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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

There have been a couple of vacant columns during the summer months because there has been absolutely no news or views and really nothing much has changed.

The autumn outing is scheduled for the Pines Golf Centre in Dumfries where our Chairman, Duncan Gray, will welcome us to his course. This is on Thursday 30th September with the usual format for our golf outings. Secretary, Derek Wilson, will have letters out soon with all the arrangements and an entry form so get it returned in plenty of time to let him confirm the numbers with the Pines for tee times and caterers etc. News has reached me of one member on the move, Michael Byrne is leaving West Kilbride to join the turfing industry with local company Total Turfing. Our best wishes go to Michael with his new job.

Any news or views call me on 01505 68278 (evenings)
Iain Barr

North

More new members to welcome to the Section this month, numbers are now standing at 257 for this year. Rejoining us and now working at Peterhead is Steve Simpson, and new members are Greg Smith, Fortrose; Maurice Haddon, Brechin; Alistair Scott, Longside, and Colin Riddoch from Strathlene. Just in case it was missed last month, as I sent it in late, Andy Wilson has left Carmouistie to become Head Greenkeeper at Brechin, where I believe he started his career. We wish him every success.

The Open, back in our area again, was a great event with the course set up, in my humble opinion, just right to test the World's top golfers. It was interesting to note that the ones at the top of the leaderboard on the Sunday had just got on with the job and not moaned about the course.

It was a credit to John Philp and his staff and fitting that a North man, used to playing in the wind at Aberdeen, came out on top. Apologies to Scott Ligertwood, Montrose for not mentioning him in an earlier report of North members in the Support

Team. The Saturday night football match was finally won by the Scots, with a crushing 14-4 victory against the auld enemy, and the player we gave you to even up the sides was not a ringer, honest! despite his missed penalty and own goal. He really is that bad.

The two lucky winners of the Patrons award will be announced in next month's article, so if you have been a regular at Section and Region events over the last year it could be you. Also next month there will be a report on the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Craigie Hill, we are on home ground so let's hope we can do the business.

I look forward to welcoming as many Section members as possible at the 50th anniversary celebrations at Downfield this month. Rest assured no one will go home empty handed!
Iain Macleod

Central

How long did you search for last months news? There is never a lot to report at this time of the year, with everybody too busy on their course or on holiday, hence the reason for the blank month. Members keep promising to send me "snippets" for the Section news but I'm still waiting on them to arrive, so you will just have to put up with my rambling on. No comments please!

Forms for the Autumn Tournament at Balbirmie Park, Markinch, have been circulated, along with your allocation of tickets for "Club 2000". It is important that every member supports this venture in order for it to be successful, so please try and sell your tickets. If anyone requires extra tickets please just get in touch with me and I will send them out to you. There is a deliberate mistake on the "Club 2000" letter, that's my story and I'm sticking to it! So the first person to sell their tickets and write to me with this mistake will receive a mystery prize.

The proposed football match against the West Section failed to take place for a couple of reasons, but it will be organised for later in the year. Speaking of football, has anyone seen A. O'H, you know who as he has missed the last two Section committee meetings and there have been reports of him being spotted in Blackpool, I am led to believe, by another member of the Leven Links Sporting Club, he of the caravanning fame, that he has taken up "synchronised swimming". Maybe that's why he was in Blackpool!

Congratulations go to Ian MacMillan on

his appointment as Course Manager at Murrayshall in Perthshire. Every success for the future Ian. Hope everything goes well for you.

Andy Fraser has left Stirling for pastures new, and we wish him well for the future.

Former Section committee member, John Bashford, from Kinross, has not been keeping too well lately and has spent some time in hospital. Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to John from everyone in the Section.

Section Chairman, Archie Dunn, spent a week in America working at Pinehurst during the US Open and from all accounts it was an experience that he will never forget. I'm trying to get him to give a talk about it at a seminar sometime in the near future.

The winners of last year's Inter Club Tournament are Leven Links 'B' team, who have been awarded the tie as they won the first leg, and their opponents Tulliallan 'A' team failed to agree on a date for the second leg.

Next month sees the National Tournament, at Carden Park, and we send best wishes to our two representatives, Kenny Stirling and Sean McMillan for a successful tournament and hopefully they will come home with some silverware, if not, I am sure they will have a great time. Next year qualifying will be based on scores from both the Spring and Autumn Tournaments.
John Crawford

East

We are running a Section prize draw at our annual dance on the 4th of December at the Kilspondie House Hotel. Tickets are on sale now and we need you to sell them for us. There are some very good prizes available so hopefully we (members of the East Section) friends, family, etc can sell all some before the draw in December. So come on it's you, the member, and the Section who will benefit from the money raised.

