on: 07816 410552. Trust me, time and money well spent.

Now for something a little lighter. Ray Wise, First Assistant, has knocked-up 25 years excellent service at Great Barr Golf Club. From both the Section and your work colleagues, congratulations and keep up the good work Ray.

Wishing you well for the next 20 in our fine profession.

We have two new members to welcome to our fine Section this month, Mr C. P. Jones and Mr R. Wakefield, both being from The Worcestershire Golf Club. We look forward to seeing you at our golf tournaments gentlemen. I hope that your handicaps are not as kind to your game as our Regional Chairman’s, Gavin Robson. At a recent Regional Committee Stableford match he scored 41 points, of which contained two blobs. Great golf, Gavin, particularly off 21. What’s the name of that Chinese soup?

Rhys has once again secured four superb venues for this year’s golfing fixtures. These being: Spring, Olton; Summer, Moor Hall; Autumn, Hawkstone Park, and Christmas, Trentham Park.

For many years now, Mr A. Smith has served our Section as a diligent and knowledgeable committee member. Due to other commitments he has decided to stand down. I, the committee, and I am sure the members, would like to thank Andy for his input and commitment to the Section. Your counsel will be sorely missed Sir.

Looking forward to seeing you at BTME 19-22/1/04. Wishing us all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sean McDade

Mid Anglia

Firstly, I must apologise to Nigel Phelan and his club. I wrote in last month’s issue that he was from St Johns Hospital, but he in fact works at St Andrews Hospital. (How many of you noticed that one?). Sorry Nigel. I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and welcome to 2004.

On December 4, we took part in our final competition of the year at the well renowned Brocket Hall. With nearly 100 participants this was certainly a venue to be appreciated.

Our thanks go to John Moorhouse and his team for the excellent condition of the Melbourn course. Thanks also to the caterers for the traditional Christmas fare. With the format being Texas Scramble in teams of four the results were as follows:- 1. Berkhamsted, 59.2; 2. Boughton Loam, 59.4; 3. Mid Herts, 60.0. Longest Drive, Alan Grew, Berkhamsted. Nearest the Pin, Rob Caitlin, Seoul Nassau.

Congratulations to all who received prizes on the day. These were kindly donated by Avoncrop Amenity Products and our thanks go to our sponsors of which contained two blobs. Great golf, Gavin, particularly off 21. What’s the name of that Chinese soup?

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Sean McDade

East Midlands

The 2003 AGM was held at Kibworth GC. on November 12. We had 30 members attend the AGM with one or two interesting points being raised. Our present Chairman, Adi Porter, finished his term as Chairman, and was thanked by the incoming Chairman, Ian Needham, for his valuable work to the Section. The following committee were also duly elected. Vice-Chairman, Frank Kempster. Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Gavin Robson. Committee members, Richard Barker, Adi Porter, Kevin Kinzer, Jamie Bedford, David James, Jeff Dickinson and Steve Goode had retired from the committee, and Richard Barker has retired as Treasurer.

Before all this took place we all had the pleasure of playing the course, in a three-man Texas Scramble format, the winning score of 64-3.2-60.8. belonged to Simon Banks, Adrian Rhodes and Greg Skinner. 2. Richard Barker, Kevin Kinzer and Andy McGreal 67-4.6-62.4.

Thanks should go to Kibworth Golf Club for courtesy of their fine course, Rival Catering for a truly grand meal, and Chris Butlin and his staff for a well presented golf course.

Once again could I please remind all members to enclose their entry form and cheque before the closing date. Next years Spring Tournament will be held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on May 12.

Finally there are two places going spare for a Chainsaw course at Beedles Lake Golf Club on March 2 & 3 if anybody is interested please give me a ring. Antony Bindley

South West

Devin and Cornwall

Our second Autumn meeting was held at Bigbury Golf Club on Wednesday 19th November. The day started with Rob Guntrip of Devon Garden Machinery starting our golfing members on the 1st tee. Thirty-four members were escorted on the customary course walk with Head Greenkeeper, Graham Davis.

