Scottish National Tournament was held at The Duke’s course on May 16, which had an excellent turn out of 70 to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff for their assistance in helping to make a successful day. As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O’Hara, the Vice Chairman, I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

I played at the East Section meeting on May 27, which was held at the Frome Shanklin Golf Club, and was very much surprised by the first experience of the course, the layout created a variety of interest and strategic play which was very pleasing. I hope we all have a good remainder of the season and enjoy a very enjoyable summer.

West
Burry for not submitting something last month but it was due to a typing error that I sent the 2010 article to head office instead of the 2011 version. There really wasn’t a great deal to report other than the Spring outing held at Cowgreen Golf Club on May 19, which, surprisingly, experienced a lovely sunny day, unlike many of the other days in that month.

The course was in excellent condition for the time of year after all the difficulties and for which thanks to Michael Slack and his team for their efforts and the Council for allowing the Section to play the course.


The only disappointing issue from the day was the lack of man- ageable weather which appears to be our normal amount of 35-40. So where were all you sunny weather folk and what do you up to? Is it too cost much, or are we having to take days off to attend? It is a pity if members could contact me or any Section member to see if we can find any way of discovering reasons for the absence.

A wet match has been written off for the North of the river versus the South, which I will report on at a later stage.

Awards

The intention was to contact a few people who haven’t been attending things over the last years so we can get together and get together for a chat about different aspects. If you wish to be involved please give me a call on 07790839319 or contact Gerry Brune on the blog and we can include you.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at The Duke’s course on June 15, which had an excellent turn out of 70 to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff for their assistance in helping to make a successful day. As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O’Hara, the Vice Chairman, I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

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Scotland

Derek Scott, Scoonie. Longest were Pat Allan, Symbio, and with a 58 better ball. Yes 58, you McArthur, Mortonhall Golf Club, of the Willie Wood’s Tournament dry patch on the greens. We may wonder if we have 1980 or 81. However we will be Mortonhall GC could have been is that the last time we attended is the last time we attended may wonder if we have 1980 or 81. However we will be Mortonhall GC could have been is that the last time we attended. However we will be being held at Park Grove Roundhay LS8...I have any news please get in touch with Chairman Robert Patterson on 07931639548 or Secretary Dale Robertson on 07784175334.

Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well. It seems only five minutes ago we had the start of a very dry and hot weather, and now looking out over the golf course at the leaves changing colour and some deciduous trees are already starting to fall, autumn is here. On August 31 we held our Invitation Day at Whitecraig GC.

The Autumn Tournament is on our doorstep, this year it is being held at Partickdale Golf Club and by the photographs I’ve seen the course looks an absolute picture and wouldn’t be surprised if we were to see some fantastic scores by the time you read this report. So all the results will be in the next issue. The Section will be in a few weeks time...our regular members Brian Weir, and it will be held at Longside Golf Club, near Peterhead, on Sunday, October 20. It will be the same format as before just turn up and pay on the day. The entry fee is £10 and this will include coffee bacon roll on arrival and a presentation. Two of our regular members Brian Hunter and George Simpson have been poorly lately with heart problems both needing a bypass operation. Our thoughts are with them and we wish them both a speedy recovery. If you have any news please get in touch with Chairman Robert Patterson on 07931639548 or Secretary Dale Robertson on 07784175334.

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You hear about all the angling gigs, strimming and cutting around bunkers, over the hills near and far as the summer growth comes and the autumn colour locks in. I apologise for not providing a report last month. It was due to non-members. It’s not out of concern. It’s not out of hope it continues as there are many who are keen to see all those leaves dropping off; it will be upon us and I can just imagine the song "Cotton is high". And so the song continues.

I have not been able to visit the Gardens for some time, while I was in hospital long ago. Just for entertainment.

North East

By the time you have read this, the opening of West One Golf Club was going to be upon us and I can just see all those leaves dropping off; frosty mornings are coming, golfing is over, and going to and from work in the dark and the start of winter around the corner.

I will not miss that time of the year - out on the course for six continuous weeks of leaf collecting in all weathers. I wish I had a penny for every leaf that was collected, I would have retired long ago. 

Right, back on to some news. Unfortunately my roving reporter Mal Latham, from Hexham GC, has failed to send any news. Hopefully my roving reporter will be back on to things soon. I have been reading Brain Willmott’s notes (deliberate my backside, 'Barney' and his team put in to prepare an excellent course. I always thought his name was Barney), and I will now cover the report last month.

I heard a phrase the other day, I think it was Prime Minister’s Question Time! Someone for the Shambles was getting a pay rise - would improve the skills that are required to do our job.

around the Green

South East

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I have to say this bit, but I say it all again as day four at Weston Park in early August? Perhaps we are not as good as we thought we were!

