



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

Two new members to welcome this month, both from the Highlands. Andrew Nixon, from Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, and Ian MacEwan, from Strathpeffer GC.

On the move is Colin Irving, who has left Craggan GC to continue his career at Tain GC taking over from Gavin Neill, who is off to America for a year to work on a new golf course in New York State.

I would just like to congratulate a past member of the Section, Walter Woods, on being chosen to receive the Old Tom Morris Award by the GCSAA. This is the highest award given out by the American Superintendents' Association and recognises an individual's work in the golfing world, and Walter is a worthy winner. (See feature on pp 8-9).

I recently played in the Annual match between Scottish Sections for the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC and am pleased to inform members that we won the trophy for the fourth time in the six years that it has been going. Representing the Section were Iain Macleod, Tain 38 points, Steve Sullivan, Craigiehill 36 points, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose 30 points and David

Marnoch 29 points. Praise to Archie Dunn for the condition of the course, especially as so much rain had fallen in the days leading up to the tournament. Once again we must thank sponsor, Aventis, for a great day and some excellent prizes.

Later this month we have our AGM at Garmouth and Kingston GC and this is your chance to do your bit and have a say in how the Section should be run.

Anyone wanting to stand for Committee please get in touch with Dougal on 01224 740329 and put your name forward. Come on it's great fun really!

As promised last month, the two Section members who are to receive the Patrons' Award of a trip to BTME 2002 are Robert Hardie, Craibstone GC and Kenny Kinnaid, Grantown-on-Spey, points collecting for this award next year started at the autumn outing in September, the results of the golf of which will be in the November magazine.

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's column. Yes, another month has gone by and we're approaching autumn so can somebody tell me where has the summer gone?

Well, results time. The Section held the Willie Woods Invitational at Winterfield GC on September 5.

Firstly, thanks to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the

course; the bar steward for looking after us very well; the catering staff, for the food which was excellent; Head Greenkeeper, Craig Pennycuik and his team for the superb condition of the course. It was a credit to you guys so well done. Thanks once again to our sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Ian Henderson Finance, for providing the superb prizes and looking after us well once more. It was a pity you weren't able to be with us on the day but we look forward to your continued support next year Ian.

A great day's golf was had by all 16 teams and the weather was superb, as usual, apart from the slight sea breeze! There was some terrific scoring on the day by the prize winners except my score, which we won't mention - or even the words NR.

The scores of the day were as follows:

1. S. Nicol/G. Turnbull, Winterfield, 62+2/3 - 62 2/3;
2. I. Elliot/G. Wright, West Linton, 61+ 3 1/3 - 64 1/3;
3. S. Crawford/A. Chainey, North Berwick West, 68 -1- 67.

Well done to Steve and Graham on an excellent performance as I had the privilege of playing with them. Also well done to the teams in second and third place on some superb scoring. As Winterfield has hosted the tournament twice and the rule states that

you can only host for two years on the trot next year the venue will go to the runner-up's course which was West Linton. So we look forward to welcoming you all next year and hope we can have an even bigger turnout.

The Section's four man team played at Auchterarder GC in the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August hoping to retain the cup they won last year. They played very well again this year against some formidable opposition from the other Sections but they had to settle for fourth place this time with the North Section grasping victory to take the Cup north. Well done to the north lads on a good performance, but the east lads will be up for it next year to try and win the trophy back. Roll on next year. Also a big thanks to Aventis for another great tournament.

Coming next month will be the Autumn tournament results; Patrons' Awards winners; BIGGA National Championship highlights of Section members who are competing and anything else including any news from the Section AGM.

That's it, until next time. If you have anything of interest let me know so remember you can e mail, phone, or write to me on all the usual numbers etc. Come on let's hear from you as, remember, it's your Section.

Speak to you next month.
Chris Yeaman

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Experience



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The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,800 visitors were present at the Show in 2001 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.



The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course on display, The Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green. This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.

West

Sorry there was no report last month but here is this month's report.

The autumn outing at Milngavie GC will have been played by the time this newsletter goes to print. The committee would like to thank the committee and membership of Milngavie GC for the courtesy of their course and I am sure our members will have had a most memorable day. Results will be printed in next month's report.

On August 27 the annual Club Stewards v Greenkeepers match was held at East Kilbride GC. The trophy was keenly contested on the day with the match ending all square which meant the greenkeepers retained the cup.