After some light refreshments, we were treated to a superb three course lunch so a big thank you to the catering team. I would like to thank Bigbury Golf Club and their staff for the use of their excellent facilities and the warm welcome extended to us. I would also like to thank Graham and his staff for presenting his golf course in fantastic condition. Graham has always been an ardent supporter of our Section and the golf course is a credit to him. Another big thank you has to go to our sponsor for the day, Alan Domett of Devon Garden Machinery, for his continued sponsorship. Alan has supported our Section for more years than I can remember and it was great to see him looking so well after his recent illness. After lunch, we held our AGM and everything went quite smoothly. There was little change to the committee apart from Martin Samuel, of Sheriff Amenity, who was voted on as new Trade Member replacing Billy Spratt who has left the industry.

Unfortunately, I will be standing down as Secretary in January 2004 due to personal reasons and a successor is currently being sought. It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Secretary of the Devon and Cornwall Section. A truly fantastic bunch of lads (and lady Katie Wallis) with the friendship and comoradry second to none. And after all that, anybody wishing to fill my boots, please give me a ring!

After the AGM, we held the prize giving. Winners of the Toro Trophy were Simon Coombes, from Dainton Park, and Dave Harding, from Exeter, with a staggering 49 pts. Second with 48 pts were Simon Saunders and Scott McEvoy from Woodbury Park, and third were Simon Clarke and Justin Woods, from St Milton, with 47 pts. Bill Mitchell, from Perranporth, won the Course Walk prize, Jim Arthur’s book Practical Greenkeeping 2nd Edition. Bill also won the Course Walk prize last month, which was Jim Arthur’s book Practical Greenkeeping 1st Edition! Guess who ain’t getting a raffle ticket next month, Bill?

Although I have to say, he did give back his last month’s prize and after a redraw, Richard Wisdom, of Okehampton, won the first edition.

Dates for your diary: Our meeting at Royal North Devon on January 14, with

Les Howkins
The world's No1 in Vacuum Sweepers

With 35 years' experience and a range of quality machinery, it's easy to see why Trilo is the world-leader in vacuum sweepers.

Built to an extremely high standard, the wide choice of models and numerous options available ensures you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient.

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Multigreen® controlled release fertilisers can aid recovery from last year's dry Summer. Help turf make a great comeback with temperature controlled feeding that mirrors the requirements of the plant.

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Ideal for golf tees and fairways, sports pitches and other outfield turf.

Ask about other Multigreen® formulations for fine and close-mown turf.
Andy Cole, of PSD Agronomy, presenting the afternoon educational talk. Andy is one of the top agronomists in the country and one certainly not to be missed. The BTME trip to Harrogate is from Tuesday, January 20 to Friday, January 23. Amenity Technology are once again sponsoring the coach and the package cost is £140 per person sharing a twin room. Please contact our Regional Administrator Derek Farrington on 01903 260956 for further details.

Steve Evans

South West

So Christmas is over. There are more needles on the floor than on the tree. Holiday and diet adverts are on the telly and guess what? I am writing this article the day after another successful golf day (it's like back to the future 23). Amenity Technology are once again sponsoring the coach and the package is one of the top agronomists in the country and one certainly not to be missed.

South Wales

Hello folks and welcome to another episode of Around the Green, the section, where nosy parkers, yes that's you, read what's going on in the Regions across the Country.

Firstly, I would like to wish Adrian Panks (Stimmer boy from Dudley) all the best and a quick recovery after a recent illness. Any excuse to get out of writing this article.

Secondly, the Lord was looking down on one Andy Roach, when Andy teed off on a par 3 in the recent Welsh Amateur Championships and accidentally hit it straight into the hole for a one. Well done and although we where not there we will all gladly accept a drink at the next meeting.

Thirdly, I hope the New Heads and their families from Langland and Neath are settling down and are enjoying working and living in Wales.


Overall Winners. Lee Davies and Daryl Bray, both Morriston, beat Fescue Pete Lacey, Pennard, and Steve “Smooth Talk” Mills, Gower.

