

NORTH WALES

First off, on behalf of your committee, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing every member of the North Wales section a happy and prosperous New Year.

Unfortunately the month of November was not too busy regarding section notes, so not a lot to report.

Congratulations to Mike Turner on his promotion to assistant Head, and also to Aled Hughes of Porthmadog Golf Club for his contribution to yet another win by the greenkeepers in the Kubota Challenge, (oh, by the way Aled, the jacket looked very well on you!).



We have in our section a budding one man and his dog in Gareth Williams of Porthmadog Golf Club, who recently took part in some field trials and won. Congratulations Gareth.

DAVID PROCTOR

LONDON

Happy New Year to everyone in the section and I hope that by now you have all recovered from the festivities.

The results from the turkey trot competition held at Hadley Wood GC were as follows: 1st, David Matthews, 37 points; 2nd, Donal Penn-Howard, 36 points; 3rd, Tony Dunstan, 35 points.

Well done David for an excellent score and the 18th green will be remembered for your one putt and Don's four putts! The nearest the pin prizes were won by Robert Washbrook and Bruce Walsh and the longest drive of the day was hit by Donal Penn-Howard on the 12th hole.

I would like to thank Craig Handyside and his staff for presenting the course in such fine shape and also Hadley Wood for the excellent meal and hospitality shown throughout the day. I would also like to thank the trade for all their help last year – it has been greatly appreciated. The AGM followed the meal and the election of officers were as follows: Doug Smith – Chairman; Barry Moggridge – Education and Golf events; Tony Dunstan – Education and Golf events.

I would like to thank Martin Smith for all his help over the years serving on the committee.

We are planning a trip to the London Golf Club this spring and if anyone is interested in visiting this exciting new course then please contact me as soon as possible, on 081 959 5629.

Finally, I would like to wish David Mathews from Mill Hill GC all the best with his journey around the world which starts this month, and thanks for all your help at Mill Hill.

TONY DUNSTAN

SOUTH WALES

Hangovers should be subsiding now that the New Year is underway. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and I wish you all a happy New Year.

Fixture cards will be with you shortly, if you haven't had them already.

November saw the weather turn much colder with a gradual increase in wind speed to gale force on many occasions, this slowing work down considerably on the golf course.

The only golf that was played within the section was the final of the Pro-Turf sponsored matchplay competition. Mike Jones finally overcame a stern challenge from Robert Frater to win the 36 hole final. This closely fought encounter was nip and tuck all around the Southerndown course for the first leg, but saw Mike come from three down to win on the closing hole at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

Our sincere thanks to all of the golf clubs who allowed matches to take place at their courses, to the competitors, but mainly to Pro-Turf and Elwyn Thomas for sponsoring this event.

John Hinton provided last month's evening lecture at Pencoed College, giving a talk on the benefits of the Floronid range of fine turf fertilisers. Again the attendance could and should have been better for this interesting and debatable topic.

The Regional Seminar at Cannington College was again a huge success with more than 100 people in attendance. As always the quality of the speakers was exceptional and the captive audience were given plenty of food for thought. It was good to see a larger attendance from this section present at the seminar.

Our thanks must go again to Marion and Gordon

Around the Green



Child for their efforts and splendid organisation.

Many thanks to Birds and Ransomes for their jointly organised trip to the Ransomes factory in Ipswich last November. It was splendidly organised by Jeff Bird and was truly fascinating and worthwhile. Our thanks also to all of those at the factory for going out of their way to make sure that a good time was had by all – nothing was too much trouble for any of them.

Spaces are still available on the coach trip to the BTME in Harrogate sponsored by our region – so come on, you lot! It's just £95 – a bargain, surely. YOU are putting this annual trip in jeopardy with your lack of interest and support!

Make sure Wednesday 27 April is scribed in your diary, for Westurf 1994 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol.

