

Greenkeeper Training



BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.



Sami Collins
Head of Learning & Development
BIGGA

Tel: 01347 833800

Email: sami@bigga.co.uk

Website: www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cooper, Fife, KY15 4JB
Contact: Wroberts@elmwood.ac.uk



Full-time and Part-time National Certificate Greenkeeping. Block release/fast track and workbased learning options for SVQ Level 2 and Level 3. ILM Level 3 & 4 Management. HNC and HND Golf Course Management available both online/ distance learning and full-time/ part-time options. HNC/HND Golf Facility Management. Sportsturf Courses available. SVQ Level 2 & 3 in Landbased Service Engineering and Golf Course Mechanics Courses. Abrasive Wheel, BTLIA/NPTC Irrigation Course, Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Spraying and Noroso Certification/Courses.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE

Rutherglen Campus,
Buchanan Drive,
Rutherglen,
Glasgow, G73 3PF



Contact: William O'Neil
Tel: 0141 272 3823
Email: woneil@langside.ac.uk

SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND, Full time and part time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD

50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB



Contact: Chris Bothwell
Tel: 0141 556 3999 Fax: 0141 556 4999
Email: learn gostatraining.co.uk

SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November March. Distance learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn,
West Lothian, EH52 6NH



Contact: Steve Miller
Tel: 01506 864800 Fax: 01506 853373
Email: smiller@oatridge.ac.uk Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping; SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf (Day Release and Fast Track); NC's HNCs, SVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subject; NPTC/LANTRA short courses in Pesticides Spraying, Chainsaws, Turf Maintenance Equipment, ATVs etc; Other Specific short courses on demand.

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR
 Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772211
 Email: enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk
 Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture (with Sportsturf route) Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



BCA

Hall Place, Burchetts Green,
 Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 6QR
 Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695

Your local further and higher education College, serving the Thames Valley.

Located in the heart of the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training. Programmes include the National Certificate, Advanced Certificate and Advanced National Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time programmes include the NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture and RHS programmes, as well as PA1, PA2 and PA6 and various short courses. A wide transport network is provided as well as residential accommodation on-site.

TRAINING PROVIDERS/ COURSES GUIDE



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

DUCHY COLLEGE

Cornwall's College of the Countryside



Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB
 Duchy College, Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB

Contact: Liz Clarkson
 Tel: 01579 372345/07785 105087
 Email liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk
 Claire Bennetts
 01209 722109/07824 626363
claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk
 Web: www.duchy.ac.uk

Duchy College offers Level 1, 2, & 3 Diplomas and NVQ 4 in Amenity Horticulture (inc Sports Turf), HNC Horticulture, NC and ANC Horticulture, RHS Level 2 Certificate, FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Horticulture. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses to Greenkeepers, together with workshops in Business Skills. Short legislative courses in pesticides, plant machinery, vehicles, forestry and arboriculture are also available.

EAST DURHAM COLLEGE

Houghall Campus, Durham DH1 3SG



Contact: Student Services
 Tel: 0191 375 4710
 Email: enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk
 Web: www.eastdurham.ac.uk

Houghall campus is located to the east of Durham City bounded by the River Wear and the A177. The College has excellent resources for the provision of land-based programmes. Entry 2-L4 full and part-time programmes are offered in Arboriculture, Floristry, Horticulture, Sports-turf, Environmental Conservation, NPTC block and short courses on demand.

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL



Contact: Mike Dodd
 Tel: 01732 850551
 Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
 Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk

Work based levels 2 and 3 qualifications in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for Apprenticeship and Fee payers. We also offer a range of short courses, for example Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Application. Additionally, full and part time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and variety of other land based subjects. There is train to gain funding available subject to eligibility.



Full-time and online study

Myerscough College invites applications for Degree courses starting in September 2010.

Foundation Degree in Sportsturf

Foundation Degree Sportsturf and Golf Course Management

BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science

BSc (Hons) Sportsturf and Golf Management

R&A Bursaries available to many students



Myerscough College's Degree programmes are validated by the University of Central Lancashire

Myerscough College

MyfutureMy studies Mydegree Myerscough

For more information call **01995 642211**
 or visit www.myerscough.ac.uk

ENGLAND

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE

GUILDFORD college
merrist wood

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.
Contact Philip Mayes Tel: 07896674789
Email: pmayes@guildford.ac.uk or Andrew McEvoy
07896674786 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk .
Website: www.guildford.ac.uk.

Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, National Certificate Level 2 Sportsturf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line distance learning, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors. Also, NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management, plus throughout the year various NPTC Certificate of Competence including: Automatic Turf Irrigation, Turf Maintenance Equipment, Mowers, PA1, 6 & 2, Tractors, Trimmers and Chainsaw. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE

REASEHEATH

Mantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF
Contact: Gareth Phillips
or Chard Spicer
Tel: 01270 613236 Fax: 01270 625665
Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
Web: www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Part time, block release courses include level 2, level 3 Certificate and Diploma in work based Horticulture (Sports Turf-Green keeper). NVQ level 4 Sports turf (Distance Learning). Our work based learning group offer apprenticeships in the work place. BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture/Sports Turf option, BTEC National Diploma in Sports Performance and Facilities Management endorsed by Premier League, Football league.
Short Courses include Pesticide application (PA1/PA2/PA6) Chainsaw operation, Safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programs available on request. On site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, rugby, football pitches and Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Myerscough College
Providing opportunities for all

Bilsborrow, Preston,
Lancashire PR3 0RY
Contact: Stewart Brown
Tel: 01995 642305
Web: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Turfgrass Science and Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels throughout the UK.

SOUTHSTAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

South Staffordshire College
Lichfield • Cannock • Tamworth • Redditch

Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5PH
Tel: 01785 712209
Fax: 01785 715701
Email: keith.ellis@southstaffs.ac.uk
Web: www.southstaffs.ac.uk

South Staffordshire College offers an extensive range of courses, full, part time and day release. Full time programmes include; NPTC Skills for Life, Level One, 1st Diploma, National Award, National Certificate and National Diploma. Higher Education programmes can be studied on a part time basis and include Foundation Degree and the Bsc in Horticulture. Work based learning is available at NVQ 1, NVQ 2, and NVQ 3 and South Staffordshire offers very extensive Train2Gain provision. Sports turf and green keeping can be studied to NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 level on a day release basis. The college offers a wide transport network to its learners as well as residential accommodation on site.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

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St Albans Smallford Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA

Contact: Andrew Wight
Tel: 01727 737735
Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Full time courses: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management and Horticulture. Part Times courses: WBD (NVQ) Level 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

Sparsholt College Hampshire
(incorporating Andover College Campus)
Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21

Contact: Registry
Telephone: 01962 797213
Email: enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk
Web: www.sparsholt.ac.uk

NVQ and Advanced Apprenticeships in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf). ND Sport – Golf Academy. Short-courses accredited by NPTC, LANTRA Or NVQ in chainsaw operation, pesticides, tree felling and clearing, arboriculture and machinery maintenance.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Plumpton College

Ditchling Road, Plumpton, NR Lewes,
East Sussex, BN7 3AE

Tel: 01273 890454
Fax: 01273 890071
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Foundation Degree in Horticulture and Garden Design, Levels 2 and 3 Diploma in Horticulture
Part time Courses: Work based Diploma: Levels 1 and 2 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping. NVQ level 4. Also RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced. Short courses available. FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke training, following Training Needs Analysis. (TNA)

THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA – CAMBRIDGE CAMPUS

Landbeach Road, Milton,
Cambridgeshire CB24 6DB

The College
of West Anglia

Contact: Mark Ekin
Tel: 01223 860701
Email: mekin@col-westanglia.ac.uk
Website: www.cwa.ac.uk

Full time courses: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management (1 year, level 2 qualification); BTEC National Pathway in Horticulture with Sports Turf Management (1 or 2 years, level 3 qualification which includes National Award, Certificate and Diploma)
Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping); NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf); NPTC Qualifications i.e. pesticides PA1, PA6, PA2
Apprenticeships: Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping



Student Membership

Greenkeeping can offer you a career for life and a lifetime of learning

Student Membership of BIGGA (for those studying full-time)

Greenkeeping is a rewarding and challenging career choice for all ages and abilities from school leavers to those considering a career change, let BIGGA help you develop your career as a greenkeeper by becoming a Student Member.

Membership of BIGGA will provide you with: -

Greenkeeper International

The Association's much read magazine packed with up to the minute information and features providing you with valuable research and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. Delivered FREE to you door monthly.

Membership Handbook

Providing you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the

fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Handbook also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership.



Harrogate Week

Entry to a world class trade event. The Trade Exhibition has over 200 exhibitors and 8,500 visitors. There can be no better place to 'Continue to Learn' than taking part in the education programme. Students will find much that will demand their attention including seminars of specific interest. On production of your Student membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge. Not to mention the fantastic networking opportunities available throughout the whole of this week, another valuable way of learning... from those already in the industry.

On Course Field Guides

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and

read format. Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund there are five in the series: -

- Golf Course Grasses;
- Identification and uses of the main grasses found in golf course rough;
- Identification of trees and shrubs on the golf course;
- Identification of damage caused by mammals and birds;
- The major diseases and pests of fine turf.

BIGGA Lending Library

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

BIGGA Website

Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

Application Form - for an application form either download a form from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/join/membership-forms/ or contact the membership team on 01347 833800 option 1 for membership.



A QUICK GUIDE TO...

WORKSHOP COMPRESSORS

Choosing a portable, single-phase electric workshop compressor is, on the face of it, simple. Just select a unit with sufficient puff to do the job and that is it. There are design points to consider, however, and although these may not necessarily influence performance they can determine reliability and longevity.

By James de Havilland

One of the most useful items of kit within a workshop, an air compressor can be used to operate everything from rust inhibitor applicators and grease guns through to staplers and powerful hammer drills. The key to choosing the best portable machine is to select a design that can stand up to periods of intense use but not suffer when left idle for extended periods.

Establish what the compressor is needed to do. For general tyre inflation and having an air line to blast equipment clean, any mains powered unit will do the job; but to get the best compromise between price and performance key points to consider are the air receivers storage capacity, the units maximum operating pressure and all important free air delivery. Of equal importance are drive motor power and endurance rating plus the pump type.

