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Ad Ref 172



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Central

The number of new members joining the Section is on the increase again this month and we extend a warm welcome to Stuart Bryceland, from Dullatur GC; Philip Butler, from Dunfermline GC; Robert Marshall, from Deer Park G&CC; Steven Turner, Ian Jarvis and John Aitken, all from Alloa GC, and James Bone, William Nisbet, Ian Kinley, Keith Martin and Will Philips all from St. Andrews. We also have Bruce Cruickshanks, from the Roxburgh GC, and his brother, Stuart, from Deer Park G & CC transferring to the Section. This brings the total increase in members this year so far to 26, which can't be bad considering we still have nine months of the year to go.

Congratulations go to Steven McAuchey, who has taken over as head man at Burntisland Golf Club and we wish him every success in the future.

The second draw for 'Club 2000' has taken place with the winner being Mrs Whitlaw, with ticket No. 249, who, believe it or not, is from the same area as last month's winner, Auchterarder!

Obviously Auchterarder is the place to live at the moment if you want to win £50 a month.

I think I will make up the whole of next month's report with the names of everyone who still hasn't returned their tickets for the draw. Yes, all 157 of you!

I take it that everyone who was at Harrogate enjoyed themselves and it was good to see so many Central Section members there, along with some former members. I met Craig Stewart and his wife. Craig was a founder member of the Section and gave us great support before moving to Germany some 13 years ago. I also met Ross Wilson, who was at Kinross before moving down south. Ross, here is the phone number you are looking for - 01577 862 235 as I don't think we exchanged cards before leaving Harrogate... or did we?

As the Section will be 20 years old later this year, does anyone have any

thoughts on how we should mark this occasion, if so, just get in touch with any committee member with your ideas and we will try to implement them.

Remember, next month's Spring Tournament is the final qualifier for this year's National Championship, which is again being sponsored by Charterhouse and Scotts. So, if you had a decent score at Balbirnie last autumn, get your entry in quick for St Andrews and you could be on your way to this year's premium golf tournament.

John Crawford

North

Several more new members to welcome to the section this month. From Cruden Bay there is David Sinclair and Gareth Evans; from Aberfeldy we welcome David Carr and Bob Masson; from Craigie Hill, Perth comes Colin Maclaren; from Carrbridge comes Michael Mann and, last but not least, we welcome Russell Horne from Hazelhead.

Unfortunately we are losing a few members though as Paul Murphy has decided to take his Downfield staff into the Central Section to cut down on the travelling. We thank Paul and his lads for supporting us over the years and ask the Central Section to keep a few spaces at their functions available so when Paul phones you in the morning of the event you can squeeze him in! - only joking, maybe.

The 200 Club cards will be with you by now, so please support your Section again this year and help us raise much needed funds. We are very grateful to MacNab Sports for sponsoring the 200 Club this year.

BTME was another great success this year and it was good to see that over half the North Section Committee were in attendance as well as many other members. The show is getting bigger every year and it is good to see more and more companies we deal with in Scotland present, either with stands or on Parent Company Stands.

The whole week was very well run, from workshops, conference right through to the Seminar programme. We had a bowling evening and a football evening as well as the two banquets. What more can you ask for. And as for the Bootleg Beatles, what

a night! Top that Neil. The raffle held during the show had some very good prizes and I was lucky enough to win a weekend stay at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate for two. It will be strange going into the bar at night and not seeing the place full of greenkeepers. All I need to do now is persuade the wife to go on a weekend when Leeds are at home!

My talk to Captains and Greens Convenors last month was well attended, with twice the numbers we anticipated and, hopefully, they now have a better understanding of the way we work and just how complex a job greenkeeping is nowadays. Early feedback is very positive with a follow up seminar possibly in the near future at Clubs with no full-time staff.

Finally, last month the Section was represented for the second year running by a member attending the GCSAA show. This time Gordon Moir, St Andrews was present at the show, in New Orleans. I hope he had as good a time as I did last year.

Iain Macleod

West

Welcome to another round up of Section news.

By now you should all, hopefully, have received your 100 Club letter and acted accordingly to secure your ticket number.

If you would like to enter the draw please phone me for available tickets on the number below.

The annual Greenkeepers v Convenors match will be played at Cowglen GC in March. The spring meeting will be held at Ranfurly Castle GC on 27 April. And finally, football news. A match was played on January 13 between West Section and Division C Police. Stuart Taylor has kindly faxed me a blow by blow account of the game.

A poor performance from the boys this time with a distinct lack of composure in front of goal and at the back. Midfield needed the strength from a couple of players missing from the line-up as the fixture was arranged in haste. All credit to the lads who played, they didn't give in and all said and done could have produced a result if Gerry Bruen hadn't missed a penalty just before half time.

The police side had played together and it showed as their play was far

more fluent while we could string no more than two passes together. Alistair Taylor had a superb game giving an excellent account of himself producing some fine saves, even though the third goal was unseen due to the sunshine. The rest of us were mediocre to say the least and a few changes will be required for the next game. Thanks must go to everybody who made the effort and to Bob Graham, of Strathclyde Police C Division, for creating the challenge.

The venue of Fir Hill was superb with a great surface to play on. A rematch will be forthcoming. The next game against the East Section has been arranged for 20 February. The final result was a win for the Police by 4-2. The goal scorers for the West were Gerry Bruen and Ian Smith.

