Scottish Region

Northern

West

NORTHWEST

West End

North East

WINTER

East Midlands

Scottish Region

North

It is now the beginning of January that I am writing this and thankfully the snow seems to have disappeared. It's still pretty cold so by the time you read this in February the snow will probably be back. It is everyday but it doesn't half set you back with your winter programmes, especially if it is pretty bad! We at Murcar Links were in the middle of building and designing the new raised greens and as the snow arrived and now we're only just getting back to building the course. There's been a couple of bad news of bits of news sent to me recently. The first is that Gil Campbell has passed away at the age of 78. A Lossie native, he was renowned as a chef, was deployed to the Lossie shipyards. We would all have built boats out of the Buckie and as a fit and active man who was living in 1997. Mike was renowned for being a Lossie native, he was well known and would have been missed by many.

George Paterson remembering at this time. There is an insert thought of his family. We would all like to pass on our condolences to his family. Liam McGhee, 31 pts; 3. Duncan McMeiken, 32 pts. 2nd Class. 1. Ian Weir, 35 pts; 2. Mike Gourley, 34 pts. 2nd Class. 1. Liam McGhee, 31 pts; 2. Michael Weir, 29 pts. 3. Mike Gourley, 28 pts. 2nd Class. 1. Liam McGhee, 31 pts; 2. Michael Weir, 29 pts. 3. Mike Gourley, 28 pts. 2nd Class.

Congratulations are due to Andrew Donnelly, from Thistle Ground Care, and his partner, Lynne, on the birth of their baby daughter, Orla. We wish you well with all in the Scottish Region.

From the snow at the beginning of the year and the big thaw then and when you think it's safe to come out again the rain hits us! Wouldn't be the Ayshire we all know & love it, eh! We don't know what it is with you guys but every time I ask for some news or info about anything... Yup anything, I get no feedback! So come on eh, get in touch... You don't even have to speak to me just send me a text or drop me an email, I don't bite hardest.

It's getting to that time of year again when we get our learning cups out from under the stairs and put them off just to in time to head up to the Carnegie Conference Centre, in Dunfermline, for the Scottish Regional Conference... The date for this event is Tuesday, March 1. With speakers who include Jim McKerzie, Estate Director at Celtic Manor; Chris Kennedy and Jack McMeeken, R&A members, and Simon Watson, Syngenta, this year’s event is sure to be one to remember. All tickets can be booked online at www.scottishlinksgolf.com.

Seasons greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for the New Year. George Paterson who were unable to play for so long during November and December, six weeks in my case. Sitting here writing the few notes I have to mention, the course is open, but I haven’t been able to get on yet. The last lot of snow I discovered this morning, so the last lot of snow is going nowhere quick. The ground is still rock hard and the water is going nowhere quick. The weather doesn’t do it.

Which brings me to my next bit of news. Did anyone see in our paper the course in our Section that decided to stage a Snow Open, to play over an adapted nine holes with none of the holes being longer than 280 yards, all of them par 3? Then to cap it, running the tractors over and over to try to make the snow as flat as possible. Very soon (if you haven’t already) you will be receiving your fixtures card for the year. The golfing diary is compiled full this year, along with the Annual Pairs competition we will be holding five competitive events for this year all abilities.

The first event will be our Biggin Spring Competition with a rescheduled trip to the Notting Hill GC. The second being the Summer comp at Cavendish GC. Both of these competitions have been announced, or if you wish to know the dates for your diaries for the coming year, with the first event being an open for all event (as many of you who are past entrants will know) very soon (if you haven’t already) you will be receiving your fixtures card for the year. The golfing diary is compiled full this year, along with the Annual Pairs competition we will be holding five competitive events for this year all abilities.

For another month.

John Mair.

The Scottish National Open (date to be finalised) in April. Hopefully by the time you get this magazine we will have all dates and have our Committee. We are to hold a half day seminar soon with content and venue still to be finalised, so all details will be posted to you in plenty of time to book your place.

In news of the month and the big thaw many off us that break into a happy smile. Here in the North West we are still having a few issues with the new golf season and we will have to wait until later on.

We held our Section AGM at Luttrellstown GC in December with only a few people attending. The Committee. The minutes are now available for anyone who attended.

Unfortunately we start this year with no news, Run Cheetham who was a long time member of our Section, was a mainstay of the Bingley Show Committee and is respected by many of you who have known Run very well and it is very sad news. Our thoughts go to his family, which at present except preparing things for the start of next year. I should bring to your attention that as the Scottish Region to be held once again at Dunfermline, on March 1. Some excellent speakers have been booked on so I would recommed attending. Cost will be £35 per ticket with lunch included as usual.

