



SCOTTISH REGION  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

## North

As I write this report the winter is hitting with a vengeance, and there have been several falls of heavy snow which have closed many a course. It can give the course a well needed rest, but hopefully not for too long.

There are 6 new members to report this month. Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC; Michael Anderson, Elgin GC; Chris Black, Royal Aberdeen GC; Stuart McKenzie, Royal Aberdeen GC; Murray Peat, Royal Dornoch GC; Robert Coutts, Kemnay GC.

Harrogate went well again this year with a good representation from the North Section. The show was bigger this year with the ClubHouse exhibition added on, so anyone working for the golf club would be catered for. The show itself takes at least a full day if not more to go round, but is well worth the effort. The workshops and education conference, and seminars make the whole week busy and pass very quickly. The nightlife as usual is very active, and making contact with people from other clubs makes the whole week seem even more worth while. No scandal apart from a couple of wanderers going to Bolton, of all places, for a night out, for a spot of integrating.

The Scottish conference at Dunfermline will possibly have come and gone by the time this magazine comes out, I will report on it next month.

200 club tickets have been sent out and hopefully we will get a full sell. If you do not think that you will keep your tickets send them back to Andy Wilson at Brechin GC, so as he can resell them.

Finally, a date of May 3 has been provisionally set for the match that was discussed last year between the North and the East parts of the Section. It will take place at Royal Strathpeffer GC and there be will good accommodation available in the village, or in Dingwall for anyone wishing to stay over. Please contact myself on: 01997 420155, or Rab Hardie on: 01224 783201. The East side are already asking for strokes, so they are running scared already. But I have to say no mercy will be shown.

Iain Gunn

## Ayrshire

Time to dust off your clubs and start lubricating that rusty swing to prepare for the Spring Outing. Portpatrick & Dunskey will play host on Thursday, April 17. Remember the event also doubles as the first leg of the Harry Diamond Memorial Jug. Let's hope we attract as good a

turnout as the last outing in October.

Tuesday, June 17 is the date set for this year's Scottish Greenkeepers' National Championship. The Kintyre Course at Turnberry will, I'm sure, prove a popular venue with all the competitors and I know the Kintyre team are looking forward to presenting a well groomed and challenging layout.

Harrogate week surpassed itself yet again and I expect all attending would have found something to take away from the event.

Happenings during the week included Marshall Sloss finally succumbing to the inevitable and agreeing to become Martin Lothian's Vice-Chairman. Apparently negotiations were not pretty and alcohol played its part.

The AGM held on Wednesday night saw the approval of the 'New Members Proposal' whereby new members will need to achieve Level 2 or equivalent to receive full benefits of the Association. However, this shouldn't effect our Section, for the obvious reasons.

Last on the agenda was the induction of George Brown as National Chairman best wishes from the Ayrshire Section and enjoy your year, George.

Dennis Tweddell

## Central

Sadly we begin this month's report with the sad news that retired member David Sword, formerly Head Greenkeeper at Bishopshire Golf Club, Kinross, has passed away. David died in hospital after a very long illness. Our sincere condolences go to Mrs. Sword and her family.

Two new members joining us this month are Neil Henderson and Euan Ferguson, both from St. Andrews Links Trust. As usual we extend a warm welcome to them from everyone in the Section, the first event of the season, the Spring Tournament, is being held just along the road from them, so perhaps we will get an early opportunity to meet them there.

The dates for this year's golf tournaments are Tuesday, April 29 at St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, with the Autumn Tournament being held at Alloa Golf Club on Thursday, September 25. Entry forms will be with you shortly, so please return them ASAP!

As usual the BTME at Harrogate proved to be another great success and it was great to see so many current and former members of the section in attendance, former members, David Murdoch, Ian Ross, Ross Wilson, Alan Ferguson and Ian Ritchie send their regards to all their friends in the Section.

Trophies! Will all holders of Section trophies please arrange to have them returned to me before the Spring Tournament in order that I can have them valued and the engraving brought up to date. If need be I can call at your home to

collect them.

I thought I would just give a reminder to all those teams participating in the Inter Club Tournament that all outstanding ties must be played before the Autumn Tournament at Alloa Golf Club in September, you may think that this is a bit early, but I have only had the results from two ties which were played last year returned to me!

Do any members want the Five-a-Side Football Tournament organised this year? If you do, please get in touch with me or any other committee member.

