It’s been a long time since the Section has had anything in the magazine and I would like to do a bit of catching up. The Section committee is now: Chairman - Jim Paton, Vice Chairman – Martin Lothian, Past Chairman - George Morrison, Secretary – Derek Wilson, Committee members - Ian Aitken, Ilse Martin, Frank Clarkson, Graeme King, Martin Lothian, Stephen Higgins.

The Section Spring outing was held over the links at Dundonald at the beginning of May. Thanks to the Frank and his staff for presenting the course for the day. There was an improved turnout of 26 golfers who made it along. It was very welcome and had a great condition, and given the recent wetting agent properties and the conditions, and given the recent weather conditions, the banter was flowing both ways on the bus, we hope to repeat for next year’s outing to Cowick if we have plenty of interest.

Thank you to Head Greenkeeper Gordon Leslie and his staff for a course presented in first class condition.

A big thank you to everyone you folk that make it to a great day those of you who were unable to attend missed a great day indeed and in brilliant sunshine.

Some other news is Ross Macauley who recently completed his Head Greenkeeping Apprenticeship at the Rigby Taylor Golf Club and has moved to the Duff House Royal Golf Club so definitely a good idea but I wondered who would let us play on their course and Mark Price, Trade Winner Blair Young Atkins. The Committee trophy was won by our Chairman Robert Patterson.

Veterans: 2nd Royal Donald Oldmeldrum; 1st Brian McDonald.


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The Section Spring outing was held over the links at Dundonald at the beginning of May. Thanks to the Frank and his staff for presenting the course for the day.

There was an improved condition at The Hills in New Zealand and in brilliant sunshine. Please try and attend one of the events as it gives you a chance to meet fellow professionals and catch up.

Central

By the time you read this hopefully the weather will have improved and the second round of our pairs championship will have been completed. It’s been a good start to this competition so far and we are looking forward to seeing each other’s courses as well as the competitive element. The results are posted on www.bigga.com/section after each round.

On the course front, we’re hoping that John Kaminiski of Penn State will give us a demonstration of techniques in this line of machinery. This will provisionally be 10 or 11 September.

Dr Taylor will arrange a visit to see round the training facility at Murray Park for anyone interested, date to be confirmed also.

Aquatrols are also willing to provide a speaker for a talk on wetting agent properties and a date for this will also be confirmed when we can tie up with a visit to this country by one of the company executives.

On the happy side of things since our last report, congratulations to our past Chairmen George and Maggie on the birth of their second child Abbie, and also at about the same time George had his fortieth birthday. George had been too well recentyl to get so well recently. That’s from Iain especially.

Heathgate hosted the Scottish National tournament in June. If anyone has anything interesting from this event please contact the Section Report then please contact me on my mobile: 07840 724435 or e-mail by jimp54@tinnet.net. Jim Paton

Scotland

by Dave Collins & 07910 641745.

In the month we held our Spring outing at St Andrews Golf Club, it was good to see a turnover of 36 golfers who made the longer than normal journey.

The section had put a bus out for this event and to travel down and the baster was flowing both on the buses, we hope to repeat this for next year’s outing to Cowessick if we have plenty of interest.

Thanks to Seabouseas for their hospitality and the warm welcome extended to our members, Alistair Holmes and his team had the golf course in great condition.

One of the recent weather they have had in the area the course played very well for the competition.

The mere Zephyr made scoring difficult on the day and the results are:

Scratch: Ross Shaw 80 nett; 1st Class winner Kenny Mail 79 nett; 1st Class runner up Scott Corrigan 76 nett; 2nd Class winner Chris Yeanan 79 nett; 2nd Class runner up George Thomson 78 nett; Trade Tournament 19 nett; Long drive Grant Moran (Think the wind died down to be fair?) and our Guest prize went to Derek (very golffed) Scott Corrigan.

Following the golf we had a short presentation from Jack Whittick (Greenbest Ltd) on their Purity soil improver, which is currently working in a spraying matter talk.

It was also good to see our Scottish Chairman Andy O’Hara in attendance, it is much appreciated by our section and we hope to see you again later in the year.

