

Left, the 1st and right, the 15th at Gleneagles' King's Course



## WORKING WITH NATURE

variety, type, size, and quantity of plants inside the squares and compares the results with previous years. He then produces a conclusion which may indicate a slight modification of maintenance practices);

- Established future management prescriptions;

- Produced a vegetation map, identifying scrub invasion to the detriment of golf strategy and the aesthetic appeal of the courses;

- Conducted ornithological and entomological surveys to find out what we've got, what we want and what it takes to keep those species.

An essential element of our plan was the establishment of a monitoring group, comprising professionals in ecology, botany, geology, Scottish Natural Heritage, a member of the hotel staff and, most importantly, a respected member of the local community.

The monitoring group meets twice a year to

assess the impact of our golf courses and estates management practices and consider future management plans and prescriptions.

When these plans are formulated, it is important to communicate these to all staff, members, guests and visitors.

Awareness is probably the most important thing when it comes to golf and the environment. Firstly you have to make the greenstaff aware of what you're trying to do. In our case it was mainly why we're controlling scrub invasion (see panel). Communicating the

problem to the greenstaff means they can go out and eloquently explain why we're getting rid of "those beautiful shrubs and trees" when asked by guests, members or hotel staff.

### Conclusion

*Awareness is the key. Awareness of what you've got on your course and how to keep it there (or not). Awareness among the greenkeeping staff of what*

*you are trying to achieve, so they can make members and others aware of what is being done and why.*

*Golf courses, old and new, are becoming increasingly important as models and reminders of how beautiful and wild our countryside can be, whilst still performing a very necessary commercial leisure role.*

*Long established courses must make special efforts to retain their habitats and new courses have the potential to develop into beautiful and valuable wildlife areas.*

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# BIGGA's

**British greenkeepers have a friend in high places. Viscount William Whitelaw, who has been playing golf for 72 years (since he was four), knows they do a "crucial" job. Greenkeeper International's editor, Chris Boiling, went to the House of Lords to meet BIGGA's president.**

I'd studied politics for five years – two at school and three at university – but the nearest I'd come to the Houses of Parliament was taking a photo of Big Ben – along with a group of Japanese tourists. Yet, after only five months with BIGGA there I was marching past the policeman at the gates to the House of Lords proclaiming: "I've got an appointment with Viscount Whitelaw".

Into the hallowed cloakroom, with pegs labelled Earl This and Lord That. "I've got an appointment with Viscount Whitelaw," I told the policewoman at the tiny reception desk. After a few minutes, the former deputy prime minister's secretary, Shirley Hoole, came to collect me and lead me through the corridors of power to the BIGGA president's small wood-panelled office, which he shares with Mrs Hoole.

After all those years of studying politics, I was now only a few feet away from a politician who was once one of the most powerful men in the country. An MP from 1955-83, he held several key offices: Leader of the House of Commons, Home Secretary, Chairman of the Conservative Party, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Secretary of State for Employment, and now an active and influential peer. And what did I want to talk to him about? Golf.

Other journalists who have interviewed the 76-year-old lord recently have asked about the Thatcher Years or shake-ups in the police service. Not me, I asked about his first love, golf. He welcomed the change.

Politics and the Conservative Party may have taken over his life, but golf will always be his first love.

His father, who died from his wounds in World War 1, was a good golfer and his mother was a very keen player, so it was natural that he should take up the game. Especially when you consider where he was brought up – Nairn.

Shortly after his fourth birthday he was marched off to the local pro, Jimmy Nelson, who taught him how to hit fir cones. This, claimed the old pro, was the best way to learn the swing. Viscount Whitelaw reckons it just saved the pro from having to retrieve dozens of golf balls.

Lord Whitelaw practised on the cones for

# friend in high places

several weeks. "If there is anything more useless than hitting a fir cone, I don't offer it. It can't go anywhere. Marvellous for a tiny old Scottish professional who sat on a stick watching you and didn't have to go and collect any balls. After three weeks I told my mother that if I had to go on hitting cones I would never play the game again. The next day my mother and the pro obviously understood, for he turned and said, and I can always remember the phrase: 'I think the boy's swing is now good enough to hit a ball.' Therefore I was now allowed to hit a ball and it sailed away in the air – many haven't since, but that one did – and I never looked back. After that I became terribly keen and have played all my life ever since."

For a short time before the World War II, when he was at Cambridge University, he was down to scratch. After the war he had handicaps of 1 and 2 "but I was never quite as good after the war as I had been before it".

Then, when he became an MP in 1955, he gave up playing competitively. At the moment he plays two or three times a month at Silloth-on-Solway in Cumbria. He says he would like to play once a week but he is still busy even though he has "retired".

