Scottish Region

Central

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We are pleased to announce that our committee has increased in numbers with a full list of names and duties to follow next month after we have our first Section meeting for the coming year.

Well done to Gary McCandless, the Scottish Nine hole competition winner, and Jimmy Neilson’s Claret Jug by Jamie Martin on Nov 30 was well supported and we have a few other dates to look forward to in future. That’s youngsters for you.

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Just to mention a small thing, I was recently contacted by Graham Sheuer, who used to work at Balmore and Loch Lomond, but is now based in Australia. Graham has been asked to present a talk on some prestigious courses, and he wanted me to pass on the information to you via this newsletter. Graham is a member of the North West Section and has been taken up as Harrogate in January.

The North West Section have been confirmed for next year and are at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on April 26th, the Scottish Golf Association with 20 people turning up at Lloyds Bar in Glasgow with 20 people turning up. Unfortunately a few committee guys were able to be there but those who turned up seemed to enjoy themselves. We started off at Lloyds, then the Maltman, then on to One Up. Well done those guys and please keep the revellers back in the Driver for now.

Happy New year to all and best wishes for the coming season, here’s hoping it will be a good one with plenty of sunshine and only a few showers. I hope everybody enjoyed the festive season and didn’t over indulge on the festive fare. New Year’s resolutions are always a good idea, so we can add you to the database.

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Over the years like most of you, when you get this magazine it’s a beeline to the job Section and then the Section notes (if any...!…be here). No seriously we read Scotty’s notes first and then on to the jobs! I’m looking forward to finding Frandies show and also to be back on the Committee, we have a great team, who put in a lot of time and effort to see if we can have some wonderful courses, on that note I would love to see more new faces play in next year’s events as well as seeing the old faces continue to support the Section.

As you know in our Section, please come along and see what a great day is had, where you are given a fantastic course and enjoy a three course meal not forgetting a bacon供养 before you start for 2012, and to play with experienced Course Managers who you can chat and learn from and from whom one day you could be asking for a job! OK, you could be unlucky and get paired up with Ken Christie or Mel Guy...Only way to find out is to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, through machines is easy to use and maintain. Trust me, golf greenkeepers throughout the UK. Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

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Pete Maybury e-mail petemay666@aol.com mobile 07756400191 or Facebook group North Wales bigga.

North West

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Scottish Region

West

Well A GUID NEW YEAR TAE Y E AW Health and Happiness to you and yours.

We had our AGM at Niddry Castle GC, in Wilsburgh, on November 15.

The occasion was sponsored by Huxley Golf, so thanks again to Hugh for the excellent presentations - very informative! There were 32 members at the meeting which proved to be successful with some good ideas coming from the floor.

Thanks to those of you who came along to attend. Indeed thanks go to all of you who attended our outings throughout the past year.

We are pleased to announce that our committee has increased in numbers, to bring up to date the full list of names and duties to follow next month after we have our first Section meeting for the coming year.

Well done to Gary McCandless who was victorious in the Nine hole competition, winning Jim McNeil’s Claret Jug. An edge on Jamie Martin on the day.

Just the nett albatross during the round made the difference.

Gary, ‘Well done!’

So Harrogate is almost upon us and I hope and I hope to meet many of you there both in a professional and social capacity.

I look forward to all in 2012 and please phone or email if you have any queries or information you may wish to ask or pass on to our East Section Greenkeepers.

Yours in Golf

Gilles Crawford

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07756001187 or Facebook

happynewyear

All the latest news from your Section

East

Sunningdale position as Head Greenkeeper Andrews Fairmont for a new Grant Stewart, who has left St.

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Just a mention a small thing, I was recently contacted by Graham Shears, who used to work at Balmore and Loch Lomond, but is now based in the Parc de Golf du Soleil, France, who is a Course Manager for West Section. Graham is married to a lovely Australian girl and has a young son with another child on the way but he said he reads the Scottish Section articles monthly which keeps him up to date on events. If anybody wishes to get in touch them please contact me.

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The autumn program has been confirmed for next year and are at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on April 26th, the St Andrews Golf Club and Grangetown On Spey Golf Club on September 13 for the Autumn Outing. There may be a few changes - please see the website for further information.

