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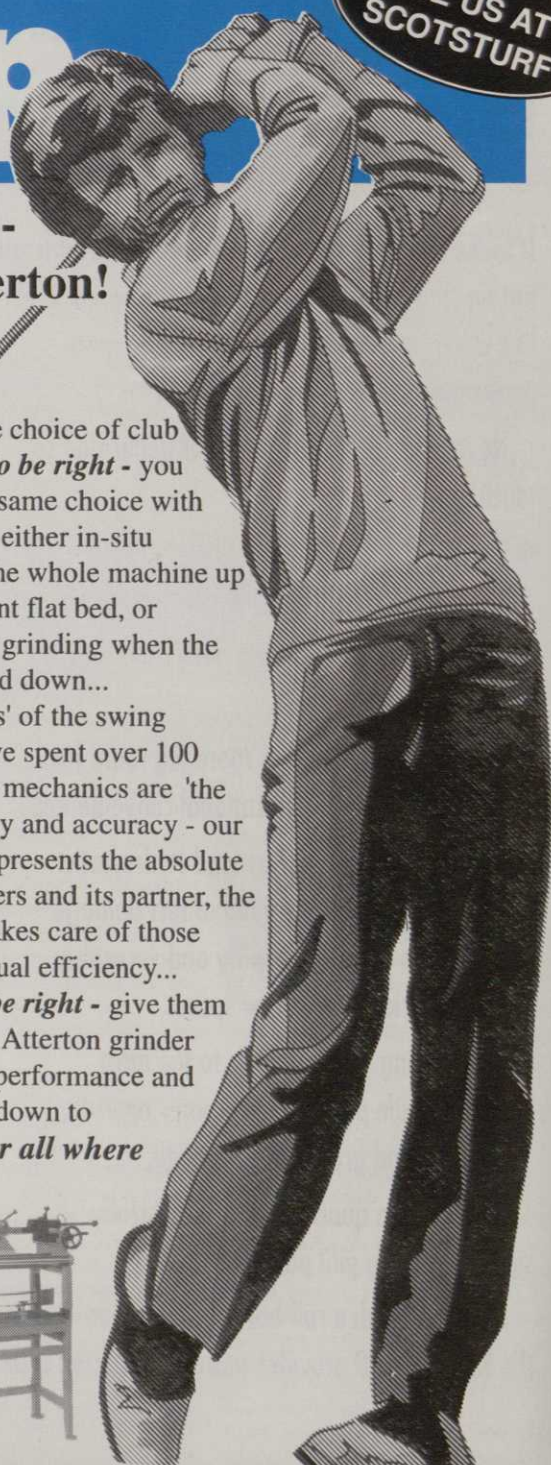
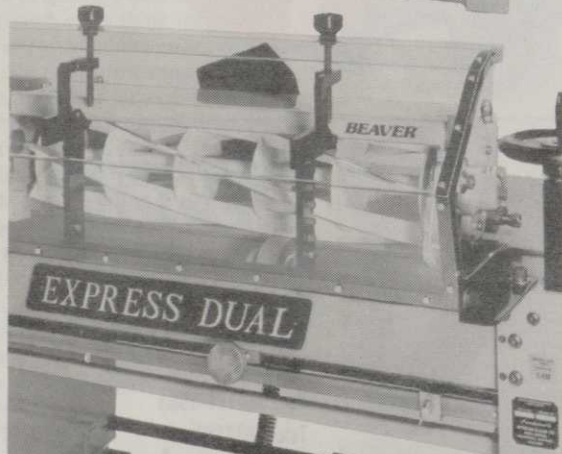
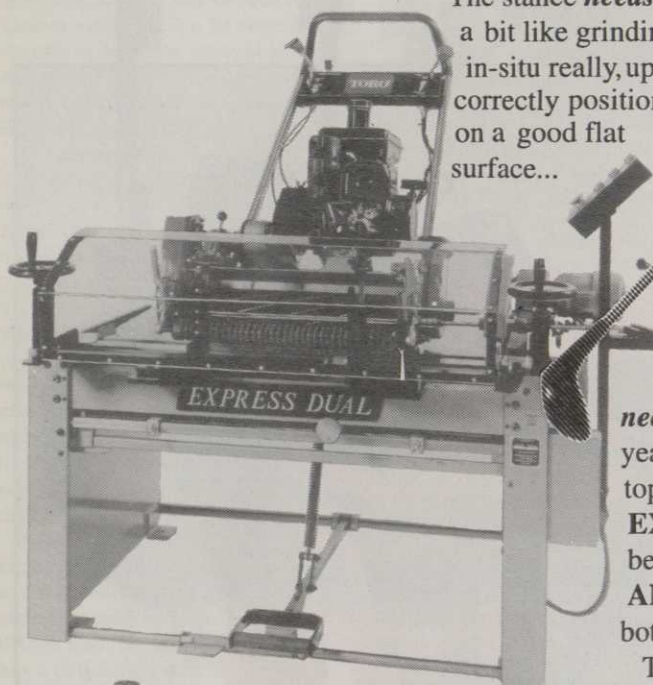
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BONES OF CONTENTION

As long as it looks good...

There are many styles of management utilised in the interests of producing a first class golf course in top notch playing condition. Unfortunately, the pressures placed on many greenkeepers – to produce playing conditions under difficult circumstances – result in the art of greenkeeping, i.e. the production of fescue and agrostis playing surfaces, often being given low priority and with a greater emphasis placed on the intensive management of *Poa annua* in an effort to mimic conditions naturally produced in fine turf.

