A GREENKEEPER'S VIEW OF THE 1989 EUROPEAN **OPEN AT WALTON HEATH**

HE preparation and worry for Clive Osgood, head greenkeeper at Walton Heath starts long before 1989 and works up through the months to the week.

August had no rain and drying out, days were long, hand watering avoiding members and societies every day. The lads getting used to hand mowing again. Who cut that one?! Was he drunk?! Plus all the other things that go with a big tournament.

Then the lorries arrive, tents, stands, track way, fork lifts running all over the place, if they have their way. TV cables and stands go up, it doesn't look like our course any more. Still the members and societies play, sometimes over the heads of the erectors. Play is stopped on the first of the new and 18th of the old.

Now we are working in the early mornings and late at night working to get it right for the players and the TV.

Day One - Thursday

Start mowing at 5.30 am, I take the mowers and lads out on the tractor and trailor keeping them leapfrogging and waking them up. Lovely sunrise, very peaceful and quiet but no time to stop, all the last minute touches to be done. All mowed, greens, tees, surrounds, holed and pins out, have breakfast and clean and adjust mowers ready for the next cut in the evening. Stakes and roping to sort out, in the evening finish mowing in the dark, check the mowers again ready for morning

Nine o'clock go home.

Day Two - Friday

It's 5.30 am again so off we go. Someone running about the course shouting for me, he's bent his bottom blade and needs the spare mower which is back in the workshop. Have to carry the spare on the trailer from now on. Fit new blade and check the other mowers etc ready for the evening. In the evening they allow me to cut one green to beat the dark. Now I'm a greenkeeper and the mickey taking starts.

Day Three - Saturday They tell me it's Saturday. Dark and misty, waiting for daylight so we can get going, it comes at 6.10 am and tee off is at 7 am. We've got to move fast today. I have to help them cutting today, and it's my turn to take the mickey

Smaller field today so we start the evening cut earlier and all finished by 7.30 pm. My wife says, "What an I doing home, was it a half day?!

Day Four - Sunday Up with the dark! I mean lark!! Off we go, last cut and its raining. Panic, I've got foam coming out of the green as I cut, check the machine, I'm not a greenkeeper after all, what do they do out here? I know, wetting agent, carry on and it's all done again. Check machines and clean them off and then go and watch some golf at last, to see the winner Andrew Murray come home.

It was good to be one of the team, some moans, very tiring but lots of laughs. Great bunch of lads. We won anyway, the course was great.

Monday

Off we go again, mowing the other course, tees and surrounds, members out at 8 am. Fencing, ropes and stakes to take down, miles of it and everything in the workshop to sort out.

Tuesday

Mowing and fencing again but it's our day, The Walton Heath Greenkeepers Championship over the tournament course 7111 yds par 72. Ten of us play, even Clive the Head Greenkeeper. Prizes as well, supplied by Nick Hill of Birchgray and our Club Pro Ken McPherson. Boy was it tough. The winner, your truly, giving the lads 25 years at least and a beating. Net 73 off 19 handicap, my day and I won't let them forget. We soon opened the champagne and toasted the championship.

Wednesday The patter of spikes pass my workshop. Societies out again, 90 today and 80 tomorrow. No rest for the wicked.

TED JAMES BOND

BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON SECTION

HE Berks Bucks & Oxon Section's Christmas 'Bring and Win' competition was held at Whiteleaf Golf Club, Bucks, on Thursday December 7, 1989. The event was a nine hole Stableford and tee'd off at midday.

Everyone taking part won a prize, with the exception of the overall winner who also took home a fine turkey. The top three winners of the day were as follows: 1st, D. Summeral (Badgemore Park Golf Club), 2nd R. Clarke (Temple Golf Club), and 3rd B. Holt (Burford Golf Club).

A very good turnout made for a very enjoyable day.

Also held at the same venue was our annual A.G.M. Your committee members for the forthcoming year remain the same as those elected for 1989. The committee would like to express their thanks to the following: Jim Sutherland (Head Greenkeeper) for the use of his course for our event. The steward, Mr Whalley, and his staff for keeping the bar open and the Secretary and Committee of Whiteleaf Golf

For providing extra prizes for our competition we thank CMW for the turkey, Riseborough Turf Supplies for the christmas puddings and Maxwell Hart, Rigby Taylor, Stabrite and Golf & Turf Equipment who supplied bottles of

various liquor.

