



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
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East

Welcome to another month's column. Yes it's October so we know what's around the corner. Yes, winter! Try not to think about it because summer is still to arrive.

The Section held its annual Willie Woods Invitational Tournament at West Linton GC on September 5 with a good turnout of 18 teams. With thanks to Captain, Bill Blackwood, and the Council for courtesy of the course; Paul and Louise for looking after us superbly as usual in the bar and restaurant; also the restaurant and bar staff.. Thanks. A big thanks, also, to my Deputy Shaun and the rest of my team for having the course in fine condition considering the weather we've had this year and also the weather on the day which was dreadful. At one point I thought we might not get round but for the last few holes the sun came out and it turned out to be a wonderful evening. We hope you all enjoyed your visit to WLGc and we hope to see you all back again in the near future.

There were some great scores on the day so here are the results:- 1. A. Campbell/P. A. Craig, Eyemouth GC, 78 - 8 2/3 = 69 1/3; 2. C. Yeaman/B. Blackwood, West Linton GC, 78 - 7 1/3 = 70 2/3; 3. S. Nicol/R. Martin, Winterfield GC, 67 - +5 1/3 = 72 1/3 .

So as you can see some very good scoring on a very unpleasant day. Next year the tour will travel to Eyemouth GC to contest the tournament once again. We hope to see you all there. Now, last but not least, a big thanks to our tournament Sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Golf Finance fame. Thank you for the continued sponsorship of this tournament it's much appreciated by all who play in this event. We hope we can continue this sponsorship deal over the next few years, Ian, so we'll be in contact over the next few months to see what we can sort out. Ian sent his apologies as he had work obligations he was unable to get away from.

People on the move lately were Andy Forrest, Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge College Golf Course who has joined Stewart & Company as Head Groundsman at Heart Of Midlothian FC. Stewart's have just taken on the maintenance contract for Tynecastle Stadium, so all the best to Ian in his new position. PS. Don't forget the tickets for matches against the mighty Rangers, or if you need somebody to fork the pitch at half time I'm yer man.

Dance tickets are now on sale, Saturday November 30, at Kilsplindie House Hotel Aberlady. Tickets are priced at £21pp and b&b £13 pppn. Contact Steve Dixon asap to make a booking for a great night. Dinner 7pm for 7.30 with the disco starting at approx 9pm. See you there.

I am running a charity golf event at WLGc on September 21. BIGGA Scottish Region are entering a team and I am entering a team with some of our Section members along with 40 other teams of four. I will let you know next month how both of these teams get on.

Next events on the calendar are the Autumn tournament at Liberton GC on October 10 and we are looking for a big turnout, so get those forms back asap and we'll see you there.

The Section AGM, in conjunction with Richard Aitken and company, will be on October 30 at West Linton Golf Club with various speakers etc, lunch, then a golf clinic. It's something different this year so we hope to bring out the members this time around.

The Section AGM from this year will go on the road around the Section to different Golf clubs instead of staying at one club each year. It's a different format so we hope the members support us in this venture.

Well that's it all this time around.. Next month I will report on any Section members playing in the National Championship and any other news I can pick up when I'm out and about.

Chris Yeaman

Central

This year's AGM will be held at the end of this month, at the time of writing the date has not been finalised, but hopefully everyone should have received notice of the date and venue by now. If not, just phone me, or get in touch with any committee member and they will give you all the details, as I am sure you are all dying to attend this very important meeting.

Seriously though, if you are unhappy in any way with the manner the Section, or the Association for that matter, is being run please come to the AGM and give us your views, as the Association belongs to you, the members. The only way Section committees and Regional Boards can function properly is if they know the views of the members.

At last! I have had one result from this year's Inter Club Tournament returned so far. Alloa "B" beat Tulliallan so at least two teams are making an attempt to get their games played.

Everyone should have their allocation of "Club 2000" tickets by now, Alex Robertson and Grant Donaldson have actually requested additional tickets, thanks to both of them for their support. Only one person (so far) has returned their allocation unsold, I won't disclose his identity, but an American singer namesake had a big hit with Rhinestone Cowboy!

Winners in the August draw were Neil Mitchell with ticket number 493 (£30) and Ian Jarvis with ticket number 062 (£20). September winners were G. Holland with ticket number 106 (£30) and D. Sword with ticket number 264 (£20).

