

NEWS

STRI to run turf courses in spring

The STRI, Bingley, will hold a series of courses on the theory and practice of turf construction and management this spring. The five-day courses start on February 20, February 27 and March 6. Prices (excluding VAT) are £265 for non-STRI members and £215 for members. The STRI will also be holding a two-day course for club managers/chairmen of green on January 24 and 25. Prices for this less detailed course are £150 for members and £175 for non-members plus VAT. Tel: Julia Wilson on 0274 565131.



■ Toro commercial products distributor Lely UK has presented special awards to three of its national network of dealers to mark their contribution towards a successful year which has brought a "healthy increase" in sales of Toro turf maintenance machines. Pictured with their awards are (from left): Brian Goudie, AM Russell Ltd, Edinburgh (Outstanding After Sales Award); Richard Holt and John Penn, Midland Tractor Company, Hednesford, Staffs (Best Dealer Commitment Award); Dill Barnard (Dealer Salesman of the Year Award) and Gavin Bingham-Wallis, both of Grasshopper (Horticultural) Ltd, Chelmsford, Essex (Best Overall Dealer Award); and Toro general manager and sales manager Peter Mansfield and David Cole.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Warren Sunderland of Sunderland of Scotland has been re-elected as chairman of the British Golf Industry Association. John Ennis of McGregor Golf (UK) continues as vice-chairman.

■ Preliminary year-end results from Ransomes plc show that the company's recovery continues. Operating profit to the 1994 year-end reached £14.4 million compared to £2.4 million in 1993. And this was for a nine-month year following the company's decision to bring its year-end forward to September 30 to better reflect the seasonal nature of the grass machinery manufacturing business.

■ Seaford Head Golf Course, one of the most popular public courses in Sussex, will continue to be maintained by Lewes District Council's Community Leisure DSO. General manager Peter Crowley has won a five-year continuance of the contract which was first taken on three years ago.

Irish greenkeepers learn how to take control

The Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association is holding a two-day course management conference entitled 'Taking Control' on March 3 and 4 in the Prince Wales Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

There will be seven speakers each day covering a broad range of topics, including preparation of courses for tournaments, budgets and health and safety in the workplace. Speakers include Derek

Ganning from The Belfry.

The cost for the two days is £50 for members of the IGGA and £60 for non-members. This includes lunch both days and tea and coffee.

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AD REF 439

Serious hollow-coring comes to the rescue for Nefyn Golf Club, whenever their troublesome neighbour – a stormy sea – decides to pay a visit. Chris Boiling reports from North Wales.

Nefyn and District Golf Club has bought a new Kubota tractor. Driving through North Wales to the course I wondered if a boat might not have been a better buy. The roads through the Snowdonia National Park were more like rivers and the fields looked more like lakes. Villages just six miles from the course were on a red flood alert. Yet when I arrived at the 27-hole club, the new Grandel L4200 was on the 17th green, driving across it at creep speed with a Verti-drain pumping away on the back.

Some of the credit can go to Kubota, for developing a 45hp tractor that will let you do this, but a lot more must go to course manager Pat McAteer and his intensive aeration programme.

And when I say intensive I mean I-N-T-E-N-S-I-V-E: Verti-draining his oldest greens four times from September to December and doing his nine new USGA-spec greens twice since they opened in April '94. "It gives them a good profile," says 38-year-old Pat, who has worked on the course for 13 years, five as course manager.

The programme starts in September using 6in solid tines on the old greens. A month later they Verti-drain again with 9in tines. Then, at monthly intervals throughout the winter, they continue with 12ins tines. The new greens, which opened when they were 16 months old, receive injections from 7in and 8in tines.

The tees are treated similarly to the old greens but to a maximum depth of 8ins. On the fairways, which are done once a year, his staff of four qualified greenkeep-

Against the odds

ers use 10ins tines on the oldest holes and 8in tines on the new course. Twice in the middle of October he used a Ransomes TM80 to spoon tine and slit them, then followed it up a couple of days later with the Kubota pulling a Sisis Brush to brush in the dried-out sand and soil from the cores while a Jacobsen TriKing and Toro 216 were used to box off the fibrous parts. The fairways are also slit-tined 15 times through the winter and hollow-tined.

Providing there is suitable weather, the greens and tees are

Extract from Nefyn and District Golf Club minutes (1939)

"It was decided this winter to employ only one man. JP Hughes was selected. His duties will be to look after the sheep on weekdays and Sundays. In addition he will be required to keep the first nine holes in playing order and maintain mowers and other implements in good condition. He will be supplied with a dog and his wages will be increased to £2 a week to cover the cost of feeding the dog."

slit-tined every week, alternating four, six and nine inch tines. Often the greens are hollow-cored before being Verti-drained. Pat has been doing this for the past six years and is pleased with the results. "It closes the hollow-core holes

vertically and leaves a good putting surface," he says. Sometimes he will leave the holes open to wash out salt water blown onto the cliff-top course from the nearby Irish Sea.

