



**SCOTTISH REGION**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

## East

Well, here we are the driest February for many a year so we are going into the season dry for a change. Hopefully we can get some warm weather to get the grass moving and get a good start to the season here's hoping.

The Section had a visit to the newly refurbished premises of Henderson Grass Machinery in February with 29 members in attendance on a very good day. It was also good to see a number of new faces along for the day and hopefully we will see you at our outings etc. throughout the season. The look around Hendersons was interesting and it shows the amount of money and commitment they are putting into this project to have the right facilities for their staff and customers. We wish them all the best for the future and thanks for the coffee and bacon rolls, They were superb. Stevie, your rolls were good. Pity you couldn't have one? A big thanks to Graham Miller, William Smith, Dougie Jeffrey and everyone at HGM for giving up their valuable time to show everyone around and giving us an insight into the running of their dealership, thanks once again.

We left HGM and travelled to Cardrona Hotel Golf & Country Club, in conjunction with Henderson Grass Machinery (suppliers of specialist grass machinery to Cardrona) for a visit to the new course. The second part of the day was very good with Course Manager, Robert Hogarth, giving us a talk on the construction grow in and all other ups and downs of construction of a new course. After the talk we ventured out onto the course on utility vehicle that sit for this month coming up next month Annual dance details and anything else I can come across on my travels. So remember if you have anything of interest to the section members drop me a line, call, e-mail, or fax. The numbers etc are, home 01968 661313, work/fax 01968 661721 or e-mail CHRISCIY26@AOL.COM I look forward to you reading this column next month.

Chris Yeaman

## West

Welcome to this month's Section news. The committee would like to wish Bob Scott, from Elderslie Golf Club, well in his retirement. Bob had over 40 years of experience under his belt. What's the secret Bob? No more moans and groans eh! Bob leaves Elderslie in safe hands with new boy, Andy McGarry, at the helm. Good luck in the future to you both from all the Section and committee.

A seven-a-side football match was organised by our very own player/manager, Gerry Bruen. Ibrox training ground was the venue. Opponents – Ibrox ground staff. A damp, cold and bleak night were the conditions but certainly did not dampen spirits. Our team consisted of experience and youth and are as follows, spot the experience! S. Taylor, Eddie Wood and Colin Scott, all from Glasgow Golf Club; Chris Kerr, from Cowglen Golf Club; Gerry Bruen, from Williamwood Golf Club; Brian Bolland, from East Kilbride Golf Club. Also two additional players were drafted in from Showland Amateurs for extra fire power! And I made up the select. For first 15-20 minutes we held Ibrox until they stepped up a gear and rattled a few in. Two nil down we fought back

hard and made it 2-1. Ibrox then produced some slick, organised moves which outclassed the greenkeepers. Another four shots at the goal found our net, left us 6-1 down. Last 15 minutes we found the Ibrox net. Final score - 6-2. Come on guys, if you can do better, call Gerry Bruen on 07813 331532.

As I write the Scottish Educational Conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline, will be in full flow. A report will follow next month, although if the previous seminars are to go by, I'm sure this one will be no exception.

Spring outing just around the corner held this year at Hilton Park Golf Club. An extremely popular venue, so please get your entries to Gavin Jarvis as quickly as you can. This year you have the opportunity to pay a deposit or to pay in full for your ticket to this year's annual dinner at Victoria's Nightclub. Please include your deposit or full payment when sending your entry forms for the Spring outing, by doing so, this will make the event much easier to organise. So help us to help you! Try and get your entries and deposits in early. See you at Hilton Park Golf Club!

Finally in next months issue:- 4/3/03 – Scottish Educational Conference, 25/3/03 – Education outing to Southern Gailes in conjunction with SGM. 26/3/03 – Selected members of the Section committee will talk to students at Gosta Training Centre. 10/4/03 – Convenors match at Renfrew Golf Club sponsored by Aitkens and SGM.

The committee would like to thank Aitkens for sponsoring the fixture list for 2003 season.

