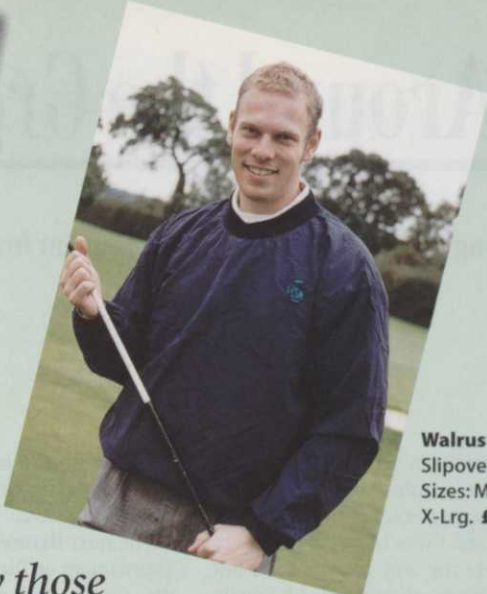
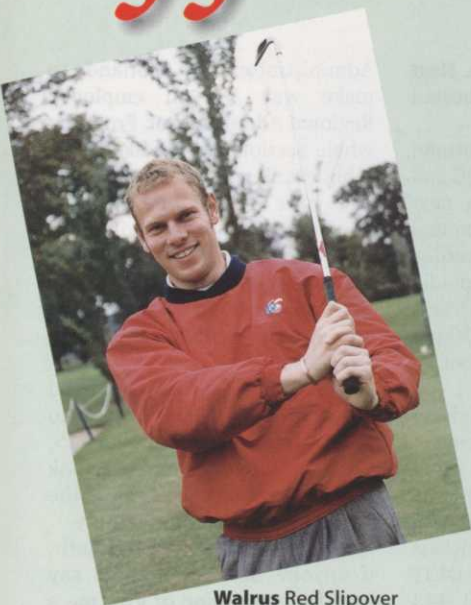


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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440



The Scottish Region once again offers its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1998.

The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Cairn Hotel on January 20, 21 and 22. Package cost £135.

Partners are welcome at a cost of £100 for travel and accommodation.

For booking form call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel: 0141 616 3440

From Edna and Elliott Small

We would like to express our thanks to everyone in the Scottish Region for the marvellous gifts given to us on the occasion of relinquishing our posts in the Scottish Region Office and as Regional Administrator respectively.

Since January 1, 1990 when we first started we have been privileged to be part of the growth of the Region and Association, and although it has been a lot of hard work, especially in the latter years it has been immensely satisfying. We feel we have made many new friends along the way and look forward to keeping and renewing these friendships in the years ahead.

There is no doubt in our minds that the Association is good for greenkeepers and greenkeeping as a whole and we hope that the new Administrator, Peter Boyd, will enjoy the challenge as much as we did.

The Scottish Region held its Annual Tournament for the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August at Tulliallan GC. The event was sponsored by Rhone Poulenc. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Club Captain Phil Mawhood and his Committee for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the meals and refreshments on the

day and also Elliott and his staff for the condition of the course which was excellent, as were the bunkers. I was in just about every one on my way round! Last, but not least, thanks to McKenzie Munro and Rhone Poulenc for the sponsorship of the day. Well done to the North Section and their Captain, Hugh McLatchie, who retained the trophy for the second year in a row. They will be looking for the hat-trick next year so we will all need to improve (some more than others) if we are to stop them.

The results were as follows:- 1. North Section (H. McLatchie, S. Williams, C. Cummings, C. Burgess) 88 pts; 2. Central Section (A. Dunn, D. McAllister, A. O'Hara, G. McRae) 87 pts; 3. Ayrshire Section (H. Diamond, D. Wilson, S. McLean, J. Paton) 84 pts; 4. West Section (J. Scott, S. Bulloch, G. Dingwall, C. George) 82 pts; 5. East Section (S. Dixon, S. Crawford, C. Yeaman) 71 pts.

Also in attendance on the day were Phil Mawhood, Captain of Tulliallan GC, Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator Elect and Elliott Small, Regional Administrator. Once again, thanks for a great day and we look forward to seeing you in 1998.

Chris Yeaman

East

First on the agenda was the Willie Woods Memorial Trophy which was held at Kingsknowe GC. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess, Denis and Dot, for the excellent food and refreshments which were superb as usual. We would also like to thank Course Manager, Steve Dixon, and his team for the excellent condition of the course. Well done lads. Another great day was had by all who attended so if you didn't make it this year try and make it next year so get your committee members along in 1998. The results were:- 1. I. Bell/ I. Corrigan, Glencorse; 2. M. Ewing/K. Raeburn, Kingsknowe; 3. S. Dixon/D. Hastings, Kingsknowe. All three shot nett 60s with the pair from Glencorse

taking it on the back nine. Next year's tournament will be hosted by Glencorse GC.

The next fixture is the Autumn Tournament at Turnhouse GC and the results will appear in next month's magazine. The annual Dinner Dance is on Saturday December 6 at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady. Tickets are £17 each and B&B is £20 per person. There are a number of rooms booked already so if you are going to stay on the night of the dance you had better contact them as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment - telephone 01875 870682 or fax 01875 870504. If you require tickets please call Steve Dixon on 0131 660 3965 (home) or 0131 443 0235 (work). A large number have already gone so hurry up and get your tickets for the best night of the year!

