



**SCOTTISH REGION**  
Peter Boyd  
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As in previous years the Scottish Region offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME/ClubHouse 2003.

The package includes: coach to Harrogate; entry to all Seminars and Exhibitions and three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on January 21, 22, 23 2003.

Package costs £160.

Partners are welcome at a cost of £135 for travel and accommodation.

For booking forms call or fax Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Peter Boyd

## North

Two new members to report this month. They are Neil Young, from Kenmay GC, and Alan Anderson, from Hazelhead GC.

Scotsturf Exhibition is upon us again this month, and if the weather last year is anything to go by, then winter is not far away. The dates are November 6 and 7 and I hope the roads are a lot safer than they were last year. The show is a well established part of our working year and is a good chance to meet the companies involved with our industry all under the one roof. So hopefully it will be well attended.

The AGM has been and gone at Stonehaven GC but too late to include in this report. I will include it in my next report.

The proposed golf match which I had mentioned in a previous report is still planned for sometime in November, the layter part I think, and basically it involves the Aberdeen side of the North Section playing the North side. Anyone interested in playing for the Aberdeen side please phone Robert Hardie on 01224 783201 and anyone interested in playing for the North phone myself on 01997 420155. It is a bit late in the year and maybe short notice, but if it does not come off this year then maybe next year. There will be good hotel accommodation available and at a very good rate for those who want to stay over and make a full day of it.

The Northern Counties Cup was recently played over Tain golf course and was won by Fortrose GC. It is a well supported event and the course at Tain was in excellent condition, and was well praised by the golfers, who are among the best players the North and North East has to offer. The talented team from Strathpeffer were put out by last year's winners, Inverness. A major shock there!

Well, nothing to report this month. I hope the weather holds up and allows everyone to get all their autumn maintenance work finished. The last month or so has been a lot better so I hope it lasts

Iain Gunn

## West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. First a report on our Autumn outing held at Drumpellier GC on September 26. The winners on the day were Scratch. Dougie McIntosh, Cathkin Braes CC. 74. First Class. 1. Brian Hillen, Drumpellier GC, 66; 2. Sandy Bulloch, Fereneze GC, 72; 3. Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC, 75. Second Class. 1. Drew McKechnie, Douglas Park GC, 66; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 68 (BIH); 3. Ian Wilson, Hamilton CC, 68. Third Class. 1. Kevin Bell, Balmore GC, 66; 2. Colin Kearney, Drumpellier GC, 76; 3. Chris Scott, Balmore GC, 77. Visitors Prize. Peter Boyd, BIGGA, 76. Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, Aitkens, 73. Nearest the Pin, Sandy Brawley; Straightest Drive, J. Steadward, Douglas Park CC and the player who took more divots than any other player, Cecil George, who received some practice balls. Well done to you all. Thanks must again be passed on to the Council and membership of Drumpellier GC for the use of their facilities. A special thanks must also go to Brian and his team who had the course in fine condition on the day despite the awful summer we have all just experienced.

Two draws of the 100 club were also made at Drumpellier the winners being Cohn Scott and, would you believe it, Brian Hillen. Brian has promised to buy all the bar staff a big drink for drawing his ticket. Brian has also just recently got married, so congratulations and I am sure the wife will find a good use for the rest of your winnings. The final draw will have been made at our AGM held at Nairn & Brown on October 24.

A report on the AGM will be printed in next month's letter but I am sure there will be no need, as you will all have attended on the day!

After the AGM the next date to be marked in your calendar is the Annual Dinner to be held at Victoria's night spot on Friday November 29. If you do not already have your ticket then you are running out of time as these tickets sell like hot cakes. As always early payment for tickets would be much appreciated.

Well, that's all I have to write about this month. As always if there is anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 013552 66862.

Brian Bolland

## Central

This month we extend a warm welcome from everyone in the Section to Stuart Smith, Paul Wilt, John Jardine, Andrew Cruickshanks, Findlay Forbes and Scott Winton, all from St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa. Hopefully it won't be too long before we get the opportunity to meet them at some of our events.