John Crawford

## West

Hello and welcome to this month's newsletter. Firstly, can I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year and wish you all a prosperous and successful forthcoming season.

Secondly as you know on October 24, 2002 the West Section AGM again was held at Nairn Brown Limited. On that day new appointments were made within the committee and read as follows:- Chairman, Brian Bolland, East Kilbride Golf Club; Vice Chairman, Fraser Ross - Renfrew Golf Club; Secretary, Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie Golf Club (past Chairman); Committee, Education, John Robertson, Hilton Park Golf Club; Football Organiser, Gerry Bruen, Williamwood Golf Club; Derek Duthie, Aitkens Sportsturf; Kenny Hunter, SGM; Magazine reporter, Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes Golf Club.

Can I introduce myself as one of the newly appointed committee members. I'm Douglas McIntosh, of Cathkin Braes Golf Club. Brian Bolland (Chairman) has kindly delegated this honorable position as magazine reporter to me. Those of you who already know who I am are asking yourself 'a reporter' my a\*\*\*! Hardly a greenkeeper! Maybe, but I'm quietly confident of reporting our monthly news as professionally and informative as our previous reporters!

I would like to begin by expressing our thanks on behalf of the committee and members to Cecil George for his time and effort spent over the years to promote and highlight the importance of education within this industry, once again thank you and wish him well in his retirement. Thank you also to our past Secretary Sandy Bulloch, who has decided to retire from the position of Secretary, leaving it to younger blood to take control of financial matters. Thanks Sandy for all your efforts and wish him well in the forthcoming and future seasons.

January, been and gone, BTME Exhibition, Harrogate, how quickly it comes around, sooner the better they say! Informative, very educational, gossip, socially overdosing, what more ingredients for an exceptional show. Colin Fulton from Celtic Manor, whose company I had

the pleasure of on most nights, says a big hello to Drew McKechnie and crew at Douglas Park Golf Club. I don't normally do requests but hey! That secures my round at Celtic Manor, ok Colin? Great nights and patter exchanged, I never knew greenkeepers were secret disco movers! Maybe that was the drink? If members could see them now eh!

A big thank you to Peter Boyd for his organisation and running of this trip and thoroughly looking forward to next year, and Mr Sandy Brawley, get your own style of fashion, don't steal mine! I hear the Biaria's are doing an excellent line in shirts, Joke!

On Monday 27/1/03 a football match was organised by our very own football manager Gerry Bruen. Venue – Glasgow Green Football Complex and from there a team was selected, 14 players from seven different clubs attended and are as follows: Barry McCulloch and Steve Dunn, both of Mearns Castle Golf Club; Brian Bolland, East Kilbride Golf Club; Eddie Wood, Colin Scott and Adrian Steren, all from Glasgow Golf Club; Gary Burns and Darrel, both from Lenzie Golf Club. Gareth Thompson and Scott Frame both from Dumpellier Golf Club; Chris Kerr, Cowglen Golf Club; Steven Brown and Willy Lewis, both from Williamwood Golf Club.

Weather conditions on the night were relatively poor with strong winds which did not hamper much of the game but did not hamper spirits among the team. Greenkeepers started off well but conceded a goal against the run of play. Shortly after Scott, from Drumpy, equalised with a quality strike. Halftime score 2-1 to Shawlands B. Greenkeepers came out fighting after the inspirational half-time talk from manager Gerry, Scott equalised again with a fine strike. The last 15 minutes fitness began to take its toll especially with some of the senior players, not mentioning any names (Brian Bolland & Gary Burns). Greenkeepers were stretched at this point and conceded two late goals. Final score – 4-2 to Showlands B

Gerry would like to thank all players for attending and contributing to what was a very successful night. Anyone wishing to play in future matches contact Gerry on 07813 331532.

Finally important events for the forthcoming year. March 4, Scottish educational conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline. Peter Boyd has done exceptionally well in organising this event in previous years and this year will be no exception. Organised speakers are of exceptional standard and I'm sure everyone who attends will take something of interest when returning to their own course, well worth the visit!

The Spring outing this year will be held at Hilton Park Golf Club on May 1. A big thank you

to Hilton Park Golf Club, committee and members for the courtesy of the course and I'm sure John and crew will have it in fine condition regardless of weather conditions (no pressure John!)

