

**Right: Phased water management of the water feature at Royal Porthcawl**

agement given follows closely the guidelines set out by English Nature.

The South - The Dyke Golf Club  
The Dyke Golf Club by its presence has secured an important fragment of the downland, much of which, certainly that surrounding the golf course, is now being managed as intensive agriculture. Area of acidic grassland can be seen amongst the dominant chalk rich grassland. Round-headed rampion or Pride of Sussex is an interesting plant species to be found here, surviving only in one or two areas of the South Downs. Much of the greenstaff's time in the winter is spent coppicing and controlling hawthorn regeneration. Glades have been created so as to maximise the grassland habitat for butterflies and other wildlife; the roughs are generally managed for their botanical interest, although several are left to facilitate overwintering.

#### **Midland Mid Herts Golf Club**

The decision between Mid Herts and Burnham Beeches was very difficult, although Mid Herts was possibly slightly more ahead in terms of how much work has been undertaken on the course with regard to rough management. Emphasis is largely given to developing the grassland roughs providing attractive swathes throughout the summer period. Heather is present in one or two pockets and efforts are being made to encourage this further. A programme is also underway to conserve and increase juniper which is present on the course but is generally rare within the surrounding countryside. The Club maintains a regular liaison with the Middlesex Trust for Wildlife who often offer labour to assist with the project.

#### **The North**

The overall winner of the 1998 Environment Competition this year came from the North. Lindrick Golf Club have always been serious contenders, receiving Highly Commended and Regional Finalist awards.

The judges were particularly impressed with the degree of commitment and enthusiasm that clearly runs throughout the Club towards ecological management. Areas of the course have been given Site of Special Scientific Interest status and as such are managed with guidance from English Nature and the local Wildlife Trust. Other areas outside the areas of SSSI are managed in a similar manner so as to maximise habitat and species interest. The work undertaken has included a substantial amount of gorse management and rein-



statement of the rough grassland. The Club has also developed a wildlife pond which now forms an important feature on entering the course.

In response to winning the Regional Finalist award, David Ward, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club states that: "The winning of the award has certainly created a buzz through the Club and has helped considerably in highlighting our environmental profile. It has made members much more aware of what we are trying to achieve out on the course." Similarly, David Ansell of The Dyke Golf Club says that: "Entering the competition has helped the role of communication between members, particularly given that the judging has been carried out by external groups, i.e. with no internal bias to the Club. The level of interest now present within the Club will allow more scope for the greenstaff to address those more sensitive areas that previously lacked positive management."

Mr Richard Jourdan, Secretary of Mid Herts Golf Club pointed out that the Club was highly delighted with the award. The plaque has been placed within the Clubhouse and full coverage has been given to the award in the Mid Herts Golfer Newsletter. "One of the major attributes of the competition is to raise the awareness through the membership as to what we are trying to achieve out on the course."



**Above right: Swans at Loch Lomond perfect their bunker play!**

**Right: Reinstating gorse at Broadstone**





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**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**East**

Well, we now have had our last tournament of the season. This was held at Peebles Golf Club down in the beautiful border country. On behalf of the members I would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course. Also, the Steward for keeping us fed and well watered and Head Greenkeeper, Donald Menzies and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course.

The weather could not have been better. Perfect sunshine from the first tee off to the last putt. We had a good turn out from members. Nice to see some new faces, also the trade was well represented. Our thanks to them for providing us with raffle prizes.

Results: 1st Class Scratch - Stewart Quaich. Winner: Kenny Mail, 73pts; Handicap-Watermation Cup: 1. Ian Bell, 75 pts; 2. T Murray, 78 pts; 3. A. Holmes, 79 pts; 2nd Class - SGM Cup. 1. C. Pennycook, 70 pts; 2. N. Fergie, 71 pts; 3. I Aitchison, 72 pts. 3rd Class - STS/Rigby Taylor: 1. S. Hayes, 68 pts; 2. I. Cowan, 73pts; 3. G. Stavert, 75 pts; Veteran Winner - Eddie Holt Cup. J. Nesbitt. Trade - I Henderson, 70 pts; Best Nett of Day - Russell CUP. S. Hayes, 68 pts; Best Spring/Autumn Aggregate - Bill Beveridge Trophy. K. Mail, 65 & 71 pts; Highest Score of Day. Bruce Joyce, 139 pts.

Congratulations to Stevie Dixon for reaching his big 40th birthday. This was on the same day as the outing. Remember, anyone interested in playing football against the West Section, please contact me either at work: 0131 445 7165 or at the house 01620 842937.

Well, that's all folks. Must dash, got to go and meet Mickey Mouse. pp Andrew Forrest.

Chris Yeaman.

**North**

The Section AGM took place recently at Moray GC Lossiemouth. 22 souls braved the elements to play in the Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match over the new course. The Vice-Chairman's team won by 4 matches to 2 and I duly received the Daval trophy from Dennis Slater, sales rep for the North. We thank Alex Cruickshank, of Daval, for providing the trophy and handy bottle to go with it.

The meeting passed off very smoothly with myself taking over the Chairmanship from Hugh McLatchie and Wilson Morrison becoming my Vice-Chairman, being the only changes on the Committee. I would like to thank Hughie for all his hard work as Chairman for the last two years and hope I can keep the ball rolling in the Section. A very big thank you to all at Moray Golf Club for the use of their fine facilities and especially to Neil

Ballingall and his staff for the course.

The final four 200 Club winners were drawn and are as follows, September £30, No. 185 James Whyte Fraserburgh, October £30, No. 57 David Inglis, Balnagask, November £30, No. 129 Mark Mclean, Fraserburgh and December £100, No. 14 Alistair Angus Elgin. Once again thank you to all who bought tickets and if you were unsuccessful this year, better luck next year.

Chris Pearson has re-joined the Section and has taken the Head Greenkeeper job at the Crathstone course in Aberdeen. Steve Davie is on the move, leaving Craigiehill GC Perth to work at King James GC also in Perth.

