



## News from the Chief Executive

**More and more I hear of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers that get themselves into stressful situations through their lack of management skills, or through a lack of appropriate skills in the clubhouse. Golf is undergoing a serious change with far greater financial competition between clubs than ever before. Only recently have I heard of a long established, highly regarded club that is close to insolvency, perhaps even technically there already. Drastic measures are being considered to reduce overheads but the action may be too late.**

The daily life of a typical golf club now needs to be geared to the commercial world and with it the employment of commercial skills. Today's Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper needs to keep up to date with some of these skills and that is where being a member of BIGGA can help. The programme for Harrogate Week will soon be released and in it members will find an abundance of workshops and seminars designed to help them cope with the demands of the job. The competent manager can contribute so much more to the golf club than just looking after the course, and golf club committees and owners need to recognise this fact. Management that works as a team has a much greater chance of success and had this happened in the case I referred to earlier, then the club might not have found themselves in their current crisis. Getting the average golfer to understand and accept this fact is difficult, however, by looking and acting professionally and by demonstrating business competence then the Course Manager can make his mark.

I am continuing to build stronger working relationships between BIGGA and the other lead bodies in golf, in particular the R&A, the Golf Club Managers' Association, the Home Unions and the Greenkeepers Training Committee. We all need to work together for the benefit of the game and thereby avoid duplication, make better use of resources and hopefully improve standards.

While Harrogate Week is the annual focus of BIGGA's education, members should not ignore the opportunities that are available the rest of the year, both on a local and a regional basis. The Education and Development Fund together with the Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship/grant scheme, provides the funding or subsidy for a wide range of courses. If a member has a specific need then I would encourage them to contact either Sami or Rachael in the Learning and Development office at HQ, to discuss how we can help.

Once again the Association's staff will be pleased to welcome you to the BIGGA stand at Saltex. Remember though, it is Harrogate Week that provides vital funding to YOUR Association and not Saltex! I will be in attendance on the Tuesday and will be happy to discuss any points that members have.

Finally, a reminder to book your place at the National Championship sponsored by Kubota and also to submit your application for the Bernhard & Co sponsored trip to the Golf Industry Show 2008 in Orlando, both of which appeared in the August edition of Greenkeeper International.

**John Pemberton**



### SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

First of all, a warm welcome to all our new Section members - please feel welcome to attend future events. The committee will be trying to arrange some educational events commencing in November. All info will be posted on the website, talking of which, we have all been rather busy this summer and the website activity has slowed down. We will be putting some effort into kick-starting this activity again, as the positive feedback we had when it was active indicated that it was well received by the members. Please play your part and send any news and ideas you have to the committee.

It's been a really busy time for many courses in Scotland, playing host to The Open Championship (Carnoustie), The British Ladies Open (St Andrew's Links – Old Course), The Seniors Open (Muirfield), and the Johnnie Walker Championship (Gleneagles). September will also see The Scottish Lades Senior Amateur (Glenbervie), the Ladies Home International Matches (Dunbar), and the Ladies Scottish Open (Carrick), followed by the Dunhill Links Championship (St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns). A really fantastic year for the Golf spectators among us if you have the time. From what we've seen so far it has shown the talent that exists in our profession producing such fantastic venues in what has been a very challenging season weather wise. Congratulations to all involved.

The Autumn Tournament will be played on September 20 at The Dukes. All entries should have been processed by now, and you can check the draw on the website or by calling Andy Mellon: 01334 658914. This year's National Tournament is being held at Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club. For a fee of £85 you get to play two fantastic courses with lunch both days and dinner on the first evening all included. I hope that many section members take up the opportunity to play, when it's being hosted so close to home.

I have been as busy as usual on my own Golf Tour. All the courses were in great condition and a testament to the hard work of the Greenkeeping teams' efforts. I had great days at Royal Burgess, Kirriemuir and Brechin. I was trying to keep it quiet but I also lost £4 to Andy O'Hara, Course manager at Leven, on a real Black Thursday when I also lost my trusty 7 – iron, damaged my putter and was run down by a golf buggy. Fortunately my injuries were not severe enough to stop me jetting off to Canada next month on holiday, which I'm busy setting up a schedule of course visits for. I'm pulling on all contacts to try and get some good courses. I get back the day of our Autumn Tournament and I've asked for a late tee time to try and take part. Hope to see you all there.

