

Grass seed shortage is on the cards, warns supplier

There could be a shortage of some types of amenity grass seed and a firmer price pattern during the next few months, warns Derek Whelbourn, wholesale director of Johnsons Seeds.

The situation, he claims, has arisen through a combination of factors. "The weather has meant that

this year's spring trade has been later, causing trading over a longer period," he says. "This has helped to clear what initially was an apparent surplus and now replacement stocks of seed are urgently needed for filling empty spaces in merchants' premises."

Additional factors which have contributed to the stock shortage are: considerable exports of seed from Europe to the USA; and lower seed production acreage in Europe and the UK than in previous years.

"The combination of factors has occurred at a time of the year when replacement stocks are not easily available," said Mr Whelbourn. "New crop seed will not be available until the autumn trading is well under way, meaning that the balance of the spring trade and the coming autumn trade will have to be supplied out of current stock. During the late spring and early summer it is almost certain there will be a shortage of certain types of grass seed, leading to an inevitable hardening of prices."

New courses to open near Gatwick Airport

Two new golf courses are being built near Gatwick Airport. The 18-hole Duxhurst Estate course, on a mature parkland site south of Reigate, is to be laid out as a 6,250-yard par 71 course with comprehensive practice and teaching facilities.

Architect Howard Swan says it will feature modest remodelling of the natural terrain and have some water features on the lower parts of the land. Work began mid-May with full play scheduled for late spring '96.

The Horne Park Golf Academy at nearby Horley, also designed by Swan, is a 2,700-yard nine-hole par 34 course with range, chipping and bunker areas. Continental Landscapes are constructing the academy and ISS are supplying the Toro irrigation equipment. Horne Park is likely to open its doors later this year, with the course in play mid-'95.

Castle Combe bought

Castle Combe Golf Club in Wiltshire has been bought by the son of a local hotelier. Danny Pecorelli, whose father Guiseppi owns the nearby Manor House Hotel, is believed to have paid £2.5million for the course which cost £8million to build in 1991. Pecorelli plans to run the Peter Alliss/Clive Clark-designed course in the same way as his other club - Mannings Heath in West Sussex where a second 18 holes is under construction.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Arcot Hall Golf Club's Ian Duncan, 32, is off to Germany to take over the head greenkeeper's job at Sennelager (British Army) Golf Club.

■ McNab Sports Supplies of Kinross have appointed Neil Mitchell as area representative to cover golf clubs in Fife,



Tayside, Grampian and Highland regions. Neil previously worked for Perth and Kinross District Council as a greenkeeper, looking after golf courses, bowling greens and cricket squares. In 1989 he was awarded the title of Young Groundsman of the Year. Tel: 0577 864198.

■ The Whitbread Group of Hotels, whose golf courses include Forest of Arden, St Pierre, Dalmahoy, Meon Valley, and Tewkesbury Park, has been renamed the Country Club Hotel Group.

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SOUTH WEST

"An excellent show." "The best yet." "Very worthwhile exhibiting."

Just some of the remarks made about Westurf from both visitors and the trade alike, who were there in even greater strength this year. I am sure those sentiments would be echoed by the majority who took time out to visit the exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club on April 27. On a day spoilt only by the occasional shower, the range of machinery and accessories on display was extensive with what appeared to be record gate attendances, judging by the full car park.

Westurf's success is again largely down to the unrelenting enthusiasm and organisation of Gordon and Marion Child, whose planning for 95's event will no doubt be starting again in the near future. Our thanks go to them, Long Ashton as hosts, the many section members who helped prior to the event and on the day, too numerous to mention all by name, but in particular Robin Greaves. Finally, thanks to the trade and yourselves for visiting.

A less than average attendance played at Chippenham Golf Club on April 21 in what was the Spring Tournament and section's Hayter Qualifier. Those who played around a compact little venue were treated to a course and greens in excellent condition, especially considering the earliness of the season and previous winter conditions. Course manager Chris Sealey and his staff take the credit for the conditions which made for an enjoyable round.

Thanks are extended to Hayter, the sponsors again this year, for their participation and prize funding, to Chippenham GC for hosting the event, to the steward for a first-class meal and to greens chairman Andre Waring for his generosity in providing the wine and the "contagious" joke that, hopefully, Chris took in good faith.

The next two fixtures for '94 are the section match v the secretaries on June 28 and the summer tournament at Filton GC on July 27.

KEVIN GREEN

NORTH EAST

Firstly let me welcome more new members to the section: P Jackson and D Little of Backworth GC, K Hope and C Seedhouse of Gosforth GC, J Devlin of Wearside GC; G Frater of Alston Moor GC.

The following new members prefer to be in the North East section rather than the Cleveland section: Y Carmichael of Eaglescliffe GC, R Ord of Castle Eden GC, K Varley of Crook GC, A Savins of Catterick Garrison

EVENTS DIARY

June 8-9: BALI Trade Show, Stoneleigh

June 29: Southturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Mottspur Park, south west London

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

GC. Should they wish to be transferred they should get in touch with Gary Munro on 0642 785195.

