



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
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Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Alloa Golf Club (not Alloa) on September 25 when over 40 members enjoyed a relaxing day away from work and meeting friends old (some older than others) and new. It must be the first time for a number of years that we have had good weather conditions for both the Spring and Autumn Tournaments.

With the course in excellent condition there were a number of good scores resulting in keen competition for the prizes, the winners being as follows: Best combined nett. Spring & Autumn. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 148; Best Scratch. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 68; Best Nett. M. Graham, Green Hotel GC, 69; 1st Class 1. W. Woods Retired life member, 69; 1st Class 2. E. Small, Tulliallan, 72; 2nd Class 1. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 69; 2. D. Scott, Scoonie GC, 72; 3rd Class 1. B. Needs, Tower of Lethandy GC, 82; 3rd Class 2. M. Lindsay, Scoonie GC, 83; Patrons. K. Brunton, Greentech, 73; Guests. C. Payne, Alloa GC, 71.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Alloa GC for the courtesy extended to us, especially Duncan Peddie and his staff for the excellent presentation of the course, Margaret and Ron in the clubhouse for their first class catering and service, greens convenor, Tom White, who joined us on the day along with Club Captain, Colin Payne, who did us the honour of presenting the prizes to the winners. I would also like to thank our patrons for their continued support of our events and everyone else who assisted on the day.

Congratulations and every success for the future go to Trevor Harris, from Cupar Golf Club, on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Arbroath Golf Club. (Have we found another venue for future golf events?)

The proposed Educational Workshop has been arranged for Tuesday November 11, at Elmwood College, Cupar, and everyone should have received notice of it. If you haven't and wish to attend please just give me a ring on 01577 865 607. This event is organised for your benefit so please make an effort to support it.

Details of the AGM and your Section committee for the coming year will be in next month's report. At the time of writing I have 18 members who have indicated that they will attend, this is nearly double the number who attended last year so perhaps we will have some new faces on the committee. We can always live in hope!

Hopefully I will have confirmation of the venues for next year's golf tournaments in time for next month's report. On the subject of golf tournaments we are always seeking out new venues, so if you would like to host a future event just get in touch with any committee member.

John Crawford

North

No new members to report this month, but overall we have done alright for members this year so hopefully that trend will continue

The section AGM took place at Peterhead GC, on October 16. There were one or two changes in the committee in that John Geddes, of Ellon GC, is now the Chairman of our Section and Steve Sullivan is now Vice-Chairman. Dale Robertson of Newmachar GC is now the Secretary taking over from Dougal Duguid, of Westhill GC. Dougal has put many years of service into the running of the North Section and is going to remain on the North committee for another year to help out. I would like to thank Dougal on behalf of the members of our Section for all his efforts over the years and wish him all the best when he begins his new role as the Scottish Vice Chairman. Donald Patience of Tarbet GC has joined the committee and is a welcome new face. Donald and Hugh McLatchie are this year's patron winners and will attend a luncheon in Stirling and also Harrogate in the spring. Their support to the Section is much appreciated.

There were 34 at Peterhead and they all had a good days golf and were well fed. Our thanks go to Hugh McLatchie and his staff for the condition of the course and for the hospitality of the club for the day. The day took the form of an outing and this produced more people turning up for the AGM than in previous years. A first for Peterhead is the installation of electricity to their

worksheds, this came as a major shock to Hughie and his staff.

Scotsturf is again coming around this month and it does not seem any time since last year. Hopefully there will be a good turnout for the show as usual from the north as it is an important part of the greenkeeping calendar.

I would like to thank Campmuir for their open day at Nairn GC. The day was very well attended and we were all well fed and watered, very important for the under nourished of our profession. It gives the greenkeepers a chance to catch up on what's new in the product range, plus it gives a great opportunity to speak to other greenkeepers about the trade in general.

On behalf of Dale Robertson, of Newmachar GC, I would like to thank Alpha Plus who invited Dale on a trip to the States with their company. An enjoyable time was had by all.

I hope all your renovation work goes well and the weather stays decent.
Iain Gunn

Ayrshire

If at first you don't succeed..., after losing out on countback in last year's Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich Paul Tulloch tried again, this time securing victory in another close finish. Congratulations Paul!

Twenty golfers attended the Autumn meeting played at Beith Golf Club on a pleasant summer's day, Marshall Sloss and his team had the course in great shape with reports confirming a good day was had by all.

Our thanks to the captain and club at Beith for allowing use of the course and facilities, also to the catering staff for looking after us.