If anybody got news for me to report or if I have not mentioned which I should have please remind me, contact me: 07774 420427 or 01416 445783 - Tel/Fax.

Douglas McIntosh

## Ayrshire

Well it's just typical isn't it? No sooner do I make a cynical comment about our lack of new members when I find out we've actually signed up four in the past two months. Ian Templeton, Western Gailes, and Gary Ross, Royal Troon, are the two most recent, but I'm afraid I don't have the other names at present, welcome to you all anyway.

Contingency plans are being drawn up for the Autumn outing in case the new owners at Southern Gailes are unable to accommodate our original agreement.

Congratulations to Paul Tulloch and his wife on the arrival of their new baby girl, a playmate for her sister.

Give me a ring on 01292 478606 if you feel like it, if not, no hard feelings.

That's it for now and notice not one mention of the wee fella's triumphant return – Doh!

Dennis Tweddell

## North

No news to report this month, but there were quite a few last month, so it will even itself out.

The Scottish conference was a success and there were over 160 people attending. There was a decent turnout from the North Section also. Peter Boyd is to be thanked for the organisation of the event, which goes from strength to strength.

The Section outing which was originally scheduled for Panmure has had to be changed, and we are still awaiting confirmation of where we will be playing this spring. You will receive notification soon through the post where this will be and when.

It is with sadness to report on the death of Robert Koneicka, formerly of Forres Golf Club, and was Course

Manager at Shrewsbury Golf Club at the time of his death. Robert was only 46, and on behalf of the Section, I would like to give our best wishes to his family.

Not much else to report this month except to remind you of the 200 Club tickets, and also if you are interested in playing on May 3 in a social match give me a phone on 01997 420155.

Iain Gunn

## NORTHERN REGION

### Northern

We had two brilliant events for you through late February and early March. These were the trip to Ransomes Jacobsen and the dinner dance. A group of 12 travelled to Ipswich where we were received by representatives of the company. We received a buffet lunch and then travelled to Portman Road, home of Ipswich Town FC. We were met by Alan Ferguson, Head Groundsman, who gave us a tour of both the pitches and the training facilities. This gave us all an insight into the problems faced by football groundsman. After the evening meal we shared a beer or two, and looked forward to the Ransomes Jacobsen factory tour the next morning. Following a large breakfast we travelled to the factory where we were given a full guided tour of the manufacturing process, which included the raw materials entering the factory, the actual manufacturing process and assembly of the machinery that we all use on our golf courses today. After a light lunch we were given a tour of the spare parts and distribution facilities, and then departed on the long journey home. Many thanks to everyone who helped to organise the site visit, and a special thank you to everyone at Ransomes Jacobsen for their hospitality.

On the Saturday after the trip our annual dinner dance took place at Otley Golf Club. The night started off with all attendees meeting for a drink before being seated for dinner. The three course meal was of very high quality and a choice of meal for each course could be had. After the consumption of food and drink, the traditional raffle, which, as usual was well supported, took place. After a demonstration by tutors in Salsa dancing it was then our turn to take to the floor. A great night with great food and good company was had by all.

Thank you to those of you who have helped to support these events, however, in order that we may continue to run events like these in the future we need to increase the number of participants, as both the events featured were under subscribed. We look forward to your support in the future.

I have been informed that Graham Blackburn, who was Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Outlane Golf Club, has moved on to a new position of Head Greenkeeper at Ryburn Golf Club. Congratulations to him!

I would like to welcome Paul Wilton, of Outlane Golf Club; Gary Hudson and Andrew Ivel of Moor Allerton Golf Club and Leigh Watson, of Filey Golf Club, who have all joined the Association this month.

See you all at Kirby Moorside for the Spring tournament.

16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976876264 E mail: Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray



### North Wales

Geriant, from Llangefni GC, went on the 'Weakest Link' with Anne Robinson. I do know how he got on, but I will let you watch it for yourself to see the result. Should be on this first or second week of April.

