to alleviate the pain and swelling associated with sprains.

**Daisies everywhere**

The most ubiquitous and ver- satile weeds of temperate amenity habitats are plants from the family Asteraceae (Compositae), including dandelions, daisies, cat’s ear and ragwort. The same situation occurs in the tropics where two white ‘daisy-like’ weeds are among the most widespread and adaptable weeds.

With its rough non-descript daisy-like flowers, Tridax procumbens is one of the most frequently occurring and fast spreading weeds throughout the tropics. Biggest weed problems occur in the amenity sector where it spreads quickly and efficiently rooting at the nodes into soft ground and from there across adjacent hard surfaces. Flowers are single heads 15mm wide with short, widely spaced cream coloured ray florets surrounding a round central core of densely packed yellow disc florets. Leaves are very hairy and rough to touch and the flowers more resemblance to thistle heads than daisies, hence the common name of rabbit thistle. Two interesting common names have evolved in creole dialects of English speaking Caribbean islands like Trinidad with its strong historical French influence. They are ‘mawgwit blanc’ derived from ‘Marguerite Daisy’ (white daisy) and ‘bouton blanc’ derived from ‘bouton blanc’ (white button).

Like its temperate relatives Bidens pilosa crops up everywhere through prolonged flowering periods, high seed set and efficient means of fruit and seed dispersal. All opportunities and niches on disturbed ground and cracks in pavements or walls are exploited to the fullest extent.

Each flower is a capitulum consisting of 5 to 6 white petals (ray florets) surrounding a dense cluster of yellow disc florets in the centre. Bidens pilosa has a wide range of common names including Spanish Needle, Cobbler’s Pegs and Farmer’s Friend. ‘Rabbit Meat’ is the most commonly used name in Trinidad where its soft succulent leaves shaped like duck’s feet and bright yellow daisy like flowers.

The rough as an area of unman-aged grass does not take on the same importance on tropical golf courses and for very good reason. On temperate courses grass may typically reach a metre high during spring and summer and then die right back until the following spring. Not so in the tropics where grass grows throughout most of year with many species like elephant grass reaching three metres with ease. It is not so much the case of losing the ball but of losing the golfer.

**Herbicides and environmental integrity**

Three factors make herbicide use a difficult and tricky operation. First is high rainfall so timing is critical. Second there is a tradition of grazing animals on public amenity land. Last but not least, is the question of environmental integrity and preserving biodiversity. UK Turf Managers are under increasing pressure to pro-tect and preserve wildlife including insects and especially butterflies. In variety and density the UK butterfly population pales into insignificance compared with that in the Carib-bean. The most notorious weeds like Tridax procumbens and Bidens pilosa are often the most attractive to butterflies.

**Wet weeds on the move**

Equatorial regions are inherently wet and humid with weeds adapting to suit. Waterways, lakes, ponds, ditches and drains are continually clogged up with weeds and some are not as tropical as you might think. The willow leaved primrose (Ludwigia species), so called because the leaves are willow shaped and the yellow flowers resemble primroses, have been found on at least two sites in the United Kingdom – the New Forest in Hampshire and a wetland site in the City of London.

The weed is well established in France. Another nominally tropical weed of damp wet places is not too far away. Eclipta prostrata (false daisy) is currently causing big weed problems in southern Europe having already invaded North America reaching as far north as New England.

Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key supporters means that BIGGA can continue to produce training and career aids including DVDs, CD Roms, field-guides, as well as refunds for training fees, subsidised learning and development courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors

L&D FEATURE
The choice of cultivars for fine turf applications such as golf is usually a done deal, with chewings and slender creeping red fescues dominating the mix. But there’s a new kid on the block that’s set to transform the turfgrass climate of the game.

Well, not so much new as home from the hills. Sheep’s and hard fescues have roamed free across much of the grass and moorland of Britain for centuries. Probably introduced into the catalogue of grass cultivars in the 19th century, they found few if any sporting uses, being sown largely for low maintenance landscape features, where their ability to cope with the poor quality, well-drained soils of heaths and mountain regions found a ready application.

Hardy, dense, drought resistant and disease tolerant, they’re one of the reasons that grass has become so dominant a species across the landscape.

Lush green in winter and summer, these varieties are as tough as they come but only relatively recently have thoughts turned to applying them to sporting applications requiring the highest quality fine turf.