"The theory is that I have retired and the theory is that I therefore have more time for golf, but one way or another I don't. Now why don't I? I come to the House of Lords quite a lot; this weekend for example I'm going down to open a new police headquarters at Bournemouth; then I have a long diary of different meetings to do with politics and other things near politics, other organisations such as yours," he said as I admired the old golfing prints and antique 4 wood hanging on his office walls.

Do you have any plans to wind down your activities, I wondered? "Well, yes, my wife thinks there is," he replied with a smile. But the evidence points the other way.

## Honorary member

Recently he became president of Nairn. He is also a member and the president of Silloth, a member of St Andrews and an honorary member at Penrith, Carlisle and Prestwick.

If he had a handicap now it would probably be about 16 or 17.

"When you get old it's a very annoying game and it's particularly annoying on courses you used to play. I went and played at Nairn recently. Suddenly bunkers I'd never seen before I was taking four shots to get over. As you get older you lose the capacity to get the club moving fast enough. As a result you hit it quite straight but it doesn't go anywhere. I find myself hitting a driver on a short hole and not getting there. That's infuriating, but you have to get used to it."

It's a bit different to when he played Nairn

as a teenager. Some members allege that he has driven into the sea on the first seven holes during different rounds. Anyone who knows Nairn will know when it's windy it's quite easy to do so off the first, second, fourth and fifth. But from the third, sixth and seventh it takes some doing. "Now if I turned at the sea I wouldn't reach it," he says.

That, of course, is not the only change he has seen during his 72 years of playing the game.

"The standard of our greenkeeping and the standard of our courses is amazingly different," he told me. "And it is now accepted that a greenkeeper is a crucial figure who has got to be backed up."

That's why, when the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews asked their former captain if he would take an interest in a new association for greenkeepers, which they were helping to fund, back in 1987, he readily agreed.

## FAVOURITE COURSES

Viscount Whitelaw says he's always loved St Andrews and he's been a member there since 1937. "You can't compare it with anything else."

His other favourite courses are Silloth-on-Solway, Nairn, Muirfield, Royal St Georges and Westward Ho.

"I always believed it was very important to improve the standing of greenkeepers generally, not only their knowledge and their work but also their standing in the club and their importance to the club. I always thought that when you hear people say, 'The course isn't right, we must get a new green convener', there's absolutely no point in getting a new green convener, what you need is a good new greenkeeper if the course isn't right. The greenkeeper is the man who will make it right, and green conveners can only be there to back their greenkeepers and make sure the greenkeepers are getting what they want and doing with what they've got all that has to be done. So the standing of a greenkeeper has always been something that I believed enormously important and it's a fact of recent years that this has come out and now it's accepted."

He credits the Association with much of the success for elevating the status of greenkeepers. He states: "I believe the organisation has

been the most enormous success. All the time I've been with them I've admired enormously what they've done. I've admired enormously what Neil Thomas has done and what has been done by the greenkeepers themselves when they've become chairmen or on the board of management. They have played a terrific part in this. And if anyone wants a sign of it they need look no further than the two occasions when I have tried to see them all. First of all, Harrogate. Harrogate's a very remarkable advance and it is a great success – much prized by the trade generally and good for everybody. And then of course there is the help that the greenkeepers give at the Open Championship, when they all come together and are seen to help on the course. And a marvellous job they carry out.

"Now, of course, your publication has done a great deal of good. The more we can publicise the profession, the more it will be seen that greenkeepers are vitally important people. And if you see the jobs that are offered to them now, much of the great difficulty in years to come will be making sure we keep the best of our greenkeepers in this country. A lot of them, inevitably, are being offered jobs in Europe. And that is a real sign of how successful this organisation has been."

Viscount Whitelaw is involved with several charities, but BIGGA is the only professional association to which he is attached. As president, he is in regular contact with BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, and he tries to meet Association members at Harrogate and the Open.

"If you are president I believe you come when you are asked and you don't go when you're not asked," is his philosophy.

As far as the future of the Association goes, he says: "I would like to see it continuing to make sure that greenkeepers are well trained and can be really good people for our courses. And that it will become accepted by all courses. I would like to see all clubs using the opportunities given by BIGGA for them to train their staff and that all greenkeepers become members of BIGGA."

After three-quarters of an hour chatting to him about golf, greenkeeping and the Association, I realised that he had a busy day of politics ahead. There were meetings with Ministers, fellow Lords and leading figures from industry awaiting. But there was time for one last story which shows he certainly did not become president of BIGGA for any political gain.

