



News from the Chief Executive

The relationship between BIGGA and the Greenkeepers Training Committee (the GTC) is often misunderstood. The GTC was established in the late 1980's to develop, monitor and maintain a set of national standards, vocational qualifications and associated learning material for greenkeeping, working within a Government approved structure. It is governed by a committee comprised of representation from the English Golf Union, the Scottish Golf Union, the Welsh Golf Union and BIGGA.

Until recently the R&A were also included. From the outset it was funded by way of a levy of 2p per male golfer who was a registered member of a club. The Home Unions collected the fee and passed it on to the GTC while the European Tour and BIGGA made a contribution, the R&A then match funded the total sum collected. In 1989 the R&A published a discussion document of British golf course management entitled "The Way Forward" in which it is quoted, "It goes without saying that the 2p levy, while a start, is a totally inadequate contribution from golf clubs in terms of a really meaningful impact being made on greenkeeper education. There must be a continuous effort to raise this levy to a realistic figure with perhaps 50p a first target, increasing to £1."

Where is the GTC 20 years further on? The levy has increased, despite a certain amount of resistance from the Home Unions over the years, to an astounding 11.5p! The R&A will after this year cease to make a financial contribution, instead diverting its attention and resources to developing the game of golf overseas. Let's make no mistake that funding over the years has been significant and has helped the GTC to develop greenkeeper education to a point where it leads the way with British land based training and qualifications, so much so that its learning material is now being sought after by many of the emerging overseas greenkeeping associations.

The GTC in its current format is no longer a financially viable operation and attempts to increase the levy on the golfer, and/or perhaps include female golfers, have been unsuccessful. With a steady drifting away from club membership the Unions are finding themselves under pressure to maintain status quo let alone consider an increase. As the number of members starts to decline so does the income for the GTC.

One of the main questions that no one has yet managed to answer is "How do we get the casual golfer to contribute towards greenkeeper training?" The simple answer would be to apply a small levy to the green fee but it is unlikely that clubs will go along with this. They, I am sure, would see this as an erosion of their own income.

Unless a solution is found to the funding gap of the GTC then it may need to be wound up. Its role could then be taken over by either the EGU, the SGU or the WGU or perhaps somehow incorporated into BIGGA's Learning and Development Department. As a director of the GTC and as Chief Executive of BIGGA I have more than a passing interest in the future of the GTC and will continue to work with the Home Unions and David Golding (Director of Education, GTC) to try to find a workable solution.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

The Section had a successful evening on August 20, when David Cole, from Loch Lomond Golf Club, gave a presentation on the work involved in preparing and staging the Scottish Open. Thanks once again David and good luck in your new position at Loch Lomond, you have got off to a great start.

Following on from that, on Wednesday, September 10, at 7pm, we have Stan Kostka talking about wetting agent technology. Stan is Director of Research and Development with Aquatrols in the US and is on a visit to the UK. We are very fortunate to be able to attract people like Stan to come and share their knowledge with us and he comes on the recommendation of Richard Windows who recently attended a presentation by him. The event will be at the greenkeeping facility at Elmwood GC.

This is also the venue for the Section AGM which will be held on Monday, October 27 at 1.30pm, in conjunction with a presentation by Martin Heywood of Aquadrop, who will talk on improving the quality of your irrigation water. There are a number of their installations across Scotland, now including one at The Castle Course where we have been able to drop the bi carbonates from over 250mg/l to 150mg/l as well as lowering the ph.

The Committee will be proposing Gordon McKie, of St Andrews Links, as Chairman. Normally, Gordon would spend some time as Vice Chairman before taking the hot seat but with the departure of our current Vice, Alan Sharp, to Essex Gordon won't have the luxury of easing himself into the job.

The Committee is looking for nominations for a new Vice Chairman from October and would be pleased to receive nominations before the AGM. Please contact the Secretary, Andy Mellon.

We would also be pleased to hear of any particular educational events you would like, particularly for late February/early March. The Committee was thinking of staging some management training on items such as Managing people, confidence building, assertiveness and team building.

These courses are expensive to run so we would need some commitment before arranging them. We shall try and get some more exact costs and information and this will be posted on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk - where we would also be pleased to hear your thoughts and comments.

The website has been quiet recently but hopefully it will pick up again now the golfing season is passing.