The tickets are available from Craig Pennyquick on (mobile) 07979 452 097 (work) 01368 865 349 (home) 0131 654 2913.

As I have already mentioned the annual dance is at the Kilspondie House Hotel, more details will be available shortly or details can be obtained from our social convenor, Stuart Crawford, on (home) 01620 893 103 (work) 01620 893 765.

People on the move this month are Gordon Trotter who is leaving Glencorse to take up

an appointment in Canada at the Royal Toronto Golf Club. Gordon has been a member of the East Section for a number of years, so the committee and the rest of your friends in the Section would like to wish yourself, your wife, Nicole, and son, Blair, all the best for the future and don't forget to drop me a line if you come across anything of interest let me know or you could send me an e-mail when I get my modem working correctly.

The Section presented Gordon with an engraved quail to remind him of all his friends in Scotland when he is in Canada.

Other people on the move are Frank Forrester who has joined my team at Swanston as assistant Greenkeeper. Frank joined us from a temporary position at Newbattle. All the best to him.

When you read this you will have received your entry forms for the Willie Woods tournament at Glencorse and the autumn tournament Newbattle at the end of September. Get them back before the closing date as no entries will be accepted after these dates. You have been warned.

Also, don't forget BIGGA code of dress must be adhered to at all times while attending these tournaments.

Chris Yeaman.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

I have recently returned from The Open and what an eventful time it was. The course had been set up beautifully and was a credit to John Philp and his staff. It was tough with narrow fairways, and plenty of rough, but had been set up to test the best professional golfers, and it certainly did that. Some of the pros whinged about the rough but they had thousands of ball spotters lining the fairways, so they should not have had any problems.

The Frenchman gave us all a laugh with his antics in the water, (I think he should have taken out a bucket and spade, instead of a set of clubs) but the winner Paul Lawrie showed them how to play the final holes with two magnificent birdies.

The Support Team all enjoyed their involvement even though this year we were not required to send in an early team, or a



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divoting team in the evening. I would like to thank all the Support Team for being punctual at the 1st tee, making my job easier.

On September 9th we have the Autumn Tournament at West Lancashire and if you have not already registered give me a ring and I will see if I can fit you in. September 15th is the Cumbria Cup at Penrith sponsored by Course Care, and is by invitation. The match against the Golf Club Stewards is at Burnley on 27th September and I need a team of 16 for what is always a great day. That seems to be it in the NW because nobody has got married, had babies, changed their job or won the lottery, at least if they have, they have not told me, but if anything like that happens to you, give me a ring on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

North Wales

Hey, I've got something to write about. The Open, John Philp and team, R&A Championship Committee and the 'Beast' herself. That showed 'em, real golf and they don't like it, that was the best tournament we've seen in 25 years in the game, hats off to the Scots they organised it, prepared it and won it.

John Philp did greenkeeping proud with his comments in the press and the R&A gave him their full backing. How many of you reading this get the same from your committee? Nuff said.

Our Education Officer, Phil Davies, is in the process of organising our series of Autumn-Winter lectures. Subject matter will include, Research and Development in the Chemical industry; Noise Pollution; Rules of Golf and the Greenkeeper; Soil Science and Management, and CDA. Sprayers on the Golf Course. These will take place between September-April and the full list will be sent when dates and venues have been confirmed. If any of you out there would like certain subjects to be covered please ring Phil on 01745 886547 or 0966 466731 and he will do his best to organise it.

Dates to remember, the Autumn meeting is at Nefyn GC on 13 October, entry forms will be sent to you shortly. If, for any reason, you don't receive one please get in touch with me on 0410 896837 or 01745 814931. Gary Edwards on 01492 593646 or 0961 806519. Stuart McCall on 0151 6524692 or 0378040843 or Trevor Johnston on 0151 3366675.

The Christmas meeting is at Royal St

Davids, Harlech on 7th December which will also be our .GM.

Congratulations to Steve Jones, of Pwllheli, on his D32-33.

Gary Edwards

Cleveland

At last we have had a bit of sun. Here at Brancepeth we are running around like bronze gods.

I think we should congratulate two greenkeepers from Wearside, Phil Hargrave, Assistant Student of the Year at Houghall and Martine Wood has been nominated for Toro Student of the Year. Very well done.

Apart from that the Section is quiet. If anyone would like to take over the Section news please see the Secretary as I am stepping down in December.

