



# News from the Chief Executive

## By the time you read this column news will have got around about the appointment of Clive Osgood as the Regional Administrator for the South East Region.

Clive was one of four candidates short-listed for interview in mid-September following a rather protracted recruitment process. Until earlier this year he was Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, a position he had held for many years.

He is also a past Chairman of BIGGA (2001) and is well known to many, both within the Region and elsewhere. I am sure his enthusiasm for BIGGA, his passion for greenkeeping and the respect that he commands will set him off to a good start in his newly chosen career.

He will be working from home and full contact details for Clive will be announced in next month's issue of Greenkeeper International once a business telephone line has been installed. Meanwhile should you need to contact him then this can be done through Headquarters.

The search for a Regional Administrator for South Wales and the South West Region continues at the time of writing although a few CVs have now been received and will be considered at the regional board meeting on September 20.

Hopefully this will result in an appointment in the not too distant future. In the interim period the affairs of both Regions have been administered through Headquarters with help from members in the respective Region. The fact that it has been 'business as usual' is a credit to those few unsung heroes who seem always ready to rally together. They know who they are!

The Association's financial year-end is September 30 and the management accounts to July 31 showed that we are ahead of budget, hopefully this trend will be carried through into August and September. In what has been a difficult year on many fronts I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for their support and their determination to progress the Association.

During the month I was pleased to be able to send a cheque for £1,918.06 to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, in respect of the surplus from the golf day held in memory of Neil Thomas. It is proposed that this is an annual event in aid of this very worthy cause.

I would like to remind Sections that it is also their year-end at the end of September and that, in accordance with the Constitution, Section accounts should be submitted to the Regional Administrator by October 31 having been approved by an AGM.

Many Sections are looking for help on their committee or help running specific events. If you feel you can spare a few hours, even on an ad hoc basis, then I would ask you to give it serious consideration. It does not have to be too onerous and there is always plenty of assistance on offer from the Regional Administrator and Headquarters.

To avoid any doubt I would like to clarify that the position of Regional Administrator is that of a permanent member of the Headquarters staff and as such their salary and all employment and administrative costs are paid for out of central funds.

In talking with members there seems to be some confusion over the role of the Futures Committee and its powers. This committee was set up with the specific aim of looking at the future of BIGGA through the eyes of a cross section of members, with a view to making suggestions on development and improvement of the Association to the Board of Management.

The committee has no power to force issues or make policy or management decisions and is ably chaired by Elliott Small who was the Association's Chairman in the year 2000. Details of the current committee can be found in the recently distributed member's handbook and this group forms another medium through which you can express your own ideas.

I hope in any event all members feel able to approach Headquarters staff at any time, the Board of Management or their own Regional Board members.

Next month I will be able to report on the progress of BTME and Clubhouse and the outcome of the September steering committee meeting that includes exhibitor representatives.

Having spoken to several industry representatives at SALTEX there is still concern in some quarters about the number and frequency of trade shows in the UK. Our show is vital to the future of your Association and the future of greenkeeping, please give it your maximum support.

**John Pemberton**



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

## SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region is once again offering a subsidised package deal for BTME 2005. The package includes a coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on 18, 19 and 20 January, 2005. The package costs £175. Partners are welcome at a cost of £150 for travel and accommodation. Banquet tickets cost an extra £35 per person.

For a booking form contact Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Contact Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator

## West

I hope every one has had an enjoyable summer even though the wet weather over the last few weeks has been disappointing.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to the Section. Steven Briody, Daziel Park GC, Kevin Cross, Whitecraigs, Graham Kirkpatrick, Clydebank Hargate, Niall McDonald, Drumpelieir, Stephen Duffy, Cochrane Castle, and Victoria Cavinue, Hamilton GC, a warm welcome to all new members.

Once again the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich had a great turn out and this was played over Bellisle GC during July.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was held at Auchterarder GC with Brian Bolan, Neil McLennan, Chris Kerr and Robert Phillips representing the West and they scored a commendable 90 points, finishing fourth. Well done lads.

The Stewards match against the greenkeepers will be held at Clydebank Hargate on October 4.

This year the annual night out will be held at Madness in Glasgow. It's a bit different from the norm so hopefully there will be something for everyone. We are limited to 40 tickets so it's first come first serve. Give me a phone nearer the time to find out starting time.