The team line up was as follows: Alistair Taylor, Gary Burns, Stuart Taylor, Alistair Smith, Colin Scott, Gerry Bruen, Sandy Brawley, Ian Smith, Brian Hillen, Kevin Campbell, Sub David Kerr, Strathclyde Police.

Thanks to Stuart Taylor for that report and also his time and effort spent arranging these fixtures.

That rounds up the news for this time. Please call me if you have some information or anything you would like to put into the section news.

0141 776 1532/07050 173080

Gavin Jarvis

Ayrshire

Well, that's Harrogate done and dusted for another year. This year I travelled with the Scottish bus to the Moat House and took in the exhibition and seminar programme. This was, as expected, expertly organised and run by Peter Boyd. The show just seems to get bigger and bigger every year and with the new Hall Q this year, it just seemed massive. It was good to meet many friends old and new and enjoy one or three refreshments which helps create that special atmosphere at Harrogate.

It was good to see some of our Section members from Arran at Harrogate, I hope you enjoyed the trip. Talking of Peter Boyd earlier, I must apologise to Peter and anyone else who misinterpreted my AGM report. My surprise comment was attributed to the small attendance and not Peter's presence.

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The Spring 2000 outing will be held at Western Gables on Wednesday, April 26 which will also be our National Championship qualifier. Due to the prestige of our venue and to secure our visit, it was necessary to make some sacrifices. The day will be reduced to one round only and there will be a maximum of 40 players. This will be organised on a first come, first served basis with priority given to regular attenders, which does not include late applications. The cost for the day is £17. To avoid disappointment, get your application and remittance to Derek Wilson at The Bungalow, Irvine Bogside Golf Club, Irvine, Ayrshire. The venues for the Autumn and 2001 outings are at an advanced stage which I hope to have for next month's notes. Any other news or views call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

Firstly allow me to apologise for there being no Section news in the February issue of Greenkeeper International, this was due to illness. To those of you who were able to get to Harrogate, I hope you all enjoyed the show and found something of interest. I missed this year, I think the first ever, but I am sure it was as good as ever.

Well, even though I have been ill I have tried to keep on top of arranging the years golf events and the 'Mere Seminar'. I think everything is finalised except for the fixture lists which you should all receive shortly. The first event is the Mere Seminar on Thursday, March 16. This should prove to be a very good seminar with three speakers from the STRI and Martin Gunn, Course Manager at Temple Golf Club and winner of the Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazone Groundcare and Grass Roots. The three speakers from the STRI are Bob Taylor, Ecologist; Andy Cole, Agronomist and Jonathan Tucker, Architect. These seminars are costly to arrange, so

please support the Section and make every effort to attend. Golf Club Secretaries and members of Green Committees are also welcome.

The first golf event is the annual match against North Wales section at Hazel Grove Golf Club on Thursday 20 April and I will require a team to try to win the GEM Trophy. If you are interested, contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North East

The Section would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, for taking the greenkeepers to BTME. Once again a large turn out seemed to enjoy themselves.

Just to remind members that the Spring competition is at Bamburgh Castle GC on 13 April. Tee off time is 10am with a maximum number of 40 players.

The autumn competition is at Ryton Golf Club on a different date, now 21 September. Tee off 9.30 to 11am.

I have heard through the grapevine that the Cleveland match has been arranged but I have had no confirmation just yet.

We have had six new members join the Section up to now this year, so come on Head Greenkeepers who are only members themselves, get your staff recruited.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

BTME, well I couldn't make it this year and by the looks of things not many of you could either. The coach was only half full so it looks like a mini bus next year. Sorry.

Went to a couple of good lectures last month. The first by Dr James Beard at Carden Park. He was excellent. The future for us greenkeepers looks quite amazing as he talked about 'Star Turf' and all the computerised gadgetry coming our way.

That was followed again by the lecture on soil and water management at the Welsh College given by John Mullins and Justin Smith which, with the aid of computers, actually showed football pitches, race courses and farm land where, compaction, lack of nutrients etc., were a problem. Fantastic stuff. I've never seen a group of greenkeepers so intrigued

Our next lecture at the college is on March 22 at 2.30 by Ted Lloyd on the Rules of Golf and the Greenkeeper and Pat Flannery, of Shoreco-Survey, on surveying and levelling. Again, free to members a quid to guests.

One last thing. Any of you GTC assessors that haven't returned the letter I sent you, remember your qualifications will not remain current.

See ya.

Dave Goodridge.

Northern

I've just about recovered from Harrogate. Nice to see so many friends from last year and beyond in some cases. Many thanks to Dennis Cockburn and Gary Potter for helping me to man the Northern Region Stand on our stint, especially as I had a good night on the town the night before or was it the morning!

For those who went to the Northern Section and Rigby Taylor Seminar recently, I hope everyone enjoyed the event with the quality speakers lined up. Thanks to Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for organising the event for us.

Annual Dinner Dance is in a few days on March 11, so all those going can look forward to a good night out!

The latest golf news is that the Spring meeting will be held at Bradley Hall GC on Tuesday, April 11. This event is kindly being sponsored by Ritefeed and is a qualifier for the National Championship. Other deferred events are as follows:

President's Day, Hollins Hall H&CC, Wednesday, June 21; Roses Match, Longridge GC, Wednesday, August 16; Invitation Day, Cookridge Hall G&CC, Wednesday, October 18. All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £17.50 no later than seven days before the event. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment. For the Roses Match, if you want a hand in beating the old enemy, then let me know of your availability so a winning team can be picked. This event is fully sponsored so all you have to do is turn up and win! At a recent committee meeting it was decided for the Xmas golf to give priority to those members who have played in at least two events during the year. This was done to avoid disappointment from

the regulars.

