



News from the Chief Executive

The deadline for the Spray Master competition came and went in June with sadly only a handful of applications arriving at BIGGA House. I find it a great pity that lack of interest from the Association's 6,500 members has resulted in the cancellation of this event leaving the sponsor somewhat disillusioned. Perhaps the chance to win a free trip to the GCSAA Show in Anaheim and some spraying equipment for the club was not a big enough prize! On a more positive note the BIGGA annual charity Golf Day at Aldwark Manor, was a great success with all tee times being taken. I would like to thank all competitors and sponsors for their support resulting in a surplus of £1,400 that will be donated to the Chairman's chosen charities that are Breast Cancer and Testicular Cancer research.

Although still over 6 months away, Harrogate Week 2007 seems to demand more and more time from everybody in the office. Over the coming months look out for details of how we intend to develop what is already considered to be the leading event in the industry. Working in partnership with the GTC, the R&A, the EGU, the AGCS and the PGA, we aim to provide much more education than ever before. While golf will always be the core theme, it is important that a clear message goes out that the event is not just for greenkeepers. No matter what your connection is with turf management, horticulture, club or stadium management, landscaping etc, there will be something for you, both in the exhibition and on the education programme. Watch out also for details of the free park and ride scheme that will be introduced in 2007, enabling amongst other things a greater freedom of choice for accommodation. The newly formed Harrogate Week Steering Committee debated the alcohol ban at its recent meeting. It was recommended to the Board that the bars at certain designated catering points be reinstated and the Board cautiously agreed to this for 2007.

The BIGGA website is currently being reviewed with plans for a major redesign on the drawing board. This will include on-line shopping, improved membership renewal facilities and an upgraded bulletin board. Headquarters staff will also have greater control over day-to-day content management, much of which at present has to be sub-contracted at considerable expense. If you have any suggestions for improvement of the website please let Rachael (rachael_p@bigga.co.uk) or Gemma (gemma@bigga.co.uk) in the membership office know.

I have been campaigning with the R&A for limited free access to the Open for members of our Association. Regrettably the Championship Committee has rejected the proposal on the grounds that a precedent would be set that other bodies could quote. Naturally I am disappointed with the outcome, however I will continue to discuss the point with the R&A in preparation for the 2007 event. BIGGA will once again have a marquee within the tented village and I hope that members and their guests will avail themselves of the facilities. I wish Craig Gilholm and his greenkeeping team at Hoylake every success for the event and I am sure that this is going to prove to be a popular Open venue.

Next month I will review BIGGA's working relationship with other organisations, the Association's membership recruitment plans and progress regarding the change to limited company status.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

The links at Southernness were in pristine condition and with a stiff wind, the course proved a stern challenge to the 44 in attendance. Our thanks to the committee, for allowing us the use of the course and facilities on the day. Thanks also, to the catering staff for a hearty meal and friendly service.

Results were as follows: First Class. 1.Phillip Dick, Dumfries & County, 36pts; 2.Denis Tweddell Turnberry, 33pts ;3.Steven Higgins, Ardeer, 31pts; 4.Keith McCartney, Dumfries & Galloway, 29pts.

Second Class. 1.Sid Mercer, Skelmorlie, 35pts; 2. Ronnie Bunting Ballochmyle, 33pts; 3.Martin Lothian, Turnberry, 32pts; 4.Paul Tulloch, Bogside, 31pts. Trade Prize went to Robert Bruce.

Should have more to report next time, until then I hope you all aren't enjoying the World Cup too much, as that will mean my team are out. Adios amigos

Any news or constructive criticism to denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or 07939 104701.

Dennis Tweddell

East

As I write this report in early June, summer has finally arrived, with sprinklers and wetting agents in great demand. Hopefully this will be the catalyst required to produce good putting surfaces. I am sure most of you will agree it has been a long time coming.

I have two weddings involving Section members to report this month. The first was held in the Borders on April 28, with Donald Campbell, Course Manager at Cardrona, marrying the lovely Lynne. I understand that quite a few greenkeepers were present on the big day including Robert Hogarth, who made the long journey north, from Dorset.

The second wedding was held on June 3 at the Holiday Inn in Edinburgh, when Peter Ormiston, Course Manager at Uphall' tied the knot with Elaine. Interestingly both the couples spent their honeymoons in Mexico - it must be the place to go these days. On behalf of the Section, I would like to offer the newlyweds congratulations and best wishes for their futures together.

