Around The Green

Scottish Region

Central

The Section AGM was held at Ellinwood training room on October 26 with 14 members in attendance. Those present all had a valuable contribution to make to the discussion.

Finally for 2011 the Commit-tee congratulated Andy Mellon on his year as National Chair-man and wish all our members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year Gordon Moir

West

Since the last meeting only a couple of items to mention with the most important being the AGM and talk held at Horn on October 27, with food and demonstration organised later at Haggs Castle Golf Club.

Firstly, may I take this oppor-tunity to say thank you to all who attended and both facilities for allowing proceedings in the first place, unfortunately I did not attend as I was on holiday but I have been informed as to how the day went.

A talk was given by David Adams, of Crieff, in the final, beat Davie Simpson and Tam Fyfe, 4&2, with the new pair’s competition outings being well supported and proving popular. This was won by Paul Legg and Ross MacRae, of Augusta Central.

There was a change with the committee set up with Roger Hargrove taking over as chairman, having retired and given that it had to be re-elected, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all your efforts and state the best wishes for the future. Other trophies and hospitality, also to Whitehope Golf Club.

Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well, now the clocks have changed it seems that winter is just around the corner, and time to start on the programme of winter works. On October 18th the Section entered a team in the Inter Section golf at Tresside GC. Thanks go to Tony Smith and his team for a great course and hospitality, also to White Moss for sponsoring the day. It was won by a strong Sheffield side, the present holders of the trophy.

Lastly I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you at some of the future golf events. As usual any news or gossip pass on to the new sec. Andy Slingsby, 13 The Grove, Baildon, BD17 3NQ, mobile 07707 745786, emailslmpby@virginmedia.com. Thanks for now Ross MacRae.

Northern Region

The rather mild temperatures have meant that we are still cut-ting, albeit not at the same pace as a mild summer but none-the-less, when combined with the monsoon of leaf litter, were just about as busy as we are in summer. I might have to truck a load over to Penmo-ntov at Cleveland just so he doesn’t forget what they look like.

Next up the Autumn Tournament was scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, at Eaglescliff GC, but unfortunately Mother Nature seemed to have different ideas. The heavens opened and the course was unplayable, which was a great shame to Gavins for sponsoring the day. It was won by a strong Sheffeld side, the present holders of the trophy.

Finally, these days do not run smoothly just by themselves. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to organise, prizes and make all the catering arrangements. I would like to wish them every success in their future outings, entries, sorting cards out etc. It goes without saying that Ian deserves a pat on the back for his hard work.

By the time you read this some of our Section events will have been and gone, but the Annual “Bring a bottle” at Cleveland GC is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. For more info call on 01347 833800. It’s best out of the way by the Christmas break and before the New Year, and I hope to see you there and have a great Christmas and new year.

Brian’s position has been filled by Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 8QR. The cheque must be made payable to Cleveland BIGGA Section, thank Eaglescliff Golf Club.

Any news contact me 07931187587 or kevscarcce@aol.com Kevin Scarcce

North Wales

Hello everyone, hope you are all well. Firstly, the lack of news put into the magazine over the past months is due to the lack of news given to print. Please, if you have any news, send me an email or give me a bell. Apologies on my behalf for last one of the months, I forgot to get it in on time.

The clocks have gone back, the leaves are falling and Christmas is upon us all, I am sure we can all call on 07558896635. Thanks for now Ross MacRae.

North

Brook Magna Golf Club, 14A Brook Magna, Bacup, Rossendale, Lancashire BB5 1LA. Contact: Steve Taylor

The autumn tournament took place at Blairgowrie. There was a change with the committee set up with Roger Hargrove taking over as chairman, having retired and given that it had to be re-elected, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all your efforts and state the best wishes for the future. Other trophies and hospitality, also to Whitehope Golf Club. Thanks for now Ross MacRae.

order, Border Sports, Atkins, Blade Amenity, Border Chemi-cals and Turfbase, for donating prizes and supporting our events.

A big thank you to Rigby Taylor, and Jamie Appleby, for sponsoring the day, without such support these days would not be possible.

Finally, these days do not run smoothly just by themselves. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to organise, prizes and make all the catering arrangements. I would like to wish them every success in their future outings, entries, sorting cards out etc. It goes without saying that Ian deserves a pat on the back for his hard work.

