



News from the Chief Executive

August - what a month for rain and I wonder if we have seen the last of summer for this year. I realise how time seems to pass quicker and quicker each year as preparations for the forthcoming BTME and Clubhouse become more involved.

The staff at headquarters have been out of the office to several region and section events during the month and the feedback that I am getting from members on this policy is positive and reassuring. These included several Golf Management Trophy days sponsored by Scotts and also the final of the John Deere Team Championship that was held at Forest Pines Golf Club in Lincolnshire. Our thanks go to both companies for their support.

August has also been a busy month with regard to staff. My congratulations go to Marie Whyld, BIGGA's designer, who gave birth to a baby girl, Jessica. Marie is on maternity leave until 31 January 2005 when she hopes to return to full-time work. In the meanwhile we are employing the services of a freelance designer.

There has also been a change in the Sales Department with the appointment of Sarah Craven who replaces Sam Richardson. Sarah will be working mainly on display advertising tele-sales. The two vacancies for regional administrators have been re-advertised and the response for the South East post in particular has been encouraging.

My own change of role has resulted in a change in the accounts office with Tony Cocker, my old assistant – "less of the old," says Tony - stepping up from four to five days a week and taking on the responsibility for the day to day accounting. This has left a vacancy and I am pleased to announce that Stephen Coates will join the Association on 1 September.

We are now back up to a full complement with the exception of a part-time cleaner following the resignation of Sue Hancock, who has been offered more hours at her main job. The search for a replacement goes on and we hope to come to some agreement with the hotel to use their housekeeping services. In the meanwhile we are all having to learn to be far more responsible for our actions.

I don't wish to sound patronising but what a pity I cannot say the same about some of our members. I have been in many mess rooms in greenkeeper's sheds and mess is an appropriate word. In my opinion there is no excuse for lack of hygiene and care.

Before everyone starts jumping up and down I must add that I have also been in some rooms where it has been a pleasure to sit down and enjoy a chat and a mug of tea. I know at times greenkeeping can be a dirty job but it does not need to spill into the canteen and become a health and safety risk!

I am also aware that golf club funds do not always stretch to providing the most modern of facilities, however, it's not always about money more a question of basic housekeeping.

Mugs not washed, floors not swept, litter not disposed of properly, surfaces not kept clean, filthy toilets, perhaps a coat of emulsion on the walls now and again would not go amiss. Do you recognise the scene? If so what are you doing about it?

The biggest investment is time and effort not money. BIGGA is working hard to raise the public opinion of the greenkeeper and gain recognition for the professional job that its members do. The Association however can only do so much, the rest is up to you.

John Pemberton



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

SCOTTISH REGION

East

Well here we are, after a few months away we're back! So anyway down to business. I hope you are all enjoying this weather, I think over the last few weeks the grass growth has been more than it has been all season due to the moisture and rise in temperature, which is good for the rest of the season.

Well congratulations to some of our East Section clubs, namely West Linton Golf Club and Gullane Golf Club, on achieving top environment status by becoming winners of the Scottish Golf Environment Groups National Environmental Excellence Award. This prestigious award puts both clubs into the top thirty clubs in Europe for care of the environment. So congratulations to them and their continued drive forward in environmental excellence, also congratulations to the other winners of this award St Andrews Links Trust, and Downfield Golf Club, well done to them.

Well done to Andy Forrest, Swanston GC, and wife Kirsty on the birth of a baby son Cameron in July, mum and baby are doing well but Andy is having a few sleepless nights (shame), so congratulations to all the family and a little brother for Nathan which he will enjoy, so well done from everyone in the Section.

At our last Section meeting we decided on a few changes. Firstly I am taking on the position of Education Officer for the East Section as we don't have one at the moment and I have thought about this for a long time and after being asked at the meeting I was very pleased to accept this position.

As I am coming to the end of my term as Chairman for the second time I wanted to give something back to the Section, because after 23 years on the committee its become part of my life and I look forward to this new chapter with vigour as education is a very big part of our profession, so I cant wait to get started on your behalf.