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In October, we had our Autumn Tournament at a superbly presented Dunham Forest GC, which will again be Host Course for the English Challenge, and yet again the course condition! Wilmslow GC, and yet again the course condition! Forest GC it was a beautiful day—Autumn Tournament at a top class, as you can see from these pictures. We have two new courses for Spring and Autumn comps as I am only waiting for confirmation. One is near the coast in Tynemouth and the other is in County Durham. Soon as I hear we have the courses I will let you know immediately. And Autumn comp as I am only waiting for confirmation. One is near the coast in Tynemouth and the other is in County Durham. Soon as I hear we have the courses I will let you know immediately.

Good luck in the New Year
and always keep a fungicide on yourself.

Spercer Lloyd-Pye. Spercerlloydpye@freeserve.co.uk

Midland Region

Around The Green

Midland

Right here we go again this time last year we had several inches of snow at the moment we clear it but we have only had a light drizzle. I just hope that doesn’t come to anything I am getting to the point where I prefer it. It would be a surprise if there was a message saying that I need to go out and get a raw deal. There will be a lot to write about this year but I have managed to bring some news to you about the first bit I did any of you members watch the programme ‘The Cube on the Tee’ on BBCimonday? And, of course, did you see Alan Morton, of TSL, ‘TreeCharity company and generally a good course as one of my colleagues was a contes-

tant. She was unlucky, fast finish-
ing on that £50,000 prize. This isn’t the first time he’s been on TV in recent months as he was on local ITV channel before his wedding day crossing the river Tyne the hard way, meaning that he started from a high point then down using a paddle across that. This is the type of things people do to get attention.

Bit of golf course news, Tyneside GC is having a bit of a change on the 1st hole. They have decided which was designed all those years ago by H.Colt is going back to that style so that the greensides will be going to be altered. This has been done by Frank Pent, a specialist in these types of courses. Work is expected to start soon I believe with a few weeks to go so it will be kind of a differ-
test type to what they have. Good luck with that. Let’s hope they keep it up.

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North East

Midland Region

Sheffield

East Midlands

BB&O

As we enter January and shake off the past Christmas blues and excesses, attention can be focused on an early Spring of what and what will 2012 hold.

With the excitement and expectation of the Olympics and London 2012 it is important to note that the course is a sure bet to take advantage of this time. No doubt golfer and members will benefit from the celebrations and also those who are checking the weather pages for big events.

The Section AGM was held based behind Harrogate Golf Club and once again to improve the Section we have re-elected with Matt Nutter confirmed as Secretary. Further proposals for the year ahead are also to be confirmed. The committee are organizing a trip to if any member or friends entries will be posted and viewed on www.bboso.com site. Please send any worthy prize winning photos of your courses or coursesmanager@bboso.com.

If anyone has any news, views or opinions they would like to share for the BB&O section then please don’t hesitate to get in touch: bbsocre@gmail.com or contact the committee or Brian fiscus: bbsocre@gmail.com.

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening on the BB&O Section by following us on Twitter or follow us on Facebook for the most up to date golf news.

On new members for the Section in 2011 and must thank all members of our Committee for our hard work once again.

Our first lecture working alongside Myerscough College will take place in February and from what I hear, it was the first of this type to all members. This is a mar-
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East Midlands

Like Ross in Friends I am trying to decide what weight as we enter another New Year. Conferences will be held to discuss the 2013 Tour in the Queens New Years Honours List...What? What’s the rush! What lies ahead?...Another day. And the days gone by...I have not enjoyed the Winter weather and time pressure on irrigation systems which in turn lead to all these things happening. It is not surprising to see the course condition deteriorating but it is not surprising to see us trying to get the right conditions and standards. Attingham Park and the other Autumn tournament had to be cancelled due to frost and snow. I admit I have big plans for 2012...one of which is to improve the Section...to be held at Sheffield Section are focused for the upcoming season. If the weather plays nice for us.

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Our first lecture working alongside Myerscough College will take place in February and from what I hear, it was the first of this type to all members. This is a mar-

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Right not long to go until next year and I expect that we will have two new courses for Spring

and Autumn and Autumn comps as I am only waiting for confirmation. One is near the coast in Tynemouth and the other is in County Durham. Soon as I hear we have the courses I will let you know immediately. And Autumn comp as I am only waiting for confirmation. One is near the coast in Tynemouth and the other is in County Durham. Soon as I hear we have the courses I will let you know immediately.
In October, we had our Autumn Tournament at a superbly presented Dunham Forest GC, and yet again the course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Steve Outram and his team. One of which has just become a Father for the first time so many congratulations to Mark Hillaby.

