Events Coming Up

Central

With BTME taking place in January we don’t have anything arranged for the immediate future but we shall try and get something set up for around the middle/end of February and will notify members by the usual method.

News

Central

Over 40 members turned up for the seminar at Auchterarder GC on 10 December where the five speakers gave interesting presentations on a range of subjects. Our thanks to them for and to the Golf Club for the use of the facilities, a small report on the day is on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Please see the Newsdesk section of the magazine for a tribute to David Wilson.

West

First of all, I wish everybody a Happy New Year. I will start with a meeting set up by John Young, chaired by myself to look into possible changes with golf events in the Scottish region. The idea is to try and encourage more participation and revamp certain tournaments all section secretaries were in attendance along with the administrator and Scottish chairman. Proposals are being developed which will be put forward to the Scottish Board for approval before any alterations are carried out.

On 24 October the West section held its AGM at Haags Castle Golf Club, 26 people attended and they were treated to a couple of talks, one by Alastair Eccles of British Seed Houses, and the other by Gary Smith of Sherriff Amenity thanks to them and to all who attended. Thanks to Haags Castle for hosting the event and most of all to the new recruits on the West section committee, Ronnie Miles as Vice Chairman, Bruce Cruickshanks and Kerr Rowan, it’s nice to see new blood.

Some training days took place recently, which appear to have been well attended. Firstly STRI organised 4 days of workshops at Loch Lomond of which I had a couple of guys attend and they thought they were excellent. The subjects covered were pests and diseases, turf management, construction, and turf science, so well done STRI and long may they continue.

Next was the course walk over Loch Lomond, the two people I sent came back full of praise for the course, the organisation, the facilities, and the quality of the staff information, it just goes to show what can be achieved with the correct resources and knowledge. Loch Lomond is to be congratulated, many thanks to David Cole and Peter Hoggarty for their help on the day and David McBride for arranging everything.

The Christmas night out was held at Qui Italia on 22 November courtesy of Gerry Brum our Chairman. Most people left at a respectable time only a few derelicts stayed until the end, no names mentioned. Next year we will try a different venue to keep things lively.

I had a few staff members take part in the Movember campaign. Next year you might get a couple of other willing helpers considering it’s all goes to a charity prostate cancer. My staff members were Craig McLean, Gerard Broadley, and Bryan Ramsay.

Congratulations to Bryan Ramsey on winning the Patrons award. The award is given for supporting the section events over the years both at outings and educational days; I was privileged to be asked to the Patrons award dinner held at Gleneagles Hotel on 5 December. Well done to John Young for organising the event and thanks to Scott Fenwick for his talk on preparations for the Ryder Cup next year, Gleneagles proved to be an excellent location.

On a sad note I pass on my condolences to all those at Scottube after hearing about the death of Stewart Clayton, Stewart was a great supporter of the Scottish region attending as many events as he could throughout the country so it was very sad to hear of his passing, our thoughts go with all his family and company members.

I would also like to mention the passing of Andy Willa who worked with Nairn Brown, Andy delivered machines for 10 years with the company but sadly passed away suddenly after a heart failure. Our condolences go to all those at Nairn Brown and his wife at this very difficult time.

Finally can I say best wishes to Atkins on successfully completing 50 years in the business, long may they continue servicing the country with their needs and I hope you have another 50 prosperous years.

Best wishes to all for the new season, and remember to check out the West section’s blog.

Events Coming Up

Scotland
Events Coming Up
North East
Course walk arranged at Rockcliffe on February 14 check Facebook and Twitter pages for full details.

North Wales
There still may be spaces left for the coach to HTMSE on 22 January, please contact me asap if you are interested in booking a seat.

News
Cleveland
A bit of catching up in the news department as it’s been a while since the last update so here goes, the Boulby potash mine trip went well and the guys who went down are a lot braver than me! Remember these trips can be organised as often as we want it’s just the numbers that are limited. So if you fancy it give Penba a ring on 07791 695768. Olly Shepard is in the news again. He has recently started a new job as a fly fishing coach- good luck Olly.

News around the clubs: Mount Oswald Golf Club has closed but they’ve bought Hallgarth Hall, Darlington. Rockcliffe held the English Senior Open and will be returning on 29 – 31 August 2014. The section AGM was held at Teease Golf Club on 21 November. Kevin Scourie was guest speaker and presented an overview of the online management systems available on the market. One major outcome was the appointment of Barry Walker as the new chairman. Kevin has stepped down due to work commitments.

The annual Richmond Ryder Cup challenge against the club pros took place and my team comprehensively beat the pros for the second time in three years, a 10-6 win, and I recorded my first round of golf in a long while with a 5 and 4 win over the club pro! Roll on next year!

Get in touch with Anthony McGroarty on amcgeough@aol.co.uk or Ian Pemberton on ianpemberton@yahoowho.com.