As these meadowgrass conditions are becoming the norm, and are widely accepted by club golfers and pro's alike, the question now being asked is not 'how do you produce quality turf grasses?', but rather 'what do they look like?'. How therefore can we expect golfers to appreciate the benefits of quality turf when opinions on what actually constitutes quality turf vary according to the surfaces played upon. This leaves agrostis and fescue greens at a disadvantage as they are not produced often enough, and those who have the privilege of playing on them regularly take them for granted.

Although there is now a greater demand for information regarding traditional maintenance practices, that demand, I believe, comes from a minority of greenkeepers with traditional quality in mind. By the same standard, as fewer people now are familiar with these practices, our growing profession is becoming a dying art.

I'm sure the tongues are already wagging to the song, 'That's OK for links courses, but you can't grow bent and fescue here.' Of course there may be conditions which make the corrective process difficult to achieve satisfactorily over every green, but it should also be noted that though it takes time to produce fescue areas, agrostis is a very competitive grass when given a chance – and we can't all claim to be the exception.

For the programme to be considered successful, 100% bent and fescue is not necessarily demanded, although a high percentage should certainly be the aim. Part of the problem is that greenkeepers undertaking a corrective policy don't know what to expect, and when *Poa annua* begins to look sickly, the tendency is to change the programme by way of a fertiliser application.

However, after the first season, signs of agrostis begin to show in the form of small veins through areas of the turf.

Those on links courses may be more fortunate, with small areas of fescue (which may have been overpowered in the past) now showing in patches, indeed becoming more competitive as their environmental conditions change. But there are other changes which the greenkeeper does not see, and these are the ones which can cause the biggest problem. As an example, within an improvement programme the greenkeeper may be determined to discover what happens under extreme conditions, and in so doing he may be seen as greenkeeping for personal satisfaction and not acting in the best interests of his club. This may take the form of drying turf excessively when this is not required, or some other exaggeration of what he deems 'necessary' in the requirements of a corrective programme.

Although this is not part of an improvement programme, it is often labelled as such, suggesting therefore the poor conditions which a corrective programme creates – NOT TRUE. This proves often to be a golfer's impression, and can be a valuable learning experience for those who continue. For others, however, a loss of interest, coupled with pressure from club officials, can result in an about-turn of policy and a return to intensively managed *Poa annua*. However, the programme does work, albeit demanding a degree of patience, commonsense and the determination to succeed.

In carrying out a corrective programme, tremendous pressures may be placed on the head greenkeeper, thus making it even more vital that he communicates adequately at committee level, and informs the membership generally of all progress and of the benefits to be gained from year-round improved conditions.

The greenkeeper, I believe, must present himself in such a professional manner, otherwise those from a different sector of the golf industry may well be given administrative positions to cover perceived shortfalls within his domain, and the greenkeeper will again be pushed to the background. Further, as his work encourages the growth of visitors and increases income for club, professional and steward alike, the

greenkeeper may find nothing more than an increased workload, created by the effects of added traffic, and receive no professional recognition.

We now have a very strange situation in British greenkeeping which I am sure we all find of interest in varying degrees, depending on whether we support the use of creeping bents or are just plain inquisitive of the conditions under which they will survive and the surfaces they will produce. That situation is further confused in that we are requested now to consider the management of grasses for turf that are not naturally dominant in our climate, when we haven't even mastered the production of grasses which are!

I was interested also to read some months ago about the speed of greens being a reason for cutting greens at 3/16 of an inch, however it should be noted that carrying out maintenance methods

for indigenous turf generally produces greens with exceptionally fast surfaces, and heights may require to be raised in order to maintain putting speeds that are acceptable to the majority of club golfers. This being the case, one of the major limiting factors of fine turf – ultra close mowing – can be eliminated.

In a nearby golf shop the following verse is displayed:

*Those who work with their hands
are tradesmen,*

*Those who work with their hands
and their heads are craftsmen,*

*But those who work with their
hands, their heads and their hearts
are artists.*

I think this describes greenkeepers very well.

■ This contribution to 'Bones of Contention' is from William McKechnie, assistant links superintendent at Carnoustie Golf Links, Angus, Scotland.



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Bill Hawthorn looks at the history of golf course irrigation in the UK

There is a widely held belief that automatic irrigation of golf courses is a relatively modern intervention. At the 19th hole you will hear tales of golf courses that have supposedly been 'ruined' by pop-up sprinkler irrigation and in particular you will hear reference to some of the famous links courses, with tales of how their fairways have been totally wrecked. It might therefore surprise some of you to learn that two of the oldest golf courses in Britain have practised fairway irrigation for over 90 years. At St Andrews the pipeline system through the Links essentially comprises a five inch cast iron main which was laid down in the last century, including hydrant outlet points along the fairways. The Royal St Georges Golf Club at Sandwich had a cast iron main installed at the beginning of this century and that also had hydrant outlet points for the fairways. It is interesting to note also that the pipeline laid at St Andrews all those years ago forms part of a modern automated irrigation system in use today.

Irrigation of golf courses was a labour intensive affair until the

1960s. In more leisurely times, when the amount of play on courses was quite low and labour was cheap, it made sense for water to be applied by a hand-held hose or from a strategically placed rotating sprinkler. These rotating sprinklers came into being in the 1920s. They were normally heavy iron affairs requiring two men to drag them about

and having giant arms which rotated by a reaction from the water jet. In 1933 in the USA the impact drive mechanism for rotating a sprinkler was invented, leading immediately to a dramatic reduction in the size of the sprinkler unit. The design developed at that time continues to remain in production throughout the world in a funda-

mentally unchanged form.

