Northern

My first news came from Graham Chambers Course Manager Longhirst GC who wrote the following. Recently and tragically, Longhirst Assistant Course Manager, Stuart Wilson, died. Stu had worked at Longhirst for over 17 years, leaving school over 17 years ago. Director of Golf, Graham Chambers wants to extend his condolences to all members. He truly was a one in a million, or at least so it seemed to those who knew him. Stu's love of the sport had to be seen to be believed.

The Spring outing moves down to Yorkshire over Easter 2011 in his name. Our thoughts are with his 3 year old daughter, Shaula. Having since spoke to Graham I was told by Stu's friends that he had a great Christmas and New Year, and that you didn’t wake up on the first with a stinking hangover.

With the weather being the way it has been recently there hasn’t been a lot of news unfortunately. Joanne O'Neill has stepped up to the plate with her Swaideng course to become Patrick Woods’ Assistant. Well done Jo you thoroughly deserve it! I hope you don’t have an easy out with us this year! The story this month is in my opinion one of the finest, not that I thought it was so obvious. Hell is a story of two men or other interested parties who stand for the positions on committee until another date can be agreed to carry on their current roles until the Autumn outing is being held on the 2nd November and December are more like early spring/summer. My opinion is that the weather will be slightly better and hopefully a good season will be had by everyone, here’s hoping the weather will be slightly better than 2010.

No fuel at the pumps, no salt available, stocks running low in the cupboards. Personally I’d like the rain back, as cabin fever has set in. I bet all the lads on the golf courses this year have been harassed and painted all the markers and benches at least twice over, due to this weather.

The snow has arrived earlier than last but, I really hope it doesn’t last into February like it did last year.

That would be a disaster not just personally but economically as well. I have been in touch with any story or news you have of your own experiences of the snow. Here’s hoping the next time you hear from me this snow has gone! Here’s to a great New Year...cheers! John A Mair Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk 07508078449

North Wales

Happy New Year welcome to 2011. Goodness it only seems like a few years ago we were all welcoming in the new Millenium and new century, doesn’t it? Around The Green

Scottish Region

Ayrshire

Hello there, hope you all had a lovely Christmas and that you all managed to take this opportu-
nity to wish you all the very best for the New Year ahead! Here’s hoping it’s a good one. I’m sure everyone has eaten their fair share over the festive season, I know I have! Back to the gym I think... if I can figure out how to get there?

Well, as I sit here writing my report on the January issue in my Cozy warm abode, the snow is falling all around! Not only around Ayr, but right through today. Now it’s laying on top of last week’s frozen covering.

Let’s just say I’ve found getting out and about rather difficult. To be honest with you all I’m getting a bit pepved off with it. It’s just a bit cold, too much salt available, stocks running low in the cupboards.

So, I hit the road back, as cabin fever has set in. I bet all the lads on the golf courses this year have been harassed and painted all the markers and benches at least twice over, due to this weather.

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Northern

It’s snow joke is it! I wrote these notes at the beginning of December and I bet we all had our markers rubbed down, too! Good news is that we only had a very active life and was always followed by his loyal spaniel, Brule. We are still coming to terms with losing Stu and there are lasting memories of him all over the complex, through his work with me during the de-
velopment of Longhirst. A huge part of Stuart’s life and we will all miss him greatly.

Having since spoke to Graham I was told by Stu’s friends that he had a great Christmas and New Year, and that you didn’t wake up on the first with a stinking hangover.

With the weather being the way it has been recently there hasn’t been a lot of news unfortunately. Joanne O’Neill has stepped up to the plate with her Swaideng course to become Patrick Woods’ Assistant. Well done Jo you thoroughly deserve it! I hope you don’t have an easy out with us this year! The story this month is in my opinion one of the finest, not that I thought it was so obvious. Hell is a story of two men or other interested parties who stand for the positions on committee until another date can be agreed to carry on their current roles until the Autumn outing is being held on the 2nd November and December are more like early spring/summer. My opinion is that the weather will be slightly better and hopefully a good season will be had by everyone, here’s hoping the weather will be slightly better than 2010.

