for the past 18 months. I have visited Tony a number of times and he has produced the brand new clubhouse to go with the relatively new course that Tony has been a great course for his employers who seem hell bent on beating off all local competition.

and a great victory, so roll on the K Club.

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family commitments and also to just have a bit of time to himself. His contribution to unique here, but I actually had butterflies waiting for the Europeans to tee off. So not be any different to any previous edition.

Winter: Dec 8, Dunstable Downs. Watch this space for dates of next year’s

Venues for next year’s golf days are also needed, so please let me know if you are interested in us using your course.

Les Howkins

BBBO

October can be miserable with a bit of winter slowly creeping in, as the central heating fires up for the first time this year it reminds me of the good summer we had and makes me look forward to more days when I got frazzled in the sun, on the other hand this is the time of year when the strangest of species have gone into hibernation, “The Golfer”, who can still sometimes be seen on Sunday mornings and is easily recognisable with colourful clothing, streaming nose, red cheeks and pale blue face.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to our Section. All the way from the land where scrumpy cider is the tipple of the day in Devon is Craig Earnshaw, from Dartmouth G&CC, who takes on a new position as deputy at Lambourne GC and a welcome to Claire Killmurray who is covering the BBBO as Technical Sales Representative for Vitax.

Forthcoming events for 2005 are in motion as The Rigby Taylor Pairs Knockout Challenge is alive and positively looking for entrants for next year, under the guidance of Gareth Acteson who has taken control for organising the competition.

The report for the Clay Pigeon Shooting Day, Turkey Trot and Annual General Meeting will follow in next month’s magazine. Other new events included for 2005 are a match play format England vs Rest of the World and “Scotland” game for which the date and venue will be announced shortly.

Any member wishing to participate please contact the Secretary, John Scones, on 07880 550 380.

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

Just a few things this month readers. Firstly, on behalf of the Section & the committee we must say a big thank you to John Wells, of Brocket Hall, for his many years of service on the committee. This year John is stepping down due to work & family commitments and also to just have a bit of time to himself. His contribution to the Section will be greatly missed, thanks John!

We have some dates for our meetings of 2005, they are as follows:

Spring: April 27, Royston GC. Summer: TBC. Autumn: Oct 6, Heydon Grange GC. Winter: Dec 8, Dunstable Downs. Watch this space for dates of next year’s educational seminars on soil science & irrigation, which is pencilled in for Feb/Mar 2005. That’s all for now, wrap up warm.

Bob Buffoy

SOUTH EAST

Kent

The next Kent Section event will be a golf day to be held at Birchwood Park Golf Club on Thursday November 25. An 18 hole competition will be followed by dinner. On this day we shall take the opportunity to have an AGM to reform the Section and an AGM to elect a committee and discuss the future of the Section. Members will be notified with full details in due course.

London

Welcome to another edition of Around the Green. News seems to be very scarce at the moment so you may end up reading quite a lot of wafffe, though that may not be any different to any previous edition.

Obviously we had Saltex in September, which is always a good day to catch up with other greenkeepers in our industry at the present time. Also in September, we had the Ryder Cup, which for me is the best sporting event in the world. I may be unique here, but I actually had butterflies waiting for the Europeans to tee off. So god only knows how the players themselves felt. Anyway it was a great spectacle and a great victory, so roll on the K Club.

I also have news of one of our members, Tony Kyle, whom although based in Surrey, has remained loyal to London. His club, Surrey Downs, have just completed the brand new clubhouse to go with the relatively new course that Tony has been at for the past 18 months. I have visited Tony a number of times and he has produced a great course for his employers who seem hell bent on beating off all local competition.

As well as the course, Tony and his staff have built a large practice tee for the Pro and they undertook all the landscaping for the clubhouse, which looks terrific, so fair play to Tony and his staff, whom I bet can’t wait for a slow down this winter.

I am just in the middle of trying to purchase a whole new fleet of equipment, which will be of huge benefit if successful, but as we know, it is a lot easier to come up with all the logistics and figures when it’s not actually our money still I will keep trying and see what happens.

Lastly I hope people have been sending in their cheques for the London BIGGA education day and we see a good response, as a lot of effort has been made to make it a success.

Alec Macindoe 07780 955881

SOUTH WEST

South West

Here we are in November, the start of another winter, lets hope it is a nice dry one and everybody can complete their winter programmes.

You will be glad to hear the Region has interviewed people for the vacant position of Regional Administrator. The interviews took place at Long Aston GC on October 7. On the interview panel was Chris Sealy, Regional Chairperson, Jeff Mills, from Devon & Cornwall, and John Pemberton, from HQ.

I understand that the Region had some very fine candidates for the job, so hopefully we will all soon meet the successful applicant.

Please support the Regional seminar at Cattistock College on November 17, I bet you will learn something new! Thanks to the seminar event sponsors.

The South West Section tried to play a match against the South Coast Section, at Ogdourne Down, on September 30, but our opponents failed to field a team.

Next month you will be able to read a report on our AGM, held at Chipping Sodbury, on October 11. In anticipation the committee wants to say congratulations to all the members who put themselves forward for the very important jobs on the Section committee.

