

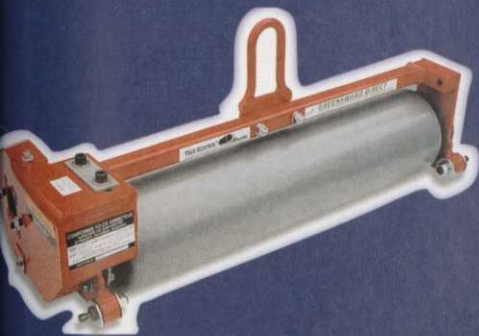
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TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on Construction Work

Construction Work

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Archie Dunn
Course: Auchterarder GC
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus four



Name: Gary Edwards
Course: Old Colwyn GC
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland (nine holes)
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus one, plus one part-timer



Name: Andy Smith
Course: Shirley GC, Solihull
Region: Midlands
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus part-time gardener



Name: Martin Forrester
Course: Stapleford Abbots GC, near Romford, Essex
Region: South East
Course Type: Parkland (36 holes)
Staff: Course Manager, plus nine, plus mechanic



Name: Fred Deamen
Course: Alton GC
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Downland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus two, plus casuals when needed



Name: Gordon Ennis
Course: Bright Castle GC, Downpatrick
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus two, plus part-timer

1

How well ahead of the work itself do you know that you will be tackling a particular job and what can affect the timing?

Six months normally and we also have a five-year rolling programme. Work can be governed by finance, weather, fixtures and the number of visiting parties.

When planning work on the course I ensure that all major jobs are carried out at the end of the season where possible and depending upon weather and course conditions.

A seven-year course improvement plan helps us to prepare well in advance for major course projects. Weather/ground conditions, season and fixtures affect the timing of operations.

Six months. The weather does, of course, affect the timing on some occasions.

We normally plan two to three months ahead and have a general five-year plan. The weather can affect the timing.

We plan six months ahead, but everything then depends on the weather which can obviously cause delays.

HEADS

2

Do you use outside contractors and why do you, or don't you, go down that route?

We use outside contractors for drainage as they have the specialist machinery which we don't have. However, we do all the other work ourselves.

I don't use outside contractors as I am capable of carrying out the work myself and this reduces the cost to the club.

We use contractors for major construction. Their expertise and specialist equipment ensures a quicker and efficient time scale for work and minimises disruption to members. It also frees the greenstaff for other course improvements and maintenance.

Yes, we use contractors for basically constructing greens because they have the expertise. We finish the job off with root zone etc.

We try to do everything in-house really because then we can do a job when we want to do it, rather than rely on contractors who have a programme and may work when damage to the course results. We had outside contractors ten years ago to do some tee building.

We used outside contractors ten years ago to build a 100ft x 50ft x 20ft deep lake from which we draw water to irrigate the course. We bought our own digger five years ago so now we do most things in-house.

3

Describe the biggest construction job that has been done at the club in your time there.

Constructing two new greens four years ago. They took sometime to get going but are doing very well now.

At my present club, the largest construction work I have carried out is the building of a putting green. The club didn't have one for the previous four years.

The construction of two winter tees with half the teeing area laid with an artificial playing surface. It only took two weeks and is a relatively small job compared with other major construction work the course has undergone in the past, or that I have been involved with elsewhere.

Building greens. We have done three complete greens and extended two others.

The par-4 4th and par-5 13th tees were reconstructed and this involved digging out a hillside with 1,500 square metres of earth moved to create a two-tier tee.

Apart from the lake, we have constructed a new 2nd hole green which is a fair way from the old one.

4

How do you go about minimising disruption to the course?

We normally mark off the areas concerned and have notice boards telling golfers what is happening on the course. Good communication is essential in this respect.

I minimise disruption to the course by starting work early in the morning before golfers arrive. Any areas which are under construction, or having work carried out, are roped off, leaving the rest of the course neat, tidy and playable.

We minimise disruption to members with good communication in the club, working round fixtures and advanced preparation of alternative playing surfaces.

We basically plan a route, keeping golfers well away from the work and also well away from the fairways and playing surfaces to limit damage to the course.

We have a large hedgeline all round the course so can divert players away from areas which are well marked. We also have notices displayed well in advance so that people know exactly what is going on

We rope off and have signs up in addition to putting notices on the main noticeboard and we find this is sufficient to have minimal disruption.

5

What construction work will you be tackling during this winter programme?

We are building a new tee at the 6th which will be 500 square metres. Also new bunkers are being built, two reconstructed and also we have drainage plans.

The winter programme has already been set and is being worked on. This includes mainly drainage and I have a constant problem with water retention on the fairways, due to the course being constructed on farmland.

We have got a big drainage programme this winter involving four greens and work on two fairways. This is being carried out in-house and not with contractors.

We are extending two tees considerably, doing some drainage work and also constructing new paths. We are also extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

Bunker maintenance, with one on the 9th fairway needing to be enlarged. We will be digging out, laying a drain and replacing sand. There is also some drainage work on the 7th green where we will be putting in a herringbone system.

We are having a new machinery shed built, 70ft x 30ft and the site has to be cleared, doing the digger work ourselves before the specialist firm moves in to erect the building.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

The Scottish Region is once again offering its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2001. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibitions, three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on January 23, 24 and 25 in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate. The cost of the package is £173 with partners welcome at a cost of £123 for travel and accommodation. Bookings and full payments are due to December 18 with banquet tickets at an extra cost of £40 per person.

Further information from Peter Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440 Peter Boyd

North

The Section's Autumn outing at Peterculter was a great success with a large turnout, great weather and a lovely golf course. Over 80 members, trade and guests, played over David Marnoch's course which was in superb condition despite all the recent bad weather.

This was the first time in my capacity as Chairman of the Section that I got a kiss from the club official who partnered me on the course, but before you start getting ideas, it was the Lady Captain, soon to be Club Captain, I played with.