At the last general election, while he was canvassing in the north of Scotland, a young man came up to him and said: "I'm very grateful you've been so helpful to BIGGA."

Viscount Whitelaw replied: "Thank you and I hope you will vote Conservative Party."

"Certainly not, I'm Scottish Nationalist."

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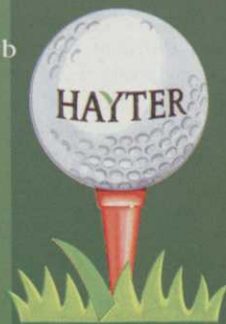
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## FLYING DIVOTS

### ■ Time for a reminder.

Members should note that the Association is approved by the Board of Inland Revenue under Section 201 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. This means that individual members can claim tax relief on their subscription payments through their annual tax returns whilst golf clubs paying subscriptions for members can claim tax relief through their accounts. This benefit for members substantially reduces the cost of their annual subscriptions and in claiming relief members should simply list their membership of BIGGA and indicate that the Association is an approved body under Section 201 ICTA 1988.

■ Brokenhurst Golf Club in the New Forest was fined £2,500 plus costs of £610 for "illegally" taking water to irrigate its greens. The club admitted it took 80,000 gallons more than it was licensed to use because of a breakdown in communication. Secretary manager Stewart Craven said: "When I took on the job my predecessor did not tell me about the conditions. It was a genuine mistake."

■ Andy McKee has left Fisons after seven years to join Erin Marketing Ltd as sales and marketing director.



■ The greenkeepers at Brighton's Hollingbury Park course had a shock when they turned up to prepare the course for a pro-am. A vehicle had been driven across the 12th green leaving tyre marks in the turf, the flag had been stolen and children had used a bunker as a sand pit. People, believed to be travellers camping just to the north of the course, had also been spotted playing football on the green.

The local council's three municipal greenkeepers, led by Terry Spence, worked frantically with rollers and did a bit of "cosmetic surgery" to get the green fit for the club's biggest event of the year.

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 0347 838864

## Criticism against STRI is unjustified

After reading Paul Copesey's letter in your May edition ("Advice Left Wanting"), I must take issue with many of his remarks and especially those comments based on assumption, inaccuracy and misunderstanding.

Whilst brief details were provided to produce an interesting March edition article on the reconstruction of the greens at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, I hope your readers will appreciate that as advisers/consultants, the STRI will always operate normal professional and business criteria with its clients, including that of confidentiality. I am, however, able to say that the decision to replace the old turf of *Poa annua* after the greens were reconstructed at Royal Birkdale was not based on economic grounds. It is, perhaps, somewhat naive to suggest that a golf club totally committed to producing the best possible standards would jeopardise the success of remedial reconstruction works for the sake of an item costing a relatively small percentage in the context of the significant overall costs (least of all Royal Birkdale Golf Club).

The option to import new bent/fescue turf was fully considered but decided against in the light of previous experiences with top quality imported bent/fescue turf laid onto an improved sandy soil rootzone (such turf took several years to acclimatise during which time there was significant invasion by clumps of *Poa annua*). The relaid turf at Royal

Birkdale (which was cut at 18mm thickness) contained no organic mineral soil – the turf comprised of some thatch layers with sand (the latter material originating from several years of past top dressings with pure sand). Mr Copesey's assumption that the relaid turf was inappropriate as it must have contained in part the "undesirable soil" is wrong. Could I also say that in making his criticism of the re-use of the predominantly *Poa* turf, Mr Copesey appears to substantiate his position by purporting to quote from my remarks in the March edition article about Birkdale. He misquotes!

The articles in your March and April editions do not demonstrate inconsistency of agronomic advice from the STRI. Each article was quite different in its concept and purpose, viz an article about green reconstruction in unique and specific circumstances in contrast to Mike Canaway's article on part of a short-term research project. Whilst Mike Canaway's article properly points out some of the possible dangers associated with returning sandy rootzones (substantiated with facts and figures), potential dangers associated with turfing works had been well appreciated by STRI advisers for some considerable time, as well as many greenkeepers and others in our industry. Similarly, the possible merits of washed turf have long been understood but as yet this avenue of establishment has not been pursued in this

country for maybe several reasons, including commercial ones.