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Dullatur Golf Club, Cumbernauld, in September, when some 35 members enjoyed golfing on one of the very few days we have had this year when there wasn't any rain! A welcome return to the tournament scene was made by Joe Oliver, from Pitreavie GC. Joe was a founder member of the Central Section and was in fact our very first Chairman. Perhaps Joe's return will encourage some more of our "older" members

to make a return to the golfing scene and we could start a Seniors' category.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Dullatur for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Lachlan, Bobby and staff for the excellent condition of the course despite the atrocious summer we have experienced, to the clubhouse staff for keeping us fed and refreshed throughout the day. Club Captain, Charlie Flochart, who did us the honour of presenting the prizes and to Club Secretary, Carol Miller, for all her assistance in making the day possible.

Prize winners were as follows:

Best Combined Nett Spring and Autumn. A. Crawford, Green Hotel GC, 142; Best Scratch. D. Leith, St. Andrews, 69; Best Nett. A. Crawford, Green Hotel GC, 75-9-66; Cat 1. 1. C. MacDonald, Crieff GC, 73-4-69; 2. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 78-5-73; Cat 2. 1. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 84-11-73; 2. S. Pearson, Aberdour GC, 85-11-74 (BIH); Cat 3. 1. J. Oliver, Pitreavie GC, 95-20-75; 2. A. Arnott, The Meadows GC, 102-19-83; Patrons. G. Howat, Souters, Sportsturf, 86-10-76; Guests. J. Campbell, Murrayshall, 85-10-75.

We had a slight "hiccup" with the prize giving, which has since been rectified, and our sincere apologies go to David Simpson, from Crieff GC, for this mistake. (I will withhold the name/s of the person/s responsible!)

Following my plea for where to purchase roofing shingles I received a call from Craig Stewart who informed me that "the man down the road from his course could supply them". Unfortunately, Stirling Golf Club wouldn't pay my travel expenses. Craig lives in Germany! He is another founder member of the Section and sends his regards to all his friends in Scotland.

I hate to go on about "Club 2000" tickets but why send them back anonymously? I have the names and number of every member who received tickets. So E. Grant thanks for returning your tickets!

The proposed football tournament planned for Forthbank Stadium last month had to be cancelled led due to the lack of support, so what happened to all you budding football stars? Even the holders of the trophy failed to enter a team to defend their title, still thanks to Carnoustie and Dullatur for entering teams.

News of last month's AGM will be in next month's report, you'll either have a new committee or will be stuck with the same 'old' faces!

John Crawford.

## Sheffield

On September 23 the Sheffield Section held their Autumn golf competition at Doncaster GC. Although I was unable to attend myself I believe that there was some very good golf played from all those who competed.

The results were as follows :- 1. S. Pigott, 36 pts; 2. G. Wells, 36 pts (BIH); 3. R. Needham, 33 pts; 4. A. Lomas 31 pts; 5. S. Brown 29 pts; 6. S. Currie, 28 pts; 7. T. Simpson, 28 pts; 8. A. Whittington, 27 pts; 9. T. White 27 pts; 10. A. Bunting, 27 pts.

Nearest the Pin G. Wells. Best trade score I. Gravel 35 pts.

Thank you to our main sponsor for the day S. Chapman, of Ransomes Textron, for donating the prizes for our prize table and to all other trade members for their support.

The next competition will be our Christmas comp held at Rotherham GC on Monday, November 25.

See you all soon.

Chris Astle.

## North Wales

Dave Goodridge wishes to thank John Osman on behalf of all those who attended the practice days of the Ryder Cup at The Belfry, courtesy of John Deere. A good time was enjoyed and an unmissable chance to see the top 24 golfers in the world on matchplay knockout. It just doesn't get any better than that.

On one occasion on the Tuesday someone in the crowd shouted to Colin Montgomerie, as he had missed the green on the par-3 12th, that he could play better than that. Colin turned round and said "Come on then. What club do you want?" "A sand wedge," he replied and proceeded to chip the ball within two foot of the hole. Colin then dropped another ball and made the same shot, sailing it about eight foot past the hole. These are some of the great moments if you were there on practice days, the relaxed atmosphere of the pros and the banter they have with the crowd.