On a final note, congratulations are to be awarded to Paul Malia (Flackwell Heath Golf Club) for reaching the final of the 1989 Iseki National Greenkeepers Tournament held at Moor Allerton Golf Club, North Yorkshire. Paul received an award for winning the over 55's part of the competition. Well done.

HARVEY TRIBE

AYRSHIRE SECTION

HE highlight of the month was the annual games night, which was held in the Ardeer Golf Club's excellent clubhouse.

Things got off to a great start when it was discovered the dartboard had been stolen, and the bowls were locked in a cupboard, but section secretary Jim Paton drove ten miles to borrow bowls, and the club kindly let us use the snooker table normally reserved for members.

After an evening full of the

festive spirit (and also not a little beer), the results were as follows: Most points overall: Duncan Gray, Bowls winner: Charlie White, Runner-up: Duncan Gray. Snooker winner: Steve Cockburn, Runner-up:Duncan Gray. Putting winner; Charlie White, Runner up Steve Cockburn. Domino winner: Tom Parker, Runner up: Jim Paton.

The picture shows all the prizewinners with their booty of birds and booze. To finish, on behalf of the Avrshire Section I would like to wish the rest of the BIGGA membership a happy and successful new year.

DUNCAN GRAY

NORTHERN SECTION

HE final section event of the 80's the Christmas golf at South Leeds Golf Club was almost, but not quite, a flop.

On opening the bedroom curtains to be greeted by a layer of "the white stuff" the day took on a bleak view. Many people who had booked to play turned up and stayed for the meal and, even better, some hung about all day to make sure of a seat at the A.G.M. in the evening.

I would like to thank everyone who did stay and to the staff of South Leeds for putting up with us! Lastly Mel Guy who was more disappointed than anybody that the golf

didn't take place.

The A.G.M. did go ahead as planned with fifteen members present, the new officers are as follows: President, Mr W. Mountain; Chairman, Mr P. Sutton; Vice-Chairman, Mr A. Gamble; Secretary/Treasurer Mr R. Lupton and Committee: Messrs E. Walsh, E. Paley, P. Taylor, G. Hope, C. Garnett, B. Carr, T. Jarvis.

Good to see Ian Tomlinson from Lausanne G.C., Switzerland back among friends. Ian took the chair at the A.G.M. for the election of

officers

The Ransomes trip has had a revival due in no small way to Adrian Robertshaw whipping up support, at the time of writing there are still one or two places left. Other events are Keith Boyce speaking on cricket groundsmanship, Thursday, February 22 at Moor cricket Allerton Golf Club.

BOB LUPTON

DEVON AND CORNWALL SECTION

UR Christmas meeting was held at the now traditional venue of Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday December 13.

First event of the day was the greensome stableford golf competition with the players competing for the P.J. Flegg

Trophy.

The non-golfers enjoyed a course walk to gain their appetite for the superb Christmas dinner waiting for them on their return to the clubhouse.

Golf results: 1st R. Whyman & B. Ridgeway, 2nd K. Brown & A. Cann and 3rd K. Broad & M. Oliver. After the Christmas dinner we held the raffle for the Browns Hamper which was present by J. Palfrey of Browns.

This was followed by this year's entertainer the very popular Jethro. As usual he had us all in stitches, but there was a surprise addition to the entertainment especially for Dick Parr who was arrested by a WPC stripogram who took down everything to use in evidence. It must be said tht Dick took the surprise very well and I bet he's already planning his revenge.

After Jethro came back on and finished his excellent act we held the second raffle with over thirty prizes on the table. I would like to thank Okehampton Golf Club for the use of their excellent facilities. Thanks to Richard Wisdom and his staff for the excellent condition of the course. Also thanks to the girls in the kitchen for the superb meal and service.

R.M. WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA SECTION

HE Christmas Texas Scramble once again proved to be a very popular event, this is due in no small part to the hospitality shown us once again by Sth. Beds G.C., and we thank them for the warm welcome shown to the greenkeepers and their guests, also for the Christmas spread they provided for us.

