



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

## North

New members to the Section are Michael Anderson and Marc MacGregor, both of Alford GC. Welcome to the Section lads!

The outing at Forfar GC in May went well with the course in first class condition and a credit to the Greenkeeper and his staff. The winners were as follows: Scratch 1. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC; 2. Gary Tuach, Letham Grange GC. Class 1. 1. K. Fowler, Fortrose GC; 2. S. Robertson, Craigie Hill GC; 3. Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Class 2. 1. P. Wood, Newmachar GC; 2. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 3. D. Robertson, Newmachar GC. Class 3. 1. K. Anderson, Newmachar GC; 2. J. Kicuik, Letham GC 3. D. Dougan, Fortrose GC. Committee Trophy. S. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Trade. P. Allan (RT Bruce Prodigy) Guest. T. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; Veteran 1. R. Donald, Old Meldrum GC; 2. A. Williamson, Craigie Hill G.C. Apprentice A. Nixon, Fortrose GC. Nearest the Pin S. Millar, Vitax. Longest Drive - Class 1. 1. G. Tuach, Letham Grange GC. Class 2. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC. Class 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose GC.

Once again thanks to all the staff and committee at Forfar GC. The AGM this year will take the form of an outing and will be at Peterhead GC on October 16. Hope to see you there.

On the sporting side of the Section, congratulations to Steven MacIntosh, Course Manager at Torvean GC, who, playing off +2, broke the course record at Castle Heather GC, Inverness, in the North District Championship. The following week he equalled the course record of 60 at Strathpeffer GC. Needless to say he won both tournaments. Also to Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC; James Hutchison, Boat of Garten GC, and young Michael Clark, Kingussie GC for their part in the successful season of Kingussie Shinty Club. At the time of writing they have only the Camanachd Cup Final to play and have won all the other trophies possible. The Club's achievements have now attained them a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Any other sporting successes please let me know on 01997 420 156. All Craigie Hill, Fortrose and Newmachar members of the Section have now had Rule 19 applied to them and should not win any more prize money.

Finally, Good Luck to Neil Metcalf and his staff for the Open Championship this year at Royal St. Georges. Neil is formerly a member of our section and hails from Cruden Bay, where he served his apprenticeship. The current course manager at Cruden Bay GC. wishes Kingussie all the best for their final and wished this to be put in this report. Ever the sportsman, Hamish.

Hopefully the season will go well for everyone.  
Iain Gunn



## NORTHERN REGION

### Sheffield

Firstly I would like to thank Steve Patrick, of Blackburn Rovers, and Keith Kent, of Twickenham, for sparing their time to come and visit us at Rotherham Golf Club and entertaining us for our February lecture. Also to Mike Brear, of Rigby Taylor, for fixing up the event.

I would also like to thank Mr Bob Taylor, of the STRI, for such an informative lecture about wildlife upon golf courses and how we as greenkeepers can help with the preservation of nature.

I would also like to thank Rotherham Golf Club for their support, giving us a venue for all our section meetings and lectures.

And not forgetting our sponsors at our golf days ie Gem Professional, Mansfield Sand, Ransomes Jacobsen and Rigby Taylor.

Now after all the formalities and thanks are over, and that now that spring has finally come, it is now time for a new season of golf competitions. Our first competition was held at Lindrick Golf Club on April 30 and I think that I can speak for everyone who attended, that Lindrick Golf Club was in excellent condition and our thanks go out to Lindrick for their generosity for allowing us courtesy of the course, and to Kevin Hazelhurst and his team for presenting such an excellent course. Well done lads! The results are as follows: 1. C. Hopper, 38pts; D. Chappell, 35pts; 3. S. Wells, 32pts; 4. J. Lax, 32pts; 5. G. Wells, 31pts; 6. S. Pickering, 31pts. Best Guest. M. Self, 36pts.

Because our first tournament was a qualifier for the regional golf tournament, the qualifiers are as follows:

Handicap 1-9. D. Chappell, G. Wells, M. Holden. Reserve. M. Knowles

Handicap 10-18. C. Hopper, S. Pickering, I. Whitehead. Reserve. R. Tyson.