The Northern Region are having a new event called the Whitehall Bowl at Penrith GC. This used to be the Cumbria Cup and is now open to all Sections in the Northern Region. For further details contact Andrew Vincent on 07971 292626.

We welcome this month as new members: Tom Harrison, Oulton Park GC; Christian Martindale, Queensbury GC; Leslie Nelson, Boothferry GC; David Thorn, Alwoodley GC.

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 information or ideas for section events, either educational or social, then let me know. It is your Section. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 238 3188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

Cleveland

Arrangements for this year's Spring Tournament are well under way. Sponsors have been found, prizes have been purchased, a venue sorted and a date finalised. All that's left is for you to turn up. The Tournament will be at Ramside on April 11. The first tee time is 11am. Please note, soft spikes must be worn. The competition format will be medal, full handicap in three divisions. 0-9 Hcp, 10-18 Hcp and 19-28 Hcp. The cost will be £10 including meal. Thanks to Roger Shaw, Course Manager at Ramside for allowing us the use of the course, and thanks also to the three main sponsors. Border Sports, Gem Professional and Sportlands.

A maximum 30 places are available, so book early to avoid disappointment by calling Barry Walker on 0589 658161 or myself on 0708 196558.

The Cleveland Shield knockout Tournament will again be sponsored by Carrs. Many thanks to them. Entries are now being taken. Last year's winner, the Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, will be out to defend his title and Barry Walker will be hoping to go one better this year. He's been a beaten semi-finalist two years running. If you would like to take part,

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contact either of the two numbers above. Entry is £2.

My wife and I had our first child on 9 January, Lauren Morgan, weighing 6 lbs 12 oz, was delivered by Caesarean section. Please send all cards and gifts c/o The Wynyard Club!

Oliver Shepard's quest for a life partner has been fruitless. There was a poor response to his appeal in last month's magazine. The search continues, he won't give up as the force is with him.

Any news call me on 0780819 6558.

Steven Jaques

Midland Region

East Midlands

Congratulations should go this month to Ian Needham, of Beedles Lake Golf Club, who, on March 1, became Captain of the Club for the Millennium year. Also, at the same time, Ian's wife, Janet, became Lady Captain of the same Club. Ian is also the Course Manager at Beedles Lake GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish both Janet and Ian a most successful year.

This year's BTME again proved a great success, although I personally only attended one day, it was great to see some new faces from within the

Section at the show. Also it was nice talking to our two former Section Secretaries, Gordon Mitchell and Tony Howarth, about old times.

On January 11 the Section ran a trip to Pride Park, home of Derby County FC. We were kindly given a tour of the ground and facilities by Mark Robinson, Head Groundsman and Keith Bonser, Tour Supervisor. We were also allowed to look around the trophy cabinet, which is now home to the old Watney Cup.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Mark, Keith and Colin Tunnicliffe for such an entertaining day which was even enjoyed by the Leicester City supporters of our Section. Also our thanks should be extended to our former Chairman, Dave Leatherland, who organised this trip.

This year's East Midlands v East of England Golf Match for the Toro Shield will be hosted by Burghley Park GC on Tuesday, August 15. Tee off time 3.45 - 4.30 pm.

Antony Bindley

East of England

The winter Education Seminar held at Newark Golf Club was very well attended, 50 members, and made our Section a good profit. The event was sponsored by County Crops now named Alpha Amenity. Thanks to Andrew Astle for his support and sponsorship.

The programme for the evening was kicked off by David Stansfield, of

PSD Agronomy, who talked about 'Why we need an agronomist'. Then Derek Smith, of Johnson Seeds, talked on 'selecting seed' and last we had Mark De-Ath, Headlands Amenity, who told us 'What we are buying in Fertilisers'.

New fixture cards will be with you soon. They have been sponsored by Barenbrug's Ben Petijean and Aitken's Peter Fell, so I hope more members will be available to play and attend events organised this year.

There is to be a trip in the spring to the Scotts Amenity factory in East Yorkshire, where you can see how fertiliser chemicals are made, tour the labs, discuss future developments etc. There will be a buffet and drink free of charge and a bus if sufficient members show interest. Let me know if you are available. The first twenty members go, so reserve a place.

G A MacDonald

Midland

As there was no report in the February issue of this magazine, I have some news for you to catch up with.

I would like to start by wishing Edward Stant all the very best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Penn Golf Club. Ed worked for a long period at Walsall Golf Club before taking this, his first Head Greenkeepers position. Best wishes from all the Midland Section.

All the new season's fixture list and competition information should have

now reached all of you; if by any chance you have not received yours, here is the fixtures. 28 April, South Staffs Golf Club. 19 July, Walsall Golf Club. 20 September, Penn Golf Club (27 holes). 6 December Christmas competition and AGM.

There will be only one knockout competition this year and that will be the doubles. We have arranged three matches. They are as follows: 21 August against the Stewards to be held at the Wrekin Golf Club. There will be a match against the North West, no date or venue as yet and finally the usual match against the East Midlands but again, no date or venue has been arranged at this time.

