



News from the Chief Executive

This month's article is coming from Jonkoping in Sweden where I am visiting the conference and exhibition of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association. The SGA and BIGGA have a long history of association and the Swedish greenkeepers feel that they have a strong bond with their counterparts in the UK. When I sit and talk to them it surprises me how similar many of the working conditions, golfer's expectations, politics and pressures are. If it were not for the language then I could well imagine that I was sat in any group in Harrogate during our own event in January.

Everyone that I have met has made me very welcome, they have always tried to speak English when in my company and speak highly of BIGGA and its members. Thank you everyone for your hospitality. There are about 600 golf courses in Sweden and the SGA has 2,000 members making it the next largest in Europe after BIGGA.

The Swedish greenkeepers are coming over to Harrogate in greater numbers thanks to the increased contact by BIGGA and this widens the networking opportunities and also helps keep exhibitors happy. The SGA also sit on the board of FEGGA and I have been having discussions with representatives about FEGGA's business plans and looking at BIGGA's possible involvement again. Membership of FEGGA is by no means part of our Association's current plans, however we continue to look to the future and I am in regular communication with FEGGA's Chief Executive.

Arrangements for Harrogate Week 2006 demand more and more of everyone's time at HQ and I find it hard to believe that it is now only just over three months away. This event is vital to the future well being of the Association and each year we strive to develop both the education and the Exhibition in an attempt to attract new visitors, not just from the UK but also from all around the world. Please take some time to study the brochure or visit the dedicated website, www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

As you should know from my previous articles the Association is under great pressure to arrange an Exhibition only once every two years. Under the current conditions then this could spell disaster for BIGGA. It certainly could not stand the significant reduction in income and there would have to be savings made elsewhere. In the long term this can only be to the disadvantage of the member and the industry.

I like to think that the Association enjoys a very good working relationship with the exhibitors but every member has a part to play in the success of the event. Please support your Association and I am always open to suggestions for improvement, both with Harrogate Week and generally.

During the coming weeks I and my colleagues from HQ will be visiting some Section and Region events and we look forward to hearing your views.

John Pemberton

Around
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region has several changes to announce in relation to Harrogate Week 2006. It has been decided to withdraw travel to and from the Conference venue at Harrogate. Having taken everything into consideration the Board has decided it is no longer practical or cost effective to continue with this service.

As in previous years Harrogate Week will provide Seminars and Workshops. Two day, one day and half day workshops will be available. The cost of these will be intimated nearer the time but it should be noted they are not part of the Scottish Region package. However there will be a series of Seminars run by Trade firms at which everyone is welcome to attend free of charge.

The Regional Administrator will continue to arrange and book accommodation for anyone who wishes to attend. The accommodation will, as usual, be the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate. The cost of three nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in en-suite rooms on January 24, 25 and 26 2006 costs £155.00.

Once all accommodation has been confirmed the Regional Administrator can provide names of all attendees, this will allow members to contact each other, make travel arrangements and perhaps share the cost of travel. The Regional Administrator has already contacted the National Rail Help line, 0845 7 225 225, and has confirmed that competitive rates and lower cost travel is widely available.

Booking forms for accommodation at Harrogate Week 2006 are available from the Regional Administrator.

Peter J. Boyd.

Regional Administrator

East

It has been a strange year - wet during May and June followed by the long dry weeks of July and August. However the exception to the rule has been the Northumberland coast where George Thompson, at Berwick Golf Club, tells me they had 112ml of rain during a four week period in July/August compared to Colin Irvine, at Muirfield, who had 12ml.

On behalf of the Section I would like to offer congratulations to Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager at North Berwick Golf Club, on his appointment as Vice Chairman (Elect) of the Scottish Region. Stuart will commence his duties in November 2005.

I have two golfing events to report this month, the first of which is Willie Woods Tournament held at Haddington Golf Club on Thursday August 25. Our thanks go to the Captain for granting courtesy of the course, the club steward and staff for keeping all the competitors fed and watered and finally Norman Wood and his greens staff for presenting the course in excellent condition.

Results based on the better ball format were as follows: 1. Kenny Mail & Maurice Hood, West Linton GC; 2. Alan Campbell & H. Hogg, Jedburgh GC; 3. Kevin Hodges & D. Robson, Longniddre GC.

The fourth Christopher Yeaman Junior Trophy was held at West Linton Golf Club on Saturday August 27. This event is held annually to raise funds for hospital and care charities and has already raised about £12,750 for various good causes. The event takes its name from the son of the Course Manager, Chris Yeaman, and is organised by the family on his behalf. Christopher has received two liver transplants and extensive health care since he was hurt in a sledging accident almost 10 years ago.

The competition takes the form of a Texas Scramble and this year 65 teams of four played, starting at 7am and finishing at twilight. Scores were low with two teams achieving 54.25. Christopher's own team achieved a commendable 56.8 but failed to repeat the winning performance of an earlier year. With the benefit of a raffle and auction the total funds raised this year were approximately £5,200 which has been donated to Ward 6 at the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh, and Radio Lollipop. Finally, Christopher would like to thank everyone within the fine turf industry, who contributed financially or otherwise, to help make the event such a big success.