C Wayman from South Shields has been transferred from Cleveland to North East.

The total membership including trade is now 114 and there are still greenkeepers not in BIGGA yet.

The spring competition at South Moor GC was well attended and our thanks go to the committee for granting us the courtesy of this fine moorland course and of course to Tommy Fenwick, the head greenkeeper, for the fine condition of it.

Our thanks also go to Hamish McFie for presenting the prizes to the winners of each category in the Hayter Challenge and to the following companies for donations to the prize table: Ryton Gravel Co, TurfCare, Shorts of Whitburn, Supaturf, Swarland GC, Warkworth Village GC and South Moor GC.

Best gross was David Cuthbertson's 76 on home soil. Best nett was Brian Udberg of Tynemouth GC. Best assistant's nett score was Barry Wilson of Stocksfield GC.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

CLEVELAND

Stressholme GC, Darlington, has opened a new driving range and we welcome their three staff, who maintain the course and range, as new members. They are Liam Appleby, Martin Corner and Terry Hepplestaff.

Southturf on course for successful debut

Southturf is set to make its mark on the trade show calendar when it makes its debut on Wednesday June 29, 10am-5pm at Mottspur Park in south-west London.

Organised by the South-East region of BIGGA, more than 35 companies have already booked space with many more promising to be there.

But this event is going to be more than just an exhibition. As well as being able to view the latest machinery and products, there is an education marquee where the colleges will be available to discuss courses, and a turf clinic where leading agronomists and greenkeepers will analyse your hole plugs (so bring a sample with you). The Greenkeepers Training Committee will be on hand to answer questions regarding greenkeeper training. There will be a special exhibit of weather recording equipment. Outside a



charity golf clinic is to be staged. Greenkeepers will be able to have their swings analysed by a PGA professional in exchange for a small donation. The pavilion will be open all day for refreshments. But best of all, parking, entrance and catalogue are free.

Anyone connected with the turf trade can attend but greenkeepers are actively encouraged because the purpose of the event is to raise money to improve the service that BIGGA members in the south-east receive and to

increase the number of education events at both section and regional level. But to achieve these aims, it is important that as many greenkeepers as possible turn up on the day to prove to exhibitors that the event is worthwhile.

To get there, follow the AA signs. Further details are available from David Wood on 0342 850875 or 0850 162401.

Teeside GC is hoping to build a new greenkeepers' shed.

BIGGA's vice-chairman Barry Heaney was among the guests who turned up at Eaglescliffe GC for my 30-year service dinner. A trophy has been named in honour of long service, and Cleveland BIGGA presented four engraved wine glasses. I thank you all sincerely for your good wishes and I shall continue as your section chairman with pleasure. Thanks to Ian Holleran and Gary Munro for organising the event and to George Malcolm for his excellent speech.

BRUCE BURNELL

AYRSHIRE

Our thanks go to Thornhill GC for allowing us to use their course for our spring outing. The course was in good condition, especially considering that the whole place had a covering of snow the week before our visit. Our thanks to head greenkeeper Hunter Tarbett for preparing a good test of golf, and to the catering staff for first-class fare.

The golf itself was of the mixed variety, the early season sclafts, shanks and missed putts being interspersed with the odd good (or lucky) shot, but overall the scores were fairly good, and the excellent turnout of over 40 members had a great time.

Results: scratch - Keith McCartney, Dumfries Gal-loway, 73; 1st class - 1, William McMeikam, Turnberry, 75-9-66; 2, Ian McNab, Dumfries County, 75-4-71; 3, Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, 82-9-73; 2nd class - 1, Duncan Gray, Mitchell and Struthers 83-10-73; 2, Paul Rae, Brunston Castle, 91-17-74; 3, Jimmy Johnstone, Turnberry, 91-16-75; 3rd class - 1, Steven Knaggs, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2 Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-22-76; new member - Jason Buxton, Bogside, 97-24-73; trade - Kevin Brunton, Souters, 73; Texas scramble - 1, Ian McNab, John Kinder, Keith McCartney, Robert Bruce 60-4; 2, Kevin Brunton, Jimmy Johnstone, Bob McKay, Dougie Drain.

Movements this month are Steven Fraser from Annanhill to the head greenkeeper position at Caldwell GC, and new to the section is Colin Higginbottom as head greenkeeper at the Crighton Royal GC in Dumfries.

Finally, the new video produced by BIGGA called Keeper of the Green is available on loan, on request from headquarters or section secretaries.

DUNCAN GRAY

NORTH WEST

The annual tournament between the North West and North Wales sections, played at Oaklands GCC, was halved. Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers or interest, both teams could only field a team of 12, instead of the required 16, but competitively nothing was lacking. The course, which is reasonably new and has great potential, played long in gale-force winds but both teams mastered the wind and played good golf.

