

North East

On September 20, we paid our first visit to Hexham GC for the Autumn Competition, as always Head Greenkeeper, Mal Lathan and his staff, had the course excellent condition, considering they had hollow cored and dressed the greens only three weeks prior to the competition.

Thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy and to Gary Finn, the Catering Manager for providing us with an excellent meal. Other thanks go to the trade for providing donations and prizes they are Thorntree Landscapes, Turf Care, Cropwise, Shorts, Aitkens, Greenlay, Amenity Technology, Border Turf Services, out of the sponsors there were only four on the doorstep who gave a prize out, sad isn't it that we have to rely on the same companies all the time, still thanks again - without you we couldn't manage.

Best Gross J. Hutton, 70, Whickham GC

Best Nett J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 75-7 = 68 (won the back nine from J. Hutton)

Greenlay Cup

B. Wilson 69 nett, Stocksfield GC

Fewster Shield

B. Hughes 73 nett, Whickham GC

Next year's Autumn Comp, will hopefully be at Longhirst spring comp. Not decided yet.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

I am writing this month's Section notes as the greenkeepers are competing at Birkdale in the National Tournament, and

they must be having a fair battle against the weather. The wind today has been almost gale force, and knowing how open Birkdale is, I would imagine that like the professionals, none of the competitors will be finding the course easy. I called in at Birkdale a couple of weeks ago for a sneak preview, not to play, and the course is in great condition as always so I hope everybody enjoys playing what I consider to be probably the best Open Championship Course in the country.

The autumn tournament was played at Ashton & Lea Golf Club on September 3, and although we had mixed weather the day stayed mainly dry allowing everybody to enjoy their golf. We had only 23 members playing which is a poor turnout considering the venue is just about central to the North West section area, but September is a busy time for greenkeepers, so maybe the timing was wrong, I would like to thank Ashton & Lea Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and also the caterers Wendy & Ian for a lovely lunch and evening meal. The results were as follows:

Best Gross. Paul Pearce, 72 p/o scratch

Best Nett. Paul Walker, 68

Best Vets. Brian Turner, 82.

Guests Prize. Andy Cornes, 74.

The aggregate trophy was won by Paul Walker with 72 + 68 = 140 total.

The nett prize went down to 7th nett thanks to our patrons and other trade members. At last I have received some news from members, some good, some not so good. The good news is that Paul Worsencroft, Head Greenkeeper at Knutsford Golf Club, who was injured

in a car accident last February is making good progress, and is slowly getting back to work. His golf club has been a great help to him and his family.

The not so good news is that Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven Golf Club, is not in the best of health at the moment, but I understand that the treatment he is undergoing is showing good progress. All our good wishes go to Peter for a speedy recovery. Finally I am informed that Paul Pearce, Head Greenkeeper at Penwortham Golf Club, takes over as Captain at Hazel Grove Golf Club this year. Quite an honour, hope you have a good year Paul.

Don't forget the AGM and President's Cup at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 6.

All applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB, Tel: 0151 284 4416, include your cheque for £15, and everybody bring a bottle so we all go home with a prize. Any news or views contact me on mobile 07761 583387 or 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

Northern

It seems a long time ago since Invitation Day was played at Howley Hall GC. This event was sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Head Greenkeeper, Simon Heppenstall, missed a great day with 48 enjoying the course, while sunning himself in France. Simon's Deputy, Mike Bussey, did a great job in setting the course up. I had better not say much more, as I am a little biased.

The results are as follows:-

1. Robin Smith, Bill Dalton 42pts

back 9-23pts, Leeds City Council

2. Joe Baxter, Allan Taylor 42pts

back 9-22pts, Bingley St. Ives GC

3. Tony Gerrard, Steve Wild 42pts

back 9-21pts, Halifax GC

Trade - Alan Dyson, Barry Askham 38pts,

Farmura

Nearest Pin on 8th Nigel Wild, Otley GC, 2.09m

Nearest Pin on 18th Mike Hannan,

Scarthingwell GC, 19 cm

2's Club Winners £10 each - Mike Hannan, Allan Baxter, Bill Dalton, Nev Scales, Joe Cassell.

