Central

Joining the Section this month are Ali Macfadyen and Russell Craig. Both from Greif Hydro Golf Course, and rejoining is Richard Hastings from Holland-bush Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads! That's 50 members who have joined the section in the first half of this year, so hopefully, if we can keep up the numbers, we can reach the 300 mark this year.

Although interested in golfing on Islay at the Machrie Hotel and Golf Links? Head Greenkeeper, Simon Freeman, has been in touch and if we can get enough members interested, we may be able to find accommodation at very competitive rates with as much free golf as you like. Can't be had can it? This is another bonus of being a member of BIGGA. If anyone is interested in a weekend later in the year, just get in touch with me or fill in one of the forms you will soon be receiving.

It is intended to organise a visit to the trial grounds at Loch Lomond Golf Club later in the year and once again, if you wish to participate in this visit, please return your confirmation slips as soon as possible, as numbers may be limited.

The winning number in this month's bonus draw in 'Club 2000' is 100538 and the lucky holder of this ticket is Alex Robertson from Grangemouth. Well done Alex! A cheque for £100 is on its way to you.

Kenny Duncan has now been confirmed as Head Greenkeeper at Dunfemline Golf Club, Crossford, in Fife, and our congratulations go to him wishing him every success in the future.

Nominees for the annual Patron's Award from the Section will be decided on by the number of events each member attends, either at Section or National events. This will include lectures, conferences, demonstrations, exhibitions and golf events, so if you attend any of these events, please let me know in writing. The number will be kept on file, so that is if you wish to be nominated for the Patron's Award, which is a very worthwhile expense paid trip to the BTME at Harrogate in January. John Crawford

North

The spring Section outing at Buckpool started off in pouring rain, but the sun came out mid morning and it turned out a fine day. Martyn Cameron and his staff had the course in excellent condition for the 80 players that ventured out and this was reflected in the scoring.

Our representatives at the BIGGA Scots Charterhouse National Tournament in September will be Mike Wilson, from Forres GC, who shot a fine even par and 70 and R. Pendlebury, from Peterculter, who had a superb nett 63 off his 10 handicap. We wish them every success at St Andrews and Fairhaven later in the year. Prize winners were as follows. Scratch, M. Wilson 70. runner up, B. Wood, 71. Handicap, all nett sections, Class one 1. C. Pearson 67, J. Simpson 65, G. Mullen 64; Class two 1. R. Pendlebury 63, 2. S. McBain 68, Committee trophy winner also; 3. N. Ballingall 72 bib. Second Class-1. A. Leitch 72; 2. C. Maclellan 73; 3. C. Cummings 73 bib. Apprentice Trophy I. I. Cowper 66; 2. S. Pettigrew 75. Veteran Trophy I. R. Donald 74; 2. A. Grant 76; 3. I. Watson 77.

The summer event took place on 26 April with the kind permission of the Club whose thoughts and kind words helped us all through this time. Thanks to everyone it has been quite exceptional. A great day. The four lucky winners in 200 Club were, January £30 number 46, G. Donald, Aberdeen, February £30 number 39, S. Pettigrew, Machrihanish, but soon to be Dunbarton, April £100 R. Patterson, Aberdeen. Finally I would just like to thank Elliott Small, BIGGA Blazer card draw winner N. Mackay, who incidentally is one of our newest members and this was his first outing.

Well, I'm back. After two months away there are some Changes in the Section news. The reason there has been no reports for the last couple of months is due to my son being in Birmingham having a liver transplant as you will all probably know now, after all the reports in newspapers etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes and thoughts for myself and my family through this very hard and testing couple of months. I would like to thank everyone personally, but it would take up most of this magazine. I would like to say thanks to my PGM in the East Section, notably Steve Dixon, Craig Pennycuick and Stuart Green-wood who kept everyone up to date and informed of the situation. Last but not least I would like to thank all the members of the trade who have been asking and thinking of us over the last few months and finally my club West-Bury team, we look forward to the BTME at Harrogate in January. Thanks to the sponsors Aitkens and catering staff who looked after us. So well done to the bar staff who looked after us. It was a real tough day and wind and rain to the worst ever encountered for an East Section outing. With water everywhere, gale force winds and totally black out, a few brave souls went out - some only survived a few holes and very few played the full 18 holes. Most people stayed in the bar all day and I would not blame them, but outside. So, well done to the bar and catering staff who looked after the lads superbly on a terrible day. So few people completed their rounds or went out that we could not give all the prizes away in the 3rd class, but thankfully we got some prize winners.