Preferences are moving strongly towards more sustainable greenkeeping practices that focus on less feeding and watering.

The quantities of weed grasses such as Poa annua present in many fairways for example has until now made these twin cost centres a fundamental requirement.

Such grasses are both hungry and thirsty and soon show sickly signs if greens staff fail to satisfy their needs.

Sheep’s and hard fescues can change all that. They are perfectly comfortable in the kind of conditions that a grass such as Poa annua struggles in, allowing managers to introduce a new level of sustainable grass management.

“Areas full of weed grasses such as Poa annua are no longer financially viable to feed and water to high standards,” said Derek Smith, Amenities Sales Manager for DLF Triflum.

“We’re building on these grasses’ ability to tolerate dry conditions and tick all the green boxes that private and public clubs and facilities are clamouring for in their bid to introduce sustainable grass management,” adds Smith.

Leading the charge of sheep’s and hard fescues are the cultivars Manetto and Quatro, which DLF Triflum claims, outstrip many of the current chewings and slender creeping red fescues across the spectrum of characteristics.

Independent trials conducted on the new cultivars prove that they are prime performers in shoot density, visual merit and winter and summer greenness.

“They’re fine, dense, exceptional dark green colour is maintained in times when many grasses yellow off,” added Derek.

“Extremely hardy and drought resistant, they can stand the close cutting that many golf courses conduct.”

The Turfgrass Seed 2011 publication – prepared by the British Society of Plant Breeders in association with the Sports Turf Research Institute – is the bible for seed buyers and the only truly independent source for them to compare the qualities of available cultivars.

Quatro (Festuca ovina) and Manetto (Festucia longifolia) top the league table (LQ) for sheep’s and hard fescues respectively for summer sports.

The importance and use of hard and sheep’s fescues will rise significantly in the coming years, as Derek believes, not only because of the improvement in turf quality gained in using them but also in terms of financial benefits gained from lower fertilising, weedling and watering requirements.

“In our breeding plots and in the STRI trials, they have demonstrated an unprecedented degree of disease resistance [Quatro showed by far the greatest resistance to red thread of any of the sheep’s and hard fescues in the table].

“Their exceptional shoot and stand density also reduces the likelihood of weed grasses becoming established as clubs don’t want the turf to open up.

“We soon realised their importance in sustainable turf management in fine turf applications.”

“Golf fairways for example can demand extensive watering and management so we decided to investigate how Quatro and Manetto could help managers introduce less onerous practices.”

At its Didbrook R&D centre in Worcestershire, DLF Triflum embarked on trials to determine what percentage of sheep’s and hard fescues in seed mixtures could create the optimum inclusion rate in its Johnson’s seed mixtures to deliver the required benefits.

Over the last two years, its breeding scientists have been proportionately increasing the presence of the cultivars within J Fairway and have doubled the inclusion rate of the original mixture - from 20% to 40%.

“We have settled on 40% as the optimum level – 20% each of Quatro and Manetto in J Fairway as well as J Premier Fairway mixtures,” Smith notes.

“This percentage strikes a good balance in terms of price, speed of establishment – which is not quite as quick as strong creepers but we have included chewings and slender creeping red fescues in the mixture, which shows good salt tolerance and comparable density.

The latest STRI trials demonstrate that we have achieved pretty much the right balance.”

The sheep’s and hard fescues in the mixtures grow slowly, helping greens staff to reduce the frequency of cutting and the quantity of clipings taken, which in turn reduces their carbon footprint.

According to Derek, the chewings and slender fescues included, offer extra fineness and show strong speed of establishment.

“What develops after sowing is a tight, fine, highly coloured sward, creating what many would argue is the perfect fairway.”

A big green carpet that makes lighter demands on staff resources and less wear and tear on machinery.

“Golf fairways can demand extensive watering and management so we investigated how Quatro and Manetto could help managers introduce less onerous practices.”

Derek Smith, DLF Triflum

Some of the hardest of all grass varieties are finding their way into new turfgrass mixtures that can create the perfect fairway playing surface.
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Southern

Hello everyone hope you are all well, now the clocks have changed it seems that winter is just around the corner, and it's time to start on the programme of winter works. On October 18 the Section entered a team in the Inter Section golf at Tressise GC. Thanks go to Tony Smith and his team for a great course and hospitality, also to White Moss for sponsoring the day. It was won by a strong Sheffied side, the present holders of the trophy.

