North
At the time of writing the forms for the Autumn Outing were going out to all members, and by now the event at Kingstong GC will have probably been played. Results will be in the October magazine as will the report from the Northern Whitley Trophy at Auchenarder GC. Next month is the National Championships at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing need help to see how few members if you can make the trip.

I have a few details of the Seminar we are running in November. It will be held at Meldonil GC Ellen on Friday November 9 in the early evening, confirmed speakers are Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews, Ronnie Bunting, Course Manager at North Berwick and Gordon Mitchell保持着 calling it, will be held on Saturday, December 1 at Piperdam Golf Club in Angus. As before if you are going to attend any of these events you will please return the reply form at the bottom of the letter by the date given, it makes a whole lot easier for catering etc. Thanks. Two men on the move are Stuart Smith, from Lundin Links, and Fraser Wright, from Lundin Ladies. Both have moved to the new course at Kingsack, St Andrews. Best wishes and every success for the future from everyone in the Section.

Stuart, I gave your bottle of vodka (from the Spring Tournament) to the “Heroes From File” and they have promised to replace it if they can get “Deek” to cash in some of the dollars he never spent in Florida!

A man who has been in the wars recently is one of our Patron’s representatives on our committee, Kevin Brunton. Kevin sustained a broken ankle while attempting to unload something from the rear of a trailer and ended up in hospital. Best wishes from everyone for a speedy recovery, Kevin! I thought because he was laid up with a broken ankle that he would get peace from his usual sales patter for a while, but, no he came of course to crunches the other day “Just to see if there is anything you’re needing.” You can’t keep a good man down!

John Crawford.

Phone a friend
www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Ayrshire
Just a brief note this month to remind everyone that our Autumn Outing will be at Brighouse Bay Golf Club on Thursday, September 27. The format will alter the usual lines. Our Secretary, Derek Wilson, will have a letter with you to confirm all the final arrangements and I hope to see a better than average turn out especially from our southern members with the venue in their locality. See you at Brighouse.

Any news call me on 01505 683278 lain Barr

North

Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 5440

Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel 0161 431 0433

We welcome new members in Robert Herero, Heworth GC; Paul Brown, West Bradford GC; Michael Dearthly, Skidby Lakes GC; Paul Gledhill, Halifax Bradford GC. Thanks all for now, if anybody as any thing let me know.

My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS. Tel. 0113 2383188. Mobile 07787678572. E-mail: andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

North West
I have not long returned from a very enjoyable week at The Open at Royal Lytham and feel I must congratulate Paul Smith and his staff on the fine condition of the course. Most of my time was taken up either in the portrait section or in doing a bit of reporting. Seeing a lot of the course I decided to go diving a couple of nights with a few of the Support team. This is the best time to see the course, as you are able to see things which are in condition, and see probably the best constructed bunkers in the county. Certainly none of the players took the course to pieces, even though the winds which were forecast never arrived. Last time The Open was played at Royal Lytham, Jim Macdonald was Head Greenkeeper, and many many years younger. Paul Smith has kept up the tradition of producing a first class course for The Open.

In the July issue of Greenkeeper International all members of BIGGA were given the opportunity to submit a personal profile to win a trip to Florida and the GCSAA Conference and show. The profile had to be submitted by September 30th and there were an amazing 600 members I only received three applications. The trip is sponsored by Bernard & Company, and two BIGGA members will win the opportunity to visit each Region. This was a rare opportunity to go to America completely free of charge, and to find out what greenkeeping is like on the other side of the pond. Three out of 600 is not good enough, and I am sure that many of you would love to go but did not apply, well remember these opportunities are open to all members of BIGGA, so if the chance comes again, lets have a better response.

The next golf meeting will be the “Stewards” match at Hazel Grove GC and we need a team of 16 to retain the trophy. This will be followed by the “Whiteclaw Bowl” to be played at Penrhyn Golf Club on Wednesday 19th September. If you are available for any of the above matches, or have any news or job vacancies please ring me on, 07761 583387 or 0151 435412.

Bert Cross

Latest news?
www.bigga.org.uk/news.html
The first of this year’s Midland Region Golf Management Trophy events was held at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday, August 7 when 16 teams comprising a greenkeeper, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green competed for a tonne of fertiliser for the winning golf club and other team prizes.

Many readers may not be aware that Samuel Ryder, a local seed merchant, Mayor of St. Albans, was the instigator of the Ryder Cup, who in their fourth year of support lead up to this year’s Match at the Belfry.

The event was sponsored by Scotts of the Region Golf Management Trophy. The members played over the new Bracken Course, which was in superb condition. It was well defined and manicured and an excellent test of golf. Sam Rhodes and Peter Wishley were thanked for their efforts and invited to attend all of the EGU Headquarters for courtesy on the day.

