



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Tuesday 17 June 2003 over the Kintyre Course, Turnberry Hotel, Ayrshire by kind permission of the Management of Turnberry Hotel. The cost of the event will be £30, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal, plus prizes. Entry will be restricted to 80 entries. Thereafter a waiting list will be in operation.

Tee off times will be from 10.06am to 12.57pm. Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

The Kintyre course will host this year's Seniors' Championship and will be used as a qualifying course for the 2004 Open at Royal Troon.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator. Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 8 June 2003 Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd

East

Well what can we say? A great start to the year and the season and we all hope that it continues and we can get some good grass growing weather. Well as you sit and read this the first tournament of the season is only a few days away on Wednesday, May 14, at Kingsknowe GC.

We hope you have got your entries in by the closing date as there will be NO late entries and we mean exactly that. Also if you send no money or form there will be no entries and no paying on the day and that means everybody. This year we will except no excuses so remember get entries in as soon as possible. On the entry form it will tell you that a draw will take place on a certain date and you will have to phone one of the numbers after that date to find your tee time in advance of the tournament. So don't turn up on the day hoping to find out your tee time because if you miss your time you will not be able to fit in at the end of the field. Clubs only give us the tee for a certain length of time as they have other golfers playing. Therefore, get calling to find out your time. The committee will be strict on these rules this year.

The winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes will qualify to join the Chairman in the East Section Team to play in the Norrie Whytock team tournament later in the year. Play your best and I look forward to your company in that tournament.

The Section wishes Willie Ness (formerly Thomas Sheriffs) all the best in his new venture and all the best for the future. Willie, we hope

you still pop in if you're passing at anytime. Willie has written a thank you letter elsewhere in this magazine. Well that's it for this month if you have any news you know the numbers, let me know. Come on lets hear from you. Coming up next month news from the spring outing at Kingsknowe GC and any other news I hear on the grapevine.

PS. The annual dinner dance is at the Kilsplindie House Hotel on Saturday 6 December. More details next month. See you all at KGC on the 14th. Cheers.

Chris Yeaman

Central

Apologies for the lack of section news so far this year, I did send in a report for the February magazine but "Ed" must have got fed up with me trying to stretch the deadline to its limit and decided to "teach me a lesson" by not printing it! I thought I would give you a rest in March and decided to take a holiday at the time I should have been concocting more "information" from the Section.

Anyway we are back on track now and since our last report there have been a few new members joining us. We extend a warm welcome to Thomas Adamson, from Dullatur GC; Jamie Downie and Neil Cross, from Ladybank GC; Wayne Meikle, West Lothian GC; Douglas McFarlane, Aberfoyle GC and Hector Forgen-Moreno, from Gleneagles.

The first three draws for "Club 2000" have been made and the winners are as follows; January, M. Baxter, No. 47 (£30), M. Graham, No. 212 (£20), February, T. Adamson, No. 146 (£30), P. Boyd, No. 590 (£20) and March, D. Leith No. 287 (£30) and J. Meikiem No. 625 (£20), cheques are in the post to all the winners. To the 204 members who didn't purchase their ticket/s Hard lines, it could have been you winning the money!

The date for this year's Autumn Tournament has now been confirmed and is Thursday, September 25 at Alloa Golf Club. I have had virtually no response to my reminder that All matches in the Inter - Club tournament have to be completed by the date of the Autumn Tournament, so if you have still got matches to play and scores to return please get your fingers - sorry that should have been clubs out and get playing!

Results of the Spring Tournament held at St. Andrews Bay Golf and Spa Resort last month will be in next month's issue, but it might be a bit difficult presenting the trophies as only one winner from last year's event has contacted me following my request in the March magazine for all trophies to be returned for engraving and valuation. I hope I don't have to send the Section Chairman round to get them as I've heard he is a "Mean Man" when he gets his "dander" up.

John Crawford.

NORTHERN REGION

North Wales

Borra dar, yaki dar, sids my hedgehog and wallop a donkey. A warm welcome to May in the greenkeeping calendar.

Firstly congratulations to Tracy Schofield, of Llangollen Golf Club, on the birth of Osian Ellis a baby boy weighing in at just over 8lb. Mother and baby are doing fine the question now being, is changing nappies better than changing holes?

