

Following this was our AGM from which the Section welcomes two new faces onto the committee. Paul Docherty, of Wheatley Golf Club, takes on the role of Competition Secretary and Chris Astle, also of Wheatley, takes over from Ron Ullathorne as the Section Secretary.

On behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Ron for all his hard work over the years as Secretary and to wish him all the very best in the future.

On November 27 we returned to Rotherham Golf Club for the Winter Golf Day and Christmas meal. Unfortunately the day was a wash out but the day went very well on the Snooker tables and once again the meal was excellent. Thank you to all the trade members for their support on the day and throughout the year, to the catering staff for a superb meal and to Rotherham Golf Club for use of their facilities.

Next meeting is on February 1 at Rotherham Golf Club where John Deere Machinery is our guest speaker. Start time 2.30pm

Lastly I hope everyone had a very good Christmas and wish you all a prosperous New Year.

A Sampson



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Berks Bucks and Oxon

I thought for one mad minute that a score of 80 points, based on two players from three playing reasonably well and scoring 40 points each around Frilford Heath which is never a pushover, would comfortably see my team somewhere in the prizes. How wrong could I be. 93 points, no that's not a mistake 93 points won the event I must be in some sort of dream world. Seriously though, fair play to the guys that won and if their handicaps are correct they must have played some decent golf, unlike myself and partners Alun 'ricochet' Wright and the young Ms Bell. Frilford was of course in magnificent condition and my congratulations to Sid Arrowsmith and his staff.

The results of the day are: 1. T. Brown, J. Davies, P. Small 93pts; 2. A. Masters, V. Riches, M. Ely 85pts (back 6); 3. L. Anderson, S. Austin, W. Nunn 85pts. Nearest pin: John Eggleton, longest drive: Lee Bishop.

Thanks to Bernie Wall, from Gem, for sponsoring the event

and also to Frilford Heath Golf Club for staging the event.

Not much other news about to report on I'm afraid except I'd just like to congratulate Peter McFadden who for the last year or so has been my First Assistant at Caversham Heath. As from December 1 he became Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Well done Pete and thanks for the hard work.

As this is coming out in January and I forgot to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year (because I am writing this in December) I hope you all had a good one and see you all in the new year, let's hope we get some more rain, the course is just too dry at the moment. Oh well back to the clinic!

Jon Scoones. Tel: 01189 723334

East Midland

This year's AGM Golf Tournament was held at Park Hill GC in Leicestershire on November 1. The weather leading up to the tournament saw us have rain nearly every day for several weeks, and it really is a credit to Dean Cooper and his staff for presenting us with a fine golf course played over 18 dry greens. The format for the day was a three man Texas

Scramble with a minimum of four drives per person. Not surprisingly the winners were: 1. Derek McJannet, Adrian Rhodes, both Sherwood Forest, and Les Emery, Regional Administrator, with a score of 63-0.9-62.1; 2. David Smith, Mansfield Sand, Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, and Nick Root, The Leicestershire, 68-4.7-63.3;

3. Carl Chamberlain, Kilworth Springs, Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, & Andy McGreal, Lingdale, 70-4.8-65.2.

Moving on to the serious business of the AGM it was pleasing to see a much increased turnout for this event and it is hoped that numbers will now be on an incline. No real serious matters were brought up at the AGM and the committee is as follows for next year. Chairman - Gavin Robson; Vice Chairman - Adi Porter; Secretary - Antony Bindley, Treasurer - Richard Barker; Additional Committee members - Ian Needham, Andy McGreal, Jeff Dickinson, Derek McJannet, Chris Weir. I would like to thank two of our retiring committee members for all their hard work while in office, Dave Leatherland and Steven Heap.

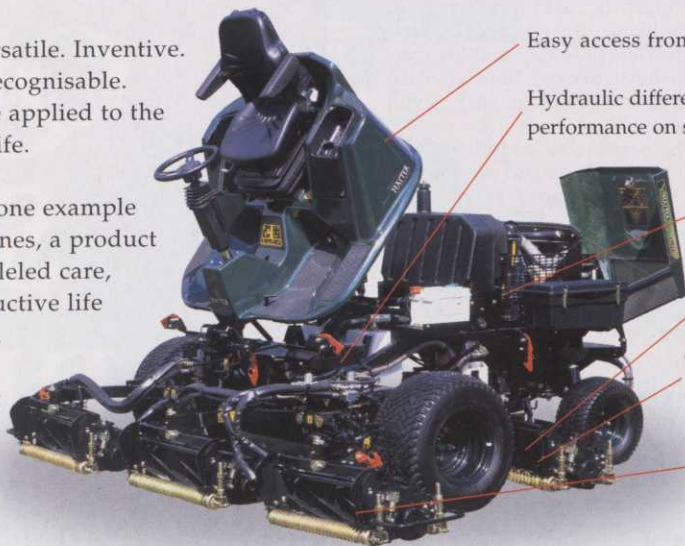
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Park Hill GC for their hospitality,