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Peter Larter
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The Course Manager at Kingsknowe Golf Club, Stevie Dixon, has informed me that these are exciting times for his club. Four years ago, after years of trying and failing to improve the drainage on their puddle clay, dewpond system greens that are designed to hold water, they embarked on a program of reconstruction. Enlisting the services of Greentech Limited of Bannockburn, near Stirling, they have now completed six greens. The work is carried out on a cut fill basis (core cut) with a gravel raft and capped by 300mm of a USGA 80/20 style rootzone. By carrying out the works during August/September and reusing the existing turf, the greens are playable 10 weeks after construction. The club plan eventually to reconstruct all 18 greens, making winter greens a thing of the past.

Finally, hopefully by the time you read this I will be enjoying a Greek Salad and a beer in sunny Crete.

Until next month
 Mike Dooner

North

Well here we go, another Section news. Good grief it doesn't seem 10 minutes since I did the last one. The first thing I have to do is to say well done to our Section in retaining the Norrie Whytock Trophy three times in a row and something like six times out of nine. I think we should keep the trophy, don't you? Never mind the rest of the Sections, there is always next year. The winning team (oh no I said it again) was Team Captain John Geddes, Mark Main, Dean Mitchell and Neil Kidd.

The autumn outing was at Garmouth & Kingston Golf Club on September 15 and all 46 competitors had a great day. The course was in superb condition and our thanks go to Richard Roy and his staff for all their hard work and the golf club for allowing us courtesy of the course. I was speaking to Richard and he said he had not been keeping in the best of health lately so I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery.

The winners on the day were: Scratch. Bradley Wood, 75(bih). Class 1. Ross McLeod, 76-5-71 (bih). Class 2. Dean Mitchell, 79-12-67. Class 3. David Duggan, 95-28-67. Best Veteran, 36 Holes. Donald Patience. The Apprentice Trophy. Marc Millar, 81-6-75. Best Nett. David Duggan. Veterans' Winner. George Asher. Committee Winner. Dale Robertson. Trade and Sweep Winner. Garry Moyes, of Alph groundcare, 82-18-64, also he was the winner of the Mexican hat and guns for the rest of the day. The guest winner was our very own Peter Boyd with a great score of 72-4-68. Nearest the Pin was won by Alan Grant and the Longest Drive was: Class 1. Ross McLeod; Class 2. Mike Key and Class 3. Steven Simpson. So very well done to all the winners.

There is also six new members, Nicholas Marsland, of Tain Golf Club, George Simpson, of Oldmeldrum Golf Club, Euan MacDonald, Shaun MacDonald, Andrew Mackay and Craig MacKay, all of Royal Dornoch Golf Club. So welcome to the Section and I look forward to meeting you at an outing near you.

The Committee is trying to get back all the trophies as they have to be valued and insured so could anybody who has one or even two could you please get them back to me as soon as possible. A lot of trophies have gone missing over the years so could you all have a look in the loft or maybe the wife has got a pot plant stuck in one, or your mother is using it to take the coal in with. Please have a look, as we would like them back.

I heard that Mark Main, from Moray, will be unable to represent the Section at the BIGGA National Championship, in October, as he has to attend collage. Never mind, your education must come first (a bit of a bummer I know). So best wishes go to Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir Golf Club, and I will let you know how he gets on in the next Section news.

One of our members is on the move, Neil Kidd has left Keith Golf Club after 16 years of faithful service and started with Martin and the boys up at Moray. So best wishes to him in his new job.

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Well I think that is everything for now just to say I hope to see a good turnout at Newmachar Golf Club (Swailend Course) on October 13 for the AGM.

Dale Robertson

West

Welcome to this month's report. The weather in the west of Scotland has been great over the past few months so I hope everyone has enjoyed the good working conditions having a dry cut for a change and putting on sun cream.

During August I attended the Norrie Whitock Trophy at Aucharder GC as part of the West Section team, but I'm afraid on the day our golf wasn't up to scratch. Many thanks to my team on the day, Stuart Taylor, Chris Kerr and Robert Phillips. Thanks to Bayer for their continued sponsorship of this event.

There will be a seminar held at Renfrew GC on Wednesday November 2, hosted by Aitkins, also two to three guest speakers from within the trade. The topic will be the use of products in the Greenkeeping and Horticultural industry. There will also a demonstration of equipment. Start time is 10am for coffee and lunch will also be provided.

New Members are Martin Watt, Mark Cook and David McLeish. I apologise for not having their courses. Tickets are going well for the annual dinner so get in quick or you might miss out.

Fraser Ross



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
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everyone who took part would agree. 60 players took part on the day with Scott Baxter and his guest, Alan Taylor, top scoring with a superb 52 points. Second place went to Mike Harris and John Sutcliffe, with 47 points, just knocking Richard Harris and Nick Kelly into third with a better back 9 score. Again, thank you to Mike, Simon and Ian, of Rigby Taylor, for their sponsorship and assistance in setting up the day.

Next month I will be bringing you the date and venue for the Christmas golf, but in the meantime if you have any news for the Section, then please do get in touch.

Adam Speight

Sheffield

Firstly, it is with deepest regret that I have to inform you that Neil Maltby's wife, Marian, died recently after a long illness, all our condolences go you Neil and all your family.