On a final note David Jobey, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Brancepeth, had the snip done and was very proud to show off his very swollen bits to anyone, male or female, who wanted to look.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

Northern

There has not been much happening this month. Probably due to everyone being so busy at work. The weather during July has been extremely hot and dry, testing out even the most efficient of irrigation systems.

Dave Bottomley has moved to Acom. Equipment as their 'mobile' sales representative. Acom are a well established company in other areas, but are new to Yorkshire and the surrounding parts. Most of you will remember Dave as the equipment rep for Rigby Taylor.

Scotts have been enquiring within the Section to see if greenkeepers would be interested in a day trip to their fertiliser manufacturing plant. If there is sufficient interest, then a trip may be arranged for later in the year. Travel and food would be provided by Scotts.

Anyone wishing to book places in the two remaining golf events must do so quickly as places are running out. The Autumn Tournament is to be held at Bradford (Hawksworth) on 20 October and the Winter Golf at Fulford on 8 December. Bookings will only be accepted with payment of £15, no later than two weeks prior to the event date.

If anyone has any news from within the Section, please contact me at I Cockley

Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA or telephone on either 01484 317813 or 07788 442755.

Simon Heppenstall



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

The 1999 Midland Region Seminar will be held once again at Mentmore, an excellent venue, on 17 November. Frank Newbury will be speaking along with Cedric Gough, Course Manager, Broadway Golf Club and former Greenkeeper of the Year; Denis Nutter, Golf Rules Expert and former PGA Regional Secretary, Jonathan Carr, Amenity Land Services, and a BIGGA Headquarters representative. Application forms for attendance at the Seminar are inside this issue of Greenkeeper International, and can also be obtained from the Midland Regional Administrator, Peter Larter 01480 437507. Members of the Midland Region, please make an effort to attend what promises to be a very interesting day.

Peter Larter

Midland

The summer tournament took place on 8 July. We seem to be blessed with very good weather conditions for our summer tournament and this day was no exemption, very hot and the 18 holes felt like 36!

Many thanks on behalf of the Section to all the greenkeeping staff at Patshull Park who provided us with a good test of golf and well presented course. Many thanks also to the catering staff who provided the evening meal.

The winners were as follows: 1. Gross T. Cheese; 1. Nett D Fellows; 2. Nett A. Roberts; 3. N. Bird; 4. M. Hughes; 5. R. Thomas; 6. M. Jones.

Best Trade: 1. Peter McCrainger; 2. N. Webb. Nearest Pin: Peter Richmond. Longest Drive: M. Cutler.

Thank you also to our main sponsors Rolawn, Graham A. Mace. Prizes and wine, John Mimms, of Superturf.

Our next tournament will be held at Ross-On-Wye on 15 September.

If there is anyone who has any news or information please contact me on 01562 861 434 and I can get it put into this article and

make more interesting reports with the information that you the members require to hear and see.

Jonathan Wood.

East of England

David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, had a day to remember at Lincoln, Torksey. David took home the main prize, the longest drive and the nearest the pin.

Dale Gazda, from Kenwick Park, and Graeme Macdonald, Newark, both lost on countback to David, also on 33 points.

The competition was sponsored by Burdens Groundcare and it was nice to see Norman Burden playing and presenting some superb prizes. Other sponsors on the day were Greenpride, who sponsored the nearest the pin. Also Rigby Taylor, Tower Sports which were Tower Chemicals, Roy Harrison, Bob Hewitt and Graham Bell, John Deere.

It was a pity that Head Greenkeeper Derek could not make the dinner, but it was his 60th birthday! But his work colleagues Adi and Andy Lou, Lou and Greens Chairman Keith Whaley were praised by all who played.

Graeme Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

For those of you who have had their holidays hope you had a relaxing, stress free time away from work and for anyone with their holidays still to come, lets keep our fingers crossed that the weather holds out for you.

This month's report is dominated by a hectic golfing period. During July we saw the annual Essex Captains v Greenkeepers match held at Romford. For the first time in many a year the greenkeeping team were victorious. Well done all who attended. Individual greenkeeping prize: 1. Paul Copey, Burnham, 45 pts; 2. John Jackson, South East, 38 pts; 3. Andy Sheehan, Bentley, 35 pts; 4. Richard Pride, Thorndon, 33 pts.

On behalf of all the attending greenkeepers I would like to thank Romford Golf Club and staff, the Essex Captains for their kind generosity and Barrie Brown and his staff for having the course in excellent condition.

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Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

The month of August saw the Section hold its Autumn tournament at Thorndon Park Golf Club on the 4th. The sponsor for the day was Driving Force Leisure and our thanks go to Richard Lewis and the company for donating the prizes.

