On behalf of everyone in the Section I would like to say a massive thank you to Peter Boyd and wish him the very best in his retirement from his role as Administrator for the Scottish Region these past 14 years. Peter, we hope we can all look forward to good golfing days in the future and that some of them will be at our outings.

Speaking of which, the spring outing is very nearly upon us! Book on now through Peter at the end of the month with the entry fee close on April 11. We have no major financial events confirmed for the near future but are trying to set up an evening talk with John Kaminiski, a lecturer from Penn State, who will be in the area this summer. Members should keep an eye on the website for this or any other things we set up.

We will mail everyone an email address for our Section in due course but we had a huge number of emails coming back to us undelivered. If you haven’t been receiving them from either Gordon Macre or me on a regular basis, then check the website as we will have a list of these names and you can contact us. Maybe we have typed it in wrongly or you have changed your email address and forgot to update BIGGA. One event, which is taking place on April 26 is an Environmental Seminar being staged by St Andrews Links Trust at The Old Course. Entry is free but you have to register now as many registers for food can be calculated. Your Club Manager/Secretary should have information about this already but if you haven’t then please contact me.

The spring outing is about 1 month away and I hope to get the programme out some time in April as we are planning some good holes positions in mind for us. If you would like to be considered for the Patrons’ award at the end of the year, the more time (in the green) you have spent tending the turf the better. We will be posting information on there and hopefully we can get some suggestions from you.

Ross Macre
Mobile Phone: 07588969635
email: ross.macre@hotmail.com
Chairman.
On behalf of everyone in the Section I would like to say a massive thank you to Peter Boyd and wish him the very best in his retirement from his role as Administrator for the Scottish Region these past 14 years. Peter, we hope to see and hear about your good golfing days in the future and that some of them will be at our outings.

Speaking of which, the spring outing is very nearly upon us! Crail on May 10 and the entry fee close on April 26 is an opportunity to thank Peter for organising such a successful event, and for his excellent service to the Scottish Region over the last 14 years. He has helped establish a very well organised region and I hope this will continue in the future to build on what has been established.

Finally, thanks to the catering unit and the organisational team at Carnegie Conference Centre for their hard work and the attitude they convey with nothing but a smile. Relax, Janice, Alain, and Stuart.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the patrons for their continued support of the Scottish Region and I hope this will continue in the future to build on what has been established.

For news on the Scottish Regional Section please contact me: a.crawford@fje.com, Stewart Crawford, Chairman.

Section Notes

Central

Please email your notes to Section your Club Manager/Secretary

Environmental Seminar being taking place on April 26 is an BIGGA. One event, which is you can contact us. Maybe will have a list of these names from either Gordon McKie or as normal. However, there are a number of ideas that could help and improve our Section run going into the coming months.

Our education lads are trying hard to initiate seminars, webinars, or site visits for you to enjoy and our secretary will keep you informed of any future education events.

Hopefully we shall have some social events later in the year, as well as that there has been a couple of different ideas brought to our attention.

There has been some feedback collated from green staff and around the Edinburgh area. These issues will be discussed further at Section level if we can see if we improve the level of attendance at BIGGA events in our area.

We look forward to the Scottish Conference next week in Aberdeen, where we will enjoy many good speakers passing on experience and expertise in their chosen fields.

It will be Peter Boyd’s last event that the Committee has been organising for us and the East Section would like to say: THANKS PETER for all your hard work over the last few years, and to wish you every success in the future. We hope you will keep in touch and we will look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any information I can put into the magazine please feel free to get in touch with me as it would be helpful to try and remove the necessity if you want to be considered for the Patron’s award at the end of the year, the more news you have the chance you have picking up on this exceptional award.

If you have any news or views please do not hesitate to email me: a.crawford@fje.com, Stewart Crawford, Chairman.

Central

North East

Here is the April news from the East Section, up here in Scotland land. Hope you are well.

The Committee had its monthly meeting on February 21, where we discussed a number of ideas that could help and improve our Section run going into the coming months.

As I am writing this report in early March the weather has been really good to us and I am getting through the spring work, hopefully this will continue into the summer and we can have a good season weather-wise because it has been a few years since we had a good golf course would benefit from it.

I would also like to say on behalf of the Committee thank you to Ben Brookes for all his hard work that he has done for the Section, and go got some good hole positions in mind for us, please do not hesitate to email me: petemayb66@aol.com, Ross Macrae, Mobile No: 07588996635, email: ross.macrae@hotmail.com

North

West

North

Around The Green

Terry Charton of T.S.L. it’s not him then it’s a good look-a-like; then Andrew Black and David Common, both from Rickerby of Hoxham, attending the Celebration dinner on Tuesday night, in fact, Andrew is in twice. Lastly, Martin Woods, of Bognor Regis Golf Club, attending a seminar, I’m not sure if I have a hating or not out. This year the section sees two more Head Greenkeepers retiring, these being Graham Smith of Whiteley Bay, and George Grinton of Prinehead Golf Club. Best of luck to you both, maybe we will see you at section golf days then you will then go on to send out notification is of future events. I would like to thank Peter Boyd all the more poignant.