In 1991, after a bad storm, so much salt water swept up over the cliffs and onto the 87-year-old course that Pat lost six greens, six

fairways and 17 tees. To win the greens back they washed them down, slit-tined them, washed them again, hollow-tined them three times, washed them down, and then filled in the holes with topdressing and seed. The seed germinated well but there was still too much salt deep down which killed the grass. So they saturated the greens with water, hollow-tined them seven times, top-dressed them and seeded them with pure bents. Six months after the storm they were back to normal.

The fairways took a

little longer because the green-staff couldn't totally remove the contaminated structure as they had with the greens. But they slit-tined, hollow-cored, washed, scarified and overseeded them back to health, although a few scars remain on the 13th hole.

These fairways have also been receiving annual applications of Gem Professional 12:4:6 with 1.2% magnesium and 1% iron, a 17-week slow release fertiliser that, according to Pat, "works wonders". As the damaged fairways get back to normal this will be cut down to an application once every four years.

However, some good did come out of all this heartache. The storm and subsequent damage prompted the club to buy some adjacent land and to build an extra nine "inland" holes, designed by the STRI's DD Wishart. These opened last spring and have been widely acclaimed. The Welsh Golf Union has already booked them for the Welsh Over-25 Amateur Championship this year and the Welsh Boys Open in 1998.

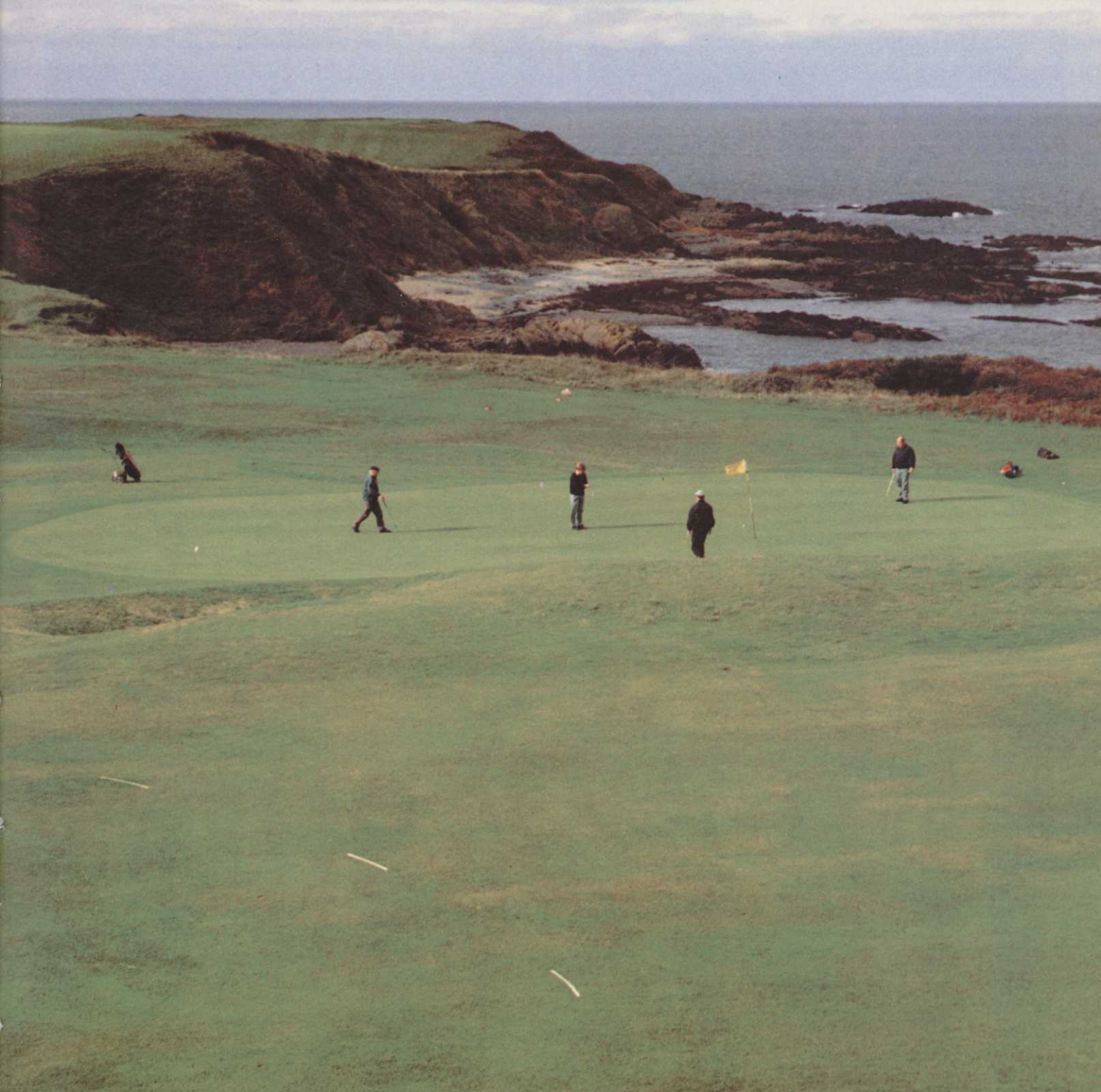
The storm also prompted the club to upgrade its Toro irrigation system which is used more to wash away the salt than it is to water the greens and tees. As part of this upgrade, all the remaining tees and all 27 fairways will be connected up later this year.