On Wednesday, May 3, Thomas Sherriff & Co Ltd and Eyemouth Golf Club played host to the fourth running of the John Deere Team Championship.

21 teams from Lothian and Borders competed in a 3 player Texas Scramble and though conditions proved tough, the team from Gifford Golf Club consisting of J. Combe, G. Milne and N. McEwan, returned a superb 65 to pip Jedburgh Golf Club (66) and Duns Golf Club (67) to the title. In winning, Gifford will go onto the national finals on Tuesday, September 12, at the East Sussex National and hopefully onto the World Championships at Reynolds Plantation Resort, Georgia, USA.

Thomas Sherriff and John Deere, wish to thank all participating teams for taking part in a great day's golf, and our hosts, Eyemouth Golf Club, for the courtesy of their course and tremendous hospitality.

A big thank you is due to Ian Lauder, of Thomas Sherriff and Co, for the above report.

Finally, on May 24, my wife departed for Vancouver to visit her mother. The peace lasted approximately 48 hours, when our son arrived home with his usual collection of bin bags full of dirty washing. Come back Roz, all is forgiven - I mutter under my breath.

Until next month.

Mike Dooner

Northern

How's it going folks? The weather, as usual, has been pretty poor for May and early June. I think I speak for most folk in saying that growth has been patchy at best for greens and main play areas. Here in the northeast it's been cold and dry, then cold and wet for the most part, since early May. (Fantastic what an easy job we have and don't we just love it.)

By the time this report is in the magazine the Scottish national tournament will have been played at Leven Links in Fife. Let's have a good turnout from the North Section and clear up the prizewinner's table. I have never played Leven Links but Mike Dennis reliably informs me that this is a great course, and one which should produce a worthy winner. I am sure Peter Boyd will run a smooth ship as always on the day.

Results for the National Tournament will follow in the next issue.

I have spoken to Hugh Mclatchie about the 200 club and he mentioned that the response this year has been pretty poor. Hugh sent out cards to all members but there were many that were not returned or purchased for the year. This makes it very difficult for Hugh to manage the 200 club, and make it a success, if people can't be bothered to at least tell him if they don't want the card. (We all have mobile phones so let's start to use them) The 200 club is probably the main earner as far as funds go for the section and at £7 for the year is not much to find.

Ben Brookes, who is an assistant at Newmacher GC, has become a father for the first time. Aidan Alexander Brookes is the wee fella's name, so all the best for fatherhood Ben and all the toils that it will bring. Aidan's grandad is Brian Hunter, who works at Ellon GC and he is rightly chuffed to bits with the new arrival in the family.

Have any of you out there had a problem over the winter with Pitch marks on the your greens? We have suffered badly with this over the last few months and are still trying to eliminate the scarring that is made, because the members don't repair them. If anybody has any suggestions on what works for them let me know, because I hate ball marks on the greens.

That's about it for now, if you hear any news, let me know by emailing: grassman351@aol.com.

Cheers,

Robert Patterson

NORTHERN REGION

Sheffield

On May, 18 we held our spring competition at Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club. The day was sponsored by Pro-Turf, who I would like to thank once again for their support of the Section! Our thanks also go to Richard Stanley and his staff for the condition of the course, well done Richard. Thanks also go to Town Moor Golf Club for giving us the courtesy of their course. Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal, which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all other trade members who provided prizes.

The results of the day were as follows' the eventual winner was Simon Dye with a score of 36pts. Well done Simon!

1. S Dye, 36pts; 2. R Ullathorne, 35pts; 3. L Vardell, 34pts; 4. D Coop, 33pts, bb9; 5. R Jones, 33pts.

Our next golf day is on July, 5, vs Northern Section at Bradley Hall GC. The Summer Competition is on July, 10 at Serlby Park GC. The Autumn Competition is at Sitwell Park GC, on September, 5.

Whilst on the subject of golf I would like to thank Robert Needham for eventually tracking down and finding the missing golf trophy, well done.

Finally the committee is thinking of running a social event, if any of you have any ideas what this should be, feel free to contact me or Chris Astle on 01709548759 by the end of July so we can make a decision on what we are going to run or if there is enough interest.