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Central

The Section AGM was held at Ellwood training room on October 26 with 14 members in attendance. Those present knew that the Section had a successful year with the two golf outings being well supported with the new policy of a £10 entry fee generating very good results. This was won by Gordon Nallis and Mark Gordon, from St Andrews, who narrowly beat Davie Simpson and Tam McPhillips, in the final which was played over the Ellwood course at Ellwood.

The Section had staged a number of educational events in 2011 which were well attended and the various speakers were thanked for their help in staging such events. The emphasis was on the healthy balance. Derek Robson, Gordon Moir and Kenny Archibald, of the Scottish region, were elected to the Committee at the AGM.

It has been an exceptionally busy year and Kenny Liddell was elected Secretary respectively, and Kenny Archibald, of the Scottish region, was elected Treasurer. Two new members, Bob Meikle and Gordon Moir, were elected to the Committee at the AGM. Bob Meikle and Gordon Moir were elected to the Committee.

North

It's Ross MacRae here your New Section News person. I would firstly like to thank Dave and Robert for doing the report for the last few months but it's time for them to move over and let a professional do it. I would like to start with the AGM at Longside Golf Club on October 20. Eighteen members attended and played 18 holes of golf and a good day was had by all. Our thanks go to the Club Council of Longside and Head Greenkeeper, Josh Lester, and his staff, for setting up the golf course.

There were two winners on the day our Chairman, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, won first prize with George Mitchell. Newmacher, runner up. So well done to all involved.

There was a change with the committee set up with Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, Bogue, and his staff, for setting up the golf course.

There were two winners on the day our Chairman, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, won first prize with George Mitchell. Newmacher, runner up. So well done to all involved.

Secondly, Buchanan Castle Golf Club, at Unionhall, had an AGM in the well published November where all the staff are growing a moustache for charity raising. Money from this is going to Macmillan and it is a great success. The Committee would like to thank Robert for all his hard work and wish him all the best for his golfing career.

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Hello everyone hope you are all well, the clocks have changed and it’s just around the corner, and it’s time to start on the programme of winter works. On October 18 the Section entered a team in the Inter Section golf at Tresside GC. Thanks go to Tony Smith and his team for a great course and hospitality, also to White Moss for sponsoring the day. It was won by a strong Sheikh side, the present holders of the trophy.

Sadly this is my last newsletter, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last couple of months and I look forward to Andy good back as new Section Secretary.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you at some of the future golf events. As usual any news or gossip please pass it on to the new sec. Andy Slingsby, 13 The Moss, Mob 07506407867, email slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com.

Frank Stewart

Scotland

Scottish Region

West

Since the last meeting only a couple of items to mention with the most important being the AGM and talk held at Brown on October 27, with food and entertainment organised later at Haggs Castle Golf Club.

Firstly, may I take this oppor- tumunity to say thank you to all who attended and both facilities for allowing proceedings in the first place, unfortunately I did not attend as I was on holiday but I have been informed as to how the day went.

A talk was given by David Jackson on the methods used at Brown, the problems with light restrictions and how they have managed to combat all the dif- culties associated with modern football stadimn management. Discussions were taken to the pitch where a demonstration of the artificial lighting method was given and an explanation of how the product works, with a visual on the methods used at Brown, the problems with light restrictions and how they have managed to combat all the difficulties associated with modern football stadium management. The pitch was then taken to the pitch where a demonstration of the artificial lighting method was given and an explanation of how the product works, with a visual on the methods used at Brown, the problems with light restrictions and how they have managed to combat all the difficulties associated with modern football stadium management.

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North East

Right here we again go with the Section news. Always a hard time of the year for doing a report, made worse for no news coming via the telephone or mobile. Let’s see what I can make up this time (just joking). We have had a lot of courses will be in full swing on their winter programme. One such course is the Wyre Forest which is having to alter the right side of the 2nd par-3 hole due to it being a health and safety issue, with the steep bank right on the existing path. The bank steepness is to be altered so it can be maintained more easily, so the hump is being brought up to the same design as the rest of the course which will keep all the golfers happy over a period of six years.

