

Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



Name: Nicholas Webber
Age: 35
College: Greenmount
Golf Club: Portstewart GC

Nicholas is a former professional golfer whose feats include playing all four rounds in the European Open at Sunningdale and winning the Regional Qualifying Round at Camberley Heath for the 1984 Open at St Andrews. He twice just failed to win his Tour card and so reapplied for his amateur status. He was a successful car salesman before deciding to move into greenkeeping and is currently studying for his Level 2 as well as doing a Distance Learning package for an HNC from Elmwood. He has qualified to represent Northern Ireland in the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta later this month and his handicap is currently 5.



Name: Steven Myres
Age: 34
College: Elmwood
Golf Club: Glenisla Golf Course

Steven combines his role as greenkeeper at Glenisla with that of Head of Ski Patrol in the area which is one of Scotland's most popular ski resorts. The course was built by the Glenshee Chairlift Company in 1994 to offer a summer sport and Steven, who has been employed by the company for 12 years, was involved in its construction. He is a 9 handicap golfer and is also a keen squash player and curler as well as a skier.



Name: Gary Gruber
Age: 19
College: Elmwood
Golf Club: Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Gary has just completed his SVQ Level II and is soon to start his HNC. He is a 4 handicap golfer and a former Junior County Champion and Club Champion at Strathpeffer Spa GC. His love of golf inspired him towards a career in greenkeeping and he has been at Royal Dornoch for two and a half years. He would like to move to an inland course at some stage to add to his greenkeeping knowledge.



Name: Paul Shelley
Age: 29
College: Oaklands
Golf Club: Chesfield Downs Golf Club

Paul arrived in greenkeeping following a career change - he had previously worked in the food retail industry. He enrolled in a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management course and then did voluntary work at Chesfield Downs to gain practical experience. A 7 handicap golfer and member of Stevenage GC, Paul's other interests include football, skiing and travelling.



Name: Sally Doherty
Age: 24
College: Warwickshire College
Golf Club: The Belfry

Sally is First Assistant on the the world famous Brabazon Course which is currently being prepared to host the 2001 Ryder Cup. She has nearly completed her NVQ Level 2. Her interests include yoga and reading while she has just started to have golf lessons. She is also studying sign language.



Name: Richard Aitken
Age: 49
College: Myerscough
Golf Club: Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Club

Richard has been an assistant at the famous Open venue for 12 years, working under Jimmy MacDonald, and made the decision to through himself into education late in life. He is currently studying for his NVQ Level III. He has a handicap of 12 and is also a keen photographer.



Name: Mark Allen
Age: 24
College: Warwickshire College
Golf Club: Marriott Forest of Arden - now Fulford Heath

Mark arrived at greenkeeping from the world of crown green bowling (he was part of the '97 British Team Championship winning team) when he took on the role of greenkeeper at a green in the Midlands on a part-time basis - and is still there. Having initially begun studying for a degree in psychology he changed course to turf management and joined the Forest of Arden. He has since worked on some of the top European Tour events held at the course.



Name: Geoff Mills
Age: 41
College: Cannington College
Golf Club: Woodbury Park G&CC

Geoff has been the head man at the Nigel Mansell-owned Woodbury Park for eight years and is responsible for the 27 holes as well as the extensive estate lands. He has completed his NVQ Level 3 and is looking forward to moving on to Level 4. He was awarded the Best Student prize at Cannington College. His interests include golf where he has been a 6 handicapper - currently 13 - horses, dog training and rugby - he is an ex-Captain of Exmouth Rugby Club. He is also a former National Board of Manager Member of BIGGA

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Scottish Region
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Central

I hope you enjoyed last month's news as I thought I would give Andy O'Hara the big chance he has been craving for and let him write the Section report. (At least I think I told him it was his one and only chance!) Seriously though there hasn't been a great deal happening Section wise lately, hence the reason for missing last month.

Section committee member, Steve Ewing, is leaving the Dukes Course, at St Andrews, to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Letham Grange, in Angus, and Craig Stafford has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Balbirnie Park, at Markinch, taking over from Ian MacMillan. Our best wishes go to them all for a successful future.

The Leven Links Sporting Club is adding another sport to its long list of activities, this time it is Stuart Sime who is having a go at stock car racing. A. O'H. says that he shouldn't have to change from the way he drives the tractor around Leven Links so if you fancy sponsoring Stuart, or lending him your car for the weekend, you can get in touch with him c/o Leven Links Sporting Club.

The AGM will be held on the 28th of this month at Kinross Golf Club, forms for which have already been circulated. The reason for this is that we intend to have the first round played earlier in the year, which will, hopefully, make it easier for everyone during the busy summer months.

Here are some future dates for your diaries, in 1999 the Golf Tournaments will be held at Lundin Golf Club in the Spring and Balbirnie Park in the Autumn (Tuesday September 21), for the year 2000 I am awaiting confirmation of the venue for the Spring Tournament while the Autumn tournament will be held at Stirling Golf Club, in September. It's been a while since I was able to welcome any new members to the Section, so we must be slipping up somewhere, there are still a great number of greenkeepers who are not members and also a fair number of lapsed members, WHY? If you know anyone who hasn't joined or rejoined please find out the reasons and we will try and rectify the situation if it is at all possible.

Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, has visited a number of clubs in the Central Section lately, encouraging potential new members to join, so if you think a visit from Peter would be beneficial to your staff or committee just get in touch with him and he will be more than happy to oblige.

John Crawford

North

The Autumn outing at Alford took place in typical weather for this year. We arrived at the course in pouring rain, but the decision was taken to play. We are indebted to Wilson Morrison and his staff for keeping the greens playable throughout the morning. Luckily the rain stopped around noon and the wind got up a bit, so we were able to all get round.

Not surprisingly most of the prize winners, listed below, were late starters. Scratch & Hampton Cup; 1. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 70; 2. Colin Forbes, Tarland, 71. Class One; 1. Arthur Williamson, retired, 74-5-69 (also Veteran Toro Cup Winner); 2. Stephen Sullivan, Craigiehill, 73-3-70; 3. Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 75-4-71 bih. Class Two; 1. Andrew Shade, Peterculter, 79-7-72 bih; 2. Stewart McBain, Hazlehead, 80-8-72; 3. Stuart Robertson, Craigiehill, 82-10-72. Class Three; 1. Dougal Duguid (no this is not a mistake), Westhill, 90-25-65; Brian Cocker, Alyth, 82-14-68; 3. Keith Wood, Kings Links, 86-16-70. Veterans 2. Allan Grant, retired, 82-10-72. Apprentice; 1. Ross Macleod, Tain, 75-6-69; 2. Gavin Neill, Tain, 83-11-72. Trade; Mike Dennis, Rigby Taylor, 81-12-69. Guest, R Stewart, Alford, 85-15-70. Nearest the pin Stuart Hogg, Fortrose. Longest Drives, Class One, Robert Roy, Garmouth; Class Two, Trevor Harris, Cupar; Class Three, Ian Cowper, Tain. Aggregate Winners SGM (Head Greenkeeper) and Meldrum Nurseries Cup, Kevin Peace, 139. M&M Cup Veterans, George Aitken, Peterculter, 145. Committee Trophy, Dougal Duguid. The blazer was won by David Marnock, Peterculter.

A very big thanks to all at Alford, especially the green staff, what could have been a disaster turned out to be a very successful day with about 60 people present. The five lucky 200 Club winners were as follows, March £30 no.57 David Inglis, Balnagask; May £30 no. 123 John Geddes and Hugh Maclatchie (last ticket bought!), June £30 no. 196 Bradley Wood, Westhill, July £30 no. 188 Arthur Williamson, Perth, and August £100 no. 157 Brian Strachan, Auchmill. Well done to Stewart McBain for selling all the tickets this year and thank you to all who bought one.

Iain MacLeod

East

Since I last spoke to you we have had events in the Section. Firstly we had a surprise dinner in honour of Jimmy Neilson, Murrayfield Golf Club, who retired recently. We invited along a lot of his friends from all aspects of the trade and a great night was had by all, especially Jimmy himself. So on behalf of the East Section Committee, Members, Patrons, Trade Reps etc we would like to wish you all the best in your retirement and hope to see you

around the courses as you are always welcome and, of course, we will see you at all BIGGA events etc.

PS. Jimmy if you fancy a game at Swanston Go Club just give me a call as you will be welcome, at any other club as well. (Pictures of the Dinner and report can be found in this issue of Greenkeeper International).

We have also had our annual Willie Woods Tournament at Glencorse Golf Club as they were worthy winners last year they got to host it this year. We would like to thank the captain - Mr B. Lawrie and his committee for the courtesy of the course, the clubhouse/catering staff for looking after us so well on the day. Also thanks to Head Greenkeeper Ian Bell and his team for having the course in great condition, considering the torrential rain the day before, we were really lucky to play the tournament on the Wednesday so thanks again lads, a job well done.

We had 21 teams comprising of captains, secretaries, greens chairman and a variety of other committee members who all enjoyed a great day out as the scoring on the day will show you. So if you haven't played before ask a member of your club committee and enter next year and have a good day and show your committee what BIGGA is all about, so come on get asking and we'll see you next year. Results: 1. K. Mail/R. Lawrie, Glencorse G C, 62+1=63; 2. D. Mcleod/T. Keenan, Craigentenny GC, BiH 68; 3. D. Dugan/D. Young, Glencorse GC, 68

So as Glencorse retained the Willie Woods Memorial Trophy we shall return to Glencorse Golf Club next year, so we hope to see you all there. As a result of the winners score and the way they played on the day, next year they will be playing with left handed clubs to give the rest of us a chance.

Tickets for the Annual Dance are now on sale and are selling well. There is only a few hotel rooms left at this time so call me now on 01620 842037 or 0131 445 7165 or fax on the same number or call or fax S Dixon Secretary on 0131 443 0235 ASAP as this year is looking to be a sell out well before the big night, so call now to avoid disappointment. The Dance is on Saturday 5 December 1998 at The Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady.

