for the event and catering for every bodies needs.

The Annual dinner has been decided and the venue is the Studio/Victoria’s on December 3 so I won’t be able to report until the next meeting.

On a final note I will have become Chairman of the Scottish Region in early November and am delighted to be selected for this prestigious roll and will endeavour to carry out my duties to the best of my abilities, thank you all for allowing me this honour and best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Stuart Taylor
Glasgow Golf Club

The Education Convener gave the members a reminder of the Section events throughout the year within our Section and also the coming events for 2010-2011 season.

Our new look Committee reads like this: Chairman, Stewart Crawford; Vice Chairman, Vacant; Secretary/Treasurer, Stuart Ferguson; Education, Tom Murray. Committee. James Neilson, Scott Creagan and George Oliver

Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator reported on future events inclusive of the BTME Show, Scottish Conference and golfing fixtures for the coming year.

Our Chairman talked of the way forward of the Section and closed the meeting at 11.20 am.

A quick lunch was had, thanks to the superb catering from the Arkelly family. Soup was great!

Robert. I did make enquires as to who made the soup and we did manage to drag Robert away long enough from his laptop for him to be presented with a presentation plaque from the East Section Chairman.

The two Patrons’ Award winners were in attendance for to pick up there awards for Harrogate. And, last but not least, Eileen Barry was presented with flowers and gift vouchers as a token of the Section’s appreciation for all of her hard work and efforts within the greenkeeping training over the years.

All that was left to do was play golf for the coveted Jimmy Neilson Trophy. As I was the winner of the Trophy last year I thought I better go out and defend the title. The clouts were gathering and the winds were picking up I could see in the distance the figures waiting for me at the 1st tee.

Robert kindly let me change into my golf attire in the Ladies changing area as there was no place else available. I gingerly crept up to the 1st tee and the heavens opened we lost six holes and were soaked through.

But there were the three players that lasted the 9 holes out of all the players and it came down to the final hole. As the story went Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, apparently had it in the bag ….. but our runner-up from last year was in no mood to give up and judging by the worn out score cards Stuart came home the worthy winner only by a better inward half. Well done, Stuart and better luck next time Jim.

Jimmy was still waiting in the Kingsfield clubhouse to present Stuart with the Trophy.

Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and ready for your work’s festive outing. We have nearly reached the end of another golf season, and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last year. Now the weather has taken a turn towards winter, we can get on with our winter greenkeeping projects, not forgetting the few leaves to move off the course. Hope to get a flyer out in the next few weeks with next year’s golf fixtures, plus a date for a spring seminar.

Sorry there is no news or gossip this month which just leaves me to wish all our members and their families a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

As usual any news or gossip please contact me, at 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob 07947401278, email, frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Stewart

North East

With little or no golf news forthcoming this month all the talk has been of the Newcastle vs Sunderland football derby, with a Nolan hat trick for the black and whites coupled with a brace for Ameobi completing the rout. It turned into a Halloween horror show for the Mackems, even the red and whites second top scorer [OG] couldn’t come to the rescue this time. Fair play to the Mackem fans though even they thought it was the most entertaining and attractive derby game for years. Keep the news coming folks hopefully some golf news next time around.

As I have commented on lack of support in recent months for our golf competitions I thought I would just have a check on who we have been missing lately. The last time we had a decent turn-out was at Stocksfield in 2006 where 22 people turned up to play with the host club providing three players. Unfortunately that was the last time we have seen them due to, Barry Wilson, since retired; Tony Wilson, moved away, and Roy White, who moved to Close House and is no longer a member. But they are not the only ones. We have others who used to attend on a regular basis with the likes of Newcastle Utd GC, Tynemouth, his Coast Park Hotel and others. I think since 2009 numbers have dropped really badly and yes it will be probably due to work commitments and gone are the days that golf clubs are happy to let more than one staff away for the day.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

The season of goodwill and peace to all men beckons us in; the shortest day is only a few weeks away and also is the VAT rise so make sure your orders are in before the price hike in January! After listening in some detail to the recent public spending review I can’t help wondering if it will affect our finances at our clubs, I know some of the visiting parties at my golf club are based within the public sector, does that mean we lose those parties and the funds that come with them? I hope not.

The Christmas tournament and AGM took place at Mile End Golf Club on December 1 but due to the date I have to put the column under printing I’m not be able to give a review of the day or results until next month. We hope to run a coach to Harrogate again in January probably on the Wednesday of BTME week, the coach will only run if we get enough “bums on seats” so if you or anyone connected with greenkeeping or clubhouse are
interested in taking up a seat please contact Jeremy Hughes or Carl Crocher as soon as possible and with seats on this trip free to members and only a nominal fee to non-members it's a real bargain in these hard times.

In local news I have recently found out that Colin Jones of Mold golf club and in Colin's words "his other half" are expecting their fourth child in April. Best of luck from us all on the forthcoming event.

I think that's about it for this month and this year, so season's greetings to you all I hope to hear more from you next year.

Pete Maybury
petemay666@aol.com
telephone 07756001187

North West

Now December is with us, we look back on all that has happened in the past 12 months.

On a golfing front, the competitions were as follows:

The summer tournament was held at Blackpool North Shore Golf Club, the competition was won by Brian Turner. The greens were very fast so many thanks to Iain Gunn and his staff for the wonderful condition of the course and to the staff in the clubhouse for looking after us so well.

The autumn tournament took place at Bolton Old Links. The sun shone on us, the winner was Kevin Sweeney. Bolton Old has magnificent views from the top and is a credit to Steve Helmley and his staff. Thanks Steve for a great day.

