



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

Hope you are all happy and enjoying the fine weather of late. As you read this most will be aware that the Autumn Meeting is being played at Beith GC on Tuesday, September 16. Hope to see as good a turn out as last year.

Derek Wilson found himself a member of the winning team at the recent Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich (pronounced "quake" as I was reliably informed amid a chuckle or two). I am sure all involved at Belleisle had a lovely day.

Turnberry had a busy and exciting few weeks with the Senior British Open played over the Ailsa course, and the Kintyre hosted one of the two qualifying rounds. What a thrill to see the greatest golfers of modern times competing in such a friendly manner.

The weather was perfect for the championship although Monday was a different story. After setting the courses up for practice most went for breakfast, no sooner had the butter hit the toast than the monsoon started! Half an hour later both courses were flooded and the bunkers washed out! Fortunately the rain abated after a couple of hours and by the end of the day you wouldn't have known it had rained at all, apart from the fact there were some very sodden greenkeepers. Ah, the joys of the Scottish weather!

Next summer will be another good year for Ayrshire golf with the Open at Royal Troon while Irvine Bogside, Glasgow Gailes, Western Gailes and the Kintyre will host the qualifying rounds.

Till next time!

Dennis Tweddell



West of Scotland

Yes it's back. After a couple of months leave, the monthly Section news is here!

I'm afraid lack of information is blamed for no articles for the past couple of months - you were all away on your summer holiday anyway, who needs to go on holiday with the fine weather we're having lately.

Competition: Harry Diamond Memorial Trophy

Venue: Ayr Belleisle Golf Club

Date: 13.7.03

A small team were selected to represent the West Section which included Brian Bolland, Gerry Bruen and myself. Blessed with fine sunshine the course was in excellent condition for this event and credit goes to the Ayr Belleisle greenkeeping team for their efforts.

A special mention to Brian Bolland who picked up a team prize on the day, unfortunately it was the booby prize. Keep practising Brian.

To Harry's wife, Jessie, family and officials congratulations on making the event such a success, I'm sure Harry would be very proud of how the day's events and golf course turned out.

The day is nigh!

October 8, Autumn outing at Cathkin Braes Golf Club. Hope you all have been practising! Hopefully you can break away from your busy schedules to have an enjoyable, relaxing day blessed with continued sunshine.

Post your entries in as soon as possible please, remember on the day you can leave your deposit or pay in full for your ticket to the annual dinner at Victoria's Night Club.

Remember! Cathkin Braes Autumn Outing, Don't miss it! Any information contact me on Tel: 0141 644 5783 Mobile: 07774 420427

Douglas McIntosh

NORTHERN REGION

North East

Congratulations are in order for Head Greenkeeper Tony McLure and his team as they were the winners in the North East John Deere Competition at Morpeth GC recently. Since then its been brought to my attention that they have since qualified at The Belfry to represent John Deere in the States later in the year, hope you all do well and enjoy the experience.

Come on lads let's have some news to put in the Section Report. I'm sure some of you will be moaning on as nothing has appeared for a while. I can't put anything in if I don't have the info.

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

I start this month's notes with a tale from one of our long standing members, who shall remain nameless. He was in his car on his way back from the island of Anglesey on the A55 road and was doing about 60 plus as he entered the 50mph bit after Conwy going through Llandudno junction. He noticed in his rear view mirror a dark blue Volvo estate car coming up from behind he stayed in the nearside lane still at over 60mph and waited for the Volvo to pass. However it stayed just behind him and was in his blind spot for the next 500yds, so he decided to put his foot down a bit to crack on home. He got up to just before 80mph and the Volvo was still behind and still in his blind spot, it wasn't until he had covered a further 500yds still motoring on that the Volvo decided to overtake and, yes you guessed it, it was full of police officers. As the colour rushed out of his cheeks and he slumped very humble into the seat, he looked across and saw one of the lady officers, with cupped hands, saying "It's only 50 here". Wanting to find an early exit off to Llandulas or somewhere and dropping his speed down to 40mph he envisaged a blockade up ahead to pull him over and read the riot act, luckily they didn't and he has been driving around locally at between 25 to 30mph everywhere. (Before you ask, NO, it wasn't me!)