Once again the Scottish Region are running a bus to BTME in Harrogate next month. The cost is only £142 for bus, three nights B&B, entry to all seminars and the exhibition, for further details contact Peter Boyd on 0141 6163440, miss it at your peril.

Our two Patron winners, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, and Ross Macleod, Tain, will receive their awards at the Patron's Lunch in Stirling this month and will be on the bus to BTME.

We finish the year with 259 members, our highest figure yet and on that note, we are trying to find the Sections oldest surviving members, any help will be gratefully received. A happy Christmas and soberish new Year to one and all. Iain Macleod.

**Central**

The final golf tournament of the season was held on October 5 by courtesy of Crieff Golf Club in Perthshire, when over 40 members and guests enjoyed playing on a course in superb conditions on what must have been the only dry afternoon that month. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Crieff, especially Head Greenkeeper, Charlie Macdonald and his staff for the course presentation, Club Captain, Jim Fordyce and Managing Secretary, Scott Miller, for all their help on the day.

It was also pleasing to see Haigh Gordon, from Muthill Golf Club, at the tournament, many of you will remember Haigh and Jimmy Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Muthill, who both attended every event which was organised. It's just a pity that we don't get the same support from some of our younger members. Thanks for all your help Haigh and I look forward to seeing you at Lundin in the spring.

Prize winners were as follows: Ransomes Trophy: D. McAllister, Ladybank; Best Scratch: D. McAllister, Ladybank; Best Nett: J. McPhail, Crieff; 1st Class 1st H/Cap: D. McAllister, Ladybank; 1st Class 2nd H/Cap: C. Macdonald, Crieff; 2nd Class 1st H/Cap: S. Sime, Leven; 2nd Class 2nd H/Cap: D. Scott, Scoonie; 3rd Class 1st H/Cap: J. McPhail, Crieff; Patron's: P. Allan, Stewarts; Guests: J. Fordyce, Crieff. The next big event was the section AGM which was held on October 28 at Kinross Golf Club. This time the grand total of eight members (representing five golf clubs) and four

Trade members made the effort to attend, out with those who sent in their apologies, there must surely be more than eight of us who are interested in the Section. WHERE ARE YOU ALL? The committees for 1998/9 are: Chairman, A. Dunn Auchterarder, Vice Chairman, A. O'Hara, Leven, Sec/Treas. J. Crawford, Stirling, E. Small, Tulliallan, D. Scott, Scoonie and S. Sime, Leven.

While I am on about events, here are some dates for the future. The date of the golf tournaments next year are: Spring, Lundin Links on Thursday, April 29, and Autumn, Balbirnie Park on Tuesday, September 21. In the year 2000 the Spring Tournament will be held in April at St Andrews, date still to be confirmed and the Autumn Tournament will be on Thursday, September 21 at Stirling Golf Club.

Another new member joining us this month is Derren Brown from Muckhart Golf Club. Derren is an assistant at Muckhart and I have no doubt that Alistair or Robbie will encourage him to join them at some of our events, when we look forward to meeting him.

Next month sees the annual pilgrimage to the BTME at Harrogate when, no doubt there will be the ever increasing number of Section members attending "educational" events, morning noon and night. Well, that's what you've got to tell those who miss out on the week's Learning Experience. If you haven't booked yet and are thinking of going, just get in touch with Peter Boyd on 0141 616 3440 and he will give you all the details regarding travel and accommodation.

As we near the end of another year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the section in 1998, especially the numerous golf club committees and members, the Patrons of the Scottish Region and those of you who supported the events which were organised. Have a very Merry Christmas and Awrabest in '99!

John Crawford.

**Ayrshire**

Nobody's phoned any news this month. What a surprise!, so I'll report what I could collate myself.

Our secretary, Derek Wilson, had an enjoyable and enlightening time at the Hayter International Cup, although the Yanks lifted the silverware. He has some interesting stories to tell, one of which is the greens aeration system. It has a network of perforated pipework under the green, to which a connection is made to a portable compressor and compressed air is pumped through the pipework which slightly rises the green's surface, after which the green is lightly rolled and there is no disruption to play. This system can also be reversed and used for drainage. This sounds like a dream. I wonder what the cost is?

The Patrons awards for this year has been won by our Secretary, Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside, and Marshall Sloss "Beith". They both win, among other prizes, a trip to BTME '99 at

Harrogate. Congratulations and enjoy your prizes.

On the subject of BTME99, yes it's fast approaching, our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, is again organising the Scottish bus to Harrogate. The bus travels down on Tuesday afternoon and returns on the Friday. You have three nights bed and breakfast at the Moat House Hotel and entry to the show and all the seminars. All this is on offer at the excellent price of £142. More details or a booking form can be obtained from Peter. Call 0141 616 3440.

Congratulations to our Chairman, Jim Patron, who has been re-elected Scottish Region Board Member of our Association for 1999. That's it for this month apart from wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy 1999 when it arrives. Any news call 01505 683278.

Iain Barr.

**West of Scotland**

Just a few things to mention as very little has happened recently. The main event was the AGM held at the Claremont Bowling Club on Thursday, October 22 which was attended by 24 people. The proceedings went according to plan with no major hiccups. Three members of Committee came off, Scott Ballantyne, Drew McKechnie and Gary Burns, and all are to be thanked for their endeavours over their time in the office. Two new members were elected - Gavin Jarvie and Colin Nicol. I hope they enjoy their time on committee.

As for myself now, I take a back seat and allow the newly elected Chairman Brian Hillan to run things the way he wishes. The new Vice Chairman is Robert Hogarth and the outline of committee is as follows: Chairman, Brian Hillan, Drupellier Golf Club; Vice Chairman, Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle Golf Club; Secretary, Sandy Bulloch, Fereneze Golf Club; Past Chairman, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow Golf Club; Scottish Region Vice Chairman, John Scott, Kirkhill Golf Club; Kenny Hunter, Huxleys; Derek Duthie, Aitkens; Apprentice Representative, Colin Nicol, Cathcart Castle Golf Club; Committee Member, Gavin Jarvie, Lenzie Golf Club.

