Scottland

I should start this article by reporting our spring meeting at the Glen Golf Club, but as you all know, the weather beat us with rain, snow and cold winds and it is to blame for the postponement.

Our secretary Mr Ferguson made the re-scheduled date for Tuesday 24 April, so I hope all who are due to play, can make this date, plus if possible?

The section committee met last Tuesday to discuss business and there are several ideas that should interest our membership, both educationally and socially, thanks to the guys for getting that together for discussion.

The rearranged future dates for these proposals and give details so that you can plan well in advance.

Mr Phillip Butler, our education member, is to be married this year and would like to say congratulations to him and his finance. Remember to text me the relevant details Phil.

I heard of a greenkeeper, who’s name I don’t know yet, down in Kelso who was injured in an accident, on his way to work, but the details are very sketchy at the moment.

We all wish him well and a speedy recovery. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please let me know.

So, are you all on the 24 April this year at the Glen Golf Club and bring your shorts and sun cream as I booked plenty of sunshine this month.

Stewart Crawford, scrawford@live.co.uk

Northern Region

As I am writing this report at the beginning of April there are several inches of snow lying on the ground, which is a shock to the system especially as the last week of March was breaking records for how hot it was, but that is mother nature for you.

There is some movement in the section going forward. Chris Wilson has left Huntly Golf Club for Turnfurlough Golf Club to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Michael McIvor has joined Huntly Golf Club after previously working at T мягк Bay Golf Club, so I wish them both every success in their new jobs, and also my old workmate Steve Still of Newmachar Golf Club is leaving to start up his own business and I wish him every success.

I am looking forward to the Barenberg open day at Castle Stuart Golf Links as I have not been there yet and it will be very good to walk a round.

I will have all the results from the spring outing at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club in the next issue.

Also it was good to hear that the Scottish Open has secured its future short term, which is good for the game in Scotland, lets hope it can stay in the North of Scotland.

That will for now but first have to get to get in touch with me if you have any news because it’s difficult sometimes to get enough in the magazine report some months, you can get in touch with me via my mobile or the Facebook page, which is BIGGA Northern Section, and hopefully we can get more people liking BIGGA on Facebook.

Ross MacRae, 07788966635.
ross.macrae@hotmail.com

North East

What do we have in store for this month’s report? I am afraid not very much, it’s better to have some than none at all, I like to try and keep some in no matter how small.

Firstly, let’s welcome the following new members to the section, those being Jack Madisoon of Argot Hall, Gary Morre of Cleveleys and the return of Steve Cramp of Skelby Hall.

We are slowly getting more members from Cleveleys house, but I thought I would have had more since I had dropped several membership forms off as I had heard that about six were wanting to join, although I hope they are finding what they like.

I am looking forward to the Bankburn open day at Castle Stuart Golf Links as I have not been there yet and it will be very good to walk a round.

I will have all the results from the spring outing at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club in the next issue.

Also it was good to hear that the Scottish Open has secured its future short term, which is good for the game in Scotland, lets hope it can stay in the North of Scotland.

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Ross MacRae, 07738896635.
ross.macrae@hotmail.com

North West

Hi all. Firstly let me welcome a new starter at Dayhayburne GC, Peter Hartley has started an apprenticeship under the guidance of Neil Marner the Head Greenkeeper. So good luck Peter and I hope all goes well with your chosen career.

We have literally had all weathers in March from very high temps of 23’c to –1’c this morning on the 4 April, thankfully all that feel that went down has the desired effect and we are certainly looking forward to running here at Penwortham GC.

It’s the spring tournament here in the North West, so fingers crossed for good weather, and hopefully I will meet a few people who I haven’t seen for the winter months who will be able to give some information to make the column a little more interesting.

Spencer Lloyd-Pye spencerjloyd-pye.freeerve.co.uk

Midland Region

Wednesday 28 March saw the Toro sponsored East Midlands Section Go Karting event held at Wymewells in Leicestershire. Andrew Humble of Lely hosted the evening and thoroughly looked after all of us that raced on the night.