Handicap 19-28. S. Wells, J. Lax, A. Linley. Reserve G. Brammah.

Details for the competition will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Lastly I would like to thank James and Graham of TT Pro Turf for sponsoring the event and for donating the excellent prizes for our prize table.

Our next competition will be held at Chesterfield Golf Club on July 23.

See you soon.

Chris Astle



### North Wales

Welcome to July, Open fever month in the greenkeeping calendar, I wonder just how many of our Section will be lending their services for the BIGGA Support Team at Royal St Georges in Kent. I think you would be well advised to get your names on the list now for 'Royal Liverpool' in 2006 a great chance to get in among the action of the world's greatest golfers.

Unless your interests lie elsewhere that is, just like Gareth Williams of Porthmadog GC. His main hobby is Gun Dogs and he travels all over the country attending trials with his dogs, just recently he has been selected by the Welsh team and has two dogs chosen out of the five strong team to represent Wales in the finals in Otley, Yorkshire. We wish him all the best of good luck on the day.

Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, is looking forward to having the BIGGA Christmas Tournament at his course this December he says the new USGA spec greens are looking great and he has had lots of good comments from members and guests he will be pleased to hear the thoughts of his fellow greenkeepers on the progress of the greens which will be just about nine months old by December.

Tracey, from the Vale of Llangollen, has decided that nappy changing is better than hole changing and has decided to become a full time Mum; this is a loss to our industry as we have very few women involved in course maintenance as it is.

The results from Mile End GC spring competition were as follows, Best Trade went to Terry Adamson, with 30 pts. Best Member was Jez Hughes, with 34 pts, on a card play off with Allen Lewis, of Llanynymech GC, also with 34 pts, Best Guest with 36 pts was the host from Mile End GC Richard Thompson, We would like to thank Mile End for their hospitality and the catering for the 'Roast dinner'. The day was a huge success with just over 40 people playing, many of them very pleasantly surprised at the quality of Mile End GC which was also reflected in the scores! A relatively new course just over 10 years old, I think the Head Greenkeeper, Ian Beckett, had the greens down to about three mm as a lot of us had the same lengths of putts back to the hole as we did going to the hole, We were made very welcome and, on behalf of the committee and the members, I would like to thank them once again.

Well let's sit back now and enjoy the forthcoming BBC coverage of The Open championship. Who will you be betting for the winner? Els, Woods, Davis Love III, or will you stay loyal to the Welsh and back Phillip Price or Ian Woosnam?

See you next month, any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394

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Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn



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## Northern

Not a lot to tell you guys about this month. Everyone must be too busy with their courses to get in touch. Writing these notes, we are a week away from the Presidents Day Tournament at Pike Hills. I will report next month on the goings on from the day. I must apologise for the mistake in reporting the wrong sponsor for this day last month. Scotts are the sponsors for the tournament. Sorry to everyone for the cock up.

I am pleased to report that your Chairman, Mr Jim "Kirk" Brown, and one of his greens staff, Joe Walsh, from Cookridge Hall, are now back on terra firma. They both took part in a sponsored parachute jump with free fall from 15000 feet. It was in aid of the Sheffield Children's Hospital and they raised over £600. After the jump it was reported that Joe said it was better than sex! Well done to you both.

Don't forget to get in touch if you want to be considered for the Roses match at Cleckheaton in August.

Last but not least welcome to Alex Noble, from Pike Hills GC; Robert Clare, from Skipton GC; John Firth from Outlane GC, and Adam Newton, from Fulford GC, who have all joined the Northern Section since my last notes.

That's about all for now, please keep in touch and help me fill up the space for your notes! 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ.

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Dave Thackray



## North West



Sitting down to write these Section notes on 2 June, I thought, at last something to write about, meaning the Spring Tournament. How wrong I was. The Tournament was to be played on Thursday, May 22 while I was away in Portugal, where the weather was very hot (35°C) but on return I was informed that the weather had been non-stop rain, and the venue, Wigan Golf Club, had been closed due to flooding. So no report on the golf, other than to say that the match will be arranged possibly in September. I understand everybody turned up and at least enjoyed a nice lunch. I must say that in all of my 30 years with the North West Section I cannot remember having to cancel a tournament due to bad weather, so we have been very lucky in the past.