Air Receiver Capacity

Air receiver capacity is often confused with the ability of a given compressor to do a job. More accurately, a large receiver has two main benefits:

- to extend the amount of time that the unit can supply air without the unit's pump running.
- to provide a 'buffer' of air to cope with varied air demand.

If a compressor is likely to be used for extended periods, it pays to have a larger receiver. This allows the pump and motor more time to cool between bursts of activity. For typical portable workshop



use, a 100 litre receiver capacity is a good entry point. When using a cleaning lance, a larger 200 litre receiver is better.

Maximum Air Pressure

Although important, the maximum air pressure the unit can deliver is not as critical as the free air delivery; even an entry level hobby compressor may generate air pressures of up to 8bar/118psi. Top end workshop models usually top out at 10bar/145psi.

Free Air Delivery

Still widely measured in CFM, cubic feet per minute, free air delivery is a key measure of a compressors performance. Pretty obviously, the greater the volume of air a unit can deliver, the better able it will be to keep up with a high demand for air.

To confuse matters, manufacturers may list air delivery in three ways:

- Air Displacement. This will list the pumps rated capacity, and will be higher than the maximum free air delivery.
- Maximum Free Air Delivery. This is the maximum amount of air volume the unit can actually produce.
- Free Air Delivery. This is the one to note as it is the realistic air output volume of the compressor. If only air displacement is listed, do not confuse it with free air delivery.

Portable Compressor

A rugged 6.0 CFM free air delivery portable compressor with pneumatic tyres, single phase 2.0hp motor and rugged V-twin pump. This will suit most needs. Price around £400 to £500.

Compressor Pump

As this is the heart of the machine it is an area where it pays to have a degree of background knowledge. In outline, there are numerous pump types fitted, but for a portable workshop unit the main ones will include:

- Single cylinder reed valve
- Parallel-twin cylinder reed valve
- Parallel-twin cylinder spring valve
- V-twin

Parallel-twin cylinder pumps come in two designs; single stage and dual stage. The latter have one low and one high pressure cylinder. V-twin pumps can be made from alloy, with or without cast iron cylinders, or completely from cast iron. For cooling and longevity purposes, cast iron is preferable, but this makes the pumps both heavier and more expensive.

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region

East



Well Christmas is almost upon us, I hope that we have all have started our Christmas shopping to beat the mad rush.

November was our Section's AGM held at Gogarburn Golf Club in which we had 24 members in attendance, double last year's AGM numbers.

We firstly would like to thank (The Fairways Group Ltd) who kindly sponsored the day for us. Ian Bridges and Euan Thomson, from Fairways, gave a short talk on a brief history of the company and the up to date machinery they supply together with the online parts service they give to customers. All was very interesting to our audience who were very appreciative of their knowledge.

Our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, along with Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, then went on to present our Section Patrons' Award winners who were Alistair Holmes, from Seahouses GC, and Douglas Greenshields, from Eyemouth GC. Well done lads, enjoy Harrogate we look forward to reading their report.

A stop for buffet lunch then on with our AGM in which some very good points were brought to the committee's attention from the floor. As there were no office bearers stepping down from there posts for the coming year our committee stay at status quo.

The committee reads as follows: Chairman, Stewart Crawford; Vice Chairman, James Neilson; Secretary/Treasurer, Stuart Ferguson; Education, Tom Murray; Match/Handicap, Robbie Murdoch.

We then got ready for the action on this tricky 12 hole golf course! With the weather holding out for us we set off for the 1st tee. I was late on the tee but found that I was then playing a fourball. I took control and thrown the golf balls up for partners, I got lucky and drew the Head Greenkeeper, from Gogarburn, Bob Marshall a "Big Hitter" and with his local knowledge we were in with a chance of winning this one, the stakes were high at a pound a head all to play for.

We surged ahead with some great play our opponents Rigby Jim and our Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, had to concede to the better team. Thanks for the ball marker, Stuart, I will keep this for another day when you might win it back.

There were other BIGGA members who were also playing for Jimmy Neilson's Trophy that he kindly donated to the East Section to play for on AGM days. The format of the competition was Stableford over 12 holes, winner takes all.

Winner: Tom Murray, Ratho Park: 25 pts. Other Scores. S. Ferguson, Dundas Parks, 24 pts; J. Darling, Aitkens, 23; D. Greenshields, Eyemouth, 21; R. Marshall, Gogarburn, 21; A. Holmes, Seahouses, 20; R. Murdoch, Dundas Parks, 19; J. Smith, Rigby Taylor, 18; B. Hudson, Ratho Park, 15; S. Crawford, North Berwick W.L/14

D/Q. C. Yeaman, West Linton; K. Mail, West Linton; B. Peters, Ratho Park. They did not sign their cards.

A big thank you to Gogarburn for hosting the event and also to the Head Greenkeeper, Robert Marshall, and his green staff for presenting the golf course in excellent condition. Our Chairman brought the day to a close wishing everybody a safe journey home.

Have a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

Until next year
Tom Murray

Central



The Section held their AGM on 26 October where the turnout was slightly disappointing. A quiet affair, it was reported that the Section membership stands at 239, a decrease of eight on the previous year.

