



News from the Chief Executive

Early in October we interviewed for the Regional Administrator post for the South West and South Wales Region following which I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Mrs Jane Jones.

Jane officially starts on November 1st and lives in Bristol, making her ideally placed for travel around the Region. Her first tasks will be the marketing of the Regional conference at Cannington on 25 November and also the travel arrangements for members wishing to go to Harrogate as a party.

Plans for BTME and Clubhouse are now well advanced and bookings for the workshops and seminars are already starting to come in to Headquarters.

If you are contemplating attending one of the workshops then I would suggest that you secure your place as quickly as possible, numbers are limited and demand is likely to be high.

It is proposed to have a section on the members' bulletin board of the BIGGA web site for those who can either offer someone a lift to Harrogate or for those seeking a lift.

The recommended pay scales for greenkeepers, that have been set by an independent committee since 1997, still seem to be misunderstood by some people.

All too often I still hear them referred to as the BIGGA rates, which they are not. Prior to 1997 BIGGA did publish a set of guideline rates that were used by many employers as the basis for setting pay scales.

Quite rightly many clubs considered it to be wrong for greenkeepers to set their own salaries and so the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment was born.

The committee is made up of eight representatives from most aspects of the golf world, including the R&A, the ACGS, Secretaries, Owners, Managers and Greenkeepers.

The eight page booklet for 2005 defines legislation and tables recommendations based on age, experience, qualification and location, together with a flow chart on a typical career structure.

These annual recommendations are being used more and more by golf clubs as the basis of their payroll and a copy of the publication can be obtained through BIGGA or the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The format of the committee has been so successful that in future not only will it publish scales for greenkeepers but also scales for golf club secretaries.

At the Board of Management meeting in October it was agreed that the library at Headquarters be expanded by utilising a \$2,500 donation from the GCSAA in memory of the late Neil Thomas.

We have a shortage of shelf space and the funds will be used to buy another oak book-case. The library is well used by members and we are always grateful for the donation of books, catalogues etc.

Finally a reminder of how to save money and help BIGGA at the same time! I was pleased to be handed a cheque by Arco for just over £6,000 last week in respect of commission from sales to BIGGA members and their clubs over the last two years.

Until recently all sales were conducted by mail order through their Humberside depot, however they have now completed the installation of a new national computer system and members can enjoy the same significant discount when shopping at their local Arco branch.

For further details on this scheme either contact Rachael or Gemma in the membership department at Headquarters or see the membership page in this month's Greenkeeper International.

John Pemberton



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SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I know the last paragraph I wrote for the last edition was a bit facetious, but I did get some feedback, unfortunately none of it would pass the Editor's censor for print!

The Norrie Whittock Trophy was contested at Auchterarder Golf Club on August 23. Brian Aitken, Martin Lothian, Derek Wilson and Stephen Higgins made up the Ayrshire Team, finishing a commendable second to the North Section.

Loch Lomond's Dundonald Links was the venue for our autumn outing, played on October 7. The sun shone and close to 50 players enjoyed an outstanding course, first class service and superb meals. Thanks go to Ken Siems and Loch Lomond Golf Club for their generosity in allowing us to have such a memorable day. The results were as follows:

Harry Diamond Jug. S. Higgins, Ardeer, 70 pts.

Scratch Prize - S. McBlain, Prestwick St. Nicholas, 36 pts.

1st Class. 1. S. Higgins, Ardeer, 35 pts; 2. B. Aitken, Turnberry, 33 pts; 3. G. Brown, Turnberry, 32 pts; 4. R. Fulton, St. Nicholas, 30 pts; 5. S. Kelly, Lockerbie, 29.

2nd Class. 1. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie, 33 pts; 2. D. Norquoy, Bogside, 33 pts; 3. J. Paton, W. Kilbride, 30 pts. 4. C. Murray, C. Douglas, 29 pts; 5. D. Gray, Pines, 29 pts. Best Visitor. G. Clarke, North Ayrshire Council, 40 pts. New Member. I. McDonald, Largs, 24 pts.

Any news or suggestions then please call me on 07939 104701.

Dennis Tweddell

Central

The final golf tournament of the year was held in late September by courtesy of the committee and members of Downfield Golf Club, in Dundee, when 52 members competed for the trophies in the Autumn Tournament. With entries of nearly 70 a good number had to be balloted out, so beware for future tournaments, get your entry in early!

The course was in excellent condition, despite the weeks of rain before the tournament, and credit goes to Paul Murphy and his staff for this, thanks for all your hard work Paul!

Prize winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch. David Leith, Downfield GC, 71pts.

Best Nett. Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns, 76-2-74 bih.

1st Class H/cap. 1. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC, 81-7-74 bih; 2. Brian Heggie, Auchterarder GC, 74-Scr-74 bih.

2nd Class H/cap. 1. Mark Graham, Green Hotel, 88-14-74; 2. Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 89-13-76.

3rd Class H/cap. 1. Stuart Cruickshank, Deer Park G&CC, 101-18-83; 2. Tom Comerford, Grangemouth GC, 107-20-87.

Best Nett Aggregate for Spring and Autumn Tournaments. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC, 77 & 74 - 151.

Patrons. Patrick Benneryd, McNabs, 83-8-75.

Guests. Richard Brown, St Andrews Bay, 78-5-73.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Downfield Golf Club for the courtesy extended to us on the day, especially Paul and his staff. Secretary, Margaret Stewart, all the catering and bar staff for keeping us fed and "watered" throughout the day and to Vice Captain, Ian McMurray, who joined us for the day and also presented the prizes in the evening.

Thanks also to all our Patrons for their continued support, everyone who donated to the raffle table, to Peter Boyd for his usual excellent work on the cards, Phil Langdon and Pat (I only buy one drink and that's for myself) Alien for selling the raffle tickets.

There was a slight hiccup with the prizes, but if anyone was omitted from the group photo (taken by our visiting Communications Manager, Scott) I'm sure he will only be too delighted to come back up and take another one!

We welcome two new members to the Section this month and they are Shaun Anderson, from the Dukes Course in St. Andrews, and Hayden Chambers, from St. Andrews Links, I'll let you know next month if they attended the AGM, on second thoughts I won't have to, you would all see them when you were there! Dreamin', I'm always Dreamin'!

Anyway next month's news should contain all the details of this year's AGM, with the names of all the new committee members, or perhaps it will just be a repeat of the previous 10 years.

Two members on the move recently were Craig Pollock, who has left St Andrews