Please remember that committee members are your representatives, if you want answers about something, ask them they will then endeavour to obtain those answers for you or will put your question to the appropriate people. With the social events I'm sure Brian will have a few new ideas. I wish him and his committee a successful year.

After the AGM there was a games night and 16 people took part in what was described as entertaining and action packed. Members played darts, bowls, snooker, pool and dominoes with the cream coming to the top. On the last game two tied on wins, only the points from snooker separated the winners and eventually Gavin Jarvie and I came out on top after the nail biting



## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

performance on dominoes coming back from two down to win the next three. Everybody appeared to have a good time, hard lines to the two lads from Lenzie, Michael Kelly and Mark Johnstone - maybe next time. In all, the night was excellent considering the floods, and to all those who attended both things, thanks for your efforts.

The Section owes thanks to John Scott Sr. for the pies at half-time, arranging the hall and for his continued support. Thanks to the barman Graham and Claremont Bowling Club for once again providing us with an excellent venue. Last but not least, thanks to Mike Dooner, of Thormtree Landscapes, for his donation towards the evening's festivities. Notification of future events will be as and when but from general conversation it looks likely that another game of football will be arranged between either the East or Central Sections. Those interested please contact me on 0141 942 5554, the same goes for information of interest to other members, births, deaths, promotion etc. Finally I hope everybody has remembered to book a place on the BTME trip. If not be quick as they are sure to disappear. Well that's all folks, have a good Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you around.

Stuart Taylor



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

### North East

Firstly let me congratulate Tony McIure and John Surtees on winning the Carburol Knock Out Cup for the second year running in beating Craig Parkinson and David Cuthbertson 3/2 in a closely fought match at Tyneside Golf Club. Both finalists will collect their prizes at the AGM date and venue will be announced soon. The annual match against East of Scotland took place at Tyneside GC. recently. Our thanks to the club President, Geoff White, on coming to the rescue for this game at such short notice as the original game was to be at Staley Hall but due to the excess amount of rain that fell 48 hours prior to the game, we had to find another course very quickly. So, on behalf of the Section, we would like to thank Tyneside G.C.'s courtesy. Also, let's not forget the Head Greenkeeper, David Simpson and his staff, for having the course in great condition. Both teams were very impressed considering how much rain had fallen. The North East Section retained the trophy again, sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you might borrow the trophy for a year.

The score was three all and the results are as follows: C. Parkinson/R. Black lost 4/3 to T. Murray/I. Bell. I. Hutton/S. Pope beat G. Thompson/S. Greenwood 3/2. S. Quince/J. Redhead lost to G. Wood/J. Neilson 4/3. D. Cuthbertson/N. Hughes beat N.

Wood/S. Nixon 4/3. A. Ainscough/G. Wright beat J. Manuel/D. Dugan 4/3. N. Parkin/R. Bell lost to A. Holmes/C. Pennicuik 3/2. Thanks again to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the match for the eighteenth time. We look forward to seeing you all next year.  
Jimmy Richardson

### North West

How was your year? February and March promised a great start to the year with warm dry weather allowing fairways and greens to be cut and making the courses look really tidy. Then April came along and the rain started. I remember writing in the April Section notes that it had been the wettest April on record for many years and at the same time the Midlands were suffering severe flooding.

After the April rains the grass took off and combined with the rain and warm weather, it was difficult to keep on top of the mowing. Even after cutting fairways and semi rough, the courses looked untidy with wet grass lying about. The rain continued and never stopped, giving, I'm sure, many of you sleepless nights. Today, October 24, while writing these notes, the news is that severe flooding has occurred in South Wales due to continual rain for days and gale force winds are bringing down trees in many parts of the country.

All of this, I am sure, will mean extra work this winter, on top of your planned winter programme. I certainly hope that your members understand how difficult a year it has been. Looking on the brighter side, the Section has had seven golf days with the Christmas competition to come, and won two cups, Stewards match and The Roses match.

The Mere seminar in March was also a great success, and we will be holding a seminar at Mere once again in March.

I have just returned from the opening of BIGGA HOUSE, our new headquarters at Aldwark, which was opened by the Duke of York and it is a lovely building which we should all be proud of. If you go to Harrogate in January, take time out to visit the building and browse through the reference library. If any members have any news or points of interest, please contact me on 0151 724 5412. I will be pleased to hear from you. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross.

### Sheffield

On November 5 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf club and we had a very good attendance. Our thanks go to Richard Tyas, of Twose Turf and Spray Ltd, who gave an interesting lecture on spraying which was enjoyed by everyone. After the lecture we held our Annual General Meeting which also had a good attendance. The meeting showed that the Section has had a good year and is in very good condition. It was passed that

the committee remain the same. President, Ken Arnold; Chairman, Neil Maltby; Vice Chairman, Jeremy Duffield; Secretary, Ron Ullathorne; Treasurer, Barry Heaney. Other committee members, David Chappell, Steve Currie, John Lax. Also elected to the committee was John Coleman.

I would just like to thank Ron Ullathorne and Barry Heaney for the excellent work they have done in the past year.

Congratulations go to John Coleman from Abbeydale golf club who has won the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Well done John! This is a first for our Section and once again shows our Section is moving forward all the time. Congratulations also to Kevin Hazelhurst and Lindrick Golf Club for winning the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Well done Kev! Once again, another first for our Section.

Congratulations to Jeremy Duffield on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club. Good luck Jeremy!! Finally may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Lax

### Northern

Where did all that rain come from? At my golf course we had 228mm (9") of rain in one month period. This year's Autumn Tournament was held at Bridlington Golf Club. Weather prior to the event had been a little wet to say the least, but thankfully it stayed dry on the day. Thanks to Andrew Boyd and his team for presenting the course in such good condition, also to the caterers for the first class meal and to the professional and his assistant for their hard work in setting up the prize table. A big thank you to F G Adamsons for sponsoring the prize table and to Tony Jenkins for attending on their behalf.

