



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



Peter Boyd
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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



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and taken over at Cleveland Golf Club in Redcar as Head Greenkeeper, and Andrew Crawford, who has left The Green Hotel Golf Courses in Kinross and is now Assistant at Bruntsfield Links in Edinburgh, best wishes for the future go to them both from everyone in the Section.

John Crawford

North

Two new members to report this month, and they are Ross and Craig Watson, both from Tain Golf Club. They are both apprentices, and make a full compliment of members from Tain.

The autumn outing at Westhill GC took place on Thursday September 9 and it was well attended and the weather held up really well.

I would like to thank Dougal and his staff for a really well presented golf course, which deservedly received a lot of praise. The food was first class and the buffet style went down a treat, especially for the very hungry amongst you, no names mentioned.

There was also a presentation for Dougal at the end of the prize giving as thanks to all the years as secretary and committee member of the North Section. On behalf of the Section Dougal, all the best.

The prize winners were as follows;

Longest Drives; Class 3. George Asher, Kemnay GC. Class 2. Stuart Mackenzie, Royal Aberdeen GC. Class 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC.

Nearest the Pin. Brian Hunter, Macdonald GC.

Sweep. 1. Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC (good golfer); 2. Ben Brooks, Newmachar GC; 3. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC; 4. Neil Kidd, Keith GC.

Guest Winner. Philip Watson, Westhill GC, 79-7-72.

Trade Winner. Patrick (proper name), Allan Stewarts 76-4-72.

Committee Trophy. Iain Gunn, 71-5-66.

Veterans. 1. Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 96-21-75; 2. Donald Patience, Tarbet GC, 89-12-77.

Best Veteran, 36 Holes. Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 96-21-75.

Apprentice Trophy. 1. Marc Miller, Moray GC, 75-5-70; 2. Craig Watson Tain GC, 95-14-81.

Best Nett Trophy, 36 Holes. Mark Main, Moray, 142.

Class 3. 1. Mark Main, Moray, 87-16-71; 2. David Duggan, Fortrose GC98-23-75; 3. Neil Bruce, Montrose GC, 94-17-77.

Class 2. 1. Ben Brooks, Newmachar GC, 80-11-69; 2. Craig Ogilvie, Ballindalloch GC, 79-9-72; 3. Andrew Shade, Spey Bay, 80-8-72.

Class 1. 1. Iain Gunn, Royal Strathpeffer GC, 71-5-66; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC, 72-2-70, 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC, 72-2-70; 3. Neil Kidd, Keith GC, 75-5-70.

Scratch and Hampton Trophy. 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC; 2. Graham Lornie, 71. Thanks again to Westhill GC for their hospitality.

The AGM was on October 14, at the Caley GC at Kings Links in Aberdeen. It took the form of an outing just like last year, and details will follow shortly.

The North Section seminar is at Macdonald GC in Ellon, and is on November 19, it is usually well attended and a good social night.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was won by the North Section again and if it is won again next year the North get to keep the trophy, as they will have won three times in a row. Well done to the boys playing for the North Section.

That is all to report just now, have a good month and hopefully the weather will hold up.

Iain Gunn

West

Our autumn outing was held over Ralston Golf Club and it turned out to be a fantastic day with the sun splitting the sky.

This year is Ralston's Centenary year and I would like to thank the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. The weather on the build up to the tournament was horrendous and many thanks go out to Derek McMillan and his team for the condition of the course.

The results on the day were; Scratch. Stuart Taylor, 71. First Class. 1. Douglas McIntosh, 75-2-73; 2. Andrew Clark, 83-7-76; 3. Chris Kerr, 79-2-77. Second Class. 1. Jack Stedward, 85-12-73; 2. Craig Wylie, 83-10-73; 3. Sandy Brawley, 87-14-73. Third Class. 1. Colin Scott, 95-20-75; 2. David Mowatt, 107-21-86; 3. Gerry Broadley, 112-26-86. Well done to all the winners. Thanks to Joe Pearson for presenting the prizes.

John Robertson, our West Section educational officer, recently took part in a charity event to raise money for Cancer Care, this was for the Maggie's Centre. John and his team, the Milngavie Marauders, set out on the Great Glen Way which is a 73 mile trek. I understand John had a slight detour but he still made it over the finishing line in time. There were 10 teams taking part and between them they

raised £10,000 pounds. The Bank of Scotland's charity foundation helped raise an all round sum of £124,000. Well done to everyone involved.

