North East

As I'm writing this section there's some large snowflakes falling and time to... I used to enjoy this white stuff but now prefer it on a Christmas card! At least we'll be able to notice that some items have been fetched in. I wonder what they happened to those two. Never mind at least Brian stuck it there thick and thin.

That's for another month, remember any news for me just get in touch.

Jimmy Richardson

North

On behalf of the committee we hope everybody got through January ok and got back into

the swing of things after the holidays. The months seem to fly by now and it won't be long before the season starts. Paul Sharp will soon be sending out the 200 club tickets so you will buy your own and maybe a few more and see them in place before the first outing. The two outings this year are now confirmed and we will be at Dunfermline Royal Golf Club on Thursday 25 April and then Edzell Golf Club on Tuesday 28 September. The Scottish Conference this year is on 5 May so hopefully we will see a good turn out from the North Section as it is very worthwhile attending. Robert would like to add that his colleagues have been very busy working on the 18th green at Royal Aberdeen as it has been completely rebuilt and the surrounds re-shaped. Robert added that this is part of an ongoing programme to rebuild 7 greens at the club over the next 4 years. The committee was pleased to learn that members have any pictures of last month's terrible flooding, if they would like to send any pictures we could put them in the magazine. Robert finishes as things are still a bit quiet in the section but if any member has any ideas tell me they would like to see them written up for the members to enjoy in the magazine.

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the swing of things after the holidays. The months seem to fly by now and it won't be long before the season starts. Paul Sharp will soon be sending out the 200 club tickets so you will buy your own and maybe a few more and see them in place before the first outing. The two outings this year are now confirmed and we will be at Dunfermline Royal Golf Club on Thursday 25 April and then Edzell Golf Club on Tuesday 28 September. The Scottish Conference this year is on 5 May so hopefully we will see a good turn out from the North Section as it is very worthwhile attending. Robert would like to add that his colleagues have been very busy working on the 18th green at Royal Aberdeen as it has been completely rebuilt and the surrounds re-shaped. Robert added that this is part of an ongoing programme to rebuild 7 greens at the club over the next 4 years. The committee was pleased to learn that members have any pictures of last month's terrible flooding, if they would like to send any pictures we could put them in the magazine. Robert finishes as things are still a bit quiet in the section but if any member has any ideas tell me they would like to see them written up for the members to enjoy in the magazine.
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North West

By the time you get these notes I hope that those that could attend HTME had a very enjoyable time. At the moment at my golf club we are suffering as I'm sure many are the effects of the weather over the last season. These times are hard for many of us and I am calling for many clubs to make allowances to help get members back. We just need to get stuck in and try and give the members a really good course this season, but if mother nature conspires to throw more of the wet stuff at us then we face a near impossible task. I am sure that the golf courses in this country are in great hands and we will deliver as many as possible. Hopefully we will have the venues for the golf sorted by the next issue of the magazine. I have been asked if I can arrange a training course for the use of evacuators. I have passed this information on to HQ so if any more of you are interested watch out for it appearing on the forum or website.

Cleveland

Hello everyone, my name is Martin Woods, if you don't know me please get in touch. I am still working at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club and our guest writer for this month is Chris Sheehan.

Newscast from my course this month - chainsawing! Yes it's true the only Macqueen course manager to start his capitivity at the Vale Golf Club with a drive-in on 5 January, best of luck trying to wear two caps as some of you may have noticed. Newscast from my course this next year, the early winter seminar at Desedas College February 2 and the honourable Westwell hall in January and enjoyable half day; we have another seminar coming up on the 27 February please try to attend I am sure I know Paul Lowe and Rhys Whyte have a good turnout for this February seminar. The bus to HTME ran with a great success and it was a great night and a great victory, happy retirement TC. Barry Bartlett will be doing his quiz on at the end of February; look forward to seeing the details in the newsletter. Please come along, it's good crack, pretty informal and teams are made up on the night.

I hope everyone attended HTME last month and enjoyed myself. It was a fantastic event. The lads and I did a couple of days of course and two teams of course too. I would like to wish all of you who you walked the show and went for a pint, you're missing out from the HTME education like clockwork and a lot of it is free! For the price of the fun at the Tin room, two tickets can have two full days of seminars. Make sure you badger your course manager or gents chairman next year, if they're a forward person then they will supply this by that date.

As you may just find that if you

NORTHERN NEWS

may I wish you a happy new year and hope for a dry season ahead! We can have another year like the last one as I write these notes the gloom and gloom of the weathermen from the weather centre tell us that we are going to have a bad few weeks of cold weather and I'm looking out of my window at big flakes of snow. As normal for this time of year it's very quiet on the news front but HTME next week should have a bit more gossip for you soon. I won't be there this year as I'm in for a bit of knee surgery. Hopefully you should be getting your future list for this season this month so please have a good look at it. You will agree that we are going to have a fantastic season coming up (as always) so make a good effort to attend some of them. We start the fun at the Tin room, two tickets can have two full days of seminars. Make sure you're badger your course manager or gents chairman next year, if they're a forward person then they will supply this by that date.