Once again, if you have any news, feel free to contact me on either 07793 111845 or jv.lax@tesco.net

John Lax

North West

On May 18, the North West Section played the North Wales Section. The match took place at Sutton Hall GC. The course was in fantastic condition - very well maintained. If you have not played Sutton Hall it is well worth a visit. Anyway, the result was an emphatic win for the North West Section. Many thanks to Jeremy Hughes and all the North Wales lads, who contributed to a very enjoyable day - long may it continue.

If your club is considering splashing out on your old sheds or containers and is looking at what is available, look no further than Sale Golf Club. I believe Chris Hulme is the envy of us all, the reason - he has had a state of the art maintenance complex built. I haven't seen it, but from the reports there are not many better.

AFT

- ◆ Loading hoppers and sand slitters
- ◆ Trench filling to the side and front
- ◆ Topdressing
- ◆ Filling bunkers and stockpiles
- ◆ Fingertip controls
- ◆ Quicker turnarounds, less labour

MULTI-USE TRAILER



INVEST IN A MACHINE FOR COST EFFECTIVE TRENCHING

AFT Trenchers Ltd. Tel: (01787) 311811 Fax: (01787) 310888 email: info@trenchers.co.uk www.trenchers.co.uk

As always, if anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross, on 0151 724 5412 or myself on 0151 289 4625. If you are on the World Wide Web, my e-mail address is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

Chris Sheehan

North Wales

At last the sun shines and keeps shining, as we role into July. A new name takes the role of Head Greenkeeper, at the tough undulating gorse filled layout course of Baron Hill, Paul Roberts - a proven greenkeeper, coming from the North Wales Links GC under the watchful eye of Course Manager Nigel Barton. Paul is keen to put his mark on greens, fairways and tees of this gem of a course. Paul, also a scratch golfer giving his best at regional qualifying events over the past few years, will not only bring a good greenkeeping background with him, but also a golfers eye to shape the place up, and we wish him luck in doing so.

A little further down the coast, and Martin from Caernarfon GC, has purchased himself a Hotel in the Llanberis Pass, a popular resort for fell walkers and climbers, so if you are in the area and need a bed with a full Welsh breakfast in the morning give him a ring (no black puddings by the way!) but I am sure he will find some if you ring ahead.

Down to Nefyn, the Pebble Beach of North Wales, and Patrick McAteer has had a bad bout of pneumonia that has kept him out of the 'ty coch' for a couple of weeks, we wish him well and say, don't get that too often Patrick as it is not very good for you.

The golf match, North Wales v's North West, was a huge defeat for the North Wales team, losing in all of their five matches, Our thanks go to Peter Sproston and his team for presenting the course and to Sutton Hall GC owner, Max Faulkner, for his hospitality.

Oswestry GC was the venue for the Spring Tournament, and a well presented golf course from Gareth Woosenham, Gary Barnfield and the team was bestowed upon us. The results were as follows: 1. Gary Barmfield (local knowledge you may say?) 2. Alan Kelsall; 3. Allen Lewis from Llanymenech, who just pipped his son Mat who came in 4th. Trade winner, was the injured Terry Adamson? And Nearest the Pins were Jez Hughes and Dave Gladwin, who came all the way up with his 1st Assistant Greenkeeper from Camarthenshire, in South Wales. We welcome him into the Section. The guest prize went to Oswestry's Secretary, P. Turner - 2nd was Howard Jones from Llanymenech. We wish to thank Oswestry club and the caterers for a superb steak pie meal, of which some missed out on as our numbers increased on the day, due to an oversight in the count but they got a nice bit of Gammon and chips, so all was well in the end.

The qualifiers for the National Championship are Gary Barmfield with the Best Nett and Allen Lewis with the Best Gross (a 74 with a double on the last! - how much time are you spending on the course Al?)

Well, it's Open golf time again up at the Hoylake links, and a great event is here in our Region, I know many of you that have been chosen for the BIGGA Open Support Team, but even if you have missed out this year, it is truly a magnificent event and not to be missed being so close to home. Or why not take a trip the week before to Conwy GC or Wallasey for final qualification, and support the venues in our Region, plus see some great golf.

Last month I attended the British Masters at The De Vere Belfry and would like to congratulate Kenny MacKay and his team for presenting a super looking Brabazon course for this event. Everyone I spoke with in the greenkeeping game, had nothing but praise on its condition, especially for the time of year and with the season starting a month or so late, well done guys.