Congratulations also to Dylan Hughes, of Pwllheli, on passing his NVQ Level 3 - education being the forefront for success and achievement.

We wish Peter Sproston, of Sutton Hall GC, a speedy recovery after a short spell in hospital and look forward to seeing him once again in action along with many others of our section at the spring tournament held at Mile End GC Oswestry on April 14.

We would like to enlist the help of a non golfing member or guest that could help out as a 'starter' for this event and indeed the autumn and Christmas tournaments. It helps the smooth running of the day and your efforts will be truly rewarded, and you could also have a good laugh at your fellow members tee shots!

This month we focus on Bromborough GC as with many clubs formed at the turn of the 19th century this year is their centenary year and, as previously reported, Richard Littler and his team have transformed the course to accept all year round playing conditions. At the start of its life a local farmer Ernest Hassell knocked a ball around the land, then owned by the Earl of Shrewsbury, before it became part of the Leverhulme estate he and his friends built a nine hole course. It was then extended to 18 in the 1920s. It has been through two World Wars and the interruption of the M53 motorway, being right alongside in the 1970s new land was acquired and three new holes were added. A wealth of golfing champions have passed through this championship layout, now with its new greens and new clubhouse Bromborough is looking forward to the next 100 years, after which Richard plans to retire?

Moving on Gary Martin is staying in the US for another six months now working at Pinehurst No5. Life is tough, Gary.

We have two new members from Pwllheli GC. They are Chris Moore and Tomos Tait and also a belated welcome to the Section to Carl Croucher who recently took up the Course Manager position at Caldly GC.

And that's it folks see you next month. Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail: acorgolf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

North West

Firstly, let me apologise for there being no section news in the February issue of our magazine. The Section notes were sent in on time but there was a problem at HQ.

I did mention in those notes that 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 during 2003. I also reported that Jim McDonald had past away on Monday, January 20, after a short stay in hospital. Jim was a credit to his profession and had been at Royal Lytham since 1964. Our thoughts are with his wife, Carol, and his children, Andrew, Claire, and Allison.

This month we also have news of another death in the Section. Patrick Sheehan, brother of Chris and Mike Sheehan was killed in a car accident on his way home from work. Patrick was a greenkeeper at Ashton in Makerfield and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

The Mere seminar held on March 18 was attended by 55 delegates, and was an excellent day. I am sure you are all aware of the programme of the day, as you all received an application form with your Fixture List for the year, so I will not make a full report, other than to say that all the speakers were excellent. I must, though, congratulate Steve Oultram on his talk about Conservation and Presentation at Wilmslow GC. Steve had never given a talk before, and I know that as the day grew closer he started to panic, but on the day he was as cool as the professional speakers who followed him, and his presentation was first class. Well done. As I mentioned earlier we had 55 delegates, but this is only 10% of the Section members, so next year let's make it 20%.

The next golf is the Spring Tournament to be played at Wigan Golf Club on Thursday, May 22. The tee is available from 1:30pm with Lunch at 12:30pm and an evening meal and presentation after the golf. All applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton. WN8 7RU. Including a cheque for £20 made out to BIGGA. N/W Section.

Finally, people moving about - Paul Pearce is now Head Greenkeeper at Warrington GC and Chris Watson, from Dean Wood GC, is moving down south. That's it, so any news or views contact me on: 0151 724 5412 mobile: 077615 83387.

Bert Cross

Northern

I am sitting writing these notes a week before our first tournament of the year at Kirkbymoorside Golf Club. I feel the response has been very good and everyone by a miracle has paid a week prior to the event. Well done and keep it up. I will report on the fun and good time we'll all have had in my next notes in June.

The weather at the moment has been remarkably dry for a number of weeks, we have definitely had the driest late February and March I have known. I do hope by now we have had some rain and we no doubt will all be struggling to keep on top of our mowing regimes.

I understand Bob Gee's golf club at Crow Nest Park have recently installed some power tees in their driving range facilities. If anyone is interested in looking at this, he would be willing to show you around the ins and outs of this equipment.

