We would like to welcome a new member to the Section. Ian Craig from Elderslie GC - hope to see you at some events during 2007. Congratulations to Jack Steadward who has left Douglas Park after 17 years service. Jack has taken up a new post at the Carrick Golf course on the banks of Loch Lomond, all the best from all at the Section.

On a sad note our thoughts go out to Alistair Connell who lost his partner Ann over the Christmas period. Alistair has been a long time member of the West Section and we pass on our condolences to all the family.

Course news - The months of November and December has brought us some miserable weather but spare a thought for George McCutcheon and his staff at Bellshill GC.

During the wet period the club has seen a spate of mindless vandalism, mostly on the greens in which the 18th and 15th were damaged by Diesel and all other greens badly dug up. On top of this 25 new standard trees were also destroyed, this industry is bad enough without idiots making our job harder.

Hopefully 2007 will bring better fortune for George and Bellshill GC.

Just to remind members our autumn outing will be held over Vale of Leven GC, during September.

We are still awaiting confirmation of our spring outing, hopefully this will be sorted as soon as possible.

We still intend to hold a trip to the Carrick GC during spring; the weather has held us back in confirming dates, members will be notified as soon as possible.

When you receive this report we will all be back from Harrogate planning our season’s programmes, hopefully 2007 will bring us some good weather - it may even stop raining from time to time.

Well, that’s all for now, see you next month.

Fraser Ross
Mobile: 07970 366 355
Email: karen.ross@tesco.net

NORTHEAST

Well not much to write about this month, just more bad news. Members are leaving the profession – Roy White and Andrew Morrison both from Stockfield GC and A Wishart from Tynedale GC, looks like there could be a bit of movement within the Section shortly. I was talking to Craig Parkinson from Matten Hall GC and he was telling me that the new nine holes will be opening in June for about 16 weeks, and I can tell you they are quite impressive holes.

Although we are losing three members, we have also gained two new ones and they are: James McCarthy, Whitley Bay and Robert Hill, Alnmouth. For sure we will all miss Roy and Andrew, but we will all be happy to welcome James and Robert to the Section.

We are still awaiting confirmation of our spring outing, hopefully this will be sorted as soon as possible.

Due to a mix up at HQ, Jimmy’s December notes were not published, so here they are:

In November we finally got our annual match against the East of Scotland played after being cancelled from October, and boy did we get a hammering losing 4-1, had it been played on the original date, I’m sure the score would have been reversed as at that time we had a full team. We had a couple of friends playing for us and also may I thank the two greenkeepers from the home club (Bamburgh Castle) for their part in the team - I reckon it would have been a 5-0 loss if it wasn’t for them.

As most people knew, Stewarts of Edinburgh had sponsored this event for the last 25 years and recently have been taken over by Atkins who have said that they are going to carry on with this event in the future, so it would be nice if more greenkeepers were eager to play – as they used to be once upon a time.

Jimmy Richardson
The next generation of fast aerators has arrived!

The boundaries for deep and fast aeration have moved again with the introduction of the new TERRA SPIKE I-SERIES.

Three new machines, all featuring Wiedenmann’s revolutionary ATC technology combining fast, smooth and precise aeration with an extremely clean finish.

The new GXi is a compact fine turf aerator specially developed and designed from the ground up. Ideal for golf greens and sports turf.

Combining all the features developed for the GXi, the new XFi has a working depth of 220mm with productivity more than double that of conventional aerators.

For contractors and local authorities, the new XDi is a ground breaking machine: fast at 3.2 km/h with a working depth down to 275mm.

All machines feature:
- Advance Tine Control
- Vibra Stop
- Twin Stop
- Quick Set Heave
- Quick Set Depth
- Power Pack
- Quick Fix

For more information or a demonstration, call 0141 814 3366

NORTH WEST

As I compile these notes, Harrogate is only weeks away. I am looking forward to it to see what impact, if any, we will have this year. It is difficult compiling the notes because I have to submit them a month in advance and as I did not get a crystal ball for Christmas, I can’t predict the future.

Please get in touch if you have anything you would like to share with us all, there must be many births, job changes or funny things that have happened – so please share them with us. Please support your Section this year; in 2006 all our events were well supported so please keep it up. 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 2694625. My email address is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

Chris Sheehan

BENEFIT GOLF DAY

Withington GC in Manchester, will be holding a Benefit Golf Day on Tuesday, March 20.