After the abnormally high seasonal temperatures that week everyone was just itching to pull on a sweaty race suit and helmet and bomb around the indoor track for an hour! It was a Forest Hill one, two and three on the podium, with Sam Voss the overall winner. At times he reached speeds of over 50 mph in his cart, second was Pete Thornton, and third Conner Gamble.

Unfortunately all three of them forgot who their boss was as I was bumped and mugged into fifth place, an issue that may be raised at their next appraisal.

Should I mention the
Scotland

Central

We had a good turnout for our seminar on 21 March to hear James Cobb tell us about the species of trees he has planted at Crail GC and the habitat they provide.

We have potentially another couple of seminars lined up for the summer.

Eric Lynne from Gruith Uni in Canada and John Kaminski from Penn State are visiting in June and July respectively and we are trying to fix up evening presentations for them.

Information will appear on the website and an email will be sent out as soon as we have more details. Members can always get the information from our Facebook page.

If you haven’t been receiving emails from either Gordon McRae or me on a regular basis, then check the website where we will have a list of these names and you can contact us.

We will update this periodically, maybe we have typed it in wrongly or you have changed your mobile address and forgotten to notify BIGGA.

As I write this in early April, the weather hasn’t spoken too soon I’m afraid, the next week we got a foot of snow! We hope you all are well and getting ready for a good golfing year.

By the time these notes appear we will have played Kasingeold and got the difficult medal out of the way.

I would like to pass on my best wishes to Peter Larter, our regional admin chap, who retired this summer. Since I’ve got back into industry and the committee Peter has always been there to give advice and help me. He is a great bloke and will be missed.

Also a big thank you to my old buddy at Otley, Adam, who has had to stand down as treasurer for the section. Another great bloke who will also be missed. We will hopefully fill Adam’s position very shortly, but until then myself and John Watts will look after things.

Thank you Mr Guy for your emails...

That’s it for now folks, any news or goss please let me know. Andy Slingsby

North East

As I am writing this report at the beginning of April there are several inches of snow lying on the ground, which is a shock to the system especially as the last week of March was breaking records for how hot it was, but that is mother-nature for you.

There is some movement in the 2018 planning world again, Chris Wilson has left Huntary Golf Club for Turriff Golf Club to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Michael Mcleod has joined Huntary Golf Club after previously working at Tayside Bay Golf Club, so I wish them both every success in their new jobs, and also our old workmate Steve Still of Newmachar Golf Club is leaving to start up his own business and I wish him every success.

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That’s for this month, Jimmy Richardson

Northern Region

What do we have in store for this months report, I’m afraid not very much, but it’s better to have some than none at all, I’d like to try and have some in no matter how small.

Firstly, let’s welcome the following new members to the section, those being Jack Maddison of Arcoat Hall, Gary Morre of Close House and the return of Steve Cram of Shalkey Hall.

We are slowly getting more members from Close House, but I thought I would have had more since I had dropped several membership forms off as I had heard that about six were wanting to join, as well as to give the secretaries, some back.

I am looking forward to the Barenbour open day at Castle Stuart Golf Links as I have not been there yet and it will be very good to walk a round.

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That’s for this month, Jimmy Richardson

North West

Hi all. Firstly let me welcome a new starter at Dayhume GC, Peter Hartley has started an apprenticeship under the guidance of Wels Mariner the Head Green Keeper. So good look Peter and I hope all goes well with your chosen career.

We have literally had all weathers in March from top temp’s of 23’c to –1’c this morning on the 4 April, thankfully all that were down had the desired effect and we are certainly enjoying the golfing here at Penwortham GC.

It’s the spring tournament here at Penwortham so fingers crossed for good weather, and hopefully I will meet a few people who I haven’t seen for the winter months who will be able to give me some information to make the column a little more interesting.

Spencer Lloyd-Pye

Northern

Afternoon chaps. At last the summer has arrived and I’m enjoying the lovely sunshine up in Haltwhistle... I hope you all aren’t as cold as me the whole week of March was breaking records for how hot it was, but that is mother-nature for you.

There is some movement in the 2018 planning world again, Chris Wilson has left Huntary Golf Club for Turriff Golf Club to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Michael Mcleod has joined Huntary Golf Club after previously working at Tayside Bay Golf Club, so I wish them both every success in their new jobs, and also our old workmate Steve Still of Newmachar Golf Club is leaving to start up his own business and I wish him every success.