Gordon McKie was re-elected as Chairman and during his report paid thanks to Brian Heggie who is standing down from the Committee as he is taking up a new position in the south of England. Those present wished Brian all the best on his move and I am sure that is echoed from all who know him. Derek Robson was re-elected as Vice Chairman and Andy Mellon as Secretary/Treasurer. The Committee remains the same with the exception of Brian standing down and his place has been taken by Charlie MacDonald, of Crieff GC. The Chairman also thanked all of the patrons for their continued support.

On the morning of the AGM, the Section held a successful training course on disciplinary procedures which again had a slightly poor attendance. Our thanks go to Jason Rudgley, of Pitchblue, who delivered this on a very professional but relaxed manner.

Unfortunately, due to the poor interest shown, the committee felt it had no option but to cancel the two day environmental course planned for Gleneagles on November 17 and 18, which was going to be staged in conjunction with the STRI and Gleneagles Hotel. The lack of support and commitment from members for any course we have

tried to stage over the past three years which would cost money has caused the committee to rethink its strategy and in future we will likely stick to only staging the free evening seminars where we can utilise particular speakers who may be coming to the area. For more formal training such as the disciplinary course, we will work in partnership with the Club Managers Association of Europe.

The Spring outing in 2010 will be held on the Eden Course at St Andrews in early April, more details of this and other matters on the website, www.bigga-centralsection.co.uk

Gordon Moir

North



I hope everyone is well and you are not working too hard. The weather has taken quite a sharp drop in temperature. The winter greens haven't been used with us just yet but probably by the time you read this they'll have had their fair share of play.

Since the last news we have held our AGM. This was a golf day out at Cruden Bay GC on October 15 and was very well attended. There were 30 members there and a big thank you to Alistair and his squad for all your efforts on the day. The format for the day was a Stableford and the results are as follows:

Class 1. 1. Chris Pearson; 2. Robert Hardie; Class 2. 1. Raymond Warrender; 2. Niall Bruce.

The final 200 Club draw for the year was drawn and the results are below.

£30 winners. Stevie Frost, J.C MacIntosh and Judith Paterson. £100 winner Fraser Downy

Well done to you all. The lads at Peterculter are all expecting you to stand your hand at

Christmas, Fraser!

The Patron Award winners were also announced. This year they are Patrick Wood and Josh Lester, from Newmachar GC. Well done and I hope you enjoy your trip to BTME for the show in January. The Patron Award goes to the two people who have supported the Section the most over the past year. It involves attending the outings including the Scottish National Tournament and various seminars including the Scottish Conference in Dunfermline. You are scored on a points system and the two people with the highest amount of points win the trip to Harrogate.

Next year's outings have been decided as well with the Spring outing being held at Deeside GC on May 20 and the Autumn outing being held up at Huntly on September 16. In between these dates is June 17 - it is our Section's turn to host the Scottish National and it will take place at Murcar Links GC. Forms for the two Section outings will be sent out in plenty of time. The National forms will be available at the Spring outing.

There have been comings and goings on the North committee. Hugh McLatchie has stepped down as Chairman and has been replaced by Robert Pater-son, from Royal Aberdeen. Also joining us on the committee is Ross Macrae, from Huntly, who will be helping out at Section outings and hopefully answering any queries that you may have.

That's enough of me yapping now and I suppose I should wish you and all your families a very Merry Christmas and that your staff nights out are full of the usual wit and banter. Any stories much appreciated.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links
07813889374

Northern Region



North East

On October 14 we held our Autumn golf comp for the first time at Wearside GC and what

a pleasure it was to play there. Credit has to go to Malcolm Harvey, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff, for the condition of their course - a pleasure to play on especially those true and fast greens considering it was raining and a heavy dew hanging about all over the course they putted very well as all the greenkeepers commented on them been so good.

On behalf of the Section we would like to thank Wearside for giving us the courtesy of their course and thanks also to the catering staff for the excellent meals.

The main sponsors of the day were Lloyds of Throckley, with the backing of Toro, but let's not forget our other sponsors who look after us twice a year regularly and they are as follows:- T.S.L (Terry Charlton); Rigby Taylor (Glen Baxter); Sheriff Amenity (Paul Fosten); Aitkens and Tacit. Thanks lads once again.

Now for the leading scores

RansomeCup.nett G.Morgan, Crook GC, 75-4=71 (BIH) J.S.Richardson. Salver Gross. A. McLure, Whickham, 74.

Greenlay Cup Nett 10 - 18. S R. Pope, 91-16=75, Tyneside GC;

Ransome/Jacobsen Shield 19 - 28. P. Vinton, 105-22= 83, Heworth GC;

J. S. Richardson, 80-9=71, Hexham GC; R. Black 82-8=74, Westerhope GC; J.Gibson 77-3=74. Trade Prize. G. Baxter, nett 75, from S. Holmes, nett 83.

In all a total of only 16 people turned up pretty dismal but so was the weather, so let's hope for better turnout for 2010. Hopefully we will be playing around more courses in the Newcastle area for the next couple of years or so.

Other news about is that another greenkeeper is about to retire this December and that's Ronnie Reid, of Prudhoe GC. Have a good retirement, Ronnie, no doubt we will still see you at the Section comps.

If you remember I mentioned that Jordan Gibson, from Northumberland GC, was playing in the National Championship at Burnham & Burrow. Well he didn't win the comp. but picked up the prize for longest drive. Well done Jordan better luck next year. Well I think that's all for this month. Don't forget I

need more news to put in the reports. So if you have any let's hear from you.