The day is to celebrate Head Greenkeeper of 26 years, Stuart Bridge's recovery. Stuart was involved in a motorbike accident on his way to work last November and is finally on the road to recovery.

The competition is open to greenkeepers, groundsman and friends, and costs £20 per person (with a meal and prizes included).

The day will start at 10.30am and all the money raised will go to Stuart's family.

Those of you who are interested in coming are asked to phone Sid Pugh on: 07811522758 or Henry Royle on: 07850698138. Entries must be in by March 9.

SHEFFIELD

Firstly may I wish you all a belated Happy New Year, as there was no news for last month's edition.

On December 11, we held our Christmas competition and AGM at Worksop GC. May I thank Worksop for giving us the courtesy of their course which is very much appreciated. Unfortunately the weather tried its best to spoil things with very heavy overnight rain continuing into the morning but due to Worksop's naturally good drainage we managed to play our competition, actually in very nice weather for December, when it stopped raining. Thanks go to Tim Gittins and his staff for the condition of Worksop (nothing like dropping you in at the deep end Tim!) Tim had only been in charge at Worksop for six weeks! Thanks also go to Mike Brier and Rigby Taylor for being the main sponsors of the event once again, your support of the section is appreciated. Thanks also to all the other trade and guests who provided prizes for the raffle. Final thanks go to Joe and Jayne and their staff for providing an excellent meal that was enjoyed by everyone.

I am sure that everyone enjoyed playing golf, even on the temporary greens and there was some very good scoring. The eventual winner was Stuart Fricker from Bondhay GC with 43 pts, congratulations Stuart (I think your Craig must have given you some tips!). 2. J Shaw, 43pts; 3. T Boyd, 42pts; 4. R Needham, 41 pts; 5. A Whittington, 40pts.

Everyone who played received a prize as usual in our Christmas competition and with an excellent raffle table some people went home with a lot more than they came with, thanks to Peter Fell for selling the raffle tickets, once again you are a natural!

After the golf we held our AGM which was attended by a good number of our members. It ran fairly smoothly with nothing much to report really, apart from the Section had a very successful year again. There were two resignations from the committee - Dave Chappell and Kevin Kelsall, who I would both like to thank for all the work they have put into the section over the years, thank you! James Steven volunteered to come on to the committee, we all look forward to working with you this coming year.

The day was also a special day for three people in our section who had retired during the year and with well over 100 years service between them I think they all deserved their retirement gifts from the Section! They were:
Barry Lax, Les Easthope and Roy Ward, may you all have a long and enjoyable retirement. Barry and Roy received an engraved decanter each and Les received a printer/scanner. May I wish you all have a long and enjoyable retirement from everyone in the Sheffield Section.

Finally, congratulations go to Daryll Curtis on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Lothhouse Hill GC nr Wakefield, Daryll moves to Lothhouse from Lees Hall GC – all the best in the future Daryll from everyone in the Sheffield Section. Just to add to that, Dave Womack and all the greenkeepers at Lees Hall wish to say well done and good luck with your new job!

As usual, any news feel free to contact me on: 07793111845 or: jvlax@tesco.net

John Lax

NORTH WALES
Hello everyone. Stuart from Lymm GC being your scribe this month.

Short notes this time I’m afraid after the BTME Swaray. Like the BBC 2 programme ‘Have I got news for you,’ this month we have a stand in presenter as Mr Andrew Comes battles his Harrogate dinner addiction following on from the festivities and feasting. It is a sad and deliberating condition and we all wish him well. He is getting treatment as we speak, but I fear he may have to go ‘cold turkey’.

Not much to report this month only to congratulate all involved in the Xmas tournament at Conwy GC. I have always had great memories of Conwy, catching crabs off the harbour, a pint in the Liverpool Arms, getting stuck in the smallest house in the UK and lovely Fish and Chips. Sadly I hope to very quickly forget all memories of this competition as we all played golf in the most horrendous of conditions. Blowing gales, horizontal driving rains, and the fact that, I could only manage four bacon sandwiches before we went out. The course was a credit to Dave Lewis and his team who battled the conditions to provide us all with a stern test. The hot showers were also fantastic as was the welcome, warming food. Thank you to all. The results are as follows: 1. Darren Anderson, Chris Langdon, John Lloyd Jones & Dave Austin; 2. Jeremy Hughes, Hadon Jones, Terry Dodd & George Whitney; 3. Paul Walker, Trevor Rowlands & John Currie; Nearest the pin on the 2nd John Hunfries & 15th Joe Holdsworth.