Next event on the fixture list is the Autumn Tournament by kind permission of the Captain and Council of Peebles GC so a full report in an upcoming issue of Greenkeeper International. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Roy Auld (Formerly SGM) back into the trade as Sales Representative for George Henderson & Co Ltd Edinburgh. Welcome back Roy we look forward to seeing you around the section and wish you all the best for the future. PS. I hope I have got your title right, if not let me know!

Roy will be taking over from Hugh Millar who is due to retire at the end of the year.

From earlier in the column the Section and various other donations we gave Jimmy Neilson an Electric Caddy Car, Golf Bag, Head Covers as a present for his retirement.

Chris Yeaman

West

Has it stopped raining yet, or am I just dreaming? What a summer or so called, rain, rain and wait a minute more rain. Winter is just around the corner and if the weather doesn't improve then pity help us.

So has anything happened recently? Well the only thing to mention is that the West team won the Norrie Whittock Trophy held at Leven Links. The team consisted of Robert Hogarth, Ian Smith, Paul Yate and Thomas Nisbet. Well done lads a good performance.

Now, to let you know what's happening soon. Firstly, the AGM at Clarendon Bowling Club on October 22. This once again will be combined with a games night. Secondly the annual dinner has been arranged for the Victoria's night club on November 13. Tickets to cost £15 and will be moving fast so make sure to book a seat. Last but not least the football. A Section Challenge Match is being organised for November so those interested would contact Brian Hillen on 01236 434323.

A report on the Autumn outing and the five a side tournament will be included next month. Sorry Neil for nearly forgetting about conveying your thanks to John Robertson at Hilton Park for all his help. Neil has just been appointed Assistant Head at Brucefields Centre and the Section's best wishes go with him in his new position. New members to the Section, Iain Forbes, East Renfrewshire GC; Ross McLeish, Vale of Leven GC; and Frank McAvoy, Linn Park GC. Welcome to the Section and, as I say all the time, I hope to see you at future events.

Stuart Taylor

Ayrshire

I write this month in a jealous mood. It must be great to start a new job, with which we all wish Iain Barr well, and then go on holiday. I must check the expenses going through the Section. I jest, I hope Iain is having a great time in Minorca.

It is becoming a bit of a Beith month in the news. After congratulating Iain on his new position I would also like to add my best wishes to his successor, Marshall, in his new job a Beith GC. As if this was not enough, congratulations to Marshall again, but this time with his better half Nikki, on the birth of their daughter, Emily, a sister for Kelsey.

As I said earlier I was jealous of our scribe on his holiday but I am even more marked by the fact that our

Secretary is off next month to Atlanta to represent the Scottish Region in the Hayter International Cup. I knew I should have stuck in at this golf game! Good luck to you Derek, I say through gritted teeth. You will be a great ambassador for Scotland, and I say this not through gritted teeth. Derek should just about have sobered up by this time after his wedding on September 25 to his lovely Colleen, Jacinta. They're taking the US trip as their honeymoon. That'll keep him on his toes!

I am sure everyone in the Section joins me in wishing them both a happy married life. I am sure the day will be great and I am looking forward to it as I have the pleasure of being Derek's best man. I really must introduce this guy to some other people as he must have been hard up to have had to ask me. I am honoured.

Thanks to our Section representatives at the Norrie Whytock Trophy held recently at Leven Links in keeping up the Section's abject failure to win this trophy. We really must stop being so sporting in letting all the other Sections win this trophy. We will work hard for next year. Training starts soon.

One small point which has been mentioned to me already by Iain. He is not getting any information to put in the magazine. Please give him a phone or write to him as it is difficult when you have to keep making things up yourself. Hope the year has been good to you and you have a dry Autumn to get on with the work.

Jim Paton



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

This month (August) the N/W Section won two magnificent trophies to be held for 12 months. The first is the "Greenkeepers Vs Golf Club Stewards". This trophy was won at Warrington GC on August 24, and the team of 16 had a great day. I suppose it is fair to mention that the match ended four games each allowing us to retain the cup as last year's winners.

The most amazing happening on the day was the return of the Cup which has been missing since 1991. The winners since 1991 have been promised the Cup once found. We were once presented, as winners, with a potato head with grass seed sown for hair, because at that stage it was still lost. However, the Steward at Warrington GC opened a cupboard in the clubhouse, and amazingly the cup fell out and hit him on the head. That is their story and they are sticking to it.

We had an excellent day as always

and the weather was great as was the result. Many thanks to Warrington GC for courtesy of the course which was in great condition, the golf club stewards for organising the venue, and of course Gary Worrall Ground Care for once again sponsoring the greenkeepers as Gary has for many years now.

Two days later we had the 'Battle of the Roses' at Swinton Park GC where we snatched the Patisson Cup back from the Northern Section. Unfortunately although both Sections had 16 players each the day before, we were both let down at the last minute and we finished with 14 players and the Northern Section with 12 players. The match was played with six games instead of eight, and the N/W section won by three and half, to two and half. The course was in lovely condition considering that 24 hours earlier we had heavy rain all day. Alan Jones and his staff had done a great job.

