

to use other grass species too when they are more suitable for some projects.

On a golf course we use mixtures from different species and within the species we use different varieties. For some demands (heavy traffic, under shade) it may be better to start the mixture with other more, suitable species.

On the newer golf courses, the tees are often positioned in wooded (shaded) areas. The new tees are often small, therefore, it is difficult for the grass to recover.

In this situation it could be a solution to use a completely "new" species as *Deschampsia caespitosa* (turfed hairgrass). Some new varieties of this species have proved themselves to be excellent varieties under traffic in the shade. The new varieties tolerate short mowing cutting down to 9 mm, so this can be the solution for the future on golf courses.

Another "new" species is the crest-

ed hairgrass (*Koeleria macrantha*). This species is excellent under more intensive and also extensive situations. It will stay green with less irrigation, it stays green with less fertiliser and the specie tolerates close mowing down to 8 mm. It could be the grass for roughs too, due to its nice flowering habit. When you see this grass flower, you are sure to become enthusiastic about it.

Alongside the new developments, we continue to improve on our existing fescue portfolio like Barcrown, Bargreen and Baroxi and the Browntop bents like Heriot and Bardot. Both species (fescues and bents) are still providing the best playing surfaces for golf courses.

In the future it will be more difficult for the greenkeeper to spray chemicals, so as a grass breeder, we have to find the best combinations of resistances for diseases. For a long time we have been working on the resistance for Red Thread, Snowmold, but now you see differ-

ent diseases such as Dollar Spot, Take All, Pythium etc.

In our laboratory we have some tests to look for resistance in breeding material. Because of the difference between the diseases, it will take a lot of breeding work to get the new "resistant for all diseases" variety. However, while we use mixtures of different species, the risk of using a mixture with good varieties is much smaller than to use the cheap unknown mixture.

The irrigation will be a problem in the future too. Not only the amount of water, but also the quality of the water. For a breeder, it is the case to look for the best variety for growing in less optimal conditions.

Nevertheless when a new golf course is in construction the most attention goes to the clubhouse and the ball washing machines. It is of great importance that the constructor takes more attention to the best grass mixtures.



Gerard Van 't Klooster, Head of the Research Station, at Barenbrug Wolfheze in Holland.

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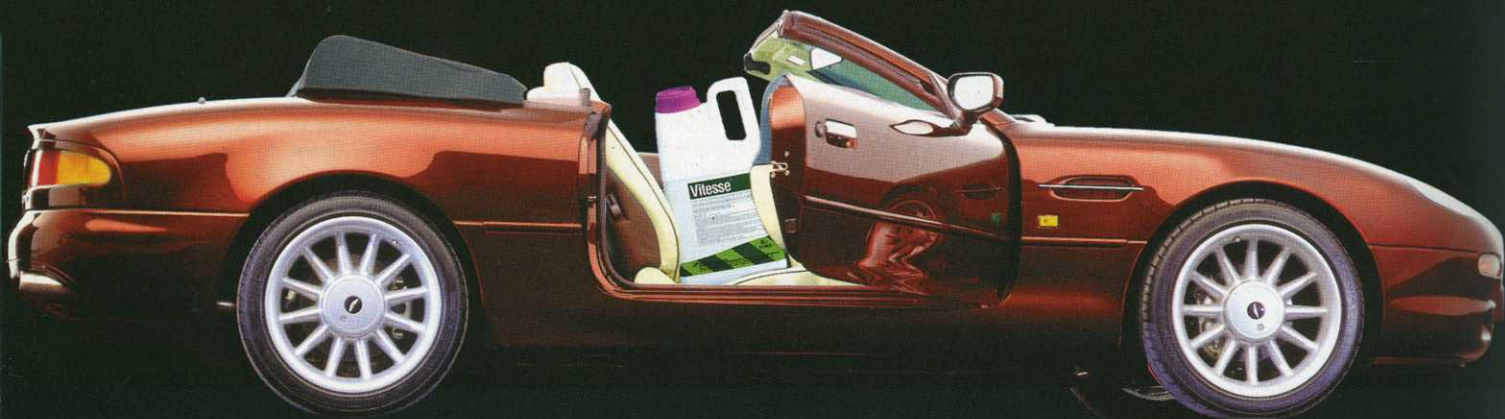


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Viscount Whitelaw to relinquish BIGGA presidency



Viscount Whitelaw pictured here at a BIGGA award ceremony last year

It was in January 1988 that the BIGGA Board of Management invited Viscount Whitelaw to become the Association's first President. Ten years on and with the approach of his 80th birthday Viscount Whitelaw has advised the Chairman and Executive Director of his wish to step down from his position in favour of a younger person.