Members of the North Wales Section were also involved among the 75 strong maintenance crew that helped keep the course in its fine presentation - Phil l'Anson, Matt Young and John Evans, of Carden Park, and Danny O'Neil and Dan Hayes, of Northop.

Moving on. Larry Marsden has retired after 15 years at the Wallasey GC and we wish him well. He has been replaced by Chris Cole, from Wirral Ladies.

Stuart Yarwood, of Lymm GC, appeared on TV's The Weakest Link Show with Ann Robinson (Ann. A real favourite in Wales ? Not ) Stuart got to the last four but was ousted by a woman for commenting that he only lets ladies play on a Thursday morning (which I think is more than

generous). Well done, Stuart.

The IOG Show at Aintree was yet again a huge success and our thanks go to the organisers for their marketing and advertising campaign? We will just have to find more security persons to deal with the 'crowd control' if this show is to go ahead again next year.

Gareth Williams, of Porthmadog GC, has been invited by Toro out to the Guadalmina Golf Hotel in Spain from Sunday 24 to Wednesday 27 to try out the new cylinders and machinery for 2003 - Toro have been experimenting previously at Porthmadog.

A warm welcome back to Jamie Williams, at The Vale of Llangollen GC, who is rejoining the team. Wendy O'Brien is also home from her Augusta learning experience.

Our North Wales columnist reaches the half way stage in his life next month and has been told that Philisan has been replaced by, vodka and Red Bull? Anyone wishing to send either will be truly appreciated.

A shortlist of candidates for the USGA Atlanta show will be confirmed shortly this again is donated in conjunction with Bernhards.

Regional training courses start on November 25 at BIGGA HOUSE. These include soil science and sharpening. Please contact BIGGA HOUSE if you wish to book in.

As mentioned in last month's notes, the Christmas tournament will be at Caldy GC on Dec 5. Your entries will be out shortly and this one is sold out very quickly, so don't delay. This also is our Section's AGM and your chance to air any topics (questions on paper beforehand please) a great day's golf and everyone goes home with a prize.

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394

Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail: acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

## North East

September 19, was the date for our autumn comp. This year it was played for the first time at Longhirst Hall GC and what a pleasure it was to be there, water hazards all over the place from small ponds to large lakes. A true test of golf. Thank goodness we were not off the back tees as I think everyone would have struggled to get around.

Thanks should be given to Graham Chambers and his staff for the excellent condition of the course especially as it's only been open four to five years.

The committee would like to thank Dave Cryan, from Rolawn, for sponsoring most of the prizes. It was a nice change to see some golf gear for prizes and

also to Scotts who also kindly donated several prizes. Turf Care again come up trumps with a good prize of a portable TV, and not forgetting the rest of the sponsors either. They were Border Turf Services, Shorts, Aitkens and Greenlay.

Just a word to all you sponsors. Thanks for everything, the spring and autumn competitions

could not go on without your help.

Also to the following golf clubs Bellingham, Gosforth, Hexham, Stocksfield, South Shields, Tyneside and Warkworth, who mostly donated courtesy golf for four persons.

Next year we may play the Spring competition inland instead of travelling up the coast.

Autumn Comp. Best Nett. K. Dinsdale, Northumberland GC, 95-28=67; Best Gross. S. Quince, Parklands GC, 75; Best Nett for 9 and under. J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 80-7=73; Fewsters Shield. 1. Johnson, Stocksfield GC, 88-16=72; 2. R.Black, Westerhope GC, 80-7=73; 3. M. Lathan, Hexham GC, 78-2=76

At a recent Section meeting it was decided from this year's Autumn competition to change the prize allocation. The best nett of the day has a choice of any prize, then next its the best gross who has the next pick followed by who ever has the lowest nett between the 9 and under and the Fewster's Shield. The same will apply to the Spring competition.

Jimmy Richardson

## North West

What a month September has been weather wise, certainly in England, although when I met the members from Scotland at the National Championship they wondered where the brown grass had come from. September has mostly been dry and sunny here but Scotland have had a considerable amount of rain making their courses lush green. It is just as well the weather has been good because we had plenty of section golf to be played. The first was the Whitelaw Bowl on September 4 at Penrith Golf Club, and the weather was superb. This annual tournament is sponsored by Course Care and we had a good turnout of 35 members. Once again we were made very welcome by the club and the course was as good as I have ever seen it. The Whitelaw Bowl was won by David Forsyth, the Head Greenkeeper, with a score of 43 points. The match against the golf club stewards was played on September 9 and unfortunately during the afternoon the heavens opened and the match could not be completed. We agreed to call it a half and as we had won last year we retained the trophy.

