have been too many cases of wild and inexplicable variations in the results on the same samples sent to different and sometimes even to the same laboratories, for anyone to be able to have any faith in them. The first step must be to lay down methods which must be followed and then to check on all the laboratories offering soil analysis services. I venture to suggest that it will be a long time before laboratories can be trusted to produce consistently logical, believable and reliable physical soil analysis results (chemical ones are no problem but are of limited use) and if they want to prove me wrong, let them offer to demonstrate and compete with each other for veracity if not cost. Because, believe me, when laboratories demand £150 or thereabouts per sample and we may need scores of samples before the best materials are identified, then we are talking money – and the national golfing body which should be the regulator have not thought, it would seem, about financing their recommendations or actions, e.g. in checking and comparing soil laboratories.

So where is this likely to lead us? Frankly, I can see little real value to any reasonably experienced and educated adviser in using soil analyses except to check on their own judgment. The one question to which I have never been given any (let alone a satisfactory) reply by soil chemists, fertiliser salesmen, or even most advisers is 'at what level do you say that a soil is showing a phosphate deficiency, ie. when does it need phosphatic fertiliser?'

When some of our most superb bent and fescue greens on links or heathland courses show levels of phosphate below 10 ppm (mg/litre) and some of our worst annual meadow grass greens, even on famous links, show 1500 ppm of phosphate, can you make a case for applying any phosphates, ever? Pleas that these pundits should consult the enormous bibliography on this subject, starting with Dr. Murray in 1903 in South Africa (who said the only phosphate to be given to golf greens should be in the form of the normal top dressing, NOT as fertiliser,) are just ignored.

I do not see a lot of point in analysing soils to show they are over-supplied in phosphate particularly, nor can we learn much from pH figures when links greens can show 8.0 and more and heathland turf below 4.0. Attempts to 'manipulate' soil nutritional levels to meet

some artificial, indefensible and unproven standards always end in tears.

The only important nutrient for fine turf is nitrogen, for which there are no sensible tests. There is enough phosphate and almost always enough potash to meet the very modest demands of finer grasses. Trace elements are never needed on golf courses. The ideal pH is the one you've got. Remember the old adage - 'if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it'.

There can thus be little if any justification for spending money on chemical analyses, which all too often are on offer as a sales gimmick or an alternative to sound management advice, which chemists seem to lack. Physical soil analyses are a different matter, but to date the unreliability and inconsistency of results on the same materials from different (and even the same) laboratories makes it all too clear that we have a long way to go before any reliance can be placed on the results.

My advice is to keep your hands in your pockets (analyses are very expensive) and let the grass tell you what it needs. Rubbing a soil sample between finger and thumb is, I regret, a far more accurate way of analysing it than sending it to many testing laboratories.

The secret is to follow austere greenkeeping: minimal fertiliser and nitrogen only; strictly controlled irrigation; intensive deep aeration and the use of compatible top dressings to the existing root zone. Then, as night follows day, you will succeed in proving that you do not have to learn to live with annual meadow grass, though it may take time if you are combatting years of previous mismanagement. Frankly you do not need soil analyses to implement such a programme.

However, as a parting message, let me recount a story with a warning. Some years ago, in the West Country, a new course was being built - and my opinions on raw materials were sought, and in particular the quality of sand. I rejected samples of granite sand whose angular particles locked together to produce the equivalent in terms of porosity and permeability of a motorway, in favour of a sand which had an ideal physical analysis - 80% of particles between 0.5 mm and 0.125 mm. By sheer luck, growth tests were conducted on all raw materials. This ideal sand grew nothing - and further tests showed it to be extremely toxic due to contamination from upstream tin and lead mines. The ideal test might therefore be to see if materials will support the growth of grass - and if they cannot due to toxicity or other reasons there seems little justification for expensive physical soil analyses (nor indeed does it really matter what the toxic elements are - just that they are toxic to grass!

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will reporters please note that Around The Green copy for April must reach the editor on or before March 1st.

