



News from the Chief Executive

"Can you ring Jim Arthur," words that you sometimes did not want to hear from Rachael or Brad who run reception at BIGGA House, especially on a Friday afternoon. Your thought processes went into overdrive wondering what could be the matter this time.

On rare occasions calls were simple, however the majority of the time Jim was set to put his thoughts forward on the content and quality of a seminar, not always BIGGA related, or perhaps comment on an article in Greenkeeper International. He was always consistent in his views and I would imagine that he has forgotten more about greenkeeping than some people will ever know. I have spent many a good hour listening to Jim extol the virtues of his book, putting greenkeeping back on the right track or just condemning 'chemical' companies. Most of us have been there!

He spoke with a passion for the job he loved doing and was always guaranteed to attract a good audience when on the public platform, if only because he was usually controversial. Love him or not his passing is a sad loss to all and in my opinion he was one of the great characters in an industry that has changed so dramatically since he first started out as an agronomist.

He could not have been more different to that other member of the greenkeeping fraternity who recently died, Derek Green. One quiet and unassuming the other quite vocal in his views but both masters of their craft, good friends and a part of greenkeeping history. In a strange sort of way I will miss those telephone calls, life will never be the same for so many of us.

At BIGGA House we have taken delivery of two new purpose made oak bookcases, one financed by a donation from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in memory of Neil Thomas, the other bought by BIGGA.

These have been placed in the Board Room to house the ever growing collection of books in the member's library. We are also developing a small museum in the reception area and would welcome the donation or loan of either books or artefacts for these facilities.

John Pemberton

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 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.

SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

Hello again, just a couple of things to report this time. Our spring outing, held on April 12, over the Kintyre Course had another excellent turn out. The weather was kind to us on the day and all agreed that Jimmy Johnstone and his crew had the course in great condition.

Special thanks to Stuart Selbie, General Manager, and George Brown, Greenkeeping & Estates Manger, for allowing us courtesy of the course. Also to the clubhouse staff for all their help in providing a great day.

Results were as follows: Scratch Prize. S. McBlain, Prestwick St. Nicholas, 75. 1st Class. 1. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 32pts; 2. J. Mair, Hamilton Golf Club, 31pts; 3. K. McCartney, Dumfries & Galloway, 31pts; 4. R. Fulton, Prestwick St Nicholas, 29 pts; 5. D. Tweddell, Turnberry, 28pts.

2nd Class. 1. G. Haughie, Southernness, 36pts; 2. I. Barr, Largs Kelburn, 29pts; 2. D. Gray, The Pines, 29pts; 3. R. Bunting, Ballochmyle, 26pts; 4. J. Irving, Lockerbie, 26pts. Trade Prize. K. Brunton, Greentech, 34pts.

Following the prizes George Brown and Iain Barr presented Ian McKay with a vintage Sisis 3 hole hollow tiner, along with a framed picture to remember the day. We all wish Ian well on his retirement from Sisis and hope to continue seeing him at our outings. He's got one cool motor as well!

Any news call me on 07939 104701.

Denis Tweddell

Central

We have another four new members joining us this month and they are Derek Ross, St Andrews Links, Hugh Davidson, Charleton Golf Course, George Pendrich, Gleneagles Hotel, and Sean Fotheringham, from Dunfermline Golf Club. As usual we extend a warm welcome to them all from everyone in the Section and we hope to see them at some of our future events.

Speaking of future events I sent a list of the educational events, which can be organised on your behalf, and asked if you would list the events you were interested in and return the form to me. So far not one of you have bothered to return any forms, so I take it that you are all so well educated that you don't need any more or that you are just not interested!

The first golf tournament of the season was held at The Golf House Club, Elie, in April and our sincere thanks go to everyone there for making it a most successful day. Special thanks to Brian Lawrie and his staff for having the course in such excellent condition, Vice Captain, Allan Mackie, for presenting our prizes to the winners and also to the bar and catering staff who kept everyone fed and refreshed throughout the day.

Prize winners on the day were: Best Scratch, Daval Trophy. David Simpson, Crieff GC, 69. Best Nett, Greentech Trophy. Michael Love, Grangemouth GC, 64. 1st Class 1st H/cap, Toro Trophy. Hayden Chambers, St Andrews, 68. 1st Class 2nd H/cap, Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews, 68. 2nd Class 1st H/cap, Section Trophy. Euan Grant, St Andrews, 64. 2nd Class 2nd H/cap. Douglas Barr, Dundee CC, 71. 3rd Class 1st H/cap, Section Trophy. Malcolm Lowe, Tower of Lethendy, 73. 3rd Class 2nd H/cap. Donald Gardiner, Scoonie GC, 79. Stewarts Quaich. Euan Grant and Hayden Chambers, St Andrews, 132.

Patrons. Mike Dennis, Rigby Taylor, 71. Guests. Stuart Archibald, St Andrews, 69. Longest Drive, Daval Prize. Kevin Brunton, Greentech. Nearest the Pin, Daval Prize. Mark Inglis, Muckhart GC.

John Crawford