Many thanks to the Directors of Howley Hall GC for the courtesy of the course, Robin Parsons and his staff for the doing us proud with the meal and also to the Pro Gary Watkinson for supplying the prizes. All of this wouldn't be possible without the Sponsorship from Rigby Taylor who was represented by Mike Brear. Hardlines to the team in the Northern Regional Final golf day at Birchwood GC. Representing the Section were Richard Harris, Tony Gerrard, Andy Smith, Brian Hudson, Mike Gregson, John Wood. We came a gallant fourth with the Cleveland Section winning again. In the Whitehall Bowl at Penrith GC. Dave Collins came in the prizes with 35pts.

Coming up this month on Saturday, November 10 at Bradford GC is the annual dinner dance. And on Wednesday 21st our section seminar at Howley Hall GC with arrival at 9.30am till 3pm. This will include coffee on arrival, lunch. The cost for this is free. Speakers include Jim Croxten, PGA; Martyn Jones, Myerscough College; Bob Taylor, STRI; Sam McLean, Bernards.

RENAS | CELEBRITY SPEAKERS | PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS | COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES | SEMINARS | WORKSHOPS | CONFERENCES | MASTERCLASSES

National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January,
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses

Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist,
International Turfgrass Institute

Global Warming and the Golf Course

Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell,
Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd,
Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features

Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course
Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

Preparation for Winter Play

Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC;
Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels,
Consulting Agronomist

Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January,
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management;
Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st
Century. All workshops run concurrently with
Conference Sessions

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall,
Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker:
Roger Black M.B.E.
represented Great
Britain at the
highest level in
the world of
athletics, both as
an individual 400
metres runner and as
a member of 4 x 400
metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows;

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease
Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf -
MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month
Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos,
Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner
Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing
for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the
Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass
Management, Training and Professionalism
go Hand in Hand.

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety,
Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay,
the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of
Golf Course Management.

Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well
established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
is an exciting new concept which will enable golf
club industry personnel of all disciplines to research
and meet their product and service needs under
one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As
such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an
event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and
continues to be eagerly anticipated by
exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on
Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club
Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of
both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel,
the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahm's
and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

JANUARY 22-24, 2002

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, ENGLAND

Visitor hotline 01347 833833 Exhibitor hotline 01347 833800 Online www.btme.org.uk Email reception@bigga.co.uk

To guarantee your place as numbers are limited and for the catering, the deadline is November 15. In December on the 5th is the Christmas Golf at Headingley GC. This is a bring and win with a minimum value of £5. There will be other 'prizes' on offer making it into a fun day. If for some reason the golf is cancelled, something else will be arranged. The deadline is Wednesday November 28 for booking for the Christmas Golf at £15 (cheques made payable to BIGGA Northern Section).

For those of you on the Net, the Section website address is www.northernsection.co.uk and we would welcome good or bad feedback about the site. Please note my email address has now changed. (see below)

Congratulations to Dennis Cockburn on becoming a Great Granddad again. All those grandkids must be what keeps Dennis looking so young? That's all for now, if anybody as any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk
Andy Smith



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Mid Anglia

Teams wishing to enter the Christmas Texas Scramble event on December 6 at Dunstable Downs, should get their entries in as soon as possible (if you have not already done so). Costs of entry are £25 for BIGGA members and £35 for non-BIGGA members, guests etc. Please ensure that your team players pay the appropriate rate if they are not BIGGA members.

Jim Cassidy is organising some sectional education days for early next year. These include Basic Computing, Soil Science and a Chainsaw course. Should any members be interested in attending any of these events, please contact Jim for further details on 01442 842627. Once dates and venues are confirmed, they will be published in January's "Around the Green".