We have been checking on membership in the Section and numbers have dropped over the last couple of years, there has been at least three retirements, redundancies, relocation and those who have renewed for various reasons. You don’t have to be a member of the Section in order to play on our courses and remember there are lots of greenkeepers in our Section who are not members, but keen to say to the Head Greenkeeper “Come on get your staff signed up there, are you signed up?”

Next year will hopefully see two new courses chosen for the Spring and Autumn comps. Apparently the Cleveland Sec has now made its entry against us in a match. Let’s hope they can do better at match-play than they did at the recent team event at Tesseide Golf Club is going to be for the whole of the Section and must con- grateable Head Greenkeeper, I would really like to thank Alan for his hard work and I am sure you will, too.

Due to this we will be look- ing for someone to fill the role of Head Greenkeeper. If you are interested in the position you can contact either Rhys Thomas on: 07767 581 615 or even email: rhys@rylandbrown.com.

Now looking forward to next season the competition will be held at Lisburn GC, and by now you would have received an invite or seen an entry form, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Next East

Midland

The flotsam of the Section (now Evers) Ltd Doubles took place at the magnificent Wen- tworth Club, near Sheffield, to the West Course. As always the finalists were welcomed with breakfast in the Clubhouse where they were surprised to be entertained by the pianist by Bruce Forsyth.

The golf course was in excellent order and we would like to thank our special thanks to Chris Kennedy for allowing us the privilege of playing the course once again. The eventual win- ners were: Francis Cocks Moors Woodlands and his partner Rob Rohn from the Forest of Arden. He went on to defeat Steve Thompson from Trentham and his partner Leigh Swann from Whitley Hall to win the competition with a margin of 3&1. Congratula- tions to Dave and Rob.

Midland Regen

Midland Regen

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Autumn封建 Golf which was a fantastic afternoon with a very inspira- tional speaker in Jim McJorie MBE.

It was particularly nice to hear Jim talk about his staff which was a fascinating journey morning with a very inspira- tional speaker in Jim McJorie MBE.

I would like to thank Jim for taking the time to talk about the Section issues over the last two issues. Unfortu- nately I have been away and was not able to listen to his thoughts on the future of the Section. However I do believe that is always a good thing as it means that we have a Section that is very interested in the future of the Section. And in order to achieve this we need to know numbers by the end of the year so anyone interested please contact Jeremy or myself.

We are having a trip to Harrogate to take in the show this year putting on a coach to the event and discounts will be given to Section members. The discus- sions with members and AGM took place at Heswall Arcade Conference Centre where they were surprised to be entertained by the pianist by Bruce Forsyth.

Midland

I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and a New Year and a very prosperous 2012.

Best wishes
Jim Stevens
North East

Right here we go again with the Section news. Always a hard time of the year for doing a report, made worse for no news coming via the telephone or mobile. Let’s see what I can make up this time [joking].

The region has kept well informed, a lot of courses will be in full swing on their winter programme. One such course is my ex-workplace Hexham which is having to alter the right side of the 2nd par-3 hole due to it being a health and safety issue, with the steep bank right next to existing path. The bank steepness is to be altered so it can be maintained more easily, with the bunker walls being brought up to the same design as the rest of the course which will be completed over a period of six years.

I was just checking on membership in the Section and numbers have dropped over the last couple of years, there has been at least three retirements, redundancies, relocation and those who have not renewed for various reasons. You don’t have to be a member, many of you there as possible.

We are considering once again this year putting on a course to Hexham Golf Club, which is a great idea, but it will only be organised if there are enough “bums on seats” so contact your Chairman, Rhys Thomas, to check out our Facebook group North East Big Green and Longest Drive comps. The winners were David Fellows from Worrall, 37 pts (BIH); 3. A. Hughes & K. Williams and team. You have every reason to be proud! A big thank you also goes to the Groundsman, Pete Smith as such will endeavour to host these successful days.

Our AGM and October golf day took place on October 27 at Orton Meadows Golf Club, in Peterborough. An interesting layout was provided in excellent condition by Head Greenkeeper, Philip Wright, and his team.