For anybody not wanting to golf there is the offer of a course walk and a chance to experience the challenges of golf and are worthy of a visit. Both courses offer genuine tests and played as a Stableford.

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Scottish Regional

North

It is now the beginning of January that I am writing this and thankfully the snow seems to have disappeared. It’s still pretty cold so by the time you read this you’ll either be at Harragote, reading it on the BIGGA stand, or you’ll be down and are reading this back home if you didn’t pick up a copy. Whatever the case hopefully you would of had all a great time and don’t forget if you have any questions from your trip please drop me a line on 07813389374 or alternatively on twitter @JimBrookes1

North East

Well, not much to report this month, other than as I am writing this report earlier than usual so if anything comes in it will be published in the next. As I am writing this letter the snow has gone thank goodness for once. I hope that as soon as the snow goes out come the golfers, pros etc. wondering why the course is still slow to open. This year I have found the ground is still rock hard and the water Is going nowhere quick. The snow has only recently started to disappear. We will have to wait until later on in the month to see if things start to pick up. I'm sure if you can make it back to the course you will have a good game of golf.

West

Seasons greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for the start of the year. As I am writing this I am sitting in my car at the beginning of the year and the big thaw and then when you think it’s safe to come out again the rain balls out! Wouldn’t be the Ayrshire we all know & love it, eh?

I don’t know what it is with you boys but every time I ask for some news or info about anything.... Yup anything. I get no feedback! So come on eh, get in touch.... You don’t even have to speak to me just send me a text or drop me an email, I don’t bite hardest.

It’s getting to that time of year again when we get our learning cups out from under the stairs and dust them off just in time to head up to the Carnegie Conference Centre, in Dunfermline, for the Scottish Regional Conference..... The date for this event is Tuesday, March 1. With speakers to be announced Jim McKerchie, Estates Director at Celtic Manor; Chris Kennedy and Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, and Simon Watson, Syngenta, this year’s event is sure to be one to attend. Jim McKerchie will be one for the diary. Booking forms will be posted to all Scottish members any additional forms can be obtained from Peter Pigott to the committee and I’m sure all of them par 3’s! Then to cap it running the butterflies over and over again the snow is making it playtable for the golfers. How stupid can you get! Then we had a few and their commitment was cancelled, due to the course been flooded, while some other courses were open that day.

It is now the beginning of February 2011 and you will have all been experiencing the Winter Work eh?

Midland

Hello all, with the dust settling on another BIMG conference week I hope all of you who attended got out of it what you expected and the very least had made new friends or picked up some new ideas for the coming season.

Back in the East Midlands teams from our Section have been busy sending in their Wintertime and Spring outings dates for your diaries for the coming year, with the first event later on in the month. I am sure that you all will enjoy the proceedings especially if you are interested in any of the golf courses. We would recommend attending.

I hope all of you who attended the Harrogate outing that the event will be useful once again and anyone one who attended any of the other national events found them useful as well.

We held our Section AGM at Lindrick GC in December with only a few people attending the Christmas meal. The Committee from 2010 has agreed to stand for 2011 and we have one new member on our Committee this year. I would like to welcome Stuart Pigott to the committee and I’m sure he is ready to work with a series of ideas for the upcoming meet- ings.

Our Competition Secretary is busy finalising our golf calendar for 2011 and will have all dates finalised and you will have all been informed by now and you will have all been informed about the new golf season and we will have a fantastic uptake for our competitions.

Hopefully by the time you receive this magazine we will have been able to get our new golf season and we will have a fantastic uptake for our competitions. I am sure that there are many of you who will take part in the new golf season and we will have a fantastic uptake for our competitions.

In answer to a comment made at our AGM, the committee to have a balanced course that will suit golfers of all abilities. All golfers should be able to play to their best ability. The only purpose is to offer events that will attract our members to come and play, and to meet this purpose we felt that it is best to have a mixture of events. We will start with committee events and follow this up with Standard events to offer the golfing world a few different opportunities. We will continue with our various events such as to try to attract as many people as possible to help promote the game.
around the green

the mighty royals! (reading)

Name: Luke Cordey
Club: Bearwood
Nickname: Oasis

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
4 1/2 years

2. What was the career that attracted you to working outdoors?

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what work would you do?
Testing computer games

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

5. What task do you least enjoy doing and why?

6. What one thing other than a pay rise would improve your working conditions?
Extra days holiday.

7. Favourite Band?
Oasis

8. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?
The mighty royals! (reading)

9. Why do you enjoy doing your job?
I like to see the end product and gain satisfaction from that. It’s also a physically demanding job which I enjoy.