Secondly, the Willie Woods Tournament has had a revamped as it had become stale, we've now changed this to a three man Texas scramble with you inviting guests from your committee/green staff, but preferably your committee members, for a fun day with the emphasis on fun because golf is becoming to serious. You will receive notification of this along with your Autumn Tournament entry form so lets see a big turnout for both events.

The AGM this year will take place at Gullane Golf Club on October 26, details will be with you soon, hope to see you all there.

Apologies for no report from the Spring Tournament, but here it is. We had a great day at Craigiellaw Golf Club. A first visit for a number of us and what a test of golf it is, I look forward to returning soon to tame the beast. A big thank you to the management team who made our day most enjoyable, the bar and restaurant staff and last but not least Head Greenkeeper Mark Reid and his staff, the course was in great condition apart from a few severe pin positions?? Well done lads.

There was some good scores and some high scores to say the least and here are the results;

Scratch. Stephen Gray, 78; Class 1. 1. Craig Gilholm, 82-7-75; 2. Keith Burgon, 83-7-76; 3. Ryan McCulloch 87-9-78. Class 2. 1. Colin Irvine, 80-10-70; 2. Rory Campbell, 85-10-75; 3. Chris Yeaman, 89-11-78. Class 3. 1. Jimmy Neilson, 106-21-85; No other players in 3rd class handed in a card. Best Nett. Alan Russell, 89-10-79. Veterans Prize. Graeme Wood, 88-7-81. Trade prize. Iain Lauder, 73-0-73.

Well done to all prize winners and yes your handicaps have been adjusted in time for the Autumn Tournament, hope to see you all there.

Well that's it all for this month and I WILL be back with more news, etc next month, so if you have any news let me know so we can get it into print ok. The usual numbers (h) 01968661313 (w) 01968661721 (m) 07719580449 (ADDRESS) Westwyn, West Linton GC, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN.

So I'm ready and waiting for your info so will be back next month - see you then.

Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

Hello everyone just a few things to let you know about. Loch Lomond Golf Club has generously offered the Dundonald Course to the Section for our Autumn outing.

The date for the outing is Thursday October 7. Tee times will be from



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115



midday. We have 50 places, so please return your entry form to Derek as soon as possible to avoid missing this great opportunity.

The AGM this year will be held in conjunction with a machinery demonstration from Hamilton Bros. West Kilbride Golf Club will host the day on Thursday October 21.

Patron award winners for this year are Jim Paton, West Kilbride, and yours truly. A warm welcome to new members Steven Kelly, Lockerbie, John Muir, Largs Routenburn, and Ian MacDonald, Largs Kelburn.

Congratulations to all the team at Royal Troon for producing a beautifully conditioned course for one of the best Opens in recent memory.

I can't help thinking wouldn't it be great if there was another course in Ayrshire able to host the Open, so that we could get that electric atmosphere twice as often!! DREAM! DREAM! DREAM!

Any news or constructive criticism then call me on 07939 104 701.

Denis Tweddell

Central

We begin this month's report by welcoming another three members to the Section and they are Mark Logan, from Lochwinnoch Golf Club, Alistair MacFadyen, from Crieff Hydo Golf Club, and former member Mark Laing, from Aberdour Golf Club, who is making a welcome return to the Section. You should all have received your entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield later this month, so perhaps we will get an early opportunity to meet you there.

It is nearly time for the AGM again and arrangements are being made to organise it for the last week of next month, hopefully on the 27th, no doubt you will all be putting this date in your diary as an event not to miss. Dream on! It will be the usual few who turn up, we'll all end up on the committee and spend our own time organising events which hardly any of you bother to support, still, we can always live in hope.

The Central Section must have the most educated greenkeepers in the country, as we have asked for subjects for educational events and so far not one member has come forward with any suggestions - of an educational nature.

Latest winners in Club 2000 are L.Brunton with No60 and S.Lee with No 401, well done to you both, your cheques are in the post, only another three draws to go and that will see the end of the Section's only fund raising venture. What can we think up next?