I agree with Mr Copesey's comments that in all areas of performance bents and fescues out-perform *Poa* any day. However, I do not think that one should ignore the fact that *Poa annua* is a ubiquitous species which is found in most golf greens in varying degrees. Of course, if greenkeepers can apply good management to sites where architectural, constructional make-up and environmental factors are favourable towards bent and fescue development, then *Poa annua* content can be minimised. Nevertheless, at many clubs it is clear that without *Poa annua* there quite simply would not be golf greens. Yes, thatchy, stagnant, disease-prone bogs of *Poa annua* is the nightmare scenario for any greenkeeper, but there are many courses (including Championship courses) which will have varying but often significant amounts of *Poa annua* (usually with some bent), and whose greenkeeping staff proudly present such greens as very good playing surfaces throughout most of the year (and where members are very happy).

I trust my response will be seen as being mainly explanatory in nature, although I suspect that in some quarters with a blinkered outlook it will be seen as a purely defensive repost!

**J Perris, assistant director (advisory services), STRI, Bingley**

## Why we must build on 'The Way Forward'

May I make a comment on "Looking Back to The Way Forward" (GI May '94) and congratulate Michael Bonallack for the clear description of the R&A's role in golf, probably not well understood by many.

"The Way Forward" surely exceeded the expectations of the authors and its publishers in the impact it made. Accepting that, it had a slow start, partly I suspect because of the reticence in introducing it with much publicity, and partly because the greater part of the audience to whom it was addressed, ie those in influential positions in members' golf clubs, didn't think there was anything wrong in their current methods. But those who did take

it seriously and took some action found much support and enthusiasm. Some, not many, clubs and the Home Unions, especially the English Golf Union, have really moved with their seminars up and down the country.

But I sense that the momentum has slowed and this is the reason why thoughts were expressed at the BTME workshop which I attended that an update of "The Way Forward" would be timely. We still hear too often of large greens committees meeting frequently and the head greenkeeper taking instructions from a chairman who knows all about the technical problems – surrogate greenkeepers they call them. And

then, if things go wrong, who is blamed?

The R&A is respected throughout the golfing world and any report or recommendation emanating from St Andrews is listened to and trusted. I believe "The Way Forward" was a success and I would like to see further advance on that success. Some sort of review of where we are now and what future is indicated would be relevant and very influential.

I am glad that BIGGA has stirred up this subject and hope the organisation will keep the discussion going; but we must also get Golf Club Management involved.

**Arthur King, Lympington**

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## KENT

The Kent Section had one of its biggest ever turnouts on May 10, with over 40 players participating in the Spring Tournament at the Mid Kent Golf Club. The morning Rigby Taylor Stableford was won by Peter Biscoe with 36 points closely followed by Paul Rudkin and Shaun Donovan with 35 and Richard Hopgood with 34.

The afternoon medal and Hayter Qualifier was again a hotly contested event with everyone eyeing a place in the Regional Final at Banstead Downs. The overall winner was Derek Keen, nett 68, followed by David Wood, 70, and Vince Clegg and Paul Copsey, 71. Best scratch score went to Steve Suttle, 79. The successful qualifiers for the next round were, in the 0-9 category, Steve Suttle, Huw Morgan, Ian Rawlins, and John Wakelin. In the 10-18, Derek Keen, David Wood, Paul Copsey and Paul Rudkin. In the 19-28, Vince Clegg, Haydon Hayes, Phil Hirst, and Richard Page.

I think we all had a very enjoyable day, we were blessed with fine weather, a superbly kept golf course and great food. Many

## EVENTS DIARY

**July 14-17: Open Championship, Turnberry**

**August 1-3: National Tournament, Dartmouth Golf Club, Devon**

**September 6-8: Saltex (previously IoG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.**

**September 22: Hayter Challenge Final, Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate**

**November 9-10: Scotsturf, Ingleston, Edinburgh**

**December 1: Scottish Region North Section one-day conference at Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen**

**January 25-27, 1995: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre**

thanks go to all our hosts at Mid Kent Golf Club, especially to John Rootes and his lads for their preparation of the course. As always we are very grateful to our friends from the trade for attending all our functions and supporting with raffle prizes, and especially on this occasion to our main competition sponsors Rigby Taylor and Hayter.

It was certainly very pleasing to see many

new faces at the event and the reappearance of some old ones, many of us having to make a special effort to attend due to pressure of work, after a late spring and a slow start, now the flood - not only yet more rain, but grass growing like the clappers.

We are still trying to finalise our summer and autumn golf programme and trying to prepare a series of educational winter workshop courses. Details will appear at a later date or will be sent to you in due course. If there are points you wish to raise, things you feel unhappy about, things you would like to add, concerning the Association at



PAUL COPSEY

national or local level, or items and information for "Around the Green", please contact David Wood on 0342 850875, or myself on 0831 115139 or 0322 664547.