Results for the day were as follows: Division 1. Dave Collins, Richard Harris, Peter Thompson; Division 2. Alan Baxter, Robin Smith, Andrew Cooper; Division 3. Andrew Boyd, Joe Baxter, Les Kirkbright; Trade. Mel Guy. Congratulations to Richard Gamble and his wife on the arrival of their baby boy James Robert. Richard, you will have to make do with a little less beauty sleep than normal! On behalf of the Northern Section Committee I hope everybody has a good Christmas and that 1999 gets off to a good start. Anyone with any information from around the section please contact me at 1 Cockey Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or ring me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

### North Wales

Hey, guess what! I've got something to write about, not a lot, but it does involve greenkeeping for once. Firstly, Alan Kift has moved to the new Millington Grange development. Lovely weather for it Alan, how about our spring tournament, (only kidding). Phil Davies has moved from SDA train-

ing to ALS. Keith Burt has left Ruthin Pullgass to go back to Walker Engineering, so here's wishing all of you all the best for the future.

The autumn meeting was held at Denbigh with smaller numbers than normal due to everyone being behind with their programmes. The sun shone (amusing), the wind blew (as always) and the trees got in the way, except for the winner Ian Buckley who even avoided a whole wood on the dodgy 18th to get an incredible eagle two. Well done Ian. May I thank everyone for their kind comments. It was a privilege to have had you here.

We will be running a coach to the BTME again, free for members, £10 for non-members. There will be no alcohol allowed on the coach due to last year's incident. A raffle will also be held to help Section funds. I will expand on Section funding in another column in the future. The pick up points will be Abergele, Northop College and Sainsburys. More details next month.

Some members are wondering where all the seminars have gone. I went to one held by Barenburg/ALS in June, but not many others did. I have been told it was due to the fact they didn't know about it and here lies the problem. If as a Section we organise a seminar and mailshot all members, it costs money and still doesn't mean people will turn up, which is embarrassing. If there are any trade members or even trade people that want to give seminars, please contact me on 01824 710693 or Gary Edwards on 01492 593646 so we can make all the necessary arrangements.

One course that should be undertaken is First Aid. I know my certificate has lapsed so if anyone is interested, and you should be as it is a legal requirement if any organisation employs more than five people, please contact above numbers. We need at least ten people to make it happen at the college. College news and it's good news. The 9 hole course has now got full planning permission. Textron has come up with an excellent machinery package through Walkers and all the various greenkeeping courses are in full swing and very well supported.

The college will again be represented at BTME and the annual Technical Seminar will be on February 17 with some excellent speakers being lined up.

At the last golf liaison meeting at the college the WGU showed once again the commitment to greenkeeping in Wales and not just its youngsters but also its older experienced greenkeepers on the educational front. Watch this space. One final note, I am currently in the process of becoming the internal verifier for Wales and will be contacting all the assessors (if I haven't already) about moderation meetings etc. If any of you have any queries, information etc. about NVQ's please contact me on the number above and I will endeavour to sort it out. See ya!  
Dave Goodridge.

### Cleveland

Well, this will be the last bit of Section news before Santa pays us all a visit. Quite a bit of news this month, I'll start with the Autumn Tournament first. The turn out was atrocious. Ten greenkeepers, two from the trade. The winners as follows: 1. Martin Woods; 2. Tony Burge; 3. Barry Walker; 4. Steve Jacques. The trade prize once again went to Alan Cordingley. Well done.

We have also had our first lecture which was on environmental conservation. Again, poor turn out. I myself did not get to the above lectures but all members should make an effort to attend. The committee put a lot of time and effort into booking these speakers.

Pat on the back time this month, Eaglescliffe GC, greenkeeper, Nick Dawson, has been awarded Askham Bryan Student Greenkeeper of the Year. The college presentation of a new trophy was handed over to Nick by no other than HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York at a ceremony in October. Nick has completed Phase 4.

Also successful at passing Phase 4 was Geoff War, Course Manager at Eaglescliffe GC. This club now has four staff qualified up to Phase 4. A very good achievement.

Well, don't forget the Christmas Quiz December 16, 7.30 Mount Oswald. I have had a word with Terry Charlton, from Turfcare, who puts on a very good quiz. When he asks the greenkeepers questions, we would like them to be from the Salvation Army's Young Soldier Quiz Book. At least we might be able to answer half the buggers. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midlands

Having just returned from the official opening of BIGGA House, I would like to take this opportunity to inform our members what superb facilities we now have and what a credit it is to all those members, Golf Clubs, Companies, etc., that have so generously donated to our Association.

This year's annual East Midlands v Midlands golf match sponsored by Rigby Taylor was held at Horsley Lodge G.C. on October 8. The day started cool and breezy and thankfully, dry and bright. The morning Greensomes saw the two sides locked on 12.1/2 points each, our winning pairs being Jeff Dickinson & Anthony Foulds and the number 5 pairing of Antony & Mark Bindley, with Dave Leatherland and Carl Chamberlain gaining a halve. Full of optimism for the afternoon singles games, it all ended in disappointment as we performed rather badly with only two wins from 10 matches, Dave Leatherland gaining a 4&2 victory, with Antony Bindley winning 7&5. This resulted in a 10.1/2 to 4.1/2 victory to the Midland Section. Our section

was represented by the following members. Jeff Dickinson, Anthony Foulds, Carl Chamberlain, Dave Leatherland, Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Donald Blacker, Hamie Bedford, Antony Bindley & Mark Bindley.

Congratulations should go to the Midland Section for again winning the shield. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Horsley Lodge for hosting this event and to Russell Allen, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for presenting a superb golf course.

