**North**

Three new members to report this month and they are John Robertson, from Camperdown GC, Dundee; Derek Lithgow, from Banchory GC, and Willie Rusk, from Torvean GC. Welcome to the Section.

The spring outing has been set for Torfar GC on May 7, and by the time you receive this magazine the outing will have just passed. The Autumn outing has, as yet, not been fixed up.

The Scottish Championship is at Turnberry in June and should be popular if so you are interested then you had better get your entry back quickly to avoid disappointment.

The Secretary has asked me to inform you that there are training courses available from BIGGA this autumn, or which are subsidised by BIGGA for £30 per one day or £60 per two day course. These courses need to have about 10 people attending and can be about anything which you may want training in, from health and safety, to computer training, book keeping etc. If you need any more info then phone Dougall Daguid on 01224 740329.

Anyone willing to nominate their club for the AGM in October can do so by phoning Dougall as well. Also should anyone with 200 club tickets return them as soon as possible if you have no intention of purchasing them. Return them to Andy Wilson of Brechin G.C.

Finally congratulations to Jim McCormick, of Kinrinum G.C, for trying to raise £3400 for the Anthony Nolan Trust, which is a very worthy charity providing bone marrow for patients suffering from leukaemia and other bone marrow diseases. Good luck and I hope the Section will support Jim in raising some cash. Jim being of athletic mould anyway, will nip up and down Mount Kilimanjaro quicker than it takes Hamish to buy a round of drinks. Come to think of it, that gives Jim about three weeks. Cannot be named for fear of disappointment.

Commiserations first to the Golf Club Secretaries and two Course Managers. Fuller details of all events will be included in future Section reports, but in the meantime if you wish further information please contact Ian MacMillan on 01337 857294. Forms for all events will be mailed to you shortly.

The first golf tournament of the season was held on April 29 at St Andrews Bay when 60 members and guests enjoyed playing over the Torrance Course, which was in excellent condition on what for many of us was the only dry day of the week. (yes, the weather appears to be shaping up as in the last few years, rain, rain and more rain!) Our sincere thanks go to everyone at St Andrews Bay, especially Course Manager Neil Bollingall and his staff, the bar and catering staff for keeping us fed and ‘watered’ throughout the day and to Golf Co-ordinator, Graeme Dawson, for all his assistance in making the day possible.

Thanks also to everyone who assisted on the day issuing and collecting score cards, selling raffle tickets etc, with special thanks to all the patrons of the section for their continued support.

Prize winners were as follows.


**West**

Welcome to this month’s Section news.

April 3. Secretaries vs. Greenkeepers match hosted at Prestwick St Nicholas GC. Our Section was represented by Gavin Jarvis (Secretary) and Gerry Bruen, Williamson GC, whom, I may add, won their match to give the Greenkeepers victory on the day and to retain the trophy for a second year.

Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the day where it continued to be blessed with fine weather which allowed Head Greenkeeper John McLaughlin and staff to present an excellent conditioned course. Congratulations to John and staff, members and council of Prestwick St Nicholas GC for hosting this event.

April 10 saw Renfrew Golf Club host the Greenkeepers-Convenors competition sponsored by Richard Atkten and SGM. Competitors attended and enjoyed the continued good weather and excellently prepared golf course, all down to Fraser Ross and crew. I personally thoroughly enjoyed my day and look forward to returning soon. Our playing partners on the day certainly enjoyed their day. East Kilbride GC picked up first place with Millport GC coming in a very close second. Second only to be beaten on a count back on BHI. Second year running for Millport Golf Club, make it third time lucky in 2004! Brian’s hoping we will be blessed with such a fine spring in 2004 as East Kilbride GC host this competition next year. That’s what you get for being so lucky on the greens Brian.

The committee would like to congratulate Fraser Ross and staff for an excellently prepared course so early in the season, members and council of Renfrew GC for their warm welcome and hospitality and finally a big thank you to the sponsors for the day, Richard Atkten and SGM, as without them such enjoyable days would not exist.