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That’s for this month, Jimmy Richardson

Go Karting has traditionally been a very popular social event for the section and due to Andrew Humble and Torm’s generosity we have always been able to offer great deals for our section members. With this years’ event we offered two hours of racing plus fish ‘n’ chips and a pint for just £20, an offer we felt was too good to miss.

The event was held at Wymanes in Leicestershire. Andrew Humble of Lely hosted the evening and thoroughly enjoyed looking after all of us that raced on the night.

After the abnormally high seasonal temperatures that week everyone was just itching to pull on a sweaty race suit and helmet and bomb around the indoor track for an hour! It was a Forest Hill one, two and three on the podium, with Sam Voss the overall winner. At times he reached speeds of over 50 mph in his kart, second was Pete Thornton, and third Conner Gamble.

Unfortunately all three of them forgot who their boss was as I was bumped and nudged into fifth place, an issue that may be raised at their next appraisal.

Should I mention the


**South East Region**

**Surrey**

Thursday April 5. Will my redecorating never end?

Yesterday the lounge/dining room wall, 2 coats of the finest matt emulsion and my neck is killing me.

The greens were excellent and a credit to Mark Harvey and his team.

My playing partners, Messrs Weston and Pennells, studied every green, admiring the fine grasses and excellent putting surfaces, but it was little help to us when we had to get that little ball rolling.

Derick Culliford captained the winning team, with the Davey Pringles Trophy. Nearest the pin was Rob Barrow and the longest drive was Kevin Bosiol.

There are two daddies of the masters qualification which go to Aran and Caron Crittenden and their first daughter Kacey, born on March 28, 2016. vote for!!!

The greens were excellent and a credit to Mark Harvey and his team. **Nearest the pin was Rob Barrow and the longest drive was Kevin Bosiol.**

Yesterday the lounge/dining room wall, 2 coats of the finest matt emulsion and my neck is killing me.

**Kent**

There’s a couple of events to tell you about this month, one Annual event at Walton Heath superbly organised, as ever, by Michelle Cooper.

A glorious course beautifully presented in the early spring by Alan Strachan and his crew awarded over half a hundred of the Region’s finest greening talents.

The work Walton Heath has undertaken to prepare the green for the summer season is immense, however the rear garden has recently been turfed just in time for the Masters is in full swing on the east of England.
Around The Green

South East Region

Essex

As reported last month in this magazine we have lost a very popular Club Member, Dr John H. Farrell (Bailey of Norfolk). The Essex Section would like to express its sympathy to the family and work colleagues of John. He will be sadly missed. John lectured at very short notice at one of our seminars held at the Hurlingham Club in the late 1980s, and through Bailey of Norfolk supported the section as he did others in our Region.

Essex Section

It was no surprise to learn that the

total event

Essex Section would like to give a special welcome to the

patrons this year; Toro, Farmura and Billericay Farm Services etc we are very much looking forward to this year’s continuing sponsorship from Toro. The Section would also

the finest greenkeeping talents. It is against the Kent Section.

We are again being treated to a stroll around West Ham United’s Upton Park ground on 19 May. The match this year is against the Kent Section. Voucher for a good seat in the stand is £10. Contact Arnold Phipps Jones at ArnoldPhippsJones@btinternet.com. If you wish to enter the Team Knockout this year, entries are FREE. All you have to do is get a team of four together. The closing date is 16 May when the draw will be made on the evening at Ilford Golf Club (11.00am, start, dress code is smart/casual). The day finished with an out

Sweep ‘n’ Fill brush, again an

Essex Section Website www.essex-

agga.co.uk please contact

alastair@essexagga.co.uk or

at Ilford Golf Club (11.00am

Saturday, start, dress code is smart/casual) Wednesday 16 May, are now due, if you have not already done so. Entry forms to Antony Kirwan at Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO4 4AU or by email antony.kirwan@btinternet.com.

I would like to firstly congratulate Mr C Beeton (C.M. at the Royal Berkshire GC, Reading) on his H.N.C. with “A” grades at Ealing Downs while trucking out his distance learning. He is also enrolled on such at the same college in 1996, the first time H.N.C. can be made available via distance learning. Such of course then via mail and handwritten.

