



News from the Chief Executive

There is a belief by some that members' subscriptions fund the activities of the Association. This is only true in part and there is no doubt that without the commercial aspects of the business then BIGGA would be a far different organisation to the one that it is today. In reality the cost of providing member benefits and membership administration account for most, if not all, of this income stream thereby contributing nothing towards the general overheads and other related subsidies and costs. Last year's turnover amounted to £1.8million of which only 23% was derived from members, while without members there would not be an association it is also important to put things into context.

Membership numbers have stagnated over recent years and while recruitment continues there is also a steady haemorrhaging of numbers, mainly as a result of greenkeepers leaving the industry or changing jobs and their new employer not agreeing to pay their subscription. Much of what greenkeepers do in managing turf is equally relevant to other aspects of sport and amenity turf maintenance and for some time there has been discussions at Board level about the notion that Groundsmen should be allowed to become more active members of BIGGA, by the creation of a specific 'Groundsman' category. This idea has been loosely circulated around the Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators for discussion with members and, of the feedback that I have had, there seems to be a wide difference of opinion ranging from very positive to the dogged belief that BIGGA is a greenkeeping association for greenkeepers only. In the commercial world then, the more numbers that we can boast the more pulling power we have with benefit providers, advertisers, sponsors and in particular exhibitors at Harrogate. Why would groundsmen wish to join? Hopefully to take advantage of the membership benefits, participate in BIGGA's education programme and also to network on a local and national basis with other people in a similar industry to their own. Courtesy golf should never become an issue, this is, and always has been, down to the policy of individual golf clubs and as a Groundsman member they could be issued with a different coloured membership card that clearly states 'Groundsman Member'. What's stopping this thought being actioned? The answer - the reaction of greenkeeper members and the Constitution. The current Constitution allows only 'Any person employed in the keeping of the green at a golfing establishment' to be Full members (subject to having the required minimum qualification) and any change would need to be agreed by members at an AGM. If the members attending are not in agreement then the motion would fail and even if it did get approved it is important that generally the membership approves. At the moment a Groundsman can join as an Associate member but it would surely be valued more if they could have their own category, with specific benefits and subject to such conditions as may from time to time be determined by the Board. We are not looking for a confrontation with the IOG merely proposing an alternative choice for Groundsmen. Twice this week I have been involved in dealings with groundsmen where we have been able to offer limited help because of the Constitution and I am sure many of you already have contact with people who would benefit from being a member under the appropriate circumstances. To grow stronger as an Association we need to grow the membership however the members also need to support their Association.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 26 when this will again be discussed with a view to putting together a firm proposal for circulation to members prior to the AGM. However there is no point in wasting time if a suitable suggestion will not be supported, even in principle. Please let me have your views either through the office or direct. My e-mail address is: john@bigga.co.uk

John Pemberton

Around
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

East

Since my last report, we have enjoyed record temperatures throughout Scotland, which have had suppliers of Wetting Agents and Irrigation Equipment jumping for joy, and the opposite effect for fertiliser manufacturers who are reporting a poor year.

The Open Championship has come and gone, with Craig Gilholm and his team putting in a fantastic effort prior to and during the Championship. The Hoylake greens staff were augmented by an additional 10 greenkeepers, drafted in by Craig from the UK and Canada, these included Mark Reid from Craigielaw and John Arbuckle from over the fence at Kilspondie. Although the days were long and tiring, with a 4.30am start to hand cut greens and working in the evenings after the finish of play - Mark and John enjoyed the experience of a lifetime, one that will live long in their memories.

Our Secretary, Kevin Hodges, has asked me to inform you that the committee are currently considering two venues for this year's Christmas extravaganza, these being the Kilspondie House Hotel in Aberlady and the Maitland in Haddington. Hopefully by September, the place and date will be finalised for the end of the year.

A club currently in the news is Whitekirk GC in East Lothian, who has applied for planning permission for a new 18-hole course and a huge hotel complex.

Also in the news is Swanston Farms Ltd, who are the new owners of Swanston GC. Work is currently underway on new golf holes, on land bordering the Edinburgh Bypass. At present, with the Clubhouse demolished, the members have relegated two temporary portacabins at the rear. However, a new clubhouse is planned, so the current arrangements are of a temporary nature.

Some time ago, I paid a visit to one of my suppliers, Greenbest, who are fertiliser blenders based in Dorset. On the day, I was met by Managing Director, Tim Le Mesurier, who spent the morning showing me around his premises and explaining the various processes involved in mixing both liquid and granular fertilisers. During the afternoon, we visited an airfield near Shaftesbury where Tim, a qualified pilot, owns a quarter share of a four seater PA28 Piper Archer. After a bite of lunch, Tim prepared the plane for take-off. Once on board, I was thoroughly grilled on all the safety procedures and what to do in case of emergency. It was not until we were airborne that the penny dropped - if anything happens to Tim, I groaned, you are on your own Mr Dooner! However, my fears were groundless and the views were fantastic, with our flight path taking us down over the New Forest, out over the Chanel and around the Isle of Wight, at one point dropping to 2000 feet to go around the Needles!

