



News from the Chief Executive

I am sure many of you anxiously followed the progress of the European Ryder Cup team on Sunday, either listening on the radio like me, or perhaps watching it on Sky. What a contest and what a result! Congratulations to the team and to their Captain Ian Woosnam. The strong bond between the European players and their overwhelming camaraderie was self evident and while the American team consisted of a group of very talented players, to my mind they lacked that little something extra that makes a team. I suppose a smile comes easier when you're winning! In a different type of contest were eight finalists of the Toro Student of the Year Award, held recently at BIGGA HOUSE. The standard of competitors' rises year on year and my congratulations go to the winner Mike Emptage, who was nominated by Hadlow College. A full report on the final will appear in next month's magazine.

My colleague, Ken Richardson, continues to beaver away on the Health and Safety Management System project with the help of various members of the task group together with significant input from Health and Safety consultants, Exact. The result of this project is scheduled to be released at Harrogate Week. I am currently awaiting confirmation of sponsorship of the project and hope to be able to give full details of the scheme in the November issue of Greenkeeper International.

In October, UK members should receive their copy of the Member's Handbook, a benefit that I hope they find of significant interest and value. Additional funding has been secured to be able to provide Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers with a pocket diary that they will receive before Christmas, regrettably the costs of providing one for every member are prohibitive, there may however, be a few spare diaries available on the BIGGA stand at Harrogate on a first come first served basis. October also sees the launch of the Harrogate Week 2007 'Continue to Learn' education programme that has grown in size and stature compared to previous years.

I hope that you will take time to study the brochure that contains details of workshops and seminars organised not only by BIGGA but also by many of the leading bodies in the industry. Exhibitors have also been allocated education time and many have taken the opportunity to give presentations to visitors on technical and product matters.

Harrogate Week is not just an important event for BIGGA it is also a key event in the turf and club management industry as a whole. Despite the absence of some major machinery manufacturers in January 2007, there will never the less be an impressive event that you really cannot afford to miss. All visitors in January 2006 will automatically be pre-registered for the exhibition and they should receive acknowledgement in the post in due course. Harrogate Week has its own website that contains full details of the event, the address is: www.harrogateweek.org.uk

I hope that members will make every effort to support their Association by attending Harrogate and in doing so, demonstrating to the exhibitors that you value their investment in BIGGA's future. Please do not be under any illusion that BIGGA can continue in its present form if funding issues are not resolved. The profit from Harrogate Week is vital to the future well being of the Association and a roller coaster of lean year, fat year is not sustainable.

I am saddened by the relatively poor number of entries for the National Tournament; at the time of writing we have received only 60 applications. If you have any thoughts on how this decline can be turned around, please let me know. Finally, I am pleased to report that we have appointed a new company to re-design the Association's website with a targeted launch at Harrogate Week 2007. The new site will incorporate many of the suggestions that members have made in recent months and will also give the staff at HQ far greater ease of information input. We recognise the growing value of the site to members and have taken the opportunity of a grant from the R&A to make the changes possible.

John Pemberton

Around
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

East

As I write this report, September has arrived with a definite autumnal feel to the air. After the prolonged dry spell, which brought its own problems, the borders were hit with 70mls of rainfall during Friday, August 18. Due in part to the dry spell, there have been wide spread complaints of "Anthracnose" resulting in a boom in sales of potash based products.

The following report is courtesy of Graeme Bryce, Greenkeeping lecturer at Oatridge College: Scottish Open - Loch Lomond GC 2006 - "Team Oatridge" comprised of Barrie Lewis, Ratho Park; Murray White, Longniddry; Iain Ramsay, Edinburgh Leisure, The Braids; and Daniel McGarrell, Holland Bush, and their lecturer, Graeme Bryce. They set off to Loch Lomond GC to participate in the maintenance of the course for the 2006 Scottish Open. Three of the four students are currently undertaking an SVQ Level II in Greenkeeping/Sportsturf and are just about to enter their second year. The other student, Barrie Lewis has achieved his SVQ Level II and will be entering SVQ Level III this academic year. Both Iain Ramsay and Barrie Lewis won their respective year prizes through hard work and effort and were awarded their accolades at the Oatridge College prize giving in June this year. Barrie also won through to the final Toro Student of the Year 2006.

