



## News from the Chief Executive

As the days get shorter it is hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from the end of another year with my diary already having quite a lot of entries for 2008!

I have spent a considerable amount of time out of the office in November at various meetings and BIGGA events where it was interesting and rewarding to meet members. Two of these were interview sessions for the BIGGA delegation to the Golf Industry Show in America which is sponsored by Bernhard and Co. Once again this was heavily oversubscribed and the high overall standard of entry made it difficult to select the final ten that will benefit from this experience. Bernhards have also been working with the GCSAA to select ten American Superintendents who will visit Harrogate Week in January following the very successful launch of this part of the initiative in January 2007.

The main thrust of activity at Headquarters at the moment is towards Harrogate with a steady influx of bookings for both the education and the exhibition. Communication remains a big issue and arrangements are being made for members to hold an open session with the Board during Harrogate Week. This will probably take place on Thursday 24th January however final confirmation of the time and venue will be published in the January issue of Greenkeeper International and on the website.

While putting dates in diaries members are reminded that the AGM will take place on Wednesday 23rd January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre. Copies of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007 will be sent to Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries once the current audit is complete and will also be available on the day.

This being my last column for 2007 then I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and I hope that 2008 proves to be a successful year. I know that it's getting tougher in golf and those who do not rise to the challenge will find it even harder. Your Association through its Board, Staff and Region and Section Committees are here to try to help, this we hope to achieve by providing support, education and through developing a closer working relationship with the other major bodies in the industry. I encourage any member that has a concern or suggestion regarding the running of Association to contact either myself or a member of the Board. Remember communication is a two way process!

**The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 23 in the Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre.**



*John Pemberton*



### SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

Well done to all the guys who made it to the Dukes for the Autumn Tournament. Many thanks to Andy Campbell and his team for the excellent hospitality. The food was fantastic and the clubhouse staff made us all very welcome. Derek Robson, the Course Manager, and his team did an excellent job presenting the course, and the improvements to ground conditions and surface quality as a result of their work are tremendous.

Derek had set the course up for a fairly stiff challenge. Not to be outdone the weather made its own contribution. Fast greens combined with fierce winds, required a skilled touch with the putter, and nerves of steel. Results were as follows: Best Scratch, David Simpson, 76 (+1) 77; Best Nett, Paul Murphy, 85 (5) 80; 1.1 Archie Dunn, 87 (7) 81; 1.2 Kenny Mitchell, 87 (5) 82; 1.3 Charlie Macdonald, 87 (4) 83; 2.1 Alexander Walker, 96 (15) 81; 2.2 Willie Caswell, 102 (12) 90; 3.3 Andy Mellon, 110 (15) 95; Trade Prize, Pat Allan, 91 (6) 85; Guest, Ray Bisset, 114 (21) 93; Longest Drive, Charlie Macdonald; Nearest the Pin, Dougie Barr; Best Nett Spring & Autumn, David Simpson.

These scores might seem high, but those who were there on the day, assured me that only they could understand how difficult the conditions were – I, was tucked up in bed recovering from my flight home from Canada. David Simpson proved to be a worthy champion, and combined with his performance at the equally challenging Panmure in the spring. was enough to win him the 2007 Combined Trophy. Well done David. David's form was to continue, going on to win the National Championship which this year was held in Scotland at Dundonald Golf course and Kilmarnock Barassie. On behalf of the Section, I would like to thank the Course Managers and staff for providing a great test of golf, and the Captains and Committees for their hospitality, also I would like to thank Kubota for their sponsorship on both days. The starter packs and refreshments at the turn were much appreciated. Thanks also go to Peter Boyd and the BIGGA staff for making sure both days ran smoothly.

As for the tournament itself, the weather on the Monday was typical Scottish weather, heavy drizzle. This didn't dampen the spirits of all who played and a great time was had by most. I say most as a friend of mine found the going tough over the two days he had 200 blows, unlucky Dougie Barr, it made my score look good. The good news is that the Scottish Region won the team prize so well done to the eight scores that counted. (I wasn't one of them) Overall the two day event was great. I'm looking forward to next year's tournament down on the south coast of England.

The AGM this year was well attended and the new committee is as follows: Chairman – Derek Scott, Vice Chairman – Alan Sharp, Secretary/Treasurer – Andrew Mellon, Past Chairman – Andy O'Hara, Board – Archie Dunn, Patron – Kevin Brunton, Trade – Jim Finlayson, Student – George Pendrich, General Committee – Gordon McKie, Brian Heggie, Gordon Moir, Derek Robson & Graham Taylor.

Over the last year we have run two successful Golf tournaments, and nine educational events. In total 255 members attended these and feedback has been very positive. We hope to continue this success into 2008, and we would like to thank all the members for supporting

# Around the Green

the committee, and each other within the Section.

On behalf of the committee we would like to extend seasons greetings to all and wish them the very best for 2008.

All the best,

*Chairman: Derek Scott  
Secretary: Andy Mellon*

[www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) 01334 658914

## **NORTH**



The AGM was held at Peterhead Golf Club on November 1. We had 26 people turn up for the golf and the AGM, which is about normal from previous years. The Section would like to thank Peterhead GC for the hospitality and the use of the golf course. The course was in excellent condition and is a credit to Hugh and his staff.