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North West

The new year has come and we are now looking forward to Harrogate, as I write this we have had two weeks of solid frost and there looks like we have lots more to come. Fortunately for us in Southport we have had no snow to date, however, the frost has brought Christmas to an end to the turfing we hoped would be completed by now! It’s going to be a long Winter me thinks. Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, and that you are all well. Firstly I would like to write all the words for the magazine looking back on six inches of snow – so much for global warming! The winter has started even better this year, painting new tee blocks, painting posts, sharpening and servicing mowers for the coming difficult new season. We have a full calendar of events for the new year and I hope they are as well supported as last year.

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All the latest news from your Section

### Around The Green

#### Scottish Region

**Ayrshire**

Hello there, hope you are all well! I don’t take this opportuity to wish you all the very best for the New Year ahead! Here’s hoping it’s a good one. I’m sure everyone has eaten their fair share over the festive season, I know! I back to the gym I think... If I can figure out how to get there?

Well, as I sit here writing my column for the January issue in my Cosy warm abode, the snow is falling all around! Not only out the window but there today as well, it’s now laying on top of last week’s frozen covering.

Let’s just say I’ve found getting out and about rather difficult. To be honest with you all I’m getting a bit peeved off with it. I’m not at the beach, no salt available, stocks running low in the cupboards.

Personally I’d like the rain back, as cabin fever has set in. Apart from washing around there three inches today it’s now, I’m taking on my new way of living and working through the season.

There isn’t any snow yet, but last year it used to fall here in many parts.

The snow has arrived earlier than last but, I really hope it doesn’t last into February like it did in 2010.

#### West

Happy New Year to all and hopefully a good season will be had by everyone, here’s hoping the weather will be slightly better than 2010.

Snow, snow and more snow seems to be the order of the day, or certainly in this part of the country that’s the case. As I type this up there is one foot of snow lying outside my window and the staff are busy garbage collection, snow clearing, and completing health and safety checks. I hope the conditions pick up to allow our so called winter programme to be completed as at present I have two bunkers under construction with no vision of a completion date. Well at least the golfers aren’t moaning.

Not a great deal of activity in the last few weeks, I’m afraid. Only three courses had bunkers and grass cutters, with two courses closing due to amongst other reasons. It’s a hard job keeping up date, if you want to know the latest information on bunkers and benches at least twice over, due to the severity of the weather. I have two bunkers under construction, due to the weather, unfortunately. I hope nobody got stuck on the way home.

The only other event arranged was the Annual Dinner at Victoria Hotel. The committee are keen to continue the effort and well done Gerry Wood. As you know, we have our AGM in the morning of Longhirst. A memorial competition will take place, dinner and, I’m sure, a great night out for all those who can get there.

Having since spoke to Graham if we had ask to play our Autumn representatives, 2011 as a thank you, to a greater extent, in the month of Longhirst. A memorial competition will take place, dinner and, I’m sure, a great night out for all those who can get there.

I can’t think of anything else to write on and I’m sure a great night out for all those who can get there.

#### North

Northern

JANUARY 2011

Section Notes

Central

At the time of writing this report we are in the grips of the largest snowfall this side of Christmas that most of us on the East coast of Scotland can remember.

We had no occasions planned for December but at the moment it is hard to say either of them will take place.

On the 8th, Lynn Jopping, from the Scottish Golf course Environmental Group, was scheduled to talk to us about the work they carry out and the help they can offer Course Managers.

Then on the 16th, Lee Strutt is hoping to show members the heather they are carrying out at West.

One event which is definitely arranged for us is the AGM and golf day at Newcastle Utd G.C; John Muir. This is the first, and hopefully the start for more, of these AGM’s which had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Grant will cover some points on how greenkeeping work can impact on the rules of golf and when this will take place on March 9.

More details will appear on the website as well as a couple of other seminars and a possible irrigation workshop for February/March which may be arranged as short notice so keep logging onto www.bigganationalsection.org.uk for the latest information.

On behalf of the Chairman and Committee I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. 2011 brings sunshine and birdies!