The one sour note was that the members who let us down the day before, giving us no time to get replacements, did not have to travel far, but Mike Hinch, Managing Director of Patissons, travelled up from Brighton early morning, stayed all day, had a meal with us and presented the Patisson Cup to the winning team before driving back to London. I would like to thank Mike and Patissons for sponsoring this competition for the last 20 years and especially Mike for joining us on the day.

Bring your clubs next time Mike.

I have just been informed that Thomas Byrne, a retired member from Ellesmere Port, has passed away in his seventieth year. Our thoughts are with his family.

The next golf will be The Christmas Competition on Thursday, November 26, at Wilmslow GC. We will also be playing for the new "Presidents Cup". The golf will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. All you need to do to enter is, send a cheque for £10 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L4 9RB, and everybody bring a bottle, so that we all go away with a prize. The tee is available from 10am. That's it for now, but any news or views contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Northern

This year's Roses match was held at Swinton Park Golf Club. The previous day saw plenty of rain, leaving puddles around the course in addition to the "legitimate" water hazards! Disappointingly both sides were down in numbers. I cannot understand why people are only too willing to put their names down but then pull out at the last minute, or do not even have the courtesy to say they will not be attending. Everyone who played seemed to enjoy them-

selves and on this occasion the North West team were victorious by 3.5 games to 2.5. Thanks to Bert Cross for organising the event and to the North West boys for their hospitality. Patissons once again sponsored the day, with Mike Hinch their Managing Director doing a mammoth round trip to attend the event and make the presentation after the meal. I hope this event continues,

but it would be nice to see a little more support from our golfing members to raise a full team for next year.

Another ten pin bowling evening has been arranged on Thursday November 12, at the LA Bowl in Leeds. Anyone wishing to put his name down please contact Phil Mitchell at 5 Well Street, Keighley, BD21 2DU or phone 01535-681933. The cost of the evening is

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The only other event left in this year's calendar is the winter golf. This is to be held at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9. The Section AGM will follow the golf and meal at approximately

5.30pm. Even if you cannot attend the golf, please try and support the AGM. Congratulations to Jim Brown on his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cookridge Hall GC. Jim moved from Crow Nest Park in Brighouse, where I believe Bob Gee is taking over.

Anyone with any news from within the Section please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton,

Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or phone on either 01484-317813 or 0411-601420.

Simon Heppenstall

Cleveland

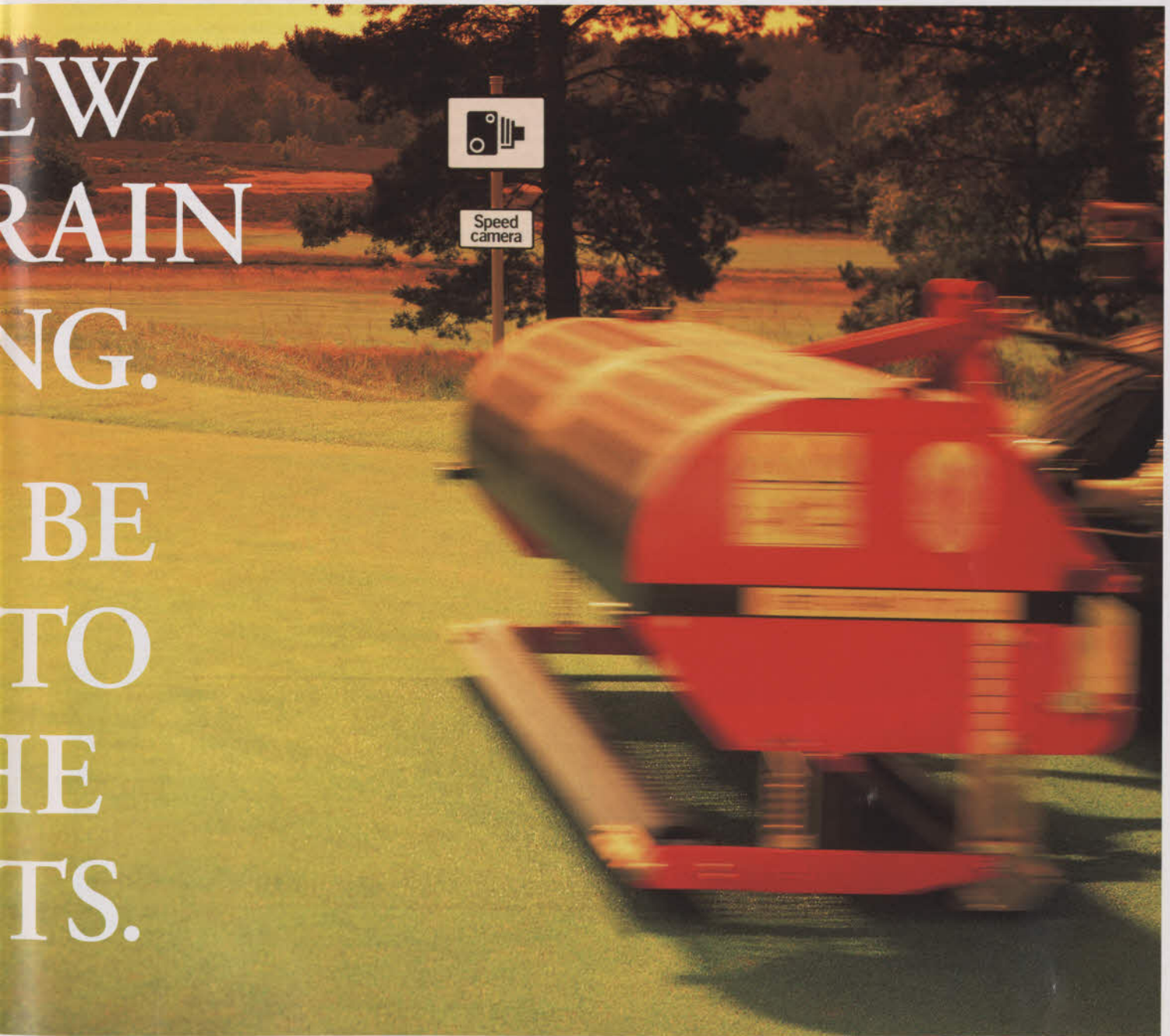
A little bit of news this month supplied by Bill Thompson of Border Sports Services. Barry Walker, Head Greenkeeper at Wearside Golf Club and his Club Pro won a trip to