Education

Now is the time to start organising and enrolling onto course for the next year — our Section college, Pencoed are running excellent courses for all abilities and are pro active in the development of greenkeeping so if you would like to or you know of any one that would benefit from their services then give a call to Paul Discombe a call for a chat and a prospectus on 01656 302600 or email enquiries@Brigend.ac.uk

The BIGGA website has been running a discussion forum covering all issues that greenkeepers come up against all the time and I would encourage all to participate as it is useful resource for information.

The BTME Exhibition fast is approaching and hopefully you will have take the opportunity to visit this excellent exhibition and get updated on the modern techniques and machinery.

Question - Do you think these shows work and how many of you will benefit from your visit or is it pointless? Your feedback is much appreciated.

You can contact me on email kerrykokojones@yahoo.co.uk

I have been prompted by PL to post the score by which they beat me and my partner by in the Rigby Taylor Matchplay - Kerry Jones & Darryl Jones lost to Peter Lacey & Steve Mills 6 & 5 & Fluke

Cofion cynnes/Best wishes.

Steve Evans

Surrey

Sorry about the lack of input into last month’s Around The Green but news was either nil or too late for the magazine deadline. I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a New Year that will bring the ideal weather for whatever your course requires.

My seaweed indicates that the weather in 2004 will bring joy to your hearts but remember it is more probable that your greens committee will bring a pain to another part of your anatomy. November 24, 2003 was the date of the annual England vs Scotland battle at Hankley Common Golf Club and due to some misunderstanding, which in the opinion of all the other team members was due entirely to my age and gradual loss of brain cells. If true I offer my sincere apologies to both team Captains. Perhaps next year to avoid embarrassment and confusion they should both assume I am playing for the other team and let me sit quietly in the clubhouse bar while trying to remember who and where I am. The result was a draw and therefore England retain the Cup.

Surrey Section had its Turkey Trot and AGM at Royal Epsom Golf Club on December 4 and as expected the course was, in Mark Harvey’s opinion, excellent and the best it’s been since the defection to Essex of that humble and abstemious Scotsman, Mr Douglas Ignatius Fernie. We all enjoyed a windswaped game a few beers in the bar and a most enjoyable traditional Christmas dinner. The result was: 1. Chris (Sharkie) Hartnett, 40pts, Addington Palace Golf Club; 2. Derek Cuncliffe, 37pts, Old Thorns Golf Club; 3. Tony Bremer, 37pts, Dorking Golf Club. Nearest the Pin was officially won by that great golfer, Tim (Tacit) Webb, but he graciously declined the spotlight as Tacit were the sponsors and so Adam Lunoe, from Richmond Golf Club, received the prize. Longest Drive, into the wind and easily over 100 yards, was delivered by Rob George, Coombe Hill Golf Club.

The AGM had an attendance of over 60 members and was conducted and concluded in a very efficient manner. Billy McMillan confirmed that Bert Watson retires this month from Tyrrells Wood Golf Club and requested that he should be made a life member of BIGGA. Derek Farrington has put the necessary wheels in motion and I hope soon to report that this has been agreed. Good luck, Bert and have a great retirement.

It was also announced by Anthony Freeman that, sadly, Ted Stiles died on Monday November 10. Ted was a most enthusiastic member of the Surrey Section and served for many years on the committee. He was a keen swimmer and played water polo for the county. Ted was also an engineer in the Merchant Navy before joining the Drift Golf Club as a Mechanic/Greenkeeper. Several members attended the cremation service at Walton and a floral tribute was presented on behalf of you all. Paul Weston has been sent a card from Sheila, Ted’s wife, thanking Surrey Section for fond memories of golf, snooker and a few friendly pints.
Your committee had its latest meeting on December 1, at Epsom Golf Club. The venues for 2004 events are almost complete and include the following golf clubs, Cuddington, Coombe Wood, Clandon Regis, Laleham and Sunningdale. The Gentleman’s Dinner at Walton Heath will be on March 12. Details of this year’s Bioseed Bowl will be sent soon but please remember that all competitors must have an official BIGGA, golf club or golf handicap to enter.

Brian Willmott

Well, did you get to the show in Dublin? I stayed in a really posh hotel with the boys from Raddison Roe Park Golf Club. I arrived first and sat in the bar, while sipping my pint. I looked around, the bar/restaurant was packed full of very smartly dressed people. I certainly would sooner keep the women for a week than a fortnight. Then, all of a sudden, four boys from Limavady walked in. Priceless!