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especially to Claire Hutson for all her help in organising every day, The Steward for a marvellous meal and our very generous sponsors Vitax for providing the prizes.

Five dates for your 2001 Diary. Go-Kart evening-Wednesday February 21, Wymeswold Ind Est; Spring Tournament, Wednesday May 9. Birstall GC; East of England Golf Match Cotgrave Place August 15; The Autumn Tournament at Lingdale GC on September 14th, and The AGM at Mapperley GC on November 8. If you would like to attend the Go-Kart evening which again has been kindly sponsored by Toro Lely UK, please get in touch with me and I will gladly send you an entry form.

Finally would all members who have an email address please let me know for my membership records, as this will enable me to get in touch with you, and send you any entry forms. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Antony Bindley



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West

I am writing this after returning from another day of wind and rain. I have been told the members from the Bristol area have taken up carpentry, and have started the search for Noah's original plans!

The Region's seminar at Cannington College was well supported and our thanks go to the speakers and to Paula for arranging it.

The Magic Bus will once again be heading North to BTME if you have not booked, please contact Paula to see if there are any places left.

Westurf is earlier this year, so make a note in your diary Wednesday, March 14. There is going to be a social gathering the night before in an Exeter hotel, again contact Paula for cost and arrangements.

The first event of 2001 is the Winter Tournament, at Stinchcombe Hill GC, on Wednesday 28 February, kindly sponsored by G Tinkler.

Application forms will be sent out along with the year's forthcoming fixtures, if you do not receive one let the Secretary know.

The Sections best wishes go out to Steve Britton and his family of Thoulstone Park GC after he suffered a heart attack. We hope for a speedy recovery. Any news or views please contact me on 01285-720112.

D Bougen

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season. The Section's first meeting of the new year is the Barenbrug Seeds meeting which will be held at The Royal North Devon GC on Wednesday, January 31. The day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 9.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 11am. After lunch our educational talk will cover golf rules. Our Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Launceston GC on Wednesday, November 15. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

As always the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members walked the course and met up with Head Greenkeeper George Bailey and his team.

After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to: 1. Shaun Getson, Tavistock, and Garry Foster, Tavistock, 33pts; 2. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, and Neil Turner, Ilfracombe, 29pts; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton, and J.Mills, Taunton, 28pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors Devon Garden Machinery for their support and to Launceston GC for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Launceston GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to George Bailey and his crew who have worked hard to keep the course open in such awful weather.

The Sections AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Terry Farkins. The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending 30th September 2000. This year end balance of £1463.02 showed a profit of £195.05 compared with last year's balance sheet, but does not include the £200 outstanding to be paid for the fixture cards. In real terms the Section made a slight loss of around £5 for the year-end. Over the last year the Section held three very successful pesticide training days which saw all members achieving passes, unfortunately the courses made a slight loss of £17.83 due to the sponsor of the first training day going into liquidation.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our Section meetings over the last year namely. Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden

Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys and Supaturf.

For the second year Rigby Taylor have sponsored our fixture cards and must be congratulated on the excellent quality of the cards.

Unfortunately during the last year one of our Cornish committee members stood down from committee. The committee decided to invite Bill Mitchell to serve as a Cornish member on the committee and were delighted

when he accepted.

On closing his report the Administrator congratulated the Chairman Terry Farkins whom this year reached the final of the Toro Award and his excellent achievement in finishing runner-up.

Also the Administrator thanked all the members who have attended meetings for their support over the last year. Hopefully the Section can get even more members to attend meetings over the

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coming year.

Last but not least the Administrator thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Cary Rawlings for looking after the golf scores.