Imagine the amount of times a

store to all at BIGGA Members.

I am safe again.

Kev Morris:

laughing all week.

For both players and specta-

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Later we will have a couple

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I am safe again.
Around The Green

SIONA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

• Arin Sturrock, Central Section
• David Ngatai, North Section
• Keiron Kinch, North Section
• Andrew Paton, North Section
• Christian Foulkes, North Section
• Simon Stuart, South East Section
• Mark Henderson, South West Section

Northern Region

• John Paddick, North East Section
• Stephen Ethridge, North East Section
• Bob Lamond, North East Section
• David Dplaying, North East Section
• Nick James, North East Section
• Peter Mckean, North East Section
• Richard Bednarek, North East Section

Midland Region

• Martin Hufton, North West Section
• Lucinda, Midland Section
• Adam Chapman, Midland Section
• Kristie, Midland Section
• Steven How, Midland Section

South East Region

• Mark Wylde, South East Section
• Amanda Muir, South East Section
• Sam How, Midland Section
• Mark Isham, South East Section
• Mark Elwell, South East Section
• Chris Webb, Essex Section

South West/South Wales Region

• Melanie Bland, South West Section
• Kim Lyness South Coast Section
• Phil Parson, North East Section
• John Ward, North East Section
• Bill Latham, North East Section

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

Section Notes

Please e-mail your notes to info@bigga.co.uk by the 10th of the month.

South Coast

As I was getting ready for work this morning I could hear the rare sound of hailing hit my kitchen window which brought a smile to my face.

Once up at the maintenance block I discovered we had the grand total of 2mm.

Wow, wettest night for 8 weeks, who knew by the time you’re reading this we could be praying for sunshine.

Over the weekend has been kind to us along part of the south coast, in an average winter period of 20 days we have been able to close with Brokenhurst being on a typical clay soil structure, but with us losing just 4 days, 2 of them due to snow, the membership are happy, so that’s one less thing to worry about.

On another note I’m now a qualified retained fire-fighter at Brokenhurst fire station.

In my time away from managing the golf course, being on call for evenings/weekends when I can, I’m really enjoying being part of it all and helping the community.

On another note I’m looking forward to being part of the Open support team again, this time at Royal Lytham, it’s hard work, but great being there inside the ropes and rubbing shouldertoshoulders with the best golfers in the world as well as getting to meet fellow greenkeepers from all over Europe.

Well enough about me...

The South Coast Spring crop at Dinting Manor GC is 3 weeks away.

This will be a rather sad day for all involved as we will be one of the last societies to ever play there as it closes its doors on May 18th.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout to say goodbye to a lovely course and unique clubhouse.

A couple of dates for your diaries; please can we have good support.

The Tacit Management Trophy rolls into Liphook GC on Wed 20th June, I’m sure Mr Murdoch will be setting the golf course up to his excellent standards (with no worries of lack of irrigation this time).

The following day, great organisation as usual, the annual fracture between South Coast Greenkeepers vs Wessex Secretaries sponsored by Course Care is being held this year at Rushmorne Park GC, please make yourself available if possible and let me know if you’re free.

Those of you that have seen Crane Valley’s head green-keeper Mark Gordon recently

special thanks to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring the day and laying on an impres- sive array of prizes. We would also like to thank the catering staff for the sumptuous curv- ery, including seconds, and subsequent pudding!

Thanks North Foreland! And thanks Kev.

Don’t forget that we are continuing on last year’s successes of our Summer Pairs Knockout Trophy so please put your name down as soon as possible for what turns out to be such great fun all summer.

See the website for details.

Finally, the big one! I learned yesterday that the Essex Sec- tion have challenged Kent’s finest to a football match which shall be played in May at the absolute merce of football, Upton Park!

Obviously, Big Sam has been alerted to the fact that the cream of green-keeping talent will be lovingly caressing the hallowed turf at the Boleyn Ground so round the presence of some scouts and possibly some G1l Guu de will be inevitable.

At this time of writing we are still in the early stages of assembling a squad so please if you wish to be a part of it all let me know.

And anyone who could provide an outside kit I may have a friend who requires one...