I don’t know who phoned me in the middle of the night but I found myself talking to someone on a ‘big white telephone’. I remember my mummy used to hold my forehead but Lawrence couldn’t have cared less. He asked ‘Were you talking to someone?’ Some folks need it spelling out, don’t they?

John Nolan, from Edmonds Town GC, Dublin, was looking very well indeed. Maybe his honeymoon in South Africa contributed to that. Congratulations, John.

Mr President. I first met the Pres 40 years ago. He came down from Scotland and joined the police SVC (scratch golfer by the way). He was our local rural Bobby. On his night shift he used to set off in his Morris Traveller (do you remember those wooden framed estate cars?), drive round to the local village pub, lift the rear end and put a crate under the axle. He’d put it into first gear, let it run, spend the night in the pub and come back in the morning with the miles on the clock. Happy Days.

At the AGM on December 3, officers were elected. Ken Henderson, Chairman; Emmett Curran, Secretary; Micky O’Neill, Treasurer and comp and Andrew Kerr, Education.

A special thanks was conveyed again to sponsors of the year. I, in error, forgot to thank Karl Vesher, of Vesta Irrigation, for the sponsorship of the year. Congratulations, John.

I'm sorry for what I have said but it needed to be. Very Serious.
THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
Troon, July 15-18 2004

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening 14 July, through to the close of play on Sunday 18 July.

Whilst all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return.

Full BIGGA members only may apply to be considered for the Team, and must apply to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via e-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Volunteering at this event will not prejudice your chance of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

Applications to Derek Farrington, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 35 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 2ES Tel: 01903 260956 Email: derek.farrington@tesco.net

Closing date for applications for the Open: Friday 13 February 2004.

VOLVO PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
The Wentworth Club, May 29-30 2004

The Association will again be providing a support team for the final two days of this prestigious event which this year are Saturday 29 May and Sunday 30 May. Each member will be allocated a match, raking any bunkers found by the players.

In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chance of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

Applications to Derek Farrington, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 35 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 2ES Tel: 01903 260956 Email: derek.farrington@tesco.net
Sevenoaks Leisure Ltd.
Operating as sencio community leisure

Invites applications for a fully qualified
HEAD GREENKEEPER
for Lullingstone Park Golf course, which comprises 18 and 9 hole, 9 hole pitch and putt and 22 bay driving range.

Candidates should possess the following:
• N/SNVQ Level 2 amenity horticulture and Level 3 sports turf maintenance
• Ability to plan and deliver a work programme
• Thorough understanding of relevant Health and Safety legislation
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• A proven track record

Starting salary: between £26,000 and £32,000 p.a.
according to qualifications and experience.

Closing date for applications: 30th January 2004.

Interviews will be held over 2 days on 12th and 13th February 2004.
Candidates should ensure they are available to attend for a course tour and formal interview on both days.

For more information, contact David Boorman: 01732 227318, david.boorman@sevenoaks.gov.uk
For an information pack and application form, please ring voicemail number 01732 227102 or e-mail recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk quoting reference LG.GRE

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ELY CITY GOLF CLUB
HEAD GREENKEEPER
Applications are required for a self-motivated, enthusiastic Head Greenkeeper to take charge of the course and the well qualified, hard working staff.

Salary and conditions will be commensurate with experience and qualifications (to include NVQ Level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying qualifications) and will reflect the importance of the position.

Ely City Golf Club has 750 members, playing on an 18 hole parkland course of 6627 yds. The Club and its excellent facilities are regularly used for County and Regional events.

The closing Date for applications is Monday 26 January 2004 with the interviews being held on Saturday 31st January 2004.

Apply in writing with full CV to:
The Club Manager, Ely City Golf Club, 107 Cambridge Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4HX

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MOOR ALLERTON GOLF CLUB LIMITED
founded in 1923

invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Moor Allerton is a most prestigious 27 hole parkland championship golf course that is situated 5 miles north of Leeds, we are looking for an experienced but still ambitious course manager who can help develop all aspects of the 6500 yard course.