Three types of green

The Nefyn greenstaff have three different types of green to maintain: there are the old ones which date back to 1907, the new ones and four built in 1975/76. Eventually all the greens will match the new ones as the old greens



Pat McAteer, Nefyn's course manager, left, with his team



The rugged coastline provides a picturesque backdrop to the 1st green. But looks can be deceptive... storms have wreaked havoc at Nefyn Golf Club

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Results of Verti-draining after hollow-coring

are being rebuilt to a USGA-spec at the rate of two a year. Nine greens are left to do in the next four years.

The biggest difference in maintaining such diverse greens, according to Pat, is shown in the use of fertiliser. The new greens receive 6:0:9 with iron and magnesium and the old ones are given 6:0:6 with magnesium and iron to start them off, followed by 8:0:0 with iron. To make sure he's on the right tracks, Pat sends soil samples to the STRI every year and soon will be receiving annual visits from the STRI's Roger Evans.

But Pat, who is studying for his City and Guilds phase 4 at Reaseheath Agricultural College, is pleased with the way it's going. "We're managing it quite well and hopefully we'll improve as the years go by. The people who play here have seen an improvement every year, and that's very rewarding," he told us.

As well as constructing greens, the five-man team has been busy reshaping bunkers (making them deeper to stop wind blow), making new walkways and putting railway sleepers in trenches ("so they need less maintaining").

Pat has a 'consumables' budget of £50,000 which is going on new signs, toilet block, shelters, fertiliser, topdressing, sand and seed. He also has a capital budget of £25,000-32,000 a year for the next five years. The Kubota Grandel L4200, which is mainly used for Verti-draining in the winter and mowing fairways up to twice a week in the summer, is the latest addition to the club's impressive list of machinery. His other star addition is a John Deere Gator 4x2 which he uses for general running around the course and to collect cores from greens. He reckons this machine, which is driven onto the green, saves him half an hour per green and one man - three instead of four of his staff are now used to clear the cores.

When you've only got five people maintaining 27 holes, every

saving like this is useful. Another cost-effective thing he does is hire Amenity Land Services in the spring to spray the fairways and rough. Their two machines take six hours to do the 130 acres. Pat says it would take his staff with their machines a week (and that's if the weather was kind to them!)

Judging by the weather I witnessed on my visit to this beautiful part of Wales, it's hard to imagine the Telford firm getting a clear six hours to do their job.

"It's not always like this, in summer it's beautiful. You can see Ireland and Anglesey from here, as well as the mountains and sea," says Pat.

"I'll just have to come back then. At least I know the greens will be dry - whatever the weather. And in case it does rain while I'm out on the course I'm told there is a pub, the Ty Coch Inn, in a picturesque cove two thirds of the way round the Old course. Another idea from Nefyn that other clubs would do well to copy.

EQUIPMENT

- 2 Toro 3000s (one petrol, one diesel)
- 1 Toro 216
- 1 Jacobsen TriKing
- 1 Casey 485 tractor
- 1 Massey Ferguson 135
- 1 Kubota 1750
- 1 Kubota Grandel L4200
- 1 John Deere Gator
- 1 Ransomes Hydraulic 5 gang mower
- 1 Lloyd's gang
- 1 Verti-drain
- 1 Sisis Vemo
- 1 Vacume
- 1 Charterhouse Topdresser
- 1 Sisis Auto-Rotorake
- 1 Topper
- 2 Ransomes Autocertes
- 1 Trailer
- 2 Flymos
- 2 Strimmers
- 1 Mole drain
- 1 Sisis Brush
- 1 Charterhouse slitter
- 1 Ransomes TM80
- 1 Hardi Sprayer
- 3 Verticut units

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

EAST OF ENGLAND

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

The fixtures for 1995 are slowly coming together. The first of our winter education seminars has been booked with a talk by leading agronomist John Hacker on 'Course Presentation, Grasses and Irrigation', at Kenwick Park (Louth), on February 1. Thanks go to Ian Morton for organising this fixture and allowing us to use their facilities.

I hope members support this event as John Hacker is a renowned expert in the field of sportsturf, having set up Professional Sportsturf Design, after spending eight years as senior lecturer in turf at Myerscough College. Amongst his clients are West Ham Football Club and West Bromwich Albion and also the English Golf Union. He has co-written the popular book 'Golf Course Presentation' with George Shiels. For only £10 you get a coffee on arrival and an indepth talk on several subjects, ie course presentation, grasses on the course, and irrigation, and a meal in the Kenwick Park Hotel.

Section membership has increased slightly and the rumour is East of England is no longer the smallest section in BIGGA.

Dates for your diary: February 1 – East of England Winter Education Seminar, Kenwick Park Golf Club,

Louth; June 6 – Purdy's Trophy, Sandilands Golf Club.

Congratulations to David Walden on winning the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year competition – representing East of England section and the Midlands. Well done, Dave.

The AGM took place at Toft Golf Club and was poorly supported. So it looks as if we will revert back to having some form of golf competition beforehand as we did the previous year.