The section can confirm that we have arranged a course walk over Muirfield Links to look over and discuss the preparations for this years Open Championship, this walk will be held on Tues day 2 July at 2.30pm and will be CPD registered, the walk will start from a tour of the course and a Q&A session with the Course Manager Colin Irvine.

This event has just 40 spaces, please get in contact with the section so to place your interest in attending this event will be open to all sections.

The Committee would like to thank our friends from Scarthingwell Gordon Leslie and his staff for a course presented in first class condition.

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Some other news is Ross Macrae of the Highlands GC has been awarded the Apprentice trophy was won by Wilson. Second Class: 1 Martin Wilson. Second Class: 1 Martin

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praise that you rightly deserve. As you may have noticed in last month’s magazine I am no longer able to act as Secretary and that we have been looking for a member to fill this position. After we had 20 applicants down we were able to undergo an interview process to select the best possible candidate. We hope that you have a speedy recovery. Please feel free to contact your Section Secretary if you have any comments. We would encourage you to remain updated on all matters by following us on Facebook at the email address below. All entries including pay- ment details are available on the website at www.bbbogolf.com

EAST OF ANGLIA
Once again apologies for the late update. Our first fixture of the year was at Kelling Hole GC and I am pleased to announce that we have it all ready to go, however the computer server has gone down! Next month I will try it on my iPhone!

The season launch was held on 28 February at Newmarket Golf Club. Once again an excellent day with up to 50 people turning out on the day. Steve Austin and Peter Halls of Fenchurch’s welcomed everyone to the first tee and provided refreshments at the halfway point.

A big thank you must go to the Staff at Newbury and Crookham GC for providing food and drink to all. Richard Rand at Crookham also demonstrated the latest in spray nozzle technology at the course.

The weekend at Kettles Country Club demonstrated the latest in nozzle technology in particular the benefits of “fine drift” nozzle.

The discussion with Ian Macmillan from The Great Turf Company about the benefits of activated microbial management and work carried out on course construction in Europe certainly proved the most thought provoking of the day.

There was also a stumpy competition which was open to everyone, with Dan Lightfoot from Bearwood Lakes giving an interesting presentation about his club and course and the best ways of communicating renovation and improvement with the membership.

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East of England
Once again apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out. As usual, we have had a lot to report on and I am sure you all have had a very busy Spring. If I have got all this right, we will type it on my iPhone! It’s a bit of a chore sending it. Next month I will try to get it typed up on the computer and will try to make life easier on the day.

Around The Green
The Roundhouse, 16th Brian Kemp; 3rd Trevor Hurn, 10th Brian Swamp Park Park (near Newark) - match vs. secretary, 16 October Spalding - match vs. Nick Ellis. The Roundhouse are still holding firm at their very own Frilford Heath G.C. Please check the website for details and entry forms www.bgogreenkeepers.co.uk
Easiest is interested in training, please drop us an email or drop by our training sessions then please get in touch with Ed Stunt or Sandra Raper - sandu@bigga.co.uk
BB&O
As we approach the halfway mark in the year and with two of the golf majors completed hopefully everyone has got their courses through spring and maintenance renovation work, and can now enjoy the benefits of some decent conditions with the golfers on form as well as some better weather. However it is not over yet, we have got another five months to come and if the weather is good then it will be all the better. A lot of the golfers after the pin prizes were donated by Banks Amenity Products Ltd, Ramsomes and Jacobsen who are lucky with the weather and will improve and by the time you read this the graves will be in glorious mid summer.

BB&O
You have any educational needs or are planning a summer evening event - another time.

Mid Anglia
Hello all and once again just as we seem to be turning the corner it decides to go cool on us all, hence the weatherman’s as usual with a few seven irons away. With the Capital seemingly only a cinder away from a lower than normal summer, and with the Capital seemingly only a cinder away from a lower than normal summer, I am sure things will improve and by the time you read this the graves will be in glorious mid summer.

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**South Coast**

As I write in mid-May it’s 11 degrees and raining again, hopefully the weather that we’ve had on summer conditions over the bank holiday weekend, a rare occurrence indeed for a bank holiday.

A fantastically busy day was had by all at the first Sectional event of the year at the excellent New World on 24 April.

Entries as usual to Kevin Glass, Keppoch Cottage, mobile 07867 740745, email glass20003@hotmail.co.uk, all payments to be received before the 25th of the month.