Our thanks again must go to the committee and membership of East Kilbride GC for allowing courtesy of the course. Personal thanks should also be conveyed to my playing partners on the day whose jovial banter kept me amused when the golf wasn't quite up to scratch.

I hear congratulations have to be extended to the North Section for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC on August 22. The West team were runners up so well done lads, better luck next year.

Praise must also be heaped on Kilmacollm GC, who again are to go forward as Scottish Regional Finalists in the BIGGA Environmental Competition. Well done Ronnie and his team. Hopefully all your hard

work will pay off this year and you will be given the recognition you deserve.

Our section AGM will be held later this month, details to follow. Please try and attend the AGM as the turn out has been very poor in recent years and you should have a say in how your section is run. The Section annual dinner will again be held in Victoria's night-club in Glasgow.

Tickets will be available from committee members but you will have to get in early to avoid the rush. The venue has always proved most popular in the past with all age groups catered for. The dinner will be held on Friday November 30.

The committee would like to welcome Archie Hempstead to the Section. Archie is a member of staff at Dumbarton GC. We all look forward to meeting you at up and coming Section events. Well that is it for this month. As always if you have anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 01355 266862.

Brian Bolland

Ayrshire

The Ayrshire Team of Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside; Brian Aitken, Turnberry; Marshall Sloss and John Mair, both Beith, finished a commendable third to the overall winners, the Central Section, in the annual Norrie Whytock Trophy played at Auchterarder. John Mair had a fine Stableford score of 40 points and was

the best individual on the day. Unfortunately the remainder of the team wasn't so clever and we are still trying to get our name on this trophy.

News just in, and on the move is Lee Blackburn, from Southernness, who is going to the London Club as an Assistant. Lee was seven years at Southernness under David Woodbyrne and was a past Patrons' award winner, twice member of the Open Support Team and a staunch supporter of the Ayrshire Section. Congratulations and good wishes Lee on your new appointment.

Any news call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

At last we managed to provide a full team for the Northern Region Finals this year. Pity about the results but everyone tried their best at Birchwood. I would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care Services, for not only taking the North East down but also the Cleveland section. I'm sure both teams thanked him for his kind gesture.

My thanks to Richard Campey for again sponsoring the event.

The annual match against the East

of Scotland will be played at Goswick on October 10. Team members will be notified.

Robbie Williams, assistant at Slaley Hall, may be on the move in the autumn. Rumour has it he could be working in the States and I hope to have more news on that subject shortly.

Stocksfield GC are shortly starting work on drainage of the first ten holes - first the greens then the fairways lets hope it keeps dry. Whickham GC's extra two new holes are well on their way. A thousand trees have been planted and when in play they will be a good test of golf.

Longhirst Hall GC have also recently opened an extra nine holes. Hopefully we will be playing next year's autumn Comp there.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

Well, yet again I have absolutely nothing to report, I know that I have been of no fixed abode recently, however my mobile is still 07787 586084 and now I've got a land line 01745 812691.

I don't know whether this arrangement is going to work with me not sitting on committee as no news filters through at all, I shall monitor the situation over the next couple of months, and, if nothing changes, I will give the job to a committee member who is nearer to the 'pulse'.

Anyhow if anyone has got anything they want putting in print then get in touch.

Dave Goodridge

VENUES | CELEBRITY SPEAKERS | PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS | COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES | SEMINARS | WORKSHOPS | CONFERENCES | MASTERCLASSES

National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January,
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses

Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist,
International Turfgrass Institute

Global Warming and the Golf Course

Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell,
Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd,
Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features

Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course
Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

Preparation for Winter Play

Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC;
Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels,
Consulting Agronomist

Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January,
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management;
Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st
Century. All workshops run concurrently with
Conference Sessions

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall,
Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker:
Roger Black M.B.E.
represented Great
Britain at the
highest level in
the world of
athletics, both as
an individual 400
metres runner and as
a member of 4 x 400
metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows;

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease
Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf -
MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month
Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos,
Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner
Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing
for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the
Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass
Management, Training and Professionalism
go Hand in Hand.

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety,
Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay,
the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of
Golf Course Management.

Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well
established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
is an exciting new concept which will enable golf
club industry personnel of all disciplines to research
and meet their product and service needs under
one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As
such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an
event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and
continues to be eagerly anticipated by
exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on
Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club
Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of
both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel,
the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms
and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

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Northern

Northern Section 4 - North West Section 3. Well done to the victorious team in the recent Roses' Match, sponsored by Patersons, against the North West Section. It was a close one this year with good natured banter on both sides as is the tradition with this annual fixture. The weather at Sandmoor GC. was perfect for golf and congratulations must go to Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Clark and his team of three including Gavin. The other two members of the team are recovering from broken limbs.

This year a new tradition was started with each member of the team from both sides receiving a commemorative medal of the day, which was presented by Sandmoor GC. Vice-Captain Colin Littlewood. Well done to the following members of the team:- Tito Arana, Bob Bennet, Alan Court, Dave Collins, Ian Donaldson, Alvin Fawcett, Richard Harris, Martin Heggie, Simon Heppenstall, Brian Hudson, Johnny Platt, Peter Thompson, Andy Smith, Richard Smith, John Studdard, Nigel Wild. Once again many thanks to Patersons, Sandmoor G.C., Gavin Clark, and last but not least, the lads from Lancashire. Win or lose it's a good and most look forward to fixture for both sides, although it's nice to win again!

At the time of writing this, it is just a week away from Invitation Day and there appears to be confusion over days. Always check the latest magazine report / mail shot / Section website to make sure of the correct information.

This month is the AGM and Autumn Tournament at Woodsome Hall GC on Thursday, October 18 with the AGM starting at 11.30 am. followed by the golf in the afternoon.

Don't forget to book early as tickets are selling well for the Section's Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 10, at Bradford GC. Carvery plus Disco 7.00 pm 'til late. This is an open event so bring along family and friends for a fun night out. The price for this is only £17. To book for this event contact our social man, Dave Thackray, on 01274 640739 or 07976 876264 or 16 Westwood Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 1NJ.

Also in November on the 21st is the Section seminar at Howley Hall GC. More details will appear next month.

Hard luck to the team in the Northern Regional Final golf day at Birchwood GC. Representing the section were Richard Harris, Tony Gerrard, Andy Smith, Brian Hudson, Mike Gregson, John Wood. We came a gallant 4th with the Cleveland Section winning again.

For those of you on the Net, the Section website address is www.northernsection.co.uk and we would welcome good or bad feedback about the site. Please note my email address as now changed. We welcome James High as a new member this month from Hornsea G.C.

That's all for now, if anybody as any news then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds,

LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk
Andy Smith

North West

While I write these Section notes, end of August, you can feel autumn fast approaching and wonder where the summer went. Apart from the few good weeks in June and early July summer seems to have missed us. At least the two golf meetings that we had in August were fine days while we played.

The first golf day was the Regional Final played at Birchwood GC on Wednesday, August 15, and although the weather was great during the day after the golf finished the heavens opened and we had torrential rain. This made driving conditions hazardous on the motorways and with some of the Sections travelling long distances home, I just hope that everybody had a safe journey. The course at Birchwood was in great condition due to much hard work done by Andy Holt and his staff, in preparing the course and still carrying out work not completed due to the bad weather last winter. The final was the six qualifiers from each of the six Sections in the Northern Region. N/West, N/Wales, Northern, N/East, Sheffield and Cleveland. The par 72 course proved to be a good test of golf, which the best five scores out of six proved. The results were: 1. Cleveland Section, 376; 2. North West Section, 386; 3. Sheffield Section, 386; 4. Northern Section, 406; 5. North Wales Section, 412; 6. North East Section, 412.

The day was for the third year running sponsored by Richard Campey (Macclesfield) and although Richard could not make it on the day, two of Richard's representatives, Tony Cundall and Will Kidd, attended for the day. Many thanks to Richard for his kind sponsorship. Thanks also to Birchwood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and the caterers for excellent meals. Congratulations to all the competitors, and I hope you all enjoyed the day. Back to the computer after seeing England beat Germany 5-1.

The second golf tournament was of course the 'Roses Match'. This annual match between the Northern Section and the North West Section has been going on for so long we seem to have lost count, nevertheless this tournament was played once again at Sandmoor Golf Club, and we could not have had better weather. The course was in great condition but not flat as promised, and my partner Chris Sheehan and I managed to get into more bunkers than "Rommel" therefore losing our match, but at least the scenery was nice. The final result was a win for the Northern Team 4 1/2 to 3 1/2. The N/W team would like to thank the Northern Team for their hospitality, the Sandmoor GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and of course the sponsor, Patissons, who have sponsored this tournament since its inception.