It was very nice to have join us for the day, the captain, the secretary and the immediate past secretary. The captain presented the prizes to the winning teams as follows: 1st J. Wells, A. Dale, G. Worwich, D. Matthews, from Welwyn

Garden City G.C. 2nd S. Proudfoot, G. Bruce, J. Masters, Saunders, Berkhamsted/St. Neots and 3rd R. May, D. Kitchiner, P. Simmons, S. Mason, from Welwyn Garden City G.C.

I think john Wells must have a full set of decanters by now! Finally may I thank the members of the trade for their continuing support of the section, and that all those present

at Sth Beds enjoyed their day. The Match Secretary is to run a new competition this year. The format is to be a fourball betterball matchplay. A draw will take place after each round and the final will be held on a neutral course.

The competition is open to all greenkeeper members of the section, partners do not have to be from the same club. Further details and entries by March 31 to K. Bunting, Tel. 044 284 3359.

Future Events

Monday February 19. Mr D. Godfrey, Inter Seeds, Course Management, the venue is Beadlow Mannor G.C., the talk will commence at 2 p.m. sharp.

Wednesday May 2. Golf tournament at Leighton Buzzard G.C. Cost £15.

Wednesday July 4. Summer tournament at Cold Ashby G.C. Other events will appear in this section of the magazine in due course.

Will any section member who has not received the questionaire and forthcoming events list please let me know. Tel. 0727 35984.

GEOFF SMITH

SCOTTISH REGION

HE Scottish Region congratulate Chris Kennedy on his new appointment at Wentworth. In Chris we have lost one of the hardest workers for Scottish Greenkeepers and greenkeeping as a whole. No doubt once he establishes himself in his new job he will be back fighting the cause. Just a young man!!! he has been on greenkeeping association committees for more than 20 years, starting as a young man on the West Section committee and working up to be President of S.I.G.G.A. and latterly as Scottish Region Administrator for B.I.G.G.A. He will be sorely missed here in Scotland. Executive meetings won't be the same without his dry humour and wry com-ments and the famous "Kennedy Bunnet" will no longer be seen at Region outings

We must also thank Chris's wife Joan who has been in the Scottish office since it began first working with Joe McKean and then with Chris, dealing with all our many queries and moans with her usual cheeriness and supporting the Scottish Region committee at official functions and events. Before any big event Joan was also tireless in helping Chris with the organisation which took up many hours work. We will miss them both very much and we wish them and their little daughter Suzanne 'Guid Luck' in their new venture.

As from January 1990 I am the new Administrator for the Scottish Region. All Scottish Region business will now be directed to me at my home ad-2 Castle dress. Kincardine-on-Forth, By Alloa, FK10 4QH. The Scottish Region telephone number is now 0259-31445. My wife, Edna, will be on hand most of the time to deal with any calls or enquiries.

The new President of the Scottish Region for 1990/91 is Harry Diamond, Ayr Belleisle Golf Club. A well known personality in Scottish Greenkeeping for many (many?) years. Harry will have as his Vice-President, John Crawford, the new Course Manager at Haggs Castle Golf Club.

The same two people are also our Board of Management representatives. Our thanks must go to Walter Woods for his great contribution on our behalf as one of our Board Members since the inauguration of B.I.G.G.A. We would like to think that Walter will still have a special role to play for B.I.G.G.A. as a whole in the coming years.

We were sorry to hear that Willie Blair the hard working Secretary of the East Section, has been seriously ill, however we are pleased to hear that he is on the mend and we send him all out best wishes

ELLIOTT R. SMALL

SCOTLAND NORTH SECTION

ONGRATULATIONS to Neil Metcalf currently first assistant at Cruden Bay Golf Club who takes up a

similar position at Crieff Golf Club on March 7. Also Stuart MacGregor originally from Panmure and Arbroath who has returned from exile in Redcar, to take over at Forfar, and Derick Cowans who is the new head greenkeeper at Ballater. **GORDON MOIR**

NORTH EAST SECTION

PRING Competition Alnmouth G.C. (Foxton Hall) April 26, 9.30 a.m. Match vs East of Scotland October 9 (Consett). Autumn Competition T.B.A.