The new committee has now been formed and these are the positions for the coming year. President, Alan Kite, Chairman; Peter Richmonds, Secretary; Jonathan Wood, Competitions; Rhys Thomas and Ed Stant, Treasurer, Kim Blake. Other members of the committee are Andrew Smith, Peter Holtham and Nigel Couchman.

As a committee we will be producing an agenda for the coming year so we have something to focus on regarding the events for the coming year. When this is complete, I will put a copy into this report.

Finally, I will ask any of you who have ideas or information for this article, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on 01562 861434 or 0370 956238.

Jonathan Wood

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



Kent

I would like to begin with a belated thank you to Mrs Cross for the courtesy of the course at Darenth Valley and for her kind donation.

Thanks also to Paul the chef and staff, Kate and Becky, for being fantastic waitresses.

Congratulations go to Kneale Diamond on his recent appointment as Course Manager at Hanbury Manor Golf Club.

Kneale was a strong supporter of the Kent Section and also a member of the committee. Our thanks to Kneale for all his hard work and we wish him all the very best in the future.

Replacing Kneale on the committee will be James Duncan, of Boughton Golf Club. James will be trying to keep you up-to-date with all the latest news in the Kent Section and will be grateful to hear any news or gossip that you have. He can be contacted on 01227 750281.

The new committee is: Gary Debenham, Secretary / Treasurer, Trevor Hindmarsh; Chairman. Barry Jackson; Vice Chairman. James Duncan, Press Officer. John Fullagar, Committee.

Once again this year we will be producing a fixture card with forthcoming events. This should be with you around the end of the month.

We are also looking for venues for next year, so if your club is available please contact me.

James Duncan



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

New Members: Three new names this month, Gareth Dowsett and Derek Blake, both from Orsett Golf Club, a long standing producer of fine committee members, and David Banks, from Colchester Golf Club, a long standing producer of single figure golfers, Head Greenkeepers excepted.

Education: John Sinclair - 01702 589063

After taking on the scribes position I thought it my duty to attend one of the Section events other than a golf day. But when it dawned on me that the first such event was an evening lecture, I suddenly was not as keen. I was expecting to be sat down in front of a salesman who relentlessly shoved his product under my nose for two dull hours. In reality it was quite the opposite. John Mullins, of Supaturf, who incidentally are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, headed a well rehearsed and researched discussion on water management and wetting agents which all of the 20 attending members listened to attentively. John tells me that for those not attending, a fact sheet may be available if you contact him on 01455 639639. Believe me, it's well worth reading.

The next lecture to be held at Writtle College is provisionally booked for 23

March in room U3. The subject detail has not yet been finalised, so please contact John nearer the date.

The first of two D32/D33 Assessors moderation meetings for this and subsequent years, was held at Chigwell GC on 26 January. The meeting was chaired by Peter Jones who is contactable by anybody interested in gaining the D32/D33 award at the GTC on 01347 838640.

Golf Fixtures: Dominic Rogers - 01375 892353

The first, and for some time the most important golf fixture of the year is the 'Spring Trophy' National Qualifier, especially for those trying to emulate the great Andy Sheehan and make it all the way to the finals. This year's event is held at Forrester Park Golf Club on Wednesday, April 12. Details should already be with you, if not, contact John Selwood on 01279 833123. Get your entries in asap as this one fills up very quickly.

Invitations for the Gentleman's Dinner and Golf Event were sent out at the beginning of February and if you did not send yours back almost by return of post, chances are you're not going. Good luck to all our Section members who are travelling down to Walton Heath Golf Club on 10 March.

Congratulations: Four of our Section members have recently passed the Higher National Certificate in 'Sportsturf Science' at Writtle College. Our very own Secretary, Martin Forrester, Stapleford Abbots GC;

Keith Chinnery and Gary Stewart, both Colchester GC, and Colin Mumford, who has left his post as Head Greenkeeper at North Weald to continue his education. All finished their two year day release course in January. Being in my second year of the course myself, I am sure that Martin, Keith and Gary do not envy Colin one bit, the further hours he will spend with his nose in books revising for yet more exams. Well done one and all. All four have implied to me that they would recommend it to anybody considering taking up the challenge, but be prepared to forego your private life for two years. Would-be agronomists should contact Stewart Brown at Writtle College 01245 420705.

Help! Hopefully this will be a regular feature of my reports. It is for any members who are considering the purchase of new machinery or having contractors carry out some work on their course and would like the impartial advice of greenkeepers who already own the particular machine or have used the contractors before. Additionally, it could be used for anybody that wants to pick the brains of other greenkeepers for information of any kind. This is how it works. Send me details of your prospective quandary. I will put it briefly into print and let the thousands who read the magazine answer your questions. Easy! My address is 17 Templar Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3FA Steve Crosdale.



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Surrey

Your committee had its first Millennium meeting on January 24, 2000. By now all members should have received the programme of golf venues for this year. Please make sure that if you want details and application forms for these golf days you must return the enclosed completed slip to Ian Sellars your Section Secretary, Mobile 0976 709145.

The golf events for 2000 are as follows: May 4, Merrist Wood Medal Competition - Soft spikes only; June 30, Gatton Manor; Cresta Cup; To be advised the end July, Sunningdale, The McMillan Tankard; 30 August, Addington Palace; Sept/Oct Laleham; November 30 Tyrrells Wood Turkey Trot.