Two other events happening in our Region were the Rigby Taylor Classic, held at Wilmslow. This was won by Ian Kirwan, of Widnes GC, and the BIGGA Autumn Golf Day at Cleveland Golf Club on October 13 and was sponsored by Rigby Taylor under close guidance from the wonderful Jamie Applegarth. So a big thanks to Jamie and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event.

I was unable to be there this year but I am told that the course was in great condition. Congratulations and thanks to Dave, Pete and all the rest of the greens staff for providing an excellent course. It was a great opportunity to play what is sure to be a course that will hold tour events in the future so a big thank you to all who were involved in setting up the day and for Rockcliffe Hall GC and their staff for allowing us to play and making it a great day.

The results were as follows:

Nearest the Pin was won by Dave Cuthbertson, Longest Drive was won by Baz Walker. Best par 3s was won by Dave Cuthbertson. Finally, the "Shortest Drive" booby prize was won by Ian Pemberton.

The golf was followed by a lovely meal. Bottles and prizes were also provided, in no particular order, from, Blade Amenity, Lloyd Ltd, Boxer Chemicals, Greenlay, Sis, Aitkens, Border Sports, Clayton's and Pinseeker. Thanks to all of the above for their continual support of the Cleveland Section during the golf events.

Finally, thanks as usual to Ian Pemberton for his efforts in planning and organising the golf days, and carrying out numerous tasks during the day. Also thanks to anyone who pitched in to help out on the day.

The Cleveland Section AGM would have been and gone by the time you read this newsletter, I will provide info on the meeting next time.

Terry Charlton’s Annual Quiz against the boys from the IOG will be taking place at Mount Oswald GC on December 9. I am told the start time is 7pm. This quiz has been branded as the true Clash of the Titans, and is set to put the Nigel Benn v Chris Eubank clashes to shame. So come along and get your thinking caps on and support this great event and get one over on the groundsman.

The annual “Bring a Bottle” golf event at Cleveland Golf Club will take place on December 15. You must arrive for 9.15am sharp. The cost is £15 for golf and if the past is anything to go by, a great meal in the clubhouse afterwards. Participants must bring a wrapped bottle along as a prize as per usual. There will be no cash payment on the day. Payments must be made up front and cheques made payable to Ian Pemberton can be posted to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 8QR and Ian can be contacted on 07791695768.

This is a great day, and early booking is recommended as the previous years have been very popular. It’s also a good opportunity for us “Parkland, meadow grass loving lads” to see what all the fuss is about on those alien rescue greens!

The spring tournament will be held at Middlesbrough (Brass Castle) Golf Club on April 5, 2011. More info will follow prior to the event but be sure to get in early as I am sure it will be a popular one.

Last bit of news is from me. Just to say that I got married to my girlfriend of 11 years, Selena, on September 4. We had a great day and a fab honeymoon.

That’s all for now
Any news
Kevin Scarce 07921817857 kevscarce@aol.com

Midland

Our Autumn tournament was held at the lovely venue that is Beau Desert Golf Club and our greatest of thanks to them for allowing us the day.

The course was as expected in tip top condition in its entirety as prepared by C.M. Steve Mucklow and his obviously expert team.

Very well done folks. The main prize table was sponsored by Campey Turf

Hi everyone, hope you’re all ok, fit and well.

Firstly, a big well done to Peter Hibbs, of Blackwell Grange GC for achieving an NPTC Level 2 Diploma. I believe Peter achieved this a few months’ ago, but I didn’t get any news in because on one thing and another.

The Autumn Golf Day took place at the new Rockcliffe Hall GC on October 13 and was sponsored by Rigby Taylor under close guidance from the wonderful Jamie Applegarth. So a big thanks to Jamie and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event.

I was unable to be there this year but I am told that the course was in great condition. Congratulations and thanks to Dave, Pete and all the rest of the greens staff for providing an excellent course. It was a great opportunity to play what is sure to be a course that will hold tour events in the future so a big thank you to all who were involved in setting up the day and for Rockcliffe Hall GC and their staff for allowing us to play and making it a great day.

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That’s all for now
Any news
Kevin Scarce 07921817857 kevscarce@aol.com
around the houses

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Alex Clarricoates
Age: 18
Club: Newark GC
Position: Assistant
Nickname: Clarricoates/Lightning

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
Two years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?
Working outside, seeing wildlife, learning how to maintain courses and free golf!

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
A full time golfer

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Raking bunkers because it takes a lot of hands on and it makes a change!

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Construction because it is more of a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?
More golfing

7. Hobbies?
Golf and football

8. Favourite Band?
S Club 7

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?
Nottingham Forest

10. What is your claim to fame?
Played football at Grantham Town football stadium

Want to appear as an Assistant Profile?
To receive a questionnaire, email scott@bigga.co.uk

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around the houses

Another month another newsletter, apologies for the delay. Thanks to our Section Secretary, Andy Smith, for his patience while we have been tied up with other activities. This month, we would like to introduce our Assistant Greenkeeper of the Month, Alex Clarricoates.

Alex is currently the Assistant Greenkeeper at Newark G.C., and has been greenkeeping for two years. He states that working outside, seeing wildlife and learning how to maintain courses are the things that attracted him to the career.

When asked what he enjoys doing most, Alex gives the responsibility of raking bunkers, stating that it takes a lot of hands on and makes a change. Conversely, the task he least enjoys is construction, as it is more of a pay rise to improve the greenkeepers’ lot.