Last but by no means least I would like to thank our very generous sponsors, Rigby Taylor, for organising this popular event, especially Steve Blakeman for all his hard work. This year's singles K/O final was contested between Dave Leatherland and Carl Chamberlain at Longcliffe G.C. on September 28. After a very closely fought match Dave eventually ran out as the 2&1 winner. Thanks should go to Longcliffe GC for hosting the final and to all those members who took part in this competition. I would also like to thank E T Breakwells for their golf day at Evesham G.C. on October 7, sorry I have no details on scores etc.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors of our Section for their continued support. Miracle-Pairs Tournament, E T Breakwells - Spring Tournament, Chandlers - East Midlands v East of England, Rigby Taylor - East Midlands v Midlands & Christmas Tournament, Vitax - AGM Tournament. Finally I would like to wish all our members and readers a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Antony Bindley.

### Midland

On October 21 I attended the opening of the new BIGGA Headquarters, appropriately named BIGGA HOUSE. The new building is a great step forward for the Association and a facility which should take us into the millennium and further. The facilities on offer are open to all members and it would be a greater success if we could get more involvement in the Association from the grass roots level as all these new facilities are there for the benefit of the subscription paying members. The annual committee cup was held at Ross-on-Wye Golf Club and was won by Rhys Thomas, our Competition's Secretary with a Stableford points score of 34. Well done to Rhys, the trophy will be presented at the Christmas tournament. The Christmas tournament will be held at Copt Heath Golf Club on December 10 and the AGM will follow the golf. Any member who is not playing in the golf is also reminded that they are still welcome to the AGM.

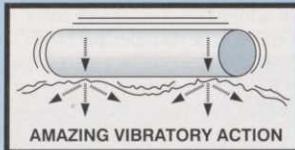
I would just like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Finally, I have some more new members to introduce, they are as follows: Francesco Polino, John Hughes, Andrew Dalton, Steven Harvey, Joe Clifford, Andrew Richards, Leslie Howkins, Philip Shakespere and John Cassidy.

Jonathan Wood.

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**East of England**

The Rigby Taylor Cup was played at the second attempt at Ryston Park as the first was washed out in June. The course was a little dryer this time and in excellent condition. Thank you to Kevin Hodges and Merv Codling for presenting a testing course for our competition. Also thank you to the Ryston Golf Club for allowing us courtesy second time around. The eventual winner was myself (G A Macdonald) not surprising because I used to work there as head greenkeeper. Kevin Hodges the existing Head greenkeeper came in second and Phil Brown "Vice Captain" won the guest prize. Longest drive went to J Carr "Chandlers" and the Lambs Cup for nearest the pin went to G A Macdonald. Everybody who played took home a prize and we thank our main sponsor Stuart Jeffs of Rigby Taylors for some superb prizes. It was a pity that there was not more members playing, because we had a fantastic meal afterwards and thanks to Eric Greig for that. Other sponsors were: Tower Chemicals, Willmot Pertwee, Chandlers, Aitkins, Greenpride, Barenbrug and Maxicrop. The section would also like to congratulate the Head Greenkeeper of Ryston Park, Kevin Hodges on the birth of his second baby boy. Hope you don't have too many sleepless nights. Also congratulations to Newark's Alan Buckley on becoming Askham Bryan's NVQ3 Student of the Year.

G A Macdonald.



South West and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

**South West**

A crisp autumnal day greeted the competitors for the annual match against our friends from across the Bristol Channel at a very impressive St Pierre. Following the humiliation of our last defeat at the hands of the Welsh giants, we put out our strongest team yet with some carefully hand picked bandits making up an impressive side. I am pleased to say that this tactic was very successful with a five matches to two win in our favour. Thanks to the Welsh side for making this such an enjoyable fixture and to St Pierre for allowing us courtesy of their magnificent course.

Chipping Sodbury is the venue for the Christmas Tournament on December 10. This is a very popular event, which is nearly always blessed with some excellent weather. The course itself, although new to me, is a delightful layout that has recently undergone some financial investment to enhance an already superb facility and so should prove to be interesting from a greenkeeping point of view as well as golfing one. Please come along for this one, especially if you are one of the members who do not come into the category of being a regular attendee. We need as many of you as possible to

keep this Section in its present healthy state. Although early days, we would like everyone to start thinking about next year's Westurf. This is to be completely revamped by our administrator, Paula Humphries, and will now take place at the new venue of Westpoint near Exeter on April 17. The new location should be of benefit to more people within the Southwest as it is located just three minutes from the M5.

In addition it is all under cover and promises to be considerably bigger and better. Included will be entertainment, free seminars, courtesy buses to Exeter for partners who wish to indulge in a bit of shopping and a huge show all under cover. Put this date in your diary as it promises to be something very special and will bring all the suppliers in the area to you at a terrific new venue. As this show is going to be appreciably bigger in size, we will need more exhibitors to take up the space and so could you please have a word with all the people you do business with and make sure they get in contact with Paula to book their place. They cannot afford to be absent.

I am standing down from the committee this year and so this will be the last article of mine that you will have to read. Thanks for putting up with my libelous statements and I hope to see you all at the fixtures throughout the coming months. Merry Christmas to every one and may your New Year be stress free.

Marc Haring

**South Wales**

With a warm and bright day we returned to the St Pierre Golf & Country Club to play the seventh match versus the South West. What a delight to be back after a short break, with the course in good condition and excellent food, a superb day was had by all.

Congratulations to the South West team captain Matthew Hawker and his team on their 4 games to 2 win. Our thanks also to Richard Minton and Scotts Amenity for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes. Nearest the pin: 2nd hole - Douge Donne. 6th hole - David Gladwin. 13th hole - Kerry Jones. 18th hole - John Keenaghan. Longest drive on 17th - Andy Cosh.

Sincere thanks also to our Regional Administrator, Paula, who travelled up to become the official starter and saw everyone off on time. A mention again and congratulations to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and Course Manager, David Ward and his staff on winning the Regional finals of the Amazone Environmental award 1998.

Although this time it has to be mentioned that on behalf of the club David received a plaque and a cheque for £250 by the HRH Duke of York at a presentation held at the Askham Bryan College near York. On October 21 both P. Lacey and D. Ward had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the new BIGGA HQ.