Also coming up soon is our AGM at Swanston GC on October 29 this year. It is sponsored by Mike Dooner, Thorntree Landscapes, and letters should be with you at the time of writing so let us see a good turnout this year. We have some interesting speakers booked this year - people who we have not heard before so it should be a good day. The speaker on the day will be Mr John McLauchlan, of John McLauchlan Horticulture. He will be speaking on the use of humic acid and micro organisms in fine turf so we hope to see all our members at your AGM. This is your chance to have a say in what happens in your Section.

We are also organising a trip to the new Scottish Grass Machinery Premises in Inverkeithing, Fife. This is a new purpose built building so it is a trip to look forward to.

In November BIGGA will again have a stand at Scotsturf on 12th and 13th. The East Section will be on the stand for some part of the day so come along and say hello and also meet some representatives from other sections.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Elliott and Edna Small who are giving up the position of Regional

Administrator for Scotland to make way for an employed Regional Administrator. From the whole Section I would like to say a big thank you for all the work you have both done for the Region. So now you will have more time to improve your golf! So, all the best from the East Section. PS we hope to see you at our Annual Dinner Dance in December.

The new Scottish Regional Administrator is Peter Boyd who takes over on September 15. Good luck to him and we look forward to seeing you around the Sections in the very near future.

Well that's all for this month, if anyone has anything to say just drop me a line or give me a call.

Chris Yeaman

West

Firstly, could I express my thanks to Elliott and Edna Small for all their hard work over the years. Elliott has been the Regional Administrator for almost eight years and his tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. I hope you and Edna enjoy your spare time away from the administrative hassles and look forward to playing more golf. You will be dearly missed. Thanks from all the West of Scotland Association members and best wishes for the future.

A couple of things to be mentioned or brought to mind - the date for the annual dinner at the Admiral Bar will be notified in due course along with the date for the AGM in December. A men only night full of entertainment is new and good attendance is looked for on October 31 at the Tally Rand outside Barrhead.

A warm welcome is extended to Sam Morrison, who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Bothwell Castle. This means no more jokes about the North Section! The Section wishes Sam well and I am sure he will enjoy his new position.

At the time of writing this the five-a-side tournament was not played but information will be forwarded next month.

That's all until next month, so if there's any information for the

next issue then call me on 0141 942 5554.
Stuart Taylor

North

Congratulations to Hughie McLatchie, Peterhead, and his partners Scott Williams, Peterculter, Chris Cumming, Fortrose, and Colin Burgess, Forres, who successfully retained the Norrie Whytock Trophy for the Section recently. Maybe if we win it next year for the third time we will get to keep it!

If you are finding things difficult then spare a thought for another member even worse off. Willy Rusk was running the six hole course on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides when they had to close as a crofter built a house on the 5th green. For their Annual Tournament the members had to take the ferry over to Oban and play over the Taynuilt course there. Rumour has it that first prize was to be an Eriskay pony which had been recently born on the Island!

It's all change at Royal Aberdeen just now. First Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Janice Florence, left to become Head Greenkeeper at Inchmarlo Golf Centre and then Head man Sam Morrison tells us that he is leaving to take up a similar post at Bothwell Castle GC, south of

Glasgow. We wish them both success in their new positions and take this opportunity to thank Sam for all his hard work on the Section Committee where he has held just about every position over the years, more recently as Treasurer and outings organiser. We will certainly miss him. Also on the move is Charlie Mackay leaving Forres to become Head Greenkeeper at the British Petroleum GC in Aberdeen.

Bonar Bridge and Ardgay GC has just opened up its three new holes, replacing three holes that shared fairways. They have land to extend to 18 when finance allows. Also work is well underway at Alness on its 9 hole extension in a lottery funded project with work done by a Welsh company, their first project in Scotland I believe.

Have you got your ticket for the Section dinner/disco yet? Time is running out.
Iain Macleod

Central

The Leven Links Sporting Club is continuing on its world tour of Fife and following the football match against East Fife Supporters Club they have been in action on the cricket pitch at a tournament in Freuchie. This time Stuart Sime captained the team as I think Andy O'Hara is writing a

book about that "famous" goal of his. Anyway, this time they were up again a team of "Lady" cricketers named the Crooked Stumps - or was that what the ladies named the Leven boys? The end result was a resounding defeat for Stuart and his team but all was not lost as it appears that they are the most popular team in the tournament as they have yet to win a match and anyone who is drawn against them is guaranteed to go through to the next round. A video is available of both the football and cricket matches and at the moment Andy is negotiating with Neil to have it screened at Harrogate in January!!

Congratulations go to Section Vice Chairman, Archie Dunn and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their first son, Jonathan. Karen and the baby are both doing fine. Archie is still on Cloud Nine at becoming a Dad and just to keep him on a high he was chosen to represent Scotland in the BIGGA Team for the Kubota Trophy at the Belfry. This month should also see Archie take over as Chairman of the Section so he has a very busy time ahead of him.