Back to the coast and Abergele, as ever, in top shape as I spoke with Darren Anderson last week, he told me the new, or not so new now? greens, have improved a great deal especially over the last year.

Finally, down to Porthmadog & Harlech where reports always favour the links that look across the estuary at each other. It's a pleasure to be in the company of both Bronco and Kerry's humour, and close friendly rivalry - a way of life that never has to be admired, I just wonder how much of a threat they feel Dolgellau will be for them, now the new clubhouse is nearly finished?

See you next month

Mesen Cymru and Andrew Acorn

andrew@acorngolf.com



East Midlands

How lucky can you get! Our Spring Tournament this year, was held at Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club in Nottinghamshire, on May 24. For a week before and several days after, the rain never stopped! However, we managed to find a six hour gap where the sun came out and there was only a five minute shower on the day! Whoever organised that, thank you very much.

Our day was sponsored by David Smith, of Mansfield Sand Company, and was attended by 23 greenkeeper members, unfortunately trade representation was a little low because we had to pay a full green fee - but I guess this may be a sign of the times.

So, to the golf. The course, presented by David Bagshaw and his team, was in excellent condition and the winning scores reflected this. In first place, Frazer Harrison, of Willesley Park, beat Russel Allen of Horsley Lodge, on the back nine with 39 points. Third was Ross McCarthy with 37, while Adrian Porter and Paul Frith finished fourth and fifth, with 35 and 34 points respectively. Paul also won Nearest the Pin.

Mark Chamberlain, of Tacit, very kindly sponsored nearest the pin and a Longest Drive prize, and then went on to win the longest drive. Not feeling able to take his own prize, we had a booby prize instead which Dave Leatherland won with a massive 23 points.

This was a Section qualifier for the National Championship at Burton upon Trent GC, later in the year. Of entries received, the leading three players will have their fees refunded if they enter - so even if you finished down the field and nobody else enters, it might be you getting a refund!

Thanks to all of you for attending and may I wish Stanton all the best for the remainder of their Centenary Year. We had a great day.

Richard Barker

Midland

A couple of weeks ago, I was out working (yes) with another work mate. During the banter the following was presented, his father was a Pigeon fancier and one day he found a tired Homing Pigeon among his birds. The identification ring was dutifully read and the stranger's owner contacted, to which it was decided that the bird be posted back home. Is it me? A Homing Pigeon! Why not just rest, water and feed the bird, then throw it to the wind? Such gives a whole new meaning to - Pigeon Post.

For 54 years now the Midland Greenkeepers have played an annual match against the Presidents of Handsworth GC. We were all blessed by the evening's weather, despite the forecast. As usual the course was in

lovely condition, thanks to the caterers. Also, and perhaps more importantly, thanks to the opposition, for yet again making us so, very welcome, as headed by Mr T. Degge. Further more, our thanks to the long suffering Mr E Thomas for organising the Greenkeeping team and Mr A. Kite for his eloquent speech. The match was drawn, thus, the cup was retained by Handsworth. Well done and thank you.

You may recall that I reported on Kevin Booth's charity walk from Kidderminster to Taly-Bont, on the west coast of Wales, some 103 miles. It is with great respect that I am able to report that Kevin raised well over a thousand pounds for the St Richards Hospice in Worcestershire. A wonderful act, serving a real need. I hope your feet have recovered.

It is with only the hugest of effort that the IOSH Managing Safety Course has been set up. Such is - as you read last month, offered to us at a subsidised cost. Can clubs, or indeed we, afford not to embrace these very statutory requirements. Yes, in the guise of an Ostrich perhaps. Please contact the IOSH on 01562 632 143, or Paul Woodham on 07880 734 197 or email paul@ghgc.org.uk for further information.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we are able to welcome four new members to our ever improving Section. Such being: A. Thomas; N. Harris; M.S. Turnbull and A. Harper. Anyone, whom disagrees with the prior statement, please let me know your views. Historical conjecture leads one to think that you shall not. Please...prove me wrong.

It now falls upon me to relay some very sad news both on behalf of the Section, and indeed from a personal view. Mr Mike Corbett (Western Farms, Abbey Mowers Rep) has suddenly passed away at the young age of 50. Sooty, as Mike was affectionately known, was a gentle man or integrity, honour and true professionalism. A very rare breed indeed. Our deepest of condolences to Mrs Corbett and the two sons. Lords is waiting Sir, and shall be a better place for you. A true gentleman. Good night Sir. Sean McDade.