The Autumn Tournament was played at Didsbury Golf Club on Thursday, September 12 and the weather was fantastic. It was an eventful day for Alex Davies, the Head Greenkeeper, as this was to be his last greenkeepers' tournament, at least in this part of the world. In October he and his family will be emigrating to start a new life in New Zealand (at last). Alex has been threatening to go to New Zealand almost as long as I have known him and at last he has taken the plunge. We all wish Alex and his family good luck in their venture.

Back to the golf day, and that course which can flood as quickly as any I know, was in beautiful condition thanks to Alex & his staff. We had 40 members playing and everybody enjoyed the day. I would like to thank Didsbury Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a nice lunch and a magnificent meal

in the evening, and Andy Cornes for providing refreshments at the 10th tee. Many thanks also to the North West Patrons and other companies for their support in helping to swell the prize table.

The next get together will be the presidents cup & AGM at Wilmslow on December 5th. Get your entries in early, including a cheque for £20, to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Bill's telephone number – 01512 844416. All competitors to bring a bottle so everybody wins a prize.

That's it for now, but any news or queries contact me on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

## Northern

What a fantastic day we had at Bingley St Ives for our Invitational Golf Day, sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Sixty competitors played for some fantastic prizes on a well set up course. The weather on the day was just perfect for golf. Joe Baxter and his team must be praised for the condition of the course as the day before we had had a deluge. Another big thanks must go to the caterers, as the food was some of the best I have had at a golf event. Thanks to everyone at Bingley for the good time had by all. The results were as follows:- 1. I. Pullan & A. Slingsby, Hollins Hall, 43 pts; 2. M. Gumeniuk & J. Whalley, Bingley, 42 pts. 3. A. Baxter & A. Taylor, Bingley, 41pts (BIH); 4. J. Baxter & A. Scarborough, Bingley, 41pts. Nearest the pin A. Taylor 18' 7". Nearest the Line S. Wild. As you can see Bingley had a great day as we all did!

A week or so after the golf event the section was challenged to a football match by Rigby Taylor at Syngenta sports fields in Huddersfield. A total of 12 greenkeepers turned up with thoughts of glory on the field of battle. Well, what can I say in our defence, except I don't think we had one! We were soundly beaten 12-0! Thanks to all the lads who came as we all had a good time though my legs ached for a week after. Thanks to Mike, from RT, for organising the event - we will try harder next year.

As I write these notes we are about a week away from the Autumn Tournament and AGM at Thirsk and Northallerton, sponsored by Glen Farrow, the irrigation and total water company. A full report of golfing and AGM matters will be in my next report.

Congratulations to Simon Heppenstall in his new job as area representative with Rigby Taylor.

Our last golfing event of the year is the Christmas tournament taking place at Crosland Heath Golf Club on Tuesday, December 3. The cost of this event is the usual £15 with the normal format on the day.

I am at present trying to arrange a factory visit to Textron in Ipswich in late Feb or early March of 2003. It will be open to any Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager interested. It

will involve a tour of the factory and an in-depth look at the full Textron range of machinery. If you are interested please get in touch with either Theo Wilson or myself.

I hope your autumn has been kind to you so far.

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Dthackray@aol.com

David Thackray



**MIDLAND REGION**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

The Midland Region Educational Seminar will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday 27 November 2002. Open to all - Non Members welcome. Cost: £25 including lunch etc. Speakers include: Peter McEvoy - Walker Cup Captain; Daniel Binns BSc STRI - Green Reconstruction; Richard Minton - Spraying Legally; Toby Morel - Grass Seed Production; Peter McCrainor - Lubricants Made Easy plus BIGGA HQ staff and others. Invitations have already been posted to all BIGGA members. If you haven't had yours contact Peter Larter, Midland Region Administrator on 01476 550115.

