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## SCOTTISH REGION

### Central

The first golf tournament of the season was held by courtesy of Crail Golfing Society on April 29 over the Craighead Course and with a "slight" North Sea breeze blowing it turned out to be a real test of golf even for the "good" players.

Nevertheless over 65 members and guests (club officials) enjoyed a great day both on the course and in the clubhouse.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Crail for the courtesy extended to us, especially Course Manager, Alan Purdie, and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, Club Secretary, Margaret Hunter for all her assistance, Margaret and her staff in the Clubhouse for keeping us fed and watered throughout the day with her first class catering.

Club Captain, Jim Elder, and Vice Captain, David Manders, who both joined us on the day, with Jim (hope the finger was ok for the golf in Portugal!) presenting our prizes to the winners following the evening meal.

Thanks also to Peter Boyd and Kevin Brunton for dealing with the cards before and after golf. To everyone who supported the raffle by donating prizes and purchasing tickets. "Thanks for your support".

Special thanks are due to the patrons of the Scottish Region for their continued support which contributes towards the provision of the prizes at our tournaments. Hope I have included everyone who helped if not SORRY!

Prize winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch (Daval Trophy) Brian Heggie, Aucterarder, 82; Best Nett (Greentech Trophy) Tom Comerford, Grangemouth, 74. 1st Class 1. H/cap (Toro Trophy) Michael Love, Grangemouth, 77 (bih). 1st Class 2. H/cap, Stuart Pearson, Aberdour, 77. 2nd Class 1st H/cap (Section Trophy) Mark White, St Andrews, 79. 2nd Class 2. H/cap, Ian Jarvis, Alloa, 82 (bih).

3rd Class 1. H/cap (Section Trophy) Donald Gardner, Sconnie, 76. 3rd Class 2. H/cap. Malcolm Lowe, Tower of Lethandy, 85. Stewart's Quaich. M. Love/T. Comerford, Grangemouth, 151. Patrons, Peter Taylor, STS, 75. Guests – David Manders – Crail, 79

Remember the Autumn Tournament at Downfied on September 29, there's sure to be a big entry for this one, so get your forms in early!

One new member to welcome this month and he is Jon Methven, from the Dukes Course at St Andrews, Welcome, Jon, and we hope to meet you at some of our future events.

We are in the process of renewing the Section Trophies and it's important that all 'old' trophies are returned in order that they can be included in the history of the Section.

At the moment there appears to be one missing which is the Trade and Visitors' Trophy, and, as far as I can make out, it was last seen around 1989/90. If anyone has any idea where this trophy is could you please arrange for it to be returned to me or any Section committee member. Thanks!

John Crawford



### Ayrshire

The Spring Outing hosted by Prestwick St Nicholas Golf Club was a resounding success with 30 participants. Our thanks to Club Captain, David Gilmour, and the committee for use of the course and facilities, also to Tom Hepburn for help with arranging the day, the bar and catering staff for a superb meal and refreshments and lastly to John MacLachlan and the greenstaff for providing a wonderfully conditioned course, especially in mid-April.

Prize winners were as follows;

Scratch Prize – Steven Kelly, Lockerbie, 69 pts; First Class: 1. Alan Forrest, Western Gales, 36 pts; 2. John Mair, Bellshill, 35 pts; 3. Stephen Higgins, Ardeer, 35 pts; 4. Dennis Tweddell, Turnberry, 34 pts; 5. George Brown, Turnberry, 33 pts; 6. John MacLachlan, St. Nicholas, 32 pts.

Second Class: 1. Colin Smith, St. Nicholas, 38 pts; 2. Iain Barr, Largs, 31 pts; 3. Innes Tait, Lockerbie, 31 pts; 4. Richard Fulton, St. Nicholas, 30 pts; 5. Dale Norquoy, Irvine, 30 pts; 6. Martin Lothian, Turnberry, 26 pts.

Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, Aitkens.

Thanks to all who attended in particular those travelling a considerable distance. Confirmation of the Autumn outing will appear in next month's news.

The Scottish Greenkeepers ran out handsome winners in the recent Greenkeepers vs. Club Secretaries match at North Berwick Golf Club. The golf course was in great condition and what a layout! Those that have played there will know but for any who haven't, I must urge you to put it on that 'must play' list now!