May I also say a big thank you to thank Peter for organising such a successful event, and for his excellent service to the Scottish Region over the last 14 years. He has helped establish a very well organised region and I hope this will continue in the future to build on what has been established.

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Central

North East

Congratulations on a first class February magazine especially the HTM Review. It was good to see so many pages given over to education events.

The spring tournament is going to be at Leasowe GC, and I will see you there.

Agenda

Andy Slingsby
07750467867 
slingsbyj@virginmedia.com
er, and you are watching carefully, building up the collective listening and learning about the behaviour of your new workplace. For all of that there is a relationship, and all those relationships respect and understanding plays a huge part in that relationship’s success.

My rule is that it always a month of challenges, just ask Asa English, who has recently completed his first month at Allerton Manor. All done well. Asa although your abilities are a long way ahead of mine, I know just how much time, effort and commitment it will take you to complete the training schedule, let alone the race itself. I have been fortunate enough to be attending the London Marathon on two separate occasions, and no won’t me in the deep-sea drama. My greatest obstacles on both of those days were a couple of German nazis and roadworks on a motorbike in front of me who wouldn’t move out of the way. Refusing of him I thought as traffic is banned on race day?

Christie has threatened to take my laptop away if I continue to play golf, and he is not part of the old people’s home here in Docking. Have you read your year’s subscription, and you understand what goes on? Bremer has, and was most upset that the Association thought that the England vs Scotland match at Hanksley Common GC was another reanning victory for ENGLAND. Personally, I have no particular interest as I am now the 10th reserve. It is a matter as returned by team. It is true. I must admit that my golf is a little poor at the moment but there are few who are as enthusiastic, he is my co-teacher and undoubtedly the most driven and uncoordinated way.

The programme for 2012 is as follows: May 16, for our Summer Trophy, at Rochfellt Hundred. 2012 April 15th, and then the Autumn Trophy, over the line by Nayland, Wednesday, September 26th, with the Christmas Team Event at The Feltwell, Thursday, December 6th.

The team Knockout competition is being held at the Royal Worthington, Sunday 27th May, and is the Spring Tournament at Stamford on Thursday, May 24. This is one that I am looking forward to again, as traffic is banned on the prize list. I’m sure they are now doing the prize presentation and there is anything else that you might want to hear about. Lastly ten of our members won, and was watched by his grandparents. From the prize list I’m sure they are now doing the prize presentation and there is anything else that you might want to hear about. So the annual BBQ, born in February, and was watched by his grandparents. From the prize list I’m sure they are now doing the prize presentation and there is anything else that you might want to hear about. We are here to spread the word.

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Midland

Midlands Section.

I’m sure that

was your April Fool’s jokes will be

last month’s notes the vast

into the role with no problems.

isn’t an easy one but with all our

for Alan. The role of Treasurer

will be a very good replacement

on the position and I’m sure he

long serving Section Treasurer,

found a replacement for our

thing that is just not ready to be

pressure of creating some-

ued exposure of golf on our TV

be creeping up on us quicker

The sun has just throt his

South East

Walter, 2007, has recently

will also run the Annual Breakfast

members of the Sections will get

when the course is ready is to
give to them.

On the Section front we have

found a replacement for our

leng, Serving Treasurer, Mark

has agreed to take on the position and I’m sure he

be a very good replacement for

Alan. The role of Treasurer

which I’m sure will settle into

with all the issues.

I must at this point once again

thank Alan for his service. He

showed us in the past what a

put in a lot of time for the benefit

of the Section. I hope you will all

be pleased that he has

his hobby and we hope to see

Alan at Section events for years to

come.

Hopefully you will all have received

your membership packs by now. If you haven’t then they

will be posted on Facebook and

sent to you.

That’s all for now, have a good,

April!

Midlands Region.

By the time you are reading

this, Newcastle’s new Director of

Golf, Simon Leith, has been in the

role for a month or so. It was a

surprise that he decided to leave

his role at the end of May after many

years of service to BIGGA and the East

Golf Association. Myself and the new

Director of Golf, Brian Willmott,

are looking forward to working

with him to build on the success

that he has left behind.

North East

Essex

South East

Surrey

Beacon 9th hole. I am sure

that many of you will have
taken the chance to try one

of our golf holidays.

South East Region.

Monthly meeting.

March. Although the weather

wasn’t as kind as we had

hoped, it was still a great day.

