

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at Kilmacolm Golf Club on Tuesday 15 June, 2004 by kind permission of the Captain and committee. The cost of the event will be £20 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal.

Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 6 June, 2004. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

Central



This month we extend a warm welcome to Craig Reynolds, from Glenbervie Golf Club, and Ian McIntyre, from Montrose Links, from everyone in the Section, with the hope that we will have an opportunity to meet them at some of our future events.

The date for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield Golf Club has been confirmed for the Wednesday, September 29, so please put this date in your diary. All being well and if things go according to plan the golf tournaments in 2005 will be at Elie in the Spring and Kinross in the Autumn.

Sincere thanks from everyone in the Section go to the directors and staff of the following companies:- Greentech Limited, Henderson Grass Machinery, Scottish Grass Machinery and Rigby Taylor for the superb trophies which they have presented to us and will be competed for at future golf tournaments.

Winners in this year's Club 2000 draw so far are as follows; No. 709 J. Crawford, No. 147 K. Duncan, No. 120 E. Small and No. 200 A. Philip who all win £30 each, and the winners of £20 each are No. 64 D. Scott, No. 137 R. Breingan, No. 307 T. Comerford and No. 197 J. Oliver.

As this is the final year of Club 2000, the Section's only fund-raising event, your committee are in the process of finding other ways of raising funds which are used to the benefit of every member and hopefully every member of the Section will support!

Those of you who read the Section news regularly will probably be saying that the committee always seem to be 'in the process' of doing something every month as this phrase is appearing in a number of reports, well believe it or not we do meet regularly and organise events/seminars/workshops etc on your behalf. As I keep saying, if there is a subject you wish included on our list of events, get in touch with any committee member. It's your Section!

Thanks to everyone who sent cards and good wishes to Ailsa during her recent stay in hospital, with a special thanks to Ian MacMillan and Bobby Fleming for their superb support during this trying time, Ailsa is making steady progress and hopefully it won't be too long before she makes a full recovery. Thanks again!

John Crawford

Ayrshire

Our football match against the West Section took place in Glasgow on Sunday, March 14. Two sides of nine took part in blustery conditions, as the upstart Ayrshire lads took a surprise 0-3 lead after 20 minutes. Sensing an upset the West began to play themselves back in to the match, controlling the last 15 minutes of the half. Ayrshire defended well however restricting the hosts to long range efforts. With the half nearly up the West struck with a crisp strike from the edge of the box, the half ending 1-3.

I won't go into match detail about the second half, as I'm still having recurring nightmares, except to say the West had shaken off any cobwebs, and were soon dominating play, going on to a comprehensive 7-3 victory despite valiant goaltending from Iain Barr. Anyway it was a good day and the match was played in great spirit. Man of the Match went to Barry McCullough (West goalie) for keeping the score down to 3 in the first half.

Now, I worked for two years with Barry and I can honestly say I didn't know he was capable of moving that fast. He was like a cat, okay a big cat but still he was great. Just joking Baz. Well done mate!

Ayrshire team: Iain Barr, Largs; John Mair, Bellshill; Willie McGonigle, Beith; John Russell, Beith; Marshall Sloss, Beith; Denis Tweddell, Turnberry; George Taggart, Ardeer; Stephen Higgins, Ardeer; A. Trialist.

Ayrshire goalscorers; A. Trialist 2, D. Tweddell.

Thanks to Gerry Bruen for arranging the match, to Marshall and Iain for organising and providing strips, and mainly those who turned out. We hope to secure a rematch on home soil later in the year.

Email me on [denis.tweddell@virgin.net](mailto:denis.tweddell@virgin.net).

Denis Tweddell



West

The Section Football team was in action during March against the Ayrshire Section. After a bad start and 3 nil down at half time Brian Boland, team captain, made a few changes during the break and the west triumphed 8—3 (According to Ayrshire it was 7-3. Ed). Anybody wishing a challenge give me a phone. Thanks to Gerry Bruen for organising the game.

On March 17 WWB minerals held an open day at their Levenseat quarry. It was a very interesting and enjoyable day. Many thanks to Jim Smith for organising the trip and to Mike Higgins for his first class presentation hopefully more trips can be organised at the back end of the year.

The Association will be holding their regional training courses during Autumn '04 and Spring '05. Contact Gavin Jarvis for further information. These courses are subsidised so give them ago.

