Welcome to the new the Safety Management System (SMS) sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. BIGGA and the GCMA have spent the last year updating and simplifying the SMS.

Accessible through the members’ area (BIGGA) or library area (GCMA) of each of the Associations’ websites, the updated system allows users to download and save all of the relevant documents for using a Safety Management System.

Since golf clubs are not complex organisations the SMS is short but nevertheless robust.

Clubs need to manage health and Safety with the same degree of expertise and to the same standards as other core business activities if they are to reduce risks and prevent harm to people.

The key elements of the SMS are:
1. Policy
2. Organising
3. Planning and implementing
4. Measuring performance
5. Reviewing performance
6. Auditing occurs at each stage; and feeds back to improve performance

A new area has been added for Fire Safety.

This area includes a dedicated Fire Safety Policy downloadable from the Fire Safety home page.

The original SMS will be available until the end of April 2012 for users to have access and to download their stored Risk Profile information.

The new Safety Management System website has been made possible thanks to the continued support and sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen.

A safe and healthy working environment is a legal requirement in the UK. In 2007 BIGGA and the GCMA developed and launched an online Safety Management System (SMS) providing the tools required that helps golf clubs to establish their own SMS. A review of the system was undertaken in 2010, to develop a newer, easier to use system.

Besides a SMS Policy, there are seven key areas to be considered when developing a full SMS at a golf club:

1. Greenkeeping activities
2. Maintenance facility
3. Golf course
4. Clubhouse
5. Kitchen
6. Pro shop
7. Fire safety

Within each of these areas, users will be able to access the following downloadable documents:
- Risk Profile (available in word and excel formats)
- Risk Assessments relevant to that area of the golf club
- Hazards - information and weblinks

Every document is downloadable and there is no requirement to store any information online.
Please email your notes to section scott@bigga.co.uk

Andrews Fairmont for a new Grant Stewart, who has left St

dev. Some light food will be for and what skills you need to job entails, what employers look in future. That's youngsters for.

Last but not least can I express my best wishes to Kenny Munro. I hope he is recovering well from his recent illness and also to Jim Deavin, at Western Gailes, who has been unwell, I hope you both get better soon.

Happy New year to all and best wishes for the coming season, here's hoping it will be a good one with plenty of sunshine and only a few showers. I hope everybody enjoyed the festive season and didn't over indulge with the xmas nectar. I guess the New Year's resolutions are already made they just need to be adhered to for a small time at least. As I sit here typing this up the snow is laying outside creating wonderful winter scenes pictures, this is when it's a joy to work outdoors as some of the scenery is breathtaking. I hope to see plenty of entries for next year's photographic competition from the West Section.

At this time of year the tree is no longer the priority in the xmas tree market for us pruning, clearing, and felling damaged trees and branches, then thinning out heavy woodland areas creating stock piles for insects and removing diseased plants. Health and safety checks already completed after all the poor weather in late November and then the painting tasks started, it's amazing things have been made a good start to your winter programs. I would like to mention the Patron Awards winn-
s for 2011 which are Stuart Brown, from Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, and myself [Ross Macrae], from Newmacher Golf Club. We will look forward to meeting each other down at Harrogate in January.

The course has been confirmed for next year and are at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on April 26th, the Scotch College and Groatsbank, then on to the jobs!

North

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Scottish Region

West

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At this time of year the tree surveys in work is the priority for us, pruning, clearing, and falling damaged trees and branches, then thinning out broadleaf woodland areas creating stock piles for insects and removing diseased plants. Health and safety checks already completed for the New Year’s resolutions are being kept up to date. I hope and wanted me to pace on the tree surveys, then the final task started, it’s amazing how much I have done in 25 years. Please be aware safety

April 26 for the Spring Outing at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on North

North

The annual conference and trade show at Harrogate in late January will be coming up soon and I hope to bump into a few people there, although I will be tucked in my bed early each night, as I have to be on my best behaviour. The West Section intend running a small seminar with Everris in February and notification should be out in the new year, the venue being Dennis golf club. The dates for the spring outing will be given shortly, and as soon as I hear, I will let you know.