The Spring North Wales/North West Seminar is hotting up already and looks to be a stonker! It’s being held at Wilsnlow GC on Friday, March 9. It starts at 9.15 and is carrying on from the “sustainable golf” theme from Harrogate. We don’t want to bore people about this new buzzword as we all played golf in the most horrendous of conditions. Blowing gales, horizontal driving rains, and the fact that, I could only manage four bacon sandwiches before we went out. The course was a credit to Dave Lewis and his team who battled the conditions to provide us all with a stern test. The hot showers were also fantastic as was the welcome, warming food. Thank you to all. The results are as follows: 1. Darren Anderson, Chris Langdon, John Lloyd Jones & Dave Austin; 2. Jeremy Hughes, Hadon Jones, Terry Dodd & George Whitney; 3. Paul Walker, Trevor Rowlands & John Currie; Nearest the pin on the 2nd John Hunfries & 15th Joe Holdsworth.

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The Summer Tournament will be held at Sonning GC on American Independence Day and Newbury and Cookham GC hosting the Autumn Invitational. A Clay Shooting Day is at planning stage and will take place in the later part of the year.

As the last event closes the Section for the year, Bill Patterson will be looking forward to welcoming the Section to The Turkey Trot and AGM at Beaconsfield GC.

Education Seminars are in the early stages of development, and on the agenda are plans to approach interesting and varied speakers to stimulate the grey matter, also making these venues enjoyable with topics that will motivate a wider audience throughout the BBO Section. Dates for all these venues and special events will be published as they are confirmed.

News from around the green with new, first time dad club member, Course Manager Ian Upton from Rye Hill GC who is now the proud father and celebrates the birth of baby Lucie – Congratulations to you all.

As I sit here at the start of another year, pondering over my objectives for the coming year, one can’t help but wonder what lies in store for us all over the forthcoming months. With the wettest winter period in years upon us, many courses in my area are seriously struggling to cope with increasingly wet ground conditions and a hardier breed of golfer who seems impervious to rainfall that would have Noah himself heading down to the local timber yard. I’ve even heard a prediction from a scientist this evening threatening the hottest summer ever this year! No doubt there will be more drought orders imposed on us all down south again, the way my course is at the moment, however, it’ll probably take a year to dry out if it stopped raining tomorrow!

You can’t beat a good old whinge about the weather can you!

Some great news from our esteemed Chairman Kev Morris. At the ripe old age of 40 he is now a very proud grandfather to baby Liliane. Congratulations Pops!

We are compiling a year’s programme of events which will hopefully be available soon but we kick off this month with our final winter seminar at Hadlow College on February 13. These free events are open to anyone and run from 10am to 4pm with some excellent topics being covered at every session. If you need more details please call me on the number below. This event shall be followed at 6pm on the same day by our annual night golf event at Birchwood Park. This is great fun and again open to anyone.
whether you have been to the seminar or not.
Your committee on the Kent Section are endeavouring to appeal to the masses to try and build on our successes of the last couple of years, so if you have any ideas of events, trips or any other pursuit you would like us to organise then please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions.
Best of British to one and all
Rob Holland
07843 410755

SUSSSEX
Hello again.
Just before Christmas we had a football match against Surrey, up at Colliers Wood. I would like thank all the people at Colliers Wood for providing the venue and laying on the refreshments. A big thank you to Dave Langham who organised things at Surrey’s end. The game itself was a full-blooded affair, with some good football played by both sides. Surrey took a two goal start in the first 20 minutes. Sussex rallied and with a good team performance, managed to pull one back by half time, which was scored by young Sam Lake. After half time the guys really played well and went 3-2 up with goals coming from Captain Matty Ash and Jon Thomson. As the game went on, Surrey pushed for the equaliser which they got 10 minutes from time. A draw was the fair result and a big thank you to everyone who took part.

Anyone who would like to participate in the next match please contact me on: 07776223234 or: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com

Moving onto the golf. I know Dave Ansell, our Fixtures Secretary, is looking for venues for golf days, so if you would like to put your course forward please contact me. It can be for this year or the following.

I would like to say congratulations to Matt Crossley and his wife Claire who gave birth to a baby girl on December 13. which they have called Daisy. All the best to them.