On the other hand I played what was supposed to be a friendly game with Andy Hardie from Gem Professional who told me he had not played since last summer but hit the ball like a pro. I did manage eventually to wear him down and beat him 4 and 3, but the wind and the undulations certainly took its toll on both of us. An unlikely pairing of Bill Merritt and Jane Ryan played a great game with Bill sinking a 10ft putt on the 18th green to win, and his partner Jane on her hands and knees, with her head buried in a grass mound not daring to look.

An excellent meal followed the golf, paid for by Gem Professional who sponsored the day. Many thanks to them and to Oaklands GCC for their hospitality and for allowing us the courtesy of their excellent course.

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 in writing to Paul Pearce, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX, enclosing a deposit of £10 by July 18.

I would like to welcome any new members to the NW

section and hope you will come along to the events arranged during the year and meet your fellow greenkeepers. A number of members of the NW section have not renewed their membership this year, and I would be interested to know the reason why. Is it too expensive? Has your golf club failed to pay your subscriptions? Or are there other reasons? Your views may help make the Association better. Please write to me at Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU or phone me on 051 7245412.

BERT CROSS

SURREY

Our Spring Tournament/Hayter Qualifier took place at Malden GC. Thanks go to A Bradshaw and his staff for turning out the course in such good condition and thanks also to Malden GC. The results are as follows: 1, R Christie, 139 on countback; 2, D Walder, 139; 3, P Careswell, 141; 4, J Rigg, 141; nearest the pin - M Lincoln Smith; best am - A Locke; best pm - D Wyborn; scratch - S Haynes; trade - D Searles.

Events to look forward to include England v Scotland at Leatherhead GC on July 13 and the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 11

Congratulations to Brian Gibbs on his appointment as course manager at the new Park Wood golf complex in Westerham, Kent. Many congratulations also go to Effingham GC's Peter Broadbent and his wife on the birth of their baby, Samantha.

Ted Stiles of the Drift Bridge GC reports that they have been victims of an arson attack, and that 95 per cent of the club's equipment was lost in the fire. This included all the machinery that Ted had overhauled during the winter. Head greenkeeper Paul Weston and his staff would like to convey their thanks to all parties involved in the loan of machinery which enabled the club to continue working.

DAVID GIBBS

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our congratulations go to Gordon and Marion Child who once again superbly organised this year's Westurf trade show at Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

Also our thanks to all the companies that took trade stands and to all of you who turned up on the day, making the show such a success.

The abuse of the membership card for free golf or reduced green fees by some of our members was brought to the attention of your section committee recently. Although the membership card doesn't mention how many rounds should be played per annum, members must remember that the card is a privilege and should be treated as such. Anyone who abuses the card will put the privilege of courtesy golf at risk.

As a guide I would suggest that members shouldn't use their card for courtesy golf more than five times in any year, the less the better. Clubs will always have the right to refuse any member a courtesy round. Members should always ring the club they wish to visit well in advance as common courtesy.

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

Neil Thomas, the executive director of BIGGA, visited the section in March. By all accounts he gave a detailed insight into where BIGGA is going, including details to be included in the review.

Our first golf event of the year was at Harpenden GC, Herts. The weather was kind and the 46 members enjoyed the day, although I'm not sure if anyone enjoyed a 36-hole medal. Our thanks go to Harpenden for their hospitality and to Stewart Boyes and his team for preparing such a neat course and excellent greens for the time of year. We wish Harpenden a successful centenary year.

As is usual in a medal event, low handicap golfers filled the first three places, Jon Moorhouse of Brocket Hall, playing off 6, won with a total of 144. Ronan McKee of Arkely was second playing off 4 with 148. Third was David Forsyth of Mid Herts with 148 also, playing off 6. Congratulations to our winners and to all players who qualified for the regional final.

Unfortunately, the BB&O section whose turn it is to stage the regional final have failed as yet to come up with a venue or date. As soon as this is known, it will be conveyed to all qualifiers. Anyone who can't make the date should let Gerald or myself know so that reserves can be drafted in.

Our thanks go to Rigby Taylor for providing the prize table and members of the trade for donating raffle prizes. Two other prizes were awarded, one for the longest drive which went to David Forsyth, the other nearest the pin which was won by J Burton.

The next golf fixture is the Summer Tournament at Brampton GC, Huntingdon on July 26.

Finally, Mentmore GC will be the venue for the Autumn Tournament, to give Neil Whittaker a break from hold-

Around the Green



ing the event every year. The date will be confirmed in a later issue.

PAUL LOCKETT

EAST MIDLANDS

Our section's Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier was held at Sherwood Forest GC. Thirty-nine took part in the competition on a very scenic and well maintained course. The category winners were: 0-9 - P Tatlow, 10-18 - A Foulds 19-28 - G Robson, and trade and associates - M Franklin.

