



## News from the Chief Executive

I would like to start by offering my condolences to John Crawford and his family upon the sad loss of his partner, Ailsa, who died recently following a period of illness. John was Chairman of BIGGA in 1993 and is Section Secretary for Central Scotland.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate my fellow members of staff who, under the able stewardship of Ken, have helped BIGGA pass an Investors in People audit with flying colours. In the inspector's report we have been praised for our achievements and commitment and he placed us within the top 10% of companies in the country. The Association first gained the award in March 1999.

The main theme for June has been meetings, meetings and yet more meetings. During the month the General Purposes' Committee met to progress the development of an updated business plan, certain sections of the plan have now been referred back to the other sub-committees for their consideration.

I have had several meetings with companies, including Ransomes, who have confirmed that they will once again sponsor the National Tournament in October, and also Bernhard & Co, who will be sponsoring a delegation of 10 BIGGA members to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans in February 2006.

On June 27 the Association held its annual golf day at Aldwark Manor and the chosen charity this year was Macmillan Cancer Relief. I would like to thank all those companies who sponsored a tee for the day, thereby making this event possible. Anyone involved with raising sponsorship will appreciate how difficult it is, as companies see their budgets being more and more restricted and I would ask members to acknowledge the support given over the year by the various individuals and companies. A simple word of thank you is all that is sometimes needed but all too often forgotten!

The Association continues to work closer and closer with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and at my most recent meeting with their National Secretary, Keith Lloyd, we discussed joint production of recommended health and safety policy documentation and also the development of an educational programme at Harrogate for AGCS members. We agreed to set up a health and safety working party comprising four Course Managers, four Club Secretaries, BIGGA and AGCS staff and an independent adviser with other advisers being invited to contribute in due course. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for early September and I will keep members advised of progress.

Finally, I would like to wish Patrick Gosset, the Chief Executive of the IOG, a long and happy retirement when he closes his office door for the last time at the end of July. Pat and I have enjoyed a very close working relationship and I am sure he will be a difficult act to follow.

**John Pemberton**

### SCOTTISH REGION

#### West

Welcome to this month's report. I hope I find everyone with great optimism for the season ahead. Congratulations to Peter Boyd for once again arranging a fantastic Scottish Conference. There was a great attendance even though the weather was horrendous in March with heavy snow around the country.

The Club Masters versus Greenkeepers match was played over Clydebank and District Golf Club on March 14 and may I thank my team for playing so well on the day and returning the trophy to the greenkeepers. We are due to play again in October and hopefully it will be as good as the last one. I would like to thank Ronnie Manson for arranging the day and we look forward to our match in October.

This year's Convenors versus Greenkeepers match was held over Millport GC. There was a good turnout with Millport retaining the trophy. Well done to Joe Bell and partner, they must have played well in the gale force conditions.

This year's spring outing was held over Ranfurly Castle GC and there was a great turnout, with approximately 50 playing. The course was in first class condition with a lot of hard work put in from Course Manager, John Barr, and his staff. Many thanks to the Captain and Board for courtesy of their fine course. The competition was Stableford format.

The results where: Scratch. Stuart Taylor. First class. 1. Chris Kerr, 33pts; 2. John Brown, 32pts; 3. Scott Ballantyne, 30pts. 2nd Class. 1. Craig Wylie, 38pts; 2. Gavin Jarvis, 38pts; 3. Neill McLennan, 36pts. 3rd Class. 1. Robert Phillips, 31pts; 2. Michael Maxton, 29pts; 3. Alan Dykes, 29 pts. Trade Prize. Jim Smith, 30pts. Longest Drive. Scott Ballantyne. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Taylor. Visitor's Prize. Marshall Sloss. Marshall is the Chairman of the Ayrshire Section, many thanks for attending our outing.

A presentation was held on the day for Trade member Ian Mackay. After 30 years' service with Sisis Equipment, also a short time with Mc Nabs and Scottish Grass, Ian was calling it a day or so we thought. He will still be around, he will be carrying out freelance work for Sisis and you can contact him on his mobile as before. On the day he was presented with a silver Quaich for services to the West Section over the years.

John Scott Snr, a long time member of the West Section, recently passed away after a long illness. John was known to most members, as he called on them over the years working for various companies in the trade. He attended most of the Section's outings and was always in good form. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family at this sad time.

It's with sadness that I inform the members of the death of David Peacock, who was the Head Greenkeeper of East Kilbride Golf Club from 1955-1986. Our thoughts go out to the family at this sad time.

On the job front there has been some movement in the Section during the last few months. Ronnie Myles is heading down south to Scarcroft Golf Club, in York, after many years' service at Helensburgh Golf Club. Ronnie, I hope you enjoy your new challenge.

Gavin Jarvis is taking over the post at Helensburgh after 14 years' service at Lenzie. Also Garry Burns, the First Assistant, has been appointed as Gavin's successor. Gary has been at Lenzie for 24 years. Many congratulations to all.

New members this month are Bobby McDougall, Hilton Park, Sean Quinn, Hilton Park, Vincent McNally, Elderslie, and McLaughlin Cathkin, Braes Arm. Welcome to all the new members.