Congratulations to Steve Pope on completing 30 years service to Tyneside G.C.

On January 9, in conjunction with Kirkley Hall College of Agriculture, a seminar was held on the subject of drainage. A good attendance of around 80 to 90 greenkeepers, and groundsman attended travelling from afar as Carlisle and the Isle of

Speakers were of a very high standard first speaker being Mr Howard Swan, his subject: "You don't play golf in Wellingtons". Verdict Wellingtons".

excellent!

Thanks must go to Dr R. Parlane and Mr Attwood for their excellent programme of speakers throughout the day. Unfortunately there were not many greenkeepers or chairman greens committees in attendance but it was nice to see Snowdon there representing Durham Golf Union

 Should any member wish to go to Gosforth Park Golfing Complex on the target golf, greenkeepers may use their membership card as before as long as it is not abused.

JIM RICHARDSON

EAST MIDLANDS SECTION

E have arranged our spring and autumn tournaments for the coming year. The spring meeting is to be held at Rugby G.C. on May 17. This is also the qualifying competition for the Iseki tournament. The Iseki regional final is at Kedleston Park G.C. on June 25. The autumn meeting is to be held at the Leicestershire G.C. on September 27. Entry forms for

the singles and pairs knockout competitions will be sent out in April and it is hoped that they will be well supported. Any members who were unable to attend our A.G.M. and wish to get in touch with me about anything, may do so on Melton Mowbray (0664) 61642.

GORDON MITCHELL

SOUTH WEST SECTION AD Dogs and Englishmen go out in the noon day sun" or rain as the case may be. In conditions of torrential rain and a scything wind when you wouldn't normally see a greenkeeper for miles around there were dozens of us slogging around the links course at Weston-Super-Mare for the Veals Christmas Trophy.

Experience finally showed through with John Kane the veteran player from nearby Clevedon shooting a superb 76 gross from a 6 handicap. Everyone deserved a prize.

The result is as follows: 1st J. Kane (Clevedon) 76:6:70; 2nd M. Gray (Long Ashton) 82:11:71; 3rd M. Dodd (Burnham & Berrow) 88:14:74; 4th Vic Lewer (Wells) 88:12.76.

1st Gross N. Pring (Wells) 76; 2nd C. Rawlings (Wells) 79.

Congratulations were extended to the Weston-Super-Mare greenstaff, and best wishes were expressed to the Head Greenkeeper Jim Carter on his forthcoming retirement. All competitors gave a vote of thanks to Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club for having us and wished to return in better weather conditions

That man John Hinton, who must be one of the most widely travelled men in the country recently, popped up at Bath Golf Club on January 10 to give his most interesting talk on fertilisers. John, from B.A.S.F. was in fine form as he gave us plenty of food for thought, provoking an after speech conversation which went on well into the evening.

I'm sure those who bothered to turn up went home with much useful information under their belts. I won't print the acutal number of members who turned up in the morning for the guided tour of course and facilities but suffice it to say it saved Head Greenkeeper Bob Burkin a long walk!

The small morning golf com-

petition was won by Richard Gregory of Mendip with 41 points off what used to be a 23 handicap. Don't forget the Regional Seminar at Sparsholt on March 13th, I'll look forward to seeing you then.
PAUL WORSTER

SOUTH COAST SECTION

UR December meeting occupied a full day as it consisted of an 18 hole stableford competition, Christmas dinner, section annual general meeting and a talk from our President, Jim

Joe Burdett has kindly supplied the details of our turkey trot competition as follows: "Sponsored jointly by Rigby Taylor and J.T. Lowe Limited, this 'fun' event attracted 41 competitors from all over the region. The sponsors very kindly supplied the prize table with many turkeys of various sizes, including a bottle of brandy and bottle of whisky for the 'longest drive' and 'nearest the pin'

"It just so happened that Phill Nason of Southampton, achieved the longest drive and was also nearest pin, but the committee in its wisdom ruled that as he was 'driving' he should relinquish his claim to 'nearest the pin' and let the host club greenkeeper (Reg Varlow) take the award.