That just leaves me to welcome three new members to the birthplace of the Open Section, Iain MacDonald, Largs Golf Club; Steven Kelly, Lockerbie, and Mark O'Brien, Prestwick St. Nicholas.

Any news phone me on 01292 478606.

Ee ay ee ay Adios

Dennis Tweddell



## NORTHERN REGION

### BIGGA NORTHERN REGION GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY 2004

The Golf Management Trophy event is a team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs in the Northern Region, and this is the inaugural year for the event in the Northern Region.

The format is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win equipment for the golf club plus individual prizes, and is an 18 holes Better-ball Stableford competition.

Teams comprise a greenkeeper who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee. The entry fee is £100 per team, which includes the golf and a meal after play.

The events for 2004 are at Teesside Golf Club on Wednesday, August 18, and Carden Park Golf Club on Monday, August 23. There are places remaining at both venues, so if you wish to enter a team from your golf club please contact Peter Larter the Regional Administrator on 01476 550115.

### North Wales

After attaining his 25mts swimming badge rather late in life, Andy Peel, from Bull Bay GC, has entered in an Iron Man Competition – it starts from Amlch on Anglesey with a swim across the sea to Conwy where he then jumps on a bicycle and rides around the castle and over the bridge to the Great Orme in Llandudno. After running over the top and down the other side he will swim back to Amlch to run across the finish line. We all wish him the best of luck and hope the sharks are not very hungry on that day.

Also from the Island of Anglesey, Paul Taylor, of Henllys Hall GC, is doing a sponsored parachute jump in aid of the Cancer Ward in Bangor Hospital this will take place in July and if any of you wish to sponsor Paul he has the form



Derek Farrington  
SOUTH EAST, SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES  
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with him at the Golf Club.

The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf day will be held at Aldwark Manor on June 14 and there will be a team from North Wales attending to support this event.

The North Wales vs North West match due to take place on June 9 has now been put back two weeks and greenkeepers wishing to play in the team should contact either Jeremy Hughes or Don Pemberton.

John Evans, from Carden Park, has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper on the Cheshire Course and after lots of feedback from the seminar about course matters the top three things most of you wish to learn about is 1. Human resource skills 2. Presentation skills and 3. Fertiliser and Chemical usage.

These are from filled in questionnaires of what you want from your Section.

An autumn educational programme will now be set up to include these topics - details to follow.

Also along with the golf days we are planning different days out for members and their respective partners, the first of which is going to be a trip to the 'races' at Chester. This is a night meeting and if accommodation is required afterwards (maybe you will partake of a few sherbet refreshers?) a list of B&Bs + hotels and local guest houses will be supplied.

This will be an informal outing to show everyone who comes along that there is no 'clique' within the Association. We are here for each and everyone of you to help bring greenkeeping forward and help you achieve the credit you deserve.

Being involved in a job that is open to a lot of unwanted criticism and stick from 600+ members of your golf club, is tough enough and support is there for you. All details to follow or contact one of the committee if you are interested.

See you at the tote.

Contact me on – acorgolf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn



## Sheffield

What was a glorious, above average temperature, sunny April day soon turned into a typical "November" day with torrential rain and a drop in temperature of about 10 degrees. But despite that a very good day was had by all for our Spring tournament at Retford Golf Club.

Well done to those who braved the elements and battled on although I don't blame those who trudged off with cards so soggy they were almost illegible.

I had the pleasure of playing with Club Captain, Mick Paxman, his Vice Captain Geoff Bealby and an old friend of the Section and former Secretary, Ron Ullathorne, all excellent company, although the break in conditions curtailed the banter somewhat.

The course was in very good condition for the time of year and stood up to the rigours of the day very well. Well done to Ian Stephens and his team. Ian has only been at Retford since last November so was somewhat thrown in at the deep end by holding this event. Good luck to him and his team for the rest of the year.

The catering staff should also be congratulated for providing us with what was an excellent meal, and to everyone else who made us feel so welcome.

I would like to thank all the trade for their generous donations to the prize tables - without your support these days it would not be a success.

I would particularly would like to thank our main sponsor on the day TT Pro Turf for their continued support. It was nice to see a member and former

Captain, Seymour Harris, of my home club there to represent his great nephew James who unfortunately could not attend.

