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

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

Devon and Cornwall

Our November meeting was at Whitley 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 Sumners, Paul, Course Manager, and Steven Pope, Course Manager. Brian explained how the course was owned by the Brent Hotel Group and how the greening 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.

We also had an individual Stableford competition and 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 Centre, Devorgilla and Everris.

In first place with 28 points and winning on count back was Lloyd Olver, Lakeside GC, in second place was Graham Collins, Chilcombe, and in third was Jason Brookes, Tor- quay GC, with 27 points.

It was a great day to welcome our educational speaker for the day was Paul Morris, from GHR Technology. Paul’s background is a chemist (Microbiologist from Oxford), with 11 years formulating experience in surfactant containing products at Castrol (the surfactant treatment division, rather than engine oils) and seven years at BASF selling surfactants into a range of industries including agrochemical adjuvants and turf wetting formulations. Most of the surfactant used in turf wetting preparations in the UK is BASF material. GHR Technology Ltd was incorporated in 1985 and has a heritage traced back to the Kodak Corporation over 40-45 years ago. The company developed a range of wetting preparations in the UK and has reasonably small but growing number of accounts. Paul’s talk covered a detailed structure of surfactants and how they work along with how they can be used. A big thank you to Paul for travelling down and giving us his time to share his specialist and extensive knowledge in this area.

Huge thanks to all the staff at Carlyon Bay for a great day despite the adverse weather conditions. Also, a big thank you to Steve Dommett, from Devon Garden, and Mark Raynor from Everris, for attending, giving out the prizes and sponsoring the day.

Duchy College is offering a one-day Bryophyte update training session for Greenkeepers. Set for the 27th January at Devon and Cornwall. This is in addition to the 26th January 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.

Alan has moved on there have been promotions in the Remedy Oak squad. Ed Carey has moved from Bognor to Clayton, and Simon Bullock from Rotherham to Flowers, to Pitts Project, congratulations to you both.

Finally, Graham Bungay, Head Greenkeeper at Remedy Oak, Golf Club has decided on a career change leaving the industry. He has been with Remedy Oak for many years and has been a big part to the clubs success. He will be missed by all, we wish him all the best for his new venture.

Our next meeting is planned for the 7th February at Littlehampton Golf Club. The format for the day will be either to play golf or a course walk, this will be decided on the day. It is expected that a Stableford competition will be held. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

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We also had a new Facebook page for the South West Section, if you would like to go and check it out this would be for our Christmas tournament, you know you really don’t want to miss out on all the fun 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 having 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 in 2011, E棕色k, Irritech Limited, Countywide, Headland, Devils Punch Bowl, Avoncrop, Martyn Lane Golf, and of course at BTME in just a few weeks time. I look forward to meeting many more members at the next day of the year ahead. This is an important commitment to maintain all areas of the course.

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