Results on the day were as follows: Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich, P. Tulloch, W. Kilbride GC. Scratch Winner – J. Mair, Beith GC; 1st class. 1. M. Wilson, Moffat GC; 2. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside GC; 3. W. Mercer, Skelmorlie GC; 4. B. Aitken, Turnberry GC; 2nd Class. 1. P. Tulloch, W. Kilbride GC; 2. I. Barr, Largs GC; 3. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie GC; 4. M. Sloss – Beith GC

For the few unable to make the AGM this year there will be a brief report in next month's issue.

Finally a warm welcome to two new members, Stephen McBlain, at Prestwick St. Nicholas GC, and Barry Crate who after several years on the courses at Belleisle and a season in Ireland, now plies his trade at Turnberry.
Dennis Tweddell

NORTHERN REGION

North Wales

I always have a smile on my face when it comes to the Section notes. Here I am, brain in second gear, and a host of mental notes from around the region and two days past the deadline for the November issue! If only I had jotted them down they may read in some kind of context. Anyway here we go regardless.

Our Autumn Tournament was held in October at the De Vere Carden Park, a strong field of just under 70 took part on the challenging Nicklaus course. Playing a little 'short' at just over 6,700 yards, from the tee, the greens looked about two drivers and a 3-wood away and for most of us they were. A big thank you to Andy Campbell and his team for presenting the course to PGA European Tour standard, recently hosting the Pre- Qualifying for the European Tour. Carden Park came to the rescue after a last minute change of venue and we thank all involved for the courtesy and the fine catering that gave us a choice of five different dishes to sample for the meal.

The results of the golf were as follows: Six players tied at the top with 31 pts each and after a card play off the winner was Kevin Lewis, of Machynlloch GC; 2. Marc Brute, of Abergele GC; 3. Jez Hughes, from Vale of Llangollen GC, who gave up the third prize to accept 'best gross' with a score of 80 – 3. with Andy Peel, of Bull Bay GC, also winning 'best haircut'. Best guest with 31pts Garry Carr; Nearest the Pin member was Trevor Johnson, of Eastham Lodge GC, and Nearest the pin Guest was P. Treacy, Sutton Hall GC; Best trade with 32 pts was Terry Adamson, of Alpha Amenity, (this shows some of us are out selling tee mats) although I did manage an eight dart round the board finish at the Carden Arms later on.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all the patrons of North Wales BIGGA for their generous donations and sponsorship.

The AGM followed the meal 26 members were present and one change to the committee was the standing down of Stuart McCall, his place being filled by Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, (the venue for our Christmas competition on December 3). Welcome Darren.

Entry forms will be posted later this month.

Just a note on future golf days. The organisers of these events give a lot of their free time to make the day run smoothly and enjoyable for everyone, sadly it has been noticed that not all the winners have been present to receive their respective prizes, so a decision was taken to award the prize to the next in line. This will be implemented starting at the December golf day, as you can appreciate it is no fun saying "and the winner is... Oh, he's gone home".

A couple of congratulations, firstly to Dylan Hughes, of Pwllheli GC, for reaching the final of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and to Sion Pritchard leaving Llanynymech GC and going to Gob Owen, I hope he will be alright (Owen that is).

Any Views please call. Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622
Mobile: 07778 162162 e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

North East

On September 25 we had our Autumn competition at Bellingham GC. This was the first time we have had a competition there and what a pleasure it was too.

Bellingham is situated about 17 miles north west of Hexham so for mostly everyone who played they had quite a long and tricky journey but they turned out in greater numbers than we have had for a couple of years.

Our thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Matty Crofton, and his staff for the outstanding condition of the course considering their location and the summer we have had this year and also to the committee for the courtesy of their course.

This year's sponsors were the following, Shorts, Greenlay, Aitkens, Sisis, Thorntree Amenity, Turf Care Supplies, Stocksfield GC, John Moutrie, of Hexham GC. Thanks lads, much appreciated as these days fewer companies are sponsoring us. It must be because of our location as I see in other Sections some companies we all deal with tend to give us a miss.

Thanks also to John Pemberton, from BIGGA HQ, for calling in on his way back from a short holiday break. Keep practicing John for the Spring competition. We look forward to seeing you at Matfen Hall in April.

Best Gross. S. Quince, Parklands GC, 71; Best Nett. Ransomes Cup G. Gainford, Prudhoe, 82-13-69; Best Nett. Greenlay Cup. J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 76-7-69; Best Nett. A. Parkin, Beamish Park Hotel GC, 93-22-71; G. Lauder, Slaley Hall GC, 75-5-70; S. Pope, Tyneside GC, 88-16-72; J. Gibson, Northumberland GC, 74-2-72; R. Reid, Prudhoe GC, 80-7-73; J. Storey, Alnmouth GC, 79-6-73; B. Wilson, Stocksfield GC, 82-9-73. These are just the leading scores as there are too many to print.