Your committee are keen to arrange as many events as you need, and to provide relevant learning opportunities for our members. Please give them your support and let them know what you want. The AGM is just round the corner and you'll receive an Invite in the post. It's your opportunity to come along and have a say on how things are run, and offer your services to help if you can. All the best.

*Secretary: Andy Mellon  
Chairman: Derek Scott*

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

# Around the Green



## SCOTLAND – EAST

I am writing this report at home on Sunday, August 5, after a week of dry but windy weather. However the rain has returned with a vengeance and more is forecast for the week ahead rendering irrigation systems redundant.

The Open at Carnoustie this year, drew huge praise for the condition of the course from all in attendance. This was just reward for all the hard work put in by John Philp and his team, and statements like “Best Open Course preparation ever” were not wide of the mark. On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who contacted me after seeing my response to John Huggan’s ill-informed article in ‘Scotland on Sunday’ on the Sunday prior to the Open.

In the week after the Open the seniors had their turn, with the main event being held at Muirfield. The Qualifier’s for this event were held at the following venues, Dunbar, North Berwick West and the relatively new Links at Craighielaw. I understand all courses were in excellent condition and were a credit to their respective Greenkeeping teams.

I am sure everyone will join me in congratulating Ryan McCulloch

(Goswick) and his wife Louise who are celebrating the safe arrival of Spencer, a brother and playmate for Leo.

On a sad note I have to report the death of Tom Baillie, the former Head Greenkeeper at Dalmahoy. In all he spent 40 years working on the courses at Dalmahoy, and was in charge for the first major tournament to be held there prior to his retirement in 1991. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family at this sad time.

Finally, our congratulations must go to former Greenkeeper John Gallagher Jnr, who won the Scottish Amateur Championship on Saturday, August 4 over the testing links of Old Prestwick. His triumph is all the more commendable when you consider he has hardly played this year due to a hairline fracture to a bone in his wrist!

*Until next month  
Mike Dooner*



## SCOTLAND – NORTH

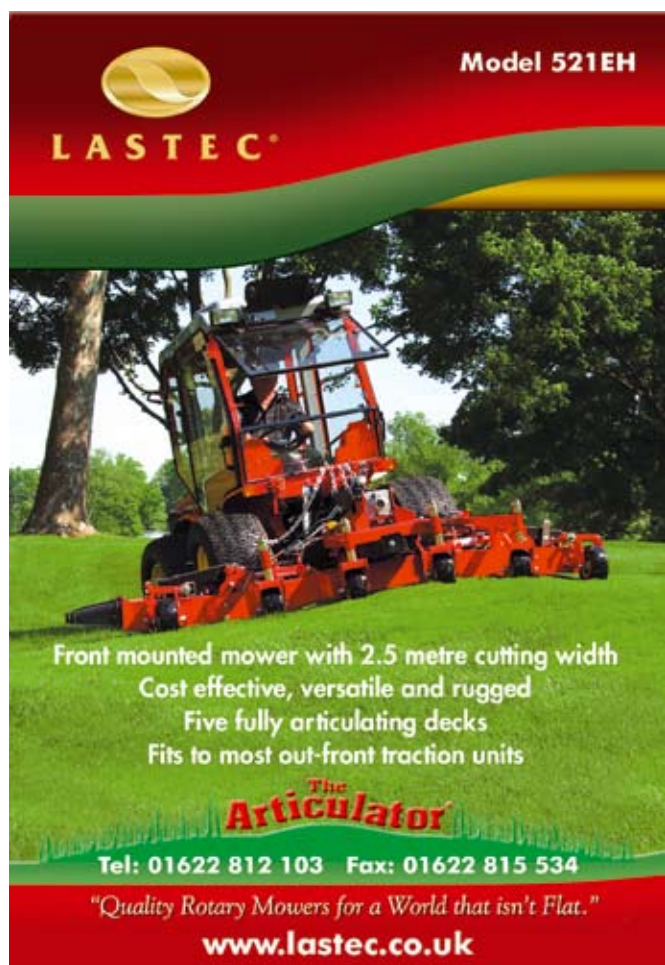
The year is rolling by at an alarming speed. The nights are getting dark already. It seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready for the new season.