A good time was had by all at the GCSAA show in Atlanta. The Welsh contingent made it known they were there after the President's Dinner VIP reception on the 47th floor of the Marriott Marquis hotel, by singing around the grand piano, "She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes". Not a popular Welsh song but it got close with the "Aye, aye yippy, yippy aye" bit, much to the delight of George Brown, Steve Mona, Neil Thomas and Dean Cleaver who tried to distance themselves from us somewhat.

The venue for the show was the World Congress Centre and to get back downtown you walked through the CNN central news building. While we were there the build up to war was headline news, Heathrow had been closed and Gatwick was on red alert and we were all wondering if Richard Hillman had told Gail about his dark deeds in Coronation Street, but that didn't seem to make the news over there.

Back to Section news. Dave Parry has taken a busman's holiday to the Home of Golf and tried to pick up a few tips. So, if we see a Swilken Burn pop

up at Prestatyn you know the reason why.

Talking of golf our Spring Tournament is next month, May 22 at the Mile End GC, Oswestry. Your entry forms will be out any time now so please get them returned asap to Jeremy Hughes. We are told Ian Beckett will have the greens running at about 10 on the stimp meter as he is ironing them at the moment.

We also would like a team to represent North Wales at the planned triangular golf day at South Staffordshire GC in the Midlands. This will be in late June/July and if you are available please contact either myself or Jeremy as we require a team of nine players.

Our Committee Chairman represented the Section at a memorial service to Robbie, of Shrewsbury GC, and our thoughts go out to his family at their difficult time.

The Spring Seminar was well attended at Carden Park. The day ran very smoothly thanks to all involved in the organisation to Carden for the venue and, to all the sponsors and guest speakers. Special thanks to our own presentations from Wendy O'Brien on her Augusta experience and Jeremy Hughes on playing in the Masters in Atlanta and his Bernhards/BIGGA learning experience.

Congratulations to Darren Anderson for attaining

his phase one part of his Master Greenkeepership. And commiserations to Andy Peel, of Bull Bay GC, for losing the darts. We wish him more luck next time.

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

### Cleveland

In last month's news I mentioned that the Section had entered an 8-a-side football competition kindly organised by Jamie Applegarth, of Rigby Taylor. It was held at the magnificent indoor facilities of Middlesbrough Football Club's training ground at Hurworth. It gives me great pleasure to inform Cleveland members that our team won a very competitive final beating a fine Rigby Taylor side by one goal to nil in an extra time thriller. The winner was scored by Marc Kerr, of Middlesbrough Golf Club. Marc was also awarded the 'Man of the Tournament' trophy. The team was captained by Ian Pemberton, our version of Peter Kay, the rotund gentleman, who is regularly featured in the John Smiths adverts. Well done lads! Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and Middlesbrough F.C. Further matches are planned so can members who are interested in playing please



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inform 'Pembo' on 07989508878.

On golf course matters, George Malcolm, of Middlesbrough Golf Club, has just overseen the construction of a new putting green and a new chipping and pitching facility. A new Academy area is also planned. This work has been carried out due to an extension to the clubhouse. George has also signed up with Toro to supply five new ride-on machines.

Congratulations to John Devlin on his move to Head Greenkeeper at Boldon GC from Consett GC.

On the social side, our Spring Tournament will take place at the beautiful Brancepeth Castle Golf Club on Wednesday, April 30. Tee-off time is from 10.00am and places are limited to 26. Please contact Barry Walker on 07968 308892 to reserve a slot.

Congratulations are also due to Martin Woods, Bedlington GC; Tony Cheeseborough, Wearside GC; Mark Brown, Brancepeth Castle GC, and Jamie Applegarth, Rigby Taylor, who won the Section quiz last month. A big 'thank you' to Barry and Ally for an excellent night. Thanks are also due to Darlington Golf Club for the courtesy of the clubhouse.

Please send any news to Terry Charlton on 07831 214879.

