to climb out of the rut I was in and take the plunge. I wish I had done it ten years ago! Thanks to all the clients who have employed my services over the year. For details of what I can offer and how to contact us, visit our website from the address below.

Best of British
Bob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

BIGGAs welcomes the following new members

Scottish Region
Michael Dolay, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Midland
Ryan Tulloch, Assistant Greenkeeper, Central
Wes Muirich, Greenkeeper, Central
Stuart Macleod, Greenkeeper, Central
David McVeigh, Greenkeeper, Central
Dave Mowforth, Greenkeeper, North
Kenny Howard, Greenkeeper, Central
Rory Jones, Greenkeeper, Central
Sue Cameron, Greenkeeper, South
Andrew Haddow, Assistant Greenkeeper, Central
Mick Stalker, Greenkeeper, Central
Andrew Stewart, Greenkeeper, West

Northern Region
Gary Warr, Assistant Greenkeeper, South
David Wilkin, Head Greenkeeper, Head Greenkeeper, South
Richard Ronayne, Greenkeeper, North
Stuart Miles, Assistant Greenkeeper, North
Tony Houghton, Assistant Greenkeeper, North
 Containers, Northern Algeria
Mick Ackroyd, Northern Ireland
Darren Ward, Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland
Chloe stations, Northern Ireland
Chris Maitland, Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland

Midland Region
The Carrolls, Head Greenkeeper, East
Steve Davies, Assistant Greenkeeper, East
Mike streaming, Assistant Greenkeeper, East
Andy Critchlow, Assistant Greenkeeper, South
Stuart Miles, Greenkeeper, South
Fiona Mcvey, Greenkeeper, South
Paul Coupe, Course Manager, South

South West/South Wales
Christopher Rose, Assistant Greenkeeper, South West
Ian Dyer, Greenkeeper, South West
Mark Atkinson, Greenkeeper, South West
Mike Green, Assistant Greenkeeper, South West
Philip Goodchild, Greenkeeper, South West

Midland
Steve Lewis, Assistant Greenkeeper, East
Steve Elwood, Assistant Greenkeeper, East
Martin Lees, Assistant Greenkeeper, West

Overseas

Northern Ireland
Claire McLaughlin, Greenkeeper, Northern Ireland

Overseas

Uwe Popp, Greenkeeper, Germany

Section Notes
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

South West
Hello everyone, and welcome to April’s around the green. We finally got there on February 15 with our Section, semi-final held at Milton Abbey School. I hope you all had a fantastic day, and for those of you that it gave me a good chance to show you the life of a Head Groundsman and our way of life at a private school.

We had excellent numbers in attendance, which was really encouraging for the Section, and I would like to thank all our guest speakers and presenters for making such a successful seminar. I just want to say a big thank you to the department at the school, who did provide us with a fantastic lunch and I hope you all enjoyed the pork! It was also nice to see so many people interested in the Abbey itself, which holds so much history; even one of our very own greenkeepers made an inquiry about getting married there, nice one.

April sees our first Tourname-
tment of the year, which is on April 26, at Dunwood Manor, and is a 18 hole medal round, which will be our qualifier for this year’s National Championship, held at Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Irvine. I do hope we get a good turn out for this day, as many of you will know, this will be the last round of golf to be played at Dunwood manor so I am sure it will be an emotional day for many.

We are now up and running with our own website, and our address is biggassouthwest.co.uk so no excuses, you can see what is happening in your Section. All fixtures and flyers will be available to view.

Finally that leaves me to wish you all a Happy Easter, Happy Greenkeeping for the season ahead, I’m sure that they will all have managed to have 56 attendees to the event, of which 24 even braved playing golf. Strong, sub-zero winds made it very difficult for many, with some blowing sand fill scarifier, the Camper Vredo overseeder, the Dakota spiker, the Bertec sand fill tees and the Campey Smith-Co turf iron.

One of the demonstrations included looking at the Graden pedestrian Sand Injection scarifier, which was set up a mini trial on the putting green to establish the relationship between cutting frequency and use of a turf iron and its effects on green speed. It was interesting to note that increased speed was recorded when a single cut at 15mm followed by using a turf iron as opposed to double cuts or conventional practice. Presentations started with Mike Bush M3, who did a fantastic job at St Mellion, talking through dealing with the thatch problems and the importance of team work over the years to the strong position they are in now. Steve Gingell summed up the day by enjoying the existing bunkers and creating ecological areas. There are a staff of five including Graham, Des Blackie, David Moulding, Stewart Kent and Robert Hanley. After the golf and course walk, Mick Highett, Head Greenkeeper, St Albans, from Sibbo, gave a very interesting educational talk on sand used for sports turf. Mick concentrated on matching petr- ture size distribution and also showed some products which the company have been involved with in recent years.

Many thanks to Graham and his team, and all the staff at Big- bury GC, for their hard work throughout the year. Also, big thanks to the sponsors for the day, Manna Kings and Reelfix, for providing the prizes and sponsorship for the day.

On Tuesday, March 6, we held our annual Spring Seminar at St Mellion, on the South West. The day was organised by the Section but special thanks goes to Mike Bush MG, who did the majority of the organising of the day, along with his staff at St Mellion.

The day was a round of golf and then two educational present-
ations in the afternoon. The topic for the presentations was the Surface, looking at techniques to improve surface performance. The day also included looking at the Graden pedestrian Sand Injection scarifier, which was set up a mini trial on the putting green to establish the relationship between cutting frequency and use of a turf iron and its effects on green speed. It was interesting to note that increased speed was recorded when a single cut at 15mm followed by using a turf iron as opposed to double cuts or conventional practice. Presentations started with Mike Bush M3, who did a fantastic job at St Mellion, talking through dealing with the thatch problems and the importance of team work over the years to the strong position they are in now. Steve Gingell summed up the day by enjoying the existing bunkers and creating ecological areas. There are a staff of five including Graham, Des Blackie, David Moulding, Stewart Kent and Robert Hanley. After the golf and course walk, Mick Highett, Head Greenkeeper, St Albans, from Sibbo, gave a very interesting educational talk on sand used for sports turf. Mick concentrated on matching petr-