Remember! You have to have your ticket/s sold and the money returned to me by December 2nd (This year!).

Quick response! Thanks to Scott Fenwick and Alex Robertson, who phoned regarding my plea in last month's magazine for a stockist of roofing shingles, thanks to them I have been able to purchase them and can add re-roofing the shelter to this year's winter programme. Thanks again! It just proves, if you need help of any kind, don't be frightened to ask, even use your own magazine.

John Crawford.

West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. September 2 saw the Norrie Wytock Trophy being held at Auchterarder GC. I have been told the course was in great condition and the sun was shining as well quite an achievement this year. Congratulations are to be passed on to Archie, his team and the Sun God he prayed to for having the course so well presented and bathed in sunshine. Our thanks once again should go to the Captain, Council and membership of Auchterarder GC for the use of their course and facilities. I here our team from the West came in a commendable fifth, better luck next year. Congratulations to the boys from Central who were the event winners.

A date for your diary next. The Section AGM will be held on October 24. Nairn & Brown have kindly offered to host the event at their premises in Busby. A letter will be sent to inform you of the details nearer the date. We are trying to arrange for a couple of speakers from the trade to come along and make a short presentation prior to the AGM. We hope to see a large turn out as possible on the day. Get their early if you want a seat.

On October 14 our annual match against the club stewards will be held at Cathcart GC our thanks is again to be extended to the council and membership for the kind use of their facilities. At time of writing the greenkeeping team was still to be confirmed.

Our annual dinner is once again to be held in Victoria's night spot. This popular event has always been well attended in the past and always proves a most enjoyable evening. The proposed date for the event is Friday, November 29 and tickets will go on sale shortly. Please try and get your payment for ordered tickets in as early as possible as this will guarantee you a seat at this not to be missed event and will greatly help in the administration of the event.

The committee would like to wish John Scott Jnr the

best of luck in his new post. John is leaving Kirkhill GC and is to be congratulated on his promotion.

Hope I spelt the name right! We would also like to thank John for all the work he has done on our Section committee over the years.

Well, that is all I have this month, next month results from our Autumn outing staged at Drumpellier GC on September 26. Again if you would like any news added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 013552 66862

Brian Bolland

North

No new members to report this month, the first month for a while that this has been the case.

The Autumn outing took place at McDonald GC, Ellon, on September 12, and a good day out was had by those who attended. The weather held up well, and it stayed dry, which has not happened too much lately. Our thanks go too the bar and catering staff of McDonald GC who looked after us well, and the committee who make sure the event runs smoothly. Also great credit goes to John Geddes and his staff for the immaculate presentation of the course. Being a Parkland course there is a lot of cutting to be done, and the workload is very high, particularly this season, and there was hardly a blade of grass out of place. Lastly, a thank you to all the trade members who continually support this event, and donate prizes for the raffle etc and to the patrons whose support is greatly appreciated.

On to the results and departing committee member Robert Hardie took more than his fair share of the spoils - several firsts in different sections, including £3 from myself which was hard to take because he was exceptionally lucky.

Nearest the Pin. Robert Hardie (bounced of a tree), Craibstone GC.

Longest Drive. Class 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC; Class 2. James Swanson, Spey Bay; Class 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose GC.

Sweep 1. Robert "Turpin" Hardie; 2. N. Bruce; 3. Philip Don; 4. S. Sullivan

Committee Trophy. Robert Hardie; Guest Winner. C. Grant, Ellon GC;

Trade Winner. Robert Bruce, Stewarts, (Pat Allan prodigy) Veterans' 1. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 2. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC.

Apprentice Winner, Ben Brooks Newmachar GC. Class 3 1. Neil Bruce, Montrose GC; 2. Steven Simpson, Cullen GC. (First prize ever); Duncan Adams, Nemachar GC.

Class 2. 1. Robert Hardie; 2. Arthur Williamson, Craigie Hill; 3. Dale Robertson, Newmachar GC.

Class 1 Mclean Trophy 1. Philip Don, Kemnay GC; 2. Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 3. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC; Best Nett 36 Hole winner Philip Don Kemnay GC; Best 36 Hole Head Greenkeeper Winner, Philip Don;

Best 36 Hole Veteran Winner, R. Donald Scratch Hampton Trophy Winner Gary Tough Letham Grange GC; 2. Graham Lornie, Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you all at the Spring outing next year. There were also other prizes to be won. Blazer. James Swanson, Spey Bay GC. Patrons' Winners; Donald Patience, Tarbat GC; Brian Hunter, Ellon GC. 200 Club winners: £30 A. Thomson; £30 A. Angus; £30 M. Fullerton; £100 Hazelhead Golf pros.