The final meeting of the year will

be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 6. Bacon baps and coffee before playing and the Tee is available from 10:00am. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Cubmoor, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 01512 844416. Including a cheque for £15. Everybody bring a bottle on the day so we all go home with a prize. Any news or views contact me on my mobile 07761 583387 or 01517 212454

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Congratulations to the Cleveland Section Golf Team who went to the National Final and retained the Trophy. The six man team was Jim Thompson, Anthony (Titch) McGeough, Alan Reid, Mark Brown, Richie Hood and Chris Powley. Well done lads.

As you would have read in your newsletter the Autumn Tournament will be on October 16 at Teesside Golf Club. The cost is only £10 and that includes a three course carvery. To book call Barry Walker on 0191 5650691 or 07968 308892. Places are limited.

This year's AGM will be at Darlington Golf Club on November 22 at 8pm. Please make an effort to attend. This Section needs you. A pie and pea supper will be served during the evening.

And finally. Congratulations to Martin Woods, of Wearside Golf Club. He got married this month then jetted off to Barbados on honeymoon.

Any news call me on 07719 193381 Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

The remaining Scotts Golf Management Trophy Competitions were successfully held at the South Staffordshire GC on August 16, Rothley Park GC on August 31 and Ryston Park Golf Club on September 13. The winning club at South Staffordshire was Drayton Park Golf Club led by Head Greenkeeper Richard Lowe with a team score of 129 strokes, closely followed by Ross on Wye Golf Club on 130. The Rothley Park event was won by the home club on 130, with Glen Gorse second on 132. Ryston Park winners were Oundle Golf Club who scored 135 on a difficult day on a last 9 holes count-back from Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club.

Congratulations are due to Rhys Thomas and staff at South Staffordshire, Stav Wooding and staff at Rothley Park and Kevin Hodges and staff at Ryston Park for producing golf courses in superb condition.

The Region was pleased to welcome our National Chairman, Clive Osgood, to the Ryston Park day; and all present had appreciated the effort that Clive made to be with us. Our thanks go to Scotts for sponsoring

these events and particularly to Nick Martin, from Scotts, who was a great help in supporting these three competitions. These were all excellent days and our thanks go to all the host Golf Clubs for their hospitality and co-operation in staging the competitions.

Peter Larter

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v East of England golf match was kindly hosted by Cotgrave Place GC on August 15, and generously sponsored by Barenbrug. On a fine dry summer evening 20 golfers took part in a keenly contested match. Most of the matches were very close, none other than my own against Fred Cobb and Alan Buckley. We were two up after six, then two down with five to play. Only to then win the next four holes, courtesy of some sterling golf from my partner, Kristian Hibberd. David James & Gavin Robson were also eventual winners 2&1, with Mark Bindley and Lee Mitchell winning the 18th hole for a hard fought half. Steve Levers and Ian Needham played some fine golf to win their match comprehensively. The only defeat in the side went to Richard Barker and Alex Hawkes despite a fine effort from them both. The eventual result was a 3.5-1.5 win for the East Midlands Section. But not to be outdone the East of England won both The Longest Drive through Graeme Macdonald and Nearest the Pin with Alan Buckley.

Congratulations to you both.

I would like to thank Cotgrave for allowing us courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward & Stewardess for a great meal. Pete Billings and his staff for a great golf course and to our sponsor Barenbrug. Finally I would like to thank everyone from the East of England Section who helped to make this such a great day.

Our Section was represented by the following members, Richard Barker, Alex Hawkes, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, Kristian Hibberd, David James, Gavin Robson, Mark Bindley & Lee Mitchell. This year's AGM will commence at 4.30pm at Mapperley GC.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

The Section's Summer Tournament took place in August at Hammonds End GC, Harpenden and attracted an entry of 28 golfers. By all accounts, the course was in excellent shape, so thanks to Stewart Boyce and his team for their efforts. Also thanks to Hammond End, for courtesy of the course on the day and to our main sponsors, Boughton Loam, for once again supporting the day. The results were as follows:

1. A. Dancer, Slendish Manor
 2. C. Slimm, John O'Gaunt
 3. D. Houseden, Tilsworth
- Longest Drive: C. Yeoman
Nearest the Pin: C. Yeoman

Our next golf event is our Texas Scramble tournament, on Thursday December 6 at Dunstable Downs

GC. I'm sure that entry for this event will be as popular this year as in previous years, so please send your team entries to Richard in good time, to avoid disappointment.