Last, but not least, Autumn Outing is to be held at, wait for it, yes my own course, Cathkin Braes Golf Club, date TBA, Yes I hear you say, can't wait for that day, I know, great course. Those of you that have had the pleasure of playing there know to bring a couple of dozen balls and that's just to get past the first 3 holes. Seriously, the committee and members of Cathkin Braes hope you will enjoy your day and hopefully play in some sunshine.

If you have any information you would like to report in the magazine and I mean anything, please contact me on Tel/Fax: 01416 445783 or mobile: 07774 420427. Look forward to hearing from you.

Douglas McIntosh

## NORTHERN REGION

### North East

On January 9 we had a talk with Richard Minton of Complete Weed Control at Tyneside Golf Club. This was the first one for a while and although there were only about 12 people there I'm sure the talk went well.

Richard chatted on various topics including legislation, products available and those likely to remain etc and I would like to thank the people who turned up for their support.

Thanks go to Tyneside again for the use of their premises and we look forward to perhaps holding another one this spring.

Again, on behalf of the Section, the committee would like also to thank Terry Charlton for putting on a coach to BTME it was good to see so many greenkeepers from our Section there.

I see that Alnmouth GC are still sending their staff to the workshops. Believe me they are worth attending perhaps there may be a few more from the Section in the near future.

Congratulations to Roy White from Stocksfield GC and his wife on the birth of their first baby boy. Good luck to you both.

The spring golf competition will be played at Tyneside GC on April 30. Members will be sent a letter nearer the date.

The Section welcomes the following new members:- R. Dickinson and S Fraser of Sillioth GC; A. Doig, of Tynemouth GC, and S. Wilson, of Longhirst GC.

On the move are John Devlin, formerly of Consett GC, to Boldon GC, and also to Andrew

Wright, from City of Newcastle GC, to Bedlingtonshire. We wish them all the best in their new positions.

Anyone got any news, please let me know.  
Jimmy Richardson

### North Wales

March showers and April showers bring forth May showers but we are going to get a couple of days sunshine in September, I believe, so get prepared.

A couple of sad notes to report this month is the loss of two people from the industry.

Firstly someone who many of you will have met at some stage or read about in the magazine is Jimmy MacDonald, formerly of Royal Lytham GC. A great character and this coming very early into his retirement, I have many fond memories, sitting in Jimmy's office and listening to stories not only of greenkeeping but of life in general a man with lots of knowledge. He will be sadly missed by all.

Also the untimely passing of Robert Konieczka, Course Manager of Shrewsbury GC, shortly after the BTME show. Robert was just 46 years old.

Our Spring Seminar will be held on March 31 at Carden Park GC. Your forms will be in the post very shortly if you have not yet received them. The closing date for form returns will be 14th March – please phone Andy Campbell if you require any information on 01829 731601 Or 731000.

The programme of events will be as follows; 9.00am Registration, 9.30am Welcome with, Frank Newberry and Ken Richardson, 9.45am the infamous (lead or be led) Duncan McGillvary, 10.30am Coffee, 10.45am Duncan McGillvary, 11.30am Wendy O'Brien tells all about her 12 month sabbatical experience working at the Augusta National GC, 12.00noon Lunch, 1.00pm Kerran Daly MG of Gog Magog GC, then, an experience not to be missed, at 1.45pm Jeremy Hughes, Vale of Llangollen GC, will re-live his Bernhards, BIGGA trip to Atlanta this will be aided by a power point presentation. 2.15pm we have Ken Siems of Loch Lomond GC, 3pm Martyn Jones, from the National Turfgrass Association, and Ken Richardson of BIGGA, 3.45pm Close.

The cost of this event is £20 for Members £25 for non members.

The announcement confirmed in January that Royal Liverpool will host the 2006 Open championship this is great for our Region and for Derek Green and the lads, It's also a boost for David Lewis, at Conwy GC, as he will be hosting one of the final qualifying rounds (Go on Dave 'Ave it') along with the newly computerised Chris Peddie, at Wallasey GC,

which is also our autumn tournament venue.

Just a final note from Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC. Can anyone who has won the Aggregate Shield in 1999, 2000, & 2001 please contact him as he wishes to engrave it.

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

Well another successful Harrogate show has come and gone. After a chat with some of our section members and the lads on the Trade stands, I feel the show is going from strength to strength, which augurs well for our future.