The Spring Competition is already booked to play at Matfen Hall on April 22 2004. Thanks to Craig Parkinson, Course Manager, on his swift action. Hopefully we will have the Autumn competition booked soon.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

Firstly, I have to apologise to all members for the lack of Section notes in the last few issues. Some personal family problems and a lack of phone calls to me with news being the main reasons! However, here are some up to date items. The Section's Summer Knockout is reaching a climax as Martin Woods, of Bedlington GC, plays Anthony 'Titch' McGeough of Richmond GC. The other semi matched two of the Section bandits – Mark Brown, the "Manc of Brancepeth", who pitted his skills against George Salabank, of Eaglescliffe but lost. You should have taken a dive like your hero Ruud, Mark! Details of the final outcomes next month!

The Wearside boys are in the process of building a new bridge over a beck. 'Sir Alec' Walker has got the lads some khaki overalls and they are practicing 'Colonel Bogey'.

On a more serious note I've heard about the severe flooding problems suffered by Teesside Golf Club. During the recent thunderstorms the course received 25mm of rainfall in 15 minutes. Several trees were uprooted during the torrential downpour. The mole believed that Mr. Smith was away on holiday at the time. He's always been a lucky beggar!

The dry spell has certainly seen the wetting agents and hose pipe flying off the sheds, dry patch still abounds!

The Autumn Tournament took place at Middlesbrough GC on October 8. Many thanks go to Brendon Brown, of Norlube Waste Disposal, for sponsoring the whole day. The turnout was a little disappointing with only 15 members playing. However, the course was in excellent condition considering the continued dry spell. Congratulations are due to Stewart Vickers and the lads for presenting the course so well while George was away in Germany. Ian Pemberton of Bedale GC won the Stableford competition with 34 points. How he wins things using that 'upside down' swing I'll never know! James Atkinson, also of Bedale, was second with 33 points and Steve Hagar of Brancepeth Castle was third with 32 points. Pembo also won the Par 3 competition, which was kindly sponsored by Border Sports Services. Alan Cordingley, formerly of Ritefeed, won the trade section prize. It was nice to meet Peter Larter, our Northern Region Administrator, whose area has been expanded. Good luck in your new post, Peter.

Thanks must go to Middlesbrough GC for their hospitality. Special mention must be made of the catering staff for the excellent meal — the beef served in the carvery was mouth watering! Pembo wore a kipper tie during his meal — this wasn't to look good, it was to hide the gravy splatters after he finished a monstrous plateful of scan!

George Malcolm's trip to Germany was made to visit his son, David, who is working at a golf club over there. The courses are suffering very badly with drought conditions. However, George told me that, during a storm, many cars were severely damaged by hailstones the size of golf balls.

Two dates for the diary lads - firstly the section AGM takes place at Darlington GC on Thursday, November 20 commencing at 7.45pm. Secondly the Annual Turfcare 'Greenkeepers versus Groundsmen' quiz will take place at Mount Oswald Golf Club, Durham, on Wednesday, December 3, commencing at 7:30 pm. Come along and have a good laugh!

Finally, can I suggest that Section members start getting fit for the annual Rigby Taylor soccer tournament taking place at Hurworth early next year. Pembo has decided to enter two teams next year, a golden oldies side and a young 'uns team. Pembo is hoping to skipper the young 'uns side - ha ha ha!

Please ring me with some stories, tales or downright fibs — anything will do!

Terry "El Prez" Charlton

North West

September has been a busy month in our golfing calendar. Firstly we had the Whitelaw Bowl which was played at Penrith Golf Club on September 3 which I reported on in last month's magazine. On September 8 we had the annual match against the Golf Club Stewards. This was played at Fishwick Hall GC and an excellent day it was, weather wise. After early morning rain the sun shone for the rest of the day but unfortunately the result was a win for the Stewards 3.5 to 2.5.

The course was in fine condition thanks to Paul Eddlestone and his trusty team and I would like to thank Fishwick Hall for allowing us courtesy of the course, the caterers for a cracking meal, and also the Stewards for an excellent day. I would also like to thank Amenity Technology for sponsoring the greenkeepers at such short notice, I can assure you it was much appreciated.

On September 24 the Autumn Tournament was played at Birchwood GC in Warrington. The weather once again was very kind to us and the course was in great condition thanks to Aidy Holt and his staff. We had 26 competitors including the Vice Captain, Dave Nicholson, and the Chairman of Green, Tony Milburn. The long course proved to be quite a test of golf which was reflected in the scores, but it was enjoyed by all. The winners were; Best Nett. Peter Hogan, 72; 2. Chris Sheehan, 73; 3. Mark Hillarby, 75; 4. Dave Macevov, 76; Gross Winner. Bill Merritt, Vet's Prize, Brian Turner, 76. Guest Prize. Dave Nicholson, 75.

The Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive were sponsored by Rufford

Technology and were both won by Mark Hillarby.

The Aggregate Cup played for with the Summer tournament and the Autumn Tournament with a score of 71 and 72 total 143 was won by Peter Hogan. Incidentally, Peter has won that many microwaves he took the receipt in order to change it for something else. Many thanks to our patrons for helping to fill our prize table also thanks to Bathgate Leisure for the prize. Many thanks to Birchwood for allowing us the courtesy of the course, also the caterers for a lovely meal.

The next golf will be the President's Cup and AGM to be played at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 4. The tee is available from 10am with bacon baps before teeing off. All applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Including a cheque for £20.

I will finish with a little news I have just received from Anthony Davies, Head Greenkeeper at Prestbury GC. The golf club realised Anthony had been in Greenkeeping for 25 years, 14 of those at Prestbury Golf Club, and they presented him with a silver salver which has been engraved in recognition of 25 years service, How's that for a nice gesture.

Any news or views contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387

Also e-mail bert.cross@btopenworld.com

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On September 15 the Sheffield Section visited Brough Golf Club to compete in our Autumn competition. Surprisingly we had an excellent turn out of members seeing as Brough is one of the furthest northerly courses in our Section and with the fact that it was still holiday season. The weather was also a surprise being quite warm for the time of year. The course at Brough was of an excellent standard and full credit goes out to Derek Neve and his staff for an excellent job in presenting a challenging course.

Our thanks goes out to everyone at Brough for giving the Sheffield Section full courtesy of the course.

I would like to thank our main sponsor Dick Palmer, of Ransomes Jacobsen, for sponsoring the event, and all our other trade members for the support on the day.

The results are as follows. 1. A. Unwin, 38pts; 2. S. Brown, 38pts; 3. C. Hopper, 31pts; 4. G. Wells, 29pts; 5. S. Currie, 29pts; 6. S. Pickering, 28pts. Best guest C. Edgar 36pts.

On October 2 the Section visited John Deere at Langar, Nottingham. For a visit around the factory. Thanks to Richard Tyas, of Bob Wild Grass Machinery, for organising the event and to our members for supporting the Section.

Our next winter lecture will be held at Rotherham golf club on Thursday, November 6 at 2.30pm, our speaker for the afternoon will be John Nicholson who will give a talk on woodland management. I hope that Section members will still carry on with their support.

And finally, our last golf tournament for the year will also be held at Rotherham GC on November 24. Our AGM will follow the competition and I would like to ask members for their full support in attending the meeting.

If anyone has any news regarding the Sheffield Section please don't hesitate to contact me on: Mobile 07752883290, Home 01709548759 or e-mail chris.astle1@btopenworld.com

Chris Astle



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

BB&O

Has the rain started yet? It must have done so by now! How long can the dear Lord not shed a tear on poor old Blighty? From my records I have recorded 27mm over the past 13 weeks up until the end of September so I hope to have had at least this amount by the end of October. Is there any correlation between this weather and the huge increase in rabbits? Maybe dry gatherings in dusty bunkers make them all the friskier.

I have started to receive entries for the next golf competition. This is the Turkey Trot held at Frilford Heath Golf Club on Thursday, November 20, starting

at 9am. The competition will be groups of three with the best two scores counting. Avoncrop sponsors the day so let's see some good support at a time of year when any greenkeeper can indulge themselves. If you have no wish to play golf but would like to visit this course, I am sure I could arrange something suitable with the Sid Arrowsmith, the Course Manager. Sid is currently undertaking some impressive ecology work around this marvellous site to improve the long-term outlook for golfers and conservationists alike. The cost for the golf and a sumptuous meal is at the bargain price of £25. Please try to send your payments to me before the day to: 7, Erskine Close, Pamber Heath, Tadley, Hants, RG26 3EP. If you need to speak to me you can contact me on 07778 765021 or email: david@mastergreenkeeper.fsnet.co.uk Looking ahead to spring we have four places to fill for an abrasive wheels course so anyone interested just give me a ring or email and I will put your name on the list. Guess it is time to put away the hoses and make a start on those winter projects so I wish you all a disease-free autumn.

David Haskell-Craig

East Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was held at Overstone Park in Northampton which is a new venue for our Section. The weather was dry and fine and the course was in magnificent condition after all the very dry weather we have experienced and was a credit to Philip Helm and his staff.

The Best Three nett scores were as follows, 1st. Chris Taylor, Willesley Park, 85-24-61; 2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 78-12-66. 3. Carl Chamberlain, Glen Gorse, 81-9-72.