I am sad to report the sudden death of Life member, Donald Roberts, at the age of 83. Donald started his career in greenkeeping at Woodhall Hills GC. Later moving to work under Lawrence Sharp before becoming Head Greenkeeper at West Bowling GC, where he remained until his early retirement in 1982. Donald was a staunch member of the Northern Section of the BGGGA committee, serving a short stint as Chairman. He and his wife Freda regularly attended the National Tournament where he made lots of friends and was a regular winner on a single figure handicap. Family and friends will sadly miss him.

Our next golf tournament will be President's Day at Pike Hills Golf Club on the Thursday 12th June. A £16 cheque will reserve your place. So why not come and support the sponsors, Bob Wild, and your President, Den Cockburn, on what will be a great day out.

Last but not least may I welcome John Taylor, of Woodhall Hills GC; James Senior, of Lightcliffe GC, and James Bentley, of Otley GC, who have all joined our Association this Month.

Wishing you all a trouble free May,
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Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile:
07976876264 Email: Dthackray@aol.com
Dave Thackray



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

BB&O

At long last it's time to dust the cobwebs off the clubs and head down the driving range for some much needed practice as the first Golf event of the year is fast approaching. Magnolia Park plays host to the Spring Tournament which is to be held on Wednesday, May 28. This event will be sponsored by Tacit.

The first tee is booked from 11am and as with previous events there will be a rolling tee off as people arrive. The format will be 18 hole Stableford (singles). There is a restriction on numbers so please get your entry in early. David Haskell-Craig is moving house so I have stepped in to handle entries, which should be sent to the following address - East Lodge, Badgemoor Park GC, Rotherfield Grays, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 4NR. If you need to speak with me you can get hold of me on 01491 578147.

This event also doubles as a qualifier for the National Championship to be held at Hollingwell & Coxmoor Golf Clubs on October 6/7. The lowest scores from category 1 & 2 will qualify for the above event. The Section will cover the cost of entry for each of the qualifiers. Good luck!

The Rigby Taylor fourball knockout is just getting underway, reports on this event will be posted throughout the summer. Please ensure that all games are played within the allocated time. All results must be phoned through to Gary Underwood Tel: 07771 804703.

I would like to welcome several new members to our Section: David Grant, Mathew Nutt, Robert Palmer, Simon Graham, Gary Cousins, Gary Bateman, Justin Randall, David Peters, Gerald Pead and Craig Marsh.

Thought for the month: Why is it that when you have one small section of fairway left to cut the one golfer on the tee always manages to land in that small spot delaying your progress?

Lindsay Anderson

East Midlands

This year's Go-Kart evening was once again held at The Wymeswold Industrial Estate Race Track on March 13. Unfortunately numbers were down once again, and we were only able to muster 20 people and half of these were friends and not Greenkeepers. However, after a very competitive evening of racing our eventual winner was Adrian Summerfield, in second place was Gavin Robson, followed by Adie Porter. Thanks should once again be extended to Toro/Lely U.K and P. S. Marsdens who both generously sponsored the event.

Our trip to John Deere (Langar) was cancelled due to lack of interest, only 12 members put their name forward for this event. So please try to support the Spring Tournament at Ashbourne G.C. on May 15.

This year's AGM will take place at 4.30pm at Kibworth G.C. following our usual Texas Scramble golf Competition.

Anthony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Well we find ourselves experiencing another spell of strange weather patterns, the dryness has been welcome as it has enabled us to finish off construction tasks we might not have been able to, and to start landscaping around a new clubhouse that we have at Ashridge. If you are lucky enough to play in The Course Management Trophy (Midland Region) this year you will be able to experience a new concept of golf club interior design. The only negative side of the weather I can see at the moment is that soil temperatures are still quite low, on greens we have no growth, the Masters will soon be on the television, so start making things stripey.

I thought I should point out that these notes are written a month before you receive them so they will probably have no relevance to what's happening at that time, I must also apologise for not realising that last month's magazine only came out the day before we had organised a trip to The Grove, therefore not many of you would have known the date this was about to take place. Our thanks go to Philip Chiverton and his team for making us so welcome. The course is superb with Penn A4 greens that are so smooth and total Ryegrass fairways with some lovely undulations. The hotel is under construction at

present with 400 people working on it. This is a serious project and we wish it every success. Fortunately, Philip has agreed to allow us to return some time later in the year and I will give plenty of notice next time.

