



News from the Chief Executive

The BIGGA/IOG group set up to investigate the potential benefit of a merger held its latest review meeting at BIGGA House. Both BIGGA and the IOG confirmed their desire to continue with talks however, BIGGA representatives firmly stated their concern at not having made more progress. After an open and frank discussion a very progressive task list was agreed with some extremely tight deadlines. The intention is to have a report out to members by January 31, 2008, for consideration. I stress nothing can be agreed regarding a merger without the approval of membership.

Another meeting has been arranged for November when the two Chief Executive's must present to the Group the following reports: The benefit of a merger to their respective members: The benefit of a merger to the respective businesses: A proposed membership structure with associated subscription rates: A study on exhibitions and publications. These will be key documents that will give a clear indication of the value of further negotiations.

The Amenity Forum's recent meeting was attended by our representative, Ken Siems. The meeting was very constructive, detailing the extensive work undertaken by the Amenity Forum in lobbying the European Parliament regarding the proposed pesticide ban.

The National Championship was a great success, our thanks go to Dundonald and Kilmarnock (Barrassie) Golf Clubs for hosting the competition. Both clubs made the Association very welcome. I would like to thank Kubota for their sponsorship and the members who supported the event by entering. Congratulations to David Simpson and Elliott Small, the respective winners of the Challenge Trophy and the Challenge Cup.

I recently attended a meeting of the Children in Golf Strategy Group – A partnership of the governing bodies and organisation's in golf throughout Great Britain and Ireland. They have committed to work together to ensure golf is an environment within which children/young people can participate in safely. A possible change in the law could see the golf club being registered as a business within which all employees will need to have a Criminal Records Bureau check. There is an increasing concern in society over the welfare of children and more and more those persons likely to have contact with them are being vetted. Whether we shall be invited to become a permanent partner will be decided at their next meeting. I hope this is the case. For more information go to: www.childrengolf.org

One of our greatest challenges is getting information to the golfer so we can create a better understanding of the role of the greenkeeper and the level of education, training and professionalism required to do the job. Scott MacCallum and I recently met with Mike Harris, Editor of Golf Monthly. We are in the process of putting together some suggestions for features in their publication, both on greenkeeping and the environment, linking in our own Environment Competition.

Please take time to study the education programme for Harrogate Week that members should have received. Details are also available through the BIGGA website. Book early to avoid disappointment!

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH - EAST

After the long wet summer, what a welcome relief to have a good September, with conditions ideal for renovation works.

The Autumn Outing was held this year at Ratho Park GC on Tuesday, September 19, with 24 in attendance. Weather conditions were ideal and as a result the golf scores were good. Our thanks go to Ratho Park for granting us courtesy of the course, the catering staff for keeping everybody well fed and watered and last but certainly not least to Tom, Billy and the team for presenting the course in excellent condition.

The golf results are as follows: Best Scratch – S. Cunningham 75; 1.1 T Murray, 75-7-68; 1.2 C. McArthur, 76-6-70; 2.1 R. Murdoch, 85-12-73; 2.2 C. Yeaman, 86-12-74; 3.1 S. Dixon, 92-19-73; 3.2 B. Hudson, 101-24-77; Best Nett - T. Murray 75-7-68; Veteran - A. Holmes, 77-3-74; Trade Prize - H Fraser (Huxleys), 69-3-66; Longest Drive - C. McArthur; Nearest the Pin at 15th - G. White. Finally the committee have asked me to personally thank all the Trade members for their continued support, it is very much appreciated.

I had a meeting this week with a real blast from the past, Donald Menzies, the former Head Greenkeeper at both Mortonhall and Peebles. He has spent the past summer working as manager on a farm near Malaga, which is one of the largest growers of Bermuda Grass in Europe. Now returned to the UK he is based in Edinburgh and is running his own landscape business.

The hot news this month is that Bill Lyon, the brother of Jim at Lanark is the new Course Manager at Murrayfield. He commences his duties in January. Continuing on the job scene, our congratulations go to Kevin Shiels on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Torphin Hills. He started his career at Lothianburn before joining the greens staff at Baberton in 1990. He has worked at Torphin Hills for the past two years as Deputy Head.

Mike Dooner



NORTH

The Autumn Outing was held at Fortrose in late September. The weather was windy but quite normal for this part of the world. A good day was had by all and thanks must go to Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC for their kind hospitality on the day. The course was in excellent condition throughout with firm fast greens that were hard to hit but a joy to putt on. Well done to Kevin Fowler and his staff for all their efforts on the day. There was a good turnout of 51 members on the day, which made it very enjoyable. Hopefully we can maintain at least this level of numbers for the outings next year and beyond.

Results - Longest Drive: Class 2 - James Hutchison, Castle Stuart GC; Class 1 - Neil Sadler, Portlethen GC; Nearest the Pin: Muir Ross, Ballindalloch GC. Sweep: 4th- Kevin Fowler, Fortrose GC; 3rd - Ben Brookes, Murcar GC; 2nd - Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC; 1st - Mike Keay Tarbat GC. Guest Winner: Neil Cameron, Castle Stuart GC.

