



# News from the Chief Executive

Three months into my new role as Chief Executive and I wonder where the time has gone. The management structure at Headquarters has been revised and now centres around myself, Ken Richardson, Scott MacCallum and Rosie Hancher thus creating a positive team which is committed to working with the Board of Management and to moving the Association forward. In line with my determination to improve the transparency of the day to day running of the office we have already visited many Section and Regional events and meetings, with more planned for the coming months. We have also welcomed many visitors to BIGGA HOUSE, some for the first time who realise that the staff are approachable and work hard on their behalf. This exercise has been well received by members who all too often feel that the headquarters staff are remote from them and the realities and pressures of greenkeeping today. I have also been concentrating on building relationships with the other bodies with whom we are associated as well as strengthening the ties with our trade partners. While we are a significant body ourselves we must not lose sight of the fact that we are only one part of the industry and if we are to influence thinking in the future on such topics as the environment or education then we need to present a unified approach to others.

Through my column each month I will attempt to keep you up to date with BIGGA's current policy, its implementation progress and I'm sure a few thought provoking and perhaps at time contentious observations and comments.

Plans are well under way for BTME & ClubHouse 2005 and the halls are already approximately 80% sold. Twice a year we hold a Steering Committee meeting at Aldwark comprising of exhibitor representatives and members of BIGGA staff. There is however still a strong undercurrent in the trade which would like to restrict the number of shows serving the industry to one each year in order to reduce their costs.

The more popular suggestions are: 1) Alternate shows annually with the IOG ie SALTEX one year and BTME & ClubHouse the next; 2) Combine forces with the IOG to produce one show at the NEC and 3) Reduce BTME & ClubHouse to a two day show. The Association is committed to an annual exhibition in Harrogate and will do its utmost to ensure that it is a successful three day event. In this connection Rosie and I recently travelled to Peterborough to meet with members of the Outdoor Power and Equipment Industries division of the Agricultural Engineers Association whose members include some of the major machinery manufacturers. Their concern over the future of exhibitions was re-iterated and I can only stress how crucial the profit from the show is to the funding of BIGGA's activities. We continue to talk to try to find a mutually acceptable solution however the support of members is paramount. If you need any more information or would like to know how you can help then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally I would like to thank Derek Farrington for his eight years of loyal service to the members of BIGGA, especially in the South East Region where he was the Regional Administrator also latterly helping out in the South West and South Wales Region. Derek retired at the end of May however I am sure that he will continue his ties with the Association through other channels.

**John Pemberton**



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## SCOTTISH REGION

### North

My apologies to the Section for there being no reports for the last two months, so I will try to bring you up to date.

New members are Dale Steven, Forres GC; Marc Miller, Elgin GC; Christopher Bruce, Duff House Royal; Stephen Grant, Kintore GC; David Leys, Kintore GC; Steven Arnott, Kintore GC; Fraser Munro, Kingussie GC; Welcome to the Section lads. I hope you can make it to some of the outings.

The Spring outing at Moray GC in May was well attended and the course was very well presented by Martin Cameron and his staff with the greens in particular being in 1st class condition.

The Captain and catering staff are also to be thanked for a very enjoyable day. The prizewinners were as follows;

Longest drives: Class 3 G. Asher, Kemnay GC; Class 2 P. Wood, Newmachar GC; Class 1 M. Miller, Moray GC. Nearest the Pin: A Stewart, Royal Aberdeen GC. Sweep: 4. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 3. S. Robertson, Craigiehill GC; 2. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC; 1. M. Main Moray GC.

Guest Winner: Ross Warrender 89-13-76. Trade Winner: Mike Dennis, Rigby Taylor, 84-11-73. Committee Trophy: H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 93-22-71. Veterans: 2. G. Asher, Kemnay GC, 106-18-88; 1. A. Grant, Fraserburgh GC, 88-13-75. Apprentice Trophy: 2. M. Anderson, Elgin GC, 89-6-83; 1. M. Rae, Newmachar GC, 77-4-73. Class 3: 3. D. Adams, Newmachar GC, 107-28-81; 2. M. Wood, Moray GC, 97-17-80; 1. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 93-22-71. Class 2: 3. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC, 86-12-74; 2. B. Cocker, Alyth GC, 88-14-74. Class 1: 1. M. Main, Moray GC, 87-16-71. Class 1: 3. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen GC, 82-6-76; 2. Bradley Wood 78-3-75; 1. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC, 79-6-73. Scratch: 2. B. Cruickshanks, Garmouth/Kingston GC, 76; 1. M. Ross, Elgin, 72