Under the direction of Course Superintendent, David Cole, the Oatridge team were divided into various groups of greenkeepers who had specific tasks to complete. The tasks included, bunker maintenance, divotting, switching fairways, maintaining paths and other means of golf course maintenance.

The Oatridge team were extremely well looked after for the entire duration of the tournament week and mixed in well with the resident greenkeeping crew. The maintenance of a golf course of this magnitude aids in inspiring these up and coming student greenkeepers and helps them to realise exactly what they could achieve with determination and hard work.

Plenty of photographs were taken as a souvenir of the tournament week and will be looked upon fondly, especially the photograph taken with the Scottish Open winner Johan Edfors. Hopefully Oatridge will be able to provide the necessary support for years to come.

"Team Oatridge" would like to thank all of the Loch Lomond greenstaff who were absolutely fantastic in helping the guys feel at home and for making sure they made the most of their experience. They would also like to thank their respective employers for allowing them the time off.

The Willie Woods Tournament was held at Haddington GC on Wednesday, August 23, with sunny conditions being the order of the day. The results on the day were as follows: 1. S Lamb and R Kelly, 36pts; 2. R Burgon and R McMulloch, 36.5pts. Longest Drive - P Ormiston and M Pagan, Nearest the Pin - I Kinlay and R McCulloch.

A big thank you is due to Haddington GC for courtesy of the course and to Norman Wood and his greenstaff for their efforts on the day.

A date for your diary is Saturday, December 9, when the annual dinner dance is being held at The Kilspindie House Hotel in Aberlady. A function not to be missed, tickets are available from your Secretary Kevin Hodges or any committee member.

On September 3, our trade hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, with a full page article in Scotland on Sunday on the demise of GCNI. A much respected trade journal, which reported information at the cutting

edge of our industry, it has regressed with a change of ownership into the equivalent of a 'lads magazine'.

Hopefully by the time you read these notes, I will be enjoying a cold beer and Greek salad in sunny Crete.

Until next month

Mike Dooner

Central

An excellent display by the Central Section team, competing in the Norrie Whytock Memorial Tournament on August 21, at Auchterarder GC, saw them taking away the Trophy as overall winners. The best three scores from Derek Scott, Kenny Mitchell, Paul Armour and Brian Heggie (Capt.), counted towards the total tally and respectfully defeated all other four Sections in Scotland. The course was in terrific order. Congratulations to Archie Dunn and his team for the presentation of the course. Many thanks to Bayer for sponsorship and Peter Boyd, for the administration and organisation of the event. Belated congratulations to Brian Heggie who was crowned the Scottish National Champion over Leven Links late last month. This is the third year in a row that Brian has taken the title. Leven was in great links condition and was stiff competition for a vast array of golfing greenkeepers around Scotland. Congratulations to Andy O'Hara and his team for turning out a great test of golf. Leven recently lost all use of the irrigation system for nearly a week, and guess what? Andy O'Hara, Course Manager, confirmed that the course hadn't played as well in many years. As well as the Central Section taking the Champion Golfer title, over home ground we also swept the team prize for best four scores on the day. Well done to all that participated.

Andy O'Hara has also been in the spotlight recently as he won the coveted title of LANTRA Modern Apprentice of the Year. The nomination came via Gordon Nimmo at Elmwood College, not only for pushing himself through SVQ level III, but also for the support he gave to many colleagues, on his own staff and elsewhere, in completing their NVQ qualifications.

On the employment merry-go-round, Andy O'Hara has recently appointed Gordon McRae as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Gordon moved to the position from the same role at Ratho Park GC. Also moving into a Deputy Head role is John Wood who has moved from Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, Dublin to the Old Course, St Andrews. Peter Pattenden, Head Greenkeeper Gleneagles PGA Centenary, has left to take the position of Golf Courses and Estates Manager at De Vere Carden Park. He has been replaced by Donald Robb - previously Head Greenkeeper at Blairgowrie GC. We wish all of them the best of luck in their respective new positions.

On a sincere note, it is with regret that we inform you of the resignation from the committee of John Crawford, Course Manager at Stirling GC, Secretary/Treasurer of the Section for well over 20 years. We would like to thank him for his service to the association, and wish him all the best.