I don’t think anybody has escaped the wet weather this year; it’s been a test for all courses to keep them dry and in play. We have had more than half our annual rainfall in three months here on the east coast, never seen this much rain in May, June, July before or links courses so green. Nevermind, we could have been caught up in the floods that hit the midlands in August, which must have been a nightmare scenario for everybody down there.

The Open at Carnoustie was fantastic. You couldn’t script a better finish and a homegrown winner for a change. That 18th hole at Carnoustie must be the hardest finishing hole in golf. I have to say that the condition of the golf course was awesome with superb greens and surround areas and magnificent fairways, which were so tight they looked like they were cut at greens height. I think they have laid the ghost of ‘99 to rest this time but in saying that the condition then was equally as good but nobody talked about it, which was a shame. I think John has raised the bar for all of us to try and match with regards to course set up and conditioning. The attention to detail all over the course was incredible and is a credit to John and his team.

The Autumn Meeting is at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC on September 20, so let’s have a good turnout for this one and support Kevin Fowler and his boys. This is great course on the Black Isle and one, which everyone will enjoy.

The Walker Cup match between Britain and Ireland is at Royal County Down GC in early September. Hopefully we will spank the yanks this time and win back the cup. County Down is a majestic golf course and is in mint condition. I was lucky enough to play it in the spring with Alan Strachan (Course Manager) and it was awesome. The scenery around that area is fantastic with the mountains of Mournes looking down on you all the way round.



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# Around the Green

John Merchant, who is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Royal Aberdeen, is going to be a dad in the wintertime, his girlfriend Emma is expecting in mid December. Good luck to you both with the impending arrival. Not much else from me folks.

*Robert Patterson*  
Royal Aberdeen GC



## **NORTHERN – NORTH EAST**

Well only a little bit of news this month, although nothing has been in the past couple of magazines. Firstly, people on the move. As the Cleveland Section had in last month's news, Head Greenkeeper, Glen Baxter of South Shields GC, has now left the profession after working there for 23 years and is now working for Rigby Taylor Ltd covering the north east area. I'm sure you all will meet him at some point, anyway, best of luck Glen.

Two more greenkeepers have also moved, one is former Head Greenkeeper, Ian Hutton, of Garesfield GC, and James Leighton, formerly Assistant Greenkeeper at Hexham, who has moved to Slaley Hall GC.

Other news is that a golf club in our Section has been fined quite a sum of money for not complying with the H&S regulations, this news came via the Secretaries' magazine, so if any of you have not got the necessary paperwork I would advise you to get on the BIGGA website and look up the new Safety Management System as there is lots of information, such as the risk assessments, that are available for you to download.

*Jimmy Richardson*



## **NORTHERN – NORTH WEST**

Everyone must be on holiday or clearing up from the floods, as I have not had any news this month. I have not had any names yet for the Tournament at Silloth, contact me if you wish to go.

The annual Stewards' Match will be played at Disley GC in October and we will need a team to represent the north west Section, it's a sponsored day so it will not cost you a penny, if you fancy it please contact Bert Cross. Well that's all for now,

if anyone needs any help or advice please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself, Chris Sheehan on: 0151 2894625 my email is: [jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk)

*Chris Sheehan*



## **MIDLAND – EAST MIDLAND**

I start this month's column with the results of our five a side football friendly that took place at Loughborough College on June 5. Although

there was not a great turn out we decided on a young versus old boy match, which was eventually won 20-19 by the old boys with Kevin Kinzer scoring the all-important winning goal.

The summer golf tournament took place at Chevin GC on July 18 and the following results were Handicaps 0-14: 1. A Porter, 43pts; 2. C Brown, 37pts; 3. A Marsh, 34pts. Handicap 15-28: 1. A Colton, 26pts; 2. A De Wet, 26pts; 3. N Nottingham, 26pts. The Rep's prize was won by S Banks with 34pts. The Longest Drive for Greenkeepers was won by D James and the Nearest Pin, D J Rodgers. The Longest Drive for Rep's was won by S Banks and the Nearest Pin, J Robson.

