

AROUND THE GREEN

NORTH-WEST SECTION

I am writing to several golf clubs in anticipation of our 1990 tournaments, so once I have confirmation and dates they will be included in the section notes.

One date for your diary is Wednesday, February 7 at Bury G.C. Ian Proudler of Endfield Nurseries will give a talk on the choice of trees and shrubs for golf courses. It is important that the right choice is made when planting trees, not only for trees that suit your type of course, but also to enhance the aesthetic quality of your course. So come along at 2 pm and listen to the expert. Why not bring along your greens chairman?

I would be glad to hear of any suggestions for winter lectures that members may have, so give me a ring on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

EAST MIDLANDS SECTION

OUR section A.G.M. was held at Melton Mowbray Golf Club on November 13. Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Melton Mowbray for the courtesy of the course and the use of the clubhouse in the evening for our A.G.M.

Also thanks to the catering and bar staff for the hospitality shown to us. With a good thick blanket of scotch mist over the course, it looked in as good a condition as any in the section, many thanks to my staff for their efforts.

Maxwell Hart presented us with a shield to be played for at our A.G.M.'s each year. This year's winner was R. Barker 2 up, winning on the local rule from I. Marshall 2 up, winner of a John Deere watch presented by Scalford Groundcare - third place went to S. Goode 1 up. The trade winner was B. Booth 4 down, associate winner was K. Wilson 1 up.

The following members were elected for the committee: Chairman: N. Root, Vice-Chairman: R. Barker, Secretary: G. Mitchell, Committee: P. McCarron, N. Danvers, G. Arnold, S. Donoghue. Regional Reps: N. Danvers, G. Mitchell.

I would on behalf of all the section members, like to wish Roger Willars all the very best

in his new position as regional administrator, his hard work and dedication are our loss but the region's gain.

GORDON MITCHELL

SOUTH COAST SECTION

AS mentioned in my last Section notes, the South Coast Section is hosting a Regional Greenkeeper's Seminar on Tuesday, 13 March 1990 at Sparsholt College, Hampshire.

Your Chairman, Secretary and Eric James have met as a working group to plan the Seminar and, with the support of your Committee and Regional Administrator, Gordon Childs, have finalised the programme.

Papers will be given on golf course conservation, turf machinery, golf course construction and a viewpoint from a golf professional.

Programmes are available from me and other Committee members, and the fee for the day, which includes lunch, will be £10.00 for BIGGA members and £15 for non-members.

Please support this seminar by your attendance and by circulating details to club secretaries, chairmen of greens and any other interested members of your club. Members of other Sections and regions reading these notes are most welcome to attend. I will be circulating programmes to other Section secretaries.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation of attendance and participation for this event. For our first winter lecture in November, a most interesting illustrated talk on John Deere tractors and golf course equipment was provided by New Forest Farm Machinery Limited, Greenkeeper Division.

Speakers were Nick Clarke, Sales Manager and Phillip Tong, Area Manager. Our thanks to them for providing both a video and slide presentation, which was much appreciated by those members in attendance.

J.R. DENNIS

BERK, BUCKS AND OXON SECTION

THE Berks, Bucks and Oxon Section would like to express their thanks to Mr

John Hinton from B.A.S.F. (Badische, Analin and Soda Fabrik) who came to Beaconsfield Golf Club on November 21 last to give an excellent lecture: "Fertilisers - An Essential Management Tool" to our members.

His very informative talk was backed by slides which gave a background to fertilisers, their types and effects and why they are necessary to plants. The evening was a big success and was enjoyed by all. Our thanks also go to Beaconsfield Golf Club for the kind use of their facilities, and to Bill Patterson, Head Greenkeeper, for organising the food and drink which was gratefully received.

Recent section news that has reached me means that we offer our congratulations to Dave and Caroline Childs (Dave is currently Head Greenkeeper at Ellesborough Golf Club) on the birth of a son Joshua David, weighing in at 8lb 6oz. Also to Dave and Jeanne Duke, also on the birth of a son, 4lb 13oz Anthony David. (Dave is currently Deputy Course Manager at Badgemore Park Golf and Country Club). We wish them every happiness with their new arrivals.