Congratulations to Jon Worral on achieving his 3 qualification in excellent time, I assume it will be with a distinction you expect anything else from you Jon?

Tony Gadd

**South Wales**

I just have read through what I wrote for ATG this month last year and it started “I feel it in my fingers I feel it in my toes” that famous Wet, Wet song, the last six weeks couldn’t be further from that.

In 2012 April and through May has been a beautiful warm and dry.

Our spring seminar held at Royal Portrush was a huge success, record numbers in attendance.

Early morning talks included “one of the best seminars South Wales has hosted” and I would like to thank Garth Knights for putting the day together, The speakers, Rhysand Envisport and Mark Hunt Headland Amenity, Adam Pounds Tillers turf, Richard Hayes Sports Metal, Kevin Scares Turf Keeper and the one and only Steff CPP of Grass Greengates were terrific.

Thanks to the sponsors of the day, whereby, and in the usual fashion without you guys attending we could not hold these events.

Many of you reading this will already be aware our Secretary Gareth Knight will be moving on to pastures new albeit very sandy pastures. I wish the rest of the section would like to thank you for the hard work you have put into our section with dedication and wish you and your young family.

The cost of the day will be £25 with first tee off at 1pm, so everyone can go to work for the evening.

The next events coming up are Sectional events in the New World on 28 May, and Sectional Open Tournament on 12 June at Kidwelly Golf Club. Remember that the Summer Tournament start time has been pushed back to 1pm that is June 12th so please arrive in time to Adam as soon as possible to ensure your place in the field at this fantastic course.

Finally, welcome to new Sectional member Kevin Williams from Trewithen who has recently joined the section. Keep the momentum going and we will see many of you as possible at the upcoming events.

07984422295
jgoodchild@bowood.org

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**ESSEX**

Our first golf day of the year was held at Frinton Golf Club, with 26 members and guests taking part. The Chairman Ian Lathrope and his team have brought the course up to an exceptional standard, with fine slick greens and fairways that were nearly as short. To break with tradition we held lunch before we played golf, after which our Chairman Ian Lathrope presented last year’s Chairman Mark Stoppes with a small gift as a token of our appreciation for all he did for the section during his term of office.

The section would like to thank all those involved in making our courses events after a period of “warmer” weather that we’ve had on summer conditions over the bank holiday weekend, a rare occurrence indeed for a bank holiday.

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**Greenkeepers Training Committee**

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme includes Centres and Training Providers. In simple terms the Centre offers a range of Government accredited qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme and the Training Providers offer training courses, workshops and seminars of a less formal nature.

Currently there are 10 GTC Quality Assured Centres; 2 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 6 in England.

GOSTA Training and SRUC Elmswood Campus in Scotland; Deseal and Penrith Colleges in Wales; and Carrington, Duchy, Myerscough, Oaklands, Reaseheath and Plumpton Colleges in England.

The GTC is funded by: Scottish Golf Union and the Golf Union of Wales.

**Symbio**

Symbio is committed to educate more and greengrocers in a “wheat before the surface” series of presentations which all relate to “brining life to your soil”.

“what happens below the surface”

As greenkeepers you offer your services to QA Centres and attendances at seminars and workshops.

The maintenance and management of woodland, heathland and SNH’s can be very controversial and without proper training can be detrimental if not carried out to an agreed plan. John Nicholson has many years of experience in woodland management and will show the STRI so help is on hand in these very specialist areas.

Swan Golf Desig has hosted course design and renovation workshops in the past and are now in presentations to employers as well as greenkeepers.

It is the GTC’s intentions to develop workshops using several QA Training Providers aimed at employers and Course Managers and England Golf have very kindly agreed to support this.

BISGA will continue to focus on providing greenkeeping workshops and these are available to join the GTC continue to engage with more employers and courses and workshops.

Scottish Golf Union and the Golf Union of Wales.

The GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme is not a selection of “col- leges and companies joining an exclusive club for a subscription”, far from it. Individuals, companies and colleges can all apply to join the GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme whether they offer formal qualifications or are involved in informal education and education for greengrocers.

The GTC’s intention is to ensure that anyone associated with the game of golf is able to maintain an agreed plan and look after your soil.