Those elected were: Chairman – David Walden; Vice-Chairman – Ian Morton; Secretary – Graeme Macdonald; Treasurer – John Scotney; Committee – Michael Wood, Barry Anderson and Kevin Hodges.

Thank you to Barry Anderson and Toft Golf Club for courtesy of the room for the night.

Welcome to new member James Dair of Eyebury Golf Club. James has been a greenkeeper for one year and has just enrolled for NVQ training at Cambridgeshire College. Kevin Hodges has taken control at Elton Furze.

Finally, if you have any information of interest, please contact me on 0733 260297.

GRAEME MACDONALD

MID ANGLIA

Our Regional Seminar at the Sketchley Grange Conference Centre attracted 70 people. The topics and speakers were varied: drainage, fertilisers and chemical container disposal were covered, and David Stansfield

spoke on construction of a new links course,

Guy Longshaw from Symbio also gave a good talk on bacteria products which his firm have developed for use on golf greens. Numbers were well down on the previous year for some reason and only four people from our section attended, which is disappointing. A new location for the event is being sought for this year, which will more than likely be in the Northampton area. As this is a lot closer, hopefully more greenkeepers from our Section will support it this year.

The final golfing event of the year took place on December 6, the section's Texas Scramble competition. We had a record entry of 25 teams for the event, 100 golfers in all. The venue was The Family Golf Centre, Chesfield Downs, Gravelly, which is basically a 'pay and play' course, having 55,000 rounds a year. You would not think it gets played so much judging from the superb allround condition of the course and it is a credit to Chris Brook, the course manager, ably supported by Eddie, Dale, Pete and his other lads. I'm sure the mild weather through November was welcomed by the greenkeeping staff. Thanks must go to centre manager Paul McCoullough for looking after us so well on the day and for the meal and entertainment afterwards. Also thanks to all his catering staff as they did an excellent job in a very full restaurant! The day was once again sponsored by Kingston House Mowers. Our thanks to

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John Glyn-Davies for this, and for presenting the KH Trophy to Jon Moorhouse, who once again was the highest finisher in all our golf events this year. We appreciate the outstanding support we get from members of the trade at these events, and this year's was no exception.

Finally, thanks to Jock, the starter at the club who rescued us at the last minute by going out to get some more raffle tickets, after we had run out!

The full results were as follows: 1, J Moorhouse, J Blair, P Densham, K Hamer - 58.9; 2, M Ellis, M Whittle, S O'Connell, G Snowdon - 60; 3, P Briers, E O'Hanlon, D Haud, P Robinson - 60.1. The longest drive was won by T May and nearest the pin by David Hawkins.

I look forward to seeing fellow greenkeepers at Harrogate once again, which I'm sure will be an unqualified success. It seems that more and more people from our section are attending, which is great to see.

Looking ahead to next month, we have a course visit planned at Brocket Hall, which is certainly worth viewing. This takes place on February 21 and I'm sure course manager John Wells will have plenty to say to us all about the course. I'm sure John will let you know what time it starts if you give him a ring. Failing that, Gerald will be able to help, so please contact him if you are interested in coming.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members of the Mid Anglia Section a Happy New Year.

PAUL LOCKETT

EAST MIDLANDS

Our section AGM was held at Ullesthorpe Golf and Country Club in Leicestershire. On a fine autumn day, 35 competitors turned out. One didn't, which made it rather difficult for his partner. The winning team in the Texas Scramble with a score of 63.3 on countback comprised P Forshaw, C Harris and C James. On to the serious business of the AGM (which must have been completed in a record time of 23 minutes), the only

Around the Green



change in committee members was the election of Peter Forshaw to replace Paddy McCarron. May I take this opportunity to thank Paddy, on behalf of all section members, for all his valuable time and work he has put into BIGGA, not only at section level but also at regional and national level. Thanks should also go to Ullesthorpe Golf Club for their kindness and hospitality in making our day so enjoyable.

Congratulations go this month to Chris Lewis of the Leicestershire Golf Club on his promotion to head greenkeeper, as Paddy McCarron has stood down to deputy head. I'm sure every member would be in agreement with me that Paddy deserves a well earned rest after 30 odd years in charge. Also, I would like to wish Brian Mott, formerly of Kettering Golf Club, a long and happy retirement, although this is a rather belated message as he retired several months ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Willars, on behalf of all section members, for this year's regional seminar at Sketchley Grange. I know how much hard work Roger has to do to make this such an enjoyable day for us all.

Finally, may I remind members that if they wish to attend the section's snooker evening on March 1, they should make sure they return their forms to me as soon as possible. If you still require an entry form you can phone me on 0533 890301 and I will gladly post one to you.

ANTONY BINDLEY

NORTH SCOTLAND

Over 130 delegates attended the North of Scotland Section conference at Craikstone Estate, Aberdeen on December 1. Especially encouraging to see was the number of club secretaries and greens convenors who were able to come along. They were treated to eight excellent papers presented very professionally by those on the platform, each speaker having his own message to put across.