I had a different experience, in July I was asked by local professional and friend Anthony Sproston to caddie at the Pre-qualifying for The Open at Stockport GC. After his round of 70 we did not think he would get through but with three others also at 70 we went down the 1st hole again in sudden death for the final spot, going through with a win on that hole,

Anthony then asked me to final qualifying at North Foreland GC in Kent. We had one practice day and after day one were 3 under par. On day two we could see we had to get to 8 under to have any chance, then, with a brilliant round of 65, we went to 9 under ahead of Costantino Rocca and Sven Struver for a place in The Open. Not planning ahead, we had no place to stay near Sandwich and everywhere was booked up, but the R&A sorted out accommodation at Broome Park GC, just outside Canterbury and we started our practice rounds at Royal St George's, only with Bernhard Langer and Luke Donald to name drop just two, (I asked Pete Coleman if he could give me any tips?, he answered 'Don't do the Masters it will be tough on your legs with that big bag'). Everything was supplied to us by Callaway and we got all new kit for the four days. With a first round of 83 and a second of 80 we missed the cut and only had the first two days. The dream had ended and we were back on our way home up the M6.

Congratulations to J. (laid-back) Jago, from Sutton Hall GC, who recently got married, I wonder how long he will keep the 'laid-back' bit now? "

Finally a get well soon message from the Section to Neil Thomas who has been of ill health recently.

Any news or views give us a call: Home 01925 263394
Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail: acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn



Northern

I am writing these notes a good week before The Roses clash. Hopefully we will beat the Lancastrians and will retain the trophy for the fourth year running. I will confirm the outcome next month.

If you are reading these notes and have not booked for Invitation Day at Wetherby Golf Club on Wednesday, September 10. Please remember that bookings can only be accepted up to a week prior to the event (September 3).

The next tournament after this is our Autumn Meeting and AGM sponsored by Bob Wild Grass Machinery. This is at West Bowling Golf Club on October 16. All details and bookings for this event are to be forwarded to Steve Heaton. His home address is 31 Hillcrest Avenue, Silsden, West York's, BD20 9NH Tel-01535 655764. Sorry for the inconvenience of this, but I will be on holiday when you are making your bookings. The AGM will be held between the golf and the evening meal at this event. Tee off times and AGM times will be published in next month's notes.

On the education side of the Section, a two-day training course in basic computer skills is to be held at BIGGA HOUSE in the Key Room has been organised. The date for this is November 25 - 26. There is a maximum of six candidates. The cost per person is £70.50 (inc VAT), which includes all training and lunch on each day. For more details contact Sami at BIGGA HOUSE, or myself.

The Dog Racing Night at Pontefract is filling up very well. This is taking place on Friday, October 24. All details were in last month's magazine or can be obtained from any committee member.

Congratulations are in order to our Vice Chairman Tito Arana who along with his wife are expecting their 2nd bambino later this year.

New members to our section and Association are Ray Cole from Golf City, Dean Gosney and Joe Monaghan from Scarthingwell Golf Club and Shaun Drum from Bridlington Golf Club. May I extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you use your association to the full.

That's all for now, talk to you next month and please keep in touch,
16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ.
Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976 876264 E mail: Dthackray@aol.com
Dave Thackray



I would also like to welcome Andy Unwin to the Section as a new member and to congratulate Mark Kelsow for his appointment as First Assistant, both at Rotherham.

Our next golf competition will be held at Brough Golf Club on September 15. Tee-off 1.30pm.

If anyone has any news that they need publicising then please don't hesitate to contact me on 01709 548759 or 07752 883290 or by email on: chris.astle1@btpopenworld.com
Chris Astle

North West

I have recently returned from The Open at Royal St. George's, and have just recovered from what seems like jet lag. This was a particularly tough one as the accommodation was 25 miles away in Canterbury, and the R&A wanted all the course work finished by 6am. This meant the team for bunker raking right through the course had to leave at 3.15am to be at the course by 4am. I would like to congratulate all of the Support Team because no one was late for the early buses, or for their games throughout the week.

The course was in superb condition and was a real credit to Neil Metcalf and his staff. The course was set up for the best golfers in the world, and was a true test of golf, with an exciting finish.

