Greenkeeper, Steve Quince, on becoming a father for the first time. Best of luck Steve from the Section. Not forgetting George Gainford, of Prudhoe GC, he has just gone up a step, as he will become a grandad.

As you know Matfen Hall are opening their new nine holes in June, well it looks like they have been busy over the winter as they have been planting a few thousand trees on the new course and if they take as well as the ones on the main course heaven help if you don’t keep that ball on the fairway.

Just been checking the membership, we have lost three members from the Section this year already, all leaving the trade, it doesn’t take a brain surgeon to work out why, the latest member to pack it in was Barry Weddell, from Alnmouth Village, not many of you would know Barry but once upon a time he used to be a regular player in the competitions. Myself and some of the older members, I’m sure, will wish him well for the future. His job has been taken over by young Kerry Shotton, from Alnwick GC.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

As I write these notes I am busy taking bookings for the Spring Seminar, in fact I have had to close the list at 101 delegates so anyone who could not get a place please accept my apologies. We knew that this particular seminar would be a sellout and we were not disappointed. Many thanks go out to Stuart Yarwood, Steve Oultram, Nick Gray and Dave Austin for their help, also many thanks to the speakers for their precious time and not forgetting Wilmslow GC and their committee for supporting the association and allowing us the use of their clubhouse for the seminar. Many thanks to all who attended and I hope you all enjoyed it.

A bit of news on the job front, Russell Lewis has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Hale GC; James Blacklock, from Lymm GC, has been appointed to Head Greenkeeper at Ellesmere GC, and takes over from Trevor, who, I believe, is starting a new career venture. We wish them all good luck.

Adie Holt, from Birchwood GC, and his wife, Rhiannon, are the proud parents of a daughter. Welcome to Ariana. Put some matchsticks in your eyelids, Adie, it tends to help. We wish Ariana good luck, good health and happiness.

Last, but not least, we have the Spring Tournament coming up at Prestbury GC, the time is to be confirmed but the date is April 19, to play in it you must send a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA North West Section. The address to send your cheque to is: Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Please remember we will be limited in numbers for this tournament so please get your names down quickly.

If anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the Secretary Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625. My email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

Chris Sheehan

Northern

Well, after a long hard winter, the cutting and golfing season is nearly upon us and I'm hoping that by the time you read this you should all have received this year’s fixture list. A few dates for your diaries which are already confirmed are the: Spring Tournament, Wednesday, April 18, at Hesstle GC; President's Day on Thursday, June 26, at Ripon GC, with first tee off being at 1.30pm. The Autumn Tournament will be held at Fulford GC on either September 25 or 27. I will confirm the date in the next issue of the magazine. Like last year’s Christmas Competition, we need to have your name and your entry fee at least one week before the event.

Please note that following a few technical problems, my new email address is: speight619@btinternet.com. You can contact me by email, telephone or post. My details are as follows:

Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB
Tel: 01274 638366 Mobile: 07739 319060

Sheffield

Sorry there was no news last month but there wasn't anything to report! As I always say, if anyone has any stories/news, even not related to greenkeeping, please feel free to get in touch with me and I will gladly put it in the magazine.

These are the golf dates for this season: Spring Competition, May 14, Rotherham GC, tee off 1.30; Summer Competition, July 9, Wortley GC, tee off 1.30; Sheffield Section Vs Northern Section, July 19, Hickleton GC, tee off 1.30; Autumn Competition, September 17, Brough GC, tee off 1.00; Sheffield Union Greenkeepers, September 24, Sandhills GC. The Christmas competition is still to be arranged.

The Section are running the trip to Wembley in October - date to be arranged dependent on numbers wanting to go which we will be trying to find out over the next few weeks, anyone interested feel free to contact me or any of the committee so we can have an idea of numbers for transport reasons etc.

Feel free to contact me on: jv.lax@tesco.net or: 07793111845
John Lax

North Wales

It has now been just over six years since I took over this scribe’s position from my predecessor, Dave Goodridge, of Denbigh GC, and hasn’t the time flown, it has been real fun and I have enjoyed it immensely.

I do believe for any Section to move forward, to achieve its goals, we have to introduce new blood with new ideas and a fresh outlook otherwise it’s just same old, same old.

This position I took on voluntarily and said to myself two to three years and move on, but I am still here, still writing these notes... And yes over six years I have missed one or two months for one reason or another but all in all I am proud to have contributed my time for British Golf Greenkeeping in what I feel is a really great profession and industry to work in.

