By the time you get this report the Scottish Conference will have passed so hopefully there was a good turn out from the North Section. Paul has sent out the 200 club tickets so hopefully you have them all by now and will have noticed we have 3 sponsors again this year Fairways GM and Sheriff Amenity so thanks very much to them for their support. The Spring outing is at Duff House Royal on Thursday 25 April sorry to keep mentioning it every month but it is important we have as much support as possible. Speaking about the Spring outing I should remind you that a decision was made at the last committee meeting that there would be no more guest outings allowed at our outings just members and trade. There has been some movement in the section with Chris McCallum leaving, Peterculter Golf Club and moving to the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre and Andy McMillan joining Inshes Golf Club and Centre and moving to Peterculter Golf Club, Also Matthew Brown from Links Golf Club is sadly leaving the house but good luck to them in all their new positions.

NORTHERN

I’m sat in glowing sunshine outside our house thinking this thinking this last week I was knee deep in snow! A few days of dry weather forecast so we can get on with our much needed layout work. Interesting times for me at the moment as we are having our sports books printed up and we’ve been busy moving the machines out and sifting through 25 years of stuff, know that you old bloke as away and ‘will come in handy that will one day’.

North Carlisle Autumn outing is 19 Sep- tember at Eastwood golf club, which will be interesting considering all the changes that have been made as a result of the new MM7, thanks to Neil Lindsay for arranging the course.

Congratulations to John Gardiner in securing the position of head greenkeeper at Elderslie golf club, Hope all goes well and you have every success for the future.

I’ve been approached to organise a game of football and would like to have a much about game first to select a team to northern England. I've managed to enrol the West Region members to our new Course Manager at Whitley Bay so expect a few things to be lined up over the next few weeks, further details will be published in the magazine.

April 11th an Education event will be held at a local golf club with two top speakers on behalf of the section between 7pm - 9pm, details will be sent out to members over the next few weeks non-members are welcome as are anyone from the Cleveland Section.

NORTHERN REGION

I’m sure it does for many of you.

Cleveland

News from the City of New- castle Golf Club. Finally a BfB respite in the weather means Turf Care have started getting their teeth into our ragtime which involves three greens and we’ll be putting the dinghy back into storage. We are planning the Cleveland section around June/July which will be a eight venue tour.

Cleveland Spring Tour which will be held at Swansea Castle Golf Club. Always a good day; plenty of bad shots, prizes galore and good company.

A city not to be missed and in some occasions quite NORTHERN

a technophobe, - keep up the good work! Barry Sheffiel

As before with Mike Brier up to work with Ade. The season starts here whether you like it or not, week- ends apart we still have a few weeks parties now start filling our diaries. The North Wales and North East are on separate dates at Denbigh Golf Club on Wednesday 13th March weather suitable sunny day, we where treated to some very interesting and in some occasions quite
By the time you get this report the Scottish Conference will have passed so hopefully there was a good turn out from the North Section. Paul has sent out the 200 club tickets so hopefully you have them all by now and will have noticed we have 3 sponsors again this year Fairways GM and Sheriff Ammenity so they very much to them for their support.

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There has been some movement in the section with Chris Stobbs leaving, Peterculter Golf Club and moving to the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre and Adam Cross leaving Inshes Golf Centre and moving to Peterculter Golf Club, also Matthew Irwin has been with us for a few years and is sadly leaving the industry but good luck to them all in their new positions.

Hugh McLatchie got in touch to say he has now been Head Greenkeeper at Peterhead Golf Club for 25 happy years so I am sure all the members pass on their congratulations and I am sure if you are a member you will stop and have a few stories after all that time.

Hugh has been in hospital for tumours on his hip so it is with great wishes on a speedy recovery but not too quick as it might be a chance to somehow else a chance to win the committee trophy at Duff House. Remember to get in touch if you have any news, no matter how small. Thanks for now Robert Patterson mob 07931639548 and Dale Robertson 07784517354.

I would like to welcome on board the newly formed Golf Foundation, Stuart Taylor, many thanks for your support. Other things going on during this section, European Tour player and former Open Champion Paul Lawrie is redesigning the Links at Wigtown which I am sure will be an even better track once it done.