Trade & Associate winner, Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam. 86-11-75. Nearest the Pin. Simon Banks; Longest Drive. Richard Barker.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Philip Helm and his staff for setting up such a marvellous course and to Overstone Park for allowing us the use of their fine course and clubhouse to stage our event, the steward for a really great meal, and to our generous sponsors Banks Amenity Products for sponsoring the prize table. We held two hundred draws as we were unable to make a draw at our Spring Tournament. Draw 1. 1. £60 Peter Larter. 2. £25 Gavin Robson. 3. £15 Antony Bindley. Draw 2. 1. £60 Susan James. 2. £25 Adi Porter. 3. £15 Ian Needham.

On November 4 & 5 at Beedles Lake golf centre we are running a two day course, titled further management skills. The cost for the two days is only £60 + VAT anyone interested can contact myself or Adi Porter.

This year's Market Harborough Am-Am saw The Banks Amenity Products team of Simon Banks, Ian Needham, Adi Porter and Gavin Robson finish in second place with an excellent score of 13 under-par, two shots off the lead.

Finally if you have not received this year's AGM and Christmas entry forms please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

Midland

We have a lot to get through this month, so you have been spared my eccentric meandering spiel. Just you wait until next month, the "Mead" should be ready by then!

On September 21 we held our first ever angling event at Middleton Hall. The format being a lighthearted match against the resident Anglers, who were unsurprisingly, but only just, the victors. We also jointly ran a prize event for greenkeepers only. The baggers (steady, I said baggers) being; 1. Peter Johnson, 2. Steven Heath, 3. Alan Shore, with also largest fish. Middleton Hall's Anglers made all 15 of us very welcome, our thanks to you gentlemen. Moreover, our deepest thanks to Mr T. Fellows and Mr A. Southam, of Hanson Aggregates, for sponsoring, providing, and organising such an enjoyable and successful event. Allen, please send our unconditional thanks to Mrs Southam for producing such a fantastic buffet. Your trifle is to die for madam.

The Scott's Doubles Tournament final was held at Wentworth Golf Club on September 18. The victors being E. Stant and P.Woodham. Not surprisingly all players reported that the course was in superb condition and wished that I send thanks to the club, Chris Kennedy for making them so very welcome, and of course Scott's for affording such a sumptuous opportunity. The Section looks forward to next year's event, at Scott's grace.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome five new members to our Section: D.G. Stoves; B. L. Sadler; C.Drewery; P. Goodyear and E.E. Perry. We look

forward to your input and counsel folks. Don't forget our AGM is to be held at Enville GC at 4.30pm on December 9. So please be there my friends.

The Committee Cup Golf Tournament was held at Brocton Hall GC. The event was a joint affair for both 2002 (inclement weather) and 2003. The victors being: 2002, Mr. Thomas with 27 points on the front nine and nine points on the back nine to win by one point. 2003 was won by Mr Gibbons with 41 points. Great golf, Dave. Our thanks to Brocton Hall GC, Mr R. Hayhurst and his fine greenkeeping team for allowing us the opportunity of using such a superb venue.

Any members wishing for an answer to any query at the AGM must inform the committee in writing beforehand, but obviously the committee welcomes questions from the floor on the day but cannot guarantee an immediate response. Anybody wishing to stand for committee who cannot attend the AGM must give prior notice in writing. Don't forget this is your opportunity to air any queries that you may have and the committee's chance to receive your council first hand. Without your input the Section cannot fully serve you. Look forward to seeing you there.

Until next month folks, enjoy the leaves and worms!

Sean McDade

Mid Anglia

A list of educational courses was sent by Headquarters to all Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers. The response we had was not overwhelming but the committee will review from the results, what, when and where the most popular courses will take place. The courses will take place during February and March 2004. This year's Christmas tournament will be held at Brocket Hall, so it would be advisable to enter early as this fixture always fills up quickly. The format will be a Texas Scramble as usual in teams of four, but be reminded that at least two of the team must be greenkeepers. On my final note this month I would like to mention that two of our members are getting married. All the best to Gavin Simkins, Mount Pleasant, and Tara, and also to Bob Butfoy, Heydon Grange, and Terri. Good luck and best wishes from the Mid-Anglia Section.

Steve Mason



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

As I write this report we are experiencing yet another dry month, most of you are having to irrigate and just hoping for rain.

On with the news and I have some great news for the Section this month, I am pleased to announce that on August 30 Rob Holland, Course Manager at Birchwood Park GC and his wife had a new addition to their family, a handsome baby boy which they have named Harry, weighing in at 9lbs 13 ounces. The Section would like to congratulate you both.

As I have been travelling around this month I have been asked to bring to your attention that Norman Croasdale, of Myerscough College, is offering training courses in the area. Courses are available at different levels and can be offered as work-based options, where the student studies in the workplace and is supported by tutor visits and CD/on line material. Should you require any further assistance call 01995 642211.

