

HEADS

3

3. Are they permanently positioned, or do you choose the site on an annual basis?

We use the same site every year and keep the holes all the year round, covering them in summer.

We cut them out on an annual basis, not necessarily in the same spot but within a certain area near the normal greens

They are permanently positioned because we have only 85 acres on a par 69 course so there is not much room to manoeuvre.

The temporary green sites are chosen on an annual basis and not set in stone. But they are usually in approximately the same place adjacent to the normal greens.

Our course only covers 90 acres so there is not a lot of room to play with. This means they are on the same site each year.

4

4. What is the general view of them within the membership?

Our members are very supportive and there are no complaints or problem. I am very lucky to work for such a superb golf club.

No complaints. Our members see a need for them and we protect our normal greens for the members' good. Once the frost has gone we go back. Members would rather play on temporary greens than have us close the course.

Certainly a mixed bag of views, but it is very much depending on the weather. We have a very well supported winter league which is run throughout the week rather than just Saturdays and Sundays as at most clubs.

We don't have too many problems, although the members naturally prefer the proper greens. However, they understand the reasons when we have to move members off the normal greens occasionally.

We get a few moans and groans, but it's not too bad. When we explain to our members why we have to move on to temporaries - after all it's for their own good in the long run - they are quite good about it.

5

5. What is your view of the larger size cups in the winter?

In my view there is no need to use larger cups. In any case we have club competitions which are run throughout winter and the members play a lot of medals and Stablefords, in addition to knock-out events, so larger cups wouldn't be appropriate.

We never use larger size cups on our course, nor have I used them elsewhere. What we do use in winter, however, are fairway mats and the last two years they have been mandatory. They are a big help heavy conditions in saving the course from divots.

I am not keen on winter cups and we never use them. We may get a few complaints, but of course in our profession we cannot do right by everyone

We never use larger sized cups at this club, although I have used them at other clubs where I have worked. I had ten years at Bristol and Clifton and the six-inch holes looked as big as buckets'

We don't have larger cups and when I have attended meetings with other greenkeepers I haven't heard of any in Scotland. However, I believe they are quite common in the North East of England in winter. We are perfectly happy with normal size holes.

6

6. Do you ban trolleys and buggies when necessary due to weather?

I cannot justify a trolley ban because we move over the course with a truck with three tonnes of soil in it which would obviously do more damage than a trolley. However, I am lucky in that although the course hardly has a drain on it, the course drains extremely well.

We allow trolleys and buggies. We have a "yes and no" box and if it is 'no' then it is total with no allowances for bad backs etc. If we did have an allowance I could see about 300 people with sudden bad backs!

A trolley ban has been talked about, twice in recent years, but we have never brought a ban in. I find that a white line system in front of greens which we move from time to time as the line wears out is very effective. We don't have ropes. I would like to add that the banning of chlordane for worms is one of my biggest regrets because worms are back and we haven't anyone who can breed worms that don't cast.

We don't have buggies, but we try to keep trolleys as long as possible and try never to ban them completely. A thought for the future. I can see machinery improving along with better computerised watering systems and also more attention being to computerised budgets.

We never ban trolleys and we don't have buggies because it would be too dangerous owing to the fact we are situated on a hillside. There are one or two more electric trolleys these days, but many prefer to carry. Our average age of member is perhaps slightly lower than many - probably 47-50.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Scotland

The Scottish Region is pleased to announce that we are returning to the Dunfermline Conference Centre for our annual one day Conference on Tuesday 2 March 1999. Since last year the College has undertaken a facelift and the new building is tailor made for our needs.

This year's speakers cover a wide spectrum and we are delighted that they are able to present their papers at our Conference.

We have Simon Gidman who is well known to BIGGA members for his various talks throughout the country, who will be speaking on "Safety: A Golf course Architect's point of view". From Hankley Common Golf Club we have Ian McMillan, Course Manager, who is returning North to speak to us on "Preparing for Golf in the 21st Century". The R&A Secretary, Sir Michael Bonallack, with his vast experience of Open Golf, will talk about "How the Open Championship Benefits Golf". From CSC Amenity we have Gordon Holmes whose title talk will be "Risky Business (Risk awareness and Golf Course Management)". Dr Iain Young from the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Dundee will try and give us an idea of what really goes on under a golf green with a talk entitled "Golf Greens - a micro-organisms view". Also from Dundee we have Liz Thomas, a qualified archaeologist, who will give us an insight into what treasures may be hidden below your greens, 'Above and below the Turf'. Finally from Supatuff we have John Mullins who will give us his talk "Water Management on the Golf Course".

As in previous years, the Scottish Conference has always been well supported by all in the greenkeeping industry and we look forward to seeing everyone at Dunfermline for what will be a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Peter J Boyd

East

The East Section had our AGM in October and a very successful day it was; the day started off with a presentation on COSHH and Health and Safety by C.S.C. of Perth and we would like to thank them for their sponsoring of the day which was very informative.

The meeting went off very well, with everyone pleased with the way the Section is being run, and the financial position we have put ourselves in, which is down to a lot of hard work by all members of the committee. Jimmy Neilson finished his two years as Section Chairman, so we would like to thank Jimmy for all his hard work. We will see Jimmy at all Section events in his capacity as Scottish Chairman as he has just over one year to run; so thanks again Jimmy and all the best from all of the committee.

Our new Chairman (who is the past

Vice-Chairman) is Tom Murray, Ratho Park. Well done to you Tom, and all the best for the next two years. We have three new committee members: they are Ian Bell, Glencorse; Gordon Trotter, Glencorse; and Stuart Townsend, Murrayfield. So we hope you enjoy your time on the committee.

