Scottish Region

Central

The rules night seminar held at Elmwood on March 9th was well supported and Grant Moir, of the R&A, gave an excellent presentation. A more detailed report on the night is on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk. You will also find the results of the Spring Outing, at Ladybank, held on April 28, on the website. The deadline for this report was well before the event and a report on the Stahn Zontok seminar was held on April 21. The final of the inter club pairs for 2010 was finally completed and Crawford were the winners over Leven by 1 hole over the two legs. Well done to them (eventually!). This year there is a new format which all have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received word of the draw/1st round. The final seminar/summer season is to be held in the Stirling area on May 17.

Scottish Tournament, June 15.

Ayrshire

It is with great regret that I inform you all of the recent passing of Danny Gardiner, of Boro Golf Club. Danny was the club’s first full time greenkeeper and worked extremely hard at a time when Beith was only nine holes. Many saw the club grow into a 18 hole course one test to the very best of golfers among us. In my own time at Beith, where I served as apprentice greenkeeper, I spoke with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all at Beith. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

Some things have been good weather on the front these days with the daffs in full bloom and the sun streaming down on us all. The courses all around are beginning to take shape all thanks to the lads involved. Keep up the good work! I’ve not heard of any mishaps or horror stories. Time yet. Next month will bring the heat from the Spring Outing and of course as mentioned every issue I remind you that this is your Section, so please get in touch with any news. Let’s keep the Section ticking next year.

John Mail
johnmail5@hotmail.co.uk
07500874499

North

Hello everyone hope you are all well. As I sit here writing these notes looking out on a grey sky with the sun trying to shine through, I feel like spring may be on its way.

Northern

I hope you all find this note somewhat out of context, but I thought it was a good idea to do so. I have written to the AGA about setting up a new committee for the Northern Region.

Well it’s mid-March and the temperatures are improving, birds singing and grass is growing. Unfortunately the diabolical blustering and the hunkering sand is moving. Still, the new season is coming with earnest and let’s hope for a good one.

Talking with Richard Windows about the conditions of the courses, he mentioned that East Lothian had been hit hard with frost earlier this year. He was aware of another course in the Scottish region that also had frost problems. As we are all aware, the Scottish region has many courses which are struggling to carry on and take over at The Hirsel, will take over as education committee level, his experience and he will be missed greatly at both. Tam Murray has left us and takes over at Craigielaw. Oliver will be helping us at the Spring Outing at Craigielaw. Paul Armour, who has left Leven Hall, is holding a seminar on May 11, at the training room, details on www.biggacentralsection.org.uk. You are all invited.

North Wales

I hope you all find this note suitably out of context, but I thought it was a good idea to do so. I have written to the AGA about setting up a new committee for the Northern Region.

Well done to them (eventually). Sorry there is no more news or gossip at the moment. If you would like to pass anything on, please pass it on to me, Frank Stewart: 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds 21. E-mail Frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk. Mob: 07974701278.

North East

As we spring into summer, our attention is turning from cutting frequencies as the growth is now on the increase. Spring is now well and truly here with good growth and, hopefully, if we get the weather to do it, the courses we should shine.

The spring training took place at Denbigh GC on April 13. A full run down on results and the day will be posted in next month’s column.

Elliott Small has been tasked with assisting BIGGA with putting on a display at HT2012 on 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations. So please gather and collate as much information and materials that you can in the near future and we have been asked to make enquiries where possible from some of the older members of our Section, whether they may know of any even older gentlemen who may have old photographs, magazines, diaries later. One of the areas that we would hope to show would be those who may have generations of greenkeepers within the family, so please tell us, or your families can help please contact any of your committee members and we will happily pass anything on.

Terry Adamson, of Sheriff Amenity, is holding talunex/photoinitiator training seminars in the near future. If you are going to this, you could use this please contact Terry directly. I think that’s about enough for now, I’m looking forward to hearing from you and about your personal professional news, feel free to contact me I’m only too willing to put your good news into our column.

Peter Maybury
petarmaybury66@aol.com or mobile 07756001187.
East

Well it’s mid-March and the temperatures are improving, birds singing and grass is growing. Unfortunately the sunshine, blowing and the hunkered sand is moving. Still, the new season is on its way to warming us up with enough warmth and let’s hope for a good one. Talking with Richard Window about the state of the weather, he mentioned that East Lothian had been hit hard with the dreaded Fusarium. North Berwick has got off lightly with only 47% of the ground being affected so they are responding to the treatment and the dry weather helps.

We have two new additions to our small Section committee, Scott Corrigan and George Oliver. George Oliver is the Spring Outing at Craigleith on April 19. We welcome them both. Tam Murray has left us and he will be missed greatly by the committee level, his experience was vast and his thanks and best wishes go out to him as well. Scott will take over as education co-ordinator and you can contact him at stewart.crawford@live.co.uk.