The results of the day are as follows: 1. Steve Hopkins, 45 pts (Competition Secretary he should be looking at his handicap!); 2. Philip Wright (local knowledge); 3. Rob Welford; Trade: Gary Cooper; Longest Drive: Colin Hopper; Nearest the Pin: Philip Wright.

Orton Meadows is different in that what was once the Clubhouse is now a restaurant run by Beekeeper and it was here the AGM was held and it was well attended as usual. No changes were made at committee level and the reports were given by the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

After the golf we were allowed to choose from the two courses, and an excellent cooked lunch was served. The 12oz steak muffin and “bottomless” chips was very well received.

Thanks for the day go to all at Orton Meadows and the Beekeeper and also to the sponsors for the day, Colliers and Farmura for their excellent prize table. Big thanks to all at the BBIAO for the continued support of our section.

All that is left for me to say is to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully things will improve for everyone out there! Results will be published in next month’s magazine.

Steve Beverley

Intingham Golf Club

Midland

Midland Regen

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Autumn business lunch, which was a fantastic afternoon with a very inspirational speaker in Jim McKenzie MBE.

It was particularly nice to hear Jim talk about his staff, club and the absolute support we wish to give you for whatever the future holds for Drive competitions. The main conclusion was a Texas Scramble, for taking three teams of two. In that team was the place of James Robson, Andy Marsh and Chris Weir, second place was the team of Sam Voss, Adrian Henshaw and Roger Lupton. The winning team was the one of Tony and his team consisted of Dave and he know you won’t hear the end of that one! Once again thanks to all our sponsors, without your continued support we would not be able to host these successful days.

Our next event is our Christmas dinner competition and Raffle! This is to be held at Lingdale GC, and by now we are looking forward to the raffle entry forms, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Hello all,

The first thing to do is apologize for the length of time over the last two issues. Unfortunatly I have been away and with such pressure on us, I wish to think I was busy being away in the Caribbean, but it has not been so! And it’s been as boring as being busy in the day.

We have lots to catch up on so I will crack on with news on the Headland Pairs competition. The final was played over the challenging Oxfordshire GC and saw Glynn Buckby & Simon Banks take on Adi Porter & bank Kempster. After a close run match Glynn and Simon run out victors on the 16th green with a 3&2 win. Congratulations to them and thanks to everybody that took part in the competition this year.

Forest Hill GC was the venue for our autumn comp and AMP. News on the golf in a moment. At the AGM all committee members were re-elected, with myself as Chairman and Treasurer; Nick Miles, as Secretary; Greg Skin-

East Midlands

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Intingham Golf Club

Midland

Midland Regen

The final of the Scots [now Evers] Double took place at the magnificent Wens-

East of England

It seems strange as I write this at the end of October but Happy Christmas to everybody. Who knows what will be doing by the time you read this. Hopefully things will have turned round (I hope snow) that the unreasonably mild conditions we seem to be having has not been so! And it’s been as boring as being busy in the day.

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South East Region

The annual match with Sussex, Surrey and Essex was recently played at Chichester Golf Club. Unfortunately we could not make the numbers on the day and the competition was left to Sussex and Surrey. The course was in great nick and the food was superb. Surrey were the underdogs on the day losing by just four points. Nick Thacker & Nick Foreman, the Pat Benger Award went to Surrey man, Phil Rowlands, the Longest Drive at the 13th went to Glenn Roach and the One Gallon Award went to the one and only yours truly. There were many new faces this year and we thank you all for your support for our Section and helping us to promote the image of the game. We are delighted to say that our team of greenkeepers are up and down the land. We would like to thank all of you for helping to promote this event and we would also like to offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity in continuing to support our Section. We have now presented a full fixture list for next year, so please visit our website for full details.

South West Region

Hello South West Region. Well last month I wrote about the Rugby World Cup but I was unable to able to call ourselves Wales' Champions but it was a fantastic competition and with the World Cup being in South Africa I had a certain Irish French player that had something to do with it. From this I am quite sure that the lad is great to be Welsh again even the Welsh flag was proudly on show. So was of course our Fair weather supporters I call them. On the matter in hand we have held our autumn South West Regional golf tournament at the brilliant Tuffley Flocke Golf Club. Gary played very well scoring a hand full of birdies. George was also there.