We welcome to our section Gary Armstrong, who has left Workington Golf Club to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Cherwell Edge Golf Club. We wish him all the best there.

I have just heard that David White has resigned his post as Editor of Greenkeeping Management, and I would like to wish him, on our section's behalf, all the best for the future. From myself, I would like to say many thanks for all the help that you have given to me over the past months. Good Luck David.

Finally, by the time this edition reaches you, our Christmas Turkey Trot competition will have taken place, and Christmas itself will have come and gone, so a full report will follow in next month's edition.

HARVEY TRIBE

EAST OF ENGLAND SECTION

THE November meeting, the last of 1989, took the form of a lecture and discussion followed by the A.G.M.

Mr John Hinton of B.A.S.F. Fertilisers gave a most interesting talk on "Fertilisers - A Tool To Management". Afterwards a lively discussion developed which was most enjoyable.

We must most sincerely thank John for coming as the weather was terrible and the forecast even worse. John travelled from Suffolk to give the lecture. Refreshments were provided by B.A.S.F. - our grateful thanks.

The evening was disappointing in as much as the attendance was poor. Maybe members were deterred by the weather conditions.

Our A.G.M. followed and Mr Graeme Patrick was elected as Section Chairman replacing John Donaldson who has retired. Mr David Waldren has become Vice-Chairman and John Scothey has joined the committee.

A programme for 1990 was mapped out - more details of these events later.

COLIN SWINGLER

SCOTTISH REGION NORTH SECTION

THE section A.G.M. was held at Stonehaven G.C. on November 30 with 26 members present. Chairman John Flint presided and was re-elected along with Dougal Duguid and Gordon Moir as Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. B. Anderson, N. MacDonald, A. McLaren and I. MacLeod were re-elected onto the committee while Sam Morrison of Royal Aberdeen and Andy Wilson of Brechin were elected in place of W. Forsyth and A. Williamson who both stand down. Our thanks go to them for their help while on the committee and our congratulations go to Sam and Andy.

Those present were informed of our intention to run another lottery next year and our plans to stage a first class conference in the Aberdeen area next November/December for our members and other interested parties with some excellent speakers.

Although there was concern voiced regarding the increase in subscriptions the general feeling after the details of the package was explained was that it was fair value for money.

Abby Walker of the home

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club and Bob Hardie of Westhill were presented with their prizes for winning the morning golf and the meeting was concluded in a breathtaking 45 minutes. Our thanks go to Stonehaven G.C. for the use of the clubhouse and also granting us the courtesy of the course for those who played in the morning.

The Section offers their congratulations to Donald McDonald of Seonser on the Isle of Skye, Steven McDonald of Fortrose and Martin Fraser of Inverness who took the first 3 places respectively from 18 fellow YTS students on a 1st year course at Elmwood College. Well done lads and a continuation of this in future years will open up a great career for you.

Also congratulations must go to Bob Hardie for being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Streethpeffer G.C. where Donny Dingwall is due to retire and congratulations and welcome to the North of Scotland to James Darling of Staffordshire who takes over at Kingussie where Malcolm McDonald is also retiring.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with items for the magazine and please keep the information coming and the Section hopes all its members had a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, we hope the effects of the Season Spirits have worn off and you all have a successful season. Long may your grass grow and all your troubles be birdies.

GORDON MOIR

SOUTH WEST SECTION

THE South West Section's local headquarters, Lansdown Golf Club, Bath, was once again most generous hosts for the 1989 section A.G.M.

This fine course, situated alongside the Bath racecourse was in superb condition, as the fifteen players who braved the icy wind, found out. The greens were a credit to Head Greenkeeper John Thomas, ably assisted by the irrefragable Les Johnson.