Terry "L. Prez" Charlton

## North West

You should all have your list of Section events for the year by now, but if you have not received yours please contact me, and I will send you one poste haste. I would like to thank Rufford Technology for once again sponsoring the fixture list, and continuing to sponsor the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes during 2003.

I am writing these notes on March 3 and by the time you read them we will have had the Mere Seminar over and done with. The reason I mention this is that I am a little anxious because with 15 days to go, I have only had 10 delegates applied for the seminar, even though all 540 Section members received an application form. I am hoping that within the next few days I will be swamped with applications. I will wait and see. Seriously there is a lot of planning that goes into these things for your benefit, so please try to support the events in your Section.

The first golf event of the year is the annual match against the North Wales section at Ringway Golf Club on Thursday, April 10. We will require a team of 12 to retain the G.E.M. Trophy, so if you are available give me a call. The Spring Tournament will be played at Wigan Golf Club on Thursday, May 22. All applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB, including a cheque for £20 made payable to

BIGGA, North West Bills. Tel: 0151 2844416.

Any news please ring me on 01517 245412 or 077615 83387.

Bert Cross



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

## East Midlands

Not a great deal to report this month, other than to remind all members to return your entry form and payment for this year's Spring Tournament before the end of the month. If you have not received a form please let me know. Next year's Spring Tournament will be held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on 15 May 2004.

Unfortunately again we had to cancel one of our training courses due to lack of support. This time it was the grinding course as we could only muster two delegates from over 200 members.

Antony Bindley



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## BB&O

Please accept my apologies for the non-appearance of Section news in March. No items of interest had been forwarded to me so I thought best to bail out quietly and let no news be good news.

Now spring is sprung we can move forward to conquer all the ailments that drive our golfing fraternity to despair and become incredibly popular for another season. It is great to acknowledge we now have a better professional edge as an Association with the agreed minimum qualification passed. This is a great benchmark and shows how well we are progressing in terms of raising our profile as greenkeepers in the business world.

Looking ahead already to next winter may I draw your attention to the fact that BIGGA will subsidise any training you may wish to hold at your golf club for your staff and others. Contact Ken Richardson and he will give you the specifics. It will save you lots of money and ensures the funds BIGGA receives gets to be used in the best possible way. Clubs can join together to benefit from this funding so give this some thought over the summer and talk to your colleagues to see if you can take advantage of this great opportunity.

By now you have had a good chance to absorb the golf fixtures for 2003. We have managed to secure a good range of venues for your delectation so we hope to see members taking advantage of a great social way of meeting other greenkeepers. It is with great pleasure that we get underway with our first competition of the year. This is the Spring Tournament sponsored by Tacit, on May 28 and the venue is Magnolia Park Golf and Country Club. We hope to entice 48 of our members to play so let's be hearing from you. This is a great venue, kicking off with registration at 10.00am for coffee and bacon rolls. The tee times start at 11am with 48 golfers set into teams of three for an 18-hole Stableford. Following the match we sit for a three-course meal and rounding up with a makeshift cameo from the Matrix film. If I told you there is an Aston Martin Vantage up for grabs, courtesy of Tacit you might think I am pulling your leg. Best be there to find out! This course has a soft spike only policy to ensure you get at least three birdies in the match. Dress is respectful as always in the clubhouse. The cost is £25 per person with payment made to 'the BB&O Section'. These should be sent to me at the usual address of Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9RN. If you wish to contact me for any more details please do so on 07778 765021.

Our membership is slightly down on last year with the BB&O sitting at 280 members plus 35 trade members. Please try to encourage other greenkeepers to join as the more people we have, the stronger the Association. All I hope is by the time you read this we are not having to plough up our golf courses to plant root crops as this plays havoc with finer grasses, especially the heavy doses of lime!

David Haskell-Craig



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

## Devon & Cornwall

Our February meeting was held at Mullion Golf Club, Britain's most southerly Golf Course. Despite the freezing conditions and gale force winds a most enjoyable day was had by all 43 members present. The day started with John Palfrey of Avoncrop Amenity Products starting the competition for the Avoncrop Trophy. Twenty one members braved the icy conditions while the rest of us were taken on a course walk by Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Tamblin.

