

St Andrews resident, Walter Woods, looks back at greenkeeping's daddy of them all,

Old Tom Morris



Photography: Brian Morgan

Every year thousands of golfers make the pilgrimage just to play golf. How many times have you heard the expression "It's a life long ambition" or "It's the golfing experience of a lifetime"? And what an experience the Old Course can provide. Ghosts can be sensed when walking the fairways, and the most powerful feeling is from Old Tom Morris who was the custodian for over 30 years. To commemorate this great man a bronze memorial was placed just below the clock on the R&A Clubhouse.

Tom Morris was born in St Andrews in 1821. Golf dominated his thoughts and daily, when school was finished, he would quickly make his way down to the Links where Tom and his friends would play some golf related game with hand-made clubs and anything which resembled a golf ball.

During his growing up Tom's reputation as a golfer was growing and it was a natural progression to receive employment in the golf shop owned by Allan Robertson who was recognised as the champion golfer. His duties were making golf clubs and

golf balls particularly the latter which was exhausting work as he was only able to make four balls per day.

Fortunately for Tom he was often given the opportunity to play matches against visiting gentlemen and this pleased Tom as he did not like the confinement of the shop. Challenge matches were the common form of competition and very little stroke play took place. Often these matches were played with large wagers riding on them. Allan Robertson and his assistant were now confirmed as the men to play which would influence large bets.

Tom was enjoying life. He was playing golf which was providing him with more than average earnings and, at the age of 29 he married Nancy Bayne and between them over the years they had four of a family, three boys and a daughter. The most famous of these was his first son, young Tom, who in future years became the most famous golfer in the land.

Around this time St Andrews was rundown and could only be described as decaying. Fortunately in 1842, Hugh Lyon Playfair was elected as Provost and because of his enthusi-

asm, wisdom and foresight, many improvements were implemented. His main hobby was golf and he instituted the Union Club which later became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Other notable improvements included the creation of the eastern part of the Links to extend the golfing ground. All these dramatic changes encouraged visitors from distant areas and it was a visitor which first introduced the gutta percha balls or solid rubber moulded golf ball. These percha balls were introduced soon after 1848 and they quickly became fashionable.

Old Tom Morris



Photograph: Brian Morgan

This new ball had an undesirable effect on the relationship between Allan Robertson and Tom. This uneasiness continued for a number of months until one day Tom was invited to play with the rubber ball and found it to his liking for its quality. Unfortunately the news was taken to Allan who promptly fired him and afterwards they parted company.

The introduction of the cheaper golf ball made an enormous difference to the development of golf in Scotland. Many of the existing golfing societies had artisan membership with the result that the price to play golf was becoming within reach of many Scots.

In 1851 Colonel James Ogilvy Fairlie, who was to become Captain of the R&A arranged for Tom and his family to be moved to Prestwick. With the job description of Supervising the Links and Professional Golfer, Tom Morris was soon amazing the locals with his golfing ability and soon reigned supreme.

Prestwick, which consisted of 12 holes involving many crossing points, particularly around the Alps and Cardinal bunkers, could not be described as anything seen today. No greens or tees existed. The custom was to scratch away the longer grass immediately around the hole, the green only being a few feet in diameter. Teeing up was made only a couple of club lengths from the hole and sand on which to tee the ball up on was often taken from the bottom of the hole, making it sometimes difficult to retrieve the ball.

As the years moved on Tom's reputation gained momentum. Prestwick was also gaining in stature and soon was recognising the desirability of providing some annual test to gauge the comparative merits of professional golfers. To achieve this they organised the first stroke play event

over 36 holes which was three rounds of 12 holes at Prestwick. This tournament took place during October 1860 and eight entered to claim the honour. Tom Morris being the local was expected to win, but was beaten by two strokes by Willie Park, of Musselburgh. The next year Tom gained his revenge over Willie.

During this period St Andrews was having difficulties on the golf course and the Committee were authorised to appoint a custodian at a considerably larger salary than given before. It was decided in 1864 to approach Tom and offer him the job as Professional Golfer on the understanding that he would have the entire charge of the golf course and being responsible for it being kept in good order. The sum of £50 per annum was voted for payment of Tom's salary and £20 for his duty devoted to the upkeep of the Links. This was considerably more than the £6 paid to his predecessor, Alexander Herd.