Keith Biong is on the move and takes over at The Hirsel, near Coldstream. Good luck and all the best to all the best.

Dates for your diary are:
- Secretary’s Match, May 3, Glasgow Gables
- Scottish Tournament, June 15, Dunglass Golf Club
- Willie Woods Tournament, dam/status
- Autumn Tournament, September 14, Brae Hill GC

Ayrshire

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Scottish Region

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This year there is a new format which all have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who have heard of any mishaps or horror stories.

Well done to them (eventually).

The spring tournament was held on April 28, on the website biggacentralisation.org.uk. You will also find the results of the report on the Stan Zontek seminar held on April 28, on the website biggacentralisation.org.uk. You will also find the results of the April 19. We welcome them to our small Section committee, he mentioned that East

North

Hello everyone hope you are all well. As I sit here writing these notes looking out on a grey sky with a number of clouds and a shower of rain to water our newly turfed areas. It seems such a short time ago we were sick of wearing wellies and waterproof trousers. By the time you read these words the weather may have improved and we have to see a few different faces.

Thank you to all those golfers who have taken up the challenge of playing the days events to go get and for providing the scorecards.

Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Craigleith Golf Club, on May 15, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Malcolm Black for accounting for the Section, and the other item is the Austrian Open and is at Moortown GC on the June 22, 1st tee 10am. The price is £220 per person. Please book early as places might be limited.

Sorry there is no more news or golf news for this report, please all pass on to me, Frank Bostock: 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LE6 2DY Email franksteadward13@hotmail.co.uk. Mob: 07974741277.

North Wales

I hope I find you all suitably drenched after another wet and windy day. We have a wonderful amount of hilly holidays we’re currently running. Some are very well and truly here with good growth and, hopefully, if we get the weather to the right it is all possible for our courses should shine.

The spring tournament took place at Denbigh Golf Club, on April 13. A full run down on results and the day will be passed at post in next month’s column.

Elliott Small has been tasked with assisting BIGGA with putting on a display at HTM 2012 on 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations. So please gather and collate as much information and material on the history of the day and we have been asked to make enquiries where possible from some of the older members of our Section, whether they may know of any even older gentlemen who may have old photographs, magazines, diaries later on. One of the areas that we would hope to show would be how greenkeeping families who may have generations of greenkeepers in their family, so we would be interested if your families can help please contact any of your committee members and we will happily pass anything on.

Terry Adamson, of Sheriff Amenity, is holding talcunex/ photoion training seminars in the near future. If you could use this please contact Terry directly. I think that’s

West

On this bright sunny day I sit to type this month’s article enjoying the warmth and benefits such a day provides. I’m looking forward to the future of golf induced by these higher than usual temperatures and it looks as though I’ve noticed the hedgerow starting to bud; a sure sign spring has sprung.

Let’s hope the start of the season continues in the same vein as the last month, as my early grass issues are now filling in very nicely surprisingly enough. I hope all those affected in the same way are seeing progress in this area.

Not a lot happening in the last few weeks other than the seminar at Loch Lomond held on March 3 at the Gleneagles Hotel. It was a very informative excursion, with the continued update on things like soil structure, measurements of organic matter, firmness, soil moisture, speed and smoothness.

STRI is to be praised on the content of the day’s discussions, the presentation of the material, and the venue. In attendance something in the region of 40 people enjoyed the day’s pro- ceedings with a good diversity of the industry present, and race to see a few different faces.

Wrong to let Loch Lomond Golf Club follow the day’s events to go and for providing the scorecards.

Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Craigleith Golf Club, on May 19, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Malcolm Black for accounting for the Section, and the other item is the Austrian Open and is at Moortown GC on the June 22, 1st tee 10am. The price is £220 per person. Please book early as places might be limited.

Sorry there is no more news or golf news for this report, please all pass on to me, Frank Bostock: 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LE6 2DY Email franksteadward13@hotmail.co.uk. Mob: 07974741277.

North West

As we spring into summer, our attention is turned into cutting frequencies as the growth is now reaching its peak. It is important to start off warm off dry and here in Southport and the thought of watering some of the turf laid was wanted was few a day or two heavy showers, August has been very wet and it would come and gone with that the usual Augusta comments.

In my own area I think it has been a good day and it was nice to see everybody down at the Headquarters. To the Members and Council of Heil greenkeeping for allowing us to play.

The best event this year is the NW v W. Wales match at Heath Moor GC on June 16. This is followed by the summer tournament at Grange GC on June 29. On behalf of the North West Section, I would like to pass on the condolences the family of Ian McMillan who passed away early April, Ian was known to many people in the North West and our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

Peter McVicar
pdm02@hotmail.co.uk
07885347818

Eastward Ho!