The tickets for our annual night out at madness are now sold out.

The Clubmasters/Greenkeepers Match has been suspended to a later date due to the recent bad weather.

On another note Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacollm Golf Club, is leaving after many years service and is going back to Balloch Mile Golf Club where he originally came from.

On a personal note I have known Ronnie for many years, we have attended many educational and social events. It's been a pleasure for myself and many others to be part of his company (also for helping me with my college work). He has been a great servant to the West Section, being on the committee for many years, mostly on education, and also as Chairman. So from the Section and myself we wish you many happy years at your new post.

Anyone interested in playing football please get in touch as the West Section are always up for a challenge. Email- karen.ross@tesco.net, mobile 07970 366 355
Fraser Ross



BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club. For full details check the News section of the BIGGA website or contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

North East

On September 30 we played our autumn competition at Morpeth GC, our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy and to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the good condition of the course. Thanks to the following sponsors as well, Shorts of Whitburn, Aitkens, Greenlay, Hunters Grinders, Turf Care Specialists, Stocksfield GC and Alnmouth GC.

Playing off the yellow markers still provided a tough challenge, but there were a few good scores all the same.

Best Gross. S.Quince, 70, Parklands GC. Best Nett. A.Dalby, 74-7-67, Warkworth. Greenlay Cup. J.Storey, 75-6-69, Alnmouth GC.

Fewsters Shield. 1. B.Wilson, 81-10-71, Stocksfield GC; 2. J.Gibson, 72-2-70, Northumberland GC; 3. K.Dinsdale, 91-20-71, Northumberland GC; 4. A.Lund, 84-13-71, Heworth GC. A pity that we only had 20 people playing, considering the turnout for the spring competition was greater, but perhaps it will be better next year.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

How about the Ryder Cup? As we say in Liverpool, we thrashed them on their own midden, and I was delighted to see Monty slot in the winning putt after playing so well. Now we will have the N/W news that is not so exciting. September was a busy month for the Section with three golf events all fairly close together. We started with the annual match against the Golf Club Stewards at Birchwood GC on September 6. We were lucky weather wise but unlucky result wise, being beaten four games to three. The stewards brought along, for the first time, Trevor Foster who changed his greenkeepers blazer for a stewards blazer, and playing off plus 2 was responsible for bringing in their first win. Even in defeat we all had an excellent day, and thanks goes to Aidrien Holt and his staff for a great course, and thanks to Birchwood GC for allowing us courtesy of the course.

On Tuesday September 14 we had the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC and what a day. I think we caught the end of Hurricane Ivor. The wind and rain came at us sideways but we did brave the storm. Tee off time saw the rain ease off, but the wind became even stronger and, with there being plenty of lakes on the course, there must be plenty off fish with sore heads caused by drifting golf balls. Even though the weather was dreadful, the course was in great condition, thanks to Tony Smith and his crew. Unfortunately we had a poor turnout of 17, and even less sitting down to dinner, still we all enjoyed extra food.

The results were:

Nett winner. Paul Eddlestone; 2. Philip Ainscough; 3. Peter Simpson. Gross winner. Peter Hogan. Vets winner. Brian Turner. Guests prize. Andrew Acorn. Nearest the Pin. Kevin McGinty. Longest drive. J. Kyle.

We also held the Whitelaw Bowl on Wednesday September 8, at Penrith GC, and a full report on this event can be found in the News section of the magazine.

Bret Cross

Sheffield

Many thanks to Gainsborough Golf Club for the courtesy of their Karsten Lakes course on September 6. The course is named after Karsten Solheim, founder of Ping golf clubs, and is owned by Ping Europe whose factory is only a mile away from the club.

The day wasn't as well attended as hoped but this was probably due to the 12pm start. Nevertheless a very good day was had by all with the winning score an excellent 42pts. The course was turned out in excellent condition and enjoyed by all. Well done to deputy head, Neil Vernon, ably overseen by Headman, John Evison, and their team of mortals Jarbo, Pauly, Harry Potter, the dangerous brothers John and Steve, Spike and last but not means least, Dude.