Thanks also to Peter Fell for selling the raffle tickets. I think you have just found your niche in life. Other sections take note! The members would also like to thank Gainsborough Golf Club and Ping for their generosity to the Section.

Winners on the day were 1. Stuart Piggott, 35pts; 2. Colin "I'm not playing very well" Hopper, 34pts; 3. Andy Unwin, 32pts; 4. Andy Lindley, 30pts; 5. John Lax, 30pts. Well done to all the other prize winners. The trade prize went to Stuart Clayton, 34pts. Nearest the Pin, Geoff Bealby.

Les Purdy very good friend and former trade sponsor to the Section attended the prizegiving. He told me was he glad that he came and it made him happy to see so many old faces.

Just a couple of reminders for your diary the next golf day is the Summer competition to be held at Sickleholme Golf Club on July 12, tee off at 1.30pm and the Autumn competition on September 6 at Gainsborough Golf Club's Karsten Lakes course. Note the earlier tee off time of 12 noon.

Any news or comments please call me on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or you can e-mail me at geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk.

Geoff Wells



## North East

In April, we had our spring competition. at Matfen Hall. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Craig Parkinson, the Course Manager and his staff on the condition of their course. It was a pleasure to play and, considering it was early in the season, a credit to them all.

The Chairman, Russ Black, introduced BIGGA's new Chief Executive, John Pemberton, to the members and then thanked the following sponsors; Aitken's, Turf Care Supplies, Greenlay, Shorts, Border Turf Services and Scott's. Thanks once again to you all.

The leading scores were as follows. Best gross: M. Barrass, Birtley GC, 73.

Best Nett: J. Hood, Alnmouth GC, 72. Assistants' Cup. R. Reid, Pridhoe GC, 75. Others: S. Quince, Parklands GC, 74; C. Parkinson, Matfen Hall GC, 75; J. Hutton, Whickham GC, 76.

Just in case you think they were high scores. We were playing off the back markers and Matfen is a damned lot harder off the white markers than the yellow ones... plus there were slick greens. Out of 35 players only one person managed to keep a six or higher off his card and the same person had five birdies.

It was good to see so many people playing. It's been a couple years since we had such a good turnout, so I hope to see you all at Morpeth for the autumn.

New sheds seem to be the in thing at the moment, as well as Slaley getting a new one, Whickham and City of Newcastle have them too.

Jimmy Richardson



## Northern

I must start this month's report with the sad news of the death of Brian Birdsall. Brian was founder of County Mowers. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts and sympathies go to all his family and friends.

Welcome to the large number of new members who have joined us this month.

The results from the Spring tournament at Garforth were as follows: Scratch Cup: Richard Harris, 81. Division 1: 1. A. Slingsby, 71; 2. P. Thompson, 72; 3. J. Monahan, 74. Division 2: 1. I. F. Stewart, 73; 2. R. Armitage, 80; 3. C. Garnett, 82, BIH. Division 3: 1. J. Watts, 70; 2. I. Donaldson, 77; 3. J.

Baxter, 81. Trade 1: E. Carter; 2. J. Dobson. Longest Drive: R. Harris. Nearest the Pin: P. Larter

Congratulations to all the winners on the day, especially to Andy, Frank and John, who have also won their entrance fees for the National Championship at Alwoodley Golf Club later this year.

A special congratulations must go to Joe Manahan, who hit a hole-in-one on the par-3 7th. Well done Joe!

A large thank you goes to everybody at Garforth Golf Club, in particular Colin and his team for producing a fantastic course, and Anne and her team for a fabulous meal. It's just a shame the weather put a dampener on what was otherwise a great day.

As already mentioned the National Championship will this year be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds. It will be held over two days, October 4 & 5. The price is £85, to include lunch at the Golf Club each day, and dinner on the evening of the Monday.

As it's being held on one of our own Section's courses let's make an effort to have as many Section members playing as possible. An entry form was in the May edition of the magazine.

The next event will be President's Day, to be held at Bradford Golf Club on June 23. This event is being sponsored by Palmer Landscapes. If you would like to play in this event please can you let me know at least one week before the event.

Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB. Tel: 01274 638366

Mobile: 07739319060 Email: adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk.

Adam Speight



## North West

Well now that May is here and all the excitement of the Masters in Augusta is over perhaps you can all get down to tending your own courses in the way you know best. The ground temperatures are still low and the finer grasses are still struggling, but I am sure within the next week or two your courses will be at their best.

On Tuesday, April 20, we played the Spring Tournament at Ellesmere Golf Club and had a great day. The turnout was not so good, for one reason or another, with only 16 greenkeepers and 14 guests but we had a very enjoyable day.

While ringing various greenkeepers at the back end of last year to see if they would host the Spring Tournament the response was 'I would rather not because it is too early, and the course will not be at its best'.

Well Trevor Manning agreed to host it and although it is early his course was in great condition. I know that Trevor was at least one man down prior to our visit and although he was playing himself, he was still working hard while the third game prepared to tee off.

I would like to thank Trevor and his staff for all their hard work, and also Ellesmere Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course. Also I thank the steward and his staff for first class meals, and keeping the bar open all day.

The results on the day are: Best Gross – Trevor Manning, Best Nett – Steve Johnson, Best Vet – Peter Hogan, Best Guest – Mike Lewis.

The Longest Drive and Nearest The Pin and Longest Drive which are sponsored by Rufford Technology were won by Steve Johnson and Neil Austin, respectively.

Thanks to our Patrons; Cheshire Turf Machinery, Acorn Equipment, R J Campey, North Staffs Irrigation, Alpha Amenity and Rufford Technology, the prize table looked splendid. Thanks also to Bill Merritt for purchasing prizes, and doing the score cards.

Head Greenkeeper on the move is Warren Bevan, he is moving from Stockport Golf Club to Lancaster Golf Club. Good luck to Warren, at least

you're still in the North West Section.

The Summer Tournament is at Wigan Golf Club on Thursday 24th June. All applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU, Tel: 01695 632883. Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA N/W. No applications will be accepted after June 20.

That's it for now but you can contact me on 01517 245412 or 07791583387.

Bert Cross



## MIDLAND REGION

### GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY 2004

The Golf Management Trophy event is a team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs in the Midland Region, and has been running successfully in the Region since 1997.

The format is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win equipment for the golf club plus individual prizes, and is an 18 holes Better-ball Stableford competition.

Teams comprise a greenkeeper who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee. The entry fee is £100 per team, which includes the golf and a meal after play.

The events for 2004 are at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on Thursday, July 22, and Dunstable Downs Golf Club on Thursday, August 12. There are a few places remaining at both venues, so if you wish to enter a team from your golf club please contact Peter Larter the Regional Administrator on 01476 550115.

### Midland

As you may recall from March's notes, I threw a somewhat jovial gauntlet down to Mr Fellows regarding where he was going to get a BIGGA bow-tie? At the Spring tournament Dave, to my astonishment, was indeed sporting such an item. Respect is due, Dave. Does it spin? Perhaps beggars the question! With respect, I only jest.

Yet again our Section scores a first in fashion, and maybe gives John Pemberton food for thought in his new position as BIGGA's Chief Executive. Congratulations John, we look forward to your new ideas and continued support.

The Spring tournament was held at Trentham GC, and despite the weather's best efforts to drown us, a great day was enjoyed by all. Congratulations must go to G. Cunningham and his fine team for preparing the course so well in such difficult circumstances. There is no doubt you are the wheat, not the chaff, gentlemen. Well done.

The results of the day were; Best Gross: M. Hughes. Nett: 1. D. Fellows; 2. D. Gibbons; 3. M. Hughes; 4. A. Walker; 5. P. Rainsford. The main prize table being generously sponsored by Steve Hanlon, of Burrows. Longest Drive: G. Cunningham, Nearest the Pin. K. Swan, both kindly sponsored by W.B.B. Minerals.

As already mentioned John Pemberton is the new C.E. at BIGGA H.Q. One of his goals is to build stronger relationships between H.Q. and us, the grass root members, thus removing the "Ivory Tower" conception many have.



As part of this directive H.Q. Staff are to attend Section events when time allows. This shall hopefully add a personable aspect regarding H.Q., and also afford greater opportunity for us to give opinions directly and ask questions regarding our organisation.