We had no Section golf during July, but two matches clash during August, the Roses match, and the Regional final which I will report on in next month's notes.

September is a busy month for Section golf with the Whitelaw Bowl at Penrith Golf Club on September 3; Stewards Match at Hazel Grove on Monday, September 8 and the Autumn Tournament at Birchwood Golf Club on Wednesday, September 24. Contact me if you want to play in the Penrith or Hazel matches, but for the Autumn Tournament contact Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Tel: 01695 632883. Mobile: 07711 833809. Enclose a cheque for £20 made payable to B.I.G.G.A. N/W.

I have news that Neil Thomas our Executive Director is not well and in hospital, we wish him a speedy recovery. That is it for now but any news or queries contact me on: 01517 245412 or mobile: 07761 583377

Bert Cross



Sheffield

On July 23, the Sheffield Section held their annual golf tournament at Chesterfield Golf Club. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. However, I believe that everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the day, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Chesterfield Golf Club for allowing the Sheffield Section courtesy of the course. The course was in excellent condition and credit goes out to Andrew Bunting and his team for presenting their course to

a fine standard.

Our thanks also go out to Russ Latham and Dave Smith from our main sponsor, Mansfield Sand, who as always were very generous in presenting an excellent prize table. I would also like to thank the rest of the trade members (P. Fell, of Aitkens, and S. Clayton, of Mid Lube) for donating raffle prizes.

The results from the competition are as follows: 1. A. Bunting 87 gross, nett 71 (best nett prize); 2. L. Smith 84 gross, nett 72; 3. A. Whittington 89 gross, nett 73; 4. C. Hopper 86 gross, nett 74; 5. I. Whitehead 85 gross, nett 74; 6. G. Wells 80 gross, nett 75 (best gross prize).

Consolation prize for best effort goes to M. Longmate who I think hadn't played golf for two years with a score of gross 176, 148 nett.

Nearest the Pin. M. Crawshaw. Longest Drive. I. Gravel and Best trade/guest A. Cherry, Chesterfield GC Green Chairman.

In July Rotherham Golf Club held two important golf competitions. The first was the EGU English Boys U16 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship for the McGregor Trophy. The finest U16 golfers battled it out in what I believe to be an exciting tournament with some excellent golf being played.

The second golf tournament was the England Boys v Italy Boys U16. where days before the competition it rained non stop and it looked unlikely that the competition would take place. However, the weather took a good turn and for eight hours the staff at Rotherham squeegeed water so the competition could take place.

The overall outcome was that the lads had done well and the course was back to its full glory. Credit goes out to all involved and, to make things even better, England boys won.



MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01476 550115

The Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Competitions, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional, were held in superb weather at Ashridge Golf Club on August 6 and Kedleston Park Golf Club on August 7. Golf club teams comprising of a Greenkeeper (BIGGA member), Club Captain, Secretary and Chairman of Green competed for £200 worth of Scotts equipment and individual prizes at each venue. Twenty-five teams competed at Ashridge Golf Club, the winning team was Ryston Park Golf Club, led by Head Greenkeeper Neil Green, with a magnificent score of 92 Stableford Points, closely followed by Stocks Hotel G & CC with 88 points and Stockwood Park Golf Club with 87 points.

The Kedleston Park event was won by the team from Kirby Muxloe Golf Club with 84 points ably led by Head Greenkeeper Antony Bindley; Wollaton Park Golf Club were 2nd on 83 points and Drayton Park Golf Club 3rd with 81 points. Both venues were in excellent condition and great credit is due to Jim Cassidy and his staff at Ashridge Golf Club and Dave Leatherland and his staff at Kedleston Park Golf Club for their hard work in preparing the courses.

The Midland Region greatly appreciates the continued sponsorship from Scotts UK Professional, and there are similar events being planned for next year.

Peter Larter

Midland

This year's Summer Tournament was held at Blackwell Golf Club in memory of Roger Pullen, and if Roger was looking down I'm sure he would have been very flattered by the fantastic condition of the course as presented by Peter Fletcher and his fine team. I have yet to play on a finer golf course, very well done gentlemen. Our thanks to Blackwell Golf Club for this opportunity to enjoy a course of such wonderful character and finesse.

