

Your committee had its latest meeting on December 1, at Epsom Golf Club. The venues for 2004 events are almost complete and include the following golf clubs, Cuddington, Coombe Wood, Clandon Regis, Laleham and Sunningdale. The Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath will be on March 12. Details of this year's Bioseed Bowl will be sent soon but please remember that all competitors must have an official BIGGA, golf club or golf handicap to enter.

Brian Willmott

NORTHERN IRELAND

Well, did you get to the show in Dublin? I stayed in a really posh hotel with the boys from Raddison Roe Park Golf Club. I arrived first and sat in the bar, while sipping my pint. I looked around, the bar/restaurant was packed full of very smartly dressed people. I certainly would sooner keep the women for a week than a fortnight. Then, all of a sudden, four boys from Limavady walked in. Priceless!

I don't know who phoned me in the middle of the night but I found myself talking to someone on a 'big white telephone'. I remember my mummy used to hold my forehead but Lawrence couldn't have cared less. He asked 'Were you talking to someone?' Some folks need it spelling out, don't they?

John Nolan, from Edmonds Town GC, Dublin, was looking very well indeed. Maybe his honeymoon in South Africa contributed to that. Congratulations, John.

Mr President. I first met the Pres 40 years ago. He came down from Scotland and joined the police SVC (scratch golfer by the way). He was our local rural Bobby. On his night shift he used to set off in his Morris Traveller (do you remember those wooden framed estate cars?), drive round to the local village pub, lift the rear end and put a crate under the axle. He'd put it into first gear, let it run, spend the night in the pub and take her back in the morning with the miles on the clock. Happy Days. He represented the British Police at Golf and played at Royal Portrush, a long time ago. He said the only thing he can remember was looking out of his hotel window in the morning and seeing someone coming down the road on his bike. The only thing keeping him on the road was he kept hitting the kerb either side of the road. He eventually came up to a pub, got off his bike, let it go and walked straight into the bar. I didn't think Joe Findlay was at Portrush then.

Now Serious.

At the AGM on December 3, officers were elected. Ken Henderson, Chairman; Emmett Curran, Secretary; Micky O'Neill, Treasurer and comps and Andrew Kerr, Education.

A special thanks was conveyed again to sponsors of the year. I, in error, forgot to thank Karl Veshar, of Vesta Irrigation, for the sponsorship at the golf day at Portstewart Golf Club and Coburns for sending two players to England. Please accept my apologies. Once again thank you to all the companies who have contributed this year.

Very Serious.

The AGM was poorly attended. Your committee works very hard to provide you with golf days, education events, conferences etc. So, it was very disappointing that you couldn't turn up for one evening either just to express your dissatisfaction or your compliments, or to provide some input into what is, after all, your group. I'm sorry if I have touched a nerve but then I hope I have.

Mickey O'Neill and Ken Henderson won the quiz. Not surprising as Ken got me to repeat every damn question. Andrew Kerr and Jonathan McCabe picked up the booby, again not surprising as Jonathan said he is still on honeymoon.

Once again sorry for what I have said but it needed to be.

Graham Prosser

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Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. Entries to arrive no later than January 26th 2004. So hurry, because that doesn't leave you much time! The first correct entry drawn will receive a digital, Sony hand-held 'Voice Memo'.

This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members.

The solution to the December Turftime Teaser was 'MJ Abbott'. The lucky winner of the Sony CD Walkman is Tim McCreadie from Royston Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS REQUIRE VOLUNTEERS

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Troon, July 15-18 2004

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening 14 July, through to the close of play on Sunday 18 July.

Whilst all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return.

Full BIGGA members only may apply to be considered for the Team, and must apply to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via e-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Closing date for applications for the Open: Friday 13 February 2004.

VOLVO PGA CHAMPIONSHIP The Wentworth Club, May 29-30 2004

The Association will again be providing a support team for the final two days of this prestigious event which this year are Saturday 29 May and Sunday 30 May. Each member will be allocated a match, raking any bunkers found by the players.

In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on either or both days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chance of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

Applications to Derek Farrington, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 35 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 2ES Tel: 01903 260956 Email: derek.farrington@tesco.net