This was more than admirably demonstrated by the presence of the lovely Rosie Hancher, (Sales Manager from BIGGA H.Q.), at our Spring event. We all look forward to welcoming you again in the near future Rosie.

Surely such is an excellent opportunity to present both your opinions, and enjoy our very cost effective events as members, is more than reason enough to support the Section. Also, please remember that you may present anything through me regarding our Section, or indeed BIGGA as a whole. Just call, your opinions are more than welcome, indeed they are needed ladies and gentlemen.

Yet again I'm in danger of over running our allotted lines, just room to welcome two new members. Firstly Gary Carr, from Welsh Border Golf Complex, and John Walshaw, from Izaak Walton Golf Club. I dare say John that you have a copy of the "Complete Angler". I look forward to your advice regarding our fishing event.

Until next month, favour well in whatever you do.

Sean McDade

### East Midlands

Congratulations should be extended this month to Mark Bindley, of Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, who has just reached 25 years of service to the club.

The Club Captain, Dave Ritchie, made a presentation to Mark on May 12 at the Spring Tournament on behalf of the club. Results will follow next month.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Cosby Golf Club on September 7. Sorry once again for such a short report however I do need more information from you all.

Antony Bindley



### BB&O

On a bright sunny day, April 22, the BB&O's finest, including the Tartan Terminator, and most enthused golfers in the three counties gathered at Badgemore Park GC for our first Tournament this year, The Spring Qualifier.

The facilities bestowed to us by Badgemore Park were superb and we were made very welcome by all the staff. Credit to Lindsay Anderson and all the greenstaff for preparing the golf course to a high standard which was enjoyed by all who played, including Vince, from J. E. Ely, who walked away £5 lighter after his ordeal on the 18th and was later seen talking nicely to his wallet in the car park.

Tacit was the main sponsor for the day with Tim Webb presenting prizes to the winners.

The results were: Alistair Higgs, from Calcott Park GC, taking Best Gross, 75. Best Net: Michael Johnson, from Henley GC, 65; Nett 2. Calum Taylor making his first appearance from Hazelmere GC, 68; and the Tartan Terminator himself, Ross Wilson, third with 70, from Donnington Grove GC, losing out on count back after shooting a Gross 75. (he'll be back). Myles Wood, from Maidenhead GC, another first timer to our events with Net 71 picked up 4th place.

Brian Payne Jnr Burnham Beeches GC proved that four Weetabix and a bacon roll with chilli sauce really does work after securing the Longest Drive with a monster hit. Gary Tait, from Gem, picked up Nearest the Pin. The trade prize went to Gareth Aceston, with the intrepid Colin White not far behind, "chalking up" another good score.

James Moor, from Turner Groundcare, produced one of the best cricket scores ever recorded over 18 holes and got the Longest Walk with Max Fuller

scoring a Net 64 and then forgetting to hand in his card. Cost him dearly after playing so well. I am sure he won't forget next time.

Trade were in full support with Avoncrop, Gem, Turners, Sherriffs, Rigby Taylor, Banks and Amenity Technology who supported the raffle so well.

Our next golf day is just around the corner, Calcott Park GC, will play host to our next event, with Gem Professional the main sponsor for the Summer Tournament which takes place on Wednesday, June 23, with tee times starting from 1pm. Entry forms should be with you now, alternatively John Scoones can always be contacted on 07880 550 380 for special tee times and any further information.

News from around the Section - Paul Ballard, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, is leaving Mapeldurham GC after 12 years service to take up renovating and Golf course construction with J E Ely. We wish Paul the very best in his new challenging position.

Mark Day

### East of England

The first golf day of the year was held on April 19 at Rutland County Golf Club. A lot of heavy overnight rain left some of our Section worrying about the course being open.

But the course was presented in fine condition so early in the season and all our thanks go to Chris Squires, the Head Greenkeeper. The golf played in excellent weather followed by an excellent meal in a very friendly club atmosphere.

The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor who were represented by Mike Brear. Many thanks to Mike and Rigby Taylor for the very generous prizes. The results were: 1. J. Hewston, 88-17-71 (bih); 2. Russ Moody, 90-19-71; 3. Simon Bossett, 95-24-71; 4. John Jarrel, 73-1-72; 5. Les Howkins, 78-5-73. Trade Prize: Mike Brear, 87-16-71. Nearest The Pin: Steve Beverley. Longest Drive: Rob Welford.