A year later more progress was made when James Honeyman, a local St Andean, was employed on a part time basis to help on the course. He was provided with a barrow and shovel and heard Tom's words ringing in his ears "more sand Honeyman, more sand" indicating that the main duty was to topdress greens and tees and fill in the many rabbit scrapes.

Tom's philosophy with regard to the application of sand went back to his time at Prestwick when he accidentally spilled sand onto the 10th green only to see beautiful green shoots come through a few weeks later.

Tom revelled in his return to St Andrews. He purchased a new shop where he manufactured golf clubs and balls.

The golf course, which was part of his duty, would be mainly supervised by his daily playing and only limited maintenance took place. Apart from

top-dressing, occasional hole changing and tee box moving, little or no other maintenance was thought necessary.

The Old Course which Tom had to supervise, bears no resemblance to the course which exists today. Even after a thorough search through records no one can tell how old the course actually is. We do know that the courses consisted of 22 holes, 11 out and 11 in. Having played out, the players played back using the same greens. Notices still exist today informing players that homeward players have right of way. In 1764 they reduced the course to 18 holes.

Grass growing would be slowed down by the concentrated traffic of many golfers taking the same constant routes, with the result that very little cutting would take place.

The first survey of the course had been made in 1836 and about the same period the greens were extended sideways and made much larger to contain two putting holes or two separate greens with their own identity. This course remains today except that they played it in reverse. Ten years later the committee changed the course as it is played today.

From a map dated 1821 it is known that the Old Course measured 6388 yards, but it was not until 1846 that teeing grounds containing tee boxes and tee markers were introduced.

The first Open Championship was organised at St Andrews during 1873. Young Tom was favourite having made the Championship belt his own property the previous year, but was well defeated by the winner, Tom Kidd.

Tom Morris senior was becoming older and his reputation and fame was becoming wider. To assist him a young man from Dornoch was employed, his name, Donald Ross, who eventually emigrated to Ameri-

ca where he built himself a reputation as a golf course designer.

By the late 1890's St Andrews had also made notable advances. The R&A was now in large part responsible for the running and organisation of the Open Championship and also, through general opinion, were given the authority in 1897 to improve and co-ordinate the rules associated with golf.

During 1895 horse driven and hand propelled cylinder mowers were purchased. Water wells were sunk adjacent to each green and by lowering buckets down by a rope, the water would be extracted physically and thrown across the green surfaces. The wells were about two feet square and about 15 feet deep with timber linings. The grasses throughout the St Andrews Links would have most likely been fescues and bents, no rye grasses or poa annua would be present.

In that same year life was not all smooth with Tom. AF MacFie, the first amateur champion, complained and resigned from the Green Committee as he thought that Tom Morris had too much power. And, after reading a notice which appeared, it looks as if Mr MacFie was right, for it said that the custodian had filled up the putting holes and stopped the public from playing without notice of his intention.

Just a few years later Old Tom retired at the age of 82 but his retirement was softened by the knowledge that it was not due to any decline in health, it was only the fact that the job was now increasing and Tom was finding it difficult to cope with all his responsibilities and felt that a younger man was now necessary. Tom Morris lived for another six years until 1908 and he was always a familiar figure on the golf course.

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BIGGA Delegation

BIGGA, in association with Bernhard and Company Limited, are planning a delegation of Greenkeepers to visit the Canadian Show and Conference in Vancouver.

The group will consist of two BIGGA members selected from each Region (ten in all) and the costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the conference programme will be met by the sponsor, Bernhard and Company Limited.

Applications are invited from BIGGA members who would be interested in attending the conference and are able to demonstrate suitability to contribute in the following ways:



A proven record of service to the Association

An ability to represent BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession in a public relations role at an international event

What do I have to do?

To be considered you must submit a personal profile consisting of no more than one side of A4 and this should include brief details of education/training and career summary, membership history including any offices held, Section work and services rendered to BIGGA. You should also explain how you would benefit from the Canadian visit.

This application must be submitted to, and received by, your Section Secretary no later than Friday, September 8.