At the time of writing this report we have not yet finalised our nominees for the annual Patron's Awards, awarded to the most supportive members of the Section, so I will include our choices in next month's news, along with how the Section team fared in the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder Golf Club in August and any other relevant matters.

Question time!

Are you happy with the way the Section, or for that matter the Association is being run? Do you feel you are getting value for your membership fee? Do you feel that you are being asked to give financial support to far too many Section events? Are Section events too expensive to attend? What do you really expect your Section committee to do on your behalf?

After all every committee member gives up at least one evening a month to attend a meeting to organise events on your behalf.

I can hear you all saying, "Here he goes again". Well I have got good news for you, it won't be for much longer, then someone else can have a go.

As you will have gathered it has been a struggle to put together a report on Section matters each month this year, so unless someone sends me some news, you will just have to put up with my drivel for the time being!

John Crawford

North

Some new members to report this month and they are Michael Nicholl, Course Manager at Shetland GC, Calum Fraser, greenkeeper at Brechin GC, and Chris Nicholl, apprentice at Fraserburgh GC.

The Section were represented at the Open this year by Iain Macleod, Tain GC, Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC, and Duncan Adams and George Mitchell, of Newmachar GC.

I would like to thank John and Scott and the other BIGGA staff for their

efforts to make everything run smoothly and our own Board of Management. Also a special mention to Peter Boyd, Bert Cross and Ian Holloran.

The autumn outing will be at Westhill GC on September 9 and hopefully there will be a good turnout. The retiring secretary of many years Dougal Duguid is Course Manager at Westhill and it would be a fitting send off for him to have a large turnout.

The AGM is to be at the end of October at one of the clubs at the links in Aberdeen, you will receive due notice by post. Murcar GC has been fixed up for the Spring outing.

Brian Anderson, the Course Manager at Murcar GC, recently had an accident at work and we wish him a speedy recovery. No more news to report at the moment, so have a successful end of summer and autumn season.

Iain Gunn



North Wales

September grass is the sweetest kind, or so say's James Taylor. September also brings the SALTEX IOG show at the Windsor Showground 7 - 9 so if there are any of you wishing to purchase 'play area equipment' or a 'climbing frame' for the kids, you should get yourself down there!

On a more serious note, Dave Parry, from Prestatyn GC, has had a major spate of direct vandalism at the course, a residual weedkiller has been deliberately sprayed on 16 of the 18 greens. One green was attacked first then a month later a further 15 were contaminated with this chemical.

Tests are being carried out by Alistair Beggs at the STRI Laboratory, Bingley, as cores have been taken from the greens. Dave has also irrigated them heavily with wetting agent and double overseeded in an attempt to gain coverage over the dying areas.

If anyone out there has had a similar thing happen to them and know of any 'quick fix' please give Dave a call at the club. The police are still seeking the person(s) involved and any information received will be treated in the strictest confidence by the North Wales Constabulary.

The Golf Management Trophy was a huge success held at Carden Park on August 23 and was well attended by BIGGA members who brought along committee members from their respective clubs, including Greens Chairmen, Secretaries and Captains, etc who interacted with members of other clubs to gain a better knowledge of what BIGGA is about and place a positive image within their clubs.

This came only two weeks after Carden hosted the major event of the year - The European Seniors which consisted of players from all around the world, including the Ryder Cup Captain of 2002 Sam Torrance.

The 'OPEN' at Royal Troon this year saw a 75 strong support team involved with the bunker raking of the matches and they were treated once again to some spectacular shot making. The Claret Jug again goes stateside as another little known American lifted the title.

I managed to get myself another caddie job as my club professional Anthony Millar came through regional qualifying at Little Aston GC, then after a two man play off at Glasgow Gailes LFQ we got the last spot to get into Troon.

Two full practise days helped a level par front nine on the first day, but after coming around Amen corner 10, 11, 12 saw us drop 5 shots finishing +7 after day one. Day two didn't get any better and we were on our way home on the Friday night. I would just like to personally thank Wilson Golf of Irvine for all their help, sponsorship and advice whilst we were up there.