*Dan Rodgers*



## **MIDLAND – EAST OF ENGLAND**

It's official! [www.eastofenglandbigga.com](http://www.eastofenglandbigga.com) – we are now online! The website is still in it's infancy (acorns into oaks and all that), but I hope you will use it and enjoy it. My thanks for the site go to Gary Salisbury for all his hard work. It is greatly appreciated.

I could talk about the weather, but what can you say? The weather makes us what we are – a very tough breed able to cope well in such conditions, providing a testament to the skill and determination of all greenkeepers. Things can only get better!

Now onto the golf. Lincoln GC was the venue for this 3rd round qualifier for the BIGGA National Tournament. A touch on the damp side (we didn't realise just how many water features could be on one course), but all credit to Ade and the lads, the course was in excellent condition. Our sincere thanks to Nigel and Toro for the sponsorship. The results were as follows: 1. Russ Moody; 2. Jack Fairman; 3. Steve Beverley. Longest Drive - Rob Welford; Nearest the Pin - Rob Bemment; Trade Prize - Tito Arana.

The final round of qualification for the National Tournament was held at Oundle Golf Club with Collier Turf Care sponsoring the day - a big thank you to Mark and Roger. A big thank you also to Oundle Golf Club who made us very welcome. I was told the course was quite tight! I didn't seem to notice, but I think a few fishermen on the lake did. Results were as follows: 1. Graham MacDonald; 2. Scott Pritchett; 3. Dave Mawford; 4. Bruce Hicks; Nearest the Pin - Steve Hopkins; Longest Drive - Carl Chamberlain; Trade Prize - Carl Chamberlain.

The three qualifiers for the National Championship are: G. MacDonald, B Robinson and S Bosett. Well done lads and good luck in Scotland.

Finally I would like to say well done to Dave Coupland (formerly of Boston Golf Club). For those who don't know, Dave qualified for the British Open. Quite an achievement, especially with Bruce as your mentor. Seriously, well done Dave, we were all cheering for you and hope your career goes from strength to strength.

*Allan Walker*



## MIDLAND – BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

August, and it seems the cousin of El Nino has paid us a visit in Britain with the result that we have one of the wettest summers on record. This is in sharp contrast to last summer which was one of its driest and hottest. No sooner had we all predicted a heat wave summer this year with bets on record temperatures for our new Spanish climate, then the heavens opened with rising waters forcing dozens from their homes as the surge from Britain's worst floods in 60 years pushed through various parts of county and southern England.

There will always be a debate on whether climate change or global warming is to blame or just maybe Zeus the Greek rain god and cloud-gatherer sent us his wrath and fury which has affected so many people up and down the country.

On Wednesday, October 31, the Section are hosting an educational seminar at Newbury & Crookham GC. The line up for speakers at this event will be Gerry Byrne from the K Club in Ireland, who has played host to the 2006 Ryder Cup and many Smurfit European Opens.

David MacIndoe, from Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, who has hosted the Irish Open and Curtis Cup, Ian McMillan, from Walton Heath GC, who has hosted the US Open Qualifiers, and Technical Director Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity - will make the line-up for a truly memorable day in Berkshire. Numbers for the day are limited to a maximum of 120 and your support for this amazing line-up of individuals who will be sharing greenkeeping knowledge and their experiences. So please get your entry forms in early to avoid disappointment.

Other events to be held this year will be The Clay Pigeon Shoot to be held on October 18 at West London Shooting Targets, which is located adjacent to RAF Northolt just off the M40 and M25.

Head of shooting for the day will be Jon Beck and we are looking for individuals who have never tried this sport or even lifted a shotgun before. You will be made most welcome by the qualified instructors on site who will guide you through this challenging and addictive sport which can give first timer's a real buzz. For more details Jon can be contacted on: 0790 999 7636.

The next event will be the BB&O Invitational on September 26 at Newbury & Crookham GC and hopefully by the time you are reading this your entry forms will be well on the way back to Dean Jones, who will be posting your tee time on the section website, [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

Now that September is here, look out for the Chelsea chariots as the school runs start up after the holidays and let's hope the waters have started to recede and a sense of normality can return for all those affected by the recent flooding.

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



## MIDLAND – MID ANGLIA

Hello chaps, long time no scribe, for which I must apologise - I was moving house and it seems like we are cutting forever at the moment.

I know we don't get the same volume of traffic that some of you guys have, but my grass doesn't stop growing because we haven't got a lot of golf.