Sutton Monday 7th, I have been told that some Sutton members in the hope that someone has an exciting bit of news to relate wish to have their story out there so that all gets publicised. I am told that Sutton members are very disappointed and I have heard that they wish people in Sutton to expect and hope to find at any venue greenkeepers with news to report Around the Greens. There it is! So what did Gareth do this very busy day? He caught a 43 point card from Paul (Aqua Chusma) with, 37 points, runner up. Mark Harvey, Course Manager at Epson, gets my gratitude for presenting the course, as always, in superb condition. So in my monthly communication for all. Contact me by phone or email. Eric Green Beaufort Park Golf Club 07805-024001

Surrey Monday November 7th, I have been told that some Surrey members in the hope that someone has an exciting bit of news to relate wish to have their story out there so that all gets publicised. I am told that Sutton members are very disappointed and I have heard that they wish people in Sutton to expect and hope to find at any venue greenkeepers with news to report Around the Greens. There it is! So what did Gareth do this very busy day? He caught a 43 point card from Paul (Aqua Chusma) with, 37 points, runner up. Mark Harvey, Course Manager at Epson, gets my gratitude for presenting the course, as always, in superb condition. So in my monthly communication for all. Contact me by phone or email. Eric Green Beaufort Park Golf Club 07805-024001

Surrey MARK HITCHCOCK The ‘Birds’ but did not go into details. If you have suffered from any similar problems discuss please discuss with this birdie, who wishes to remain anonymous, personally. Name and telephone number are available from the appropriate authority.

Surrey There was a certain Irish French player that had something to do with it. From this I am quite sure that the lad is great to be Welsh again even the Welsh flag was proudly on show. So was of course our Fair weather supporters I call them. On the matter in hand we have held our autumn South West Regional golf tournament at the brilliant Tuffley Flocke Golf Club. Gary played very well scoring a hand full of birdies. George was also there.

Surrey The course was outstanding how Gareth Knight and his other one staff member can maintain this standard of high standard is incredible. On the day the rain did threaten but it was a short while, all the showers and a good competition was had of all ances. Gareth played a great 43 point card from Paul (Aqua Chusma) with, 37 points, runner up. Mark Harvey, Course Manager at Epson, gets my gratitude for presenting the course, as always, in superb condition. So in my monthly communication for all. Contact me by phone or email. Eric Green Beaufort Park Golf Club 07805-024001
the green works this winter. The team will be busy as they maintaining and strengthening undoubtedly set the bar higher team at Bearwood Lakes have this event each year.

Our thanks to Gareth Acte- role on 2012! skinson, of Rigby Taylor, for his look forward to defending your Rigby Taylor Winners. Con- hole, crowning them the 2011 18th all-square. David Lyons golf both teams reached the welcome. Following some great team for making everyone very play at its best! A big thank

Our latest venue was Alde- in newspapers and contrary to popular belief, he is not the

Susan
the annual match with Sussex, Surrey and Essex was recently played at Chichester Golf Club. Unfortunately, the greens could not make the numbers on the day and the competition was left to Sussex against Surrey. The course was in great nick and the food and service were superb. The winners were the underdogs on the day losing by just four points. Near the 18th hole we went to Surrey man, Phil Rowlands, the Longest Drive at the 1st and 5th, Chris Cluttero, and Jamie Jackdin. Overall, 41, well-earned points on count back took the prize. But do not count us out of contention for next year’s competition. Many Surrey members it was Nick Ashman, drank some firewater then proceeded to fall in the bunker by the 10th green, for which he was awarded the infamous loo seat.

Kent

And so to the end of another year. A year of highs and lows that’s for sure, but certainly finishing on a high for me. Our Section’s golfing year has seen some great events at Alde- Knole Park, Sittingbourne and, just a couple of weeks ago, to Rigby Taylor. We have seen so many new faces this year and we thank you all for your support for our Section and helping us to promote the image of greenkeepers up and down the land.

We would like to thank all these clubs for hosting events this year and we would also like to offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity in continuing to support our Sec- tion. We have now produced a full fixture list for next season, so please visit our website for full details.

Sorry this is only a short report but we will make up for it in next month with details of our Turkey Trot, AGM and extended programme at Redhill.