Portugal. Very well done.

Graham Boarder, Course Manager at Castle Edon Golf Club, won the Durham match played at Billingham plus he has been picked for the county. Good luck.

If I am to keep putting a news letter in to the magazine I must have something to write about. Please if you have any news do let me know.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop



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Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody on behalf of the Section who attended the funeral service for Trafford Stonebridge. There was great support from many greenkeepers on this very sad day and this goes to show what great respect and appreciation Trafford had within the greenkeeping industry.

On a lighter note I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham on his recent wedding announcement and all the best for your future together. As a committee we have decided to cancel the proposed trip to Turnberry until the spring of '99 because there has been insufficient interest in the trip.

The Autumn tournament will have been played at Edgbaston by the time you read this report so I will give you all the results in my next report. The same will happen with the results of the Rigby Taylor doubles which is also due to be completed in the next few months. With winter fast approaching can I

remind you that you need to get your entries in early for the Christmas tournament which is to be played at Copt Heath on December 10 and entries need to be in by November 9. May I remind you that the AGM will also take place on the evening of December 10.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to some more new members - Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin and Mark Allen.

Jonathan Wood

B,B&O

Once again summer slips into Autumn and the never ending job of clearing leaves is upon us. It really is the only time I wish I was back on a Links Course. Despite the miserable weather that awaits us there are some things to look forward to especially on the Education front. I have been informed that Berkshire College are to continue with their Winter Lectures possibly structured as a Seminar. At present there are no confirmed dates but if you contact Steve Gingell at the College he will be able to assist.

By the time this goes to print the New Training Academy at the College will be finished, this will prove beneficial to all students

attending courses in the future. Those of you who have travelled to Aldwark Manor over the years to attend various courses will be pleased to note that the much awaited Headquarters of the Association will be officially opening at the end of this month. This is a huge step forward for the Association and we as members are indebted to those people who have pushed this project through. I for one look forward to my first visit at the Official Opening.

The next event in the Section is the Turkey Trot and AGM which will be held at Whiteleaf on November 26. I hope for once the weather is kind to all competitors. Entry forms will be posted soon. Please ensure that your membership is up-to-date, as the mailing list comes directly from HQ.

Lindsay T Anderson

East Anglia

Fifty odd members turned up at the Norfolk in August. Not 50 odd members well not all of them. Perhaps 50 plus members sounds better. Not that they are over 50 years old just more than 50 in number. Anyway there was a lot and a jolly good time we had too, thank you. The whole thing went like

clockwork only it was a long clock four and a half rounds in searing Norfolk heat. Luvly Bubbly. There is a new old face there now. The gaffer at the Norfolk is Michael Peters, good to see him doing his stuff. Our thanks to him and his men on presenting a good course for us to hack up.

The Harry Hacker score board is as follows; Overall winner was Greg McHugh (Alias John Wayne) 40 Points. 0-9 cat; 1. R. Witing, 35pts; 2. A. Carter, 34pts; 3. A. Kirwan, 33pts. 0-18 cat; 1. G. McHugh, 40pts; 2. G. Bird, 36pts; 3. G. Nash, 35pts. 19-28 cat; 1. D. Farrington, 30pts; 2. D. Ireson, 30pts; 3. T. Russell, 29pts. Guest/Trade; 1. T. Reynolds, 38pts; 2. J. Earl, 34pts; 3. K. Timms, 33pts. Bringing up the rear so to speak A Arbon whose name is added to the toilet seat. Prizes were donated by Rhône-Polenc (Main Sponsors), TORO, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Moorfoot Ltd and one of the guests, Mr Reynolds, donated a Toyota jacket. The prizes were presented by the Club Captain, Mr Fletcher.

Our thanks to Ian, Brian and the BBC for seeing after us and thanks to all at the Norfolk for a splendid day.