The Chairman, Ken Lodge, thanked the sponsors for their generosity, and said how appreciative the members were of the granting of the Courtesy of the Course for the competition. The meal supplied by the Club was of the highest order, and thoroughly enjoyed by

Results: Rigby Taylor Shield and 17lb turkey: Phill Nason, Southampton, 38 points. J.T. Lowe Cup and 15lb turkey: John Flavell, Parkstone, 38 points. Best surviving score (0-14 handicap) 10lb turkey; Bob Walker, Boscombe, 37 points. Best surviving score (15-22 handicap) 10lb turkey: Kerron Daly, Salisbury & S. Wilts, 38 points.

It has been my personal pleasure to look after the golfing needs of the greenkeepers of the South Coast, and with you turning up in such good numbers, it makes the work so much more worthwhile. To our sponsors throughout the year Thank You for your generosi-

ty", long may it continue. To our host clubs, with your valued support and generosity in granting 'courtsey of the course', our efforts are enhanced. Our long-lasting gratitude is extended to you all

I would like to thank Joe, on behalf of all our members, for the work he carried out running the section tournaments.

The section annual general meeting followed the presentation of prizes. Reports were given by the secretary, tournament organiser and our Chairman, Ken Lodge, as regional representative for the section.

Items of interest included: venue for the I.S.E.K.I. Regional Tournament at Yeovil Golf Club on June 14. section representatives would be chosen from the section's spring tournament at Hayling Golf Club on May 15.

Election of officers resulted in last year's team being reelected with the exception of Phil Wentworth who has resigned. Nominations for this vacancy are required, names please as soon as possible. A number of points concerning the magazine were raised, and these will be taken up by your regional representatives.

Copies of the minutes for the 1989 annual general meeting are available from me upon request. Following the annual general meeting our President, Jim Fry, gave an amusing short talk on his visit last February to the G.C.S.A.A. Anaheim. This was billed in advance as an illustrated talk. However, the illustrations turned out to be photographs rather than slides! Jim is going over again this year in the com-pany of Eric James, so between them the section should get the illustrated part of the talk later in the year.

Thank you Jim for all your help and support, and I look forward to next year's presentation

BOB DENNIS

SOUTH WALES

WOULD like to thank Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their course and clubhouse for the day.

Also thanks to Paul Robinson and greenstaff for putting the course in excellent condition and the stewardess behind the bar and kitchen staff for the wonderful food.

On Wednesday, December 3. we held our Christmas competition at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club. The day started with everybody meeting at the club at 10.00 a.m. and then proceeding to hold our A.G.M.

The meeting was well at-tended, probably the most that has been there for many a year, and I would like to thank all that made the effort to

The meeting started with the chairman, Mike Jones opening the meeting, by thanking everybody for their help throughout the year and told the meeting that he would not be able to carry on next year as he will be captain of his home club.

The two sub-committee members were selected, with the following being elected: Education, Steven Evans, Dave Coundley and Peter lacey. Golf and Social, Robert Kitcher, Dennis Jones and

Gareth Rees.

Huw Morgan told the meeting that the Education Officer, David Golding has been to a meeting at Penceod College with the possibility of it becoming the Welsh college recognised by headquarters. Dennis Archer said that the college has been rejuvenated and firms are making machines available to the college for teaching purposes.

The Welsh Golfing Union will fund greenkeepers to go to Mold but not to Penceod.

Huw Morgan asked if there were tickets allocated for the Ryder Cup to Greenkeepers, Dennis Archer said that there were tickets allocated and were available at the I.O.C. show at Windsor.

Mike Wilson brought up the subject of the golf meetings and said that he thought there were too many meetings. A vote was taken and was carried by the meeting, it was proposed by Walter Jones and seconded by Robert Kitcher.

The following officers were elected: Chairman Huw Morgan proposed I. Morris, seconded M. Wilson. Vicechairman Hugh Parry proposed P. Swain, seconded S. Evans Treasurer Paul Robinson re-elected. Section Administrator Philip Swain reelected.

The Section Administrator told the meeting that since he changed his job he sometimes could not make the meetings and would be using the other

officers appointed. The meeting took note of the administrator's comments. Committee members: Robert Kitcher proposed H. Morgan, seconded H. Parry. Gareth Rees proposed H. Morgan, seconded S. Evans.