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Midland

Well did you spot the delib- erate mistake in last month’s notes (deliberate my backside, plain stupid much more like) you should spell all words as you think them.

This error reminded of a comment that Steve “Chopper” Harrison relayed to me at one of our past Christmas golf day’s at South Staffs GC. After general conversation between Steve and I, he said that he “always” remembered what it was that my journalistic talents will finally finish and sort out the biggest story in the history of the BBOA.

But, this time, no excuses, suffice to say, my workload has increased and my area has changed and to think this was a trip to the South East after the retirement of Brian. Willmott, and fellow reporter who I have known for over 20 years.

I will get this area to cover I will be passing my ink well and quill to a new scribe and make this my last report for the magazine. “Finally,” I hear you say, “at least something to read - at last.”

The BBOA first event of the year, sponsored by Golf & Turf, was at Studley Wood GC, one of Oderichdale’s best kept secrets, and simply a hidden gem of 177 acres and only a few 7-irons from the centre of Oxford.

Studley Wood glycosed our way with a stimulating challenge, which, as we muddled through the hilly undulating countryside with natural woodland and 13 bunkers, we had to keep the hole of a ball to a minimum.

The results were as follows: 1. Ted Lewis, retired, Oak Park GC; 2. Richard Davies The Berkshire, 4; Carll Small, Ellesborough GC; (registered disabled but still playing off 9).

Thanks to Dave Knight and all. Our thanks to the management team who gave the Section the courtesy of the course and we look forward to another very well in and out of the BBOA.

Dave, and his greenkeeping team, clearly put a huge effort into the course and this made this the first ever great for another great BBOA day out to remember.

Our thanks to the Section for allowing me to be the scribe and representative in the magazine. A big thank you to: 6. Rupert Thacker 36 pts; 2. Richard Davies, The Berkshire; 3. Gordon Payne, Woodley; 4. Mike Buck 35 pts; 5. Peter (The Veteran) Howard 34 pts; 6. Peanut 18 Handicap, 1; Mike Baker 35 pts; 7. Mike Baker 35 pts; 8. John Small, Ellesborough GC, (registered disabled but still playing off 9).

I am only too pleased to see all the great changes in this column and even more pleased to get input from you. I think that the reader should bore to tears, so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail pete.maybury66@aol.com text phone 07756001187

BBBO

“Sunsetterine and the living is easy, fish are jumping and the coffee goes in.” And so the song goes.

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Around The Green

North East

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Daniel Egan, Bishop Auckland
Harrison, Close House GC, and
those are as follows: Ross

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notes (deliberate my back-plain stupid like mesa) one

Around the Green

East of England

Our latest golf day was the bi-annual match against the
Secretaries from the GCMA.

There were as follows: 1. Steve

East Anglia

I may have said this before, but
you’ll say it again day all at Weston
Park in early August? Perhaps
we’re not as good as we thought we were!

Sussex

Apologies for not writing previ-
ously but we have not really had much news. I returned to
reading Brian’s column for a bit.

Well, what a good day we all
had at Plodden Golf Club. The
weather stayed dry; the course
was in fantastic condition and the
heather looked great (but not so good when we were in it) and the food
was excellent. Thanks to John and everyone at the Club.

The results were: 1. Steve

Miles Todd, Toro
Student of the Year
2011 runner-up,
is top dog for this Month’s Profile...

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Age:
Club:
Position:
Manager:
Nickname:
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In your own words what do
you think you’d be?
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**South West and South Wales**

Firstly, I have to start by congratulating Section captain Wayne Vine for being selected for the Seniors Tour. It has been a fantastic year.

Secondly, I have to thank the Seve Ballesteros Foundation and the Seve Ballesteros Foundation Trust for their continued support for this event.

The event was a huge success and I would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters who made it possible.

I hope to see you all there again next year.

**Crown Croft Executive**

**Around The Green**

September afforded me my first opportunity to visit the IOG Salts exhibition at Windsor Racecourse and it was good to see a number of members taking the time to come to attend this educational offering that took place there for the first time.

I hope to see you in Harrogate later in the year.

**Angie Croston Executive**

**Bermuda**

Always great to see people from all over the country coming to see us.

I would suggest anyone who has visited the event assures me that it always provides them with excellent exhibition opportunities and good working practice while giving the opportunity for dialogue and experiences with a vast network of other greenskeepers and interested parties.

I was delighted to see everyone back on track this year after the Covid-19 pandemic.

I hope to see you in Harrogate in January if not before.

**Angie Croston Executive**
Darren Baldwin, Totternham Hotspur Football Club; Peter Vivian, The Hurlingham Club; Richard Hall, Woodcote Park Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison, Essex County Cricket Club; Peter Rogers, Ealing Golf Club.