Prize Winners: 1. Richard Owen, Boston West, 39 pts; 2. Jodie Forster, Thorpe Wood, 38 pts; 3. David Hornsey, Woodhall Spa, 37 pts; 4. Brett Cornelious, Seacroft, 35 pts. Nearest The Pin, Richard Owen. Trade prizes went to Duncan Beall and Gary Cooper, the prizes were presented by Peter Warner and Chris Lee, of Burdens, and many thanks to them and all other sponsors on the day.

The Peterborough Garden Machinery Trophy was played at Spalding Golf Club. A good turn out of members played an excellent conditioned course prepared by head greenkeeper Tony Ward and his staff. The winner on the day was new Head Greenkeeper to the section Ian Batty of Sleaford GC. Welcome and well done on winning the PGM Trophy.

1. Ian Batty, 35pts, Sleaford GC
2. Lee Howkins, 34 pts, Cleethorpes GC
3. Graeme Macdonald, 33 pts, Newark GC.

Trade Prize. Gary Cooper 34 pts

Longest Drive. David Hornsey, Woodhall Spa

Nearest the Pin. Simon Hedley.

Thanks to all sponsors on the day, especially Keith from PGM.

Others were:- Tower Chemicals, Greendale, Atkerrns, Boughton Loam, Alpha Amenity, Linegreen, Rigby Taylors, Mansfield Sands, Burdens and Midlube.

After the prize giving Gary Cooper, of Tower Chemicals, presented David Hornsey and Les Howkins with their BIGGA Blazers. Tower are now the Order of Merit sponsors which first prize is a new Blazer. Thanks to Gary and Tower Chemicals.

G Macdonald

BBQ

Humboldt of apologies for missing a few months. It must have been all that sunshine going to my head - just not used to hot sunny weather especially down here at Costa Del Caversham. Anyway straight onto business and it seems that Colin Hatt is trying to do his own impression of Tiger Woods by winning all the Section competitions. Not satisfied with success at Caversham Heath back in April, he then went on to win at Maidenhead with 43 pts, closely followed by Carl Small with 41 pts and myself in the prizes (at last) with 37 pts. Many thanks to Maidenhead Golf Club for their hospitality and also to David Winterton and his team for producing such an impressive course.

We would also like to thank Bernie Wall, of Gem, for sponsoring the competition. You may also be aware that the Rigby Taylor Pairs is in full swing at the moment, (no pun intended, honest) and at the time of writing is at the semi-final stages, which consists of the following pairings: Alastair Higgs & Simon Robinson, Calcot Park, v David Goodchild & Charlie Wright, Ellesbrough. Ian Rohins & Carl Small (Defending Champions), Ellesbrough v Tony Steven & Andy Reenen, Castle Royle. Chris Lomas & Mark Hancock, The Berkshire. v Gary Armstrong & Mark Steels, Cherwell Edge. Lee Bishop & Brian Payne, Burnham Beeches. v Lindsay Anderson & Simon Austin, Badgemoor Park. Good Luck to those involved as soon as I can find out the results I’ll try and get them in a report.

Well that’s about it for this month. You would have thought that after three months or is it four? that I might have something interesting to write about but unless you want to hear about shooting myself in the thumb or the episode with Steph and the tattoo... no I’ll stop there. Hopefully more next month.

Jon Scoones Tel: 01189 723334

THE NEW VERTI-DRAIN MUSTANG

YOU’LL QUICKLY SEE THE BENEFITS

Without doubt, the new Verti-Drain Mustang is the fastest, most effective aerator on the market today. Whilst it still features the unique, patented 'hover' action, there are many new improvements, including single point arm adjustment, a stronger tine support system and fewer working parts.
The annual Regional Seminar at Cannington College will take place on November 21, 2001.

Speakers for the day are Steven Bernhard, of Bernard and Co, who will talk on Better Grass for Less Money, a two part paper. Steven will be followed by Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper at Bude and North Cornwall GC who will report back from his trip to Canada where he was a part of BIGGA’s Bernhard’s Scholarship earlier this year. The afternoon will hear from Dave Sammels, Courses Superintendent at De Vere Belfry, who will speak on preparing from the Ryder Cup. Question time will involved the listed speakers plus Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA and Past Chairman of the Association, Gordon Child.

Attendance at the seminar counts for three CPD points and cost is £17.50 for members and £25 for non-members inclusive of lunch.