As I said in my last report the AGM will be held at Hampden on October 27 with a tour of the premises and a presentation from Scottish Grass Machinery who always put on a first class day. I hope there's a big turn out as I am taking over as Chairman.

During July I had the pleasure of going to the Drymsine Estates in the Ayr Gll Hills where I played golf over their nine hole course and I must say after preparing Renfrew for the Open pre-qualifier it was nice to see a lovely course situated in this fantastic setting and to play golf with Bryce Houston, the Head Greenkeeper, who does a fantastic job and who made it a terrific day for myself and Robert Bruce. We look forward to playing again in the near future.

You can contact me on 07970 366 355 for any info or ticket sales for the night out.

Fraser Ross

## NORTHERN REGION

### BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club.

The subjects to be discussed will cover many aspects relating to the environmental management of golf courses and how new European Legislation will impact on the sustainable management of golf courses.

It will be a full day programme, with speakers including Bob Taylor, from the STRI; Bronia Allen, from the Government sponsored Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP); Tim Earley, from ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd; John Albutt, from John Albutt Associates, Steve Oultram, from Wilmslow Golf Club, and others.

If you would like to attend please contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham,



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



Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone 01476 550115 office / 07866 366966 mobile or by email at [petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com).

**North Wales**

Our Autumn Tournament takes place this month on October 6, I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Following the golf will be the AGM and if any of you have issues to air or wish to serve on the committee please let us know. Any help from all corners of the Region will be appreciated - come on Andy Peel you've always got's of constructive things to say. It's your Section so let us have your views.

Tournament results will be printed in next month's issue along with how greenkeepers from North Wales fared in the National Tournament at Alwoodley GC in Leeds.

There have been a few people moving from local courses, Simon Barbet has joined Alun Lewis's team at Llanynymech GC from Sandiway GC and Bryn Roberts has left Carden Park to pursue a career at Eaton GC. Don Pemberton, our Section treasurer, has left his post at Vale Royal Abbey GC and seeks pastures new and Colin, the first assistant from Romiley GC, has taken the Head Greenkeeper job at Anglesey (Rhosneiger) GC. We wish all four the best for the future.

The Kerry bros, from Royal St David's, have found a new method for clearing birds from the fairways (the feathered kind that is) it's top secret but has stopped a lot of damage being caused.

The Vale of Llangollen hosted the Welsh PGA in September along with Carden Park and a host of big names attended both venues.

Our Spring Seminar next February will be a combined one with the North West Section and held at The Mere G & CC, any thoughts on education talk themes or topics for this that would benefit yourselves and others, please give any of the committee a call and we will discuss its merits at our next meeting.

Wendy O'Brien is hoping to host a females in greenkeeping forum at the BTME show next January and would like to hear from other female greenkeeper, or male, with any points for discussion.

Which brings me to, have you booked your hotel accommodation in Harrogate yet? I managed to get some rooms by telephoning at the end of August and the hotel I first requested was already sold out of the number of rooms I required!

Try [reservationshighway.com](http://reservationshighway.com) or look on 'Tinternet' for Hotels B&B and Guest Houses.

Dave Lewis, of Conwy (Caernarfonshire) GC, has just successfully hosted the British Boys Championship. This comes just over 18 months prior to the Open Championship Final Qualifying, Dave's son Mike, also a keen greenkeeper, helped out in the preparation for the tournament and looks forward to doing so again in 2006. In the meantime Mike's position in the Welsh Guards takes him over to Iraq for six months where he is to be based in 'Basra' transporting Tanks for the British Army.

Finally Terry Adamson has finished another successful season caddying for David Oakley on the European senior tour and has now got to get back to his proper job and get some sales done, and come to think of it, so have I.

Any news, views or comments give us a call. Mesen Cymru  
**Andrew Acorn** [acorn@golf@supanet.com](mailto:acorn@golf@supanet.com)

**Northern**

As I write it's now the start of September and finally we have a bit of sun! I hope you and your courses have survived the rain.

The Invitation Day Tournament was to be held at York Golf Club on August 19, but the bad weather got the better of us and the event was unfortunately cancelled. We are currently in the process of trying to rearrange the date for next year, so I will keep you informed of any developments. I would like to thank everybody at The York Golf Club for their help in setting up the day, hopefully we will see you there next year.