200 Club Winners: Jan. Stewart McBain; Feb. S. McIntosh; Mar. H. Mclatchie; Apr. J. Robertson.

Some other news, Celtic diehard, Robert Hardie, Head Greenkeeper at Craibstone GC, has become a father again and this time its a baby boy. Congratulations Rab. Also congratulations to Keith Wood, of Aberdeen Links, whose wife has had a daughter.

A major thanks to Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir GC, who raised around £5,000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust when he scaled the heights of Kilimajaro. A tremendous achievement Jim and a lot of people are very thankful to you for your efforts.

Congratulations also go to Gary Gruber, Head Greenkeeper of Skibo Castle GC, who presided over the Northern Open in May. The course was a great credit to Gary and his staff.

On the golfing side congratulations again to Steven MacIntosh, Course Manager at Torvean GC, who retained his Ross-shire County Championship title at Tain GC with scores of 70, 71 in very difficult conditions; and to Derek Chisholm Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Kingussie GC who won the Inverness County Championship at Kingussie GC with scores of 66 and 68, also in very difficult conditions. A season ticket to Celtic Park was also a prize for these guys.

On the move is Stuart Hogg, of Fortrose GC, who has now taken the position of Course Manager of St Annes Old Links. Stuart was at Fortrose GC for many years and had been in charge for the last 10.

He has recently been awarded his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, which is a testimony to his ambition and the hard work he has put in over the years. Fortrose GC have also been awarded many environmental awards under Stuart's supervision.

Kevin Fowler, Stuart's Deputy for the last few years has been appointed as the new Course Manager and we wish him all the best.

I hope everyone has a trouble free summer, and the weather is good to you.  
Iain Gunn





Peter Larter  
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## NORTHERN REGION

### North Wales

The Open Championship at Royal Troon GC will be with us in a couple of week's time and for all of you involved with the BIGGA Support team, you will shortly be boarding that plane from Liverpool to Glasgow or Manchester to Prestwick and then across by bus or taxi to the links.

The biggest event of the year, with the rest of the world watching your help is a vital part for the smooth running of the tournament and it looks like we will yet again be treated to some brilliant expertise with all the top players battling for the prestigious Claret Jug.

Closer to home the Welsh Ladies and the Welsh Men's Team Championship will be held at The Vale of Llangollen GC, from August 11-15.

Our Spring Tournament this year took place at Porthmadog GC and our thanks go to Gareth Williams and the team for the presentation of the course. With the fairways running very fast at 15 on the stimpmeter it was great to reach the receptive greens as we needed something to stop the ball on!

Our thanks also to the caterers for a fine carvery meal and to the club for giving us such a warm and friendly welcome.

A gift in the form of a book on Greenkeeping from a Canadian author Gordon Wittenveen (who also played in the event) was presented to Gareth, after the meal.

I believe he has read some of it and finds it extremely interesting.

The results are as follows; Greenkeepers: 1. Les Parry, Arrowe Park, 35pts; 2. Aled Hughes, Porthmadog, 33pts; 3. John Humphreys, Oswestry, 31pts. Guests: 1. Carl Ashly, 34pts; 2. Fred Crouch, 29pts. The Trade Shield went to Jim Openshaw. We had two Nearest the Pin prizes on the 9th and 13th and these were won by Stuart Hayley, Vale Royal Abbey, and Huw Brown, Golf Son Saura, respectively.

Just across the estuary at Royal St David's the Kerry bros and team, have just hosted another successful European Tour Seniors Event this now being an annual fixture on the calendar the final day being played on July 4. (Just a note to Roger Kerry – I hope you are looking after my pound, as I will be winning it back in our autumn competition at Bromborough GC).

Until next time, keep it on the short grass!

Mesen Cymru  
Andrew Acorn

### Sheffield

Nothing much to report this month so just a reminder that our Chairman, Gordon Brammah, is progressing nicely with the new Section library, but still needs as many contributions as you can spare.

I'm sure that if you dig around at home, work or in the back of your locker you may find something that you no longer need but might be of use to another Section member.