Thanks to all at the club for making the

day so good. Prize winners were as follows. Scratch - 1. S. Herd, Strathlene, 71. 2. G. Neill, Tain, 74. Class 1. 1. A. Williamson 71-5=66; 2. C. Pearson, Craibstone, 77-4=73bih; 3. S. Sullivan, Craigiehill, 77-4=73; Class 2. 1. A. Shade, Spey Bay, 75-7=68; 2. C. Cummings, Peterculter, 81-11=70; 3. R. Hardie, Craibstone, 79-8=71. Class 3. D. Duggan, Fortrose, 95-26=69; 2. S. Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 92-22=70; 3. M. Spence, Alford, 88-16=72. Apprentice 1. R. Pendlebury, Peterculter, 76-9=67; 2. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen, 76-6=70. Veteran. 1. G. Aitken, Peterculter, 90-18=72; 2. A. Grant 88-12=76. Trade. P. Allan, Stewarts, 76-4=72. Guest G. Birse, Peterculter, 83-18=65. Committee Trophy S. McBain, Hazlehead, 79-8=71. Nearest the Pin R. Pendlebury, Peterculter. Longest drives, Class 1. N. Sadler, Grantown. Class 2. R. Main, Buckpool. Class 3. R. Middleton, Royal Aberdeen. Spring and Autumn aggregates. Best Nett R. Pendlebury, Peterculter, 130. Best Head Greenkeeper. S. McBain, Hazlehead, 139. Best Veteran. A. Williamson. I wonder if it is just a coincidence that there are a lot of winners from the home club!

The score card draw for the BIGGA blazer was won by M. Grant, Garmouth. The four lucky 200 Club winners were, May £30. No.20. Brian Cocker Snr. Alyth. June £30 No.4. Brian Anderson, Aberdeen. July £30 No. 190. Andy Wilson, Brechin. August £100 No. 131 Bob Napier, Dundee. Still four more chances to win this year. Thanks to all who attended.

The two winners of the North Section Patrons Award for 2000 are Stewart

McBain, Hazlehead, and Ian Cowper, Tain, who will be off to BTME in January as a result. Keep attending events and you could be the winner next year.

The National Championship was a great success with two fine courses and a lovely hotel to stay in. As usual it was well organised, but my golf was not quite good enough. Mike Wilson again did the Section proud with two fine scores. A big thank you to Andrew Lomas, from Matlock, who dropped me in Leeds for the Champions League game that evening, on his way home. After the game I caught the train back to Preston and my sleeper train home.

Congratulations to Gordon Moir on his promotion to Links Manager at St Andrews. We wish him all the best in his new position.

I A Macleod.

West

Welcome again to this month's news. One story to report on this month and that is the Autumn outing held at Lenzie GC on Thursday, September 21. I don't mind telling you there were some anxious hours running up to this event with plenty of sky watching, no, not TV, and praying for good weather. As it turned out, the elements could not have been more favourable. A low turnout on the day with only 39 entries. I understand that the date clashed with two of the other Sections' golf outings and an invitation to St Andrews on behalf of an irrigation company for a bit of a chat and a round of golf on the Eden course! Might explain why the numbers were low, however, we

shall endeavour in future to try and avoid such foul ups. So, the results of the day:

Scratch: S. Taylor, Killermont GC, 73. 1st Class. 1. S. Bulloch, Fereneze GC, 73-5=68; 2. R. McLeish, Vale of Leven GC, 75-5=70 BIH; 3. D. Johnstone, Cardross GC, 77-7=70. 2nd Class. 1. M. Kelly, Hayston GC, 82-12=70 BIH; 2. S. Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 85-15=70; 3. J. Young, Dougalston GC, 87-15=73; 3rd Class. 1. T. Nisbet, Killermont GC, 103-25=78; 2. D. Reid, Lenzie GC, 100-20=80; 3. M. Carey, Balmore GC, 98-17=81. Trade Prize. J. Stokoe 82-19?=63. Visitors' Prize R. Kelly 87-13=74 Longest Drive R. McLeish. Nearest the Hole. S. Taylor 13'2".

The second draw of the 100 Club took place soon after the prize giving and the number drawn was 74 the ticket holder George Nisbett, Killermont GC. Congratulations to you George.

Thanks to the Committee and members of Lenzie GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and use of their facilities. Well done to the greens staff for all their hard work in preparing the course. Thanks finally to the steward and stewardess for all their efforts on the day. If anybody has anything they think they would like to mention, please contact me on Home 0141 776 1532. Mobile 07050 173080 email Ryryg@lineone.net

Garvin Jarvis

Ayrshire

The summer season has just ended and I am struggling to get some aeration work started. I have never seen the ground so wet from September into October after



Are you planning to visit BTME 2001 in January?

Why not share the cost of travel?

If you are planning a visit to this year's BTME and have space in your car or would like to find other BIGGA members to travel with, contact your BIGGA Regional Administrator and they will try to put people in touch who live in the same area.

Scotland	Peter Boyd	Tel/Fax: 0141 6163440	Email: biggascotland@aol.com
Northern	Doug Bell	Tel/Fax: 0151 4310433	Email: bigganorth@aol.com
Midlands	Les Emery	Tel/Fax: 01162879036	
S East	Derek Farrington	Tel/Fax: 01903 260956	Email: derek.farrington@tesco.net
S West	Paula Humphries	Tel/Fax: 01288 352194	Email: paula.bigga@eclipse.co.uk

Still looking for accommodation in Harrogate?

The BTME 2001 Reservation Highway is an organisation based in Harrogate which has been appointed by BIGGA as an official accommodation agent for the event. They operate an hotel listing service which can provide bookings for a wide range of accommodation at a price to suit your budget. The rates are better than you can achieve by going direct to the Hotels, so why not give it a try? Don't forget to mention you are a BIGGA member.

Call The Reservation Highway: Tel 01423 525577 Fax 01423 525599

Give BTME your full support - Why not phone a friend?

If you have been to BTME before you will know what a great week it is, taking in the conference, the exhibition, the keynote speaker and seminars, the banquet, the camaraderie, the nights out etc. etc. If you are planning to visit this year, why not get in touch with a greenkeeping colleague at another club (they don't have to be BIGGA members!) and plan a visit with them. Once Greenkeepers have been to Harrogate they appreciate how much they can gain from the experience and they are usually keen to return. If it convinces them it is worth joining BIGGA as a member so much the better. Help us to increase the numbers visiting BTME 2001, it makes it the key event in the Greenkeeping calendar and ensures it receives the maximum support of the Fine Turf Industry.