May 1, Spring outing, hosted this year at Hilton Park GC. The fine weather could not have come at a better time. Unfortunately for John Robertson and staff a few days prior to this event. Thunder and heavy rain returned and continued until the morning of the competition, some heavy showers interrupted maintenance but the greens staff were able to present the course in a playable condition. A very big thank you to John and his greens staff for making sure the competition was played. Also to members and Council of Hilton Park GC for their warm welcome and use of their facilities not forgetting everyone attending on the day, in non-favourable conditions, who bravely attempted a round of golf. Some excellent scores were posted considering the conditions. Results are as follows:

**Scratch.** C. Goodhall, 72. Category 1. 1. Gerry
Cleveland

Firstly, the members of the Cleveland Section wish Dave Jobey all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Consett Golf Club. His replacement as First Assistant at Bramcote Castle is Andrew Welsh, promoted from within. Good luck too Andrew! You'll need it working alongside super Kev!

The Spring Tournament was held at Bramcote Castle Golf Club on April 30. I had a round with the lads and everyone thought that the course was in truly excellent condition especially with the very long 'strange' weather we have had this spring.

Congratulations to Kevin Huslop and his staff and a big thanks to the club for their excellent hospitality (the steak and kidney pie was delicious).


These members are expected to represent the Section in the Northern Region finals later in the summer. The date is yet to be confirmed. Please inform any news to T.C. on 07831 214879

North Wales

Our Spring Tournament was held at Mere End Golf Club last month and a detailed report of the results will be in the next issue.

We still require members willing to put their courses forward for hosting a BIGGA golf day this applies right across the North Wales Section as we do like to spread the locality of these events to include everybody. We currently have no dates as yet for the Autumn, Winter and Christmas Tournaments for the 2004 season so if you wish, contact a committee member to discuss helping out. This would be great for — Jez Hughes, Terry Adamson, Wendy O'Brien, Trevor Johnson, Andy Campbell, Stuart McCaill, Don Pemberton or myself. Don has put forward his course at Vale Royal Abbey for the N. Wales vs N. West match next year.

I would also like to thank Dave Orchard, and GEM, for their kind sponsorship of this day as they have done for the last number of years.

We somehow struggled for a team of 12 players for this match. This year's was held at Ringway Golf Club. Thanks to them and to Jim Grainger and his staff for presenting a great golf course. Our team only had 10 of our 12 but our Section could only muster up seven players, so we decided to draft in a few extras and had 21 in total playing a Stableford event — we had approx five out of the six top scores so North Wales won back the shield for 2003.

If you feel you may be able to play in this event next year please contact us.

The Spring Seminar held at Carden Park was a great success and will be hosted again next year — we will try to bring the date forward to the middle/end of May which may help those of you with early work commitments in March. If you have any issues or ideas about the event please let us know.

Keith Holms retires this month from his long and dedicated service to golf greenkeeping. For the last eight years he has been working at Carden Park, before which he was at Old Padeswood, Wrexham, Dunham Forest, Bolton Lostock Park to name but a few. We wish him all the best and perhaps his wife, Freda, will see a bit more of him now he's not on all those early morning starts.

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Ian Leary.

Bill Lawson, ex Heswall GC, EGA/BIGGA and BIGGA, reaches the grand age of 70 next month. We wish Bill all the best for then, still very active in his love for the profession and great friend of Derek Green, from Royal Liverpool GC. I think that Bill will be of active support come three years this July at Hoylake.

And that’s it folks see you next month. Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home 01925 263324 Fax 01925 269622 Mobile 07778 162162 e-mail acorn@supanet.com

Mesen Cnynru
Andrew Acorn

North East

Tyneside GC played host to our Spring competition on April 30. Our thanks to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the excellent condition of the course considering the weather we have had. Not the perfect start to the season.

Special thanks to the following sponsors: Turf Care Supplies; Border Services; Atkins; Scots; Aventis; Greenlay; Shorts. Thanks once again for your loyal support.

Best nett. A. Doig, Tynemouth GC, 79-6-73; Best gross. A. Dalby, Warkworth GC, 79; Assistant’s Cup. A. Gross, B. Wilson, Stocksfield GC, 83-9-74; J. Hood, Linden Hall, 80-5- 75; J. Richardson, Hexham 84-8-76; J. Storey, Alnham, 81-5- 76

Qualifiers for the Regional final will be notified in due course otherwise lads, you will have a short journey this year as I do believe it will be held at Middlesbrough sometime in August.