## EAST SCOTLAND

The annual skittles night was held at the Right Wing, Willowbrae Road. Twenty-two people turned up to this very enjoyable



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night. It was moved to the east of the city following complaints that everything was held in the west, so where were the people who complained? I certainly didn't see them and neither did the same people who have attended them all in previous years – I wonder if the dance will be the same? I certainly hope not. Come on members, we have done all the spade work, why don't you start supporting us?

I had the pleasure of being present at the North Section outing at Forres. What a great day this was: the weather was perfect; the course was in excellent condition and the North's hospitality was second to none. I thank them all for a wonderful day.

The Hayter Regional Finals were played over Duddingston Golf Club on May 24; I went down to cheer on the East team but, alas, we only had one qualifier for the National Finals. This was our old friend Dick Dugan from Glencourse. You can always rely on Dick to keep the East flag flying. Congratulations Dick; and you won't be alone on your trip to the finals, hopefully I will be down beside you.

By now you should all have your new fixture card; you will see by it the work that has gone into this year's events. The one change is the Willie Woods Tournament. This will be held at Murrayfield GC on August 17; letters will be out in plenty of time, but we are limited to 40 players.

Tickets are going fast for the annual dance. Don't be caught out, get yours early. Kilspindie Hotel is the venue, and a great night is in store, especially for those from the east who have not been before.

I said in an earlier issue that courses in the east were under water after a very wet winter. Now the opposite has happened – at the time of writing we have not had rain for four weeks and the very cold east wind has completely dried the courses up. Yes, it's a hard life being a greenkeeper.

We give a very warm welcome to all new members and hope to see them at the various tournaments etc. Any information they require – just give me a ring and I will do everything I can to help. There are still a number not yet members and they are the ones who are missing out. If there is someone on your course not yet a member, give them a push; we will be delighted to have them aboard.

WILLIE BLAIR



#### SOUTH WEST

A different venue from last year awaited the competitors for the recent Greenkeeper/Amateur Greensomes event held on May 11. Minchinhampton Old Course was our destination, not to be confused with Minchinhampton Golf Club as was the case with a few who turned up at the wrong clubhouse. Those who got it right first time were confronted with a course with a difference. There was no intensive manicuring here, just rough and more long rough. The reason for needing plenty of balls in the bag was because the course of some 100 years of age is situated on common ground and restrictions are placed on the use of herbicides and indeed on the frequency of cutting throughout the year. This led to a naturalists' paradise with a wide variety of wild plants growing and flowering undisturbed.

# Around the Green



But this took nothing away from what was a highly enjoyable day both socially and competitively, with 58 people taking part. Any club that allows that number of courtesies over an afternoon is of an extremely generous nature and our thanks are extended to Bob Clarke, the administrator of the Old Course, for his kindness. Thanks also go to the greenstaff and the caterers.

The day's results are as follows: 1, C Tozer and M Savage 38 points; 2, R and T Greaves 37 points; 3, M Haring and P Hampton 36 points (won on back 9); 4, P Baynton and G Dacombe 36 points, 5, K Green and G Fuidge 35 points (won on back 9); 6, J Taylor and S Mulraney 35 points.

As of May 25, there are now 249 members in the South West section. The next opportunity to meet some of them will be at the Summer Tournament, Filton GC, July 27. If your application has not already been sent, please contact me immediately to secure a tee time.

KEVIN GREEN

#### DEVON AND CORNWALL

Not a lot to report this month as we are all cutting grass like mad. I would like to remind you that your views on the Association's review are now due. If you haven't put pen to paper yet, please do so today or call me so I can forward your suggestions to HQ who need your input so we can continue our progress.

I am nearing completion of next season's fixture card which will be winging its way to you soon. Our thanks once again to Devon Garden Machinery who have kindly sponsored the fixture card again.

RICHARD WHYMAN

#### NORTH SCOTLAND

It's finally happened! A section outing with glorious weather. Eighty-four golfers played in the Spring Outing at Forres with another nine members present for the day. Shirt sleeves were the order of the day, and those that benefited most were: scratch – 1, Alan Dempster, Strathlene 75bih; 2, George Paterson, Fortrose 75; class one – 1, Kevin Peace, Inverurie 70bih; 2, George Mitchell, Royal Aberdeen 70; 3, John Taylor, Forres 73bih; class two – 1, Gordon Mckie, Tain 65; 2, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen 68bih; 3, Colin Mackay, Cruden Bay 68; class three – 1, Colin Burgess, Forres 71bih; 2, Bruce Forsyth, Peterhead 71; 3, John Geddes, Ellon 72; veteran – 1, Tom Simpson, Murrayshall 70; 2, Arthur Williamson, Craigie Hill 72; apprentice – 1, John Milne, Elgin 71; 2, Mark Ross, Elgin 72; Trade Shield – Tom Brannan, Souters 71bih; and guest – R Bruce, Aboyne 71.