For the Section's first education evening at Elmwood Golf Course (1st Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm) we were entertained by Allan Patterson and Paul Kember, Head Greenkeeper and Associate Architect respectively, of the St Andrews Links Trust seventh course. The talk ran through the various processes from feasibility studies, appointment of architect, the various planning stages and right through to the finishing works and seed specifications that will hopefully make the whole project a must play success. Our thanks go to Allan and Paul for giving freely of their time and wish them continued success with the construction.

On Wednesday, August 8, William Nisbet and Steve Nixon, of Bernhard & Co. gave an excellent presentation on cutting unit technology, and its impact on turf-grass health. There was also a demonstration of their grinding technique. Many thanks go to Willie and Steve for an informative

presentation. Both these sessions were well attended, and we hope to see more new faces at future presentations.

In association with CMAE (Club Managers Association of Europe) we are running a seminar on Wednesday 18th October at Murrayshall House Hotel, Perth. The aim of the day is to blend presentations, discussion and debate on all aspects relating to golf courses. The presentations will deal with the different perspectives of those involved i.e. managers/secretaries, players, greenkeepers, advisers. Succinct presentations will be followed by short Q & A Sessions. Thereafter, delegates will form Topic Discussion Groups with each group providing feedback for a Final Plenary Session. Letters will be posted to members shortly.

If anyone has any educational ideas that they wish to see being run within the section then please give us the heads-up. This can be at any level of the industry and in any subject. I have heard it said more than once that nothing is ever run up here, north of the border, so let's prove this to be untrue. We will attempt to provide sessions to suit your requirements. Your education and your personal development is in your hands. Please visit the Section website for more information on future events and to keep up with other news. www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Euan Grant

North

Hello everybody. It seems I may have upset a few people with my off the cuff comments about certain teams in the SPL in August's report, so to avoid any more ill feeling my apologies to those I upset. There was no malice intended. In any case I'm sure the best team will win the league in the end!

The autumn outing will have been played at Fraserburgh GC by now so the results will be in the next issue.

The season is drawing to a close now and I'm sure the autumn renovation programmes are in full swing, with coring and overseeding the norm for the next few weeks.

The Boy's Home International's went very well at Moray GC with Scotland coming out on top to claim the title. The course was in great shape and along with the weather presented a tough challenge to the players over the few days. Well done to George Paterson and his staff for all their efforts that week. The following week the Boys Amateur Championship was played at Royal Aberdeen GC and was won by Andrew Nixon, from England, who beat Bjorn Akesson from Sweden at the 38th hole in the final. It was one of the best matches I've seen for years with high quality golf throughout the final. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank my own staff for their hard work and efforts that week, in ensuring that the course was presented at its best.

Bob Mackay, in Aviemore, is no nearer finding the culprit for his vandalism but he was saying that it is slowly healing and the seed he has put down is now filling the gaps.

When the forms went out for the autumn outing, Dale asked if anybody fancied a dinner dance for the Section sometime in the winter. How do members feel about this and is there a chance that it may work? Perhaps if we get a few at the AGM then it can be discussed in more detail.

The dreaded crane fly is busy making more work for us in the winter by injecting their eggs into the turf. It looks like it will be another bad year for leather jackets on the fairways etc as there are millions of the buggers about here at the moment, mind you I'm sure the reps will be only to glad to supply the products to get rid of them.

Eoin Riddell and his staff will be busy this year as there is a new irrigation system going in at Dornoch, which will cover the whole course. The old system was giving major problems in all areas, so I'm sure an up

NORTHERN REGION

to date system will be a big help over the next few years. The only downside to these modern systems is the capacity of water you need to keep them going during a dry spell. Our reservoir holds three million gallons when full but even this was well down by the middle of August after daily watering although the course still looked like it hadn't seen water for months. Bring on the rain!

Has anyone else there got some major projects on the go that they want people to hear about, if so let me know on: grassman351@aol.com.

Not much else for you folks.

Robert Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

West

Here are the results from our spring outing that I forgot to put in my last report.

Scratch prize- Chris Kerr, 1. 1. Scott McKittrick, 2. Andy Peace, 3. Stuart Taylor; 2. 1. John Barr, 2. Drew McKechnie, 3. Tom Hindmarsh; 3. 1. Chris Locke, 2. Keith Goldie, 3. Alan Martin.

The visitors' prize was won by Davy McBride, the Ian Mackay Trade Trophy by Alistair Taylor, Longest Drive was Stuart Taylor and Nearest the Pin, Scott Ballantyne. Well done to all the winners.