In December we held our annual dinner dance at the Kilspinde House Hotel Aberlady; everybody who attended the dance enjoyed yet again another great night. The meals and accommodation were once again first class; our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Binnie and the rest of the hotel staff. Our thanks also go to the patrons and members who donated raffle prizes for our raffle. The band had the dance floor rocking once more this year; thanks lads.

The social committee have some very good ideas in the pipeline, for social events in 1999; you will see them first in this column. You will be mailed of future events for this section in the coming year.

1999 looks a very good year for the Section, so if you know of any people that are not members or have let their membership lapse, tell them the benefits of the association and why they should join the association. They can also contact any member of the East Section committee.

If any of you are going to Harrogate BTME 1999, I will see you on the bus on the 19th of this month. If this is your first time you will not be disappointed.

Two people who will definitely be in Harrogate will be Craig Pennyquick, Winterfield GC, and George Thomson, Goswick GC, as they are the winners of the Patrons' Awards 1998. Well done to both of them. Thanks to all the patrons of the Scottish Region for providing us with this award to the members of the Sections of the Region.

The Section's congratulations go to Scott Corigan, Greenburn Golf Club, and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their son, Callum Innes. Mother and son are doing well. PS. Your handicap may be in single figures at this moment, but from this day onwards it will start rising.

Speak to any father and he will tell you the same.

Do not forget if you would like anything brought up in this column, drop me a line at: 74, Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2HJ, or by phone: (home) 01620 842 037 or (work) 0131 445 7165 (that is phone or fax), or you can contact any committee member - so come on we would like to hear from our section members about anything our members would be interested in.

Outings and dates for this season will be confirmed soon, so the information will be in next month's column. You will also be notified by mail.

We have arranged a football match against the West Section on Sunday 10 January. By the time you read this article the team will have been picked. This will be a home game for the East Section, with the return match to be arranged through in the West. So we are looking forward to this long awaited match. Result and pictures will be in next month's issue, venue to be arranged.

Well that's it for this month's feature, more news and reports next month. Last but not least, the Section would like to wish all our patrons and members all the best for the year, and we hope it is better than last year.

Hope to see you a Harrogate.

Chris Yeaman.

North

I open this report with the sad news that Jim MacGregor, Head Greenkeeper at Craigiehill GC, Perth, collapsed and died at his home at the end of November. Jim was just short of his 40th birthday and our condolences and thoughts are with his family at this terrible time.

The New Year is upon us and thoughts immediately turn to BTME at Harrogate later this month. Once again I look forward to an excellent week and meeting up with old friends, while making new ones. I am especially looking forward to seeing Rich Hurley again, as he is coming over the the States to talk this year. I have heard that my old friend Steve Cadenelli might also be coming over, which would be great. If Steve does not make it then I should see him next month at the GCSAA Show in Florida where I will be giving a talk to American Superintendents, which I am really looking forward to.

The Section Conference was a great success, despite the poor turnout. There were 62 delegates present to listen to six speakers talk about various subjects, all very interesting. Our thanks to all who helped to make the day go so well, especially Secretary, Dougal, who even had a clock on the table for me to time the speakers. It is such a shame that all the hard work that went into putting on the day was not rewarded by a good turnout from the Section. Anyone who has done this sort of thing before will know the time and money that has to be spent to run a Conference, and as a result of the poor numbers the Section will possibly lose money on the day. Ironically had we set the fee at £20 we probably would have had a similar turnout and not lost money; but we kept the cost down to try and raise the numbers and will suffer because of it. It seems that golf is all our members are looking for. One big plus at the conference was seeing Chris Cumming, Fortrose, again. Chris is back at work after recovering from a bad car accident earlier in the year.

Caroline Ross, from Royal Dornoch, has left work for a while to have a baby, we wish her all the best. Kevin Keith, formerly at Fortrose, has taken Caroline's place at Royal Dornoch for the time being.

I hope to see as many members at BTME as possible. I hope George Barr has recovered from his broken ankle to lead our attack in the Sunday night football game!

I.A. Macleod

Central

Well! that's another year come and gone, hopefully this one will be a bit drier than last year and we will have some sunshine for a change.

I hope everyone has sobered up and is in fine fettle for the next big event on the calendar, the BTME at Harrogate, if we keep going at this rate golf club members will get the impression that a greenkeeper's life is just a case of celebrating one event after the other, when in fact it is the pressure that some of them put us under that drives us to celebrate. (I was going to put drink but celebrate sounds better when club members read the magazine).

At the time of writing I don't have the exact date for the visit to Parkhead Stadium, this month, but you should have received notice of it by now, if not, and you want to attend, please contact me as soon as possible in order that numbers can be confirmed. This visit is being organised for the person who was brave enough to wear a Celtic scarf when we visited Ibrox Stadium a couple of years ago. (I won't tell you who it was as you will probably guess!)

The final member to join the Section in '98 was David Harrison, from St. Fillans Golf Club in Perthshire, and we extend a warm welcome to him.

The date for the Spring Tournament in 2000 is 13 April, this means that we now have confirmed dates for our golf tournaments for the next two years; so don't say you didn't get enough notice of them.

On a recent visit to Ipswich I had the pleasure of visiting Alan Ferguson, Alan is a past Vice Chairman of the Section and is now Stadium Manager at Ipswich Town Football Club, where his pitch was recently voted the best in the First Division, if the team can match the quality of the pitch then they will probably both be winners in the Premiership next season. Best of luck to Alan.

While I am on about former Section members I also had the pleasure of meeting David Murdoch recently; David worked with me at Dunfermline Golf Club before moving down south, where he is now Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Surrey and is back up at Elmwood studying for his HNC. He sends his regards to all his friends in Scotland.

As happened last year, forms for a number of Section events will all be circulated at the same time to save on costs, so please keep them in a safe place and return them for the appropriate event by the date stated on the relevant form.