SUSSEX

Without doubt the most enjoyable golf day of the year saw us at our usual stamping ground, Littlehampton GC, for our Christmas Turkey Trot. What is considered our premier meeting was endorsed by the excellent turn-out of nearly sixty greenkeepers and guests - many thanks.

For the second year running play was in the highly enjoyable Texas Scramble format, with teams of four battling over a very well presented course, especially when taking consideration of the 'slightly' wet weather of late. Our heartfelt thanks to Dave Wood and his team for working so hard over the past weeks in 'claiming back' the course - not only from the English Channel but from the River Arun as well!

Play was over 14 holes (14 greens only were open so three were played twice), with the resultant time saved spent at the watering hole (excuse the unintentional pun) at the ninth, partaking of mince pies, scotch and/or beer supplied by the section.

RESULTS: Overall winners - J Hill; C Reed; S Reed & J McEnaney. Second - C Allan; A Gale; A Ford & R Elderfield. Third - G Barr; P Ward; G Meldrum & B Wilmot. Fourth - P Ray; A Murray; J Warner & T Collier. Nearest the pin competitions were won by T Batts; C Allan; R Hughes and B Wilmot, with longest drives won by the 'sluggers', S Shelford and P Ray.

Special thanks must go to Littlehampton GC for their hospitality yet again and to the catering staff for a superb evening meal, also to George Barr as MC (or stand-up comic?) and to all who attended this most enjoyable day.

I'm sure the section would like to wish both Raymond Day and Dennis Ayling all the very best in their new appointments at Sundridge Park and Rowlands Castle respectively, also to Nick Beadle, who is 'in-between' courses at present. Finally, congratulations to Leigh Bennett and his wife on the birth of Rosie.

MARK WILTON



DEVON & CORNWALL

Seventy nine members and trade guests attended our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 9 December, which was again held at Okehampton GC. Despite weeks of rain, Richard Wisdom and his staff had the course in excellent playing order for our Greensome competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy. Our non-golfers had the customary course walk before lunch, this highlighted with an inspection of the two new greens under construction. After an excellent Christmas dinner we were entertained by the superb 'Tank Sherman'. Patrick Flegg of PJ Flegg then presented the golf prizes to M. Shoobridge & P. Bond (Sidmouth) 42pts (1st). A. James & A. Ramsden (Budock Vean) 40pts (2nd). A. Hayes (China Fleet) & R. Hughes (St Mellion) 38pts (3rd).

Our thanks to Patrick for both donating and presenting the golf prizes and to our president Don Hunt for supplying the wine at dinner. Our raffles concluded the day with the first draw, two hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha, won by two of our Cornish members, J Stevens and J Mitchell. The second raffle was for the prizes kindly donated by members and the trade. The section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton GC for once again allowing us the use of their facilities.

Our best wishes to Peter Winter, formerly with Fison's, as he embarks on his new career.

Dates for your diary: February meeting on Wed. 24 at Perranporth GC. March meeting on Wed. 24 at Woodbury Park GC. WESTURF Trade Show on Wed. 28 April at Long Ashton GC., Bristol.

RICHARD WHYMAN



SURREY

Effingham GC hosted our final golf event of 1992 on 10 December on a course that was a credit to Peter Broadbent and his staff. Scoring was good with Brian Eastman 'stuffing' the rest and taking the turkey with 41 points. Thanks as ever to the Effingham club for their excellent hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Following prize presentations the AGM was held and in his chairman's report, Terry Huntly announced that 1992 had been a good year for the Surrey section with winter lectures and golf events very well attended. In addition, despite the generous donation of £1000 to the Gold Key Fund, the accounts showed a very healthy balance. The committee members were elected en-bloc for 1993, with no new committee members nominated.

Jim Parker stepped down as president, receiving thanks for his many years of support, and Bert Watson was promoted to president with Alec Bradshaw and Ron Jobson elected vice-presidents. Please note that Mike Yorston is now in charge of handicaps and secretary Derek Walder will be receiving competition entries directly in 1993.