As for his hobbies, Alex enjoys golf and football. His favourite band is S Club 7, and his team of support is Nottingham Forest.

Alex’s claim to fame is playing football at Grantham Town football stadium. To receive a questionnaire and potentially appear as an Assistant Profile, email scott@bigga.co.uk.

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around the houses

Around the Houses is the official newsletter for the East Midlands Section of BIGGA. It is published monthly and contains news, results, and updates from the region.

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around the houses

December 2010
saw the East Midlands retain the trophy 8-7. Thanks to Dan Branson and his team at Stanton for his efforts on the course, it was in fantastic condition.

The Autumn competition at Hinckley and AGM followed a week later, the format was three man teams, the competition was sponsored by Sheriff Amenity, British Seed Houses, Boughton Loam and Tacit. Although wayward off the tee I saw enough off the course to say it was in excellent condition and a good day was had by all. The winners were the team of Nigel Colley, Craig Watt, and Gary Thurman with a score of 76 points. Other winners were Nigel Colley (nearest the pin in two) Carl Chamberlain (nearest the pin) and Lee Wilenlock (longest drive).

At the AGM, after two years current Chairman Nick Miles stepped down, he will remain on the committee as regional representative, and he is sincerely thanked for all his hard work as Chairman. As a result I was appointed Section Chairman, and in replacement to Nigel Colley, who had stepped down earlier in the year, Greg Skinner was appointed Vice Chairman. Andy de Wet continues as Section Secretary and Treasurer, with myself and Greg Skinner continuing to organise training and write the magazine articles, finally Carl Chamberlain will remain as trade representative.

Finally you will soon be having invites for the Christmas competition to be played at The Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club (formally known as Cotgrave Place), this is a great event and there should be a guest speaker, so come along and support your Section.

Regards to all
Pete Smith

South West

South West

Devon and Cornwall

Hello all! Now we are fully in to our season of events. Our November meeting was held at Porthepne Golf Club near St Austell, Cornwall, on Thursday, November 4. A relatively new 18 hole course, born from the vision of the previous landowner, farmer. The whole of the back nine has views across St Austell Bay and the Clubhouse has fantastic position looking across the bay too. The 18 hole course is maintained by two staff, Andrew Prouse, Head Greenkeeper, and David Dav, First Assistant. The Golf course was in great condition and very well presented. It is a popular course in the area with over 100 new members joining this year. The Course is testament to the dedication, passion and commitment of both Andrew and David, both of whom regularly attend our BIGGA meetings within the Section. To back this up, 60 attendees enjoyed a fantastic day with approximately 40 attending a course walk led by Andrew, who gave a very interesting and eye-opening account of the trials and tribulations of maintaining a golf course at this end of the market, with few and at times no resources to work with! I know Andrew was very nervous and apprehensive leading up to the day, but all those who attended said that Andrew gave a very real and professional account of himself on the course walk. Well done Andrew!

The rest of us played golf with the format for the day being Individual Stableford playing for the Toro Cup, supplied by DGM and Toro. The winner on the day was none other than David Daw, Porthepne GC, with 41pts, much ribbing followed! In second was Anthony James (Jacko), Killow GC, with 39pts, and in third was “yours truly” with 34pts. Longest Drive on the 6th was won by Gordon Tymblyn, Mullion GC. Nearest the Pin on the 11th was won by Kevin Pitts, Fingle Glen.

Many thanks to our sponsors for the day, “Scotts” and “Devon Garden Machinery”, for their support and for supplying the prizes. After lunch, Tim Fell, Managing Director of Tillers Turf, gave a very interesting Educational presentation on “Large-scale commercial turf production”. Tim talked about the scale of the processes needed to produce the volume, variety and quality of turf required. Tim also touched on some of the projects they have been involved in including supplying to Wentworth for their recent redevelopment and projects in the Far East.

Thanks to Tim for making the long trip from Lincoln to Cornwall and for a very interesting presentation. Once again, thanks to Porthepne Golf Club for their kind hospitality and in particular Andrew and David for all their hard work. Thank you for a fantastic day!

Our next meeting will be our “Christmas meeting” at Saunton Golf Club, North Devon. The day will consist of Golf or a Course walk, followed by a three course Christmas lunch and after dinner entertainment. If you haven’t already contacted me to secure your place, then please do so soon as it is anticipated to be a very popular meeting.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

South West

What a great time we had at Worlebury GC for our Section’s AGM. The course was in fantastic condition, a great credit to Jaime Acton and all his staff! Paul Garland will hopefully remember to bring everything with him next time, forgetting your trousers for the evening and having to wear your golfing ones isn’t the best look......but on a more serious note, it was brilliant to see so many of you attend, thanks people!

The prizes were as followed, nearest the pin at the 2nd Allen Smith and at the 12th Simon Rattenbury. The overall winners, 3. Ed “The Duck” Parsloe, 39 pts; 2. Allen Smith, 42 pts and after count back our winner was, Stuart Broom. Well done guys. While on the subject of golf days, Lansdown is our next stopping point, Thursday, December 16. See you all there!

I would just like to bring your attention some training course that will be made available to you very soon. Tractor spraying, Chainsaw and Excavator training courses are what you guys are asking for. Dates and venues are yet to be arranged, this will determine interest from yourselves (you tell us when you want and where you want it and we’ll do our best to ensure this happens). Also Laurence Pithie would like to invite you to his workshops. A workshop titled BUDGETING & PLANNING, this would be made available to you, again a date and venue would be organised around you guys.