The golf was a Stableford with the names drawn out of a hat for partners. I was lucky enough to gain a pound from the Gers fan at Kirrie because having led for most of the back nine, he took the gas at the 17th after driving to the front of the green and taking 4 more to get down.

Results: 1. Neil Kidd; 2. Stuart Gardiner; 3. Robert Patterson; 4. Steve Sullivan; 5. Ross Macrae; 6. Billy Craig; Booby prize: 1. John Geddes (BIH); 2. Douglas Lambie. 200 Club: £100 - Ben Brookes; £30 - Joyce Hardie; £30 - John Geddes; £30 - J C Mackintosh.

The weather continues to be mild through November and will ensure there is plenty of work being done around the golf courses in the Section.

The next outing for greenkeepers will be Harrogate in January. I'm sure there will be plenty of Scots at it and a few pints sunk during the week. I think I'm right in saying that Toro, Ransomes Jacobsen, John Deere and Kubota are back at it this year, which will swell the numbers.

The R&A seminar looks good again this year and should be well attended. The sustainable golf issue is an interesting topic and one which can get healthy debates going about how people go about it and how they perceive what sustainable golf course management actually involves. Deeside Golf Club has appointed Neil McLoughlin as Course Manager. He comes from the Chase Golf Club in England and started at the end of September. We wish him well in his new post and welcome him to the north Section of BIGGA.

Not much more from me this month except have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Robert Patterson  
Royal Aberdeen*



## **EAST**

I am writing this report in early November with clear blue skies outside. For anyone undertaking renovation or construction works, the weather this autumn has been absolutely perfect.

The Section AGM, with 18 in attendance, was held on October 30, at Turnhouse Golf Club. After a welcoming address by acting Chairman, Stuart Ferguson, the minutes of last year's AGM were read by Secretary, Stevie Dixon. The new committee is as follows: Chairman - Stuart Ferguson; Vice Chairman - Peter Ormiston; Secretary - Stevie Dixon; Committee - Chris Yeaman, Tom Murray, Stuart Crawford, Jimmy Neilson; Co-opted - Ronnie Frame (Trade).

The AGM main discussion point was Education with a further meeting to be held at Oatridge College on Friday, November 16 – More on this next month. A Section newsletter will be mailed to all members shortly with an additional form seeking everybody's views on how to improve the Section. A stamped addressed envelope will also be enclosed so hopefully Stevie will get a 100% return! Many thanks to Turnhouse Golf Club for the food provided and the courtesy round of golf. Congratulations to Gavin and his team for the excellent condition of the course.

The recipients of this year's Patrons Award are Gary White, from Baberton and Shaun Cunningham, from Mortonhall. They each receive a free trip to BTME which I am sure they will find both beneficial and enjoyable.

On the move this month is Matt Thomson (Oatridge Golf Course) who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Falkirk Golf Club. His former deputy, John Smith, is currently Acting Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge.

A young man who is not letting the grass grow under his feet is Sean McLean a former apprentice at Craigmiller Park. Having just completed 18 months on the Ohio State University scheme, he is now heading off to Australia where he will be working at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Until next month

*Mike Dooner*



## **NORTHERN – NORTH EAST**

Well what news do we have from the Section this month? Firstly Slaley Hall are spending over £300,000 on renewing their irrigation systems on both the Hunting and Priestman's courses, work is expected to last until early March.

Having written in a recent article about Tyneside Golf Club's intention of providing new staff accommodation, I see that the foundations are now in place so I expect by the time you read this they will be sitting in a nice clean new building - Just think of it lads no old fashioned stove to huddle round, yeah there's been a few ex-Tyneside greenkeepers warming their hands over the years on that stove, me included.

# Around the Green



## CLEVELAND

Talking about accommodation, Northumberland GC has given the staff a temporary canteen in view of replacing the existing sheds in the near future.

Prudhoe GC has recently been busy working on their 16th hole ending up by replacing the soil, drainage and having all the work done in two weeks.

I expect that Terry Charlton no doubt will be providing transport to Harrogate once again, so I hope I will see you all there in January.

One other thing I would like to mention, is that myself and the committee would like to thank the companies who have sponsored us so well this year in both the spring and autumn competitions, although we had poor turn-outs for them both we appreciate your commitment to the Section. We are thinking of changing the day of play next year to a Wednesday and if that fails maybe an afternoon tee-off time maybe more suitable rather than having to take the full day off.

*Jimmy Richardson*

The Autumn Tournament was held at City of Newcastle Golf Club on Tuesday, October 2. A very good turnout saw 18 greenkeepers playing a course that was in excellent condition. Barry Walker and his staff should be justifiably proud – Thanks lads. The Stableford Competition was won by Ian Stewart, Seaton Carew GC, with 39 points. John Talbot, Middlesbrough GC, was second with 33 points, just pipping Adrian Partridge, Sunderland AFC, who finished with 32. Dave Bell, a Newcastle supporter, was again the winner of the Wooden Spoon. To save Dave winning the spoon outright I promise to play in the next tournament to prevent a Bell hat-trick! Simon Holmes, of Lloyd Limited won the Trade prize with 36 points. If I was his boss I would be wondering if he was spending too much time golfing and not enough selling! The Longest Drive was belted by Adrian Partridge and Alistair Whitby (suspiciously another Lloyd's Sales Manager) won the Nearest the Pin. Every player won a prize. Well done to you all.