Off the course winners were Colin Burgess, Forres, who won the free draw for a BIGGA blazer, and 200 Club winners: January £30 – John Urquhart, Mansfield Estate, Tain; February £30 – Gordon Fraser, Suther-

land Cres, Tain; March £40 – James Whyte, St Combs, Fraserburgh; April £100 – Linda Harkiss, Craig Cres, Tain. Three winners from Tain and still I miss out! We thank everyone at Forres for a great day, especially Charlie Mackay and his staff, the course was excellent.

Five more new members to welcome: Martin Cameron, head greenkeeper Buckpool; Richard Hendry, assistant at Forres; Mark Cordell, assistant at Moray; Scott Mackenzie, apprentice Royal Aberdeen and Paul Conway, apprentice at Caird Park, Dundee. Gordon Fraser is leaving Tain to become an assistant at Wentworth, whilst also on the move is Alan Strachan who has left Royal Dornoch to become assistant links superintendent at Carnoustie. Moving up is Michael Clark, who has taken over the head job at Kingussie, vacated by Mike Wilson who has moved to Fraserburgh.

Despite the horrendous winter, both Nairn and Nairn Dunbar were in super condition for the recent Amateur Championships. Hopefully, more major competitions will be held in the section in the near future, we certainly have many fine courses and the travelling is much easier than before.

Work is under way on extending Invergordon GC from nine to 18 holes. The job, being done by local firm Morrisons, will take under two years with opening scheduled for summer '96.



IAIN MACLEOD

#### AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire representatives in the Scottish finals of the Hayter Challenge made a good run at the prizes, with Ian McNab and Steven Knaggs qualifying, and myself a first reserve. The team was second, despite being two men short, but made up for that by outlasting even the East section hardies in the evening. Our thanks to Hayter and to Duddingston GC for an excellent day out.

Gordon Heran at Brunston Castle tells me his greenkeeping sheds are going up now after two years of next weeks that never came. Even though the receivers are in, they have allowed Gordon to build 15 new tees forward from the championship tees to allow for more enjoyable golf for the higher handicapper. Hopefully a buyer will be found shortly to enable this project to fulfil its potential.

Further to last month's report on the babies being waited for at the spring outing, Bob McKay, Paul Rae and Jock McLauchlan are now proud fathers of Heather, Jodie and Jemma respectively. Best wishes to them all.

DUNCAN GRAY

#### SURREY

A date has now been set for our Surrey section dinner dance. It will be held at Reigate Manor Hotel on Friday, November 11. We have organised our own function room and tickets will be available from committee members at a price of £18 per head, which includes a three-course meal and a disco until 1am. Accommodation is being looked into at present for those of you wishing to stay overnight.

The first winter lecture has now been organised and will be given by Bill Oliver of Hardi Sprayers on Wednesday November 9. Venue will be announced later. Other forth-



coming events include the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale on August 11 and the Parkers Salver at Purley Downs GC on September 21.

DAVID GIBBS

#### NORTH WEST

Trying to find a venue for the Spring Tournament each year is far more of a problem than any other tournament. The reason is, and it's understandable, the greenkeeper wants his course at its best, and he would prefer to stage a tournament later in the year, when there is some growth.

One greenkeeper who took a chance and gave me the OK was Chris Hulme, course manager at Sale GC, and I am sure he must have been regretting his decision at times. No need to have worried, Chris, your course was a credit to you and your staff, with greens that could not be faulted and the course was presented to perfection. Many thanks go to Sale GC for allowing the courtesy of the course, to the greenkeeping staff for all their hard work, to Graham Barber, the caterer, for a lovely meal, and to the following companies for supporting us with prizes: Fletcher Stewarts, Richard Campey, Burrows, and Groundcare.

The winners were: best nett – James Hutchinson; best gross – Paul Pearse; over-55 – Bert Cross; guests – Ian Vernon, Sale captain. The qualifiers for the Hayter Regional Final are: cat 1 – C Leeming, P Pearse, S Moon; cat 2 – C Hulme, P Simpson, B Cross; cat 3 – J Hutchinson, A Holt, A Davies.

The Regional Final will be at Worsley GC on July 20. The next section golf is the summer meeting on Monday July 25 at Stockport GC. Soup and sandwiches between 12 and 1pm and tee off from 1.30pm. Applications to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX, enclosing £10 deposit by July 18.