Best wishes go to David Ingleton who has left Gainsborough Golf Club after 19 years as greenkeeper and mechanic. Dave worked for the club firstly as a greenkeeper then progressed to take on the role of mechanic, looking after the clubs large inventory of machinery.

Very well known by the trade members Dave didn't take an active role in the Association due to his various interests outside work including shooting, fishing, tractor restoration and generally being a Shedhead. The club were sorry to see him go but he left with the club's very best wishes for success in his new employment.

On a lighter note I came across this tale from a website that might interest a few of you who enjoy a laugh.

Bill arrived home from golfing well after dark. His wife, Sally, asked him where had he been all day. He told her that after his 8am round of golf, he stopped to help a gorgeous blonde with a flat tyre. He then went back to her house where they spent the whole afternoon in her bedroom making mad passionate love.

Sally replied, "You lying S.O.B! you played 36 holes, didn't you?"

This and thousands more that are too rude to print are waiting for you at [www.golfjokes.co.uk](http://www.golfjokes.co.uk).

Don't forget you can call me with any news or comments on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or e-mail me at [www.geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:www.geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk).

Geoff Wells

### Northern

The date has been set for the Northern Section v Sheffield Section match. It will be played at Huddersfield Golf Club on September 15. Start times and other information will be available at a later date.

As some of you may already be aware, at the last committee meeting, Tito Arana stepped down as Chairman and off the committee with immediate effect.

This was due to Tito leaving his post at Riddlesden Golf Club and becoming a car salesman. So, if you fancy a new Nissan, Tito's your man!

I and the rest of the Northern Section Committee would like to thank Tito for all his hard work over the years, and I know he'll be very much missed at all Section events, especially by our new Chairman, Andy Slingsby, who'll now have to make all the speeches!

Welcome to Paul Dankin, who has joined the Section this month.

In next month's report I shall bring you the results of this years President's Day.

Any news regarding Northern Sections can be relayed to me at the usual address: 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

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Adam Speight

## MIDLAND REGION

### BB&O

Having read many issues of various different golfing stories over the years, I recently had the pleasure of listening to one which I am sure, given time, will be published in many a golfer's book and magazine.

It all happened at Wycombe Heights GC during March this year. As part of their winter maintenance programme it was decided that a new championship tee would be built on the signature par-3 16th hole. Rob Surgy and one of his senior assistants carried out the work.

The tee was completed shortly before Christmas and left to mature ready for the new season in the spring. Three months would pass and in late March it was decided that while playing golf that afternoon, Rob and his team would be the very first people to play the newly-constructed tee. The weather was perfect and the receptive pin tucked away in behind one of the greenside bunkers, which protects the green.

Colin, the senior assistant, who helped build the tee three months earlier, was the very first player to tee off after a slippery birdie on the 15th. With an 8-iron in his hand Colin (the best ball striker in Wycome as he now likes to be known!) stepped up, teed it high and let it fly straight down the throat of the pin pitching 18 inches from the hole directly in line and with a bounce and a touch of check it released slowly into the hole.

As you can imagine there was a big eruption on the tee and all preceded to congratulate Colin on his first hole-in-one. We believe that this must be a first in golf as Colin had constructed and built the tee and was the first person to strike a ball at the green and to get a hole in one, this must be some kind of record. Guinness Book of Records take note!

On a negative note the Rigby Taylor Knockout has been cancelled due to lack of support from the members but on a positive note your feedback and comments about this competition will always be welcomed and it is hoped that with constructive feedback this once popular competition will thrive again bringing



enjoyment to all who participate. Your comments, suggestions and ideas to John Scoones 07880 550 380.

Alistair Holehouse from Blue Mountain GC is leaving the American Golf Group after seven happy years and has accepted a new challenging position as Course Manager with Royal Ascot GC in Berkshire. We wish Alistair well in his new venture.

Meanwhile rock and roller, Justin Robinson from Henly GC, is jetting off to Las Vegas to tie the knot with the lovely Liz, his bride to be. Congratulations. Will it be an Elvis Wedding? Wait and see.

Mark Day

## Midland

As I sit here reflecting on a recent visit from my Uncle in Canada, my thoughts are concerned with a planned trip to Iceland to visit a good friend I met in Austria of all places.