The raffle prizes went well, with Spey Bay GC taking their fair share, at least they went to a good home. My thanks go out to Dougal Duguid and Steve Sullivan for saving the signed poster of the Aberdeen football team for myself in the raffle. My dartboard was needing recovered anyway.

As I write this report the AGM has still not been set, but as soon as it has been, the members will be notified.

Finally, David Duggan, of Fortrose GC, gets married at the end of this month in Fife, so good luck David. David's stag weekend was in Ireland, where he indeed is from. This may explain why his journey took two days from

Fortrose. Apparently he loves the A9 that much he thought he would drive up and down it a couple of times before he went over.

Iain Gunn

NORTHERN REGION

North West

September and the nights are drawing in, I wonder were the summer went. The weather all around the world seems to be changing, with rivers breaking their banks and causing heavy flooding not only here but all over Europe. The flooding is bad enough, but trying to put things right after must seem like an impossible task. It would be interesting if any of you have been in this position, to take some pictures and write a few words about how you coped with it all. I am sure Scott, the Editor, would help you with your story.

I have been out of action for some time due to illness, but before I went into hospital for a short stay, I turned up to Whitefield GC on Friday, August 9 to organise the regional final, and what a day it was. The rain never stopped from early morning, and although Mark, the Head Greenkeeper, kept his options open, saying that if it stopped, the course would be playable within the hour, in the end we had to admit defeat. I would like to thank all the lads who turned up on the day, some with long journeys like the N/East Section and the N/Wales Section, and although we can't run the competition this year I will do my best for next year.

Due to my stay in hospital I was also unable to attend the funeral of Doug Bell which upset me because we had become good friends, he being the Northern Region Administrator and me, the Chairman. He was a good man and had your interests at heart, but I believe there was a good attendance at the funeral. He will sadly miss.

I also missed the "Roses" match which was played at Stand GC, and I am told the course was in great condition although it did not help to retrieve the Patisson Trophy from the Northern Section. The match was halved three games each so the Northern Section retain the Patisson Shield. The match was once again sponsored by Patissons who have sponsored the match for many years, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for their interest and hope this will continue for many years to come.

That seems to be it for now but you can contact me with any news and problems on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

"Ey up" and how are you all keeping in greenkeeping land? I hope the on course construction is taking shape and the mowing is slowing down and we are all disease free?

Well done to the Northern Section team who competed for the Patisson's Roses Trophy against the North West Section on their patch and retained it. Stand golf course was in excellent condition and was enjoyed by all of the Northern boys on the day. A big thank you to the North West Section for organising this year's event and to Patissons for sponsoring it. It turned out to be a thriller with a 3-3 draw being the outcome. Those Lancs Lads certainly have been practising. Better luck next year.

I have a number of new members to introduce this time as I missed out last time (misplaced them. Sorry) Welcome to Stephen Midgley, Heworth GC; Ross McCarthy, David Callaghan and Darren Kitching, Headingly GC; John Whiteley, Normanton GC; David Stoyles, Ryburn GC; Steven Fletcher, Elland GC and last, but not least, Michael Tattersall, from Cleckheaton GC.

Our next golf event of the year is The Autumn tournament at Northallerton Golf club on October 17. Tee off from 11am. Numbers again are on a first come first served bases. The usual price of £15 by cheque, one week before the event please, as this aids administration. There will be the usual bacon sandwich and meal on the day. At 6pm after this event will be our AGM. So if you are unhappy with anything to do with the Section this is your opportunity to air your views. Or maybe you fancy a stint on the committee to help with the planning and administration of all our events. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

I was so sorry to hear of the death of Doug Bell in early August. He will be missed by all of the Northern section and committee alike.

I will report on the Invitation day in the next around the greens.

See you all at the AGM. You can contact me via: 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill Bradford West York's BD2 2NJ
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E mail: Dthackray@aol.com
Dave Thackray

North Wales

Pwllheli Golf Club was the venue for the Section's Autumn Tournament and once again we were blessed with good weather. The course as always was presented in a fine standard thanks to the greenkeeping team headed by Steve Jones, and the crew of Alwyn, Dylan, and Tomos.