Our October seminar is on track and by now you should have received your invitations, if you have not please contact Chris Astle on 01709548759. The seminar is on the 24th of this month.

Congratulations and good luck go to Stuart Pigott on his appointment as First Assistant at Grange Park Golf Club, Stuart moved from Retford. All the best Stuart! Also moving to Grange, after a short time out of the industry, is Mark Knowles. Mark was previously at Rufford. Good luck Mark. Steve Pickering has recently got married to Lisa, all the best to you both.

Just a small message from Dave and Stuart. They just wanted to announce the bucking bronco has finally been saddled! Remember your stag do Steve? I think these notes should be renamed Steve Pickering monthly! I appreciate all the news thank you.

As usual any news you know where I am, 0779311845 or jv.lax@tesco.net.
John Lax



NORTHERN REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2005

A Northern Region Educational Seminar is planned for Thursday November 24 2005 at Penrith Golf Club. The subjects to be discussed will be Employment Law and how it relates to the Greenkeeping Profession with Maggie Lawton, from the BIGGA Legal Helpline; Health & Safety Update by Jon Allbutt; Golf Club Policies and Management by Tony Smith, Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club; and The Need for Healthy Soil with Martin Ward, from Symbio.

Invitations will be sent to all BIGGA Northern Region members during September, but if you don't get one and want to attend, contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone: 01476 550115; office: 07866 366966 or by email at petelarter972@aol.com

Northern

May I take the opportunity to remind everyone that the Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues will be held at Penrith Golf Club on Thursday November 24. The day is open to anybody, so why not try to get your Club Secretaries, Greens Chairmen, etc to come along. The speakers on the day are Maggie Lawton from General Legal Protection (BIGGA's legal helpline), who will be speaking about Employment Law and Tony Smith, Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club, who will be speaking about Golf Club policies and management. Following lunch, Martin Ward, of Symbio, will speak on how great playing surfaces need healthy soil and the day will be rounded off with John Allbutt, Jon Allbutt Associates, giving a health and safety update. The cost of the day is £10 for BIGGA members and £15 for non-members. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

July 13 saw the much awaited return match against the Sheffield Section and it gives me great pleasure to announce that yet again the trophy is in our hands. It was a very well contested match with the Northern Section just managing to scrape home with 3.5 points to 2.5. A huge thank you to all involved from both Sections, but most of all thanks to both Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day and making the match possible, and to Hillsborough Golf Club for allowing us to play their excellent course.

Speaking of excellent courses, Chris Martin and his team at the York Golf Club produced a perfect course for us on Invitation Day on August 10, as I'm sure



MIDLAND REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2005

A Midland Region Educational Seminar is planned for Thursday November 17 2005 at Brampton Heath Golf Club, Northampton. The subjects to be discussed will be Employment Law and how it relates to the Greenkeeping Profession by Maggie Lawton, from the BIGGA Legal Helpline; Health & Safety Update with Jon Allbutt; The Need for Healthy Soil with Martin Ward, from Symbio; and a Course Walk at the adjacent Northampton County Golf Club, an Open Qualifying Course, with the Course Manager David Lowe.

All BIGGA Midland Region members should have received their invitations in September, but if you didn't get one and want to attend, contact Peter Larter (Midland Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone: 01476 550115, office: 07866 366966 or by email at petelarter972@aol.com.

East Midland

Please remember that no forms will be sent out for this year's AGM and Christmas Tournaments. So if you wish to attend, please get in touch with me so I can forward you a form. AGM is November 2, at Norwood Park, Christmas golf is at Charnwood Forest on December 15.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Kristian Hibberd, formerly of Birstall Golf Club and Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, all the best in his new job. Kristian provided sterling service to both clubs for many years.

Finally, I am still waiting for information from all members for, news, anything really to go in this article. So far this month I have received nothing from all 250 of you, so therefore I can only tell you about myself. In the Wollaton Park Golf Club Open, on August 14, Alan Roberts and myself finished first with a stableford score of 45pts.

Antony Bindley

Midland

To open this month's notes a question. Why are people asking me to style their hair? Cut grass yes, cut hair no. I recall cutting my own hair (when very young). I wanted a crew-cut; mother said: "no way". So with her dress-making scissors I did it myself. You have never seen so many bald spots on a child's head, unless they have set it alight of course.

"Wait till your father gets home," came from mother. On father's arrival I was expecting a thrashing. He simply laughed and said: "Well done, baldy locks". So, to answer the question, it's something to do with my car apparently.

In August, Rigby Taylor, through Tony Cheese and his counterpart Phil Dewhurst, held their annual Singles Stableford event at Trentham Park. The afternoon was a great success and the course was, as expected, in great condition as presented by Gary Cunningham and his fine team. There was, however, just one disappointment. On the sixth hole nobody was able to hit their drive 'between the lines', thus Tony had to return the prize of a sports Jaguar.

Well I'm afraid that's it for this month. Please let me have some news.

Sean McDade

East of England

Well, who would have thought it, Adi and Bruce 'Top Golfers'. Not a phrase you hear everyday, but it's true! Greenkeepers versus Trade, one match left on the course, the score is 3/2 to the Greenkeepers and all square going up the 18th, with not a sign of nerves apart from Adi going out of bounds off the tee. Bruce calmly slotted his drive down the middle, chipped close, sank the putt (eventually) and clinched the half for a resounding win for the Greenkeepers. Our thanks go to Pottergate Golf Club for their hospitality and commiserations to the Trade lads (not). Better luck next year.