Pre-Registration Competition

Pre-Register for BTME2001* before Friday, December 8, 2000, and your name will be entered into our fantastic prize draw to win one of five BIGGA Sports Watches. Personalised with the BIGGA logo, these 'TOP' Sports Watches are water resistant to three atmospheres, and contain Citizen/Miyota quartz movement.

* You will find a BTME2001 Pre-Registration card in the centre pages of this magazine

such a decent summer. By the time you read this, maybe things will have taken a turn for the better. Scotsturf will be with you soon, where all the new and established products can be viewed and/or discussed. It's well worth a visit even just to be hospitable. The Norrie Whytock Trophy was recently played at Auchterarder Golf Club where Ayrshire finished a gallant third, beaten on a count-back by Central and only two points adrift of the East Section who secured the trophy for the first time. Thanks go to Archie Dunn and the greenstaff for an excellent golf course, to RA Peter Boyd for the expert administration and, last but not least, to Avertis for continued sponsorship of the trophy.

The Autumn outing was played over my course at Largs on September 21 where we had a disappointingly small turnout. However, apart from some blustery showers later in the afternoon, all those who attended had an enjoyable day and the prizes were much easier to win - see roll of honour later. Chairman Duncan Gray, in his vote of thanks, mentioned Captain George Grant and the committee of Largs Golf Club for granting courtesy of the course, the greenstaff for presenting the course, George and Fiona for the excellent catering, Joe and the bar staff for keeping us refreshed and, last but not least, stand-in secretary Jim Paton for his organisation of the day. Prize winners were as follows. Morning Texas Scramble. 1. Marshall Sloss, Beith. John Mair, Beith, Dale Norquay, Barassie and Jack Paterson, Port Bannatyne. 2. Scott McLean, West Kilbride, Brian Aitken, West Kilbride,

Barry Reid, Barassie and John Marshall, Port Bannatyne.

Afternoon Stableford. Winner Jim Paton, West Kilbride. 1st Class. 1. John Muir, Beith; 2. Iain Barr, Largs; 3. Scott McLean, West Kilbride. 2nd Class. 1. Dale Norquay, Barassie; 2. Martin Lothian, Turnberry; 3. Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride. Trade winner Derek Duthie, Aitkens.

Any news call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr

East Section

There was no column last month as we were between events but we're back this month. The Section visited Winterfield Golf Club, Dunbar, for the annual Willie Woods International Tournament, where a great day was had by all in attendance. Thanks from the Section go to the Captain and Council for giving us courtesy of the course, the Clubhouse staff for looking after us very well and lastly Head Greenkeeper, Craig Pennycook and his staff, for the superb condition of the course. Also the easy pin positions on the day! Also a big thanks to our tournament sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Ian Henderson Finance.

I am glad to announce that Ian has agreed to continue the sponsorship of this event for a further two years. Thanks Ian and we look forward to having you along with us next year. The scoring on the day was very good as the following scores will show. The results are 1. S. Nicol & J. Finlay, Winterfield GC, 66 2/3 65 1/3 BIH; 2. G. Wood & H. Brown, Dunbar GC, 68 2/3 65 1/3. So, as normal with this tournament we shall be returning to the holder's course

next year so we hope to see you all at Winterfield GC next season.

The final tournament of the season was held with the courtesy of the Captain and Council of Dunnington GC on Thursday, September 21. This tournament is the first qualifier for the BIGGA National Championships 2001 so there was some fine scoring on the day as the results show. Thanks go to the Captain and Council, the clubhouse staff for keeping us well fed and refreshed throughout the day, Head Greenkeeper, Adam Gordon and his team, for presenting the course in excellent condition on the day. Well done to everyone concerned. Also a big thanks to the members of the trade who supplied prizes for the raffle. Thank you.

The results. Best Scratch, Stewarts Quaich = S. Nicol -76. Best Nett, Russells Quaich. I. Laing 79-9 = 70. 1st Class 1. Watermation Cup. I. Laing 79-9=70; 2. G. Ferguson 77-3=74; 3. I. Bell 78-3=75. 2nd Class 1. SGM Cup. I. Watson 86-14=72; 2. R. Mullen 84-11=73; 3. C. Irvine 88-11=77 BIH.

3rd Class 1st Sts/Rigby Taylor Cup. F. Forrest, 131-25=106; 2. K. Shiels, Better outward 9; 3. C. Moffat, 2nd best outward 9; 2. and 3. Nr after 9 holes three in section to return card. Veteran, Eddie Holt Trophy - J. Manuel 84-7=77. Trade, Autumn Trade Cup, - J. Smith 85-13=72. Guest Prize D. Hunter 80-2=78. New Member - K. Purves 90-13 = 77. Worst Score of the Day - G. McKie 100-9 = 91

Best Aggregate Trophy Spring & Autumn 2000, Bill Beveridge Trophy - I. Watson 80-72=152.

Well done to all trophy winners. I am

looking forward to adjusting your handicaps! So round two of the qualifying to come in April 2001. Dates and venues of next year's tournaments coming soon, so we hope to see you all then to complete your qualification for the BIGGA National Championships 2001. Remember, only two places up for grabs, so keep practising!

Well, that's all this month. If anyone has anything to let us know, please drop me a line or give me a call on home: 01968 661313 or, office: 01968 661721 or email me at chrisjy26@aol.com and I will make sure it gets into print and into the magazine. That's it 'til next month.

Chris Yeaman

Central

We welcome another three new members to the Section this month and they are Graeme Bryce, from Elmwood Golf Developments; Steven Hemsley, from St Andrews Links Trust, and Malcolm Baxter, from Muckhart Golf Club. Welcome to the Section, lads! The final golf tournament of the season was held in September at Stirling Golf Club on what proved to be one of the drier days of the month when 56 members and guests enjoyed a relaxing day and played some very competitive golf with the prize winners being as follows:

Best Scratch. D. Leith, St Andrews, 67-1=66. Best Nett D. McAllister, Ladybank, 73-4=69BIH. 1st Class 1. K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 74-5=69; 2. C. MacDonald, Crieff, 75-4=71; 3. B. Cruickshank, Roxburgh, 82-9=73.

