

SCOTTISH REGION

The region has had a very busy time of late, with two major competitions held in the space of three weeks.

The ISEKI Regional finals were held on May 30th over Glendoch House Golf & Country Club, set in the hills at Langbank and overlooking beautiful River Clyde countryside. Few could fail to be impressed by the views from the course and Gordon Kerr, having recently taken over as Head Greenkeeper from Raymond Day, had prepared the course superbly, a credit when the limited irrigation facilities are considered. Play was, on the whole, of the very highest standard though there were a number of 'no returns' from the class 3 entrants. Our thanks go to Reekie Plant & Ken Petrie, and of course, Peter Powell of ISEKI Tractors U.K. for all their help and financial assistance, and to Steven Broad, the organiser. Everybody had a great day at Glendoch House and the winners are looking forward to the finals at Moor Allerton in October.

The winners were: First Class: C. McKay, Craig Golfing Society (77-8-69); S. Taylor, East Kilbride Golf Club (73-1-72); C. Pearson, Arbroath Golf Club (77-5-72) (B.I.H.); I. Ritchie, Ladybank Golf Club (81-8-73).

Second Class: A. Fraser, Alloa Golf Club (79-12-67); D. Lauder, Douglas Park Golf Club (85-16-69); S. Ross, Kyle & Carrick District Council (87-17-70); J. Coleman, Dumbarton Golf Club (89-18-71).

Third Class: N. Henry, East Kilbride Golf Club (105-25-80); D. Duguid, Westhill Golf Club (107-25-82).

SCOTTISH REGION 18 HOLE TOURNAMENT - 15th JUNE

Over 80 players enjoyed one of our best golf days ever. The weather was quite perfect for playing golf and the setting at Cawder Golf Club was the icing on the cake. Set in a beautiful Estate with large trees and rhododendron bushes in full bloom and water hazards 'a plenty', this was a first class venue. Course Manager, Alistair Connell had reserved the big course for the Championship, which left the Keir Course for his members. Alistair and his Head Greenkeeper, Jim McCormick had their Course in great condition as usual with fast greens and some tricky pin positions which made scoring quite difficult, but as usual, the good players came through. The Cawder Clubhouse setting, with three large lounges and dining areas was great for players to relax afterwards for meals, drinks and presentation of prizes. Our Scottish Region Chairman, Elliott Small, along with Cawder Captain John Gourlay presented the prizes to the best players on the day. Our thanks go to Cawder Golf Club for their warm welcome and kindness in giving us the courtesy of the Course for a wonderful day.

The winners were: Scratch: D. Leith, St Andrews Links (70); Best Nett: C. McKay, Deeside Golf Club (78-7-71) (B.I.H.).

First Class: G. Brown, Turnberry Golf Club (73); S. Taylor, East Kilbride Golf Club (74) (B.I.H.); Sullivan, Craigiehill Golf Club (74).

Second Class: J. McKenzie, Renfrew Golf Club (69); S. Melville, Lothianburn Golf Club (71); W. Fletcher, Troon Golf Club (73).

Third Class: S. Harvey, Cawder Golf Club (74); N. Henry, East Kilbride Golf Club (85); J. Wallace, Glenbervie Golf Club (88).

Best Head Greenkeeper: I. MacLeod, Tain Golf Club, (75) (B.I.H.).

Best Apprentice: I. Kerr, Buchanan Castle Golf Club (77).

Best Assistant: G. Paterson, Fortrose Golf Club (77).

CHRIS KENNEDY

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual Summer Tournament was held over Burntisland Golf Course on June 13th and although the event was played in heavy rain the turnout was first class. Our thanks go to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, to Bob and Ray Thomson for the delicious meals and to Head Greenkeeper Norman Wood for the excellent condition of the course.

This is the first time since 1967 that we have played at Burntisland but if comments are anything to go by, we shall return before too long. The lucky (should this read skillful, Ed?) winners were: Scratch: G. Wood, Dunbar. 1st Class: S. Crawford, Ratho Park. 2nd Class: J.W. Neilson, Murrayfield. 3rd Class: A. Nimmo, Alloa. The new member prize was won by D. Easingwood of Dunbar.

Our congratulations go to all East Section players at the ISEKI Tournament held at Glendoch House. All of you put up a splendid performance. The qualifier for the finals, A Fraser from Dunbar, goes forward with our hopes pinned on him and our sincere good wishes.