Also at the Scottish National Gordon Howat, of Souters, won the Trade Cup, Gordon is now a member of the West Section committee.

At the recent Harry Diamond Quaich, Eddie McGhee, Douglas MacIntosh and Cecil George represented the Section. Eddie's team finished second and he also won a Nearest the Pin - well done, Cecil was a great friend of Harry over the years and always attends this very popular event.

I travelled up to Auchterarder GC for this year's Norrie Whytoch Trophy and once again it was disappointment on the day. Many thanks to my team for their effort better luck next year. Thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff for the good condition of the course, also to Peter Boyd for arranging the day and to Bayer for their continuation of this event.

David Drummond is retiring at the end of the year after many years' service with Bayer I would wish him many happy years' retirement from all in the Section.

Congratulations to the winners, the Central Section.

Our AGM will be held at Drumpellier GC on October 26, arrival between 9am and 9.30 for coffee, then 10am for AGM, Thereafter a game of golf is arranged - format to be decided on the day.

The match against the Club Masters will be at East Kilbride GC on Monday, November 6 - we haven't lost the quaich since I took over as Chairman. Long may it continue. There are still a few places left in the team if you are interested in playing please get in contact.

Once again we are returning to the studio for our annual night out it has proved a popular venue over the last couple of years with a good attendance, we had thought of changing the venue but could not get the same value for money elsewhere. The date is Saturday, November 25 starting time approximately 7.30pm. Tickets are now on sale from Fraser Ross: 07970366355 or Gavin Jarvis: 07921060402, please come along for an enjoyable night.

Well that's all for now hopefully more news next month.

Gavin Jarvis

North West

A little bit of news has come to me from my roving reporter, an old friend of the north west Section, namely Mike Bottomley, has returned to Holdsworth GC from Rossendale after an absence of some 20 years. Good luck Mike. We hope Alan Jones, from Swinton Park GC, is feeling better as we are hearing he has not been very well.

As I write this we are having some serious rain here in Liverpool, the first for some months. I guess where I am going in two days - Corfu, I would call good planning as it is currently 39 degrees there. The autumn tournament will take place on October 4 at St Annes old links, please contact Billy Merritt for details and to register to play. If anyone has any news, views or opinions or needs advice, please contact the secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151-724-5412 or myself on: 0151 289 4625 my e-mail is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan

Sheffield

Barry Lax, Head Greenkeeper at Worksop GC in Nottinghamshire is to retire on the 31st of this month after 35 years in charge of this highly regarded course.

When I joined the BGGGA (later to become BIGGA) in January 1977, Barry was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Sheffield Section. As a young greenkeeper I was immediately impressed with the calm assured way that he dealt with Section affairs. He is without doubt one of the most respected greenkeepers that our Section has had and one whose advice we would readily seek.

Barry came to Worksop GC in March 1971 having gained experience at a market garden centre, Lindrick Golf Club, Worksop Cricket and Social Club and as Head Groundsman at British Wire Ropes in Retford.

Whoever succeeds Barry as Head Greenkeeper at Worksop will do well to maintain his high standards. Having known Barry for 35 years, I know he is a man of great principles, a fair man, a moderniser as well as a respecter of traditions.

Barry, and his wife Sylvia, are keen dancers and are hoping to have more time in their retirement to pursue their hobby. They have two children, Joanne and John and two grandchildren, Daniel and Mitchell who they hope to spend more time with over the coming months and years.

Over the years Barry will have made many friends and acquaintances in the golf industry and I am sure they will join me and other members of the Sheffield Section in wishing him and Sylvia a long and happy retirement.

Gordon Brammah

Chairman, BIGGA

Sheffield continued...

On September 5 we held our autumn competition at Sitwell Park GC who we would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. It was quite a few years since we have visited Sitwell - it was enjoyed by all who played. We would also like to say well done to Chris Colton and his staff for the condition and presentation of Sitwell - well done Chris. I would also like to congratulate Chris in his forthcoming wedding when he will be marrying Judith. All the best to you both! Thanks also go to Glen Sawyer Golf and Turf Machinery for being the main sponsor of the competition, which was very much appreciated thanks Glen! Thanks also



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

to Peter Fell, from Aitkens, for providing the raffle prize thanks Pete! Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

Finally to the golf. Their was some good golf played on a lovely day for golf - which we were very lucky to of had what with the recent weather. The competition was close, John Goldthorpe emerging as the eventual winner - well done John! The prizes were presented by Dave Holyhead, the Captain of Sitwell Park. Thanks Dave.