I am handing over this pen to my “brother from another mother”, who is also my golfing roll up partner at Lymm GC, known by many of you now as the original Gingerbread Man, and the North Wales Section holder of the most raffle tickets sold on any one golf day, with his classic phrase, “Raffle tickets £1 each or I can do you a deal, why not buy 3 for £3?” A man with a vast vocabulary and an insatiable lust for life it can only be the one and only Mr Stuart Yarwood d.b.t.c. (Don't bend the card).

Far from taking a back seat, I will still be on committee and help out actively at Section events throughout the year, which brings me nicely onto our first golf match of the year, our Spring
Tournament being held at Abergele GC and a chance for many of you to inspect the great condition of Darren Anderson’s course with its sand greens laid just under five years ago, and from our visit there some three Christmasses ago it will be nice to see how they have come on. If you have not yet received your entry form, one should be posted out to you shortly.

Following this date it will be the North Wales vs North West Match being held again at Sutton Hall GC, on May 23. Anyone wishing to put their name forward for the North Wales team please contact Jez Hughes on: 07876 776265 – If possible we are looking for players with that will to win, as last year saw us lose this competition yet again going down in five of the six matches.

A bit of sad news for these final notes, I am to report the passing of Elfyn Owen, on February 2. He was 69 years old and I knew him from his years at Dolgellau GC as Head Greenkeeper, then latterly at Royal St David’s, Harlech, where he worked alongside the Kerry bros. Elfyn was one of life’s really good guys, a good golfer and a good friend to many and all of you who had that chance meeting with him would have said the same, he did not have a bad word for anybody. His passion was singing in the Welsh male voice choir. In fact he travelled the world with the Godre’r Aran choir (in Welsh it translates ‘the choir from the foothills of the mountain’) he made friends and had acquaintances from many countries in the world and in their coming over to give him a big send off just showed how well thought of he was.

On a lighter note, Gareth Evans, also from Royal St David’s, has attained a 12 month sabbatical at Pinehurst GC in the USA. We wish him well and have yet to find out if it is No1 No2 No3…No8 etc but, whichever it is I am sure he will have a most enjoyable time.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those who organised the Spring Seminar held at Wilmslow GC, it takes a lot of preparation and the anticipation of the day going well for all involved bears heavy for the 24 hours prior to the start, making sure the best laid plans come together – and it did with well over 100 attendees, a full panel of speakers and guest speakers on the hot subject of sustainable golf.

This just leaves me to say a big thank you to each and everyone of you who helped with your contribution to the notes, because however small or insignificant you think it may be, it is always a help and I have been grateful for your stories and anecdotes, also a big thank you to everyone who takes the time to read them, some funny, some sad, some serious, some topical, some interesting and some enlightening.

So to end I would like you to think of the words from the song; Never forget where your coming from, Never pretend it’s not real, because some day, this will all be someone else’s dream!

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

East Midland

I have to start this month’s column with the sad news that Dave Johnson who worked at Horsley Lodge GC passed away on February 20, Dave had worked at Horsley Lodge for 12 years and passed away while doing one of the things he loved in life, playing Shrovetide Football. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him and our thoughts go out to Russ and his team at Horsley and to Dave’s wife and family at this sad time.

The annual go-carting event took place on February 21 at the East Midlands Formula 1 Carting Centre and we had a good turn out of 21 budding Jenson Buttons. The event was a two-man team event and was won by Ben Cumberland and Dean Buxton, from Bulwell Forest GC, and our thanks go to Toro UK and Andrew Humble, from Toro, for sponsoring the event and all the greenkeepers that attended to make the night a success.

There have been a couple of greenkeepers seeking pastures new lately Scott Purdy has moved to Willesley Park GC as Head Greenkeeper and Frazer Harrison has left his position as First Assistant at Willesley Park to join Shirland GC as Deputy Course Manager and I’m sure we all wish them well in their new jobs.

There is another point of interest for March and it will be the North Wales vs North West Match being held again at Sutton Hall GC, on May 23. Anyone wishing to put their name forward for the North Wales team please contact Jez Hughes on: 07876 776265 – If possible we are looking for players with that will to win, as last year saw us lose this competition yet again going down in five of the six matches.

A bit of sad news for these final notes, I am to report the passing of Elfyn Owen, on February 2. He was 69 years old and I knew him from his years at Dolgellau GC as Head Greenkeeper, then latterly at Royal St David’s, Harlech, where he worked alongside the Kerry bros. Elfyn was one of life’s really good guys, a good golfer and a good friend to many and all of you who had that chance meeting with him would have said the same, he did not have a bad word for anybody. His passion was singing in the Welsh male voice choir. In fact he travelled the world with the Godre’r Aran choir (in Welsh it translates ‘the choir from the foothills of the mountain’) he made friends and had acquaintances from many countries in the world and in their coming over to give him a big send off just showed how well thought of he was.