David Roy, a young course manager from Linlithgow Golf Club, spoke ably on wildlife conservation and how it need not be overly time consuming nor expensive. In fact, quite often it turned out to be the opposite.

David was followed by Steve Cadenelli from New Jersey, and the audience were fascinated by the fact that Steve suffered the same 'Augusta syndrome' after the Masters at his club as we do in Britain. They were also interested by the large budget he controlled and his thoughts that in

many cases the Americans had not necessarily got it right.

Ray Morris from Greens of Scotland explained that when dealing with drainage problems it was essential to diagnose the cause correctly to achieve successful results.

Breeding new grass varieties for golf was the topic of Dr David Patterson of Queen's University, Belfast's address, who felt that breeders should now be concentrating more on developing varieties that are able to resist disease better and have stronger root growth. David also told of how results in tests he had carried out showed the benefits of aeration in nutrient uptake.

The last speaker in the morning session was John Hacker of PSD who encouraged the greenkeepers present to adopt a more professional approach in their own appearance and also in the presentation aspect of their course, then in turn they would be treated more professionally by their employers.

Following lunch, David Rickman of the R&A gave a sometimes humorous account of the many queries the R&A have to deal with and highlighted the importance for greenstaff to know the rules of the game when preparing the course for competitive play.

Golf course architect, Tom MacKenzie, took us through the different stages of building the Carnegie Club at Skibo, Sutherland, with some very scenic and beautiful slides and the day was concluded by Ray Laycock of Karsten Turf Science, speaking on fertiliser requirements. Ray put the opinion over that both soil and tissue analysis were important aspects when considering fertiliser applications, his view being that the proper timing and application of the correct nutrients required would lead to the turf performing to its full potential.

GORDON MOIR

SOUTH WALES

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope that hangovers have subsided enough for you all to have remembered firstly, to rejoin the Association by sending your completed membership renewal forms back to Aldwark Manor and secondly, to secure your place on the region's coach trip to the BTME (January 25-27) at the very special price of only £99.

Peter Jefford of Ruffords Top Dress Supplies gave a thoroughly interesting and informative talk to more than 30 people who attended the evening lecture at Pencoed College. The subject - top dressings for use on fine turf surfaces - went extremely well and provoked many questions from the floor.

Later that month, again at Pencoed College, Richard Dixon, secretary of the Welsh Golf Union, addressed an audience of well over 20 with a talk on 'The roll of the Welsh Golf Union in setting standards'. After outlining and endorsing the WGU's commitment to working with the industry and BIGGA, through the likes of the GTC and the Greenkeepers Training Liaison Committee, Richard presented the floor with two Welsh Golf Union documents, 'Course Preparation Guidelines for Tournaments run by the WGU' and a 'Sample Golf Course Policy Document'. Both papers brought much feedback and audience participation, which was more than welcomed by Richard himself. An extremely worthwhile evening and the WGU working hand in hand with BIGGA, surely another great step in the right direction! Thank you Richard.

It was so good to see so many faces from our section attending the Levington Horticulture sponsored seminar at Cannington College. The programme was as interesting as always with the ever enthusiastic David Golding teamed with David Goff (a formidable duo), explaining the NVQ system and how it is to affect greenkeepers.

Mike Smith, head of horticulture and related studies at Cannington, presented a paper on ecology, 'How Green is Your Golf Course'?

What more can you say, but vintage Jim Arthur on course presentation and the two students, Chris Jack

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and Steven Pellatt, acquitted themselves very well indeed.

Obviously we need to thank Keith Makee, Levington's amenity manager for sponsoring the event and also Cannington College for their support, but yet again the success of the seminar, endorsed by an audience of well over 100, is down to the hard work and organisation of Gordon and Marion Child (another formidable duo).

Congratulations are in order for Gary Johnston of the Southerndown Golf Club, on his appointment to course manager. Gary, formerly of the Carnoustie Golf Club, has been at Southerndown now for two years.

Also to Mr and Mrs John Shepard on the birth of their second child, a baby boy, Joseph, weighing in at over 6 lb. John is sales manager with Turf Irrigation Services, who work out of Sandbach, Cheshire.

Are there any golfers out there interested in a golf trip? There are four places available on a trip being organised for October 30 – November 3 1995. Having just returned from last year's I can personally guarantee that a good time will be had! Last October/November we were granted courtesy rounds of golf at Royal St David's, Royal Liverpool, Formby, Royal Birkdale and the Hillside Golf Clubs. Some trip eh, I can tell you!

For more information, give me a ring on 0792 233923.

PETER LACEY

NORTHERN SECTION

To begin with, may I wish you all a very happy, prosperous New Year, but please don't forget to pay your subs as they are now due!

There is not much to write about this month but I shall remind you that our annual dinner takes place at Pannal Golf Club on Saturday, March 11 1995. To reserve your seats please phone me as soon as possible as numbers are limited. This event is a social event so you can bring your wife, girlfriend or even your mum and dad.

At the moment I am formulating 1995's golfing calendar. So far, I can tell you that the autumn tournament will be held at Easingwold Golf Club, the spring tournament at Hessle Golf Club and the Roses Match at West Bowling Golf Club. All members will receive a newsletter in the spring when I have completed the calendar.