The results were as follows: 1. John Goldthorpe, 35pts, bb9; 2. Chris Colton, 35pts, bb9; 3. Antony Whittington, 35pts; 4. Rob Marsden, 33pts; 5. Dave Chappell, 32pts. The guest prize went to Geoff Hardy, Secretary of Sitwell. Well done Geoff.

Any news feel free to contact me On 07793111845 or jv.lax@tesco.net
 John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

East Midlands

Congratulations are in order this month for two of our members. Firstly to Antony Bindley who has got married, this seemingly happened quite quickly but Antony assured me he had known her for sometime, but they always say the quiet ones are the worst! I just hope you've got an agreement where you can still play golf and cricket. Seriously though we

all hope you have a very happy life together. Secondly congratulations to David James, Deputy Course Manager at Luffenham Heath GC, on achieving his NVQ Level 4, I am sure it will stand you in good stead for the future. Well done.

On a much sadder note, I wish to inform you that John Carter, a former member and now working in the trade has undergone a serious operation for cancer treatment and at this moment in time is seriously ill. I am sure those of you that know him will wish him a successful recovery and look forward to seeing him again and enjoying his wicked sense of humour. Get well soon John.

Richard Barker

East of England

The annual match against the trade was held at Blankney GC, with a resounding win for the greenkeepers, 4/2 - the trade did squeeze a couple of wins but it wasn't enough was it Stuart, better luck next year. Our thanks go to John and Blankney for granting us courtesy and for looking after us so well.

By the time this comes to print, we will have played our second match, which is against the Secretaries at Norwood Park, results will follow next month.

Finally, we have our AGM at Spalding GC on November 2. Please try to attend - we should have the seminar programme for the winter finalised by then,

Allan Walker

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Mid Anglia

Sorry the article has been a bit quiet lately but we are back and ready to go. Back in Spring our first competition was held at Bedford and County GC, around 30 people attended and the weather was fantastic. Our thanks go to the golf club for their hospitality and also to Geoff Fenn and his team for the great condition of the course.

The prize winners on the day were, 1. Frank (straight down the middle) Whittle, from Stocks; 2. Tim McCreddie, from Royston; 3. Gary Boulton, from Dunstable Downs. Longest Drive. Kevin Armstrong, John O` Gaunt; and Nearest the Pin. Frank Whittle. Congratulations to Frank and Tim who both qualify for the National

Championship, at Burton on Trent, in October - good luck lads. I would like to thank Darren Mugford, from Rigby Taylor, for the sponsorship of the prize table and to the other members of the trade who donate prizes for the raffle. Thanks guys.

One fine evening our Chairman for the Section, Frank Scullion, was playing

golf with a member at his course when they noticed a hot air balloon quite low in the sky, after a few more holes the balloon had come to rest on one of Frank's fairways. Running over to the balloon he asked the host if he knew where he was, and to Frank's surprise he said yes, Dunstable Downs GC unbeknown to him that Gavin Simkins, from Mount Pleasant, was on board. So Frank would like to say to Gavin please use the car park like everyone else.

Following a great day at Letchworth GC in August the results were: 1. D. Hodkin, Knebworth, 40pts; 2. R. Groves, Letchworth, 37pts; 3. S. Mason, Stocks, 37pts and 4. J. Smith, South Beds, 37pts. Nearest the Pin - G. James and Longest Drive - N. Phelan. Well done Dan, that's three years on the trot for the Summer competition, we will have to ask Andrew to send you on holiday when next year's venue is arranged.

Congratulations go to James Camfield and his staff for presenting the course in such great condition, with all the dry weather we have had the lads had done a terrific job. Thanks also go to Letchworth GC for their hospitality and to the caterers for the fantastic evening meal.

Our main sponsor for the day was Tacit and we would like to thank Tim Webb for the superb selection of prizes on offer, and also to our other trade members for their continued support at our events. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Colin Robinson from John O` Gaunt all the best for the future. He and his wife will be travelling

round the world with some friends for a year. Good luck and best wishes from the Mid Anglia Section. Also due to an ever increasing workload Bob Butfoy has resigned from the committee, I would like to wish him all the best and hope he has some luck

in getting some staff.