Last but not least, we all wish Dennis Archer good luck with his quest to join the elite ranks of Formula One go kart racing. Hopefully Dennis will surface unscathed having raised a great deal of money for Motability.

If you have any news or queries contact me on 0792 233923.

PETER LACEY



SOUTH WEST

This is the press report that all section members have been waiting for – my last!

For those who don't know, I have stepped down as section secretary, after ten years in the post.

We have enjoyed ten years of significant development, hugely increased participation and professionalism within, not just the section, but the Association as a whole and it has been a privilege to have been part of that.

Also stepping down at the AGM was Ivor Scoones after 30 years of representing the South West at both national and regional levels. Again, it has been a privilege to have worked with Ivor.

Briefly, from the AGM, the election of officers was as follows:

Chairman – John York, Vice Chairman – Peter Cox, Secretary – Kevin Green, Match Captain – David Neale, Vice Captain – Jon Leigh, Regional Board Officer – Robin Greaves, Reserve Regional Board Officer – J Cooper, Liaison Officer – Robin Williams (subject to Cannington approval).

Membership of the section currently stands at some 212 including associate members. The bank balance was £1622.22 at 31 October. It was generally agreed that these were very healthy figures and that the section was financially secure.

Thirty one members have successfully completed the FEPA spraying certificates, 29 had gained certification in emergency first aid and 12 had successfully completed a two-day chainsaw safety course.

Trade associate members had again been most supportive of the section with several companies regularly donating prizes at competitions. Their generosity had been most welcome and effusive thanks were due in particular to Avoncrop, Roffey Bros, Rigby Taylor, Vitax, Sisis, County Mowers, TH White and Handy Garden Machinery.

The section's autumn golf tournament was held on the same day at Kingsdown Golf Club. Cold and windy at the start, I noticed Robin Greaves sheltering miserably in the lee of a small bush by the first tee. I advised him to uproot the bush and carry it around for shelter. He declined, after due consideration, saying he didn't have a spade in his bag!

Fortunately, the weather relented and some half-decent scores were returned. The final result was as follows: 1st: J Leigh (35 points); 2nd: P Thorn (33 pts on last nine); 3rd: P Godwin (33 pts); 4th: D Eves (32 pts on last nine); 5th: P Worster (32 pts); 6th: P Jones (32pts).

The course at Kingsdown was in sparkling condition, an absolute tribute to its green staff and in particular, Head Greenkeeper Mark Ford. As our chairman remarked, "Old Bill Curtis would have been proud of it." Praise indeed.

Many thanks also to Gordon Jaaback, who gave us a very precise account of the role played by the weather in our work, and the relevance of recording and forecasting.

Altogether quite a day, with many thanks to Kingsdown Golf Club for their hospitality.

Finally, let me describe a typical scene at home on a Wednesday evening. The starship "Enterprise" noses delicately into orbit around the deserted asteroid, the ruined Com-Mine station comes into sensor range. Captain Kirk paces the bridge, Mr Spock scans intently into his scanning instruments, the garish blue light illuminating his strange features. Red alert sounds, Kirk leaps back into his chair and demands a status report when he is interrupted by a strange ringing noise. Dring-dring, dring-dring emanating from our hall. The kids fall about laughing, the wife doesn't even bother coming out from behind the newspaper. "It'll be for you," she says in a distracted tone, "it's always for you."

I stagger out, cursing about not switching on the telephone answering machine.

I spend the next ten minutes listening to some incredible story about lost entry forms, postal interruptions, holidays, illness, pressures of work, hungry dogs, disruptive children, unruly grandparents etc... and is it too late to book in for the tournament tomorrow?

I return just as the theme tune plays and the credits roll.

I'm going to miss all this. A happy New Year to all our members. Beam me up, Scottie!

Further entries and communications should be addressed to Mr K Green, 13 Baytree Close, Patchway, Bristol, Avon BS12 5EU, telephone 0272 793127.