Many thanks go to City of Newcastle Golf Club for their courtesy, wonderful food and a great course. Finally, the section would like to thank Rickerbys and Textron for sponsoring the day. Alistair McRoberts and David Common attended on the day and we were very grateful for their support. Other trade members who provided prizes were Aitkens, Alpha Amenity, Border Sports, Rigby Taylor and Turfcare Specialists. Thank you all.

The Section AGM was held at Teesside Golf Club on Tuesday, November 6. There was such a high attendance that we had to share agendas. Nice to see! Tony Mears, of Dinsdale Spa, was elected as our new Chairman taking over from Tony Smith. We must thank 'Smiffy' for all his hard work in the past and wish 'Big Tone' good luck in his new post. Kevin Scarce, Bedale GC, was elected as our new Vice Chairman. Tony Burge, of Richmond GC, was appointed as Golf Day Assistant to help Pembo at outings. Ali Whitby 'volunteered' to become Social Assistant, drumming up support for social, educational and golfing events. Thanks to Pembo for his work as Secretary over the past year.

Tony Burge will stand down from his position of Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club, at the end of this year. His semi retirement is due to health problems, he's unable to keep warm during the winter months. His plans are to winter in Southern Europe and cut the rolling Richmond fairways during the English summer. Tony described his fairway cutting role as being 'a nogger'. This is a new one on me Tony but we all wish you well with your new lifestyle. Anthony (Titch) McGeough will take over as Head Greenkeeper on January 1, 2008 with Ian Leversutch moving up to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. It's great to see that some clubs have enough confidence in their own staff to appoint from within.

It was good to see Terry Harrison, Head Greenkeeper of Blackwell Grange Golf Club, at the AGM. He took over as head man in May after Neil Bursey emigrated to Canada. All of Terry's staff have been made members of BIGGA by the club. Welcome to the Section lads.

Future events are a) the TSL Quiz at Mount Oswald Golf Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 5 and b) Bring A Bottle Golf Day at Cleveland Golf Club on Tuesday, December 11 teeing off at 10.30am. Every member playing will receive a prize again but remember a bottle of decent stuff

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– No Lambrini you tight beggars. Thanks go to Pete Marshall, of Tacit, for sponsoring the day!

Please send your 'non-refundable' £5 deposit for the meal to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8QR. Numbers are limited so please book early to save disappointment.

All the best for the festive season to all Section members and their families.

*Terry 'El Prez' Charlton*



## SHEFFIELD

Last news of the year and unfortunately we don't have a lot again! Congratulations go to Lewis Birch (23), from Abbeydale Golf Club, who recently came runner up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition - Well done Lewis, glad to see the Sheffield Section doing well again. Lewis won an expenses paid trip to Harrogate Week 2008. Carry on the good work Lewis!

Finally may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*John Lax*



## MIDLAND – EAST MIDLANDS

The Annual Rigby Taylor, East Midlands Vs Midlands Section, took place at Edgbaston GC on October 16. The morning foursomes competition was evenly matched but the East Midland Section came into their own during the Singles in the afternoon, with the East Midlands Section eventually winning 9 1/2 5 1/2 to retain the trophy again. Our thanks go to Mark Robinson, from Rigby Taylor, for organising the day and helping to pick the winning team.

East Midlands Section AGM Tournament took place at Birstall GC on Thursday, November 1 and was a Texas Scramble Format with 32 entries on the day. The winners of the day were A. Bindley, C Chamberlain and C. Webb with a net score of 58.4; 2. N. Miles, S. Banks and T. Allard (first time he has won anything since hook a duck) with a net score of 61.2; 3. A. Porter, D. Smith and M. Marvell with a net score of 62.3. Our thanks go to Nigel Colley, Course Manager, and his staff for a fantastic day and an exceptionally presented course. The AGM took place after the golf and Andy De Wet and Nigel Colley were elected onto the Committee to replace the retiring Nigel White and Stuart Raybould. Our thanks from the committee to both of you for your service over the past year. The Christmas Tournament is taking place at Longcliffe GC on Thursday, December 13 - Teeing off between 10am and 12 midday. If anyone has not received an entry form please call Secretary, Dan Rodgers on: 07745 227224. Another 5-a-side football evening is planned at Loughborough College the week before Harrogate, if anyone is interested in playing please contact Dan on the above number.

*Dan Rodgers*



## MIDLAND

It is with great sadness I report that our old friend Mr E.Thomas, has passed away. Eric was born 5/2/1932. He spent two years greenkeeping at Boldmere before moving to Sutton Coldfield GC on 13/9/1971 until 25/5/1984. He then spent 11 years at The Belfry before taking early retirement aged 63.