Commenting on the President's decision, Neil Thomas said, "Following a recent meeting with Viscount Whitelaw, the Chairman and myself fully understand and respect his wishes and the Board of Management has reluctantly accepted his resignation.

"His contribution to BIGGA in the past decade has been outstanding. His empathy with the greenkeeping profession and his support for greenkeepers has greatly benefited both BIGGA and individual members."

First Honorary Member

BIGGA's constitution enables the BIGGA Board of Management to recognise as an Honorary Member any person deemed to have contributed in an outstanding manner to the Association or the profession.

"I am delighted to announce the

Board's decision to award the first Honorary Membership in the Association's history to Viscount Whitelaw," said Neil Thomas.

"It is richly deserved and we all join in sending our very best wishes for the future to both Viscount and Lady Whitelaw," he added.

Club Captains Asked for Donations

Every golf club Captain in the country has been circulated with a letter from BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw asking him to request his committee to make a donation to the Association's Building Fund.

In the letter Viscount Whitelaw writes...

"As I prepare to step down from the presidency of the Association, I take great pleasure in the knowledge that the construction of BIGGA's new headquarters building will be completed later this year. This will most surely mark another step forward for BIGGA and its members who will be able to take advantage of the modern training facilities within the building. At present the Association is actively raising funds towards the cost of the

building and I write to ask if you would kindly request your committee to consider making a donation to BIGGA's Building Fund in recognition of all that BIGGA has done to enhance the profession of greenkeeping in the last ten years and which in turn has led to the great improvements in golf course management and maintenance which so many golf club members enjoy today.

"Donations should be forwarded to BIGGA headquarters and will be acknowledged on a Roll of Honour within the new building. For donations of £250 and upwards, BIGGA will additionally recognise such donations through the presentation of plaques."

BIGGA's Chairman Gordon Child said, "It is hoped that a positive response from the country's golf clubs to Viscount Whitelaw's letter will help to ensure that the Association's financial commitments brought about by the need to build a new Headquarters are reduced."





All donations welcome



George Barr with
Ham Manor Captain
Graham Holton and
Greens Chairman Don
Brewer MBE

First Golf Club Donation from Ham Manor

Ham Manor Golf Club in Sussex has become the first golf club in the country to contribute towards the building of BIGGA's new Headquarters and Training facility with a donation of £500.

Club Captain, Graham Holton, and Chairman of Green, Don Brewer MBE, together with Course Manager and BIGGA Board of Management member, George Barr, spoke with Greenkeeper International Editor, Scott MacCallum, about their reasons for making such a generous donation. **What was it that persuaded Ham Manor to donate money to BIGGA's Building Fund?**

Graham: When George first mentioned it I didn't really hesitate and when I suggested it to the Council of Management the agreement was unanimous. Each mem-

ber had obviously come to the same conclusion that this was useful and that the club should put something back into greenkeeping in a small way.

Don: The fact that it will help towards the training and professional development of greenkeepers was the thing which sold the idea to me. It is not much use having a wonderful course but not then training the people to maintain it properly. If BIGGA is the organisation which is going to do this then I believe it is down to the clubs to put something into it. It is only going to come back to us in the end anyway.

What have been your perceptions of BIGGA as an organisation?


Graham: We knew a little about BIGGA but not very much and, I would hesitate to say it, but I would think that 70% of our mem-

bers don't know anything about BIGGA at all. The other side of the coin is that without doubt it is the greenkeepers who are THE most important element of a golf club.