There have been a vast number of changes in the section regarding Head Greenkeepers. Almost every week we hear of a club placing advertising. Does anyone know the reason? Is the pressure becoming too much? Do committees and secretaries have too much to say? There MUST be a reason. First class greenkeepers with many years of experience in the field are suddenly out of work or seeking other employment. Could it have something to do with the influence of the Agronomist?

I would like to hear from anyone who can shed some light on this subject.

My own theory, which is shared by many of my older

contemporaries, is the lack of communication between greenkeeper and council. Let them know what you are doing, and the reason why. We must create a climate in the club where all members think of the Head Greenkeeper as the number one person to consult about course matters. We must be seen as capable of managing courses to very high standards if left in control and alone. If we fail to communicate adequately with committees or members, or are subject to constant interference, disillusion and discouragement sets in and by settling for a 'do as you are told' edict one crisis after another will result.

We all know how club politics and politicians lead to disastrous effects on the course; and the politics are not about to go away by themselves. Quite the opposite, they are worsening, with niggardly complaints, vis: not strimming around tee markers. The publicity given to Poa Annua, a weed grass, has made its impact on the club member. What they fail to understand, however, is that THEY help to create the problem.

It is wrong to condemn the greenkeeper with 100% poa annua greens when the membership pressure factor of close mowing is constant. Of course we would all like pure fescue greens, but if we are to achieve more than 60% agrostis, spread evenly through the green, we are doing well. The only place where you can achieve more is on limestone heathland and links, both of which are free draining with a high PH factor. It is rare to find it on more acid soils. Agronomists please take note.

WILLIE BLAIR

WEST SCOTLAND

Once again we are into the busy season of endless cutting and watering, applying fertilizers, fungicides etc and preparing for club competitions, and still we find time to compete in B.I.G.G.A. matches.

This years lucky West Section qualifiers to represent Scotland in the ISEKI National Tournament are: S. Taylor, N. Henry, D. Lauder, J. Coleman (reserve).

We congratulate you all and wish you good luck.

The Scottish National outing was held this year at Cawder Golf Club in Glasgow, with our section, West Scotland, being the hosts.

Cawder Golf Club were very welcoming and looked after each and every one of us. A special word of thanks goes to the Club Captain, John Gourlay, for his kind words and hospitality, and also to Alistair Connell, the Course Manager, for preparing a course that was a joy to behold and a delight to play upon.

Incidentally, the Captain of Cawder holds Alistair in such high esteem that he provides medication (a special Scottish formula) for him on various tees

around the course!

Thanks again to all at Cawder for a great day. We hope to meet you all again.

Organisation is now under way for the West Section Autumn Meeting at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, to be held on Thursday, September 14th. There will be additional information to follow regarding fees, catering and times. Would all members take note that in order to qualify for prizes in competition they must possess a National Handicap Certificate. If anyone has difficulty with this please contact me on 0786-64098 (work) or 0786-72548 (home). Also in the process of being organised is the Annual Dinner, which was such a success last year. Tickets for this will be on sale from the Autumn Meeting. Do please remember that this popular event will have limited places - popularity has seen to that - and you are urged to buy your tickets early.

Until the next issue, enjoy your holidays and if you have any queries, or information for inclusion in our report, do please contact me.

ROBERT BREWER

MIDLANDS

One of our Association's oldest members, Jim Bevan, has passed away following a short illness. Jim, who was affectionately known as 'Ginger', had spent a record twenty five years at Little Aston G.C. alone. This, apart from brief spells with Sandwell G.C. & Aldridge G.C., was his life and he has left an indelible mark at the club. Even in retirement Jim worked on his beloved Little Aston and it was there that he was honoured to be selected as caddie for the Prince of Wales, back in 1932. He was a stalwart supporter of our Association and its sporting events and he will be sorely missed. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Our annual R. Taylor Green-somes Knock-out Pairs Tournament is progressing well, with 8 pairs still remaining. I shall give further reports next month.

Still on the R. Taylor theme, the annual East Midlands v Midlands Golf Challenge will be played at the Longcliffe Club on Monday, October 2nd. To qualify for this, your best nett score from any of the three 27 hole competitions will be included in selection of the best twelve scores for our team line-up.