A date for your diaries, Dec 10 will be the Kent Section Turkey Trot and will be held at Birchwood Park GC.

I am sure that most of you will be starting your winter work programmes as you read this report and I hope that all goes well.

Phil Belton

Surrey

I am going to start this month's portion of news with a report on an unusual event that took place in Limpsfield, a quiet and little explored village in Surrey, just on the Kent border. The date is August 30 and the weather is sunny and warm. Robin Smith, the Head Greenkeeper at Limpsfield Chart GC is driving his tractor. He has a smile on his face for his traffic calming is very effective and the

queue of cars behind is growing. Also behind him is his assistant greenkeeper, riding in style, aboard a trailer decorated with flowers and ribbons. His assistant is dressed in flowing white fabric and is looking beautiful. A normal day for some greenkeepers perhaps but for Robin's assistant, daughter Elaine, it is that very special day, her wedding and marriage to Rupert Kelley. Our congratulations and best wishes to them both.

The final of the Bioseed Bowl pairs knockout competition was staged at Foxhills GC on September 10 between Roger Tydeman and Kevin Humphreys, from Croham Hurst GC, and Scott McMurray and Steven Weir, from Wentworth GC. Several of the committee were present and walked the course with the teams to ensure fair play and to encourage with shouts of "Hard luck", "You won't find that." and "It's only a game". The standard of golf was interesting and the eventual winners were Scott and Steve from Wentworth. Many thanks to David Smart, from Bioseed, for sponsoring the event and presenting the prizes after the competition dinner. Comments from the competitors noted during the game were few and not reportable but all agreed the Bioseed Bowl was an important and well supported event in the Surrey Section.

Richmond GC was the venue for our Autumn competition on September 25. It was sponsored by Kestrel Golf and we thank them for the excellent prizes. Lee Strutt and his staff must be complimented on the condition and presentation of the course although some of us wondered what that green substance was between the tees and greens, as on most courses. It is brown. A wonderful day's golf especially for the winners who were: 1, Lee Strutt 42pts; 2, Brian Willmott 38pts; 3, Shaun Whipp, 38pts. Nearest the Pin; Nick Ashman, Ron Christie, Anthony Freeman, Tony Bremer, Mark Harvey. Longest Drive. Nigel Colley. Putting competition. Ian Sellars.

Don't forget the Turkey Trot and AGM is at Epsom GC on December 4. All questions must be received in writing 2 weeks prior to the day.

The Surrey Section committee met on September 16 and it was confirmed that players wishing to enter the Bioseed Bowl must have a BIGGA or official club handicap. Lee Strutt has rejoined the committee as joint regional representative and Tony Bremer will continue as treasurer until the AGM. Nominations for treasurer please in writing two weeks prior to the AGM. Any ideas regarding training courses urgently needed so that members in Surrey can spend the £750 available from BIGGA HQ.

Now news from a member we have seen little of over the past months but he assured me that he will be attending the AGM at Epsom. Hopefully this will be on the same day as the rest of us. John Mathis would like us all to know that his golfing skills have enabled him to win at Southwood GC both the scratch and the nett trophies in the D C Leisure Individual Championship on September 25. Well done John but it's still no excuse for not being at Richmond.

Brian Willmott

Essex

At the time of writing this article (early October) the first frost of the autumn season had arrived. Added to the poor spring and the long hot dry summer no wonder our stress levels are high trying to produce some type of playing surfaces. The job can become lonely, with us trapped in our own world and to make matters worse unfair knife digging comments from people who have not a clue. Maybe here is the time we should take a step back and not be afraid to telephone a colleague to ask for advice or better still visit each other's courses. I believe this will certainly make you feel better and more confident when answering that next sly comment.

On to our Winter Tournament held at Gosfield Lake GC, on October 1, which was kindly sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products and a special thanks to Chris Briggs and Andrew Wood. The day also saw the end of an era with the retirement of that old warhorse Dennis Smith. After many years in the industry. He has become a good friend to many a greenkeeper and to show our appreciation the section presented him with a fly fishing rod and reel to pass the time while waiting for the next Section golf day.

We would like to thank Gosfield Lake GC and in particular Mat Stevenson the President, Greens committee members Chris Green & Joe Warren, Chef Barry on an excellent meal, Club Manager Maggy and the friendly hospitality shown by all of her staff. Finally to Adrian and his greenkeeping team for having the course in the best condition possible under the very difficult weather conditions we are enduring.

On to the prizewinners: Overall Winner. Ian Denny, 41 pts; Cat 1. 1. Anthony

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Kirwin, 34pts; 2. Richard Dunmow, 32pts; 3. Craig Knight, 32pts;
Category 2. 1. Geoff Smith, 37pts; 2. Craig Serafin, 37pts; 3. Martin
Forrester, 31pts; Guest. 1. D Wilsher, 43pts; 2. R Coughlan, 38pts; Trade.
Robbie Mitchell, 44pts; Nearest the Pin. Alan Scott. Longest Drive. Richard
Hare.