Finally I would like to thank John Pemberton for asking me to sit on the Steering Committee of BIGGA, and having attended my first meeting at the end of July I found it very interesting looking into the future planning of the BTME show and hope my input as an exhibiting trade member was of help to the discussions.

Until next month. Any news views or comments please give me a call.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

Northern

Firstly, I'd like to welcome new members Colin Goodwin and Thomas Bradford, who have both joined the Section this month.

I'm pleased to announce that a date has at long last been set for the Christmas Golf. It will take place on Thursday December 9. The venue is Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse. As usual, a coach is likely to be booked in order that a more festive day can be had by all attending!

In next month's report I will bring you the results of August's Invitation Day. If you would like to put your name down early for the Autumn Tournament and AGM to be held at Low Laithes on October 13, just get in touch, my details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile 07739319060

Email adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk

Adam Speight

North West

The end of July and not much happening in the Section, at least no news had come through to me, but please if you have any snippets of news let me know as it makes my job much easier.

Nationally plenty has happened with what was probably one of the most exciting finishes to the Open at Royal Troon. Once again BIGGA were present to carry out the duties of the support team, namely early morning bunker raking '4am', accompanying each game to rake bunkers, record the amount of bunkers the players found, assisting the scorers and the youngsters carrying the scoreboards.

This year we really were international, with greenkeepers from Canada, America, Sweden, Germany and Spain, all enjoying the opportunity to be a part of the greatest golf tournament in the world.

The course was in superb condition and Billy McLachlan, the Course Manager, and his staff must be very proud of themselves as they received many praises from both players and officials. Next year St. Andrews is the venue for the Open, so if you want to be part of it watch the magazine for information.

The next golf is the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC on Tuesday September 14. Lunch 12 – 12:30. Tee time 12:50pm – 2:20pm. All applications to be received by Thursday September 9 including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/W Section. Applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill RD, Liverpool, L18 3HU.

You will have received a Regional Training Booking Form in the July Magazine and on November 25 - 26 at Dunham Forest GC there is a course headed 'Next Steps in Management Skills'. If you are interested please complete the form and return it to Sami Collins at BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible. That's it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387

Bert Cross

Sheffield

Hello again to all. This month I have a brief report of the day's events at Sickleholme GC, who very kindly allowed the Section to hold our summer tournament at their lovely course. Congratulations to Mike Lake and his team for presenting the course in such excellent condition, I'm only sorry I was not able to attend myself.

Main sponsor for the day was once again Mansfield Sand, thanks go to Dave Smith and Russ Lathom for their excellent prize table and their continued support of the Section. Thanks also to all the other members of the trade who make these occasions so memorable.

Prize winners on the day were as follows; Best Gross. D.Womack 78 –7 -71; Best Net. 1. J. France, 65-24 –89; 2. J. Hobson, 68 –24 –92; 3. A. Bunting, 69 –16 –85.

Peter Fell won the trade prize with 68 –12- 80. Nearest the Pin was also won by a trade member, well done to Mike Brear.

The Chairman Gordon Brammah gave thanks to the Club Captain Peter Blower and President Brian O' Conner in the usual way by presenting them with a BIGGA tie for their representation of Sickleholme GC on the day.

Just a reminder that the autumn competition, to be held at Gainsborough on September 6, is an earlier start at 12.00pm.

Don't forget I can be reached on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or e-mail geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk.

Geoff Wellsy

MIDLAND REGION

BB&O

Summer at last! As irrigation systems get fired up and start to work overtime, I sit in my white van on the M25 with the traffic gridlocked and temperatures soaring higher and higher. Air conditioning in my cab only comes to life at 100 mph with all windows down.

Looking on the bright side, I am shedding a few pounds and people pay good money for a sauna. Growing tomatoes in my cab might still be an option.