On the move has been Kevin Webster, from Milnathort GC to Leven GC. Kevin also got married in July and used to play off a handicap of one, welcome to the real world Kevin. Chris Ross, of the Dukes Course, also got married in early July and by the end of the month had lost his wedding ring. There's no truth in the rumour that his workmates organised a search party in 'Fat



Sam's nightclub in Dundee. Best of luck to you both for the future.

Finally, I believe Gary McCandless and Jim Smith have taken over Mike Dennis's role at Rigby Taylor following his retirement. Two people to replace you Mike, you must have been some guy, and you managed to play all that golf with Derek.

Gordon Moir



EAST

The regular topic of conversation among greenkeepers at present is the appalling weather, with tropical style downpours becoming the norm.

On Thursday, August 7, the greenkeepers at St. Boswells GC arrived at work to find most of the 9 hole course flooded when the River Tweed burst its banks. The following day the waters had receded but left behind mounds of debris in the form of logs, branches and silt. A huge clean up operation is currently underway.

On Friday, August 8, developers, Manor Kingdom, announced their intention to apply for planning permission for a major development at Rutherford Castle, near West Linton. The plans include a luxury hotel, houses and a championship golf course. The original course, which opened in the late 90's, was the brainchild of farmer Henry Wallace. The course designer at the time was Dalbeattie-based Brian Moore, of OCM Associates.

The committee have asked me to remind you of the following upcoming events:

Autumn Outing, September 9, Kingsknowe Golf Club;

Willie Woods, October 9, West Linton Golf Club;

AGM, October 30, Dundas Park - the AGM will be preceded by a lecture from Gary Smith, of Scotts.

The East committee is currently hard at work putting together a programme of lectures, on interesting topics, for the Autumn/Winter period. By next month, hopefully, I will have a list of speakers and dates for your diary.

I spoke briefly last month of price increases which many of you will have noticed with the rapid rise in costs of red diesel. This year you the end user will not have noticed the rapid rise in costs of fertiliser and grass seed, however next year all distributors will have to pass all or at least some of these costs on!

Until Next Month

Mike Dooner



NORTH

I start with the news that a sharp eyed member, namely John Geddes, spotted recently in the P & J a certain Dougal Duguid playing Westhill golf course and he had had a hole in one. If this is the same Dougal who was Chairman of the Section then John was wondering if you would be making an appearance at the next outing at Kirriemuir in your Mexican bandit attire.

Everyone I have spoken to recently is looking forward to the outing at Kirriemuir and hopefully we will have a good turnout.

Please get your forms into Dale as soon as you can. Jim assures me that the course will be in pristine condition and this will be even more of an achievement due to him being in the veterans' section! Sorry Jim couldn't resist.

In the coming month we have a team going down to play in the Norrie Whittock Trophy. Hopefully we'll have better luck this year. Hugh Mclatchie is playing along with two lads from Peterculter and one from Fortrose. Good luck lads and we hope to get a report on the day's event in next month's edition along with all the results and goings' on from Kirrie.

Two former work mates of mine are expecting. Well not them literally but their wives, but looking at them both you wouldn't dismiss it.

Well done Stephen Brown on your fourth but you've along way to go to catch up with Rossco Macrae, at Huntly, who is expecting his seventh. Are you stopping there Ross or are you going for the full football team? Anyway well done and I will report in due course how they get on.

The Head Greenkeeper of Portlethen GC, Aberdeen, Neil Sadler, has recently got married. On behalf of the Section I would like to offer our congratulations. Does this mean you'll be turning up at less outings now?

That's as much news as I've got this month people but again, sorry to keep saying it but it is your Section news and for it to be a worthwhile read we need as much info as possible.

Give me a shout on: 07813889374.

Hope to see everyone at Kirriemuir, faces old and some new ones if we can. Come along and see what it's all about. It really isn't that bad.

We have nearly 300 members so let's see how many we can get.

Have a good month

Ben Brookes

Murcar Links



Around the Green



WEST

Welcome to this month's report, sorry for no reports over the last couple of months, it's hard to write when there's no information coming in.

I attended the Scottish tournament at Irvine GC during June and had a fantastic day's golf, many thanks to Derek Wilson and his staff as the course was first class, as commented on by players throughout the day. Congratulations to all the prize winners.

On the football front we're still up for a challenge from any other Section so please get in touch to arrange a game.

This year's night out will be held at the Comedy Club, dates to be confirmed probably around the end of November, tickets will be on sale from committee members.

