



**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

### North

The Section AGM was held recently at Garmouth and Kingston GC. We started the day with the annual Chairman verses Vice Chairman golf match for the Daval Trophy. I am pleased to report that my team emerged victorious, but only after a play off as it was a tie, so the last game replayed the par-3 18th to decide the winners. The course was in excellent condition and thanks must go to Richard Roy and his staff. Dennis Slater, of Daval, was in attendance to present the trophy and relay our thanks to the company for providing the cup to play for. We must also thank all at Garmouth and Kingston for a great day.

The AGM passed off smoothly with Stewart McBain taking over as Chairman from myself and John Geddes becoming Vice Chairman.

I stood down from the Committee altogether as in January, all being well, I should be elected to the BIGGA Board and can only spare so much time. It will be sad not to be involved, but I know I am leaving the Section in good hands and maybe, after over 15 years in various roles, they will be glad to see the back of me! Iain Gunn is taking over the Section notes and will name the new Committee, their roles and contact numbers in his first report in the January magazine. One point raised at the AGM was a request for Section members to know what points are available for each event counting towards the Patrons Award, so full details will be published in a future magazine report. The final four winners of the 2001 200 Club were:

September £30 no.153 A Ross, Dornoch. October £30 no.55 J Geddes, Ellon.

November £30 no.68 J Herd, Banchoy. December £100 no.150 D Robertson, Newmacher.

No new members to welcome this month, but a belated good luck to Neil Sadler who has moved to Inchmarlo from Grantown-on-Spey.

The Section evening conference at McDonald GC, Ellon, in November was a great success with over 50 delegates present. The four speakers were excellent and it is hoped to have another one in the future with a different subject matter. Thanks to Amenity Technology, Aitkens and Daval for sponsoring the evening, to Gordon Moir, Ronnie Bunting, Peter Boyd and Tom Brannan for speaking and to Dougal Duguid, Hughie MacLatchie and John Geddes for their organisation of the event. Last but not least we must thank McDonald GC for allowing us to

use their clubhouse for the evening.

Next year's outings have been confirmed as Elgin GC in the spring on May 16 and McDonald GC, Ellon in the autumn in September, date not yet finalised.

Well, as this is my last report, I would just like to thank you all for putting up with my efforts over the years and ask you to support your Section Committee whenever you can by attending events etc. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and the hope that 2002 brings you all you wish for. Thank you.

Iain Macleod

### East

Here we go then the last column of the year and where has the year gone?

The Section held its AGM on October 31 with the kind sponsorship of local Toro dealer Henderson Grass Machinery in Haddington, who gave a talk on all the equipment they sell and the big range of products they have. They then showed us around their premises which are substantial and where a lot of refurbishment is taking place at the moment to make them even bigger and better. They then took us to Haddington Golf Club for a demo of Toro equipment and then lunch. So a big thank you to Hendersons for a great day and we wish them all the best for the future.

The AGM was held in the clubhouse with the kind permission of the Captain and Council. Thank you. It went off very quietly as usual with 25 plus members in attendance which was a good number this year. The Chairman thanked the committee for their hard work and the members for attending events throughout the year. One member of the committee stood down from his position after a few years. That was Ian Bell who felt he couldn't give enough time to the Section and allowed someone to take his place. The committee wished Ian all the best for the future and looked forward to seeing him at Section events. There were two nominees for committee - Richard Mullen, Swanston GC, and Robert Hogarth, Cadrona G&CC. It was decided to elect both of them to the committee so we look forward to welcoming you both.

The committee now reads Chairman, T. Murray; Vice Chairman, C. Yeaman;

Secretary, S. Dixon; Past Chairman, S. Greenwood. Messrs Forrest, Pennycook, Crawford, Neilson, Townsend, Hogarth, Ormiston and Mullen. That's the committee for year 2001/2002 so we look forward to the next 12 months.

That's it all for this month and this year so the Chairman and Section Committee would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year so all the best to each and everyone of you. Don't

forget if you're going to BTME 2002 I'll see you there. If not you all know my usual numbers so let's hear from you.

Last but not least the winners of the Patrons' Awards 2001 are Allan Campbell, Eyemouth GC; Ian Aitchison, Duns GC, and Richard Mullen, Swanston GC. As Richard was not able to take his place last year he is allowed to go this time.