In the United States during the late 1950s it became apparent that if one of these compact sprinklers could be taken and placed into housing in the ground, the design to 'pop-up' when the water came on, one could more conveniently set a sprinkler system to water a golf course. Hence the pop-



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up sprinkler for heavy turf applications was born. Engineers worked on other ways of rotating sprinklers, mainly by using a turbine driven by water through the gears. In this way the gear-driven pop-up sprinkler was born. American engineers soon began to utilise these sprinklers in order to more easily irrigate the thousands of golf courses in the Sunbelt states of the USA and quite soon on golf courses located in hot climates in other parts of the world.

In 1964 the writer was charged with the task of introducing automatic pop-up sprinkler irrigation to British golf courses. It was in the winter of 1964/65 that three courses had an automatic system introduced to water their greens, the very first being the Handsworth Golf Club in Birmingham. The technology was basic, although the fundamental principals were the same as they are today. That system had five plastic gear-driven sprinklers around each green, fed with water by a 24 volt AC pilot solenoid operated valve connected by a network of cables back to a sequence timer at the pumphouse. The water was drawn into the system from a lake,

utilising an item which is still in common use today: a Grundfos multistage pump.

Although the impetus to develop the first pop-up sprinkler equipment and control systems lay in the USA, mainly due to their climatic conditions dictating the development of a sophisticated irrigation manufacturing base, from the very beginning British engineers started to introduce their own ideas. The American approach to controlling sprinklers was by using a hydraulic control tube arrangement with miles of spaghetti-like plastic tubes connected to a controller of the rotary valve system variety. We British took the American valves and modified them for electrical operation. In a similar manner, the first reliable irrigation controller was an American hydraulic unit converted into electrical operation.

Those who are unaware of the complexities of keeping a golf course in top condition are often amazed to discover that irrigation takes place in the UK at all. Although it rains frequently it is also a cruel fact that rain does not always fall at exactly the → 36

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'The major advantage of an automatically controlled system is in the word 'control'.'

35 → right time. Golf course greens in particular are now constructed to provide exceedingly free draining surfaces which remain suitable for play in the wettest conditions. Consequently, in any spell of dry weather, moisture levels soon fall to a point where turfgrass can enter into a stress condition. The major advantage of an automatically controlled system may be found in the word 'control'. It is vital that a greenkeeper should be

able to apply just the right amount of water at just the right time if he is to obtain the best results.

Since those early days there has been an explosion in the number of supplying companies and the range of irrigation equipment available. Equally, the extent of irrigation considered necessary has grown in line with the demand for golf. With golf courses crammed with players from dawn to dusk, an efficient automatic watering system has

become as vital a tool for the greenkeeper to maintain a course in good condition as having a good mower or slitter.

It was British irrigation engineers who first tackled the problems of complexity in an installation by reducing the amount of electric cable necessary. The first ever successful two-wire irrigation controller was produced by Watermation in the late 1970s and it may now be seen that two or

three wire digitally controlled systems are the norm. Manufacture in the UK of pop-up sprinklers and control systems began in earnest as a real commercial proposition in the early 1980s. Now, by way of a most welcome reversal, British made pop-up sprinklers are being exported for installation on golf courses in the USA.

■ The author, Bill Hawthorn, is managing director of Watermation Sprinkler & Controls Limited.

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Shutting down the system for winter

With tongue lodged firmly in cheek, Jack Wheeler, director of Watermation Maintenance Limited, suggested to editor White that the best possible tip he could give would be to provide his telephone number, thus saving readers the problems he describes as 'an endless list of pitfalls.' However, Jack insists that if you are going to undertake the shut-down task, the following are a few MUSTS.

- Start with the water supply. If you have a storage tank fed from the Water Authority main, turn off the stopcock and remove the plug from the base of the water meter. This item is often overlooked and an expensive error if replaced.
- The riser feeding the ball valve needs to be drained, and the arm and float removed. If this is not removed, when the tank freezes the float is forced upwards, causing damage to the valve seat or breaking the arm.
- Leave the tank full with water. If emptied, strong winds have been known to blow tanks off their concrete base. With a stream or lake as the water supply, remove the suction float and pipework.
- Pump House. Ensure that water cannot enter the pump house by shutting the suction valve. If this is inside the house and not underground, ensure that it is properly lagged, otherwise it will split and discharge the tank full of water. Remove both top and bottom plugs from the pump. There is a fair chance that corrosion or muck will block these, so rod them out. The pressure vessel needs draining of both water and air pressure. If the air remains in the vessel, undue strain will occur at the top and bottom flanges. Open all remaining pump house drain cocks. Obviously the pump must not run when drained, so remove pump fuses or open circuit breakers.
- On the course. Frost damage to pipework buried on the golf course in this country is rare. Manual hydrants should be opened at all the low greens and ditch crossings. Other than this, leaving the controller operating for a programmed one minute each week will ensure any water left in the pipes will be expelled through the pop-ups or auto drain valves. Furthermore, this will keep the solenoid pins from seizing up.

With all of the above completed, you should be able to relax for winter and enjoy Christmas.

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

On 28 October, ten BIGGA members met for their first official meeting, staged at De Hilversumsche, a club offering us a most hospitable welcome and the use of their board-room.

According to the agenda of about eight points, the meeting began with an explanation of the present situation within BIGGA, and of course the future, especially the Association's desire to become more active internationally.

A 'Master Plan' for Europe was brought forward and a proposal was made urging members to travel to Harrogate for BTME '94 in order to attend the next European Forum, where all kinds of ideas and good intentions will be discussed. Hopefully, some of these will be put into practice within a reasonable time-span.

On the subject of raising 'live' matters amongst members, one significant question was posed: 'what kind of relationship will there be between BIGGA Holland and the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association (NGA)'?