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Monday, June 4. Sutton and East Surrey Water Co - how can greenkeepers in your area thank you enough? Now at last, they have the opportunity, if they can't get any water, to take part in an experiment to prove a leading agronomist's theory, that without irrigation all the poa will die and the finer grasses will take over, leaving their club with perfect greens. Good luck to all who try, but remember 2006 might have the wettest summer on record, or could have the driest, but as sure as eggs are eggs, your members will shower (no pun intended) compliments on you, just as they did last year.

Clive Osgood, Bigga's South East Representative, is expecting to hear from police forces throughout the British Isles, also showering him with compliments as to his ability to beat the speed limit, jump red lights and generally disobey all motoring laws. Clive the law breaker? No Clive had his car number plates pinched from his own driveway, while he and his family slept the sleep of the innocent. Even his dog, which barks at the slightest sound, heard nothing and remained unconscious throughout this unlawful event. Clive said he would prefer that this embarrassing saga was not repeated and I am sure, that you, like me, will respect his wishes.

David Murdoch MG (Master Greenkeeper not Morris Garages) thank you for preparing Liphook GC as you and your team did for the spring tournament. The quality of the course and greens was superb, the weather

was wonderful and even your own members commented on the kind pin positions. The event was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and we thank them for the generous gift vouchers. Indeed Ron Christie was very grateful, for after over indulging slightly on the lager, while waiting for his lift home, his wife quickly forgave him when he insisted she should spend his vouchers on herself. The other prize winners were: 1. Tony Bremer, Dorking GC - well known pin up specialising in erotic poses for the nursing and rest home industry; 2. Dan Harding, Old Thorns GC; 3. Ron Chrystye, Addington Palace GC; Nearest the Pin. Paul Weston - retired, but still perfectly formed; Longest Drive. Ken Harding, Old Thorns GC - a gentle giant with a huge driver.

The latest future greenkeeper to arrive on the scene is Benjamin Varrow, born on May 31 at 10.48hrs and weighing in at 7lbs 14ozs. His mum Helen and dad Chris Addington Palace GC have asked me to tell you all, that the drinks are on them at the next golf day.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Afternoon chaps. I hope you are all enjoying the summer sunshine and that the water crisis hasn't affected you too badly. I'm afraid news has been very scarce this month, so this report is fairly brief. Regular readers of this column will already know however, that the focus here is on the quality of the written word rather than the amount of them.

Don't forget that we are holding our summer tournament at Mid-Kent Golf Club on July 11. If you haven't already received an entry form contact us via the website or phone to confirm your places. Remember our events are priced very reasonably at £25 for Course Managers and just £15 for assistant greenstaff. Everybody is welcome and almost guaranteed a great day with your colleagues from across the county.

A word of advice, should it be raining while the golf is in progress, having just played in the rain at Birchwood with Kev Morris, I feel it only fair to warn anyone playing in his vicinity of the peril they could be in. Standing on the 15th tee, Kev tried to launch a booming drive down the fairway, but succeeded only in hitting his ball 15 yards, the divot 20 yards and his driver flew at least 35 yards into the rough!! He blamed worn, wet grips so beware if similar conditions prevail at Mid-Kent! Sorry Kev! Keep smiling guys. Happy golfing.

Rob Holland

kentgreenkeepers.co.uk

Essex

Come on England! Hopefully, we will have progressed nicely into the semi-finals by the time you have read this and my William Hill account will be back in the black. This, of course, would be much needed after watching Sri Lanka come back to draw the test series with England, and no doubt getting the US Open completely wrong.

After the wettest May in 30 years, and the sporadic sunshine in June, the battle against the grass continues. No news to report around the Section this month, but as they say no news is good news!

One point of order to note, is that early one morning in May, while listening to BBC Radio 1 and the legend that is Chris Moyles, the phone in quiz was graced by the presence of a greenkeeper from the Essex Section. Excellent, I thought, it is about time the nation knew what an intelligent race of people we are. Five minutes later, and having scored five, my shoulders slumped - perhaps the listening viewers had a different impression of greenkeepers than me. Still, I won't name and shame!