Finally, a big thank you to Tim for a most enjoyable day and trip of a lifetime.

Until next month.

Mike Dooner

North

Hell, the year is flying by. The days are closing in fast - I even need the light on in the morning now to see my Frosties. July was a scorcher with record sunshine and minimal rainfall recorded and August looks like it will be much the same.

I would think most greenkeepers will need rain by now and I'm sure the water pools and reservoirs will have taken a pounding in the last few weeks. Has anybody run out of water or is being switched off by the water board? Let me know if you have any interesting stories about water issues. The up side of the very dry spell, is that it's walloped the Poa into submission especially on fairways and walking areas etc.

The challenge tour event at Murcar GC went very well, with golfers and press universal in their praise of the golf course and facilities. Well done to Brian Anderson and his team for producing a quality course for the tournament. The winner and several of the players were quoted as saying that it was nice to play real links golf for a change as it presents a much tougher challenge than their normally used to.

August also brought along the Boys Home Internationals to Moray GC and the British Boys Championships to Royal Aberdeen GC. (Report in next issue on how they went.)

Last month I mentioned that Gareth Evans, Assistant Greenkeeper at Cruden Bay GC, was leaving the job - he has had a change of heart and has stayed at Cruden Bay to continue as a Greenkeeper.

One new member to report this month is Mr Malcolm Parsons who is Head Greenkeeper at Dufftown GC. Welcome to the Section.

This year the AGM will be at Royal Aberdeen GC on October 25. The committee are not yet sure of the format on the day but the idea is to try and get more support for the AGM and run it like a mini outing. Should anybody have any suggestions on a format for the day let me know on: grassman351@aol.com

That's about it folks, keep up the good work.

Robert Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

NORTHERN REGION

North East

The John Deere Team Championship was played at Matfen Hall GC recently. The event was sponsored by Greenlays again this year and also John Deere Credit who put on some very good prizes like Nearest the Pin.

Craig Parkinson, Course Manager and his staff, can be proud of their course, considering the way the weather has been over the past few weeks alot of good comments were made and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Apparently 22 teams took part - not a bad turnout, wish we could get as many for our spring and autumn Section competitions, perhaps the prize at the end of day was more tempting.

Matfen Hall were the winners, their team consisting of: Craig Parkinson, John Harrison (Director of golf) and Ian Edgeworth, with a score of 60 nett. Whicham came second with 63 nett and City of Newcastle third with 64 nett. Therefore Matfen travel to East Sussex National on September 12. Winners of the National Finals will then travel to The John Deere World Championship at the Reynolds Plantation Resort, Georgia on November 8 to 12.

Also worth mentioning is that a committee member playing for Houghton Le Spring GC had a hole in one.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

After a slow start, what a great summer we are having. I hope you have not had too many problems, there are parts of my own course that have big cracks appearing.

At least there are no water restrictions in Liverpool. Only one thing to mention this month and that is SISIS are holding a machinery demonstration day, here at West Derby GC, details are below. Numbers will be limited so if you want to come along make sure you fill a form in.

Tee to Green programme, West Derby GC, October 4: 9.15 am - breakfast of bacon baps and coffee, 9.45 am - presentation of SISIS AIR- AID, 10.30 am - demonstrations of the latest SISIS turf maintenance machinery on tee, fairway and green and 11.30am - coffee and biscuits.

To book contact, SISIS equipment Ltd on Tel: 01625 503030 or email: publicity@sisis.com

If anyone has any news, views or opinions, or needs advice please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625, my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan

Northern

At last it has arrived; the great British summer is upon us and all you hear is moans of "it's too hot" and "I want winter to arrive", there's just no pleasing some people.

There was plenty of moaning going on at Otley GC, where, just as the temperatures were getting in to the high 90s, the irrigation decided to pack in, so I must say a large thank you to Simon and the rest of the Par 4 team for getting it back up and running and keeping our greens alive!

We are currently in the process of arranging a small football tournament, which hopefully will involve ourselves, the North East Section and maybe teams from some other Sections - so if anybody fancies lacing up the old boots and representing the Section in something other than golf, please do get in touch. Even if you don't normally play in the usual Section golf events, get your name down, it would be great to see some new faces there if possible.

The same applies to all you cricketers out there, if any of you fancy representing the Section at an up-coming match, please let me know. If we can generate sufficient numbers of interested players it promises to be a great day.

If anyone has any news they would like to share with the rest of the Section please get in touch.

Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB. Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07939 319060.

Sheffield

On July 11, we held our Annual Tournament at Serlby Park GC. It was a nice day and some good golf was played by all! I would like to thank Serlby Park for giving us the courtesy of their course, and dual thanks go to Dave Smith, from Mansfield Sand, for being the main sponsors of the day - and for him being Captain of Serlby Park. The day was enjoyed by everyone present. Thanks go to Mark Aspinall and his staff for producing the course in such excellent condition, thanks Mark! and also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal and finally thanks to the other trade members who provided prizes.