As I continue to talk about education, Harrogate Week is almost with us. Looking through the manual, it looks as though we have a brilliant range of courses this time. Harrogate Week is extremely important to our industry. Ensure you show your support this year by doing your very best to attend. By attending in January will ensure we get to go the following year and the year after again the year after that........

Remember that we also have our own South West Section facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grow as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, its time you were, ask more for the link and ill happily forward it to you.

As 2010 comes to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you guys for all your help and support throughout the year. I can only do what I do because you guys allow me to, I hope that we can continue this for 2011. As an industry, we really have had an amazing year!

Something that I would like to add in each news letter is a little joke, however I need your help with this because I’m not the greatest with jokes, “Golf........ the only time it’s acceptable for a man to hold an iron.” Remem-ber, your turn next month!

Keep talking to me, keep telling what you’re thinking, what you want and where you want it and we’ll do it for you. adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

Adam Matthews
07732503855

South Wales

Hi Everyone

First, a report on recent activi-ties in the section:

On Thursday, October 14 the Section’s Autumn golf meeting was held at Brynhill Golf Club. A good turnout found the course in excellent condition, which was a credit to Iain Grant and his staff. The only let down that day
was the weather, which was cold and overcast. The results of the golfing action were as follows:


Our thanks go out to Brynhill Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, to Iain Grant and his team for presenting a great golf course, to the caterers for an excellent meal and to club captain for helping to present the prizes provided by the day's sponsors, David Evans, of DEAL Machinery, local agents for Ransomes Jacobsen. A big thank you to them.

Also held at this event was the Section AGM. It was a quiet affair, apart from Steve Chappell's 'Bob Fleming from The Fast Show' type coughing fit! I think it was the infamous Celtic 'Cough' that inflicted so many of those who worked at the Ryder Cup! As a result Chairman, Paul Handy, stepped in and not only chaired the AGM, but also acted as MC for the evening as well. And a fine job you did as well Paul! The only news of note to come from the AGM being the voting on to committee of Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl, and Gareth Knight, of Trefloyne GC, replacing Julian Bartlett Jones, as Regional Board Member.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay tournament was held at Trefloyne GC on October. As you know, it has been a different format this year with 4 teams of two qualifying for the final. First, the semi's were held with Andrew Roach/Gareth Knight and Darryl Jones/Steve Chappell winning their respective matches. Then the final was held in the afternoon with Andrew and Gareth winning a closely fought contest which was finally settled on the 17th. Darryl Jones won the Nearest the Pin competition and Rob Williams won Longest Drive. All were then treated to the tremendous hospitality that Trefloyne provides courtesy of the guys from Rigby Taylor. So thanks to Trefloyne GC for hosting the event and to Rigby Taylor for agreeing to sponsor the event again this year.

Now some sad news. I just heard that two well known people from the turf industry have recently passed away. Firstly, Don Chillery, who was formerly Head Greenkeeper at both Caerphilly GC and finally Radyr GC before retiring to Cardigan in the '90s. Don was also a sales representative for Fisons a long time ago. I met Don on a few occasions and he was a consummate professional and a gentleman to boot!

I also learned of the death of Bill Hardiman MBE. Bill was Head Groundsman at the old Arms Park and a keen and loyal IOG man, becoming Vice President for the South Wales Section. Like Don, Bill was a gentleman who always had time and his family. The Christmas Competition will be held on Thursday, December 16, at Royal Porthcawl GC. Tee off time is 10.30am. Invites should be with you by now. Cost of the day is £20. If you haven't had one and wish to attend please give Steve Chappell a ring as it's a great chance to play a top links course, and have a Christmas dinner and all for £20!

Also, I believe that the Section is planning to send a fact finding delegation to Porthcawl town in the evening in the hope of sampling the many types of beverages that can be purchased at the local taverns and to sample the food from various exotic countries such as China, India and Turkey. Ask for details.

Spare a thought also for Dean Thomas, Head Greenkeeper at Pennard GC, where some of the greens and tees were vandalised recently. Dean has just had some soil tests back from the STRI and has shown Glyphosate and a small amount of Paraquat in the samples. Dean has already done a valiant job of overseeding recently and some of the local clubs, Langland Bay and Mosterton, have kindly loaned them some germination sheets. So good luck Dean, I'm sure that greenkeepers everywhere will sympathise with your situation.

Good luck to Mark Wilshire, currently of Newport GC, who is soon to become Head Greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle GC.

Well done Mark!

Finally, I have said some cruel remarks about my beautiful wife, Donna, in recent columns. So let me just say that she is a wonderful wife and she has just brought me a bacon roll! Good thing that I heard her walking up the stairs, as I was wrapping her Christmas present at the time. Good thing ironing boards fit easily under beds!

That's all for now! Have a great Christmas and a prosperous new year! Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda!

Ceri Richards

Around The Green

South Coast

Good Day Fellow Greenkeepers,

As I sit and write this, we have just had 40 mm of rain in the last 48 hours, a lovely welcome back from a week in South Africa as a Guest of Ransomes Jacobsen, one of the best EDUCATIONAL trips of my life with the temperature topping 32 degrees. Lovely!

The Autumn outing was played in terrific sunshine over Broadstone Golf Club, the golf course was in fantastic shape a real credit to Ade Archer and his staff. I had the pleasure of playing with Ade and Colin Hutt on the day and all I will say is Ade don't give up the day job to become a caddie.

A big thank you to all at Broadstone from the Section who helped make for a great day especially the Captain and Council who allowed us courtesy of your excellent golf course. And not forgetting our sponsor for the day Rigby Taylor.