This year's annual night out will be held at Victoria's nightclub. Over the past few years it has been a great success. Anybody wishing to come along contact myself on 07970 366355 or Gavin Jarvis on 07921 060402. Well that's all for now, more news next month.

Fraser Ross

## NORTHERN REGION

### North West

Sad news this month of the death of Jim Arthur, a man dedicated to greenkeeping and greenkeepers. I did not know him personally but I have read his book and many times read his letters in the magazine, all of which made sense. I am sure he will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Whitefield Golf Club was the venue for the Spring Tournament on May 25 and although the day started with rain as usual, the weather did improve after lunch, enabling us to keep dry during the game. Considering we had rain for several days before, the course was in good condition thanks to Danny Chamberlyn and his staff.

The disturbing part of the day was that there was only 16 attending and five of those were trade members. The Section has over 500 members, so the percentage attending was very poor. These golf days are also a day that gives you all a chance to socialise with other greenkeepers, gives you the chance to see other courses and how they are set up. We had the tee from 2pm giving every one time to finish work and enjoy a good day.

Please try to support the Section at the next golf day, which will be the Summer Tournament at Childwall Golf Club on Wednesday July 27. All entries to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3HU. Including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/W Section. Closing date is Sunday July 24.

Back to the Spring Tournament the winners were. Best Nett. Alan Donlevy. Best Gross. Bill Merritt. Vets. Peter Hogan. Guest. Andrew McMahan. Longest Drive. Alan Donlevy. The Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was sponsored by Bathgate Leisure.

Finally, I intend to retire from the position of Secretary for the N/W Section, also the N/W Committee at the AGM in December. I will have completed 30 years on the Committee next year, also as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Northern Region Board and representative for the Section on the Regional Board, plus Representative for the Northern Region on the Board of Management. I now feel it is time to hand over to a working greenkeeper in the Section.

Some of the Secretaries duties include: Writing Section notes for the magazine, contacting golf clubs and caterers for tournament venues, balancing Section accounts, dealing with members queries, keeping contact with HQ and dealing with new memberships, being the Section member on the Regional Board (approx. four meetings a year at BIGGA HOUSE), organising the Mere Seminar, assisting the Administrator with Regional seminars, organising Section Committee meetings, enrolling companies to the Patron's scheme, etc, etc.

A snippet of news, Anthony Davies, N/W President, will be getting married in October after taking his fiancée to Paris, and going down on one knee and proposing under the Eiffel Tower. Good luck to them both. If I got down on one knee I would not be able to get up again.

Any queries or observations ring 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583 387.  
Bert Cross

### Northern

First this month, congratulations to Richard Pull and his wife, Philypa, on the birth of their twin baby girls, Charlotte and Freya. I hear that both Philypa and the girls are doing well and we wish them all the best for the future.

A note of thanks must go to Scotts UK for their sponsorship of the Spring Tournament.

I realise it's a touch short notice, but the date for the Rigby Taylor sponsored Sheffield match is Wednesday July 13. Anybody interested in playing please get in touch as soon as possible. The venue is Hillsborough Golf Club and I know that Chairman, Andy Slingsby, is looking forward to going to that particular area of Sheffield.

Don't forget that the barbecue night is Saturday July 16. This year it is being held at Otley Golf Club. The cost is £10 per person and for that there is a disco and as much food as you can eat, so please let's see as many of you there as possible, and don't forget to invite family and friends.

Invitation Day will be held at York Golf Club again this year after we had to cancel last year due to the weather. It is scheduled for August 10, with first tee off at 1pm. The day is again sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Please get your names in early as this event has only a limited number of places available.

Next month I will be reporting the results of President's Day, which took place at Scarthingwell Golf Club on July 15. This day was also President Dennis Cockburn's 70th birthday. Happy Birthday Dennis, I hope you enjoyed your day. The day has kindly been sponsored by CSC.

If you have any news you would like to share with the Section, then please do get in touch. Tel: 01274 638366; Mobile: 07739 319060.

Adam Speight

### Sheffield

Once again our golfing season has started. On May 10 we held our President's Salver Competition at Bondhay Golf Club. It was a dry day but the wind made it a very testing one, but I'm sure it was enjoyed by everyone who played.

The main sponsors for the competition were Pro-Turf, who we would like to thank for their continued support of our Section. I had the pleasure of playing golf that day with Seymour Harris, from Pro-Turf, and we had an enjoyable day, he also showed me how to play golf.

The eventual winner, on 35pts, was Ron Ullathorne, who it was nice to see after a few years' absence. Well done Ron. The runner up was Dave Womack. The Trade Prize winner was Russ Latham. Well done Russ, your game's coming on nowadays, especially since you haven't played golf with me for a bit.

Congratulations go to Andy Stirr and his staff for the excellent condition of Bondhay. Well done to you all. Also we would like to thank Stan Lee, Captain of Bondhay, and ask him to thank everyone at the club for giving us the courtesy of their course. A big thank you also goes to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As usual, thanks to the rest of the trade who also provided prizes. Oh I nearly forgot, thanks Steve for selling so many raffle tickets.