Gainsborough Captain, Bob Sly, and his Vice-Captain, Keith Collinson, welcomed everyone in the style we have become accustomed and said that they had enjoyed the day and the company of all.

The day's main sponsors were Palmer Groundcare, many thanks to them for their continued support of the Section and to Ping Europe who provided us with some excellent prizes from their range of golf products. Thanks must go to Bob Needham and Steve Curry for their organisation and collating of the scorecards. Our President, Neil Maltby, gave thanks to Wayne Banks and the catering staff for an enjoyable meal and to the bar staff for keeping us refreshed.

The winning scores on the day; 1. Colin 'I'm not playing well' Hopper, who said he struggled early on because his clubs were covered in cobwebs, come on Colin just admit to being a bandit! 42pts; 2. Dave Womack, 39pts; 3. Dave Turner, 37pts; 4. John Shaw, 35pts; 5. Geoff Wells, 35pts; 6. Steve Curry, 34pts. Trade prize. Russ Lathom, 38pts. Nine hole Putting Comp. Russ Lathom, 16. Well done Russ for donating this prize to someone less fortunate on the day. Nearest the Pin. 7th, Ian Stephens. Nearest the Pin. 17th, Les Vardell.

Peter Larter was on hand as usual to give advice, dates to forthcoming events and seminars. It's always nice to see Peter at Section golf days, etc keeping us abreast of all the up to date issues.

President Neil concluded the evening's proceedings by announcing that I would be resigning from the Section committee at November's AGM because I shall be taking on the role of Vice Captain at Gainsborough, this is a great honour for me and my family and I am really looking forward to the next couple of years.

I've enjoyed compiling these monthly newsletters and must give thanks to those who have given me encouragement.

Congratulations to Wortley's Head Greenkeeper, Alan Sampson, and his wife on the recent birth of their baby daughter, Holly.

It was sad to learn of the sudden death of Peter Holmes, 63, recently. He did a lot of work on many golf courses in our Section with his land drainage business and latterly contract verti-draining.

Don't forget that the lecture season is here once again to be held at Rotherham GC, the first Thursday of the month at the usual start time of 2.30pm. And finally, all our congratulations go to Our President, Neil, on reaching the grand old retirement age of 65. We hope he has very many happy years of retirement to enjoy life with his many friends and family.

Geoff Wells

North Wales

Bromborough GC was the venue for our autumn tournament and we had a large entry of 74 players taking part – bacon butties, coffee and biscuits on arrival and a course presented in tip-top condition for October by Richard Littler and his greenkeeping team.

18 holes of Stableford golf awaited, with two Nearest the Pin prizes up for grabs. The weather forecast was not too clever, but we were blessed as the sun shone down all day. The course was a real test for most, Bromborough has hosted many championship tournaments over the years and it kept its reputation, as an 80 gross was recorded as the best card in on the par 72. One noticeable person missing from the day was Les Parry, of Arrowse Park GC. Les unfortunately had broken his leg in two places and unable to play with his usual playing partner Neil Oxtan – we wish Les a speedy recovery and hope to see him at Prestatyn in December.

The overall winners were; 1. James Cope, Henlle Park, 38pts; 2. Ian Murphy, 37pts; 3. Shaun Pritchard, 34pts. The Guests winner was Chris Garrets, 32pts, and the Trade Shield won by Terry Adamson. Nearest the Pin, sponsored by BATgolf, on Hole 10, was Don Rowland, from Chester Curzon Park GC, at 39" and, on Hole 16, by Jeff Evans, 12'4", (this was a tough hole playing up hill into the prevailing wind).

The prize presentation was by the captain of Bromborough, followed a steak and mash meal with a sponge and custard desert. Our thanks go to the caterers and to the club for the courtesy of the course.

We held our AGM after the main events. 18 persons were present and despite

the numbers it was very positive – the committee are all standing again en-bloc for a further year with the exception of our secretary, Andy Campbell, who will stand down.

As you will appreciate, Andy has had one of the busiest years of his career, along with managing three golf courses, being Chairman of BIGGA, clocking up all those air miles, attending conferences worldwide and putting North Wales truly on the map, he will be taking things a little less hectic in 2005 but I am sure he'll be close on hand to help out at most of our events, including the Mere Seminar planned as a joint venture between North West & North Wales for next spring.