A thank you should go to everyone at Sherwood Forest for offering their courtesy and hospitality at such short notice. Also thanks to all the trade for their kind donation of prizes for the day, especially Hayter and Erringtons of Leicester, and a special thanks to all the section committee members for their valuable work on the day. Hope to see you all at Wellingborough GC on September 28. I would also like to take this opportunity of wishing all the section's qualifiers the best of luck in the Hayter regional final.

This month we welcome the following new members to our section: Stephen James, Brian Hill and Mark Longmate, all from Grassmoor Golf Centre and Gordon Smith of Breadsall Priory Golf and Country Club.

ANTONY BINDLEY

SCOTTISH EAST

The section's Spring Tournament took place over Gullane No2 on April 12. Glorious sunshine greeted the 60+ competitors who recorded some fine scores in an attempt to qualify for the Hayter finals. The course was in its usual great condition, and our grateful thanks go to Paul Sago, Willie Robertson and their staff. Thanks also go to the catering staff for their first-class meals and the Gullane GC for the courtesy.

The match committee, at the end of a long day, had some work to do separating the leaders, which eventually went to countbacks. See the list of qualifiers below.

Our patrons prize this year went to I Thomson of Provan Chemicals with a nett 64. Our grateful thanks to our patrons who do so much for us over the year and are ever-present at our tournaments and social events. There were 13 companies represented and, as they know, we are always delighted to see them.

Other guests included Bill Lynch of BIGGA and the Hayter representatives. Gordon Moir, our Scottish chairman, also graced our company and presented the prizes to the winners.

Our next tournament is the summer half-day event at Lothianburn GC on June 8.

All members will be receiving the new fixture card which includes dates for tournaments, lectures and social events. Our thanks go to Steven Dixon for this excellent piece of work. Our only hope is that the events published will be supported.

Our annual quiz night was held at the Black Bull on April 27. A very good attendance was recorded. An attendance such as this makes the organisation worthwhile. Forty people sat down to do battle for the quiz trophy, and the eventual winners were Stewart & Co for the second year running. The runners-up were Three Ladies and a Tramp. Medals will be presented at the annual dance. We hope to see the same crowd and more at the Skittles night on May 13.

Congratulations to Billy Hudson who has moved from Liberton GC to Newbattle as first assistant and to Paul Bowden who has moved from Newbattle to work with Sports Turf Services.

WILLIE BLAIR

LONDON

I would like to thank Porters Park GC for allowing us to hold our Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier at their course. We were made most welcome and the course was in excellent condition - Martin Smith and his staff have done a great job. I would also like to thank Peter Phillips and the catering manager for allowing us to use the club facilities.

The overall winner was John Jackson from Wanstead GC and his score of 34 points proved how tough Porters Park is off the back tees. The qualifiers are listed below and the other winners were: nearest the pin - Pat Swinn and Colin Forde; longest drive - Andrew Toomey.

I would also like to thank the trade for supporting the

event and helping out on the day.

Another popular event was once again organised by Jamie Bennett. The venue was the Bracknell indoor circuit and the event was the RPK Superkart Challenge. The racing was excellent and the final resulted in a win for Jamie Bennett. In second place was the past champion, Cameron McMillan, and third was Murray Long. Many thanks, Jamie, for organising the event.

TONY DUNSTAN

EAST ANGLIA

Our first outing of the year was the Hayter Tournament at Rochford Hundred GC in Essex. The clubhouse is probably the oldest in the country and was once the home of Anne Boleyn, which accounts for us playing like headless ducks.

The course itself was in good condition thanks to 'HE' Wells and his men, I only hope he can keep his head. The pot hunters are listed elsewhere, but the longest drive went to Mike Verley - 2ft 6in, only one on the fairway; nearest the pin went to Stuart McGeer - 300 yards, it was a big green. Keith Hackett won the guest prize - a whistle and a red card! All prizes were presented by Henry VIII or Dick Jones Cpt. Our thanks to the trade - Rush Brooks Kings, Parkers, Does, Sisis, Rigby Taylor and especially Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayters for a super day. Thank you Rochford Hundred for having us.

As you may know, Steve Freestone has finally gone to Australia. He used to enjoy his days out and I'm sure he will be missed. Eaton is not the same. Life goes on however and his younger brother Paul is my first assistant. He will be playing golf soon.

Uncle Bob Chesham says to remind you about a Grounds and Greens seminar at Newmarket Racecourse on July 12 and 13. Topics include drainage and aeration, renovation and communication. All good stuff. Speakers include Martyn Jones, John Philp and Duncan McGilvray.

Funny things committees. A greenkeeper I know spent 20-odd years bringing a course up to scratch. He struggled for 15 years with a total of four men. He finally got an extra man and the course turned the corner. All looking good, rave reports. One of his men, his first assistant left, a simple task to replace him, to keep the course up to scratch you would think. Not so. Back to four men. Greenkeeper not happy. members not happy. The amateur dramatic society strikes again.