Just a reminder. I have not joined the BB&O Section although the Bucks border is just across the road, and don't forget our Spring meeting takes place at The Bedfordshire on 16 May hope to see you all there.

Jim Cassidy

Midland

Well, where was last month's Around the Green then Lanky Bloke? Can you image my surprise, after writing and sending such on the so called "Super Highway"! Apparently, a problem regarding the web address. The Russian translation evades me, but my apologies, comrades.

Anyway, this time of year brings us to the metamorphosis of our courses from the unappealing swamp bog, to the verdurous masterpiece we humbly are proud to put our name to. About time too! Is it me or am I getting old? Has this winter been arduously lengthy? My father in his infinite wisdom answered "As you do, they do". Cheers mate!

Thank you for your responses to the questionnaires, I'm glad that I don't have shares in the Royal Mail!

A snooker and darts evening is to be held on Thursday evening May 29, at the "Perfection Snooker Club" in Stirchley, just south of Birmingham city centre. The format for competition shall be decided on the evening via a general consensus. Also a buffet (and maybe prizes) will be provided, kindly sponsored by Nigel Tyler, of Alpha Amenity. May I make it quite clear that all attendees shall have their own table for the entire evening. If interested please call me on: 07816 410552 or 0121 414 0637.

Andy Smith is organising an extensive Mole Control Course, to be held at the end of May/early June. Such is a half day course at a cost of £75 + VAT per person. Anybody with a mole problem will surely benefit from such a course. There is no examination, but attendees shall receive a recognised certificate of attendance. For further details or to register please contact Andy on: 07977 145091.

Mr Woodham, fancy putting your lovely wife, Diane, through that yet again, have you no consideration. Double trouble now. Paul if he's anything like you chap, let's hope he has his mother's lovely traits. Jestings aside, congratulations to you both on the arrival of little Nathan, born February 2.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome nine new members to our Section: A. Davies, K. Threlceld, J. Yates, B. Bouchier, R. Hindhaugh, K. D. Williams, M. J. Beetlestone, S. J. Watkins, and by God help him, R. Writtle.

Please remember folks BIGGA exists for you as Greenkeepers and enables many opportunities for future development, such gives opportunity to meet and converse with many fine learned characters to whom you shall

find most welcoming and free with their council. Value indeed.

Finally, it is with greatest of fondness that I recall the first Head I ever served under, as a young Greenhorn who knew it all. (Oh the naivety of youth is delicious!). I was always amazed by his pipe's ability to remain in his mouth while fast asleep during dinner breaks. During such I often found myself unduly concerned with the ignition of his jumper from this somewhat volcanic pipe. Just as my concerns reached panic mode, he would spontaneously awaken with a great flapping of hands and extinguish himself. Fred Bubb, ex Head Greenkeeper of Fulford Heath GC (Retired 1988) passed away in January of this year. A lovely man who will be fondly remembered by many.

I look forward to seeing you at the "Mole Control Course", the "Snooker and Darts Evening", or at Blackwell G.C. for the Summer Tournament on 4 August.

Auf Wiederhoren!

Sean McDade



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

Devon and Cornwall

Our Spring meeting was held at my home club, Yelverton on 25 March. With the course bathed in glorious sunshine, you could be forgiven if you thought it was the middle of July.

Our joint sponsors for the day were Supaturf and Bayer Environmental Science. Our morning's golf competitions, The Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade and The Bayer Trophy for Assistants, were started by John Mullins and John Palfrey. There were 40 competitors in all and the results were: Supaturf Trophy. 1. Mark Evans, Royal North Devon; 2. Gary Foster, Tavistock; 3. Tony James, Killiow. Bayer Cup. 1. John Gawman, St Mellion; 2. Lloyd Overy, Exeter; 3. Graham Fitzpatrick, Dainton Park.

The remaining 27 members were escorted by Yours Truly on the customary course walk - a greenkeeper's nightmare - comments and advice to my assistant Billy Mitchell at www.myshedisonfire.com.