The morning's golf competition results were: 1. Mervyn Gray (Long Ashton) 36pts from 11 handicap; 2. Paul Worster (Lilley Brook) 33pts from 3 handicap; 3. John Farley

(Painswick) 29pts from 17 and 4. Peter Cox (Long Ashton) 28 pts from 24.

Lunch was followed by a very enlightening slide show and talk given by Jon Harmer of Farmura Environmental. All aspects of BIGGA were then discussed at the Annual General Meeting, with the need for both new members and solid support for BIGGA being spoken of as paramount.

Last year's officers were again re-elected en bloc with Vic Lewer taking over as team captain. The resolution that we compile a list of wages in the Section was passed. A communication will drop through your letterbox before the new year, let's have some replies this time!

The fixtures for 1990 are: January 10, Sham Castle, 18 holes am + tour of course, lecture pm. April 25, Long Ashton, 18 holes pm, Iseki Qualifier. May 2, Long Ashton, Westurf 90 Exhibition. May 23 Westonbirt, 18 holes pm, Greenkeeper/Guest. June 14 Yeovil, 18 holes, Iseki Regional Final. July 11 Lilley Brook, 18 holes pm, Summer Cups. October 4 St Pierre Match vs S. Wales. December 13 Mendip Christmas Tournament.

Congratulations were extended to Ivor Scoones on his nomination as National Chairman 1990/91. The best of luck!

PAUL WORSTER

SCOTTISH REGION CENTRAL SECTION

A Guid New Year' to all section members, from your committee, hopefully everyone will have recovered from the Festive Season and settling down for another busy year ahead.

At this time I would like to say a special thanks to all our friends in the Trade and the members of the numerous golf clubs who all gave us their support throughout 1989.

Support from section members is an entirely different matter, our visits to Stewarts turf farms was poorly attended, as was the Section A.G.M. nevertheless a very constructive meeting took place and the election of YOUR Committee for 1990 resulted as follows:

Chairman: W. Steele, Grangemouth. Vice-Chairman: S. Massam, Leven. Past Chairman: I. Ritchie, Ladybank.

Secretary/Treasurer: J. Crawford, Dunfermline. R. Fleming, Dullater. S. Brown, Crieff, M. Collins, Ladybank, A. Robertson, Grangemouth, Trade; K. Vertigan, Sisis and K. Brunton, Souter of Stirling.

It would appear that there are an awful lot of forgetful members in the section, as the Christmas Prize Draw tickets were supposed to be returned by the 27th November and yet at that date some 35 members had to be sent reminder notices. This is a very important fund raising venture within the section and yet only about 55% of the members give it their support, as is the case with everything else which is organised for everyone's benefit. From now on lads, it's up to you, events will be organised and if you don't attend them then it's your loss.

Well, hopefully that's the 'Greetin' Season' over for another year.

It will soon be time for the new golfing season and as there are numerous sponsored National events taking place, it would be in everyone's interest to obtain an official handicap, but if you don't have one don't let it put you off coming to the section golf outings they are organised as social events when everyone can get together and have a day's relaxation away from work.

What do the non-golfers in the section want organised for them? So far we have offered 6-a-side football, bowling and fishing but had no takers, surely there must be something. If you have any new ideas, within reason, please get in touch with me and your committee will try to organise some events.

JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES SECTION

THE year 1989 was a very busy but successful year.

The region organised its first Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club in May, and will be at the same venue for the Westurf '90, on May 2. Our thanks to the trade for their help and support, and we look forward to an even more successful year to come. With a number of exhibitors already coming in, and a much wider publicity campaign, I am sure

Westurf will become "bigga and betta".

June saw our Iseki Regional Tournament at East Devon Golf Club on a glorious day. There was a friendly atmosphere for which we have East Devon and Iseki to thank. The nine successful qualifiers all took part in the national final at Moor Allerton Golf Club in October.

In August the region hosted the National Tournament at Lyme Regis Golf Club. After a bumpy start on the first day, due to the weather everyone got into the swing of things, and it became a very enjoyable occasion.