Around the Green

Trade Winner: Raymond Warrender, Alpha Plus. Committee Winner: Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC. Veterans Trophy: 2nd Brian Cocker- Alyth GC; 1st George Simpson, Oldmeldrum GC. Class 3 Nett: 3rd - Hugh McClatchie, Peterhead GC; 2nd - Dale Robertson, Newmachar GC; 1st - David Duggan, Fortrose GC. Class 2 Nett: 3rd - Sharp, Peterculter GC; 2nd - Ben Brookes, Murcar GC; 1st - Mike Keay, Tarbat GC. Class 1 Nett: 3rd - Jocky Urquhart, Rothes GC; 2nd - Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 1st - Kevin Fowler, Fortrose GC. Scratch: 2nd - Barry Cruickshank, Garmouth GC; 1st - Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC.

John Littlejohn has left Fraserburgh GC to take up a position at the new complex for Northern Marts at Maverston Urquhart near Elgin. This is a 27 hole complex that has been built so good luck to you John in your new venture. Nothing more from me this month.

Robert Patterson



WEST

A warm welcome to this month's report it's nice to see some decent weather after our disappointing summer, and just looking forward to picking up leaves.

This year's autumn outing was held at the Vale of Leven GC. It's a very important year as the club is now 100 years old. On the day I played with Davie McBride, the Course Manager and the Vice Captain, Drew, we had a fantastic day until the water was running into my shoes on the 12th hole and we decided to abandon ship back to the clubhouse for a few beers and some much needed food.

The course was in first class condition and I would like to congratulate Davie and his team for their hard work in presenting the course, also to the catering which was first class and not forgetting the bar staff for keeping us going in refreshments throughout the day.

I would like to thank the club for courtesy of their fine course and wish them all the best for the remainder of their centenary year. The scores on the day were: Scratch - Gerry Bruen, Williamwood. 1.1 Brian Hillan, Drumpellier; 1.2 John Brown, Bearsden; 1.3 Charlie Goodall, Balmore. 2.1 Alan Dykes, Balmore, 2.2 Barry McCulloch Whitecraigs, 2.3 Gary Burns Lenzie. 3.1 Jamie Keith, Cowglen, 3.2 Brian Logue, Vale of Leven, 3.3 Richard Cuthbert, Cowglen. And this year's Daval Trophy went to Brain Hillan, Drumpellier with a two round score of 71 points, well done to all the prize winners, many thanks to our patrons for their continued support of our outing.

This years annual night out will be held at Jongleurs Comedy Club the site of the old Apollo on Friday, November 23, tickets are on sale from anyone on the committee priced at £22 please be quick in buying tickets as it's a very popular venue.

As we head into the autumn/winter one of our colleagues will be heading to the surf and sun for six months. Derek McCallum, Deputy Head at Helensburgh GC, has secured a position at a prestigious golf club in Sydney, Terreyhills Golf and Country Club, have a look on the

website for some fantastic views of the course the West Section would like to wish you all the best, watch out for the red backs and always take a golf club when looking for your ball in the semi rough to bash any passing snakes

Our Education Convenor, Stuart Taylor, will be organising training days at Killermont GC November 6, Manual Handling half day course, November 13, Fire Extinguisher Course. Cost of courses £45-50.

Fraser Ross. karen.ross @teco.net, 07970366355



NORTHERN - NORTH EAST

On Thursday, September 20, Greenlay Co Ltd of Choppington held their Open Day for their new premises. They were very pleased with the amount of interest shown in the day by all the local greenkeepers and would like to thank them for making the effort to attend at this busy time of year. To get an attendance in excess of 100 people was tremendous. As well as all the John Deere equipment on display they had five representatives from John Deere including David Hart (Head of the C and CE division.) Food was a hog roast van and the sandwiches went down well, some who went back for seconds will remain nameless.

Recently two greenkeepers from our Section have had accidents one at work been Steven Richardson, of Tyneside GC, and Russ Black, of Westerhope GC, his been at home we hope they make quick recoveries.

New members to join the Section are all from the same club being Gosforth GC, they are J.Lee, J.Saunders and C.Walker. Some greenstaff from Slaley Hall are also showing interest in joining the Section - Come on lads get signed up - there are lots of benefits for you all.

On October 4 we had our Autumn Comp at Ravensworth GC. It's been a long time since we played there and by all accounts the greenkeepers who played were very praiseworthy of the excellent condition of the course, thanks would go to Stuart Morrison and his staff - Well done lads, thought we might have seen you playing but I believe you had a meeting with the local police regarding the continuous vandalism you have to put up with, maybe next time. The leading scores were as following: Best Gross - J.Gibson, Northumberland GC, 70 gross + Salver; Best Nett - M.Harvey, Wearside GC, 94-24= 70 Ransome Cup; Best Nett - A.Harrison, Garesfield GC, 89-10= 79 Greenlay Cup Handicap from scratch - 12; Best Nett - K.Dinsdale, Northumberland GC, 92-20=72 Fewsters Shield Handicap from 13- 28.

Well done lads keep them trophies nice and clean, good to see Alan Harrison returning to Section events and thanks to all the other members for turning up hope you had a good day, perhaps I will see some of you at Harrogate next January.

I would like to thank the following sponsors for their prizes which I must say were excellent they are: Turf Services Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Greenlay, Shorts of Whitbur and, Aitkens.

Jimmy Richardson

Around the Green

NORTH WEST



The Autumn Tournament took place on Tuesday, October 2. A sunny day greeted us all and I can honestly say that the journey up was well worth the effort although Phil Dewhurst did most of the driving, thanks Phil.