The Section's National Tournament will be held over Kilmacolm Golf Club on June 15. Application forms will be available at the spring outing. All the best Ronnie on your preparations.

David Reed, from Lenzie Golf Club, will be going to the gulf with the Territorial Army and I am sure we all wish him a safe trip. All the best, David from the Section. There are three new members this month. Andrew Ramsey, Bishopbriggs Golf Club; Kevin Maher and Mark Healy, from Helensburgh Golf Club. Welcome to the Section.

To get in touch try Mobile 07970-366-355 E Mail [karen.ross@tesco.net](mailto:karen.ross@tesco.net) Fraser Ross



NORTHERN REGION

**East**

I open on a sad note with the news of the passing of Neil Thomas, our Executive Director. He died in February. I had the pleasure of meeting Neil on various occasions, including BTME. He will be a great loss to our Association. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family at this difficult time.



On a happier note Richard Mullen, a former Section member, and his wife, Claire, have an addition to their family, in the form of a baby girl - Erin Louisa - who arrived in January. Mum and baby are doing well and

Richard is adjusting to the lack of sleep! All the best to you all from the Section.

At the end of March the Section organised daily maintenance courses at local dealers - SGM, Thomas Sheriffs and Henderson's Grass Machinery.

This was to give users a one day course in which they could update themselves in daily maintenance and the setting up of units for a days work. The SGM day was

cancelled due to the lack of numbers, as was the day at Thomas Sheriffs. Henderson's day was held, although fewer than 20 people were present.

As our section has 200 plus members this was a disappointing show!

The events organised were what you asked for so why are they not supported? What do our members want from their Section? How can we encourage you to support your Section? The Section is here to encourage education as well as social events. Ideas welcome! Contact me on the usual numbers, I'm waiting to hear from you.

By the time you read this, the Spring Tournament on April 13 at Craigielaw Golf Club will have passed. Details next month.

The Willie Woods Invitational is being held at the Glen Golf Club, North Berwick on August 24 and the Autumn Tournament is at Broomieknowe Golf Club on September 28.

The Annual Dinner Dance will once again be held in Aberlady on Saturday, December 4. We are hoping for your support in these events. Contact us in the usual ways.

All members should shortly be receiving or have received a newsletter with all events, dates and other Section news - watch the post for yours. If yours does not arrive contact me.

Some of you may have noticed that John Geddes, of Stewart's Turf, has been absent for some time. This has been due to ill health which has now meant that he has had to leave his position. We all wish you well and hope you have a speedy recovery. Your monthly visits to my shed will be sadly missed.

Stewart's have appointed Blair Young as the new representative and he will be calling on you all soon. If you need to contact him he is using John's old number 07836 249974. Good luck, Blair, in your new position.

People on the move over the last few months are Andy Forrest from Stewart's/ Tynecastle. He has returned home to Swanston Golf Club where he spent just over 10 years when I was Course Manager. Alan Campbell, formerly at Eyemouth Golf Club, who moved south last October, has returned north as a Sales Representative for Thomas Sheriffs. Good Luck to you both.

Well that's it for this month, please contact me if you have any suggestions for our Section on any of the following numbers - 01968 661313 (home)/01968 661721 (work) /07719 580449 (mobile), e-mail to christopher.yeaman@ntlworld.com. or by post Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peebleshire, EH46 7HN.

Speak to you all soon. Chris Yeaman

**Sheffield**

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have had our Spring Tournament held at Retford GC. A report of the day's events will appear in next month's magazine. This match was kindly sponsored by TT Pro Turf.



The Summer and Autumn competitions have now been confirmed. The Summer competition is to be held at Sickleholme GC, tee off at 1.30 pm. Sponsors for the day are Mansfield Sand.

The Autumn competition is to be held at Gainsborough GC on their Karsten Lakes course. The Sponsors will be Palmer Groundcare. This match will tee off at 12 noon and there will also be a putting competition. Players will be able to eat as they come off the course so as to eliminate a late finish, thus benefiting people with a longer journey home.

We would like to encourage all Course Managers to attend the golf days and bring along all of their staff. Each member needs to know that they can contribute to the success of the Section and that their voice will be heard.

You do not have to have attended any of the lectures to play on the golf days as we feel as members of the Section this alone entitles you to play. But we would hope you can come to as many lectures as you can next winter.