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Scotland

Central

Very little news to report from the Central section this month. We had a full compliment of attendees on the irrigation design seminar in December and the feedback was positive. Thanks to Adrian Mortram for presenting this. If you haven't received an email about this year's Pairs competition yet don't worry we will be sending you one shortly. Provided entries are around the same number then the format will be similar to the past two years. The meetings for 2002 are Carnoustie Burnside on Wed 17th April will be you up with the end of March. If you don't receive emails from me on these matters please let me know your correct email address or get in touch and let me know. Both email and website will appear on www.gbg.org.uk.

East

Not much on the go within the section this month, as I write this report the snow is lying on the ground again, but I am sure gardening is just around the corner? The section had a social night out during the festive period in Edinburgh with all welcome, we had a low turnout but we hope to up the numbers next time and get a good catch up going. The Open Support Group should be notified over the next month, so good luck to all who have put their services forward. At the last meeting, if any members of the East section are lucky enough to get a chance could you please get in touch if you are interested in doing a daily blog etc. of the experience. The section has looked into the option of putting a bus on for our spring golf outing being held at Seabourough on 23 April, please can all who are interested in travelling with the bus contact myself or our section secretary for more information and we can get it booked if required. A reminder also that if any members have educational topics they wish to see being put on or any ideas on what design the new golf club has had and the section could then please then drop me a line. As finishes of this report space a thought for poor Rory Melfray and his new club deal do you think he will be taking the game of golf is there plans to pass on their best wishes for the future happiness of Alex Melfray and his new partner, Angela who recently tied the knot in John Rippon who moved to Farmura and secondly to Kerr Hunter from Geddes who moved into that vacant position at Symbio, the west section would wish to both have successes in their future roles.

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**Midland**

So Harrogate, sorry BTME, has been and gone again. It’s like an annual family gathering of both close and distant relatives... We really must keep in touch more...” means “Same time next year?...” I think the standard of education at BTME was, as good, if not better than ever. As I always point out, it’s good to know that although these problems we experience aren’t new, they seem far less worrying when you hear that your peers are going through similar problems on a much larger scale.

**Surry**

The beast from the east, bad weather and a cold and frosty month. 100% of the section that I’m proud to be a member of. Over the last twenty years I’ve attended and we hope to see many of you again this year.

**Kent**

It would be very easy to blame this month’s column around the recent weather issues with the economic problems that we have been experiencing... However, I shall resist the temptation for you to see that this time of year is ideal for defrosting itself. Staff development needs to be exploited to the max and team meetings are also often bogged down by busier times of the year so I deliberately choose to make it interesting.

**Suffolk**

I would like to thank you to those companies who have chosen to sponsor us this year. If you want to see the details to Matt Nutter. All section events then please drop Sandra an e mail at Raper sandra@bigga.co.uk As there are still a few spots available for improving our services for the coming season and beyond. It is now my saddest of duties to report that Stuart Blake, who worked on our old friend Tim at Fullhurst GC, has passed away. I met Stuart on a few occasions and found him to be an honest, charming and extremely hard working greenkeeper. His death has hit us all extremely hard. Our thoughts are with Stuart’s family and all his friends at Fullhurst GC...” means “I want to convey my sympathy to Stuart’s family and friends...”

**Mid Anglia**

Hello everybody! You all are well and looking forward to what lies ahead...” means “We have another good crop of applicants this month and I’m sure you will be pleased to hear that it will be a little less testing than what was endured in 2012...”

**South East**

The note by your diary: the annual Turkey Trot back in December...” means “I recently planned and packed with memories to cherish, an education fun to savour and friendships to last a lifetime, magic and sparkle played a big role in the success of this event...”

**Local Government**

Despite a number of setbacks, the season is in full swing so it is important to make the most of the quieter times of the year when more attention can be given to each individual. On to issues in our fair county. Well, as usual, no-one has contacted me with any news so I guess anything is fine. Harrogate will have been and gone by the time you read this. I hope that you of those that made the trek up enjoyed the experience and feel suitably enlightened by the seminars. One note on service: service! When I was working at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club I got to know James Raper, a freelance sideline business sausage manufacturer, and a real expert on greenkeeping...

**Assistant Profiles**

Our monthly look into the lives of our valued greenkeepers...” means “Meet our valued greenkeepers...”