Chiltern Forrest GC, or otherwise known as The Himalayas for the wonderful undulating ups and downs of the course, was the venue for The John Deere Classic Qualifier held on July 5 under the organised guidance of Turner Groundcare.

Wychwood GC recorded a score of 18 under nett 52 which was good enough to secure first. Taking second, with a score of nett 56 jointly on count back, was Filford Heath, of Cotswold Hills GC.

Thank you to Chiltern Forrest GC and Steve Horwood and his staff for every effort in ensuring that all had a great day out. Forrest Pines GC in Lincolnshire is the venue for the next stage and we wish the qualifiers the best of luck.

Mathew Smith from Dudsbury GC in Hampshire is the new Course Manager at Sonning GC, and racing post editor and horse tipster in the making. Steve Cherry, from Abbey Hill GC, is the new Head Greenkeeper at Silverstone GC.

On the move is James Ferrar, from Gerrads Cross GC, who has taken a challenging position as Course Manager in Kenya. After 18 months in prison - as a prison officer - David Griffith is returning to Greenkeeping and starts his new position as Deputy at The Buckingham GC. Also returning home to roost is Michael Ginger, from Harewood Downs GC, who takes on the Deputy's position at Hazelmere GC.

The BB&O's very own Barry Sheen, namely Carl Small, is having his foot fused and welded. This sounds extremely painful and after this operation not even the Bionic Man will have more metal to boast about. We wish Carl a speedy recovery back to work and back on the buggy at our golf days.

The next event is a Clay Pigeon Shooting Day open to all members. This is a first time social event for our Section and will be held sometime in October, details will be mailed shortly.

Our Annual General Meeting and Turkey Trot will be held at Donnington Grove GC - formerly Parasampia GC - on Thursday November 4.

Any member wishing to play a role on the BB&O committee please come forward as your help will always be appreciated. For more details, contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

The London Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping** and the members of our Section have been invited.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ.

Mark Day mark@day.fm

Midland

To open this month's notes, I must apologise for the lack of notes in August. Such being due to the fact that I was unfortunately unaware of the E-mail address change at H.Q.

Communication is a wonderful thing! I send these notes from Reykjavik in Iceland. Surely I must have better things to do on my holiday. Perhaps not, a small mortgage might just buy a bottle of decent red.

It gives me great pleasure to report the wonderful news that Steve Wenlock, North Worcester GC, and his fiancée Emma have had a baby boy, Joshua Kyle Wenlock. Let's hope he has his mother's looks and father's skills. Congratulations to all three of you. Looking forward to "wetting the baby's head" Steve.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome eight new members to our Section this month: Malcolm Mitchell, David Pearce, David Cole, Christopher Baugh, Mick May, John Spear, James Stokes and Jonathan Holmes - a descendant of Sherlock "I

presume". Also, congratulations and good luck to the new Course Manger at Walsall Golf Club, Dave Coomes.

Our Summer Tournament was held at Moor Hall GC. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. However, my spies reported that the course was in excellent condition, and a fantastic day was enjoyed by all. Thanks and respect is more than due to Wayne Ganning and his fine team for presenting the course in such great condition, and of cause thanks to More Hall GC for graciously affording such a sumptuous opportunity.

The results of the day were; Best Gross. A.Walker; Nett. 1. D.Ganning; 2. D.Gibbons; 3. D.Fellows; 4. A.Walker. Thanks to our old friends at Amenity Technology for the main prize table.

Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was kindly sponsored by W.W.B. Minerals, and won by A.Kite and M.Cutler respectively. Looking at the above results I wonder whether Mr.D.Ganning M.B.E. had any input as to the pin positions?

As I'm sure you've been waiting with baited breath, our Angling event is organised for October 31, as kindly organised and sponsored by Hanson Aggregates/Allen Southam. To book your peg please call me on: 07816 410 552. Let's see if we can't beat Middleton Hall Anglers this time. With all the rain we've had the fishing should be good. Looking forward to Mrs Southam's trifle.