I welcome to our section the following new members: Roy Armitage, Scarthingwell Golf Club and David Rowbottom, Woolley Park Golf Club. Any member requiring further information, or who has a contribution for this column, please contact me on 0274 568128.

PAT MURPHY

NORTH SCOTLAND

Older members of the Section will be saddened to hear that life member John Falconer from Carnoustie passed away recently. It is ironic that in the year that the R&A restore the Open to Carnoustie that John should leave us, as he was links superintendent there in 1975 when Tom Watson beat Jack Newton in a play-off, the last time the Championship was held there. Our sympathies are with his relatives.

The first two new members to the section for 1995 are Paul Rooney, my new apprentice at Tain, and the new secretary at Peterculter Golf Club, Robert Burnett. We welcome them both.

I dread to think what the weather will be like when this magazine comes out. Up to now we have experienced an incredibly mild winter, enabling us at Tain to complete our major tee extensions well ahead of schedule with only a couple of lost days through rain and no frost yet. Of course, the good weather has meant a lot more winter golf as well, with no rest for the course, but you can't have it both ways. I believe November was the mildest on record since the 1600s! I can't help thinking that we are going to pay for it in the New Year. Let's hope not!

December 1 was the day for the North Section Conference in Aberdeen, which was a great success with

Around the Green



over 130 delegates attending. The evening before, the sponsors, speakers and committee were the guests of the Lord Provost of Aberdeen at a civic reception which was a great gesture by the city. All the speakers excelled to keep the audience interested, hopefully I picked up some tips to keep people awake at Harrogate! The only worry is keeping up the standard for the next one.

One of the conference speakers was Steve Cadenelli from USA, whom I have swapped letters with since we met at the Ransomes Tournament in 1991. It was great meeting up with Steve again and having him as a guest at my house for a few days. We played some golf, talked shop of course, and had a few beers.

Finally, as it is the start of the New Year, let's have a drive to recruit new members to the section. Remember, if you introduce two new members, you will be entered into a draw for great prizes. So first re-join yourselves and then get recruiting.

IAIN MACLEOD

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

As we enter another year, I hope everyone has recovered from all the food and drink consumed over the festive period and are ready for the new season which lie ahead. Hopefully the grass has stopped growing for a week or two, as I think everyone was cutting regularly up until Christmas.

The section had quite a busy end to 1994, with a couple of lectures, one by British Seed Houses and the other by STS and Hunter Irrigation, both were held at Aberdour Golf Club. Although attendances were a bit on the disappointing side, what was lacking in quantity was more than made up for by the quality for those who did make the effort to attend and two very informative lectures were enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to BSH, STS and Hunter Irrigation for their excellent presentations on both days.

The Annual Prize Draw Dinner was held at Alloa Golf Club on November 25 and the main prize winners were: Kay Comiskey – colour TV; J McBeth – gallon of whisky; Mrs Paterson – his/her watches; Heath Walker – radio/cassette.

The guest entertainer at the dinner was comedian/vocalist Dave Lee who kept everyone in high spirits with his quick fire patter and singing, but the real star of the night was our very own past chairman, Duncan Peddie, who really stole the show with his version of the Mr Blobby song. He put so much effort into his act that he had to devise his own method of cooling down and this raised the temperatures of his captivated audience, who were in stitches by this time, which is more than can be said about Dunc. At least we know where we can get a star for next year's dinner who is available at very reasonable rates (at least that's what Maureen said).

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Alloa Golf Club who helped to make this night a success and to DJ Jarvis who spun the records for the disco. Ian, don't give up your day job.

The AGM at Aberdour Golf Club on November 29 was rather poorly attended. Everyone must think that the section is being run so well that they don't have to bother turning up. If this is the case, then they couldn't be further from the truth, as we are always looking for fresh input and ideas from every member.

It was pleasing to welcome James Duncan to the AGM. James recently moved to another club down in

England and when he left Aberdour, his boss (MC) leaked some information about which football team James supported. Well, now he has had the last laugh as his team, Raith Rovers, have just qualified for Europe by defeating Celtic in the Coca-Cola Cup final. Sorry Mike.

Two section members are starting 1995 with larger families than 1994 as Stuart Sie and his wife and Mark and Donna Gardner had additions to their families towards the end of the year. Congratulations go to both sets of parents. Hopefully, they are not having too many sleepless nights.

Thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes on my new appointment to Stirling Golf Club. My new address is Half Acre Cottage, Orwell Farm, Milnathort, Kinross-shire, KY13 7HE, telephone 0577 865 607. I hope this is near enough the centre of the section for the person who thought that if the secretary did not live in the middle of the section, he could not keep in touch with all the members. He must have different postal and telephone services than everyone else or perhaps his piece of string is shorter!

JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH COAST

Our first winter meeting was held at Alresford Golf Club. Bob Young of Sparsholt College came along and gave a first-class talk on the new qualifications that our trainees are working towards. Employer support is essential for the new training and it was sad that only 12 members attended. With over 80 clubs in our section there is obviously an uphill struggle to create awareness of the new education situation. Our students will be looking for the support of their head greenkeepers, will they find it?