Silloth was magnificent, a pleasure to play. Brian Storey and his lads had the course in great condition and the hospitality was fantastic, many thanks to the Captain and his Committee at Silloth and to everyone involved in making it such a success. On to the winners, Best Gross - Brian Storey. Best Nett - Grant Dougherty. Aggregate Cup - Peter Hogan. Vets Prize - Peter Hogan. Guest Prize - Peter Boyd. The Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was once again sponsored by Bathgates and was won respectively by Grant Dougherty and Brian Storey well done to you all.

The next fixture is the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow GC on Thursday, December 6. Please get your names down early as this is a very popular event. If you wish to play send a cheque payable to BIGGA North West Section for £20 to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Tel: 07985175825. And don't forget to bring a bottle of alcohol or prize to the value of £5 so everyone on the day goes home with something nice. Just to finish harrogate is just around the corner so make sure if you are staying to

book early as the hotels get full very quickly. If you have any news please contact Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625 my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTH WALES

The Section would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the past few months, this has been down to a technical hitch, namely human resources or a lack of human resources.

We have had a few of changes on the committee over this year, Wendy O'Brien took a career move earlier this year and went over to work in Spain at one of the Polaris World resorts where the grass cutting motto is...maybe tomorrow better today. Also congratulations to Darren Anderson on his Master Greenkeeper award, he will also come off the committee due to work commitments, both Darren and Wendy were an active part of the Section team and we would like to thank them both individually for their efforts over the past years.

Our Autumn Golf Tournament was held at Lymm GC and we had another impressive turnout of just under 60 members, guests and trade playing – The course was presented in a fine condition for this part of the year and our thanks go to Lymm GC, Stuart Yarwood, Course Manager, along with his greenkeeping staff and also to the caterers for the excellent food afterwards.

The AGM that was due to take place at Lymm GC was postponed until the Christmas competition being held at Harlech – (Royal St David's GC) on December 5, We would like to see as many members attend this meeting as we possibly can and will be looking for two or three new committee members along with asking for courses to be put forward to host our 4 tournaments in the 2008 season and we are still looking for a venue for our spring seminar, does any one have any suggestions for such a place? It would be nice to see some new faces on the committee with new idea's to keep us progressing forward in an ever-changing environment.

Any questions with regard to your committee/your BIGGA Section + events/courses etc, should be directed to Jeremy Hughes at The Vale of Llangollen GC, Tel: 07876 776265 or Email: jezpro62@aol.com

Mesen Cymru

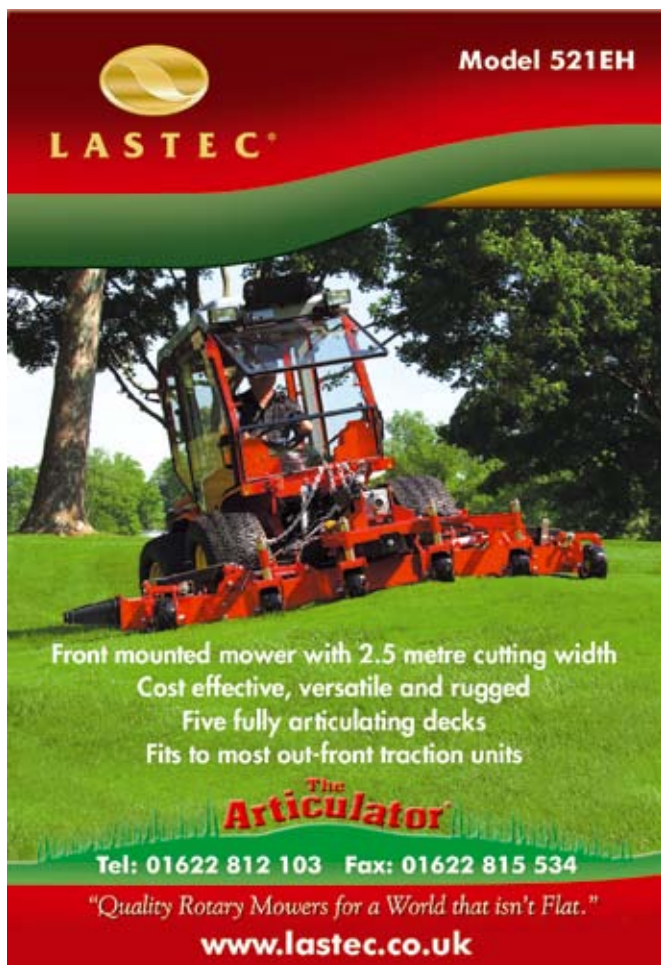
Andrew Acorn Andrew@acorngolf.com



NORTHERN

I must begin this month by apologising to you all for the lack of notes in the last couple of issues, I promise to keep on top of them in the future.

In the last couple of months the Section has held numerous events,



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including an excellent seminar at Moortown GC. A huge thank you to Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship and assistance in organising the day, and also thanks to Henry Bechelet, Megan Hood and Richard Windows, all from the STRI, for their superb speeches and discussions. During the day at Moortown a presentation was made to Head Greenkeeper, Bill Fox, for his upcoming retirement and his services to greenkeeping. We wish Bill all the best in his retirement and hope to see him again at future Section events.

On the golf side of things, both Invitation Day and the Autumn Tournament have taken place. Firstly, Invitation Day was held at Howley Hall on a somewhat wet and overcast day, and with Head Man, Mike Bussey having a bad sense of humour with his hole positioning, scoring on the day was very tough going.

The Autumn Tournament was this year held at Fulford GC, and again with a combination of a very tough course and difficult weather conditions, the scoring was kept low.