Each section committee will consider all the entries received and will then put forward a chosen candidate for Regional selection. This will involve the finalists having a brief interview with a panel consisting of the Regional Chairman, Regional Board of Management representative, Sponsor's representative and representative from BIGGA Headquarters. Each region will select two of the finalists for the Canadian visit and the remaining finalists will receive a voucher worth £100, redeemable against a visit to BTME 2001 at Harrogate. The

Regional panels will meet during October and the winners will be announced in the December issue of Greenkeeper International.

The delegates will be visiting Canada as guests of Bernhard and Company but will be representing BIGGA throughout the seminars, conference sessions and visit to the Trade Show. You must possess a BIGGA blazer and dress appropriately throughout the visit.

For further information contact:

Steve Hardy - Sales & Marketing Manager
Tel: 01347 833800
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North

Several new members to welcome to the Section this month and they are as follows.

Michael Grant, from Reay GC; Gregor Norrie, from Letham Grange GC; James Swanson and Michael Macleod, from Spey Bay GC and, last but not least, Barry Macdonald, from Forres GC. Rejoining the Section are Charlie Mackay, from Aberdeen Petroleum GC, and Dougie Boyle and Colin Forbes, from Tarland GC. We hope to see you all at future Section events. The Scottish Greenkeeping Championships at Newmacher in late June were a great success with lovely weather and a superb golf course presented for us by Dale Robertson and his staff. The only downside was the size of the field, especially from other Sections.

I know that Aberdeen is way up North, but we travel down to the event in good numbers when it is South and George Thomson and his lads from Goswick in North England managed to make the journey up. In fact, despite it being in our Section, my staff and I had a three hour journey to attend.

A lot less than coming up from Glasgow or Edinburgh I bet!

Not surprisingly, North Section members featured heavily in the prize list, with the main winners being Steve Frost, Royal Aberdeen, overall handicap winner. Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, best Head Greenkeeper, Ian Cowper, Tain, best Apprentice, James MacCormack, Kirriemuir, best in Class 1 and Gavin Neill, Tain, best in Class 2. The Section also won the Team Trophy.

Well done to all who flew the flag for the section and a big vote of thanks to Peter Boyd for the entire organisation, ably assisted by Dougal Duguid and John Geddes from our Section committee.

Later this month the Section will be trying to retain the Norrie Whytock trophy, held this year on 24 August at Auchterarder. Full report, if we win! Will follow in the October magazine.

Our AGM this year will be on 26 October at Royal Aberdeen with the Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match preceding it, so get that in your diary and let's have a good turn out.

Iain Macleod

Northern

Congratulations to Rob Hartshorne and wife Katie who are expecting their first baby, although Rob and his boss, John Waite don't know how he found the time with the jobs he does after work and teaching martial arts. Well done Bob.

Buggies were out in force for our President's Day at Hollins Hall Hotel & Country Club. The fit ones did stick to the traditional methods of getting round and we did all right until the rain came over the last few holes. Prizes were sponsored by our President, Mr Liam Galway, from The Greenkeeping Supply Company. The prize table with the stereo systems was much appreciated especially by the winners.

Congratulations to John Waite for his hole-in-one on the 15th. A bottle of whisky was presented to John who then filled everybody's glasses up, as is the measure of the man. Many thanks to Ian Pullen and his team for the condition of the course, it was much appreciated by all concerned.

The format for the day was a full hcp. Stableford, the results are as follows:- Div 1. 1. John Waite 39pts (1st Div Cup); 2. Richard Harris 36pts (Scratch Cup), 3. Alan Baxter 36pts. Div 2. The Bill Mountain Trophy went to Tito Arana with 33 points. 1. Roy Armitage 29pts; 2. Andy Smith 29pts, 3. Richard Smith 27 pts. Div 3. 1. Joe Baxter 33pts; 2. Nigel White 24pts, 3. Jim Brown 24pts. Longest Drive went to Alan Court and the Nearest the Pin on the 13th went to John Waite. Trade Prize went to Mel Guy.

The team to represent the Section in the Regional Final at Fiswick Hall GC on August 10 at 1pm. are as follows. Div 1 Richard Harris and Dave Collins. Div 2 Alan Baxter and Brian Hudson. Div 3 Jim Brown and Nigel White. This was decided on medal play.