The second golf day of the year was held on May 11 at Seacroft Golf Club in Skegness. A cool north wind was blowing which made golfing a little tricky. The course was in good condition and the day was a good opportunity to meet the new Head Greenkeeper, Tim Harris and we wish him well in his new job.

The day was sponsored by Amenity Technology who we thank for the prizes, they were represented by Graham Greenwood, of Seoul Nassau. I must thank Graham for acting as a starter and helping with cards. 1. Russ Moody, 85-19-66; 2. Richard Dexter, 74-4-70; 3. Steve Beverley, 90-20-70. Trade Prize: Steve Dickinson, 75-1-74. Longest Drive: Danny Wells. Nearest the Pin: Simon Caudwell.

The first two golf days of the year were also the Section qualifiers for the National Championship later in the year. Qualification was split into three handicap categories: 0-9, Les Howkins; 10-18, John Hewson; 19-28, Russ Moody.

Planning has already started for next years fixture list. If anyone would like to hold an event please let me know ASAP.

See you all soon

Les Howkins



## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### South Coast

Well spring has been in the air for the odd day of two. As usual a couple of warm days, sunshine and our members think that summer is here but as per usual those days are followed by the inevitable cold winds and a timely reminder that we are still very much in spring.

I spoke to Tony Gadd today and he told me that he had three seasons in one day last week at Barton-on-Sea. Oh the life of a greenkeeper.



Some brave greenkeepers have already donned the summer wardrobe and the white legs of winter have been shown daylight at last! No doubt the hardened shorts brigade will not be put off by some cold weather and I'm only too aware some greenkeepers believe it is a sign of a true man if you wear shorts in all weathers. Just ask Derek Parker and the boys at Came Down! Derek wears his shorts in November! Those Dorchester boys are made of stern stuff!

Anyway enough waffling, the Section has been fairly quiet for the last month but we have all been busy on our golf courses. We have seen some excellent growing conditions and even at Parkstone, have been busy keeping on top of the growth.

I have had some information from HQ about possible training courses for the autumn period, so if anybody wants to attend a specific course then please contact me so I can arrange dates etc with Ken Richardson.

I have had some interest in running a Higher Management Skills Course with Frank Newberry, so if anybody else would like to attend what would be a highly rewarding and beneficial course, then please let me know as soon as possible.

Very belated congratulations to John Pemberton who has become our new Chief Executive. John has done a superb job over some very difficult months and we are in his very capable hands. I know John will help our Association go from strength to strength. Good luck John and, once again, congratulations!

Our first tournament of the year was held at Hartley Wintney GC on May 6. The 27 hole Stableford was sponsored by Avoncrop and Vitax and we had an excellent turnout. It was great to see some new faces at a Section event.

Spencer Haines and his team had worked extremely hard in preparing the course under very trying conditions, as it had decided to turn into monsoon season the week running up to the tournament, much to their dismay. Luckily for us the weather stayed fine - there's a lot of truth in the saying 'the sun shines on the righteous'. Joe Crawley and Colin White once again put so much time and effort into the excellent prize table which was very well received, so the added bonus of a free entry to the national tournament for divisional winners was the icing on the cake!

Winners on the day were: Division 1. Alan Magee, 56pts. Division 2. Paul Cooper, 62pts. Division 3. Shaun Whittle, 60pts. Longest Drive: Brian Forder  
Nearest the Pin: David King

Many thanks to Hartley Wintney for their excellent hospitality and to Spencer Haines and his team for all their hard work in presenting the course so well for us. Good luck with the nouveaux cuisine in your new facilities with your new microwave!

Without sponsors we couldn't have such wonderful golf days, so many thanks to Avoncrop and Vitax. We still haven't managed to get Joe Crawley playing golf yet, but we still live in hope.

Last but by no means least a big thank you to Chris Sturgess for organising the day and Alan Magee and Rob Wills for organising the scorecards and scoring. We got there in the end!

Chris left feeling very stressed after taking some much needed flak from the blue side of the Section, and reliving the missed 45 foot putt on the last for that much needed point. Well 10 pts is so much better than 9! Sorry Chris!