Gerald Bruce

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Tuesday, September 5. I'm sitting writing this in my garden under a blue sky in a temperature of about 20 degrees. Hopefully all that horrid rain of August has passed and an Indian summer is on its way.

Saltex at Windsor starts today and although we have no stand this year, I will be there strolling around the show taking advantage of any freebies that the exhibitors may be offering. One stand that is always easy to find, because of the large interest shown by the visitors, is Jim's beers and

burgers frequented by most of the Surrey greenkeeping fraternity.

Wednesday, September 6. The weather continues to be warm, dry and sunny and yesterday at Saltex I did bump into a number of familiar faces as I promenaded with my charming companion, the voluptuous Mark Day. We dined on biscuits at the Avoncrop stand, stuffed pasties and pies on the Sheriff stand and were amazed at the various demonstrations that the exhibitors were only too anxious to display to such an important looking pair of undoubtedly executive personnel. Without our badges on they kept referring to us as Mr Laurel and Mr Hardy, was this another fine mess that Mark had got me into?

My next encounter was Brian Turner, who, like me, has just had another important birthday. He was accompanied by his deputy Paul Robinson and Bernard Roe - Brian's left hand man. Brian and Paul have won the Surrey Bowl this year and full details will be found, with photographs in the news Section of this edition.

The details and report of the golf day at Farnham will appear in next months magazine.

Brian Willmott.

East Anglia

"At last" I hear you cry. It's been a while I know but modern technology and assumption being the mother of all, one way or the other past notes have gone astray.

However we did not get where we are today worrying about who shot the pigeon and our intrepid travellers found their way to Richmond Park GC, without satellite navigation I might add.

It was a lovely day for the grass, being that the sun shines on the righteous it is little wonder that it rained. 58 of us got wet at some point but a great day was had by all. The course was in excellent shape thanks to Steve Curtis and his crew, the grub was handsome and the hospitality second to none.

The prizes were presented by David Packard, the Vice Captain and the day was sponsored by Ben Burgess. The recipients of the prizes were as follows:-

0-9 Section - 1. Norman Fenwich, 37 pts; 2. Alan Elliot, 36 pts; 3. James Burton, 36 pts.

10-18 Section - 1. Robert Ransome, 43 pts; 2. Robert King, 42 pts; 3. Paul Gould, 41 pts.

19-28 Section - 1. Andy Baker, 36 pts; 2. John Morley-Smith, 35 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 34 pts. G & T Section - 1. Mick Crabtree, 39 pts; 2. T Hammond, 39 pts.

Nearest the Pins on the 3rd and in two on the 18th were sponsored by ETT and won by Matt Gill and Paul Gould. Longest Drive for greenkeepers was also sponsored by ETT and won by Joe Simpson. Nearest the Pin on the 3rd for guests and the Longest Drive for guests was sponsored by Banks Amenity and won by Steve Crossdale and Carl Chamberlain. The loo seat, after a tight contest, was awarded to our evergreen Steve Dickinson who plays of plus 48 and was nearest the pin for two on the 18th for quite some time but did not score a point. (Well if he can do it there is hope for us all).

Other sponsors are as follows:- Aitkins; Amenity Wise; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; CMW; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; E.T.T; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Prime Irrigation; Ransome Jacobsen; Rigby Taylor; Scotts; Sherriff; Sisis; Symbio; Tacit; Textron; Tomlinson Ground Care; Toro and Vitax.

Robert Ransome was the outright winner on the day. A little bird told me (and it wasn't a stork!) that he is getting married in September. (His handicap will go up now I bet). We all wish him and his wife every

happiness and hopefully he will be in fine fettle when we meet again at Ely on October 3rd.

And finally; A Secretary informs the greenkeeper that his Chairman of Green has resigned after many years. "That's the end of an error then," said the greenkeeper. "Surely you mean era," said the secretary. "No" said the greenkeeper.

Mick Lathrope

**SOUTH WEST
& SOUTH WALES**

BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Seminar 2006

The date for this year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar is Tuesday, November 21. It will be held once again at the Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies. The theme for this year is "A Sustainable Future For Golf?"