Peter Larter

## BB&O

What an incredible month September has turned out for us all. My course, like most in this area, has the colour of the Kalahari Desert with about as much moisture as an oven baked cheesecake! It certainly leads to firm putting greens but any slight problem with the watering system becomes a blight on the course very quickly.

We have just played our autumn competition at Ellesborough Golf Club. This proved a very challenging course, set in the Chilterns with superb views to look at when trekking the hills and downs of the terrain. A good hike for strengthening the leg muscles. No wonder Bill Clinton chooses to play here when staying at Chequers - it works off the calories and worries of life all in one sweep. Thanks to Dave Goodchild and his team for presenting a fiery test for our day. The greens were very fast indeed, which had a few of us putting beyond the three mark. Also thanks to Bob Weed, the Cub Manager, for helping to organise the set-up for the day. The competition was sponsored by Headland with Ian Richardson ensuring we got off to a good start. Later we had beverages at the 6th hole, kindly provided by Johnny Beck. How good does bacon taste out in the open air?

The results for the day were as follows: 1. Simon Austin, Badgemore Park GC, 42 pts; 2. John Ryan, Browns Ltd, 40 pts; 3. Brian Benzie,

Harleyford GC, 35 pts. Nearest Pin. Dean Thatcher, Badgemore Park GC. Longest Drive. Simon Austin, Badgemore Park GC.

All in all a great day with superb weather ending with a sumptuous meal that would have thrown a weight watcher's diet completely off the scale. Before the meal we had the AGM. This covered the financial position for the Section, which I am pleased to report continues to remain in good health. The venues organised for next year were released and were well received by those present. These will be published on a fixture card to be sent to each member in February 2003 and I will list the venues in next month's magazine. T.H.White has kindly sponsored the fixture card for the second year. We had considered having After Dinner Speakers but after some discussion it was decided that our golf days are long enough. This has been happily accepted by the committee. In addition to the usual four competitions held by the BBO Section, Peter Larter is organising a very special competition to be held in October next year so watch this space for details in the near future.

The committee now stands as follows;  
Chairman/Treasurer. Lindsay Anderson;  
Secretary. David Haskell-Craig;

Committee Helpers. John Scoones, Ray Clark, Adrian Cooper; Trade Member Mark Day, Tacit.

As I said in last month's Section News, I will be giving a presentation at the Regional Seminar held at Hinckley GC, on Wednesday, November 27. It will be good to meet up for a discussion on any items you may have at the venue so I hope to meet some of you there. If you have any items you wish the committee to consider, please send them to me at my home address and I assure you they will get the attention they deserve. Have a good lead in to the Christmas period with Michrodocium free putting greens!

David Haskell-Craig

## Midland

I have the task of somewhat belatedly announcing the death of two members of the Midland Section. Roger Pullen from Blackwell Golf Club and Robert Coxall of Stafford Castle Golf Club. Our condolences go out to the respective families at this sad time. Both will be sadly missed.

The Autumn Tournament was held at The Forest of Arden. It was great having the opportunity to play this championship course on a pleasant sunny day, and as would be expected it was in great nick. Our thanks to the prize sponsors Avoncrop, who were represented on the day by Mark Raynor and Chris Briggs, and John Hammond of Bathgate for the most welcome array of liquid refreshment at the halfway house. We should also like to thank Scotts, in the guise of Nick Martin, for their sponsorship of this year's doubles knockout Tournament and their proposal to repeat the operation next year.

This year's final was held at Celtic Manor, with Rob Shaw and Mike Gash running out worthy winners, against Mike Hughes and Mark Cutler.

Don't forget AGM Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club 4.15pm Tuesday, December 10.

Peter J Richmond

### East Midlands

This year's Autumn tournament was held at the delightful Horsley Lodge Golf Club on September 17, although the turnout was poor (30 members) those that did attend enjoyed a first class day. Thanks to Russell Allen and his staff for presenting an excellent golf course for us to play and also to everyone else at the club for making our day so enjoyable. Even though the sun did not shine it was still a pleasant autumn day. The scores were as follows:

Best Gross: Ian Marshall, Wellingborough, 77. Best Nett: Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 79-9-70. Cat 1. 1. D. Leatherland, Kedleston, 79-9-70; 2. C. Brown, Horsley Lodge, 79-6-73. Cat 2. 1. S. Goode, Kilworth Springs, 85-10-75; 2. D. James, Luffenham Heath, 92-16-76. Cat 3. 1. P. Roe, Kedleston, 98-28-70. 2. M. Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, 93-19-74. Trade & Associate: 1. P. Larter, BIGGA RA, 76-8-68; 2. S. Hedley, Boughton Loam, 88-12-76.