Gareth Roberts of Hankley Common must have been nursing sore feet following his 126 holes of golf played for charity - this over the North Middlesex GC - starting at 7am and finishing at 4.15 pm.

Looking well ahead to 1994, if any member can offer the use of his golf club for section events, please contact Derek Walder.

ROGER TYDEMAN

CLEVELAND

Congratulation to Ian Harrison of Darlington GC on his success in the ICI Premier greenkeeper of the Year award. This bright young head greenkeeper has put together a modern maintenance complex at Darlington with health and safety very much to the fore, along with exemplary record-keeping and a fine pesticide store. Ian's attitude to safe working is a model of efficiency and his staff are very supportive. Darlington GC should be very proud of 'their' man - good luck in the future, Ian.

Our December meeting took the form of a quiz - Cleveland BIGGA v Teeside IoG - sponsored by TurfCare of Co. Durham and chaired most ably by quiz-master Terry Charlton, TurfCare's managing director. The quiz victors were the IoG, though it could be said that the overall winner was the friendly atmosphere that pervaded throughout. Congratulations to David Cook of Eaglescliffe GC on passing his PA2 sprayer test.

BRUCE BURNELL



SOUTH COAST

For the first time ever a section tournament had to be cancelled due to poor weather. After days of heavy rain, including the day itself, the December Turkey Trot was cancelled, with players stranded in the clubhouse. Fortunately the bar remained open and with cable TV and several video games available members still had

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SCOTTISH REGION CONERENCE

on March 9th, 1993 at Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, 9am to 4pm

Speakers: Alasdair Wellwood, Roy Auld, John Philp, BIGGA's Education Officer David Golding, Eddie Connaughton, Jon Allbutt, Steven Miller from Oatridge College and Jim Grainger. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £10 BIGGA members, £12.50 non-members. The conference is sponsored by the Scottish Region patrons.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 31445

During the afternoon the section AGM was held, with Mark Todd joining the committee and Kerran Daly elected as regional representative in place of Ken Lodge, who had stepped down.

The section welcomed national chairman Roy Kates to the meeting, Roy giving a very comprehensive report on the activities of the BIGGA Board of Management. This was very much appreciated and gave members an insight into the forward planning of the Association.

The section Christmas dinner followed the AGM and sixty members and guests enjoyed an excellent traditional Christmas dinner provided by the stewardship of the Royal Winchester Golf Club. Although it had not been possible to play, the turkey trot vouchers kindly supplied by New Forest Farm Machinery and Rigby Taylor were raffled with three £10 vouchers going to the lucky winners.

By coincidence the first ticket drawn belonged to Mark Wilton of Rigby Taylor. However, I can assure readers that Mark quickly returned the ticket and insisted on a re-draw.

My thanks to Mark and Nick Clarke for sponsoring the event and to David Williams, secretary to the club, for allowing the section the courtesy of the clubhouse. Players for the Regional Tournament in June were also drawn (from those who volunteered) and I shall be writing shortly to those who were selected.

Our final winter lecture will be on Wednesday 3 March starting at 7.00pm. The venue is Alresford GC and our speaker is Paul Baxter, deputy secretary of the English Golf Union. Mr Baxter will be talking on the R&A document, 'The Way Forward', which contains a number of proposals on the future of golf. This should prove a lively meeting and I would urge all members to support this winter finale.

BOB DENNIS

KENT

Our Annual Turkey Trot was staged at West Malling GC and, as it turned out, happened to be 'turkey less'. Our gracious host did us proud with a fine roast beef carvery meal, a fine change with the Christmas festivities rapidly approaching. Many thanks to course manager and club captain, Chris Mardon, and his staff for presenting the course to such a fine standard, especially as we have all had such a dreadful time this winter with the continual rain. Many of us shot admiring glances at Chris's ride-on fairway mower, seeing fairways presented so well. As for the golf, well not too serious as everybody went home with a prize on this occasion (for some of us the only time!). The winner and first pick of the assorted prizes went to Knowle Park's Andy Arthur, who somehow managed to amass 39 points, something of a surprise as most reports on his play suggested he may not have made a double figure score. It was pleasing to see some new faces and indeed some old ones reappearing, despite the cold and damp conditions.