Prestatyn GC Christmas tournament has had a change of date, originally scheduled for December 1, it will now take place on December 8.

This is so we do not clash with the National Turfgrass Conference, held in Southport, that week of which many members will be attending. Les Parry will also get an extra week to get match fit! Entry forms will be in the post shortly so please put a note in your diary.

The BIGGA National tournament was held at Alwoodley GC, in Leeds, and saw a turnout of 76 players from around the Regions – North Wales was represented by Andy Peel, from Bull Bay GC, and Phillip Watson, from Wallasey GC.

Looking ahead to next year's venues we are speaking with Upton-by-Chester GC, Sutton Hall GC and Eaton GC, these all being to the East of the Region. It would be nice if any clubs to the far South & West down to Aberdovey way would like to host a BIGGA Golf Day, this way we can get everyone included and not make it look like we favour the East, we are grateful for all clubs that put their course forward, anyone wishing to do so please contact myself or any of the committee, we are looking to fill up the next three years schedule of dates. Well that's about all – so as they say in Russia – Moscow

Any news views or comments give us a call.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn – acorn@golf@supanet.com, 07778 162162



BIGGA MIDLAND REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Midland Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Wednesday November 10 at Moreton Hall - Warwickshire College. For full details go to the News section of the BIGGA website or contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

East Midlands

Firstly this month we start with the same old problem, a lack of members to support another Section event. This time the autumn tournament, which only attracted 11 members. So once again this unfortunately had to be cancelled.

On a more positive note at The Market Harborough Open Am-Am on September 17 the two teams, supported by Banks Amenity Products, finished third and fourth, a thank you should go to Tim and Simon Banks for the invitation and hospitality that was given to our six Section members.

Onto the National Tournament where our Section was represented by five members who all fared very badly in the tough conditions of Alwoodly GC. The Region however was good enough to win the team prize with Richard Barker and myself part of the winning team. Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Anthony Bindley

East of England

Double golfing success for the East of England Section. After the disappointment of the late cancellation of the match against the East Midland Section, the team mustered up all their passion and golfing ability to beat the Golf Club Secretaries.

The match was played at Beeston Fields Golf Club, in Nottingham, this was a home fixture for the secretaries which made the victory even sweeter. My thanks go to all the players that turned out to play, some at short notice and the sponsors for the day, Cannons Turf. The score for the match was 5-3.

The second success was Graeme MacDonald winning the BIGGA National Championship at Alwoodly. Well done Graeme, two good rounds of golf on a very tough golf course in very tough conditions. Graeme was that excited he bought the beers (first time for everything).

Planning is underway for an educational seminar some time through the winter,

if any one has got ideas on subjects please let me know ASAP.

Venues for next year's golf days are also needed, so please let me know if you are interested in us using your course.

Les Howkins

BB&O

October can be miserable with a bit of winter slowly creeping in, as the central heating fires up for the first time this year it reminds me of the good summer we had and makes me look forward to more days when I got frazzled in the sun, on the other hand this is the time of year when the strangest of species have gone into hibernation, "The Golfer", who can still sometimes be seen on Sunday mornings and is easily recognisable with colourful clothing, streaming nose, red cheeks and pale blue face.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to our Section. All the way from the land where scrumpy cider is the tippie of the day in Devon is Craig Earnshaw, from Dartmouth G&CC, who takes on a new position as deputy at Lambourne GC and a welcome to Claire Killmurray who is covering the BBO as Technical Sales Representative for Vitax.

Forthcoming events for 2005 are in motion as The Rigby Taylor Pairs Knockout Challenge is alive and positively looking for entrants for next year, under the guidance of Gareth Acteson who has taken control for organising the competition.

The report for the Clay Pigeon Shooting Day, Turkey Trot and Annual General Meeting will follow in next month's magazine. Other new events included for 2005 are a match play format England v Rest of the World and "Scotland" game for which the date and venue will be announced shortly.

Any member wishing to participate please contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

Just a few things this month readers. Firstly, on behalf of the Section & the committee we must say a big thank you to John Wells, of Brocket Hall, for his many years of service on the committee. This year John is stepping down due to work & family commitments and also to just have a bit of time to himself. His contribution to the Section will be greatly missed, thanks John!