Thanks go to Dennis and Gary for sorting the two formats out from the cards on the day.

Qualifiers for the National Championship are Best Net, John Waite 68, Best Gross, Richard Harris 76.

Due to low numbers at golf days it was decided at the last committee meeting to lower the price to £15 to include golf, prizes and food. This starts from Invitation Day.

Our next event is Invitation Day at Cookridge Hall Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 6 September. Please note that Invitation Day is for inviting club officials (eg Captain, Greens Chairman etc) All entries for the golf events are to be

sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £15.00 no later than 7 days before the event. Cheques to made payable to BIGGA Northern Section. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We welcome this month a new member, Robert Boyle, of Braken Ghyll Golf Club.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any queries don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring. There is no other news at the moment, if anybody has any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

North West

The Summer Tournament was played at West Derby Golf Club on 28 June and we could not have picked a better day weather wise. A good turnout of 40 members enjoyed an excellent day's golf on a fine course. Chris Sheehan and his staff had the course in lovely condition, as always, and this not too easy course sorted out the men from the boys.

The summer tournament is played for the Reg Vickers trophy and this was won by Jeremy Quirk. Runner up was Peter Cross. Guest prize Andrew Cornes, Nearest the Pin, Andrew Russell, Longest Drive, Peter Cross and the prizes went as far as 10th place. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin prizes were sponsored by Rufford Top Dressing.

I would like to thank West Derby Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of their fine course, John, the caterer, for excellent food, the bar staff for keeping us well watered, and of course the N/W patrons and trade members for helping to swell the prize table. I should remind you that the Autumn Tournament is at Denton GC on Thursday, September 7. All entries must be in by Monday, September 4. Also the Whitelaw Bowl will be played for at Penrith GC on Wednesday, September 13.

Any information such as lottery wins, marriages, births or other information, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Congratulations go to Phil Hargrave who is moving to pastures new. He is leaving Wearside to take up the position of First Assistant at South Shields GC. I'm sure the whole Section will join me in wishing Phil good luck in his new post.

Also taking on a new role is Barry Walker, Head Greenkeeper at Wearside. He is taking over as Secretary of the Cleveland Section.

I'm sure Barry will do a great job and I hope the Section will support him. Barry has a new mobile number so if you need to contact him concerning section or golf matters, call 07968 308892 any time day or night.

There seems to be some confusion in last month's column over whether Jim Thomson, of Wynyard, had or had not been knocked out of the Cleveland Shield. Maybe I didn't make myself clear, however, I can confirm that Jim did get beat in the first round by Martin Woods. I hope this clarifies the matter.

Other results this month are, surprise, surprise, Tony Burge beat Ian Holoran at Middlesbrough Municipal and I narrowly beat Anthony McGeough of Richmond, around his own track as well!

If you have a match to play could you play it as soon as possible and contact Barry with the result.

Any news contact me on 07808 196558

Steven Jaques

Sheffield

Annual Tournament - 10 July 2000 - Matlock Golf Club.

Sheffield Greenkeepers returned to Matlock Golf club after 14 years for their Annual Tournament. The weather was more like September than July with heavy showers and cold north-westerly winds, but fortunately the rain ceased and the golf was played in strong winds.

The course was presented in excellent condition and was a credit to Roy Ward and his staff. Well done chaps. Roy started work at Matlock Golf club straight from school and has been there for 41 years. Congratulations Roy, may you enjoy many more years. We know you will with all the new land that has to be developed.

Twenty-three greenkeepers and five guests played including the Captain and Greens Chairman of the club. Our sponsor for the day was Mansfield Sand. The Prize Table was magnificent and our thanks go to Russell Latham and his Company for their support. Thanks are also given to Peter Fell - Aitkens Sports and Steve Burroughs - Amenity Turf Supplies.

Thanks and appreciation must go to the Committee and Members of Matlock Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course. To Helen Cauldwell, the Stewardess, for providing us with an excellent meal. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful day. Once again thanks to Matlock Golf Club and all the staff for making this such an enjoyable day.

