

## SPRING WORKSHOP

The Devon & Cornwall Section's Spring Workshop will be held at Fingle Glen Golf Club on Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

The aim of the day is to refresh the grey matter on subjects such as sustainability, water and nutrient management, grass breeding and selection.

Guest speakers will include: Andy Cole, STRI; Dr Neil Baldwin, Amega Sciences; Brian Robinson Director of Seed Research and Stephen Denton, Grass Seed Development Manager, both from Rigby Taylor; also Christ of Plant Breeder Top Green Europe.

The cost will be £16 for Section Members and £12 per additional member from same club.

Please invite non-members such as your Chairman, Captain and Secretary etc - the cost of the day for them will be £25.

Please make cheques payable to: BIGGA Devon & Cornwall and return to: Graeme Gallimore, 8 Shilson Terrace, Launceston, PL15 9AP.

Include how many will be attending and from which club. Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on: 07782247472 or email: [graeme.gallimore@btinternet.com](mailto:graeme.gallimore@btinternet.com)

## HILTON TEMPLEPATRICK EVENING

Frank Ainsworth, of Hilton Templepatrick Hotel and Country Club, near Belfast hosted one of his greenkeeper evenings recently and it proved a huge success. Among those invited and talking at the evening were Walter Woods, Jack McMillan Ken Seims and Aiden O'Hara. Frank hosts such an event every couple of years and it gives greenkeepers an opportunity to mix with some of the top names in the industry and share experiences.



## BASILDON GOLF COURSE LANDFILL PROTEST

Friends of Basildon Golf Course believe the intended importation of inert landfill threatens both the lungs and arteries of Basildon.

As part of the 'improvement' of Basildon Golf Course, Basildon District Council has approved plans drawn up by 'Jack Barker Golf' to import 120,000 cubic metres of 'inert material' (in phase 1 alone); a large tipper lorry can carry 15 cubic metres so this is the equivalent of 8,000 lorry loads. The landfill will be used to create a driving range and to start the process of creating mounds of earth up to 6 metres (20 feet high) between the fairways, and the Friends of Basildon Golf Course estimate that 167 semi-mature trees will be destroyed in the process. We believe that the total amount of landfill to be imported is 312,000 cubic metres (20,800 lorry loads).

On Monday, January 13, Tilbrook's, solicitors acting for 'Friends of Basildon Golf Course', residents living close to Basildon Golf Course in Essex, issued Judicial Review proceedings at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, London.

Classified as green belt land and within a mile of the town centre, the former farmland was professionally designed as a golf course in 1967 and is well-regarded among golfers. The land forms part of the Thames Terrace Ridge stretching from Vange to Langdon Hills which is treasured by conservationists because of its natural beauty and diverse wildlife.



John Toplis, Secretary of Friends of Basildon Golf Course, said that he had researched the activities of the developer, Jack Barker Golf, in other parts of the Country and found that planning permission for 'improvements' at several other golf courses had been refused.

Lead campaigner and Chairman of the Friends of Basildon Golf Course, local resident Mick Toomer, said: 'This is nothing more than a landfill operation thinly disguised as golf course improvements. If it goes ahead the dust will pose a serious health risk to local residents many of whom are elderly and already have respiratory problems. Worst still those who voted to inflict this on such a vulnerable community are Basildon District Council Councillors, the very people who should be working to protect them.'

Detailed background information can be found at [www.basildongolfcourseelp.com](http://www.basildongolfcourseelp.com)