Our AGM was, for us, fairly well attended, with numbers topping the 30 mark, though this still only represented about 25% of our registered Kent membership. David Wood outlined our activities over 1992 and reminded us of our stirring success in hosting the BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone GC. Much applause was again directed towards Malcolm Grand. For the coming year we are to host the regional seminar in the autumn, the regional qualifying round of the new national competition (replacing the Iseki). Not least, we have The Open Championship on home ground at Royal St. George's in July. If you wish to join the 1993 Open support team, get your name in early!

I am pleased to report that a few points were raised from the floor this year, the main one being the continuing poor attendance at many of our events, this despite our high registered membership. A social or ladies evening was suggested, but as my wife frowns whenever the four letter word 'golf' is mentioned or talk of greenkeeping is even hinted, I dare say being in a room with thirty others talking 'shop' would not go down as a glitzy night out. However all suggestions will be warmly aired

AROUND THE GREEN



by the committee during the year. The meeting was rounded off by those attending thanking our trade members for their continued support and John Millen reporting the activities of the Association at a higher level, with regard to the strides BIGGA is making within the golf industry: the formulation and continuation of our training programmes, the success of our magazine and the news that John will have the honour of becoming the Association's



chairman in two years time. The only bad news is that you lot will have to put up with reading my drivel in 'Around the Green' for at least another year. Serves you right for misdemeanours in a past life!

PAUL COPSEY

MID ANGLIA

Our final golfing event of 1992 was held on 3 Dec at South Beds GC, the format being the now usual Texas Scramble. The event attracted 22 teams – 88 golfers in total – with teams comprising greenkeepers, trade members, guests and professionals. A Texas Scramble is an ideal competition to stage in December as it enables golfers of all abilities to take part in the fun – and it was great to see so many trade members 'having a go'. Most courses in the area were closed at this time so it was lucky that we could play at all. Fortunately, South Beds GC is situated on chalk and drains well. Thanks to all my staff for their hard work in preparation of the course.

Thanks also to Kingston House Mowers for again sponsoring the event and to John Glyn-Davies of Kingston House, who additionally donated a trophy to be presented to the greenkeeper with the best scores in our 1993 spring, summer and autumn tournaments. The scramble itself was won by John's team (John & A Glyn-Davies, Ian Clark & Stewart Boyes), but for obvious reasons they relinquished their claim to the prize, although Stewart Boyes received a prize as the greenkeeper in their team. The subsequent results were: 1st D Pemberton, J Moorehouse, J Blair & L Cant (Brocket Hall). 2nd G Bruce, S Proudfoot (Berkhamsted), A Beaton & A Evans (South Beds). 3rd T McReady, M Hall, M Hatcher & H Ainsworth (Royston). Winners received vouchers for £20 (first), £15 (second), and £10 (third).

Our thanks to the committee of South Beds for allowing us to stage the competition and for the courtesy of their course, also to the steward for providing an excellent meal. In addition, our thanks to all members of the trade both for attending and donating prizes: Colin White (Rigby Taylor), David Murphy (Sta Brite), Mark Hillier, Ken Polley (Maxwell Hart), Chas. Ayres (Lodgeway Tractor Co), David Hawkins (Pattissons), Liam Galway (CMW Equipment) and Derek Prior (Rogers Engineers).

Our next section event will be a lecture at Beadlow Manor GC on 2 March, when David Golding, BIGGA's education officer, will discuss 'Greenkeeper Training'.

We all know the importance of greenkeeper education and training, so let's have a good turn-out to show our support for the efforts of David in particular and BIGGA in general. This event will be followed later in the month by a trip to Jacobsen on 23 March. If you are interested please contact Gerald Bruce.



PAUL LOCKETT

EAST ANGLIA

The Turkey Trot/AGM was held at Aldeburgh GC early in December when about 40 members attended and a good time was had by all.

