

The AGM reported the great success of the Section and it is not by luck or chance that we are such a great success. This is down to the hard work and dedication of your committee and the great support we receive from you all, long may it continue!

Make sure you support and attend again next year at our golf days and Section seminar, which will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club on February 24. We have another great line up of speakers and full details will be with you very soon, it will be another great day!

It gives me great pleasure in informing you that our new Regional Administrator has now been appointed. We wish Jane Jones a very warm welcome to the Association and we look forward to seeing her at many of our Section events.

Having spoken to Jane she is full of enthusiasm and will be a great asset to our Section and Association and, as she is a keen golfer, has every intention of playing in as many of our golf days as possible. We look forward to meeting you Jane!

It would be very remiss of me not to thank all of our sponsors for their valued support over the last year. We could not have such wonderful golf days and a great seminar without them. We really do appreciate your generosity and look forward to working with you all again next year.

I would also like to thank all of the staff at headquarters for all their hard work and help over the last year. They all work extremely hard on our behalf and, like many greenkeepers, get little thanks most of the time. They have certainly made my job a lot easier and it's much appreciated! Thank you.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Make 2005 a great year!

Alex McCombie

#### South Wales

A great day was had at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, where 32 windswept golfers took part in the autumn golf day. Thanks go to Keith Morgan Mowers for their kind sponsorship and for supplying an excellent prize table. The course was in superb condition, David please accept and pass on our thanks to you and your team for their efforts. The prizes were taken by: 1. Andy Roach; 2. Rees Thomas; 3. Peter Lacey, who narrowly beat Angus Macleod on count back.

Our next match will take place at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Course on December 10, hopefully you will have received this by then, please make every effort to come but be warned early booking is essential as this is a popular day. To book contact Peter Lacey. Next year's fixtures will be published in early 2005, they will be forwarded on to you.

Kerry Jones



Firstly this month I would like to once again thank our very generous sponsors who supported the Section's golf days throughout this year. They are Kevin and Cahill Gates, from Ultra Plant Spreaders, Coburns of Banbridge, Scotts Sands of Toomebridge and Brodericks Machinery at Mallusk. Your support is greatly appreciated by our members.

The AGM will take place at Fort William GC in December. The exact date will soon be finalised. Our Section committee would like to see a good attendance at our AGM and hopefully a few new faces will come onto the committee for 2005.

The National Championship was once again well supported by greenkeepers from Royal Co Down GC. Noel Crawford, Eamonn Crawford and son, Gary, were joined by Michael King on the annual trip in early October. The venue this year was near Leeds at Alwoodley GC. Many congratulations go to Noel Crawford, who once again lifted the Scratch Champion prize for the two days. Noel had a total score of 152, an excellent performance on a very difficult heathland course. Basically Noel steps off the plane at Leeds/Bradford Airport and onto the first tee without a practice round and little time for adequate preparation. Noel has won the Gross prize three times in the last five years, which is a tremendous achievement. Noel's brother, Eamonn, won the best Gross prize on day two with a 74 and Eamonn's son, Gary, won the best Nett prize also on day two. The guys from Royal Co Down would like to thank all at BIGGA and their fellow players for the hospitality and kindness shown towards them.

As a result of their fine performance at the National Championship Noel and Eamonn were selected to play for the BIGGA Team against the Combined Services at the Berkshire Golf Club in late October and a full report of how they got on can be found in this magazine.

Andrew Ferguson, from Brodericks Machinery at Mallusk, very generously provided sponsorship of £250 to assist with Noel and Eamonn's travelling expenses over to the Berkshire. Many thanks to Brodericks for their generous support.

Well that is about all my news for this month, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Ken Henderson

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