Don't forget the AGM lads - Newark in October. I believe Les is buying the beers.

Allan Walker

BB&O

Oxford City! What do you think of? The City of Dreaming Spires, Historic Buildings, Inspector Morse, Magdalen Tower and ancient University campus which has been a home to Royalty and scholars since the 9th century! Yes I hear you say, but tucked away in the centre of this hive of activity and steeped with history is a fine parkland golf course surrounded by mature trees, and on the Hill Top has stunning views over this magnificent City.

The BB&O held their Autumn Invitational Tournament at Oxford City Golf Club on a day blessed with cool breezes, fine weather and clear skies. Many people in the golf world became confused over the relationship of Oxford City Golf Club and Southfield Golf Club. In 1899 Oxford City Golf Club was founded, and in 1946 Southfield Golf Club Ltd was registered to assume responsibility for the increasing burden of administration. Legends in their own lifetime, Harry Colt and James Braid have left their influence and touch over this piece of treasured land in the heart of Oxford.

Another legend in the making is former gunner and Head Greenkeeper Justin Lee, the footballer with a green touch, who in his past has represented England and played for Arsenal FC. He and his staff are proud as punch of their little wilderness in the centre of Oxford. From all the golfers who played on the day, a big thank you to the lads for preparing the course to a first class standard.

Ian Richardson, from Headland, and Jon Beck, from Sherriff Amenity, were the main sponsors of the day and also the main cooks! With the usual chequered apron and chef hat the duo set up Beck's Barbie at the halfway point and served burgers and refreshments that even Gordon Ramsey would be proud of.

It was a Burnham Beeches Boys day as Damien Wood cleaned up with Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive going to Brian Payne Jnr and then in first place with Brian Payne Jnr and Chris Doyle scooping up with 41 points (I hope you got all of that). In 2nd place, Bert Moore and Carl Small (disabled) with 39 points and in 3rd place was The Crystal Boys, Clive Parnell and Gary Tait, with 38 1/2 points. The putting green competition as ever brilliantly organised by Peter Helps and was comfortably won by Bert Moore. Good ole Bert!

Thank you to Mike Blight, the Secretary at Oxford City Golf Club, for arranging the magnificent facilities and to Terry Rumsey the Steward for keeping his cool when a

large water leak appeared as half the roof started to collapse. While coping with a major plumbing problem and mop in hand, Terry ensured that we all remained dry and the bar wet. Thanks too to Paul Castle, the Chef, for an excellent meal and ensuring that all the dinner preparations went according to plan.

Dan Lightfoot leaves Merrist Wood College, where he has been lecturing, and has been appointed as Course Manager to Bearwood Lakes GC. Also on the move is Peter Smith, from Bradfield College, who has taken up a new position as Course Manager at the very exclusive and private Birch Grove Estate, in Sussex. We wish both of you the very best in your new positions and hope to see them at forthcoming Section events.

The next event planned for members of the Section will be at Frilford Heath GC on November 8, which will be an Educational Seminar on Climatic Changes. Entry forms should be well on the way to you by now, so book up and get a check up from the neck up.

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

Finally, I am ending on a very sad note. It is with deep regret that I have to inform the Section about the death of Head Greenkeeper Kevin Tilly, from Thorney Park GC. Kevin was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in August 2005. Kevin's career started at Newbury & Cookham and later Bishopswood GC, Sutton Green GC and Thorney Park GC. Kevin was a keen all rounder, who would have a go at anything, played Spanish classical guitar, had a passion for motorcycling and an unquenchable thirst for greenkeeping that earned him the admiring respect of his work colleagues.

With a heart of gold and zest to always move forward and live life to the full, this will come as a shock to all our members and staff who worked with Kevin over several years. From all his past work colleagues and the Section, our deepest sympathy goes out to his fiancée and beloved family. Kevin Tilly Rest in Peace.

Mark Day



SOUTH EAST SEMINAR 2005

The South East Regional Seminar this year will take place on Wednesday November 9 at Benton Hall GC, Essex. The day promises interesting and informative subjects with plenty of time for discussion.

The speakers for the day will include David Golding, GTC Education Director, Julia Turner, Material Development Manager Wrap, Jack McMillan, Past Chairman of BIGGA now with the European Tour, Brian Pierson, celebrating 40 years as a Golf Course Builder, and Michael Pinner, a locally based Course Architect with strong views on current Golf Course Design. John Pemberton will also be speaking with Rachael Palmer attending to answer all your questions on membership and our Association.

All members should receive invitations, but if you don't get one and want attend please contact Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or mobile 07841 948410 or by email at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk.

Surrey

Torrential rain and floods in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, drought and forest fires in Portugal, yet in good old Blighty, rain, then sun, then rain and sun. Weather conditions to make all good greenkeepers smile and to prompt golf club members to make remarks like "the course has never looked better!" Don't let this fool you. Somewhere, someone in the 19th is ready with the dagger and as soon as temporary greens and tee mats are mentioned, he will strike and once again the joys of greenkeeping will wither, as they do every year, and fall with the autumn leaves.