North Wales
Gareth Wynnman etc of Owesty Golf Club has taken the position of Head Greenkeeper at Keefe Golf Centre, Staffordshire; we wish him all the best in his new position.

Northern
The Xmas bash at Baldoon Golf Club should have been a great test of golf for us but unfortunately mother nature decided to take the mild! As we arrived it was blue sky with no wind and the bar was open, but within minutes the thickest fog came in and never moved! So the day ended early to the disappointment of all but we could not do anything else.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all you guys who attended the golf days and your support over the year. We try as always to deliver a great day out for us all and have a good fixture list to look forward to for 2014.

For next season we will be getting a mobile phone for the section so we can send text messages, reminders for golf days and any other section held functions to your mobiles send me your number and I’ll add you.

Results
Cleveland
The Autumn tournament at Shapley Springs Golf Club was played and I would just like to take this opportunity to say what a wonderfully presented course it is. The greens were excellent and a credit to Richie Hood and his staff. I hope we get the chance to play there again.

Div 1: 1 Paul Walton 34pts, 2 Martin Woods 34, 3 Paul Legg 32. Div 2: 1 Ben McGreevy 40, 2 Tony Bell 37, 3 Liam Atkinson 31. Div 3: 1 Ian Pemberton 34, 2 Liam Dovers 31, 3 Daniel Egan 27.

Trade winner: Jamie Applegath 30pts. Longest drive Phil “the beast from bishop” Graham. Nearest the pins Paul Legg, Liam Atkinson and Ian Pemberton.

North East
Dunstanborough Castle bring a bottle winter comp. Firstly thanks must go to Stuart Ineson and his team, who must be the youngest set of greenkeepers in the country! They set the course up fabulously for this event.

Results: Cat 1 S Cram on count back from D Wilkinson Cat 2 G Baxter Cat 3 J Thorpe. Well done to D Wilkinson who had a hole in one on the 4th. Thanks also from myself and Olly to Ian Pemberton (secretary Cleveland section) for the invite to play their section’s bring a bottle, would be nice to see both sections working closely together next year.

North Wales
The results of the Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool, Hoylake are: 1 Michael Hughes, John Corbett, Peter Lacey and Miles Todd 82 pts, 2 Craig Gilholm, Jim Croston, Carl Crocher and Andrew Cornes 81, 3 Alan Legg, Liam Atkinson 80.

Thanks to Sponsors
Cleveland
Big thank you to the Autumn tournament’s sponsor Kevin Diamond of GREENLAY and all the other prize sponsors Amenity Technology, TSL, Rigby Taylor and Atkinas.

North East
For the winter bring a bottle comp – Greenlay for sponsoring the food. Ramside Course walk – Roger Shaw Course Manager for his time and expertise during the walk. Sherriff Amenity for the after course walk fertiliser presentation and Michael McKeena for his insight into warm season grasses and his experiences of maintenance practices in Dubai and USA.

New Members
Guy Webster, Greenkeeper, Hallgarth Golf and Country Club, Shane Donald, Greenkeeper, St Anne’s Old Links GC, Steve Swindell, Greenkeeper, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, David Thornton, Greenkeeper, Tunstall GC Ltd, James Cram, Trainer Greenkeeper, Skelley Hall GC (De Vere), Gareth Tibbetts, Trainer Greenkeeper, Rhuddlan GC.
Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia

Many thanks to Mark Silk and Working Turf for their sponsorship of the main prize table at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December. Thanks also to Whitemoss, Sherriffs, Global Sales and Countrywide who provided nearest the pin prizes. Thanks also to all the trade reps who provided raffle prizes. The half way house was provided by Farols, many thanks to Kev Pugh for the refreshments which were greatly received, as always!

Finally, our biggest thanks to John Hammond, our President who gets there early at every tournament despite coming from Cheshire. John writes out the cards for the day, does the starting on the tee and regularly brings a raffle priz. He rarely gets a mention so it’s about time he did.

Well done John, you are a fabulous addition to our section and long may it continue.

This is our seventh year of production of the Section’s excellent Calendar, our thanks to all sponsors over the years, and indeed this year’s. I feel this year’s is our best to date, to which credit goes to Rhys Thomas almost solely. This month’s calendar page is sponsored by ESD Waste2Water. Please consider them for your wash-off/dosing systems. Email: info@waste2water.com.

A happy New Year to all.

East of England

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands for sponsoring the Christmas texas scramble.

Many thanks to all the companies that have sponsored us and helped out in many different ways this year. We are grateful for your continued support and help and hopefully this will continue into 2014.

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avoncrop Amenity, Amttech Amenity, Tuckwells Machinery, Vassgro Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has helped us run successfully in 2013. Banka Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements for the coming months and beyond into 2014.

New Members


Results

Midland

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December with 26 playing golf.

The course was in fantastic condition, and a real credit to competition secretary Rhys Thomas and his highly skilled team, for the presentation of the course on what was a very pleasant winter’s day.