James Richardson



North Wales

Season's greetings to all of North Wales Section, Christmas is soon on our doorstep and a new decade only around the corner. We've had a great day at Caldly GC on November 26 in the Christmas tournament and AGM. Details of competition results and AGM will be posted in January's column.

A seminar will be held at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, on December 9, the topic being the benefits of reel grinding including a demonstration of grinding equipment the seminar will be given by Bernhards so "reel" (pardon the pun, I just couldn't resist) experts in the field of grinding. All enquiries to Jez Hughes. We're looking to run a coach to Harrogate in January but the trip will only go ahead if there are enough seats booked, this year the big suppliers are at the show and it should be a good one! All enquiries about seat availability to Jez Hughes.

Next year's tournament venues have been set up and a nice group of courses we're going to be playing or in my case visiting with Caernarfon taking the spring, Mold hosting the autumn and the Christmas tournament being held at Mile End seriously nice courses for us to enjoy there!

In other news, Jeremy Hughes, of Vale of Llangollen, reaches a milestone birthday this month, finding it hard to believe that life really does start at 40. Oswestry Golf Club had a famous visitor earlier this year, when Sugar Ray Leonard played the course. Gareth Woosnam offered him to spar a round or two but luckily for Gareth the only round Sugar Ray was interested in was a round of golf.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this last 12 months of around the greens this is what this column is all about, sharing our news with each other, we may not meet

often but we are all North Wales Greenkeepers.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year..

Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com
07756001187
Johnny Evans
Johnny.evans@tesco.net



Sheffield

We once again have reached the end of the year and the time for the festivities to begin.

I hope that the year has been a successful one for you all despite the difficulties we have all faced in this economic slump! Let's hope for an upturn in 2010.

On the Section front I would like to thank all the committee members for all their hard work over the last 12 months. It takes a great deal of effort to the run the Section and without a hard working committee it would be impossible. I would also like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support and help in enabling us to run golf and lecture events.

The results of the Christmas competition held at Rotherham GC will be in the January issue.

Unfortunately that is all from me this month. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

James Stevens
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com

Midland Region



Midland

I bet you that Scott Mac-Callum (G.I.Editor) could not believe that I actually sent in last month's notes on time as such is as rare as hens teeth. Thus I was not able to report the result of our long running annual match against the East Midland Section played at Trentham Park. Such was for the fifth year running a loss to our team, obviously we spent too much

time working! Our thanks to T.Cheese/Rigby Taylor for their continued support of this long running event, and a well done to Course Manager, G. Cunningham and L. Swann (Dep.) and the team for providing such a lovely course. Looking forward to next year's battle, gentlemen. However, one of our players did break the golden rule of etiquette by having his phone on during his match, apologies were made and reason given. Such being that the player was awaiting notification of the arrival of his first granddaughters following a testing pregnancy. Thankfully all has gone well and Howard is now to be known as the very proud "Grandfather Middlebrook" Congratulations to all mate. Did you get discount on two Moses Baskets?

Our Autumn event was held at Burton On Trent GC. The course was presented wonderfully by the fine efforts of Course Manager G. Robson and his ever suffering team. I just wish that your YTS. had been a little more adventurous with the pin positions! Our thanks to Burton for affording us the use of their course and the very fine welcome "a welcome on the mat indeed".

The winners of the day were: 1. L. Swann; 2. R. Beacham; 3. E. Stant; 4. P. Mills; 5. M. Hughes; 6. G. Robson.

Our thanks to Campey Turf Care for the sponsorship of the main prize table. Kev and Rob/Turners gave us their usual banter at the Halfway House, and both Farmura and Sherriff Amenity sponsored the four N.T.P.'s such going to: P. Woodham, S. Mucklow, J. Ganley and D. Clues.

Once again our thanks to Burton G.C. for their hospitality and for affording us the use of their fine Club House for our AGM.

On the point of the AGM, such will be minuted and delivered for approval next year. However, as a point of reference I shall now deliver that as stated at such by myself.

"I have been the Section's Secretary for eight years and would like to thank those that have given me information for Around The Green. However, over the last 18 months I have not been able to attend any Section meetings and Andy Smith has kindly filled in for me by taking

the minutes. Which means that realistically Andy has served as the Section's Secretary and is indeed such.

To this end, I feel that he should now be recognised as the Section's Secretary. Andy has asked me to continue writing "Around The Green" so as to lower his workload, to which I am happy to do. Such of course means a change of post to myself, such being your new "Events Reporter"- No real change then! So please continue to supply me with you news for Around the Green. I thank Andy for taking over the roll and wish him every success as your new Secretary. I hope that you shall service Andy with the same generous complements and support as I have fondly received.

Just one very important thing remaining, our calendar sponsors for this month are T.H. Whites. Please consider them for your machinery purchases and maintenance requirements.

www.thwhitesgrasscare.co.uk

Wishing all a Merry Christmas.

Sean McDade



East of England

Hello all.

Firstly, it has been pointed out to me that I forgot to thank our sponsor for our July golf day at Boston West. The sponsor for the day was Toro and their dealer Chris Sellars. Many thanks to Nigel Lovatt, Chris and Toro for their support on the day and their continued support of the Section. My apologies.