The results from the golf are as follows: the eventual winner was Andy Bunting - well done Andy - he also won Best Net and the winner of Best Gross was Richard Jones - well done Richard. 1. A Bunting; 2. R Jones; 3. D Turner; 4. D Brownlow and 5. N Maltby.

Any news, please feel free to contact me on: 07793111845 or email: jv.lax@tesco.net - I haven't heard much from anyone lately!

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Golf Management Trophy



Winners: the Mid Herts GC team at Verulam GC.

The 2006 Midland Region Golf Management Trophy days, sponsored for the ninth successive year by Scotts UK Professional, were held at Verulam GC on July 27 and Boston GC on August 9. At Verulam, 20 teams from golf clubs had entered and at Boston 16 teams played. The competition is keenly contested for the Scotts Trophy, £200 worth of Scotts products to the winning golf club plus individual prizes for the first three placed teams. The format is four man teams, comprising a greenkeeper who is a member of BIGGA and three golf club officials playing a Stableford, with the best two scores on each hole to count - and has proved a popular event. The winning team at Verulam GC with 83 points was Mid Herts GC, who won on a countback from Ellesborough GC. Berkhamsted GC were 3rd

with 82 points. Worksop GC were the runaway victors at Boston GC, on a very blustery and difficult day with an excellent score of 86 points, with Kedleston Park 2nd with 80 points and Kirby Muxloe GC 3rd with 77 points.

Before the presentation Les Howkins (Master Greenkeeper and Course Manager at Cotgrave Place G & CC) gave a short talk on the benefits of BIGGA membership, which was well received.

The Midland Region is most grateful to Scotts UK Professional for their continued sponsorship of these events, and to the two golf clubs for providing their courses and facilities. Great credit for the excellent preparation of the golf courses is due to Chris Carpenter and his staff at Verulam GC and to Bruce Hicks and his staff at Boston GC.

East Midland

This year's Summer Tournament was held at Market Harborough GC and was sponsored by Banks Amenity.

I decided to leave early and make the 30 mile trip down the motorway with a view to setting out the stall and welcoming everybody. There was glorious sunshine at home and I was looking forward to a good day, how wrong I was - three miles down the motorway you couldn't see past the end of the bonnet due to torrential rain and they had just announced on the radio that flash flooding had hit Market Harborough. Typical, but what can you do, it was too late to cancel, so I just kept going - upon arrival in Market Harborough the Fire service were pumping out flooded shops and clearing the roads and on arrival at the golf club I was duly informed that 50 mm of rain had fallen in just two hours, but the course was open albeit rather wet!

By the time the first group went off the sun was out and a sunny afternoon followed, and judging by the scores, the soggy ground conditions did not affect the way the course played. 1. A Bindley, 78-12 =66, Back nine; 2. R Allen, 75-9 =66; 3. C Weir 79-12 =67; 4. R Barker 74-5 =69, Back nine; 5. A English 89-20 =69. Nearest the Pin - D Branson; Longest Drive - R Mc Carthy; Best Front Nine - P Frith and best Back Nine - N Colley.

After what looked like a dreadful day, the sun finally shone on the East Midland Section and a good day was had by all. Thanks must go to Nick Miles and his team for preparing a wonderful golf course in such difficult conditions, Simon Banks and Banks Amenity Products for their generous sponsorship and finally the catering staff for finishing our day off in style!

Thanks to all who attended and just a reminder, please pass on any news to me that could be included in the Section report.

Our next event will be the National Championships - don't forget to enter and support Gavin and his team at Burton. See you there.

Richard Barker

Midland

Hi folks, straight down to business I'm afraid this month - thank the Lord for that I hear. Within last month's notes I stated that our Annual Angling Match was to be held on September 11. It is in fact to be held on September 10 (Sunday), I still have a few pegs left, if interested please call me on: 07908 421 015.

Our summer tournament was held at Oxley Park GC. The course was in lovely condition as presented by Paul Jeffries and his fine team. Thank you gentlemen, a true testament to your fine skills. A huge thank you to Oxley Park for affording us the use of their fine club. The results of the day were: Best Gross - P Woodham; Nett - 1. D Fellows. 2. P Woodham; 3. E Stant; 4. R Beecham; 5. A Doulton and 6. A Jones. Our thanks to J. Hamond/Bathgate Leisure for the main prize table. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was sponsored by N. Tyler/Alpha Amenity and won by D. Fellows and L. Swann respectively. The trade winner was A. Corns. Our stand-in starter was V. Lee, great to see you back on the scene Vince.

Now for all you happy snappers who are awaiting the address to send those calendar pictures to. Such is: Mr. Chairman, 21 St. Catherine's Close, Broadway Park, Walsall, WS1 3TE. I am afraid that we can only use pictures recorded onto CD or DVD. Please get your entries in as soon as possible.

Places are still available for the regional training courses. C'mon guys, continue your development and keep those skills current. Ask your club to support your requirements and meet their responsibilities. Budget cuts and tight

finances are no excuse! What price can you put on safety? For details contact Paul Woodham or Bigga HQ.

