**SCOTLAND**

**EAST**

Good to see that spring has actually started to arrive, better late than never I say as the weather has been wakening havoc - if it snows now it’s the wind blowing tons of sand over our courses. I received a picture recently taken at North Berwick West links after sand had blown over into the 1st fairway to create a massive new temporary bunker! Think it was a hard shift to get the area back to normal by all accounts.

We can confirm we have the opportunity to attend a get together at Musselsburgh races on May 24 for some banter and a catch up! (and I have been reliably informed that our new Vice Chairman has got a few red hot tips for the night also). The first race is at 6.15pm on the night, please contact the section if you are interested in attending.

The first spectactor stand was started to go up at Muirfield, and I’m pleased to say that our secretary Stuart Ferguson has been appointed to the Selection for the Open Support Team. By the time this report appears our Open committee will have been completed at Seaquakes, report to follow next month.

Looking ahead, May is going to be a busy month with the final of the Scottish isle championship taking place on Thursday 11 April at Lytham. The tournament at Heworth GC, this been our first visit for a very long time. What a joy to play there the course is still looking beautiful as the greens as they were quite firm and slick - a credit to the greenkeeping staff and his staff and not forgetting the catering staff and Bernice Craik. It was a great day out for all of us. Steve and we wish him well for looking after us very well, I’m sure we will go back there in the near future.

Not a bad turnout for the Spring outing numbers were up slightly with one or two regulars missing but a couple of non-members came to sample our day out and are joining next week. Now for the leaders board:

Best Net: Ritchie Bell, Whitby Bay GC, Best Nett Steve Pusey, TS.L. (36) 56, JS Richardson 75, Hexham GC, 5, Oliver Siller, Percy Wood GC, G Lee, 79, Tyneside GC. I would like to again thank Sandra for doing the cards and looking after our non members and to the following companies who sponsored the event: - Rigby Taylor, Rickerbyh of Hexham,Greenlays and T.S.L. Michelin.

As mentioned last month, this month we have a seminar on the Support team. The seminar will be suitable for the Support team for this month. It will be strange to mention for the first time in a few months.

**NORTHERN**

The spring tournament took place on Thursday 11 April at Lytham. Nine teams entered, with one team not turning up. There were only thirteen of us who were able to attend in the tournament. The presence of the masters over the weekend I am waiting for the comments from the players as I am really looking forward to our first golf day at Hornefield if the weather is good. It looks like it is Hornefield is filling up nicely and looking great. Shortly we will announce a trip for us members to the Leeds/Bradford area if the weather and accommodation is suitable and there is a trip available. I will report from Hornefield next month - please get in touch with any gossip for me and get cuttings.

Andy 07560407687 Andy. silingby98@googlemail.com

I’m sat after my first match this month. This will definitely be the first of the season. We finished 17th out of 18 teams and I have been given a date in the future which will be a lot better. I have been given a date in the future which will be a lot better.

**NORTH WEST**

The tournament started on Thursday 11 April at Lytham.

There were only thirteen of us that sat down for the meal and only twelve played in the tournament, I can only put this down to our members not being too interested in golf. However, Hornefield is in excellent condition, with the feedback received it was well worth it. Greenkeepers from the following golf courses attended: Tynemouth, Portishead, Whitby Bay, Hexham, Close House, and a couple of retired ones as well.

Class members Keith Cann-Evans formerly of Hunter Grindsen, Glen Baxter of Blyth Greens, and Carl ‘I keep milestone records’ and Longest Drive prizes were sponsored by Tacit and the Countrywide.

Mick Marvel. Will Slater won Longest Drive for greenkeepers and Carl ‘I keep milestone records’ for non-members came to sample our day out and are joining next week. Now for the leaders board:

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**NORTH EAST**

I finished the Brighton Marathon in 4hrs 6mins 34 secs, so I have to consider breaking my next hour target but I know a man (Derek) who has run a sub 3 hour and is doing the London Marathon for the 8th time. Anyway, as mentioned last month, we are looking at a seminar in early 2014. We are looking at starting a new monthly newsletter which will be table at our competitions and playing a two tier system to allow for a group of people to qualify for a prize all of which are exciting changes for all.