If there is any news that I can include in Around the Green please let me know. All the best for now and a Happy New Year.
Rob Hudson

EAST ANGLIA
Over 100 people attended our annual Turkey Trot at Thorpeness on December 13, sponsored by CMW, and the AGM. What a lovely day it was too. The course was pristine as is now the norm for Ian and his men, one of who was responsible for the pin positions. Stand up and be shot Mark Henderson. (I thought Billy Connolly was the only Scotsman with a sense of humour). Well done Mark, I thought they were brilliant for what it’s worth.

A few others that also had no problems were: 1. (Funonly enough) Mark Henderson; Peter and John Howard; and Ray Forman who made up the Thorpeness A Team and scored 56.3 (Texas Scramble don’t forget); 2. Glen Rayfield; Barry Hanks; Peter Cooney and Neville Rowlandson made up Felixstowe Ferry and scored 56.9 and 3. Richard Lewis; Rob George; Dale Baldwin and Nick Ashman who made up the score, only joking, no name Thompso. As the game went on, Surrey pushed for the equaliser which they got 10 minutes from time. A draw was the fair result and a big thank you to everyone who took part.

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Rob Hudson

ESSEX
Another season is shortly round the corner with the winter weather being somewhat strange and who knows what is to come? More of the same and more they have said on the news tonight, this will test the resolve of our greenkeeping skills.

2006 was a year of change and challenge, and it looks like the one to come will be very much the same.
The Christmas tournament held at Blake’s, Nr Epping at the beginning of December was no different weatherwise. We arrived to lashing rain and everyone was contemplating a day of waterproofs and feeling miserable, but when the hour arrived so did the sun and off we went with a spring in our step and battle commenced. The course, although only a year or so old, was very challenging and produced some good scores. Our thanks go to the Head Greenkeeper, Darren Dowsett and his staff, who despite the poor weather conditions over the days leading up to the tournament produced a course to be proud of. To the owner of Blake’s, Phil Newman, and his clubhouse staff, we also give our thanks for the fine food and hospitality we received.

Hopefully we will be able to return to replay the course in the not too distant future.

Texas scramble was the format of the day and Antony Kirwan did a fine job in mixing the teams to give an even field. 1. R. Hare, S. Barber, S. Cook & L. Springett with a Net 59; 2. on count back and also 59 was N. Gates, P. Whaley, T. Wolfe & B. Scrivener. 3. A. Kerwan, R. Lewis, A. Mccreadie & D. Baldwin. 4. T. Smith, J. Selwood, S. Jenkins & I. Wood.

Our most sincere thank you’s must go to our trade members who do a fantastic job in supporting us throughout the year. Our section is acknowledged as being the best run and best supported in the country (ask Essex) and it is all down to Ian and the trade guys & gals. We thank you all. The hall of fame is as follows: Aitkins; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; Ben Burgess; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; Ernest Doe; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Midlube; Prime Irrigation; Rigby Taylor; Sherifff; Sisis; Tacit; Textron; Tomlinson Groundcare; Tower Chemicals. (Apologies if we have missed anyone out).

Then came the AGM.
A fairly quiet affair. Ian would like all applications back at least one week prior to the tournament. The AGM may be before the meal this year in the hope that more will be involved. (There were only 12 of us at this one).

If you have any questions for next years AGM you will have a chance to write in prior to the AGM in order that any problems can be sorted out and save a lot of time.

I had the good fortune to have the Thorpeness President, Brian Lindores in our team and he said they had a meeting that lasted three minutes and that included a two-minute silence for a deceased member. Well I reckon we can match that. I don’t know about the deceased bit though.

Actually thinking about it we did have one of our true characters pass on at the beginning of December. It was Teddy Huddleston; he was 93 years old and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our sincere condolences to his family. I hope all of his expertise in greenkeeping is not wasted.

The President’s Award went to one of our younger members. He was a finalist in the Young Greenkeeper Award; although he did not win we thought he deserved better, so well done Graham Bruton.

We must also welcome some new blood from Dunston Hall, good to have you aboard, we could do with some more ‘Norfolks’.

As it happens we could seriously do with a few more venues in Norfolk to balance the travelling (ask Roger).

Congratulations once again to Ian Willett on his term of office as Regional Chairman.

Incidentally, all the officers were re-elected so you’ll have to put up with my waffle for another year.
Mick Lathrope

Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WEST
01444 270950

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Count on it.
A fantastic turnout on the day, of our largest field of the year we did our sponsor proud; we would like to thank Scott’s and Michael Fance for a day to remember.