On a lighter note, Gareth Evans, also from Royal St David’s, has attained a 12 month sabbatical at Pinehurst GC in the USA. We wish him well and have yet to find out if it is No1 No2 No3…No8 etc but, whichever it is I am sure he will have a most enjoyable time.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those who organised the Spring Seminar held at Wilmslow GC, it takes a lot of preparation and the anticipation of the day going well for all involved bears heavy for the 24 hours prior to the start, making sure the best laid plans come together – and it did with well over 100 attendees, a full panel of speakers and guest speakers on the hot subject of sustainable golf.

This just leaves me to say a big thank you to each and everyone of you who helped with your contribution to the notes, because however small or insignificant you think it may be, it is always a help and I have been grateful for your stories and anecdotes, also a big thank you to everyone who takes the time to read them, some funny, some sad, some serious, some topical, some interesting and some enlightening.

So to end I would like you to think of the words from the song; Never forget where your coming from, Never pretend it’s not real, because some day, this will all be someone else’s dream!

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

East Midland

I have to start this month’s column with the sad news that Dave Johnson who worked at Horsley Lodge GC passed away on February 20, Dave had worked at Horsley Lodge for 12 years and passed away while doing one of the things he loved in life, playing Shrovetide Football. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him and our thoughts go out to Russ and his team at Horsley and to Dave’s wife and family at this sad time.

The annual go-carting event took place on February 21 at the East Midlands Formula 1 Carting Centre and we had a good turn out of 21 budding Jenson Buttons. The event was a two-man team event and was won by Ben Cumberland and Dean Buxton, from Bulwell Forest GC, and our thanks go to Toro UK and Andrew Humble, from Toro, for sponsoring the event and all the greenkeepers that attended to make the night a success.

There have been a couple of greenkeepers seeking pastures new lately Scott Purdy has moved to Willesley Park GC as Head Greenkeeper and Frazer Harrison has left his position as First Assistant at Willesley Park to join Shirland GC as Deputy Course Manager and I’m sure we all wish them well in their new jobs.

The date for the Spring Tournament this year is Thursday, May 24, at Horsley Lodge GC and entry forms will be sent out soon in the post.

Dan Rodgers

Berks/Bucks and Oxon

Due to a mix up at BIGGA HQ Berks/Bucks and Oxon Section notes for March did not appear in that issue, so here there are:

Groundhog Day! March - is it spring yet?
Global warming has caused a great debate.
This mild winter past makes it seem just great, 
On this groundhog day we think of one thing, 
Will we have winter or will we have spring? 
On Gobbler’s Knob I see no shadow, 
Spring will soon be on the meadow.

‘Spring Forward’ and ‘Fall Back’ - that’s how to remember when 
to change the clocks. This year we ‘Sprung Forward’ early on 
Sunday morning, March 26 - so I hope you remembered to put 
your clocks forward one hour, for some of us that would have been 
before we went to sleep on Saturday night! Barry Holt, from Burford 
GC, after 23 years on the job overslept twice in one week, Barry, 
what on earth were you doing!

Steve Coone, formally a Grounds Manager on a Private Estate, 
has changed hats and is the new representative for Golf & Turf 
and will join James Moore on the road covering Berkshire and 
Buckinghamshire. Welcome to the Section.

T H White has done a great job in preparing and printing this 
year’s fixture card which will be sent out in the next mail out. One 
for the diary, so remember to log it, Sonning GC will be the venue 
for the Gem Summer Tournament on July 4 and Beaconsfield GC 
will host the AGM and Turkey Trot on November 21 this year.

The first event this year will be held at Wycombe Heights GC, 
sometime in May. Sorry there is no date at the moment, however 
we are working on it and promise you will have plenty of notice this 
year to plan your diary for these events.

Congratulations to Chris Lomas, from the Berkshire GC, who 
has achieved Master Greenkeeper status after clearing the final 
of many hurdles in October. Chris has joined 45 others from around 
the world who have attained such a distinction.

April showers bring May flowers, or a sweet pea or two. After 
all, the month of ‘aperire’ is now upon us, when in the northern 
hemisphere buds begin to open and things start to grow after the 
winter period, or at least that is what is supposed to happen, but 
with a mild and wet period over the last few months, I hope the sun 
has shone for all of you over this Easter period.