We had a great turn out for this day with over 45 members taking part the results were as follows:


Two's  B. Davies and S. Riddick

We held the Section AGM after the golf and a number of topics were discussed

Tony advised the meeting that there was a place on the committee for anyone interested there were no takers at the time, but the offer still stands if any-body out there is interested we would love to hear from you just contact anyone of the committee and we will get back to you.

A great deal of discussion then took place on the future of our golf days and how we can get the numbers up. The committee were given a lot of ideas but again if any of you guys have any specific thoughts on how we can improve your day any get more people along we would love to hear from you.

I would like to welcome Rob Willis and Tom Baker to Remedy, joining me from Canterbury Magna and Dudsbury Golf Clubs respectively good luck guys. If you know of any others on the move please let me know and I will tell the Section.

On a sad note our long serving treasurer, Fred Deaman, has been made redundant after his club, Alton Golf Club, shut their doors and ceased trading. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Fred the very best of luck in the future whatever path you choose to follow.

Just a quick reminder for the Turkey Trot at Barton on December 13, see you there.

Robert Hogarth 07879 424737 robert@remedyoa.com

South East

East Anglia

An overcast day with an autumnal feel greeted the happy wanderers, about fifty in number to Saffron Walden. A bacon roll and a cup of coffee was all that was needed to set them off into the great unknown. It must be about ten years or more since we were last there and it was nice to be back.

Just how nice it was, was reflected in the scores which are as follows: 0 – 9 Handicap 1. Matt Gill, 40pts; 2. James Burton, 37pts; 3. Richard Southall, 35pts. 10-18 Handicap. 1. Glen Rayfield, 36pts; 2. David Farmer, 35pts; 3. Ben Pearson, 31pts. 19-28 handicap. (Only seven entrants so prizes for first two only) 1. Adrian Goode, 39pts;
Around The Green

2. Andy Baker, 32pts. Guest & Trade. 1. J. Wright, 37pts; 2. D. Duffell, 36pts. Longest Drive: Mike Buck. Nearest the Pin. Steve Coona. Loo Seat Recipient. Edward Clarkson for running over his own clubs in the car park; (ouch!) The Captain and Greenkeeper Shield was won by Mike Buck and J Wright with 70 points. Runners up were David Farmer and D. Duffell with 68 points. The day was sponsored by Lely UK.

Other prizes were from Ben Burgess, Tomlinson Ground Care, Cambio, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Aitkins, Scotts, Baileys of Norfolk, Headland, Tacit, Sheriff, Collier Turf Care, CMW and Ransomes Jacobsen. Prizes were presented by Nick Baker, Club Captain.

The course was presented by Ray Goodshal and his team in very fine shape – (the course that is). We must also thank Clive Osgood, our BIGGA representative, for showing up. He never misses (unlike me) – Well done Clive.

The food was lovely, so thank you Saffron Walden; see you in 10 years.

It’s the big one next:- Thorpe Ness Turkey Trot –December 15– be there. Due to the recession and the price of Christmas puddings, the cost of the day will be £30 and it’s not buy one get one free!

Mick Lathrope

Kent

I can’t believe we’ve come to the end of another year. This has, without doubt, been one of the most difficult years from a business point of view. What with the much talked about global recession which has affected everything not being bad enough, we were also hit by several weeks of snow at the start of the year compounding the financial burden to breaking point for many. I suppose England’s failure to turn up for the World Cup in South Africa minimised the expected lean period on our courses during the summer but we were still on the back foot for much of the season.

Unfortunately, a number of clubs have succumbed to the weight of the financial responsibilities and we can only wish that their employees are able to find work quickly and that the clubs eventually find buyers.

I don’t want this column to be too downbeat, however, as we are coming up to Christmas after all. By the time you read this, we shall have just played our Turkey Trot and held our AGM at Birchwood. At the time of writing, there are quite a lot of applicants to join us on the day so I hope you all enjoyed it! We have a full events programme booked up for next year and a couple of changes with a summer pairs knockout tournament and a ‘Golfer of the Year’ trophy for all to contend. Please see website for all the details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal sponsors for the very generous support they have provided this year, especially in the light of the business climate highlighted at the start of this piece. They’re contribution to this section enables us to not only attend a number of courses a year at a subsidised rate, but also helps provide an education programme to be proud of. Thank you to all and I shall be writing to you all again soon.

I would also like to say farewell and good luck to our Association’s Chief Executive, Mr John Pemberton, who has tirelessly fought the cause of the downtrodden greenkeepers for a very long time. He leaves some very big shoes to fill.

Lastly, on behalf of Kevin Morris and myself, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Best of British one and all,
Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com

Surrey

Tuesday November 2. Hankley Common GC was excellent today and welcomed again the annual England v Scotland Golf Extravaganza. I had not been selected, but a late English cancellation meant that Tony Bremer, the English Captain, had little option but to phone me yesterday and beg me to play.

With no hesitation, I willingly agreed but it was not my day and my indifferent golf did not help my playing partner, Adie Locke. We lost our match to our very competent opponents, Steve Holmes and Posh Jim Russell. The Scottish team won 4 and 2 and many congratulations to them for winning the Shield for the first time this century. John Ross made the speech on behalf of Scotland and as his accent had no hint of a Gaelic lilt, his expletives and ungentlemanly hand gestures were well understood by all. Tony Bremer’s speech on behalf of England on the other hand was dignified in defeat and any indecorous reference to Haggis Eaters and Bagpipe Players was merely friendly banter.