Section rules now. No more Pompey/Saints banter! Well only a little bit. It was very nice to see our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, in attendance. Derek retires at the end of the month and we wish him a happy retirement.

Our next port of call is Parkstone Golf Club on July 8 for our summer invitation tournament sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Huxleys. Your guest should be a member from your club or secretary, manager etc. Numbers are very limited so please get your details to Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hants, SO19 6HB.

Cost for the day is £18 per person which includes golf, soup and sandwiches on arrival and a BBQ after the golf.

If you have any news for next month's notes then please contact me.

Telephone: 01202 661106 Mobile: 07966 386232

Email: a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Good luck with your work. Until next month

Alex McCombie

### South Wales

Creoso I pawb un waith eto. Hello to all of you once again. Sorry for the lapse in recent months.

A great day was had by all at the recent golf day at Tenby Golf Club. Thanks go out to Chris for preparing a superb golf course and to the catering section for delicious food. Amtec sponsored the day and first prize was taken by Kington Golf Club.

Congratulations must be given to Cardigan Golf Club who recently won the inaugural "Welsh Golf Club of the Year" award co-run by the Welsh Golfing Union and Tower Gate Insurance. To accompany the award there was a cheque for £6,000.

I would like to urge all readers to contact me with any news that may be used in the Section.

Sorry for the limited amount of information this month I will improve next month.

Cofion cynnes/Best Wishes

Kerry Jones



## SOUTH EAST

### East Anglia

On April 21 our merry band arrived at Newmarket Links Golf Club. Lovely day. A total of 65 turned up which is a world record for a first meeting of the year in East Anglia.

The course was in fine fettle (as were the fillies) thanks to Rob Boyce and his team. The day was sponsored by Tacit with new white flags and everything.

The Club Captain, Basil Warren, made us all very welcome on behalf of the club and Tim Webb, from Tacit, presented the prizes to the worthy few, as follows: Best Gross: Alan Sharp, 79 pts. Best Nett: Rob Boyce, 72pts, who wins Spring Shield. 0-9 Section: 1. Rob Boyce, 72 pts; 2. Alan Sharp, 73 pts; Mike Virley, 76 pts. 10-18 Section: 1. Steve Millard, 75 pts; 2. Kevin Hodges,

75 pts; 3. Neil Worger, 76 pts. 19-28 Section: 1. Robert Ransome, 73 pts; 2. Nathan Kidd, 79 pts; 3. Martin Brightwell, 80 pts. Trade and Guest: 1. Tim Webb; 2. Edward Clarkson.

Nearest the Pin were Mike Buck on the 3rd; Tim Webb on the 12th and Steve Millard on the 17th. Longest Drive was Nick Brewster (all the way from Plymouth)

The starter was Claire Kilmurry, from Vitax, and she kept smiling right to the end. The lovely lady was also counting how many of us actually reached the fairway with our first drive. Out of 65 players about 15 actually made it. Keep practising lads.

Nearly forgot the loo seat. The recipient of which was Colin Rushbrook, for wearing a nice bright shirt to brighten a dull day.

It was also the last official meeting for Derek Farrington, our regional BIGGA man. He has done us proud for the last eight years and I'm sure we shall see him in the future.

There are several trade lads and lassies to mention. The main man for the day was Tacit, other prizes were from Bartram Mowers, SISIS, Vitax, Aitkens, Toro, Scotts, Textron, Sheriff, Consultant Clarkson, Headland Turf, Ben Burgess and Thomlinson Groundcare. Thank you all for your support.

Our thanks again to Newmarket Golf Club for a lovely course and superb hospitality. By the time you read this it will have hopefully stopped raining, the grass will be growing like the clappers and your greens will be at their best, unlike now as it's freezing cold and the greens are at their worst.

A typical East Anglian spring, but every year (just after Augusta) it's "have you top dressed yet?" "my lawn's better than your 18th!" "greens are bumpy" etc, etc.

My notice reads "Contrary to popular belief the green staff do not control the weather!" That's the polite one. The other one's much shorter – one word.