Congratulations also go to that man Walter Woods again, this time on his election as President of Tillicoultry GC. Walter has a long association with his home town club and this is a fitting

honour for all he has done for them over the years. He must be busier now than when he was at St Andrews!

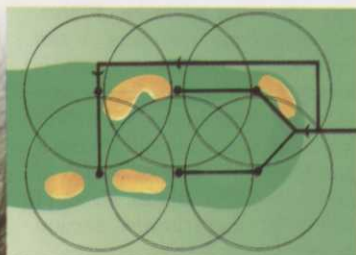
David Leith, of St Andrews, and Stuart Sime, of Leven Links, are the Section nominees for this year's Patron's Awards (an expenses paid trip to BTME at Harrogate in January). Well done lads and thanks for the support which you give to Section events.

New members this month are Ian McLellan, Hayston GC, Simon Freeman, Crieff Hydro GC, John Paterson, Polmont GC, and Steven Richardson, Bothwell Castle GC. A warm welcome to the Section is extended to them all and we hope to see them at our future events.

It is intended to organise lectures/presentations during the forthcoming winter months and it would be appreciated by your Committee if they were given a bit more support than in the past. With over 200 members in the Section it gets rather embarrassing when only half a dozen turn up at an event. After all it costs companies time and money to put on a lecture or demonstration etc for our benefit, so come on, let's give them some support in return!

The new Regional Administrator for Scotland is Peter Boyd. Peter is a retired Police Officer

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Around the Green



from Glasgow and on behalf of the members of the Central Section I extend a warm welcome to him and wish him every success in his new appointment. No doubt many of you will have the pleasure of meeting him at some of our forthcoming events.
John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433



North East

The new knock-out cup sponsored by Carbural is now well underway with the following players having reached the semi-finals - S Cram/G Lauder v M Gunn/D Thompson and D Sharkey/G Baxter v J Surtees and/A McLure. The final will be played on a neutral course.

Clifford Bunn has moved from Stocksfield to Hexham and yours faithfully has left Maften Hall GC to work at Slaley Hall.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, Head Greenkeeper at Whickham GC, who won the Durham County Match Play Championship recently defeating Craig Parkinson, greenkeeper at Slaley Hall GC.

On behalf of the Section I would like to welcome John Barr, formerly of Bristol and Clifton, on his appointment as Course Manager at Maften.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

We are well into Summer now and still getting good growing weather though some places may be beginning to see their fairways burning up a little.

The Trophy is home! This year's "Roses Match" was held at Halifax GC where the weather was not too kind and nearly everybody ended up getting drowned! Congratulations to the Northern team for a fine 5-3 victory over the North West Section. Thank you to Patisson's for the valued support towards this event and to Peter Marshall for attending and presenting the trophy on their behalf. Also for providing a new trophy to replace the old one which has no space left for winners' names. Thanks also to Halifax GC for hosting the event and to all the staff for looking after us so well. Special thanks to Mick Harris and his boys for presenting the course in its usual tough fash-

ion and to Tony Gerrard for his kind words after the meal on behalf of Halifax GC. Thanks to Bert Cross for organising the opposition - hard luck Bert, I think your boys will need a couple of lessons in mountaineering before you conquer the mighty Ogden!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to welcome Dennis Cockburn to the "gnome" of retirement. Dennis retired on September 26 after eight years as Head Greenkeeper at Silsden GC, formerly at Keighley GC for nine years as Head Greenkeeper with three years at South Bradford prior to that. Dennis has been and still is a dedicated member of the Northern Section Committee and all who know him will agree the Section's golf events would not be the same if it were not for him. Thanks Dennis for all the help you have given me in my years as Section Secretary and I hope that you will continue to attend events for many years to come. Good luck in your retirement and I hope the "gnome" business proves to be a lucrative one, as I have been told you have several large orders in the pipeline.

Finally anyone with any news from within the Section please write to me at No 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or telephone me on 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall

North West

In the words of Cilla Black - "Surprise, Surprise!" Once again nobody has contacted me with any news that might be of interest to Section members. I can only assume that everybody is happy with their lot and the population growth in the North West has come to a stand still. Please if you have any news or advice or funny stories to tell ring me and I will print them in the Section news.

The Annual Match against the Golf Club Stewards was played on Monday, August 4, at Saddleworth GC. After many phone calls we managed to finish with a team who enjoyed the day. The course was in great condition and the day was completed with a win. Many thanks to the Golf Club Stewards for organising the venue and thanks to Gary Worrell Ground Care for sponsoring the greenkeepers once again.

The National Tournament as you will have seen in last month's magazine unfortunately came to an abrupt end on the third day due to torrential rain, thunder and lightning. This was a shame because after playing poor golf on the first two days I felt that I

would murder the course on the third day! The course, which was well below sea level, was in good condition even though it must be a very difficult course to maintain with dykes and sluice gates to control. No wins for the North West but there is always next year in Scotland.

The annual "Battle of the Roses" was played at Halifax GC and do the Northern Section pick them tough. I think the course should be called Halifax Climbing Club! The first 12 holes seem to be all uphill with four then dropping gradually until the 17th which is a sheer drop to the green without any fairway. The weather could have been better, the result could have been better (we were beaten 5-3) but the company and the condition of the course could not have been any better. Thanks to Simon Heppenstall for arranging the venue and many thanks once again to H Patisson and Co Ltd for sponsoring the Tournament and for presenting a new cup to be played for.

The Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting will take place some time in mid-November and once again all competitors will be required to bring along a bottle in order that everybody wins a prize. Watch out for the details in next month's Section news and if you are playing contact Bill Merritt on 0151 284 4416 as soon as possible.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507



The Midland Regional Seminar will take place in the Sturtridge Pavilion at the Northampton Rugby Club on Wednesday November 19 beginning at 9am and finishing around 4.15pm.

Registration is from 8.15am and the speakers include Jack McMillan, on Progressive Greenkeeping; Danny Godfrey, on Breeding, Production and Selection of Grass Seed; David Powell, Northampton Rugby Club's Head Groundsman, on the Development of the Saints' Rugby Pitches; Noel Green, on his experiences since becoming Toro Student of the Year runner-up; Mike Wadley, on Communications with the Golf Club; Andrew Lawrence, Fenchurch Insurance, on Members' Insurance Cover Explained; George Brown of Turnberry; Peter Jones, Budgeting for Greenkeeping and Roland Taylor, on the Merits of a Mechanic on the Greenkeeping Staff.

Tickets cost £25 including lunch and further information can be obtained from me.

Peter Larter

East of England

The Annual Match with our friends, the East Midlands Section took place this year at Melton Mowbray GC. The result was a pleasing draw especially after last year's hammering. Alan Buckley and Sheamus Coggin could have snatched it for us but lost the last hole for a half. The worst thing is the East Midlands retained the Toro Trophy but I am sure we will take it back next year when it will be on our own soil, though the venue is still to be decided.

Thank you to the Melton Club, greenstaff and caterers for their courtesy on the day and for the green staff for presenting a testing course. Results:- (East of England names only) Josh White/Les Purdy - Lost; Phil Wilkinson/Gil Ogden - Lost; John Henson/David Welberry - Won; Alan Buckley/Sheamus Coggin - Halved; Graeme MacDonald/Julian Benamout - Won.

For any information, please phone 01636 626564.

Graeme MacDonald

Midland

On August 12 the Annual Match against the Mid-Anglia Section was held at Harpenden GC. The match was won by the Midland Section for the first time since 1993. A great result! Many thanks got to the victorious team who were as follows; Mike Hughes, Trafford Stonebridge, Peter Richmond, Peter Holtham, David Fellows, Mark Cutler, Michael Bryan and Graham Summerfield. They had a long and tiring day and our thanks are extended to the Captain, Mike Hughes, and to Graham Summerfield, who represented Alexanders Toro, who were the day's sponsor.

For those members who applied to go on the educational visits to the championship courses we now have dates to be discussed at our next committee meeting so you will probably hear from me before you read this report.

We will also be discussing the possibility of sending out voting forms prior to the AGM so that we can conduct a more organised vote for officers and members of the Committee but this will need your commitment for it to have any benefit to the Section.

The results of the Autumn Competition to be held on October 2 at North Worcestershire GC will be reported in next month's issue.

The Section is holding a Machinery Maintenance Course at ET Breakwells of Shirley, Solihull, on Wednesday, November 5, and will include a "hands on"

demonstration followed by a local pub lunch. As a large response is anticipated please contact Andy Smith on 01676 523020 as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

Jonathan Wood

Mid Anglia

Our annual golf match against the Midlands Section took place at Harpenden GC in early August. By all accounts it was a very close match with the Midlands just coming out winners at 7-5. Thanks to all those players who represented the Section and to Harpenden GC for allowing us to stage the event.

Next year's event will be held at a course in the Midlands region and we are looking forward to getting the trophy back!

Our summer tournament was held this year at Arkley GC, on August 22, over 27 holes. As it was held on the Friday before the Bank Holiday Weekend the number of entries was affected with only 25 playing including six trade members.

However, a great day was had by all on a tough nine hole course which was in superb condition thanks to Neil Whittaker and his staff. We were certainly made to feel very welcome by the Club and our thanks for an excellent lunch and evening meal.

It was nice to see the Arkley Greens Chairman, Mr Munro, playing in the event as well as Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator.

After 9 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon, the results were as follows:- 1. Jon Moorhouse, Brocket Hall GC; 2. Neil Whittaker, Arkley GC; 3. Gavin Simkins, Mount Pleasant GC; Best am - Eddie Thomson, Berkhamstead GC; Best pm - Jason Hatton, Brocket Hall GC; Longest Drive - D. Munro, Arkley GC Greens Chairman; Nearest the Pin - Eddie Thomson, Berkhamstead GC; Trade Prize - David Hawkins, Patterson.

Our thanks to Mike Frankin, from Boughton Loam, for once again sponsoring the event, and to all the other trade members for their support.

Our next golf event is at South Beds GC on October 23. This will be 18 holes followed by the AGM. Entries should be in the by the time you read this! If any Section member has any business to raise or members to nominate for the Committee, could they make sure this is put in writing beforehand and sent to Gerald Bruce, our Secretary.