One nice tale I heard on the 'Grapevine' was about a member of the greenkeeping fraternity who was staying at the Majestic Hotel. Having had a good session at the show on the Thursday afternoon (around the stands, not in the pub), he decided to have a catnap in his room at 4.30pm. He was expecting a long night on the dance floor at the banquet.

Unfortunately he dropped into a deep sleep. He woke with a start on hearing the Counterfeit Stones blasting out Honky Tonk Woman. He had overslept, so he washed and dressed very quickly and rushed down to the Ballroom. He burst through the doors only to find the 'Stones' rehearsing at half past five! What a plonker! I hope the greenkeeper concerned was not a member of the Cleveland Section!

On the education front I am happy to report further educational success for members of the Section. Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Municipal; Tony Mears, Dinsdale Spa, and Tony Smith, Teesside, have all passed their L12 examinations. This is a new training and coaching unit run and financed by the GTC and our three lads are the first to pass. Well done. Further places will be available for anyone who is interested. Contact the GTC. for more info.

Finally on the social front, our Section football team, led by Bedales answer to Robson, 'Flora' Pemberton, should have played in an 8-a-side indoor football tournament. This was against the Rigby Taylor side, the Boro groundstaff and the Sunderland groundstaff. The big comp was due to take place at the 'state of the art' Middlesbrough training ground at Hurworth in mid-February. I hope we shifted some skin and gave the Bolton boys, the Smoggies and the Mackems a severe thrashing. Thanks to Jamie Applegarth and R.T. for their support! Flora has thrown down the gauntlet to any other Sections that fancy a social footie match later in the year. Contact Pembo on 07989 508878 If you dare!

Don't forget to let me have any snippets for next month's notes 07831 214879.

Terry "L. Prez" Charlton

## Northern

You should all now have received your fixture list for the golf events this year. If you have not received one then here is a list of dates and events. Spring tournament April 16 at Kirbymoorside Golf Club sponsored by Alpha and Headland. President's Day, June 12 at Pike Hills Golf Club, sponsored by Bob Wild.

Invitation Day, 10 September, at Wetherby Golf Club, sponsored Rigby Taylor. Autumn Tournament, October 16, at West Bowling Golf Club, sponsored by Scotts UK. Christmas Golf, 10 December, at Elland Golf Club, sponsored by The Greenkeeping Supply Company.

Many thanks to all the companies who have pledged their support to our Section once again this year. I hope you guys can support these companies at the golf days and other events we have planned for you this year. The price is £16 per event by cheque payable to BIGGA Northern Section, no later than a week before the event.

These notes are being written a couple of days after the Section's first committee meeting of 2003. It was suggested again that we try some other events as well as the usual ones. Crown Green bowling and Cricket matches have both been suggested. Other events such as an autumn seminar and some training days are being planned for later in the year. But what do you people out in greenkeeping land want to see or get from your Section. If you have any suggestions or comments please speak to any of the committee members or contact me at the address at the bottom of these notes.

A full report from the Ransome Jacobson trip to Ipswich and the annual dinner dance at Otley GC will be in next month's column.

A big welcome to Mark Davis, from Rawdon Golf Club; Richard Jagger, from Cottingham Park Golf Club; Craig Sanderson, from Hebden Bridge Golf Club; Karl Walker and Ben Hespini, from Knaresborough Golf Club; Chris Barker, from Pannal Golf Club; Adam Newell, from Malton and Norton Golf Club; Matthew Wildman, from Settle Golf Club, and Micheal Whitehead from West Bowling Golf Club who have all joined BIGGA this month.

Last but not least can I remind you all of the Northern Section Web site which can be found at [www.northernsection.co.uk](http://www.northernsection.co.uk) The site contains news and views from your Section giving dates of events and other information you may need through out the year. So get logged on and leave us a message or your views.

Speak to you next month

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



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

## Midland

Greenkeepers united or what! First time I've stayed over at BTME. What was I thinking before? Never mind the educational, and budget saving opportunities. On the evening, free food and beer on tap! "By God it was like throwing water into a barrel of sawdust" £10 for the first correct answer out the bag, to whoever can tell me the song that line is taken from? A clue? Planxty!

Answers on a postcard to: 21 St. Catharines Close, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 3TE, or if you have not yet already done so, include such on either of the questionnaires. Please do not forget to respond. Apathy is a word I wish not to be associated with our Section.

Thank you once again to P McCrainor and Midlube Ltd. for sponsoring that postal run.