On the same evening the education committee had a successful first meeting and several points were clarified regarding the assessing of NVQ. The industry assessors should soon be in a position to help with the college assessing programme. Any students concerned about their assessments can contact any of the assessors who are myself at the Hampshire Golf Club, Ed McCabe at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club, Kerran Daly at Salisbury and South Wiltshire Golf Club and Martin Summers at Crane Valley Golf Club.

In February we have our next winter lecture at Alresford Golf Club on Wednesday, 1st, when Ian McMillan will be coming from Hankley Common Golf Club. Ian always gives an interesting talk so meet him there at 7pm. Also on February 16, we have the section workshop at Sparsholt College. Aimed at the head greenkeeper/course manager, this day will deal with team building and confidence training, skills we are often accused of lacking. Anyone who hasn't applied yet can contact me for information at 45 Constable Close, Sholing, Southampton, SO19 1EN, telephone 0264 334269/0703 3602195.

ALAN MITCHELL

AYRSHIRE

The good news this month is that we finished the year with 110 members in our section. Let's all make a big effort in this coming season to let all those non-members know what they are missing.

Our section AGM was held on November 29 and for a change we had a good turnout. The main discussion was about the proposed new constitution for BIGGA, with many good points being made about staffing, pricing etc. Our views are in good hands with Harry Diamond being on the Review Committee. A major change in our own section is that a voucher system will be used for prizes at the outings to allow members to get what they want, rather than something they probably don't need. We also have a fine array of new cups being presented by Aitkens, Stewarts, Scottish Grass and Rigby Taylor, which along with some of our older refurbished cups will make a great prize table.

By the time you read this our Christmas bowling

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night, and the festive season, will be a faint memory (very faint for some) and we will be looking forward to meeting many old friends again at Harrogate where, thankfully, it looks as if we will remain for a few years yet.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a great New Year and hope that 1995 sees our Association going from strength to strength.

DUNCAN GRAY

LONDON

The turkey trot was held at Sandy Lodge Golf Club. The weather was very kind to us and the turnout was excellent. The course was in excellent shape and I would like to thank Peter Gee and Richard Elderfield and all the greenstaff in the preparation for the event. Out of the 52 competitors that entered, the overall winner with a score of 42 points was a new member to our section, Benjamin Knowles-Jackson. In second place with 40 points was Ian Semple who beat Gary Speller into third on the back six holes. The longest drive was hit by S Woolley and the nearest the pin was won by Peter Creary. The scores were very good and the following players had a reduction in their handicaps: Benjamin Knowles-Jackson 17 to 15.5; Ian Semple 2.2 to 1.8; Gary Speller 22 to 21; Simon Walley 15 to 14.1

I would like to thank Sandy Lodge Golf Club for the hospitality that was shown to us and in particular the catering manager and the staff for the excellent meal. I would like to thank the trade for supporting us at Sandy Lodge and for all the help throughout last year.

We also held the AGM after the golf and this was a success in that more members were present and many points were raised. The committee were all voted back on and are as follows: Douglas Smith – Chairman; Barry Moggridge – Secretary; Craig Handy-side – Treasurer; Don Wilson – Golf events and handicaps; Tony Dunstan – Education events.

We will be organising a minibus to travel up to the BTME this month and details should have been received by now. If anyone is interested in the day return then please contact me as soon as possible on 081 959 5629.

Another trip has been organised next month on February 7 to visit the laboratory facility at DowE-lanco. This has been funded by our section and Rigby Taylor. More details will follow but numbers will be limited so a quick response is required. Details will follow next month giving all the golf and education events for 1995.

TONY DUNSTAN

SURREY

Congratulations to Mick Haynes and Allan Donlevy of Walton Heath upon winning the Huxley Bowl. Looking back to November 9 and 11, I would like to thank Bill Oliver for his very informative lecture on Hardi Sprayers and to Kingswood Golf Club for the use of the Warren Room.

The dinner-dance proved to be a great success with an attendance of 77 out of a possible 80. Well done to the committee for all the hard work and arm twisting that went on to sell all the tickets and for making the evening such a success.

Finally, a second winter lecture has been arranged for February 13 at Walton Heath Artisans Club on the topic of irrigation, by Watermation.

DAVID GIBBS

CLEVELAND

Brancepeth Castle Golf Club is to host the six Northern Counties Championships over five days in April.

Tony Smith, head greenkeeper at Teesside Golf Club, has to wear a surgical collar following a car accident. Best wishes Tony.

Mild autumn has meant continuous cutting of grass. How green and tidy it is looking. By the end of Novem-

Around the Green



ber, there were many worm casts. We do need help in worm control.

Ian Pemberton, first assistant at Saltburn By the Sea, is the new head greenkeeper at Bedale Golf Club. He starts in the new year.

The November meeting on pest control, moles and rabbits proved very helpful. For moles, trapping or strychnine baited worms are the answer. Rabbits are controlled by ferrets or Cymag, gassing or shooting.

Saltburn Golf Club is busy making two new tees and it also has a tree planting programme.