The Chairman opened his report by thanking everyone for attending the AGM meeting. He informed members that it had been a pleasure and an honour to serve as Chairman of the Section

over the past two years and felt it was time for someone else to take over as Chairman.

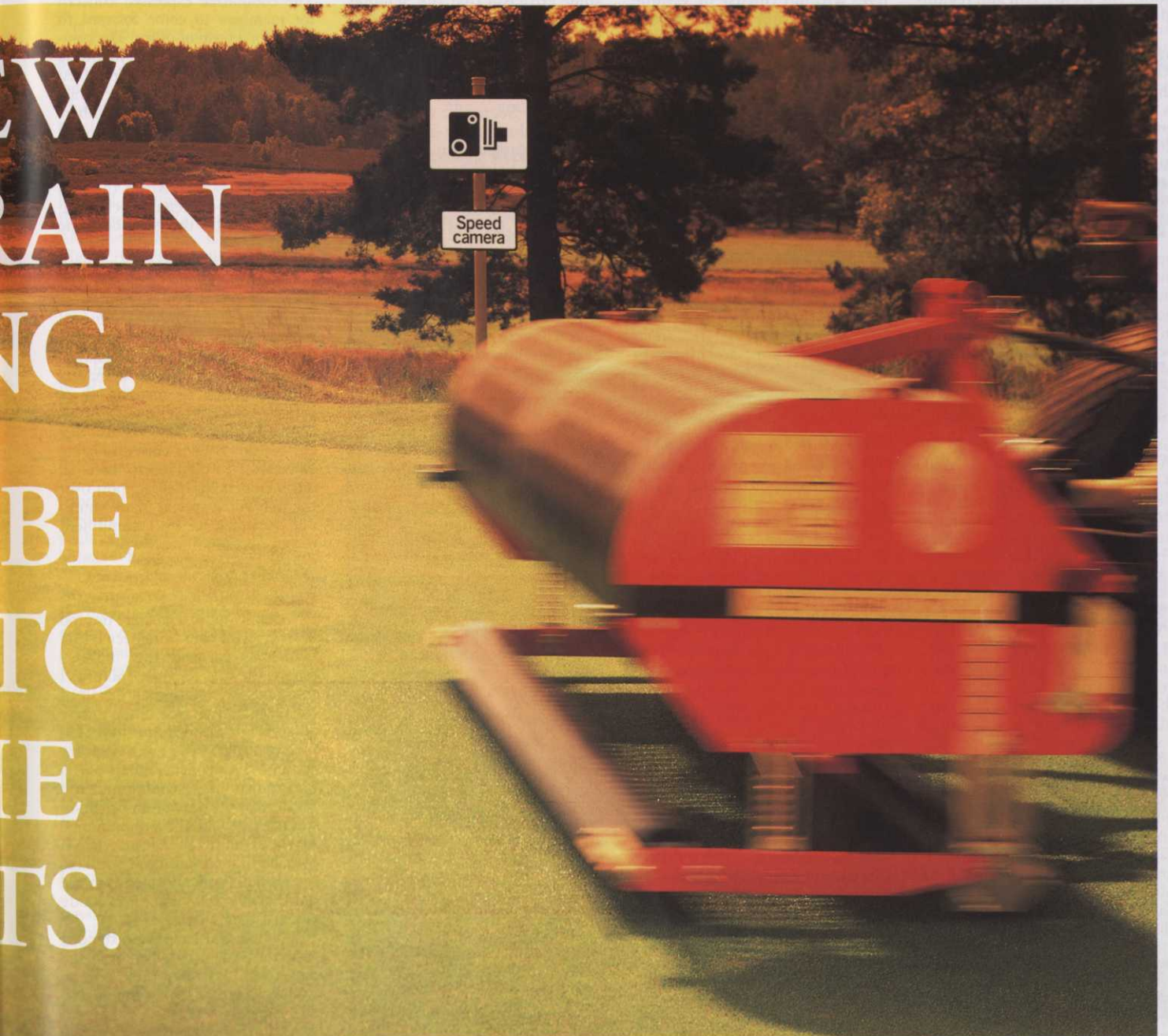
He continued by congratulating Tony Vokes, of St Austell Golf Club, on his tremendous achievement on reaching the national finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Also, congratulated Richard Whyman of Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on being selected to represent BIGGA at the Canadian International Turf Conference

and Trade Show in Vancouver next February.