10. What is your claim to fame?

Clint Montana took the microphone for having the firstiphone!

South West and Wales

We’ve done it again, that’s it the right hand side have had 2 of the amazing moments to date.

On December 16 the guys saw themselves heading to Lansdown Golf Club, home of Jorn Vavst. Let’s be honest here, you all know how difficult this winter has been, with the frost in the ground super deep and chilly waters but who on exit were playing. All were welcomed by Colin Club Captain, also who also presented the prizes.

The course, as usual, was in excellent condition and as hoped, due to the failing of his computer (God help him), Paul Crask; nearest 10th (Ernest Doe) T. Taylor) Ben Grainger; Longest Greenkeepers 15 – 21 1st (Rigby Groundcare) Matt Cartridge (12 4½ years)

Newcastle

Midland

Welcome to February’s Section news.

To receive a questionnaire, please email

l.mattsworth@hotmail.co.uk

07732503855

Around the Green

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

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South Coast

Hi all.
Hope all is well with everybody and that the start of 2011 has not been as harsh as the end cold sweat at the mere thought of a medal round!

We then hope to introduce a new monthly look into the lives of our assistants and look for the stunning 9 hole par 3 course to be playable again as well as the course being at least a year in front for the upcoming season.

If you are not a member of the South West or South Coast Sections, please consider them for membership.

Many thanks to all.

Sean all is forgiven!

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South Coast

Hi all.
Hope all is well with everybody and that the start of 2011 has not been as harsh as the end...
West South

Our cancelled Christmas Tournament at Woburn last December because of snow has now been re-arranged so those "bring and win" prizes wrapped up! More details to come. Our next event, gala dinner goes to Robin Portes, of Impingham Golf Club, for winning the Order of Merit in 2010.

Golf fixtures have just about been finalised for this year, with the first here being at Impingham on Wednesday, May 25, with the remaining fixtures will be posted here and on the website in due course.

The Autumn Midland BMTM is another successful show and not adversely affected by the weather, we would like to thank everyone beyond the control of BMTG. Say thank you to Steve Beverley, Impingham Golf Club.

South East

Thornpergh Golf Club - December 2010

Here we go again then. Hope you had a merry & happy Thanksgiving.

Our last meeting at Thorpeness went like clockwork as usual, except for Yours Truly! I missed most of the AGM and the expense money. As my old Headmaster used to say as he put the case away - "You could have done better, just to think of where you could have been!"

Many thanks to our calendar sponsor for February, THB Pharmacy! Please consider them for your machinery needs if you are lucky enough to get some money to spend on your course this year. All our sponsors are greatly appreciated, especially in these difficult times so thank you to each and every one of you, keep it up!

I trust many of you got to see the Open for a day or two, and despite the exhibitor numbers being down, still found the trip worthwhile, to catch up with some old friends during your visit. I consider the best way around and always find it an excellent way to spend a few days in January.

[Prize] Rob Mitchell; Nearest white line 5th (Collier Turf Care) Uncle Bob; Longest Drive 14th, Paul Crask; Drive Guest 13th - Matt Lay; Longest Drive Greenkeepers 0–14 2nd (Greenkeepers Outfit) Robert Whiting; Longest Driving Greenkeepers 15–21 1st (Right To Work) Richard Roscoe. Our final Longest Drive Greenkeepers 22–28 18th (Tacit) Adrian Goode

There had been nearly 200 people at Thorpeness – 120 were playing. All were welcomed by Nicky Green, Club Captain, who also presented the prizes.

The course, as usual, was in excellent condition with the greens silky smooth. The Day to experience the Ventnor midday wind and were annoyed by the wind and the lack of food and cold! Costumes worn by the brave hearted and the thongs that the more plucky and courageous chaps wore on entry into those chilly waters but who on exit were somewhat less so.

The atrocious weather before Christmas meant that my van and I stayed at home for many days and that the Surrey turkey trot was cancelled. Hap- pily Guildford GC were able to fix us in yesterday, January 7, and as I was unwelcome, due to a prior engagement, the ensuing evening is surely going to be an efficient Secretary and golfer supreme, Ron Christo, so the following is a verbatim report of his comments. The main prize of the day, the nearest the pin, was won by our very own club Secretary, Roger Planner. I agree wholeheartedly, that the Secretary will remain the same for the next season.