Our thanks go to Thorndon Park for providing the venue, their staff for their help throughout the day and an excellent meal. Not forgetting "Sir Richard and his merry men" for, as usual, providing a first class course. Winners: Overall: Chris Ward 38 pts., 0-9: 1. Steve Townsend 35 pts; 2. Richard Pride 34 pts; 3. Tony Kirwan 31 pts. 10-22: 1. John Selwood 37 pts; 2. Ray Clark 32 pts; 3. Larry Coyte 29 pts. 23-28: 1. Ian Mitchell 37 pts; 2. Mark Stopps 33 pts. 3. Keith Chinney 28 pts. Trade: Richard Lewis 33 pts. Longest Drive: Steve Crosdale. Nearest The Pin: Jeff Robinson. Both kindly sponsored by Greenkeeping Supply Company. The following companies, our thanks for the raffle prizes, Gem, Banks, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Avoncrop, U.A.P. and Doe's.

Our next golf competition is on the 19th October to be held at Wanstead golf club.

Please do not forget the south east regional seminar at Writtle College November 16th, details will be sent out shortly.

We would like to welcome our newest member to date, from Toot Hill Golf Club, Terry Burton. Nice to hear Derek Farrington is now back on his feet recovering from his operation. Hope to see you at Wanstead Derek. We will have a glass of red wine on chill for you.

Dave Wells

Surrey

As some of our members are aware, Cuddington have for many years had a problem during winter with extremely wet greens. This was apparently caused by their original construction being on a clay base, fine when there was very little winter play but unacceptable now that club members want to play all year round. Stuart Sheppard, the Course Manager, informed me that work would start on removing the old greens on August 2 to be replaced with new greens built to USPGA specification and that the turf was already being grown in Lincolnshire.

The expected completion date is to be early November and this includes a new irrigation system to tees, greens and approaches. There will be 20 new greens and play is estimated to start June 2000. Stuart would be pleased to show his fellow greenkeepers the course as work progresses.

On 5 August, Surrey Section played the annual competition at Sunningdale for the McMillan Tankard. We all thank Sunningdale for courtesy of the course, the artisans for the use of their clubhouse and an excellent buffet, but special thanks to Brian Turner for presenting the Old Course in such magnificent condition. The results were 1. John Rose 39 pts; 2. Brian Turner 38 pts; 3. David Murdoch 38 pts; 4th Nigel Colley 37 pts. Thanks to Jack McMillan for presenting the prizes and to Ted Stiles for starting and chairing the day. Sponsored by Grass Roots Ltd. The next golf competition will be at Royal Mid Surrey on 14 September. Cost £16, followed by the Autumn Tournament at Richmond on 17 September. Remember to contact Ian Sellars if you have not received an application form for both days. 0978 709146.

Brian Willmott

East Anglia

On August 10 61 members descended on Bury St Edmunds for our Autumn Meeting. The Secretary, John Sayer, made us most welcome and Steve Millard, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff had worked hard to provide us with a very testing and well presented golf course. Thanks for the pin placements Martin. May I take this opportunity to thank John Sayer, John Cook the Club Captain, all the Clubhouse staff and Steve Millard and his greenkeeping staff for an excellent days golf, thank you all.

Larry Pearman and Eddie Seale, from Toro, were our main Sponsors for the day and they supplied a splendid prize table, again our thanks go out to you for sponsoring the day and the event on an annual basis.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we all had a very enjoyable day and it was nice to see some old friends Chris Crimmin Captain from Thetford and Pat Swinn the new Head Greenkeeper from Rushmere who joined us for the first time.

I also would like to thank Bury's Captain, John Cook, for his company on the course and, during the proceedings of the meal and the speeches, he helped make the day.

Results as follows: 0-9 Handicap 1. N. Brewster 36 pts; 2. T. Morton 35 pts; 3. P. Howard 29 pts. 10-18 Handicap 1. G. Nash 41 pts; 2. I. Willett 38 pts; 3. G. McHugh 35 pts. 19-28 Handicap 1. G. Rayfield 38 pts; 2. A. Tyrrell 34 pts; 3. A. Hollins 33 pts. Trade and Guest Prize, 1. P. Remnant Captain of Royal Cromer with 40 points on countback; 2. J. Cook, 40 points; 3. J. Sayer, 38 points. Winner of the Captain and Greenkeeper Shield - S. Millard & J. Cook, of Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club, with 74 points, runner's up E. Hart & P. Remnant, of Royal Cromer Golf Club, with 72 points. Longest Drive - S. Curtis, Nearest the Pin - B. Dunn. The Toilet Seat went to Ian Willett who won it for trying to protect his handicap. Thank you very much John. I would like to thank the other trade members who supplied prizes for the raffle, Rushbrooks & Son, Rhone Poulenc, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Pattison, Grass Roots Trading Company Ltd, Turf Care, Atterton & Ellis Limited, Consultant Clarkson, K. B. Leach, Tomlinson Groundcare, Adnams Ales and John Sayer.