Sadly this is my last newsletter, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last couple of years and Andy good luck as new Section Secretary.

Lastly I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you at some of the future golf events. As usual any news or golf goings on pass it on to the new sec. Andy Slingsby, 13 The Grove, Baldion, BD17 5NQ, M01 77476767, email slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com

Frank Stewart

Northern

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Northern Region

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The Autumn Tournament was scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, at Eaglescliffe GC, but unfortunately Mother Nature seemed to have different ideas. The heavens opened and the course was once again a dripping, sodden mess, much to the annoyance I am sure of Geoff and the rest of his team. The team had to extend the tournament to Saturday, October 26, and was kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Unfortunately I could not attend but I am told that the course and the greens were in unbelievable condition, and given that it had to be re scheduled to a later date - a great course was produced by Geoff and his team. Following thisrigby Taylor extended the opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last couple of years and Andy good luck as new Section Secretary.

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Frank Stewart

Cleveland

Hello everyone, hope you are all well. Firstly, the lack of news put into the magazine over the past months is due to the lack of news given to print. Please, if you have any news, send me an email or give me a bell. Apologies on my behalf if it’s been one of the months, I forgot to get it in on time.

The clocks have gone back, the leaves are falling and Christmas is upon us. I personally know it. I am just about ready to dig out the old thermals, and everything else on the course. There is leaves, leaves and more leaves.

STUART TAYLOR

North

It’s Ross MacRae here your new Section News person. I would firstly like to thank Dale and Robert for doing the report for the last few months but it’s time for them to move over and let a professional do it.

I would like to start with the AGM at Longside Golf Club on October 20. Eighteen members attended and played 18 holes of golf and a good day was had by all. Our thanks go to the Club Council of Longside and Head Greenkeeper, Josh Lester, and his staff, for setting up the golf course.

There were two winners on the day our Chairman, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, won first prize with George Mitchell. Newmachar, runner up. So well done to the catering staff and clubhouse team. The day was re scheduled for his hard work.

There was a change with the committee set up with Robert Fortune stepping down and Paul Sharp, from Peterculter Golf Club chairman, moving in to the well published Moonavery where all the staff are growing a moustache for charity raising. We have money towards prostate and testicular cancer something very relevant to the male dominated Greenkeeping industry. If anybody in the Club wishes to donate anything then please feel free to contact Mark Cummins on 07747019132 to find out how you can go about it.

I hope everybody has a good Christmas time and new year, I will report back on the night out in town on New Year’s Eve and the chaps go on with Mowery.

I would like to wish him all the very best for the future. Ian’s passion will continue, he has been bailed by Bob MacKay who moved from the Redbourn, so we would like to wish him the very best in his new role.

I will hopefully have more news next month when I settle more into the job. If you have any news please call me on 07758896635.

Thanks for now Ross MacRae.

Scottish Region

The Section AGM was held at Elwood training room on October 26 with 14 members in attendance. Those present heard from the Chairman that the Section had a successful year with the two golf outings being well supported with the new postcard doing well and proving popular. This was won by Gavin矢 and Mark Gordon, of ST Andrews, who narrowly beat Dave Simpson and Tam Smeaton. It was played over the rossie course at Blaingowrie.

The Section had staged a number of educational events in 2011 which were well attended and the various speakers were thanked for their help in staging these events. Since the last meeting only 24 members have provided their email addresses either to me, gmacneil@standrews.org.uk or to BGOA HQ so we can add them to the database.

Finally for 2011 the Committee congratulates Andy Mellon on his year as National Chairman and wish all our members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Gordon Moir

West

Since the last meeting only a couple of items to mention with the most important being the AGM and talk held at Breson on October 27, with food and demonstration organised later on October 27, with food and demonstration organised later in the AGM and talk held at Ibrox, the problems with light restrictions and how they have been handled were discussed. The Section AGM was held at St Andrews on October 26 with 14 members in attendance. Those present heard from the Chairman that the Section had a successful year with the two golf outings being well supported with the new postcard doing well and proving popular. This was won by Gavin矢 and Mark Gordon, of ST Andrews, who narrowly beat Dave Simpson and Tam Smeaton. It was played over the rossie course at Blaingowrie.