An exciting time for Rob Surgey, and his team at Wycombe 
Heights GC, as a new heat generating plant is being trailed 
and tested. These plants, known by the scientific name Solar 
Complexus Americanus, were imported from Venezuela. One plant 
alone, fed by nothing more than half a litre of water per week, or 
at regular intervals using the greens irrigation system, generates 
as much heat as a 2kw electric fire. A few of these horticultural 
wonders which are submerged just below the surface have been 
strategically placed around the green surrounds of Wycombe 
Heights GC in the hope that raising soil temperatures will make 
frost greens a thing of the past. The Scandinavian botanist behind 
this and responsible for discovering these hot air producing plants 
was the much acclaimed Professor Olaf Lipro, who is a keen golfer 
and member at Wycombe Heights GC.

With all this in mind on May 17 we kick off with our first event of 
the year at Wycombe Heights GC, and battle it out over this testing 
course designed by the legendary John Jacobs, that has many 
varied holes with the course situated on a hillside giving stunning 
scenery over the Chilton’s with a particularly enjoyable finish, which 
will leave you wanting to come back for more.

Rumour has it, that Adam King, from Radley College, is looking 
at the feasibility of organising a cricket match between the Section 
members and the IOG. So if there are any budding beefy Botham’s 
out there who fancy a whack with the willow, give the graphite a rest 
and get in touch.

Next the website - Yes, I hear you say - the website? Our 
cyberspace prayers have been answered. Dean Jones has 
been busy putting the finishing touches to the first ever BBO 
Greenkeepers website and this can be found by using the domain 
name now registered which is: bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

The aim of the website is to bring and enhance current 
educational opportunities and social events by communicating 
better on all topics relating to the Section

Mark Day mark@day.fm

Mid Anglia

The Spring Meeting will be played at East Herts GC on Friday 
May 4. This will be 18 holes (pm) and this will also be the qualifier 
for the National Tournament. Entries sent through to Richard 
Saunders as normal.

On a sad note, I have to inform you that early in March Steve 
Mason’s wife, Sue, passed away after a short illness. Our thoughts 
are with Steve and his family.

Gerald Bruce

SOUTH EAST REGION

Surrey

Wednesday, March 7. It’s nearly 6pm and it’s still light, 
surely spring is just around the corner and if it stops raining the 
faces I see on my daily wanderings will once again grin in happy 
contentment. I have just returned home after visiting several 
customers in Sussex and they like you Surrey guys are trying to 
find jobs for the boys that keep them off the course and causing 
more damage than good. On Monday, March 5 one of my visits was 
to the Drift GC to congratulate Mark Pennels on his appointment 
as the local Mafia boss. Mark had all his staff working on their 
irrigation system in anticipation the current rainfall levels dropping 
to those which we experienced last summer. Mark has assured his 
members that he has no intention of turning it on yet although he is 
desperate to see if it works! I sometimes bump into other reps as I 
travel around upsetting other road users and an old face that I see 
oncasionally knocked on the window of Chris Gosden’s office at St 
Georges Hill GC, as we were putting the world to rights, and grinned 
as if training for a Gurnning competition. Chris Rudkin, that amiable 
and very able representative from Sheriffs, was gesturing with 
hand signals that I took to mean my time was up and that he was 
anxious to get at Chris’s budget before it was all gone. Yes Chris 
Rudkin is older than myself and the years could have been kinder, 
but he plods on with his little dog, Fang, terrorising, his customers 
by showing them his photograph in his bus pass. Be sure to take a 
look next time he calls, as he is a dead ringer for Victor Meldrew, 
even though he doesn’t believe it.

Peter Broadbent is saying goodbye to Effingham GC where he 
has been Course Manager for many years and is taking up the a 
similar position at Woodcote Park GC and we all wish him a very happy future there.

Please, will every member of the Surrey Section welcome Robin 
Douglas, the new Course Manager at Bramley GC, to our bit of
England and wish him every success and happiness.

Daren Wales, Course Manager at Clandon Regis GC, and an old friend of Matthew Lawrence, at Guildford GC, would like to announce his forthcoming marriage to Caroline on the May 11 at Leatherhead and would welcome all members, if they can find the venue, to have a drink before they leave honeymoon.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Hi everyone, the news a little thin on the ground this month so straight in with a couple of Good Luck messages. Firstly to Tony Neve, who has joined my team at Birchwood Park, as Deputy Course Manager and secondly to Mark Todd who left Nizels GC to take over from Huw Morgan at The Wildernesse Club. Best wishes to both of them and, indeed, to Huw as he makes his return to his homeland of Wales.

Our website, which has been off the air for a while, is now up and running again in a very much ‘New and Improved’ style. Please try to check it when you get a free minute for all the latest news as well as a picture gallery and a few ‘funnies’ to brighten your day. We are still at the same web address which is at the end of this report. You can contact us through the web page as well to give us any news you may have.