Please don't forget that our AGM is to be held at Handsworth GC at 6.30pm on September 11. Anyone wishing for an answer to a specific question on the day, must inform the committee in writing at least seven days prior. Remember this is your Section and the committee can only serve you if we know what you want. Please attend and air your views, they are of the greatest importance.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to welcome 10 new members to our fine Section; S. Dipple, P. Belton, J. Baines, P. Baker, C. Withers, J. Golby, A. Thomas, A. Harper, N. Harris, M. Turnbull.

Sean McDade

East of England

I will start with the results from Grimsby: 1. Graeme Macdonald, 2. Gareth Rogers, 3. Rob Welford and 4. Les Howkins.

Congratulations to Gareth on two fronts, firstly for the condition of the course - a credit to you and your staff - and secondly on your new arrival, Tyler, now Alison has two little boys to look after. Our thanks also go to Lawn Mower Services for sponsoring the day (the golf that is) well done to Graeme, a good knock for an old guy in difficult conditions - also well done in the British dance championships, first place for your team I believe.

The next golf day is the rumble in the jungle, or if you prefer, the match against the trade, which will be held at Blankney GC - results will appear in the next magazine.

Peterborough Milton attended the Scotts management trophy at Boston GC, a good day was had by all, well done to Worksop GC who took the honors, our thanks also go to Bruce and his team for the condition of the course. Les Howkins MG gave a talk on the benefits of BIGGA membership to the individual and the club, which was informative and well received, well done mate.

Finally, I would like to finish on a personal note and say congratulations and well done to my wife who produced our son Connor on the hottest day for a hundred years - even I was sweating a bit and for those who know me, they will know understand that does not happen a lot.

Allan Walker

BB&O

Costa Del BB&O - summer at last! Phew! After a scorching heatwave, with record temperatures and record water shortages hitting the headlines daily - one thing is for sure, the water business is booming and so is my water bill. Let's hope the rain in Spain falls mainly on the English plain!

Studley Wood GC was the venue for the Autumn Invitational and as the name suggests, woods play an important part in the topography of the course. (Topography, supplied courtesy of Eric Kinlon) Designed by Simon Gidman and set in 170 acres of what was once an extensive woodland with testing natural hazards that come courtesy of 13 lakes, some impressive ground vegetation and a richness of fine mature oaks that lie in the centre of the course. History tells us that some 480 years ago, no less a person than Henry VIII enjoyed his sporting afternoons here, hunting deer and wild boar. The result is a course which framed by an ancient and beautiful landscape, combines a feeling of maturity and the prospect of a rewarding day and a fine test of golf. Well, a fantastic day was had by all and the results were as follows in reverse order: 3. Chris Taylor and Chas Forbes-Ritte, Wexham Park GC, 45 pts; 2. Dave Goodchild and Bert Moore, Ellesborough GC, winning on count back with 45 pts; 1. Sid Arrowsmith and yours truly, representing Frilford Heath GC, 47 pts and, Oh yes, we have now joined the Magic Pencil Club and I am sure some stick will be dished out over the coming months. Dave Goodchild picked up the John Deere putting green competition and the reliable Gem duo - Gary Tait and Clive Parnell, as usual hammered the Rigby Team with 38 pts.

Thank you to Ian Richardson, from Headland, the main sponsor for the day, who provided the prizes and to Jon Beck from Sheriff Amenity who set up refreshments at the halfway point and served an array of thirst quenching drinks and snacks.

Thank you to Studley Wood GC and owner Richard Percivale for the courtesy



Peter Boyd
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Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
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and the magnificent facilities that were provided to us on the day. Also thank you to Austin and Geraldine for ensuring that the catering preparations went according to plan, not forgetting Ian Hodgkinson and his team of staff for ensuring the course was presented to a first class standard for all our enjoyment.

Other news around the Section, all the way from the land where cider is the tippie of the day, in Devon is Martin Parrish from Holdsworth GC who joins the boys at Farnham Park GC as First Assistant.

Happy Gilmore and Brian Payne Jnr beat The Badgemore Boys 4 and 2 in a great tussle match in the Rigby Taylor Knockout and will they have to face the Magic Pencil or The Tartan Terminator in the next round. Find out next month.

Andy Goodhall, from Henley GC, was presented with a watch by the club after 25 years of greenkeeping service there, and not for occasionally giving the dimply mound on the 14th a number three haircut. Andy has seen many changes over the years and has slowly watched the course go from strength to strength during his time in the greens department.

Congratulations Andy! - from all the Section and we look forward to seeing you once again at the Section days in the future.

Jamie Newport, from Goring and Streatley GC, - now a part-time bricklayer has joined Drayton Park GC. In his first week the semi-pro footballer from Wallingford who lives for cutting straight fairways had an argument with his mower as the wall surrounding the oil tank, suddenly jumped out tearing off the front of his mower unit. Jamie now talks nicely to his green machine, and his new friend the oil tank.