We were hoping to include another golf day to the calendar in the shape of a President's Day. Hopefully this would be held at a well-known course out of our area but within a one hour coach journey. We would also like to use this event to raise money for a local charity. As with any new venture we need to know what level of interest there is before we can pursue with it and to see if there is anybody willing to sponsor us. This is something we have very much in mind for 2005 and need your support.

Congratulations go to our Section President, Neil Maltby, and his wife, Marion, who recently celebrated their Ruby wedding.

And finally this month all Section members would once again like to thank Rotherham GC for their continued support in allowing us the use of their clubhouse for winter lectures and their course for the Christmas competition. This year's Christmas competition will be played on Monday 24 November.

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

Geoff Wells

**Northern**



I've not much to tell you all this month, I'm afraid.

On March 6 the Annual Dinner Dance was held at Riddlesden Golf Club, and yet again it was a huge disappointment to see such low numbers at what turned out to be a fantastic night. A massive thanks must go to all the staff at Riddlesden for a fabulous meal and great entertainment.

Next month's column will show the results for the Spring Tournament which was held at Garforth Golf Club on April 27.





**Peter Boyd**  
**SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND**  
 Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

If you have any news regarding Northern Section my contact details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB.

Telephone 01274 638366; mobile 07739 319060; e-mail adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk\par  
 Adam Speight

### North Wales



As we drift into May, the last month of spring, we look forward to longer days with more sunshine and put behind us all that rain, wind and hailstones, and, of course, look forward to more golf.

You should by now have had your entries for our spring tournament at Porthmadog GC, on May 20. It has been a few years since the Section has played the course and we look forward to see the new

construction of the 3rd and 7th holes which should just be open by the third week of May.

Bronco and the team have worked hard over the past 12 months to re-shape these holes and make them just that little tougher, more undulating and sexier than before. Danny Tomkins, of Amenity Technology, spent a day there in early March overseeing the new bunker banks with the Hydro Mulch machine and help was given by myself. A very strenuous job I had driving the 4 x 4 truck from the water tap along the fairways - it was made that much better once we had finished by a hearty Welsh 'All Day Breakfast' in the clubhouse along with a pint of sheep's water (not from the bar I hasten to add. The prank that Danny played, soaking me in water from the hydrant, gave everyone a laugh... everyone but me that was.

Moving along the coast a few miles to Harlech, I had an e-mail from Emyr Price's wife, Julie she tells me that Emyr has just notched up over 30 years service at Royal St David's and he loves the job just as much now, as he did when he first started, Well done Emyr. I am sure Roger and John will keep you going for the next 30 years.

Back across to Chester and Len Sproston, formerly of Eaton GC, has just undergone a hip replacement. His son, Peter, say's he got fed up with spraying WD 40 on it and decided to have the job done properly. We all wish Len a speedy recovery.

Jeze Hughes has been accepted for the 'Support Team' for the 2004 Open at Royal Troon. I was hoping with his playing ability he could get down to scratch as I am looking for another bag job this year!

Moving further East, the job at Sandiway GC has gone to Brian Taylor. Formerly a local lad, he has moved across from his last position at Peterborough Milton GC and we wish him good luck in his new role. This now means there will be no musical chairs around the region, unless anyone is interested in Peterborough that is.

Dave Austin has now joined Rigby Taylor and is trying his hand at 'reping'. I have given him a map - it shows where all the Little Chefs are located. Best of luck, Dave.

Justin Chung, from Upton-By-Chester GC, has re-constructed 11 greens that are due to commence play any time now. Just having a quick guided tour they do look 'mighty fine' and when he does the other seven this back end. I am sure the Section will put in a request for a golf day pretty soon.

Finally, congratulations to Wendy O'Brien, who has been made up to Deputy Head on Carden Park's Nicklaus course. Andy Campbell is hot on



**Peter Larter**  
**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
 Tel: 01476 550115

the footsteps of Phillious Fogg, as he has arrived back in the country for eight days, only another 72 to go as he boards his next plane.

Any news, views or comments give us a call at home on 01925 263394 or e-mail acorn@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru  
 Andrew Acorn

### North West

For those who do not already know the Board of Management at their last meeting appointed John Pemberton as the Executive Director for BIGGA. Since the sad loss of Neil Thomas John as carried out the duties of the Executive Director and I'm sure you will all agree he has done an excellent job.