Bacon butties were the order of the day upon our arrival and a roast beef dinner was served prior to the presentation. Our thanks go to the catering staff at the club. A total of 48 entrants teed off to challenge the part parkland and part links course the results were as follows:

Best nett 1. Darryl Davis, Northop GC, 37pts; 2. Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC, 36pts; 3. John Humphreys, Oswestry GC, 35pts. Best Gross went to Jeremy Hughes, Vale of Llangollen, with a 72. Best Guest was Kirt Hutcheon, Stowrs-Wen GC, who also won the Guest Nearest the Pin. Best trade was myself with 33pts and longest walk went to Danny Tomkins along with the straightest slice. There was a Nearest the Pin for the members and this was won by Dylan Hughes, fittingly, of Pwllheli GC. We won't say anything about local knowledge but Dylan is the son of the former head greenkeeper, Dewi Hughes, who has now retired after many years at the club and is enjoying a life we all look forward to, being out of the rat race. Thanks also goes to the trade for the prize table, ALS, Acorn(UK), Bathgate, Amenity Technology, Walker Engineering and Sportsworld Amenity.

Moving on those of you wishing to go and stay over at the BTME 2003 show in Harrogate next January 22, 23, 24, now is the time to book your accommodation as many hotels do get booked up early. We will once again be organising a coach and if there are any members interested please contact me.

The GCSAA Show in the States will be hosted in Atlanta, Georgia, next February and this is also the time to book yourself a good deal and maybe try and blagg a look around the Augusta National course. The results of the National Championship played over two days at Hesketh GC and Hillside GC will be in next month's issue, following the progress of our playing members. And finally many thanks to all of you that attended the IOG Groundex show at Aintree last month these trade shows would not succeed without your support.

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622
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Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn



MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01476 550115

The Midland Region Educational Seminar will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday, November 27. 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.

Pete Larter

BB&O

I have not long returned from a jaunt around Saltex that had quite glorious weather for an event of this type. All seemed very busy to me as I often had to wait to see the people I needed to talk to. I came away with the impression there is lots of movement within the industry but not always for reasons of choice. I hope this is a minor blip in the shape of the industry generally. Just keep in mind all those educational seminars on offer from Sami for this Winter that do help us all to keep abreast of things in the industry and can offer a more secure foundation to our future prospects.

Peter Larter has set up a Midland Region Seminar. This will be at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday, 27th November. Cost of attendance is £25 which includes coffee/lunch. If you wish to hear an account of my trip to Florida with Bernhards you just may need to be there!

The next event will be the Turkey Trot at Southfields Golf Club on Wednesday, November 6. This will be a team threeball Stableford with the best of two scores. This match will be limited to 42 players. The first tee off time is 9am. Please ring me on 07778 765021 for any further information. The cost is £25 and includes coffee on arrival with a meal after the match. Please send your cheques to my home address as follows: Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18, 9RN. This event is sponsored by Avoncrop who will be in attendance to ensure you have a great day and hand out prizes to the lucky winners. Avoncrop have graciously let us run a Christmas raffle that will comprise of any items that have been offered by various trade members throughout the year. If anyone has any item they would like to put forward for the raffle, please contact me. They will be much appreciated in helping to raise funds for future events.

I would like to welcome the following new members into the BB&O Section and wish you all well in the year to come: Duncan Dingle, of Studley Wood GC, and Dennis Reed, of Drayton Park GC.

This next report is from Lindsay Anderson on the final stages of the Rigby Taylor Competition; Peter Critchley and Gordon Critchley beat Steve Putt and Martin Birdbank 4 & 3 in the first semi-final. Lee Bishop and Jason Brooks beat Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin 3 & 1 in the other semi-final.

The final was a tight affair with Lee and Jason, from Burnham Beeches, winning on the last green. The standard of golf by these two worthy winners was excellent - well done lads! Thanks to Mark and Gary from Rigby Taylor for organising the event once again. It has been a great success. Thanks to Alex Miller, and all his staff at Stoke Park Golf Club, for providing a superb test of golf.

Finally, Mark Stigwell, from Rigby Taylor, is emigrating to New Zealand in the next few weeks. We wish him well!

That is it for another month so I wish you all good recovery from any autumn work undertaken on your putting greens so they may enter the winter in fine fettle.