PAUL WORSTER



EAST SCOTLAND

The section's AGM took place on 24 November at Kingsknowe Golf Club. Prior to the meeting we had an excellent lecture given by John Souter of Souters of Stirling; those of you who were not at the meeting missed one of the finest lectures we have had. Our grateful thanks go to John for his time and effort.

Chris Yeaman our Chairman could not take the meeting due to illness, but had a capable deputy in Peter Ormiston. Attendance was smaller than usual for some reason or another, but it was nice to see members from distant places, namely George Thomson all the way from Goswick and Mike Williamson from Galashiels.

Peter Ormiston was elected Chairman with Steve Dixon his Vice Chairman. Robert Hogarth was not standing for re-election due to change of job. Robert has decided on pastures new in the form of a sales rep with H Sheach of Kirkcaldy. No doubt we will be seeing a great deal more of him in this capacity. He was thanked for his excellent work over the years. The committee now reads: Chairman – P Ormiston, Vice-Chairman – S Dixon, Secretary – Willie Blair; and Graham Wood, Stuart Greenwood, Jimmy Neilson, Tom Murray, Chris Yeaman and Andy Forrest.

The annual dance returned to Turnhouse Golf Club on 3 December and a great time was had by all. Our thanks go to Turnhouse for the facilities and to the catering staff for the excellent food. If anyone went away feeling empty it was their own fault as there was enough to feed an army!

The committee over the years have tried to put on various social events, such as skittles and quiz nights, but they are not being supported by the members to any great extent. We will have to look at this to find out why. It would seem that the members are looking for golf outings only. Suggestions would be welcome from any member on this subject. This is your association – tell us what you want.

The recent tournament versus the North East of England was held over Goswick GC. This resulted in a loss for the section. Don't ask me how it happened, but on the way down Tom Murray somehow lost his teeth out of the coach window. The coach returned to try and find them and would you believe it, ran over them! We are glad to say that Tom has now had them replaced.

The BTME is the next on our calendar and → 62

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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

★ It's a happy new year for W. Henderson, first assistant at Richmond Golf Club, Surrey, as the lucky winner of our December competition! £50 is on its way, Mr Henderson and for your chance to brighten up the winter, get searching for those little £50 notes now! It could YOUR TURN for success next month!

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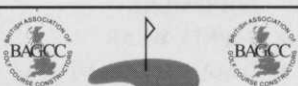
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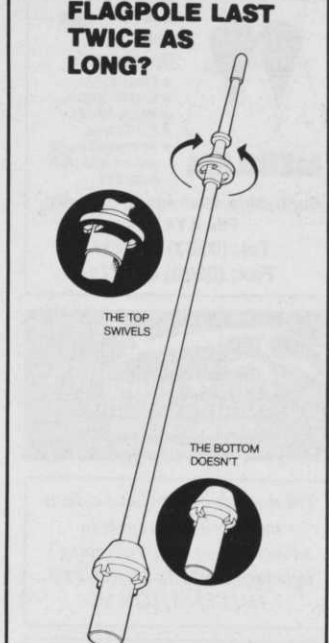
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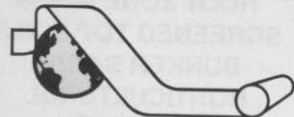
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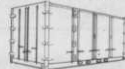