The Autumn Tournament is to be held at Low Laithes Golf club on October 13, and is to be followed by the AGM, so please let's see as many faces there as possible. If any members have suggestions about any non-golfing events that could be run through the Section then please do get in touch. We really don't want the Section to turn into a Golf Society!

Over the next couple of months myself and Chairman Andy Slingsby are planning to get the Northern Section Website up to date and running again, so if anyone has any news that they would like to share with the Section, my email is at the bottom of the report, and Andy's is [andy.slingsby@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andy.slingsby@blueyonder.co.uk).

If you have any ideas for features which you would like to see on the site then we would be more than happy to consider them, and lets not keep all suggestions clean!!

Congratulations to local Tacit rep, Darren Clewes, and his partner on the birth of baby daughter Lily. I hear mother and baby are doing well, and we wish all the family all the very best for the future.

With one new arrival done, it's time for three goodbyes. The first goes to Andy Clarke, of Hollins Hall Country Club. Andy is taking a bit of time away from greenkeeping but we hope to see him back sooner rather than later.

The second goes to Scott Atkinson, of Otley Golf Club, who is emigrating to sunny Albuquerque, New Mexico, to become a househusband while his wife Sarah starts work as a nurse. Some people have all the luck!

The third goes to Garforth Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, Colin Garnitt. Colin is retiring this month after many years in the industry but we still hope to see him at future Section events. Good luck to Andy, Scott and Colin with their new lives away from greenkeeping.

Andy Slingsby has asked me to round off this month's article with a bit of advice from himself to Big Ben at Moor Allerton Golf Club. The advice is, the next time you are stuck in traffic, please remember to keep your feet on the clutch and brake, and not to let them off and end up hitting the back of a Jaguar. Especially if it belongs to a magistrate!

As usual, my contact details are; Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB. Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739 319060, Email: [adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk](mailto:adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk)

**Adam Speight**

**North East**

Well not much news again this month, only that Steve Cram, formerly of Slaley Hall, has taken up a new position as course manager at Close House GC.

Steve, I believe, had worked at Slaley Hall for at least 15 years, starting off as an assistant greenkeeper then on to Head followed by Course Manager. He has also taken Brian Clark as his Deputy, also from Slaley Hall.

Close House has approx. 179 acres of land and I think they may buy more land for course improvements as the university will still use part of the course for football and other sports for the next 25 years. On behalf of the Section we wish them both well on their new appointments.

On a sadder note Ken Rutherford has left the City of Newcastle GC after 33 years of working there, and has started working for himself and doing very well.

Perhaps we will get the domino affect, should a person be appointed from the Section, information given to me is that there were 32 applicants in for the job, hopefully we will find out who has the job shortly.

Anybody got any news about anything let me know.

**Jimmy Richardson**

**North West**

Well, as I write, September is here and the long range weather forecast for the month looks very promising. I suspect most people are glad to see the back of August this year, with hardly a day going by without rain, and in many cases floods, which have caused many thousands of pounds in damage.

The rain, of course, has promoted plenty of growth on the fairways making it difficult to get a good cut, and several greenkeepers have been under stress from members complaining about wet grass lying on the fairways, after they have been cut. Will they ever learn?

On Monday September 6 we had the annual golf match against the Golf Club Stewards at Birchwood GC and on Wednesday September 8 we played for the Whitlaw Bowl at Penrith GC, this is sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

On Tuesday September 14 we had the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC, as you can see quite a busy month, and I will report on them all in next month's Section notes.

The Northern Region seminar is planned for November 25 at Penrith Golf Club, starting at 10am. Several excellent speakers will be covering mainly Environment issues. This is a most important area in the greenkeeping industry, so to be up to date with keeping above the law be there.

The cost will be £10 and will include a buffet lunch. Contact Peter Larter or myself if you are interested. Peter's number is 01476 550115.

News has reached me that Harry Chapman, a greenkeeper at Swinton Park Golf Club, has been presented with a watch by the golf club after 25 years with them. This is a nice gesture by the club, and well deserved by Harry.

That is it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387 with any snippets of news, or complaints.

**Bert Cross**

## MIDLAND REGION

### 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, near Warwick). The subjects to be discussed will cover many aspects relating to the environmental management of golf courses and how new European Legislation will impact on the sustainable management of golf courses.

It will be a full day programme, with speakers including Bob Taylor, from the STRI; Peter Skelton, from the Government sponsored Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP); Tim Earley, from ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd, and others.