We had Mike Taylor, a trade member from Tomlinson Groundcare, turn up to his first golf meeting, it was his first 18 holes and he never lost a ball and scored a creditable 11 points. On to a sad note. The golf ball that Bob Chesham has used since 1963 has finally fallen apart, it had been out of shape for a few years and Bob had become quite an expert at putting, allowing at least two yards either side of the hole so it could arc its way to the cup. After telling his tale to a friend he was given a new ball, which has given him another problem, his putting has gone down hill and he says it will take at least six months of running-in the new ball before he will be back to his old self. In November the Essex Section will be holding the Regional Seminar at Writtle College. Could we have a good turnout from the Section for this event.

I have received a letter from Derek Farrington thanking us all for the get well card and he sends us all his best, he says he is well on the mend and will see us at our next meeting, which will be held at Rookery Park on 13 October. See you all there.

Ian Willett

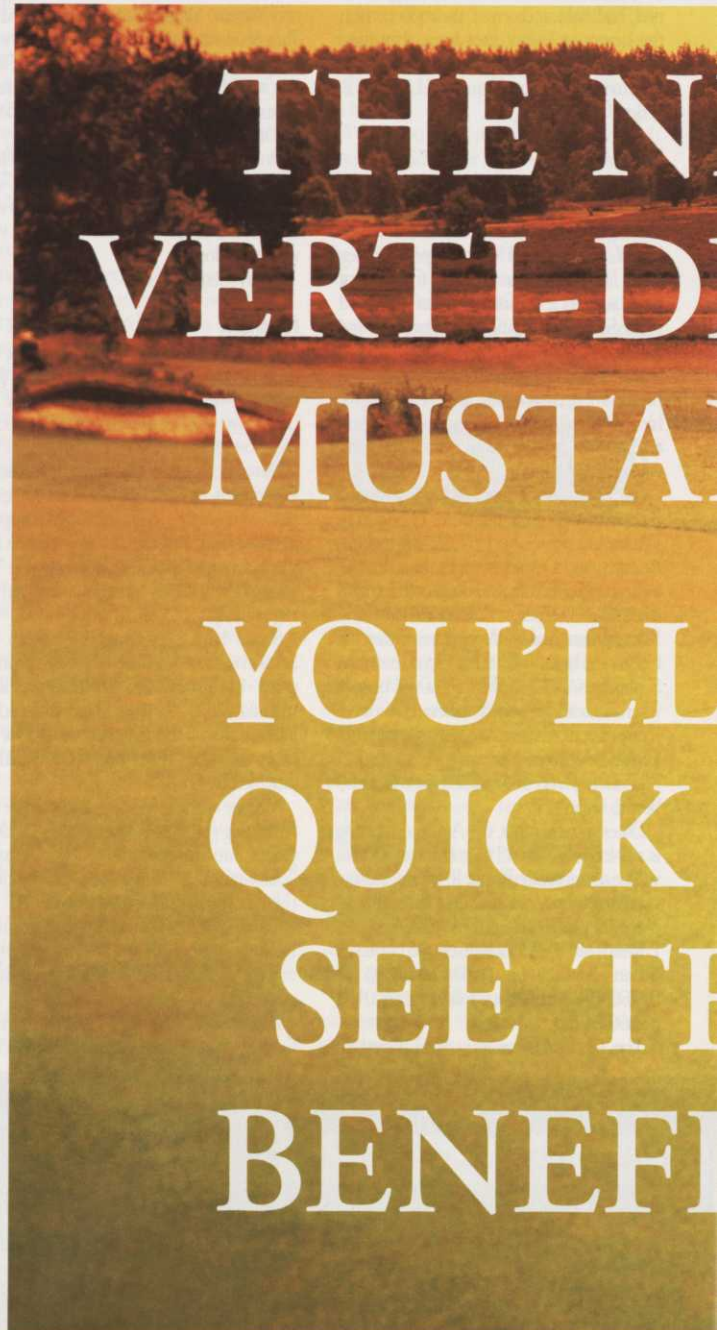


Devon & Cornwall

I am writing this report at the end of July with the weather very hot and the golf course looking dry, July 1999 has been the driest

month I have recorded since 1994 with only 12mm of rainfall which was all at the start of the month, I hope you all have been able to cope with the hot weather and have got a good tan.