We have some dates for our meetings of 2005, they are as follows:

Spring: April 27, Royston GC. Summer: TBC. Autumn: Oct 6, Heydon Grange GC. Winter: Dec 8, Dunstable Downs. Watch this space for dates of next year's educational seminars on soil science & irrigation, which is pencilled in for Feb/Mar 2005. That's all for now, wrap up warm.

Bob Butfoy

SOUTH EAST

Kent

The next Kent Section event will be a golf day to be held at Birchwood Park Golf Club on Thursday November 25. An 18 hole competition will be followed by dinner. On this day we shall take the opportunity to have an EGM to reform the Section and an AGM to elect a committee and discuss the future of the Section. Members will be notified with full details in due course.

London

Welcome to another edition of Around the Green. News seems to be very scarce at the moment so you may end up reading quite a lot of waffle, though that may not be any different to any previous edition.

Obviously we had Saltex in September, which is always a good day to catch up with other greenkeepers in our industry at the present time. Also in September, we had the Ryder Cup, which for me is the best sporting event in the world. I may be unique here, but I actually had butterflies waiting for the Europeans to tee off. So god only knows how the players themselves felt. Anyway it was a great spectacle and a great victory, so roll on the K Club.

I also have news of one of our members, Tony Kyle, whom although based in Surrey, has remained loyal to London. His club, Surrey Downs, have just completed the brand new clubhouse to go with the relatively new course that Tony has been at for the past 18 months. I have visited Tony a number of times and he has produced a great course for his employers who seem hell bent on beating off all local competition.

As well as the course, Tony and his staff have built a large practice tee for the Pro and they undertook all the landscaping for the clubhouse, which looks terrific, so fair play to Tony and his staff, whom I bet can't wait for a slow down this winter.

I am just in the middle of trying to purchase a whole new fleet of equipment, which will be of huge benefit if successful, but as we know, it is a lot easier to come up with all the logistics and figures when it's not actually our money Still I will keep trying and see what happens.

Lastly I hope people have been sending in their cheques for the London BIGGA education day and we see a good response, as a lot of effort has been made to make it a success.

Alec Macindoe 07780 95581

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South West

Here we are in November, the start of another winter, lets hope it is a nice dry one and everybody can complete their winter programmes.

You will be glad to hear the Region has interviewed people for the vacant position of Regional Administrator. The interviews took place at Long Aston GC on October 7. On the interview panel was Chris Sealy, Regional Chairperson, Jeff Mills, from Devon & Cornwall, and John Pemberton, from HQ.

I understand that the Region had some very fine candidates for the job, so hopefully we will all soon meet the successful applicant.

Please support the Regional seminar at Cannington College, on November 17, I bet you will learn something new! Thanks to the seminar event sponsors.

The South West Section tried to play a match against the South Coast Section, at Ogtourne Down, on September 30, but our opponents failed to field a team.

Next month you will be able to read a report on our AGM, held at Chipping Sodbury, on October 11. In anticipation the committee wants to say congratulations to all the members who put themselves forward for the very important jobs on the Section committee.

Robin Greaves

South Coast

Autumn is here and the cold mornings are not quite as appealing when you're sat on a triple mower. No doubt those hardened men at Came Down are still working in their shorts and t-shirts (Dorchester men are made of stern stuff!) but for us softies, we're looking for the thermals already, it must be my age!

For those of us blessed with trees it's a constant battle keeping up with the endless amount of falling needles and leaves, so our blowers and collectors are working overtime. Aeration programmes are stepped up as we prepare for the winter and as usual our old 'friend' Fusarium pays us a visit or two. Aah the life of a greenkeeper! We wouldn't want it any other way would we?

Unfortunately our annual match against the South West Section had to be postponed but another date will be arranged shortly so I will pass on the results when I get them.

The South Coast Section 2004 tour arrived at Dudsbury Golf Club for the autumn tournament, kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products. It has been a while since I last played Dudsbury and how the course has changed and matured.

My golf has always been erratic at the best of times and I do remember when playing there several years ago that my ball was strangely attracted to the many water hazards, so you can imagine my delight to find out they had added a few more! Needless to say my golf bag was considerably lighter by the end of my round.

The weather on the day was excellent and the very testing course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Bob Walker and his team.

It was great to see Matt Smith back on his old track for the day and it was inevitable Matt would win the longest drive. It's good to hear he has settled in well in his new position at Sonning and we wish him well.