The building was officially opened by the HRH Duke of York followed by a

reception at Aldwark Manor Hotel where they had the great pleasure of meeting the Duke in person. What an event of which Peter and David must be proud and privileged to have attended. Recently a number of people attended a tour of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth with British Seed Houses. IGER has been in the news lately for developing the Stay Green Grass.

After a visit to the field to see the trial plots of grasses being grown and the breeding programmes that are taking place, a tour of the laboratories took place to see the science behind the breeding. This look into the Genetic Engineering and Genetic Mapping along with the techniques that are being used and the scientific methods involved are of what is happening and what could happen in the near future.

Without doubt, the new Verti-Drain Mustang is the fastest, most effective aerator on the market today.

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Sincere thanks to the Institute from all who attended for their insight into plant breeding programmes taking place on behalf of BSH and especially to Dr Danny Thorogood for his explanations. And to all at British Seed Houses but especially Alan Sinclair, Simon Taylor, John Hughes and Roger Saunders for their wonderful hospitality. Despite the horrendous weather, gale force winds and flooding, a good

time was had by all.

On October 28 the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Finals were held at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Kerry Jones of Garnant Park and Mike Norfolk of Southerndown Golf Club were battling it out in gale force winds that almost made their golf impossible. The pair were assisted by Roy Barker and David Carver, Rigby Taylor representatives for South Wales. Mike

Norfolk led 1 up after 9 holes, the back nine resumed after a healthy lunch with the strong winds continuing, they did well stay on their feet! A spirited fight back by Kerry Jones took place. During the back none Kerry became 1 up and at the par 5, 17th his long hitting proved an advantage as he parred this hole to a bogey from Mike to win the match 2 and 1. A great day was had by all despite the weather.

Our sincere thanks to Rigby Taylor, Roy Baker and Dave Carvey for sponsoring this competition (and who will sponsor the competition for the next 9 years). Only a few seats left for the BTME Express so avoid disappointment, send your application to P. Humphries as soon as possible. Remember, £95 per person and £85 for the second travelling from the same club!



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Last but not least, congratulations are in order to Mr and Mrs Alan Walker on the recent arrival of their first baby.

Alan, Head Greenkeeper of Carmarthen Golf club will have plenty of time to consider the best and most suitable position of this future Welsh Rugby International. Lastly we most probably would have played the Winter Tournament, Christmas competition and have had our Annual General Meeting at the Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, so I will bring you up to date with information in the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas.

Richard Hatcher.

### Devon & Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all. Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was the Roffeys meeting held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday October 14 and a sellout. The day started as usual with golfing members competing for the D.O. Hunt Trophy, our early morning starters had the worst of the weather as the rain gave way to a very pleasant morning's golf.

Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Course Manager Ray Day. After an excellent lunch, Steve Hasell from Cannington College presented our afternoon educational talk covering the subject of "Working safely within the law". After Steve's superb talk, Don Hunt, on behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford Competition for the D.O. Hunt Trophy. 1. Steve Milne, Exeter; 2. Harry Roberts, Crediton; 3. Terry Pascoe, Budock Veon.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors Roffeys and Don Hunt for their support and to Saunton Golf Club for allowing our Section use of their excellent facilities and to all the staff at Saunton for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to Ray Day and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

Our raffle concluded an excellent day with Billy from Watermation winning the golf shoes and Graham winning James Beard's book on turf diseases. Our first meeting in the New Year will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday January 27 sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds. The morning will start with a St Andrews foursome golf competition with starting times between 9.30am - 10.30am. This meeting will be the one you cannot afford to miss if you are in any way interested in computers as there will be computers set up with all the latest software available to manage your course, you can try these programmes any time between 10.30am - 1pm, 3pm - 4pm.

After lunch our sponsor for the day, Barenbrug seeds, will present the golf prizes and Company presentation. Have you booked your place on the Regions package to BTME 99, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show & seminars, there's only a few places left, so hurry!

Richard Whyman.



**South East**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### South Coast

The Festive Season is with us once again. How time flies! A Happy Christmas to all our members, all the staff at Headquarters, all Members of the Trade and all our sponsors over the past year. By now you should have received your programme for the Section and Region events for 1998-1999. If you have not received one yet, get in touch with Jef, our secretary, straight away. Our first event for 1999 is at Canford Magna Golf Club on Wednesday January 13.

The proceedings start at 10am. We start with a talk by David Whitaker, from The Wisley Golf Club. This will be followed by a talk from Amenity Technology. Then 9 holes of golf or a course walk, whichever you prefer. Everyone is welcome.

By now bookings for the Region's trip to BTME should be full. However, there may still be some vacancies, so if you have left it to the last minute, contact our Regional Administrator, Paula, straight away. On February 23 we are holding our seminar at Sparsholt College. The speakers include: Howard Swan, Jim McKenzie, Jack McMillan and Sandy Wilson. Booking forms should be with you shortly, along with details of costs. All enquiries to Jef. Last year's seminar was a big success. Let's make this year's an even bigger success.

Ken Lodge.

### Mid Anglia

The Mid Anglia Section Autumn Tournament was held this year at Mill Green Golf Club near Welwyn in 1st October. Thirty-six people entered the tournament and enjoyed the course which was in good shape. Our thanks go to Mark Root and his staff and to the club, for allowing us courtesy and looking after us on the day. As the course was fairly short and the weather conditions reasonable, high scores were posted with Gary Boulton, of Dunstable Downs, just edging out Richard Saunders of St. Neots on a countback, both with 40 points. Gavin Simkins of Mount Pleasant was third with 38 points. The 'longest drive' and 'nearest the pin' competitions were won by the same person: Nolan Whitehead of Aldwickbury Park. Peter Owen of Patissons picked up the Trade Prize with 35 points. Our thanks also to David Murphy of Driving Force Leisure for providing prizes and to other trade members for their continued support.

The Annual General Meeting fol-

lowed, with the following officers elected to serve the section: Chairman, Colin Robinson; Vice-Chairman, Mark Ellis; Secretary, Gerald Bruce; Match Secretary, Richard Saunders; Treasurer, John Wells; Regional Representative, Paul Lockett; Other Committee Members, Steve Mason and Neil Whittaker.

