It gives me great pleasure to welcome two new members to our Section, Ashley Merry (D.H.) of Evesham GC, and Daniel Totney (AG) from the lovely Sandwell Park GC. Also, all the best to Mike Hill on his retirement from Stourbridge. Mike has been a long time supporter of the Section, and has served many a fine course over his service within Greenkeeping. Wishing you all the best Sir. I hear that the shares at the Foley Arms have just gone up. See you in there chap.

I have great pride that I am able to announce Mr Hill’s successor will be Mr Beet at Stourbridge GC. Think that being a Deputy was a pain in the arse! The examination starts now (CMEGC). I’ll let you now when I get there. Congratulations mate.

Don’t forget to contact me with your “Excuse of the Month” or anything else on: 07908 421 015, or email: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk. The Hoff has a lot to answer to.

“Spot the Difference”. It’s Swaney. Congrat’s on passing your chainsaw test mate. Well done.

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas.

Sean McDade

East of England

The Section AGM was held at Spalding GC, with a Texas Scramble being the format for the day. A draw for teams was made and we all set off to do battle. Firstly I must apologise to one of the boat owners on the second hole. I did not mean to broadside your vessel with a surface to air Proc V1, and I am sure a suitable salvage team can be arranged to raise her from the deep. The day was kindly sponsored by Burdens and our thanks go to Jim North for the prize table. The day was won by, yes you’ve guessed it, Les Howkins! Gary Cooper, Pete Fell and Ian Collett - I think we should rename 2006 as the Les Howkins year, seriously, well done mate - although our new Competitions Secretary will have to do some serious culling of your handicap, won’t you Steve. I would also like to say a big thank you to Spalding for the day. The course was in magnificent condition and the food was superb.

We then moved on to the AGM with no changes to the committee and it went through quite quickly. A few points were raised from the floor and hopefully answered to the member’s satisfaction.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Allan Walker
07974816927

BB&O

November! I recently read this entertaining article on the difficulty of weather forecasting by Bob Ryan, of the Meteorological Society, so here goes. Imagine a rotating sphere that is 8000 miles in diameter, has a bumpy surface, is surrounded by a 30 mile deep mixture of different gases whose concentrations vary both spatially and over time, and is heated, along with its surrounding gases, by a nuclear reactor 93 million miles away. Imagine also that this sphere is revolving around the nuclear reactor and that some locations are heated more during one part of the revolution and other locations are heated during another part of the revolution. And imagine that this mixture of gases continually receives inputs from the surface below, generally calmly but sometimes through violent and highly localized injections. Then, imagine that after watching the gaseous mixture, you are also like to say a big thank you to Spalding for the day. The course was in magnificent condition and the food was superb.

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Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Symbio have kindly agreed to arrange a coach to travel up to Harrogate on January 23, returning on the 24th. Stopping at various pick up points around the M25 on the way, travel will be free of charge - courtesy of Symbio. Some seats will be available for first time visitors to the exhibition up to the position of deputy, for which the South East Region will contribute towards overnight accommodation.

Please contact Martin Ward on: 07956 898004/martin@symbio.co.uk or Clive Osgood on: 07841 948410/cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

South East Regional Seminar

Despite a sudden drop in temperature and one of the highest tides of the season over 100 were in attendance for the South East Regional Seminar held at the Thorpeness Country Club on the east coast of Suffolk on November 1. Following a welcome and introduction by Chairman Ian Willett our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, gave a very informative presentation about The Association past, present, and future with particular regard to the need for all members to support Harrogate 2007. This was followed by Ray Harding, Ecologist to the award winning Thorpeness GC illustrating some of the good work being carried out by Ian and his team at the Club. Dr Kate Entwistle was next with valuable state of the art information on Turf Diseases name changes included! Kate also spent time discussing the increasing problems, some superficial, caused by Nematodes at various sites around UK.
Kent
Welcome to another fun packed edition of your Kent news.
A couple of people moving on to tell you about first of all. Two of my guys at Birchwood Park have decided to move on to pastures new. Richard Burgess has taken up the vacant Deputy Course Manager’s role at West Hove GC in Sussex and Gary Jessop has moved down the road to further his training at The London Club. Best wishes to both of them in their new positions.
Our monthly winter seminars are in full swing now at Hadlow College and the next one is on December 12 between 10am and 4pm. The topic for this one will be “Pre-Stress Management of Turf” which shall deal with how to manage your swards effectively when heading for the inevitable droughts. These sessions are completely free of charge and anyone from any Section is more than welcome to attend.
Not much else to tell you about this month other than to tell you that in next month’s report there will be news on our AGM and Turkey Trot results. Also who came out triumphant in our long awaited football re-match with Sussex Section.
Merry Christmas one and all.
Rob Holland