Still waiting on some feedback from the section on your interest in our section on sports/health from Richard Atkinon. John Walker also wishes to say that he has been a “wonderful” format for some greenkeepers in this area and further afield and we will have a hard act to replace! John, we hope you keep in touch and be a hard act to replace! John,

Congratulations from everyone throughout the section to Lee Scott from Newmachar Golf Club is sadly leaving the industry to take up a new role. Everyone’s wishes on a speedy recovery to his family and to say he has now been Head Greenkeeper at Elderslie Golf Club, I hope all goes well and you have every success for the future.

It has been approached to organise a golf game and would like to have a much about game first to select a team and thought it might be okay to organise the south of the river against the north so we will be looking forward to it and will be in contact with the month for names. Finally, if anybody has any items they wish to share or you are interested in the football then please contact me on 07790757015, thanks and see you at the next football game.
taylor@biggalowgolfclub.com.

I’ve managed to enrol the following members to the section- committee member: Michael Gunn, James Parker and David Willsson- my new Course Manager at Whiteby Bay so expect a few things to be lined up over the next few weeks, further details will be in published in the magazine.

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NORTHERN
I’m sat in glowing sunshine thinking this time last week I was deep in the woods.

A few days of dry weather we forecast so can we get on with some much needed work on the course. Interesting times for me at the moment as we are having our rehab courses restart. I have been busy moving the machines out and sifting through 25 years of stuff, know you the old boy as stored away and “will come in handy that will one day”. Time flies for me these days as I find it quite unbelievable that I’m now writing notes for the March edition of the magazine. I’m sure that many of you are ready for the warmer temperatures and the possibility of a bit of growth to try and establish some signs of a golf course after all the inclement weather. When some of us are next together we possibly try and create a weather dance, we could all take part in so we might hopefully get a summer were we can create a golfer other to be proud of – or maybe I will just practice it on my own!

On the section front we are hoping to hold a lecture at the end of this month which you should have all received into an Golf fixtures for the year and future cards should be reaching you soon. Thanks once to all the clubs who have given us the use of their courses in the year.

Having spent three days at BTME this year I had first-hand experience of the show and the seminars. Unfor- tunately we didn’t see too many guys from in our section – I am sure due in part to the weather change but the south of the river we were can create a golfer other to be proud of – or maybe I will just practice it on my own!

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In last month’s notes I could not attend BTME but feedback has been positive and over the next few weeks in touch if you have any news. Andy Slingsby andy.slingsby99@googlegmail.com.
MIDLAND

**MID ANGLIA**

I hope you are all well and in good spirits, living in the eternal spring/summer of your golf club!

**EAST MIDLAND**

Apologies for the lack of writing in last couple of months, my laptop seems to have been playing up, so please bear with us.

**SOUTH EAST MIDDLE**

Finally, we’re back with the final round of this month’s newsletter. We’ve had a few changes this month with new members joining the society, so please welcome them on board.

**SURREY**

Spring is just around the corner, hopefully we’ll have a chance to interact with other greenkeepers and gardeners around the area. Once again please keep an eye on the website for updates and events.

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**ESSEX**

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**Around The Green**

**BIGGA to contact me.** Pete Maybury ment we all wish him all the best after 25 years in their employ-

**MID ANGLIA**

I hope you are all as well and in good spirits, living in the eternal places of peace and beauty, with the blackthorn flowers blooming around the corner. I am starting to feel like Michael Fish in these reports as I go on about the weather. We were hit with yet another front of heavy snow in February leaving all courses closed again for the 3rd time in quick succession. This really isn’t ideal and I am having many of you on my back. I know that all you are all pleased to see the back of this harsh winter and praying for some much needed rain. We have however as soon as most of us have forgot-

**ESSEX**

What was it about the career path that attracted you? Working outdoors, the care of greenery, the friendly and relaxing atmosphere? Whatever is on Radio One now, but few would complain. The Essex. It was a great day, a well deserved one. The Essex club had arranged a full programme of educational days had been cut, and a few puddles around the course dawned to a cool and windy morning. On the day, we were treated to magnificent views of the Pacemakeby - banger racing circuits. Enough said. On 18th April, our host Mark Haver and Co welcome you to a Torrey Pines GC perched along the edge of the Pacific Ocean is one of the best municipals, and one I had the pleasure of playing on a very cold and windy day. The South course was home to the 2008 US Open and reopened by many as one of the greatest champions in history. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
**SOUTH WEST & WALES**

The weather must be менen— after one of the wettest

December’s on record, a solidly

frozen January and a set, cool

dark start to February (some might call it winter) there are

glummers of a rigette on the horizon. This morning the sun

is shining, temperatures are up

ever so slightly and there is a

touch of spring in the air, lo
gain.