The Section would like to thank John Mullins, of Supaturf, and Paul Clifton, of Bayer Environmental Science, for their continued support of our Section and Yelverton Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank my staff, Stephen Pearn, Michael Zmaczynski, Simon Pratt and Tony Newland for all their hard work.

After an excellent lunch and prize presentation, our afternoon talk was presented by Bill Pile. Bill has had over 40 years experience in greenkeeping and entertained us all with a debate of topical issues in our profession.

Congratulations to Chris Gadsby on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper at Launceston Golf Club. The Section wishes him well.

The Section would like to pass on their best wishes to Alan Dommet, of Devon Garden Machinery, who has just undergone an operation. Alan has supported our Section for as long as I can remember and we hope to see him up and about very soon.

Our summer meeting will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday 17 June 2003 and details will be sent out in due course.

Thank you to all 67 members who turned up to Yelverton. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

If any members have any information for this column, please contact me on 01822 617671.

Steve Evans

South Wales

You must have all been too busy to send me any news or views this month,

I've got hardly anything to write about. Not much happens between December and April so the notes do tend to be fairly brief, news on our first competition at Langland Bay GC, and our seminar at Royal Porthcawl GC will appear in next month's magazine. If anybody has news for next month please contact me ASAP. There MUST be somebody in Wales who has something they want to see in print in the magazine. Contact me via email at: ada.panks@ticali.co.uk. or call me on: 02920 884172, soon please.

Adrian Panks

South West

I do hope by the time you are reading this we're all complaining "I can't keep on top of this growth". Whose idea was it to put the bloody US Masters on in early April anyway? No golf to report on so I would like to mention some forthcoming attractions.

I am running a seminar day here at Bath Golf Club on Wednesday September 24, starting at 9am, there will be three hands on seminars presented by Toro, PSD Agronomy and John Nicholson Associates. The format will be three groups of ten, each spending an hour with each company on the golf course looking and discussing there relevant subject. Toro will have a full fleet of their latest equipment to put to the test. Jay Dobson will answer any agronomy queries (there will be quite a few on this course?). John Nicholson's brief is arboriculture and golf design (he has as part of his team BBC TV's golf commentator Ken Brown). After lunch there will be a question and answer session. There is no cost for the day. Numbers will be limited so you must contact me to book your place. Don't delay it will be a great day.

Congratulations to Samantha Kennedy on her move from Minchinhampton to Bowood as First Assistant. We wish her well.

Please don't forget that letter to Nobby as to why you should be selected for a free trip to BTME 2004.

Well done to Mark Lewthwalte, Bath GC; John Keenaghan, Kendleshire, and Duncan

Smith, Weston, for being selected to join the Greenkeepers' Support Team for The Open Championship.

Don't forget G/A Greensomes at Orchardleigh GC Wednesday May 21 at 1pm.

Countrywide have announced the appointment of Martin Townsend, formally of Scotts UK, as their new Turf and Amenity Sales Manager. So along with top quality seed and fertilisers you can also order half a cow and some pig feed.

Right back to more irrigation repairs.

Email: greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk.

Telephone: 01225 483486

Mobile: 078123 80936

Guy Woods

South Coast

As I sit and write these notes I am distracted by my television, and the sight of a statue of Saddam Hussain in central Baghdad being pulled down as American troops liberate the Iraqis. It is a very sobering vision and brings life very much back into perspective! My original opening was about the great difficulties that the weather is blessing us with once more. We are once more under drought conditions and with the temperature reaching 18 degrees our members are wondering why they are not playing on greens with summer characteristics. Well if your course is similar to ours then you will be struggling to get any sort of growth! But as I said, we should put things into perspective.

Life in the Section is quiet at the moment. I have two pieces of news to pass on to you. Firstly we say a very fond farewell to a quite remarkable lady. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, is retiring at the end of April to enjoy life with her husband, Mike. I have had the privilege of knowing Paula for a number of years and she has worked relentlessly on behalf of the South West and South Wales Region, which our Section falls within. During that time Paula has not been in the best of health but has never let this affect her work or enthusiasm for it. Probably more importantly she has never let her illness dampen her spirits and I have never heard her complain about it once. We all wish Paula a long and happy retirement with Mike and she has assured me that she would like to attend some of our golf days so she can keep in touch. Thank you Paula!