MICK LATHROPE

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The visit to Ibrox Stadium, home of Glasgow Rangers, turned out to be a great success with over 60 members present (Fergus McCann and Co failed to appear, although there was someone wearing a Celtic tie). I won't be disclosing the names of the members who got the date wrong and turned up the day before, but a photograph of one of them appeared in an earlier edition of GI. To be fair, he did return on the correct day with a bit more colour in his face than usual.

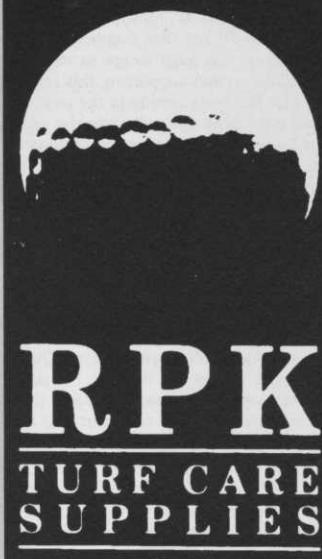
Pitch superintendent Allan Ferguson and his staff gave us a full tour of the stadium and an insight into the problems of having to produce a pitch for Premier League football in just six weeks from date of sowing, not an easy task. Thanks to everyone at Ibrox for the hospitality which was extended to us.

Following the super attendance at Ibrox, the Spring Tournament at Monifieth Links was another successful event with over 70 members and guests enjoying a day away from work (judging by some of the scores some may have wished they had stayed there). Although the weather was very blustery, it remained dry and everyone completed their round with the main prize winners being: best scratch - J Ellis, Glenbervie, 82; best nett - W Whitfield, Stirling, 77; 1st class - 1, J Duncan, Aberdeen, 78; 2, T O'Connor, Carnoustie, 79; 2nd class - 1, A Robertson, Grangemouth, 80; 2, A Wade, Hags Castle, 80; Stewart Quach - W Whitfield, J Easton, Stirling, 160; Patrons prize - K Brunton, Souters, 76; Two-ball foursomes - J Clark, J Easton, Stirling, 32; Guest - K Younger, Stirling, 84.

Our sincere thanks go to Bill Jarret and his staff for having the course in such excellent condition so early in the season, the clubhouse staff for the first-class meals and service throughout the whole day, Monifieth Links secretary Harry Nicholl for all his assistance and for sorting out the mix-up in our tee times and to Hamish McFie for presenting the prizes.

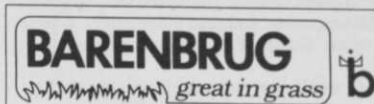
Shift of power? Two trade members who are on the move are Central Section committee member John Yeats and his colleague Les Westwater from Sisis in Falkirk who have joined Power Shift in Dundee. Best wishes to you both and every success in the future.

With interest increasing in section events, it is intended to organise a wider variety of subjects, so please make an effort to complete and return the questionnaire which was circulated to every member earlier this year, or drop me a line with your choice of subjects.



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A NEW WORLD IN LEISURE AMENITIES

We are hoping to organise an inter-club five-a-side football tournament later in the year, so if anyone has any budding stars on their staff, fill in the form when it arrives and get in training for the big day. Fuller details will be circulated soon..

JOHN CRAWFORD

NORTH WALES

110 members and guests played in our Spring Tournament over the new layout at Carden Park near Chester. The winners were as follows: Lesco Cup for best nett, donated by Richard Campey - Terry Adamson, 76; runners-up, decided by countback - Pat Valentine, Ian Buckley, Chris Davies, Alan Gillies, all with nett 77s; guests - 1, JC Harris, 76; 2, G Perks, 77; 3, D Postles, 78; High-speed Rose Bowl for best gross - Ian Farrall, 83; nearest the pin - Val Wickens.

During the day John Garner, the ex-Ryder Cup player, entertained visitors with his very humorous golf show. We extend our grateful thanks to John whose efforts helped raise £345 for the Fight Leukaemia in Chester Charity. On a personal note I would like to wish John and Melanie all the best in their new venture at St Mellion.

The event was also the section qualifier for the Hayter Challenge, with the top three in each handicap section going forward to the regional finals at Worsley GC on July 20.

Prizes were donated by the following companies and once again we would thank the trade for their continuing support: Richard Campey, Highspeed Oils, Gem Professional, Manmersteeg, Bathgate Silica Sands, Walker Brothers, Acorn, Carden Park and last but not least Hayters plc.

In closing I would like to thank all my greenstaff for yet another incredible effort - well done lads.