P.S. Ben, the original members of the A-Team were Hannibal, B.A., Face and Murdock.



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

Colne Valley GC up next for the autumn tournament. It promises to be a great event with a BBQ in the evening and smart casual dress code (heaven forbid).

Until next time

Be Good!

Richard Williams

07737 985735

**SOUTH WEST
 & SOUTH WALES**

South West

I suppose it serves me right for harping on last month, about the lack of rainfall in the winter and early spring - it seemed to start raining on the 1st tee of our spring comp at The Kendleshire, and didn't stop until the end of the month. Suddenly, it was the wettest May since 1983. Now you mention it, I do remember May 1983 quite well. I was at Lilley Brook Golf Club, Cheltenham, at the time. Unbelievably, the heavy clay course was closed for all of April, and the first fortnight of May. When it finally did open, you could scarcely find your ball, even on the fairway. The little old 2-wheel drive Fergie and five gang mowers had sunk somewhere on the 5th hole, and didn't re-emerge until early June. We promptly spent all 1984 putting in about five miles of drainage - cue two significant drought

years. Anyway, enough of that happy reminiscing and back to the present. I'd really been looking forward to playing The Kendleshire, but my golf was awful, to say the least. From the moment an iffy tee shot at the 1st, soared over the shrubbery on the right scattering the gardening detail, toiling away near the ninth tee (happily they were watching and disappeared in a flurry of rakes and hoes) things went from bad to worse. Not the fault of the course however - Craig, Adrian, and the team had this challenging course in excellent condition, particularly so, in view of the difficult spring conditions. The results were: (0-9) - 1.R. Louisson; 2.C. Fudge. (10-19) - 1. A. Matthews; 2. T. Pope. (20-28) - 1.T. Humphries; 2. N. Bungay. Longest Drive went to Duncan Smith and Nearest the Pin to Terry Humphries.

Well done to all those who played and completed the round despite the rain, although I had forensically to reconstruct some of the cards to tot up the scores. (I didn't put mine in, in the hope they'd disqualify me and give me my money back, but no.) Thanks to our Patronage Partners for their continued sponsorship, and many thanks to The Kendleshire for hosting the event. We were made very welcome at this busy Bristol club, which was very much appreciated.

Back at Minch the County Championship played the last weekend of May was severely affected by heavy and persistent rain. At one stage it looked as if the whole tournament might have to be abandoned - the Centenary Championship, how embarrassing would that have been? Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the greenstaff, puddles were squeegeed away, bunkers were renovated, and the tournament completed

THE Articulator

721XR
 BY LASTEC

3372
 BY LASTEC



The most capable contoured-terrain mowing deck available
 Full 3.35 metre (11 feet) cut path
 Compatible with most commonly-used traction units
 Transforms mowing capability and quality
 The most productive rotary mowing unit on the market

New zero-turn, three-deck Articulator
 72" cutting width
 Superior manoeuvrability and cut quality
 33hp turbo-charged Kubota diesel engine
 All-purpose, high productivity mower
 for wide variety of applications



www.lastec.com

For a World That Isn't Flat

01622 812103

LASTEC UK



Clive Osgood
SOUTH EAST
Tel: 01737 819343



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

- well done guys. Chris Wood, of Long Ashton, was the eventual winner scoring two under par for four rounds, the low score was 68, and our little protégé, Oscar Sharpe, 14 years old, four foot nothing, (voice not yet broken) came in sixth. Watch out for that name.

Is it me, or does this job get harder and harder instead of easier? Certainly within ten days temperatures rose into the mid 20s, and spring was overtaken by summer. The next competition is at Shirehampton, on July 27 - let's have a good turn out for that one, with a chance to win a place at the National Championship in October.

How about some feedback on your courses?

Paul Worster. 01453 837355. paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

Devon and Cornwall

For the past 36 years I have been very fortunate to travel most of Europe, some on business, but mainly pleasure, and mainly for golf holidays. During this time I have made a point of making my self "known" to the greenkeeping staff, who have always made me welcome. The more I travel, the more I realise that if one takes into consideration the average staffing levels at clubs in Europe, and their budgets, the more I appreciate the professionalism, dedication, and skills of greenkeeping in the UK. Not only are we blessed with good greenkeepers, but also some excellent Agronomists. So, can someone please tell me when a Head Greenkeeper invites an Agronomist to visit his course - usually for back up to support his course management plan for the year - that when the committee or Greens Chairman receive their report, supportive of the Head Greenkeeper, they sack the consultant, and try and find another consultant that will write a report, that they want to read.