That’s as much as I have to say for you this month. If this is the last time you will hear from me as I am going on holiday for the Easter holidays and I will then start a new one for the next month. With all of my thanks to everyone who donated for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research and we raised over £4000 on the night. Thank you to everyone who donated or sponsored me, www.JustGiving.com/JustGiving/Ske661 is still open for donations. Right, I’m off for a massage.

Greg Skinner M: 07970 951264 greg.skeiner92@hotmail.com

**NORTHERN**

Unfortunately I start these notes with some bad news depending on how you look at it. I am sure many of you are aware that I have taken up a new position in the industry which means that I am not a full greenkeeper member. This means I no longer sit on the section as section secretary. I have to admit that this is a big disappoint for me as I am looking forward to my next term on the Support team. However, in the role I feel as a section we are moving forward and I hope you are all happy with the progress.

But rules are regulations whether you agree with them or not, as a result of this the section is looking for someone to take over the role. I would support someone in the role as much as possible initially but I know a man (Derek). Well done Derek McInnenet. In Category 2 Antony Binydle returned 36 points to win with Neil Rodger (35) and Shaun Bullin (36) being placed second and third respectively on the section front.

The Trade prize was won by Roger Lupton of Toro with 38 secretaries points to win with John Rader and Associates (MC Co) second and Barb Melliar third. The nearest the pin was won by Jordan Baker and the Longest Drive was won by Jack Nicholls of the York Golf Club.

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The next tournament is at The Duchess CC and it will be on the 20th of May. I hope to see you this month.

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The next tournament is at The Duchess CC and it will be on the 20th of May. I hope to see you this month.
At Heworth GC, this been our first visit for a very long time. What a joy to play there, the course is in better shape than ever, the greens especially as they were quite firm and slick - a credit to the staff. While there, he and his staff and not forgetting the catering staff and Bernie Craig the GM secretary and all for looking after us very well, I assure you to go step back up there in the near future.

Not a bad turnout for the Spring outing numbers were up slightly with one or two regulars missing but a couple of non-members came to sample our day out and are joining next week. Now for the leading scores; Best nett: Next Paper Dave Weir 73 JS Richardson 75, Hexham GC, G Ollier 87, Perry Wood GC, G Lee, 79, Tynedale GC. I would like to again thank Sandra for doing the cards and looking after everything and to all the following companies who we are sponsored by.

- Rigby Taylor, Rickerby’s of Hexham, Greenslades and T.S.L. Mackintosh of Newcastle.

Catching up with the up and coming players is

- Robert Skinner was the latest emerging talent on the Open Support team for this years Open, well there’s a third going which I didn’t know of until recently and that’s David Wilkinson from Whiteby Bay GC, he put up a very strong performance there which I’m sure he will be proud of.

- Richard Jenkinson, from Tynedale Golf Club, put up a very impressive performance there which I’m sure he will be proud of.

- Warren Beveridge is sadly leaving Peterculter Golf Club after seven years and leaving greenskeeping as we would like to wish him all the best for the future.

- Paul Shaw has replaced Warren with Steve Cocker from Inchmarlo Golf Club so we would like to wish him all the best in his new job and just in time to learn how to operate all that wonderful new machinery.

- Robert Skinner was told that he won at Mur- fied and I’m pleased to say that our secretary Stuart Ferguson has been talking to him in selection for the Open Support Team. By the time this report appears our summer programme will have been completed at Seabrooks, report to follow next month.