Our AGM will be held at Renfrew Golf Club during October, there will also be a seminar hosted by Scott's and golf provided at the end, date to be confirmed members will be lettered with more information.

We will be playing our annual match against the steward during November at Douglas Park GC, dates will be printed in my next report.

Hopefully by next month the weather will be a little better as it hasn't stopped raining for the last month, well that's all for now see you next month hopefully with more information on Section news.

Fraser Ross
07970 366 355



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

There were 29 teams of three playing in the Regional Qualifier of the John Deere Team Championship at Close House, of which 28 represented local clubs (John Deere pays £25 per team to BIGGA). The forecast was not good, but they were very lucky and seemed to avoid the rain for most of the day.

An enjoyable day was had by all with everyone commenting on the excellent condition of the course, our compliments to Brian Clark and his staff, thanks also to Steve Pope for representing BIGGA North East and for helping with the scoring on the day - Steve has helped every time with the competition and we couldn't do it without him.

First place (after count back) went to Barry Walker and his team from the City of Newcastle GC, who will have already played in at Turnberry by the time you receive this, 2nd was Alnmouth GC, 3rd Tyneside GC - only one shot separated those teams.

Congratulations are in order for Steven Richardson (my son) of Tyneside GC on his recent marriage on August 2. Also, welcome back to greenkeeping to Michael McKenna who has started working at Hexham GC after been out of the profession for a few months.

Hexham GC are in the news again - an extension to their current work shed is likely to get the go-ahead once planning permission is granted, work is expected to commence in late summer.

As you can see my email address has changed any news is welcome.

Jimmy Richardson
jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com



NORTH WEST

I am sure many people, more knowledgeable than I am, have said this: congratulations to Chris Whittle and all the staff that helped to make this year's Open so successful. The course was in magnificent condition as me and my Deputy, Simon, found out on the Tuesday.

We took time to visit Chris and his staff and were so surprised as to how laid back they were, with everything happening all around them, it was a testament to their professionalism and a pleasure to gain some inside information on the preparation of the course. Well done also to the Support Team, it could not have been easy with the weather conditions as they were.

Last but not least well done to John and Scott and all involved at BIGGA House in organising the Support Team and the facilities at The Open for the greenkeepers. I am always blown away with the organisation involved with The Open and it's great to know that the Greenkeeping Association forms a major part of it.

I know that every time I write these notes I ask for members to contact me but no-one ever does, well why don't you send any ideas you have on how you would like to see the Section go forward. Do you want seminars in the winter? Do you have suggestions for the spring seminar? Do you want to have functions where our wives can be invited? Are you happy with the format for the golf tournaments? Any views would be gratefully received.

I can be contacted on: 0151 2894625
or my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



SHEFFIELD

Firstly, I would just like to say sorry about the lack of news lately, please get in touch with me about anything at all then at least we will have some news in our Section!

On July 7, we held our annual competition at Grange Park Golf Club - who I would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course, it is much appreciated.

Thanks go to Steve Pickering and his staff for the excellent condition of Grange! Well done Steve.

Thanks also to Dave and Russ from Mansfield Sand for once again sponsoring the competition, everyone appreciates your support. Thanks as well to the catering staff for providing us with an excellent meal.

As usual there was some very good golf played, especially if you were from Chesterfield Golf Club (top three places), the eventual winner was Matt Kiegher with a nett 72, well done Matt.

The Best Gross winner was Darren Coop with a gross 75, well done Darren.

The results were:

1st M Keigher, nett 72;

2nd A Bunting, nett 73;

3rd D Coop, nett 74bb9;

4th S Brown, nett 74bb3 (watch your handicap!);

5th J Stevens, nett 74;

Nearest the Pin on 6th was won by A Unwin and on the 16th by A Riley.

The Guest Winner was Tony Dobson with a nett 76.

The Sheffield Section versus the Northern Section match was held at Ottley Golf Club - unfortunately we lost it 4-2, oh well better luck next time lads.

The day was organised and sponsored by Mike Brier, from Rigby Taylor, thanks for your support of both Sections.

Any news please contact me on: 07793111845
or email me at: jvl1967@sky.com

John Lax



NORTH WALES

With the kids going back to school and the days shortening autumn is well and truly in the air, with that in mind, don't forget to dig out your entry forms for the autumn tournament and AGM at Upton GC (ch2 .lee) on 8th October, the AGM was really well attended last year it would be impressive if we could keep that level of attendance again this year. Anyone who can't find their entry forms can get in touch with Jeremy Hughes if they want to book a tee time.