Congratulations to all the winners in both competitions, we hope the same amount of players can be seen next year. Further thanks to our sponsors Rigby Taylor, for Invitation Day, and Scotts for the Autumn Tournament. Also thanks to the staff of both clubs for producing two fantastic courses.

At last I can bring you the date for 2007's Christmas Golf and AGM. It is being held at Crossland Heath GC, Huddersfield, on Thursday, December 6. Can anybody who is interested in playing please get in touch as soon as possible, and I must ask that all people attending pay by cheque before the day. If you have difficulties with paying by cheque then please get in touch and we can sort alternative arrangements out.

Before I leave you for another month, a huge congratulations goes to Tony "Bones" Gerrard, who I believe has just got engaged. Best wishes to Tony and partner from all at Northern Section.

Adam Speight 07739 319060



SHEFFIELD

Finally we have some Section news!

On September 6, we held a seminar at Rotherham GC, who I would like to thank for their continuous support of the Sheffield Section by providing their facilities for us to use at no expense to the Section! The seminar was sponsored by Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor who I would also like to thank for their continuous support of the Section! The seminar was on The Disturbance Theory and was given by Henry Bechelet, Richard Windows and Megan Hood, from the STRI; it was a very informative seminar which I think was enjoyed by all of the 50 plus people who attended which once again made it a very well supported event. I would like to thank Henry, Richard and Megan for giving us this interesting lecture.

On September 17, we held our Autumn competition at Brough GC who I would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. The course

was in great condition and our thanks go to Derek Neve and his staff well done Derek! Thanks also go to our sponsor of the day who was Glen Sawyer from Golf and Turf Machinery, thanks for your continued support of the Section. Thank you also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal. There were 15 greenkeepers who played and the eventual winner was Les Varndel with 32pts, well played Les! The results were as follows: 1st L Varndel, 32pts; 2nd R Jones, 30pts bb9; 3rd P Neve, 30pts; 4th S Redmond, 28pts bb9; 5th R Needham 28pts. The guest prize was won by C Martin with 29pts.

On September 24, the SUGC held their annual greenkeepers competition at Sandhills GC and the results were as follows: 1st Hickleton GC (R Needham); 2nd Chesterfield GC (A Bunting); 3rd Wheatley GC (P Docherty); 4th Grange Park GC (S Pickering); 5th Wortley GC (S Davies).

Our next golf will be at Worksop GC for our Christmas competition and AGM on December 3, so hopefully as many of you can turn up if it is possible for you.

Finally just about the Wembley trip, it has been postponed for the time being due to logistical reasons but hopefully this will happen at some point next year!

John Lax



MIDLANDS - MIDLAND

As some of you may be aware I recently left Sandwell Park to peruse a career in angling. However, after two months I began to miss greenkeeping and have been fortunate to be offered employ at The Wrekin. What a beautiful place to earn one's corn. As the old doctrine professes, "a change is as good as a rest!"

Well I must have been fished-out by the time of our annual angling match, I came last. The winner on the day was Allen Shore, Harborne, and second being Steve Yates, Little Aston - Steve any chance of holding next year's at Little Aston's pool? Our thanks to Mr.Perks for his kind and welcoming use of such great fishing. Also gratitude to N.Tyler/Alpha Amenity for sponsorship of the day.

Our Autumn event was held at Walsall GC and we were blessed with great weather. The course was as always beautiful. Our thanks to D.Coutts (C.M.) and his fine team for there great efforts. Also our thanks to Mr.R.Smith (Captain) for his informative sermon and welcoming manner. The results of the day: Best Gross - A.Jones. Nett: 1. K.Swan. 2. G.Turner. 3. A.Jones. 4. E.Stant. 5. J.Ganley. 6. R.Beacham. 7. M.Hughes. Our thanks to Campeys Turf Care for sponsorship of the fine main prize table. N.T.P.& L.D. was won by K.Swan(on Count-back) and P.Woodham respectively as sponsored by N.Tyler/Alpa Amenity. Thanks also to R.Page/Turners for refreshment around the course. Best Trade: T.Cheese.

The final of the Scotts Doubles was held at Wentworth and won by E. Stant and P. Woodham. The runners-up being R. Thomas and A. Jones. Our thanks to Scotts for sponsoring this long running event. What a great competition, £2.50 per head. playing great courses around the

Around the Green

Midlands then the joy of Wentworth, free! Get your partner ready/sorted for next year. I know mine has such a sentiment.

The Christmas event is to be played at Whittington Heath on 6/12/07 with full breakfast on arrival. Partner draw 9am Tee off 10am. Traditionally we have run a bring a prize and receive a prize format, this is to continue this year. Please bring prizes wrapped and to the value of over £7.00. There of course shall be a main prize table as sponsored by Tacit. Get your entries to Gary A.S.A.P.

We have again joined forces with New Grange Training to run the IOSH Managing Safely course. This comprehensive four day course provides managers from any type of organisation/industry with a basic introductory grounding in health and safety at work. It concentrates on training delegates to apply sound management principles to health and safety, and is divided into eight different modules. Bigga members are offered a specially reduced fee. Booking and enquiries should be made direct with New Grange on 01562 632143. Course Duration: 4 Full Days 9.30am-4.30pm. Venue: Gay Hill Golf Club. Cost: £420 + IOSH Delegate Registration of £35 per person (exc VAT) Includes IOSH Managing Safely Course Manual, IOSH Training Certificate on successful completion & examination, folder, pen, lunch and daily refreshments.