Can you please remember that we require everyone to wear jackets and ties for the meal after golf. I will ask anyone once again with any news from the Section to contact me on 07793111845 or [jv.lax@tesco.net](mailto:jv.lax@tesco.net). You must have some news sometimes out there because I have received none so far, it just helps to fill these notes.

John Lax

## North Wales

As I was sat out in the garden deliberating over the notes for the July edition, I was thinking why the Frisbee my son had just thrown to me was getting bigger as it got closer... then it hit me.

Welcome to 'Open Fever' month as the world heads up to the home of golf and the Old Course at St Andrews will have many a blade of grass trampled on, along with our BIGGA Support Team. There will be some great crack to be had in Mar belle's just off the scores road, along with the many other watering holes around the historic town.

Who will your money be on this year, another unknown American to follow Ben Curtis and Todd Hamilton or can we see a British hopeful lifting the famous Claret Jug at the end of play on Sunday July 17? If your not going up there, be sure to get the multi pack of crisps and nuts in and tune to BBC2 for the full coverage.

Back to home matters in the North Wales Section and the results from our Spring Tournament on May 25, held at Upton-by-Chester GC. In reverse order. 5. Les Parry, recently back from injury, Arrowe Park GC, 28pts; 4. Phil Watson, Wallasey GC, 30pts; 3. Jez Hughes, Section Competition Secretary, 31pts; 2. Richard Kevin Lewis, Machinlech GC, 34pts; 1. Iwan Jones, with local knowledge, Upton GC, 36pts. The Trade Shield was won by Dave Austin, from RT, and he will be reduced by two shots for the autumn competition, this is not in the constitution but I have decided he is playing too well.

There were three guest prizes and first was Roger Greenhalgh, from

Sutton Hall, 2nd was Tom Durban, from Conwy GC, and 3rd, from BIGGA HQ, was our Regional Administrator Peter Larter. The Best Gross went to Andy Peel, from Bull Bay GC, and Nearest the Pin, 4th Hole, Trevor Morris, from Chirk GC, and 15th Hole, Jez Hughes Vale, of Llangollen GC.

The course was in very good condition as presented by Justin Chung and his greenkeeping team. The newly constructed greens and all the alterations over the past 18 months prove a very good test of golf and with the mammoth task of rebuilding has been a credit to Justin. Our thanks also go to the caterers and the staff at Upton for their hospitality. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

One group of four golfers who were noticeably missing from the day were Dave Parry, Islyn Luke, Steve Roberts and Terry Adamson, who have played together in the Section golf days for the past 67 years. This was due to Steve Roberts sustaining a broken ankle at his home course, Flint GC. The things some people do to get out of paying the 20p bets. We wish Steve a speedy recovery and hope to see the pack back together in our autumn competition at Eaton GC.

Many got back home from Upton just in time for the Liverpool verses AC Milan game that had a turnaround result for Liverpool after the half time 3-0, coupled with a touch of luck in the penalty shootout. I ended up paying out on my bets.

On a final note I mentioned that Shaun Pritchard rejoined the happy band of greenkeepers back at Llanynymech. Since then they have had another new member of staff on the greens. Following in his father Allen's

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footsteps Mathew Lewis joins the team. Mathew started his career at Carden Park GC last summer during the European Senior's event under the watchful eye of MG Andy Campbell, now a process more fondly coined in the phrase "Cutting your teeth with Campbell". Reports so far say that father and son are both doing well and still speaking... watch this space!

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

andrew@acorngolf.co.uk

## MIDLAND REGION

### East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was hosted by Melton Mowbray on May 18. The weather was set dry but windy, and with a reasonable turnout of 40 members, with a well set up course, some good scores were expected.

Our overall winner was Chris Brown, from Horsley Lodge, with 37pts. Category 1, 0-9. 1. Maurice Hume, Stanton, 32 pts; 2. Brain Rice. Southwell, 32pts. Category 2, 10-18. 1. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 37pts; 2. Robert Duval, Scraftoft, 37pts. Category 3, 19-28. 1. Asa English. Charnwood, 36pts; 2. Nigel White, Scraftoft, 36pts. Trade and Associates. 1. Ryun Holden, Rigby Taylor, 33pts. 2. Kevin Haslam, Mansfield Sand, 32pts. Nearest the Pin. Adi Porter. Longest Drive. Paddy McCarron.

Our thanks should go to all of the green staff at Melton for setting up a delightful course and also we would like to thank the catering staff for an excellent meal. Our thanks should also go to the Committee for allowing us courtesy of Melton Mowbray GC.

Finally, I would like to thank Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the day. Tacit for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive, and to all our other trade members who brought a prize.

Once again can I please remind all members to make sure that their form and cheque are returned to me before the closing date, as tee off times and meals need to be booked.

On May 29, at the Cosby invitation, Alan Roberts and myself shot a Nett 66, which was not quite good enough for the prizes. However the highlight of the day came from Rod Hunter, of the Midland Section and who is Course Manager at Kidderminster GC, for his hole in one at the 185 yard 14th hole. Congratulations, make sure you don't play as well in our Section game in October.