Two Head Greenkeepers jobs were advertised in the Section, Deanwood Golf Club, and Grange Park Golf Club. I can report that Owen Mullen was appointed at Grange Park. Owen had completed a four year course at Myerscough College and worked at the college for a further year before his appointment. I rang Deanwood Golf Club and was informed that although an appointment had been made, they were waiting to see if the person accepted the post. Hopefully I will have more information next month.

Once again a reminder that there are regional courses available at low costs eg. £30 for a one day course and £60 for a two day course. There are many different courses available, but if you feel there is a course that would be of interest to you or your staff let Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ know and I am sure arrangements can be made.

The next golf will be the "Roses match" as soon as I have the details I will let you know. In the meantime any of you going to The Open, I will see you at Royal St. George's in July.

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

Bert Cross



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

## BB&O

Our first golf meeting for this Section was a resounding success. The blue skies held for the day giving us a taste of Club Mediterranean golfing weather. The venue at Magnolia Park Golf Club was in excellent condition considering the grass was growing at whippet speed. All this was under control by Philip and his team so well done lads for a great show. The Tacit team decided to try out the buggy fitted with a satellite device that read your distance to the middle of the putting green. Initially looked upon with scepticism we were all finding this very helpful as the game evolved and considered this device a winner. I would like to thank Pam Boardman and her team at Magnolia Park Golf Club for the great hospitality. The organisation on the day was helpful with a great end to the day due to great food in our own private area. Also many thanks to Tacit who sponsored the day and put out great prizes appropriate for summer weather barbies. The results for this event went as follows: 1. Nathan Bond, Carl Small, Ian Robbins, 86 pts; 2. Ross Wilson, John Bowness, Colin Hutt, 75 pts. Nearest the Pin, John Bevan. Longest Drive, Ross Wilson.



Besides the team event we also had several members playing a card to enter the National Championship later this year in October. The Section sponsors the cost of entry for two people. The best Gross was Ross Wilson, with 78, and the best Nett was David Hood, with 71. We wish you guys all the best when the competition comes around.

John Bevan approached the Section for sponsorship to enter a golf day to raise money in aid of the Macmillan Nurses and the RNLI. The Section has paid £25 towards such a worthy cause. We look forward to a report on your progress on the day, John, and hope your team from Wexham Park Golf Club do themselves proud.

Lastly a personal thanks to Peter Larter who played early and vetted the results as they came in for delivery at the prize giving.

We have some results from round one of the Rigby Taylor knockout. Colin Hutt managed to see off Dean Thatcher and Wayne Nott by 2&1. His partner Ross Wilson declared himself unfit to play on the first tee due to illness! Roy Kates and Chas Taylor thrashed Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin 6&5 thanks to some fantastic putting and local knowledge!

I would like to remind you of our third golf event for 2003. This is the Autumn Invitational Tournament at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club. The format is an 18-hole fourball betterball and each member entering must have a partner who is the Secretary, Club Manager or Green Chairman from their own club. This day is sponsored by Headland who will be in attendance to ensure you have a great day. The cost includes a bacon roll/coffee to start and a buffet style evening meal in a private room. Breakfast kicks off at 9.30am, served in a private suite with the 1st team off at 11am. Please come well before 11.00am so the teams for the day can be organised. Everyone benefits from a relaxed start to proceedings and ensures the starter has the teams to work with. Please contact me for entry into this competition at Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks RG18 9RN or phone me on 07778 765021. The cost is £25 per person, representing superb value for money. Please make cheques payable to BB&O Section.

David Haskell-Craig

## Midland



With the end of the famous "Benson and Hedges Snooker Championship", the Midland Section decided to make a bid to replace such with their own tournament "The Nigel Tyler, of Alpha Amenity, Snooker Evening". Such was held at that infamous venue, "The Perfection Snooker Club", at Stirchley, in Birmingham on May 29. Not only did Alpha Amenity stand the players an extensive buffet, they were also gracious enough to afford the Lights, and prizes to-boot. One can't say fairer than that.