Secretary – David Haskell-Craig

East Midlands

The annual East Midlands v East of England Golf match was held on 22nd August at the wonderful venue of Newark GC and generously sponsored once more by Barenbrug. The weather was fine and bright and the course was presented in pristine condition by Graeme Macdonald and his staff. Unfortunately the result was not very kind for our Section, losing four of the five games, although by narrow margins. However Adi Porter and Steve Goode did at least save us from a complete whitewash by winning their match. Congratulations should also be extended to Adi Porter for winning the Longest Drive and Graeme Macdonald Nearest the Pin. I would also like to thank Graeme Macdonald for organising the day.

The Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Ian Needham, Steve Goode, Adi Porter, Antony Bindley, David James, Martin Hopkins, Lee Mitchell, Mark Bindley. Unfortunately Gavin Robson was unable to attend the day.

In the Kirby Muxloe Invitation on August 17, John Bumham and myself finished 5th with a nett score of 65.

In the Cosby Am-Am on August 26, Alan Roberts, Ian Needham, Richard Barker and myself finished with a 10 under par score 142 to finish again in 5th place.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Our Summer Golf Day took place in late August, at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, over 18 holes. Twenty-two members enjoyed an excellent course, with greens as near perfect as you will ever see. Thanks to Course Manager, Colin Robinson, and his staff for their efforts and to the club for hosting the tournament at fairly short notice, after a change of venue. The results were as follows: 1. Stephen Hesk, Aldwickbury Park, 36 pts; 2. John Chapman, John O'Gaunt, 34 pts; 3. Geoff James, John O'Gaunt, 34 pts.

Nearest the Pin was won by Steve Mason, from Mount Pleasant. Longest Drive was won by Craig Spooner, from Collier Turf Care.

Many thanks once again to Boughton Loam for their continued sponsorship of the summer event, and of course to all our other trade members, who never fail to support our golf events.

A reminder of our final golf event of the year - our annual Texas Scramble event will take place at South Beds GC on Thursday, December 5.

Finally, Stephen Hesk is moving out of the Section, to take up a position at a golf club in the Blackpool area. We wish him well in his new appointment.

Paul Lockett

East of England

The East of England Section were victorious over the East Midland section in their annual match. (for a change). The home team won 4-1 at Newark Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank my staff for their continued hard work.

The match sponsors were Barenbrug Seeds and Ben Petitjean, UK Amenity Sales Manager, was present to hand out the prizes on the day.

Nearest the Pin went to G. A. Macdonald (E.O.E) and Longest Drive was won by A. Porter (EM).

The raffle prizes were excellent and everybody who played went home with some sort of prize.

Next year's fixture is on East Midlands soil, at Beedles Lake Golf Club, where we will hopefully retain the Barenbrug Shield.

G. A. Macdonald



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

Welcome, one and all, to the latest around the green. I few things to get through this month which makes a nice change. Firstly, the guest golf day at the Wildenese Club on August 19. A good day was had by all with many thanks to Huw Morgan and all the staff at the club for looking after us all.

The buffet was superb and I had to go back for seconds. On to the results 1. Steve Vogels and Andy Page; 2. Barry Jackson and Terry Morrow; 3. George Brown and Roger Watts. Longest Drive went to Tony Julian and Nearest the Pin was Trevor Nicholas. A big thanks to all our sponsors on the day Ernest Doe, DFL, Sherriff, Tacit and John Shaws. I was very close to getting a prize but my partner Barry Bradshaw let me down on the last two holes. But I don't hold it against him... too much. The next golf day will be on November 27, at North Foreland GC, down in Broadstairs. I'm sure Steve Suttle will have the course looking its very best for us.

Just got back from Saltex and it was nice to see so many old faces. One of those faces was Graham Royden, from Royal St George's, who pointed out to me that Vic Maynard had a very large stand. And I think Textron were on it too.

Quick apology to Jo Silcock for the comments last month on his tee shot at the last golf day. In fact, it was not a 3 wood but a driver that he nailed 145 yards on the par 3, 6th for a par. Sorry for upsetting you Jo.

Any other news or views please drop me a line or call 01732 875020 or E-mail me on jrbatkhgolf@aol.com

If there are any clubs who would like to host a golf day next year please call Duncan on the same number. Jason Bean

Surrey

Surrey Section has lost, for various reasons a number of Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers over the past months. Some, like Dougie Fernie, have moved to new courses in different Sections, but many more have made, or have been forced to make, a decision to leave greenkeeping completely.

