



# News from the Chief Executive

**Congratulations to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for organising such an excellent conference and exhibition in Atlanta, despite all the trials and tribulations that they faced in 2005. The BIGGA Stand continues to attract a lot of interest each year and on this occasion it was visited by many of our American members, together with a great number of American Superintendents who are keen to enrol on the Master Greenkeeper programme.**

Once again Bernhard and Co sponsored 10 BIGGA members to attend the event and I am sure that the delegates found the experience invaluable.

The GCSAA hosted this years International Summit that was attended by representatives from a great number of countries. Over the last 15 months a focus group, of which BIGGA is a member, has been working on universal policies in respect of environmental management and also the role and responsibilities of a Course Manager. These were put before the Summit and were unanimously adopted. A copy of these will be available in the near future from BIGGA Headquarters and from the Association's website.

It seems that BIGGA is being evicted from its offices at Aldwark, or so the rumours would have you believe. I was questioned about the Association's future recently and I can assure members that BIGGA HOUSE can remain the Headquarters for as long as the Association chooses, or at least until the expiry of its 999 year lease on the land!

It is a matter of fact however that Marston Hotels have approached the Association with a view to buying BIGGA HOUSE for its own use and this is clearly where the story has gone astray. I am in the process of looking at the alternatives and will report to the Board in due course.

Plans for Harrogate Week 2007 are already underway and we have received a significant amount of support from exhibitors. Sadly the major machinery manufacturers have chosen not to return in 2007, however at this stage we have no intention of closing any of the halls. There are a number of companies looking to increase their floor space that may require their relocation and we have received a number of enquiries from new companies wishing to exhibit.

Over the coming weeks Ken Richardson and I will be having meetings with the other bodies in golf to establish the basis of the education programme for Harrogate Week 2007. I hope that when the time comes the Association can rely upon the support of its members.

**John Pemberton**

## SCOTTISH REGION

### Ayrshire

I hope you are all in fine fettle and have made good progress on your winter repair work.

I've been made aware of five new members to our Section. They are Richard Davis, Brighthouse Bay, Andrew Kirk, Brighthouse Bay, Ian Gray, Belleisle, Kenneth Gilroy, Shiskine, Steven Knaggs, Dumfries & County. So a warm welcome to you and hope to see you at Southernness in the spring. No pressure!

As mentioned, our spring outing will be played at Southernness Golf Club on Tuesday April 25. Times are reserved from 11am. I don't think it will be too difficult to keep our recent good turnouts for the outings as Southernness is regarded as one of the best courses the West of Scotland has to offer. See ya there!

It would be remiss of me not to mention the great news for Ayrshire as The Open returns to Turnberry in 2009. The Ailsa Course has undergone a bit of toughening up in January and February with 19 new bunkers added and a further 11 planned later in the year. There will be a couple of holes reshaped and around six new championship tees to be built also. So exciting times ahead for Ayrshire greenkeeping!

Oh! I nearly forgot to say, I hope those who travelled to Harrogate enjoyed themselves and didn't get filled up on marshmallows! Yes that's an inside joke!

Any news, call me on 07939104701.

Denis Tweddell

### East

I start this month's report on a sad note by reporting the death of Ralph Bullock in January, he was 77. During his career, Ralph spent time as Head Greenkeeper at both Barnburgh Castle and Seahouses Golf Courses finally retiring in 1993. During his retirement years he still found time to tend the lawns on a part time basis at Ladykirk Estates at Berwick upon Tweed. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family at this sad time.

For those of you who have not yet received Kevin's newsletter, the fixtures for 2006 are as follows. Spring Outing - Dunbar Golf Club, April 25; Willie Woods - Haddington Golf Club, August 23; Autumn Outing - Glencorse Golf Club, September 27.

This year marks a first for Musselburgh Golf Club with their appointment as a regional qualifying course for The British Open. The key date when all roads lead to Monktonhall is Wednesday July 5. In preparation, Course Manager, Tom Shepherd, and his team have carried out various improvements, which include two new championship tees.