After an excellent lunch our sponsor, John Palfrey, presented the prizes for the Bogey Competition to:

1. Wyndham Potter from Sidmouth (-1);
2. Tony James from Killiow (-2);
3. Peter Rendell from West Cornwall (-4)

The Section would like to thank Avoncrop for their continued support of our Section and Mullion Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The Golf Course was in superb condition and a big thank you to Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Tamblin and his team.

We welcome two new members this month from Exeter Golf Club. We look forward to seeing them at our section meetings in the future.

Congratulations to Gary Foster on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock Golf Club. The Section wishes him every success and I know that he will do an excellent job. Our summer meeting will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17 and details will be sent out in due course. If any members have any information for this column, please contact Steve Evans on 01822 617671.

Steve Evans.

## South Wales

Another month, another lot of Section notes! Our Section seminar will take place at Royal Porthcawl GC on Thursday, April 10. Anybody who has not received details of the day should contact Peter Lacey as soon as possible.

You should also have your fixture cards by now, again Peter's the man to contact if you haven't got yours. Our first comp is on Wednesday, April 30 at Langland Bay GC, tee off from 1.30pm. We will be playing for the Amtec Shield. Congratulations to Richard Hammet, who was recently promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Llanwern GC.

Also back in South Wales, Kerry Richards. A lot of you will know Kerry from Vitax and Rigby Taylor. Kerry is the new area rep for Celtic Mowers, and I'm sure we will all look forward to seeing him when he does his rounds.

Don't forget to contact me if you have any news for next month's edition. You can e mail me at [ada.panks@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ada.panks@tiscali.co.uk) or ring me on 02920 884172.

Adrian Panks

## South Coast

First of all can I apologise for the lack of Section notes last month. I missed the deadline because of my trip to America so I have plenty to report on this month.

It's difficult to know where to start after what has been such a hectic time for me. I flew out to the GCSAA conference and show on the Sunday full of expectations and not quite knowing what to expect. BIGGA and Bernhard & Co had assembled an excellent group of greenkeepers to represent the Association and we all met at Gatwick airport for the 10 hour flight to Atlanta. After some very stringent vetting at immigration we travelled to our hotel where we settled in for the night.

Bright and early the next morning we were picked up and headed to two golf courses for visits. East Lake Golf Club, venue for the USPGA Tour Championship, was our first stop and we had to acclimatise our eyes to the straw coloured dormant Bermuda grass that dominated the golf course. The greens and tees could be easily spotted, as they were the only green parts of the course. After a tour around the course and very impressive maintenance compound we were treated to a tour of the clubhouse, which is a shrine to Bobby Jones who grew up playing golf at East Lake. We could have spent hours reading all the archival newspaper clippings and looking at pictures but time was short and we were whisked off to Atlanta National Golf Club, another very nice golf club nearby. Like East Lake, the course apart from the greens and tees was in dormancy so again a little different to look at. After the course visit we travelled back to our hotel and rested, as Tuesday was to be another early start.

Tuesday was a seminar day and 'Presentation Skills' was the title. There were about 100 delegates at the all day seminar, which focused on effective communication skills. We were made to feel very welcome and the entire group participated well in what was an excellent day.

On the Wednesday we were out and about on a Turf grass field trip, visiting golf courses that are using recycled water for irrigation. Water is a precious commodity in Georgia and to sustain a golf course under intense heat and humidity an adequate supply is essential, so there are a number of courses using the recycled water now.

After returning, it was a dash across town to take in the opening ceremony for the trade show. The next three days were spent exploring the enormous show and attending seminars with our own Eddie Adams giving an excellent presentation on bunker construction on the Old Course. We had a great week in Atlanta making many new friends and I'm sure those friendships will last a very long time. I would personally like to thank Bernard & Co for their sponsorship of the trip and would thoroughly recommend the week to all greenkeepers. Next year's show is in San Diego and if you wish to be part of the delegation then look out for the application form in the magazine later in the year.