John Crawford

Ayrshire

A guid New Year to all for 1999 and I hope everyone achieves their greenkeeping targets and ambitions. I'm sure most people's wishes will be like my own for better weather and a good growing season, surely it can't get any worse.

The AGM was held recently at the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick with the usual turnout of the committee and a few. The meeting ran very smoothly with the only real change being Chairman, Jim Paton, stepping down in favour of his Vice Chairman, Duncan Gray, who duly accepted his promotion. Derek Wilson was re-elected as Secretary and the Vice Chairman's position was left vacant to allow the Chairman time to make his appointment. The following members

were elected to serve on the Committee. Jimmy Johnstone, William McMeikan, Robert Bruce, Harry Diamond, George Brown, Brian Finlayson, Iain Barr and Jim Paton.

There was a long general discussion on activities within the Section with some ideas being put forward for further assessment. The Committee would like to increase the amount and variety of the Section events, these, of course, will only be possible if they are supported, so tell us what you want and we will try our best to organise it.

We are also trying to plan our golf outings two years in advance. Some venues have been suggested with Derek Wilson inquiring as to their availability. We hope to confirm our meeting - Monday February 8 1999, Parkstone Hotel at 7.30 pm - any more suggestions, let us know.

BTME 99 at Harrogate is almost upon us again which I am looking forward to. I'm attending the Irrigation Workshop but somehow I feel a Drainage Workshop would be more appropriate, but you never know, maybe I'll get my New Year's wish. If there's anyone thinking of going, it's well worth the visit, even for a day or two. There should be a good few of our members going if you are looking for company or why not give Peter Boyd a call. He may have some late vacancies on the Scottish bus. Any news or views, give me a call - 01505 683278. Iain Barr.

West of Scotland

Happy New Year to everybody, I hope you weren't too drunk. If you were as good as me, then I'm sure nobody got into trouble. Can I wish all members good wishes for the new season, hoping the spring and summer are better than 1998.

Only a couple of things to mention. Firstly, the BTME: I hope everybody has booked their seats; if not then do try to attend at least one day as it is a great occasion. Secondly, the football match previously mentioned; I have been contacted from the Ayrshire Section for a game, so those folk interested please phone 0141 942 5554. Remember to phone me; that's one call, rather than me having to phone 15 people, otherwise no game will be the result.

Finally the annual dinner, or Victorios, as it became known. What was the result of this new venture? A resounding success as far as all those who attended are concerned. Sixty tickets were on offer and 59 were sold, and 56 attended. Everybody attending had a nice buffet, then Billy Porter came on to entertain all those expecting, butch greenkeepers. After that was finished with the serious business of drinking, talking, dancing and chasing started. Seriously folks, all in attendance enjoyed a great night until the late hours. One question, Gary, how is Victoria? Looks as if there could be quite a demand for tickets next year.

By the time this reaches you I hope Scott and Lynn Ballantyne will have had an addition to the family. Trust women to be late, only kidding. Can I wish both mother and child well. I hope everything

goes smoothly. Best wishes from all who know you.

Finally can I give the Section's good wishes to Ronnie Bunting, Kilmalcolm GC, I hope you recover quickly from your illness and hope to see you around soon.

Last but not least, anybody with information for the Section phone 0141 942 5554.

S. Taylor



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

I am sitting in front of my computer wondering how to start the Section notes, and finding it difficult because nobody has volunteered any information. So I will just report on the Christmas competition/Presidents day. The competition was played at Wilmslow GC, on 26 November and apart from the weather we had a great day.

The day previous had been one of the better days, no rain and a nice drying wind, so with the forecasters promising a similar day on the 26th, I felt happy we had the right day for the competition. Wrong! - the rain was hammering down, and it looked as though the day would have to be cancelled, but when we arrived at Wilmslow I was greeted with the sight of Steve Ultram, the Course Manager, just completing mowing the 11th green by hand. Steve and his men were soaked through but, being the dedicated crew they are, they had hand cut all the greens. The fairways were holding puddles of water, but all the greens were in good condition with no water lying on them. About an hour after play commenced the rain ceased, and the competition finished without any more rain.

I would like to thank Steve and his staff for all their hard work in having the course in great condition, and for all their efforts in keeping the course open. Many thanks also to Wilmslow GC, for allowing us courtesy of the course, and Gwen Chason, Catering Manageress, and her husband, David, for a lovely Christmas Dinner, and keeping us supplied with drinks.

The President's Cup was presented by the President, John Walker, to Andrew Bennett the first winner of the trophy. Andrew, one of the Wilmslow staff, had just about dried out by then, and then decided to give himself a good soaking inside. The longest drive, and nearest the pin prizes, donated by Rufford Topdress, were both won by John Berry. Everybody had brought a bottle along on the day, so we all left with a prize. I would like to thank the members of the trade who donated prizes for the table, which were taken before the bottles by the winners.

The AGM went smoothly and the committee decided to continue for a further year, except Alec Davies who stands down for personal reasons. I would like to thank Alec for being a good committee

member and he will be missed. That seems to be it, and I hope to see you at BTME. I will be on the Northern Region stand so pay me a visit. Happy New Year. Bert Cross.

North Wales

The Christmas golf meeting and AGM was held at Prestatyn Golf Club. Our thanks once again go to the Captain and Committee for allowing the use of their

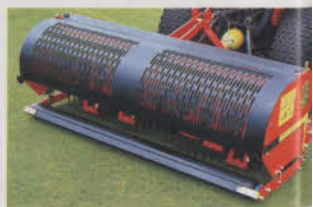
fine club. The course according to the players was excellent as was the weather, so praise must go to Dave Parry and his staff.