If you would like to attend please contact Peter Larter (Midland Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone 01476 550115 office / 07866 366966 mobile or by email at petelarler972@aol.com.

#### East Midlands

Firstly this month I would like to, on behalf of all Section members, wish Roger Willars well in his new role as a postman. Roger was employed by Birstall Golf Club for 26 years as Head Greenkeeper, and before then he had spells at the Leicestershire, Cosby and Nuneaton.

Roger also served as Section secretary for our Section for many years, before moving on to Regional Administrator for the Midland Region prior to the appointment of Pete Larter. Roger was a very well respected greenkeeper and the profession will sadly miss him.

We have once again had to cancel another Section event due to lack of interest once more, this was our annual golf match against the East of England Section. We could only muster two greenkeepers for the game on August 25 at Stoke Rochford.

Hopefully this will be better supported next year as a lot of hard work goes into organising these events, so please try to support your Section whenever possible.

**Anthony Bindley**

#### Midland

As I'm sure you recall from last month's notes, I was in Iceland visiting a friend. While there I was introduced to the Captain of Korpulfesstadir GC and was consequently invited to play. To which I obviously, graciously afforded him the win. Following this gentlemanly game, I was about ready for a little light refreshment - despite £6 a pint or £40 for a bottle of table red.

Due to the fact that I am a British greenkeeper and a member of BIGGA, I was introduced to the club's Pro, a number of members, and then after the ensuing three hours of advise / interrogation was promptly whisked off to two other courses.

By now my throat thinks a cork has been placed between my lips. What a wonderful country, of which is only enhanced by the genuineness of the people. See, I'm also promoting our Section abroad. God you're lucky. Stop laughing!

It is with great pleasure that I am able to welcome four new members to our illustrious Section. Such being: Peter Tomlinson, Cyril Millward, Ignatious Masvosva and Thomas Price. I would also like to welcome, and congratulate, James Gilchrist on his new appointment at Harborne GC as the Deputy, a roll I know only too well.

I hope that you shall use your membership to partake in our many events as run on your behalf. Such offers great opportunity to discuss differing considerations with learned, like minded friends. You shall find us all more than welcoming.

Now for something regarding three old hands. Firstly, congratulations from Great Barr GC, your fellow workers, and the Section, to our friends: Andrew Boffy and Raymond Wise for 25 years of great service to our fine profession. I hope that the next 20 years shall serve you well gentlemen.

Secondly, it is with great pleasure, and not before time, that congratulations are due to Clayton Lee on his engagement to Jan Curbishley. The deed, and hopefully on one knee, was performed on August 14. We all wish you both the greatest of happiness together. Scissors come to mind as a congratulatory present.

This year's 'Nigel Tyler Alpha Amenity Snooker Evening' is to be held on November 18. I hope that you shall similarly support this as last year.

The success of the event was due to the fine efforts and sponsorship from our good friend, no sorry mate Nigel. Also, and with similar respect, please don't forget

that our 'Allen Southam Hanson Aggregates Angling Competition' is on October 31. Both of the above are fully sponsored by our good friends of the supply industry. I hope that you shall give your support to these fine events. To give me an idea of numbers please call me on: 07816 410 552.

And to finish, I'm pleased to report that Mrs B. Richmond is making positive progress, and we all wish her a speedy recovery. Our thoughts are with you both, Peter and Bryda.

As we are talking about lovely lasses, I recently attended a Hunt Ball as hosted by Lord and Lady Middleton of Birdsall Hall, in North Yorkshire. During this somewhat decadent evening one was approached by two rather splendid lasses (showing my class here ay!).

Upon approach, these eloquent beauties kindly remarked on my height, and I upon their exquisite personal presentation. After a short while they were escorted to the dance floor, unfortunately they were unable to dance, I was without dance shoes, or indeed room to dance. What a waste of drinking time! Natasha, where fore art thou. One can dream, surely! Yet again, home alone.

Speak to you next month.

**Sean McDade.**

#### East Anglia

On August 3 we all gathered at The Royal Cromer Golf Club for a jolly up. That's the royal "we" of course. It was a lovely day and the course was excellent thanks to Roger and the lads. The golf was nearly as good as well - read on.

The 0 - 9 section was won by Robert Whitting, with 40pts. Second was Chris O'Dowd, with 38pts. Third was Andy Curson, with 34pts, and fourth was Mark Keysell, with 34pts.