One last thank you to our patrons and trade members and thanks for all your help and hard work throughout the season. Thanks chaps and all the best for the festive season.

Coming up next month, dance report, Patrons Awards dinner, photos and report. So speak to you all next year.

Chris Yeaman.

### Central

We extend a warm welcome to our final new member for 2001, Brian Williams, from Kirkcaldy Golf Club, in Fife. Brian is Assistant Greenkeeper at Kirkcaldy and a former member of the Association.

The Grand Football Tournament held in Stirling on Sunday, October 14 attracted an entry of 12 teams, travelling from as far afield as Dundee, Coatbridge, Livingston and places in between. Unfortunately the weather couldn't have been much worse with constant rain throughout the whole tournament. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed the day with the eventual winners being the team from Tulliallan, led by their non playing Captain, Kenny Thomson. There's going to be a stewards' enquiry into the authenticity of some of their players due to the fact that they were hardly out of puff at the end! Downfield were narrowly beaten finalists and I'm sure the medal (along with its ribbon) will take pride of place in PM's trophy cabinet.

On October 23, 33 members attended the AGM at Celtic Park, prior to which we were treated to an excellent seminar organised by Mike Dennis, from Rigby Taylor. The meeting was very constructive with a good number attending for the first time and your committee for the coming year is Chairman, Andy O'Hara; Vice Chairman, Stuart Sime; Past Chairman, Archie Dunn; Sec/Treas. John Crawford. Committee members S. Cruickshank, P. Murphy, D. Scott, G. Mitchell, A. Collier, with the Patron's representatives invited to attend meetings being M. Dennis, K. Brunton and P. Langdon.

Following the AGM members were given a short tour of the stadium, which rounded off a very successful day. Thanks to everyone who attended and to Mike Dennis and Rigby Taylors for organising the venue and seminar.

Winners of the "Club 2000" draw for October were S. Sime with number 55 who wins £30 and B

Cruickshank with number 222 winning £20. The November winners were S. Cruickshank with number 219 winning £30 and T. Edwards with ticket number 256 being the winner of £20. And before you say "It's fixed" the draw for both months was made at the AGM! The winners of the last draw for this year will be in the January magazine. While I am on about "Club 2000" everyone who has not purchased their tickets has until the end of this month to do so, after which it will be time for the most read Section news of the year, the February edition of Greenkeeper International.

As we near the end of another year I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Section throughout 2001, with special thanks to the numerous golf clubs who grant us courtesy for our tournaments and all the Patrons for their support which is greatly appreciated by the Sections. Hopefully we can build on what we have achieved this year and grow stronger in years ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

John Crawford.

### West

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year, I hope you all have had a good one. Firstly I will get a couple of apologies out of the way. I personally would like to apologise to David Hindmarch for getting his name wrong in last month's newsletter, and again would like to wish him a happy retirement when it comes.

Secondly, I would like to apologise on behalf of the committee for our failure to mail-shot all our members with regards to the AGM which we had hoped to hold on October 25 at Hampden Park. We, the committee, did not realise at the time that it was unconstitutional to hold an AGM without informing all our members by mail. Like I say, we can only apologise for this oversight and hopefully learn from our mistake.

On a more positive note 21 members did turn up on the day which was a significant increase on last year's attendance so perhaps this type of venue could be used in the future. Our thanks must be extended to Scottish Grass Machinery for sponsoring the day and supporting the Section. The staff at Hampden should also be thanked for providing those that did attend with an interesting tour of the stadium and giving us an insight into the history of Scottish Football. The AGM which was rescheduled for November 15 will have passed but I hope you all managed to attend.

The committee would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members these being Alexander Steven, Torrance Park Golf Club; David Leys, Hags Castle Golf Club; Andrew Patterson, Hags Castle Golf Club and Graham Sutherland, Campsie

Golf Club. We hope to see you all at future Section events.

Well that is about it for this month. Next month I will report on the AGM and the annual dinner to be held at Victoria's on November 30. Well all that is left is for me to wish you a cool yule and hope all your hangovers at Hogmanay are small ones.