ANDY CAMPBELL

NORTH SCOTLAND

Another batch of new members as the recruitment drive continues. First up is Hugh McLatchie's newly qualified assistant Aileen Snowden, followed by Kevin Halley, apprentice at Ballater, and E J Auldhouse, an assistant with Perth and Kinross District Council. Transferring into the section we welcome George Asher and Philip Don from Kemnay, William Caswell from Dundee, Brian Strachan from Aberdeen and Elmwood students Peter Dunning of Kirriemuir and David McRitchie of Forres. A

Around the Green



few more of last year's members have rejoined, but there is still some to go.

A big thank you must go to David Golding and his colleagues at the GTC who have given the section a grant for our one-day conference in Aberdeen this December. This will enable us to reduce the entrance fee by £2 per person to the benefit of all.

A North member currently making a name for himself in another sport is Kingussie's assistant Michael Clarke. He is captain of the all conquering Kingussie shinty team, who are yet again winning just about everything this year. Now we know how he hits the ball so true and straight at section outings.

Tain assistant John Urquhart is the latest member to join the North District golf team, albeit as a trialist, but he performed well and if his early season scores and pounding of the Tain practice ground are anything to go by he will soon get his debut proper. With so many members in various district teams, I am trying to fix up a challenge match against the North District to see how we fair. Club members could be forgiven for thinking we spend more time golfing than working, I just put it down to natural ability!

The North section will be well represented in the greenkeeper support team at this year's Open Championship at Turnberry. Gordon Mckie, Paul Murphy, Gordon Moir and I will be there to fly the flag. I'm sure it will be a great success and, as usual, George Brown will have the course in excellent condition.

IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WALES

The south Wales section's Hayter Qualifier and Spring Tournament was held at Newport GC, Rogerstone. The course was in superb condition, presented to an extremely high standard by Robert Johnston and his team, the weather couldn't have been better and the evening meal was excellent. What more could you ask for? A better attendance perhaps!

Robin Boyes of Hayter's presented each category winner (results below) with a superb set of cut-glass crystal brandy glasses. Winner of the Cardiff Cup was Andrew Jenkins, nett 70. Robert Johnston took the Waycott Shield with a 73 gross and Ted Thompson won the John O'Gorman Cup with a nett 71. Trade winner with a nett 68 was Terry Adamson.

Our sincere thanks to the trade again for their wonderful support, namely Avoncrop, Farmura, Hayters, Gem Professional, Ted/Chriss Hopkins and Colin Murphy. Thanks also go to John Pemberton from BIGGA HQ for putting himself on the hot spot, to Grayham Harris the captain and to the staff and caterers of Newport GC who all ensured a magnificent day was had.

The 'Birds' annual golf and demonstration day was held at Royal Porthcawl GC. The weather again was fine, albeit a little breezy, and the event was well attended. Thanks go to Roger and Jeff Bird for ensuring this long-standing, enjoyable event remains firmly attached to our fixture card each year. Westurf. What more can one say? The show that

goes from strength to strength. By 10.30am we'd run out of catalogues and by 11am we needed extra car parking space, so I'd say that numbers were definitely up on last year. It was good to see so many faces from the South Wales section supporting this regional event, something that has been lacking in the past - well done! It's this kind of backing that will allow the region to continue to subsidise our education programme both now and in the future. The section would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for all their hard work and effort in organising a truly magnificent exhibition.

Lastly, congratulations to Mr and Mrs Andrew Philips on the birth of their baby boy. Unfortunately, Andrew missed the Hayter Qualifier because of the untimely arrival of the youngster - better luck next year!

NORTHERN

Our Spring Competition and Hayter Qualifier was played at Bingley St Ives GC, Bingley. The sun shone for us, the course was in excellent condition, the food was first-class, and everyone that took part had an excellent day. I must thank head greenkeeper Joe Baxter and his team for preparing such an excellent course under such adverse weather conditions. I must also thank St Ives GC for allowing us the use of their course and their beautiful new clubhouse, which had only been open three weeks.

The results: 9-hole stableford - 1, David Collins, Pontefract GC; 18-hole medal - Div 1: 1, Garry Potter, Skipton GC, 2 David Spurden, Ganton GC; 3, Mick Hannan, Moortown GC; Div 2: 1, John Waite, Temple Newsam GC; 2, Arthur Baxter, Bingley St Ives GC; 3, Graham Oxley, Scarcroft GC; Div 3: 1, Alan Gamble, Pannal GC; 2, Dennis Cockburn, Silsden GC; 3, Les Kirkbright.

Once again big thanks to all the sponsors, namely Norman Sheddon (Aitkens) for looking after the cards for us and for donating a prize table, also to Andy Law (Martin Brothers), Clive Heginbotham (ICI) and our main sponsor Hayter for their donations to the prize table. Thanks also go to Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc for donating the prize for the nearest the pin once again.

Robert Gee, who was on the committee of the Northern section, has left us and Yorkshire to take up the position of course manager at Faithlegg GC in Eire. The course is a par 72 championship course. Robert says that he would like to thank the section, especially Bob Lupton for training and educating him, and for being such a good friend over a number of years. Robert, all I can say, as I usually do, is may all your problems be little ones.