After returning back I put the finishing touches to our own Section Seminar. Your committee had put a great deal of time and effort into organising the event and the day ran under the banner 'In pursuit of excellence'. Canford Magna was the new venue and the day was sponsored again by Banks Amenity Products, along with BIGGA. There is no doubt this valuable sponsorship enabled us to provide quality training at a very affordable price. The turnout was



excellent with around 70 delegates, which I think is a great credit to the quality of our speakers. The first three speakers linked together very well in revealing the new challenges that are facing us. Our Section's own Ed McCabe was our first speaker. Ed relayed to us his experiences over the last couple of years as he battles against the weather and how effective communication has helped him through these very difficult times. Effective communication with your membership is an essential part of any manager's job and Ed has had great success in this area for a number of years now. Ed passed on his own recipe for success to us in what was an excellent presentation.

Dr Kate Entwistle followed giving us an excellent insight to what constitutes a disease as well as new diseases that are rearing their heads as weather patterns change. Simon Barnaby then gave us his ideas on how to formulate an IPM plan and what should be included. With legislation constantly changing, formulating and adhering to an IPM plan could be essential in the very near future, so Simon's excellent presentation gave us some valuable pointers. The morning was rounded off by Tom Mackenzie's excellent and entertaining presentation on how the game of golf is being affected by the huge leap in club and ball technology. Tom relayed how strategic architecture can help to redress the balance in the courses favour. Lunch followed and we were treated to a superb buffet.

After the break Stella Rixon relayed some of the excellent trial work that is being carried out at STRI headquarters. We have many new problems facing us in the future and much of the work currently being carried out in Bingley will help us to tackle these problems.

Our final speaker was Ken Richardson from BIGGA who passed on the number of different training routes that greenkeepers can now take. Training and education is so important to us now, as we continue to try and gain the recognition we truly deserve.

I would like to thank all of the speakers for their excellent presentations and helping make the day such a great success. To our sponsors, Banks Amenity Products and BIGGA a huge vote of thanks! Without you this would not have been possible! Many thanks to Canford Magna Golf Club and in particular to Trevor, Andy and Jackie who helped organise the day and ensured it ran smoothly.

Last, but no means least, many thanks to all of the delegates! Thanks for coming and I'm sure you went away with some new ideas and are already looking forward to next year's! For those of you who chose not to come, well you certainly missed an excellent day. Don't miss next year's! We can all make excuses and not bother but at the end of the day you are only missing out yourself. We are already planning next year's seminar so if you would like to hear a particular speaker then please contact me on the number below.

Our next meeting is the Spring Tournament at Ashley Wood Golf Club on May 1st sponsored by Avoncrop and Vitax. I haven't played Ashley Wood for a number of years now and am looking forward to it already. Can you send cheques for £18 please made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section to Chris Sturgess @ 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hampshire SO19 6HB.

Please contact me if you have any news or something you wish to include in next month's Section notes on my new phone number 07966386232

Until next time  
Alex McCombie

## South West

I hope by the time you read this spring has sprung (some hope!). What a great day at Mendip Golf Club. Cracking course prepared by Richard and his crew. Some tight lies out there, results as follows and this was one of the closest competitions we have had for years. Three people finished on 39 points so, 1. L. Bergin, 39 pts; 2. B. Davies, 39 pts (Back 6); 3. S. Kew, 39 pts (Back 9). Nearest the Pin on 17th. P. Hamilton. Nearest the Pin in two on the 18th, B. Davies.

Thanks once again to Nobby for another well organised day. The course was reasonably well attended but we could still do with a few more. Thanks to (Deputy) Richard for the guided tour of his wealth and knowledge, some really interesting projects carried out on very tight budgets that have proved to be very successful. The integration of new and old greens was some of the best I have certainly seen. The only disappointment was that we didn't see the Beast of Mendip, a Puma (no not D. Bougen), whom I am told won the 'Care Of A Golf Course' a prize offered for attending the course walk.