Thursday October 14. Three Rivers GC, in Essex, was the venue for the Surrey vs Sussex v Essex annual Three Section golf match. I am pleased to report that Surrey were victorious. Sussex were runners up and Sussex, the team for which I played, came third. Next year it is unlikely that I will be available to play in team events, so please don’t ask as my clubs are now resident in the Solent after falling off the Isle of Wight ferry. Sunday November 8 – 5 pm. and just back from a long weekend with all the family in Studland Bay, Dorset. Yesterday, Saturday, was sunny, windless and the perfect weather for a long country walk through the local boggy heathland, then on to Studland Bay beach for the last mile home. The Naturist beach section seemed empty of sun-worshippers until the last 50 yards, and then we saw him lying in all his glory and oblivious to all onlookers. He was an older man and aptly described by my son-in-law as ‘all under-carriage and no gun’. He was not there the next day, for the temperature had dropped some 10 degrees, too cold even for the bravest of the brave.

Brian Willmott

Essex

This month has flown by; I have attended a Regional and National Board meeting and been away for a week’s photographic holiday in Istanbul. Flying out of Stansted in late October the leaves on the trees were a lovely shade of green, returning just one week later and they had turned to the beautiful autumn colors that we all love to see but hate at the same time, as it now means we have a lot of clearing up to do.

As this year draws to a close, our Chairman, Mark Stopps, committee and members of the Essex Section would like to thank the sponsors of our Section for the support and help that has been received from them this year.

The following companies have supported the section over the past year.

Advantage Environmental, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bailey’s of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Billericay Farm Services, Blade Amenity, B.M.S. Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph), CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, Fieldcare Amenity, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Grasshopper Horticultural Ltd, Headland Amenity Products, Limagrain UK, Old Forge Mowers, Prime Irrigation, Rainbird, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts Professional, Tey Farm Services, P. Tuckwell Ltd, Writtle College.

We have had all a busy time at work this past month with the Section’s Knockout Trophy final, plus the Triangular Match against Sussex and Surrey.

Ten members from our Section joined with ten each from Sussex and Surrey to play the annual Triangular.

Held this year in our Section, the match over 18 holes at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, it was hard fought affair with Sussex coming out on top with a score of 252 from Essex with 278 and Surrey a little further back with 289. Nearest the Pins were Gary Ogilvie (Sussex) 9th hole and Kevin Boxall (Surrey) 16th Hole, Longest Drive on the 3rd Kevin Boxall. The match was run off at a fast pace with everyone back in the club in 3.50 minutes, damp conditions on a cold day, with the course in autumn condition greeted the players (images on the website).

Our thanks to Ernest Doe & Sons and to Andy Turbin for sponsoring the day. Andy also played for our team and then presented the prizes after the fine meal put on by the club. Our thanks for the courtesy of
the course go to Terry Peachey the owner of Three Rivers and to the club house and greens staff for looking after us so well.

The London Club was the venue for the Knockout final between Ray Clark, Channels, & Jon Selwood, Avoncrop, and their opponents, Dougie Fernie & Bill Maynard, Upminster GC. Due to Ray being unable to attend at the last moment, Jon unfortunately had to play the match on his own.

Played on the International Course at the London Club, the match was played off in fine but cool weather, with the course in a nice condition, there were some nice but tough Par 3s, with some other very stunning holes and the course was well appointed with water hazards. Jon reported that Dougie played his socks off with long irons and fairway woods peppering the flag at every opportunity.

Jon managed to hold his own up until the 11th but then it slowly slipped away in the final few holes, too lose to Dougie and Bill by 5 & 4. Well done to both teams for getting through to the final and well done to Dougie and Bill for a fine win.

The Essex Section wishes to thank Peter Todd for arranging the match and the London Club for their kind hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Our Chairman has been a busy boy over the past weeks, totally changing the 14th hole at Bentley Golf Club, he’s removed that tree which has caused so many of us problems over the years and adding another problem by enhancing and enlarging the pond to the left of the green. Then adding mounds to the rear of the green and extending a ditch to the right of the approach. I for one look forward to seeing the new style hole in the near future.

Last month Geoff Smith, Course Manager at Abridge Golf Club, he has successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for charity, well done to him and I hope to have a full report in a coming issue of this magazine.

Bad weather has hit the South East as I write this, with wind and rain driving the temperature down. Looks like we are in for a long hard winter this year.

Please look out for a new look website in the early part of January, hopefully I will have time over the Christmas period to get some work done on it and make some more changes and add some more features.

Next month’s report will be of the Winter Team Event and AGM which by the time you read this will have just past.

If you have any news for the website or for GK International please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail essex-bigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

Chairman’s Word
(continued from page 13)

...You have lots of opportuni- ties to meet new people and helping to organise events and influencing outcomes can look very good on your CV. It can make you more promotable. It can help you to have more influence over the way the association is run at local, regional, national and international level.

Again it is a free seminar but places are limited so please make sure you register early by contacting Sami or Rachael at BIGGA HQ or download, complete and send off the booking form. Both these free seminars will be hosted by conference favourite Frank Newberry whose ‘Moving into Management’ Workshop on 16th and 17th January 2011 has already sold out nearly three months in advance.

Silence is unlikely to advance this great profession

In the meantime – to quote a well-known supermarket – ‘Every little Helps’. May I ask you to contact your local BIGGA official and tell him or her just what is on your mind? Perhaps you have some ideas they can use to boost local participation. Perhaps you could give them some feedback on what they have been doing. Perhaps you could give the Board some feedback. Perhaps you could give me some feedback. Whatever is on your mind please say it - rather than be silent. Silence is unlikely to advance this great profession!