My only worry is the outlandish cost of liquor within Iceland. What is a half Irish/Scottish, Englishman to do in such a situation? Rob a bank comes to mind. Perhaps sobriety would be better. What a refreshing change that would make!

So down to business. I am currently in the midst of organising both the snooker and angling events for this Autumn. I hope you will support these sponsored events as well as you did last year. I will let you know the dates next month my friends. Please support them as they take a lot of organising and are done on your behalf as none golfing fixtures.

For some 25 years plus, Hughie McIlwaine has served within our profession with what can only be described as immense character. Hughie has recently been though the mill heath-wise, but with his poultice of Juniper Berry's and Wild Salmon he is doing well. We all wish you the best mate.

On the note of long serving people in our profession, the Section would like to wish John Rawlings every happiness in his well earned retirement.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome five new members to our fine Section. They are Trevor White, Joao Faisca, Gary Carr, Kevin Baker and Sean Wilson. We all look forward to welcoming you to our many and varied events.

On a somewhat personal note, I would like to wish John Wilkes all the very best in his new venture in Scotland. You had better change that accent Wilkston B'hoys'. By God, I've done nothing but talk about members, what's the world coming to!

Don't forget entries to our Autumn Tournament at Hawstone Park have to be in by August 23. As you will see from your fixture card, this is to include our AGM after the golf, with a 5pm start. This year's AGM is earlier than usual due to our Christmas Tournament being held at Hoylake.

Until next month, enjoy the wonderful weather.

Sean McDade

## East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on Wednesday May 12. The weather was dry and cloudy which was a big improvement on all the rain over the past two weeks.

The course must have been in good condition, or the golfers played good golf, as some excellent scores were posted. We were also honoured to have the company of the Club Captain and Club Manager of Kirby Muxloe, who joined us for the golf and the evening meal.

The scores for the day were as follows: Best Gross: Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 77. Best Nett: Des Foster, Casby, 90-28-62. Category 1: 1. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-8-72; 2. Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park, 80-9-73.

Category 2: 1. Greg Skinner, Lingdale, 79-12-67; 2. Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 84-16-18. Category 3: 1. Frank Kempster, Cosby, 90-22-68; 2. Craig Watt, Glen Gorse, 93-23-70 Trade and Associate: 1. Russell Latham, Mansfield Sand, 85-18-67; 2. Dave Ritchie, Captain Kirby Muxloe, 77-9-69.

Also as part of the evening presentation a long service award was presented to Mark Bindley by the Captain of Kirby Muxloe for completing 25 years of service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and their hospitality.

A special thank you should be extended to Dave Ritchie and Brian Woodcock, Captain and Club Manager, for their participation on the day. Also to the caterers, Rival Catering. Finally I would like to, on behalf of the East Midlands section, thank Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the prize day, and Tacit for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive awards.

Next years Spring Tournament will be held at Melton Mowbray Golf Club.

Antony Bindley

## Mid Anglia

Hello chaps, it's me again, sorry there have not been any reports for a while but there hasn't been a lot of news to write about.

I would like to welcome Bob Butfoy and John Gubb to the committee and hope their input will be of benefit to us all.

Back in May we had our first competition of the season which was held at John O' Gaunt. Thanks to Colin Robinson and his team for the great effort and hard work they put in to provide us with two superb courses.

This was over 36 holes and also a qualifier for the National Championship in October.

The results were as follows: 1. Dan Hodkin, Knebworth; 2. Geoff James, John O' Gaunt; 3. Chris Slimm, John O' Gaunt. Dan and Geoff have made it to the National and will given a donation from the Section to cover the cost of accomodation.

Other results were: Nearest the Pin: am, Steve Mason; pm, Clive Parnell, and Longest Drive: am, Dave Thompson; pm, Gerald Bruce.

Our main sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and thanks to Gareth Knight for providing a great prize table and also to all the Trade members for supplying a well stocked raffle.

Thanks to the caterers for looking after us throughout the day and finally the Golf Club for the courtesy of their courses.

The next meeting is at Mount Pleasant on Wednesday July 28 with tee times booked from 1pm. Coffee and bacon roll on arrival and a two course evening meal, which will be casual dress instead of collar and tie. Entry will be limited to 30 so get your forms in early to avoid disappointment.

If anybody has something they want to say please get in touch with any member of the committee and we will try to air your views through this column.