The BIGGA website now has details of regional fixtures and events, all you have to do is sign on to their site, www.bigga.org.uk and click on calendar/events it's that easy!

In local news Steve Roberts has taken his experience to a new club as he has taken up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Northop GC.

Bryn Roberts, of Eaton GC, married in Jersey in August I'm reliably informed, I'm sure we all wish him and his new wife a long and happy marriage.

On a sad note Paul Davies, of Conwy GC, passed away after a very short illness on July 9, aged 53, The Section as a whole pass on their sympathy to his family and friends.

Pete Maybury 07756001187

Johnny Evans

Johnny.Evans @tesco.net



MIDLAND REGION - MIDLANDS

Well what happened to the supposed drought we were promised for this summer? Strikes me that we have had a year very similar to last year. Come on now, all on your knees and pray to Ra to come out and play.

Please don't forget to attend our AGM which is being held at Fulford Heath GC on September 25, at 6:30pm. Please attend your thoughts are of great importance to your hard working committee. We cannot serve you if we don't know what you want!

The Section's thanks go to Nia Frost/Scotts for this month's calendar page. Please visit: www.scottspromotional.co.uk for your fertiliser needs.

Well that's about it for this month. If you want more in our notes then please inform me of any news on the well published channels.

Sean McDade



Around the Green



EAST OF ENGLAND

Well September has arrived and I am sure most people are saying, "where has the summer gone?" that's if we actually had more than a week of consecutive summer weather!

Everyone's thoughts will now be turning to autumn maintenance programmes, how much aeration and other work can be done to those surfaces we have so delicately prepared for the last few months. I am sure we will all be faced with the same question from members, "the greens looked so good, why do you have to do all this damage to them?" If anyone has any tips, or different techniques they are trying this year, and would like to share them with the rest of us, then let me know.

Our last golf day was held at Gainsborough Golf Club on July 8. A good turnout, reasonable weather and a well-conditioned golf course ensured a good day was had by all.

The day was won by Graeme MacDonald - finally winning an event after coming close in the last couple. Second place went to Rob Bemment and third place to Brian Robinson. The Trade winner was Ian Collett and James Sharp got Nearest the Pin.

Many thanks to all at Gainsborough Golf Club for making us feel so welcome and to Toro and Nigel Lovatt for sponsoring the day.

Our next event is our match vs the secretaries, which will be taking place at Radcliffe on Trent on September 24. The team will be being organised by Rob Welford so he will let those playing know in due course.

Our Section champions for the year are as follows: Steve Hopkins, Main Order of Merit. Rob Bemment, Under 25s Order of Merit. Gary Cooper, Trade Order of Merit.

National Championship Qualifiers, sponsored by Kubota, are as follows: Graeme MacDonald, 0-9 handicap; Brian Robinson, 10-18 handicap; Chris Wilkinson, 19-28 handicap.

Congratulations to all above champions and to everybody who won prizes during our individual golf days this year. Also many thanks to all competitors, organisers, golf clubs and sponsors for making our golf days a success.

A reminder about our final two golf days of 2008, they are the AGM Texas Scramble at Belton Park on October 2 and our Christmas pairs bring and win event at Holme Hall on December 8 - more details nearer the time. A winter education program is also being put together, details to follow soon.

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SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Thursday, August 7. I should apologise for not participating in last month's magazine but I'm not going to. News was scarce, I had not been on holiday, no babies, no weddings, no golf tournaments and the only major forthcoming events were my Ruby anniversary on July 13 and my birthday on August 2. Not wanting to bore you with the details I will only say that I have never looked so dashing and my wife so lovely, that is of course if you forget about our wedding day back in 1968. I can still remember...

The match against the members of Wimbledon Common GC on July 18 was postponed so some of the selected team were invited by Gavin Kyle to play his course at Knole Park - Just two nights before I had accidentally kicked the leg of my bed while returning from the privy. The air was as blue as my left foot was going to look in the morning and it was still very sore when we teed off two days later at Knole Park.