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**BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) 2011**

Important dates for your diary – Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 January 2011.

It will soon be here [where has this year gone?]...Europe’s largest turf management exhibition.

Be one of 6,000 valuable visitors to descend on the pretty town of Harrogate, that is 6,000 individuals who all have one thing in common - a passion for turf.

Join visitors from around the world to attend an education event, which many industries can only envy and an exhibition packed with experts showcasing the latest turf care technologies.

**New for 2011**

- **Turf Managers’ Conference**, promising to attract Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from far and wide.
- A specifically devised development seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers where key skills required for workplace communication and teamwork are high on the agenda.
- The NEW Environzone, from rainwater harvesting to power optimisation, this new exhibition area promises to showcase the very latest green developments.
- Enhanced Personal Development Zone (PD Zone) providing an invaluable resource for any sports turf professional who is looking to gain careers advice or inspiration. Featuring experts in the field of greenkeeping, careers assistance and consultancy there is a wealth of specialist advice available throughout the three days.
- More FREE seminars on offer.

Whatever your reason for visiting BTME 2011, you will be guaranteed to live music and filling up on the hot buffet meal! Tickets are now on sale (£25 + VAT per ticket), contact the office 01347 833800 to ensure your ticket to a fabulous enjoyable and entertaining evening.

**Past Articles**

Personal Finance Planning – GI July 2010; How to Guides... – GI September 2010; Membership renewal online – GI October 2010; Continue to Learn 2011 – GI November 2010.

**Follow us on Facebook**

Search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association then join the BIGGA Group.

To steal the title of a well-known BBC1 TV Show – it is the ONE SHOW to attend in 2011 and with FREE entry and a simple advance registration process, it is easy. Register at www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

Don’t forget to stop by the BIGGA Stand (Hall C Stand 46) and have a chat with the BIGGA Staff. We would welcome any feedback you have on membership issues, learning and development in fact anything you want to give feedback on! Or just stop by to say ‘hello’.

We will have the facility to renew membership, take applications from new members wishing to join and where necessary issue membership cards. Come along and see what’s on offer in 2011.

**The BIGGA Social Night – Tuesday, January 18**

For the last two years the social night has been ‘great fun’, ‘entertaining’ and ‘worthwhile’ according to those who have already experienced them and 2011 plans to be no different with the theme being a beer festival.

This will take place at the Old Swan Hotel on Tuesday, January 18 2011 starting at 7pm until 10.30pm. The evening will provide a great opportunity to sample local beers and catch up with friends and industry colleagues, whilst listening to live music and filling up on the hot buffet meal! Tickets are now on sale (£25 + VAT per ticket), contact the office 01347 833800 to ensure your ticket to a fabulous enjoyable and entertaining evening.

**South East Region**

Darren Breen, London
Liam Close, East Anglia
Phillip Cooper, Kent
Jason Cox, Sussex
Charles Gibbs, London
Billy Maynard, Essex
Ian Purnmeer, Sussex
Steven Smith, Kent
Sean Whipp, Surrey

**South West/South Wales Region**

Richard Japes, Devon & Cornwall
Matthew Mackenzie, South West
Daniel Robinson, South Coast
Drew Van Der Niet, South Coast
James Yates, South West
International
Alan Neal, Spain

**South West & Wales**

Peter Boyd
Tracy Maddison
Peter Larter
Clive Osgood
Jane Jones

**Northern Ireland**

Northern Ireland

**Scotland**

Rhys Davies, Central
Bryan Grieve, Central
Steve McKee, North
Chris Watson, North
Northern Region
John Bevan, North Wales
Arran Jackson, North West
Martin Lee, North Wales
Brian Morris, North West
Barry Wright, North Wales
Midland Region
Nicholas Oram, Midlands
Lucas Davis, East Midlands
Nick Jones, Bucks/Bucks & Oxon
Laurie Owen, Midlands
Max Sullivan, Midlands
Alain Wright, Bucks/Bucks & Oxon

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

**BIGGA welcomes the following new members...**

**Scotland**

Rhys Davies, Central
Bryan Grieve, Central
Steve McKee, North
Chris Watson, North
Northern Region
John Bevan, North Wales
Arran Jackson, North West
Martin Lee, North Wales
Brian Morris, North West
Barry Wright, North Wales
Midland Region
Nicholas Oram, Midlands
Lucas Davis, East Midlands
Nick Jones, Bucks/Bucks & Oxon
Laurie Owen, Midlands
Max Sullivan, Midlands
Alain Wright, Bucks/Bucks & Oxon

**South East Region**

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Liam Close, East Anglia
Phillip Cooper, Kent
Jason Cox, Sussex
Charles Gibbs, London
Billy Maynard, Essex
Ian Purnmeer, Sussex
Steven Smith, Kent
Sean Whipp, Surrey

**South West/South Wales Region**

Richard Japes, Devon & Cornwall
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Daniel Robinson, South Coast
Drew Van Der Niet, South Coast
James Yates, South West
International
Alan Neal, Spain

**South West & Wales Region**

Peter Boyd
Tracy Maddison
Peter Larter
Clive Osgood
Jane Jones

**Northern Ireland Region**

Northern Ireland

**Scotland**

Rhys Davies, Central
Bryan Grieve, Central
Steve McKee, North
Chris Watson, North
Northern Region
John Bevan, North Wales
Arran Jackson, North West
Martin Lee, North Wales
Brian Morris, North West
Barry Wright, North Wales
Midland Region
Nicholas Oram, Midlands
Lucas Davis, East Midlands
Nick Jones, Bucks/Bucks & Oxon
Laurie Owen, Midlands
Max Sullivan, Midlands
Alain Wright, Bucks/Bucks & Oxon

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

**Finally**

Help your Association grow by sharing the value of your BIGGA membership with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join.