Those of you who know John, and there are many of you, especially those who have been on the "Open" support team over the years, will know he is very approachable, and always ready to listen, and help.

The Association has become one of the most highly recognised bodies in turf culture world, thanks to Neil Thomas, and the various Board of Management teams, and I know John is the man to carry us forward in the years to come.

By now you should have all received your fixture lists for the year's events. If you have not received one please contact me and I will send you one.

There is one alteration to be made in the fixture list. After about 25 years of playing the "Roses" match (N/W vs. Northern) sections the Northern section have decided not to continue playing this match.

It is sad that such a decision has been made by the Northern section committee, after all I think this match has been played longer than most of the decision makers have been in greenkeeping, but so be it, the end of an era.

An added competition this year is the Golf Management Trophy to be played at the De Vere Carden Park Golf Club on Monday 23rd August. This is a team tournament which includes the Course Manager, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green. Entry fee is £100 per team which includes, coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf and dinner. Anyone interested contact me for an application form asap.

EDUCATION: There are many courses available for the Autumn of 2004 and Spring of 2005. These courses are available to regions and sections and you have the opportunity to choose the training you require.

The courses are for one and two days and cost £57-58 for one day, and £116-133 for two days.

These courses are subsidised by more than £50 per person from the BIGGA Education fund so they are very reasonably priced, and have excellent speakers. If you have any ideas on training contact me and I will forward this to HQ.

The N/W have a match against N/Wales at Vale Royal Abbey on Wednesday 9th June and I require a team of 12. If you are available let me know. I am sure you will enjoy the day which is sponsored by G.E.M. Professional.

That's it for now and I can be contacted on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross







Derek Farrington  
SOUTH EAST, SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES  
Tel: 01903 260956

## Cleveland

As Victor Meldrew always says 'I don't believe it!' The Wearside quiz team beat the El Prez team on the tie breaker at 'Baz and Allie's Quiz Night' at Darlo Golf Club. I THOUGHT WE HAD YOU, LADS!

I suppose I should congratulate the victors but I am trembling with rage as I type in the following names:- Martin Woody, Fil Hargreaves, Tony Cheeseburger, Ian Hollowtine, Ian Pembroke and finally Tiny Smythe. I have already started my search for brain boxes to whip your butts next year!

Seriously, a massive thank you to B and A for the hard work they both put in to make the night such a success. It was just a pity that so few members made it.

Still, we had a great night and the Darlo Golf Club's Pie and Chips were marvellous yet again. We even had some left to stuff into Pembo's massive bait box for the next day. Thanks to the catering staff and also the club for their hospitality.

I have been asked to throw out a challenge from 'The Fossils'. Tony Smith and Ian Holoran will take on any pair, on any course, for any amount of money. Come on lads – take some money off the cocky, tight Yorkshire devils.

Congratulations are also due to the 'Smoggies' among you. It is really fantastic that a North East team has, at last, won a major trophy.

I believe that the interest in playing for the Section's football teams in the Rigby Taylor challenge is poor. Please contact Ian Pemberton if you are prepared to play.

I have heard that George Malcolm of Middlesbrough Golf Club will retire in February 2005. By then, George will have given the club superb service for 41 years. He was one of the frontrunners in forming a unified, quality association for Golf Greenkeepers. However, knowing George, I'm sure he will still be active in turf management of some description. It would be a waste of all that knowledge if he isn't!

Although I couldn't make it myself, the night out 'at the dogs' was a great success. Seventeen members travelled up to Sunderland from the Middlesbrough and Darlington areas in a minibus and the local lads met them at the track. I have heard that some BIGGA punters won over £40! Lucky beggars.

Barry Walker would like any suggestions of similar nights out. He will be only too pleased to organise them if they are going to be well supported.

The Spring Tournament at Castle Eden will have taken place by now. I hope the weather was kind and Graham Border and his team will have produced a top quality course for us – results next month.

On the subject of weather, I see the long term forecast is for a wet Spring and early Summer. I bet they are right too! As a veteran cricketer I should know by now that the first few weeks of a new season are always cold and wet. Richmond 'Titch' and I will have to hunt out the three long sleeved jumpers and the thermals!

Hoping for good grass growing, any news to T.C. on 07831 214879 please.