The greenkeeping team may not have known Matt was playing as they had only placed the marker some 270 yards from the 18th tee. I didn't see where his drive finished but lets just say Matt said it was a 'good hit' so I assume it was around the 300 yards mark. Winners on the day were:

Division 1 Roffey Trophy. 1. Matt Smith, 39pts; 2. Stuart Hooker, 36pts. Division 2 Huxley Shield. 1. Dave Hewitt, 43pts; 2. Phil Wentworth, 34pts.

Division 1 Rigby Taylor Shield. 1. Chris Sherrington, 38pts; 2. Wayne Norris,

35pts. Vets Cup. Colin Pardey, 35pts. Denyer Cup. Shaun Whittle, 33pts. Longest Drive. Matt Smith. Nearest the Pin. Tim Rocky.

An excellent day was had by all and Dave Hewitt is getting a reputation as the Section bandit, beware Dave your handicap is being revised as we speak!

Thanks on the day go to our sponsors, Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products, for their much valued support. It was a shame Simon Banks was unable to attend but work commitments prevented it, well he is married now and needs those extra pennies as us married men know all too well!

Many thanks to Dudsbury Golf Club for their hospitality, the catering staff for an excellent meal and to Bob Walker and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course so well for us.

Lastly, but by no means, thanks to our tournament organiser Chris Sturgess for all his hard work in organising the day for us and to Bob Williams for kindly doing the scorecards. The Section AGM was held after the golf and ran very smoothly again and I will report in full next month.

Two well known faces in our Section are not in the best of health at the moment, keeping them away from work, and we wish both Mike Buckle and Colin 'chalky' White quick and speedy recoveries. A belated happy 80th birthday to our Section President, Jim Fry. Jim is a great supporter of our Section and has again given Section funds a very generous donation, thank you Jim and we do hope to see you at our Christmas meeting at Barton-on-Sea.

Another couple of movements in the Section, good luck to Mark Zealander in his new position at Dudsbury Golf Club. Broadstone Golf Club said farewell to Terry Elborn as he moved into the conservation field with the local council. Terry's knowledge and love of the environment and its management has seen him change direction and I'm sure it will be highly rewarding and successful for him, good luck Terry!

At Parkstone we said farewell to Rob Wills who had been at the club 10 years man and boy. Again Rob has left the industry and taken a career change into the world of insurance and he will be sadly missed by us all. It seems a worrying trend that so many young greenkeepers are leaving the industry and Rob certainly had a great future in our industry, but fate has taken him down another path. One thing for sure, if Rob puts the same commitment and enthusiasm into his new job he will be very successful.

Our last port of call for the year is Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, on December 8, for our Turkey Trot. Could we possibly have the same weather as we had last time we played there two years ago? I hope so!

Please forward your entries and cheques made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section to Chris Sturgess, BIGGA Tournament Organiser, South Coast Section, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, SO19 6HB.

Well I think that's all for this month so until next month.

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

Wednesday October 13 the Section held its first meeting of the autumn at St Mellion International Golf Club, near Saltash in Cornwall, sponsored by Roffey Limited, and Don Hunt, playing for the D.O.Hunt Trophy. Driving to St Mellion at 6am, the heavens opened, the rain was so heavy that the roads were flooded in seconds. Suddenly I was beginning to panic, would the course be playable, if closed how would I re-arrange the day's programme? On arrival I was greeted by some very worried golfers' faces that were looking forward to playing the now famous Jack Nicklaus Course. I should have known better, thanks to Mike Bush, known to all as Bushy, the Golf Course Superintendent, he waved his magic wand, and at 7.45am as the players teed off and the sun broke through, and blue skies remained all day.

Our congratulations go to Bushy and all his staff for preparing the course in such good condition, especially as he was receiving 80 tons a day of Tarmac for the new Buggy paths, from Golf Course Head Greenkeeper to Highways engineer, life is certainly varied.

54 Golfers took part in the competition a Stableford off full handicaps, and playing off the yellow tees.

The Course Superintendent, Mike, treated some 30 non-golfers to a tour of the excellently presented course, and his workshops.

After lunch I presented the golfing prizes to; 1. Andy Parker, Downs Crediton Golf Club, 36pts; 2. Mark Evans, Royal North Devon GC, 34pts; 3. Adam Bridgewater, Yelverton GC, 34 pts.