Well done Rhys and a big thank you to your Club, especially the Captain, Ashley Cox who joined us for dinner. Results of the day were:

1 C Petherick, R Webb, S Kelly, R Howson, scored 58 (14 under gross with a handicap of 2) Par 72. 2 O Browning, A Fulcher, M Finn, C Frampson, scored 58.2. 3 N Broadwith, K Armstrong, W Anthony, G Merrison, scored 58.4. Nearest the Pins: Oly Browning, Frank Scullion, James Cantfield, Michael Finn.

Mid Anglia

On December 11 we had our Christmas Texas Scramble at Stocks GC. Although it was a tough buggy for the opening couple of hours many played better than normal not being able to see.

Thanks to Steve Mason and his staff for presenting the course in superb condition and to all the staff and owners.

It was very much enjoyed by all and was a fantastic end to our golfing season for 2013. Some quality golf was played and here are the results:

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Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the annual pilgrimage to HMTX in Harrogate.

Hopefully many from the section will attend as it’s always good to catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

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East of England

Christmas Invitation Texas Scramble at Lincoln Golf Club, Friday 13 December 1. Carl Chamberlain, Rob Newas, Andy Davis, John Venters. 2 Graeme Macdonald, Alex Ciarlottos, Nigel, Charlie. 3 Adi Kitchenson, Steve Mason and his staff for presenting the course in superb condition and to the catering staff at the club for an excellent Christmas dinner!

Mid Anglia

On December 11 we had our Christmas Texas Scramble at Stocks GC. Although it was a tough buggy for the opening couple of hours many
Results

East of England, Mid Anglia

Events Coming Up

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...

South West & South Wales

South Wales - Fixture cards will be sent out soon confirming events for 2014. Remember to attend BTME.

Results

South Wales - Results for our Christmas meet at Pyle & Kenfig GC will be shown next month.

News

South Wales - Thanks to all the speakers at the regional conference covering many topics a very informative day.

New Members

Kyle Trewin, Trainee Greenkeeper, Players Club (Th), Tristan Moon, Greenkeeper, St Mellion Hotel G&CC, Timothy Fry, Trainee Greenkeeper, Macour House Golf Club at Castle Coombe.
For presenting this prestigious course so well for the competition, well done all.

Everyone was very well looked after throughout the whole day and the golf was followed by a lovely meal in the clubhouse.

5 December saw the close of the AGM, held again this year at the Dyke Golf Club. The business of the AGM preceded, as is now the custom, by 9 holes of golf. Although the strong wind brought an unpleasant chill to the day, the course was in spectacular condition and the hole-in-one signs rewarded players with stunning views. Many thanks to Dyke Golf Club for the golf, roaring venue and vast quantities of refreshments.

The election of officers is as follows: Chairman, Rob Hallowell; Vice Chairman, Mike Poole; Secretary, Antony Stockwell; Treasurer, Pete Smith; Committee Members, Tony Wooley, Eric Green, Dave Allen, Trade Representative, Chris Humphrey. Thanks and appreciation was given to last years committee for all their work over the past year.

East Anglia

The AGM went well. Colin just needs someone to take over future responsibilities and Ian needs some suggestions from us to organise a seminar – ie management, education, ecology, anything you’re interested in. Please let Ian know.

For food thought – did you know that light travels faster than sound, which is why someone can appear bright until they open their mouth? No comment.

Kent

At the AGM not much changed. Ken and I shall be continuing in our roles of Chairman and Secretary but Anthony Stockwell of Hadlow College has joined our committee as education spokesperson.

We were honoured to be able to make a donation of £280 raised from our very generous colleagues to give to the Golfer of the Year, Neil Peachey from P Tuckwell Ltd.

We were honoured to see so many of our original, most loyal sponsors and regular event attenders, Stewart Clayton of Greenman had passed on. Stewart was not only a supporter of our section, he was a good friend to us who will be missed and it was a good fortune to meet him.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

London

The tournament was followed by the AGM and this went smoothly with Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a fine committee to support him.

Essex

This year’s golf events, dates to follow: March – The Essex, June – Stock Brook The Country Club, August – The Warren, September – Colchester Golf Club, December – TBA.

Surrey

The biggest event every year is always BTME. If you have not been there yet, you should make sure you do. As always, we shall be there and will be more than happy to introduce you to our good friend to us who will be missed by all that had the good fortune of our original, most loyal sponsors and regular event attenders.

The Essex Section would like to thank the following sponsors for their support on the day, and also to George Barer and Pete Smith for all of the organisation for the event.

Thanks to sponsors

Essex

The Essex Section would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support over the past year:


The committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a prosperous and happy New Year.

Surrey

Thanks to all the trade who have supported us throughout this year. There are still a few that we would like to thank:

Around The Green

South East

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else to Around the Green...

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