I, in the past, have had the pleasure of our President's, as I'm sure you're aware Peter Richmond, lovely wife's company. A most wonderful lady, unfortunately Bryda has spent some unscheduled time in hospital. All of the Midland Section would like to wish you a speedy recovery Bryda. Lwc wda hogan.

Finally to close, my Scotts partner and I had the ominous task of playing Terry Cheese and Phil Nixon. How on earth is one to out play against eagles with drives of 330 yds. I must confess that my partner drove the ball superbly, however within the shorter game we where given a right royal lesson. Well played gentlemen, and what gentlemen. Good luck to all left in this wonderful competition. You never know I might get further than the first game next year and stand a chance of playing Wentworth. Good luck to all left in the event.

Due to the mix up with the August notes, telephone entries shall be accepted this once (Gary: 07876 693 269 by September 13) for our Autumn Tournament at Hawkstone Park GC, on September 22, 10:30am start. The AGM is to be held after the golf at 5:00pm. Anyone wishing for a specific question to be answered at the AGM should give notice in writing by return post after receiving this notification, thus giving the Committee a chance to deliberate. Cheers for now, see you at the golf, AGM, or the fishing.

Sean McDade.

Mid Anglia

Welcome to the Mid Anglia Section. From this issue Steve Mason has handed the pen to me, Bob Butfoy, to report our news, as he is to become the newly appointed Course Manager of Stocks Golf Club. I think I speak on behalf of everyone from the Section when I wish Steve ALL THE BEST for the future.

The Summer Tournament was held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, where 22 players took on a tough 18 holes. The course was in excellent condition so big thanks to Steve Mason & his team for doing us proud. The food & hospitality was also excellent, so again big thanks, this time to the Simkins family.

The day was sponsored by Boughton Turf Management, who provided some great prizes, all presented by Simon Headley, our thanks to them also.

The results were as follows:

1. John Chapman & John O'Gaunt; 2. Bob Butfoy & Heydon Grange; 3. Geoff James & John O'Gaunt. Nearest the Pin. Clive Parmell, Gem; Longest Drive. Richard Goddard, Ashridge; Trade Prize. Steve Crossdale, Headlands.

Our next event is the autumn AGM at Woburn on October 27. The price for this day is £30 for ALL entries, get in quick as this will be busy.

IMPORTANT: Reminders are that the Marquis course is soft spikes only, and that this event is a two tee start from 9.30am. You'll need to arrive in good time as if you are drawn to start from the 10th tee it is a 15 min drive!

The London Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping** and the members of our Section have been invited.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ.

Bob Butfoy

East

June 23 saw about 20 brave souls venture out in the good old British summer for the Lincs Green Golf Day at South Kyme. Everyone cast aside shorts and t-shirts for waterproofs and umbrellas as torrential rain fell for most of the day. Some of the field only completed nine holes and the ones with no brains completed the full 18.

The whole day was sponsored by Phil Wilkinson, of Lincs Green, with some excellent glass wear as prizes and a very impressive buffet lunch was also paid for by Phil. Many thanks go to Phil and South Kyme Golf Club for holding the event.

The results were; Best Gross. Rob Welford. Second Class. Ian Batty. Best Nett. Russ Moody. Second Nett. Graeme MacDonald. Longest Drive. Rob Welford. Nearest the Pin. Tim Jones.

The next golf outing was held at Lincoln Golf Club (Torksey) on July 22. The prizes for the day were sponsored by LMS. The format for the day was four man Texas scramble. The day was held to celebrate the retirement of Derek Blades as Head Greenkeeper from Lincoln Golf Club and several members from the club joined with the greenkeepers to make the day more enjoyable.

Many thanks go to Lincoln Golf Club, the members and LMS for a good day. It was also nice to meet Rachael Palmer from BIGGA HQ and thanks go to her for helping get everyone started on time and helping out through the day. Best wishes go to Derek and we shall hope he has a long and happy retirement.