Upon retirement he returned to Sutton as a part time gardener/handyman and also occasionally helped the greenstaff on the course when necessary. This was from 9/1/1995 until his death on 1/11/2007. Eric was a big supporter of BIGGA during his working life, mainly under the old name of BGGA. Eric was Section Treasurer for approximately 16 years and a committee member for many years before that. Most of the modern greenkeepers will remember Eric for bringing together the greenkeepers team that played an annual match vs a Presidents team at Handsworth GC every May. Eric was always there, supporting his team - Despite the fact we usually lost!

Many older members might also remember Eric for helping organise the annual dinner dance that took place for many years in Sutton, where up to 170 people would attend. Our most sincere sympathies to Eric's family and friends, you shall be sorely missed Sir.

Inaugural Midland Region Trophy - November 1 saw the first ever Regional Trophy, held between the five Sections in the Region. Teams of three, all scores to count, medal play!

Needless to say the Midland Section won with a score of 223; 2. East of England, 233; 3. East Midlands, 240; 4. Mid Anglia, 261. The BB&O Section could not field a side. The event was held at Burton GC. The course was in magnificent condition, the quickest greens I have ever played in November by quite a distance! Well done Gavin, etc. Thanks to Whitemoss and Andy Law for sponsoring the event. Nearest the Pin was won by M. Hughes - 40 inches!

The Midland Section Team for next year will comprise of one committee member, and the nett and gross aggregate winners during the year's Section tournaments.

Our annual Midland v East Midland match was held at Edgbaston GC. Unfortunately we came second again; however, as usual the match was conducted in the best of spirits. Our thanks to Edgbaston GC for their kind hospitality and to Rigby Taylor/T.Cheese for organising and sponsoring the event. I'm looking forward to next year's match.

My thanks to our Chairman for the above, wishing you all a great Christmas.

*Sean McDade*

Education and training has been very busy over the past few weeks with the staging of the Noise and Vibration Management Seminar at Gay Hill GC, the Irrigation Workshop at The Belfry and the 360° Excavator Training course again back at Gay Hill. We have been sounded out about a pesticides training update course and a practical machinery maintenance and reel technology course. Please let me know if you are interested

# Around the Green

in attending either event. You can contact me on: 07880 734197 or email me at [paul@ghgc.org.uk](mailto:paul@ghgc.org.uk). You may well have some valuable input into the design of the content. As if you need any reminders Harrogate Week is just around the corner and Sami and her team are once again providing a fantastic range of education subjects. Please support BIGGA and make a difference to our profession!

*Paul Woodham  
Course Manager, Gay Hill GC*



## **EAST OF ENGLAND**

Well, lads and lasses, this is my last Around the Green Notes. Three years of reading my drivel is enough for anyone! The new bard will take over in January, but I will keep you guessing as to who it is.

Now onto the news. Both the AGM and the Texas Scramble were held at Ashby Decoy with a great turnout. Results were as follows: 1. R. Portess, I. Collett, J. Hewson, C. Wilkinson; 2. G. MacDonald, P. Fell, P. Larter, B. Robinson; 3. R. Moody, S. Hopkins, S. Clayton, M. Smith; Longest Drive – R. Bemment; Nearest the Pin – I. Collett.

The AGM followed the golf, which passed with no major issues. A couple of changes to the committee – L. Howkins, is our new Vice Chairman, G. Salisbury, is our Website Editor, and G. Cooper replaces S. Clayton as Trade Rep. The main concerns raised were a lack of communication, which will be addressed next year. Our thanks go to Ashby Decoy for the course and the catering. Both of which were excellent.

I would also like to thank all the sponsors this year, you have done us proud. Rigby Taylor, Toro, Colliers, Mansfield Sands, Wurths, Banks Amenitt, John Deere, LMS – I'd like to invite you all for a drink at the George Hotel in Harrogate at 2pm on Tuesday, January 22.

Finally all that remains for me to say is have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Allan Walker*



## **BERKS/BUCKS & OXON**

I recently had the pleasure of attending the IOG Scotsturf Exhibition in the wonderful city of Edinburgh, and enjoyed meeting a few old faces and joining in with a liberal lashing of wine as is often customary in these parts as is to douse the Haggis with a "wee splash of whisky sauce", which, with true Scottish understatement, is whisky neat.

After the meal, it was time to pretend you were a true connoisseur and compare notes on the wonderful selection of malts that adorn the top shelf of the bar. Believe me; I adorned nothing but a true hangover.

Joe Newman has retired from The Downshire GC in Berkshire after many

happy years serving the club as Head Greenkeeper. Joe started his career at New Forrest GC in Hampshire, he then moved to Maidenhead GC to take a position as Assistant Golf Professional followed by Ferndown GC in Hampshire and in 1972 Joe started at Downshire GC.

Joe has played scratch golf for many years around the Section and still regularly carves up the links at Maidenhead GC with his old playing buddy Gordon Payne. Joe, from everyone, we wish you a great retirement and look forward to your presence at the section golf days in the future. Joe can be contacted through John Batt on: 01344 421 954. Congratulations to John Batt on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper of The Downshire GC.

On October 31, the Section hosted an educational seminar at Newbury & Crookham GC in Berkshire. Over 80 people attended the event to share in greenkeeping knowledge and take in the trials, tribulations and experiences of Gerry Byrne from the K Club, David MacIndoe from Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, Ian McMillan from Walton Heath GC and Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity. A big thank you to Alec MacIndoe for organising a fantastic line up of speakers and Newbury & Crookham GC for the venue and excellent hospitality.