It must be made clear that this must be one of a positive and constructive nature. An invitation will be sent to the secretary of the NGA to meet and discuss such matters, whilst at the same time the Netherlands Golf Federation will be invited to meet BIGGA Holland members. Members will be kept up to date on these activities. We have agreed that our next meeting will take place in February 1994.

Further points discussed posed questions of 'how and where the Association might be of assistance to its members here. 1) The position of the course manager/head greenkeeper. 2) The level of maintenance of Dutch courses. It became clear that on education and training, we in Holland might benefit from UK programmes which have already proved their value in Britain.

At the time scheduled the first meeting came to an end, though with many things requiring further thought and planning. In the bar we enjoyed a few drinks, sandwiches etc. BIGGA Holland has been lucky to find local sponsorship so quickly, provided by Pro-Grass (Professionals in Grass service). Pro-Grass managing director, Jan van Mondfrans, (a BIGGA member), will support this foreign section in the immediate future and we are most grateful for his kind gesture.



My personal thanks to Rob Judels, who has provided me with the notes taken by him, vitally necessary if I am to make a full report, which will most certainly find its way onto Neil Thomas's desk at Aldwark Manor.

FREDERICK ten HAGE

KENT

September 15 saw our Autumn Tournament at Langley Park, a day blessed by a fine morning, though a dull afternoon, and all a welcome change from the very wet weather we seem to have had of late. The morning Stableford competition was a hotly contested affair, with Rob Lucas coming out on top with 33 points, just in front of Peter Biscoe and Neal Carter on 32. Peter, just second on back nine score, held up English pride and prevented a Welsh whitewash.

A Stableford was again the format after lunch, the Sta-Brite Shield this time, bringing out the best in the Scots. The head and shoulders winner (in more ways than one), clear above the field was Malcolm Arthur with 35 points, whilst keeping it in the family in second place came Andy Arthur with 30 points. Sneaking into third was Langley Park's very own Derek Gould. The best trade score was that of Brian Willmot, whilst nearest the pin prize, kindly donated by Derek Gould, was won by Russell Judd. We all had a very enjoyable day and express thanks to our gracious hosts at Langley Park for looking after us so well. The catering staff put on a fine spread and those of us who took the hearty breakfast at 7.45 am certainly appreciate the stamina

exhibited in providing us with such a fine evening roast dinner. Many thanks to Derek and his hard working green staff. I think we can all appreciate it was a rather odd late summer period, although not too hot and sunny, very dry and then into early autumn and lashings of rain. Thanks to Langley's captain, Ian Russell, for presenting the prizes and to our trade friends for again supporting our events, especially Chris Sharp and Sta-Brite for donating the splendid afternoon prizes.

Let me recount some freak events of the day. On the first hole in the morning Andy Arthur managed to wrap a seven iron round a tree, snapping the shaft in two. If that wasn't enough to cause a major twinge in a Scotsman's pocket, on the same hole in the afternoon his tee shot saw not only the ball go flying up the fairway, but also the driver head, this time the shaft having snapped at the socket. This would not have normally been such a financial disaster, but it was one of those £100 carbon shafted jobs!

Pattison's Brian Willmot appeared to be on a bit of a 'small game shoot' in the afternoon: not content with almost knocking seven bells out of a duck as his ball plummeted into the pond at the 18th hole (our 6th), his topped tee shot at the next nearly decapitated a squirrel. The poor creature was somewhat startled, one minute playing with his nuts, the next almost a trophy attached to his bag. Brian suggested he could have quite adequately hung both the squirrel and the duck on his bag, only this might have provoked an anti-golf stand from those opposed to blood sports, also it made me thankful we were not playing at Knole Park. Just imagine, a deer would take some attaching to a golf bag, certainly some carrying.

Apologies were received from the depleted Mid Kent contingent, this from their absent, love struck young hot-shot, Ian Rawlins. It appears he had to take his young sweetheart, who was flying away on her holidays, to the airport. I seem to remember at the Spring Tournament Ian was eagerly awaiting her return from a foreign holiday. Then someone queried why she takes so many holidays and why she appears always to go without Ian?

To round-off, I must apologise for not reporting the event when a small group played an informal afternoon of golf, courtesy of Mike Smith, at the new Moatlands course. I understand numbers were slightly depleted, as many of us were snowed under with work at the time. Stories of sand, sand, and still more sand have filtered back to me from those trapped by Moatlands' bunkers (or was it the northerly extremes of the Sahara Desert?). Bernard Didthams said that it generally took five full shots to reach from one end of a bunker to another. Perhaps he spent so much time in the bunkers he forgot to tell me about the curious placement of the trees.



PAUL COPSEY

CLEVELAND

At the time of writing (23 Sept), greenkeeping students on C&G block release courses have not received results from their previous year of work. This is unreasonable for students and I hope to see considerable improvements next year. Students should enrol without delay for new courses. This means pressure on colleges.

A wet September meant irrigation finished earlier than usual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared by 10 September.

Acting as an assessor for candidates in the north east who entered for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award, I must tell you what a great pleasure it was to visit their golf courses. The interesting variations and superb conditions presented - from the north east to Cheshire and North Wales - indicated that applicants had worked hard on presentation, also on keeping records regarding pesticides, safety requirements and COSHH. Final decisions were made at the sheds, both

inside and out, i.e. concrete floors for washing vehicles, thus ensuring cleanliness upon entering: Cleanliness = Safety.

The candidate from North Wales came very close to winning, but in the event Tony Mears (Dinsdale Spa GC) won the northern region nomination by a single point. We wish him luck. Our visits revealed a shortage of trained and certificated spray operators, bringing the observation that training in all aspects of greenkeeping is essential.