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Section Notes
Scottish Region

Central
The Section AGM was held at Ellewood training room on October 26 with 74 members in attendance. Those present noted that the Section had a successful year with the two golf outings being well supported with the new price structure proving popular. This was won by Gavan Noll and Marc Gordon, of St Andrews, who narrowly beat Dave Simpson and Tam Barlow, of Dunoon, in the final, played over the Rosemount course at Blairgowrie.

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West
Since the last meeting only a couple of items to mention with the most being the AGM and talk held at Ellwood on October 27, with food and demonstration organised later at Hedges Castle Golf Club.

Firstly, may I take this oppor- tunity to say thank you to all who attended and both facilities for allowing proceedings in the first place, unfortunately I did not attend as I was on holiday but I have been informed as to how the day went.

A talk was given by David Brodie on the methods used at Ellwood, the problems with light restrictions and how they have managed to combat all the difficulties associated with modern football staduim management. Discussions were taken to the pitch where a demonstration of the artificial lighting method was given and an explanation of how the product works, with a visual inspection showing the impressive results.

Next came a presentation by Stuart Jarvis with some interesting results as Gavin Jarvis had stated he intended stepping down as Secretary but would remain as Treasurer. Two candidates came forward with Brian Fraser and Fergus Ross both stating their interest and after a tied vote Fergus Ross was chosen by the Chairman’s deciding vote. I wish Fraser all the best in his new role and look forward to working with him on the Section.

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I hope everybody has a good Christmas and new Year, and I hope to see you at some of the future golf events. As usual any news or gossip please pass it on to the new sec. Andy Slingsby, 13 The Grove, Baidon, BD17 SN9. Mail: 07708477676, email slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com.

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North West

Scottish Region

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1. Martin Woods 40pts; 2. Phil Hargrave, Irons (handicap back 9); 3. Alan Reid 38pts; 4. Paul Legg 36pts. 5. And, with the words of “God knows how” very own stand up comic, Phil Graham, 36pts, 6. Sirguy, 32pts (back 7, Mark Brown 32pts; 8. Richie Hood, 30pts; 9. Chris Padel, please back 9)

Trade Prize winner was David Snowden. Longest Drive was claimed by Phil Hargrave. Nearest the Pin was won by Paul Legg.

Just like on Bullsby, Penmo always makes sure no one goes home empty handed and every- one got a prize with the famous Penmo fun dip raffle, complete with Halloween hats and sweats, it meant everyone won something.

It goes without saying that we are in very tough times, and as such for any business or organisation to allow something such as courtesy golf is a kind gesture.

With that in mind I would like to on behalf of the Cleveland Section, thank Eaglescliffe GC, and its officials for allowing us courtesy on the course. Thanks to the catering staff and club house staff also.

Thanks to, in no particular order, Border Sports, Atkins, Blade Amenity, Borer Chemi- cals and Turfbase, for donating prizes and supporting our events.

A big thank you to Rigby Taylor, and Janie Appleburn, for sponsoring the day, without such support these days would not be possible.

Finally, these days do not run smoothly just by themselves. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to organise events, prizes and make all the catering arrangements. Penmo is the man who works very hard all the time, organising and picking up prizes, receiving entries, sorting cards out etc. It goes without saying that Ian deserves a pat on the back for his hard work.

By the time you read this some of our Section events will have been gone, and the Annual “Bring a bottle” at Cleveland GC is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. Tee off will be 10am but you must plan to arrive at 9.30am. The cost of this is only £15 and includes a meal and a glass of wine. You must provide a bottle with a preferably a good content of alcohol, the autumn tournament took its toll.

North Wales

Hopefully now we’re heading towards completion on the major construction work planned for this winter. I don’t know about you but I always feel it’s best out of the way by the daffodils are out which is usually the really bad weather kicks in.

The autumn tournament took its toll...
Midland Regen

The final of the Scots (now Evers) Doubles took place at the magnificent Wen-worth Golf Club last weekend.

As always the finals were welcomed with breakfast in the Clubhouse where they were surprised to see a rendition of the piano by Bruce Forsyth!

The golf course was in great condition as always and well run.

The event was a success, as always, and the event committee would like to extend their thanks to all sponsors, committee members, brothers and sisters for their continuous support of the Section.

The biggest thanks are reserved for Mark Rayner, and Evers, Lecturers in hospitality, who have supported the event class so many, many thanks to you, Mark.