Just to mention a small thing, I was recently contacted by Graham Sheen who used to work at Balmore and Loch Lomond, but is now based in Perth and is looking to get back to the Committee, he has been very kind to us in November and hopeful you will have made a good start to your winter programmes. I would like to mention the Patron Awards winners for 2011 which are Stuart Brown, from Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, and myself (Ross Macrae), from Newmarcha Golf Club. We will look forward to meeting everybody down at Harrogate in January.

The West Section has been confirmed for next year and are at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on April 26 for the Spring Outing and Grangemouth’s On Spey Golf Club on September 13 for the Autumn Outing. There will be a Professional Course around the second week in February by Lantra which you might find useful for dealing with rabbits and moles. Anyone interested please get in touch with me. After our last note by the time you read this I hope you all have had a good Christmas and a good New Year.

Ross Macrae
Mobile No: 07588996635
e-mail: ross.macrae@hotmail.com

North West

Central

Happy New Year to all our members and I hope it turns out a much better one than last year - weather wise at least. As I write this in early December, many of our courses are struggling under all the rain we have had recently, and with the mild November there have been more disease around than usual. Still, at this time in 2010 most of us were under a good blanket of snow or ice.

As mentioned in the December report, the Section plans to do all its correspondence either by email, or via the website and facebook next year, therefore it’s important that members provide me with their email addresses either to me, gmo@standrews.org.uk or to BIGGA HQ, so we can add you to the database.

The presentation with Kenny Liddell on Nov 30 was well supported and we have a few other ideas in the pipeline, details on these can be got via the AWIRA website at www.awira.org.uk Next up is an evening at Auchterarder GC on January 11, from Speak and Listen, specifically for the younger greenkeepers who are looking to move up the ladder in either the Deputy or Head Greenkeeper position. Lee Strutt and Grant Davykey, from GRYW, will describe in a workshop style with presentations on what the job entails, what employers look for and what skills you need to develop. Some light food will be available.

Finally, congratulations to Grant Stewart, who has been Andrews Fairmont for a new position as Head Greenkeeper at Bunkers Hill.

Garden Moor

Well A `GUID NEW YEAR TAE YE AW’ Health and Happiness to you and yours.

We had our AGM at Niddry Castle GC, in Warricburgh, on November 15.

The occasion was sponsored by Hughie Golf, so thanks again to Hugh for the excellent presentation - very informative.

There were 22 members at the meething which proved to be successful with some good ideas coming from the floor.

Thanks to those of you who could attend. Indeed thanks goes to all of you who attended our outings throughout the past year.

We are pleased to announce that our committee has increased in number and has a full list of names and duties to follow next month after we have our first Section meeting for the coming year.

Well done to Gary McCandless who was victorious in the nine hole competition, winning Jim Neilson’s Claret Jug, an edge over Jamie Martin on the day.

And the net albatross during the round made the difference.

Gary, Well done.’

So Harrogate is almost upon us and I hope to meet many of you there both in a professional and social capacity.

Meeting several of you all in 2012 and please phone or email if you have any queries or information you may wish to ask or pass on to our East Section Greenkeep-

ers.

Yours in Golf

Bissett Crawford
07971564699
c.crawford@dije国外.org.uk

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North Wales

Northern

Hello everyone.

My first task as new Secretary is to give a big thank you to Frank Stewart who did a sterling job for the Section. I’m sitting looking out at the horrible weather today with a mug of tea on my lap that I decided to stay in bed and not play in the Sunday morning comp and hoping that it will be better for myself and the Christmas day out.

Over the years like most of you, when you get this magazine it’s an bee to the job Section and then the Section notes (if any!...too here). No seriously we read Scott’s notes first then on to the jobs!

I’m looking forward to filling Prunia shoes and also to be back on the Committee, we have a great team, who in a lot of time and effort so we can have fantastic golf days out on some wonderful courses, on that note I would love to see more new faces play in next year’s events as well as seeing the old faces continue to support the Section.

To the young lads in our Section, please come along and see what a great day is had, where you can talk to experienced Course Managers who you can chat and learn from and from whom one day you could be asking for a job! Or, you could be unlucky and get paired up with Ken Christie or Mel Guy...Only how they have it!

These days could not be a success without the fantastic support of our sponsors, a big thank you to those guys and for your continued association with us.