Cheers. Terry 'El Prez' Charlton

## MIDLAND REGION

### BB&O

"April showers bring May flowers". I hope you have all had a good Easter weekend without breaking any record temperatures and not forgetting the odd chocolate egg that melted in your pocket on the way to work.

The Annual Rigby Taylor Match play knockout will now be underway and results of the first round will be in next months report. Section news has slowly been dribbling in from far and wide over the three counties and if any member has any news they would like to share, you only have to call.

The Section welcomes Calum Taylor, formally of Powfoot GC in Dumfriesshire, (sounds like he plays the bagpipes). Calum moved to The Hertfordshire GC as an assistant, and now finds himself another rung up the ladder and looking forward to his new position as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Hazelmere GC.

It is a very small world as the BBO's very own Lyndsay Anderson started and finished his apprenticeship in Greenkeeping at Powfoot GC under Calum's father. I am sure there will be a lot of catching up between the pair of them at our Section events.

Wycombe Heights GC has appointed Robert Surgey as Course Manager. He was formally the Deputy and has taken charge. Robert promises faithfully to look after Bravedarts dartboard.

Gary Sowden, from Woburn GC, joins the team of Chiltern Forrest GC and will take charge as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

There is yet another promotion to report. Kevin O Connor, from Sonning GC, moves up the ladder as Deputy Course Manager to assist Greg Wheadon at Aspect Park GC.

Mark Chesman is leaving the BBO Section after a very successful 16 years at Sonning GC as Course Manager. Mark will be returning to his old stomping ground in middle England where old friends and family await him. He will be taking charge of a 27 hole Golfing Complex with Tennis Courts and Driving Range in a beautiful setting in North Lincolnshire and is just the sort of challenge that Mark has been waiting for. We all wish him and his family the very best and good luck for the future.

mark@tacticgolf.com

Mark Day

### Midland



I'm sure we have all at some point been subjected to the somewhat derogatory statement of "they only cut grass"! I shall now cite two recent instances for your amusement of "they only cut grass". The first being by Jim, Matt, Tim, Dave and Tom of the greenkeeping team at Druids Heath Golf Club.

They were invited by their club to put forward a team in the monthly Club Quiz Night containing some 20 teams. On three occasions they did so, but only came first, second and third! Well done gentlemen.

Secondly, Your's Truly was recently asked to mount the original Dutch Open Championship Trophy which is a 100 years old, of which was, on five occasions, won by our Chairman's Great Grandfather. I obviously did so



with great pride and very tentative hands. So yes, they only cut grass. I'd have it no other way, would you?

For some 40 years now, Mr Hill, of Stourbridge Golf Club, has been in service within our fine profession. He has during such time brought on many a fine greenkeeper. From all the chaps at Stourbridge and the Midland Section, congratulations and thanks.

Further more, Mr Wood, of Walsall Golf Club, has decided to leave the profession to pursue a career in Bulgaria. We shall all miss your character Steve, but all the best to you in your new venture.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome many new members to our fine Section this month. Such being A. Piziura, G. Dennett, R. Hindhaugh, C. Howes, P. Tildesley, R. Evison, C. Cotes, W. Lewis, P. Pleasance, K. Mackie, T. Harrison, and C. Evans. We all look forward to your involvement within the Section and to meeting you.

As you are all more than aware, during March we tried to hold an Effective Communications Course. Due to a lack of support the course was cancelled. To the two members who showed interest our apologies. These courses can only be run with your support, the next time anyone suggests the committee is not trying to run educational courses should expect a psychological bloody nose. Thank you to Andy Smith, Shirley Golf Club, and Sami at BIGGA HQ for their fine efforts in trying to hold such. Yours and my loss.

By now you should have received the players list for the Rigby Taylor Singles Match Play. Our thanks to T. Cheese for organising this event. Good luck to all, and by God, Mr Harris, you will need it, cows and everything.

Sean McDade

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### Devon & Cornwall



Our Spring meeting, sponsored by Supaturf and Bayer, was held at Teignmouth Golf Club on Thursday, March 25. A total of 45 members were playing for the Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and the Bayer Trophy for Assistant Greenkeepers. John Palfrey and Dave McInnes did the starting on the first tee.

The remaining 24 members were escorted by Head Greenkeeper, Charlie Woolnough, on the course walk.