Well I hope you have inundated our Chairman with photos for next year's calendar, I'll put a fiver on it that you haven't. Our thanks to Whitemoss: www.whitemossec.co.uk for sponsoring this month's calendar page. Looking forward to next year's. Our thanks to all of our prior and future sponsors of this very unique benefit of being a member of our Section. Please take advantage of the others! www.midlandsection.co.uk

It is with great pleasure (via M.Gash) that Mike Green and his wife Faye have just had a little boy. From the whole section congratulations to you both. Gashey, you had better get some coffee at work for Mike, or a bed.

Sean McDade



BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

October! What a month in our calendar. The so-called summer is becoming a distant memory, the nights are pulling in and the mornings are darker than a coal miner's armpit.

The weather is unpredictable and I suppose we will have a Russian winter to look forward to, with scenery changes before our eyes with leaves turning from green to every shade from brown to red and gold, and the squirrels are hurriedly burying their nuts, hoping that the greenkeeper will help remember where they put them. Finally, an old saying to remember, the holly tree heavy with fruit in early Autumn means a hard winter to come, so remember those woolly hats, warmer clothes and a half pint of pink gin and a few whelks should keep away the winter blues.

A warm welcome awaited the 50 or so Section members for the BBO Autumn Invitational which took place at Newbury & Crookham GC, a club with golfing history dating back to 1873 to which competitors still

play for possibly the oldest trophies in English golf and each I am sure all with a fascinating tale to tell. The course was an excellent test of golf, full of surprises with even the odd deer or muntjac seen roaming the heathland.

The results: 1st Ben Kebby and Richard Davis, Berkshire; 2nd Dan Lightfoot and Leigh Powell, Bearwood Lakes; 3rd Dave, Pussycat Lyons and John Bowness, Deanwood Park.

Nearest Pin - Erik Kinlon and Longest Drive - Pat Carroll with Jon Ryan from Browns winning the John Deere Putting Competition. Thanks to Newbury & Crookham GC for the courtesy of the course and all the catering and bar staff who provided hospitality ensuring our every need was met, Alec MacIndoe and all his green staff for the huge effort throughout the whole year in preparing first class playing conditions that made for a great day out. Thanks to Ian Richardson from Headland for sponsoring this event and Jon Beck for laying on the burgers at the halfway hut.

News around the Section, Nick Paris has left Chobham GC in Surrey and has started at Datchet GC. We wish Nick the best of luck in his first role as Head Greenkeeper.

The Xmas Turkey Trot will be at Beaconsfield GC this year on November 21 and will be a team event, so please get your entry forms in on time.

The Section website is alive and kicking, so if you have any news or views, give it a hit! www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day mark.day@tacitgolf.com



MID-ANGLIA

Is this the start of our long awaited growth decline, "about time" I hear you say, a few signs of disease and a wind that feels like its from the arctic. It seems funny that it is time for things to change but we are still very lush and green and cutting like mad. It won't be long until we are paying for the Christmas presents and looking forward to the New Year.

Here is a quick reminder to you all, the Texas Scramble is at South Beds on December 6, please get those entries in early to avoid disappointment as it will be on a first come first served basis. All entries to Richard Saunders at the usual address. We are trying to arrange a couple of educational seminars in Feb/Mar time - Details will be in the next issue.

As I write this article, I am preparing for the trip to Scotland to play in the National Championship, and am looking forward to representing the Section and when we return we have the Autumn comp at Berkhamsted GC, the results will be in next month's article.

Finally, this will be my last write up for the Section, as Craig Spooner, from Advanta Seeds, will be taking over the challenge. I would like to wish you well in whatever you do, all the best.

Steve Mason



SOUTH EAST - KENT

What a great day we had recently at The Wildernesse Club for our Autumn meeting.

A fun, team Texas Scramble format, great company, quality food and an unrivalled golf course. Many thanks to Mark Todd and his team for providing a stunning setting for us all to enjoy. Brian Willmott must have particularly enjoyed it as Duncan Kelso noticed that he appeared to be "Stiffening up" as he collected his nearest the pin prize!

It was nice to see many new faces at Wildernesse. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and that you will become regular attendees at future events. Full results of the day as follows: 1st on 5 under par Gary Branchett, Paul Rudkin, Mark Wise; 2nd on 4 under par Duncan Kelso, John Millen, Dave Vidler; 3rd on 2 under par Paul Boozer, Matt Gray, Rob Holland. Nearest the pin was won by Brian Willmott and Longest Drive by Michael Wigstone.

On November, 29 the Kent Section annual tour draws to a close when the Turkey Trot shall be contested at Birchwood Park. Lets hope our Indian Summer continues until then at least! We shall be teeing off from 8.45am, having a three course Christmas dinner, lots of prizes and holding our AGM. Having an early start will hopefully enable many of you to be present for the whole day. If you wish to raise any issues for discussion or if you wish to join or change the current committee could we please have proposals in writing prior to the event. A fixture card for all 2008 events will also be distributed to all attendees on the day so you can plan your work programmes around our activities wherever possible.

I hope all of you who attended benefited from and enjoyed the Regional Seminar we hosted for the South East Region at the end of October. A lot of planning went into producing what looked to be a pretty comprehensive coverage on our overall working topic of "Climate of Change". Our usual industry days shall continue over the Winter months. Please consult our website or continue reading this column for more details.

Rob Holland kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



SUSSEX

Hello again, can anyone believe we are this close to Christmas already, the year seems to have flown by.