Finally, a big thank you to all the speakers who gave up their free time, travelled long and hard over the Irish Sea and M25 to ensure a fantastic and memorable day was had by all. Alec, can't wait to get the next event underway, so if you happen to get a call asking for your services from a mild mannered Irishman with a West of Scotland accent mixed with a Newbury dialect, don't mistake it for one of those sales calls from afar. Keep listening.

If you have any news or views the Section website to remember is: [bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk).

This year has flown by with great support from the Section for all the events planned throughout 2007 and we hope to plan more superb venues and days out for 2008.

On that note the section committee thank you for all your support and wish you a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

*Mark Day  
[mark.day@tacticgolf.com](mailto:mark.day@tacticgolf.com)*



## **MID ANGLIA**

The autumn meeting was sponsored by Seoul Nassau and our thanks go to Rob Catlin and Dave Murphy for providing the prizes. Berkhamsted GC were equally generous for hosting us and our sincere thanks go to them and the catering staff for making us welcome and looking after us so well. Thanks also to the guys from the trade for the raffle prizes.

Despite heavy rain the previous night, the golfers enjoyed a fantastic sunny October day in which to play a golf course, produced by Gerald Bruce and his team, which was more than a match for the weather, superb!



Local knowledge was obviously vital as Gerald Bruce took the honours with 36 points after countback from Paul Crouch, St Neots GC. Oly Browning, Stocks GC, came in third with 34 points, A. Butler won Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin was Gerald Bruce.

After the golf, the Section held the AGM and John Gubb, the Bedfordshire GC, was elected as new Chairman. For those of you that are unacquainted with John, he is easy to recognise as the wet suit, fins and aqualung are a bit of a give away. The rain from the previous night had flooded poor John's sheds out yet again.

The golf day was well supported by both greenkeepers and the trade and it was nice to see so many old friends. It would be great to see some new faces, as well as the old ones, at the golf meetings next year and if you haven't been before or if it is a while since you played, then come and join us as you will be most welcome.

I can't believe it's that time of year again but best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Well, that's it this month, short and simple – just like me! If anybody has any Section news then please contact me at the address below.

*craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk 07769 740 314*



### SOUTH EAST – SURREY

When you read this I will have just returned from four weeks holiday in Australia and I will be suffering from post holiday blues. Please be considerate when I call for I will want you all to listen to my tales of daring do and show you photos of shark wrestling and how to get a free kangaroo meal simply by scraping it of the road. And, lastly, do not ask to see my Didgeri Doo, it is a personal problem and something I prefer to keep hidden.

If you missed my report last month, and all of you did due to circumstances beyond my control - I did not write one. I will, therefore, bring you up to date with news from around the county and beyond.

The only golf event that has taken place since my last jottings was a three way competition between Surrey, Essex and Sussex at Colne Valley GC, situated on the border of Essex and Suffolk, on September 19. Some of you may have heard rumours spread by a person from Worthing that the number of points I scored was below expectations. Well, I will admit to a slightly under par round, but may I remind you that anything said by a person from Worthing should always be taken with a pinch of salt, or any other organic fertiliser he may try to sell you. Surrey came 3rd, Sussex 2nd and Essex won the day, partly due to the superb play of one ex-Surrey member, the infamous Douglas Iolanthe Fernie, known to a few intimate friends as Wee Dougie.

Kevin Day should by now be recovering from a replacement hip operation, and we all wish him well and to please keep all the gory details to himself.

Michael Sawicki, who at this very moment is in Oz, will return to his new position at Dulwich and Sydenham Hill GC, as General Manager. Congratulations Mike and may all your problems be member shaped.

Surrey 4, Sussex 1. The result of the fourth football match between Surrey and Sussex played at Three Bridges FC, on October 25. I was unable to play due to a bout of cowardice after seeing previous struggles and gladly gave up my place to John Ross. Many thanks to Three Bridges FC for providing a venue in excellent condition. The following is a report of the match, supplied by one of the great Surrey footballers, Dave Langhiem, whose prowess on the pitch has always impressed – Just ask the person from Worthing.

Surrey's Andy Dennis scored the first goal, after only one minute's play. Ten minutes into play and tragedy - John Ross, defrocked from his usual referees black number and kitted out in Surrey's colours playing a Beckham position, suddenly froze - Groin strain had struck and he limped from the field. Sussex equalised but a determined Surrey would not be beaten and scored another two goals with the fourth being blasted home only five minutes from the final whistle. Andy Dennis got a second goal, Craig Martin also scored one, as did Lee Ringer from Foxhills.

Please remember to attend the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood GC, on December 13, and bring with you nominations for Chairman.

*Brian Willmott*



### KENT

Hi Guys, I can't believe how quickly this year has gone, can you?! Here I am already writing my last report of the year for Kent Section which would normally mean that we are freezing our bits off out on our golf courses at the moment, yet here we are (in mid-November) with the grass growing as strongly as ever and warm, winter sunshine! Can't get enough of that global warming eh?