Brian Bolland



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

### North Wales

Welcome to new members Peredur Jones, Pwllheli GC; James Cope, Robert Galloway and Paul Farrell; Carden Park; Paul Roberts, North Wales GC; Gwilym Jones, Aberystwyth GC, and Richard Barnes, Hartford GC.

Not a lot to write about again. The college machine maintenance course is on Dec 17, well worth going to so contact the college. Bus to Harrogate no firm details as yet but contact committee members so they have some idea as to what numbers are involved. More info next month.

Well that's it folks except to wish you all Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year

Dave Goodridge

### Northern

The Autumn Tournament took place at Woodsome Hall GC, sponsored by Scotts UK. Everybody was impressed with the course, views and of course the clubhouse. Well done to Head Greenkeeper Jeremy Eastwood and his team for the course.

Results are as follows:- Div.1. 1. Robin Smith, Leeds City Council, 40pts; 2. Tito Arana, Riddlesdon GC, 36pts; 3. Rob Gee, Crow Nest Park GC, 36pts. Div.2. 1. Nigel Wild, Otley GC, 40pts; 2. Jeremy Eastwood, Woodsome Hall GC, 36pts; 3. Richard Smith, Clayton GC, 33pts. Div. 3. 1. Lee Graham, Keighley GC 37pts. 2. Paul Wood, Clayton GC, 34pts; 3. Mike Gregson, Keighley GC 33pts; 1. Trade/Guest: Mel Guy, Green Pride, 39pts; 2. Dave Storey, 35 pts. Nearest Pin on 7th. Mel Guy Green Pride; Nearest Pin on 10th. Robert Turner Halifax GC. Aggregate over Spring/Autumn. Over 50's Dave Collins, Temple Newsome GC.

Under 40's Mike Gregson, Keighley GC.

Once again, thanks to the officials and staff of Woodsome Hall for allowing us courtesy and looking after us so well on the day. Thanks also to Scotts U.K. for supplying the excellent prize table.

The AGM took place in the morning with 18 members present and thanks to Ian Holoran B.O.M and Doug Bell, Regional Administrator, for coming. The present committee was voted back, en bloc with the

addition of Mike Brear. Your committee in full is as follows: President. Dennis Cockburn; Chairman. Jim Brown; Vice Chairman. Dave Thackray; Secretary. Andy Smith; Treasurer. Steve Heaton; Members. Tito Arana, Mike Brear.

We welcome the following as new members Scott Pavis, York GC; David Robson, Lofthouse Hill GC; Andrew West, Ganton GC; Lee Richardson, Ganton GC; James High, Hornsea GC.

That's all for now, if anybody has any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northern-section.co.uk

Andy Smith

### North West

How does this weather suit you? Here in the north west we are having an Indian Summer, with temperatures as high as they have been for most of the summer, the only problem I can see is that the grass has not stopped growing. This, of course, means extra work when, I am sure, most of you want to get on with your winter work. Still, we must not complain because once again the south of the country is having heavy flooding with rivers bursting their banks and not only land becoming waterlogged, but houses flooded with three feet of water in some cases. I might add that I am writing these notes on November 1, and I am sure that no winter golf is being played in many cases, and possibly little winter work.

News from the North West Section is that we have a new President. Due to the retirement of John Walker, the North West Section committee decided to offer the position to Peter Jefford, General Manager of Rufford Soil Technology. The following morning I spoke to Peter informing him of the proposal, and he accepted the position without hesitation. Peter has supported the North West Section for many years and the committee felt that he deserved this reward. I feel sure that this appointment will be beneficial to Peter and the North West Section. The Section would like to thank John Walker for his support during his years as President and wish him well in his new venture in the motor racing world.

News of the trip to the GCSAA Conference and show in Orlando, Florida, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, is that the Northern Region selected Tony Smith, Hurlstone Hall Golf Club, the North West Section finalist and Patrick McAteer, Nefyn Golf Club, North Wales finalist, to represent BIGGA. They, plus eight winners from other Regions, will be ensured of a high profile, and on their return will be expected to pass on their experiences to other members.