Finally, and forgive me if I repeat myself, do please contact me, by 'phone or in person, if you have any items of news for insertion in Greenkeeping Management. I heard recently that one or two members had not received their membership package. If you are amongst them, ring me and I'll see to it for you. I hope to meet more of you at one or other of our golf fixtures, or at our winter lectures, about which I shall make an announcement in a future issue.

IVAN TOON

EAST OF ENGLAND

Let us welcome the time of year when the sun shines and greenkeepers are seen at prayer — kneeling over small holes in the ground when the watering systems are suffering from 'seasonal belligerence'. Everyone asks "what's wrong?" but don't want to know when they realise the problem needs money to put the matter right.

The section held the re-arranged golf fixture for the Lambs Trophy. This was held at Stoke Rochford Golf Club in sunny weather, on a course that was in splendid condition. The views over the stately home and park were awe inspiring and when the standard of golf fell there was splendid wild-life to watch and lift the spirits high.

We had been invited to play at Stoke Rochford by Peter Bloodworth, who is well known to us for his Worth Draining. Peter declared he hadn't played golf for three months, but still managed to return a nett 68 and scoop one of the prizes. The Lamb Trophy, for greenkeepers, was won by our section Vice-Chairman, Mr Graham Patrick of Woodhall Spa Golf Club with a nett 68. In joint second place came E. Hunt and C. Macdonald, each receiving donated prizes.

Our grateful thanks to Mr Robin Lamb, who joined us and presented the Trophy — also to the Captain and Committee of Stoke Rochford for allowing us the use of their delightful course.

COLIN SWINGLER

SOUTH WEST

'It hadn't rained since the old King died', but . . . you've guessed it, as soon as we stepped onto the first tee at Chipping Sodbury for the **Browns Bowl** match against the Secretaries, down it came! Some of it even came sideways on a stiff breeze.

The match, decided by Stableford points, was hard fought and despite the temperature struggling to reach fifty some pretty hot scores were returned. The Secretaries were still trying to hold on to their moment of glory (and The Bowl) after their win in '88, the first in almost a decade, but with Mervyn Gray scoring 38 points and Jock Millar and Vic Lewer scoring 36 points each, we greenkeepers looked pretty good. And so it turned out, for although Ray Burniston and Ralph Crisp replied with 35 points each for the Secretaries it was to no avail, the Greenkeepers winning by 265 to 247. Both team Captains thanked **Browns of Bristol** for the prizes and Chipping Sodbury for their hospitality.

I've had three replies to take up places on the spraying course (Foundation Module) and this is simply not enough! Surely there are more of you who are conscientious enough to want to hold

the necessary certificate — I've got mine.

I'll look forward to seeing a great many of you at Knowle on August 1st for the 36 hole Championship. I plan to arrange a tour of both course and facilities for non-players in the afternoon; and sincerely hope that more than one person will be interested enough to turn up and grasp the opportunity to view another course and hear of both problems and remedies. This is how experience is gained.

PAUL WORSTER

SUSSEX

Our match against the Secretaries at Bognor Regis was again a successful event with the match being halved. Our thanks go to all those involved in the organisation of this very enjoyable day. There is to be a rematch at Mannings Heath in September and we shall all be trying very hard to win.

We had a turnout of some 20 members and their guests for the event at Cowdray Park Golf Club, **The FARMURA Trophy** was won by L. Shrub with 38 points. We thank Jonathan Harmer for the donation of this splendid trophy. Once again the facilities were excellent and our grateful thanks go to all concerned.

Results: Members. 1st - L. Shrub, 38pts; 2nd - M. Butromovitz 37pts; 3rd - S. Philips (Head Greenkeeper at Cowdray) 35pts.

Guests: 1st - D. Eastland; 2nd - K. Raye; 3rd - J. Leggett (back nine).

Forthcoming Fixtures: August 3rd - Mannings Heath G.C. Stableford, 1.30 p.m. September 26th - Rowlands Castle - all day Amateur Meeting.

DICK BULL

LONDON



George Whiby, Head Greenkeeper, West Herts Golf Club.

Our summer meeting was held at the **West Herts Golf Club** on June 19th in glorious sunshine. Our thanks go to the club for their hospitality and to **George Whiby** for presenting the course in fine condition. The event was won by **Andrew Phillips** from **Hadley Wood**, with 41 points, followed closely by **Andrew Ross** and **Chris Handyside**. The ladies prize was won by **Frankie**

Davis and the trade prize by **David Hawkins**. Our thanks go to the traders who so generously support our competitions.