We have had a few events recently, the first was our Autumn meeting on September 13 which was held at Cooden Beach. I would like to thank everyone at Cooden for their hospitality, and big thanks to John Hill, Carl Wyborne and the team for providing such a great course and a cracking day - The greens were the best I have played on this year.

A big thanks to Blade Amenity for sponsoring the day, so well done Mark Wilton. The results were as follows: Nearest Pin on 3rd - Francois

Russell, Nearest Pin on 6th - Chris Ahier; Longest Drive on 18th - Phil Squelsch. Greenkeepers prizes: 1st - Glen Pollard, 39 pts; 2nd - Peter Ray, 37 pts; 3rd - Dave Allen, 36 pts. Guests prizes: 1st - Gerome Finley, 34pts; 2nd - Gary "Ian Beale" Ogily, 32 pts; 3rd - Darren Mitchel, 32 pts. Thank you to everyone who attended the day, there were some great prizes to be won from dvd and TV's to digital radios, so congratulations to those of you who won.

The next event is the three way game between us, Surrey and Essex. this was held at Colne Valley. Thanks must go to Tom Smith who hosted the game and also organised it together with John Ross. The course was in very good condition, but very tough.

The team we took up and a big thank you to them was: Dan Beard, Chris Ahier, Dave Allen, Rob Hudson, Matt Cossley, Dave Ansell, Rob Short, Tony Wooley, Dave Hinks, Ian Beale and Pete Crossley. Results: 1st Essex, 233; 2nd Sussex, 215; last Surrey, 198.

The way it worked, we took the best eight Stableford scores from eleven and added them all up. I can't quite remember the finishing scores but we didn't come last!

The next event will be the Turkey Trot held at Worthing GC on November 30 which is not to be missed. for me it is the best event of the year, no one goes home empty handed and everyone has a great time.

We have got a game of football against Surrey on October 25 with our brand new, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, kit. Thanks to Mike Ring for organising the kit, may we have many wins in it.

If you want to get in touch Tel: 07776223234 or Email: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com

Rob Hudson



LONDON

Well time certainly does fly by with summer being a distant memory.

October proved to be a busy month for London Section and as a result we are pleased to announce that this coming December will see the official launch of our very own website www.biggalondonsection.co.uk.

On top of that, for 2008 there will be a new trophy to play for in the form of a matchplay competition, which is to be played throughout the year with knockout stages, more to come on this next month so stay tuned.

Also not to forget that Christmas is almost upon us and that means only one thing, the Scotts Trophy at Porters Park - Will it be another Northwood victory for the third year running?

P.S. look out for the website.

Aaron Percival
Secretary



Around the Green

EAST ANGLIA



Our band of brothers (and Clare), ascended on Eaton Golf Club on 12 September 2007. All nearly went smoothly until Ian found out it was a two tee start and had to re-arrange the start times at the last minute. All my fault I'm afraid (a senior moment). I forgot to tell him! I hope all those who came enjoyed their day as much as we enjoyed "preparing" the course.

The event was sponsored by Bartram Mowers. Incidentally Barry Bartram started in a small workshop at Norwich Airport in 1972 - The same time I arrived at Eaton on an old BSA motorbike. One of us has clearly moved on somewhat. I've still got by Bike!

I digress, now for the important bit. 0 - 9 Handicap: 1. Mark Henderson, 35 pts on countback; 2. Chris O'Dowd; 3. Graham Hurren, 34 pts. 10 - 18 Handicap: 1. David Farmer, 35 pts; 2. Glen Rayfield, 34 pts; 3. Ian Willett, 30 pts. 19 - 24 Handicap: 1. Andy Baker, 33 pts; 2. Neville Rowlandson, 26 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 25 pts. G & T's: 1. Eddie Jack, 42 pts (who wrote the script); 2. Ian Benn, 39 pts; 3. Mark Keysall, 36 pts. Longest Drive - James Gill; Nearest Pin - Neville Rowlandson. The prizes were presented by Terry Upton of Bartram Mowers.

(Another senior moment) Step up Bob Chesham, of Sisis, who sent everyone diving for cover when he was approaching the 18th. From 20 yards he thinned one and struck the clubhouse wall. He is now the proud winner of our coveted "loo seat." As always our trade friends did us proud and they are as follows: 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. I hope you all had a good day and thank you Eaton GC for your support in stepping when a neighbouring club double booked!

Danny, from Bartrams, was recently married. I thought he said he had his honeymoon in Maldon. Seemed a bit strange to me but it turned out to be the Maldives. It's that language barrier I guess. And don't mention suppositories to Mark Day - he'll tell you where to put them!

It has also been brought to my attention that some clubs are not giving us courtesy of the course. I know we are a big group but most of us have given nearly all our working lives to golf. Indeed in our Section I'll bet that working years are almost 2,000 between us. We visit five courses a year and spread them out as much as we can. I know there is no such thing as a "free lunch" but if you ain't got a greenkeeper, you ain't got a course. Is a bit of courtesy really too much to ask?

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

North Weald GC played host to the Winter Trophy on a dry but cold and windy day at the end of September. Club owner, Andrew Lloyd-Skinner,

welcomed us to his club and offered a few words of, keep it straight and stay out of trouble, which was easier said than done on a windy day. He is backed by a fine course staff under the leadership of Bryan Girling who had put a lot of effort into producing such a fine course for all of us to enjoy. Despite some heavy reconstruction works going on around the perimeters of the course, and with the trundle of lorries every few minutes. Play was not disrupted and that is down to some well thought out planning by the clubs owner. We all enjoyed the day and food that followed the game. The Essex Section wish thanks Andrew and Bryan for the day and look forward to returning in the future, to see the fruits of the construction work. That I'm sure will make the course even more interesting to play.