Robbin Greaves

South Coast

Autumn is here and the cold mornings are not quite as appealing when you’re sat on a triple mower. No doubt those hardened men at Came Down are still working in their shorts and t-shirts (Dorchester men are made of stern stuff!) but for us softies, we're looking for the thermals already, it must be my age!

For those of us blessed with trees it's a constant battle keeping up with the endless amount of falling needles and leaves, so our blowers and collectors are working overtime. Aeration programmes are stepped up as we prepare for the winter and as usual our old 'friend' Fusarium pays us a visit or two. Ahh the life of a greenkeeper! We wouldn't want it any other way would we?

Unfortunately our annual match against the South West Section had to be postponed but another date will be arranged shortly so I will pass on the results when I get them.

The South Coast Section 2004 tour arrived at Dudsbury Golf Club for the autumn tournament, kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products. It has been a while since I last played Dudsbury and how the course has changed and matured.

My golf has always been erratic at the best of times and I do remember when playing there several years ago that my ball was strangely attracted to the many water hazards, so you can imagine my delight to find out they had added a few more! Needless to say my golf bag was considerably lighter by the end of my round.

The weather on the day was excellent and the very testing course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Bob Walker and his team.

It was great to see Matt Smith back on his old track for the day and it was inevitable Matt would win the longest drive. It's good to hear he has settled in well in his new position at Sonning and we wish him well.

The greenkeeping team may not have known Matt was playing as they had only placed the marker some 270 yards from the 18th tee. I didn't see where his drive finished but lets just say Matt said it was a 'good hit' so I assume it was around the 300 yards mark. Winners on the day were:


Division 1 Rigby Taylor Shield. 1. Chris Sherrington, 38pts; 2. Wayne Norris,
Around the Green


White quick and speedy recoveries. A belated happy 80th birthday to our Section again and I will report in full next month.

Another couple of movements in the Section, good luck to Mark Zealander in his new position at Dudsbury Golf Club. Broadstone Golf Club said farewell to Terry Elborn as he moved into the conservation field with the local council. Terry's knowledge and love of the environment and its management has seen him change direction and I'm sure it will be highly rewarding and successful for him, good luck Terry.

At Parkstone we said farewell to Rob Wills who had been at the club 10 years man and boy. Again Rob has left the industry and taken a career change into the world of insurance and he will be sadly missed by us all. It seems a worrying trend that so many young greenkeepers are leaving the industry and Rob certainly had a great future in our industry, but fate has taken him down another path. One thing is for sure, if Rob puts the same commitment and enthusiasm into his new job he will be very successful.

Our last port of call for the year is Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, on December 8, for our Christmas meeting at Barton-on-Sea.

There were some good stories here. Two well known faces in our Section are not in the best of health at the moment, keeping them away from work, and we wish both Mike Buckle and Colin 'chalky' Whittle a speedy recovery. A belated happy birthday to our Section President, Jim Fry. Jim is a great supporter of our Section and has given Section funds a very generous donation, thank you Jim and we do hope to see you at our Christmas meeting at Barton-on-Sea.

Many thanks to Dudsbury Golf Club for their hospitality, the catering staff for an excellent meal and to Bob Walker and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course so well for us.

Lastly, but by no means, thanks to our tournament organiser Chris Sturgess for all his hard work in organising the day for us and to Bob Williams for kindly doing the scorecards. The Section AGM was held after the golf and ran very smoothly again and I will report in full next month.

Two well known faces in our Section are not in the best of health at the moment, keeping them away from work, and we wish both Mike Buckle and Colin 'chalky' Whittle a speedy recovery. A belated happy birthday to our Section President, Jim Fry. Jim is a great supporter of our Section and has given Section funds a very generous donation, thank you Jim and we do hope to see you at our Christmas meeting at Barton-on-Sea.

A successful open day was held at Pencoed College on June 26, an excellent increase of 200% enrolment to the college course was achieved. Thanks go to Angus and Dave Ward for their efforts on the day, especially with the terrible weather they experienced.

I'm sure everyone knows of our Section to Chris Sturgess, BIGGA Tournament Organiser, South Coast Section, for organizing the golfing day at St Mellion, well done guys.

A seminar has been organised at Cannington College on November 17, titled 'The Environment', and many leading people are scheduled to talk, please make every effort to attend. It's priced at £15 for non-members and £17.50 for non-members, why not get a member of your committee involved.

A tractor driving training day has been booked at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club; contact Peter Lacey for details and times.

Congratulations Lance Armstrong, of Porthcawl Golf Club, whom recently got married in Chicago during a joint wedding with his sister. Emyr Nicholls is recovering from some broken ribs, I am sure he would not mind me telling you the story. Emyr was enjoying some lunch in a restaurant, suddenly he had a piece of food stuck in his throat.

We have had a small number of changes in the Section, Angus Macauley, Newport Golf Club, Peter 'shanks' Lacey and Marc Wildshire for passing their HNC Sports Turf Management, well done guys.

Our congratulations go to Bushy and all his staff for preparing the course in such outstanding condition, especially as he was receiving 80 tons a day of Tarmac for the new bunkers.

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