2nd Class 1. M. Graham, Green Hotel, 86-14=72; 2. T. Harris, Cupar, 86-11=75; 3. D. Scott, Scoonie, 92-15=77. 3rd Class

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1. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 92-21 = 70; 2. A. Amott, Dunnikier, 98-18=80; 3. S Cruickshank, Deer Park, 105-22=83. Best Nett Spring & Autumn. D. Leith. St Andrews, 74 & 66=140. Patrons K. Brunton, Greentech. 72-1=70. Guests. G. Hepburn, Muckhart. 76-3=73. Longest Drive, C. MacDonald. Nearest the Pin D. Leith.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Stirling Golf Club for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us, especially Club Captain, Peter Gilchrist, who presented the prizes and Club Secretary, Walter McArthur, for all his help. Thanks also to the bar and catering staff for keeping us fed and watered throughout the day; Kevin Brunton from Greentech for doing the cards, Derek Raffles- Scott and a big thank you to my own staff who worked so hard in getting the course prepared for the day. National Chairman Elliott Small joined us for the presentation of prizes following flying visits to other Sections during a very busy day. Perhaps you will get time to play in next year's tournaments Elliott!

Our two section qualifiers in the National Championship at Lytham, David Leith and Alex Robertson were both in the prize list, so it's congratulations to them both for doing the Section proud. Exact details can be found on pages 28-30.

The visit to the Scotts/STRI/Rolawn has been postponed for the time being, due to the lack of support, three. Obviously there are an awful lot of very knowledgeable greenkeepers in the Central Section. Our thanks go to Richard Walton, of Scotts, who put in a great deal of time and effort in organising this visit on our behalf.

The football tournament held on September 24 was very successful, despite the Editor deciding to change the date to the 24 August. Why, I don't know. (Apologies. Put it down to mistyping - Ed) and the following is a report from Andy O'Hara.

The participating teams were Downfield, Drumoig, Dunfermline, Callander, Lundin Links, Shaw Park Wasps and Stirling/Level Lions. The tournament was run as a league with all teams playing each other once, kicking off at 2pm. It became obvious that this was far too early for most players to have recovered from the Saturday night hangovers. This observation took on more significance when louder cheers were heard from the teams who didn't have to play two games in a row, than cheers for goals scored. Final placings were 1. Lundin Links, 2. Dunfermline, 3. Stirling/Leven Lions, 4. Drumoig, 5. equal Downfield, Callander and Shaw Park Wasps.

A special mention goes to Wasps goalkeeper Dunc who injured -stung- himself with his first involvement, ie. picking the ball out of the net and then pulling a muscle when attempting to kick the ball away in disgust!

Thanks to Ian - Hugh Dallas - Jarvis and well done to Lundin Links on a 100% record, to Dunfermline for pushing them to the last game and to all players for the sporting and friendly atmosphere which prevailed on the day. Lastly, thanks lads for a totally enjoyable tournament which I hope can be repeated next year. A O'Hara.

Man gets restless. Pat Brennan has moved from The Dukes Course in St Andrews to a new position at a course in Germany and our best wishes go to him in his new employment.

Man settles down. A member who tied the knot last month is Kenny Stirling from

Kingsbarns. Kenny married his fiancée Ann on October 21 and our best wishes for a long and happy life together go to them both. Does this mean the handicap will go up Kenny?

Tickets for the Club 2000 have been sent out so please make an effort to sell your allocation and if you require any more, just get in touch and I will send them to you. All monies and unsold tickets must be returned to me by December 31, 2000.

The Central Section is 20-years-old on the 20th of this month and it was intended to hold a Dinner Dance or some kind of event to mark this important date, well, I think it's important. But, due to lack of response, your committee are going to celebrate it by themselves and it will be at their own expense!

At the time of writing I have had two replies from members, outwith the committee, who have indicated that they will be attending the visit to Scottish Grass Machinery, St Andrews and the AGM, so I will give you an update next month on what happened. In the meantime I am away to find something else to moan about and upset some of you with, or perhaps some of you with, or perhaps some of you will have attended the AGM and I won't be doing this next time. You can always live in hope.

John Crawford



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

It is with regret that I announce the untimely death of Eric Paley. Eric was 66 and just retired from Stand GC having being previously at Sandmoor and Halifax G.C.'s. Our sympathies go out to Eric's family and he will be sadly missed from our Section events.

Our Vice-Chairman John Waite is recovering from a bad road accident, in which John got knocked off his push iron and wrote off the on-coming car. His pelvis is broken in two places. Get well soon John and in the meantime give everyone else a chance at golf!

Much better news is that fellow committee man Richard Smith and his wife are expecting twins. Good luck to the both of you. Congratulations to Alan Court on getting married recently.

Our Invitation Day (Baxter's Trophy Cabinet Day) was held at Cookridge Hall G&C.C. Thanks Jim Brown for organising the day and Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. The results are as follows:- 1. Tito Arana, Richard Simpson-Riddlesden GC 41pts; 2. Scott Baxter, Mick Collins- Bingley St.Ives GC 40pts; 3. Alan Baxter, Alan Johnson- Bingley St.Ives GC 39pts; 4. Richard Smith, Jim Ashley- Clayton GC 39pts; 5. Joe Baxter, David Priestley- Bingley St.Ives GC 39pts; 6. Simon Heptonstall, David Sykes- Howley Hall G.C. 39pts. The longest Drive on the 16th - Philip Rowbottom, Nearest the Pin 6th - David Sykes, 15th - Jim Ashley. Thanks to Tony, from Gem, for sponsoring the Longest Drive & Nearest the Pin. A new competition we've started is called the 2's Club and we had four winners each receiving £10. They were R. Simpson, J. Ashley, D. Sykes, A. Johnson. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Jim Brown and

his staff, for preparing the course and also Cookridge Hall G&C.C for their help and assistance in the day.

The next event is the seminar day at Howley Hall GC on the Wednesday November 15. You should have received information about this by now. If not, or you would like to book, then get in touch with me.

Our AGM will be at Huddersfield G.C. on Wednesday 6th December at 6.30pm. The golf will start at 10am and will be a bring/win a prize, (minimum value of £5).

You can contact me in any of the following ways. Address: 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS. Tel: 0113

2383188. Mobile: 07790 678572.

Email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com
Andy Smith

North West

What has gone wrong with the N/W section? We have the largest Section in the Association, almost 600 members, and we used to have a very active Section supporting the golf tournaments, and the seminar at Mere, but for some reason, and I don't know the answer, just a small nucleus of members supported the Section, and national events.