If any member out there can help find the German genealogy for Aplin, one of the famous Zeppelin designers, Matt (who is researching his history) from Goring and Streatley GC, will be most grateful.

Birthday wishes to my counterpart from the baby boomer era, Brian Willmott

from Surrey, who is also magazine reporter for the area, Brian is 60 this month or so he says, many happy returns to you.

Congratulations to the Lomas family from The Berkshire GC. Chris has joined the first time dad club.

The next Section event will be held at Royal Ascot GC for the annual turkey trot, a great venue to look forward to, date and time to be confirmed. See you there.

Mark Day
 mark@day.fm



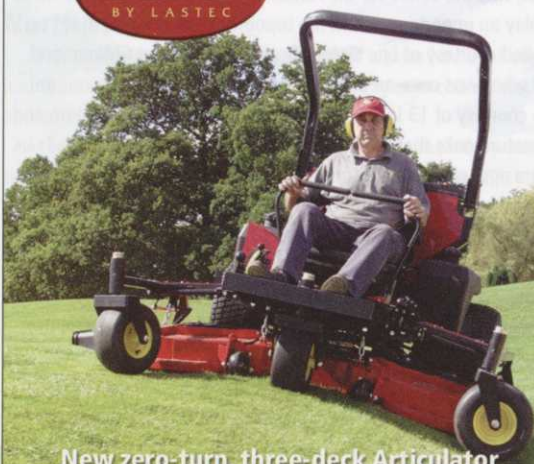
Surrey

Wednesday, August 2. I am 60 years old today! Three score years have passed since that eventful day in August 1946 and I have yet to make my mark in the world. My only claims to fame include standing in a bank queue behind Ronnie Corbett, seeing Jimmy Tarbuck at Coombe Hill GC, telling Henry Cooper not to play a golf shot as it was not his turn in a Pro/ Am golf competition and being the same age as Freddie Mercury should he have lived. But my time will come, with your help my new political party will make Mr Blair, Mr Cameron and the other one quiver in their shoes. Brian's Independent Golfing Green Government Exalting Rebellion party or BIGGGER as it will called, only needs your votes and a small membership donation. Cash only please to my Political Manager, Douglas Iolanthie Fernie c/o The Fat Ox public house Upminster and together we can rule the world!

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In the meantime, my humble monthly report must continue with firstly the result of the McMillan Tankard competition at Sunningdale GC played on Monday, July 31. Many thanks to Murray Long for a beautifully prepared course, Sunningdale GC for the courtesy and the artisans for the use of their clubhouse and the excellent alfresco food. Local knowledge or hours and hours of practice, helped Murray Long to win convincingly with 40pts, Chris Lomas was runner up and Nearest the Pin winner, 3. Kevin Westney, 4. Andy Gatland, 5. Ashley Alpress and 6. Peter Craig. The Longest Drive was won, only due to my encouragement by one of the other three in my group. The two in my group who did not fall about laughing when I thinned my dropped ball into the lake again, making it bounce on the surface at least three times and rebound from the sleeper bank at the far end and continue to bounce nearly escaping its watery grave - were those delightful companions Gavin Kyle and Shaun Sturret, Ron (whatever you do don't thin it into the water again) Christie was the fourth.

Elaine and Gary Rowe, (Banstead Downs GC), have replaced their radio alarm with their newborn son Jamie Fletcher, 9lb 2ozs - who arrived on July 12. They will soon discover that Jamie Fletcher, unlike their radio alarm, has no snooze button!

Brian Willmott

Email: brians.willmott@tiscali.co.uk

Kent

It's been that long since we last saw rain in this neck of the woods, I'm beginning to think I should live in a tent and ride a camel to work! Surely this seemingly endless heatwave has to end soon. Somebody who has had the right idea - to stay out of the heat on his golf course and spend longer in an air conditioned college classroom - is Mike Emptage of St. Augustines GC. Special congratulations to Mike, he has been studying at Hadlow College and has been nominated to represent the South East region in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award.

Your committee are arranging an autumn golfing event at a top venue for late September/early October. More specific details shall be posted on the website as soon as the host course has confirmed its availability. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the website so please remember to check it regularly.

Another event awaiting a confirmed date is our football match against Essex Section. Rumour has it that the Kent team has had enough of their current goalkeeper despite several heroic moments in the games we have played so far and he is to be put into a defensive position. All I can say is the new guy had better be good! The game will be played at the Corinthians ground which is close to Brands Hatch some time in October.

Our winter educational programme is all but completed and details of the seminars to be held at Hadlow college in Tonbridge, shall be posted on the website. There shall be some very good speakers talking about topical subjects. These are all completely free of charge and an excellent way to spend a winters day.

Lastly, we are still on the lookout for clubs anywhere in Kent to fill a couple of spaces we have left on next year's fixture list. So please consider accommodating us and if you can then, again, you can contact us via the website.

That's it for this month guys.

Keep Cool!