The Autumn competition has been fixed up and for the first time it will be held at Bellingham GC. For those who have not played before I suggest you give it a go and you will be pleasantly surprised at the layout of this track.

One other thought springs to mind. Can anyone tell me why numbers are dropping at an alarming rate for the spring and autumn comps? We, the committee, are now getting worried. It was not so long ago we would have 35 people playing now it’s down to 20 or so at the most. We have given it a thought ourselves, maybe we could change the tee off time to the afternoon so you don’t need all day off. If you come up with any suggestions either give myself or Russ Black a ring and we will listen to your ideas. One thing that causes a problem with the spring comp is when Easter is as we try to keep a full week clear either side. Hence why this year was later than usual.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

Late April and at last we have some much needed rain. Strange as it may seem the April showers kept away and the long dry spell with cold winds did not do anyone any good. It seems that hollow tining and sanding systems are here to stay no wonder my greens left golfers with good pace on the surface and a requirement of skill to keep the ball under control when going for the pin. Now we have sweet rain to ensure we all run round like headless chickens trying to control the rampant growth. There is no such thing as a seasonal pattern when it comes to predicting what weather is around the corner year on year. interesting times I am sure you would agree.

There is often from now on.

Our next golf event is at Donnington Valley Golf Club on July 1 and is sponsored by Tacit. This event is an 18 hole Stableford with teams of four. Our start time is 1pm so those attending please try to arrive in plenty of time to get booked in as we make up the teams to play on the day. This event will be followed by an evening meal in a wonderful old building overlooking the course so if your golf has been pitiful, there will certainly be a delightful end to the day. Cost is the usual £25 and cheques must be made payable to BB&O Section. These can be sent to me at Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9RN. If you need to phone then call me on 07778 765021. With no Section news coming my way I wish you all success in your respective clubs. At least with the passing of time we are left alone to dwell on how things have been. At least we have the passing of time to take with the passing of time we are left alone to dwell on how things have been. At least we have

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Lutter
Telephone 07478 559015

East of England

You will be pleased to know that the East of England Section is still alive and kicking. There has been no news from the Section for some time now but hopefully we will be putting pen to paper more often from now on. Throughout the winter we had two well-attended seminars by Frank Newberry and Dennis Mottram and a visit recently to Cannon's Turf. Frank talked on the "New Supervisor" and Dennis enlightened us with his new talk about "Water and the Golf Course".

Both seminars were well attended and already we are booking this coming autumn courses and seminars.

April we had an evening tour of Cannons Turf Farm and a talk by Tim Pettigrew of Barenbrug. Thanks to Tim Cannon and staff for a well organised visit. About 20 members were well fed and watered and were delighted to see some quality turf growing in our area.

Our first golf day was the best-attended start to the season for quite a few years. The Section played over a windswept Burghley Park GC which was in its usual excellent condition thanks to David Salisbury and his staff.

Rigby Taylor sponsored the day and we express thanks to Stuart Jeffs for donating some great prizes. Prize winners were: 1. Mike Smith nett 71; 2. Gary Salisbury 71 (on count back) 3. Daniel Wells 72.

Longest drive went to G. Macdonald. Nearest the Pin went to David Wellberry. Trade prize went to Ian Maunder.

Welcome to our new members Gordon Cooke, of RAF Coningsby; Nathaniel Smith, of Belton Park; Jonathan Hubbard and Derek Beba, of Tydd St. Giles. Graeme Macdonald.

BB&O

What a fantastic start to the summer with clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine. It is a shame the grass found this all too much for good growth but firm putting greens left golfers with good pace on the surface and a requirement of skill to keep the ball under control when going for the pin. Now we have sweet rain to ensure we all run round like headless chickens trying to control the rampant growth. There is no such thing as a seasonal pattern when it comes to predicting what weather is around the corner year on year. interesting times I am sure you would agree.