It was noticed that some members skipped the pud in preference for brandies and liqueurs at the bar. They shall remain nameless you know who you are.

I am struggling for news and gossip this month so I won't bore you with anymore tittle-tattle and just finish by saying see you at Thornbury.  
greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk  
Guy Woods



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

## Essex

Well, now April is upon us and the daylight hours are getting longer. Hopefully the spring season will be kind to us, especially for those who have or are about to hollow tine their greens.

By now you probably have heard that our Chairman Carl Croucher is leaving Orsett Golf Club for pastures new and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of members to wish him and his family all the best for the future.

With Carl's departure and other vacant positions still left on the committee, we have had a reshuffle. Steve Crosdale and myself are staying in our elected roles with Arnold Phipps-Jones as acting Chairman, Domic Rodgers as acting Treasurer, and Dave Beale as acting Golf and Handicap Secretary. These proposals will be discussed at our first golf meeting on April 15 at Benton Hall Golf Club. Anyone else who would like to be considered or has any comments please contact me on 01245 603131 or 07964867939.

The fixture list should be with you soon but for those who want to make a note in their diary the following are:-

Spring Tournament, Benton Hall, April 15; Summer Tournament, Bishop Stortford, June 19; Autumn Tournament, Brockton Hall, August 6; Winter Tournament, TBC; AGM and Texas Scramble, Forrester Park, November 27.

Finally, thank you to Carl for his time and hard work he gave to the committee and for keeping me company on our trips to the South East Regional Board Meetings.

Martin Forrester

## Surrey

February was an excellent month because for the first two weeks I was on holiday in the Portuguese Algarve where the sun shone and the temperature reached 25 degrees on most days. My recommendation to all greenkeepers is to work in Spain or Portugal leaving this cold and wet wintry land to golf club members and committees and see how they cope without you.

For those who are staying in England please amend your events programme. The venue on June 17th should read the Drift Golf Club and not Liphook as stated.

Yesterday, Friday March 7th, was the gentleman's dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club, as always the course and the meal and the speakers were all excellent. The weather was not and, unfortunately, only a handful of the field were brave enough to finish. A full report will no doubt be forthcoming from Derek Farrington in the near future.

Congratulation paragraph centres on Mrs. Mo Davidson and the birth of her daughter Libby 7lb 7ozs and also to her husband John who had a little part in the proceedings.

Brian Willmott



I knew if we complained long enough the weather would improve, I did a bit of rough digging the other day, the frost has worked wonders, something we haven't had much of for some years.

It was good to see some of you over at Harrogate. I had one pint on Tuesday night and two pints on Wednesday night in Weatherspoons and had change from a fiver. Mind you I did spend about £40 in other bars. I missed seeing a lot of you. Perhaps next year?

Michael, Damien and Paul (he is one of the best one liners around) from Malone were there, and Paul Lappin drinks Vodka. Isn't that terrible. Alan Strachan had an early night, jet-lag I believe. So we had to show Eamon the sights. The Coburns boys were there; they can't work very hard because they don't need much sleep. Cahill Gates, from Ultra, was there, I wish he would come out of his shell he is so shy. I hope I haven't missed anyone, let me know! No doubt some will go to Wexford and keep up the good work.

I dare say a few of you went to the show in America, two of my colleagues went, their hotel room was on the 63rd floor and he said on a clear day you could see Donegal and when he went to bed, he said he took the bed nearest the door and hung onto the door handle all night - I've done that myself a few times.

Well there hasn't been much to report, however there will be an education day at Portstewart Golf Club on March 25, 11.30am on Links Golf Management, Pests and Diseases. Ruth Mann, from STRI, will be speaking.

The first golf day will be at Kirkston Castle (nice start) on April 24. See you there.

Happy Days.

Graham Prosser