The results were as follows: Scratch, P. Hares. 1st Class winner, P. Hares, 2. I. Bell, 3. S. Green-wood. 2nd Class Winner, C. Pennycuick, 2. I. Cowan, 3. R. Mullen. 3rd Class Winners, C. Moffatt, Best nett of the day, C. Pennycuick, Veteran, J. Robertson, Trade, I. Thompson, New Member, I. Watson. Guest, D. Mcrave, Highest Scratch. The qualifiers for the National Tournament in September are: Scratch, I. Bell, C. Pennycuick, C. McKelvie, R. Mullen, Swanson GC. The Section's best wishes go with them to St Andrews Old Links and Fairhaven on 25 and 26 September. Remember the silverware lads, all the best to you both.

Lastly, thanks to the trade for their support and prizes they brought along on the day. Thanks to you.
The Section Committee had their day out on May 30 to Abendour GC to play the Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, singles, and Chairman v Vice Chairman’s match, team event. A very fine day was had by all on a day of cloudless blue skies which, these days, is unusual. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the Clubhouse staff for keeping us happy in the food and liquid refreshment department. Also the Head Greenkeeper and his greenstaff for the condition of the course which was superb and a pleasure to play. Well done Dougie, look out Tiger! The results for this were = The Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, Craig Pennycook, Winterfield GC and if Craig keeps up this form then the end of his cutting his handicap, we will have to cut off one of his hands. Probably still wouldn’t make a difference! This leads me on to another story. Our Chairman Tom Murray’s team. 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Conted Systems. A very useful and informative course it was. If anyone gets a chance to go on it, I recommend they do. Thanks to Mark Ganning and Rainbird for their friendly approach and hospitality while we were there. The draw for the second round of the Cleveland Shield will not include Jim Thompson of the Wynyard Club. He was beaten by Martin Woods of Wearside.

Anthony McGough, first assistant at Richmond Golf Club, returned to work after being off for several weeks with a broken hand which he suffered while white water rafting in the Grand Canyon. He has drawn me in the summer knockout, so things are not getting any better for him. Speaking of the knockout, did I mention Jim Thompson had been knocked out in the first round. Still, mustn’t grumble Jim, there’s always someone worse off than you. Any news, contact me on 07808196558.

Steven Jaques

East Midlands

This year’s spring tournament played on 10 May on a cloudy but dry spring day at the wonderful venue of Chilwell Manor GC was enjoyed by 31 members. In reasonably good weather conditions some quite penalising for those of us who ventured into it.


I would also like to congratulate Ian Brown, of Ramsdale Park GC, who, having entered his first BIGGA tournament, still returned his card despite a nightmare round which meant he beat the eight No Returns. Also, I would like to welcome the following members to their first Section tournament. Lee Hughes, James Tudor, Simon Hedley and Russell Latham.

Hope to see you all again on 20 September at Market Harborough GC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Chilwell Manor GC for their hospitality and the use of their fine course for our tournament. The Steward and his staff served us all with an excellent meal and congratulations should be extended to Terry Porter and his staff for providing us with a good test of golf. It is the first time since at least 1979 that the Section has visited Chilwell. Finally, a special thank you should be extended to our sponsor for the day, E.T. Breakwells Ltd, without the support of which we would not have a prize table.

Please may I remind all members that to attend any Section event your entry form and payment must be returned before the closing date. Finally I would like to thank the following committee members for helping in the smooth running of the day. Richard Barker, prizes. Dave Leatherland and Jeff Dickinson, St Annes and Fairhaven in September.