Thanks to all for making this section such a pleasure to be a part of.

For more details of all of the above please visit the website.

Best of British,

Rob Holland

www.konggrenekeepers.com

07545142488

South West and South Wales

The following day, great organisation as usual, the annual fracture between South Coast Greenkeepers vs Wessex Secretaries sponsored by Course Care is being held this year at Rushmorne Park GC, please make yourself available if possible and let me set or Tony know.

Those of you that have seen Crane Valley’s head green-keeper Mark Gordon recently

will have noticed that he has removed the famous long locks of hair and is now sporting a new look.

The ceremonial clearing took place in the clubhouse and aimed at raising as much money as possible for CLIC servige, which is a fantastic charity raising 20 days for fan help children and young people with cancer, also their families, either in hospital or in the com-

Thanks to Mark who raised over £500 for this wonderful cause as well as raising aware-

ness of the event.

Knighuts Heath’s assistant greenkeeper Nicki Hands also has also been in the news and was on the front cover of Corp Talk after catching the first 501s of carp in 2012 in Britain.

Mark landed the carp near Blashford and although very proud of his efforts is quick to tell about the one that got away!

Congratulations Mark.

That’s all from me for now, so goodbye and happy watering...

if you can!

Keen Glass

Tel 07743 745065

Home 01202 246590

Email southcoastsecretary@hotmail.com

South West

What crazy weather we have been having recently...

Record breaking temperatures for March, I can’t believe we are now having time to use the irrigation system for a couple of weeks...

THEN they forecast snow in April, what’s this all about.

I guess my dreams aren’t even this wild, joking a side, it has been a great couple of weeks and I do hope that you have enjoyed them.

Many of you will remember

Good morning South Wales, I must start by saying well done to our rugby team.

Our battle hardened young- sters winning in Dublin then London and finally beating the French on what was an out- standing pitch in Cardiff I can say I am very proud to be Welsh.

I have been enjoying these last few weeks, as many of you know my trading area heads across the border to our neigh-

ß The Dual Master 3000iR integrates the dual functions of spin and relief grinding, returning cutting units to manufacturer’s specification.

Building on the technical foundations of the renowned Express Dual and Anglerment Systems, The Dual Master 3000iR incorporates auto-indexing relief to deliver the fastest, easiest and most accurate spin and relief grinding.

With rapid change from spin to relief or relief to spin mode in 60 seconds, The Dual Master 3000iR saves you time in the workshop and takes the grind out of sharpening.

See it in action at: www.bernhard.co.uk/dualmaster

www.bernhard.co.uk

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At this time of writing we are all in the early stages of assembling a squad so please call if you wish to be a part of this. As I was driving around in the area this morning I saw a number of budding young footballers who will possibly some day be great. I was very impressed with their standards and I will be talking to them about keeping talent will be lovingly keeping those hallowed turf of the local football field. The kicking of the ball in early stages might be a bit weak, but great things are happening so please call if you wish to be a part of this and helping the community. On another note I am looking forward to being part of the Open support team again, this time at Royal Lytham. It’s hard to believe that they miss just a few holes inside the ropes and rubbing shoulder with the best golfers in the world. As well as getting to meet fellow greenskeepers from all over Europe. We would all like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmers, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, lrrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

We also have a Face book page for the southwest section, one that will make it a lot more convenient for you all to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips. See it in action at: www.farmura.com

In the meantime, why don’t you think about something that you can do to improve your lifestyle, look for inspiration to, before smokers’ ban kicks in and I’ve seen the improvements that has come from him giving up! We would also like to thank our patronage partners for 2012, Farmers, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, lrrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

South Coast

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The tournament took place in the clubhouse and aimed at hiring as much money as possible for CLSC sergeant, which is a fantastic charity raising 20 days for help children and young people with cancer, also their families, either in hospital or in the community.

Welcome to Mark who raised over £500 for this wonderful cause as well as raising awareness of the issues of heart failure.

Knights Heath’s assistant greenskeeper Mitch has also been in the news and was on the front cover of Carp Talk after catching the first 50lb carp of 2012 in Britain. Mark landed the carp near Blashford and although very proud of his efforts is quick to tell about the one that got away!

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South West

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