Let me put you in the picture. The seminar at Mere in March was attended by 73

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delegates, 31 greenkeepers, and the remainder being golf club secretaries, greens chairman, and members of the trade, a small percentage of our 600 members.

Team events such as the Roses match, the annual match against North Wales, and the match against the Golf Club Stewards, all sponsored, with no cost to the competitors, can be a nightmare getting a team together. The regional final at Fishwick Hall, even though the qualifiers had all been informed with their starting times, we finished with one man short, made almost impossible for us to win. The autumn tournament at Denton Golf Club, was attended by only 17 members and two

guests, and to top it all, the National Championship played at St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven G.C., which are both in the Northwest Section, was attended, apart from the two qualifiers, by only myself and Peter Hogan. As Secretary, and with a good section committee, we try our best to satisfy the members needs, but we do need the support of you guys out there, and if you feel if something is lacking in the Section, or the Association, put pen to paper, or give me a ring.

Now that I have that off my chest I would like to thank Tim Nolan and his staff for a great day at Denton Golf Club on September 7. The few days previous to the

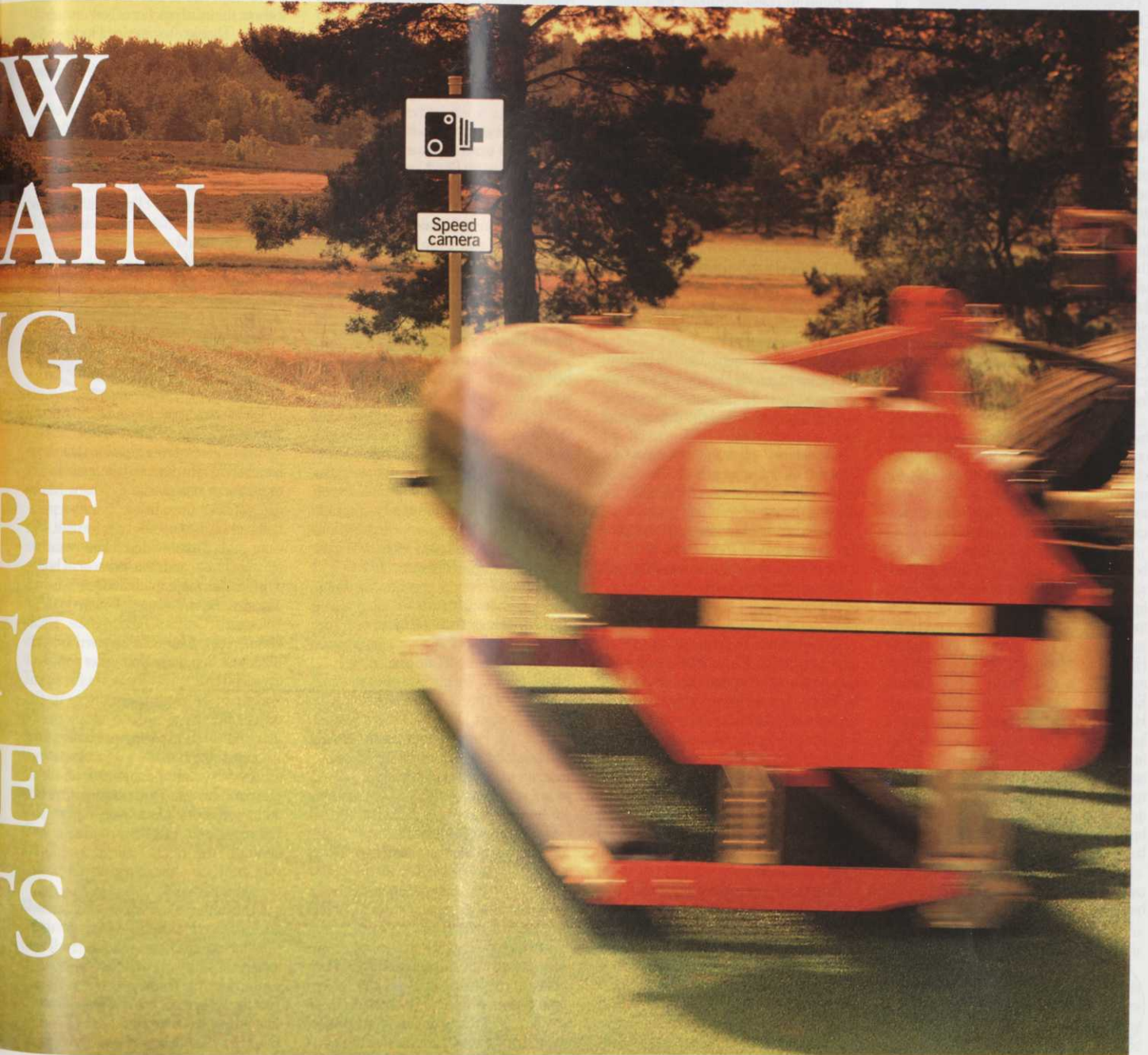
match day had been rain, rain, rain, and I feel sure that Tim and his staff must have had many soakings working in the rain, because the course was in great condition, and a credit to them.

The results on the day were; Best Gross - Tim Nolan, Best Net - Mike Llogg, Vets - Arthur Moorey, Guest prize - Andrew Cornes, Aggregate Winner - Arthur Moorey. I would like to thank Denton Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a great meal, and Tim and his staff for an excellent course, also our sponsors for the prize table. Don't forget we have the Presidents Cup and the AGM on the 30th November at Wilmslow

Golf Club, get your entries in with your cheque for £15 to; Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Liverpool, L4 9RB, not later than Friday, November 24. Everybody must bring a bottle of something on the day, so that we can all go home with a prize. I will close now but please remember you have a good Section, and a good Association so please support them.

The Northern Region is organising a seminar to be held at Penrith Golf Club on Thursday, December 7. Full details will be sent to all members in Cumbria and surrounding areas. For further information contact Doug Bell.

Bert Cross, (Tel: 0151 724 5412)



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Cleveland

Three new members joined the Section this month. Stephen Taggart and Gary Hutchinson have both been assistants at the Wynyard Club for over a year and Liam McGeough, older and better looking brother of Anthony - Titch - McGeough, has taken the job of greenkeeper mechanic at Richmond Golf Club after Mark Blugman left for a career change. Also leaving Richmond is Oly Shepard who is going to University. The Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, is now the Beast of Billingham moving to join Bob Lawton and his team.

The Cleveland Section won the National Team Final at Fishwick Hall Golf Club in Preston recently. Well done to all those who were involved.

Congratulations to Chris Powley, of Dinsdale Spa GC, who won the Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield, beating Tony Burge in the Final at Durham City GC.

Any news contact me on 07808196558. Steven Jaques

North Wales

I write these notes on the day of our cancelled autumn meet and the weather is again, horrendous. It's been a testing year and the only positive thing is we are all in the same boat - pun intended. We shall try to rearrange the meet - you will know by the time you read this - if not, any of you who can't make the Xmas meet, please get in touch for a refund. The winter lectures start at the college on November 15 with Derek Green, Bunker Construction and Chris Clarke, Equipment Maintenance starts at 2.30. All welcome. A small charge for non-members.

I don't suppose any of you need reminding the Xmas meeting is at Royal Liverpool on December 6, that's if the Wirral still exists and isn't part of Liverpool Bay, so remember to bring your beach coster boat rods just in case, maybe Derek should give us a lecture on how to land a sea bass!

Our Match Secretary, Jeremy Hughes, helped the Denbighshire county team to win the Welsh inter-counties final for the first time in the county's history. His rounds of 71 and 73 were instrumental in securing the win over second placed Flintshire, who also had one of our Section members in their team - Lee Hinks-Edwards, assistant greenkeeper at Hawarden, well done lads, it shows greenkeepers can play the game as well! The finals were played at Borth-Ynlas which was apparently in excellent condition for the tournament. Finally, belated congratulations to my old mate Peter Sproston on his September wedding, wishing you all the best for the future.

Remember, if you have got anything I can write about, get in touch. I am like the bad comedian, I need the material.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Golf Management Trophy events

Glen Gorse Golf Club September 14
This year's first event was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicester and got off to a flier with 21 teams entering. Then three days before the tee off, came the petrol crisis. At first I thought we would have to cancel but we carried on. Seventeen

teams made the day with teams travelling from as far afield as Cleethorpes, managing to attend. What a successful day it was, although the rain only managed to stop when the play ended there were no complaints from anyone, only praise. I would like to thank all of the teams whom entered for supporting this event, especially when using up their petrol ration!

The team from Ryston Park Golf Club, in Downham Market, won the event with a team total of 133 (two best net medal scores to count).

There must be an awful lot of rainfall in Norfolk because they won by seven strokes on the second placed team Trentham Park from Stoke on Trent. In third place came Boston Golf Club.

Thanks to Frank Kempster the Course Manager and his team of greenkeepers for presenting the course in superb condition and the catering staff for a wonderful meal.

We quickly followed up the first event with a visit to St Neots GC, near Cambridge. Although only 11 teams entered it still proved a success. The weather remained pleasant and many golf clubs said that they thought that the format was a winner. I would like to thank all of the teams who entered for supporting this event. The team from Verulam Golf Club, in St Albans, were the eventual winners as three teams all finished with the same score eventually won on the back three count-back. Second place went to Letchworth Golf Club and third to Ramsdale Park Golf Club.

I would like to thank Phil & Richard, Course Manager and Deputy, and the team of greenkeepers for presenting the course in superb condition and the catering staff for a wonderful meal.

I would like to thank the Secretary, Captain & Committee of both Glen Gorse Golf Club and St Neots Golf Club for allowing the use of their golf courses.

My sincere thanks must go to Scotts for the sponsorship of this event with one tonne of fertiliser going to the winning club along with decanters and port. Second place bottles of port and third place bottles of wine.

Nick Martin from Scotts attended both days and Richard Minton the second. Nick also presented the prizes kindly donated by Scotts. Thanks also to Kevin from E T Breakwell & Mark from Avoncrop for their help in running the day and the raffle at St Neots.

There were many raffle prizes with donations coming from the section committee members. I thank you all.

Les Emery

East Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was played at Market Harborough GC on September 20, a dry pleasant Autumn day. The course was in excellent condition, after all the heavy rain of the previous week which is a credit to Tim Harris and all the greenkeeping staff. This also reflected in the good scores that were posted.

Best Nett. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 84-22-62. Best Gross, Richard Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 71.

Category 1. I. Guy Boyd, Greatham Valley, 77-10=67; 2. Pete Billings, Cotgrave Place, 77-7=70. Category 2. 1. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 82-16=66; 2. Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 85-11=74. Trade and Associate prize. Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 90-17=73. Nearest the Pin. John Burnham, Sisis. Longest Drive,

Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley.

Our thanks to Market Harborough GC for hosting our Tournament and to the Steward and Stewardess for an excellent meal, one of the best we have ever had. A special thanks should go to our sponsors Banks Amenity Products for not only providing a great prize table, but to put on a free bar and provide a sponsored golf ball each.

Unfortunately the day was only supported by 17 greenkeepers and we really do need to increase these numbers if we are to remain successful. Finally, can I once again remind all members that your entry forms and payment must be made before the closing date of any Section event should you wish to attend. Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held on 14 September at Lingdale GC.

This year's Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship was supported by three of our Section members. Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Dave Leatherland.

The best Gross and Nett score on the first day was won by Richard who also finished with the 4th Best Nett score over the two days.

Also in attendance was the Section Chairman, Gavin Robson who was Dave Leatherland's caddy for the two days. (I only saw him carry Dave's bag for one of them - Ed)

Antony Bindley

Berks Bucks and Oxon

The autumn invitation was held at East Berks GC on October 2. The event was very well attended with some 48 players taking part. Myself and my partner were very lucky to be paired with Adrian Cooper and Andy Church, from Rolawn. During the round Adrian taught us the very useful "canopy shot". This shot involves the player hitting the ball as hard as possible through trees taking many deflections and landing close to the hole. He has even mastered this shot from distances of about 250 yards. Luck? Not a chance! My feeble attempts ended up with the ball travelling further sideways than forwards, or is that called a snap-hook?

Anyway, the results are as follows. 1. N. Ely & M. Ely, 44 pts; 2. J. Bevan & D. Eglinton, 42 pts; 3. T. Webb & R. Webb, 42 pts. Longest Drive. D. Emery. Nearest the Pin. M. Putt. Many thanks to Marc and his staff for producing a superb course and also to the other club staff for making us feel very welcome. Also many thanks to Rolawn who sponsored the event.

One last thing and that is to watch out for your forms for the turkey trot. These will be out in November and a quick response would be greatly appreciated.

Jon Scoones.

Midland

On November 22 there is a trip to Hardi Sprayers organised and sponsored by Sportsworld. If you are interested please contact Mike Whitehouse on 07971 484050. The main sponsors for the summer tournament, whom I forgot to mention in my last report, were Alpha Amenity. Thank you. The autumn tournament was played at Penn Golf Club, which was in excellent condition considering the amount of rain the day before; I believe this to be 25mm!

Many thanks to Eddie Stant and his staff.

The results are as follows- 1. net- Mike Hughes; 2. V. Roll; 3. M. Sowerby. 1. gross-

Nigel Couchman.

Longest drive was won by Eddie Stant and sponsored by Ruffords. Nearest pin was won by Nigel Couchman and sponsored by Ruffords. The main sponsor of the day was Sportsworld.

Jonathan Wood

East of England

The annual match between East of England Greenkeepers and the Secretaries Association took place at Coxmoor GC.

There was a break in communication on the start time as our team arrived for a 2pm tee off, but the Secretaries were ready to go at 1.30pm.

This actually helped the Secretaries score as they went on to win 7-1.

Our team had to rush on to the course without the usual practice of beer and sandwiches. Thanks to Kevin Hodges for captaining for me and the day out, and to Phil Wilkinson and Alan Buckley for saving the white wash.

Thanks also to Coxmoor for an excellent presentation course and to Tony Morgan of the Secretaries Association. Jim Carr of Chandlers was the usual sponsor and brought along some good prizes.

Forthcoming event - There will be a talk on Machinery on November 2 at Newark Golf Club. Everyone welcome.

GA Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel. 01903 260956

Surrey

It was with eager anticipation that those members who had entered the autumn golf tournament journeyed to Laleham. Many had not been there before, but its reputation had ensured a really large turnout. We were not disappointed. The weather remained dry and the rides at Thorpe Theme Park were as thrilling as we had expected. Afterwards we all played golf at Laleham Golf Club. The Head Greenkeeper, John Ross, received us with his usual kindness and after we had explained that it was the norm for greenkeepers to be given the courtesy of the course, his threat to have us physically removed for not paying green fees was rescinded.

Enough of this nonsense. We all thank John and his team for ensuring that our autumn meeting was a great success. The course was in excellent condition and although the recent rainfall had been extremely heavy, the course played far drier than expected.

A Latham greenkeeper, using local knowledge, came first. Bob Rogers scored 45 points. Second position was filled by Roger Tydeman 42 points. M. McClaren, after countback, was third with 40 points with Gordon Bell fourth; John White fifth. and Daren Lee sixth. Nearest the pin was captured by Gareth Rogers and the longest drive had John White deciding that a 5-iron was his most favourite club. Sponsors for the day were Bioseed.

Hankley Common Golf Club played host to the annual England vs Scotland golf match on October 3. Thanks to Gareth Roberts and his greenstaff for presenting the course in such superb condition. England won, Scotland came second.

Brian Willmott



**South West
and South Wales**
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West & South Wales

Three highly successful Course Management Trophies have again been held in the South West and South Wales Region and the Regional Board would like to thank Scotts Professional for sponsoring the prizes for these competitions.

A team event in its second year, comprising a Greenkeeper, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green maximum numbers of entries were received for each section.

Martin Townsend, from Scotts, attended each of the events together with the local representative from each section. The competitions were played in excellent weather and everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was nice to welcome Ken Richardson, from Head Office, to the South Coast event at Salisbury. Results: South Coast, played at Salisbury & S Wilts, Freshwater Bay, South West, played at the Manor Castle Coombe, Bristol and Clifton; South Wales, played at Celtic Manor, Pontypool.

The Region would like to thank the host clubs very much for extending the courtesy of the course for each of these events and for providing such excellent catering.

Westurf 2001 - March 14.

On the 13th we will again be holding the Pre-Westurf Gala Dinner which this year it will be held at the Southgate Hotel in Exeter. This is in the centre of town and right next to the cathedral. There is an integral leisure club boasting a pool, gym, solarium, jacuzzi, saunas and solarium.

The price is £50 per person sharing and £75 for single occupancy. This price includes dinner, bed and breakfast.

The Region will again be providing after dinner entertainment free of charge. There are only a limited number of rooms available so book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings should be made in writing to Paula, Riverview, 2, Granville Terrace, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8JZ and include a cheque for £20 per person deposit. Last year this event was a great success so do try and join us. It is a great way to start of the Westurf Exhibition.

Please note that Jim Arthur will be available to sell and sign copies of Practical Greenkeeping, reduced price £25, at the Cannington College Seminar on November 22.

Paula Humphries

Devon & Cornwall

Once again this year members have had the opportunity to enter the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping awards. This year the Section has two members in the finals and our congratulations and good luck to Anthony Vokes, of St Austell GC, in the Student award and Terry Farkins, of Dartmouth GC, in the Excellence in Greenkeeping award. Also, the Section would like to congratulate Jim Arthur on reaching his 80th birthday.

Unfortunately our representatives for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship had to pull out, with reserves found, then getting injured, time run out to find replacements. The Section would like to

take this opportunity to apologise to the sponsors Scotts & Charterhouse for not being able to field any representatives at this excellent event. The Section also hopes that the Championship went well and look forward to the Sectional qualifier next year.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday November 15. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am, the section's AGM will conclude the day. Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 6. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome, for those of you not wishing to play golf the course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret and raffles will conclude the day.

It's now time to book your place on the Region's Amenity Technology sponsored package to the BTME show & seminars which will be held in Harrogate next January. The trip departs on January 23 and returns on the January 26 2001 with the cost of £110 for members, £150 for non members.

The Regional Conference & Workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 22 at Cannington College. Details of this event have been sent to you through Greenkeeper International, the cost of the day will be £15 members, non members £22.50. The morning seminar speakers will be Frank Newbury, Stuart Ashworth and Jim Arthur with the afternoon workshop being presented by Frank Newbury.