Recently I requested feedback on any Section members who wanted to take up any training in our area that could be of benefit to your personal circumstances or golf course. I have received no requests so far so I wish to raise this issue once more. A course will only run if there are enough members to make it viable but the list of courses is extensive. If you are interested then contact me either at BIGGA HOUSE or me for more details. The costs are incredible, only £30 + VAT for a one-day course or £60 + VAT for a two-day course per person, including lunch. These courses only run if a certain number of candidates is reached but these numbers are often low, typically 4-6. Please give this some thought, as the deadline for applications for these courses is July 16.

Let us know if you wish to add your own personal welcome to those joining this Section in our Association. I will send out the current list of golfing events to each new member but if anyone does not receive this then please call me and I will send a copy.

Our next golf event is at Donnington Valley Golf Club on July 1 and is sponsored by Tacit. This event is an 18 hole Stableford with teams of four. Our start time is 1pm so those attending please try to arrive in plenty of time to get booked in as we make up the teams to play on the day. This event will be followed by an evening meal in a wonderful old building overlooking the course so if your golf has been pitiful, there will certainly be a delightful end to the day. Cost is the usual £25 and cheques must be made payable to BB&O Section. These can be sent to me at Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9RN. If you need to phone then call me on 07778 765021. With no Section news coming my way I wish you all success in your respective clubs. At least with the passing of time we are left alone to dwell on how things have been. At least we have

Midland

As some of you may be aware, in the past I have competed in the noble sport of Ballroom and Latin dancing. At the Vale’s evening meal, M. Bryan must have mistakenly picked up his Latin outfit. All in black and looking rather Latino, I was unaware he also indulges in the prancing arts. Perhaps we may now
call him Zorro or Enrique. Wish on, chap! The Spring Tournament was held at the Vale GC. Our thanks to M. Hughes, M. Ruffords for sponsoring the course in such wonderful condition, a great tribute to your skills. Also our thanks to the club’s Captain, Mr. J. Eastoe for his kind welcoming hospitality. The results of the day: Best Gross, M. Hughes. Best Nett: N. Bird, D. Fellows, R. Carter, M. Hughes, M. Bryan, N. Gilkes. Our thanks to M. Raynor, of Avoncrop, for sponsoring the main prize table. Also thanks to Ruffords for sponsoring: Longest Drive. M. Hughes, and Nearest the Pin. D. Fellows (with a hole in one). Cheers for the drink, Dave.

It was also very nice to see four new faces: S. Raybould, A. Moss, J. Moreyler, and P. Rainford. Anyway, let’s get down to some educational possibilities. From letters of application and CV, dealing with peers, supervisors and trainees, through to presentation of reports and verbal communication with committee and members. At all levels, effective communication is perhaps the greatest tool at one’s disposal. Andy Smith, yet again on your behalf, is organising an “Effective Communication” course to be run in the autumn. The course is a full day at a cost of approximately £40 per person. Cheap at half the price, so to speak with him, I get the feeling that the weather was very pleasant, all in all a very good day had by all. We wish to thank Matt Battram, Tony Nelli, from Battram Mowers, and Ian Mitchell, from Textron, for being our main sponsors for the day also Ellis Cummins, from Sovereign Turf, for sponsoring. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. I would also like to thank Derek Morella, the new owner of the course, for allowing us to play. Please pass on our thanks to all the staff for the excellent service we received on the day.

So to the winners 0-10 (H/cap 1. N. Brewster, 71 net; 2. E. Clarkson. Longest Drive R. Boyce, Nearest the Pin S. Thompson. The two representatives for the BIGGA National Championship are N. Brewster (best gross 76) and G. Rayfield (best nett 67). The coverted toilet seat went to Toni Nelli by popular request for forgetting to put down half his team members on the application form. The next meeting will be at Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club on June 17, this will include the Captain/Greenkeeper Shield. On behalf of the section I thank all the following sponsors for their support at this meeting – Rushbrooks & Son, SISIS, Lely UK, DFL, Atterton & Elias, Consultant Clarkson, Bayer, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ben Burgess and John Deere. Colin (El President) has been hard at work as usual and has managed provisionally to book all the courses for 2004 (see fixture list). On a more personal note my granddaughter, Sky, is nearly 2 and has picked up the habit of nicking her mother’s mobile phone and calling her nanny, Christine, from time to time. It’s nice to know she is getting her priorities right. Ha Ha. See you all at Bury Ian Willott.