Scotland v England Hankley Common, date to be advised.

The Huxley Bowl has been re-named the Sisis Bowl and application forms will be sent with this year's events form. The Sisis forms should have been returned by March 1 and the first round matches played by end April.

Congratulations to Clive Osgood on being appointed BIGGA National Vice Chairman and a thank you in advance to Clive for arranging for South East Region to have its Gentleman's Evening once again at Walton Heath on March 10.

A warm hello to Tony Bremner who has joined Surrey Section, from Sussex, after being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Dorking Golf Club.

It is hoped that some non-golfing/educational/social events will be announced later, so keep watching this space.

The writer would also like to confirm his move from Patissons to Tacit.
Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Westurf at Westpoint Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Again indoors at Westpoint in Exeter. Bigger and better than ever. Four Education seminars this year: Shaun Simones PhD, "The benefits of Microbials in Turfgrass Management"; David Shelton, "Sportsturf Drainage - now affordable for the majority?"; Nigel Church, "Maintain to save" (Essential machinery maintenance); Nick Prall, of the Environmental Agency "We need a bore-hole. How do we go about it?"

These seminars are absolutely free to all attendees. How can you afford to miss them?

There will be entertainment. See how long you can stay on the Rodeo Bull and try your hand on the golf simulator. There will be competitions for both of these with proceeds going to a cancer charity. There will be first aid demonstrations and of course all the leading suppliers and manufacturers will be represented. This is the only show in the South West where you can see and compare all the latest machinery,

technology and amenity products.

Your golf course/bowling green/cricket pitch is only as good as the people who look after them. The trade work very closely with the greenkeepers and groundsmen and have experts who can help and advise. Why not come and meet them all. You can learn so much.

Oh, and don't forget to bring the person who signs the cheques.

Paula Humphries

South Wales

It's the time of our evening lectures and they began on January 8, at Pencoed College, with Tony Horne, with an insight into the amazing construction of what used to be the Cardiff Arms Park now known as the Millennium Stadium. Tony showed us slides from the demolition of the existing ground to what almost seemed an impossible task to complete the new stadium in time for the 1999 Rugby World Cup. Tony also touched on the turf tiles looking into the construction and movement of them which seems expensive but opens the stadium up to a host of other things.

Thank you Tony for what was a very informative lecture. Thanks also to our friends of the IOG in attending the combined evening lectures which must have been the most attended evening to date.

I'll bring you up to date with the changed schedule for our February lecture next month. Looking to March 8, again to be held at Pencoed College, we have a First Aid Evening by the British Red Cross. On to April 5, our annual quiz.

This years Westurf at Westpoint is to be held on April 12 and is a must for all members to attend for what is an excellent day.

With spring just around the corner, next month dates will be finalised for our golf fixtures and cards will be sent out to members as soon as they have been processed.

Congratulations to Russell Anderson, from the Celtic Manor Golf Resort, who has been appointed Course Manager at Cardiff GC and to Ray Hunt, Course Manager from the Forest of Arden who is now appointed Head Greenkeeper at the Pyle & Kenfig GC.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

The first event of the new year for many members was to attend BTME 2000 held in the lovely town of Harrogate. The Region's now annual trip to the show departed on time from Exeter but those of you who have travelled with the Region know that our trips are not boring and this year was no exception as both the coaches were pulled in by the Police for a safety check at Sedgemoor services. The hour delay was quickly picked up as the second coach was checked first and was sent on its way to the other pick up points. Then, at Tamworth we were informed that the M1 was shut due to an accident. Our coach drivers then took us on a tour of the Midlands, after avoiding a second