The results of the day were; Best Gross: E. Stant, Nett Results: 1. R. Hunter, 2. E. Stant, 3. A. Lane, 4. D. Fellows, 5. D. Gibbons. Our thanks to M. Shaw M. D. and B. Pilsbury, of Abbey Mowers, for the fine prize table. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was kindly sponsored by J. Skelton, of WBB Minerals. The victors being D. Fellows and A. Lane respectively. (There's no need to show off, Dave). The Trade winner was P. McCrainor. It was also nice to see three new faces, in the name of P. Fletcher, C. Williams and A. Lane, and two old hands, in the guise of T. Livingston and S. Morton.

Now a word for a man who has unassumingly for the past 15 years been our Mr Starter, and indeed an unbiased adjudicator of our golfing tournaments. The gentleman in question being Mr J. Hammond, of Bathgate Leisure. Your wonderfully dry, jovial persona, coupled with total diligence of scoring has more than added to the success of the Section's golfing events. Our thanks to you for your support John. Such would not be the same without you.

Those still remaining in the Scotts Doubles, please remember that such needs to be played by September 14. Good luck to all.

There may still be time to book your place to the forthcoming trip to Johnson's Seeds in conjunction with N. Tyler and Alpha Amenity. The day will be a morning start on October 7. Please ring Nigel to book your place or for more information, 07989 548058

Please don't forget the fishing event at Middleton Hall, September 21. The day is sure to be a huge success and we are anticipating a good turn out. Please ring me on 07816 410552 to book your peg.

I have the unfortunate duty of reporting that the Executive Director of BIGGA Neil Thomas is unwell. He is currently undergoing treatment. I'm sure all members shall join me in wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

That's all the news this month, brought to you from Schwilbilly Towers.
Sean McDade



Mid Anglia

Can I first apologise for the lack of notes in Around the Green but unfortunately Jim Cassidy has resigned from the Committee due to work commitments and a baby on the horizon. Thanks for all your help Jim. From next month Steve Mason will be writing in this Section of the magazine.

Moving back in time the Section held its Spring Meeting at The Bedfordshire Golf Club on May 16, sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The weather was not great for the day, however, the course made up for it prepared by John Gubb and his staff. The results are as follows, 1. Gerald Bruce 2. Kevin Armstrong 3. Russell Howson 4. David Thompson.

The next golf meeting is to be held on Friday October 10 at Berkhamsted. It is 18 holes in the morning followed by lunch and the AGM (Don't let that put you off the golf!)

Education courses will be organised by the committee shortly so if any of you have ideas please contact any of the committee. Last winter's courses had to be cancelled due to lack of support and the course visit to The Grove had a disappointing turnout for what was an excellent course visit. I know there are some of you out there because I see you at the Christmas Meeting which always has an excellent turnout so it would be nice to see you at other events that we organise.

Gerald Bruce



BB&O

Things have gone somewhat quiet lately as I suspect everyone like myself is up to their eyeballs in covering a wholesome, varied workload. This summer is proving again that no two will be alike as the seasonal balance chops and changes. No golf to report on from our section but I must just mention in passing the superb job done by the staff at Royal St George's with the BIGGA Support team in place. That was a great test of how a course can be utilised to make sure the modern golfer has a

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challenge.

For those of you interested I would ask you make a note of the following date for our AGM meeting. This will be on October 22, 2003 at the Springs Hotel and Golf Club with a start time of 6.30pm. Sandwiches will follow this and plenty of beverages so please come along, support the section committee and have your say on any items you wish to flog us on until we beg forgiveness. This meeting is vital to the future of the BB&O Section, as there are three vacancies to be filled. We are looking for members who would be interested in the following positions of Secretary, Committee Chairperson and Treasurer. This signals the chance to bring on line new blood within the camp and a chance for some members to get involved and bring in new ideas to the benefit of all our members. Anyone interested in these positions who wishes to have a chat about what exactly is involved, please ring me on the number below or contact me through email and I will be only too happy to visit and give an insight on the various roles.