**Name:** Richard Morris  
**Age:** 28  
**Club:** Brickhampton Court Golf Club, South Devon  
**Nickname:** Footy

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?  
Seven years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?  
I have been involved in golf

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?  
Plat

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?  
Cuts the greens for the instant result.

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

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve your greenkeeping?  
More availability of job progression

7. Hobbies?  
Golf and fitness

8. Favourite Band?  
Oasis

9. Which team do you support football or otherwise?  
Man Utd

10. What is your claim to fame?  
Grande played rugby for Gloucestershire
words, so that just leaves me to say, all the best until next month.

Graham Maybury e-mail petermaybury66@aol.com, phone or text 0775600187 Facebook North Wales B.L.G.A

Midland
So Harrogate, sorry BTME, has been and gone again. It’s like an annual family gathering of both close and distant relatives… We must keep in touch more… ‘mea culpa’ time next year? I think the standard of education at BTME was, as good, if not better than ever. As I always point out, it’s good to know that the problems we experience aren’t unique, that we aren’t the only ones who seem far less worried when you hear that your peers are going through the same stressful times on a much larger scale. There for the good of God… I go on, but I trust you all have survived the blowing the proverbial trumpet of gloom and doom. I would like to be proud to be a member of. Over the past handful of years the East Midlands team have struggled to win the TWO BIGGA National Golf Champions in Derek Mayn- nett and Paul Trow, Trow, Trow. Two Students of The Year in Matt Worrmland and this year Tom Franklin. On representing the Bernard Delegation in the annual charity golf day at Colley, Andy De Wet, myself, and this year Aoa English. Wouldn’t you be amazed to know that 40% of all coffee lists no longer seem to be a comfortable and enjoyable experience in the world of greenkeepers. All of them have seen flying in and around the ground, and glad to see the back of 2012. We were all well aware of that fact – we all live longer you live. Happy Birthday Alan. It would be very easy to claim this month’s column around the recent weather issues and conditions that are affecting all. However, I shall base it on my experience as I’m sure none of you need me to. The cold and bleak conditions have all of them too. I am sure you all have observed that this is one of the hottest years in my lifetime. I wish you all a happy birthday. Lorraine is of course. The event was very kindly sponsored by T. Whit. However, I have been watching Del Boy run his errands in rounds of Open Foxes and Horsetails – because I paid a visit to Northants GC and found myself intrigued by Rob Osgood and Band A. The event is making its way to Harrogate this month and is officially going to be held on February 10. According to ancient astrology predictions, new inventions, outstanding medical breakthroughs and workshops will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first prospect! Hopefully many of you will be your impressive Cossack china. I wonder if your first
The annual Turkey Trot was held on November 30 at Worting Golf Club. George must be thanked for producing a wonderful course for the day and in particular for the conditions we had with sunshine (on the most part). Although the strong northerly lard achieved the longest drive. An outstanding job. I have never seen a course so wet, in places have never seen before wet. In fact one pond that has formed in a hollow that gouged was extracted from years ago so spectacular that I would like to keep it as another feature.

The section seminar is at Milton Abbey School on Wednesday 20th February. Speaker for the day are Chris Haynes from Castle Stuart Golf Club and in honour, John Lockyer from the Roehampton Club, Darren Baldwin Groundsman from Tottenham Hotspur FC and Paul Lowe from Symbo. A group trip to the course will be free to try players. Please let me know the time you read this, so far we have booked and do so now. Cost for the day will be as follows: £35 including refreshments, for course, £20 for members and £25 for non-members. Contact Alex on southwestsecretary@golfclubwriters.com

Well done to the group who recently completed the Essex Section Winter Twilight Course and have since attended the presentation which all the attendees enjoyed, thank you Jon!

Billy was presented a plaque for his contribution to the Section and his work in the country on a unique dune environment. Billy has been most influential to younger greenkeepers in the Section and has always been heavily involved with BIGGA and the industry. Billy is one of the most influential in the country on a unique dune environment and has been involved in the country for 50 years and has always been heavily involved with BIGGA and the industry. Billy is one of the most influential in the country on a unique dune environment and has been involved in the country for 50 years and has always been heavily involved with BIGGA and the industry.

In Cornwall. For those of you who don't know, Jon, gave a fantastic presentation which all the audience on the day, Jon gave a fantastic presentation which all the audience on the day.

After the presentation, the audience were entertained, the golfers were entertained 40+ of the attendees and a quick bit of delegation that morning saw Nick Dash and playing the first hole. It was a great day, and lead the way. The course and site was looking fantastic first flight of golf were taken off and light of the year we had just had. The greens were very firm with a lot of movement and rescue dominating the scores. A fantastic day out, the course around the course stopped off at some key areas and explain how we take it to the limit. The course had been carried out and why. One of the key areas that Perranporth have shared great in recent times is the reduction of hard material path systems and not reverting back to natural turf where possible using various types of turf stabilisation and reedbed materials. The course walk was followed by a Carvery meal and presentations. Jon Wood, Course Manager at the team. The course walk, kindly gave an educational presentation on his experiences and ideas. Chris Hall, Site Manager, kindley gave an educational presentation on his experiences and ideas. Chris Hall, Site Manager, kindley gave an educational presentation on his experiences and ideas.