September 23 was our annual fixture against the Secretaries' Association. This year the match was played at Boston Golf Club. Many thanks to Bruce and his team for the fine presentation of the course and all the staff at Boston for making us so welcome before and afterwards. In a turnaround from the previous few years the match was won by the secretaries 5.5 to 2.5.

October 14 was our annual Midland Region Inter Section Match. The match was played at Burghley Park Golf Club and many thanks go to Dave and

his team for the condition of the course and all the staff for making everyone so welcome. Also thanks to the sponsor of the event, Simon Banks. This year we were represented by Rob Bemment, of Immingham Golf Club, and Rob Welford and Ash Cox, of Cleethorpes Golf Club. There must be something in the northern air as our three triumphed in the competition for the first time since it was begun a few years ago.

Following this on October 15 was our annual AGM and golf, this year held at RAF Cottesmore. Many thanks to Steve Hopkins for downing tools on his Harrier Jump Jet to get the course in excellent condition for us and also to the staff in the "Officers Mess" for making us so welcome during the day. Also thanks to Mansfield Sands and Alan Martin for sponsoring the day. On the day the golf was won by Gary Salisbury, with Steve Hopkins second and Ash Cox third.

Our final Golf day of the year will be at Seacroft on Thursday, December 17, teeing off at 10am. A nice warm calm dry day has been booked, however Skegness at Christmas could be a bit wild, so come prepared! This day is a Pairs' Competition drawn on the day. However, this year if you want to you will be allowed to bring your own golfing partner along with you for the day. This event is our Christmas bring and win, were everyone is asked to bring along a present worth no more than £10 and they will all go into a draw so everyone will leave with something.

It has been a very enjoyable season of golf played on some excellent courses some of which we have been to before and some new venues. I think all the fixtures are now booked for 2010 however if anyone would like to put themselves forward as a venue for 2011 then speak to Bruce or Allan. We have seen a number of new faces this year as well as the regulars. It would be nice if we could get more people to come along to our golf days next year, however it is appreciated that it is not always possible, especially in difficult times.

All that remains now, amazingly, is for me to wish everyone Happy Christmas and all the best for 2010.

Many thanks

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club
steveimmingham@aol.com
www.eastofenglandbigga.com

South West and South Wales Region



South Coast

Hello and welcome to December's Around the Green, and thank you Mr Hogarth for the dynamic introduction last month. It's funny how some nicknames just stick. Robert has already explained what has been happening at committee level, so I won't bore you, however by the time you read this, you should have received your entry form for the Turkey Trot which will be held at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9.

Please could you return them as soon as possible to Kevin Glass, his address is: Kevin Glass, Keepers Cottage, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club

Sway Road, Brockenhurst, Hants, SO42 7SG. Tel: 01590622643

We hope that going back to this entry form system will encourage people back to our golfing days and to be a bit more organised ourselves. This should mean a start sheet will get to everybody who is playing. So finally please come and support our day!

On the golfing front may I take this opportunity in thanking every body concerned with the National Championship held at Burnham and Berrow in October. It was a fantastic tournament and the turn out was excellent. Congratulations to Derek McJannet, from Matlock Golf Club who produced two brilliant rounds of golf. Also a big thank you to Richard Whyman and his team for producing such an excellent course.

A great day out was had by all as the South Coast team took on the South West boys at Chippenham Golf Club. On what was a glorious day we managed to lose the match by three games to two games it was

a closely contested match with an outstanding contribution by Chris Bitten who managed to win his match all on his own. My thanks go to Chippenham golf club for courtesy of the course, the catering staff for an excellent meal and finally Chris Sealey and his team for producing such a great golf course.

On the Groundsman front I had the unexpected pleasure of being invited to Aston Villa Football Club for their match against Chelsea on October 17, which included a tour of the stadium and a good look at the pitch. I must say that the quality of the playing surface was outstanding - shame Chelsea couldn't play on it. We lost the game 2-1, but joking apart the quality of playing surfaces around the country is testament I think to how far we have come in the industry. Twenty years ago you struggled to find grass on a football pitch. Especially in the winter!

I would just like to thank Alan Warner and Garry Worrell, of Sports Equipment, for inviting me to Villa Park and to all the Grounds staff, who I think do a tremendous job.

On that note it just leaves me to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Next month's guest columnist will be Fred Deamon, of Alton Golf Club. So from Agadoo, or even Cooperman!! Many Thanks

Phil "Joe" Cooper



South Wales

Hope you are all well.

Firstly I'd like to report on the recent Autumn competition and Section AGM which was held at Southerndown GC. The AGM passed off peacefully with Julian Bartlett Jones acting as MC. Main points of interest were that Gareth Knight, Head Greenkeeper, Trefloynne Golf Club, was voted on as Chairman of the Section, Paul Handy, Head Greenkeeper Newport GC, was voted on as Vice Chairman and Tony Horne, Inscapes, becomes Section President following the resignation of Henry Stead. Good luck to you all in your new roles and a special thanks to Henry for all his hard work that

he did for the Section during a tough time for him personally. Henry you are a top man!