We have had many more news stories this year to cover than ever before so I say to the Section, a tour of the factory, a presentation by a marketing executive, a lunch with sandwiches and cream teas, and the AGM and October golf (Nigel Colley as Caddie and Mick Marvel as Ball Boy) was won by Nick Carter and his partner Rob Rowson from The Farmura, whom I am sure you will remember having done well in previous years.

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North East

Right here we again with the Section news. Always a hard time of the year for doing a report, made worse for no news coming via the telephone or mobile. Let’s see what I can make up this time (just joking). The Season took place at Whinbrook Golf Club on December 7, as always this column goes to print before the actual day so as usual results and write up will be posted in January’s column. The regional seminar took place at Birchwood golf club on November 26, as always a good day with “Weather it’s ecologically sound” and the day was a success with very few attendees. It’s a real treat to be able to attend a regional seminar and I only hope to see more seminars taking place between a northern and southern boundary.

We are considering once again this year putting on a coach to Hardwick Hall golf club, but it will only be organised if there are enough “bums on seats” so please contact Jeremy, or myself, we need to know numbers by November 20 to arrange the bus. Please check out our Facebook group North West Bigga and bigga golf club for upcoming events and discussion boards.

Believe that just covers everything for this month so all the best to everyone for the festive season!

Peter Maybury e-mail pete031666@oaktree.co.uk mobile 07756001187

Midland

The final of the Scots (now Everills) Doubles took place at the magnificent Wenlock Golf Club, West Course. As always the finalists were welcomed with breakfast in the Clubhouse where they were surprised to be serenaded by the piano by Bruce Forsyth!

The golf course was in great condition as was the hospitality, and our special thanks to Chris Kennedy for allowing us the privilege of playing this great course once again. The eventual winners were once again the Cock Grimmooods and their partner Mark Toner from the Forest of Arden, who managed to defeat Steve Thompson from Trentham and his partner Leigh Swann from Wrexham in a nail biting 3&2 win. Congratulations to Dave, you know we won’t hear the end of that one! Once again thanks to our sponsors, without your continued support we would not be able to host these successful days.

Our next event is our Christmas dinner and real Raffle this is to be held at Lingdale GC, and by now you would be interested in the entry forms, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Thanks, Pete Smith

Midland Region

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Autumn dinner, which was a fantastic afternoon with a very inspirational speaker in Jim McKenzie MBE.

It was particularly nice to hear Jim talk about his staff and the business, which was truly a massive operation.

I would like to thank Jim for taking the absolute time to visit and discuss the upcoming events and discuss viability of the trip and set the date for Monday, January 9 so we can put the date in your diary. We are considering once again putting on a coach to a northern and southern venue continues.

Between a northern and southern coach trip, we wish to make it easier for those who attend the Autumn dinner by travelling to the venue directly.

This year putting on a coach to Porthmadog golf club on October 11 and with 32 players going, I know that we have a date to remember.

It’s Christmas - a time to think of others so here is a reminder to all the AGM and our Officers.

I would like to thank everyone for your hard work of Gareth “Bronco” Hardcastle and the operation runs very smoothly for all.

Our next event is our Christmas dinner and real Raffle this is to be held at Lingdale GC, and by now you would be interested in the entry forms, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Thanks

Pete Smith

Midland

It seems strange as I write this at the end of October but Happy Christmas to everybody.

Who knows what the weather will be doing by the time you read this. Hopefully things will have turned colder (rather snow) that the unreasonably mild conditions we seem to be having for the last few years.

Our AGM and October golf team are due to place on October 17, at Orton Meadows Golf Club, in Peterborough. An interesting layout was provided in excellent condition by Head Greenkeeper, Philip Wright, and his team.

The results of the day are as follows: 1. Steve Hopkins, 4 ½ pts (Competition Secretary should be looking at his handicap); 2. Philip Wright (local knowledge); 3. Rob Welford; Trade: Gary Cooper; Longest Drive: Colin Cooper; Nearest the Pin: Philip Wright

Orton Meadows is different in that what was once the course club house is now a restaurant run by Beeferst and it was here that our AGM was held and was well attended as usual. No changes were made at committee level and all reports were given by the Chairwoman and Secretary/Treasurer.

After the golf we were allowed to choose from the two courses and the two meals (as well as a huge choice of canapes, chutney, daily menu etc) and in my case I chose the 120 napkin steak and “bottomless” chips that was very well received due to my size of 6" 2.5 stone.