Antony Bindley

### Midland

It was with some interest that I recently learnt that some golf balls contain honey as their liquid centre. The obvious and perhaps typical sentiment bring a whole new meaning to that of hitting the sweet spot. If only one was afforded such favours.

I'm afraid that is it for this month's banter, as I have not received anything else. Come on, there are nearly 500 of you. Some of you must have some news, a story, or indeed celebration to report. Please inform me on the usual number, 07816 410 552.

Our spring event was held at Maxstoke Park on May 9. It was reported to me that the course was in superb condition as presented by Andy Ross and his very fine team. Congratulations to you all.

The results of the day were: Best Gross. R. Thomas. Nett. 1. R. Thomas; 2. K. Swan; 3. D. Fellows; 4. S. Mucklow. The trade winner of the day was

T. Cheese. Our thanks to Headland Amenity for kindly sponsoring the main prize table. Also thanks to WBB Minerals for Nearest the Pin and the Longest Drive prizes, as won by R. Thomas and L. Swann respectively.

For over 50 years now Handsworth GC has held an annual President's Match v The Midland Greenkeepers. Something I have on a number of occasions been invited to play in. Unfortunately I was away for this year's match. However the challenging greenkeepers informed me that the course was in excellent condition, as produced by John Hughes and his ever loving and devoted staff.

Our thanks must go to Handsworth GC for continuing to invite us and indeed make us so very welcome at this most long running and indeed prestigious meeting. Thanks must also go to our great friend Eric Thomas for organising our team and to our eloquent speaker, Alan Kike. Unfortunately the greenkeepers lost, but such is of little consequence at such an auspicious event.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome four new members to our Section. Robert Rowson, Gary Cooper, David Hartley and finally Anthony Hardy, I'll be alright for a fly rod then. Also it is with great respect and best wishes that we hope that Brian Jefferies, of Bramcote Waters GC, enjoys a most happy, fulfilling and, indeed, well earned retirement.

Our Summer Tournament is coming up this month at Redditch Golf Club on July 22. Although the closing date for entries has passed, there may be room to squeeze one or two more entrees in, please phone R. Thomas on 07775 581615, if you wish to play.

Finally, the Section would like to wish Vince Lee a speedy recovery after a small operation. Perhaps the stores in his caravan may now contain food, rather than a liquid diet, namely Lager! Get well soon Vince.

I Look forward to reporting your news next month.

Sean McDade

### East of England

Firstly, I must start with a grovelling apology to R\*\*\*, who I wrongly accused of not wearing a tie at Sleaford - my solicitor has advised me not to worry about litigation as you can't get blood out of a stone. Secondly, I am going to have to pay my snouts more if I want accurate information.

With that sorted out, Cleethorpes, what can I say. Nice trip to the seaside - sun, fairground, fish and chips, one out of three is not bad, although the sun did eventually appear just in time for Les to go out (funny that). Joking aside, the course was in superb condition all credit to Les and his team.

Results: 1. R. Welford, 69-3-66; 2. B. Robinson, 90-21-69; Joint 3. J. Jarrel 70-0-70 and C. Nelson, 78-8-70. Nearest the Pin. D. Coupland. Guest Prize. P. Wilkinson.

Our thanks go to the sponsors of the day, Seoul Nassau and Graham Greenwood. This was our second competition of the year and both have been won with sub par rounds. Well done lads.

By the time this goes to print we will have been to Burghley, to celebrate Dave's 25th year at the course. Congratulations Dave, loyalty is a rare thing these days and I am sure you are good for another 25.

Finally, if Gary Cooper still has the shanks he could be part of the cross-country event. Rumour has it that's were he is happiest.

Allan Walker

### BB&O

The Open Golf Championship returns to St Andrews - the home of golf - for another year. Up until 1870, golfers used to play for 'The Belt' until it was won by Tom Morris Jnr in three consecutive years from 1868-1870 and therefore The Belt became his property. Now it is the famous Claret



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**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
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Jug that the greatest golfers from all over the world strive to get their hands on and achieve their lifetime dream of becoming The Open Champion.

It's also a time for the greenkeeper to reflect passionately for his profession and many of you will make your way to Scotland to share in the exciting events that always unfold at such an event. Some members of our Region will be involved as BIGGA Support Staff and we wish you a successful and enjoyable time away from home. Don't forget to get on the dog and bone if you have any news to report.

Talking of news, what a great day we all had at Henley GC on June 30. A full report on the day's events will appear in next month's edition.

Rob Surgey, from Wycombe Heights GC, had a surprise of his life when he, with family and friends, celebrated his stag night. One of Rob's favourite TV programmes is Little Britain and as he bears a likeness to one of the characters, a plot was hatched. However, due to the laws of censorship I am unable to publish what actually happened, but I can say Rob was dressed up as the only gay in the village and willingly or not, he apparently liked the colourful attire and tight trousers. Say no more! Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding.

Results from the Rigby Taylor Knockout have filtered through for the first round with The Royal Ascot Rollers victorious 3&2 against Radley Roughs. Hearted Hoofs won 4&3 against the Wycombe Warriors (led by the only gay in the village), with Henley Firsts losing 3&2 to the Norfolk Chances. Hester's Hackers won 6&5 against N.R.2. (Tartan Terminator's Team), Deans Woodpeckers won 2&1 against The Mountaineers. The Whippet & Scruppy (John Scoones and Bob the Builder) beat The Badgemore Boys, with the No Returns losing to Driving to Victory.