We have made some great changes over the past two years to ensure these roles are not too onerous for those involved in committee work. It is supposed to be fun to run the Section and I can assure you it has been with a great deal of personal satisfaction gained for all those who sit on the committee. As with life, things move on and that is simply why these positions are up for grabs so let's be hearing from you.

Congratulations to Steve Gardner, Deputy Course Manager at Flackwell Heath Golf Club whose partner Abi give birth to a baby boy on Saturday July 26th at approximately 3.30am. He weighed in well at 8lb so a good strong fella. We wish all the best to baby Lewis Matthew and family. Do I hear wedding bells in the air? Contact me with interesting media on: 07778 765021 or email david@mastergreenkeeper.fsnet.co.uk

David Haskell Craig



Devon & Cornwall

Our Course Management Trophy sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery and Scotts was held at Teignmouth Golf Club on Thursday, July 17. The day began with Rob Guntrip, of DGM, and John Pike, of Toro, starting the Stableford competition. Teams consisted of the Head Greenkeeper, the Secretary and the Greens Chairman from each club with the best two scores to count. Alan and Jeanette Domett, of DGM, kindly supplied refreshments on the 10th tee. After an excellent meal the prize presentation was given by Alan Domett. The winners were Sidmouth Golf Club with 77 points and Yelverton Golf Club were runners up with a score of 75 points. The Section would like to thank Devon Garden Machinery and Scotts for sponsoring the event and Teignmouth Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. Thanks also, to Head Greenkeeper, Anthony Woolnough, and his staff for presenting the course in super condition.

The Section would like to send best wishes to our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who has recently been in hospital. We wish him well and hope to see him soon.

Derek Farrington has taken over from Paula Humphries as our Regional Administrator and we look forward to meeting up with Derek at our Section meetings in the future.

If anyone has any information for this column, please contact Steve Evans on 01822 617671 or e-mail to steve617671@ukonline.co.uk

Steve Evans



South Wales

The annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA held as always at the Marriott St Pierre Resort was an excellent and enjoyable affair. The weather was dry, warm and sunny until a downpour cooled things down towards the end of the round. The golf course was in excellent condition and the evening meal was superb. Our thanks to all at the Marriott Resort for making us so very welcome. My sincere thanks to John Keenaghan for organising his team. I know that he was struggling early on, but mustered a full team and a stern challenge in the end. Thanks, John, for your efforts, they were appreciated and I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone present by stating that an enjoyable day was had by all and in good spirit and good

company.

After a dismal showing from our Section last year and some stern words behind closed doors within the Section dressing room, the whip was wielded. Donning new sponsored golf shirts courtesy of Inturf, the S Wales team, selected to do battle, did the job. We brought home the Trophy (once Nobby can find it) by winning by 3 1/2 to 1 1/2.

My sincere thanks to Nick Martin, from Scotts, for sponsoring the day and for providing the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes as well as for seeing us all off on the 1st tee in conjunction with Raymond Burrows.

A sincere thanks to everyone present for supporting this annual fixture, for getting it back on track and for ensuring that it remains to be one of the most enjoyable events on our fixture list.

For those of you that don't know, the reason I'm back writing the report this month, is that our usual scribe and immediate Past Chairman, Adrian Panks, suffered a heart attack on the morning of the above match. His wife phoned us on the 1st tee at St Pierre to say that he would not be turning up as he had been admitted to hospital with a suspected heart attack. Adi is now home with his feet up and on the road to hopefully a full and complete recovery. No more fags, bags of rabbit food and look out Guy Woods, because he will soon be chasing you around the fens!

I've been asked by so many people to pass on best wishes to Ade, and thought it to be easier to do it through this column. So get back to normal soon and the section/association wishes you well.

Peter Lacey



South Coast

Firstly apologies for the lack of Section notes last month. A technical problem that has now been resolved. We are all basking in a tropical heatwave as I write this and we have several fans running in our house to try and keep us cool. The very hot weather has certainly changed the playing conditions on our golf courses as they have gradually turned fast and fiery but who's complaining. A very good friend of mine who travelled to The Open Championship remarked how good it was to see a course change its characteristics with the seasons. I sometimes think too many greenkeepers are overly worried about colour when surely they should be content on the quality of their turf. We must congratulate Neil Metcalf and his team for enabling us to have such a superb Open. The course was a very stern test and a great credit to all of his team.