Our Regional Seminar is being held much closer to home this year in Northampton on Wednes-

day November 19. The programme is packed with interesting speakers and topics including Jack McMillan and George Brown from Turnberry so please make every effort to support the event. Paul Lockett

East Midlands

The Section was again successful in retaining the Toro Shield held this year at Melton Mowbray on August 20.

Despite a spirited performance from the East of England Section the match was halved 2 1/2 pts - 2 1/2 so the Section retain the trophy as previous winners. I would like to thank Melton Mowbray GC for courtesy of their fine course and for providing us with an excellent meal.

Our thanks also go to the sponsor for the day, Chandler's. The unfortunate setback was that one member of the Section failed to turn up which meant that Jeff Dickinson had no partner. Despite a sterling performance from Jeff he was not quite able to win his match.

The other eight members to represent the Section were Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Ian Needham, Roger Willars, Antony Bindley, Martin Smith, Jamie Bedford and David James. Nearest the pin on the 14th was won by Steve Goode. Next year's fixture will be hosted in the East of England Section.

This year's AGM will be held at Greetham Valley GC at 4.30 pm. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the day which starts at 10.30am with a Texas Scramble Golf Tournament and concludes with an evening meal.

All members should have received their entry forms for the AGM and Christmas Tournament, if you have not then please contact me.

At the BIGGA National Tournament the Section was represented by Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Roger Willars. Despite only two days of golf due to some appalling weather conditions Richard and Roger were still able to come home with a prize each.

Finally if anybody has any information that they would like to see in this column then please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956



East Anglia

The Autumn Trophy was played for at the Yarmouth and Caister GC, on August 13, and a good turnout ensured that an enjoyable



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Around the Green



afternoons golf was had. In the very hot and dry conditions some reasonable scores were returned, this being a reflection of the well prepared course which was in fine condition. The lack of a sea breeze may well have helped too, what a nice change from our previous seaside experience back in June. During the evening meal a thunder storm rumbled its time away overhead and the heavens opened giving a small bit of relief to the plant life on the course and no doubt everyone was hoping it was doing the same at their own respective courses.

The Secretary thanked David Holmes, Yarmouth's Head Greenkeeper, and his team for the presentation of the course and then welcomed Mr I. Boon, the Captain, who then presented the prizes. Results:- Overall winner - E. Hart, 38 pts. 1-9 handicap: 1. R. Whiting, 398 pts; 2. P. Howard, 36 pts; 3. S. Clark, 35 pts. 10-18 handicap: 1. G. McHugh, 37 pts; 2. I. Willet, 32 pts; 3. J. Seisun, 32 pts. 19-28 handicap: 1. E. Hart, 38 pts; 2. S. Curtis, 36 pts; 3. T. Huddleston, 34 pts. Guest and Trade prize - J. Humphreys. Loo seat - J. Holliday, 15 pts.

Thanks to the trade for their generosity in giving prizes - Collier's Turf Care, Miracle Professional, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Patisson's and SISIS.

The day was a memorable one for J. Timms who on the day started off fine as he scored well apparently for 17 points from the first seven holes. I write this just to make sure he remembers that part of the day as then he was struck on the head by a stray golf ball and was poleaxed. An ambulance was required on the course which took him to hospital. I believe he was later okay but with stitches to his head and one hell of a headache. The banter in the clubhouse, as you could imagine, was whether he should have been disqualified for leaving the course part way through a competition or failing to sign his card! But seriously we are all pleased that you are ok and hope the bump has gone down by now.

Bury St Edmunds GC retained the West Suffolk Greenkeepers' Challenge for the Atterton and Ellis/Toro Trophy. S. Millard, M. Mison and J. Seisun won the competition by just one Stableford point over Haverhill scoring 353 and 352 respectfully. Following a three course meal at the last

venue, Newmarket, John Humphreys, of Atterton and Ellis Grinders, who sponsored the prizes, made the presentation in the company of Tim Townsend and Andrew Humble, of Toro UK, who sponsored the meal. Thanks to them for all their support and to all the staff at Newmarket GC, to Rob Boyce and his team for the great course and to the kitchen and bar staff for their hospitality and wonderful food.

Some 50 greenkeepers attended Collier's Turfcare Golf Day, at Ely City GC, on August 21. It was a fine day and a very enjoyable occasion made possible by Andrew, Lee and Darren, of Collier's, along with Mommersteeg International, Miracle Professional, Barenbrug Seed, Amenity Technology, Vitax and Supaturf who sponsored various prizes. Thanks to Kevin and his band of greenkeepers for preparing the course for us. The prizes were shared pretty well around the Plummer household as is seen in the results:- 1. Richard Plummer; 2. Roger Plummer; 3. Chris Slimm; 4. Kevin Bunn; 5. Stuart Plummer.

Our next Section Meeting will be at Gog Magog GC, on Thursday, October 9, and the Christmas Meeting is at Thorpness on Wednesday, December 10. The format for this day will be a Texas Scramble in the morning followed by lunch and the AGM. All members are welcome to any event and if you did not elect to receive entry forms for events or maybe are just not getting them for some reason but would like to attend any of the competitions or the AGM then please ring the Secretary Ian Willet on 01728 452759 or Stephen Millard on 01284 725515 for more information.