Gerald Bruce reported that membership of the Section has increased to 250. Richard Saunders gave a summary of the golf events during 1998 and Steve Mason reported on the Lodgeway Four Ball Competition. A balance sheet was submitted and although things are reasonably healthy, a rise in price for golf events is expected next year, to cover costs.

Paul Lockett.

### London

An era ends in December 1998, after 45 years in Greenkeeping, Gerrards Cross Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, John Nudds, is retiring. John was born in the Norfolk village of Brancaster Staithe in 1933 and his lifelong interest in golf was sparked off at the age of 15, when he caddied at Royal West Norfolk Golf Club and also joined Brancaster Artisans at the same age.

His career in greenkeeping started after getting his first job at Royal West Norfolk GC. After two years National Service in the REMÉ, he soon achieved success by winning six cups shortly after his demob, despite have played virtually no golf for these two years. With his handicap down to Scratch, he was asked to play for the Norfolk County side.

Marrying his wife Jan in 1957, three years passed until 1960 when John became Head Greenkeeper at Hunstanton GC and that year also saw the birth of his son Alan and daughter Debbie was born in 1962. While living and working in Norfolk, John played golf very successfully winning the Norfolk Artisan Championship nine times. He also recorded two Norfolk Amateur Championship wins. The first came in 1964 at his home club Hunstanton, and was played over 36 holes medal play to decide the last 16 and the finalists then competed match play - John beat Derek Rains 5 and 4 in the final. The second championship was won in 1969, played over 36 holes medal play to decide the last 16 and the finalists then competed match play - John beat Derek Rains 5 and 4 in the final.

The second championship was won in 1969, played over 36 holes of medal play, also at Hunstanton. With rough a foot high just off the fairways, John returned scores of 76 and 75 for a total of 151 to win by two shots. The highlight of his golfing career came in 1970 win-

ning the Norfolk Open, only the second Amateur to win this trophy - Arthur Perowne, the Walker Cup player being the only other. Played at Yarmouth & Caister GC, John scored 70 in the morning and broke the course record with a 66 in the afternoon, giving an aggregate of 136, which still stands today. The course record of 66 wasn't bettered for another 20 years!

In the twelve and a half years as head man at Hunstanton, John prepared the course for such events as The Brabazon Trophy, The British Ladies Championship, The English Ladies Championship, The Oxford & Cambridge and The Schweppes Professional Championship. In all, John played for the Norfolk County side for 14 years and played off Scratch for nine years!

In 1972, an approach was made from Gerrards Cross Golf Club to see if he would be interested in taking up the challenge of managing a parkland golf course. John accepted the job and moved his family down to Buckinghamshire. As anyone who has played his course will testify, John's greenkeeping skills on seaside links transferred extremely well to the lush parkland course at Gerrards Cross. He has involved himself in many activities during the last 26 years, a Council Member of the National Artisan Golfers Association and Captain for the last 15 years.

He has served on the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Executive Committee, acting as Manager of the Colts for three years, before serving as Captain of the BB&O for three years from 1991 to 1993, the only Artisan ever to have done so. He has been Secretary of the Berks & Bucks Artisan County Union for 12 years and also represented the BB&O Golf Union on the Berkshire College of Agriculture Greenkeeping Liaison Committee.

He is also currently the Chairman of the Gerrards Cross Artisan GC for the second time. In 1994, John was asked to join the Gerrards Cross & Chalfont St Peter Rotary Club and has served on its Vocational Committee since 1995 and was elected Chairman for both 1997 and 1998. He has also been appointed to the District Vocational Committee for 1998. To those of you who do not know John, what you have just read will indicate a man whose golf and greenkeeping achieved very high standards, and a man who has put an awful lot back into his sport. For all those of you who have had the privilege of knowing his ever cheerful character, I am sure everyone in the trade and the golfing fraternity, wish him and his wife Jan, a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations to Stuart Bertrum, Head Greenkeeper at Moor Park Golf Club and John Broome, the Golf Secretary, at

Around  
the green

Moor Park Golf Club on reaching the final of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge held at Woodhall Spa Golf Club - home of the English Golf Union. Stuart and John won through to the final of 15 competing clubs from an initial entry of 500 clubs.

The first day's play was on The Hotchkin Championship Course and with its narrow fairways and cavernous bunkers, provided a stern test of golf. The second day's play was on the new 'Bracken Course' and although providing totally different characteristics to the Championship Course, it was equally demanding. Accommodation was at the notable Petwood Hotel which, during the war, was the billet for the RAF Officers serving with the famous Dambusters Squadron. Thanks must be given to Kubota UK for organising the Golf Club Challenge and for their generosity hosting the Finals at such a prestigious venue. Also thanks to Rene Orban and Mr Miyake, of Kubota UK, for presenting the prizes. Congratulations also to David Montgomerie of Finchley Golf Club on his engagement to Kay Dowley. It's nice to see a chap floating into the landing net with a smile on his face!

Peter Hopkinson.

#### Surrey

The Surrey Section Autumn Tournament was played at the Drift Golf Club on Thursday October 15. Paul Weston the Course Manager and the rest of his enthusiastic team had presented the course, despite an extremely wet spell, in excellent condition and we all thank him and the management of the Drift for the golf, the delicious food and the warm welcome. The result was: Nearest the pin 3rd: Dave Murdoch; Nearest the pin 16th: Ken Harding; Longest Drive: Paul Robinson; 1. David Jones, 37 pts; 2. John Davidson, 37 pts; 3. Michael McLoughlin, 36 pts. Well, I'm afraid that's it for this month, except to welcome back to Surrey 'Clandon Regis' Steve Swanson and from me, I'll see you all when I return from California.

Brian Willmott.

#### Essex

The Essex Section held an education evening on November 4 at Writtle College where we had a talk from David Gehior. The talk was entitled "Do you really know how to achieve the best results from the various types of fertilisers?"