Being made of true British grit I said nothing and kept my pain to myself. Ron Christie and Tony Bremer, my playing partners, knew nothing of my suffering until I was trying to negotiate my trolley around an ant hill, I kicked the said hill with my injured foot and fell head over heels with a heart rending "Agh!" and landed on my back with feet and legs in the air. My playing companions, with much compassion, only fell about laughing when I got to my feet unaided and declared that I had no broken bones. I hobbled the rest of the course with only my wonderful birdie on hole 3 as compensation.

You will be pleased to know that my foot is much better and ready for the challenge of Sunningdale GC on September 1 and Richmond GC on Sept 18.

You will remember the lost father in July's edition and may be wondering what happened. Well Paul Robinson has laid claim to baby James Owen and I am pleased to report that father, son and mother, Gemma, are all very well.

Graeme Roberts, son of Gareth, at present working in America has been nominated as a finalist in Toro's Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition. Well done Graeme and the best of luck. Mark Pennel, Drift GC, was the first to text a new pitch mark repairer and was much impressed as was his 18th green. Matt Lawrence, Guildford GC, is expecting a second addition to his family at the end of August and exclusive details will appear here when the time comes. As you can assume from this month's 'news' I am desperate and will write about almost anything including in-growing toenails, your favourite hairdresser and even your first night at the line-dancing club.

Brian Willmott



KENT

I truly cannot believe that I am writing September's magazine report already - this year has just been a blur!

Lots to report on this month for a change. Firstly, yours truly is celebrating 25 years as a greenkeeper! I could wax lyrical for pages of this magazine about the many highs and a few lows I have experienced in my time on the four courses I have worked at but, in a nutshell, all the high points revolve around the many professional greenkeepers I have met in my career and our combined focus on producing a fine golf course for our guests. The best years, however, have been here at Birchwood. A combination of decent employers, employees, golfing clientele and, ultimately my involvement with BIGGA and you guys on the Kent Section have kept me going through the odd moments when the clouds have appeared. Long may it all continue and here's to the next 25 years!

On to golfing issues and what an Open Championship we have just witnessed at the truly magnificent links of Royal Birkdale. Congratulations to everyone involved in producing and hosting a memorable competition. Pdraig Harrington was not even expected to play at the start of the tournament due to a wrist injury but his back nine on the final day was just perfect golf played by a true gentleman of the game. All of our courses get a boost when such a great Open Championship is staged, especially when it is won by such a popular British character, so many thanks to all who helped in it's success.

Back in Kent we recently played our Summer Tournament at Canterbury Golf Club. Many thanks to Mick McGarret and his team on producing a great test of golf for us on the day. Thanks also to our gracious hosts at Canterbury Golf Club for the courtesy of the course, a great dinner and for donating a couple of prizes. Results were as follows: 1st Wayne Syers, 42pts; 2nd Barry Bradshaw 39pts; 3rd Paul Rudkin 37pts; 4th Kev Morris 36 pts.

I wouldn't normally mention who came fourth but our esteemed Chairman, Kev, was truly gutted that he was beaten by one point to the prizes! The Handicap hatchet man will definitely be looking at Wayne Syers' 24 handicap before our next event. Barry Bradshaw also won Nearest the Pin and Duncan Kelso's prize for the Longest Drive of the day was a trolley. This wouldn't normally merit much of a mention but Duncan has never used a trolley in his life and he did his best to see how many people he could trip over with it by parking it strategically behind his chair at the post golf meal!

Although I played like an old donkey on the day, the practice obviously did me good as a week later I managed my first (and probably only) hole-in-one while playing with Kev Morris in his Captain's Day event at Redlibbits! Many thanks to Kev for the invitation to play on his superbly presented course and providing me with a memory to be treasured forever!

Don't forget our next event is now upon us and is to be played on the

links of North Foreland GC, on September 24. We are not due to meet up until 10.30 on the day so plenty of time for us guys "Way Out West" to make the very worthwhile trip across to this glorious section of Kentish coastline. Entry forms are, as ever, available online at: kentgreenkeepers.co.uk Please do fill them in and send them to me at Birchwood Park as we need to be able to confirm numbers with host golf clubs for their catering requirements at least a week prior to the event. Also we still have a couple of slots available if anyone would like to nominate themselves to host an event early next year. Please contact Kev or myself if you are willing to have us at your course.

I'm off on my summer holidays now down to the south of France.