I still require a team for the Roses match at Mottram Hall on Wednesday August 10, and also for the stewards match at Fishwick GC on Monday September 5. Both of these matches are sponsored with no cost to the competitor. If you are available, please ring me on 051 7245412.

The Autumn Tournament is at Royal Birkdale on Monday September 12, and we have split tee times – 10.30am-12noon and 1.30-3pm. Your applications for this tournament have to be in by Monday August 15 with your preference for am or pm, and your deposit of £10 (apply to Paul Pearse). The tee-off times must be strictly adhered to.

Congratulations go to Bob Janovskis who has become a grandfather for the first time. His daughter gave birth to a son, Robert Michael, a few days before the spring tournament, and Bob kindly donated a bottle of 'fire water' for the prize table because, he said, it would be complicated to treat everybody to a drink.

See you at the Open!  
BERT CROSS



#### NORTH WALES

This month our congratulations go to the Royal St Davids GC, Harlech, who are celebrating their centenary, and a distinguished 100 years it has been. Our best wishes also go to Justin Cheung, deputy head green-

## Around the Green



keeper at Eaton GC, Waverton, and we hope he has a 'speedy' recovery from his recent car accident, the moral being, Justin, that if you were still at Carden, you wouldn't have had time for any accidents.

Northop Country Park also deserve our best wishes on their opening. I am sure we all look forward to playing what looks like a delightful layout.

There is a paucity of news this month, perhaps you are all too busy or maybe we all lead boring lives. Whichever, without your views (good, bad or indifferent) journalistic artistry becomes a nightmare so please contact me with any info regardless of how small.

Lastly, are any members interested in taking part in social events, eg bowls, fishing etc? If so, contact me on any of the following numbers: 0244 676022 (home); 0829 250556 (office); 0374 685879 (mobile).

ANDY CAMPBELL

#### WEST SCOTLAND

Sixty-eight greenkeepers and trade members attended the ever-popular first outing of the year, at Dougalston GC. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind and credit must go to Sandy Young and his staff for getting the course ready for play. Close inspection of the following scores may indicate that more than one ball was lost.

Scratch – R Bunting 81bih; cat 1 – 1, D McLaren, Cathcart Castle, 81-6=75; 2, J Steadward, Douglas Park 89-9=80bih; 3, D Gaul, Cordross, 89-9=80; cat 2 – 1, D Montgomery, Cawder 86-11=75bih; 2, J Mathew, Dougalston, 91-16=75; 3, J Young, Dougalston, 95-17=78; cat 3 – 1, S Murray, Douglas Park, 101-21=80; 2, A Young, Dougalston, 106-22=84; 3, AJ Young, Cawder, 109-24=85. All the above have qualified for the Hayter Challenge.

Donald Ferguson, first assistant at Cowglen GC, has taken early retirement due to ill health after 13 years of service with the club. His experience of the course will be missed by myself and the rest of the staff. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

The above position was soon filled by J McGoldrick, also of Cowglen. I'm sure he will prove to be an able replacement for Donald.

SCOTT BALLANTYNE

#### SOUTH COAST

Our Summer Tournament approaches now and will be held at Southwick Park GC on August 15, teeing off from 13.06. The format will be a fourball better ball consisting of member and guest. A guest may be either a member from your own club or a greenkeeper from another club. The entrance fee is £10 per person to include a ploughman's lunch on arrival and the evening meal.

As Southwick Park can only cater for a maximum of 40 persons, a closing date of August 5 is being set and you are advised to

contact Bob Cully, the tournament organiser, early as entries will be on a first come first served basis. Bob will need names, handicaps and a cheque for both members and guests. Entries should be sent to Bob Cully, 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 0LS. Tel: 0489 782976



ALAN MITCHELL

#### SOUTH WALES

Our annual Greenkeepers v Golf Club Secretaries match at the Southerndown Golf Club was marred by the fact that 16 greenkeepers failed to turn up for what is normally a well supported fixture.

After personally contacting each team member a few days before the event, I confirmed with the organiser that we, the greenkeepers, would have a team of 26 – 13 pairs. By far our largest team for a number of years.

Well, on the morning in question, 10 people turned up. Enough for only five team matches. Thank you lads! Not only did you portray us, the greenkeepers, in a bad light, you made me as your organiser look a right fool.

However, I would like to thank those who did make the effort to turn up, especially as we were victorious by three games to two and therefore retain the shield. Winning pairs were: Steve Mills/Mike Norfolk 5+4; Chriss Thomas/Gerwyn Price 3+2; Idwal Morris/Daryl Jones 4+3. Both P Lacey/S Price and JB Jones/L Walter lost on the 18th.