The culprit in most cases is that golf clubs and members on being able to play golf 365 days a year and for some reason do not have ability to understand that our very changeable weather conditions in Autumn, Winter and Spring rarely allow this to happen.

The pressure and stress put onto the greenkeeping teams to have their courses in tip top condition all year round is now getting to plague proportions and consequently experienced and qualified staff are leaving and seeking employment elsewhere. Andrew Hall, Lee West and Doug Brand have or will be shortly leaving greenkeeping in Surrey. Good Luck and hopefully a more enjoyable future to them all.

On a happier note the congratulations paragraph this month tells us that Kevin Day is no longer Deputy at Woking but is now the Head Greenkeeper at Hershams Village Golf Club; Martin Smith has left Burhill and is now Course Manager at Happy Valley Golf Club, and Nigel Morris is leaving Cuddington to join our old friend Dougie Fernie at Upminster as deputy.

Andrew Hall should, by the time this gets to print, be sunning himself, his wife, Mo, and their two children in their new home in Spain. From me, all his friends at St George's Hill Golf Club and all the members of Surrey Section have a wonderful future in the sun.

Shirley Park Golf Club was the host for our Summer Tournament on July 23 and we thank them most sincerely for allowing us the courtesy of their course. The greenkeeping team had worked hard and the presentation was excellent throughout. The result. 1. Geoff Woodward, 38pts, Wimbledon Common GC; 2.

Kevin Humphreys, 38pts, Croham Hurst GC; 3. Bobby Rogers, 37pts, Laleham GC. The sponsors were Barreffield Golf Ltd and we thank them for the prizes.

Congratulations paragraph to Richard Evans, Deputy at Addington Palace Golf Club, for many years has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Shirley Park Golf Club. Richard has been offered many promotions outside Surrey Section but has preferred to wait for an opportunity in this area. His position at Addington Palace will be filled from within by Chris Varrow. Congratulations to them both. Ron Christie is anxious to replace Chris asap as it is many years since Ron has had to enter a bunker with a rake so early in the morning.

Our annual visit to Sunningdale Golf Club for the McMillan Tankard took place on August 15 and in excellent summer weather, on the magnificent New Course, 45 Surrey members sweated for the honours. Our warmest thanks as always to Brian Turner and his team for the superb playing condition of the course and to the artisans for the delicious Barbie that we all enjoyed afterwards. Home knowledge may have helped James Partridge to first place and the Tankard, as it did Dave Goddard who came second. The third spot was filled by Greg Richardson, from Hankley Common, who kept Sunningdale from getting the 1,2,3, by beating Darren Lee who came fourth. Longest Drive was Dave Goddard, and Ted Holland, from Gatton Manor, was Nearest the Pin.

Another annual event was fought at Hankley Common GC on August 23. Scotland and England teams were once again locked in battle on this beautiful and heather covered heathland course. The result was not due to Scotland having to substitute Brian McWillmott for Alan McDougall, as many from over the border suggested, but to the fine play from a finely honed English team. Scotland won one England five. Many thanks to Gareth for the venue and the caterers for the food.

The final annual event took place at Wimbledon Common/London Scottish Golf Club on August 30 when a Surrey greenkeepers team played against members from the aforementioned clubs. Last year ended in a draw so this year the teams played a four ball better ball Stableford competition to achieve an overall winner. All the points from all the matches were added up so that it would be virtually impossible to draw the match. The result was a draw! Thanks to Geoff for the course, the caterers for the dinner and the members of London Scottish/Wimbledon Common Golf Club for the friendly reception.

Brian Willmott



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

Devon & Cornwall

It is with great sadness that I have to inform members that John Breyley passed away on August 19. John was a ever present member of the Section during his working days at Churston Golf Club, John will be remembered for his ever cheerful presence even after a poor round of golf. Our thoughts go to Lesley at this sad time.

It's arrived once again the Section's first meeting of the autumn and winter programme sponsored by Roffeys. The meeting this year will be held at Portmore G.C, Barnstaple, and will include for the first time the Vitax match play final. The final will tee off at 8.30am before the D.O. Hunt Trophy. As in the past our non-golfers course walk will leave the clubhouse at 10.30am with lunch from 1pm. The afternoon educational talk will follow lunch with the prize presentation concluding the day.