Rob Holland

kentgreenkeepers.co.uk

East Anglia

Wednesday, June 7 found 50 of our merry band visiting Halesworth GC, for our second meeting of the season - what a little gem we found. The whole course had been manicured to perfection, the greens were very true and a very good pace indeed. You would be having the game of your life, providing you played straight but the deep rough was somewhat punishing and one or two of the lower handicaps did suffer, with the odd way wood shot. The Club Captain Michael Coventry and David Cotton the General Manager and his staff members, made us feel very welcome - the meal was quite excellent. May I pass on the



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

Sections thank's for making the day one of the best we have had in a long time, also may I congratulate you on your course, which was in spectacular condition. Our main sponsor for the day was Lely UK Toro. Julian Copping spent most of the day driving about on the course, ensuring golfers were refreshed with the odd cold drink and Mars bar. I was still unable to play due to a torn shoulder but this gave me a chance to prepare for the prize giving and raffle. Clive Osgood popped in on a flying visit and wished all the players good luck. I would like to thank the other sponsors for their participation in the day: ETT, Scotts, Headland, Tomlinson Ground Care, Textron, Tacit, NHT, Vitax, Sisis, Rigby Taylor, Does, Tower Chemicals, Collier Turf Care and last but not least Aitkens.

The winners were as follows: 0 to 9 Handicap - 1. Matthew Gill, 37pts; 2. Peter Howard, 34pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 32pts - Matthew also won the overall winners shield. 10 to 18 Handicap - 1. James Gill (no relation), 34pts; 2. Alan Sutcliffe, 29pts; 3. Steve Millard, 28pts. 19 to 28 Handicap - 1. Martin Mison, 30pts; 2. John Morley-Smith, 25pts. Ladies competition - 1. Claire Killmurry and 2. Sandi Steed. Trade and Guest - 1. Stuart Robson, Thorpeness Club Captain, 36pts; 2. Michael Coventry, Halesworth Club Captain, 35pts. Captain/Club Official and Greenkeepers Shield - Ray Foreman, President of Thorpeness and Mark Henderson, Deputy Course Manager Thorpeness. They retain the title from last year with 65 points. Nearest the Pin winner was Michael Virley and Alan Sutcliffe won the Longest Drive.

The prized toilet seat went to Julian Copping for arriving late after getting his trailer stuck. Stuart Robson, my Captain, did rather well but I would like to quell the rumour that he came up for a third raffle prize - Steve Millard, who was helping me with the raffle had left his tickets with Stuart and he came to give Steve his winning ticket, so Steve could claim his prize.

Ian Willett



South West and South Wales Regional Seminar

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. 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 GC and member of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries; Richard Whyman, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow GC; Phil Weaver, PGA Chairman and Club Professional/Course Manager at Coventry GC and Billy MacMillan, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Course Manager at Tyrells Wood GC.

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

Race night at the Lansdown racecourse was another huge success. Thanks very much to Jon Jarvis for organising it and for so thoughtfully and wisely choosing Ladies' Night. Actually Jon, in hindsight was it so wise unleashing a couple of dozen very enthusiastic but half-drunk greenkeepers on an

unsuspecting racecourse? I can however report that although no-one actually won millions, on the other hand no-one shot themselves on the way home, no-one pulled, but everyone's coming back next year - so watch out for the date. Jon also mentioned that Bath Racecourse is currently looking for a new Head Groundsman - the contact at the racecourse for anyone interested is John Williams.

The Section Summer Tournament was at Shirehampton Park on July 27. Thanks very much to the club for their courtesy and for preparing a fine course. I wasn't there myself - still waiting for shoulder surgery, or possibly amputation, but those who did play enjoyed this long established course very much. Shirehampton has always been a good test of golf, although Dutch Elm took its toll in the 70's. The views across the Portway are simply stunning in places and the whole course sits in a very compact 85 acres. The results were: Category 1, 1. Shaun Richards, Taunton & Pickeridge, 70 - 2 - 68; 2. Roger Neill, Taunton & Pickeridge, 78 - 5 - 73; Category 2, 1. Graham Reynolds, Shirehampton, 79 - 11 - 68; 2. Chris Sealey, Chippenham, 90 - 18 - 72; Category 3, 1. Terry Humphrey, (Unattached), 96 - 22 - 74; 2. Dave Rosselli, Minchinhampton, 102 - 28 - 74.

Shaun Richards qualifies with his net 68 for the National Tournament at Burton in October. This prize, which is an all expenses paid entry to the tournament, comes courtesy of our Patronage Partners.

Many thanks to all at Shirehampton, and to all our Patronage Partners - in no particular order: MJ Abbott, Avoncrop, Bredy Irrigation, BS Mowers, Countrywide, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Amenity Technology, Tower Chemicals, Symbio and Rufford. Might I just point out that we do enjoy a tremendous benefit from the support of these companies so please do remember them in your purchasing decisions.

The next tournament is the Autumn Tournament and Annual General Meeting at Ogbourne St. George on October 12. At the meeting we are looking for new committee members, ideas, and enthusiasm. If you think you can offer what is needed to take the Section forward, please get in touch with Chris Sealey beforehand.