On the evening there were 17 players of which was eventually, after some fiercely contested battles, whittled down to two for the final: Robert and John Tomlin. John was the victor out of the two brothers. Well played John. Thanks to all for attending, you made the evening most enjoyable and a great success gentlemen, it was nice to meet so many new faces. Further thanks also to our hosts "Perfection" for their welcoming and very kind hospitality. Once again thank you to Nigel Tyler and Alpha Amenity for their continued support of the BIGGA Midland Section.

As you may have already guessed, I am very keen to promote non-golfing social events so as to reach a greater number of the Midland Section's members. To this end, and due to the fact that I did not foresee the impracticability of running both darts and snooker event together, I am in the middle of organising a darts evening. Those who fancy a bit of Bully please call or text me on: 07816 410 552. Any company interested in sponsoring the darts evening, or indeed a future social event, please have no hesitation in calling me.

I hope to have set a date for the fishing by the time you read this, shall report such next month. Please remember that one does not need to be the modern day equivalent of Richard Walker or Hugh Falkus to take part. All that is required is the wish to enjoy a relaxing day with a bunch of great characters, in a beautiful place, with free grub and light beverage, and prizes as well. The afore being thanks to Allen Southam, of Hanson Aggregates. You must be interested, so call me on the usual, or Allen on: 07976 853 777.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the return of Mark Chatterley to our Section. It's a pity that you missed the snooker evening. Hopeful that you can make the fishing Mark.

I have to report the unfortunate passing away in June of Allan McDougall. Allan was Course Manager at Sandwell Golf Club before moving briefly to Ireland then settling at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. Allan was a much respected Course Manager and well liked in the Midland Section. Our thoughts go to his family and friends.

For many years I've been honoured to have known Brian Beet, the father of Craig. Brian was one of the most genuinely welcoming fellows to which I have had the pleasure to have afforded grace. Brian passed away in June. Our thoughts are with you and your fine family at this most difficult time Craig.

To date there has been no submissions for the "Thought of the Month". Therefore anyone who wishes to send in an anecdote, is more than likely to win the tenner cash prize. Perhaps considering the immense financial outlay of stamp and stationery, a return of 250% is too great a risk!. Hope you are enjoying this very busy, yet most gratifying time of year. Until next month, cheers.

Sean McDade

## East Midland

This year's Spring tournament was held on May 15 at Ashbourne GC. which was a new venue for our Section. The day was set dry and fine, in fact, the only dry day of the week. The course was surrounded by some marvelous views of the Peak District, which added to the enjoyment of the day.

A total of 33 competitors took part in the event with several good scores being posted in the perfect conditions, with the eventual winners as follows.

Best Nett: Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe 81-13-68 on countback Best Gross: Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 78. Cat 1.1. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-7-73; 2. Dave Leatherland, Kedleston, 83-9-72; 3. Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 83-8-74. Cat 2. 1. Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, 80-12-68; 2. Jamie Bedford, Birstall 85-16-69; 3. Harold Seed, Ashbourne, 87-15-72. Cat 3 1. Mike Billings, Chevin, 90-22-68; 2. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 91-21-70; 3. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 97-21-76. Trade & Associate. 1. Kevin Kinzer. E.T. Breakwells, 87-19-68; 2. Tony Cheese, Rigby Taylor, 75-0-75. Nearest the Pin. Gavin Robson, Lingdale. Longest drive. Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley.

The day was once again generously sponsored by E.T. Breakwells who provided all the fantastic prizes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ashbourne GC for courtesy of their fine course; the steward and stewardess for a great meal, and a special thank you to Scott Purdy and his staff for presenting a great golf course. Next year's Spring Tournament will also be held on May 15 at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club.

This year's East Midlands v East Of England golf match will take place at Beedles Lake Golf Club on Wednesday, August 13 at 3.45pm. The Autumn Tournament is to



be held at Overstone Park on September 5, 1pm. If you wish to play in either of the competitions please get in touch and I will gladly post you a form.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Pete Billings and his wife all the best for the future after their recent wedding. I hear they had a lovely honeymoon in Barbados.