The results were 1. Shaun Pritchard 38 pts who was also nearest the pin, 2. Haydn Jones 37 pts, 3. D. Fitzgerald. Best aggregate for the years competitions went to Ian Buckley. Thanks go to our trade sponsor, Rigby Taylor, Amenity Technology, Acorn ALS, John Osman,

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The AGM that followed was attended by 26 members including the committee and our Regional Administrator, Doug Bell. The committee will remain the same again this year, no-one else put themselves up for election so the status quo remains. The issues that were raised at the meeting will be discussed and acted upon, again if any of you out there

have any suggestions, criticisms, news etc please contact me on 01824 710693.

The Section has had 30 new members this year, bringing the membership up to 185, when I get the revised list I will welcome all of you and hope to meet you at various functions. As I write these notes on December 3rd I am attending the management course at the Queen Hotel in Chester, yet again it is another

superb benefit of being a member of BIGGA. However only three members of the North Wales section have attended. The same can be said of the short courses put on at the college, only six have attended.

I won't say anymore on the subject, please let me know the reasons why turnout is so poor. Still on the educational front I'm sorry about the lack of contact on the NVQ assessor front but

at the moment there is only what I can call a state of flux going on. However when I know you'll know, promise!

Again remember the coach trip to BTME, I hope to see you there I will be attending the liaison meeting at the College on December 8 so hopefully I will be able to give you the details of the seminar being held at the College in February in next month's column.

Dave Goodridge

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Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

business working as a landscape garden-er. I would just like to take this opportunity to wish Dave all the best in this project.

Antony Bindley.

Midland

I am writing this report the week before the Christmas Tournament as I have to work one month in advance and this does create some problems with the information I can give to you. The biggest problem being I have no information on the outcomes and news from the AGM which is to be held at the tournament next week. All this information will be contained in the February report along with all the official results in the various knockout competitions and our Christmas tournament.

I would like to on behalf of the Midland Section wish Harold Lewis, Head Greenkeeper from Copt Heath Golf Club, all the best in his retirement, also all the members of staff at Copt Heath would like to wish Harold the best and to enjoy his retirement after a long period of service to the club.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and can enjoy a good new year, and the prospect of another BTME to look forward to in the not too distant future.

Finally I would like to introduce some more new members - Ian Bonser, Richard Edwards, Philip Gates and Paul Steel.

Jonathan Wood

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The Regional Seminar took place at Mentmore Golf club back in November. This could have been better supported by members from our area but, despite the poor showing from our section, the day proved successful with quality speakers from various areas of expertise. Thanks to Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator, for putting it all together.

The last golf event took place at Whiteleaf Golf Club back in November. This actually proved too popular as several people had to be turned away. Please remember if you want to play in any future golf event, return your entry asap to avoid disappointment. The format was the same as previous, teams of three with the best two scores counting. Normally the scoring is blistering but Whiteleaf proved a tricky test of golf, straight tee shots required and accurate iron play into small greens. Unfortunately neither myself or my two hand picked partners could manage either! 1. T. French, G. Wheeler & J. Winslade 78pts (-6); 2. J. Lee, B. Hunter & N. Hamilton 77 pts (-5); 3rd: V. Riches, J. Hayward & N. Ely 71pts (+1). Thanks to our sponsor, Rigby Taylor, Mark Stidwell, for providing all the splendid trophies. The day would not be a success without the support of the trade, it really is much appreciated by all participants. Thanks also to Risboro Turf, Mark Barthelmie, for taking care of postage for this event. Thanks to Whiteleaf for allowing us courtesy of the course which was in fantastic condition thanks to the hard work of David Ward and Rodger Smith. Thanks also to Mrs Bowden and her staff for providing us with some excel-

lent food afterwards.

The AGM was held in the evening, there were no questions raised from the floor so the procedure was fairly straight forward. Ray Clark, Chairman, read the balance of accounts, these were approved by our members. There will be several changes on the committee next year, new Chairman Adrian Cooper, new Golf Administrator Tony French. Ross Wilson and Robert Woodward were voted on to the committee. Good luck to all of the above. Wishing you all a happy New Year.

Lindsay T Anderson.



**South West
and South Wales**
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Devon & Cornwall

A happy New Year to you all. I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season which has recharged your batteries for another challenging year ahead. The Section's first meeting of the New Year will be the Barenbrug Seeds meeting and will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf club on Wednesday January 27. The day will be sponsored by Barenbrug with the educational theme this year being on computers with Wessex Software and Watermatron providing the management software for you to try out.

Also there will be computer software from the BIGGA library. During the morning there will also be a singles Stableford golf competition with start times between 9.30 am - 10.30 am.

Our Devon Garden machinery-sponsored meeting was held at Lanhydrock Golf Club on Wednesday November 11. This meeting was also the Section's AGM. As always, the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a four-some format. Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Head Greenkeeper, Martin Morgan. After an excellent lunch, Alan Dommett, from Devon Garden Machinery, presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM and gave a short presentation on his company: 1. Michael Bush, St Mellion, and Alan Gawnan, St Mellion; 34 pts back 9. 2. Rod Hensby, Lanhydrock, and Martyn Paris, Holsworthy; 34 pts. 3. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, & Andy Parker, Crediton; 31 pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsor, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support and to Graham Bond for allowing our Section use of his excellent facilities and to all the staff at Lanhydrock for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to Martin Morgan and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

The Section's AGM followed the presentation, unfortunately the Chairman, Steve Evans, was unable to attend due to work commitments. He had also informed the administrator that he wouldn't be standing for re-election. The meeting was opened by Vice Chairman,

Terry Farkins.