We also say farewell to Kevan Glass, of Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, as he ventures across the border and takes on fresh challenges at Loch Lomond Golf Club. It's a big move for Kevan and I know it is a challenge he is relishing and one he will rise to. Good luck Kevan and keep in touch.

As I said before, it's been a quiet month and I have promised Scott that after my version of War and Peace last month I would keep it short and sweet this month. Please contact me if you have any news you wish to include.

Until next month

Alex McCombie



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Surrey

Although you are reading this in the May edition of our magazine I am sure that every member will remember what an excellent day we all had at Cuddington Golf Club on March 13. Many thanks to Stuart Shoppard and his staff for presenting the course in such a magnificent way and arranging for such superb weather. Cuddington was bathed in glorious sunshine and the temperature was really warm. Michael Sawicki took full advantage of the conditions and scored 37 points taking first prize. Nigel Colly was second losing only on countback with Steve Holmes just pipping Greg Richardson into third position. Longest Drive was delivered by Anthony Freeman and Nearest the Pin was Gary Rowe's finest hour. Best par 3 score was accurately obtained by Mick McLaren at -1. Our next tournament is on May 29 at Old Thorns Golf Club so please send your application in on time with your payment to Ian Sellars.

Congratulation paragraph informs us that Dan Wheeler, Roehampton GC, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Mottram Hall Golf Club and Gary Kenny takes over at Hampton Court following John Biermont's retirement due to ill health. Our best wishes to John and an early return to full health. David Andrews celebrates 25 years at Purley Downs Golf Club and John Day takes control at Woking Golf Club.

Brian Willmott



What about yer. There's not much to write about this month. So far, a spell of fine weather and all you do is work, you're getting to be a boring lot (Joke).

Friends in England often ask me where to go in Ireland as they are thinking of visiting for a few days, I say that's not long enough, but I also tell them pin a map up on the wall, throw a dart and go there.

I have been blessed with having seen every square inch of the whole of our country, quite often in beautiful weather, I suggest they start at

the Europa Hotel in Belfast. Go south, keep going and end up back in the same hotel. I tell them, though, to keep out of Northern Ireland. It's mine! However I have just got back from Donegal, windy, cold, sunny, beautiful.

Loving Northern Ireland as I do, there is something special about Donegal. They say it's the last place God made. He practised on the rest of the world and when he got it right he built Donegal. Now I know when you receive my calling cards most of you leave the country. Well the best yet, Jim McKenna, at Doonbeg, had gone to get measured for his wedding suit! I mean would anyone go that far?

I've just had my hair cut, I told the barber to cut a bit more off one side than the other leave the back and top a bit scraggy and cut the fringe on the slope. He said he couldn't send me out looking like that, I said you managed it last time.

There have been two educational events both were very well attended and proved very beneficial.

Many thanks to Bernard Findlay, and Portstewart Golf Club. Bernard gave a tour of his newly built golf course and talked of Links management. Thanks also to Ruth Mann, from STRI, who generously gave her time and a very good talk on Pests and Diseases. It was unanimously regarded as an excellent day.

Greenmount held an event on reel sharpening and Soil Science, many thanks to Neil McLaughlin and the college and to Ken Richardson and Sami Collins from BIGGA. Again another excellent day.

The next golf outing will be at Lungan Golf Club, 1pm on May 27. "I am not looking forward to it" sponsored by Tacit.

Last month I wrote about the shows. There is something special for me about them. Not only do I meet my friends I see how well you all get on. There is something about your profession that brings you together, similar to other people who care for the land. Knowing everyone I can sometimes introduce greenkeepers, I remember once in Dublin introducing John Rouine, from Lahinch, to Andy Robertson, from Ballylifen.

They became good friends in seconds so much that John visited Andy while on honeymoon in Donegal. I hope Mrs Rouine ironed Andy's shirts he certainly needed them doing.

I've just had a cup of tea with Jimmy Jones at Kilkeel (a real gent). I am now going to write a best seller, titled "Irish World Tour of Greenkeepers' Canteens". I may give prizes. The best will take some finding, the worst even harder.

Cheers Everybody
Graham Prosser

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