The golf teed off at 1.30pm in beautiful sunshine and the competitors were treated to a golf course that was in sublime condition and was a credit to Head Greenkeeper, Andrew Mannion, and his staff. The course was tough but fair and only punished bad shots (which is why I spent more time in the bushes than Ron Davies.) Results were as follows:

1. Darryl Bray, Morryston; 2. Iain Grant, Brynhill; 3. Leigh Davies, Morryston.

Longest drive was won by Darryl Bray

Nearest the Pin was won by Andrew Hatcher, Coed Y Mwster.

Trade/Guest prize was won by Majid Maher, Captain, Southerndown GC.

At dinner we were treated to a superb meal, followed by the prize giving. We were given an update on the preparations for next year's Ryder cup by Celtic Manor's Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie. Jim also asked that if anyone was interested in a once-in-a-lifetime chance of being part of the Greenkeepers Support Team for the Ryder Cup and hadn't already put his/her name down then please let Steve Chappell know and he will forward your name to Jim. A list of successful applicants will be produced in the spring.

Jim also informed us of the unwelcome news that the start times of the Ryder Cup have been brought forward from 8.15 am to 7.45 am. Sunrise is at 6.45am. So things will be pretty tight!

Thanks go to Southerndown Golf Club for allowing us the use of the course and the club's facilities; to Andrew Mannion and his team presenting the course in such a superb condition, to club Captain Majid Maher for attending; to Jim McKenzie for coming along to talk to us; to Gwyn, the Steward and the catering staff for the superb meal and hospitality; to Steve Chappell for organising the event; to Jane Jones our Regional Administrator for joining us for the day, and finally to Jon and Ben Morgan, of Keith Morgan Mowers, for sponsoring the day and for the great prizes. Thanks again for your support.

On October 7, 22 people attended the Syngenta/Scotts



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

The recent spate of heavy rainfall and the subsequent flash flooding does make you wonder what the future holds for us as far as any climate change goes.

Perhaps I'm getting old but years ago I do not remember such events happening with such regularity, then again maybe my memory is just not what it used to be! I sympathise with those victims of the floods who have lost homes, businesses and worst and saddest of all, their life. All too often we take what we have for granted and still want more, perhaps we should stop more often and spare a thought for others.

In the office it's full steam ahead with plans for Harrogate and bookings continue to come in for exhibition space. As I write we have only a limited amount of space still available and hopefully by January this will have been sold. The workshops and seminars are receiving a great deal of interest and the whole event is shaping up to be the morale booster that we all need. The Golf Club Management Partnership (the alliance between BIGGA, GCMA and the PGA) continues to move forward and through regular meetings we are identifying areas of potential collaboration, in due course we will be in a position to release more detailed information. I attended the recent GCMA Conference and was hearted by the support that they had from their membership but also by the interaction between all the bodies represented.

Looking forward we are working on an update to our Business Plan and are preparing budget projections beyond 2010. As we all know the golf industry is changing and it is difficult to predict just how this will affect the Association. One thing we do know is that from here on it is going to be harder to make ends meet as budgets throughout the industry continue to be cut. The prospect of a General Election next year does nothing to boost the country's optimism for early signs of 'green shoots of recovery' but it is important that we remain positive and look for solutions. When I look at prize money such as that recently picked up by Lee Westwood in Dubai I wonder how long, if ever, it will be before the golfing industry realises that more funding is needed at our end of the game. Despite their best endeavours both BIGGA and the GTC struggle to balance the books but without these organisations where would the future of greenkeeping and golf courses be? I look forward to debating some of these points at the meeting of Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries that is to be held at BIGGA HOUSE at the end of November.

On the bright side it will soon be Christmas, we will pass the shortest day and can start looking forward to shrugging off any feelings of Seasonal Affective Disorder that we may have! Since this is my last column of 2009 I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that 2010 proves to be a healthy and successful year for one and all.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Rescue seminar at Ashburnham GC. Interesting talks were given by Nick Martin, of Scotts, and Dr Simon Watson, of Syngenta, on the new Rescue product for the control of Ryegrass in turf. Lunch followed (I can certainly recommend the curry!) and then a course walk where Huw Morgan MG, Course Manager at Ashburnham, showed us areas that had already been treated. Results were impressive. Particularly on Yorkshire fog. The big talking point however was the badger damage on the course. Some areas of rough were decimated with badgers digging up areas looking for chafer grubs. Huw is really gutted by the damage and the fact that he can do little about it. As you know Huw, I have been in this business a long time and from my extensive knowledge and experience I know only one sure way to stop badgers digging up a golf course.....Confiscate their spades!

Joking aside, a big thanks to Huw for helping to organise the event, to Nick Martin, from Scotts, and to Dr Watson, from Syngenta, for giving their presentations and to Ashburnham GC for the use of their facilities and great hospitality.

Later that afternoon/evening The South Wales branch of the IOG organised an evening lecture at the new Cardiff City stadium, home to the Bluebirds (and also some veteran rugby team who also wear blue.) Head Groundsman, Phil Williams, did a 'walk and talk' on the pitch then gave a talk with the aid a video of the pitch construction from start to finish. A good turnout of Groundsmen and Greenkeepers were treated to an excellent talk and a very enjoyable evening.

The RT Matchplay Trophy now, and at the time of writing I heard that Darryl Bray/Leigh Davies recently beat the Newport team of Mark Wilshire/Mark Anderson to reach the final which was played at Tenby on Friday November 13. A full report in next month's Around the Green.