10 - 18 category. 1. Jon Selwood, 38pts; 2. Richard Plummer, 38pts; 3. Mark Clements, 35pts; 4. Mark Browton, 34pts.

19 - 28 category. 1. Robert Ransome, 34pts; 2. John Kitchen, 32pts; 3. Wayne Throver, 32pts; 4. Martin Brightwell, 29pts.

The Longest Drive was Robert Whiting. Nearest the Pin was Mark Keysell.

It was Peter Knight's first visit so we gave him the coveted Loo Seat just to make him feel welcome.

Nearly forgot the Guests; 1. Stuart Patterson, 38pts; 2. Fred Marerouie, 38pts.

The prizes were presented by Fred Margrouie, Royal Cromer Captain. Our very loyal sponsors are Ben Burgess - main sponsors for the day, Bartram Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Sisis, Aventus, Toro, Aitkins, Sheriff Amenity, Textron, Tomlinson Ground Care, Atterton Bernard, Tacit, KB Leach, Vitax, Amenity Wise, Anolia Mowers and Consultant Clarkson.

Our thanks go to Royal Cromer for a great day, we trust the course is still in one piece.

And finally, Kevin Hodges is leaving Weston Park for pastures new, we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

**Mick Lathrope**

#### BB&O

The BBO held their Autumn Invitational Tournament at Caversham Heath GC on a day blessed with high winds and bleak rain clouds that covered most of Mapeldurham for the day.

A fine carpet awaited the 48 keen hopefuls who took to the course brandishing irons and woods in a hope to tame the heath land that the course provided.

In first place, with a Betterball score of 45, was Ian Upton and Tony McClelland, from Rye Hill GC, and in second place was Carl Small and Allan Green, from Ellesborough GC, with 44. Losing painfully on count back was Phil Plater and Chris Buswell, from Magnolia Park GC.

Ian Richardson, from Headland, and Jon Beck, from Sherriff Amenity, were the main sponsors and also the main cooks! After donning colourful aprons, the duo set up Beck's Barbie at the halfway point and served the finest Atkins friendly food to date with Angus beef quarter pounders and hot dogs with Beck's own chilli sauce, together with a glass of the finest golden nectar to wash to all down.

A steward's enquiry was to follow later as Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive both went to Lee Bishop, from Burnham Beeches GC.

Everyone wanted to know what active ingredient Jon Beck had put in Lee's burger at the halfway hut! Taking the Trade Prize was Clive Parnell and Gary Tait, from Gem, after hammering the Rigby Taylor duo with 45 points.

Thank you to Caversham Heath GC for the magnificent facilities that were provided and Henry, the Clubhouse Manager, for ensuring that all the dinner preparations went according to plan, not forgetting John Scoones, also known as the "keeper of fine carpet", for preparing the course with his staff for all our enjoyment.

Raffle prizes were donated by Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Gem, Tacit, TH White, Turner Groundcare, Headland, Sherriff Amenity and Caversham Heath GC.

Rob Jenkins has just joined the greenkeeping team at Aspect Park GC and it can now be declared that the BBO has got a true one armed bandit. Rob has recently competed in the One Arm Golf Championships in Scotland and has won the Bob Hughes Cup.

Starting to play golf three years ago with one arm was certainly a handicap that many could do without, but Rob now plays off 24 and has got a real chance of winning the One Arm English Open later this year and, to top it all off, Rob hopes to compete in the Australian Open in March next year to be held in Brisbane.

Also back to Greenkeeping at Aspect Park GC is the legendary Steph Bell after a short while with Greenthumb Lawn Treatment.

Colin Wilson - the hole in one man himself - Wycombe Height GC crashed his new Kubota into the canteen wall demolishing everything in its path. He is now re-taking driving lessons and has booked up for bricklaying classes.

On a final note the BBO Annual General Meeting and Turkey Trot takes place at Donnington Grove GC in Newbury on the Thursday November 4. For more details contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, and members of the BBO Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

#### Mark Day

#### Mid Anglia

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, and the members of the Mid Anglia Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

### SOUTH EAST

#### London

After a short absence, due to circumstances beyond my control, I am now back with news from around the London Section.

Last month we played our Summer meeting at Sandy Lodge. This was probably the greatest success we have had in a long time and even with a number of regular attendees missing we still managed a record number of 54 players.