Don: Having said that the majority of members don't think there is any training involved - the greenkeeper just sits on a tractor and cuts grass. I don't believe that the average club member really knows that BIGGA exists.

Have you noticed any discernible improvement in course quality in the last 10 years?

Don: From our point of view greenkeepers have become more knowledgeable about what they are trying to do. In the past greenkeepers tended to be doers rather than thinkers but nowadays they think more about their job and that is down to the training which has become available to them.



Graham: What has perhaps transformed greenkeeping has been the tremendous advances made by the manufacturers of greenkeeping equipment which has enabled greenkeepers to do their job better. Of course the greenkeeper has to have the ability and knowledge to operate this much more sophisticated equipment. It must also be encouraging to green staff to see that golf clubs are buying this machinery to make their job easier.

Of course, maintenance is a lot more intensive because there is so much more play than in previous years.

George: In the ten years I've been here the increase in the amount of golf played has been huge. When I first arrived no-one teed off between 9am and 11am and then a few more after that. Now it is virtually all day. Ten years ago trolleys came off in November and went back on in March, now they are on all year round and maintenance has had to come up with the systems to allow people to play a lot longer.

Don: Members just don't appreciate that. There is no argument that golf courses are taking a much greater bashing than they ever have.

Graham: Some members are up here seven days a week which gives them good value for their membership. It does wear the course out but they expect it to be in apple pie order no matter the conditions.

Do you feel that golf supports greenkeeper education as much as it should?

Graham: I do believe that more should be done and I would like to see it because, as I've already said, the golf course is the most important thing in the golf club. The better a person is trained the better he can do his job whether he be a banker, a bus driver or a greenkeeper.

George: I don't believe the golf clubs know how much the training

costs. My Deputy recently went on a BIGGA training course and the club paid £75. The realistic value of that two day course was around £600 so the club is getting a very good deal. When I explained to the club just how little of the Golf Union levy came back into greenkeeper training I think everyone was surprised and shocked by that. We are talking pennies and I believe every member of this club would sacrifice 50p per head if they thought it would help the golf course.

Don: If you took 50p from each golf club member would you have far more than you needed?

George: Oh yes. That would be an astronomical sum of money and would enable every greenkeeper in the country to be trained to a minimum standard.

Ham Manor is obviously a far thinking golf club what else does it do for the good of the game?

Graham: We have a junior programme to provide money to assist in the development of the game as I believe that if the game is to prosper we must nurture our new and young players.

Thank you very much on behalf of the Association for the kind donation.

Graham: Our one desire at Ham Manor is that we may have provided an incentive for other golf clubs to follow our lead in donating to BIGGA's Building Fund. If there is one criticism of BIGGA it is that you don't promote yourselves enough but I think that this scheme will help to spread the word about BIGGA and what the Association does. I also think you should give yourselves credit for the wonderful job you do.

To date, the Buy a Brick Raffle, which will be drawn at BIGGA's annual golf day in June, has raised £6,600 while donations to the Building Fund stand at £10,259.



01460 241939

Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

The Scottish National Golf Tournament

The Scottish National Golf Tournament will be held at West Kilbride Golf Club, Ayrshire, on June 23, 1998 by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

The cost for the day will be £16 which includes coffee/tea, filled rolls and an evening meal. Entry forms can be obtained from the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA.

Closing date is Monday, June 15, 1998. Cheques must accompany the entry form and must be made payable to the BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

North

A couple of new members to welcome to the Section this month. Graham Scott from Brora - although unfortunately no longer employed by Brora GC, but that's another story! - and Mark Angus, from Newmachar. We wish them both well and hope to see them at Section events.

Retiring this month is John Mowat after 32 years working at Reay GC in Caithness. John intends to spend his extra time gardening and golfing, the latter which will take him back on to the golf course he has just left! Enjoy your retirement John, anyone who has worked on a golf course and with committees for 32 years deserves it.

The Scottish Conference was as

good as ever and it was great to see a good turnout from North members. George Brown was the star turn as usual and the overall standard of speakers was excellent. I hope we in the North can produce as good a day at our Conference this coming November.