The Scottish Golf Environmental Group acting on behalf of WRAP (The Water and Resources Action Programme) are currently involved in field trials concerning the use of recycled glass sand. The main trials are being conducted at Elmwood College, with various golf courses throughout Scotland also involved. The trials in the East Section area are being carried out at Ratho Park.

The overall trials, which will run until the summer of 2006, will test the use of glass sand in rootzone, bunker sand, divot mix, top dressing and astroturf path surfacing. At Ratho Park this involved the practice bunker, divot mix and top dressing. The results of the trial will be published later this year.

The news hot off the press this month is the appointment of Stewart Duff as Course Manager at Gullane Golf Club. A former deputy to Paul Seago, he has spent the past five years as head man on a course in County Sligo. Stewart commences his new role in early May of this year.

Finally, I trust everyone enjoyed their time at Harrogate, and like me are looking forward to next year already.

Until next month

Mike Dooner

### North

Christmas and New Year seem a distant memory now. January must have been one of the driest for a long time with very little rainfall or snow to speak of. The predicted cold spell hasn't materialised yet but I'd better not tempt fate as we'll probably get the snow and ice in March/April when were looking for warmer weather.

Harrogate went as smoothly as ever I am told, as I wasn't there this year. The Seminar and debate on the Fescue issues was very well attended and there were some lively discussions on a very emotive subject. Lets get some more discussions

going on important topics like aeration, top dressings and fertilisers so that we can gauge opinions and feelings on these areas of the job, which are just as important as the grasses.

The next couple of months will be a busy time for all greenkeepers with hopefully some early growth and the chance to put down some early top dressing to improve surfaces. I don't know if anyone out there has had major problems with Leather Jackets but we have had an epidemic of them this year. The population of grubs in the soil has been massive so there has been a bit of spraying done here to remove them. The Crows and Seagulls think all their prayers have been answered here with the amount of grubs laying about greens and fairways.

I am sure everybody in the North Section will wish George Patterson all the very best in his new post as Course Manager at Moray Golf Club. I think George will have started by the time this article is in the magazine. So good luck George to you and your team for the coming season.

I think I am right in saying that Moray GC will host the boys Home Internationals this year in August, which will give George and his team something to get their teeth into for the season. The week following the Moray event Royal Aberdeen will host the R&A British Boys event so it will be good for the North Section to have these events on our doorstep.

Not much more to add as there is very little happening at the moment in the trade. If anybody has any snippets of information that could be used in the report email me at grassman351@aol.com and we will use it next month.

Here's to a good spring!

Robert Patterson

## NORTHERN REGION

### North East

Well it was that time again in January, Harrogate Week, doesn't time fly? What a Show it was, with over 130 hours of education and it was good to see more greenkeepers from the north east taking an interest in attending the seminars.

The first one I met was John Rippon, of Birtley GC, on Sunday night doing the A1 Assessors course. Also doing that course was Glen Baxter and his assistant, Wayne Reid, both from South Shields GC. John Hood doing managing water and James Storey on managing staff, both from Alnmouth GC. Finally Alan Darby, of Warkworth GC at the one-day mini conference on Maintaining a Sustainable Golf Course. Well done to you all, I hope you enjoyed them, maybe you will be back again next year.

Again I would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, on putting the coach on for Wednesday's annual visit and all the rest of greenkeepers from the Section, who made their own way down.

I bumped into George Wright, of Crook GC, who told me he was retiring in February. I look forward to seeing you at the Section outings and on behalf of the Section enjoy your retirement.

As you know the Spring competition will be played at Prudhoe GC on April 27. A couple of the par 4's will be shorter as winter work has been done on the tees. The Autumn competition is at Stocksfield GC on September 28.

If any of you want to play in the Whitelaw Trophy at Penrith look out for details in the magazine or contact myself and I will try and get info for you.

Any forthcoming news you have for me I can be contacted at home on 0191 4135232 or my email address is JFroud123@aol.com.