Mick Lathrope

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East Midlands

This year's AGM will take place at Lutterworth G.C. on November 12 at 4.30pm all members should have received their letter, if you have not please contact me and I will send you your form. This year's Section golf match against the East of England Section as held on August 20 courtesy of Oundle G.C. After a very hard fought match in difficult windy conditions, the East of England Section were victorious by 3 games to 2.

Some consolation for the section was John Barr winning nearest the pin on the 3rd and Mark Bindley and Frank Kempster winning by the highest margin of 7 and 6. Congratulations should go to the East of England section. The Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Gary Thurman, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Jamie Bedford, Rob Wall, Jonathon Barr, Frank Kempster and Mark Bindley. I would like to thank Oundle GC for allowing us courtesy of their fine course and to the steward and stewardess for a really great meal, not forgetting the greenstaff for preparing a challenging test of golf.

Finally a special thank you to Chandlers for their continued sponsorship of this event. This year's Singles final will again be contested

by Dave Leatherland, of Kedleston Park, who will play Carl Chamberlain, of Scraftoft G.C.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Erewash Valley on September 6.

Antony Bindley

East of England

The annual match for the Toro Shield between the East of England Section and the East Midlands Section took place at Oundle Golf Club. The result was 3 - 2 to the home section (EOE). Thanks to Gary Nimmo and staff for presenting the course in good condition, especially having just vertidraind the greens a couple of days before our match. An excellent meal was had and I would like to thank Oundle Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the event and Leigh Siddon, Willmot Pertwee, and Duncan Beale, Greenpride, for donating some raffle prizes. Nearest the pin went to John Barr East Midlands. The results were as follows; 1. G. Macdonald, Newark, G. Nimmo, Oundle, - won; 2. J. Dair, Oundle, M. Francis, Oundle, won; 3. M. Wood, Thorpe Wood, J. Fox, Orton Meadows, lost; 4. K. Hodges, Ryston, J. Carr, Chandlers, won; 5. G. Ogden, Stoke Rochford, R. Harrison, Stoke

Rochford, lost. Result; 3 - 2 to the East of England Section.

Essex and East Anglia

On August 26 the Essex and the East Anglia Sections got together for the first time since the formation of the new Essex Section at Stoke By Nayland GC. The two teams competed for the 'Tuckwell Cup' with the result very close, Essex 272pts, East Anglia 275pts. The Captain of the winning team, Ian Willett, was presented with the Cup by Neil Peachey of P Tuckwell Ltd.

Individual results; Handicap 0-9, 1. Antony Kirwin, 37pts; 2. Andy Toomey, 36pts 3. Mick Fance, 34pts; 10-18, 1. Richard Dunmow, 36pts, 2. Greg McHugh, 34pts; 3. Ray Clark, 32pts; 19-28, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 28pts; Trade, Neil Peachey, 38pts; Guest, Richard Watson, 45pts. Longest Drive, Antony Kirwin, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 7th, Steve Townsend, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 18th, Graham Millbank, Sponsored by Consult Clarkson.

We would like to thank this opportunity to thank Stoke By Nayland GC and their staff, Kevin King, Head Greenkeeper and green staff, for having the course in excellent condition,

Neil Peachey for his hard work and P. Tuckwell Ltd for sponsoring the event and donating the trophy. To the following trade for their support, Consult Clarkson, The Greenkeeping Supply Company, Rigby Taylor, Willmot Pertwee and Grass Roots Trading. Next year's match, 1999, has been pencilled in for Lakenheath USAF Base, so the Essex boys can regain revenge. I would like to thank Dominic Rodgers and Steve Townsend for helping me on the day.

Michael Fance



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

The Essex Section held a golf day at Thorpe Hall Golf Club on August 7. The main sponsors were Rigby Taylor. Thanks to the club and John Sinclair for getting the course ready for the day. Thanks to the Manager for his help in presenting the prizes and the prizes were; Trade, Dennis Smith, 35pts; Guest, Mick Curran, 40pts. 0-9 handicaps, 1. Jeff Robinson, 40pts; 2. Steve Crosdale, 35pts; 3. Andy Toomey, 34pts. 10-18 handicaps, 1.

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Chris Ward, 36pts, 2. Dave Wells, 34pts, 3. Ray Clark, 33pts; 19-28 handicaps, 1. Barrie Brown, 44pts, 2. Sandy Anderson, 32pts, 3. Jack Shelton, 32pts. Nearest the pin, Eddie Cottage. Longest Drive, Mick Curran. Overall winner, Autumn Trophy, Barrie Brown.

Thanks to Tuckwells, Bourne Amenity, Avoncrop, Willmot Pertwee, Jem, Doeg for the raffle prizes and last but not least, Greenkeeping Supply Company for donating the prizes for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

We have a new member, Matthew Allen, Braintree Golf Club. There is an evening lecture on Wednesday, November 4 at Writtle College, 7.30 start, Main Building, Room 457. A talk by David Senior, of Vitax. Do you really understand how to get the best results from your fertiliser applications. We also have a regional training programme at Lakeside Moat House, Grays, November 10-11 on Golf Course Design. The second of two one day Management Seminar courses at Stock Brook Manor Golf Course on November 17. The next committee meeting is at Thorndon Park, on November 3, at 2pm. Lastly, all the Essex lads would like to wish Andy Sheehan all the best on his trip to America.