Stephen Millard

Kent

Our Summer Tournament was played at West Malling GC on a sunny, warm day. The course was in great condition despite being short staffed - well done Bryn and the lads. Our sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and the results were as follows:- Nett: 1. J Cocker; 2. L Sayers; 3. S Jones. Gross: 1. N Gillham; 2. J Duncan. Trade Prize: G Oglivie. Many thanks to West Malling and to Rigby Taylor for the excellent prizes.

In August we tried something different in the shape of a green-some-foursomes at the Wilderness Club. Despite a poor turnout everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Parker Hart for sponsorship and to my staff for their hard work and to the club for their courtesy. The results were:-

1. R. Lucas/G. Elliott; 2. R. Slade/A. Arthur; 3. N. Gillham/J. Cocker. Guest prize - R. Day/H. Morgan.

Our Autumn Tournament was at Langly Park. The course was in great condition and thanks must go to Willie McConville and Langley Park for courtesy. Our sponsor for the day was Gem Professional and the results were as follows:- Nett: 1. W. McConville; 2. S. Jones; 3. A. Arthur. Gross: 1. S. Suttle; 2. S. Johnstone.

Our next tournament is in December with the AGM. Please attend because we need help on the Committee to organise next year's tournaments. We also need venues for next year, please contact Steve Johnstone if you are interested in hosting an event on 01795 410927.

Huw Morgan

Surrey

Although Ted Stiles is still working hard on the Surrey Section Committee I am sure we all wish him well in his retirement from his day job as Chief Mechanic, Greenkeeper and General Dogsboddy. To think that never again, when I call the Drift GC, will I hear that heartfelt welcome "what do you want!" emit from somewhere deep beneath a thick covering of axle grease and facial hair! Ted - enjoy your retirement

and your golf.

Effingham GC was the venue of the Parker Salver on August 14 and we thank Peter Broadbent and his staff for a course in excellent condition. The results were:- 1. D. Wyborn, Foxhills, 43 pts; 2. A. Freeman, Roehampton, 41 pts; 3. R. Christie, Addington Palace, 40 pts. For the first time a mystery team prize was presented and the winning team turned out to be Steve Johnson, Roger Glazier and John Davidson with 108 points.

The next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament, 18 holes at Kingswood GC, on October 29 when the sponsor will be Sendmarsh Tractors.

Ian McMillan has been nominated by the Surrey Section for the Toro Award of Excellence. We wish him luck, the weather of his choice and a result that will send all Greenkeepers rushing to play at Hankley Common GC.

It is a well known fact that Surrey Section members are noted for their intelligence and knowledge and so a quiz night is in the process of being organised for November. The quiz will be a team event of probably four members per team, answering questions (we hope) on general knowledge and a light sprinkling about greenkeeping - venue to be advised.

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Around the Green



The Turkey Trot and AGM will be on Friday December 12 at the Drift GC and if Ted uses his retirement time practising, he is the odds-on favourite.

We all send our deepest sympathy to Prince William and Prince Harry for the very sad loss of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Brian Willmott

London

Our Autumn Tournament was held at South Herts GC, in August. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank the Course Manager, Colin Hamilton, and his staff for all their hard work. I would also like to thank the catering and bar staff for their wonderful service and to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The results for the day were as follows:- 1. D. Crewes, 42 pts; 2. D. Montgomery, 38 pts; 3. S. Ringrose, 38 pts; Guest - J. Donnelly. The longest drive was won by Craig Handyside on the 18th hole. The results of the King pin

competition sponsored by King's were:- 1. L. Eden; 2. D. Badham; 3. D. Montgomery; Guest - D. Wall.

I would like to thank all the trade for their valuable support and especially Grass Roots Trading for paying for the postage and stationery. I would also like to thank Johnny Beck, from Miracle Professional, for providing the half way refreshments.

Our turkey trot and AGM is next month at Porters Park GC and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Tony Dunstan

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members £160. All inclusive. Further details from Paula Humphries.

South West

Call me unpatriotic but as a stressed out Course Manager I would love to see a systematic and complete annihilation of the European Ryder Cup team by the Americans. This is in the hope that it will induce a prolonged spell of depression and subsequent apathy among my members thereby reducing the amount of winter golf to an almost non-existent trickle. Anyway when you read this the outcome will be known and besides such a slaughter would probably in reality simply increase the golf played as my members see a greater chance of making the next team themselves.

Hopefully everyone will be well into their Autumn/Winter programmes and the growth rapidly diminishing by the time you read this and so will be able to think about going on one of the upcoming courses that we will be organising for you in the ensuing weeks. The first two, namely a first aid course at Cumberwell Park on October 7 and a PA1 at The Kendleshire on October 15 will already be behind us by this time but we will be running others as soon as we get enough people together on the list. We have

also arranged a chainsaw course hopefully at Minchinhampton starting on November 3 and running for five days. This will be a very comprehensive course that will include assessment on the last day and if successful the student will be issued with a chainsaw certificate. I think it is important that every club has at least one person and preferably two qualified in the safe use of chainsaws in the interests of the health and safety of the staff and also for insurance purposes. So put your name down for this course, if you cannot get on the one in November we will soon organise another one when we have the demand. The other course that we are still waiting to organise when we get sufficient numbers is one for abrasive wheels. When you realise that these things, if not correctly fitted, can come off the bench at about the speed of a bullet then you can understand that it's best to have your mechanic or a member of staff qualified in the use and fitting of them especially as it is a legal requirement to be qualified before you attempt to fit them.