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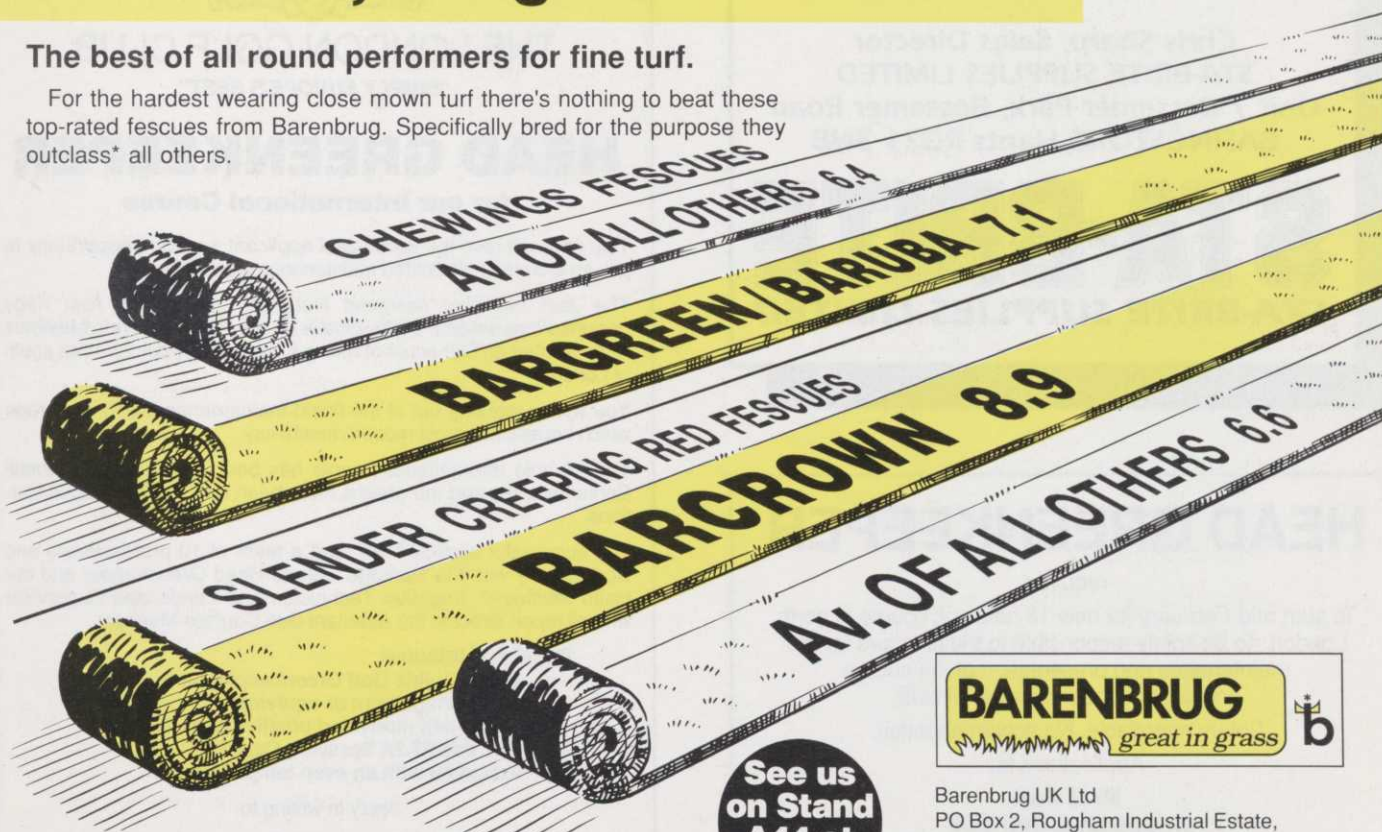
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You will be working out of the finest maintenance facility in Europe which houses the latest modern machinery.

The 18 hole International Course has been seeded with Colonial Bents/Fescues and the greens have been built to USGA specifications.

The successful applicant will lead a team of 10 professionals and work closely with the Heritage Course Head Greenkeeper and our Head Mechanic, Irrigation Technician and Landscape Supervisor who all report direct to the Assistant Golf Courses Manager.

Required attributes:

- City & Guilds Golf Greenkeeping and Turf Management or equivalent
- Highly self motivated/positive attitude
- PA1 and PA2A Spraying Certification
- Articulate with an even temperament

Apply in writing to:

Mr Joseph E Paulin, Golf Courses Manager,
 The London Golf Club, South Ash Manor Estate, Ash,
 Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN