



and hard work were necessary using the same motivation as a colony of ants. Soils had to be pushed back again to be prepared and seeded, sandbagging and silt fences erected with the same mental illusion employed by King Canute

Work regularly would be interrupted to the dismay of the contractors and owners patience would be stretched to the limit. Four golf holes and haulage routes remained incomplete but with the intention of cultivation and preparation ready for completion the following year. In the meantime bunkers, although roughly shaped by machines, required to have the dimensions agreed so that they flowed with the appearance matching the surrounding topography. Some were selected for revetment, others would have rounded grass faces. Drainage in the bases would be essential as would be the surround close area to prevent water running into the bunker. Sand used for filling was stockpiled from the lower bowl of the site. It was of good particle size, ideal for any golf course.

A decision was also taken to plan a series of network roads to run the length and breadth but mainly around the outer periphery designed specifically to accommodate maintenance machinery so that golfers would not be distracted. To install these roads a small track vehicle and operator would

grade and level the base for locally quarried hard-core to be delivered and then spread at equal thickness before being vibrated in solid then followed with a topping of compacting gritty ash material. Drainage to low lying parts of the road were also installed so that excess water could be removed quickly.

The old saying of March winds and April showers give way to May's flowers is usually an accurate prediction. March allowed us to cultivate, de-stone and prepare, April provided light beautifully spaced showers which assisted rapid germination. May arrived providing us with welcome sunshine which encouraged the grass to grow. Once established it was gently rolled followed up with a light application of sulphur orientated organic fertiliser. Once satisfactory grass cover became established it would be mutually decided by the contractors and owners that completion documents could be agreed and signed.

Following them another army of contractors arrived to build access roads, Clubhouse and other buildings, install separate sewage and water lines.

It never ceases to amaze when seed germinates, assisted by warm weather

and light rain showers, and this produces personal satisfaction to whoever seeded it. Our seeding was satisfactory, pushing through and growing vigorously dictating that properly skilled greenstaff be employed with the first appointment of a Golf Course Manager then a Deputy Manager right down to the labourers whose duties would entail the million and one jobs still to be completed.

Stuart McColm, who was the Project Manager with the contractors, was selected to become the new man responsible for the maintenance. Stuart was the ideal candidate having knowledge of the whole workings of the site. On top of that he was also a knowledgeable greenkeeper having

been employed by me to work on the St Andrews Old Course for a period of time. Staff now brimming with enthusiasm, all armed with the latest ride-on cutting machines, engrossed with the image of St Andrews fairways or the long snaking putts of Augusta greens, went forward in the creation of fast running Links-type surfaces which was our number one prime objective.

Growing the grass in to provide playing surfaces is a crucial factor.

Once contractors have left faults are usually discovered but allowances have got to be made. In our situation there were few owing to the professionalism of the company, Southern Golf, who have built many golf courses through-



Making of a masterpiece



out Europe. Having plenty of time is beneficial but could be termed a luxury to most. It is however inevitable that the owners will want to open sooner rather than later owing to financial commitment and who can blame them. In our situation we were reliably informed that Kingsbarns Links would have to be ready for play just prior to the Year 2000 Open Championship. With this directive we could assess that a large number of golf holes contained reasonable grass surfaces leaving only a few which would have to be managed discreetly without force being used.

Greens are the prepared part of the golf course where most discussion takes place. This is the area where they are good or bad, where scores are made or critical comments heard. Kingsbarns greens were designed to be extra large

with a similar strategy which could be found on St Andrews Old Course, put your drive into the correct position on the fairway or suffer the consequences with your approach shot. Before the greens and surrounds were built a thick layer of blown sand was placed onto the total area. It was on top of this that the layer of root zone material was placed. This was the method employed on old fashioned Links many years ago. The rootzone was made up of 70% local sand mixed with selected soil from the site. These were laboratory tested for drainage capabilities. Tees were also large, constructed exactly the same with a variety of shaping to provide a more interesting appearance. On both constructions wind interference was taken into account. Fairways were the areas where we anticipated we would experience most difficulty. Some of the upper level the soil still contained more than average silt levels indicating that problems may occur if we were to become complacent. On account of this we had already organised vertidrainage, solid-tining followed up with sand applications drag matted down the holes. Hollow-coring then removing the cores was also achieved on five fairways. Again we topdressed this time using soil and sand mix similar to rootzone mix. Overseeding on top of existing grass was also achieved with good results.

The week prior to the 2000 Open Championship and our opening date soon arrived. Cutting routines organised by the Course Manager were succeeding with the modern sit-on speed driven fairway mowers and pedestrian roller mowers on greens soon provided a polish. Heights of cut were kept higher than normal with greens being reduced to 6mm from 10mm Tees were set at 8mm with fairways gradually reduced to 14mm. Although the fairways were extremely

wide the band of semi-rough was extended at landing areas mainly to accommodate high handicappers but also to speed up play Fertiliser applications were kept deliberately light at regular intervals always using sulphur orientated mixtures spread on all areas throughout all of the golf course except roughs.

Irrigation was also frequently used during this period. Stuart McCollm, along with his First Assistant, would regularly walk the whole of the golf course once a week. When inspecting the greens Poa-Annua invasion was the biggest fear. On many newly constructed golf courses if the green structure was incorrect or if the maintenance attitudes were not properly implemented Poa-Annua would be the first to invade. In our situation we decided to pluck it out with the plan adopted of low fertility coupled to minimum irrigation applications. Aeration in the form of 8mm tinning was also organised on a monthly basis.

Although I am sure the owners along with everyone concerned were quietly confident of their product they received a massive boost when the R&A indicated that they would financially assist over the first five years, a deal which would allow their Members along with Local Club Members to play the golf course at a reduced green fee. However, they were overwhelmed with the reaction from the world's press, players and golfing bodies, almost everyone involved in golf, all indicating that this golf course was going to be great. To cap it all, Dunhill Company decided that changes should be made to their existing Tournament to make it into a Pro-Am concept, two Professionals combined with two Amateurs, similar to the AT&T played at Pebble Beach, organised to play at Carnoustie, St Andrews and Kingsbarns - Big Company indeed!





Get a Headstart® ...

Headstart® is a revolutionary biological seed treatment that can speed up germination by 20%.

Headstart® helps greenkeepers and groundsman establish new turf or repair key playing areas when under pressure against time or weather conditions.

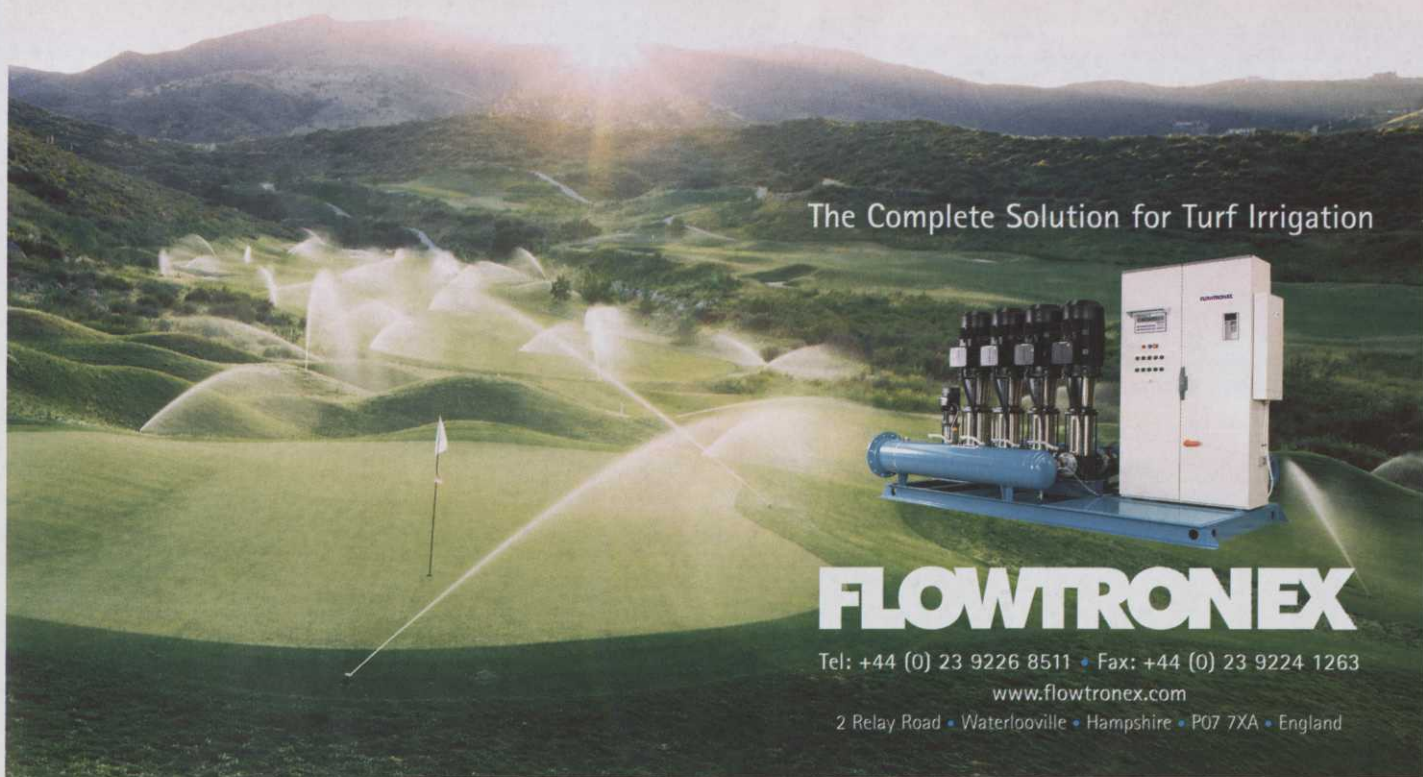
It also helps prevent disease and is used on the highly successful 'MM' range of grass mixtures from Advanta.

...beat the Competition!

Call today to find out how on +44 (0)1529 304511

Advanta Seeds UK Limited · Sleaford · Lincolnshire · NG34 7HA · Fax: +44 (0)1529 413137
email: amenity@advantaseeds.co.uk

THE WATER WORKS



The Complete Solution for Turf Irrigation



FLOWTRONEX

Tel: +44 (0) 23 9226 8511 • Fax: +44 (0) 23 9224 1263

www.flowtronex.com

2 Relay Road • Waterlooville • Hampshire • PO7 7XA • England

With as much rain as we have endured over the latter half of last year it was perhaps fitting that a club named the Dyke won the BIGGA Environment Competition, in association with Amazone UK. But it was for its environmental excellence rather than its ability to hold back the tides which brought it its rewards...



It's only Natural

Persistence and a continuing progressive approach to environmental management paid off when The Dyke Golf Club, near Brighton, under the stewardship of Course Manager David Ansell won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone.

The Dyke had consistently finished high up the standings in the competition but had lost out in the hunt for the main prize but such is the excellent work carried out by David and his team that the presentation of the trophy was merely being delayed. That was how it worked out and the much deserved award was presented

to Club Captain Gary Thompson.

The Dyke adds to an illustrious roll of honour going back to when the competition was run solely by Amazone - Purdis Heath and Ridding Park set the ball rolling before BIGGA took over the running of the competition and Hankley Common, Lindrick and Temple Golf Clubs were the winners in the previous three years.

The presentation, in the splendid Dyke clubhouse, was also a sad occasion in one regard as Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone and the inspiration behind the competition announced to the gathering that

he was stepping down as Managing Director and that his association with the competition would end.

"When we started the competition in 1994 who would have believed that it would have grown to what it is today. I am stepping down a week from today so I'd like to offer my congratulations to everyone who has been involved over the last six years.

"We are the third most populated country in the world after Bangladesh and Holland and oasis like golf courses are very important to us. After our three score and 10 we should leave the planet no worse than we found it," he told the gathering.

Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Woods, two of the principal judges, report on The BIGGA Environment Competition sponsored by Amazone with support from the R&A

As the overall winner of the competition it is tradition that the winning club hosts the prize giving and to say that The Dyke rose to the occasion would not be overstating the case. The food and hospitality sampled by all those lucky enough to attend was outstanding.

The overall winners award was accepted by Gary Thompson, Captain of Dyke Golf Club and David Ansell the Course Manager.

"Today, environmental awareness and the concerns arising from environmental issues form part of our modern lives on an increasingly frequent basis," said Gary.

"No matter where we are, or what we are doing the environment, its protection and enhancement is of vital importance to us all. We at The Dyke recognised some years ago now that we must embrace such awareness and take an active, rather than passive role as custodians of a small part of an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

"Our own awareness

of these issues, and how we could respond to them, was greatly influenced and driven by the quietly determined attitude of one man, our Course Manager, David Ansell.

"David not only understood, but managed to convince first the Committee and then the membership of the importance of an environmental programme and our responsibility in taking effective measures to ensure that such a programme was not only implemented but sustained. His work has been tireless. At times it has not been easy but David has always known what was needed, how to plan and record what was done and, most importantly, how to carry out effective environmental management.

"On behalf of the club David may I thank and congratulate you and your staff for all of the efforts that you have put in and for which this award is the pinnacle of your achievements to date," said Gary.

"David was given an additional spur by the BIGGA Competition, sponsored by Amazone and our thanks must go to both of these organisations for initiating and carrying through what has quickly become a prestigious award," he added.

David, himself, then thanked the



Above: Clive Osgood, Dyke Captain Gary Thompson, David Ansell and Rod Baker
Below: The victorious Dyke greenkeeping staff





Club Committee and membership for their support and also acknowledged the massive role his greens staff had played in achieving the course's environmental objectives to date.

Martin Gunn, Course Manager of Temple Golf Club, last year's winners, urged the Club to enjoy the next 12 months while using the publicity of the success to positive ends.

He revealed that other clubs were still contacting Temple in connection with winning the competition just days before handing the trophy over. He also stressed how much they had enjoyed receiving the accolade and how much interest both internally and externally at the club the award had generated.

It was then the turn of the judges to give a brief outline of how the competition had fared during 2000. They also took the opportunity to raise some broader issues. "Today's presentations are very timely given that the world's major environmental decision makers are, as we speak, discussing global scale environmental management in The Hague," said Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist.

"Although at first this may seem far removed from this morning's celebration, the underlying message is clear. Environmental improvement starts at

home and that means good housekeeping. It is up to each and every one of us to take steps to do what we can to ensure environmental improvement. The BIGGA Environment Competition is instrumental in raising that awareness within the golfing industry. Through the continued progress of the competition we have been able to demonstrate the positive side of golf.

"However we must be aware that the golf industry is being faced with new legislation from Government and Europe and Clubs must be aware of these new pressures and remain alert to the sensitivities of the environment and act accordingly."

In summing up, Bob went on to say, "The competition is now over six years old and in that time has evolved to now encompass all aspects of environmental management ranging from the basic issues of nature conservation and habitat management to considering

issues such as pollution control and energy efficiency. Golf is a major land use, but it is one that has been criticised over the years for the way in which it has, as an industry undertaken this responsibility. The competition has been a very positive way in which we have been able to demonstrate the positive side of golf. The level of commitment to environmental management by golf clubs has largely

been unsurpassed."

Jonathan Hart-Woods, another STRI based Ecologist, who acts as a judge for the Environment Competition, outlined how the selection process had worked during the competition this year before Dr Keith Duff of English Nature summed up for the judges.

Keith expressed his admiration for the standard of entrants he had visited during the final judging and added

It's only Natural

Right: The Dukes Course: Extensive areas of natural looking water features

Below: Kilmacolm: A great example of a course that sits sympathetically in the surrounding landscape.

Bottom: Newmacher: Special initiatives award. The newly constructed island had swans nesting on it by early spring 2000

"These courses are making a real and practical contribution to the creation and maintenance of habitat continuity in the wider countryside."

He went on to stress the importance of corridors for wildlife that cross different land uses and identified golf courses as having a significant role to play in this capacity.

He pointed out the window at the course and said that it would not have changed significantly in 100 years whereas the surrounding land will have changed dramatically.

He reminded the gathering that we are a small over crowded island that needs to make the most of what little land we have wherever possible and responsible golf clubs were doing just that.

Though the day belonged largely to the Dyke and the regional winners, the announcement that Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone UK, was standing down from the competition after this year was met with genuine sadness from all those present.

How the BIGGA Golf Environment competition works

A record of 58 clubs entered the BIGGA Environment Competition this year. That is good news for the competition and shows that every year the competition is just getting bigger and bigger (no pun intended). By late July from the original 58 entries received, Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist and myself had highlighted 25 clubs from all over Britain that we felt were worthy of further investigation through a visit to the Clubs themselves.

It is worth saying from the outset that not only was there a record number of entries this year, that the quality of the entries received was even higher than those from the previous year. That is great news and very encouraging but it also makes the judges' de-selection process extremely difficult and sometimes very painful. It also meant that some very good clubs just missed out on a site visit by the narrowest of margins.

With 25 clubs to visit Bob and I split the country into five sections, Scotland, Northern England, Wales, south-east England and south-west England. Visits are then allocated on our personal knowledge of the clubs to some degree. If Bob has been to a club that I have not visited I would visit that one and vice versa, that way we have a good idea of how we compare when it comes to the final judging when we meet up later to discuss our findings.

To get a site visit has its advantages too even if the club does-



n't go beyond this stage. As Bob and I work as Golf Course Ecologists we are happy to discuss any aspects of ecological management during the site visit. The main object of the visit is to assess the golf clubs environmental credentials for the competition but we are both happy to offer constructive advice and answer any queries. It is our hope therefore that by acting on the advice and encouragement offered during these sessions the club may progress further in the competition next year. So even if you feel your club is at an early stage of development when it comes to environmental management you could still benefit from entering the BIGGA 2001 Environmental Competition.

A number of the 25 clubs that narrowly missed out at this stage but were of a very good standard indeed received a highly commended certificate and this year the clubs were in no particular order, Luffenham Heath, Parkstone, Wilmslow, Oulton Park, Southerndown, Royal Portheawl, Theydon Bois, Berkhamstead, Bradley Park, Teeside Golf Club and Arcot Hall. Anyone familiar with any of these clubs will quickly appreciate the very high standard the competition is addressing.

From the 25 site visits made we finally agreed on eight clubs from which to select the five regional winners and one overall winner. With Bob and myself at loggerheads and September giving way to October it is of great benefit that we can call at this stage on the services of Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature. It is Keith's job to arbi-

trate between Bob and myself and to visit each of the eight clubs selected with either of us to determine the five regional winners.

This year the final eight were Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club, Llanymynech, Kilmacolm, Broadstone, the Dyke, Kenwick Park, The Duke's and Merrist Wood. It is fair to say that there was very little separating these Clubs, but there has to be regional winners and in the end Kilmacolm, Scotland; Llanymynech, Wales; Kenwick Park, North; Broadstone, South-West, and Thorpeness, South-East, won through. Each of the regional winners received £250 and a wooden plaque. Newmacher Golf Club near Aberdeen won the special initiatives award in its first year, for the success of their pond island building scheme.

The overall competition winner deservedly went to the Dyke Golf Club and they received a cheque for £5,000 and a plaque. The award ceremony was held at the Dyke Golf Club on the 23 November 2000. We would like to congratulate all the clubs that took part this year and the Dyke in particular and hope they enjoy the next 12 months.

Keith, Bob and myself can relax now for a few months until the competition launches early in 2001. Lets hope it attracts even more entries this year. If you are thinking of entering give it a shot there is nothing to lose and plenty to gain.

Jonathan Hart-Woods



INTRODUCING A UNIQUE METHOD TO FERTILISER MANAGEMENT

- pH and fertiliser management controlled through irrigation.
- Stronger and greener turf with controlled pH.
- Variation of fertiliser elements for immediate effect.
- Environmental friendly using less fertiliser.
- Feeding only when necessary and therefore saving on the cost.
- Saving on the labour - no manual spreading.
- Continuous monitoring of water quality and quantity for your records.

The system is engineered and manufactured by DGT-Volmatic, delivered to your premises customised individually to your requirements.

Saint Engineering Ltd.

1 Laburnum Walk, Upton-Upon-Severn
Worcestershire, WR8 0LW.
Phone: 01684 591 020 · Fax: 01684 591 030

DGT-Volmatic A/S

Vejlesvinget 2-4, DK-2665 Vallensbæk Strand
Denmark
Tel.: + 45 4373 1100 · Fax: +45 4373 0110

www.volmatic.com



ATTENTION ALL GREENKEEPERS

We recognise your need for high quality products at an affordable price. That is why the "Turf Rise" range has been developed as a programmed approach to efficient turf management.

Applying the best of plant nutrients, (mini-granular or liquid), this all-in-one treatment provides effective, economical results.



VISIT US AT BTME Q54

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL

Greentech	Scotland	01786 480020
Turfcare	NE England	01207 505837
Strike Topturf	NW England	01614 567109
Greenpride	Lincs/Yorks/Notts	01522 703772
GrassRoots	Home Counties	01189 736600
Coburns	Ireland (N+S)	028406 62207
Unichem	Ireland	0035 318351499
Best Green Prods	Denmark	0045 98236330
Di Crivellaro	Italy	0039 0457101966

To join the ever increasing number of greenkeepers who are using this proven method of management, or for further information, contact head office and speak to Alistair Ballantyne on 01674 678388 or go directly to your local distributor.

DISTRIBUTOR



GRADEN

Are you able to Scarify and Aerate in one operation?

Introducing the revolutionary Scarify-AIR from Graden. Depths of nearly 2 inches can easily be obtained, removing an incredible amount of debris, this can help increase the surface airflow and water penetration.

Pedestrian and tractor mounted models are available.

Seeing is believing!

Visit us at this years BTME Exhibition at Harrogate, stand Q68. For further information contact:

Sports Turf Services
Newbridge Ind. Estate,
Midlothian, Scotland,
EH28 8LE.

Tel: 0131 333 2345.
Fax: 0131 335 3204

R & K Kensett,
4 Leazes Avenue,
Chaldon, Caterham,
Surrey, CR3 5AH.

Tel: 01883 342632.
Fax: 01883 340461

ARCO

and



WORKING TOGETHER

to give BIGGA members a better deal...

Redwood



3 in 1 Jacket

BTME Exhibition Special Price Only

£19.99

Selection of Fleece Hats & Gloves

(assorted colours)

BTME Exhibition Special Price From Only **£3.00**

Selection of Fleece Jackets

BTME Exhibition Special Price From Only

£9.99

(assorted colours)

REGATTA GREAT OUTDOORS™

TRESPASS®

Waterproof & Windproof Fleeces

BTME Exhibition Special Price

Only **£24.99**

See ARCO at the BTME Exhibition

Held in Harrogate on 24th, 25th & 26th January

Don't forget that BIGGA Members always receive

20% DISCOUNT*

*not valid on special offers & selected technical products - see staff for details

ARCO Humberside

Waverley Street, Hull

Tel: 01482 327678

Fax: 01482 210131

E-mail: arco.humberside@arco.co.uk

ARCO

STAND OPENING HOURS:

Wed/Thurs - 9.00am - 5.30pm

Friday - 9.00am - 1.30pm

All prices include VAT
Offers subject to availability.
Personal callers only.



For more information on any of our products or services please contact the stand Manager Phil McCarthy

all together for better value this winter!



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Annual Conference. Business Learning Centre Lauder College, Dunfermline.

On March 6, 2001 BIGGA Scottish Region will once again be presenting their Annual Conference at Lauder College Dunfermline. This is the third year we have been at the Business Learning Centre which provides a ideal location for easy access from the motorway system and of course the facilities within the Conference Centre are first class.

This year's speakers are from a cross section of the industry and greenkeeping, all prepared to give their time and talents to providing us with an insight into greenkeeping related matters.

The speakers include Neil Baldwin, Omega Sciences, whose talk will be "Biology and Control of Black Layer in Fine Turf"; From the GTC we have David Golding whose talk is entitled "The GTC-Raising The Standards"; Peter Jefford, Rufford Soil Technology, his talk will be on "How to select top dressings and Root zones today"; Sandy Armit, from Double A Trading Company will talk about "Modern Machinery Maintenance"; From Wales and Celtic Manor, the Director of Golf and Courses Manager, Jim McKenzie, will provide an insight into the greenkeeping matters; and from Carnoustie, John Philp, Course Manager, whose talk and title will be on "Turf Quality. What it means to you"; Finally Joe Turner from Bernhards who will advise us on the Benefits of Sharper Reels".

As in the past we have tried to provide a variety of topics which hopefully appeals to the greenkeeping industry and this year we have tried to continue with this theme. The Conference has always been well supported throughout the years and hopefully this will continue. We look forward to seeing everyone at Dunfermline.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2001 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

North

Three new members to welcome to the Section in the New Year. Richard Cutler from Montrose GC, Barry Huydon from Braemar GC and Graham Mackie from Edzell GC, hopefully these will be the first of many this year.

Congratulations to Newmacher Golf Club who received an award in the Environmental Competition last year. The club get a trophy and £500 for their work on the pond that guards the 1st green. Well done to Dale Robertson and all at the club.

I recently attended the Annual Patrons' Lunch in Stirling, where we thank the members of the trade for their support throughout the year

and award the ten lucky members of the Scottish Region with a book and trip to BTME 2001. We had a great meal and once again Peter came up trumps with a quality speaker who had us in stitches with his stories. How will you top that next year?

Speaking of Peter, I hope he is enjoying his well earned break in South Africa just now.

As I mentioned last month, here is a list of the Section Committee, their duties and a contact phone number. Chairman & Magazine report - Iain Macleod 07788 923214; Secretary - Dougal Duguid 01224 740329; Vice Chairman & 200 Club - Stewart Mcbain 01224 733347; Treasurer - Stephen Sullivan 07760 191208; Education - Kevin Peace 01467 623125; Trophies & prizes - Hugh Maclatchie 01779 470173; Raffles - John Geddes 01358 723034; Outings & handicaps - Iain Gunn 01997 420155; Outings & handicaps - Robert Hardie 01224 783201.

I hope to see a lot of Section members at BTME in Harrogate later this month.

The football match is on the Tuesday evening now, so that the lads on the Scottish bus can play. See you all in the Majestic on the Sunday for what should be another great week.

Iain Macleod

West

Welcome to another round of West Section news. Firstly I would like to introduce myself, as Gavin Jarvis, on becoming Chairman, quickly delegated the duty of writing this column to me. My name is Brian Bolland and I am currently Head Greenkeeper at East Kilbride GC, having served my apprenticeship at Elderslie GC under Bob Scott before a brief spell as Deputy Head Greenkeeper under Donald Macleod at Pollok GC.

Having spoken to many of the previous writers of this column the main problem they have faced and I am sure I will to, is actually finding enough news to write about out with section outings and social events. (I am sure there was a smirk on Gavin's face at the meeting). I know you have all heard it before but if you do have news of any kind please give me a call on 01355 236335 or at home on 01355 266862 and I will be pleased to add your news to the column.

Now onto the serious business of reporting on the West Section dinner held in Victoria's in Glasgow on November 17. The night started sedately enough with a pleasant buffet style dinner washed down with a few light refreshments. Then on came the entertainment. Billy Porter the resident comedian prompted three distinguished gentlemen onto the dance floor to show off their abundant physiques. The dancing was of a high calibre but despite Gavin's frantic gyrations he could not pull Billy's attentions away from Gary Semple's perfect teeth. Mr. Porter's words not mine. After the cabaret there was a chance for all the greenkeeper's and trade to catch up on some gossip over even more

refreshments before moving into the various bars within the venue.

Victoria's again proved to be popular and everyone appeared to enjoy the night. Hopefully next year there will be more new faces to write about.

As Gavin mentioned in last month's column, Ronnie Bunting is arranging another moderator's meeting in January at the Central Station Hotel.

Well I am off to clean the webs between my toes before the next shower comes along.

Again I would like to emphasise that if you do have news or information you would like passed on to your section please feel free to call on the numbers mentioned earlier.

Brian Bolland

East

Well here we are into another year, where did the last one go? As they say it must be old age that makes the years go by quickly. Anyway on with this month's article.

I hope that everyone had a good festive season and you all got what you wanted. (I asked for some dry weather, but you can't get everything I suppose).

There's not a lot of news around at the moment but this is what I've got.

Congratulations to section committee member Andy Forrest, Oatridge College Golf Course, on winning one of the two Scottish places on the Bernhards & Co trip to the Canadian Greenkeepers Show in Canada in February. We all hope he enjoys this trip with the other nine winners from the UK. Well done to them all.

When he comes back we hope he will maybe give us a talk on his experiences in Canada and an insight into this show.

Well done to the winners of this year's Patrons' Awards for 2000 - they are Ian Bell, Glencorse GC and Richard Mullen, Swanston GC.

These awards are given to members of each Section who in the eyes of the Section Committee have attended all Section events such as lectures, AGMS, golf outings etc. Their prize for this award is a paid trip to BTME 2001, a book on greenkeeping and a presentation dinner. So if you attend all events next year you could be the winner of the 2001 Patrons' Awards.

So in the next couple of months I will get them to write a short article on their trip to Harrogate. Talking about BTME at Harrogate I hope Ian and Richard have been getting in some training for the week ahead. I look forward to meeting up with old friends at BTME and if any of you are going, we hope to see you there.

Well that's it all for this month.

If anyone out there has any news let me know asap on the usual numbers Home: 01968 661313. Office: 01968 661721. New mobile: 07719580449 as of 6/12/00 or you can email me at chriscej26@aol.com.

Chris Yeaman.

Central

I hope everyone has recovered from any self inflicted headaches over the

festive period and that you are all gearing up for the new season which lies ahead, let's hope it's a bit drier than the past 3 or 4 months!

We're up and running already on new members joining the Section with Gary Limes from Kingsbarns Golf Links being our newest member, Gary was formerly a student member, and we are glad to welcome to the section as a full member.

There is not a great deal of news at this time of the year what with holidays etc. no doubt a good number of you will be at BTME in Harrogate later this month for the annual "get together," after which I am sure there will be the usual newsworthy events to report on!

The Spring Tournament this year is being held by courtesy of Scotsraig Golf Club, Tayport, Fife in April, entry forms will be arriving with you in the not too distant future, and once again if you wish to compete in this event, PLEASE return your form as soon as possible.

If you can remember the forms which were sent out to every member last year, asking what type of events you wished your committee to organise, well out of nearly three hundred sent out twentyone members took the time to send them back, but unfortunately the three events we attempted to organise had to be cancelled due to the lack of support. Never mind we will keep trying again this year!