East Anglia
Our small, but perfectly formed band, (40ish) made our way to the City of Ely GC. Nice place, well kept by Andrew Baker and his men.
First we were warmly welcomed by a bacon roll and a cup of coffee, then off we strolled through the rough to battle out the prizes and silverware.
The overall winner was Norman Fenwick with 37 pts; 2. Chris O’Dowd, 35 pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 35 pts.
10-18 Section - 1. Glen Rayfield, 34 pts; 2. Ed Webster, 33 pts; 3. David Farmer, 32 pts. 19-28 Section - 1. David Driver, 35 pts; 2. Mick Lathrope, 27 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 27 pts - (two up and coming young men to look out for). G & T Section - 1. Mark Keysell, 37 pts; 2. Stuart Robson, 35 pts - (he knows all the George Formby songs and he’s got a whippet!)
Mark Clements won the putting competition; Longest Driver was Ed Webster and Nearest the Pin was Stuart (Mr Banjo) Robson.
The loo seat was presented to Ian Willett for breaking two trolleys. They don't make them like they used to!
The main sponsors were Tomlinson Ground Care (complete with a dog wearing a John Deere cap) and John Deere.
Other sponsors are as follows: Atkkins; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Midlube; Rigby Taylor; Sheriff, Sisis; Tacit and Textron.
Thanks once again to the Club Captain, Martin Bright and all at the City of Ely Golf Club, for a smashing day out.
November 1 saw the South East Regional Seminar held at Thorpeness Country Club. Our very own Ian Willett is the Chairman and his first big event went very well with some excellent speakers taking part.
The proceedings were opened by John Pemberton, top brass from BIGGA, on ‘The Way Forward for the Association’, with obvious concerns about BTME. This was followed by Ray Harding, the ecologist to the award winning Thorpeness GC, with very interesting views on achieving an area of co-habitation between golfers and wildlife - something we should all be striving for.
Then came Kate Entwistle, on turf diseases. Fusarium is no more! Well that’s not quite true, they just changed the name to Constantinople.
After lunch Billy and Ian McMillan, who came in at the last moment, gave an interesting talk on drought and sustainable golf. Made you think a bit.
Now here is a challenge. Stand up and talk to a room of hardened greenkeepers about drainage. John Grindrod, of Econplas, did it, recycling products to make drainage tiles for bunkers etc. Worth looking into.
David Stansfield rounded the day off with an agronomist’s view of course renovation. Very interesting, ask Norman!

There were also some trade stands from our sponsors: Atikens; Collier Turf Care; Tower Chemicals; Scotts; Rigby Taylor; Tacit; Barenburg; Sherff (2’s); Headland and Lely UK; where you could have a friendly chat and put the world right.

Our thanks once again to Thorpeness Country Club for an excellent venue and hospitality and to lan for his excellent organisation.

All those who took part deserve a pat on the back. There were a few empty seats but I’m sure they will all be at Harrogate to give the Association the support it needs in this current climate.

Mick Lathrope

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Harrogate Week 2007

The South West and South Wales Region are once again offering members a three-night bed and breakfast package to Harrogate, staying at The Cairn Hotel, arriving on Monday, January 22, departing Thursday, January 25. The cost for this package to BIGGA members is: Single room, £216 per person; Twin room for single occupancy, £240 per person; Numbers are limited and places should be reserved before sending your booking form and payment.

The Region is also offering a package for the Educational Seminars taking place. Members can book all seven seminars at a cost of £105 - this being a total saving of 40%. This saving can only be obtained by booking through me. Should you wish to book individual seminars, this must be done through Sami Collins at Headquarters and the cost will be discounted on a scale according to the number booked.