Two fixtures to bring you up to date with. The Dorset Golf and Country Club was the venue for the annual Section match against the Wessex Secretaries which was again sponsored by Course Care. The weather was kind and the course was beautifully prepared by the greenstaff. The two sides were evenly matched but support from Dave Mears, of Course Care, helped us win the tie 3-2. Once again many thanks to the Dorset G&CC for their superb hospitality and the catering staff for a truly superb meal. Many thanks to Dave Mears and Paul Dyer of Course Care for their much valued support and sponsorship, and of course many thanks to the Wessex Secretaries for making the matches so enjoyable. Finally, to the greenstaff for all their hard work in preparing the course for us, many thanks.

Next port of call was Stoneham Golf Club and our summer invitation meeting sponsored by Huxley's and Rigby Taylor. The fourball better ball event is always popular and a good field was keen to get among the prizes. As usual there was some healthy banter with Chris Bittern regarding the forthcoming football season, only time will tell Chris! Pete Marsh must be working harder than ever now, as he is looking younger and slimmer than ever! Isn't that what your deputy is for Pete? We were all delighted to have Paula and Mike Humphries as our guests for the day. Paula really is a remarkable lady. She has not been in the best of health again but her radiant smile hides so much from all, but those who know her best. Mike had a great days golf but struggled somewhat after a long drive the previous evening. Enough said Mike! Anyway on to golf. The weather wasn't too bad although a strong breeze gave us testing conditions. Winners on the days were: 1. Spencer Haines & Jim Herbert, 46pts; 2. Tony Gadd & Steve Christopher, 46pts; 3. Chris Bittern & John Clarkson, 43pts. Longest Drive. Chris Bittern. Nearest the Pin. Steve Christopher.

Many thanks to Stoneham GC for their superb hospitality and the catering staff for an excellent meal. A huge vote of thanks to Pete Marsh, Chris Bittern and the team at Stoneham for all their hard work in preparing the course magnificently for us. Without our sponsors we could never have such great golf days so many thanks to Huxley's and Rigby Taylor and last but by no means least our hard working Chris Sturgess. Another great day Chris! Many thanks!

Our next golf meeting is at Rowland Castle on Thursday, October 2. The cost as usual is £18 and cheques should be made payable to: 'BIGGA South Coast' and sent to Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton Wiltshire SO19 6HB. The Section AGM will also be held after the golf so make sure you are there. We are currently looking for more committee members so this is the ideal opportunity to join the committee and help shape the future of our association.

The committee is busy currently organising next year's Section Seminar which will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club again. If you have any speakers you wish to be included on the day then please contact me.

Once again any news that you wish to include in these notes then please call me on: 07966 386232 or 01202 661106 or a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month
Alex McCombie



South West

My prediction for the hot weather turned out to be accurate, although I am not going to take the credit. That's down to our very own Michael Fish alias Roger Davey, of Irritech. If you need long range forecasting, he's your man.

All quiet on the Western front as they say, so after my epic last month I shall keep it short and sweet.

Congratulations to the team from Long Ashton, upon winning the Scotts Management Trophy held at Bristol and Clifton GC.

Well done to Bobby Vinning, Assistant Greenkeeper from Mendip Spring Golf Club. He has qualified from Cannington College to go through to the final of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, good luck Bobby.

I am arranging a two day seminar with Frank Newbury through BIGGA on improving presentation skills to members/committees, hopefully in early December. Watch this space. Don't forget contact me for your training needs and courses you think should be run, it's as easy as that, go on give me a ring I'm starting to get paranoid (is there anybody out there)?

Bath Golf Club 01225 483486, 07812 380936
Email greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk
Guy Woods



must be the way forward for all of us to build up good lines of communication and working together more successfully.

We would like to thank Tuckwells Ltd. the main dealers for John Deere, for sponsoring the day, particularly James Tuckwell, Neil Peachey and the rest of the crew, Stock Brook Manor GC and Arnold and the green staff for having the course in excellent condition.