The Westurf trade show this year was once again a success and West Point is an ideal venue for our members and hoped that all members will support the show next year. The Chairman congratulated the Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, for all her hard work over the last year and the Regional Board members who continue to promote our industry.

The Chairman informed members of the sad loss of Mike Oliver who was a great supporter of the Section and past on the section's condolences to his family.

The Chairman on closing his report passed on the Section's thanks to all the trade companies who have supported the section over the last year this was very much appreciated and he thanked Section members for helping the Section to be one of



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the most successful in the Country. The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for representing the Section so well on the regional board, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Wisdom, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Whyman who has continued to do an outstanding job as Section Administrator.

Richard Wisdom opened his regional report by congratulating the Regional Administrator Paula Humphries for her outstanding efforts, which included the organisation of Westurf 2000, the BTME trip and regional seminar.

This year's Westurf was once again financially a success. Richard advised members that their support in attending Westurf is needed to allow the show to grow. The Region's trip to BTME 2000 was once again sponsored by Amenity Technology with two 55-seater coaches departing the Region, Richard also mentioned the planned trip to BTME 2001.

The President, Martin Samuel, opened his report by thanking members for their support over the last two years and wished the next president an enjoyable term in office. He thanked members on behalf of the trade for their support over the last year, he felt that the sections meetings had the right balance of golf and educational talks.

C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board. J. Mills, B. Mitchell, R. Shapland, T. Farkins, Regional Board, R. Whyman, Section Administrator, A. Dommett, President J. Palfrey, Trade; C. Ralph, Trade.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

Very little to report this month. Hope you had a good Christmas and New Year celebrations. Bring you up to date with the info on the Christmas tournament and AGM next month as this would have gone to press before the day. Our Evening Lectures sponsored by Avoncrop continue on Wednesday, February 14 with John Foulton, of Advanta, talking on fine turf and Gerrard Cuncliffe, of Biotol, on Micro-organisms. Looking ahead to March 14 we have a Health & Safety update to keep up with changes and legislation. You might already have received a booking form for our Seminar to be held at Pencoed College on February 28. If you have, fill it in quick. It only costs £15 for BIGGA/I/OG members and £20 for non-members. Dr Bill Adams, of Aberystwyth University, Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, and Jim Arthur are confirmed speakers. Just to remind you on the 23 - 26 of this month it's the BTME show at Harrogate.

Richard Hatcher

South Coast

It's been a busy month here in the South Coast, with two major events taking place within two weeks.

The first was the annual seminar at Cannington College, the day was well attended, and the quality of speakers was the best I have heard at any seminar.

First, and last up was the familiar face of Frank Newbury. The morning session was all about miserable people in the work place, (and we all know one) and how to try and put a bit of happiness back in their lives without the use of Valium. The last session of the day was dedicated to presenting yourself, with very helpful tips on letter writing, CV's, and interviews.

The second speaker was Stuart Ashworth, from Amenity Technology. The subject was Soil Sampling and Interpretation. A very interesting topic, it was nice to see what happens to all the core samples that they receive, and to find out what they actually test for.

The third speaker of the day was the infamous Jim Arthur. Jim shared with us his views on traditional methods of greenkeeping, opposed to the methods being brought over from the other side of the pond. A topic, which I don't think, will ever be resolved.

The second event this month was the Turkey Trot and AGM. 54 players enjoyed a rare break in the lousy weather we've all been enduring. The venue was Hockley GC, which it has to be said, was in fantastic condition! Well done to Trevor and his team of professionals. Many thanks also to the bar and catering staff for a very enjoyable meal. And last, but by no means least, thanks to the members for allowing us courtesy of their course.

Thanks must also go to the sponsors of the day, Sheerwater Leisure and New Forest Farm Machinery. And well done Carl Horrax for organising an excellent raffle, I'd like to name all the prize givers, but unfortunately I don't have enough room. But everyone knows who you are.

Winners on the day were; Div 1. 1. Darren Miller 41pts; 2. James Krzanowski 39pts;. Div 2. 1. Andy Macdonald 41pts; 2. Kevin Glass 38pts. Div 3. 1. Alan Ridout 44pts; 2. Rob Crouch 38pts. Alan Ridout was also awarded 'Golfer of the Year', who else could it be?

There will be a report on the AGM next month, as I've run out room this time.