The results were 1. S. Clayton, G. Gilding, J. Heswon & J. Day, 58.5 on back nine; 2. N. Lister, S. Haywood, D. Hampshire & R. Moody, 58.5; 3. P.Fell, S. Beverly, A. Tonge & D. Tonge, 59.2. Longest Drive. G. Gilding. Nearest the Pin. S. Dickinson. Les Howkins

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Devon & Cornwall

It is unfortunate that my first report for the Magazine should start on a sad note, to report the sad loss of one of our Greenkeepers. John Gawman recently past away at the age of 47. John began his Greenkeeping career when he left school at the age of 15, and joined Tavistock Golf Club with his friend, Mike. Having worked at Tavistock for 17 years, he departed for pastures new and joined the well known Jack Nicklaus course, at St Mellion, Saltash, where he eventually became Head Greenkeeper of the old course, or Foreman in American Golf terms.

The funeral was at his local church in Horrabridge near Tavistock, and was overflowing with Greenkeepers and Trade Representatives from throughout the South West. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

The Mid-Summer BIGGA meeting was held at the Launceston Golf Club in Cornwall in almost tropical conditions, and sponsored very generously by Martin Ward of Symbio. There was an excellent attendance as always, and the prizes were very generous, including prizes for the Longest Drive, and Nearest the Pin on a par 3.

The competition was a Stableford format, and won by Adam Bridgewater, with 36 points, Adam also won the Longest Drive. Second was Paul Bullen with 31 points, who also won the Nearest the Pin, Paul has recently retired from Newquay Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper. The third prize went to Howard Meadows also with 31 points, however Paul had a better score on the back nine holes.

We would like to welcome Graeme Gallimore to our Section, who has just become the new Head Greenkeeper at Launceston Golf Club, having worked at the Warwickshire Golf Club and more recently at the Benton Hall Golf Club in Essex.

Graeme is married to Louise and has a two year son called Asher, who is obviously following in his fathers footsteps, as he seems to be spending rather a long time in the bunkers.

Congratulations to Jonathan Bullen, the Head Greenkeeper at the Staddon Heights Golf Club near Plymouth, who has just become married to Julie, we all wish them many years of health and happiness.

Congratulations also go the Devon County Team who recently played at the Trevoze Golf Course and became the EGU County Champions for the South West, the Team now go forward to represent the South West in the National Finals. The main reason for reporting this is because the Devon Team is well represented by three of our Greenkeepers, Adam Bridgewater, from Yelverton GC, Paul

Newcombe, East Devon GC, and Alan Gawman, from the St Mellion GC, Alan, the son of the late John Gawman.

Last but not least I would, on behalf of the Section, like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Steve Evans, and his daughter Alison, for his work and his total commitment as secretary over the past year, never an easy task to follow our previous secretary Richard Whyman, if I do as half as well I will be delighted.
Donovan O.Hunt

SOUTH EAST

London

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Essex

July 28 saw the Essex area qualifying for the John Deere Team Championship. 20 teams of four – including the club professional – entered, with 19 under par being the winning score, which included a hole-in-one.

The day was sponsored by our local John Deere Dealers, P. Tuckwell Ltd. Our thanks goes to James Tuckwell, Neil – the Aussie – Peachey and the rest of the Tuckwell team for organising the day.

Channels GC was the venue this time around and for some of us it was our second visit of the season – the first back in April. The course was in superb condition once again thanks to Ray Clark and his staff.

Team Positions; 1. Three Rivers GC, Craig Lawrence, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Terry Peachey & Fernando Teixeira, 19 under par; 2. Regiment Way, Ian Sinclair, Malcolm Smith, Simon Larner & Roger Ramphilon, 18 under par - count back; 3. Maldon GC, John Edgington, Steve Blackwell, Rob Halland & Dave Kelly, 18 under par.

Nearest the Pin. Phil Wilson, Bentley GC. Longest Drive. Owen Scott Reid, Saffron Walden GC.

Hope to see more teams enter next year and the best of luck to Arnold, our chairman, and his winning team in the National Finals.