Golf meetings for 2002 are currently being organised by Gerald, with Ashridge, Abbotsley, St. Neots, Stocks and Berkhamsted as possible venues. Details will follow later in the year, once bookings are confirmed.

Finally, a couple of Section greenkeepers on the move: David Forsyth leaves Mid Herts for Penrith and Bob Butfoy takes on Heydon Grange after leaving Mount Pleasant. Good luck, lads!
Paul Lockett

Midland

Midland Region Autumn Cup was held on September 17 at Trentham GC. Thankfully the weather was kind to us, and congratulations go to

1. Vince Gilroy, nett 72; 2. Eddie Stant, 73; 3. Pete Holtham, 73. Trade prize went to Andrew Comes, of Acom Equipment, with nett 74, for the fourth year running.

Many thanks to all our trade supporters on the day: Sportsworld Amenity Products; wine was sponsored by Bathgates and John Hammond, most accurate drive and Nearest the Pin, Ruffords.

My personal thanks go to all my colleagues and members at Trentham. Our next golf day is the Christmas Tournament at Ray Hayhurst's Brocton Golf Club on Thursday, December 13 and of course will include the AGM. By now I am sure you have received details from HQ regarding regional training days. These have been organised in response to the call for more localised and affordable training. Therefore I hope many of us will attend and make them the success they deserve to be. As ever if you wish to contribute your suggestions are welcomed. I can be contacted on 07876 546638. I look forward to seeing you at Brocton Golf Club.
Phil Gates

East Midlands

This season's Autumn Outing was held at our Section Chairman's course Lingdale GC on September 12. The course was excellently prepared by Gavin Robson and his staff, and the poor scores were down to the difficult weather conditions. However we had a increased turnout of 37 which was a big improvement on last year's numbers. The scores were as follows.

Best Gross. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 82
Best Nett. Steve Levers, Ramsdale Park, 87-13-74

Category 1

1. Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley, 83-7-76

2. Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 84-6-78

Category 2

1. Steve Donoghue, Oakridge, 88-14-78

2. Robert Duval, Scraptoft, 87-12-75

Category 3

1. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 100-21-79

2. Gavin Robson 102-19-81

Trade & Associate

1. Kevin Kinzer, ET Breakwells, 100-23-77

2. Pete Fell, Aitkens, 91-12-79.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale GC for courtesy of their fine course, the Steward and Stewardess for a great meal, and to those new members who joined us for the first time, Robert Duval and Chris Brown. Also a special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products who generously sponsored the prize table, and to all those companies who supplied prizes for the raffle. Also on September 21, Banks Amenity Products sponsored a team of Greenkeepers in the Market Harborough AM-AM. Unfortunately the team did not score too well on the day finishing with a score of 139, 1 under par. On behalf of the three Greenkeepers who played I would like to thank Tim and Simon Banks for a wonderful day.

Antony Bindley

East of England

The match between the East Midland Section was played at Cotgrave Place Golf Club, and once again our rivals took home the trophy. The competition was sponsored by Ben Petitjean, of Barenbrug. Thanks to all who played for the East Of England Section, better luck next time on our home fixture.

The other matchplay fixture in the calendar was against the Secretaries' Association with an outstanding victory to the East of England Section. The match was played over an excellent Seacroft course and thanks goes to Michael Love and his staff for the hard work that they put in. This match was sponsored by Chandlers and by Nigel Lovatt of Toro.

G A Macdonald

BBO

The annual bring-a-long-a bandit, sorry, Invitation Day, took place at Harleyford Golf Club on October 4. At last, a golf day with no rain! A field of 34 took part and results are as follows:

1. Carl Small & Les Wallace, 49 pts;
2. J. Scoones & D. Kearney, 46 pts;
3. B. Smith & S. Scott, 44 pts;

I had the very great pleasure of partnering Carl and Les as they tore the course apart, and it's not the first time I have seen them do it. Last year they were level par around Caversham after 14 holes, and for those of you who have played the course will know that is good golf. Many thanks to Ray Clark and his staff at Harleyford. The course was in superb condition and also to Tim Webb and Mark Day, of Tacit, for sponsoring the day.