OK, so I wish you all a great new year and look forward to seeing many of you at Harrogate and at some of our golf days.

Any news, gossip please ring me after 2pm or text or email at: 07506607867 slingbyfamily@virginmedia.com

Andy Slingby
In October, we had our Autumn Tournament at a superbly presented Dunham Forest Golf Club. It was a great day out and an excellent venue for the course and Chris Gibson and his team deserved all the plaudits dished out at the presentation for the course of the year.

The winner was Tim Johnston, from Wilmslow GC, and yet again the course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Steve Outram and his team. One of which has just become a father for the first time so our congratulations to Mark Hillaby.

The winner of the trophy was Steve [Browns] McGuinness, from Dunham Forest, with a fine 41 points. So well done Steve! This is the second victory for Dunham Forest GC as Chris Harding won the Spring Tournament at The Heiksel GC and they have won most of the Longest Drives and Net scores.

In June, we had a competition at Shortgrass where the Chairmanship was passed across from Aide Holt, from The Fox and Hounds, to Alec Davies, from Denton GC. So thanks and well done to Aide for the last two years and all the best to Alec for the next two years.

The committee remained the same in the incoming year and there was also an addition Dave Tucker from Denton GC. Well done Dave.

A couple of other things. Firstly, I want to mention that the new management of that £50,000 prize. This isn’t the first time he’s been on our radar in recent months as he was on local TV channel before his wedding day crossing the river Tyne the hard way, meaning that he started from a high point then down using a paddle across the river - a thing people do to get attention.

Another golf course news, Tyne and Wear GC is having a bit of a change on the first tee. It is now the longest drive and a change on the 1st hole. The Committee remain the same in the incoming year and there was also an addition Dave Tucker from Denton GC. Well done Dave.

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In October, we had our Autumn Tournament at a superbly presented Dunham Forest GC, where the test was a tough one and Chris Connolly and his team deserved all the plaudits dished out at the presentation for the course and the dinner.

The winner was Tim Johnston, from Wilmot GC. Then in November we had the 80th Anniversary Memorial Trophy, a 36 hole event at Wilmot GC, and yet again the course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Steve Outram and his team. One of which has just become a Father for the first time so our congratulations to Mark Hillaby.

The winner of the trophy was Steve [Surname] McGuinness, from Dunham Forest, with a fine 39 in his 36 holes. It was the second victory for Dunham Forest GC as Chris Harding won the Spring Tournament at The Heseket GC and they have won most of the big events during the season.

Nearset the Pin on the 3rd, Phil Ryder, Nearest the Pin on the 9th, Andy Thrift and Nearest the Pin on the 18th, Mark Littloe. A special mention could be made to David Lynus, who recorded a great effort on the 18th where he has been birdying a par 3 for the last 16th. The irony being it was the only par 3 without a Nearest the Pin marker. It was really good to see you all again.

John Bromley, the Thames Estuary Greenkeepers Association, paid us a visit at the course and was pleased to see the great work done at the course on the divots. We look forward to seeing him again soon.

Good luck for the New Year and always keep a fungicide on yourself.

Spencer Lloyd-Pye.
spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk

Midland Regional Meeting

Right here we go again this time last year we had several inches of snow at the moment we see clear but it has been cold and dry! I just hope it doesn’t come to anything I am getting to the point where I prefer it. It is not a bad idea to have a Christmas card be a sign of getting used well. There’s not a lot to write down at the moment but I have managed to bring some news of interest. First let Is did any of you members watch the programme The Cube on the BBC during the last week? And, if so, did you see Alan Morton, of TSL – Terry Charlton company and James Lightfoot-Peter, write a guest column where his own family was a contestant. She was unlucky, just failing on that £50,000 prize. This isn’t the first time he’s been on TV in recent months as he was on local TV channel before his wedding day crossing the river Tyne the hard way, meaning that he started from a high point then down using a pulley across the channel to get on the boat.

Bit of golf course news, Tynebridge GC is having a bit of a change on the 1st hole. The dogleg which has been designed all those years ago by H.Colt is going back to that style so all golfers things are going to be alterations. This has been done by Frank Pont, a specialist in golf course construction. Work is expected to start soon I believe with a few more months sometime in the autumn so keep an eye out and I will pass on the details.