Winners were as follows: Overall. Don Clark, Orsett GC, 38 pts; 1.1 Tony Barker, North Weald GC, 35 pts; 1.2 Ben Sharpe, Orsett GC, 34 pts; 1.3 Roland Hughes, Forrester Park G&TC, 34 pts on count back. 2.1 Andy Cracknell, Orsett GC, 37 pts; 2.2 Nick Swanson, Orsett GC, 36 pts; 2.3 Keith Chinnery, Colchester GC, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin, Lewis Tweed. Longest Drive, Daniel Hughes. Guest Prize, Roy Sprong 40 pts. Trade Prize, Mark Keysell 32 pts. Chris Wild was happy to hand out the prizes on behalf of Rigby Taylor, which had representation from Steve Denton and Mark Keysell and ex member of staff Dennis Smith. A fine raffle table was helped out by trade members who always support us so well.

Move news this month is that David Beale, Orsett Golf Club, who over the years has supported the Section with a long stint on the committee as competition secretary. Has decided to leave the profession and take up the art of house building. We wish him well over the coming months and years.

Also David Tindell has left the profession having joined Stock Brook the Country Club a year ago on his return from the USA having just completed a year with the Ohio State University project, Stock Brook staff wish him every success.

The next event is the Winter Stableford Tournament, at North Weald Golf Club.

November 27. Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM at Orsett GC. Teams of Four. Each team must comprise of at least two Greenkeeper members and then can be made up of anyone else, Trade, Guest or Greenkeeper. You choose and make up your own team. Antony will not be making the selections; it's up to you. Entries to Antony Kirwan, on the official entry forms please, with your entry fees.

Any queries contact Antony on 0707887-780.065 or by E-mail: antz16@btinternet.com

Anyone wishing to raise anything or be considered for the committee at the forthcoming AGM should contact, Martin Forrester as soon as possible, cut of date 10 days prior to the meeting. E-mail: mdwforrester@hotmail.com Anyone who has any news can contact me at highwoods.photographic@talktalk.net or call me on: 01206 852353

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk



SOUTH WEST & WALES - SOUTH WEST

I was down at Cannington College last week for the first in a series of one-day training courses. This particular day was devoted to Health & Safety plus Accident Reporting, and was led by Frank Newberry and Jon Allbutt, with support from Paul Woodham and Hugh Murray. The content was spot-on when considering Risk Assessments of the golf course, machinery areas, and general Safety. There are a number of other similar training days in the offing, which are actually attached to the current NVQ 3 course on-going this winter, but remember, you don't have to be enrolled on any formal course with the College to attend, simply ring or return the application form to book your place on the day in question: 31.10.2007 – Machinery Maintenance; 28.11 2007 – Drainage; 07.01.2008 – 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@brdgwatercollege.co.uk to discuss content and times etc. From what I've seen, these days are well worth consideration.

In the Section, congratulations are finally due to the Section Team. After what can best be described as a "difficult season", McClaren Vincent and the lads finally came good at Farrington Gurney against the South Coast Section. McClaren's new five million pound strikers, Nigel Pring and Robin Greaves, led an improbable comeback from five down with six holes to play to snatch the point and turn the match 31\2 to 2 1\2 in our favour. I wasn't able to play myself, but I'm told that the course was in fantastic condition, so many thanks to Nigel Pring and his team, and to Farrington Gurney Golf Club for allowing us to play and courtesy of the course – the first time that the Section had visited.

Back at Minch we've just hosted South West Seniors Golf Week, and it was really nice to bump into Lauchlan "Jock" Millar yet again. Jock retired from greenkeeping some eight years ago, having had spells at Brunham & Berrow, Moor Park, St. Pierre, and again at Burnham & Berrow, but still plays a mean game off 5 and still represents his county at senior level. We had a good chat about greenkeeping in general (and Burnham in particular!) about which he was extremely complimentary. It was great to hear that his sons, Lauchlan junior, and Kelvin, are enjoying successful careers as Course Managers at Hayling Island and Churston Ferrers respectively.

Fixtures are largely in place for next season, early dates for your diaries are:

- Winter Tournament, Kingsdown, February 21
- Spring Meeting, Clevedon, April 24
- Greenkeeper\Amateur, Minchinhampton Old Course, May 13
- Summer Tournament, The Bristol, July 24
- Autumn Tournament, Marlborough, October TBC + AGM
- Christmas, Weston Super Mare, December 18

Many thanks to all those golf clubs, and grateful thanks to the greenkeepers who helped with the organisation. If you would like to host an event for 2009, please let me know (it's never too early to start booking!).

I might just take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our Patronage Partners for their sponsorship of the Section this year. The money is

put to very good use – sponsoring a place at Harrogate, ten places at the Cannington Seminar, a representative at the National Tournament, and helping to administer the section. Thank you gentlemen and in no particular order – Avoncrop Amenity, Vitax, Irritech, Tower Sport Europe, B.S. Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Countrywide, M.J. Abbott your help is very much appreciated. Please consider these companies when making purchasing decisions.

Our best wishes to Rich Carter, Lansdown, who was attacked in the street a month ago and hasn't played golf since – a swift and complete recovery to one of Gloucestershire's finest players.