The CMW turkey voucher was won by Peter Howard (37 pts) with Mike Moss (35) second. Andy Turbin won the longest drive and Alan Carter won nearest the pin.

The prizes were donated by CMW; Rushbrooks; Pattissons and Rigby Taylor. Our thanks to Aldeburgh GC for having us – it is an honour to be granted the use of such a lovely old clubhouse for our annual general meetings and we greatly appreciate it.

The AGM was very interesting and all the officers were re-elected.

I would like to record a big 'thank you' to our chairman, Sam Sylvester, who does so much work for us in a style that is quite unique, coupled with endless patience. Sam Sylvester and Michael Peters are a grand double act and we would be in a muddle without them – thanks!

There was much discussion at the AGM on 'greenkeeper image' and how to improve it. Qualifications was the obvious one.

I'm all for studying – both on and off the course – and thanks to BIGGA, there appears at last to be some really good greenkeeping exams coming through.

It would be nice to get more support from the golfers though, for they do all the moanin' and greenkeepers do all the payin'!

What must you do to get on BIGGA Minimum Wage Scale? I've got a mate who started greenkeeping as a 16 year old and served three years as an apprentice, followed by five years as a first assistant. He gained IoG exams (only exams available in 1967) and an EIGGA Gold Diploma. For twenty years he's been a head greenkeeper and last year he managed for the first time to get minimum rate. This year he's below minimum again, his club refusing to go for a 5% increase. He cares for 900 members and his course is considered 'a good one to play'. Naturally, he's quite 'excited' by all this but doubtless will soldier on and hope that his loyalty will eventually be recognised – after 21 years at the same club.

A few New Year thoughts – 'The first thing a greenkeeper should do is get a wife who can support him financially'. I wouldn't mind a pound for every time I've heard it said 'there's a wind of change on the way in greenkeeping'. After 29 years in this game I might just be believing it. I will say it's not for the lack of trying on the greenkeepers' part. Despite my grumblings, however, there's no doubt there *are* some huge strides being made. Royal recognition at Harrogate will go a long way to making the profession more credible in more peoples' eyes – and that can't be a bad thing. Membership is up, the magazine's looking good – the time's come to be a lot more positive about the future.

That's it lads, so get qualified and keep listening.

MICK LATHROPE

MIDLANDS

The Midland section held their Christmas Tournament on 7 December at Beau Desert GC., the course playing remarkably well considering the very wet weather. The event was won by Mike Hughes with a fine 39 points – we thank Beau Desert and their staff for a wonderful day. We would also like to thank the many people – individuals and companies – who have supported us through 1992.

Combined with our Christmas Tournament came the section AGM, held after the game and attended by some fifty or so people. All went well and we welcome Rhys Thomas, Steve Blakeman and Brian Nuttall to the committee. Remaining places are filled thus: President – R Pugh, chairperson – A Kite, vice chairperson – M Hughes, secretary – D Cleaver. The remaining committee – S Wood, P Woodward and I Bettelstone.



DEAN CLEAVER

NORTHERN

Our winter lecture series is now at the half way stage. May I thank Jeff Linley and his team from Nu-Trel Products, who gave us an in-depth look at the way to fertilise through the use of soil and plant tissue analysis, also to John Hannah of Boral Lytag, who presented a very informative slide show on the manufacturing of their products and showing the various uses of Boral Lytag material for drainage purposes.

In December we had an excellent day out when Richard Furness and Keith Millington (from Mitchells) arranged a visit to the John Deere plant in Nottingham. Our thanks to them. I apologise to those members who wanted to go but were turned down (the bus being filled to capacity) and suggest there must be a lesson to be learned, which is – put your name down early to avoid disappointment.

As you are all aware the Christmas golf was cancelled, due again to inclement weather. The AGM did however take place, though not too many members turned up for this. I thank those who made the effort and voiced their opinions on various matters relevant to our section. I think the furthest travelled was George Elsom, all the way from Hull.