It is hoped to organise a football match against the West Section in the not too distant future, so if you fancy being involved you had better start training. With Andy O'Hara now being Chairman of the section he is looking for someone to relieve him of the duties of Team Manager, the wages are not great but if you fancy yourself as the next D.A. or M.O. you can make up your own mind what the initials stand for, just get in touch with Andy or myself and who knows what fame (or notoriety) you may achieve.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

I have just returned from a three-week trip abroad, and I expected to see a change in the weather, but things are just the same, cold and wet, and has been while I have been away so I am told. So the day after my return we were due to have the "President's Cup" and AGM at Wilmslow GC. Little chance I thought due to the amount of rain that we have had during the last two months. Steve Outram, the Course Manager at Wilmslow rang me in the evening, and I fully expected him to tell me the competition was off, but he informed me everything was OK, and that was

a relief. The day did go well starting with bacon baps, and coffee at 9.30am, tee time from 10am, and 18 holes of golf in good conditions without any rain. The course although wet was in great condition, obviously due to the amount of work Steve and his staff have put in, and was a credit to them. Their hard work certainly paid off for them, as Steve Oultram won the "President's Cup", Andy Bennett, and Steve Johnson won the longest drive and nearest the pin, they are also on the greens staff at Wilmslow, so between them they cleared up on the day.

The golf was followed by the AGM, and a great evening meal. The committee had decided at the last meeting, that due to the fact that because Wilmslow Golf Club have been so good to the N/W Section over the last four years, allowing us to hold this competition, and AGM, we would show our appreciation by presenting the junior section with a cheque for £100. The cheque was presented to the Chairman of Green, who attended the dinner, and he informed the meeting that the money would be used to purchase a cup, to be called the "The North-West Greenkeepers Trophy", to be played for annually by the

junior section.

I would like to thank Wilmslow Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, Gwen and Dave Chason for great food and for keeping the bar open all day, and Steve and his staff for preparing a great course. That seems to be it for now, but don't forget the Mere Seminar in March. Any news or views give me a ring on 0151 724 5412.

Happy new year to everyone
Bert Cross

Northern

Unfortunately the Christmas Golf at Huddersfield GC was cancelled despite the best efforts of Alan Lofthouse and his staff, the weather beat us. The 15 who did turn up for the start of the day had an enjoyable day, down at the local Ten Pin bowling alley where we had three games. This was won by Simon Heppenstall and the bring and win was transferred to the bowling, so everybody was a winner with excellent prizes on offer.

The annual trade prize for the best trade golfer throughout the year went to Mike Brear. A prize to what we call the most 'dedicated' golfer went to Steve Heaton. I would like to thank Huddersfield GC for the day and for a superb meal enjoyed by all.

It was good to see John Waite looking so good and in good form giving everyone some stick for the meal and AGM.

Talking of the AGM, there were 26 members present and I would like to thank Ian Holoran from the Board of Management for coming down and answering the members questions put to him. There were quite a few points raised about the Association which will be taken further.

The committee for 2001 is as follows President - Dennis Cockburn; Chairman - Simon Heppenstall; Vice-Chairman - Jim Brown; Secretary/Treasurer - Andy Smith. Committee members - Richard Smith, Tito Arna, Steve Heaton, Dave Thackery. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank John Waite, Gary Potter and Liam Galway for all the work they have done this year and previous years for the Section on the committee.

Look forward to seeing you at future events.

The venues for next year are Spring Tournament - Filey GC; President's Day - Harrogate GC; Roses Match - Sand Moor GC; Invitation Day - Howley Hall GC; Autumn Tournament - Woodsome Hall GC; Winter Golf - Headingley GC.

On top of this there are plans

to hold 2 further section seminars this year.

Congratulations to Matt Booth, from Howley Hall GC, on passing his PA 2. On the movement front Gary Potter has left Woodhall Hills GC to go to Vitax as a rep. Jim Brown and all the lads from Cookridge Hall G&CC wish John Studdard all the best on his move to Wyke Ridge GC.

Looking forward to seeing you at Harrogate for the show. In the meantime, if you have any queries, don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving me a call.

There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has anything then please let me know.

My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188. My mobile is 07790 678572, and my email address is; andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Sheffield

I would like to start by catching up on events missed over the last few months. On November 2, Farmura was our guest speaker for the first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Thank you to Alan Dyson and Farmura for a very interesting talk.

Any similarity to the Hayter FM524