On 1 March the section is

hosting a brilliant event at

Chippenham Golf Club. The
day will involve a course walk in the

morning hosted by Course

Manager Chris Sealey who will give everyone a tour of the

recently constructed holes and
tell the trials and tribulations that challenged the club during and since construction. Following on in the afternoon there will be five presentations given by greenkeepers from across the region, most of which will you.

As promised last month the years fixtures have been final

ised and are as follows: Wed 24

April, Ameln Minchinhampton Golf

Club, South Devon; Wed 29 May

Section V Secretaries The Manor House, Wed 12 June Summer Tour-

nament Kingswood GC, Thurs 15

August Section V Welsh Chip

ping-Scubury, Thur 26 Sept Sec-

tion V South Coast North Wilts

GC, Wed 16 Oct AGM Pilton GC

and finally Thur 19 Dec Christ-

mas Tournament Ogbourne Downs GC. Please note that the

Summer Tournament tee times have been pushed back to 1pm

with light lunch beforehand to enable

more of us to make it after a

long day at work.

**Devon and Cornwall**

Our February meeting was held at Thorley Lane Golf Club, South Devon. After some very wet overwight conditions including

snow within a few miles away, we were very pleased to complete this event and thank you to the 50 attendees who made the journey. The golf format for this was individual Stableford playing for the Toro trophy. Results: 1 John Wels

ford (Warren) 34 points, 2 Pete

Newman (Wringstoke) 33, 3 Gordon Tamblyn (Munton) 30 points. Gordon also won longest drive and nearest the pin.
The remaining members were taken on a course walk led by Vic Dyer (Head Greenkeeper). Vic has been at Thorley for 18 years and has been Head Greenkeeper for seven years. The attendees saw all parts of the course which was in fantastic condition and a credit to Vic and the team. The walk culminated in a visit to their brand new maintenance facili-
ties. The new complex has been extremely well designed and laid out taking into consideration visual impact and economy of space. I would strongly suggest that if anyone were considering upgrading their facilities to visit Thorleyton.

A huge thank you to our spon-
sors for the day, Devon Garden Machinery and Martyn Lane Golf for sponsoring the day and the prizes. Also, a big thank you to Vic, the Greenkeeping team and all the staff at Thorleyton for helping it become a very suc-
cessful and enjoyable day.

Section Minchinhampton was taken up to Harragote again this year, sponsored by Furumara and Sher-
riff Amenity a big thank you to

both for supporting the Section. Nine members made use of this

including Kevin Paterson (Te-

voet) sponsored by the Region, Martin Cornish (landscape) selected and sponsored by Duxby College and Round

ation to Anthony ‘Jackie’ James for driving the bus again, especially with the wet weather conditions, thanks Jackie!

Our Summer Meetings to put into your diary: The Point at Polperro Wed 22 May, Section Championships. Triggsea GC, Tuesdays, 2 July, Devon v Cornwall match. George Potts 07929 754401

gutta199@bigga.co.uk

**South Wales**

Good Morning South Wales, I’ll start by saying WOW what a fantastic BTME this year. I have never seen the show as busy as it was on Friday and Wednesday considering some of the machin-

eury guys were not in attendance and more importantly the hor-

rendous driving conditions on the way up.

I’ve never seen so many guys from South Wales make the over 500 mile round trip even (the Crago team) to join and sup-

port the show. Without you guys attending and supporting the trade stands many of the things we are able to do within BWIGA wouldn’t be possible.

Good old Welsh weather! With the snow finally melted the fol-

lowing week saw over 150mm of rain in places making what has already been a dreadful winter even worse. ‘Please the man uppers can you please give us a nice, warm, sunny summer we need one please’.

I can now report our first golfing fixture will take place on March 29 at Fairwater Park GC near Swansea, the event is a stableford format so hopefully we can get as many of you guys attending as possible. Please ask all members of your teams to come and take part, please book your places with Gareth Knight in advance.

Kind Regards, Peter H