Steve Mason

## East of England

The third golf day of the year was held on June 3 at Belton Park. Congratulations go to Gary Poole and his staff on the condition of the course, it was just a shame he couldn't do something about the weather as half the round was played in very heavy rain.

The weather didn't affect the scoring and the Burdens Cup was won by Steven Beverley with a very good 42 points (we will be reviewing his handicap) 2, Ben Corby, 38 pts; 3, Graeme Macdonald 35 pts. Nearest the Pin: Peter Larter; Longest Drive: Rob Welford. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with 38 pts.

Many thanks go to Burdens Groundcare for their continued support and sponsorship of this event.

The next event will be held at The Lincoln Golf Club on July 22.

Good luck to Rob Welford, from Immingham Golf Club, who is getting married next month to his long term partner, Natasha. If any other members have any news for Around The Green, please let me know and I will put it in the next issue.

Les Howkins



**SOUTH WEST  
& SOUTH WALES**

**South Wales**

Hello all. Firstly I would like to thank you all for the phone calls, e-mails, letters that I did not receive.

The Welsh Open has come and gone, I was lucky enough to attend on the Friday and witness the superb round of golf by the eventual winner, Simon Khan, played on a superbly presented golf course. A huge well done goes to the Celtic Manor Resort - Jim and his staff in particular.

Adrian Panks (strimmer boy from Dudley) is officially nuts. That's the conclusion I came to when I spoke to him at the open and he informed me that he will be doing a little bike ride.

As some of us know he has just recovered from a serious health scare, so the sensible thing would be to ride a bike to keep healthy – sounds good. However he has signed up to do the Taff trail which is 110 miles in one day! I told you he was nuts. He is doing it for charity so any donations will be gratefully accepted. Contact him at Llanwern Golf Club.

I have been accused in the past of favouritism to one Peter Lacey and some are calling this Section Lacey's Chronicles. I feel that I have to inform you of his recent jog around London. Yes he's done the London Marathon and he had a strategy.

His strategy was to run behind the model, Nell McAndrew, who is known as a fit athlete and the sight of her behind would inspire him to his hopeful time of 4 hours 21 minutes.

However, the problems started when she began stopping for TV interviews and Lacey was stopping with her and he was jogging in the background staring at her bum. Anyway after the 10th interview Nell was getting concerned and the police where informed and Lacey spent the night in jail!

A great seminar was held at Royal Porthcawl, sponsored by Countrywide, covering issues on fertiliser, seed and fuel storage. Feedback was excellent so thank you for all your efforts on the day.

Humble Crumble is the shortest poem in history can you name the poet?

Answer: HOAMMED ILA.

Peter Lacey did completed the Marathon in 4 hours, 8 minutes and 3 seconds – well done.

Kerry Jones

**South Coast**

Summer is among us and as I sit and write this on a sun drenched day, sipping my Pimms, irrigation systems around the south are proving their worth.

The England cricket team have just wrapped up the Test Series, England are just about to win the football European championships, Henmania is about to hit us after his good run in the French Open and how can we forget The Open?

We have several representatives from the Section on the BIGGA Support team again this year and they will no doubt have a great week at Royal Troon. We wish them well and also Billy McLachlan and his team at Troon for what I'm sure will be a highly successful Open Championship. With the Olympics and the Ryder cup to come it's a great year for sport. Unfortunately my wife doesn't quite feel so enthusiastic about it all!

The Section has been fairly quiet although I'm sure we have all been extremely busy on our golf courses. Our fixture lists at Parkstone seem to get larger every year challenging us to be more efficient and continue to maintain higher standards, but we're modern managers like you all, so its like water off a ducks back!

We are about to draw swords in our annual match against the secretaries. The match, which is sponsored by Course Care, will be played at Alresford Golf Club and your team will be looking to retain the trophy and maintain our pride. A full report will follow.

Don't forget to contact me if you have any news which you would like include in the around the green section. My contact details are tel 01202 661106, mobile 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next time

Alex McCombie

**SOUTH EAST**

**London**

If you are reading this than you are extremely privileged as notes in 'around the green' from the London Section are about as rare as an Emile Heskey goal!

I have (foolishly) agreed to write these notes for the foreseeable future so I will be looking to all our members to help fill the page with any news at all, whether it be about golf courses, jobs, births or even Heskey scoring!