For more information regarding the Conference and BTME contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

I begin by firstly apologising for missing Around the Green last month. I faltered after being praised for previous notes in the last committee meeting, perhaps they should have said nothing. Anyway on the serious side the match versus the golf club secretaries at Tredegar Park GC on August 11 was extremely friendly & the match was halved although lacking support from our side. It was a glorious day and was a pleasure to return, although to a complete new course in excellent condition. Also Thanks to Alan Able, of Complete Weed Control, for the Prizes for the closest to the pin and longest drive competition.

A great day with the largest attendance for the Scotts Professional U.K. Management trophy was held at the Celtic Manor Resort. Thirty two teams attend on August 15. Thanks to Scotts for entire sponsored event.

Our President, Colin Murphy, had invited us along to an informal evening at his and Rosemary's newly developed plant centre specialising in perennials for the garden and ornamental grasses, the evening

was attended by six couples whom I gathered had a great time with refreshments & a barbecue laid on, and treated to a fly by from a Hot Air Balloon. Does this ring a bell Julian B Jones? A big thank you and best wishes for the future of your business.

The Autumn Competition was to have been held at Newport GC on September 27 but was unfortunately cancelled by the lack of petroleum with the fuel crisis.

St Pierre GC hosted our match versus the South West in appalling weather condition, only one match completed the whole course. Andy Roach holed a storming put of 20 ft which enabled us to halve the competition at the 18th green. Thanks to St Pierre for their hospitality, to Scotts for the prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive and especially to all from the South West Section a pleasure to see you again in great surroundings.

South West & South Wales Region Annual Conference & Workshop is to be held on the 22nd of this month at Cannington College with guest speakers Jim Arthur, Frank Newberry & Stuart Ashworth.

Rigby Taylor Match Play Finals which have been played in October bring you up to date with that next month, and by the way its the Winter Tournament/AGM/Xmas Dinner next month again to be held at the Pyle & Kenfig tee off 9.30am. Some other news, D. Gladwin has unfortunately been knocked off his bike, we always thought you were a few spokes short of a wheel. No, seriously hope you repair quickly Dave. That's all this time around folks, I'll bring you up-to-date with the details of the evening lecture next month sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products. Just one more thing if you are thinking of attending BTME 2001 and there is a large support from South Wales Section we may possibly have a coach picking up throughout South Wales area leaving from Carmarthen.

Richard Hatcher

South West

Just a quick reminder that a number of important events are coming up in the next couple of months. The BIGGA South West and South Wales Annual Conference and Workshop 2000, will take place at Cannington College on November 22. This meeting is certain to attract a lot of interest with speakers including Jim Arthur, Frank Newberry and Stuart Ashworth of Amenity Technology. Book early for this event by contacting Paula Humphries.

The Christmas Golf Tournament will take place on Tuesday, December 5 at Henbury Golf Club. This is the first time that a BIGGA event has taken place at Henbury in quite a few years, so it should be interesting to play a different course.

Also in December there will be a basic computing course run by Ken Richardson, to be held at Lilley Brook Golf Club. If you would like to book a place on this course, please contact me by telephoning 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

South Coast

The Autumn Tournament took place at Came Down Golf Club. Our thanks go to the club and committee for allowing us courtesy. Thanks also to the sponsors, Gem Professional and Vitax. The weather was good and the course in superb condition. Well done Derek Parker and his team.

Winners were Keith Hill-Jones 42 points. Alan Rideout 38 points, countback. Mark

Green, 38 points. Mark Hancock 37 points. The day ended with an excellent carvery, thanks again to the caterers.

A couple of dates for your diaries. The regional seminar is November 22 at Cannington College. Frank Newberry, Stuart Ashworth and Jim Arthur are all speaking so it promises to be a good day.

The Turkey Trot is again at Hockley Golf Club on December 6, followed by the AGM. Entries and payment in early please. £15 to Chris Sturgess on 07773 139409.

Tony Gadd



Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

Apologies for no ATG notes last month but any sort of news was really scarce and listening to me ramble on for 500 words would probably have been too much to hear. By the time you read these notes we will have had our Autumn Golf Day at Malone and our seminar will have passed at Greenmount. I know both days will have been an excellent success and I'll give you a full report in next month's issue.

We have had a bumper month for people joining our section, a nice round number of 13, which really is encouraging to see and if you're reading these notes and you're a greenkeeper of any description, please come on and join.

The names of our new members are, forgive me if I spell your name incorrectly, but it has been a long time since I left school, Sydney Houston, Silverwood GC; Mark Cassidy, First Assistant at Lurgan GC; Adam Kelly, Ballymena GC; Lee Cartmill, not Cartwheel as I mentioned in a previous issue, sorry Lee, Malone GC; Thomas Otley and Damien Doherty, also at Malone; Ivan Ward, Rockmount; my very own curly haired First Assistant, Irwin Robinson; Jeff Lamb, Course Manager at Shandon GC has signed up his whole staff and they are as follows - First Assistant Joel Robinson, Lee Edwards, Alan Simpson, Alistair Smyth and Michael Kennedy. Many thanks to all the above and I'll be looking forward to seeing all of you at our next event. Congratulations to Noel and Eamonn Crawford who played sterling golf at the National Championship. Noel Crawford received the Best Gross Prize for one over after two rounds at St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven golf courses. Also brother Eamonn received Best Gross in the 0-7 category after a four over round of 78 at Fairhaven. Our other two competitors were Michael O'Neill and Nick Webber. I hear they played good golf, but no cigar was given. I hope all of you enjoyed your golf and the trip. You all did us proud.

During the winter period this region will be holding educational evenings throughout the country, with various topics ranging from irrigation installations to what type of grass seed is right for you. Please do make an effort to come along, as there has been a lot of work and time put into these evenings and at the end of the day, they are for your benefit.

Wrap up warm and I'll see you next month.

Iain Harrison

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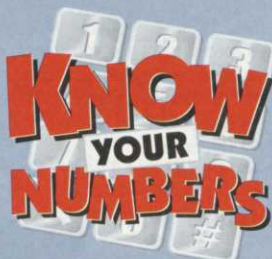
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Last month, Donald Spreadbury, one of our retired members from New Zealand GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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