I am writing this article just before the Summer Competition at Welwyn Garden City GC, so the results will be in the next issue.

Just to remind you all that the Autumn Competition will be held at Berkhamsted GC on October 17 and the AGM will follow the golf. The committee is hoping to get a good turn-out as previous meetings have been a bit poor.

Another date for your diaries is December 6, this will be the Christmas Texas Scramble and will be held at South Beds GC. Please make sure your entries are in early to avoid disappointment as this one always fills up very quickly.

My final note this month is to congratulate Darren Mugford and his wife for the arrival of their baby daughter, best wishes from the Mid Anglia section.

If anyone would like to contribute to this article then please contact me on: 07971 198173.

That's all for now folks, see you next month.

Steve Mason



## SOUTH EAST – SURREY

Sunday, August 5. It was my birthday on August 2 and I have reached

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# Around the Green

that glorious age that is the same as Chris Rudkin. I have, in a past edition, been a little rude about Chris but I know that you all would say that we both look much younger than our years, I must admit that deep inside that Victor Meldrew syndrome is gradually growing and by next year, I fear, we may both be eligible to appear on that TV programme "Grumpy Old Men". But enough of that, for now I will continue to put on a cheerful smile, tighten my belt, comb my hair, wipe my nose and as before greet you all with a cheery hello.

The entry for the McMillan Tankard competition at Sunningdale GC was full to bursting and on a hot and sunny day, July 30, some 60 Surrey members, after practicing on the range, confidently set off to do battle with Sunningdale's New Course which had recently been used as a qualifier for the Open. It was, as usual, in fabulous condition and we thank Murray Long and his team for all their very successful efforts. It was, however, more testing than in previous years and the result shows that only some of the single figure handicappers were able to do justice to a course that had been set up for a more professional standard of golfer. Darren Woodward won the Tankard and a place in the National Tournament. Jason Hunt came second, with Mo Bah third and Tony Brennan fourth. The other qualifier in the higher division was Barry Cannon. Tom Spurgeon was Nearest the Pin and the longest drive was won by Mo Bah. Our beloved Ex-Chairman, Anthony (Kojak) Freeman took the Longest Walk. Jim Russell presented the prizes on behalf of the sponsors, Grass Roots and Billy McMillan presented the Tankard on behalf of his dad. Many thanks to Sunningdale's artisans for cooking the tasty alfresco burgers, sausages and chicken and selling us drinks at prices we wish we could find in all local pubs and bars. We all thank Sunningdale GC for the pleasure of once again playing at their superb golf club.

I am sorry to announce the death of Dave Town, the mechanic at St George's Hill GC. Chris Gosden, the Course Manager, said that after 25 years at the Club Dave would be difficult to replace, both as a great mechanic and a really good friend to all the greenkeepers at the club.

*Brian Willmott*



## **SOUTH EAST – KENT**

It's been that long since we last saw rain in this neck of the woods, I'm beginning to think I should live in a tent and ride a camel to work! Surely this seemingly endless heatwave has to end soon. Somebody who has had the right idea to stay out of the heat on his golf course and spend longer in an air conditioned college classroom is Mike Emptage of St. Augustines Golf Club. Special congratulations to Mike as he has been studying at Hadlow College and has been nominated to represent the South East region in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Your committee are arranging an autumn golfing event at a top venue for late September/ early October. More specific details shall be posted on the website as soon as the host course has confirmed it's availability. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the website so please remember to check it regularly.

Another event awaiting a confirmed date is our football match against Essex Section. Rumour has it that the Kent team has had enough of

their current goalkeeper despite several heroic moments in the games that we have played so far and he is to be put into a defensive position. All I can say is the new guy had better be good! The game will be played at the Corinthians ground which is close to Brands Hatch some time in October.

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

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

That's it for this month guys.

Keep Cool!

*Rob Holland*



## **SOUTH EAST – ESSEX**

It's a very short one this month no news as such to report, only that the Golf Day at Colchester has gone by and a report of that will be in my next news report.

The next event for your diary is the Winter Tournament at North Weald GC, on September 27, early entries, as always, will be appreciated.

Move news - after many years at Burnham-on-Crouch GC, Head Greenkeeper, Paul Copsey, has decided to move on to pastures new outside of the golf industry, although not out of the grounds care business altogether, I believe he is going into landscaping.