Prizes winners: Best Nett, A Sampson, 92 (24)- 68, M Knowles, 80 (9) - 71, A Fenn 83 (11)-72, G Britton 89 (15) - 74/ Best Gross, J Darroch, 73. Guest Prize, John Rebaud, 73 (10) 63.

K B Heaney.



A roundup of all Section qualifying members for the National Championship is on page 60



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

East Midlands

On June 3, Steve Levers and Adi Porter represented a Greenkeepers team in the Ramsdale Park Charity Golf Day and finished a very respectable third place. Thanks should go to Alpha Amenity who sponsored the day.

If any member would like to play in this year's clash with the East of England section on Tuesday 15 August, Tee-off 3.45 pm, please inform me as soon as possible and I will send you the entry form. A team of ten is required, so it will be a first come, first served basis.

By now all members should have received their entry form for this years Autumn Tournament, to be held at Market Harborough GC on September 20. If you have not, please contact me as soon as possible so I can rectify the matter.

Antony Bindley

Midland

With a report absent from the

July issue due to insufficient news, the results from the Spring Tournament held on April 28 will be included in this report.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham and family on the birth of their first child, a baby girl and hope that mother and baby are doing well. Paul has also been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Gay Hill Golf Club. We all wish him well for his future.

The scheduled match against the stewards to be played on August 2 at the Wrekin Golf Club requires more greenkeepers to make the team up. Anyone wishing to play should contact Rhys Thomas on 0777 5581615 or 01902 743381.

The Spring Tournament was a great success with Rhys Thomas presenting the course in excellent condition. Many thanks to Rhys and his staff.

The results are as follows: Nett - 1. W. Bird; 2. Dave Fellows; 3. Eddie Stant; 4. Peter Holtham; 5. Steve Mucklow.

Gross - 1. Graham Wallace; 2. Eddie Stant; 3. Vince Gilroy. Longest Drive, Peter Holtham. Nearest Pin, Eddie Stant. Trade Prize. A. Southam.

Many thanks to E T Breakwells who were the day's main sponsor. Jonathan Wood

East of England

The Section Golf Day at Belton Park was also combined with the retirement of Colin Swingler. Head Greenkeeper, Colin, was a past Midland Region Board Member and Section Secretary and had been at Belton Park nearly 25 years.

Over 70 people turned out, which included past Greens Chairman and Committee Officials Colin had worked with over the years. The presentation was followed by speeches, one of which the present Greens Chairman, Alan Bishop, did a life story of Colin, which everybody found very entertaining.

Burdens Groundcare sponsored the Golf Day and other donated prizes were by Scotts, Tower Sports, Chandlers, Boughton Loam, Greenpride, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor and Bourne Amenity.

Thanks to Norman Burden and his staff for putting on a great day at Belton. The winner of the main prizes was Graeme Macdonald, Newark Golf Club. Second was Kevin Hodges, Ryston Park, third was Michael Love, Seacroft. Longest Drive Alick McKay, Woodhall Spa.

The new Head Greenkeeper at Belton Park is Gary Poole who

moves from Northshore. Good Luck in your new post.

Also new to the area to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper is Steve Peters at Blank. Other new members are: Dean Akerman, Belton, Dean Johnson, Northshore, Luke Bates and Tom Luffa from Boston West.

Graeme Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia Section

It was the first meeting the Section has had on a Friday, and 45 eager competitors made sure they were up extra early to sort out their golf courses, so they could take part in what proved to be a successful day. Rushmere Golf Club was the venue and the course was in great condition and there was nothing but praise for Course Manager, Pat Swinn, and his staff Andy, Gerry, Mike and Dave. Toro UK were the main sponsors for the day, and what a fantastic prize table we had, not only did Toro UK supply goodies for all the prize winners, they also sponsored four

Traction. Just one of many attractions!



par-3 holes, with hole-in-one prizes as follows:- two holidays for two in Barbados, one caddiematic cart and one Toro Workman.

Alas none of the competitors managed the magical feat of a hole-in-one, and as you can imagine the expectation on members faces as they pondered the thought of being taken to the airport in the back of a fellow greenkeepers Toro Workman to catch their flight to the exotic Caribbean, soon changed to the 'I'd have settled for just hitting the green' look!