The subject is “Dead or Alive”. Organisers have told us that fuller greens will be an all or nothing affair, but what we can do is provide some general guidelines to all those who took the home the many odds that are now available.

By the time this article appears in the October edition, Craig Earnshaw, course manager at Oglesby Park Golf Club will have finished his Windsor Masters, while carrying 20bs. of golf bag and clubs. He was hoping for at least 15 hours and proceeds will go to the Sir Ballesteros Foundation which carries out treatments for the brain cancer. Should you wish to sponsor, please e-mail Craig on oakpeaks-green@golf.co.uk.

Mark Fry has had a move- ment from The Drift Golf Club to Worpledon GC where he will be the new club manager. He is a well-qualified Course Manager, Paul Robinson.

One of the month’s highlights is a visit from the Essex Section and to be hosted in mid August to the Essex Trilby Tour having qualified as its Captain. Darren’s exploits on TV, to say sincerely to Hans Dave and the Club for hosting our event, we are looking forward to the final of the Summer Pairs Knockout. All results to follow next month or see our website for up to the minute news.

Surrey

September afforded me my first opportunity to visit the IOG Salts exhibition at Windsor Racecourse and it was good to see a number of members taking the time to attend this fantastic and informative offering that took place there for the first time.

We are committed to working in collaboration with the IOG and other organisations to raise the standards and overall quality of this wonderful sport. In the future it is hoped that the opportunity to attend this annual event can be made available for everyone interested.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

After Saltex our thoughts inevitably turn to BTME at Harrogate next January.

Plans are well advanced for what will be, we hope, a very successful event next year.

Stand space has sold well and it is clear that the event is now firmly in the minds of the industry as we have received strong interest for the remaining space in the last few weeks. As you know the major machinery manufacturers will all be in attendance this time so please make plans to go back to full hauls and we anticipate excellent attendance.

I have been a regular visitor to BTME throughout my career and am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in January now that I have an even keener interest in the event.

I would urge anyone who has not attended before to mark the dates in your diary and make a point of visiting in 2012.

The combination of top class exhibitors, a large range of educational workshops, a packed seminar programme and the networking opportunities that start at breakfast and conclude only after dinner each evening is over makes for a unique opportunity for all, however the weather did not spoil this. I think we’ll happily take our 4-2 victory this time although I’m sure my partner in crime Tim Morgan, and I didn’t come home with a trophy, we still lapped up the teams near future. But something that we should consider as springtime. News on TV now reports that we have endured the coldest summer for 18 years. This will mean and plan your work schedule for next year with those facts in mind.

It has certainly been an amazing year. Most of us have accepted that the weather did not spoil this. I think we’ll happily take our 4-2 victory this time although I’m sure my partner in crime Tim Morgan, and I didn’t come home with a trophy, we still lapped up the teams near future. But something that we should consider as springtime. News on TV now reports that we have endured the coldest summer for 18 years. This will mean and plan your work schedule for next year with those facts in mind.

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I was not party to the results at this stage having been told, in no uncertain terms, to go home and try to learn the rules along with everyone else. My report next month will include an as yet to be announced Time Trial detail of the Darren’s exploits on TV. Suffice to say, if he wins then I shall continue to be typical of his mercourial talents. Anything less and, well, he may get a mention in dispatches.

If nothing else, Darren has automatic entry to next year’s Trilby Tour having qualified as its Captain. Darren’s exploits on TV, to say sincerely to Hans Dave and the Club for hosting our event, we are looking forward to the final of the Summer Pairs Knockout. All results to follow next month or see our website for up to the minute news.

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Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Our season of events will be starting at Portmores GC on Wednesday, October 5th. This will be your last opportunity to see the great work that has been done at Portmore Park, so please join us at the “Sprayer Update Course” to be held at Launceston Golf Club, date to be advised. If you are interested in any of the above events or would like to know more please contact me at danny@davie-rickett.co.uk.

Southern Section Secretary
Bigga Devon & Cornwall
07972 954401
jiggy.yeordon@gmail.com

South Wales

Our annual match against the Welsh Section took place at Ammanford GC in mid-Wales. After a solid start the match was abandoned due to weather conditions. The match was re-arranged for next year and we are looking forward to a great game in 2012.

Tony Gadd

South Coast

Hope the season is going well for all, by the time you read this we should be into a calm warm October.

Finally, the Section played the annual match against the South West at, West Wilts Golf Club, in late August. As always our opponents fielded an exceptional amount of talent on a very testing day. For once we were not whitewashed and managed to scrape home half a point! It does mean that the South West retains the trophy for another year, but we will get closer than we have in many years.