Jimmy Richardson

### North West

First this month, after a lot of hard work and dedication, congratulations go out from the North West Section Committee to Colin Parish, from Morecambe Golf Club, on achieving Master Greenkeeper status. Colin received his award at Harrogate in January. No wonder he had a smile on his face when I saw him there.

On a personal note I was privileged to have been working here at West Derby Golf Club for 25 years and was presented by the Captain with a watch for my services. Speaking then to another local greenkeeper, who shall remain nameless, I was dismayed to learn that he had been at his golf club for a lot longer and his service had not even been acknowledged. I am not saying that long service should be rewarded but it would be nice for it to be recognised in what is now sometimes a

very thankless job.

As you can see not many people have contacted me with any news, either good bad or indifferent this month. If you have anything you wish to relay to our members please contact either myself, Chris Sheehan, on 0151 2894625 or email jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or Section Secretary, Bert Cross, on 0151 7245412.

Chris Sheehan

### Northern

Well, it's the start of February, at the time of writing, and I hope you have all recovered from Harrogate Week. It has just started raining for the first time in weeks; still, we're not doing bad, we haven't even got into the cutting season and there is already talk of a drought!

I finally have a few dates for your diaries, so here is a list of upcoming fixtures. Spring Tournament - Selby Golf Club, Wednesday April 5, 11.30am; President's Day - Northcliffe Golf Club, Wednesday June 14; Sheffield Match - Bradley Hall Golf Club, Wednesday July 5; AGM and Autumn Tournament - Ganton Golf Club, Wednesday September 27, 2pm; Winter Golf - Clayton Golf Club, Thursday December 7; Invitation Day to be confirmed.

The cost of each event is £17 to include bacon butties on arrival, your golf, followed by a three course meal. Please get your names down as early as possible, but no later than one week before the event.

Please also arrange, if possible, to pay by cheque, preferably by post to the address below. All cheques should be made payable to BIGGA Northern Section.

If you have any news regarding the Section then please do get in touch. My details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB; Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739 319060.

Adam Speight

### North Wales

Apologies for no notes in February's magazine, they were missed out by BIGGA HQ.

While the debate on Poa, Bent & Fescue grass management continues on around the Rhuddlan and St Asaph area we focus on the March notes.

Congratulations this month goes to Huw Roberts, former golf professional and Deputy Head Greenkeeper at The Vale of Llangollen GC, who landed the Head Greenkeeper's post at The Henlle Park GC, just outside of Oswestry. Huw says he is looking forward to his new challenge and hopes he can put many of his skills into practice on this beautifully landscaped development now just a few years old. His predecessor, James Cope, has taken up a new post himself, attaining the job as Course Manager at Runcorn GC, in Warrington. James, formerly of the Carden Park greenkeeping team, was at Henlle during the construction stage and brought the course forward to it's present stage.

One other greenkeeper from Carden Park, Martin Thompson, has taken over the reins at Romiley GC, just outside Stockport in Manchester. We would like to wish all three of them the best in their new roles.

The Spring Seminar held at Carden Park Shooting Lodge on February 21 was another great success, our thanks go to the speakers who gave their time on the day - Alistair Beggs, Lee Penrose, Brian Butler, Simon Higginbottom, of the PGA, and to our own Ken Richardson. The North Wales Section once again staged a very informative event and we hope all whom attended went away that little bit wiser on the aspects of a working life on a golf course.

On a sad note to end this month the wife of Reaseheath College lecturer and BIGGA training days, Dennis Mottram, has passed away suddenly. The Section would like to send our condolences to Dennis and his family, also to his son, Adrian, who is an Irrigation Engineer at this time.