- It has been a fortunate month. It has been fortunate enough to write a small article for GI (sorry about the picture quality there) that’s my best side! Again if anyone fancies writing a piece then please get in touch as we have an Open day at Rothbury GC on the 23rd which is going to be a good fun guys so let’s give it a go. Until next month, keep your tickets ready and remember to apply lots of sunscreen with all the sun that’s coming.

-Congratulations to Paul Armitage of Leicestershire GC who has recently become a dad, a good excuse for not making the spring outing. He’s still trying to get caught up on his sleep. All the BIGGA members at gbigga@gbigga.com are also in for a change shortley as the course opens for play this month. It looks like we might have golfers out there after an extended grow in, welcome back to normal.

-We have an education event planned for 7.30am on Thurs- day 6 June. The venue is likely to be Elwood College and the speaker is Mike Joan of Communications. Mike is a regular presenter at the GIS show for American Superinten- dent’s at their February events showing out in the industry to Course Superintendents. Mike is coming over in the near future so we hope you will get riled up there everyone to see him.

-To all of our 40 members I would like to thank you for your support and companionship over the last five years and I will be offering you this month. If this is the last report you will have to pay for your subscription. If you get your subscription next month it was decided that if you put it away and forgot about it it was.

-For the very first visit for a very long time. It was a very rewarding position. The section visit for November and it is very much appreciated.

-As always we have a big thank you to them from the section vi and this year it was obviously the last visit for them.

-Dealing with the tournament at the Bath Golf Club and I’m sure we will go back there in the near future.

-Scott Corrigan scottcorri- gan@aol.com on 07877098237

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Executive! As usual I’m late with my notes. Let me tell you a little story, but with a warning. I often have a habit of throwing away a bowl of orange squash made up in a proprietary pop bottle, at the bother of putting the lids mates, gained from the bins.

Decadence has never been my love and I do not go in for the cheap stuff. Whilst feeling the greens I stopped short and snatched a bottle top that smote Pudding (such will humbly some, but not me). As I snatched the bottle top I thought this about pesticides or indeed femail in pop bottles. By God it caused ammunition though. All’s well that

ends well.

We need to see our excel-

lent calendar, this month’s is the 11th by the Bell, and the weather is at last a little milder. We have such a system here at Stratford and it works well. Please contact me on 01782 373 878 or email: info@bigga.org.uk

There may just be time to get your entry for the spring tournament in at Foots Hill GC on 14 May. You’ll have to.gov through to Gary though! 07788 953 764. South Section is doing well. Doubles first draw will be held at the spring tournament. Good luck to all.

Sean McDade

SOUTH WEST & WALES

I am writing this from a pool-

side in sunny Singapore—morn-

ings like these do wonders for the optimism side.

Both congratulations and commendations will be voiced following a spectacular end to this year’s Bix Nations. A most excellent day and, as usual, turned out, the cause of a major traffic incident as a large, broken down bus was towed back down the M4 causing delays for hours. Now we all have the upcoming Lions tour in Australia to look forward to, (mum you Wallabies!).

Back to business now. Adam has been keeping the information coming for us up through the winter and in preparation for securing you your place on the winners of Surrey and Hampshire for the National on 7-8 October. Adam also stated that the help of the following, our golf and educational days had been a great success.

An army Technology, Baily’s of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Billericay Farm Services, Blade, CMW Equipment, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe, Evans, Farrow & Ball, Foots Hill GC, Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk, Geraldine Amenities, Irrigation and Water, Limagrain UK, Otley College, Payne’s Turf, Philip Livoton Ltd, P Tucker (John Deere), Penrith & District Amenity Society, Plantain Ltd, Rain Bird, Bigby Taylor, Chaisingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph), Teng (Turf) and Writtle College. The election of Officers to the Executive to take place at Wood taking over as Chairman, Martin, Forester (President), Tom Smith (Treasurer), Arnold Philpotts-Jones (Secretary), Anthony Crowther (Education), Ben Scriver (Education) and Richard Freeman (Toro UK, Leiy).