Darryl Jones, of Glynneath Golf Club, spoke to me recently about a possible 'Jolly Boys Outing' to either Swansea or Cardiff on International day. Not sure whether this involves a few glasses of Pimms and some cucumber sandwiches while watching the rigger or a great

day/night/morning on the lash! All interested parties can have a chat with Darryl at the Christmas comp at P & K. Talking of which...

The Christmas competition will be held at Pyle and Kenfig GC, on Friday, December 11. You should have received an invite in the post. If not then please contact Steve Chappell. The day will again be sponsored by Vitax and Joe Crawley, UK and Europe Sales Manager for Vitax should be in attendance, so thanks in advance to them. Please bring a prize for the usual short but sweet raffle.

Hope you all have a great Christmas and prosperous new year!

Ceri Richards



South West

Hi everyone, well this is my first Section letter. So here goes.....Firstly I'd like to introduce myself to you. As many of you may already know I work at Minchinhampton Golf Club and have done for the last seven years, being first assistant for the last two. During this time I've been taking part in most Section events. But hey, that's even about me for now, I'll have enough time to bore you all about my stories in due time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the new 2010 BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster the very best for his year. A message from all the guys at Minch.

Just recently there was a manual handling course. This took place at Cotswold Hill G.C and Bath G.C. Dave Bowles, who works for the health and safety department, took the courses. I attended the one at Cotswold Hills with Wayne Vincent and his guys. The morning was very useful; it was full of ways to lift items and solutions on how to avoid lifting unnecessary. Most importantly remember - "Bend your knees and not your back".

Bunkers, let's talk about them for one moment. Almost everywhere you go they are talked about (second only to greens, of course). Though I bet bunkers could be taking up as much of your time. Just think of the jobs we have to do on them, raking,

fixing washout, topping them up, edging and if you're working at Minchinhampton, include using the sandstorm. What a machine that is. For those of you who are unaware of it, it's used to sift the sand, removing the stones and any other unwanted material that has contaminated them over the years. Yes the machine works, the sand left behind is almost as good as new. Richard Louisson, Head greenkeeper at Cirencester Golf Club kindly showed a number of us from Minchinhampton (which included our Green Chairman, Stuart Massion) around his course. Richard shared with us his experience from renovating his bunkers. At Cirencester they are changing all their bunkers "in house". They are changing from having high faces to now having grass faces with flat bases. These bunkers looked fantastic, and what's better the cost and they are much easier to maintain of them are kept to a minimum. Richard many thanks for showing us around, and I must say your course (and bunkers) looked in great condition!

Recently the South West played its Section match against the South Coast. A huge thanks to Chippenham Golf Club and Chris Sealey (with his staff). Chippenham stepped in at the last minute to host the fixture. Although the South West won the fixture three matches to two, I do feel as though Chris Bittin, South Coast Secretary could have had just as an enjoyable afternoon than the winning captain Wayne Vincent. Chris played on his own against Wayne and Co-captain Paul Garland in this "now famous" match, winning 2 & 1.

Harrogate Week is not that far away from us now. The Region has a coach going up, which is at the same cost as last year. There is also a sponsored place which is free. If you would like the opportunity to have this free place please send a letter to Chris Sealey, at Chippenham Golf Club, stating what you would hope to gain with your visit to Harrogate.

Guys, please feel free to contact me with any news/information you would like to share with everyone else. I wouldn't want this to become a report telling you about the day to day running at Minch. I look forward to

hearing from you all. My e-mail address is Adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

Adam Matthews

South East Region



East Anglia

Newmarket Golf Club was the venue for our ecstatic Band of Brothers and Claire. We had to restrict the numbers to 68 - yes restrict to 68. I do hope other people read this because we must be the biggest and best run Section in the country.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, or should I say racecourse, we had a smashing day. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Rob and his team. I don't know what he did to the 1st or 16th greens, but whatever it was, it worked.

As usual the glory boys were back in town.

0 - 9 Handicap: 1. Norman Fenwick 34 pts. 2. Mark Henderson 34 pts. 3. Ben Wallis 34 pts. 10 - 18 Handicap

1. Aser Barber 33 pts. 2. Glen Rayfield 31 pts. 3. Brian Lemon 30 pts.

19 - 28 Handicap

1. Richard Mitchell 31 pts.

2. Adrian Goode 30 pts.

3. John Morley-Smith 29 pts.

Guests: 1. Chris Pearson 35 pts. 2. Phil Armitage 34 pts.

Trade: 1. Mark Keyser 39 pts. 2. Andrew Kirley 35 pts.

Nearest the pin on the 3rd - Mark Henderson. Nearest the pin on the 12th - Nick Ashman. Nearest the pin on the 14th - Bohan Penywrot

Longest drive was Ben Wallis.

Unfortunately, Rob Boyce put the yellow tees where the white ones should be, therefore, was the only candidate for the loo seat which he gratefully accepted. He is the last name on the seat - it is now full, figuratively speaking!

The main sponsors of the day were Tomlinson Ground Care. The other trade members who have supported us admirably over the years are as follows:- Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Ben Burgess, Tacit, Textron, John Deere, Hayter, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Toro, Collier Turfcare, Leyley, Baileys, Sherriff, Vitax