On a final note this month I would personally like to wish Andy Campbell MG all the best in his new found post as General Manager looking after the Dukes resort in the home of golf at St Andrews. I have known Andy for the last 15 years, his dedication to greenkeeping and devotion to his work goes before him as he is a great ambassador for this profession and I know this will be a great challenge working for the Kholer Corporation but I do not think they could have chosen a better person to take this role. I speak also for the North Wales Committee, of which Andy played a major part over the years and his presence will be missed but as a new life beckons for the Campbell family maybe with they're origins from Nairn in Scotland. This is perhaps more a home coming than a leaving.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

MIDLAND REGION

**Midland**

On February 2 the Section ran a visit to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, to which 47 members attended. All attendees found the visit to be of great interest and very educational. Our thanks go to Mr D. Saltman, PitchCare, for proving such an excellent and informative host. As expected, very well presented Dave, cheers Sir. Also our greatest of thanks to the Millennium Stadium, for allowing us hairy arsed greenkeepers the opportunity to tread through such a magnificent complex.

Following the morning's activities, a visit to the lovely Cottrell Park GC was also found to be both very educational and interesting. This was also coupled with an excellent lunch in the clubhouse, as sponsored by our kind friends David Bates, Earth Tec, and Phil Constable, Shropshire Turf. Our greatest of thanks to both the General Manager and the owner, Mr D. Smith and D. Powell respectively, for making us so welcome at Cottrell Park GC.

Just one more thanks left, Walsall GC for allowing us to use its car park as a pick-up point for the coach. Also I would like to take this opportunity to thank Walsall GC for its many years of support of our Section via the use of their splendid Clubhouse to hold our committee meetings. We are certainly in your debt Walsall GC. So let us consider all of the above for the price of a pint, cheese and onion Baggett, and packet of crisps. A fiver, not bad aye?

Our next educational visit is to be held April 5, to the JCB factory in Uttoxeter. Again, numbers pending a coach shall be available at £5 per head. All interested please call Rhys (for those who don't speak Cymraeg; Reece. Ed I'll laugh) on: 07775 581615.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to welcome four new members to our fine Section. Chris Marshall, Richard Garrard, Dan Pugh (watch out for the chip monster), and Adam Jones (slightly baffled, number 6 raffle ticket on member application form?).

Yet again this year, Scotts are sponsoring the doubles event, which the final is to be played at that lovely course, Wentworth. The draw for such shall be carried out at the spring event as usual, which is being held at Bridgenorth GC on April 28. Please get your entries to Gary by March 31. All of our events this year are to follow a stableford format. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sean McDade

**BB&O**

Harrogate! It just gets bigger and better each year. And as another Show bites the dust, I reflect on how my cup runneth over! Very easily, it seems to be. Perhaps it was the Blue Label that turned my lips purple and caused my diet to shoot off the rails with a glass of firewater and a game of darts and with friends new and old to pass the time away. Long live the Show!

John Scoones has been doing his stuff and golfing events in 2006 have now been confirmed and some great venues to look forward to with greenkeeping wizard, Dean Jones, hosting the Spring National Qualifier on April 27 at Flackwell Heath GC.

Burnham Beeches GC will be playing host to the Summer Tournament on July 5, thus providing us with an excellent venue and promise of a great day for all.

Put these dates in your diary before you forget. The Autumn Invitational and Turkey Trot later in the year are yet to be confirmed.

News from around the three counties has been scarce so if you have any news or views a simple email will always do.

As the Chinese New Year began on January 29, bringing in the Year of the Dog and the start of the year 4703 in the Chinese calendar, I wish you all a happy Spring.

Mark Day  
mark@day.fm

**Mid Anglia**

Not a lot this month. Dates and venues for Section events are as follows. Spring - Beds & County, May 4; Summer - Letchworth, August 24; Autumn - Northants County, October 18; Christmas - Mentmore, December 7.

That's all folks.  
Bob Butfoy

SOUTH EAST

**Surrey**

I hope that, by the time you read this, our unseasonably dry Siberian winter has finally come to an end. Not much news for you this month. Just a big thanks to all who supported our seminars held at Hadlow College. I know that everyone really enjoyed them and what a great line up of speakers. Thanks to John Millen for organising everything.

Fixtures for the year are still being finalised but don't forget our spring tournament/national qualifying event at Littlestone Golf Club on April 25.

Our football team has its first definite fixture of the year. This will be against the London Section on March 30 and will be played on Kent County Cricket Club's grounds in Beckenham. Kick off is at 7.30 and I'm reliably informed that a bar and full catering facilities are available for all players and spectators. If you want to play please contact myself on 07843 410755 or our esteemed captain, Kev Morris, on 07801 554548.