Diary dates: • 16 November at Darlington GC – AGM at 7.30pm followed by an address on turf diseases by Neil Baldwin. • 7 December, also at Darlington GC at 7.30pm, a quiz sponsored by Turf Care Products, plus free supper – don't miss either!



BRUCE BURNELL

WEST SCOTLAND

The Autumn Tournament was held at Drumpellier GC on 15 September, with home player Stephen Hogg taking the scratch prize with a score of 70. The day was sunny and dry with a healthy field of some fifty members, traders and guests taking part. Our thanks go to Stephen and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition and to the caterers and bar staff for a lovely meal and excellent service.

Other results: First class: 1st S Taylor (Killer-mont) 72-1=71. 2nd N Bulloch (Haggs Castle) 75-3=72 (BIH) 3rd G Kerr (Gleddoch House) 81-9=72. Second class: 1st S Cameron (Drumpellier) 84-18=66. 2nd B Hillen (Drumpellier) 88-18=70. 3rd A Brawley (E. Kilbride) 87-16=71. Third class: 1st A McDowall (Torrance House) 84-20=64. 2nd N Hendry (Langlands) 96-26=70. 3rd K McGuire (Drumpellier) 93-20=73. Apprentice Trophy: S Cameron (Drumpellier) 83+66=149. Trade: Richard Aitken 87-18=69. New Member: A Young (Dougalston) 111. Visitor: J Moylan (Gled-doch House) 104-27=77.

Our next section event is the Annual Dinner, held this year at the Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow, on Friday 26 November. Three excellent speakers have been confirmed and a good attendance is anticipated. Tickets are limited, so it must be a case of 'first come, first served'. Tickets may be obtained from any committee member, or call me on 886 3899.



SANDY BULLOCH

EAST SCOTLAND

Our annual Autumn Tournament was held on Tuesday 14 September at Ratho Park GC., when 55 members, guests and traders took part – despite very wet and windy conditions! All credit to Tom Murray and his crew for the excellent condition of the course, which everyone enjoyed. Ratho Park is always a very popular course and this day was no exception, despite the conditions. This was the second year running that the tournament had almost to be cancelled due to bad weather, and I'm inclined to think that perhaps next year we should change the date.

Results: Scratch: T Murray (Ratho Park). 1st class: P Bowden (Newbattle), 2nd class: R Thomson (Peebles), 3rd class: J Nisbet (Peebles). Veteran: J Lockerbie (Baberton), Aggregate: G Hobbs (Torphin), Trade: M Dennis (STS).

In the afternoon the final for the Richard Aitken Trophy took place, a knock-out tournament which begins at the start of each season, played in two-ball format. After a very thrilling game, R Frame and G Ferguson beat S Greenwood and G Wood on the very last green. Our grateful thanks go to all those who made this the excellent day it was, especially the captain and council for the courtesy of the course.

Only the day before we learned that Ralph Bullock, head greenkeeper at Seahouses GC, had retired – thus a small presentation was made to him. All our best wishes go to Ralph for a long and happy retirement, which he thoroughly deserves after all he has gone through this year.

Taking Ralph's place we have Alister Holmes, latterly first assistant at Goswick. Alister has been a very popular figure in the section for a number of years and we are all delighted that his chance has

Around the Green



finally come. Certainly we wish him well in his new job.

Believe it or not, summer finally arrived in the east of Scotland at the start of September, when we enjoyed one full, glorious week. I even tried out my new irrigation system! However, the sunshine didn't last and it has rained solidly ever since. Well, there is always next year!

Weather-wise, in this part of the country we will be happy to wave good-bye to the year, hopeful that a mild winter may follow. There are still a number of important events to come and notification should be with you very soon. Let's not lose touch over the winter months, come along to every event and support your section to the utmost. Non-members will be made most welcome, especially as we shall do our best to persuade them into joining us as members in 1994.



WILLIE BLAIR

NORTH SCOTLAND

Congratulations to Wilson Morrison on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Alford GC and every success in his new job. Also to be congratulated is Paul Murphy, who is the North section's recipient of the Scottish Patrons Award. This award is in the form of a grant, which will take him to Harrogate in 1994, or on an educational course. He wins the nomination by having supported most BIGGA events during 1993 – from section outings to regional events, plus events of a national nature. Next time it could be you! To reiterate, every member in the section is eligible, so you now know what must be done. Our special thanks to our Patrons for this excellent prize.

Our Autumn Outing to Kirriemuir was a great success, for even the weather was good. We had 83 in attendance, with all bar two venturing onto Jim McCormack's excellently manicured course. Everybody at the club made us most welcome and nothing was too much trouble.

RESULTS: Scratch 1st George Paterson 71, 2nd Kevin Peace 75. Class One: Gary Tough 71-1=70, 2nd Andrew McRae 77-6=71, 3rd Stephen Sullivan 77-5=72. Class Two: 1st Sam Morrison 77-10=67, 2nd Eoin Riddell 77-7=70, 3rd Robert Hardie 77-7=70. Class Three: 1st (plus the Maclean Trophy for best nett score) Robert Allan 91-26=65, 2nd Steven Simpson 85-18=67, 3rd Stuart Hogg 98-26=72. Veteran: (Toro Trophy) Alisdair McLaren 76-6=70, 2nd Tom Simpson 92-20=72. Apprentice: 1st John Milne 76-5=71, 2nd Kevin Fowler 83-11=72. Trade Shield: Kevin Brunton 74. Guests: Equal first R McRae and R J Taylor (both 69). The Meldrum Trophy (spring and autumn aggregate) and Committee Glass: Sam Morrison. The M&M Trophy: (veteran aggregate) Arthur Williamson.