Regional Board

Dennis Archer and Philip Swain were re-elected and Hugh Parry was voted on to the Board to make sure that if the Section Administrator could not make it there would still be two people present from the section

The fixtures for 1990 have been arranged and hopefully there will be fixture cards printed and sent out to members

PHILIP SWAIN

KENT SECTION

OT much to report this month, although you will have been notified of some of our forthcoming lectures. Looking forward to this year I suppose we will soon be arranging our spring tournament at a venue yet to be decided, but for now we must concentrate on getting the winter out of the way.

Approximately 30 members attended our Turkey Trot Christmas competition at Wilderness Golf Club on Thursday December 14 (although Bernard Dibhams was all set to play on his own the day before). Thanks must go to John and his staff on the condition of the course and to the club and the catering staff for being so hospitable and laying on a super Christmas dinner.

Conditions for play on the day were not very favourable and led to some reasonably low point scores, with every point being hard earned, but at least everybody left with a prize. First choice went to Nigel Stapely on a count back over Steve Suttle and Bryn Preece.

The A.G.M. passed quite peacefully although with 106 members now in the Kent Section the hard core 30 or so as usual attended, leaving some to wonder that somewhere there must be 70 exceedingly shy greenkeepers perhaps with a section of their own holding meetings in some secret location.

If they could overcome this condition we would be only to pleased to have them attend and participate in the activities

of what is, after all, their section and association.

The only changes as tar as the committee goes is the resignation of Derek Keen of Tudor Park. Due to very heavy workload and responsibilities over the country he felt that he could no longer give adequate time and support.

He has all our thanks for his past work and his place is now taken by David Wood of Holtye Golf Club. As John Millen pointed out having a large membership does create a small problem as far as the section's funds are concerned, as sending out, information about events and golf tournaments does eat into the piggy bank as well as the costs of running some of the competitions.

We were reminded that there is now £109.00 in the hole in one fund for an ace in one of our competitions, and there would be no more worthy a winner of this prize than John Millen.

John devotes an enormous amount of time and effort not only in the running of the Kent Section, but also to the Association as a whole and he deserves our thanks and appreciation, which must also extend to his family for the disruption that we cause to their lives, and to Canterbury Golf Club. PAUL COPSEY

CENTRAL SECTION

HE largest fund raising event held in the section, the Annual Prize Draw, was held at Tulliallan Golf Club, with the main prize winners resulting as follows: 1st L. Cruickshank. 2nd K.

Ritchie. 3rd S. Stewart. 4th A. Revell. 5th A. Jones. 6th B. Lawrie. 7th S. Massam. 8th T. Peddie. 9th M. Cooper. 10th J. McAtamny

Our thanks go to Tulliallan Golf Club for giving us the use of their clubhouse, our guests who helped to make the draw, everyone who attended and to those who donated prizes.

Entry forms will be reaching members soon for the Spring Tournament at Elie on the 19th April, and the Inter Club Tournament, which is run throughout the summer. If members wish to enter these competitions PLEASE return the entry form, along with the correct fee, by the date printed on the form

As many will know I have

moved from Dunfermline Golf Club to take over as Course Manager at Haggs Castle. I will remain as Section Secretary in the meantime and my new address is 82 Dumbreck Road. Glasgow G41 9DW. Tel. 041 427 4701. If any member wishes to take a more active part in section affairs and fancies the office of Section Secretary, please get in touch with me

Another committee member

on the move is Keith Vertigan of SISIS. Keith has moved back down south. Although lost to the section committee he will not be lost from Scotland completely as he will be running the Scottish area from England, sounds familiar. Keith has served on the committee of the Central Section since it was formed in 1980 and the best wishes of every section member go to him and his family for the for the future.



KEITH CLEVERLY

HE Association learnt with great sadness of the passing of Keith Cleverly. He was well liked and respected by many of our members and very supportive of the Greenkeeping profession. Keith was instrumental in establishing ICI's close links with BIGGA and the success of the ETME Seminar programme owes much to his initiative. He was good company and always enjoyed life to the full. At a personal level, I much appreciated his help and advice in the early days of BIGGA as he saw the need for the Association to establish firm roots for its future development. I know that I speak for all our members in offering our deepest sympathy to Keith's family at this sad time"