Next month we have the Scottish Regional final of the Ritefeed Tournament at Royal Dornoch. The three qualifiers from each Section are as follows: Class 1 Scott Williams, Peterculter; John Taylor, retired; and Michael Keay, Montrose. Class 2 David Marnoch, Peterculter; Gordon Mckie, St Andrews; and Sean Jaffray, Ellon. Class 3 George Aitken, Peterculter; Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead; and George Asher, Kemnay. Apologies to Phillip Don, Kemnay; John Morton, Alford and Dougal Duguid, Westhill, who each finished 4th, normally good enough to qualify, but this year only three qualifiers from each Section were allowed as this is the format for the finals. These three are, of course, first reserves so may yet get in.

I hope to see some new faces along with the familiar ones at Fortrose this month. The Committee will be selling "bricks" in the shape of raffle tickets to raise funds to build the Association's new offices. This is your chance to help the future of our Association so please give generously and, besides, you might win a prize in the process!

Iain Macleod

Central

Has the bubble burst? I have no new members to welcome to the Section this month, which is a disappointment after having 18 last time. Never mind, your committee has faith in you to rec-

tify the situation in time for next month's magazine. There must be a number of greenkeepers in your area who are missing out on the benefits on offer from being a member of the association. If you don't feel like approaching them yourself, Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, will only be too happy to pay them a visit. Either give Peter a call or drop me a line and I will pass the information on to him.

The recent visit to Stewart & Co's premises at Dalkeith proved to be another enjoyable and informative day for everyone who attended. Our sincere thanks go to Graeme Forbes, Alan Miller and Peter Campbell for taking the time to organise and conduct the visit, provide their usual first class refreshments and also for the support which they give to the association throughout the year.

During the past few weeks I have attended several events which were not organised by the Section/Region and it was surprising how many members, who never attend any of our events, were there. Why is this? Are we choosing the wrong subjects, venues or time of the day? If you have any thoughts on this, please let me know and we will try and give you what you want (within reason!)

It was pleasing to read in the West Section's report last month that John Robb is still attending their events, John was Head Greenkeeper at Aberdour Golf Club for many years (he was my boss when I stated in greenkeeping, xx years ago!) before he moved back through to the west. I hope everything is going well with you and your family John, and send kind regards from all your "old" friends in the Central Section.

As everyone will be busy maintaining their course and trying to organise holidays to fit in with the ever increasing fixture lists, few section events, if any, will be organised over the next two or three months but no doubt you will be all "champing at the bit" waiting on news of what has been organised and your entry form for the Autumn Tournament to drop through your letter box. If we keep getting through events as quick as that I will be wishing you all a New Year shortly!

John Crawford

West

Firstly, may I say sorry to those members recently joined for omitting them from last month's issue of the magazine. The new members are John Garloch, Keith Maclean, both Hagsgs Castle; Stuart Jackson, Dunbarton Golf Club; James Gilchrist, Hamilton; Russell Abernethy, David Shearer, Edward Gibson, Phil MacFarlane, all from Williamwood; Alistair Read, Student member; Barry Brown, Douglas Park; Tommy Nisbet, Glasgow; John Cowan, Palacerigg Golf Club; Frank McGarvie, Linn Park. Welcome to you all on behalf of the Association and I hope you come along to organised days or events and enjoy yourself.

What has happened recently then, firstly the Nature Conservation and Education talk at Hilton Park organised through the SGU and GTC. Although I was not present the night appeared to be successful, with a full house in attendance.

Next the SGM day at Gleneagles then, SGM House Inverkeithing, where 32 people attended a very enjoyable and informative day. Although James Kidd was unable to



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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

give a presentation his administrative assistant gave a very interesting talk, thanks also to the Monarch's Head Greenkeeper for his compering on the conducted tour of the Gleneagles facilities. Thanks to Stuart Green and Robert Heath respectively for enlightening into what really goes on at one of our five star facilities. It give all of us food for thought, and something to aim for. After that delightful tour, off to SGM House for an inspection of the premises, a talk on the development of Scottish Grass Machinery as a Company, then a demonstration of equipment by Lang and Nedeman. I found the whole day very entertaining and the new set up at SGM House will go a long way to meeting the requirements of their future goals. Thank you to David McInroy and all his staff for the day.