Before the afternoon educational talk, I was delighted to introduce our new Regional Administrator, Jane Jones, who was given a very warm welcome by everyone. Officially Jane does not commence until November, but we were all delighted she spent the day with us, we all wish her well with her new appointment.

Richard Whyman, the Head Greenkeeper at the Bunham & Berrow Golf Course,

our old friend from Bude, gave us a superb talk and presentation on "The Learning Curve Continues, Until the world stops going around" which just goes to prove we are never to old to learn.

Members playing the Jack Nicklaus Course, and the Guest Speaker, were instrumental in producing the largest attendance for a very long time, 84 in total.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Mr John Granger, the General Manager at St Mellion International, for allowing us to use the facilities for the day, and to all of his staff for making us so welcome.

I hope to see you all at Wrangaton Golf Club, on November 10th for the AGM, and playing golf in the morning for the Toro Trophy sponsored by D.G.M.

Donovan.O.Hunt.

South Wales

A successful open day was held at Pencoed College on June 26, an excellent increase of 200% enrolment to the college course was achieved. Thanks go to Angus and Dave Ward for their efforts on the day, especially with the terrible weather they experienced.

A big well done must go to Angus Macload. Newport Golf Club, Peter "shank" Lacey and Marc Wilshire for passing their HNC Sportsturf Management, well done guys.

A seminar has been organised at Cannington College on November 17, titled 'The Environment', and many leading people are scheduled to talk, please make every effort to attend. It's priced at £15 for non-members and £17.50 for non-members, why not get a member of your committee involved.

A tractor driving training day has been booked at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club; contact Peter Lacey for dates and times.

Dennis Archer has decided to stand down as Vice President of the South Wales Section, may I, on behalf of the whole Section, thank Dennis for his long commitment to the greenkeeping profession and BIGGA. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Next year's golfing fixtures are being organised, the secretary has sent out requests to clubs, so we will inform you when they are accepted.

Congratulations Lance Armstrong, of Porthcawl Golf Club, whom recently got married in Chicago during a joint wedding with his sister.

Emyr Nickels is recovering from some broken ribs, I am sure he would not mind me telling you the story. Emyr was enjoying some lunch in a restaurant, suddenly he had a piece of food stuck in his throat.

Not wanting to cause a fuss he went to the toilet to try and un-lodge it, however there was no joy so he ask a fellow scoffer to do the Heimlich Manoeuvre, the guy grabbed him and squeezed him dislodging the piece of food.

Excellent so we thought, but the guy had squeezed so hard that he snapped two of Emyr's ribs! Emyr I hope this does make you laugh a bit and cringe at pain.

Kerry Jones

Northern Ireland

Our final golf tournament of the year took place at Malone Golf Club, in Belfast, on September 16. The stroke play competition was a qualifier to the National Championship, which was held near Leeds in early October.

The afternoon's weather soon deteriorated by the second hole, so heavy rain and strong winds prevailed throughout the round. These conditions seem to suit the Royal Co. Down lads, and once again brothers Noel and Eamonn Crawford played fine rounds to book their places to Leeds.

Noel Crawford, playing off Scratch, had a gross round of 73 two over, while Eamonn, playing with a two handicap, had a gross round of 75. Excellent rounds of golf in very difficult conditions. The results of the Stableford competition were:

Paul Lappin, Kirkstown GC, 33pts; 2. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 32 pts; 3. Michael Norman, Malone GC, 31 pts. Longest Drive. Paul Lappin. Nearest the Pin. Michael Norman

We would like to thank Coburns of Banbridge for sponsoring the competitions as well as the air fares to the Championship. Many thanks to the Corburns representatives, William Cartmill and David Eager, who braved the conditions and were able to present the prizes later that evening.

Many thanks must go to Malone GC for giving us courtesy of the course. Very worthy praise must go to Course Manager Michael Norman and the greenkeeping staff for having the course in such outstanding condition, even with the recent wet weather. New members joining the Section recently are William Gilmore, Andrew Wray, Kevin Gates, John Taylor and Peter Jones.

Well that's about all my news for this month, let's hope for a dry autumn and winter period, at least till we get our new bunkers completed.

Ken Henderson