The committee has had a bit of a brainwave. Wonders will never cease! Such being to introduce a "Thought of the Month" competition. So please send me your best anecdotes, to fit in the above heading. The best of each month will be published in "Around The Green" and a crisp £10 note in the post to the sender. Please keep such clean and printable.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome 12 new members to our Section. G.E. Smith.

J.K. Hughes, C. Warr, J. T. Neale, G. Morgan, A. C. Allcock, M. Deakins, A. Parton, P. J. Rainsford, T. Shinkins, M. A. Cunningham, and finally but certainly not lastly, I. J. Holden. Mine's a Golden! With chargeable glasses we all look forward to meeting you. Please be participants of the organisation, not just merely subscribers to a monthly magazine. BIGGA has a lot to offer, so use such. Remember, it's your organisation.

Now for an apology. This spring's golfing Venue's actual name is The Vale Golf and Country Club, to be held on April 15. Thank you to M. Heath for his courteous advisory. Please don't forget to get your entries in. Looking forward to seeing some new faces at such.

Congratulations to M. Gash, R. Shaw, B. Streton, and M. Reeves, on gaining their Higher National Certificates, via Morton Morrell College. Well done chaps. Bob has since, also made the move from Groundsman to Greenkeeper by joining North Warwickshire GC

as Deputy. Your in the big league now chap - you'll be cursing clay, not paying for it! Also, good luck to G. Wallace, the new Course Manager at Puckrup Hall.

With sadness, I have the unfortunate duty of reporting the sudden passing away of Robbie Konieczka, Course Manager of Shrewsbury GC. All members I'm sure shall join the committee in expressing their deepest and most sincere condolences to his partner, family and friends.

Charmed life or what! M. Cutler has won a trip to Australia, via a daytime BMRE radio competition. Mike, do your chaps have nothing better to do? Well done Mark, have a great time. Don't forget the corked hat.

As you may know BIGGA members get up to 20% off clothing, footwear and protective wear etc. from Arco. Until recently, this deal was only available through its Hull branch. Nigel Couchman, via extensive negotiations has secured the same deal with Arco's West Bromwich branch. Such thus affords opportunity to try items on, as well as mail ordering. Tel. 01215 006060. Rather sh'plendid Nigel.

By Jove!. I've no chance of including my meandering spiel in this month's Around the Green. What was that, thank the Lord for such mercies. Please keep your news coming in. Such is much appreciated, thank you. Speak to you next month regarding your thoughts on the questionnaires.

Sean McDade

## BB&O

Hopefully spring is not too far away now with daylight becoming longer, my SAD syndrome will disappear for another year, we can look forward to the smell of freshly cut grass and the vivid green of new leaves on the trees. Sounds great but now to more important matters.

A course visit has been arranged to The Grove at Watford. The Grove is a new development due to open later this year, the course was designed by Kyle Phillips and at 7170 yds, par 72 will be a formidable test. There is also a 227 bedroom 5 star hotel on site. Our visit will take place on Tuesday, March 11 at 1pm. Please let me know if you wish to attend on 01442 842627 or mail

jim.cassidy@ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk. My thanks go to Phillip Chiverton, Course Manager at The Grove, for allowing this to take place. For a little more information check out thegrove.co.uk

Just a reminder, our first golf meeting is at The Bedfordshire GC on May 16. Entry fees will be £25 for over 25's and £15 for under 25's. The scratch and handicap winners of the afternoon round will be sponsored to enter the National tournament to take place at Coxmoor and Hollinwell in Nottinghamshire.

Any news regarding chronic depression or acts

of overwatering contact me on the above.

Jim Cassidy

## East Midlands

This year's visit to Harrogate for the BTME was again a great experience for all of those who attended. Again, there was a great deal to see and do. Various workshops and the conference, not to mention the show itself with the addition of the ClubHouse show. Unfortunately our own Section did not seem to be very well represented with only the usual die hard members in attendance. But on a positive side I am sure we will be able to better this next year.

If you have not yet received your entry form for this years Spring Tournament at Ashbourne GC on May 15, please get in touch with me as soon as possible, and I will forward you a copy. Also a reminder to all members: please ensure that your entry form and correct remittance is returned to me before the closing date if you wish to play. The fixtures for the rest of the year are as follows: E. Midlands Vs East of England, August 13, Beedles Lake GC 3.45pm. Autumn Tournament, Overstone Park GC. September 5. 1pm. AGM TBA. Christmas Tournament, Kilworth Springs GC; December 11- 10:30pm

Antony Bindley



## Devon & Cornwall

Hi my name is Steve Evans. I have taken over from Richard Whyman as your new Section Administrator. Richard's enthusiasm and hard work over the past 13 years has been a great asset, not only to the Devon and Cornwall Section, but to BIGGA as a whole. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Richard every success in his new role as Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club.