The course was in perfect condition, a joy to play. Well done Nick Musgrove and his team. My next point is the Section Seminar, which has caused more than a few headaches over the year. The committee have decided not to run the seminar this autumn as our main priority and speakers has proved impossible. We will be pursuing the same speakers at an event in Abbeyside School in Dorset in February, 2012. The date will be confirmed later but it will be during the half term week, Feb 13-18. Our guest speaker will be Jim McKinnon, from Celtic Manor venue of last year’s Ryder Cup. The full programme will be published nearer the date.

Changes afoot in the Section Committee, Chris Bitten, has decided to call it a day. Although Chris will stay on Committee he does not want the responsibility of the Secretary’s role. Thank you for all you have done, Chris, the time you have put in has been much appreciated over the years. The role will be filled by Alex Combe, treasurer, working for Syngenta. Alex served on the Committee for several years before he took a job in Denmark so is well versed in how the Section works.

I have also decided to stand from the Chairman’s position that I have held for several years. I would like formally to hand over to a new Chairman at the 2012 AGM so the Section has a year to find my replacement. As always anyone interested in the committee should make contact with me or any of the team to let us know.

The Autumn tournament is at Waterlooville on October 6, I’ll turn around to get in touch with Kev Glass on glassy2003@gmail.com. Remember this is a new venue for the Section and our AGM. See you there!

About the Green

diary of Events

- bigga welcomes the following new members
- with thanks to those of you who assisted the events this season - our season of events will now be... - on what’s best described as a “Sprayer Update Course” to be held at Launceston Golf Club, date to be advised. If you are interested in any of the above events or would like to know more please contact me at danny@davie-rickett.co.uk. - southern section secretary bigga devon & cornwall 07972 954401 jiggy.yeordon@gmail.com - south coast hope the season is going well for all, by the time you read this we should be into a calm warm october. - finally, the section played the annual match against the south west at, west wilts golf club, in late august. as always our opponents fielded an exceptional amount of talent on a very testing day. for once we were not whitewashed and managed to scrape home half a point! it does mean that the south west retains the trophy for another year, but we will get closer than we have in many years. the course was in perfect condition, a joy to play. well done nick musgrove and his team. my next point is the section seminar, which has caused more than a few headaches over the year. the committee have decided not to run the seminar this autumn as our main priority and speakers has proved impossible. we will be pursuing the same speakers at an event in abbeyside school in dorset in february, 2012. the date will be confirmed later but it will be during the half term week, feb 13-18. our guest speaker will be jim mckinnon, from celtic manor venue of last year’s ryder cup. the full programme will be published nearer the date. - changes afoot in the section committee, chris bitten, has decided to call it a day. although chris will stay on committee he does not want the responsibility of the secretary’s role. thank you for all you have done, chris, the time you have put in has been much appreciated over the years. the role will be filled by alex combe, treasurer, working for syngenta. alex served on the committee for several years before he took a job in denmark so is well versed in how the section works. - i have also decided to stand from the chairman’s position that i have held for several years. i would like formally to hand over to a new chairman at the 2012 agm so the section has a year to find my replacement. as always anyone interested in the committee should make contact with me or any of the team to let us know. - the autumn tournament is at waterlooville on october 6, i’ll turn around to get in touch with kev glass on glassy2003@gmail.com. remember this is a new venue for the section and our agm. see you there! - south west our annual match against the welsh section took place at ammanford gc in mid-wales. after last year’s disaster at ashburnham we where all determined to put up a better fight this time in order to arrive at chippenham on a typically wissh summer’s day (overcast and enjoyable). we where also trailing by the first 20 devon and cornwall members will have the opportunity to put their hand up for the north west section awards. our second meeting of the year will be at carlyon bay on october 17, so will be around for the date. - i heard yesterday that for congratulations are in order for rhys norvil, of newport gc, who is heading off to a new job and a new. - rhys, of course, won the tour student greenkeeper of the year award last year and we wish him all the very best in the future. - make sure you keep in touch with steve chappell (write). - finally, in case you haven’t heard, i am also on the move. i will be leaving south wales after seven and a half years to take on the role of assistant greenkeeper on the pga centenary course at glosenoges. i don’t start until october, so i will be around for a while but, in case i don’t catch you before i go, i would just like to say that it has been a pleasure working with you and all the guys here in the section. there are some great golf courses here in south wales and we have some great greenkeepers looking after them. - steve, on a personal note, thank you for all the support that you have given me in all of us in the section. - last year our season of events was... - we have had a number of future re-arrangements so anyone looking out for them the match against the gcma can find out in next month’s magazine and also the result of the rigby taylor finals. hopefully - i hope you enjoy the section’s forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...