We had a very good time

getting together for the

networking and then on to

the golf tournament, which
took place at Shooters Hill.

It was a good day and

we hope to do it again next year.

Tuition

Our monthly look into the life

of an assistant greenskeeper.

Name: Ian

Age: 24

Club: Langley Golf Club

Position: Assistant

Nickname: Jag

1. How long have you been in the greenskeeping trade?

2 years.

2. What is the best thing about the career that attracted you? Detail your training route.

3. If you weren’t a greenskeeper what do you think you’d be in the military.

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

Building greens because it is a joy seeing the finished article.

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

Building greens because of the heavy back, rain, because they go like concrete!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenskeeping career for you?

Pension.

7. How will you move on in your career?

Paying my_Apprenticeship.

8. What is your nickname?

Ian Wood.

9. Which team do you support

football or otherwise? Please give any information you think appropriate.

Fulham.

10. What’s your hobby?

Playing football.

11. What’s your personal best?

30 yard chip to the green in one stroke.

12. What’s your proudest achievement?

Playing in the 2002 Ryder Cup for the USA.

13. Is there anything else you want to add?

Thank you for your time and effort in answering this questionnaire. It is always a pleasure to hear from people who have made a career out of the game we love.

The Essex Senior Combination Golf Society is an affiliation of men’s club teams from across the county. The team plays monthly fixtures against other Essex teams and the overall champion is presented with a trophy and certificates.

The Essex Upper Schools’ Golf Society is for boys in the age group of 15-18 years. The team plays and competes against teams from the Sussex Schools and also against other Upper Schools in the South East.

Golf courses are dotted around the East Anglian coast, with many of them offering tracks for people of all ages and skill levels. Whether you’re a seasoned competitor or a beginner, there’s something for everyone.

The Essex Golf Union is the governing body for all golf in Essex. The Union is responsible for the administration of golf in the county, including the running of competitions, tournaments, and educational programs for golfers of all ages and abilities.

The Essex Golf Union is also home to the Essex Golf Club, which is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf clubs in the country. The club has a long and illustrious history, and is known for its beautiful 18-hole course and stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

The Essex Golf Union is committed to promoting and developing golf in Essex, and works closely with local golf clubs and other organizations to ensure that golf is accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Whether you’re a seasoned competitor or a beginner, there’s something for everyone at the Essex Golf Union.

Essex also has some of the most beautiful golf courses in the country, with stunning coastal views and picturesque landscapes. Whether you’re a seasoned competitor or a beginner, there’s something for everyone at the Essex Golf Union. So why not give golf a try and see what all the fuss is about?

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South West and South Wales

Devon and Cornwall

Our February meeting was held at Bighugy GC, on the South Devon coast. It was an afternoon, and we had to rely on television to show us how it was done. We had managed to have 56 attendees and 20 of which 24 even braved playing golf. Strong winds and zero visibility made it very difficult for the greenkeepers to complete the 18 holes, with Andrew Prasor, Fowey, coming first with 30 points. The tee units including over-seeding and renovation of the South Coast turf iron were extremely cold and challenging. An observation included looking at the Gareden pedestrian sand injection scarifier, the Camper Vrede overseeder, the Dakota sema tractor mounted units including over-seeding and renovation of the South Coast turf iron.

One of the demonstrations included looking at the Gareden pedestrian sand injection scarifier, the Camper Vrede overseeder, the Dakota semi tractor mounted units including over-seeding and renovation of the South Coast turf iron. After the meeting, the day was spent at the Golf Course Manager’s Conference, which was once again expertly run by the Scottish Golf Union. We had over 40 people. With BIGGA’s identified Club Manager education as a high priority for the upcoming season, good golf courses are automatically likewise but I’m certain that we could all benefit from a course at a more convenient time for golf clubs and their members. We will continue to promote the golf club manager as a career of choice. The Scottish Golf Union has been actively promoting the role of the golf club manager as a career of choice. Another regular discussion topic has been the variety of weather conditions our members deal with across the UK and beyond. A recent Bulletin Board thread on rainfall statistics shows that rainfall can vary greatly from year to year, with some areas experiencing relatively high rainfall while others experience relatively low rainfall. We have been consistently amazed by the resourcefulness of BIGGA members in dealing with all that Mother Nature has thrown at them in the past few years. In some areas we have drought orders and hosepipe bans being applied from April while in others golf courses are still dealing with the after effects of severe flooding. This is when the renowned adaptability of greenkeepers comes to the fore. We will see more of this in the future as we continue to push for more research and development projects. It is clear that the good work of our members is fundamental to the success of our industry.