After all that, I apologise for the secret coding used in these results, so if you work for MI5 and you are a special agent you will probably have no difficulty in working these results out. However, living life as James Bond at Rigby Taylor is Gareth Acteson. So if you feel you need to contact Gareth, he has all the decipher codes for the competition.

The BB&O are holding a Section educational event at Frilford Heath GC on November 8. The seminar entitled 'Climatic Changes and its Effects on Golf Course Management' will include well known speakers who will take part in contributing their knowledge over a fascinating range of climatic issues that will effect our working environment for years to come. The agenda for the day will include coffee on arrival, two morning speakers followed by a buffet lunch, concluding with two lectures and question time with debate in the afternoon. Remember to pencil the date in your diary.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming events you only have to call John Scoones on 0788 550 380.

Mark Day

## Mid Anglia

Important news from Mid Anglia HQ, our summer event will now be held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon, Beds, on Thursday August 11. Arrive at midday for coffee and bacon rolls. First tee off will be at 1pm. All entries into Richard, as usual. Please get them in early.

That's all for now, here's to a long hot summer. Let's all pray our irrigation systems hold up, I know I will!

Bob Butfoy

## SOUTH EAST

### Surrey

Barry Robertson, with his boyish grin, infectious laugh and unruly mop of greying hair has managed the green staff at Banstead GC with a rod of iron for many, many years. Now in the twilight of his career he can still produce a golf course of which to be proud and with his rod of iron, ideally a 5 iron, the green staff will always jump to his command, immediately after their tea break. Barry, thank you from all the players for an excellent day's golf on May 17 and for allowing us to enjoy the chicken game on the A24.

Gary Rowe was the Best Gross. Arron Crittendon was runner up and Jason Hunt was third. Ian - Wiggy - Sellers won the Best Nett, Dave Langheim came second and yours truly came third. Nearest the Pin was Dave Langheim. Lee - Syrup -Strutt won the ladies' Straightest Drive and Phil Bennent walked for miles to pick up the wooden spoon. The sponsors were Avoncrop.

Sunningdale GC, the subject of many rumours over the past months trying to fill the vacancy of Course Manager, have at last agreed terms with Murray Long, at present Course Manager at Coombe Hill GC. Murray, a past winner of the Toro Student of the Year Award, will start his new job in September.

Congratulations to Mike Oram, Chipstead GC, and his bride, Mandy, who, at the time of writing, are enjoying their honeymoon in Cuba. Please give Castro our regards. Elaine, Assistant Greenkeeper at Limpsfield Chart GC, will be shortly leaving her Head Greenkeeper father, Robin Smith, to start her new job at Croham Hurst GC under the watchful eye of Roger Tydeman. Good luck Elaine.

Our last movers of the month are Neil Crittenden, who has left Oak Park GC in Farnham to go to Sweetwoods GC in Kent and Vince Ley, who has taken Neil's place.

Brian Willmott

### Kent

Hi guys, I hope you are all enjoying a successful start to the golfing season. The Kent Section held its first official event of the year recently at Wilderness Golf Club. Although this was a non-golfing occasion a good turnout of greenkeepers were given a thorough insight into the running of this incredible course by Huw Morgan. Very many thanks to him for sharing some of his secrets with the rest of us.

Don't forget to make dates in your diaries for forthcoming golfing events. They are: September 29 at Southern Valley Golf Club for 18 holes and dinner. November 24 at Birchwood Park Golf Centre for the annual turkey trot and AGM.

We now have our own email address which is: kentgreenkeepers@dsl.pipex.com. Please use this to send any news or events to us.

Until next month then.

Rob Holland

### Sussex

Hello again, sorry no write up last month, I have been very busy with work. We have had a golf day since I last wrote, which was held at Pycombe Golf Club, and here are the details of it. We were blessed with



**Clive Osgood**  
SOUTH EAST  
Tel: 01737 819343

good weather and I had the added advantage of playing with two greenkeepers from the course. So I thank them for their advice and company on quite a long round.

I would like to thank everyone at Pycombe GC for a great day and a course in a lovely condition. This event was also the qualifier for the National Tournament and we had 36 players enter so there was a lot to play for.

The Gross winner was Jon Hill and the Nett winner was Peter Ray and both qualify for the National Tournament, which will be held in October at Worksop Golf Club and Sherwood Forest Golf Club. So congratulations to them both. The guest winner was Darren Mitchell.

It was good to see a few new faces, and bad to see a few old ones, no names given, but he does look like Ian Beale from Eastenders. Sorry Gaz, only joking, Ian Beale is better looking.

I would like to welcome a new member to the Association. He is from the Dyke Golf Club and his name is Duncan King Spencer. I know he is a keen golfer and lives up to his name.

I would like to thank all of you who attended and hope to see you at the next golf day, which will be held at Haywardsheath GC on July 14 and will be a team event. So hope to see you there.