The officers and committee elected for 1993 are: Section president-Bill Mountain. (Bill informed me that 1993 will be his 33rd year in office, all I can say is keep up the good work), chairman-Phillip Taylor, secretary/treasurer-Pat Murphy, committee-Bob Lupton (also regional administrator), Alan Gamble, Ian Thompson, Dennis Cockburn, Colin Garnett, Telford Jarvis, David Thackray, Robert Gee, and last but not least, Andrew Smith. May I welcome the three new men who have joined us on committee, I am sure you will enjoy your term in office.

On behalf of the Northern section may I also thank Brian Carr for time and effort so freely contributed to our section during his time in office. I heard he was involved in a car accident recently and wish him a speedy recovery.

A date for your diary: The Northern Section Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 19 March at Shipley GC, Beckfoot Lane, Bingley. There will be live entertainment with an opportunity to dance as well – tickets £12.50 each. I can assure members they will not be disappointed with the evening, so please book early as tickets are limited. Send your cheques to me at 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4RL.

Golf events for 1993 are in the process of being finalised, with the venues for this season being Sand Moor GC., Hull GC., Pannal GC., Kirkbymoorside GC., and Fulford GC for the Rosh Match. Details will be posted as soon as I have them available.

The only news I have from the section is that David Thackray has been promoted to head greenkeeper at Bradford GC – congratulations to you David, and may all of your problems be little ones! If members can contribute news will they please call me on 0274 568128, or write to the above address. Thank you.



PAT MURPHY

NORTH WALES

On Thursday 10 December we should have held our Christmas competition at Abergele & Pensarn GC, but due to the monsoon type weather we have been having lately, the course was flooded. Course manager Brian Anderson (who at the time was busy building his ark, or was it a new garage?) decided that if every member had his own coracle, there might have been a chance, but considering a normal golf bag does not have room for one, we were delighted when Nefyn GC offered us courtesy of their course.

Thanks therefore must go to the secretary, committee and members of Nefyn GC for allowing us courtesy of their course, also to Pat McAteer and his green staff for course excellence and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. We had over 50 playing, which considering the change of venue and at such short notice, was an excellent turn out – thanks for

AROUND THE GREEN



your support.

A popular winner with a score of 75 was Mr Organiser himself, Terry Adamson, with A. Evans second on 76. Third was J. Humphreys 76, fourth P. Jeffries 76. Winner of the guest prize, with an excellent score of 69, was J. Harris, 2nd E. Camble, 70, 3rd A. Bonatti 72. (all scores nett).

Many thanks to the following sponsors: Bruera, Gem Professional, Pro-Turf, R Campey, Mommersteg, Walker Engineering, J Osman and especially Rigby Taylor, who through no fault of their own (but mine), have not been mentioned in our notes, even though they continue still to support our events.

On 11 February STRI will present a seminar at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop. Please come and support us and bring along your green chairman – all are welcome, starts around 1.00 pm.

The committee would like to thank all members, guests and golf clubs for supporting our competitions and seminars in 1992 and hope that your support will continue into 1993 – a prosperous new year to you all.

DAVID PROCTOR

NORTH WEST

On 16 December last at Bury GC, John Hacker of Professional Sportsturf Design gave 28 members a very interesting talk on 'Construction of British Golf Greens'. This was aided by a series of slides collected by John since his days as a tutor at Myrscough, showing the step by step construction of standard and sand greens and including various types of drainage systems. His talk generated many questions and talking points and made for a good educational evening. On behalf of the NW section I thank John for his time and expertise.

Our next talk, also at Bury GC, will be held on Wednesday 24 February, starting at 7.00pm. Our speaker will be John Hughes of British Seed Houses, who will be advising us on 'Improved grass cultivars and their maintenance'. A good attendance would be appreciated.

The first golf fixture of 1993 will be the North West versus North Wales match on Monday 26 April at Llanymynech GC. I will require a team of at least sixteen, so if you are interested in playing, please contact me on 051 724 5412, BERT CROSS



EAST MIDLANDS

For members who did not attend the AGM in November, the elected officers for 1993 are as follows. Chairman-Dave Perkins, vice chairman-Steve Goode, committee- Nick Root; Adie Porter; Walter Cole; Dave Leatherhead; Paddy McCarron; Bob Holt; Graham Arnold and Richard Barker.