But the summer is only so long and is now slowly drawing to a close which means autumn is once again around the corner and with it the start of our Autumn and Winter meeting programme which will start this year at Trethorne on 20 October.



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The morning's golf competition will be a single's Stableford competition for the D.O. Hunt Trophy, for our non playing members there will be the usual course walk which will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1pm followed by our afternoon educational talk by Bernhard & Co on keeping your edge all year round.

Golfing members please note entry details for our forthcoming meetings: After receipt

of your completed entry form which will have been sent out to you or your course manager - Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced, pairings will be accepted for our foursome and greensome competitions - A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date - As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has

been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Regional educational dates to note, 24 November Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College, 18-21 January, Regions trip to BTME at Harrogate. For more details on regional events contact Paula Humphries. You should have received your new fixture card which has this year been kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor, the fixture card has

dates of all our forthcoming events, if you haven't received yours yet please let me know. Richard Whyman

South Coast

Another reminder for our Autumn Tournament. It is to be held at Shanklin and Sandown on the Isle of Wight. The date, 14 October. All details were in the August report. What we ask for more than anything, is that all those wishing to play contact Fred



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Deamen as soon as possible as there is a lot of work in organising this particular tournament.

Our Summer tournament was held at Rowlands Castle on 22 July. The weather was great, the course was in superb condition, the food was good and the hospitality was second to none. The results were as follows: 1. Eddie Fox and T Curtis who were awarded the John Deere Trophy; 2. Matt Blake and N Cousins; 3. was Chris Sturgess and J Carn. The longest drive went to Cameron McMillan.

We would like to thank the Captain, Committee and members of Rowlands Castle for allowing us the courtesy of their superb golf course. Thanks to Bill Davies and his staff for producing the course in pristine condition. A big thank you to the catering staff who provided everyone with a splendid meal and kept us well watered during the day. Last but not least we must give a big thank you to our sponsor for the day, namely Sisis and Rigby Taylor. They provided us with an excellent prize table which was much appreciated. The last person who has got to be worth a mention is Fred Deamen, our Tournament organiser. Fred has done a grand job since taking on this mammoth task.

Ken Lodge.

South West

A magnificent total of 49 section members turned up for the Summer Tournament held at Lilley Brook on July 22. On arrival at the club many of us were struck by the superb appearance of the course and the wonderful variety of trees which were enhanced by the sunny weather.

The competitors were sent on their way off the first tee by Paula Humphries, along with Martin Townsend who handed out Scotts caps, which became very useful in the glare of the sun.

The actual playing of the course lived up to its initial appearance. Everyone who played the course was in agreement that the greens were in excellent condition and extremely fast. Indeed the club captain of Lilley Brook, Mike Allcot was so worried about the many favourable comments which were coming in about the state of the course, he thought that Head Greenkeeper, Paul Jenkins, might try and demand a big pay rise. There were two big surprises when the results of the competition were announced following the excellent meal. Firstly, Chris Sealey was declared the winner of the Head Greenkeeper competition and secondly, Nobby Knight could only manage second place in the Assistants' competition.

The results in full are as follows: Head Greenkeepers' Prizes: 1. Chris Sealey 69 pts; 2. Paul Worster 74 pts; 3. Gary Cook 75 pts. Assistant Greenkeepers Prizes: 1. John Hamlet 66 pts; 2. Nobby Knight 69 pts; 3. James Braithwaite 70pts.

The overall winner of the event was John Hamlet. John, who is married with children, took a gamble and left his old job to go on a full time greenkeeping course at Hartpury College a year ago. He recently started his greenkeeping employment at Cirencester Golf Course at the beginning of July, so well done and congratulations.

Therefore the qualifiers of the summer tournament who will go on to represent the



South West at the National Championship sponsored by Scotts and Charterhouse will be John Hamlet and Anthony "Nobby" Knight. The nearest the pin competition in two shots on a par-4, was won by Tim Needham. This raised £41 for the Captain's Charity which was CLIC. The day itself was an enormous success, with special thanks going to Scotts for their vital support and sponsorship of the prizes. Thanks must also go to Paul Jenkins and his team for getting the course into superb shape and also to Rob and Jane of the Lilley Brook catering department for their kindness and hospitality. The next event on the calendar is the match against South Wales at St. Pierre on October 6. This is followed by the Autumn Tournament at Bristol & Clifton on November 11. The Fixture's Secretary, Terry Humphrey is looking into the possibility of organising matches for the over 50's in this Region. If you're old enough and would be interested in taking part in such events, please give Terry a ring on 01454 778871.