What is the worst thing that could happen to a Course Manager at work? No, it's not having the worst greens in the country, it's having a member of staff seriously injured because they have not been properly trained. So

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Remember the Autumn Tournament at Shirehampton on November 13. This will be followed by the AGM so if anyone has some original thinking particularly as regards fund raising for the Section or would like to put themselves forward for a place on the committee then be there.

Marc Haring

South Coast

Our summer golf meeting was held at the Army GC, Aldershot. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Phil Wentworth and his team. The weather was dry but very humid, so humid in fact you could see the grass growing. By the time everyone got to the 18th we were gasping. The halfway house hole and the three water fountains around the course were more than welcome. The results were as follows:- 1. Phil Wentworth and B Wilcox, 47 pts. Yes, you have read it correctly, we have put it down to local knowledge this time! 2. Eddie Fox and T Curtis. At this stage we must thank the Captain and Committee for allowing us the use of their marvellous course at such short notice and for making us so welcome. Thank you to the caterers who gave us a real treat, the meal was excellent. I will remember those delicious spare ribs for a long time to come. As usual Tony has done a grand job of organising the afternoon and evening's events. The directions he gave us on how to get there were spot on. At least everyone who should have been there was there! Thank you Tony. Let's hope it won't be too long before we pay another visit to the Army GC.

There are still a few seats left on the coach to the London GC on November 6. Anyone who has not given their names to Jeff Drake can still do so. Jeff's number is 01722 503938.

Another reminder for the Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington on November 26. By now you should all have received your entry forms and list of speakers. All entry forms complete with cheques should be returned to our Regional Administrator Mrs Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF. Anyone with transport problems please contact me on 01329 282362. I have noticed a lot of new faces at our section events and I hope to see you all at Cannington.

Pete Lovall who was at Dudsbury GC has now moved to Canford Magna GC. He has taken up the position of full-time Mechanic

and Irrigation Engineer. We wish him well with his new appointment.

BTME will soon be with us again and a coach has been organised for the Region. This will follow the usual route. The cost of the coach, three nights in Harrogate, entry to the Exhibition and entry to all Seminars is £135.00 for members and £160.00 for non-members. This is THE event of the BIGGA calendar. All the regulars who travel up every year will tell you it is a trip not to be missed. It's got everything so get your names down now. The seats will be swallowed up very quickly. All enquiries to Jeff Drake and hurry, book early to avoid disappointment!
Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Woodbury Park G & CC, on Wednesday, November 12. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am. Lunch will be from 12.30 pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day. After the recent resignations from the Section Committee and Regional Board of Section Chairman Bill Mitchell and Regional Chairman Richard Whyman with J. Parr standing down from Committee, the AGM will need to elect at least two Cornish Committee members and one Devon member to serve on the Section's Committee. Also the AGM will have to elect a representative to serve on the Regional Board. In the past members have inquired what their roles and responsibilities would be if they stood for office. With this I have drawn up below a brief summary of what is expected from a Committee Officer and Regional Representative. The Section Committee Officers will be required to attend Section Committee meetings (approximately two per year). The Officers will also be expected to attend as many if not all of our Section meetings and will help with duties at these meetings on a rota basis. Our Regional Representative is expected to fulfil the duties of a Section Committee Officer and to attend the Regional Board meetings (usually four per year). Also our Representative should be available to help with Regional events which include the Regional

Seminar, BTME and Westurf. The Regional Representative should also be aware that they may in future be required to serve the Region on the National Board.

I hope the above doesn't put you off from standing for office as you will find great rewards from serving and promoting your profession as I have over the last eight years on the Regional Board.

I would like to remind you that the Region's Annual Seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. Also you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show and seminar programme. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package and wish to please contact our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.
Richard Whyman

South Wales

Our summer tournament was held at the Glynneath GC recently. A reasonable turnout attended this annual fixture kindly sponsored by R S Bird Ltd of Cowbridge. Our thanks to both Roger and Jeffrey Bird for their continued support. It was pleasing to note that among the attendees there were some new faces participating and I hope that they had as an enjoyable day as we did.

The golf course was in excellent condition, a tribute to David James and his staff, for not only has he got his work cut out maintaining the course (it's a grass factory!) but he has to contend with bringing the newly acquired land into some sort of reasonable condition, but please, please cut the rough!

As far as the prize table went it was a case of local knowledge prevailed. Winner of the day and the Birdie Cup was (local man, on his own course, working out his notice!) Daryl Jones with a nett 71 and second nett with a 73 was local hero, Doug Donne. Best gross and winner of the President's Shield was Idwal Morris, the former Head Greenkeeper at Glynneath and winner of the John Duncane Cup was Kingdon's Gareth Evans.

All in all an excellent day was had by all apart from Daryl Bray who retired hurt after losing seven, yes seven, golf balls! Our thanks to all at the Glynneath GC for contributing to the day and allowing us the courtesy of the course.