The winners were from the newly formed golf club Ongar Park but with some old familiar faces. The final was held at the Belfry on July 25 but their score of 11 under par was not enough with the overall winners recording a massive 16 under. Hopefully next year's qualifier will be a day other clubs will not want to miss.

The results of the qualifier were – 1. Ongar Park Golf Club; 2. Saffron Walden Golf Club; 3. Lexden Wood Golf Club. Nearest The Pin. Paul Brown, Ballards Gore Golf Club and Longest Drive, David March, from Channels Golf Club.

On to some other good news, congratulations to Sam Young, of Ilford GC, on reaching this year regional final of the Toro Student of the Year Competition. Also to Ian Leonard, Andrew Miller and Ben Scrivener who were chosen to represent BIGGA as part of the Greenkeeping Support Team at this year Open Championship (early hours, long days and hard work by all accounts but worth while just to experience the tension and atmosphere).

The Autumn/Winter 2003 and Spring 2004 Section training courses have been put together and are as the following:- Two day Tractor Driving Course November 4 & 5 at the Essex Golf & Country Club. Two day Tractor Driving Course February 2004 at the Burstead Golf Club.

The cost per candidate is £70.50 (inc vat), includes training, testing as well as coffee/tea & biscuits and lunch each day.

One-day course titled "Presenting a Professional Image" March 2004 at the Burstead Golf Club. Subjects covering dealing with your committee/members/owners, good communication skills and public speaking (ideal as a refresher for course managers/head greenkeepers or first assistants).

The cost per candidate is £30 (inc vat), includes training, coffee/tea & biscuits and lunch for the day.

BIGGA last year subsidised local training by more than £40,000 so please make sure we use it rather than lose it to other Sections.

For further details please contact me on 01245 603131 or 07984 867939.

Martin Forrester.

Next Golf Day, October 1, Gosfield Lakes Golf Club.



Surrey

I am making notes for this edition on August 8, the temperature is in the mid 30's and I am stuck in a traffic jam on the Surrey Section of the M25. My primitive air conditioning (two open windows) is quite effective at 40mph but at my present speed it seems to work in reverse and the cab must now be around the mid 40's.

When you all read this in September I predict that you will be looking out from your sheds at the monsoon that is turning your at present brown course into a mud bath. If my forecast is correct just remember it's global warming to blame and not your irrigation and drainage and that your current Chairman of Green does have a father. If my ability to forecast the weather is incorrect then I will keep my head down until the new year and hope that you will forget the prat that writes so much rubbish each month.

Sunningdale Golf Club – Our annual venue for the MacMillan Tankard on August 6 was outstanding and we thank Brian Turner's team for producing the new course in Championship condition. The high temperature made consistently good quality golf difficult and the superb and very fast greens proved that only the best putters kept a respectable score. The respectable putters and winners were 1. Adam Lunoe, Richmond Golf Club, 43 pts; 2. Michael Sawicki, Richmond Golf Club, 40 pts. 3. Gavin Kyle, Knowle Park Golf Club, 36 pts; 4. Dave Goddard, Sunningdale Golf Club, 36 pts. 5. Steve Holmes, Hindhead Golf Club, 37 pts. Nearest The Pin. Dave Goddard. Longest Drive. Peter Fletcher, Seldon Park Golf Club.

The sponsors who supplied excellent prizes were Grass Roots and the Barbecue chefs who cooked our meal were trained by the Artisans' club. I am sure that our handicap secretary Tony (chopper) Bremer will take special care of the two members from Richmond Golf Club and that their very wide brimmed Mexican style hats are reduced to a more moderate size.

Brian Willmott



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

Welcome to this month's news report. During my calls over the last month I have seen you all preparing your courses for the eager golfers and enjoying the hot weather we are having, although I must say, most of you would like a drop of rain during the night, if possible!!

Congratulations must go out to Sheila Wheston, of Broke Hill GC, Sheila has successfully passed NVQ level 2 as well as PA1, PA2 and PA6. Nicky Mileham also from Broke Hill has completed NVQ level 2 as well, both of them studied at Hadlow College, well done to you both.

