Looking to the Future

National Chairman, Richard Barker, had a quiet month by his standards but still took in a series of events up and down the country.

If you will excuse the pun I have come back down to earth with a bump after flying high from Augusta and my feet have been well and truly on the ground in this country for the last few weeks.

The day following my return I attended the Agricultural Engineers Association Annual Conference and Luncheon. This was held at the Savoy Hotel in London with the conference theme on Rural Business and Leisure as influenced by Government thinking with speakers ranging from Sir Donald Curry to Ben Gill, President of the NFU in England and Wales. This was a most informative day and included a magnificent lunch!!

The following week saw the first East Midlands Section Golf Day of the season and I believe the scores must go to Steve Levers and his team of the NFU in England and Wales. The course looked superb for so early in the season and I believe the scores were tied on 57 and congratulations to this we had a new course record 65. They’ve obviously got off to a cracking start and I hope it continues for Bevan Tattersall and his staff to watch the third day of the Benson & Hedges International Open at the Belfry and hope to see you in Arizona.

Moving up to another level I went to watch the third day of the Benson & Hedges International Open at the Belfry and from outside the ropes the course looked superb for so early in the season and I believe the score reflected this with Barry Lane setting a new course record 63. They’ve obviously got off to a cracking start and I hope it continues for Bevan Tattersall and his staff right through to the Ryder Cup.

Now hopefully you all read Neil’s article in last month’s magazine where he made reference to the Futures Sub-Committee. This Committee met at Aldwark shortly after the article. Neil informs me that those attending considered the discussions over the two days to have been extremely productive and there was a high level of informed debate. There is an enthusiasm within the Sub-Committee to contribute towards shaping the Association’s future. The Sub-Committee is likely to meet twice yearly but intends to be active between meetings. To this end three working groups have been set up to consider and report on specific topics. These groups will embrace modern technology particularly through an e-mail list which will enable them to communicate both individually and as a group. I feel certain looking ahead that this Sub-Committee will be of considerable assistance to the Board of Management in taking BIGGA progressively forward in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to say cheerio and a big thank you to David Emery who is leaving after four years in the senior role so hopefully the Association will be able to continue with a team with a team who is leaving after four years in the senior role so hopefully the Association will be able to continue with a team