The Section Administrator opened his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30 1998 and explained that during the financial year there had been one major change in the way the Section was funded, as the Section's subscription refunds from Head Office had been withdrawn to help finance the new part-time Regional Administrators post. After consideration the Section committee decided to offer the trade companies who had already sponsored the golfing prizes at the Section meetings first refusal on sponsoring the whole day. The Section committee were delighted when every company decided to take up the sponsorship. The administrator expressed the Section's thanks to all the companies who have generously sponsored the section meetings over the last year. These are: Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, P J Flegg, Rhone Poulenc, Roffeys, Supaturf. Also he expressed special thanks to P J Flegg who not only sponsored the Christmas meeting but also the fixture cards this year, completing the two year agreement. The administrator informed members present that the Section made a slight loss on the year of £89.53 compared with a slight profit of £116.16 on the previous year. Although the Section made a slight loss on the year he felt that with the continued sponsorship of Section meetings and fixture cards by the trade, the balance sheet can remain stable but the section must receive support at section meetings from the membership to make it succeed.

The Chairman's report was presented by Vice Chairman, Terry Farkins.

It opened by congratulating Richard Whyman on reaching the national finals of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping award and for his tremendous achievement in finishing joint runner up. Also, the Chairman congratulated Jeff Mills on his tremendous achievement in reaching the national finals of the Toro Student of the year finals.

The Chairman considered that the Section is still one of the strongest in the country. This is due to the continued support of the trade without which we wouldn't be able to survive. He thanked all the trade who had generously sponsored the section meetings, although the section is one of the strongest in the country he felt that it was up to Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to support Section meetings by attending and also by encouraging their staff to end. With all the work that goes on behind the scenes, it needs your support to make it work.

The Chairman, in his report, congratulated Gordon Child on becoming the first member from the Section to become our National Chairman and thanked him for all the hard work he had done over the years. He concluded his report with the information that next year's Westurf will be held at West Point near Exeter. This is an exciting venture for our Region and again needs the support of our members to make it succeed. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has put a substantial amount of work into this

East Midlands

This year's AGM and Golf Tournament was hosted by Lutterworth G. C. on November 12. The AGM itself was nearly completed in the record time of 17 minutes but failed by the narrow margin of three minutes.

The Chairman, Dave Leatherland, was returned to office as was the Vice-Chairman, Gavin Robson. Treasurer, Richard Barker, and Secretary, Antony Bindley. Steven Heap and Adie Porter were returned as members of the committee.

I would also like to thank the three retiring committee members Graham Arnold, Tim Allard and Kevin Davis for all their hard work while serving on the committee. The Chairman did ask for more members to put themselves forward for next year's AGM, as all committees require new faces which bring in new ideas.

Moving on to the day's golf which consisted of a team of three, Texas Scramble format. There was only one Gross score under par which came as a surprise to everyone, this was achieved by Richard Barker, Gavin Robson and Kevin Kinzer. 66 Gross. 4.7 H/Cap. 61.3 Nett. 2. Antony Bindley, Steven Heap and Gary Thurman 69-4.8-64.2.

I would like to thank Lutterworth G.C. for courtesy of their fine course and also to congratulate Gary Jukes and his staff for presenting an excellent course in such wet conditions. Thanks should also go to the steward for a really great meal and to our very generous sponsors Vitax Ltd. Finally I would like to thank all committee members who help to run this day's event. May I take this opportunity to remind members that it is imperative to turn up on the day, ready to play before your start time. Those members who fail to do this are letting their playing partners down.

This year's Regional Seminar was held at Mentmore G.C. on Wednesday November 18. Unfortunately there was a poor turnout, but those who attended enjoyed some very informative lectures, and the chance to win a great prize of a golfing weekend in the raffle. We were also honoured on the day by the presence of our National Chairman, Gordon Child. I would like to thank all the speakers and trade members for their support to our Section, and also Mentmore for hosting this event. Also a special thank-you to our Regional Administrator for all his hard work in organising such a enjoyable day.

On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Gary Thurman, of Chamwood Forest GC, a successful 1999 season. Gary has just been named Captain of the club and has been a keen member of the Association for many years.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting an old friend of ours, Dave Sankey formerly of Cosby G.C. He has now set-up

project and wished it every success.

The Regional report was presented by Richard Wisdom who opened his report by congratulating Paula on her very successful first year in office which included the magnificent organisation of Westurf 1998, the BTME trip and regional seminar. If you haven't had a visit from Paula yet you should expect one shortly.

This year's Westurf was once again financially a success, but many exhibitors felt that the event was poorly attended. Because of this, the Regional Board have decided to change the venue to West Point near Exeter. This will provide a large undercover facility which will hopefully create a greater number of stands.

Richard concluded his report by informing members that the Region's accounts were in a very healthy state which has allowed the Region to offer an interest free loan to the association to help with the repayments on the new offices.

The retiring President, John Palfrey, spoke on behalf of the trade by thanking members for their support. He felt that the Section meetings had the right balance with golf and educational talks taking place. John moved on to Westurf which will be held in the Section at Westpoint next year. He suggested that members knew of other people who are involved within the turf industry and encouraged members to invite these people along to the show. The more people attending the show the greater the success. John concluded his report by thanking the section administrator Richard Whyman for all his hard work and support over his term in office which he had enjoyed.

Sections Committee elected. T. Farkins, Chairman & Regional Board member; C. Rawlings, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board Member; C. Gadsby; S. Getson; M. Morgan; M. Samuel, President, (two year term); R. Guntrip, Trade Member three year term; A. Dommett, Trade Member three year term; R. Whyman, Section Administrator.

Richard Whyman.

South West

A very happy New Year to all members of the Section. I have taken over the running of Education and Monthly reports from Marc Haring. Marc's 'witty' style of writing developed a small but loyal fan club who will sorely miss him. However, I'm sure he will make the odd guest appearance in future editions of this magazine. Thirty six of the hardest members braved the stormy winds and dark rain clouds which descended on Saltford Golf Club for the Autumn Tournament. It was a remarkable feat by Head Greenkeeper, Ian McFarlane, and his loyal staff to get the course into a playable state. The winner of the event was K. James with 36 points. His better back nine beat Anthony Knight, who also had 36 points into second. Third went to J Byrne with 34 points.