Rob Hudson

## London

The first golf outing of the year was held on Friday May 27 at South Herts and this was also the qualifier for the BIGGA National Tournament, which will be held in October at Worksop Golf Club and Sherwood Forest Golf Club. As Mr Semple and myself were unavailable this made for a very open tournament, giving everyone else a fair chance!

The winning score was by Keir Grimwood and I hope he slept with a clear conscience that night. He posted a great score of 45pts, which only just scrapped into first, by the small margin of eight, past David Badham who had 37pts. Third and four were won by David Watkins and Sam Brennan respectively, with 36pts, and fifth prize went to Simon Ringrose on 35pts. Trade prize went to Jon Ryan (who else) with 37pts. So congratulations to Keir and David, who we wish all the best to at the Nationals.

The Section would like to thank our sponsors for the day, which wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for all their help. The main prizes were sponsored by Phil Jones, Supergrass, and Amenity Technology, with plenty of other great contributions from Mick Fance, Scotts, Jon Ryan, Browns, Symbio, Does, Headland, Avoncrop and Tacit.

39 people turned up which was excellent considering it was a Friday and a Bank Holiday weekend. I have spoken to a number of the guys and every one of them has said how great the course condition was. So well done to Colin Ford and his team. Thank you as well to the catering staff for a beautiful meal and many thanks to South Herts Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course.

Other news sees Lee Cox take over the mantle of Course Manager at Mill Hill. Lee has worked under Ian Semple as Deputy for a number of years now so I'm sure he is more than ready and we wish him all the best in his new capacity.

Congratulations also to Darren Burdis, Deputy Head at Brooke Park, whose partner, Jo, has just given birth to a lovely baby girl. I'm sure we will see you at the next golf day Darren as you could may well do with a break by then!

Alec MacIndoe  
07780 955 817



**Jane Jones**  
SOUTH WEST AND WALES  
Tel: 01454 270850

## East Anglia

Well the band of brothers plus Claire found their way eventually to Diss Golf Club on a bright and breezy day in May. I must say the course was absolutely beautiful and very well presented thanks to Robert Ransome and his team. The hours worked should be appreciated, not taken for granted.

With all that beauty about I could not see the point of hitting the ball straight. Others did however, especially Michael Buck, from Rushmere, with a Best Gross of 70. Needless to say he was first in the 0-10 Section with a Nett 69. Second was Mark Henderson, Thorpeness, with 70 on countback from Rob Boyce, Newmarket.

11-18 Section. 1. Brian Lemmon, 70, Barnham Broom; 2. Peter Howard, 72, Aldeburgh; 3. Ed Webster, 72. 19-28 Section. 1. Glen Rayfield, 68, best of the day, well done; 2. Keith Titshall, 69, Walderingfield; 3. Robert Ransome, 71, Diss. Best Trade was Steve Dickinson, Rigby Taylor, 68, playing off a handicap of 1, as was Mick Buck. Second Trade was Stewart Patterson, from Bartram Mowers, 70. Nearest the Pin. Ray Goodshall. Longest Drive. Michael Buck. The loo seat was won by Martin Myson for conducting the Electric Light Orchestra!

The prizes were presented by the Club Manager, Chris Welstead.

The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers, but we must not forget our other trade friends who are: Tomlinson Ground Care, Textron, Symbio, Aitkens, Headland, Consultant Clarkson, Atterton & Ellis, Ben Burgess, Rigby Taylor, Sisis, Scots, John Deere, Vitax, Bury Landscapes. Thank you all.

There were 64 playing and all enjoyed a lovely day. Thank you Diss Golf Club for your hospitality.

Before I go I must pass on our best wishes to Steve Millard and look forward to seeing him in the near future.

Mick Lathrope

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### South West

I had never played The Wiltshire before, but despite winding up Course Manager, Dominic Rogers, in this column in the month's leading up to our Invitation Tournament, I think I can safely say that he managed to hit all the targets.

The greens were indeed putting at nearly 12, even those that had been Drilled and Filled the day before - don't give it another thought Dominic. The rough was well pruned back which suits my game no end, but with hindsight, I should have asked for all the ponds to be drained, and the runway at nearby RAF Lyneham to be closed for the afternoon.

There was a certain novelty value when the first Hercules transport plane came roaring over so low that you could read the escape instructions on the cockpit door and wave to the driver. But the novelty soon wore off as a succession of other Hercules (or maybe it was the same one) continued circling and landing, sometimes with only three engines, all afternoon. As if that wasn't enough, a NATO Boeing 707 jet joined the party with a series of low passes. The noise from which was enough to strip all the enamel off your teeth.

Having said that we had an absolutely superb afternoon around this challenging course and we would like to pass on our thanks to Eddy Shah, the Owner, and all his staff.

Results were: 1. A. Knight and D. Harper, 45pts; 2. J. Coverdale and M. Wilkie, 43pts; 3. P. Havard and M. Rhodes, 41pts. Nearest the Pin, 4th hole. M. Samuels. Nearest the Pin, 7th hole. M. Sage.