Also, after 14 years at Thorpe Hall GC, 10 of which have been as head man, John Sinclair, Course Manager, has decided to move back to his native Scotland at the end of the year, leaving behind a fine golf course that he has lovingly nurtured through thick and thin over the years. His Deputy, Ian Gordon, is also leaving to take on the post of Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager at Ballards Gore Golf & Country Club.

Mark Day (Tacit) has just had a bit of scare, while on his rounds up in North Norfolk, he felt unwell and went to see a doctor, who diagnosed a twisted hernia. He was immediately rushed into hospital and operated on. He is recovering well and has now returned to work though on light duties, hopefully we will see him at the next golf days though I believe he has to stay away from the sticks for the next few months. Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the "Around the Green" section can email me: [highwoods.photographic@virgin.net](mailto:highwoods.photographic@virgin.net) or call me on: 01206 852353.

*Arnold Phipps-Jones [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk)*



## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH WEST



88mms of rain fell on “Wet Friday” (July 20) at Minchinhampton. This figure rose to 108mm at Cirencester, nearly 120mm in Cheltenham, and peaked around Worcester at 143mm. Happily I was on holiday in Italy where there was wall to wall sunshine, so there was nothing for it but to send a postcard along the lines of “Having a lovely time, and hope Captain’s Day went with a splash”. Apparently it did. I might just pay tribute to our staff who all turned in on the Saturday morning and got the courses ready for Captain’s Day by bringing the bunkers back from the dead. I really hope that no member’s homes were badly flooded, and all the courses have recovered.

The Summer Tournament was played under much better conditions at Cumberwell Park the following week. We were very fortunate to play on the new nine holes, and although I didn’t play myself, I was told that the new holes were in fine condition, and would look really special once fully matured. Thanks very much to Cumberwell for hosting this big day, which included qualifying for the National Championship. This prize, which alternates between gross and net scores, was decided on gross this year and allows the winner an expenses paid trip to participate in the National Championship later in the autumn. As the scores show, this was very keenly contested: 1. John Jarvis, Lansdown GC, 74 – 7 – 67; 2. Paul Gibson, Forest Hills GC, 74 – 70; 3. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickering GC, 79 – 6 - 73. National Tournament Qualifier - Richard Carter, Lansdown GC, Gross 73.

Many thanks to Marc Haring, not only for the preparation of the course, but also for hosting the inaugural “Haring Quiz Night” afterwards. This was tremendous fun, and also very closely contested by teams of mainly three. The “Happy Hackers” team won by some distance – not necessarily because they knew more answers than the rest of us, but there were four of them! Great fun – notably I had to get Chris Sealey in an armlock to write “Chippenham” for the answer to the overhead photo of a Wiltshire town (he later spotted his own house when he realised where it was), and no, neither of us could name all four Teletubbies. Thanks very much Marc, and Andy Parker for helping – we must do it again some time.

There was a slight improvement for “McClaren” Vincent at St.Pierre in the match vs the Welsh Section. Not quite good enough to win however, but at least 3-and-a-half – 2-and-a-half wasn’t a complete whitewash. The Old Course was in very good condition, with two new greens part way under construction at the 8th & 9th. Robin Greaves and I arrived a little late on the 1st tee to see our opponents completing their warm-up schedules – “Scratch and Ten handicap” they proudly announced – Robin

and I both had the same thoughts “shafting – good - and us” but actually it was a close game and could have gone either way.

Thanks very to St Pierre for hosting yet again, and to Stuart Wood and the team for the superb presentation of the course. I’ll just mention Paul Garlands round of five birdies and two bogies, which considering the density of the rough and the height of the trees, was outstanding.

Finally, on Saturday, August 4, Long Ashton GC hosted a Testimonial Tournament to recognise the retirement of Ivor Scoones and his huge contribution to the Club. Having joined Long Ashton in 1964, Ivor became Head Greenkeeper in 1965 until the present time. He was also a past National Chairman of both the BGGGA, and later BIGGA. The Section Committee entered a team but unfortunately Chris Sealey injured his back changing holes at Chippenham early that morning, and was unable to play. (Do I detect a Health & Safety issue? Defective equipment? Inappropriate or insufficient training? Greens too hard and need closing for safety? Watch this space). It was a wonderful day at Long Ashton where the greens were perfect, (and hole changing carried out in complete safety). It was marvellous to see so many of the Long Ashton staff, past and present, attend to pay tribute to Ivor. Also Jack and Billy McMillan representing BIGGA. Ivor was presented with an engraved watch, a cheque, several birthday presents, and an Honorary Membership of the club. The evening finished with cake and champagne, which was a fitting curtain to his long career.