Antony Bindley

### SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

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## Devon and Cornwall



Not a lot of news to report this month so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors over the last 12 months. They are: D. O. Hunt, Roffeys; A. Domett, Devon Garden Machinery; P.J. Flegg; D. Singleton, Barenbrug; J. Palfrey, Avoncrop; J. Mullins, Supaturf; P. Clifton, Bayer Environmental Science; C. Richards, Rigby Taylor; A. Masters, Vitax; R. Davey, Irritech Irrigation

The Regional Play-Offs for the John Deere World Team Championship were held at Royal North Devon Golf Club. The winners were Yelverton Golf Club with a score of 14 under par. Yelverton now go forward to the Belfry on July 25 to compete in the National Final. A big thank you to John Deere and Rochford Garden Machinery for sponsoring the event and to the Head Greenkeeper, Mark Evans and his team, for presenting the course in superb condition.

Congratulations to Antony Newland who will be leaving Yelverton to take up the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock Golf Club on July 1. The Section wishes him every success.

You can contact me on: 01822 617671.

Steve Evans

## South Wales

I've taken a break from cutting the fairways to write these notes, and at the rate the grass is growing at the moment if I'm not quick enough the grass will be up to the top of the wheels again and we'll be out with the flymos and trimmers. Seriously though it's good to see some grass at last, it gives us parkland boys something to do!

Kerry Jones, Course Manager at Garnet Park GC, has obviously been busy, he's just become a dad, a baby boy of 8lb and his wife Alison and baby are both fine.

Somebody else who is about to become very busy is Lance Evans. Lance has just been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl GC. Congratulations. Probably the busiest man in Wales recently has been Celtic Manor's Course Manager, Jim McKenzie, who, with his team, had the course for this year's Wales Open in absolute pristine condition, I was lucky enough to spend the day watching some of the golf, and the view from the 2nd green looking down on the rest of the course was awesome.

Two new members to the Section are Langland Bay GC's new Head man Jim Jenkins, and Neath GC new Head, Ed McCabe. On behalf of the Section I would like to welcome you to South Wales and we hope to see you at some of our future fixtures. We played our annual match against the secretaries last month at Brynhill GC and it turned into quite an event, I thought we won, but due to the secretaries' knowledge of the finer points of the games rules, we only managed a half. Never mind Angus and Jinx. I think the results on the day went something like: Emyr and Phil halved; Dave and Mike won; Peter and Ian halved; Adrian and Russell won, Angus and Julian ??, and John and Phil lost. Thanks to everybody who represented the Greenkeepers, to Ian Grant and his staff for the hard work put into presenting the course, and to Brynhill GC for allowing us the use of the course.

I have been reliably informed that David Gladwin, greenkeeper at Camarthen GC, will be playing in this year's Welsh Seniors Championship. We wish Dave all the very best. Best of luck to his caddie (Vicky T) for the couple of days. She'll need it.

Adrian Panks

## South Coast

July already and the world of golf turns its attention towards the Open championship and Royal St Georges. We wish all the greenkeeping team well in what I'm sure will be a highly successful week for them and another great Open. We have four representatives from the Section who have been selected for the BIGGA Support Team and I'm sure they will enjoy a memorable week as they walk the famous links inside the ropes. It's been a very quiet time in the Section at the moment and there is no news to pass on. Next month will be busier with reports from our annual match against the Wessex Secretaries and the summer tournament. Don't forget to contact me if you have any news which you would like include in the around the green section. My contact details are Tel: 01202 661106 mobile 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next time,

Alex McCombie



### SOUTH EAST Derek Farrington

Tel: 01903 260 956

## Kent

Firstly, with recent changes in the Section, Phil Belton from John Shaw Machinery, has taken up the role of Kent Section Press Editor for 'Around the Green'.