Our next golf day will be on June 12. This will be held at the Westgate and Birchington GC which is a lovely seaside links at Westgate on Sea. Entry forms will be downloadable from the web page soon. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Other events such as team football and golf matches will also be arranged and details posted on the web as soon as we find someone we can beat!

Rob Holland www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk

London

Welcome to London Section. I would like to apologise for the delay in the Around the Green, this has been due to a technical problem that we hope is now sorted. So a late Happy New Year to you all! In recent months, there have been a variety of events taking place and I feel that things are moving forward for the Section.

In October, an educational seminar on Woodland management was held at Oaklands collage. It was a highly productive day and very informative. Thank you to John Nicholson and Mike Edwards for their invaluable input.

Watch out Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea - we don’t need your bill! The team have been in impressive form, apart from the slip up against Surrey. Watch out for the re-match!

The Turkey Trot in December was once again held at Porters Park GC, with a great turn out of 55. There was a good standard of golf on the day.

We must give a special mention to Sam Brennan, of Old Fold Manor GC, who got a hole-in-one on the nearest to pin hole with a classy 8-iron. His joy soon turned to regret when handed the bar bill!

The results of the day are as follows: Nearest the pin - Sam Brennan, Old Fold Manor GC; Longest drive - Nick Beesley, Stockley Park GC.


Congratulations to Martin Smith and his team for presenting the course in superb condition. Thank you to the catering staff and the bar staff and thank you to our main sponsor, Scotts.

Please see below for fixtures and events for 2007:

Spring meeting (Oliviers Toro trophy) at Brookmans Park GC, Wednesday April 25, tees from 12pm; Summer meeting at Gerrards Cross GC, Thursday, August 14, tees from 1.45pm.

Turkey trot meeting (Scotts Trophy) at Porters Park GC on Wednesday, December 12, tees from 10am.

Paint balling, Saturday, June 9 at Bricketwood, contact London Section Secretary Aaron Percival on: 07966 247913 spaces are filling fast.

Finally if you have any information e.g. achievements, good or bad news or anything interesting please let me know on 07818410333. Thank you.

Matt Plested

Essex

Our first meeting of the new Committee took place at Colne Valley GC, with a full attendance of the committee. Several matters were discussed and these will become apparent in the next few months.

Paul O’Kane, Colne Valley GC, qualified to travel to the GCSAA Golf Industries Show and Conference in Anaheim, USA as part of the Bernhard & Co contingent representing BIGGA. I spoke with him for some minutes and he was really enjoying himself and I’m sure he made some good friends out of the other lads on the trip. Don Clark, Orsett GC, went with Andy Turbin, Erne Doe & Sons and Ransomes Jacobsen. Here again I’m sure that they will both have learnt a lot from their experiences. While I was there I bumped into Ex-Essex member Andy Sheehan, and a few other faces from the past and present. A very large and exciting show and well worth the trip, lots to learn and plenty of new people to meet. Next year it’s in Orlando, Florida. So why not take the family along and make a holiday of the whole thing?

Don’t forget the Spring Tournament sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products. Wednesday, May 2, Gosfield Lake GC, get your entry in early to avoid disappointment.

Just a note if anyone has moved or has not been getting correspondence from the Section please notify Martin Forrester on: 07984-867.939 or by Email: mdwforrester@hotmail.com

On Thursday, May 17, at Brookweald Cricket Club, Weald Road, South Weald Park, Brentwood, we are holding an Essex BIGGA v Trade cricket match. Start time is 2.30pm. Those interested in playing in the teams should contact Ian Wood on 01708 746157 or mobile 07952470861 or email ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk those not interested in playing but just enjoying the fun, are welcome too. There is a bar open all afternoon and evening. Would all applicants please include official club handicaps with their applications.

Move news of the month, is that Antony Kirwan is moving from Colchester, where he has been for the last eight years, to take on the role of Head Greenkeeper just down the road at Lexden Wood GC. I’m sure that you will all join me in wishing him the best of luck in his new job and the next stage of his career in greenkeeping.

You should all be receiving a flyer through the post from Paul O’Kane (Education) informing you of some of the courses that he is
intending to run. There will be limited availability for these courses so an early response would make your chance of getting a place more certain. Fixture cards should also be dropping on your mats, please study these and make a note in your diary.

I’m sorry that this month’s news is short but it’s the time of year plus I’ve only just returned from the States.

Sadly I have to inform members of the passing of Jack Cheeseman on March 14, Ex Head Greenkeeper at Colne Valley Golf Club and also in mid February Daryl Spellburg who was Head Greenkeeper at Millar Barn Golf Club.