Look forward to seeing you all at Minchinhampton on October 11th for the AGM.

Paul Worster [paulw@mgcnew.co.uk](mailto:paulw@mgcnew.co.uk)

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH COAST



It’s holiday time and at last a bit of sun has appeared! Being hols time there is nothing to report on the golf competition side but just to remind you our next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament to be held at North Hants GC, on October 23. If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque to Chris direct at his home address: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8EZ.

Chris Bitten has started the process of planning the South Coast Seminar for 2008. It must be emphasised that it is your seminar so you must inform us of what you would like on the agenda. One possible angle is to really place an emphasis on education, a sort of hands on approach rather than the usual conference style event. For example: small classes could be organised on the following topics: soil science, weed identification, irrigation in practice, the golf course and the environment etc.

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# Around the Green

These subjects are just off the top of my head and the idea is that the membership (that's you!) tells us that subjects and areas that you would like included. The aim would be to have an informal learning environment and a relaxed atmosphere to enhance learning.

So, what do you think? A good idea or would you prefer the more formal conference which has been very successful? Maybe a change would help to maintain this event continuing its usual success. Please let Chris Bitten know your thoughts on: 07796 887633 or email: [chrisbitten@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisbitten@btinternet.com).

Those of you have been away on holiday, I hope that you had a great time and I will talk to you again in October.

Joe Crawley  
07721 389200



## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody. I hope the waterproofs are holding out, did anyone spot the deliberate spelling mistakes in last months report. If you did then I was only testing you.

On with my first report and it's Trefloyne GC near Tenby that saw 14 teams compete for the Scott's Management Trophy. We would like to thank the management for the courtesy of the course, the inside staff for the warm welcome and fine food and the greenkeeping team for the excellent condition of the course, Mr John Noyce from Scott's for the prizes and sponsoring the day. The 1st prize went to Pyle and Kenfig GC with 73pts, Paul Johnson (Deputy Course Manager) played with his secretary, greens chairman and captain and they received £250 off Scott's vouchers, leather holdalls, baseball caps and some golf ball's, they also get the pleasure of hosting the tournament next year. In 2nd place we had our Chairman, Kerry Jones, and his team, in 3rd place were last years winners Trefloyne and in 4th place Julian BJ from Dinas Powis.

I would just like to welcome Paul Johnson to Wales, he hales from Hankley Common GC in Surrey and has been at Pyle and Kenfig since May 2006. Welcome Paul, hope to see more of you in the future.

My next report is from Chepstow and St Pierre Resort where we had our annual clash with the South West, Scott's once again provided us with the prizes many thanks once again from us all. Our team shirts were provided by our very own James Rees (InTurf), Thank you James. The weather was fab and it was made even better with a win for the South

Wales boyos by three and a half, two and a half, the prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive were as follows: Nearest pin, 13th Rich Louisson, Cirencester; Nearest pin, 3rd Paul Garford, Lansdown; Longest Drive, 14th Paul Garford, Lansdown. Longest Drive, 9th Rhys McDouagh, Llanwern - one for the Welsh, well done Rhys! I would like to thank St Pierre Resort for their hospitality and all of you for turning up.

Our next Section fixture is at Inco on September 27 v A.G.C.S 12.30 kick off, so if your called upon please try and turn up.

That is about it from me (thank god for that I hear you say) just a few more mentions, Jane Jones our Regional Administrator for all her continued hard work, thanks Jane hope you are well and to see you soon.

The last thank you is a personal one to my team at the Grove, Dean, Dave T, Dave M, Neil, Colin and young Scott for their patience and hard work over the last few difficult months. Thank you boys.

Any news contact me on: [henry@henrystead.wandaoo.co.uk](mailto:henry@henrystead.wandaoo.co.uk)

All the best  
Henry Stead

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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

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