As you can see from below I am now writing the section notices so please contact me if there is anything you think your club needs to know or anything that you would like to see included in the newsletter.

Midland

Adam Wakefield

Secretary

Midland

As we enter January and shade off the past Christmas blues and excesses, attention will all be focused on the planning of spring and what 2012 will hold. Alongside the excitement and expectation of the Olympics coming up, many of us are sure that work is sure to be taking place across the country. No golfer and members of the public will want the courses to be perfect but at least good enough and good rates and a long break over Christmas and, as I say, you are seeing good weather for this time of the year. On the Section at Sheffield are focused on rising again to support the Section and back to being the main Section for all our members. We have many ideas for the new year and will be working hard to make sure they are all put in place.

I hope everyone had a good day at Christmas golf and AGM all the information from this event will be posted on facebook and in next month’s magazine.

I must at this point thank members for their support in 2011 and must thank all members of our Committee for their hard work once again.

Our first lecture working alongside Myrlecombe College will take place in February and we have had tremendous turn out saw 24 teams battling it out to be crowned champion. Following on from this we have our trick pin positions and some awards will be presented. We met for the returner as winner, showing a gross score 66 / Net 57.77, 60th winner was Ken Price in Sheffield and with the support of Myrlecombe we be seeing 400 + greenkeepers attending. It is important that we support these events and we welcome your articles. Everyone of us can always learn something new and attaining these days will improve us all and help improve the industry on a whole that we work on. It will be good to see you all there.

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

Name: Andy Stinglby
Age: 43
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Club: West End Golf Club
Hobbies: None...mainly printable!

1. How long have you been greengreenering? 12 years
2. What was about the career that attracted you to it? I have always enjoyed working outdoors and if could not earn a living from working outdoors I would continue to play golf on a golf course second best.
3. If you weren’t a greengreener what do you think you’d be? A pubman
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Handcutting the greens. If your lines are straight, the finish is great to see.
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Digging. I can’t use my phone!
6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greengreenerer's lot? The weather longer sunny months
7. Hobbies? Golf, football, music and drinking beer!
8. Favourite Band? The Smiths
9. Which team do you support Golf Club or Football Club? Golf Club

Midlands

Firstly, may I wish all a very happy new year on behalf of the Section. So this is also gives me great pleasure to inform all Brian Smith, who has been promoted to the position of Director, and I sincerely hope this trend continues. He is a long serving member for the BB&O section and always keep a fungicide on everybody's head especially in these times of Post Christmas blues and excesses, attention will all be focused on the planning of spring and what 2012 will hold. I have been working hard to make sure that as many people as possible are kept up to date. Alternatively keep up to date on our Facebook page. For all your Toro needs they can be contacted on: 07702 154 987, or redtech@btinternet.com.

We have the courses I will let you know when the days will improve us all and this is a great time to start working on the golf course. We will then carry on with what is happening in the port of Myerscough we will be looking to the future planning and of course many of you will get to hear about it at the AGM. Without their support in the day. Without their continued to take the golf course from the members to the golf course we will be looking forward to the next two years.

For the day. Without their support in the day. Without their continued to take the golf course from the members to the golf course we will be looking forward to the next two years.
Hi all. I hope you’ve had a Happy Christmas and maybe a few well earned days off over the festive period.

Firstly, some info regarding the training mentioned last month, the First Aid At Work course is now fully booked. Thanks and good luck to the 12 attending also there is one space available on the Process Small Trees course for March 9th through Caroline: berkhamstedgc.co.uk

Secondly, results from the Christmas Tournament will be in the next issue also I have details of venues, competition formats, and more importantly, revised entrance fees for 2012 golf tournaments. Watch this space!

Finally, I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous new year.

Nigel Phelean

Mid Anglia

Happy New Year! Over the last few months it has been my privilege to work at the golf course I have been associated with for so many years. I am happy to offer sincere thanks to all those who have made my time here so enjoyable.

Kent

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to serve this great Association as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary and as Greenkeeping Associations as a Whole reach a century. 2012 is a landmark year for BIGGA and presents the chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved by the greenkeeping profession.