Rushmere Captain, Andy Langston, welcomed the Association, and commented on the quality of the golf played, this goes without saying as he played with Ian our secretary. He made comment on the Mizuno driver, and the Cobra 5 wood that Ian was using, as they apparently only cost him £10 from a car boot sale, but had done the trick when it came to 'taming' the course!

I. Willet was the overall winner with 41 Stableford points, and Ian along with his Captain, P. Bevin came first in the Greenkeeper/Captain Challenge, sponsored for the fourth year by Toro UK.

Results: 1 - 9 handicap. 1. A.

Carter - 37 pts; 2. M. Buck - 35 pts; 3. R. Boyce - 32 pts. 10 - 18 handicap = 1st I Willet - 41 pts, 2nd J Timms - 31 pts, 3rd M Broughton - 29 pts. 19 - 28 handicap. 1. K. Titchell - 40 pts; 2. E. Hart - 31 pts; 3. A. Hollis - 30 pts. Trade. 1. T. Howard - 41 pts; 2. G. Bremner - 40 pts. Nearest the Pin, J. Pymer. Longest drive - G. Bremner.

Roger Eade, as everyone knows loves to walk round with his trusty camera around his neck, (although I've never seen him take a picture yet!) and he never has any problem finding someone to caddie for. So imagine the surprise when he put it about that he was playing in the competition. Shock all round!

When he put his card in it was apparent that it had been a wind-up, probably due to the 50 and 49 points he and his supposed playing partner, Kevin Leach, had accumulated, for this it was decided that the toilet seat should be awarded to him for over exaggeration!

Thanks must go to the trade for their support, main sponsor for the day Toro UK, plus Atterton & Ellis, Aventis, Consult Clarkson, Grass Roots, K B Leach, Rushbrook & Sons, Scotts UK, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare.

Finally many thanks to Ian for his

hard work in making it a successful day, especially as Lady his pet Jack Russell passed away that very morning; she was regularly at our meetings guarding Ian's vehicle, the ankle biter will be missed by all.

See you all at Royal Cromer on the 15 August.

Steve Millard

Surrey

All playing members will, I am sure, join with me in congratulating John Davidson and his team for presenting Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club, the venue for the Cresta Cup on June 30, in such magnificent condition. John, will you please thank your directors for the courtesy of their course and also the catering staff for a delicious carvery.

The results: 1, with 44 points, Rob (Gonzales) Schofield. 2. with 37 points, Rick Kenneal. 3. with 36 points, Bob Rogers. Nearest the Pin, Tony Bremer. Longest Drive, John White.

Congratulations also to David Murdoch, Surrey Section's latest Master Greenkeeper, and after early retirement for Nevil Shade, David Langhein and David Wyborn now in joint control at Foxhills.

Brian Willmott

Kent

After a three month absence, we're back.

June 8 saw the Section's first golf day of the year. A total of 39 players took part in the National Championship Qualifier at Faversham Golf Club.

After a very wet start to the year, the weather was kind to us with perfect conditions for golf. However, on this occasion it was the golf course that was the winner with some very high scores being returned.

Results: 1. Gross, James Bent, Brokehill GC, 77; 2. Lee Sayer, London Club, 86; 3. Duncan Kelso, Kingshill GC, 87. 1. Handicap, Andrew Howarth 85-12=73; 2. Gary Tait, 89-15=74; 3. Phil Hurst, Herne Bay GC, 94-19=75.

Congratulations to James Bent and Andrew Howarth who qualify for the National Championship. Good luck guys.

Our thanks to both Scotts & Charterhouse for their continued support in sponsoring the day and to all other members of the trade for donations received, helping to make the day a great success.



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A big thank you also to all at Faversham for all their efforts in making the day very enjoyable.

Our second tournament for this year was held at Brokehill Golf Club on July 25. Results to follow next month.

Essex

The 2000 Summer Tournament sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd - thanks Simon - was staged at Theydon Bois GC on 13 June. Head Greenkeeper Jonathan Barnard, along with Dep. Head James Morgan and Assistants Martin Howard, Stephen Heritage and Nicholas Kikkides should be congratulated for their efforts in delivering a well presented course for the 30 or so greenkeepers, trade and guest participants who rose to the challenge of negotiating their way round one of the tightest courses in the Essex Section.