We would like to thank the following for the raffle prizes: CMW, Collier Turf
Care, Rigby Taylor, Seoul Nassau, Sea Nymph, Tacit, Eddy (pro shop) and
Robert Williams (Greenkeeper, Gosfield).

Good news, the Tractor Driving Courses are now full but we still have plenty
of places for the one day communication course at the Bursstead GC. March
2004. For further details please contact me on 01245 603131 or
07984867939.

Martin Forrester

East Anglia

October 2: Sheringham Golf Club, lovely day out on a well presented course
thanks to David and his team. The main sponsors for the day were John Deere,
Ben Burgess and Tomlinson Groundcare.

The prizes were presented by David Wakeley, the Club Captain to:-Norman
Fenwick, 35pts; Peter Howard, 34pts and Alan (Arthur) Elliot - 34pts in the 0-
10 section.

Robert King, 40pts, Richard Plummer, 35pts; Mark Broughton, 35pts in the
11-18 section, and Martin Myson - 39pts, Steve Crabb - 34pts, James Holiday
in the 18-28 section.

David Waverley won the guests' prize 36pts and Eddie Baur came second on
countback.

Nearest the Pin on the 6th was Colin Rushbrook, who also got the loudest
cheer of the day, and rightly so. It only took him 20 years to hit a green on a
par-3 let alone win the prize.

Other sponsors were Bartram Mowers, Tacit, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Anglia
Mowers, Toro, Textron, Lely UK, Consultant Clarkson, Atterton & Ellis, ETT.

The loo seat was won by Ian Willett who forgot his jacket (shame he didn't
forget his tie!) and he tried to take out 'Puffing Billy'. Fortunately he missed and
hit the track instead.

All in all a great day out. Thank you Sheringham Golf Club one and all.
Mick Lathrope

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South West

Still no significant rain at the time of writing, the smile I said that I had on
my face last month is now slowly waning as my thoughts now turn to winter
wear, I'm sure that I am not the only one among us thinking that a good dollop
of the old white stuff wouldn't go a miss.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who attended the Seminar day here at Bath
Golf Club, 46 of you to be precise and even the sun shone for us. A big thank
you to Toro for sponsoring the day and also to PSD Agronomy represented by
Jay Dobson, John Nicholson Associates with John himself and Roger Davey of
Iritech and their wealth of knowledge and time was very much appreciated.
Thank you.

Don't forget to ring me with your winter training needs, If what you require
is not currently being offered then just let me know, we normally only need a
minimum of six to set up a course. Cannington College Seminar is taking place
on Wednesday, November 19, and there's a great line up of speakers so please
do your best to attend it's always a great day.

I did a quick survey among my lads and do you know none of them would
die for me and when asked what they would do if the Atomic bomb went off
they all said that they would prefer to be with their loved ones then here at
work. You just can't get the staff nowadays?

Tel:01225 363466, Mobile:- 076123 80938.

Email:greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk

Guy Woods

South Coast

Much to report on this month. At last the weather has broken and we have seen some rain! No doubt I will be rueing those words and will soon be fed up with the deluge that we are bound to get. I have been called a pessimist but I always trust the motto from a friend 'Mother nature always pays herself back'.

What I can say is that many greenkeepers will be hoping for a less stressful year next year. Onto lighter matters! Tidworth GC was the venue for our annual match against the South West Section and our Captain assembled a strong team to face the might of the boys from the south-west. The matches were played in excellent spirit and were very close but we managed to edge the match and won 3-2. Many thanks to Tidworth for their hospitality, to the caterers for an excellent meal, to our sponsor, Clarkes Garden Machinery, and, of course, Head Greenkeeper, Chris Brown, and his team for presenting the course magnificently for us. We look forward to the next year's fixture and hopefully more success.

With greenkeepers looking to the skies it seemed somewhat ironic that after praying for rain for weeks that the day we headed for our autumn tournament we were travelling through driving rain! Thankfully the rain stopped as we arrived at Rowlands Castle GC and our wetsuits were not required.

As a committee we endeavour to host our golf days around different areas of the Section, so that members have at least one event near them every year. So it was very disappointing to see such a poor turn out at Rowlands Castle. We can all make excuses for not turning up. We know we are all busy, but we need to support our Section events! Tacit were our sponsors on the day and the prize table was excellent but how much longer will sponsors continue to support us if we do not make the effort as well? Come on let's not let this happen again! Off my soap box and back to the golf. Bill Davis and his team had worked hard to present the course so beautifully for us and the scoring reflected that. I was fortunate to play with Colin White and Gordon Payne and had a very enjoyable round listening to the latest chants of St Mary's. Colin described my golf quite well. Drives like Tiger Woods, chips like Harry Ramsden! Enough said!