South Beds, is leaving greenkeeping to pursue a career in landscaping. Paul was very active in BIGGA for many years putting a lot of effort in for the benefit of others and we wish him every success and happiness in his new vocation. Sorry there’s not much news, if you have anything you wish to pass on to your section comrades please contact me or any committee member.

Have a good summer. Jim Cassidy

East Anglia

April saw the first match of the season, when our merry band of 44 arrived at Waldringfield Heath Golf Club. Keith Titchall and his boys had made a splendid job of the course, despite not being able to water due to a punctured tank liner. The greens ran true and the weather was very pleasant, all in all a very good day was had by all. We wish to thank Matt Battram, Tony Nelli, from Battram Mowers, and Ian Mitchell, from Textron, for being our main sponsors for the day also Ellis Cummins, from Sovereign Turf, for sponsoring. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. I would also like to thank Derek Morella, the new owner of the course, for allowing us to play. Please pass on our thanks to all the staff for the excellent service we received on the day.

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SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Course Management Trophies

The dates this year are:

Wednesday 6 August Tredegar Park
Thursday 7 August Bristol & Clifton
Wednesday 13 August Moors Valley

Now Mike Ring, of Rigby Taylor fame, has a reputation for being a really nice guy, an honest and trustworthy representative of his Company. He does not, however, have a reputation for being an average golfer. If the Section could give him more than his 28 handicap they would gladly give it. He has won the “Longest Walk” prize more than most. He assures everyone that he has not been practicing or had lessons so you can imagine the surprise when Mike not only took the ‘Trade Prize’ with a nett 72 but tucked away a 5-iron on the 142yd 10th for A HOLE IN ONE! Willingdon Golf Club have a tradition of placing a bottle of scotch and glasses on the bar with an invitation to help yourself. In addition Mike treated all to copious quantities of wine with their evening meal. Well done Mike and well done Mike and Rose Gould for organising such a great day.

Other prize winners on this John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd sponsored day were:


The next Sussex day is at Pidlington Golf Club on July 2. We need more members there. Jon Budd

South Coast

With The Masters behind us the golfing season is well and truly upon us. Who would have had money on Mike Weir winning? I had my money on the Tiger but do I know? I tipped Arsenal for the Premiership and that just about sums up my skill in betting!

The last month has been slightly busier on the Section and at last we have had some rain. I’m pretty sure that we can thank Ashley Wood’s Head Greenkeeper, Tony Hyde, for the much needed rain. We have no rain for weeks and the imminent arrival of the Section at Ashley Wood for the spring tournament I have it on good authority Tony was out twice a day with his prayer mat. Thankfully for him and the rest of us it worked! The 27 hole Spring Tournament was again sponsored by Vitax and Avoncrop and the weather stayed kind for us although the wind made for some very testing conditions. We played 18 holes in the morning then had a much needed lunch before playing a further 9 holes in the afternoon. The standard of golf was excellent considering the testing conditions and winners on the day were:


Many thanks on the day to Ashley Wood for their superb Hospitality; to the caterers for two excellent meals and special thanks to the Captain for his

42 Greenkeeper International
the use of his course. It's a shame there weren't more in attendance to appreciate it. I ended up winning the book for attending the course walk by the simple fact I was the only one there (boo, hiss). The book will be presented at the Summer Tournament. I shall keep trying.

Our accounts are looking very healthy again for which our thanks must go to our Patronage supporters MJ Abbotts, BS Mowers, Amitec, Bioseed, ALS, Symbio, Avoncrop.

Could we have the trophies back for the summer tournament please?

See you at Orchardleigh Any news?
Email greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk
Tel: 01225 483486 Mobile: 07812 380936
Guy Woods

Devon and Cornwall
As I write this report, I am looking out of the window with a huge sense of relief as the rain has finally arrived. We have had 9mm of rain in the past 7 weeks and with no irrigation at Yelverton, it has been a very difficult few months. Looking on the brighter side, no irrigation means no burst pipes, which usually occur on a Friday afternoon... Don't they, Richard.