We have worked very hard over the last few months to promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe, and have the evidence of many members to support, that we can make a positive impact on the future of golf which will welcome guests who can be the world’s number one. Alec has been on the BIGGA Board for many years, to the following. Summer Trophy: Simon Banks, Anthony Kirwan, Martin Guy, Richard Lewis; 3. Martin Peachey, Lee Stephens, Neil Peachey, Simon Banks, Anthony Kirwan, Hugh-Jones of Malden GC when Alec Bradshaw retires in February 2012. Congratulations to both and also to Russell Abernethy who takes control of the club and Thomas Hulme of Orsett Golf Club.

The following awards for the day are: 1st Tony Brown for his impressive effort on the 10th hole and his service in 1996. 2nd Robert周日 instruction. 3rd Jim Crofton as the Golf Club Manager. 4. As an Association it also provides a fantastic platform for us to interact with our customers and with the BIGGA stand in Hall B2 and give us your feedback on how we can better serve your needs in the future. We know you are our precious customers and we will make sure that you play in the best possible manner.

The next big event is the 25th Anniversary of BTME, which will be held in Harrogate on Thursday December 8. A whole week of good practice, networking and camaraderie make a visit to BTME worthwhile. The following are the results of the BIGGA stand in Hall B and give us your feedback on how we can better serve your needs in the future. We know you are our precious customers and we will make sure that you play in the best possible manner.

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South East Region

Mid Anglia

The greenkeeping profession.

Kent

Happy New Year!

Around The Green

and well done to our Committee

for further information on all

Around The Green

shall never forget and I would

year.

Finally may I wish you all a

My thanks to our Chair, Ed

and get there if you can.

process Small Trees course for

and get there if you can.

of venues, competition

revised entrance fees for 2012

details of venues, competition

Vic Maynard, from Ernest

facial hair was in abundance!

-Scott Pro; Sheriff Europe; Rigby

Irrigation; Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; GM

Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf

ley's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity

products, I hope to speak with

the industry, the greenkeeping profession while focussing our attention on

chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved by the
greenkeeping profession.

We have worked very hard over the last few months to

promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe, and have the evidence of many

supporters, that each stand has something to

with them that can lead to mutual gain. I hope to speak with

so they place great faith in BIGGA and its membership, we are

driving it forward to meet the challenges of the golf industry,

chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved by the

take the time to visit the

with continued interest in the last few stands available.

Visitor registration numbers are also excellent and I have been

receiving very positive feedback from exhibitors who feel that

the vibes for this year’s Exhibition are good.

2012 is a landmark year for BIGGA and presents the chance to reflect

warmly on what has been achieved by the greenkeeping profession.
hot tub. Have a Happy retirement from all Burrey members.

Hankley Common GC was the venue for the Burrey Turkey Trot on December 6 and thanks to Gareth for organising the fine weather, cool but dry and with little wind. The course, as always, was in excellent condition and the turkey roast dinner that followed was delicious. Messrs Guy, Marney, Hall and Folds, whom by their hat design, were representing a golf club from Mexico and in true buccaneering fashion took first prize for the 3rd year running. Messrs Bremer, Freeman, Sellers and Harvey came 2nd with Messrs Durrant, Fawcett, Fawcett and Reeves at the rear of the prizes. Nearest the pin was Neil Davey and longest drive Kevin Hagen. One of my playing partners, Mr Paul Weston, seeing the marker on the 18th fairway commented that he did not go so far on his holiday, while Mr Mike Kirkham, another of our illustrious team, could not remember where he goes and I just broke wind.

The meal was followed by the Burrey AGM. The present committee were re-elected in blue and our Chairman, Les Hawkins, reported that the education day at Epson GC, although a success, the attendance was disappointing and he hoped that in future events more course managers would encourage their staff to attend. He thanked the committee for the work they had done over the past year and looked forward to another successful year in 2012. The Treasurer’s report was concise and acceptance of its content was proposed and seconded. Thanks to all those who contributed to the raffle prizes and the profit of £350 will go into the sections funds.