Allen Stowe also gave us an insight into Vitax products and a very smart product guide. Thanks to David and Allen for their time. 28 members attended a very interesting evening and a few beers in the student bar afterwards. Thanks to Pearl for sponsoring the evening

and Willmot Pertwee, Vitax, Rigby Taylor and Grass Roots for the raffle prizes.

We have a new member. Ian Wright from Romford Golf Club. Welcome Ian. Can I wish all Essex members and Trade members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you at the AGM December 1 at Orgett Golf Club.

David Wells.

Northern  
Ireland

#### South East

Apologies for no South East Section notes in the November issue as I was on holiday in Greece, where the weather was a complete contrast to here, sunshine and heat were unfamiliar after the year we have had. I know everyone is in the same 'boat', literally! With the amount of rain over the last two months alone even the best drained courses have had to close on some occasions, but look on the bright side, it's nearly Christmas! Our Section Secretary, Ken Henderson, representing Northern Ireland, flew over to England to attend the opening of the BIGGA headquarters, BIGGA HOUSE where he was warmly received.

The new Headquarters were opened on October 21 by the Duke of York. Ken would like to thank everyone who helped raise money for The Building Fund, especially club donations from Edenmore GC, Malone GC, Royal Portrush GC. New members; Clive Richardson, 'Horta Soils' has become an Associate member of the South East section.

We also have our first member from the South of Ireland: Tim McGrath from Ballybunion GC, County Kerry has affiliated to our Section. Merry Christmas to all! Speak to you in January.

Jonathan McCabe.

Around  
the green

See you all next month!

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Ken Richardson keeps us up to date with all the latest events in the BIGGA Educational calendar...

# A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

I noticed this week that the Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf and Specialty Products is only 435 days away which must mean that the Learning Experience 1999 is 70 days away.

Thankfully, the programme is set for 1999 and applications are flooding in. If you have not booked your choice of Workshop, National Education Conference, Secretaries/Chairman of Green Course, Seminar and or accommodation package then contact Sami on the BTME hotline 01347 833833 as soon as possible.

## Back to basics

New for 1999 will be a workshop on Basic Machinery Maintenance, complementing the successful Irrigation and Golf Course Design Workshops which make a welcome return.

The National Education Conference will again be held in the Majestic Hotel, with speakers from all parts of the industry sure to offer something for everyone. Please note that David Oatis from the United States Golf Association will not be able to attend and give his talk at the Conference nor on the Seminar Programme. However, Mr Stan Zontek has agreed to attend in his place.

## Seminar Programme update

The Seminar Programme will again be held in the Royal Hall, beginning with a keynote speech by Mr Frank Dick, commencing at 11 am on Wednesday 20 January. Frank Dick is well known for his prowess as an international athletics coach and for his work as an expert in motivation. Free to anyone who wants to attend, this seminar should give all levels of greenkeeper an insight into how to motivate themselves and their staff.

## Master Greenkeeper credits

All three workshops, the National Education Conference and Seminars will, once again, attract Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS Continuing Professional Development points. Please ask for details at the Conference Office or at Seminar Registration in Hall G.

## Competition update

October was a very busy month for all of us at BIGGA HQ as you have read elsewhere in this magazine. Not only did we have the arduous task of moving to our new headquarters building, packing and unpacking, sweeping, polishing, erecting furniture, recataloguing the library and a host of other jobs needed to make the new facility workable

but we also had the finals of three major competitions. Firstly, the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity. Following the final stages of judging by Dr Peter Hayes and Bob Taylor from the STRI, Lindrick Golf Club were selected as worthy winners, receiving a cheque for £5000 and the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Trophy from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, at the Askham Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment. Runners up cheques for £250 each were presented, by His Royal Highness, to Loch Lomond Golf Club, Mid Herts Golf Club, the Dyke Golf Club, Broadstone Golf Club and Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. The next week saw the finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions won by Sally Doherty and John Coleman respectively. I am sure that, as Scott says in his column, that they will both make worthy winners, enhancing their own reputation that of their golf clubs and the reputation of the profession of greenkeeping. It was pleasing to see that they have both been formally educated and trained as greenkeepers and see themselves having a long term career in the industry.

Sally wins the TORO Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts and John also wins a trip to the USA as well as the TORO Triplex Mower for his club.

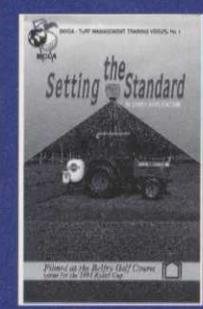
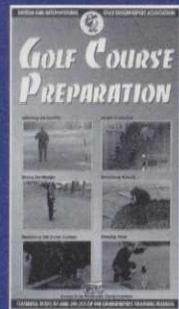
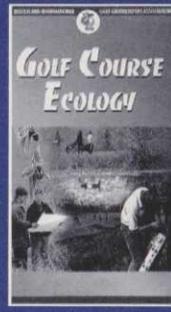
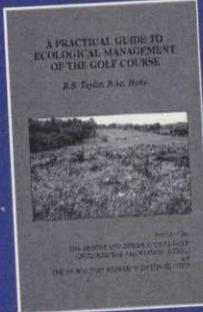
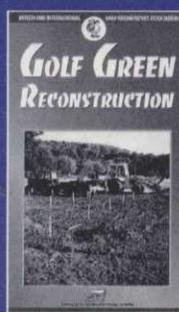
## Available soon...

The Develop your Potential Booklet, listing the full range of education and training opportunities available through BIGGA should be reaching you soon. Contact HQ if you need further copies or pick up a copy at BTME from the BIGGA Stand in Hall G.

Nineteen ninety eight has been even busier for Sami and me. We continue to strive to provide the training and support that greenkeepers need and we get immense satisfaction from seeing greenkeepers improve their knowledge, skills and confidence. Remember, training courses, competitions and other training opportunities are staged for your benefit. Why not make a New Year's resolution to become more involved, attend courses and improve your status.

Sami and I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and an educational New Year.

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