Tandridge GC was the excellent venue for the Cresta Cup and on August 11 we had a large turnout of 54 Surrey members to enjoy this gem of a golf course that so

many did not know and had never played before. John Bishop, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff must be congratulated for the course condition and although John did not play, he was seen strolling around enjoying this picturesque course. While watching the rest of us he was probably wondering why we did not do the same as him and leave our clubs at home.

Some, however, did score well and those that did were: Andy Dennis, 41 pts; Shaun Sturrock, 38 pts; Michael Sawicki, 38 pts. Longest Drive was Simon Kirkham and Nearest the Pin was Gary Ogilvie. The day was sponsored by Amenity Technology.

John Bishop, who will retire next year after 50 years at Tandridge GC, was presented with champagne from the Surrey Section. The captain of Tandridge was thanked for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers, who presented an excellent meal, were applauded with much enthusiasm. I played with a guest from the Sussex Section, Mike Gould, Copthorne GC, and Jim Russell. Jim, I have since learnt, has passed his motorcycle test without the help of stabilisers and can now be seen hunting through cycle magazines looking for a bargain sidecar for his family.

Having not been able to report the whole and correct results from the McMillan Tankard in last month's edition, I am pleased to announce that the winners were as follows: 1. Andy Dennis, 43 pts; 2. Andy Reason, 39 pts; 3. Anthony (our illustrious Chairman) Freeman, 38 pts; 4. Gareth Roberts, 37 pts; 5. Martin Shacklock, 37 pts. Nearest the Pin. Tony Stephen. Longest Drive. Peter Fletcher.

West Surrey, September 21, is the Autumn Tournament venue and results will appear in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.

Mark Harvey is claiming the Guinness Book of Records for the most number of road vehicles to drive over his 15th green in one day. These were a van (not mine), a car driven by a lady who had stopped to help the driver of the van and another car, driven by Sir Galahad, which had stopped to help the lady driver help the van driver. Nobody was hurt so they all took the easiest way off the course across the green.

Greenkeeper movements include Nigel Morris, now Deputy at Epsom GC. Dan McGrath's short visit to Surrey has ended and he has moved back to Kent as Head Greenkeeper at North Foreland GC and Matt, Dan's Deputy, has taken over from him as Course Manager at Pyrford.

Most members in Surrey have heard about the troubles that new Head Greenkeeper, Vince Ley, is experiencing at Oak Park GC. We can all appreciate his problems and hope that new growth, patience and understanding will make the next few months more bearable.

On August 31 the Surrey Section played the annual match against Sussex. The venue was the Dyke GC on the South Downs and the weather was superb, one of the hottest days this year. Surrey won 4 games to 2 and retained the trophy.

The Surrey Bowl final was played at Foxhills Golf Club on the Bernard Hunt course. The five members of the Surrey Committee who followed the play were the good looking and well groomed Chairman, Anthony Freeman, that rugged but personable Handicap Secretary, Derek Cunliffe, the articulate, young for his age yours truly, "I only wear shorts from March to November" Dave Langheim, and I never squeak until spoken to John Ross, Section Secretary. It was a tight game but plenty of loose shots, long drives and short missed putts on a course in excellent condition.

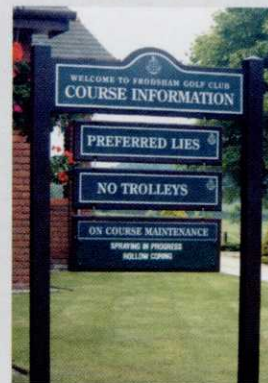
The sponsors of the Surrey Bowl, TYM Tractors, presented the cheque for £500 to our Chairman, and congratulated the finalists, who were Simon Kirkham and Darren Woodward, from West Surrey GC, and Barry Robinson and Gary Rowe, from Barnstead Downs GC. After being down 2 holes after 6 the winners clawed their way back and won 2 and 1. You can see a photo of the finalists in the News Section of the magazine.

The winners were Barry (baby face) Robinson and Gary (cool hand) Rowe. If Barry's professional at Barnstead reads this make sure you charge him for the Cobra Driver before the guarantee runs out.

Brian Willmott

East Anglia

What a lovely day it was at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. Organisation was superb, we even had a starter, John Cook, who did a sterling job. The course was in good nick thanks to John Huston and his staff. Catering first rate.



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The golf went well, but that's another story. The main sponsors for the day were Lely, Toro and the main man, Julian Copping, presented the prizes to:

0-9 Section. 1. Mathew Gill, 39pts; 2. Mike Virley, 36pts; 3. Peter Howard, 36pts.
10-18 Section. 1. Neil Worger, 36pts; 2. James Gill, 35pts; 3. Glen Rayfield, 33pts.
19-28 Section. 1. Neil Rowlandson, 40pts - winner of the Lely Toro prize; 2. Robert Ransome, 37pts; 3. Don Clark, 31pts. Trade Boys. 1. Mark Day, 39pts (shorts and all); 2. Stuart Patterson, 37pts; 3. Eddy Jack, 36pts. Guests. 1. Ray Fonnar, 39pts; 2. Mick Pryke, 35pts; 3. Thomas Fance, 35pts. Captains and Greenkeepers Shield. 1. Mark Henderson & Ray Fonnar, 74pts; 2. Neil Rowlandson & A. Britain, 72pts; 3. Mike Virley & Mick Pryke, 71pts. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were won by the evergreen Peter Howard. Julian Copping won the loo seat, but I can't think why. Someone will remind me I'm sure.