It was decided by the powers that be, to divide the handicap categories into two rather than the usual three groups, these being 0-15 and 16-28. Overall winner of the tournament was, yes, you guessed it, Andy Sheehan, with a very credible 35 points. Andy picked up some more crystal glasses donated by Steve Denton of Rigby Taylor. The top three places

in the 0-15 category were 1. Ian Duncan, a new face in our Section with 33 points; 2. Ray Clark, of Channels GC, also with 33 points and 3. Anthony Kirwan, of Colchester, with 31 points.

The 16-28 category results were as follows: 1. D Banks with 26 points, 2. Theydon's own James Morgan, also with 26 points and 3. Peter Cannon, the second of our prize winners from Colchester, who scored 25 points.

Longest Drive went to Stephen Tovey, of Orsett fame. Nearest the pin went to Advanta Seeds new boy, Matt Gresty, who also took the Trade prize with 32 points and finally the Guest prize when to Theydon's greens Chairman, Phil Bowden.

Thanks should be extended to Theydon Bois GC, their catering and clubhouse staff for ensuring our day was as enjoyable, both on and off the course.

Additionally, Avoncrop Amenity, Driving Force Leisure, Sherriff Crop Care, Grass Roots and CMW for sponsoring raffle prizes and the like.

I received many comments about my last report and from what was heard in the clubhouse it would suggest that you phoned each other also. This means that the quips

made at certain people's expense actually got members within the Section talking at times other than golf days and as far as I am concerned, that is what it's all about. Only three things to comment on really. John & Horses, Carl & Dukooks, Stephen & Shirts.

Our next day is at Abridge Golf and Country Club on Friday, August 18, playing for the Autumn trophy. I'm sure John and Steve will have it in tip top condition as usual.

The Essex Section v East Anglian Section playing for the Tuckwell Cup at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club on July 25 will already have been played for and undoubtedly won by our boys. The report will follow in the next issue.

Finally, on a more serious note, I was informed of a few members deserting BIGGA, presumably because they are of the opinion they do not get much out of it.

Like everything else, you will only get the most out of them if you are prepared to put a little in.

If any club is debating whether or not to affiliate their greens staff to BIGGA and you need convincing as to its benefits, just give me a ring. 01378 551350

Steve Crosdale



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

The Section would like to congratulate Steve Evans who is moving from St Enodoc GC to take up his new post as Head Greenkeeper at Yelverton GC after many practice runs and his visa clearance to work in Devon. Steve knows he will be with many of his friends at Yelverton and I am sure he will keep the course in a spick and span condition.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter as follows: October 25, Roffeys Meeting, Dainton Park; November 15 DGM Meeting, Launceston; December 6, P J Flegg Meeting, Okehampton; January 31, Barenbrug Meeting, RND; March 1, Avoncrop Meeting, Thurlestone; March 28, Aventis & Supaturf Meeting, Roserrow.

Please note the following booking terms and information listed below for Section meetings.

● Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners.

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● 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.

Richard Whyman

South West

I didn't quite have enough time to receive and publish the results of the Summer Tournament held at Erlestoke, so I will get them published in next month's issue.

There are a number of other events fast approaching, including a match against the South Coast Section taking place at Marlborough GC on 5 September 5. A match against the South Wales Section will probably take place in October.

The next sectional event will be at Weston GC on November 2,

that will be followed by the AGM.

This AGM will, I'm sure, attract a lot of competition for highly sought after positions on the Section committee, especially that of Education and Monthly reports Officer.

Also planned for later in the year is a talk to be given by James Dobson, from PSD Agronomy, about greenkeeping and course maintenance. Guy Woods has invited James to hold the talk at Bath Golf Club in mid December.

This talk was originally aimed at enlightening the members of Bath GC but Guy thought it would be a good idea to extend this invitation to local greenkeepers.

The mixture of greenkeepers and members would, I'm sure, provoke plenty of lively debates.

I've no idea at the moment about an actual date or the cost of the talk, but I will keep you informed with more information next month.