Finally, the Head Greenkeepers/Conveners Day sponsored by Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery at East Kilbride. A delightful day was enjoyed by 16 teams from all quarters of the Section - again nice to see some new faces and some old friends. Well done the winners, Cawder, with Balmore as good runners up. Thanks are due to Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery for their combined support of the Section and this event, helping to bring committees and greenkeepers together creating greater understanding of our situations. Thanks to Brian Bolland and the green staff for his course preparation - also to Drew Adams and the house staff for the excellent meal. At the last moment Tony Merrill the Club Captain was asked to say a few words, sorry for the surprise and I hope you enjoyed the day. May I also say a big thank you to my committee for their

efforts on the day organising the event. Last, but not least, the members are to be given a mention for allowing the Association courtesy of the course.

The least mention for this month is on a very sad note conveying the death of a great past member of the Association and industry. Ian Fraser, ex Rothesay, Hayston, Sandyhills and Cathkin Braes passed away on March 28. The Section's condolences go to Elsie and her four daughters at this very sad time. For my own part it is sad to hear of the passing of a man I worked with for four years and learned an awful lot from the managing a golf course. He was a credit to his profession and I will remember him as a great mentor. Ian was a Past Chairman and Secretary of SIGGA and will be remembered by many.

Stuart Taylor

East

Sorry there was no report last month but it is the time of the year when there is not a lot of news to write about but we have a bit for you this month.

If anyone has any information that I may have missed drop me a line or call me on the usual address or phone numbers, I would like to hear from some of our Section members a bit more this year.

In March we had an open discussion forum on the 19th at Oatridge College, and the members who were in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the day, so we would say it was a total success.

We would like to thank our Chairman for the day, Graham Forbes, Managing Director of Stewarts & Company, who did a great job, also

our guest speakers, Paul Myrscough, Symbio, who gave a good talk and answered some very good questions from the body of the hall. Dr Ian Young, Research Soil Scientist, who also gave a very informative talk that kept everyone interested. Throughout his time at the stand he also answered all the questions that were put to him. We would also like to thank Oatridge College for the facilities they provided which were excellent and we will hope to use them again in the future.

Going back to the speakers, they were delighted to be able to come to speak to us and also with the questions they were asked and they would like to come back to speak to us sometime in the future. Look out for more days like this as we are looking to stage more of these types of forums over the coming year. Details will be in the magazine also the fixture list as soon as we agree on dates and get our fixture card printed out and sent out to our members (watch this space). In early March we had the annual Scottish Conference which was a great success with some good speakers and a big turnout of members off all sections. Thanks to the organisers, Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, Elliot & Edna Small, the two Chairmen for the day Alistair McLaren, Education Officer, in the morning and Jimmy Neilson, Chairman of the Scottish Region, in the afternoon who both kept the day running along smoothly. The speaker each gave a talk on various subjects and answered all the questions afterwards. Also thanks to Dunfermline College for the facilities which were great. It was also nice to welcome our new National Chairman to Scotland, Gordon Child, who attended the conference. We hope you

enjoyed your day and you are welcome back any time. If I missed thanking anyone let me know. PS Also our patrons who attended and had stands on show on the day.

Next on the agenda for the section is the Spring outing, Ritefeed Classic 2nd Qualifier, at Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. The report and results will be in next month's magazine. So hopefully we shall have some good weather for the first major of the season. The new fixture list should be available soon so look out for them with all the seasons events for 1998.

Well, that's all for this month, don't forget if you have any info about anything that would be of interest to our members let me know as soon as possible and we will get it into print. Next month I will have a list of all our new members who have joined in 1998. If you have not re-joined yet hurry up as you are missing out on all the benefits of membership of BIGGA. If you are a member and you know of someone that is not explain what they would get out of being a member of the Association. We in the East would like to take our membership total through the 200 barrier, as we are only 20+ short of this target. If every club got one more member we would top this number.

More news and views next month.
Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

Thanks to Chairman, Jim Paton, for my introduction last month, I will endeavour to forward news, information and any points of view in this column throughout the coming months.