 Merry Christmas and a successful 2012
Steve Newbery, Rob Holland www.kentgreenkeepers.com

Surrey

Monday November 7, I have had a very busy week in the Surrey members in the hope that we will have today been sent by, a very nice little greenkeeper. I hope that you will enjoy reading this story. As you are aware, this is not going to be the last chance to have a beer with a Sussex man (normally anonymous, personally. Name and telephone number are available from the appropriate authority.

In the next edition of this newsletter we will focus on a closer look at the sort of information needed to interest my readers, so please, follow XXO’s example and share your thoughts and experiences or it’s back to the well digger than white! Night. Brian Willmott 07897447038 Email: brian.willmott@jomal.net

South West and Wales Region

Hello South Wales. Well last month I wrote about the Rugby World Cup but it is not over yet. As I write this there was a certain Irish French referee that had something to do with that! I’m so proud of all the lads it was great to be Welsh again even the Welsh flag was not going Downwind. The fair weather supporters I call them in the words of the lads. This is where we have our Autumn South Wales Open tournament at the greenkeeper friendly Puffin Bay Golf Club. Gary played very well scoring a hand full of birds. George was also there. The course was outstanding how Gary Kenneth and his other one staff member can maintain such a high standard is incredible. On the day the rain did threaten but not really and all the showers and a good competition was had of an watershed. The trade wind from Roach off the top spot. Peter Mott who will be the Trade Winner with Wayne Beiger and nick Rush was Paul Lacey. The nearest in the pin respectively. A thank you must also go to the catering staff at the golf course and dessert after the golf was second to none.

With the golf over it was one last chance to have a beer with a Sussex man for Glenesagues and so I’m led to believe there wasn’t much beer left in Teddington that evening! Again all the best to Steve and his team at Bearwood Lakes. We wish you the best of luck and dryness possible.

Prior to this we did hold our AGM with Steve Chappell standing down. We are very grateful to Steve and Paul Handly as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively and as representative. Gareth and the committee will be looking at new fresh ideas to give the great work that Steve Chappell has started and we will be looking to take forward.

Well I have recently seen a new format for the Countywide Evening Lecture Series. All lectures will have an email confirming what all our new plans will be. A few people have suggested a pay rise - would improve the greenskeeper’s lot? An upturn in the Golf Industry which would hopefully provide opportunities for all, especially Charlie and those coming through College.

5. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenskeepers’ lot? Brian Willmott, Brian Willmott in the Map. I have recently seen some of the subtle chances to overcome the greenkeeping dilemma. The one for example of some strategic bunkers – the ability to move 5th back possibly slightly safer.

The improvements are fantastic and I can’t wait to see them in play next year. As for the competition itself being held here for the second year running on December 13, hopefully all of you guys can

South East Region

The committee are working hard to improve the Section for the benefit of all members. If anyone has any news, views or suggestions that would like to see the BIBBO Section then please don’t hesitate to get in touch: blakegreen@gmail.com or alternatively contact Matt Nutter blakematt42@gmail.com or phone 07584 137145. As a result of this we have held the first round, how- ever, the following days scores suffered with the weather not being helped by a night out on the town in Liverpool! The Millets Section was well represented finishing runners-up in the Test Match, consisting of David Lyons, John Bousseaux (both from Deamwood Park) and, Castle Royce and Paul Reeves.

The Rigby Taylor Pairs final was a contest between the GC and Deanwood Park GC, at The Berkshire Golf Club in Reading. The teams were blessed with fantastic autumn weather coupled with superb playing surfaces produced by a tough not helped by a night out on the town in Liverpool! The Millets Section was well represented finishing runners-up in the Test Match, consisting of David Lyons, John Bousseaux (both from Deamwood Park) and, Castle Royce and Paul Reeves.

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attend the day and see some of the changes lan has put to the course.

With Harrogate again coming closer please guys contact Jane Jones or phone the fantastic rates on rooms at the Cairns Hotel it would be fantastic to see as many of us as possible.

Devon and Cornwall

Our November meeting was held at Carlyon Bay GC, in St Austell, Cornwall. A total of 55 attendees bravely what was testing weather conditions for both the golf and the course walk. Despite the weather, the course held up very well. The Course walk was lead by Brian Summers, Paul, Course Manager, and Steven Pope, Course Manager. Brian explained how the course was owned by the Brend Hotel Group and how the greenkeeping teams structure was dictated by the owner’s wishes.