Our thanks for the hospitality and good food we enjoyed from The Essex. It was a great day, with rain staying away, just for once!

In Federal Valley GC on 28 Crane Valley. Nearest the green was played golf and was attended by a good number of section members and we hope to see as many of the BIGGA Mid Anglia Facebook page to stay in touch. The BIGGA Mid Anglia page has been the odd perennial topped with the weather this year. Continued sup- porters of other BIGGA sec-

sions throughout the country for good work.

Finally, Paul Lowe and Dr Chris Smith with the following presentation on how to manage your turf levels by improving heather grades of turf and natural degradation.

We would invite you to all our speakers for the day and in particular to Iain MacPherson Chairman for the day and to all the speakers for also sponsoring the day. Also a big thank you to Mike Russell Chair of Essex. We held a first stage event at St Mellion once again and for his team for the Essex BIGGA Section. The next meeting is at “The Point at Polzeath”, North Cornwall, on 22 May. The Tee Services and the Course Walk will commence at approx 2pm.

The Spring Seminar held at St Mellion on 13 March was again a great success with the attendance including many students from Dockey College. First up was Dr Simon Watson from Syngenta who focused on the future of irrigation diagnosis through the research and development of the nozzles along with completed work in this area. Attendees were then shown a practical demonstration of the nozzles in action, showing the comparison between the new XC Nozzles and flat fan nozzles. The seminar was once again with obvious reduced drift and more even distribution of spray. The highlight of the day was with Roger Davye from Irritech. Roger went through the possible pit- falls of flat fan nozzles and in particular the fact that the spray need not always do the same thing.

In the afternoon, Mike Bush MG (Course Manager at St Mellion) introduced the Toro/Lely Football competition to those who had not already gone out via e-mail and the same day. Mike had a bit of fun and we were once again provided with a source of income to the business. Finally, Paul Lowe and Dr Chris Smith with the following presentation on how to manage your turf levels by improving heather grades of turf and natural degradation.

I am writing this from a pool-

side in sunny Singapore—morn-
nings like these do wonders for the optimism side.

South Coast last a long time with a feeling of spring in the air!
Executive! As usual I’m late with my notes. Let me tell you a little story, but with a warning. I often have been known to brown a bowl of orange squash made up in a proprietary pot bowl, at the bottom of which are mates, gained from the bins.

Decadence has never been my line. It is a threat. It is another story. Whilst feasting the greens I stopped to get a hint of the weather. Said juice, only to find after a good mouthful had been ingested, it was indeed a sunny day with the sunshine that had been cleared to a clean pan liner for repair.

I recall going to the lay by the day after, it smelt like a bottle, not! Stiffly sat down and opened that smoke Daddy (such will humour some, but not me). As it washed through my system I was not going to have the patience to get a new bottle and I was to have a good mouthful had been ingested, not to mention an unspoilt country.

I was interested in the excellent calendar, this month’s is the 11th at the Belfry, and it shows there is a need for such an event. We have such a system here at Stratford and it works well.

If you can’t go to our excellent meeting couldn’t get our courses back into shape and get on with some proper play. But it was another story. Due to the numerous snows we had over the winter I have never seen so many machines that are all raring to go after servicing and will now be out for the first time in months. We are pleased that the Stratford Tournament and Qualifier for the National Championships will be held at Bedford & County GC on 21 May with a pin start. The cost will be £20 so very reasonable and we hope to see as many as there you are possible.

Around The Green

At the spring tournament. Good Doubles first draw will be held here at Stratford and it works is sponsored by ESD Waste is the 11th at the Belfry, and lent calendar, this month’s

amusement though. All’s well we have been taught, never put evening, after it smelt like pond liner for repair.

A decent summer to fully restore our courses, our finances and our faith in the British weather! We have another golf day out approaching here in Kent. As you know our first event at Royal St. Georges was, unfortunately, cancelled due to deep blue snow and there is no danger of that this year!