As usual we had a good raffle prize table, supplied by the many trade representatives that support us through the year and I would like to thank them for their support.

This year’s trophies were won by the following members. Spring – Nick Gates; Summer – Nick Gates; Autumn – Tom Smith; Winter – Mark Phipps-Jones. Golfer of the Year was Nick Gates.

We introduced a new trophy this year in recognition of the support that we receive from the trade. This a competition played over the year for the most consistent trade member. This year the winner is Neil Peachey of P Tuckwell Ltd. I’m sure that with the introduction of this new trophy the competition will be fierce next year for the honour of being the trade golfing member of the year.

The AGM followed the meal and the following were elected to office. Chairman, Don Clarke. Vice Chairman & Scribe, Arnold Phipps-Jones. Secretary, Martin Forrester. Treasurer, Tom Smith. Competitions & handicap, Antony Kerwan. Education, Paul O’Kane.

I would like to thank Clive Osgood for attending and giving us his words of wisdom also for giving his support at our meetings over the year. As far as I can remember he has not missed an event all year, hopefully he will venture out with his clubs on the odd occasion this coming season.

This season’s fixtures are as follows: Spring, Gosfield Lake. Summer Medal, Theyboois GC. Autumn, Colchester GC. Winter, North Weald. Christmas Texas Scramble, Orsett. Dates are to be confirmed and you will have these in next month’s report.

As a last note I received a phone call this evening just as I was finishing this report of the following news; I am sure that you would all like to join me in congratulating Antony Kerwan and his wife on the birth of their second child, on 3rd January, a baby boy, who they have named Seth.

Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the Around the Green section can email me: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call: 01206-852.353

Arnold Phipps-Jones

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

SOUTH WEST

The course at Bath GC was in fine condition for our Christmas Tournament 2006. Andy Boyce and his team made the most of a brief window in the weather to prepare it, and to be able to present it with only one temporary green with the weather as it was, was something of an achievement. Well done and thanks. A lot less well done to some of our Section members in the bar afterwards, speaking as the guy who writes to the clubs to arrange the fixtures and gives his personal assurance that all competitors will be bona fide members of BIGGA etc, I was not particularly impressed to receive a letter expressing concern at half drunken après-golf antics. We are (non-paying) guests at all the clubs and represent our profession on each and every occasion – so sharpen up. Nuff said.

Back at Minchinhampton the new lake is lined and filling rapidly. The only tiny snag is getting turf across what’s left of the golf course and finding enough dry topsoil to finish off the landscaping. Abbott’s have finished installing the Rainbird System on one course and are now moving across to wreck the other one! So if I ever write again suggesting major projects on the course, tell me not to be so stupid.

This comes out in early February by which time hopefully the weather will have cheered up and I’ll have cheered up (although after last months report I’ve been accused of being one short of a full set of hub-caps) We’ll all be looking forward to the first meeting at Stowwood Vale on February 22, with the golf followed by the Roger Davey lecture. Spring renovation and the new season will then be just around the corner. In the meantime I hope you’ve all had a good week at Harrogate, and good luck on the courses in the early spring. The latest news from the area is the acquisition of The Bristol Golf Club by the Crown group. The Course Manager is David Nicholls, who runs the 18 holes plus nine hole par three, with six staff plus himself. The club is about seven years old and the course, which was built by John Pierson, is on the former deer park opposite Cribbs Causeway retail park. The Course has extensive views over the Bristol Channel and much work has been carried out over the last few years to address drainage and other typical post building opening problems. This brings the total number of properties in the Crown group to 32. This should keep Laurence Pitche busy for a while with his first in-house training day at the Bristol already booked into the calendar.

Finally, the weather is making the headlines at the moment. Laurence kindly sent me some rainfall figures from across the Crown properties. The Bristol Club recorded 830mm in 2006, against a paltry 503 at Hampton Court, and spare a thought for the guys at St Mellion International, near Plymouth – 1214mm. Laurence added, “2006 was also one of the warmest years ever recorded and 2003 and 2005 weren’t far behind.

The latter end of 2006 was also devoid of much frost with winter temperatures well above average.

From a ‘turf’ standpoint, only August was a month that was helpful, being warm and reasonably moist. In most 2006 months, it was either too cold, too dry or too wet, making life challenging to say the least.