In the meantime, look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Burnham & Berrow for this year's Christmas event in December, so keep a sharp look-out in the post for the entry form. Any news from your courses would be welcome.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk 01453 837355



SOUTH COAST

I'm always saying how quickly the year passes, it only seems like yesterday I reported last year's annual match between the South Coast & the South West Sections. Once again this event was upon us taking place at Farrington Golf and Country Club near Bristol on September 13. I'm sorry to say history repeated itself and the South Coast lost. The score was 1.5 points to 3.5 points. Many congratulations to the South West team and many thanks to our players for taking part in what was a very sociable and enjoyable day. Much praise goes to Nigel Pring the Course Manager and his team for providing the course in tip-top condition. The catering and the club staff were very friendly, providing a welcoming atmosphere and excellent food. Thanks to all at Farrington Golf and Country Club.

You'll notice my report this month is a bit short in length. This is for two reasons. I'm moving house or hope to be! What do you call a room full of conveyancers?! The answer...well it's too rude to print in such a quality publication as Greenkeeper International. On my rounds ask me and I'll give you a quick reply and you never know we might be in our new house by the time we play Barton-On-Sea on December 5! If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque, made out to BIGGA South Coast, to Chris direct at his home address: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8EZ. The other reason is I need some more news from you guys. Thanks to those who have informed me about happy events like exam successes and winning golf tournaments but, please, I need more stories. I always say it, but I'll say it again, it's your Section, make the most of it. Please contact me on my mobile number which is below.

Well that's it for this month. Last month, when I finished the article, I started packing for Saltex. This month, I'm now off to pack lots and lots of boxes for my new abode – what joy!

Joe Crawley 07721 389200

Around the Green

DEVON AND CORNWALL



By the time you all read this column, we would have had our first meeting at Elfordleigh including the Section AGM. I look forward to this time of year where we can all meet up, have a good old natter and try to put the world to rights.

We have made some changes this year into the way we run your Section. Some of us 'oldies' are hanging up our boots paving the way for the 'young guns' to take us forward. I think we now have a good balance of young and old, Abi representing the young, Colin representing the old and Billy representing the very old (sorry Bill but it seems like you've been here forever). Joking aside, I do think we have a good balanced committee with lots of enthusiasm and I wish you all the very best of luck.

Our next meeting will be at Killiow Golf Club in Cornwall, on November 7 and the South West Seminar at Cannington College in Bridgewater on November 15 - Don't forget the Christmas meeting at Okehampton on December 11 and book your place early to avoid disappointment.

Last but not least the BTME Education Week in Harrogate. Your Section has once again laid on free transport with pick up points in Devon and Cornwall. If you haven't done so already, you need to book your place through our Secretary, Abi Crosswood. Abi can be contacted at: 28 Porthbean, Newquay, Cornwall TR7 3JE or: 01637 871166. Please book early as places are very limited. The bus will be leaving the last pick up point at Cullompton approx. 9.30am on Monday, January 21, 2008 and returning at 12.30pm on Thursday, January 24. (times to be confirmed). The cost for the trip is £133.50 for a twin room or £222 for a single room which includes 3 nights B&B at the Cairn hotel in Harrogate plus your entry into the conference centre. Although some seminars are free there are ones which will need to be booked through BIGGA HQ at Aldwark. Details of all the education courses and seminars, if not already with you, will be sent out in the near future.

Here's hoping you all have a disease free autumn especially you lowie mowie boys (pink flying pig just gone over) and I look forward to meeting up with you all soon.

Steve Evans



SOUTH WALES

Hi everyone, I hope you are not too stressed out after the wettest summer we have had in years and that your autumn work is well in hand, at The Grove we are just about finished.

My first report is on our annual match v the Golf Club Secretaries which took place at the Inco GC on Thursday, September 27 before I reveal the results I must give thanks to the following, Inco Golf Club for the courtesy off their fine course, the Club Captain, Mr Phil Symons, for presenting the prizes, Mr Emy Nickels and his crew for the superb condition of his

course - Congratulations Emyr you can stop taking the Valliam now! The catering and bar staff for their friendly welcome and fine meal.

Our sponsors for the day were Complete Weed Control, Mr Allen Able - If you did not know it Allen broke his foot a few weeks ago and although in pain turned up and went around the course in a J.D Gaiter to support both teams that's what I call dedication! Many thanks Allen your continued support is much appreciated (hope the foot mends soon).

On to the results and although we were two men short the result went our way, 4 to 3, well done lads especially you boys that played on your own, of which I must include our Chairman, Kerry Jones, because he played with me, sorry Kerry and John and Mansel. Prizes for Nearest the Pin 6th - Ian Church (Ashburnham Secretary), Nearest Pin 13th - Andy Roach and Longest Drive - Andy Roach, Nearest the Pin 13th another familiar name, Daryl Jones Nearest the Pin 8th Daryl Jones, these boys all won a bottle of fine whiskey and when a Scots man donates the prize you know it must be a good one, ones again thank you Allen. Last but not least thank you all for taking part.

One last piece of news, although you all know it by now, Mr Peter Lacey is the new Tower Chemicals rep so by the time this report comes out you will properly had a visit (give the old boy a cup of tea). All the very best from us all, Peter.

That's it for now lads so just remember keep smiling, news and views to: henry@henrystead.wanadoo.co.uk.

Henry Stead

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Section Notes -

Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month prior to publication please.
Suggested word guide: 500