Paul Lockett



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

Breaking news as I write this report is that Rigby Taylor have agreed to sponsor our new summer meeting which will be held at Trethorne GC on June 18 next year.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

The Regional Seminar will take place on Wednesday, November 21, at Cannington College, priced at Members £17.50, non members £25. Speakers will be Stephen Bernhard, Richard Whyman and David Samuels.

For more information contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jeff Mills, Course Manager at Taunton & Pickeridge GC, on reaching the next stage of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award.

Richard Whyman.

South West

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the lack of news from the Section. This was due to my being on holiday, moving house and Kevin James not faxing through the results from the Kendleshire to headquarters in time.

The team went to play the Southcoast in August and despite not having a full team they drew 2-2. The opposition claimed the first match. The Southcoast won for the first time this century. Good effort by the lads.

When you read this you may still have enough time to contact Kevin James about the autumn and AGM at Cumberwell Park on October 16.

Why not come and play golf or put yourselves forward for roles in the committee, or just come along and give us your views on how the Section is being run?

Two fixtures have been confirmed for next year. The Winter Tournament to be held at North Wilts GC and the Spring Tournament at Burnham and Berrow GC.

I hope everyone is in good health and any news, views or info contact me on 01285 720168 (Note number change).

D Boughen



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South East Region

The South East Region's Annual Seminar is to be held on Wednesday November 28 at Mill Hill Golf Club.

The theme of this year's event is centred around "Information Technology" with items ranging from an introduction to Microsoft Office, Golf Course Maintenance Systems, to buying on-line.

All members in the South East will be notified shortly by post and when they do they are advised to book their places early as numbers will be limited to 100.

Derek Farrington

Surrey

Our annual visit to Sunningdale took place on August 28 for once again it was time to compete for the much sought after McMillan Tankard. The players, although not of international fame, were keen, well scrubbed and anxious to perform well. Pole position with a 2pm start was held jointly by John Mathis, Darren Lee and Dave Murdoch (SC) while at the back of the grind Jamie Bennet, Dave Worner and, last but not least, dangerous Dave Delderfield had the slower 2.54 slot.

Because of the time available only one circuit of this beautiful track was to be completed and so with only a few possible overtaking places it was a very brave drive that secured 1st place to Dave Goddard who came out of the pack to win with 39 points. Paul Bacon 38 points was second, Daniel Turner a close 3rd with 37 points and 4th with 35 points was James Partridge. Dave Murdoch (SC) had the longest drive - well over 150 yards - and Mark Harvey was nearest the pin - well under 150 inches. Many thanks, as always, to Brian Turner and his greenkeepers for an excellent Sunningdale and to the artisans for making us so welcome and well fed. Grass Roots sponsored the day and prizes were presented by Jim Russell (SC).

I have been informed by the new Course Manager at Northwood Golf Club, Anthony Kyle, that his brother Gavin, so well known to us all, was married on August 25 to Marnie and honeymooned in the USA.

Congratulations from all members of the Surrey Section.

Please remember that the visit to the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon takes place this month on the 17th from 2pm until about 4.30pm. Please contact Anthony Freeman on 02084 804260.

Brian Wilmott

London

Not only a busy time once again on the Greenkeeping front with reports from around the Section of monumental grass growth (could this be the May we never had?) but also on the golfing front with two meetings being played since my last report.

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TURF GROWERS AND INNOVATORS OF TURFGRASS SYSTEMS

Our summer meeting was held here at Sandy Lodge Golf Club on Monday, July 23, under lovely blue skies. The winner on the day was Northwood's Ben (the bag) Knowles Jackson. Winner of the low handicap section was Richard Andrews from Highgate GC, Intermediate winner was our very own Richard Elderfield with Tony Dyke and Graham Dorwood, from Wyke Green, taking the high handicap and guest prizes respectively. We had an excellent turnout of 40 for this event so thanks to you all for your support. A big thank you also to Avoncrop Amenity Products and Barry McCloskey in particular for sponsoring the event.