See you all next month.
Mike Cartwright.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

The South East Regional Seminar was held at Thorpeness Golf Hotel in November and many of the delegates took advantage of the Hotel's generous special offer and turned up on Monday for 18 holes on their very fine course. Surprise, surprise it stayed dry!

Before the event there had been some criticism that the Seminar, with the theme of "The Future of Greenkeeping" was too "trade orientated". These fears, however, proved unfounded as all those who attended (and there was 74 from all Sections within the Region) thoroughly appreciated the Seminar content and a sincere vote of thanks was recorded to Ian Willett and the East Anglia Committee for such a good day.

Derek Farrington

Surrey

Prior to the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club your committee met on Tuesday 28th November to preview a number of written questions that were discussed at the A.G.M on November 30.

All members that attended the golf and AGM will agree that the turnout of nearly 80 was excellent and we all thank Burt Watson and his team for providing us with a golf course in a condition that was amazingly dry and so well presented, the weather was dry, which was a miracle, when one considers all the rain that we have had this Autumn. Thank you also to Tyrrells Wood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and to the catering staff for a splendid meal.

The sponsors for the day were Tacit and we thank them for the generosity that ranged from first prize, a portable colour T.V. to the sixth prize an electric sandwich toaster.

The prize winners were 1. Tony Bremer, 42 pts; 2. John Davidson, 40 pts; 3. Steve Gudge, 40 pts; 4. Paul Weston, 40pts; 5. Gareth Roberts, 39 pts; 6. Doug Fernie, 39 pts.

London

The Turkey Trot along with the AGM was held at Sandy Lodge Golf Club in late November. The course was in excellent condition and in remarkable shape considering all the major refurbishment work being carried out on the course. Robert Phillips and his staff did a wonderful job and I would like to thank the management at SLGC for allowing us courtesy of the facilities.

The overall winner for the day was Peter Phillips, ex sec/man of Porters Park Golf Club. Family connections coupled with a good local knowl-

edge of the course resulted in winning score of 37 points. In second place was Billy Smart with 36 points closely followed by Ben Knowles - Jackson also with 36 points.

I would like to thank the trade for their support and in particular, Mark Day representing Tacit, for paying for the bacon rolls on arrival. Rigby Taylor for providing the annual turkey for the event for the best score on the day by a greenkeeper. Billy Smart, from Aldenham GC, was the worthy winner.

The AGM was held prior to the meal and the accounts for our section were discussed in great detail. The committee expressed concern for members to come forward to stand for a term of office. The committee now consists of the following members. Ian Semple - Secretary, Tony Dunstan - Chairman, Craig Handyside - Treasurer, Robert Phillips - golf events coordinator/around the green article, Tony Dyke - Elected on the day, Larry Eden - Elected on the day, James Lomas - Offered to help occasionally! With the sale of raffle tickets etc.

A request from David Kirk with reference to winter seminars was taken on board by the committee and will be actioned ASAP. Our secretary appealed for forthcoming golf days for 2001 and asked members to contact local course managers with reference to securing three venues. Concern over members not appearing on the day was also discussed; this issue is currently being addressed. I would like to thank all our members for their support over the year and a special thank you to our Secretary, for his commitment to our Section.

Tony Dunstan.

Essex

Hopefully most of you are not too blurry eyed or hungover from Christmas to read this month's report, the first for three months. I must start by offering on behalf of the Essex Section committee sincere apologies to Bishops Stortford Golf Club who were the holders of our Autumn Tournament. Illness plus a breakdown in communication meant that the relevant information was not passed to the author in time for the details to go to print (thanks spice boy), sorry lads I was not there myself but I was informed that the day went well and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Apologies must also be extended to all the trade that helped make the day possible. Without these guys we would not have had any golf days at all. The only details still in my possession are the overall winner, Pete Blackaby, Head man at Manor of Groves Golf Club and Trade Winner, Simon Banks, of Banks Horticulture, your obviously both in the premierships, (Harrogate) as far as the golf goes. As mentioned previously I was unable to attend the Bishop Stortford day but did go to the UAP sponsored winter Stableford at Orsett GC on

December 5 for the last tournament of the year. So did 35 other members, guests and Trade golfers obviously hoping for a game on what was reputedly the driest golf course in the area and although we played on five temporary greens the rest of the course was indeed surprisingly dry, was this down to great green-keeping or the fact that they had over a foot less rain than most other courses in the area? Judging by the high standard of presentation over the whole of the course I would say it was a bit of both but Head Greenkeeper, Carl Croucher, would in his usual modest way put it down to being fortunate with the weather.