The golf course was in superb condition, which was a great attribute to Rob Phillips, his team, his committee and his Dad who was always on hand to help out in all manner of ways.

A big thank you to them, despite them nicking most of the prizes! And with the good weather to match it was a very enjoyable day.

We had a slight change to the evening format where the chef and his catering team served up a huge feast of a BBQ which left everyone feeling sufficiently full, even Tony, from Wyke Green, whose eyes lit up when he saw the vast array of desserts on offer.

At dinner we had the pleasure of seeing not only Rob's Mum and Dad but also his two children, George and Jake – unusual in golf clubs I know but just shows the kind of club it is - wonderful stuff.

Following dinner we had the pleasure of listening to Rosie Hancher (Sales Manager for BIGGA), a purposeful and forward thinking move by HQ to get staff to visit Sections and just get to know some of our members and what makes them tick.

Duncan McGilvray also put in an appearance and let everyone know that the committee had completed the organisation for a taster event explaining the education and training opportunities available to our members at Section level of

which you should all now be aware. Many thanks to every one involved at Sandy Lodge for their great hospitality and warmth shown to all of us.

I must also say a very special thanks to the sponsors for the day, who provided very generously some lovely prizes. Phil Jones (Supergrass) once again provided the main prizes with other contributions from Banks, Amenity Technology, Gem and Headlands.

Our next golf outing is the Turkey Trot at Ashridge so hopefully we can match the numbers from Sandy Lodge, if not better them.

That is about all the news I have for now but I must tell you that I did meet a couple of the Hendon lads and they couldn't wait to tell me how their boss, Bobby McMillan, was giving up the dreaded cigarettes.

Apparently Bobby came into work, all excited at the thought of all those extra quids he would be saving, patch on the arm to aid him in his quest, and was spotted less than half an hour later patch still on the arm and fag hanging out of his mouth! Stressful job greenkeeping!

We at the London Section have arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, so please make an effort to attend this.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

#### Alec MacIndoe

07780 955 817

#### Essex

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier and members of the Essex Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

#### Surrey

The McMillan Tankard was won this year by Jason Hunt, Addington Palace GC, with an impressive 39 points off a handicap of three. Sunningdale GC was, as always, in excellent condition with the wear and tear from the Ladies Weetabix Championship on the old course disappearing under new growth.

We thank Brian Turner and Sunningdale GC for the courtesy, Grass Roots for sponsoring the event with quality prizes, and the Artisans for supplying an enjoyable Barbeque.

Darren Lee was runner up with 38 points, Eddy Oliver, 37 points, was third and Rob George was fourth on countback. Michael Sawicki was Nearest the Pin and Ron Christie had the Longest Drive.

The Surrey Bowl final was played at Foxhills GC on Wednesday September 1 between Simon Kirkham & Darren Woodward and Brain Turner & John Mathis. On the spot reporter, Anthony (Hack) Freeman, confirmed that the match was played to the highest standards of etiquette and sportsmanship and that after an extremely entertaining game, the winners were Simon and Darren from West Surrey GC. The sponsors were TYM Tractors and details and photos appear in the main news section.

Friday September 3 and the big one, Surrey v Sussex at the Addington GC. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny with little wind. John Hunnisett had the course groomed to perfection and both teams were in peak condition for the battle ahead. After a great deal of friendly gamesmanship, Surrey won four – one and retained the trophy.

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier and members of the Surrey Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

#### Brain Willmott

## Kent

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, and members of the Kent Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### South West

As regular readers of this report will have noticed, our Section has not had an entry for several months. One of our planes has gone missing, and we have not found the pilot yet.

I hope you all had a great summer, a bit wet towards the end but we had a dry one last year, swings and roundabouts boys!

We played the match against the South Wales lads at St. Pierre on August 19 and under the inspired captaincy of John Keenagan the South West won the encounter four games to two. The course was in grand condition considering it had been prepared in a monsoon! The Section would like to thank all the event sponsors.

Tuesday October 19 is our next meeting and it's at Chipping Sodbury GC. It's also the Section's AGM so please attend. We need people to stand for the Section Committee, and other vital jobs.

Don't forget the Regional Seminar in November at Cannington College.

**Robin Greaves**

### Devon & Cornwall

From DRY SPOT to WET SPOT, it seems that hardly any time ago that I was visiting golf courses within the Devon and Cornwall area and Greenkeepers were all praying for rain, the fairways on many of the links courses and moorland courses were virtually void of any grass, and even the parkland courses were showing signs of stress. I would think that the manufactures of wetting agents were jumping with joy.