As the rain became heavier, Charlie continued to take us further and further out onto the course, much to the dismay of Ralph, who was dripping wet and complaining somebody had nicked his broly. Even though we all had a thorough soaking, I haven't enjoyed a course walk as much for many years.

Charlie's enthusiasm for our profession and his dedication to his club, where he has worked for the past 23 years, shone through and Teignmouth Golf Club must be very proud of him.

After an excellent lunch we went on to the presentation for the day's golf competition. Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers. 1. "Jacko" James, Killiow, 45 pts; 2. Pete Standen, Sidmouth, 42 pts; 3. Justin Austin, Windwhistle, 32 pts. Bayer Trophy for Assistant Greenkeepers. 1. S. Coombes, Dainton, 44 pts; 2. L. Baddely, Crediton, 42 pts; 3. A. Bridgewater, Yelverton, 41 pts.

I would like to thank Paul Clifton, of Bayer Environmental Science, and

Dave McInnes, of Supaturf, for once again sponsoring our Section.

The course walk prize, Jim Arthur's book, Practical Greenkeeping, was won by Stephen Pearn, of Yelverton Golf Club.

Our educational talk was given by Lawrence Pithie, Director of Operations with American Golf UK. Lawrence gave an outstanding Powerpoint Presentation covering all aspects of winter maintenance. I would like to thank Lawrence for taking time out of his busy schedule and we look forward to seeing him later in the year.

I would also like to thank all the staff at Teignmouth Golf Club for their hospitality and a special mention to Charlie Woolnough and his team who had the course in excellent condition.

After the sad loss of our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, the Section organised a collection which raised £130 which will be forwarded to St Michael's Hospice. The day concluded with a raffle and a big thank you to all the trade who donated the prizes.

As many of you probably know, I will be standing down as Section Secretary this month for personal reasons. I would like to thank you all for your support over the past 18 months.

We have appointed Don Hunt, of Roffeys, to take over as Secretary. Don was one of the founder members of the Greenkeepers Association in Devon and Cornwall back in the '70s and having known him for many years, I know he will do an excellent job!

Steve Evans

### South Coast

Many apologies for the lack of Section notes in last month's magazine - a technical hitch which has been rectified. Spring is definitely in the air now and we can look forward to the summer ahead.

This year's Section seminar 'raising the standard', held on February 26th at Canford Magna Golf Club, was an enormous success. This is not a coincidence, but the result of hard work from your committee in organising the day. We had 98 delegates an increase of over 20 from last year, a great turnout! One of our speakers Stuart Ashworth had to drop out at the last minute for health reasons and we wish Stuart well.

The day was started with an excellent presentation from Tony Mears, Course Manager at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club, who gave us his thoughts on settings standards both on and off the golf course.

This was followed by Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Potters Bar Golf Club, whose presentation covered our image in the past and present and how we can change things in the future. Duncan also gave us a brief insight into the work of the BIGGA 'Futures' Committee.

Next up was Ian McMillan, who at the time was Course Manager at Queenwood Golf Club. His presentation showed the enormous efforts and resources that were required to build Queenwood as well as showing some of the obstacles that were overcome. An excellent presentation that was very well received.

This was followed by Alex McCombie who gave a presentation on the corrective programme and heathland restoration work that has been carried out at Parkstone Golf Club.

After an superb lunch Wendy O' Brien, Senior Assistant from De Vere Carden Park gave us an excellent insight into her American internship and experiences in working at Augusta.

The day was rounded off by a brief presentation about the Bernhard Delegation which sponsors 10 BIGGA members to visit the GCSAA show





and conference every year.

All in all an excellent day and many thanks to both Banks Amenity products and BIGGA for their sponsorship. Unfortunately Simon Banks was unable to join us for the day, but many thanks Simon for your help.

We were fortunate to have Sami Collins from HQ attend. Sami is the Education and Training Officer and gave a brief presentation on some of the schemes and educational events available. Thanks for your help and support Sami!

As I said the day was a great success and many thanks to Canford Magna Golf Club for their hospitality and particularly Alain and Jackie for their help. A huge vote of thanks to all the speakers. The success of the day was very much in your hands and you all came up trumps! Also many thanks for all those who attended, if you didn't make it, you missed a great day! I'm already organising next year's event and if anybody has a particular speaker they wish to hear then please contact me.