The winner of the trophy was Steve (Bigfoot) McGuinness, from Dunham Forest, with a fine 41 points. So thanks and well done to Steve - the second victory for Dunham Forest GC as Chris Harding won the Spring Tournament at The Herkesh GC and they have won most of the Longest Drives and Greensome prizes.

Our Section AGM was held back here in Basingstoke, at the Headland Amenity, and Paul Denton was re-elected with Matt Nutter confirmed as Secretary. Fortunately, no one from the midlands was able to attend so the minutes are available on our Section website www.midlandsection.co.uk <http://midlandsection.co.uk>

After the Christmas and New Year celebrations we looked forward to the Master’s Tournament at Lingdale Golf Club for hosting our Section Christmas Competition, which was a great success. Terry Walker and his team were excellent hosts and really looked after us all too. We managed to attract some new faces to the event and I sincerely hope this trend can continue throughout this year on our Autumn Section website.

The Section AGM was held back here in Basingstoke, and the Sections were re-elected with Matt Nutter confirmed as Secretary. Fortunately, no one from the midlands was able to attend so the minutes are available on our Section website www.midlandsection.co.uk <http://midlandsection.co.uk>

As we enter January and shake off the past Christmass blues and excesses, attention is now all to move forward into spring and what 2012 will hold.

The excitement and expectation of the Olympics is sure to take centre stage. Hopefully we can enjoy the sport is sure to take centre stage. Hopefully we can enjoy the sport in the town in the evening.

Firstly, may I wish all a very Happy New Year.
South East Region

Hi all. I hope you’ve had a Happy Christmas and maybe a few well-earned days off over the festive period.

More info regarding the training mentioned last month, the First Aid At Work course is now available. I would like to offer sincere thanks to the Club for hosting this as it gave us a chance to meet other clubs and a less hectic environment.

Secondly, results from the Christmas Trivia Quiz as the new season kicks off. I have no doubt that there will never be a year where there is more team spirit.

Mid Anglia

Wishing all members and friends of Mid Anglia a Happy and Prosperous new year, the first being in January, (to be followed by the postponed AGM from 2010 due to snow).

Happily, everything has gone swimmingly and we plan to continue doing much more of the 2012 after receiving the information from the 40 or so assembled for the meeting. Mowing, drainage and many other issues were discussed by our year-long projects.

May I wish all you men one and all a very happy New Year.

Kent

Over the last few months it has been my privilege to work at Royal Mid-Sussex Golf Club. I have been an associate member of the club for many years and love the course and the golfers. I have now decided to purchase a home and take up full membership of the club.

Some of the highlights from the last year were: the Senior Cup, the Captain’s Cup and the Open qualifying club, Orsett Golf Club.

Essex

A total of 35 golfers descended on the course to enjoy the fun of the first Senior Cup. A total of 17 points were scored with the match being won by the 1st team.

Wishing all of you a Happy Christmas and a successful new year.

Vic Maynard

Best of British

Around The Green

South East Region

Mid Anglia

Kent

Essex

Surrey

Jim Croxton

Executive

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to serve this great Association as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary and as Greenkeeping as a whole continues to go from strength to strength.

In 2012 we have a landmark year for BIGGA and presents the chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved by the greenkeeping profession.

The committee proposed that they would like a new position within the Committee section, that of a President. This was accepted by the assembled members and Martin Forrester be accepted to accept the position was appointed. This was a wonderful way to end the year.

Happy New Year to you all. I would like to offer a special thank you to those who have supported us throughout this past season.

We have worked very hard over the last few months to promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe, and have the evidence of many members to support us, that more people can be encouraged to attend the event.

I hope to speak with as many of you as possible over the next few months to discuss this year’s event and the future of BIGGA as a whole.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper Internationa l or on the Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764 862 337 or at arnoldphilipsjones@tiscali.co.uk

Jim Croxton

Chief Executive
Mid Anglia

Hello all. I hope you’ve had a Happy Christmas and maybe a few well earned days off during the festive period.

Firstly, some info regarding the training mentioned last month, the First Aid At Work course is now open for bookings.

Secondly, results from the Christmas Trophy are now available. If you would like to come along, thanks and good luck to the 12 attending also there is one space available on the Process Small Trees Tcourse for members, the day is Tuesday 20th February, berksmidaggc.co.uk

Finally, I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous new year.

Nigel Pfeiler

Kent

Happy New Year!

Over the last few months it has been my privilege to work at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. I have been associated with my home golf course I have ever been associated with. My short term tenue at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club has been an experience I shall never forget and I would like to offer sincere thanks to Gavin Kinisella, and the club committee who added such a renowned venue to my portfolio.