The high scores also reflected the condition of the course with the winners in all being around their handicap. Overall winner was Ray Clark, of Channels GC, with yet another great round coming in at 37 points one clear of 15 - 28 category winner Martin Guy and 2 clear of 0-14 winner Andy Sheehan. Richard Dunmow and Pete Blackaby came 2nd and 3rd behind Andy with Keith Chinnery and Martin Forrester finishing in the same positions behind Martin.

Trade winner by divine intervention was Richard Lewis with 34 points, a very popular winner from Drive Force Leisure (nice to see you can drill some paperwork in properly Rich). Greenkeeping Supply Company sponsored the Longest Drive, which went to Richard Dunmow and Nearest the pin, Keith Rowley. Guest prize went to a new name and hopefully next time a new handicap for S. Colgate who managed to notch up 40 points. Other trade sponsors included Sheriffs, Vitax, Banks, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Driving Force Leisure, Avoncrop and Tacit who sponsored the breakfast. The strong trade presence at our golf days is part of the reason our days go so well, their support is greatly appreciated.

At the end of the prize giving Andy Sheehan was presented with a trophy for finishing up as Player of the Year, Andy won the Forrester Park and Theydon Bois golf days earlier in the year. Well done mate. Thanks to all the staff at Orset Golf Club for making our day so enjoyable, especially Martin Forrester's niece who fended off a very amorous Ray Clark.

Golf Days for next year are as follows: - Frinton On Sea, Bentley, Hanbury Manor, Three Rivers and Channels, five fine golf courses.

New members this month are Steven Levemore and Alan Smith, both from Clacton Golf Club. The annual AGM followed a lovely meal. All members of the committee who stood last year are remaining in their positions, the Section lost money last year but this was mainly down to the Go-Karting Day which has been cancelled. Derek Farrington indicated that the Section was still going strong. The Section is looking for golfing venues for 2001, Martin Forrester is a great bloke, Carl

Croucher talks funny and Dominic Rodgers is so far up... to date with all the handicaps giving most of us shot backs. The AGM went smoothly and all thanked Chairman Carl Croucher and rest of committee for all work done throughout the year.

See you all at Harrogate Steve Crosdale.



Well here we are in early December and the rain just keeps on coming. The last ten weeks have been difficult for most of us with flooded courses resulting in disruption for the golfers and

greenkeepers alike. I am hoping that the weather will turn a little drier for the rest of the winter and give us a chance to carry out improvement works on the course before the busy spring period comes along.

At Allen Park in Antrim we have only lost one and a half days play up to early December so the top-dressing of fairways with sand and extensive drainage work carried out by Head Greenkeeper Clem Beattie and the greenkeeping team with assistance of Clive Richardson and Horta Soils have really improved playing conditions. Many parkland courses throughout Northern Ireland are carrying out similar programs of improvements and hopefully the golfers will appreciate the effort greenkeepers and their respective clubs are making.

The Section had an educational

visit to very beneficial.

I would like to welcome four new members to the Section this month. Paul McFadden Head Greenkeeper, at Strabane Golf Club; Fintan Ward and John Ward, from DownPatrick GC, and Paul Johnston who has just moved from DownPatrick GC to Malone Golf Club.

Congratulations to Royal County Down Golf Club who have now been voted the number 2 course in the UK and Ireland by Golf World.

Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping team can be immensely proud of this achievement.

Our next event will be a talk on irrigation systems by drilling and pumping irrigation at Allen Park GC Antrim on 9/1/2001 with a start time of 7.30pm. Hope to see you all there.

Ken Henderson

Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries

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SOUTH WEST / SOUTH WALES

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DEVON C/WALL	Richard Whyman	Bude & N C/Wall GC	Club: 01288 352006	E-mail: richwhy@cwcom.net
S WALES	Peter Lacey	Pennard GC	Tel: 01792 233923	Mobile: 07971 914121

NORTHERN IRELAND

N Ireland	Ken Henderson	Allen Park GC	Club: 02894 429001
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Entries to reach us no later than Monday, January 29, 2001. The first correct entry drawn will receive a stylish BIGGA Sportswatch!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Mr B Kilcline, from Notts GC, Hollingwell, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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