Also as promised, more news on the Rigby Taylor pairs. The semi-finals have been played with Ian Robins & Carl Small beating D. Goodchild & C. Wright and L. Anderson & S. Austin beating C. Lomas & M. Hancock.

The final is to be played at The Berkshire between L. Anderson & S. Austin against Ian Robins and Carl Small on October 22. Apparently this is something of a grudge match because the latter beat the former in last year's semi-final. The next golf day, the Turkey Trot, is to be held at Springs GC near Wallingford, and will be followed by the AGM. Be prepared, as we will be looking to recruit fresh faces on the committee.

Well that's all for this month, although I was surprised in the amount of people asking about Steph's tattoos. I'm not writing anything about them this month, but you could come along to a golf day and ask her yourself. Right, that's it I'm going to the pub. More next month (hopefully).

Jon Scoones



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

If the author could offer you the chance to mingle with the stars, have sex on the beach and then play golf on two of the finest courses in the country you would probably jump at the chance, so why don't you. This all awaits if you enter the BIGGA National Championships as Tony Kirwin of Colchester Golf Club and myself did this year.

We were truly mixing with the stars standing in the same bar as Liverpool's Steve Gerrard, on the Monday before the England v Greece game; we also had sex on the beach plus many other exotic and alluring sounding cocktails!

Then to top it all we had two days of golf at Royal Birkdale then Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club. After nearly passing out on the 1st tee in front of many spectators and photographer I really enjoyed my round. Tony on the other hand emulated his great feat of finishing third overall last year by finishing third overall in the scratch prize and fourth overall proper. Tony put his success down to getting to bed early the night before, (I think not), and not using

a single wood all the way round Birkdale which had winds averaging at 55mph and gusting up to 70mph. You will be pleased to hear that the Southeast yet again won the regional event proving that we are undoubtedly the finest golfing greenkeepers around.

I must mention Mark Pyrah, of Sheriff Crop Care; Steve Denton, of Rigby Taylor; David Murphy, of Driving Force Leisure, and Simon Banks, of Banks Horticulture, who agreed to sponsor me during my participation in the event.

Tony asked me to send his thanks to Colchester Golf Club who did the same for him. Full results are on page 32.

New members this month are Brendan Morgan of Trent Park GC, Rodney Beautyman of Crews Hill GC and Paul Edwards of Stock Brook Manor GC. This year's winter trophy sponsored by Silver Key Members, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, was held on October 4 at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club. Thirty-two of us teed off in lovely conditions and played a course that although a bit wet in places due to obvious reasons held up well and presented a good opportunity to shoot some decent scores. This was not to be the case however as the majority of the scores were too low to be published especially after my earlier comments regarding how good the South East region is.

Results for the day were as follows:

Overall winner of the Winter Trophy was Arnold Phipps Jones, of Stock Brook Manor, with 36 points.

Category 1 (0-14)

1. Jon Selwood, Abridge GC, 35pts
2. Dominic Rogers, Orsett GC
3. Steve Crossdale, Great Hadham GC

Category 2 (15-28)

1. Mark Stopps, Bentley GC, 35pts
2. Doug (Maggie) Smith, Mardyle Valley GC, 35pts
3. Nick Pomphret Bentley GC 32pts

Trade Prize went to the ever-present Steve Denton of Rigby Taylor who donated the first prize for the competition. Longest drive and Nearest the Pin went to Mick Fance and Malcolm Smith respectively. Top score of the day went to my guest and father, Ian Crossdale, who despite blobbing the first managed to rack up 38 points off a 13 handicap closely followed by Tony Scott, General Manager of TRGC with a very credible 36.

Gem Professional, Banks Horticulture, Tacit, Sheriff Crop Care, Driving Force Leisure and Avoncrop once again supported the day with their much needed attendance and Raffle prizes.