As always, predicting what lies ahead is pure guesswork and conditions can change fairly rapidly". My thoughts exactly! The 2007 fixture list is now complete and will be landing on your doormats in the near future – in the meantime, two further dates for your diary are Match vs South Wales Section, August 1 – St. Pierre Old Course, and the Christmas Tournament 2007 is December 12 at Burnham & Berrow.

Some good courses to look forward to in 2007. Let’s have some info about your winter programmes, construction, maintenance, ecology etc. Paul Worster 01453 837355 paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

SOUTH COAST

Welcome to the latest edition of news from the South Coast Section. I hope you are all coping really well with the winter thus far, although very mild mother nature does seem to be making up for recent droughts with lots and lots of rain. So, after you have cleaned the sheds and greased all the machines I hope you all have a good read of Greenkeeper International.

The main news this month is the advertising of the South Coast Seminar. Please make a note in your diary that this event will take place on Wednesday, March 14 at the same venue as last year – Canford Magna GC. These seminars, in past years, have proven to be very popular and go from strength to strength. This year will be no exception as Chris Bitten has arranged some magnificent people to talk on this day.

Eddie Seaward from the All England Tennis Club will give a fascinating insight into the turf maintenance at Wimbledon for the year. Those who have heard Eddie talk previously will know how good Eddie’s talks always are.

Continuing the Groundsmen theme, Peter Craig from The Hurlingham Club will present a talk on his management practices of both personnel and of turf at the Club. Peter manages up to 24 people and is responsible for 42 acres of high value Sports Areas, including croquet lawns, bowling greens, cricket squares, tennis courts and artificial surfaces. Peter is a true advocate of Groundsmen and Greenkeepers having close communication and equal respect and is a keen member of both BIGGA and the IOG.

Marcus White from Irriplan will be giving a presentation on the very important subject of water abstraction and licensing, the efficient storage of water and how to make the most use of this very valuable natural resource. We will also be welcoming Jerry Knox from Cranfield University.

The price for the day is yet to be confirmed, but will probably be in the same region as last years. South Coast members will be sent details of how to book as soon as all information is clarified. The Seminar is open to all BIGGA members and also any non-BIGGA members will be welcome to
DEVON & CORNWALL

I would like to start my report by congratulating our past National Chairman, none other than Richard Whyman, on his year in office. As you can imagine, our Section has a very high regard for Richard, as he is, to coin a phrase, a local lad. Having been the Section Secretary for years, we all knew he would give his heart and do a brilliant job as Chairman, and during his year of office he has been very forward thinking and has ensured that the Association is still moving forward. Talking to Richard recently, I know that he was very keen on encouraging younger members to join the Association, and indeed onto committees, this we have managed to do very successfully with very positive results, well done Richard.

On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Billy McMillan a very successful year as Chairman. Okehampton GC was the venue for our Christmas party on December 12 last year and yet again it was a day to remember, in spite of very heavy rain the day before, the course was playable and all 18 holes were open. A big thank you to Richard Wisdom, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for all their hard work in preparing the course in such good condition. A huge thank you must also go to P J Flegg, the sponsor for the day, and especially Paul Watson the Sales Manager; Clive Ralph the local Sales Representative and Jo Turner from Jacobsen, who manned the hospitality tent on the course in their normal, efficient way. It is quite interesting to note that the course walkers seems to double for this meeting, I wonder why?

The results for the P J Flegg Trophy are as follows: 1. N O Sullivan and N Baggio, China Fleet GC, 42 pts; 2. N Clark and T Blackman, Downs Crediton GC, 41 pts; 3. D Mouldin and S Kent from Bigbury GC, 40 pts.

After a fabulous Christmas dinner, we were entertained by Tank Sherman, a well known local comedian who kept us all entertained for the rest of the afternoon, this was followed by the Christmas draw. I would like to thank all the Trade, and members that supplied some 60 draw prizes and all the staff at Okehampton that made our day so special and enjoyable.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank all the Trade that have sponsored the Section in 2006, without their support I am sure we would all struggle, and a special thanks to our President, John Paffrey of Avoncrop for supplying the wine on the table for lunch.

Donovan O Hunt

SOUTH WALES

The annual Winter Tournament sponsored by Vitax was held in traditional fashion at the Pyle & Kenfig GC near Porthcawl recently. Despite some really awful weather of late we were lucky enough on the day to get away with it being blowy only to about gale 4 on the scale. Despite having experienced many inches of rainfall prior to the day, the course held up well and an enjoyable day was had by all. Just under 50 people took to the golf course, most finished and there was some great scores posted considering the conditions. Results: Winner of the Vitax Shield was Jamie Probert - Ffynnon Gwynne GC; Second place was N 0 Sullivan and N Baggio - Downswell CC; Third place was Leigh (Gurky) Davies - Morriston GC.