Keep smiling guys! Best of British (and French!)
Rob Holland



ESSEX

Only a few days to go before my staff and I entertain the Section at Three Rivers, this is made doubly hard as our sister club Stock Brook, The Country Club has their annual three day Pro tournament and Pro-am in the same week and staff from Three Rivers help out for the three days of their tournament. We shall over come as they say. Though by the time you have read this it will all be a thing of the past.

P Tuckwell Ltd, in conjunction with John Deere, have just hosted the Essex round of the John Deere Team Championship at Abridge GC, Hot of the press as I have just returned from the course that was presented in pristine condition and every one who played came away with only good things to say about the course Thanks to Geoff Smith and his team and Abridge Golf Club for a very enjoyable day and to James Tuckwell and Neil Peachey for entertaining us all so well. 20 teams took part on the day.

The results are as follows: 1st Warley Park GC, Net 60; 2nd Lexdon Wood GC, Net 61; 3rd Abridge GC, Net 61 on count back; Nearest the Pin, Fernando Teixeira, Three Rivers; Longest Drive, Will Sjoberg, Epping. Abridge Golf Club go to the final at Turnberry as the first two teams contained Professionals.

The winter (why we call it the winter tournament, I don't know as we are still in autumn) tournament beckons and we descend on Bently GC on October 2. I'm sure Mark Stopps and his staff will have the course in top class condition for the day. Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites. With up to date information and other things.

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Around the Green



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

I started last month's report with Education - Education - Education. I'm probably going to start this month's with Rain - Rain - Rain. Monday, July 28 - we had 27mm in just under 20 minutes and a mini-tornado to boot. Knocked the tops out of dozens of trees, and completely ruined all 120 bunkers. I had to close all the bunkers for the next two days for emergency repairs. Often after a thunderstorm or heavy rain, we'll get the odd bunker with washout - but never ever all of them. In 34 years on golf courses I've never seen anything like it.

Thank God for the petrol Sand Scorpion with a front blade. What a machine for dealing with the big bunkers. Smaller bunkers needed a layer of soil and stones scraping away by hand, and then the Mantis to loosen them up. This is probably only the first stage, as some of the sand is completely spoiled - contaminated with sub-soil and stones. The only remedy is to remove it all in the winter, and start again. It did cross my mind that we could replace all the sand, and then get the next mini-typhoon to put it back to square one again. The bitter irony of this storm was that it came on the very day that we commenced a borehole pump test to investigate whether there is sufficient groundwater for fairway irrigation. Answer - yes - plenty!

Happily, conditions were much more benign for the Summer Tournament at The Bristol. This beautiful new course featured superb views of the two bridges into Wales, manicured fairways, firm fast greens, and good food. This was our first visit, and our thanks go to the Crown Golf Organisation and Laurence Pithie for hosting the event, and particularly to David and his team for the preparation of the course.

Grateful thanks on behalf of the Section. Unfortunately the turnout was a bit disappointing - my apologies also - however, this is your Section, your Association - please do use it. Getting together with other greenkeepers is so important.

More congratulations to the Section Team, captained by Wayne "The Special One" Vincent after the 4-2 trouncing of the South Wales Section at St. Pierre recently. As Wayne said - "always nice to go over the bridge and come back with the trophy!" Speaking to Steve Chappell earlier today, he said the course was fantastic, the food excellent, and plentiful, the weather for once was kind, and "the only thing wrong was the bloody result"! Nothing personal guys and see you next year. Our huge thanks to St. Pierre for allowing us the course yet again.

Thoughts are turning towards the autumn\winter education season. There will be the opportunity for further Excavator Safety Training courses - please let me know by email if you're interested. The first one is likely to be in Somerset so please let me know your early interest. I've been approached by a couple of Section members asking for a seminar specifically on the maintenance and renovation of Bunkers. (In view of the above - this mightn't be such a bad idea for me!) We hope to hold a day or half day on

the construction\reconstruction of bunkers hosted by Laurence Pithie and Richard Whyman early in the winter. Again, please let me know interest. Also - please suggest any other subjects which may be of interest. We would certainly consider further Management Training with Frank Newberry, but again, we need numbers so please let me know.

The AGM is at Marlborough GC in October. This is your chance to speak directly to your committee to try to change anything you don't like about the Section. It is also your chance to put your name forward to serve on the committee to definitely change anything you don't like. So please do make every effort to attend this day, and support your hard working committee. They, like me, are ordinary working greenkeepers who put up a lot of their time because they believe in a strong section and industry. Do please support us.