Finally, I would like to, on behalf of all members, thank Simon Banks, of Banks Amenity Products, for sponsoring the day.

Next year's Autumn tournament will be held at Overstone Park on September 5. The winning numbers for the 100 draw were as follows: 1. £60 No. 46. Sandra James. 2. £25 No. 14. Andy McGreal. 3. No. 26. £15 Danny Brown.

In the Market Harborough Am-Am Simon Banks, Adie Porter, Ian Needham and I finished fifth with a medal score of 129 (11 under par), playing for the Banks Amenity Products team.

Finally I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and New Year and on behalf of all Section members thank all those trade and Greenkeeper Members for their valuable support throughout the year.

Antony Bindley call Duncan on the same number.

Jason Bean



**SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352 194

The South West/South Wales Region trip to Harrogate will again have coach travel sponsored by Amenity Technology. There are 60 places available only this year and will be issued on a first come/first served basis. Packages are available at £130 and £200 p.p. Details and booking forms available from either Paula Humphries 01288 352194 or from your Section Secretaries. Dates are 20 - 23 Jan, 2003.

Paula Humphries

### Devon & Cornwall

I start my report this month with the news that our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries has had to return to hospital for treatment. I am sure all members wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to meeting her again very soon.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday, November 13. 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-golfers' course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our PJ Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday, December 10. Please note that the meeting will this year take place on Tuesday and not Wednesday. 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 PJ Flegg Trophy with the format being greensomes. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret and raffles will conclude the day.

The Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College will this year take place over two days from Wednesday 20th November to Thursday, November 21. The theme for day one will be back to basics with day two being taken by Frank Newbury. For more details contact Paula Humphries 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

After enjoying a superb weekend of Ryder Cup magic, where Irishman Paul McGinley holed the winning putt, our Section arrived at Hayling Golf Club, a club with an Irish connection in Course Manager, Ronan McKeown. The superb links were the venue for our autumn tournament sponsored by Tacit. Our tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, has given us a superb fixture list this year and Hayling was playing at its best, even the wind stayed away although the course was tough enough without it! The standard of golf was excellent as we all tried to master the art of links 'bump and run' and overall winners on the day were:- Tacit Trophy Winner. Sid Cutler, 40 pts (BIH); 2. Alan Magee, 40 pts; 3. Kevin Hills, 38 pts; 4. Kevin Glass, 38 pts; Trade Prize. Trevor Simmonds; Longest Drive, Shane Hodgkins; Nearest the Pin, Lauchlan Millar.

Many thanks to Hayling Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, in particular, the Captain who was a superb host during the day and rightly very proud of the very impressive new

clubhouse; to Ronan and his hard working team for presenting the course in such magnificent condition and to the catering staff for a superb meal. As ever, a huge vote of thanks go to our sponsor, Tacit, without whom the day would not be possible. We were all saddened to hear that our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been taken ill again. We certainly missed Paula's company on the day and as a Section our thoughts are with her and her family and we wish her a speedy recovery. Take care Paula!

The Section AGM was held before the dinner, which ran smoothly. The committee remains the same as last year although Chairman, Tony Gadd, reported to the floor that two more committee members were needed. Any interested parties please contact Tony or any of the committee members. We only meet four times a year, so a high level of commitment is not required, but we are looking for people to put something back into our Association and industry.

The main theme that kept repeating itself during the AGM was the apathy among our very large Section, particularly regarding educational events. Providing quality training is one of BIGGA's priorities as the 'Continue to Learn' programme continues. We all have a duty to continue our personal professional development if we are to change our image and people's perception about our industry. We can all make excuses about not attending seminars and other educational events but we need you all to make the effort! As a committee we endeavour to make these events as interesting as possible and it is soul destroying that so few of you can be bothered to turn up. So let's see some more faces next time. If you want particular speakers or courses run then let me know and we will try to arrange it.