The Section would like to wish Jason Moody, Course Manager at Canterbury Golf Club and his fiancée Sara all the best for their Wedding on the 19th September, we hope you both have a fantastic day and have many happy times together as Husband and Wife.

Finally, if anyone has any news to report, please don't hesitate to speak to me during my rounds or give me a call.

Phil Belton



Essex

After a final rally round, 16 teams entered the very first Essex regional qualifier of the John Deere Team Championship held at Stock Brook Manor. Going through the rules seemed like torture, (and I thought golf was a simple game) but we finally got under way and it turned out to be a fantastic day for all. It was nice to see greenkeepers, golf professionals and committee members mixing together which

NORTHERN IRELAND

Well (Tipperary Man's Greeting)

Ulster radio have announced that the greens staff at Malone Golf Club have a new business venture – Donkey Rides. The truth is that they found a donkey on the 1st tee, (without proper shoes). It certainly wasn't greenkeeping staff. My bet Paul or Warren. It's a good job they have a Donegal boy there with some intelligence because the donkey happens to be a horse. True story.

I'm just back from Co. Down where Alan Strachan made me a mug of coffee in a clean mug. Class! I also called to see John Moore, at Ardglass, the new holes and the rest looks really well. John is a great guy. He was in the process of putting up flags from around the world at the back of the 18th and he thinks so much of golfers from the other side of the world he put their flags up, upside down so that they could see them from down under!

I hope all went well for Keith Little, at Warrenpoint Golf Club, with the Ladies' European Tour event. Everywhere looked very well, Keith looked pretty cool about it all.

I then went on to see Oisian White, at Greenore. It's beautiful down there and Oisian and I always get talking about farming. This month's subject – wild oats, the pulling of not sowing.

Health & Safety Award goes to Robert Nelson, at Lisburn Golf Club, but first I love calling to see Rob we always have a giggle and a yarn about something. No, sorry, nothing. Well, this time (serious now) he took me around the course, he has every right to be pleased with it, especially the recently completed open ditch drainage, the amount of water it has taken away is amazing to see and the condition of the grass in surrounding areas gives a really good indication of efficient drainage.

Well we got back and I needed to use the bathroom. Well, talk about H & S, you know where you stand, there was a broken tile so an astute member of staff put a white line around the tile and a G.U.R. sign (free drop). The Lisburn boys are also very festive. Why don't the rest of you leave your Christmas tree up fully decorated all year round?

Congratulations this month to Jonathan McCabe, from Carnalea, and Mark Gilmore, from Fortwilliam. They have both recently got married (to separate girls, I believe). Best wishes boys.

I hope by the time you read these notes Tommy Ferguson, from Ballyclare, is back to work. He had a really bad accident and we hope all's going well, Tommy.

Now, congratulations to Justin Waddell, from Fortwilliam. He has won the John Lindsay Award for top student NVQ Level 3 at Greenmount and won the regional Toto Student Greenkeeper and qualifies along with seven other finalists. I know Justin and I consider him to be an excellent ambassador, a credit to Micky and Sam. I know he will be a first class representative for the youth of Northern Ireland. He is a young gentleman - he won't need any luck, the others will. Well done, Justin.

One hundred and thirty one golfers had a really good day at Clandeboye. (Could I say the best yet?) The weather was good, the course was immaculate and Clandeboye hospitality first rate. We "all" raised £2400 for charity, and I think I had a good night. Thank you Terry and your staff at Clandeboye for a top class day. It now has become a date on the calendar. Very well done Terry, Aaron and your team. All should go well for the European Tour event in September.

I brought two of my friends over for the weekend from England and they couldn't get over how beautiful Northern Ireland is. It's about time someone had something nice to say about Ulster over there. Believe me, our hospitality, countryside, coastline, property, farms and golf courses are second to none, and I mean all six counties.

Results: Team prize – Micky O'Neill, Godfrey Clarke's Team. 1. Godfrey Clarke, Ballycastle; 2. Irwin Robson, Bangor.

Many thanks are extended to Horta Soils for their sponsorship and to Micky O'Neill and Ken Henderson for their help in organisation.

Frank says his three legged chickens aren't selling very well, problem is feeding a family of four.

See you at Portstewart Golf Club on September 2. Be there.

Graham Prosser



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