One other small piece of news. I have been invited to sit on the Futures Committee and attended my first meeting in March. The Futures Committee was formed last year and is a development committee aimed at being very proactive about the Association. I am looking forward to playing a part in the future of our Association.

If you have any news you wish to include in the section notes then please contact me 01202 661106 Mobile 07966 386232

Email a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month, Alex McCombie

### South West

At time of writing Spring seems to be playing ball, not too cold, not too dry, not too wet. There seems to be two schools of thought on the long range forecast at the moment, a predicted wet Summer and a predicted dry Summer. How much do these guys get paid?



Some information for future reference:- The Education Conference part of Harrogate is going back to its old format of a separate conference held over a weekend in March at a different location each year, the first one being 2005 at Coventry.

The Section would like to sponsor a member to go, travel and accommodation paid for. There will also be the same arrangement for BTME and there will no longer be a coach going up to Harrogate. There will still be a package of accommodation and seminars on offer but no travel. On the subject of travel, would anyone be interested in a subsidised mini-bus/coach to the Summer tournament at Lyme Regis.

The Cannington College Seminar on Wednesday November 17 will be on one day this year.

John Keenaghan has asked if anyone is interested in playing a match against the Secretaries or any other Section matches; please contact him on 01454 616837.

Patron Of The Month is Roger Davey, of Irritech. Our thanks to Roger for his boundless enthusiasm on all things H2O. It was always great speaking to Roger about your dilapidated system because he could always tell you a worse tale about some other unfortunate golf course, who for example was using a watering can for irrigation (I jest), somehow having a couple of faulty decoders didn't seem so much of a problem. Thanks for your continued support it is greatly appreciated.

Telephone me on 01225 333928 or 078123 80936.

Guy Woods

### SOUTH EAST

#### Kent

Firstly, thank you to Duncan, Barry and the committee for keeping everything organised over the last few years. Due to increased pressure on his time, Duncan has decided to step down as Secretary. Barry feels that he is not in a position to continue as Chairman, with relocation to France imminent.

An EGM on March 10 to discuss the future of the Section yielded only eight greenkeeping members! It was duly decided to merge the Kent Section with other bordering Sections.

However on reflection, it seemed a pity for the Section to fold. In order to try and get things moving again I have arranged an 18 hole tournament, to be held at Hever Castle Golf Club on Thursday, June 10. All members will receive an entry form in due course.

It will be the first greenkeeper event that we have hosted at Hever, and we are looking forward to welcoming as many players as possible. Of course there is no reason why non-golfers should not attend the evening meal and have a chat with colleagues. Full details will accompany the entry form.

It is planned to hold a Summer/Autumn event in the east of the county and a Christmas event at a central location.

We are currently forming a new committee. Any interested persons may call me on 07970 789708 for more details.

David Wood



#### Surrey

I was very pleased to be invited to a Charity Day on Wednesday, March 17, at Hankley Common GC in aid of Help Autistic Children. Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common Golf Club was much involved with the organisation of the event and would like to thank all those who supported the day, including the sponsors, the prize givers and the playing teams for helping to raise in excess of £12,000.

The icing on the cake was that the team I was seconded into won first prize and I thank my fellow team members, Kevin Stillwell, Greg Richardson and Phil Rolands.

The first Surrey Section golf event took place on March 31 at Dukes Meadow on the first really warm and sunny day this Spring. We thank the owners of Dukes Meadow for courtesy of the course, the Head Greenkeeper, John Jennings and his team, for presenting this delightful nine hole, par three, course in such excellent condition and the caterers for the delicious food.

This surprisingly interesting course really was a tough golf test and the winning score of 34 points really reflects how difficult it was. The winner was Dave Langheim, Stuart Bedford was second with 32 points and Your's Truly came joint 3rd with Robert Summers on 31 points.

The sponsors for the day were Symbio and we thank them for the prizes which include nine bottles, for nearest the pin on each hole. Nearest the pin winners were:- Alec Bradshaw, Tony Bremner, Anthony Freeman, John Jennings, Dave Langheim, Brian Willmott, Stuart Bedford, Joacim Holgersoon and John Ross. Gary Miles surprised everyone with a progressive score of 14 points and was awarded the set of wooden spoons.

Cuddington Golf Club golf day report will appear in next month's edition.  
Brian Willmott