The coach tours were a great success, and also the skittles 'nite'. As for the golf, the standard of play was very good, and we as a region are proud to have the National Champion, and also the winner of the best gross at the Iseki Final in Paul Newcombe. Well done Paul!

The seminar at Somerset College on November 1 was very enlightening for those who attended, but we hope to see more members in the future. For 1990, a seminar on March 13 will take place at Sparsholt College. This has been arranged by the South Coast Section, who have produced an excellent programme. Your support will be much appreciated.

The Region will have a new event to look forward to on March 22. This will be known as The Westcountry Greenkeepers Dinner, and will be preceded by a day's golf and putting competition, for members, trade and guests. For the ladies there will be a "magical mystery tour" leaving the golf club at 10.30 am, including a light lunch. The three-course dinner will be followed by coffee and after dinner speakers, namely Mr. Ray Reardon, ex-World Snooker Champion, and Mr. Phillip Parker, President of the Devon Golf Union. Dress will be lounge suits or blazers. For further information please contact your Regional Administrator.

Finally, my thanks to the section secretaries and regional board for their support in 1989. Long may it continue. Nationally, we all need to thank the Executive Director and the Board members for all their efforts. It must be obvious to all the doubters and critics, that the amalgamation of the three

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associations has proved beyond doubt that it was the right decision for the future of British greenkeeping, and you now have an Association that three years ago was only a pipe-dream.

GORDON CHILD

SOUTH WALES SECTION

WE held our annual match in October at St. Pierre against the South-West Section and there was glorious weather for the competition. The games were well fought out with the result being a draw, three points apiece. I am led to understand this is the same result as last year and the South-West retain the shield as they did last year.

Having just completed in the finals at Moor Allerton Golf Club, I would like to say how nice it was to be part of it. Although being apprehensive at taking part and being the sole qualifier from our section, the boys from the South-West soon dispelled all the fears I had.

The three days started with the coach arriving late, but we finally got to the golf club in time for nine holes practice after which we moved to our "digs" at Askham Bryan College, where food and accommodation were provided.

The day of the final was sunny but cold with the wind getting up and proving difficult to one and all. Everybody enjoyed the golf on a course in excellent condition. Many

thanks to Moor Allerton Golf Club and Iseki UK for making my three days very enjoyable.

PS Congratulations to Les Shrub, winner of the final — one of my playing partners.

Cardiff Golf Club played host to the first seminar on drainage of golf course and sportsturf surfaces jointly organised by BIGGA and Penceod college.

The seminar was opened by the principal of the college who set out his views and future plans for the involvement of his college in greenkeeper education and training.

The lectures began with Peter Gillard who is lecturer in turfculture at Penceod College who gave a speech on Soils and Drainage, his views were followed up by a joint talk by Mr. Albert Francis Grounds Manager, Cardiff Athletic Club and Mr. Graham Cox, Head-Greenkeeper Cardiff Golf Club telling us the problems of sportsground and golf course drainage.

The final speech was given by Mr. Derek Clarke of the D. W. Clarke group of companies who is also Chairman of the land drainage association who was telling us about modern drainage techniques and practices which also included a slide show to support his views.

In the afternoon Mr. Clarke gave a demonstration using one of his company's tractor-mounted pipe-laying machines. Also on show was a Twose soil conditioner which is vital in relieving soil compaction in turf.

Both the demonstration and lectures while being educational were not too technical as to confuse those attending, making it a very enjoyable and interesting day.

May I take this opportunity to pass on the section's congratulations to John Walsh and his wife after their marriage, this was tinged with a bit of sadness as John has recently undergone surgery for cancer and I am led to believe that his family have taken him back to Ireland to see his family over there.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to John and his wife at this time.

P. SWAIN

NORTHERN SECTION

A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Chairman and Committee of the Northern Section. I hope to see many of our Section members at the forthcoming European Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate from January 24 to 26.