For those of you that weren't able to attend the Regional Seminar hosted by us at Hadlow College, I can tell you you missed out on a great day with a multitude of greenkeepers from all over the south east enjoying the feast of knowledge heaped on them by a very varied array of speakers. Thanks to the many that came for making it such a good, interactive affair, especially during the open forum at the end of the proceedings! Thanks to Hadlow College for hosting the day and to John Millen and Clive Osgood for doing much of the organisational legwork.

Fixtures for 2008 are now booked and these will be posted to all of you very soon. If you haven't received one by the New Year please leave a message on our webpage. We have arranged five (yes five!) golf days for next year at some really great venues so make notes in your diaries as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Many thanks to all of you who have attended any of our events this year for making it such a memorable year and to all our sponsors for making it all possible. On behalf of the Kent committee I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a successful 2008.

*Rob Holland*

# Around the Green

## LONDON



Well another year has flown by and a new one is on the horizon.

Firstly just a few reminders, this year's final golf day will be the Scotts Trophy (aka the turkey trot) to be held at Porters Park on December 12, following the golf will be the AGM, as for the format of the golf itself it will again be a team of three Texas scramble. Places are running out fast so please contact me, Aaron, on: 07966 247 913 and book your place.

2008 fixtures: The AT Oliver Trophy, Northwood GC on April 10, The Rigby Taylor Trophy, Hendon GC on August 6 and the Scotts Trophy (aka the Turkey Trot) at Porters Park on December 11 - The above info will also be available on the London Section's website as from mid December.

Also to watch out for, is the Avoncrop Amenity Knockout Tournament new for 2008. All info for this will again be posted on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the following for their ongoing support throughout the year, Avoncrop Amenity, Banks Amenity, AT Olivers, Gem Professional, Seoul Nassau Golf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Rainbird, Scotts and Turner Groundscare.

And finally I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Aaron Percival*



## EAST ANGLIAN

I'm going to get writers cramp at this rate - Two in three weeks. I mustn't complain - no news is bad news.

Bury St Edmunds (I didn't know he was dead!) was the venue for the happy wanderers on October 3. It has been a few years since we were there. They've put new roads in and all sorts, but we all got there in the end.

The Greenkeeper, Captain Shield was at stake and duly won by Martin Mison and Vince Walsh with 67 points. The rest of the results were as follows: 0-9 Handicap 1. Mark Henderson, 38pts; 2. Norman Fenwick, 37pts; 3. Peter Howard, 36 pts. 10-18 Handicap 1. Asa Barber, 33pts; 2. Martin Brightwell, 32pts; 3. Chris Gurton, 32pts. 19-28 Handicap 1. Martin Mison, 32pts; 2. John Morley-Small, 31pts; 3. Andrew Baker, 30pts. G&T Section 1. Edward 'The Consultant' Clarkson, 40pts; 2. Ian Benn, 39pts; 3. Mark Keyssel, 36pts. Nearest the Pin - Chris Gurton; Longest Drive - Jamie Gill. The loo seat was won by Tomo for taking his dog on the course. He parked by the 'no dog' sign - should have gone to Specsavers! Prizes were presented by Vince Walsh the Club Captain. The course was in good nick thanks to Steve Millard and his crew. Thankfully the greens were not as quick as the putting green, it frightened the life out of me. The grub was handsome and the hospitality was second to none.

Our Trade mates came up trumps yet again. Our main sponsors Toro

and the following can all take a bow: Bartram Mowers, Textron, Tacit, Rigby Taylor, CMW, Sisis, A & K Supplies, Midlube, Collier Turf Care, Aitkens, Scotts, Earnest Doe, Ben Burgess, Sherriff (of Nottingham), Toro, Tomlinson Ground Care, Consultant Clarkson, Headland, Atterton & Ellis and Lely UK.

Thank you once again Bury St Edmunds Golf Club for a super day out. And finally, a message for Brian - "Nil Desperadum Illegitimi"

*Mick Lathrope*



## ESSEX

This month's news is very brief, as the only thing that has gone on in the Section this month was the English Golf Union, Golf Services Roadshow at Colne Valley Golf Club. Supported by John Deere and with the following speakers from the STRI - Bob Taylor, Swan Golf Designs - William Swan, Crown Golf - Laurence Pithie MG, Writtle College - Nigel Beckford, Agronomist - David Rhodes and John Deere gave a machine demonstration and talk on there products.

Attended by very few greenkeepers but quite a few golf club representatives and a few students, the day was interesting, the afternoon session was conducted out on golf course with the Bob Taylor and David Rhodes splitting the group in two for an hour each, talking on different aspects of golfcourse management and ecology.

The next news will be of the Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM at Orsett Golf Club.

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## SOUTH WEST - SOUTH WALES

Congratulations from the Regional Board to Stuart Ross, from Cradoc Golf Club, and Richard Oakley, from Erlestoke Golf Club, for reaching the finals of the Toro Student Of The Year Competition. Well done to both of you!