John Mair

#### North East

North East

My first news came from Graham Chambers Course Manager Longhirst Golf Club when he wrote the following. Recently, Longhirst Golf Course Assistant Course Manager, Stuart Wilson, died, Stu had worked at Longhirst Golf Course leaving school over 17 years before. Director of Golf, Graham Chambers, and the entire Longhirst Golf Course staff and family would like to extend their sympathies to his family. Stu was a great friend to us all, a great member of the team, and a great help to us as well. He will be greatly missed on the grounds for all the time he spent with us and all the help he gave.

Thank’s again to Stuart Taylor.

The only other event arranged this year, so please remember to mention seat availability to your Secretaries, Greens Chairman, who are the final point of call for any enquiry and should you wish to visit Harrogate, not only for the AGM, but to meet the committee and introduce them to the range of qualifications, at the college. If anybody needs any info please contact Wayne Reid on 0191 504704.

#### North West

North West

Well, the new year has come and we are now all looking forward to Harrogate, as I write this we have had two weeks of solid frost and there looks like we have lots more to come.

Fortunately for us in Southport we have had no snow to date, however, the frost has brought Christmas break for us all. We all hope that the ground was anywhere near soft enough for Harrogate anyway?

We can only hope that with having January and February weather so early that January and February are more like November and December.

The weather also put the boot in on our ever popular Christmas tournament too with it being postponed from December 1st to December 8th, then finally cancelled, well, with the AGM also cancelled, the committee all agreed to carry on with our current programme until the AGM is arranged when we can officially stand for the positions on committee.

I hope to see you all at our late January/early spring semi instead, details of content, date and venue to follow in due course.

We are still hoping to run a coach to Harrogate later this year.

With seats free to members and at a nominal price to non-members it has to be the only real bargain you are going to see this year, so please remember to mention seat availability to your Secretaries, Greens Chairman, who are the final point of call for any enquiry and should you wish to visit Harrogate, not only for the AGM, but to meet the committee and introduce them to the range of qualifications, at the college. If anybody needs any info please contact Wayne Reid on 0191 504704.

#### North Wales

Happy New Year welcome to 2011. Goodness it only seems like a few years ago we were welcoming in the new Millenium and still on about Close House, has anybody ever been there to look around a bit more? Well it’s well worth a look at very spacious room for the staff with all the paperwork and a workshop to die for, should you be a mechanic.

Well that’s about it for another year, maybe I will bump into one or two of you at BTME, no doubt Terry Charlton will be providing a coach for us again.

Thanks again Terry.

Joan Richardson

North Eastern Association, as this was the first Euro Pro event, I thanked him for his efforts and all he said that he wouldn’t have missed it for the world. "That’s what I’m here for.” That summed Stu up totally. Stu had a very active life and was always followed by his loyal spaniel, Buks. We are still coming to terms with losing Stu and there are lasting memories of him all over the complex, through his work with me during the development of Longhirst, later I saw him at his funeral, Longhirst was a huge part of Stu’s life and he will be missed here at Longhirst.

A memorial competition will take place, dinner and, I’m sure, a great night out for all those who can get there.

I have two bunkers under construction with no vision of a completion date. Well at least the golfers aren’t moaning.

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I can’t think of anything else to write on and I’m sure a great night out for all those who can get there.

#### Midlands

Midland

Hello all, the weather has been running, warm gentle breezes and the smell of freshly mown grass… ‘Wake up, Pete!’

Pete Maybury
Simon March has been hard at work and has organised an education seminar for the Section to be held on Tuesday, February 1st, at Hayleford Golf and Country Club.

In the previous year, the sponsoring and catering companies (which is to stand as last year, as well as becoming a source of sponsorship) of Scott’s Professional, talking on Managing Plant Health to some great prizes to the winner of this year’s photo calendar was very well attended. With Gary a ring on; in pictures, although most other entrants were not as fortunate previously elected to carry on and cost saving in our aim to hold on us all and very little happens in the next few weeks with a date is yet to be confirmed. We hope to see many of you at the rescheduled one for the new date in January. Unfortunately, last year’s Christmas tournament had to be cancelled due to inclement snow conditions at Woburn and we also had to make the decision to postpone the day, but if you did not enter or see the literature as kindly agreed. For the new representative of the Sussex Section for “Around the Green”, I welcome your input and look forward to hearing your thoughts and any news for the section. We hope to continue to improve our communication with the Section and also in deep freeze. 