August arrives, and yes the greenkeepers' prayers have at long last been answered, rain, rain, and more rain. So much rain that on many courses bunkers have been washed out, not once but twice, not to mention paths that have to be refurbished.

Many of the clubs are recording rainfall up to 200mm, the majority of the falling in a very short period, hence all the problems at Boscastle on the North Cornwall Coast.

A Head Greenkeeper from a course in Devon was telling me that he had been unable to mow the greens for some five days, and that the members were complaining that the greens were so slow, I will not print what he told the member to do, I will leave it to your own imagination!

At long last I now have confirmation for the forthcoming meetings within our Section and they are as follows:

The Lion International Golf Course on October 13 2004.

Wrangaton Golf Course, AGM, November 10 2004.

Okehampton Golf Course, December 7 2004.

Trevoise Golf course, January 12 2005.

Newquay Golf Course, February 16 2005.

Churston Golf Course, March 16 2005.

The mid-summer tournament - venue to be announced at a later date - will be at the end of June.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Section, to thank Scotts for agreeing to sponsor our fixture cards for the next two years, especially at such short notice.

**Donovan O.Hunt**

### South Coast

As I write, it seems incredible that I am setting off to Saltex tomorrow. This year seems to have flown by and at last we seem to be getting some summer, even if it is rather late. I managed to miss two weeks of the bad weather whilst I holidayed in Spain.

As we flew back in over Baton-on-sea I could see just what we'd missed whilst we'd been away, as Tony Gadd's course was looking unseasonably green.

I suppose it was some small comfort after spending two weeks in the baking heat! It was nice to come home to cooler conditions even though my wife wanted me to put the central heating on when we got home. There's no pleasing some people!

Whilst I was away Moors Valley again hosted the Region's Scotts' Management Trophy. Ian, Shane and their team prepared the course magnificently for the field and the scoring reflected just how good the course was.

Winners on the day were Portsmouth Golf Club, much to the delight of Chris Sturgess. Those Blue and Red rivalries never go away! As always many thanks to Moors Valley for their superb hospitality and particularly to Desmond Meharg for all his help in ensuring the day ran so smoothly.

The Greenkeeping team ably led by Ian and Shane must be congratulated for all their hard work. To Scott's, a huge vote of thanks for their continued support. It was particularly nice to see Paula and Mike Humphries attending the day.

Paula was on hand to help out with the scoring and Mike was able to play without the handicap of me as a playing partner. I'm sure I showed him far too much of the course last year! Many thanks Paula and it was great to see you looking so well. We look forward to seeing you both again next year.

Belated congratulations to William McLachlan and his team for providing excellent conditions for another superb Open.

It was as enthralling as ever and I know the guys from our Section who were part of the BIGGA support team had a great time. Remember any member can apply to be a part of the team so why not apply next year. It's hard work but the reward of walking the great links courses behind the ropes makes it well worth it.

The finishing touches are being made to next year's Section seminar and don't forget to start planning your trip to BTME.

I cannot stress enough what a great week it is and it would be great to see some more faces from the Section there.

I'm looking forward to a weekend fest of golf watching the Ryder Cup and if it's anything like some of the golf seen this year it will be a great spectacle.

Next month I will have the annual match against the South West to report on and also the autumn tournament and AGM.

The usual contact details for me Tel: 01202 661106, Mobile: 07966 386232, Email: a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month

**Alex McCombie**

## Clive takes over in the South East

Clive Osgood has been appointed Regional Administrator for the South East.

A well known figure within greenkeeping, Clive was Course Manager at Walton Heath GC, Surrey, for 24 years.

Indeed in just his second year in charge he prepared the course for the famous Ryder Cup match in 1981 at which the US team, generally regarded as the best ever, beat Europe by 18.5 - 9.5 – the same score as that which Europe defeated the US last month.

Clive was also BIGGA National Chairman in 2001 and at the time expressed views which will be perfect in his new role.

"There are so many wonderful services available to members but we must make people more aware of these," said Clive back in 2001. Now he is perfectly placed to spread the word and with the respect he holds within the profession and the industry will no doubt stand him in good stead.

■ Clive's details will be posted in the magazine when he is up and running.