The main news for this month comes from our spring tournament, which was, hosted by Batchworth Park, which, before I mention anything else, was in absolute pristine condition, so congratulations to Andy and his team on presenting such a beautiful course.

Also our thanks go to the club and its entire staff for welcoming us and providing a great meal afterwards.

On a gloomy and wet day there was some very good scores returned, but the clear winner with an excellent score of 40 points (5 handicap) was Richard Highway. Joining him at the National Championship was Dave Badham who had the best nett score of 36 points. Congratulations to both and good luck at the National.

On the day we had a great turnout and a huge number of trade who all helped out with prizes for the event, the raffle and on course refreshments provided very well by Ernest Does and Textron.

The man known as Supergrass, Phil Jones, with other contributions from gem sponsored superb main prizes, and, of course, our ongoing support from Alan and Barry of Turners, and Avoncrop respectively.

Just a quick add on – readers will see that the golfing legend Ian Semple did not win (this is because he didn't actually play) but I hope his shoulder won't be too sore when he has to dig into his deep pockets to enter the nationals!

Finally, I wish to remind readers that entry forms for the summer tournament, at Sandy Lodge, must be received at least two weeks prior to the date, July 22, as we cannot accept names or payment after the cut off point.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible, new and old.

07789 955 817

Alec MacIndoe

**Essex**

Well it's me again,

Winning Golfer of the Year last year took it out of me so much that I have not had the time to write another article...

As I sit and write this we should be in spring, but having been in my shorts for three weeks (not a pretty sight), I now find myself getting soaked everyday. You just cannot bank on the weather. It's all been a bit challenging; it's amazing how fickle golf club members can be.

Two weeks ago we had the 40th anniversary celebrations at our golf club which consisted of 10 days of events. Every member and guest was commenting on how wonderful the golf club was and the condition of the course especially given the time of year.

Last week we had a trolley ban for two days because of all the rain - and according to our members the course is in terrible condition and it is a crime that they cannot have their trolleys on! Happy days!

A break from writing this article as our grass is growing faster than we can cut it, especially on the banks and amenity areas around the course, two weeks later the



sun is now very hot and the irrigation is needed.

Well enough of me waffling on about banks and amenity areas.

The last golf day was at Channels and once again Ray, Dominic and the boys produced a terrific golf course for 55 of our members to play. (sorry none of the Abridge boys were there but we were in the middle of our clubs anniversary celebrations and could not get the time, but we will be at the next one).

I understand from several people who played that day that from greens to banks to amenity areas the golf course was in great condition. A special thanks to Tony Stuart and family and all of their staff for making everybody feel so welcome.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity and the halfway house by Collier Turf and also thanks to Vitax, Headland, Scotts, Seoul Nassau, Total Cleaning Supplies, Ernest Doe's, Tacit, Bishop Brother's engravers, Sheriffs, and Rigby Taylor.

Our overall winner was Craig Serafin, from Colchester, who galloped in with 47 pts. YEEHA! and well done.

We had three handicap sections Section 1: 1. Ian Denny, Channels, 40 pts; 2. Tony Kirwin, Colchester, 38 pts. Section 2: 1. Martin Forrester, 41 pts; 2. Martin Guy, 40 pts. Section 3: 1. Wood, Rumford, 35 pts; 2. John Barnard, Theydon Bois, 34 pts.

Longest Drive went to Mark Day. Nearest the Pin went to Mike Bartlett.

Hopefully you all understand Dave Beals new points system, I'm sure Banks would love to employ you Dave.

Finally on behalf of the Section I would like to wish Derek Farrington all the best. He is retiring from the end of May.

See you all at Ballards Gore

Geoff Smith

## Surrey

Woking Golf Club played host to our Spring Tournament and qualifier for the National Championship. The numbers were restricted to 42 greenkeepers and it was only because Ron Christie could not play that I was lucky enough to get a game.

It was a first time experience to me to play Woking and due to a course in excellent condition and an extremely attractive layout, I hope it will not be long before I play there again.

Our thanks to John Day and his greenkeepers; Woking Golf Club for the courtesy, the sunny weather and Banks Amenity, our generous sponsors. Best Gross: John Mathis; Best Nett: 1. Paul Bacon; 2. Nigel Colley, 3. Dave Murdoch. Longest Drive: Ken Harding. Nearest The Pin: Rob Summers - only 18 inches away, but he got his par!