Further information is available from Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194

South Wales

The summer Competition was recently held at the Llanwern Golf Club in Newport. We were made to feel extremely welcome at the club by everyone and we had an excellent day all round. It was a first time visit to Llanwern for many of us and we found the golf course to be in excellent condition thanks to A Panks and his team. It’s great when someone goes out of their way to provide that little bit of something more, something different, something special!!!

Course Manager Adrian Panks certainly did this for us at Llanwern. I don’t know how many noticed but for us the greenkeepers, Adrian cut the greens in backlap mode, yes really!!

Thanks Ade for this special treatment, you know what they say about a craftsman blaming his tools?

Results of the day: Winner of the Birdie Cup with a best gross was Peter Holmstrom from Newport GC; Winner of the Jacobsen Cup with a
best nett was J B Jones from Dinas Powys GC; 2.nett, Chairman Adrian Panks; 3.nett, Steven Lloyd from Bargoed GC; 4.nett, Brett Jones from Pencoed College.

Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin both went to Andrew Roach, of Haverfordwest GC.

The first meeting to the committee at Llanwrn for granting us courtesy of the course and to R S Bird Ltd our sponsors of the Summer Competition, to Steven Clifford, Julian Driver and Jeff Evans, when we were informed that the prize table was superb as always and we thank them for their continuing support of what is our most established event/trophy.

Once we were at the Grove GC, near Porthcawl our annual match Greenkeepers versus Secretaries took place. The weather was once again superb and the golf course was in excellent condition. This was our first visit to the Grove GC and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how good not only the course is, for its only five years old, but the facilities when you have them are really top class. We managed to feel extremely welcome by all at the Grove but especially Directors Tim Jones and Mike Thomas, our sincere thanks to them for their splendid hospitality.

Grove Golf Club Captain, Mr David Jones paid special praise to Head Greenkeeper Henry Stead for his efforts in ensuring that the Grove GC is presented at its best at all times and this was reiterated by everyone who was present. Well done Henry to you and your team.

The 2007 result of the day was a friendly half with the Greenkeepers retaining the Shield. My thanks to Ray Howells for organising the Secretaries team and for his kind words at the presentation.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles Competition is well underway with some excellent matches played by Peter Lacey and Robert Haden; Daryl Bray and Steve Mills; Robert Frater and John Borja; Henry Stead and David Morgan.

Many thanks to Alan Abel, of Complete Weed Control, South Wales who kindly sponsored this annual event, It was great to welcome you (him and me) to have a two full teams present after last years poor showing. Thank you Alan.

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Surrey

Our summer tournament was held on 22nd in warm and sunny weather at Farnham Golf Club. Many thanks to Peter McMorran and his team for presenting the course in such fine condition and to Farnham Golf Club's management and Greenkeepers.

Top of the points were:

1. Gary Debenham will have the place he earned with an amazing 41 pts and his team for presenting the course in splendid shape and to Farnham Golf Club’s welcome and courtesy.

East Anglia

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Smith and his team at Royal Lytham & St. Annes for putting on a great venue for the 130th Open Championship. The course looked in splendid shape and certainly caused some problems for the professionals, and well done to the BIG-GA team for their sterling performance. We raised £6,000 for the Head Students’ Scholarship. Matthew Wood, Head Greenkeeper, represented Cleveleys Golf Club at Woburn and his greenkeeping team at Royal Co. Louth looked in splendid shape.

Our main sponsor of the day was Toro (UK) and Larry Freeman and Ian Willett worked tirelessly throughout the day to ensure every facility was available. The toilet seat was a problem but also the Assistants’ Trophy was won by Ceri Richards but seems to have been stolen.

The next dates to look out for are Sept 12th match at South West & South Wales at St. Pierre. Anyone wishing to play in this match should contact K.James who will pass your name onto the team captain. The other date to look out for is 16th Oct the autumn tournament and AGM which will be held at Glemsford (on 01934 627 143/07788 427 677 if you do not receive any notification through the post.

K. James

For the first time in ten years one of our members got a hole-in-one. Keith Tissah held out on the 9th hole - 194 yards with a 3 iron, one bounce and in. (Well done Keith.) The toilet seat was won by Pat Swinn from Rushmere Golf Club and the Visitors prize went to Peter Smith, Royal Golf Club at Doncaster.

I would like to thank all the members who attended, many travelling a considerable distance from City of York. He has informed me that the head greenkeeper at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Graham was part of the BIG-GA support team at this year’s Championship at Royal Belfast Golf Club, to the Section this month.

Graham is to return to Royal Belfast Golf Club for allowing him the opportunity to take the course. Graham Wylie has Past chairman Graham Wylie has confirmed all bookings for 2003. Our next meeting will be held at Purfush Heath on 10th October. I look forward to seeing you there.

Iam Willett

Northen Ireland

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Iam Willett

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