As many of you will know, the Section held its first golf day at Canterbury Golf Club. I am sure that every-one who participated would agree that the course was in excellent condition. Thank you to Canterbury Golf Club for agreeing to hold a golf day, especially Jason Moody, Course Manager and his team for providing a great golf course, the caterers complemented the course by providing excellent food. The results: 1. Stuart Butler, Northforeland GC, 36 pts; 2. Gary Branchett, Tenterden GC, 35 pts; 3. James Bent, Brokehill GC, 34 pts. The trade prize went to Brian Willmot, from Tacit, 34 pts. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was Paul Larson, of Sene Valley GC. Thank you to all the companies who sponsored the day.

There have been a few people move in the last month or so. Phil Belton has joined John Shaw Machinery, having worked as a greenkeeper for many years. He will take up a new position of Sales Representative.

Jason Rook has joined Canterbury Golf Club to take up an Assistant's position. Birchwood Golf Club has two new additions to the team, Rob Dennis and Neal Rust, both are new to the profession and we hope that they have long and rewarding careers. Danny Williams has left Ashford Golf Club to join Chestfield Golf Club. Danny is hard working and loyal, he will be missed at Ashford GC.

Congratulations to Rob Holland, Course Manager at Birchwood GC, and his wife who are expecting their third child in August. All the best from the Section.

Finally, the next golf day will be on August 21. This will be the guest day and will be held at Lydd Golf Club.

Phil Belton



## East Anglia

What a busy May - two golf days to report on and a birth. Firstly the Bartrams Golf Day at Purdis Heath Golf Club on Friday the 23rd, Norman and his team provided an impressive course for the match under Neil Ellice, the Club Secretary's, watchful eye and the hospitality was just as good. Toni Nelli ran around organising the event and made everything go like clockwork. Twelve teams of three teed off with the usual banter of, "How much did you say your handicap was?" Or "Driving like that your never playing off a 16!"

The weather gave us a few problems (the odd shower or two) but an enjoyable day was had by all, my partner Miss Charlie Langlands played very well despite being followed by a male pheasant on the 9th and 10th holes. A big thank you to Bartram Mowers and Ransomes Jacobsen for the day, On to the results: The Team Winners. S. Thompson, I. Mitchell, M. Clement. The individual winner. M. Clement,

37pts. Nearest the Pin. P. King. Longest Drive (As usual) J. Wright.

On to the birth, Patrick and Debbie Buggs gained a son, weighing in at 2 pounds 3 oz's. Thomas George was born 11 weeks premature and by all reports is doing very well so far. I pass on the Section and Association's congratulations and hope everything goes well for them.

On May 28 I was invited to Weston Park Golf Club to attend the John Deere Team Championship. A total of 28 teams attended, which was one of the highest attendance of the whole championship, while the weather was perfect, lots of sunshine and a light breeze. I had not played Weston Park before and was very impressed with the course and the way Kevin Hodges and his greenkeeping team had worked hard to bring it to its present high standard. Thanks to Stuart Edge, from Ben Burgess, and his team for all the hard work that went into the day. As you can imagine the golf was at its highest standard with several teams returning scores of 60 or lower and it is nice to see Course Managers, Professionals and committee members playing together enjoying each others company. The hospitality of the golf club was again very impressive and was maintained to the same high standard as the golf course.

On to the results: The team winners: 1. The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, 58 Nett; 2. Thetford Golf Club, 58 nett; 3. Durham Golf Club, 58 nett. Longest Drive – Gary Stangoe, Nearest the pin 2nd – Frank Russell. Nearest the pin 16th – Steve Curtis. Best Professional – Andrew Collinson with a 73.

Royal West Norfolk went through to the next round after a chip off to the 2nd green.

Thanks go to other sponsors that helped with the event Collier Turf Care, Club Car, John Deere and Auto Flow. Derek Farrington the South East Regional Administrator had made a flying visit for the day and helped out with the checking of the cards. I would like to thank Stuart for the invite; my team enjoyed the day very much.

Ian Willett



## Surrey

Goodbye cold damp greens, hello Summer, hello grass. Goodbye to the winter 19th hole chat, he's got irrigation, he's got fertiliser, so why doesn't he use them to make it grow?. Yes the grass is growing now, (hello to the summer 19th Hole chat) the greens are the best but they have been for years and everything on the golf course is rosy except that (19th Chat) where do greenkeepers go after 10am? And I haven't seen one in months.