Anyone who has any news for inclusion can Email me: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call me: 01206 852353

Arnold Phipps-Jones

South West

I was really sorry to hear that Mark Ford, Head Greenkeeper at Kingsdown GC, has been taken ill recently. Mark, all in the Section wish you a swift and complete recovery. February 22 really was the first day of Spring – mild and temperate, golden sunshine, a warm breeze. Okay, it tanked down with rain all day, blew a gale, and was freezing cold as well. All perfect ingredients for yet another successful South West Section Meeting. The venue was Stockwood Vale GC, Keynsham, but despite the weather we couldn’t have had a warmer welcome, or been better looked after. The course, prepared to an almost unbelievable standard by Steve Francome and his team, may have been a little soft underfoot, but that in no way detracted from the day. Yes there actually was golden sunshine, but not until after we’d finished playing golf and retired to the bar. Still, spare a thought for Roger Davey, of sponsors Irritech, - all psyched up for a PowerPoint Presentation after the golf, only to have all his equipment stolen from his hire car the day before. So no laptop, projector, or notes – other people may have crumbled, but Roge is made of sterner stuff – he came up with a quiz on irrigation, and a prize for the highest score. After much deliberation, Chris “the big suntan” Sealey (just back from a fortnight in Goa) won on 14 out of 20 something. I lost count and counting down the days. The local gypsies have r

Back at Minch, Abbotts only have four greens left to do and I’m counting down the days. The local gypsies have recently decided to help by raiding the Abbotts compound, and also our machinery shed. The locks on Abbotts steel containers were cut off like childs play, presumably with the same angle-grinder as peeled open our machine store. Happily our alarm went off before they could nick anything, and of course the police came screeching up about five hours later with the Scenes of Crime officer and his oppo looking like something out of “Twelve Angry Men”, with a hot debate about the size of small football pitches. Happy Days.

Darren Moxham has taken over from lan at Saltford, and all in the Association wish you well Darren. Ian told me that there was a “nice gathering” for his retirement in the Saltford clubhouse, with a sizeable delegation of members and officials assembled to make a presentation and mark the occasion. In his acceptance speech, lan, ever the diplomat told them that despite their generosity today, at one time or another during his career he had cursed each and every one of them out on the course! lan, we wish you a very happy and lengthy retirement. Another retirement in the offing is Ivor Scoones from Long Ashton. Ivor has recently been born de combat with a knee replacement operation so James Braithwaite has taken over the running of the course. We wish Ivor a swift recovery. I joined the BGGA in 1975, and Ivor was already well established as the Head Greenkeeper at Long Ashton and went on to be National Chairman of both the BGGA and BIGGA, as well as Regional Chairman. I remember very well the first section AGM that I attended at Knowle GC in 1976. Ivor was the incoming Secretary, Bob Gates the Chairman, Frank Ainsworth the outgoing Secretary and Derek Cheetham the Match Captain. The atmosphere was like something out of “Twelve Angry Men”, with a hot debate about the PGA merging with the Greenkeepers Association, and those four had some very strong views. As a vulnerable teenager I remember cowering at the back and thinking, Please God, don’t let him ask me anything!

Beat that. Ian was reminiscing of his early days at North Berwick in 1959 - after being at the club for about three months, one morning the boss told him that someone else was going to rake all the bunkers that day, and lan was going to be allowed to mow one or two greens. lan whooped for joy and headed straight for the Atco kick-start petrol mower. “Nae so fast laddie,” said the boss – “when you get your lines straight, we might let you have a go with that one - until then...” (Gesturing towards a 16 inch push mower) “Enjoy yourself with this!” (The greens at North Berwick are the size of small football pitches). Happy Days.

Finally, Chris Sealey has long-for

Greenkeeper International  55
accepted to be the greatest round of the 20th century, a 63 to win the US Open there in 1973. The 3rd and 4th holes feature the famous “Church Pews” bunkers, from which Arnold Palmer once famously took four shots to escape. Hope Chris makes a better job of raking it than Arnie did. One thing is certain – there are few people who deserve this experience more than Chris. Nobby has asked me to remind all members that in order to receive details and invites to tournaments and meetings, they must register with him by returning the slip which was circulated with the fixture lists. Wayne Vincent has also asked that members wishing to represent the section team get in touch with him direct on 07958630590. See you all at Cotswold Hills on the 25th.

Paul Worster 01453 837355/paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

South Coast

It’s been a wet winter (understatement) but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our golf season for the Section is nearly upon us.