Don't forget to check our website for all up to date events and results as well as using our message board. Finally, thanks to the Scotts Company for their continued support for our Section.

Until next month, happy greenkeeping.  
Rob Holland

**London**

Can you believe we are in March already! The season is nearly here. I'm writing about Harrogate Week very late this year as I'd missed the deadline date for February. I have to have things into BIGGA by the start of the month before, so for March it has to be in by February 5. So all of you who think I'm mad for writing about events in January in March can now stop texting!

Anyway, I went to Harrogate Week again this year and I think the Show is improving every year. The educational courses and seminars were fantastic with a wide range on offer. Hello to all those people I met on the courses and watering holes. A special hello to Adam Smith, from Ernest Doe, who was great company and a special thanks to Jason Shepherd, Deputy Course Manager from Hendon Golf Club, for buying me dinner and refreshments and putting up with me for the whole trip. I was lucky enough to be invited to the Majestic Hotel to collect my flight details from Bernhard & Co for a trip to the USA. We had a great night meeting everyone for the first time. Again my last 'hello' to all involved in that trip. I will tell you all about that next month.

There has not been much news from the local area. Don't be scared to ring with anything you want to see in the magazine. When I have a copy of the dates of future events I will let you know.

Matt Pleased

**Essex**

Harrogate Week has now come and gone and I must say it was an excellent Show. A big thank you and congratulations are in order to all those involved in its organisation. It was good to see some faces from the Essex Section. The continued success of this event does rely on visitor numbers, so next year lets pull out all the stoppers and do our best to make the journey north.

It not all turf, turf, turf! Harrogate is a great place for a night out, good food, good beer and a good opportunity to get amongst it at the local night spots.

As winter draws to a weary end and spring and summer are around the corner, we can all look forward to some good weather and amicable golfing conditions. The first of which could well be the annual gentlemen's dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club on March 10. It promises to be a great event, unfortunately I cannot attend, although any stories for the report will be most welcome - Please note my new phone number - 07737 985735.

Until next month, be good!  
Richard Williams

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Having just returned from Harrogate Week I would like to say how good it was to see many familiar faces and meet some new ones from the Region. Your support of this event is valued, and I look forward to next year's event, and hope that even more of the region's members will be able to attend.

I would also like to say thank you to a few people, firstly to Colin Webber and Steve Evans. Colin for supplying the mini bus and Steve for doing all the organisation involved in running this transport from the Devon and Cornwall Section.

Secondly, on behalf of the Region, I would like to thank Irritech and Roger Davy for sponsoring the Get Together. Everyone from the Region staying in Harrogate appreciated the opportunity of being able to meet up in one place and see familiar faces from other sections.

Finally, having met Tom Jones from WT & RJ Jones, a company in the South West, I would like to inform members of three major seminars and demonstrations of sports turf drainage machinery they have organised.

They are all in the South West and the dates and venues as follows:

March 28 - Bodmin, Cornwall

March 29 - Bridgewater, Somerset

March 30 - Bristol

For more information about these events please contact Tom Jones on 07785295239 or his office number 01823 665030.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you over the coming year.

Jane Jones

Regional Administrator

## South West

Harrogate Week was exceptional this year. Headquarters and the Board have produced a totally professional learning experience - thanks very much to all involved. The Exhibition was as impressive as it ever has been - I certainly did a lot of business there to support the exhibitors. The seminars were quite outstanding and well attended with the theme of the environment running through and through.

Steve Isaac, of the R&A, frightened me to death when he opened "Managing the Sustainable Course" with the statement "Fine fescue is the only grass to manage, anyone managing anything else ought to be ashamed of themselves". Still, he didn't ask too many awkward questions about poa, rye, and moss, so I was OK.

It was also nice to see one of our own, Andy Boyce, collecting an environmental prize on behalf of Bath Golf Club (if it couldn't be me I'm glad it was him). It always amazes me that, with an industry which has such close links to the environment, more clubs don't actually enter the Environment Competition.