The day will be presented by BIGGA South West and South Wales Region in association with the R&A. The speakers will give presentations on the different aspects of sustainability in relation to the golf course and how to promote the message to the golf club and its members.

Presentations will be made by:- Steve Isaac, Assistant Director - Golf Course Management, The R & A; Dr Keith Weatherhead, Senior Lecturer in Soil and Water Engineering, Institute of Water and Environment, Cranfield University; Howard Swan, Golf Course Architect and member of EIGCA; Keith Adderley, Secretary Temple Golf Club and member of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries; Richard Whyman, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club; Phil Weaver, PGA Chairman and Club Professional/Course Manager at Coventry Golf Club; Billy McMillan, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Course Manager at Tyrells Wood Golf Club.

This excellent line up of speakers makes this a day not to be missed so make sure you book early, as places will be limited. Booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the Region. Any further information can be obtained by contacting Jane Jones, Regional Administrator

Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841948110.

South West

We really have played some fantastic section matches this year - three wins out of three, Adrian Bennett - Match Captain - what a guy. (When he retires from the captaincy, we'll keep him as a mascot.) Seriously, Adrian has put his heart and soul into the team - I know for a fact he has made 60 - 70 phone calls to make all the arrangements, and I'd like to thank him most sincerely on behalf of the Section, and hope that he'll carry on next year.

The annual match against South Wales was again played over the Old Course at St. Pierre. Many thanks to St. Pierre, who have hosted this match every year, at no cost, for over twenty-five years now. The Old Course was in as good a condition, if not better than I've seen it over those 25 years - congratulations to all the staff involved - it was an absolute credit, and always nice to come back across the bridge with the cup. Tim Morgan, who is an absolute joy to partner, and I held on to a one hole victory which proved crucial in the three and a half - two and a half win. Tim was "Mr Steady" where as my sort of golf is much more fun - you see more of the course, much more of the wildlife, as well as getting more exercise.

Knighton Heath was the venue for the match against the South Coast.

This very traditional heathland course, just outside Ferndown, was in stunning condition although somewhat parched on the fairways. It was however, a joy to play, and a 4 -1 victory was also very satisfying. I've only had one fully functioning shoulder for the last year, but watch out long-driving competitors - it's getting better! The only adverse comment about the course I heard all day was from my playing partner, Mark Freeman, who commented that he had been expecting a sea-view and was severely disappointed. Mind you, the view on a nearby housing estate more than made up. A leggy brunette with the tightest pair of lycra cycling shorts you've ever seen, was deliberately (in my opinion) bending over her car while pretending to wash it. I asked if she'd mind polishing my driver as we went past but she was having none of it. As Wayne Vincent remarked, "I was lining up a two foot eagle putt for the hole on that green, and nobody was even watching me". Good day all round.

Jon Jarvis, Course Manager at Lansdown, dropped me a line to report that he is trying crushed glass in one of his practice bunkers and anyone is welcome to contact him for a progress report, or to view the bunker at any time. Give him a ring at the club.

The AGM is on October 12 at Ogbourne St. George. We need your presence, we need your ideas, inspiration, and support at this meeting. The Section needs good attendances to justify its continued activities. This means you. Please support your committee, who put in a good number of hours working on your behalf, to make a success of the association.

Finally, no-one can accuse Sarah Allcock, ecology and environmental advisor at Minchinhampton, of not taking her job seriously. Her car conked out on the way home the other day. After several panic stricken phone calls to the garage, a tow truck, the AA, and her dad, not necessarily in that order, the problem was eventually diagnosed. A squirrel had made a nest in her engine compartment, and its nuts had got caught in the air intake and blocked it. Sarah, who has a degree in Biological Science, said that's the last time she's ever taking her work home with her.

Let's have a good attendance at the AGM, and let me know any bits of news from around the area.

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

South Coast

Hello all. As I write this (September 1) I look back on August, as many of you probably have, with some relief due to the wetter month. If you've been on holiday in this time I hope that you avoided the showers (monsoons and flooding in North Hampshire area) and that your golf course received the welcome rain.

The Jim Fry Pair's competition is making "steady" progress. We are down to the semi finals but please can you all ensure that you report your results to Phil Wentworth (mobile: 07831 862705) asap. He does a great job organising this event, please show your gratitude by keeping him up to date. Best of luck to the remaining participants.