Thanks for the day go to all at Orton Meadows and Beeferst and also to our sponsors for the day, Colliers and Farmara for their excellent prize table and continued support of our section.

A very merry Christmas to all, Steve Beverley

Innsmouth Golf Club

BBBO

By the time you read this we will have played the Turkey Trot event at The Bunglington Golf Club, weather permitting, either that or we will be under the snow Results will be published in next month’s magazine. The standard and quality of courses played at this year’s events has been fantastic and a credit to the time management of the County Managers and their teams. In what has been a tough year it is heartening to see that the winning golf courses which are a credit to the dedication of the Course Managers that without the generous support of our sponsors that our AGM events could not happen and their commitment is greatly appreciated.

Thanks

Some more changes have been to the BBBO Section, with Matt Nutter taking over as Secretary. As you will have read in last month’s column and Alan Broad has stepped down as Chairman (slightly wibbly pencil for the last time) The Section would like to thank him for his efforts over the years. The BBBO website is being updated and improved which will be

BIGGA Regional Conferences

Northern 2011, Gillingham GC, Kent
25th November 2011, Ormskirk Golf Club, Lancashire
South East 2011, Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Essex
29th November 2011, Wicklow Grange Golf Club, County Wicklow
South West & Wales 2011, The Celtic Manor, Newport
20th November 2011, Cardiff Marriott Conference Centre, Highbridge, Somerset
Scotland 2011, Mercure Ayr Hotel, Ayrshire
24th November 2011, Glenmuir Golf Course, Inverness
Contact Peter Boyd, 0141 616 3440

Around The Green

All that is left is for me to say all the very best to everyone for the festive season.

Steve Beverley

Innsmouth Golf Club
South East Region

The annual match between Sussex, Surrey and Essex was recently played at Chichester Golf Club. Unfortunately, few, if any, could not make the numbers on the day and the competition was left to Sussex against Surrey. The course was in great nick and the food was top notch. Surrey were the underdogs on the day losing by just four points. Nearest the Pin on the 18th hole went to Surrey man, Phil Rowlands, the Longest Drive at the 13th was claimed by Jeremy Norman. Overall, 41 well-earned points on count back determined the winners with limited help, but strong encouragement from the players on the day. As with all matches the committee would like to offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity in continuing to support our Section. We have now produced a full fixture list for next year, so please visit our website for full details.

Surrey

Monday November 7, I have been told that there are many Surrey members in the hope that someone has an exciting bit of news to relay. Please contact me to discuss this matter. I hope to find out about any greenkeepers who would like to write a guest blog on here and I hope to find out at any venue greenkeepers are interested in writing.

I have today been sent, by Robin Rowlands, a live text regarding this year’s leaf fall and how they are coping with the huge amount of leaves in the number of acorns, 10 times more than usual. He also was concerned that they were today under attack from a flock of seagulls, reminding Alfred Hitchcock’s movie “The Birds”, but he did not go into details. If you have suffered from any similar problems please discuss them with this forum, who wishes to remain anonymous, personally. Name and telephone number are available from the appropriate authority.

There is a lot of sort of information needed to interest my readers, so please, follow XXX’s example and tell us your thoughts and experiences or it’s back to the nature of leave on a icy white than Night. Brian Willott 07879447038. Email brian.willott@btinternet.com

South West and Wales Region

Hello South west. Well last month I wrote about the Rugby world cup but I was able to call ourselves Wales Champions and not England, as there was a certain Irish French ref that had something to do with that. I am so proud of all the lads as it was great to be Welsh again as the Welsh flag was on top for the first time in 20 years. The fair weather supporters I call us travel to golf clubs at Lydd, St. Andrews and Beauport Park Marine. Hopefully all of you guys can be warned, I can go on with this forever, doesn’t bore you to tears, again please, follow XXX’s example and tell us your thoughts and experiences or it’s back to the nature of leave on a icy white than Night. Brian Willott 07879447038. Email brian.willott@btinternet.com

Kent

And so to the end of another year. A year of highs and lows that’s for sure, but certainly finishing on a high for me. Our Section’s golfing year has been outstanding and fun! We have been seen in their pursuit of an all over sun tan on the naturalist beach and I didn’t seem in the sea, I did eat three meals a day, drink a little vino and sampled the local public transport service, using my bus pass, to the delightful but slightly drum sensa resort of Swanage. Now if that doesn’t bore you to tears, again, I am going to go with that sort of interesting travelling for as long as it takes.