Thanks to George Hampton for the donation of a trophy for the Best Scratch score at the Autumn Meeting, won this year by George Paterson. Longest drive was Gary Tough, nearest the pin Steven Simpson and Paul Ross. Finally, the booby prize went to Duncan Adams! The BIGGA blazer was won by Gordon Moir and the four lucky winners in our latest 200 Club draw were (May £30) Keith Beaton of Turriff, (June £30) James McCormack of Kirriemuir, (July £40) Peter Tait of Inverurie, (August £100) Alick Mackay of Skibo by Dornoch. The final four monthly draws will take place at the AGM, along with two extra draws for education vouchers worth £150 each, for members to use towards either a trip to Harrogate, the National Conference, or a course held at BIGGA HQ or an approved college.

Later this month our AGM will be held, courtesy of the council of Nairn Dunbar GC, and sponsored by Souters of Stirling. We hope to start the day with talks by John Souter and Ian Hume of the

Scottish Golf Union, followed by a tour (weather permitting), of the new holes constructed by Souters, in turn followed by a light lunch. The annual Chairman versus Vice Chairman Match will then take place, and for those who want it, high tea will be available. The AGM will begin at 5.00 pm. It should be a great day.....and all it will cost is the price of your high tea (if you want it)! Let's have a good turn-out, so get your entries in now. This is your chance to have a say in the way things are run, so don't miss out.



IAIN MACLEOD

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The date set for the section AGM is 30 November, to be held at Alloa GC. If you have constructive ideas on what you would think should be happening in the section, or indeed in the Association, come along and put them to the committee. Prior to the AGM, John Souter will give a presentation on rootzone trials for greens and tees. The programme begins with Mr Souter's presentation at 11.00 am, followed by lunch at noon, the AGM starting at 1.45 pm.

Please note, the date of the annual dinner has been changed from Friday 3 December to Friday 10 December, again at Alloa GC. The guest speaker will be Tom (Tiny) Wharton OBE, FBIM, former top-class football referee. Tickets, £12.50 each, (including the presentation of 1993 golf trophies, plus a prize draw and followed by a disco), are available now – if you don't want to be disappointed, get your ticket(s) by contacting me (Tel 041 429 6499) or a member of the committee.

Congratulations to section member Alex Wallace of Dollar GC., who triumphed in the 'Over 55's' section of the Hayter Challenge Tournament at Sand Moor. Everyone who participated in this tournament had a great time and our special thanks go to Kim Macfie and everyone from Hayters for their help and support.

Prize draw tickets have been circulated and hopefully everyone is making an effort to sell their allocation, as this is the biggest fund-raiser for the section. From the 1992 draw £200 was donated to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, £250 to the Sunshine Coaches for Kids Appeal, whilst three section members gained an all expenses paid trip to the BTME at Harrogate – not bad for a section with under 200 members!

By popular demand, further social evenings at the ten-pin bowling centre at Falkirk will be organised during the winter, so get practicing! Thus far we have had zero response to the idea of an evening at Glenrothes Bowling Alley!

Details of events finalised thus far have been circulated to all members, but if you have not received them, get in touch with me (041 429 6499) and I will forward a list to you. If you wish to bring a member of your golf club committee to any of our events (except the AGM), they will be made most welcome.



JOHN CRAWFORD

AYRSHIRE

We had an excellent turn-out of 35 for the Autumn Outing at Old Prestwick on 28 September, a lovely autumn day, better than most of this year's summer, with golf played of the highest calibre. Indeed, it had to be, as Old Prestwick is a very stern test of golf played the old-fashioned way. We have to sincerely thank the committee and caterers at Old Prestwick for helping to make the day special, and course manager Murray Stewart for the fine condition of the links.

RESULTS: Scratch: I McNab (Dumfries and County) 73. First class: 1st S Higgins (Ardeer) 74-7=67, 2nd G Brown (Turnberry) 75-4=71, 3rd S Ross (Troon Municipal) 81-10=71. Second class: 1st J Johnstone (Turnberry) 87-16=71. 2nd S Mercer (Skelmorlie) 87-13=74, 3rd J Paton 92-18=74. Trade: K Brunton (Souters) 76-1=75.

The monthly draw has begun, with the first big win going to Steven Knaggs of Dumfries & County, gaining £100. Other winners are Keith Hardy, Neil Turner, Keith Erskine, David Knaggs, Brian Taylor and Andrew Gibson. Anyone wishing to enter can do so by sending a cheque to Jim Paton at West Kilbride.

Good luck messages to Brian Findlayson on taking over the reins at Kilmarnock Barrassie, and Jim Smith on moving to Ardeer from Kilmacolm, plus congratulations to Charlie Pickthall from Gatehouse of Fleet on winning the Best Student Award at Kyle and Carrick Training Centre, then failing narrowly to qualify for the TORO/PGA European Tour Student of the Year award. More on this elsewhere.

I have the sad duty to report the death of Harry Diamond's wife, Greta, after a long and brave fight against illness. Harry has asked me to pass on his deepest gratitude to those in the Association who have supported him and Greta over these times, and to give sincere thanks for the many expressions of sympathy received. Harry, our thoughts are with you and your family.