A big thank you to Wokefield for holding the event and to Robert Weir and his staff for the condition of the golf course on a week that brought atrocious weather. No one would have wanted to host a BIGGA event in conditions like that, but the course...
was presented admirably. Thanks also to the competition sponsors, Colin White, from Avoncrop. A good entry was received for the Rigby Taylor pairs and entrants should now have played their first round matches, any doubts about the rules, please contact either Ray Clarke or myself.

To finish this month, congratulations to John Scoones on the opening of Caversham Heath in late April and also to Mike Smith, Andy and the team at Donnington Valley, who also opened their new holes in April. We are very close neighbours to Donnington Valley and wish them all the best in their new venture. However, to relieve a bit of confusion, i.e. arriving at the wrong course etc., Donnington Grove has now changed their name to Parasampia Golf & Country Club.

Section AGM will be held at the Springs, Wallingford, in October and the next outing is at Richings Park on 3 August.

Remember to get those Rigby Taylor matches played early. It is the only way to run the competition successfully.

Ross Wilson

East of England

The second Section golf event of the season took place at Peterborough Milton. The day was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery and thanks to Alister for his great assortment of prizes. The main prize was won by Les Howkins, 31 pts, of Cleethorpes. Second, N Smith, 28 pts of Market Rasen and third went to Kevin Hodges, 23 pts of Ryton Park. Guest prize went to Peter Fell. Longest Drive, Norman Hewson and Nearest the Pin was won by Gary Cooper.

A good turn out for our section at Peterborough Milton considering how busy everybody should be, trying to keep on top of growth. Head Greenkeeper, Brian Taylor, and staff of Milton certainly kept on top and produced an excellent conditioned course for all our members to play around. Although I was unable to play the comments in the bar were none but praise about the course. Thanks also to all the other sponsors, Barenbrug Seed, Aitken, Boughton Loam, Tower Sports and Rigby Taylor for their generous help towards the prize table.

G A Macdonald.

Mid Anglia

The next golf event within the section is the Summer Tournament on Monday August 7. The venue will be Aspley Guise, a golf club which I believe has never hosted a Mid Anglia BIGGA event before. We can therefore look forward to a new challenge and a great day. Entries to Richard Saunders in good time please, using the usual form.

Paul Lodgett

Sussex

Firstly the results of the Spring Meeting which took place on May 4 at Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and was also the qualifier for the National Championship which is to be held at Lytham St Annes Old Links Fairhaven Golf Club on 25 and 26 September 2000. The morning round was sponsored jointly by Scotts UK Professional and John Shaw Machinery Ltd.

The results were as follows: Best gross scores, Richard Clark 77, Raymond Day 77, George Barr 93, Rob Hudson 73, Dustin Houghton wins on count back and qualifies for the National Championship. Best net scores Dustin (Austin Powers) 69, Darren Mitchell 69, Rob Hudson 73, Dustin Houghton wins on count back and qualifies for the National Championship. Trade/guest winner was myself, oh well and no, I don’t qualify for the National Tournament.

The afternoon round was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and was a stableford event. The winners were as follows, 0-15 Handicaps, 1. Chris Read, 33 points, 2. Stefan Antolik, 35 points, 16-28 Handicaps, 1. Rob Hudson 37 points, 2. Rose Gould 34 points, Trade/guest winner John Roberts, 35 points.

There were also prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive throughout the day. Nearest the pin on the 15th Rose Gould, on the 18th Rob Hudson, cut him!

Longest drive on the 12th hole was Raymond Day with 130 yards, only person to hit fairway, only joking Ray, with about a 300 yards mammoth drive. Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who turned up.

I would also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, like to thank David Hannan and all his staff for presenting Royal Eastbourne Golf Club in such fine condition. Thanks again David.

The next event on the Sussex calendar is on July 11 at Copthorne Golf Club and will be a fourball better ball followed by a Tapas Bar.

Please arrive at 1pm for 1.30pm for first tee off time of 2pm.