I have also heard that Larry Murcott, formerly of Macclesfield GC has now joined Mid-Yorkshire GC. New members to welcome include Graham Green of Ganstead Park, John Mullany of Bradley Hall and Raymond Price of Grange Park.

PAT MURPHY

SOUTH COAST

Our Spring Tournament was held at the Test Valley Golf Club. After weeks of unsettled weather we had a super day except for a swift torrential shower during the morning, one of those that by the time you seek shelter the rain has stopped but you're soaked anyway. Nearly 40 played so this was a good turnout for the first outing of the year.

Test Valley has only been open for two years and is maturing fast. Laid out on the lines of the great old links courses of Scotland and Ireland (Ballybunion was what Eammon Darcy, the consultant, had in mind). Bunkers are a particular feature of the course. These certainly caused the most comment over dinner!

Our thanks go to Nicholas McDonagh, the president and owner for the courtesy of the course. Also to Andy Blackwell and his team for the presentation of the course. But, of course, there's more to the day than the golf and Kevin West and the catering and bar staff looked after everyone really well.

We would also like to thank our sponsors Huxleys Grass Machinery and Jim Fry our president, who was unable to be with us. Also our raffle prizes were donated by Avoncrop, Jenman Engineering, Romsey Garden Machinery and Sta-Brite. My apologies if I have left anyone out.

This was the first tournament organised by Bob Cully and Mark Webb. Well done to both of them. It's a good job that members like Bob and Mark come forward to take on these tasks or nothing would happen.

Results were as follows: Tregunna Trophy - Joe Newman; Rosebowl - Paul Fitzjohn; Rophy Cup - Paul Jackson; Denyer Cup - Shaun White; Nita Stimson Trophy - Gordon Payne; Christopher Fry Trophy - Robert Crouch.

Our next tournament is at Southwick Park on August 15. Will previous trophy winners please remember to bring their silverware with them or, if you can't make it, give it to the organiser prior to the event.

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SUSSEX

Our '94 season started with the superb venue of Willingdon GC down on the south coast at Eastbourne. Peter Negus and his staff as usual presented the course in superb condition.

The day started at 7.30 for breakfast in the clubhouse, and it seems strange how everybody turns up on time when there's food about! Being such a good turnout, two tees were utilised and the first pair of triples went off from the 1st and 10th at about 8.15am.

We had to struggle for most of the morning with sea mist which kept rolling in from the Channel and then laying in the bowl from which the course was originally built. The sun finally shone at around midday, and what with the beer at lunchtime and another 18 holes of hill-walking, I'm not sure what caused all the red faces! Perhaps it was the scores!

Stefan Antolik did a brilliant job as tournament organiser both before and during the event, and a special thanks to his wife who, I understand, did all the typing. As promised, Stefan cut handicaps by 5 for anybody who put in a late entry which, as it happened, included two prominent members, namely Messrs Barr and Day, so if it can happen to them it can happen to anyone, so be warned!

The sponsors for the day were John Shaw Machinery (morning medal) and Rigby Taylor (afternoon stableford) with the medal round going towards qualifying for the Hayter Challenge. Many thanks to the companies involved.

The results: medal - 1, Bill Francis; 2, Martin Private; 3, Duncan Haste; trade/guests - D Bell; stableford - 1, Chris Reed, 2 Robert Hudson; 3, Peter Ray; trade/guests - S Wood

Members of the Sussex branch would like to take this opportunity to thank Willingdon GC for the courtesy of the course, to the catering staff for looking after us so well, and to Peter Negus and his lads for their hard work.

Finally, the next golf function is at Ham Manor on July 14. Entry is limited to 50 with priority given to members, with any remaining spaces allocated to guests on a first-come, first served basis. So get your entries in fast!

MARK WILTON

SHEFFIELD

The last winter lecture of the season was given by Supreme Mowing who provided us with a delicious light

Around the Green



lunch followed by an interesting demonstration of a grinding machine. Our thanks go to Supreme Mowing and to Paul Wakefield and Steve Burgin for giving us the lecture, for their hospitality and their time. There were 25 members present.

The new lecture season starts in October but I look forward to seeing you all at our summer competitions.

Our Spring Tournament was held in glorious weather and playing conditions at Worksop GC. We would like to thank Worksop GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and making us all very welcome. Also our thanks go to the steward and his staff for an excellent meal and service, and to Barry Lax and his staff for providing a course in such excellent condition, even though I heard that some Worksop groundstaff members were four-putting on some greens. I'd also like to thank Barry Heaney for organising the whole day and to all the trade members who contributed to the prize table.

The winners were: 1, Barry Heaney, 38pts; 2, Matin Scothern, 38; 3, Steve Currie 37.

Finally, I would like to welcome back to our section Kevin Caples of Crookhill Park GC who has been working out of the area for the last few years.