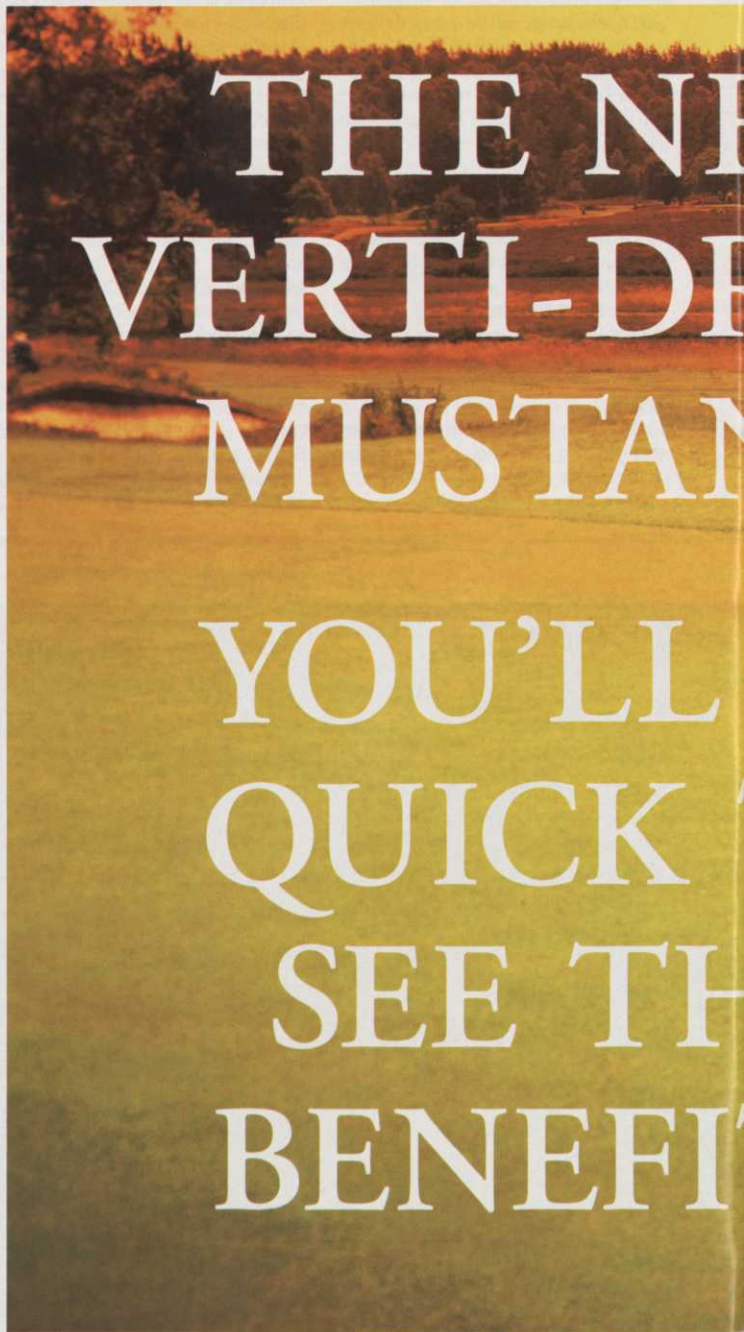
road accident before rejoining the M1 and finally arriving in Harrogate at 6pm. On the Thursday morning, those who were having a lay in were awoken by the fire alarm and three fire engines arriving at the hotel. The fault was in one of the lifts and Paula, our Regional Administrator, was trapped in one. Strong John managed to open the doors, just like James Bond, and they were able to make their way out of the hotel. The journey home went off without a hitch.

The show itself just seems to get better each year and is now one that

you can't afford to miss. On Wednesday night, Amenity Technology put on an evening for delegates which was simply just buzzing with atmosphere.

Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator and Stuart Ashworthy, of Amenity Technology, who had organised the superb trip. Also I would like to congratulate all the staff at Head Office for organising a superb BTME.

The Section's first meeting of the year was sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and held at The Warren Golf Club on Wednesday, January 28.



Without doubt, the new Verti-Drain Mustang is the fastest, most effective aerator on the market today.

Whilst it still features the unique, patented 'heave' action, there are many new improvements, including single point arm adjustment, a stronger tine support system and fewer working parts.



The Warren's new Head Greenkeeper, Kevin Rawlings, must have wished he had started his new job a month later as more than 50 members attended the meeting but I am sure his fears were soon put at ease with the friendly atmosphere which is always present at our meetings.

The day started with our golfing members competing over the clubs links course for prizes kindly donated by Barenbrug UK, our non golfing members were treated to a guided tour of the sheds and course by Kevin before returning for lunch.

After an excellent lunch Alan Lomas, Business Development Manager of Barenbrug UK, presented the mornings golf prizes as follows.

1. Neil Williams, Stover, 42 pts;
2. John Parr, Exeter, 41 pts on back 9;
3. Richard Daly, Exeter, 41 pts.

Alan continued after the prize presentation with a short Company presentation of Barenbrug before concluding the day with his educational presentation on "The Importance of Overseeding".

The Section would like to thank our meeting sponsor Barenbrug and

Alan Lomas, for without them this meeting would not have taken place. Also our thanks must go to Kevin Rawlings and his crew for all their effort on the day. Last but not least, our thanks must go to The Warren Golf Club for allowing the section use of their facilities and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly.