Our next golf day is the Autumn Tournament at Corhampton GC, on October 12. Chris Sturgess is excellent at being tournament organiser and always keeps us up to date via email regarding events and producing a play list. If you do not receive this information and would like to be included and kept up to date with all the golf day dates and information please email Chris on: chrismaggsturgess@tiscali.co.uk or contact him by phone on 07773 138409.

The AGM will take place at Corhampton GC after the days play and before dinner is served. So, as there will be many rumbling tummies I'm sure the proceedings will progress at a reasonable pace? Of course the AGM is very important and it will not take up too much of your time. If you have any business you would like discussed please feel free to voice your

views at the AGM.

Finally, this is your Section. Please contact me if you have any news, be it happy, sad, interesting, funny etc etc, but please let me know so that we can share it with the whole section. Contact me on joe.crawley@ukgateway.net or on: 07721 389200.

Joe Crawley

Devon and Cornwall

Veteran South Devon athlete, Eric Barber, has become triple world champion after decimating the field in the 70 to 74 age group in the World Duathlon Championships hosted by Canada, Newfoundland.

The retired BIGGA member received a gold medal and a piece of local volcanic rock as a keepsake.

His next major event will be the European Duathlon Championships in Rimini in October.

Don Hunt

South Wales

The Pencoed College Open Day was a great success, P. Lacey and A. MacLeod manned the BIGGA marquee for the day assisted by Pencoed College's Paul Discombe and John Sullivan. Our thanks to "Ted Hopkins & Son Ltd" who loaned us some Toro equipment in the form of a fairway mower to enhance our position and to attract attention.

The Summer Competition took place at the Dewstow Parc GC, 24 people took to the course and enjoyed a great day made by the hospitality of the club. Our thanks to the sponsors of the day "R S Birds Ltd" and especially MD Jeffrey Bird who provided a first class prize table.

Results: Winner - Gary Humphries, Birdie Cup; Runner-up - Rhys McDonagh, Jacobsen Cup and 3rd, Mark Wilshire.

The recent and annual match versus the South West Section of "BIGGA" played over the Old Course at the St Pierre Resort, Chepstow. The South West ran out winners by a narrow margin and a great day was had by all. Standards at the resort were excellent, the "Old Course" was in super condition, hospitality was exceptional and the meal was plentiful. Thanks have been sent to all concerned including the sponsors "Inturf" and "Scotts" represented on the day by James Rees and Nick Martin.

With our past Chairman, Russell Anderson, having moved to Copenhagen, the Section has been operating without a Chairman. This position will hopefully be rectified prior to the sections AGM which will be at the Alice Spring's GC on Friday, October 13.

The annual match versus the Secretaries, held over the Grove golf course near Porthcawl was in excellent condition, even with the inside knowledge and assistance from the Course manager and our President, Henry Stead,

We were beaten, although I believe we are still in the lead with eight matches to seven since the event started. Many thanks to the club for hosting the event and all associated at the club for making everyone feel welcome.

With Adrian Panks and Peter Holmstrom moving into the trade and taking up positions with Sisis and Countrywide respectively, two committee officers have been lost,

however Steve Chappell, Course Manager of Neath GC has requested to join the committee and it is hoped that this will be ratified at the forthcoming AGM.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles is well underway and is nearing the semi-final stages. While the favourites have been knocked out, last years winners are still very much in it.

Congratulations to Richard Patterson formally assistant to Malcolm Davies, has been appointed Deputy Course Manager at Cradoc GC.

It is the turn of the "IOG" to formulate this forthcoming "Winter Evening Lecture Series" and I'm told that the organisation of such is well underway.

The "IOG" annual dinner and dance will be once again at the "Sophia Gardens" home of Glamorgan County Cricket Club, Cardiff some time in October. It is hoped that sponsorship can be sought as per last year in order to get as many BIGGA

members and their spouses/partners involved in the event. Details will be mailed shortly.

Angus Macleod

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

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

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

ANAGRAM

HARDEN PARK PRY
Answer: Harry Redknapp

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



A QUICK NINE HOLES

1. Player's strike
2. Nathalie Tauziat
3. The Beastie Boys
4. Sandy Lyle
5. Polo
6. A spectator
7. Shawn Mullins
8. Matt Dawson
9. Augusta