Good Morning South West, our Nation with a standout, the South West rugby team on the brink of another GRAND SLAM, time to give the French Rugby establishment a lesson. Congratulations on their 41 points to 10 win in the 6 Nations. The French were nowhere near their best out of the course, and our great rugby team on the same day, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Team at a standstill, and our Country at a standstill, with our Team at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill. With our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a standstill, with our Nation at a standstill, with our Country at a 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to climb out of the rut I was in and take the plunge. I wish I had done it ten years ago! Thanks too to all the clients who have employed my services over the year. For details of what I can offer and how to reach me, please visit our website from the address below.

Best of British
Bob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

**Scottish Region**

Michael Davis, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Royal St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland. 

Robin Martin, Assistant Greenkeeper, Granton, Edinburgh. 

Brian McNeil, Greenkeeper, Central Scotland. 

Andrew Reilly, Greenkeeper, Sunnybank, Central Scotland. 

Nicholas Russell, Greenkeeper, Central Scotland. 

Russell Stewart, Greenkeeper, Central Scotland. 

William Barratt, Assistant Greenkeeper, North East. 

Ben Minshill, Assistant Greenkeeper, North East. 

Garry Morse, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern Region. 

Stephen Lindsay, Greenkeeper, West of Scotland. 

William Sutherland, Assistant Greenkeeper, Scottish Borders. 

Wendy Phillips, Assistant Greenkeeper, West of Scotland. 

**South East Region**

Reece Jones, Assistant Greenkeeper, Greater London. 

Andrew Reilly, Greenkeeper, Sunnybank, Central Scotland. 

Michael Mcgeough, Greenkeeper, Greater London. 

David Wilkinson, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Greater London. 

Steve Parkinson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Greater London. 

Gary Morse, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern Region. 

Robert Caply, Assistant Greenkeeper, Greater London. 

Harry Stans, Affiliate Member, London. 

Fred Allen, Director, London. 

David Crook, Assistant Greenkeeper, Greater London. 

**Northern Region**

Gary Morris, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland. 

David Willman, Head Greenkeeper, County Down, Northern Ireland. 

Robert Bell, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland. 

Martin Macdonald, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland. 

Brian McColl, Assistant Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland. 

**Midland Region**

The carrots, Head Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

Andrew Atamny, Assistant Greenkeeper, East Midlands. 

Chris Crook, Head Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

John Edwards, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

Mike Ainsworth, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

Nick Pattrick, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

**South West/South Wales**

Christopher Rose, Assistant Greenkeeper, Exeter. 

James Rose, Head Greenkeeper, Exeter. 

James Stoddart, Assistant Greenkeeper, Devon. 

Richard Smart, Director, Devon. 

Matthew Herbert, Assistant Greenkeeper, Devon. 

**Midland Region**

The carrots, Head Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

Andrew Atamny, Assistant Greenkeeper, East Midlands. 

Chris Crook, Head Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

John Edwards, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

Mike Ainsworth, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

Nick Pattrick, Assistant Greenkeeper, Leominster, Shropshire. 

**Northern Ireland**

Clark Martin, Head Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland. 

John Paterson, Head Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland. 

**Overseas**

Henry Scapura, International Association, Australia. 

Eckhard Beimann, Affiliate Member, Germany. 

Philip Massey, Affiliate Member, Italy. 

For more information on any of the above or information for the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

**Section Notes**

A recurring theme on BIGGA’s Bulletin Boards and in my conversations with members is the importance of the relationship between the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and the Golf Club Manager/Course Manager/Secretary.

It is too simplistic to say that when this relationship is good, the course is automatically likewise good. To the contrary, I have seen situations where it appears that it can be a contributing factor. I was delighted therefore to be asked by the Scottish Golf Union to attend its Inaugural Management Development Programme recently. The SGU has identified Club Manager education as a high priority for the on-going health of the game and is offering the opportunity for current and aspiring Club Managers to undertake the Cambridge Certified Club Manager (CCM) course at heavily subsidised rates.

The first week of the course is an introduction to the key elements to the job and it is gratifying that BIGGA has been asked to present on the importance of golf course maintenance, how the Association can help and how to get the best out of the course manager. I’m convinced that if the next generation of Club Managers play a full and appropriate value on the skills of our members the game of golf has a healthy future, the SGU is to be commended on its initiative.

Another regular discussion topic has been the variety of weather conditions our members deal with across the UK and beyond. A recent Bulletin Board thread on rainfall statistics presented some interesting results. Using 20 sampler stations in England, the stations were located at various relatively short distances. I have been constantly amazed by the resourcefulness of BIGGA members in dealing with all that Mother Nature challenges them with. In some areas we have drought orders and hosepipe bans being applied from April while in others golf courses are still dealing with the after effects of severe flooding. This is when the renowned adaptability of greenkeepers comes to the fore. I’ve heard it said that this trait is a curse as it means that occasionally our members are taken advantage of, but there is no doubt that the ability to adapt to changing weather, economic forces and golfer expectations has been vital