The heron on the lake at Woking is apparently so used to people that it did not move, even when approached by machinery. Phil Bennett was heard to say that it must be either a brave or a very stupid bird. Most other players thought that being plastic was probably the reason. An appointment at the opticians could be useful.

A word of warning when using mountain bikes to keep fit: Perry Smith, from Bramley, broke his nose and suffered cuts to his face when out riding with his son. Although in pain, he thinks the nose job was well worth it.

Greg Richardson, whose name is appearing far too often in these reports, is again in the news as he has left Hankley Common Golf Club to become Deputy at Cranleigh Golf Club. We all wish him good luck.

Dave Langheim is to join the Surrey Committee and replaces Dave Murdoch as South East Region representative.

This year's sponsors of the Surrey Bowl pairs knockout competition are TYM Tractors. Derek Farrington was presented with a case of red wine as a personal thank you from Surrey Section and we all wish him a very happy retirement.

All players in golf events must either have a handicap certificate (BIGGA or club) or play off 18 maximum.

After two events, players, will be given an official BIGGA Handicap. No prizes can be won until they have an official handicap.

Brian Willmott

## Kent

Cloudy skies and welcome light rain gave way to a sunny afternoon during our golf day on 10th June 2004.

The turn-out was good for the time of year, considering everybody has been so busy coping with the phenomenal grass growth.

Thanks must go to Bob Pullin, Managing Director of Hever Castle Golf Club, for allowing us the use of the golf course and facilities. An 18 hole Stableford competition was followed by an excellent meal.

It was good to see some members who had not played golf make the effort to attend the evening meal. Scott MacCallum came down from headquarters and updated us on recent developments within the Association. Scott also had the most outrageous shot of the day – a 37 yard putt holed on the 11th!

Results. Greenkeepers: 1. Russell Bain, Chislehurst; 2. Andrew Pearson, London Club; 3. Andrew Pearson, Hever Castle Golf Club; 4. Tony Neve, Chislehurst. Trade: 1. Chris Mardon, Greenkeeping Services; 2. Nick Ashman, John Deere.

The best gross score of the day went to Gary Ogilvie. Nearest the Pin: 6th, Gary Branchett, Tenterden. Nearest the Pin: 12th, Chris Mardon, Greenkeeping Services, Longest Drive: 9th, Michael Wigston, Tenterden, Longest Drive: 18th, Matthew Savage, Kingshill. Putting competition: Ernie Walker, Hever Castle Golf Club.

I would like to thank Brian Grimes, from Godfreys, for organising refreshments around the course, Nick Ashman, from John Deere, for putting wine on the tables, and Avoncrop, Doe's, Grass Roots, Parker T Parker and Sons (Turf Management 2003), Godfreys and Sherriffs for contributing to the prize table.

Thanks go to the staff of Hever Castle Golf Club for their assistance, and the green staff for their efforts in preparing the golf course, not just for this day but every day of the year.

Finally the biggest thank you must go to the members who supported the day and made it such a success.

Look out for news on future developments and events in the Kent Section.

David Wood

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Well with a week of June nearly gone, many of our courses would like to see a couple of nights of steady rain. There hasn't been any rain for seven to eight weeks in some areas and water restrictions could follow soon as reservoirs are already at late summer levels. Let's hope the situation improves over the next few days.

Our second golf competition of the season was played at Edenmore GC on May 25. We would like to thank the Logan family for giving us courtesy of the course and especially James Logan and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in really brilliant condition.

Many thanks to sponsor Scotts Sands of Toomebridge, who provided very generous prizes.

Results were: 1. Michael King, Royal County Down, 38pts; 2. James Harkness, Malone GC, 36pts; 3. Warren Burnside, Malone GC, 36pts; 4m Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC 35pts. Visitors Prize: James Logan, Edenmore GC, 41pts.

Many thanks to Scotts Director Alan Hewitt, who joined us on the day and presented the prizes.

The next competition will be played at Galgorm GC, outside Ballymena, on July 6 with a 2pm tee time. The competition in July will be sponsored by Coburns, of Banbridge.

Finally, I would like to wish Andrew Kerr good luck in his new position of Head Greenkeeper at City of Derry GC. Andrew has recently moved there from Lisburn GC where he was Deputy Head.

Ken Henderson