And one retired greenkeeper/mechanic that we have not seen for a long time is Ted Styles. Ted come out of hiding as you are now an honorary member of the Surrey Section and we look forward to seeing you at the next golf day. At the time of writing this - June 2 - that golf day will be at your old haunt The Drift Golf Club.

The Surrey Section Committee had a meeting on the May 27 and it was decided that in future only members who have played in two previous golf events and that have had an official Surrey Section handicap would qualify to enter the Bioseed Bowl Knockout Competition.

Education and Training were also discussed and a Knapsack Spraying course is soon to be held. Please contact Daniel Lightfoot at Gattos Manor Golf Club for details. Also plan for September/October is a Chainsaw course and Daniel is again the man to contact (0770 2406761).

A new annual competition will take place between Surrey and Sussex Sections on August the 12th at Copthorne Golf Club. Please contact Ian Sellars for details of that, the England/Scotland Match and the annual match against the member of Wimbledon Common/London Scottish Golf Club. While speaking to Ian you might like to congratulate him on becoming engaged to Stephanie but I'm sure when you see him at the next golf day he is bound to want to buy you a drink in celebration. At least I hope that's what he implied. John Davidson has resigned from the committee as Treasurer as he has now taken up his new career running a gym. Many thanks to John for all his hard work over the past years and our best wishes for the future. Tony Bremmer will take over the treasurers job until the AGM.

The Spring Tournament and qualifier for the National Tournament took place at the Old Thorns Golf Club in May and the results were: Best Gross. Shaun Whipp. Best Nett 1. Derek Cunliffe, 68; Anthony Freeman, 72; Kevin Boxhall, 74. Nearest The Pin.

Steve Holmes and Longest Drive. Nigel Colley. Many thanks to Derek and his team for a great day, even the weather was perfect and the course was excellent. Derek when the lakes are drained my balls have 4 blue dots on them and Tony Bremmer has his name, address and telephone number on his.

Sadly this last paragraph reports the tragic news that Allan McDougall, Course Manager at the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club died suddenly brain haemorrhage. We send our condolences to his family and he will be missed by all who knew him. Alan was only 44 and always greeted me with friendship whenever we met.

Brian Willmott

## NORTHERN IRELAND

G'Day Sports. Have you ever taken note of old sayings, the one that recently comes to mind is "More haste, less speed". How many times have you spent more time looking for a tool than the job you want it for takes to do, put it back where it came from boys and make yourself and everyone else happy. The other two things that aggravate me are "Where are my bloody glasses?" and people who don't tear toilet paper off at the perforations, so always think of other people and how you can make their life a little less stressful. What comes around, turns around.

Frank tells me they have his three legged chickens on the Hilton menu now, he says he had them every day for his dinner last week, the only drawback is on Saturday morning he woke and found himself perched on the end of the bed. Graham Wylie was back in town. Says he's the best. He's got himself a girlfriend, and says she is coffee coloured. He said she is better looking than Whitney Houston. There must be something! wrong with her!

Some of you may know and remember Alan McDougall, formerly of Roe Park Golf Club, Limavady, he regrettably passed away recently, our condolences to his family, some of them are involved in greenkeeping themselves.

An excellent golf day was held at Lurgan Golf Club. Our thanks go to Kyle Irwin, his staff and the very generous hospitality of Lurgan Golf Club.

Results: 1. Paul Lappin, Kirkistown, 41 pts; 2. Eamon Crawford, R.C.D, 38 pts; 3. Micky O'Neill, Fortwilliam, 35 pts; 4. Noel Crawford, R.C.D, 34 pts; 5. Justin Waddell, Fortwilliam, 33 pts; 6. Gary Murphy, Silverwood, 33 pts.

Visitor Mark Vaughan.

The very generous sponsor for the day was Pete Glass, of Orchard Amenity. Many thanks to him and we hope he had a good day.

Next event – Hilton at Templepatrick – July 3 at 12 noon.

Remember Terry Crawford Charity Day – August 1.

Graham Prosser



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