The only course which I have coming up is a one day Fire Safety for Greenkeepers course, being held at Gloucester fire station on September 7.

At present I have about three

places left, so book now to avoid disappointment. If you have any news or information which you would like me to write about, please telephone on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

South Wales

I was standing by the 2nd green at the Royal Porthcawl on a fine summers day looking across the rocky foreshore to the Devonshire coast, turned towards the Swansea direction and a thought occurred you know what its like, the thought being what can I write in this month's Around the Green.

Well it starts by mentioning Pencoed College and their 75th Anniversary and Open Day held on June 24.

The event was well attended with plenty going on and to see from equine, horti/agriculture, floristry and many more interesting things besides. Thanks to those who manned our stand you know who you are.

Then I bring you up-to-date with the goings on at Ashburnham GC and the Management tournament to be held at the Celtic Manor Resort next month.

I must mention a huge congrat-

ulations to Jim McKenzie and staff for the superb condition of the Celtic Manor during the Wales Open. Although it would have been great to have seen the event live on BBC TV some of us have not got Sky you know.

The Rigby Taylor Qualifying rounds should have taken place towards the end of last month, even I am having a knock this year so look out, myself and David Ward should not be taken lightly, ha ha probably will not make it through the first stage.

Catch up with the stats of the qualifier next month.

Richard Hatcher

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For further details please contact Robert Joy on 0374 700383 or email to robert.joy@scats.co.uk

Northern Ireland

When I was young, the summers lasted forever, now it seems in Golfland the summers go past in a blink of an eye, so I know I'm getting old.

From the first competition in March to the last one in September, Saturdays just seem to be consecutive days.

Probably by now most of you will have had your Captain's Day and I hope the weather was kind and that the day went off well for you. This was the first year for many a year at my club that it didn't rain on Captain's Day; also the sun put in an appearance for an added bonus, so I was especially pleased.

Friday 30 June saw us at a Charity Golf Day at Clandeboye GC. We had a mixture of Greenkeepers, Golf Convenors, Secretary Managers, members of Clandeboye and folk from our trade in attendance.

It was good to see so many turn up; around 80 to support a Charity Day.

Many thanks must go to the Captain and Council at Clandeboye GC for giving us the course for the day, and also the catering and bar staff, who looked after us so well.

I was rather disappointed in the condition of the course; I thought Terry would have had his team out to at least tidy the course up a bit. Only joking Terry!

The course was, as ever, in immaculate condition and yourself, Aaron Small and team must be commended on producing a high quality course through difficult weather conditions, especially on the morning of the event.

Our main sponsor was Clive Richardson, of Horta Soils, also WD Irwins and Spa Golf Club. Many thanks to all the above; without your help these days would not be as successful.

The individual winner was Lee Cartwheel with 38 points. Lee started work at Malone GC the

previous day and came out on the Friday and cleaned up.

Well done Lee!

The team event was won by W D Irwins for the second year in a row; so there must be more golf being played than work going on in that part of the world.

Congratulations lads and I hope you can make it a hat trick next year.

Around £1100 was raised over the day and the charity chosen is the Ward for Sick Children at the RVH.

This is a great sum of money and may help a little to buy something the ward really needs.

The day was organised entirely by Terry Crawford. Venue, meals, sponsors, comedian and gathering up as many greenkeepers as possible.

Thanks Terry for a great day and for your obvious hard work that went into it; and we all know it will be a success again next year.

Congratulations to Paul Lappin, who moves from Bangor to Kirkistown as Course Manager.

Good luck Paul and from all the staff at Bangor we wish you the very best.

Russell Graham, First Assistant at Castlerock finally got married on June 23 to his bride Susan. Russell was engaged for nine years, which shows he doesn't rush into anything. Very best wishes to you and your new wife and good luck for the future.

Paul Mathieson, Head Greenkeeper at Holywood, wins the top student award at NVQ Level 3. Also Alistair Hamilton, Head Greenkeeper at Gilnahirk wins top student at NVQ Level 2 at Greenmount College. Outstanding work lads, keep it up.

New members to the region are Adrian McStraw from Lugan GC and Allister Irvine from Brightcastle.

Hope to see you at all of the forthcoming events.

Catch you later.

Iain Harrison



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