On the education side HQ are

doing their best to provide local courses, but unfortunately they have had a negative response from the North West Section. If you are interested in education seminars, as was the feeling in the recent questionnaire, check the education pages in the magazine each month, as there is something there for everyone. If you have any news or require any information, you can contact me on 01517 245412 or mobile 07761 583387.

I think that is all for now except to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross

### Cleveland

The Autumn Tournament was held last month at Teesside Golf Club. The event was well attended and a great day was had by everyone. The golf course was in immaculate condition and congratulations to Course Manager, Tony Smith, and his staff for preparing the course so well for us. The meal after the game was also superb, everyone agreed on that. Ian Holoran especially recommends the garlic mushrooms. A massive well done to Teesside Golf Club and thanks for allowing us to use your facilities.

The trade supported the event very well again by both playing and donating prizes. Thanks for your generous and continuous support.

The Winners were: 1. Gary Shaw, Ramside, 37 pts; 2. Dave Bickerstaff, Teesside, 37 pts;

3. Richie Hood, Mount Oswald, 36 pts; 4. George Salabank, Eaglescliffe, 35 pts; 5. Martin Woods, Wearside, 33 pts; 6. Anthony McGogh, Richmond, 32 pts; 7. Tony Smith, Teesside, 31 pts; 8. Neil Rodgers, Dinsdale Spa, 30 pts. Longest Drive. Jim Thompson, Darlington. Nearest The Pin. Richie Hood, Mount Oswald. Booby Prize - Alan Reed, Saltburn. Trade. 1. Bill Thompson, 31 pts; 2. Alan Cordingley, 30 pts; 3. Neil Thompson, 29 pts.

A special thanks to Barry Walker and Martin Woods for without their hard work none of this would happen. Anyone who would like to host either the Spring or Autumn Tournament should contact Barry Walker.

The Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield was presented at Teesside to George Salabank who beat Neil Rogers in the semi-final 3 & 2.

I was narrowly beaten in the other semi-final by Jim Thompson and in the final George beat Jim in a close fought contest scraping through 6 & 5. Anyone not quite sure on how the scoring works in matchplay that means George was 6 holes up with only 5 to play! Well done George and thanks to Carrs for sponsoring the summer knock-out again and for the prizes they put on.

Ian Pemberton, Course Manager of Bedale Golf Club, got married recently. He and his beautiful wife

jetted off on honeymoon to the exclusive, sun drenched, sea side resort of Seatonia Carewio. Congratulations Ian. Ian says any belated cards and presents should be sent to his Golf Club.

That's it for this year so I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Any news call 07719 193381.

Steven Jaques



**Midland Region**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

### East Midlands

This year's BIGGA National Golf Championship was held on the first two days of October, at the prestigious golf courses of Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC. The Section was well represented by nine of our members which included the National Vice-Chairman, Richard Barker, Regional Chairman, Gavin Robson, Roger Willars, Steve Goode, Ian Needham, Alex Hawkes, Archibald Marshall, Dave Leatherland and myself. Unfortunately none of the team were in the prizes, but everybody once again enjoyed two excellent and well organised days of entertainment.

This year's Rigby Taylor sponsored golf match against the Midland Section was played at

Copt Heath GC on October 11. The forecast for the day was fine and dry which

proved to be the case. Despite some worry of competitors arriving late due to traffic congestion, the day ran very smoothly. After the morning Greensomes the Section trailed

by 3 points to 2 thanks to wins from Russell Allen & Jeff Dickinson and Chris Weir &

David James.

After an excellent lunch we were back on the course for the ten afternoon singles matches. Despite being in front in several games, we could not quite maintain the pace and our only winner was David James, with a 3 & 2 victory. Jeff Dickinson and Ian Needham halved their games, with the other seven all resulting in defeats. Perhaps the most keenly contested match was between Ian Needham and Alan Roberts which involved playing plenty of jokes and tricks on one another, (all in good fun I might add). Perhaps the best one being, Ian chasing his electric trolley, across another fairway after Alan had set it going. So the eventual winners once again by a margin of 11 points to 4 were the Midland Section.

I would like to thank Copt Heath GC for courtesy of their fine course and the Steward and Stewardess for an excellent meal, the Midland Section for helping to make this a successful day, and, of course, our very generous sponsors Rigby

Taylor. Our own Section was represented by the following members. Russell Allen, Jeff Dickinson, Ian Needham, Adi Porter, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, David James, Chris Weir, Jamie Bedford and our Chairman, Gavin Robson.