In the Christmas competition held at Birstall GC on 16 December, our associate members excelled in a damp Stableford competition, with Nick Danvers winning the 0-9 section and John Burnham the 10-18's. Many thanks to Birstall for an enjoyable day.

The section's remaining silverware was distributed at the above event. So that you know who you have to beat this year, the winners are: Scratch Shield -Richard Barker; Toro Cup – Adie Porter; Vice President's Cup – Gary Thurman; Supaturf K/O Cup – Anthony Bindley. Highmere Pairs Silver – Anthony Bindley and Martin Hopkins.

The section is pleased once again to welcome new members – John Cumberland, who is currently studying at Brackenhurst College, and Richard

Fletcher of Ramsdale GC.



Finally, I neglected to mention that I have been elected to bore you all to tears for another year. I am still available on 0509 650140 and remain, your humble secretary, TONY HOWORTH

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The annual dinner was held in December at Stirling GC, when former SFA secretary Ernie Walker; OBE, was the guest speaker. Mr Walker very generously donated his fee to the Variety Club of Great Britain – to go toward providing Sunshine coaches for kids. Everyone who attended had a great night and following its success, it is intended to hold a dinner/dance this year at which trophies won during 1993 can be presented.

The annual prize draw was held also and our sincere thanks go to Leslie Walker, described by the chairman as 'my friend Ernie's beautiful daughter' (he had only met Ernie 30 minutes earlier!), who made the draw on our behalf. Thanks to everyone who donated to the prize table – eighteen prizes in all.

The prize draw is the largest fund-raiser for our section and my thanks go to everyone who supported it by selling their allocation of tickets. The biggest disappointment about this venture is that 81 members are still holding some 480 books of tickets – which means a loss of £480 to the section education fund. This in spite of everyone being asked to return tickets if they had no intention of selling them! Please give your committee and your section some support.

Three members of the section, Graham Wallace (Gleneagles), Neil Ballingall (Lundin Links) and Colin Wade (Haggs Castle) won an expenses paid trip to BTME. Well done lads!

As previously reported, the Spring Tournament will be held at Gleneagles in April and will be a qualifying event for the Hayter Tournament (previously Iseki). Full details will be circulated. We are indebted to the Gleneagles Hotel management for courtesy of their Queens course for this event, also for donating a prize to the prize draw – A day at Gleneagles for two players, any time in 1993. It is nice to know that a company as large as Gleneagles can still find time to give support to BIGGA events.

Still on the subject of Gleneagles, if any member wishes to be involved in the Bell's Scottish Open at Gleneagles in July, by becoming a member of the bunker-raking team, please contact me as soon as possible. A letter regarding this will be circulated shortly.



Ideas are being sought for social events throughout the year: events in which wives/ girlfriends/friends can get involved. If you have any ideas on the subject just drop me a line.

JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH WALES

We held our Christmas competition on 16 December at Pyle and Kenfig GC, 18 holes of golf in truly wintery conditions. This year the turn-out was poor with only 20 players venturing out on a cold day, though fortunately without the showers that so often go with it. The competition was well fought, with only 12 points separating first from last and the winner of the Vitax Shield (plus a decanter set, donated by Alan Stow) with 35 points was Andrew Jenkins, with M Jones (34) runner-up and H Morgan (31) third. Our thanks to the membership of Pyle and Kenfig, especially secretary Roger Thomas and the club captain, for courtesies extended throughout the day, also to Paul Robinson and his crew for the condition of the course – once again in fine fettle for this time of the year and finally to the caterers for taking care of our hunger with delicious Christmas fare.

The chairman, H Parry, along with administrator elect H Morgan, presented replica awards to the following: L Hallett; A Panks and T King (medals) for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks ➔ 46

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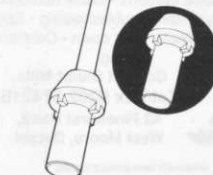
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