A very well done to all prizewinners and a big thank you to all the trade members for their continued support. Our golf days could be very expensive but for the support of the trade and their financial contributions often go overlooked.

Thanks to Simon Banks who provided some light entertainment in the car park. You'll need to ask him for details yourself. The entire day went without a hitch and we have Three Rivers Golf Club to thank for that, special mentions to Ray Mitchell and his green staff, Tony Scott the General Manager, Liz and the Catering Staff and Marcus the Chef.

Our next golf day is at Channels Golf Club on Wednesday November 18 which combines with our AGM. If you don't normally go to our golf days then this would be a great one to start with. Come on celebrate Christmas early with us at Channels.

Steve Crossdale

Kent

Dark, miserable and wet and I'm not talking about my ex-girlfriend. Yes it's raining again and there must be a few of you who are already suffering with drainage problems and the winter is not even here yet. 92mm this month and more on the way so don't get depressed. Well not yet anyway.

Well I have just got back from two glorious weeks in the Maldives and I was torn between going and playing in the Boughton Golf Day on September 13. The turnout for the day as put by one committee member was pitiful. A total of 33 turned out, but when you consider it was a guest day, it looks a little bleak. So where are all you guys? What's wrong with these golf days? Why does it seem that most of the eastern side of the county can't be bothered to turn up? It's the same few clubs who turn up every meeting which is just as well and I thank them for their continued support. Is it that the Head Greenkeeper does not play so the rest can't go? You tell me, please let me know your views. On to the results:

1. Jason Moody and Andrew Wood
2. Chris Mardon and Arthur Watson
3. Philip BJ Belton and Brad Parson

The individual prize went to Duncan Kelso again! Longest drive went to Andrew Wood and nearest the pin went to John Jehle.

A big thank you to Ernest Doe and Son for their provision of refreshments and the joys of Vic Maynard who entertained everyone while driving the drinks cart at high speed around the course. A big thank you too everyone involved down at Boughton Golf Club for a great day and a special thank you to Gary Debenham for all his efforts in presenting a very tidy golf course.

I did however miss the pleasure of Jason Moody's winners speech, which I understand did go on for a fair bit but well done for making one anyway.

Congratulations to Dave Critchell on his new appointment with Drake and Fletchers. After two years of being a Greenkeeping Mechanic he has decided to go back to the job he loves. Those who don't know Dave you will recognise him as the big ginger Yeti that will come and fix your machinery. He will not bite and he is a lovely bloke, so best of luck to you mate. Once again no calls or e-mails from you lot around the county so please surprise me next month with at least one. Call me on 01732 875020 or e-mail me at jbatkgholf@aol.com

For those who would like to write to me, you can: Kings Hill Golf Club, Kings Hill, Fortune Way, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4RG.

Hope to see you all at the turkey trot at Darenth Valley on December 6 and bring your wellies if this rain keeps up. Only joking Nigel. Looking forward to seeing you there mate.

Jason Bean.

Surrey

The SISIS Bowl knockout competition was concluded after an away and a home game at Hankley Common Golf Club and at Liphook Golf Club. The finalists in the red corner were David (the Hammer) Murdoch and his tag partner Adrian (Lawless) Locke and in the blue corner their formidable opponents were Gareth (Reckless) Roberts and Gregg (Rampant) Richardson. This two round heavyweight contest (sorry

Greg) was touch and go and after a close first round at Hankley Common Golf Club a flying drop-kick from Reckless Roberts edged them into a small lead, the bell for the final round at Liphook Golf Club was rung and with amazing versatility The Hammer and Lawless tagged several times and with a head lock from Lawless resulting in a submission. Victory finally went to the boys from Liphook Golf Club. Congratulations to David & Adrian.