Brian Willmott

South West and South Wales Region

South West

Hi all, I have apologised to you all this month...I really don’t have that much to report. I know, shocking to believe, I have no exciting tales to tell you (maybe you could share some of yours with us)

As for the Section, 2012 fixtures will be with you all very shortly, we will send them out by email again, I feel that this method is working very well. If you are not receiving emails from me regarding the Section, please drop me a line and you will then be receiving all the e-mails you could ever wish for!

With regards to training, Paul Worster and myself are working hard to ensure we target what you guys are asking for (trust me, we are spending many hours on this!). Some workshops have already taken place and many more are in the pipeline, if there is anything you should want please feel free to contact either one of us.

As finish this would say this would be a short one this time I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and on behalf of the whole Section we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

We also have a new facebook group for allowing us courtesy and to the caterers for a great meal afterwards. Results: 1. K. Glass, 2. R. Hogarth, E. Cary, 3. P. Wentworth, J. Pender and D. Cunliffe. Nearest the Pin. D. Harfield.

A big thank you as always to our sponsors New Forest Farm Machinery and Blade who sponsored the event this year in our out.

On a sad note our thoughts go out to the family and friends of Les Andrews, who was a member of the greenkeeping team at High Post Golf Club whose life was cut short in an accident near his place of work. Les was a serious athlete whom would have competed in the Beijing World Championships at triathlon.

Our Section Seminar will take place at Milton Abbey School on February 15 with Jim McKenzie MBE and Cameron McMillan. The day itself was a huge success all speakers we’re fantastic and the event was attended by over 140 greenkeepers plus trade members I hope many of you made new friends and contacts and have taken valuable information back to your day jobs and it was very pleasing to meet, greet and openly question the new CEO of BIGGA. Thank you for your honesty and you time to come and speak to us.

Harrogate is here I hope the cars are full and many of us are heading up. Not many places left - about 2 weeks left to book a place so give Jane Joes a call to book a last minute place. Happy New Year guys.

Philip Wentworth

South Wales

Hello Section Happy New Year, hope all of you guys have had a 2011 to remember and we all can make 2012 an even better year. As you know the committee has been changed and we are asking for as many of you as possible to contact myself, Gareth Knight (07799588573), or any of the other committee members with ideas thoughts or any information you wish to share. I would love for all of us to pull together as a Section and let’s talk more to each other and keep South Wales Greenkeeping a fantastic place to work.

Mike Stokes, Head Greenkeeper of Whitchurch, in putting a morning meeting together for neighbouring greenkeepers - something similar to the Links Forum meeting some of you guys are involved in. Mike’s details are Tel: 07799041429 email themoursem@aol.com please drop him an email or a call so some dates can be arranged.

The Winter Golf Tournament takes place at Royal Portswood GC. Results will follow in next month’s magazine.

Our Autumn Regional Seminar has taken place at the Oak Tree Centre. As many of us drove into the venue we probably thought “Where have we come to?” but it was an abso...
hi. I have apologised to you all this month... I really don't have that much to report. I know, shocking to believe, I have no exciting tales to tell you (maybe you could share some of yours with us)

As for the Section, 2012 fixtures will be with you all very shortly, we will send them out by email again, I feel that this method is working very well. If you are not receiving emails from me regarding the Section, please drop me a line and you will then be receiving all the e-mails you could ever wish for!

With regards to training, Paul Worster and myself are working hard to ensure we target you what you guys are asking for (trust me, we are spending many hours on this!). Some workshops have already taken place and many more are in the pipeline, if there is anything you should want please feel free to contact either one of us.

At finish 6 did say this would be a short one this time I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and as of the whole of the Section we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

We also have a new facebook page for the South West Section... one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't having to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecocyl, Irritech Ltd; Countrywide; Brit- sh Seed Houses; Headland; Avening, Martyn Lane Golf Club and Long Lane Golf Club. Our support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

Please email your notes to: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk 07732503855

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Mike Stokes, Head Greenkeeper of Whitchurch, is putting a morning meeting together for neighbouring greenkeepers - something similar to the Links Forum meeting some of you guys are involved in. Mike’s details are: Tel: 07790241629 email thecoursemanager@aol.com please drop him an email or a call so some dates can be arranged.

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Welcome 2012

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year and to thank all the many BIGGA members who currently volunteer in one role or another to a BIGGA team at BIGGA Headquarters.