Our first meeting of 2003 was held at East Devon Golf Club in January. The day started with David Singleton, of Barenbrug, and John Palfrey starting our golfing members for the Barenbrug Trophy. After an excellent lunch our sponsor David Singleton from Barenbrug Seeds presented the prizes to:- 1. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park, 40pts; 2. Alan Gawman, St Mellion 28pts; 3. Nobby Clarke, Crediton, 34pts.

The Section would like to thank Barenbrug Seeds for their continued support and to East Devon Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in superb condition and is an absolute credit to Paul Newcome and his staff. Our afternoon educational talk was presented by Jeff Mills,

Course Manager at Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club.

Our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries is retiring in May this year. Paula has recently undergone an operation and the Section sends their best wishes to her and her husband, Mike. I have just returned from the BTME show in Harrogate. The show seems to go from strength to strength and a big thank you to Neil Thomas and all the staff at BIGGA HOUSE for all their hard work.

I would also like to wish our new Chairman, George Brown all the best for his forthcoming year in office, as I know he will be a great ambassador to our Association.

Our next meeting for the Supertrurf and Aventis Trophies will be held on Tuesday, March 25 at Yelverton Golf Club. Hopefully Cohn Webber will have regained his memory and I look forward to seeing him at Yelverton with his clothes on!

I would like to thank all our members for their support and look forward to seeing you at our meetings in the future.

Steve Evans

## South Wales

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the last five months, there seems to have been a breakdown in communication between me and HQ. Hopefully it's all been sorted out and we can look forward to some regular news from our Section in the future.

Let's start with the golf results from last year! Winner of the summer competition held at Dinas Powys Golf Club was Herbie Probert; Emyr Nicolls won the Autumn comp at Havardfordwest GC, and Adrian Panks won the winter comp at Pyle and Kenfig GC. The Rigby Taylor match play KO winners were Daryl Bray & Leigh Davis, from Morriston GC, who beat Jim Mckenzie in the final at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

A big thank you to all the clubs who allowed us use of their courses this year, and to the sponsors.

The AGM was again held at Pyle & Kenfig GC. Our outgoing President of 10 years, Colin Murphy, was presented with a wall clock as a sign of appreciation for all he has done for us over the last 30 or so years. We all hope he has a long and happy retirement. The new President is Ray Burrows, with Denis Archer as the Vice President. No major changes in the committee this year, although we would like to welcome Emyr Nicolls on board, (future Around the Green writer)?

A few notes for your diary, before the fixture cards are sent out, Thursday April 10th we will be at Royal Porthcawl GC for our section seminar, this will be sponsored by Symbio, details will be

sent to all members nearer the day. The Avoncrop sponsored evening lectures are under way, February 12, March 12 and April 9 are the dates for your diary. By the way the quiz night is on March 12, with the final talk in April.

Adrian Panks

### South West

I would like to start by sending our thoughts and best wishes to Paula Humphries, she was sadly missed at BTME. On the subject of BTME what a great event. It truly does get better and better, our thanks must go to Head Office for the new changes re: start times and seminar organisation It worked really well.

Your elected officers would like to know your opinions on package options and travel arrangements some suggestions are one smaller coach going up on the Sunday coming back Thursday morning so incorporating the education seminars and another travelling on Tuesday back on Friday?

The Patronage scheme has proved to be a great success with a total of nine companies signing up, our thanks to:- MJ Abbott, Irritech, BS Mowers, ALS, Bioseed, Symbio, Avoncrop Rigby Taylor and AMTEC. The scheme involves the aforementioned companies making a financial contribution, with this extra input it enables us to fund certain initiatives such as, sponsoring the winner with the lowest gross score for the summer tournament to go to the National Tournament. We will pay entry fee and travelling expenses. Non golfers do not fear there is something for you too, those attending the course walks and staying for lunch, names will be put into a hat and the winner will receive a greenkeeping educational book such as STRI Care of the Golf Course etc.