Best Trade card went to Wyn (one round) Davies - representing Ted Hopkins Ltd and Guest Prize was claimed by Alex Webster from "Tower Sport Europe". Nearest the pins were claimed by: Nigel Ruck - Glynhir GC, Alan Pooley - Cradoc GC, Leigh Davies - Morriston GC, Daryl Bray - Morriston GC, the Monster Drive of the day pipping Gareth Knight by 30 metres was Phil Sharpe. Winner of the Aggregate Shield (Best scores over the four seasonal competitions during 2006) was Peter Lacey - Pennard GC. Following the golf 53 people were treated to a super traditional Christmas Dinner, followed by the annual worlds longest raffle, although it was mentioned that it was the shortest to date and going in the right direction. A huge thank you to all of those who brought along a present/bottle and also to the trade who supported in abundance and assisted the raffle table too with donations of all kinds. The hospitality afforded us by the Pyle & Kenfig GC is superb and we can't thank them enough for allowing us to host this annual event at the club. We were fortunate to have with us as guests on the day our National Chairman, Richard Whyman and his lovely wife Denise, our Regional Administrator Jane Jones and while the opportunity arose a small token of our appreciation was made to them all. Also in attendance as our guests were Regional Chairman, Chris Sealey and IOG Chairman of Wales, Tony Horne, Vitax representative and Sponsor, John Mullins and P&K Deputy Course Manager, Paul Johnson.

Our sincere thanks to Vitax and their local distributors, Celtic Mowers for their ongoing support and sponsorship of the event, it is appreciated! Unfortunately we are to lose another staunch supporter in Angus Macloed. Angus who has been involved on board our committee and represented our section on the National Board, is also Around the green scribe and has recently accepted the position of Course Manager at the De Vere Resort Belton Woods, taking over from Seamus Coogan. We are very sad to lose him, he has been incredibly pro-active and supportive while in South Wales and he'll leave a big hole to fill. However we wish him, his lovely wife Marie and daughter Erin well, but I won't miss his dog, you have seen him! Brody I think, I haven't been near enough to hear his name clearly, he's a monster. It's been a pleasure working with you Angus, you're very much the professional that we aspire to and you've taught us all so much, thanks! And keep in touch!

A happy and prosperous, disease and thatch free New Year to you all. Please find below the "Winter Evening Lecture" series for 2007. Which for this year has been organised by the IOG. These evenings will be held at Penccford College in the lounge bar and will commence at 7.30pm. For this series we have a new sponsor in Countrywide Turf & Amenity to whom we thank for their support and for taking up our invitation at short notice. The evenings are open to anyone interested and not just BIGGA and IOG members. Why not bring along a member of staff, your Secretary or Chairman of Green?

* Wednesday, January 17 - Neil Baldwin, Armera Sciences."Stress management of turf during drought conditions."
* Wednesday, February 14 - Richard Beghin, Perma Enzyme."The use of enzymes in turf management."
* Wednesday, March 7 - Iain Courage, Fleet Line Markers. "Paint and Line marking technology."
* Wednesday, April 11 - Field visit to the new Liberty Stadium - home of the Ospreys and Swansea City FC. A tour conducted by Head Groundsman Dan Duffy, with a buffet to follow.
* Thursday, April 26 - Annual Spring Seminar at the Royal Porthcawl GC. Details to follow shortly.

Our sincere thanks to all who give freely of their time and effort to ensure that this education series continues. To all speakers and participating companies, to Penccford college, the IOG and Countrywide who support and sponsor this series of educational events.A single CPD credit can be claimed by those attending any/each of the above educational evenings.

For enquiries or further information contact: P Lacey, Secretary, 31 Browns Drive, Penillard Swansea SA3 2AE or phone: 07812 369848 or email: biggasec@btinternet.com

P Lacey
ANSWERS

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QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ
1. Paul McGinley
2. Ferdinand Porsche
3. Colin McRae
4. The Apex
5. Darren Gough
6. The shoulder blade
7. Graham Taylor
8. James Fennimore Cooper
9. Fear of heights

MONSTER SUDOKU

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