Talking of reminding, I did not mention two of our very supportive trade members in the last few write up. They are Scotts and ETT. Sorry lads. The rest of the lads are: Aitkins, Amenity Wise, Atherton & Ettis, Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, CMW, Collier Turf Care, Consultant Clarkson, ETT, Headland Turf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Sherriff, Sisis, Tacit; Textron, Tomlinson Ground Care, Toro and Vitax.

70 people played that day. Everyone enjoyed it, especially our old mate, George Newsome, lovely to see him there. Thanks go to the Club Captain, Brian Benneworth, and all at Felixstowe for a super day.

Mick Lathrope

Essex

Our summer tournament attracted good numbers to The South Essex Golf & country club that with its undulating fairways proved to be a tough test, even for the prize hunting crew from Colchester. That's with the exception of Sam Cooke who managed to take the overall prize for the day. Main sponsors for the day were CMW equipment, for which we must thank Mick Moss. Further thanks go to The Crown Golf Group and South Essex Golf Club themselves for allowing us to compete on their fine course.

Course Manager, Pete Dawson, Deputy, Paul Selby, and the lads did a fine job in preparing and presenting a well manicured challenging course and firm true greens which were a pleasure to putt on. Well done!

The greenkeepers attending were split into two handicap categories 0 -15 and 16 -28, the winners of those categories were: Cat 1, 0-15 h/cap. 1. Greg Knight, Abridge GC; 2. Paul Brown, Ballards Gore Golf Club; 3. Bradley Adams, Hainault Forest GC. Cat 2, 16-28 h/cap. 1. Mark Stopps, Bentley; 2. Andy Cracknell, Orsett; 3. Don Clark, Orsett. Trade Prize. Steve Crosdale, Headland Amenity Ltd. Guest Prize. Stefan Kaczmarek. Nearest the Pin. Dave McCready, South Essex. Longest Drive. Richard Hare, Abridge GC. Overall Winner. Sam Cooke, Colchester. Scores have been withheld to avoid any embarrassment.

After the evening meal the competition type secretary of our Section, Don Clark, thanked the chef and staff for the meal and handed over to our main sponsors of the day, CMW. Mick Moss also thanked the club and staff, commenting that the greens were the best he had played on this year then proceeded to award the prizes. Our thanks go to suppliers of the raffle prizes: Avoncrop, Headland Amenity, Vitax, Dennis Smith, Sherriff Amenity, Scotts, Symbio, Ernest Doe, Textron, Tuckwells, Seoul Nassau, Banks Amenity and Avoncrop. Anybody that donated raffle prizes and is not mentioned here, and there always seems to be one, please accept our apologies.

I have been asked not to mention that our Section was well and truly thrashed by a visiting team from the Kent Section. The match was played at Orsett Golf Club.

Any other Section that fancies their chances please contact Don Clark, losing team Captain at Orsett Golf Club.

Adrian Cornell is organising more tractor driving courses which I understand may be compulsory to anyone wishing to use these in the future. You can contact Adrian for details on (01376) 562835. The South East Regional Conference will be taking place on November 9, at Benton hall GC, Witham, Essex.

Congratulations must go to Simon Banks and wife as they had a beautiful baby girl, Alicia, on July 15. She weighed in at a healthy 7lbs 15oz, ouch! Hope all are doing well mate.

Finally, we are still looking for venues for next year, if you would be prepared to offer your club forward please contact Don Clark, 07958697417.

Steve Crosdale

**SOUTH WEST
& SOUTH WALES**

SOUTH WEST/WALES SEMINAR 2005

This year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar, 'The Big Debate', will take place on Tuesday November 22 2005 at Cannington College, Bridgewater. The theme for the Seminar will be the use of fungicides and pesticides in golf course presentation and the effects of future legislation.

The speakers for the day are Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper at St Andrews; Kenny MacKay, Course Manager at The Forest Of Arden; Frank Ainsworth, Course Manager at Hilton Templepatrick, Belfast; Andy Campbell, Course Manager at Carden Park; Jay Dobson, PSD Agronomy Ltd. These speakers will make the day both informative and interesting.

Booking details and information will be sent to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the Region. Should any of you require any further information you can contact Jane Jones, Regional Administrator, on 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.

South West

Not all that much to report this month - but there probably will be next month. Watch this space. Early August saw the Scotts Management Trophy played at my club, Minchinhampton. We couldn't use the championship Cherington Course, due to the necessity of a two-tee start, but it seemed to me that the Avening Course didn't do too badly as a substitute. Thanks for all the nice comments about the greens - very much appreciated. Even when I putted clean off the front of the 5th green from about 15 feet past the stick, I still thought - ah, Nice pace!

The greens were cut with Locke "V" reels mounted on a Toro 3250 set at 3mm. We rolled as well with Greensward true surface rollers. The stimpmeter was actually about 11 - yes, OK, there is a fair bit of Poa, but it's not all poa by any means - there's plenty of rye and moss as well! The Locke V reels are spring loaded against the bottom blades. They cut (and sharpen) as conventional spiral cylinders, but only need checking for cut once a month rather than every other day. This is particularly important for us as we are often trying to get 10 machines out through the door at 6am in the morning and its nice to know that the greens reels are OK.