I have certainly been asked in the past - 'Haven't you got enough to do without fiddling around with all that?' I can assure you, yes I've got plenty to do - but although this is the best career in the world, it can become a near constant grind of tournaments, reports, budgets, meetings, appraisals, assessments, safety, etc, etc, and it's really easy to wonder where the grass has gone in all this.

Working on environmental projects is completely different - far more personal. It gives a chance to get completely immersed in a certain project, without the constant scrutiny associated with other aspects of the job. It also gives immense personal satisfaction - surprisingly, some of our most beneficial and interesting projects have probably never been seen by the members, but that in no way diminishes them.

They can be out-of-the-way little areas of the course, which quickly transform from untidy little corners and burst into life months or even years later. Nothing beats that satisfaction - trust me on this one. Tell the committee in your next report "we are now in the competition" and you'll be running plenty of ideas past them. It takes about half an hour to fill the entry form in, it takes another hour to cut and paste some digi-pics into a short report on the course, and the targets you have achieved or want to achieve. Job done.

You'll find that the competition breeds innovation, inspiration, and spreads information - once on the ladder, the staff and the club will want to climb to the top with you. Get those entries in - 'nuff said.

Nearer home, the South West Committee wishes to welcome some new



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members. Two clubs have contacted me recently. Nigel Pring, now installed at Farrington, has enrolled all seven members of his team into the Section, so a warm welcome. Nigel played for Somerset in his heyday and was one of the first winners of a trip to the United States via the now defunct Iseki and Hayter Tournament. Nigel Couchman, newly installed as Course Manager at Tewkesbury Park Hotel & Country Club, has also joined from the Midland Section. Nigel manages a team of six at Tewkesbury, a picturesque 6500 yard course with mature trees and stunning views across to the Malverns. He also oversees a six hole par 3 academy course, a driving range, and the hotel grounds.

I can report from the recent Section Committee meeting on some new initiatives for 2006. On the training front, following the huge success of the management and irrigation courses, we will shortly offer 360 digger driving standard to 5 tonnes, so if you, like me, regularly rattle round on one of these, get legal, get safe with all the necessary training and certification. Contact Marc Haring for further details.

On the Section meeting front, we have negotiated a courtesy round of golf at one of the country's top 100 courses for up to 16 members. Places for the trip to this exclusive course, which is not too far out of our area will be free, and awarded via a points system to Section Event winners, Section Team players, and those who most frequently attend section meetings (but like me never win anything!).

John Keenaghan is the brave member managing this new system, and his decision is final. Adrian Bennett, Deputy Course Manager at the Kendleshire, is the team captain. Adrian can be contacted on 07734 552108 and is very keen to hear from anyone wishing to represent the Section in the matches. Full details will be available at both our spring meetings, so yet another good reason to attend.

Back at Minchinhampton, the winter is in full swing. The shout of "TIMBER" has been heard around the course - (still chipping away at those Leylandii). A member strode across to demand to know why all the trees were being wantonly hewn down. Dave Rosselli, in an inspired moment of genius replied, "to make room to

plant the proper ones of course", and that took the wind completely out of his sails.

By the time this magazine hits the shelves, we'll be in mid-March, the greens will have been verti-drained and gradened, so that'll distract attention well away from anything as simple as chopping down a few trees. We're just conducting interviews for a greenkeeper/ecologist, so I'll let you know how that goes. We've had a string of applications from students with degrees who sound really keen to get on the land and do some good. In the meantime, I'll look forward to a mild spring with good growth and good golf courses - how about some feedback?

Finally, on a very sad note, sincere condolences from all the Section to Nigel Kinson, long time greenkeeper at Cirencester GC, on the sudden loss of his wife, Nicky. Our thoughts are with Nigel and his family at this sad time.