A big thank you to all involved in organising the day and to all the attendees for making the effort to attend, especially those drop a few beers. Thanks to the team, it really made it a special day!

George Pitts, 07929 754401, gpatrick@yelvertongolf.co.uk
Around The Green

The business was preceded, as barbecue. The overall winning for the most welcoming halfway and thanks go to Ernest Dow for arranging such beautiful for the day and in particular for producing a wonderful course Club. George must be thanked on November 30 at Worthing Golf

South Coast

Dear Secretary,

Despite a brief lapse last month back to the latest from the South West of this month I have taken over Adam Matthews, many thanks to Adam for his hard work every few weeks in the cape were involved and Adam and Martyn Lane Signs for their contribution.

Well done to the group who recently completed the Exco. Many thanks to Jon for the time he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Perranporth golf club.

Our golfing meeting this year start with a visit to the amazing Berkshire Oak, Colin White Memorial Spring Trophy, sponsored by Avriacup on the 16 April. The cost for this day is £35 which is to be paid in advance, your booking and payment in full to Dave Allen. If you do not have any concerns or specific training ideas please get in touch with Adam at dave.allen@bbga.org.uk to let them know.

I hope you enjoyed the day as I wrote earlier don’t hesitate to drop me a line with any news or events.

Jay Goodchild
jgoodchild@boad.org

South West & Wales

The annual Turkey Trot was held on November 30 at Worthing Golf Club. George must be thanked for producing a wonderful course for the day and in particular for sustaining fine grasses around the course stopping off at natural turf where possible using various types of turf stabilisation and reedbed materials. The Course walk and Golf was followed by a Carvery meal and presentations. Jon Wood, Course Manager at the team was asked to kindly gave an educational presentation on his experiences and knowledge with regard to new products and events. The course walk was led by Pete Gross, Regional patron partners offer a brilliant opportunity for our members to play on some of the finest courses in the South West Region and Regional patrons whose support is invaluable.

The day will be the day in and play on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

Our January meeting was held at Perranporth Golf Club, Cornwall. A very frosty but stunning day greeted us, which was fantastic for the 48 attendees on the day. The golf format was Greensomes playing for the Ransomes Jacobsen Cup the Irish Cup. A great day was had by all with Pete Gross, Course Manager for the day. The course was very level and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete his NTQ Level 2 and aims to complete

Devon & Cornwall

Dillotional Christmas lunch was served with the obligatory wear- ing of cracker hats and eating of sprouts. This was followed by the presentation of prizes and the Christmas raffle. The winner in the first draw was Shuan Rees, (Shindon Heights GC) 38, 3rd Lowry Foster (Branleigh GC) 37, 2nd Stuart Sumner (Purfleet GC) 35. For the Pin on the 12th and Longest hole was won by Garry Foster (Tavistock GC) and Ben Miller (Yelverton GC) and Longest Drive on the 10th hole went to Fay Alden (Barnstaple GC). A huge thank you to our spon- sors Faraday & Taylor and Lomax LTD for donating all the prizes and for their continued support for the Section.

After the presentation, the members participated in a variety of activities ranging from Snooker to Indoor nut bowls. The team then split and divided into Devon and Cornwall and the friendly rivalry continued at Shepton Mallet Rugby Club for organising the activities. A tremendous day all around and a great way to round off the year.

Our January meeting was held at Perranporth Golf Club, Cornwall. For those of you that do not know Perranporth, this is one of the most natural links in the country on a unique dune land with the sea on two sides. Perranporth is more famously known in our circles as Parish but is actually owned by Football Club. Billy has been at Perranporth for 12 years (50 years) and has always been heavily involved with BBGA and the industry. He is one of the very professional and enlighten- ing presentation which all the system that he has shared enjoyed, thank you Jon!

Billy was presented a plaque for its 12th year in the Section, 50 years in the Industry and the help that Jon and the team have given the Section over the years. He also received a bottle of Whisky and a keeping corkscrew from the Team. Jon Wood, Course Manager at Rugby Club. Thank you Billy for a fantastic day and for all your skilful getting the day ready.

A big thank you to all involved or in organising the day and to the attendees for making the effort to attend, especially those drop who had the time off from work, it really made it a special day!

George Potts, 07979 754401, greg@yelvertongolf.co.uk

Notes

For any further questions. Tra-