Winners on the day were: 1. Kevin Hensman, 42pts; 2. Tony Gadd, 40pts; 3. Alan Magee, 39pts; Longest Drive. Chris Bittern. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Hooker.

Many thanks to Rowlands Castle for their superb hospitality; to the caterers for an excellent meal and to Bill Davis and his hardworking team for all their efforts in preparing the course so well for us.

We must give a huge vote of thanks to Tacit for their valued sponsorship and the superb prize table! Many thanks to Tim who is becoming a welcomed regular face at our Section events.

The section AGM was held after the golf and ran very smoothly. The Section has had another successful year both financially and with our Section events and long may it continue! Our Section Secretary, Fred Deamen, stood down from his post and has decided to take a less demanding role for a while after many years in the demanding post of Secretary. He has worked extremely hard and played a huge part in turning the Section into the success it is today. As a Section we thank Fred for all of his hard work, look forward to his continued support on the committee as treasurer and hope the extra time he will now have at home will be a rewarding one with his family. We have some new arrivals on the committee too. Chris Bittern, from Stoneham GC; Alan Magee, from Parkstone GC, and Kevan Glass, who has rejoined the Section as Deputy Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts GC. A huge welcome to all and in particular welcome home to Kevan after his venture across the border to Loch Lomond. Kevan has always kept in touch during his spell in Scotland and enjoyed his time working under Ken Siems. I'm sure when we see him next he will have many a story to tell. This is how your committee will look for the coming year

President. Jim Fry; Chairman. Tony Gadd; Vice Chairman. Phil Wentworth; Secretary. Alex McCombie; Treasurer. Fred Deamen. Tournament Organiser. Chris Sturgess; Sponsorship. Harvey Tribe. Regional Board. Ian Noble. Committee members. Chris Bittern, Alan Magee, Kevan Glass.

Don't forget to try and get along to Cannington College on November 19 & 20 for the South West Seminar. Details are available from me if you have not already received them.

BTME is just around the corner so let's see some more faces from the Section at what is a great week of education. Our next golf day is the Winter tournament which is at High Post GC on Tuesday, December 9. The cost is £18 and cheques made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section should be sent to

Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 6HB. We look forward to seeing you all there. Any news then contact me @

Tel: 01202 661106. Mobile: 07966 386232. E-mail:

a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month.

Alex McCombie

Devon and Cornwall

By the time you read this report, you would already have had our first meeting at Truro GC. Hopefully everyone has had the new fixture card, if not please contact me and I will make sure you get one. As I explained in the newsletter, the details for the BTME trip to Harrogate will be sent out in October. Please book your place promptly to avoid disappointment.

Our next meeting will be held at Bigbury GC, on Wednesday, November 19 which will include our Section AGM so if you have anything you would like to bring up, please come along and bring a mate as well.

The Regional Seminar at Cannington will be held on November 19 and 20.

There are some excellent high quality speakers this year and you can book your place by either sending off your booking form or contacting Derek Farrington on 07850 162401.

If anyone wants to contact me they can get me on 01822 617671 or mobile 07740 063025.

Steve Evans

NORTHERN IRELAND

It's October 2 and summer is still with us. It has hopefully been a good education for young greenkeepers to experience, those who have been in the industry for the last five years or so. Novices like myself would have panicked in drought conditions to see our green grass go white and think never to return. Not so, it has been interesting and reassuring to see the benefit of a good scorch and the benefit it has on grass species. I hope your club members who want it green all the time see the benefit (doubt it). We learn something every day, mother nature is the only one who knows it all.

I would think hay and silage crops would be good, should have high dry matter, I've also noticed the sloes on thorn bushes are plentiful. From experience following a good summer and a bountiful harvest we usually get "you've guessed it".

Well, I am short on news this month. Ian Harrison was taken to Spain he said they were going to a bull fight, I hadn't heard they were short on "bulls" they certainly know how to pick them. Ian would certainly give them something to 'OLE' about.

Our magnificent team went to Coxmoor and Hollinwell to represent Northern Ireland in the BIGGA National Golf Championship and Emmett tells me they were c..p! Emmett, Michael King, Noel Crawford, Eamon Crawford and Alan Strachan stayed at "Fawlty Towers". Emmett and Alan had to share a bunk bed, Alan was on top of Emmett, I am trying to visualise the scene. The missing member of pop group Brothers has been found living in Newcastle, Co. Down under an alias (N.C.) no other clues.

AGM. December 3. 7.30pm. Allen Park – Antrim

Be Good

Graham Prosser

www.bigga.org.uk

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