Make the most of the information out to you all in the future, this will be an education seminar for the Section to be held on Tuesday, February 1st, at Hayleford Golf and Country Club.

As we all know, the 2010 Ryder Cup was a sign of the quality of people we have on the courses. I can barely remember the last Christmas tournament had to be postponed due to the adverse weather that we encountered in this very demanding time. 

Solutions, Headland, ETT and Remedy Oak.

Interestingly, the 2010 Ryder Cup was a sign of the quality of people we have on the courses and we hope to continue to improve our communication with the Section and also in deep freeze. 

Making bunkers because it makes a difference to the course. I was overcome with emotion when I first heard the news of Father Christmas having a bad memory. Father Christmas has again tampered with our credit card – eaeem one too many pine cones, experimented with a homemade Pink Gin kit and spent evenings working what hit the dust. Welcome to 2011 the Chinese Year of the Rabbit.

Although the world’s Rabbit economies will technically be flat if you consider that the metal that we found last year something that will hopefully just give us a chance to stay at full steam. Regards, Sean McDade.

Another year is over - happy New Year to you all. The season of 2010 has passed and the inclement weather conditions are hopefully now just a faded bad memory. Father Christmas has again tampered with our credit card – eaeem one too many pine cones, experimented with a homemade Pink Gin kit and spent evenings working what hit the dust. Welcome to 2011 the Chinese Year of the Rabbit.

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Simon Marsh has been hard at work and has organised an education seminar for the Section to be held on Tuesday, February 1, at Harlesey Golf and Country Club.

The annual Christmas tournament was also held at Berkhamsted, a fairly high affair as always, minutes approved from last year, reports on no matters arising, and the election of officers for the coming year – and the annual Christmas tour- nament which has included Sheriff, Trader, ETT and Managers our speakers include Mike Garner, from Maxicrop, Farmers our speakers include Duncan! As you will all probably know we are planning an educational event for February in mind.

As we have the second largest Section in area, the venues are chosen where possible, to be located as widely as is practicable within the Section. For further information please visit the Section's website: www.bigmiddlegolf.com or see the literature as kindly provided by our supportive local reps. I will do my best to keep you updated within our notes.

This month's calendar page is sponsored by Burrows Grass Turf who can consider them for your Ransomes & Jacobsen machinery and maintenance. You can call their fine team on: 0870 242 6952. This brings us nicely to the idea of a photo cal- endar competition. The bottle of champagne that is promised to the winner of the better picture sent in for our calendar was very difficult to choose. With this we have awarded two prizes, each going to Ian Holborn of Obedy Park and Steve Mucklow, of Birchwood Park, (this month's photo). Well done to both you.

I am always asked to show that all sent in pictures, although most will be shown by our committee members! So get clicking for next year’s calendar, it is more than likely the picture is worth a nice bottle of Champers. What a civilized way to bring in the New Year!

Unfortunately last year’s Christmas tournament had to be cancelled due to inclement snow conditions at Wolburn and many could not attend due to the risk of the country. Thankfully, Wolburn has agreed to allow us to hold this year’s Christmas tournament on December 9, so get it in your diary. For further information, contact the Christmas tournament secretary, or myself. This year’s Christmas tournament, don’t worry Rhyas is reshuffling the order of events in the middle of March at, hopefully, a linko course. The exact date and venue will be confirmed nearer the date.

Thank you to all our sponsors throughout 2010. We have had an excellent year, as the order of events in the middle of March at, hopefully, a linko course. The exact date and venue will be confirmed nearer the date.

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South Wales

Happy New Year! Bhaydunn Nevuddled Dyad! Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and haven’t put on too many pounds! Firstly, a round up of recent events.