The 1988 Summer League eventually came to a close with the final at **Moor Park**. **Stuart Boyes** and **Phillip Gibson** from **Harpenden** were the eventual victors, defeating **Gareth Roberts** and **Trevor Oxtoby** from **North Middlesex** in a very close fought game. The 1989 Summer League is now well under way and should you wish to compete please contact **Nick Baldwin** on **Watford 53967**.

Coming Event: An Autumn Tournament will be held at **South Herts Golf Club** on August 11th, starting at 4.00 p.m. Players wishing to compete should contact me, **Michael Peters**, on **Northwood 28167**.

MICHAEL PETERS

EAST ANGLIA

Here we go again . . . with our happy band of wanderers eventually ending up at **Walderingfield Heath**. With 'Uncle Sam' ensuring that everything was well organised, including the weather, it was well worth our visit. On the other hand, the golf was something else! To the victor go the spoils, and in first place (0-18) was **Dave Wells** (the quiet man), with 36 points. In class B (19-28) **Toddy Huddleston** was 'hot', with 42 points and no passes! For the guests, **Michael Virley** scored a creditable 37 points. We thank Walderingfield Heath for their courtesies and send a special thanks to **Sam Sylvester** for handling everything so well. The course presentation was excellent and we are prompted to say 'play it again Sam'.

MICK LATHROPE

NORTH WEST

The story is told that **David Hannam**, Course Manager at **Baildon Golf Club**, in preparing for the ISEKI Regional Qualifying Tournament, had been performing a rain dance for several weeks in order to 'colour it green'.

He's a great dancer — but his timing is lousy! At 11.45 a.m. on tournament day and just fifteen minutes before first tee off the heavens opened — with a driving wind thrown in for extra measure.

Making a tough course even tougher, the weather came first, though all 54 qualifiers deserved a medal just for finishing.

And finish they did, with fine scores that belied the foul conditions, with the North West well represented in prizes and **Andy Peel** the victor in Category 1 with 70 nett off 8. A great performance.

The players were fed and

watered royally, courtesy of ISEKI, with a meal from the caterers that was truly fit for a King. We thank them — with bulging stomachs!

We still need players for the 'Roses' and Stewards matches — please call me, **Bert Cross**, on **051 724 5412** if you wish to play.

How's this for a story:

Ken Pearce, who works at **Mere Golf & Country Club** as Head Greenkeeper, under Course Manager **Mike Sheehan**, completed fifty years in greenkeeping in May. Born in 1925, Ken caddied at Mere in '35 at the tender age of ten, his pay being one shilling and sixpence (7.5 new pence!). In '39 he began his career at Mere as a junior gardener, remaining until '43 when the navy called him to active service. Returning in '47, he joined the green staff and in the late '70s became Head Greenkeeper.

Mere was constructed in 1934, so Ken knows the course like the back of his hand and must have seen many changes. We wish him well for the future.

BERT CROSS

NORTHERN

President's Day at **Moortown** was played in glorious hot sunshine this year, or at least until tea-time when the heavens opened, drowning the tail-enders. The course was left looking like a lake. The scratch prize was won by **Edwin Walsh**, 1st division by **David Spurden** and 2nd division by **Matt Bolton**. On behalf of all who attended I would like to thank **Bill Mountain** for his hospitality and continued support as President. Our thanks also to **Bill Fox** and his staff for the excellent condition of his course and in particular the greens, which greatly impressed all who played.

The Iseki qualifying tournament took place on our patch just up the road from me at **Baildon**. The weather was absolutely disgusting but I think everyone enjoyed their golf! Qualifiers for the national final at **Moor Allerton** in October from our Section were **Edwin Walsh**, **Ray Johnson**, **Mick Hannan** and **Dave Collins**. The hospitality by Iseki was excellent and the meal left some golfers complaining they could not eat it all (even Mick Hannan!), we all had something the size of half an emu, plus all the trimmings! It was a pleasure to see the BIGGA Executive Director, **Neil Thomas**, Education Officer, **David Golding** and National Chairman **Paddy McCarron** at the event, and also the editor of our new magazine **David White**, who were all pleased to meet. Thanks must go to **David Hannam** and his boys for all their hard work on the course.

BOB LUPTON