The Committee would also like to sponsor a greenkeeper with a trip to BTME all you have to do is send a letter to our Secretary Nobby Knight stating the reasons why you should be chosen.

Education, education, education (who said that?) Seriously though I need to know your requirements, e-mail me, ring me, please someone, anyone 01225 333928. Some ideas coming through are arranging our own trip to GCSAA next year in San Diego California, cheap flight, budget accommodation? A Frank Newbury seminar, and for the Autumn I am liaising with Toro, an Agronomist and a Ecologist for a one day seminary here a Bath Golf Club. How about exchange visits? Local golf courses with major tournaments perhaps go for the week prior to the tournament and see how the preparation is done perhaps more rewarding experience than just bunker raking at the Open.

We would be grateful of any feedback or suggestions on some of the items raised we are

here to serve you! Our telephone numbers are supplied on the fixture card. I do apologise to go on so much but we do need to be aware of what is happening in our section. So may it rain just as you finish top dressing, wind blow after you have sprayed and sun shine on Captain's day, dream on.

Email: [greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk)  
Guy Woods



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

### Surrey

All members should have by now received this years events programme. Please make sure that you return the relevant forms to Ian Sellars as soon as possible or you will be left off the mailing list.

Surrey Section committee met on January 29 and one of the points discussed was raised at the AGM by Billy McMillan, regarding education. All Sections have access to money allocated by BIGGA for educational use so lets use it! Please give us the help we need to arrange seminars, visits etc. that you want to and will attend. If your course is undergoing an interesting change or improvement let the committee know so that a visit can be arranged and all members can benefit. All suggestions to Dan Lightfoot, at Gatton Manor Golf Club or [daniellightfoot180@hotmail.com](mailto:daniellightfoot180@hotmail.com).

The golf venues this year will attract as always a large turnout especially as there are some courses we have not played before. Please return your entry slips by the date required as late entries and no payment mean no play. Will any member with a trophy or cup please contact Ian Sellars.

Congratulation paragraph this month tells us that Tony Kyle is now head man at Surrey Downs Golf Club and that his wife Samantha gave birth to Caden Joshua on August 1 2002 and that Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Woodcote Park Golf Club became a father on December 2 2002 with the help of his partner, Paula, and their Daughter Georgia 7lb's 2oz's. Please note that Adie Locke's son is called Aiden and not Alden as reported in last month's magazine. Sorry Aiden.

Brian Willmott

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Good morning. It's 7.30am, Saturday January 18 and I've been awake since five (the usual sedative hasn't worked). I started thinking about greenkeeping (am I sad or what) and making a comparison with other professions... now I won't sleep for a week.

My newly acquired mental turmoil began over a pint and a yarn with your colleague and my friend, Mark Farrell, from City of Derry.

Now this morning I'm thinking if I was a heart surgeon or a dentist or a stock market whizkid or a candle stick maker I would, like you greenkeepers, have had years of education and training to learn my profession. Then I considered a blade of grass (flipping heck). It's a living thing, it grows, it reproduces, it gets sick and stressed, has good days and bad like me - if I don't feel 100% in the morning I still have to look good. A spoonful of Eno's helps but I certainly don't function at 100%. If I have a toothache etc at least I can tell someone which tooth hurts, or if I come out in spots I can dab some cream on.

God help you greenkeepers if you tell your boss that the grass might be alright tomorrow. Well you have to be a doctor, a nutritionist, a physio, a psychiatrist, a mechanic, a PR man, a chemist and an accountant. Well, as we say, "I take my hat off to you".

I'm now having a cup of coffee and a ciggie and when I've finished I'm not going to be a greenkeeper or a vet. I'm going to be a rocket scientist, much easier. Too late for another sedative now. Having said all that I know from my farming background how enormously satisfying it can be. I used to inject 300 units of liquid ammonia to grazing land as soon as I could get on to see through the growing season and my cows were as happy as the day is long. A bit like greenkeeping I don't think.

2pm. Well, I've just cut the lawn for the first time and got down quite low, about two inches, and my neighbours think I'm mad but say it looks well. The six inches of thatch makes it lovely to walk on. Your feet go well down and it's nice to see the scorched foot marks were someone went when the frost was there - "Know what I mean?"

Here is a quick tip to make you the best greenkeeper in the world. When you cut new holes use a bevelled (saucer shaped) board, when the new cup is in place jump up and down on the board then all putts will roll in and there'll be smiles all round.

Happy days., Graham Prosser