Congratulations go to George Brown, Turnberry, on his appointment as Gordon Child's Vice

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*Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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Chairman. I'm sure the whole section will be a worthy and respected Chairman of our Association when his time comes.

The Section waves Bon Voyage to Bob McKay who returns to his native land and the position of Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch. Replacing Bob in the vacated Head Greenkeepers seat at Prestwick St Nicholas is John McLauchlan who moves up from Brunston Castle. Also on the move to Prestwick is an old college mate of mine from the hazy days at Woodburn House, Stephen Frazer, who takes up the Head Greenkeepers position at St Cuthberts which has resulted with his First Assistant, Paul McMair, being promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Caldwell. Best wishes to all with their new jobs.

It was nice to see Robert the Bruce well on the road to recovery at our recent committee meeting. He insists his football career is over but on a return from the gents he was striding out rather well without his walking stick. Super medicine that Calder's liquid Robert. Never say never!

By the time you read this hopefully we will have had an enjoyable and successful spring outing at Stranraer Golf Club. If you have missed out make sure you don't miss the next event. I will keep this notice board posted. It's the ideal way to meet new and old

friends, keep in touch with greenkeeping and support your Section into the bargain because with the loss of the Section's subscription's percentage we need it more than ever.

Any information please call me on 01505 683279 (home/evenings) or 0498 634122 (mobile).

See you next month.

Ian Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Since I asked for news from any golf club a couple of months ago response has been very poor, only one member has phoned me. If the members want Section news let's hear from you.

Steve Cram and Robert Bell, of Slaley Hall, have been doing bunker construction on the following holes: 1st, 2nd 7th and 16th holes in readiness for the Compaq European Competition in June.

The new course at Slaley will be open for play in Spring 1999, hopefully it will be open for members only in September for a short while.

Various members have asked me to thank Rickerbys for taking them down

to Ransomes factory at Ipswich. I hope all went well for those lucky persons perhaps in the future more people will get the chance of a visit.

On March 4 we had our first winter lecture at Whickham Golf Club. Rickerbys of Hexham were the visitors giving us a slide show on their range of Kubota tractors followed by a meal.

Our thanks to Roger Stewart and his associates for giving us time and providing the buffet. This was much appreciated by all who attended.

The Carburol Trophy this year will be played in a different format, instead of foursome it has now changed to 4 ball better ball.

Entries can be sent to David Cuthbertson tel: 01207 233474 the closing date is the 23 April the same day as the spring comp. Good luck to all entrants.

Congratulations to Steve Arnott on his recent appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Stocksfield GC also to Graig Kilgour moved from Hexham to Ponteland GC as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

The second winter event was held recently at Prudhoe GC this again was well attended our thanks go to Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, for arranging the speakers and for providing the buffet and the raffle prize.

A special thanks to Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, for arranging both of

these events, bear in mind they do not just appear, a lot of hard work has been going on by Tony in the past few weeks. I expect that members will support Tony and the section in winter months by attending any events. All members will be notified when they are arranged.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

The recent Annual Dinner Dance held at Bradford Golf Club was another excellent function although a little thin on the ground in comparison to last year's mammoth turnout. Thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy for their help in arranging the event. If anyone is needing a group of people to liven up a party, please contact Mike Brear and his barmy followers. They really know how to enjoy themselves.

Another dinner dance has been arranged at Northcliffe Golf Club on July 4 this year. Anyone interested in going please contact Ken Christie on 01274 405596 for further details.

I have been informed that a surprise birthday party was held for Phil Dickerson, of Shipley Golf Club. Apparently the "surprise" included a stripper. A belated happy birthday Phil and I hope your glutus maximus is back to normal!

Finally, we have two new greenkeepers which have joined the Section

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Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

from Crow Nest Golf Club near Brighouse. They are Jonny Platt and Graham Blackburn. Hope you can attend some of this year's events.

Anyone with any news from within the section please contact me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

Cleveland

Firstly, my name is Kevin Heslop, Head Greenkeeper at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club and I have taken over the Section newsletter from Bruce Burnell, who has for many years kept us well up-to-date with news and who will be a very hard act to follow.