Finally, at work we've got the decorators in. The rest rooms, office, toilets and so on were built in 1999 and haven't been decorated since. So it's high time for a lick of paint. In clearing out ready for the decorators, I got literally tons of junk out of my office, and still had half a trailer load of books, papers, training videos, and past-editions of Greenkeeper International. Some of the magazines actually went back to the early 1990's (and one from 1980 in black and white throughout), but having sat completely undisturbed in a dusty old pile for ages, I decided to throw them away (recycling of course). Then I made the mistake of skimming through one or two as I was slinging them. I then realised exactly what I'd got - records of everything that has made this industry tick. Happy memories such as the opening of BIGGA House, tempered by sad memories such as the passing of Neil Thomas, distractions such as the rise and fall of Sandy McDivot (Sludgecombe Pay and Play), grand memories from all the Open Championships over these last years - Justin Roses fluke chip at Birkdale in 98 launching his career, Paul Lawrie at "Carnasty" in 99, Tiger wiping the floor with the field in 2000 at St Andrews, and again in 2005, Ben Curtis, never won a tournament before St. Georges in 2003, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer stopping on the Swilken Bridge - never to play in The Open again. The list goes on. Ryder Cups - who remembers Kiawah Island in 1991? - I've never seen such a mickey-mouse golf course before but what a tournament - featured in the very first edition of Greenkeeper International, Famous European victories at Oak Hill in 95, and Valderama in 97. Nearer home I came across a guy called Paul Cunningham who wrote the South West press reports between 96 and 98 - really well written reports but who the hell was he, and where is he now? Quite a number of recurring themes also - severe droughts in 1994, 5, and 6 and threatened water restrictions. Severe flooding in winter 99\2000 pictures of completely flooded golf courses with flags sticking out of the water, and grinning greenkeepers in boats pretending to change the holes. In the end, I couldn't bring myself to sling any of them, so in keeping with human nature, I rescued them all from the bin and intend to reinstate in my brand newly decorated office. I also mean to read them. Who knows, I might even learn something.

How's your summer going? Drop me a mail and share your experiences.

Paul Worster

Email: paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

Tel: 01453 837355.

South Coast

Hello to you all, my name is Joe Crawley and I've taken over the 'Around The Green' notes for the South Coast Section. Most of you will know me as Mr Starter.

It's fitting to start by saying goodbye to our Secretary (and writer for Around The Green) Alex McCombie. Alex and his family are moving to Denmark where he has taken up the Course Manager's role at Ledreborg Palace GC, which is due to open in April 07. This is life changing for Alex, but I'm sure you will all agree that if there was ever a person to achieve high results in this position, it would be Mr McCombie. The Section has been honourably served by Alex over the years - as an active and very professional BIGGA and Section member. The Section wishes Alex, Margaret and son, Jack, the very best for the future. Alex will be missed by the Section and Parkstone GC.

Alex's departure means we welcome some new Committee members. Chris Bitten - our new Secretary, is from Stoneham GC and regularly attends Section events. Chris is well respected and will do a great job. We wish him all the very best for this role and we, as a Section, must offer him our full support.

I will be putting pen to paper for 'Around The Green'. If you have any news please contact me on 07721 389200.

Our summer invitation golf tournament was held at The Army GC. The course was in superb condition and for the 60 strong field it was an absolute pleasure to play. The weather, although humid, held well with just a few spots of rain for 30 seconds! The Army GC borders the Farnborough Airfield. We would like to thank Tacit for laying on the air display of the new Eurofighter! (Mr. Willmott, is this the new company transport?) The pilots were practicing for the Farnborough Air Show. Ear plugs were required and the ground did move on occasions but in between shots, fantastic manoeuvres were performed in the air (by the aircraft not the golfers!) There are many people to thank to make such a day possible: The Army GC, for courtesy of the course; the catering staff for excellent service and superb food; Bob Leuett and David Howells the ball spotters on the 1st; Sue's wonderful tea and cakes at the half way; and of course a huge thanks for our sponsors, Tacit, who provided top class prizes - a big thank you to Brian Willmott and Mark Chamberlain. We also thank all of our invited guests - we hope you enjoyed your day with our Section as much as we enjoyed your company. Praise to Phil Wentworth and his team for their efforts in presenting the course in great condition. Results: 1. Paul Cooper and Pete Cooper, 49pts; 2. Phil Bennett and S Lewis, 44pts; and on countback in 3. Alex McCombie and Stuart Gibson, 44pts. Longest Drive went to Chris Bitten and Nearest The Pin to Stuart Gibson, Twos - Brian Ives and Phil Wentworth.

The BIGGA/Scotts Management Trophy was held at Moors Valley GC on July 26. 13 teams braved the searing heat. Jane Jones and John Noyce ensured the day was well organised - thanks to you both. The event was a major success and we must pay gratitude to the very friendly and helpful staff at Moors Valley, Roger Chadd and the catering staff, Des and of course Ian Noble and team for providing an excellent course for us to enjoy. Team winners: 1. Southsea GC, 87pts; 2. Moors Valley GC, 86pts; 3. North Hants GC, 84pts. Longest Drive went to Barrie Pulman from Alton GC and Nearest The Pin to Neil King from Upavon GC. Many thanks to our sponsors.