Dave Meharg, at Synergy Products, has been really helpful with backup, advice and parts. We generally feed the greens with granular 14.0.14 once in the spring and once in summer, and with liquid N at monthly or regular intervals during the remainder of the season. This seems to suit the greens - we hardly ever close them - had the odd half day on temps last winter, that only when the frost was coming out.

The Kendleshire sent their standard strong team and weren't disappointed with a well played 86 points, from Yeovil and Lilley Brook. Thanks to Scotts and Minchinhampton for their sponsorship and courtesy.

The Section team went off to St. Pierre on August 18 to mix it with the South Wales Section. Yours truly wasn't able to be there owing to the sudden illness of my father, who sadly died a couple of days later. Thanks to all those who sent condolences, much appreciated. It's a funny time, you feel almost vulnerable with the person you looked up to the most in life, suddenly removed from the top of the tree. I'll get used to it.

Finally, Wayne Vincent, from Cotswold Hills, got in touch with an amusing anecdote on the return from his holiday last month. While he and the family were away sunning themselves in the Costas, the mother-in-law came round and started doing a bit of tidying in the garden. The first Wayne knew of it was when he got back, jet lagged and tired, to be confronted with a huge pile of drying garden refuse & branches, right at the bottom of the garden. Several favourite bushes of his were completely shredded, but, in order to preserve family harmony he was prepared to make allowances.

Of course, lounging on the decking, quaffing a couple of cold beers, after a while, hey, that pile doesn't look so bad, but the wife had different ideas and ordered him to burn the lot before nightfall, or else! So, armed with firelighters, and, bearing in mind the proximity of the neighbours' fence, an extinguisher and hosepipe, he set a fire. Yes, the fence did have a couple of scares and needed to be doused, but all in all a good job done.

The first inkling he had that owing to the prevailing breeze and convection from the fire, some of the glowing embers might have floated high across the garden and come back to earth well away, was the next day when his daughter jumped onto her beloved trampoline, only to go straight through what was left of the canvas and ended up on her backside on the floor.

"Over a £100 that cost me," moaned Wayne. "It would have been a hell of a lot cheaper to have hired a shredder." Probably been cheaper to have bought one mate, but who wants to rub salt into the wound. Keep it coming. Tel: 01453 837355, Mobile: 07768 394593, email: paul.worster@tesco.net.

Paul Worster

South Wales

I hope your courses are standing up well to play, is it just me or are we all getting some serious play on our courses this year. Just in from the course, it took a serious lightning strike tonight, a large Silver birch tree looks like it had been blown up from the inside, irrigation cable in tatters, valve assembly blown from the main box, turf debris all over the course and a hole in my 7th fairway and still some members were reluctant to come in as they had a good score going, crazy! At the moment I am in the process of pricing a new irrigation system, conspiracy theorists believe I had something to do with it, to get them to agree with a replacement system, like I have that much influence.

Results from the match versus South West, at St Pierre, played over the Mathern course, are as follows. South Wales won 3 matches to 2. Good turn out from both Sections, thanks to all for turning up and representing your Sections, we even had subs. Russell Anderson and I had an early bath, resoundingly stuffed 6 and 4, fortunately our team responded better.

The weather was fantastic, catering excellent, course in good shape, many thanks to the Course Manager, Stuart Wood. He was told we were booked to play on the Old Course, his team worked hard preparing the Old Course, only to find out later we were playing over the Mathern course, no problem as it was in good shape anyway. Many thanks to St Pierre for allowing us to host our annual match there again and to Scotts for providing the prizes for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive winners. Thanks to Ceri Richards for representing Scotts through Avoncrop, also to James Rees, from Inturf Wales, for our sponsored team shirts.

Apologies from a number of key people, who would have liked to be there at St Pierre, included Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator. This fixture clashed with another, John Keenaghan, from the South West Region, and our Match Captain, Andy Roach, who is injured, hope you are feeling better, it gives us all a chance to win the Longest Drive competitions.

On a serious note the Section would like to wish Andy Roach a speedy recovery, looks like he will require an operation to relieve a trapped nerve on his back, he will be out of action for a while, at work and at Section level.

Longest Drive winner was Rob Davies and Nearest the Pin winner was Paul Jenkins. Both from the South West Section.

Rigby Taylor results in. Mark Wilshire and I were due to play Emyr and partner, apparently he made some poor excuse not to play on that day due to his 25th wedding anniversary. Fair enough, we organised another date, unfortunately Emyr has done his back in and has had to give us the match. Hope the Physio is working and you are feeling better. Peter Lacey & Steve Mills had a bye. Adrian Panks & G. Humphries beat Kerry Jones & Jamie Probert. All the latest results in so far, some pairings are well over the deadline for the second round completion.