Croham Hurst Golf Club were our hosts for the Autumn Tournament on October 4th and as yours truly was on holiday I really needed the rest. The sunshine and the blue warm Atlantic Sea, my report is not first hand but comes from a junior reporter, a youthful Scot who wishes to remain anonymous. The course was excellent, the greens were excellent, the grub was excellent and the beer was really excellent. Roger Tydeman and his team are to be congratulated and we ask him to pass on our thanks to Croham Hurst for allowing us the courtesy of their course. Roger played with the afore mentioned junior reporter but I do not believe Rogers generosity when buying drinks had anything to do with the compliments bestowed so overwhelmingly by my assistant. The day was sponsored by Avoncrop and we thank them for quality of the prizes. First past the post was Mark Harvey from that successful Epsom Stable with 39pts, a report that his success is due to his having been Gelded has since proved to be unfounded according to several local fillies, second, a disappointing Antepost favourite from Addington Palace, Ron Christie 37 Points and third also with 37 points, that useful hurdler from the Hindhead stables, Steve Holmes. Nearest the pin was won by that game old stayer, Jim Russell and the longest drive saw Ron Christie winning by a distance.

Your committee had a meeting on the September 19 and it is hoped that a quiz night will be organised for the December 5 at Walton Heath Artisans. Details to follow. Surrey Section will be hosting the 2002 Regional Seminar in October/November. Again full details will follow. Please remember that only written questions can be answered at the AGM so if you have any get them to a committee member ASAP. There are still some members who are not paying for golf days before the event. This will not be allowed in the future.

Finally a happy note on which to finish, Tony Shorman, from Shirley Park Golf Club, and his wife Sarah have celebrated the birth of their daughter Hope Louise on the August 11. Congratulations from us all.



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West and South Wales

The South West & South Wales Region is once again running a coach to Harrogate and extend their thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring this. The coach will travel up on Monday January 21 and will return on Thursday January 24. Please take note of the change of days from the past.

Packages are available and anyone

who has not already received an application form should contact Paula Humphries Tel: 0288 352194. There are only 75 places available - first come first served!

Devon and Cornwall

The Section's Roffeys meeting was held at China Fleet Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, October 3. A good field of members took to the course to compete for the D.O Hunt Trophy in superb weather. As usual Course Manager Richard Shapland treated non-golfing members to a guided course walk. After lunch members were treated to yours truly presenting a PowerPoint presentation on the Canadian experience.

Unfortunately Don Hunt was unable to attend the day due to other commitments so his duty of presenting the prizes went to Bill Pile who presented the prizes to 1. Nathan O'Sullivan, 40pts; 2. Tony Gooch, 39pts; 3. Richard Daly, 38pts.

The Section would like to thank China Fleet G&CC for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities, to the catering and bar staff and to Course Manager, Richard Shapland and his team, who had the course in superb condition. Also our thanks go to Don Hunt and Roffeys for their continued support of the Section and to Stuart Ashworth for the loan of the PowerPoint projector.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. 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 12. 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 with Tank Sherman 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 21 and returns on January 24, with the cost of £110 plus seminars per member.

The Regional seminar will take place on Wednesday, November 21 at Cannington College. For more details contact Paula Humphries 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

South West

A long awaited victory by the team on Welsh soil was achieved in September. (It's been four years!) Our thanks go once again to St. Pierre for courtesy of the course and excellent meal. One of the reasons for the result was the Welsh section only having seven men, as with the friendliness of these matches, one of the Southwest lads played for the opposition. He finally lost after a hard fought match on the 18th. I do believe he has since been crossing the bridge on a regular basis and he is known as 'WELSHIE'. The actual result was five and a half to a half.

Congratulations to Jim McKenzie and the Celtic Manor Resort for getting the Ryder Cup. I am sure that this is a boost for the region as a whole. Trips to BTME on the 'MAGIC BUS' are being organised once again by Paula so don't miss out. Our Christmas tournament will be played at Cotswold Hills GC on December 12. Please support this event and buy raffle tickets or bring along your own prizes, to be once again won by the lads at the Kendleshire.