Forthcoming lectures feature Patrick Crowley on Thursday, January 18 at Moor Allerton who will speak on "Conservation Gardening at Home and Work" and on Thursday, February 22, Keith Boyce of Headingley Cricket Ground will speak on cricket groundsmanship. Feel free to bring a guest along.

The trip to Ransomes in Ipswich looks like being cancelled due to lack of interest.

BOB LUPTON

MID ANGLIA SECTION

In a November a lecture was held at St Neots GC. This was given by Danny Godfrey of Inter Seeds Ltd. The

very foggy weather prevented a large turnout, many members missing what proved to be a very interesting and informative talk. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Godfrey.

The annual general meeting of the section was held at St Neots on November 14. In the absence of the Chairman/Secretary Paul Fitzjohn, the meeting was chaired by Gerald Bruce. The first item of business was to read a letter from Paul Fitzjohn in which he tendered his resignation as Chairman/Secretary. This he explained was due to his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Parkstone GC. Paul was thanked for his services to the section, who sent him best wishes for the future.

The secretary's report was read. This itemised the achievements of members in competitions, both local and national. The treasurer's report was presented in the form of a balance sheet. A vote of thanks was proposed to Les Wakerell for his efforts as treasurer. The match secretary informed us that 1990's fixtures are being finalised and will be published soon. Ken Bunting was thanked for his continued hard work as match secretary.

The following members were elected to office: Chairman Gerald Bruce, tel. 0442 69094, Vice-Chairman/Regional Rep John Wells, tel. 0707 321663, Secretary Geoff Smith, tel. 0727 35984 and Treasurer Les Wakerell. Match Secretary is Ken Bunting, tel. 044 284 3359, Regional Rep Paul Lockett, tel. 0604 700368 and committee member Bob Goodwin, tel. 0442 84 2434.

The above six will form the committee.

Two main items arose from

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"any other business". Firstly, there was concern that the number of members attending competitions was falling, it was felt this was caused by poor communication and rising prices. The committee promised to look into both these matters at the first opportunity. Secondly the section is in possession of an old trophy presented by Bob Plain and David Craig. This trophy is to be played for as an inter club fourball better ball. The details have yet to be finalised.

A vote of thanks was made to St. Neots GC for providing the use of their clubhouse enabling us to hold both a lecture and the A.G.M. The meeting closed at 3.35 pm.

GEOFF SMITH

EAST ANGLIAN SECTION

OUR A.G.M./golf day took place at Bury in November. Not a very big turn out. The meeting was chaired by "Uncle Sam" with his usual wit and charm. There is a slight change in the officers, who are as follows: President: John Moyle, Vice President: Bob Chesham, Chairman: Sam Sylvester, Vice Chairman: Mick Clarke, Sec/Treasurer: M. Peters, Handicap Competition Liaison Officer: Mick Clarke.

We are now in the "stay at home" time of year. If you have anything you want putting in this section send it to me please, care of Eaton Golf Club, and I'll willingly pass it on.

Just a few dates for 1990. All golf Felixtowe - April. Gorleston - June, Bently - August, Quietwaters - October. Venues please for 1991. Possibles are Eaton, Gogs and Bishop Stortford.

MICK LATHROPE

EAST SCOTTISH SECTION

ANUMBER of important events have taken place since the last report. The W. Woods Memorial Trophy was played for over Winterfield G.C. The winner of this trophy which brings together the greenkeepers and members of their club councils were P. Bowden and K. Fairgrieve of Newbattle G.C. with a nett score of 65. Our thanks go to all competitors the council of Winterfield and Stuart Greenwood and his staff for the first



Finalists, left to right: Jeff Chambers, Colin Sopp, Andy Davey and Michael Lower.

class condition of the course.

The annual match against the North East of England sponsored by Stewart and Co was played over Kingsknowe G.C. This resulted in a great win for the Scots by five games to one. It is always a pleasure to see the lads from the North East and we are already looking forward to the return match in 1990. Our thanks go to Stewart and Co for their continued sponsorship and to Kingsknowe for the courtesy of the course.