Thanks go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event and also Saltford's Secretary and catering staff for their kindness and hospitality. The AGM then fol-

lowed. Most of the committee was re-elected although Peter Baynton announced that this would be his last year as secretary. Ivor Scoones then asked the floor if there were any volunteers who would be interested in taking over secretarial duties next year. An eerie silence fell on the room. Suddenly, a rather tentative member nervously raised his arm. He was pounced upon by a member of the committee carrying a wad of paperwork, and cries of "Well done" and "congratulations" followed. The poor fellow still looked shell shocked 20 minutes later.

There was also a little bit of drama at the Regional Seminar held at Cannington College on November 25. The legendary Jack MacMillan, donned his boxing gloves and began "sparring" with Dave Phillips, from Mommersteeg, about the "benefits" of sowing a green with bents and fescue seeds. Jack believed that poa greens were inevitable no matter what you sowed them with.

Anyone with a Masters Degree in Bio-chemical molecular structures, would have enjoyed John Mullins, from Supaturf talking about wetting agents. Other guest speakers included Ian McMillan, Tony Rees and Phil Greenway who all gave very informative talks. The star of the show was Frank Newberry, who made quite an impact on the audience. Thanks go to Paula Humphries for organising the event. Roffey Bros and Supaturf for sponsoring it and Cannington College for hosting it.

The Winter Tournament will take place at Lansdown Golf club in the last week of February. All members will receive a slip that will give them the choice for receiving future invitations or not. This should help reduce postal costs. A new and improved Westurf will take place at the new venue of Westpoint near Exeter on April 27. Anyone requiring further information should contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777. With tougher European Health & Safety laws coming into effect shortly, the need for better trained staff is becoming more and more important. Demand for courses next year is expected to be extremely high and the costs of training are also likely to rise. It is therefore advisable to get onto a training course now while you still have time to spare. I am compiling lists for the following courses:- First Aid, Spraying (PA1, PA2 & PA3), Abrasive Wheel, and Chainsaws. Please contact me on 01249 783382 to add your name to the list. If you are considering a PA2, please state whether you want a tractor mounted spraying course or a Cushman one. If you want me to investigate the possibility of running any other course, please don't hesitate to ask.

Paul Cunningham.

South Coast

Here we are again, into yet another year. The one before the big one, when all the computers are supposed to go on the blink. A Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope it brings success to everyone.

To start with I must apologise for no Around the Green report for November of last year. It was sent in good time, but did not arrive at Headquarters. So it has

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to be down to the Postal Service.

Our trip to the Oxfordshire Golf Club went very well. A total of 25 members attended. We were met by David Gower, the Course Manager, and Brian, the Deputy Course Manager. We were then taken to the Clubhouse, where David and Brian gave us a talk on the history of the course, and the maintenance programmes that are used. This was then followed by a Question and Answer session. We were then given a guided tour of the golf course. The course was well maintained by David and his 25 staff. It was well laid out with some very interesting holes. But Oh My, those bunkers! We were told that one of them was 1.5 acres. Personally I felt there was no need for all these large bunkers. David told us that his budget for the bunkers was nearly as much as the greens. The course was wide open and very few trees. The rough was difficult to maintain as it consisted of a lot of mounds.

For the type of course it is, David requires all the staff he has, to maintain it to the high standard that is required. I would like to thank David and Brian for giving us the time to show us their American Style Golf Course. Also thanks to Peter the Mechanic who gave us a good insight into the maintenance of the machinery. Last but not least, thank you to the owners of the course who allowed us to visit The Oxfordshire.

This is definitely the last call for the Region's BTME coach. If there are any late comers please contact Paula without delay. There may be a chance of a seat.

Our Regional/Section Seminar will be held at Sparsholt on 23 February. Booking forms should be with you shortly. Some very good speakers have been arranged for you. Please return your slips and cheques to our Secretary as soon as possible: Jeff Drake, 6 Villiers Walk, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks, RG14 6SJ. Tel: 01635 846575.

Westurf is being held at Westpoint near Exeter on Tuesday, 27 April. It is hoped to up-grade Westurf and attract a lot more members and members of the trade. It will include a large enclosed indoor area. There will also be demonstration area. Seminars on water management will be taking place during the day. There will be a courtesy bus to take spouses into Exeter to shop or sightsee. Looking at the plans of the layout it does look very inviting. It could be seen as a smaller version of BTME.

Notes for your diaries: Thursday 4 March. Crane Valley Golf Club speaker from EnviroGreen and 9 holes of golf. Ken Lodge.

Surrey

Yes I'm back from the big orange 'Los Angeles' and with me came my new set of Callaway irons. If they don't reduce by handicap by at least two shots I'll sell them to Ted Stiles at a knock down price!

The Huxley Bowl competition is now completed and the proud winners are Derek Cunliffe and James Norris. They beat Bobby Rogers and Matthew Lovett in an exciting and nail biting final round. I must apologise for an error in the November issue for naming the proud

parents of Hannah Bellamy as Mr and Mrs Mark Sutcliffe. They are of course Mr and Mrs Mark Bellamy. Apparently Hannah, although only two months old at the time, saw the article and was most confused.

The Surrey Section Turkey Trot was played at Clandon Regis Golf club on the 10 December and the AGM followed. Details will appear in the February issue.

Lastly, goodbye to Mark Anderson who is leaving Selsdon Park Golf Course and will be found in the near future by anyone visiting Luxembourg at the Choto De Preisch Golf Complex. We wish Mark Bon Voyage and good luck. Now it's goodbye to him and it's goodbye from me.