Dave Wells

London

The Autumn Tournament for the London Section was this year hosted with the kind permission of Brookmans Park Golf Club. During a period of changeable weather, we were lucky to have a warm, dry day, and the tee times started at 2.30pm.

The course was in excellent condition and although one of the two lakes on the course is in the process of being dredged, there was no noticeable interruption to the golf. The first lake was dredged in 1976 and work on the second started on August 10 this year. Approximately half a million gallons of water had to be drained before removal of the silt could start and an estimated 6000 cubic metres will have been moved over a period of 15-16 days. The project has been handled by Vic Wagland Contractors, with all the spoil dumped and levelled on an area of waste ground between the two lakes.

Some tree surgery will take place on the mature woodland surrounding the lake to try and reduce leaf drop into the refurbished area. The next project immediately following the lake will be a reconstruction of the 5th green also carried out by Vic Wagland.

The overall winner of the Stableford was Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, with 38 points with Kenny (plus two) Mackay, of Hanbury Manor, a close second on 37 points and A. Pipe, one point further back on 36 points in 3rd. Ian put together a round that included seven Birdies and reversed July's results at The Buckinghamshire, by piping Kenny to the post. Nearest the pin was sponsored by Willmot Pertwee and in the absence of Mark Pyrah, who had to leave early, Ian Semple was called on to say a few words and present the prizes. Results: 1. Ian Semple; 2. Roger Mace; 3. Craig Handyside. The trade were pretty disappointing again, as no-one managed to hit the Green! Come on Clive! Thanks again to Willmot Pertwee who sponsored the postage of all the entry forms for the event.

Finally thanks to Course Manager, Chris Carpenter, Darren Burdis and the rest of the team for all their hard work and also to Brookmans Park Greens Chairman Elect, John Wilkinson, for attending the function and also to the catering and bar staff for their courtesies.

Ian Semple would also like to congratulate BIGGA on securing a

deal with Stylo Matchmaker, who will be marketing golf wear and work wear, which will enable greenkeepers to order, via direct mail, jackets, boots, golf shoes, fleeces etc, at reduced rates.

The next Tournament will be at Hanbury Manor in November.

Peter Hopkinson

Sussex

Firstly let me apologise for a misprint in the account of the Sussex Section's day at Slinfold Park. The sponsors were Scatts Agricultural Machines! Now on to the last day at Mannings Heath Golf and Country Club, where we played the Waterfall Course in the morning and the newer Kingfisher Course in the afternoon.

Those Greenkeepers who know Mannings Heath and with the prospect of 36 holes in heat wave conditions very sensibly booked buggies for the day. The morning round over Mountain Goat country was an extreme test of golf with some very intimidating tee-shots. A most beautiful golf course with stunning views and of course in superb condition. Roy Jones, the Course Manager, and his Staff should be justifiably proud of both of these courses.

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The morning was sponsored by Farmura, represented on the day by Bob Cook, who provided some great prizes. Results: Category 1. 1. Shaun Sturrock; 2. Ray Day; Category 2. 1. Stefan Antolik; 2. Les Shrub; Category 3. 1. John Budd; 2. Carl Whyborne; Trade and Guests, Winner, Tony Englefield; Nearest the Pin, Winner, Roland Hughes; Longest Drive, Winner, Peter Beardmore.

For those without buggies and could make the long climb from the 18th green to the magnificent Clubhouse a superb lunch was made available and with sufficient liquid replacement taken on board the Section tackled the equally daunting Kingfisher Course, remarkably mature considering its newness and beautifully prepared by Michael Leggett. The afternoon was sponsored by Pattissons represented by Brian Willmott who provided the prizes. Results: 1. Tony Bremer, 2. John Budd, 3. Ronan McKeown; Trade and Guests, 1. Phil Grave, 2. Damion Simpson; Longest Drive, Ray Day; Nearest the Pin, Ronan McKeown.

I should add that for those who weren't lucky enough to have won anything or clever enough to have pre-booked a buggy the highlight of

the day was probably the magnificent Steam Room and Power Showers that enabled us to feel at least a little less than exhausted and able to drag ourselves to the dining room for the evening meal, the quality of which as well as the two golf courses, is a trademark of Mannings Heath.

At the meal the newest member of the section, Mark Shrub (son of Les) was welcomed and presented with his first prize in golf, that of The Longest Walk! We should warn him that we are not always treated to the George Barr Cabaret during the presentations as he doesn't always turn up!

Derek Farrington

Surrey

Welcome back to all of you who have had a holiday in August or September and to those who have decided to take a late break in October and November please have a really great time.

As you may have guessed there is very little to write about at the moment except to remind all that as Bert Watson has at last said bon voyage to his son James. Anyone looking for good cheap digs should contact Bert ASAP. By the time you read this Surrey section will have

played for the Parker Salva at Reigate Heath Golf Club and will be looking forward to the Autumn Tournament at the Drift Golf Club on October 15. The results of both will appear in the November edition. Good news for Andy Pullen, North Hants Golf Club, whose wife Michelle recently gave birth to a bonny daughter and to whom they have given the unusual but charming name Amber.