Under leaden skies and high humidity we held our autumn meeting at Gerrards Cross GC and had a very enjoyable day at what was a new venue for us. Taking this into consideration it was disappointing to only get 30 players on the day. Although not a great time of year I know with the holidays etc. we did expect a few more. So come on all you London Section guys come along to some of the events and see just what a good day you are missing out on!

Winner on the day was myself I'm afraid and I will be popping along to Hendon soon to have a cup of tea with Gavin and tell him about it. Second prize was James Lomas, from Mill Hill, with the Guest prize going to 'my old man' Peter Phillips. Our sincere thanks go to Course Manager, Lee Robinson, for presenting the course to such a high standard and for his assistance in setting the day up. Thanks also to Gerrards Cross GC for looking after us so well and for giving us courtesy of the Course and, of course, Browns of Chesham and Peter Hopkinson in particular who kindly sponsored the event.

Food for thought for the AGM, a keen interest was shown around the bar at Gerrards Cross for re-introducing a Greenkeeper's Summer Competition like the old Summer League that we used to have. I did say at the time that I would be happy to run this next summer in whatever format was thought appropriate (i.e. Fourball, Foursomes, Knockout or League etc) have a think about it and maybe we can get something organised at the AGM.

The date and venue of the Turkey Trot and AGM are to be confirmed so watch this space.

By the way, the VW Golf has been sold - to a Traffic Warden of all people. This is surely a scandal of tabloid proportions.

Robert Phillips

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Kent

The rain has started again as I write this column. I hope it is not going to be another wet one as we've already recorded 121mm in August. Enough about the miserable weather and onto the news around Kent. I have not been inundated with calls or let-

ters from you guys again but I did hear from one greenkeeper down on the south coast who told me a certain Mr Suttle is now using a Dwarf Rye Grass on his short course greens. I hope it works out for you Steve and I'm sure people will be interested in your results for there high wear problems too.

This is what this column is here for. For you to write or call in with your news or views on anything you want information on or views from others that have used certain methods or machinery and get their insight on how things went. After all we are all in the same boat and every little bit of information that makes our jobs easier has got to be a good thing.

Now don't get jealous when I tell you that Kings Hill has just taken on its first full time girl greenkeeper, Emma Parkinson, who has joined us after four months summer work at Chart Hills GC. Emma and her partner Jamie Wright, who is working at the London Golf Club, moved down from Blackpool earlier this year so a big welcome to you both. Don't worry Jamie she is in safe hands.

Piece of news just in is that the Government has just found the source of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Last month Tim Maynard, son of the infamous Vic, had to see his Doctor who found Tim to have a very nasty rash on his inner groin. Tim had to take time off work for this and is now also having counselling. Any other funny true stories like this one let me know and I will try to get them printed, if they are not too rude!

Results of the Boughton golf day will be published next month along with a few observations of the day's golf.

To contact me please call 01732 875020 or e-mail jbatkhgolf@aol.com with all your news etc.

Jason Bean

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Essex

Our Autumn Trophy was this year staged at the majestic Five Lakes Golf & Country Club. The event was originally scheduled for Hanbury Manor but extortionate fees set by the owners prevented us from visiting. Five Lakes which is set out in the Essex countryside is one of the finest overall golf environments you could wish to be at, a lovely golf course, resplendent club house and beautiful scenery perhaps as good as Hanbury Manor without the big name. What more could we ask for? A sunny day perhaps, and we got that as well.

The sun shone down on the larger than usual field of 48 competitors, 20 of whom were made by our guests and a further nine being the illustrious trade members that support our Section so well.

Main sponsors for the day were Driving Force Leisure and Advanta Seeds who, as usual, supplied some lovely gifts, none of which came my way, I hasten to add.

Those that did play well enough to pick up prizes were,

Overall Winner. Nick Pomfret, Bentley GC, 42 points (I agree with you Nick, just because you were five points clear of your nearest rival that does not mean you are a bandit. Yeah. Right! Nick's prize was kindly donated by Rigby Taylor.

Category 1

1. Ray Clark, Channels GC, 37pts;
2. Nick Davies, Five Lakes GC, 36 pts;
3. Dominic Rodgers, Orsett GC, 35pts.

Category 2.