Brian Willmott.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

It's AGM time again. Doesn't time fly. Another year gone. Golf Day and AGM was held at Orgett Golf Club and a good day was had by all. Thanks to the Golf Club and Carl for the course which was up to its usual high standard. Prizes went to: 0 - 9 Handicaps: A. Sheehan 41, J. Robinson 31, G. Cox 30, M. Fance 30; 10 - 18 Handicaps: D. Wells 38, J. Morgan 35, R. Dunmow 33, R. Clark 29; 19 - 28 Handicaps: M. Smith 38, M. Forrester 33, N. Horsewell 29, R. Goodgail 27. 1st overall, Andy Sheehan. Trade Prize: Peter Owens 36; Guest prize: Mike Pinner 34; Nearest the Pin on 12th, Ray Goodsell; Longest Drive on 18th: Peter Owens. Thanks to Banks Amenity who were the main sponsors of the event. Thanks also to Rigby Taylor, Consult Clarkson, Tuckewells, DFL, Avoncrop Amenity, Scotts UK, Grasshopper, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd., Gem Professional, Willmot Pertwee for raffle prizes and Greenkeeping Supply Company for nearest the pin and longest drive. A fine meal followed the golf. Thanks to the catering staff.

And on to the AGM which went off with no problems. Thanks to Carl, Martin and Richard for producing a healthy bank balance. The new Committee shows one or two new faces. The Committee is: Chairman, Carl Croucher; Vice Chairman, Mick Fance; Treasurer, Richard Pride; Education Officers, John Sinclair; Competition Secretary - Handicaps, Dominic Rogers, Scribe, David Wells, Social Organisers, John Selwood and Steve Cox.

Some dates for your 1999 diary: Evening Lectures at Writtle College 4 February and 23 March. The Regional Seminar is in our Section this year on November 16. Also at Writtle College. Golf Dates for this year: April, Burnham on Crouch, TBC. June, Colchester. August, Thornton Park, October, Romford. TBC. December, Rochford Hundrey, TBC. Another date for your diary is the Gentleman's Dinner at

Walton Heath on March 12. Our very efficient Secretary informs me we have 175 members in our Section. We could do with a few more. Here are some new names. Colin Mumford, North Weald G.C., William Wingfield, The Burstead G. C., Neil Harman, Toot Hill G. C., Simon Pyett, Colchester G. C.

Steve Denton was telling me the other day that Lee Squires, from the Orchards Holiday Village, received Employee of the Year for 1998. Well done Lee.

Going back to prizewinners. Our four majors of the year. Winners were Spring, Ray Clark, at Stapleford Abbots; Summer, Andy Sheehan, at Channels; Autumn, Barry Brown, at Thorpe Hall, and Winter, Amos Sheehan at Maylands.

On November 20, the Section helped by Dougal of Grass Roots Trading, organised a Go Karting Day in Colchester. A good time was had by all. Yours truly couldn't go because of work but my staff enjoyed themselves. The winners were Stapleford Abbots. Well done to Peter Moss, Wayne Chapman, Barry Dowsett and Les Mogg.

That's about it for 1998 - I'd like to wish everyone in the golfing industry a happy New Year and see some of you in 1999.

Dave Wells.



South East

Happy new year! On November 17 we had our AGM for 98 at Belvoir Park G.C. The meeting was well attended and the following members were voted onto the committee for 1999. Graham Wylie; Chairman, Jonathan McCabe; Vice Chairman and Magazine Liaison Officer, Kenneth Henderson; Secretary, James McConnell; Assistant Secretary and Education Officer and Terry Crawford; Handicap Secretary. The nine hole golf competition was cancelled before the AGM due to the atrocious weather conditions. The sponsor, Scotts, will carry over the prizes to our Spring Golf day in 1999. The Section Committee would like to thank Belvoir Park G.C. for providing such a fine venue for our first AGM. An agenda is currently being drawn up for 1999 so members should be notified early in the new year; when dates and venues will be confirmed.

Our Regional Supervisory and Management Course was held at The Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle Co. Down on 24/25 November 1998. The course on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment was presented by Golf Course Architects Howard Swan and Simon Gidman.

The course was a tremendous success and special praise must go to Howard and Simon for their professional approach. They made the course interesting in every way and a great learning experience. Their ideas on design and

construction were of great benefit for those attending. Thanks also go to the Burrendale Hotel who provided excellent food, accommodation and friendly service.

Section Secretary, Ken Henderson, would like to thank all the members who attended especially those who travelled up from Dublin, Co. Kildare and North East Section members from Portstewart GC and Royal Portrush GC.

Congratulations to Woolsey White on becoming Head Greenkeeper at Tandragee GC (Co. Armagh).

The Section during its first year has trebled its membership so the committee look forward to 1999 and hope to further promote the benefits of association membership to all greenkeepers.

Jonathan McCabe

North East

We would like to wish all our members and sponsors a happy new year and hope they had a very merry Christmas. Let's hope we get a drier one than last year.

It's been a quiet time for us here at the moment with only a few points to mention. Congratulations to Brian Boyle on his appointment to the Greenstaff at Stakis Park. We would like to thank Jeff Connell of Grass Roots for a very enjoyable day out at his plant showing us how his organic top-dressing was made. Jeff then treated us to lunch and a game of golf at Gracehill GC. There were 25 Greenkeepers in attendance and the small competition we held was won by G. O'Neill 1. S. McGure 2. and 3. N. Webber. We would like to thank Jim Gillan the course owner, for making us welcome, and John Kilgore the Course Manager for the excellent shape the course was in.

Finally an event which is coming up in the new year by John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf to be held at Stakis Park Templepatrick, January 7.