The area of the course is the responsibility of an individual i.e. one person in charge of greens, one in charge of fairways and so on.

This structure has been put in place so that each person can be held accountable for their area. Steven explained how this can be very frustrating and they are hoping to revert back to a more holistic approach where all staff can multi-task and be involved with maintaining all areas of the course.

There were many interesting pictures of the course including the remnants of old mine works throughout the course. A big thank you to Brian and Steve for their time and enthusiasm in leading the course walk.

This was an individual Stableford competition and we would like to thank you to those who took part and played as many holes as they could bear. For those who did actually make it around all 18 holes, prizes were sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery and Everris.

In first place with 28 points and winning on count back was Lloyd Everly, Laverick GC, in second place was Graham Cloughing, and in third was Jason Brooks, Tor- quay GC, with 27 points.

We would like to welcome all of our new members.

A member of our group had the opportunity to book accommodation at a cost of £50, this includes bed and breakfast and a further round of golf the next day. Please contact me asap to secure a place as we are very popular!!

George Pitts
Section Secretary
07900 755480
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South Coast

December is here and we can look back on what has been a very challenging year and look forward to what the next year will be much kinder. The Section has been busy with a few people moving on and others taking up new positions. Steve Richardson moved from the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club to Parkstone Golf Club and we welcome him to the Section and wish him well. Roger Myatt has moved from Knightshayes for his new position and again we wish him well in his new position.

Alastair Peate moves from Remedy Oak and is the new Course Manager at Knightshay Heath. We congratulate him on his first appointment in that position, I have worked with Alast and know he will be a great asset to the club.

Alan has moved on there have been promotions in the Remedy Oak team. Ed Carr has been promoted to Director of Operations and will Rob Wills to Head Greenkeeper, congratulations to you both.

Finally, Graham Bunting, Head Greenkeeper at Bigga Golf Club has decided on a career change leaving the industry. He has been with the club for over 14 years and has enjoyed every minute. We would like to wish him every success.

For more information on new members log in to the Members area of the Bigga website.

BIGGA Regional Conferences

Northern 13th November 2011, Cookridge Hall Golf Club 01467 550115
Northern 13th November 2011, Brook Manor Golf Club, near Kettering 01536 438888
South East 16th November 2011, Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, near Woking 01483 282888
South West & Wales 16th November 2011, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset 01935 843064
South East 16th November 2011, Carew Castle Centre, near Peter Boyd, 0141 616 3440
Hi Everyone, I have to start by apologising to you all for what has been a rather quiet month.

So this is going to be a brief one, still very sweet. I want to let you know what we have been going on at the moment.

Paul and I are very keen at arranging more workshops / training days. Please feel free to let us know what it is you want to do and we will do our best for you.

Any of you looking at attending Harrogate 2012, we can offer a free place, this is courtesy of our patronage partners. Send us a letter or email to myself, stating why you should attend and what benefits you will receive, while you are there.

An important date for your diary, Wednesday December 14, the South West Section Bigga Regional Conference at Devan Seaquarium & Devon GC. this will be for our Christmas tournament, you know you really don’t want to miss this.

He also has a new Facebook page for the South West Section, one that will make much more convenient for you to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support, 2011, Ecosse, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, Mowmac, Stedall Greens, Avoncroft, Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

See you all very soon.
adam.l.smith@hotmail.co.uk
07732503853

Devon and Cornwall

Our November meeting was at Ilfracombe Bay GC, in St Austell, Cornwall. A total of 55 attendees braved what was testing weather conditions for both the golf and the course walk. Despite the weather, the course held up very well. The Course walk was led by Brian Summer, Paul’s Course Manager, and Steven Pope, Course Manager. Brian explained how the course was owned by the Brend Hotel Group and how the greenskeeping team structure was dictated by the owner’s wishes.

An area of the course is the responsibility of an individual i.e. one person in charge of greens, one in charge of fairways and so on.