Our annual match Greenkeepers versus Golf Club Secretaries recently took place over the Langland Bay GC near Swansea. We managed eventually, after some gentle persuasion to raise a worthy team to do battle with the

Secretaries over this tricky seaside course. The weather was super and we found the course to be in excellent condition and well done to Peter Gee and his team of merry men. Again it was pleasing to see some old faces reappearing, hopefully it won't be so long before we see them again! A keenly fought match it was, nip and tuck all the way to the wire and ending with a very friendly half. Therefore the Secretaries, winners last year, retain the Shield. Well done to the Secretaries and their Captain, Mr David Peak for making the day so enjoyable. We very much look forward to doing battle again next year.

A sincere thank you to both John Jenkins and John Weekes and also the committee of the Langland Bay GC for their support and allowing us the courtesy of the golf course.

The results were as follows:- Dennis Jones/Andy Roach v Jim Graham/Dil Roderick - Won; Ray Everson/David Jenkins v Paul Keneally/Leon Adler - Won; David Gladwin/Allan Crichton v David Peak/Ray Howell - Lost; Fred Smyth/Mike Norfolk v Dick Richards/Fred Ireland - Lost; Mal Davies/Brian Jones v Brian Player/Kelvin Housely - Lost; Adrian Panks/Ron Parker v John Jones/John Jenkins - Half; Peter Lacey/Laurence Walter v John Weekes/Ian Donald - Won.

Thank you also to our President, Colin Murphy, who joined us for the presentations and evening meal and who appropriately reminded us of the sad loss this last year of Fred Crossman, former Secretary of Creigiau GC, Secretary of the Secretaries Association and the organiser of this annual event for many years. A minutes silence in remembrance of Fred was asked of before the meal. Finally, thanks also to David Gladwin for his summing up and after dinner speech.

If you know that you will be available to take part in the Annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA at the Thornbury GC on September 23 please let me know as soon as possible.

The programme for the Regional Seminar at Cannington College, on November 26, has been finalised and details will be with you shortly. Please book your place promptly as places will no doubt be in demand.

Booking forms for the Express Trip to the BTME 98 on January 20-23 are also available. If you haven't received yours then give me a ring. Despite the larger coach, tickets will be in high demand so book early to avoid disappointment.

Peter Lacey



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ROUGH MOWERS

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Hugh Tilley judges some of the mowers for rough currently on the market.

Rough going is getting less rough it would seem, as greenkeepers reduce the length and extent of their "rough" in order to speed play. The word itself now has many interpretations, from grass cut as low as two inches to some which is never cut at all.

Justification for no or minimal cutting is conservation – of wildlife habitat and natural flora, but not all golfers are happy about long grass as once a ball goes in it can take a lot of time to find it.

In talking to greenkeepers about mowing "rough" the general preference for reel or cylinder mowers is obvious, and while my initial expectation was that all rough would be cut with a rotary, the reality is that some clubs prefer to use gang mowers.

In addition, the tidiness requirement at most clubs is against a rotary which can leave the grass on the top in swaths, thus some clubs have resorted to flail mowers despite their greater power requirement and slower working speed.

The advent of mulching or recycling mowers – where the grass is recut and powered to the ground – was not very evident. However, some rotary mowers spread the cut grass better than others and this should be considered. Roller mowers – rotaries with a roller at front and/or rear produce a neater looking finish because of the stripes but this is mainly cosmetic and, in wet conditions, wheel marks may soon appear too. Also cut grass can build up on the roller.

Another use for the "rough" mower is to remove seedheads from the fairway – when these get away from a fairway cylinder/reel mower. Many courses have tree planted areas which need to be tidied so a rotary or flail type mower may be required for this. Unfortunately tree plantings are often too narrow for the wider mowers which are most economic to use

on open ground. Few are planted with consideration for a club's normal operations.

Many "roughs" are on banks and steep land, so being able to use four wheel drive may be essential. Stability and surefootedness is also needed, but fortunately rough cutting can usually be reserved for dry conditions – there is nothing as slippery as wet grass.

The least expensive mower option is usually a tractor mounted and pto driven rotary mower and these are made by many different manufacturers in several widths – from about 1.8m (6ft) to about 8m (27ft) – although few clubs have, or would want, a sufficiently heavy and powerful tractor for the larger machines.

Several problems affect rotary mowers, one is the power required to cut great bulks of grass, as often the machine will not allow large amounts of cut material to pass out of the back quickly. The front of the mower must be lower than the back or power demand increases considerably – often to the detriment of the belts. Mulching mowers also need extra power. Wheel marks are usually left where long grass is run down by the tyres and often not lifted by the cutters, and cut grass can be left in a thick swath which is both untidy and may kill the underlying plant. But in contrast to a cylinder mower the rotary is simple in design, use and maintenance. Flail mowers are also easy to use although their maintenance may be slightly more expensive.

While most options utilise a conventional or compact tractor, there are many purpose built self-propelled out front rotaries which offer specific advantages such as exceptional visibility and manoeuvrability.

Jacobsen gangmower at Broome Manor, Swindon

Prime reason for using gang mowers for the rough at Broome Manor is to keep play moving. The 27 hole municipal "pay and play" amenity