Our Summer meeting sponsored by Rigby Taylor, will be held at Trebtherne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17. Tee off times will be between 1.30pm and 2.30pm with a course walk for non-golfers followed by an evening meal. Full details will be sent out to you shortly.

Next season's meeting venues have almost been completed and I am looking forward to meeting up with many old friends and new faces.

Alan Dommett, Devon Garden Machinery, is recovering after his recent operation and we all look forward to seeing him out and about in the near future.

Please contact me if you have any news for next month's magazine on: 01822 7671.
Steve Evans

South Wales
Our first competition of the year was held at Langland Bay GC playing for the Amtech Shield. Not to be put off by the dreadful weather, some 40 members competed. In first place with 39pts was Daryl Bray, 2nd on 38 was Peter Lacey and with 35 pts was Alan Crichton.

Thanks to Langland Bay for looking after us so well, especially Ian Harwood and the greenstaff for the preparation of the course. Thanks to Liam Galway, from the Greenkeeper Supply Company, for donating some excellent prizes on the day, and for helping out with the prize giving.

Our Section seminar held at Royal Porthcawl GC and sponsored by Symbio was another great success. Neil Carter got things going with a brief talk on course ecology, this was followed by part one of Martin Ward's presentation on microbial activity. At lunch local John Deere dealer, Frank Sutton, displayed some of the latest John Deere kit, and then it was back inside to listen to part 2 of Martin's talk. A big thanks to Symbio, Frank Sutton and Royal Porthcawl GC for making the day a good one.

On a lighter note, Cardiff GC Course Manager, Russell Anderson, has just become the proud father to a baby girl. I spoke to Russell at Langland Bay and he told me mother and baby are fine and so far he has not had to many sleepless nights.

Adrian Panks

NORTHERN IRELAND

I begin this month by offering condolences to Michael Norman, from Malone, on the tragic loss of his brother. Our sympathies go to you from all of your colleagues and friends.

Well, how's the form, Congratulations to Ian Harrison and Victoria on a baby girl, April. Ian says breast feeding is difficult while cutting the fairways, but he is getting the hang of it (cutting fairways that is).

If you have any news for me regarding matches and hatches or anything else please call me Nl: 07774 789111 or R.O.I: 0504 24777.

We've just had a great day at Kirkistown Castle thanks to the club and Paul Lappin. I have seen how Paul has brought the course on since he has been there so it was great to play it at last. I got a bit wet over the last three holes but I was in good company.


Paul Lappin was presented with the Golfer of the Year Trophy 2002. Congratulations to him.

I must say a word or two about Noel's performance. 39 points off scratch, some going, a score we dream of off any handicap. Congratulations. I putted really well, if you got the line they held it. My partners told me the fairways were good, I told them when the rough grows it will be murder and that the newly raked bunkers were a pleasure to play from.

Finally, a word of thanks to the sponsors for the day, Alliser Wilson, of Drilling & Pumping, Newtonwards. We hope you enjoyed your day and many thanks for your generous contribution. My prize was one of your business cards with the phone number of a good teaching professional on the back.

On the way back on the M2 towards Antrim I was overtaken by a three legged chicken. It ran up the slip road at Templepatrick so, curious, I followed it into Frank Ainsworth's yard. I said, "Frank, I've just seen a three legged chicken run into your yard." "I'm breeding them," he said, "for the food industry". I asked, "What do they taste like." He said, "I don't know we haven't caught one yet.

Well, like me, I'm sure you would have liked to have seen Darren Clarke win The Masters. I've just been with Godfrey (larger than life our Godfrey) he was in strict preparation shovelling cones on the 18th. I now know all about and look forward to a drop of the green label.

News from the canteen. The current holders of the biggest consumers of food goes to Fortwilliam Golf Club. Well done boys. They might change their tractors every three years but at least they clean the cooker every two years.

What poor Micky O'Neill has to put up with with Sam and the form of Leeds United, I dread to think. Come back Don Revie. All is forgiven.

Well that's all from me. Be good.

Graham Prosser