Our next port of call will be the High Post Golf Club on Thursday, December 5 for the Turkey Trot. Please forward your cheques for £18 to Chris Sturgess. High Post is the home club of Don Friend who has recently retired after 15 years service. We hope you have a long and happy retirement Don!

As I said before, if you have any news for next month's column or a course you would like to see run in the Section then give me a ring.

01202 661106. I'm waiting for that first call

Until next month

Alex McCombie



**SOUTH EAST**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260 956

### Kent

At last someone has replied to my begging for some news. Mark Smith from St Augustines GC where I started playing golf as a junior back in 1983. He e-mailed me with news about his eye. Those who know Mark will know how he

injured himself while striking at work about eight years ago. A piece of metal from the striker blade shot up under his eye protector and seriously damaged his eye. Mark has had 11 operations over the years and now I'm afraid he has lost his eye and will have a false one fitted soon. Those of you who know Mark know what he has been through but we all hope he can now get his career and life back on track. Some good news from Mark is that his wife, Jo, is expecting their fourth child soon. It is good to hear Mark that your third eye is working well though! I wish you and your family all the best for the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Turkey Trot at North Foreland on the November 27. I'm sure Steve and Graham will have a fine course set up for us and hope there is not a cold north east wind blowing over the cliff tops.

Any news or views please drop me a line at [JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM](mailto:JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM) or call my office on 01732 875020.

Jason Bean

## London

I know, I know, it's been a while since I wrote a report but it appears to have been a very quiet period here in the London Section, so I decided to save up any news I had and report it in one big hit!

Going back to our Spring Meeting at Wyke Green, in April, it produced the sort of weather, which we could probably do with a drop of now. Torrential rain meant that we had to abandon our round at the Halfway House (good timing or what), the sausage rolls and coffee softening the blow somewhat. The Spring Meeting Trophy and all the prizes, kindly supplied and sponsored by Mark Day, of Tacit, were carried over to our next meeting. Our sincere thanks go to Tony Dyke and his staff for producing a course of very high quality and to Wyke Green golf club for their hospitality.

So on to our Summer Meeting held at Hendon Golf Club. We were blessed with good weather and Phil Garrod from Aldenham Golf Club took a belated Spring Meeting trophy and also qualified for the National Championship with the best Gross score of the day. Ben Knowles-Jackson also qualified with the best Nett score. Well done to both. Once again thanks to Mark Day for all the hard work, not only with the prizes carried over from Wyke Green but also for organising the nearest the pin, longest drive and all the flags for the day. Our raffle was sponsored by Barry McCloskey, of Avoncrop, with some fabulous prizes. Thanks Barry. The course was in fine condition and provided a very good test of golf and our appreciation goes to new Course Manager Bobby McMillan and his staff and also to Gavin Kyle, who has moved onto pastures new as Course Manager at Knowle Park, for all his hard work leading up to the event, not only on the course but in helping me to set it up in the first place. We welcome Bobby to the Section and wish both he and Gavin the very best in their new posts.

The Autumn meeting was held at Porter's Park

Golf Club on August 21. Much to my disappointment I was unable to attend but I know a good day was had by all. Overall winner was Dave Fosh, from Stockley Park Golf Club, with Hadley Wood's, James Lomas, runner-up, My thanks go to Rob Washbrook for stepping into the breach and organising everything on the day and also to Alan Percival and Turner Groundcare for their kind sponsorship. Course Manager, Martin Smith, and his staff once again presented the course in superb condition although I did hear a rumour going round that it's never been quite the same since I left! Thanks Martin and Porter's Park Golf Club for a successful day.

News from around the Section over the past few months has seen John Merriman leaving Batchworth Park to take up the Course Manager's position at Mid-Herts Golf Club and Roy Hadler returning to Wyke Green Golf Club to work with Tony Dyke and his team after a two year absence. Good Luck to both.

Paul Clark

## Essex

Firstly, we would like to wish Dominic Rodgers a speedy recovery after being taken into hospital two days before our golf day at Upminster GC (hurry up Dom, the scorecards are a nightmare).