Travelling around my area the past few months, I have become very concerned, at the amount of stress that a lot of staff are under at this present time. I can only speak about the South West, but because of the dry weeks, with a continuous cold North East wind and very cold nights, our season is six to seven weeks late. To give you an example, Cornwall normally prides its self on growing early potatoes - not this year, the early potatoes were six weeks late, even the rhododendrons were very late. In spite of this, committees were complaining that the greens were too slow, no growth, and bumpy for the start of the competition season in April. What the heck do they expect? No wonder greenkeepers have sleepless nights. To make matters worse, I have actually been to a couple of courses where the committee has banned aeration on the greens during the season. When members are elected onto a committee, do they really know what they are letting themselves into? I doubt it very much. All I can say is, don't let them get you down.

On a more civil note, would you make a note in your diary that the A.G.M will be held at the Launceston Golf Club, on Wednesday, October 11 2006.

If any member has any news worth printing in the magazine, please do not hesitate to contact me: Donovan O Hunt, Administrator Events Co-ordinator.

South Wales

Hi all. Wow, after a severely wet May, the first week in June has seen a mini heat wave.

Congratulations to Jim Mackenzie and his team for presenting the Roman Road course for another successful Wales Open, nearly a 59 on day one. The course was in great condition, considering the prep week was horrendous weather, 7.5 inches of rain fell the week before the event, however, it looked great on the telly.

To round off our winter activities, we had a visit to the Celtic Manor Resort to view the maintenance facilities - we were also treated with a guided tour of the new Wentwood Hills layout, currently under construction. We were transported in style as Jim Mackenzie, had arranged a fleet of Land and Range Rovers from his local dealership, to transport the 40 or so interested parties off road and around the new layout. What a treat it was and we thank Jim and his staff for their efforts, especially Carl and his engineers who stopped late to ensure we all had a good look around the machinery complex and maintenance buildings.

Hot off the press - the Coldra Woods at the Celtic Manor is being re-modeled, previously a 18 hole par 3+4 course.

Our recent and annual Spring Seminar took place at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, where 50 people attended the "Headland Amenity" sponsored event. A great day was had by all and we were treated to a variety of excellent presentations from Mark Hunt, Andy Russell and Dr Kate Entwistle, on subjects ranging from "Features of Spring growth"; Herbicide modes of action; Tank mixing - the do's and don'ts; "Turf grass diseases - an update" and the "sustainable approach to chemical and fertiliser usages".

During the extended lunch break we had Campey Turf Care Systems on site, demonstrating a variety of machinery, including the Dakota, spinner top-dressers and the Turf works range of attachments. Our sincere thanks to Headland Amenities and Campeys Turf care for their support.

Pencoed College Open day took place at the college on Saturday, June 24. BIGGA South Wales Section were in attendance as per usual, with a display and literature promoting the benefits of our association. P. Lacey and A. Macleod manned the stand from 11am until 4pm, with assistance from Paul Discombe, of Pencoed College.

Garnant Parc Golf Club hosted the Spring Tournament playing for the "Amtec Shield". After cancelling it last week the competition had to take place no matter what and unfortunately for the greenstaff, conditions were far from ideal. 30 hardy competitors took to the course, some not for long, some for longer than others and the rain held off for best part of the round. The carvery made up for the weather - a truly sumptuous meal was had by all. Many thanks to the Course Manager; Director of Golf; Operations Manager; General Manager; Cleaner; Pro; Mr Kerry (Joko) Jones and his team for their sterling efforts to get this fixture played - sorry I couldn't be there, old war wound playing up, but I heard the greens were excellent. The club made everyone feel welcome, even laying on complimentary fruit and water for the round. We hope that everyone enjoyed their first visit to Garnant Parc and that many return later in the year to appreciate how good a course (and tough) it really is.

Results: Winner of the "Amtec Shield". Peter Lacey, Pennard GC, 32pts, Bayer Jacket; 2. Kerry Jones, Garnant Parc GC, 27pts, Dell Printer; 3. Jamie Probert, 27pts, Sony play station; Best Trade. James Rees, Inturf, 25pts, Champagne; Longest Drive. Phil Williamson, Fairwood Park, Champagne and Nearest the Pin. Kerry Jones, Champagne. Our sincere thanks to Amenity Technology and especially Liam Galloway, for their support and sponsorship.