Members attending the afternoon talk will be able to claim their CPD points. Just bring your form along for me to sign.

The Section's Devon Garden Machinery AGM meeting will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC on Wednesday, November 13 tee times for the Toro Trophy will be between 9.30 – 10.30.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

The Celtic Manor Resort once again hosted a successful "Wales Open" despite, as per last year, a valiant attempt from the weather to spoil things. Congratulations to Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie and his team who once again had their work cut out in dealing with the elements. Nevertheless a fantastic event and one that you may have a chance to be involved with next year if you would like to.

A support team to assist the greenstaff at the "Wales Open" may be organised for next year's event. If you would like to participate, please contact your Section Secretary for further details.

Henry Stead, Head Greenkeeper of the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl collapsed while attending the "Wales Open" and had to be admitted to hospital in nearby Newport, where he spent the weekend. Henry who was attended to by paramedics has made a full recovery and returned to work early the following week. He would like to thank all of those who sent cards and messages of goodwill.

The Section would like to offer a vote of thanks to Dennis Archer, who has recently retired his position of Head Greenkeeper at the Whitchurch Golf Club in Cardiff. Dennis served on many BIGGA committees over the years and has been a stalwart of BIGGA.

We wish you well in retirement and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas meeting.

A successful Scotts sponsored "Golf Management Trophy" was recently held at the new Tredegar Park Golf Club in Newport. A total of 19 teams gathered at the course, which was presented in excellent condition by Dave Williams and his team. It was the first visit to the new Tredegar Park for many of the visitors and many compliments were made in relation to the course and the excellent facilities on offer at the club.

A grand day was had by all, the sun shone, the course was good and the catering was excellent. Everyone at the club was extremely hospitable and we were made to feel very welcome. A sincere thanks to the golf club for allowing us the use of the course, to Scotts and Martin Townsend for the continued sponsorship of the event; to Paula Humphries, our Regional Administrator, for organising the event, and to Gordon Child (It's always a pleasure to see you in Wales, Gordon) for making the trip and effort to be with us on the day.

Just for the record Carmarthen pipped Pennard by a point. Very questionable, I would say, after that performance by Dave Gladwin. He was spotted in the Hedgerows, lakes, streams, woods, roughs, you get the message.

An excellent event and summed up by Martin Townsend, those that weren't there were the losers. You should have by now all received notification of the forthcoming Regional Seminar. To be held at Cannington College, Somerset on 20 & 21 of November. The seminar is to be held over two days, Day 1 is "Back to basics" seminar and Day 2 is a "Getting a good Job" clinic. Not to be missed.

If you require any additional information or booking forms, please contact your Section Secretary.

Peter Lacey

South Coast

It seems incredible as I sit down and write this how this year has flown past. It also doesn't seem a year ago that we witnessed the horrific events of September 11th and as we mark its anniversary our thoughts are with all of those who lost loved ones.

On a lighter note the Section must congratulate the Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club team who triumphed at the British John Deere Team Championship final at The Belfry. The team of Course Manager, Ed McCabe; Professional, Bruce Parker; Captain, Charles Letchworth,

and Secretary, Paul Clifford, won with an impressive 17 under par score and can now look forward to the World Team Finals in Arizona, in November. Well done Ed! Let's hope you can go one step further and win in Arizona.

August saw our Section team take on the South West in the annual fixture. The venue this year was Long Ashton GC and after some excellent golf the match was tied in a honourable draw so we retain the trophy for another year. Many thanks to Ivor Scoones and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course in such excellent condition and for the south west for their superb hospitality.

August 21 saw Moors Valley Golf Club hold its second event of the year as the Scotts Management Trophy was played for. The course as ever was in superb condition and the scoring reflected this with eventual winners being Weybrook Park. Many thanks to Ian Noble, Shane Hodgkins and the team at Moors Valley for all their hard work in preparing the course so well; to Moors Valley Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, of course, a huge vote of thanks to the invaluable sponsorship from Scotts.

Much is happening at committee level as we are busy currently organising next year's Section seminar, which will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club on February 26. I have received details of a number of BIGGA training courses, which range from tractor driving to higher management skills. If you wish to receive any details then please contact me.

Date for your diaries this month is the Regional seminar at Cannington College on November 13 and 14. Day one has an impressive line up of speakers giving a broad range of presentations while on day two the superb Frank Newberry will present a day long seminar on everything from maximising the impact of your CV to interviewing techniques and getting the package you deserve. Let's make sure we attend what will be an excellent couple of days.