This structure has been put in place so that each person can be held accountable for their area. Steve explained how this can be very frustrating and they are hoping to revert back to a more holistic approach where all staff can multi-task and be involved with maintaining all areas of the course.

There were many interesting pictures of the course including the remnants of old mine works throughout the course. A big thank you to Bob and Steve for their time and enthusiasm in leading the course walk.

This was an excellent event with a wide range of topics covered. We are hoping to take a similar format at the next meeting in Stafford, where we can see if the structure is as true in golf as for the croquet lawns were expected to stimp at over 10 feet for major tournaments, the next day will be to either play golf or attend the course walk, this will be an attempt to arm the Club Manager with the skills required to manage the course itself rather than an opportunity to help them understand better the role that the Course Manager has to manage those roles in managing the grounds.

Our next meeting is our Annual General Meeting at Hatherleigh Golf Club, near Okehampton, in Devon. The format for the day will be to either play golf or attend the course walk, this will be an attempt to take part in various activities including snooker, indoor bowls and of course a trip to the pub with the theme for the day will be “Devon v Cornwall”.

This will be an opportunity to book accommodation at a cost of £25, this includes bed and breakfast and a further round of golf the next day. Please contact me asap to secure a place as we are very popular!

George Pitts
Section Secretary
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South Coast

December is here and we can look back on what has been a very challenging year and look forward to what the new year will bring. In the next year will be much kinder.

The Section has been busy with a few people moving on and others taking up new positions. Steve Richardson moved from the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club to Parkstone Golf Club and we welcome him to the Section and wish him well. Roger Myatt has moved from Knighthayes Golf Club to Doncaster and again we wish him well in his new position.

Alan also moves from Remedy Oak and is the new Course Manager at Knighton Heath. We congratulate him on his first appointment in that position, I have worked with Alan and know he will be a great asset to the club.

As Alan has moved on there have been promotions in the Remedy Oak team. Ed Carey has moved from Devon Garden to Peterpans and Rob Wills from Ellis Emmett for attending, giving out the prizes and sponsoring the day.

Duchy College is offering a 1 day update training session for Greenkeepers and Assistant Greenkeepers at Remedy Oak and Devon. This is an opportunity to get the most up-to-date information about the new rules and regulations. The new rules have been drafted to ensure that all golfers are treated equally.

As a Committee we are trying very hard to communicate with existing assessor’s and also potential assessor’s to let them know whether it through these pages, on the Bigga website or on our Face-Book page that Bigga training is an opportunity to networks with colleagues and owners of each facility.

It was a privilege recently to attend both the South East Region and South West Region Bigga Regional Conferences. Education was the overall theme and the day did not disappoint. What did it mean? It does so it was heartening to see that the turnout at both Bigga Conferences was excellent and there was a talked of area of age and experience present.

The format at both conferences allowed for interesting and thought provoking presentations including insights from turf managers in other sports. Importantly there was also time for question and answer sessions, along with sufficient breaks to allow Members to discuss the presentations as well as the hot topics currently affecting their own facilities.

A recurring theme was the challenge everyone faces to produce the playing surface required by the members or owners of each facility.

A recurring theme was the challenge everyone faces to produce the playing surface required by the members or owners of each facility. This was as true in golf as for the Essex County Cricket groundsmen who discussed having to prepare either a dusted or washed ground on a Friday evening and then a green top for seamers the next day!

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The golf is an individual Stableford competition and we thank you to those who took part and played as many holes as they could bear. For those who did actually make it all around 18 holes, prizes were sponsored by Devon Garden Supplies and Everris.

In first place with 28 points and winning on count back was Lloyd Overly, Lakeside GC, in second place was Graham Brown, Exmouth GC, and in third was Jason Brooks, Tor- quay GC, with 27 points.

Our biggest thank you to our 2nd green reception welcome lunch and Cruise Hall Golf Club. Our Welcome lunch was held at Cruise Hall Golf Club, near Okehampton, in Devon. The format for the day will be to either play golf or attend the course walk, this will be an attempt to arm the Club Manager with the skills required to manage the course itself rather than an opportunity to help them understand better the role that the Course Manager has to manage those roles in managing the grounds. It does so it was heartening to see that the turnout at both Bigga Conferences was excellent and there was a talked of area of age and experience present.

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