Chatting to Dominic Rogers over dinner, he revealed that The Wiltshire is about to expand to 27 holes with the purchase of additional land adjacent to the 5th hole, and this was being drained ahead of construction later in the summer. The existing course will be revamped somewhat, and all in all he has a heavy workload in front of him.

Things were much quieter at Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club for the annual match against the Secretaries, although I would like to draw their attention to the length of the rough. The course on Stinchcombe Common dates from 1889 and is on a SSSI. The rough is taken for hay every year, but inevitably not until July, to help preserve the wild flora. You could tell at a glance who wasn't playing well - their trousers were soaking black and clinging to their legs.

Yours truly had a Committee meeting back at work and couldn't play, but I did manage to watch the first hole and couldn't help noticing that Chris Sealey was one of the only players to hit the fairway. Do you want the gory details? OK.

Craig Fudge was 30 yards right and lost, Wayne Vincent 20 yards right, John Keenaghan 10 yards left, John Byrne 10 yards left, Adam Matthews flirted with the rough in front of the tee and then went 20 yards left! Having spotted all these balls - my trousers were also black and clinging so I packed up and left.

Many thanks to Stinchcombe Hill GC and congratulations to the Secretaries, who tightened their stranglehold on the trophy with a 4-2 win. Apologies, the individual match results were not to hand at the time of writing.

Events coming up are the Summer Tournament at Long Ashton, July 21, and the evening at Bath Races on August 26. Remember, send £10 per person, partners welcome, to John Jarvis direct at Lansdown Golf Club to book your place. It should be a great evening out and a chance to forget all about golf just this once.

Congratulations to Dave Rosselli, First Assistant at Minchinhampton, and his wife, Jo, on the birth of their son, Harvey.

Finally, one of our senior members, who is a keen sports car fan, recently tripped a speed camera. Having six points already on his licence he decided, on receipt of the fixed penalty ticket, to claim that his wife was driving. He was rewarded a couple of days later with an enlarged photo from the camera clearly showing who was at the wheel, and an icily polite note from the prosecuting officer requesting that he confirm exactly who the driver was, as his wife appeared to be ugly, balding, with grey greasy hair and smoking a pipe! Game, set, and match to the constabulary.

Keep the information coming in. Tel: 07768 394593 or Email: paul.worster@tesco.net.

Paul Worster

## South Coast

I have yet another set of sad Section notes to write this month. Jim Arthur passed away on May 14 and will be missed enormously by his family, his friends and the greenkeeping industry. Jim was a remarkable man and Donald Steel said at his funeral: "There was no one quite like him." How true that is.

Jim promoted traditional greenkeeping for over 40 years, never once straying from the path of practices that he promoted so passionately and will be remembered for such wonderful phrases such as 'muck and magic' and 'bugs in a jug' among others. His passion for our industry never

wavered and he was a good friend but a fearful enemy who always spoke his mind as many of his adversaries could tell.

We were lucky to have Jim Chair our seminar in February where he was surrounded by his 'disciples' preaching from the Arthur 'gospel'. He rang me when he got home and said it had been the finest seminar he had ever been to, he was buzzing and was delighted to see that traditional greenkeeping was again being promoted. He celebrated that night with the usual gin and tonic! I will miss Jim and in particular the regular phone calls. The dialog was always started the same: "Hello Jim how are you?" The reply: "Don't ask!"

Donald Steel summed things up beautifully. If the grass is greener on the other side Jim will certainly be giving someone a hard time over it!

Onto lighter news and I would just like to wish Euan Grant and his team all the best for the upcoming Open Championship. This is the pinnacle of Euan's career and I'm sure he'll give us an Open to remember.

That's all the news for this month as I have promised not to take up too much room in the magazine. Don't forget to contact me if you have any news that you would like included in the Around the Green Section. My contact details are Tel: 01202 661106; Mobile: 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com.

Alex McCombie

## Devon & Cornwall

It is unfortunate that I have to report the death of Andrew Walker, who was an Assistant Greenkeeper at Ilfracombe Golf Club in North Devon, working under Richard Parker the Head Greenkeeper. Andrew, who was just 21, had worked on the course for some five years and just gained his NVQ11. Richard informed me that he worked hard, took a pride in his work and he will be sadly missed.

Congratulations go to Paul Newcombe, from East Devon Golf Club, and Adam Brigewater, from Yelverton Golf Club, who will be in the Devon County Team at Saunton for County week. Also Rob Cook, from Bowood Park Golf Club, who is in the Cornwall County team.

Good Luck to Ray Day, the Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club, who I know has worked very hard with his team to prepare the East and West Course to the best of their ability for County week.

If any Greenkeeper in the Section has any news of interest please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to put any constructive news in my next report.

I hope you all have a good month and no hassle from Committees.

Donovan O Hunt - Events Coordinator

## South Wales

Sorry about the last month's Section notes, I missed the deadline. I promise it won't happen again as the Section Secretary will kicked my... I must also apologise to Gary Connell for getting his new wife's name wrong, sorry Nicola. You can imagine the grief he got from his missus wondering if he is a bigamist.

Very sad news to hear the loss of Jim Arthur, he attended our Section Seminar in April, I think it was his last public speaking engagement. Even in his late years there was no doubting his passion for greenkeeping and greenkeepers, he was in fine form and a number of bodies got it with two barrels.