Every time you recruit a new member, you strengthen BIGGA.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the BIGGA Staff.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your input, feedback, help and encouragement but mostly for your support, thank you and here’s to 2011.
## Diary of Events

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DECEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>North Wales Section Event and AGM</td>
<td>Mile End Golf Club</td>
<td>Jeremy Hughes at <a href="mailto:jezpro69@aol.com">jezpro69@aol.com</a> or 07876 776265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bring Life Back to Your Soil</td>
<td>Ratho Park Golf Club, Edinburgh</td>
<td>Polly at Symbio at <a href="mailto:polly@symbio.co.uk">polly@symbio.co.uk</a> or 01428 685762</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>North West Section AGM &amp; Bert Cross Trophy</td>
<td>Wimswoth Golf Club</td>
<td>Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07778 170077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Bring Life Back to Your Soil</td>
<td>Dinsdale Spa Golf Club, Darlington</td>
<td>Polly at Symbio at <a href="mailto:polly@symbio.co.uk">polly@symbio.co.uk</a> or 01428 685762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Bring Life Back to Your Soil</td>
<td>Laverstoke Laboratory, Overton, Hamps</td>
<td>Polly at Symbio at <a href="mailto:polly@symbio.co.uk">polly@symbio.co.uk</a> or 01428 685762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Surrey Section AGM</td>
<td>Guildford Golf Club</td>
<td>Ron Christie at <a href="mailto:lazyassron@btopenworld.com">lazyassron@btopenworld.com</a> or 07778 170077</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>BB&amp;O Section Turkey Trot and AGM</td>
<td>Oxfordshire Golf Club</td>
<td>Adam King at <a href="mailto:ajk@radley.org.uk">ajk@radley.org.uk</a> or 01235 543119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Bring Life Back to Your Soil</td>
<td>Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, London</td>
<td>Polly at Symbio at <a href="mailto:polly@symbio.co.uk">polly@symbio.co.uk</a> or 01428 685762</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>East Midlands Section Christmas Tournament</td>
<td>Cotgrave Place Golf and Country Club</td>
<td>Andrew de Wet at <a href="mailto:biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com">biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com</a> or 07730 713895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Terry Charlton’s Christmas Quiz – Cleveland Section</td>
<td>Mount Oswald Golf Club</td>
<td>Ian Pemberton at <a href="mailto:ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk">ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk</a> or 07791 695768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Bring Life Back to Your Soil</td>
<td>Hadley Wood Golf Club, Barnet, Herts</td>
<td>Polly at Symbio at <a href="mailto:polly@symbio.co.uk">polly@symbio.co.uk</a> or 01428 685762</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>East Anglia Section Turkey Trot &amp; AGM</td>
<td>Thorpeness Golf Club</td>
<td>Ian Willett at <a href="mailto:info@thorpeness.co.uk">info@thorpeness.co.uk</a> or 07929 205398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Cleveland Section – Bring a Bottle Golf Day</td>
<td>Cleveland Golf Club</td>
<td>Ian Pemberton at <a href="mailto:ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk">ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk</a> or 07791 695768</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Mid Anglia Christmas Meeting</td>
<td>Ashridge Golf Club</td>
<td>Gerald Bruce at <a href="mailto:Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk">Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk</a> or 07774 921606</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>East of England Section Event</td>
<td>Sleaford Golf Club</td>
<td>Bruce Hicks at <a href="mailto:brucehicks1@gmail.com">brucehicks1@gmail.com</a> or 07931 569158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>South West Section Christmas Event</td>
<td>Lansdown Golf Club</td>
<td>Adam Matthews at <a href="mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk">adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07732 503855</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JANUARY 2011</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Harrogate Week</strong></td>
<td>The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 16th to</td>
<td>Continue to Learn, Harrogate</td>
<td>Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate</td>
<td>Rachael Duffy at <a href="mailto:Rachael@bigga.co.uk">Rachael@bigga.co.uk</a> or 01347 833800 or book places at <a href="http://www.bigga.org.uk/events">www.bigga.org.uk/events</a> and select Jan 2011 from the browse events calendar.</td>
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<td>Thursday 20th January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th to</td>
<td>BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Harrogate</td>
<td>Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate</td>
<td>Register to attend at <a href="http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk">www.harrogateweek.org.uk</a> and select REGISTER NOW! From the options on the left hand side.</td>
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THE BIGGA BEER FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2011
7 PM TO 10.30PM
THE OLD SWAN HOTEL, HARROGATE
DRESS CODE: SMART/CASUAL

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK TICKETS CONTACT RACHEL OR ANGELA ON 01347 833800

Featuring Live Music

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Featuring Live Music

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

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<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1 March 2011</td>
<td>Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline</td>
<td>Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
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<td>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</td>
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<td>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</td>
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<td>Midlands</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</td>
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Harrogate Week 2011 presents...

THE BIGGA BEER FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2011
7 PM TO 10.30PM
THE OLD SWAN HOTEL, HARROGATE
DRESS CODE: SMART/CASUAL

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK TICKETS CONTACT RACHEL OR ANGELA ON 01347 833800

Featuring Live Music

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

| REGION   | DATE         | LOCATION                      | FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1 March 2011</td>
<td>Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline</td>
<td>Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440</td>
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