Paul Cunningham

South Wales

As I am sitting here thinking of what to mention this month, a thought occurred - Is the weather going to cool down or not? It amazes me to think that the summer is nearly over and this Around the Green is to cover September. How quickly the months are going by. July saw the return of The Open to Carnoustie after a break of 24 years and what an Open it was. I tried to see him but I wonder if anyone saw our Secretary, Peter Lacey, on television as he was part of the Support Team. Well done Peter, I am sure you had a good time.

I'll bring you up-to-date with the Summer Tournament and fixtures during August and the Autumn tournament held on 30 September at Swansea Bay in the next edition. Up and coming events; 6 October, Match v BIGGA South West at St. Pierre. Tee off time 12.30 pm. The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Finals are to be held on 27 October at Royal Porthcawl. Also watch this space for the date of our up and coming Seminar.

Richard Hatcher



South-East

The Section's summer competition was held at Bangor on Thursday 8th July. The competition was very generously sponsored by Derek Keenan of Ards Metal Fabrications.

Derek had provided a tremendous array of prizes and this combined with the weather resulted in an excellent turn out on the day. The Section would like to thank members of the North East Section, who travelled a considerable distance to play in the competition - from as far as Portstewart.

Ian Harrison, Course Manager at Bangor, and his team had the course in excellent condition on the day.

Unfortunately many of the players struggled in the intense heat, but a few managed to put together respectable scores.

Nick Webber, from Portstewart, had a fine gross of 72 to give him 40 points and claim the visitors prize. The South East Section first prize was a colour TV, which went to Paul Lapin with 35 points; second

prize a portable CD sound system went to Terry Crawford with 31 points; Ian Harrison claimed 3rd prize, a radio cassette player.

Once again thanks to Derek for providing excellent prizes. Derek specialises in all types of metal fabrication and engineering work, such as railings, gates, grills, modifications and fabrication work to order, for many of the local clubs. He can be contacted on 02891 471703 or 07801



109074. Thanks also to Bangor for the courtesy of the course on a most enjoyable day. The Section would like to welcome some new members, Paul Mathison, Head Greenkeeper at Holywood; James Harkness, Malone; David Wilson, Conway Murphy and Michael Haughian, all from Silverwood.

Due to members lack of response the August BBQ was cancelled.

Jonathan McCabe

North East

Stanley Emerson held his North versus South Golf Greenkeepers match at Stakis Park in July for the "Stanley Emerson Trophy". The match finished in a three all draw with the Southern Greenkeepers winning the tie-hole. There were also a number of four ball matches, best score was by Joe McBride with 37 points, second was Mark Cassidy with 34 points. The weather was glorious and the day was finished with

a few drinks and a very enjoyable meal. Emerson's would like to thank all the Greenkeepers who turned up, many of them travelled a distance to take part. Thanks also to Stakis Park for hosting the event and all the Green staff for having the course in such good order. Many who played said it is an excellent course with first class facilities.

Special thanks to the Course Manager Frank Ainsworth and Joe English for organ-

ising the event and making everything run so smoothly.

Eamonn Farrell

See you all next month!



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Ad Ref 126

A few years ago Stewarts of Edinburgh, Company of Seedsmen Ltd, celebrated their 100th Anniversary. A company which has served the greenkeeping and horticulture industry. One man in particular, Mr Ian Forbes, will always be remembered in his quest to assist the greenkeepers with their educational pursuits by often giving lectures which would develop or enhance their educational career. Many years ago he was asked if he would write down some of his memories on the experiences or growth of the Greenkeeping Association, which he did and passed one to me at St Andrews. This fine gentleman has now passed away leaving the company, Stewarts of Edinburgh to be run in the good hands of his son Graeme Forbes, who is following exactly in his support to Scottish and North of England greenkeepers. A few months ago the document saw daylight after laying dormant, but I would like the readers of BIGGA to read it as it will be of interest.

Walter Woods

• Back in time

Dear Walter,

Some time ago, Graeme told me you would like to have my views on the status and training of Golf Greenkeepers over the years. At the time, I had to attend two conferences away from home, and in effecting my retirement from business at Stewarts and elsewhere. I hope, therefore, my delay in acceding to your request has not caused you any inconvenience.

It is my view that, for a variety of reasons, the history of Golf Greenkeeping could be said to fall into a number of very distinct periods. Unfortunately, sources of information have turned out to be very scarce, and in order to do a really good job, one would require to contact a large number of clubs who might be willing to furnish details for their records as to numbers employed, wages and status in the club, eg, honorary membership etc.