Our annual general meeting was held on November 22 at Gogarburn. A lecture and slide show prior to the A.G.M. was presented by T. Sheriff of Dunbar and 35 members sat through an enjoyable talk on the John Deer Company. This lecture was of the highest quality. The A.G.M. started at 11 am and we were delighted to see so many members in attendance. Chairman J. Easton retired after his two years service and was replaced by his Vice-Chairman S. Dixon. Jim's two years has helped put this section back on its feet. Chris Yeaman is the new Vice-Chairman.

The annual dance was held at Turnhouse G.C. We were very proud to have as guests the Scottish President Elliot Small and his wife Edna. The I.O.G. exhibition at Ingleston was another great success. There are two centenary celebrations next year in the East. Both Glencorse G.C. and Goswick G.C. are 100 years old. An article on both of these well known clubs will appear in one of the issues of the magazine in 1990.

W. BLAIR

SURREY SECTION

THE "Huxley Bowl" has long been a section event. The tournament

begins early in the year, as members pick their partners for a competition which will hopefully carry them through to the final in November.

The 1989 "Huxley Bowl" received a total of forty entrants, comprising twenty pairs who form the first round draw. The home drawn pair then hold the responsibility for arranging the fixture, to be played by a set date. Following the match all results are then forwarded to the secretary, and this procedure continues through the year.

This year's final was contested over 36 holes, between Michael Lower (Chipstead GC) his partner Andy Davey (RAC Country Club), and Jeff Chambers and Colin Sopp, both of Leatherhead GC.

The first leg was played on Saturday, November 4, at Chipstead GC. Although on home territory, Head Greenkeeper Michael Lower found himself and partner Andy Davey two down after the 18 holes.

On Saturday, November 11, the finalists renewed their duel on the concluding 18 holes at Leatherhead GC. On a glorious sun soaked afternoon, it was Andy and Michael, appearing in his third consecutive final, who drew first blood, winning the opening hole. But it was to be a steady performance by Colin and Jeff, along with some local knowledge, that saw them finally pull clear to win 5 and 4, and become the holders of the 1989 "Huxley Bowl."

As the entries start to come in for the 1990 "Huxley Bowl". I would like to thank all those who took part in '89, for their quick reports of matches and results, which enabled me to run a smoother tournament with their help. It is good to see many of Surrey's members taking part in a year-long com-

petition, which sees them playing as many different courses throughout the County, and I look forward to the 1990 "Huxley Bowl." Once again congratulations to the 1989 winners, Colin Sopp and Jeff Chambers.

MIK WELLS

AYRSHIRE SECTION

THE highlight of this month has been the Ingleton visit. 'Scotsturf' just gets better and better, being as much a social occasion as a working day.

Our section has to run two buses this year, taking 74 passengers. I just wish some of these would attend our section AGM, which always has the same old faces, with just an odd new man to help on committee.

Ian McNab drove from Dumfries which meant he was on the road longer than the duration of the meeting. A bit more of this type of enthusiasm would be very welcome!

The AGM went off very well, with chairman George Brown giving a very entertaining chairman's report in his usual modest manner, and the members as a whole seeming to be a lot happier with the progress of our Association.

We had an interesting visit from Phil Walter of Multisol Ltd a short time ago, marketing a new environmentally friendly hydraulic oil.

Finally, the section would like to congratulate Harry Diamond on being elected as Scottish Region Chairman, and wish him the best of luck for his term of office.

DUNCAN GRAY

MIDLANDS SECTION

OUR winter meetings start on February 12th at Walsall G.C. at 7.30. Mr. John Hinton from BASF will give a talk on grass nutrition, please support the section by attending.

Congratulations to Peter Woodward on his appointment as Course Manager at Moor Hall GC. Also to Arnold Phipps-Jones on his appointment as Course Manager at a Belgium GC. Roger Willars has taken over from Arnold as the new Regional Administrator and I am sure will do an excellent job.

IVAN TOON