Finally, I would like to thank all the companies who have supported our Section

throughout the year especially the following, E.T. Breakwells (Spring Tournament); Barenbrug (East Midlands v East of England); Banks Amenity Products (Autumn Tournament); Vitax Ltd. (AGM Tournament); Rigby Taylor (Christmas Tournament and East Midlands v Midland Section golf day) and finally Alpha Amenity (Stationery). Also I would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

Antony Bindley

### Midland

Annual Tournament for the Rigby Taylor Salver. Midlands v East Midlands, held at Copt Heath Golf Club on October 11. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued sponsorship of this event and in particular Steve Blakeman ably assisted by Tony Cheese for the organisation on the day. Thanks also to Copt Heath Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, arranged through Paul Loffman. Thanks to the lads from the East Midlands, some of whom travelled considerable distances to continue the saga. The Midlands led by one point after the morning fourballs on what, weather-wise, turned out to be a glorious day. The Midlands increased their lead in the afternoon singles to finish eventual winners 11-4.

Congratulations also to the winners of the Rigby Taylor doubles competition Mike Hughes and Mark Cutter. It was also good to hear David Fellows, of Cocks Moors Woods Golf Club on the Ken Bruce Radio 2 Popmaster quiz. Well done, David.

Also a quick reminder to please send in your passport photos to HQ for next year's membership cards.

The AGM will be held on Thursday, December 13 at Brocton Hall Golf Club at approx. 4.15pm, following the golf.

Philip Gates

### Mid Anglia

The Section's Autumn golf meeting was held at Letchworth in early October, including the final of the Lodgeway four ball tournament, played over 18 holes. In the Lodgeway event, Mark Ellis and Darren Brown, of Stocks GC, came out winners by three and one, over Phil Judd and Dave Thompson of Buckingham GC. Our thanks to Robin Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, and his team at Letchworth, for an excellent course, and to the club for their hospitality.

Driving Force Leisure sponsored the day, represented by David Murphy. Thirty members attend-

ed. The results were as follows: 1. Robin Jackson, Letchworth GC, 36 pts; 2. Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant GC, 36 pts; 3. Nigel Phelan, St Andrew's Hospital GC, 34 pts. The Longest Drive was won by Nigel Phelan and Nearest the Pin by Bob Butfoy.

The AGM followed the meal and presentations with the following members being elected to serve the section for the coming year. Chairman, Jim Cassidy; Vice Chairman, Steve Mason. Secretary / Treasurer, Gerald Bruce; Match Secretary, Richard Saunders. Regional Representative, Paul Lockett. Committee Members: Stephen Hesk, Frank Scullion, Colin Robinson, John Wells.

Colin Robinson steps down as Chairman this year and Steve Mason steps down as Lodgeway Four Ball organiser. Gerald Bruce reported the Section to be in a good financial situation, although numbers for the golf events are down slightly on the previous year. The section has 257 greenkeeper members out of a national total of 7,252. Gerald thanked our main sponsors for their support once again this year, namely George Brown's, Turner Groundcare, Avon Crop Amenity, Driving Force Leisure, Rigby Taylor and Boughton Loam.

Look out for dates for our educational days in January's magazine. They will be held at golf clubs within the Section in February and March, the topics being Basic Computing and Soil Science.

Finally, a sad note to end on. Harry Herrington, who was Head Greenkeeper at John O'Gaunt GC, prior to Colin, and an active member of BIGGA in its infancy, has died. On behalf of the Section, I would like to extend our sympathy to his family.

Paul Lockett



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Surrey

Surrey Section's visit to the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon on October 17 was most interesting and we thank Eddie Seaward the Head Groundsman for a fascinating guided tour. There are so many alterations and new projects under construction at the club that have to be finished before the Championships in June that it was indeed most kind of Eddie to find time to fit our visit in.