Many thanks to Farmura International for sponsoring the seminar, also to the speakers for giving their time freely, making for a very good seminar. There was a good attendance also from Section members, 65 in all, considering it was the only dry day of the week. For more details of the Seminar see the News Section of the magazine.

The Rigby Taylor matchplay is under way, the draw is complete and the first round results should be coming in thick and fast. Good entry this year, sorry about the number of byes, only way it would work out.

Our first competition of the year has been held over the Southerdown (Links) course, with a good attendance. Many thanks to the club for allowing us to host our Spring Competition and to Gary Johnstone and his hard working staff for preparing the course. I must say it was in excellent condition, so early on in the season. I think Gary will get some stick from his staff as he had the lowest points out of them all.

Many thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the Spring Competition and to David Evans for representing them and helping with the prize ceremony.

Winner of the Amtec Shield was one of Gary's Assistants, local boy Llewellyn Matthews (I hope that is spelt right), with a score of 38 points playing of a handicap of +2, a bit of a bandit. Runner-up, with a Stableford score of 34, was Russell Anderson, Cardiff. Third place, with a Stableford score of 33, was Alan Crichton. Trade prize, with a Stableford score of 36, was Adrian Masters. I don't know where that score came from but well done!

Hot of the press are the results from our Summer Competition, held over the very scenic Rhonda Golf club. Many thanks to the club for allowing us to host this fixture, thanks also to Ian Ellis and his staff for preparing the course to a very high standard indeed and if the golf was rubbish then the views were spectacular.

Big thank you to R. S Birds of Cowbridge, in particular Jeff Bird and Heather Brock for attending dinner and helping out with the presentation and for their continued support and sponsoring the day. The Birdie Cup has been running since 1960.

Results from the Summer Competition are as follows: Winner of the Birdie Cup, with a Stableford score of 37pts, was Russell Anderson, Cardiff. Runner-up, with a Stableford score of 34 on the back nine, was Andy Roach, Haverfordwest, and third place went to Meirion Griffiths, Carmarthen, with a Stableford score of 34pts also. Trade prize went to back-to-back winner Adrian Masters with 26pts. If anyone wants to buy a BIGGA tie, see Adrian.

Many thanks to Jim Mackenzie and Celtic Manor for donating a number of grass cutting machines to Pencoed College Bridgend, I am sure Paul Discome will put them to good use training the students.

Another date for the diary is the Pencoed College Open Day, it is on Saturday June 25 from 10am to 3pm. It will be a good day out for all the family. BIGGA South Wales will be putting on a stand and anyone wishing to help out would be appreciated.

Anything relating to the Section please get in touch with me or Peter Lacey. Tel: 07977 423571; email: agusmac07@aol.com.

Angus Macleod

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Well I hope everyone is enjoying the better weather that June had brought after a number of difficult weeks in May. Having spoken to a number of greenkeepers over the past few weeks, everyone is striving to get on top of the backlog of work that had accumulated with the wet weather.

I would like to welcome four new members to the Section this month. Stuart Glover, Aaron Fulton, Jonathon Burns and Terry Tennyson have joined from Lisburn GC.

Also well done to greenkeeper Noel Crawford, from Royal County Down GC, who completed this year's Belfast City Marathon. Noel raised £750 for Cerebral Palsy sufferer Claire Kyle. Once again, very well done Noel for your commitment in helping Claire.

Our latest golf competition, on May 26, at Fortwilliam GC, in Belfast, turned out to be a very enjoyable day. We were blessed with the best day of the month, with hot sun and just a moderate breeze. Course Manager, Michael O'Neill, and his greenkeeping team had the course in great condition, even with the wet weather on the days leading up to the competition. Local knowledge paid off on the day for Michael, who accumulated 37pts to lift the first prize.

Many thanks go to our sponsors, David Laird Grass Machinery and Sam Thompson, from Kubota Ireland. Lairds have always been very generous sponsors to our industry over the years. I would like to especially thank Martin Hinchey, from Lairds, our local Kubota dealer, and Sam Thompson, Area Manager for Kubota Ireland.

Results were: 1. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 37pts; 2. Eamonn Crawford, Royal Co Down GC, 35pts; 3. Noel Crawford, RCD, 33pts. Longest Drive. Eamonn Crawford. Nearest the Pin. D. Voyks, Fortwilliam GC. D. Voyks also won the visitors' prize with 39pts.

If only I could hit a straight ball off the tee I would have made the prizes this time. So I have decided to discard all my modern drivers and will reappeared with my wooden headed John Letters, made in Scotland, 20 year old driver for the next competition at Allen park on June 30. Tee time 1-2pm.

I remind members of the National Championship Qualifier to be played on August 9 at Royal County Down, with a 3pm tee time. Time is also approaching for Terry Crawford's Charity Golf Day at Clandeboye GC in early August. Please contact Terry for exact details as the date may have recently been brought forward.

Any news or views please get in touch on 94429001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

## SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to [gareth@bigga.co.uk](mailto:gareth@bigga.co.uk) by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes.

If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.