Our thanks once again for a very useful, only for it grew as more of you become involved. Please consider them for your machinery needs if you are lucky enough to get some money to spend on your course this year. All our sponsors are greatly appreciated, especially in these difficult times so thank you to each and every one of you, keep it up!

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of 2010, down in Southampton we had more snow than I can remember sledging and snow ball fights better than ever.

Section news is a bit slow this time of year as it is either under snow or later than usual so more news next month.

Hope everyone had a great time at Harrogate, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetherspoons.

Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you have always wanted to read, start to play a musical instrument and visit that place in the world that you have always liked the look of. 

I look forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so prac- tice well get your handicap down new ideas and solve problems by instrument and visit that place

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Around The Green

30pts; 3. Gareth Knight, 29pts. Roach, 34pts; 2. Leigh Davies, sweaters! And on that subject I would like to reserve a place. The results from the Christmas meeting in before the deadline for the Minibus again this year and the Region are two gatherings, firstly on

turned to work to find you green in a better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year golf fixtures. Mainly because there weren’t any fatter! The snow didn’t help most clubs’ finances, but since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

The result from the Christmas Competition at Royal Portrush are as follows: Winner - Andy Roach, 34pts; 2. Leigh Davies, 30pts; 3. Gareth Knight, 29pts. Nearest the Pin - Alan Abel longest drive - Darryl Joones (about 3miles) Best Trade - Alan Abel, 3 pityas; Christmas Spree - Lucy Sellick, 12pts. Guess the hole last - Lucy Sellick (£9) Sorry Lucy! Steve Chappell put that in! Silver Salver prize for best scores throughout the season - Silver Salver prize for best scores throughout the season -

November 2010

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February 19th

BB&O Turkey Trot (rearranged date)

The event was kindly sponsored by Ted Hopkins, & John Pike, which didn’t disappoint so our

yearly Avonack Aromacy Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 3rd at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thank you to our friends from Countryside for sponsoring the night.

5pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thank you to our friends from Countryside for sponsoring the night.

Dear all,

Hello all, Apologies for no notes last month, but there wasn’t much
to report as I managed to get the summary of the Portiphan meeting in before the deadline and in the December Edition. Our Annual Christmas meeting was held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 15 with 80+ attendees enjoying a fresh but gorgeous sunny day. The event was kindly sponsored by MST and Iriettech. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club. Starting with this Golf (Apolo- gies if I have left anyone out, as unfortunately I mislaid my notes.)

The format was Greensomes playing on the traditional Christmas dinner which didn’t so disappoint our two golfers. In fact, they were good enough to win the prize, vocals that I am sure Tony Horne would be proud of! We will be sure to have the same again next year! That’s it for now. See you all soon!

Chris Bitten

Around The Green

SAW South Wales

Hello Everyone

Hope you are all well. As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period has finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you greens in a better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year golf fixtures. Mainly because there weren’t any fatter! The snow didn’t help most clubs’ finances, but since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

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10

DIARY OF EVENTS

Date Event Venue Contact

February 11th

Golf Industry Show and Education Programme

Orlando, Florida

www.ngoa.org/ac2011/

February 9th

Devon & Cornwall Section Event

Warren Golf Club

George Pitts at gattns.yelverton@gmail.com or telephone 07929 754401

February 9th

BB&O Turkey Trot (rearranged date)

The Oxfordshire

Adam King at ukj@readdy.org.uk or telephone 01335 543119

February 23rd

Devon and Cornwall Drainage Workshop

St Mellion Golf Club

George Pitts at gattns.yelverton@gmail.com or telephone 07929 754401

March 1st

Scottish Regional Conference

Carnegie Conference Centre Dundeirnie

Peter Boyd at pg.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0141 616 3400/07776 281220

March 16th

Devon Golf and Petrolina Section

Merlin Golf Club

George Pitts at gattns.yelverton@gmail.com or telephone 07929 754401

March 17th

Joint BIGGA/GCMA Education Day

Cairngorm Conference Centre, Dunfermline

Karen Drake at wimshall@btinternet.com or telephone 01334 260968

March 30th

Midland Regional Conference

Newark Golf Club

Peter Larter at petelarter972@aadz.com or telephone 01476 500515

April 11th

North East Section Event

Newcastle United Golf Club

Jimmy Richardson at jamiereichardson271@gmail.com or telephone 07900 528542

April 19th

Scotland Section Spring Meeting

Cruiglaw Golf Links

Stuart Ferguson at studeig@btinternet.com or telephone 01954 620355

April 21st

South West Section Meeting

Chipping Saunton Golf Club

Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.com or telephone 07732 503855

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