The Section now has a new Secretary, Robert Lawton, Course Manager at Billingham Golf Club. We wish Bob all the very best in this post. Our Chairman is Roger Shaw and Vice-Chairman is George Malcolm, I will list the committee members in the next newsletter.

We had our AGM on March 12 at Darlington Golf Club where all our lectures will take place. The AGM was attended by 26 members of the Section; the Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary, Garry Munro for four years dedicated service.

We have had two very good lectures this month. The meeting on March 5 was Robert Laycock, Turf Agronomist, who gave an interesting talk with

slides. He advises not only soil analysis but samples from the turf tissue.

The second talk was on March 12. This was on Trimmers Computer systems. The speaker was Fred Robinson. This proved a very interesting talk with lots of questions coming from the floor.

Next it's congratulations to Chris Powley, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Dinsdale GC who will be marrying Kerry at Darlington on May 8, followed by a honeymoon in Florida.

We also have two new members, David Bird and Mark Chapman, both from Durham City Golf Club.

Our Spring tournament is to be held at Eaglescliffe Golf Club on May 6. Times etc will be in Section Newsletter.

Last but not least, dress code rule is jacket and tie at evening lectures and meals after golf days. Please try and remember this.

Kevin Heslop

Sheffield

On March 5 we held our final winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. I would like to thank Rotherham for letting us use their facilities once again this winter, it is very much appreciated by us all.

The lecture was given by Terry Ryan, Marketing Director of Rolawn. Our thanks go to Terry who gave a very

interesting lecture on Turflands and washed turf which was enjoyed by everyone present.

Our lectures this winter have been very well attended by our members averaging around 50, but I'm sure there room for a few more next winter!

Congratulations to Ron Ullathorne who won a prize in a BIGGA Competition at Harrogate and Ron won a pair of Hi-Tech golf shoes, I'm sure they will get plenty of use Ron!

Our next golf will be our summer competition at Worksop Golf Club on July.

John Lax

North Wales

Firstly, I would like to welcome new members to our Section, they are: John Morris, Francis Cripps, Ken Williams and Phillip Davies, all of Rhuddlan; Owain Aerow, Porthmadog; David Booker and Stephen Edwards, Baron Hill; Daniel Fitzgerald, Easthan Lodge, David Coates, Eaton Golf Club; Neil Saunders, Heswall; and finally Lee Morgan and Mark Roberts, of Woolton. Welcome on board I hope to meet you at any of our events.

Emyr Price starts his 25th year at Royal St Davids, congratulations, now that must be job satisfaction.

I recently went on one of the short courses on Machine Maintenance at

Northop College they were held over four weeks on Mondays in February, I thought they were excellent, they included such things as ignition systems, clutch and brakes and cylinder grinding, with tuition in the morning and practical hands on in the afternoon and at £40 were brilliant value for money.

I would like to thank Tim and Andy for the concise and totally understandable way in which the subjects were covered. So when the next series of courses are available make sure you're booked in. Remember you're never too old to learn.

They even learnt how to get into a Vauxhall Belmont. Didn't we, Colin! Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's Pair's competition was held at Kedleston Park on March 9. After the heavy rain of the previous week the weather was set fair for the day, with all members eagerly waiting for their turn to tee-off. The winning pair was home player, Dave Leatherland, and Adie Porter, Greatham Valley, with 37 points.

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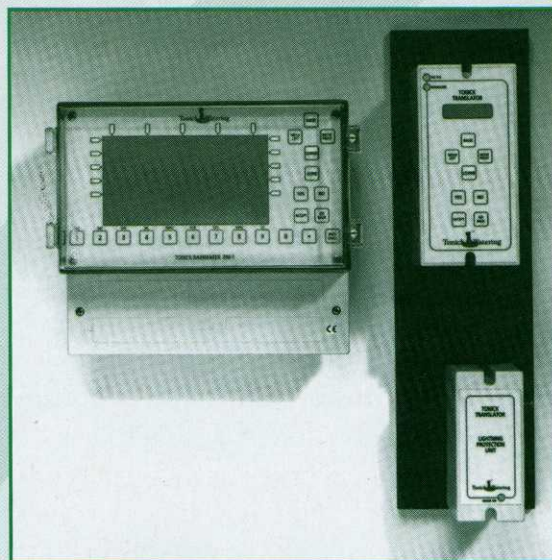
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Keeping in touch with news &

Second was Frank Kempster, Glen Gorse, and Carl Chamberlain, Scraftoft, 36 points, the evening finished with a very entertaining lecture by Craig Cook and Peter McEvoy on USGA Spec greens, for which the Section were most grateful.