One last note before I close, I would like to wish all the very best to Bob Moore on his retirement after 50 years in greenkeeping, which were all spent at the one club, Seaford, Blatchington Golf Club. Bob is a keen golfer who plays off 15 handicap an
South Wales

A good summer so far for some of us, working on links courses but may not be for others, will it change? I wonder? Unfortunately, little news to report, although hopefully the Wales Open held at the Celtic Manor Resort went well, perhaps we will be able to report on that again next month.

South Wales and South West Region Course Management Trophies will, this year, be held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club on August 2. Celtic Manor, on August 15 and Manor House, Castle Coombe, on August 22. If you have not received an invitation and would like one, please contact Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194. The tournaments are team events, comprising the Captain, Secretary, Head Greenkeeper and Chairman of Green.

Once again they are being sponsored by Scotts Professional UK.

Congratulations to Robert Frater and wife, Ruth on the birth of their baby daughter.

Catch up with more news next month. Please contact me on 01443 204392 or 07932710286 with any news or gossip for your around the green.

Richard Hatcher

South Coast

The spring tournament was played at Alton Golf Club over 27 holes. All credit to Fred and Darren for the excellent conditions. Not many would disagree that the course was set up more difficult. Many thanks to Alton for courtesy and hospitality. Also thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop, Scotts and Huxley Camelbell Turf.

Rorys O'Qualifiers for the Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship were Darren Miller and Mark Green. The Huxley Shield went to Matt Blake, with M Grogan and I Newman second and third. The Avoncrop Trophy was won by Kevin Glass with H. Tribe and Neil Davies second and third. The Roffeys Cup was won by Alan Rideout with P Dudgeon and D. Hewitt second and third.

The Nira stumpson Cup for over 50 was won by Alan Rideout and finally the under 25's cup presented by Christopher Fry went to James Martin. Congratulations to Rob Philips for his hole in one. It went on to record the highest score of the day!

The summer tournament is at High Post on July 19. Remember, this is a guest day but your partner must have a partner. All credit to Fred and Darren for the excellent conditions. Not many would disagree that the course was set up more difficult. Many thanks to Alton for courtesy and hospitality. Also thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop, Scotts and Huxley Camelbell Turf.

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Martin, Ormeau, 3. Ken Henderson, Allen Park, and the Visitor’s prize went to David Irwin, from Benburb. Once again, many thanks to Kilkeel GC for having us there and also the catering staff for setting up another fine meal that was promptly wolfed down by all.

Our sponsors for the day were J E Coulter Ltd. Unfortunately other commitments and short notice meant no J E Coulter’s representatives were there, but they put up some fine crystal for the winners. Many thanks for your continued support at these events and we’ll try to give you more notice next year.

At the Kilkeel event we were privileged to have the company of Scott MacCallum, Editor of the BIGGA magazine, and Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer. Scott and Tracey were in the province visiting a few of our finest golf clubs like Malone, Clandeboye and Royal County Down. The Course Managers were each interviewed about their course, on what they have done to their course and how they perceive greenkeeping and the future of greenkeeping. Hopefully, over the coming months we will see these articles printed in the magazine. I believe it was Scott’s first time in the province. I hope you enjoyed your stay and will hurry back. Maybe next time we’ll introduce you to the delights of the Guinness family.

Congratulations to Eamon Farrell, who moves from First Assistant at Stakis to Course Manager at Masserene GC. Also congratulations to Mark Farrell, also from Stakis, on his appointment to City of Derry GC as Course Manager. Well done lads and I know it will go well for you. New members to our region are Kyle Irwin, Head Greenkeeper at Lurgan and also Stuart Davidson from Portstewart GC.

Our next event will be held at Castlerock GC on 2nd August. Tee off times and arrangements will be posted to you nearer the time. See you all at Castlerock.

Iain Harrison.

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It can drive its 6” tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

The new Mustang joins the market-leading range of Verti-Drains that have outsold and outperformed all competitors for the past 20 years. And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it’s the widest range available anywhere.

But one word of caution. The new Mustang is fast; so fast that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further information or a demonstration of the new Verti-Drain Mustang on 01428 661222.

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