Finally, on a lighter note, spotted over the West Kilbride course the other week was a big red balloon filled with hot air (no, not Jimmy!), and carrying half a dozen German tourists. Apparently they find it easier to describe where they are on the radio if they land on a golf course rather than a



field. When last seen, they were heading for Turnberry and courses beyond. Our next get together will be at the AGM and the Christmas games night, details of which will be sent out soon.
DUNCAN GRAY

MIDLAND REGION

On 15 September the final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament was played at Sand Moor GC. Although the day stayed fine for us, some 2-3 inches of rain fell during the previous day, leaving the course very wet. This did not affect Mike Hughes however, who dropped only three shots over 27 holes on his way to overall victory and receipt of the Hayter Challenge Trophy – well done, Mike. The team award was won by the Northern Region, with our own Midlands Region team coming a close second. Congratulations to all of my team – you played well and represented your region with golf of the highest calibre. I thank Sand Moor GC for making us feel so welcome and the staff at BIGGA for organising such a grand event over two days.

SECTION NEWS:

A visit to the Jacobsen factory has been organised for 9 December, sponsored by Abbey Mowers in conjunction with Jacobsen. Numbers will be limited to about 25, with visitors being driven to the venue in a coach. Members wishing to go on this trip should contact me, not later than 28 November, Tel: 0789 762912.



DEAN CLEAVER

SURREY

Yet another highly successful section golf event was held when the Drift GC hosted the Parker's Salver on 8 September. Despite heavy rain on preceding days, the course was in first class shape and played as tight as ever! Ian Sutcliffe won his second consecutive section event, pipping Terry Edwards on a count-back with 36 Stableford points. Furthermore, I welcome the opportunity to name myself as placing third! Thanks went, as usual, to the club for first class hospitality and courtesy of the course, to Paul Weston and his team for the hard work required in presenting the course so well, and to Ron Jobson – who not only helped with the cards but brought along the prizes as well!

The Huxley Bowl has passed, with games being played promptly and in the usual friendly spirit expected. In the final, Dave Gibbs and Roger Glazier triumphed over Barry Robertson and R Halland. Well done to all finalists. Congratulations also to Mark Todd of Lingfield Park on achieving a double distinction in his Phase II City & Guilds at Plumpton College.

Our second winter lecture of the season will be a presentation by British Seed Houses on 6 December at New Zealand Artisans Club – please support these evenings. The trip to BTME is also worthy of support and anyone interested in taking advantage should contact Derek Walder for final details (not available at time of writing).

Finally, we bid farewell to two members of the Surrey committee who have left the area. Treasurer Robert Brewer has taken up his new position at

Around the Green



Naunton Downs, whilst Mike Yorston, the man responsible for section handicaps, has moved to Bottley Park Hotel. I take this opportunity to not only wish them all the best, but also to thank them for the hard work they put in for the section. I also welcome Tony Iafate, who has recently joined our committee.

ROGER TYDEMAN

SOUTH WALES

The Ashburnham GC hosted this year's competition for the Presidents Shield, with weather that was warm, sunny, and made for golf – ideal conditions for this long and demanding course. Our thanks to Paul Hopkins and his green staff, for the course was in super condition. The day was sponsored by Kubota UK Ltd and our thanks go to them, especially our Kubota area representative, Colin Hennah, who had his work cut out keeping us entertained for two hours due to a faulty video recorder. His splendid efforts were greatly appreciated.

The winner of the Presidents Shield, with a low nett of 71 was Chris Thomas (Kubota tracksuit), runner-up Tony King 73 (overalls), low gross Gary Johnston 79 (Kubota umbrella and golf balls), runner-up Stephen Price 80 (overalls).

The winter evening lecture programme at Pen-coed College, Bridgend, will have started by the time this appears, but is as follows: (all on Wednesday's except November).

Thursday 11 November, John Hinton on Floronid fertilisers. 12 January, Richard Minton giving a chemical update. 9 February, Jim McKenzie on the Celtic Manor Golf Course and its development. 9 March, Lyn Davies on Conservation Management. 13 April, A seminar featuring Mechanisation on the golf course.

The format is the same as last year, using the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November, which is on Thursday. Each lecture will commence at 7.00 pm. Please make every effort to attend these events, for if they are to continue, they must have YOUR support!

Many of our local dealers have been holding Open Days and Demonstration Days this month (September). Ted Hopkins held his on the 23rd, at Wentloog, Newport. The day being well attended (so good to see) with many participating in the clay pigeon shoot. Many top brand names were on show, including Amazone, Iseki, Massey Ferguson, Dori, Hardi, Stihl, Hayter Beaver and many more.

On the 28th, Power Cut held their annual John Deere Roadshow, this year for the first time holding it at their own premises, Oaklands Mansion, Cwmfrwydd. Again the day was well attended, with around eighty viewing a vast array of machinery and attachments. An excellent demonstration of new and well established John Deere machinery took place, with the ever-efficient Howard Storey on hand to answer any queries.

On the 29th, Pyle & Kenfig was the venue for a Toro Workman demonstration day. Pro-Turf Equipment and Lely UK put together an excellent exhibition of the Workman 3200 and 3300D, together with a vast array of attachments. Around forty people attended and everybody was well impressed with the Workman truck. The truck's sturdiness, operator comfort and excellent manoeuvrability was plain for all to see. We wish Toro well and thank them for their support and sponsorship of our Matchplay Knockout Competition in 1993.

PETER LACEY

SHEFFIELD

Rain, rain go away... It didn't! Nevertheless, 27 stalwart Sheffield members braved the elements to

participate in the Autumn Tournament at Stocksbridge GC on 14 September. Derek Cheetham and his staff had been busy the day before, replacing the many tons of sand which had been washed out of the bunkers and working strenuously to present the course in fine order, despite horrendous weather conditions. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our thanks also to the Stocksbridge management for permission to hold the tournament, also to in-house staff for their hospitality and to Mrs Cox, the caterer, for a splendid meal.