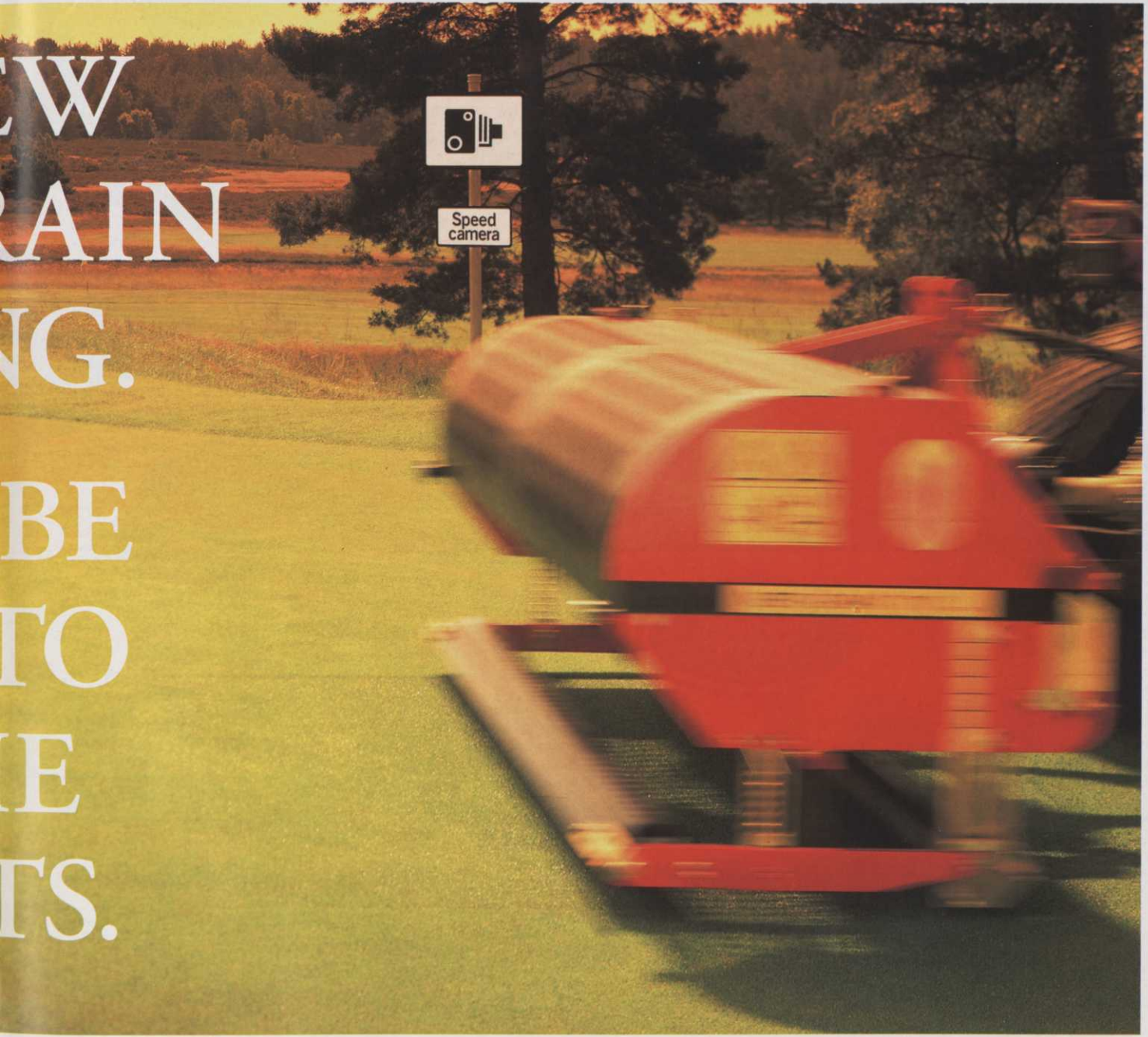
Our last meeting of the winter programme will be the Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf meeting which will be held at Yelverton Golf Club on Tuesday, March 28. The day will start as always with golfing mem-

bers competing for the Supaturf Trophy, Head Greenkeepers, Rhone Poulenc Trophy, Assistants.

Westurf is now just around the corner both in terms of date and venue, As you are aware, the show is to be held at Westpoint, Exeter on Wednesday, April 12. This must be a show you can't afford to miss, so let's see a big attendance from the section and support the region, so the region can support you.

Remember that Westurf is now at Westpoint, Exeter on Wednesday April 12.

Richard Whyman.



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South West

This year's BTME promised and delivered a truly memorable event in Harrogate during January. The actual trip up to Harrogate was an epic journey. Firstly the coaches were pulled over by the police who discovered some 'minor technical problems' with the coaches including a cracked chassis. Delay was further increased by an accident which caused virtually the whole of the M1 in Yorkshire to be gridlocked.

However, we got there eventually thanks to Amenity Technology who very kindly sponsored the coaches.

The show itself really was an impressively large event, spread over a vast area and attended by virtually every company in the country connected with green-keeping. However, an American exhibitor pointed out that the equivalent show in the USA was five times bigger than BTME in Harrogate.

It was nice to see so many familiar faces and some very famous faces networking and discussing the very latest theories on how to achieve those perfect greens.

Overall most people were amazed by the quality of the show and the excellent value of the whole week.

Paula Humphries should be congratulated for all the hard work required to organise a trip right down to the very last detail. Amenity Technology should also be congratulated for putting on a huge spread of drink and nibbles at the Old Swan Hotel. That event was certainly well attended.

This leads me to the next meeting of the greenkeeping industry which is Westurf, which for the second year will be held at Westpoint near Exeter on April 12. This under cover event is a chance to meet all the local dealers and suppliers, and at the same time raise much needed funds. Remember, Westurf is only one month

away, so book your ticket now by telephoning Paula on 01288 352194. Also contact Paula if you would like to attend the Pre Westurf dinner dance planned the night before in Exeter on April 11.

The next golfing event for the Section is the Spring Tournament at Clevedon Golf Club on April 18. On the topic of golfing fixtures a few people have spoken to me about the possibility of holding a golfing day outside the Region at one of the top courses, perhaps near London. The day could include a bus trip to the course, a talk, a look around the facilities, meal and a chance to play the course. If you are interested in this idea please contact me on the number below.

I have already started to organise more education and training courses this year, with a number of dates earmarked. There is an abrasive wheel course on 12 April with a few places still remaining. A PA1 Foundation Spraying Module will take place in May with a few places also to be filled. Further Spraying courses will take place later in the Summer. A first aid course will take place in September so book early to avoid disappointment.

I announced at the AGM last November that I will stand down from my position as Education and Reports officer at the next AGM, this coming November. If you would like to take over this position, please contact me on Tel: 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham



South East

Grey days, wet days, frosty mornings, ropes, posts, white

lines, temporary greens, all conjure up thoughts of how different golf courses look throughout the winter months. But in the dark dreary days of winter there is a small break in the overcast skies and it's called Harrogate.