The annual England v's. Scotland Golf Match took place at Hankley Common Golf Club on October 25. We thank Gareth Roberts and all his greenkeepers for once again allowing us to play on a golf course in such excellent condition. The match Shield has resurrected itself

and the last result engraved on it was 1992. The results from the matches played in 1998, 1999, 2000 can now be added. No matches were played in the intervening years.

The result from this year is probably not known to you all but if you have had your head in the sand or your Head Greenkeeper originates from the more northern latitudes England 1 Scotland Lost.

The Gentleman's dinner postponed from March because of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak took place on October 22 at Walton Heath Golf Club. Its annual venue was as always in pristine condition and many thanks to our current Chairman, Clive Osgood, his Head Greenkeeper Mick Haynes and their staff. This was a South East Region fixture so a full report will be issued by Derek Farrington, Regional Administrator. I would however like to make one observation and this directed at the Handicap Secretary of the Kent Section, Mr George Brown. One of your more senior members from Dene Gate Ridge, scored a wonderful 43 points off a handicap of 10. A slight incision might be considered appropriate!

Chris Webb, Deputy Course Manager at Burhill Golf Club, and his wife Angela are to be congratulated for on July 17 their third baby, Liam Barry, was born and weighed in at 6lb 8ozs. I understand that Chris will be taking the same advice offered at the end of the last paragraph.

It is with much sadness that I report the death of my companion and four legged friend, Lottie, the most travelled Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in the industry. Greenkeepers your sandwiches are now safe and, Barry Coveney, the damp spot in your office will always bring a smile to my lips as well as a tear to my eye.

Brian Wilmott

### Kent

I would like to start by congratulating Steve Suttle on a remarkable feat. Back in September Steve ran the London to Brighton race which is 55 miles of hard slog and in quite awful conditions of high winds and rain, the worst in the last 51 years of the race. Steve finished the race in a superb 7th place and a personal best in a time of 7 hours 30 minutes and 47 seconds. 165 runners entered and only 117 finished in the 10 hour deadline. So a big well done to you Steve and if any of you see Steve don't call his running jogging or you will never hear the last of it.

So this was my only second caller with information for these articles and I have now been doing this for five months. Pretty poor wouldn't you say. So please make a New Year's resolution and call me with some news whatever it may be.

I would like to welcome Barry Bradshaw back to Kent after spending 18 months working out in the

USA at Bellieve Country Club, St Louis, where the World Golf Championships was to take place in September until the New York disaster accrued. Anyway Barry learned a lot about tournament set up and the American way of life. So a big welcome back to the miserable English rain. By the way Barry it is called petrol not 'gas'.

I see from the last greenkeeper magazine that their are a few new members to the Kent section and I hope we will be seeing you all at next year's golf days. Our club now has all its eight staff joined to BIGGA and we all pay our own subs, so if there is someone at your club who is not a member get them to join. You get out of the Kent Section and BIGGA what you put in yourselves so please let's make a big effort to support our Section next year and make it one of the best supported Sections and not the worst as it is at the moment.

I did witness something quite unusual the other day. Vic Maynard left speechless when he saw his son, Tim, hoovering the mess room and offices of the Greenkeeper building. Vic said his mother would never believe this and she didn't.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and once again, as every month, my contact details so you can send me news of how your Christmas booze ups went and all the trouble you got in with..... You tell me on 01732 875020 or e-mail jbatkhgol@aol.com.

Jason Bean.



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352194

### Devon and Cornwall

Season's greetings to you all.

Our P.J. Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P.J. Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf the Course Walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch Tank Sherman will once again be the entertainer with the raffles concluding the day.

The Barenbrug Seeds meeting will be our first meeting of the New Year and will be held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16. The morning will start with a singles stableford golf, with the course walk for non-golfers leaving the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 2002, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show. This year the seminar sessions are extra.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

Firstly, many apologies for the lack of Section notes for the last couple of months. The problem has now been rectified and normal service has been resumed. As you read this many of you will have played in the winter tournament at Barton-on-Sea and been to the Section AGM. I know your committee work extremely hard on your behalf trying to make the Section a success, so it would be nice to see more people supporting the coming events. We, as greenkeepers, are always busy but we should put time aside to attend Section events. As the New Year approaches our minds turn to BTME. For those who have not made the journey to Harrogate then I can thoroughly recommend it. It truly is a week not to miss as the learning experience continues. Paula Humphries can be contacted for those interested in the South West coach trip, which is excellent value for money.