I thank the Golf Club Secretaries, who were prepared to accept the result on the five matches that took place, especially Fred Crossman and Digby Lloyd for their splendid organisation. I'd also like to thank Keith Wilcox and all at Southerndown GC for their hospitality and Jan Williams and the catering staff for what can only be described as the largest gammon steak I have ever had the pleasure of eating.

Good luck to Philip Huw Thomas of Pontardawe GC who is representing our section in this year's ICI Master Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

PETER LACEY

#### EAST MIDLANDS

This month we welcome the following members to our section: Robert Myatt of Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Ian Needham of Beedles Lake GC, Graham Gilson of Market Harborough GC and Justin Aley of Stoke Rochford GC.

Here are the results of our singles and pairs KO tournaments. In the singles first round D Cooper (Rothley Park) lost 4&2 to J Bedford (Birstall), and G Miller (Ullesthorpe) lost 3&1 to D Leatherland (Kedleston Park). In the first round of the pairs KO, A Bindley and M Hopkins (Kirby Muxloe) beat G Robson and A Mcgreal (Lingdale) 6&5, whilst D James and C James (Wollaton Park) beat S Swann and M Smith (Ramsdale Park) 2&1. Second round matches must be played by July 15.

Finally, we hope to circulate a list of all section members telephone numbers to members who would like a list. If, however, any member wishes their number to be omitted, please inform me as soon as possible.



ANTONY BINDLEY

## MID ANGLIA

This month sees the regional final of the Hayter Challenge at Birstall Golf Club, Leicester. Good luck to all the finalists and let's hope we can retain the team trophy we won last year. The reward for qualifying for the national final is a trip to Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, on September 22.

The Lodgeway fourball competition is well under way and I would remind all participants that they have until the end of this month to complete all their league matches.

The Summer Tournament at Brampton Golf Course on the July 26 will be a stableford competition. The Autumn Tournament is confirmed for October 12 at Mentmore Golf Club and this will be followed by the AGM.

The Christmas Texas Scramble will be held at the Family Golf Centre on Thursday December 8.

Good luck to two members who have recently taken up new positions: Don Pemberton, who is moving from Brocket Hall to a new course at Pavenham as course manager, and Jon Moorhouse, who has been promoted to deputy course manager at Brocket Hall.



Finally, Ronan McKeown from Arkely Golf Club will join me in representing the Mid Anglia section on the regional board.  
PAUL LOCKETT

## MIDLANDS

The Midlands Section's Summer Tournament at Fulford Heath GC was played over 27 holes on a warm and sunny day, which seems quite rare these days. The course

# Around the Green



played very well and was presented in excellent condition thanks to Kim Blake and his staff. The nett prize was won by Tony Livingstone, closing with a fine 66 nett in the afternoon. The gross prize was won by Mike Hughes. Sisis' John Burnham, who's having weekly lessons, won the trade prize by too many shots to remember. A truly enjoyable day was rounded off with a most enjoyable meal.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting this event and especially to our trade friends for once again pledging their support to our section.

I have decided with my regional and now board of management commitments to retire as section secretary at the end of the year.



The section is now looking for a replacement and anyone interested in taking the job on should contact me on 0789 762912.  
DEAN CLEAVER

## CLEVELAND

Ten players are required for the Cleveland v North East section match at Whickam GC on July 27, 3pm tee off. If you are interested, please contact Gary Munro on 0642 785195 (home) or 0677 425357 (work).

# HAYTER

## HAYTER CHALLENGE REGIONAL FINALS

Hospitality is a feature of the Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club. With perfect weather the South West and South Wales Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge went without a hitch, and was certainly a day to remember.

Our thanks must go to Richard Whyman and his greenstaff for the excellent presentation of the course. In spite of all the ribbing, he did a grand job. Thanks also go to all the catering staff for looking after us, and the club captain, Derek Davey, who made us most welcome. Most of all the Hayter "boys" who made it all possible.

Category 1 - 1, Robert Barrett, nett 69; 2 Paul Godwin, 71; 3, Cary Rawlings, 72; reserve, Mike Jones, 72; Category Mug - E West; Category 2 - 1, Robin Greaves, 69, 69; 2, J Cooper, 70; 3, C Thomas; reserve, D Gladwin, 71; Category Mug - P Ferragut; Category 3 - 1, P Legg, 68; 2, S Milne, 69; 3, P Saviour, 71; reserve, J Chidley, 74; Category Mug - S Sage.

The winning section for the Regional Shield is the South West section.

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