Our first outing will be the Spring Tournament at Romsey GC on May 3. This event is very special to the section as we remember Colin White. So, it is also very appropriate that Avoncrop Amenity Products are one of the main sponsors, alongside Vitax Ltd. If you have not already received your invite please contact Chris Sturgess on: 07773 138409 or email him: chris maggisturgess@tiscali.co.uk. Start time TBA.

Approximately four weeks following Romsey will be the Scotts/BIGGA Management Trophy. This will take place at Stoneham GC on May 31. Each Golf Club that enters a team must make up a four ball which must include a member of their greenkeeping staff, the other three must be members of the Clubs Management eg Secretary, Chairman, Chairman of Green, President etc. This is reasonably flexible as long as a Greenkeeper is part of the team. This is an excellent day as it really encourages good networking across the whole of the industry. This was definitely the positive feedback from last year’s event. The cost per team is £90. The prizes include individual rewards plus £200 of Scotts products for the winning Golf Club. Jane Jones will, if not already, contact you with further booking detail.

The final of last years or this years or - I’m sorry I can’t keep up with the Jim Fry Pairs Competition - is between Tony Gadd and Fred Deamen vs Steve Privett and Simon Justice. Good luck to all. Joking aside, the organising of this competition has been an absolute nightmare for Phil Wentworth. I'm sorry to report from my very wet course, if you have anything you think we should remember, please ring me on: (07889792190) or email me at: henry@henrystead.wanadoo.co.uk. As I write this, the newscaster is telling us we could have a hose pipe ban in the summer good old Britain! It’s been a wet winter (understatement) but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our golf season for the Section is nearly upon us.

The award was to wet to cut it, except for you lucky old links boy’s.

The Result of the Golf Competition is as follows: 1. Mark Evans, RN.D GC, 31pts; 2. Andy Parker, Ilfracombe GC, 28pts; 3. Steve Elliot, West Cornwall GC, 25pts.

Donovan O Hunt Administrator

South Wales

Hi everybody, I don’t know about you lot but I’ve had just about enough rain to last me all summer long, but I expect by June we’ll have a hosepipe ban! Dry patch, I could do with a dry patch right now so I can move my machines around, the grass is growing and its to wet to cut it, except for you lucky old links boy’s.

A date for your diaries, the annual BIGGA Spring Seminar will be held on May 3 at the Royal Porthcawl GC in the Common room and the day will be sponsored by Farmura Environmental and STRI will be in attendance, details will be finalised and sent out to the members at a later date. This fixture is usually very well attended so please return your forms early to avoid disappointment. That’s it for this month nobody has any news for me so I will go back to my very wet course, if you have anything you think we should now about ring me on: (07889792190) or email me at: henry@henrystead.wanadoo.co.uk. As I write this, the newscaster is telling us we could have a hose pipe ban in the summer good old Britain! Keep on smiling.

Henry Stead
Our Total Package will suit you down to the ground

Successful sports teams are continually searching for the ideal winning package.
Part of that quest is finding the perfect playing surface and this is why more and more groundsmen and greenkeepers are using Scotts as their Total Solution Fertilizer Provider. But, Scotts’ formula for growing green, healthy, deep-rooted turf is, naturally – top secret!
Underground intelligence gathering, technical monitoring and down to earth trialling ensure all our fertilizers, from conventional to slow release, controlled release to liquids produce top turf all season long.
To learn about our secret and how you can achieve the perfect playing surface call 0871 220 5353 today.

Scotts UK Professional, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ.
Tel: 0871 220 5353 Fax: 01473 830386 email: prof.sales@scotts.com www.scottsprofessional.co.uk
9. Fear of heights
6. The shoulder blade

In the

7. Golf

ANSWERS

MONSTER SUDOKU

Quick 'Nine Hole' Quiz
1. Water Polo
2. Frank Valli
3. Motor Racing (The Indianapolis 500)
4. Serena Williams (Aneres is Serena spelt backwards)
5. The Human League
6. David Beckham's
7. Golf
8. Sky-diving
9. Swimming

CROSSWORD

MONSTER SODUKU

SQUIGGLY SODUKU

58  Greenkeeper International
It plays just like real turf!

Supatee Tee-Line Turf

solution for:

CONSTRUCTION

AGRONOMY

BUILDINGS

Water Features

● Remodelling

The

For further details

call the sales team

on 01347 833800

www.deltagolf2000.co.uk

Supatee Tee-Line Turf

www.turfdry.com

Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting • Vertidraining
Topdressing • Overseeding

www.bigga.org.uk

Melvyn Taylor
on 01283 551417
or 07836 259133

www.landunitconstruction.co.uk

Contact: Kevin Smith

example: 120 x Augusta style markers - only £399

Handcrafted Tee Markers, Yardage Posts and Hazard Stakes

Extremely good value for money

Example: 120 x Augusta style markers - only £399

Visit www.gressgolf.co.uk

For more information and photos

OR Tel: 01771 986745

Sand Slitting • Vertidraining

www.footballlandscape.co.uk

Example: 120 x Augusta style markers - only £399

J & E ELY

Golf Course Construction

Reading, Berks

Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257
E-mail: ely@btinternet.com