Any news, views or information contact me on 01285 720168

D Bougen

South Wales

Autumn Competition held at the Newport Golf Club.

The course was in spectacular condition with many changes since our last visit. Despite the weather a great day was had by all. Our thanks to "Keith Morgan Mowers" Jon and Ben Morgan for sponsoring the day and to their representatives for attending on their behalf - Ray Harris and John Aspley.

Our sincere thanks to all at Newport GC for making us so welcome. To Eddie Trout for an excellent meal and to Angus Macleod and his team for the super golf course. Winner of the Morgan mowers Shield and Golf bag was Russell Anderson, Cardiff GC. Second place was, on home turf Angus Macleod winning the President's Cup and Ping Putter. Third place was Peter Lacey, Pennard GC winning the President's Shield and Callaway Holdall.

The Annual match versus the South West of BIGGA was held, as is tradition, at the Marriott St. Pierre G&CC. The day was sponsored by Amenity Technology and our thanks to Martin Harry who also contributed to the S Wales Team. A lucky win for the South West by all accounts! (by 5.5 to 0.5) Wait till next year! Our sincere thanks to all at the St. Pierre resort for making us so welcome and for booking the date for next year already (Wed August 21st 2002).

The hot running buffet proved to be a success even if the golf wasn't. Our thanks to the S West for their support and congratulations!

Dates for the diary: Wednesday December 12th AGM/Xmas golf Day at the Pyle & Kenfig GC. Book early as places are limited!

Peter Lacey



See you all next month

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Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:-

Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Friday, October 19, 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 L.J.L. Hendon, from Garforth GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!



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(Mansfield based)

We require an individual with experience, drive and enthusiasm to fill this important post that entails the day to day management of new branch premises and seven staff, together with sales and promotional work in Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. Applicants should have both management and relevant sales experience.

Due to internal promotion

International Trainer

(Ipswich based)

Working alongside the International Training Manager the successful applicant will be developing and delivering technical training course modules on our full product range. Experience in the industry is essential, as is a strong technical background and computer literacy. Applicants must be able to address an audience and deliver material in a public forum.

An excellent remuneration package, including company car, awaits each of the successful applicants. If you feel qualified to apply for either position please send your CV and covering letter to:

Caroline Gumble, Human Resources Director
Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products
Central Avenue, Ransomes Europark
Ipswich IP3 9QG England.

Closing Date for applications
is 30 November 2001.

Strictly no agencies



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Wetherby Golf Club Ltd

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1910, this is a well established private members club with 650 members.

Applicants should be technically qualified to level 2/3 in Sports Turf Maintenance and have the Management skills to train, motivate and direct staff in all aspects of greenkeeping.

A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and work schedules, with a sound knowledge of Health and Safety regulations.

Remuneration is negotiable and accommodation is available.

Written applications with full C.V. to:

**Greens Chairman, Wetherby Golf Club Ltd,
Linton Lane, Linton, Wetherby Golf Club LS22 4JF**



ernest/DOE

PROFESSIONAL TURFCARE TECHNICIANS

Ernest Doe & Sons, a multi franchised agricultural, construction and Grass Machinery dealership covering East Anglia and the South East, have vacancies for two professional turf care technicians at our Sutton at Hone, Dartford Branch, and one at our Fulbourn in Cambridgeshire Branch.

Successful applicants will be skilled with several years experience working with professional grass machinery and have the ability to work alone and as part of a team.



The Fulbourn branch holds the
Textron franchise for Cambridgeshire.



The Sutton at Hone branch holds
the Textron franchise for Kent.

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies, please apply in writing with full CV to:

Kevin Butcher, Branch Manager,
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, Wilbraham Road,
Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, CB1 5EX.