The successful applicant must be a proven leader, motivator and manager as well as a good communicator. At least 5 years recent experience working at the highest level would be preferable.

You will have:
• HNC or NVQ to level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6.
• Health & Safety training.
• A practical knowledge of both machinery and irrigation systems.
• A full and clean driving licence.

An excellent remuneration package is available to the successful applicant.
Please apply in writing with full CV to:
The Greens Chairman, Moor Allerton Golf Club, Coal Road, Leeds LS17 9NH

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Burhill Golf Centres

Burhill owns and operates eight golf courses throughout the south and the midlands and currently has vacancies for

ASSISTANT GREEN STAFF

Applications should be physically fit, well motivated and either NVQ2 qualified or working towards it.

This Centre offers an excellent opportunity for ambitious Greenkeepers to gain quality experience in a friendly atmosphere.

Accommodation may be available with the post if required.

Salary is negotiable and dependent upon experience.

Applications in handwriting including a full and current CV to:
Mike O’Connell, Hoebridge Golf Centre, Old Woking Road, Old Woking, Surrey GU22 8JH  Tel: 01483 735336

Or, if you require more information about the positions please call the Centre direct
Recruitment

Sherriff Amenity Services
Fordham Road
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7LG

Amenity Sales Specialists

Sherriff Amenity Services is a leading distributor in the UK supplying the amenity market with Fertilisers, Chemicals, Machinery, seed and Equipment.

We are looking to further expand our business and are therefore seeking qualified individuals to join our current team of Amenity Sales Specialists.

Experience in the turf and amenity sector along with industry recognised qualifications will be advantageous but not essential, as full training will be given.

We invite applications from all areas of the UK.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Please apply with a full C.V. either by post or email to:
Mark Pyrah, Amenity Director
Sherriff Amenity Services, The Pines, Fordham Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7LG
Email: mark.pyrah@agrovista.co.uk
Tel: 01638 721888 Fax: 01638 721815

ARCHERFIELD GOLF CLUB
Scotland's newest, most exciting golfing destination.

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS

We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working greenkeepers to join our growing team to develop our two championship courses in readiness for opening in May 2004.

Qualified to NVQ 2 with spraying Certificates if possible.

Closing date for applications is 23rd January 2004.

Applications in writing to:
Ian Everard, Course Manager, Archerfield Golf, Dirleton, East Lothian EH39 5HQ

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For the installation of Golf, Sports, Landscape & Residential irrigation systems throughout the UK.

The position would be suited to a candidate who:
• Has had previous experience in this field
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The successful candidate will benefit from a company vehicle, pension opportunities and a negotiable salary dependant upon experience.

Please write with current CV to:
Jon Mawson Director, AutoFlow Systems, Auto House, Ashtree Works, Mill Rd, Barnham Broom, Norfolk, NR9 4DE

CLEETHORPE GOLF CLUB LIMITED
(Founded 1894)

Due to recent promotion, we now require a

1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience, including a spraying certificate. No accommodation available and salary will be subject to experience.

Applications in writing with CV to:
The Secretary, Cleethorpes Golf Club Limited, Kings Road, Cleethorpes, N. E. Lincolnshire, DN35 0PN

COLONY CLUB GUTENHOF Vienna, Austria

requires

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

for their 36 Hole championship complex.

All applicants must be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent and have a minimum of three years experience.

The successful applicants will be expected to work as part of a well motivated team and contribute to the running of both golf courses.

Accommodation and 1st flight provided.

Please send C.V. and photograph to:
John Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, Colony Club Gutenhof, Golf platz, A-2325, Himberg, Austria

SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

Require a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Shooters Hill Golf Club is an attractive 100 year old private members club with 900 members located in Southeast London.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, enthusiastic and motivated Greenkeeper to join our team as we start a comprehensive programme of renovation and modernisation.

Preferably qualified to NVQ 3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates it would also be an advantage if you have machinery and irrigation experience. Further training will be provided and encouraged.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience, no accommodation available.

Written applications with full CV by 31st January 2004 to:

The General Manager, Shooter Hill Golf Club, Eaglesfield Road, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3DA