I hope you enjoyed the semi - arranged by Les Howkings, on December 1st at the Walthamstow Golf Club. We plan to put the information in last month’s edition but the speakers have not confirmed. Cameron McMillan was hopefully participating, probably on the same subject on which he will be speaking at Harrogate. Thursday, December 16th.

Many Surrey members gathered at Essex Golf Club to recognise the industry’s most under rated, but extremely hands on grounds man, Chris Woolliscroft with limited help, but strong encouragement from the players on the day. As with all matches the committee would like to offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity in continuing to support our Section. We have now produced a full fixture list for next year, so please visit our website for full details.

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The annual match with Sussex, Surrey and Essex was recently played at Chichester Golf Club. Unfortunately left to us by Sussex was the course in great nick and the food was good. On the food was good. On the day Sussex were the underdogs on the day losing by just four points. Nearest the Pin 9th tee went to Surrey man, Phil Rowlands, the Longest Drive at the 4th tee to Bury St Edmunds and the 15th tee went to Surrey man, Paul Rowlands. The course was in great nick and the food was good. On the day Sussex were the underdogs on the day losing by just four points.

South West Region

Saturday November 7 I have had to cancel the meeting of Surrey members in the hope that someone has an exciting bit of news to relay to us all. I have warned you many times in the past that I do not like to be disturbed from time to time, so when I call, say yes upon us I, would like to wish all members of my team at Bearwood Lakes and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you again next year - role on 2012

East Anglia

One final thought. I didn’t know they had a Good Friday on Thorpeness! Well on this note from Ian it says T.T. December 1st. That’s all folks. Mick Lathom

Surrey

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Kent

And so to the end of another year. A year of highs and lows that’s for sure, but certainly finishing on a high for me. Our Section’s golfing year has been very well attended and in the hill’s. We have seen so many new faces this year and we thank each and every one of you for your support for our Section and helping us to promote the image of the BB&O as well as our greenkeepers up and down the land.

We would like to thank all those teams for hosting events this year and we would also like to offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generosity in continuing to support our Section. We have now produced a full fixture list for next season, so please visit our website for full details.

South West and Wales Region

Sorry this is only a short report but will make up for it in next month with details of our Turkey Trot, AGM and extended programme at Redcliffe.

Kent

I hope you enjoyed the semi- finals, arranged by Les Howkins, on December 3rd. We at the Essex have put the information in last month’s edition but the speak- ers, who have not yet been confirmed, are Cameron McMillan was hope- fully participating, probably on the same subject on which he will be speaking at Harrogate. This alone is enough to make your year.

Many Surrey members gathered at Essex Golf Club to recognise the merits (or lack of) of a Greensman. Consequently, the one and only yours truly. Broughton and his team. The course was in a fantastic state of repair with the food being \"wonderful\" and the drinks being \"tasty\". The course was outstanding how Gareth Knight and his one other staff member have maintained the highest standard is incredible. On the day the rain did threaten the golf, but the greens were in such good condition all the showman and a good competition was had of an absolute

South East Region

I think we were both green fingers and the courses were of fantastic condition all the way around. The greens were a work of art and the showman and a good competition was had of an absolute
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Surrey

43 points came first and Paul (Aqua Chausma) was, with 37 points, runner up. Mark Harvey, Course Manager at Epsom, got my gratitude for presenting the course, as he always put in the effort. We hope and expect to find it at any venue greenkeepers can be well found.

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Brian Willmott

South West and Wales Region

Hello South Wales. Well last month I wrote about the Rugby World Cup but if you’re able to call ourselves Wales fans then this month there was a certain Irish French referee that had something to do with that. I’m so proud of our lads as the last 10 or 20 minutes were spent talking about the Welsh team and the World Cup. It was a great night and we had some great greenkeepers on the map. I have recently seen some of the subtle changes to our greenkeeping and another part of some strategic bunker- ing. I hope we can see them in 5th back possibly slightly sadist.

The improvements are fantastic and I can’t wait to see them in Play. The other winter greenkeepers were being held here for the second year running on December 13, hopefully all of you guys can

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South East Region

Richard Taylor, for his title next year.