All bookings both for accommodation and seminars, must be made and confirmed with payment by Friday, December 15.

Booking forms and details will be sent to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in October. Should anyone not receiving this information and wishing to book, please contact me on Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841 948110.

Jane Jones, Regional Administrator

South West

Scary to think that this comes out just before Christmas. The year has gone so quickly, so a huge thank you to all our committee members who made it all work, and to all the clubs and greenkeepers who made our golf days so enjoyable and educational. Thanks once again also to our Patronage Partners - Messers MJ Abbott, Amenity Technology, BS Mowers, Bredy Irrigation, Tower Chemicals, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Rufford, Avoncrop Amenity, and Countrywide Farmers; your sponsorship has made the Section tick - most important. Remember, places at BTME are up for grabs as a result of this sponsorship - write to: Nobby Knight, 17 St Marys Gardens, Hilperton March, Wiltshire, BA14 1PG, and let him know why you deserve the place and what you hope to gain from the experience.

A total of 42 members attended the AGM at Ogbourne St George in October. Yours truly had to give his apologies and hang his head in shame - so a huge thank-you to all our committee members who made it all work, and to all the clubs and greenkeepers who made our golf days so enjoyable and educational. Thanks once again also to our Patronage Partners - Messers MJ Abbott, Amenity Technology, BS Mowers, Bredy Irrigation, Tower Chemicals, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Rufford, Avoncrop Amenity, and Countrywide Farmers; your sponsorship has made the Section tick - most important. Remember, places at BTME are up for grabs as a result of this sponsorship - write to: Nobby Knight, 17 St Marys Gardens, Hilperton March, Wiltshire, BA14 1PG, and let him know why you deserve the place and what you hope to gain from the experience.

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The South Coast Seminar, which Chris Bitten is organising, is taking shape and once again looks to be a fascinating and informative day. Details will soon be distributed to the membership. If you’ve not been to this event before, I strongly recommend attendance.

We would like to wish the very best to Spencer Haynes, who is leaving Hartley Wintney GC to go on to pastures new, maintaining peoples’ lawns and passing on his great experience and knowledge to the domestic market. To both Spencer and his family, our very best wishes for the future and we hope to see you at future golf days.

Well that’s it folks for this month. All I need to do now is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. I am now off to go and change a nappy!

Joe Crawley
Devon & Cornwall

Well, our season of meetings has commenced for the 2006/2007 year, the first one was held at Launceston GC on Wednesday, October 11 - which was our AGM. As you will all know by now, at the request of HQ, we have been asked to bring our AGM forward a month compared with previous years. This has not really caused any problems other than the fact that a good many greenkeepers were still finishing their autumn maintenance programme work, which meant that our attendance was rather on the low side compared with past years, however, 45 members attended.

The day commenced with a golf competition sponsored by D O Hunt and Roffeys. The format was a Stableford and in spite of very heavy rain over night - nearly 50mm - the course was in fantastic condition thanks to all the hard work by Grame Gallimore, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff.

The winners were as follows: 1 - Chris Pearson, Newquay GC, 39pts (h/cap 3); 2 - Brian Ridgway, Fingle Glen GC, 36pts (h/cap 14); 3 - Gavin Moore, Launceston GC, 35pts (h/cap 12).

Having indulged in a superb lunch, the afternoon proceedings commenced with the AGM, followed by the prize presentation. We were all pleased to welcome Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator, and of course, our National Chairman, Richard Whyman. The meeting lasted 45 minutes and there were no problems. What really pleased me was that we had some very constructive questions and suggestions from members, which will be on the agenda for our next Section committee meeting, held at Trenhorne GC in November.

At the request of our National Chairman - RE: Having younger members on the Section Committee - it was decided and approved to co-opt Abi Crosswood, from Newquay GC, onto the committee. I am sure you will have read about Abi in Greenkeeper International recently, she was runner-up in the Toro Student of the Year competition. Hopefully Abi will add some constructive ideas to our meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct a mistake in this year’s diary, the meeting at St Enodoc is to be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 - not Friday as printed.