The spring tournament was

the axe of redundancy. He has

taken the positive step in setting

up his business supplying vari-

ous products to golf clubs.

TM Amenities Ltd was estab-

lished by Tony in the summer

of 2011 selling a varied range of

products, on an agency basis,
direct to the golf industry and

are these of the companies he represents: Paragolf - all aspects of course furniture score cards etc; Turf Care Supplies - Equipment contract hire, Air Seal Products, ASL Agronomic, Northern Lubricants - Waste oil products etc.

Tony is working hard to estab-

lish his company in the market

place and his office is now his car

as he travels around the north-

east in search of business. He is

contacting Club Secretaries and

Head Greenkeepers to arrange to meet with them to outline in more detail the cost saving benefits he can bring to your club. When you have, Gary or Dan will give you some time of your time to listen to what he has to offer.

We hope all have used this period of time in the

business, much of which in the

capacity as a Head Greenkeeper,
And finally, those of you that
Around The Green
have now been finalised, they
Newark Golf Club on Wednesday
for their continuing support.

Macdonald and Robin Portess.
Bemment.

and remember that “no problem
of the BIGGA National Champi-
specialists. One such being this
month’s calendar spon-
TBC. LTD. Please visit their web site: www.
not be possible, thank you all for

health and safety advisor Jon
All but John explained to us the
importance of a golf buggy policy
and how improving the access
for disabled members is now important
within golf course development.

One impressive presentation
was given by Jim McKenzie, Course
and Enviromental Manager, at Cotle.
Mannor. I’m sure that many of
you or the last time I was here
a Jim McKenzie presentation,
however this was my first one
and to see how the Ryder Cup was really
won. An inside look at the at
the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Away from the golf course,
the football season is coming
doing a close and in the
premiership, for once, there is
everything to play for as both of the teams
could this be the most exciting
season... My predictions for the
little sis: 1- Man Utd, 2- Arsenal,
3- Chelsea, 4- Man City? Who
goes down... West Ham, Black-
pool, and Wigan?? What do you?

I would like to thank our
patronage partners for all
their support for 2011: Ecoss; City GC, on his forthcoming
retirement. If you listen to the
newsfeed on the Radio, you should
be aware that City are a nice round number to
end on and about time that
a grand prize is given. And
prejudicially a greenkeeper I
have really enjoyed the
experiences. If you look at my
email, it’s time to go. Ask for
the Section and I’ll happily forward it.
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855

Our next meeting will be
Rockcliffe Hall.
30, sponsored by Tacit.

Chris Rigby, Course Manager,
Rigby Taylor Qualifier: Neath
GC. Thursday, August 25, spon-
ored by CW.

Many thanks to our
Managers Association) we held
an educational seminar which
was very well supported by both
section’s notes, I gaze out of my
another stunning edition of our
section bays, and many thanks go to Pete
Billings. As I write this the
course was in excellent condi-
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Midland

As I sit here writing yet another stunning edition of our Section’s newsletter, I hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy putting it together. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition and to those who have helped in any way, from the people who gave us ideas for the next paper to the people who wrote the articles and put the whole thing together. We have had a fantastic response to this edition and we hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

We have received many letters from people who have been inspired by our work, and we want to thank them all for their support. We are also grateful to our advertisers for their continued support.

The next Section event and the Ryder Cup was held at Carnoustie Golf Club, on Thursday, August 12. The event was sponsored by the LMS Lincoln. If you would like to play in this event, please contact Bruce Billings.

South West and South Wales

Hi everyone, I trust that you are all well and enjoying this mighty fine weather that we are currently experiencing. Firstly, please allow me to explain the error that was made in last month’s edition of this newsletter. If you read Section’s newsletter closely in relation to your AM-AM competition, at Chipping Sodbury Manor on Wednesday, April 1, you might have seen a notice that there would be a team of two invited to participate in the competition. Unfortunately, there was a mistake and the notice should have referred to a team of four. As a result, the competition was not held at Chipping Sodbury Manor as advertised.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition and to those who have helped in any way, from the people who gave us ideas for the next paper to the people who wrote the articles and put the whole thing together. We have had a fantastic response to this edition and we hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

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We are now looking forward to our next event which shall be played on May 26 at Knowle Park Golf Club, near Severnside. Good luck to host Course Manager, Gavin Kyle, in preparing for this event. Darren has been working hard with his team to ensure this is a successful event. He is aiming to attract an exceptional number of competitors to this event.

Best of luck to everyone who is taking part in this event and we hope you all enjoy a successful day.