/
or
/

Richard Link, Branch Manager,
Ernest Dole & Sons Ltd, 83 Main Road,
Dartford, Kent DA4 9HQ

Feature listing from November '99

November '99: Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

December '99: Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

January 2000: Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review

February 2000: BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management

March 2000: Clebury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

April 2000: Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

May 2000: Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

June 2000: National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

July 2000: Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventis profile; Course Conditioning

August 2000: Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

September 2000: Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

October 2000: Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000: Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001: Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001: BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001: York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

August 2001: Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltex Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

September 2001: Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

October 2001: Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview' Saltex review



Whirlwind tours



This has been another busy month with quite a bit of travelling involved.

It started with a visit to Penrith Golf Club in the Northern Region for the Course Care Cumbria Cup which had been postponed from earlier in the year. I'd never been to that part of the world before and it really was delightful. It was an extremely friendly and hospitable golf club and we were all entertained royally. It was also good to meet so many members from that area. They are a hardy bunch because the rain didn't stop anybody from enjoying their golf.

It was then off to another part of the world which was new to me. Sweden, where I'd been invited by Rolf Lowgren, President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to the Elmia Park and Golf 2001 Conference and Exhibition, in Jonkoping in the centre of the country.

I must thank Tommy and Helen Lindelof, long time friends of the Association, who collected us from the airport and showed us many of the sites of Stockholm. It was extremely kind of them and I certainly appreciated the time they gave over to looking after us.

The Show was excellent, quite large with parts of it inside and others out. I attended some seminars, which fortunately were in English, and was extremely impressed by the enthusi-

asm and dedication shown by many of the young greenkeepers in attendance and who were also presented with diplomas, during a presentation ceremony.

Golf is really taking off in Sweden and job prospects must be excellent as I understand there are proposals for 50 new courses to be built in the Stockholm area alone.

I had hoped to meet a couple of American friends at the show but due to the current situation and the travel concerns they had been advised not to make the trip.

The BIGGA National Golf Championship at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale golf clubs was a wonderful event. We were extremely fortunate with the weather and we had two great golf courses to play.

Chris Whittle and Mike Mercer had done a wonderful job on them although I'm sure Chris' comment that the first day gales were only a "stiff breeze" had a few of the players who had struggled to cope, cursing a bit!

Having said that there was some excellent golf played not least by two of the older hands, Walter Woods and George Brown, who were engaged in their own private tournament during the two days and then found they had finished high up the main leaderboard. St Andrews just edged out Turnberry in that other event.

Local man Chris Ball, who works at Hillside and is a former Royal Birkdale junior, won the main prize with a two round nett total of 143. Extremely fine golf under any circumstances. Board of Management member, Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, won the scratch prize having shot an outstanding 74 over Birkdale in Chris' stiff breeze - there were gusts of up to 50mph so I wouldn't want to find myself in a Whittle hurricane! - and followed it up with a 77. I was also delighted that the South East won the team prize. But then I would be, wouldn't I!

There were over 90 players in the Championship and I think everyone who played will be looking forward to going back to Southport next year when it is to be played over Hillside and Hesketh. I'd like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the event such a success and such an enjoyable experience.

On the professional tournament front I'd like to pass on my thoughts to Dave Samuels and his team at The Belfry, whose preparations for the Ryder Cup were cut short at the last minute. They have now to start building the course, not to mention themselves, up for another 12 months. And to Chris Kennedy who produced another superb test of golf for the World Matchplay. Congratulations to Ian Woosnam on that one. Some of the golf during the week and particularly in the final was quite unbelievable and it shows you don't need to have the very top ranked players to produce a great tournament.

One event I wasn't able to attend during the month due to other commitments was the Surrey Section Autumn meeting at Croham Hurst but I was told that Roger Tydeman had the course in immaculate condition.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming Stig Persson, a regular member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open, and officials of Ljunghusens GC to Walton Heath. They were over to look at heather management on Surrey golf courses.

On the home front, we're well into our autumn programme and I've managed to miss yet more verti-draining work - it's pure coincidence I can assure you - and we're in the period of what I call soft growth. Hopefully by the time you read this you will be well into your winter programmes and I wish you all the best with the projects you are undertaking.

Clive Osgood, Chairman