Mick Lathrope



## Surrey

Firstly, a big thank you to Derek Farrington, our local contact with BIGGA for all the hard work and friendly assistance he has given to all Surrey members over the past eight years. Derek retires at the end of May but we would still like to extend to him our welcome to all our future golf events.

Derek is a member at Coombe Wood Golf Club, but after his favourite tittle of red wine, he can often be seen ending his round on the 18th green at the neighbouring Coombe Hill Golf Club and he only realises he has changed courses when he can't find his car in the car park! Good luck and good health to Derek from us all and we look forward to seeing him as our guest at Woking Golf Club.

Cuddington Golf Club was the venue of our golf event in April and as the day was warm and sunny and the course presented in excellent condition, we all had a really enjoyable competition.

The day was sponsored by Avoncrop, whose representative, Gary Ogilvie, resplendent in Saville Row suit and hand knitted tie, gave the good quality prizes to our better bandits/golfers.

These include Chris Varron, 44pts, Adie Locke, 36pts, followed by Steve Holmes and Nigel Colley. Nearest the Pin was Lee Blackburn and Longest Drive, Chris Lomas. Many thanks to Cuddington Golf Club and their Course Manager, Stuart Sheppard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my playing partners, Gary, from Effingham, and Ivor, from Gattin Manor, for the encouragement they gave me after I missed a 12 inch putt for a birdie and also to remind Gary that a drive that does not reach the red tee does not require the necessary forfeit and state of exposure to be continued for the whole round.

Brian Willmott

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of notes in last month's issue. Graham Prosser has had to relinquish the writing of our notes due to work pressures. The committee would like to thank Graham for all his sterling work over the last 18 months.

The Northern Ireland Section would like to wish John Pemberton all the very best in his new role of Chief Executive of BIGGA. I have met John on a few occasions and have found him very helpful and approachable.

It has been a difficult period with the untimely death of Neil Thomas so I would encourage every member of BIGGA to rally around and give John and the Association staff our full support. They all work hard to improve our standing in the industry. We hope to send a team from Northern Ireland to the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day on June 14 at Aldwark Manor.

I organised an educational visit to the K Club, in County Kildare, at the end of March to primarily view the new Palmer Course which was opened last year.

We also got a chance to walk round part of the Smurfitt Course. This we all know is the venue for the 2006 Ryder Cup. Basically, I am not even going to try to describe how impressed we were with the K Club.

The new Palmer Course cost 16 million Euro to construct with the 7th hole costing a cool 2.5 million Euro. The greens are A4 Creeping Bent. The whole design and layout of both courses has to be seen to be believed. My best advice would be to go there and play both courses.

I would like to thank Gerry Byrne, Course Manager at the K Club, and his two Superintendants, Eugene Hennessey and Andy Sheehan, for giving up their time to show us round and answer all our questions. To Gerry's Secretary, Ann and the staff, who provided sandwiches and refreshments, a big thank you.

Your hospitality and kindness will not be forgotten by all who attended. Our best wishes to the K Club for the Ryder Cup in 2006.

Our Spring Golf Competition was played at Ardglass Golf Club on the Co. Down Coast on April 6. While we travelled to the venue the heavy showers were torrential but fortunately the afternoon stayed sunny but very windy.

It was good to see Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, over from Scotland to meet up with us again. Hope you enjoyed your visit Peter. Many thanks to our sponsor Ultra Plant Spreaders. Kevin and Cahill Gates have provided some very generous prizes. Thanks to Ardglass Golf Club and staff for their hospitality and to John Moore and his Greenstaff for having the course in such top condition so early in the year.

Results were:- 1. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam, 34 pts; 2. Peter Boyd, BIGGA, 32 pts; 3. Ken Henderson, Allen Park, 31 pts; 4. Gary Murphy, Silver Wood, 30 pts; 5. Noel Crawford, R.C.D, 30 pts; 6. Emmett Curran, Downpatrick, 29 pts.

Finally, I am presently forming a Greenkeeping Support Team for this year's British Seniors' Open Championship at Royal Portrush for the final two days on July 24 & 25.

A greenkeeper will accompany each match on the final two days. All members will be notified by letter. If you are interested please contact me at Allen Park on: 94429001. The next golf days will be at Edenmore Golf Club on May 25 and Galgorm Golf Club on July 6, 2pm tee times.

Kenneth Henderson