1. John Barnard, Theydon Bois GC, 32pts;
2. M.Kiff, 28pts;
3. Martin Forrester, The Essex GC, 26pts. Trade. Mark Day, of Tacit, with 38pts

Guest Prize went to young Thomas Fance with 42 points, well done Thomas with Chris Gurten only managing a meager 40 to come second.

Nearest The pin and Longest Drive Prizes were supplied by Advanta Seeds, Driving Force Leisure and Greenkeeping Supply Company, the recipients were Dominic Rodgers, John Knapman and Ray Clark, for Nearest The Pins and Chris Ward, Dominic Rodgers and Scott Colgate for Longest Drives.

A special prize should have gone to Roland Hughes who had to endure a sting from which must have been the largest bee in the world, I base this suggestion on the theory that no normal bee sting could have brought so many cries of pain. Hope you're better now Roland.

The Five Lakes Course was in great condition and a credit to Course Manager, Nick Davies and his staff. Well done lads. We should also take this opportunity to thank the catering staff who looked after us for the day and also to Five Lakes Golf Club itself for allowing us to visit their fine establishment at short notice.

New members this month are Brendan Morgan, of Trent Park GC; Paul Brown, of Ballards Gore GC, and Rodney Derek, from Crews Hill GC. You are welcomed into the Section with open arms and a suspicious look from the Handicap Secretary. See you at our Winter Trophy event which would have just been held.

Steve Crosdale



Northern Ireland

This year's Charity Golf Day was played again at Clondeboy Golf Club on August 3. The competition was played on the Dufferin course. Course Manager, Terry Crawford, had assembled 100 players to compete for a vast collection of prizes generously provided by the event sponsor, Clive Richardson, of Hortasoils. Greenkeepers from all over Ireland came to play from Dublin, Sligo, the K Club to name a few locations. The Dufferin Course as expected was in magnificent con-

dition. Many thanks to Terry and the Greenkeeping team at Clondeboy for presenting the course to such a high standard. The visitors that played the course for the first time are adamant that they are looking forward to attending again next year. Many thanks to Clondeboy Golf Club for allowing all proceeds from the day to go to charity, the sum of £1500 was raised which will go to the children's hospital at the Royal Victoria in Belfast.

The team prize was won by a Clondeboy member's trio of M. McDaide, T. McNeil and P. Agnew with a combined points score of 107 pts. Individual prizes went to:

1. William Smith, 40 pts;
2. Irwin Robinson, 38 pts;
3. M. McDaide, 38 pts;
4. K. Pollock, 37 pts;
5. T. McNeil, 37 pts;
6. N. Clarke, 36 pts;
7. D. Patterson, 36 pts;
8. A. Verner, 35 pts.

The Section's qualifying competition for the National Championship took place at Royal Portrush on August 28. The competition was played on the Valley Course, in ideal conditions. A strokeplay competition to find our true qualifiers and also combining a Stableford competition. Many thanks to Coburns of Bambridge, for sponsoring the competition. William Cartmill from Coburns was in attendance to present the prizes.

We also welcomed Scott MacCallum, our magazine Editor, who joined us on the day. Scott had come over to Northern Ireland to visit some of our links courses on the north coast. The articles will be featured in the magazine over the coming months. Many thanks Scott for making your visit. We thoroughly enjoyed your company.

The result of the Stableford Competition was: 1. Andrew Wray, from Castle Rock GC, 37 pts; 2. Noel Crawford, Royal County Down, 36 pts; 3. Eamon Crawford, Royal County Down, 35 pts.

Andrew had a 69 nett and Noel went round the Valley Course with a level par 70 playing off scratch. Andrew and Noel will go forward to the National Championship on October 1 at Royal Birkdale. Noel had the best gross scores in last year's championship and we hope he can retain his trophy this year. Good luck lads. I would like to thank Royal Portrush Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their fine course and special praise to Head Greenkeeper, Joe Findley and his staff, for the excellent course presentation. Finally I would like to thank Cyril Johnston and Co for presenting the Section with a fine Golf Trophy. The trophy will go to the best golfer from the competitions played this year. Sam Thompson from the sales team presented the trophy to Chairman Jonathan McCabe at Royal Portrush.

Well that's all for this month, I will see everyone again on September 28 at Holywood GC.

Ken Henderson

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html