The topic of the seminar is Turf Management. The speakers are D. Philip of Mommersteeg, Dr J. Smith, of Scotts UK; R. Walton of Scotts UK; J. Mullans, of Supaturf Products, and F. Ainsworth, of Stakis Park. The seminar will run from 9.40 am to 1.00 pm - lunch will be provided. John Lindsay would also like to invite all BIGGA members.

Eamonn Farrell

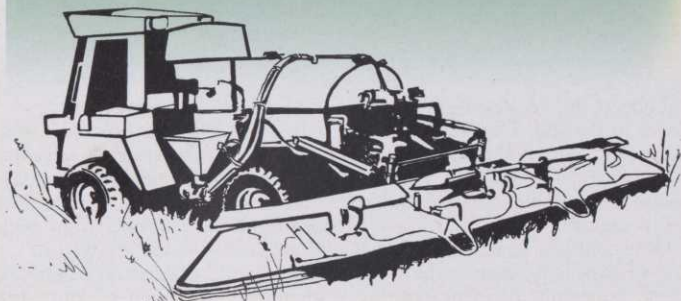


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Has the worm turned?

Around this time every year it never ceases to amaze us how the earthworm, given the right conditions, can create such chaos on the golf course. Casting activity reaches a peak in damp, yet relatively mild, conditions and we have all seen, if not experienced, the problems earthworms can cause.

With financial support from the R&A, STRI have undertaken an extensive programme of research on earthworm control. Over recent years this research has adopted a more cultural and ecological approach as a response to tighter legislation on pesticide use. Work has focused on the biology of earthworm populations and changes in casting activity in response to soil characteristics and management operations. So at STRI we aim to be one step ahead of legislative change but at the same time we must also appreciate the immediate options available to greenkeepers.

In our last article (June 1998) we gave an insight into the severity of the earthworm problem first hand. This was based on the results of a questionnaire completed by greenkeepers last year. This month we provide an update on the few remaining chemical control methods available, examining

the effectiveness of different materials as an alternative to chlordane.

Since turfgrass research started in Bingley in 1929 a lot of time has been devoted to problems of earthworm control. Over the years many materials have been tried and tested to help reduce casting on the golf course. From the 1920s onwards, methods have included the application of copper sulphate, perchloride of mercury, Derris dust and lead arsenate. In the 1960s chlordane was introduced which gave effective control for three or four years if not longer.

Unfortunately some of the most effective worm killers were toxic to many other soil organisms and concerns grew about the environmen-

tal effects due to long term persistence in the soil. The final chapter came for these materials on 31 December 1992 when it became illegal to use chlordane for earthworm control.

Other options have included the use of expellants such as mowrah meal, potassium permanganate or formaldehyde. These materials can be effective by driving earthworms to the surface for collection but have relatively little persistence in the soil and problem areas are soon re-populated.

The three materials currently listed for earthworm control on turfgrass in the UK are carbaryl, carbendazim and gamma-HCH + thiophanate methyl (gamma-HCH + tm). Between 1993 and 1998 six trials examined the relative effectiveness and duration of control of these worm killers. The manufacturers' recommended rates applicable at the time of the trials are given in Table 1. All were tested at sites suffering from high rates of casting which were assessed on a monthly basis by counting the number of casts accumulating within a given area.

In all cases results are expressed as a percentage of casting on untreated areas. For example, an area that is 80% relative to untreated turf indicates that the area has 20% less casts than the untreated turf.

Three initial trials were established to compare the relative effectiveness of all three approved materials. The worm killers were applied in October 1994 and by November earthworm casting was significantly reduced for all three pesticides. However, the results showed that carbaryl was the least effective and after 12 months casting rates relative to untreated turf from all three trials averaged 88% for carbaryl compared to for example, 48% for gamma-HCH + tm. The rate of approval for carbaryl was subsequently lowered from 3.96 kg ha⁻¹ to 3.78 kg ha⁻¹, and its use is now only permitted by tractor sprayer with the operator in

a completely enclosed cabin.

In 1996 a further two trials were established at separate sites to compare the effectiveness of carbendazim and gamma-HCH + tm against untreated turf. Results from both trials are shown in Figure 1. Significant differences between chemical treatments and the untreated plots were recorded for 12 months at Site one (Nov 96-Oct 97) and 15 months at Site two (Nov 96-Jan 98). During this time casting rates relative to untreated plots given one single application of pesticide averaged 33% and 34% respectively for carbendazim and gamma-HCH + tm at Site one and at Site two, 40% for carbendazim and 42% for gamma-HCH + tm.

After all four trials were complete it was concluded that both carbendazim and gamma-HCH + tm significantly reduced casting for 12 to 15 months. Whereas carbaryl produced some reduction in earthworm casts five to 12 months after treatment but over this period not all reductions were significant.

It is also worth comparing our results to those found in last year's greenkeeper questionnaire survey. The questionnaire concentrated on problems of earthworm control four years after chlordane had been banned and at a time when its residual effects were diminishing. The survey allowed information to be gathered from nearly 300 golf courses across the UK.

There is some indication that carbaryl gave less suppression than carbendazim or gamma-HCH + tm (Table 2), although strictly no statistically significant differences were found. Most greenkeepers reported casting suppression tended to last one to three months after chemical control and only about 30% of responses suggested reasonable suppression for three months or more. The differences between the questionnaire results and those found in our detailed monitoring may be one of definition. Our tests are looking for significant differences in the amount of casting between treated and untreated

TABLE 1
Application rate and concentration of the three worm killers

Material	Concentration (g l ⁻¹)	Application rate (l ha ⁻¹)
Carbendazim	500	4
Carbaryl	240*	16.5*
Gamma-HCH + thiophanate methyl	thiophanate methyl=500 lindane=60	10

* At this rate carbaryl no longer has approval for use as a lumbricide.