The London Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping** and the members of our Section have been invited.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

Martin Forrester

Surrey

The rain on my conservatory roof sounds like a stampede of wildebeest being chased by a pack of hungry lions. It is Thursday August 5 and I am also on the phone to Ron Christie, who is in his sheds at Addington Palace.

Ron complains that this localised storm has missed his course by inches and as he is only about 25 minutes from Banstead he feels that even the Gods are against him getting his due level of rain.

This has been how the weather has affected most of my customers; their normally cheerful faces are now pinched and sunburnt and only those who lead a life of chastity, modesty and sobriety have been blessed with glorious rain. Being one of the few, my newly seeded lawn is growing a treat.

The Surrey Bowl Knockout pairs competition is moving on rapidly and to date remaining pairs are Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, Adie Locke and Dave Murdoch, Ian Sellers and Lee Stutt and, last but not least, Brian Turner and John Mathis.

Yours truly and Mark Harvey, from Epsom, had the pleasure of playing our last round at Sunningdale GC against Brian Turner and John – when a child is born – Mathis. Brian kindly let us play on the old course from the back tees that were used the day before in the Ladies Weetabix Open Championship.

What wonderful golfers they must be for some of the carries are very long and even I had a few difficulties. Brian and John's five birdies in a row helped a little in their victory over us, which Mark and I put down mainly to luck and local knowledge.

The MacMillan Tankard competition on the new course at Sunningdale is on August 12, so results will appear in the October edition.

Brian Willmott

Kent

It would appear that to comply with the BIGGA constitution we have to have an extraordinary General Meeting to reform the Kent Section, as at the last meeting the Section was officially disbanded.

It is planned to have a tournament sometime during late November/early December, followed by a meeting to do the necessary and form a new committee. All members will be informed of the venue and date in due course.

Any members interested in helping out and would like details of what is involved, please call me on 07970 789708 during office hours.

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David Wood

NORTHERN IRELAND

Firstly this month I would like to give a big thank you to all the greenkeepers who helped out at the British Seniors Open in July at Roya Portrush during the final two days of the tournament.

Their commitment, enthusiasm and reliability was very much appreciated. Course Manager, Joe Findley, and his staff had worked very hard to get the course in great shape, under very difficult conditions regarding dry spring weather extending into June, alongside an unbelievable amount of play on the course prior to the Championship.

August 6 was the date for the annual Terry Crawford Charity Golf Day at Clondeboye Golf Club with over 120 greenkeepers, trade members and club members competing.

Terry is the Course Manager at Clondeboye GC and has been raising money for the Children's Hospital within the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast now for seven years. This year another fantastic sum of £2,600 was raised, which will be used to buy heart monitoring equipment for the Children's Wards.

Terry would like to thank Horta Soils and Irwin Sands for their generous sponsorship of the prizes, and especially Clondeboye GC for once again making the Dufferin course available for the charity event.

Terry and the greenkeeping team had the course in magnificent condition while the greens were really in superb order and a pleasure to putt on.

The winner of the event was Gary Crawford, a young greenkeeper from Royal Co Down GC, with 42pts. The gross prize was won by Dale Barker, from Down Patrick GC, playing off +2 with a round of 66 gross, four under par.

Results were; 1. Gary Crawford, R.C.D., 42 pts; 2. Paul Hamilton, Clondeboye GC, 42pts; 3. Aaron Small, Clondeboye GC, 41pts; 4. Sam Napier, Clondeboye GC, 40pts; 5. Irwin Robinson, Bangor GC, 39pts. Longest Drive. Jeff Lamb, Shandon Park GC. Nearest the Pin. Jo Dargan, Shandon Park GC.

The team prize was won by Clondeboye, Jim Millar, Ivan Boyd, Ronnie Gibson & Paul Hamilton, with a score of 113 points - best three cards.

Our next Section event will be our National Championship qualifying competition, to be held at Malone Golf Club on September 16. Two successful competitors will represent the Northern Ireland Section at the National Championship to be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, on October 4 & 5.

Every member will receive a letter detailing the competition at the beginning of September. Well that is all my news for this month folks.

Ken Henderson