Secondly, congratulations to Jon Selwood and Nicky on the birth of a baby boy, Frankie 7lbs 6oz. The staff from Abridge say he is a changed man now and always smiling. What do they mean?

Thirdly, no luck at this year's National Championship for the Section's two qualifiers. Our Chairman Carl and Anthony Kirwin found both courses very tough but were complimentary, particularly regarding Hillside, which they rated along with some of the best in the world.

Our last golf competition was held at Upminster Golf Club on 2nd October. Our main sponsors were Gem Professional and our thanks go to Richard Haynes. The day started off on a damp note but despite the dark clouds hovering the rain kept at bay for the competitors. A big thank you to Upminster Golf Club and John Collintine, the Club Secretary, for providing the venue; to Josie and all the staff for their friendly hospitality and a superb meal. Lastly thank you to the new Headman, Doug Fernie, and his green staff on producing an excellent track despite the recent long dry spell (Hope to see you all at the next golf day).

Now on to the prize winners. There were two main categories 0-14 and 15-28. 0-14. 1. and overall winner N. Morris, 40pts; 2. R. Dunmow, 35pts; 3. R. Clark, 34pts. 15-28. 1. R. Linnen, 34pts; 2. P. Bannock, 32pts; 3. D. Clark, 29pts. Guest prize. 1. L. Downset, 35pts 2. J. Hawkins, 32pts (19 Pts on the back 9). Trade 1.S. Banks, 34pts; Longest Drive. Thank you to sponsors Greenkeeper Supply Company. R. Hare; Nearest the Pin. Thank you to sponsors Greenkeeper Supply Company. J. Dilliway.

Finally, thank you to the following Rigby Taylor (guest prize), Sherriff Amenity, D.F.L, Tacit, Banks

Amenity and Avoncrop for providing the raffle.

Our next event is an evening lecture at Writtle College on November 26. We need your support, bring a member of your club and they may learn something too. On the last two occasions the numbers have been very poor. John Sinclair puts a lot of hard work into getting guest speakers so please support him. Further details will follow soon and if you have any problems please call John 01702 589063.

Please put a note in your diary for our AGM/Christmas Golf Competition and the Golfer of the Year award, to be held at Stock Brook Manor on Thursday, November 28. Please would all overall winners for 2002 make a big effort to attend, not only to collect their trophy or cup but Arnold, from Stock Brook, has kindly offered to take a group photograph to be published in the magazine.

It was nice to see some new faces at Upminster, hope you enjoyed yourselves. Let's finish the year with a good turn out for the last two events. Finally if you are not receiving the flyers or have any problems or comments, please contact me on 01245 603131 or on my new mobile 07984 867939.

Martin Forrester.

## Sussex

Wednesday, September 25 turned out to be a beautiful warm and sunny day.

How am I so sure you say, because it was the Autumn meeting. This was held at Mannings Heath which is always a popular venue with us.

The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor who were represented by Mike Ring, who amazed us with his new golf swing, (one day soon he is going to win a prize).

So on this beautiful day 35 Greenkeepers and guests turned up to take full advantage of Mannings Heath's hospitality and we started off with a 9 hole Texas Scramble held on the Kingfisher Course. With my team leading the way. Then 10 minutes later Billy picking us up as I'd managed to miss the 2nd tee but found the 18th. Yet again thanks for the lift Billy.

After lunch an 18 hole Stableford on the water full course, which I found just a little too hard.

As always the course was in excellent condition due to the hard work of Billy McMillan and his team. I would also like to pass our thanks on to the Clubhouse staff who made the day run very smooth.

So onto the results: The morning round winners were R. Short, C. Whybourne, G. Ogilvie & N. Beadle. In the afternoon - Nearest the pin:- M. Sommerfield. Longest Drive - R. Short. Guest prize was picked up by C. Allen. 1. R. Day, 39pts; 2. R. Kanel, 37pts; 3. M. Sommerfield, 36pts.

Well onto the Turkey Trot which will be on Friday, December 20 at you know where.

Remember, any information you have which may be of interest to us you can contact me on 07876 233253.

Jon Budd