40th Anniversary
1961 - 2001

www.elygolfconstruction.com

Quality Land Draining

Design & Installation
Primary Systems
Sand Slitting
Gravel Banding

Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828

STAKES AND HAZARD

www.bowhayestrees.co.uk

Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd
Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BX
Tel: 01604 468908
Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257
E-mail: ely@btinternet.com

www.bigga.org.uk

or visit www.bowhayestrees.co.uk

NEW FOR 2006/2007

For fast and friendly UK service call:

Mevyn Taylor

on 01283 551417
or 07836 259133

www.turfdry.com

www.philipdixoncontractor.co.uk

Contact: Kevin Smith

Example: 120 x Augusta style markers - only £399

E LY

Drainage • Construction • Renovation
Design • Installation • Maintenance

www.Hancox.co.uk

www.hancox.co.uk

Construction • Sportsfield
Top Dressing • Spraying

The British Lung Foundation

www.btf.org.uk

www.blf.org.uk

www.btf.org.uk

www.blf.org.uk

www.blf.org.uk

www.blf.org.uk

www.blf.org.uk

www.blf.org.uk
and check out the greenkeeping from the PROVIDER MANAGEMENT
Email: bloodworth@onetel.com

GREENKEEPING
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING
to book your space now

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M
2M & 1.5M GROUNDBREAKER FOR HIRE
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING
TOP DRESSING • SPRAYING
Distance no object
Tel/Fax: 01476 550266
Mobile: 07855 431120
Email: bloodworth@onetel.com
www.worth-draining.com

DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT
Golf Driving Range Equipment
• Unique BehindWall & Integrated Ball
Dispensing Systems
• Golf Ball Cleaners & Elevators
• Golf Ball Collectors
• Utility Vehicles & Mowers
• Edel"Green" Range Mats
• Fiberbuilt Range Mats
• Impaktee Mats
• Range Balls
Plus a full range of Accessories
Approved stockist for STANDARD GOLF course products

Buckelsham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP10 0DN
Tel: 44 (0) 1473 659815
Fax: 44 (0) 1473 659045
Email: info@rangeball.co.uk

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES
Our Lowest Ever Prices for 2007
APPROVED U.K. STOCKISTS
Fast Nationwide Delivery
For all your Golf Course & Range Supplies
Buckelsham, Ipswich, IP10 0DN
Tel: 44 (0) 1473 659815
Fax: 44 (0) 1473 659045
www.rangeball.co.uk
Email: info@rangeball.co.uk

GOLF MATS
HONEYCOMB MATS
• Non-slip in all weather
• Line Protection
• Muddy areas
• Slippery wood or concrete
• Gravel containment
• Wheelchair friendly
• Choice of types and sizes for specific applications

Fieldguard Ltd
Suxley Farm, Horsham Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8EH
Tel: 08603 759701 Fax: 08603 759700 www.fieldguardltd.co.uk
E-mail: info@fieldguardltd.com

FERTILISER MIXING
Fertiliser Mixing
Units up to 2000Ltr

GRINDERS
Tel: 01207 270 316
email: admin@huntergrinders.com
www.huntergrinders.com

HYDROSEEDING
CONTACT Richard on
0118 9629962 / 07771 986745
or www.greenmg.co.uk

IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION
DESIGN • SUPPLY • SERVICE
BS EN ISO 9001 Registered Company
Telephone +44 (0) 1425 474614
Fax: +44 (0) 1425 471296
enquiries@misc-irrigation.com
www.misc-irrigation.com

The independent choice for irrigation: DESIGN • SUPPLY • SERVICE

FOR YOUR PATHWAYS
Desgin, Supply, Install
All Aspects of Drainage

The Old Dairy, Southfield Avenue, Northampton NN4 8AQ
Tel: 01207 270 316
Fax: 01580 891 918

Norley Farm, Horsham Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8EH
Tel: 01765 602175
Fax: 01580 891 918

Fieldguard Ltd
Suxley Farm, Horsham Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8EH
Tel: 08603 759701 Fax: 08603 759700 www.fieldguardltd.co.uk
E-mail: info@fieldguardltd.com

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

Cameroon
greenkeeping

Cameroon

Cameroon

Cameroon

Cameroon

Cameroon

Cameroon

Cameroon

Cameroon