The BTME show was excellent; good seminars, great workshops and a thoroughly professional show of sportsturf machines and suppliers. Personally I would recommend the show to any greenkeeper, regardless of status, to attend. Mind you, it wasn't all hard work. The apres seminar entertainment was good too. I'll not publicly mention any name for fear of recriminations, but I hear Terry Crawford had a great time at the infamous Jimmy's Bar.

Joe Paulin, of Golden Eagle Agronomy, gave a presentation on Monday, January 24 on the problems of growing in a new golf course at Belvoir Park Golf Club.

Different turf management practices were discussed and Joe focussed his talk on the work carried out at the Monarch's Course, Gleneagles and the London Golf Club. The good turn out of members found Joe's obviously extensive knowledge on this subject very beneficial. Many thanks Joe for an excellent night and for spending your time chatting to us. Any member who didn't attend missed a great night's education.

Joe Paulin can be contacted on 01247 468182.

New members to the Section this month are Ian Martin and Robert Morrison. Please feel free to come and join in any event.

Warren Burnside, from Malone Golf Club, returned to work after being involved in a car accident before Christmas. Good to see you back at work and fit and well Warren. Warren took advantage of the Personal Insurance Scheme which BIG-GA provide free with

membership and obtained £300 on top of his sick pay while he was off. This is one of the many benefits of being a member of BIGGA and if you are reading this and you are not a member, then why aren't you?

Commiserations to Michael King from Royal County Down, who broke his leg on a works night out. Michael claims he slipped on the ice but Alan Strachan remembers a dry night, free from any frost! Too many sodas maybe, who knows, but we wish you a speedy recovery Michael.

Also congratulations to Perry Orr, from Malone Golf Club, whose wife is expecting their second child. Perry tried to keep this under wraps but Graham Wylie found out and well, now the whole countryside knows.

February 2 saw a meeting of the North-East and South-East Sections at Greenmount College. A few members of each Section attended to iron out any behind the scenes problems that may arise from the two Sections amalgamating. This was a productive evening and the two parties agreed that an EGM was to be held on February 16, 2000 at Greenmount College to elect one committee to govern the Northern Ireland Region.

See you next month. Roll on the summer.

Iain Harrison



See you all next month



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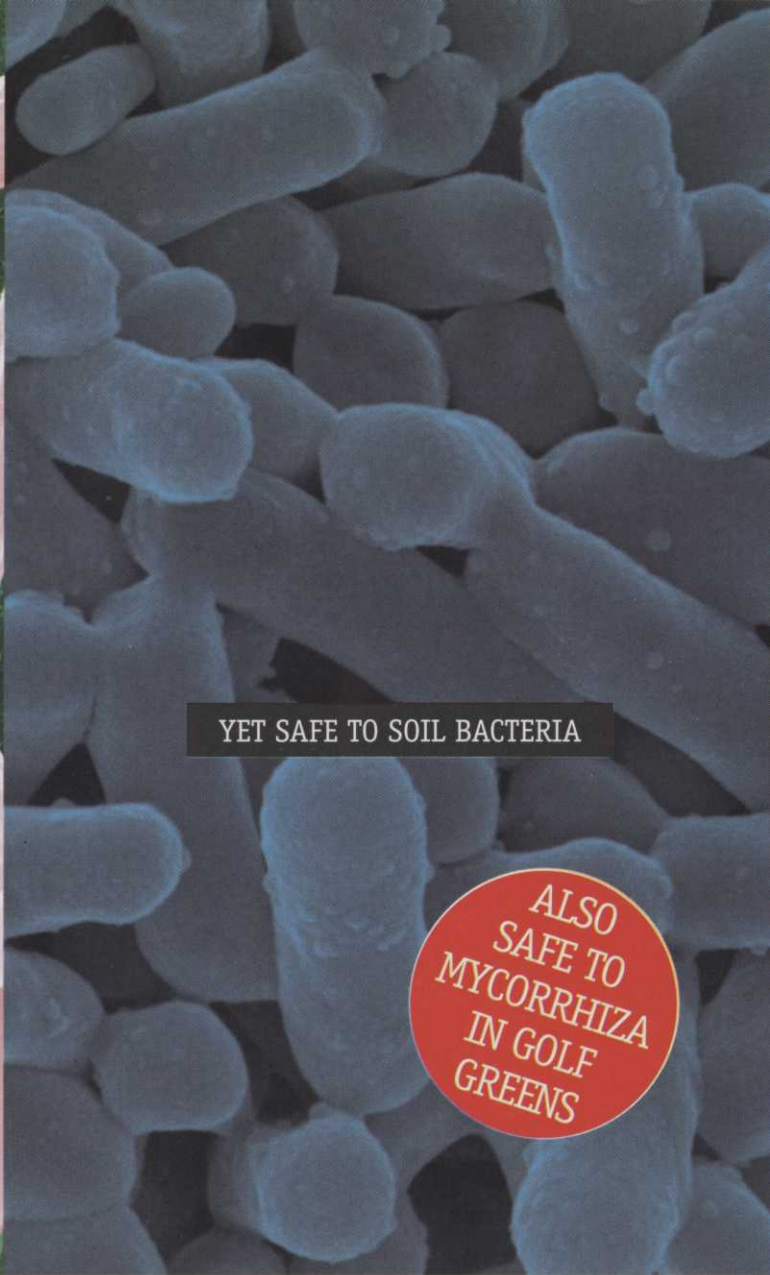
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