Dates to remember include the 2005 BIGGA Regional South West and South Wales Seminar at Cannington College, on November 22. Speakers are as follows: Euan Grant, St Andrews; Kenneth Mackay, Forest of Arden; Andy Campbell, Carden Park; Frank Ainsworth, Hilton Temple Patrick, Belfast; Jay Dobson, Agronomist. The theme is fertiliser and pesticide use in relation to their application with regard to the management of their own courses. It's a good line up, so for further details or enquires please contact Jane Jones (RA) on 01454 270850 or 07841 948110.

This year's AGM is at Raglan Parc Golf Club, on October 20, at 11am. This is followed by our autumn golf competition, teeing off at 1pm. Last year's minutes will be available on the day, an agenda will be sent out with the details of the autumn competition entry form. Please try and attend the AGM as it gives you a chance to heckle the Secretary and I can bow out gracefully.

The 53rd Annual Dinner of the Wales branch of the IOG is to be held on Friday

October 7 in the Cathedral Suite at the Glamorgan County Cricket ground, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, at 7.30pm for 8pm. The dinner will be followed by a presentation of awards, grand prize draw and a social evening with a disco. Any Section member wishing to attend with their wives or partners, please get in touch with Peter Lacey for details.

I believe the BIGGA Golf Environmental Competition is at the final judging stages and the winner will be announced soon. We had only three golf courses from Wales last year, with Garnett Park winning for our Region. It costs nothing and in addition you will receive a free visit from Bob Taylor or Lee Penrose, Ecologists from the STRI. To get one of these highly experienced and knowledgeable guys out to your course for a consultation normally costs a small fortune, by entering it costs nothing and they are open to questions and will offer good advice.

I entered last year and was surprised to hear that even the smallest of changes to our management practices can have a huge influence to the ecology and conservation of our course to the flora, fauna and wildlife.

Congratulations to Celtic Manor Resort on the successful, made for television event, the All Star Cup, which played over the Roman Road course, and also to Mychynys Peninsula Golf Club for hosting the European Ladies Open, both courses looked great and were given great reviews. Bridgewater College has merged with Cannington College and congratulations to Huw Parry on his appointment as Head of the Greenkeeping Department.

Any news please get in touch on 07725 040878.

Angus Macleod

Devon & Cornwall

In the March issue of Greenkeeper International this year I reported that Andy Parker, the Head Greenkeeper at The Downs Crediton Golf Course, near Exeter, had increased his greenkeeping skills by becoming a marine salvage expert. Well guess what? He is at it again, he has now furthered his talents by becoming a Shepherd. It appears that at the end of August some cattle rustlers tried to steal some sheep from a farmers field near to the course. Yes you know what is coming next, the rustlers broke down a gate and instead of the sheep taking a left turn they went in the opposite direction, onto the course all 150 of them.

If this wasn't enough the rustlers tried to round them up, and in doing so drove over some of the greens. Having some members on the green is bad enough but sheep as well, especially when we are in a busy time of the season for club competitions. As Andy said, every cloud has a silver lining - he at least procured some organic fertiliser free of charge.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to congratulate Andy and his bride, who got married on September 24, providing of course he survived his stag night. Watch this space, I wonder how long it will be before Andy is shepherding his own little flock.

Very little news to report this month, however I would like to remind members the following dates to enter into their diaries as follows. The first Section meeting will be held at Mullion Golf Club on Wednesday October 12. Thursday November 3 is at Padbrook Park Golf Club and is a Soil Science Workshop. Wednesday November 16 is at Saunton Golf Club and is the AGM. Tuesday November 22 is the Regional Seminar at Cannington College. Very shortly I will have the fixture cards printed for this autumn and next spring, which all members will receive in the post.

Very little news to report this month, so if any member has any interesting news for the future please do not hesitate to contact me.
Donovan O Hunt.

CHECK OUT THE EVENTS PAGE ON THE BIGGA WEBSITE FOR AN UP TO DATE LIST OF ALL THE HAPPENINGS IN YOUR SECTION AND REGION.

From Tournaments to Seminars, AGM's to Dinners it's all covered at www.bigga.org.uk.

If you have a BIGGA event that you wish to place on the Events Page contact Gareth at BIGGA HOUSE on gareth@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800

In the  **Shed ANSWERS**

Sponsored by: **HAYTER**
MAKERS OF THE FINEST MOWERS

CROSSWORD

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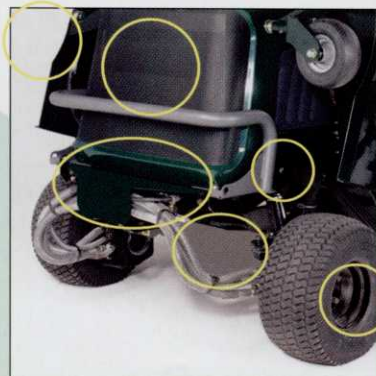
A QUICK NINE HOLES

- Brian Noble
- Denton
- Three - Frank Lampard, Claude Makelele and John Terry
- Jake LaMotta
- Seven
- Jean Alexander, who played Hilda Ogden in Coronation Street, according to a TV Times poll.
- Atletico Madrid
- Felicity Huffman, who plays Lynette Scavo
- Zersenay Tadesse

ANAGRAM

- I CHEW A LEMON - MICHAEL OWEN
CIRCLE THEM SHEEP - PETER SCHMEICHEL

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



SUDOKU

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9	7	2	5	4	3	6	1	8
3	8	6	1	9	2	7	5	4