BRUCE BURNELL

SOUTH WEST

Now that the festive season is behind us, let me take this opportunity to wish all section members a happy New Year and good greenkeeping for 1995. Good greenkeeping is helped by good education which leads me nicely into a reminder that training courses in PA1, PA2, first aid and chainsaw use are readily available with a chainsaw course having been undertaken before Christmas. A circular letter will follow soon, so if interested indicate your requirements on the return slip. A fixture card for 1995 section events will also be with the forthcoming letter.

The section AGM for 1994 took place at Knowle Club in November and was well supported with approximately 50 members attending. Some people were beginning to wonder if the morning's round of golf would take place at all after the heavy rain suffered by the West in previous days, but there was to be no disappointment as on the day the course was not only open but on 18 full greens! Thanks go to Chris Light and his staff for an excellent effort in course presentation for the day. Results of the golf are as follows: 1, Peter Baynton; 2, Gary Cooke; 3, Paul Worcester; 4, Paul Godwin; 5, Andy Parker.

Before the AGM got under way, Mark Hunt of Scotts gave a short and very interesting talk on sand greens and their fertilizer requirements compared to other green constructions. Thanks are given to Mark for his time and enthusiasm in agreeing to speak. Comments after the talk suggested that some members would not only have liked the lecture to last longer, but would like to see an educational evening given by one or two speakers throughout the early months of the year. If you have any thoughts on the matter or subjects for discussion contact me on 0272 793127.

The AGM was the last item of the day's events and generated discussion on various points including education, health and safety and the section's trophies. From now on a trophy will be presented to the event winner and will be their responsibility for its safety throughout the year, instead of its retention in the section's trophy cabinet. Consequently the section voted to donate the cabinet to headquarters to house their silverware.

John York has this year stood down as section chairman and the position has been filled by Ivor Scoones from Long Ashton. On behalf of the section I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his enthusiasm and commitment over recent years in section activities.

Election of section officers for 1995 were as follows: Chairman – Ivor Scoones; Vice-Chairman – Peter Cox; Secretary – Kevin Green; Assistant Secretary – Nick Wilson (Fixtures); Match Captain – Dave Neale;

Reserve Captain – Paul Ferragut; Regional Board – Robin Greaves; Officers – Jason Cooper.

Finally, I have been asked by team captain Dave Neale to thank everyone who took part in team matches last year, making the three performances such a success.

KEVIN GREEN

NORTH WEST

Congratulations to Paul Pearce, course manager at Stockport Golf Club and North West section chairman, who won through to the last five in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Congratulations also to Stephen Oultram, course manager at Wilmslow Golf Club and his wife Karen, on the birth of their son Samuel Ian on November 24. I know that caring for a baby takes up most of your time, so if Karen wins any more holidays in radio quizzes, I would be glad to take her place.

On the education front, two lecture afternoons at Myerscough are planned for January: Thursday January 12, 2pm – Talk by National Rivers Authority; 3pm, Turf Grass Ecology (Sports Turf Council) Thursday January 19, 2pm – Foliar Analysis (Robert Laycock); 3pm, Performance and Testing of Amenity Grasses (Dr Newall). Any BIGGA members will be made most welcome.

The BTME at Harrogate on January 23-27 is definitely not to be missed, with everything you require for your course being displayed indoors, and trade members ready to advise on your needs. While visiting, drop in on the Northern Region stand, and find out what is happening in your region. Why not drag your chairman of green along with his cheque book? It may be to your advantage.

The Northern Region seminar this year will be on March 16 at the Tytherington Golf Club. The main speaker will be Jon Allbutt, talking on the subject of health and safety. Further details will be in the February section notes.

I would like to welcome new members to the North West section and invite you to come along to any of the section events and meet your fellow greenkeepers. I would also remind members renewing their membership that where the golf club pay your subscriptions, fill in the details on your renewal form and hand them in to your golf club secretary, as the club are not invoiced for your subscriptions. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish you all a happy New Year.

Any news or views, ring 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Happy New Year to all!

Lanhydrock Golf Club was the venue for our AGM meeting on November 23. The day started with golfing members arriving at 8.30am to compete in the morning's foursome competition for the Toro Trophy. With the mildest and wettest November on record, Lanhydrock's head greenkeeper, Martin Morgan, and his staff did a marvellous job in making the course playable.

As usual non-golfing members armed with their Wellington boots were given a tour of the course and sheds before returning to the clubhouse for lunch.

After lunch the prize presentation for the Toro Trophy took place with Alan Dommatt of Devon Garden Machinery presenting the prizes to: 1, J Parr (Exeter) and S Milne (Exeter) 45 pts; 2, C Rawlings (Padbrook) and R Battishill (St Mellion) 43 pts; 3, A Ramsden (Budock Vean) and A James (Tehidy) 40 pts.

Our thanks to Alan for donating and presenting the day's prizes and to Mr G Bond, owner of Lanhydrock Golf Club, and his management team for allowing the section use of their excellent facilities.

The section's AGM followed the golf presentation. Full details next month.

RICHARD WHYMAN

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★ We extended the entry deadline for last month's competition, to allow for the Christmas post. Next month we'll announce both the December and the January winners!

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