Lastly, I would just like to wish Carl Horrax the best of luck as he leaves us to move back North. Our loss will be the North's gain. All of your friends in the Section wish you and your family well and lets hope our paths meet soon Carl!

If you have any news you wish to include in next months around the green then please contact me on 01202 661106 or 07813 841714

Until next month, Alex McCombie

South West

Hi ya Men! Summer now over and we are about to enjoy another lovely south west winter, lots of rain and some grey days no doubt!

Hope you attend the regional seminar at Cannington in September. It's always good to hear new ideas.

Our next event is at Tracey Park now renamed, the Gloucestershire, on October 17. After the golf we will be holding our Section's AGM, we are going to have a visit from the Chairman of BIGGA, Richard Barker. So if you have any questions etc about the Association at national level, you will get the answer right from the top.

A date for your diaries beyond that is the Christmas Tournament, and I know that the Head Greenkeeper at Cirencester is looking forward to your visit on December 11.

Robin Greaves

NORTHERN IRELAND

I would like to begin this month's news with a report on the charity golf day on August 2 organised by Terry Crawford, Course Manager at Clondeboye GC. The competition this year was again a great success with over 130 competitors, competing over the Dufferin course. Terry and his greenkeeping team had the course in outstanding condition, even with the unsettled weather conditions leading up to the competition the course presentation and detail was of the highest standard, great credit must go to Terry and his staff. Terry would like to thank all the greenkeepers, club managers, trade members, and club members who came and played from throughout Ireland North and South. The grand sum of £2,200 was raised which will be presented to the Children's Hospital within the Royal Hospital in Belfast. The money will be used to buy specialist equipment that is needed to treat children with heart problems.

Many thanks to Clive Richardson, of Horta Soils, who sponsored all the prizes again this year.

Tour professional Darren Clarke's father, Godfrey presented Terry with a golf shirt and glove signed by Darren to be auctioned at the prize giving and the proceeds added to the charity fund. The shirt and glove reached the magnificent sum of £200, and was purchased by agronomist, John O'Sullivan. The results of the competition were as follows: 1. David Gallagher, 41pts; 2. Ian McMahon, 40pts; 3. Stephen McMurty, 40 pts; 4. Peter Coral, 37pts; 5. Warren Burnside, 37pts; 6. Bobby Crookes, 37pts; 7. Brian Mills, 36pts.

The team prize winners were: Stephen McMurty, Stephen Norwood, John McAdams, Shane McNulty.

Our national championships qualifying competition went ahead at Ballycastle GC on September 6. We combined a strokeplay competition to the championship sponsored by Coburns of Banbridge with a Stableford competition sponsored by Boyd's Golf Course Equipment.

Head Greenkeeper, Godfrey Clarke, and his staff had the course in great shape with the greens running fast and true. The two successful qualifiers were a father and son from Royal Co Down GC. Deputy Course Manager at R.C.D, Eamonn Crawford, had an impressive three under par round of gross 65 nett 64 and son, Gary Crawford, playing off 24, had a nett 67. Well done lads, we hope you enjoy the trip over to the National Championship. Thanks must go to Coburns of Banbridge who have kindly sponsored the air fares over to Liverpool on September 30 for Eamonn and Gary. Company representative, William Cartmill, attended the day and also kindly provided the visitors prizes. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Stableford competition winners were:

1. R. McCloone, Castlerock GC, 39pts; 2. Andrew Wray, Castlerock GC, 38pts; 3. Michel Feeney, City of Derry GC, 34pts.

Visitors' Prize winner D. McFaul, 40 pts. Two's Eamonn Crawford, Andrew Wray.

Thanks to Boyd's Golf Course Equipment Company for sponsoring the Stableford competition and also Godfrey Clarke and Micheal O'Neill for sponsoring the two's competition.

Finally the competition wouldn't have been such a success without the generosity of Bally Castle GC in giving us courtesy of the course.

I would like to remind members that they should have received the brochure on the conference on Nov 6 in mid-September. The entry form with payment should be returned to Emmett Curran by the second week of October as places are filling up very quickly. So please do not leave it to the last minute as you will probably miss out. Well that's about all for this month if anyone has any news please contact me on 028 94429001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

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