Without their valuable help, advice and countless hours of volunteer work your Association would not be what it is today.

By working closely with your Section committee the membership team are looking forward to a successful and prosperous new year. But the best people to promote any membership professional body are the members themselves.

Please encourage your fellow greenkeepers to take a look at the benefits of joining BIGGA, all information is available on the BIGGA website including membership forms.

Save money if you pay for your own BIGGA membership!

- Are you one of the 31% of BIGGA members who pay for their own membership subscriptions? If the answer is ‘yes’, then you can claim tax relief on your annual membership subscription.

When you can get tax relief for professional fees and subscriptions.

The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website states that if an employee pays for their own professional fees and subscriptions then they may be able to reduce their tax bill by getting tax relief on any professional fees and subscriptions they pay.

If you are working as

a) greenkeeper, a groundsman, or are involved in the fine turf industry, and
b) you are a member of BIGGA and
c) pay for your own annual membership subscription

Then you may be able to deduct the cost of the membership subscription from your taxable income and reduce the amount of tax you pay.

The HMRC recognise that membership of BIGGA is helpful to your job and BIGGA’s activities are relevant to your work.

BIGGA has been approved by the HM Customs and Excise and we appear on their approved list http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/inct4/inct4.htm.

It is possible for a person to go back several years to get tax relief.

How to get tax relief

BIGGA produces an easy to complete ‘Tax Relief Claim Form’ for members to fill in and send to their local tax office, instructions are clearly given on the form but your membership team are always here to help if you have any queries.

Download a form from the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk select ‘Membership’ from the options across the top, select ‘Tax Relief Forms’ from the menu on the left, here you can download the form. Or contact a member of the Membership Team at BIGGA HQ to send you a copy.

Increased Pressure at Work

During my travels around the Sections I’ve become increasingly concerned to hear how many members are under increased pressure at work. Apparently, one in five of us are stressed at work, with workload, management style and relationships at work as the top three causes of work related stress.

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure.

Pressure turns into stress when you feel unable to cope. People have different ways of reacting to stress, so a situation that feels stressful to one person may in fact be motivating to another.

Many of BIGGA’s demands can cause stress, especially work, relationships and money problems, and when you feel stressed, it can affect anything you do.

Stress can affect how you feel, how you think, how you behave and how your body works.

Sleep problems, sweating, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating are common signs of stress.

If you are a full member of BIGGA you are entitled to access to a CON FIDENTIAL HELPLINE where you can speak to, in complete confidence, a trained and qualified counsellor 24 hours a day 7 days a week, your details will never be passed on to any third parties.

Date Event Venue Contact

January 9th First Aid at Work Berkhamsted Golf Club Gerald Bruce Tel: 07774 921606 or email:gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk

January 10th 3 day PA1/2/6A Pesticide Kingswood Golf Club, Surrey Jane Glassett at Jon Allibutt Associates Tel: 01995 575575 or email: jane@jonallibutt.co.uk

January 12th Devon & Cornwall Section Event Tresco Golf Club George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gitts.yelvertonjog@gmail.com

January 22nd – January 26th Continue to Learn Harragate International Centre BIGGA HQ Tel: 01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk

January 24th – January 26th HTME Harragate International Centre BIGGA HQ Tel: 01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk

January 30th 5 Day Chainsaw Course CS30/CS31 Dedswell Manor Farm, Guildford Jane Glassett at Jon Allibutt Associates Tel: 01995 575575 or email: jane@jonallibutt.co.uk

February 1st Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Pest & Diseases Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

February 8th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Golf Course Presentation Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

February 8th Devon & Cornwall Section Event Bighory Golf Club George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gitts.yelvertonjog@gmail.com

February 15th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Turf Renovation Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

February 21st Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil Seminar Reaseheath College, Nantwich, Cheshire Polly on Tel: 01428 685762

February 22nd Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Environment & Sustainability Hadlow College John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

February 29th Devon & Cornwall Section St Mellion Golf & Country Club George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or email: gitts.yelvertonjog@gmail.com

February 29th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Outing (All Day Visit) Hadlow College John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

February 2nd Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Pest, Diseases Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

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Diary of Events

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...