Tel: 01453 837355; Email: paul.worster@tesco.net  
 Paul Worster

### Devon & Cornwall

It is imperative that one starts this month's report on behalf of the Section with three big thank yous regarding Harrogate Week in January. Firstly, to the members of Portmore Golf Club in North Devon, near Barnstaple, for the loan of their Mini-Bus, and the owner Of Portmore Golf Club, Cohn Webber, for driving to Harrogate and back. Because of their generosity it enabled 14 of our members to visit the Exhibition at a very reasonable cost.

Secondly, to two sponsors for the trip, Martin Ward, of Synbio, and Sue Malone, who I am sure you all know (Biscuit Sue). Their support enabled the lads to have a very competitive trip. Very many thanks to all.

I think it is also worth mention that I have never seen so many members from a Section attend Harrogate Week, as they did this year. In fact the whole of the South West Regions. That's dedication for you.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John Pemberton, our Chief Executive, and all his staff for organising such a successful Exhibition,

On January 11 we held our Section Meeting at Buck and North Cornwall Golf Club, kindly Sponsored by Avoncrop. In spite of Harrogate at the end of the month we had a very good attendance with over 50 members attending. This also included our well known Editor, Scott MacCallum, who incidentally I watched drive off the first Tee, and as Bing Crosby sung "it went straight down the middle".

The course was presented in superb condition by Mark Campbell and his staff, who also arranged excellent weather for the day. I would also like to thank the catering staff for an excellent meal, and the Secretary, Pauline Ralph, for her help to endeavour our day to go with a swing.

The Winners of the Avoncrop Trophy were as follows: 1. Simon Coombes. Dainton Park Golf Club. 41pts. 2. Richard Shapland, China Fleet Golf Club, 40pts; 3. Abi Crosswood, Newquay Golf Club, 39ps. Well done Abi.

After the prize giving, the afternoon educational talk was presented by Mark, the Head Greenkeeper at Bude. His topic was Greenkeeping from Scotland to Cornwall. Well done Mark, it was very informative and interesting.

That's all for now, Happy Greenkeeping.  
Donovan O Hunt

## South Wales

As I write this column a month behind, I am a little jaded, as I am just back from Harrogate Week. Many thanks to all at HQ for organising a superb Show.

Highlight of the week for me was to see the level of attendance to the seminar on, Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course seminar, presented jointly by the R&A and BIGGA. The second part of the seminar was on the following day called the Big Debate. This allowed questions from the floor to the panel, it was great to see so much enthusiasm from greenkeepers discussing their management techniques, what other industry can derive so much passion. Excellent!

If you have never been before, I can highly recommend it, great to catch up with old faces and a superb place to network.

Our series of winter evening lectures has taken place. First off was Alex Edwards, joint MD Inturf. Many thanks to him for taking the time to come down to Wales and giving us an insight into his growing methods and new techniques. Good turnout mixed with IOG members.

This month's education night is Chris Briggs, from Avoncrop. His presentation is on the updated legislation in relation to amenity pesticide. This is on March 9 at 7pm. If you have not received your fixture cards, please get in touch with either myself or the Section Secretary, Peter Lacey.

Best wishes to Colin Frost, one of our longest serving sales reps. Colin retired last month from Sisis. Best wishes to him from all at the South Wales Section, for a long and healthy retirement. Sisis has presented Colin and his wife with life membership to the National Trust.

Come on guys and girls, there must be loads of gossip you can send me - people moving, new staff, new blood into the industry, what work you are doing at your clubs, new kit etc, and colleagues doing stupid things. I have the power to name and shame.

Angus Macleod

**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](http://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](mailto:gareth@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 [gareth@bigga.co.uk](mailto:gareth@bigga.co.uk) by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

*Word limited 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

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### SUDOKU

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

### ANAGRAM

RUGGED KISSER - GREG RUSEDISKI  
GIANT IRISHMAN - MARTINA HINGIS

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



### A QUICK NINE HOLES

1. Mike Ruddock
2. Sri Lanka
3. Turin, Italy
4. 3-0
5. Thaworn Wiratchant
6. Manchester City
7. 30 - 10
8. 56th out of 57 competitors - the 57th was disqualified
9. Scott Murray