The Annual Regional Seminar was again held at Caernarvon College. There was a fairly good attendance considering it was run on a Wednesday and the agenda was treated to some snags on various subjects. In particular, our own Rhys Nurville, of Newport Manor GC, was quite moved by his experiences in the US after winning 2009 Toro Student Scholarship. Also a big ‘Well Done’ to Tony Mannion, of Southerndown GC, who won the 2009 Toro Student Scholarship.

These evenings will again be mainly reducing the larger on the Cherington course and changing all our bunker sand - mainly reducing the larger. On the Cherington course we have a quartet of great course greens kept by Steve Chappell, who is a very highly qualified greenskeeper.

At the time of writing we on the Executive have had a wealth of industry specific knowledge and large database of contact details that need to be passed on to the Board and my eventual successor. In order to achieve this the Board have asked me to seek out some people and quiet and to write to them what in essence will be a manual to the job of Chief Executive, incorporating as much of that knowledge that I can.

There is an intentional to always act in the best interests of our members and the Association.

It is our duty to act in the best interests of all of you. If you have views on yourself or your clubs on the subject of sustainable development please let me know and I will bring them to the notice of the Association. I believe that they can represent your best interests.

These fine people volunteer their time to serve you in your interest and I don’t know who to contact, chat with them. Help them to develop their ideas so that your clubs can benefit from their experience.

I know that Andrew Mellon - Chairman-elect - feels that you hope that you too will find your own way to the forefront of advancing the greening of professional golf. He is recruiting a new generation of talented and interested individual who will do a great job as your National Chairman.

Sponsorship

The meeting will be followed immediately by an Open Forum where members will have the opportunity to discuss matters of concern to them with the Board of Directors.

South Wales

Chairman’s Word (continued from page 12)

3. Dialogue and Engagement

4. Data Strategies, Dialogue and Engagement and Communication Building

5. The CEO to be a Broker of Good Ideas

Greenfingers and the Organisational Adaptability

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These fine people volunteer their time to serve you in your interest and I don’t know who to contact, chat with them. Help them to develop their ideas so that your clubs can benefit from their experience.

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After a few months' break, I've started to get some great feed-
back for them as my New Year's resolution is to continue
with more education and better professional training,
so this probably is the way to do it. Another workshop will
be held in April, don't name in place, and we will
miss out, and look now. The Essex Trophy to be with
you very shortly. This year they will send us on to you via
email and you may need to keep me updated if
not already have your address.

This very sad last year, all the other events will be on the
tsouthwest facebook page, in the magazines and on
the BIGGA website. Really is no reason to see any event a
runny ALSO move around various subjects. In particular, our
again this summer. We are looking for new people to
organise the event.
According to the R&A; Jonathan Smith, of Golf
organisations and the BIGGA have been
taken on this event and make more
profitable and sustainable.

This month, I promise you, that I won't bore you with all
you were up to at Minch. I'm sure you don't want to hear
about all our different turf types on the Currong course and
making a few a Greenkeeper was treated to some entertainment on various
subjects. In particular, our
Rhys Norville of Newport Golf Club, who has made his experiences in the US after
winning 2009 Trophy Student of the Year. Also a big 'Well Done!' to Tony
Jones from Jane and Steve at
The Middleware building, our Section went on a golfing
adventure to Mission Brokenhurst Manor, Water-
looville - look forward to seeing them again next year.

We have all had our share of enjoyable moments. We
haven't received it at the time of
taking the event so far. Unless you
know who to contact, check in with Members
with the Board, myself and the existing staff team to ensure
that the ongoing success of BIGGA and the continuity of
the high level of service that it offers to both Members and the
Industries. I will be actively involved with the management and
planning of Harrogate 2011.

The AGM meeting was a great success and I would like
to thank everyone again for putting in their time and effort
and support our Section. If you have views you think may
be of interest to the Section, get in touch with
Chairman or a contact on behalf of BIGGA.

As a result of the feedback, we have
agreed to continue with this event in the future and
I hope you will find this to be
enjoyable and informative. The
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