From joy to sadness. Dave Dolderfield's wife died recently after a long illness and all from Surrey Section send their deepest sympathy.

Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South Coast

By now you should have received the details for our Regional Seminar at Cannington, on November 25, 1998. To refresh your memories, Ian McMillan will be talking on his "Achievements at Hankley Common".

John Mullins, of Superturf, will

be talking on "Water Management". We then have Frank Newbury who will be telling us "How to make the Committee work for you".

After lunch, Phil Greenaway, from Roffeys, will inform us about "What goes on Top".

We then have Dave Phillips, of Mommersteeg, on "Seed Selection and its Implications". To round off the day, Frank Newbury will be giving one of his not to be missed Workshops.

As you can see a very good selection of speakers has been organised for you.

If you have not received your programme, contact our Regional Administrator; Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF, Tel 01363 82777.

For those of you who have made up your mind to attend, Paula requires your name, Club/Company, address and telephone number.

Oh yes, and a cheque made out to BIGGA South West and South Wales Region for £15 for members and £22 for non members.

There is something for everyone at this Seminar, so get those applications in as soon as possible.

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As I am sure you are all aware the year 2000 is the start of another century "The Millennium". I would like you all to think about what we can do to celebrate the Millennium. So get your thinking caps on and let us have some ideas. Your committee has been discussing the subject, but we would like to hear from you the members with your suggestions. Ken Lodge

Devon & Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Lanhydrock Golf Club, on Wednesday, November 11. The morning's golf will be of

foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day. I would like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25. Also, you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show & seminar at the very low price of £95 per member, if you haven't already booked your place for the seminar of BTME package and wish to attend, please contact our Region Administrator Paula Humphries on 01363 82777 to reserve any places remaining.
Richard Whyman

South West

Not too much to report on this month. I hope you have all had a good summer of mowing. At least the irrigation system has not

required too much maintenance. Looking ahead, we have the Autumn Tournament and AGM at the resplendent Saltford Golf Club. Please, please try and make this one if you can so as we can get a representative sample of the membership for voting purposes. Saltford, under the expert hands of Ian McFarlane and his team, will I am sure be in excellent condition and the course itself is a delightful parkland layout reminiscent of Augusta but without the flowers, or water, or white sand.

Remember also the Southwest seminar at Cannington. This will take place on November 25 and promises to be very informative and with speakers of the quality of Frank Newberry and Ian McMillan it should also be very entertaining. If anyone wishes to attend then please give Paula a ring; we need to see as many faces as possible for this one.

Now is the time when we may have a little bit of time on our hands and so please give a thought to the courses that the Section can run. There are a few people ready for a refresher first aid course, so if you think you may be one or would like to take it for the first time then please give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will arrange everything for you. In addition we can arrange for spraying courses and chainsaw courses if required.

Talking of chainsaw courses, I recently had an enquiry on the setting up of a course on advanced chainsaw use, such as tree climbing and felling of larger diameter trees. Having made enquiries at colleges I was informed by the experts that unless you are involved in this work full time it is not worth taking the course as without constant practice in these techniques the skills that are gained in the course would be quickly lost. So the general advice would appear to be if in doubt, get the experts in.

If anyone has any information on the Section; appointments, weddings, new babies etc, then please, please let me know about them so as I can get them in this slot to keep everyone informed. For instance I recently read in the BB&O section of the impending retirement of my old friend John Nudds, from Gerrards Cross GC. John, a former BB&O county captain, was one of the old school, five minutes of water a week in a drought and one application of 8:0:0 a year. Marvellous, and he ended up with some of the best putting surfaces you can get. You couldn't pitch on the greens but the surfaces were superb.
Marc Haring

Northern
Ireland

North East

We were very disappointed by the number who attended our AGM at Allen Park at the end of August. A lot of time and effort by committee members went into organising this event. Members did not even take the time to fill in a small slip of paper out of common courtesy to say whether or not they would attend. This is no way for us to try and organise events. It's about time the members in Northern Ireland showed some consideration.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took the time and effort to attend our AGM and golf competition at Allen Park, also to Allen Park for the use of their facilities. Members will be asked to come along twice yearly to a meeting in which they will be able to participate in a feed-back session, they will have a chance to have some input into what events they would like to see taking place.

If anyone has any ideas or there is something in particular they would like to see taking place please feel free to phone on 01574 276001. Members are reminded that they must not turn up at committee meetings and participate in committee decisions.

Eamonn Farrell

South East

BIGGA are holding a workshop seminar on November 24 & 25, on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment, based on successful projects in the past including some golf courses in Northern Ireland. The seminar will be held in the Burndale Hotel, Newcastle, (Co Down), for two days including all meals and one night's accommodation with full use of hotel facilities. The information will be beneficial and of interest to a lot of us and we would encourage members from both sections to attend. For more details on the seminar contact BIGGA Education and Training or contact our Chairman, Graham Wylie at Malone Golf Club.
Jonathan McCabe

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