## SOUTH WEST

A touch of fog greeted competitors for the Autumn Tournament at Minchinhampton back in mid-October. One of those annoying days "when it was okay just down the road" but on our particular hilltop you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. Now I don't know about your courses, but we have a well-used public footpath running right across five different fairways, so we have little choice but to suspend play during thick fog. As the tee-off time approached, the fog started to get patchy and lift, and then fall again. My pre-match warm-up comprised of running up and down stairs and out onto the course like a complete idiot - first of all my bacon roll went missing (probably cold) and then someone drank



my coffee (even though I'd sneezed in it) – not surprisingly when we did eventually tee off, I wasn't in the best frame of mind.

However, I think it's fair to say the day was a huge success, and thanks very much for the nice comments about the Evening Course. I actually thought it was outstanding for the time of year so my personal thanks to Dave, Adam, and all our staff who always put in so much. For those who are interested, the cutting height on the greens was 3mm and the greens were also vibro-rolled. The Stimpmeter was around ten foot-six. As regards to fertiliser we only granular feed in the spring, otherwise monthly light top-dressings, and applications of liquid N plus Primo-Maxx sometimes bulked with liquid seaweed. The greens are Bent \Poa with the bent increasing through regular overseeding.

The winners were: 1. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge GC, 39pts on count-back; 2. Wayne Vincent, Cotswold Hills GC, 39 pts; 3. Allan Smith, Long Ashton GC, 38 pts.

Thanks very much to Minchinhampton New for hosting, and thanks to Stuart and Sara for the excellent meal afterwards. By the way – Nearest the Pin went to yours truly on the 5th hole after a scruffy second shot from a divot went surprisingly close, and Adam Matthews on the 10th with a beautifully struck iron shot over the water. Finally Nobby, only kidding about the sneeze.

37 members attended the AGM afterwards, and virtually all committee members continued for 2008. I would like to pay tribute to them all, but particularly Chris Sealey and Nobby Knight, who are unendingly enthusiastic and without whom we would struggle. Mark Haring stepped down as Education Officer and will be replaced at the first full committee meeting. Team Captain, Wayne "McClaren" Vincent, who in a moment of clarity admitted that if he'd been managing the Columbian National football team, he'd have been shot by now, was provided with coaching staff and technical backup in the form of Paul Garland. Paul comes onto the Committee as Team Vice Captain replacing John Richards. Welcome Paul, and thanks very much for your support. Thanks were also paid to our Patronage Partners - Avoncrop Amenity, Vitax, Irritech, Tower Sport Europe, B.S. Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Countrywide, and M.J. Abbott. An all-expenses (within reason) paid place at Harrogate week is also available via the Patronage Scheme – please write to Nobby Knight and tell him why you wish to attend, and what you hope to gain. The best entry wins the trip. The address is: 17, St Mary's Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, BA14 7PG.

I also attended the EGU roadshow at Burnham & Berrow recently. It was very nice to see the day so well supported with a very interesting series of lectures. However, it was a great shame that bad weather intervened, and we were unable to get out on the course to see the extensive dune-reclamation project. We are down there again for the Christmas Tournament on December 12 and Richard Whyman is leading a course walk. Please get in touch with Nobby Knight ASAP should you wish to attend.

Bridgwater College recently hosted another one-day training course – This time on machinery maintenance. These days are open to all, and this one provided fascinating insights into what makes golf course machinery tick, safety in the workplace, fault-finding, and financing new purchases. Other one-day courses in this series are: 07.01.2008 – Golf Course Presentation; 27.02.2008 – Manage Oneself; 26.3.2008 – Create

Grassed & Planted Areas. Contact George Pitts at Bridgwater College on 01278 655144 or 07929 754401 or email: [pittsg@bridgwatercollege.ac.uk](mailto:pittsg@bridgwatercollege.ac.uk) to discuss content and times etc.

I look forward to seeing you all at Burnham & Berrow. By the way, if anyone's been having difficulty with sending me email – I'm being besieged by spammers at the moment – dozens of daily unsolicited mails along the lines of online banking (not wanted), insider stock market trading (not interested), various personal enhancements (not needed), so please persevere.

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## SOUTH COAST

Once again the South Coast Section was blessed with wonderful weather for the latest Golf Tournament held at North Hants GC on October 23. The course was in excellent condition and was very well presented, many congratulations to Mark Openshaw and his team for setting up a great golf course for the day. The format was Stableford full handicap and the winners were as follows: 1. Paul Cooper, 36 pts; 2. Jamie Pender, 34 pts; 3. Joe Newman, 31 pts; The Longest Drive – Colin Hutt (obviously three shredded wheat that morning!); Nearest the Pin – Shane Hodgkins. Well done lads and thank you to everybody else who played on the day. We pay much thanks to Rigby Taylor, the sponsors for the day. Gratitude to Mike Ring & Dave Rogers. The hospitality from the staff at North Hants GC was superb. The food and drink was top class and particular thanks must go to Steward, James Kinnear, and to Chef, Mick Ogden.