Former Regional Board member, Adrian Panks - former Course Manager of Llanwern Golf Club, has jumped ship from greenkeeping and taken up a new position recently, taking over from the infamous Colin Frost. Adrian recently started as sales representative for Sisis machinery, covering Wales and the West. We wish him good luck in his new position.

Taking over as Course Manager at Llanwern is local boy, Gareth Gibson, who has been my Deputy at Newport for the last 11 years, we wish him all the best in his new position - I will miss him greatly, but well done.

With Russell Anderson's departure, to take up his new position in Copenhagen, Cardiff Golf Club have appointed Nigel Harden - or "Dan" as he's known locally - to the position of Course Manager, Having worked his way to the top, as Russell's Deputy, we wish him well in his new post.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay doubles Competition draw, took place on the day and was drawn by RT Representative Peter Griffiths. The preliminary round is:

Peter Holmstrom and Mark Wilshire v Andy Roach and Mickey Davies; Tony Horne and Martin David v Phil Williamson and Ross Davies; Chris French and Mark Davies v Dean Thomas and Richard Newton; Julian Bartlett-Jones and Ceri Richards v Stuart Jones and Phil Thomas; Joe Curtis and Craig Campbell v Kerry Jones and Jamie Probert.

Angus Macleod

NORTHERN IRELAND

I am writing this report in early June and at the moment, the weather has now moved into a very hot and sunny pattern, with temperatures in the mid to late 70s. Over the past three months in Northern Ireland, we seem to have had our annual rainfall crammed into ten weeks. Courses have flooded and spring maintenance programmes have been disrupted. Greenkeepers have been having a difficult time trying to maintain their courses to an acceptable standard throughout this period.

The Section's latest Golf Competition took place at Downpatrick Golf Club on May 30. Fortunately the weather turned out to be dry and sunny throughout the day. The course at Downpatrick has outstanding views across the county down countryside, taking in Strangford Lough and The Mountains of Mourne. Head Greenkeeper, Emmett Curran and his staff, had the course in magnificent condition. The competition sponsor for the day was Coburns or Bambridge. Many thanks again to David Eager and William Cartmill from Coburns, for the very generous prizes on offer.

The results were as follows: 1. Ken Henderson, Allen Park, 33pts; 2. Roger Warrin, Royal Codown GC, 32pts; 3. Damien Doherty, Malone GC, 31pts.

Many thanks to Coburns and Downpatrick GC, for making the day a success. Our next golf day will be held in early July, the venue and date are to be finalised.

I would like to welcome five new members to the section this month: Patrick Kelly; Mark Gorden; Anthony Corrigan; Roger Warrin and Christy Smith.

Well that's about all my news for this month, I just want to predict that England will win the World Cup by beating Brazil 3-0 in the final, with Wayne Rooney scoring a hatrick.

Ken Henderson

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 Melissa at BIGGA HOUSE on melissa@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

Word limit for Section notes: 500-600.

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 HQ.

In the Shed ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

M	I	R	T	H	K	I	D	S	T	U	F	F		
I	O	A	I	O	T	N	I							
S	U	C	T	I	O	N	U	N	A	S	K	E	D	
O	K	R			B	D	N	G						
G	R	O	U	N	D	S	E	L	I	N	O	N	E	
Y	F	E	P	E	U	W	T							
N	I	G	H	T	W	A	T	C	H	M	A	N		
Y	I	R	R											
		B	Y	W	O	R	D	O	F	M	O	U	T	H
P	R	E	O	S	A	A	E							
H	E	A	R	T	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	E	R	
Y	L	S	H											
S	A	T	S	U	M	A	O	B	E	L	I	S	K	
I	A	I	W	A	S	T	E							
C	A	R	E	T	A	K	E	R	T	H	Y	M	E	

SUDOKU

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

ANAGRAM

CREST HE - Chester
LOVER LIPO - Liverpool

A QUICK NINE HOLES

1. Alec Stewart
2. Australia
3. Hockey
4. US Masters
5. 300
6. Snooker
7. Highbury
8. Brian Lara
9. Juliano Belletti

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