As a Section we must congratulate Adi Archer and his team at Broadstone Golf Club for their success in winning the BIGGA Environment competition this year. We were fortunate to play Broadstone this summer and were able to see how much hard work they have put in to their heathland restoration project over the past years. They are indeed a credit to our section and to all greenkeepers. Lastly, it just leaves me to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your committee.

Alex McCombie

### South Wales

It is with great sadness that I have to inform the members of the recent sudden passing away of Paul Robinson, former Head Greenkeeper of the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. Paul had been retired from the club that he devoted his entire working life to, for only 10 weeks.

Paul was a well respected father figure of the greenkeeping fraternity in South Wales and was renowned for his wit and sense of humour. Just being in his company was fun itself!

He was an ardent supporter of BIGGA and was the treasurer of the Section for over 14 years.

It is said that Paul took only one holiday in his entire working life, many years ago, to Malta for a week! From then on in he took his holiday entitlement in half days as he couldn't bear to be away from the course that he tended to and cared for so very much.

A lovely gentleman, generous and humorous, he will be sadly missed.

The final of the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles Competition was held recently at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, where Daryl Bray and Steve Mills took on Jamie and Herbie Probert.

The match was a tight affair with the conditions making for an exiting finale to the competition. The high winds eventually overcame the driving rain and the sun shone for the remainder of the match, which saw Jamie and Herbie triumph on the 16th green.

The golf course was in excellent condition and those who weren't playing but who supported the match were lucky enough to be treated to a what's what and what's happening to the course in time for the British Amateur Championships next year, from Course Manager David Ward.

Our sincere thanks to Roy Barker and Dave Carvey, our Rigby Taylor representatives, for organising the day and for their splendid hospitality. A truly enjoyable day was had by all!

Congratulations to Kerry Jones, of Garnant Park Golf Club. Kerry who has been the Head Greenkeeper of the club for four years was recently promoted to Golf Manager at the course.

Congratulations also to Huw Morgan of the Wildernesse Golf Club, near Sevenoaks in Kent. Welshman Huw recently won the Toro sponsored Excellence in Greenkeeping award to add to his list of achievements.

Don't forget to book your place at the Winter Tournament/AGM/Christmas dinner, at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. Teeing Off is from 10.00am, the AGM is 3pm and the Christmas feast is served at 5.30pm. Numbers will be limited.

Peter Lacey



### Northern Ireland

The AGM will have been held at Rockmount Golf Club on November 29. The structure of the new committee for 2002 will be detailed in the January magazine notes.

I would like to congratulate Alan Strachan, Course Manager at Royal Co Down Golf Club on winning the Irish final of the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award which is sponsored by

Toro and Lely Ireland. Alan will go forward to compete in the Great Britain Finals later this autumn.

Our three members who travelled over to the National Championship at Royal Birkdale at the beginning of October enjoyed the experience immensely and would like to thank BIGGA for organising the event. Noel Crawford, Andrew Wray and Michael Feeney came in with reasonable scores in the difficult conditions but didn't feature in the prizes this year. Greenmount College in Antrim moved their annual prize day from June to September because of the Foot & Mouth crisis. This year, congratulations go to Jane Beattie on becoming the top student on the NVQ Level II course. Jane is the first female greenkeeper to complete the NVQ course at Greenmount College.

Another training option, which is now offered to greenkeepers in Northern Ireland, is the fast track Level II & Level III Greenkeeping course, run by Myerscough College in Preston. The two courses are currently taking place at Malone Golf Club in Belfast. The advantage of the fast track system is that each level can be completed in 12 months with classroom attendance reduced to six to eight days. The College Tutor presenting both courses, is Owen Mullins from Dublin. Owen is a final year student at Myerscough completing a degree course in Turf Science. If anyone would like further particulars on the fast track NVQ's ring Bernhard at Myerscough College on 01995642205.

Lastly, I would like to welcome William Black from Tandragee Golf Club to the Section this month.

Ken Henderson

# YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers.

We'll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to: [updates@bigga.co.uk](mailto:updates@bigga.co.uk)

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!