Finally, if I could close on a personal note. Some private remarks made by me some time ago, have recently appeared in an article in a commercial golf magazine. The article appears to criticize BIGGA for offering poor education. As the BIGGA South West Section Education Officer, I find that rather an odd context in which to place them. My apologies for any embarrassment caused.

Paul Worster
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SOUTH COAST

Greetings to all and welcome to my last Around the Green. What! No more notes from Joe!? So, why the sudden departure? Well I am glad to inform you all that I have been promoted at Vitax and now hold the position of Sales & Marketing Manager for their new Fine Turf Division. I've been so busy and travelling all over the UK the last few months that I am not getting the time to put the reports together the way I like to and also not catching the news and info. When the Golf Day at Burley took place I was in Scotland! The change also means, with much regret that I have to stand down from the committee. I would like to say a very huge thank you to Tony Gadd and all the guys for their help and of course to Jane Jones our fantastic Regional Administrator. But before I get too emotional I would like to add that I still aim to get to some of the Golf Days and would still like to offer my help at the Seminar and of course will still call in to see people at their clubs.

The Summer Tournament was held at Burley GC on Thursday, July 10. The day was an invitation day and as usual turned out to be a great social occasion. The staff and members at Burley were very friendly and helpful. The Section would like to thank Burley GC for their fantastic hospitality and courtesy of the course. A special mention to Alan the starter (so it seems my position for Mr. Starter is under threat!) and Anne who provided a great service with the starter cards. The sponsors for the day were Tacit and we would like to offer a big thank you to them for their continued support. The golf course was in excellent condition and much praise must be given to Tony



Locke and Derek Place for the hard work and effort put in to presenting the course. The food was absolutely amazing by all reports so a big thank you to the staff that served and cooked for us. It sounds like I really did miss a great day! The results were: 1. Tony Gadd & Ray Hunt (B.O.S Captain), 43pts on count back; 2. Kevan Glass & Tony Hindmarch, 43pts; 3. Tony Locke & Richard Moyle (President Burley), 41pts. Longest Drive – Dave Ross. Nearest the Pin – Rob Wills.

The next golf day is the Autumn Tournament which is to be held at Salisbury & South Wilts GC on Thursday, October 9. If you would like to play please contact our Tournament Organiser Kevan Glass at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on mobile 07859 053054 or on email: glassy2003@hotmail.com.

I am really pleased to announce the return of Chris Sturgess to the committee and that he will be taking over the Around The Green article every month from now on so if you have any news for the section please contact Chris Sturgess on: 02380 492084 or Mob: 0777313 8409.

Joe Crawley



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Since my last report we have had our summer meeting at Lanhydrock Golf Club in which we had a 'friendly match' - Devon versus Cornwall - where attendance was high on this eagerly anticipated day! The format was 4BBB in which Devon just came out on top winning four matches to three, well done all the Devon players and hard luck to Cornwall. We hope to make this an annual event as it proved to be very popular and enjoyable.

Our thanks go out to Martin Morgan, the Head Greenkeeper and his team, for the superb condition of the course and I have to say certainly one of the prettiest courses I've played, also thanks to the weather or perhaps Abi, our Secretary, for her foresight on the date chosen - we we're blessed with the best day of the year so far!

Tee times were in the afternoon so we had a hot and cold buffet early in the evening which was most enjoyable, our thanks to the catering staff and all at Lanhydrock for a wonderful day. Thanks as usual to our sponsors, Symbio and Toro for the day.

Our first autumn/winter meeting will be at St Mellion, in October, where we have a free trip to BTME as our main draw prize. On the subject of St Mellion, a big thank you to Mike Bush (Course Manager), for his time showing us around in August with all construction work and changes that they are currently undergoing!

Finally details of the workshop in November: Autumn Workshop 2008 - "Communicating with committees"

This workshop will help participants develop a more confident and relaxed approach to presenting. Participants will be more aware of their presentation style and how to adjust it to their audience. Simple techniques will be developed in order to improve self-confidence. Focus will be given on how to make the message of the presentation consistent and compelling. Help will also be given on deciding on the correct visual aids.

The workshop will take place on November 4 at Launceston GC. Cost is £60 (including lunch and refreshments). This course is kindly being subsidised by BIGGA thus offering you some excellent training at an extremely good price. Please contact Graeme Gallimore as soon as possible to confirm your place. A £30 deposit will be required.

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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

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