I would like to thank Kedleston Park for allowing us courtesy of their great golf course, which was excellently presented by Dave Leatherland and his staff, also thanks should be extended to the Steward for a really great buffet. A special thank you should go to our sponsor for the day, Scotts UK Ltd.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who have supported the Buy a Brick Building Fund, the Section has supported this idea for our new Headquarters in a very generous way.

On a sad note I was extremely sorry to hear of the death of Chris James. Chris had been a very keen Trade Member of the Association for many years before becoming an Associate Member, after finishing work at Erringtons. Our condolences go to his wife and son David and to the rest of his family.

Brooksbury College have again arranged a series of lectures for all greenkeepers. On May 21 the subject is Conservation on the golf course, by Sally Mowsley. The following week May 28 we visit Leicester City Football Club for a tour of the Filbert Street ground by Head Groundsman, Chris Parry. Both Lectures start at 7 pm and for further details you can contact Paul Greene at Brooksbury College.

Anthony Bindley

Midland

By the time you read this report our first tournament will be over and I hope everyone who took part enjoyed themselves and had a great time.

All the entries for the singles and doubles should all be in by this time and the entries for the summer tournament should be on the way as the cut off date is June 8. This tournament will be held at The Wrekin Golf Club on the July 9. There has not been a great deal of response to the proposed trip to Turnberry, so if you are interested please contact me on 01384 292396 or if you have any other news or information that I may be interested in.

Again we have had a good number of new members join the Section and they are as follows: Richard

Molyneux, Alan Strange, Joseph Miller, James Pearson, James Rodgers, Matthew Axton, Anthony Hill, Nick Blackshaw, Mark Clewes, John Meers and Paul Dixon.

Johnathan Wood
 01384 292396



South East
Derek Farrington
 Tel: 01903 260956

London

They say charity begins at home and in this case it certainly did before travelling 6064 kilometres to Romania and back. Tony Dyke, Course Manager of Wyke Green Golf Club in West London, was one of a team of volunteers who drove lorry loads of clothes, toys and present out to orphanages and Children's Hospitals in aid of the Romanian Children's Appeal. The trip took ten days and Tony's share of the driving was 46 hours, while his co-driver, Len Jones took the wheel for 48 hours. Three lorries and seven good guys delivered 44 tonnes of greatly appreciated supplies. Tony would like to thank all the BIGGA Members and others whose generous donations helped to fund the trip.

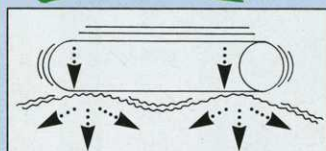
While still at Wyke Green we would like to wish Greenkeeper, Stewart Bedford all the best in his new job. After seven years at Wyke Green, Stewart has moved to Wentworth Golf Club to gain further experience.

Congratulations to Gordon Arnott, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Finchley Golf Club and his partner Donna, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Hope, born on 27 February 1998 at Barnet General Hospital and weighing in at 6lb 9oz. Mother and baby are doing well and Gordon cannot stop smiling.

Robert Phillips, of Sandy Lodge, and Rob Washbrook, of Hadley Wood, are members of The Shenley Carpet Bowls Club, who have won the Herts 1st Division Team Championship, losing only one match all season. Rob Washbrook is not only County Secretary but reigning Eastern Counties Singles Champion and Herts Singles Champion for 1997, but is also through to the Herts Singles semi-finals this year after narrowly defeating, yes, his old mate, Rob Phillips in the quarter-finals.

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