IAN COLLETT

HAYTER QUALIFIERS

NORTH EAST: 0-9 - B Wilson, D Cuthbertson, J Hutton, res - C Parkinson; 10-18 - B Udberg, J Johnson, D Street, res - S Thompson; 19-28 - T Harrison, J Rippon, M Harvey, res - T Mooney.

SURREY: 0-9 - R Christie, D Langheim, S Haynes, R Glazier; 10-18 - D Walder, P Careswell, J Rigg, A Locke; 19-24 - A Bradshaw, I Smith, M Roberts, P King

MID ANGLIA: 0-9 - J Moorhouse, R McKeown, D Forsyth, res - G Boulton, C Brook; 10-18 - J Elbourn, B Cox, C Toms, res - S Boyes, M Ellis; 19-28 - D Coleman, D Pemberton, J Blair, res - R Saunders, P Hales.

SOUTH WEST: 0-9 - N Wilson, P Godwin, M Haring, A Parker; 10-18 - S Shipley, R Greaves, D Neale, J York, P Ferragut; 19-28 - A Johnson, P Seviour, C Sealey, L Johnson, D Bougen. The regional final is at Bude GC on June 15.

SCOTTISH EAST: 0-9 - G Ferguson, G White, G Thomson, C Gilholm; 10-18 - R Dugan, J Lockerbie, C Yeaman, J Neilson; 19-28 - A Forrest, W Armstrong, D Marshall, G Stavert.

LONDON: 0-9 - John Jackson, Richard Andrews, Ian Semple and Andrew Toomey; 10-18 - Don Wilson, Russell Ling and Robert Washbrook; 19-28 - Doug Smith, Pat Swinn, Peter Dawson and Andrew Smith.

EAST ANGLIA: 0-9 - 1, Richard Pride, 72; Andy Shin, 73; Neil Chapman, 76; Michael Fance, 77; 10-18 - Ian Willit, 66, Mike Verley 70, Sam Sylvester 70, 'HG' Wells 74; 19-28 - Jim Tims, 72, Richard Mitchell 73, Steve Millard 80, Martin Forester 82.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND: 0-9 - W Whitfield, Stirling GC, J Ellis, Glenberrie GC, J Duncan, Aberdour GC, T O'Connor, Carnoustie Links, res - N Woods, Burntisland GC; 10-18 - A Robertson, Grangemouth GC, A Wallace, Dollar GC, I Jarvis, Alloa GC, A Bange, Carnoustie Links, res - J Easton, Stirling GC; 19-28 - A Wade, Haggis Caslte, M Lindsay, Scoonie GC, A Nimmo, Alloa GC, W Easton, Stirling GC, res - M Hanlon, Glenberrie GC

NORTH WALES: 0-9 - Pat Valentine, Ian Buckley, Ian Farrall, res - Jeremy Hughes, Aled Hughes; 10-18 - Chris Davies, Les Armstrong, Chris Pringle, res - Raul Bertenshaw, Andy Davidson; 19-28 - Peter Sproston, Terry Evans, John Lloyd-Jones, res - Glyn Davies, Eleanor Barlow.

SOUTH WALES: 0-9: Andrew Jenkins, Robert Johnston, Mike Jones, Vincent Northey, Gerwyn Price; 10-18 - Peter Lacey, Douge Donne, Julian B Jones, David Gladwin, Laurence Walter; 19-28 - Ted Thompson, Bob Kitcher, Les Hallett, Dave Williams, Philip Huish.

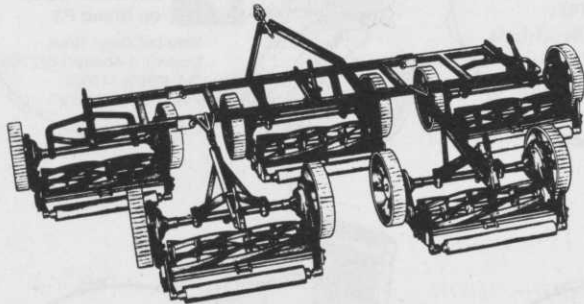
SOUTH COAST: 0-9 - Brian Newcombe 154, Joe Newman 147, Paul Fitzjohn 150, Bob Walker 152, Ted West 152, Gordon Payne 152, Mark Webb 154; 10-18 - Paul Jackson 138, Shaun White 143, Terry Patchin 148, Nick Weller 150, Andy Hill 151, Phil Wentworth 152, Bob Cully 159; 19-28 - Steven White 151, Martin Harper 156, Ted Archer 153, Robert Crouch 155, Don Friend 156, R Potter 158.

SHEFFIELD: 0-9 - B Heaney, M Scothern, S Currie; 10-18 - M Coultas, C Hopper, N Maltby; 19-28 - K Caples, C Duncan, G Brammah. The regional final is at Worsley GC on July 20.

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