Last but not least, the Christmas dinner will be at Okehampton GC on Tuesday, December 12, you all know it is very popular, so once you have received your form, please return post haste.

See you all soon and good luck.
Donovan O Hunt
Administrator

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION
In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to melissa@bigga.co.uk by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.
Word limit for Section notes: 500-600.
You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes. If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA HQ.

CROSSWORD

D E M O N S
J A B

ANAGRAM

A QUICK NINE HOLES
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3. Usie
4. Raymond Floyd
5. Kloner
6. Liam Plunkett
7. Lawrence Dallaglio
8. Rosie
9. Sumo Wrestling
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DUNBLANE NEW GOLF CLUB LTD

COURSE MANAGER

Dunblane New Golf Club is a high quality parkland course providing an enjoyable and testing challenge for golfers of all abilities. The presentation and maintenance of the course will provide a real opportunity to an ambitious individual in an excellent working environment. The course is located in an area renowned for its scenic beauty and quality and availability of living accommodation, schools, shops and transport links.

The successful applicant must have a minimum of three years management experience and the ability to manage and motivate the greenkeeping team to maintain and develop the course to the highest standard of presentation.

Applicants must also possess all recognised greenkeeping qualifications up to management level including pesticides handling and must have knowledge of statutory regulations including Health and Safety. A sound working knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems is also required.

Applicants must be good communicators, have IT skills and possess the ability to compile and work within an annual budget and produce management reports.

A competitive benefits package including accommodation is available.

Please apply by e-mail or in writing with a full CV by 5th Jan 2007 to:
The Secretary, Dunblane New Golf Club Ltd., Perth Road, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 OLJ.
e-mail: secretary@dngc.co.uk.

Rudding Park

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an individual who has a minimum of 6 years experience in greenkeeping, some of which has been gained in a deputy role, and who is qualified to NVQ level 2 in Greenkeeping. Must have knowledge of irrigation systems and experience in golf course builds/development is preferred but not essential.

The ideal candidate must be organised, able to prioritise tasks, and help implement procedures. Must be experienced in managing and motivating a team and be an excellent communicator and team player. With a flexible attitude and a keen interest in golf, this individual must be committed to maintaining our high standards on the golf course.

Spraying licence, experience in digger driving and chainsaw qualifications would be an advantage.

For an application form or more information contact Joanne Turner on 01423 844 829 or email your CV to: recruitment@ruddingpark.com

ILFORD GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Ilford Golf Club is a testing 18 hole parkland course, celebrating it’s Centenary Year in 2007. A vacancy has arisen for a Deputy Course Manager. This position would be an ideal opportunity for professional enhancement of an ambitious and driven First / Senior Assistant Greenkeeper.

The Role

You will be a highly motivated, hard working, conscientious turf professional who can work within a dedicated team. You will be able to deputise in the absence of the Course Manager, and be able to make contributions to the short, medium and long term maintenance regimes. Conversant with both modern and traditional turf culture practices, and be mechanically minded and thus competent in machinery and irrigation systems servicing and fault diagnosis.

Requirements

Qualified / working towards NVQ3
Have a minimum 5 years greenkeeping experience.
Hold PA1, PA2 & PA6 Certificates
Good knowledge of Health & Safety Issues.
The ability to play golf would be an advantage.
Salary negotiable according to experience / Qualifications.
Accommodation may be available as part of a package if required.

Please send a C.V. with covering letter for the attention of:
Scott Vass, General Manager at Ilford Golf Club, 291 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 3TR.
Closing date for applications 5 January 2007.

WHITELEAF GOLF CLUB

Assistant Greenkeeper

Qualification not essential although knowledge of aspects of Greenkeeping would be preferred.
Some weekend working is required.
Training opportunities available.
Salary dependent on experience and qualification.

Applications in writing or e-mail detailing past employment and experience to: The Secretary, Whiteleaf Golf Club Ltd, Upper Icknield Way, Whiteleaf, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0LY
For further information please telephone 01844 274058
e-mail: whiteleafgc@tiscali.co.uk • www.whiteleafgolfclub.co.uk