Our next Golf Day is at Corhampton GC on Thursday, October 12. Unfortunately I will not be there as our baby is due that week.

Finally, congratulations to Rob Patrick, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Stoneham GC, who won the Wentworth Junior Open with 68 pts. Well done Warren!
Joe Crawley

Devon & Cornwall

I would expect many of our members will remember the hit tune sung by Sir Cliff Richard in late 1967, called 'Congratulations' I certainly do, because it was the year that I got married, however, more to the point, it certainly sums up the achievements of some of our members. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Abi

Crosswood, who is a greenkeeper at Newquay GC in Cornwall, she was reached the last eight in the Toro Student of the Year 2006. Abi was selected from the South West and South Wales Section - well done Abi, we all have our fingers crossed for you. Not satisfied with just the achievement, Abi was one of some 60 members of the BIGGA Open Support Team at Hoylake - the only female. She had her name mentioned on the television by no less than Peter Alliss - fame indeed! As you can imagine, she has now become quite a celebrity in her home town of Newquay with a full page and half in the local paper, not to mention an interview with the Daily Telegraph, Abi, what next?

Congratulations must also go to Eric Barber, one of our more senior members, who has just represented Great Britain in the World decathlon at Colebrook, Newfoundland, Canada - and guess what, he won the Gold Medal for his group, the over 70s, that is some achievement. Eric still runs an average of 10 miles a day and sometimes cycles the same distance. Well done Eric.

Last but not least, although our National Chairman, Richard Whyman, is no longer working in our Section, he is still a member of the Devon and Cornwall Section. As you will know, Richard is Head Greenkeeper at Burnham and Berrow GC in Somerset, recently the venue for the English Amateur Championship. Richard informed me that the event has now been held at Burnham for the sixth time, which is more than any other club in the UK. By all accounts, the competitors are delighted with the course, in spite of the recent drought conditions. It was also interesting to note that out of the last eight seeds, seven were English - apparently this is the first time this has happened in Amateur history, some record.

Congratulations must also go to Trevoze GC in Cornwall. In May 2008, the very prestigious Brabazon Golf Tournament is being held at the club, this involves some 250 competitors from 25 different countries taking part. Neil Taylor, the Course Manager, was telling me that work started last year in preparation for the event. A new driving range has been constructed on a 2.5 hectare site, all the bunkers have been revetted, tees extended and all the fairways have been re-seeded with pure fescues and many of the surrounds re-shaped. To give the course more character, Neil was telling me that they have discovered old Cornish stone hedges buried on parts of the course, they are now in the process of uncovering them so as to return the course back to the 1920s and its original character.

Trevoze GC was designed by Harry Colt, one of the pioneers of course design around the turn of the century.

Good luck to all members in these very stressful times, with drying North Westerly winds and drought conditions. Travelling around my patch I have become more of a councillor than a salesman, listening to all the problems you are having to put up with, not to mention all the moans from the club members.

That's all, until next month.

Donovan O Hunt
Administrator

South Wales

Hi all. Not much to report this month.

Rigby Taylor results (sorry if I have missed any of the first round results, as this is all the information I have at present):

Shock results from the first round, Daryl and Lee were outgunned by the oldies - they have been the holders of this event for well over a millennium. Peter Holmstrom and Mark Wilshire beat Andy Roach and Nicky Davies, David Gladwin and Merion Griffiths, beat Daryl Bray and Lee Davies and Gary

Humphries and Rhys McDonaght won against Emyr Nickels and Leyton Lunn.

Congratulations to the winning team, Trefloyne GC, who were resounding winners of the Scotts management trophy, held at Neath GC. Many thanks to Neath GC for hosting the event and for their outstanding hospitality, including welcome pack and pin placements on the day. Also big thanks to Nick Martin from the Scotts Company for their continued support of this popular event. Many thanks also, to our Regional Administrator Jane Jones, for organising the smooth running of the day.

Dates for your diary: autumn competition held over the Alice Spring GC on Friday, October 13. This is our AGM date, prior to golf, the Section secretary will send out details of the times. Please try and attend and air any grievances you have on the way your Section is run or any other BIGGA issues.

Congratulations to Ceri Richards, from Avoncrop, and his partner on the birth of their little girl.

We would like to wish Peter Holmstrom all the best from his switch from greenkeeping to the dark side, he has been appointed by Countrywide as sales rep for the South west and South Wales.

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

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



ANAGRAM

COBBLE FULTON GRUNT TORN
Burton-on-Trent Golf Club

A QUICK NINE HOLES

1. Williams
2. Turin
3. Newcastle Falcons
4. Tromso
5. New Zealand
6. Wolfsburg
7. McLaren
8. 1960
9. Roker Park