My sources are the few remnants of Stewarts records, these are very sketchy as during the 1939-45 war, part of our premises were taken over as a fire watching post and the records stored therein, destroyed.

Two copies 1920 and 1929 of the British Golf Greenkeepers Journal,

and a few books, one written by a greenkeeper, being all I have at Stewarts, except for a photograph or two.

I have spent some days at the National Library of Scotland, but they do not have records of the BGGGA Journal, which is a pity as they would be most helpful. I did find that the library had copies of the Golfers Handbook from its original publication in 1903 onwards, however, after consulting a number, although not all of these publications, I found that the records of Head Greenkeepers, even when this was given, was by no means complete, even the R&A holders of this office were not always shown.

Much of what follows is therefore just my own opinion, based on what little I have found and supported by a none too reliable memory.

The first phase of the Greenkeeping profession would surely be the period from around 1750 to 1876. During this time the number of golf courses was very restricted and they were mostly situated in the East of Scotland, on sandy links or heathland. This was probably the only areas golf could have been played on,

owing to the problem of mowing grass which grew to any height. I recall my father had a letter dated around the early 1900's describing the work of an East Lothian Greenkeeper who concluded after describing how he constructed drains, ditches and sleeper faced bunkers, by writing that he scythed the greens and the rabbits kept the rest.

Up until 1886, the number of new golf courses appears to have been only a few each year, five being the largest number recorded and only in the period from 1875. I think it would be fair to conclude that during this period, the only exchange of greenkeeping experiences would be between the various Fife and East Lothian men, and that most of the other courses in operation at that time would have had a greenkeeper who came from these areas or had a connection with them. A possible exception might be where a man from a cricket or bowling club took over the office of Head Greenkeeper.

1887 saw the start of a boom in golf course construction which was really astonishing, and is attributed in the

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Back in time

I recall my father had a letter dated around the early 1900's describing the work of an East Lothian Greenkeeper who concluded after describing how he constructed drains, ditches and sleeper faced bunkers, by writing that he scythed the greens and the rabbits kept the rest.

Golfers Handbook to the advent of railways, and the visiting of Scotland by people who before did not travel to golfing areas.

1887 saw the number of new courses rise to double figures, 1888 - 20 new courses were built, and 1889 - 30. From then to the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, between 22 to 55 new courses were opened every year except for the period of the Boer War, when the numbers opened fell to around 12 to 15 courses opened each year.

This astonishing increase in golf courses must have required a very large number of greenkeepers. The invention of the lawn mower would have played a big part in making golf possible, and the arrival of the gang mower, even though horse drawn, would enable fairways to be cut.

It is probable that a good number of gardeners became greenkeepers. At this time in Scotland, the landed estates usually took young men into the "bothy" system where a number of apprentices and journeymen sometimes in considerable numbers, were housed at or near the gardens of the large estates.

As promotion to a house became possible only with the status of foreman having been obtained, there was at times a surplus of trained gardeners.

Stewarts among other firms, ran an employment bureau whereby head gardeners would write in asking for details of men available and also those of men looking for jobs. Stewarts' operated this service for greenkeepers sometime around that period, especially when they were emigrating to the USA or Europe.

The term Gullane Greenkeeper was at one time often used, and I can

recall letters using these precise words being received as, East Lothian produced a lot of trained gardeners as well as greenkeepers.

During this pre World War I phase, companies such as Suttons and Stewarts, along with others, used to prove information and booklets on greenkeeping practices, some greenkeepers wrote articles and books. In 1908 the Scottish Greenkeepers held an outing at which my father acted as Secretary. I think this was the first meeting the greenkeepers had held, but was more of a golf occasion than an educational one, but in some cases lectures were given to greenkeepers at the outings.

The use of fertilisers, worm killers and seed mixtures was common before 1900, and many greenkeepers were already knowledgeable as to the uses and practices of greenkeeping. Others probably entered the profession because they were good golfers and the office of Greenkeeper Professional was not uncommon. As far as I know the Head Greenkeeper was at that time ranked in most clubs above the professional as far as status is concerned.

In 1914 the boom in golf came to an end and from then until 1919 few golf courses were built. The BGGGA Journal of 1920 states that 90% of its membership served with HM Forces during the war years and a number were decorated for distinguished service. The membership of the association was just over a hundred, which must have been a very small proportion of the total number of greenkeepers as the Golfers Handbook of that time states there were around 1000.

By 1920 the BGGGA Journal was again being published and new cours-