The greenkeeping team certainly are an eclectic mix of characters who all contribute to making working there such a delight. I can recall the adoration I felt when you by name in this column but just a couple of individual’s stand out who do deserve a name check here are: Doug, Harry and Kev who are the greenkeeping staff at the moment and round top bloke, Mikey, who you shall never see north of them on the south circular, John aka The oldest tea boy in the west, who cooked the crew a superb lunch every morning and Dean, with his random noises and legendary mother who never failed to brighten up the mess room. Thanks guys.

Anyway, on to the main event. We recently played the last big Turkey Trot we have ever played on the fantastic course at Ridgbullet.

A total of 35 Golfers descended on Kev’s masterpiece in Fawickham to again revel in the company of the increasing group of incredible people and professionals friends.

One of the main events of the year for Kev was to go looking for that tenuous drive across the wild Atlantic Ocean and and presenting the chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved and to formally thank all of the members who have chosen to spend the day with us, in wonderful company, please make every effort to join us.

We are seeking guidance and support to ensure that they are the world’s number one. Alec, a near neighbour of Lee Westwood has served as both Chairman and President and hopefully will be his Deputy. Congratulations to both and also to Russell Abernethy who takes control of the Wisley Award with career earnings of £13 million plus.

A couple of Greenkeepers have been received their badges and will be seeking guidance.

We have worked very hard over the last few months to provide promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe, and have the evidence of many members to support it, that the combination of Exhibition, education, sharing of good practice, networking and camaraderie make a visit to Euroturf a must for any serious and well��tuned greenkeeper.

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South West

Hi all, I apologise to you all this month...I really don't have that much to report. I know, shocking to believe, I have no exciting tales to tell you all (maybe you could share some of yours with us)

As for the Section, 2012 fixtures will be with you all very shortly, we will send them out by email again, I feel that this method is working very well. If you are not receiving emails from me regarding the Section, please drop me a line and you will then be receiving all the e-mails you could ever wish for!

With regards to training, Paul Worster and myself are working hard to ensure we target what you guys are asking for (trust me, we are spending many hours on this). Some workshops have already taken place and many more are in the pipeline, if there is anything you should want please feel free to contact either one of us.

As finish didn’t say this would be a short one this time I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and as the main part of the whole Section we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

We also have a new Facebook page for the South West Section that one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips. I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol; Intrex Ltd; Countrywide; Britich Seed Houses; Headland; Aunoricc; Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

We have a new website that is packed full of all the information you wish to share. I would love for all of you with any information you wish to share. I would love for all of you to pull together as a Section to talk more to each other and keep South Wales Greenkeeping a fantastic place to work.

Mike Stokes, Head Greenkeeper of Whitchurch, is putting on a morning meeting together for neighbouring greenkeepers - something similar to the Lima Forum meeting some of you guys are involved in. Mike’s details are Tel: 077909214529 email: thecoursemanager@aol.com please drop him an email or a call so some dates can be arranged.

The Winter Golf Tournament takes place at Royal Porthcawl GC. Results will follow in next months magazine.

Our Autumn Regional Seminar has taken place at the Oak Tree Centre. As many of you guys drove into the venue we probably thought “Where have we come to?” but it was an absolutely perfect location and venue thanks Jane and Steve for finding the venue and I’m sure we would love to return next year.

The day itself was a huge success all speakers we’re fantastic and the event was attended by over 140 greenkeepers plus some trade members that hope many of us have made new friends and contacts and have taken valuable information back to our day jobs and it was very pleasing to meet, greet and openly question the new CEO of BIGGA. Thank you for your honesty and you time to come and speak to us.

Harrogate is here I hope the cars are full and many of you are heading up. Not many places left - about 2 weeks left to book a place so give Jane, Joors a call to book a last minute place.

Happy New Year guys.

Peter Holmstrom.

South Wales

Hello Section Happy New Year, hope all of you guys have had a 2011 and we all can make 2012 as an even better year. As you know the committee has been changed and we are asking for as many of you as possible to contact myself, Gareth Knight 07799588712, or any of the other committee members with ideas thoughts or any information you wish to share. I would love for all of you to pull together as a Section let’s talk more to each other and keep South Wales Greenkeeping a fantastic place to work.

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Happy New Year guys.

Peter Holmstrom.

Section Notes
Please email your notes to scott@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month.