The Section's AGM was held after the days play. Phil Wentworth, our Deputy Chairman, ran the meeting as unfortunately our Chairman, Tony Gadd, was unable to attend. The meeting flowed very well, with presentations from Chris Bitten, the Secretary, Chairman's Report from Phil Wentworth and Treasurers report by Fred Demon. The major topic of conversation was the planning and format for the 2008 Section Seminar. Chris Bitten reported that he had a very poor response to his survey in regard of ideas etc for the seminar. The response was zero! Joe Crawley responded saying do we take the lack of response as an endorsement for the current format? Ed McCabe agreed the format was fine but perhaps we should look at local greenkeepers presenting. This did have some agreement. It was decided to continue work on the seminar for 2008 based on the current format - watch this space for further details. This leads me on to say that if you have any further ideas on subjects for the seminar or any other news regarding the Section for the Around the Green article please give me a call on the number below.

Chris Sturgess presented his Tournament Organiser's report and announced his standing down from the position and the Committee. I'm sure you will all agree with me that Chris has done a sterling job in this position. It is a very hard job, time consuming, frustrating organising the late entrants, late payments, no payments etc. So well done mate, we all really appreciate your efforts and wish you and Maggie all the very best for the future. So, the new Tournament Organiser is Kevan Glass. Please contact Kevan from now on for booking and payment of Golf Days at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on mobile 07859 053054 or



# Around the Green



on e-mail: [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com).

The next Golf Day, if you get this issue before, is the Turkey Trot at Barton-On-Sea GC on December 5. If you read this after, those who played I'm sure had a good day.

That just leaves me to say, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year from both myself and the Committee. Oh, and by the way, at last I have moved house, yippee! All the best to you all and speak to you in the New Year.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200



## DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first autumn meeting was held at Elfordleigh GC in October. With the grass still growing strong and the good old Royal Mail on strike, it was a miracle we got anyone to turn up! However, this is the Devon and Cornwall Section we're talking about and after a few late evenings spent on the phone, we had golfers from all parts of both counties to turn up and support our Section.

The day was sponsored by Roffeys and members played for the D.O.Hunt Trophy. As you all know, Don Hunt passed away in May and his wife Liz was invited to present the trophy to the winner, Lloyd Overy, from Ashbury GC. A BIGGA plaque was presented to Head Greenkeeper, Will Hutchinson, for hosting a Section event and we hope he will give it pride of place in the Club House.

We would like to thank Roffeys for their continued support and also the bar staff and catering team for looking after our needs during the day. I would also like to thank Head Greenkeeper, Will Hutchinson and his team, for presenting the course in excellent condition, and finally to our special guest, Liz Hunt. The Section presented Liz with a cut glass decanter and glasses for all her work in helping run the Devon and Cornwall Section over the years.

The AGM followed the festivities with a few changes to the committee. Yours truly stood down as Chairman and was replaced by Justin Austin, from Trethorne GC. I'm sure Justin will do a super job and I wish him the best of luck. Colin Webber is the new Vice Chairman and also Regional Board Member. Colin's experience will stand us in good stead and I also wish him the best of luck in his new roles. The other roles were taken by: Abi Crosswood, Newquay Golf Club - Secretary; Graham Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club - Chairman of Education; Jeff Mills, Taunton and Pickering - Regional and National Board Representative. I think that covers things pretty much. If I've missed anything out, please accept my apologies.

Dates for your diaries: Tuesday, December 11 - Christmas Meeting - Okehampton GC; Wednesday, January 9 2008 - West Cornwall GC; January 20-24 - BTME Show, Harrogate; Wednesday, February 13 - Tavistock GC; Wednesday, March 5 - Spring Workshop based on Sustainability - Fingle Glen GC; Wednesday, March 12 - Royal North Devon GC.

Steve Evans

## SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody, I hope you are all enjoying this Indian summer we are having at the moment, although we could do with a bit of frost to kill some of the disease.

On with my first report and it's off to West Monmouth GC on Wednesday, October 10 for our autumn Golf Day, information is limited as I was unable to attend. The day was sponsored by Keith Morgan Mowers - A big thank you to John and Ben for their continued support, thank you to West Mon GC for the use of their course, the greenstaff for their hard work and the bar and catering staff for their hospitality and fine food.

On to the winners, in first place winning the K.M.M Trophy was our own wonder boy, Rhys Madonagh with 44 points - Well done Rhys. In second place with 35 points (on back nine) was Gerry Humphries both Garry and Rhys are at Llanwern GC. In third place, also on 35 points, was Emyr Nickels Inco. Best Trade was won by Peter Holstrum on 42 points - Well done to everyone of you.

Owing to the circumstances the AGM will now be held at the Christmas fixture on December 7 at the Pyle and Kenfig GC. Please try to attend.

My next report is on the Rigby Taylor Match Play finals played over The Royal Porthcawl GC on November 1. The finalists were Rhys Mcdonagh and Garry Humphries, Llanwern GC, v Andy Roach and Mickey, Haverford West GC. The match was close for the first 9 holes but on the back nine youth prevailed and Rhys and Garry emerged as the winners by 5&3. Well done to both pairs for getting to the finals and to Rhys and Garry because after three years of making the finals they have finally won the Rose bowl well done boys!

Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued support and to David Carvey, Roy Barker and Peter Griffiths for a very enjoyable day and evening. Last but not least thanks to Royal Porthcawl for allowing us to hold the event over their fantastic course and of course all the staff inside and out for their hard work and to all of you who did not make it this year better luck next year!

Henry Stead 07889792190

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Section Notes - Can all notes be emailed to: [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk) by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500