The prize table was excellent – thanks to trade support from Yorkshire Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Aitken Sports and Amenity Turf Supplies.

Congratulations to all prizewinners, in particular to Ian Batty (deputy head at Stocksbridge). One wonders how he found the energy to play 18 holes after working so hard? Ian won the competition with 36 points, with Craig Batty second and Robin Grayson in third place.

Finally, our thanks go to all the members who took



part for making the competition a success. CALENDAR NOTE: Christmas Competition, 1 December, at Wortley GC, tee-off 10.30 am, followed by what is always a superb Christmas meal.

JANE RYAN

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting will again be held at Oakhampton GC on Wednesday 8 December, and in a repeat of last year, numbers for this event will be limited to eighty. The day will commence with a Greensome Stableford competition for the P J Flegg Trophy, while our non-golfing members will partake in the now traditional 'course-walk' before returning to the clubhouse for some festive 'spirit'! Our comedian this year will be Graham Gadd, a comic who comes to us on the recommendation of last year's entertainer.

Our congratulations to Jeff Mills, course manager at Woodbury Park GC, on his election to the National Board. I am sure that Jeff will serve our Association well.

To finish, the 'grapevine' informed me that Laughlan Miller had been so busy preparing his course for the assessment toward entry in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award that he forgot the date of the Hayter Challenge Tournament final. To his credit, upon discovering his error he jumped into his car and arrived in Leeds in time to compete – without once breaking the speed limit!

RICHARD WHYMAN

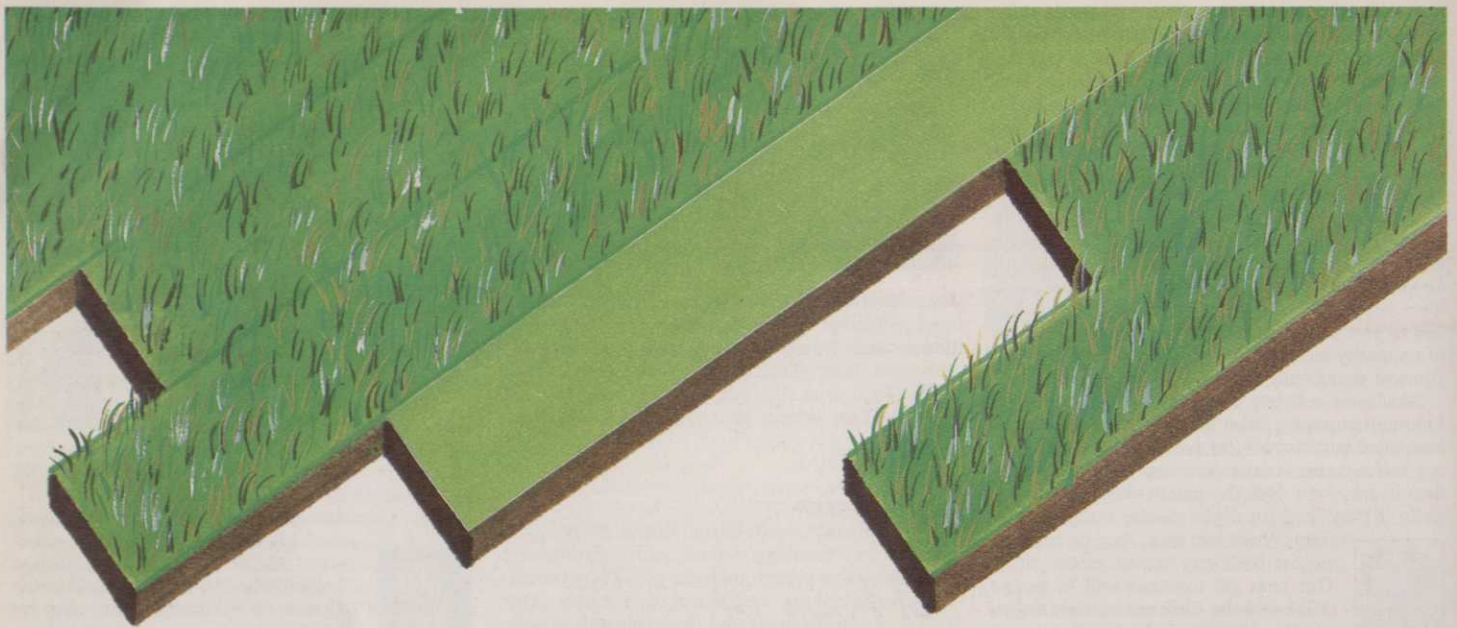
MID ANGLIA

All members should have received a fixture card, listing all the events planned for the rest of this year and into 1994. Currently we are in the process of approaching golf clubs with a view to booking for 1995.

Section matches were played during August and September against the Midlands and London sections – and we were fairly successful. Dunstable Downs GC hosted the Midlands match and we managed a convincing win, while Knebworth GC was the venue for the London match, which resulted in a draw. Well done to all those who took part, and thanks to the clubs concerned for allowing the events to take place. A match against Bucks, Berks and Oxon was also arranged, but unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last moment.

Our good wishes to Jim Cassidy (Ashridge GC), who has been nominated as the section's representative in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. We can all sample the delights of Jim's course in December, when on Friday 3 December our Texas Scramble takes place. The form enclosed with the fixture card should be used to enter your team – send it to Chris Brook. The cost is £20 for members, £30 for guests, and numbers are limited, so get your entries in quickly! Teams entering should be aware that every player must bring a prize (value £5.00). Last year, for some reason, several players failed to do this.

The Midland Regional Seminar will be staged at Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Confer- ➔ 50



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