West Wales

South West and Wales Region

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Attended the day and see some of the changes I have put to the course.

With Harrogate again coming closer please guys contact Jane Jones for some fantastic rates on rooms at the Cairns Hotel it would be fantastic to see as many of us up there as possible.

Thanks for reading guys Peter Holotrom

West South

Devon and Cornwall

Our November meeting was at Bideford Bay GC, in St Austell, Cornwall. A total of 55 attendees braved what was testing weather conditions for both the golf and the course walk. Despite the weather, the course held up very well. The course walk was led by Brian Summers, Paul Cox Course Manager, and Steven Pope, Course Manager. Brian explained how the course was owned by the Bred Holm Group and how the greenkeeping teams structure was dictated by the owner’s wishes.

It is the area of the course is the responsibility of an individual i.e. one person in charge of greens, one in charge of fairways and one in charge of bunkers and so on.

This structure has been put in place so that each person can be held accountable for their area. Steven explained how this can be very frustrating and they are hoping to revert back to a more holistic approach where all staff can multi-task and be involved with maintaining all areas of the course.

There were many interesting pictures of the course including the remnants of old mine works throughout the course. A big thank you to Bred Holm and Steve for their time and enthusiasm in leading the course walk.

It is an individual Stableford competition and please do not thank you to those who took part and played as many holes as they could bear. For those who did actually make it around all 18 holes, prizes were sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery and Everris.

In first place with 28 points and winning on count back was Lloyd Overey, Liskeard GC, in second place was Graham Clowes, Clowes and in third was Jason Brooks, Tor- quay GC with 27 points.

A big thank you to our very welcome lunch our educational speaker for the day was Paul Morris, from GBR Technology. Paul’s background is a chemist (Meraeus from Oxford), with 11 years formulating experience in surfactant containing products at Castrol (the surface treatment division, rather than engine oils) and seven years at BASF selling surfactants into a range of industries including agrochemicals and turf wetting formulations. Most of the surfactants he uses are used in turf wetting preparations in the UK is BASF material. GBR Technology Ltd was incorporated in 1985 and has a heritage traced back to the Kodak Corporation over 40 years ago. The company developed a range of wetting agents, some reasonably small but growing number of accounts. Paul has covered the entire chemical structure of surfactants and how they work along with how they can be used. A big thank you to Paul for travelling down and giving up his time to share his specialist and extensive knowledge in this area.

Huge thanks to all the staff at Carlyon Bay for a great day despite the adverse weather conditions. Also, a big thank you to Steve Dommett, from Devon Garden, and Mark Rayney from Everris, for attending, giving out the prizes and sponsoring the day.

Duchy College is offering a free, on-line, video training session for Greenkeepers. So please do look to arrange one for yourselves. Can we also remind everyone that this is not going to be just a practice and potential cost saving, it helps keep you up to date of best practice and legal requirement.

An important date for your diary, Wednesday, December 14, the South West Section Barham & Devon GC this will be for our Christmas tournament, you know you really don’t want to miss out on this!

We also have a new Facebook page for the South West Section, just one that will make much more convenient for you to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your finger tips.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support in 2011, Essco, IrriTech Limited, Countrywide, Osmocote, Ball, Everris and Arysta-Lever.

South Coast

December is here and we can look back on what has been a very challenging year and look forward to the next year will be much kinder.

The Section has been busy with a few people moving on and others taking up new positions. Steve Richardson moved from the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club to Parkstone Golf Club and we welcome him to the Section and wish him well. Roger Martyn has moved from Knighthead Club to Doncaster and again we wish him well in his new position.

Alan Alar has moved from Remedy Oak and is now Course Manager at Knighton Heath. We congratulate him on his first appointment in that position, I have worked with Alan and know he will be a great asset to the club.

Alan has moved on there have been promotions in the Remedy Oak team. Ed Carey has moved to Bexhill GC and pits Rob Wilson to Pittrell GC, congratulations to you both.

Finally, Graham Bunting, Head Greenkeeper at Brook Manor Golf Club has retired. We thank Graham for his many years of service to us and wish him well. We all wish Graham and Claire, who is currently at Brook Manor, good health and long life.

Our November meeting was at Knighthead Club, in Haywards Heath. We congratulate him on his first appointment in that position, I have worked with Alan and know he will be a great asset to the club.

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